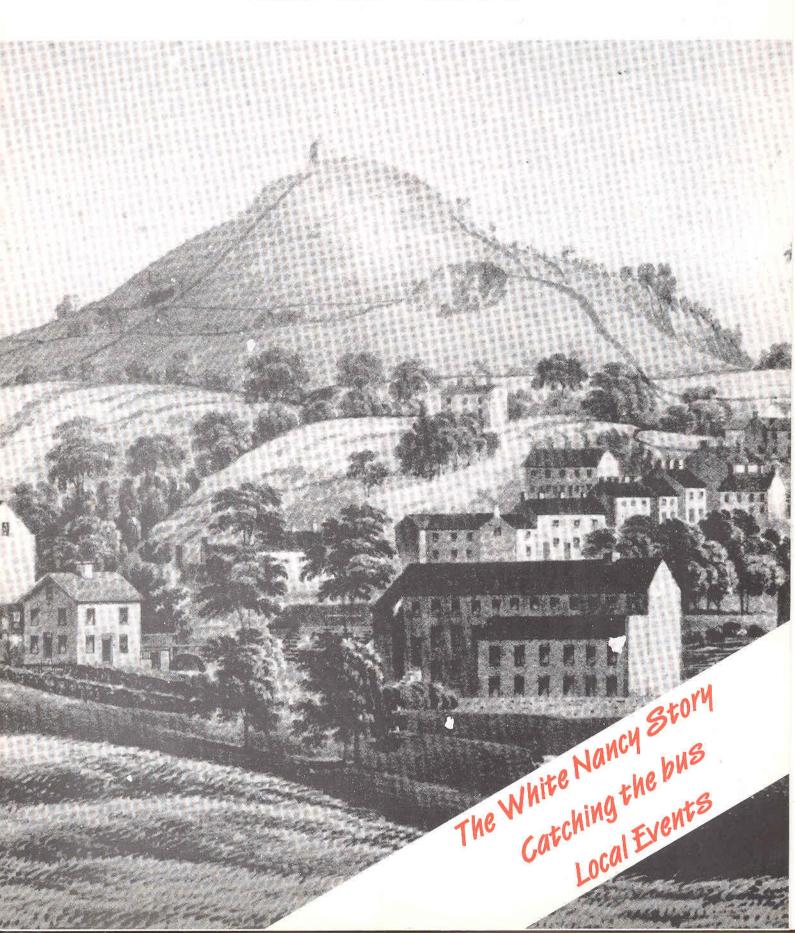




Number Nine March 1997





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

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Why White Nancy?

'What's that white thing up there on the hill?' These were the first words I spoke on viewing the house we later bought in Bollington. And it's very likely, if you're a newcomer, that you asked the same question. 'It's White Nancy,' I was informed. The response explained nothing: why Nancy, why white, or what it really was. There is no short answer, or even a long one, for that matter.

Let us first look at a few facts. The tales of fancy, folk tales, almost legend, are interesting too, but I will leave them for another occasion. Nancy was built at some time between 1815 and 1824, by John Gaskell of Rainow. The Gaskell family made its money in Manchester, first living at Tower Hill House in Rainow, and later building the fine Ingersley Hall. This was put up about 20 years *after* the erection of Nancy. Eventually the Gaskells owned an estate of farms, quarries and coal mines down the valley of the River Dean between Rainow and Bollington. They also dabbled, unsuccessfully, in cotton spinning.

In her younger days, Nancy was described as 'a summer house' called 'Northern' or 'Northend Nancy'. As the structure contains a circular stone table and seats, the term 'summer house' cannot be doubted. It was a picnic place for the Gaskells - and, later, many Bollingtonians - before the door was blocked to prevent damage.

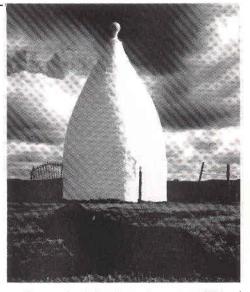


A weathered White Nancy in 1910, looking forward to a coat of paint. The doorway was later sealed to prevent vandalism.

It also seems that Nancy has been clothed in white since birth, and ever after, apart from camouflaged war service and occasional Christmas fancy dress as a snowman, Father Christmas, or plum pudding. Even in 1825 she was described as 'clothed in white'. Her full name, White Nancy, first appears after 1840, and she has made one appearance in literature, in 1874, in the story 'The Lost Heir', which mentions 'cloud capped Nancy,' 'clothed in white.'

If Nancy was a summer house, the respective dates of building tell us she was not intended for the use of the inhabitants of Ingersley Hall. It has been suggested that she was a boundary mark, standing as she does on the line between Bollington and Rainow, but it is more likely that she marked the boundary of the Gaskell estate, and was visible from all their houses.

None of these few facts explain the structure, colour or name, but over the hundred and seventy years many suggestions have been made. There may have been a beacon on the site: one is described in 1810, though whether constructed to warn of the arrival of the Armada or of Napoleon is not known. Beacons were operated by the army; therefore 'Ordnance



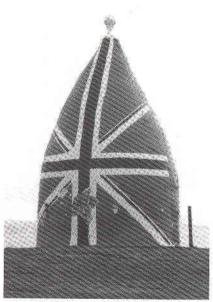
Beacon' might have become 'Old Nancy Beacon'. Certainly, one member of the Gaskell family was named Nancy, although Nancy was a popular name, often a shortened form of Anne or Hannah. The large stone table inside the structure required, it is said, eight horses to drag it up the hill: the leading horse was white, and its name was Nancy. Some say the building was designed to guide one of the Gaskell sons home when his ship sailed into the Mersey, but, unfortunately for this story, there was never a sailor son in the family.

A common surmise nowadays is that Nancy was built to commemorate the victory at Waterloo in 1815. This story was offered by the last of the Bollington Gaskells, Ann Theodora, in 1923, before the family left the area. It can be doubted on several grounds. Do you really believe that a true, red-blooded, patriotic Englishman, often but wrongly titled 'Colonel Gaskell', would, in order to celebrate England's greatest victory, build a pepperpot on the hill? Nonesense; it would have been Wellington on a charger!

Continued Overleaf...

The White Nancy Story Continued...

All these tales, and many more that I know, have a deeper meaning. They are versions, or parts, of widespread folk tales with origins in the distant past. All Bollingtonians know, and newcomers will learn, that Nancy is no mere folly. To us, she is a very important symbol, a guardian or mother of the town.



Nancy gets a repaint from time to time, on this occasion for the VE Day anniversary in 1995.

Nancy has taken a very active part in Bollington life, being the site of bonfires celebrating coronations, jubilees, battles won and victories gained.

Here is one example. After the final concert - by Chris Barber's band - at the end of the last Bollington Festival, what was it that drew several hundred people to the top of the hill, to the floodlit Nancy near 12 pm on a rather damp night, to sing, toast and celebrate? Who really is Nancy, this white goddess in our midst? I shall try to explain in a sequel.

Roger Bowling

Thank You, thank you, thank you to our many helpers who deliver *Bollington Live!*.

We look forward to warmer weather for it, and more oil on those letterbox hinges. *Thank you* all again!

Biking around...



Fifty and Sixty years ago, cycling was a popular Bollington activity, with hot competition in races around the perimeter of the cricket field. Long distance races also took place, through and around the town.

Touring groups were popular too, and our vintage photo shows Bollington rider Ann Brough, on the left, sharing a tandem with her husband Albert, who ran the bike shop in Water's Green, Macclesfield. Sadly, both Albert and Ann died recently, at the respective ages of 83 and 82,

Cycle touring today continues under the auspices of both the Macclesfield Wheelers, of which Albert was founder and father figure, and the Ravens Cycle Club.

Secretary of the Ravens, Alan Whitworth, of Hollin Lodge, Jackson Lane, tells us some 30 of the club's 70 members meet each Sunday at 10am for a run of between 40 and 60 miles. "Reasonable fitness is required," says Alan, who is an organiser also of the Cheshire Cycle Way Run. This takes

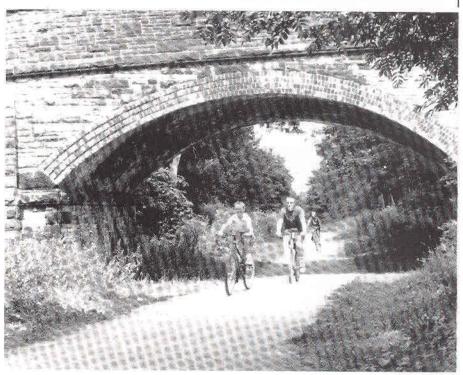
place this year on Sunday, 15th June, with the start and finish point of one sector right outside Alan's house.

For details of this, and the weekly runs, Alan can be contacted on 01625-574373

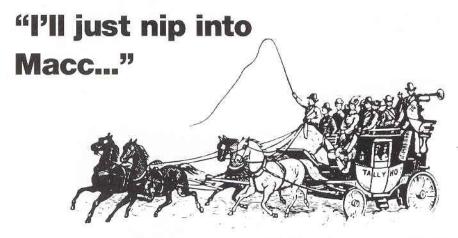


and for Bike-minded
Bollingtonians:A Cycling Outing...

On Alan Whitworth's recommendation, local schools, youth groups and indeed, activity-minded families should consider a visit to the Manchester Velodrome, some 2 miles east of the City centre. This makes a wonderful outing for anyone - bikes and helmets can be hired and supervision from a qualified coach is given at certain sessions. Plus, of course, there is the excitement of track competitions. For dates and info, give them a call on 0161-223 2244 or pick up a leaflet at the Bollington Library.



And don't forget the Middlewood Way, offering 11 miles of easy, traffic-free biking. Cycles may be hired, during the summer months, from the Discovery Centre, Grimshaw Lane, Bollington.



...or, have you caught the bus recently?

Readers who travel by car will have noticed that it's getting increasingly difficult to find parking space in Macclesfield. There is an alternative, and that's to travel by bus. When you consider that it probably costs around £3 to drive a car to Macclesfield and back, then a return bus fare of £2.10 for an adult and £1.40 for a child looks more attractive. These are the current prices from the Waggon & Horses.

There have been changes to the services provided by the Stevensons company in recent months. Chris Jones, the station manager in Macclesfield, tells us that the company is delighted with the response to the new XL service. Not a single written complaint has been received, and there have been many compliments on the the comment cards provided. 'A great improvement; warm and comfortable with neatly dressed drivers'; 'the timekeeping is now good, which is extremely important'; 'since the new timetable has come into operation the service has been excellent'. These are just three of the comments received.

The XL features new vehicles with more leg room, handrails, and efficient heating, and the company guarantees cleanliness, punctuality and good customer care, with a free return journey on offer to anyone with a genuine complaint! The XL service has the numbers 10 or 10X on the timetables printed here.

The bus provides a vital service for Bollington youth, senior citizens and families without a car. Roughly 1,250 passengers a week travel to Macclesfield this way, showing a 20 per cent increase as soon as the Kerridge and Turner's Arms services were run with separate vehicles. Prior to this a single bus would travel alternately to these points and, with traffic delays, timekeeping became erratic.

The new system ensures that the timetable is kept to. Chris Jones is pleased with the response and tells us that the normal dip in passenger numbers experienced between Christmas and Easter has not happened in Bollington this year. A further increase in passenger use may now be experienced as Spring approaches.

Timetabling presents a problem, however, and here some criticism may be justified. There are several services now linking our town with Macclesfield. Separate printed timetables are provided, and it is by no means easy to combine them all and grasp just when the next bus is due.

In an attempt to clarify this, we provide on these pages *Bollington Live!* 's simplified listing. Routes show slight variations, but there are stopping points in Macclesfield for effectively all services at Beech Lane, on Churchill Way, and - for the return journey to Bollington - in Mill Street. Services 391 and 392 run onward to Stockport, by way of Poynton, an additional journey time of 36 minutes from Bollington's Turner's Arms.

GB



Buses from Bollington to Macclesfield

Monday to Saturday Service - excluding Bank Holidays (* = Not Saturdays)

Service No.	Turner's Arms	Kerridge Bull's Head	Waggon & Horses	Macclesfield Bus Station
392	6.44		6.48	7.03
10X	7.00		7.04	7.19
10X*	*7.20		*7.24	*7.39
10X	7.50		7.54	8.09
391*	*8.00	*8.10	*8.14	*8.29
10X	8.15		8.19	8.34
10X	8,30		8.34	8.49
392	8.54		8.58	9.13
1.0	9.02		9.07	9.25
11		9.15	9.20	9.40
10	9.32		9.37	9.55
10	10.02		10.07	10.25
391	10.10		10.15	10.33
11		10.15	10.20	10.40
10	10.32		10.37	10.55
392	10.59		11.03	11.18
10	11.02		11.07	11.25
11		11.15	11.20	11.40
10	11.32		11.37	11.55
10	12.02		12.07	12.25
391	12.10	W www.res	12.15	12.33
11		12,15	12.20	12.40
10	12.32		12.37	12.55
392	12.59		1.03	1.18
10	1.02	V 1/60	1.07	1.25
11	1 22	1.15	1.20	1.40
10	1,32		1.37	1.55
10 391	2.02		2.07 -	2.25
11	2.10	2,15	2.15 2.20	2.33
10	2.32	4,14	2.20	2.55
392	2.59		3.03	3.18
10	3.02		3.07	3.25
11	5.02	3.15	3.20	3.40
10	3.32	Silvor:	3.37	3.55
10	4.02		4.07	4.25
391	4.10		4.15	4.33
11		4.15	4.20	4.40
10	4.32		4.37	4.55
392	4.59		5.03	5.18
10	5.02		5.07	5.25
11		5.15	5.20	5.40
10	5.32		5.37	5.55
10	6.02		6.07	6.25
391	6.10		6.15	6.30
11		6.15	6.20	6.40
392	6.22		6.26	6.41
12	6.37		6.41	6.53
12	7.32	7.38	7.41	7.53
12	8.37		8.41	8.53
12	9.32	9.38	9.41	9.53
12	10.37		10.41	10.53
12	11.32	11.38	11.41	11.53

Buses from Macclesfield to Bollington

Monday to Saturday Service - excluding Bank Holidays (* = Not Saturdays; * = Saturdays; * = Schooldays; * = non-schooldays)

Service No.	Macclesfield Bus Station	Waggon & Horses	Kerridge Bulls Head	Turner's Arms
10X	6.30	6.45		6.49
*10X	*7.00	*7.15		*7.19
392	7.15	7.29		7.34
10X 391	7.30	7.45		7.49
10X	7.50 7.55	8.05		8.09
10X	8.10	8.10 8.25		8.14 8.29
1392	⁵ 8.30	18.39		*8.44
10X	8.40	8.55		8.59
11	8.50	9.10	9.15	
10	9.05	9.23		9.28
392	9.20	9.34		9.39
10	9.35	9.53		9.58
11	9.50	10.10	10.15	
10	10.05	10.23		10.28
391	10.20	10.39		10.44
10	10.35	10.53		10.58
11	10.50	11.10	11.15	
10	11.05	11.23		11.28
392	11.20	11.34		11.39
10	11.35	11.53	10.17	11.58
11	11.50	12.10	12.15	10.00
10 391	12.05 12.20	12.23 12.39		12.28
10	12.20	12.53		12.44 12.58
11	12.50	1.10	1.15	12.30
10	1.05	1.23	1.10	1.28
392	1.20	1.34		1.39
10	1.35	1.53		1.58
11	1.50	2.10	2.15	F-1-5-360
10	2.05	2.23		2.28
391	2.20	2.39		2.44
10	2.35	2.53		2.58
11	2.50	3.10	3.15	
10	3.05	3.23		3.28
392	3.20	3.34		3.39
10	3.35	3.53		3.58
11	3.50	4.10	4.15	
10	4.05	4.23	Nanconon de la compansión	4.28
*391	*4.10	*4.29	* 4.34	*4.44
391	4.20	14.39		¹¹ 4.44
10	4.35	4.53	F 1.5	4.58
10	4.50	5.10	5.15	c 20
10	5.05 5.35	5.23 5.53		5.28
11	5.50	6.10	6.15	5.58
392	5.50	6.04	0.13	6.09
12	6.15	6.26	6.30	6.37
12	7.15	7.26	THE STATE OF	7.32
12	8.15	8.26	8.30	8.37
12	9.15	9.26	UTMATION	9.32
	10.15		10.30	10.37
12	10.15	10.20	10.30	10.01



Not so appealing as the new XL service is Macclesfield's bus station itself, a forlorn brick and concrete paddock that hardly invites the visitor to hang about. Nor is much effort made to promote it. At the railway station, just across the road, not a single notice proclaims its existence, or gives the times of connecting services to anywhere. Bollington-bound travellers usually end up taking a taxi. Plans to move the bus terminus to Victoria Street in Macclesfield having now been dropped, the matter surely merits some attention: decent lighting, perhaps, for those straggling in off the evening train, a lick of paint, some attempt at rail-bus coordination.

A more positive view of local travel comes from our traffic correspondent AA Barmy, who writes as follows:

This has been a great few weeks for we car owners. First of all Macclesfield's MP has rescued from limbo the wonderful scheme to lay a broad strip of tarmac in the boring old fields on Bollington's western edge. Away with those cows, I say; let's get some decent dual carriageway built. In the interests of the Economy, we need it - for better communications and all that, speeding onward those essential cargoes of potato crisps or mint imperials, and the one-in-a-car executives who are the lifeblood of our Nation . So what, if the place is ruined for the people who live there; it's those passing through that count.

Meanwhile, out on the pavements, a manic sqad of diggers, hammerers and crackers of slabs have been burrowing through the streets. Putting down cable, one of them told me: so that pedestrians can watch more TV, perhaps, while back home convalescing?

I used to think that the pavements near the Medical Centre were the most uneven and dangerous in town, but there are other stretches now to rival them, and a brilliant hotchpotch of surfaces to add to the tumbledown effect. Its a subtle kind of deterioration, to put walkers off even more. That's the spirit! Keep those pedestrians in their place.

(And that's quite enough of that, thank you. See me - Ed)



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MARCH

Sunday, 9th

FROG WATCH

with the Wildlife Watch Club' 1 - 3 pm. Meet at Bollington Arts Centre, Wellington Road.

Monday 10th

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

in the community, by R Kidd. Women's Institute, Methodist Church, 7.30 pm. Tel 573571.

Saturday, 15th

SORREL QUARTET

Schubert, Carwithen, Britten, at the Arts Centre, 8 pm. £8. Tel 573477 (office hours), 560355.

BIG BEAT NIGHT

Rock and Roll with live group The Classics. Bollington Con. Club, Adlington Rd, 8 pm. £4. Tel 572552.

Monday, 17th

BRITAIN IN BLOOM - HOW TO WIN

Civic Society Open Meeting. Arts Centre, 8 pm.

Wednesday, 19th to Saturday, 22nd THEFT BY?

A comedy mystery by the Festival Players. Bollington Arts Centre, 7.30, £4 (children £2.50). Tel 572527.

Wednesday, 19th

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

with Ann Williams. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 572382.

Thursday, 20th

HYDROPONICS

by Roger Rankin. Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

Easter Sunday, 30th

SUNRISE SERVICE

at White Nancy. Held by the Methodist Church.

APRIL

Wednesday, 2nd

COOK THE PERSIAN WAY

with Mrs Burrows. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel. 572382

Saturday, 5th

ROCK GROUP 'AMANDLA'

in a charity concert for the Drop-In Centre. For venue and details, Tel 576311. Sunday, 6th

FAMILY CYCLE SAFARI

with the Wildlife Watch Club, 1 to 3 pm. Meet at Clough Bank Car Park, Grimshaw Lane (GR 928773).

SIGNS OF SPRING

Acitivities and discovery with the Middlewood Way rangers. 2 to 4 pm. Meet Adlington Road Car Park.

Sunday, 13th

THE GIRL AND THE UNICORN

by Stephen Oliver, presented by Bollington Children's Music Theatre. 4.30 and 7.30 pm. £3 (£1.50 for children). Tel 0161 427 2870.

Monday, 14th

ROUND THE BEND

and back again, with D Tupper. WI, Methodist Church Hall, 7.30. Tel 573571.

Wednesday, 16th

NOT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR

Brian Hallworth. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel. 572382

GREEN FINGERS NURSERY

and Lancaster House visit, with the Horticultural Society.

Sunday, 20th

CIVIC YOUTH SERVICE

Methodist Church, 10.30 am.

Friday, 25th

RIKKI TIKKI TAVI

Kipling's Jungle Book story, by the Edinburgh Puppet Company. Bollington Arts Centre, 7 pm. £3 (Family tickets £10, but unsuitable for children under 6). Tel 576250.

Saturday, 26th

BIG BEAT NIGHT

with Mike Ford and The Cadillacs, at Bollington Con. Club, 8 pm. Tickets £4, Tel 572552.

Sunday, 27th

SONGS OF PRAISE

led by the Bollington Band. Methodist Church, 6.30 pm.

Wednesday, 30th

COLOUR IN TUBS

and hanging baskets, by Anthony Norman. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm.

MAY

Friday, 2nd, to Saturday, 31st

LOCAL PHOTOS

Exhibition by Martyn How, at the Library, Palmerston Street.

LINAMENT TO LASERS

A preview of the Drop-In Centre's latest book, with a special buffet at the Town Hall. 7 for 7.30, with contributions at the door, please. Tel 576311.



Frogs, bugs and a Cycle Safari are on the list for the Bollin for the Trees, Timber, Pulp and

Saturday, 3rd

SPONSORED WALK

for the British Heart Foundation. Methodist Church, 9 am.

Sunday, 11th

MANIC MONSTERS

Sculpture workshop using natural materials. Wildlife Watch Club, Arts Centre, 1 to 3 pm. Tools and tuition provided. Tel 576250.

Monday, 12th

RESOLUTIONS

WI, Methodist Church Hall.

Monday 12th to Saturday, 17th

OLIVER

by Bollington Light Opera Group. Civic Hall, 7.30 pm. Tickets £3.50 to £6.50. Tel 875326.

TYTHERINGTON SCHOOL ART

Exhibition at the Methodist Church.

EVENTS

Wednesday, 14th
ANNUAL DINNER
Bollington Wives, 8 pm. Venue to be arranged.

Thursday 15th

HINTS ON VEGETABLES

by Tony Burrows. Horticultural. Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.



on Wildlife Watch Group. Members are seen here gathered per project, staged last December.

Saturday, 17th
SPRING FAIR
Methodist Church, 10.30 am to 2 pm.

Sunday, 18th

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL CHOIR

and Orchestra. Mozart's Litany of the Blessed Sacrament, and Bruckner's Mass in F Minor. Methodist Church, 8 pm. Tickets at £5 (children £2) from the Medical Centre, or Tel 573494.

Monday, 19th

INDEX REGISTER OF INDUSTRIAL SITES

What should Bollington be doing? Civic Society open meeting, led by Tim Boddington.

Arts Centre, 8 pm.

Saturday, 24th

BIG BEAT NIGHT

with the D.D.Disco. 8 pm to Midnight, Bollington Con Club, Adlington Rd. Tickets £4. Tel 572552.

Sunday 25th to Saturday, 31st BOLLINGTON ART GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Methodist Hall, 1 to 8 pm.

Wednesday, 28th

SLIDES WITH A DIFFERENCE

by Norman Taylor. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 572382

JUNE

Wednesday, 4th

TODDLER'S TRUNDLE 1

A nature study walk for the under-5s with Middlewood Way ranger Andrew Watson. 11 am to 1 pm. Bring an adult and a picnic. Meet Clough Lane Car Park, Grimshaw Lane (GR 929773).

Saturday, 7th
POYNTON MALE VOICE
CHOIR

Methodist Church, 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 7th and Sunday 8th

CENTENARY WEEKEND for Holy Trinity Church, Kerridge, with flower display, photos. In addition to Sunday services, a walk around Kerridge is planned for 2.30 pm. Sunday, 8th

ALL ABOUT BUGS

in the ponds of the Middlewood Way. With Bollington Wildlife Watch Group, 10 am to mid-day. Meet Poynton Coppice Car Park, Shrigley Rd, Higher Poynton (GR 942826).

SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

using natural materials, with Middlewood Way ranger Douglas Logan, 10.30 to 12.30. Meet Adlington Road Car Park

Monday, 9th

MUSICAL QUIZ

presented by M Margetson. WI, Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel. 573571

Thursday, 19th

GARDENER'S QUESTION TIME

Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

Saturday, 21st

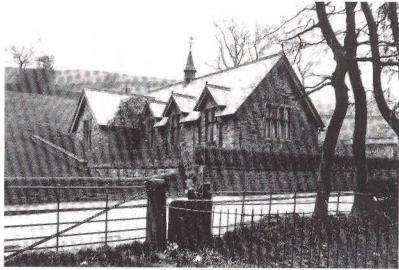
ROSE QUEEN FESTIVAL Pott Shrigley School, 2 pm.

JULY

Tuesday, 1st

TODDLER'S TRUNDLE 2

With rangers Sinon Randall and Douglas Logan, Same venue and times as on June 4.



Holy Trinity Church on Jackson Lane celebrates its Centenary this year, on June 7th and 8th. Succeeding a cottage known as the Mission Room, the Church was, until 1912, also used as an infant's school.



The Sorrel Quartet will be performing at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, on March 15th. From left to right are Catherine Yates, Helen Thatcher, Gina McCormack and Vicci Wardman.

The Renaissance of the Arts Centre

WE DID IT! The phone call came through shortly after the last issue of *Bollington Live!* went to print. We had been awarded a grant of £99,000 by the National Lottery. Together with grants from Macclesfield Borough and Bollington Town Council and with contributions from the general public, we will be able to start our new building programme on the Arts Centre, off Wellington Road, this June and have a festive opening in the Autumn.

The professional improvements will include the new, enlarged foyer, the gallery extension with a specially commissioned window, and the storage extension on the far side of the main hall. At the same time there will be a large number of smaller tasks to be done, which I hope can be accomplished by volunteers.

The dressing rooms and passages in the back stage area need refurbishing and decorating. Shelves and mirrors need fixing, and possibly hand basins. Anyone who can wield a paint brush or do simple carpentry would be welcome, while, at the same time, the area around needs weeding, the steps tidying, and so forth.

Anyone willing to help is warmly invited to leave names and telephone numbers at the Bollington Medical Centre, and I will then get in touch with them

JC

Access - working in Bollington

Sylvia Roberts writes:

In December last year a small group of people got together to involve themselves in the problems facing the disabled and frail elderly of Bollington.

The group looked at all aspects of daily living, and what provision was made in the town. They have had an input into the forthcoming improvements to the Health Centre at the Waterhouse, and are in discussion with staff at the Leisure Centre, while a local pub has asked for their expertise in planning a new extension.

This Bollington Action Access Group caters for all who have physical problems affecting their independent living. Those with hearing difficulties or impaired vision, for example, are as much in need of help as those with more obvious mobility problems.

The Group has made representation to Macclesfield Borough Council about the difficulties experienced by some Bollington residents with the recent pedestrianisation scheme. Closer to home, it is pressing for a safety crossing on the main through road, close to the prime amenities of the Medical Centre, pharmacy and post office.

Meetings are held monthly in the Town Hall on Wellington Road, and all interested, whether disabled themselves or sympathetic helpers, are warmly invited.

Telephone contact numbers are 01625 572065/ 572180/ 573553.

And Mid - week Shopping?

A scheme to aid those having difficulty in reaching the shops has also been launched by the Drop-in Centre at the Town Hall. All concerned are warmly invited to contact Sue McLennan at the centre between 9.30 and 3 pm from Monday to Thursday. Tel 576311.

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BOLLINGTON TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 18th March in the Civic Hall at 7.30pm.

What matters most in Bollington? Come and hear your councillors and say what **YOU** think.

Bollington Council - Does it need a bigger budget?

For the past few years, Bollington Town Council has been operating on an income of about £33,000 a year. This has been raised through a small additional charge to the Council Tax levied by Macclesfield Borough. To take an example: Bollington householders in Band D paid £664.82 on a property last year, and, of this, £12 went to Bollington's council.

This has allowed Bollington Council to operate with a part-time clerk, and to run the offices; but not to spend much money on projects. In fact, about two-thirds of the money raised has gone on staff, administration, and keeping the Town Hall in order.

Many of our own councillors thought that this was the way things should be done, with Bollington's representatives advising and cajoling those in Macclesfield to carry out sufficient work on our town.

Not everyone, however, thinks that this is the best way to operate: some have been arguing that Bollington Council needs a bigger budget, so that it can initiate more activity and use the money as seed corn for attracting further grants. Why otherwise, they argue, if there is no money to initiate anything, do we need a local council at all?

Well, things are a-changing, if only a little. In the next financial year the Bollington Town Council is going to raise £16.34 from the average Band D household, and this will increase the annual tax income to around £45,000. New allocations of £6,000 for traffic

calming, and £3,000 for youth projects have been put into the budget for the coming financial year.

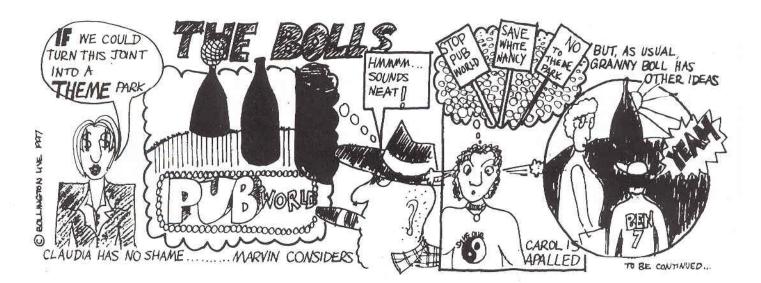
The hope is that this will attract further expenditure in Bollington by the Borough and County Councils. The dangerous traffic situations at Bollington Cross School and at the junction between Flash Lane and Bollington Road are the priorities for traffic calming, whilst ideas are being discussed for a roller-blading area on the site of the old cricket pavilion, and inproved changing facilities for the young Bollington United footballers near the Leisure Centre. The Council also intends to continue support for local societies with small grants and to provide help for the Leisure Centre and the Brass Band.

The next Town Assembly, to which members of the public are invited, is at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, March 18, in the Bollington Civic Centre - and these matters can be discussed then. Will a bigger budget mean more action from Bollington's own Town Council? And is such a tactic really going to attract more money from other sources? Some Town Councils have far bigger budgets than ours, while other communities (such as in Wilmslow) manage without a town or parish council altogether - and their own Band D householders thus paid £12 less than ours did.

Have we got it right in Bollington? The March 18 meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to explore this further.



The junction of Flash Lane and Bollington Road, where a traffic island is projected.



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An Understanding Approach to Care

Rocks of Ages the Quarries of Kerridge

If you live in a stone-built house on the south side of Bollington, there's a good chance that the stone itself comes from the western-facing slope of Kerridge ridge. North End, Glory Hole, Albert, Ormes, Gag, Marksend, Bridge, Endon, Five Ashes and Greens (or Sycamore) are quarries with a long and eventful history. In private hands since 1625, when they were transferred from Macclesfield Corporation, they have, of course, changed in ownership many times in the intervening years.

For the geologists amongst us, the rocks are carboniferous sandstones of the lower coal measures, formed around 240 million years ago. They

have a wonderful range of colour, spanning yellow, grey and pink, and can be split into a variety of widths. The closely-bedded material near the surface is known as 'seam' rock, with the unevenly bedded 'curl' rock lying further under. At the base of the quarries the large blocks of 'basil' stone are to be found.

Diamond-bladed rotary saws enable these larger pieces to be cut to any size required, but the natural 'bedding' of the upper layers allows them to be split. One inch thick stones are used as roofing slates, flagstones range between two and three inches, while the four to six

inch stones are used as curbs. To first win the rock, the overlying layer of 'narons', a mixture of clays and shales, had to be removed, and this has been dumped below. Colonised by sycamore, the spoil now provides the wooded appearance of the lower slopes today.

With the arrival of the canal in 1831, the Kerridge quarries began to boom, and, by the time the railway was opened in 1870, quarrying was established as



Doreen Earl, and lorry, at the Sycamore Quarry, which is seen also in the upper photograph.

one of Bollington's foremost industries. The 1855 Northern Counties Directory lists 18 stone merchants in Kerridge, while the 1871 census recorded 105 quarrymen, stone sawyers, carters and quarry labourers,

Wetton's stone yard in Grimshaw Lane at the turn of the Century..

In the background is the old railway station, now replaced by part of the Middlewood Way.





with a further 95 stone masons and mason's labourers resident in the town. Not everyone worked in the cotton mills!

Three important Rainow families dominated the local quarrying scene in the late 19th Century: the Wettons, the Broadheads and the Suttons. The stone was in large demand, and Kerridge flags were used to pave Mill Street, Chestergate and Jordangate in Macclesfield, with the parish church there also largely built of Kerridge stone. Wettons employed 250 men in 1910, and had a large sawmill by the

Bollington station in Grimshaw Lane, which they often operated all night.

The Depression of the 1920s led to the famous 12-week strike of 1928 over the introduction of piece-work, and it was at this time that many of the quarrymen joined the new trade unions. Pay was around 1s 6d an hour in 1938, but fell to 1s 3½d by 1932.

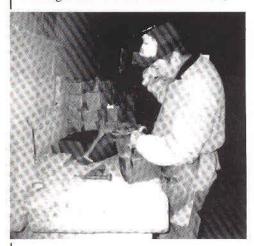
The tradition of quarrying continues today, and although less than ten people are employed full time, Kerridge stone remains in demand from all over the country. David Tooth purchased Bridge Quarry in 1953, and has operated it continuously since that time. Until 1989, all the stone was split there by hand, but he now has five saws, one of which is computor-controlled. David has recently supplied flags and setts for Conway in North Wales, stone for a fountain in Stratford-on-Avon and material for landscaping work at Sainsburys in Macclesfield. He even,

Continued Overleaf...

Continued from previous page

on one occasion, supplied a fireplace to a customer in the Shetland Islands.

The Earl family purchased Sycamore and Marksend quarries from Wettons in 1957, and Doreen Earl took over the management of the firm in 1980,



Stonemason Peter Warren, at work at the Sycamore Quarry

having worked with her father there since 1968. Employing four permanent staff, and up to eight at busy times, the Earls are proud of their modern equipment, which includes a stonecrusher and the latest German-made computor-operated circular saw, costing in excess of £150,000.

The Earls have recently supplied flags and setts to Manchester University, stone for an extension to the King's School in Macclesfield, and for a prison in the Brecon Beacons, Bollington Library too was built with stone from the Earl's quarries.

Doreen estimates that the firm supplies around 15,000 tons in a typical year, much of which she delivers herself in the company lorry.

Both Doreen Earl and David Tooth consider that it is the quality of their products, rather than the volume, that sustains their businesses, which have seen an upturn in recent years. The modern Kerridge stone companies have to meet close specifications in their orders and many of these have to be won on competetive tender. Currently, rockery stone fetches around £20 a ton, and crazy paving £60. Walling stone and setts cost £40 to £50 a square yard.

On one day of the year, the Earls open their quarry to the public; so, if you want to see more of this traditional Bollington industry, put June 21st. in your diary. This open day is organised by Cheshire County Council as part of its Insight into Industry programme.

This article is based on interviews with David Tooth and Doreen Earl, and on 'The Quarries of the Macclesfield Area' an unpublished article by D A Kitching, held in the Macclesfield library.

Running up a thirst

Old Stager makes for the pub again

Now that Spring is here, I feel inclined to get my running shoes out, although my wife never fails to point out the apparent incompatibility between running in an effort to lose weight and supping ale. However, as all seasoned sportsmen know, the two activities go hand-in-hand. In my own case, running is most easily combined with a swift half at the Lord Clyde on Clark Lane.

It's easy to get there along the canal and, for me at least, it is just the perfect distance for running. It's far enough that I know I've lost some weight before I get there but near enough to make it a regular stop. The pub has improved a lot since Joy Murphy took over as Landlady. Judging by her almost encyclopaedic knowledge of every pub within thirty miles, she has taken her market research seriously.

The result is a pleasant and successful pub: no juke box or flashing machines, simply a pleasant atmosphere in which I can ensure that dehydration after a run is not a problem. After a half (or two, if I feel really dehydrated) I either set off back the way I came, or take the footpath back through Bollington Cross. All in all a perfect outing, or at least it would be if my wife hadn't pointed out that I would need to run at least 15 miles to burn off the calories in the bitter. C'est la vie!





Who was Lord Clyde?

Sir Colin Campbell, Baron Clyde, was born in Glasgow in 1792. Twice badly wounded in the Peninsular War against Napoleon, he fought in China in 1842 and the Second Sikh War at Chllianwallah and Goojerat. There, in 1849, he spoke of himself as "old, and only fit for retirement", but he lived until 1863, and on the way commanded the Highland brigade in the Crimea, in its repulse of the Russians by the 'thin red line' at Balaclava. As commanderin-chief in India, he then stamped out the Mutiny, effecting the final relief of Lucknow. Appreciative descriptions of him appear from time to time in the Flashman novels of George MacDonald Fraser, but no link with pubs in Bollington can be found!. Most probably, the inn was named by an early Landlord who had served in one of Sir Colin's campaigns.



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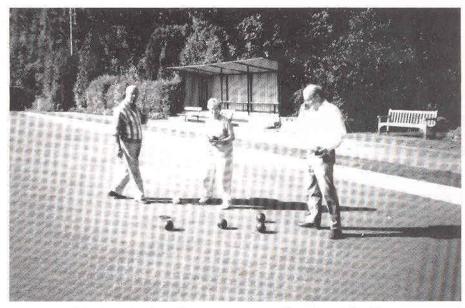
The Millenium Challenge

Our Millenium Challenge launched in the last issue of *Bollington Live!* has provoked a number of responses. Briefly, we are looking for proposals for a suitable monument, installation or symbol, with which the turn of the Century can be marked.

Reactions have been mixed towards several of the proposals that we listed. Traffic calming, for example, while undeniably important, is regarded as too workaday and humdrum.

Establishing some kind of viewing platform by White Nancy, on the other hand, is considered, by several we have spoken to, as an urbanising move. No-one, however, has contested the need for urgent work upon the footpath up the hill, which daily becomes more eroded.

A footbridge across the canal near the Ciarence Mill has the right monumental quality - and the drawback of expense

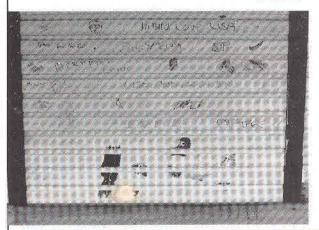


Aspects of the Recreation Ground: a summery scene on the well-tended bowling greens, and graffiti on the cricket pavilion, shown below, which has been there for two years now.

("though it would certainly benefit the Mill," as someone pointed out). Provision of a market at Pool Bank, as also was suggested, could be tested with a special fair there, perhaps, at the time of the next Bollington Festival, in 1999

Improvements to the Recreation Ground were put forward in the recent Landscape Bollington survey of the town, and these may be feasible. Going hand-in-hand with this is the suggestion that Bollington could, once again, manage The Rec itself

Our management would provide more of a "hands-on" approach than Macclesfield Borough can at present offer. Certainly, the shabbiness of the pavilion, and the wear on the pitches, speaks of the need for closer supervision. How about a Recreation Ground Project, then, starting with a forum of administrators and users, to discuss some means of putting life back into the place, and embracing the Landscape Bollington ideas to give this highly important area a celebratory facelift? After all, it was in 1901 that Francis Greg bequeathed this area to the town. An innovative programme of improvement, coming to fruition at the real turn of the Century, could do him proud. IL



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