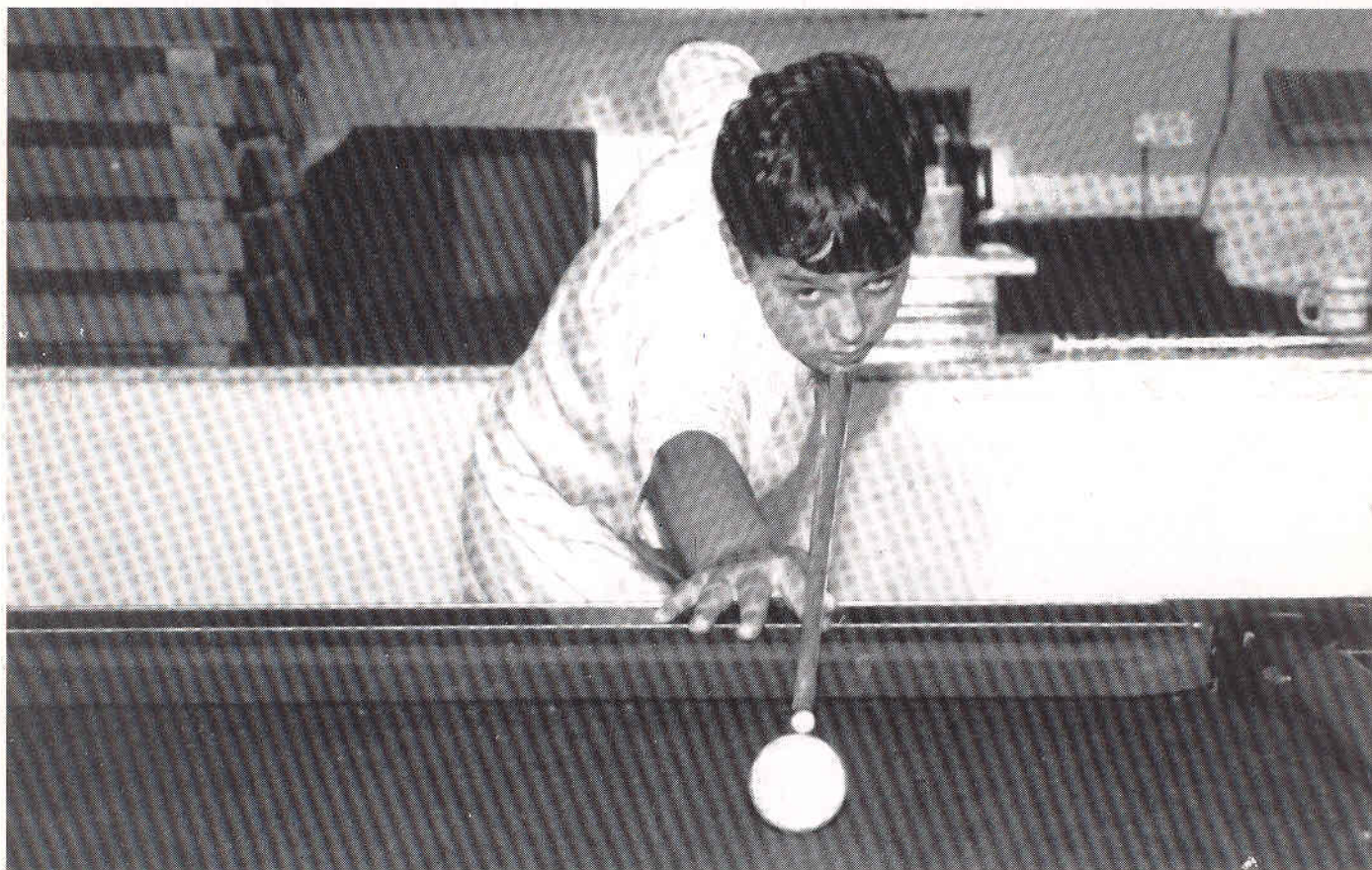


BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Two

Winter '94




WHAT'S ON FOR YOUTH?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- THE ARTS
- YOUTH
- OUR COUNCIL
- LOST PUBS
- LEISURE CENTRE


Live!



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The Editor cannot be held responsible for the opinion of
contributors or the accuracy of the events listings.

Goodbye Cheshire? Time for a stronger Bollington?

Maccleton? Confield? East Cheshire? Wintertonville? Where will we be living when the government has decided? Following the examination by the Local Government Commission there are signs of an exit for Cheshire County Council.

Power would go to Macclesfield as a unitary authority - possibly extended to include Congleton town and part of Congleton Borough. There are local people who believe that Macclesfield Borough Council is not the finest example of democracy since the fall of Ancient Greece. Some remember the golden days before the last reorganisation in 1974. Then Bollington Urban District Council had real powers and Macclesfield was just another town along the road.

Whatever the outcome, it really will make a difference to life in Bollington. It matters who runs our schools, the police, the fire brigade and other services. How would a new authority manage our library for instance? Or will we have a library in Bollington at all? There are no clear answers at this stage, though both Macclesfield Borough and Cheshire County Councils have been making commitments as they battle it out.

Bollington is a town in its own right. What matters is that it keeps its unique character. Beyond their claims are Macclesfield or Cheshire really prepared to heed Bollington's voice?

And what about our own Town Council? Could it have a more important role in our future?

One Hundred Years On

Today, Bollington's is one of 8,159 councils in England representing small towns and rural parishes - the result of legislation introduced by the Gladstone Government of 1894.

One hundred years on, Bollington has 15 elected councillors and - despite a lack of finance - the powers of such a body remain impressive, as can be seen from our list. In its guidance on the Commission, the Department of the Environment has said, "The Commission believes firmly in the value of local councils and that their role should be enhanced. "Enhanced" is the key word. With an even larger District body to relate to, we surely need a stronger and better-funded Bollington Town Council.

Even today, town and parish councils elsewhere take more direct responsibility



Figment of a fevered imagination: Bollington declares itself an independent state.

for facilities such as playing fields, halls and swimming pools. A number have heritage centres; one even runs a hotel.

Would the residents of Bollington like to see more of their Council Tax diverted to our Town Council - for use, perhaps, in retaining planning and development advice to help us conserve the town in the way we want, rather than it becoming a Macclesfield dormitory?

Few Ideas

In recent years, there have been few positive ideas emanating from our own town council on how Bollington should develop. The wringing of hands, and the bemoaning of decisions taken in Macclesfield would be better replaced by constructive suggestions, backed, if necessary, by professional advice hired by the council. If this requires more of our Council Tax to be under the control of Bollington, then that's what should happen.

WM/GB/JL

Local councils - their powers and concerns:

- Allotments; protection of commons
- Baths, laundrettes and public toilets
- Churchyard maintenance
- Footpath maintenance and lighting
- Litter bins and campaigns
- Village greens, parks and open spaces
- Shelters and bus shelters; clocks
- Improving the arts
- Cemeteries, crematoria, mortuaries
- Public halls and entertainments
- Car and cycle parks; roadside verges
- Playing fields and boating
- Comments on planning
- Provision of seats*
- Tourist facilities and signs

**Talking of seats, how many people sit more than 20 minutes on those on the far side of the Recreation Ground? Apparently developed from a military latrine, they must have some bearing on attendances during summer games.Ed.*



'WAX'

'Wax' at Bollington Arts Centre on 5th November is a lyrical thriller evoking the life of Marie Tussaud. Through the text of local writer, Lavinia Murray, the bizarre story unfolds: from the Court at Versailles to the French Revolution where Marie is forced to copy recently guillotined heads. On fleeing to England, her experiences become the *piece de resistance* of her Exhibition, which makes her fortune. 'Wax,' we are advised, "may not be suitable for children under twelve."

Give Youth a Chance - Helpers Needed

As the nights draw in, the Youth Club becomes busy again. Numbers increase from the dozen or so who came in August, to forty, fifty, maybe more.

There are few rules here, "no alcohol, no drugs" seems to be the size of it, and there's a relaxed approach from the adult helpers, who are likely to be playing pool, or dishing out the drinks.

The origins of Bollington Youth Club are somewhat hazy. A celebration at the end of a Festival meeting seems to have sparked things off. Someone remarked it was a shame for the team to break up, someone else drew attention to the needs of youth in the town.

That was twenty years ago, and the first proper premises were in the 'log cabin' cricket pavilion - 'Mecca' as it was known, an image generated by discos at the club. The atmosphere, friendships and memories built during the 'Mecca' years will never be forgotten.

Establishment now in the old school in Water Street has given the club a new security. For three nights a week, the entire upper floor is theirs, excellently decorated (largely by the members themselves) with a quiet room, a hall big enough for football, and the coffee bar, where the pool tables are installed. There are trips out by minibus: ice-skating in Altrincham for example, in



Members and helpers at the Youth Club premises in Water Street

the County Council minibus, and charges are at rock-bottom.

Admission to the club is at present 30p an evening, and openings, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, are from 7.30 pm to 10.

With a little extra support, the club could do much more. Donations are welcome, but, as Barry Winton, one of the helpers, put it, "we really need people" - to serve refreshments, open and close the building, perhaps assist with quizzes or sports. Barry was one of just

two helpers there when we called; were there more, there could be more trips out: to concerts, possibly, or simply into the countryside. Likewise creative activities, such as tie-dying, could be stimulated with one or two more adults even for the occasional evening.

All offers are welcome, either to Rita or Peter Etherington (whose help with this article is greatly appreciated) on 572426, or at the club itself - half way along Water Street, through the front gate, then up the stairs. **JL**

Youth Facilities in Bollington:

Bollington Junior Festival Players meet on Sunday afternoons in Pott Shrigley Village Hall. Tel Liz Smith 0625- 612169

Bollington Army Cadet Corps welcome recruits between 13 and 18, at the Town Hall, Monday and Thursdays, Tel Anthony Johnson, on 573415

Angling Society junior members, aged up to 16, fish several waters. Tel Mrs Brocklehurst, 573401

Janus Studios Drama classes for 8 to 16 year-olds are at the Arts Centre, Saturdays am. Tel Pat Penney, 574583

Karate at the Arts Centre takes place on Monday evenings. Tel. S Henry on 612547

For Beavers (6-8yrs), Cubs (8-11) and Scouts (11-16) of the **1st (St. John's) Scout Group**, contact Ann Stringer on 574325

In the **2nd Bollington Scout group** come Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts (15- 20 yrs). Tel John Pleeth, 0625 - 426508

Woodcraft offers a wide programme including craftwork, drama and games, for Elfins (6-9 yrs) and Pioneers (9-12), at Bollington Cross School, Contact Jan Appleyard, on 573937

The Children's Music Theatre meets on Sunday afternoons. At the Arts Centre. Tel Donald Judge, 061 - 427 2870

Sea Cadets, aged 11 to 18, meet at The Wharf, Grimshaw Lane, for canoeing, signals, camping, sports, Tel Mr A Nicholles, 573578

The Air Training Corps provides instruction and sports at Water St School on Monday and Friday evenings. Contact Ann Cave, 425072

Bollington Brass Band offers tuition to junior members. Contact Roger Jeffrey on 0625 - 427122

Dance classes with Sue Lane cover Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz. At the Arts Centre and St John's School. Tel 574176

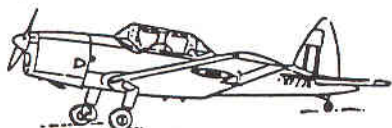
Bollington United Football Club competes in league competition with teams from 9 yrs under-16s. Home games are at Bollington Cross. Tel S K Bennett on 0625 - 575098

Girl Guides for 10 to 14 yr. olds. Tel Mrs Cann, 574489. For Rainbows (5-7 yrs), Brownies (7-10) and Rangers (14-18), Tel Mrs Egerton on 572975

Delivery by Air Cadets

It is not easy to distribute over 3,000 copies of *Bollington Live!*, and we were greatly encouraged when the Officer Commanding the Air Cadets agreed to mobilise her forces, undertaking delivery to many parts of Bollington.

The Air Training Corps has been based in Bollington for the last eight years. Activities covered include adventure training, camping, - and, of course, flying. Two members recently qualified as glider pilots; another, after training in single-engined Chipmunks, now has a licence for powered aircraft. Recruits join in the age range 13-16.



Distribution of Bollington Live! is shared with local volunteers. Readers willing to help with deliveries in their own road are asked to get in touch with Penny Liley, Tel 0625-572348

Double Helping of Mikron

Mikron Theatre are touring for the 22nd year with shows that are "witty, educational and, above all superb entertainment" (to quote the 'Bromsgrove Advertiser'). This year, audiences at the Arts Centre in Wellington Road will be treated to two separate presentations.

The first, 'Beer Street,' on Friday, Oct 14 at 8 pm, is the rumbustious story of pubs and beer. This, in my opinion, is one of the most entertaining shows they have ever produced.

The second performance, 'Manchester-super-Mare', tells how the 'seaside' came to the City, with the building of the Ship Canal - "a sea-ductive entertainment", this time on Friday, 2nd Dec, again at 8 pm. First performed 10 years ago, the show has been revised for the Canal's 100th Anniversary. Phone 0625 - 574687

Don Mirrlees



It is 24 miles to 'Manchester-super-Mare' - by water. Or there's the show in Bollington on 2nd December.



Letters

SHOPS UNDER THREAT

The lesson from Kerridge

Dear Editor,

Thirty years ago we had four excellent shops in Kerridge, and our own Post office, and this ensured a friendly contact amongst the inhabitants. Now we have none.

Despite this, I am congratulated by visitors on the good things that reach our table - by delivery from Mr Mellor, and the Green Family, and this is the only opportunity I have ever had to express my appreciation publicly.

May I remind the enthusiastic supermarket shoppers that some very slight change in their circumstances could make them expect their local shops to provide their needs - and the shops may not be there! And they are not always right about the prices, as I find over and over again.

Joyce Ward Oldham
Oak Lane, Kerridge.

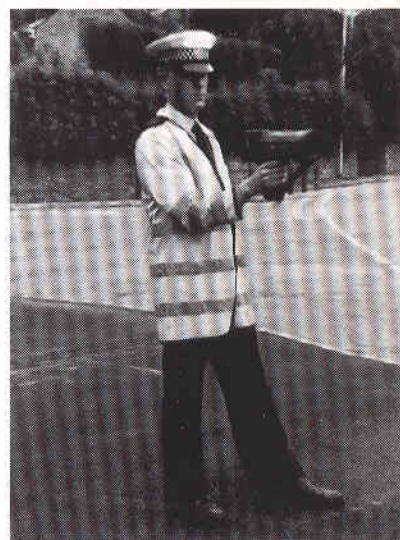
Concern over local shopping continues to be noted by *Bollington Live!* We checked with Mr Mellor of Costcutter in High Street and C. E. Green, Family Butchers of Palmerston Street, both of whom sustain their businesses with deliveries to homes as far afield as Rainow and Prestbury. Though Mr Mellor recorded an improvement in trade since our previous issue in May, Mr Green reports little change.

Comments have also been received on traffic problems in the town, and the need to improve parking near existing shops if trade is to return. As a result, two initiatives have been launched:

A survey of Bollington is to be undertaken by landscape architecture students at Manchester Metropolitan University. Some 20 students will take part, from the fifth and final year of their course, under the guidance of David Staines and John Finlay of the University, in conjunction with the Cheshire Landscape Trust. Starting this September, the survey will extend over two five-week periods, the first identifying local design issues, the second

dealing with specifics - of which shopping, traffic and parking will be a part.

This project, originated by *Bollington Live!* and Bollington Civic Society, will be complemented by a public meeting, staged by the Civic Society in the Arts Centre building, beside the viaduct on Wellington Road, at 8 pm on Monday 26th. September. The subject, "Bollington shopping and parking."

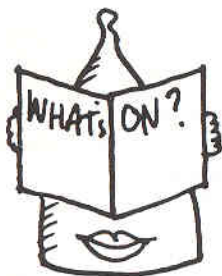


Constable Eric Kendrick and his colleagues now carry radar guns when they come to Bollington. The worryingly high traffic speeds reported in our last issue have persuaded Macclesfield Police to take steps discouraging dangerous speeding.

Readers' feelings on the matter are mixed. John Allen of Beeston Close, writing with a number of positive suggestions, says, "I am less favourable of police monitoring - it smacks of slamming the stable door," Mr Allen supports the use of rumble strips, as widely seen elsewhere in Europe.

Reader J Beech, speaking at this year's mini - Festival, asks for traffic signs in the vicinity of the Library and the narrow section beyond, in which cars are parked in Wellington Road.

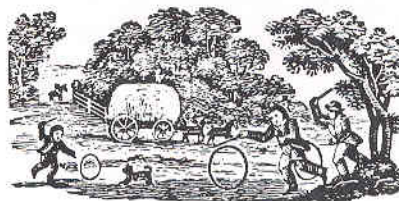
Letters to *Bollington Live!* should be addressed to the Editor, c/o The Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield. SK10 5JL



BOLLINGTON

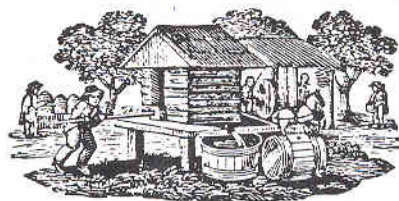
Live!

SEPTEMBER



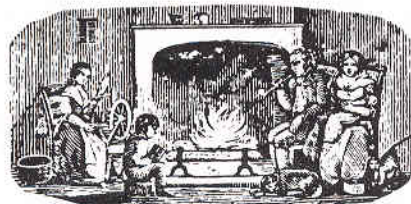
- Fri 16th Sept - **"A String of Pearls"**, Bollington Festival Players, 30th. Anniversary Revue Arts Centre, 7.30 pm; £4-£2-5. Tel: 0625 572527
- Sun 18th Sept **Mayor's Annual Boundary Walk**, Town Hall, 2 pm; all welcome - bring strong shoes.
- Wed 21st Sept **"Mountain Rescue; call out the dogs"** - a talk for Bollington Wives, Civic Hall 8 pm, Tel: 0625 573900
- Sun 25th Sept **Harvest Festival**: Holy Trinity Church, 9.15 am

OCTOBER



- Sat 1st Oct **Harvest Supper**, Lowther St School, 7.00 pm
- Sun 2nd Oct **Harvest Festival**, St. John's Church, 9.15 am.. St. Oswald's Church , 10.30 am
- Wed 5th Oct **Bollington Wives**: Andrea Kinsey on the work of Crossroads, Civic Hall, 8 pm Tel 573900
- Sat 8th Oct **Jazz**, with world - famous saxophonist Don Weller, Arts Centre, 8 pm; £4-£3 Tel: 576250
- Sun 9th Oct **Bollington Brass Band Patrons' Concert**, Civic Hall, 8 pm. See members for tickets.
- Mon 10th Oct **WI Meeting**: music night with Keith Yearsley, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm Tel: 0625 573571
- Fri 14th Oct **Mikron Theatre**: "Beer Street", Arts Centre, 8 pm: £4 + concessions Tel: 0625 576250
- Sun 16th. Oct **Adlington Centenary Walk** (7 miles), Adlington Primary School, 10.30 am
- Sun 16th Oct **Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius"**: Festival Choir with John Mitchinson, Granville Hargreaves, Michelle Watton. Conductor John Coope; St John's Parish Church, 8 pm: £6- £4, Tel: 573494
- Wed 19th Oct **Bollington Wives** , Dried flower arranging, Welltrough Hall Farm , 8 pm Tel: 0625 573900
- Thurs 20th Oct **Bollington Horticultural Society**: Biological controls - BCP, Dog and Partridge, 8 pm
- Wed 26th Oct **Bollington Civic Society**: PUBLIC MEETING: Shopping and Parking , Arts Centre 8 pm
- Sat 29th Oct **Trestle Theatre Company**: "Running Dogs" a play on the people-dog relationship. Arts Centre 8 pm : £3.50/£4.50, Tel: Bollington Library. 0625 573058
- Sun 30th Oct **Family "Light" Party**- bring torch and picnic tea: St John's School , 4 - 6 pm
- Sun 30th Oct **London Harpsichord Ensemble** : Vivaldi, Telemann, Scarlatti, J C Bach, Arts Centre, 8 pm; £7 -£2 Tel: 0625 573477

NOVEMBER



- Wed 2nd Nov **Bollington Wives:** Gwen Mitchell on Cheshire Statelike Homes, Civic Hall , 8 pm
- Sat 5th Nov **"Wax" by Lavinia Murray** - see page 3. Arts Centre, 8 pm; £5 -£3.
- Wed 9th Nov **Craft fair:** St John's School, 6.30 - 9 pm Tel : 0625 573594
- Sat 12th Nov **Autumn Fair** for East Cheshire Hospice, Bollington Cross School , 2 pm
- Sun 13th Nov **Bird-watching with the Rangers,** Adlington Rd Car Park 2 - 4 pm (no dogs please.)
- Sun 13th Nov **"All England" patriotic concert :** Macclesfield Male Voice Choir and Bollington Brass Band, Macclesfield Heritage Centre
- 14th-18th Nov **Mozart's "Don Giovanni,"** directed by John Coope, Arts Centre, 7.30 pm; £5 Tel: 573477
- Mon 14th Nov **WI meeting:** A Downs on Christmas flower arranging , Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm Tel: 573571
- Wed 16th Nov **Bollington Wives :**Christmas Bring and Buy in aid of Crossroads, Civic Hall, 8 pm
- Thur 17th Nov **Horticultural Society** - Mike Long, Hardy Nurseries: Shrubs, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm
- Sun 20th Nov **Christmas Fayre:** St Gregory's Church , 2 pm Tel : 0625 572108
- Mon 21st Nov **Civic Society** meeting, Arts Centre, 8 pm Tel : 573494
- 22nd-26th Nov **Bollington Light Opera Group: " Oklahoma!,"** 7.30 pm Civic Hall. Tel: 0625 875326
- Sat 26th Nov **The Bridge String Quartet:** Beethoven, Elgar and Bridge; Arts Centre 8 pm £7-£2. T:573477
- 26th-27th Nov **Hedgelaying** with the Rangers;tuition provided (bring lunch). Adlington Rd Car Park,10.30
- Wed 30th Nov **Bollington Wives :** Anna Raines on new ideas for Christmas cooking. Civic Hall, 8 pm

DECEMBER



- Fri 2nd. Dec **Mikron Theatre:** "Manchester-super-Mare" , Arts Centre, 8 pm; £4 + concessions
- Sun 4th Dec **Children's Music Theatre: "Brundibar"**, Arts Centre, 4.30 & 7.30 pm, £3.50 /£2.00; 061-427-2870
- Wed 7th Dec **Bollington Wives:** Christmas Dinner, Civic Hall, 8 pm Tel: 0625 573900
- Fri 9th Dec **Bollington Horticultural Society :** Christmas Dinner Tel: 0625 422371
- Sun 11th Dec **Plants and animal life with the Rangers:** Adlington Road Car Park (strong shoes). 2-4 pm
- Mon 12th Dec **WI Meeting:** Methodist Hall , 7.30 pm Tel: 0625 573571
- Sun 18th. Dec **Village Carol Service :** St Gregory's Church , 7.30 pm Tel: 0625 572108
- Tues 27th. Dec **"Messiah" for all:** Come and sing or just listen. Arts Centre, 8 pm
-
- 6th-8th Jan & 10th -14th Jan **"Old Mother Hubbard":** Festival Players, Arts Centre: evenings & weekend matinees at 2.30 pm. £4 - £2. Tel: 0625 572527

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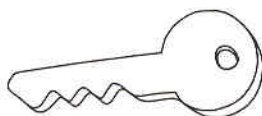
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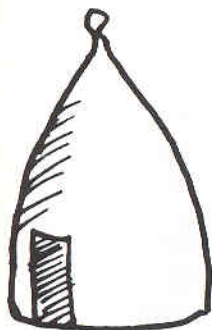
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Bollington as it was

The Town's Lost Pubs

Present-day Bollington is famed for the number as well as the quality of its pubs. In the 19th century there were many more, most of them beerhouses, established after an Act in 1830 which sought to encourage sales of beer as opposed to spirits.

They were set up mostly in terraced cottages, some of which were built slightly wider; one or two adjoining cottages might be taken over if business grew. A surviving example is *The Vale Inn*, occupying several former cottages in Adlington Road.

By the early 20th. century the magistrates, here as elsewhere, had come to believe that it was necessary to improve the morals of the working class by reducing the number of public houses. Bollington had 27 licensed premises or one per 194 inhabitants. The county average was 1 in 304. Many of the pubs were difficult for the police to "supervise", with several doors for a quick exit. In March 1903 the magistrates stated their intention to reduce the number by one third. On that occasion the 'Macclesfield Courier' published a list, containing the following pubs now lost. The pubs were closed between 1906 and 1910, unless otherwise stated:

The Britannia, 41 and 41A Queen Street. The back overlooked the former mill pool on Pool Bank, which was used as a fairground at the Wakes.

The Flying Horse, 3 and 3A Oldham Street, leased by the Bollington brewers, Heaver Brothers.

The Grapes, 4 Church Street, a particularly cool cellar, also with a shop selling minerals, Oxo and tobacco.

The Lord Nelson, 40 and 40A Water St. Closed between 1914 and 1924.

The Post Office Inn, 2 and 4 Henshall Road, opposite Barrow's butcher's shop. It included a grocery business, which seems to have continued after the closure of the beerhouse.

The Railway Tavern, Princess Street, immediately below Rose Bank. By 1906



A view of Church Street, Bollington, prior to 1910. *The Grapes Inn* was half way up on the left, midway between *The Turner's Arms* and *The Church House Inn*. Opposite was a clog-makers, in the cottages now demolished.

it incorporated 3 cottages. "Frequented by fishermen."

The Rising Sun, 21 and 21A Lord Street. Closed 1924, it seems to have continued as a sweet shop.

The Steam Engine, 35 Bollington Road, the larger house in the terrace to the south of *The Cock and Pheasant*. It seems to have been known as *The Steam Carriage* in the mid 19th. century.

By 1903 when this list was made, several other pubs had already closed. Some of these are marked on the 2.5 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1872:

The Ivy Tavern, 116 Bollington Road, opposite the back entrance to The Rookery, and seemingly known later as *The Drum and Monkey*. The present appearance of the building suggests that it may have become a shop.

The Navigation, Hurst Lane, was probably purpose-built at the same time as the canal or soon after.

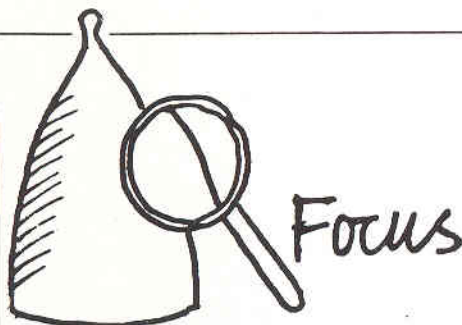
The 1872 map also shows a public house on the corner of Church Street, directly opposite *The Turners Arms*. I don't know its name but name changes were not uncommon. *The Meridian* was once the *Royal Oak*, *The Holly Bush* was the *Shoulder of Mutton*. Finally one pub which had closed before the map of 1872 was drawn: *The Barley Mow*, then in the buildings later known as 'Barley Grange,' Bollington Cross. A fully licensed house, which like many of the inns dated back before the Industrial Revolution, it had land attached - 3 Cheshire acres, enough to keep 3 cows. Unlike the small beerhouses, pubs like this played a wide role being used for auctions and sales, inquests, and the meetings of friendly societies.

A future article will describe life in the pubs of Bollington in the 19th century.

George Longden



When local pubs were closing, Hollin Hall in Kerridge was the home of Henry Davenport and family, whose fortune was made in the USA. Now the Lukic-Belgrade Hotel, the building sees further changes this month, with the opening of the Garden Room Restaurant 7 nights a week. Sunday lunch is also available, in the dining room or the extensive conservatory - innovations unforeseen those many years ago.



Balancing the Books

Mention of the library sent me along Palmerston Street to see how it fares. The opening in Macclesfield of a grander version has cast something of a shadow; borrowings in Bollington are said to be down and, in its way, the library faces the kind of threat the food shops do from Sainsburys.

Having lost count of the times I have arrived on Monday or Wednesday, when the library is closed, or on Thursday after 5, I checked the day carefully. Friday is quite a good one, since the library stays available till 7 pm - even if, perplexingly, it is not open that morning. No two days of the week have the same hours, although books are stamped to give the timings.



Assistant Christine Carbery with borrowers Jane and Mary Rogers.

The decline in borrowings, if marked, is by no means catastrophic. Dorothy Dennis, the Senior Library Assistant, looked up the figures. For April, May and June, the period following the Macclesfield Library opening, "issues" as they are known, dropped a little over 3,000 from a previous total of 22,000. Possibly Mrs Dennis suggests, novelty at Macclesfield is a factor, while parking there - by no means as easy as in Bollington - could cause a return to the smaller town. Raising a query that must irritate librarians the World around, I asked if, in the interest of beefing up the shelves books could be replaced more often. 'Postman Pat and the Bees' seems to have been there a long time now,

while 'Buck Clayton's Jazz World' sits stubbornly underborrowed under "Biography". In fairness, volumes show a steady series of stampings, while transfers to the library numbered 2,310 in the last 12-months. Changes are made, Mrs Dennis said, once books are more than three years old, and the entire library is reviewed, section by section.

There are other intriguing statistics. The population of the 'catchment area' is given at 7,261, of which 5,305 are active users. Of these, one third are junior borrowers. There are, altogether, 14,322 volumes in stock. Issues in the same 12-month period were:-

Adult, non-fiction	17,467
Adult, fiction	40,720
Junior	27,798
Sound recordings	1,791

The cost of the library was £43,701 - almost exactly 50p per borrowing. I asked Mrs Dennis about the hours. She has tried to get Friday mornings restored, but greater use is required before the County Council feels this justified - something of a Catch 22.

Overhearing our discussion a borrower chipped in. Macclesfield library, she felt, was too impersonal. Bollington's on the other hand was reasonably stocked, and not the least bit overwhelming. "This is a lovely library," she said. Gratifyingly, the speaker, Mrs Dorothy Ellis comes not from Bollington but another part of the Borough altogether, that of neighbouring Prestbury. JL

Arts Centre 'Don Giovanni'

Mozart's five great operas composed at the height of his powers never exhaust the possibilities for interpretation.

Bollington Arts Centre, having already produced 'The Magic Flute' and 'The Marriage of Figaro', turn now to 'Don Giovanni' the most dramatic and disturbing of the five, with some of Mozart's most beautiful arias. The part of the Don will be taken by Maurice Rushby, who many will remember as the Count in 'Figaro.' Production is by Frank Walker and musical direction by John Coope.

Performances are at 7.30 pm on 14, 16 and 18 November with tickets at £5 (children 32) Tel 573477

Drop-in Turns to Romance

Bollington's Drop-In Centre is to publish its second book in November, entitled "Romance and Rhyme". Many Bollingtonians have contributed their memories of love, courtship and marriage.

Ann Mayer and Pam Barfield have been drawing together reminiscences going back well before the war. More than a few couples met at the local dance studio in the 30s, now a private house in Wellington Road. The dance studio - it could hardly be called a "hall" - became so popular two busloads would come from Macclesfield and people had to have a ticket to get in.



Visitor and volunteer Joe Walmsley restores the 'Drop-In' basement.

Recording reminiscences is an important part of work in the Centre and "Romance and Rhyme" follows the highly successful "Reflections on Bollington" produced last year. This latest publication is to coincide with an exhibition running throughout November and December in Bollington Library.

However history is not the only interest here. You can be of any age to take part in the activities including handicrafts, woodwork, and painting. There is generally a mix of people doing a variety of things and if you have a skill you can share so much the better.

Karen, a frequent caller says, "I enjoy the community spirit and trying my hand at different activities."

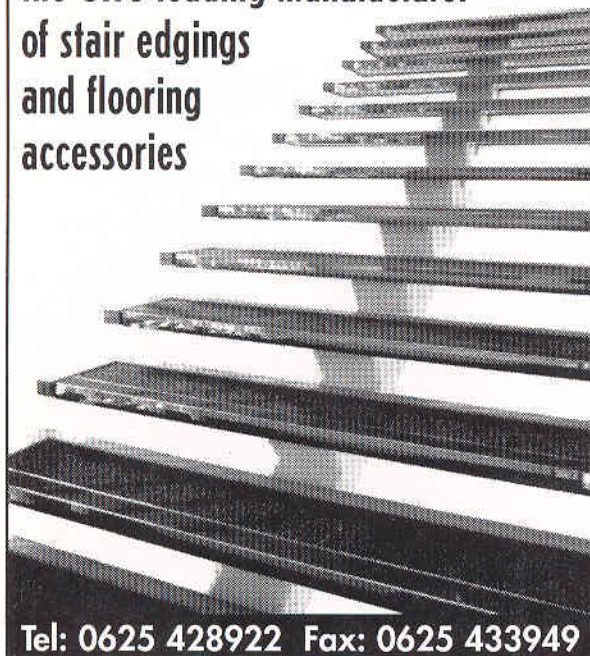
Gwen a visitor to Bollington said, "It was nice to meet and have a chat with other people." LW

The Drop-In Centre is open Mondays to Thursdays 9.30 am to 3.00 pm and is at the Town Hall, Wellington Road. For an update, phone Ann Mayer on 0625 576311.

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BOLLINGTON

Live!

Leisure Centre Expands

The Leisure Centre in Bollington may not be easy to find, but it is well worth the effort. Tucked behind the houses on Heath Road is this hive of activity which attracts customers from startlingly far afield - often from areas with leisure centres of their own. Word-of-mouth brings many along.

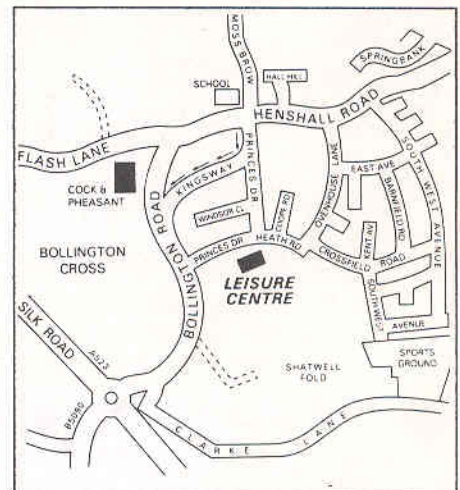
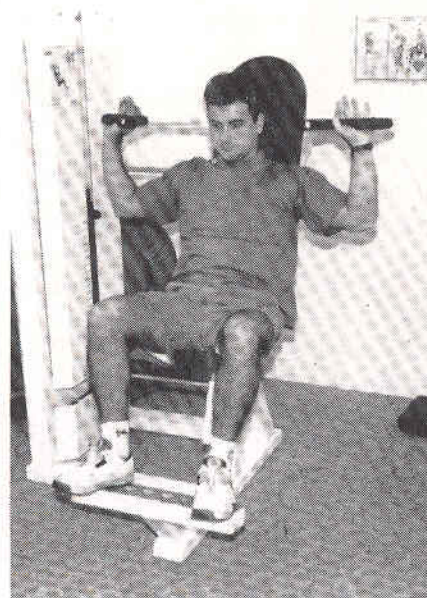
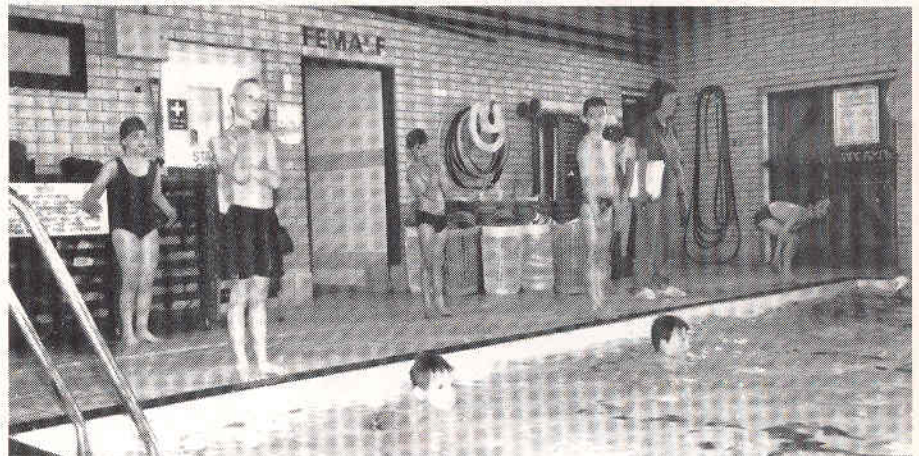
'Leisure', a wide-ranging term, conjures up visions of relaxation, even indolence. Here, however, action is the order of the day. At the heart of this is the swimming scheme, co-ordinated by Rosemary Turk, who is also assistant manager. Swimming lessons at the Centre are carefully graded, with a highly-qualified staff, and the level of concern - "morale", "spirit", call it what you will - is positive and infectious.

Few Turned Away

Courses here are popular. June White in reception has the task of sifting applications; despite the demand, few are turned away.

A referral scheme operates with doctors. Bollington Harriers meet at the building also, as do mountain bikers, while there are three squash courts, a health suite, and a well-equipped gym. For information on the dry land activities, Geoff Coe is the man to contact. Geoff, a keen sportsman himself, leads the team and his enthusiasm motivates many who use the Centre.

It seems almost treacherous, after discussing such pursuits, to refer to the bar, recently refurbished, and available for hire. On the upper floor is the Soft Centre, a padded version of an assault



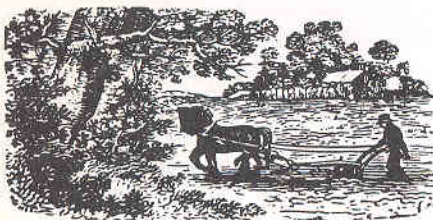
Adjoining the pool are many facilities. Duty Manager Colin Sherlock demonstrates the gym equipment

course for the under-sevens. Coming also are major extensions to the premises, with the primary purpose of enlarging the changing areas.

Bollington Leisure Centre is a registered charity, and was built by the people of Bollington to serve the community. Eyes still turn glassy at the memory of those fund-raising days before the opening in 1976. There have

been financial difficulties since, but the support of local businesses, and Bollington and Macclesfield Councils, has ensured the Centre's future.

In return, staff and users have responded. There is a remarkable feel to the place. Small wonder that people come from the fringes of Manchester and Stoke to use it.



'OKLAHOMA' IN THE ROUND

Bollington Light Opera Group presents Rogers and Hammerstein's ever-popular musical 'Oklahoma' from November 22 to 26 at the Civic Hall. Unusually, the show will be "in the round" so bringing the audience into the action. In the cast, in addition to favourites Mike Raymond and David Postance, are many new faces. Rachel Taylor takes a principal role; production is by Pauline and Roger Browne. For tickets contact Val Postance on 0625-875326



BOLLINGTON

Live!