



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Twenty Three

October 2001

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PD 1854

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Cover: *The 2nd Bollington Transport Extravaganza was held on 16th September. This Sentinel steam wagon was just one of the many fascinating exhibits. Thanks to all the organisers and folk who brought their cars, motor-cycles, bikes etc.*

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VIADUCT VISUALS

23 arches made of stone and brick, several hundred yards long and built just before 1869, the old railway viaduct slices the town in two and is Bollington's largest manmade structure. When crossed by foot or bicycle it is unmistakable, yet from ground level it is so well hidden that a visitor travelling along Wellington Road could be forgiven for thinking they had just passed under a common-or-garden bridge.

In the years since the trains pulled into the great sidings in the sky, trees have grown tall on both sides and screened the gently curving Victorian architecture. This is sad because a great many people fought very hard to save the viaduct from demolition, not so very long ago.

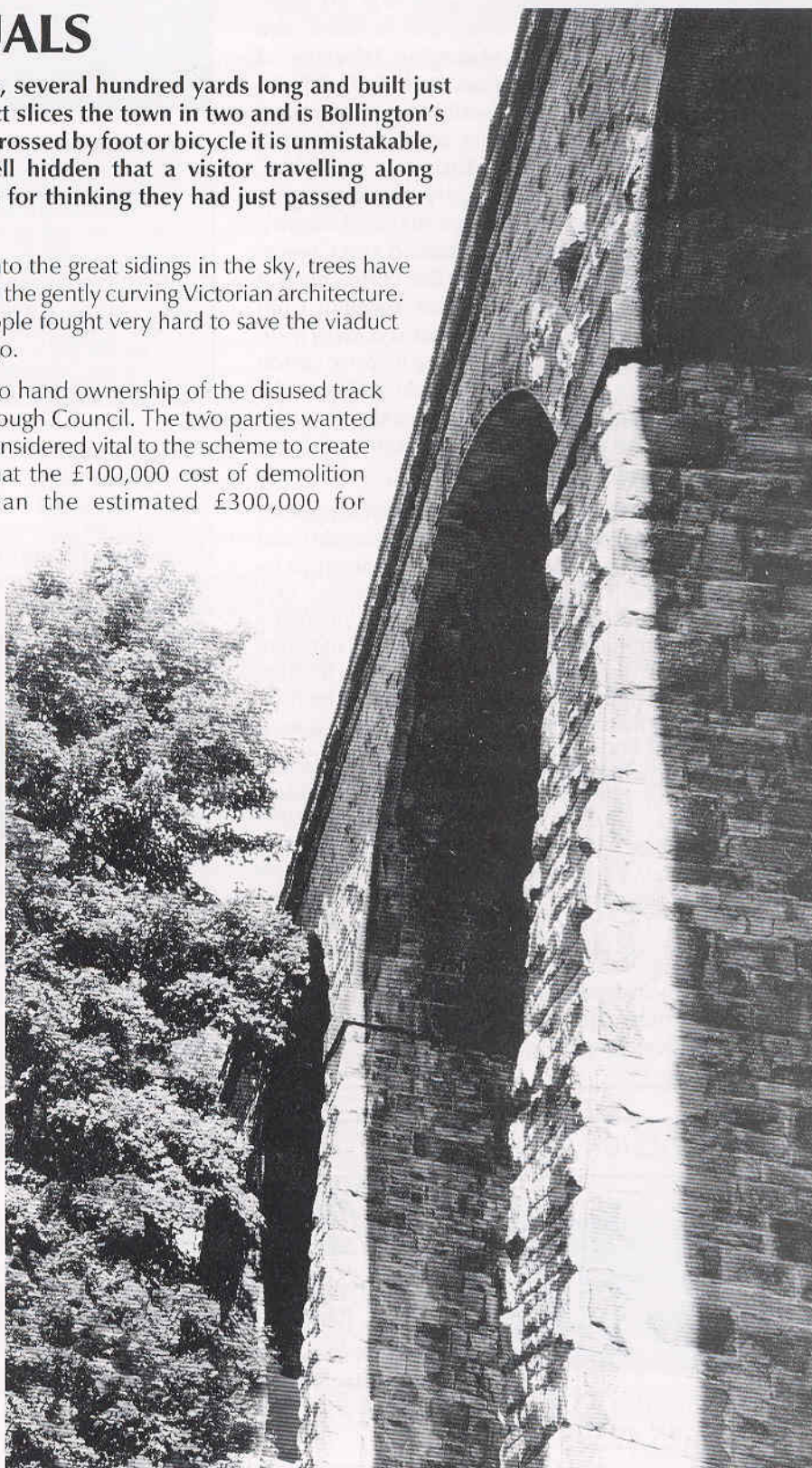
In 1982 British Rail were just about to hand ownership of the disused track and its structures to Macclesfield Borough Council. The two parties wanted the viaduct demolished. It was not considered vital to the scheme to create the Middlewood Way. It was felt that the £100,000 cost of demolition made better economic sense than the estimated £300,000 for refurbishment.

A packed public meeting was held at the Civic Hall, presided over by the Mayor, Cllr. Betty Bonson. This galvanised the public opinion that eventually led to the demolition plans being overturned.

The Middlewood Way Rangers are starting to fell some of the trees that hide the Viaduct. Mostly these will be sycamores. Regarded by many as a weed tree, and not a native, they have a very dense canopy that allows little to grow underneath. Their roots may also cause damage to the viaduct foundations. The Rangers plan to plant holly, hazel and other species that are easier to manage, more attractive to wildlife, and more visually appealing. The spin-off is that we will once again be able to see the viaduct. The process could take several years as there are more than forty sycamores along its sides. A start has been made, though, as can be seen alongside the short path to the Middlewood Way from Wellington Road.

It's going to be a bit like seeing the face of an old friend who has just shaved off a long standing beard!

TN



MACCLESFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

THE BOLLINGTON CONNECTION



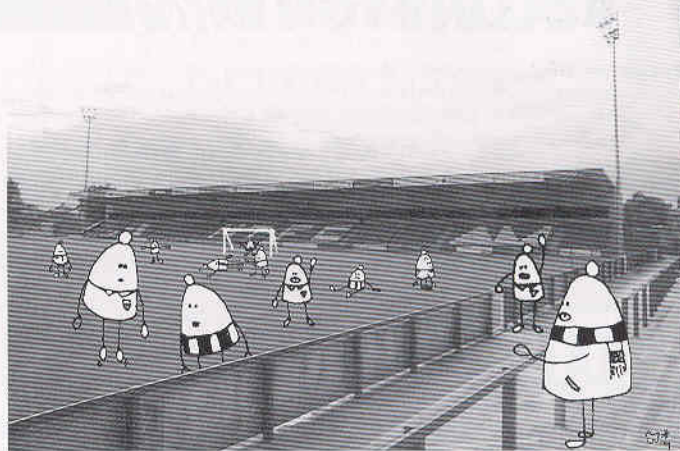
Jeremy Turner has lived or worked in Bollington and supported Macclesfield Town since he was 10 years old. He is now the Managing Director of Personality Quilts, a family owned company that imports baby and children's clothes, largely from the Far

East, and supplies wholesalers and major children's clothes shops throughout the UK, Ireland and Greece. Under the trade name of Bee Bo, the company is a major sponsor of Macclesfield Town Football Club and their name is carried on the smart red away strip shirts. The company operates from the historic cotton storage warehouse beside the Adelphi Mill on the Clough Bank industrial estate. The estate occupies what used to be the Bollington railway station sidings, off Grimshaw Lane.

Jeremy was a keen, but irregular, Macc. Town supporter, until 1993, when he took his eight year old son, Christopher, along to see his first game. "I was struck by the safe environment and the friendly atmosphere," says Jeremy. This was just as Sammy McIlroy, the legendary Northern Irish international, was taking over as manager at the club and beginning the meteoric rise in their fortunes that saw them go from the obscurity of the non-league game to Division Two of the Football League.

Soon, Jeremy and his son were never missing a game and in February 1998, Jeremy was invited to join the Board. His first game as a Director was an away match at Maine Road, Manchester in front of over 30,000 supporters. Despite losing 2-0, he couldn't help feeling a lump in his throat and a strong sense of pride in what "his little club" had achieved. Last season he was appointed Vice Chairman alongside the new Chairman, Eddie Furlong.

Things are continuing to change very rapidly at Macclesfield Town. The team now boasts two players who, only a few years ago, changed hands for over



SPOT THE BALL

Our team of White Nancys play in front of the fabulous new Macc. Town Stand.

Place a small "x" where you think the ball should be. (Trace around the picture if you do not want to spoil your copy of Bollington Live!)

Send your entry to The Editor c/o Bollington Print Shop. We will give a ten pound prize to first correct entry. The Editors decision will be final.

£500,000 each and this season the club has opened the new £1.5 million McAlpine Stand. The stand provides 1,500 seats and a luxurious corporate entertainment suite on the upper floor complete with a fitted carpet especially designed and made for the club! The suite enjoys panoramic views over the ground and away to the hills beyond and the club hopes that by providing high quality facilities and pleasant surroundings, they will attract new corporate sponsors and supporters. It can also be hired for all kinds of functions. One end of the stand is being equipped with computer facilities, in conjunction with Macclesfield College, for use as a training facility. If all goes according to plan, then over £200,000 a year could be generated for the club by fully utilising the new stand.

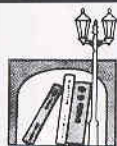
Macclesfield Town have solid ambitions to get promoted from the 3rd Division and then establish themselves as a good Second Division side whilst continuing their strong links with the community. Bollington Primary schools are already involved in the successful "Football in the Community" scheme run from the Moss Rose ground. Bollington Insurance are also regular sponsors of matches. It's good to know that Bollington is playing its part in the rising fortunes of Macclesfield Town Football Club. GB

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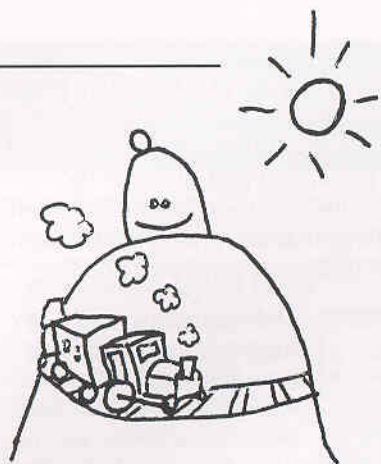
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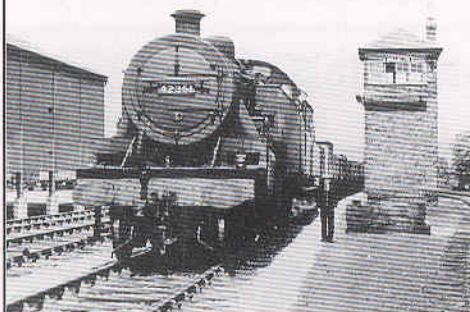
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Flying Home

Bollington's railway - Part 2

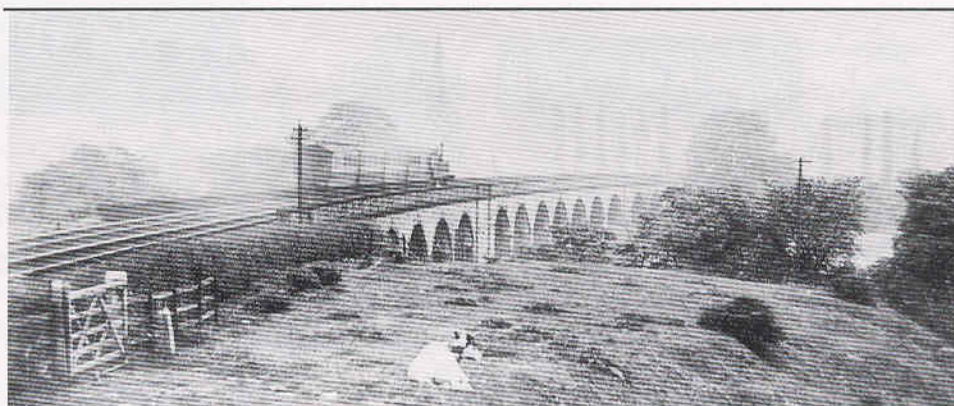
Diesels began on the Bollington line in 1957, green bus-like things that generally worked in pairs. Unlike the carriages of the steam trains they had open plan layouts, with views all round. The upholstery was better, and they were cleaner. Like many who had grown up on steam, however, I did not think much of them.



Shunting in Bollington's goods yard, c.1960.

What was the appeal of the steam train? Today, when there are few of them about, this is a minority enthusiasm. It does not do to talk too loudly of wheel arrangements, 'Black Fives' or other such stuff. To do so is to be an 'anorak', to be treated with condescension (although it is still OK to drool about Jaguars, or Gewurtztraminer hatchbacks with catatonic suspension); but when I grew up boys knew as much about steam trains as those today know computers.

It was the romance that did it, the adventure of the journey. A pal of mine who started a business in France said what drew him to that country



After the 4 mile run from Higher Poynton, a Bollington-bound train crosses the viaduct. This is an early photo, taken in 1903.

was the sight from a platform in Normandy of an express scorching down the centre track. As the huge locomotive hurtled by, in a thunderclap of sound, the driver stared forward out of the cab. On his head was a tight blue beret, under that dark goggles, and from his neck, streaming in the wind, was a long red scarf. "Pure theatre," said my friend. "Formidable". And ever after, whenever he could, he went to see Jean Renoir's splendid film 'La Bête Humaine', which captures such drama on the Paris-Le Havre express.

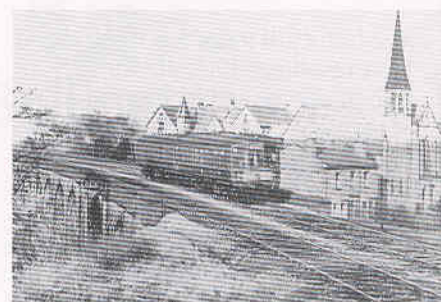
As might be gathered from my previous article, the Bollington line was never like that. Or was it? Well, briefly, on the run back from Manchester, it almost was ...

It would begin at Higher Poynton. There, as term was ending, on a summer afternoon, you could lean from the window to watch the engine being refilled with water. The sun beat down, lapwings soared. Ahead, and in sight, lay countryside, real countryside, at last. From the footplate came the clattering of fire-irons, but the platform, otherwise, stayed as quiet as it was empty. Few travelled on the line at that time of day.

Once the train set off again, we would fly. I was astonished to read in one of the railway histories that a speed limit of 45 mph prevailed here, for we went much faster than that. As the fields slipped by, and the hills drew closer, we seemed to be celebrating. Today, each time I walk up the Middlewood Way to the bridge north of the viaduct, I recall how the Bollington train came whistling through, before we sailed across the viaduct for home.

The engine crews, in fact, came from Gorton, the railway district of Manchester. They wore floppy dungarees, peaked 'greasetop' hats and never, ever, had scarves. Unlike their counterparts in France, who retired in their fifties with honour and a considerable pension, they worked through to 65 on miserable wages, with demotion to cleaning if their eyesight faded. But there was status in the job. If you walked past the engine after that final burst into Bollington station there would be satisfied, self-respecting smiles.

When the diesel trains took over, it was possible to look from the passenger area, through the cab and down the line. Diminished by the change, more of a projectionist now than an actor, the driver would sit with his hand upon a lever. Unsullied by coal dust and without a fireman to shout to, since there was far less din and, indeed, no fireman, he seemed a very ordinary man. Before him, and in plain view, was a speedometer. 70 mph it said, on the stretch between Higher Poynton and Bollington. As the diesel units took the same time between those places as the steamers did before them, that was a speed limit broken over decades.



AD - after dieselisation - a two-car unit crosses Wellington Road

Continued on page 6

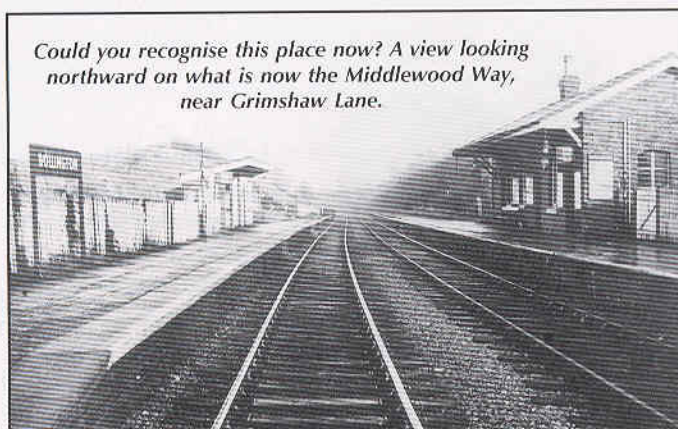
Continued from page 5

My dislike of the diesels was compounded when at Marple Rose Hill a middle-aged man shook his umbrella over me before flinging it onto the rack. All except the handle then fell through, causing the point to strike me on the forehead. "Damned stupid, these racks," was all the newcomer said, as the ink from the homework on my lap ran down the page. Upon such incidents do prejudices assemble: if this, the smooth diesel age - much promoted at the time - was attracting a new class of traveller on the trains, I did not care for them much. And Marple Rose Hill was where they got on.

Sure enough, while the line from Bollington was to be closed, the portion beyond Marple remains open to this day. The reasoning was suspect. While the lesser lines had to be disposed of, because they lost money, the busier lines stayed open despite, in proportion, losing more money still. Rose Hill station stands on the fault line of this philosophy.

away, then ran through Central only added to the frustration. Basil Jeuda's *The Macclesfield, Bollington & Marple Railway*, an admirable account, gives the background to

begun, before the company changed its mind, and part of it can be seen by the houses branching off Adlington Road, just up the hill from the Bollington Insurance building.



Could you recognise this place now? A view looking northward on what is now the Middlewood Way, near Grimshaw Lane.

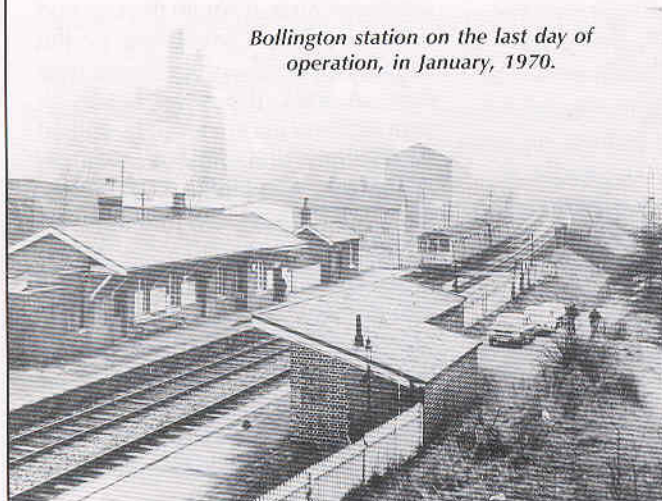
The railway, in my memory, was reliable, even if the timetabling itself was rotten. The last train from Manchester left on weekdays not long after 10.30, with the concession on Saturdays of a departure twenty-odd minutes later. Of course, if you missed the last train to Bollington, there was always the midnight express to London, stopping at Macclesfield, and peopled

more or less evenly by people desperate for a kip and Scotsmen wishing to sing.

From the last train into Bollington, often, I would be the only passenger heading up the path across Hawthorn Road, and the porter, on taking my ticket, would ask if I could put out the gas-lights. There were three of these, turned off by reaching up beside the mantles. The pipe that supplied them still sticks out of the ground, just beside the gate on the pathway by the bridge. Rusty and bent, it seems the only station artefact surviving the installation of the Middlewood Way. "Would you mind putting out the lights?" On January 5, 1970, when the Bollington line was closed, the lights went out for good.

JL

Bollington station on the last day of operation, in January, 1970.



The history of the Great Central and North Staffordshire Joint Railway, to give its one-time title, was often one of muddle; and nowhere more so than at Macclesfield itself.

There passengers wishing to travel onwards had to foot it through the streets from Central station, terminal point from Bollington, to Macclesfield Hibel Road, where the expresses for Stoke and London preferred to stop. That these trains, as they accelerated

this mess. Only by 1960 had the necessary reorganisation taken place, when Central, in a modernised form, became Macclesfield's only station. Ten years later the Bollington line was closed anyway, so it was all a waste of time.

The line through Bollington opened in 1869, so lasting almost exactly 100 years. Had a different proposal been followed up, it might never have gone to Manchester at all, but to Sheffield, by way of Pott Shrigley and Chapel-en-le-Grith. Two other possibilities never came to pass. One was the construction of an embankment rather than the 23-arched viaduct we know so well. Bollington's Board

of Health shot that one down, fearful of enclosing the River Dean - which acted as the local sewer - and the swampland where the Recreation Ground now lies. Bollington historian George Longden, who points this out in *The Industrial Revolution in East Cheshire - Six Themed Walks* (an excellent paperback crying out for a reprint) also told me of another proposition. This was to build the station where Bollington's Art Centre is located. A street to that point was



The way to an intended station, branching off Adlington Road. The other side of the street was never built.

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BOLLINGTON



OCTOBER

Tuesday 30th 7.15pm

ALPHA COURSE TASTER SESSION

Lowther Street Church Hall.

This course offers a chance to explore the basics of Christian Faith through ten thought provoking sessions. Contact Emily White on 572237

NOVEMBER

Saturday 3rd 8.00pm

THE EAGLE JAZZ BAND

Arts Centre. The third visit of this much-loved band. Tickets £5. Tel. 575287 / 574410

Sunday 4th, 12 noon – 3.00pm

BODGE IT

Nelson Pitt Visitor Centre, Higher Poynton. Get there on your bikes from Bolly. See the ancient art of turning green wood on a pole lathe. See logs being turned into legs (for chairs). Organised by the Middlewood Way Rangers. Tel. 573998

Tuesday 6th 7.15pm

ALPHA COURSE

Lowther Street Church Hall. Explore the meaning of life! First of ten sessions. See 30th Oct. Tel. 572237

Thursday 8th, 8.00pm

QUIZ NIGHT

Red Lion. St. Johns' School P.A.

Friday 9th 7.30pm

FAIR TRADE

Arts Centre. A talk about Traidcraft in India. Come & buy fairly-traded goods. Tickets £1 Tel. 575287 / 573413.

Sunday 11th 10.30am

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Memorial Gardens. Parade starts at Kay Metzler car park. Those taking part: Bollington Brass Band, British Legion, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs

Sunday 11th 8.00pm

REMEMBRANCE CONCERT

Methodist Church. A concert with Bollington Brass Band and Poynton Male Voice Choir.

Friday 16th 8.00pm

LOCAL WILDLIFE

Arts Centre. A talk by David Tolliday to mark the opening of his exhibition of Wildlife Photography. Tickets £2, £1 (concs). Tel. 576715. Exhibition open Sundays 2-4 except Dec 2nd & 23rd.

Friday 16th 8.30pm

BOLLINGTON FOLK CLUB

Upstairs at the Dog & Partridge. Derek Gifford, singer and musician headlines, plus others from the floor. The Folk Club meets every Friday. A small charge is made at the door. Contact Arthur Wakefield on 573596

Saturday 17th 8.00pm

"EMILY DICKINSON AND I"

Arts Centre. An actress decides to write a play about her favourite poet, and finds herself on an unexpected journey. Presented by Lynchpin productions. Tickets: £6, £4 (concs). Tel. 575287 / 573413.

Sunday 18th 7.00pm

WILLIAM BLAKE – ARTIST & POET

Arts Centre. A lecture by Cecil Davis. Tickets £3. Tel. 573494

Saturday 24th 1.30 – 3.30pm

WILDLIFE EXPLORERS

Arts Centre. Make bird food & nesting boxes with David Tolliday. Free event.

Sunday 25th, 1.30pm

COPPICE CARVERY

Poynton Coppice car park. Get there along the Middlewood way from Bolly. See how logs can be turned into dolphins (so they tell us – Ed.) Organised by the Middlewood Way Rangers. Tel. 573998

Friday 30th, 7.30pm

ST. ANDREWS NIGHT DANCE

Arts Centre. With Ploughmans supper, music and dancing. In aid of NSPCC. Tickets £6.00 from the Pharmacy or Tel. 575427 / 572864

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st 2.00pm – 4.00pm

COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

St. John's School, Grimshaw Lane. A social event with a Christmas theme. Christmas goods on sale and a visit from Father Christmas. Tel. 572025

Sunday 2nd 4.30 & 7.30pm

MR SCROOGE & THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL

Arts Centre. Bollington's Children's Music Theatre – A Victorian double bill. Tickets and info. from 0161-427 2870 or <http://www.bcm4life.com/>

Saturday 8th 8.00pm

BOLLINGTON CHAMBER CONCERTS

Arts Centre. CALICHE play haunting music from South America. Hear about it's origins and take the opportunity to look at an impressive array of instruments. Tickets £10 & £3 (concs). Tel. 560355 / 575287.



Sunday 9th 10.00am – 3.00pm

HEDGELAYING

Somewhere on the Middlewood Way. Learn about the ancient craft of layering a hedge. Have a go, even if you've never touched a billhook in your life. For info contact the Middlewood Way Rangers. Tel. 573998

Friday 14th 8.30pm

BOLLINGTON FOLK CLUB

Upstairs at the Dog & Partridge. Ian Bruce the Scottish singer songwriter, plus others from the floor. The Folk Club meets every Friday. A small charge is made at the door. Contact Arthur Wakefield on 573596

Sunday 16th 12 noon – 3.00pm

BODGE IT AGAIN

Nelson Pitt Visitor Centre, Higher Poynton. Get there on your bikes from Bolly. A second chance to see the ancient art of woodturning and the use of a pole lathe. Organised by the Middlewood Way Rangers. Tel. 573998

Sunday 16th 8.00pm

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Methodist Church. Bollington Brass Band. Contact Roger Johnson on 613851

Monday 24th 6.30pm

CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Town Hall. Come and join Bollington Brass Band with Christmas Eve carol singing around the tree. All welcome.

EVENTS

Tuesday 25th 12.00noon

BOLLINGTON BRASS BAND

White Nancy. Bollington Brass Band playing a special Christmas Day concert (of sorts). Work up a hunger for the Turkey. All Welcome.

JANUARY

Friday 4th also 5,6,7,9,10,11,12.

7.00pm - 5,6,7 2.00pm

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Arts Centre. Bollington Festival Players. Tickets £5, £3 (concs) Family tickets also available. Tel. 575227

Friday 18th - February 27th

WEAVING EXHIBITION

Arts Centre. An exhibition by Lorna Cloke, Weaver in Residence at the Silk Heritage Museum.

Saturday 26th 8.00pm

JOHNSTON STRING QUARTET

Arts Centre. This brilliant young quartet will play music by Hayden, James MacMillan and Mendelssohn. Tickets £10, £3 (concs) Tel. 560355 / 575287

FEBRUARY

Saturday 2nd 8.00pm

JAZZ AT THE ARTS CENTRE

Chicago Teddy Bears. Tickets £5. Tel. 574410 / 575287

Saturday 9th 7.30pm

RURAL VOICES

Arts Centre. The Rural Touring Network with Kala Sangram present a evening of south Asian storytelling with dance and music in which local stories are told alongside those from Asian mythology. An evening for all the family. Tickets: £5, £3 (concs) £12 (family) Tel. 575287 / 573413

Saturday 23rd 8.00pm

BOLLINGTON CHAMBER CONCERTS

Arts Centre. The Caractacus String Quartet with members of the Galliard Wind Ensemble. The programme will include a rare opportunity to hear Schuberts' Octet in F Maj. Tickets £10, £3 (concs). Tel. 560355 / 575287.

MARCH

Saturday 2nd 8.00pm

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

Arts Centre. Back by popular demand. Tickets £5 Tel. 574410 / 575287

Sunday 3rd - Sunday 17th

BOLLINGTON ARTS GROUP

Arts Centre. Exhibition

Wednesday 13th - Saturday 16th

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL PLAYERS

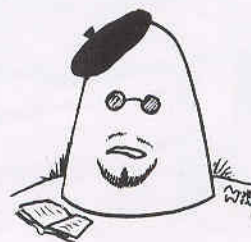
Arts Centre. Spring Production - to be announced later!

BUDDING MUSICIANS WANTED

BRITISH LEGION CORPS OF DRUMS (Bollington) is looking for Buglers, Drummers and flute players to join the band or for anyone keen and willing to learn these instruments. For details contact Keith Gaskell Tel. 575157

Burning Babylon in Bollington

The Bollington Arts Centre's new season opened in style on September 1st with the official launch of "Burning Babylon", the latest book of poetry from local poet, Michael Symmons Roberts. This was a world premiere and here in Bollington!



In "Burning Babylon" Roberts draws upon his own experience of growing up alongside a United States' Air Force base that was the prime nuclear target in England in the last years of the Cold War. His sequence of linked poems charts the rise and fall of Greenham Common Missile Base. Uniquely, Roberts' poems tell the story of a community who just happened to occupy a very public spot in history. And it's haunting stuff - both poetry and history - as the audience at the Arts Centre will testify.

A large audience enjoyed the rare opportunity of listening to exciting modern poetry, challenging but accessible, read aloud by its creator. Roberts interspersed his reading of selected poems from "Burning Babylon" and an earlier collection, "Raising Sparks", with deft sketches of the key ideas and circumstances that inspired particular pieces.

Later, he braved a question and answer session, engaging honestly with his audience in a discussion of his experience of the mysteries and practicalities of writing, of artistic integrity, of collaboration...the conversation could have continued all night.

"Burning Babylon" is a significant artistic achievement for this Bollington poet. His poetry reading was a fine way to start the Arts Centre's autumn programme.

Strange Meeting

"I am the enemy you killed, my friend."
Wilfred Owen

*In accordance with the armistice
a Russian MIG could drop
- at barely two hours notice -
on the peaceful plains of Berkshire*

*So Soviet inspectors could
confirm the silos emptiness
could stamp, slap, shout,
to check the echo's fullness*

*could comb the place for hide or hair
of Cruise, tell-tale signs of sudden
recent moves, the warm prints
of missiles in their midden*

*Of course, the real deal was
a quick stroll through the silos,
then the finest wines, a junket
bilingual toasts to absent friends.*

*Next morning back to Russia
with sore heads and a plane full
of deadly contraband: Pepsi,
Hustler, Levis, Springsteen, Bud*

'Strange Meeting' is from 'Burning Babylon' by Michael Symmons Roberts
Published by Jonathon Cape, price £8. (by kind permission of the author)



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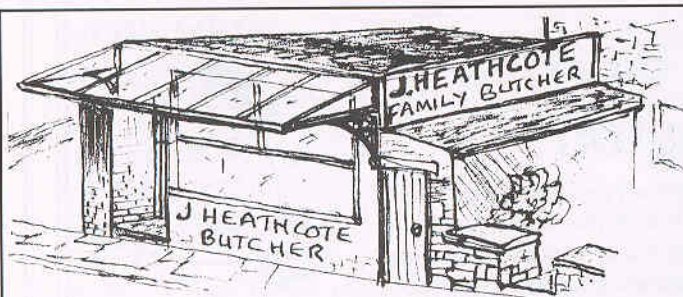
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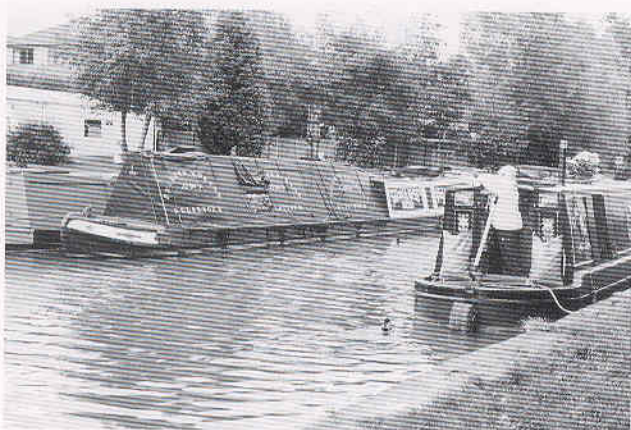
Letters to the Editor



"A Boating Visitor's View of Bollington"

As one approaches bridge 28 coming from Macclesfield into Bollington you are more likely than not to have stones thrown at you from the bridge and then spat be on!

As you approach the Adelphi Mill to moor, you step off your boat into a pile of dog-muck. The towpath there is untidy and unkempt and not very welcoming. Shortly after you've tied up during the school holidays you will be treated all day long to a parade of little fishermen aged around 7 or 8 years old who sit screaming and shouting all day long; their language is appalling. Fxxx



ing this and other four letter words. If you tell them to keep their voices down you are told to Fxxx off. Amazingly they manage to catch endless fish not many of which survive to be put back into the water. They go home leaving litter and dead fish on the tow-path.

Come nightfall, at weekends, you are treated to the older hooligans who frequent the Adelphi Car Park next to the canal. They shout and bawl all night long, then go off, smash up the Groundwork Trust (that was) windows. Then they go down Grimshaw Lane, bang and smash wing mirrors on the parked cars and then scratch them all. ***Welcome to Bollington.***

The answer is:

1. Get youths doing community service to landscape and cut the grass on the towpath and clean the litter up.
2. Get no dog fouling signs up and dog loo bins
3. Open a Police Station in Bollington and get local police to patrol day and night.

They always said "I lived in cloud cuckoo land".

Disgruntled Boater!

(Is this a picture of Bollington that others recognise? What do others think? How about some of our young anglers commenting- Ed.)

94% Of Households in Bollington Prepared to Let Shops Die? - Was Shopping Survey a Farce?

I read with interest the results of your Bollington Shopping Survey, which I also participated in. Although this makes interesting news, a 6% response rate is not scientifically representative of the views of the community.

I was dismayed to read that 58% of your respondents would like to see a medium sized supermarket in the town. I wonder where this might be?

In nearby Whaley Bridge, a beautiful field next to the canal is being destroyed in the debatable 'need' for a supermarket when they already exist in New Mills and Chapel. I suspect a developer might have a similar view for Bollington.

Although I support the development of brown field sites, I am totally opposed to the loss of our beautiful countryside and village heritage, which attracted me to Bollington in the first place.

You ask where a small shopping centre should be sited. I don't believe we need a small shopping centre carving up our green fields. It is the existing shops that we need to save, and they would almost certainly be put out of business by a new shopping centre/supermarket.

Cathy Theaker

(Shops and shopping clearly bring out passions with both our writers and readers. Other responses are welcomed - Ed)

PRIZE CROSSWORD SOLUTION

The winner of the crossword competition was Mr D. Batterton of Cedarway. He won the tickets to the 'Last Night of the Tatton Proms Concert' donated by Performing Arts Management. The response was very good with over 20 correct entries received.

1	W	2	E	3	L	4	I	5	N	6	G	7	T	8	O	9	N
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BRASS BAND MOVE ON UP!

The two events that most sum up the community spirit in Bollington are the Remembrance Sunday March to and Service around our Cenotaph and then joyous carol singing around the tree, outside the Town Hall, on Christmas Eve. These events are made particularly special because of the stirring sound of Bollington Brass Band.



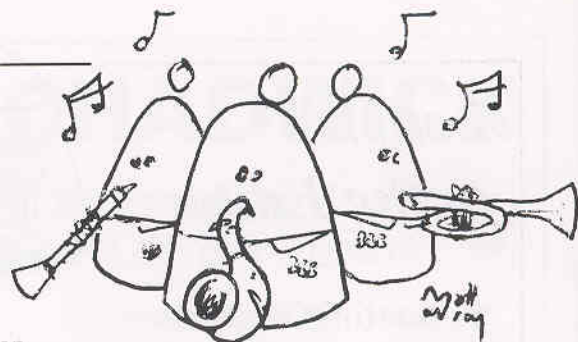
Well they have just moved home - thanks to the generosity of a local businessman! The Band's lease of the Adelphi Mill Lodge, where they have been for the last four years, was due to expire in September of this year. With no suitable premises available it looked as though they would have to re-locate outside the village or be 'out on the streets'.

It was then that Ted Clunn, Managing Director of Land and City properties, stepped in. Ted had attended one of the Band's concerts, heard about their plight, and generously offered to allow them to use premises at Clarence Mill - rent-free - for the next twelve months. After a busy week, moving equipment, music and instruments, the Band eventually took possession of the old "Toads" nightclub at the end of August. Band Chairman Roger Johnson expressed his

gratitude to Mr Clunn, but stressed that the Band are still looking for a permanent home: "Ted's wonderful gesture has secured our immediate future and we are extremely grateful to him for his generosity. However, we are still hopeful of having permanent premises of our own, and would welcome any similar offers of help."

The Band have also just appointed a new Musical Director - Peter Christian. Peter has been playing in brass bands since he was 9 and has a huge experience, playing with several different bands including the prestigious Black Dyke Mills Band winning many National and European titles with them. Peter then decided to concentrate his talents on conducting. Early successes with the Marple "B" and Chapel-en-le-Frith bands culminating in being invited to conduct Strabane Concert Brass, whom he led to two Irish National Championships, before accepting the offer to conduct Bollington Brass Band in August of this year.

The Senior Band meet every Monday and Thursday from 8pm till 10pm and welcome new musicians or just spectators, an audience is always appreciated. There is also a Novice Band that meets from 6 till 6.30 pm on Mondays and a Training band that meets from 6.45 till 7.45. Bringing on new talent is an important part of the Bands' ethos.



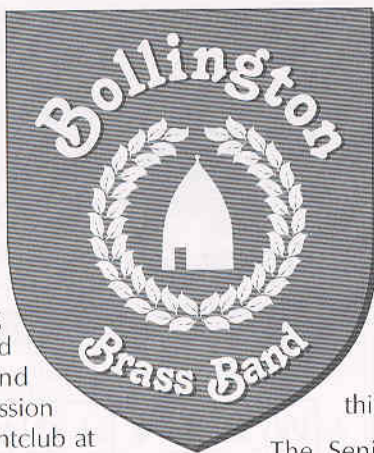
We wish Peter the very best. The Bollington Brass Band contributes much to our town, entertaining us at so many events and also providing great opportunities for youngsters who want to learn an instrument and play with others. To many of us they provide a vibrant soundtrack to life in Bollington.

For more information contact Roger Johnson on 613851 RJ



STOP PRESS - Peters' magic seems to be working already. On Sunday 22nd September, whilst competing in the Buxton Entertainments Contest, the band came a creditable second overall, and the percussion section were judged best on day - **congratulations!**

(Check the 'What's On' pages for forthcoming chances to see (and hear!) Bollington Brass Band in action)



The Band pictured last year, under the previous musical director, Tim Power.

WADDLE LONG WAY TO GO!



A group of early birds were sighted walking up Grimshaw Lane, Bollington. They have come from the canal to have a gander (I hope there are no more like this, I'll go quackers! – Ed) at the new pond in St John's School playing field on Grimshaw Lane just before the official opening on Sunday 8th July 2001.

The idea began with a playground design competition for the pupils of St. John's School. Many of the designs included a water feature and so it was agreed that this would be 'Phase 1' of a Grand Plan to redevelop part of the playground.

National Lottery funding was obtained to get the project started and scale plans were drawn up. As Groundforce were unavailable, Groundwork was called in to help and a pond was created. The Groundwork Trust obtained a source of plants and we were well on the way to attracting wildlife into the school grounds.

Beautiful customised tree seats have been supplied by the wood skills services at the drop in centre. The children use these to sit and observe nature or just chat.

The children worked with a willow weaver to create willow seats funded by the Cheshire Building Society. These seats are now sprouting! The Urban Rangers helped the children build nest boxes and a bird table, which was soon discovered by the local birds. Vegetable seeds sown by the children in raised planters are now doing so well that all visitors to the garden go away with as many pea plants as they can carry!

The pond was stocked with creatures from neighbouring ponds and a rockery of local stone formed the perfect backdrop.

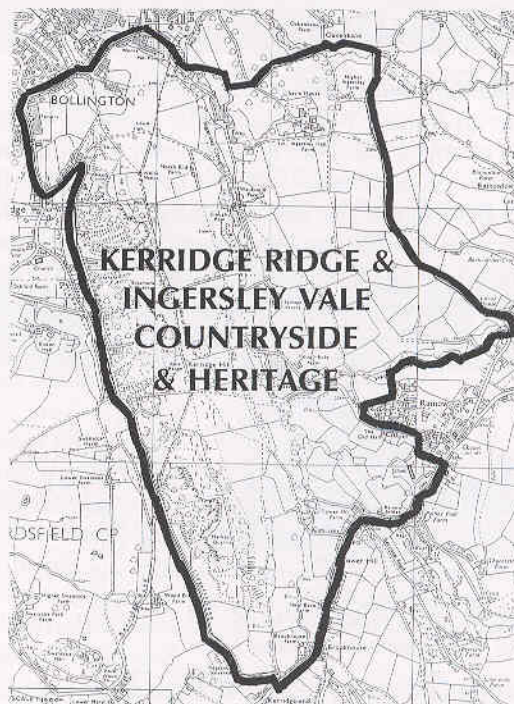
So there we have it, a watering hole for ducks, so they're not completely quackers to be walking up Grimshaw Lane, just checking out the new facilities!

Phase 2 will be an outdoor classroom gazebo, any donations or offers of help can be sent to the school.



Pictured (L to R) Nicholas Jenkins, Lee Berry, Jeanette Jenkins (P.A. Chair) Paula Revill (Groundwork), Suzanne Jenkins, David Dooley, Elizabeth Wild (almost hidden) and Daniel Jones.

KERRIDGE QUEST



Readers of Bollington Live! will probably have already heard about the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale project, which is being funded by the Local Heritage Initiative (Lottery funds being administered through the Countryside Agency). The project is being co-ordinated by Bollington resident, Hilary Trodd of the Groundwork Trust on Grimshaw Lane.

The aim of this novel project is to identify, safeguard and enhance the ecological, historical and landscape features of the area between Rainow and Bollington. That is the area outlined on the map, which includes the White Nancy and Kerridge Ridge, Savio House and grounds, Hough Hole House and the farmland and footpaths in the valley of the river Dean. At this stage information is being gathered and we need your help to find out as much as we can about the history of the area, which contains many features of the early industrial revolution and of quarrying. George Longden, a well-known local historian, is putting together the history of the area in a report for the project steering group.

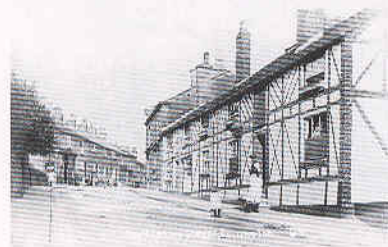
Some of the older residents of Bollington may well have old photographs, press articles or just memories of the area and if you do please telephone Hilary on 572681 or call in at the Groundwork offices on Grimshaw Lane.

A correction to sponsors FRIENDLY GIANTS

One of our sponsors called to say that we had printed their name wrongly. It got me wondering "Who are they?". A little internet searching soon found the answer; "Friendly Giants Ltd - Developers of games, desktop toys and web aware applications for the internet, mobile phones, digital TV and handheld devices". They are based in the Adelphi Mill. Check them out at www.friendlygiants.com.

From Berrechid to Bollington . . .

The Meridian looks as it has always looked from the outside, an honest Bollington pub. The only exterior signs of changes afoot are the new coat of paint, and a front door colour scheme which is rather brighter than most in Bollington. The interior design is of a similarly vibrant nature, utilising lime green, aquamarine and terracotta in a dazzling riot of colour. *This is certainly not the Meridian of old.*



The Meridian, c1910. Notice the mock tudoring, clearly pubs were 'themed' even then.

the bare floorboards and rugs in the lounge, and stone flags in the side passageway. These features have always made The Meridian special.

It is however the food which makes The Meridian different, perhaps unique. The Ryad Moroccan Restaurant uses the three front rooms, and at the weekend it is advisable to book in advance. Word of mouth has spread quickly and positively about the food, and on my visit, I was not disappointed. The most intriguing choice on the menu was Sefa, a chicken dish, topped with tagine, icing sugar, cinnamon and almonds, so Sefa it was, following a starter of spicy sizzling prawns, which arrived in an earthenware dish, and as it said on the menu, were indeed sizzling and spicy. The main course was full of flavours, and again arrived piping hot, straight from the kitchen - no warming up in the microwave here.

Thankfully, the Meridian is still a pub, with the main lounge room dedicated to the purpose of drinking. Good beer it is too, with Yorkshire's Black Sheep Best Bitter as the regular real ale at a reasonable price, and a soon to be arriving guest beer - Greene King IPA was mentioned. It is good that some of Bollington's pubs are beginning to experiment with different beers; The Poachers, Church



House and now The Meridian, offer a wide variety of real ales within easy walking distance of one another. Not a pub crawl, I prefer to call it a real ale ramble, it sounds far more civilised!

The Meridian is owned and run by Diane and Keith Vaughan, Keith is from the former Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), while Diane is English, and the couple met in South Africa where they previously ran a pub. The chef, of course, is from Morocco and a friendly welcome is to be had whether just enjoying a drink or visiting for the food. I definitely recommend doing both. Barrechid to Bollington? Marrakech at the Meridian? Try it, and see for yourself.

AH

*(It would be too much to hope that the **Bollington Live!** campaign for diversity in our pubs is having an effect, nonetheless it is pleasing that the steel shutters that adorned the Meridian (and the front cover of Bolly Live!)*



*have been removed to reveal such an innovative venture. Bollington is lucky to have some dedicated restaurants, and several pub/restaurants like the Meridian. All seemingly find sufficient clientèle. Is this another sign of the gentrification process that is steadily overtaking our town? Since the last issue of **Bollington Live!** Several new businesses have started up. We have a new delicatessen and hairstyling salon, but the loss of Pearnies is sad. It is up to us to assure the success of these new businesses. Go down and get some black olives and salami! - Ed)*

BIRD SURVEY

The Macclesfield RSPB carry out an annual garden bird survey which is a popular and important event running from autumn till spring. They want to find out how much of a paradise our gardens in Bollington really are.

From previous records returned from Bollington, forty-four different species of birds have been recorded. Great spotted woodpeckers,

nuthatches, long-tailed tits, brilliant finches such as bullfinches, greenfinches and chaffinches have all been spotted in gardens. Along the canal, heron, moorhens and mute swans can be seen, as well as our ever-present neighbours, the feisty and opportunist mallard.

However, we think there are many more species to be counted around Bollington. By completing a weekly tick list over the winter and spring you can help provide a more accurate indication of Bollington's

birds. It will also help to tell us what is happening to sparrows, starlings, thrushes, wagtails and wrens, once common but becoming increasingly scarce. This is something that all the family can get involved with, and you will probably be surprised at the number of different species of birds you notice.

If you can help then please send a SAE to Peter Kirk (our local RSPB group Leader) Field Rise, Dumbah Lane, Bollington, SK105AB. **RK**

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THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING



BOLLINGTON

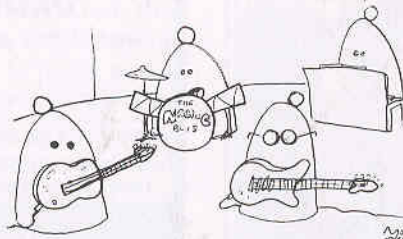
Live!

Music ... from the 'ART

Remember the old days? The music on all the Radio Stations? Wake up to The Kinks, have a bit of Jimi Hendrix over breakfast, go to and come back from work to The Beatles and then a bit of Pink Floyd or Jefferson Airplane as you go to bed. Those were the days. The pity is, no one can really remember those days, can we? The days of PROPER music. The chugga-chugga days of guitar – based bands. What have we got now? What are our ears bombarded with night and day? The happy clappy sound of "pop" music.

What has happened to pop? Producers, battling each other to make the most synthesised artificial sound humanly possible, have attacked it. And Nu-metal? Old-school metal for me, my friends. Metal and rock. The nice heavy guitar of Led Zep, and Deep Purple, not this GRO AAA AAA AA AAAAA AA GGGG GGGGG HHHH HHHH CHUGGA CHUGGA of "Slipknot". What kind of a name is Slipknot anyway? And Limp Bizkit? An awful band, with their name derived from a floppy piece of confectionary?

Of course, there are still some original guitar based bands about, like Oasis, Blur, Pulp, Muse, and (dare I say it), REM. But this is not enough!



The point I'm trying to make is this. We need proper music back on. On the TV, on the Radio, on everything. We can do this by encouraging more budding guitarists to come forward. More guitarist, drummers, keyboard players, bassists – Bollington's a big place, and there's got to be some quality bands around somewhere. Macclesfield has the right idea.



Macclesfield is a place full of amazing

P.N. performing at 'Nottagefest 2001' in the Arts Centre, last May

bands, such as The Kirkz, Lookin and The Four Tomorrows. **Why can't WE have something like that?** Why don't we use The Arts Centre to promote this type of music? It would be like Knights Bar in Macclesfield, or Bar Cuba. It would create a lot of interest and revenue that the Arts Centre so desperately needs. It could bring the community together. Once a week, maybe Friday or Saturday nights (maybe both), the young and old can gather together and swap their knowledge of music.

This is where **you** come in. To make this idea work we need PEOPLE. **People like you.** You don't necessarily have to be interested in playing music. Not only do we need bands, we also need other people. Roadies, Bouncers – setting up a music venue is a hard business, and without people it would be nothing. You don't have to be into any particular music style – you could prefer folk to rock, or maybe blues – the point is that without interest being expressed, this idea can't be put into practice.

So, if you aren't interested, or if you just "don't like" music, then skip this and read something else. But if you ARE interested – in live music, then we could make it happen. Before doing anything, however – I need interest. Email me at bolpete@hotmail.com, with information on who you are, your interests, if you're in a band, and if not, what you could do to help.

Lovely, ta.

PN

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BOLLINGTON

Live!