

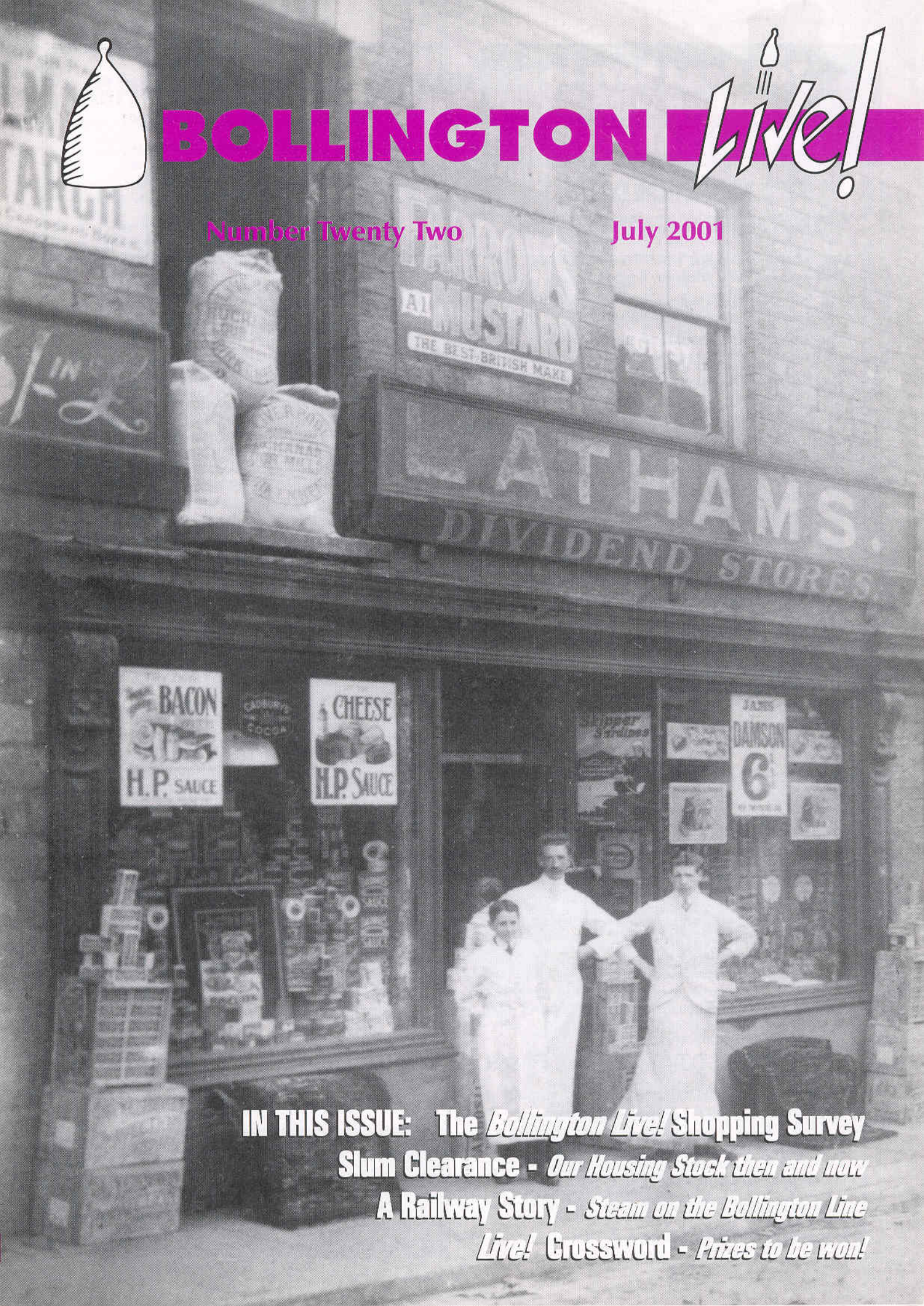


BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Twenty Two





July 2001



IN THIS ISSUE: The *Bollington Live!* Shopping Survey
Slum Clearance - *Our Housing Stock then and now*
A Railway Story - *Steam on the Bollington Line*
Live! Crossword - *Prizes to be won!*

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

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Cover: *Latham's Grocers 1902 - 1914 in Water Street.
After the Great War it moved to Palmerston Street.*

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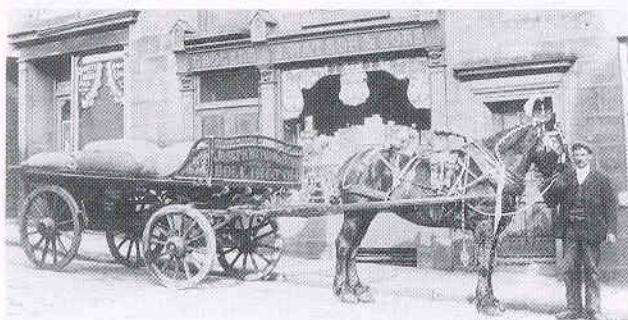
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BOLLINGTON SHOPPING SURVEY

OUR SHOPS ARE VITAL FOR 10% OF US

The first ever questionnaire survey by *Bollington Live!* was returned by 191 people (6% of those forms sent out with the magazine). Thanks to all of you who found the time and mental energy to complete it! One of the problems for Bollington is that there are very few statistics available about our town, as we are invariably lumped in with Macclesfield for most surveys and reports. This makes it very difficult to formulate specific ideas and policies for Bollington. We seem to know so little about the town's housing stock, travel to work patterns, employment make up, leisure activities or anything else for that matter! Ignorance is bliss, or is ignorance at the root of our inability to steer the inevitable future changes in the direction that we would like to see?



Watson's Grocers, on High St. and is this the young Geo. H. Goodman?

This first *Bollington Live!* survey was designed to inform us all about how and where Bollingtonians shop and to seek ideas which may help our shops in the future. A full report of the survey has been given to Bollington Town Council and Macclesfield Borough Council, but here are some of the findings. We think that the 191 replies are pretty representative of the views of the community as a whole.

Firstly some points about our household make up - beating the 2001 Census returns!

22% of households have only one adult and 68% of households have 2 adults

Three quarters (74%) of households have no children

9% of households do not have regular access to a car

45% of Bollington's residents have lived here for more than 20 years whilst 20% have moved in during the last five years

Now your views on shopping matters:

Over three quarters (76%) of residents do the bulk of their food shopping at Tesco or Sainsbury in Macclesfield whilst 11% use the Bollington shops for the majority of their food

Three quarters (73%) of the non-food shopping is done in Macclesfield, 10.5% in Bollington and 9% at Handforth Dean/Lewis's

20% of residents spend more than 20% of their total annual budget in Bollington (this must largely be on drinks, pubs and restaurants as well as on foodstuffs). 40% of residents do less than 5% of their total shopping in Bollington

How much would the following ideas encourage residents to shop more in Bollington? ("very much" answers only as a percentage of the total answers)

Cheaper prices	56.3%
Larger range of goods	55.1%
Regular outdoor market	47.5%
More convenient parking	45.1%
More specialist shops	42.2%
Some larger shops	31.2%
Good café	29.0%
More Info. on what's for sale	19.1%
Late night opening	15.9%
Home delivery	13.0%



58% of residents would like to see a medium sized supermarket in the town, whilst 36% of residents would **not** like to see a supermarket in the town.

Geo Goodman in 'Watsons' c. 1956. just a year before his death, but who was the customer?

Continued on page 4...

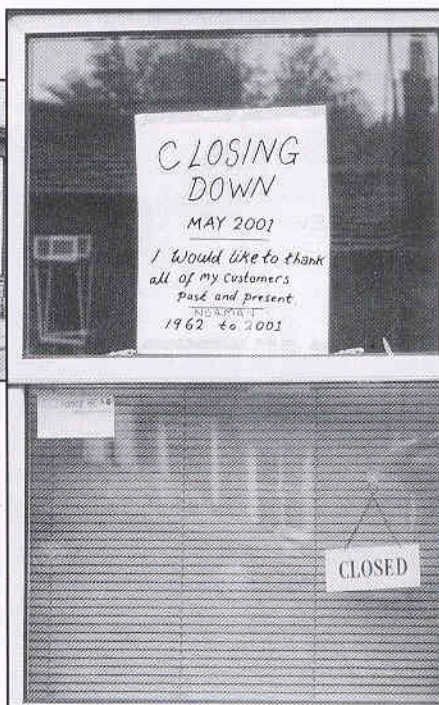
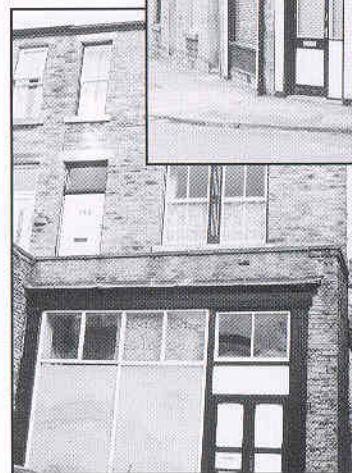
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The single most important improvement that would persuade residents to shop more in Bollington is:

Easier parking near shops	16.5% (27)
A larger range of goods/shops	11.6% (19)
Issues of traffic and safety	10.4% (17)
A good fruit and vegetable and/or fresh fish shop	9.8% (16)
Particular specialist shop(s)	8.5% (14)
The need for a heart or shopping "centre"	7.3% (12)
Lower prices	7.3% (12)
A new supermarket	6.7% (11)

7 respondents made specific references to the inadequacies of the Co-op (the Late Shop) – Bollington's largest shop at present.

Possibly the most important finding of the survey is that about 10% of the Bollington households still rely very heavily on the dwindling number of Bollington shops. Whilst the bulk of us regularly jump in our cars and head in to Macclesfield, there are about 340 households that use the Bollington shops for the majority of their food shopping.



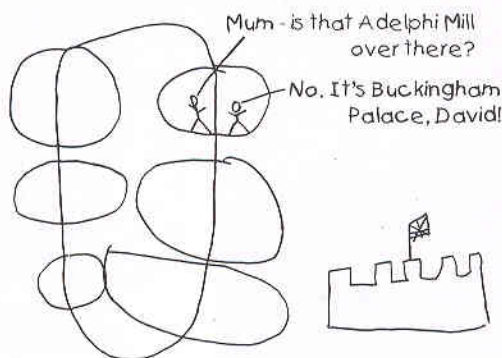
Just a small selection from the many local shops that have closed over the years. Most are now private dwellings.



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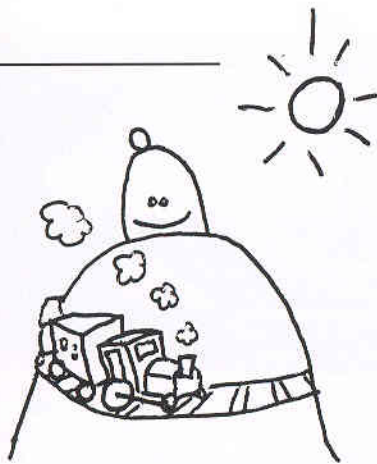
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LONDON EYE DRAWING by

DAVID HODGSON

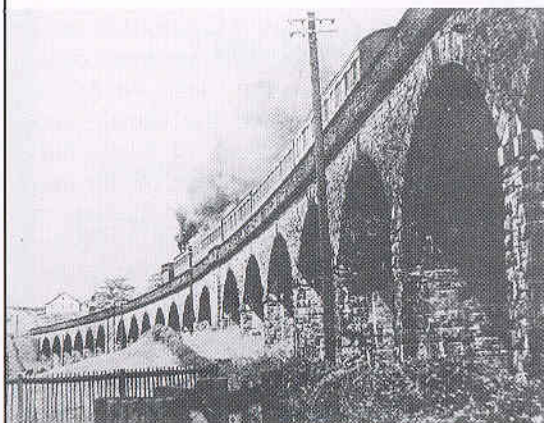
David visited London in the spring and took a trip on The Eye, from where he saw a vaguely familiar sight. Bollington has it all!



Railway Days

The Bollington line recalled ...

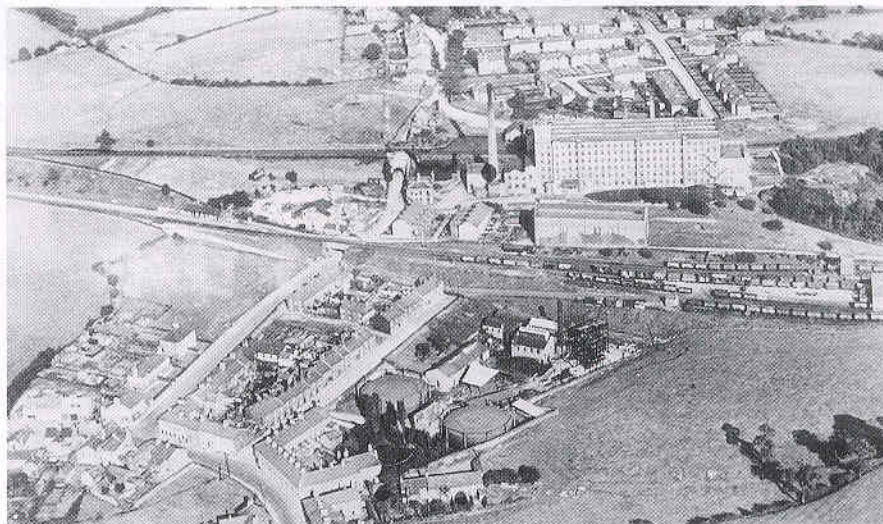
You know you are getting old, it is said, once policemen look younger than you are. When politicians, too, begin to seem youthful then the rot has really set in. In Bollington, the way to demonstrate antiquity is to recall the local railway. Eyebrows flick up; friends who have moved here look startled. Tell them you travelled by steam train on the Bollington line and the impression is complete: "middle age" is whirling by.



Manchester bound! A scene on Bollington's viaduct in the days of steam.

For me it seems like yesterday, though I was just a schoolboy then. From our home below the viaduct we could see the trains; up to thirty each day, including the freight. We could hear them as well, but it was far less intrusive than today's motor traffic.

The trains, in a way, helped to structure our lives. My mum might have woken me already, but when the 7.36 went by, on its way to Macclesfield from Manchester, it was definitely time to get up. There were



An aerial view of the railway in the 1930s. The Adelphi Mill stands behind.

ten minutes left in which to wash and dress, then a further fifteen for breakfast, before a finely judged gallop from Wellington Road took me up the path beside the viaduct.

The path to the station is still there. So of course is the viaduct, which in 1982 - twelve years after the trains had ceased to run - was about to be demolished. Bollington was lucky in having sufficiently concerned people to fight this proposal, for the determination with which the nation closed its railways was matched, more often than not, by the thoroughness with which the traces were removed.

Climbing from Wellington Road, the path rises to a high point at the crossing of Hawthorn Road, before it drops again to where the station used to be. The route of the railway became the Middlewood Way, and the station itself lay in the cutting just before Grimshaw Lane.

It would take a senior archaeologist today to deduce its once considerable presence; yet this, in my childhood, played a significant role in Bollington life.

All manner of people stepped off a train: soldiers on leave from Catterick, anglers, hikers, office workers in the city and, of course, schoolchildren. Milk churns came clattering down, then a bike or two. Pigeons also arrived on the train, in wicker baskets, to be released by the stationmaster later. Up the line, on the farther side of Grimshaw Lane, a goods yard handled local cargoes, including coal for the mills and Bollington's many open fires.

We did not live in Bollington then, but came at weekends from Ashton-under-Lyne, and the essential point is that we journeyed by rail, as so many travelled at the time. In the 1950s, when we moved to Bollington for good, I still went to school in Manchester and it was the 8.12 am that took me there. This was the train that had gone through earlier, the 7.36 from Manchester, now chugging back from Macc.

For reasons to do with ticket inspection, travellers approaching by the path from Wellington Road were only allowed access to the platform at its farthest end, so that those with seconds to spare had to run the entire length of the train before getting on. This headlong journey, at the wrong side of a high, stout fence, with the engine simmering and people staring, provided a tormenting extra stage, inclusive of spots before the eyes.



Protesting at the proposed demolition of the viaduct in 1982, a deputation from Bollington stands outside Macclesfield Town Hall

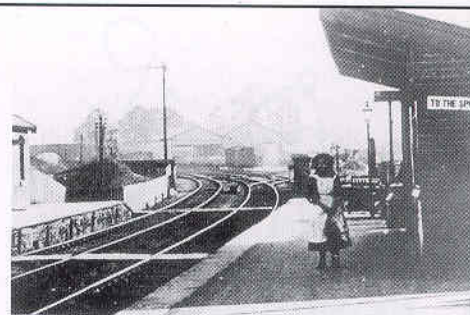
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There was a schemozzle at the time when those in the habit of leaping the fence at one of its few weak spots, were rounded up by a railway policeman, presumably summoned from Manchester and fully equipped with helmet, long overcoat and notebook. The offence was 'trespassing upon the track', for the few vital yards between where the fencing could be penetrated and the point at which the platform began. The fines in court were of the order of fifteen shillings each - 75p in present money, but a significant sum then, when a millworker earned around £7 a week.

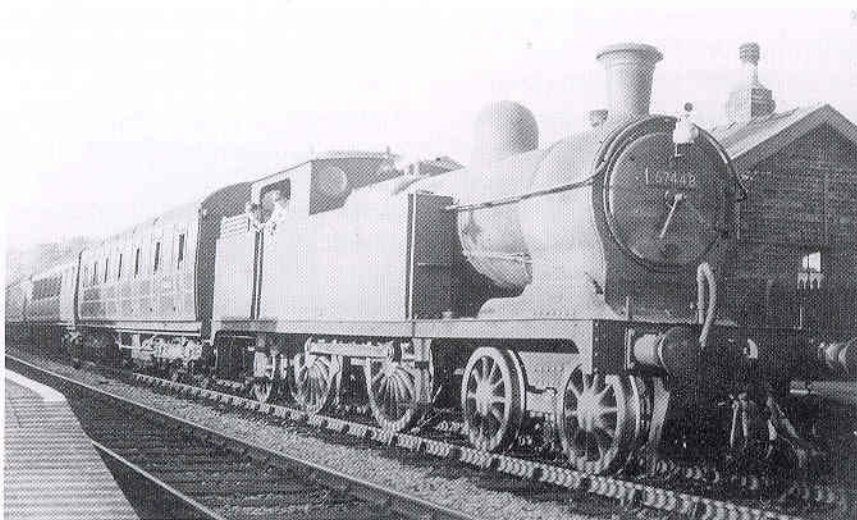
both sexes. Trousers had deep broad turn-ups, as if they were kerbstones. Trilby hats were widespread; so were cigarettes - the practice was accepted, and 'No Smoking' compartments were few and far between.

Common also in the carriages were grimy windows and upholstery apparently filled with sand. If and when the heating was on, and sometimes when it wasn't, there was the most peculiar smell, as of potato crisps upon which beer had been spilled, then spread out to dry. There were no corridors and when, farther down the line, the train filled up, two rows of six people would sit in this peculiar atmosphere, facing one



Looking south down the Bollington line. Grimshaw Lane passes under the bridge just beyond the station, with the goods yard in the background.

This is an early 20th Century view, but the scene changed little until well after World War II



One of the last steam trains into Bollington, seen on a Sunday evening in June, 1957, shortly before diesel powered units took over.

granted wider fame when the name was adopted for the bridleway that the line became. Less ungainly or locally assertive than The Higher Poynton Way, The Macclesfield, or for that matter The Bollington Way, the title has slipped into the kind of generalised usage - albeit regional - of Hoover or Biro. Middlewood is still a place rather than just the name of a trail.

It is easy now to think unkindly of this bumbling journey, with its many stops, and the views through brown-stained glass of the sodden industrial landscape as Manchester was approached (It *did* rain more often then, before the Clean Air Act of 1956 brightened the climate and prolonged millions of lives). But, despite numerous halts, the trip into the city took just three-quarters of an hour - quicker at that time of day than the modern equivalent by car.

Later, as I shall describe in our next issue, diesel railcars came along, just about the only innovation, as far as Bollington passengers were concerned, in the take it or leave it service of the post-war years. It is the steam trains, though, that stick in the mind. Was it really so long ago that they went?

JL

The train itself, reeking and dusty, consisted of five wooden carriages dragged by a filthy tank engine. It is mistake still made by film-makers in recalling the days of steam to have clean and brightly painted locomotives (They usually get the types wrong too, as well as the liveries and uniforms, believing, probably, that such things do not matter. When, in forty years time, the Manchester-Heathrow shuttle is depicted as being run by Concorde, with Sri Lankan Airways stewardesses pirouetting down the aisles, the effect will be much the same.)

There would, perhaps, be thirty passengers waiting at Bollington, mostly bound for Manchester London Road, as Piccadilly station then was called. Subdued clothing was the norm, with belted coats for

another in upright, lavatoryless contemplation.

The 8.12 took the slightly more direct of two possible routes, for some trains diverted at Romiley for a tootle round through Hyde.

Nearer at hand was a connection also, in theory, for Buxton. This could be made from Middlewood Higher, a stockade-like station on stilts at the point where our line crossed another. Middlewood Higher had collapsed once when the earth shifted, with the waiting room disappearing down the bank. Few people changed here anyway, but the train would solemnly stand, sighing, as crowds of imaginary passengers thundered up the stairway from below.

The scattered and unassuming community of Middlewood, was



Then the diesels came: the viaduct from Adlington Road, c. 1960

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BOLLINGTON



JULY

Sunday, 3rd

N.S.P.C.C. OPEN DAY

Bollington Long Lane Garden.

Saturday, 7th

BOLLINGTON CROSS SUMMER FAIR

Bollington Cross Primary School,
12:00 till 4:00pm

Monday, 9th

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

A talk by Miss E Warburton for the Women's Institute. Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Contact Mary Foster: 573571

Monday, 23rd for 4 weeks

JANUS SUMMER SCHOOL

Arts Centre Drama Workshops for young people call Liz Smith on 266713

AUGUST

Wednesday, 8th

FLOWER SHOW - PRACTICE

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

Monday, 13th

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEMBERS NIGHT AND DUTCH SUPPER

Methodist Church 7:30pm Tel. 573371

Thursday, 16th

A VISIT TO ADLINGTON HALL

Bollington Horticultural Society. £4. Tel. Blanche Royalle on 422835

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 1st

POETRY READING

Michael Symmons Roberts reads from his new collection 'Burning Babylon'. The Bollington-based writer was recently described by the Sunday Times as "an outstanding poet and dramatist". Tickets £2, call 575287 or 573413

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

At the Civic Hall. 2:00pm till 6:00pm
Contact Kath Moores on 429338

Wednesday, 12th

FESTIVAL 2004

Any Ideas! All interested are invited to attend an initial planning meeting at the Town Hall, 8:00pm.

Sunday, 16th

TRANSPORT EXTRAVAGANZA II

The Belgrade Hotel is hosting a "Transport Extravaganza" with many Vintage cars and motorbikes on show.

Thursday, 20th

A NEW VENUE!

For Bollington Horticultural Society, Pott Shrigley School 8:00pm

Sunday, 23rd

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

Led by Derek Hinchcliffe. Methodist Church, 10:30am

Friday, 28th

THE LIFE AND ARCHITECTURE OF VANBRUGH

The architect of Castle Howard and Blenheim grew up and worked in Cheshire, designing Cholmondeley Old Hall. He led a story book life as merchant-adventurer, soldier, diplomat, herald, playwright and spy as well as inspired architect. Peter Brigham from Chester Civic Trust will bring Vanbrugh's life and work to us with a exhibition and illustrated lecture. Arts Centre. Exhibition open from 3:00pm till 5:00 - admission free. Lecture 7:30, £3 (£2 conc.). For tickets call. 575287.

Saturday, 29th

MART RODGER - MANCHESTER TRAD JAZZ

Arts Centre. £5. For information and tickets call 575287 or 574410

MICHELMAS FAIR

Parish Fair at St. John's School 11:00 till 2:00pm, Refreshments, stalls and children's entertainment.

OCTOBER

Friday, 5th

MIKRON THEATRE 'DON'T START FROM HERE'

Art Centre. A musical love story with a transport twist. 8:00pm. Tickets £5, (£3 concs.) call 574687

Saturday, 6th

SORREL STRING QUARTET

Bollington Chamber Concerts present this accomplished quartet performing Hayden's Quartet no.3 'The Bird', Shostakovich Quartet no.2 and the Schubert Quartet in G major D887. Arts Centre 8:00 pm.

Friday, 12th

GRAND AUCTION

DROP-IN CENTRE. Bargains galore and fun for all. Viewing from 8th October. Items for auction will be most gratefully received.

Wednesday, 17th - Saturday, 20th

FESTIVAL PLAYERS

Perform 'Comfort and Joy' a comedy by Mike Harding the popular entertainer and broadcaster. For more information call 572527.

Friday, 26th

GEORGE MELLY ARTS LECTURE

Arts Centre. The Pre-Raphaelites -The ultimate romantics. One of his highly popular illustrated lectures. His expertise in this area has been recognized with Honorary Doctorates from various Universities. George Melly has admired the Pre-Raphaelites since he was a child and in this lecture he casts a post-Freudian eye over their importance and describes the tragic-comedy of their lives. 8:00pm. Tickets £7.50 (£5 concs.) call 575287

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 3rd

EAGLE JAZZ BAND

Bollington Arts Centre. 8:00pm. Tickets £5, call 575287 or 574410.

Friday, 9th

FAIR TRADE!

Arts Centre. A talk by Maria Hyde about her recent visit to India and a chance to buy Christmas presents from Traidcraft. 7:30pm £1, pay at door.

November, 17th

WILLIAM BLAKE

Art Centre. A talk by Cecil Davies about the visionary poet and artist. 7:00 pm, £3, pay at door.

To find out about Bollington Horticultural Society or Bollington Flower Club and their many interesting activities call Blanche Royalle on 422835

For information about the Women's Institute call Mary Foster on 573571

If you have an event to be published sent details to the Editor c/o Bollington Printshop by 15th Sept. for inclusion in the Oct/Nov edition.

EVENTS

BOLLINGTON FIRE SERVICE

Following the 'recruits required' article in the last edition of *Bollington Live!*, Andy Longden, the station commander, has told us how delighted he has been with the response. Andy thanks all those who made contact and is sure you will be seeing new faces on the appliance soon.

SCOUT & BROWNIE LEADERS NEEDED

A few years ago *Bollington Live!* reached John Brooks in Tytherington, of all places, when a new leader was required. How far can we get this time? A double challenge, of a **Scout Leader**, call Helen on 572894 (John's new job has taken him South) and a **Brownie Leader**, for 1st Bollington Cross, call Polly on 572329. What a challenge! Results in the next edition along with an article on the organisations in Bollington. If you have any good scouting memories, let us know via the Editor, C/O Bollington Print Shop.

THE MYSTERY PHOTO EXPLAINED

Who - left to right: Bryan Steward, holding Sandra Chalmers (BBC), Ken Penney and Tom Askey.

What - A sketch in the Fancy Dress Parade entitled "Meals on Wheels".

When - Saturday 5th July 1969.

Why - Part of the Rose Queen Celebration held that year at Pott Shrigley Vicarage. (Sandra Chalmers was the opener for the Fete.)

Thanks to: Dorothy Steward & Kathleen Penney.



BOLLINGTON CIVIC SOC. PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The archive is a substantial collection of photographs, mostly black & white, covering aspects of Bollington life from 1860 to the present day.

Housed in the Arts Centre, the collection has been built up mainly by copying images from prints, postcards and albums kindly lent by local people. We might have a picture that you would like to see of your house, your street or your relatives. In addition to the main catalogue, we are compiling a name index to help people in their family history searches, but we need more help with this work. If you can spare some time please contact Fiona Swailes on 575956 or e-mail fiona.swailes@tesco.net.

BOLLINGTON UNIVERSITY

The Arts Centre in our town is launching a widespread educational programme this Autumn. The tutors are not only experts in their fields, but also very entertaining in their presentation. Lets hope for an excellent take-up for these courses and lectures.

Please contact Dr. John Coope on 573494 for more details.

COURSES

FAMILY HISTORY: A GUIDE TO HELP PEOPLE TRACE THE ANCESTORS OF THEIR FAMILIES

Tutor - Gill Houston

Ten weekly classes starting Thursday September, 13th at 11am.

Course Fee - £20, Tel. 573494

SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor - Pilar Stocker

Ten weekly classes starting Thursday October, 4th at 4:00pm. Course fee: £20. For info. Tel. 573494

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF BOLLINGTON

Tutor - Kim Hart

Three classes - Tuesdays September 25th, October 2nd and October 9th at 10:00am. Course Fee: £6. Tel. 573494

ITALIAN CUISINE

Tutor - Enzo Mauro

Three sessions - Mondays, October 8th, November 5th and December 3rd at 8:00pm. Tickets at the door £5.

WALKING IN BOLLINGTON

Tutor - Roger Bowling

Wednesdays September 5th, 19th and 26th at 10:00am. A talk on local history followed by a walk, weather permitting. Fee: £5. Tel: 573494

SUZUKI VIOLIN METHOD

Lessons are available at the Arts Centre for children 3 - 10 years of age.

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SUNDAY EVENING LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

RENEWABLE ENERGY : WIND FARM ON KERRIDGE RIDGE?

Presenter - Walter Menzies

16th September 2001, 7:00pm

Entry £3 on the door

A FUTURE FOR MANCHESTER'S CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

Presenter - Tristram Besterman

7th October 2001, 7:00pm

Entry £3 on the door

WILLIAM BLAKE: ARTIST & POET

Presenter - Cecil Davis

18th November, 7:00pm

Entry £3 on the door



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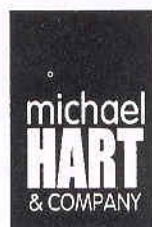
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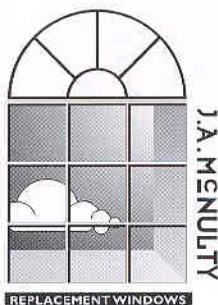
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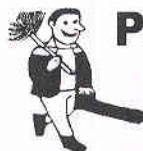
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OUR LIBRARY

Did you know that you don't have to trek into Macclesfield to access all the services of the Cheshire County Libraries Service? For the past three years it has been possible to order and return any book held anywhere in the Cheshire Libraries system from Bollington Library in Palmerston Street. And you can look up what is available by just using the new computer catalogues. Also you can return any book to Bollington Library that you may have taken out in Macclesfield or at any other Cheshire County Council Library. Was it Michael Caine who said "not a lot of people know that"?

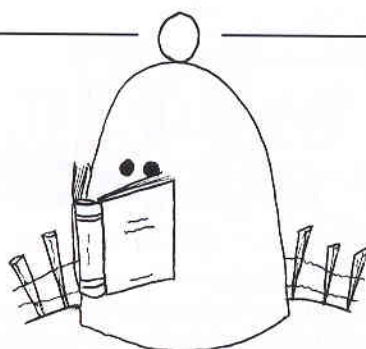
Our library was built in 1972 and has been open continuously since that time. Cheshire libraries are classified by six bands which govern their opening hours. Bollington Library is in band C and is open for 23.5 hours a week - Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. It stays open until 7pm on Tuesdays.

Today, libraries are not just about books and Bollington Library is no exception. You can borrow videos and DVDs (£2 per week), talking book cassettes, CDs and feature films. The children's section is particularly well stocked, and in 2001

there will be 6 computers for the public to use to access the internet and research all manner of things. If you are interested in planning matters, Bollington Library always holds copies of the latest local planning applications. There is also a very interesting Bollington reference section with historical articles and press cuttings etc.

Despite a general downward trend in the use of libraries nationally, Bollington Library still receives around 150 users per day and lent some 60,000 items last year - only a 2% drop from the previous year and well below the decline in the use of many libraries in the UK. Why don't you pop in and see for yourself? There are four part-time staff who share the running of the library and there are always two on duty at any one time. We are very lucky to have such a good library service and you can park your car right behind the building if you can't find the time or energy to walk!

GB



Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

During late winter (that was not so long ago was it!) my wife and I decided that summers will be in vogue in the next few years, so we included a conservatory in our short-term plans.

TV coverage of national conservatory manufacturers and suppliers of all-in-services, pinpointed in series such as "... 's From hell", led us to consider sourcing all materials and services locally. Bollington Live has clearly extolled the quality and abundance of tradesman, hereabouts, to cover all our needs: uPVC conservatory, building and foundations, electrician, plasterer, tiler, vertical blinds, curtains, etc.

All it took was a few telephone calls. Prices were agreed; dates were set and the work commenced on time. Every promise was kept and quality was first class. We had celebratory drinks on the day we expected to have them, just a few short weeks after commencement. The only item we strayed out of Bollington for were some items of cane furniture - we had to go as far as Marple for them.

I will not spare the blushes of those concerned. Please take a bow: Messrs. McNulty, Drabble, Osborn, Mayers, Eardley and Clarence Mill Trading. We will be enjoying the results of your labours for a long time, come rain or shine.

A friend expressed the opinion that this is the service we should expect - but all too often do not receive. I am happy to say that none of these people have ever failed to completely fulfil our requirements. It is a pleasure doing business with them, not least because they are so local.

Yours Faithfully,

Marie and Arthur Harrison

A CHILDLESS TOWN?

One of the most striking findings to come out of the Bollington shopping survey (reported elsewhere in this edition of Bollington Live!) is that only 26% of Bollington households have children in them. This figure is down from the 29% recorded at the 1991 census, which is still quite a low figure by national standards.

The reason is pretty clear and is due to the lack of larger four and five bedroomed houses in our town and the ever increasing house prices, forcing couples with growing children to seek larger houses elsewhere. How many of our readers will know of family, friends or neighbours who have left Bollington because they cannot find a larger house at a price they can afford? I know of two couples who have moved into Macclesfield and one that has gone to Biddulph in recent years. Does

this matter? Well I suggest it does, as we are slowly but surely heading towards an unbalanced Bollington society, with the majority of households consisting of childless couples and people living alone.

What do the property developers do? Just build more "starter homes" with two and three bedrooms - thus exacerbating the imbalance in our housing stock. **Wake up Macclesfield Borough Council!** Think about what Bollington needs, for a change, and not what the

developers want to build to make the largest profit! Have the developers also realised that an increasing number of people want to work from home and that this also requires an extra room.

When the next housing development is given planning permission let's get some larger properties constructed that might appeal to growing Bollington families with two or three children and possibly just hold down a little the runaway prices of the few larger properties in Bollington. GB

SLUM CLEARANCE

Change at 'The Square'

Over the last year, Town Mayor Mark Stedman has been busying himself sorting through the archives in the cellar at the Town Hall. The documents date from the present day back to the earliest days of Bollington UDC, and the most valuable items have been rehoused at the County Archive in Chester.

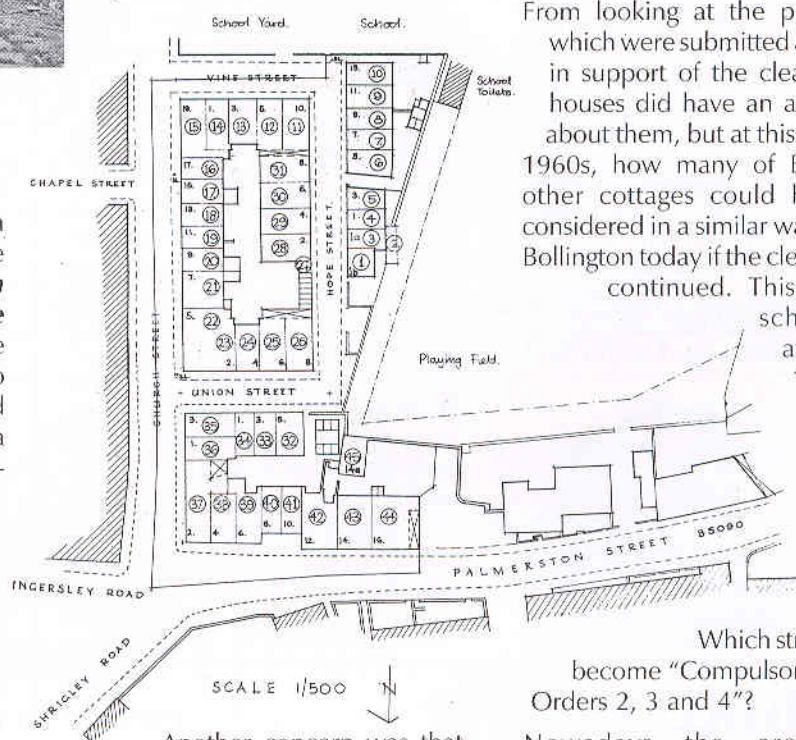


A trip to the 'privy' might have involved a walk, but it must have contributed to some kind of community spirit!

One item which caught my attention was a dusty folder, with the handwritten explanation, "**Church Street (No1) Compulsory Purchase Order 1966**". Inside the file were copies of the documents relating to Bollington Council's planned purchase and demolition of the area known commonly as 'The Square', - Vine, Hope and Union Streets.

For some time there had been concern about the standard of the terraced cottages. Of all the properties demolished, only one was privately owned, while the remainder were rented out by landlords living out of the area who had little concern about the state of their properties. The final nail in the coffin for the houses was the report

from the Medical Officer, who stated in his report that the houses were unfit for human habitation, due to reasons including there being no inside toilets or bathrooms, no handrails on the stairs, sagging ceilings and leaking roofs.



From looking at the photographs which were submitted as evidence in support of the clearance, the houses did have an air of decay about them, but at this time in the 1960s, how many of Bollington's other cottages could have been considered in a similar way. Imagine Bollington today if the clearance had continued. This particular scheme was affixed "No 1"; where would the axe have fallen next?

Which streets would become "Compulsory Purchase Orders 2, 3 and 4"?

Nowadays the area would undoubtedly be included in a conservation area. These houses would, like most of the older properties in Bollington have been modernised over the years, with bathrooms added and windows and

Another concern was that some of the occupants of the square had to walk over one hundred yards to the outside toilet. The phrase 'being caught short' certainly springs to mind.



The junction of Palmerston Street and Church Street, 35 years ago and today.



It is the back-yards that give an almost Dickensian feel. Now we would probably regard them as quaint. Before we give way to nostalgia, go and take a look at the 'modern' Shrigley Court - It looks a good deal more comfortable to me.





roofs replaced. Indeed some houses still exist in the town with only an outside toilet, many more survive without handrails on the stairs. This was a time when it was perceived that people renting from private landlords would be far better off by being re-housed in the new housing estates being constructed at the time, and paying council rents instead. If attitudes had not changed, presumably the council would have



continued to demolish the terraced streets and have replaced them with more houses specifically designed for modern day living.

Shrigley Court now occupies the land. Vine Street survives nearby, in name only, on the site of the old St. John's School which was demolished shortly after the square. As vital as Shrigley Court is, it does not have the character of old Bollington.

At the same time as the compulsory purchase was served, new plans were considered to build a new terraced row along both Church and Palmerston Street to include four shop units. Why this did not come about is not included in the file, but the old photographs and documents show an interesting final chapter of a part of Bollington demolished in the name of progress just over 35 years ago.

TH

THE DANNY BLOOR MEMORIAL TRUST

Following the tragic suicide of Danny Bloor in the first week of 2000, The Danny Bloor Memorial Trust was established and a magnificent £4,000 collected. Danny's mother Olwyn and the Trust sincerely thank the community for their generosity. Our thanks also go to Councillor Mark Stedman who at the retiring Mayoral raffle kindly included Danny's Trust among the benefactors.

What have we done so far?

The Trust has become a member of Papyrus, an organisation committed to suicide prevention in young people and run by parents of children who have taken their lives. Papyrus aims to draw national attention to the inadequacies of the existing system of dealing with distress and depression, a desperate situation in which Danny's family found themselves. Papyrus are regularly consulted by Government and influential agencies, as well as the media. The Papyrus booklet called 'Not Just A Cry For Help' has been sponsored by our Trust fund and Bollington Town Hall has kindly agreed to make copies available.

The Trust's major focus is now a web site, which will provide a directory of links to various organisations offering support and advice to individuals or anyone concerned with the well-being of someone. We will be promoting the web site with posters in Bollington, Poynton and Macclesfield. Sadly today distress, depression and sometimes suicide are increasingly common amongst teenagers, especially boys. The hope of the Danny Bloor Trust is that locally and nationally people will know there is support, and that in desperate situations there are helping hands.

Papyrus can be contacted on 01706 214449 or www.papyrus-uk.org

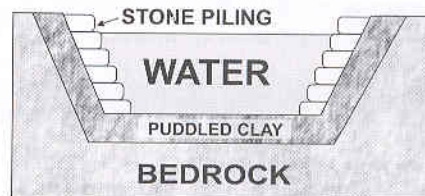
PUDDLING THAT CAUSED A PUDDLE



The recent de-watering of the canal alongside Clarence Mill was necessary to fix a leak that was causing an increasing stream into the recreation ground(see Bolly Live! #20 "...AND A FLOW THAT IS GROWING").

The pictures show an excavator digging into the clay 'puddling' that lines the canal and makes it watertight (see diagram). The puddling at the side is protected by the stone piling which can get damaged thus exposing the clay. The sidewall and towpath have now been repaired and the canal refilled.

TN



UNSUNG HERO

It was in 1977 that the young Donald Judge joined the Festival Choir and became embroiled in Bollington's musical life. Having been the choir's accompanist for many years, he has recently taken over the conductor's baton from Dr. John Coope.

In 1986 the choir performed Benjamin Britten's 'Noyes Fludde' which used singers of all ages. This inspired Donald to found the delightful Bollington Children's Music Theatre. The BCMT perform two shows, just before Christmas and Easter. For 12 weeks every autumn and winter Donald rehearses at the Arts Centre with a couple of dozen children mostly aged between 8 and 13. The next season starts on Sunday, 9th September at 2:30 pm. There are no auditions and no limits on age or numbers. All Welcome!

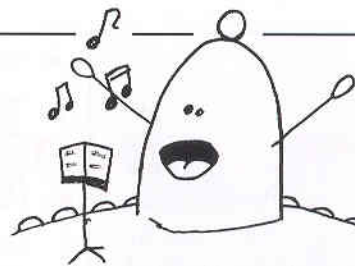
Donald Judge read music at Cambridge and is a teacher in Stockport. Not content with Bollington's musical needs he is also involved with musical events at his school. He has been putting on shows for many years, in some cases writing

his own music. He says this is often because of a lack of suitable other material. The BCMT pieces are challenging and interesting for the children but do not tread familiar paths. The emphasis is on teamwork.

In the autumn they will be performing a Victorian double bill of 'Mr. Scrooge'



Bollington Children dressed as mill workers for 'Millennium Dreams' in 2000



and 'The Little Match Girl', the latter specially written by Donald. Sewing the costumes is just about the only part that Donald does not do himself (and I'm not sure about that, actually).

His other major work is with the Festival Choir. They rehearse every Tuesday evening at the Arts Centre from September to July. In January they perform Handel's 'Saul' and in May 'A Sea Symphony' by Vaughan Williams. The choir welcome any newcomers, a good voice and an ability to read music is a bonus.

If you can ever catch him at home, and want to find out more about BCMT or the Festival Choir, Donald Judge can be reached on 0161 427 2870 or via the BCMT web site www.bcmt.url4life.com which is full of information.

TN

The JANUS STORY

OK, imagine this. It's the middle of the school summer holiday, the weather's hot (impossible for Bollington, I know), and the kids are bored. Or indeed, YOU might be bored, as I know that my articles in *Bolly Live!* attract lots of adolescent attention! It's too hot to do anything energetic, and there's nothing on TV. What do you do?

A pretty grim scenario, I expect you'll agree. But, this summer, millions of people will face this very same problem. Parents will go mad as their kids run up to them, trotting out the old cliché, "I'm bored." This is why parents bundle the children up and bung them off to Summer School, which may not be such a bad idea.

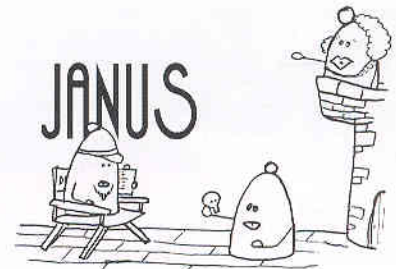
Janus Studios was originally thought up way back in the early eighties – the New Romantic era. One day, a Bollington lass called Pat Penny decided that children weren't given any opportunities to act or to become aware of the many different aspects of theatre. So she developed Janus Studios, as a weekly class to build on children's skills. The group focused on physical acting, such as studying theatre practitioners like Brecht and Stanislavski (*without the children even knowing it*), spontaneous improvisation, audition techniques, and educational games, whilst still making it fun. A few years later, Pat started the Janus Studios

Summer School, to add a new element of excitement to the whole acting idea. Children now had the opportunity to explore other avenues of theatre, such as lighting, costume and sound.

Sadly, Pat retired a few years ago, and although it changed hands several times, the weekly Janus had to close down. The summer school, however, is still as popular as ever.

I can still remember the first day I arrived at Janus Summer School. The summer of 1995, it was. Way, way back in the olden days, when men were real men. The atmosphere crackled with electric excitement; with the anticipation that within the space of three weeks – we were going to perform a play to a live audience!

Not much has changed since then. Plays have come and gone, year after year. Plays like "Rabbit", "Bugsy Malone", "The Bollington Witch" and several others.



This year I make my seventh appearance at the Summer School, and I still love it. The group is now split into two sections – the juniors, for ages 7-11, and the seniors, for ages 12-17; both have a two-week course in which they learn about theatre, both on and off stage, and write and perform a play. Ever heard of "The Man From GLOUCESTER"? That was one I wrote with Robert Appleyard and Cameron Chandler. We wrote the play, directed and acted in it, all in two weeks. If we can do it, then anybody can.

Come and see this year's production – the juniors perform on August 3rd and the seniors on August 17th.

Come down and have a laff. It should be fun.

Remember the wise old words:–
"It is very hard to act on your own, but not when you're not." – Pete Nottage, just then.

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BOLLINGTON



PRIZE CROSSWORD

Pack your Picnic, roll out your rug and unfurl your Union Jack (*I'd take a brolly as well, just in case - Ed.*) On Saturday September, 1st there will be a 'Last Night of the Tatton Proms Concert' at Tatton Park, Knutsford.

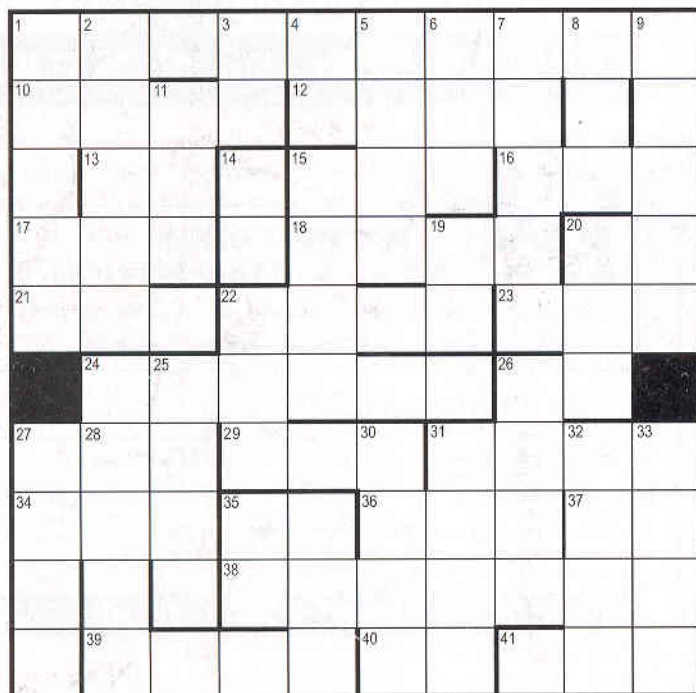
Tickets can be purchased by calling 0870 90 20 003 (ticket hotline) or www.performingarts.co.uk. Adults £17.50 Children £12.

Readers of **Bollington Live!** have the chance to win 2 tickets, kindly donated by Performing Arts Management who operate from Clarence Mill. The first correct entry will win the 2 tickets. Send your entry to: ...Crossword Competition, c/o Bollington Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen St., Bollington SK10 5PS. The Editors decision is final.

Across

- 1 Boot for the road (10)
 10A & 27D Animal on the brae? (National Trust beauty spot) (4) (4)
 12 Crying produces a rip (4)
 13 Towards (abbrev.) (2)
 15 Old prisoner (3)
 16 Holds tea (or ashes) (3)
 17 This path may pull (3)
 18 Heraldic device (4)
 20 Direct current (inits.) (1.1.)
 21 Kerridge is final (3)
 22 For carrying a corpse, not for drinking (4)
 23 Plaything (3)

- 24A & 25D Sounds like penpushers' way (6) (4)
 26 Exist (2)
 28 Motorists' Club (inits.) (1.1.)
 29 Old name for 24D (3)
 31 Ceramic Hall at Shrigley (4)
 34 38A and 18A is one (3)
 35 I am short (2)
 36 Lungs need this. Club for the retired (3)
 37 That is (inits.) (1.1.)
 38 Woodworkers (7)
 39A & 11D Prolonged quarrel at Lowerhouse (4) (3)
 40 Extra terrestrial (inits.) (1.1.)
 41 Allow (3)



Down

- 1D & 9D Colourless hill (5) (5)
 2 Sounds like consumed near Congleton (5)
 3 French article (2)
 4 Computer know-how (inits.) (1.1.)
 5 Not far (4)
 6 Shut up (3)
 7 Runs the Sunday School Fund.
 Have confidence in (5)
 8 Old over (3)
 9 See 1D
 11 See 39A
 14 Object. See 4D (2)
 15 Hideaway (4)
 19 Male title (abbrev.) (2)
 20 Female seen at Lyme Hall (3)
 22 Local arts centre (inits.) (1.1.1.)
 24 Level landmark loved by boats (5)
 25 See 24A
 26 Tedious water source (4)
 27 See 10A
 30 Weed (4)
 31 Get this at 38A 18A (4)
 32 Fatigue (4)
 33 Cricketer's examination (4)
 35 Sex appeal! (2)

Compiled by Dr. Jean Coope

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