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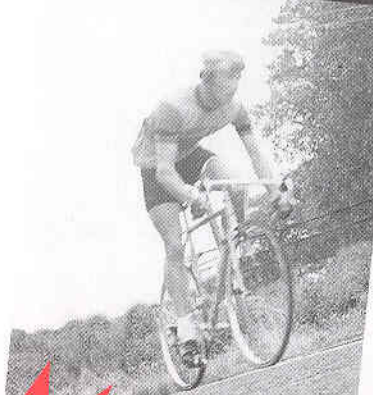


BOLLINGTON festival

May 2000

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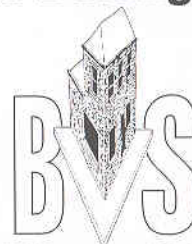
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Welcome to Bollington Festival 2000

A Celebration of Artistic and Sporting events

A Message from The Reverend Derek Smith



Co-founder of the first Bollington Festival in 1964, whom we are delighted to welcome here again, and who will be opening this new Festival - our seventh - on Saturday, May 13th.

I served a curacy in Bollington from 1963 to 1968 under the Vicar, the Reverend John Mullett. It was a very happy time for myself and Margaret and our three children, Pauline, Elizabeth and Angela.

I am thrilled that the Bollington Festival which Dr John and myself started together in my time in Bollington is still going strong and looks like going long into the Millennium.

I and my wife look forward very much to renewing our acquaintance with all the people of Bollington.

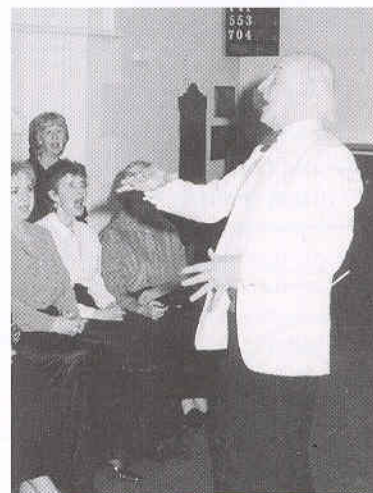
Derek Smith

... from The Festival Director

The passage of time in Bollington is marked by Festivals which occur like irregular pulses: difficult to forecast, but not, I hope, as dangerous! This is the seventh since 1964, prompted perhaps by the arrival of the new Millennium. More to the purpose is the fact that they are occasions on which we join hands as a community to rejoice in what we have achieved, which is precious as we find ourselves sharing this transient and mysterious pilgrimage from the cradle to the grave.

This experience of time is reflected in our programme, which starts with a concert celebrating our love of the countryside in which we live. The world of nature plays an important role in the development of our children and their vitality and confidence will be displayed in three performances. Moving into middle life we will wind time back to a wedding that took place here in 1919, a difficult time after the First World War. Finally, our memories of relatives and friends who have died will be revived by the great Berlioz requiem, which will be performed on the final Saturday.

This is an occasion in which we welcome visitors from other areas in this country, to share our creativity and our enjoyment. In 1993 we invited artists from Europe and we are privileged on this occasion to have the Jaleo Flamenco Dancers from Seville. We also have as guests the South Carolina State University Choir. Bollington was a cotton spinning town and we greet this group from a once cotton-growing state in America. We hope that what was once in the Nineteenth Century a bondage of workers will blossom in this Festival into a true friendship between the communities.



John Coope, MBE

... and the new Town Mayor



I welcome everyone to the seventh Bollington Festival and invite them to take part in as many events as possible. I am particularly pleased that our friends from Thurles have come across the Irish Sea to join us.

When I retired, I moved here with my boat "Margaretta". Our canal is much admired and appreciated for fishing, walking, canoeing and canal cruising. I therefore applaud the decision of the Festival 2000 Committee to mark this great asset by holding a water-based event on the last day of the Festival - Monday Bank Holiday!

In Bollington I have found a community spirit, based upon the full participation of young and old in the life of the Town, which makes Bollington unique. Bollington people have always known how to enjoy themselves, and how to provide entertainment for others. This tradition was revived at the first Bollington Festival in 1964, and each Festival thereafter has added to the rich social life of the Town. This is what makes Bollington truly the "Happy Valley"

Mark Stedman Bollington Town Mayor, May 2000





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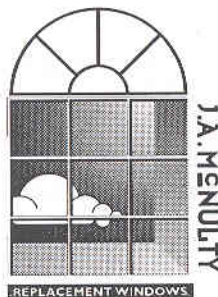
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1964 and All That

How Bollington's Festivals Began

If you thought the Bollington Festival must be descended from some quaint tradition or some Tourist Board wheeze to promote 'country living', you'd be wrong. Nor is this Festival - Bollington's seventh - the brainchild of some public relations agency, bringing culture to the hills. A group of friends dared to imagine it, in 1963, right here, in the town.

In November of that year a group of parishioners met for a "Desert Island Discs" social evening, organised by the young curate of Bollington Cross Church, Derek Smith. From this, at the home of two local doctors, John and Jean Coope, the talk turned to "Bollington Life" and, significantly, what this group of friends and neighbours felt it *could* be like.

Dr. John recalls the general feeling that "something" was missing. Some of Bollington's pre-war social traditions had never been revived, while those societies that survived did not seem to thrive. The opportunities for individuals to be creative together were few. Worse still, the newly-acquired television sets and cars were either tempting people to stay in or transporting them out of town. Yet... Bollington surely had potential?

Could anything be done: to raise local consciousness, to stimulate societies, perhaps, even, inspire some new ones?

They answered their own question with the idea of a "Bollington festival" - not a glamorous affair like Edinburgh's, but a homely



Characters from Bollington history in the 1964 Festival Procession

version by and for the people here: "The Smallest Festival in Europe".

Having expressed such an adventurous idea, this enterprising group then set about making it happen. The first Bollington Festival took place in a busy week of September 1964, a "celebration of village life and culture".

How did they do it? John Coope's explanation is simple: - "bit by bit." Likely local helpers were identified and, sure enough, the resources of Bollington talent and enthusiasm did, indeed, exist. Those strategically-placed invitations, "Look, why not form ... ?" resulted in several new groups; and soon the Photographic Society, the Horticultural Society, the Festival Players and the Festival Choir were preparing...



On the Recreation Ground: the Festival of 1980

Only mildly surprised by the reception for their plans, the organisers brought everyone together. Strategies evolved, enthusiasm grew. Local councillors of all political colours rallied more support. Active amongst them was Elaine Mosley, who organised a carnival procession to parade

from Bollington Cross to the Recreation Ground. Shire horses drew several of the floats.

Many people worked hard to present Bollington at her best: to tidy up the town, plant beds and boxes. Painters and decorators had a field day. At one stage there were so many ladders in Palmerston Street it was barely passable. Streets burst with bunting. Preparations began for a bonfire, while the organist at St. John's, Mr. Wheeler, rehearsed the choral society in Handel's "Messiah".

Amid some controversy, White Nancy was also painted - first partially white, then totally black and, finally, completely white. No-one is exactly sure who wielded which brushes. Sometimes it happened at night. Opening the morning curtains became an exciting prospect. The "Daily Telegraph" carried a story on it.

Of course, it wasn't all plain sailing. Jean Coope recalls her husband amid acres of gale-blown canvas, struggling to separate tent from sausage rolls and jelly. Those who attended the first Bollington Festival will remember a very local affair, largely a gathering of friends and families, long known to each other but happily surprised by their achievements. They were, John

continued overleaf...

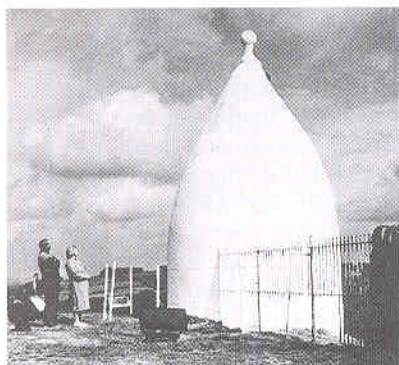
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Coope believes, delighted to discover that "by joining forces they had achieved their very best."

And the bill? "Money seemed to come at just the right time," muses Dr. John. Fund-raising events swelled the coffers, while many worked without charge, and at the end of the day, "by some miracle we were in the black."

The 1964 event was never intended to start a series. Enthusiasm proved hard to quell, however, and, building upon the growing hub of societies, the Festival reappeared in 1968. Thereafter, John Coope's stock answer to "When's the next?", was "When the pain from the last has faded sufficiently to be able to tackle another one!"

Bollington's festivals have become part of our identity - markers in a shared history, and we're proud of them. Next time you hear "Desert Island Discs", watch out! You never know where it might lead. JS



White Nancy, newly painted (white) in 1964



May 2000

- a celebration of artistic and sporting events.

For seats at ticketed events
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Tel: 01625 56 00 00

For bookings by post, or for
personal callers:

The Festival Office

Bollington Town Hall
Wellington Road
Bollington SK10 5JR
Tel: 01625 572256

This office is open on Fridays in
April from 3 to 5 pm; then, from
May 2nd onwards, Monday to
Friday from noon until 5 pm.

The Big Top

The splendid giant marquee on the
Recreation Ground provides the
Festival Centre and venue for many
of the events.

Website

www.bollingtonfestival2000.freemove.co.uk

Acknowledgements and Thanks

Bollington Festival 2000 has
received major sponsorship
from **AstraZeneca plc**, to
whom we are deeply
indebted for their invaluable
support.

Sponsorship of events has also
been provided by:

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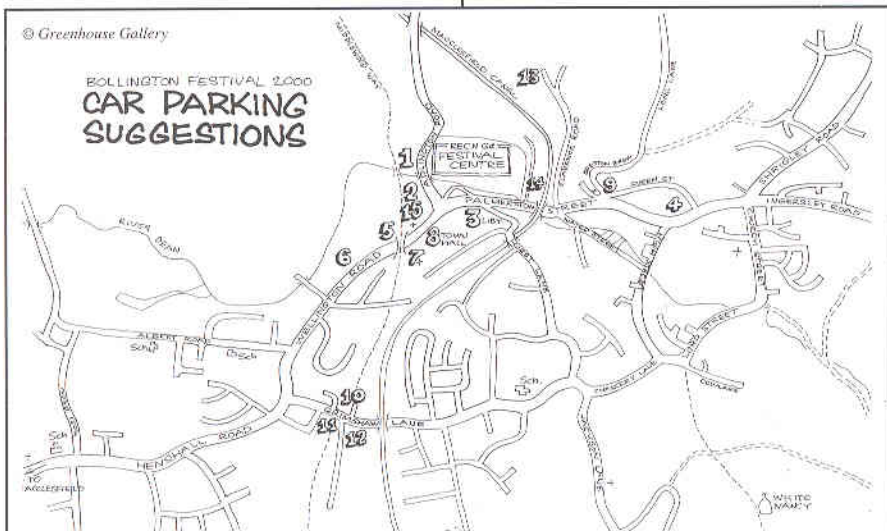
and all the Volunteers, whose
commitment and hard work have
made this Festival possible.

The Festival Committee

Chairman: Joe Brogan
Festival Director: John Coope
Assistant Director: Sally Smith
Treasurer: Andrew Roberts
Secretary: Joyce Marsh
Grounds Organisation: Alan Bennett
Major Events: Glyn Taylor
Fund Raising: Ann Bennett
Sponsorship: Martyn Parry
Personnel Co-ordination:
Sonia Greensmith
Sport and Carnival: Chris Bennett
Exhibitions: Brian Hunter,
David Ransley
Hospitality: Bernard Loveday
Adlington Concert: Steve Thorpe
Victorian Fair: Andy Skelhorn
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Roberts-Morris
Box Office: Jacqui Richardson
Publicity: Mark Stedman
Brochure: John Liley and the
Bollington Live! team

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BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL 2000 CAR PARKING SUGGESTIONS



Parking for events at Festival 2000 is divided amongst the sites indicated on the map:

1 - Middlewood Way CP, Adlington Rd; 2 - Bollington Insurance, Adlington Rd;
3 - Civic Hall & Library, off Hurst La; 4 - Pool Bank, Palmerston St.; 5 - Kay-Metzeler Ltd, Wellington Rd;
6 - Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Rd; 7 - St. Gregory's Church, Wellington Rd;
8 - Town Hall, Wellington Rd; 9 - Church Offices Palmerston St.;
10 - Bailey Business Park, Grimshaw La; 11 - Grimshaw Lane Car Park; 12 - Adelphi Mill;
13 - Clarence Mill; 14 - Pleasuregate; 15 - Bollington Arts Centre, Wellington Rd.

STOMP OFF, LET'S GO.....

The Bollington Festival Programme May 13th - 29th, 2000



Opening Events:

Team Relay Race

via White Nancy - May 13, 11 am

Carnival Parade - May 13, Mid-day

NoFit State Circus,

on the Recreation Ground - May 13, 3 pm & 6 pm; May 14 (free workshop at 11 am), 3 pm & 6 pm, £6 (£5 concessions, £20 family)

Flower Festival Service,

Methodist Church - May 14, 6.30pm

Feature Events:

Civic Sunday

at St. John's - May 21, 10.30 am

Ken Dodd Happiness Show,

Big Top, Recreation Ground - May 24, 7.30pm.

£14 (Ticket-holders only)

Rumpelstiltskin,

by Presto Puppets, Big Top - May 29, 1 pm. £4 (family £15)

George meets Humph:

George Melly & Humphrey Lyttelton, Big Top - May 29, 8 pm, £14.

Victorian Fair & Water Event,

on the Recreation Ground and at Adelphi Mill - May 29, 2 pm

Fireworks

on the Recreation Ground May 29, 10.30 pm, followed by

Lantern Procession

to White Nancy

By Popular Request:

R.O.A.M. Bollington Festivals Folk, 1968-2000, Arts Centre, Wellington Road - May 13, 7.30 pm, £5

Ceilidh

Thurles Dancers at St. Gregory's Hall May 20, 8 pm, £5

Jaleo

Spanish Flamenco, in the Big Top May 23, 8 pm, £6

Screaming Beavers

Big Soul Band, in the Big Top May 26, 9 pm, £10

Brass in the Big Top:

Brass Band Contest

May 28, 12 noon, £3.50

Bollington Brass Band Concert

May 28, 8 pm £5 (£2)

More Music:

In Eden Garden

William Byrd Singers, St. John's Church - May 13, 8 pm, £9 (£3)

Anglo-French Evening

in the Big Top with Fallibroome, King's, Tytherington and Poynton Schools - May 22, 7.30 pm, £3 (£1)

Poetry & Music

in the Big Top with Michael Symmons Roberts & Claire Parkin - May 24, 2.30 to 3.30 pm, £2

Around the World

with Bollington Primary Schools, Big Top - May 24, 2.30 to 3.30 pm, £2

Music Theatre:

Showcase

with Bollington Children's Music Theatre, Arts Centre, Wellington Road - May 14, 7.30 pm, £4 (£2.50)

Irene: (Twenties Musical),

BLOG, Civic Hall, Palmerston St. - May 16 to 20, 7.30 pm, £6 (£4). Tickets 01625 875326

Wedding Photo

World Premiere of a play with music by Coope/Barraclough, Festival Players, Arts Centre, Wellington Road - May 23 to 26, 8 pm, £5 (£3)

Choral:

Mr. Handel at Adlington Hall

with Buffet Supper May 17, 7.30 pm, £20

Prom-Praise

in the Big Top - May 21 7.30 pm, £3 (£1)

African-American Choral Music

by South Carolina State University Choir, in the Big Top May 25, 8 pm, £8 (£5)

In Memoriam

Berlioz Grande Messe des Mortes, in the Big Top - May 25, 8 pm, £6

Exhibitions:

Finding our Ancestors

Library, Palmerston St. - from May 4

Flower Festival

Methodist Church - May 11 to 14

Walk on Bye

a Nostalgia Trail, with Kick Start at the New Drop-In Centre, Palmerston St. - from May 15

The Changing Century

photo exhibition by the Civic Society, Arts Centre, Wellington Road - May 15, 7.30 pm, £1

Bollington Art Group

exhibition in the Civic Hall May 26 to 29

Images of Bollington

Art Group & Keith Godwin, Big Top - May 22 to 29

New Century Bowmen

Archery Exhibition in the Archery Field by 'The Windmill', Whiteley Green - May 21, 2 pm

Sports:

Cycle Hill Climb

up Beeston Brow, starting from Pool Bank - May 20, 2 pm

Senior Football Competition

Bollington Cross - May 21

Open Bowling

for the Bollington Cup, on the Recreation Ground - May 21, 10 am

Junior Cricket

Recreation Ground - May 21

Walk with the Deputy Mayor

from the Late Shop, Albert Road - May 21, 2 pm

Junior Football

Atax Ground, Bollington Cross - May 28

Festival Squash Competition, at the

Leisure Centre, Bollington Cross - May 13 to 28

*This programme is produced as a part of **Bollington Live!**, the magazine of the Arts Centre and Bollington Civic Society, on behalf of Bollington Festival Committee.*

Design & Printing:

BOLLINGTON PRINTSHOP,

The Old Stables, Queen Street, Bollington. Tel: 01625 574828

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AFTER THE OPENING

by the Reverend Derek Smith, on Saturday, May 13th at 11 am
at 'The Cock and Pheasant' Inn, Bollington Cross...

They're Off, on....

THE RACE TO WHITE NANCY*

In the tradition of previous festivals, this breath-catching relay race, has its staging points at local pubs - with a look at Bollington's favourite monument on the way.

Starting from the 'Cock & Pheasant' in Bollington Cross, the baton gets passed at 'The Waggon & Horses', and again at 'The Dog & Partridge'. Then it's along Water Street to 'The Red Lion', before the sternest stage of all: to the pub-free pastures of White Nancy and the Kerridge Ridge. There's little chance to

admire the view there, however, for the self-same runners have to turn around and make it back down to 'The Red Lion' again. The final dash is along High Street and Palmerston Street to the Recreation Ground - where glory awaits.

Entries are invited from able-bodied teams, and should be made to Chris Bennett, 5, Oliver Close, Bollington SK10 5JS.

Tel 0161 476 2486 (Daytime), or 01625 576049 (Evenings)

* Illumination of White Nancy throughout the Bollington Festival 2000 is achieved by means of the Supertrouper Spotlight which will make our beacon shine out over the Cheshire Plain. This is made possible by the sponsorship of the Belgrade Country House Hotel.



"Dress with boracic ointment spread upon lint" - 'Mrs. Beeton's Household Management' on the treatment of blisters.

Followed by...

THE CARNIVAL PARADE

from 'The Turner's Arms', Ingersley Road to a funfair, with refreshments, on the football pitch - the Atax ground - beside The Leisure Centre, Heath Road, Bollington Cross. The start, on Saturday, May 13th will be at Mid-day. With a New Orleans band at the front, a colourful procession of floats will make its way through the town, with further bands and a special provision for children walking in groups.

Awards will be made for the Best Fancy Dress and Best Float showing the spirit of our town and the unique community in which we live.

Meanwhile, at the Leisure Centre itself, in Bollington Cross, there's a

FESTIVAL SQUASH COMPETITION

running through to the finals on Sunday, May 28th.

For an entry form ring Bollington Leisure Centre on 01625 574774



"Your picture, Sir? Now, just hold still a mome....": a scene during the opening parade of 1993.

Saturday 13th May

THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN!

NoFit State Circus

on the Festival Site, on Saturday, May 13th and Sunday, May 14th at 3 pm and 6 pm each day.
Tickets £6 (Children £5, Family £20)

"Britain's most irresistible non-animal circus" presents a new show with the Bash Street Company in the driving seat. Recalling their dazzlingly successful 'Dodo Island' of the 1993 Festival, this NoFit State team brings the same intoxicating mixture of juggling, acrobatics and escapology to an up-to-the-Millennium presentation: 'The Pollutants Strike Back'.

Looking forward to the year 3000, this is a tale of the future - but the traditional circus skills are on display nonetheless, with comedy and live music, while, in keeping with circus convention, the staging is in NoFit State's own 350-seater tent.

Originating in South Wales in 1985, the NoFit State has come to the forefront of the new wave of circus teams. This is show for all family audiences of all ages in the unique style of this knock-out, knock-about circus.

"Astonishing energy and an infectious enthusiasm which creates an instant rapport with the audience."

This event is sponsored by Palmerston Travel

"So popular were they at the last Bollington Festival, I couldn't get in...." - Nicole Roberts-Morris, who helped to organise that event.

A preview of the NoFit State's performance will be given in Coronation Gardens, Palmerston Street, Bollington, in the course of the Carnival Parade on Saturday, May 13th



CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP

A free course in circus skills will be given by the group for up to 30 children (or, indeed, adults) for one hour at 11 am on Sunday, May 14th. Please book in advance on the Festival Hotline, Tel 01625 - 560000.

This event is sponsored by Macclesfield Borough Council

BOLLINGTON FESTIVALS FOLK, 1968 - 2000

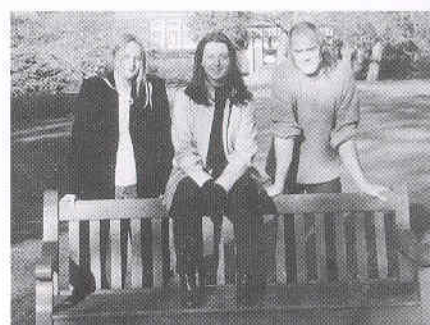
R.O.A.M. and Pat & Chris Wood

at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road on Saturday, May 13th at 7.30 pm. Tickets: £5

R.O.A.M. is an up-and-coming team in the folk world, characterised by the pure and haunting voice of Welsh singer Rachel Davies. With viola player Jane Coyle and Colin Rudd on acoustic guitar, their repertoire embraces both traditional and modern material. In this special evening compered by Bollington Folk Club's Arthur

Wakefield, early Festivals and events will be recalled by the presence of Pat and Chris Wood, well-known to folk followers at The Spinners in years gone by.

From left to right: Rachel Davies, Jane Coyle, Colin Rudd



LOOKING FOR OUR ANCESTORS

an on-going exhibition in the Library, Palmerston Street, throughout the Festival during Library hours: Tuesdays 9.30 to 1 and 2 to 7 pm; Thursdays 9.30 to 1 and 2 to 5 pm; Fridays 2 to 7 pm; Saturdays 9.30 to 1 pm

As the result of the competition organised by Bollington Town Council, twelve families were able to prepare their family trees for this display. The longest, that of the Shatwell family, dated back to 1584. All are intriguing, and some fascinating lessons emerged:

In 1760 the population of Bollington totalled under 1,000; and in 1580 it was probably under 200.

The work available in 1760 was either farm work, mining or

quarrying, with a small amount of domestic cotton spinning. In the records of the Murphy Family, John Bradley (b. 1748) is called a "cotton worker" before any of the Bollington mills were built.

IN EDEN GARDEN

The William Byrd Singers, with readings by Michael Newcombe

in the Parish Church of St. John, Church Street, Bollington, on Saturday, May 13th at 8 pm.

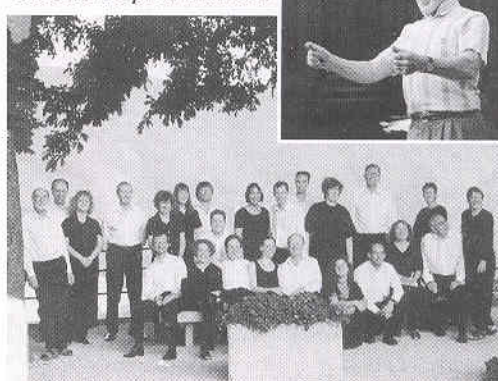
Tickets £9 (Concessions £3)

The opening concert of the Festival has as its theme the English countryside, particularly in Spring, and the myth of a Garden of Eden, before the disruptive activities of man exclude him from peace and fulfilment. With this goes the memory of innocent childhood, as evoked in Wordsworth's *Prelude*, or *Fern Hill* by Dylan Thomas.

The William Byrd Singers, who give this performance, came to prominence in 1970 as the result of an invitation by John Coope to

conductor Stephen Wilkinson to form a chamber choir. First appearing in Macclesfield Parish Church, and then based in Manchester, the choir went on to perform on radio and TV, travelling also to Poland, Finland, Holland and Belgium. While its repertoire is wide - from the Renaissance to the present day - the choir's speciality is the choral music of the 16th and early 17th Centuries by "the greatest English composer of his age", William Byrd.

The William Byrd Singers with conductor Stephen Wilkinson



FLOWER FESTIVAL AND SERVICES

at the Methodist Church, Wellington Road,
from Thursday, May 11th at 6.30 pm to Sunday, May 14th

With a theme of "For the Beauty of the Earth", different countries will be represented inside the church in flowers. On Friday, May 12th and Saturday the 13th it will be open from 10 am to 7.30 pm. On Sunday, opening will be at 2 pm; the closing service, with Pam Rhodes of the BBC, is at 6.30 pm.

SHOWCASE

Bollington Children's Music Theatre

at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road on Sunday, May 14th at 7.30 pm

Tickets £4 (children and concession-holders £2.50)

Featuring highlights from familiar shows, Bollington Children's Music Theatre adds another to its long list of accomplishments. With both song and instrumental work by its youthful troupe, this combination of 'hit' performances is directed by Theatre founder Donald Judge, a primary school teacher from Marple, whose work in encouraging young children to develop their theatrical and musical flair began in 1986, with the miracle play 'Noyes Fludde'. BCMT has been going strong ever since. Whether suited to major or minor roles, or as helpers in the background, all new members are welcome. "There is no audition to join, and no child has ever been turned away."



WALK ON BYE & KICK START

Nostalgia Trail and Exhibition

at the new Drop-In Centre, Palmerston Street (adjacent to Broadhead's Garage) from May 15th

Celebrating its move to new premises, the Drop-In Centre chronicles, in Kick-Start, its move to a building that, in previous incarnations, was once a farmhouse, then, in recent times, a tuning centre for high-performance motorbikes.

The Nostalgia Trail, starting from this point and based upon a guide at the Centre, comprises a three-mile ramble through and out of Bollington. In a field near Long Lane, for example, the challenging sign of *"Bulls Here"* is explained by the recollection that the notice used

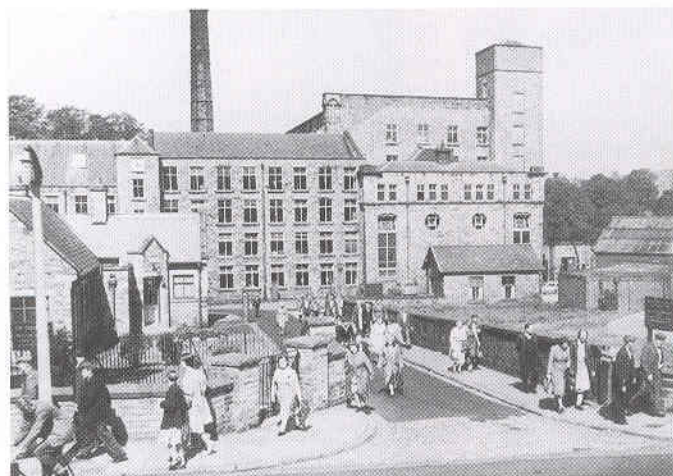
to carry the surreal remark: *"Bulls Here Till 4 pm"*. Farther on are such curiosities as beehives in a farmhouse wall, and - on the return to Bollington - the old prison or Bridewell behind the 'Dog & Partridge' of which the sign is still distinguishable in the stonework.

THE CHANGING CENTURY

Pictures From the Archive

at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, on Monday, May 15th at 7.30 pm (and on other evenings) Admission £1.

In a new show by the Historical Section of the Civic Society, the enormous changes in our town and in our society throughout the previous 100 years are chronicled in photos from the 6,000 in the Society's collection. The example reproduced here shows the Waterhouse Mill, in Wellington Road, back in 1959. Closed shortly afterwards, the mill, responsible for 'Sea Island' cotton, the finest in the world, was demolished in 1962 and the site was taken over by Kay Brothers, foam manufacturers, now Kay-Metzeler Ltd.



IRENE

Bollington Light Opera Group

in the Civic Hall, Palmerston Street, from Tuesday, May 16th to Saturday, May 20th, at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £6 (Concessions £4), Tel 01625 875326

A comedy musical set in post-World War 1 New York, the story revolves around the romance between fun-loving Irene and uptight, stuffed-shirt Donald. Charm is the word applied to this mix of vivacity and nostalgia, with, as a special attraction, some of the best-loved, most singable numbers in the history of musical theatre. Originally produced in 1919, this new version carries its age with grace and style, for its story is of a delightful Irish lass who believed in women's lib before the term was invented.

With Allison Gorton playing the part of Irene, and Richard Comish as

Donald, songs in the show include 'What Do You Want to Make Those Eyes at Me For?', 'Alice Blue Gown', 'I'm Always Chasing Rainbows', 'Irene' and 'You Made Me Love You.' With music by Harry Tierney, lyrics by Joseph McCarthy and additional lyrics and music by Charles Gaynor and Otis Clement.

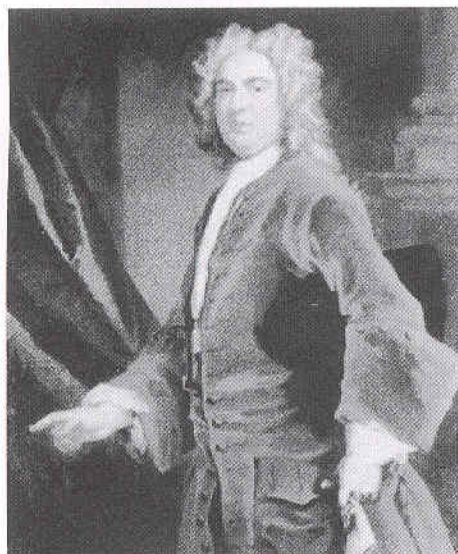
Bollington Light Opera Group, or BLOGs as its members cheerfully refer to it, is yet another offshoot of earlier Bollington Festivals: the first ever production, of 'The Gondoliers', was mounted in 1974.



By arrangement with Musicscope & Stage Musicals Ltd of New York, 'Irene' is produced in Bollington by Diane and Louise McIntyre.

Mr. HANDEL AT ADLINGTON HALL

on Wednesday, May 17th at 7.30 pm. Tickets £20 (including a quality buffet supper)



*"The Most Excellent Musician
Any Age ever Produced:
Whose Compositions were a
Sentimental Language Rather
than mere sounds And
surpassed the power of words
In expressing the various
Passions Of the Human Heart"
- An anonymous epitaph to
Handel, printed one week
after his death.*

In 1712, Georg Friederich Handel settled in London, where the great composer flourished. There had been an uncertain period when George of Hanover ascended to the throne - for Handel in his previous role as court composer in Hanover had neglected him - but a series of compositions, primarily the celebrated 'Water Music', re-established his influence. The artistic life of London at the time reached new heights of sophistication. But that was London; what about the "provinces"?

What is less well known is Handel's strong connection with Adlington Hall, to which he journeyed frequently as a result of his friendship with the Legh Family, for whom this has been the family seat since 1315. Playing upon the celebrated German organ at the Hall, Handel would frequently entertain the Leghs and guests from the neighbourhood.

For Charles Legh, Handel set to music a hunting song written by his host - of which the original manuscript is preserved on the estate. The piece Handel wrote was

later to be used in 'The Shepherd's Wedding', commemorating the marriage of George III and produced at Drury Lane in 1761

In this new spectacle, Georg Friederich returns to the Hall to share his thoughts and emotions. Played in costume by actor Alan Rothwell, he recounts various episodes in his life, illustrated by music performed by a select group of musicians and the Liverpool Cathedral Occasional Singers, directed by Professor Ian Tracy, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Liverpool Cathedral.

Adlington Hall, the home of the Legh Family since 1315, is located some 3 miles from Bollington, just off the A523 main road from Macclesfield to Stockport. Described in Pevsner's 'Buildings of England' as 'a delightful mixture', the building is a combination of half-timbered construction from the 15th and 16th Centuries and 18th Century brick, with hammerbeams in the remarkable main hall itself.

STREET PARTY TIME....

... could be any time, but afternoons are best. Saturday, May 20th is the date marked down for Festival parties.

The residents of Greenbank Drive told us how they held just such a gathering on VE Anniversary Day of 1995 - and how they now plan another for this Festival weekend:

Some streets are more suitable than others - and cul-de-sacs are best of all! Stage One is to find if the neighbours approve, and are prepared to share the organisation. Then, if the road itself is to be used, the Police have to be approached in case of accident or damage. These hurdles out of the way, the Greenbank Drivers of 1995 set up a canopy in the turning area at the farther end of the road, with trestle tables.

They then staged a Treasure Hunt, races for children and for adults, goal-kicking, table tennis, darts and, appropriately for that

occasion, a Pin The Moustache On Hitler Competition. There was also a written quiz, distributed and collected a few days beforehand. That party started at 2 in the afternoon, and went until 6pm (it would have lasted longer, but the weather closed down), and everyone was in fancy dress.

This year's event follows a similar pattern, with the same principle of each household contributing sufficient food and drink for their own family and friends, pooling the food on the day.



There'll be a slow bicycle race amongst the attractions, and fancy dress again, this time to mark the Millennium. While the adults look back, as personalities from the last 1,000 years, children will be wearing what the future might hold. And there's Pinning a Ball on White Nancy as well!



MILLENNIUM HILL CLIMB . . . BY BIKE

from Pool Bank, Palmerston Street, via Queen Street and Beeston Brow to a finish at the quarry entrance on Long Lane on Saturday, May 20th at 2 pm

The Bollington cycling tradition is revived in this event, which covers the toughest, almost certainly the steepest negotiable road in Bollington.

Organiser Terry Wesley writes:

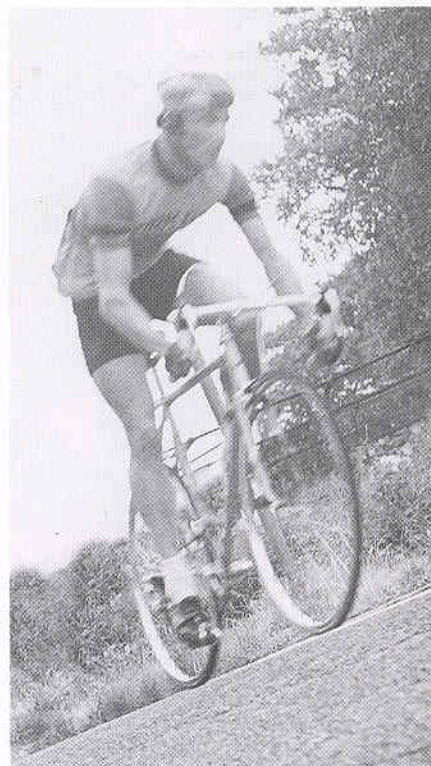
"Number 120", the timekeeper's commanding voice calls out. The rider makes final nervous adjustments to his helmet, double-checking his tyres and pedals - he doesn't want to be pulling his foot out on the hill.

He climbs the steps onto the ramp. An attendant puts his bike on the line. He blocks out the cacophony of noise around. What is less than one minute seems like hours. Take it easy off the ramp. You can't give it full power because of the corner and the cobbles are only yards away. "Ten seconds." The timekeeper interrupts his thoughts. Got to hit the low gears before the hairpin. "Go...."

No, this is not the Tour de France, but the Bollington Festival Millennium Hill Climb. We aim to create a Tour atmosphere nonetheless in this unusual event, which will be open to top national riders - and local novices as well.

"Remember... it's not the machine - it's the man" - The Great Boffo, speaking to the butcher's delivery boy, from whom he borrowed a bicycle to win the major race ('The Great Boffo', by Frank Dickens, published in 1969)

For further details and entry forms, contact Terry Wesley on 01625 - 573034. Entry costs £5, and all riders must wear a helmet. Spectators however need not - and are very welcome!



CEILIDH

with Dancers from Holy Cross near Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
at St. Gregory's Church, Wellington Road, on Saturday, May 20th at 8 pm. Tickets £5



A lively evening is assured at this get-together with friends from Bollington's twin town in the Irish Republic. Summing up the last visit here by this genial group, one Bollington dignitary, perspiring a little during an impromptu hooley outside the Town Hall, said "they'll dance you into the ground". In the spirit of Irish amiability, all are invited to a rematch in the hall behind St. Gregory's. A chance to practice your steps - or recall good

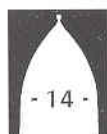
times at O'Connell's in Liberty Square (for the record, Thurles with a population comparable to Bollington's, exceeds the number of bars and public houses here by a margin of ten!). All with a sense of good cheer are invited.

Ceilidh /'keili/ n. orig. Ir. & Sc. an informal gathering for conversation, music, dancing, songs, and stories. (Gael.) - OED

BOWLS

on the Recreation Ground, on Sunday, May 21st, starting at 10 am, continuing to 6 pm approx

A long-standing event, the knockout competition for The Bollington Cup is staged for members of the British Crown Green Bowling Association. The Club Secretary is Alan Heathcote, 15 Cocksheadhey Road, Bollington SK10 5QZ. Tel 01625 - 572102



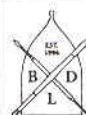
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