



## Newsletter

August, 2018

### Madeley Postal Service returns

We are delighted to report that a part-time Post Office will open in the Madeley Centre from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. After a number of failed initiatives, Gary White facilitated negotiations between the Post Office and the Centre which led to the break-through.



A full postal service will operate from the bar area from 9.30am to 1pm every Tuesday and Friday. It will be an off-shoot of Silverdale Post Office. Geoff Hollins, the postmaster, says; "I am very happy to enable the people of

Madeley to access Post Office services again. You will be able to post your parcels using Royal Mail, withdraw cash from your Post Office Card Account and from all the major UK banks. In addition, I will bring the full range of services with me which we already offer at Silverdale, including Passport Check and Send, travel money, Post Office Money savings and insurance products. I look forward to meeting you all." The service might be expanded in future if the volume of custom warrants it. So it is up to us all to ensure it is a success.

### Nail Bar off to a good start

Our appeal for a nail bar to be established in the Centre brought a quick response from Ali's Majestic Nails, which now operates in the Healthy Living Suite. For details of the services on offer see:



<http://majesticnails.co.uk/>.

### Music at the Centre

The three music events that we held earlier in the year on Sunday evenings attracted audiences of 40, 60 and 80 people and established the Centre as the "up and coming music venue of North Staffordshire and South Cheshire" (Radio Stoke). Our new ticket price of £10 (£30 for 4 concerts or 4 people - £7.50 a ticket) has widened the range of performers we can attract.



The new autumn programme presents:

September 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Hassett's Jazz Quartet

October 7<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Campbell singer-song-writer

November 4<sup>th</sup> Bon Accord Gypsy Café Jazz

December 2<sup>nd</sup> Mat Walklate's Irish Band

Full details: [madeleycentre.co.uk/whats-on/music](http://madeleycentre.co.uk/whats-on/music)

Seating is nightclub style in the hall. JustJane provides the bar and jacket potatoes in the interval. Bar opens 7pm. Music 7.30-9.30.

### Friends Organisation

If you register as a "Friend of the Madeley Centre" you will:

- be kept informed about new events,
- receive the latest newsletters, and
- be invited to "Friends" social events.

Just fill in a form in the Centre or send your name and email to Wendi Vyse 01782 751808 email: [finance@madeleycentre.co.uk](mailto:finance@madeleycentre.co.uk). We will use your personal information responsibly and not pass it on to other organisations.

## Do you have good organising skills?

If you have, would you be interested in joining our "Friends Events Group" to help arrange social and entertainment events, such as music, barbecues, dances, race nights, film nights, beer and wine festivals, children's sports and fun days, activities for teenagers and so on. If you are willing to help please contact: Steve Hurd, Chair of the Management Committee, 07773 972601 email: [stevehurdmrcc@gmail.com](mailto:stevehurdmrcc@gmail.com).

## Open Day & Barbecue

### Saturday, September 22nd 1pm-6pm

We hope that many of you will come along and support the Centre's Open Day and Barbecue. You will be able to find out about and sign up for the many activities on offer in the Centre. Volunteers will give tours of the facilities and you will be able to get food from the barbecue, so bring along the whole family.



The Centre offers a huge range of activities catering for all age groups.

**Mothers and babies:** *Jiggle Tots, Moo Music for little ones, child development clinic.*

**Children and teenagers:** *Keikobasku Little Karate Warriors, Karate & Self-defence, Kung Fu, Dodgeball, Table Tennis, Performing Arts: Pepper Street and Jill Clewes, youth-club drop-in.*

**Adults:** *Pilates, Zumba, Yoga/Meditation, Kung Fu, Line Dancing, Choirs, Tea Dances, Slimming World, SOSA Fitness, Indoor Bowling, Knit and Natter, Community Bingo, Darby & Joan.*

**The U3A** (set up for retired and semi-retired but open to all. Membership £12.50 a year): *33 activities including: local walks, longer rambles, table tennis, painting and drawing, art appreciation, book groups, card and board games, sewing, patchwork and quilting, croquet, computers, discussions, family history, film and theatre visits, French, Spanish, Latin, local outings, natural history, music appreciation, philosophy, photography, T'ai Chi, poetry and tennis. There are also popular Quiz Nights, Monthly Talks and a lunch and dining club.*

**Other events:** *car boot sale, beer/wine festival, Madeley Police Surgery, local food festival, Summer and Christmas Festivals, music nights and barn dances.*

**Family bookings:** *birthday parties, engagements, weddings, funerals and receptions.*

**Corporate Events:** *use by local firms for training, presentations and away days.*

If there is something you are interested in that the Centre is not offering then please talk to us and we will do our best to help you get it started. Since the Madeley Centre opened there has been a huge increase in the range of opportunities on offer to local people. It offers far more activities than you would find in most communities of similar size, and we are hoping that even more people will take advantage of this unique facility.

## Management Challenges

Since they took over in February, the Management Board of the Centre have been working hard to plug a large hole in the Centre's finances. In the period between April 2017 and March 2018, the Centre traded at a substantial loss and there was a serious fall in reserves. The ending of Local Authority funding for the Children's Centre and for the Council drop-in were a big part of this. Rising running costs and a fall in income from room hire made the situation worse.

Some of the measures we have taken to repair the finances include: restoring Feed-in-Tariff income and fixing the broken fuel cell to reduce energy costs. Cancelling expensive contracts for phone maintenance, Human Resources and legal advice. Negotiating better deals on insurance, energy tariffs, council tax, and cutting costs by managing accounting and payroll work in-house. These measures have made a difference, but we could not have made all the necessary savings without also restructuring staffing to reduce management costs.

We have also taken a number of measures to raise income from room bookings. To attract more activities for children, the hourly hire rate for the children's centre has been cut to £8. Local users can now hire small rooms from £10. We have raised the rates for corporate conferences and for some adult groups. To make it easier for people to book rooms we have set up an on-line booking system. From the Centre website, users can now see which rooms are free and book them from their home computers:

<http://www.madeleycentre.co.uk/booking/>

The introduction of this new system has already led to a large rise in room bookings.

Steve Hurd, Chair  
Madeley Rural Community Charity (MRCC)  
Centre contact number: 01782 751808