



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Ten July 1997



Rollerblading Round-up
Silk Revival
The Bollington Pub Guide



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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

Cover: On the Skateboard Ramp beside the old railway viaduct.

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Printed by... Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)

What Price a Bollington House?

As if we did not know already! Our survey of the Bollington and Kerridge housing market shows that most people, once they have moved here, do not want to leave. There are 3,100 households in our town; but only 90, a mere 3%, were hoping to sell their homes in May, which is generally the most popular time.

In 1989, house prices nationally were at their height. Bollington was no exception, but the much-publicised collapse in values over the next five years - reaching as much as 30% in many areas - was not experienced here.

Local prices declined by an average of 10%, with the bigger drops experienced on some of the larger properties. Recovery has been slow and, although there are signs of values creeping up again, the agents seem to think they will not reach the levels of 1989 for some time to come.

In the early 90s there was a clear indication that young couples and single first-time buyers could not afford even the smallest terraced houses in Bollington. Often, they had to move to Macclesfield, where prices were 20% less.

This differential still exists, but low inflation, gradually increasing wages and the willingness of building societies and banks to loan up to 3¼ times an annual salary to single first-time buyers has put the £50,000 to £55,000 two-bedroomed terraced house within reach of those earning £16,000 a year.

The typical two-bedroomed house fetches £50,000 to £60,000. These are largely the stone-built terraced cottages that give Bollington much of its character. The prices of three-bedroomed properties are more varied: the average of £89,400 disguises the widely different values of the older stone-built houses, which can fetch £100,000 or more, and newer brick

buildings available for around £70,000. Location, parking, and the size of a garden can greatly influence the price. There are relatively few larger four and five-bedroomed houses in Bollington: only nine were available in May, at an average of £136,200.

The rental market is also buoyant. An unfurnished two-bedroomed house can fetch £400 a month, a three-bedroomed one around £500.

Demand has increased in recent years, with the expanding economy of the Macclesfield area attracting more people in search of temporary accommodation. In fact, the letting agents cannot find enough houses and three and four-bedroomed houses, in particular, are at a premium.

On the purchasing front, the cheapest property in Bollington was a one-bedroomed flat at £39,000, and the most expensive a seven-bedroomed historic building of great character for £235,000.

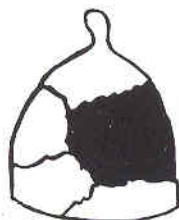
The average asking price locally is £82,247 and the total value of all the homes for sale in May was £7.4 million, with Kerridge prices some 10% higher than in Bollington. The total value of



all the houses for sale in these communities is estimated by *Bollington Live!* to be a staggering £255 million. Our town is a valuable place!

GB

Our thanks to Holmes-Naden, Cheshire Properties, East Cheshire Properties and Michael Hart, all of Bollington, for supplying information for this article.

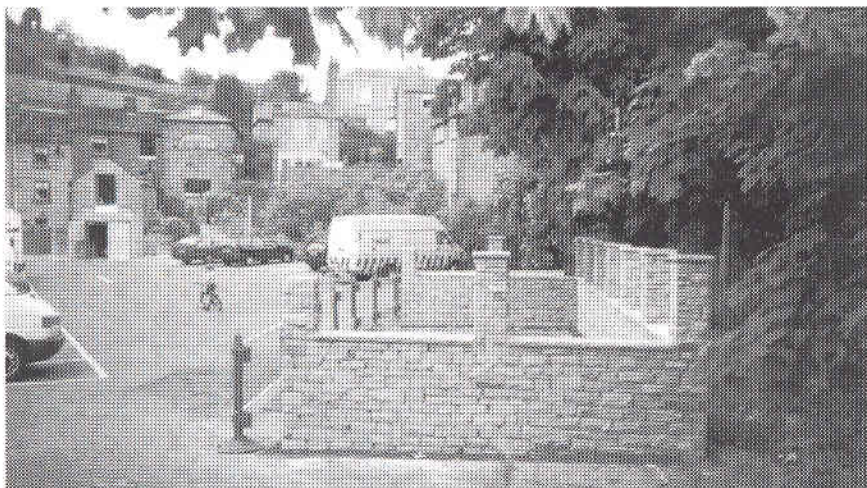


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The *Bollington Live!* Midsummer Riddle...

WHAT IS IT?

(answer on page 4, overleaf)



HERE TODAY - NOT GONE TOMORROW

A bungalow perhaps, waiting for the roof to go on? No, it's the new recycling area in Pool Bank, Bollington. There have been hopes expressed, from time to time, of something splendid evolving on this site. Remember the landscape architecture survey and the proposals for a market square? The new arrival hardly helps. It seems to have crash-landed here, having taken off, apparently, from a drawing board in Macclesfield. Worse still, it looks set to stay. At least the old bottlebank and paper-gathering centre was movable, filthy though it has been. One of the better aspects of recycling paraphernalia is normally its portability, but not so here. And it's not even set back under the trees. Building this in stone, I suppose, and putting up the pillar things, was an attempt to make it "respectable" in a coy kind of way; but it won't fool many JL

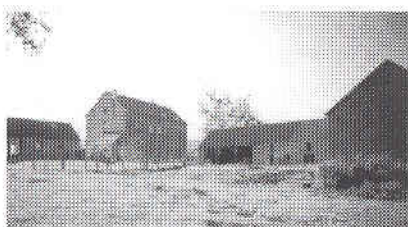
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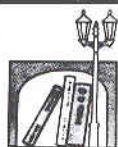
SUP & SAVE Judy & Richard invite you to "Sup & Save" at Bollington Cross Off Licence. "Sup" their extensive range of Beers and Wines at their low "Save" prices



Burgundy Farmhouse provides bed and breakfast for two at 250 francs a night (currently £26.50), while the adjacent cottage has beds for four in 2 rooms at 1,600/1,900 francs per week.

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Calling all Babies

The Bollington Baby Club aims specifically at mums (and dads!) with new babies. As toddler groups are often too boisterous, this will provide a calmer atmosphere in which new parents can meet. Additionally, it is hoped once a month to invite along professionals for help and advice.

With kind permission of the Bollington Medical Centre on Wellington Road, the Coach House there will provide a venue each Thursday from 2 to 4 pm. The cost of £1 for each mum and baby covers coffee and biscuits and a small donation to the surgery. Baby gyms, rattles, soft toys and so forth have been generously provided by Zeneca and the Adelphi Group.

Rules are few; in fact, only one is listed: that once a baby can crawl it is time to move on to a toddler group! For more information, please contact Cheryl Evans on 575089.



Anyone (in Bollington) for Tennis?

Now that we have a pair of recently resurfaced courts on the Recreation Ground, it should give the game a boost. If you are interested in playing, and in meeting others who wish to use the courts too, please call Catherine Harris on 573377. Who knows: from a nucleus of enthusiasts, possibly our own tennis club could develop - something Macclesfield, Styal and neighbouring Prestbury already have.

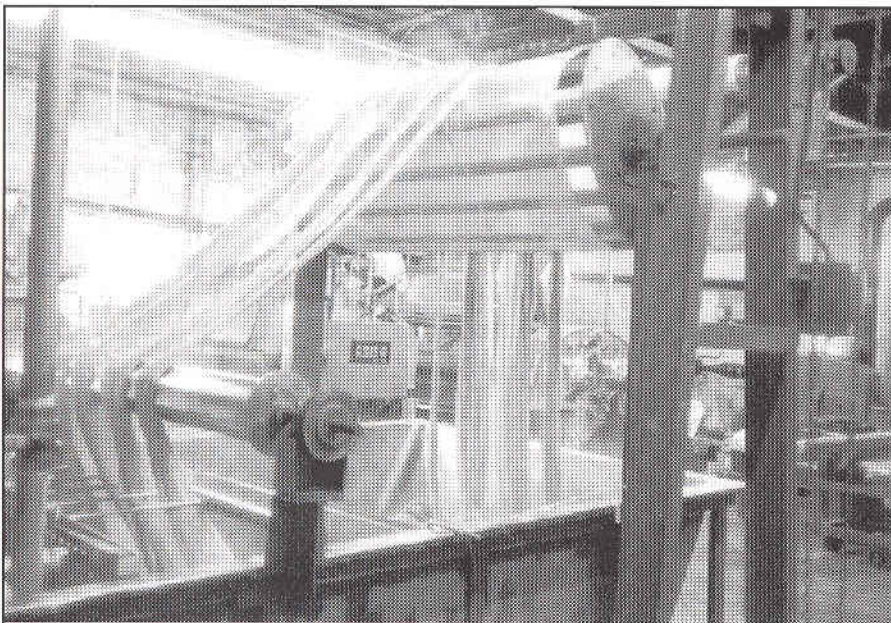
* * * * *

Riddle answer from page 3:

It's White Nancy after being taken up by a cable company, and then put down again.

(If a private individual practised this kind of thing on our pavements, what would the Council have to say?)

* * * * *



A Revival in Silk

A factory closes; not only are scores of lives wrecked but a skill risks extinction. Enter one determined man refusing to admit defeat and a visionary entrepreneur prepared to take a risk. A small drama with far-reaching effects has been played out in the industrial heart of Bollington. *Bollington Live!* went to investigate.

Imagine bales of shimmering silks and satins in a rainbow of shades - the stuff that decks the shelves of the most famous fashion houses in the land. As you walk through the dappled shade of Ingersley Clough you are unlikely to think of such things. But there, in a corner of the Shrigley Dyers premises, is a small and daring enterprise.

A year ago, when Barracks of Macclesfield closed its gates for the last time and moved to Lancaster, Coutaulds decided, for all the usual convincing reasons, not to maintain the silk dyeing part of the business. Only one other company, in Hyde, still practises the long established art of dyeing silk. It was not only the employees, many of whom had worked for Barracks for forty years, who were distraught, but the clients too. Much of the dyeing would have been done overseas.

Enter our determined man, Paul Gillen, commercial silk co-ordinator at Barracks and Macclesfield born and bred. "Of course, I needed a job. But my main motive was to not let the craft disappear. Why let the Germans and Italians do for us what we have been doing for generations?" He had resolved to buy one old jig (a machine for dyeing silk fabric) and set up alone if necessary, working in the evenings.

"Old Sparky we call it," Paul pats the machine affectionately. "It's a bit rough and ready, but it does the job." Paul persuaded a young dyer, David Bracegirdle, to join him. David had gone to Barracks at 16 and in the course of more than seven years been trained to be a highly skilled dyer. "But I couldn't wait. I wasn't long married and I had a wife and baby to support. So I went on the checkout at Tesco.... I stuck it for two and a half weeks before Paul phoned me."

Meanwhile, Paul Gillen had a problem. Even if he could start dyeing silk on Old Sparky, he had no means of drying the fabric. He would have to find and rent spare capacity on stenters (specialised fabric drying equipment) in an existing mill. Also, he had been given first refusal by Barracks on two modern jigs. "They said I could never afford them. They were right. But I wasn't going to let the opportunity pass, even though other buyers were queuing up for them."

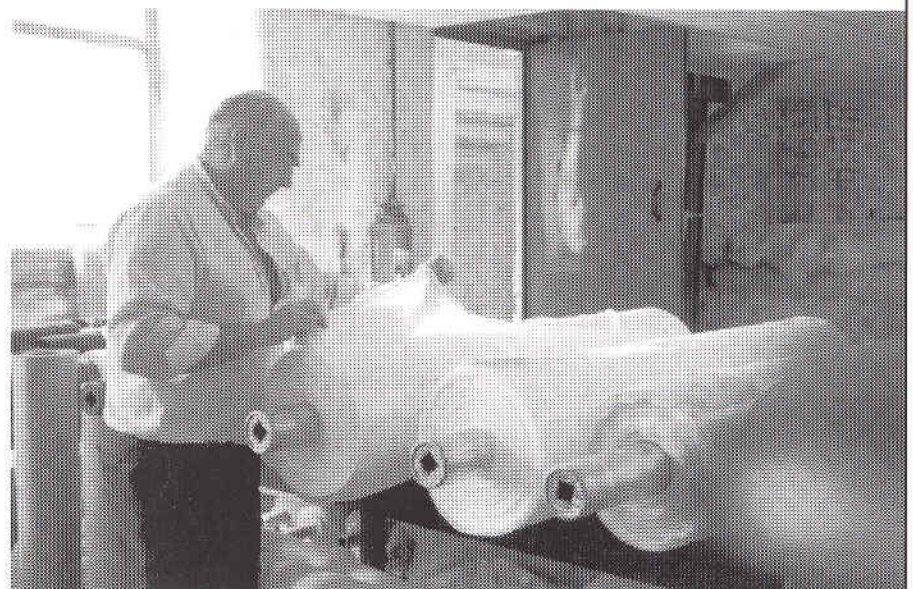
Now enter John Hancock, owner-manager of Shrigley Dyers, the successful family firm handling mainly knitted cotton. Would he buy the jigs and take on dyeing silk again, as the company used to do when his father owned it in the Thirties? A clinching factor was whether the silk fitted their stenters. One evening Paul took a roll of silk to try it out. It fitted.

Paul and David were joined by Barry Flood, a long-standing employee at Barracks, and the three were taken on by Shrigley Dyers. The die was cast.

On May 1st, 1996, the first bale of silk came off the jig; it is a roll of gold satin, still for sentimental reasons tucked into a corner of Paul's modest office.

The bales - undyed or 'greige' - arrive direct from China and are dyed to order with exact specifications from each customer. David pulls out his recipe book, in which the dye mixes are noted in grams per gallon. The silk

Continued Overleaf...



Paul Gillen tends rolls of silk in The Rainow Mill

Continued from previous page

is sewn together in lengths of up to 1,000 metres and dyed in batches to ensure an exact colour match. The dye is mixed in a bucket with a huge hand-held beater, the hot water coming from a steam machine like a cappuccino maker and poured into the jig, which passes the silk through the dye from one roller to another. Each journey through the dye is an 'end'. How many ends each batch receives depends upon David's trained eye: the more ends, the stronger the colour. Each customer has his own swatch of colours, but the possible variations are almost limitless. Delicate fabrics, such as crepe de chine or georgette, are dyed in a 'winch', described by Paul as "an old-fashioned, slow, softly-softly process." The dye must not be allowed to settle unevenly in the wet fabric. Paul has devised a

simple machine to keep the rolls turning, like chickens on a spit, while they wait for space on the stenters, which stretch the fabric as it dries, to a consistent size and quality.

Renowned for his excellent customer relations, Paul brought much of the Barracks client base with him. Even so, it is remarkable that 12 months on and from a standing start these three men have turned out close on 100 miles of cloth of the finest quality - satin, georgette, crepe de chine and slub silk, to name but a few - in upwards of 100 shades, supplying the biggest names in the silk industry in Stockport, Manchester and London. They, and Shrigley Dyers, have also ensured the survival of a craft at the heart of our local heritage.

"A good start," says John Hancock.

I should say so

JS



Barry Flood, David Bracegirdle and Paul Gillen in front of the dyeing jig 'Old Sparky'

While the silk dyeing takes place at Rainow Mill, in Ingersley Clough, the main site of Shrigley Dyers is in Bollington itself, at Higher Mill. Here a building was first erected in 1789 to spin cotton, using the River Dean to drive the machinery. A further mill was put up here in 1832. The older of the two eventually became Heaver's Brewery, while the newer structure, having ceased spinning cotton at the beginning of this century became 'The Hat Shop', run by Unwins Hat Manufacturers. A little later, radio valves were also being produced here by Radions Ltd.

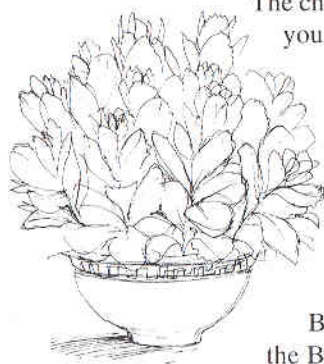
In 1931 the brewery caught fire - a common event with old mills, because of the oils associated with the cotton - and the sight of the flames was accompanied by the sound of thousands of beer bottles exploding. The building of 1832 still stands however, surrounded by the later structures of Shrigley Dyers. John Hancock, of the owning family, was first brought to Bollington at the age of two by his father Bertram, who moved to the site after previously working as a dyer in Congleton.

Shrigley Dyers employs 95 staff, and each week 50 tons of knitted cotton from Turkey, India and Pakistan arrives here to be processed, with the finished material going on to manufacturers in Leicestershire and Nottingham. In this way Bollington's tradition as a cotton town continues.

MS

Help Get Bollington Blooming - *It's not too late, says Ken Mosley*

Last year some parts of Bollington looked really lovely with almost every house, shop or pub ablaze with flowers in window boxes, hanging baskets or front gardens. Even during winter some people had colourful plantings of pansies, ivies or evergreens.



The choice of ready-planted baskets and planters at nurseries and garden centres is quite fantastic; and you get an instant effect, which is very satisfying.

But, with a little more effort, a striking display can be made for very little cost. For example, my wife planted a couple of window boxes with dwarf nasturtium seeds recently. One packet was quite enough for both boxes. They came up in a few days, are now about ten inches tall and should start flowering soon. A bowl in the yard took two *sedum spectabile* plants (£1.99 each from the nursery) which have filled the bowl with their lush fleshy foliage, and should break into long-lasting heads of dark red flowers. And as *sedum* is a sort of succulent plant, the leaves are thick and seem to survive the occasional accidental drought when watering is spasmodic.

Bollington Civic Society will again be making awards for the best efforts it sees, and the judges for the Britain-in-Bloom regional competition will be making a tour soon, with clipboards at the ready.

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BOLLINGTON



JULY

Saturday, 5th

SUMMER FAIR

at Bollington Cross School with stalls and games, bouncy castle, fire engine, pony rides. From mid-day onwards.

QUIZ NIGHT

staged by the Festival Players. At the Arts Centre, Wellington Road. £3 entrance fee includes supper. Tel 572527/574085/502488.

Thursday, 10th

SOCIAL GATHERING

for those associated with Rainbow Playgroup. Tel 574639/618315.

Saturday, 12th

PENDLE HILL HIKE

Meet Methodist Church, 9 am. Tel. 572259

Monday, 14th

SUMMER DESERTS

WI demonstration by Mrs J Middleton. Methodist Church Hall, 7.30. Tel 573571.

Saturday, 19th

ANGLO-IRISH NIGHT

with the dancing team from Bollington's twin town of Thurles. St Gregory's Hall, Wellington Rd, 8 pm.

DISCO

in aid of Bollington United Football Club, Conservative Club. 8 pm. £3.50. Tel 572552.

Sunday, 20th

VISIT TO WISLEY

by the Horticultural Society.

VISIT TO SCORTON

From Methodist Church, 1 pm.

Sunday, 27th

CANALSIDE SERVICE

and picnic, at Whiteley Green, 2.30 pm. Organised by the Methodist Church

Thursday, 31st

VISIT TO OPEN DOOR CHILDREN

in Manchester. Methodist Church.

AUGUST

Saturday, 2nd

OPEN DAY

at the Drop-In Centre, Town Hall, 11 am to 3 pm. All welcome.

Thursday, 7th

PARK TALES

Fun & games for children of 6 and over, run by Macclesfield Rangers. Recreation Ground, Adlington Rd., 2.30 -3.30pm. Free, but limited numbers. Tel. 504505.

Monday, 11th

DUTCH SUPPER

WI member's evening at the Methodist Church Hall, 7.30. Tel 573571.

Thursday, 21st

GARDEN VISIT

by the Horticultural Society, to Beryl Platt's at Stringers, Bollington Road.

Saturday, 30th

DISCO DANCE

at the Conservative Club. £4 (members £3.50). Tel 572552.



Classes continue on Tuesdays at 4.00pm. at the Arts Centre on the Kodaly Method of understanding music through singing. Instructor Kate Beck, seen above, also incorporates Dalcroze Eurythmics in her work with children. For further details Tel. 576250

SEPTEMBER

News of further outdoor events during autumn - not available as we go to press - will be obtainable at the Ranger's Office, Middlewood Way Car Park, Adlington Road, Bollington.

Tuesday, 2nd

FESTIVAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

at the Methodist Church, Wellington Road. Fauré Requiem and Finzi's 'Intimations of Mortality'. 8.00 pm. New members welcome.

Wednesday, 3rd.

THE FORTIES REVISITED

by Peter Heaton. Bollington Wives at the Civic Hall, Palmerston Street. 8.00 pm Tel. 574208

Saturday, 6th.

AUTUMN SHOW

of the Horticultural Society at the Civic Hall. Tel. 429265

Monday, 8th.

MUST I GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN?

Mrs. L. Shimell with the W.I. Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel. 573571

Saturday, 13th.

BIG BEAT NIGHT

Live Rock and Roll at the Conservative Club. £4.00, (members £3.50). Tel. 572552

Monday, 15th.

BOLLINGTON FOOTPATHS

Open meeting of the Civic Society in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wellington Road, 8.00 pm.

Thursday, 18th

WINTER WARMERS

Miss Jones on cuisine to warm up the gardener. Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

Saturday, 20th

DOUBLE OCTAVE CHOIR

from Yorkshire. Methodist Church, 7.30 pm.



The Coulls performing at the...

EVENTS

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 1st
BODY SHOP DEMONSTRATION
 Bollington Wives at the Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 574208.

Saturday, 4th
BARN DANCE
 Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm.

Monday, 13th
MARIE LLOYD
 Her life and songs, by Mrs S McLennan. WI at the Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel 573571.

Thursday, 16th
POLLUTION OF OUR RIVERS
 Horticultural Society, with Ian Hawkins. Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

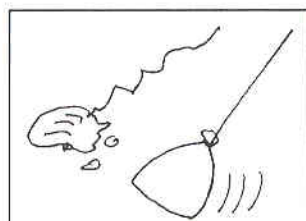
Saturday, 18th
BIG BEAT NIGHT
 at the Conservative Club. £4 (members £3.50). Tel 572552.



Quartet, who will be Centre, Wellington Road November

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 1st
COULL STRING QUARTET
 Donizetti, Haydn, Schubert. At the Arts Centre, 8 pm £8 (children and unemployed, £2). Tel 560000



Sunday, 2nd
GRAND CONKER COMPETITION
 - an old tradition revitalised!

With the Rangers at the Middlewood Way Car Park, Adlington Road. 11 am.

Wednesday, 5th
AN UNUSUAL HOLIDAY
 Bollington Wives with Kathleen Potts. Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 574208.

Friday, 7th
AGM
 of Bollington Arts Centre, 8 pm.

Monday, 10th
WI AGM
 Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel 573571.

Monday, 17th
THE BOLLINGTON QUARRIES
 Open meeting of the Civic Society, at the Arts Centre, 8 pm.

Thursday, 20th
BEES
 by D Lockett. Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm, with honey for sale.

Line dancing - how does in grab you?

Flora Menzies, aged 11, asks the question...

If someone came up to you and told you that Line Dancing was the next big thing, and that if you didn't go to the Methodist Church Hall weekly on Tuesday from 7 to 9.30 pm you'd be considered a lost cause - then *maybe* you should listen. It appears that **EVERYBODY** is crazy about the thing (except a few rugged individualists).

At first glance Line Dancing seems a harmless activity, but it becomes addictive! It's sort of like a cult: they send their missionaries out (disguised as cowboys and girls) and pressurise perfectly innocent people into doing The Grapevine and Toe-Heel Stomp!

If something is not done soon the population of Bollington will all be wearing cowboy boots and humming along to "Achey Brakey Heart!"

Christmas in July

They say Christmas begins earlier each year, but, with a musical show to put on, preparations have to begin in good time! Bollington Children's Music Theatre seeks new members to take part in *Tales of the Christmas Travellers*, which will be performed on Sunday, November 30th.

This seasonal musical by BCMT's director Donald Judge tells the story of six animals who are fed up with life on the farm, and decide a holiday is in order. Well-read Cat knows exactly where animals should go for a winter break - to visit a stable in Bethlehem. On the long journey the animals pass the time by telling stories: **The Three Nanny Goats Gruff; The Ass, the Miller & his Son; Chanticleer & Pertelote; and The Cat's Tail** - in which Cat loses his tail, but becomes a world-famous violinist! Finally, they arrive in Bethlehem just in time for Christmas.

BCMT is a friendly group which rehearses on Sunday afternoons, 2.30-4.30 pm, at Bollington Arts Centre. There are no auditions (except informally, for solo parts). Two preliminary sessions are being held for *Tales of the Christmas Travellers*, which has a host of parts, large and small, and plenty in the chorus. These are on Sundays, July 27th and August 24th, to meet prospective members, introduce the music and, hopefully, cast the show before main rehearsals begin in September.

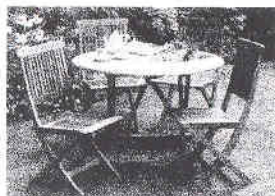
Anyone who enjoys singing and acting, and is interested in joining, should contact Donald Judge on 0161 427 2870 for further details.

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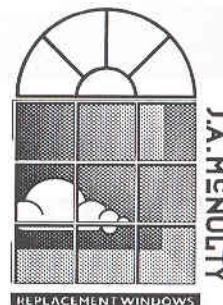
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An Understanding Approach to Care



Rollerblading - What's it All About?

Rollerblading is a hit in Bollington. At last we have young people on our streets again - out because it is fun, just as when kids kicked a football or rolled a hoop. Many rollerbladers pass our house, en route for the Recreation Ground or the skateboard ramp by the viaduct. I asked a group of them about this sport, which is inspiring so many. This is what they had to tell me:

Rollerblading, as we can see, is big business. Magazines are issued from the USA - 'Skater' comes out fortnightly and is full of info on the latest technology and tricks. Videos on techniques are for sale, showing the famous Jagger brothers of Wakefield, Yorkshire, and American TS Webber.

Rollerblading can be divided into three categories: Recreational, or Street Skating, which is simply rolling along, as around the Recreation Ground, or on the pavements: Aggressive Blading, introduced from America, which features tricks, often down poles or on a ramp: Soul, Acid, Top Side, Royale and Unity, for example; and Roller Hockey, a fast indoor game requiring special boots.

Phil Shaw, who started the Macclesfield Street Hockey Club, says that in just one year the number of teams in the two North-Western leagues has leapt from 13 to 44. Phil runs sessions for rollerbladers at any level in the Mulberry Centre at Alderley Park (1.15 - 3.15pm., Saturdays, for under-16's; Tel. 582828), and the hunt is on for warehouse space of up to 10,000 square feet to provide a permanent home (call Phil on 618286 if you have this area to offer!).

Boots: You can pick up a pair with plastic wheels from Argus for under £20, and from TJ Hughes of Exchange Street, Macclesfield for as little as £9.99 (while stocks last, in the size range 13 - 8); but rubber wheels are better. The mother of two keen rollerbladers I spoke to admitted that even she could see the better qualities of the more expensive equipment. £40 will buy a decent pair, although a further £30

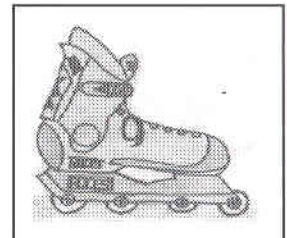
makes a greater difference again. The news that prices go up to £500 will keep these figures in perspective! Second-hand pairs, alas, only seem to be sold by word of mouth. Rubber wheel replacement becomes a necessity for the regular user. Spares come in packs of four at £40.

Accessories: The group I spoke to recommended knee and elbow padding, from Argos at £4.99 and from Bikes and Blades of 72A, Chestergate, Macclesfield (Tel 421660; closed on Mondays) - where, incidentally, rollerblades bought at the shop are mended free. Helmets, the group did agree, were a good idea (at £47!) although they tended not to be worn for long. Wrist guards can also be valuable, particularly if moving on to aggressive blading, where Sonic skate wax, at £3, is useful for gliding down poles or curbs.

Apart from the streets and the Mulberry Centre, where else is there to go? Macclesfield's West Park has an excellent ramp where up to 200 people meet, and another is in prospect for South Park. However, Bollington hopes to have its own outdoor area soon, by the Recreation Ground. There the site of a cricket pavilion, now gone, will be cleared. The result of an initiative launched by George Penney during his period as Mayor, this new facility is being funded by Macclesfield Borough, by Bollington's own Council - and by sponsorship, such as that for circuits of the Recreation Ground a few weeks ago - of up to 50 laps!

Alas, for immediate hopes, a legal problem has arisen concerning access to the new Recreation Ground site, and, until this is resolved, the equipment simply cannot be got in to work on it. There remains for enthusiasts the pathway round the cricket field and the skateboarding ramp beside the viaduct. Both receive heavy traffic at the moment! The new arena, when it comes, will surely be well used. **PL**

My thanks for help in compiling this article to Tom Binder, Hannah Gaywood, Rebecca King, Charlotte Mills and Dan Place, all of Bollington. Rebecca did our drawing.



Local enthusiasts on the ramp by the viaduct and, top, at the Recreation Ground, Adlington Road.

ROLL OUT THE BARREL -

THE BOLLINGTON PUB GUIDE

Bollington has more than it's fair share of pubs. What makes a good one? The most important thing for some is the beer. For others the appeal is the availability of darts or pool, whether it has a juke box or not, or perhaps some entertainment such as a quiz night or live music.

With so many public houses in Bollington I wondered what kind of variety there really was. I decided to visit all those inns that I could walk to from my front door on Wellington Road and see what they had to offer. As I visited several pubs over several nights, my judgement possibly varied by the time I had gone to a few!

The pubs are listed in random order. I have only listed the 'real ale' that was on offer. All the pubs have lagers and stouts etc; some of the larger ones have a really bewildering selection.

The Royal Oak, Princess Street

Marston's ales, pool and darts. A friendly local's pub, with great beer.

The Meridian, Palmerston Street

Burtonwood ales; pool and darts; juke box. Bollington's oldest pub, with plenty of atmosphere and popular with young people at weekends. Still has several small rooms, some with bell push buttons behind the seats to call for service. These sadly no longer work.

The Spinners, Palmerston Street

Boddington's, Theakston's and guest ale; pool, darts and dominoes. A friendly and busy pub which has recently been refurbished. Most folk seem to like the change. I hate the new sign though! A proper pub.

The Dog and Partridge, Palmerston Street

Robinson's ales; pool and darts; juke box; regular folk club. A friendly, no nonsense pub. It has several medium sized rooms, so it feels intimate without being claustrophobic. The ale is always good!

The Cotton Tree, Ingersley Road

Vaux ales; darts; juke box and sometimes live music. Almost like a busy London pub, small, with plenty of hustle and bustle. The Vaux beers Samson and Bitter are rare in this part of the country. Well worth a visit.

The Crown, Church Street

Banks Ales. Quiet on the night I went in, but the beer was fine. The decor is quite traditional, with lots of old wooden tables and chairs and an open fire. Deserves more custom.

The Red Lion, High Street

Burtonwood ales; darts and pool; beer garden. A friendly, smart little pub, quiet with very local clientele.

The Waggon & Horses, Wellington Road

Boddington's Theakston's ales and usually an interesting guest beer; darts and pool; restaurant and often live music or a disco. This is one of Bollington's biggest pubs, with something going on here several times a week. The guest beers are often a real treat and despite its size it still is intimate and friendly.

The Holly Bush, Palmerston Street

Robinson's ales; darts and pool. This is one of my favourites. It has lovely wood panelling inside and plenty of traditional brass and stuff around. It's quiet, with no juke box, and is a good place to go for a cosy chat.

The Bulls Head, Kerridge

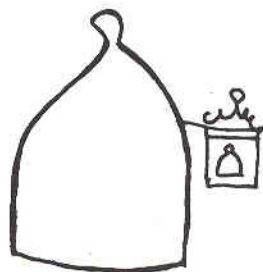
Robinson's ales. A quiet, local's pub.

The Poacher's Inn, Ingersley Road

Marston's, Boddington's ales and a guest beer; pool; good pub food and barbecues in summer (for over 21s or families). It has a comfy spacious interior with plenty of brass and other pub chintz. The beer was lovely and the bar staff welcoming. I should come here more often.

The Turners Arms, Ingersley Road

Marston's and John Smith's ales; darts and pool. Also does Bed and Breakfast. Very much a local's pub, but none the worse for that. Quiet.



The Church House, Church Street

Jennings, Theakston's and Marston's ales; restaurant; accomodation. Small and always quite busy; they have good food and lots of interesting pictures of the area hanging on the walls. Always worth a drop in for a pint of Jennings.

The Highwayman, Rainow

Thwaite's ales; restaurant. Good food and great beer. Unspoilt interior. Great place for drink and a meal after an early evening walk (if a long walk from Bollington).

The Redway Tavern, Kerridge

Boddington's and Courage Directors ales; restaurant. Less of a pub, more a leisure emporium. Dances, bands, discos. They do food and have a splendid children's playground. They also keep a variety of different farm animals which my kids always love. Just right for a quick drink on the way up or down White Nancy.

The Queen's Arms, High Street

Robinson's ales; darts and pool. A busy, friendly local's pub.

The Barge Inn, Grimshaw Lane

Greenhall Whitley and John Smith's ales; restaurant and hotel. Up several flights of steps within the Adelphi Mill. Very spacious and well-appointed. Feels like a snooker club - without the snooker.

Continued ...

The Cheshire Hunt, Hedgerow, Pott Shrigley

Boddingtons, Marstons Pedigree and Bass; restaurant and garden. Smart, traditional country pub with plenty of character, good ale and food. A great place to start or finish a country walk.

The Windmill, Whiteley Green

Tetley's and Marstons ales; restaurant and large beer garden. Huge open plan interior with lots of countryside paraphernalia. Very near the Middlewood Way, and so good for a stop off on a walk or bike ride.

The Lord Clyde, Clarke Lane

Greenhall Whitley and Bass ale. Very much a country pub atmosphere, near the Middlewood Way. It was quiet the night I went in. Small and intimate and the beer was very good.

The Cock and Pheasant, Bollington Road

Boddingtons and a guest ale; restaurant and family room; beer garden with children's play area. Sizeable, but still with a 'proper pub' atmosphere. Nice wood panelled decor with the usual pictures of old Bollington. Popular for families at lunchtimes, with good pub meals.

Toad's on the Waterfront, Clarence Brow

Large variety of beers; live music; restaurant. Cleverly built into part of the Clarence Mill, this is Bollington's trendiest night spot. Something between a pub, a wine bar and a night club. Whenever I visited it was very busy but it since closed. Now it is about to reopen. Sucks in a lot of stylish folk (not like me) from all over the area. The music is often good, but the acoustics are a bit boomy.

TN

TIMES PAST . . .



Mr J R Burdin stands at the side of the 60ft tree he chopped down during clearance work at the back of the Conservative Club in Adlington Road during the 1940s. This picture was handed to us by specialist woodworker Roger Bloor, whose family took over Mr Burdin's workshop off Round Gardens some fifteen years later. A noted joiner and wheelwright, Mr Burdin numbered amongst his specialities the construction of sledges - if you wanted one, you had yourself measured; then Mr Burdin made it to your own particular size. Tree surgery - well before the days of the chainsaw - was another of his areas of expertise. The tree cut down here, presumably because of its dangerous condition, was found to be 150 years old.

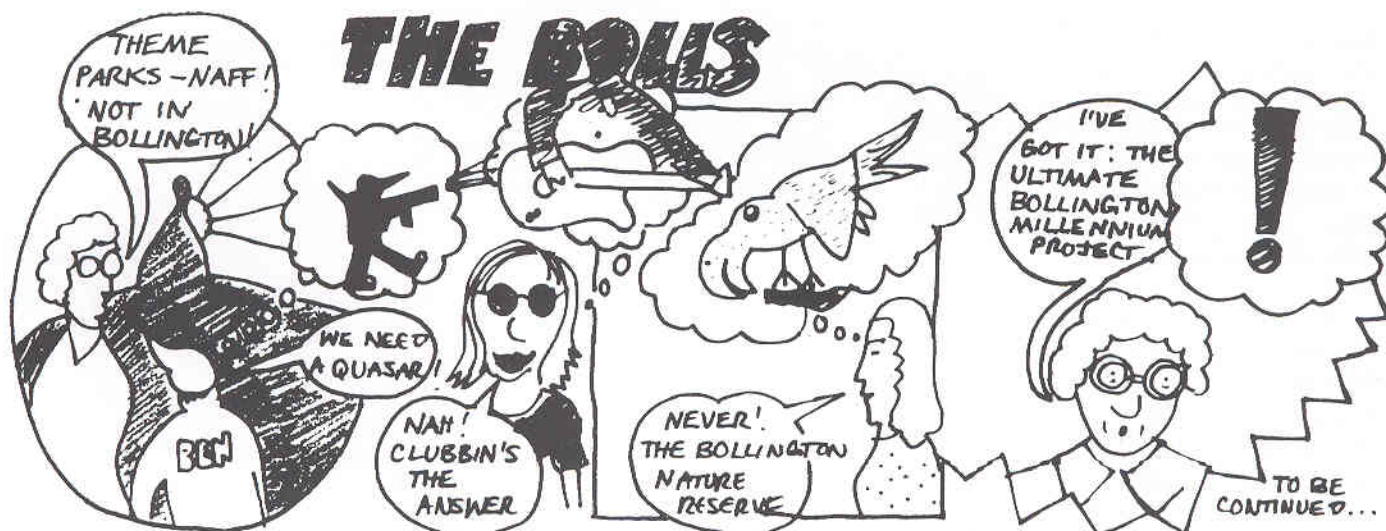
Late Shop Let-down

The many readers who are customers of The Late Shop, in Wellington Road, will have noticed that recent "improvements" include a poor selection of magazines and a range of national newspapers which have been on sale at half price. This looks like an attempt to destroy the trade of the local newsagent, Forbuoys, just two minute's walk away.

Does the management of The Co-Op, which owns The Late Shop, have any grip on reality? Their "news" section is limited, with a fraction of the stock of Forbuoys. It is occupying valuable space which once was used to provide a wider range of foodstuffs - it was this wider choice which encouraged people to shop locally more often. Or is this just another example of poor decisions by remote managers working to a formula and who probably do not know where Bollington is? Let us hope that this venture into being a third-rate newsagency fails, and that the space is put to better use.

WM

Forbuoys confirm to us that their trade has been hit, and dramatically so on Sundays. Other local people have registered their disappointment at the restricted range - and limited quantities - of foodstuffs now on offer at The Late Shop, a venue appreciated for its opening hours, the willing, responsive service of the sales staff, and - previously - the goods in stock. We urge the management to return to constructive policies. Ed





Don't miss the bus

- *especially around 8 am.* Since publication of our listing, small revisions have been made to the Bollington-Macclesfield timetable. A 7.55 departure from the Turners Arms replaces the one at 8, and there's another at 8.10 am now, rather than 8.15. The photo here was taken at the recent, highly successful, Carnival on the fields behind the Leisure Centre in Bollington Cross - not on the regular Macclesfield run, where the smart 10 and 10X services continue to gather more custom.

Toys Wanted

Well-known for its work on epilepsy, The David Lewis Organisation has strong local links. Administered from Alderley Edge, it has a number of residential units, and one of these is in Bollington. With accommodation for 10 residents, this is located in Consort Close, off Princess Drive.

"We could not be in a better place than Bollington," says Gill Foulkes, a senior careworker, who expresses the warm appreciation of all at the unit for the help and support provided by the local community.

On behalf of the David Lewis Organisation as a whole, Bollington resident Janet Broster has written:

May I make a plea for any unwanted 'babyish' toys, most suitable for the under-5s?

My son is a day pupil at the David Lewis Centre for Epilepsy. He has severe learning difficulties, is autistic and has extremely unstable epilepsy with associated behaviour problems. Lately he has had a few 'respite' days at Gatehouse, a unit for the least able children which is home base for my son's friends, all of whom are resident.

I was dismayed to find that there were very few toys for these children whose needs are so great. Although the children are aged 8-11 years, they

have difficulty in playing and would appreciate sturdy toys more usually thought suitable for younger children, in particular Duplo, activity centre type toys, musical toys, balls, jigsaws, shape sorters, music and story cassettes, easy books, and absolutely anything connected with Fireman Sam, Postman Pat, Thomas the Tank Engine, etc. Videos of these are like gold: the children love them, but they have worn out and frequently break the video player.

Other children at the Centre would also appreciate Lego, bikes in reasonable condition and board games.

I know it is hard for children to part with much-loved 'babyish' things, but perhaps they will find it easier, knowing they will go to the 'Gatehouse children' and others at the David Lewis Centre.

All offers will be much appreciated, and should be directed to Janet Broster at The Round House, Round Gardens, Bollington, Tel. 573490

Biking Around

Which picture was taken at the Recreation Ground? Bollington's Boyd Emmerich, of Palmerston Street, seen here on his Austrian-built KTM620 desert racing bike, recently took the machine across the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco. "At times we were riding over boulders the size of footballs, at times we lost the trail under areas of snow."

With his two companions, Boyd then dropped down into the Sahara - a vast region with virtually nothing on the map. Stopping in an oasis at the only village in the whole of a hard-riding day, they were offered accommodation. "Completely exhausted, we attempted to retire, but our friendly guide started to look annoyed and make throat-slitting gestures. He beckoned us to a mud hut and we nervously followed. Inside we found that the chief's son had slaughtered a goat for us, and the village poet and his cronies had arrived for a major jamming session. The drumming went on until 4 am.**



* Sounds like a local car park we know. Have you been on an expedition recently? Whether to Novaya Zemlaya or an abandoned lead mine in the Peak, Bollington Live! would like to hear from you, for news, preferably with pictures, of the off-the-track places Bollingtonians get to. Send details, please, to the Editor, at 23, Adlington Road, Bollington SK10 5JT.



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Nancy's Mystic Past

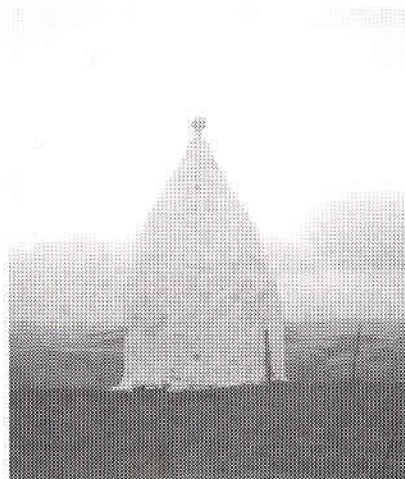
In some respects White Nancy is not unique. Towers or other structures, sometimes white, are not uncommon. White horses are found in certain parts of the country, some older, some younger than Nancy. Bonfires, too, have been frequent. On Samhain, November 1st, and Beltane, May 1st, they were lit to celebrate festivals of the old religion. Is our own tradition of bonfires on the hill some dim memory of these customs? A very old Bollington resident told me many years ago that he helped his father to build one of these bonfires - and it was even more exciting, when the fire was blazing, to roll flaming cartwheels down the hill. Would he have been one of the youths who, years ago, took the head off White Nancy and threw it into the spring beside the track from the Redway to Rainow? Was it all youthful high spirits, or were they doing what their fathers said had always been done?

A field adjoining Nancy, a popular picnic spot, was up to sixty years ago known as The Horse Race; but why? And from the 16th Century until Endon Hall was built, that part of Kerridge was named Whithill - The White Hill. Again, I ask: why?

Do these strange stories, of bonfires, blazing cartwheels, sacrificial heads in springs, white horses, white hills and strange white buildings, suggest something: the dim memory, perhaps,

of an ancient and important site: possibly a religious site. No doubt, you are thinking, that I have gone around the bend; but how about this?:

It is May. The village is celebrating the Spring Festival. To preside over the merrymaking a young queen has been chosen; but who is to be her consort? This is decided by a race up



the hill for young men of the village, some selected by their favourite hostelry. The race starts at the pleasure ground of the festival, and the men race up the steep track cheered on by the rest of the village. At the top is an edifice of a woman, all in white. The first runner touches her and she is then illuminated; but the race is not over. Down the hill again they run. The winner receives his prize, and a kiss from the Festival Queen.

This description could be of an ancient fertility rite, of the choice of queen and consort to rule for a year. But, just

guess when this ritual took place. It was in Bollington, and many present today must have taken part, for this is how the Bollington Festivals of the 1960s and 70s were opened.

Other groups of local people have used the site. The churches sometimes erected an illuminated cross, and sang hymns on Easter Day at dawn. The Methodists did so this year, while the Girl Guides watch the sunrise every year on Guides Thinking Day, February 22nd (Alan Wright, the last manager of the Clarence and Adelphi Mills, climbed White Nancy every Christmas Day for over fifty years - well before the now popular pilgrimage on that day; his regret was that he had not kept a record of the weather, although he did say that white Christmases were very unusual).

On the importance of White Nancy, I know several people with similar thoughts to myself. At one of my night school classes, I explained my feelings much as I have done here. "Do you see what I am hinting," I asked, and I got a quick reply. "Oh, yes," said one lady. "You mean it's an old pagan religious site." "Yes," I replied, "but why do you think so?"

"I know it is," she answered. "I have been alone by Nancy at midnight on Christmas Eve. The Moon was full and, with a very hard sparkling frost everything shone white. The place is magic." To use again the term employed in my previous article, this lady knows White Nancy is The White Goddess.

Roger Bowling

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