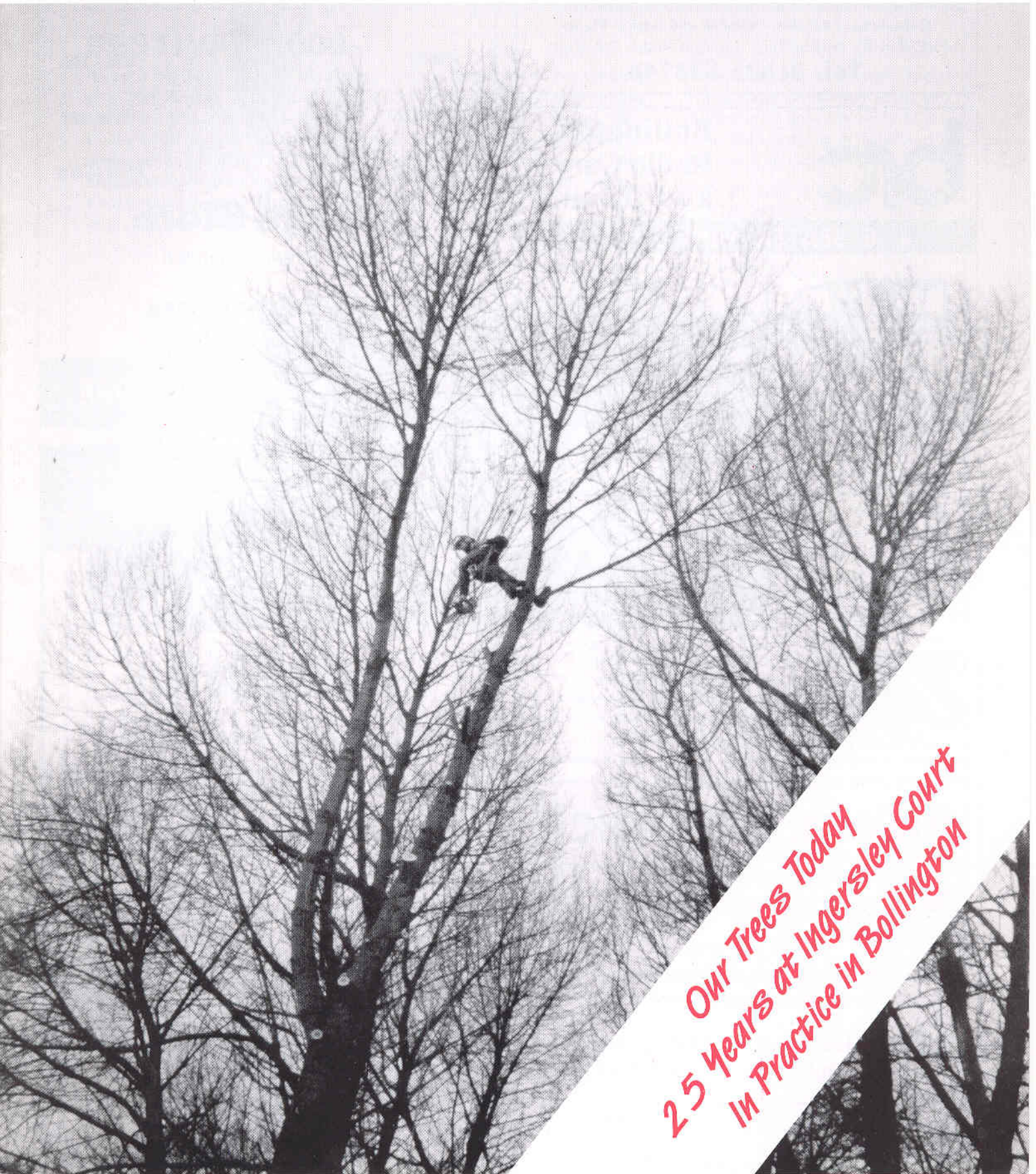


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Live!

Number Sixteen

JULY 1999



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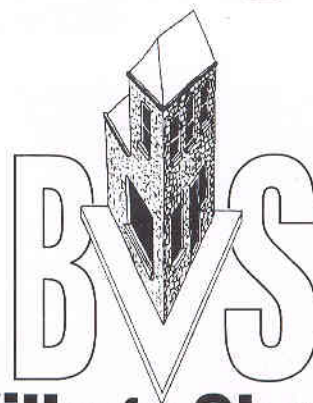
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Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington a town in its own right!" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome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

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Cover: Felling a poplar in Adlington Road. See page 5.

Editor...

John Liley

Editorial Team:

Graham Barrow, John Coope, Penny Liley, Walter Menzies, Tim Neale, Joanna Sciortino, Andy Skelhorn, Andrea Storey, Fiona Swailes, Emily White

Advertising...

Dennis Caulfield (01625 572538)
Mark Stedman (01625 575227)

Printed by...

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FESTIVAL 2000

Plans for Bollington's next Festival move forward. Scheduled for two weeks in year 2000, starting on Saturday, May 13, it will feature such events as a circus and a visit from the gospel-singing Concert Choir of South Carolina State University. If the last Bollington Festival was anything to go by, this will by no means be the end of it. The 1993 event staged attractions as diverse as Jaleo Flamenco, a Medieval Fair, The Dubliners folk singing group, Ukranian dancing, a large-scale assault on 'Carmina Burana' (with three choirs), historical walks, several plays, and the Chris Barber Jazz Band.

Blackpool for their honeymoon. There will be a large cast for both adults and children and I hope that many of the actors old and young in the area will take part in the Premiere."

Thus do ideas develop: Bollington Festivals are noted for their capacity

to generate themes and form new groups. Many of the activities that characterise Bollington life started or gelled through Festival events - this magazine amongst them.

Bollington Live!, now entering its sixth year, aims to play its part in the Festival to come, not least in promoting the events; and, in the spirit of all Festivals, we seek new input. We are not a closed group. Fresh faces are always welcome at our

meetings; whether with suggestions for new things or reinforcing the old. With the extra effort a Festival entails, we would certainly appreciate all offers of assistance - not just in the writing, but over a range of activities, for example in helping us distribute the magazine more effectively, or in revising its design.

Our next **Bollington Live!** meeting is upstairs at the Arts Centre in Wellington Road, at 8.15 on Thursday, July 22. None of the present staff, all of us voluntary, professes to be Shakespeare, or Richard Branson, or Citizen Kane; you don't have to be either! All are welcome. See you there.



Dr John Coope, the driving force of the previous six Bollington Festivals since they began in 1964, plans a new production for the next. This will be 'The Wedding Photo', a musical play.

"Some time ago," he says, "I had a call from Ken Mosley of the Greenhouse Gallery on Wellington Road, to say he had found an old sepia print of a wedding party which had been used as packing in a frame containing another picture. It turned out to be a remarkable photograph of about sixty Bollingtonians, dressed to the nines and posed on Pool Bank. This was a fascinating find and I took it up to the old people's home, Ingersley Court, and asked them to gather round and identify some of the individuals in the picture (seen above). This created

much excitement and I soon learned that this was the wedding of Horace and Lilian Ankers (nee Reade), which took place on October 8, 1919 in the Parish Church. After talking to many of the people at the home, and visiting others, the identities of most in the party were revealed, including that of Vicar Braine who conducted the ceremony. Many stories were collected, too, about Bollington after the conclusion of Word War I."

"I decided to write a libretto for a musical play set in this period, which I aim to put on in the Arts Centre for Bollington Festival 2000. This will take us through the day of the wedding, from dawn in Church Street to the evening in Water Street, where the happily married pair set off by train to



Our Lost Shops

It is good news for the village that the Market Place convenience store has reopened but, excellent as the remaining shops in Bollington may be, a visit to nearby Poynton reveals a much busier and varied retail scene.

Yet even in the 1950s and early 60s Bollington itself was able to boast a wide range of shops. The ironic thing is that, as Bollington has grown, so the local shopping facilities have diminished. Greater access to private cars, the advent of supermarkets in Macclesfield and, latterly, the opening of vast shopping areas such as the Trafford Centre have doubtless contributed to the decline. But many will remember the not so distant days when Bollington had four or five shoe shops, a TV shop in Palmerston Street, with two doors away a pork butcher, at least two drapers and a rather grand Co-op (now Mauro's Italian Restaurant) in Palmerston Street together with umpteen groceries and corner shops. Yet such memories pale into significance when you delve into more distant times. Bagshaw's Gazetteer and Directory of Cheshire for 1850 reveals that Bollington had 11 beerhouses, 3 blacksmiths, 8 boot and shoe makers, 8 butchers, 4 grocers and tea dealers, 6 linen and woollen drapers, 3 pattern and clog makers, 4 tailors and 25 other shopkeepers, of whom 4 were bakers. It sounds as

thriving as the Trafford Centre. According to Kelly's Directory of 1902 there was even a tripe dealer in Church Street... and, just for the record, Bollington's early closing day then was Tuesday!

Roy Arnold



Latham's grocer's shop, recorded as being in Water Street, Bollington in 1902, later moved to Palmerston Street, where it is seen here in the early 1920s.

Bollington Arts Centre - A Unique Venue for Private Parties and Conferences

Bollington Arts Centre recently hosted an international business conference. Private functions - from small parties to much larger events - are a regular feature.

Now that the Centre has a much-improved foyer, gallery and bar areas it is becoming increasingly popular. All manner of organisations looking for an interesting venue are booking space.

While it is possible to book the whole building for a performance event, smaller spaces such as the member's room are suitable for meetings and small training events.

Booking fees for the main hall vary between £5 an hour in daytime during the week and £15.50 an hour on a weekend evening. Fees for the gallery and bar vary between £4 and £9 an hour. For further details and to place a booking, telephone Doreen Young on 01625-572527.



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Undergrowth or Overgrowth? Bollington's Blooming Trees

Long ago - too long ago - I would sit on the wall by my parent's home in Bollington, look across the River Dean and watch the cricket. You could see most of the Recreation Ground from there, certainly the pitch, from bowler's arm to bat. There were nothing much, as I recall, to impede this view, certainly in the way of trees. Such vegetation as existed was severely kept in check, by Mr Biggar the groundsman and, on the river side of the fence, by a squad of gentlemen who appeared each year, courtesy of the Water Board, to hack at everything in sight. Alone on their patch, almost as a token, a single poplar was allowed to stand, a kind of bonzai version of the species, chopped and chopped again. Just a stump remained, with the odd branch, nervously supporting a leaf or two.

From the front of the building, the view was likewise unconstrained. The sun shone, and although there were some trees, across Adlington road, these too were controlled by an iron set of hands. Regulated and trim, this stocky line of poplars marched like recruits fresh from the barber's shop down towards the viaduct and the entrance to Oliver's Mill.

Times changed, and so did the law. People began to value trees, or at least the idea of them. From the early 1960s onward, after the mill had closed, the poplars over the road were left to their own devices. With astonishing rapidity, born of relief perhaps after those years of brutalisation, they transformed themselves from stunted things into enormous witch's broomsticks, flailing at the sky. So big did they become that my mother, whose eyesight was failing, had to turn the lights on after lunch. Accordingly, I wrote to enquire whether a little, ahem, - dare I mention it? - pruning, might again be undertaken. The reaction was not encouraging: these

were splendid trees, it was more than anyone's job was worth to lay a finger on them; I should have known better than suggest it.

It was another twenty-odd years before I had the private satisfaction of seeing that the nearest of the giants across the road had finally fallen down. Fortunately it did not fall on us, nor

indeed on anyone, for the effect would have been terminal. This tree and its neighbour were cleared away - as can be seen on the cover of this magazine - and sunlight hit us again. Both of them proved to be rotten, without, as far as I am aware, showing any outward sign. As the poplar by the cricket ground is of the same generation, and has likewise grown to the point at which it could flatten us all, I wonder if this too might prove to be rotted in a posthumous kind of way, a cause of regret, etc. - not least to whoever might be underneath it.

Nowadays, as I live in the selfsame house with my own family and peer through the jungle at what, to those who know it is there already, might still be the cricket ground, or beyond the screen of recently planted birches at the disappearing outline of the railway viaduct, it is hard not to giggle at the transformation. And in many parts of Bollington the same kind of thing goes on. The friendly face in Greenbank Drive who could be waved to from a window in Wellington Road is hidden now by branches. The Clarence Mill, likewise, is sunk into billowing green. The view from the viaduct in midsummer is of a town more forested than it has been since... well, since before it was a town.

This is, in many ways attractive. Trees soften the landscape and, Heaven knows, we need them. But could it go too far? The viaduct, for example, an historical monument, has sufficiently disappeared from view in summer for

Continued Overleaf...



See how they grow. The painting on the left was executed by local artist Brian Hunter in 1994. It shows the area in Adlington Road before the two riverside trees nearest to the bridge either fell down or were removed.



The right hand photo was taken from the same point, on the viaduct, just 5 years later.

Continued from previous page...

those approaching up Wellington Road to think it a single-arched bridge. In the car park off Adlington Road, the aforementioned birches, despite being thinned this year, are aiming for the altitude record. The choice of species here could be questioned. Nearby are 'shrubs', so-called: big ones; and, on the fringes, the sycamores - perhaps the most invasive of them all - pushing up as if there were no tomorrow.



There goes the viaduct. Birches reach upward from the car park.

Farther up the Recreation Ground, the view from the grassy terraced steps is severely impeded. Where our forebears once watched the cricket and the famous Bollington Sports, the view now is.... of an Ash tree bursting from the stonework at the river's edge. Facing it is a lesser-spotted something-or-other (which my wife declares a privet; I never knew they grew that big). Putting aside the damage these growths inflict, there are decisions to be taken here. Should people be allowed to watch the cricket from the terraces, or is the development of rapacious species of tree the more important matter? Should we be allowed

to see the viaduct in summer in all its many-arched glory? Or are the trees there to be protected instead?

In my own experience, if a tree might be considered out of place, or it blocks off the light, this cuts less ice with the powers-that-be than it should. If, on the other hand, there is a danger to life or limb then you are in with a chance - and this at present seems the best possibility of getting something done.

I rang the Planning Department in Macclesfield the other day and an official came to look at Old Stumpy, the survivor from the Water Board days, now overhanging our house in the manner of a fly-swat. He agreed with my concern, and there is a possibility now that the worrying bits can be taken away.

There is also a Forestry Officer, Mr Hudson, in Macclesfield, and a pamphlet is available that to some extent unravels the law.

But, beyond these formalities, I must make a plea for common sense. Have we, in our broad support for trees, been a bit too casual about them? Few people appear impartial about trees. Most of us like them - provided they do not intrude upon our own well-being. But, as the French know well, they do need to be *tended*, that is to say trimmed, lopped, even cut down if they get out of hand. Many trees in Bollington, most of them in public spaces, must be due for such attention.

JL

The Law and the Tree - is complex. Briefly, any growth with a Tree Preservation Order upon it cannot be touched without planning consent. A register is kept, and can be inspected at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Trees in Conservation Areas (which cover a significant part of Bollington) usually have temporary protection, although those without a specific Tree Preservation Order upon them and with a trunk diameter under 75mm (3 inches) at 1.5 metres (4 ft 11 in) above the ground can be cut without official permission.

However much a tree is protected, consent is not required for felling or pruning if it is dead, dying or dangerous. Unless the danger is imminent, however, the Local Planning Authority must first be given notice of at least five days. The owner of a tree is not held liable for damage caused by falling - provided this could not reasonably have been foreseen. In cases of doubt, the Planning Department will make an inspection, and if necessary undertake the work - at the expense of whoever owns the tree.

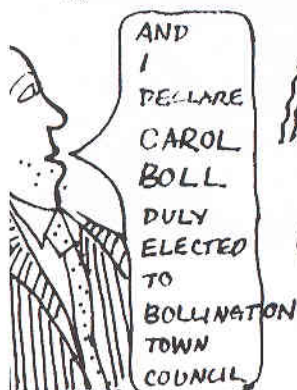
Trees obstructing a highway have to be dealt with, at the owner's expense, on the instruction of the Highway Authority.

There appear to be no regulations regarding the obstruction by trees of light to a dwelling, or the inhibition of one tree by another.



THE BOLLS

A GRIPPING SAGA OF BOLLINGTON FOLK



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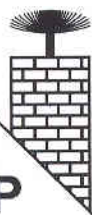
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BOLLINGTON *Live!*

JULY

Monday, 12th

"FIDDLER'S FANCY"

North-West Women's traditional Morris dancing at the Womens Institute meeting, Bollington Methodist Church, Wellington Road, at 7:30pm. Tel. 573571

Wednesday, 14th

BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB

Meeting at the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, at 7:30 - 9:00pm. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835

Sunday, 18th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OUTING

to the Botanical Gardens at Kew. 7 am start from the Civic Hall, Palmerston Street. Tel Blanche Royall on 422835

Sunday, 18th

MIDDLEWOOD WAY OPENDAY

Some way down the track, but worth supporting, at Higher Poynton Station (GR 944832). Fun for all the family, with craft stalls and demonstrations, music and entertainment. 11.30 to 4 pm.

Thursday, 22nd

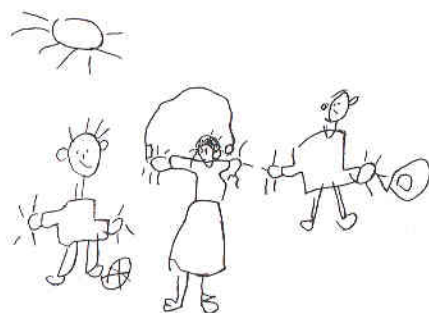
BOLLINGTON LIVE! MEETING

Ideas for the Festival- and for the magazine. All welcome. At the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, 8.15 pm.

Monday, 26th and all weekdays to 6 August

PLAYSCHEMES

organised by Macclesfield Borough Council, for 5 to 11 year olds, at the Recreation Ground Pavilion, Adlington Road, 10 to 12.30 pm and 1.30 to 3.30 pm. Under-5s are also welcome if numbers allow, accompanied by a parent or carer (not an older brother or sister, please!) and all children should be so accompanied for registration. Occasional additional helpers are also invited. Tel 504523 for further information..



Drawing by Arthur L, aged 5

AUGUST

Tuesday, 3rd

PARKTALES

Meet the Rangers, listen to the tales they have to tell, join in the fun and games. For 3 to 6 year olds. On the Recreation Ground, Adlington Road, 3 to 4 pm. Places are free but limited, so please book on 01625-504505

Wednesday, 4th

"ODDITIES OF CHESHIRE"

A presentation by Mr Rogers Burgess on behalf of Bollington Wives, at the Civic Hall, 8:00pm. Admission £1

Monday, 9th

MEMBERS NIGHT AND DUTCH SUPPER

with the Womens Institute. Bollington Methodist Church, Wellington Road, 7:30pm. Contact Mary Foster on 573571

Monday, 9th to Friday, 13th

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHERY

for 12 to 16-year olds, with the New Century Bowmen, at Whiteley Green, 9.30 to 12 each morning. £37 per person. To book Tel 504523.

Wednesday, 11th

BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB MEETING

in the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 7:30 to 9pm. Tel Blanche Royall, 422835

Thursday, 12th

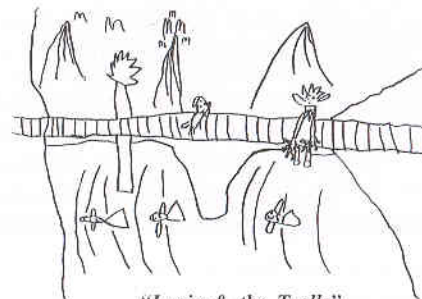
"ATTIC TALES"

Presented by Liz Fost of BBC's 'Playdays', this is a brand new show, written for children in the 4 to 8 year range. The stories of Aesop retold in music and song, at the Civic Hall, above the Library in Palmerston Street, 10.30 am to 11.20 approx. Tickets £2.50 from Macclesfield Borough Leisure Services (Tel 504523), at Bollington Library, or at the door, if available.

Sunday, 22th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OUTING

Trip to the Trial Gardens at Harlow Carr, near Harrogate, with a visit to Harrogate afterwards. The coach will leave from the Civic Hall, Bollington, at 8 am. Tel Blanche Royall on 422835



"Lucia & the Trolls"
Drawing by Megan N, aged 6

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, 1st

"ROYAL DOULTON FIGURINES"

A talk by Barry Glover for Bollington Wives. At the Civic Hall, 8pm. Admission £1

Saturday, 4th

HORTICULTURAL AND FLOWER SHOW

At the Civic Hall, above the Library, Palmerston Street, 2 pm to 7.00. All welcome. For competition categories and entry schedules contact Mrs Barnshaw on 429265.

Sunday, 5th

SENIOR CITIZENS FUND-RAISING CONCERT

Hear Bollington Brass Band in Concert and contribute to a good cause! At the Civic Hall, 8pm. Contact Betty Bonson on 573187. Tickets available at the door

Sundays, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

BOLLINGTON CHILDREN'S MUSIC THEATRE REHEARSALS

commence for their next production: the Christmas Musical "Lucia and the Trolls". Meetings are on Sunday afternoons and new members in the age range 6 to 14 are always welcome. There are no auditions and the group accommodates a wide range of ages and abilities. Contact Donald Judge on 0161 427 2870 for details.

Wednesday, 8th

BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB MEETING

At the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 7:30 to 9 Tel 422835

Monday, 13th

THE WORK OF ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE

A presentation by Mr Elkin for the Womens Institute, at Bollington Methodist Church, Wellington Road, 7:30pm. Tel. 573571

EVENTS

Thursday, 16th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Expert Mr Wordsworth on carp for the garden pond. At the Dog & Partridge, 8 to 9:30 pm. Tel 422835

Saturday, 18th

VARIETY EVENING

Organised by St John's Church, at Lowther Street Hall, 7:30pm. For further details contact Joan Kendrick on 575428

Monday, 20th

BOLLINGTON'S FUTURE

Can we sustain ourselves? Bollington Civic Society meeting, at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, 8 pm.

Sunday, 26th

BEAT THE BOUNDS

of Macclesfield: a sponsored walk, largely on public footpaths, to raise money for the 2nd Bollington Scout Group, and the charities of sponsor's choice. Walkers can start or retire at any of 8 checkpoints on the 19 mile route between 9 am and 5 pm. Sponsor forms are available from Bollington Library, or from John Pleeth on 426508, or Sharon Place on 575697.

Wednesday, 6th

"THE WORK OF THE VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP"

A talk by a local volunteer to Bollington Wives. At the Civic Hall, 8 pm. Admission £1.

Monday, 11th

CHURCHES AND CATHEDRALS

A slide show by Mr Hutchings to the Womens Institute. At the Methodist Church, 7:30 pm. Contact Mrs Mary Foster on 573571

Wednesday, 13th

BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB

Meeting at the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 7:30 to 9pm. Tel 422835.

Thursday, 21st

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

"Tomaytoes or Tomatoes?" by Wendy and Gareth Stoddart, at the Dog & Partridge, 8 to 9:30 pm. Tel 422835

The Coull Quartet



OCTOBER

Saturday, 2nd

COULL STRING QUARTET

performing Mozart's Quartet in B Flat K458 "The Hunt", Tippett's Quartet No 5 and Dvorak's Quartet in C Op.61. Presented by Bollington Chamber Concerts at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, at 8 pm. Tickets £9 and £3 (for students, children and unwaged). Tel 560000 (office hours) 560355 (evenings)

Wednesday 20th - Friday 23rd

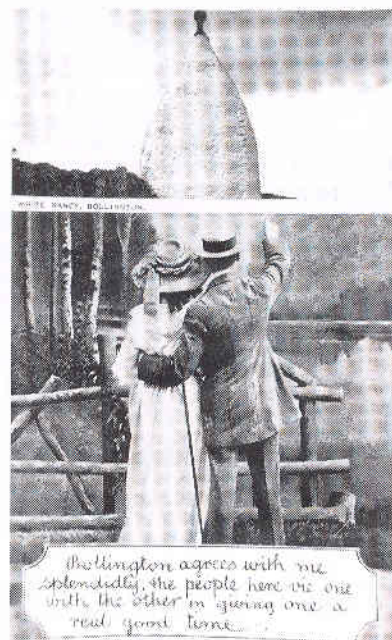
"OUTSIDE EDGE"

A play by Richard Harris, presented by the Bollington Festival Players at the Arts Centre, 7:30pm. Tickets £4.50 (Concessions £2.50). Contact Mrs Young on 572527.

Thursday 28th, Friday 29th, Saturday 30th

"DICK WHITTINGTON"

A Pantomime Performance for All the Family. At Bollington Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Adults £3 Children £2. Contact Barrie Jackson on 572259.



From the archive: a postcard from 1905.

Buying

Historical Photos

Pictures from the extensive photographic archive of the Civic Society are for sale at a charge of £5 for a print in the size range 6" by 4" to 10" by 8". This covers the cost of copying a print from the collection by photographer Roger Fielding, as time permits. Should the need be urgent, entailing the use of commercial facilities, the charge rises to £10.

The archive, started in 1983 by the History Group of the Civic Society, now numbers around 6,000 photos. Covering aspects of Bollington life from 1860, they include numerous school class pictures from 1900 onwards. Many have been copied from prints, postcards and albums lent by local people, a huge undertaking by History Group member Bob Alexander.

Access to the archive is by appointment only and can be arranged with Fiona Swales on 575956. Additions to the collection are also most welcome; recent contributions include shots of the 1998 floods.

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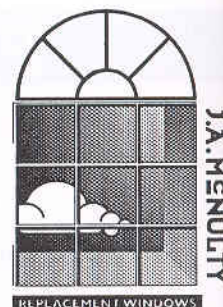
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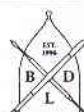
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Ingersley Court - Twenty-Five Years On

"I don't regret a day," is the verdict of May Nockton, the first resident in the flats at Bollington's Ingersley Court, and still there in the home. Millie Collins, who was another original tenant, is still there also in her flat.

The project began as a Cheshire County Council home for 16 elderly residents, together with 26 flats provided by Macclesfield Borough. Now, however, it is in the capable hands of CLS Care Services, an independent non profit-making charitable trust, which took over the management in 1991. There are over 30 residents now at the home, with eight associated flats. Extensive refurbishment has taken place; a

conservatory has been added, as well as a water garden and patio. Indoors, the latest baths have been installed, the rooms upgraded and some small separate sitting areas created.

Out of 29 members of staff at the home - of whom only two are full-time employees - at least three are on duty at any time, and the scheme has attracted great loyalty. Hilary Young, who has been officer-in-charge since 1976, was a

night care assistant on the very first night the home was open. Hairdresser Sally Knocker has also worked there from the start, while Madge Hutter, for much of this time, played the piano at Ingersley Court each Tuesday. Today, however, even with a more



two can enjoy going out for a walk on their own. Short-stay residencies have been a really good service, because they give carers a break and provide the opportunity to get used to the place."

Many residents now have TV and a phone in their own rooms, so the staff have more walking to do, while the possibility grows of residents losing mobility and becoming isolated; but, as Hilary said, people have lived on their own and have not been used to mixing. We have to try to find out what's best for the individual."

Ties with the local community are close. The churches take services, the Medical Centre keeps a watching eye, and there are visits to and from schools. An activities co-ordinator comes in regularly; there is an annual holiday, and half-day outings take place - canal trips and an airport visit are amongst the favourites

Of the future, Hilary is certain of the continuing need, especially amongst the very elderly. "I want us

all to care for the residents as a substitute family. We want to love them as well as care for them, and make sure they have the right to privacy, independence, dignity and choice. I'd like them to think of it as home, and to make the last few years of their lives happy and fulfilled."

EW



Seen at Ingersley Court, are residents May Nockton, right, and Mary Waterhouse, below.

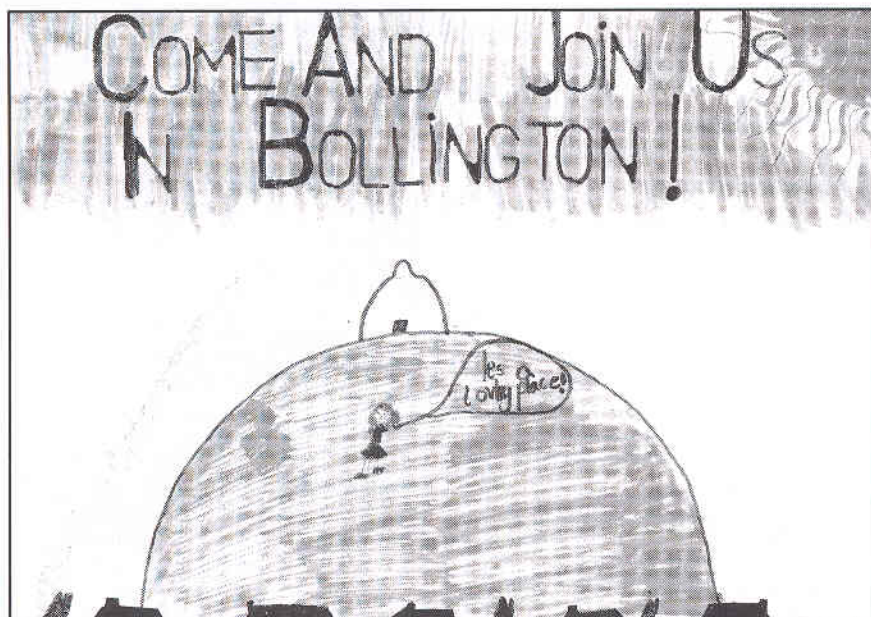
To the left in the upper picture is Nell Bowen with Activity Co-ordinator Fiona De La Mare.



structured career path, it has become harder to recruit staff - probably because of competition from the greater number of homes elsewhere.

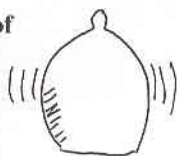
Residents are now coming in at greater ages. In the earlier days, according to Hilary, "we had quite a few people who were fit, but now only one or





Should Bollington be Bigger? - A reader responds

Your correspondent in the November issue poses a number of questions under the headline 'Should Bollington Be Bigger?' The author advocates a plan and vision for Bollington in the 21st Century and substantial expansion of the town. There can be few residents of our community who would not agree with the former. However, I believe the answer to the latter should emphatically be 'No'.



The argument put forward for expansion seems to me based on a false premise - that it will create a substantial independence for Bollington which will protect it from being absorbed into greater suburbia in general, and in particular from becoming a mere suburb of our larger and expanding neighbour to the southwest.

I find this perplexing. It is separation of our communities by green belt land which contributes so much to their independence. Bollington developed separately from Macclesfield and is surrounded by larger towns and past independent communities which have merged to form the North Cheshire/South Manchester sprawl extending now almost as far south as Poynton. Our vision for the 21st Century should be to maintain Bollington's independence: its spatial separation and cultural diversity from the other towns large and small around it.

Substantial expansion in the hope of achieving greater self-sufficiency will not achieve this. It will not achieve it because no amount of expansion will attract a sufficient number and diversity of retailers to Bollington to

remove our community's grateful dependence upon our larger neighbours for the depth and diversity of choice that they provide. It would not achieve it because Bollington would remain a very small town surrounded by larger neighbours. It is not what this resident wants, nor, I suspect, is it what the majority in our community want.

To many, Bollington remains a large village. The challenge is to use the independence provided by our town council to develop a plan for the future which builds on those features that make Bollington unique, which embrace our dependence on the bigger communities around us and which thus maintains and enriches Bollington as a unique and independent community.

Many who live here are fortunate in doing so through the exercise of choice. My family came here ten years ago from Macclesfield having lived elsewhere in the neighbouring towns. We came here precisely because Bollington is a very small town with a unique community culture. We have every desire to remain in Bollington: that is the small-town Bollington which

retains the best of what makes the community so unique right now. We have no desire to return to Macclesfield, fine as that town may be, and have even less desire for Bollington to be turned into something similar. An action plan: Yes; Strategic expansion: No

R C Hockney

(Our illustration is by Imogen Morris, aged 9, of Dean Valley School. The School, which celebrated its 25th anniversary recently, organised a project promoting Bollington, of which Imogen's picture formed a part. Captions to other paintings included 'Bollington is a Great Place to Live' and 'Bollington is Cool')

Walking to School

The excellent map of Bollington Paths remains available at £1 a copy in local shops and at the Town Hall. A wide area is covered, to Rainow, Tytherington, Butley and Pott Shrigley, together with the path seen here, near Whiteley Green.

Bollingtonian David Hudson - who also wrote our feature on the Dean Catchment Area - organised this outing as part of the recent Walk To School campaign. In his capacity as Headmaster of Adlington Primary School, David arranged a supervised hike from Bollington and Whiteley Green for the substantial number of pupils who live there. In the photo are some of the 51 who joined in - over half the total at the school - to cover the mile and a half of local paths through the fields to Brookledge Lane.



In Practice in Bollington

Jean Coope continues her reminiscences of life as a local GP

One afternoon while I was in the surgery an emergency call came from Oak Bank Mill in Queen Street: a man's arm was caught in a machine. I rushed off and found he had been pulled out, but was collapsed on the floor between great vats of coloured liquid. I gave him morphine and put a tourniquet round the bleeding arm; then I went with him in the ambulance and loosened the tourniquet periodically. The hospital team were ready for him and operated straight away to save the arm. Afterwards the manager of the mill asked me to choose a wedding present - as much as we needed of every material they printed; and for years our house had interesting bathroom curtains, with a design of red stripes and black swans.

John and I were married in 1953 and he was immediately called up by the Royal Army Medical Corps. We had happy weekends in our flat at The Waterhouse and sometimes I drove up to see him in Newcastle, or stayed with friends in Derbyshire. I became pregnant and carried on working in the practice for seven months.

Our first child, Gerald, was born in Withington Hospital near my parent's home. Then we took lodgings near Fenham Barracks in Newcastle and I

We then bought Turner Heath, a Georgian house on the main road at Bollington Cross, and our furniture was conveyed from The Waterhouse on the top of the local coal lorry, cleared of coal for the day. I went back to general practice and felt grateful to Joan Chadwick, who gave Gerald much affection as his live-in nanny. Her mother, Mrs Lilian Chadwick, became our holiday housekeeper.

When John returned to general practice he introduced an

so Dr Eileen and John were on duty on alternative nights for five thousand patients.

Dr Geoffrey died in 1956. If you visit The Waterhouse, now the Bollington Medical Centre, you can see in the waiting area a portrait of Dr Eileen which reflects the deep sadness she felt at this period.

With four babies we developed a system whereby John would get up for the patients and I would get up to look after the children. Occasionally the two systems would overlap, and I remember tucking pyjamas or nightie into trousers or boots to go out in the snow - undressing and dressing completely was not a good idea, as it was difficult to go to sleep again afterwards.

Medical advances such as the development of diuretics for heart failure led to a reduction in night calls as acute breathlessness was controlled by regular treatment; but on the whole we appreciated the opportunity of a night call as there was enough time to get to know the patient and the family and develop a deeper understanding. Confinements, too, often occurred in the wee small small hours, and I preferred this to a 7 am call with the simultaneous problems of getting the children up and ready for school.

Many cases that would now arrive routinely at a hospital A & E department were then dealt with by the practice. Once, when John was out, I was putting the children to bed when

Continued Overleaf...



Jean Coope is seen here during the judging of a Road Safety Competition in 1963. The right hand picture shows the Church Street of that era - remarkably traffic-free.

was surprised that looking after one baby seemed much more complicated than caring for three thousand patients. Peacetime life at the barracks was quiet, nonetheless, and we used to go shopping while the regimental major wheeled Gerald in his pram round the barrack square, followed by his two pet cats.

appointments system with Mrs Alice Osborne, who was our first secretary. Our practice was one of the first to buy an electrocardiograph and, indeed, at that time many doctors had no secretary or nurse as there was no reimbursement for staff salaries. There was no deputising service,



Continued from previous page...

a drunken man came upstairs, shouting for treatment. He had a big bleeding wound on the scalp and I managed to get him down to our little treatment room to sew it up. He felt nothing: alcohol is a splendid anaesthetic. The phone cover was patchy when the doctors were out and an emergency such as burns from a chip pan would ring in as I was making our own chips for the children. If our helper had left, there was nothing for it then but to abandon the cooking, pack the children into the car and drive off loaded with dressings and antiseptic cream to care for the patient. I remember looking through a bedroom window and seeing with relief three pairs of wellington boots

waving in the air. This meant the children were doing acrobatics instead of releasing the handbrake! On another emergency call I took the youngest children to a house where a woman had gassed herself and they stood solemnly by the body while I waited for the police to arrive. Usually we had help in the house and I could

safely leave the children with our wonderful helpers, particularly Mrs Betty King and Jean Grundy, who would take them home if I had not returned from the surgery.

John was very caring about old people who lived alone and sometimes gave old ladies a lift in his car for a trip round Bollington. This kindness went on even after the patient died. At one funeral the only guests were the gardener and the handyman, the doctor and our two little fair-haired boys, Gerald and Justin, who looked on this as a happy outing with Daddy. Perhaps it had a lasting effect, for Gerald is now a partner in the practice.



A 1960s garden party at The Waterhouse in Wellington Road. Now the Bollington Medical Centre, this was then the home of Dr Eileen Coope.



The Origins of the Arts Centre

Frank Hillson and George Penney describe its early days

Bollington Arts Centre owes its existence to multiple inspirations - and a lot of hard work. First came the brain-child of John Coope in 1964: the first Bollington Festival. Then, 18 years later, the brilliant concept of the Methodist's architect, in converting their church into a two-storey structure, so saving the expense of

maintaining both the church itself and the Sunday School farther up the hill.

Back to 1964. Out of many happy outcomes, three products of that very first Festival were the Festival Choir, the Festival Players and Bollington Brass Band (Bollington Light Opera Group, or BLOG, was formed after a successful production in the 1974 Festival, with founding members mainly from the Players and the Choir).

In 1981 the Players committee minuted a firm resolve to acquire their own premises. Members then viewed everything from a shed to a mill, even a Portakabin. Then, in 1982, Pat Penney came upon an advertisement for the Methodist Sunday School. Quickly registering an interest with the agent, she wrote to the local press proposing an appeal fund. There came just one response: from the Brass Band, confirming their own need - and lack of finance! The local bank proving unresponsive, she turned to the President of the Players, John Coope, who as Musical Director of the Choir, had been trying to be resigned to the loss of the Sunday School and its fine acoustics. Now, like quicksilver, he produced a Board of Trustees, a bank loan and a public appeal. And the

Methodist Elders smiled upon the project, the likeliest alternative being to see their fine building replaced by a housing estate.

A management committee was set up, with representation from the Trustees and from each actively supportive group. The first office-holders, as it happened, were all Players. Frank Hillson, then the Stage Director, after having his arm twisted, became Chairman, as well as Clerk of Works, Draughtsman, Construction Engineer and Carpenter. Doreen Young became Accountant, Joyce Marsh the Minutes Secretary, and Pat Penney, Manager.

The transaction was completed in 1984, up to which time the building was in joint occupation. Society members and other volunteers spent their weekends with paint brushes and hammers (except when church services were taking place in the hall) and ran fund-raising events. Dr Jean Coope, amongst other tasks, set up the 200 Club, while her husband John was securing various gifts and loans, most notably a £10,000 interest-free loan from the Borough. The official opening took place on 14 September, 1985, to great rejoicing (and more fund-raising).





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The Bollington Watershed Walk

The Bollington Flood of 1998 was dramatic. I was one of many who wondered at the power of the water that demolished the wall at the back of Water Street, flooded High Street and turned the passage of the house where we used to live into a torrent. The events set me thinking about the flow under the aqueduct, and the catchment area that collects it. The Watershed Walk was born.

Out came the OS maps, to pursue the plan of following the boundary of the catchment area of the River Dean as closely as possible using public paths, and it was quickly apparent that the area is large!

My wife Mary and I set off early one morning in the New Year, first climbing the Nab, and with an arrangement to meet a friend, Dave Wainwright, at the Blue Boar Farm before lunch. The circle would be completed as dusk was approaching.

I think the first half of the walk is the more interesting, heading from the Nab and Pott Shrigley towards Sponds Hill and turning just short of Bow Stones. After Charles Head the route passes over the watershed into the quiet upper reaches of Todd Brook. We met Dave as arranged and he took over from Mary for the second part of the trail.

We headed towards Lamaload Reservoir and climbed steeply past Eaves Farm and the high ground below Shining Tor, the highest point in Cheshire. Unfortunately, in trying to stick as closely as possible to the watershed we had to walk for about half a mile along the Cat & Fiddle road. We threaded our way through farms to the edge of Macclesfield Forest,



*Views during the walk:
of Bollington from The Nab; and looking
towards Bow Stones from Sponds Hill.*

before descending to the Setter Dog and on to Rainow. Then, with limbs beginning to ache, came the final climb to Kerridge Ridge, White Nancy and home.

I don't want to give "turn right at the third lamppost" instructions, but the map can be used to link: Bollington Aqueduct, The Nab, Pott Shrigley, Bakestonedale Moor, Dale Top, Sponds Hill, Charles Head, Charles Head Farm, Summer Close, Blue Boar Farm, Nab End, Eaves Farm (almost at Shining Tor), Longclough, Hindsclough Farm, Greenways Farm, White Hills (almost at Forest Chapel), Walker Barn, Hordern Farm, Kerridge End, Kerridge Hill, White Nancy, and the aqueduct again. To avoid the stretch of the Macclesfield-Buxton main road an alternative route could be made from Eaves Farm to Greenways Farm via Lamaload Reservoir and Lower Ballgreave Farm.

The length of the circuit is about 16 miles and includes 2,400 feet of ascent which is about the same amount as the ascent of Snowden by the Pyg Track - spread over a longer distance! I hope that some readers may be tempted to try the route and consider the size of the area it covers. Having done it, I am sure you'll be amazed that every spell of heavy rain doesn't cause even more damage than the flood of 1998.

David Hudson

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