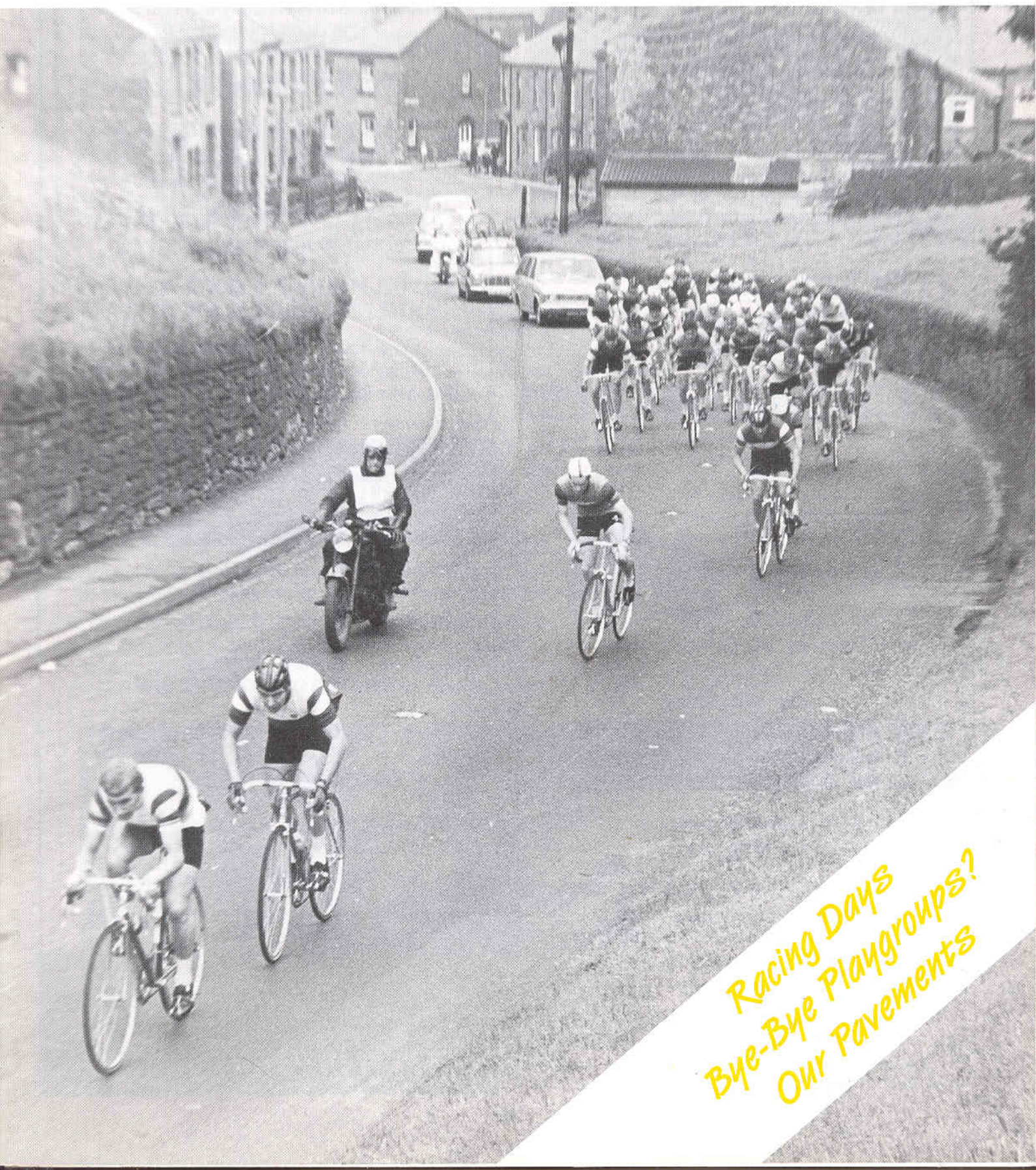




# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

Number Eleven November 1997



*Racing Days  
Bye-Bye Playgroups?  
Our Pavements*





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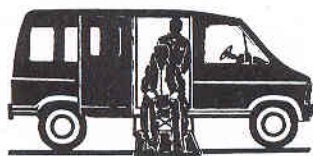
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*Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington a town in its own right!" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome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

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*Cover: The Bollington Road Race, 1971. Photo by Reg Ward.*

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## BYE-BYE PLAYGROUPS AND NURSERIES?

**Very few people will not have heard of the Nursery Voucher System - a scheme devised by the Tories, abolished by New Labour, and yet still about. Next April, it is thought, the same idea is to be reinstated under the fresh title of The Early Years Development Plan.**

The Voucher System was introduced as a means of fulfilling the election promise of free nursery places for all 4 year-olds. The crunch came, however, when Cheshire County Council, like many others, adopted the policy that all children of that school year should commence in September. This included very young children who would otherwise have continued at Nursery until the following January. But voucher money was going begging and with this policy the County Council won it - NOT the schools; on the contrary, they have had to re-adjust their budgets to buy extra items for the smaller child.

This new policy means that, even if your child is four years old on 31st August (necessitating introductory visits at the age of three), September

is the start date. Small child, but nice wad of voucher money.

The saga goes on. Schools, each doing their best - and in some cases, it must be said, doing so very well - have had to adapt to this lower age of pupils, some of them barely out of nappies.

In Bollington each school has had a different approach, and one has to question, without pointing a finger, whether they can provide an adequate education at this particular stage when the local playgroups - all of which have had terrific OFSTED reports - were providing a ratio of one staff member to eight infants or even less.

Nationally, 650 pre-school units have closed and, yes, Bollington is on the list. Rainbow of Albert Road, run by Helen Bassirat, was directly hit. This

was a nursery that attracted the older child now creamed off by the schools - those who might otherwise have stayed out of school until January. For Helen, the sums just did not add up in getting through the bleak Autumn term and, in running a private business, she simply could not continue.

Had they not had charitable status and reasonable rents, Heyday of Water Street and the Methodist Pre-School of Wellington Road would also have been victims. 26 and 27 years old respectively, these two delightful playgroups are teetering on the edge until the numbers increase again after Christmas. So too is the well-established Allsorts, which, though located on the premises of St John's, is not directly a part of the St John's School system.

The Arts Centre Nursery, on the other hand, is full. Run by Jacky Timms as a private business, this pre-school centre has always attracted children from a wider radius, while the disappointed parents of Rainbow have now footed it up the hill in order that their offspring can join.

In the meantime what is the answer for Bollington? Here we are: a town with four schools within its boundaries for 4-11 year olds, no secondary school and of the four pre-school organisations, three of them are faltering. Until the system changes for



*Fairwell Rainbow - a final 'photo of the pre-school group in Albert Road.*

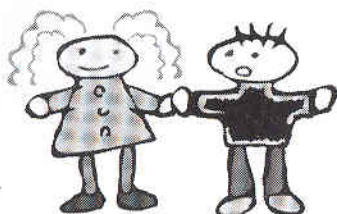
*Continued overleaf . . .*



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the better it is vital to support our pre-schools here. A handful of parents have held their children back from school until January; let us hope that for the September, 1998 intake there is less pressure to conform when a parent's instinct is that a child would benefit more from an extra term at pre-school. Let us also hope that all our pre-school concerns are still operating and thereby able to provide this valuable environment for the younger child. Imagine having no village pre-schools for our 3 year-olds....that really would be sad.

PL



## Those Toys

Janet Broster writes...

A very big thank you to the many people of Bollington who donated toys to the children of the David Lewis Centre following my appeal in *Bollington Live!* The response was brilliant and generous and the toys have given much pleasure to the children there.

Please continue to contact me on 573490 and I will collect any unwanted items.

## Now for some better news:

**Funtime, a before and after-school club, opened last Easter at Dean Valley School. The capable and well-qualified proprietor Marie Goodall, and her helpers, run a flexible scheme in which parents can book their children in for single, changeable sessions, or on a regular basis.**

The hours are 8 to 8.50 am, at a charge of £2, and 3.15 to 5 pm for £3.50 (or £5 if a child stays on until 6 pm). Siblings qualify for a £1 reduction in the afternoons, as do the children of single parents.

A drink and a snack are provided, with organised arts and crafts, games and, weather permitting, sport outside, all arranged with a sensitive touch. A Funtime staff member escorts children from Bollington Cross by taxi and

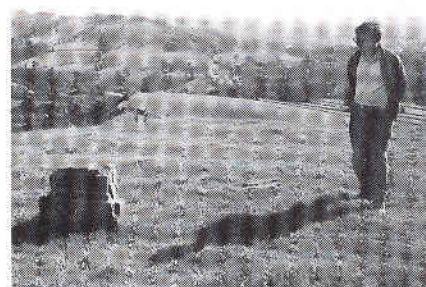
from St Gregory's School on foot.

Children are being enrolled not just as an answer to the working parent's dilemma, but also because it's fun. Amongst those speaking highly for Funtime is Jenny Gaywood, previously Chairwoman of the Governors at Dean Valley School. "It is a totally reliable facility," she says, "with peace of mind. And, thanks to the system, if a parent is occupied unexpectedly, the child, if registered, can be booked into the afternoon session that day."

Caroline, her daughter, says "it's the best afternoon of the week," and was still keen to attend, despite her mother's change in schedule. That surely sums it up.

Marie Goodall can be contacted on 574541 for further details. **PL**

## The Mystery of The Nab



Bollington's two most prominent hills each have a structure at the peak. On the one is White Nancy, the conical summerhouse erected around 1820. On the other hill, The Nab, is a 'trig point' or triangulation beacon, a modern affair cast in concrete. And close beside this is....what?.... the base, perhaps, of a monument or cross? Those who ploughed through the inspector's report after the public enquiry last year can recall no reference to it; yet the existence of such a marker must at one time have been recorded. Can anyone throw some further light?

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## Racing Days in Bollington

**Terry Wesley recalls the local circuit**

**I was most interested in 'Biking Around' in the March issue, which mentioned Ann and Albert Brough and Alan Whitworth. Albert was a founder-member of the Macclesfield Wheelers and Alan of the Ravens Cycle Club.**

I joined Macclesfield Wheelers in 1956, and as I married a Bollington girl I have lived here since 1959. During those years I organised many cycle races on the Bollington circuits. The last one was held in 1988.

The big circuit was from Albert Road to Adlington Road, then along Sugar Lane and the back roads of Poynton before joining the main road by Dickens Lane and back by Flash Lane to Bollington - usually of 10 laps, or around 80 miles.

But in 1968 I ran a special event, 'The Bollington Festival Road Race', with much help from Drs. Maurice and John Coope, and the former World Cycling Champion, the late Reg Harris, OBE, who was sales manager of Kay Bros., as they were called then.

The Festival sponsored this race, but it was such a success that Kays then sponsored it as an annual event for several years afterwards. Others who

helped were Claire Crosby, Peter Reade, Neville Birch and all of the Festival Committee.

This new course was a testing one, taking in Henshall Road, through to Clark Lane, then through Kerridge, Chancery Lane and High Street to Wellington Road. I later reversed it, and the 3.7 mile circuit went up High Street sixteen times, making 60 miles in all.

*The start of the 1971 event outside the Co-operative Society building, now the site of the Late Shop in Albert Road.*

*Photo by courtesy of Macclesfield Express*

Those were the days of very active community organising, when we were raising money for the Bollington Leisure Centre, driven mainly by the Coopes and Peter Reade. Many events were held. 'It's a Knock Out' was one I remember, and the Carnivals were fantastic.

The photos here highlight the lack of traffic, with hardly a car in sight. I used to leaflet all the houses on the circuit requesting no parking on the course



*The end of an early lap in 1968. Is Wellington Road ever like this today?  
Picture by Reg Ward.*





and the response was magnificent. We had a four-man police motorcycle escort and the local bobbies manned all the junctions and the lights at the aqueduct.

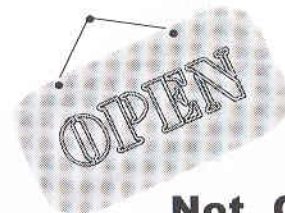
One of the pictures shows the finish and the large crowd opposite where the Late Shop now is. Can you imagine doing that today? I wonder how many people can recognise themselves - it was 26 years ago. The old Co-operative Society building that preceded the Late Shop also appears in a photo of the 1971 race.

Alas, today the traffic is impossible. Cycle racing still goes on and the Wheelers promote many events, but we are forced into the backwoods and country lanes. The spectacle of one in the village seems lost forever; but perhaps one day we can return. It is possible, but it would need a special effort from the Bollington Town Council and the police. I would be prepared to do it again with the right support. The rider's safety is paramount as they can't race on half the road with traffic pulling out between the groups when the field splits up. It's a bit more serious than a sponsored cycle ride. They average something like 27 mph.

*Terry Wesley, now retired, still travels widely as a mechanic at national and international cycling events. At the time this article was being put to press, he was in San Sebastian, Spain, for the World Cycling Championships. We are grateful to him and to Terry's wife, Nora, for providing also the evocative photographs used on these pages - Ed*

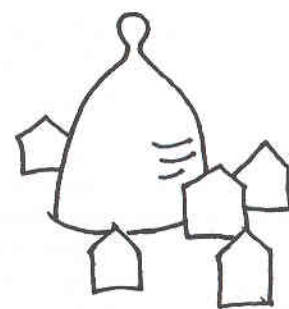


Reg Ward took the central picture of riders in Kerridge. The other two, courtesy of 'Macclesfield Express' show winner Ritchie Gregson at the finish in 1971, and receiving congratulations from the Macclesfield Silk Queen, Susan Anne Mellor.



## Not Closing

Good news from High Street, where two concerns rumoured to be closing are very definitely not. Mr and Mrs Mellor of Costcutter, the general store, tell us that, following a significant increase in turnover, the shop is no longer on the market, while Jackie Lane, of Palmerston Travel, reports her best year ever. Rumours of closure here had been sparked off by a change of use application placed by the landlords of the Palmerston Travel premises. This was a technical measure only, and in no way bears upon the foreseeable future of the business, which goes from strength to strength.



## Watching those Green Spaces - Help Needed

The pressure to build more houses is increasing - and Bollington, in particular, is vulnerable. Steadily, over the years, the belt of green that separates it from Macclesfield has been eroded. There are fears also about the extent of local quarrying and developments within our town itself. Our Civic Society scrutinises all local planning applications - but it needs to strengthen its hand. Readers who share these concerns are invited to join us, to take part in a more rigorous examination of the planning issues in our town. Contact us, please, at the Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington, marking any envelopes 'Civic Society'... or come along to the AGM at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road on Monday, November 17th at 8 pm, when there is a talk, also, on Pennine Geology.



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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

## NOVEMBER

*Monday, 10th*

### WI

AGM, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

*Friday, 14th*

### GRAND AUCTION

for the Drop In Centre, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm. Previewing 10th to 13th, Town Hall. Tel 576311.

*Monday, 17th*

### WEST PENNINE GEOLOGY

by Derek Brumhead, Arts Centre, 8pm. Staged by the Civic Society, with Bollington in Bloom awards, Photographic Display in the new Arts Centre gallery, and AGM

*Thursday, 20th*

### BEES

by D Locket, Horticultural Soc, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm

### PIPPY LONGSTOCKING

A childhood tale by Astrid Lindgren, staged by Edinburgh Puppet Company. A visual sensation for all the family. Tel. 576250  
8.30-9.30 pm, Arts Centre.

*Thursday, 20th to Saturday, 22nd*  
**SHOWTIME**

An evening of song and dance with Bollington Light Opera Group. Hot-pot supper included, licenced bar. £6.50. Civic Hall, 7.30 pm.  
Tel 875326

*Friday, 21st*

### FASHION SHOW

at Dean Valley School, 7 to 9 pm

*Saturday, 22nd*

### CAJUN EVENING

Infectious dance music by The Bearcats, Arts Centre, 8.30 pm. £7 (£5 for children) - famous Cajun soup included. Tel 576250

*Saturday, 29th*

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

St John's School, 11 am to 2 pm.

### SOUNDING BRASS AND VOICES

Methodist Church, 7.30 pm.  
Tel 575102

*Sunday, 30th*

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

for the Drop In Centre, 2 pm, Town Hall.

## TALES OF THE CHRISTMAS TRAVELLER

Seasonal entertainment for all the family by Bollington Children's Music Theatre. Arts Centre, 4.30 and 7.30 pm. Tel 0161 427 2870

## DECEMBER

*Wednesday, 3rd*

### BOLLINGTON WIVES CHRISTMAS DINNER

Country Cafe, 7.30 pm

*Thursday, 4th*

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS DINNER

At the Country Cafe

*Saturday, 6th*

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

and children's activity afternoon, 2 to 4 pm, Dean Valley School.

### DRAGONS FIRE

A festive programme of Christmas music, from medieval to modern by this multi-instrumental and vocal quartet. Up to 50 instruments employed. At the Arts Centre, 8 pm. £8 (Children £2). Tel 560000

*Monday, 8th*

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

of the WI, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

*Sunday, 14th*

### TRASH IT AND MASH IT

with Bollington Wildlife Watch Club. Making cards from recycled paper and natural materials. Arts Centre, Wellington Road, 1 to 3 pm

### BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

performing Verdi's Stabat Mater and Te Deum, Finzi's Intimations of Mortality Methodist Church, 8 pm. Tickets £5 (Children £2) from the Medical Centre, or Tel 573494.

### MESSIAH FOR ALL

Come along to sing through the masterpiece, Arts Centre, 8 pm

*Sunday, 21th*

### VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

St Gregory's Church, 6 pm.

*Wednesday, 24th*

### CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The popular traditional event outside the Town Hall. Timing to be announced.



*The Bearcats bring the Louisianan atmosphere to the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, on November 22nd.*



# EVENTS

## JANUARY

**Sunday, 4th**  
**HOME TWEET HOME**  
 Building nest boxes with  
 Bollington Wildlife Watch Club.  
 Please bring a hammer!  
 Marlborough Drive,  
 Tytherington, 1 to 3 pm.

**Wednesday, 7th**  
**WHAT '98 HAS IN STORE**  
 by Mrs Peggy Tillot, Bollington  
 Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm

**Friday 9th to Saturday, 17th**  
 (except Monday, 12th)  
**ALLADIN**  
 Panto with the Festival Players at  
 the Arts Centre, 7.30 pm.  
 Matinees on 10th, 11th and 17th,  
 2 pm. £4.50 (Children and OAPs  
 £2.50). Tel 572527.

**Monday, 12th**  
**DERBYSHIRE WELL**  
**DRESSING**  
 described by D Hutching, WI,  
 Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

**Monday 19th.**  
**LOCAL FOOTPATHS**  
 Public discussion, hosted by the  
 Civic Society, Arts Centre, 8pm.

**Saturday, 24th**  
**AGAPE MEAL**  
 for all churches. Speaker Canon  
 Stretton, Methodist Church, 6 pm.

**Saturday, 31st**  
**LONDON MOZART TRIO**  
 whose recording of Schubert's B  
 Flat Trio has been praised as the  
 best since Casals/Cortot/Thibaud.  
 Programme from Mozart,  
 Schubert and Arensky. At the  
 Arts Centre, 8 pm, £8. Tel 560000

## FEBRUARY

**Wednesday, 4th**  
**FROM CUTS TO CARDIAC**  
**ARREST**  
 by paramedic J Hartley.  
 Bollington Wives,  
 Civic Hall, 8 pm.

**Sunday, 8th**  
**ENVIRO-ART WORKSHOP**  
 with a local artist. Arts Centre, 1  
 to 3 pm. Contact Ranger Andrew  
 Wilson, on 573998.

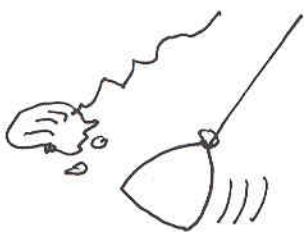
**Monday 9th**  
**SIX BOLLINGTON**  
**FESTIVALS**  
 described by John Coope. WI,  
 Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm

**Saturday, 28th**  
**LONDON CANTILENA**  
**QUINTET**  
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 8 pm. £8 (children £2). Tel  
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## MARCH

**Sunday, 1st**  
**RAMBLE ROUND RAINOW**  
 An 8 to 10 mile tramp, with  
 Ranger Andrew Watson. 10.30 to  
 3.30.  
 Meet Adlington Road Car Park;  
 bring lunch.

**Sunday, 8th**  
**MANIC MONSTERS**  
 Bollington Wildlife Watch Club,  
 creating artwork with natural  
 materials. Arts Centre,  
 Wellington Road, 10 am to 1 pm.



**Our apologies** to those  
 tempted to attend the conker  
 competition, listed in our last  
 issue. Conkering,  
 apparently, is too dangerous  
 to be insured by the local  
 authority, and the event was  
 called off. Intending  
 competitors presumably  
 went away and conkered  
 privately. It makes it sound  
 like bare-knuckle boxing or  
 the baiting of bears; or are  
 we going mad? - Ed.



## An Arts Centre for the Twenty-First Century

Following weeks of disruption with building work, the Arts Centre in Wellington Road is almost ready for the run-up to the festive season.

Bollingtonians will be pleasantly surprised by the scale and quality of the improvements. These include a spacious new foyer, dramatically improved lavatories, and a fine new gallery/bar with an exciting double height area overlooked by French windows from the first floor meeting room. A specially commissioned engraved glass window overlooks the gallery space. Access for the disabled has been provided. Behind the scenes there is a large new storage area which can also be used as an extension to the auditorium for big events.

The quality of the work is very high. Kerridge stone has been used for the gallery extension to tie in with the original building.

The new Arts Centre will be a very different experience for both performers and audiences. And there are completely new possibilities, including the staging of exhibitions. The first of these being planned is by local artist, Jane Osmond, whose landscapes will have a wide appeal. A new group, BOLVAG - Bollington Arts Centre Visual Arts Group - is working on the programme.

All of this has been made possible by the hard work of the Development Committee over the last eighteen months. Frank Hillson, the (voluntary!) contract administrator said "We've had one or two problems but it's all been worth it and I think people will be amazed by what we've done."

A really impressive feat of endurance has been raising the money. The Arts Council Lottery Fund, the Borough Council and our own Town Council support were essential; but this encouraged others - both businesses and many individuals - to contribute money, hold special fundraising events and help in many ways. Dr John Coope, the Arts Centre Chairman, says "What Bollington does today, the rest of the world tends to follow. Our Arts Centre is unique in Cheshire and we are preparing ourselves with confidence for The Millennium and the next century."

WM



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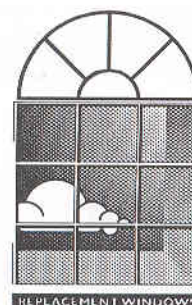
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# "I'll be a Playwright...."

## Lavinia Murray and the world of the imagination.

"If you want to create, do," is the message of Bollington playwright Lavinia Murray.

Yes, Bollington has its very own, nationally famous playwright, lauded in the press, broadcast on the BBC and veteran of - how many productions? "Oh, seven or eight, I think," she says vaguely. We are drinking tea, not at Fortnum's but in the Waterside coffee shop in Clarence Mill. "I was out of a job," she continues, "and I thought, I know, I'll be a playwright, I've always wanted to be one of those. So I wrote two plays in a week, you know how you do when you don't know what you're doing, and sent them off to a couple of London theatres I'd heard of." One of them was the Royal Court. She was invited to join their Writer's Group and she was launched.

That was the easy part. Not for nothing is this chatty, chirpy woman the grand-daughter of an Argentinian bare-knuckle boxer and directly descended from Gentleman Jim Sullivan, the Irish prize-fighter. For everything else in her life has been a struggle. Brought up in Elworth, Cheshire, and then inner-city Manchester by adoptive parents who really wanted a boy ("I wasn't even pretty"), continuously and brutally bullied at school, this odd, elfin child had the added misfortune of having brains. She was the perpetual outsider, to her family, her schoolmates and even her colleagues in the various unsuitable jobs in which she found herself. Daisy, her pet rabbit for eleven years, was her best, her only friend. But the air of vague naivety behind her screen of hair is deceptive. Lavinia is a survivor and a fighter, and not only because of the "raised razor knuckle" proudly shown on her diminutive fists. Indeed, it is to the difficulties of her childhood and adolescence that she attributes her extraordinary imagination. "Everybody has imagination, but not everybody needs it as a lifesaver." It provided a means of escape when the real world became unbearable.

A new life began when, anorexic and close to collapse, she married Michael to get away from home. They remain happily married and have a teenage son. Michael encouraged her to give expression to the inner world which had hitherto only been her secret refuge. First came mime: a New York mime artist, Topo, came to Bolton,

that is, in terms of bread-winning; she has written stories since childhood.

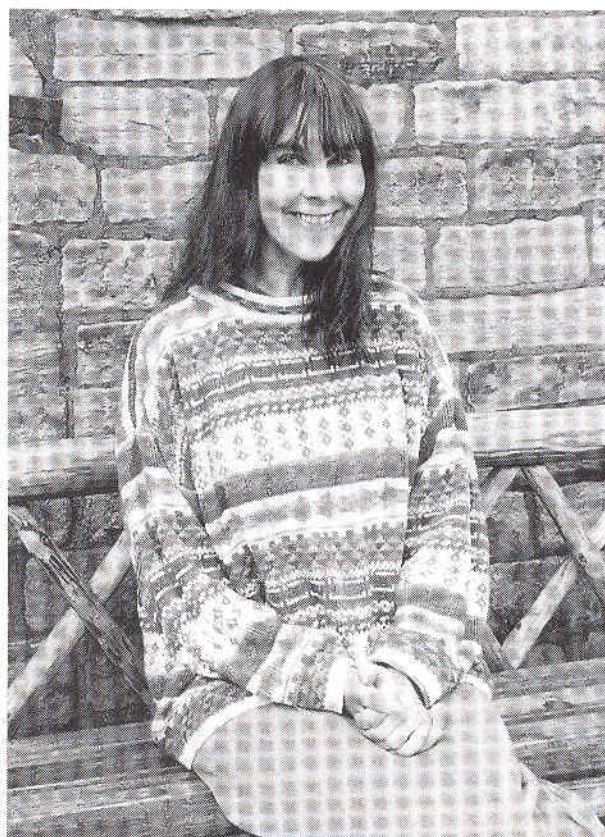
Lavinia always tries to include Bollington in the itinerary when her plays are touring: 'Stoneface', 'Wax' (The Strange Story of Madame Tussaud) and 'The Generosity of Penguins' have all been performed at the Bollington Arts Centre. The national tour of 'Goldmines', written to be performed in prisons, was cut short last summer after a riot on the night the *Guardian* reviewer attended. "We didn't actually cause the riot. Nobody could hear a word of the play!" 'Goldmines' was short-listed for a LWT award, the reviews either rapturous or venomous - "Just what you want, really."

After seven years in theatre, her verdict is "poison". The seemingly unavoidable politicking ("silly games"), she finds a waste of time. Writing for radio, television and film is her new passion. Her latest project, 'Land', was broadcast on May 22nd, 1997 as BBC Radio 4's Play for Today during the Manchester Airport protests. That script is being turned into a film.

So, is she a "message" writer? She is passionate about animals (twelve in the household at the moment) and environmental issues are clearly close to her heart.

"A writer can't avoid making a statement. But I set out to explore the subject. There are so many facets to everything. Life is peculiar - barmy - there's no real sanity in the world. As soon as you get involved in whatever is going on, the idea of normality goes out of the window. It's a strange, complex, mixed up, messy world - bizarre, totally bizarre. I am always looking for reasons why I'm here. If there was no reason it would be the sickest joke. I always seem to end up writing dark comedy. Life is so funny, cruelly funny and sweetly funny. That's how I have survived, by seeing the funny side of things."

JS



where they were living, and Lavinia enrolled in her classes. After a week she was invited to take part in his show.

Her next move was to train as a clown at Blackpool Tower Circus. She was one of six, only two of them women, to be accepted out of the four hundred applicants. Performing solo in the big top? "Quite difficult," she admits, "but good, backbone-building stuff. Doing forward rolls on stilts was quite interesting too." Yes, indeed. Lavinia loved the circus, but gave it up for the sake of family life. "I was going to do some work as a stand-up comic, but the club closed down on the night I was due to perform. Quite a relief, actually."

Work in advertising followed, which she left in disillusion. And that's where the serious writing started - serious,



# QUIZ NIGHT AT THE WAGGON

**What is a male turkey called? How many tentacles do cuttlefish have?**

I didn't know before I went along to the quiz night at the Waggon & Horses pub, held every other Tuesday, 8:30p.m. All over the country, and at many of Bollington's varied selection, pubs hold trivia quiz nights. There are quiz leagues and big prizes can be won. We seem to have an insatiable desire to pluck from our memories the most obscure pieces of information over a glass of beer.

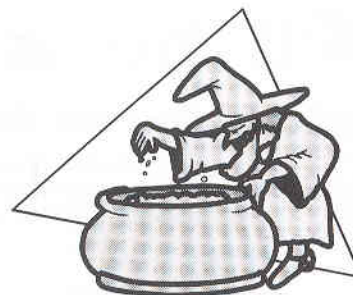
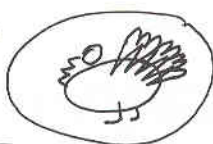
Gary, our professional compere for the evening, works the pubs of the north west from Lancaster to Stoke, from his base in Warrington. He has equipment that is more commonly associated with a DJ; microphone, amplifiers and speakers. He provides printed question sheets and even pens. My friend and I were quickly roped in even though we had missed the first round on Pop music. Entry is free!

Each team can have many members (which helps) and there were sixteen teams in all with names like "3 women are better than 3 men" and "The Chopper pilots". There are of course plenty of breaks to buy drinks and as

the evening wore on there was some fine heckling from the floor.

The great thing about trivia quizzes is that there is inevitably at least one question where you know the answer but have a hunch that nobody else does. This might not win the quiz, but at least you can feel superior for a few seconds. I didn't know what a Flemish Giant was, but my pal did. The questions ranged from sport to science, current affairs to country and western music. This is not an evening for general knowledge snobbery, not when 'The Nolan Sisters', 'Bald Eagle' and 'Dr Who' were three of the answers from one round.

We didn't win but we were by no means last and we had had an enjoyable evening away from the tele. Next time I think I'll field a slightly larger team to improve my chances of glory. I'm looking for an expert on sport with a good working knowledge of nineteen fifties saloon cars. Any offers? Oh and in case you're wondering, a cuttlefish has ten tentacles. You can find out about the turkeys yourselves! **TN**



## Granny Nancy's Winter Remedy

*(Not for a hangover; it isn't- Ed)*

Infuse a glow into these dark and stormy nights.

Try the following recipe for the drink called "44", suggested by one of our contributors. The ingredients are:

- 1 bottle of vodka
- 1 whole orange
- 44 sugar lumps
- 44 coffee beans

Slit the orange 44 times, then press a coffee bean into each hole. Next place the orange in a large jar with the sugar lumps and pour on the vodka. Now for the tricky bit - leave the mixture for 44 days before drinking; that is to say, until around the turn of the year.

Enjoy!



## Bollington In Bloom Awards, 1997

Presentations at the Civic Society meeting at 8 pm at the Arts Centre on November 11 will be as follows: Best Small Garden: 82, Bollington Road (Philip and Brenda King); Best Terraced House: Beck Cottage, 41, High Street (Councillor Kate Davies and Howard Smith); Best Commercial Premises: The Lord Clyde, Clarke Lane; Best Community Effort: Ingersley Court, Lowther Street (Jill Kerner, care supervisor, and Alan Lumsden); Best Council Property: 24, Greenfield Road (Alan Aked and Irene Bradley); Best Public Building: Bollington Town Hall.







## Will You Get There, or will you not? -

### *The Bollington Live!* potted guide for the pedestrian

Prompted by recent events, in which half the town has been dug up and put back differently, our roving contributor has selected some choice examples for the record. Justina Pulova reports

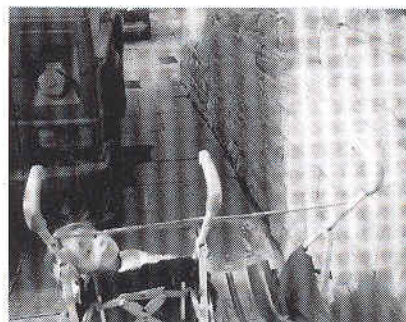
First of all, some definitions:

**Pedestrian** - a rarely sighted species, but identified by its limping gait, or strong cursing noises if pushing a baby-carriage or trolley.

**Pedestrian Crossing** - the Bollington equivalent of the Mastodon or Dodo. No-one has seen one here.

**Town Council** - the elected body to which matters of public concern can be addressed - such as the activities of road digging contractors. There should be strong links from here to officers of Macclesfield Borough, a rapport, with a steady to and fro of information, a readiness to receive local comments and to act upon them. Try it and see. On the other hand, you may feel you stand more chance tackling these jobs on your own.

**Pavement** - an uneven, chequered area considered suitable for parking



**Pushchair** - a device for carrying children or handicapped people, of sufficient width not to pass between cars parked on pavements and adjacent walls.

**Pushchair repairs** - an after-shopping activity for those who have walked (There may be an opening for some entrepreneur here: we have a Maclaren baby carriage with a buckled wheel for starters).



**Road** - a smoother surface than the pavement, lending itself to the suggestion that buggies and wheelchairs are better pushed along this.

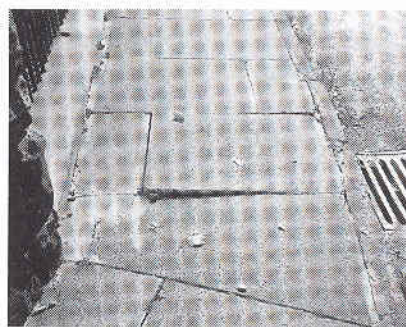
**Cable-laying contractors** - people employed to dig up roads and pavements, and then replace them. Since they are paid by the metre, their interests are not the same as ours.

**Cable company representative** - someone offering even more television than we have already, at several times the price. Will the picture be uneven, the viewer is tempted to ask, with cracks across it and patches in the middle?

**Dogs** - provide the wild card, if that's the appropriate expression, from which no foot or pram wheel is safe.

Now for some local curiosities:

**The Corner between Hurst Lane and the approach to the Civic Hall Car Park** - Since it slopes in two directions, the pavement here is for people who can travel at an angle, the pedestrian equivalent of the Woozlum Bird, that flies around a mountain top because it only has one wing. It's not the fault of contractors of course, certainly not of recent ones; it is a quaint survival, to be negotiated by the fit and agile, or far-sighted people who bring along a stilt.



#### **Adlington Road, Odd-Numbered Side**

- There are considerable bumps and hollows here, which change according to rainfall. Walking can be like travelling over the keys of a giant piano. There's an exceptional bit by the bridge, which someone crunched by driving a truck into it, but most of the problems were brought by people offering cable TV.

**Public Library** - If you live on the Dog & Partridge side the Library is easier to reach than get back from. Sometimes you feel like camping for the night here when the traffic is heavy. With blind bends in both directions,

*Continued overleaf . . .*



*Continued from previous page*

crossing the road outside can be an adventure. Spare us a thought if you're approaching this point in your 16-valve Mazawattee Slingshot.

**Wellington Road, in the vicinity of the Medical Centre** - A subtle, ironically located deathtrap, in which the pavement has many dips to deceive the unwary. Alas, much of the damage here has been caused by intending patients parking their cars on it. Later, on the way to the pharmacy, the hazards become more robust. There's a saw-toothed section, then a mixture of tarmac, flagstones and draincovers, a kind of hardware toad-in-the-hole.

**Hurst Lane opposite the canal** - There's a classic example of the old stone paving here, which is increasingly rare. Unfortunately the Nynex cable-laying company that dug it up recently wasn't able to lay it straight again. The residents have been writing to them ... and writing...



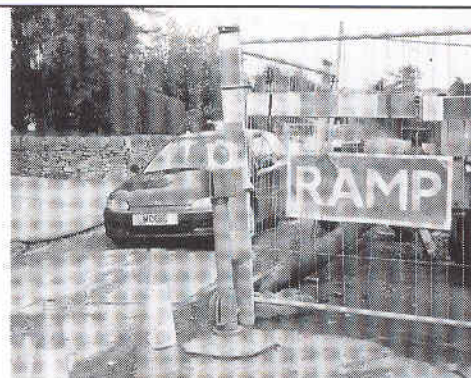
**Water Street** - Resembling an advanced officer's training course, this attractive old area featured digging and disruption for a very long time.

But it's over now. What? You can still hear a noise? There are gas pipes being fixed in High Street just around the corner. Is this why the double-glazing companies ring us so often? Or is it part of a plan to restrain the price of housing?

**Henshall Road** - Motorists will expect this to be mentioned, since it has been the site of road works for longer than many will care to remember (Its main effect on pedestrians though has been to make getting across the road slightly easier). As with those jobs back home, replacement of the sewer here turned out a good deal harder than expected; but it's being finished, or is rumoured to be, which is more than can be said for our pavements - unless we mean finished off.

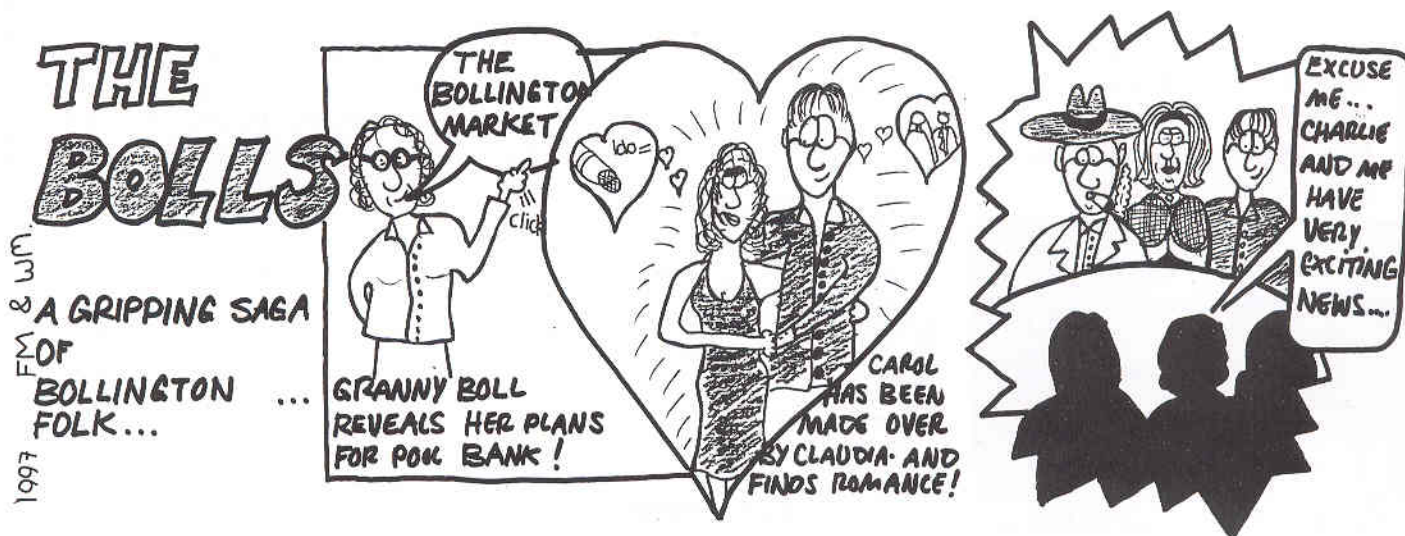
**Editor's Note** - *Bollington Live!* contacted the Chief Technical Officer at the Town Hall, Macclesfield regarding the state of local pavements. The reply, received in early August, explained the widespread use of tarmac for patching as a temporary measure, with the intention of renewing flagstones later, within a two-year period. Adlington Road's pavements, it was agreed, were unsatisfactory and the Nynex cable company that dug them up has been informed. "I can assure you," the letter goes on, "that all remedial work is being paid for by Nynex and a more thorough inspection of all their works will be undertaken over the next three months."

We look forward to these improvements taking place - and to



surviving the two year moratorium without visiting the Medical Centre too often. The minutes of the Bollington Town Council meeting of October 15 last year included the suggestion that "the public ought to be advised to photograph the street pavement and adjacent buildings and walls to their property before the Nynex contractors take up their positions." So it was *us* who had to keep an eye on them?

On to more positive news, from Heather Emery, Conservation Officer in Macclesfield and her colleagues, to whom our grateful thanks for recommending these steps: Queen Street, Bollington, is to be restored in the traditional style, with setts and stone-flagged pavements; so is a portion of Palmerston Street. More of Palmerston Street may be restored as well, but the money is limited, so it's a toss-up between this and the area around The Green in High Street. The Technical Services Manager of Macclesfield Borough also tells us that the pavement beside the Dog & Partridge is to be renewed soon - to put right the damage caused by parked vehicles.





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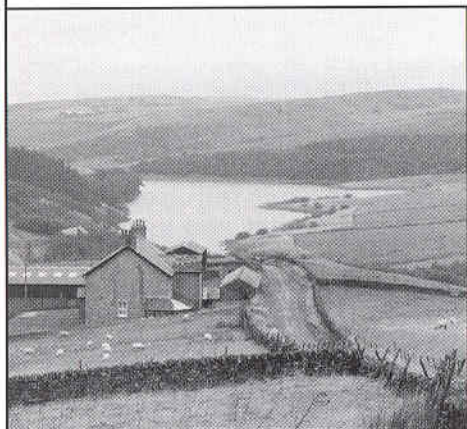




## The Stuff We Drink ...

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North West Water, which is responsible for our supply, is a part of United Utilities, the concern that provides water and waste treatment services for almost seven million people in the North West of England. They supply 2,200 million litres of water - that's 2,200,000 tons - of water each day to 2.8 million homes and over 200,000 businesses, and they also own Norweb and provide our electricity as well. It's not surprising to learn that it's one of the biggest businesses in Europe, with an annual turnover of £2.4 billion. Anyway, that's enough of big numbers; what about Bollington's water supply?

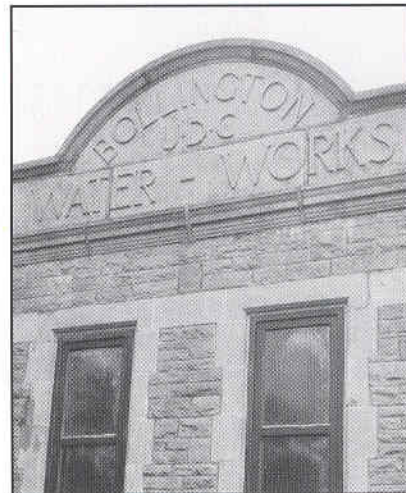


*The reservoir at Lamaload and, at the top of the page, the listed building in Rainow.*

The Bollington Cross area gets its water from the Lamaload Reservoir which is located in the hills to the south-east of Rainow. From there it flows to a service reservoir off Lidgetts Lane at Kerridge End, and thence to Bollington Cross. The rest of Bollington gets its supply from a bore hole at Millbrook in Rainow, via service reservoirs at Lowerbrook Upper and Lower and on into Bollington. From time to time the borehole supplies are supplemented from Lamaload.

Lamaload Reservoir was completed in 1961 and is well-known to fishermen and to walkers. A small car park is provided if you want to visit it one day. Water there is passed through pressurised sand filters and treated with chlorine to eliminate any bacteria. Lime is added to decrease the acidity and lessen the solvency of lead when the water passes through the old lead pipes of some of the older properties in Bollington.

The Millbrook borehole is situated in Rainow, alongside the main Macclesfield to Whaley Bridge Road just next to the bridge over the River Dean. The building is "listed" for its architectural interest and has the sign "Bollington UDC Waterworks" on the facade. The groundwater here is pumped from a depth of 74 metres (225 feet) and through the treatment works on the site, and, as at Lamaload, lime and chlorine are added. Millbrook water has very little colour or turbidity - a technical term for suspended sediment - and it is neutral; being neither excessively acidic nor alkaline. There are few, if any, metals present and the water has medium hardness.



Between 1.5 and 2.5 million litres a day are abstracted here, flowing onward to the first service reservoir above Smithy Lane, behind the Robin Hood pub in Rainow. Here it is stored in underground tanks, from which it flows by gravity through the Bollington system.

As the service reservoir in Rainow is some 100 metres higher than much of Bollington, the pressure has to be reduced by valves at several points, which helps also to reduce leakage.

In the future some of our water may come from the Lake District. Over £30m has been spent on a new treatment works at Wybersley, near Stockport, and, through a new link to the Manchester aqueduct system it will soon be possible to transmit Lake District water through here to the Macclesfield and Wilmslow areas. So the water you drink in Bollington could well have fallen on a Cumbrian mountain first of all!

GB

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