

BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Three

February '95

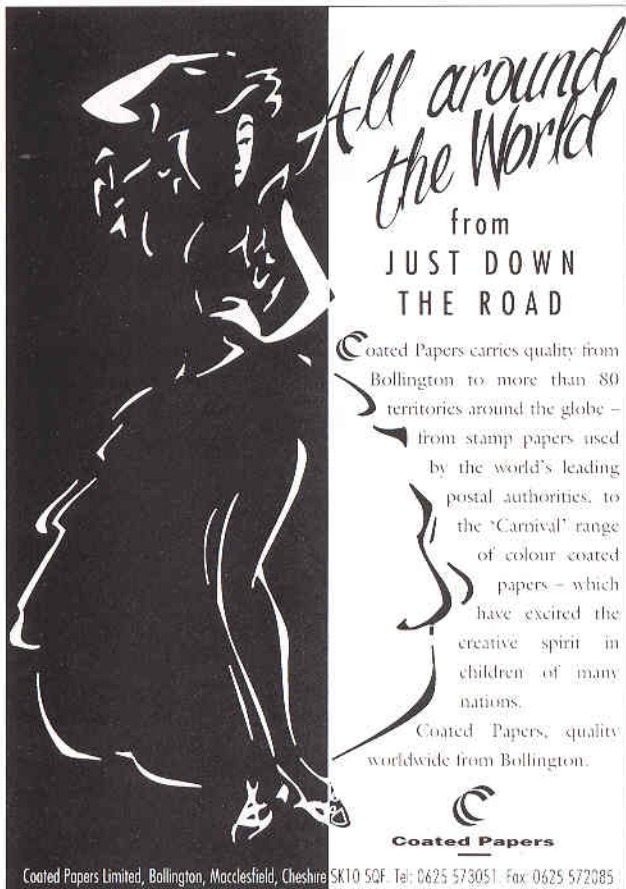


OUR GREEN BELT - DO WE HAVE ONE?

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BOLLINGTON



Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington a town in its own right!" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome to the Editor c/o Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington.

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BOLLINGTON'S GREEN BELT - DO WE REALLY HAVE ONE?

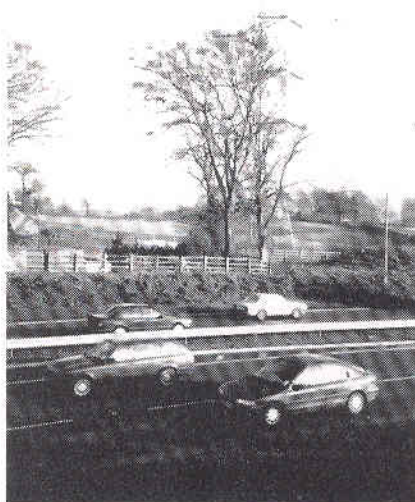
Bollington, as we all know, is a town in its own right. It's not a big town, but its history and character clearly stand it apart from its near and larger neighbour, Macclesfield. Our town is under pressure for development - it's a desirable place to live, bring up a family or retire to. It's also a good location for businesses, being only 20 minutes from Manchester Airport, 40 minutes by road to Manchester and with a rail station to London only 10 minutes away in Macclesfield. It's not surprising that builders and businesses look carefully at every vacant building or spare plot of land, hoping to get planning permission for new developments.

Ever since the second world war, we have tried to protect the sprawl of Britain's largest cities by designating Green Belts. These have generally been recognised as a success story and have been reconfirmed by successive governments. Manchester has a Green Belt which originally stopped north of Macclesfield; but this was revised in the 1970's to protect all the land around Macclesfield and Bollington.

Its present boundary lies to the south of Macclesfield. This revision was necessary as development pressures were "leaping" the old Green Belt and putting excessive pressure on to Macclesfield and its surroundings. Well, what's all this got to do with Bollington, you may be asking. Quite a lot, I suggest!

The key point is that the Green Belt land around Bollington is not **our** or even Macclesfield's, but **Manchester's** Green Belt. Bollington does not have a Green Belt of its own; we are sharing it with Manchester.

So what, I hear you cry. Well, recent history has shown us what happens when decisions about the land around Bollington are basically made with an eye to what it does or does not do for Manchester or Macclesfield. We get business parks, new roads and roundabouts gobbling up the most vulnerable part of the "Bollington Green Belt". The green fields between Bollington and Macclesfield have been reduced to a single field width as, first the Tytherington Business Park was permitted, then the Silk Road took a swathe of land through the charming Dumbah Hollow.



The sad thing is that both of these "developments" could have gone elsewhere: the Business Park to the moss land south of Macclesfield, while the Silk Road could have more carefully utilised the line of the existing Macclesfield-Stockport road. Crying over spilt milk? No, merely pointing out that when a Green Belt around Bollington is designated primarily to protect a large nearby city, then it's pretty weak in protecting the land around our dear little town.



The footpath on Clarke Lane, above, stands a matter of yards from the new Silk Road. Will more of our fields be built on? Or can Bollington protect itself with positive proposals?

That's progress! Or is it? What can we do to prevent the same mistakes being made again? My suggestion is to prepare a Local Plan for Bollington, not one putting us into the plan area of Macclesfield, but a Bollington-centred view of the world. We should decide here, in Bollington, where we want new development and where the surrounding fields should be strictly protected. I suggest that Bollington Town Council takes the initiative by putting forward our future vision for the town instead of merely reacting to the proposals of developers and planners elsewhere.

The future of our town should not be left to outside market and development forces. Bollington should identify its new housing areas, its industrial land, its own Bollington Green Belt. And this should be professionally prepared and offered to the local planning authority, be it Macclesfield Borough Council or any other.

Come on, Bollington Council, get positive! If we want the Green Belt to protect Bollington in the future we'll have to lay claim to it as **ours** and not simply accept it as a gift from Manchester or Macclesfield. We will also need to persuade our neighbours in Macclesfield that this is for the best. I rest my case.

G.B.



Children Live!

The sheer variety of local groups of enthusiasts for music and the performing arts is remarkable for a town the size of Bollington; and of these, the Bollington Children's Music Theatre has a unique place.



BCMT was formed in 1986, following the Bollington Festival production of 'Noye's Fludde' which was greatly enjoyed by performers and audience alike. The musical director, Donald Judge, felt it was a pity to let such a wealth of talent go to waste and so BCMT began.

Donald's enthusiasm and drive have been the key to the group's success, while the Theatre also provides him with a little light relief from teaching at a primary school in Stockport!

Visiting the Arts Centre during a Sunday afternoon rehearsal is an eye-opener. It's difficult to imagine how a group aged between six and fourteen from many different schools can be welded together into a winning team, especially as there are no auditions - except to decide solo roles - while the musical material is often challenging, and time is in short supply. But the children's hard work and enthusiasm seems to be rewarded with splendid

performances, while willing parents backstage and front of house ensure things run smoothly. And it is very gratifying to see bewildered six-year olds blossom over the years into self-confident soloists!

In November 1986 the group gave its first independent performance, 'The Rainbow' by Peter Maxwell Davies. Since then, BCMT has staged over twenty music theatre works, including pieces by Richard Rodney Bennett, Malcolm Williamson, and Benjamin Britten.

Finding pieces suited to the group and the venue can prove difficult, and so BCMT has given premieres of several works written especially for them by Donald Judge. Perhaps the most exciting was 'Creation', with a libretto by well-known local writer Lavinia Murray. Lavinia had visited Dr John Coope in search of hay fever relief and emerged from the consulting room committed to writing the words of an opera! Her extraordinary imagination produced a thought-provoking story line in which a young girl was taken on a journey through various Creation stories, thereby gaining strength and hope for her battle against Leukaemia. When her busy professional life (which includes being writer in residence at Chester Gateway Theatre and at Styal Prison) allows her the time, Lavinia is determined to write a libretto based on the story of St George.

BCMT normally presents two shows a year - in early December and just before Easter. On Sunday April this year audiences can see 'Brundibar', written for a competition in 1938 by Hans Krasa. It won first prize, and like all the best children's presentations, it doesn't 'talk down'. 'Brundibar' was subsequently performed over fifty times by children in Terezin Concentration Camp where Krasa was imprisoned. The significance of the plot could not have been lost on the occupying Nazis, but they allowed the performances in an attempt to convince visitors that Terezin was a humane and peaceful place.

Joe and Annette, desperate to buy milk for their sick mother, start busking on a patch occupied by the dictatorial organ grinder Brundibar. Aided and



abetted by the police, he steals their takings and sends them packing. But with the help of Sparrow, Cat, Dog and eventually the other children, Brundibar gets his come-uppance and tyranny is defeated.

Krasa, along with many of the performers, perished in the gas chambers at Auschwitz, but his music lives on. With an exciting story line and tuneful music, it promises to be a treat for all the family. The programme



will include other songs and music by Czech composers, including Five Moravian Dances for voices and piano by Janacek.

BCMT always welcomes new members, who, it is hoped, will enjoy the thrill of performing. For further information contact Donald Judge on 061 427 2870, most evenings.

Bollington Town Meeting

Tuesday 14th. March

7.30p.m.

Civic Hall

Making Bollington Better - Come and give the councillors your views!

Parking Changes?

As we go to press, intriguing news reaches us of the survey by the Landscape Students of Manchester Metropolitan University into the problems of Bollington. Some of the suggestions are radical, and stimulating. We will be publishing details in a future issue.

In the meantime, the suggestion was made at the recent public meeting of the Civic Society that parking arrangements be altered in Palmerston Street in support of local shops. The suspicion grows to certainty that unless vehicles can be parked directly alongside shops, their drivers move on elsewhere; and in Palmerston Street, useful space is taken by vehicles left there throughout the working day.

This suggestion, modest enough in all conscience, has been passed forward to Macclesfield Borough by Bollington Council.

How it is processed, the time that it takes, and the degree of pressure Bollington's own council is prepared to exert, will provide a yardstick for other suggestions for improving the town. J.L.



Not such a one-horse town? Could Bollington's Council Offices, seen here in summer, be once again a seat of power?

ELECTIONS, 1995

On 4th May, elections take place for all 15 places on Bollington Council. Three members are also elected to take seats on Macclesfield Borough Council.

In its next issue, published shortly before these elections take place, *Bollington Live!* will present a policy statement from each of the main political parties. Independent candidates wishing to have their views considered should contact the Editor, c/o Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Road, by March 31.

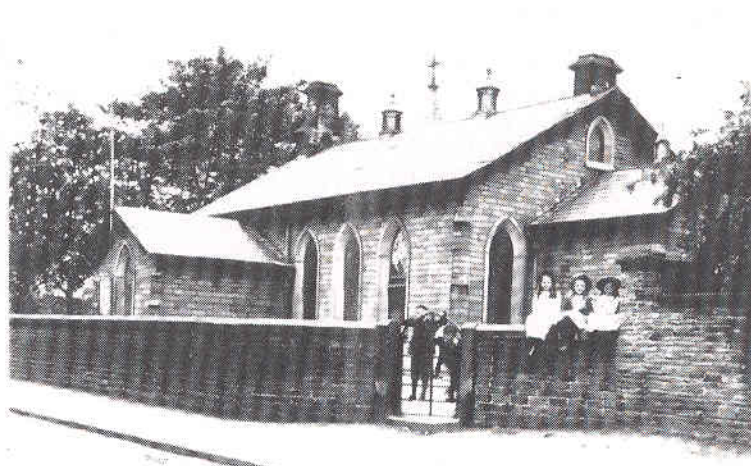
More Power for Bollington?

Just before Christmas, the Commission set up by the Government to examine our councils recommended that services such as Education and Libraries should not be taken over by Macclesfield Borough but left under County Council control.

In explaining its decision, the commission commented that only 18% of local people wanted everything run by a "unitary" authority based on Macclesfield.

However, the commission welcomed the promise made by the County Council that it planned "to enhance the role of town and parish councils". So *Bollington Live!* has written to Chester to ask for specific proposals, and for news on how soon we may see the promised changes. Will there just be a little more consultation, or shall our town council have an enhanced budget, and additional responsibilities?

We await the County Council's reply. M.S.



150 years old, Bollington Cross Primary School plans to celebrate in style, with a Summer Fair on Saturday, July 8. Readers with photos or information on times past are invited to contact the Headmistress, Mrs Bradley.

Pictured here, from the archives of the Civic Society, are a gardening class, and the school itself prior to 1908, when it also served as a church.

Distribution of Bollington Live! is shared with local volunteers. Readers willing to help with deliveries are asked to get in touch with Penny Liley, Tel 01625 - 572348.

Assistance is also welcome in preparing the magazine itself - in seeking small advertisements, and in gathering information for features and for our events pages. Contact the same 'phone number, please, or write to The Editor, Bollington Live! c/o Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5JL



BOLLINGTON

Live!

WHAT'S ON?



- Wed 18th Jan **Bollington Wives** "The Kurdish way of life" in words and pictures, by Easa Ali.
Civic Hall, 8 pm Tel: 573900
- Tues 24th Jan **Modern Sequence Dancing** (and on many other days. Tel: 0161 - 439 1391).
Civic Hall, 1.30 - 3.30 pm
- Sun 22nd Jan **Walk around Bollington** (6 miles). Macclesfield Rambling Club.
Meet Macc. Railway Station Car Park, 9.30 am. Tel: 572900
- Fri 27th Jan **Parents and Tots** - Dance, movement, games for pre-school.
Civic Hall, 10.30 - 11.30 (also following week) Tel: 504513
- Sun 29th Jan **"Come Gentle Spring"**: an entertainment by Bollington Festival Choir.
Conductor John Coope. Music by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms.
Methodist Church. Tickets £4 (children £2) from Bollington Medical Centre 572481, or reserved on 573494



- Wed 1st Feb **Bollington Wives** A Nip around Scotland by Eric Woodhouse.
Bollington Civic Hall. 8 pm Tel: 573900
- Thurs 2nd Feb **Tea Dance** to live music by Forum Sound. 2-4 pm, Civic Hall. Tel: 504513
- Sat 4th Feb **The Chilingirian Quartet**: Panufnik, Mozart, Janacek, Schnittke. Arts Centre 8 pm
Tickets £7 (children £2) from Bollington Medical Centre or reserved on Tel: 573477
- Mon 6th Feb **Fish and Pasta I**: a demonstration by local restaurateur Enzo Mauro at 8.30 pm.
Tickets £2 on the door. Bollington Arts Centre Tel: 576250
- Mon 13th Feb **WI Meeting** The work of the Cheshire CVOs by Leslie Shimmell. Methodist Hall, 7.30
- Mon 13th Feb **Fish and Pasta II**: by Enzo Mauro Arts Centre, 8.30 pm. Tickets £2 on the door. Tel: 576250
- Wed 15th Feb **Bollington Wives** go behind the scenes at Tesco. Depart Civic Hall at 6.50 pm Tel: 573900
- Thurs 16th Feb **Bollington Horticultural Society** annual general meeting. Dog and Partridge, 8.0 pm Tel: 422371
- Sat 18th Feb **Patterns in Nature**, an opportunity for 8 - 15 yr olds to create their own wildlife collage.
10.30 - 12. Meet Pavilion, Adlington Road Recreation Ground.
- Sun 19th Feb **Lindy Hop Lift Off!** Dance workshop. Civic Hall, £2 10.30 - 12 or 12.30 - 2 pm Tel: 504513
- Mon 20th Feb **Fish and Pasta III**: by Enzo Mauro. Arts Centre 8.30 pm. Tickets £2 on the door Tel: 576250
- Sat 25th Feb **Bollington Brass Band**. Memorial concert to the late Brian Taylor.
Methodist Church, 7.30 pm. Tickets Tel: 575274
- Sun 26th Feb **Hedgelaying** with Ranger Paul Hughes.
10.30 - 3.30 pm (bring lunch) Meet Clough Bank Car Park, Grimshaw Lane



- Wed 1st March **Bollington Wives.** Joan Holmes on Long - tailed woolly Monkeys. Civic Hall 8.00 pm Tel: 573900
- Fri 3rd March **Iris and Joyce** Rib-tickling comedy duo. Domestic sketches. Charity Night
Bollington Arts Centre 8 pm Tickets £3.(Concessions £2) on the door. Tel: 576250
- Fri 3rd March **Bollington Horticultural Society** spring show.
Bollington Community Centre Tel: 422371
- Sat 4th March **Simone Rebello and Stuart Death;** percussion & piano: Rosuaro, Liszt.
Arts Centre, 8 pm. Tickets £7 (children £2) from Bollington Medical Centre or reserved Tel : 573477
- Sat 11th March **Ray Williams,** the famous jazz trombonist in concert.
8 pm Tickets £4.0 (concessions £2) Tel: 576250
- Sat 11th March **Search for Springtime.** Walk for 8 - 15 yr olds.
10.30 - 12 Meet Pavilion, Adlington Road Recreation Ground.
- Sun 12th March **Well I never!** Circular local and natural history walk with Ranger Andrew Watson.
2 - 4 pm. Meet Adlington Road Car Park.
- Mon 13th March **WI Meeting.** Lily Langtry by James Ball. Methodist Hall 7.30 Tel: 573571
- Wed 15th March **Bollington Wives.** Ideal Homes Roadshow. Civic Hall Tel: 573900
- Thurs 16th March **Bollington Horticultural Society.** Confessions of a commercial horticulturalist by G Jenner
Tel: 422371
- Mon 20th March **Bollington Civic Society** AGM, Bollington Arts Centre. 8, 15 pm: "Urban Wildlife": an illustrated talk by Brian Hallworth. £1 entry for non - members Tel: 573494
- Wed 22 March **"Fur Coat and No Knickers",** a farce by Mike Harding, Bollington Festival Players.
Arts Centre 7.30. pm £4 (concessions £2.50) Tel: 572527
- Sun 26th March **On Your Bike!** along the Middlewood Way, to explain winter work.
Clough Bank Car Park, Grimshaw Lane, 2 - 4 pm
- Wed 29th March **Bollington Wives:** All you need to know about Osteoporosis by Dr Jean Coope.
Civic Hall, 8 pm Tel: 573900



- Mon 10th Apr **WI Meeting:** Riding for the disabled by John Clarke.
Methodist Hall 7.30 pm Tel: 573571
- Wed 12th Apr **Bollington Wives.** "Get ahead! Wear a hat! " by Alison Eyres,
Civic Hall.Tel: 573900
- Sat 15th Apr **Sorrell String Quartet.** Haydn-Britten-Beethoven , Bollington Arts Centre,
8 pm. £7 (Children £2) from Bollington Medical Centre or reserved on 573477
- Mon 17th Apr **Easter Eggcitement** with the Rangers. Bring 2 hardboiled eggs and Mum and Dad.
Adlington Rd. car park, 10.00-12.30pm. Tel. 573998
- Sat 22nd Apr **Badgering Around** for Children aged 8-15. A morning with the Rangers.
Adlington Rd. car park, 10.30-12.00 noon.
- Tues 25th Apr **"Iolanthe"** Gilbert and Sullivan. Bollington Light Opera Group.
Civic Hall, 7.30 pm Tickets Tel: 875326
- Thurs 27th Apr **Bollington Horticultural Society** Colour throughout the year: Anthony Norman.
Dog and Partridge, 8 pm Tel: 422371
- Sun 30th Apr **Floral Feast:** appreciation of early flowers with Ranger Trish Furse. Stout shoes needed.
Poynton Coppice Car Park, 1.30-3.30pm.

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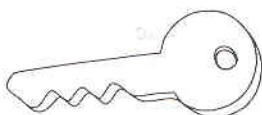
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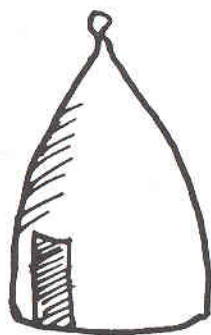
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Bollington as it was

Life in the Pubs

Bollington was an industrial revolution boom town. The number of people living in the village grew fastest in the 1830s, increasing from 2,685 in 1831 to 4,350 in 1841. Terraces of stone cottages were built for rent to the migrants from the country areas of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Lancashire who came to work in the cotton mills.

Much of the social life of the raw new community revolved around its pubs. The better paid workers provided themselves with sick pay, medical treatment and other benefits through Friendly Societies. Each 'court' or lodge had a public house base, where the frequent dinners and festive ceremonies were held. Court 'Coronation' of the Ancient Order of Foresters was based at *The Meridian*, while the 'Shepherd's Tent' Court was at *The Turner's Arms*. The Oddfellows 'Fountain of Friendship' Lodge met at *The Holly Bush*, as did the Bollington No. 1 Burial Society.

The less formal, and sometimes criminal, side of life in Bollington's pubs in the 1830s was revealed in the magistrates' courts, the proceedings of which were sometimes reported in detail in the 'Macclesfield Courier'. Many beerhouses had been set up after an Act of 1830 which sought to encourage sales of beer rather than spirits. Serving after closing (10 pm) was not uncommon. A constable remarked in court that the village beerhouse keepers "sell beer when

they can... they have most of them been convicted." Before the railways brought Greenwich Mean Time to the area, landlords might attempt a defence based on 'local time'. Sampson Bold, constable, raided the beer house of Isaac Lucas in 1836. Lucas claimed that Bold had worked to Macclesfield time, which was half an hour ahead of Bollington's. The magistrates however were convinced by Bold's contention that Bollington factory time was less than five minutes out of line with the time shown on the Old Church clock in Macclesfield.

Court cases provide glimpses of entertainment in the pubs. Thomas Hester, a Bollington shoemaker, would play the fiddle in pubs for 2s 6d per night, or 5s for a private 'stir'. He had played the landlord's fiddle at *The Spinners Arms* on Christmas Eve 1836, but had been lured, with the fiddle, to *The Dog and Partridge*. In lieu of payment for his playing at *The Spinners*, he unlawfully pawned the fiddle.

A fiddle was being played one lively night in 1837 at *The Horse Shoe* beerhouse (landlord William Holland, who appears in trade directories as a blacksmith). A man called Wood, who was there distributing notices of a concert he was to give at *The Spinners Arms*, sang a song 'which pleased the company very much', and a Macclesfield man 'sang a song against him'. Among the company was John Adshead, a weaver at Samuel Greg's Lowerhouse Mill. On his way home Adshead was severely beaten and kicked by a group of 11 men. Cries of "There's a Lowerhouse devil, d--him, kill him" were heard. Drink had apparently inflamed rivalries between the employees of Samuel Greg and Martin Swindells (of the Clarence Mill) over which of these was 'head master'. The court report also suggests hostility toward those who lived in the factory community at Lowerhouse. Greg himself testified that his workpeople "wished to live among themselves", though at the same time "they endeavoured to behave as good neighbours".

Drunken aggression was sometimes directed against the constables, who appear to have been generally unpopular



Waiting for opening time at The Holly Bush, c. 1905

and thwarted wherever possible. Constable River Jordan Hatton discovered George Bailey and George Warren with others in 'a most brutal state of intoxication' at 1 am in Buckley's beerhouse. Bailey and Warren said that they had come down from Kerridge to see whether Hatton 'had a white feather or not'. While Hatton struggled with Warren, 50 or more persons passed by (Hatton claimed) and all refused Hatton assistance.

Magistrates appear to have had little hope of moral reform through the courts. Perhaps exasperation explains an episode reported in May 1836. Joseph Allen, who had failed to pay a 5s fine for being drunk and disorderly, was put in the stocks, a punishment which had not been used for 70 years. (The stocks were near the site of the later Congregational church, across the stream from The Holly Bush) The newspaper report continues: "It appears that a body of (Allen's) companions had determined to try a rescue, and came to the place prepared with liquor, and, as we have heard, music, determined at least to make him comfortable during his continuance in durance vile. They were over-awed however by a strong muster of the county police..."

George Longden.



Could it Happen Here? Widely used in France, rumble strips represent a cheap, effective method of warning drivers to ease their speeds. This example is at Menetreux-le-Pitois, one of many Burgundian towns in which an array of traffic calming measures have been introduced. Set in a rank of nine, the strips have a noticeable effect on traffic, an effective first step in reducing speeds through the town from a previous 40 mph to nearer 20. Made of gravel spread in cement, the strips stop short of the verge, permitting motor bikes and cycles to make their way past. Possible locations in Bollington are almost too numerous to list; but our schools, surely, merit such a measure?

BOLLINGTON GHOSTS!

Trouble at t' Mill

I don't know much about ghosts. Indeed, until I started making enquiries here, I thought they might be on the verge of extinction. Do these hauntings still occur in our own more sceptical times? Well, it seems they do, at least in Bollington.

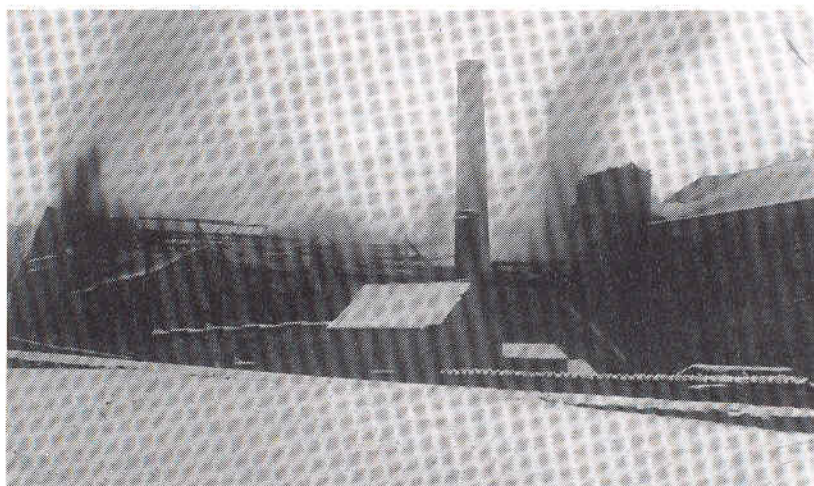
I started my search with the only ghost to appear in histories of the town, as recorded by vicar Betts in his "Bollington Through the Centuries", - a small brown volume published in the early thirties. According to this source, James Buckley was a servant to a mill owner, and the mill itself stood on the present site of Shrigley Dyers by Ingersley Vale. "Buckley was accused," says Betts "of the theft of a considerable sum of money, and in spite of vehement denials, the finger of a suspicion which amounted to certainly pointed to him."

The day following the accusation Buckley was not to be found, and his disappearance was rendered the more mysterious by the discovery of fresh blood-stains in a rarely used corner of the mill. Was he murdered for the cash and his body thrown into the mill-pool? Betts gives no clues as to his sources for his story, nor any date. He merely says "many years ago" which suggests some time in the 19th Century. He concludes: "tradition speaks of many who have seen the

shadow of a listening man, oddly dressed, a shadow that creeps stealthily along the side of the mill-wall into Rainow Lane. The

mill was burnt down in 1931, and the ghost, if ghost there was, has ceased to be." The good vicar is obviously not one to encourage superstitions among his flock; but as we shall see, he had certainly not exorcised this apparition.

I picked a moonlit night in December and, leaving my car in Church Street, walked slowly along Rainow Lane from *The Crown Inn*, keeping a watchful eye for anything unusual. In the moonlight the trees cast spidery shadows on the old mill buildings and on the still waters of



The burning of the mill in Ingersley Vale, March 1931

the pond. I strolled over to the river and, standing in the shade of a stone wall, looked down at the weir, trying to be as receptive as possible. An owl hooted, then silence. Suddenly a beam of light swept into view and a car coming from Ingersley Vale stopped. The driver wound down the window and, seeing it was me - and knowing my interest in the matter - enquired whether I was looking for ghosts. I agreed that such was my purpose and he went on his way. This interruption however seemed to dispel the magic and I gave up ghost-hunting for the night.

Next morning I had a phone-call from the Manager of Shrigley Dyers, John Hancock. "I hear you are interested in our ghost. Buckley Bones we call him. Yes, many of the night staff have seen him here." I suggested that he gathered as many of the witnesses as possible and arranged to meet him at the mill the following evening. Talking to John in his office the next day he told me that in all his time at the factory the night shift had regularly reported strange experiences in the old part of the mill. Together with four of the employees we walked through the gaunt shell of the buildings that had been destroyed by fire and they told me their stories. One was lifting a bale of material when he saw

the shadow of a man pass behind him. He dropped the bale and shouted, but the figure had gone. Another was standing alone and turned to find a man standing mute in a nearby doorway. After about a minute in which he was frozen to the spot, the apparition vanished. A security man saw the shadow of a figure on the wall in Rainow Lane where I had stood the previous night.

John Hancock himself, although he had not seen the ghost, had heard his footsteps crossing the floor on which we stood.

There was no reason to disbelieve the evidence of these witnesses or to doubt that, despite the opinion of vicar Betts, the ghost of James Buckley is alive and well down at Shrigley Dyers Mill. **JC**

Further records of Bollington ghosts will appear in a subsequent issue.

Calling All Singers Bollington Festival Choir, which has just passed its 30th. birthday, will be performing Dvorak's choral masterpiece the 'Stabat Mater' in June. Rehearsals start on Tuesday 31 January and the Choir is looking for new singers, particularly tenors and basses. Anyone interested is asked to ring June Biggar on 575406.

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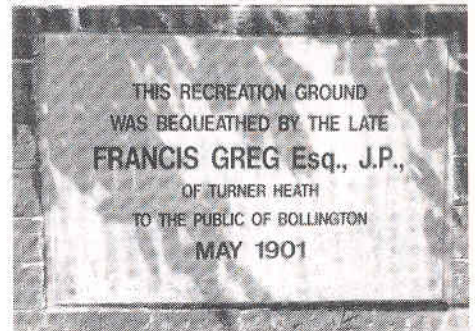
Increasingly, the condition of the Town's Recreation Ground causes concern. Work Parties from the Borough Council visit it regularly - on such projects as replanting shrubs, relaying walls or lopping the occasional tree, but the playing areas themselves merit more attention than the full-time groundsman can possibly provide.

One frequent complaint is the extensive and regular use of the playing areas for dog exercising, despite notices and the presence of a bin. Oddly, dog fouling used not to be a problem here; nowadays it is, making the pitches a minefield for children and cricket team members alike.

Alarmingly, too, drainage has deteriorated. As already reported, Bollington Athletic football team has been looking elsewhere because of the unsatisfactory condition of the pitch; while the Ladies Hockey Team, which played on part of the cricket ground alongside, has already moved to another ground.

Mrs. Berry, Secretary of Bollington Ladies Hockey Club, told *Bollington Live!*

"We used to love playing our matches on the old Adlington Road pitch and when we had to cancel it because there were pools of water around and near the goal, we had to pay again for a second pitch elsewhere. We did write to the council requesting some improvement, but they felt they couldn't justify the expense. We are very happy playing on the Kings Girls School pitch, which isn't too far out of Bollington, but if the Adlington Road pitch was made good we would go back. We liked it and it used to drain beautifully, but it's not worth it under the present conditions."



Anyone for Basketball?

Dual use of the tennis courts on the Recreation Ground has been proposed, with basketball being played there as well.

The idea came about following conversations with young people for our "What's on for Youth?" feature in the last *Bollington Live!* And the youth club is keen to offer such an outdoor activity to its members.

Basketball is growing in popularity under the influence of American teams and personalities, and the British Sports Council is promoting it. Use of the courts for tennis is by no means full-time and dual use could therefore be accommodated.

So what's the next step? The Borough has kindly agreed to put the money forward IF sufficient interest can be shown. Who else can assist? *The Holly Bush* sponsors cricket, while *The Dog and Partridge*, already supporting football, has generously offered assistance towards basketball also.

An organiser is now needed, to set up further support, and a fixture list.

Is this your bag (or net)? Can you help? If so, please contact *Bollington Live!* on 01625 - 572348



Bollington Ladies Hockey Club is always on the look-out for players of a reasonable standard. "We are a very sociable club," says press secretary Mrs. Sara Geary. At present there is quite a large roster of members, some of whom play on a regular basis, and others occasionally. Interested ladies, or mums who might want to get back into the sport having played at school or at college, are asked to contact the Captain, Mrs. Kate Pettipiece on 01625 - 613216.

Pictured players are: Kate Pettipiece, Mary Berry, Hilary Middleton, Pam Mahon, Sara Geary, Karen Gedde, Ruth Quinn, Lynn Thomas, Gina Brownsword, Emma Brocklehurst, Margaret Mottershead and Umpire Cath Brocklehurst.

