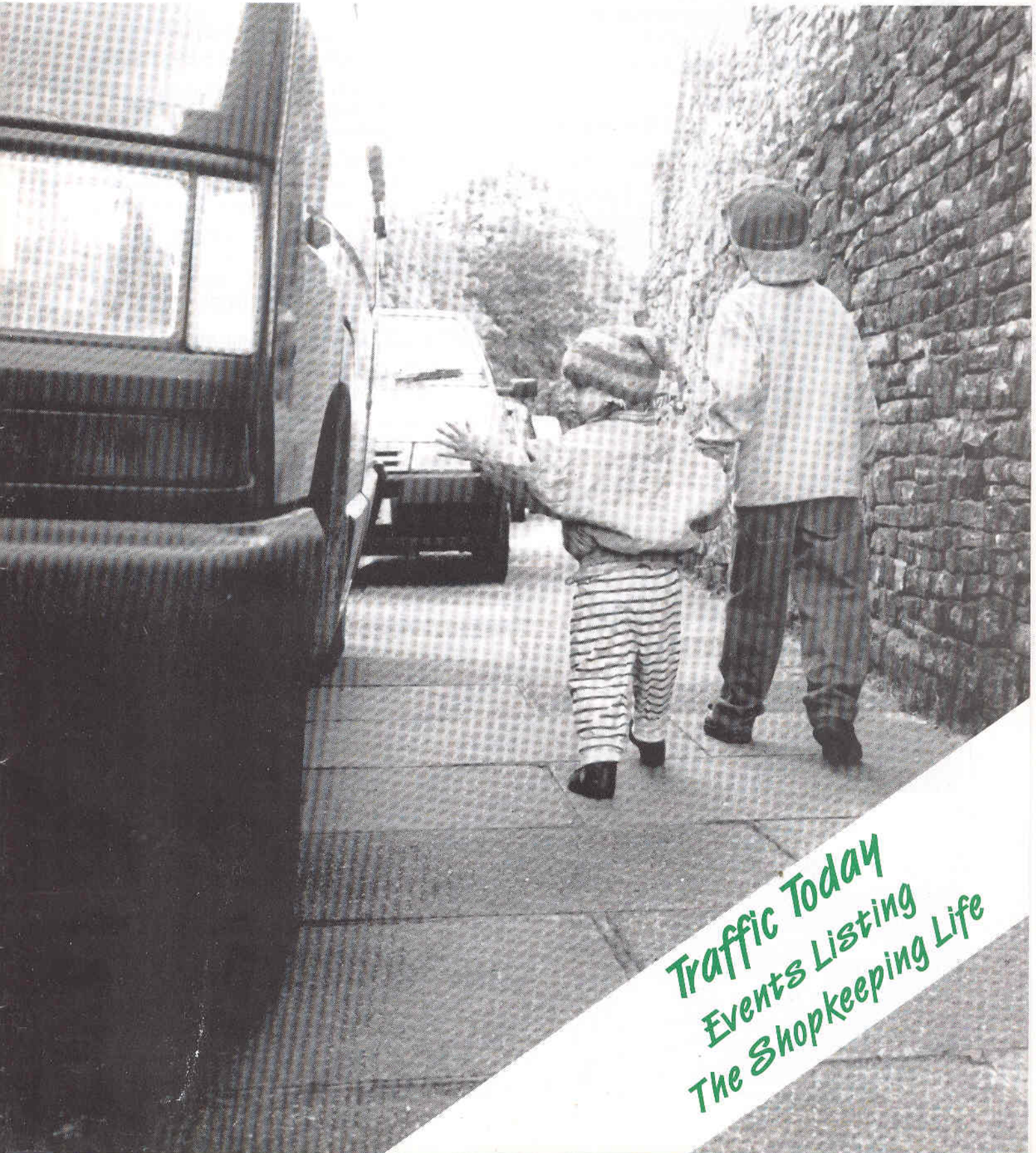




# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

Number Eight November 1996



*Traffic Today  
Events Listing  
The Shopkeeping Life*



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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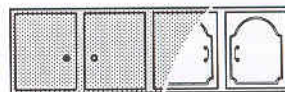
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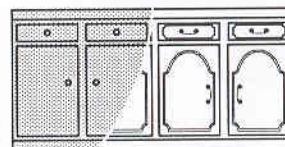
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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

*Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non profit-making 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*

*Cover Picture: Palmerston Street, near the Library.*

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**Advertising...** Dennis Caulfield (01625 572538) Mark Stedman (01625 575227)  
**Printed by...** Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)

## Bollington Traffic - A Healthy State of Affairs

The following letter, presumably misdirected, has come to our attention at *Bollington Live!*:

### CONFIDENTIAL

*To the Campaign Director,  
Society for the Propagation of  
Motoring  
Motor Moloch House  
Much-Revving-in-the-Wilderness  
Beserkshire*

**Hi Boss!**

**Once again I can report that the roads of Bollington are action-packed. There may have been setbacks elsewhere - traffic "calming" indeed! - but there's little chance of that here.**

For 7,000 people to have gone so long without a single pedestrian crossing is, I am sure you agree, a considerable achievement. There is just one little hiccup, which I will refer to shortly, but, generally, all is well.

The French, I know, are re-cobbling the roads in villages, putting flower containers in the middle, and other kinds of crazy stuff; but not so Bollington! On the contrary, all that happens here is that someone says we can't afford a sign or something, and that's the end of it.

After all, with the money Britain spent building motorways and propping up British Leyland those many years ago, we don't want to back down now. And Authority, I am delighted to say, seems right behind us. Take the case of Prestbury (a neighbouring village, rustic once, now happily modelling



itself on the suburbs of Los Angeles). Drivers there, of course, are as keen as mustard to reach the latest "by-pass", as we still amusingly call them; but some of the residents kicked up a fuss. An official went along, though, and he gave it to them straight. More "by-passes" are the answer, he said - a response to be proud of.

The idea that catering for extra traffic simply attracts more traffic hasn't been accepted here! And there won't be many changes till it is.

Of course, our streets get pretty crowded; but we motorists are taking

the matter in hand, and parking on the pavements - as is right and proper, and to heck with the mums with their pushchairs, and those who trip on the broken-up slabs. Oppress the pedestrian, I say. They're a dwindling species, anyway. We don't want kids walking to school, and as for the elderly, let's face it, if they can't see clearly enough to drive, how on earth can they expect to walk the streets - let alone get across them?

The idea of parking beneath a viaduct is still being talked about. This would sit nicely with some places we have there already: the Kay Metzeler Car

*Palmerston Street in 1910 contrasts with the busyness, above, of the junction by The Waggon & Horses at the foot of Grimshaw Lane today.*





## Traffic

... continued

Park, the Town Hall Car Park, the Harvey House Car Park, one by the Arts Centre and another outside the Catholic Church. Like a complete set at Monopoly. What could better replace the remaining messy area, I ask, with its brambles to catch the litter, than a "designed" car park, across which the litter can blow? Hardly anyone would go to the place out of hours, of course; for it's shaded, with some risk of cars being broken into; but the local lads would probably use it, to keep the flag of late-night motoring flying, with their GTXs, roaring exhausts and the amplified sound of a thousand elephants doing PT.

At bottom, of course, we need every parking space we can create, to stave off that dreadful Day of Gridlock by a month or two more.

There's further encouraging news from Adlington School, which many Bollington children attend. The request for a 40 limit there has been turned down yet again. 40 miles an hour, just because of a school! We don't want the sort of ideas they have in the USA, with 15 m.p.h. signs on the lamp-posts, and grovelling respect all around. But there's no co-ordination between British schools anyway, no policy demands from education organisations, or the teacher's union. Heaven forbid.

Schools with traffic problems have to fight each case on its own - which is how it should be, or they might get somewhere.



High Street, Bollington in ...  
guess when?... the 1950's

Now for the fly in the ointment. Members of the town council here mentioned "trouble spots", and the powers-that-be have had to take a look. Some fuss about crossing to a playground (kids again!) and problems by a pub called the Waggon & Horses, where there was a lollipop lady once. People sometimes talk about bringing her back - which is pointless, since the pedestrians have been mostly scared away and it's a clear case of "no demand".

There may be a few signs as a result of all this, even the odd traffic island, but - while such things are to be deplored - they fall nicely short of a 20 m.p.h. limit, or anything radical like that. Anyway, there's that set of sums the Department of Transport has come up with, to put the tin lid on such ideas: £2.3 billion to create enforced 20 m.p.h. zones on 80 per cent of "suitable roads" in Britain - whatever those are. Mind you, I thought they were tempting fate by putting the costs of accidents so high: £92,570 for each serious injury, and £812,010 for a death (wonderfully exact figures, all the same; I imagine the Archbishop of Canterbury is delighted to have life so accurately defined).

Still, our own authority says it hasn't even the money for 30 m.p.h. reminder signs, so "safety" can't be afforded anyway.

As you see, Boss, the Emperor still has his clothes on here, and we can continue with our favourite sport. My version is rolling up and down in a Dingbat Sports Coupe, with Earbasher attachments. And in Bollington there's plenty of scope still for that.

Yours through the looking-glass,

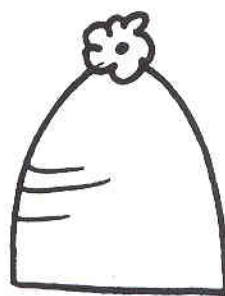
A A Barmy

Toad Hall

## Bollington in Bloom

Two of Bollington's schools featured in Britain in Bloom this year, St Gregory's and Dean Valley both taking awards for innovative horticultural and environmental work.

Bollington Civic Society's own awards for the 1996 Bollington in Bloom displays are as follows:



Best terraced cottage: 33 High St (Janet and Kevin Clarke); 53 Bollington Road (Sam and Hilda Green). Commended: Nos 40a, 46, 61 and 65 Water St; 4 and 6 Cocksheadhey Rd; 1 Beeston Mount; 47, 58a, 73a, 73b and Beck Cottage, High St; 3 and 5 Allen St; 19 and 31 Bollington Rd.

For Community Effort: Archer Close; Best Council House Garden: 6 Kent Ave. (Betty Allaby); Commended: 3 Windsor Close, 4 Ovenhouse Lane.

Best House and Garden: 18 Cocksheadhey Rd (Ronald and Margaret Jackson); 82 Bollington Rd (Philip and Brenda King); Commended: 13 Beeston Brow; Stringers, Bollington Rd; 26 Crossfield Rd; 7 Palmerston St.

Best Business: Mauro's Restaurant; Bailey Business Park; Commended: Palmerston Travel. Best pub: The Church House; Commended: The Poachers.

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Please contact the Town Clerk, Mr. Claude Harlington, tel. 01625 572985 between 9.00am and 12.00 noon, Mon-Fri, for full details.





## THURLES AGAIN

### Bollington's twin town revisited

Boarding the coach at Pool Bank with members of the Festival Choir in June, I was forcibly reminded how time flies. It was just twenty years since I and the choir had last undertaken the same journey. In the interval so much had happened. The twinning had been allowed to cool. Brave words had been forgotten. How would we be received on the other side of the Irish Sea?

It was a weary band of travellers who arrived at the Hayes Hotel in Thurles at twenty to one on the Saturday morning. The wee small hours, however, are just when the Irish seem to wake up, and all our hosts gave us a heartwarming welcome.

Later, after variable periods of sleep, we made our way to the attractive council offices, set in a tree-lined garden. There, Claire Crosbie, our Deputy Mayor, received an engraved glass, while I tried to express what I saw as the value of making and keeping friends, and how the troubles made this more important.

It was only over lunch that news came through of the bomb in Manchester. At first the details were thin and confused but, as the tragedy became apparent, there was a general revulsion from our Irish friends, even from those leaning in the direction of a united Ireland.

In the evening we found the reception room at the Hotel had been prepared with a specially constructed stage, and the Thurles Silver Band welcomed us in for what turned out to be a typical

Irish entertainment. This started out as a concert and gradually changed into a party. Sister Rita brought her choir from the Cathedral, and they dedicated one of their pieces to those injured in the Manchester blast. The Festival Choir responded, to be followed by Irish dancers and many another song and turn by each side. By half past eleven, the news came through that the Thurles Pipe Band, an internationally-renowned group, had just arrived from Shannon Airport, and wanted to join in - which they did. Then everyone was back on the floor for more dancing, and more singing.

Sunday morning found the choir still in one piece and in the Cathedral for the service. As the Cathedral choir were not going to be left out, the loft was fairly bulging with about a hundred singers. Half way through, Sister Rita asked whether we would like to sing the Hallelujah Chorus. Rather surprised, I referred to the fact that we had no music and I didn't want us to put in several 'Hallelujahs' too many. She seemed vaguely surprised at my punctiliousness, but copies were hastily passed along the rows and we set to work on the old masterpiece. Little preparation and much inspiration seemed to do the trick.



*The Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles*

There were many tearful farewells at the final lunch and there was a general feeling that the twinning has been successfully resuscitated.

The Twinning Committee is chaired by John Lomas, 49, Cedarway (Tel 572876). Contacts are to be established between schools, and it is hoped that a group of Irish dancers and members of the Thurles Committee will come over for Mayor's Sunday next year. Anyone wishing to help should give John Lomas a ring.

JC

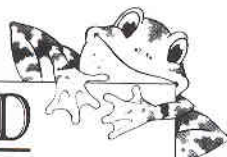


*The Festival Choir at Pool Bank prior to departure.*





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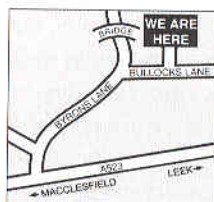
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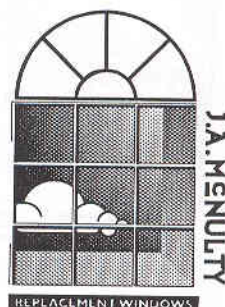
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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

# EVENTS

## **"The ice is here, the ice is there, the ice is all around..."**

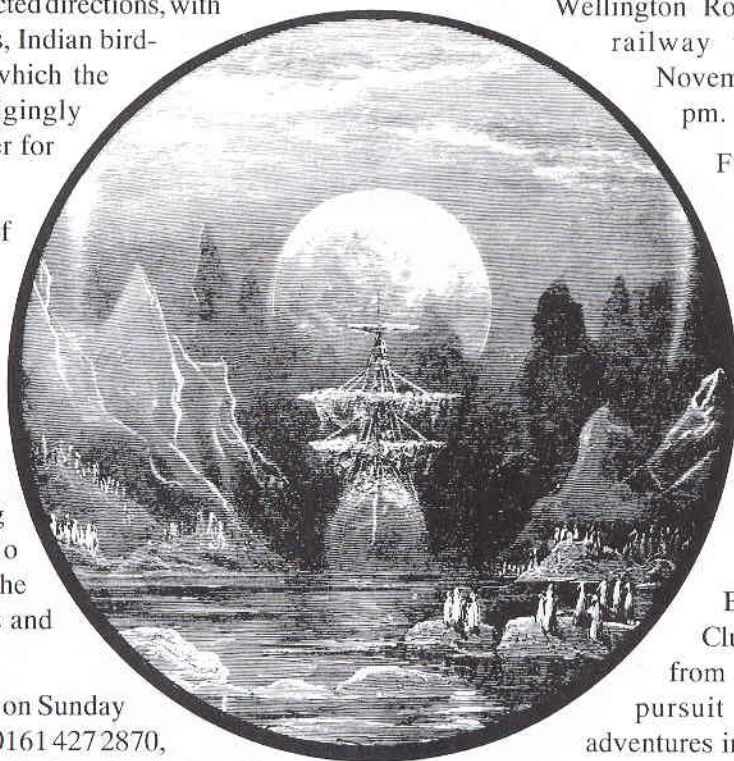
On this seasonal note, Bollington Children's Music Theatre launches itself into 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' an ambitious 10th Anniversary production.

Transformed into a one-act opera, Coleridge's epic poem takes some unexpected directions, with chorus effects by kazoos, Indian bird-warblers and bottles - which the stage instructions obligingly allow to have been either for milk or for wine.

Under the leadership of Donald Judge, a primary school teacher from Stockport, the Children's Music Theatre has thrived in Bollington, with children aged between six and fourteen taking part, either as solo performers, members of the chorus, or scene shifters and painters.

Rehearsals are generally on Sunday afternoons, and a call on 0161 427 2870, most evenings, will elicit further details. But, for newcomers, a visit to the 'Rime' performance will

provide a taster. It's on at Bollington Arts Centre, in Wellington Road, close beside the old railway viaduct, on Saturday, November 30, at 4.30 and 7.30 pm.



Further children's events include the traditional New Year panto, in which a nowadays protected species, masquerading as an old lady, tries to give the runaround to a damsel dressed in red. And there are ventures into the real wild world, as listed overleaf.

A recent outing by the Bollington Wildlife Watch Club attracted over 30 children from a wide area, gathered in pursuit of fungi. Forthcoming adventures involve tree-planting, bird-box production, hedgelaying, a close-up on badgers - and a good, old-fashioned walk.

## **Kodaly Musicianship Classes**

**Due to start in the New Year are special music classes for children, using this unique Hungarian method.**

Instructor Kate Beck, ARCM, LRAM, having applied the technique with great success in British primary schools, has recently returned from a further two year study period in Hungary. Described as a fun approach to aural training through games and songs, the Kodaly system uses the singing voice from the start, developing concepts by ear, rather than written notation. "You don't learn to read before you learn to talk," runs the explanation. "Why do so in music?"

Developing from the voice, the system can be applied to any musical instrument. When to start? "As early as possible." When to stop? Says Kate, "Never."

A series of classes is now planned at the Arts Centre, to start after Christmas, on Tuesdays. Timings are: 4 to 6 year-olds - 3.45 pm; 6 to 8 yrs. - 4.30; 8 to 11 - 5.15; and 11 to 15 year-olds - 6 pm. Charges will be £2.50 per lesson, and, since the number of places is limited a telephone call, on 01625 - 576250, is requested beforehand.





# BOLLINGTON



## NOVEMBER

*Friday, 8th*

### OUR NEIGHBOURS IN BRAZIL

Illustrated talk by John Mulholland on CAFOD's work with the poor; also Traidcraft sale. At The Arts Centre, 8pm. Tel 573494

### GRAND AUCTION

Arts and crafts - on behalf of the Drop-In Centre, at the Methodist Church, 7.30 pm (preview at Bollington Town Hall, Nov. 4-7, 9.30 to 3 pm, Nov. 6, 6-8 pm).

### QUIZ NIGHT

Dean Valley School, 7.30 pm.

*Sunday, 10th*

### TREES, TIMBER, PULP & PAPER

A two-hour workshop on the lore of trees, including planting, and making paper by hand, with Bollington Wildlife Watch Club. At the Arts Centre, 10 am till Noon.

*Monday, 11th*

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AGM

in the Methodist Hall at 7.30 pm.

*Wednesday, 13th*

### BRING AND BUY SALE

with Bollington Wives, in aid of the Parkinson's Disease Society. Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 572382.

*Friday, 15th.*

### AUSTRALIAN FOLK EVENING

Songs by major performer Martin Wyndam Read. Bollington Folk Club, Dog & Partridge, 8.30pm.

*Saturday 16th.*

### THE BEST BAND

10 piece line-up with a tune for all tastes. Dance in support of the fund for West Park Bridge, Lyme Park. Arts Centre 9.00pm - 12.30am. Tickets £5.50. Contact: 01625 573319

*Sunday, 17th*

### WILD WINGS OVER BOLLINGTON

Bird-watching with Ranger Paul Hughes, 1 - 4 pm. Meet Middlewood Way Car Park, Adlington Rd.

*Monday, 18th*

### THE MACCLESFIELD CANAL

A talk to the Civic Society by Tim Boddington, following the AGM. Arts Centre, 8 pm.

*Thursday, 21st*

### PEAT - THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN

Ann Pearse and Dr. Jim Smith, with the Horticultural Society at the Dog & Partridge. 8 pm.

*Saturday, 23rd*

### AUTUMN FAIR

At the Methodist Church, 10.30 am.

### SCHOOL FAIR

Bollington Cross, 2 pm.

*Wednesday, 27th*

### CRYSTALS AND GEMSTONES

Wenda Dobson with Bollington Wives. Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 572382

*Saturday, 30th*

### RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

Bollington Children's Music Theatre, 4.30 and 7.30 pm. £3.50 and £1.50 (£5 and £2, both performances). Tel 0161 427 2870

## DECEMBER

*Sunday, 1st*

### WINTER TREE WORKSHOP

With Ranger Trish Furse, 1.30-3.30 pm. Meet at Middlewood Way Car Park, Adlington Road.

### CHAMBER CONCERT: 'FETE POUR NOEL'

by Folies Bergeres, specialists in French Baroque on harpsichord, guitar, bagpipes, hurdy-gurdy and voice. Arts Centre, 8 pm. £8 (Children £2). Tel 573477, office hours.

### TOY SERVICE

At the Methodist Church. 10.30 am.

*Thursday, 5th*

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

*Saturday, 7th*

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Dean Valley School, 2 pm.

### RHOS MALE VOICE CHOIR

In concert with Bollington Brass Band. Methodist Church, 7 pm.

*Sunday, 8th*

### CHRISTMAS FOR THE BIRDS

Bird-box making on the Middlewood Way, 10 am to Noon. Meet at Arts Centre, Wellington Road.

*Monday, 9th*

### W.I. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

*Wednesday, 11th*

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Bollington Wives, Brocklehurst Arms.

*Tuesday, 17th*

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Dean Valley School, 2 pm.

### MESSIAH FOR ALL

An impromptu concert, conducted by John Coope. Join the performers, or just listen. Arts Centre, 8 pm. £2 at the door (includes mince pies).



*FOLIES BERGERES, make a special appearance on Sunday the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington*

*Sunday, 22nd*

### VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

St John's Church, 8 pm.

*Tuesday, 24th*

### OPEN-AIR CAROL SINGING

At the Town Hall, 6 pm.



# EVENTS

## JANUARY

*Friday, 3rd to Sunday, 5th; Tuesday, 7th to Saturday, 11th.*

### LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Pantomime by the Festival Players. At the Arts Centre, 7.30 pm. Matinees at 2 pm on the 4th, 5th and 11th. £4 and £2.50 (Family ticket, £11)

*Wednesday, 8th*

### 40 YEARS ON THE AMATEUR STAGE

By Derek Blunt. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm.

*Saturday, 11th*

### RING OUT YE CRYSTAL SPHERES

An entertainment built round the life of John Milton. Bollington Festival Choir, with Frank Walker as Milton and Roger Briscoe, organ. At the Methodist Church, 8 pm. Tickets at £5 (Children £2) from Bollington Medical Centre, or reserved on 573494.

*Sunday, 12th*

### BADGERING AROUND

Following badger signs and clues with Kim Hart of Bollington Wildlife Watch Club, 10 am - Noon. Meet at Arts Centre.

*Monday, 13th*

### 'AUSTRALIA'

By Derek Hinchcliffe. WI, 7.30 pm, Methodist Hall.

*Tuesday, 14th.*

### KODALY MUSICIANSHIP

The unique Hungarian system, in a new weekly course, by Kate Beck. 4-6yrs. at 3.45pm.; 6-8yrs. at 4.30pm.; 8-11yrs, 5.15pm; 11-15yrs. at 6.00pm. £2.50per lesson. Bookings on: 576250

*Thursday, 16th*

### TAI CHI CLASS

First in a weekly series on this ancient Chinese form of exercise, by Louisa Bryceland. 7 - 8.30pm. £3 per session. Bkgs 576250.

*Saturday, 18th*

### CHAMBER CONCERT: PRELUDE ENSEMBLE

With Ryland Davies, tenor, including songs by Schubert and Ravel, and Vaughan Williams' 'On Wenlock Edge'. Arts Centre, 8 pm. £8 (Children £2). Tel 573477, office hours.

*Monday, 20th.*

### BOLLINGTON LANDSCAPE GROUP

Progress report by Simon Papprell, Civic Society, Arts Centre, 8.00pm.

*Wednesday 22nd.*

### DESIGNER HANDBAGS

Jackie Gilmour, Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8.00pm.

*Sunday, 26th*

### HEDGELAYING

Practice the traditional art with Ranger Paul Hughes, 10.30 am - 3 pm. Meet at lay-by, Clarke Lane Bridge, The Middlewood Way.

## FEBRUARY

*Wednesday, 5th*

### 'SAINSBURYS'

By a staff member. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm.



*Saturday, 8th, and Sunday, 9th*

### BASKET-MAKING WEEKEND

With Molly Rathbone, 10 am to 5 pm, each day (please bring lunch) at the Arts Centre. £15 (includes materials). Places limited. Phone 576250

*Sunday, 9th*

### WORKING WITH WILLOW

An outdoor children's session with Bollington Wildlife Watch Club, joined by Molly Rathbone to create artwork using natural materials. Meet at Arts Centre, 10.00 - Noon. 50p per child, ticket only. Tel 576250

*Monday, 10th*

### 'NORFOLK ISLAND'

By R B Rose. WI, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

*Saturday, 15th*

### CHAMBER CONCERT: FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

A celebration of Schubert's bicentenary, with Delia Fletcher, soprano, Ann Airton, piano. Arts Centre, 8 pm. £8 (Children £2). Tel 573477, office hours.

*Wednesday 19th*

### ASTROLOGY

Peggy Tillot, Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8.00pm.

*Sunday, 23rd*

### RANGER RAMBLE

7-mile walk along local trails with Ranger Andrew Watson, 10.30 am - 3.30. Meet Adlington Rd Car Park, Middlewood Way.



*1960's icon Julie Felix is expected again at Bollington Folk Club, probably in February.*

*In the meantime, the Club, which meets at The Dog & Partridge, Palmerston Street, each Friday night at 8.30, has planned some lively sessions. Australian singer Martin Wyndham Read appears there on November 15th, with other visitors to follow. For details, contact Ursula Wainwright on 01625 573813, or resident singer Arthur Wakefield, on 573596.*



December 1st. at



## ARTS CENTRE NEWS

While we wait with bated breath to see whether our application to the National Lottery for extensions to the premises has succeeded (I gather news should now be through in November), we are taking a long look at the improvements to the backstage areas and grounds not included in the plan.

Many of these changes could be managed by volunteer labour, working alongside the professional team. Anyone willing to lend a hand next summer is asked to let me have their name, phone number and details of the sort of work they do (letters can reach me at the Medical Centre, and I will respond in good time).

One of the main financial supports enabling the Centre to continue has been the 200 Club, run by my wife Jean. Essentially it involves a contribution of £1 a month, just over half of which comes back as prizes. Anyone wishing to join is asked to leave name, address and 'phone number at the medical centre for the attention of Dr Jean Coope.



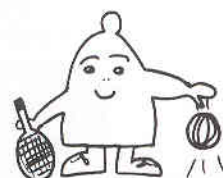
Zeneca have given a most generous donation of £2,000 towards the proposed engraved window reflecting the character of Bollington.

A large room is now available for meetings or rehearsals. Interested societies or groups are asked to contact Doreen Young on 01625 - 572527.

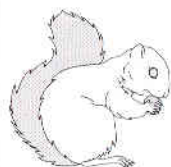
Finally, one further appeal (!) - for a volunteer to look after the lighting and effects department. Training can be provided and any takers should contact Nicole Roberts Morris on 576250.

JC

### Anyone for tennis this winter?



**Or Basketball?** Not only have the courts on the Recreation Ground been re-surfaced, they are additionally, during the winter period, FREE, AND WITHOUT ANY NEED TO BOOK! (they are also, at the time of writing, without any lines on them either, thanks to rainfall when the contractors arrived; but markings are promised!). Basketball fans, in particular, will be keen to resume 2.00pm Saturday sessions on the courts.



### Mums with babes and toddlers-

do you wonder what to do on Friday mornings? The Tufty Club can rescue you! Located at St. Gregory's Church Hall (up the hill and behind the Church itself, close beside the viaduct in Wellington Road, Bollington), the Club is open from 9.45 - 11.30am, and newcomers are most welcome.

### Scout Leader Needed

The Second Bollington Scout Troop has some 25 members. They meet, in theory, in their own large hut at the Lowerhouse end of Albert Road at 7.15 on Wednesday evenings....

Why "in theory"? Because the scouts, at present, lack a leader; and unless one, soon, is found, the Troop will have to disband.

The First Bollington Troop, at the other end of the town, at present takes in some of the leaderless scouts from the Second, but this stretches resources there. A healthier situation would be for the Lowerhouse group to run separately, as it so successfully did in the past.

A new Leader is needed, while helpers, too, could make an enormous difference, even if available for just an hour or so each week, in term time only. All enquiries are welcome - to John Pleeth, please, in the first instance, on 01625 - 426508.

### Who are Janus?

Flora Menzies, an 11 year-old member, explains:

Janus Studios have been putting on plays in Bollington for nearly 12 years. In that time they have achieved 16 awards at County Drama Festivals, their worst being a third place! The organisation is run by Pat Penney and takes children of 7 and upwards.



A typical Saturday morning at the Arts Centre usually begins with a physical warm-up. That may sound strange, but

it actually relaxes your mind before the drama. Janus works quite differently from other drama groups I've been to in the past, where, often, a group just reads through the current play and that's the end of it. Pat Penney uses a clever blend of theatrical games, set building and painting and still finds time to act out the current production in the time available. No matter what the activity, Pat always makes it fun and original.

### WANTED

Pat Penney has been looking for someone to take her place in running Janus for, sadly, she is retiring in December. She also has to give up Summer School and needs someone to take that over as well. IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE? Please HELP! This is an urgent plea from the dramatic youth of Bollington.

If anyone is interested please contact Pat Penney herself on 01625 - 574583.



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## Pub Scene

by Old Stager

It's been a few years since I entered the door of the Crown at the end of Church Street, next to Shrigley Dyers - and it was a timely visit, as this Banks' pub has new decor and new tenants.



In February this year, Brian and Marcia (seen above, during this summer's town procession) swapped the city life of Manchester - where they managed the Chequered Flag in Hulme and the Kings in Oldham Street - for the "rural" life of Bollington. The sound of

breaking glass and other disturbances has been replaced by the bleating of goats and the clucking of chickens - new additions in the back garden of The Crown. The refurbished interior has kept a timber feel, which was to this old stager's taste, and in keeping with the intimate scale of the bar.

The Crown has lost a lot of its trade in recent years, but the new management have introduced live music on Saturday nights (if you play the keyboards, Marcia would like to hear from you), and a pool team has just been formed. Corky the pub cat is a regular, and may just be responsible for the strange happenings, such as the bottles that appear on the bar overnight and the glasses that inexplicably fall off shelves - or maybe it's another of those Bollington ghosts!

The Crown is worth another of my revisits during the 5 to 8 pm weekday "happy hour", when the bitter is only £1 a pint, and a double whisky just £1.50. It's a handy spot if you've just walked down from White Nancy, or along Ingersley Vale.

## Money - who needs it?



The meeting announced in our June issue for a LETs exchange system attracted considerable interest, writes George Penney.

The one problem envisaged - of who would do the regular chores - disappeared a few days beforehand, demonstrating also that *Bollington Live!* has a readership outside the town.

The evidence was a 'phone call, from a pleasant young man, commissioned by MIND to set up LETS from their Macclesfield Branch. Would we be interested in joining them? MIND, at 2-4 Duke St, are running open house sessions on Saturday mornings. Just 'phone 574583.



And if you just want old-fashioned cash, it is obtainable through a new cash machine installed at the side of the National Westminster Bank building in Ashbrook Road, Bollington. Mr Young, Area Manager has ordered a "heavy duty" model in anticipation of demand. Cards taken include, TSB, Midland, Coutts, Clydesdale and VISA.

Local shoppers can also benefit from the facility provided by the 'Late Shop' in Albert Rd and 'Costcutter' of High St, who will provide up to £50, less the cost of a purchase, if a 'Switch' card is used.



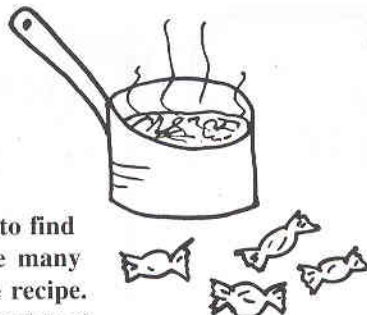
## Resource Centre

Open from 10 am to Noon on Thursdays, and after church on Sunday mornings, the Resource Centre, at the Methodist Church, Wellington Road, offers books for all ages, a challenging selection of jigsaws and a wide range of 'Self Help' cassettes.

Services, also, are recorded on tape for those unable to attend the church itself. For details, please ring Jean Wright on 572118, or Anne Fenton, 574041 - or, of course, call in on a Thursday morning - when the cup of tea sign is on display.

## Library 1, Internet Nil (After Extra Time)

Last week, for reasons obscure, I needed to find out how to make boiled sweets. We have many cookery books at home, but none had the recipe. Being a well-connected sort of person, my next port of call was the Internet.



These days we are often led to believe that this is the source of all knowledge, but, after half an hour of searching under key headings such as "sweets boiled", "sweets hard sugar" and "confectionery", I was none the wiser - although a reference that started "he slipped a boiled sweet into his mouth as he contemplated her sensuous body" looked interesting. I continued to search, all the time connected by telephone to a computer in Manchester and thence to literally thousands of computers across the world. Surely, with all this power I would find something? After 45 minutes I gave up.

Depressed and wondering what to do next I wandered home from the office (which is in Clarence Mill). It was drizzling and getting dark. At the corner of Hurst Lane I noticed the lights on in the Library. I walked in and, at the counter, posed my question to a friendly librarian. She looked slightly surprised, but, within five minutes, I had my recipe and, for 10p, a photocopy!

The moral is obvious. We are constantly told that "new technology" will render local information services redundant by providing "free" access to information. My free access to the Internet cost £1,500 for a computer, plus £1.50 a connection, and it got me nowhere. I know where I will look next time!

RN



## The Shopkeeping Life

... Continued

and they are planning to expand the wines section. Parking, difficult in many parts of Bollington, is nowhere more so than at Bollington Cross. "Of course, we understand the need to keep the roads clear," comments Rick with a wry chuckle, "but it did feel as if, when the big supermarkets opened their doors, double yellow lines sprouted outside every shop in Bollington!"

Glyn and Anne-Marie Griffiths ("him and Annie" as they are known), are relative newcomers. After years in retail, managing more than 100 outlets for the Granada Group, Glyn was fed up with the rat race and never seeing his children. He and Anne-Marie bought the general stores in Grimshaw Lane eight years ago and, by working seven days a week and rarely taking a holiday, they run a successful business. Glyn is a Liverpoolian with the gift of the gab, Anne-Marie quieter, "the one they talk to."

"No one owes us a living. People will use our shop if we provide them with what they need." They are constantly reviewing their policy, even the



Anne-Marie & Glyn Griffiths

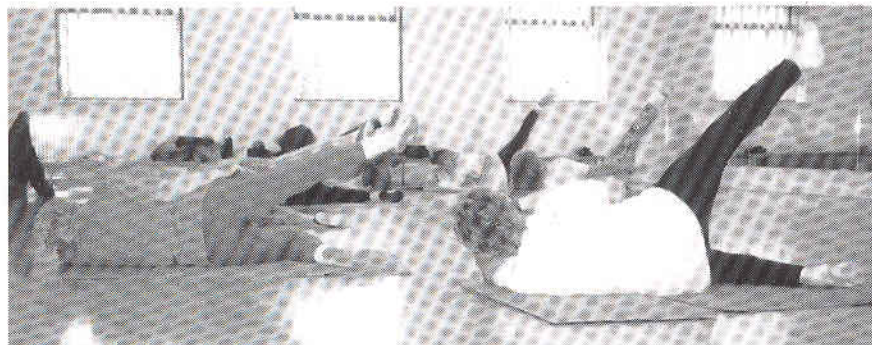
positioning of goods. "There are hotspots in the shop where products sell more quickly." They pride themselves on their range of merchandise, "Anything you find in any shop in Bollington, we probably

stock some of, from hardware to alcohol." They have expanded into pet foods. "We shift six tons of horse feed every week, and a ton of dry dog food. People come to us from as far afield as Higher Poynton and Gawsorth."

Despite their unsentimentally commercial approach, the Griffiths see themselves as providing a community service. "We could tell you all there is to know in Bollington," but, like the priest or the doctor, their lips are sealed. "We watch the kids grow up. We give lots of them their first job." One recently received the 1996 National Downs Syndrome Achievement Award.

Problems? Grimshaw Lane, they claim, has been dug up more than any other part of Bollington in the last five years, and as soon as the diggers come out, trade goes down by 20 per cent. Laughs? "We-ell," says Glyn ruefully, "last Christmas Santa came and I took pictures of each child receiving a gift. Unfortunately there was a fault in a camera and I had 72 beautiful photos - of Santa Claus on his own!"

JS



## Fitness at Fifty - and Over

'Later Life Fitness', at the Leisure Centre, is run by the well-qualified Ginny Hardman. It's a keep fit class held in the light, airy Centre Suite and ages at present range from 50 to 82.

The class lasts an hour: a warm-up period, then steady exercise, followed by gentle stretching, and a wind-down. The atmosphere is warm, the clothing comfortable and baggy. Laughter is frequent. I spoke to some of the Wednesday group, which included Margaret and Geoff Collard and their daughter, Mary Grace. Yes, without doubt their bodies had benefited; they were fitter and suppler. Many there tried to come twice a week, such was the enthusiasm.

Ginny is an encouraging teacher, giving confidence while demonstrating movements. Phrases slip out such as "Just do it at your own speed", "... up

to you to decide when you've done enough"; "it's not a competition; everyone has different levels of fitness".

"It doesn't have to hurt to do you good," and "that no pain, no gain phrase is out of the window," are two further expressions overheard as the exercises are performed, and Ginny gives the medical reasons why they are so valuable.

The classes run on Mondays from 3 to 4 pm and Wednesdays from 11.30 to 12.30. They cost £3 each; or you can pay £25 for 10 and take them when it suits you. I must admit I wish I had not

been in a skirt and armed with a camera; it was so tempting to grab a mat and join in - especially in the last bit, with total relaxation to gentle music!

For more details, call the Leisure Centre in Heath Road on 574774. As their information sheet says "Let us help you put years on your life and life in your years." I can believe it. PL



**Extra copies of Bollington Live!** are available at a nominal price of 50p each. "Yesterdays" in Palmerston St., Bollington Printshop, Pool Bank, and Pearnies Delicatessen, Wellington Road, have kindly undertaken this service.



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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

## Our Millennium Challenge

1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and the Bollington Festival - the greatest of them all. And then, for the Millennium?

Unlike other towns, Bollington has no plans to commemorate the end of the century, and the Millennium. But it's not too late. Bollington Live! believes that our town should mark the event with something permanent.

Here are a few ideas that have already been circulating:

### A new canal bridge, at the Clarence Mill:

There used to be a swing bridge connecting the mill to Pleasuregate and down to the Recreation Ground. There is an artist's impression of the bridge on the sign on the towpath. A new bridge would not necessarily need to be a swing bridge; it could be to a modern design.

### A market at Pool Bank:

Pool Bank could be more than just a car park. With landscaping and good management it could become the setting for a lively Saturday or Sunday market. This would bring life back to the centre of Bollington, and trade to the shops.

### Traffic calming:

Traffic levels and car usage are projected to increase everywhere, and Bollington will be no exception. Henshall Road, Wellington Road and Palmerston Street will become even more unpleasant. A comprehensive traffic calming scheme would improve our environment and make Bollington safer for all of us.

### A path to White Nancy:

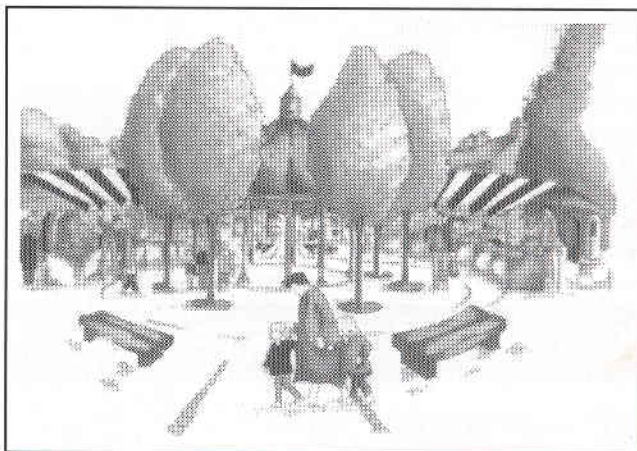
The present track is poor and eroded, and difficult for very young children and older people. A good path would make it more accessible. A Nancy project could include other features such as signs and floodlighting.

### The Recreation Ground:

The Rec is a real asset to the town. Could it be improved to be of even more value and to prepare it for the 21st Century?

### The Bollington Sign:

The Hollywood sign is famous across the world. How about an illuminated BOLLINGTON sign on Kerridge ridge? W.M.



*Proposals for a market at Pool Bank, as depicted in the upper illustration, were put forward in the Landscape Bollington project of 1995. Lively gatherings certainly took place on this site in the past: The photo was taken during Wakes Week, shortly after the turn of the Century.*

In launching the Bollington Live! Millenium Challenge, we aim to promote as many ideas as we can. So, over to you, dear readers - let us have your own proposals and let's show the rest of the world that Bollington has the strength of community and the vision to mark the Millenium with something truly memorable.

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# BOLLINGTON

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