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Live!

Number Twenty Four

Spring 2002

IN THIS ISSUE

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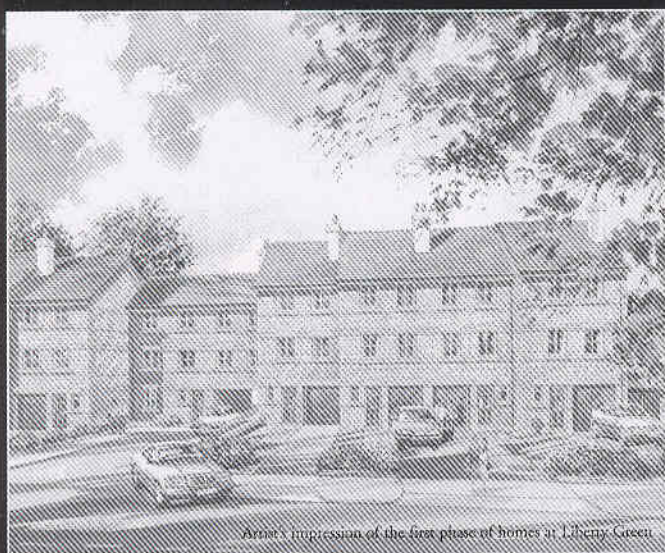
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Cover: Pictures taken during the shooting of the forthcoming BBC series "Ted & Alice". It stars Dawn French, Eleanor Bron and Stephen Tompkinson and is due to be screened at Easter

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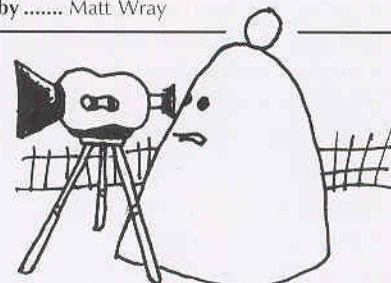
Printed by Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)

Cartoons by Matt Wray

Welcome to Bollywood!

Lights! Camera! Action! For a couple of weeks last autumn, Bollington played host to Granada Television. As the town developed an unreal air, the shop fronts were changed, and we were metamorphosed into the fictitious Britain in Bloom-winning Lake District village of Roby.

Not since the mid 1970s has Bollington been the centre of a television show. Back then, the show was 'Stars Fall Down', a period drama, in which doors were re-painted and false windows inserted to the homes and shops. If you were lucky enough to be on the set, you received five pounds for the inconvenience of two extra coats of



The television stars were out in force, Dawn French, large as life and twice as natural, could be seen strolling up High Street from the 'visitor centre', chatting outside the florists, and disappearing towards the art gallery in Watson's Yard. In between takes she chatted with the many onlookers, signed autographs and posed for photographs. She seemed happy to mingle, and commented on what a pleasant town Bollington was, a view echoed by the other celebrities.

Stephen Tompkinson, star of 'Ballykissangel' and the very recent 'In Deep' could be found enjoying a glass of wine in the charity shop (it seemed very much like a travel agency inside). He too was happy to talk to everyone, giving advice on acting to students studying drama, and discussing the many television series in which he has been involved. I was most impressed when he offered to come and talk to the students at the school where I work.



paint on your front door. The money involved this time seems to have increased considerably.

Bollington was chosen to represent the Lake District village as it is relatively unfamiliar. Had the filming had been in one of the real Lake District towns, the area could soon have become swamped with onlookers. As it is you might see some familiar local faces, as several people were called upon to act as extra's, just walking past or browsing in the visitor shop!

Several local premises have been used this time, 'The Poachers' became 'The Cow', while along High Street you could find the 'Roby Charity Shop', 'Roby Visitor Centre' and 'Roby Cycles' along with several Bed and Breakfast establishments. It seemed a good deal livelier than the real Britain in Bloom award-winning Bollington!



How many people in his position would freely give up their afternoon off to undertake such an activity?

Tompkinson plays an alien, who tries to assimilate with the locals and who falls in

Continued overleaf...

Continued from page 3

love with Dawn French - a strange recipe for a show, perhaps, but we will have to wait and see what emerges on our screens.

Possibly Bollington will become one of those places on the 'Television Tours', with coach loads of people roaming the Market Place, pointing and saying, "ooh, there's where the visitor centre should be" as they click their cameras, and try to find a suitable place for a cup of tea and a souvenir.

Should we encourage visitors? There is definitely a market out there, as places like Holmfirth and Goathland have proved, their local economies swelled by the influx of visitors. Maybe this is just what Bollington's struggling businesses need to survive?

Perhaps the new Bollington Business Forum, or the Council's Trade and Tourism Committee should be looking at ways to market our town in this seemingly popular area of tourism. What do you think? I suppose it depends on whether people like the show or not. **AH**



During the filming of 'Ted & Alice', a young High Street resident, Ben Moorehouse secured, we believe, a small 'squeaking' role in the show... for his furry friend, Charlie the Ferret. Look out for him when the show is screened at Easter! **Ed**



CHILDREN MAKING HAY... FOR 25 YEARS!

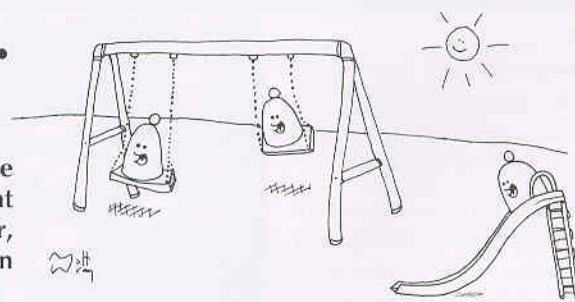
Heyday Preschool, on Water Street in Bollington, has been the starting blocks for many Bollington children, past and present (all of my kids went there - Ed). Sue Sutton, the assistant Supervisor, has been working there now for twenty five years and has seen quite a few changes over that time.

"The children who come to Heyday now are much more confident and happy to tell us what they what". The ever changing legislation to protect children has created extra administration and made Sue's job more difficult, but it means that Heyday is a secure environment for the children to take their first steps in learning basic social skills and, it goes without saying, to have fun!

As well as the usual painting, drawing, jigsaws etc. the children have a safe

indoor play area where they can use bikes and climbing equipment when it is unsuitable to play outside. They also have a classroom where the older children go and do simple lessons and have a go with the computers to prepare them for life at primary school.

Heyday is run as a charity by a committee of parents. They are always keen for new parents to join the committee and contribute to the decision-making processes.



Sue says she has had an enormous amount of pleasure seeing the children develop and get ready for "big school". If you have a child of preschool age why not give Heyday a try and if you want to help the staff and the other mums in the running of a Preschool, all the better!! For more information and a prospectus please call 01625 574054 between the hours of 9.15am. and 12.15pm.

BOLLINGTON'S BARD

Last autumn at the Arts Centre Michael Symmons Roberts read from "Burning Babylon", his latest collection of poetry. Afterwards I talked to Michael about the purpose and practicalities of being a contemporary poet.

Asked about his "roots", Michael explained that moving to Bollington eight years ago "felt like coming home". His parents hail from Lancashire and although he has spent many years away he is happy to term himself a Northerner. Since moving to Bollington three collections of his poetry have been published: "Soft Keys", "Raising Sparks" and "Burning Babylon". "Raising Sparks" includes numerous references to Bollington buildings, trees and local reservoirs.

I asked Michael what living in Bollington has offered his writing.

"It's difficult to separate the location from the life. Ours has been the common but profound experience of a relatively newly-married couple becoming a family. Our three sons were born here ..."

"... I feel that my writing has, in some way, been preoccupied with borders and those interesting experiences and effects of being right on the edge of something, for example on that boundary between wakefulness and sleep. Bollington, geographically, is a space that sits between two distinct, quite contrasting landscapes; this border suits my interests well."

"More than this, Bollington is one of the rare, surviving examples of a community in which people support each other. It is not good for anyone in the Arts to feel isolated. There is a danger that city-living can produce a certain sort of coldness. I want my writing to reflect the human sense I treasure, of being part of a community here in Bollington."

Reading aloud is a significant part of a poet's working life and Michael has read at festivals and proms, universities and schools - as well as at our Arts Centre and in a very wet marquee for the last Festival.

"Poetry readings are strange, rather formal events. Needless to say, I think. People have a feeling that they ought to be silent. Sometimes, between poems you can almost hear the tumbleweed blowing across the plain. It can be a rather bleak moment when you move from one poem to the next and you're thinking, "What on earth did they make of that?" Sometimes in a very intimate space you can hear the murmurs and see the nods but at bigger readings you quickly start on the next poem to break the silence. I thoroughly enjoyed this reading at the Arts Centre, though."

Expecting

*There is another heart beating in this house,
another shoulder turning in the night.
Rain drips lost onto the unlit fire.
Gutters slowly clag with pasted leaves.
Quinces sharpen, shrivelling on their thorns
Tended by the last few punch-drunk bees.
Maybe rain will slake the eucalyptus tree
Whose desperate roots have undermined the house
And opened up an old crack in its face.
Somehow, from the summer's shallow sea,
A curl in the current was salvaged
And has grown into a miracle, a fish out of water,
looping and rolling through autumn and freeze.*

From Raising Sparks: Jonathon Cape 1999

At primary school Michael was expected to write a poem each week and to stand and read it in assembly. Aged nine, he submitted a poem to the Newbury Times, showing early confidence that writing "was something I did". Later, at about seventeen, two poets, Dylan Thomas and the American writer John Berryman, "re-ignited the spark" of Michael's youthful interest, revealing "new, rich possibilities of language". It was then that he made his decision to be a writer. Poetry now, though not an obsession, is "not something that I could leave behind".

He identifies himself as a lyric poet in the tradition of Donne,



Wordsworth and Dylan Thomas, in whose poems "sound matters almost as much as meaning". Michael borrows the phrase "playing jazz with classical forms". His themes may be serious but his poems are accessible not grand

Two weekdays comprise "the heartland" of Michael's writing. He regards it as a luxury to have time set apart for writing new poems in longhand or for reconsidering a three- or four-month-old poem on a computer screen. On other days he has deadlines to meet for commissions from the BBC, for whom he works part-time. He also, like any father, has children to walk to school, and to swimming and to football... For this busy Bollington poet art has to take its place alongside family life.

For anyone new to Michael's poetry, the two with which he is most satisfied are "The Lung Wash" and "Expecting", both from 'Raising Sparks' ('Burning Babylon' poems lean on each other and are not so easily isolated).

If called upon to convert a roomful of disbelievers and poetry-haters, Michael would read them "The Sun Rising" by John Donne, "The Man-Moth" by Elizabeth Bishop and "anything from 'Birthday Letters' by Ted Hughes".

JS

Bollington Live!

The Index 2

The last index was in issue 12, so issue number 24 seems a good time to repeat the exercise. The list shows the diversity of the magazine content. Thanks are due to all the contributors.

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IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO TODAY...

Well almost. On the 8th July, 1982 Bollington's 'new' Fire Station was opened. Its predecessor, also on Albert Road, was 100 metres away.

At that time, Bollington had the busiest retained station in Cheshire with nearly 500 calls a year - one of them during the opening ceremony when an appliance departed hastily to an incident at Parkside Hospital.

I doubt whether the problems caused by traffic and parents dropping off their children at the two schools on Albert Road were a consideration when the station was built. Hard to believe, but the fire fighters have, on occasion, had to physically lift parked cars out of the way when the road has become too constricted.

In order to mark the opening, pottery mugs depicting the exterior of station and the Cheshire Fire Brigade motif were sold for £1.50. Does anyone have one of these still?

1982 doesn't seem so far away but the vehicles and uniforms of the day seem curiously dated don't they?



Newspaper photos showing the opening ceremony. Pictured above are:

Counc. G.A.Isted, Mayor Betty Bonson, Rev. J.B. Warburton, Counc. B.S.Jeuda and County Fire Officer A.N.Lightbody.

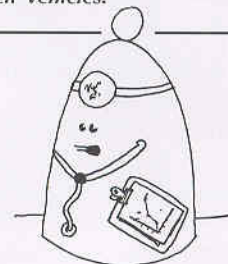
Top photo shows members of Bollington Fire Service, alongside one of their vehicles.

HEALTH ADVICE - ASTHMA

The first of an occasional series of articles about common health problems by Dr Jean Coope

Asthma is due to reversible tightening of tiny tubes through which air reaches the lungs. In a bad attack phlegm and cells block the smaller tubes and the patient becomes wheezy and breathless and may have pain or tightness of the chest. Proteins such as pollen, cat or dog cells, food or moulds trigger the allergic reaction and cold air, exercise, smoke, cleaning sprays or infections may make something worse.

Asthma is treated by tablets or inhalers such as salbutamol (ventolin) which open up the airways. Corticosteroid inhalers or tablets prevent allergic reactions but do not work immediately so are best used as background long-term prevention. Patients on steroid tablets should carry a warning card so that they are not stopped suddenly.



Most general practices run an asthma clinic with specialist nurses and doctor available where you can be assessed and your treatment monitored, the aim is to control asthma by reducing allergic triggers and tailoring preventative treatment so you can lead a normal life.

There is little scientific evidence about other therapies such as Buteyko breathing and you should ask the clinic nurse before changing or adding to treatment.

Most asthmatics are not invalids. Oh, and don't forget your medication when you go on holiday!

(The author developed severe asthma at the age of thirty and at time of writing is alive and well aged seventy-three).

Additional advice from:-

Sr. Christine Loveday, Sr. Susan Welsh, Dr. Debbie Maxwell, Dr. Gerald Coope

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BOLLINGTON



MARCH

Sunday 3rd – Sunday 17th

VISUAL ARTS GROUP

Arts Centre. Bollington Arts Group
Exhibition of paintings & sculpture.

Wed. 13th – Sat. 16th 7:45pm

BLOODY JACK

Arts Centre. Bollington Festival Players
present this thriller by Tim Kelly based
on the murders of Jack the Ripper.
Call 572527 for more details.

Sunda, 17th 7:00pm

ISLAM-THEM AND US

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lecture by Ann Armitage about Islamic
culture, politics and religion. £3 door.

Friday 22nd – Sunday 5th May

LOOKING BACK AT BOLLINGTON

Arts Centre. A retrospective exhibition
of paintings, drawings and prints by
Ken Mosley. Open Sundays 2 – 4pm
and during other events. Tel: 572872

Saturday 23rd 8:00pm

BOCHMANN STRING QUARTET

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£3 (conc.) Tel: 560355 or 575287

Tuesday 26th 7:30pm

ROBIN HOOD

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Company present a right frolic in the
forest suitable for everyone over 12.
Tickets £5, £3 (conc.), £12 family.
Tel: 575287 or 573413

APRIL

Saturday 6th 8:00pm

SMOKY CITY JAZZ BAND

Arts Centre. Tickets £5
Tel: 574410 or 575287

Sunday, 7th 10:30am – 1:30pm

WELL I NEVER KNEW THAT

Rangers Office, Adlington Rd. A
13km (8 mile) circular ramble
through the Bollington and Kerridge
countryside. No dogs please!

Sunday, 21st 4.30pm and 7.30pm

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Arts Centre. Deep Waters by Cecilia
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Tuna and the Electric Eels who can
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www.bcmt.url4life

Saturday 27th 2.00pm

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MAY

Thursday, 16th 7.30pm – 9.30pm

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limited. Tel: 504504 to book.

Saturday, 18th 7.00pm – 9.00pm

SPRING EVENING IN KERRIDGE

Bus Stop on Jackson Lane, Kerridge
Map Ref: SJ935773. A 6km (4 mile)
ramble looking at the history and
wildlife of Kerridge along some of its
hidden pathways. With Ranger Ed
Pilkington. No dogs please.

Sat. 25th and Sun. 26th 10am – 6pm

BOLLINGTON ARTS GROUP

Civic Hall. Annual Exhibition.
Admission free.

Sunday, 26th 2.00pm

TREASURE HUNT WALK

Start from St. John's School & finish in
a local pub. An afternoon out for all
the family. Tel: 574224.

JUNE

Saturday 8th 2.00pm

JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY

St. Oswald's Church, Bollington Cross,

Friday, 14th – Saturday, 27th July

PAPER SCULPTURES

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Tel: 576715



Bochmann String Quartet appearing at
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Sunday, 30th 12pm – 2pm

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JULY

Friday 12th, 7.00pm

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Tuesdays, 8pm

Festival Choir

Arts Centre. Tel: 0161 427 2870

Wednesdays, 8pm

Festival Players

Arts Centre. Tel: 574583

Thursdays 10.40 - 11.40am

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Bridge Club

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Thursdays, 8pm

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Arts Centre. Tel: 574085

Various days & times- call for details

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Tai Chi

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If you're thinking that we are a bit light on
events this issue, you're right. Collecting and
collating information about events is a large
job, and there is only so much digging we can
do. If you have an event that you want to
promote send the information to the editor
at the addresses shown on page three. We
need to know when and where, a bit about
what, and a contact and price if appropriate.
If you would like to help us put the events
page together then do please get in touch,
help is always gratefully received.

EVENTS

SANELINE

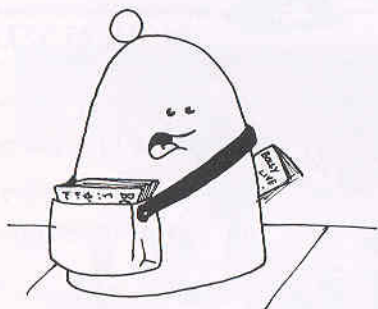
– CAN YOU HELP?

Saneline is the only national mental health telephone helpline open every day of the year. Anyone affected by mental health problems can call the helpline and volunteers, offering emotional support and practical information, will answer their calls.

One of their three national Saneline centres is in Macclesfield and several volunteers come from Bollington.

This is an opportunity to help a leading national charity provide a vital service. You can also gain confidence and personal skills. Training is free.

If you can spare four hours a week (very flexible – the helpline is open 12 noon to 2am, seven days a week) and would like to know more, phone 01625 429050 and ask Anna, Alison or Hal for an information pack. (The actual helpline number is 0845 767 8000.)



PART-TIME POST-WORKERS WANTED!

Bollington Live! is delivered to your door by a small army of volunteers. About 40 people post the magazine through your letterboxes. Some of the rounds are getting unmanageable and we desperately need some more helpers. An average round takes about 2 or 3 hours 3 times per year. If you are keen to help, please contact the editor on 01625 576397, e-mail him at bollylive@oldbro.org or write c/o Bollington Print Shop.

COMING OF AGE -The Arts Centre

Yes, it is nearly 18 years since Dr. John (Coope) persuaded a number of people and organisations to support the purchase of the Methodist Sunday School to form Bollington Arts Centre.

With a lot of hard work from a small group of people the Arts Centre has succeeded, with generous donations, to pay off its original loans and is not (as PN suggests – BL 23) 'desperately in need of revenue' but is managing to hold its own financially. Certainly we would like to build up a substantial surplus for the future to maintain and extend the building (re-roofing will be necessary in a year or two). It is unlikely that this can be achieved without further donations or grants.

As suggested by PN what we need is PEOPLE, preferably a lot younger than the ageing volunteers who have run the Arts Centre for 18 years. If this can be achieved through live bands as he suggests, OK, but there is a limited availability, most of 2002 is already booked on Saturdays with live music ranging from classical chamber concerts to jazz groups, but also including theatrical productions both professional and amateur. All these and other events need voluntary stewards, bar staff, programme sellers etc. If you are willing to help please contact me on 572103.

MUSICAL APATHY?

Let me start with a question. What is the population of Bollington? Almost 7000, apparently. Almost seven thousand people live in this little village.

Out of that, how many people are into music? Quite a few – let's say two thirds. I reckon about half of those people can play one instrument or other, and would love to play to other people.

At the moment we're down to 2100 people. All these people could get into bands, and play to other people. 2100 people. Twenty-one hundred people. Two and a bit thousand. Quite a mouthful, isn't it? So can anyone please tell me WHY, out of 2100 people, have I only had eight replies to my last article? **Eight people** have decided to side with me in my argument that Bollington needs more live music. **Less than half of one percent** of the musical population have decided to help me make a difference. **Let's Try Again!**

WAKE UP BOLLINGTON. Don't come complaining when you're bored. Contact me by e-mail: boltpete@hotmail.com, or write to me c/o Bollington Printshop. **Apathy Rulezzzzz.....??** PN

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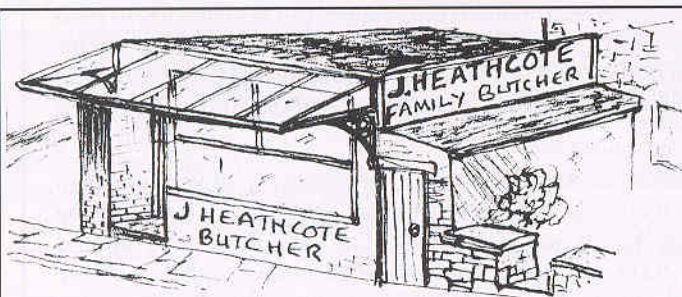
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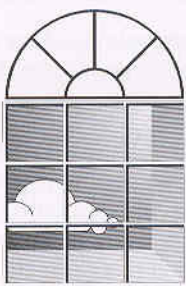
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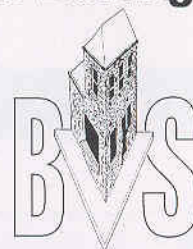
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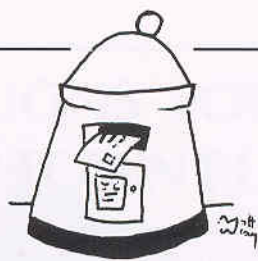
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Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir,

I read the two letters in your October issue with interest, as there is a connection between both.

I think your Disgruntled Boater must have arrived in Bollington on a particularly bad day. Having lived here all my life and spent much of my time on my parents' various canal boats I don't quite recognise the Dodge City scenario he (or she) describes. It is however hard to disagree with the three solutions proposed to the village's problems.

The place generally has become scruffy. In many parts the roads look like the Americans have been bombing them and the less said about the traffic the better.

Am I alone in wondering why, in summer, Macclesfield's and Congleton's roundabouts look like something out of the Gardening Programme whilst ours (the one on the Silk Road) boasts a few tatty conifers and a "Happy 40th Birthday, Jim" sign?

As for dogs there must be packs of them roaming the pavements judging by the amount of dog doings that they produce. Your correspondent is correct in stating that the towpath is a particular problem. Maybe not all Bollingtonians realise but the Macclesfield Canal is one of the most popular canals in the country. Each year thousands of people pass through our village on it but not that many people make an overnight stop. The towpath is untidy and overgrown, there is a lack of proper mooring facilities and with the dogs you've got to watch your step, quite literally. In fact, we do all we can to make sure these visitors with money burning a hole in their pockets move on and spend it somewhere else.

Which brings me to your other letter. I believe that many people in the village do use the local shops for small and speciality purchases (The late shop seems to have a permanent queue so it must be busy) but will usually go to one of the large supermarkets outside the village for their main weekly shop. All the pleadings and surveys in the world won't change this and we shouldn't be so inward looking. We certainly don't want a medium sized supermarket. So why not try and make the place attractive enough for visitors to come to (especially if they're attractive moorings. Once that's done promote our shops, pubs, restaurants & other services with a leaflet which could be distributed to marinas and hire boat companies (the recent Transport Extravaganza publication was an excellent example of what can be produced). Once word got round, the village would become a favourite overnight stop and local businesses would benefit.

I could also go on about the Middlewood Way which again attracts visitors but from which Bollington businesses don't get the full benefit. Where do they get refreshments? I don't know but it probably isn't from us, as we don't promote ourselves. Then there are the hikers...

Anyway got to dash. I'm going to brave the "Krapton Factor" Obstacle Course and walk to the pub.

Robert Gratton, Church Street

Editors' note:-

Litter and dog mess continue to dominate our postbag.

Of particular offence to me (a dog owner and 'poop scooper') is the not uncommon practice of people who 'scoop the poop' into little polythene bags and then **throw the bag into the bushes!** Why? Surely this is much worse than the mess by itself!



Ian Whitehurst sent us this picture of a Bollington Cross School Play during the 1920s.

His father John (Jack to his friends) is in the picture.

We are interested to see if we can put names to all the faces.

Please write if you recognise anyone or, perhaps, were even there yourself.

PICTURE PUZZLERS

This curiously familiar shaped structure was spotted by a Bollington Live! reader many miles from home.

Does anyone have any witty ideas on what it might be? We'll print the best ideas and the real answer next issue.



THANK YOU Mr. ENGINE DRIVER

I have the honour to be a cousin of Councillor Betty Bonson, who regularly sends me Bollington Live! I await its arrival with keen anticipation, although I left the Happy Valley well over fifty years ago. Now I can't help wondering if I'm missing something!

When I was a lad we had to make do – or, rather, were utterly content with – Mr Scroggins singing the solos in 'Olivet To Calvary' or Christmas Pantomimes at the Large Sunday School. Now you have George Melly on the Pre-Raphaelites (who were they?) and the Sorrel String Quartet playing Schostakovich (not much more than a lad himself in my day).

Your feature 'Railway Days' gave me particular pleasure and brought back sharp memories of the journeys I made to Manchester with my Great Auntie Lizzie in the early thirties. Born a Hamson at the shop in Bollington, she married Robert Chisholm, a Scots Canadian soldier in the Great War, when she was already middle-aged. After the



wedding in Chester they had tea in Blossom's Hotel and then she kissed him goodbye at the station. He died three days later in the mud of Flanders and Auntie Lizzie became a widow without ever having been a wife.

As a young woman she had been much admired for her mandolin playing and her beautiful shoulders (this latter attribute completely baffled me) but now she retreated into piousness, often with agonising results for me. My fellow choristers at St. John's would grin and nudge as the congregation gabbled through the Lord's Prayer, but Auntie Lizzie, in her place immediately under the pulpit, slowly, tremulously and sanctimoniously ploughed on at half the general pace and thus was all on her own for "Thine is the Kingdom etc.".

But infinitely worse were the railway journeys that were undertaken in order to visit the sales. Sometimes I had to accompany Auntie Lizzie and this was supposed to be a treat. The moment I dreaded was when we reached the London Road Terminus in Manchester and had to walk past the front of the train. When I made this trip with my father or my mother the engine driver would always be hanging out of his cab to greet his regulars with a friendly nod, but in some mysterious way he always knew when Auntie Lizzie was travelling and remained inside, where he could dimly be seen examining valves and gauges. Undaunted by his indifference, Auntie Lizzie would rattle



her umbrella on the side of the engine at the same time gripping me very firmly by the hand. "Coosee, Mr Engine Driver!" At this point the luckless man would realise it was hopeless pretending not to hear and reluctantly stuck out his head. Auntie Lizzie would wave her umbrella at him.

"Good morning Mr Engine Driver. There's a young man here who wants to say something to you," and she would jerk my arm encouragingly. The young man would be deeply engaged in a minute examination of the pigeons flying about under the smoke-stained glass dome high above his head. There was another jerk on my arm.

"Come along now! What was it you wanted to say so nicely to the Engine Driver?" But I was hopelessly tongue-tied and had transferred all my attention to my boots.

"Oh never mind Missus," the Engine Driver said, rubbing the rail of his cab with an oily rag and winking at me. But, of course, it was no use. Auntie Lizzie would put her fingers under my chin and make me look up. "Say thank you to the Engine Driver for bringing us safely all this way."

"Thank you," I would say, dragging my gaze down to my boots again.

"That's alright sonny." But this didn't do at all for Auntie Lizzie. "Say thank you to the Engine Driver for bringing us safely all this way. Properly."

And, of course, in the end I had to say it, looking the Engine Driver in the face.

We would then march away glowing with goodness, leaving the worthy servant of the L.N.E.R. to shunt his train thankfully back to the sidings at Ardwick Junction.

Auntie Lizzie died in 1942 when Hitler was still winning, convinced that Uncle Bob had given his life in vain in the war to end all wars. By this time an impressionable teenager, I was there in her last moments when she suddenly opened her eyes and said "Thank you dear Lord for bringing me safely all this long and weary way."

I think nobody but I heard the Lord reply "That's alright Missus!", and Auntie Lizzie passed through Life's Terminus and into the eternal sidings beyond.

John Coates, San Martino, Italy

7 BIG QUESTIONS FOR A BOLLINGTON TOWN PLAN

The Bollington Civic Society and *Bollington Live!* magazine have for years been calling for more locally generated town planning policies for Bollington. It now looks as though we are going to get a town plan at last. Closing the door after the horse has bolted, I hear you cry! But the rapid changes that our town has undergone in recent years may only be the start of an ongoing process of change, driven by external forces in society and in the economy of east Cheshire. The idea that Bollington should stay as it is and be frozen in time is just not a realistic option - even though it may be the emotional response of the nostalgic and "nimby" in us all.

Using the framework of the Vital Villages initiative being promoted by the Countryside Agency, the Town Council can get a grant of up to £5,000 towards the cost of preparing a village plan. A village for this purpose is any settlement up to a population of 10,000.

£5,000 is not a lot of money for a project like this and much of the effort will have to come from our own voluntary time.

At a January meeting of the Civic Society in the Arts Centre, a lively brainstorm identified an initial list of issues that such a plan could address. Here they are, reordered a bit, but basically just as the people attending called them out.

Basic Infrastructure

The capacity of drains, water supply and roads
Bollington has three centres reflecting its history
Improving the canal corridor

State of the pavements

Could we have a Police station?

Could we have a secondary school?

Keeping the rivers clean

Is there any developable land that needs identifying?

Heritage

What do we have that we want to keep as it is?

Enhancing the 3 Conservation Areas

What future for the "Green Belt"?

Do we need an architectural design guide

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

Car parking

Traffic speed and "calming"

Pedestrian crossings

The school-run in the morning/afternoon

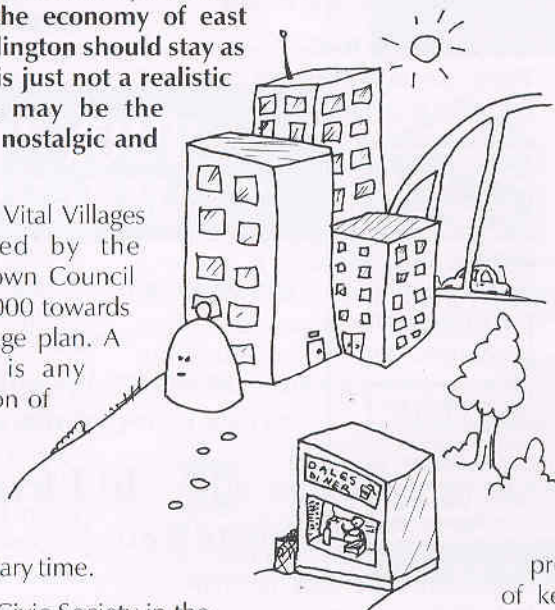
The problem of heavy lorries

Housing and Population

Need for "affordable" housing for local families

Do we have a balanced housing stock?

Should there be a limit to the population of the town?



Employment

The future for manufacturing industry in Bollington?

Where is the best location for new industry?

Do we want manufacturing or would service employment be better?

Shopping

Do we need to create a shopping centre?

Do we need a supermarket?

Would a (farmers) market be good?

Leisure and entertainment

Do we have the right number of pubs?

Do the licensing laws need changing?
How important will tourism be in the future?

Better facilities for our youth.

Managing the Middlewood Way

Countryside footpaths and access

Hopefully our Bollington Town Plan will be able to address these and other issues that the Bollington residents want. The plan could take a year or so to produce and will have to be adopted by Macclesfield Borough and Cheshire County Councils if it is to have any real influence. But, like any plan, it will probably need to hinge on a small number of key principles and tackle some central issues, which other things will relate to. How about these, as some central issues that should be tackled?

1. Should Bollington be recognised as a town in its own right and have the services and facilities of a small town, not a suburb or dormitory of Macclesfield?
2. How big should Bollington become? Should we set some limits to growth?
3. Should we identify and describe the built and natural character that makes our town special and show what places should be preserved and enhanced?
4. Cars and traffic are a central issue. Do we plan around our existing road infrastructure or is there any scope for building a new access road into the town?
5. Many people think we need better shops. Does Bollington need a shopping centre and possibly a supermarket at its centre?
6. If any existing factory sites were to be vacated, how should the land be developed?
7. Is the whole green belt around Bollington sacrosanct or are there some sites where we would allow development?

Watch out for the future meetings of the Civic Society or write to **Bollington Live!** if you would like to join in the debate. The Town Council also plans to send out a questionnaire to all households.

GB

...Continued from back page

Boys pay an annual membership fee of £55 (with a 50% reduction for siblings). But the costs for training, pitch fees, balls, nets, insurance and other expenses amount to £85 per boy. The deficit is met with the familiar diet of fund-raisers like raffles, discos and quizzes. Extraordinary measures are taken too: two brave adults are in training to run the London Marathon for club funds.

Much effort goes into seeking out possible external grants and funding. There's a constant quest for sponsorship too; several local firms generously donate money for new balls or other vital equipment.

Any local support, however small, is always welcomed.

Much "invisible" routine work is done behind the scenes. Muddy kit is washed; white lines are marked; team newspapers are written; web-pages updated; reports submitted to the Macclesfield Express; goal-posts, nets and corner flags raised and put away safely. The dreaded Atax dog poo is dispatched at every pre-match inspection! It might not be Premier League action but such hard graft is essential, nonetheless.

An ambitious ground development plan is currently at the forefront of committee business. The goal is a purpose-built clubhouse, including changing facilities, showers, and kitchen and viewing area. The early green hut, plagued by graffiti and vandalism, lit by a string of bulbs and boasting sanitary-ware acquired from a caravan park was replaced by a larger, wooden shed. Then, last November, an arson attack spoiled that base too. Since then, players have had nowhere even to change.



(BUJFC under-nines side)

Now the Committee is determined to provide a new, well-equipped and secure building that will boast luxuries like shelter, running hot water and toilets!

A major fund-raising drive is under-way to raise the estimated £60,000 needed to pay for such a clubhouse. A recent pledge of support from Bollington Town Council is a major boost and work is under-way to secure the funds necessary to turn plans into bricks and mortar.

Are you blind, Ref?

There are many voluble "experts" but few qualified referees in the local junior leagues. There is no rush to don the whistle and responsibility that comes with being the one on the pitch entrusted with Fair Play and the final decision. It can be a lonely place; a ref is an easy target for disgruntled players and their supporters. After a bad game the princely £10 payment must seem scant reward.

Seventeen-year-old Matthew Bassirat took up the Referee's Challenge two years ago and is honing his skills at junior matches in Bollington. He enjoys the challenge but admits to some surprise at how rough junior football can be and calls it "a real shame" when overheated adults shout abuse or, worse still, deride the boys' play. On occasion he's wanted to call "Time-Out" and remind everyone that it's "just a game". Fortunately his criticisms are not aimed at Bollington United. Matthew describes players and managers as "able to take winning and losing extremely well."

At the end of the day.

The future for BUJFC looks bright. Coach Rick Mottershead, who played with the club from the age of nine, before graduating to a career in coaching, dreams of a future when all the club's teams play in the first division and train on a floodlit, Astroturf pitch at the Atax ground. He and other officials are proud of youngsters selected to play at the Crewe Centre of Excellence and those Bollington sixteen-year-olds anticipating a professional footballing career. Yet he freely offers up his opinion that, "The main aim is for the kids to enjoy themselves".

What makes over two hundred people, young and old, show up every week in all weather, in winning streaks and the other, to support young footballers? What is the appeal of squelching on the sideline as it rains, again?

Well, there's the pleasure to be taken in the game itself, I'm told. And the satisfaction shared by boys and adults alike when a team makes its best effort. Occasionally, there's even the excitement of a successful penalty shoot-out after extra time to stay in the Cup. Importantly, there's a fierce loyalty to, and pride in being part of, our own Bollington United Junior Football Club.

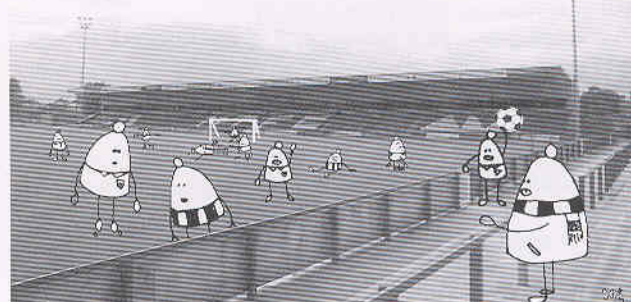
Long may it last.

For further information please contact the Club Secretary: Carol Hollin 611429 or Chairman: John Simons 500698 or visit: www.bollyunited.co.uk

JS

NOVEMBER ISSUE SPOT THE BALL

Here is the solution to our competition from the last issue



Since we had the grand total of ZERO replies, the Editor and the Printer have spent the £10 prize down at the 'Cock and Pheasant' Future competitions will appear from time to time, the prizes will be real - Don't lose out!

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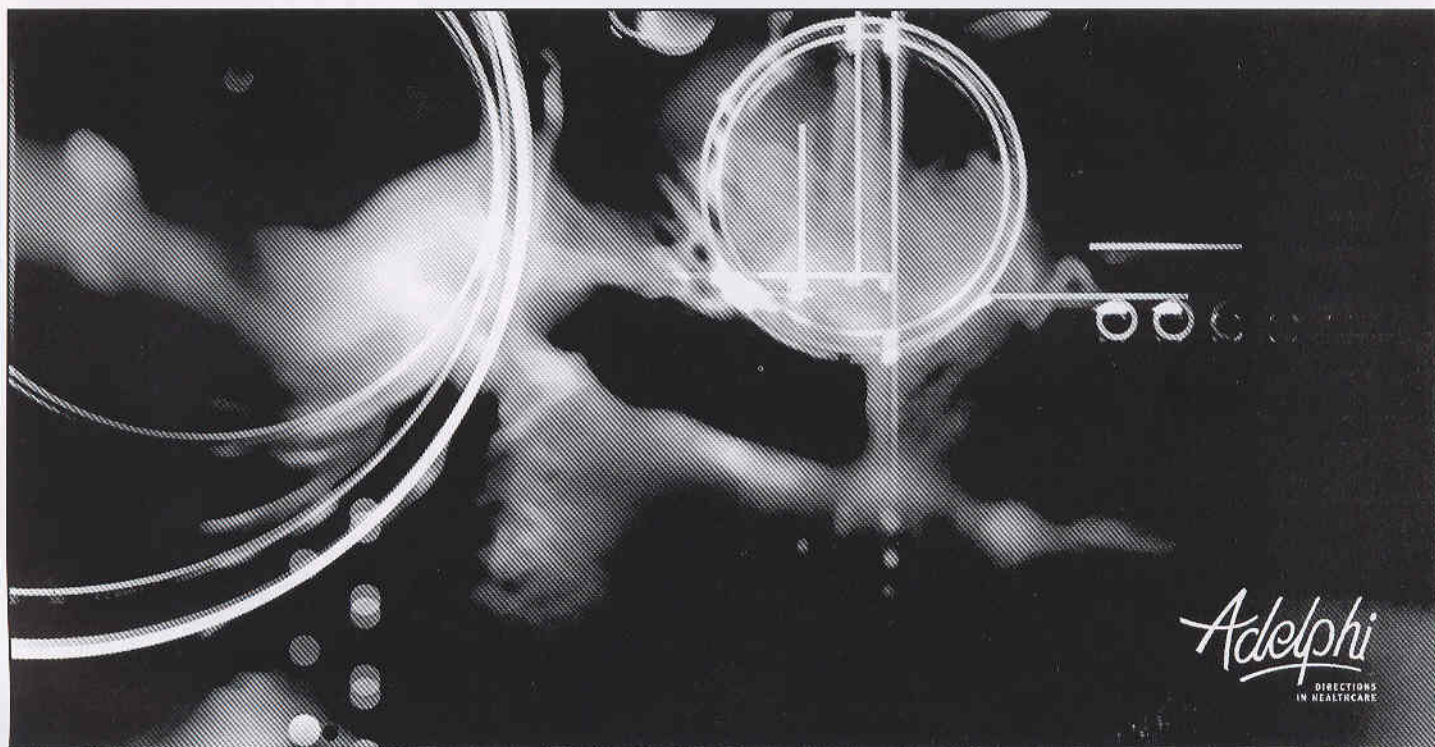
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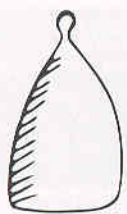
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PLAY UP, BOLLY!

BOLLINGTON UNITED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB: A LOCAL SUCCESS STORY

On any given Sunday or Saturday in Bollington there's a fair chance you've noticed youngsters wearing a distinctive yellow and blue football strip, racing up and down their home pitch on the Atax or Dean Valley School playing fields. Or you've heard the clattering of boots and nerves as boys gather at the end of Ovenhouse Lane for an away game.

What you might not know is that well over 150 boys aged between six and seventeen belong to the thriving Bollington United Junior Football Club. Nine teams from the club play in all levels of the Stockport Metropolitan Junior Football League. The club provides an extensive training programme and weekly coaching sessions are run by an F.A. qualified coach supported by the managers of each team.

Coaching of the six and seven-year-olds too young for formal team play takes place on Saturday mornings; older boys train on weekday nights. In the spring/summer months the boys train at the Atax but they migrate to floodlit, dry-surface pitches at Henbury School and elsewhere for the weeks of winter darkness.

The formal season runs from the second week in September until the end of March but rearranged fixtures, participation in knockout cups, tournament days and "friendlies", not forgetting the ritualised slaughter of the annual "Lads Beat Dads" game, mean that there are very few weeks in the year without football for BUJFC members.



This was a club of two halves...but only briefly. Regular junior football in Bollington dates back to the mid Eighties when two rival groups amalgamated to become Bollington United. The Mottershead dynasty earns most credit for the survival of the club. Ernie and Margaret notched up many hours of managing and



training boys, and some girl players too, followed in due course by their own, home-grown coaches: Kelly, Andy and Rick. A lively social scene complemented the football. They dressed the SS Celtic float for a Bollington Carnival. They arranged bingo, skiing trips abroad and tours to Germany and Spain.

In those early days football matches and training took place at the pitch down by the Lowerhouse tip. Central to coach Ernie Mottershead's rigorous regime was "brook-jumping". Doubtless many in Bollington today will recall a wet walk home from training.

On the up and up.

Nowadays a small army of volunteer fathers of young footballers, ensures the continuation of the club. Under the leadership of Chairman John Simons, a committee meets monthly to ensure the smooth-running of the club and to plan its development.

Continued on page 14...

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