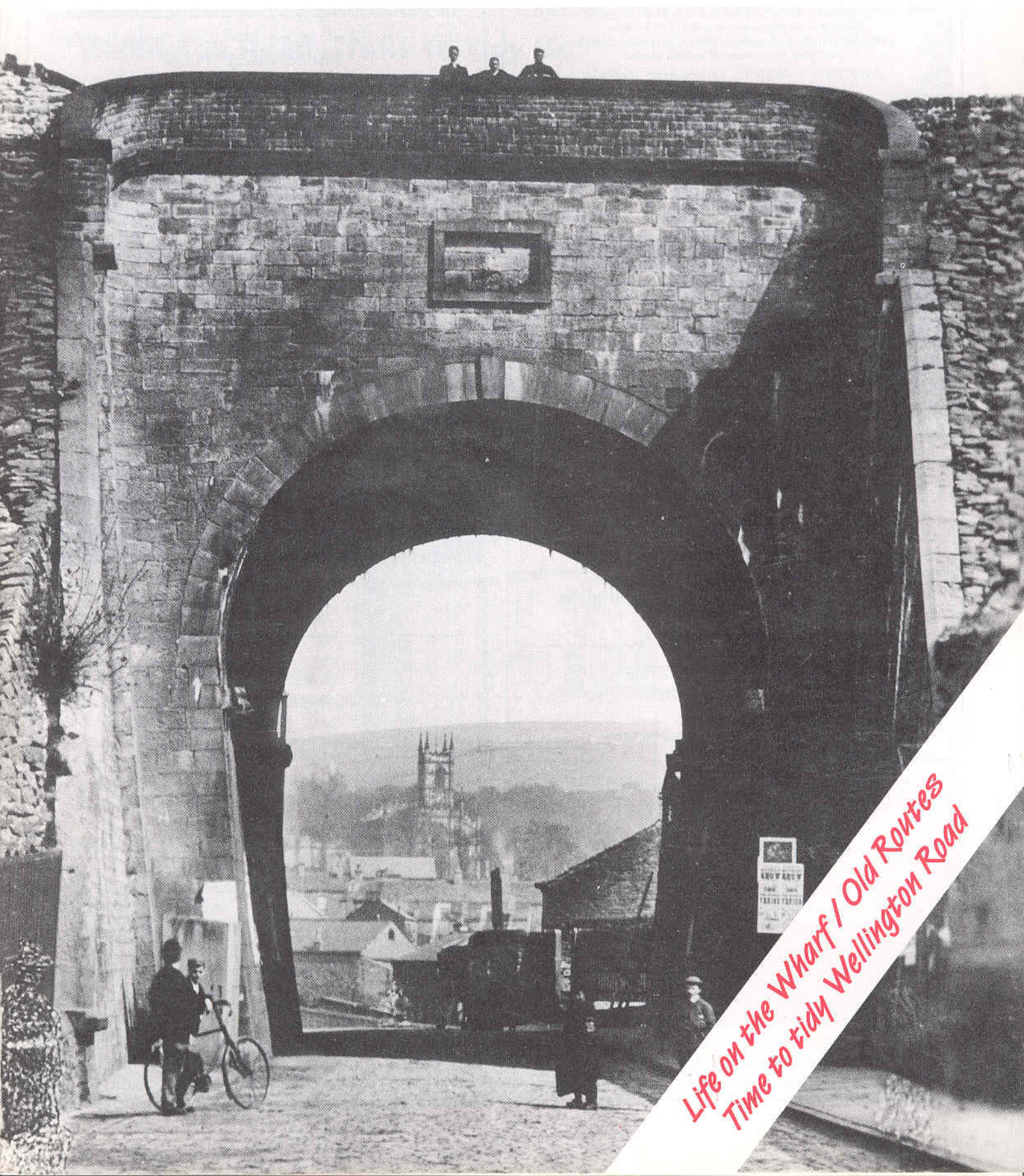


# BOLLINGTON

*Live!*

Number Thirteen

July 1998



*Life on the Wharf / Old Routes  
Time to tidy Wellington Road*



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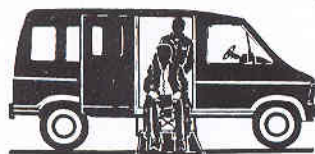
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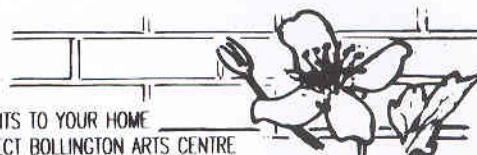
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*Bollington Live! is published by Bollington Arts Centre & Bollington Civic Society, Wellington Road, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5JL. Registered Charity No. 515096*

*Cover: An early view of the Aqueduct, Palmerston Street. Should it be cleaned? - See page 12.*

**Editor...** John Liley  
**Editorial Team:** Graham Barrow, John Coope, Penny Liley, Walter Menzies, Tim Neale, Richard Newstead, Joanna Sciortino, Andy Skelhorn.

**Advertising...** Dennis Caulfield (01625 572538)  
 Mark Stedman (01625 575227)

**Printed by...** Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)

## Wellington Road - Time to Tidy Up

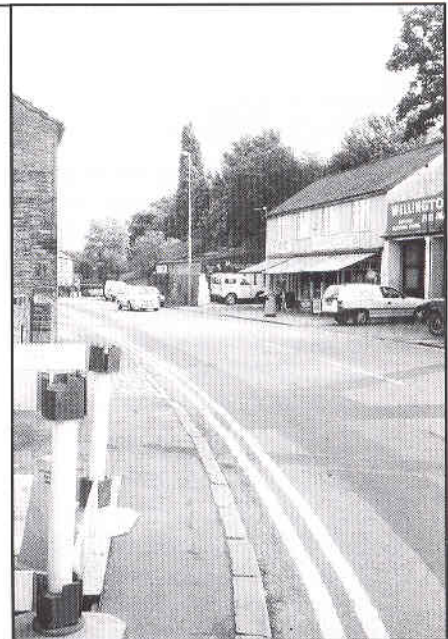
**The closure of the Costcutter grocery store in High Street deals a serious blow to our community.**

Other shops locally have undertaken some of the Costcutter services. Belfield's bakery, making considerable alterations at short notice, has taken on as much of the stock as possible, while the Chadwick newsagency and Heathcote's butcher's shop also hold certain supplies. These services enable the numerous elderly and infirm people in the area to still obtain groceries locally. Naturally, though, because they have other specialities, this group of remaining shopkeepers are unable to match the range of goods that Costcutter once provided. The result is a further imbalance in services at the Pool Bank end of the town - a shortage that is all the more ironic in view of the extra houses that will soon be appearing on the nearby Oak Bank site.

Of the other shopping areas in Bollington, the largest now is strung along Wellington Road between Forbuoy's newsagency on the corner of Garden Street and the cluster of retailers in the vicinity of the 'Waggon & Horses'. Amongst them, the Late Shop, run by the Co-op, and by no means the pinnacle of architectural excellence, persists in its weird and socially negative policy of stocking

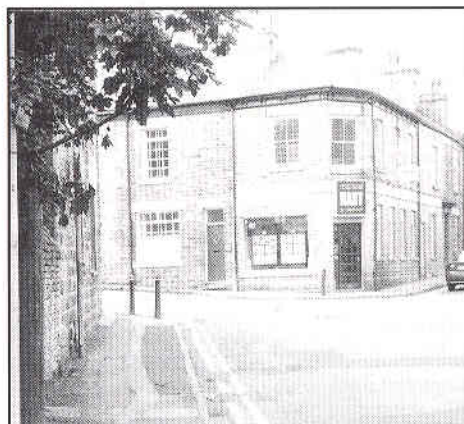
newspapers and magazines, which, as well as damaging a neighbouring business, diminishes the range of foodstuffs it can sell. But there are other admirable shops nearby, such as high quality butchers and a first-rate delicatessen.

All of these exist against considerable odds. The disturbance of traffic is appalling, it is difficult to park - and the area is a mess. While the other end of town gets the treatment of a Conservation Area, with its traditional paving slabs, and, in one part, streetlamps of an attractive, elegant design, the vicinity of 'The Waggon' is deprived of them. The street furniture is ugly, litter is widespread and the decent paving slab is a very rare species indeed.



This is what the visitor to Bollington will see, when descending from the direction of Macclesfield and towards the heart of the town - an uninviting, thoroughgoing dump. (I quote one of the shopkeepers here). The road is patched and the pavements here quite dreadful. Dug up and put back down again, badly, usually with tarmacadam, they represent a degree of civic disinterest that for those who try to conduct their businesses here must be thoroughly disheartening. Who, after all, chooses to shop in a dump?

*Continued Overleaf...*





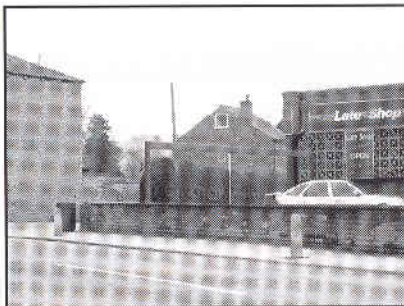
Continued from previous page

The Bollington shops deserve help, and the most obvious and immediate help can come from our local authority. The self-respect of our town is at stake here and the cosmetic improvements that can be made are as important to us - and for the very same reasons - as are the flower beds at Bollington's Town Hall to those who use that building.

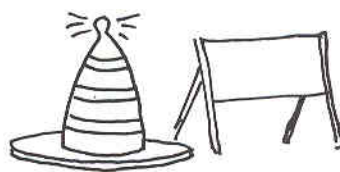
A call must be made now for our council to be a good deal more assertive in its day-to-day concerns: in pressing the Borough for improvements - *not* by bleating that Macclesfield does not care, but by building a rapport through the Town Clerk's offices.

Co-operation can be earned by a cogent presentation of each case, and by assiduously following it up. Likewise, there should be a much more emphatic control over the diggers and drillers who appear on our streets, those disruptive characters who linger far too long and do not live up to their promises. If the pipe repairers and cable-layers who visit us so frequently have ever been supervised and held to account, this has been darned difficult to detect. And decent, well-maintained streets and pavements are facilities we are surely entitled to expect.

In particular, the situation in Wellington Road is a disgrace. It is uncared for and shoddy, and it reflects



very badly upon our town indeed. That it has gone on so long is even more deplorable. Would the Bollington Town Hall be allowed to sit in such demoralising surroundings? Or Macclesfield's? Some attention, please. **JL**



*On behalf of many residents, Bollington Live! wishes to thank Mr and Mrs Mellor for the valuable service they provided, over many years, at the Costcutter store in High Street and to wish Mr Mellor a speedy return to full health after the illness that brought about the closure of this excellently managed shop.*

## The Drop-In Centre - New Home Needed

Re-arrangement at Bollington Town Hall means far less space for the popular Drop-In Centre there, which will now have to move. **Ann Mayer** of the Centre has written for us as follows:

While I can appreciate the value of an Information Centre and the Council's feelings that it is necessary for the front room to be turned into an office, I am deeply distressed for all the local people who come to the Centre. For some it has become an integral part of their lives and for others it has been a stepping stone to greater independence.

As the recent fundraising concert proved yet again, we continue to have an amazing amount of support in the community.

To ensure that the Drop-In can continue and that none of the activities have to be curtailed, we accept that we have to find new premises urgently.

Obviously we have been very grateful over the past eight years to have had use of the Town Hall rooms, but to move to larger premises would open up fantastic possibilities which, hopefully, would benefit even more local people.

We would therefore like to ask that you, the people of Bollington and surrounding areas, who have offered such valuable help in the past, can help us again with your ideas and support for the future.

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### BOLLINGTON IN GLOOM.

If the writer on this matter in 'Community News' would like to contribute to **Bollington Live!**, could she or he please contact the Editor, c/o The Arts Centre, Wellington Rd? *Also...*

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## Farm and Town Life Recalled

Roly and Florence Wade live at Bollington Cross in Hayward's Farm, one of Bollington's many former farms, now bereft of its land and consisting only of the house and outbuildings. After close on fifty years there, they have had to move downstairs to what was once the shuppen or cowshed, converted for them by a grandson following Florence's stroke. Roly worked there before the war when it housed a joinery and wheelwright's business, one of some eight such establishments in the village. In their (combined) nearly eight score years and ten, Roly and Florence have seen a total transformation of Bollington - change they see generally for the worse.



"We knew everyone in those days," they say; but those days were not necessarily safer or kindlier. Roly suffered years of pain and disablement after being gored by a bull while working on Moss Farm, Lowerhouse. "I was bringing the bull in with the cows, and he wasn't too pleased about it." The bull turned and tossed him. Roly came close to losing a leg and did lose the use of one hip; eventually a doctor at Hartshill gave him a new hip - in those days still a revolutionary and somewhat experimental operation.

He and Florence lived for some time at Lowerhouse Farm Cottage; when they moved to Oldham Street, in the village, he could not settle. "I needed the countryside," he says, and soon returned to Bollington Cross. Many years were spent as a wheelwright: he describes "hooping the wheels" by hand, fitting red hot iron hoops to the cart wheels then tightening them by

dousing with water. "We had to carry the water in buckets - the boss wouldn't pay for piped water." Milk was delivered in churns on the milk carts and customers went out to meet the milkman with a jug. There was fierce competition for the lucrative trade and one farmer did a round late at night to try to increase his takings. Funeral hearses were the coal carts run by Webster's, normally carrying coal from station to factory; the same carts and the same horses were cleaned up for the other business.

Roly's happiest years were spent labouring on farms and of those he remembers most fondly his time working for Wright Truman, and later Parrott's at Moss Farm, Lowerhouse. Truman was a popular man and the mill workers would come and help with his hay-making at the end of the day. Roly had prepared and turned the hay during the day until it was dry and

fragrant; the farmer would buy in a barrel of beer and crowds would come and help for no pay other than a drink of the beer as each full cartload left the field. The hay was stored in stacks and, during the year, Roly would cut it by hand as cattle feed with a special oval hay knife.

Florence's grandparents came from Rainow to Bollington. Her mother, Elizabeth Taylor, living in a two-up, two-down cottage in Oldham Street, took in evacuees during the war. Some of them settled in Macclesfield and continued to visit her for years afterwards. Mrs Taylor received a certificate from the Queen in recognition of her service.

Florence worked at both the Adelphi and Clarence Mills as a bobbin winder and later as a hank winder. She went to work when she was 14, starting at 7.30 every morning. When work finished

*Continued Overleaf ...*

*Roly Wade, above, at Hayward's Farm in Bollington Cross.*

*The spread of housing in Bollington is illustrated by the picture alongside - of haymaking days in the 1930's, with children of the Green and Bloor families in Church Street Fields.*





... continued from previous page

at 5.30 she ran to catch the bus to Macclesfield and worked at Woolworth's until 9 pm. In those days coachloads of people came from Congleton every day to work in the mills, with a trainload from Marple, Higher Lane and Poynton. Roly remembers Bollington station, then, as having more goods traffic than Macclesfield.

Roly and Florence describe an insular community, slow to accept change and protective of its traditions and ways. It seems, however, that there have always been "in-comers" to Bollington, whether to work or to live. Change is in Bollington's nature. There is, nevertheless, a core of continuity here which gives a stable heart to the wider community, ever growing and changing, to which we are fortunate to belong.

JS



*Florence and Roly Wade in their early twenties on a rare holiday visit to Blackpool*

## Rocky's Onward Travels



Jackie Lane, the owner of Palmerston Travel, is playing a key role in the travels of Rocky, a tiny teddy bear whose globe-trotting experiences raise money for children's charities.

Seen above with Rocky, Jackie co-ordinates and makes the travel arrangements for this well-travelled Ted, who covered a quarter of a million miles last year, including, as our other picture shows, a visit to the Great Wall of China.

This year's challenge, taking place in mid-July, will be in competition with 11 other bears. The aim is to travel as far as possible on a return journey of just over 48 hours, and accompanying him on the trip will be three scouts from the 2nd Bollington Troop, Jonathon Brown, Paul Edwards and Geoff Watts.



Rocky - who won last year's competition - has a projected destination this time of Onward, Mississippi, home of the original Teddy Bear - or Teddy's Bear. The name derives from an incident in 1901 when President Theodore Roosevelt declined to shoot a bear held for him as a target on a hunting expedition at Onward.

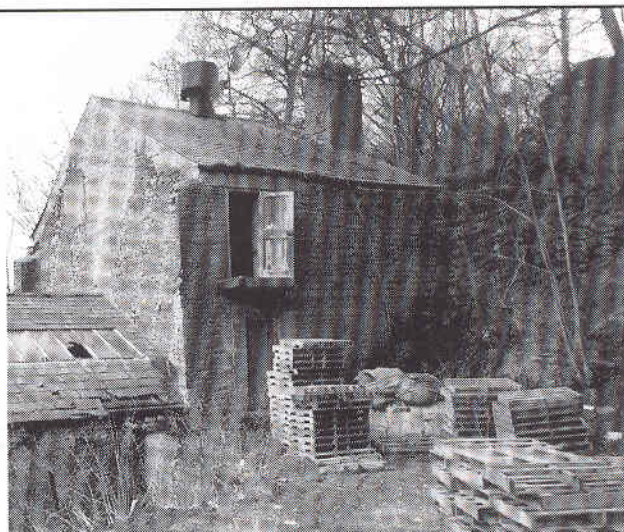
Sparked by this story, a New York merchant started production of the stuffed toy bears that we know so well today.

Sponsorship is sought for the trip, which raises money for the Boys' and Girls' Welfare Society, the Adventure Farm Trust and the Scouting Association and details can be obtained from Jackie at her premises in High Street, Bollington.

## CHANGES AT OAK BANK

Still hanging in there, the Defiance Mill in Queen Street was erected for cotton spinning in 1800. A big new building development has now been authorised for the adjacent site, that of the former Oak Bank Works, now in the throes of demolition. 47 new houses, to be erected by Crosby Homes, will be priced between £70,000 and £120,000. Some 50 feet of the Harrop Brook will be opened to the public view also, but the rest is considered too dangerous and will remain covered up.

And The Defiance? It will be retained, but a use has yet to be found. With its double centenary due, could it be another Millenium contender?





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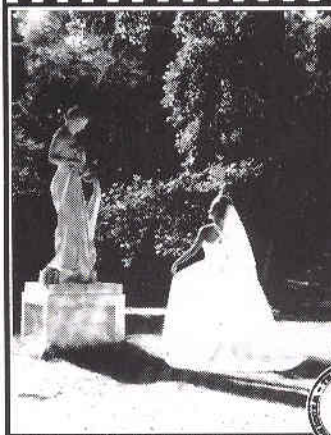
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# BOLLINGTON



## JULY

*Sunday, 5th*

**MUSIC FOR A MIDSUMMER NIGHT**  
Bollington Festival Choir, Conductor John Coope. Methodist Church, 8 pm. Tickets £4 (£3 concessions) from Waterhouse Medical Centre, or Tel 573494

*Saturday, 11th*

### T-ZEE'S ACADIANS

play traditional Cajun music for all. Arts Centre. 8 pm. £5 (Concessions £4).  
Tel. 560000 office hours  
576250 after 8.00pm.

*Monday, 13th*

### URBAN WILDLIFE

by Brian Hallworth. WI, Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel 573571

*Thursday, 16th*

### STONEFORD COTTAGE

Visit to the Nursery and Garden by the Horticultural Society. Tel Mrs Royall on 422835 for details.

*Sunday, 19th*

### CANALSIDE SERVICE

by the Methodists at Whiteley Green, 2.30 pm.

### SUMMER FAIR

at Adlington School, Brookledge Lane, with clown, stalls, games, many other attractions. 2-5pm.

*Thurs. July 23rd - Wed. Sept. 2nd. inc.*

*Mondays to Fridays*

### HOLIDAY FUN

for 4-11 yrs, supervised by qualified staff. 8am-1pm and 1-6pm at Dean valley school. £15 for full day, £7.50 for half day. (Reductions for siblings, children of single parents). Tel Marie Goodall 574541

## AUGUST

*Wednesday, 5th*

### LYME PARK GARDENS

Bollington Wives. Conducted tour departing Civic Hall 6.15 pm. Tel 572382

*Friday, 7th*

### PARK TALES

on the Recreation Ground, Adlington Road, 2.30 to 3.30 pm. Meet Fudge the Rabbit and friends and join in the fun and games run by the rangers. Ideal for 6 year-olds and under. Free, but limited places, so please phone 01625 504505.

*(Similar events will be staged during August throughout the Macclesfield area)*

*Monday, 10th*

### DUTCH SUPPER

at the WI Members Evening. Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel 573573.

*Thursday, 20th*

### LANESIDE COTTAGE VISIT

Horticultural Society. Details Mrs Royall, Tel 422835

## SEPTEMBER

*Tuesday, 1st*

### FESTIVAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

First of the new season, at the Arts Centre, 7.45 pm. Tel 575406.  
New singers welcome - see panel.

*Wednesday, 2nd*

### TV COOK MILDRED SMITH

'A new career in my seventies' Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm. Tel 572382

*Saturday, 5th*

### ANNUAL SHOW

of the Horticultural Society, Civic Hall. Tel 429265

*Sunday, 6th*

### CHILDREN'S MUSIC THEATRE

First rehearsal, Arts Centre, 2.30 pm (see panel)

*Monday, 14th*

### AROMATHERAPY

WI, with Mrs J Billington, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel 573571

*Thursday, 17th*

### SEX AMONG THE FLOWERS

Horticultural Soc. Dr Steve Furness discusses alpiners. Dog & Partridge, 8 pm. Tel 422371

*Sunday, 20th*

### APPRECIATING THE STRING QUARTET

'A Conversation Among Equals', an illustrated lecture by Roger Wilkes. £5 (concessions £2) Tel 560000, or 560355 (evenings). Arts Centre, 8.00pm.

*Saturday, 26th*

### MUSICA DOMESTICA

with flute, cello, fortepiano, including Haydn, Hummel and Beethoven. £9 (£3 concessions). Tel 56000, or 560355 (evenings). Arts Centre, 8.00pm.

## OCTOBER

*Wednesday, 7th*

### THE GOLDEN YEARS

by Mrs Mandy Hill. Bollington Wives, Civic Hall, 8 pm.

*Monday, 12th*

### MIAMI BOUND

by Mary Foster, WI, Methodist Hall, 7.30 pm. Tel 573571

*Thursday, 15th*

### MAKING CORN DOLLIES

by R Rush, Horticultural Society, Dog & Partridge, 8 pm.

*Saturday, 17th*

### THE SORREL QUARTET

at the Arts Centre, playing Haydn, Shostakovich, Brahms. £9 (£3 concessions) Tel 560000 or 560355 (evenings). 8pm.

*Wednesday, 21st to Saturday, 24th*

### WHEN WE WERE MARRIED

by J.B. Priestley. The Festival Players present this well-loved play. 7.30 pm at the Arts Centre. Tickets £4.50 (£2.50) Tel 572527.

*Friday, 30th*

### IMOGEN'S WAR

The experiences of women trainees on the canals during World War II, dramatised by the Mikron Theatre Company. At the Arts Centre, 8 pm.

## Singers Sought

**Rehearsals by the Bollington Festival choir begin on September 2 at the Arts Centre, in preparation for a concert at Christmas entitled 'The Lords of Rule and Misrule'.**

The first part tells the story of Christ through the music of Heinrich Schutz, the greatest German composer of the early 17th Century, and the parts of Mary, shepherds and kings will be taken by members of the choir in costume. Following this, as the Lord of Misrule, is Falstaff, represented by the plays and Vaughan William's music from 'Sir John in Love'.

The Festival Choir, founded in 1964, and continually expanding its repertoire, is always anxious to enrol new singers. Further details are available from June Biggar on 01625 575406.



# EVENTS



*The popular Sorrel Quartet appears again at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>*



*A puppetry workshop at the Arts Centre is proposed for August, covering many aspects, from puppet-making to performance. Plans are still being laid, but all interested are asked to contact Nicole Roberts-Morris on 01625 - 576250*

## Children's 30th Production

Bollington Children's Music Theatre's 30th production, to be performed at the Arts Centre in November is Cinderella's Seasons, in which, although she fails to marry the Prince, Cinderella is helped by the Four Seasons to overcome her tormentors and live happily ever after. Now, as Director Donald Judge says, "all we need is a cast to perform it!"

BCMT meets at the Arts Centre on Sunday afternoons and rehearsals begin on September 6. The atmosphere is friendly, with no auditions, and there are solo and chorus parts to suit a wide range of ages and abilities. So, if you enjoy singing and acting and wish to join, please phone 0161 427 2870

## ARTS CENTRE TO LAUNCH NEW FRIENDS GROUP

Now that its improvements are complete, a big increase in activity is planned for the Arts Centre in Wellington Road. This will begin in the Autumn, leading up to the Bollington Festival of May, 2000.

"The new Centre is an opportunity to build on our previous successes. I would like to see more touring theatre companies, world music, jazz and performances for children," said Dr John Coope, the Arts Centre Chairman. "The Centre could also be used much more for conferences and for training. And we are open to new ideas from all sections of the community."

At the heart of the new plans is the proposal to set up a new group, to be called The Friends of Bollington Arts Centre, for which, in addition to a fund-raising membership scheme through a modest annual subscription, lively social events are also planned.

"We know that Bollington has an amazing range of people, with all kinds of skills, that could help us. Management, marketing, gardening, database administration... the list is endless. We also know that many people have limited spare time, but a regular commitment - in helping to establish and run the Friends - can make a real difference," said Dr John.

Although the Friends will be launched in the Autumn, volunteers are needed before then. Readers who would like to know more - by means of an informal chat, and with no commitment - are very welcome to contact Dr John Coope via the Waterhouse Medical Centre, Wellington Road; Sally Smith on 575681 (day) or 560365 (evening); Nicole Roberts-Morris on 576250; or Walter Menzies on 572197.

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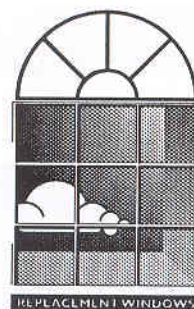
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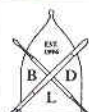
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## AT HOME ON THE WHARF

The canal wharf opposite the Adelphi Mill has been there since the 1830s, when the Canal and the Mill both opened for business. With the advent of the railway, and later the car, its industrial use declined and the wharf was slowly neglected; but in the 1970s and 80s began a revival, in the form of cruising and leisure, and the wharf has slowly come back to life. Today, Bollington Wharf is managed by Roger and Debbie Myers.

Roger is lean and softly spoken, with dark hair and a friendly manner. He started out as a coachbuilder, but Roger and Debbie had itchy feet and they sold up in order to tour the United States. After nine months in a motor-

which Roger had spent much time on, and move into a Portacabin on the wharf. While all this was going on their first child, Halina, was born. They now also have a baby boy, Robert.

Since then things have slowly improved. Roger now has a fully-developed workshop, where he takes delivery of the empty hulls, and fits out fully-completed narrow boats, using traditional techniques to his customer's exact specifications. Reckoning it takes more than three months to fit out a boat, he has now done eight. These are luxury items, and they do not come cheap: currently, he is working on a 53-footer, which must have fully up-to-date electrics, heating, bathroom and kitchen, without



Sunley', which has been adapted to enable disabled people to experience the joys of cruising. The 'TS Ardent' is based here too, although this is not a boat at all, but a hut for the local Sea Cadets.

One of the highlights of the Wharf's social calendar is the Christmas Festival, initiated three years ago by the explorer Nick Saunders who had just taken two narrow boats from the Black Country to the Black Sea. Here each Christmas are decorations, fireworks, a procession of craft and, of course, Santa Claus himself.

Roger is happy here in Bollington and now feels part of the community. He is earning a living here in a pleasant environment doing what he enjoys best - and in today's society, not everyone can honestly say that.

AS



*The basin at Bollington provides moorings and a turning point for narrow boats on the Macclesfield Canal. Roger and Debbie Myers, seen above with their children Robert and Halina, have made their base here on the wharf across the water from the Adelphi Mill.*

home Roger decided that mobile homes were much more exciting than coaches, and upon returning to Britain he got work as a boat fitter, first in Manchester, then in Poynton.

Four years ago they came to Bollington, seeking a place to moor their own newly completed narrow boat. The Wharf then was a hire base for cruising holidays, but a few weeks later the operators pulled out and the lease fell vacant. Grasping this opportunity, Roger and Debbie started their own boat-fitting business there.

To finance the new concern they had to sell their house and the narrow boat,

losing the traditional canal style. To this standard, Roger reckons that a price of £1,000 per foot in length is a good rule of thumb.

Between boat fitting and repairs, Roger and Debbie have also found time to improve the Wharf itself. They have built new boardwalks and jetties to create extra moorings, installed electricity and can provide diesel fuel, coal, bottled gas and pump-out facilities. Quite a community has developed and there are now a number of craft based permanently at this point. Amongst the resident vessels are a steamer from 1908 and the 'Mary

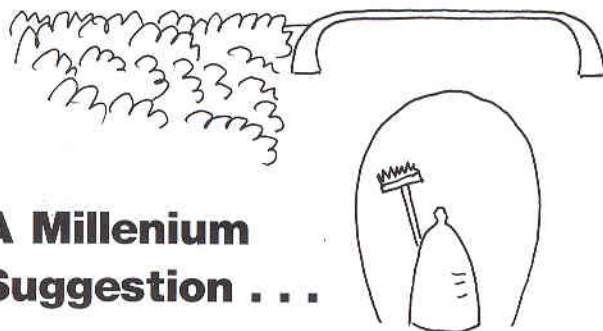
## THE BOLLS...



...ARE ON HOLIDAY



## A Millenium Suggestion . . .



Sir - As the Millenium approaches I am sure that, come January 2000, White Nancy will have a new coat of paint, a footpath and maybe even floodlights.

However, what about our other famous landmark? The Aqueduct does not appear to have been cleaned since it was built. Would it be possible to identify funding to clean the stonework?

I think the result would be very well worthwhile.

**M B Marley Greenbank Drive, Bollington.**

*And why not, possibly with plaques to fill those empty spaces high on the Aqueduct's sides? With no clear Millenium project in view, this seems an excellent suggestion (also made, to be fair, by Ken Mosley at a Civic Society meeting some years ago).*

*Other Millenium ideas are still most welcome and can be made to the Millenium Committee c/o Bollington Town Hall, or in the suggestion boxes in several local shops; but the Aqueduct proposal has considerable merit. Ed.*

## AND A BOOK -

### 'THE MACCLESFIELD CANAL'

This new production, aimed mainly at the canal fraternity, was published in time for the 1998 season. As we are in Bollington, one can imagine how our village comes across and whether the book would tempt the traveller down from the aqueduct to explore.

The Macclesfield Canal must be one of the most picturesque in the country and, as it passes through Bollington, it is also at one of the highest navigable levels. The book, by way of interesting snippets of history, and photographs along the way, describes the journey. For instance, how many of the people travelling along it, either on foot or by boat, are aware of the 19th Century memorial on the Whiteley Green bridge? Next time you are passing, take a look.

So, imagine you are enjoying the leisurely pace of life and, having passed under the Sugar Lane bridge you see the majestic Clarence Mill. Do you carry on to Macclesfield? From this guide I would say no. It explains about the Clarence and adds further morsels to tempt you to stop and stroll. Points of interest covered include the River Dean (it is nice to find a book that does not call it the Bollin), the Adelphi Mill and Kerridge Dry Dock. There is a useful section too on local facilities, and, in this very reasonably priced guide, several interesting pictures, including one of possible traffic calming measures in Bollington. Have a look on page 34 of the guide (*or on our cover, where the same picture is reproduced -Ed*).

Produced by Macclesfield Canal Society at £1.95, it is an excellent purchase in my opinion, for the visitor, and also for local people. Happy exploring!

**Anthony Holland**

## Homewatch in Cedarway



One Friday night last November thieves stole property from five houses in Cedarway. We decided to respond by setting up a Homewatch Scheme, and started by inviting our neighbours to meet the Crime Prevention Officer, Pat Breen. After watching his informative video and hearing his constructive advice we elected a small committee, collecting £1 from each household to pay for the street sign with the Homewatch logo.

Since then we have bought ultra-violet pens so that vulnerable property can be marked, and have also taken colour photographs of some valuable items. All this information is circulated in our newsletter, together with the latest advice from the Cheshire Police.

We have established that the following insurance companies offer discounts of about 5% on premiums to members

of Neighbourhood Watch schemes: Commercial Union, Endsleigh, Royal Sun Alliance, Norwich Union, and Saga.

Our newsletter recently reported this example of what can be done: "When a group in Poynton saw a typical daytime burglary unfolding, a member of the Homewatch group dialled 999, giving the car registration number and describing the offenders. The police came swiftly, chased, and caught the suspects, who are now "helping with enquiries."

There are only twelve or thirteen Homewatch groups in Bollington at the moment. Anyone who would like to set up a new group in their street should contact the Bollington Town Clerk on 572985 or the Crime Prevention Officer, Pat Breen, on 610000. If you do you will be helping to make Bollington a safer place.

**MS**



# The Lost Routes of Bollington

by George Longden

- Part 1

**Bollington's main road today, if defined by the traffic flow, leads down from Bollington Cross and passes through the Dean Valley along Wellington Road and Palmerston Street to Pool Bank.**

This is a modern route which became prominent as water-powered cotton spinning mills were built in the valley in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and an industrial community developed there; but for hundreds and probably thousands of years travellers - passing through Bollington as a natural gateway from the Cheshire Plain to the Peak District and beyond - would have taken a very different route, avoiding the marshy valley floor wherever possible.

In this article I would like to suggest (on the basis of circumstantial evidence only) that the route taken by the prehistoric trader in copper from the mines of Alderley Edge, the Roman soldier on his way to Buxton or to the fort of Brough near Castleton, and the packhorses of the mediaeval salter, would approach from Prestbury, along Flash Lane then by Grimshaw Lane, Chancery Lane, Cow Lane, Mill Lane and Blaze Hill.

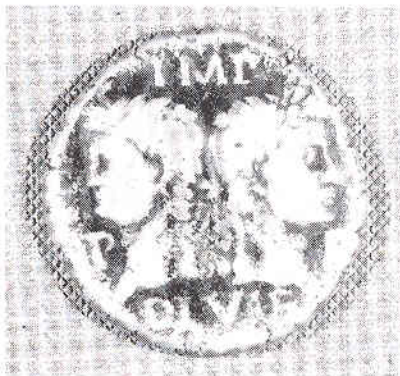
It is likely that Prestbury was the site of an ancient ford on the Bollin, and it has been argued (by Alan Richardson in the Journal Of the British Archeological Association in 1987) that an early Roman military road ran north-south through Prestbury, the line of which was adopted as the western boundary of the mediaeval Macclesfield Forest. The name of Coldarbour Farm on the Tytherington boundary suggests Roman military



*The 'holloway' on Flash Lane connects Prestbury with Bollington Cross. Seen below is the Roman coin found on the site of 71 Grimshaw Lane in 1952, while the map shows the ancient route outlined.*

activity somewhere in the area, meaning as it does in Old English 'deserted army camp'.

An eastward turn at Prestbury would lead toward the gap in the hills at

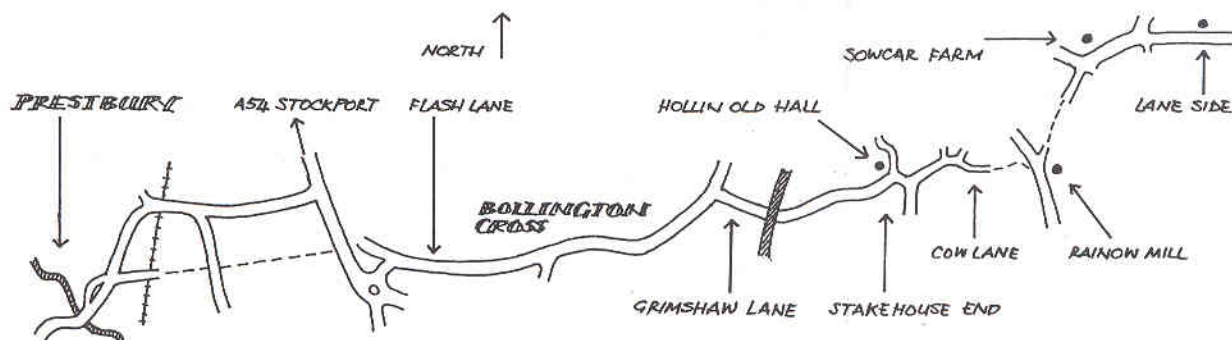


Bollington. The roads from Prestbury today are circuitous, but a footpath leads directly from Pearl Street, Prestbury's former main street north of the Bollin, to the bottom of Flash Lane. Lost routes today are frequently marked by footpaths.

Flash Lane occupies a deep hollow as it climbs to Bollington Cross. 'Holloways' such as this are often taken as evidence of centuries of wear before the advent of stone surfacing, while Bollington Cross is almost certainly the centre of the original Bollington, which might be of Anglo-Saxon foundation. The site may have been chosen to take advantage of our suggested ancient route.

Opposite the 'Waggon & Horses', Grimshaw Lane today forms a right-angle junction, but a look at the map shows that the lane as it climbs towards Kerridge is in alignment with our route so far. J Mc N Dodgson in 'The Place Names of Cheshire' suggests that the road may derive its name from the modern surname Grimshaw, but as far as I am aware there is no evidence for this. The name may be much older than Dodgson implies: Kenneth Cameron, in 'English Place Names', published in 1961, commenting on

*Continued overleaf...*





Continued from previous page ...

Grimshoe, Norfolk, notes that the Old Norse 'haugr' can mean hill, and that Grim was a Scandinavian personal name.

Whether there was a Viking settlement here or not, it seems that the Romans may have been here earlier: a Roman coin was found during house-building opposite the site of St John's School in 1952. This was the area of Grimshaw Farm, which is shown on the earliest map of Bollington with any detail, made in 1611. Above lies Hollin Old Hall, described in Ormerod's 'History of Cheshire' (as revised by Helsby in 1882) as "a house of ancient respectability" and "the only indication of an old residence in the township". Beyond the Hall is Stakehouse End, or 'Steakles' on the 1611 map. It is suggested that this name may imply ancient fortifications.

Our easterly route makes use of a glacial overflow channel, now occupied by Chancery Lane, and follows a natural shelf on the hillside above the modern village. From the end of the abbreviated Cow Lane it follows a field path down to the site of Rainow Mill by the River Dean in Ingersley Clough. Rainow 'Milne' is shown on the 1611 map; here probably stood a mediaeval corn mill and its apparently remote site makes more sense if the reality of our ancient route is accepted.

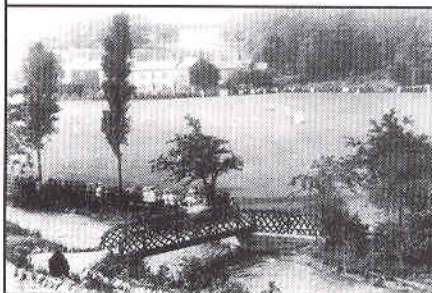
Mill Lane, now part of an overgrown track leading to the 'Poacher's Inn' on Ingersley Road, is the line of the Bollington township boundary, which was in existence by 1270, and probably much earlier. This implies a pre-existing road at this point. Dodgson, it is interesting to note, suggests as the origin of Ingersley 'Ingiald's clearing', from an old Norse personal name.

Our suggested ancient route passes the mediaeval Sowcar Farm and climbs Blaze Hill in a deep holloway, and the name of the former Laneside Farm halfway up might be taken to indicate a Roman route. The nineteenth century Ordnance Survey certainly thought so, confidently marking on their maps the road along Billinge Side and on towards the 'Blue Boar' and Saltersford as 'Roman Road'



## A Hat-Trick for Cricket Lovers

**Bollington may not be the biggest town in Cheshire, but when it comes to settings we have three of the most beautiful anywhere in which to play or watch the game. It is not surprising that Rothman's chose a photograph of Pott Shrigley's charming ground as the front cover of their 1998 Village Cricket publication.**



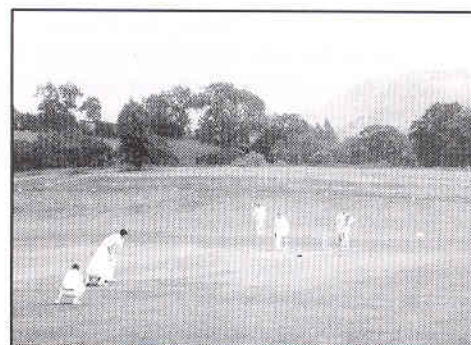
Our three local clubs are based at Bollington Recreation Ground, where Cheshire County Cricket Club regularly played in the past, on Clarke Lane in Kerridge, and at Pott Shrigley. Bollington Cricket Club can trace its history back to 1885, whilst Pott Shrigley Cricket Club, affectionately known as 'The Hillmen', was established in 1919 - when many clubs were being re-formed after the first world war. Kerridge Cricket Club was formed in 1923, celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year.

The Bollington and Pott Shrigley clubs have always maintained a friendly local rivalry, although until this summer they have never before played in the same league. This year, however, both are members of the Mellor Braggins Cheshire League 2nd Division, with the likes of Barnton, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Bowden Vale, Lymm and Malpas. Although the two clubs have met in cup games in the past, most notably in the 1977 final of the

Macclesfield Express Cup, in front of several hundred spectators at Macclesfield, this May saw them playing each other in the league, with Pott Shrigley winning both the first and second XI games!

Most of the players at Bollington and Pott Shrigley clubs live in Bollington and some men have played for both clubs: Gary Wood, William Osbaldiston and Derek Brooke amongst them. Discussions about cricket in the Lisle family must be particularly interesting today, with Mick Lisle turning out for Bollington and his brothers Greg and Dominic being regulars for Pott Shrigley.

Both clubs continue to improve their facilities. Bollington have recently erected new nets with a £12,000 grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, whilst Pott Shrigley have obtained planning permission to replace their old pavilion which was erected in 1958.

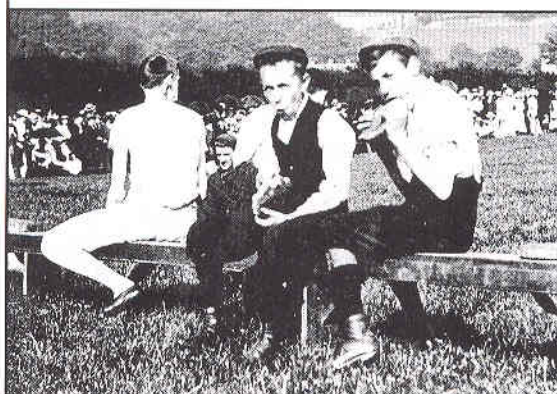


**Bollington Live!** thinks that our cricket clubs merit more support, so if anyone is interested in playing or watching cricket, here are some contact numbers: Bollington Cricket Club: John Wilkinson, 01625-576183; Pott Shrigley Cricket Club: Graham Hackney, 420305; Kerridge Cricket Club: Richard Gleave, 572124

**GB**

*And if the fixture and social secretaries would like to contact Bollington Live! we would be pleased to publicise forthcoming fixtures in the events page listings - Ed*

*Seen on this page are the Bollington ground c.1910, the present day at Pott Shrigley and, to the left, the sports at Kerridge, pre-dating the Cricket Club, in 1902*







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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

## A BIKE RIDE TO THE RISING SUN

"Fancy going for a drink tonight?" I said to my pal. .... "OK, but where?" .... "How about walking over the fields to 'The Rising Sun' in Rainow." .... "Good Idea, but why not cycle there, save time!"

Even though more than ten of Bollington's pubs are within ten minutes walk from my front door I sometimes need some extra variety. So an evening stroll on a calm, clear late spring Saturday evening seemed a good idea. I wasn't sure about the bike part though!

We set off at just before nine p.m., my friend on his swish mountain bike and me on my twenty year-old battered racer. It was still light as we rode through the town and up Church Street, past Shrigley Dyers and along Ingersley Clough. Even an old bike like mine can be ridden all the way to Waulkmill Farm (if your legs are good enough up the hills). Beyond there, there are stiles to negotiate and whilst the old flagged footpath to Rainow is pretty easy riding, technically one should not ride a bicycle as the right-of-way is not a bridleway.

The fading light was still good enough to find our path even when riding. The new moon was hanging over the Saddle of Kerridge and White Nancy was silhouetted black against the dark red sky of the sunset. We saw not a soul as we rode, walked and chatted through the fields. To have warranted the extensive flagging along this path it

must have once been a busy thoroughfare tramped every day by the clogs of the mill employees to and from work. Here is one rare example of a busy commuter route that no longer causes traffic problems. By the time we got to the main road in Rainow it was nearly dark, with the sky peppered with stars, but our night eyes were soon spoilt by the on-coming headlights of cars. The last half mile to the 'Rising Sun' means racing down Pedley Hill from the church in Rainow to get enough speed to send the bike as



far as possible up Hawkins Lane. There the pub sits with its back garden looking out along the eastern flank of Kerridge towards Bollington.

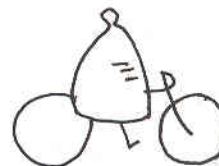
We propped the bikes up against the wall and went into the pub to buy two pints of Marston's Pedigree ale. We sat outside in the garden, cooled off and watched the bats catching insects and the last of the fading red sky over

Bollington. It soon got too cold to sit comfortably outside so we went back into the pub for our next drink. We chatted, in the quiet cosy interior, about other possible evening pub expeditions from Bollington. Perhaps a canoe trip along the Canal, or a cross country bike ride taking in several pubs. How many would be sensible and/or practical? The locals were amused and concerned that we might not have sufficient energy and stability to undertake the ride home. We reassured them, and had another drink. \*

An hour and several pints later it was time for us to continue on our circumnavigation of Kerridge Hill. We pushed our bikes a few hundred yards further uphill and turned right into Lidgetts Lane. We remounted when the road levelled out and freewheeled downhill to Windmill Lane and then all the way back to Bollington. As we sped along the tree-lined road, past the quarries, towards the Redway Tavern, we were alternately pitched into darkness and then, a second later, were looking out at the glow of the million firefly lights of Manchester. We separated at the bottom of Grimshaw Lane and I climbed into bed at around midnight. Not a bad way of spending a night out around and about Bollington.

TN

\* Of orange squash, naturally - Ed



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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!