



Issue 261

August 2026

T'Owd Man's Mutterings

Photo by Rob Stevenson



THE BONSTALL ARTS TRAIL - A GREAT SUCCESS!

Maria Bolton, the Longcliffe Prizewinner with
"Green Glade, Cool Water", here with Louise Stevenson.

MORE INSIDE!

**CARNIVAL
FIREWORKS
POSTPONED TO AVOID
WILDFIRES.
NEW DATE FRIDAY 18
SEPTEMBER
AT DUSK.**



In folklore T'Owd Man is a spirit that inhabits mines and caves. T'Owd Man of Bonsall is a carved figure of a miner that was taken to Wirksworth when St James church was being refurbished in the 1860s. It was said that strange noises coming from the old Ball Eye mine at the end of Church St. were of T'Owd Man muttering

Photos by Rob Stevenson



Bonsall Arts Trail: A Glorious Weekend of Creativity

Bonsall was at its best over two wonderfully sunny days at the end of June as the village thronged with visitors enjoying the Third Bonsall Arts Trail. The atmosphere was vibrant, with many artists sharing how much they enjoyed meeting local people and chatting about their artwork; their feedback was overwhelmingly positive and full of enthusiasm for the trail's friendly spirit.

Visitors were equally delighted, praising the exceptional quality of the artwork on display. From paintings and ceramics to textiles and photography, the standard was impressively high, and there were plenty of happy shoppers heading home with beautiful pieces.

A particular highlight this year was the children's art exhibition in the village hall, which was exhibited alongside the work of professional artists. The imagination and energy shown by our young artists were outstanding, making the judges' task of selecting just three prizewinners incredibly difficult.

This year's Longcliffe Art Prize was awarded to Maria Bolton for her striking painting entitled 'Green Glade, Cool Water', depicting the resurgence of nature, inspired by a much loved local landscape. Her work captured both the beauty and resilience of the natural world and was a popular winner.

The Bonsall Arts Trail once again proved how creativity can bring a community together. With sunshine, smiles, and superb art at every turn, it was a weekend to remember.

Louise Stevenson, Chair, Bonsall Arts Trail

CHURCH DIARY

St James

Church Services for August are:

Sunday 9 Aug

Eucharist at 9:30 am with Keith Orford

Sunday 23 Aug

Eucharist at 9:30 am with Janet Turville

Sunday 30 Aug

Team Eucharist at 10:00 am at All Saints Church, Bradbourne, with the choir of the Friends of St George's Anglican Church, Paris.

Wirksworth Team Ministry

For further details, please ring the Team Office on 01629 824707

Bonsall Church Café

Refreshments are available in church from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

We offer ham, cheese and hot sausage cobs, home-made soup and cakes all at reasonable prices.

The Wirksworth Team Ministry

Village Life Church (High Street)

Sunday 10:30am Worship Service

Please Note that our midweek services are on a summer break. They restart again W/C 7 September 2026.

We will be having various meals and times together over the summer period, please check villagelifechurch.uk for details.

For more information about the church, or if you need any practical help and support please call on 07988071682 or email us at villagelifechurchbonsall@gmail.com

Pastor Matthew Quinn

Bonsall Dale Chapel

Thanks to ALL who have contributed to Bonsall Well Dressings and Carnival. We so appreciate the hard work and effort that goes in to achieve a celebration of thanksgiving and joy in so many ways. Well done to ALL!

Sunday Services are at 6:15 pm, all are welcome to join with us.

Judy Land

CHURCH NEWS

Game the System

As the village celebrates another carnival I am reminded of many I have attended in the past. In fact, one of my earliest memories is attending the carnival in the early 90s. I can't recall any particular detail, any of the great entertainment on the park, any of the beautiful well dressings. The only memory I have is walking up Yeoman Street, and a lady standing at her door giving out Mr Kipling's French Fancies. FOR FREE!!!!!!

I remember as a 10/11 year old that this was amazing (I probably would today, if I'm honest) and of course one French Fancy is never enough, so I had to come up with a plan to try and obtain all 3 different Fancies (the pink, the brown and the yellow). So, in an attempt to game the system, I walked back down the street with my jumper turned inside out, then back again wearing my friend's baseball cap. Each time attempting to obtain another sweet treat.

I think I have adopted this pattern throughout my life. I still do the same thing in supermarkets when they are giving out free samples of cheese. But now I have more integrity as an adult, instead of pretending to be someone else, I send my children (and sometimes wife) to get an additional sample on my behalf!

It seems to be a common trait in humans, to try and game and outsmart systems. To try and find the loopholes and gain an advantage. It happens in all different aspects of society. From buying clothes, you wear once and return, waiting until the cheap bread is brought out in the evening at supermarkets, all the way to vast companies who find (legally sketchy) ways to pay less tax than they should do. It seems we all love to exploit systems.

Even in regards to faith this seems to be common. Where people hold to two vague concepts about God. 1) That he is loving, 2) that he is angry. So they think the loving God will overlook our flaws and failures, and we can appease the angry God by being relatively good.

I have conversations like this all the time with people who think that a life where I do more good than bad, should appease God's judgement. But let me tell you, we have already gamed the system!!!

The bible tells us that not one of us is holy enough to be acceptable to God whether we do the greatest of good or the greatest of evil. It says in the bible that *all have sinned and fall short of*

the glory of God. But despite this, God has made a way of exceptional love, by giving his Son to carry our failures and mistakes for us. Allowing forgiveness, restoration and transformation.

This means we do not have to worry about how good we are. Not that doing good is a bad thing, it just means your acceptability to God has nothing at all to do with your actions. It is a system built on God's love and mercy, that is completely designed for our advantage. This is a system we don't have to try and win. It is already won for you. We just need to have faith in Jesus, to take hold of everything promised to us.

Pastor Matthew Quinn

FLOODLIGHTING

There are no floodlighting memories now until September. If anyone would like to be included in September, please let me know by the middle of August. Thanks for your continues support.

Di Moor

dimoor2014@yahoo.co.uk



250Mbps broadband speeds for just £25 per month!

Why choose Connect Fibre?

- Free expert install & set up
- No in-contract price rises
- Symmetrical upload & download speeds
- Friendly, helpful UK based team



or scan me!

Discover more at 
connectfibre.co.uk
or call **01223 080 790**

LETTERS

Does anyone know what is the masterplan for Masson please?

Since I got my dog 3 years ago, it has been a privilege to walk through the fields up to Masson top and admire the picturesque, unspoiled area with the land untended, glorious views and the skylarks calling.

I understood that the land changed hands around a year ago and there were plans to make the quarry safe for climbing which is excellent news. At the same time the bulldozers came in and there was a mass tree planting exercise with 12,000 trees being planted replacing the wide open spaces.

Today I walked my circuit for the first time in quite a while and it saddened me to see the wide open spaces gone, some areas sectioned off with metal fencing panels and an abundance of wilted, maybe dead saplings, killed off due to a lack of water during the exceptionally hot and dry weather.

Whilst I distinctly preferred the area as it was I am sure that other than a wildlife haven, it did little to raise revenues. Could anyone please tell me what is the driver for this change in land use and what is the final objective? Is this a pre-cursor to develop a wooded area which can be used for motor homes, camping and general tourism as this looks a distinct possibility with the installation of access tracks and neat shapely areas of grassland carved out among the wooded areas?

And the skylarks? Sadly, I think their days on Masson are numbered and they need to start looking for pastures new.

Richard Stead



Cromford Garage

MOT, Service and
Repairs to all makes
of vehicles

Now selling &
repairing tyres

Book in on **01629 823043**
or **07885 879652**

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Photo by Jane Smith



The Bonsall Narrowboat

It's coming up to 23 years since the Bonsall Boat Club was formed in 2003 and, in that time, the families who own a share in the boat have cruised most of the waterways of England and Wales. The group consists of thirteen families who live in Bonsall and other villages in Derbyshire.

We now have 2 x 2 week shares available to purchase.

There are 30 cruising weeks which start in late March and finish in October each year.

We have found that shared ownership is a very affordable way to get afloat on the rivers and canals. There are two costs involved: the cost of buying a share, which is refunded if the share is sold; and the non-refundable annual running costs (including the Canal and River Trust licence, insurance, servicing and any repairs). These are divided pro-rata according to each family's shareholding and we have found that this is considerably cheaper than the cost of hiring a canal boat.

Burland is a 50-foot narrowboat, professionally fitted out in 1996 with six berths to accommodate larger families

and/or guests. The bedroom has a double bed and the dining area and the sitting area, which has a stove, both convert into double beds. There is a kitchen (or galley), shower and separate toilet. It is fully equipped with all the pans, utensils, cutlery and crockery to prepare meals if families do not wish to eat out in the many waterside pubs and restaurants along the way. Central heating was installed in 2025.

When the boat leaves its winter mooring in March, each family picks it up wherever it happens to be on the agreed handover day. Everyone feels that Burland is their own boat when they are on board.

Overall, we see the shared boat as an excellent and affordable way to explore the waterways, especially for people who enjoy canal boating but might otherwise consider owning a narrowboat to be beyond their means.

If you would like more information, please get in touch with the group's Hon. Sec., Jane Smith on 0776 2053985 or email churchgates@yahoo.co.uk

Bonsall Energy Group (BEG) August update:

Meeting with our MP, John Whitby, and how residents can get involved.

Members of the Bonsall Energy Group (BEG) recently met with John Whitby, our MP, to discuss the future of community led renewable energy in the village. The conversation focused on the challenges faced from; currently limited National Grid capacity, the need for clarity around Stage 2 GB Energy funding, and clearer support for community energy trading which the group is keen to explore for Bonsall. John Whitby has committed to raising these issues with National Grid, OFGEM and local planning authorities, recognising both the urgency and the potential of renewables projects like the one in Bonsall. He is also planning to put forward a question in Parliament on community energy and has asked the group to submit a proposed question for submission.



Chestnut Farm

HOLIDAY COTTAGES

Choose from any one of four unique self-catering holiday cottages, all situated within a rural farm setting.

The Dairy	1 bedroom cottage (sleeps 2)
The Barn	2 bedroom cottage (sleeps 4)
The Farrows	2 bedroom cottage (sleeps 4)
Barn End	3 bedroom cottage (sleeps 6)



Free WiFi



Parking



Self Catering



Book Online

Enquiries / Bookings: 01629 820946

www.chestnutfarmcottages.co.uk



[chestnutfarmholidaycottages](https://www.facebook.com/chestnutfarmholidaycottages)

Abel Lane, Uppertown, Bonsall DE4 2AW

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

In July, the group held an AGM and reflected on the progress made over the previous year including a successfully completed feasibility phase of the Community Energy Fund programme, providing a strong evidence base for future project development as reflected in the feasibility study published at the end of last year. This work has enabled BEG to identify and assess a range of viable renewable energy opportunities within the community.

The next phase for BEG is to apply for further funding opportunities to get our first generation projects off the ground following the study, we are looking for new people to come and help us achieve this. You don't need to have any previous knowledge of renewable energy or being part of a community group. You could help us with supporting project research, promoting the group's work within Bonsall and with other energy groups in Derbyshire or help with proposal writing for funding. For more information see our web site: <https://bonsallenergy.group/join-us/>. If you'd like to get involved, get in touch with the group by emailing: info@bonsallenergy.group, or come along to our monthly working group meeting at the Village Hall which takes place every second Tuesday of each month at 7:30-9:00 pm.

Deena Maggs

Bonsall Village Hall AGM

The Bonsall Village Hall Management Committee AGM is to be held at 7:00 pm on Monday 21 September 2026 at the Village Hall. This is an open meeting and village people are invited to attend. New committee members to help manage the hall and put on fund raising events are always welcome and can join us at the meeting or offer to help us on Village Hall fundraising occasions.

Hazel Baldwin
Chairwoman

Village Hall Autumn Fair

The Village Hall Autumn Fair will be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 7 November. This is a fundraising event for the Village Hall. There will be stalls, cake sales and refreshments. If you would like a stall, please contact Claire Duma on 07830 851083. If you could help on the day please contact Hazel Baldwin 07414 845925.

Hazel Baldwin
Chairwoman

Photo by Rebecca Smart



PTFA Music Evening – Saturday 4 July

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our PTFA Music Event on Saturday 4 July. It was a truly fabulous evening, and it was a pleasure to share it with so many families, children and members of the local community. The fantastic atmosphere, enthusiasm, and support from everyone who came along made the event very special. During the evening, we were treated to singing performances from our pupils, as well as solo drum and piano performances showcasing their musical talents.

The second half of the evening featured performances from former pupils and members of the local community, who entertained our packed school hall with a wonderful selection of songs and instrumental pieces.

From Reception-aged children to adults from the village, performers of all ages took to the stage, creating a fantastic showcase of the musical talent within our community.

We are delighted to announce that, together, we raised £559.09 for the PTFA. These funds will be used to purchase learning resources and contribute towards new outdoor equipment.

This wonderful contribution will help support future activities and opportunities for our children. Thank you once again for your generosity and support. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make the evening such a success!

Rebecca Smart
on behalf of Bonsall School
and Bonsall PTFA



Photo by Rebecca Smart

Bonsall School – Argyle School Partnership Visit

Our partnership with Argyle School in Central London is always one of the highlights of the year for Years 3 and 4. This longstanding relationship was established and developed many years ago by Lesley Murhall, and it remains a valued experience for our children today. In fact, several of our current parents have fond memories of taking part in the partnership themselves when they attended Bonsall School.

The partnership helps children develop an understanding of what life is like growing up in different parts of the country, from our rural village setting to the hustle and bustle of Central London. Over the years, strong curriculum links have been established across a range of subjects. Children take part in letter writing through English, surveys and investigations in Science, urban and rural environment comparisons in Geography, and local studies that strengthen their historical understanding. These activities enrich and enhance the children's learning experiences.

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD



Photo by Rebecca Smart

One of the most anticipated events for the children is the Year 4 Campout, where pupils from both Bonsall and Argyle Schools come together for two days of activities and learning, including an overnight stay in tents on our school field.

This year's campout took place a little later than planned due to the June heatwave, which meant postponing the event until

mid-July. However, the long-awaited visit finally arrived on 13 and 14 July when we welcomed our friends from Argyle School.

The children enjoyed a fantastic two days of activities, including pond dipping, traffic surveys, bellringing, picnic lunches and teas, and, of course, village walks led by the Bonsall Year 4 pupils. During the walk, the children shared local history and highlighted the places, landmarks and features that make our community so special, the walks concluded at St James Church, where the children were met by members of Church Bell Ringers and given the opportunity to have a go at ringing the church bells. Here are some of the children's favourite memories of the experience: "

"The village walks were great, because we showed our visitors the countryside!"

"I enjoyed the walks because I got to show everyone my baby pigeons,

cows and sheep! Some of the visitors hadn't been to a farm before."

"I liked the night walk, because we got to go through the fields!"

"I enjoyed the camping when we roasted marshmallows by the fire, sleeping in the tents was a little uncomfortable though!"

"I liked that we stayed up late and sleeping in a tent with my friend!"

"I liked the evening walks, and being on the school field after dark!"

The campout was another memorable success, providing opportunities for friendship, learning and collaboration, while strengthening the special relationship between our two schools.

Rebecca Smart

CELEBRATING OVER 150 YEARS OF OUR FAMILY BUSINESS

2011 Runner-Up
Best Small Family Business

2013 Highly Commended
Retail Excellence

2013 Finalist

VISIT OUR FOUR LARGE SHOWROOMS

CUSTOMERS OWN CAR PARK OR RING FOR FREE HOME SELECTION SERVICE

WE SPECIALISE IN

- Supply & Install of all Domestic & Contract Carpets
- Supply & Install of all Domestic & Contract Vinyls
- Supply & Install of RealWood & Laminate Floorings
- Supply & Install of Karndean Floorings
- Supply & Install of Sisal & Natural Floorings
- Supply & Install Coretec and Quick-Step Flooring

Which?
Trusted Trader

Which?
Trusted Trader
Endorsed for over 10 years

Certificate of Distinction
Oct 2019

Karndean Design Centre

TSI
APPROVED CODE
— TradingStandards.uk —

WE OFFER

- Guaranteed Workmanship
(Following British Standard 5325 And TSI Approved Code of Practice)
- Free Estimating & Measuring
- Disposal of Old Carpet & Floorings, if required
- Moving & Replacement of Furniture
- Trimming of Doors
- Insurance Work Undertaken & Insurance Quotes

www.fg.co.uk

T. NUTT & SONS LTD
FLOORING CENTRE
A FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1889

NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

OPENING TIMES
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 9am to 5pm
Wed: 9am to 12pm & Sat: 9am to 4pm

TRUSTED TRADER

43/47 High Street, Clay Cross,
Chesterfield S45 9DX
Tel: 01246 863148
www.nutt.co.uk

ROBIN MAYCOCK FAMILY BUTCHERS & BAKERS
FREE HOME DELIVERIES TO BONSALL EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

Beef, Lamb, Pork, Free range Chicken,
10 varieties of sausage, Meat pies,
Ready Meals, Puddings, Cheese, Eggs
Fruit & Veg
& much much more

**OUTSIDE CATERING
OUR SPECIALITY**

Call **01629 534333** for a brochure & product list or view our website at **www.robinmaycockbutchers.co.uk**
We also supply the Barley Mow Inn with meat for their wonderful bar meal menu.

Auto Engineering

18 Yeoman Street



Service and MOT Preparation
All Makes of Vehicle

We Now Repair and Sell Tyres

Tel: 824537/822708
denise.pountain@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD



Photo by Liz Stoppard

Mutterings Mutts of the Month

Our apologies to Olivia for some mistakes in last month's edition. Here is the correct version:

Name: Bertie

Breed: Jack Russell/ Norwich Terrier

Age: 17

Still Skateboarding

This is Bertie, he is 17 and a half years old. He is still very active, as you can see from his skateboarding technique, which is pretty good after all these years. His claim to fame is also being stopped as a pup in Regents Park by Sir Paul McCartney and lifted up into his arms and cuddled by the Beatles legend!

Owner: Olivia Gerrish

Bonsall Horticultural Show

It's nearly 4 weeks to the Bonsall 2026 Horticultural Show and we look forward to seeing you along with your entries. Is it a bumper crop from your garden / allotment, some tasty home baking etc or handicraft? Children are especially welcome and might well show up some adults. If you haven't saved the entry details from previous Mutterings, just click on the QR Code & good luck!

Janet Brown
Bonsall Seniors



Village Lunch Club

We were very sad to hear about Linda Coldwell so we started our meal this month with a few thoughts of her.

Lovely lady who helped to make our monthly meetings really enjoyable for many including the cooks. She will be very missed. 15 July saw our midsummer meal in unusual conditions-real heat so a light meal for a change. We ate salmon with parsley sauce, accompanied by new potatoes, peas, carrots and broccoli. All this was followed by lemon meringue pie with fruit, ice cream and cream. For brain stimulation there was Phil's latest quiz and a calming cup of tea.

If you'd like to join us next month on 19 August please ring Phil on 01629826309. We welcome anyone-perhaps you would like to bring an elderly family member or have a break for yourself from homeworking? We start at 12:30 pm in the Village Hall. £5 per meal, so great value!!!

Good summer wishes

Jenny March

Bonsall is Beautiful – Rogue Trader spotted on Yeoman Street

'Beautiful Bonsall' welcomed loads of people who attended the Arts Trail this month. However, some 'rogue traders' were collared on Yeoman Street. Robert Stevenson, an Arts Trail organiser, spotted an illegal looking stall that had been set up on the forecourt of Auto Engineering. When Robert approached this dodgy suspicious 'Arthur Daly' type of character (for arguments sake let's call him Pete) he asked him what he was



Photo by Jon Barry

selling. 'Bowls, locks' was his abrupt reply. An approach was made to Auto Engineering for any knowledge of how this suspicious looking 'Fagin' character got to use their forecourt. 'No comment' said Richard with no recollections of how many beers had been discussed. After describing the stall as 'tat' Robert felt our 'Fagin/Steptoe' character (let's still call him Pete) was looking to hop it.

The advice from the local police was to keep an eye out for 'our Pete' during Carnival week, hen racing, and even loitering around the church café. And finally, the highlight in 'Beautiful Bonsall' this month had to be the brilliant PTFA music evening held at the school. Not very good if your hearing aids or tinnitus were playing up as most acts involved a set of drums all trying to outdrum ACDC! The only controversial act was school governor John Dodsley belting out 'we don't need no education' to the horror of the watching teaching staff!

A beautiful, priceless moment.

Jon Barry

Co-Founder of BIB

Poem

Visitors

I don't have many visitors to my garden.

Well, if I do, I don't see them. Do they come when I'm not in, when I'm not looking or in the night?

I'd love to see my visitors if I have any? I'll set up a wildlife cam, and see who comes to visit. All set up, that was easy, now let's wait.

A few days have passed and I can't wait to check the camera. Nothing yet, oh wait what was that in the shadows!

A small little creature, a mouse nibbling on seeds, fallen from the bird feeder. A few minutes later a hedgehog snuffling about, I wonder what he was finding to eat. Next door's cat wanders through, hope you're not going to dig up my borders and poo! Oh my a rat, well I'm not surprised. But he is a handsome chap. I hear the pheasants, but have rarely seen them. Here they are, pecking about, a well-groomed cock, with colourful plumage, followed by his ladies. The squirrel is doing acrobats on the bird feeder, and makes me chuckle.

I'm really pleased I've seen my visitors, I wonder what they'll be up to next week.

By Alison Higgins

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD



In loving memory of Kate Walmsley

BONSALL PARISH COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Salary within grade NALC LC2

SCP 24 – 28; £18.35 - £20.29 per hour (pay award pending)

Part-time (based on 67 hours per month)

If you have a genuine interest in helping our busy Council develop and deliver good quality and innovative services to the local community, this post is ideal.

The Parish Council is seeking highly organised and committed applicants to undertake this key role which is responsible for the day-to-day organisation and management of the Council's services, staff, facilities and finances.

We are looking for someone who is highly motivated, enthusiastic and community focused, with good staff management, administrative, communication, IT, financial and organisational skills, and who is flexible in approach and able to meet deadlines. Previous experience in the role is desirable but not essential.

We offer good terms and conditions of employment for this part-time post which involves evening work (3rd Tuesday of each month), and occasional calls at weekends.

The Parish Council is seeking applications for the combined role of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, but would, if necessary, consider applications for the separate roles of Clerk (50 hours per month), and Responsible Finance Officer (17 hours per month).

Please call Mark Harris on 07808 097040 to discuss the post and go to our website bonsall-pc.gov.uk for further details on how to apply.

Closing date for applications: 31st August 2026 at 5.00pm.

Bonsall Parish Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Report for meeting on 21 July 2026

Full details are published in the minutes

Councillor Vacancies There is currently one vacancy for a Bonsall Parish Councillor. For further information please contact the interim clerk.

Outstanding matters From the previous meeting included the restoration of the notice board in Slaley. A new backboard will be fitted. The new car park sign is being progressed and the repair of the steps between the two play areas has been completed. The finance officer is purchasing new 'please do not park here' signs to replace the ones which are no longer in situ and for new sites. It was noted that a response had not been received from the land agents in relation to the park lease arrangements and this will be progressed. All the telephone boxes in the village have been adopted. The one at the Barley Mow is the only one not in use and suggestions will be sought from the villagers on what they would like to see it used for. Currently there are plans to tidy it up and clean it to check if any refurbishment is needed.

Village Matters:

Flooding The Community Flooding Officer for Severn Trent will be visiting the village to meet the Council. If anyone in the village would like to join this visit or have any questions, they would like to be put to the Flooding Officer, please contact the Interim Clerk.

Park The annual inspection was completed. The felling licence is still awaited but the "ash die back" trees adjacent to the public highway will be removed. It was noted that the stile adjacent to the bus shelter was narrow for people to pass through, but this is a landlord issue (Diocese) and will be discussed with Fisher German when they have responded. The Council noted with regret that man-made slopes from the lower path to the field were still being dug out. The Council will meet on the park this week to look at the possibility of fencing being placed along the path at the top of the bank to prevent this anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Barry usually assists with parking on the park area during hen racing but is unable to do so this year. Cllr. Spowart will assist this year. It was noted that the firework display will not be taking place on the Friday after Carnival Day. Usually, the cones are left out after this event to facilitate the hen racing parking issues to ensure free flow of traffic in and out of the village, but this will not be the case this year. The Interim Clerk will contact the Barley Mow in relation to this.

Website There are no issues in relation to this, and the recent outsourced internal audit praised the council's website.

PARISH COUNCIL

Quarrying No issues were reported.

Roads, Verges and Footpaths Pounder Lane and Salters Lane have been resurfaced, and mention was made of the Clatterway being done. The interim clerk will make enquiries into this. The villager's wall on Bankside has again been damaged by a large vehicle on the hair pin bend. Two signs are already in situ at Uppertown. Advice will be sought on the possibility, wording and siting of further/different signs. It was reported that the overhanging hedge at the dwelling on the bottom of High Street was still causing an issue for drivers. Concern was expressed in relation to the safety of the people on the floats at Carnival. The interim clerk will speak to the homeowner. 1 High Street is being connected to the main sewers. There will be temporary traffic management in place between 3 August to 7 August 2026 at this location.

Lengthsmen Update The lengthsmen have been working on the park in preparation for the Carnival. The Council offered their thanks for the work completed considering the recent temperatures. The plant troughs are looked after by village residents and funded by the Parish Council. The one at the War Memorial currently is not adopted. If you would like to look after this, please contact the interim clerk.

The Cross Following the extensive damage caused to the monument in February by a large lorry which was subsequently repaired, further damage has been caused in June by a large lorry to the new repair whilst trying to negotiate parked vehicles. The Council are concerned that this will be a continuing issue unless steps are put in place to protect the village ancient monument. The Highways Department have already refused the council's request to update the signage on the edge of the village although the Heritage Officer has also asked for this in support of the Council. Cllr. Hunter has written to them in relation to this matter. The Council intends to pursue this further. The other alternative advised is the erection of safety bollards on the highway at the site

of the cross. However, the Heritage Officer and the Council agree that the updating of the signage is the better solution. The new damage is being repaired, and plans are in place for restoration work.

Interim Clerking and RFO Arrangements

The Council agreed on the advertisement and job description/person specification for the recruitment of a Clerk/RFO. This will be placed on the Council web site and will be advertised out. The closing date for applications is 31 August 2026, interviews will commence in September, and it is hoped that someone will be in post in October 2026.

Assets Two of the village telephone kiosks are added to the asset register, the one at the Barley Mow being Grade 2 listed. The well at Sycamore House is due to be restored, along with the front wall, by the householders, as part of their restoration of the property.

WCs The council will assess these and will report back in September.

Local Bus Route There have been problems in relation to the bus stop situated adjacent to the well/seat in Uppertown. The bus no longer comes to that stop due to access to it but stops at Hollies Farm which does not have an official stop. This is confusing for visitors to the village who wait for the bus at the official stop thereby missing the bus. The Interim Clerk will contact the bus company in relation to updating their signage.

Finance The interim RFO produced the monthly accounts which were agreed. These will be placed on the website.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 15 September 2026 at Bonsall Village Hall. If you have any issues to be raised at the meeting please contact the Interim Clerk by 8 September 2026.

Jackie Smith (Interim Clerk)

49 Church Street, Bonsall. DE42AE

T. 07771 764366

Email clerk@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

If you have any concerns or requests of the Parish Council, they should ideally be raised in Public Participation section of the monthly meeting. If however there is an urgent matter, while individual councillors will try to assist, a direct response is better achieved by contacting the Clerk to the Parish Council directly:

Chair: Cllr Mark Harris, Stepping Lodge, Bell Lane, T: 820285
cllr.m.harris@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chair: Cllr Richard Grover
Nethergreen House, Clatterway
T: 07305 075392
cllr.r.grover@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Councillors:

Cllr Jon Barry, Ivy Cottage, Bell Lane,
T: 07866 750636
cllr.j.barry@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Connor Binns, Puddle Hill Farmhouse, Puddle Hill,
T: 07718 953420

Cllr Jackie Smith, 49 Church Street,
T: 07771 764366
cllr.j.smith@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Smith, 49 Church Street.
T: 07545 062413
cllr.s.smith@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Andrew Spowart, Ruggs Hall,
The Clatterway, T: 01629 826009

Interim Clerk and Finance Officer:
Jackie Smith,
49 Church Street. T: 07306311451
bonsallclerk@gmail.com



Matthew Buckler
District Councillor,
Bonsall & Winster Ward
Tel: 01629 580926
Mobile: 07717 336186
Email: matthew.buckler@derbyshiredales.gov.uk



Adrian Hunter
County Councillor
Wirksworth Ward
Email: adrian.hunter@derbyshire.gov.uk



John Whitby MP
Derbyshire Dales
Email: john.whitby.mp@parliament.uk
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA



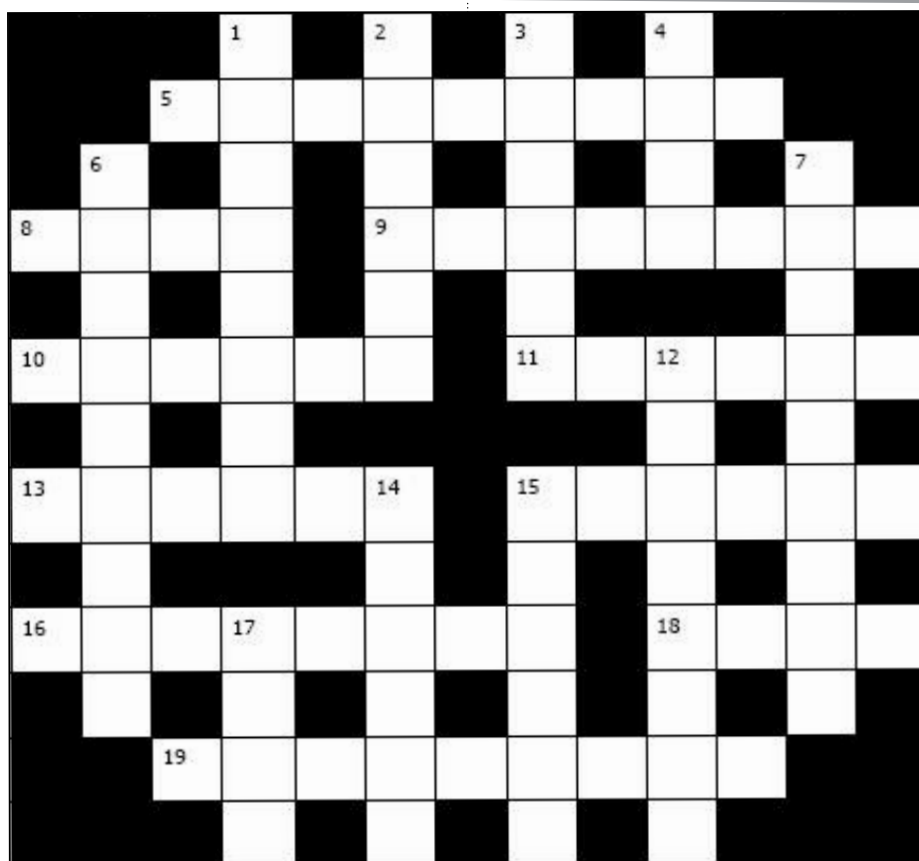
Opening hours
8.30am - 4pm
Tuesday - Sunday

Visit Bonsall's Award Winning
Fountain Tearooms
For: Breakfasts, Lunches, Snacks,
Cakes and Scones, Ice Creams,
Hot and Cold Drinks etc.
Or stay in our luxurious en suite Bed
and Breakfast rooms - ask for details!
www.thefountainbonsall.co.uk

The Fountain Tearooms, 1 Yeoman Street
Bonsall DE4 2AA P: 01629 824814
enquiries@thefountainbonsall.co.uk

CROSSWORD #185

by Pam McNally



Across:

5. Bawdy lyrics at a drunk. (9)
 8 & 9. Mike, laugh out loud about swan song partner – a fictional thief? (4,8)
 10. Charlie leaves pleasant sweet drink and creates non-existent word. (6)
 11. Yankee boobs bust – by louts? (6)
 13. Grope leef? Yes! (4-2)
 15. Stroked Irishman and little Edward. (6)
 16. 8, maybe. Clio, perhaps, kisses American bottom with ecstasy. (8)
 18. No one in Paris – which is one of these. (4)
 19. Oscar, follow sharp – deploy pedometers, e.g. (9)

Down:

1. 8. About 50/50 – soldier on both 17s. (8)
 2. Drug with the old short drunk – cracker? (6)
 3. Large wine house? It's not lawful. (6)
 4. 8 who sounds fed up. (4)
 6. 8. Bar is Spanish article. (9)
 7. Ensure Roo is wrong? Indeed! (9)
 12 & 17. 8. AC/DC – one shitted horribly! (3,2,3,4)
 14. Suddenly drop organ in games lesson. (6)
 15. Building before f..k all. Bravo! (6)

Answers to Crossword no. 184

Across: 8,5 & 17. It's a Wonderful Life. 9. Look Sexy. 10. Errand. 11. Assist. 13. Blokey. 15. Unused. 16. Inkings. 18. Nice. 19. Offending. **Down:** 1. Tomahawk. 2. Addled. 3. Areola. 4. Jugs. 6. Startling. 7. Existence. 12. Stunning. 14. Yankee. 15. Upside.



DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

Fully qualified Electrician & Contractor with over 20 years of experience in domestic, commercial & industrial installations.

SPECIALISING IN:

- Full & partial rewires
- Fuse board upgrades
- Outside lighting projects
- Inspection, testing & certification
- LED lighting
- Kitchen & bathroom installations
- Extra lights & sockets
- Outside sockets
- Down light installations
- PAT testing
- New builds
- Fault Finding

Local, friendly & reliable service. No job too big or too small. Please phone or email for a free quote.

STEVEN BAKER

Tel No: 07746 436 878

Email: steveselectrical2@gmail.com

34 Morrell Wood Drive, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0JD
 4 Rose Cottages, Uppertown, Bonsall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2AW

Cal Robinson

Building Works

- Building
- Roofing
- Windows
- Doors
- Fascia-Guttering
- Kitchen Fitting
- Skirting-Architrave
- Internal Doors etc.

Tel: 01629 258107

07867 510551

Email: cal_robbo1@hotmail.co.uk



We are not generally doing Bed and Breakfast but if you have friends or family visiting we might still be able to help - please call.

Self catering is available in our comfortable 6 berth cottage all with ensuite rooms. Discounts available for longer stays.

Telephone: 07708 488642

townheadfarmhouse@gmail.com

EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome news, views and letters on any topic provided they are attributed to an author. We review all items for obvious libellous or offensive material, but we cannot check for factual content.

Please do not send letters which are "not for publication". If you have strong feelings about what is or is not said in Mutterings, please either write to us or join the group of volunteers who enable the production of this village newsletter.

Back issues of T'Owd Man's Mutterings can be found on the Bonsall Village website - <https://bonsall-pc.gov.uk>. Please note that your articles will appear on the website and can be picked up by search engines.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Picture Framing

Market Place, Wirksworth. Complete bespoke service, you name it, we frame it. Over 100 different mouldings in stock, very competitively priced. Mon to Sat open 10 am to 5 pm; closed on Wednesdays. Tel 824994.

Window Cleaning

Pure water reach and wash pole service for residential or commercial properties. Ladder cleaning, gutter clearing, fascias, conservatory roofs, house cleaning and car washing. Tel: Andrew on 07598 170311 or 07746 320175, or e-mail andrewhallcleaning@gmail.com.

Childminder

I am an OFSTED registered childminder based in Slaley, and will have a vacancy on Thursdays from the beginning of November. Funded sessions are available. Please feel free to call for a chat or to arrange a visit.

Tel: Emma on 07464 966035.

Physics Lessons - Local

With mocks before Christmas, increase confidence in Physics GCSE and A Level, improve grades or help get a pass. Professional, friendly, approachable, local tuition. 20 years experience as a teacher of Physics and Head of Science. DBS certified.

Contact Gordon Day for details on 07979 912477

FOR SALE

Free to collect

Four drawer grey metal filing cabinet with file dividers, good condition.

Contact: **Jeanette Moss** 01629 826557

EDITORIAL GROUP

Hazel Baldwin 07414 845925

Brett Biedscheid 07977 200354

Candice Dosman 07584 179750

Maggie Duggins 825228

Karen Firth 259483

Julie Hamilton 07890 610929

Ruth Headon 07769 725022

Dave Hicklin 07421 700888

Pam McNally 07776 351054

Ricky & Jeanette Moss 826557

Graham Partridge 07710 077949

Krisi Smith 07557 868538

T'Owd Man's Mutterings

Advertise your business in Mutterings

The newsletter is delivered to every household in Bonsall Parish 11 times per year and read by over 1000 people. In addition, the full-colour website version is searchable for company names and types of business. For a very reasonable £72 p.a., you can expand your business, as Steven Baker has found: "Since I started my advert in Mutterings I've had several jobs where customers have used it to find my number."

Please contact **Julie Hamilton** on 07890 610929 for more information.

Please send us your news, views, stories and diary events by **Noon on 21 August** to: Editorial Group, 91 Yeoman Street, or by e-mail to mutterings@hotmail.com

Boxed and classified adverts are regarded as commercial advertising and attract a fee.

Please call Ruth Headon on 07769 725022 for information about rates and lineage. Copy for commercial advertising should be with us by the tenth of the month before you wish the advert to be placed.

Items for sale and wanted are free to villagers and can be submitted to mutterings@hotmail.com or hand-written to 91 Yeoman Street.

H. Strange & Son

Electrical Engineers est. 1959
The Fountain, The Dale, Bonsall

- Domestic lighting and power systems
- Night Storage Heating
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Emergency Lighting Systems
- Telephone Extensions
- Inspection Testing & Certification
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Emergency Callouts
- Fault Finding & Rectification
- Electric Underfloor Heating Systems
- Minor Works & Repairs
- Boiler & Central Heating Controls

DCC Trusted Trader

Free competitive quotations on all our services

Tel: 01629 823241

Email: hstrangeandson@hotmail.co.uk

Web: www.hstrangeandson.co.uk

Hollies Farm Plant Centre

Uppertown, Bonsall DE4 2AW
01629 822734

Specialist Growers of Perennials,
Hanging Baskets, Planted
Containers, Bedding & Basket
Plants & Compost

MON - SAT 9-5
CLOSED WEDS
SUN 10-4

www.holliesfarmplantcentre.co.uk

 [holliesfarmplantcentre](https://www.facebook.com/holliesfarmplantcentre)

 [holliesfarmplantcentre](https://www.instagram.com/holliesfarmplantcentre)

High quality local builders.

Architect approved.

Fully qualified.

30 years experience.

If it is a new build, extension,
restoration or repair .

Contact **RICHARD WEBSTER**

on

Mob 07812 348283



VILLAGE GROUPS

Allotment Group	Penny Collier	825591
Art Club	Fiona Drake Alan David	07776 256314 07517 449074
Bonsall Barn Project	Liz Stoppard / Mike Susko	823712
Bonsall Camp	Matthew Quinn	07988 071682
Bonsall Energy Group	Chris Broome	07900 330209
Church Bell Ringers	Melissa Wellbourne Hesp	826303
Church Flood Lighting	Di Moor	07432 131808
Carnival Committee	Rob Stevenson	07448 875076
History Group	Dave Headon	07738 425374
Open Gardens	Ollie Gerrish	824498
Pigeon Club	Gordon Hardy	823549
PTFA	Claire Duma	07880 851083
Roadside Clearing	Loreen Elliott	07467 234269
School Head	Rebecca Smart	822573
Toddler Club	Di Moor	07432 131808
School Foundation	Norma Rickards (Clerk)	822257
St James	Rev Janet Turville	01629 701334
Village Hall Committee	Jackie Smith	07771 764366
Village Life Church	Pastor Matthew Quinn	07988 071682
Village Lunch Club	Ron Addis	826309
Wesleyan Reform Chapel (The Dale)	Judy Land	824223
Wilder Bonsall Group	Deb Smith	825228

Village Hall
Cost per session (a session is a morning, afternoon or evening):

- **Village organisations:**
£15 - one floor; £20 - both floors
- **Non-village organisations:**
£25 - one floor; £35 - both floors
- **Village people private hire:**
£30 - one floor; £40 - both floors
- **Non-village people private hire:**
£45 - one floor; £55 - both floors

For information on sale of alcohol/private bar, use of the Village Hall audio equipment, screening a film, or any other matters, please contact Jackie Smith, 07771 764366. Jaqsm@aol.com

TRAVEL SERVICES

Assisted Travel

Derbyshire Connect transport for shopping: weekdays 9am - 4pm, booked in advance. Tel: 01335 300670 between two and seven days before travel or email: info@ashbourne-connect.org.uk.

Derbyshire Connect Active Travel to healthcare appointments - weekdays 9am - 4pm, booked in advance. Charges vary. Tel: 03333 444125 at least 48 hours in advance or email: office@sdcv.org.uk

TRAVEL SERVICES

Bus services

216 Bus service - Matlock to Bonsall via Starkholmes Monday to Saturday. No service on Sunday or Bank Holiday.
Bonsall Uppertown 11.01, 13.01, 16.01, 18.01
The Fountain 11.06, 13.06, 16.06, 18.06
Matlock (by M&S) 10.36, 12.36, 15.36, 17.36.
(see www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables)

Local taxi firms

Al's Taxis	07866 661188
Cross Dales Taxis	01629 650025
Maz Taxis	07598 161151
Mr T Taxi	07815 689241
Yaz Taxi	01629 690091

Train services 08457 484950

Travel line 08706 082608

Volunteer Drivers

Loreen	822067
Richard Shipley	259809

RESOURCES

Defibrillator Trained Volunteers

Richard Taylor 823704, 07860 214503
Brett Taylor 824407, 07950 036657
Anne Young 07876 506595
Phil Addis 826309, 07951 189727
John Ragcliffe 07876 924854
Maxine Ellis 07742 749854
Julia Milverton 07584 895644
Jackie Smith 07771 764366
Melissa Wellbourn Hesp 07557 902500
Jill & David Rickards 824038, 07586 721963
Jason Pugh 07756 668205
Jennie Pugh 07842 758488
Alan Walker 07711 733509
Elaine Pickersgill 07832 383074
Adrian Rollinson 07768 346302

Bonsall History Publications

Bonsall - A Village & Its History £15

Bonsall Within Living Memory £10

History Walking Guides Set of five £5

'A Farm in Wartime' (Potter Diaries) £5

The 4 items above are available at

*the **Fountain Tearooms** or*

online with the addition of the

items below, more information

& contact details use QR code

80 Years of Bonsall Carnival Book

The Bonsall History Map - Rolled/Folded

Bonsall - A Village & Its History

£15 Paperback £25 Hardback

History Booklets

www.BonsallHistory.org.uk

Bakewell Banking Hub Post Office

6 Royal Oak Place
Matlock Street
Bakewell DE45 1HD

Monday	9:00 - 5:00	Barclays
Tuesday	9:00 - 5:00	HSBC
Wednesday	9:00 - 5:00	Lloyds
Thursday	9:30 - 4:30	Nat West
Friday	9:00 - 5:00	Halifax

USEFUL NUMBERS

Health

NHS Direct 111 (including non-urgent health enquiries)

Pharmacies: Wirksworth Market Place 822607; Peak Pharmacy, Matlock, 57924

Dentists Matlock: 584746, 55645, 582218, 56558. Steeple Grange: 822172

Doctors:

Wirksworth Hannage Brook 822434;

Matlock Imperial Road 583465

Hospitals: Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Calow 01246 277271; Derby City 01332

340131; Royal Derby 01332 347141;

Whitworth Hospital, Darley Dale 580211

Derbyshire County Council

www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Enquiries 01629 533190.

Out of hours numbers: 532600 or

'Call Derbyshire' 533190 or text 86555

Derbys Dales District Council

www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

All enquiries 761100

Environmental health 761212

Tourist information

Matlock 583388

Matlock Bath 583834

Trading Standards 585858

Electricity emergencies 0800 0568090

Fire station, Matlock 582849

Gas leaks 0800 111999

Waste Recycling Centre

Harrison Way, Darley Dale

Opening times: Daily 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Mobile Library 01629 533444

The Fountain- Friday 21 August 2026, 11:25am-11:55am.

Ring 01629 533444 for info.

Police/Safer Neighbourhoods 101

PCSO: Kirsty.Hunt (Kirsty.Hunt@

derbyshire.police.uk) covering Cromford,

Matlock Bath & Bonsall

[matlock.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.](mailto:matlock.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk)

pnn.police.uk.

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Victim support 825544

Community safety 761101

Swimming & gymnasiums

Matlock (Arc Leisure Centre) 581322

Wirksworth Leisure Centre 825717

Vets Matlock 01629 55666

Wirksworth 01629 823034

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2026

Date		Event	Venue
Sat	01	1:00pm Hen Racing	Barley Mow
Sun	09	9:30am Eucharist am with Keith Orford	St James
Tues	11	7:30 - 9:00pm Bonsall Energy Group meeting	Village Hall
Wed	19	12:30pm Village Lunch Club	Village Hall
Fri	21	12:00noon Deadline for submissions for September 2026 Mutterings	
		11:25am – 11:55am Mobile Library (Ring 01629 533444 for info)	The Fountain
Sun	23	9:30 am Eucharist at with Janet Turville	St James

Bin collection dates

August 2026

Fri 7 Aug Grey Bins and Food Waste Caddy

Fri 14 Aug Blue and Green Bins and Food Waste Caddy

Fri 21 Aug Grey Bins and Food Waste Caddy

Fri 28 Aug Blue and Green Bins and Food Waste Caddy

Future dates

September

Saturday 5 Sept

6:00 pm Horticultural Show Village Hall

Tuesday 15 Sept

7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting Village Hall

Friday 18 Sept

11.25- 11.55 am Mobile library The Fountain

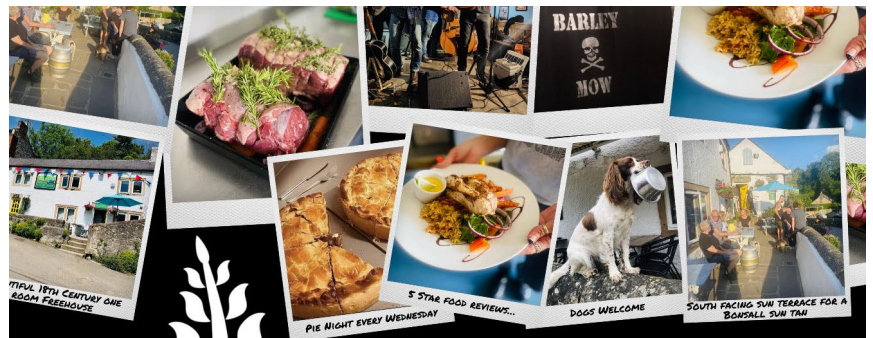
Friday 18 Sept

Dusk Carnival Fireworks in the Park

November

Saturday 7 Nov

Autumn Fair Village Hall



World Famous
Barley Mow
FREE HOUSE

18th century freehouse with it's own brewery - **Chickenfoot**. Award winning kitchen and chef, preparing delicious food, with all our meat supplied by award winning local master butcher - **R. Maycocks of Holloway**.

Regular live music events | Film Nights | Beer & Music Festivals

Bonsall Strongman and Strongwoman

Next one on Sunday 3rd may 2026

Annual World Hen Racing Championship

(Next One Saturday 1st August!)



barleymowbonsall.co.uk
 The-Barley-Mow-at-Bonsall
 bestpubintheworld
 The Dale, Bonsall, Matlock DE42AY
 01629 356494

SUDOKU by Sarah Smith

2			3					
8		4		6	2			3
	1	3	8			2		
				2		3	9	
5		7				6	2	1
	3	2			6			
	2				9	1	4	
6		1	2	5		8		9
					1			2

1	2	3	6	7	8	9	4	5
5	8	4	2	3	9	7	6	1
9	6	7	1	4	5	3	2	8
3	7	2	4	6	1	5	8	9
6	9	1	5	8	3	2	7	4
4	5	8	7	9	2	6	1	3
8	3	6	9	2	4	1	5	7
2	1	9	8	5	7	4	3	6
7	4	5	3	1	6	8	9	2

July Sudoku answers



Photo by Krisi Smith