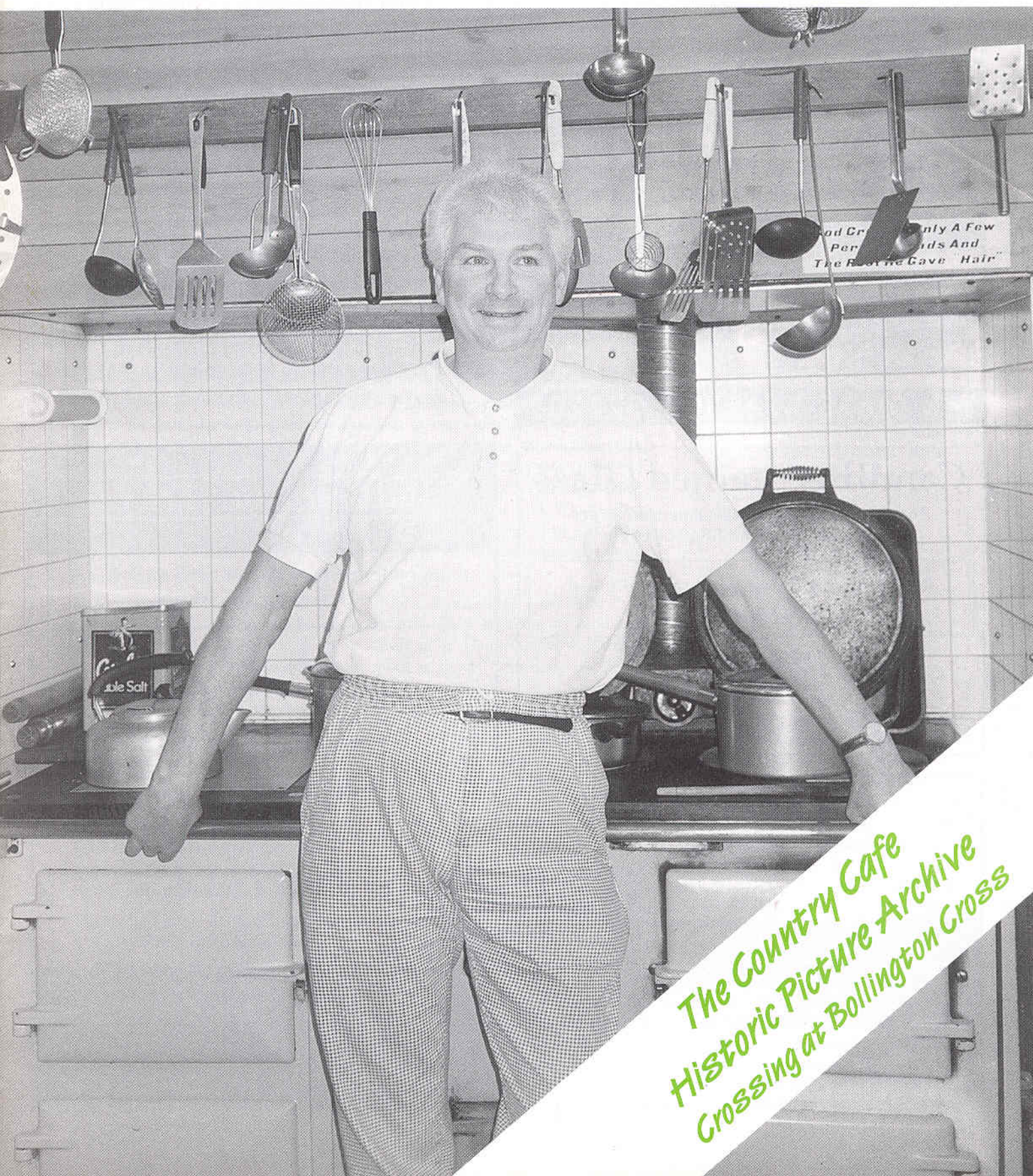




BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Twelve March 1998



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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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OUR COUNCIL - TIME TO CHANGE...

Is everyone aware that we are about to have another layer of government set up in the north-west of England? Next month the new Regional Development Agency for the North West will start in a shadow form, to become fully operational in the following year. This is a step towards giving more power to the regions and John Prescott, the deputy Prime Minister is right behind it. Cheshire County Council too will be changing. Halton and Warrington Boroughs are leaving Cheshire to become "unitary", that is to say have separate councils on their own. This will have an impact upon budgets - and it is likely that the Council Tax will rise.

In all of this, what future is there for our own tiny Bollington Town Council? Should we be pushing for more local powers, budgets and responsibilities? Or should we sit back and rely on Macclesfield Borough and the new County Council to provide the services and developments that we may wish to see?

It is a pretty complicated issue if you look at it in detail; but, to put it simply, if we want to have more local control and influence it is probably going to cost us something.

The choice is ours. At the present time a "Band D" household pays about £16 a year to support our own Town Council here in Bollington. And we don't *have* to have a Town Council: we could vote it out of existence altogether - as they have done in Wilmslow - and rely entirely on the

three councillors we elect to Macclesfield Borough to represent Bollington's interests. We would then each be about 15 pence a week better off!

Alternatively, we could encourage our Town Councillors to take on more responsibilities and initiate more schemes themselves. If we are willing to pay, say, £25 a year in a "Band D" household, which amounts to an extra 10p per adult per week, our Council



Our Recreation Ground - could we manage it ourselves?

might be able to afford a full-time professional officer, one of whose jobs would be attracting more finance. This would involve forming partnerships with the Borough and County Councils and applying for major funds for projects to improve our town. There are lots of funds out there for the asking; some come all the way from Brussels and, increasingly, grants are being directed towards local communities. At present, though, we must ask: is Bollington getting its share?

Of course, there are politics at play in all this. It is likely that the Borough Council would feel threatened by a Bollington Town Council that really started to do something rather than talking about it, and the Macclesfield Borough Councillors who represent Bollington would undoubtedly argue for caution as they saw their power base in Macclesfield and possibly Chester eroded.

But many people concerned with council matters are realising that there is a demand for more services to be provided at the local level, closer to the people. Would our Recreation Ground be better managed locally? What about supplementary street cleaning and pavement repair? How about improvements to bus stops, the Drop-in Centre, the management of the Civic Hall, the Library? What about a new Heritage and Tourist Information Centre? Some town councils in other parts of England manage these kinds of facilities and services: what about Bollington? Would Macclesfield Borough Council be innovative enough to think of passing more resources to Bollington Town Council to encourage these things?

I have a funny feeling that we have got ourselves into the frame of mind that we cannot manage things properly and professionally at the local level and

Continued overleaf...

... continued from previous page

that we'd rather let Macclesfield Borough carry the can. At the risk of being lynched in Palmerston Street, dare I suggest that our Bollington Town Councillors need a little encouragement and support in taking on more responsibility? To start thinking about the future and not just about the past? What do readers of *Bollington Live!* think? Comments on postcards please! **GB**

Talking of funds...

... could we have a White Nancy Park?

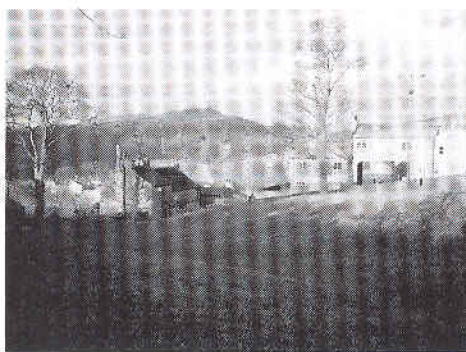
Some ten million pounds of Heritage Lottery money is being handed out by the Countryside Commission - and we may qualify for some of it here in Bollington.

Top of the list of projects being planned to commemorate the Millenium here is a scheme to improve access and repair the paths to White Nancy. With the assistance of the Groundwork Trust, whose offices are in Grimshaw Lane, a plan is being developed and negotiations entered into with the Countryside Commission for grant aid under the Millenium Greens programme.

One condition is that the area involved must come under the control of a local

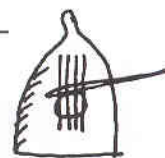
charitable trust, established to safeguard and improve the land for public access. The fields concerned are presently in private ownership and discussions are taking place to enquire whether they can be leased or bought, with all the necessary safeguards. Extensive community consultation is a requirement too. Everyone with a point to make will be able to do so and public meetings are being prepared for this purpose.

Bollington Live! readers wishing to know more about this exciting project should contact Graham Barrow or Jennifer Hollings at the Groundwork Trust - Tel 01625 - 572681 **GB**



This field at the foot of White Nancy, could form an important part of the proposed park - a refreshing green space at the edge of local housing.

The view is towards Cow Lane and the recent building development there.



NEW MUSIC AT THE CENTRE

The extended Bollington Arts Centre will soon be even busier than usual. New music classes for the under-fives, a weekly String School and regular Fun Days for young instrumentalists will add to the already thriving arts scene in Bollington.

The classes for young children will range from mums and babies through to school age, while the String School provides tuition for all ages in violin, viola, cello and double bass together with activities developing musical literacy and aural skills.

The Fun Days provide a lively timetable of musical games, group playing and pre-instrumental 'taster' sessions in a club atmosphere.

These new ventures, based on the principles of Kodaly, Dalcroze and Rolland, will be carefully structured to ensure progress as well as enjoyment, and are being organised by Mosaics, in association with the St. Cecilia Music Trust. For details contact 'Mosaics', 1 Moss Brow, Bollington Cross, SK10 5HH. Tel/Fax 01625 560127; email rebos@globalnet.co.uk

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AUDITOR WANTED - Heyday Playgroup has charitable status and is run by a parent committee. A volunteer auditor is now sought at the end of the financial year this summer. Please contact the treasurer, Judy Bell, on 576838, or the playgroup itself, Tel 574054.



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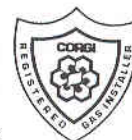
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BOLLINGTON TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 17th March
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Country Cafe Life

"If it ain't broke don't fix it" is a common enough piece of good common sense, but one that is often ignored.

About six months ago when I heard that the Country Cafe had changed hands, I couldn't help wondering if the new owners would be able to resist the urge to "sweep it clean like a new broom". For those who don't know, the Country Cafe is up on Spuley Lane, next door to the 'Cheshire Hunt'. It has been a favourite place for afternoon teas for 48 years. It has a rather old-fashioned charm, not seedy or uncared for, just old-fashioned. The cuisine has always been simple, tasty, home-cooked food. Having been run by the same family, the Bunces, since its opening just after the war, its reliable and unchanging hospitality has built up an enviable regular clientele. And not just from Bollington either: regulars come from as far away as North Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne and Northwich. Surprisingly, only a small proportion of the trade comes from Bollington itself!

Edwin Green and his wife Kathleen took the place over from Geoff and Wendy Parker (nee Bunce) about six months ago. Edwin is well known in Bollington, having previously run a butcher's shop. He told me that things had got rather depressing in the butcher's trade. Scares over chicken, then eggs, and more recently BSE, all took their toll. The competition from nearby supermarkets also made its mark.

Eventually, Edwin realised that he had to do something different. The cafe offered the realistic possibility of making a living and, importantly, working with his wife. I expected Edwin would tell me hair-raising tales of his first few weeks in catering, but no. A calm and hardworking man, he is clearly well-organised and managed to take over the business without major trauma. The Country Cafe has always done a good lunch and Edwin takes pride in the careful cooking of the meats. "It's the meat that makes the meal" he told me - perhaps not surprisingly, with his background. So, have there been any changes? Not really. We have been regulars at the



Country Cafe for the last 9 years and we have not seen any major change since the Greens took over. It is still very good. Edwin has made some subtle changes though. Steak now features more often on the enlarged menu. Edwin strongly believes in supporting local business. He gets his meat from Barrow Brothers and vegetables from Martin Tute, so local produce features strongly.

Edwin relishes the way that people come to the cafe for an enjoyable time. In his old trade he seemed to be

spending more and more time reassuring customers about the safety of his goods. There is no need to persuade people about the charms of a Country Cafe cream tea! He comments that "many customers first came here in their teens and now bring their grandchildren."

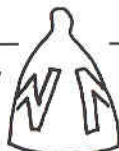
So, what about the future? Edwin is busy decorating the place at the moment. He knows his customer's tastes though, so I doubt that he will be choosing anything garish. **RN**



Edwin Green is seen (above) at the premises in Spuley Lane, as waitress Blanche Wood, (below) serves in the Dining Room.

The two satisfied customers on the left are visitors from Poynton.





- The Index!

This, the twelfth issue of *Bollington Live!*, marks the end of a four-year cycle - and a suitable point for an index. Of necessity, the entries below must be brief, but our grateful thanks is extended, all the same, to the many individual contributors who have so maintained our coverage - Ed.

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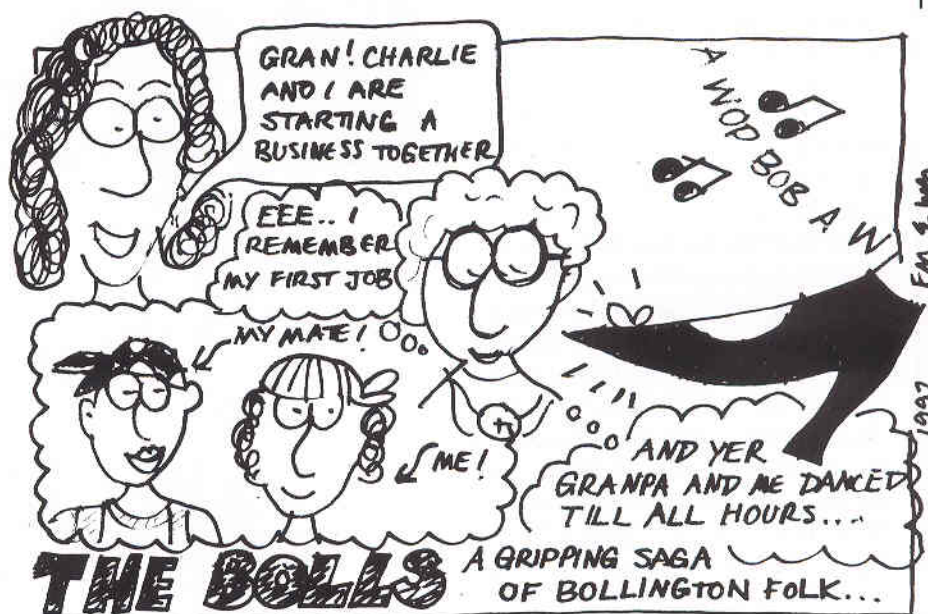


Message from Bosnia

Bollington-born Vicky Bant wrote to us recently from Bosnia, where *Bollington Live!* forwarded by her parents, helped her keep in touch with the calmer and more fortunate state of affairs back home.

One of four civilians working alongside the troops of SFOR to help bring stability to a deeply troubled area, Vicky has been based at Banja Luka, supervising aid expenditure. Now returned for a well-earned break, she is currently restoring a cottage in Chancery Lane - a considerable improvement on conditions in Banja Luka's Metal Factory where she and other SFOR personnel were living, with restricted water supplies and travel outside only with a strong

military escort. Seen in the accompanying photo receiving a NATO medal from General Ramsey, Vicky spoke of the reassurance that the news from home provided, and the keen interest shown in *Bollington Live!* by the troops of several countries. The other pictures show a British army major with confiscated armaments and a church in the area, wilfully destroyed after the murder of a nun and the priest there in the vicious factional fighting that still continues. How lucky we are.



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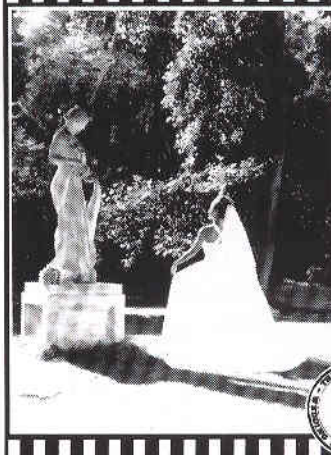
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BOLLINGTON

Live!

MARCH

Saturday, 7th

SPRING SHOW

Horticultural Society, Civic Hall.

Tel 429625

Sunday, 8th

MANIC MONSTERS

Create your own artwork using natural materials in this sculpture workshop. With Bollington Wildlife Watch Club, at the Arts Centre, 10 am to Noon.

Monday, 9th

LINDOW MAN

WI meeting, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

Speaker N Jones. Tel 573571

Saturday, 14th

SPRING SURPRISE MEAL

Methodist Church

Tuesday, 17th

BOLLINGTON TOWN MEETING

in the Civic Hall, 7.30 pm.

All welcome, and an opportunity to give our councillors your views.

Wednesday, 18th to Saturday, 21st

A FLY IN THE OINTMENT

Comedy by David Benfield, performed by The Festival Players. Arts Centre, 7.45 pm £4.50 and £2.50. Tel 572527

Thursday, 19th

TREES

by a student at Reaseheath. Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm

Friday, 27th

AUCTION OF PROMISES

At Dean Valley School. 7.30 for 8 pm

MR SLEARY'S FLYING CIRCUS DOES 'HARD TIMES'

Side-splitting comedy, scintillating song, mouth-watering music and heart-stopping high-wire melodrama, in classic cabaret style. Presented by Alive and Kicking. - Bollington Arts Centre, 8 pm. Tickets £6 and £4 560000, office hours; Tel. Nicole Roberts-Morris on 576250 after 8 pm.

APRIL

Wednesday, 1st

HOUSEHOLD FOLKLORE

by Brian Halworth. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 574208

Saturday, 4th

WORLD MISSIONS

Coffee morning. Methodist Church, 10.30 am.

NOSSEK QUARTET

playing Mozart, Alberg, Smetana's No 1. Arts Centre, 8 pm. £8 adults, £2 children or unwaged. Tel 560355

Sunday, 5th

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

also 'Arachnophobia' and 'The Demon Adachigara', all performed by Bollington Children's Music Theatre. Arts Centre, 4.30 and 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50 (£2 concessions). Tel 0161 427 2870

Monday, 6th

HATS TO INSPIRE

by Claire Webb. WI, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

BOLLINGTON'S FOOTPATHS

A public meeting staged by the Civic Society at The Arts Centre, 8 pm.

Sunday, 12th

WHITE NANCY SUNRISE SERVICE

At the Methodist Church, 7 am.

SIGNS OF SPRING

A two-mile guided walk, with Bollington Wildlife Watch Club. Starts at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road. 1 to 3 pm.

Thursday 16th.

HERBACIOUS PERENNIALS

Horticultural Society, with Roger Bowling of Firs Nursery. Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

Friday, 24th

LEBANESE, IRANIAN AND TURKISH COOKERY

Demonstration of starters by Afsan Burrows. £3 at the door, tasting and wine included. Arts Centre, 8.00pm

Saturday, 24th and Sunday, 25th

BASKET-MAKING IN WILLOW

Craft workshop open to 10 students, with a demonstration by Eco Arts. 10.00am to 4.00pm. Bring your own lunch. The fee of £25 covers materials. Tel 576250

Tuesday, 27th to Saturday, May 2nd

THE MILE HIGH MIKADO

A brand new production of G and S's best-loved opera, by Bollington Light Opera Group at the Civic Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel Val on 875326

MAY

Friday, 1st

PERSIAN BROTH

and saffron rice pudding. Demonstration by Afsan Burrows. £3 at door includes wine and food.

Wednesday, 6th

TESTING YOUR MEMORY

with Peter Heaton. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm (follows AGM)

Alive and Kicking appear at The Arts Centre on March 27th.



EVENTS

Saturday, 9th

SOUNDING BRASS AND VOICES

Rhos Male Voice Choir with Bollington Brass Band. Methodist Church, 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 10th

DAWN CHORUS

Bring your binoculars for an early morning walk with Bollington Wildlife Watch Club - to be followed by breakfast. 6 to 8 am. Starts Clough Bank Car Park, Grimshaw Lane. To book a place Tel 01625 - 504505

WHAT NEEDS DOING IN BOLLINGTON?

Civic Society walkabout. Starts Town Hall, 2.15 pm.

Monday, 11th

RESOLUTIONS

WI meeting, Methodist Church, 7.30 pm. With Tytherington High School Art Exhibition.

Sunday, 17th

FAURE REQUIEM AND BACH CANTATA 106

by Bollington Festival Choir and Orchestra, conductor John Coope. At the Methodist Church, 8 pm. Tickets £5 (children £2) from the Medical Centre, or Tel 573494

Monday, 18th

LESSONS FROM THE WALKABOUT

A follow-up meeting by The Civic Society. Bollington Arts Centre, 8 pm.

Tuesday, 19th

CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW

Dean Valley School, 7 to 9 pm.

Thursday, 21st

LEPIDOPTRIS

A study of scaly, winged insects by Dr John Ewers. Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

Saturday, 23rd to Monday, 25th

ART EXHIBITION

The annual show of Bollington Art Group, in the Civic Hall, 10 am to 6 pm, 11 am to 6 and 11 am to 4 pm respectively.

JUNE

Wednesday, 3rd

BAKEWELL PUDDING SHOP

Visit (and supper) with Bollington Wives. Tel 574208

Saturday, 6th

SALSA PA'GOZAR

At the Arts Centre, 8 pm. Tickets £6 (concessions £4). Tel 560000, office hours, or 576250

THE NEXT BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL

No sooner had the tents been folded and moved away after the last Bollington Festival in 1993 than people were beginning to ask "When will the next Festival be?"

Looking at the intervals between the previous Festivals of 1964, 1968, 1974, 1980 and 1986, the logical year for the next would have been 1999.

There are several reasons, however, why I think we should choose May 2000. A large number of events are already in the stage of planning for the Millenium, and we will be expected to produce a programme for Bollington. This will occupy many of the key people that the Festival Committee will want to call on and it would therefore seem best to make the next occasion a Millenium Festival, looking back on a thousand years of Bollington and forward into the future.

The new changes at the Arts Centre have been much admired, but it will need a period of consolidation now. This will occupy much of the Arts Centre staff and helpers during this year, many of whom I hope will be in a position to support the all-out effort that the Festival needs.

The last Festival took up the whole of May and I wonder now if this was a rather long period during which to sustain the enthusiasm. What I would suggest is that we hold the next Festival during the last two weeks in May, 2000. This will leave this year and the early part of the next for the generation of ideas which can be incorporated into a programme in the Autumn of 1999.

I will of course need a dedicated team to help with the many aspects of the Festival. Anyone who can help should let me have their names in good time, with some idea of their fields of interest.

JC

Monday, 8th

BEADING

yesterday and today, with Miss H Massey. WI, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 14th

RIVER WATCH

With Bollington Wildlife Watch Club, at Poynton Brook. 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Meet Poynton Coppice Car Park, Shrigley Road, Higher Poynton.

Saturday, 20th

SUMMER FAIR

at Dean Valley School. Mid-morning start.

ROSE QUEEN CROWNING

at Pott Shrigley Church and School, with line dancing, cream teas, games, craft and gift stalls, maypole dancing at Pott Hall - all starting at 2 pm.

INTO THE SUNSET

A walk up Kerridge Hill - with stout shoes and a torch - led by the Rangers from Clough Bank Car Park, Grimshaw Lane. Starts 8.30 pm.

Sunday, 28th

GEOFF HAMILTON'S GARDEN

Visit to Barnsdale by the Horticultural Society. Details from Mrs Royall on 42835

JULY

Saturday, 4th

THE SELKIE BRIDE

A puppet play by the world-renowned Little Angel Theatre Company, with the magical use of sound evoking the sea. Arts Centre, 3 pm. Tickets £3.50 (ages 4 to 11) Tel 560000 (office hours), 576250 after 8 pm.

Saturday, 11th

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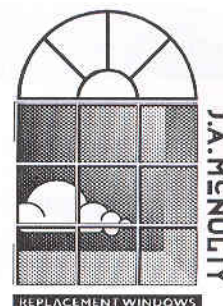
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The Lollipop Lady's Lot

Once upon a time, in a small town called Bollington, there were lots of happy children. To keep them happy, Bollington had four schools, as well as several nurseries and playgrounds, a library and a swimming pool. But there was only one lollipop lady. She helped the school children over the busy road at Bollington Cross and did a very good job until some of the drivers started shouting at her and almost running her over. Then she left.

June Jackson worked for Cheshire County Council as a 'School Crossing Patrol Person' from 1994 until last year. Every morning and afternoon she would switch on the amber flashing lights (a second set had to be added during her time on the job), collect her crossing pole and stop the traffic for the children to cross the road.

The School Crossings Act only entitled her to assist children of school age over the road, but the traffic was very heavy and she sometimes helped mums and toddlers too. Every time she stepped out into the road she was supposedly protected by the law, which states that it is an offence not to stop, and that it is the duty of a crossing patrol person to take the offender's number and pass it on to the police for prosecution.

When she started the job her employers gave her a booklet, which stated that she had a very responsible job, which would earn her the respect of the entire community. But the reality was a little different. June said that she received just as much abuse as traffic wardens, and that, during last year's persistent roadworks, drivers who had been delayed would regularly vent their frustration upon her as the only visible symbol of authority.

There were several occasions when she was nearly mown down by speeding cars. One almost took her arm off and another screeched to a halt almost touching her legs. Eventually, because she was literally in fear of her life, she gave in her notice.



Mrs Bond and her predecessor Mrs Jackson at the school at Bollington Cross

For a lengthy period last summer and autumn no-one could be found to fill the vacancy. Nationally, this recruitment problem is so serious that local authorities have organised seminars on the subject; but as employers they have refused to confront the real issues. Manchester City Council declared that the shortage was merely the result of an image problem. The attitude of Cheshire

County Council is that the post is suitable for a mother who would otherwise stay at home, and this is reflected in the 'pocket money' level of the wages that are paid.

As the school year began in September, with the Bollington crossing still unsupervised, parents were forced to hold up the traffic themselves.

Eventually, a replacement was found and Mrs Bond is now responsible for the crossing. But the problems have not gone away; in fact they have been made even worse by the majority of parents now taking their children to school in their cars. In the confusion of parking, a number of 'near-misses' have been reported.

For those under the age of 14, road accidents are the single biggest cause of death; yet the attitude of drivers continues to deteriorate, and the chance of an accident increases. Thankfully some action is now being taken. Macclesfield Borough Council is installing some traffic calming in the area, possibly with a traffic island and a pedestrian refuge opposite the school.

In December a formal traffic count, combined with the numbers crossing the road, yielded figures that justified a Pelican Crossing here, and it now appears possible that one of these will eventually be installed.

While this may reduce the danger, installing a Pelican Crossing could mean that a Crossing Patrol Person would no longer be provided. A Pelican Crossing is only safe if children are taught to use it properly, and, sadly, there seem to be some drivers who fail to realise that a red light means Stop. The continued presence of a Lollipop Lady surely is essential. AS

(In fact, to go back further into the fairy tale, there used to be another lollipop lady in Bollington. The one at the foot of Grimshaw Lane was not reinstated when people who are better paid than lollipop ladies came along to conduct a survey. They failed to record that children were now being driven to school because, in the absence of someone to supervise the crossing, it was too dangerous for them to walk.)

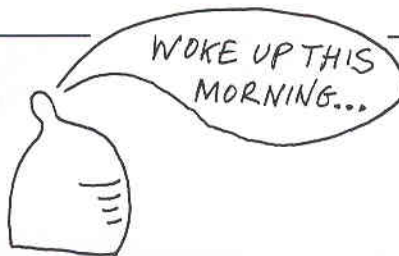


Singer's Night at The Dog

I was disappointed there weren't more unkempt beards, or some candles placed in bottles, flickering atmospherically on the tables. I went along to the Friday night folk club, upstairs at the Dog & Partridge pub, confident of hearing ancient ballads sung by worthy crumhorn players with fingers in their ears, all about the brave Irish navvies who lost their lives when Telford built the Bollington Aqueduct.

It isn't like that! Well only a bit...

The club defies all expectations. The night I went along was Singer's Night. That means that one can go along and listen to a pot-pourri by performers who have just turned up and asked to sing a few songs. Arthur Wakefield, who has been running the club for years, will fit them into the programme or ask one or two regulars to do a turn.



Arthur claims to never have turned anyone down. It's a bit like karaoke except you have to provide your own instrumental accompaniment or sing *a cappella*. The point is that it's live, real: no microphones, speakers or bits of wire.

I went along at about 9.30 that evening and there were probably more than thirty people making up an audience that included about ten performers. Each had their own style, taste and level of professionalism. All of them were interesting and some were impressive and extremely compelling musicians.

There were many songs I knew and many I didn't. The styles ranged over popular, country, blues and traditional,

but the musical labels soon become irrelevant. Most of the entertainers chose a guitar to augment their songs, but there were mandolin, banjo and accordion players as well as a singer who sang three unaccompanied songs absolutely beautifully. There is a lot of talent around: it could be your next door neighbour!

As well as the Singer's Night the club often presents established performers from the folk circuit. Once again variety is the key: Northumbrian pipers one week and American folk singers the next. Recently the club played host to the sixties' US folk icon Julie Felix who had a couple of hits in 1970.

If this local folk club is representative of others then there are a lot of people playing, and - more importantly - listening to, excellent live music all over the country. It could also be that we, in Bollington, are just lucky. Try it! Don't think of it as 'folk' - it's people music and it's alive and well in Bollington. **TN**



That mystery of the Nab, referred to in our last issue, has been solved by Geoff and Audrey King of Hurst Lane. The "monument or cross", they tell us, was erected about 30 years ago by the boy scouts of Davenport, Stockport, who camped nearby, in order to commemorate an anniversary. Several decades earlier, Audrey's family, the Barbers, who used to farm on the Nab, received a paper from the Ministry of Works protecting the Neolithic mound that existed on the site. The substantial trench there, however, is not a part of this - it was cut by the local Home Guard, in happy disregard for history, at the beginning of World War II!

200 Club Aims at 300

Jean Coope writes:

Over the last fourteen years Bollington Arts Centre has provided a valuable resource for the community and a home for many societies.

Most of the work in keeping the Centre going has been accomplished by voluntary helpers giving their time and expertise freely. Maintaining a building of this size, however, has got to be a costly undertaking and to help us meet these expenses we have been greatly indebted to the supporters of our 200 Club.

The Club provides a regular income for the Centre and the chance to win prizes for its 200 members - who each contribute £1 a month. A draw takes place every two months and prizes of £100, £50 and £30 are given out.

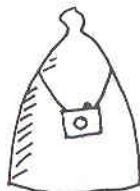
We would like to increase membership to 300, with draws every month. Will you join us and ask your friends? **More members means more money means more prizes!** A membership form appears here for you to sign and forward to us.

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THE BOLLINGTON ARCHIVE



A new home for our local photos

Bollington's unique photographic archive is to be kept at the newly extended Arts Centre. This precious record of our community includes:

Nearly 6,000 photos, of every aspect of Bollington life, many of them copied from prints lent by local people; Albums, postcards and pamphlets; Death certificates - the records of the Bollington No.1 Burial Society, dating from the 1860s.

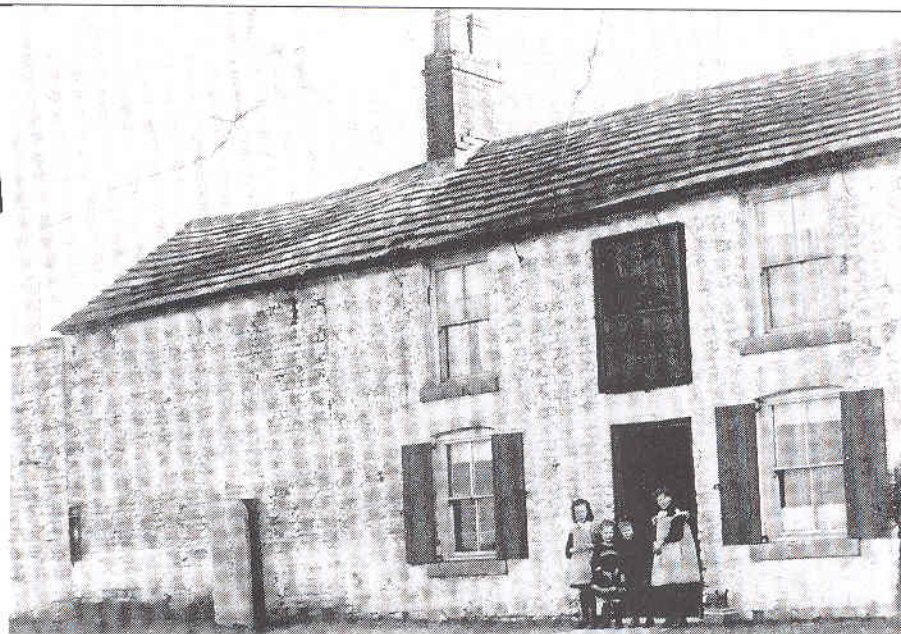
The archive was started in 1983 by a sub-committee of Bollington Civic Society - George Longden, Molly Spink, Joyce Hough, Christabel Burgess, Dave and Brenda King and Bob Alexander.

Over the years it has been gradually expanded. The archive has been the basis of several books and themed exhibitions such as the memorable 'Never Again' which covered both World Wars. Many talks have been given on the archive also.

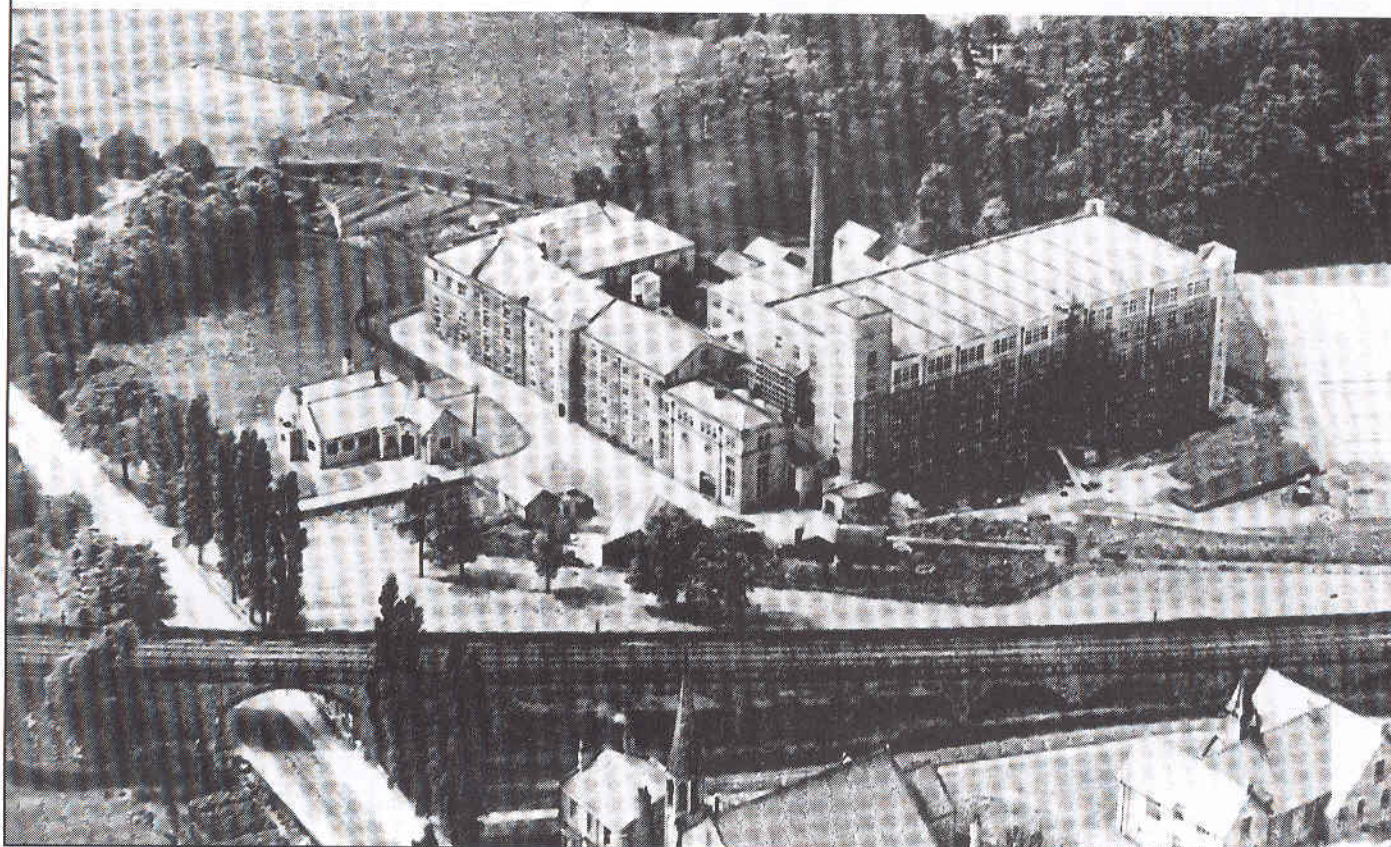
Circumstances have changed and a new archivist is now needed to take

the work forward. There are all kinds of possibilities. A Millenium CD-ROM based on the archive would ensure its survival. The Arts Centre's new gallery is a perfect location for exhibitions based on the material in the archive. There is potential for new publications and prints.

It is not practical to make the material available to the public until cataloguing is complete and a suitably competent volunteer archivist has been found. Anyone with an interest is asked to contact Dr John Coope, c/o Bollington Arts Centre, or the Arts Centre Visual Arts Group (tel. 572197). WM



Pictures here show the Windmill Inn, Whiteley Green, in 1910 and miners at Pott Shrigley in 1947. The coal and fireclay mine in Bakestonedale supplied the brickworks nearby. Seen below is the Waterhouse Mill in Wellington Road. Demolished in 1961, it was replaced by the factory of Kay-Metzeler Ltd.





Further archive pictures show Whitehurst's post office and store in Oak Lane, Kerridge, in 1935 and a scene in the allotments of Long Row, Lowerhouse in 1965. Joseph Barlow is seen with a visiting Canadian relative, Frank R Barlow, the son of an emigrant from Nancy Side Farm. The picnic party at White Nancy was recorded before the building was sealed in the early 30s to deter vandals.



Further pictures from the archive usefully draw attention to matters currently before us.

The reconstruction work, apparently of a culvert, was on a piece of land that now lies vacant at the back of Water Street School.

Once part of a play area, the land in question is reached from the car park behind the school building by crossing a bridge over the River Dean. A

Reclamation Project for the area is now being launched, backed by funds from the Mersey Basin Trust and our local council, with the involvement of the Youth Club and Heyday Playgroup, both of whom use the Water Street premises. Use of the land for wildlife, or as a community garden, has been proposed, but all further suggestions are welcome - to Graham Jones on 01625 - 430307

Shortly after this issue closed for press, the extended Arts Centre in Wellington Road was to be formally reopened, on 21 February, with guests including the Mayors of Bollington and Macclesfield and Nicholas Winterton MP.

Our photo here recalls the original opening of the building, as the Wesleyan Sunday School, 74 years ago.



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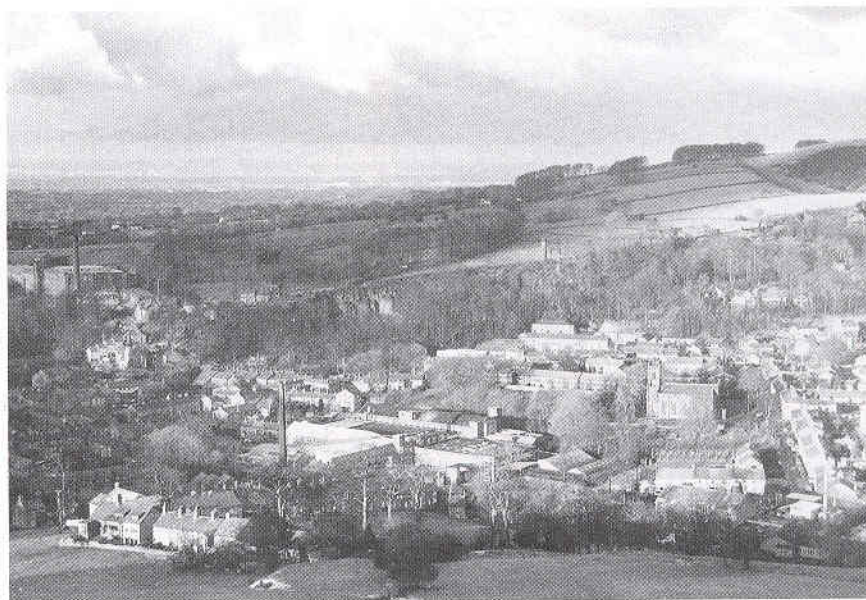
Our Weather

The story of Bollington's weather is that of subtle variations on the theme of British weather in general, and the north-west in particular. The influence of Liverpool Bay, with the Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean beyond, is central to the story - but it is not the whole story.

Situated in the foothills of the Western Pennines, Bollington is well-placed to receive the rain caused by moisture-laden air from the sea. Being forced to rise and cool, this air deposits its cargo on us. It was not by chance that the cotton mills were built here. High humidity is required to condition cotton fibre, and the Western Pennines provided the ideal environment. Indeed, so perfect were the conditions found in Bollington that the Adelphi Mill was the only place to manufacture the best 'Sea Island' cotton.

With the wind between south-west and north-west, as it often is, rain is rarely far away. This results in the high total of around 40 inches a year, and, because of this, high humidity. With winds from the north-west, Bollington can be particularly vulnerable to heavy rain when the general forecast says only "sunshine and showers"! This is because the air, in passing over Liverpool Bay, picks up plenty of moisture. It is then forced to converge as it squeezes between the Pennines and the higher ground towards the Welsh borders.

The sea also affects our temperature, so that we often avoid the extremes of heat and cold encountered further inland (the lowest temperature I have recorded in Bollington is pretty cold though: 10°F, or minus 12°C; while 88°F, or 31°C, was reached in the



heatwave of 1976). So we often have rain, sleet or wet snow rather than the more severe conditions encountered across the Pennines.

Having said that, those that have lived in Bollington for any length of time will know that when we do get snow, it often comes with a strong easterly wind, and drifts several feet deep are common. I well remember a winter in the 1970's when we were called out by a friend to help him retrieve his car which had stuck in Sugar Lane. By the time we had got there (on foot) only the aerial could be seen!

It is also interesting to see the differences over very short distances as one drives out of the town with, say, sleet falling in West Bollington. Even by the time one reaches the Turner's Arms, this will often have turned to wet snow; and for those adventurous enough to ascend Blaze Hill, a different, sub-arctic, landscape will begin to appear.

Bollington is also a windy place - we are exposed to winds from a westerly quarter, but we can also have strong and gusty winds when there is an east to south-easterly airflow. This is due to the perturbation caused as the air crosses the southern Pennines - Kerridge Ridge providing an added kick for Bollington folk! I have frequently found it windier in Bollington even than in Macclesfield under these conditions.

What of the future? As global warming gets into its stride, can we expect to see vineyards on White Nancy? We have certainly seen some warmer summers and milder winters over the last 20 years, but I think it premature to expect that we may regularly soak up the sun. As long as the geography of Bollington does not change, we should all hang on to our umbrellas!

Tony Gaywood

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