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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

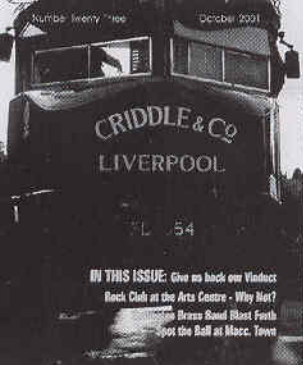
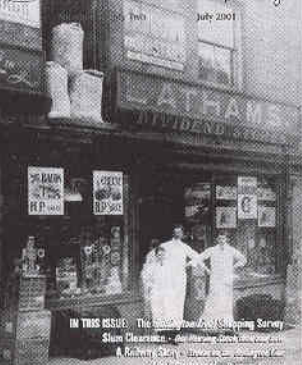
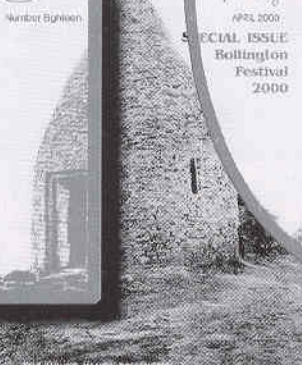
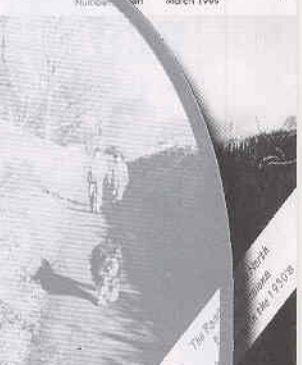
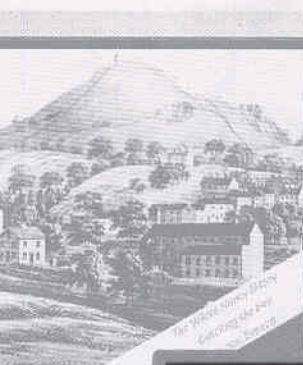
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LINDEN

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

The Editor, c/o Bollington Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen St., Bollington SK10 5PS

Bollington Live! is published by Bollington Arts Centre & Bollington Civic Society, Wellington Road, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5JL. Registered Charity No. 515096

Cover: *Photographic montage of each of the covers of each of the 25 issues to date. A bound volume of all the magazines can be found in the Bollington Library; additional back copies can usually be obtained for £1 from Martyn Parry.*

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e-mail: bollylive@oldbro.org

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Printed by Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)

Cartoons by Matt Wray

25 NOT OUT! ...

...Still going strong!

25 ISSUES of *Bollington Live!* have dropped on to our doorsteps since 1994. It's a bit meagre compared to, say, *Punch* or the *Beano*, but the team who put the magazine together are proud of this achievement nonetheless. It is a unique magazine and we have to thank, once again, all the advertisers, sponsors, and all the folk who deliver the magazine through every letterbox in Bollington (well nearly every letterbox!).

Although we have regular contributors we welcome other viewpoints and stories. If you have an idea for an article, by all means contact us. It needs to be relevant to Bollington and not too long please. Count the words in a few of our pieces and you will get an idea of how much to write. If you have an interesting story but would rather not do the writing – no problem – get in touch and we'll send around one of our "ace reporters".

If you glance through the back catalogue of *Bollington Live!* several common themes emerge from the articles; the need for better town planning, protection of our heritage and environment and appreciation of local people, trade and commerce. Have things improved since *Bollington Live!* #1- or got worse? To celebrate our silver jubilee we have 4 extra pages that we are using to continue to press for a better Bollington. We hope you enjoy this larger issue and, with your support, long may we continue. **Ed**



The Making of Bollington Live!
Alfred Gatley - Victorian Sculptor
My Life at Thomas Oliver's Mill
The Wrecking of the 'Rec??
Town Plan
Transport Extravaganza 2002

THE WALKING BUS...

... that takes up to thirty children to St. Greg's school on Wednesday and Friday mornings has made a huge difference to the congestion on Albert Rd.

Pressures of work, worries about safety, and, let's face it, a modern lifestyle where the idea of walking anywhere fills many kids and adults with horror, means that few children walk to school any more. On narrow Albert Road this causes havoc every

morning especially with the commercial traffic that has to travel up and down the road.

There are 2 "buses", each with a "driver" and "conductor" and several adult helpers, starting from the



Leisure Centre and the Library at 8.30 am. The Council are sponsoring the venture and Arighi Bianchi have donated umbrellas with their logo on. The Late Shop is also trying wherever possible to reorganise their deliveries to avoid the 9 o'clock period.

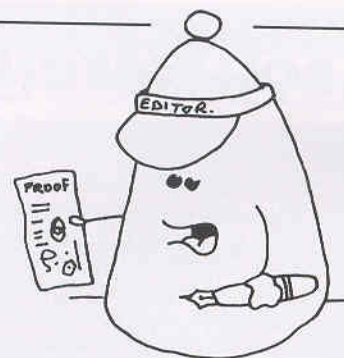
This initiative can make a significant dent in the traffic on our busy roads and everybody wins. The kids are safe, get a bit more exercise and key traffic (like the fire engines) can flow more easily. Let's see if the other schools can match St. Greg's efforts!



The first passengers in the St. Gregory's School Walking Bus

HOW WE PRODUCE YOUR BOLLY LIVE!

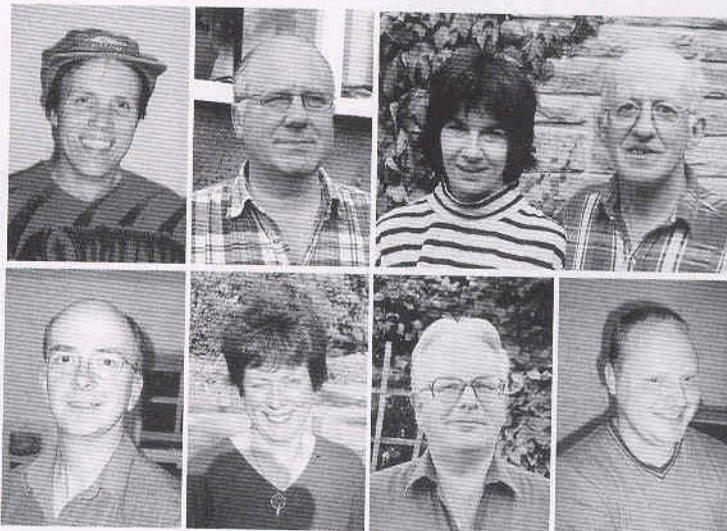
Ever wondered how Bollington Live! is created? The magazine is delivered free-of-charge to every household in Bollington and Kerridge. It is written, edited and delivered by volunteers, about 50 people in all. Its production is paid for entirely by the advertising revenues and sponsorship of local business and yet it is completely independent of any pressure group within our town. No press moguls here.



The magazine is run by committee. Every few months we get together and bounce around ideas, plan great schemes of town domination and then set dates for the forthcoming issues. Most importantly we discuss possible articles for inclusion.

This is how it all comes together, a diary of the run up to publication.

It's not an exact science, it involves careful and controlled, let's face it – PANIC to publish three magazines each year, in March, July and November.



Your editorial team. Pictured:- Tim Neale - Ed., Graham Barrow, Penny & John Liley, Simon Nottage, Jose Spinks, Martyn Parry, Anthony Holland. Not pictured: Mark Stedman, Dennis Caulfield, Dr. John Coope

About eight weeks before one of the above dates...

Chairman or Editor suddenly realise that the committee hasn't met in a while and we need to decide who will write what for the next issue. This is usually prompted by a wise word from our advertising manager ex-Mayor Mark Stedman.

At the meeting we discuss the previous issue, what worked what didn't; we discuss the state of the bank balance (and a careful balance it is too!), ideas for articles, volunteers to write them and any changes to the overall look and feel of the magazine; we chew over the state of Bollington and how it could be improved. We aim to strike a balance between local issues, history, promoting voluntary organisations and providing a useful 'What's On' Page. Most importantly we work back from the planned publishing date to decide a copy-date for the articles. After a couple of hours we close the meeting, some of us adjourn to the Dog and Partridge and the real decisions start to be made...

About six weeks before...

The editor starts worrying whether there will be anything to publish. The advertising manager worries that there will not be enough adverts to pay for the magazine – or – that there are now too many willing advertisers and not enough space for them. The contributors find that the inspiration they had at the planning meeting has all but dried up.

About five weeks before...

Gradually, reused brown manilla envelopes containing handwritten notes, photos and newspaper clippings drop onto the Ed's doormat. Emails and floppy disks arrive from the more technically advanced. Phone calls "We're having a beetle drive, next week are we too late to get summat in?" The editor then tries to make sense of it all. Some of the hoped for articles will not materialise "Sorry the budgie has been really off colour this week and the kids have had nits again". Some unexpected masterpieces will arrive "Thought you might be

interested in my Granny's life in Clacton-upon-Sea. She came to Bollington once on holiday" Hmm...six thousand words...she must have had an interesting life.

Everything has to be typed into a computer. It can then be edited to size, spellings corrected and grammar tidied and libels removed. Photographs have to be found or taken as well. At this point the editor starts to get a feel for how the magazine can be laid out. An average

one page article with pictures is about six hundred words. It is quite easy for a writer in flow to produce several thousand words. The editor has sometimes to be quite severe. Cutting several hundred words from a piece of prose and retaining the sense and feel can be a challenge.

About four weeks before...

Ready or not, we have to start. The Editor takes whatever material he has to Bollington Printshop where Simon Nottage, our printer, and the Editor work together, dropping the text into a pre-defined magazine template using a computer desktop publishing program. The pictures are all scanned at a very high resolution and each one is re-



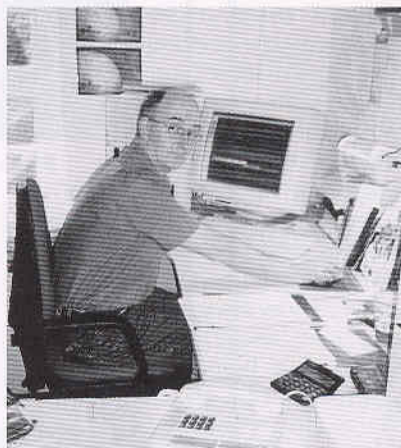
contrasted, and touched-up to get the best out of it. Surprisingly, it is often the very old photographs, perhaps a hundred years old, which give the best clarity. We try to drop everything we have onto a page and then start thinking about the precise layout. If it takes up too much space we may make the pictures smaller. If we have blank space we can increase the picture size. Often we may have to remove a single word from a paragraph to make the text sit nicely on a page. Small blank spaces are a great nuisance, and this is where our secret weapon, Matt the cartoonist, comes in. We give him a number of ideas and he produces the White Nancy cartoons you see in the corner of many pages. We often throw him the task of thinking up the corny article titles when they are needed.



We usually work several long evenings and a couple of Saturday mornings together, but Simon also does a lot of work during his normal working day. After each editing session we print out the magazine in rough and take it home to allow our loved ones (not much love around when you've been late home 3 days running) to mull over and spot errors.

Three weeks before...

The copy for the advertisements has to go through the same process as the main content of the magazine. This is a job that Simon undertakes, often involving a fair degree of chasing, but it is crucial that the advertisements are correct because without the revenue they generate we would have no magazine.



Some of the contributors will call at the last minute and say, "I've a small correction to make on page two". (Little do they know that the Editor removed the offending paragraph last week).

Two weeks before...

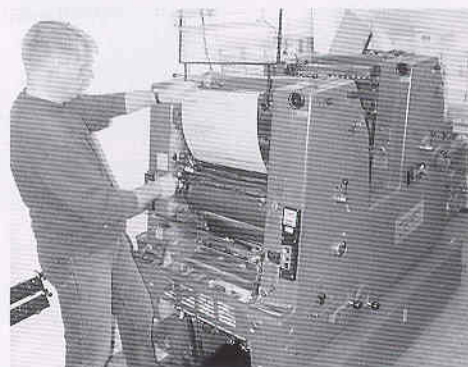
The printing process starts. Simon takes up the story...

Now that the final corrections are completed, we can paginate the magazine to create 'printers' spreads', close the files, collect the hundreds of megabytes of photos and text together, along with the fonts used, and any digitally submitted advertisements, and prepare them for 'Repro'. After a final 'flight checking' to avoid any costly errors, the files are burnt to CD and sent to a local specialist for high resolution imaging onto photographic film.

Bollington Live! is printed on a high quality sheet-fed Lithographic press. In order for the printed image to appear on the paper, several printing plates have to be made, one for each and every page and colour of ink. (For example, this issue will be using seven plates). The previously mentioned films are used to mask the pre-sensitised aluminium printing plates during their exposure in the darkroom to ultra-violet light.



After developing, the image of the page to be printed is left on the surface of the plate.



James, our print manager, loads the plates into the printing press, (with the image centred), and clamps them around the plate cylinders.

This setting is important so as to ensure that there is no possible movement of the plate during the print run, as the register of the printed image has to exactly match that of the opposite side of the printed sheet.



The next stage is to load the trimmed art paper onto the feed table.

The press is inked up, the plate dampening is set and the press is slowly turned over to establish the optimum ink film thickness and water balance for quality print.

Continued Overleaf...





While this is happening, the alignment of the image on the page is checked and adjusted, pressures are set to suit the paper and finally, when James is happy with the result, the press

is wound up to running speed, and the latest issue of **Bollington Live!** begins to roll off the press.



As the paper is printed, the sheets are stacked in small piles to allow the ink to dry, and the press is continually monitored to ensure consistently high print quality.

This process is repeated for every page and every colour, until the magazine is printed. The pages have to be allowed to dry hard to avoid scuffing and marking when they are handled. When the ink is dry the finishing begins...



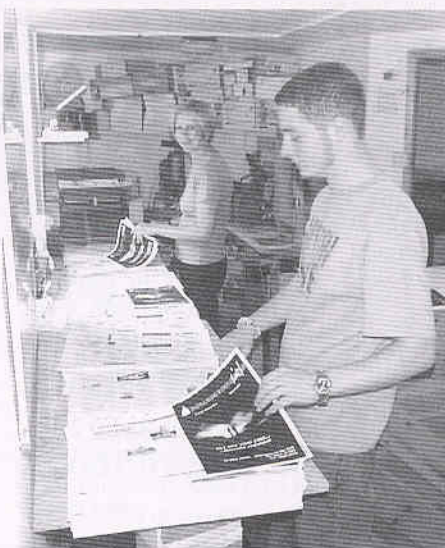
Print Finishing according to Matt ...

'When I first arrived at the Printshop, some four years ago, they kept this job quiet from me, but soon a booklet-maker was purchased; a

stapling, creasing, all-singing, all-dancing machine, which meant **Bollington Live!** would be finished "in house". "Fine", I thought, "it's only a bit of stapling". Well, how wrong I was.

When I've completed squaring up and trimming all the flat sheets to size, (some 20,000 of them); I have acquired approximately the same number of paper-cuts! I then lug the sheets upstairs to the "finishing department", the posh name given to make it seem more important to be working there, (but really it's just a room with a window and a half-eaten apple, if truth be told, but cosy

with it). Anyway, by the time all the paper has been laid out on the work benches, the view out of the window has been completely blocked out and we know it's going to be a very long time before daylight returns! Gradually, as helpers come and go, with the odd bit of assistance from Louise and even Pete, Simon's eldest, who steps in when he's trying to avoid going to school, the job gets done before I run out of jokes. You need a good supply of jokes lasting about 10 hours, before you start repeating yourself.



Collating the sheets and checking the finished quality, although important, is probably the most boring job in the world. As the uncollated piles go down and the collated piles increase, the next step is to fold, staple, trim and pack. Simple, you may think. Well, it is, but a quick break for food and a vitamin shot are required. Once the booklet maker is set up to staple and fold, it usually runs like a dream, but of course, the tighter the deadline, the more the machine turns into a



nightmare. If you've ever lifted a pile of 400 sheets of paper from the top of the machine, while your "helper" fiddles around, first trying to open the box of staples, then trying to put them in the right way round (trust me, it gets like that at around 9.30 p.m. after a full day's work), then you'll understand. Once the magazines have been finished, I somehow manage to pack 250 in a box and hope that I haven't miscounted any, because recounting is a complete pain.

So, now it's around quarter to midnight, the boxes are stacked up so we can't see the floor any more, or anything else for that matter! We wearily go home.

Publish day...

The Editor and Printer breathe a sigh of relief. Simon calls our Distribution Manager to say the magazines are ready.

On average, each of our delivery volunteers posts a hundred copies of **Bollington Live!** Everyone has their designated round; for example, I always deliver to Wellington Road. To make the distribution of the magazines to the delivery volunteers simpler, we have sub-distributors who collect specific numbers of magazines from the Printshop and separate them into the correct quantity for each round. The sub-distributor is responsible for getting all the magazines to their delivery volunteers.

Every effort is made to post the magazine within a few days of publishing, but occasionally the delivery takes a little longer.

People may be on holiday, sick, and in winter the weather can be inclement, but usually within three weeks of the publish day, ninety percent of Bollington will have had their magazine.

**Two months later...
... We start again!**



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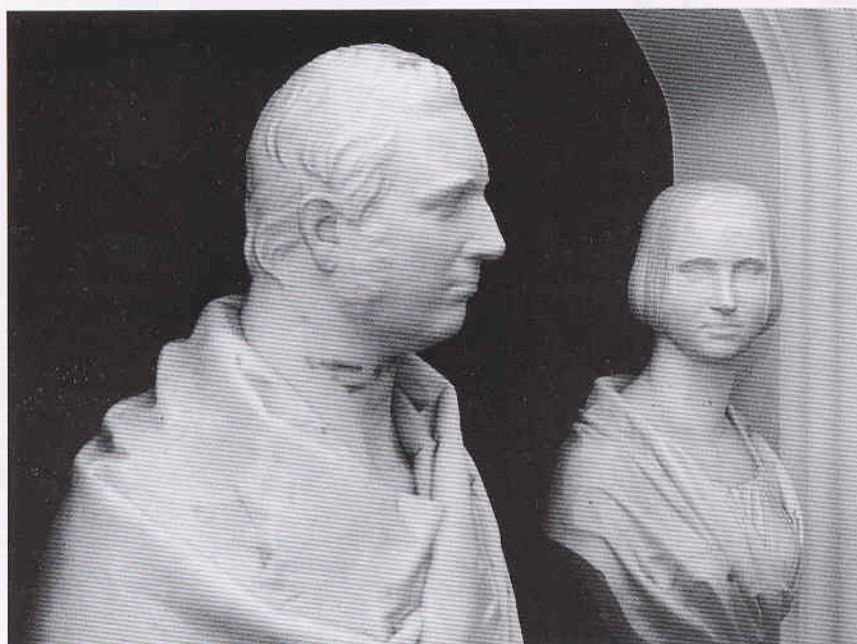
Website: www.bollington.com

THE SCULPTOR GATLEY

The work of the Kerridge and Ingersley Vale Project being undertaken by the Groundwork Trust has brought attention to this artist from Kerridge who became one of the finest of Victorian sculptors, but who has no memorial in his native village. The following (slightly abridged) article appeared in the Bollington Festival Programme of 1964.

When Alfred Gatley died in Rome in 1863, England lost an artist who has been placed among "the top rank of our native sculptors".

Born in Kerridge, where his father owned two quarries, he learnt to use a chisel early and at the local school he distinguished himself by carving a good likeness of his master out of a turnip (in class, too). In time he became a Sunday School teacher at Pott Shrigley where the Vicar, the Rev. James Sumner, befriended him and furthered his education.



At twenty-one he decided to try to establish himself in London, armed with, to use Sumner's words "little besides his mason's tools, his love of art and a blameless character." On arriving he attached himself to the sculptor Edward Bailey, for the princely figure of ten shillings a week. He progressed rapidly, winning one prize after another at the Royal Academy, and became sought after for commemorative busts and plaques.

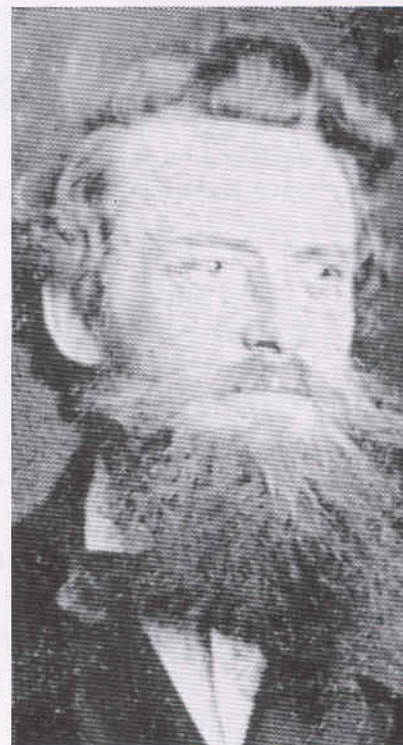
But Gatley was not satisfied with the role of society artist. An idealist by nature, he was repelled by the commercial standards of 19th century England. And so in 1852 he moved to Rome, joining a group of like-minded British artists led by a carver of genius, the Welshman John Gibson. Here, occupying a little studio on the Pincian, Gatley worked for the remainder of his life, producing classical studies and carvings of animals. It was here also that his undoubted masterpieces,

the massive bas-reliefs of Pharaoh and Moses and Miriam, which now hang in Edinburgh, were carved. The block of Carrara marble for the first was 13 tons in weight and was drawn to the studio by a team of twenty pair of oxen.

In 1862 a huge international exhibition of art and industry was being staged in London and for the first time his two great works and several other smaller pieces were seen by the world at large. It brought to a climax years of arduous labour. How great was his disappointment then when his works received little attention. The public was more interested in the marvels of scientific invention than in the carvings of a little known artist.

He could not afford to transport his works - all unsold - back to Rome and he returned a broken man.

The following year he was taken ill with what was reported to be dysentery and died after a brief



illness. That his death, was in part, due to depression would seem very likely. His body was placed in the English cemetery under the following inscription:

"OVER THE GRAVE OF ALFRED GATLEY, SCULPTOR IN ROME WHO DIED ON 28TH OF JUNE 1863. HE WAS GREAT IN HIS WORKS, A LOYAL CITIZEN; BELOVED BY MANY, RESPECTED BY ALL. HE HAD KINDNESS OF HEART AND A HATRED OF ALL THAT WAS FALSE. HE LIVED A CHRISTIAN LIFE AND DIED AT THE AGE OF 47 YEARS."

Left: The Busts of George Swindells and his wife Elizabeth of Pott Hall. Thanks go to The Medical Centre who kindly allowed us to take these photographs.

At the age of ten Gatley carved this stone, below, that reads "Robin Redbreast's Grave 1826." It now hangs in The Medical Centre.





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BOLLINGTON

Live!

JULY

Saturday, 6th

Bollington Festival Choir

Lunch time Recital St. Mary's Church
Stockport 1 pm. Evening Recital,
Rainow Parish Church, 7:30 pm.

Friday, 12th 7:30pm – 10pm

Caribbean Evening

St. John's School, Grimshaw Lane.
Steel Band, reggae music, dancing etc.
Call 572025.

Saturday 13th 2pm – 5 pm

Savio House Family Fun Day

Ingersley Rd. Admission free.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, 1st 10am

Tinkers Clough Wood Clear-up

Could you spare a couple of hours to
pick up litter and rubbish, Phone
Sarah on 573597 or just turn up

Tuesday 3rd 7:45pm

Festival Choir Rehearsals

Arts Centre. This seasons' rehearsals
start for performances of Honneger's
King David and Elgar's The Kingdom.
New singers are welcome.

Friday, 6th and Saturday, 7th 7:30pm

Celebration Concert

Arts Centre's 18th birthday and the
Queen's Golden Jubilee.
Details: 572527.

Saturday, 7th 2pm

Horticultural and Flower Show

Civic Hall. Tel: 429338 for details.

Saturday, 7th 7:30pm

Bollington Brass Band concert

Methodist Church.

Sunday, 8th 2 pm

Bollington Children's Music Theatre

Arts Centre: Rehearsals start for
autumn production. For kids who like
singing and acting! There's no waiting
list, and no auditions. Members are
normally aged about 8 to 13. Several
solo parts as well as plenty for the
chorus. Contact Donald Judge on 0161
427 2870 or www.bcmt.url4life.com

Sunday, 8th 7 pm – 9 p.m.

Expressions on Paper

Arts Centre. Exhibition by CHROMA, a
group of women artists, open 2-4pm
Sundays and during other events, until
Friday, 11th Oct. Tel. 0161 612 2473

Saturday, 14th 8pm

Eagle Jazz Band

Arts Centre. This great band return
with fabulous vocalist Sheila Fawkes.
Tickets £6. Call 574410 or 575287.

Sunday 15th 11:00am till 4:00pm

The Great Bollington Transport Extravaganza

See back page for details.

Monday, 16th 7:30pm

Bollington Civic Society

Public Meeting at the Arts Centre.
All welcome.

Saturday, 21st 8pm

The Duke Quartet

Arts Centre. Bollington Chamber
Concerts present this highly regarded
quartet playing Mozart K575 in D,
Bartok No. 5 and Beethoven, op 131
in C sharp minor. Tickets £10 & £5
(conc). Call 560355 or 575287

Sunday, 22nd 12 noon – 2pm

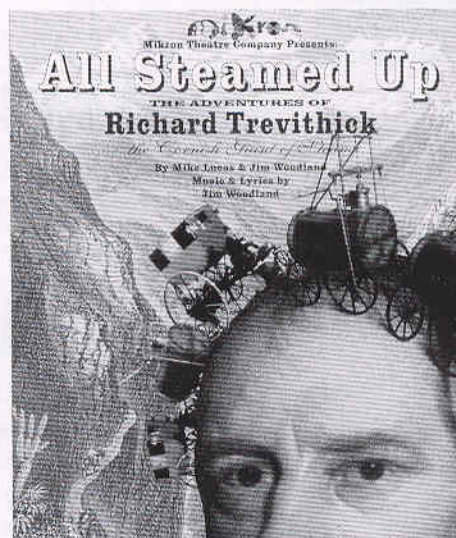
Car Boot Sale and BBQ

Proceeds to Bollington Drop-In Centre.
Held outside Drop-In Centre

Friday, 27th 8pm

All Steamed Up

Arts Centre. The Micron Theatre
presents the adventures of Richard
Trevithick the Cornish pioneer of
steam. Tickets £6 & £4.50 (conc).
Call 574686.



*Mikron Theatre Company at the Arts Centre,
Friday 27th September at 8pm*

OCTOBER

Sunday, 6th

Bollington Brass Band Concert

For the Band's Patrons.

Friday, 11th 7:30pm (viewing)

Annual Auction

Bollington Drop-In Centre, Palmerston
Street. The Auction starts at 8pm.
Proceeds to the Drop-In Centre.

Wednesday, 16th - Saturday, 19th

8.00pm

Bollington Festival Players

Arts Centre. The players present
'Seasons Greetings' a comedy by Alan
Ayckbourn. Call 572527 for tickets.

Saturday, 26th 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Chris Watford's Chicago Feet-Warmers
with Charlie Connors (soprano sax).
Call 574410 or 575287 for tickets.

NOVEMBER

Friday, 29th 7pm – 9pm

Watercolour Images

Arts Centre: Exhibition By local artist
Glynis Broome. Open until 2nd Jan.
2003. Sundays 2-4 pm. and during
other events Contact: 575746

DECEMBER

Sunday, 1st 4.30pm and 7.30pm.

Bollington Childrens Music Theatre

Arts Centre: CINDERELLA - as an au-
pair?... 3 ugly sisters... a magic cat and
her kittens... A sparkling version of the
traditional story. Tel: 0161 427 2870
or www.bcmt.url4life.com

OTHER EVENTS

Every 3rd Thursday of the month. 8pm

Boll. & District Horticultural Society

Pott Shrigley school. Variety of
interesting lectures and events. Guest
speakers. All welcome. Tel: 429338

Every Tuesday, 8.30pm

Crown Bikers

The Crown Inn, Church Street. This
new club welcomes all motorcyclists.
Free membership. See Alan, Sheila or
Tony (behind the bar) for further
details.

EVENTS

Next Edition: November 2002 Make sure your event is publicised. Write with details to: The Editor, c/o Bollington Printshop.

Bollington University

Despite being the smallest University in Europe, the academic events held last year at the Arts Centre were much appreciated and well attended. This Autumn the Arts Centre is again hosting a series of courses and evening lectures on an exciting and varied set of subjects. Those wishing to attend a course should send me a letter at Plant Cottage, Beeston Brow, Bollington, SK10 5PR, enclosing a cheque made out to Bollington Arts Centre, or you may pay the fee at the first attendance. Please telephone (01625) 573494 or 575287 for further details.

Dr. John Coope

Courses

History of Western Music

Five lectures researching the character and development of music from its earliest forms until the present day.

Classes : **Tuesdays**; 10:30am – 12:00 Noon on September 10th, 14th, October 8th, 22nd, and November 5th (BOOM)
Tutor: Phillip Marsh. Fee £25.

Italian for Beginners

Holidays in Italy will be so much more fulfilling with some knowledge of the language. The course also introduces the richness of Italian culture in visual arts and music.

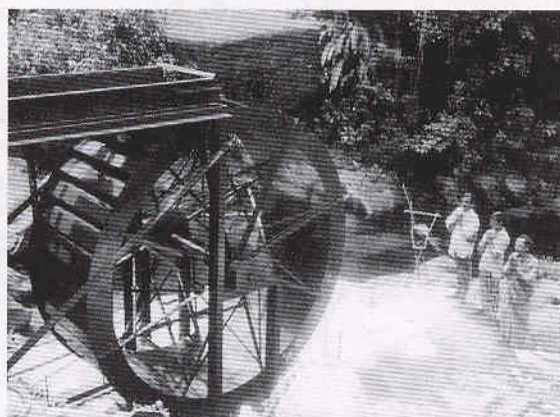
Classes: **Wednesdays**; 10:30am – 12:00 Noon from October 2nd for 10 sessions. Tutor: Audrey Parnell. Fee: £30.

Spanish for Beginners

A golden opportunity to acquire a basic skill in Spanish. Classes on **Tuesdays** from 2:30pm – 4:00pm commencing September 5th for a series of 10 sessions. Tutor Anne Morton (611483). Course Fee: £30.

Bollington Family History Club

Are you interested in tracing your ancestors? Then join a group of like-minded people and share their knowledge and enthusiasm guided by Gill Houston who meet in the Arts Centre bar (tea and coffee available) on the first **Thursday** of each month at 10:30am. The cost is £1.00 per session and you can drop in at any time during the morning. For details ring 572057



Pedley Water Wheel providing electricity in Sri Lanka
Bollington University Lecture Sunday, 13th October.



Sunday Evening Lectures

Sunday, 13th October 7:00pm

Water Mills for Emerging Countries

Paul Bromley discusses how the Pedley Trust designs and provides small-scale water-operated generators for isolated communities in 'emerging' countries.

Sunday, 10th November 7:00pm

Saneline Charity

Ana Novakovic talks about the UK's only mental health helpline (see Bolly Live #24 – Ed). One in four of us will have a mental health problem at some time, anything from stress to a severe and enduring illness. Almost every family will be affected. Why does it so often remain a hidden secret?

Sunday, 8th December 7:00pm

A Right To die?

Famously, Seneca said, "As I choose the ship in which I sail and the house that I will inhabit, so will I choose the death by which I leave life. In no matter more than death should we act according to our own desire." Yet the British Medical Association 'unreservedly rejects' voluntary euthanasia. Jennifer Jackson from the Dept. of Philosophy at the University of Leeds discusses this controversial subject.

A fee of £3 is collected on the door at each of the Sunday lectures.

MUSIC - LIVE! IN BOLLINGTON

Arthur Wakefield's Folk Club on Friday nights at the Dog and Partridge continues to attract some key names on the acoustic and roots music scene and has to be the premier event of its type in town.

Excellent touring acts are regularly showcased and there are often 'singers nights' where anyone can get up and sing a couple of songs to an appreciative audience.

The Monday night 'jam sessions' at **The Meridian** are also becoming popular with musicians and music lovers. All are welcome but there is usually a hard core of seasoned guitarists, fiddlers, harmonica & accordion players kicking around tunes by The Beatles, Bob Dylan and traditional folk, as well as some self-penned numbers; not to mention the best bongos in town!



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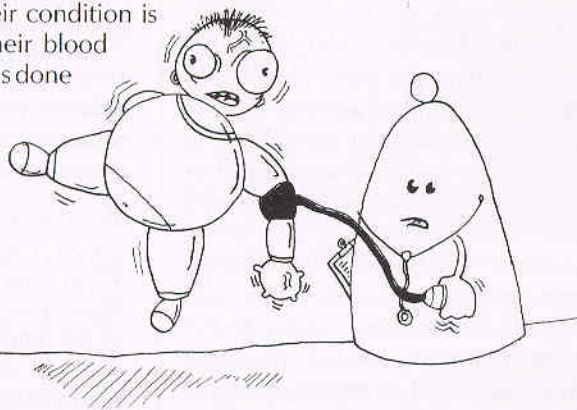
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BLOOD PRESSURE

Blood is needed to supply the brain with oxygen. If the pressure is too low you lose consciousness, and death may follow. The arteries are strong elastic tubes that carry blood under pressure from the heart pump. You will see blood pressure (BP) written down as two numbers written one above the other, such as 120/80. The top number (systolic) records blood pressure while the heart muscle is squeezing blood through the system and the lower number (diastolic) when the heart relaxes.

In a community like Bollington there are about 4000 patients over the age of 25 and roughly 1000 have poorly controlled blood pressure, a condition which increases the risk of heart attacks, heart failure and stroke. Unfortunately high pressure is not signalled by symptoms that could persuade subjects to consult their doctors. Paradoxically they usually feel well and their condition is only diagnosed when their blood pressure is checked. This is done using a device wrapped around the upper arm – a manometer.

A single measurement is insufficient because pressure varies throughout the day. It is usually higher in the morning and lower after resting and during sleep. It falls during pregnancy.



The risks associated with hypertension (high blood pressure) can be reduced by lifestyle alterations. The most important change is to stop smoking. Reducing excessive salt or alcohol intake also helps. Eating more fruit and vegetables is beneficial and obese patients will need dietary advice.

Screening patients to identify those who may need treatment is a responsibility of the primary care team and patient's appointments may be used to record blood pressure and advise on treatment. Pressure should be recorded every 5 years and more often if it is over 140/90. Home blood pressure recording machines are now available but it is important to use a model that has been properly validated. If in doubt see your GP.

Dr. John Coope

MEDICAL CENTRE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP



Are you a patient of Bollington Medical Centre? Would you like to be better informed on aspects of organisation and future changes at the Centre and have some input onto their development?

General practice, like other parts of the NHS, is changing and expanding. Because of this, we are forming a Patient Participation Group in the autumn so that the views of patients can be taken into account. The group would be open to any interested patient. It would liaise with medical centre staff and meet regularly with the aim of facilitating communication between them. The meetings would provide a forum for exchanging information, receiving feedback on previous initiatives and discussing ideas and matters of concern. Regular newsletters and occasional talks on specific medical topics have also been suggested! A committee of elected patient representatives would undertake the day-to-day running of the group with support from medical centre staff.

If you would be interested in attending the first meeting of the group, please ask at the Medical Centre for a form and we will contact you when a date has been arranged.

LOCAL LOYALTY??

Are You Loyal To Bollington? When something goes wrong in your house is a Bollington Trader the first person you think of to come and fix it? Are you conditioned to 'one-stop' shopping in Macclesfield, fighting through the traffic, or is it easier to visit two or three shops in Bollington, and just do an occasional shop in Macclesfield?

OK you can relax. This is not another questionnaire or survey to fill in! These are just a few questions to give you some food for thought. I've lived in Bollington for 26 years and during that time I have seen traders come and go, more going than coming! I have also seen villages similar to Bollington expanding with new housing, like Bollington, but turning into dormitory towns because the residents do all their business outside the town and just go home to sleep. I would not like this to happen in Bollington.

The Town Council's Trade and Tourism Committee is hoping to organise a loyalty scheme. They hope that incentives from traders together with a directory for every household, listing all the services available in Bollington, will encourage residents to think of Bollington Traders first.

So far forty traders have agreed, in principle, to the scheme and we are in the process of getting the grants necessary to finance it. The future for traders and residents could be greatly improved if we all make the effort to use the facilities that Bollington has to offer. The phrase has been used before but is still valid...USE IT OR LOSE IT! **JB**

If there are any Traders who have not received details of the scheme, and would like to join, please contact the Town Clerk Ruth Stubbs at the Council Offices on 572256.

MY LIFE AT THOMAS OLIVER'S

by Albert Snape

It is easy to think of the old cotton mills in a similar way to old medieval castles; Interesting and dramatic, but not really relevant to our modern lives, But many Bollingtonians remember when the mills were full of activity and represented the town's life-blood. Here are some personal memories of the post-war period at Oliver's mill...

I started work when I was fourteen; I went into the spinning room.

First you start as a little piecer, working along with a piecer and a spinner, who was a top man. The spinner used to receive the wages and pay the piecer's wage. A little piecer had to do half a day with each spinner and on Fridays would have to go to each spinner he'd worked for that week to collect his wage, total 14s/3d. The spinner paid the big piecer 30/- and a spinner's wage was £3. After a fortnight little piecing I went to work for my father who was a spinner. That meant he kept my 30/- wage, gave me 2/6 for spending money and put 2/- each week towards saving certificates.



Oliver's Card Room Xmas Party, Country Café C1956

Spinning rooms are very hot 95 – 100 deg. so you didn't wear any shoes or socks, just bib and brace overalls. It was dangerous to wear shoes as you might fall onto the spindles. You had to be very careful where you walked, as there were tracks for the carriages to run on, and chains to steady the carriages. These were every 4 – 6 feet apart.

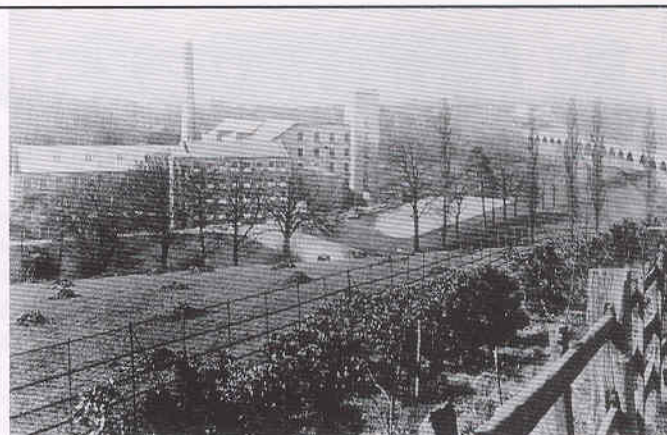
The mule was a marvellous machine. You had what was called a headstock

which was the main driving force to the carriage, one either side of it. There were two pairs of these per alley, as one side drew out the other went in. So, you followed the side that came out and pieced any ends that were down or changed any bobbins in the creel that were empty. You had to be quick at this because the carriage was pushing you out. Then you turned around and followed the other mule out and did the same. There was a lot of walking to do, as there were 1760 spindles per alley, which means twice that number of bobbins.

The yarns on the bobbins were called rovings, there were two roving ends per spindle. The yarns passed through a series of rollers and were drawn out by the carriage for about six feet, and then as the carriage moved back the yarns were wound on to the spindle, making a "cop".

All the motions were controlled by the headstock, you had to change gears and pulleys for different counts. There were also drive belts to look after; if one broke you had to replace it with pigskin laces. There were also ropes that you had to splice, namely rim bands and drawing-up bands.

To become a spinner you had a lot of things to learn. There were no short cuts, everything had to be done properly, if not you had a hard time of it, and didn't make your money.



Thomas Oliver's Mill in its heyday. Note the large mill pond and the lovely field that ran down from the railway embankment to Wellington Road, now houses of course.

Remember a spinner paid the piecer's wage. If you were a bad spinner you still had to pay your piecer in full, which meant your wages could be down.

We drank lots of water, which the piecer used to get in quart jugs. When you wanted to replenish the water you had to use sign language as the length of the alley was a good distance, and with the noise of the mules banging and spindles whirring you couldn't hear one another.

Once the spindles were full you had to doff, which meant remove the cops and start again. The cops were put in baskets, which went to be weighed. If you didn't make your weight you were down in your wage. When the spinning master came round you might have to do a little juggling and hope you had a better week following, as you still had to pay your piecer his full amount. It usually always worked out in time.

After the war it was very difficult to get anyone to come into the spinning room, so we had to share piecers, one-to-two, or one-to-three, this meant you had to look after both sides. It was really hard work but there was nothing you could do about it.

Mr. Jack Brooks was the spinner who always spun the the finest counts while I was there. On one occasion he was off work and the overlooker (who happened to be my Uncle Albert), asked me to carry on Jack's work. I felt quite honoured, since, at that time he was spinning 420s, which took two weeks.

After sixteen years hard work and dedication we were told that the

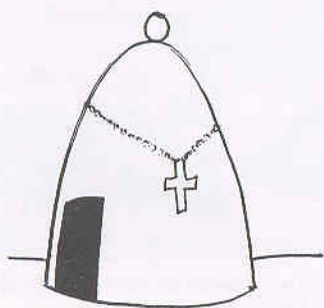
mill was closing. My days at Thomas Oliver's were over, but life had to go on and I had to adapt to something else. But that's another story.

Oliver's had a good social club. We played bowls, tennis, darts and table tennis and put on shows and dances, all at the Fine Spinners Pavilion, off Adlington Rd.

I played on the bowls team. Walt Jackson was captain, we had some top players around Bollington at the time, some who worked at the mill, Hugh Archer, Arthur Holdcroft, Jim Cross, Arthur Jackson, Fred Jackson, Peter Potts, Jess Fairbrother, Percy Whitehurst, Wilf Taylor, Fred Ainsworth and Harold Arden.

When we played away we always had a coach full and there was always a good sing song after the match in a packed club or pub. The entertainment was supplied by people like Jack Archer, George Needham, Walt Jackson, Hugh Archer, Wilf Taylor, myself and anyone else who could sing.

After 127 years Oliver's closed on the 5th February 1960, built in 1833^x and completed in 1850.



Kerridge Church

A shining light

Have you noticed the new light above the cross in the front gable at Holy Trinity Church? When the building was opened as a school over a hundred years ago the Revd. C Brooke Gwyne said, "...there is every prospect that the School Church will be a shining light in Kerridge" and so it is.

The church was built as a day school and mission church and was dedicated in January 1898. The pupils used the nave and the chancel

KERRIDGE PROJECT

The Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Countryside and Heritage Project is, at last, making progress after a long delay due to Foot and Mouth Disease. The studies looking into the history, ecology and landscape of the area are under way and will be used as the basis for an Action Plan highlighting improvements that can enhance the area. Local people will be consulted to ensure that any proposals meet with the approval of those they are intended to benefit.

Local historian, George Longden, has completed a comprehensive study of the area's history and this has highlighted many features that could be included in the plan. For example, the remains of Ingersley Vale Mill (burnt down in 1999) and associated features such as Clough Pool, the Weir, the Hillside Leat, The Wheelhouse and the Hillside Chimney are important industrial relics. Should we preserve them? Perhaps we could consider reconstructing the huge water wheel? The remains of Cow Lane Mill are substantial enough to deduce the history of the site and could be a useful educational tool, should we preserve the site - "frozen" in time?

The Quarries are wonderfully peaceful places where nature has reclaimed the land after quarrying stopped over 100 years ago. Might they be a good site for picnic tables and an interpretation board? Could we restore some of the old paved footpaths along Ingersley Vale, creating 'historical trails' to widen awareness of the industrial history?

These are some of the many questions that arise from George's study. More will arise from the ecological and landscape character studies. Local people will be given a chance to have their say about the plans in the autumn, but if anyone would like further information, please contact Hilary Trodd at Groundwork on 572681



The rotting iron trough at Ingersley Vale Mill that fed the water to the 2nd largest water wheel in the country (the largest one is the Laxey Wheel on the Isle of Man). The 'leat' carrying the water can be traced all the way up the valley to Clough Pool under Waulkmill Woods.

The wheelhouse only housed the top half of the wheel. The rest was underground. How should these industrial features be best preserved?

was separated off in school time by an oak screen. On Sundays there was a surpliced choir. The records say, "One hundred scholars, separated into classes, will be able to sit down comfortably, which is the maximum number that can be expected in a district like Kerridge."

This estimate proved wildly optimistic especially as the Wesleyan Methodists opened a similar school and church just along the road during the same period. Discussions about a joint school might have succeeded but the vicar and the Methodist representative died before negotiations were completed.

The school at Holy Trinity lasted only ten years but the Methodist school went on until the 1920s. Both churches were focal points for all kinds of social activities when small communities were more self-sufficient. The Methodist Church closed some years ago but services continue at Holy Trinity at 9:15am on the second and forth Sundays in the month and on major festivals. The building (and garden) are available to people for other activities as well.

Emily White

JUST WHOSE REC. IS IT ANYWAY?

Macclesfield Borough Council are currently employing a consultancy firm to advise them on a 'Parks Strategy' for the whole area. Perhaps you saw the displays at Bollington Town Hall or the Library? Maybe you answered the questionnaire? As a supplement to *Bollington Live!* with kind permission of The Council's Leisure Services Department the questionnaire is included with this edition. The closure date for the return of the questionnaire has been extended for *Bollington Live!* readers until July 15th, but if you get yours after that date send it anyway.



Back in the 1950s Bollington could boast three men to look after its Recreation Ground. Nowadays our only groundsman is Andrew McKeith. Summer is his busy time; in the winter he is a rare sight, although he can occasionally be spotted on other civic duties, such as dismantling the market stalls in Macclesfield. Others workers with machines come and go, following instructions with strict timings allocated to tasks; but perhaps not taking much pride in their work. I was once told that Bollington was referred to as the 'last outpost'. Strange but true!!

Below is a resumé of Bollington's Recreation Ground at present:

The Pitches...

The cricketers are grateful to the groundsman for his pitch preparations and of course the practice cricket nets provided by the Sports Council have been greatly appreciated. There are difficulties however, for the footballers, associated with their pitch. The poor drainage has been improved but, with insufficient room to move the goal posts to different positions from season to season the goalmouth

becomes a quagmire, and consequently newly seeded grass is destroyed. The present rigid end of season date is frustrating for teams, causing a back up of games when there have been earlier cancellations due to unsuitable pitch conditions. Why not have a flexible end of season? Could the 5-a-side goal posts near the skate-board park be returned? Before they were removed they were used a lot by players for practice. This would mean the football pitch is given more of a chance to recover and the cricket outfield is not damaged.

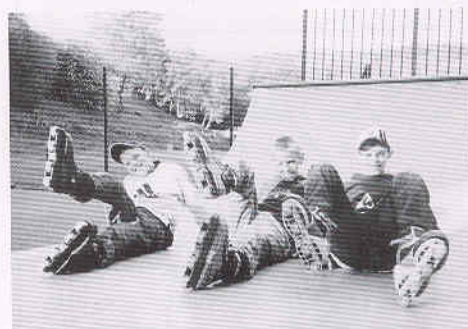
The Bowling Green and Courts...

The green is an open target for abuse and sadly, the time may be coming, when a fence has to be erected around the edge, as at South Park in Macclesfield. The tennis courts are popular, although the court beside the unchecked large trees is prone to poorer light and is slippery in damp conditions. Here's an idea: Some Spanish tennis clubs are building walls for players to practice against. Perhaps this could be incorporated into one side of the courts? Individuals could then play

by themselves. The basketball court and posts are well used, despite the boards being erected without the shooting squares on the back. The rings are rusty and the nets have gone. What mixed messages we give our youth.

The Skateboard Park...

...has been a great success and attracts a wide range of youngsters from the town and beyond. Too many in fact! More want to (roller)blade or skate than there is equipment for them. Regular users, Dale, James and Craig (see picture)

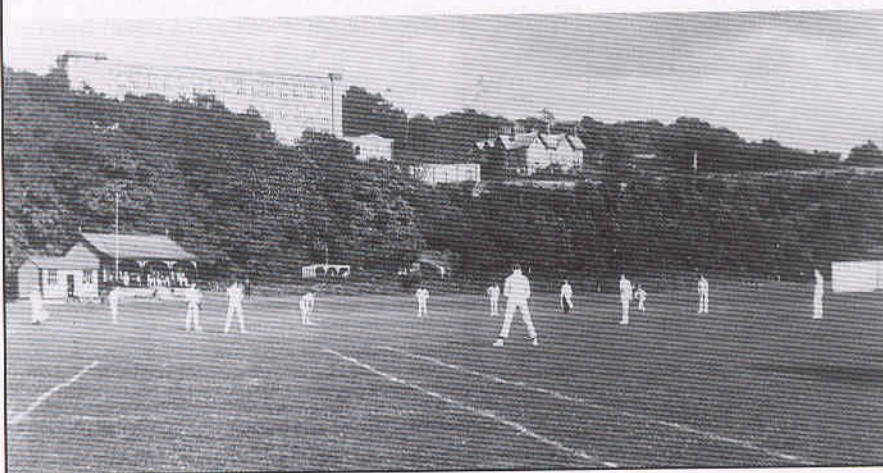


Should we provide another ramp in the Rec. or at Bollington Cross?

outlined the problem and were proud to show off their blade skills. They are very committed to their hobby and they talked enthusiastically about organising another sponsored blade event to raise money for further equipment at their own end of town, up near the Leisure Centre. They were dismayed however, by the damage to the ramp made recently by bricks thrown off the viaduct.

Extra Facilities?

How about a push-bike park with jumps and track? Perhaps on the old cricket pavilion site and up into the woods (Cricket Woods on the canal





The Quality of the wicket was important - even in 1903!

embankment above the Rec. is where earlier bikers raced; some older Bollingtonians will still remember the fun!). Bollington's Mathew, Jack and Mat, three of the local enthusiasts who have impressed our Mayor, Cllr. Tony Holland, explained that at present they have to travel to the bike park on Windmill Street, Macclesfield. A site in our town would be popular and an extra facility for many youngsters.

Premises...

The vandalism and break-ins of the Pavilion and Bowling Hut are disheartening. The time has come for bars and shutters on the windows to prevent entry, ongoing damage and theft by a small minority. Cameras and new lighting have finally been installed, but why did it have to take so long... last outpost syndrome?

More Hands on Management Required Please!

Why? Well, look how long it took to get to the bottom of the leaks from the canal. The running water around the Rec's grass edge meant that, for a whole season, the cricket pitch was partially flooded. Hitting a six became a simple matter, due to the reduction of the boundary circumference and the bowling green acquired a moat. Yes, eventually the problem was sorted, but the consequence has been the felling of mature trees, planted when the grounds were built in 1900, and many more stand dead. This was in no small part to a lack of 'ownership' and 'hands-on management'. So we put the question; could we from Bollington manage our Rec. better?

What do you think?

Please complete and send the questionnaire to the address stated, even with the risk of it arriving just a little after the 15th July. Pay particular attention to questions 12 to 16. This is an opportunity to influence the future of our Recreation Ground as a facility that everyone in Bollington, particularly our young, can benefit from and have reason to visit and enjoy!

PL

*Bikers from top of previous page:
William Liley, Matt Thickett,
Rebecca Henshaw, Matthew Cotterill,
Jack Milverton, Emma Avery*

PICTURE PUZZLE

Thanks to Mark Knight of Park Lane in Macc who correctly identified this picture as the 'Keep' in the village of Digby, Lincolnshire. He went to Digby Village Primary School where the structure is emblazoned on the school badge. In former times the 'Keep' apparently acted as the village jail. Other research via the internet suggests it was originally an elaborate well-head.



NOSTALGIA TRAIL

The Nostalgia Trail is a lovely new initiative created by the Drop-In Centre. It is a four-mile 'circular' walk along existing footpaths meandering around the northern side of the town, starting and finishing at the 'Drop-In'.

This is a cracking example of how the countryside can be brought to life with a bit of imagination. An excellent walk for all ages but particularly good for encouraging kids for a stroll. For the cost of a pound a leaflet is available that provides a map and gives a snippet of background information about each part of the walk. The route is marked with small bee shaped markers and there are other surprises along the way. It would be a shame to give the game away, but even if you think you know all the footpaths around Bollington, I'm sure you'll find something new.

I took my three children around the walk and for once not a single whinge, even when a nettle stung little Heidi. The route takes advantage of some of our more unfrequented footpaths to avoid the familiar treks along the Middlewood Way and the Canal, and passes near various pubs along the way. The leaflet is available from the Drop-In Centre. Incidentally, there is a relevance to the bees; to find out you'll have to take the walk. TN



BOLLINGTON TOWN PLAN

We reported in the last edition of *Bollington Live!* that our Town Council had successfully applied for funding to produce a first town plan, under the national "vital villages" programme, being administered by the Countryside Agency. This is potentially the most important planning and development initiative that Bollington has carried out since local government reorganisation in 1974. It provides an opportunity for everyone in Bollington to contribute their ideas about how they would like our community to develop in the future.

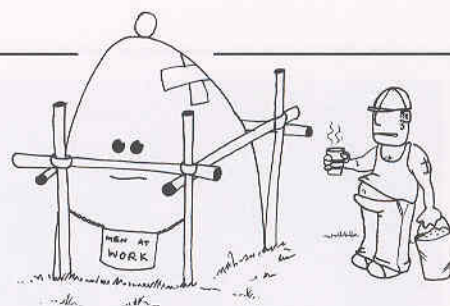
Bollington Town Council is being advised about the process to follow by the Cheshire Community Council, who are acting as agents for the Countryside Agency in Cheshire. Macclesfield Borough Council has been informed and have offered their support to the process. Bollington will be one of the first communities in Cheshire to produce a village/town plan under this programme and the whole process is breaking new ground. Let's hope that we can make a success of the process and that our town plan will be helpful to developers, local residents and our Local Authorities in equal measure.

Bollington Live! has in the past argued that Bollington has suffered from having its planning policies considered as part of Macclesfield's, in a single Local Plan. That has meant that the level of detail required to steer developments in Bollington have been missing. A Bollington-centric plan is likely to identify needs and future development policies that are different from those that consider Bollington to be just a suburb of Macclesfield. It was these types of concerns that lead group of us to establish *Bollington Live!* magazine some eight years ago, with the editorial slogan of "*Bollington, a town in its own right*".

Many Bollington residents have been concerned in recent years with the scale, design and location of new housing, with the closure of shops, the lack of any significant shopping centre and with the continuing growth of traffic and associated pedestrian safety issues. Now is our chance to not just be reactive to events as they happen, but to formulate ideas and policies that could steer future development plans. Bollington Civic Society has been championing this at its meetings and welcomes further support.

Achieving a consensus about what the future shape and character of Bollington should be is no easy matter and will require considerable effort in public consultation and involvement. The Town Council has established a small steering group for the process, under the chairmanship of Councillor David Brown and they have been meeting with the Cheshire Community Council and Macclesfield Borough Council staff to agree on a suitable approach.

The town plan process will begin through establishing a number of subject based forums with a convener for each. Each forum will



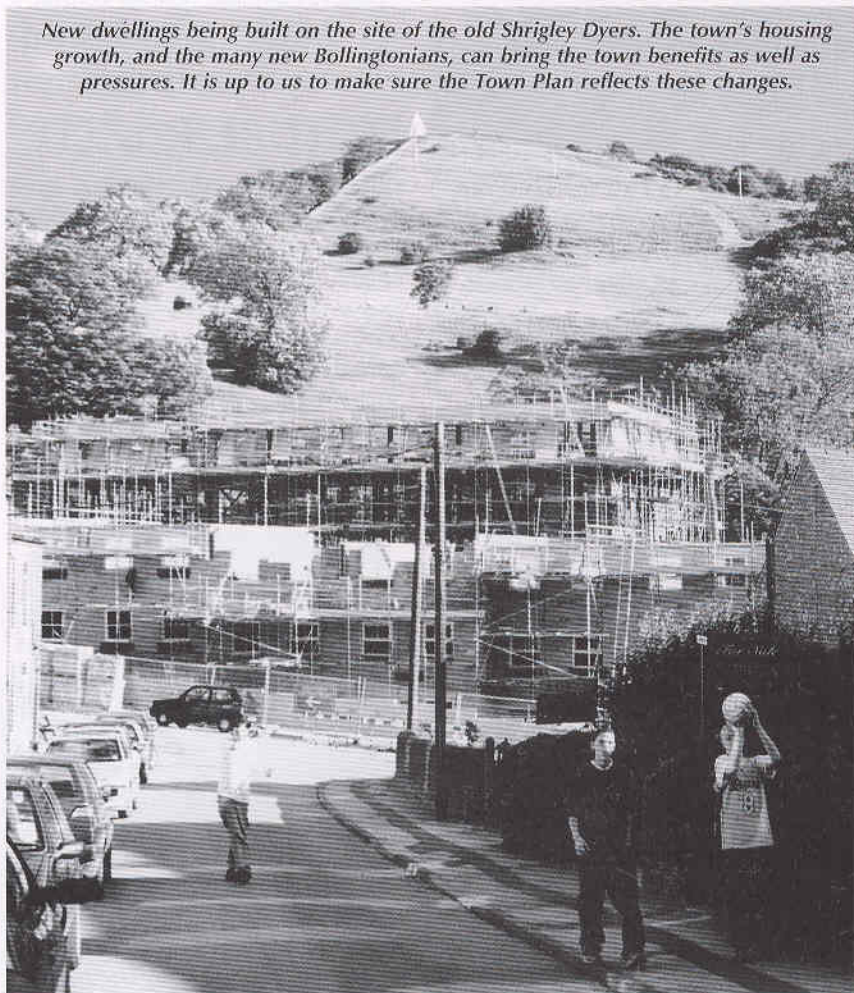
discuss issues and prepare papers to be fed back to the Town Plan Steering Committee. The forums will be open to anyone who wishes to join in. Gathering information and data on the existing situation and trends will be important.

The initial subjects chosen for the forums are:

- Industry and Employment
- Traffic and Transport
- Heritage and Conservation
- Countryside Access
- Youth Matters
- Sport and Leisure
- Housing

Anyone wishing to contribute to any of the forums should contact David Brown via the Bollington Town Council Clerk, Ruth Stubbs at the Town Hall (tel. 572985). **GB**

New dwellings being built on the site of the old Shrigley Dyers. The town's housing growth, and the many new Bollingtonians, can bring the town benefits as well as pressures. It is up to us to make sure the Town Plan reflects these changes.



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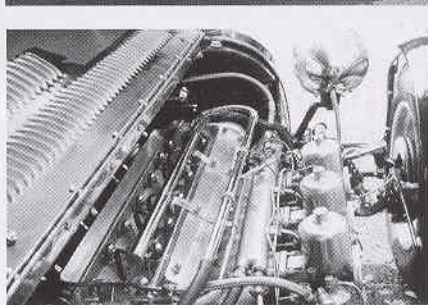
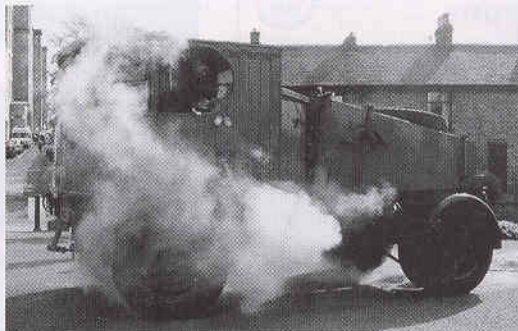
ANOTHER GREAT TRANSPORT EXTRAVAGANZA OF DELIGHT

Make a date now in your diaries for the 3rd Great Bollington Transport Extravaganza to be held on Sunday 15th. September 2002 at the Adelphi Mill Car Park and Baily Business Park. This year's event promises to be a great day out for all the family. There will be a selection of vintage, veteran and classic cars and motorbikes, mini-steam, including a children's miniature steam train, canal boat trips, side stalls and entertainment, crafts and children's activities.

A comprehensive souvenir programme will be on sale closer to the date, available from the Town Hall and other outlets. Admission will be £5 family ticket, £2.50 adult and £1 concessions. Any proceeds from the event will be put to good use within the town.

Thanks to all our exhibitors, hosts and sponsors, without whose support such an event could not take place.

Full details will be available closer to the time. For further information, please contact Ruth Stubbs, town Clerk on 572256 or Jackie on 574448



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The Editor cannot be held responsible for the opinion of contributors or the accuracy of the events listings.



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