

BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Seven June 1996



*Bollington Events -
The Case for a Tent
+ Bells + LETS*

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.

For advertising details, please contact Mark Stedman on 01625 575227, or Dennis Caulfield on 01625 572538



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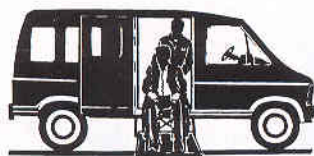
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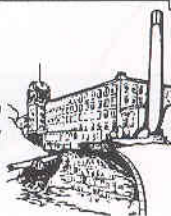
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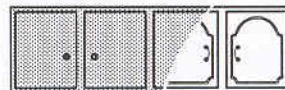
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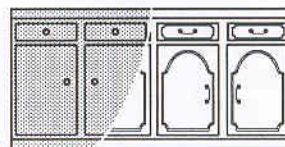
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Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington a town in its own right!" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome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

Bollington Live! is published by Bollington Arts Centre & Bollington Civic Society, Wellington Road, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5JL. Registered Charity No. 515096

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Cover Picture: Beavers and members of the Scouting Movement during the Town Procession in May.

What Price A Tent?

There's an obvious romance about a tent. It brings back memories of childhood - of scouting, or guiding; of holidays by the seaside, where the sun always shone. Burt Lancaster and Gina Lollobrigida cavorted in a tent when they starred in "Trapeze"; for a circus, of course, anything else would be a let-down.

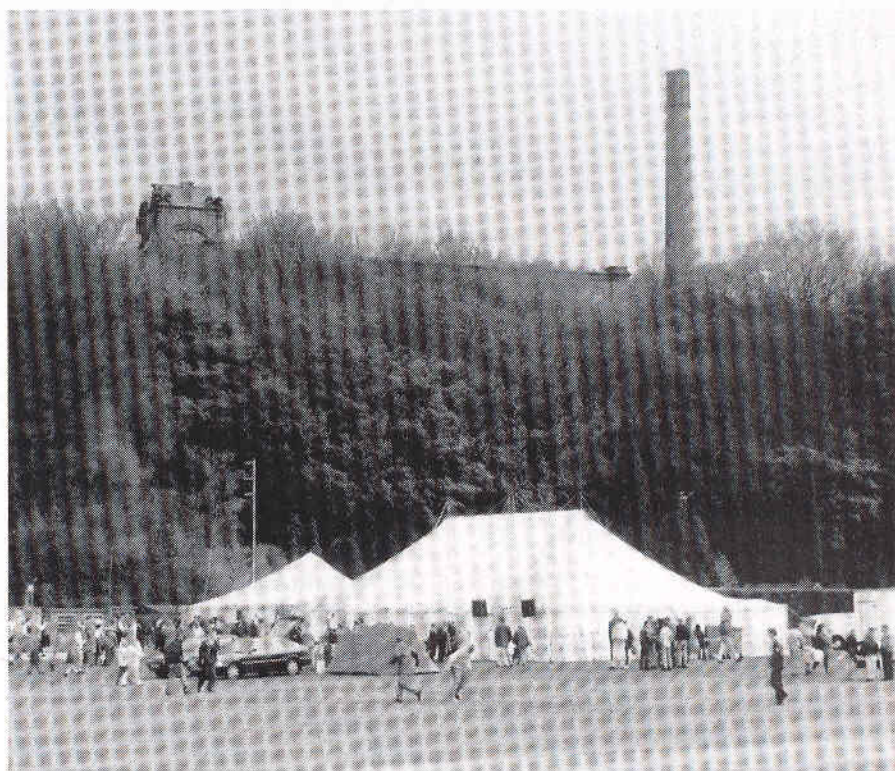
A tent can be useful too, and in Bollington's case essential, if major events are to be staged. Of the town's three principal halls, the largest, at the Civic Centre, accommodates 180 people at most. Yet the marquee at the town's 1993 Festival took almost 1,000. So did a similar one, hired the following year for a concert by The Dubliners.

Renting a tent has its drawbacks, and the suggestion has been raised that, instead of hiring each time, Bollington should buy one.

A leading proponent is Tony Butterworth, who runs a landscape gardening business in the town. In addition to being a councillor - he was elected last year as an Independent -



Tony Butterworth, seen during this May's festival on the Recreation Ground, where the tent, pictured above, accommodated 400 people.



Tony has been a driving force in arranging several events in recent years. I went to see him at the Mini-Festival, where we met on the Recreation Ground. Appropriately enough, we talked inside the tent.

The main point Tony makes is that, with its own large marquee, Bollington could stage major gatherings more often - and not just for internationally-famous artists. The town's Brass Band, for instance, of undoubted quality, is unable to hold competitions here, for want of a large enough hall. Other local organisations, such as the light opera group or fund-raisers for the scouts or youth football would benefit also from such a venue.

The tent for the Mini-Festival this May held between 300 and 400 people. It was used for a blues band concert on the Saturday, and several events the following day, including a display by local organisations, and a religious service. Hire of the marquee and

facilities and payments to the blues band performers were met by the profits of the previous Dubliners show, which amounted to £3,000.

Tony Butterworth has an infectious enthusiasm for the project. As he points out, a tent of our own would lessen the need to always stage a money-spinning event.

How much would a marquee cost? Tony estimates between £10,000 and £15,000 for a thousand-seater. Questions inevitably arise as to insurance, maintenance, and who would look after it. In response, he points to the several local organisations who could participate in the storage and management.

After we had talked, I telephoned a couple of hire companies from the astonishing array in the Yellow Pages guide. Crocker Brothers of Derby, who supplied the recent 400 person tent,

Continued Overleaf...

What Price A Tent?

... Continued

estimated a price of £1,200 for a weekend's hire of the 1,000 seater, plus - and here come the extras - £770 for a matting floor, and £1 per chair. M & B Marquees of Chester quote higher prices for sophisticated frame marquees. In both cases, of course, the contractors arrange insurance, put the thing up and take it all down again afterwards, as well, presumably, as storing it and stitching up the rips.

One strategy might be the purchase of a smaller marquee, with progressive enlargement as funds allow. Modern tents often come in sections, for expansion ad infinitum. They are made, incidentally, of PVC-coated polyester, which can be scrubbed. There is a fire retardancy standard, BS5438 - something to bear in mind if tempted to buy second-hand.

Another plan could be to seize the opportunity presented by the next major Bollington Festival, scheduled for 1999 - where upwards of £12,000 may be spent in hire fees for a marquee - and buy one instead.

Where does the project go from here? Stage One must be sufficient expression of interest; then a public meeting and election of a management committee. To follow, of course, comes raising the cash!

Views, pointers and, in particular, specialist knowledge, would be most welcome now. If you have anything to contribute, please contact Tony Butterworth, c/o the Town Hall, or ourselves at **Bollington Live!** J.L.



A boisterous moment during the mid-May procession through the Town. Whether there will be sufficient water for such high-jinks in the future is called into question by readings of the Bollington Live! rain gauge in Cedarway. Figures for the first four months in recent years are: 1994 - 15.4" of rain; 1995 - 15.7"; 1996 - 6.7"!

Bollington in Bloom

After getting the Cup for Community Effort last year, the stage is now set for Bollington winning the North West in Bloom competition outright in 1996.

Water Street, as usual, showed what could be done in 1995 but there are plenty of other areas that could be made a riot of colour. Window boxes and hanging baskets are the obvious accessories to our stone terrace houses, but there are also small areas of waste ground that could be reclaimed and made into garden plots. And don't forget to make a big effort this year to eliminate litter. Never walk passed a jettisoned crisp packet without removing it to the nearest litter bin!



The Civic Society will also be sending round judges for its Bollington in Bloom awards. These will be given to the best terrace house, the best private garden on view from the road, the best garden on a council estate and the best display by a pub or restaurant.

J.C.

SMALL ADS

£2 per line, min 3 lines. Tel Dennis Caulfield, 572538. Deadline: 15th Oct.

LOCAL AUTHOR at present running another business, wishes to return to publishing. Colleagues sought, preferably with experience in graphics, illustration or sales, but all contributions considered for a venture into guide books, brochures, maybe something grander. Phone 576880, please, and I will return your call.

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BOLLINGTON TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 15th October
in the Civic Hall
at 7.30pm.

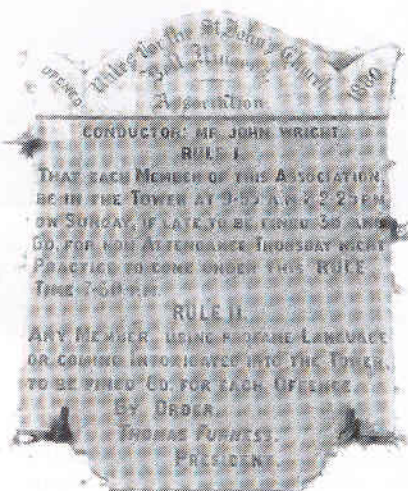
The Town Budget
&
The 1997 Council Tax
Planning for the future!

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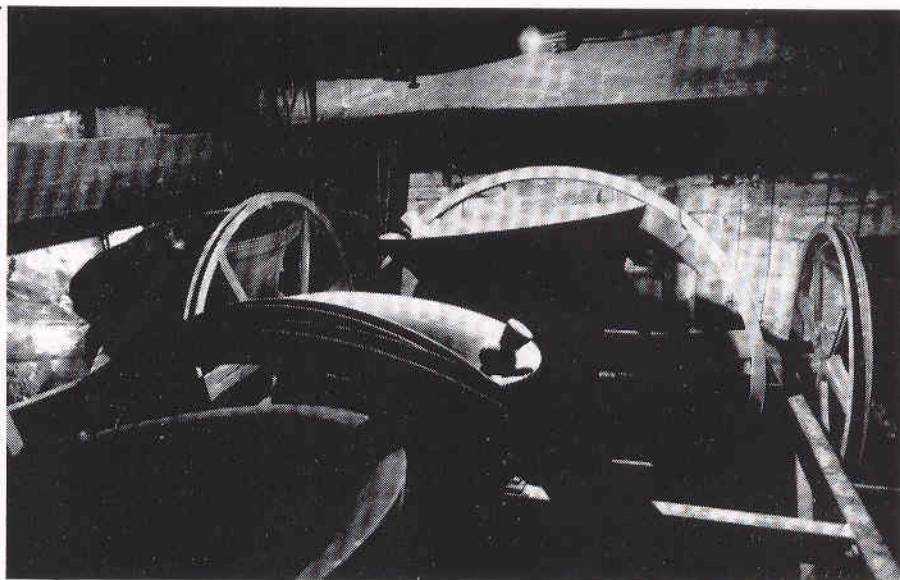
**"Bollington, Ches, S. John Bapt., 8,
16-3-6 in F. - Wed" reads the entry
on page 13 of Church Bells of Britain.
(R.H. Dove 6th ed. 1982)**

To translate: in Bollington, Cheshire, in the church of St John the Baptist there is a belfry of 8 bells in the key of F, the tenor bell weighing 16cwt 3qtrs 6lbs; ringing practice is on Wednesday and any qualified bell-ringer is welcome to drop by. On a cool Wednesday evening in May *Bollington Live!* was admitted to the weird and wonderful world of bell-ringing.

It is weird; but it is also wonderful. The evening sun glows through the leaded panes of the bell chamber window, patterning the faces of the ringers; they



A warning notice in the tower belies the more relaxed atmosphere of today.



are intent and concentrated. A command is barked - "Look to!" and action begins. This is know as "ringing up" and must be done to position the bells for ringing. They are stored hanging downwards, to keep out rain and nesting birds. To be rung they must be pointing upwards, resting against a restraining bar, poised and perfectly balanced for action; for this is a precise art, a mathematical (not a physical) exercise. It is technique, not strength, insists a young mother who was ringing regularly until three days before the birth of her daughter. (The only problem, she says, was getting through the door of the ringing chamber with a nine-month bump.)

What on earth makes people do it? - ringing that is, not having babies. The ringers clearly enjoy themselves and there is much joking and laughter. But all in the end use the same word - fascination.

So what can fascinate a teacher, a former pilot, a mother of two, a commodity buyer, a civil servant and an aerospace engineer, ranging in age from their early twenties to their late seventies? The camaraderie, the fun in a shared activity, are easy to appreciate; also the pleasure in meeting people of every class and background on an equal footing anywhere in the country. (On holiday, ringers admit to looking up the local towers in the indispensable Dove and going on "belfry crawls" - even to the extent of couples taking it in turn to baby-sit so the other can go ringing.) Are they mad? Some, rashly married to non-ringers, acknowledge that their partners think so. But get them together with other ringers and the shared fascination is tangible; a mathematical fascination requiring total concentration, a mental exercise enormously relaxing for people stressed by careers or raising children.

Bells are rung in a particular order, say 1-6. If every bell is rung at the same rate, the order will remain identical. If the rate of the bells is varied, the order will change - ringing the changes. In the sixteenth century, bells began to be hung on a wheel which meant they could be swung 360 degrees from the point of balance at the top, giving very precise control of the strike. The order of ringing a set of bells could thus be varied with precision, a technique more or less unique to Britain. These "changes" fascinated Fabian Stedman, a printer in Cambridge in the middle of the seventeenth century and he began to develop the rules which now govern



The bell-ringers seen here, from left to right, are: Jeanette Jenkins, Graham Jenkins, Michelle Bridge, Stuart Mellor, Peter White, Christine Kettlety, Neil Taylor and Lilian Hughes.

Continued Overleaf...

Ringling Our Bells

...Continued

campanology. He realised that the ringing order of four bells could be changed 24 times without repetition; the possible changes on six bells is 720, and on 8 bells, as there are in Bollington, the number is 40,320. To ring all the possible changes on 12 bells would take nearly thirty years.

There is more, much more. Particular variations in changes - "methods" - are named by the people who invented them. You could find yourself ringing Stedman, Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire Trebles, Zaphod Beeblebrox or a thousand others.

How do people get drawn in to this extraordinary world, you wonder? One of the Bollington group, from a dynasty of ringers, was planted on a box at the age of ten, his pockets filled with ten pence pieces to weigh him down, and he was launched. Some began at 13, a good age to start; others came later in life. The newest recruit, in his forties, began only a few months ago. However short or long a time they have been ringing, all share the same glint in the eye. Eccentrics, possibly; true enthusiasts, certainly; they are friendly, lively - and above all ordinary people who provide a remarkable service to the community for the sheer enjoyment of their art. Who would be without our bells?

J.S.

Interested Bollington bell-ringers should contact Peter White on 573469 or Graham Jenkins, 574224

The bells of Bollington will be featured on Bells on Sunday on Radio 4 at 5.50am (repeated at 25 past midnight!) on September 15th 1996.

The Pathway to the Nab



Following the lengthy public enquiry, the Planning Inspectorate have confirmed two routes leading to the summit of Nab Head. I spoke to the Public Rights of Way section at Cheshire County Council to find out when they would be walkable. They advised me that they need to advertise the decision after which there is a six week period in which an appeal could be made to the High Court.

Then, assuming there are no further challenges, the paths will be marked and made good if necessary. Hence they should be available by late July.

Bollington Live! would strongly advise walkers to avoid trying the paths until they are properly marked, as wandering off the true course will undoubtedly annoy the landowners. Walkers should also remember that the land is the farmer's source of income. And, as much of the route is grazing land for sheep, dogs will need to be kept under close control at all times. Litter, too, as well as being unsightly, is dangerous to livestock. The Inspector in his report described the view from the top as "spectacular" so I for one am certainly looking forward to visiting the summit - once the way is clear.

R.N.

Money Available for Property Restoration

For properties in the Conservation Area, grant aid is still available for sympathetic improvements.



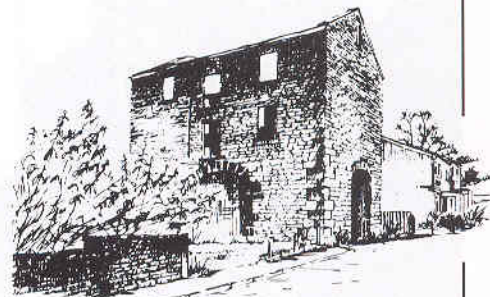
The Bollington and Kerridge Conservation Area Partnership Scheme has successfully completed the first year of a 3 year programme, during which £20,000 was offered and the restoration or replacement of sliding sash windows has been completed on a number of properties, together with the replacement of unsuitable modern doors.

Two other projects have also received assistance. The building of a dry-stone wall at Windmill Lane, Kerridge has been completed whilst the restoration and conversion of Owlhurst, the old mill premises in Turner Street will soon begin.

Applications are invited now for structural repairs and restoration on external architectural features, using traditional materials, designs and a high standard of craftsmanship. This can include work to roofs, chimneys, rainwater goods stonework, and windows to the original design. Normal maintenance, extension or modernisation will not be eligible, however.

All properties should be within the Conservation Area embodying much of the property east of the Macclesfield Canal. Grants of 60% will be available for windows and doors where traditional designs and methods of joinery are adopted. Other works, including roofing and rainwater goods, will be eligible for 40% grants. There will be a ceiling of £1,000 per application.

Application forms and advice are available from Heather Emery, Tel. 504667, or from the Town Hall, Bollington.



Owlhurst

A Message to Motorists...



Watch out, there are rollerbladers about - we are sharing the road!

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BOLLINGTON

Live!

JUNE

Saturday 29th

YOUNG MUSICIANS CONCERT

St Cecilia's Music Trust in aid of
Motor Neurone Research
Arts Centre 3.30pm Tel 572197

JULY

All month

LINAMENT TO LASERS

Exhibition of reminiscences collected
by the Drop In Centre
Bollington Library Tel 576311

Saturday 6th

SUMMER FAYRE

Bollington Cross School
From 12.00 Noon

Monday 8th

SUMMER FLOWERS & HANGING BASKETS

WI Meeting with Chris Wellavise
Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Monday 8th

MONEY - WHO NEEDS IT? -

LETS open meeting
Town Hall 7.30pm Tel 574583



Saturday 13th

METHODIST INGLEBOROUGH HIKE

Leaves at 9.00 am

Sunday 14th.

STRAWBERRY TEA & CRICKET

In aid of St. John's Church Foundation
Recreation Ground 4.00 pm

Thursday 18th

THE HISTORY OF THE HEDGEROW

Horticultural Society with George
Pilkington
Dog and Partridge 8pm
Tel 572004

Saturday 28th

METHODIST OPEN AIR SERVICE

Whitely Green 2.30pm

AUGUST

All month

LINAMENT TO LASERS

exhibition continues

Friday 9th

PARK TALES

Fun and games for under sixes with
Fudge and his Friends and the
Rangers

The Recreation Ground Pavilion
2.30-3.30pm

Tel 504505 - bookings

Monday 12th

WI MEMBERS MEETING

with Dutch supper
Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Thursday 15th

COTTAGE GARDENS AND OLD FASHIONED FLOWERS

Horticultural Society
Dog and Partridge 8pm

Saturday 31st for 1 week

SHARE JESUS

Methodist Mission

Saturday 31st

STORY TELLING

For children Arts Centre 2-4pm
£1 on the door

SEPTEMBER

Monday 2nd

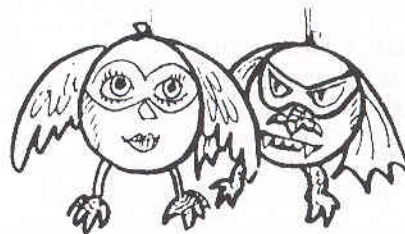
EXOTIC VEGETARIAN COOKERY

Persian evening with Afsan
Burrows
Arts Centre 8pm £2.50 on door
(including wine and taste of food)

Wednesday 4th

ROYAL MEMORIES

Bollington Wives with
Colin Edwards
Civic Hall 8pm Tel 572382



Saturday 7th

PINXTON PUPPETS

Workshop for Children (1-5 yrs with
parents, 6-11 without parents) -
characters will be made for The Pied
Piper, followed by two shows
Arts Centre 2-4pm Tel 576250

Saturday 7th

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

Civic Hall Tel 572004

Sunday 8th.

TIME & TALENTS AUCTION

In aid of St. John's Church
Foundation 7.30 pm.

Monday 9th

EXOTIC VEGETARIAN COOKERY

Turkish Evening
(Details as for Sept 2nd)

Monday 9th

THE DIFFICULT YEARS

WI Meeting with B.Hallworth
Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Friday 13th

EXOTIC VEGETARIAN COOKERY

Lebanese Evening
(Details as for Sept 2nd)

Wednesday 18th

NILE EXPERIENCE

Bollington Wives with Chris
Eyres Civic Hall 8pm
Tel 572381

Thursday 19th

TATTON GARDENS PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

Horticultural Society with
Doug Glen Dog and Partridge
8pm Tel 572004

Saturday 21st

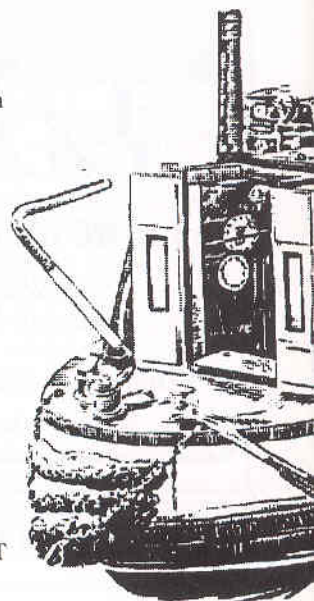
LATIN AMERICAN EVENING

Short Demonstration and dance
workshop while Latin American
supper is served, followed by
Salsa Pa' Gozar
Arts Centre 8pm £6.50/ £5
Tel 576250

M

Theo

'Still Carryin



EVENTS

Saturday 21st
HARVEST SUPPER
Methodist Church

Sunday 22nd
HARVEST FESTIVAL
Methodist Church

Saturday 28th
WATCH GROUP
A morning search for animal tracks and signs with the Rangers
Adlington Road CP 10.30am

MIKRON Theatre Company

The story of Narrow Boat 'Tyseley'



OCTOBER

Wednesday 2nd
SPOONING THROUGH NEW ZEALAND
Bollington Wives with
Joan Wright Civic Hall 8pm
Tel 572382

Friday 4th
MIKRON THEATRE
'Still Carrying'
Arts Centre 8pm
Tel 574687 for tickets

Saturday 5th
BARN DANCE
Methodist Hall 7pm

Monday 14th
THE POWER OF WORDS
WI with Mr TP Ball
Methodist Hall 7.30pm
Tel 573571

Tuesday 15th
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
The Town Budget and The Council Tax
Civic Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday 16th
PLAY THE AUCTION GAME
Bollington Wives with
M. Blackmore Civic Hall 8pm

Wednesday 16th - Sat 19th
IBSEN'S HEDDA GABLER
The Festival Players
Arts Centre 7.45pm £4/ £2
Tel 572527

Thursday 17th
LANDSCAPING AND YOU
Horticultural Society with Jackie
Parker Dog and Partridge 8pm

Saturday 26th
THE COULE QUARTET
Mozart, Borodin, Mendelssohn,
Schubert & Beethoven
Arts Centre 8pm £7/ £5
Tel 573477

Wednesday 30th
FORTIES FUN - THE HOME FRONT IN WW2
Bollington Wives with
Peter Davies Tel. 572382

Thursday 30th to Saturday 2nd November
GILBERT & SULLIVAN EXTRAVAGANZA
Bollington Light Opera Group Arts Centre 7.30pm £3.50 (Thurs) £5 (Fri and Sat) Tel 875326

NOVEMBER

Monday 14th
WI ANNUAL MEETING
Methodist Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday 13th
XMAS BRING AND BUY
Bollington Wives Civic Hall 8pm
Tel 572382

Thursday 21st
PEAT, THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN
Horticultural Society with Ann Pearse
Dog and Partridge 8pm Tel 572004

Wednesday 27th
THE LANGUAGE OF CRYSTALS AND TOMBSTONES
Bollington Wives with Wendy
Dobson Civic Hall 8pm
Tel 572382

ARTS CENTRE NEWS

The result of our application to the Lottery Arts Board for the extension of the Arts Centre will not be known until September. Nonetheless an engraved window from the prestigious team of David Peace and Sally Scott has been commissioned for the proposed gallery. The text chosen - from Othello - describes succinctly the landscape of Bollington: "Rough Quarries, Rocks, Hills whose head touch heaven".



The appeal in the last issue for £5 donations has exceeded my wildest dreams. The total is now just short of £1,000 and I thank all who contributed so generously. The names of all donors will be recorded in the new extension. Meanwhile, if anyone missed doing so last month, a cheque made out to Bollington Arts Centre can be left at the Waterhouse Medical Centre for my attention. J.C.

THE ARTS CENTRE NURSERY SCHOOL
requires a teacher with N.N.E.B., G.N.V.Q. Level 3 qualifications, or the equivalent. Please contact 576250 for further details.

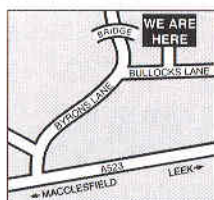
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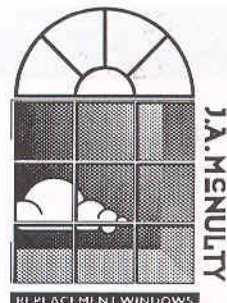
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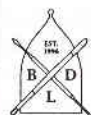
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An Understanding Approach to Care

People of this Town - Joe Walmsley

In the cellars of Bollington Town Hall on most days of the week you will find a great deal of woodworking activity, from carpentry to expressive carving.

Teaching in the main is to the disabled and in charge is Joe Walmsley, now 71, retired from an active career as an engineer but passing on his skills to others with a dedication that is part of his philosophy of life.

Besides his engineering, which extended as far as the design of many of our power stations, Joe has made a great reputation in the field of mountaineering, although he is not one to boast about it.

Brought up in Salford before the war, he left school at 14 but went on to Salford Tech and Metro Vickers as an apprentice. In his teens he was introduced to climbing via the YMCA and soon discovered that he had an

hours before giving up the attempt. On the way down Bob Downes became ill and Joe stayed with him in a cave until he died. They had been ten weeks on the mountain.

The next expedition which Joe led was a much larger affair in 1961. Sir John Hunt had suggested that Joe organise an attempt on the remaining summit of the Everest massif, the Nuptse.



Married, and now a grandfather, Joe has made family matters the first priority, although he has been much involved with the work of the British Mountaineering Council and is now its President. Guiding him throughout his expeditions and all his subsequent life is a religious temperament. He acquired this from his parents in Salford and he describes it as more a way of life than formal religion, although he has a deep belief in Providence. Listening to some of his poems as we stood in the street, I thought what a good example he was to us all.

J.C.



The attempt on the Mascherbrum, led by Joe, left in 1957. Nowadays he is often to be found in the Drop-In-Centre in the Town Hall, where he is pictured, top, undertaking repair work.

aptitude for the sport. During the war he taught himself to climb in Wales, the Lake District and Scotland and after the war moved on to the Alps.

1953, the year of the Coronation, also saw the first ascent of Everest by a team under Sir John Hunt. The next British expedition to the Himalayas was led by Joe in 1957, an attempt to climb the Mascherbrum in the Lesser Karakoram range, a fearsome mountain that had defeated many attempts in the past. The small group included the famous climber Don Whillans and Bob Downes, who was Joe's deputy. The expedition was dogged by bad weather, soft snow up to their necks, and very difficult rock faces just below the summit which they worked at for seven

Distinguished climbers were recruited, leading figures from the world of mountaineering, including Chris Bonnington. Chris and Joe made the first survey and decided that the south face was the best approach.

The team was very well equipped and, despite a fair amount of arguing, they eventually reached the summit. Joe, the leader, however declined to go for the top himself, and concerned himself with stripping the mountain of their tackle on descent. His love of nature took priority over personal ambition. Coming down, he fell off the ridge and was only saved when his toe caught in an ice hole, just giving him time to get a purchase with his axe.



Winner of a Bollington Live! competition at St. Gregory's School, Aaron B, aged 7, produced this splendid drawing to mark 'Walk to School Week' in mid-June. Walking to School? In Bollington? We aim to address this subject in a future issue.



Money - Who Needs It?

George Penney asks the question and makes the case for a LETS group in our town.

We all have needs, and we all have skills, services or goods to offer, so we all need money as a means of exchange. Or do we?

Suppose the following people live in the same community; none has much money to spare:

WILL spends his spare time on woodwork, but would like to take his wife out occasionally, if only they could find a baby-sitter.

BRENDA has saved up and bought the material to make a special dress for her daughter's 21st. Brenda is a good dress-maker, but no good at cake-making. She wishes she could afford a new hair-do for the party.

DOLORES (whose mother is Spanish) works as a careers adviser. She has a dripping tap.

BILL loves gardening. His front door is sticking but he's no woodworker. Neither is his wife, Molly, who loves to be with little children.

MAY used to be a hairdresser. Her son has asked for help in writing a letter of application for a new job, but she has no idea where to look for advice.

JOHN fixes all the neighbours' taps but his back isn't up to digging, so his garden looks a mess.

JUNE loves baking. She learned some Spanish at school and would like to improve.

If they all happened to live in, say, Watson's Yard, they might solve their problems. But as they don't, they could do with some help. And the name of the help is Local Exchange Trading System - LETS. It is a not-for-profit organisation run by agreement between the members. There are many LETS groups, at home and abroad, the nearest being in Manchester; launched in 1992, it now has about 600 members.

How LETS works:

Each member receives, at regular intervals, a directory, listing all the skills, goods and resources on offer. An intending "purchaser" makes direct contact with the provider and agrees a "price". Payment is by "cheque" made out in the local LETS currency. The fact that your account is not in credit does not stop you writing the cheque. Sooner or later, someone will need what you have to offer, and will write you a cheque - which may, or may not return your balance to zero - but it doesn't matter. At intervals, you pass

the cheques you have received to a nominated member who has access to a computer, and you receive a statement. Any member who incurs external cost, for instance, on timber, or baking ingredients, may quote this part of the bargain in pounds. Those who do the work of preparing and distributing the directory and the statements are recompensed through a small service charge, in LETS units. The only external costs of the organisation, paid for by a modest membership subscription, are for stationery, computer consumables and (some) postage.

If you think LETS is a good idea for Bollington, come to a meeting in Bollington Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday, 8th July, or if you can't, contact Jan Appleyard on 573937 or George Penney, 574583.

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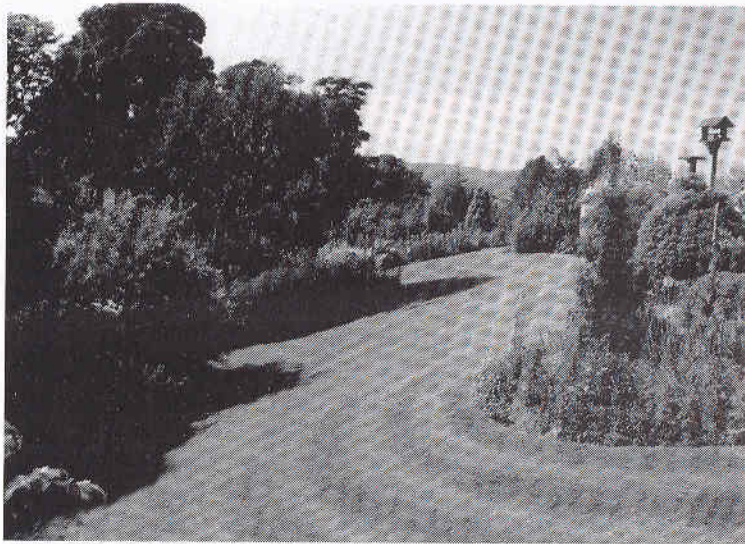
If you do need money in your pocket, after all, and cannot face a journey out of town to get it, take heart. Two of Bollington's shops, 'Costcutter' in High Street, and the 'Late Shop', Albert Road, provide cash to customers with a Switch card facility. Meanwhile, a "Hole-in-the Wall" machine is to be installed at the National Westminster Bank premises in Ashbrook Road.

Regional Attractions - Dunge Valley Gardens

In this, the first in an occasional series of visits from Bollington, we look at Dunge Valley Gardens. An unexpected discovery in such moorland surroundings, these gardens provide a setting similar to a Himalayan valley. Tumbling streams and waterfalls pass between strange and wonderful flowers and shrubs.

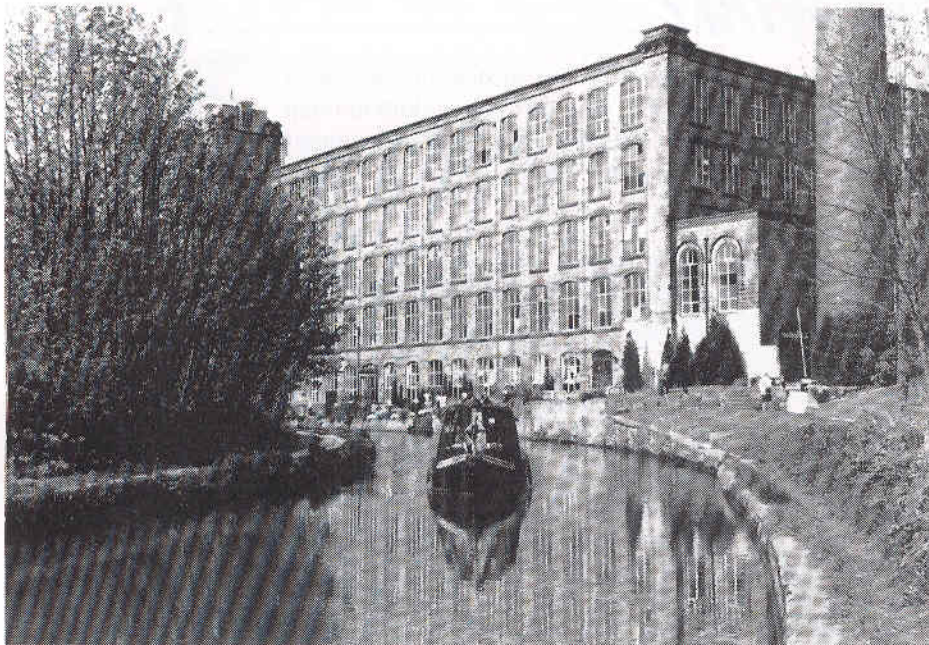
Worked on over 13 years by the owners, Elizabeth and David Ketley, the gardens offer a wealth of exotic plants, including red flowered Mahonia from China, Himalayan blue poppy and a startling range of Rhododendrons. 1996 promises to be a spectacular year.

Many of these plants are the result of collection overseas by David Ketley himself, and the sales area offers species unusual in this country. To many visitors, also, a principal attraction will be the system of pathways through the exhilarating landscape.



The Gardens are located a mile directly south of Kettleshulme, with signposts from the main road to Whaley Bridge. Admission is at £2.50 for adults during the week and £3 at weekends, from 10am to 6pm, until August 31st. Children (but not dogs) are admitted free and a tea-room is open for home-made refreshments. Tel 01663 733787.

CANAL CHANGES IN VIEW



The Macclesfield Canal, seen here at Clarence Mill, Bollington, has been the subject of a number of suggestions for improvement. Chief amongst these is construction of a footbridge at this point. Tim Boddington of the Macclesfield Canal Society included this amongst his comments during a recent presentation at the Arts Centre. The derelict condition of the old stable opposite the mill also merits concern, as does the undergrowth here, and discussions are in progress with British Waterways Board. Voluntary work is in prospect.

A further proposal is to install a sign over the steps to the canal from Palmerston Street. "Th'Hole i' th' Wall Steps" is the traditional name, although variations are on record.

Digging up Bollington Digging for Facts

Nynex soon will be digging up our streets. Who are Nynex? I decided to find out.....

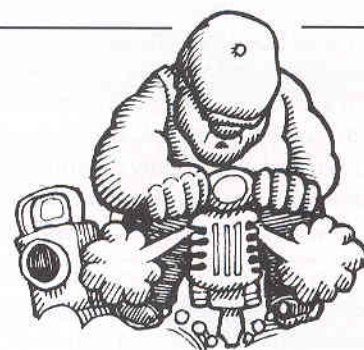
The phone book came up with a number. A call led to another number, then another, then another, then another. They were certainly elusive.

Finally I had their PR man. I asked my questions.... "Hmmm, I have a speech that covers that somewhere; when do you need it by?" "2pm would do fine," I said. Fits of laughter (it was 12:56). "I can probably get it in the post tonight," he said.

Knowing that they were specialists in

high speed communications and the Internet, I suggested Email. "We have a problem with that...our Email only goes on once a day at 8pm." Not very impressive, I thought.

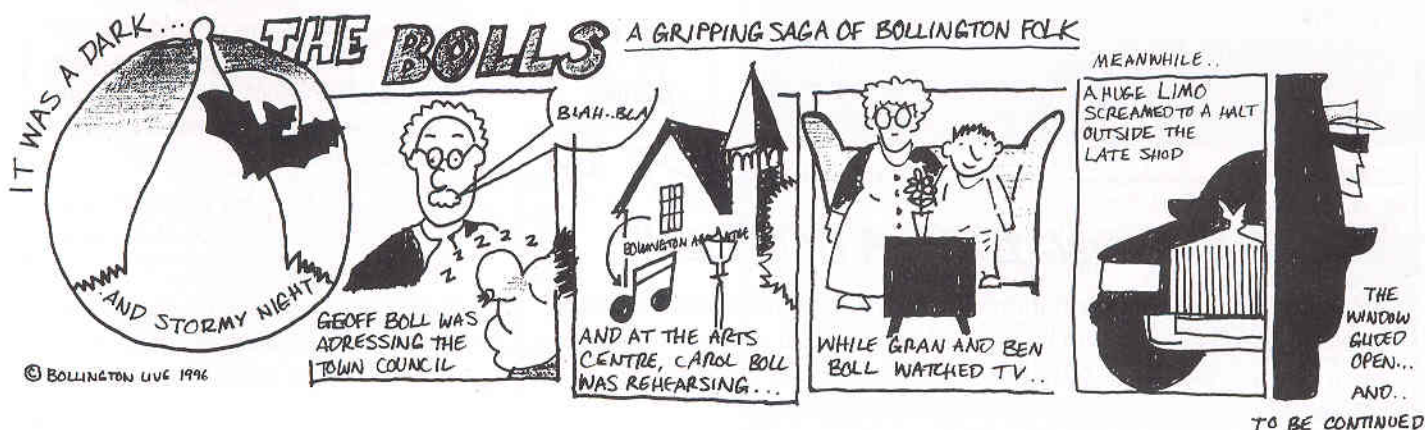
So what's the low-down? Nynex are a cable company. That is to say, they dig up pavements and install fibre-optic cables. Once they have run one by your house they try to get you to sign up to their system by offering cable TV (characterised by continuous reruns of M.A.S.H. and Star Trek), cheap telephone services (sometimes with free local calls to other Nynex subscribers), and of course high-speed access to



the information superhighway (characterised by groups of people who like to discuss M.A.S.H. and Star Trek).

Nynex have the franchise to "cable" Bollington and will no doubt be starting here shortly. So when the pavement outside your house is dug up, look on the bright side - at least the information super-highway is a lot quieter than a real highway!

R.N.





In the Swim?

Children's swimming lessons in Bollington are renowned, drawing applicants from other areas with pools of their own. Yet, despite this, some kids develop slowly. I asked Rosemary Turk, pictured on right, swimming co-ordinator at the Centre, to explain her approach to teaching youngsters. P.L.



Why does our Leisure Centre have such a reputation?

The Centre does have a reputation for friendliness; but quality of staff has to be the vital factor. With regular teacher training courses being run here, we can choose instructors showing knowledge and commitment.

Why teach children all the strokes during the same lesson - even little children?

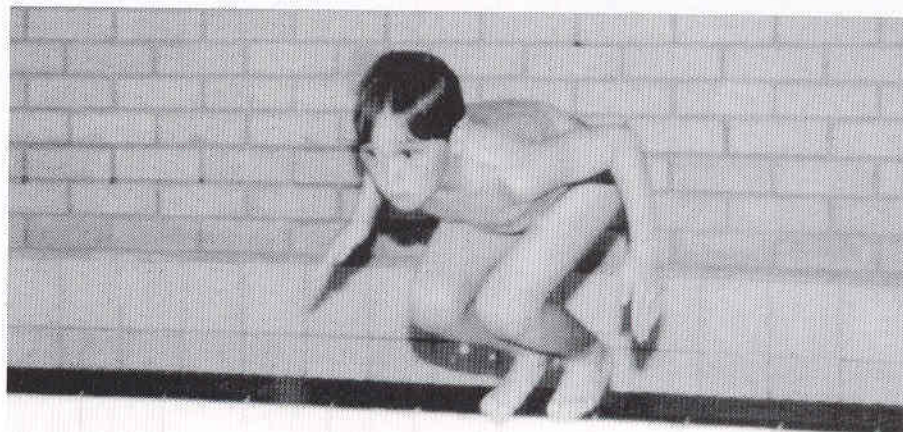
Even at a very young age a child will show preferences for particular movements. Some are happier with symmetrical movements, some prefer them alternating. Imagine not moving on to English at school, until you are competent at maths! Only when general abilities are established is it beneficial to home in on particular strokes.

Is there an average time in which children under 10 might master a stroke? Is physical build important? Or co-ordination?

Children, of course, develop at different rates. Intelligence and co-ordination are NOT linked, and an academically-gifted child may often have problems in mastering physical skills - such as kicking a ball, or riding a bike. Practice and play are vital to the learning process, too.

Is learning to swim at a very early age worthwhile, or is it just a fashion?

As holidays involving water grow in popularity, it is vital that the early learning trend continues. It may be fashionable, but it promotes safety in relaxed situations, when vigilance may be less.

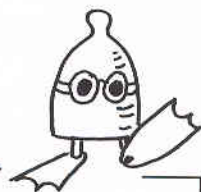


Children move from one teacher to another between terms, and have to establish new relationships. Can this be limited?

The administration of the classes is skilfully co-ordinated by June White to accommodate over 1,400 children every week. Early applications for a course provide the best opportunity of specifying a teacher and time. But remember that teachers work part-time, and have other commitments.

School day afternoons are hectic. In the short time available, how is it best to talk to a teacher - who may be still at the poolside?

It is naturally difficult to speak to instructors under these conditions, but June and myself can answer general queries. If you wish to speak specifically to teachers, you can leave your phone number at the desk and they can call you when you are free.



Bollington Live!- EXTRA COPIES!!

In addition to our free distribution in the town, a limited number of extra copies of this magazine will be available at two local shops at a nominal price of 50p a copy. "Yesterdays" in Palmerston St. and Pearnies Delicatessen, Wellington Road, have kindly undertaken this service.

If a child seems stuck, are private lessons available?

A few one-to-one lessons can help, especially if they are intensive. Three private lessons are roughly equivalent to a course of ten in a class, and parents can choose the teacher. I recommend a group of private lessons during holidays, but beware of depriving a child of the fun and healthy competition provided by a group.

Will the changing facilities be improved?

Yes, by late summer. Please bear with us while the builders are here. We also ask that everyone uses the new lockers - which seem to be misunderstood: they cost nothing to use as long as the keys are returned.

Are there arrangements for low-income families?

No, but when teacher courses are being run, free lessons are offered to local schools. Also, our teachers often give their time free to local children needing one-to-one lessons without the means of funding them.

Perhaps the Russians have the right idea, throwing babies in at the deep end?

Vodka, possibly, might make it seem so; but we don't recommend it!

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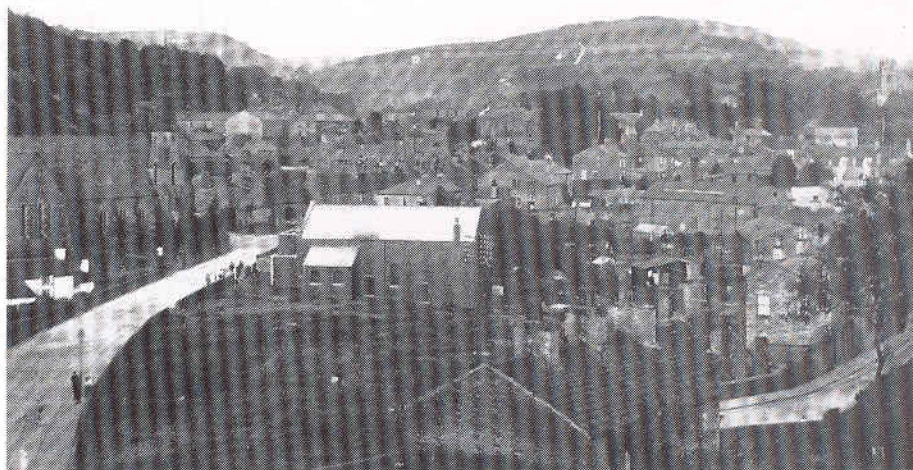
At the Movies

The 'Imperial Picture Palace' in Bollington seems to have opened in 1910 in an old barn-like stone building, now demolished, in Foundry Street, off Water Street. It was originally operated by Mr and Mrs Beardsworth, but by the beginning of 1912 the licence had lapsed. Thomas Jakeman Everton (proprietor of Macclesfield's first cinema, the 'Picture Palace' in Duke Street, later known as the 'Regal') took over, and improved the premises a little, installing electricity. In August 1912, the Macclesfield Courier reported that the 'Picture Palace' was "besieged" by large crowds during Bollington Wakes.

A purpose-built cinema was erected either in late 1913 or in 1914 on the plot next to that on which the war memorial was built in Palmerston Street. James Boon was the manager. He was succeeded by Len Billington. The Kine Year Book for 1920 provides some details of the 'Empire Picture Palace,' as it was then known. The proprietors were Boon, Billington and Kelsall. From Monday to Friday one show was put on nightly, with two on Saturdays. The cinema seated 400, with tickets from 5d to 1s. By the 1930's, the Whittaker family had taken over the Empire; the talkies had arrived, and the number of seats had been reduced to 335 - presumably to provide more leg room. A Saturday matinee had also been introduced.

The 'Empire' closed ("due to losses made by falling attendance") on Saturday August 2, 1958. The last film to be shown was "The Naked Truth" with Terry Thomas, Peter Sellers and Peggy Mount.

George Longden.



Bollington's cinema is seen in the centre of the postcard view from around 1914. Less than thirty years later Britain was at war again - as recorded by an advertisement of that time.

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Time for a Revival?

Every now and then someone asks why we don't run a film club at the Arts Centre. We would very much like to do this, given sufficient interest. If you would support such a move, please contact Nicole Roberts Morris, 23 Hurst Lane, Bollington, indicating the types of film preferred and whether you can attend monthly, every two months or every three.

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