

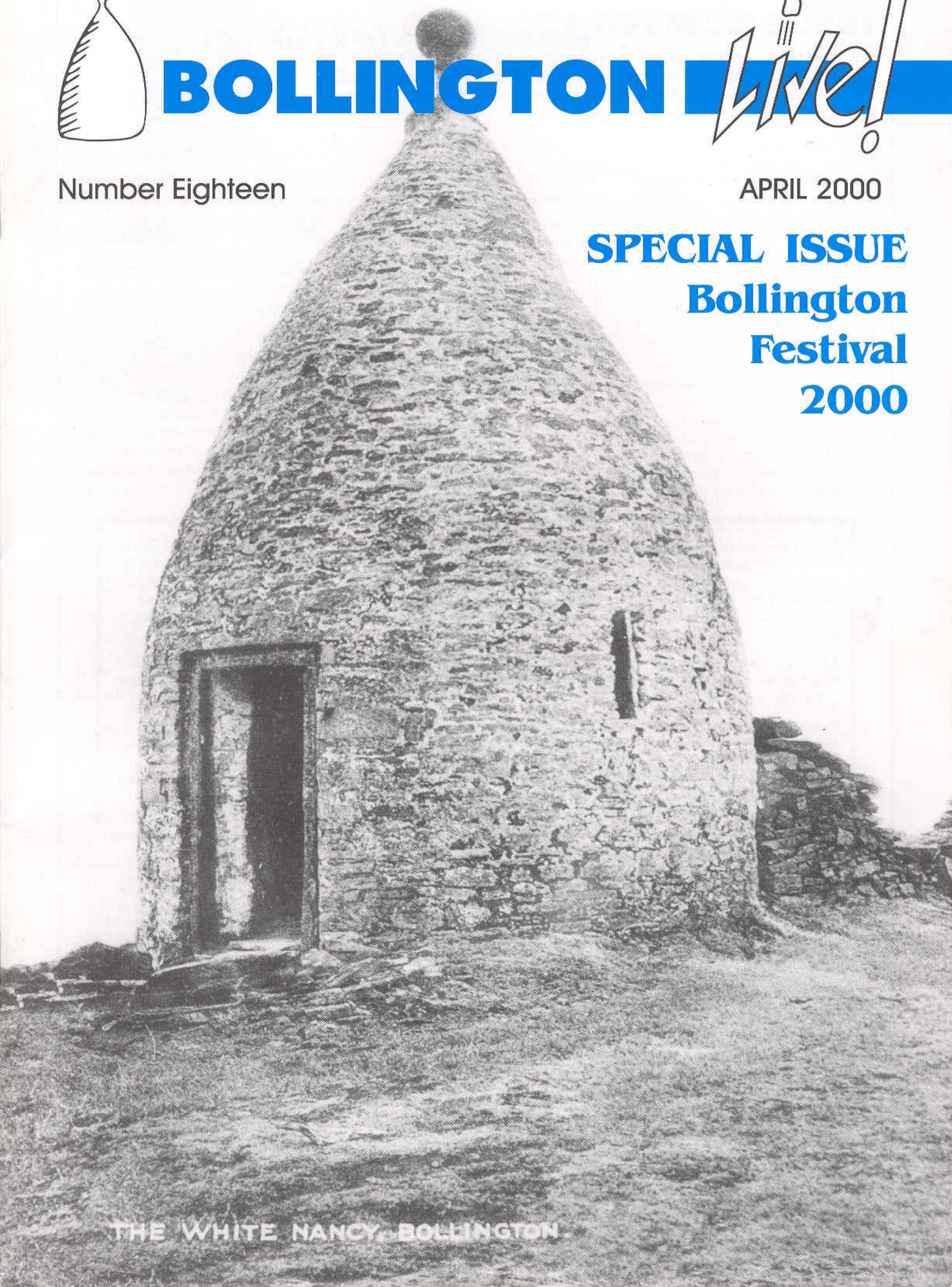
BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Eighteen

APRIL 2000

SPECIAL ISSUE **Bollington** **Festival** **2000**



THE WHITE NANCY, BOLLINGTON

ISSUE NUMBER 18

This special issue of *Bollington Live!* is devoted largely - but not entirely - to *Bollington Festival 2000*. As the central section of the magazine bears out, a varied and entertaining programme has been arranged; and we have included recollections of how in 1964 the first such event began.

From that beginning, a third of a century ago, many societies and organisations have sprung. *Bollington Live!* itself, now six years old, is a part of this process, with, amongst its purposes, the promotion of local events. For the last *Bollington Festival*, in 1993, the programme was printed separately, then sold. The inception of *Bollington Live!* not long afterwards, with free delivery to every household, allows a fuller distribution of the current programme in the town.

In addition, the substantial central section of this particular issue is to be reprinted, for sale to visitors and at shops in the surrounding area at £1 a copy. The cover price is kept at this modest level in the belief that attracting audiences for the shows is the most

important factor. We are enormously grateful to our advertisers and sponsors who enable us to balance the books by meeting the costs of production.

For the rest, *Bollington Live!* is produced voluntarily. It is written and edited by volunteers, the advertising is gathered by volunteers. The carrying and pushing through letter-boxes is by volunteers as well (ah, the articles that could be written about mantraps masquerading as letter-boxes, about dogs, or the extraordinary spacing of steps in the steeper patches of our town!)

As with all such organisations, more volunteers would be welcome. There is quite a group of us now, producing this magazine; but we are not, we



May 2000

hope, a closed group. We welcome new material, not least if it carries a fresh point of view. Editing and design experience would be useful to us, too; as would experience in advertising, or photography. Researchers for surveys, and gatherers of small ads, or events information, would also be valuable. So would more foot soldiers to carry copies and scale the heights of High Street or the like. Do, please, get in touch with *Bollington Live!* c/o Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington, at the Bollington Arts Centre, also in Wellington Road, or leave a message on 01625 576880.

Recent tragic events in Bollington have shocked and saddened the entire town. The deaths of 23 year-old Mark Whittaker in November last, of Daniel Bloor, 19, early in the New Year, and, together, a few weeks later, of James Bedford, 18, Stephen Wellington, 19, and Stuart Hatton, 20, affected us all profoundly. The Bollington Youth Memorial Fund has been established for James, Stuart and Stephen, and contributions can be made to Liz Murphy of 4, Barnfield Road, Bollington (Telephone 01625 572588). Alternatively, donations may be made into an account for the Fund at the NatWest Bank, Ashbrook Road, Bollington.

A Memorial Concert is to be held on July 15th or 22nd. Details of this have yet to be confirmed and the many who have been moved by the tragedy, with the many young people who have been such a credit to our town at this difficult time, are asked to check for news in the weeks to come.

On behalf of Daniel Bloor a separate Trust has been set up under a small committee of concerned local people. The exact direction is under discussion, with the intention of providing help for young people and their families who are suffering, or who may suffer stress, anxiety and other mental illness, primarily but not exclusively in the Bollington area. Further information is available from David Ransley, of 1, Greenbank Drive, Bollington (Telephone 01625 575287). Contact has also been made with The Compassionate Friends, a supportive organisation offering friendship and understanding to the bereaved of any age - Telephone 0117 953 9639.

Small Ads

£2 per line, min 3 lines

BRIDGE

Come along to a friendly game and a cup of tea. Arts Centre every Thursday 2-4.30pm (50p), Friday 7-10pm (60p). Tel 575508

ARCHITECTURAL & GARDEN DESIGN: J.E.C. Menzies for inspired plans or sympathetic extensions.

Telephone: 572197

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LOWTHER STREET HALL

is available for hire. Parties, Jumble Sales, Meetings etc.. For details, tel. 575428



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: From the archives - Bollington's White Nancy, c 1930

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ROOMS WITH A VIEW

New Plans for Clarence Mill

Booming Bollington is the phrase that comes to mind when you listen to Ted Clunn speak. Ted is the latest owner of the Adelphi and Clarence Mills, together with his business partner Rupert Moore. They are the shareholders of Land & City Properties, who have purchased the two mills in the past twelve months. Ted is a married man with one daughter and lives in Stoke, but he plans to have a flat in Bollington soon.

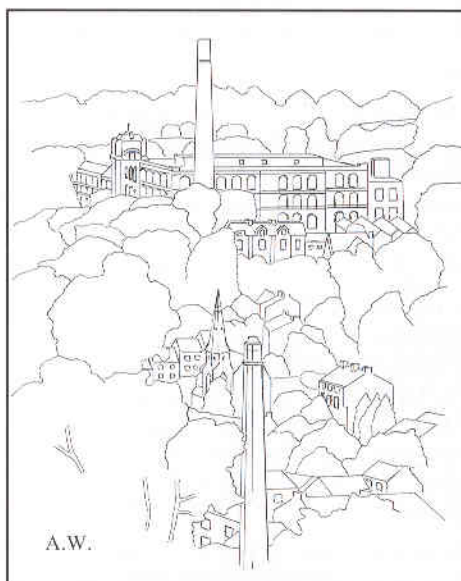
Their company specialises in property development and management. As well as their Bollington properties the company owns a shopping centre in Swansea, is developing 16 apartments in Manchester, a 150-bed hotel in York and student accommodation in Birmingham. Land & City Properties has located its head office in the Adelphi Mill and will soon be employing six staff here in Bollington.

The Adelphi Mill was purchased in May of last year and presently houses some 38 businesses employing an estimated 350 people. Its development by the previous owners, Belprop, is surely one of the great success stories of the Bollington economy. The mill is almost completely occupied, with businesses paying rents varying from £3 a sq. foot for workshop space to £7 a sq. foot for offices. The Adelphi Group is the largest tenant, occupying about a third of the building.

Given the high failure rate of new businesses, it is remarkable that in the last year no business in the Adelphi Mill has closed down. Accommodating the fast-expanding computer companies is one of the challenges facing Ted Clunn. A young company can move in and within months requires

three times the office space, so retaining them as tenants requires some quick shuffling of accommodation. Additional car parking is planned by the construction of a deck over part of the existing car park.

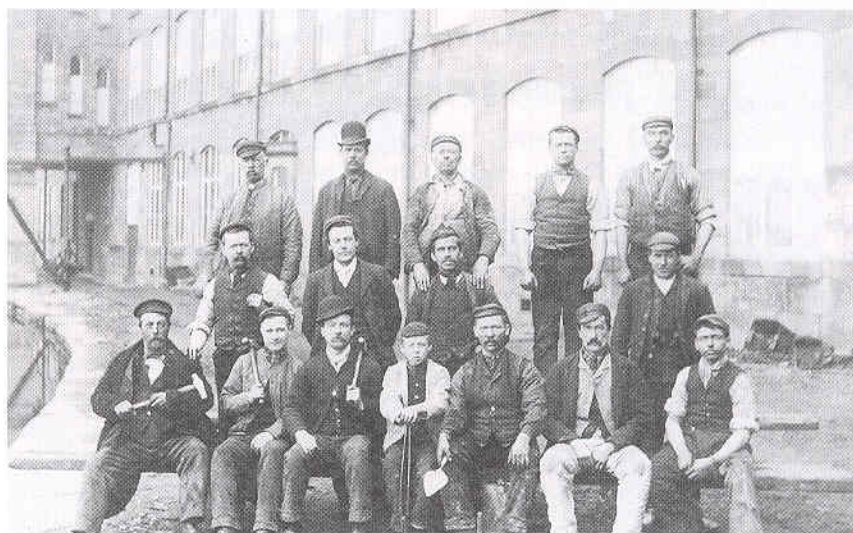
The plans for the Clarence Mill are equally as exciting. Ted has considerable experience with the development of old mills and the proposals for the Clarence are for 70 apartments on the upper floors and the retention and expansion of retail uses on the ground floor. Taking advantage of the wonderful views over the Cheshire Plain, it is proposed to provide a mixture of one, two and three bedroomed apartments with some being specifically designed for those wanting to work from home. The building will be fully wired for



A.W.

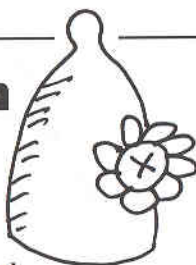
access to the internet and wooden floors and attractive brick is designed into the conversion. The total cost of the conversion will be around £9 million and will be the largest capital project seen in Bollington for many years – possibly since the original construction of the mills!

continued overleaf...



The Clarence as it was. This picture taken during work on an extension at the boilerhouse end of the mill was provided by Mrs Elsie McKernan, whose grandfather, Samuel Oakes, was the contractor involved. Bowler-hatted Mr Oakes stands second from the left in the back row. Other identifiable figures are the brothers Albert and Billy Potts of High Street, at the left hand ends of the back and front rows, respectively. The exact date of the photograph is uncertain, but the group's next job was construction of the Conservative Club in Adlington Road, of which the foundation stone was laid in May, 1908.

Election Day - May 4



Election of Borough Councillors takes place for local wards on May 4. Unusually, because of boundary changes - and just a year since the last such poll - all three Bollington seats are up for election.

Once chosen, the new councillors can stay unchallenged for a further four years. Bollington Town Councillors, meanwhile, do not have to stand this time, and can sit in office for a similar period.

To clarify, Borough Councillors represent our interests in Macclesfield, which is where the power really lies. Bollington advises, Macclesfield acts. These three seats, one for each of the Bollington wards, give our town a direct voice in the controlling Borough.

...continued from previous page

As well as providing a type of accommodation lacking in Bollington, the Clarence Mill will retain the retail uses on the ground floor where the facilities will be updated. Car parking for the building will be provided in the cellar space. Planning permission has been sought for the development proposals and the decision of

THE NEW BOLLINGTON CROSS

On the 30th of March I was driving home from Macclesfield when I saw a crane lowering the new Bollington Cross onto its plinth.

I could not resist going back along Kingsway to congratulate Doreen Earl, from whose quarry the stone had come, her colleague Peter and her son Andrew, who had cut the stone and polished it.

As we stood chatting on that Spring afternoon, I learned that this is the most perfect piece of stone Doreen has seen in all her life: there are no imperfections or flaws. The colour, a pale grey-fawn, indicates that it comes from the base of the Kerridge Ridge - whereas most of our golden house stone is from the top. On Kingsway itself you can clearly see on some of the houses where these two stone colours have been combined.

As I left, Andrew, at the top of the ladder, began the finishing touches. We looked up, his mother so proud and myself feeling very privileged to

see local history unfolding. A special day indeed, and Mrs Earl's Big Birthday! Thanks are due to Councillor Tony Thurman, Bollington's Town Mayor, who executed the design and to all involved in this major Millennium project.

PL



Doreen Earl with her son Andrew, just after the Cross had been lowered into position.

A Dedication Service for the new Cross in Bollington Road takes place on Friday, April 21st at 1.30 pm

GB

Canal Canoeing Sessions Launched

Following successful negotiations with British Waterways, Macclesfield & District Canoe Club has recently taken over the Groundwork Trust's canoe store on the towpath side of the canal near Adelphi Mill in Bollington.

This April the club has been in existence 25 years, offering a variety of canoeing disciplines from beginners level and upward: in addition to suitable training, activities include marathon racing, white water canoeing and placid water touring, while, during winter, indoor bath sessions are held at the Leisure Centre in Bollington Cross.



Club members and visitors take to the water in the basin of the Macclesfield Canal, adjacent to Adelphi Mill.

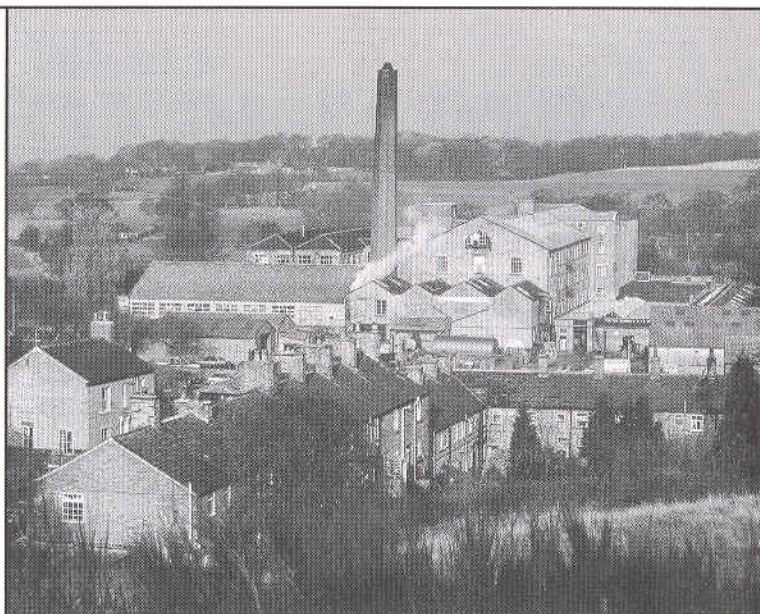
Although events take place throughout the year, newcomers are warmly invited to the regular outdoor training sessions at the canalside site. These start on Monday, April 19th, from 7 pm onwards, with a cost per session of £3 to cover tuition and hire of canoe, paddle and buoyancy aid. A change of clothing, however, is always prudent!

Canoeing is an environmentally-friendly sport and a great way of keeping fit. Further information on the club and its activities is available from Pauline Bett on 01925 - 756728, or Liam Gallagher, Tel 01625 611523.

The Bollington Factor

Success at Lowerhouse

When so many small businesses are struggling it is genuinely exciting to find a successful enterprise thriving on our own doorstep. As a Bollingtonian it is also pleasing to find that the Managing Director of the company considers that a big part of that success can be put down to the 'Bollington Factor'. Mike Braddock, the MD at Slater Harrison in Lowerhouse, took time out of a busy day to chat about the company, some of the reasons for its current success and the benefits they get from being a long-established Bollington-based business (BBB).

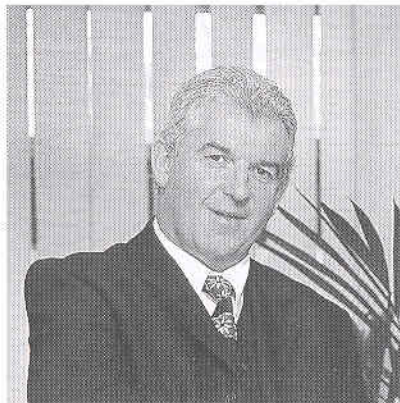


Slater Harrison make a very diverse product range. They are highly skilled in coating paper and cardboard in a range of beautiful coloured, metallic and pearlescent finishes to make products for artists and designers. Their papers are also used to make gift wrapping and envelopes. Mike gave me a huge handfull of pink envelopes for my three little girls to use. Two of their well known brand-names are Colourmount and Day-Glo.

In a completely different vein Slater Harrison also produce special laminates where paper is bonded to the wood effect foil that is used to cover furniture. Slater Harrison's laminates allow the covering of the edges, or mouldings, of the furniture.

I asked Mike how long he had been with SH. I quite expected that he had been introduced recently as a 'trouble-shooter' as with many businesses these days. "Oh about 30 years," he replied, "I joined in 1970 as an assistant chemist but started my career in 1966 at Henry and Leigh Slater, also in Bollington." His long service is not unusual: John Booth, the works manager, has been at SH for 35 years and Martin Perry, the admin manager, has 34 years experience; but these are both new boys compared to Norman Crone, now the works engineer. He has been at SH for 44 years! Many of the employees live in Bollington and have several family members working at SH. Mike is adamant that this kind of continuity and the friendly 'family' atmosphere is one of the keys to success.

What about the problems associated with using a 19th Century cotton mill? Mike laughed and said there were many, particularly the low ceilings of the original building, but he said they try to find innovative solutions to the problems, and they have been able to



Above: Mike Braddock and, top, the premises at Lowerhouse, opened as a cotton mill in 1818

build some new buildings on the site. Wouldn't they be better off with custom facilities on a green field site? Mike said that while he has considered this in the past they are completely committed to Lowerhouse Mill, and are continually investing in their facilities there.

Balancing the needs of business and residents in a mixed environment like Bollington is not an easy puzzle and it is one that Mike is very conscious of. I asked about the lorries that have to go up and down Albert Road, given the proximity of two schools. "Clearly it is a problem," said Mike, "but we try to arrange for our suppliers to deliver outside of the school opening and

closing times. Sometimes this is not possible, unfortunately, especially with overseas suppliers". Mike believes it is important to take a responsible attitude towards the environment and he is proud, for example, of the new waste incinerator. This will eliminate the need for lorries taking SH's waste card and paper to landfill sites. It will also provide heating for the works. An imaginative solution to a difficult problem.

The commitment to Bollington is also illustrated by the recent "Strategic Alliance" with former competitors Tullis Russell. This will allow both firms to capitalise on their key strengths. SH have taken on some of the Tullis Russell product range to sell to customers throughout the UK and overseas. This kind of relationship strengthens both firms and can provide additional security for employees. Mike says that wherever possible they use local firms, for example, they use BC Transport to move their products. Mike believes that the local industry is very much a part of Bollington and SH do what they can to support this.

I very much enjoyed my meeting with Mike Braddock. He clearly believes that the 'Bollington Factor' adds value to the service SH offers. Slater Harrison's success in turn benefits Bollington with employment for our residents and in the maintenance of one of our old cotton mills. We need to look at how we, as residents, support local industry. It is as much a part of Bollington as our homes. TN



BOLLINGTON *Live!* EVENTS

APRIL

Thursday, 20th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Dog & Partridge, 8pm Contact Blanche Royall on 422835

Friday, 21st

DEDICATION OF THE MILLENNIUM CROSS

Churches together will dedicate the cross in Bollington Road following their Good Friday "Walk of Witness" at 1:30pm

Thursday 27th

TODDLERS PRAISE & PLAY SERVICE

St. Oswalds, Bollington Cross, with crafts, stories, music, refreshments etc. Tel. 574224 or 574288

MAY

Sunday 7th

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT

Assemble at St. John's School 2pm. 2-3 miles duration. Tel. 572025

Monday, 8th

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Talk on Samaritans, Methodist Church, 7:30pm Contact Mary Fisher 573571

Wednesday, 10th

BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane 7:30 - 9pm Contact Blanche Royall

Friday 12th - Monday 15th

METHODIST FLOWER FESTIVAL

Organised by the Bollington Flower Club. Bollington Methodist Church. Contact Audrey Downs on 575082 (or Blanche Royall on 422835)

Monday, 15th - June 29th

TWO EXHIBITIONS IN THE NEW DROP-IN CENTRE

"Walk on Bye" - the Nostalgia Trial and "Kick Start" - from derelict site to drop-in centre, Palmerston Street.

Thursday, 18th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Dog & Partridge, 8pm Tel. 422835

Friday, 19th

PLAQUE TO SIR JAMES CHADWICK

Physicist, discoverer of the neutron, Nobel prize-winner, who was educated at Bollington Cross School. Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by the Town Mayor takes place at 3 pm.

Sunday, 21st

CIVIC SUNDAY

Procession to St John's Church followed by the Service 10:30am

JUNE

Monday, 12th

PORCELAIN DOLL MAKING

Presentation by Mrs Marie Gardner Methodist Church, 7:30pm Contact Mary Fisher on 573571

Wednesday, 14th

"TABLE ARRANGEMENTS"

Bollington Flower Club, Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane 7:30 - 9pm

Saturday, 17th

SUMMER FAIR

at Dean Valley Primary School. Fun for all the family Doors Open 12pm till 4pm. Contact Mrs J Thorpe on 572767

Thursday, 22nd

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Dog & Partridge, 8pm Tel. 422835

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

in Pott Shrigley, with Barbecues, Cricket, Merseysippi Jazz Band (7.30, Sat.), Punch & Judy. Licenced Bar

JULY

Monday, 10th

1940s REVISITED

Talk by MR. P. Heaton on behalf of the Women's Institute Methodist Church 7:30pm Contact Mary Fisher on 573571

Wednesday, 12th

"LADIES CORTEGE"

By Wendy on behalf of the Bollington Flower Club, Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane 7:30 - 9pm

Thursday, 20th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Dog & Partridge, 8pm Tel. 422835

AUGUST

Wednesday, 9th

FLOWER SHOW PRACTICE

Bollington Flower Club, Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane 7:30 - 9pm.

Monday, 14th

DUTCH SUPPER

W.I. Members Evening, Methodist Church 7:30pm. Tel. 573571

Thursday, 24th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Dog & Partridge, 8pm. Tel. 422835

Farewell Bollington Wives

Late last year, having held meetings since 1962, the Bollington Wives Group decided to disband. Originally known as the 'Methodist Young Wives' and based upon the church in Wellington Road, the group changed in format to provide social evenings, usually with a speaker, and with occasional coach trips and meals out. Here *Mary Wood* outlines the make-up of this extremely successful organisation:

Members have attended from Macclesfield, Rainow, Tytherington and Poynton, as well as Bollington. One even came from Middlewich. At the end some of the original committee members were still serving, including President Sheila Jardine, Sheila Skelhorn (Treasurer) and Christine Gosling, who had been Secretary for many years, and after many appeals for replacements with no response it was decided to close.

Over the years we had many fund-raising efforts. "Jack Duckworth" of 'Coronation Street' opened one Goodwill Effort and £665 was raised. The East Cheshire Hospice, New Heart New Start, MAST, the Roumanian Appeal, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Crossroads, and MacMillan Nurses have been amongst those who benefited.

Thanks must be given to all those who have given support and helped make it such an enjoyable and successful group. Our meetings will be sorely missed.

Tourism and Trade - Where Does Our Future Lie?

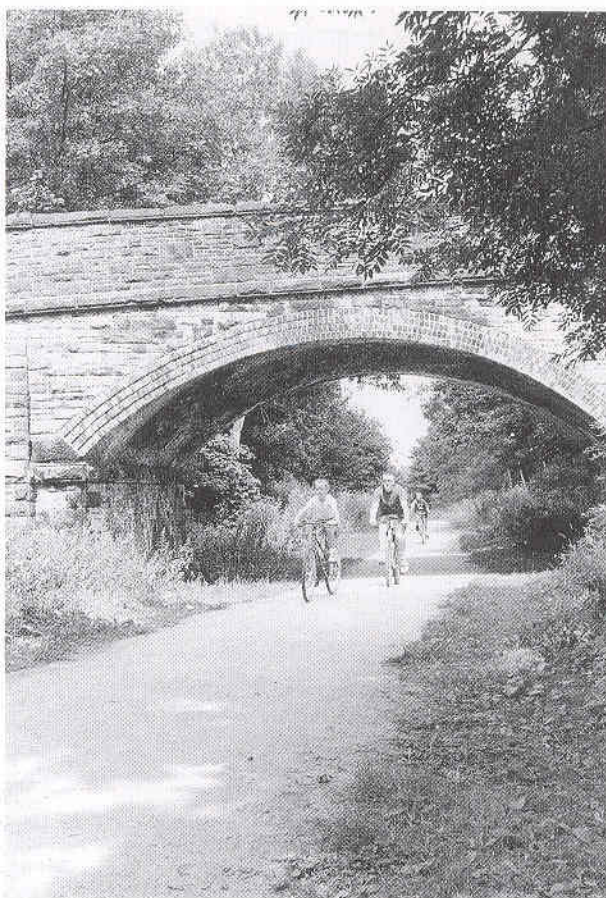
Leisure and tourism is now the largest "industry" in the world and continues to grow. Hardly anywhere is completely isolated from its impact and Bollington is no exception. Visitors and their spending help the local economy, support jobs and add another dimension to the economic base of the town. But how many visitors do we want, before we feel that enough is enough and we are becoming a tourist town and not a "real" working place? We will probably never be like Howarth in Yorkshire or Llanberis in North Wales, which at times are overrun with visitors, but an increase in the present numbers might do no harm.

The town council has recently established a new Trade and Tourism Committee to look at how to assist local businesses (particularly the shopkeepers) and how to attract more tourists to Bollington. Their first idea is to launch a new event - provisionally called the "Transport Extravagansa" - that would consist of a display and a parade of different forms of historical transport, taking place at a number of venues around the town. Visitors would park in the field next to the roundabout on the Silk Road and be transported into the town by buses. The idea is that many people who had never visited Bollington before would come to the event and on seeing the attractiveness of the area would return again for recreation, spending money here.

In considering the beneficial effects the committee should think carefully, as there are many different forms of tourism, each with its different needs and impacts. Staying tourists require accommodation and if this is run by companies and families of the area the local economic and employment benefits are great. An increase in accommodation - Bed and Breakfasts, Guest Houses, rooms in pubs and

hotels, and possibly even a youth hostel - would create jobs and put Bollington on the tourist map. Tourists may be tempted to use Bollington as a base for exploring the Peak District National

forms of tourism is staying with friends and relatives. Every town and village has an element of this, but events such as the Festival increase the likelihood of friends and relatives coming to visit.



*Cycling on the Middlewood Way.
Other forms of tourism - such as staying
with relatives or friends - are less apparent,
but no less important.*

Park, visiting the historic Cheshire estates and houses, or staying a night before and after using Manchester Airport.

Our position on The Cheshire Ring of canals is obviously one of our great assets. British Waterways would be an ideal partner to talk with about increasing the attractiveness of Bollington as an overnight stopping place for boats and possibly further developing the services for boaters.

Business tourists are well catered for already at the Shrigley Hall Hotel and the new Middlewood Hotel by the Silk Road roundabout; but one of the most important and often forgotten

Day trip visitors are likely to be the most numerous, as Bollington is within easy striking distance of the Manchester conurbation and the Potteries. Visitors are already attracted by the walking in the area, the Middlewood Way, the canal towpath, by White Nancy and Kerridge Ridge and by the opportunity to get a drink in one of our many pubs. What we don't have in Bollington is any kind of paying or wet weather attraction such as an historic house or heritage feature that is open to the public - the equivalent perhaps of the Silk Heritage Centre and Paradise Mill in Macclesfield. Over recent years there has been talk about developing a Heritage Centre, but no suitable building has been found, while for a number of years the Groundwork Trust ran the "Discovery Centre" by the Adelphi Mill,

before, sadly, this was closed. A good café located in a central position would be a welcome addition to our attractions for day-trippers and would be used by locals as well, while the ground floor of the Clarence Mill could become more of a focus for visitors with shops and catering

There are pluses and minuses with recreation and tourism. Getting the balance right is never easy; it's difficult to please everyone, but **Bollington Live!** wishes the Trade and Tourism Committee the very best of fortune with its efforts. **GB**





Into Rainow - and Back (with a walk across a factory roof)

Bollington, with its surrounds, has canal towpaths, stone-flagged routes for the workers of old, paths through people's gardens and paths along old tramways. The following walk has the unusual feature of crossing a factory roof, albeit at a low level. It is a short forty minute circuit, starting at the Turners Arms, and is fairly well surfaced throughout.

Leave the Turners Arms via Church Street. Then turn left after 'The Crown', pass the mill pool by Shrigley Dyers on your right and walk along the road beside it. As you leave the pool you are entering Rainow Parish, a strange thought as you are only 300 yards from Bollington Parish Church - yet well over a mile, as the crow flies, from Rainow Church. As this road continues, rising slightly, there is a car parking area on your left. It is worth walking over to the stream to look for the curved weir which supplied Rainow Mill. The mill itself once stood nearby. Converted to cotton spinning in 1801, it burned down in 1856, then again in 1908 - and was not rebuilt.

The track-like road continues to rise and you pass under a high iron trough which carried water to the enormous 56 foot diameter iron water wheel of Ingersley Vale Mill, the complex to

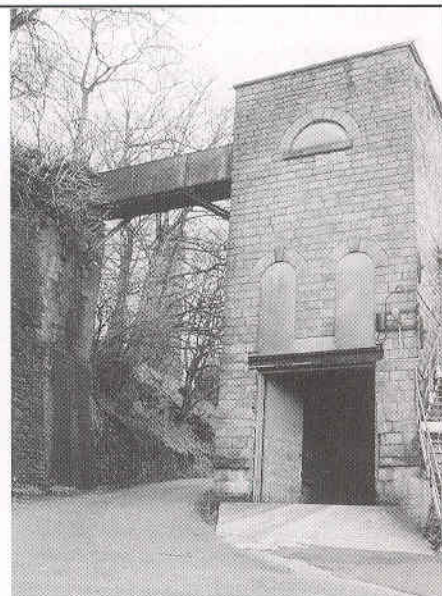


Industrial by-gones: the weir for Rainow Mill and the building that once housed the water wheel at Ingersley Vale Mill.

The lower picture shows the path beyond the mill: walkers take the fork to the right.

your left. This wheel was reputed to be the second largest in Britain and was fed from the pool higher up, above Waulkmill Farm. The route descends after passing under the trough, then, after about thirty yards, look for a left turn and a metal handrail, leading you across the low roof of part of the mill. The roof of the main mill building was destroyed by fire late last year. Follow the path around the mill buildings, forking right to climb a stony track.

You soon enter the grounds of Savio House, home of the priests of the Salesians of Don Bosco, and used as a retreat and residential centre, particularly for youth groups. The house was formerly the home of the Gaskell family. The main drive is not a right of way, but our path simply crosses it, by a stile at a gate, to follow

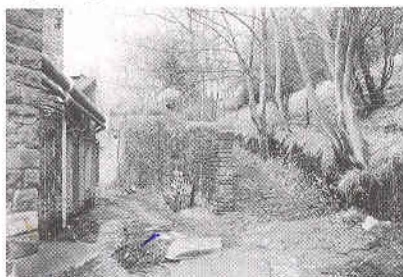


an obvious line past a fishing pool amongst the trees on the left. Stone steps then lead to the metallised surface of Oakbank Lane.

Turn left and follow the lane. This part of the route forms part of the Gritstone Trail, linking Lyme Park and Hug Bridge in Staffordshire. Soon the Ormes Smithy crossroads is reached, and here turn left, down the hill to the starting point.

These footpaths are all on the excellent Parish Paths map produced by Bollington Town Council and Cheshire County Council. I am grateful for the historical information taken from 'The Industrial Revolution in East Cheshire' by George Longden and published by the Groundwork Trust in 1988.

DH



Corporate Sponsors of Bollington Live!

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

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