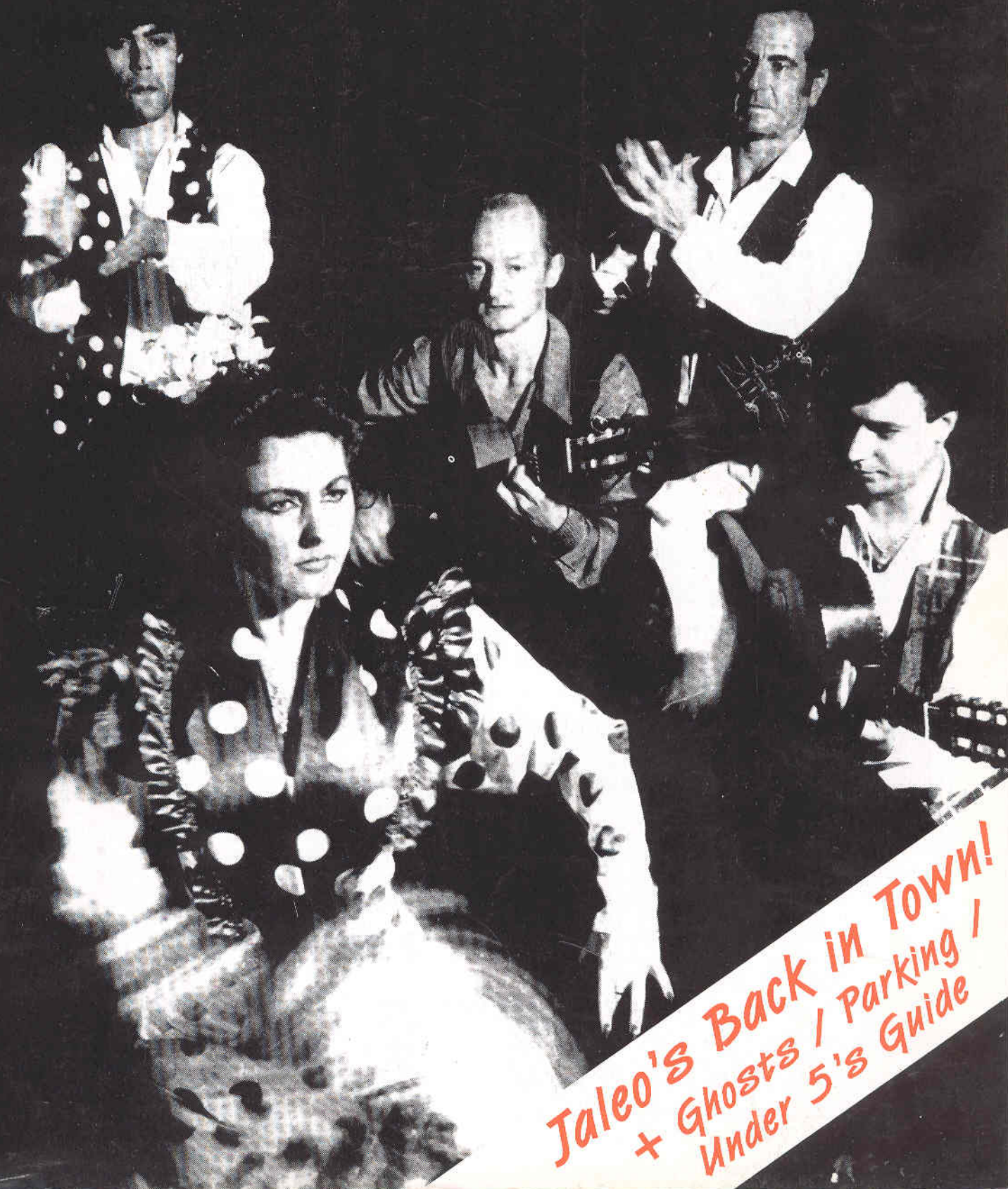




BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Five October 1995



Jaleo's Back in Town!
+ Ghosts / Parking /
Under 5's Guide

By advertising in *Bollington Live!* you will be helping us to meet the necessary expenses of producing this magazine, 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.

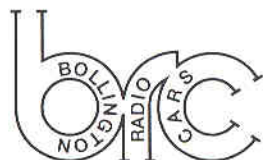
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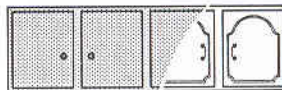
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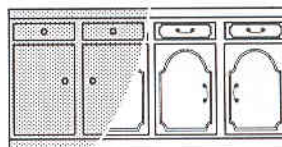
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Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington a town in its own right!" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome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

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Jaleo returns to Bollington shortly, the dynamic flamenco troupe pronounced with a Spanish-sounding 'j', which is really more of a 'h'. With them come memories of our 1993 Festival, at which the group was a 5-star attraction.

Rumours of **another Festival** have been confirmed. Speaking at a Civic Society meeting, Dr John Coope, begetter of all Bollington Festivals, suggested another one for 1999. Pressed later on the likelihood of this happening, he swept any vagueness aside and declared the proposal definite. So 1999 it will be, the year before the next millenium begins (or two years, as mathematicians are starting to tell us).

Also raised was the prospect of Bollington **'twinning'** again, perhaps renewing its connection with the Irish town of Thurles. Another suggestion is La Tour d'Auvergne, a charming village in central France. La Tour has been enthusiastically promoted by Bollington resident John Williams of Church Mews; but distance is a problem. The ideal 'twin' town, it is felt, should be easily accessible, not least to school parties from Bollington. The matter remains open, and serious alternatives are invited.

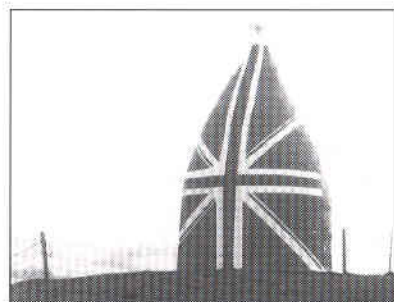
In the pipeline now are plans for **extensions to the Arts Centre** off Wellington Road. At the other end of the pipeline is a reservoir of cash in the form of National Lottery grants. This makes it easier to say that £100,000 is the sum required. Such is the cost of providing a foyer, enlarging the bar, and toilets, and improving storage in the building, and there are hopes of a 90 per cent grant. If this comes through, finding the other ten thousand will be up to us.

We welcome another periodical devoted to our area - Bollington Council's **'Talkabout Town'** - and wish it well. Containing news of Council activities, it will be available

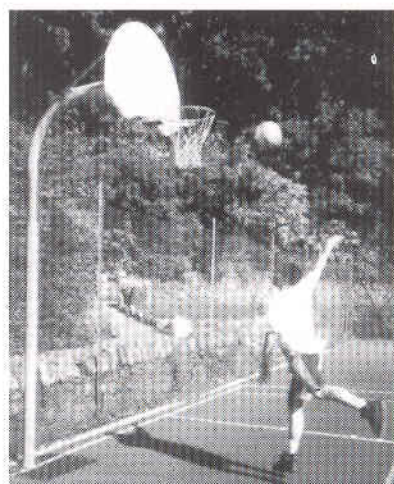
in the Library, as well as being sent out with Town Hall correspondence. For breadth of coverage, though, it cannot rival the last Town Council minutes, which run the gamut from traffic to repairs to White Nancy. On the traffic front, incidentally, Councillors are making submissions to Macclesfield Borough engineers regarding parking, 'calming' and so forth - and a report will come back, saying what can be afforded.

The Recreation Ground became a minefield recently, following accusations of using unscreened soil on the football pitch. Time will show whether other hazards lurk beneath the surface to join the shards of glass found shortly after the soil was put down. But, without prejudice, we wish to thank the hard-working ground staff and the Borough officials who have also improved drainage and restored the pitch from the quagmire it had become. We appreciate too the response to requests for basketball equipment on the tennis courts. This is now installed, and in use. A 'scrimmage', that is to say a basketball get-together, is scheduled for Saturday, October 7 at 2 pm. The prospect of a Town team moves closer. Bollington Globetrotters, perhaps?

JL



While White Nancy prepares itself for repairs - and a repaint after decoration for the VE celebrations - basketball gathers momentum on the Recreation Ground courts. Basketball 'scrimmagers' will be welcome in the afternoon of Saturday, October 7th.



Contemplating Improvements?

If you live in the Conservation Area you could be in line for a grant - although the work must be as specified under the Article 4 Direction, which lays down the ground rules. A large part of Bollington is covered, east of the canal and up Ingersley Vale.

Macclesfield Borough and English Heritage have joined together in a targeted programme of repair and restoration over the three years from 1995. The annual budget is more than £40,000 and grants are available.

Details from Heather Emery, Macclesfield Borough Council, Planning Department: Tel 504667.

What's On for the Littlies?

Not yet five, full of beans, at a loss for entertainment?

Help is at hand; the following organisations provide facilities for the under-5s in Bollington.

Early enrolment is advised for the playgroup and nursery schools in the first portion of this list:

Methodist Playgroup, Methodist Church, 15 Wellington Rd, 9.15 - noon, weekdays.
Tel Janet Kirkman, 572450.

Heyday Playgroup, Old School, Water St, 9.15 - 12.15, weekdays.
Tel Cath Hockney, 574054
(also runs 'Rising Fives' sessions, Weds, 1 - 3 pm, in last term before school begins).

Allsorts Playgroup, St John's School, Grimshaw Lane.
9 - 11.45, weekdays.
Tel Elaine Ward, 572025.

Art's Centre Nursery School, Art's Centre, Wellington Road, 9 - 12, weekdays.
Tel Miss Barker, 875086.

Rainbow Nursery School, Scout Hut, Albert Road, 9 - 12.15 pm, weekdays.
Tel Mrs Bassirat, 574436.

Mums and Tots, Church Hall, Hawthorn Road, Weds, 10 - 12.
Tel Teresa Thomas, 575296.

Playhour Mothers and Toddlers, Dean Valley School, Albert Rd, Thursdays, 2 - 3 pm. Tel 572767.

Tuffy Club, St Gregory's Church Hall, (behind the Church), Wellington Rd, Fridays 9.45 - 11.30.
Tel Mary Dalzell, 574639.

St John's Parents and Toddlers, St John's School, Weds 1.30 - 3 pm.
Tel Sue Roberts, 560071.

Heyday Mums and Tots, Old School, Water St, Tues 1.30 - 3.30. Tel 574054.

Parents and Toddlers Church Service, St Oswald's, Bollington Cross, last Thursday of month, 2.30. Fellowship and fun, tailored for the toddler. Tel Jeanette Jenkins, 574224.

French for 2-5 year olds, 'Franco Fun'.

Tel Joanna Nowlan, 576676, for further details of sessions including games, songs, general activities.

Dancing Classes, Arts Centre, Wellington Rd, Mondays, 1.30 - 2.15. Mixed tap and ballet for boys and girls.
Tel Sue Lane, 574176.

Swimming, Soft Centre, Toddler Gym, at the Leisure Centre, Heath Rd. Swimming for mums and babes up to 3 yrs on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Tutored classes for over 3s at various times. Soft centre for all ages up to 7 open daily 9 - 4.30 pm. Gym opening in New Year. Tel 574774.



Pub Scene

by Old Stager

If you're intending to have a few drinks in Bollington, you should consider the gravitational aspects of your route before setting out. My own preference is to start at the top and work downwards as the night progresses. Hence, I recommend beginning at The Red Lion at the top of High Street. It's a friendly pub, a real "local". No airs and graces, but cosy enough. It's had a chequered history over the past few years, but since David and Geraldine (seen here on right) took over about 18 months ago, things have improved greatly. It's been "done up" of course, but sympathetically. Its not a dog's dinner of red velvet button-back sofas and fake antique ephemera.

The garden is pleasant too, with a good view over Bollington... and Dave tells me that now the wall has been repaired there's no longer a risk of it ending up on High Street!

Time was when you went in you could easily be alone at the bar. That "luxury" has now gone. No, there's a new crowd of locals. New? Well, not really; most have just been temporarily absent, but now are back, loyally sipping the Burtonwood. It's a lively place, too, with teams for various pub pursuits, the usual discos and, once a month, a live rock band. Dave's liking for rock manifests itself in more ways than one, he tells me that 78 tons have gone into improving the car park. So, if you're out for a stroll up to White Nancy, why not put your head round the door and see what you think?



UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES

(a car park possibly stirs)

Suggestions have been made for a car park off Wellington Road. The proposal, raised at a Council meeting earlier this year, was to meet the pressure during church services and Arts Centre events, and the land would be that beneath the old railway viaduct, a wild area beside the driveway to the Centre.

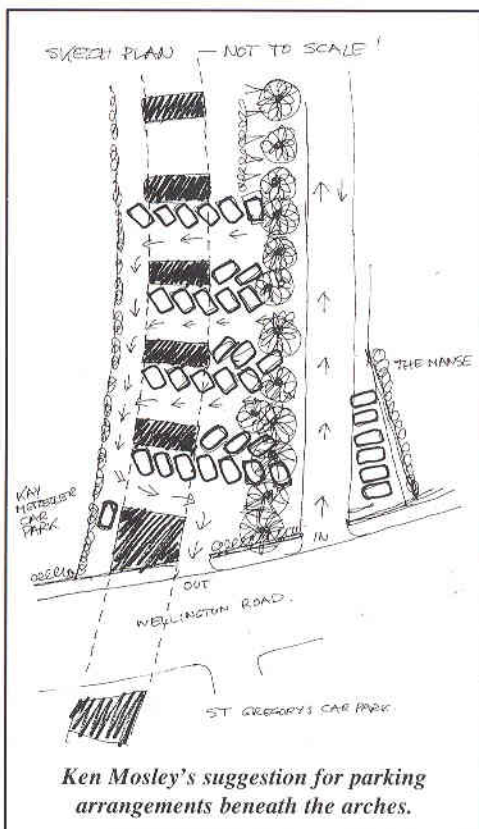
Should such a development take place? Ken Mosley, of the Greenhouse Gallery in Wellington Road, strongly supports the proposal, while John Liley of *Bollington Live!* decries it. Here are their points of view:

The 'roads only' outlook of recent years has come at a frightful cost, and Bollington takes its share. There is din and clutter on the streets, and our nearby countryside is wrecked. Meanwhile, the buses are thinly supported and the railway is closed.

Now, though, the chickens are coming home to roost. Car ownership and the dominance of the lorry are crowding us out. Nor is this to be the end. Road use is set to expand even further, out of all proportion to facilities.

Sooner or later changes will have to come, and I could fill the entire magazine discussing them. In the meantime, though, my concern is to limit the damage. Build the car park under the viaduct and it will certainly relieve the pressure - for a year or two. But relieving the pressure encourages people to use their cars even more. Eventually, therefore, we will be in the very same mess as before - and another of Bollington's little patches will have gone: formalised, suburbanised, and put under tarmac.

It is certainly untidy under the arches, but at least there is grass there, and brambles: not quite 'paradise' perhaps, but not a parking lot either. And what could be drearier than a car park? We have been pandering to car use far too long. The time to stop it is now. JL



What a Waste!

The ground under the railway arches is unused and neglected. The community service group tidied it up a bit last year, but it is too shady to grow much other than ivy.

The viaduct is one of Bollington's best features. It could so easily fill a really useful function.

What with the nearby residents, the congregations of two churches, visitors to the Arts Centre, not to mention the Council Offices, there is often a real need for extra parking space, which the arches could so easily provide.

This sketch shows one possible layout, but obviously there are many viable alternatives. If it was designed sensitively with sympathetic materials like gravel and stone setts, with adequate planting schemes, it could be a great improvement on its present sorry state.

The splendid row of tall pines and mature birches deserve a better setting and if the overgrown sycamores on the other side were judiciously pruned we would be rewarded with a clearer view of the magnificent viaduct itself.

KM

A view down Wellington Road, with the Greenhouse Gallery on the right. Out of working hours, parking here becomes heavier, while the Arts Centre events and services at the nearby churches bring even greater demands on space.



Transport Help

Unable to get about? Dial-a-Ride and Community Cars can help. Under the general heading of Community Transport, these are facilities not just for "essential" journeys, but for social outings as well.

Janet Clarke of High Street, Bollington, has depended on these services since her fall several months ago, and both she and Joan Rhodes of Barnfield Road,

speak highly of the considerate drivers who have helped them out.

Of Dial-a-Ride, Joan says, "You have to fit into a schedule as they collect other people and drop them off - but it has been a boon to me as it's a door-to-door service."

At present some two dozen people in Bollington use Dial-a-Ride, a service for those who have physical difficulty, in using public transport. Application forms can be obtained from Community Transport

Macclesfield Borough, Assembly Rooms, Talbot Rd, Alderley Edge, SK9 7HR. Tel 01625 586760. If necessary, a specially adapted minibus is available, to be booked in advance at a nominal charge of 40p for each journey between Bollington and Macclesfield from Tuesdays to Saturdays, while evening outings are also available between 6.30 and 10 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays (Tel 586759).

LW



BOLLINGTON

Live!

SEPTEMBER

Mondays from September onwards

RELAXATION CLASSES

Bollington Cross School
Tel 573593 for details

Sunday 24th

BOLLINGTON ARTS CENTRE 2000

Open meeting at the Arts Centre to discuss the Lottery Bid - 8pm

Wednesday 26th

DEMONSTRATION OF DECOMPAGE by Skillcraft

Bollington Wives at the Civic Hall 8pm
- Tel 574208 for details

Saturday 30th

BARN DANCE with Sutton Ceildh Band

Bollington Scout Group at Beristall Road Farm, Pott Shrigley 8pm - £5 including buffet - Tel Allen Watts 572744

OCTOBER

Wednesday 4th

CHATSWORTH TODAY

a talk by the Asst. Housekeeper
Bollington Wives at the Civic Hall 8pm
- Tel 574208 for details

Saturday 7th

THE BRIDGE QUARTET Bollington Chamber Concerts

Arts Centre 8pm - Tickets £7
Tel 573477 for details

Sunday 8th OCTOBER

JALEO FLAMENCO

Return of the world-famous Spanish Group

Arts Centre - 8pm

Tickets £6 / £5
Tel: 576250 or 573494

Monday 9th

FIVE GOOD DAYS IN MOSCOW

Talk by E. Thurston
Methodist Hall 7.30pm
Details Tel 573571

Friday 13th

JUMBLE SALE

Dean Valley Primary - 6.30pm

Wednesday 18th / Thursday 19th

CARD PLAY by David Foxton Bollington Junior Festival Players

Arts Centre 7.30pm - £3 / £1.50
Tel 572527 or 429872

Wednesday 18th

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Bollington Wives at Matthews Garden Centre - coach from Civic Hall at 7pm
Tel 574208 for details

Thursday 19th

THE IRIS YEAR - John Trinder

Bollington Horticultural Society at the Dog & Partridge 8pm
Tel 502344 for details

Saturday 21st

BLOOMS OF PRESTBURY

Flower arranging demonstration and workshop at Prestbury Nurseries - 2pm
Tel 828748 for details

Saturday 21st / Sunday 22nd

NASTY NEIGHBOURS

by Debbie Isett
Bollington Festival Players
The BT biennial play and a simultaneous world premiere
Arts Centre 8pm - £4 / £2.50
Tel 574583 or 572527 for details

Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th

GALA SHOWTIME

BLOGS 21st Anniversary Gala
at the Civic Hall - licensed bar from 7pm - £6 including supper
Tel 875326 for details

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1st

FROM A BUS TO A HAUNTED HOUSE IN 47 MOVES

Bollington Wives at the Civic Hall - 8pm
with Anna Rains Tel 574208 for details

Friday 3rd

A WOMAN'S PLACE - the fight for female suffrage - return of the Mikron Theatre to the Arts Centre

£4.20 / £2.50 Tel 574687 for details

Saturday 4th

MASKS AND PUMPKINS

Craft workshop for children 5-15 at the Arts Centre 2-4pm Booking essential
Tel 576250

Wednesday 8th

DANNY THE DINOSAUR

Open Hand Theatre Co
puppets for children 3-6 at the Arts Centre 4pm £3 /family tickets £10

Wednesday 8th

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

with creche / refreshments / raffle at St John's School 6.30-9pm

Saturday 11th

BATIK

Craft workshop for children 5-15 at the Arts Centre 2-4pm Bring white cotton T shirt Booking essential Tel 576250

Monday 13th

WI ANNUAL MEETING

with social half hour
at the Methodist Hall 7.30pm
Tel 573571 for details

Wednesday 15th

CHRISTMAS BRING AND BUY

Bollington Wives in aid of the MacMillan Nurses Appeal at the Civic Hall 8pm Tel 574208 for details

Thursday 16th

ASIATIC PRIMULAS

with JK Hulme (Ness Gardens)
Bollington Horticultural Society at the Dog & Partridge 8pm
Tel 502344 for details

Friday 17th

TRAIDCRAFT SALE

& Exhibition by Maria Hyde

Ideal Christmas presents from the Third World - Arts Centre 7pm

Friday 17th

QUIZ NIGHT

Dean Valley School at 7.30pm

Saturday 18th

MAKING KITES

Craft workshop for children 5-15 at the Arts Centre 2-4pm Booking essential
Tel 576250

Saturday 18th

SHEHEREZADE

A romantic night for flute, soprano and harp - Bollington Chamber Concert at the Arts Centre 8pm -£7 /£2
Tel 573477 for details

EVENTS



Sunday 19th
HEDGELAYING on the Middlewood Way
 With the Rangers 10.30am - 3pm
 Tel 573998 for details

Sunday 19th
CHRISTMAS FAIR
 St Gregory's Church Hall 2pm

Friday 24th
ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS
(but please don't bring them!)
Janet Brentwood -
small mammal vet
 at the Arts Centre 7-8.30pm £1

Saturday 25th
AUTUMN FAIR
 2pm at Bollington Cross School

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd
CHRISTMAS FAIR
 at Dean Valley School

Saturday 2nd
CHRISTMAS FAIR /
HYMNATHON
 at the Methodist Church 11am

Sunday 3rd
A BRIEF HISTORY OF
CHRISTMAS - by Donald Judge
 Bollington Childrens Music Theatre
 at the Arts Centre 4.30 and 7.30pm
 £3 / £1.50 Tel 0161 4272870

Thursday 7th and Saturday 9th
A SEASON TO BE JOLLY
 A Christmas entertainment at St
 Gregory's Parish Hall 7.45pm
 £2.50/ £1. Tel 572588

Thursday 7th
CHRISTMAS DINNER
Horticultural Society
 at the Dog & Partridge 8pm

Friday 8th
PTA ANNUAL DANCE /DISCO
 St John's School 8pm till late
 Licensed bar. Tel 572783

Saturday 9th
CHRISTMAS FOR THE BIRDS
 activity morning for children 7-15
 with the Rangers - meet Adlington
 Rd 10.30am Tel 573998

Monday 11th
WI CHRISTMAS PARTY
 at the Methodist Hall 7.30pm
 Tel 573571

Wednesday 13th
BOLLINGTON WIVES
CHRISTMAS MEAL
 at the Civic Hall 8pm Tel 574208

Saturday 16th
PURCELL'S KING ARTHUR
Festival Choir and Orchestra
 Methodist Church at 8pm £4 /£2
 Tel 573494

Sunday 17th
CAROL SERVICE
 at the Methodist Church 8pm

Tuesday 19th
MESSIAH FOR ALL
 with mince pies at half time at the Arts
 Centre 8pm - £1

Sunday 24th
CAROL SERVICE
 10.30am at the Methodist Church and
 Christmas Eve Communion at 11.15pm

Sunday 24th
CAROL SINGING AROUND THE
TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE
 with Bollington Brass Band at the Town
 Hall - 7pm

JANUARY

Friday 5th / Saturday 6th and Tuesday
9th to Saturday 13th at 7.30pm with
Matinees Saturday 6th / Sunday 7th &
Saturday 13th at 2pm
SINBAD THE SAILOR - PANTO
 Bollington Festival Players
 at The Arts Centre
 £4/ £2 / family £9 Tel 572527

Monday 8th
FROM FORT WILLIAM TO SKYE
 with Kenneth Cliffe: WI - at the
 Methodist Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday 10th
THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
 with Mrs P Menzies: Bollington Wives
 8pm at the Civic Hall Tel 574208

Wednesday 17th
FIVE FESTIVALS
 with John Coope: Bollington Wives
 8pm at the Civic Hall

Wednesday 31st
BE FIRED
 make your own jewellery with Wenda
 Dobson 8pm at the Civic Hall

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The Spirit of Competition

Bollington's Brass Band marches on. Jonathan Jarratt explains the complexities of contesting.

The words 'brass band' conjure up visions of marches and village fetes. Yet this is by no means the be-all and end-all. In order for a band to go forth and prosper, a little healthy competition is required...

This comes in the shape of contests where bands are divided into sections according to their merit; and perhaps the easiest way to understand these is to compare them with the system in football. Manchester United in the Premier League is the equivalent of the British Nuclear Fuels Band in the Championship Section; Oldham in the First Division can be compared to a First Section band, and so on. Including a "Championship Section" at the top, there are five sections in total and Bollington is presently enjoying success in the top half of the Second, having been promoted from the Fourth, and through the Third, within four years.

In each, there are three different types of contest: Test Piece, Own Choice, and Entertainments, and regional events for the North West Area are held at Blackpool each March. From these, bands obtaining first and second places qualify for the national finals in London. These are all Test Piece contests requiring every band in each section to play the same appointed piece - received 8 months before the event - and, despite the obvious repetitiveness to an audience, this is, on balance, the fairest way.

In an Own Choice contest bands play what they wish, while Entertainments is not, as might be thought, a case of riding around on unicycles and telling bad jokes, but the band being given a 25 minute slot and filling it with entertaining music. All contests are judged by an adjudicator in a sealed wooden box, who is thereby unable to see who is actually playing.

Bollington's band, having won the Entertainment Contest at Wychaveon is practising for further events. The band has, in fact, recently returned from a short tour to Utrecht in Holland playing in an indoor shopping centre celebrating its 10th anniversary, a new teaching complex opened by the mayor of Utrecht, and on a park bandstand in the town. The park concert was professionally recorded and was broadcast from Utrecht's radio station.

Bollington and its band are now on the European map.

We are your band.

If you would like to know more about what we do and how you can get involved, please ring our Chairman Michael Cheetham on 428570.

The Band gives its annual Patron's Concert in the Civic Hall, Wellington Road at 8.00pm on October 29th.

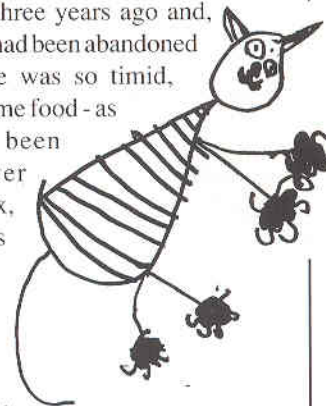
Tickets may be purchased at the door.

A Morning with the Rangers

The idea of rooting out the wildlife of the local churchyard rather appealed as I glanced through the events section of the last *Bollington Live!* So, despite the age limits of 8 to 15, I asked the Rangers if I could accompany my 6 year old, William, and his friend Alice.

It was overcast when we met by the Middlewood Way: 9 children, a Dad, and Rangers Andy and Sarah, but, by the time we reached the top of High Street the sun was shining and we were hot. The descent of Lord Street was speedy and we reached St John's churchyard with a sense of achievement. The wild life bit had not even begun!

The first animal to note was 'The Church Cat', who darted into his hidey hole beneath the building. I had heard about this moggie: Bryan Shatwell the verger first saw him at the beginning of winter three years ago and, fearing he had been abandoned because he was so timid, left him some food - as he has been doing ever since. Felix, as he is known, is a lucky cat.



Next for the real wildlife. 'Butterfly nets were distributed, although we did not have much success with them. Smaller nets for trailing through the grass proved much more rewarding, and we examined the hoppity things collected in magnifying jars.

Leaf prints were rubbed enthusiastically upon great flat gravestones, the sun shone down and the magnificent horse chestnuts spread their laden branches. That was the day we really studied those candelabra blooms, a mass of orchid-like flowers piled upon each other.

Time was up far too quickly, so we took the direct route home. It had been a delightful morning ... Do look out for future Ranger events. PL

(Our cat drawing is by Katie, aged 5, of St. John's School)

Britain in Bloom Cup for Bollington



For the second time, Bollington has won the cup for Community Effort for the North West Small Town's section of the Britain in Bloom Competition. This was certainly a well-deserved award for all the hard work that was put in and was all the more praiseworthy because we were the first to be judged, very early in the season, before the flowers had really got going.

The judges from the Civic Society have also made their own awards in the Bollington in Bloom Competition - a particularly difficult task in view of the very high standard all round.

Terraced House Awards-

Mr J D King, 17, Bollington Rd; Phillip and Tracy Stubbs, 46, Water St; Dorothy Smallwood, 31, Bollington Rd.

Gardens -

Margaret and Ronald Jackson, 18, Cocksheadhey Rd; John and Beryl Platt, Stringers, Bollington Rd; Mr and Mrs van der Veken, 10, Irwell Rise; Harry and Betty Gaskell, 60 Princess Drive.

Commercial Properties -

The Redway Tavern.

Commended -

Mrs Thompson, 20 Water St; Mr and Mrs Heathcote, 17, Palmerston St; Wendy Butterworth, 4, Ledley St.; Mr and Mrs Lingard, 15, Riverbank Close; Mr and Mrs King, 82, Bollington Rd; Mr and Mrs Brocklehurst, 5, Greenbank Drive; Mr and Mrs Mason, 13 Beeston Brow; Mr and Mrs Lucas, 8, Beeston Brow; The Lord Clyde Inn; Mauro's Restaurant.

JC



Letters

Drop-In Centre - Support Needed

Sir, - I would be grateful if you would allow me to publicise an initiative to support one of the Town's community assets - the Bollington Drop-In Centre.

The Centre is funded solely on a voluntary basis. In its short history there have been good years and bad years! However, without the security of regular funding, the planning of its future work becomes difficult and unpredictable.

A group of local people has recently started working with Ann Mayer, the part-time community worker who runs the Drop-In Centre, to see what can be done to increase awareness, publicise the work of the Centre and generate financial support.

Already some of the local business community have made commitments of regular support, both financially, and with useful materials. Others have made one-off donations, while, most pleasing of all, the Centre received some donations from private individuals following a recent article in *Community News*.

The future of the Drop-In Centre will be secured best by a large number of people taking a small, but active, interest in this most valuable community asset. To this end, we would like to set up **The Friends of Bollington Drop-in Centre**, very much along the lines of a parent-teacher association in a school. In this way we could bring together all the elements of the community.

If any readers would like to support the work in any way, they can contact Ann Mayer at the Town Hall on 576311, or myself on 575500, or at the address below.

*Martyn Parry, Adelphi Group Ltd,
Adelphi Mill, Bollington SK 10 5JB*

The Home on the Hill



Everyone who has walked up Beeston Brow will have noticed the unusual black and yellow colour scheme of the first house. It is all the work of Ken Berry, seen above, a retired joiner, who has lived there for the past 42 years. Modestly, Ken says there is no story attached to his work, but, in truth, the story is his own.

Ken was born in Bollington in the 1920s. He served as a signaller in the Navy during World War II and saw much active service, taking part in four landings in Europe and North Africa. His wife died over thirty years ago, and his constant companion is his trusty dog Roger, a large alsatian. Roger also served in the forces, being an ex-Army dog from Catterick (where, incidentally, Ken met his wife, too). Ken has built two special seats for Roger in his garden and one, just beyond the house, has Roger's name carved above it. The window shutters on Ken's house are certainly unique and are most striking. Even the gate to his cottage has a theme, showing the crosses of St George and St David. Behind the house are terraced gardens. At 70, Ken took up gardening and grows a fine selection of vegetables and flowers.

Ken's house is unusual for more reasons than this, however. The top row of windows, separate from Ken's part of the building, and which nowadays form a separate dwelling, once were weaving lofts. It's strange to think the trend towards working from home is returning after so many years - historian George Longden places the building in the late 18th or very early 19th Centuries when home-based weavers operated, before the installation of weaving machinery in the mills.

RN

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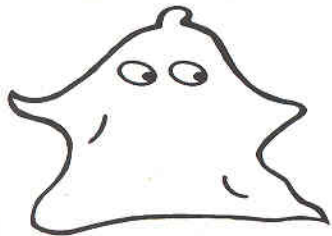
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BOLLINGTON GHOSTS!

Hauntings in the Night

Myrtle Cottage is an attractive whitewashed house of some antiquity in Clarke Lane. It was recently bought by Reg Barrow and his wife Janet and, prior to moving in, they decided to make some alterations. One night last year Reg was working late, fixing a handrail on the stairs. He was alone in the house and, from where he was working, he could see along the passage on the upper floor.

The time was about 10 pm. Glancing up, Reg was astonished to see a small old man standing motionless at the door to one of the bedrooms. He had grey hair and probably a moustache, but Reg could not swear to this. He does remember being rendered completely immobile with fear and could feel the hairs standing up on the back of his neck. Both he and the man stood looking at one another without moving and then, after perhaps five minutes, Reg managed to walk down the stairs, lock the house and go home.

A short time after this incident an old woman passing down the lane spoke to one of the builders working on the house. "Have you seen the ghost yet?," she asked, but gave no details and went on her way. The Barrows have now moved in, and there has been no recurrence of the apparition. They have heard children's voices upstairs,

however, at times when there was no-one else in the house.

The identity of the Myrtle Cottage ghost has not been discovered, although the Barrows have heard about an eccentric candle-maker who lived there with a large family in the 19th Century. Can anyone throw light on this curious story?



During my research into visitations in Bollington I have been struck by two features that recur time after time. Ghosts seem to be more likely to appear when old property is being renovated, and they have a definite penchant for stairs! The first of these characteristics was emphasised by Betty Stubbs when I visited her at Sowcar Farm up Ingersley Road. Len Stubbs's family have lived at the farm for about 150 years, but the

central building of the picturesque group round the farm yard has portions going back to the days of Shakespeare.

The almost matter-of-fact way in which the Stubbs described their much-haunted house was to me quite striking. It was as if they regarded the presences as old friends, more likely to make themselves known during alterations, but never leaving them for long. A tall, thin man standing in a doorway, the sound of someone in an empty room, or even the sudden smell of tobacco smoke: all these are typical.

Ken's nephew came to stay at the farm when he was ten years old, and was given one of the end bedrooms to himself. Waking in the middle of the night he was astonished to see a young girl kneeling at the foot of his bed

apparently saying her prayers. She was wearing a nightdress and had long blond hair. He hid under the bedclothes for a time and when he plucked up sufficient courage and looked out again the girl had gone. He was very frightened and ran to tell Len's mother; it was then some time before he was pacified enough to return to bed.

Len and Betty think they know who the little girl is. They showed me the family bible where the name of Anne Stubbs appears: a girl

who lived at the farm and died there on 23 August, 1860, aged ten years and seven months. They also have a pretty memorial card. She was buried in St John's churchyard, although the whereabouts of the gravestone is a mystery. JC

Our photo shows the bedroom at Sowcar Farm in which the ghost of the girl was seen.



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