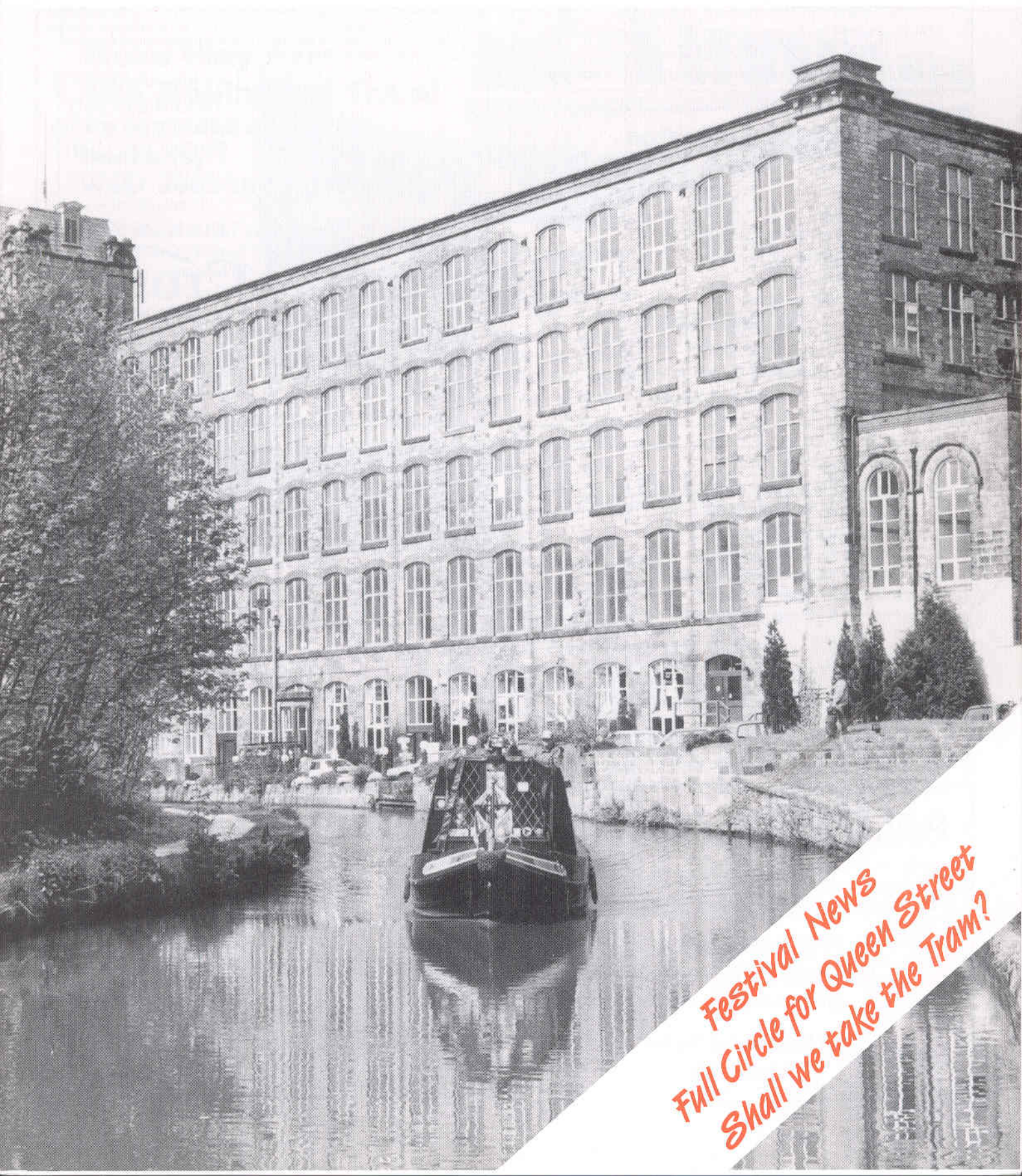


# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

Number Seventeen

NOVEMBER 1999



*Festival News  
Full Circle for Queen Street  
Shall we take the Tram?*

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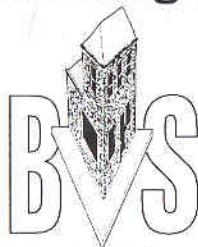
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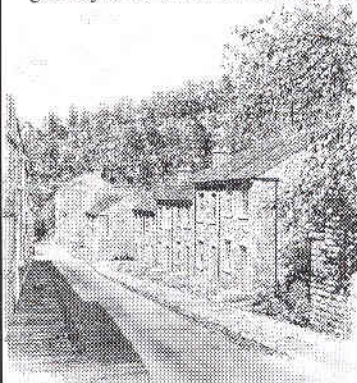
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*Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington a town in its own right!" We aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome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

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

*Cover: The canal at Clarence Mill. A celebration on the Macclesfield Canal is planned for the forthcoming Bollington Festival - see page 5.*

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

## Make Way For The Bollington Tram! As the next century beckons, what does the future hold?

Stop people in the street to ask them what concerns them most about the town and it's likely they will mention traffic. Our's is a reflection of the national problem, where over the next 20 years car traffic could grow by over a third. Van and lorry traffic is forecast to grow even faster.

We walk less than we used to and cycling has become almost the preserve of a few enthusiasts. Yet 50% of our journeys are of less than two miles!

At a recent meeting of Bollington Civic Society a group discussed these issues. Their predictions - should present trends continue - make depressing reading. They felt that if nothing is done to influence change lorry traffic would continue to grow.

People would use their cars more, even for very short journeys.

With most households having two or more vehicles there would be increased pavement parking.

Seeing a child walk or cycle to school would become a rarity. Bollington's rush hour will become longer, with people setting off earlier still to avoid congestion in the Greater Manchester area. Noise levels from traffic will increasingly disturb people, particularly early in the morning

The expense of rail fares would dissuade people from taking the train from Macclesfield or Adlington stations, but increases in cycling or bus use would be negligible.

Does the future have to look like this? The Government has produced its White Paper, "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone". In this it suggests we change the way we make our travel decisions. For short journeys, we must use our cars far less and walk or cycle more. On the longer journeys, improved public transport will encourage us to catch the bus and train more often.

So, what could the future hold for Bollington? Here is an attempt to look into the crystal ball, say, thirty years onward.

- The trend for Bollington to lose its shops will have been reversed and a new shopping complex, including a medium-sized supermarket, will be located in the eastern portion of the town. This will reduce travel into Macclesfield for food shopping and increase the need for an internal transport system within Bollington.



*Cars, cars, cars (and sometimes lorries).  
Can we go on like this?*

- There will be larger numbers of older people, no longer wanting to drive, thus boosting the viability of public transport.
- There will be a light rail link, possibly a type of tram, running from the Turners Arms along the main artery of Bollington to Macclesfield. This will be used for internal trips within Bollington as well as for getting to Macclesfield.
- The main road through Bollington will have been redesigned to give priority to the tram, to pedestrians and cyclists. A 20mph speed limit will apply to all lorries and cars, many of which will no longer use petrol as their fuel.
- Parking a private car in Macclesfield will be difficult and expensive and more Bollingtonians will catch the tram - or shop in Bollington.
- Taxi use will have increased substantially and fares will be cheaper through subsidy.
- Information about the tram times will be widely publicised using modern computer and television-linked information services.
- Taxation and rising fuel costs will have reversed the trend of car ownership and most families will manage with a single car again.

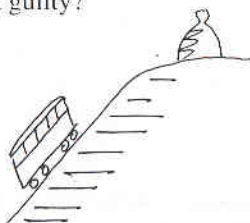
*Continued Overleaf...*

Continued from previous page...

- A park and ride facility will have been developed at Adlington railway station with space for leaving cars and bicycles safely for commuting by train.
- It will have become socially irresponsible for parents to drive cars to school and children will be escorted in groups on foot or cycle.
- The canal towpath will have been redesigned to be safe for cyclists and pedestrians

Is this a possible scenario, or are these the predictions of a half-mad futurist? Look back thirty years and Bollington had a railway station, its own regular rail service to Macclesfield, a secondary school and scores of viable shops. The environmental impact of present transport is forcing us all to look seriously into the future and may encourage governments to tax us out of our motor cars. Meanwhile, the next time we use the car for a journey of under a mile, maybe we should feel a little bit guilty?

GB



## Bollington's Longest Family Tree



Launched to mark the Millennium, Bollington's Family Tree Competition yielded twelve entries. On exhibition at the Library until November 16, these compelling documents will be on view again during the Bollington Festival next year.

From the impressive selection presented, the Shatwell family emerged as the one to have lived in Bollington continuously for the longest period. As one of a number of initiatives by the Council's Millennium Committee, their family tree will be buried in a time capsule on Kerridge Ridge on June 21st. next year.

Anthony Holland, who writes elsewhere in this issue, was the member of the Shatwell family conducting the research. Using the library of the Family History Society in Alderley Edge, he was able to trace his family's roots back to 1584, where the marriage of Jasper Shatwall, as the family name then was, is recorded. Since it is the marriage rather than the birth, the family connection may go back farther still - records for the parish of Prestbury, which at that time included Bollington, only began in 1560.

Of the later branches of the family, Anthony's grandparents Eric and Veronica Shatwell, now in their eighties, live in Clarence Terrace, Bollington. The picture of them, above, was taken in 1940. In the group photo on the right, Eric and Veronica are seen with their daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law John Holland. Their grandchildren Anthony, far left, and Paul, on the right, represent the thirteenth generation from that marriage in 1584.



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## Make way for the Parade

This picture, taken during the Bollington Festival of 1993, captures the spirit of these events. The next to take place - Bollington Festival 2000 - opens on May 13 with a Relay Race to White Nancy, while a cycle time trial up Blaze Hill is scheduled for May 20. Prospective entrants in either contest, or in the proposed cricket and 5-a-side football competitions can contact Chris Bennett on 576049.

Also on the Festival list is the Mamalucas Circus, whose Big Top on the Recreation Ground will house (on a separate occasion) the redoubtable Ken Dodd. Other attractions include gospel singing by the South Carolina Concert Choir, Dr. John Coope's new operetta 'The Wedding Photo' and Handel at Adlington Hall. A panoply of further events is in the offing, concluding, on May 29th, with a Water Festival - and fireworks - on the Macclesfield Canal.

The next issue of *Bollington Live!*, scheduled for April, 2000, will be an expanded number, providing a detailed programme for this major event. To repeat the dates, Bollington Festival 2000 will extend from Saturday, May 13 to Monday, May 29th - a great way to celebrate the Millennium.

## Bollington Blooms Again

Once again, Bollington has carried off First Prize in the Small Towns category of North-West in Bloom Competition.



This merits a big Thank You to the many individuals and businesses who put in such an effort to make our town attractive, not just for the competition, but for all of us who enjoyed the results for the rest of this summer. Thanks are due also to the clean-up squad who cleared litter ahead of the judges! Bollington In Bloom, which started some years ago as an initiative of the Civic Society, once more proves itself a striking civic success.

## A Footpath to Value

Towards the top of Hurst Lane, Bollington, a footpath across a field provides a link with Gleave Avenue - a chance to stroll through one of those priceless gaps amongst the housing that do so much for our town. There is a stile at either end and the footpath itself, on the upper side of the field, is clearly marked.

The field belongs to Mrs Vera Beech, who now lives in Gawsforth but has a long connection with Bollington and with farming here. She inherited the land from her late mother, Mrs Ethel Cantrell, who lived in an adjoining bungalow.

Mrs Beech is disturbed by the current misuse of the property by dog-walkers and others who stray from the path. Highland cattle have been proposed for this field, while enquiries have been made for grazing sheep; but neither is practicable unless dogs are kept on a leash and the line of the footpath is respected. Lately, also, unauthorised tipping has taken place.



*The stile at the Gleave Avenue end of the path, with a newly-positioned sign to encourage walkers not to stray*

In contacting *Bollington Live!*, Mrs Beech points out that the field has been designated as building land - something she is not at all keen on taking up. Lack of consideration by local users, however, make this an option it might be difficult to ignore - and another of our fields would be lost. Keep to the path, please. JL



On October 1, Barry Price took over as Bollington's new Town Clerk. A Chartered Secretary with wide experience in law and accountancy, Mr Price recently took early retirement as Assistant Principal of Thameside College of Technology. *Bollington Live!* extends a cordial welcome to him, with our good wishes for success in this challenging post. We also record our thanks and best wishes for a happy retirement to Claude Harlington, Mr Price's predecessor, who served in this position since Bollington Urban District Council was dissolved, and the Town Council established, under local government reorganisation in 1974.

# In Practice in Bollington

**Dr Jean Coope recalls further days as a local GP**

We used to run a branch surgery at Turner Heath, our rambling Georgian house at Bollington Cross. It was very exposed to the East winds and also to the council estate on the other side of the road. One evening a deputation of ladies came over to ask if we would close the curtains of the front bedroom. Apparently our Parisian au pair, Dominique, was carrying out 'French' exercises near the window and their husbands had taken to walking their dogs along Bollington Road each evening. Soon afterwards our family moved to Lime Fields up Beeston Brow and all the surgeries took place at The Waterhouse, still the home of my mother-in-law, Dr. Eileen Coope.

In 1967 Mr. Robinson the Health Minister revolutionised general practice by offering seventy per cent reimbursement of the salaries of all our ancillary staff. Prior to this we had paid the nurse and secretaries out of our own pockets. We could now afford two nurses to take blood and check blood pressures, syringe ears and chat to the patients. Our secretaries made appointments and phoned the hospitals, and we had, at last, some spare time to keep up with scientific advances in the journals and even talk to the patients ourselves. Susan Ainsworth became our much-loved helper, and with Geoff, her husband, stayed at Lime Fields if we went to a conference.

John's brother Maurice joined us as a partner and we shared emergency calls in a rota of one in three. Joyce was practice manager, Renee typed the letters and Jill looked after finance: this blessed trinity coped with the administration for six thousand patients. The phone was connected to the surgery during the day and switched to the house from 6 p.m. until the following morning, so social life and Festival committees meant swapping our evening on call with another partner. The first Bollington Festival in 1964 resulted in ten to twenty extra calls

each day as we had no formal Secretary or Booking Office and this was a slight problem as I was expecting our sixth child, Caroline. The Festivals were a marvellous experience and the children loved the wonderful carnivals with horses and men in armour.

Now that we had more staff, the surgery premises became very cramped and we began to look at plans for building a Health Centre in The Waterhouse garden. John, Maurice and I travelled around to look at other surgeries and inspected the best (modern brick with round tower for the practice records)



*Doctors Jean and John Coope, seen with daughters Veronica and Miriam and grandchildren Tessa and Kate in the 1980s during a visit to Veronica's house at Downhill, Northern Ireland.*

and the worst (bars on the windows, all waiting room chairs screwed to the floor, in Doncaster). Eventually we decided not to build a separate clinic as John's mother Dr. Eileen moved to a smaller house and we were able to buy the whole of The Waterhouse.

Dr. Kathy Handler joined the team and we expanded the services for patients. She started the diabetic clinic and initiated the examination of diabetic eye problems by an ophthalmic specialist at the surgery. In the seventies John began his important work on



hypertension and I started research on the menopause in response to many women's requests for hormone therapy. Dr. Maurice has taken a special interest in sports injuries and his wife Dizzy set up a modern physiotherapy clinic with up-to-date equipment. In the nineties the practice became computerised. We have some wonderful nurses: Christine, Margot and Deborah, and now Sue, who put up with the doctors and do a great deal of the work.

When we moved to the main house we kept some of the original furniture, including the portrait of Lady Jane Grey which hangs over the stairs. There is a warm domestic atmosphere which has just one drawback: John cannot get used to the feeling that he is examining patients in his sister's bedroom. The Waterhouse has been a splendid home for the practice and we hope it will go on providing sufficient accommodation for our ten thousand patients well into the twenty-first century.



*The late Doctor Kathy Handler, who joined the Coope family practice at The Waterhouse in 1972*

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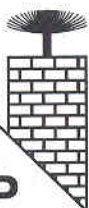
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# BOLLINGTON



## NOVEMBER

*To Tuesday, 16th*

### HISTORIC FAMILY TREES

at the Library, Palmerston Street, marking the Millennium.

*Monday, 8th*

### WOMENS INSTITUTE AGM

Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Contact Mary Foster on 573571

*Wednesday, 10th*

### CHRISTMAS SALES TABLE

at the Bollington Flower Club. In the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 7:30 - 9pm. Tel. Blanche Royall, 422835

*Friday, 12th to Monday 21st February*

### CHESHIRE OPEN STUDIOS EXHIBITION

Displays of professional contemporary artwork from painters, photographers, textile artists, potters and furniture-makers. A colourful and lively exhibition. Arts Centre, Mon to Fri 9 - 11:30am; Sundays (term time: 2:30 to 4pm)

*Friday, 12th*

### THE JOHN WRIGHT BAND

at The Dog & Partridge, Wellington Road. Bollington Folk Group, 8.30 pm

*Saturday, 13th*

### CONCERT

Best known for "The Organist Entertains" on BBC Radio 2, organist Nigel Ogden is at the Methodist Church, Wellington Road, 7:30pm. £5, Tel 875322

*Sunday, 14th*

### MEMORIAL SERVICE & PARADE

At Garden of Remembrance, Palmerston Street, 11:00am

*Thursday, 18th*

### "HOUSE & GARDENS & CRIME PREVENTION"

A talk by Tony Whitney on behalf of Bollington Horticultural Society. At the Dog & Partridge, 8 to 9:30 pm. Tel 422835

*Saturday, 20th*

### "RABBIT PROJECT"

Nationally-acclaimed local playwright Lavinia Murray adds a new dimension with this entertaining comedy. At Bollington Arts Centre, Wellington Road. Times and reservations (£5 and £4): tel 576250.

*Thursday, 25th to Saturday, 27th*

### SHOWTIME

with Bollington Light Opera Group. Song and dance in a cabaret atmosphere. Supper provided. Civic Hall, 7.30. Tel 875326

*Friday, 26th*

### "PANDAEMONIUM" - THE COMING OF THE MACHINE

by the Pickleherring Theatre Company. A fusion of puppetry, live animation, music and projections, creating a world where insects, bugs, animals, rivers and landscapes are hewn from rust and scrap. Lasting 80 mins, the show is suitable for adults and children from the age of 8. At Bollington Arts Centre, 7:30pm. Family tickets £11; Adults £4; Concessions £3. Sponsored by Rural Touring Theatre.

*Saturday, 27th*

### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

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

### KATE RUSBY

The rising star of folk, in concert at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, 8 pm. Tickets £10, Tel 619840 or 0585-235784

*Sunday, 28th*

### HEDGELAYING

A traditional art revived. With instruction by the rangers, 10.30 am to 3 pm. Meet Middlewood Way bridge, Clarke Lane. Please bring packed lunches.

*Tuesday, 30th - Friday, 3rd December*

### "OUTSIDE EDGE"

Cricket on the stage: a comedy by Richard Harris, presented by Bollington Festival Players at the Arts Centre, at 7:30pm. £4.50 and £2.50: contact Doreen Young on 572527

## DECEMBER

*Sunday, 1st*

### TOY SERVICE

Make a child's Christmas! Donate your toys for Inner City Children, to the Manchester Mission. At the Methodist Church, 10:30am

### BOLLINGTON WIVES CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the Tunncliffe Restaurant, Park Lane, Macclesfield, 8:00pm. Tel. 574208.

*Saturday, 4th*

### "THE MUSICIANS OF GROPE LANE"

A performance by The City Waites on behalf of Bollington Chamber Concerts, playing music from the back streets and bawdy houses of Purcell's London on period instruments. Bollington Arts Centre, 8:00pm. £9 Adults, Concessions £3 Tel 560000

*Wednesday, 8th*

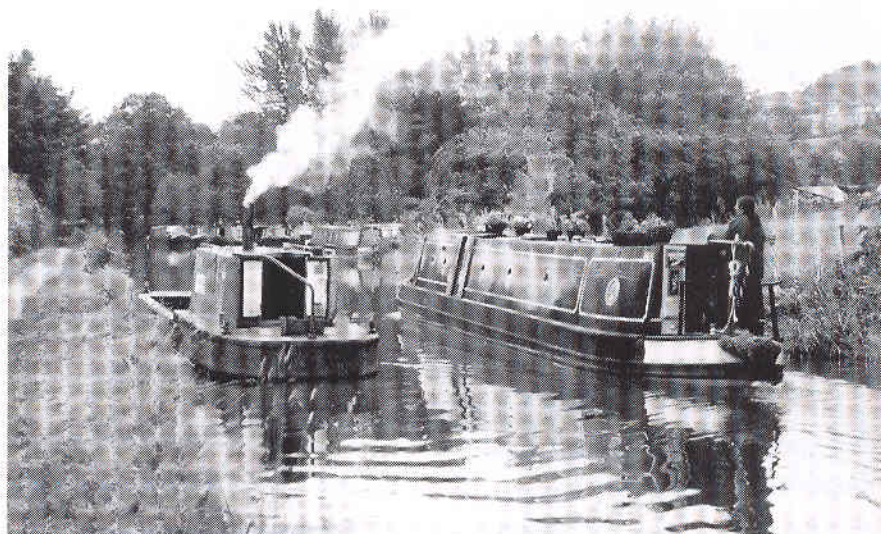
### BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 7:30 - 9:30pm. Free to members; guests welcome. Tel. 422835

*Sunday, 12th*

### WINTER TREE WORKSHOP

Can you recognise different trees without their leaves? Learn how with ranger Trish Furse. There will be a short walk, followed by an indoor session, with hot drinks provided. 1.30 to 3 pm. Meet at Adlington Road Car Park.



*The Macclesfield Canal, to the north of Clarke Lane, Bollington. Local expert Tim Boddington gives a talk on January 10th.*

# EVENTS

*Sunday, 12th*

## **"LUCIA AND THE TROLLS"**

A Christmas performance by the Bollington Children's Music Theatre. Emilia, chosen to be St. Lucia at school, becomes big-headed. She is kidnapped by the trolls and her brother and a friendly elf set off to rescue her. A lively, tuneful musical with a host of colourful characters. At Bollington Arts Centre, 4:30 and 7:30pm. £3.50 and £2.50. Tel 560000 (0161 427-2870 evenings).

*Monday, 13th*

## **WI CHRISTMAS PARTY**

At the Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Contact Mary Foster on 57357

*Thursday, 16th*

## **BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

At the Tunncliffe Restaurant, Park Lane, Macclesfield, 6:30pm. Price £13.75. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835.

*Friday, 17th*

## **IAN BRUCE**

with Bollington Folk Group, at The Dog & Partridge, 8.30 pm

*Sunday, 19th*

## **FAMILY CAROL SERVICE**

Methodist Church, 10:30am

## **VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE**

Organised by the churches of Bollington at St. John's, Church Street. 2.30 pm.

*Tuesday, 21st*

## **MESSIAH FOR ALL**

Bollington Arts Centre. 8.00 pm

*Friday, 24th*

## **CAROLS AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

Outside the Town Hall, with the Brass Band, at 6 pm

*Friday, 31st*

## **PRAYERS AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

At the Town Hall, 8.00pm

## **JANUARY, 2000**

*Saturday, 1st*

## **MILLENNIUM BELL RINGING**

At St. John's Church, 12 Noon.

*Saturday, 8th - 15th*

## **"DICK TURPIN"**

Bollington Festival Players perform this entertaining pantomime at the Arts Centre. 7:30pm, Matinees 2pm. £4.50 Adults; £2.50 Concessionary; £12.00 Family Ticket. Contact Doreen Young on 572527

*Monday, 10th*

## **THE MACCLESFIELD CANAL**

A talk by Tim Boddington to the WI in the Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Contact Mary Foster on 573571

*Wednesday, 12th*

## **BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB AGM**

At the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Tel. 422835

*Friday, 14th*

## **RISKY BUSINESS**

with Bollington Folk Group, Dog & Partridge, 8.30 pm

*Thursday, 20th*

## **BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING**

In the upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, 8 to 9:30pm. Tel. 422835

*Saturday, 22nd*

## **ARCHAEUS QUARTET**

Haydn's Quartet in D Minor op 103, Janacek's Quartet no 2, Britten's Rhapsody and Beethoven's Quartet in F op 135. Arts Ctr. £9, £3 Tel 560000, (evens. 560355)

*Sunday, 30th*

## **OPERA HIGHLIGHTS**

A performance of opera choruses by the Bollington Festival Choir in the Methodist Church at 8 pm. £5 (573494)

## **FEBRUARY**

*Sunday, 6th*

## **HEDGE LAYING 2**

A second chance to try. Tools and tuition provided by the rangers (but not packed lunch). 10.30 am to 3. Meet at Holehouse Lane Car Park, Whiteley Green.

*Wednesday, 9th*

## **BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB MEETING**

In the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane 7:30 to 9:00pm. Tel. 422835

*Monday, 14th*

## **"SEAFARING YARNS"**

A talk by Mr. T Machin at the Womens Institute meeting in the Methodist church, 7:30pm. Contact Mary Foster on 573571

*Thursday, 17th*

## **BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM**

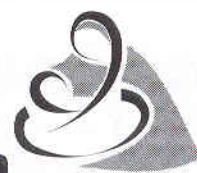
In the upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, 8 to 9:30 pm. Tel. 422835

*Saturday, 26th*

## **SALLY BISHOP & ANNE-MARIE HASTINGS PIANO DUO**

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## **Churches and The Millennium**



The Reverend Geoffrey Greenhough writes:

The year AD 2000 celebrates two thousand years since the birth of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem, a small town near Jerusalem - although we did not start counting our dates from that event until a few hundred years later! We know that the early medieval Christians were not so good at maths, and got their calculations wrong by a few years; but for all that, the year 2000 is an "official birthday" for Jesus.

To celebrate that occasion, "Churches Together", which includes all the churches in Bollington, will be holding a short service, out in the open air, at 8.00 pm on Friday, December 31st, 1999. This will take place around the Christmas tree, outside the Council Offices in Wellington Road. The timing is symbolic: 8.00 pm is 2000 hours, and we worship Jesus Christ, Saviour of the World, on the last 2000 hour timing before year 2000 AD begins.

Why do we do it? Firstly, because Christians worship Jesus Christ as their Saviour, risen on the first Easter Day and living Lord of the Church. What better reason can there be? Secondly, we worship in him together, at this time and place, because the Bollington Council invited our churches to start the Millennium celebrations in this way. And we shall be privileged to welcome the elected representatives of Bollington on that occasion.

On New Year's Day, 2000, at noon, church bells will ring out in Bollington, as in every town and village in the country. The Millennium, before it can be anything else, is a celebration of the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. May I invite you all to join us in worship? You would be very welcome at the open air service on New Year's Eve, or at any of the churches on the first Sunday of the year 2000 AD.



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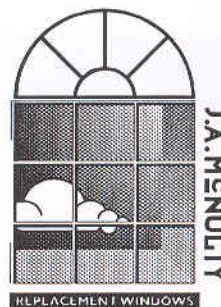
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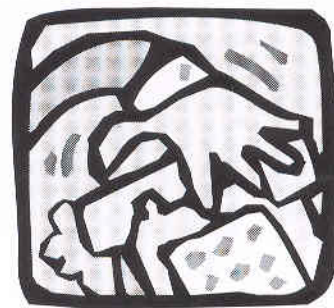
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# Flare-Up on a Friday Night



I had a nasty experience two months ago, partly brought on by myself, I have to admit. At 8.15 on a Friday evening my husband and I drove into the Middlewood Way car park in Adlington Road in order to turn. There we were faced by a crowd of youngsters. They were slow to move, and one on a bicycle, hit the side of our car. I asked my husband to stop, got out and enquired the boy's name and address. I did not think this unreasonable: partly I wanted to give him a jolt - cycling into cars isn't a safe pastime. I also wished to know who was responsible should there be any damage.

The crowd replied with a tirade of verbal abuse. Suddenly I was in a nasty situation. Two girls in particular were objectionable. Stupidly, I raised my arm, asking them to quieten; one moved forward, and unexpectedly I caught the top of her hairclip. In a flash this group of teenagers became more than simply nasty. This was 'an assault'. Our car's exit was blocked, and someone, I was told, had called the police on a mobile phone. I asked that my husband be allowed to continue, since we had arranged to pick up friends for an evening in Macclesfield, and reluctantly - not realising how things would develop - he left..

Not wishing to stand amongst 25 unpredictable teenagers, I announced I would go to our home nearby; and they could follow if they wished. This they did, loudly, and I myself now phoned the police to follow up the earlier message from the car park. My own call was directed to the station in Wilmslow, but the shouting outside and the banging on the door by a handful of individuals made it almost impossible to continue the conversation. Repeatedly the group demanded my name (which I had already given) address and telephone number. I opened the door and explained I was speaking to the Police, and that I now knew they had not in fact phoned themselves. "They know your address, you have already given your name," the Station Officer advised, "Don't give them your telephone number". Because of the noise he felt I needed help; but, as he apologetically explained, Friday was a busy night and there was no officer

near Bollington. Passing on this message to the crowd, I then closed the door against them. I needed time to think.



Our baby-sitter now informed me that our two little ones had been woken and the eldest was in tears. At this, maternal instincts on the boil, I flew out of the door. The teenagers moved pretty fast too, but the group still filled the pavement. Wanting to put something solid between us I went to close the gate, but a young male rammed his bike against it and the force threw me backwards. The abuse continued, the language unprintable. They knew their rights and wanted to know why "my Lesbian friend" (in fact the baby-sitter) was not coming to my assistance. In

fact she was: by calling the police again.

As I stood facing them, and the flak continued, I could not restrain the tears as I thought back to my camp two weeks earlier with children of a similar age, away without their parents under an organisation called Forest School Camps. Now I was experiencing the other side of modern youth. One small group, however, seeing my distress, kindly stood up for me. I recognised them, having spoken a few months earlier, warning them not to abuse the car park as - after a certain amount of vandalism - the police were on the look out. On that occasion, we chatted about what more, perhaps, might be done in Bollington. We spoke about the basketball facility, which had been my idea, while I had also written the skateboard pieces in *Bollington Live!* This they now relayed to the aggressive bunch, whom they manoeuvred away before giving me a hug. They were stars of Peace! The atmosphere died as quickly as it erupted. It was now 9.15pm.

Learning at home that a policeman was now indeed on his way, I went out again, informed the leading figures, and suggested we meet him together.

The officer, I am sure the crowd would agree, was extremely good at his job: the sort of chap who could put people at their ease, and talk with, rather than down to a group of teenagers - the kind

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of officer who would be invaluable in Bollington. (Driving a smart Volvo with fluorescent stripes, he was, in fact, a traffic policeman).

We talked about lessons learned that evening (I had certainly learned a few). We discussed the lack of facilities in Bollington for youngsters on a Friday night. I invited members of the group to call by to our house. Perhaps we could write something for them in the next *Bollington Live!* Sadly I have not seen them, although three lads did call round the following day, having thought I'd had a rough ride. Unfortunately I missed them, but I appreciated the thought.

A month later the sports pavilion on Adlington Road was seriously vandalized. Booze, for those too young by law to drink, is obviously a factor; but what, I wonder, were the results of the young person's questionnaire organized by Bollington Council? Can we, as a town, be brave and provide something more? Let us, at least, in Bollington, stay in contact with our youth - with smiles and support, praise rather than scolding. They need to be included and not ostracised. They too have their stresses and strains. Perhaps - and it is my hope - this, in the new Millennium, just might make the difference. **PL**

**Beasdales**  
RESTAURANT

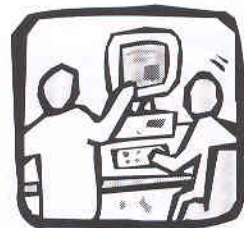
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## Bollington Life? A teenager responds.



Bollington is a dull town. It's dull for a number of reasons: it's in the middle of nowhere; people would rather go to Macclesfield than stay here; and it's mostly populated by bored teenagers looking for something to do. There are about a dozen shops, all scattered around the place, and none are of any interest. Teenagers nowadays do nothing but hang around street corners looking shifty and adults are either in Macclesfield shopping, or sitting in, watching TV. There's no excitement. No cafes, no department stores and... GASP... no B&Q. Nothing.

So, we need to breathe some life into Bollington. Something small and cheap, but exciting. As a member of the young group in Bollington, I think I know what would be suitable.

Cyber cafes have been around a few years. Cyberia, the first one, had its fifth birthday recently in London. You may not have heard the term, so I will try to explain. Cyber cafes are places you can go into for a drink or snack, but they also have computers for the customers' use, with Internet capability. One can pop in for coffee or tea (although alcohol is forbidden) plus an hour or two of 'surfing the net', all at very low cost. If a teenager is feeling particularly bored one Saturday afternoon, he or she can order a drink, meet friends, check e-mail or chat on the net to other bored teenagers (There are several million from around the world on the net at any one time).

Playing games on the Internet is easy too. You just hook up and find some people willing to play from across the globe. The cyber cafe will have some games loaded onto its computers, and so you just put the game CD into the drive, press a few buttons and you are off, playing Quake 2, Kingpin or Half-Life - all for a couple of pounds.

The Internet is not only fast-growing, it is also a valuable tool. If you want to look up information on, say, homework, you just type in what you want and you're there. It's a lot faster than taking a book off the shelf, although, as I am sure you know, it is possible that at the touch of a button for someone to be

whisked away to one of the many porno or other illegal sites that are around. However, cyber cafes have blocking tools, such as Net Nanny and Cyberwatch, to prevent the eager



adolescent reaching such sites. With these installed it is extremely difficult to get this material (Believe me, I have tried).

Bollington needs a cyber cafe. It would make Bollington more entertaining - and for adults too. There are numerous courses, explaining how to use the Internet; but you can just come in, take a seat and see how Man United's doing in the footy. It will help stop teenagers throwing bricks through people's windows when they're bored, and might even improve their education.

**It is time for us to act now, before Bollington is wiped off the map for ever.**



**Net-Hopper**

(Name and address supplied)

# FULL CIRCLE IN QUEEN STREET

**Houses, then a mill, now houses again - all in 40 years**

*Two views of Queen Street. An artist's illustration on the right reveals the new housing as it will look when the construction site fence comes down. The photo at the foot of the page was taken almost exactly a hundred years earlier.*

Imagine that the Industrial Revolution had never come to Bollington in the 18th and 19th Centuries. What a different place this would be, perhaps with a few small whitewashed farmsteads in the better-drained parts of the Dean Valley. The Industrial Revolution gave Bollington its modern identity, complete with its towering mills and rows of worker's cottages.

Those mill-workers and their jobs have long since gone, leaving the buildings as relics of their industry. The mills and cottages approached the dark days of closure in the 1960s to an uncertain future, in a time before conservation became popular, when demolition and clearance seemed to be the modern way forward. Slum clearance was not restricted to the big cities; many of Bollington's traditional stone cottages were designated as unfit for habitation. Vine Street, Hope Street and Union Street were removed, half of Defiance Brow (Queen Street) was demolished, while shops and housing at the top of

Palmerston Street had also disappeared. Church Street, Lord Street and Water Street were next on the list to go. Bollington would have been a very different place if the planners of the 1960s had carried on.

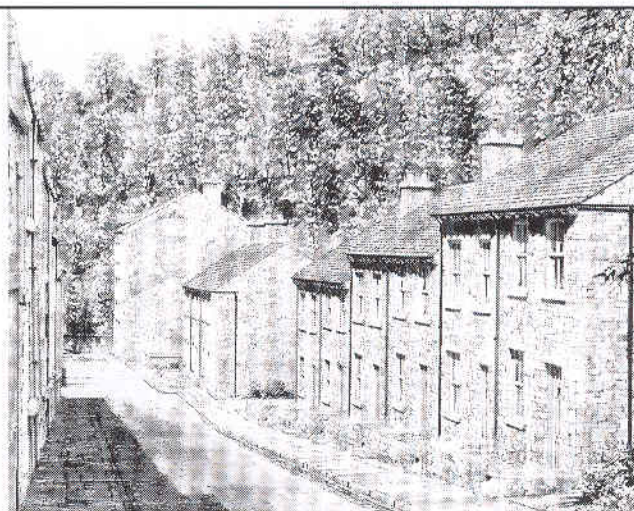
The mills were standing empty; the splendid and world-famous Waterhouse Mill was razed to the ground; the Beehive Mill disappeared. The Clarence and Adelphi were abandoned to the ravages of time, until by the 1980s they

Bollington's largest employer had gone, leaving a sprawling mess of buildings. Few of these were on the same level - an unattractive proposition for incoming industry, and the mill lay semi-dormant. A substantial portion was demolished in the early part of this decade, along with the towering chimney, and increasingly it became clear that the site, though zoned for employment, was unlikely to fulfil this potential. After several refusals for housing developments, an application by Crosby Homes was approved, for 46 two and three-bedroomed houses.

After substantial public consultation, then engineering problems with culverts, sand, and contaminated land, the project is nearing completion with "an exclusive development of luxury apartments, mews cottages and townhouses". Prices start at around £80,000. Conservation has played an interesting role in the development, with the use in some areas of natural stone and traditional sash windows.

It is interesting to reflect that, not too long ago, half of Queen Street suffered a similar fate to that of Vine Street, Union Street and Hope Street, when the cottages were replaced by an intrusive extension to Oak Bank Mill - a building that itself only lasted thirty years before demolition.

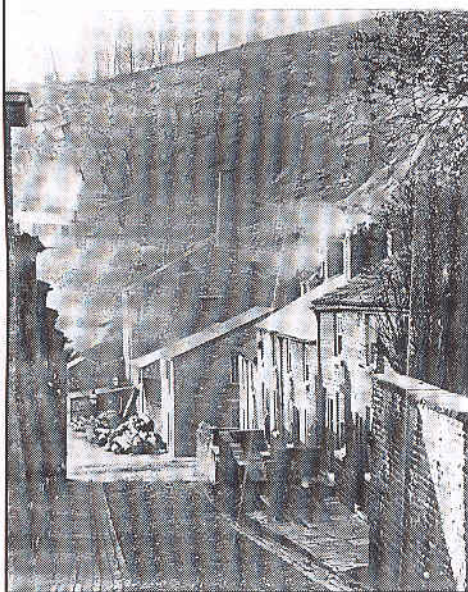
The street is now progressing into the new millennium with something vaguely familiar to Bollingtonians of 40 years



*Gone. Housing at the top of Palmerston Street, seen in the 1950s.*

were a sorry shadow of their former selves with leaking roofs and rotting windows. The decade we are about to leave has proved kindlier to these giants of Bollington industry. Now they provide quality workplaces worthy of the next century. But what of the other industrial sites? Certainly Higher, Lower and Lowerhouse Mills have prospered, extending in all directions with modern additions, and thankfully still providing local employment.

Oak Bank Mill, having followed this route, with numerous additions to cope with the demand for more work space, then closed in the early 1980s.



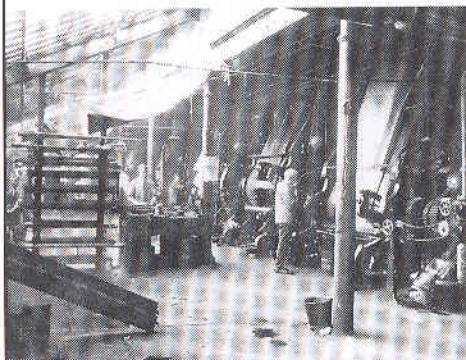
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standing: a row of stone terraced two bedroom cottages, resplendent with slate roofs and sash windows, looking out onto a newly cobbled street.

Will these new houses have a positive impact on Bollington? Will another 46 homes mean more people visiting the local shops and drinking in the local pubs? Or will the new development at Oak Bank be one more step towards Bollington becoming a semi-deserted dormitory town, a place to sleep in but not to work? This is a worrying trend in many communities as services and activities become more and more run down. True, there are many organisations in the town, but we cannot say the situation in the pubs or shops is healthy. There is money in Bollington, but precious little is being spent here. Is there any way of halting this decline, or must we sit back and let it happen?

AH



*Inside the printing works on Oak Bank site - a picture from the 1930s before the mill was further expanded.*

## Fewer Trees Then

Following our feature on trees in the last issue, Bollingtonian Mrs Elsie McKernan showed us this picture from the days when nary a leaf obstructed the view from the terraces of the Recreation Ground. The occasion was a sports day in celebration of the Coronation of King George V, photographed for a postcard of that time. The date was 1911, some 25 years after mill-owner Francis Greg first laid out a ground for the United Bollington Cricket Club - the land, upon his death, passing to Bollington Urban District Council for public use.



*Arthur Wakefield in action at a Folk Club meeting at the 'Dog & Partridge'.*

## It's Folk Time

The Friday night sessions at the Dog & Partridge continue a long unbroken tradition of live folk and acoustic music in Bollington. A number of venues have been used, notably 'The Spinners' where the Wood family were residents for a number of years, 'The Bull' at Kerridge, where a Wednesday night club ran for seven or eight years, and lastly 'The Dog & Partridge' which has been active for the last eleven years. Folk music has been included in each of the Bollington Festivals with a young Mike Harding appearing at the 1964 Festival and the Dubliners at the last event in 1993. The search has begun to bring a "big name" to Bollington for the Millennium Festival.

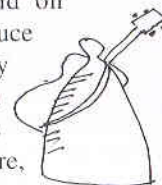
One link throughout the years has been Arthur Wakefield, the organiser of the

current 'Dog & Partridge' Club. Arthur, originally from Salford, moved to Bollington in 1975 after a number of years singing in local clubs. He was prominent in the North West folk scene as part of the "Tony and Arthur" duo. Arthur is a character, plays the guitar, concertina and banjo in his own inimitable style and is an outstanding compere and performer. He writes his own songs and has produced a number of tapes including "Here's to Cheshire Volumes 1 & 2" and "A Cheshire Lullaby". A compilation CD of the tapes is due for release before Christmas. His song "Gentle Waters Glide" with its refrain must be the nearest Bollington has to a national anthem!:

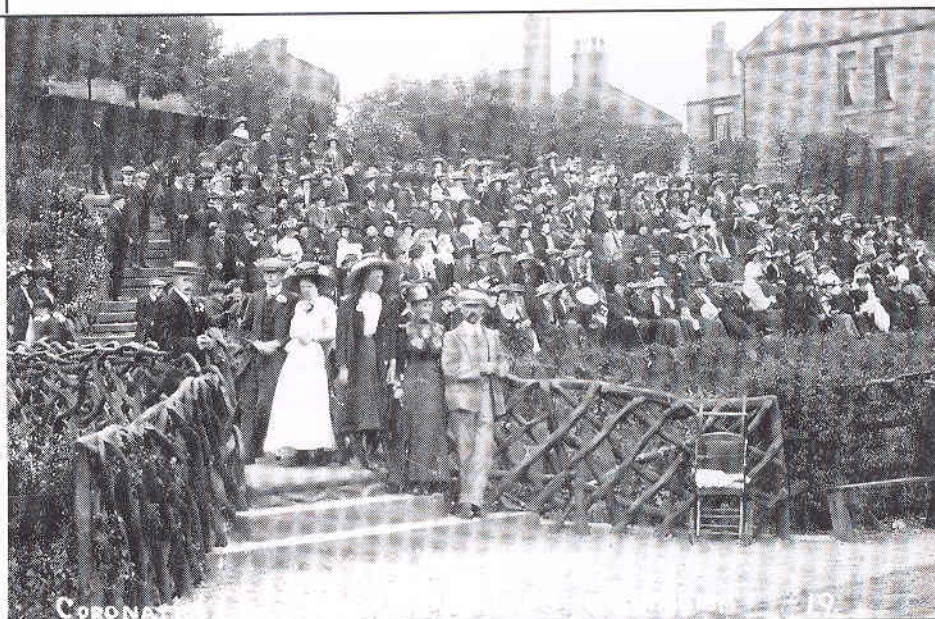
"By White Nancy side,  
She means so much to me,  
That's the place I long for,  
Where I want to be.  
And if home is where the heart is,  
Its here that mine abides."

If you're interested in listening to live music, or performing, come along to the 'Dog & Partridge' on a Friday night from 8.30pm onwards. The music played ranges through traditional folk, more modern singer/songwriter material to blues, etc. The club runs a mixture of singers and guest nights.

Guests booked in the near future include the John Wright Band on November 12th, Ian Bruce on December 17th, Risky Business on January 14th and a concert with Kate Rusby, at the Arts Centre, on November 27th.



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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

## Away from it all with The Oak

**Bollington's own angling society provides a surprising variety of waters, as a member explains..**

Bollington has, for many years, enjoyed an association with the nation's number one participant sport of angling. Those Bollingtonians with long memories will recall the days when the village was visited by hundreds of anglers from the Manchester and Stockport conurbations, arriving by train to carry their willow baskets and split cane rods up to the canal. There they could enjoy a day's sport amidst the glorious countryside.

Sadly, the trains no longer come here, but the sport still flourishes, thanks largely to the efforts of our own Bollington and Royal Oak Angling Society, affectionately referred to as "The Oak". The club was formed in 1971 when Bollington Angling Society and the Royal Oak Angling Society joined forces. The Oak has prospered ever since and now has around 300 members, many joining from a considerable distance away.

Anglers join the Society attracted by the number and diversity of its waters. The Oak currently rents or leases the fishing on eight pools and over a mile of river: Lowerhouse and Ingersley Pools, in Bollington; Millbrook Pool in Rainow; Leadbetter's Pool and Hurdfield Reservoirs, Macclesfield; Hare Hill Pool, Over Alderley; Victoria Quarry, Dove Holes; Styles Meadow

Pool, Bosley; and a section of the Dane at Congleton. In addition, Clarence Pool in Bollington is owned by the Society itself.

As well as providing good fishing on a considerable scale, The Oak offers matches for both junior and senior members, while the Society has a team in the National Championships every year. The Championships are organised

with consideration for the ecology of the pools and the surrounding environment. Each year sees broods of geese, duck and other waterfowl successfully hatched, and kingfishers and waders are frequent visitors.

The Oak, then, has more to offer than just good fishing. It provides tranquil, peaceful havens away from the stress of everyday life. Leaving behind the



on a divisional basis, and the Bollington team has enjoyed considerable success in working its way up from the Fourth to the First Division. Sadly, it then "did a Macclesfield" and dropped back into the Second Division, where it still remains.

Most of the waters are in beautiful locations, and the Society manages them

traffic and roadworks that bedevil our village and passing through the gate of, say, Clarence Pool is like stepping into another world. It makes one realise why all those city anglers came here those many years ago.

Membership, at an annual fee of £27, is available from Mrs. S Brocklehurst on 01625 - 573401.

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*Bollington Live!* gratefully acknowledges the support given by local sponsors, who have enabled publication to continue into our sixth year:

**Kay-Metzeler**

**Slater Harrison**

**The Adelphi Group**

**AstraZeneca**

**Crosby Homes**

**Ciba Specialty Chemicals**

**Performing Arts Management**

**Bollington Civic Society**

**Tullis Russell**

**Kemutec**

**Bollington Town Council**

**Bailey Business Park Ltd.**

**Arriva Midlands North Buses**

*The Editor cannot be held responsible for the opinion of contributors or the accuracy of the events listings.*



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