

The Raven

No.41 Winter 2017



The quarterly magazine for the whole of Rainow



● Village News ● Social Events ● Parish Council News ● Clubs & Societies ● School & Church

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very....

Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year
All the Best for 2018

Important

We would ask car owners not to park near the two entrance/exits to the estate when snow is forecast. Apart from making it difficult for residents to get out, it gives the snowplough a more difficult task! If at all possible please use your drives not the road. Thank you for your co-operation.

Winter Gritting



Highways will be filling the grit bins and if the weather is particularly wintery depositing 1 tonne sacks of salt mix at strategic locations in the parish. The sacks will be dropped on the verge and the salt can then be spread from the sack. We have asked for the usual distribution and hopefully we will be well covered for this winter but, should you have an emergency, then the contact number for the Emergency Control Centre is **0300 123 5025**.

Please note that the salt from the bins and sacks are for use on the road and pathways only.



Rainow Maps and Walks Booklet

The Rainow walks booklet is now available for £1! If you would like a copy of the booklet or a map, also for £1, then please contact Councillor Richard Balment.

Advertisers, request for....

The Council are seeking advertisers to ensure the continuation of the newsletter. If you are interested in advertising, then please contact Councillor Carole Harvey for more details.

Help your Postman

We wonder if anyone has given a thought to those that deliver your mail?

As we approach that time of year when garden paths and steps become slippery and dangerous, please give a thought to your postman.

If you have a steep or awkward path, then please consider installing a letterbox as near as possible to your front gate. They are relatively cheap and can be locked for security purposes.

Those of us that deliver pamphlets, including the Raven, experience slippery paths first hand, albeit infrequently, but your postman incurs this hazard on a daily basis. Please take the simple step of keeping paths clear and safe and consider fixing a letterbox near to your front gate.

Rainow Parish Civic Service 2017

The Service was held at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 24th September 2017. The Vicar, Steve Rathbone led the Service with Over Alderley Brass Band accompanying the hymn singing.



Mayor of Rainow Mr John Williams and Mr Bob Langstaff

Among the guests were the Mayor of Cheshire East (Cllr Arthur Moran and Mayoress Mrs Carole Thomas), the Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield (Cllr Adam Schofield and Deputy Mayoress

Mrs Heather Schofield), the Deputy Mayor of Poynton (Cllr Jo Sewart and her Consort Michael Sewart), Ward Cllr Hilda Gaddum, Mr David Rutley MP and Bollington Town Mayor (Cllr Andrew Langdon and Mayoress Mrs Jane Langdon).

Attendees proceeded in a procession to Rainow Primary School where Cllr Alan Brett, Chairman of the Parish Council, gave the welcoming speech. The Mayor of Rainow, Mr John Williams, was pleased to present Mr Bob Langstaff with his Civic Award for outstanding contribution to the community of Rainow.

The boys and girls from Beavers and Brownies attended making the event even more special.

Once again, the Council would like to say a big thank you to all residents who joined in to help make the Civic Service such a successful event – we could not make this possible without your help. Thank you to all members of the Women's Institute, Mothers Union and Church members who provided cakes and crockery and to Parish Councillors who supplied the sandwiches and refreshments.



Advice from Cheshire Constabulary

Home Security

When should I call 101?

To report less urgent crime or disorder, to contact the police with general inquiries or to speak to a local officer. For example:

- If your car has been stolen
- If your property has been damaged
- Reporting a minor traffic incident
- Where you suspect drug use or dealing
- Giving police information about crime in your area.

Always call 999 in an EMERGENCY, where there is a threat to life or a crime in progress.
Police non-emergency contact number Tel: 101
(24 hrs a day, 7 days a week)

Vehicle Safety

Most vehicle crime is opportunistic and therefore preventable. By following some straightforward advice, we can ensure that this type of crime keeps falling.

Protecting yourself from car thieves:

- Don't leave valuables on show
- Don't leave coats on show
- Make sure your car is locked
- Activate security devices
- Always park your car in a safe, well lit, place
- Never leave your keys in any place within your home that could be reached through the letterbox on your front door.

Extra Care on Cold & Frosty Mornings:

- Never leave keys in the ignition and doors unlocked when your car is unattended
- Allow an extra few minutes to defrost and stay with the vehicle while it warms up
- Always ensure your view is completely clear before moving off.

In a situation where a driver has left a vehicle unattended, insurers may argue that reasonable care has not been taken. This invalidates an insurance claim.

For more crime prevention advice visit www.cheshire.police.uk

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Service

The tree lighting and Christmas Carol ceremony was held on 3rd December with tea and cake provided by the church. Thank you to everyone who helped with the decoration of the tree.

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 20th March 2018

Every year the Parish Council holds an Annual Parish Meeting where all Rainow Residents are welcome to come and raise any points concerning them and bring up any suggestions they may have which could enhance the village. It is important that we know YOUR VIEWS so that we can act on YOUR BEHALF, so please do come along.

Editorial Team for this issue:

Jane Brett	Jim Kennelly
Bob Langstaff	Louise Leigh
Pat Mellish	Raph Murray
Design by Mel Wilcox (01625 576182)	

Future Meetings and Dates for your diary

19th December 2017
16th January 2018
20th February 2018
20th March 2018 (7.00 pm) – followed by the Annual Parish Meeting
17th April 2018
15th May 2018 – Annual General Meeting
19th June 2017

All Meetings commence at 8.00 pm and are advertised on the notice boards and website.



In early December the residents of Rainow will be treated to the sight of many little “elves” running around the school grounds! Of course these will not be real fairy visitors, but the children of Rainow Primary School raising money for East Cheshire Hospice by the sponsored “Elf Run”.

The annual Elf Run raises vital funds for the Hospice whilst those taking part have fun – and keep fit! Many schools, companies, businesses and other organisations take part.

So – give them a cheer if spotted, or even sponsor an “elf”!

Jane Brett
Editor

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Remembrance Sunday

This years' Remembrance Day parade took place in bright but cold
autumn sunshine. As usual there was a huge turnout by the uniformed groups
supported by a large number of village residents and friends.

We were reminded that there are many opportunities for remembrance
- important throughout the year, not just on the one day. However, it was
certainly a day when the community as a whole came together.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust



Kerridge Hill Nature Reserve

A mosaic of native woodland, botanically rich pasture and heathland,
Kerridge Hill has long been recognised as one of Cheshire's most
valuable nature conservation sites. Cheshire Wildlife Trust's long
standing survey work on the hill has made them acutely aware of its
ecological value. So, when an area of land on the Eastern slopes of the
hill came up for sale earlier this year it was an opportunity that the Trust
did not want to miss. An offer has now been made and accepted for the
acquisition of the land subject to the Trust raising the necessary funds for
the purchase. If successful the area will be managed as a nature reserve
to preserve and enhance the rare botanical interest that is present on site.
Cheshire Wildlife Trust is intending to hold a couple of consultation
evenings in Rainow and Bollington to better inform the residents of their
aspirations for the site in the near future.

A Tribute to Rainow Christmas Fair 2016

From the thoughts and words of
Michael Farrell from Wigan and **Mr Michael Bell** of Rainow Low

As the season of goodwill is once again upon on us,
and another year comes to its joyful end.

As the good folks of Rainow will have one final glorious community event
they will all wish to attend.

It's the annual Christmas fair held at the historic, Holy Trinity church.

A beacon for the community of Rainow since eighteen forty six, with its standout,
iconic west facing tower on the beautiful landscape that it depicts.

A community spirited event that captures the heart and mind of every local, as this
event for the villagers and volunteers in December really becomes their high focal.

A high spirited event with a true community minded and parish feel,

with the hearts and minds of its annual visitors it truly does begin to steal.

Many colourful displays from the heart-warming stalls that always reappear,
as when walking round the church you will know that Christmas is nearly,
finally here.

From the scintillating smell of the barbeque as you walk in the church, led by the
Rev Steve,

knowing what's been done by the church and the village community they will
certainly once again achieve.

The charismatic stalls with the locally produced heavenly goods that they bring,
from the taste of the jams and the local honey that would make any song bird sing.
The variety of goods on offer will never cease to amaze, from handmade wooden
crafts and locally made Christmas reefs which the locals highly praise.

In the community room you can go and grab a coffee and a desired scrumptious cake,
as you will surely know by now its taste will only be a local bake.

The successful days end approaches as comes to mid-afternoon at three,
as the magnificent event has been enjoyed by all and that's a certainty!

Thanks for reading this Rainow community scripture,

I hope in your hearts and minds it created a wonderful seasonal picture.

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The Robin Hood Community Group

We welcome the new landlords **Scott & Jackie** and wish them every success in
running the Robin. Their reputation for running a very successful pub, the Bull at
Kerridge, goes before them and we really hope they can repeat this success at the
Robin. To help them do this it is important that they get the support of the village.
If we are to keep our last pub it is essential that the community supports it by using it.

We have decided to put on hold any further activity of the Community Group and
concentrate our efforts on supporting Scott & Jackie where we can.

Following the buy-out of Punch Taverns by Capital Investments/Heineken, it is not clear,
but it may be that a number of pubs including the Robin will be put up for sale, in which case we will
renew our efforts in putting together an offer to buy on
behalf of the Community.



As it stands we have registered the Group
as a business with the FCA, set up a
Group bank a/c, joined the Plunkett
Foundation and obtained a bursary of
£2,500 from them.

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Out of School by Jonathon Norris, Headteacher



It has been a busy and exciting term at Rainow School. I have picked out a few highlights.

Rainow Learning Values

We pride ourselves at Rainow in making sure children leave primary school with a lifelong love of learning. Equipping children with the skills and knowledge of how to learn is equally if not more important than what to learn.

Our new, friendly woodland creatures (see pics) have been designed to help encourage and remind us all about desirable and effective learning behaviours and how to become better learners.

They were expertly drawn and painted by our very own Claire De Ruiter and kindly digitised by an ex-parent, Mrs Jilly Unwin. They are being incorporated more and more into school life and there is currently a competition being run by our School Council to give each creature a name and story. I am sure you will agree that they look fantastic and fit in beautifully with our woodland setting!

Learning Values in Action!

Being Curious and Inquisitive is something we try to instil in all the children. Teachers are tasked with making sure children are constantly curious and engaged in exciting and meaningful topics. This idea of igniting children's curiosity is captured beautifully in the picture above, where our younger juniors enjoyed an interesting visit from some of our parents to learn all about the heart, as part of the their 'Inside Me' topic. A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Trafford and their colleagues from Manchester University for a great afternoon.

Woodland Wellbeing Week

Last year we made lots of progress in making much better use of our stunning school grounds. In an effort to kick-start another drive this year on learning outside the classroom, we organised another memorable woodland event. Teachers designed workshops and activities including Outdoor Yoga, Philosophy in the Woods, Scavenger Hunts and Woodland Art to name a few. Our teachers and children love learning and being outdoors (see pic) and we are committed to making sure our outdoor curriculum continues to develop and enhance teaching and learning. There was so much positive feedback about our

special week, but I think perhaps my favourite comment was made by our caretaker, Mr Graham, who said: 'Woodland Week, when the outdoors comes indoors!' – perhaps we need to think a bit more about his wellbeing next year.

School Football Team...

Winning Start to the Season!

The football season always kicks off with a tournament for all the Macclesfield Primary Schools. This year, as well as a brilliant opportunity for some match practice, we managed to win the whole competition! An unbelievable start to the season and builds on our winning form from last year – Macclesfield Schools' league and cup winners 2016-17 in case you missed it!

And finally...

I know I said this last year but it is true! There is simply no better place to be than in a primary school on the run up to Christmas. The children's decorations are up, the play rehearsals are in full swing and we are all looking forward to our Christmas lunch, parties and carol service in church. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Friends of Rainow School

Friends of Rainow School have been studiously busy since the beginning of the school term in September, planning the year's fundraising activities and trying to maximise our profits.

We started off the school year with another blockbuster movie night. We had a record number of attendees and our film, *Boss Baby*, proved to be a smash hit for all from Reception to Year 6, and even for the parents and teachers who attended! Thanks very much to all the volunteers who gave up a few hours on a Friday night to make sure our children were well looked after. We raised **£400** towards school funds. This was held on the same day as our half-termly cake sale, this time run by Year 2. School cake sales are always popular and a tasty **£180** was raised.

Following movie night, the FRS team turned their attention to organising the first of the two annual **'Bags to School'** charity collections. This activity is a great way for families to donate to the school whilst clearing out unwanted clothes, bedding and soft toys before Christmas. Michelle Gideon once again did a fantastic job of coordinating this, and we managed to raise the tidy sum of **£390**.

The next event on the agenda sees the return of our **Quiz and Chilli night**, which was held in November. Our co-inquisitors, John Chrimes and Matt Slater, returned for more challenging questions and brainteasers. Thanks goes to those who volunteered their time, as well as to all those budding Delia Smiths who donated chillies to eat on the night.

The Christmas Fair is to be held on Saturday 2nd December from 12-3pm. Father Christmas will again be paying our children a visit and there will be pony rides, a tombola, sweet and cake stalls, a photo booth, a Christmas café and shop, and much, much more! Everyone is welcome so please come along and support us.

As much as we love organising and putting on fabulous events, we only really do it to raise much-needed funds for our school. All the money raised goes straight back into buying equipment, subsidising school trips and upgrading classrooms. Most recently, we've used our funds to buy a state-of-the-art speaker unit, which will be heard in all its glory at our Christmas play in December.

We are extremely lucky at Rainow School to have such generous parents, grandparents and friends. It makes a big difference to what we can offer our children, both inside and outside the classroom. Many thanks go to all those who contribute as part of the FRS team, and those who help out and donate items at all our events.



DOWNTRODDEN ABBEY

A **Class Act** for the **Rainow Stage** in 2018

—An Ehcktor is Eager

At a secret location in Rainow, erstwhile troupers from the Quay Players and Rainow Playmakers are huddled in camera. Conversing in hushed tones, nervously awaiting the return of the King Over The Water. Stimulants have been taken; caffeine-based liquids and chocolate-covered baked goods.

In the afterglow of the applause for this year's **"Dark Days at The Lamp & Candle"**, we belatedly realised that we had yet to secure a new play for the coming season. We turned to Carl Bewley, the playwright whose works were performed in recent years at Rainow: **"Desperadoes"**, **"Keep Smiling Through"** and **"The Calling Card"** of fond memory. Carl did not write our most recent play, which fell to Mr Bob Langstaff (renowned scribbler of this parish). This current year, Carl took a sabbatical, citing the wussy excuse that he needed some time in his life not consumed by writing a play, revising a play, directing a play, or acting in a play – usually all four at once.

The siren chorus of Rainow thespians sang to Carl and he agreed to meet with the eager company; like Michael Corleone in *Godfather III*, "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in". Carl entered the room, surprisingly dashing and windswept in designer biker leathers – surprising; because I am sure he came on the bus.

"Have you anything we might use?" Yes, Carl had a play in the final stages of revision. Joy! Multiple costume changes and musical numbers. That alone sold it to the lady thespians. This play had a dark edge of psychological mystery; sort of *Rocky Horror Show* meets *Tales of the Unexpected*. Carl promised to circulate the draft script within the week.

Carl delivered – the eagerly awaited script was avidly downloaded. It was, however, a completely different play! Back at the Batcave, Carl had re-read the first script and decided it wasn't really "Rainow" enough and like all good wordsmiths, he had a backup play to hand.

Downtrodden Abbey 1915: downstairs in the servants' hall they are struggling, most of the male staff bound for the trenches and almost certain death. Upstairs Lord Downer is suffering too, what with delayed arrival of his breakfast dippy egg and soldiers and insufficient servants to enable a chap to get dressed of a morning? Into his hell he receives the news that the ladies of the house, his mother, wife and daughter have shameful secrets and are subject to blackguarding blackmail. Can the servants dig him out of the mire (again)? Not this lot – the lugubrious sepulchral butler, the dipso cook, the cockney proto-feminist maid or the Irish Marxist chauffeur? Perhaps he will have more joy from the mysterious visitor Mr Kite? If this sounds like a family depicted on the tellybox during the past few years, any resemblance is entirely deliberate, but with added jokes and songs.

Guffawing throughout the read through the cast agreed – this is a full on Rainow-friendly play. The cast has the usual suspects, but this year's Madam Director Val Moss has a singular approach to casting which will yield some surprises, in particular for this Ehcktor. All will be revealed on stage! Save the dates: performances will be at the:

Rainow Institute: Friday 9th and Saturday 10th March 2018

Rainow Beavers



The Scouting Association is about fun, challenges and adventures and we've packed lots of these into Rainow Beavers this term.

We started off with an expedition to a local stream to pond dip and see if we could catch (and then release) and identify any creatures living there. Each group found a variety of different animals, including fish, freshwater shrimp, leeches and water boatmen. The Beavers couldn't resist exploring further and joined the animals in the stream, getting soaked but very happy in the process.

Alderley Woods was the next venue for an adventure and the Beavers were challenged to follow a route around the woods laid out by Kingfisher. They had to follow instructions, arrows and other messages hidden around the woods. We then explored the Edge itself, arriving back at the car park just as it was going dark.

Our next four weeks were taken up discovering our World. Each week was themed around a different country and we tried different activities related to that country. We were lucky enough to be joined by special guests who grew up or lived in another country who shared their experiences and stories with us. The Beavers learnt about France by recreating Monet's Waterlilies picture, designing and making their own fashion designs and trying to make some patisserie. We visited South Africa by going on safari complete with animal masks, making our own djembe drums and performing a gumboot dance. Japan was next and the Beavers made beautiful origami bookmarks, designed and made their own kimonos for our tea ceremony and tried Japanese sweets. We finished up by going to Brazil and playing football in Portuguese, recreating the rainforest in the Institute and making Carnival masks.

At half term we are going Digital and exploring the virtual world around us.

We have 24 Beavers in our colony and we are delighted to say that six children have managed to earn their Bronze Chief Scout Awards. This is a big achievement for the young people, and reflects their energy, enthusiasm and creativity. They have all had to work hard by completing a personal challenge this term and have all taken part in their first sleepover. Additionally, the children have completed various adventurous pursuits including roller skating, hiking and orienteering, helped new Beavers settle in and learnt about our world and the people in it.

Congratulations to Dylan Binder, Harry Frankham, Henry Gough, Jake Ireland and Jessica Trafford. An awards ceremony takes place at the beginning of December and we have our own awards party for all those who have been awarded badges this half term.

Beavers starts again on 10th January and we are looking forward to 4 new Beavers joining us for our 12th Night celebration.



Again we have managed to fit a lot into this term and although winter and the dark evenings have arrived, we have managed to get out and about.

The term started with a visit to the Science department at Kings School to start the Science Badge and had an exciting evening of explosions, loud bangs and chemical reactions. The following week we did a lot more with thanks to our new Leader Simon, who planned the evening.

As a new event, the District organised a Pinewood Car Derby held at Marlborough School. We spent an evening making and decorating the cars ready for the races. It was all very exciting with some 60 cars entered – we started well winning the first three heats and continued as we began eventually winning the whole event with James' car (perfected by father Richard!) being the overall winner and one of our girls teams, Ruby and Martha, coming second. A good way to spend a wet Saturday afternoon.

The cubs again impressed me by how quickly they mastered Roller skating at Macc Activity Centre, some Cubs go there regularly while others were beginners but all were playing games and relays by the end.

We also went to Pedley Fold Farm where Emily had planned an evening of spooky games in their woods, and activities with refreshments as a fundraiser for charity. It was a perfect night to be outside. The



ge Bus



Rainow Cubs report by Akela Sue Grimes

following week we had a traditional night for 31st October with apple bobbing, doughnuts on string, sweets in flour and so on all in fancy dress.

We went on an Activity weekend to a PGL Centre in Shropshire, travelling on the Village Bus and had a brilliant time, staying in little wooden lodges and participating in raft building, high ropes course, quad biking, giant swing and robot wars. It was very cold and one or two Cubs might have been a little traumatised by the giant swing and heights, but all had a great time.

Only two Cubs missed the Remembrance Parade due to illness and playing in a band, they all looked very smart, behaved well and, thanks to practising with a Cub parent, marched beautifully. As they were all together in uniform I thought it would be a good opportunity to go elsewhere – so nearly every Cub then went to Manchester Museum of Science and Industry to complete their Science Badge and then to the National Cycling Centre to have a go on the BMX track, quite a few parents had a go as well!

We spent our most recent meeting cooking Mexican food, each Six made a different dish which was then sampled by most of the Cubs; the Institute smelt wonderful. We finished with a game of Pinata.

The rest of the term will be spent making Christmas crafts, visiting Energi Trampoline Park, outside in the dark and of course a party!



Brownies Winter 2017

Brownies recommenced in September welcoming another new Brownie and we also finished the Healthy Heart badge by creating a giant healthy food plate and balanced menus. On other evenings we played games to release pent up energy and decorated biscuits representing a self-portrait and member of their family or friend. We also attended the Civic Service and those Brownies who attended were proud to carry the flag and act as escorts in the parade that followed down to the school.



Izzabella was enrolled and was tested for her Hostess badge and provided a presentation about how she made her giant homemade cookies which she went on to share with the other Brownies much to their delight – food always goes down well! Whilst Izzabella was entertaining her guests and serving refreshments, Snowy Owl organised a set of Promise-related activities for the other Brownies.

In October we spent an evening at Conquest Plants Nursery planting "Brownie" tulips, pansies and violas in some lovely bright pots. We finished the evening with some games and a funny participative Halloween story which by this time those parents arriving to collect their daughter found very amusing as they watched and listened. It was lovely to receive emails from parents the following day with such positive comments about how proud the Brownies were of their planted pots; even parents were looking forward to spring to see the tulips come up.

We had a sporty Olympic-based evening with team sports included which generated a lot of competition but also support for each member of their team. The results were very close.

Our next badge the Brownies are working on is 'Friend to Animals' which will involve the Brownies directing and filming their own video of their pet to show at our next Brownie meeting and a trip to Pets at Home has also been organised which the Brownies are excited about.

Our last couple of meetings before Christmas will involve making edible Christmas snowmen and also a party evening. We shall look forward to 2018 knowing our membership in Brownies is in a far better position than it was at the beginning and definitely a Happy New Year.





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Cheshire Saddler

by Emma Vernon



I am 19 years old and although not from an equine family I have been around horses since I was 4 years old. At first I rode a little Shetland called Honey and then I had my own pony called Joe. When I outgrew him I bought my current horse, a gypsy cob called Patch. I enjoy having a go at anything with Patch. We can often be seen around the village at the weekend. He can pull a cart as well as be ridden. We do endurance riding and enjoy Trek Training. I have been a volunteer at a local horse rescue and recently completed a sponsored ride raising money for cancer research. I also have a pony called Noah which we rescued from Chelford Market. He was in a very poor state at the time but now is very cheeky and I am just starting to break him in.

I went to Rainow Primary School and then onto Tytherington High School. When I was at Tytherington school I attended Reaseheath College one day per week studying Land Based Studies (Equine) and when I left school I attended full time for a year and achieved a level 3 in Horse Management. It was during this time that I realised that I wanted a career in saddlery.

Getting into the saddlery business is very hard. It was not an option to go to Capel Manor College, the only college offering full time training in the UK, and impossible to gain an apprenticeship here in the north of England due to changes in the working patterns of saddlers today. So I decided to embark on my own.

I started by attending a reflocking course with David May of Cumbrian Saddlery. I bought old saddles from Beeston Auctions to practice reflocking. I then went on to attend a saddle fitting day with The Saddle Company. Following this I attended both parts of the bridle making course with David May and have attended the safe repairs course in October. I have been practicing the skills that David taught me by making dog

collars and key rings. I am hoping to make belts and start making some custom items such as stirrup leathers, reins and dog leads. Next year I am hoping to attend a harness making course as many people are asking me to do harness repairs and saying that they have difficulty getting well fitted harnesses for their horses, ponies and donkeys. I also want to attend The Society of Master Saddlers saddle fitting course next year.

I have started my own business and currently do some small repairs on saddles, girths etc. I have just received my first order for a custom-made bridle which hopefully will lead to further orders. To give me an income while I am trying to establish my business I work for a number of people helping them with their horses – mucking out, turning out, holiday

cover and exercising their horses. I have been a volunteer for a local animal/horse rescue and have been keeping their horse tack fit for purpose. Many of the people in the groups that I am a member of ask me to do specific alterations of their bridles to make them fit better as off the shelf equipment very often does not completely fit properly. I do have some contacts with Master Saddlers in the area who are willing to give me advice and help with some things that I am not sure of. I want to attend further courses at The Saddlery Training Centre and work towards the City & Guilds exams. I will be attending the Rainow Church Christmas Fair and will have lots of items for sale. You can contact me via my website (www.cheshiresaddler.com), by text (07967106810) or by email (cheshire-saddler@hotmail.com) if you have any specific requirements.

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Autumn arrives - Stocks Lane
Adele Langstaff



Still Life
Adele Langstaff



The Little Red House
Dianna Crowther

8th Rainow Art Exhibition



Got My Eye on Ewe
Arthur Warrington



Forest Chapel
Arthur Warrington



Hilary Nicol



White Trees - Derbyshire
Jennie Gaywood



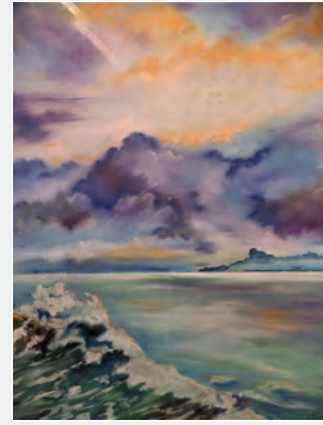
Manchester - Rainy City
John Hawthorne



Scottish View
Dianna Crowther



Daffodils
Keith Higginbotham



Eigg Seascape
Keith Higginbotham

I have been a regular visitor to the Exhibition over the years and it is always fresh, impressive and thought provoking.

On offer were over a hundred pieces from twenty five artists in a variety of media, ranging from watercolour and oils to textile and acrylic.

So what were the popular subjects? Again here there was a huge variety. There were landscape pieces representing the local countryside and city together with those farther flung down to the south of England and as far away as the Algarve. Wildlife, sea subjects and lochs, villages, churches and hidden lanes had all captured the artist's imagination. Some artists concentrated on well loved family pets both large and small or working beasts. Hidden amongst these subjects were portraits of local personalities. If you attended could you guess them all? With such a splendid array and variety it made voting for my favourite piece almost impossible.

I hope that all of you who managed to visit enjoyed it as much as I did.

If you did not manage to get there, look out for it in the future. It is inspiring to see yet again how much talent there is in our small community.



Linden Smith



Making Besoms
Mary Cussen



A Wooded Glade
Eileen Haworth



Rainbow Portraits
Pat Downie



Rainbow Portraits
Pat Downie

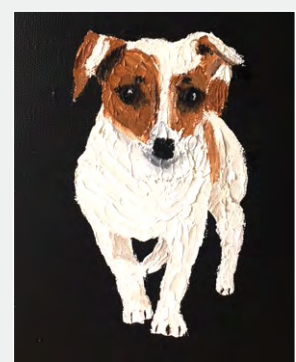
8th Rainow Art Exhibition (cont)



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News from the Lamp and Candle



Hello again,

At last something positive to report on the pub front. The Robin Hood is currently under the management of a couple called Scott and Jackie. I sent a small delegation down there on the quiet and they reported that the welcome was very friendly and the place has got much of its old brightness back. Sounds to me like they'd be just the ticket, and they might be able to offer the people of Rainow and further afield some things you don't get at the Lamp & Candle... a warm welcome for a start. It seems this new team is already serving something called tapas, which is another thing you won't get at the Lamp as I don't go in for these new fancy lagers.

I read in the Macc Times that the rate of pub closures in the country is coming down rapidly and that the number of new pubs is steadily growing, which must be good news. Me and some of the lads from the snug went to Manchester a couple of weeks ago to visit the International Pre-Loved Tractor Parts Fair and I took them to see the smallest pub in Europe – the 'Circus Tavern' on Portland Street. Those who hadn't been before were mightily impressed. Two tiny rooms and a bar so small you can't stand at it but have to have your drinks brought to you. Now this is surely an idea for opening up a new pub hereabouts with a bit of a novelty angle to it. Surely there are enough entrepreneurial businessmen in Rainow wondering where to invest their millions and with an eye for a new venture. I'm not talking the empty telephone box at Mount Pleasant but there must be some places in the village ripe for a novel conversion, perhaps an old horse box or something, anything to divert people from coming here. No offence but we don't want new fangled machinery like pumps and optics and corkscrews anywhere near this place. So get your thinking caps on!

Things are a bit more settled here now that Miserable Bickerdike has got safely through the 'happy' phase we had to endure in his attempt to make himself a possible contender for Mayor of Rainow. It seems his little granddaughter asked him if he could make a noise just like a frog. When Bickerdike asks her why she says, "Mum said that when you croak we can all go to Disneyland". So he's back in his old ways again – happy being miserable.

Can't say there's too much happiness between me and the Landlady at the moment. I caught her reading a magazine called "The Lady" and being careful with my tone of voice, as I have learned to be when she is holding a cup of hot cocoa, I asked her, casual like, where she got it. She said she borrowed it from one of the women from the Rainow WI, but if you ask me she's starting to get ideas above her station again. She hasn't been the same since she went to the Special Afternoon Tea at the Nixon's when the big Exhibition was on. When I looked at the magazine the following morning I noticed a big tick next to an advert for a live-in housekeeper with 'minimal cooking duties, holidays with the family, a flat provided and a salary of £10,000' thrown in. Her

big ideas are clearly bigger than I thought – we could never afford that and what's wrong with Mrs Kenyon coming in twice a week to re-arrange the dust? Anyway I've taken the magazine and carefully drawn the word LAND next to the "Lady" in the title and left it on her chair to remind her of her proper place in life.

She'll probably take revenge in some way or other but it makes no odds as I'm already in the dog-house with her over that business at Rainow Institute. It was like this. Being a cultured sort of chap with my nose forever in books at Bollington Library I decided to take myself off to the Rainow Art Exhibition. I was minding my own business looking at what in the art world is known as an 'abstract' picture – all dots, blobs and lines. I was looking at it to try to guess the hidden meaning and to see if it was hung the right way up, when this woman sidles up alongside and looks at the painting as well. Giving her the benefit of my knowledge I happened to say, "It's a lot like Pollock's". Then all hell broke loose. How was I to know it was her that painted the picture and that she was a bit deaf and had a dodgy hearing aid? I was ejected from the premises and no refund for the pound note I gave for a catalogue, and a chocolate chip bun half uneaten!

Kevin, our Grandson, has gone and got himself engaged to his rather forward girlfriend Jade. There were some strange noises coming from our spare bedroom last week which didn't sound to me like the noise you get from playing Monopoly if you get my meaning, so I rapped on the door and asked what was going on. "It's alright", shouts Kevin, "we're engaged!" so I says, "yes, and I know what at!" and packed them off downstairs. Young kids today. I shall have to have a word with Jade's mother.

And what about all that mess up and down Stocks Lane? It's like a Wimpey's building site! What an eyesore. They should do what they're doing at The Crescent in Buxton and have smart wooden hoardings round all the building work with pictures pasted on and little windows so that anyone passing can peep through and see what's going on. Then again perhaps not – they'll like as not spot Kevin and Jade behind there playing Monopoly.

Word on the cobbles is that those actors are at it again with another play. Glad to see it doesn't focus on the Lamp & Candle this time. It's supposed to be about one of the big Rainow houses, so let's see how they like having daft stories written about them. I've not yet managed to sell the film rights to the Lamp & Candle play but I was inspired by one of this year's scarecrows on Millers Meadow – "Indiana Jones and the Search for the Lamp & Candle". Ginger Dave tells me the scarecrow was made by one of the acting group so I may get him invited over here to do a little business over a pint of Christmas cheer.

Merry Christmas almost everyone, Landlord.



New
Zealand
Pohutukawa
flowers



Christmas Day
in Australia

Christmas Down Under

by Jim Kennelly

There is no scriptural evidence for the date of Christ's Nativity. During the Roman period in Europe there were indigenous religions with popular winter celebrations; Saturnalia, the feast of Mithras and the winter solstice at or around 25th December. Pragmatically the Early Christian Church set their feast of the Nativity on this date, astutely acknowledging traditions of their recent European converts. So, Christmas, originally from the Middle East at an unknown season of the year, inevitably absorbed aspects of these European winter festivals.

Re-reading the Gospel narrative of the Christmas Nativity you will be struck by the dearth of reindeer around the manger, that Father Christmas contributed no gifts with the Magi and there were no concerns about the risk of the Christ Child being snowbound.

There are local variations of Christmas celebrations, traditional foods and customs of gift giving. In the Netherlands, gifts are given on St Nicholas' Day (5th December), in Scandinavia on Christmas Eve and in Italy and Spain at Epiphany (6th January) in homage to the Magi. There have been exchanges of traditions; Germany gave Britain the Christmas tree, Britain gave Christmas cards to the world.

Rustic Christmas traditions in Britain were beginning to lapse into history with the mass movement of the population into cities with the Industrial Revolution. Interest in these nearly lost traditions was revived by a famous 19th century writer...Washington Irving. Irving, visiting from the USA, wrote approvingly of the old rural English Christmas customs he observed in Yorkshire during 1820. The major effect of his writing was the inspiring and enthusing of a later writer...Charles Dickens. In Dickens' seminal Christmas story, A Christmas Carol the well-loved scene of jolly Mr. Fezziwig's party evoked an atmosphere of Christmas we now call Dickensian; family and friends united in fellowship, feasting companionably in warmth with a picaresque frozen landscape glimpsed through frosty windows. Some speculate that Charles Dickens essentially saved Christmas from irrevocable decline in English-speaking countries, where there was contemporary disapproval by Protestants of a holiday dismissed as either pagan or papist.

Dickens' iconography was henceforth plundered by authors, artists, filmmakers and merchandisers to illustrate the ideal Christmas.

With their shared history with Britain, Australia and New Zealand inherited British Christmas Traditions. The issue was that in the Antipodes, 25th December is the height of Summer; as succinctly put in the Australian Christmas carol, Christmas where the gum trees grow :

*"Christmas where the gum trees grow,
There is no frost and there is no snow,
Christmas in Australia's hot
Cold and frosty's what it's not!
When the bloom on the Jacaranda tree is here,
Christmas time is near."*

There are two ways of holding a British-style Christmas in the Antipodes; the first is another British tradition –carry on regardless; eat your turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pud with custard indoors with 40°C temperatures outside (that's 104°F in real money).

Alternatively there can be some accommodation with the thermometer. Families may still have turkey, but this will be cooked on a Barbie on the beach. Frequently the Christmas pud dessert is replaced with that Australasian gift to the world, the Pavlova. Plants used to decorate houses may be substituted with local Southern Hemisphere alternatives. In Australia bunches of 'Christmas Bush', a native Australian tree with small green leaves and cream coloured flowers, are hung indoors. In New Zealand, the Pohutukawa tree produces crimson flowers in December and is often preferred to introduced coniferous Christmas trees.

There is yet a third option. We flew into Perth, Western Australia one 24th June and were completely disorientated by continuous traditional Christmas carols playing via the public address system. I knew we had crossed numerous time zones during the journey here, but how come we haven't been warned about gaining six months during a 20 hour flight?

All became clear after conversations with friends. Conflicted Australians had been nursing a hankering for something resembling the (possibly apocryphal) Olde Englishe Charles Dickens Christmas celebration experience. From about the 1970s emerged the idea of "Christmas in July" Christmas in July is also known as Yuletude or Yulefest, not a replacement for Christmas itself and not yet an official holiday. July is the coldest Australian month and allows Aussies to enjoy a traditional British-style Christmas celebration, Carols and piping hot comfort food with weather to match. Winter weather in Australia never quite plumbs the dark dank depths of a British December, but gives the idea. More high end packages take place in Tasmania, the most southerly, therefore the coldest region. Some hotels in the Tasmanian central highlands offer a Yulefest package with a reasonable probability of real snow.

So Christmas comes but once a year, that is unless you are a lucky Australian!

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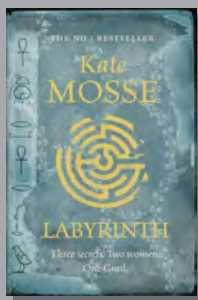
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Raven Book Reviews

More choices from some of Rainow's book club members

Kate Mosse

Labyrinth



Set both in the present and the 13th century, this book has two female protagonists – modern-day Alice, who begins the novel helping out on an archaeological dig, and Alais, a teenage girl in Carcassonne at the time of the Fourth Crusade, which was launched against the Cathars on the grounds of their supposed heresy. The ensuing conflict was bloody and brutal, resulting in the displacement and slaughter of many people.

"Labyrinth" flits between past and present, one life having powerful echoes of the other, conveyed through the memories and presence of the characters and their entwined narratives. The fast paced story, which has nuances of Dan Brown although of a higher literary quality, reverberates with tension and underlying suspense. Essentially, it is a grail quest with female characters who don't wait for men to lead, instead exhibiting courage and valor in the pursuit of truth and enlightenment.

The story begins with Alice, who makes an astonishing discovery whilst helping out on an archaeological dig in the Pyrenees. Two skeletons and a ring bearing a labyrinth design guide Alice, by a circuitous route, to a mystery related to the story of the Holy Grail, dating back to the culture of ancient Egypt. Meanwhile, in a parallel narrative back in Mediaeval times, Alais, daughter of one of the Grail's appointed guardians, is entrusted with an invaluable book, one of three that together illuminate the Grail's long-hidden mysteries. Inevitably, various sinister and dubious characters conspire to sabotage the quest of Alais and Alice and the dichotomy between 'good' and 'evil' is depicted in a traditional, fairytale-like manner.

Rich with historical and geographical detail about this area of the Languedoc in south-west France and the mediaeval fortress of Carcassonne in particular, this novel is enthralling and imbued with suspense and adventure. The two narratives are woven together in a captivating tapestry of intrigue. As one might expect of a labyrinth, it transpires that there are truths beyond the truths sought. There are twists and dead ends, memories to be retrieved and reclaimed, misunderstandings to be reconciled, fragments of the past to be salvaged, and ancient betrayals to be avenged, ultimately in a very satisfying manner.

Rainow's Remarkable **James Stopford**: Republican Fanatic to Established Member of the Royalist Anglo-Irish Ascendancy

"The difference between treason and patriotism is only a matter of dates" —Alexandre Dumas
by Raph Murray and Jim Kennelly



The 17th Century in the British Isles saw political upheaval, war and regime change. The English Civil War was part of what we now call the war of the three Kingdoms; fierce conflicts across the entire British Isles. These wars were the bloodiest in British history; 12% of the English and 20% of the Irish population died (less than 3% of the British population died during World War I). James Stopford of Saltersford endured and thrived during these turbulent times, a parliamentary soldier who finished his life as an established member of the Royalist Anglo-Irish Ascendancy.

1618: James Stopford born into a minor landowning family; father William Stopford of Lancashire and Mary Ffarington from Macclesfield. From his mother James later inherited Saltersford Hall and the Bate Hall, Macclesfield. His earliest life is undocumented but he was educated, we surmise this was either at home in Rainow or at the free Grammar School of King Edward VI in Macclesfield.

1639: *Charles I, ruling without Parliament, wanted to impose Anglican forms of worship throughout his Kingdoms. Scottish Presbyterians swore a Covenant to oppose the changes. Charles' military attempts to re-impose his authority were a fiasco, so in 1640 he recalled the English Parliament after 11 years absence to raise money for a campaign against the Covenanters. Parliament refused taxes unless their accumulated grievances were addressed. In 1641 Irish Catholics, taking advantage of the political impasse, rebelled to recover lands taken by English and Scottish protestant settlers. Relations between King and Parliament deteriorated irredeemably and in 1642 Charles quit London, gathering a Royalist army at Nottingham. The fratricidal English Civil War had begun. The Scottish Covenanters allied with Parliament, Catholic Irish Confederates with the King.*

At the outbreak of the Civil War James Stopford was 24. The Macclesfield area was bitterly divided between Royalist and Parliamentary supporters. James joined and attained the rank of Captain of Dragoons in the Parliamentary army. He was

involved in several successful actions and a trusted officer charged with distribution of the spoils of war. However in April 1645 his luck changed; his troop were bested by Royalists. Possibly wounded, he was a prisoner of war in Chester until the city fell to the besieging Parliamentarians in early 1646.

1645: *The New Model Army under Thomas Fairfax first takes to the field, defeating the King at the battle of Naseby. Vastly superior to Royalist forces, the New Model Army breaks the military stalemate and in 1646 the King surrenders; under arrest, he begins negotiations with Parliament for a post-war political settlement.*

1647: The war in England apparently over, James marries Elizabeth (Elinor) Morewood of Bradfield Yorkshire on 15 April. Their family included three sons by 1650.

1648: *War re-starts; Royalist uprisings are crushed by Fairfax and Cromwell. Many Royalist officers broke their parole by joining the rebellions. The Army wanted revenge; execution of Royalist leaders and confiscation of their property. Retribution went right to the top – Charles I was tried and executed in January 1649. There was unfinished business in Ireland; Parliament commissioned Cromwell and the New Model Army to invade Ireland and engage the Irish Confederates and exiled Royalists.*

1649: James Stopford was a soldier in Cromwell's invasion force probably initially stationed in Kilkenny, later (1652) in Clonmel. Cromwell left Ireland in 1650, when the Scottish Covenantors formed an alliance with Charles II, proclaimed him King of Scotland and prepared to invade England. The "pacification" of Ireland proceeded – with death, destruction and transportation into slavery – until 1652 and passed into infamy in the collective memory of Ireland.

1651: Stopford returned to Chester as one of the pre-siding officers for the Court Martial of James, Earl of Derby (who would be known to Stopford as a pre-war owner of neighbouring land in Saltersford). Derby was with

Charles II at the Royalists' last stand at the battle of Worcester. His support for Charles II's invasion was considered treason and the Court Martial condemned Derby to death. Derby was executed at Bolton, scene of the 1644 massacre of Parliamentarians for which he was deemed culpable.

1653: Back in Ireland, Parliament had the problem of paying the cost of the invasion. This was accomplished by The Act of Settlement which gave confiscated Catholic lands to repay lenders or to English veterans in lieu of wages. Some soldiers did move to Ireland, but many sold the land for cash. Stopford appears to have been adept at land dealing and acquired large estates in Dublin and 6 other counties, partly by purchase, partly as a reward for his service to the Commonwealth. His carpetbagging, however, might have been questionable and indeed did not meet with full approval: Sir Allen Brodrick later wrote, "There are two fellows here, Capt James Stopford and Capt Shaw, made vastly rich by being receivers of rents for lands set out to soldiers in 1655, before the lands were particularly distributed, of which they never made a perfect account".

1660: *The English Republic did not long outlive Oliver Cromwell's death in 1658 and Charles II was invited back to England to take up the Throne.*

1660: At the Restoration, James Stopford chose to remain in Ireland. His wife and family had moved to Ireland, resident at New Hall, Tara, County Meath and he had acquired large tracts of productive land, in contrast with the marginally fertile hill country at Saltersford. Back in England there was also the risk of reprisal for Stopford's role in the trial and execution of James, Earl of Derby, although The Indemnity and Oblivion Act became law in August. This pardoned all past treason against the Crown, except those involved in the trial and execution of Charles I. James Stopford and others involved with Derby's execution were not excluded from indemnity, however, officers at Derby's trial were called before the House of Lords for an explanation of their actions.

1662: Land had been granted to English Cromwellian veterans under the Commonwealth; the Restoration government repealed Republican acts so these land grants needed to be legally re-affirmed. There was an attempt to address some gross injustices, particularly for Catholics who had fought for the King. The Parliament of Ireland (in Dublin) passed a new Act of Settlement which ordered that Cromwellian settlers give up a portion of their allotted land to "Old English" and "innocent Catholics". This proposal was not implemented by the protestant majority in the Irish parliament.

1665: Difficulties with the land settlement persisted; Additionally James Stopford's republican history was problematic. A proposal in the Irish House of Commons was that the land of 30 **Fanatics** including Capt James Stopford should be taken from them. The "fanatics" were charged with 'glorying in the murder of the late King and opposing the present King's restoration to the last hour'. This



was adopted by the Irish House of Commons but rejected by the Committee on Irish affairs in the English Privy Council. In response, Colonels and other officers who served with Cromwell joined a 'Fanatic Plot' to restore the Republic and protect their landholdings. James Stopford was implicated, but somehow emerged unscathed; only the leaders of the plot were punished.

1670: James Stopford has weathered the political storms and emerged as a significant landowner, holding a total of 105 townlands across 7 counties. He has put his past as an English republican fanatic behind him and now is

a prominent member of the royalist Anglo-Irish ascendancy. Elizabeth, James' first wife, died in 1660 and James later married Mary Forth, daughter of Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Forth. This marked his acceptance by and entry into the Royalist Establishment. Two of his sons by his first marriage became officers in the King's army. Two of the daughters of his second marriage married peers. Other descendants became the Earls of Courtown.

1685: Aged about 67, James Stopford dies and is buried in Dublin.

Legacy: James Stopford had retained an interest in Cheshire affairs; on the death of his mother Mary in 1665, he became possessor of Saltersford and the Bate Hall Macclesfield. He had also come into possession of land adjacent to Saltersford previously owned by the executed Earl of Derby. Retaining this Cheshire landholding was prescient for his descendants; another James Stopford, second Earl Courtown, was a Tory politician serving under Pitt the Younger. In 1796 he was created Baron Saltersford, of Saltersford in the County of Chester, in the Peerage of Great Britain. Unlike his Irish Peerage, this title gave him and his descendants an automatic seat in the House of Lords in London.

Any person documented to have had children 400 years ago will have numerous identifiable descendants. Among these of James Stopford were eminent clergy, sailors, soldiers, politicians, courtiers, academics, writers, and friends and acquaintances of such distinguished literary figures as Jonathan Swift. Although generally supportive of British rule in Ireland, by a neat political symmetry, members of the extended Stopford family were also Irish nationalist republicans.

In his own lifetime, James Stopford amassed a land ownership-based fortune and social capital that ensured wealth and social position for his direct descendants. Indeed, they are with us today with the Earl of Courtown, Baron Saltersford, who is a legislator at the House of Lords. Baron Saltersford is a member of the current government, one of the retained peers elected by other hereditary peers permitted to keep a place in the House of Lords.

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Cocktail Sausages with honey & sesame seeds

Ingredients

20 Cocktail sausages
2 Tbsp Runny honey
1 1/2 Tbsp Sesame seeds

Method

Set the oven at 180°/Gas mark 4. Put sausages in a roasting tin and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally. Dry

roast the sesame seeds in a pan.

Mix the honey and sesame seeds together in a bowl. Add the cooked sausages and stir round to get a good coating

Return the sausages to the roasting pan and pour over any remaining mixture.

Cook for a further 8 minutes and then leave to cool slightly. Serve.

Rainow Village Bus

Serving your Community



Rainow Village Bus update



We are now into our 3rd Year of operation and continue to run the Friday and Saturday evening pre-booked service.

Although we would like to see a greater use of the bus on Fridays and Saturday evenings we continue to get a good take-up by Groups. These have ranged from a School Group attending a Rugby Competition, ferrying people to an Art exhibition in Macc, a Beer Festival in Nottingham, a holiday group to Manchester Airport and more recently the Cubs away weekend in Shropshire.

The 'new' bus (it's now a year old) is performing well and is very popular with the passengers and drivers alike. It has travelled nearly 3500 miles so far and carried some 900 passengers.

We would like to arrange a number of trips during spring and summer, out to places such as National Trust sites, Market towns and places of general interest, so we are looking to you for suggestions.

We are still looking for volunteer drivers and a person with a good knowledge of social media.

The timetable for the service (pre-booked only) which runs on Friday and Saturday evening;

Rainow to Macc 7.00, 8.00, 9.50 and 10.50 pm.

Macc to Rainow 7.10, 8.10, 10.00 and 11.00 pm.

Fares remain at **£3 return** and **£2 single**.

A **Bollington** service can be arranged to fit in with this timetable, again on a pre-booked only basis.

Fares for **Bollington** also remain at **£4 return** and **£3 single**.

We have had to increase the Group booking rate from **£20 to £25 per session** (this includes the cost of the fuel) but we have kept the mileage rate at **50p per mile**.

Bookings can be made by e-mail to :
rainowvillagebus@gmail.com

or contact:

Tony Wilkinson **01625 614650**, email:

tonywilkinson1234@gmail.com

John Hawthorne **01625 575206**, email:

johnhawthorne58@hotmail.com

Ken Butler **01625 433168**, email: **kenbut@btinternet.com**

What's On in Rainow and Bollington

JANUARY 2018

3	7.30 pm	Pottflix - Dunkirk	Pott Shrigley Village Hall
5 to 13	7.30 pm	Adventure in Pantoland (plus matinee 2 pm Saturdays)	Bollington Arts Centre
8	7.30 pm	Rainow WI - Rebecca Done - My Life in Entertainment and Beyond	Rainow Institute
19	7.30 pm	Rainow Mothers' Union - Social meeting	Rainow Church Centre
31	8.00 pm	Rainow Church Fete Open Evening Meeting	Rainow Church Centre

FEBRUARY 2018

4	7.30 pm	Pottflix - TBA	Pott Shrigley Village Hall
12	7.30 pm	Rainow WI - Latin Line Dancing	Mykita Studio
17	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Rainow Bring & Buy, White Elephant	Rainow Church Centre
20	7.30 pm	Rainow Mothers' Union - AGM	Rainow Church Centre
24	8.00 pm	Busch Piano Trio	Bollington Arts Centre

MARCH 2018

3	TBC	NSPCC Shopping Trip to Boundary Mill for coffee then optional to Skipton Market, Buck's Fizz en route. Tickets £20 from Roy McCarthy's Office. Telephone 01625 425060	TBC
4	11.00 am	Cloud Nine Race (9 miles, 1250 ft climb) - Congleton Harriers	Brunswick Wharf, Congleton, CW12 1RG
7	7.30 pm	Pottflix - TBA	Pott Shrigley Village Hall
9-10	11.00 am	Rainow Players Present - Downtrodden Abbey	Rainow Institute
12	7.30 pm	Rainow WI - Fraud and Staying Safe Online - Halifax Banking	Rainow Institute
20	7.30 pm	Rainow Mothers' Union - Talk by Mrs Sheila Bishop	Rainow Church
24	8.00 pm	The Fitzwilliam Quartet	Bollington Arts Centre

ADVANCE NOTICE!

*For more information on Fell races etc. please contact Raph Murray raphmurray@hotmail.com

** For more info on NSPCC events please contact Sue Frith suefrithxx@aol.com or Lyn McCarthy lynmccarthy@live.co.uk

There are currently no events organised for **Friends of Rainow School**, for info on upcoming events please contact Emma Nadin emmajadin@gmail.com

Pottflix, Flix in the Stix, Bar opens 6.30pm, performances 7.30pm. Tickets are £4 in advance from Anthea Wilkinson **01625 573538** or Sue Ralston **01625 573210** or £5 on the door. No details yet on films after January. For updates please see the website <https://sites.google.com/site/pottflix/>

For other performances at the **Bollington Arts Centre**, see website www.bollingtonartscentre.co.uk/events page.

The Rainow Village Bus is used to visit Cinemac some Monday evenings, dependent upon films screened. Cost is £2 for return bus travel and £3.50 for Cinemac entry. To put your name on the circulation list for future outings contact Sue Grimes suecgrimes@hotmail.com

We have made this list as comprehensive as space permits and it is necessarily a selection of the events we know about. If you have anything planned that you would like us to list in the next issue, please call **01625 574523** or email pat.mellish@uwclub.net

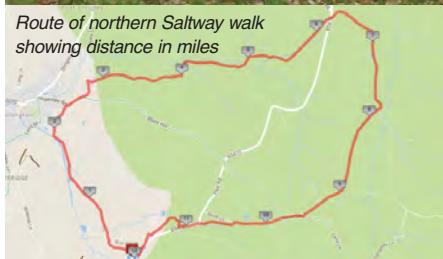
Salt has always been an important commodity. Today it is readily available, however in the past it was relatively scarce and expensive. From Roman times through the mediaeval period the brine springs in Northwich provided a convenient supply for the North West and the basis for an extensive salt trade across the Pennines to towns such as Sheffield and Chesterfield. The supply routes were known as Saltways and Rainow, with three of these routes, was at the centre of this trade. The southern and central routes via the Cat & Fiddle and Pym Chair (Old Gate Nick) form part of the present day road network, however the northern route from the Poacher's to Hedgerow, Harrop, Charles Head and on to Kettleshulme remains relatively unchanged. The full route of the Saltway is from Northwich to Siddington (Salters Lane), Broken Cross (Packhorse Inn), Kerridge (Redway), Bollington, Kettleshulme, Taxal, Chapel-en-le Frith and on to Sheffield. However today's 7.5 miles circular walk from the centre of the village focuses on the Poacher's to Charles Head section of this Saltway. The Rainow Parish Paths map shows the footpath numbers (FP no).

From Round Meadow follow Sugar Lane to Hough Green and follow the flagstone path to Ingersley (FP39).

From Rainow Mill cottages bear right along the narrow track (Mill Lane) leading to the Poacher's. The route then proceeds up Smithy Brow, left along Spuley Lane and then right along Hedgerow (FP21). At Bower Clough go through the gate, down the track to the stream crossing and turn right. This takes you on to the old packhorse trail through Harrop Wood. Bollington's Bridgend centre has installed several wooden instruments along this track that are guaranteed to provide a musical diversion for children. This is a lovely section of the walk at any time of year and is well worth returning through the seasons. It is clearly an ancient track either in a deep hollow or lined by trees and it is easy to imagine packhorse teams travelling along this track carrying salt from the Cheshire 'wiches' and returning loaded with lime.

After about three miles (before reaching Harrop Fold Farm) bear left to cross Black Brook by a footbridge and follow the 'holloway' uphill, bearing right in front of Further Harrop Farm (FPs 23, 22 and 20). Continuing along this track brings you to what was undoubtedly at one time a significant cross roads. Today it is marked by a Peak and Northern Footpath Society marker post. Turning left at this cross-

Rainow northern saltway track through Harrop Wood



roads (FP18) takes you on to the line of the pre-turnpike road between Whaley Bridge and Macclesfield. In the early 18th century the doctor and dissenting preacher James Clegg, who was a regular traveller between Chapel-en-le-Frith and Macclesfield, remarked in his diaries about the hazardous condition of the roads. Clearly some things never change. Indeed attempting to follow in his footsteps requires clambering over fallen trees, overgrown vegetation, and poor drainage. Overcoming these obstacles, however, leads to the junction with the Macclesfield/Whaley Bridge Road. Continuing across this road leads to Charles Head (FP15). There are several farms and houses in this township and the presence of neolithic burial barrows in this area shows that this hilltop location has been settled for thousands of years. Just beyond the crest of the road observant walkers will notice a 'holloway' bearing off to the left in a direct line toward the Reed Bridge at the boundary with Kettleshulme. This holloway has been formed by the passage of countless travellers over hundreds of years. Indeed when Thomas Rowbotham of Washpool House surveyed this route in the early 1950's he identified this as an old Roman Road and bridleway. However this view was not accepted by Cheshire County Council and today's walker should continue along the Public

Right of Way, between the houses and farm buildings to a footpath T-junction. At this point you have a choice. Turning left (FP9) enables you to rejoin the line of the hollowed out Saltway to Reed Bridge. You can then walk uphill towards Kettleshulme to continue your walk, perhaps after some refreshment at the Swan Inn, get the bus back to Rainow, or continue on the Saltway to Taxal and beyond. However the first part of the road does not have a footpath and you will need to check the Bus Timetable.

The alternative is to turn right at the footpath T-junction and follow the footpath across the fields (FP9) to Summer Close Farm. There is then a steep climb (FPs 14 and 84) to join Bank Lane (at the top of the Corkscrew). This is, of course, along with Ewrin Lane also an old packhorse trail and Saltway. The return route to the start of today's walk is then via Smith Lane and the B5470. However making use of the footpaths near Hazeltrees Farm (FP80) and Washpool Cottages (FPs 59, 57 and 60) minimises the amount of walking on the road. If you have followed the walk this far you will not only have walked along routes previously followed by our neolithic forebears, Roman soldiers and packmen you will also appreciate the effort involved in travelling in the country before motorised transport became available.

Rainow's Northern Saltway

- A Walk into History by Raph Murray

