



# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

Number Four May '95



## A NEW VIEW OF POOL BANK

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# Live!



This issue of *Bollington Live!* is prepared by a voluntary group, and distributed, free of charge, by yet more volunteers. While acting on behalf of Bollington, we aim to keep costs to a minimum. Yet there *are* costs.

By advertising in *Bollington Live!*, you will be helping us to meet these expenses, and, we firmly believe, you will be helping Bollington too. Our rates are competitive and we aim to distribute to every household in the town.

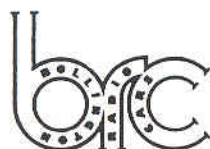
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- What family used to live in Tatton Park?

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*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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## VISIONS OF OUR TOWN

In the previous issue of *Bollington Live!* We directed attention to the need for a detailed survey of local planning needs: an assessment on Bollington's behalf in the interests of our town, rather than someone else's.

Pie in the sky? Impossible to realise? Too expensive? Well, no sooner said than done: the report on Bollington by the students of Landscape Architecture at Manchester Metropolitan University was presented earlier this year. Amongst the suggestions were:

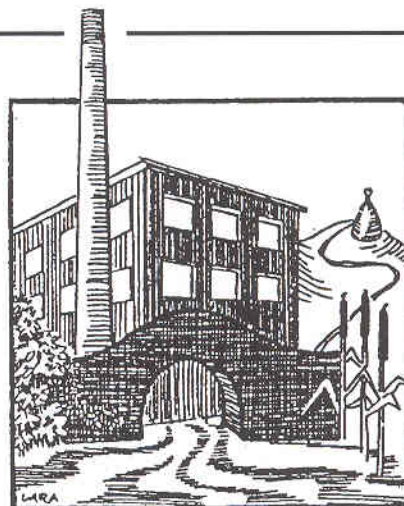
- *Redevelopment of the Clarence and Adelphi Mills*

The vast floor space of our two remaining mills makes them critical to the future of Bollington. Clarence Mill could be named "Clarence Mill Village", a housing association formed and the Mill partly converted into flats. Parts of The Adelphi are considered ideal for a museum, arts

centre and heritage tourist development. There should be a bridge across the canal to a new marina on the east bank.

- *Town centre redesign*

Radical proposals are made to provide a focus in the town centre and to enhance the shopping. The main road could be diverted via Queen Street and through Pool Bank to emerge at The Turners Arms. This would relieve Palmerston



Street, which could be redesigned for pedestrians and shoppers. An attractive new market square is proposed for Pool Bank with shops, planting and seating to bring life back into the area.

- *Focal point strategy*

Throughout the town, ten important focal points are identified. There are suggestions for enhancing each of them by repairs, tree planting and signs. The central idea is to reinforce Bollington's individuality.

- *Improving the green belt*

Amongst the proposals, a new "community forest" is proposed for the land between the canal and the Middlewood Way. A country park is suggested as a way of protecting the land between Kerridge, Bollington and Macclesfield. An outdoor education centre could be located in one of the quarries in Kerridge Ridge and a new circular footpath established around the town. The whole footpath network should be improved with better surfacing and signs.

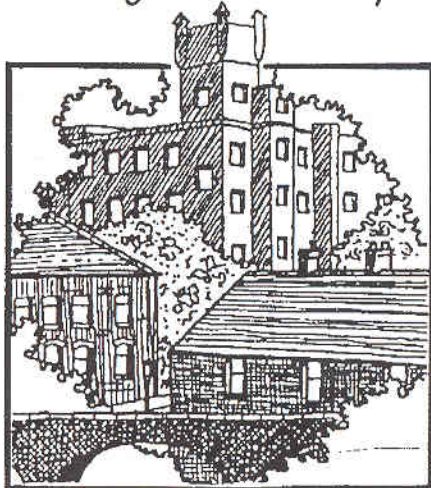


*Pool Bank, above, at present provides a recycling centre and car parking, scarcely the stuff of a town's central feature. Could it be a market square instead?*





## Bollington Survey...



### • *The River Dean and The Canal*

Special attention was paid to the River and Canal. Detailed plans have been put forward with, for instance, improvements to the river bank through the Recreation Ground including extensive planting.

### • *Traffic and Parking*

As we all know, there is scope for traffic calming along the main street. Suggestions include redesign of pavements, road surfaces, junctions

and the inevitable speed bumps and bollards. Cycling could be encouraged by providing cycle racks and secure places to chain bikes in various locations.

### • *The Bollington Promotion Campaign*

It is suggested that Bollington should mount its own promotional campaign to attract industry and employment. Special emphasis is given in the survey to the potential of the town for attracting tourism and leisure-related jobs. Our position next to The Peak National Park is not exploited at present. Should Bollington be a tourist centre for the Peak District?

The suggestions sketched out here represent just a part of what is probably the most extensive survey for Bollington ever carried out. They were prepared by students of Landscape Architecture from The Manchester Metropolitan University. The students, under the guidance of their tutors, David Staines and John Findlay, were invited to Bollington by our Civic Society with the support of Cheshire Landscape Trust and The Town Council. The proposals deserve wide discussion in the town.

## PUB SCENE by Old Stager

### THE TURNERS ARMS

What did I expect to find in the old stage coach inn where the horses used to be changed before ascending Blaze Hill, and where the buses turn today? Certainly not a ghost called "Frank" or a chambermaid who worked for thirty years in the inn and still drinks there today. Bernard and Brenda Dingle bought the pub 10 years ago and since then have extended and improved the accommodation to ten rooms (with 5 en-suite) and a dining area for up to 48 people.

The average man in the Macclesfield area drinks more than 8 pints a week and at *The Turners* you can have eight different ones including Marstons,



Websters, John Smiths, Tetley Mild, Guinness and Beamish and lagers from Carlsberg and Fosters.

The Pott Shrigley cricketers and the Bollington Bowling Club are regulars at this honest working hostelry and *The Turners* own domino team have finally won back the trophy the pub donated to the league ten years ago.

Sir William Turner, the MP and Sheriff of Chester after whom the inn was named would be happy to visit the bar today - he might even be tempted to buy the business as Brenda and Bernard are selling up and retiring - in Bollington of course!

## YOUR ELECTION SELECTION

This fourth issue of *Bollington Live!* comes at a time of the local elections. On the opposite page we have given space to the parties to set out their stalls and help you decide.

*Bollington Live!* itself is completely independent. We are not motivated by party politics. Sympathies and allegiances within the group producing this magazine range right across the spectrum, and we invite participation by anyone. But we do have a view: that Bollington is a town in its own right and that it should have a greater say in its own future.

We need a Council with positive policies, not one that whinges or wrings its hands about a supposed lack of power. Constructive proposals, systematically pursued, will always gain attention.

### Some Election Points:

Bollington is divided into three wards - West, Central and East - and, in each of these, two elections will be taking place;

#### • **For Bollington Town Council.**

There are five vacant seats in each ward here, contributing to the total of fifteen Bollington Councillors. Up to five votes are thus allowed to each registered member of the electorate.

#### • **For Macclesfield Borough Council,**

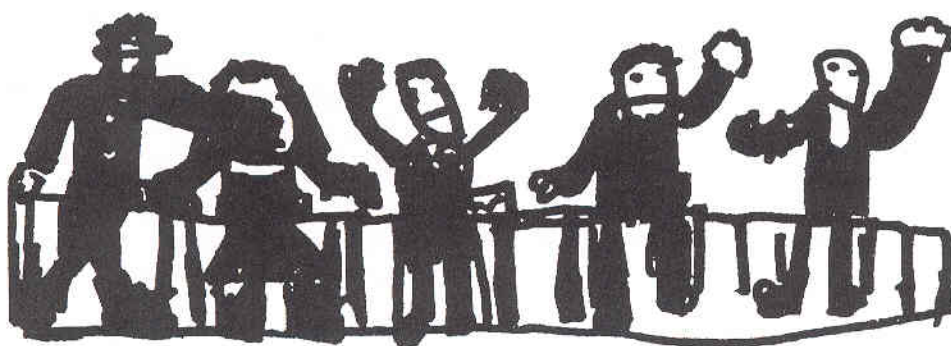
which has far more muscle. Putting it crudely, Bollington Council advises, Macclesfield acts. One candidate only is elected from each of the Bollington wards, and they take their places with 57 other Members from a wide and diverse area.

The retiring Town Council numbers 9 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats, 2 Labour Party members and 2 Independents.

In previous elections numbers have been low, both for voters and for candidates. In Bollington East in 1991 only four candidates stood for the Town and a further Member was co-opted without the formality of a vote!

This year's Town Council lists offer more competition. 7 Candidates are standing in the West Ward, 10 in Bollington Central and 12 in Bollington East.





*Councillors at Bollington  
Town Meeting, as interpreted  
by William L., aged 5.*

We invited the local branches of each of the three main political parties to submit up to 200 words on their strategy for Bollington. In fairness, we should also point out that 2 Independent candidates are standing: Tony Butterworth in the West Ward and Mike Droy in Bollington East. Both feel strongly that at this level we need local representation without party political considerations.

This view notwithstanding, here are the submissions from the parties. Other than length, we made no conditions, and the text is presented unaltered. This is what they said:

### **LABOUR**

The people of Bollington want their Councillors to be **ACTIVE**, **ACCOUNTABLE** and **AVAILABLE**. We want local responsibilities devolved from the County and Borough Councils so that local people can decide Bollington's future.

- We will make the town council more accountable by holding town meetings three times a year, and more responsive to our electors by replying to queries within seven days.
  - Only Bollington cares about its own **RECREATION** facilities - let's look after them ourselves!
  - Bollington **SCHOOLS** are again under threat of closure. We shall fight to preserve them **ALL**, to keep variety of choice.
  - Labour will seek Borough support to maintain our existing **YOUTH** activities, and to promote and encourage new ones.
  - Other Parties have talked about **TRAFFIC CALMING**, but they have achieved little. Labour Councillors in Macclesfield South have initiated a proper traffic management scheme within months. What Labour has done elsewhere can be done here for the people of Bollington.
  - Labour will encourage the preparation of an **ACTION PLAN FOR BOLLINGTON** - a plan for the future which we must start preparing now.
- Labour in Bollington will recognise your needs of **TODAY**, and will plan with foresight for a better **TOMORROW**.

### **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT**

As the most recently represented group on Bollington Town Council, we Liberal Democrats have the advantage of coming along without the deadweight of "we have always done it like this" or "we have never done that". Our only concern is "will it benefit the community?"

Liberal Democrats have no allegiance to or funding from big business or union activity. It is you, the community, we answer to, and as such we are readily available, to attend to your needs, at grassroots level.

A main plank of LibDem policy is concern for the local and global environment. The energetic action of both George and Sylvia in this area is well documented. Improvements which have taken place in Bollington in the last four years indicate their ongoing commitment. Several schemes are currently at the final planning stage and early summer should see their fruition.

Bollington, as a smallish community, has tended to be overlooked, but both your current Liberal Democrat Councillors, through their vigorous and articulate support of the town, make sure that its best interests are served in the Borough. Mind you, with even more Liberal Democrat councillors, who knows what heights we could achieve!

### **CONSERVATIVE**

The Bollington Conservative Association is committed to enthusiastically ensuring that the health, wealth, welfare and environment of the area is not only preserved but enhanced and improved.

The sole aim of the Association is to care for our local needs and these cover the areas of green belt protection, environmental protection, traffic safety and traffic calming, protection of our conservation areas, upkeep of our roads and footpaths, maintaining and improving our housing stock, car and lorry parking, improving our recycling efforts, endeavouring to keep our highways / footpaths free of all types of litter, ensuring any development is in keeping with the area and maintaining and improving the total drainage system.

The Association will continue to support and encourage all youth activities by means of financial grant aid where applicable.

The longer term goal is to ensure that by listening to and addressing local needs, Bollington will be an even better place in which to live by the turn of the century.





# BOLLINGTON



## WHAT'S ON?

Throughout May to August:

### **8 STEPS TO SAVE THE PLANET -**

Exhibition at Groundwork Discovery Centre, Grimshaw Lane  
Weekdays 2.00-4.30pm weekends 10.00 to 4.30pm  
Also cycle and canoe hire

### **VICTORY IN EUROPE CELEBRATIONS - MAY 1995**

Sunday May 7th

#### **British Legion Drumhead Service**

Parade starts at Leisure Centre at 2pm via Recreation  
Ground to the War Memorial

Monday May 8th

#### **STREET PARTIES AND EVENING TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION**

Wednesday May 10th

#### **BOLLINGTON WIVES GROUP**

Annual Dinner at the Civic Hall

Saturday May 13th

#### **CHURCHYARD WILDLIFE**

Middlewood Way Watch Group  
for children 8 to 15  
10.30 am to noon meet at Adlington Road

Saturday May 13th

#### **HEYDAY PLAYGROUP'S GARDEN PARTY**

Crafts, childrens entertainment, teas  
Water Street School 2pm

Saturday May 13th

#### **PEACEMAKER**

M6 Theatre Company - a show for children aged 5-11  
using puppets, dance and juggling  
Arts Centre 2pm - Tickets £3 and £2 from 576250



Sunday May 14th

#### **SCULPTURE WORKSHOP**

With the Rangers on the Middlewood Way -  
meet at Poynton Coppice Car Park, 2 - 4pm

Thursday May 18th

#### **POTTERY - THROW A POT!**

by Frank Mottram - Bollington Horticultural Society  
Dog and Partridge 8pm  
Info 422371 (evenings)

Saturday May 20th

#### **PARISH MAY FAIR**

Gifts, prizes and bargains  
St. John's School - 2pm

Saturday May 20th

#### **WARTIME MEMORIES**

of stage, screen and radio  
A nostalgic evening in aid of the NSPCC  
Arts Centre - Tickets £5 from 572716

Sunday May 21st

#### **BIRDS BEFORE BREAKFAST**

A gentle walk looking at early summer birds + optional bacon  
butties. No dogs  
Meet Adlington Road CP 7.00am

Sunday May 21st

#### **STABAT MATER by Dvorak**

Bollington Festival Choir and Orchestra - conductor John Coope  
Methodist Church 8pm Tickets £5 (Children & Students £2)  
from 573494 or the Waterhouse

Monday May 22nd

#### **ACTION PLAN FOR BOLLINGTON**

A Civic Society meeting with The Borough Planners following  
up the students survey  
8.15pm at the Arts Centre

Wednesday May 24th

#### **LET YOUR FEET DO THE TALKING**

Bollington Wives Group with Ann Adams, reflexologist  
Civic Hall 8pm

Saturday May 27th

#### **ROCK NIGHT - HOT BANANAS**

8pm at the Arts Centre - £2.50

Saturday May 28th to Saturday June 3rd

#### **ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION**

31st since the Art Group's foundation  
Methodist Church Hall 2-9pm daily  
10am to 6pm Saturdays

Monday May 29th

#### **A RANGER RAMBLE**

A seven mile ramble around Bollington and Pott Shrigley  
Meet Adlington Road CP 10.30 am

Saturday June 3rd  
**PONDLIFE WATCH**  
Middlewood Way WATCH Group  
For children aged 8-15  
*Meet Adlington Road 10.30 am*

Saturday June 3rd  
**THE KILLER WHALE**  
An illustrated talk by Kim Hart  
(proceeds to Greenpeace and the Arts Centre)  
*Arts Centre 1pm - tickets £2*

Sunday June 4th  
**FAMILY POND DIPPING**  
*Start Poynton Coppice CP 1.30pm*

Sunday June 4th  
**OPEN AIR SING**  
Organised by churches together  
*High Street 3pm*

Monday 5th June  
**TODDLERS TRUNDLE**  
A nature study walk for the under fives  
*Meet Adlington Road CP 11.00am*

Saturday June 10th  
**SOUNDING BRASS AND VOICES**  
A concert by Bollington Brass Band and All Hallows School  
Choir  
(in aid of David Lewis Centre)  
*Methodist Church - 7.30pm*  
Info - 572259

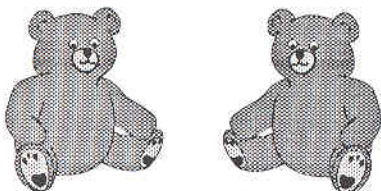
Monday June 12th  
**THE ART OF STICK MAKING**  
WI meeting - with Mr Brandon  
*Methodist Hall 7.30pm*

Saturday 10th June  
**ST. OSWALDS GARDEN PARTY**  
Bouncy castle, pet show, cake stall, gifts and bargains  
*Bollington Cross School - 2pm*

Wednesday 14th June  
**LORE OF THE LAND**  
Guided walk along the Middlewood Way  
*Meet Adlington Road CP 7.30pm*

Thursday June 15th  
**VISIT TO BELL HOUSE NURSERIES**  
Bollington Horticultural Society  
Info from Wendy Stoddart 422371 (evenings)

Saturday July 1st  
**TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC**  
(Methodist Play Group)  
Stalls, games and refreshments  
*Methodist Hall 10am to noon*



Monday July 3rd to Sunday July 9th  
**150th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS -BOLLINGTON CROSS SCHOOL**  
Exhibition of photographs etc- all week...and...  
Monday 3rd:  
**THEATRE GROUP - VICTORIAN DAYS**  
Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th (evening) :  
**OLD TIME MUSIC HALL**  
Friday 7th:  
**CHILDRENS PARTY**  
Saturday 8th - noon:  
**VICTORIAN SUMMER FAIR**  
Sunday 9th - 2.30pm:  
**FAMILY SERVICE**

Saturday July 8th  
**MUSIC ON A SUMMER EVENING**  
Bollington Festival Choir  
Tickets £5 - 573494  
*Rainow Parish Church - 8pm*

Monday July 10th  
**THE BLACK CHAIR**  
WI Meeting with Mr Driver  
*Methodist Hall 7.30pm*

Wednesday July 12th  
**STRAWBERRY EVENING AND BOOK SALE**  
(proceeds to Christie Hospital)  
Tickets £2 including wine -info 575406  
*Savio House, Ingersley Road 8pm*

Sunday 16th July  
**MIDDLEWOOD WAY OPEN DAY**  
Fun for all the family  
*Higher Poynton Station from 11.00am*

Thursday July 20th  
**VISIT TO CADDICK'S CLEMATIS NURSERY**  
Bollington Horticultural Society  
Info Wendy Stoddart 422371 (evenings)

Sunday 23rd July  
**ON YOUR BIKE**  
A gentle cycle ride with the rangers  
*Meet Grimshaw Lane CP 1.30pm*

Monday July 24th to Friday August 11th  
**JANUS SUMMER SCHOOL**  
for young actors - at the Arts Centre  
Info- Pat Penney 574583

Sunday 6th August  
**FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY**  
Cycle, canoe and Quest  
*Call Groundwork Tel 572681*  
...and also on August 9th, 23rd and 30TH

Monday August 14th  
**MEMBERS EVENING AND DUTCH SUPPER**  
WI - *Methodist Hall 7.30pm*

Thursday August 17th  
**GARDEN VISIT**  
Horticultural Society - info 422371 (evenings)



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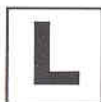
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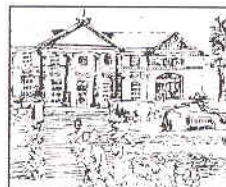
11, Hurst Lane, Bollington  
Tel. 573665

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**FIREWORKS & LASER  
SYMPHONY CONCERT**  
with Dancing Waters  
**CAPESTHORNE HALL**  
Saturday 10 June 1995

The spectacular Capesthorne concert is even more special this year. Dancing Waters, wonderful multi-coloured water fountains, superbly choreographed in time to the music, join the traditional fireworks and lasers in an unforgettable finale.

Tickets £15 (children £8)



**CARMINA BURANA**  
with Firework Finale  
**TATTEN PARK**  
Sunday 20 August 1995

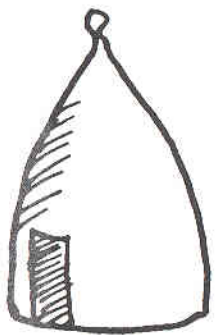
Carmina Burana brought Carl Orff instant fame with its brilliant orchestration, exciting rhythm and erotic text. This special celebration of Orff's centenary also includes Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. A thrilling firework finale has been specially commissioned.  
Tickets £14 (children £8)

**Ticket Hotline 01625 573477**

for Credit Card bookings and information

Performing Arts Management Ltd, Canal 7, Clarence Mill, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5JZ





## Bollington as it was

### 150 YEARS OLD THE STORY OF BOLLINGTON CROSS SCHOOL

The original Bollington Cross School (parts of which survive among later extensions) was built in 1845 on the site of a barn and farmyard donated by Samuel Greg, of Lowerhouse Mill. The school, which served as an Anglican Church on Sundays, catered for the church people of West Bollington, who had shown themselves disinclined to walk to St John's Church (opened 1834) or send their children to the adjacent day school (opened 1839).

Little is known about the operation of the school in its early days. Trade directories tell us that the school was split into boys' and girls' schools. Among the early masters were Joseph Bancroft, S.W. Lord and Edwin Wood; the mistresses included Sarah Clarke and Mary Wood.

From 1862, heads of schools which received government grants were required to keep a Log Book. The first Log Book for the Boys' School survives. It shows that in 1862 the staff consisted of John Cumberbirch, certified teacher, and Alfred Jackson, pupil teacher. In 1865 they were joined by William Sheet, a 'monitor', who soon became a pupil teacher.

The numbers of day pupils on the books of the Boys School fluctuates between about 70 and about 90. Two-thirds were part-timers, working at the mills half the day and attending school for the other half. During the 'cotton famine' of the early 1860s many former part-timers returned to school full-time, their fees paid by the Relief Committee.

A further 60 or so boys and young men were enrolled in the night school. There

was quiet rejoicing in the Log Book when a pupil 'rose above' work in the mills: "18 August 1863. Herbert Leighton a first class boy age 12 years has got a place in the Bollington Co-operative Stores."

Cumberbirch left the school in 1867. For the next ten years masters came and went in quick succession. They included Oliver Kenyon, who later held the headship of the larger St. John's School for a period of 37½ years. Herbert Sutton, who became head at Bollington Cross in 1877, stayed until his death in 1909. Sutton's father was a former cotton spinner who had bought a provisions shop in Church Street. Young Herbert had served an apprenticeship as a pupil teacher at St. John's (as had Oliver Kenyon), before attending the National Society's teacher training college, St. Mark's Chelsea, in 1875 and 1876. Herbert Sutton's sister, Mary Ellen, served as mistress of St. John's school from 1868 to 1908.

Bollington Cross School had been reorganised into an Infants School and a 'Mixed School', but little can be said about the daily life of the school under Herbert Sutton, as his log book appears to be lost. By 1902, the average attendance at the schools was 148. One pupil in this period, James Chadwick (born 1891) went on to become Sir James Chadwick, Nobel prize winning nuclear physicist, whose discoveries revolutionised the

In the early years of the 20th Century funds were raised to build a separate church and extend the school. Cheshire County Council appears to have precipitated this move by threatening to build a new, non-denominational school at Bollington Cross. St. Oswald's church was opened in 1908, and the school was extended into its modern form immediately afterwards. The older children were evacuated to the recently closed Lowerhouse School for the duration of the building works. The new school opened in 1909. The 200 scholars now enjoyed the luxury of flushing toilets and a large gravel playground and garden to the rear of the new church.

Herbert Sutton died a few months before the new school opened. His successor, W.A. Lofthouse, came from a school in Altrincham, to which he returned after a year. His task seems to have been to modernise the curriculum. His log book makes much reference to nature study and gardening classes.

Joseph Drake, from Gainsborough, was the next head (1910-1920). He was succeeded by Frank Pendlebury, the second of the school's long serving heads. Pendlebury was a Macclesfield man, who had come to Bollington in 1919 as second master at the Council School in Water Street. At Bollington

Cross, Pendlebury was popular with children, parents and staff alike. An Inspector's report in 1925 mentioned the atmosphere of goodwill and industry and added that "the children are quite unrestrained and readily display their sense of humour". The inspector especially commended the children's singing and folk dancing. A series of spectacular operettas were performed by the scholars in the 1920s and 1930s.

Frank Pendlebury died in office on his 64th birthday, 12 December 1955. His

successors were Mr G. Woollam (1956-61) and Mr R. Rayner (1961-6). Jack Devonald, who had been appointed to the staff in 1956, became headmaster in 1966, staying until his retirement in 1986. He was followed by Andrew Mumford. The present head, Pat Bradley, is the first woman to head the whole school.

George Longden



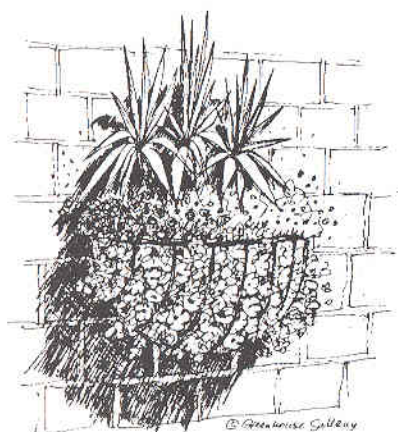
*The cast of the school operetta "Princess Ju-Ju" in 1922 with Mrs. Greg (of The Mount), Frank Pendlebury, Headmaster and Miss Doris Nichol.*

understanding of nuclear structure and led to the atomic bomb and nuclear reactor.

In the late 19th Century, the buildings which housed the infants (to the rear of the main schoolroom) were extended at least twice, partly at the expense of Francis Greg, of the Mount. Church services were still held in the school on Sundays, and for these Francis Greg provided an organ, stained glass windows, oak choir stalls, lantern and pulpit, and a bell and tower which were installed on the roof of the Infant's school.



# Blooming Bollington



What has Poulton-le-Fylde got that we haven't? Every year it walks off with the first prize in the North West small towns section of Britain in Bloom.

Would someone please visit this hamlet on the Lancashire coast and report back? Four times in the last five years we have been either second or third, once receiving the cup for community effort. Last year we were not placed, which was a matter of no little disquiet, as most sensible people, including yours truly, considered that the display of flowers and gardens were, if anything, better than on previous years. But it seems the competition has changed; substantial

marks are now allotted for absence of litter and we evidently lost marks on this score. Can we clean up our act this year?

The judges usually come round late in June or early in July, and will be accompanied by a representative of the Town Council and a member of the Civic Society. We need an all out effort therefore to decorate the town with window boxes, hanging baskets and displays of flowers in gardens. The Civic Society will be judging houses, pubs and restaurants for our own Bollington in Bloom awards.

J.C.

## BASKETBALL

Following our basketball item in *Bollington Live!* Number 3, Macclesfield Borough has agreed to put up funding for dual use of the tennis courts on Bollington Recreation Ground. Basketball equipment will be provided this financial year which means "game on" for the summer. Reservations can be made through the Groundsman's office on 573676.

Kerry Bennett of Fallibroome School has organised a team and awaits a challenge while Richard Bower, the Macclesfield basketball coach has volunteered to run a "scrimmage" for 12 to 18 year olds. Call 572384 if you are interested.

Who can start a Bollington Basketball Club? Could it be you? Again, call 572348.

## MOLLY SOLE LEAVES

Over Easter Molly Sole said goodbye to her little cottage in Kerridge to make a new home in Sandwich, Kent, and we must say goodbye to one of Bollington's most remarkable ladies. Ateighty, Molly can look back on a series of distinguished contributions to British post-war theatre, from her early years as secretary to the Adelphi Guild Theatre, for which she gave up a secure job in the Civil Service, and which brought her to Macclesfield where it had an office for a time; then as stage manager to the itinerant Century Theatre in the 1950s touring the whole country.

The height of Molly's influence however came in the 1960s and 70s when she joined the Old Vic and rapidly rose to become Clerk to the Governors with a big office in London where she counted among her friends and associates most of the leading players on the time, Sir Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson and Sybil Thorndike. She is now vice president of the Vic Wells Association and manages the Benevolent Fund. She has also been treasurer to the New Horizon Group at the Arts Centre, which she started, and which has raised over £10,000 for the Centre. We will certainly miss dear Molly.

J.C.



**With two local playgroups notching up anniversaries, we will be drawing attention in a later issue to pre-school activities in the town.**

Pictured here are under-fives at the Leisure Centre; other organisations with facilities for the very young are urged to get in touch with us c/o The Medical Centre in Wellington Road.

Those anniversaries? Heyday Playgroup in Water Street celebrates 21 years in May while the Methodist Playgroup will be 30 this July.



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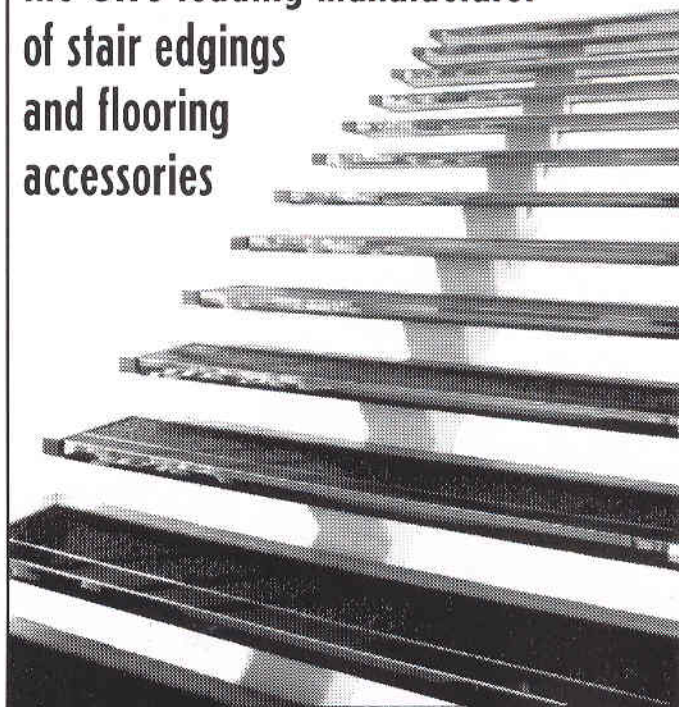
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## NOOKS AND CRANNIES - A BOLLINGTON WALK

*When I was a child, I enjoyed reading Enid Blyton's adventure stories. They often featured secret tunnels and other hidden places. I spent many happy hours in Norfolk, where I grew up, looking for such places. I had to wait until I moved to Bollington, twenty-five years later, to find them.*

This walk is quite short but includes a secret tunnel, a hidden bridge and ninety-nine steps to a place where time stands still...oh yes! ...and I nearly forgot, you'll see some owls and a real witch's broomstick too!

**START** at the Redway Tavern in Kerridge. Turn right out of the car park and head down the right hand side of the road on the elevated pavement. Look at the railings - *were the gaps for coal bags to be unloaded?* Cross the road and climb the stone stile. Follow the paved footpath - straight through the next stile passing a small row of cottages

- and through another stile. Carry on straight along the paved path to the right of the hedge. The path passes by a house on the right and then comes to a T - junction with a house straight ahead.

We take the steps up to the left towards "Owlswood" ...*look out for owls*. The path goes to the right - in front of the house - *look back and see if you can spot the witch's broom*. Go straight on, past the dustbins and as far as you can go towards a hedge. Turn left and follow the narrow path steeply up between a wall on the left and a hedge on the



right. The path winds round it until you see an old derelict building blocking the way. As you reach it, the tunnel is revealed on the left.

**GO THROUGH THE TUNNEL** and carry on up the path - being careful of the steep drop on the right. At the fork, ignore the steps to the left, carry straight on up the steep steps. You will shortly see a handrail on the right. Continue on up to the road (Windmill Lane).

**AT THE ROAD TURN RIGHT** and walk on the right hand side of the road towards a castellated chimney. About fifty yards beyond the chimney, the road passes over a hidden bridge. If you look carefully, steps can be seen beneath the bridge, heading down. To reach *the ninety nine steps*, cross over the bridge, turn up the Macclesfield Stone Quarries drive and immediately left again on to the steps. Carefully descend beneath the bridge and eventually emerge on to an unmade road. Turn right and go through the gap beside the small white gate. Pass Endon House on the left. Before you go through beside the white five bar gate ahead...*look at the wall of the house on the right to see why time sometimes stands still here*.

**WALK ALONG THE COBBLED ROAD**, passing by a row of cottages. Where the cobbles end, go to the right of "Garret End" with Woodbank Cottage on the left. Follow the path to the left back to the Redway Tavern.

RN.

