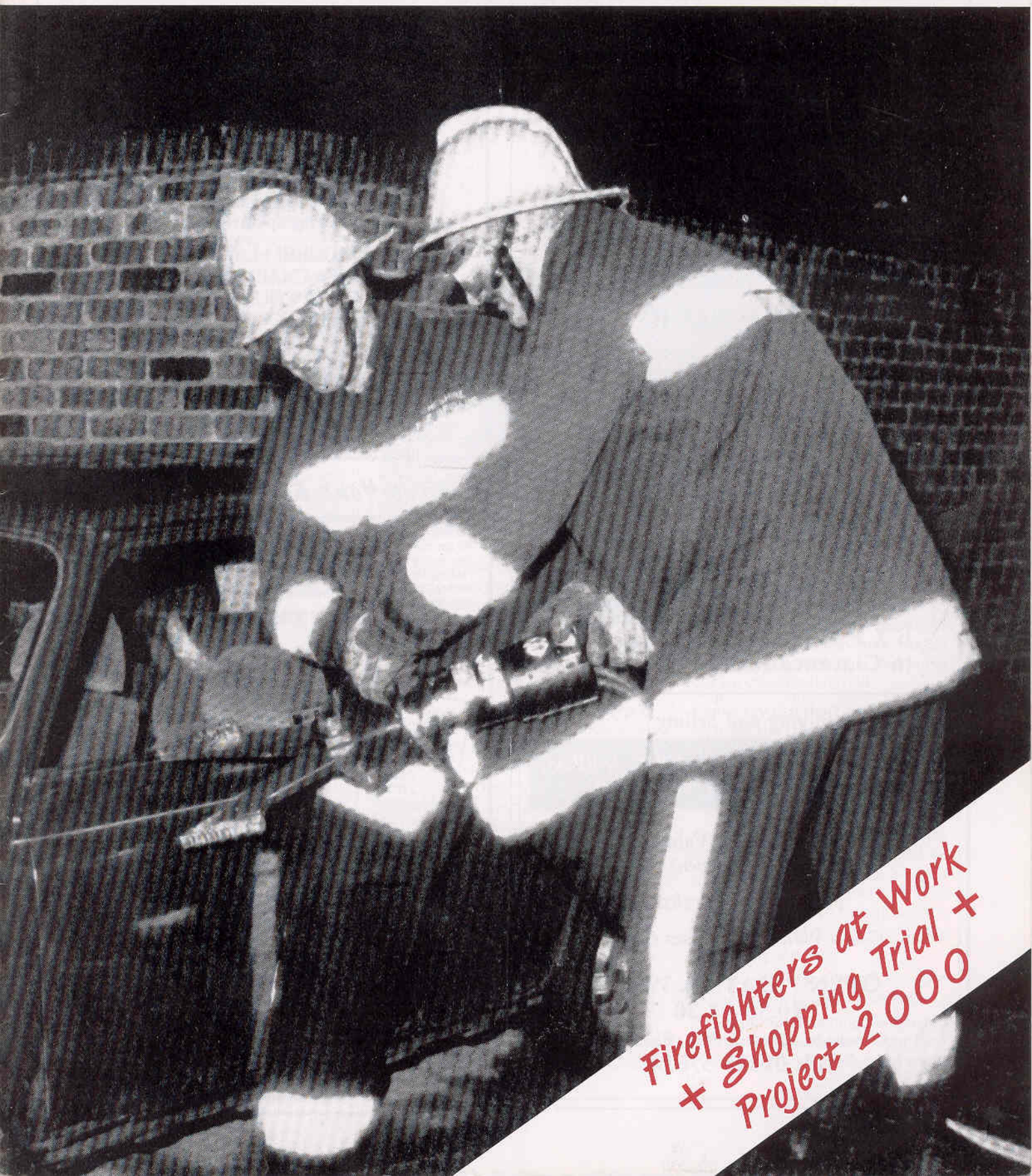


BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Six

February 1996



*Firefighters at Work
+ Shopping Trial +
Project 2000*

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.

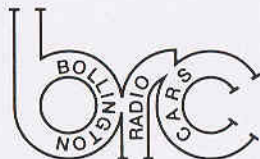
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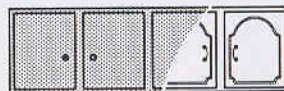
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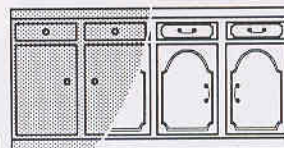
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and drawers in
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BOLLINGTON



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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Every time I get in my car and drive to Tesco in Macclesfield, I feel a little guilty. I shouldn't be using my car when I could walk to the shops in the village; I should be getting the exercise the walk would give me. And I should be supporting the local shops; otherwise we will not have them when we need them.

We know that the new Silk Road has made Macclesfield more accessible from Bollington; but do we want to retain our Bollington shops or don't we? If we do, then as day follows night we must use them. Of course there are some Bollington residents who don't have access to a car, and for them keeping our shops going is even more important.

One assumption I have always worked under is that the supermarkets are cheaper and that it's quicker to go to Tesco or Sainsbury's than to walk around two or three local shops to buy the same things. So a friend and I put it to the test.

THE GREAT SHOPPING BASKET TRIAL



BOLLINGTON LIVE! SHOPPING SURVEY

Goods	Boll	Tesco
6 Eggs (size 3)	£0.50	£0.49
2 Pints Milk	£0.70	£0.51
Bread Sml. Sl. Wholemeal	£0.59	£0.52
Flora Margarine 8oz.	£0.52	£0.49
2lbs Potatoes	£0.38	£0.49
2 lamb chops 8oz.	£1.25	£1.39
Cod 10oz fresh fish	n/a	(£1.25)
Tea Darjeeling 125gms.	£1.42	£0.95
Cheese 6oz. Gruyere	£1.81	£1.63
4 Yoghurts (small size)	£0.99	£1.09
4 eating apples (cox's)	£0.59	£0.49
Broccoli 8oz.	£0.50	£0.40
Onions 1lb.	£0.25	£0.14
Grapes 8oz(cheapest)	£0.27	£0.75
Bananas 4 (smallish)	£0.45	£0.19
W/Powder Fairy 2kgs.	£4.65	£4.59
W/Liquid Fairy 500mls	£0.80	£0.79
Boddingtons (4 cans)	£3.99	£3.95
Wine 1 bottle Chianti	£2.99	£2.99
Hummus 6oz.	n/a	(£0.85)
	£22.65	£21.85*
Car Use - 7 miles @ 20p	nil	£1.40
TOTAL	£22.65	£23.25*

Time Taken: 50mins 58mins

* items in brackets not included

We chose a Saturday morning at 10.30am to set off from my house with identical lists of 20 items. My friend and his wife, together with their small son in a push-chair, set off on foot to shop in Bollington while I drove to Tesco in Macclesfield. The results surprised us!

For a start *it was quicker to shop in Bollington.* It took 50 minutes from door to door compared with 58 minutes to go to Tesco and back. Secondly the costs were much the same. The bill for 18 of the 20 items was £22.65 in Bollington and £21.85 at Tesco. The Bollington shops did not have two of the items on our list - fresh fish and hummus, but these may be available in other shops which were not visited. We excluded these items from the totals and costed the car at 20p per mile. This adds £1.40 to the bill and resulted in the Tesco alternative costing 0.60p more.

This has made me realise that I should *Think Bollington* before I rush off in my car to shop in Macclesfield every time. Of course, one of the problems is that

Bollington has two main shopping areas more than a mile apart. Should we have a further supermarket, possibly in a redesigned Pool Bank? That certainly would make us all *Think Bollington* before we went in our cars to Macclesfield.

I must say that the Tesco shop was well designed and easy to use and for a Saturday morning was not too crowded. Bollington shopkeepers must find ways to attract us to use them. Here are some suggestions:

- * Late night opening on one day a week as an experiment, so that we know all the shops will be open until say 8.00pm that day. The pubs may benefit from this too!
- * Telephone ordering and home delivery services.
- * Coordinated advertising and promotion to local households.
- * Shopkeepers forming a Bollington Traders Association to put their case with a more influential voice.

G.B.

Book Review

Bollington in Old Picture Postcards by George Longden and Bollington Civic Society History Group.

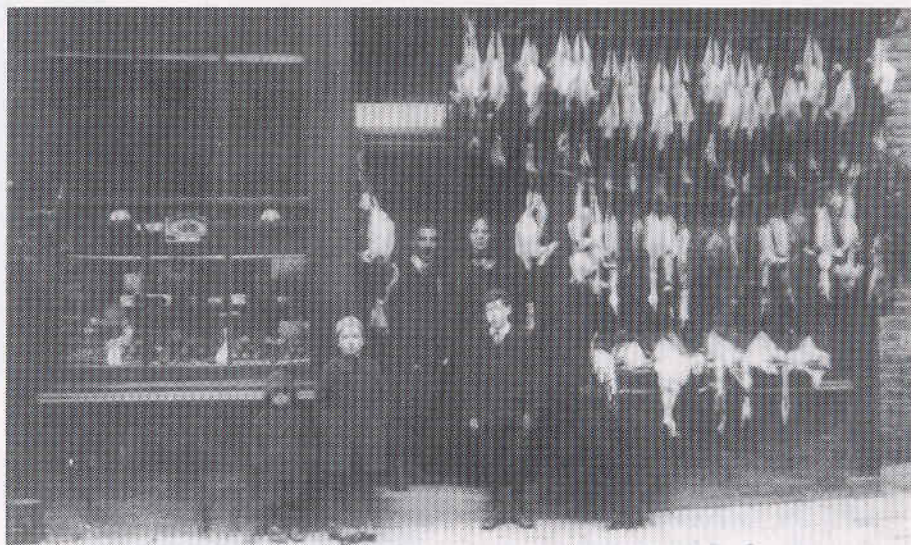
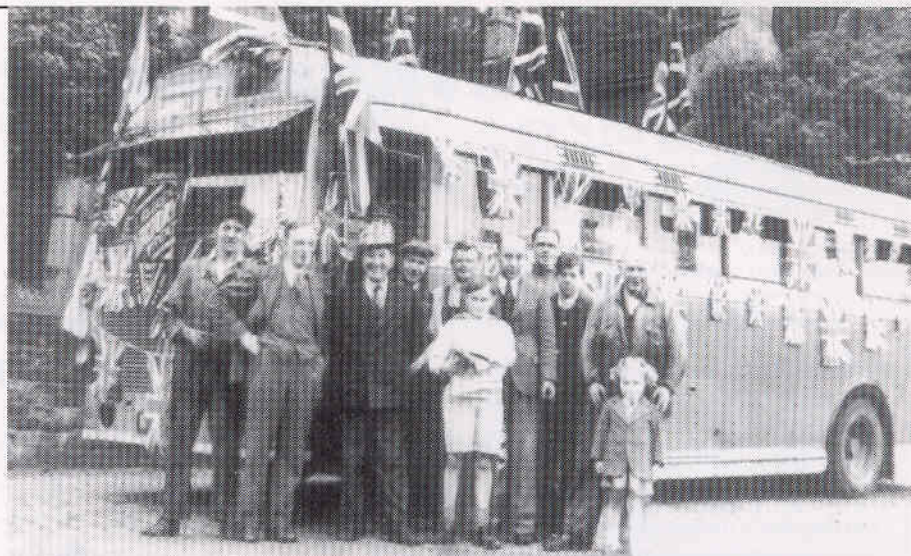
European Library, £9.95

As a comparative newcomer to Bollington I am always keen to find items on our local history, especially when they are by George Longden. This is an A5 hardback which explains how Bollington grew from a rural village to an industrial town. Using 76 postcards from the archives it illustrates developments between 1860 and 1945, with a commentary beside each of the pictures.

Percy Stubbs of Sowcar Farm, carter Harry Barton and WW1 soldier Walter Trafford are portrayed, as is the Kerridge Windmill and Latham's Dividend Grocery Store. We also see young men at Bollington Railway Station in 1909, driven by low wages to emigrate to Canada.

The cards illustrate the social life of Bollington people, with excursions by train and charabanc, frequent processions and lively sports. We are told that on Christmas morning in 1902 the Brass Band played outside the houses of their patrons, while in the afternoon a large crowd watched football on the Recreation Ground.

The note on the final postcard, of 1945, says "In August White Nancy was illuminated for the VJ celebrations. At the end of November, Thanksgiving Week raised £70,673. After an opening speech by Colonel



From the postcards: Mr Broadhead's bus in Palmerston Street in 1945 and - recalling the heyday of local shopping - greengrocer Harry Holt and his family, also in Palmerston Street, at Christmas, 1913.

Blatherwick, a parade through the village with torches made of tin cans and paraffin soaked cotton waste led to a huge bonfire on the Adlington Road playground."

This book would have made a fine present this Christmas had it not been published so late in December. But what about next year? You can't start Christmas shopping too early. **MS**

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We cordially invite you to an
OPEN DAY
on Friday 16th. February

Our full management team will be hosting an open day from 10.30am to 2.30pm at the Bollington Branch: a chance to discuss any questions you may have.

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THE VILLAGE BOUTIQUE Ladies' & Children's Wear; good value and many bargains, including chain-store seconds. At 1, Crossfield Road, near the Bollington Leisure Centre

Bollington Town Meeting

Tuesday 19th March

7.30 pm.

Civic Hall

**Making Bollington Better -
Come and give the
Councillors your views!**

Fighting Bollington's Fires

Bollington's fire service will never look the same again. On January 8th the firefighters, as they are nowadays known, wore the familiar yellow helmets for the last time. This was the night *Bollington Live!* went to Albert Road Fire Station to meet the 14-strong team - just before they were fitted with Euro-helmets, conforming to EC guidelines. Heavier, with double visors like those of the French riot police, and costing nearly four times as much as the old version, the new equipment provides better protection.

Bollington has one of the busiest 'retained' fire stations in the county, answering 830 calls in the last financial year, and looking set to beat that record this time. Officially, the staff are part-timers, paid a monthly retaining fee and then per call-out, for the hours put in. Most have full-time jobs as well. One is a driving instructor, another a decorator, two are with Zeneca; but all admit that, in reality, there is no such thing as a part-time firefighter: "Wives and girlfriends have to be very understanding." Not only is their training to the same high standard as the full-time crews, but they can spend many hours a week and every weekend on the job. Going to work at eight in



The Fire Station in Albert Road, drawn by David Price, aged 9, of Dean Valley Primary School. David was winner of a competition organised by Bollington Live!

the morning after fighting a fire all night takes some of the glamour away.

The funniest thing they can remember? There are guffaws. It is seven o'clock on a winter's morning and three cows are stuck in a slurry pit. Suddenly, Leading Firefighter Philip Green is up to his armpits in it... "It was easier getting the cows out than him." More laughter.

The camaraderie is impressive. These men enjoy their job. But the discipline and commitment are more impressive still. There is a strict hierarchy, generally based, after the Station Commander, on length of service and experience. If the Commander, Andy Longden, is out on a call, the senior firefighter present is the boss, and obedience is absolute. "No messing, it saves time." Eight men are on call at any one time and the first six

to arrive man the engine. All crew members must live within two minutes' drive of the station - or a five minute run. The time between a call reaching the station - via a computerised command centre at Winsford - and the engine setting out is rarely more than three minutes. No, they don't have a pole to slide down!

So what is it really like? Certainly not as on the telly. In real life there is choking smoke and minimum visibility, often none at all. This is where the rigorous training comes in, with firefighters working in pairs and maintaining physical contact at all times. They often have to crawl on all fours. Any clean air is at ground level, where it is also cooler and easier to see the flames. The heat can drive a grown man to tears. "It's on your ears you feel it, and on the back of your neck."

How would they feel about more women in the fire service? "Love some!" Unfortunately, women applicants generally fail the strength test. Most cannot lift a twelve and a half stone dummy, let alone carry it down a ladder.

Have they a message for the public? "Parking!" is the universal chorus. There is mention of parents collecting children from school on Albert Road, and at Bollington Cross. In short, motorists should always, everywhere, park in such a way as to allow a fire engine to pass, and never over a fire hydrant. If driving and a fire engine comes up behind, the motto is "Don't panic." Simply carry on, then pull over and stop *when it is safe to do so*.

Malicious calls are rare in this area. They can in any case be traced through modern communications; even a call from a mobile 'phone can be locked into. Last summer saw a spate of deliberate fires in the Moss Brow area. The fire fighters put it down to thoughtlessness rather than malice. "If people knew how much it is costing the taxpayer - ultimately themselves, or their parents - and the risk they are causing to someone in a real fire, they would not do it."

Continued Overleaf...



The Bollington team. On the back row, from left to right, are Leading Firefighter James Eyres, Sub Officer Andy Longden, and Firefighters Edward Dalton, Wayne Oakes, Gary Flint-Elkins, Jason Roxburgh and Chris Carbery. Standing in the middle is Firefighter Dave Hibbert and kneeling, from left to right, are Firefighters Scott Thomson, Simon Longden and Andy Kent.

Bollington's Fires... continued

The Bollington station is not short of recruits. The latest, Firefighter Whittaker, started three months ago. Macclesfield, whose second engine is manned by part-timers, has more difficulty. That is one reason Bollington crews are so often called to back up the Macclesfield engine. What happens to any Bollington calls at such times? Another crew will be on stand-by, probably in Poynton.

Are they afraid? Never of the fire. "You respect the fire." Training is crucial. They are drilled for every eventuality, including rescuing people from wrecked cars. Perhaps as many as 60% of call-outs are AFAs - automatic fire alarms, set off accidentally, each one treated as a potential risk to life. One fire fighter recalls what seemed like a routine AFA proving to be a "ten engine job." Another turned out to be an explosion involving a 25-litre canister of mustard gas. When pressed, the crews admit that chemical emergencies can be scary. There are increasing numbers of these as more loads are transported by road. Contents are not always labelled, and part loads from separate sources can result in dangerous combinations. Different labelling procedures, too, are used on the European lorries coming to this country: a sobering thought. We are lucky to have our firefighters.

JS

BELSHAZZAR

The downfall of Babylon at the hands of the Persian general Cyrus the Great in 538 BC brought to an end this powerful civilisation of the ancient world.

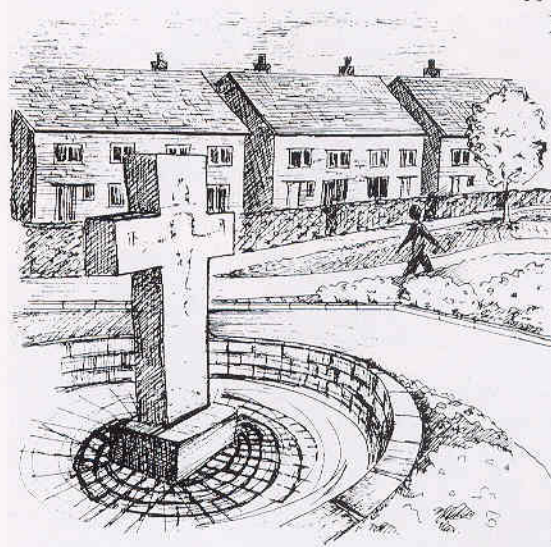
In the Bible the defeat is foreshadowed by the mystical writing on the wall during the feasting of the Babylonians: "God has numbered the kingdom. Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting."

This story formed the basis of one of Handel's greatest oratorios. The composer was at the height of his powers and brought to bear all his dramatic skills.

The work will be performed by Bollington Festival Choir on Sunday, May 19 at 8 pm in the Methodist Church.

BOLLINGTON CIVIC SOCIETY

Bollington is a town in its own right as the slogan of Bollington Live! proclaims. As with many towns in Britain we have a Civic Society which is affiliated to the Civic Trust in London. Civic Societies are run by volunteers interested in the appearance of a town, in its heritage and environment and in conserving what is best and improving what is poor. The Society is also concerned to raise awareness in Bollington of the need for good planning, design and conservation.



A small committee runs Bollington's Civic Society. The Society has been responsible in recent years for entering the town in the "Britain in Bloom" competition, for launching a project to clean up the River Dean, for helping to form the group which runs *Bollington Live!* magazine and for commenting on planning applications to try to ensure that new developments in the town respect its character and scale. The Society has recently attracted the Landscape Bollington project to our town - the title now adopted

for the landscape improvement project outlined in a previous issue of this magazine. Simon Papprell, a student from Leeds University, now working from the Town Hall, is our Landscape Bollington project officer. The following schemes are in hand:

- * An annual award for good design in the town
- * A project to clean up the River Dean and its surroundings
- * Landscape Bollington, schemes to improve the green spaces in the town. One example, **illustrated above**, is the restoration of the cross to Bollington Cross on the traffic island by the junction of Princess Drive and Bollington Road.
- * A project in the Recreation Ground for the 1999 Bollington Arts Festival.

If you would like to know more about the Bollington Civic Society please contact either John Coope on 573494 or Graham Barrow on 573807. Membership costs £5 per annum. Meetings of the Society are listed in *Bollington Live!*

OUR MAGAZINE IN CYBERSPACE



Are you fed up with hearing how the Internet and Worldwide Web will change our lives? Now you can air your views on the Internet Web page of *Bollington Live!* Here's the address below... (pretty user-friendly isn't it?):

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Graham_Barrow/bolllive.htm



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1996



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BOLLINGTON



FEBRUARY

Saturday 10th

THERE IS A FAIRY...

Upstairs in our attic
by Pat Wilson and the
Janus Studio

A play for all ages.
Arts Centre 2.30pm / 4.30pm
£2 / £1 Tel 574583

Sunday 11th

RANGER RAMBLES

7 mile circular walk
Adlington Road Car Park
10.30am
Tel 573998

Monday 12th

WI MEETING -

Rev Derek Hinchcliffe
Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Wednesday 14th

CHINA AND THE FORBIDDEN CITY

Bollington Wives - Mrs Eyre
Civic Hall 8pm
Tel 572382

Thursday 15th

HELLEBORES

by Will McLewin -
Horticultural Soc
Dog & Partridge 8pm
Tel 502344

Saturday 17th

DISCO

St. Gregory's Parents Assoc -
St. Gregory's Church Hall 8pm
Tel 574729

Tuesday 20th and Wed 21st

THE FOOTPATH OVER THE NAB - PUBLIC ENQUIRY

A two day
hearing on the
matter of
rights of way.

At the Arts Centre



Saturday 24th

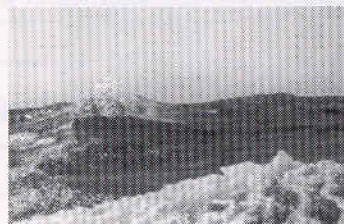
AN IMPOSSIBLE GOD

Talk : Frank Topping
Methodist Church 7.30pm

Saturday 24th

SEA CHANGES

an adaptation of The Tempest
Interplay Theatre Company
Arts Centre 7.30pm £3.75/£3.00
Tickets from Boll Library or
Tel 573058/ 576250



Monday 26th

THE LEPROSY MISSION

Anglican Fellowship Group
Lowther St., 8.00pm Tel 574224

Wednesday 28th

DECORATING AN EASTER CAKE -

Chris Gosling
Bollington Wives, Civic Hall 8pm

Wed. 28th and March 6, 13, 20, 27

BUILDING BRIDGES

Discussions during Lent led by
Bollington Clergy
7.30pm at the Methodist Church

MARCH

Saturday 2nd

BAGPIPES AND MORE

"A marvellous mix of folk and
improvisation" with Hamish
Moore, Dick Lee, Rick Bamford
Arts Centre 8pm - £7.00/£2.00
Tel 573477
Sponsored by Zeneca

Saturday 2nd

SPRING SHOW - Civic Hall Horticultural Society, 2pm.

Friday 8th

THE GENEROSITY OF PENGUINS
A NEW PLAY BY LAVINIA MURRAY
the well-known Bollington
playwright... puppetry, music and
projection to portray the world of
the penguin O'Malley

PickleHerring Theatre
also Squeezebox - puppet show
Arts Centre 8pm £3.50/£3.00
Tel. 576250

Sunday 10th

WINTER TREE WORKSHOP

with the Rangers
Adlington Road CP 2-4pm
Tel 573988

Monday 11th

THE ROYAL PRINCESSES

WI - Rev. Joyce Clarke
Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Monday 11th

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CARS - Bollington traffic

Civic Society open discussion
Arts Centre 8.15pm

Wednesday 13th

YOUR ANTIQUES VALUED

Bollington Wives -
Miss E Warburton Civic Hall 8pm
Tel. 572382

Tuesday 19th

TOWN MEETING

Give the Councillors your views
Civic Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th to Sat 23rd

HOBSON'S CHOICE

The Festival Players present this
famous Lancashire comedy
Arts Centre 7.45pm £4/£2.50
Tel 572527

Thursday 21st

FRUIT DISEASES & PESTS

Horticultural Society
Dog & Partridge 8pm Tel 502344

Sunday 24th

CYCLE INTO SPRING

with the Rangers
meet Clough Bank CP 1.30pm
Tel 573988

Wednesday 27th

AFRICAN SAFARI

Bollington Wives - Peter Kirk
Civic Hall 8pm Tel 572382

Friday 29th

FINE ART AUCTION

Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm
(Viewing at the Town Hall from
25th) - admission free
In aid of the Drop In Centre

Saturday 30th

BOLLINGTON CHAMBER CONCERTS

The Duke Quartet
Haydn Schnittke Tchaikovsky
Arts Centre 8pm £7/£2
Tel 573477

Pickle The



The Generosit

Friday 8th Ma
Bollington Art

EVENTS

Herring
atre



of Penguins

by Lavinia Murray

1996
Centre

Sunday 31st

A DOGGY DUO - Bollington Children's Music Theatre
Chip and his dog by Menotti + The True story of Mr Punch by his faithful dog Toby
Arts Centre 4.30pm and 7.30pm
£3/£1.50 Tel 0161 427 2870 or tickets at the door.

APRIL

Monday 1st

THE CANADIAN WILDERNESS

WI Meeting with Mary Foster
Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Monday 8th.

EASTER EGGCITEMENT
with the Rangers. Bring 2 Hard-Boiled Eggs and Mum & Dad.
Adlington Road C.P.,
10.00am - 12.00. Tel. 573998

Wednesday 10th

MY LIFE AS A CORONER
Bollington Wives with J Hibbert
8pm Tel 572382

Saturday 13th

WEATHER WATCH
with the Rangers. Make a weather station and a kite.
Adlington Road Rec. Gd.
10.30am - 12.00. Tel 573998

Thursday 18th

AUSTRALIAN VEGETABLE TRIALS - Charles Seddon
Horticultural Society
8pm at the Dog & Partridge
Tel 502344

Saturdays - 20th 27th & 11th May

ENVIRONMENTAL SCULPTURE WORKSHOP
For children 5-7 yrs with parents, 8-14yrs without.
2pm-4pm at the Arts Centre
£3 Tel 576250

Monday 22nd

RIVER DEAN PROJECT
Civic society Arts Centre 8pm

Wednesday 24th

SUN SIGN ASTROLOGY
Mrs K Gawthrop with Bollington Wives Tel 572382

Thursday 25th

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY
Anglican Fellowship Group
14 Hurst La. 8.00pm Tel 574224

Saturday 27th

COFFEE MORNING
in aid of East Cheshire Hospice
with stalls / cakes / crafts
Town Hall 10-12am Tel 575428

Sunday 28th.

RAMBLE ROUND RAINOW
with the Rangers. 8-9 miles.
Bring boots + lunch.
Adlington Road C.P.
10.00am - 3.30pm. Tel. 573998

Tuesday 30th April - Sat 4th May

GUYS AND DOLLS
Bollington Light Opera Group
Civic Hall 7.30pm £4
Tel 875326

MAY

Friday 3rd

BEARCAT CAJUN PLAYBOYS

"infectious dance music bringing together the best Cajun Musicians in Britain" - The Independent
Arts Centre 8pm £6.50 / £5
Includes Cajun supper
Tel 576250



Wednesday 8th

BOLLINGTON WIVES
Annual Dinner - Civic Hall

Sunday 12th

CAR BOOT SALE
Adelphi Car Park 10am
Free entry / £6 per car on the day
£5 pre booked Tel 576311
In aid of the Drop In Centre

Monday 13th to Friday 24th

4th ANNUAL JUNIOR SPORTS FESTIVAL
For the Bollington Primary Schools

We welcome offers of help from local residents with an interest in sport ...Please contact Judy Mattinson Tel 572073

Monday 13th

RESOLUTIONS
WI Meeting
Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Saturday 18th / Sunday 19th

MINI FESTIVAL on the Recreation Ground
Details to be confirmed

Sunday 19th

SCULPTURE CREATIONS
with the Rangers.
Adlington Rd. C.P.
10.30am - 12.00
Tel. 573998

Sunday 19th

HANDEL'S BELSHAZZAR
Bollington Festival Choir and Orchestra
Methodist Church 8pm
£5 / £2 Tel 573494 or tickets from the Medical Centre

Wednesday 22nd

COMMUNICATIONS
Joe Tinsley / Bollington Wives
Civic Hall 8pm

Thursday 23rd

VISIT TO CADDICK'S CLEMATIS NURSERY
Bollington Horticultural Society
Tel 502344

Thursday 23rd

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP
Social meeting and review of activities
Tel 574224

JUNE

Sunday 9th.

WILDLIFE WANDER
with the Rangers. Boots, binoculars, but NO DOGS, please.
Adlington Rd. C.P.
7.00am - 11.00am.
Tel. 573998

Monday 10th

BEING ON THE STAGE
WI with John Clarke
Methodist Church 7.30pm



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IN THE FOOTHILLS OF WHITE NANCY

A walk of about 2 miles (with some animals along the way.)

START at the top of Lord Street, Bollington, and walk up Cow Lane. *The new houses here have been sympathetically blended into the contours of the land. Although these developments were considered controversial, the results, I feel, are quite acceptable.*

AT THE END of Cow Lane go through the stile to the left of the gate and immediately fork left and down. When the path reaches some holly trees, go through the stile to pass an enclosure that often has goats and rabbits and pigeons in it. *The lady who keeps the pigeons tells me they are called Tumblers because of their unusual tumbling flight.*

CARRY ON DOWN through another stile by the gate. **This section is often muddy.** Then, leaving the 'Pumping and Technical Services' sign to the left, follow the road as it curves round the side of the hill, rising slowly before dropping again to pass beneath a small aqueduct. *The old stone mill into which the aqueduct leads housed what was said, at 56 feet in diameter, to be the second largest water-wheel in Britain. A plaque implying that the mill was erected in 1809 is probably from an earlier structure, as the current building dates from about 1820.* Carry on along the road. *To the right, up on the hill, there is a network of small channels or 'soughs' which carried water to the wheel.*



The waterfalls at the foot of Waulkmill Wood, with the path in the background. As a result of the recent appeal the wood will now be bought by the Woodland Trust

FOLLOW THE ROAD some quarter of a mile further. *There are goats in a field to the left.* Then, ignoring the turn to the right before the cottages, branch off before the cascading waterfalls, following the path up through the woods. *Late last year, there was a successful campaign to raise money to buy and protect these woods; some £9,000 has now been pledged to enable the Woodland Trust to purchase and manage the property. To the left you will see the silted pond that once fed the water-wheel.*

THE PATH CLIMBS steeply through the woods, *passing between the holly bushes that often seem to be associated with old tracks.* Beyond the stile at the end and a short paved section turn sharply back to the right to pick up a

more level path. *This runs beside a line of mature trees, again suggesting an old byway, probably used to bring coal from Kerridge Ridge.* At the end, climb the stile and, instead of walking along the tree-lined avenue towards the house, immediately take the diversion on the right, passing an enclosure which houses chickens and rabbits, together with Sebastopol geese and Indian Runner ducks.

ON REACHING THE ROAD, turn left and up the hill to the cattle grid. The next section, directly overlooked by White Nancy, offers a variety of paths, including the steep climb to the local beacon itself. By heading diagonally down the field, and climbing the stile at the bottom, you can reach Cow Lane again.

RN

KING LEAR

A new production of King Lear is being prepared for the Festival Players by Pat Penny. It is hoped to put the play on either later this year or in 1997.

Although King Lear is now widely regarded as Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, such recognition has only been accorded this century. The downfall of the monarch, and particularly the death of his youngest daughter Cordelia, was regarded as too terrible a spectacle and a revised version was brought in.

Such sacrilege would not be permitted today, but there is still disagreement on what the play means. Is it an expression of deep pessimism? Or is it the story of salvation of a soul through the deprivation of earthly trappings?

JC

King Lear had a hundred knights. Would you like to join them? If you have acting aspirations and would like to take part in this play, please ring Pat Penny on 574583.

OUR TWIN TOWN

Thurles in County Tipperary is re-established as Bollington's twin town.

Forged 20 years ago - when our choir sang in the Cathedral and the Brass Band played at an All Ireland hurling match - the connection had been allowed to lapse. Bollington Mayor Sylvia Roberts has contacted Thurles again, however, and received an enthusiastic reply. It is now planned to take the Choir back there in June-20 years on.



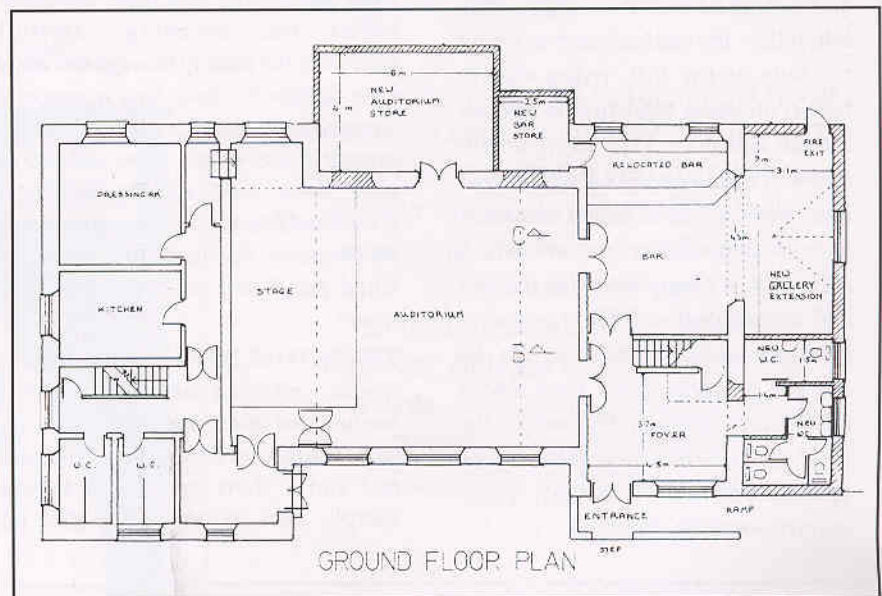
PROJECT 2000: A Face-lift for the Arts Centre

It was in 1983 that the first moves were made to buy the Methodist Sunday School building and run it as an arts centre for the town - an act of faith supported by the Festival Players, the Choir, Brass Band, Light Opera Group and Bollington's Art Group. A loan of £52,000 from the National Westminster Bank allowed us to buy the building and do the necessary alterations. The activities the Centre now supports, from plays and chamber concerts to karate and jazz, and the new societies there, have amply repaid the faith of the committee and trustees.

The bank has now been paid off, although a few thousand pounds are still owed to individuals and to Macclesfield Borough who allowed us an interest-free loan of £10,000. The very success of the Centre, however, has created problems. The foyer is tiny and the toilets institutional, with inadequate provision for the disabled. There is also an acute shortage of storage space, while the backstage areas urgently need refurbishment to satisfy professional artists.

It has been decided, therefore, to give the Centre a face-lift, which we are calling Project 2000, and a pilot committee has prepared a plan for submission to the Arts Lottery Board.

With the cost of the structural alterations estimated at just under £100,000, there are encouraging indications of the Board supporting the scheme by meeting 90% of the cost - provided matching funding can be obtained to cover the outstanding £10,000. The plans, which include a gallery extension to the reception area of the building, have now been looked at closely by Macclesfield Borough Grants Committee, and a further £8,500 is promised, while Bollington Council is offering an additional £1,000, thus virtually reaching the total required for the alterations. Further funding, however, will be needed for furnishing and decorating these alterations once the basic stage is complete...



Elevation and plan drawings showing the proposed extensions are reproduced here by courtesy of designer J.E.C. Menzies, B.Arch.

AN APPEAL FOR HELP -

Further sums will be needed to complete Project 2000, and we are inviting all who have visited the Centre to join as patrons, contributing £5 each (or multiples of the same). Contributions should be left at the Waterhouse Medical Centre for my attention, with cheques made out, please, to 'Bollington Arts Centre'. The names of patrons will be exhibited in the Centre as an indication of our thanks.

JC

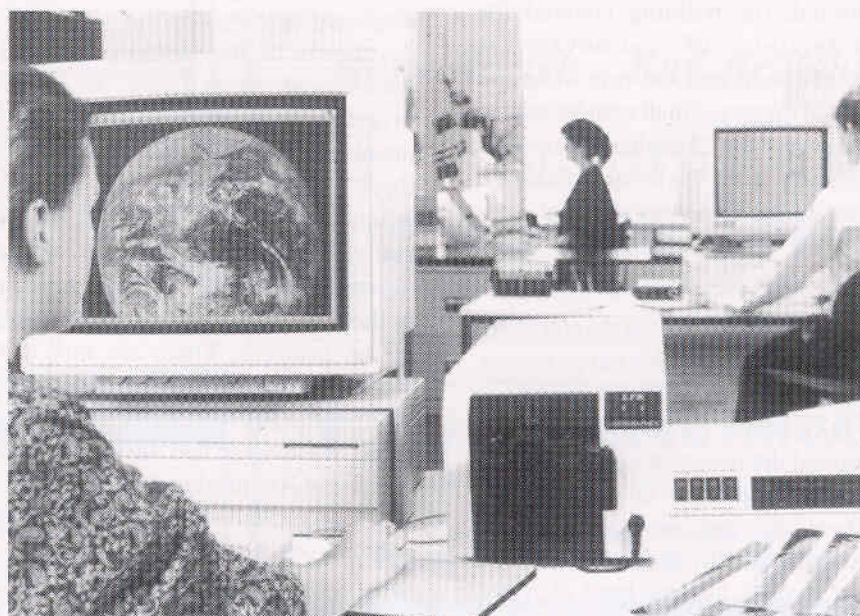
THE CHANGES AT THE MILL

The Adelphi Mill, one of the handful remaining in the town, finished its days in textiles in 1974. Its machinery stilled, the future doubtful, it took on the aspect of any building from which the life has drained away. What would become of the place, people wondered - and in their hearts thought: not much.

And what would the textile workers make of it today, if, brought back in a time-warped, they climbed the stairs at the northern end, to start on a ghostly shift? They would notice, of course, that the giant chimney stack has gone, but there are still the hollows in the steps themselves, worn by thousands of feet, while the proportions of the structure remain unaltered.

The mill was put up in 1856, and it was built on sand. George Cawley Swindells of the founding family felt obliged, in 1893, to make representations to Bollington Council. The drilling of boreholes for water, he said, would "bring it down certain." Mr Swindells reckoned that the mill was "always vibrating". The boreholes that the Council planned were drilled in Rainow instead, and the Adelphi stayed on its feet.

The vibration, of course, would be an essential difference for our



The fifth floor of the Adelphi Mill - 1990's version

millworkers from the past, coming back for a late 20th Century look. There is no shaking of the stonework, no mechanical noise. And beyond the glass doorways at the top there are carpets now, a reception area, and the winking computer screens of a modern office.

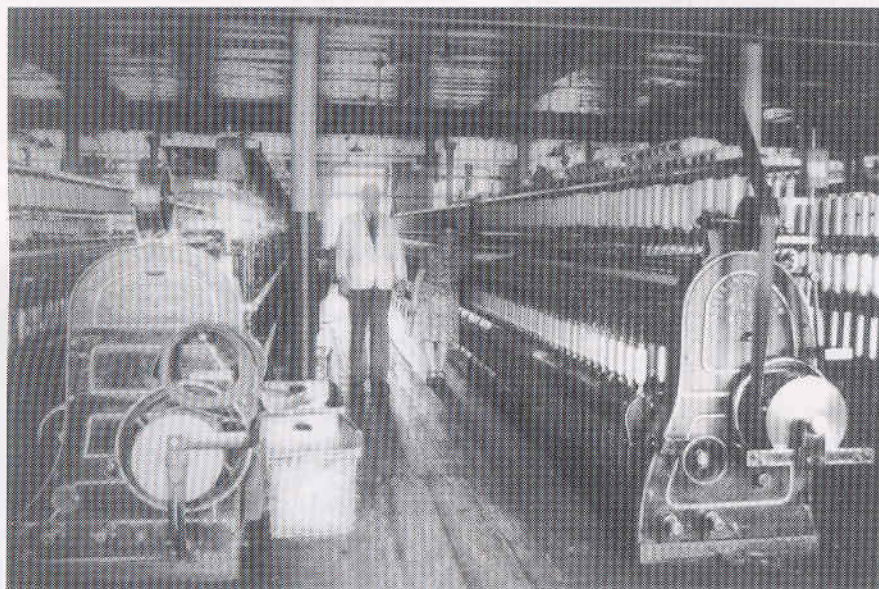
How has this change come about? I went along to visit the Adelphi Group, who are leading tenants of the building. Not the least of my interests was in discovering what the Group does; for, despite having seen the

name, and hearing it had over 100 employees, the activities here remained to me a mystery.

The business, briefly, lies in pharmaceuticals: the production of medicinal drugs, the huge, worldwide industry in which enormous sums are invested. The discovery of a drug, of course, is not the immediate key to a money-making bonanza. Years of development follow, which possibly end in nothing. And even if the result is positive, the virtues of the product have still to be promoted.

This is where the Adelphi Group comes in, for even a large drugs manufacturer, with successful products to its name, may have no concrete plan for getting a new one accepted. A comparison I was given was of the Kelloggs company, undoubtedly successful in the selling of cornflakes, suddenly realising it had stumbled on the formula for, let us say, a new and exciting kind of motor-bike. The same apparently applies in pharmaceuticals.

The developer, wondering which way to turn, turns, very often, to the Adelphi Group, who advise, prepare the literature (which is highly technical) and work on gaining



Textile production in the Adelphi Mill is seen here during the 1950's, - in dramatic contrast to the offices of today.

Continued Overleaf...

acceptance. Publications more or less picked up at random on my stroll through the building covered the restoration of cardiovascular homeostasis and the role of epotin alfa in surgery. Small wonder that on the payroll are 22 medical writers, the majority with Ph.D. qualifications, backed by experienced employees coming to Bollington from many parts of the world.

One of the best parts of the story is of the Group's beginning ten years ago, when seven people with a background in pharmaceuticals formed the first new company in the echoing top floor of the building. There was just one telephone line between them. Yolanta Buxton, who has recently become head of AMM Adelphi Ltd, (the Group's New York branch), told me of the hazard from pigeons at the time, and the need to move plastic sheeting in order to

deflect the leaks from the roof.

Not the least part of the courage displayed here was by the owners and developers of the building, Belprop, whose head, Brian Lewis, struck the original deal with the founding members. "Did you see it coming to this?", I asked Lloyd Morgan, the Adelphi Financial Director. "Not really," he responded, "though none of us wanted to be small." He had a vision of there being, one day, 30 to 40 people in the business. There are now 130 working in the Mill alone, plus the staffs of offices in Brussels, Paris, Lyon, New York, Washington and Seattle. And the workforce is expanding further, to 200 - of whom, incidentally, some 70 per cent will be women.

Why Bollington? The Group's presence is in several respects accidental; but Bollington is convenient - for the airport, for example - while, to visitors and the applicants for jobs, who often

come from overseas, the attractiveness of the area is important. Many of those who work in the mill also choose to live here, and the Group, in turn, involves itself in local matters. Martyn Parry, one of the founding directors, has for example, been active in promoting a scheme for industry support to Bollington's Drop-In Centre in Wellington Road.

I finished off in discussion with Stuart Cooper, Chairman of Adelphi International Research, the public relations part of the organisation. Mr Cooper, who lives in Kerridge, spoke of the impact of the companies upon healthcare policies as far away as China. And all this from Bollington! I, certainly, in 1974, could never have foreseen such a thing.

JL



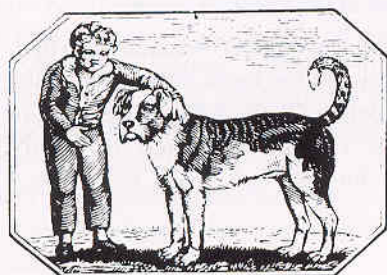
Letters

DEAR DOG-OWNERS,

Do I honestly have to come to the conclusion that it is just not worth the after-outing ritual of cleaning my children's footwear and bicycle wheels following a stroll on the Recreation Ground? I choose to avoid whenever possible the canal and the Middlewood Way (and will resist the considerable temptation of expanding on the state of the pavements); but surely the Rec should not be out of bounds as well?

Irresponsible dog owners are pushing the Council and the public into a corner. Perhaps the sign saying 'Please keep dogs on leads' should read 'only dogs in nappies...' After all, parents are not permitted to allow toddlers to foul public areas! Though not a dog owner myself, I would be saddened by the enforcing of a 'no dogs' rule on the Rec, but, as public resentment grows, this can be only a matter of time. Please, dog owners, show a little more respect.

Yours, Disgusted of Bollington
(name and address supplied)



Legislation on dog-fouling moved closer with a Second Reading in the House of Commons in mid-January. On-the-spot fines are proposed (of owners, not the dogs); to the tune, it is suggested, of £20.00 a time.

Ed.



The state of the Recreation Ground, above, could be one of the topics aired at the forthcoming Town Meeting in the Civic Hall, Wellington Road, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, March 19. Members of Bollington Council will be fielding questions from the public. Pictured, left to right, below, at last year's event are Councillors Sylvia Roberts, currently Bollington's Mayor, Russell Cutler, now Mayor of Macclesfield, and Bill Greensmith, since also elected a Borough Councillor of Macclesfield.

Ed.





MOVING LINES
MOVING ON
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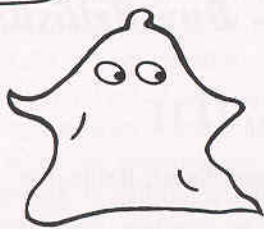
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BOLLINGTON GHOSTS!

Hair-Raising Stuff

One of the smallest muscles in the human body is the *arrector pili*. At one end it is tethered to the under surface of the skin, and at the other to the base of the envelope containing the root of the hair. This is the explanation of one of the characteristic experiences of people who see ghosts, namely that their hair stands on end. Why this little muscle - devised, presumably, to keep an animal warm - is sent into spasm by apparitions I would dearly like to know...

An elderly housewife of Henshall Road, not given to supernatural experiences, was standing at her sink, looking out over the fields in the fading afternoon. Suddenly, she felt very cold and the hairs on her neck were raised. Looking round, she was astonished to see a lady wearing a long white dress walking through her kitchen and out of the door. Unable to move for a minute or so, my informant was frozen to the spot. It was only the next day that she heard of a relative

who had died. This story reveals another of the classical features of ghost experiences: immobility is common, although this is quite illogical, as it prevents one running away.



One of the secretaries at the Waterhouse Medical Centre experienced this reaction without actually seeing a ghost: "Some years ago at the Waterhouse I was going down a small flight of steps from the upstairs landing when I felt something covered with cotton wool seizing me round the ankles, so that I could not move. When I was finally released and

went downstairs, the staff saw I was white as a sheet. Another of the secretaries said that at that very spot she had put her hand on the bannister some time before - and felt another hand on top of hers. She turned quickly round, but there was no-one there."

The oldest house in the town is Bollington Hall Farm and has a unique and ancient crook beam construction. In 1972 it was deserted and nearly derelict, while, nearby, a building development was in progress. One of the workers, Graham Gibbons, on looking up at one of the windows of

the old house, saw a woman's face peering out. "I was absolutely terrified," he said. "It was a really frightening experience. I ran and told the foreman, and he went round with three of the lads, but they could not find one door or window open. The place was well locked up. It is the statement of the foreman, however, that fascinates me: "This fellow came in from the site and said that one of his mates had seen something and that all the hair was stood up on the

back of his neck." He must have had very good *arrector pili* muscles to make it obvious to an outside observer, so corroborating his story.

JC

Our photo shows Bollington Hall Farm, shortly after the incident described. The window at which the face appeared was in the severely damaged central portion. The house has since been restored.

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