



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Twenty One

March 2001



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IN THIS ISSUE: **Bollington on the Web**
 The Value of Milk
 The Savio Story



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BOLLINGTON



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 Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen St., Bollington SK10 5PS

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Cover: *Bollington Firefighters extinguish a blazing car on the Middelwood Way car park earlier this year*

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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

"Bollington Live" is produced and delivered to your door entirely by the efforts of volunteers, but we still have to cover the costs of printing. Since we do not charge a cover price, this is met entirely by the many businesses and organisations that take out advertisements or sponsorship. So we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all the advertisers that have helped to keep *Bollington Live* alive! - and going from strength to strength for the last 20 issues.

If you take the time to glance at the adverts within this and past issues, you may be surprised at the breadth of services that are available within our town. If you need your car fixing, catering for a function, require work done on your home or garden or want to buy anything from food to antiques, you only need to pick up a copy of *Bollington Live!* to find someone who can help. It is easy to moan about the lack of facilities of a small town like Bollington, but in actual fact we are very lucky to have so many local businesses. Next time you need some professional help, no matter what, before you surf the internet or reach for the "Yellow Pages" take out that copy of *Bollington Live!* from under the sofa, it could well hold the answer! We are fortunate to have so many shops and businesses in Bollington. **USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!**

The Fire Service - Bollington Needs You!

We are lucky in Bollington: we have a fire station. It is a humbling experience to visit this building and meet 'the workers' - men who save lives and make a difference to people's lives with every call they respond to. Most people, I am sure, will admit to a stirring of the heart when hearing the siren wailing, the engine thundering by. Occasionally one glimpses men in the cab, pulling on protective kit, concentration etched on brows. As children we jumped with glee and pointed; for adults it is different.

Hearing that Bollington Fire Station was looking for new recruits, I went down to Albert Road to meet Andy Longden, the station Commander. At present there are 11 fire-fighters. Five are required for each call-out: last year there were 600 calls. The shift rota shows the dedication of these men to our community. Very occasionally, there are simply not the numbers to allow the engine to leave and one from a neighbouring station is used: this is why our fire station needs more fire-fighters.

THE JOB is open to a wide spectrum of people, male and female aged from 18 to 55 (ish) years. A good level of fitness is required, with near-perfect vision and hearing along with the ability to reach the fire station in four minutes from homes or work. Flexible working hours are offered to a surprising degree.

TRAINING is in two five-day courses: the first in pump operation, ladder handling and hose drills, the second on breathing apparatus. Training at the station follows until competence is reached. This varies according to the time available to the individual.

PAY AND CONDITIONS: A monthly retainer fee is paid, along with separate call-out earnings. There are 28 days of paid holiday. On Mondays there is a weekly two-hour training session



Above: Jason Roxburgh "We need YOU!"

Below left: Phil Green, Andy Longden,
Andrew Kent, Dave Hibbert,
Jason Roxburgh, James Eyres

between 7 and 9 pm (but this can be flexible within the week) to keep up to date, meet with other stations and visit local business premises to familiarise layouts and hazards. Our fire station covers the area of Bollington, Pott Shrigley, Adlington, Kettleshulme and Rainow; I was surprised and impressed by the flexibility of the job as Equal Opportunities employers, the Fire Service is doing its utmost to be aware of the modern demands of men and women.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

The camaraderie of this band of heroes at the station was most striking. I feel there must be people in Bollington who would enjoy the challenge in a new millennium and, knowing that new recruits are required, will contact Andy on a Monday between 7 and 9 pm on 575913 - or, between those hours, call round to the station in Albert Road. If you are tempted, please follow this through; the service to our community would be great. It could be you that makes the difference **PL**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I wholeheartedly agree with the points raised in your article "Crisis in our Public Houses" (Nov 2000). Live music in some of the pubs would be a very welcome change from karaoke. Bringing the folk club into the main pub gives great atmosphere and encourages informal sessions between musicians. Also it would be a great to

MERIDIAN & FOLK

As a postscript to our article on pubs, we note with pleasure that the Meridian has reopened as a pub/restaurant.

The pub has been extensively redecorated but the room layout remains the same. Two of it's rooms are now dedicated to restaurant tables, the others are traditional bars. The food they are serving is anything but traditional. They serve a wide selection

of Moroccan dishes, and reportedly have an excellent chef. It retains the best features of a traditional pub whilst offering something new. Try it!

We have also been informed that the description of the folk club having 'candles in bottles' was inaccurate - due to health and safety regulations they now have 'tea lights' in ashtrays! I am still trying to find out whether fingers in ears are considered a hygiene risk or not. **Ed**

see some up and coming bands locally. As an amateur musician myself, I would value this. A no smoking pub would be wonderful, with smokers given a smoking room. This would also protect the health of the bar staff as well as the general public. Pubs should at least provide a non-smoking room, so non-smokers with babies and children can go out too. As a new parent I go to the Legh Arms or the Middlewood for this reason.

On another note, I fully support Fiona Swales letter concerning a Bollington Youth Café Bar. There is a similar venue in Leek, which is very popular and run by the Youth Service. Young people need a place to go in Bollington. We need to ask them what they want and get them involved in setting it up. In this way it will be their project and have more chance of succeeding.

Cathy Crabtree

Dear Sir,

The interesting Article on the access to Prestbury railway station which would endeavour to get walkers and travelers in West Bollington (Cross) to use the facilities, prompts me to make comment.

An extra mile would be involved for walkers from the Palmerston/Shrigley Road areas.

Without the expense of making cross country paths, perhaps we should make suggestions to the bus companies to extend their service from Macclesfield through Bollington village and Pott Shrigley to the Legh Arms at Adlington..

This could bring more people into Bollington for shopping and other activities.

Jack Davis

Small Ads

£2 per line, min 3 lines

GONE TO POTT.. is a recently published book about the history of Pott Shrigley Cricket Club and its place within village life. The book is written by Derrick Brooke, whose involvement with the club extends over 50 years. Available from Tattersalls priced £15.99

SECOND-HAND BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD

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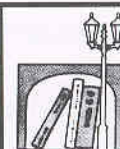
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THE VALUE OF MILK

If you lived in Bollington during the 1950s, you would probably have had your milk delivered. Most people did.

For many on the northern side of the town the milk was brought by Mr Beeley. Coming down Sugar Lane from the family farm in Adlington, Mr Beeley would work his way steadily through the streets, moving from one local doorstep to the next. He had one important helper - a very important helper - but you had to know the situation to appreciate this.

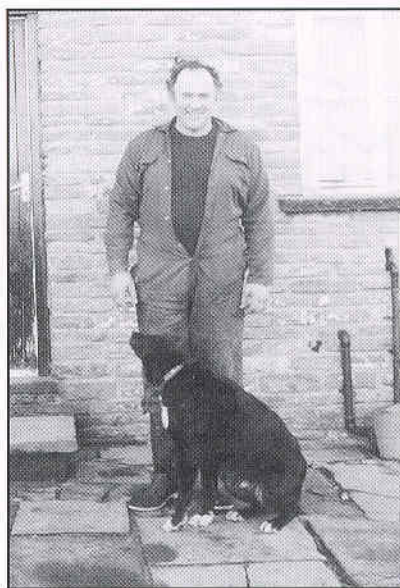
The helper was Mr Beeley's horse. Undisturbed by such traffic as there was, this patient elderly beast would stand with the cart at each stop until, at a murmured word of command, it would move to the next port of call.

That the horse knew the route was essential, for Mr Beeley over the years had lost his eyesight and the business could only continue because his customers, being regular in their habits and in their ordering, did little to disturb the routine. With the high, varnished, two-wheeled cart, its curled wooden mudflaps gleaming and with Mr Beeley himself, in his brown coat and white apron, bravely walking down the path for all the world as if he could see what was going on, it was a scene Beatrix Potter might have painted. Eventually, when the horse became too old to continue, Mr Beeley had to give up himself, and the trade moved on.

Bollington, though industrialised for generations, still sustained its farming roots. Visits such as Mr Beeley's maintained that connection, and if today the farms at the centre of Bollington have been converted into private houses, together with many on the fringes, the notion of a farming community close by is one we like to cling to. Those hills that we glimpse, the fields that we see, are important ingredients in Bollington's make-up, in the character of this town.

You do not need to put your ear very close to the ground today to know that all is not well in the farming community. News comes in all the time of farmer's difficulties, many of them sad, some of them tragic. Those demonstrations last year, when farmers joined truckers, appeared to be less

about the price of fuel - on which farmers are subsidised, anyway - than a general expression of frustration. "It just seemed the last straw," a local farmer said by way of explanation, going on to remark that, as farming nowadays employs a tiny proportion of the community, and few Members of Parliament have personal farming interests, there is far less likelihood of being understood.



*Last days on the farm.
Steven Wood at Whiteley Green.*

Steven Wood of Higher Doles Farm in Whiteley Green estimates there were perhaps 50 dairy farms in the area in the 1960s, dwindling to a handful now, albeit generally of a larger size. There is a strong element of regret here, for Steven is now giving up. Having started his career on the farm, when he joined his father Arthur in the work, he will be moving back into a town house in Bollington. It is a heart-wrenching decision, made all the more poignant by having to work through 12 months notice to the landowners, Adlington Hall Estates. As a tenant farmer, with rent to pay, the sums were failing to add up. Providing his milk to a large wholesaler, Steven, even four years ago, could obtain 24 to 25p for a litre; yet a recent price was only 15p.

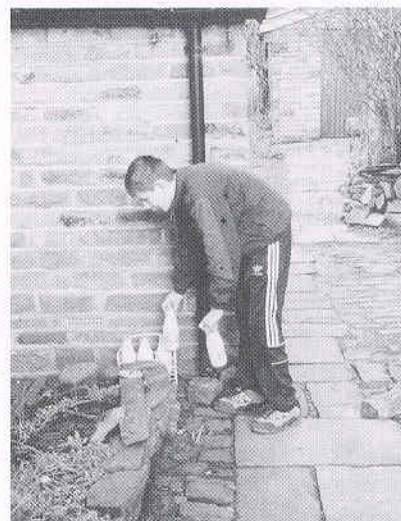


Cows in the fields that are now Greenbank Drive, 1950s

Steven's wife Susan, who works out of farming in Macclesfield, has been an essential provider in this period. They have three children. Abby and Daniel are still at school in Macclesfield and Stockport, while Chris, the eldest, works in the construction industry in the south of England. Sadly, Steven's father died recently, having helped to wind Higher Doles Farm down.

As this issue of *Bollington Live!* is printed, the livestock and equipment of Higher Doles Farm are being sold by auction. Being still in his forties, Steven will be finding other work, but, of course, he will not be at the farm any more.

The reasons for this situation are several, and are difficult to clarify from the minefield of subsidy, regulation and international politics. The comparative strength of the pound is often cited, encouraging competition from abroad. "Cheshire is awash with imported milk" says one local farmer. Ironically, it is cheap transport that



Young George Wainwright helps his father Phillip with the milk at weekends.

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....continued from previous page

allows this to happen - unreasonably cheap, perhaps, in view of the environmental damage caused by aircraft and trucks. A study commissioned by Department of the Environment, which the Government prefers to keep quiet about, put the external cost of a single lorry, in terms of public health, noise and wear and tear on roads, at £28,000 a year. Were fuel more *expensive*, it can be argued, it would restrict many supermarket practices in moving foodstuffs so freely - and bringing them in from abroad - that are presently to British farmers' disadvantage. Meanwhile the supermarkets appear to be subsidised too.

Right now, moves are being made by farmers themselves to combine together in changing the structure of milk distribution. This is hot political stuff in the dairy world, with producer-controlled co-operatives hopefully leading a revival in fortunes.

Steven's farming neighbour Phillip Wainwright operates out of Booth Green Farm with his brothers David and Stephen. They deliver directly to Bollington houses. While confirming many of Steven Wood's impressions, and the changes in purchasing habits, Philip has noticed a steadying of the trade in recent times as he goes about his rounds. Reporting to *Bollington Live!* on his business, he sounded quietly confident, though, when pressed, he did acknowledge that bureaucracy can be a burden. "My accountant asked me recently how much time I spent on paperwork, and when I told him 'half' he said he was surprised it was as little as that!"

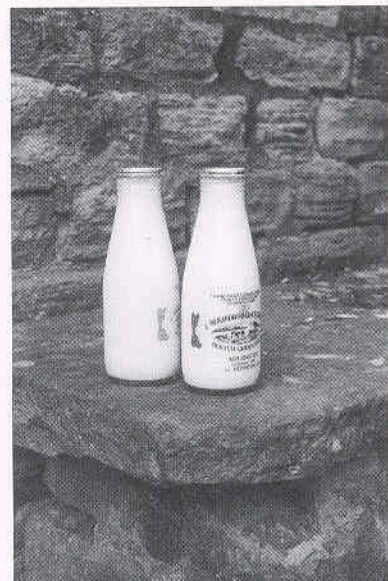
The current price of milk, delivered each morning in this way, is 39p a pint. This compares favourably with Bollington's Buy-Late Co-Op, where the cost is the same if you buy a one-litre pack (69p a litre works out almost exactly at 39p a pint). The price is more, proportionately, for a smaller pack, less for a bigger.

Tesco, of course, charges a considerably lower amount, almost certainly as a loss-leader of the kind that makes life miserable for many a small shopkeeper. But at the supermarket you do have to call and

get it, while the travelling milk service such as Wainwrights provide brings it directly to the door, just as Mr Beeley did, those many years ago. It is a link still with those pastures that surround us, a contact to be valued. This is a system unique in Europe, incidentally, and an acknowledged social asset. If we really like the countryside, and want it to flourish, then home milk delivery is a service to be supported.

JL

*Retro style
bottles as well...*



BOLLINGTON

Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Countryside and Heritage Project

Macclesfield and Vale Royal Groundwork Trust is working with local people on a project designed to recognise and celebrate a local 'hidden treasure'. Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale are places that are much loved for their unique beauty and character and the project will document the area and look at ways in which to preserve it.

The group has secured a Local Heritage Initiative grant, which is money from the Heritage Lottery Fund administered by the Countryside Agency with additional funding from the Nationwide Building Society. This funding will allow three 'information gathering' exercises to be carried out during the year 2001. A landscape character assessment will look at physical features, and find out how local people value them. An historical assessment will gather information and produce a record of the area's industrial heritage. An ecological survey will record the plants and wildlife. These three projects will require a great deal of input from local people and we hope there will be good attendance at the workshops that will take place in the coming months.

This project is a partnership involving local people working with Groundwork, Cheshire Wildlife Trust,

Lyme Recording Group, Bollin Valley Partnership, Cheshire County Council, Macclesfield Borough Council, Rainow Parish Council and Bollington Town Council.

The aim of this first year of work is to do a 'stock take' of the area so that we can identify what makes it special. We will use the results to produce a draft action plan with proposals for management that will preserve the area for future generations to enjoy. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Hilary Trodd at Groundwork on 01625 572681.



Local Heritage initiative

"LHI is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency."

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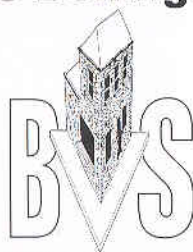
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BOLLINGTON



MARCH

Monday, 12th

"SIMPLE DESSERTS"

Women's Institute present a demonstration by Mrs L. Blackburn on how to make desserts. Methodist Church, 7:30pm Contact Mrs. M. Foster on 573571 for further details.

Wednesday, 14th

MINIATURE FLOWER ARRANGING

Bollington Flower Club demonstration on how to arrange flowers on a small scale. All welcome. Community Centre, Ovenhouse lane 7:30 - 9:30pm. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835

Thursday, 15th

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM

Upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, 8:00 - 10:00pm. Tel. 422835 for details

Saturday, 17th

NIGEL OGDEN ORGAN CONCERT

Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Tickets £5.00. Contact Pat Burgess on 875322

Monday, 19th

SHOPPING IN BOLLINGTON

Arts Centre, 8pm. A discussion about the results of the recent Bollington Live shopping survey with analysis by Graham Barrow. Free to Bollington residents. For more information contact George Penney on 574583

Wednesday, 21st - Saturday, 24th

"RELATIVELY SPEAKING"

Bollington Festival Players directed by Julian Valentine presents this hilarious comedy by Alan Ayckbourne. Bollington Arts Centre, 7:45pm. Tickets: £4.50 (Adults), £2.50 (concessions). Opening Night Special Offer -2 tickets for the price of 1. Tel. Mrs D Young on 572527.

Friday, 30th

"WUTHERING HEIGHTS"

The Oxford Touring Theatre Company perform the acclaimed adaptation of Emily Bronte's classic novel by Lynn Robertson Hay.

"A passionate story of love, tragedy, revenge and redemption between wild, young Catherine Earnshaw and brooding Heathcliff."

Bollington Arts Centre, 7:30pm. Tickets £4.00, £3.00 (concessions) & £11.00 (Family) available from Bollington Post Office or by phoning 575287.

Saturday, 31st

KONTRASTE

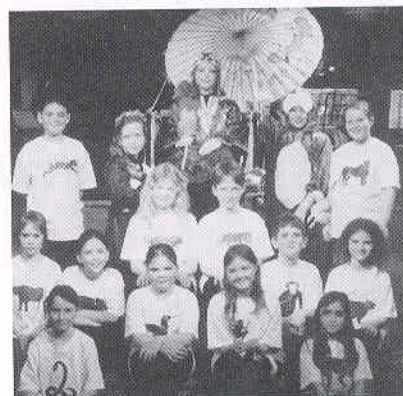
Bollington Chamber Concerts present Kontraste performing music by, amongst others, Quantz, Handel, J.S. Bach and Scarlatti. Bollington Arts Centre, 8:00pm. Tickets £10.00, £3.00 (children, students & claimants). Contact 575287 or 560355 for further details.

APRIL

Sunday, 1st

"ELOISE"

Bollington Children's Music Theatre present the story of a Princess's quest to rescue her seven brothers from the evil witch Volhek and the Drogmires. Based on a Nordic Legend and accompanied by the composer Karl Jenkins, well-known for the best selling album *Adiemus*. Arts Centre, 4:30pm & 7:30pm. Tickets £4.00 & £2.50 conc. Tel. 0161 427 2870 (evenings) for further details.



Bollington Children seen in BCMT's production of 'King Leo' last year.

Monday, 9th

"THE PEOPLE OF BRAMHALL HALL"

A talk by guest speaker Mr J. P. Skyner on behalf of the Women's Institute. Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Contact Mrs M. Foster on 573571 for further details.

Wednesday, 11th

"EASTER THEME"

Bollington Flower Club meeting, all welcome. Community Centre, Ovenhouse lane 7:30 - 9:30pm. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835

Thursday, 19th

"FUSCHIAS: UNUSUAL VARIETIES"

Talk by renowned expert, Keith Ward of the Ward Fuschias on the unusual varieties of fushias. Bollington Horticultural Society, all welcome. Upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, 8:00 - 10:00pm. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835 for further details.

Friday 27th - Sunday May 6th

EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS

Exhibition of paintings by local artist Richard Fawkes at Clarke Lane Farm, Kerridge. 2.30-9.00pm Daily. tel. 573554 for details.

Sunday, 28th

MUSIC DOMESTICA

Presented by Bollington Chamber Concerts. Flute, Cello and Fortepiano. Programme will include music by Hummel and Corelli. Bollington Arts Centre, 8:00pm. Tickets £10.00 & £3.00 (children, students & claimants). Contact 575287 or 560355.

MAY

Wednesday, 9th

DEMO

Bollington Flower Club, all welcome. Community Centre, Ovenhouse lane 7:30 - 9:30pm. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835 for further details.

Tuesday, 15th - Saturday, 19th

"SOUTH PACIFIC"

Bollington Light Opera Group present this well loved musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Bollington Civic Hall. Tickets Tues - Thurs £6.00 (£4.50 concessions) Friday & Saturday £7.00 (No concessions). Ticket Line No (01625) 875326 - Val Postance

Sunday, 13th

"CANTERBURY PILGRIMS"

Bollington Festival Choir. Bollington Methodist Church, 8:00pm. Tickets £7.00 from West Bollington Post Office, members of the Choir or tel. 573494.

Monday, 14th

"RESOLUTIONS MEETING"

Plus talk by Mrs Gilchrist on "My Visit to Denman College", for the Women's Institute. Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Contact Mrs M. Foster on 573571.

EVENTS

Thursday, 17th

"WILDLIFE CLOSE UP"

An illustrated talk by David Cummings on wild flowers, birds and butterflies. Bollington Horticultural Society. Upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, Contact Blanche Royall on 422835.

Saturday, 19th

BARN DANCE

Music provided by the East Riding Folk Band. Come dance the night away and join in the Weekend celebrations of the Methodist Church Anniversary. Methodist Church, 7:00pm. Tickets £4.00 includes Ploughmans Meal and refreshment Contact Gwen Jouannet on 574790 for further details.

Monday, 21st

LOWER HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP - LESSONS LEARNED

Arts Centre, 8:00pm. Free to Bollington residents. Contact George Penney on 574583 for more information.

Saturday 26th - Monday 28th

BOLLINGTON ART GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2001

in the Civic Hall. Admission Free. May 26/27th. 10-6pm., May 28th. 10-4pm

JUNE

Monday, 11th

"MANCHESTER AIRPORT"

An illustrated talk by guest speaker Mr K. Clarke on behalf of the Women's Institute. Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Contact Mrs M. Foster on 573571.

Wednesday, 13th

"MODERN"

Bollington Flower Club meeting, all welcome. Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835 for further details.

Saturday, 16th

DEAN VALLEY SUMMER FAIR

Dean Valley County Primary School, Albert Road. 12 noon - 4:00pm. Admission £1.00. Contact PTA Chairman on 572767 for further details.

Thursday, 24th

BOTANICAL GARDENS VISIT

Trip to the Botanical Gardens at Birmingham organised by the Bollington Horticultural Society. 15 Acres of beautiful gardens, afternoon band etc. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835

Monday, 28th

SIX A SIDE JUNIOR CRICKET COMPETITION

Pott Shrigley Crickey Club. Further details from MR D Brooke on 572371

JULY

Saturday, 7th

BOLLINGTON CROSS SUMMER FAIR

Bollington Cross Primary School, Bollington Road, 12:00 till 4:00 pm. Contact PTA Chairman on 576397 for details.

Monday 23rd for four weeks.

JANUS SUMMER SCHOOL

Drama workshops for young people aged between 8 and 16. For more details, ring Liz Smith 266713

DO YOU NEED A PLUG?

If you are a voluntary group, perhaps a sports club, a youth organisation, or a special interest club and want to promote your activities please write to *Bollington Live!* using the address at the front of the magazine. Tell us what you do, when you meet and a contact and we will try to find space on the events page for you.

BOLLINGTON TWINNING

IT seems that Bollington may be 'twinning' again, this time with the town of Renate in northern Italy. Bollington already has a twin town of Thurles in Ireland and many people have enjoyed the reciprocal visits and events organised by the twinning committee. If it goes ahead does that mean the three towns will be triplets? Should we have a tripletting committee?

ARTS CENTRE DEMISE - NO WAY!

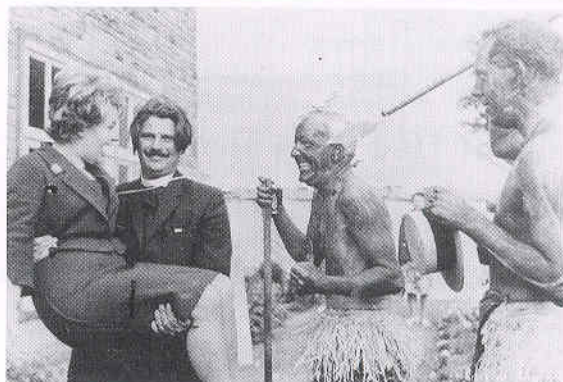
People who read the local press may have had the impression that the Arts Centre is 'on the rocks'. NO WAY. It is as vibrant as ever. Perhaps what people don't realise is that the centre is for everyone in Bollington. It is yours. You have a vested interest in it. Use it!

Use it for family celebrations; to learn, to exercise, to sing, dance, act, to enjoy the varied programme of events: concerts (jazz and classical), plays (amateur and professional, and art exhibitions.

If what you would like is not available, get that started. There are rooms of various sizes for hire at reasonable rates. For more information contact the Manager, Kim Hart on 573945 or the Booking Secretary, Doreen Young on 572527 **PP**

WHO... OR WHAT?

Can anybody shed some light on this interesting photograph apparently taken at a Pott Shrigley fete in the 1940s? or 50s? Who what, when and why?



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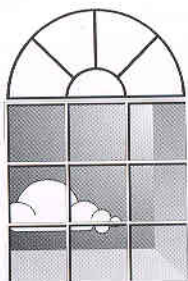
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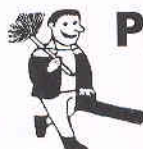
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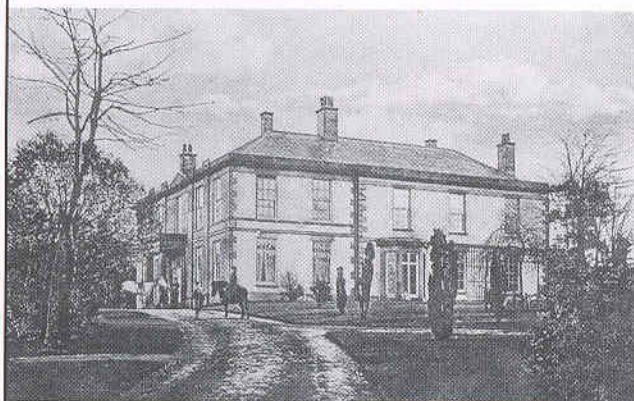
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THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH

The work of Savio House

Leaving Bollington to go up Blaze Hill, you will see on your right, just past The Poachers Inn, the entrance to the Savio House Retreat Centre. Follow the driveway and you come to the former Ingersley Hall, now called Savio House, the Bollington base of the religious order of the Salesians of Don Bosco, a Catholic charity.

Ingersley Hall was built by the Gaskell family (who also constructed White Nancy) starting around 1775. They remained at Ingersley Hall until the 1930s, and the adjoining farm continued to be worked until the 1970s.



Ingersley Hall, now Savio House, seen in a 19th Century print.

Brother Michael Winstanley, who has been involved with Savio since the 1970s, explained that much of the building was started by John Upton Gaskell, the son of Thomas Gaskell from Hanley. He married Margaret Grimshaw of Errwood Hall in the Goyt Valley, and the wealth of the two families enabled Ingersley Hall to be built and subsequently extended. A barn on the site has an inscription of his initials and the date - J.U.G 1853. The hall was built on the site of an Elizabethan farmhouse owned by the Jackson family, and the Gaskell estate extended from Kerridge Ridge, through Ingersley Vale and into the valley of Harrop Brook.

The Salesians took over the property in the 1950s, in addition to their training college at Shrigley Hall nearby. They named Savio House, after the schoolboy St. Dominic Savio, and used the premises as a house of studies for young Salesians training for the priesthood, before developing into a retreat and conference centre.

The current provision includes a range of accommodation, and every year, several thousand young people experience the peaceful atmosphere of Savio House and use the retreat centre as a base for enjoying activity holidays in the locality, the centre being ideally placed on the edge of the Peak District.

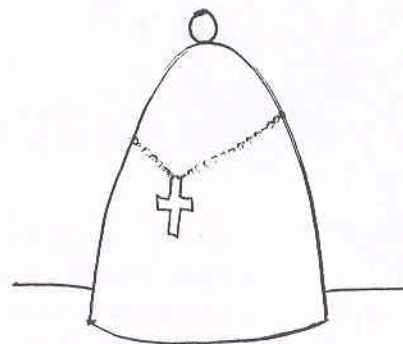
Salesians are inspired by the work of the Italian youth worker, St. John Bosco, whose work with young people in the area around Turin is continued today in well over one hundred countries around the world. In Bollington, the group at Savio House are led by Fr. Michael Winstanley who also lectures at Ushaw College, Durham, and Fr.



Young people on an activity holiday with Savio House in the background.

Pat Sherlock. They are supported by a group of volunteers - young people who are involved with other youngsters from schools across the North West. They spend a year at Savio House, as valuable experience before seeking employment in the youth sector.

In addition to Savio House, the Salesians have managed St. Gregory's parish since 1981.



For the past ten years Fr. Robert Coupe has played an important role in Bollington, especially with the recent millennium activities. Further afield, the Salesians support missionary work in Liberia, West Africa, and Fr. Coupe has been instrumental in helping the relief efforts in the war-torn country.

Savio House has developed, over the past fifty years, to provide for increasing numbers of young people; but what of the future? Fr. Pat Sherlock explained that the aim is to enhance the facilities for school retreats, but also to diversify into other areas. A current project is to provide facilities for primary schools to undertake National Curriculum based activities for Key Stage 2. A team of primary school teachers are developing resources in areas of Geography, History, and Environmental Studies. He also explained that Savio House would like to build links with the local schools, to provide a resource for the locality. Work is under way to convert a barn into a classroom for primary school use.

In addition, as a major landowner in the area covered by the Ingersley Vale project, the Salesians hope to contribute to developing and enhancing woodland, ponds and wildlife in the area. This fascinating location has a wealth of history, and the vision of the Salesians should enable them to provide young people with a range of activities to help equip them for the new century.

For those of you with Internet Access, further information about the Salesians and Savio House can be found on:

<http://www.salesians.org.uk/savio>

AH

BOLLINGTON... CAUGHT IN THE WEB?

*Click. Beep beep boop beep....
CCCCCCCCKKKKKKKK..... CACHONG
CACHONG CCKKKKKKKKKK..... I
rub my eyes for the third time as the dull glow of
the computer monitor - the only source of light in
this dark room glows away like a perpetual light.*

*Thin, beady wisps of sweat cascade off my brow as the
burning cigarette in my hand....burns. I glance at the
time. 3 am. I should be in bed. But no. I have to write an
article for Bollington Live! In the background, I can hear
the remnants of S Club 7 on the radio, fading away.
Becoming frustrated, I rub my eyes again.*

*The Internet is the greatest source of information
anywhere. Type in whatever you want into a search
engine, and get a result, seconds later. What would
happen if I typed "Bollington"?*

I load 'Ask Jeeves' www.ask.co.uk. In theory, one asks a question and Jeeves finds several relevant answers. "Where can I find web pages about Bollington?" I cheerfully ask. After churning away, the computer brings up "Jeeves has found the answers to these questions: What is the best environment for bringing up pet chickens?" I try harder, and Jeeves comes up with a list, mostly entitled "Bollington". Smirking, I click on the first - Bollington Weather. According to its blurb, "The North West Weather Site is based at Bollington Automatic Weather Station, located in east Cheshire, on the edge of the Peak District, at 53 degrees latitude..." Nice, I think. A good start. Click. I wait...and wait... and... W ... A ... I ... T ...

"This page cannot be displayed." Why not? I bang the desk in frustration. When this happens, it means that the web page has been removed or there's a typing mistake in the web page name. Try it yourself www.argonet.co.uk/users/jim.matt/frame3.html. Sighing, I continue down the list. "Bollington Cross C of E Primary School" - No use. Just a load of useless words and numbers. Means nothing to me.

The sun's coming up now - I didn't realise I've spent so long on the net. It's so addictive. The can of Stella I opened at 8:00 last night now has a fuzz floating on it. Mmm...healthy. A quick scrape and the skin lies in the waste bin and the Stella's waiting to be drunk. I drink it quickly, the taste of flat lager wetting my lips. I try another web page - Altavista.

www.altavista.co.uk has been around for longer than time itself. Jesus probably used it to find a "How to turn water into wine and not be out of pocket" site. Usually when I use Altavista, I find whatever I'm looking for in seconds, but I find only one interesting site - a site dedicated to 'Bollington Festival 2000'.

www.bollingtonfestival2000.freemove.co.uk promises to keep any memories you had of the Festival last year flowing.

It's well designed, and there's a photo section where you can reminisce on the floats we all remember driving by.

My patience is running thin. There MUST be a site SOMEWHERE dedicated to Bollington. Biting my cigarette so hard, it almost snaps in half, I try www.bollington.com. I am greeted by a sign saying, "Thanks for visiting, but this site hasn't been made yet. Come back later." or words to that effect. Near to tears, I try www.bollington.co.uk. Nope! I try www.bollington.org. Aaah - a result! What's this? I crane my head close to the screen. www.silktown.co.uk? I didn't ask for this! What's going on? The makers of www.silktown.co.uk have been crafty bunnies. They try redirecting web traffic from Bollington sites and towards Macclesfield ones. Very sneaky, eh? Well, it's not fooling me. Mind you, it does have interesting links to sites like www.victoriaflats.co.uk - describing the destruction of Britain's most horrible building...but no, I've got a job to do.

By this time, the sun has nearly finished his long journey across the sky, and darkness is about to fall again. Tired eyes look at a cheerful computer screen and I realise how incredibly tired I am. It is then that I remember Google.

www.google.com is simple but powerful. Put "Bollington" in it's search box, a quick click - and bingo! A site dedicated to Bollington pops onto the screen. At last! From a first glance, the Bollington home page www.happy-valley.org.uk looks dull, but organised. But - it has depth. It describes why Bollington is called "The Happy Valley".

The site shows Bollington's history and has links to many Bollington businesses, like Bollington Printshop www.bollingtonprintshop.co.uk, and Bob Rigby's Photographic Site www.bobrigby.com which has flashing lights and other useful things. But, the thing I like most about happy-valley.org.uk is that it has a definitive guide to every pub in Bollington! It lists them alphabetically, along with hotels and restaurants, and describes them. It even has a picture of each one...oh, I love it. The site also has links to every other Bollington site on the web.

Well, that's about it. The sun has now gone down for the second time - I'm cold, tired and hungry. I've done my task. Finding out about Bollington on the Internet has proven harder than I thought. Well, how about me? Am I going to add to this, ever growing, list of Bollington Web Pages? Well, I don't think I can. The Happy Valley site has everything I'd want to put. It's the definitive guide to Bollington. If you don't mind, I'll carry on working with my own web page - the ULTIMATE Air Guitar Web Page www.air-guitar.co.uk and keep myself to myself. PN

Bollington: A Local Study

By Class 3, Bollington Cross School

Children aged 7 and 8 from Bollington Cross School recently completed a local study of Bollington. They researched local history; identified gaps in their knowledge; conducted interviews and compiled information for visitors to Bollington.



Three of Class Three

The Children used illustrated texts, bar charts, tables and a tourist brochure to present the information they collected. Here is a selection of the findings of our younger generation:

Looking at the History of Bollington

"In 1801 the population of Bollington was 1,231 and in 1851 it was over 5,000. Why was that? Because people built some mills called Clarence Mill and Adelphi Mill. People came to work in the mills because they didn't get much money on farms. They spun cotton in the mills that was put on trains or boats on the canal to get it to Manchester markets."

Come and Visit Bollington !

"If you are a visitor to Bollington one of the best places to go is a White Nancy walk. White Nancy is a folly and it was built at the top of a hill called Kerridge Ridge over a hundred

years ago to commemorate a famous battle. You would thoroughly enjoy the marvellous view and countryside."

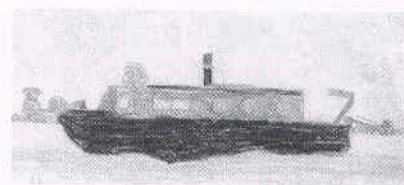
"The canal in Bollington is part of the Cheshire ring and it is 97 miles long with pleasant animals and lovely plants. You can see a variety of barges and ducks. You could go fishing or even hire a boat."

"If you walk along the canal you can come back on the Middlewood Way. As well as walking you can do horse riding, cycling and blackberry picking. You could hire a bicycle and enjoy a ten-mile traffic free trip."

"Bollington has a thriving Arts Centre where you can see groovy concerts and plays. The Bollington Arts Festival is a regular and popular event."

"If you are a sporty person, the fantastic Rec is for you, it's on Adlington Road. You can play football, cricket, tennis, basketball or bowling. If you love to swim, go to Bollington Leisure Centre, it's totally fun! There is an excellent big swimming pool, a soft centre, a gym and a bar."

After that you could enjoy a meal at a restaurant or a pub!



What Do You Think of Bollington?

Class 3 asked friends and family what they thought about Bollington:

What do you like best about Bollington?

- It is a friendly village
- The countryside
- There is lots to do

What don't you like?

- Traffic and cars parking everywhere
- The look of the Late Shop
- Dog dirt on the footpaths
- Nothing is horrible in Bollington

How could Bollington be improved?

- Open something for teenagers
- Get people to walk instead of using their cars
- Restrict heavy lorries

TESCO VOUCHERS

Please help! Bollington Cross School need Tesco's 'Computers for Schools' vouchers. If you collect them at the checkout and send them to the school they can get a new computer.

HELP REQUIRED

The Mayor of Bollington Senior Citizens Welfare Committee would welcome volunteers to assist with the annual House to House Collection. Any person willing to help please contact Mrs Margaret Snape Tel. 572771 or Councillor Betty Bonson Tel. 573187.

'REDWAY STEPS'

The Groundwork Trust has been asked to improve the steep path up to White Nancy. This may well involve the installation of stone steps. They are anxious for any opinions about how the path should look. Anyone wishing to comment or be involved in the project should call Hilary Trodd at Groundwork on 572681.

WHITE NANCY

For those of us who get annoyed at the graffiti on that adorns White Nancy, this early 1970's photo shows that it is nothing new. It also seems that 30 years ago our beloved monument required some 'patching up' either through damage or plain old age.



DO WE LIVE IN A TOWN OR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE?

People often refer to Bollington as "the village" and the old nickname "Happy Valley" also conveys a sense that we are in the countryside. Certainly, you only have to walk a few hundred metres from almost anywhere in Bollington and you are in open fields, even if some of them are now being used to graze horses, are used as an archery field or are in the grounds of a large old house. But the Bollington TOWN Council is proud of its name and its offices still bear the inscription "*Bollington Urban District Council*" from the pre-1974 local government reorganisation days. Based on the cotton mills, the canal and the railway, Bollington became an industrial settlement during the 19th Century and took on many of the features that we all recognise as urban. But it never grew to the size of neighbours Macclesfield or Stockport. The old farms continued to operate and retained a rural air around the place. The Kerridge Ridge and the Nab still ensure that views of open hill land are never far away, reminding us that we are "country cousins" compared to the residents of Macclesfield or Stockport.

One definition of the "countryside" used by some government agencies, is that it includes all settlements with populations of up to 10,000. In fact, 6 million English people live within settlements of between 1,000 and 10,000 and around 25% of the total population can in this way be classified as "rural". Long gone are the days when the major employer in most of the English countryside was agriculture. Nowadays, in a typical English village, you are just as likely to find a trendy computer or marketing company, the offices of a financial institution, or a hotel, as you are a farmer on a tractor. The boundaries between what is town and what is country have become very blurred.

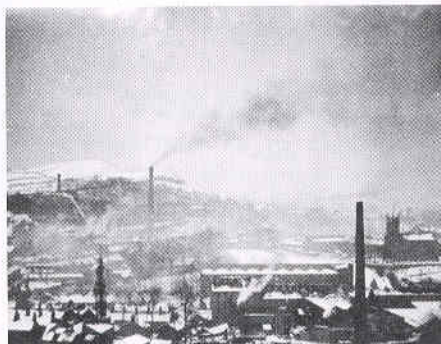
Does it really matter whether we are rural or urban? Well, possibly it does. The Countryside Agency (a new Government body formed through a merger between the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Agency) is concerned to help rural communities. They have public money to spend on a range of countryside issues including job creation, social equity (helping the poorer and disadvantaged), recreation, tourism, conservation of the countryside and local heritage. The new North West Regional Development Agency also has budgets for rural development.

Possibly there is much to be gained from emphasising Bollington's countryside roots and setting, as we

are never going to qualify for public funding for urban regeneration, given the high priority of much more deprived communities in the North West of England. We sit well and truly within the Manchester "Green Belt", most of our surrounding open land is classified as of "Special Landscape Value" by the Macclesfield Local Plan and Bollington's eastern boundary abuts the Peak District National Park.

Recent national studies of threats to community spirit and social cohesion in rural areas have shown that some of the main problems are:

- The increased mobility of the population causing rapid population changes (how many of us have a new neighbour?)
- More people commuting, instead of working in the community (you must have noticed the flood of cars leaving Bollington in the morning from 7am onwards)



...or do we live in both? A view in 1935 displays Bollington's former industrial side. The recent photo from Beeston Brow shows green fields still standing proud.

- A decline in the number of shops, schools and pubs
- The loss of distinctive culture, language and dialects (the Bollington accent was traditionally distinctive from that of Macclesfield while the days of the traditional singing in the pubs has long gone)
- A weakening of the links between market towns and the surrounding villages and farms (Bollington was never a market town in the past, but is there scope for a small farmers' market in Bollington today?)
- Conflicts between in-comers and locals (not here in "Happy Valley", surely!)
- The loss of younger people, as they seek work and prospects elsewhere.

A lot of these issues apply to Bollington today and our Town Council could do far worse than open a dialogue with the new Countryside Agency, whose regional office is in Manchester. The Drop-in Centre on Palmerston Street and the Groundwork Trust on Grimshaw Lane have both recently received grants for rural projects in and around Bollington, via the Countryside Agency. Long live "the village".

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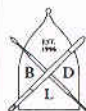
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CHRISTIAN WORSHIP FAITH IN OUR TOWN

The most popular community activity in Bollington is going to church! Apart from shopping at Tesco or going to the pub, the church remains one of the few things we do regularly in large numbers. Despite the pressures of modern life and the abounding number of other choices we have to fill our spare time, a very large number of our neighbours and friends still regard their faith as a keystone of their lives.

There are six church buildings within Bollington and Kerridge, and other church groups who meet locally. This means that every Sunday several hundred people are actively involved in Christian worship and many of these people get together at other times to pursue other church related activities like prayer groups, music groups and providing support services for the sick, lonely and aged.

As in many similar sized towns it can seem that there are too many churches for the available congregations. This is an historical legacy of times when the churches played a much bigger part of peoples day to day lives. Transport was not so easy and the particular denomination that one was brought up with mattered a great deal. Each of our six churches serves a different locality or branch of Christianity. There are three Anglican Churches, St John's, St Oswald's and the Kerridge Church of the Holy Trinity. There is the Methodist Church, St. Gregory's Catholic Church and the Christian Life Church on Hawthorn Road. The United Reform Church have no formal building but they still worship regularly at Shrigley Court,

Church Street. Their church was the former Congregational Church by Beeston Brow, now a business premises. This is not to forget the Methodist Chapel at Whitley Green and St. Christopher's at Pott Shrigley.

Nationwide, church going numbers are decreasing, but within Bollington numbers are remaining static.



*Many more cars today, but fewer folk in the pews!
A 1960s picture of the Methodist Church*

Perhaps the most thriving church is St. Gregory's. This is partly because its congregation comes from a wider area. The other churches have their own dedicated members, but ironically, they suffer in a similar way to Bollington's pubs, from being too



A late 19th Century scene. When was the last time a cow was seen outside St John's?

numerous. The churches come together at various times of the year, most notably the remarkable and stirring Remembrance Sunday service in the Memorial Gardens and the joyful carol singing around the Christmas tree.

As well as providing for our spiritual needs, most of the churches often have halls that can be utilised for functions. Play groups, childrens parties, Brownies and Guides all use the church premises. These activities are often purely secular, but it means that the buildings will always have a vital role. Whether we prefer to go to the DIY superstore on a Sunday morning, or worship in church, we are lucky to have these spiritual institutions which are so much of our culture and history. You never know when you might need them! **TN**

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