



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Twenty Seven

Spring 2003

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A 'Micro' (light) Adventure!

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Dirigible Discovery!



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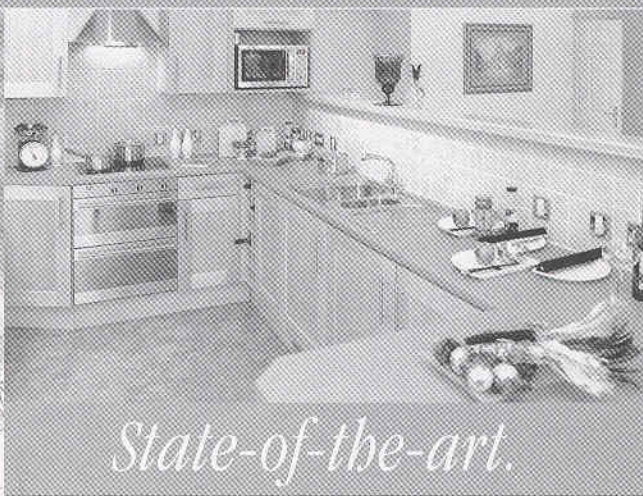


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Bollington Live! is published three times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington, a town in its own right!" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are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

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Cover: **St. John's Church today, and under threat of closure. Should we protect buildings like this? At what cost? How else could we utilise the building?**

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St. JOHN'S CHURCH THREATENED BY CLOSURE

St. John the Baptist Church, on Church Street, is one of the largest and most important of Bollington's historic buildings. It was built in 1834 and is one of three C of E churches in the Parish of Bollington. The other two are St. Oswald's in Bollington Cross and Holy Trinity in Kerridge.

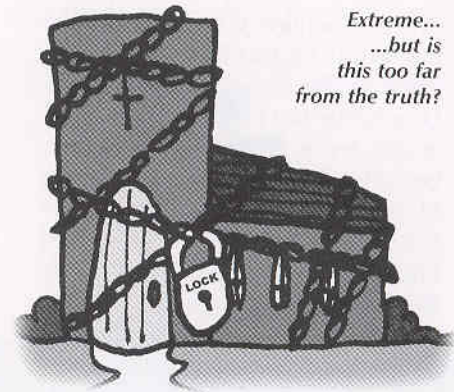
The existence of St. John's is now being threatened, as the spiralling costs of maintaining three churches in Bollington have caused the vicar, Revd. Simon Marsh and some of his Parochial Church Council to ask whether the church can afford to remain open. The costs of tackling the necessary rewiring (to meet fire regulations), renewing the heating

the church and its associated graveyard are for this historical part of Bollington. St. John's lies within the largest of our three Conservation Areas and surely deserves a better fate than being closed and becoming a target for vandals. Even if it were closed, the church would still need money to keep its exterior and graveyard in order, thus preventing it becoming a derelict site in the middle of the town.

The land for the church was donated by William Turner, the then MP for Blackburn. Mr Turner lived at Shrigley Park, now Shrigley Hall Hotel. The church's history is closely related to the industrialisation of Bollington and

the need, in the early part of the 19th Century, for new churches to provide places of worship for the increasing population, drawn to the work in the cotton mills. The population increased from around 1200 in 1800 to about 3000 by 1834.

The history of the church is well described in a splendid little booklet written by Nigel Watson and published in 1984, to commemorate the 150th year of St. John's, and is available from the church for the princely sum of 70p! Consecrated by the Bishop of Chester on 30th



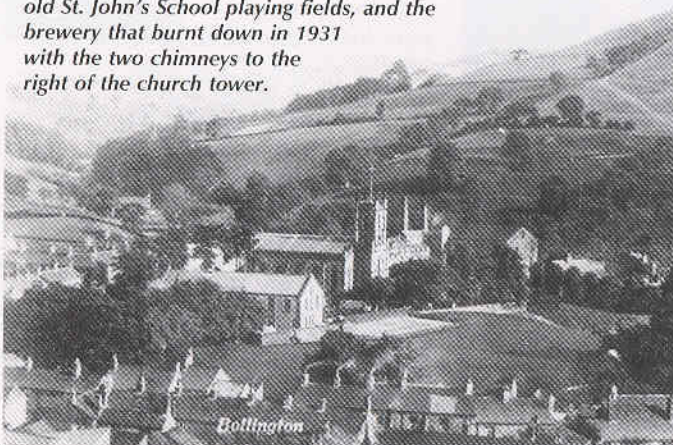
*Extreme...
...but is
this too far
from the truth?*

June 1834 the church cost £4002 to build. The Bishop was reportedly almost in tears at the sight of the huge throng of people who attended the celebrations that day.

The church today seems, to some extent, to turn its back on Church Street, with its front façade facing down the valley and not visible from the road. Despite the new railings at the Church Street entrance, this approach remains somewhat unwelcoming. The trees planted in the graveyard and on land adjoining the Tullis Russel (Coated Papers) industrial site, rather mask the church, when viewed from the west and the graveyard gives the appearance of requiring some repairs and more regular maintenance. These points are made in no way to criticise the church and its parishioners, but merely to stimulate some debate.

Church closures and dwindling congregations are a common problem in Britain and in many cases it is difficult for a parish to justify the mounting costs of maintaining expensive historic buildings with small, and often ageing, congregations. In some cases multiple-use can be an answer. St. John's is the largest performance space in Bollington, with seating for some 400 people. It is already used for choir and brass band concerts, when a large audience is either

The Church (c1920), proudly looking over the old St. John's School playing fields, and the brewery that burnt down in 1931 with the two chimneys to the right of the church tower.



system, counteracting some serious long-term subsidence and other general repairs to the building are estimated to be about £1million.

Anyone who has seen any of the historical photographs of Bollington, held by the Civic Society, will know what a prominent building St. John's was in its heyday. Sitting proudly upon a platform of land, the church commanded a view towards the Cheshire plain. Even today, if you climb up the valley towards the White Nancy or the Nab you can still appreciate just what a focal point

continued on page 4...

BOLLINGTON IN BLOOM

This is the time of year when many of us will be looking at our gardens, enjoying our spring plants and planning our summer borders. For those of us who will be creating front garden displays, this will give pleasure not only to ourselves, but also neighbours and visitors to the town. In the hope that these "garden-proud" individuals will continue in their hard work and that more people will join them, that Bollington will again be entering the North West in Bloom competition.

The competition was taken over by the Royal Horticultural Society in 2002 and has proved a great success. Despite the fact that the competition is run by a "horticultural body", beautiful floral displays are only part of the judging, with other factors such as conservation and environmental issues carrying nearly as much weight.



Mayor Sylvia Roberts receiving a Certificate of Merit for the 2001 North-West in Bloom competition.

How Bollington residents can help:
We need willing volunteers to:

Form a committee to plan and organise this year's entry and/or,

Be available to help with clean-up operations in the town such as litter picking and removal of graffiti.

Identify "grot-spots" which could be realistically improved by volunteer groups and then volunteer to help!

Bollington householders can really do their bit by keeping their frontages tidy and litter-free and any lawns or hedges neat. This makes a huge difference to the appearance of a street. Those who are able to, can plant attractive beds, tubs and baskets - how about neighbours getting together to share ideas and cuttings?

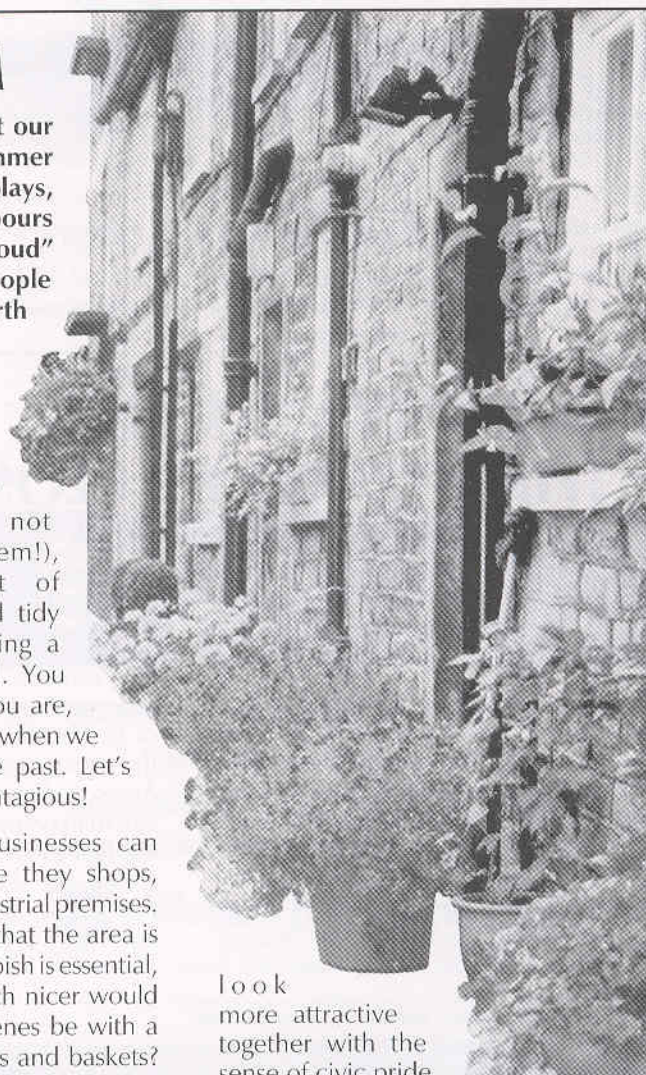
A big thank you to all who already do that little bit extra, such as looking after your grass verges (and not driving all over them!), keeping your bit of pavement swept and tidy and generally creating a "well cared for" feel. You know who you are, and so do we when we walk or drive past. Let's hope it is contagious!

Bollington businesses can also help, be they shops, offices or industrial premises. Making sure that the area is free from rubbish is essential, but how much nicer would our street scenes be with a few extra tubs and baskets? There are some that already make a huge effort in this way. Can we see a few more following suit?

We normally welcome the judges in July and would like to be able to demonstrate that the people of Bollington, both as individuals and as community groups, got stuck in to make our town a nicer place to live. You never know, Bollington might just win a highly coveted "North West in Bloom" award. But award or no award, every resident of, or visitor to the town will be a winner in the end if we have made our town



Volunteers planting bulbs by the Millennium Cross.



Look more attractive together with the sense of civic pride.

If you, or a group you represent would like to help in any way please contact: Andrea Paterson or Ruth Stubbs at Bollington Town Hall, tel: (01625) 572985; e-mails to: bollco@dircon.co.uk or 'phone George Penney on (01625) 574583.

AP

... continued from page 2

needed or expected. What about refurbishing St. John's as a combined theatre/performance space as well as its use as a place of worship? Possibly public and lottery funding for heritage and the arts could be combined to help find a future for this much loved church, which occupies such a strategic position at the heart of old Bollington. Its refurbishment, and that of its setting, could do much to enhance the immediate surroundings and contribute to the continuing regeneration of Bollington.

This looks like a potential project for the Bollington Civic Society and others to get their teeth into.

GB

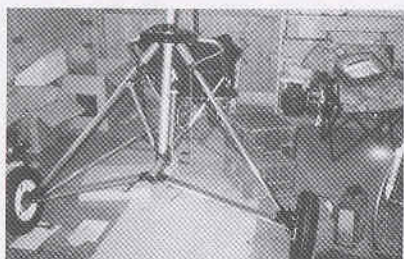
PLANE SAILING???



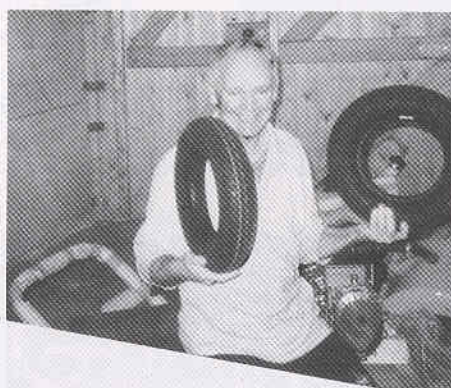
Allan Clarke describes the fulfillment of a cherished ambition

As a child, living in Fairfield Avenue during the war, watching endless Lancaster Bombers flying in and out of Woodford Aerodrome, I had a dream to fly. At last at 65 and an O.A.P. a trial lesson in a microlight put this dream within the bounds of reality.

After hours of lessons, from a muddy field near Sandbach, of landing, take-offs and exercises over the Cheshire countryside, I had certainly got the flying bug. It was soon time to take the ground school exams that included Air Law, Meteorology and Navigation - what a shock to the system as the last exam I took was over 40 years ago. It was then that I took the plunge and ordered a home build microlight kit.



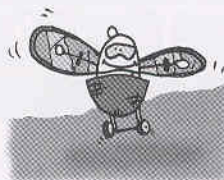
The kit arrived as a vanload of boxes, bits and pieces and a wad of instructions. After the initial bewilderment, lots of phone calls to the manufacturer and three months hibernating in the garage, the Bollington Flyer G-CBYM (Golf Charlie Bravo Yankee Mike) gradually took shape. When it was completed, the manufacturer Mainair Sports, did a final detailed check and 'Yankee Mike' took to the air in the hands of a qualified test pilot. The test results were sent to the Civil Aviation Authority who awarded a certificate of airworthiness. Gone are the days



when microlight aircraft were hang-gliders with lawn mower engines attached. With new regulations brought out in the 1980's they now have the same safety standards as any other aircraft.

After a few more lessons in 'Yankee Mike' the instructor said the dreaded words "I think you are ready to do your first solo". His weight was replaced by 10-stone of concrete ballast strapped into the back seat. It was a very lonely feeling taxiing out to the runway on my own. Meticulous pre take-off checks, full throttle, take-off and climb to a 500-foot circuit of the airfield and nervously into a rather bumpy landing. Taxiing back to the hangar feeling quite elated, then congratulations and criticism from the instructor followed by "Don't get out - go again, climb to 2500 feet and follow the M6 south for a few miles."

The next take-off and climb out up through misty cloud at 2000 feet was something to



remember, up into crystal clear sky with the sun turning the cloud below into a golden carpet for as far as the eye could see. The only other thing I could see was a snow capped Snowdon rising above the cloud way



to the west. I couldn't help holding a conversation with the 10-stone of concrete behind me, exclaiming, "This is what it's all about!" It was worth every moment of the last year. I then thought "I'd better get back and try to find the airfield" which can be easier said than done. I made a good landing this time. I dismantled Yankee Mike and towed it back to Bollington, exhausted and exhilarated.



G CBYM is a Mainair Blade 582, its 65hp engine gives it a climb rate of over 800 feet per minute carrying two 14-stone people. It has a maximum level speed of 82 mph and a cruise speed of 60 mph and its 14-gallon tank gives it up to a 300-mile range. The wing span is 35 feet but it all packs onto a trailer, which fits into a 20-foot garage.

Allan Clarke



CRIMES THEY ARE A' CHANGING?

The recent *Bollington Live!* crime and police survey was completed by 204 households, which is a 6% response rate – not a bad sample of opinion for an unsolicited postal survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return the questionnaire.

One finding stands out above all others. Local residents want a more obvious police presence in Bollington and feel that we badly need more foot patrols and police officers, and that they should be seen regularly. Over three-quarters of the people think that a new police station should be considered and many are not satisfied with the slow response time of the police to reported incidents. Cheshire County Council, who are responsible for our police service, should be concerned to learn that two thirds of the people who replied to our survey said that they never or rarely saw a police officer in Bollington. Only about 4% of the respondents reported regularly seeing an officer in the town (once a week or more).

Although Bollington's crime rate may not be high, compared with some inner city areas, about a half of households have had a direct experience of crime in the last year. The most common incidents relate to noise disturbance and damage to property and cars. About a third of people think there is more crime in Bollington than in the past, whilst a half think there is about the same amount as always. Only about 15% think there is less crime than in the past.

Road safety is an issue for many and half the respondents to the survey think that Bollington's main streets remain very dangerous. Less than a tenth of people feel that the limited traffic calming measures have solved the problems and a number of people are critical of them and feel they may even have made road safety worse.

The full results of the survey are as follows:

GB

We will make the results of this survey known to the local police authorities.

What innovative ideas for improving the policing of Bollington do you have? Is it simply a question of greater police visibility or is their lack of presence a measure of how little crime we have in Bollington? Many of us live in neighbourhood watch areas, do they have any impact? If you have any strong opinions let us know?

1. CRIMES EXPERIENCED BY BOLLINGTON HOUSEHOLDS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

(Some households had experienced more than one type of crime)

	Number	%
NO crimes experienced directly by our household.....	109	53%

CRIMES BY TYPE

Noise nuisance from neighbours /pubs etc	47	23%
Damage to my/our property in Bollington.....	29	14%
My/our car damaged in the street in Bollington.....	28	14%
Theft from our car	11	5.5%
Theft from our garage or garden shed	10	5%
Drug related incidents	9	4.5%
Assault in the street.....	5	2.5%
Theft from our house.....	5	2.5%
Mobile telephone theft in Bollington.....	2	1%
My/our car stolen in Bollington	0	0
Other crimes mentioned	22	11%

2. PERCEPTION OF CRIME IN BOLLINGTON.

Less crime now than 5 to 10 years ago.....	0	0
About the same amount of crime as 5 to 10 years ago.....	29	14%
More crime in Bollington today than 5 to 10 years ago	109	53.5%
DON'T KNOW	66	3%

3. HOW OFTEN DO PEOPLE SEE A POLICE OFFICER IN BOLLINGTON?

Almost every day.....	0	0
About twice a week.....	0	0
Once a week, on average	8	4%
Less than once a week.....	58	28%
Never.....	137	67%

4. SHOULD BOLLINGTON HAVE A POLICE STATION?

YES, at any cost	73	37%
YES, as long as it doesn't cost the council tax payer very much more.....	94	48%
NO, we don't need/can't afford one	30	15%

5. VIEWS ON ROAD SAFETY IN BOLLINGTON

The main streets in Bollington are as safe as most town roads in England today	83	41%
The main streets in Bollington remain very dangerous	102	50%
The recent traffic calming measures have largely solved the problems of road safety on Bollington's main streets	19	9%

6. WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK SHOULD BE DONE TO TACKLE CRIME AND IMPROVE POLICING IN BOLLINGTON?

(This is a summary of the opinions expressed by people. Only issues mentioned by 4 people or more are listed. Some people mentioned more than one issue.)

More police presence required in Bollington.....	113	55%
Tackle youth issues/provide more for youth to do	23	11%
We should have a police station	19	9%
Solve parking problems, including lorry parking	18	9%
Faster response time by police needed	15	7%
Stiffer sentences needed for crimes committed	11	%
Improve or modify traffic calming.....	11	5%
Lower speed limits on roads required	9	4%
More local residents watch groups and patrols	9	4%
More parental control of youths required.....	8	4%
Tackle the graffiti problem quicker.....	5	2%
CCTV cameras needed	5	2%
Better street lighting needed	5	2%
Speed cameras required	4	2%
Tackle the drug problem.....	4	2%
Other suggestions mentioned by 3 or less people	24	16%

J.A. McNULTY

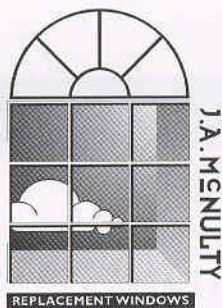
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BOLLINGTON



MARCH

Monday 17th, 7 – 10pm

St Patrick's Day "Race Night"

Drop In Centre. Irish Supper, Bar and Live Music. Tickets £1.00 Tel.576311

Wednesday 19th till Sat. 22nd, 7.45pm

'Lord Arthur Saviles Crime'

Arts Centre: Boll. Fest. Players. A light comedy adapted from a short story by Oscar Wilde. For details call 572527.

Thursday 20th, 10am – 12noon

Historical Walk

Arts Centre: Roger Bowling leads another popular walk around Bollington. £3.00 / walk, pay on day.

Saturday 28th, 2 - 4pm

Table-top Sale

St. John's School, Grimshaw Lane
Toys, clothes, bric-a-brac Tel: 572025

Sunday 23rd, 7.00pm

Ice Age Manchester

Arts Centre: Hugh Beggs discusses how the deglaciation of the last ice sheet helped shape the landscape of present day Greater Manchester and Bollington. £3 on the door.

Monday 24th, 8pm

Greater Bollington's Railways

Arts Centre. Basil Jeuda gives a Civic Society illustrated talk on the railways around Bollington

Wednesday 26th, 7.30pm

Drop-In Centre A.G.M

Bridgend: A.G.M and Open Evening.

Saturday 29th, 8.00pm

Tavec String Quartet

Arts Centre: Bollington Chamber Concerts. Works by Debussy and Wolf and the first performance of a quartet by locally-based composer Anthony Gilbert. Tickets: £10 & £5(concs.) call 560355 or 575287.

Sunday 30th, 7.30pm

Elgar – The Kingdom

Pavillion Gardens Buxton: Bollington Festival Choir and Buxton Musical Society. For info. call 0161 427 2870.

APRIL

Thursday 3rd, 10am – 12noon

Historical Walk

Arts Centre: Roger Bowling leads another of these popular walks around Bollington. £3.00 / walk, pay on day.

Saturday 5th, 8.00pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Arts Centre: The Yorkshire Stompers.
Tickets: £6 from 574410 or 575287.

Sunday 6th, 11am – 1pm

Car Boot Sale

Drop-In Centre, Bridgend:
All proceeds will go to support the work of the Centre.

Sunday 6th, 4.30pm and 7.30pm

The Happy Prince

Arts Centre: Bollington Children's Musical Theatre. Phone 0161 427 2870 for tickets.

Saturday 12th, 7.30pm

The Trouble with Mary Shelley

Arts Centre. Edie Campbell's new one-woman show looks at the creator of Frankenstein, her remarkable husband and parents, Lord Byron and the politics of the day. Tickets £7, £6 (concs.) from 575287 or 573413.

Sunday 13th, 10.30am – 3.30pm

"I Never Knew That"

Rangers' Office, Adlington Rd: Ranger Ed Pilkington leads an 8 mile circular ramble through the Bollington and Kerridge countryside looking at the history of the area and how nature and people have shaped the area.

MAY

Saturday 3rd, 8.00pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Arts Centre: The Old Fashioned Love Band. Tickets: £6, Tel.574410 / 575287

Tuesday 13th, till Saturday 17th, 7.30pm

My Fair Lady

Civic Hall: Bollington Light Opera Group. For details ring 875326.

Saturday 17th, 2 - 4pm

Pet Show

St. John's School, Grimshaw Lane
Bring your own champion pet or come and see the curiosities! Tel: 573271

Monday 19th, 8pm

Mersey Basin Campaign

Arts Centre: A Civic Society talk by Walter Menzies.

Sat. 24th till Mon. 26th, 10am – 6pm

39th Annual Art Exhibition

Civic Hall: Bollington Art Group
Admission free. Only Open till 4.00pm on Bank Holiday Monday.

Sunday 25th, 10.30pm and through day

"Bluebell" Nostalgia Trail

Drop-In Centre: Opening of 2nd Nostalgia Trail and 'Sites, Sounds and Smells' Adventure walk. All welcome. For further details phone 576311.

Wednesday 28th, 8am – 11am

Bollington's Birds

Rangers' Office, Adlington Rd: Ranger Paul Hughes and RSPB's Peter Kirk lead this 4-5 mile walk discovering which summer visitors have joined the resident birdlife of Bollington.



Edie Campbell returns to the Arts Centre to give the first performance of her new play 'The Trouble with Mary Shelley' which probes the life of the 18 year-old author of the famous gothic novel "Frankenstein"

JUNE

Friday 27th, 7.30pm

Caribbean Cruise Evening

Drop-In Centre: Put on your glad rags and enjoy one of our celebrated Themed Evenings. Bar available. Tickets: £5.00 including buffet. 576311

Friday 27th June 7pm

Summer Barbecue

St. John's School, Grimshaw Lane
Early evening barbecue with live music
Tel: 574224

Sunday 29th, 10am – 12.30pm

'Driving' to Nancy

Rangers' Office, Adlington Rd: Ranger Ray Weaver leads this 5-mile walk. Climbing the 'Rally Road' and visiting White Nancy and discovering local history together with fabulous views.

Sunday 29th, - 7.30pm

Pearls of the Baroque

Methodist Church: Bollington Festival Choir. Music by Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Praetorius, Schütz and Phillip Glass. For details phone 0161 427 2870.

JULY

Saturday 19th, 7.30pm till late

Open Air Rock Concert

Live music at Berristall Hall Barn. Barbecue and bar. Tickets: £5.00 from Drop-In Centre. Tel: 576311.

AUGUST

Wednesday 13th 1pm - 3pm

Children's Fun Day and Duck Race

Drop-In Centre. Tel. 576311.

Sunday 31st, 11am - 1pm

Car Boot Sale + B.B.Q

Drop-In Centre Tel: 576311.

SEPTEMBER

Monday 15th 8pm

Town and Village Plans

Arts Centre: A Civic Society talk from Rachel Cowan, Cheshire Community Councillor and Cllr. David Brown on the Bollington Town Plan.

OCTOBER

Friday 17th, 7.30pm

Grand Auction

Drop-In Centre: Viewing from Monday 13th-Thursday 16th 9.00-3.30, Bar available on day, Catalogues £1.00 including a free drink.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Thursdays, 8pm

Bollington Light Opera Group

Arts Centre. Tel: 574085

Tuesdays, 8pm

Festival Choir

Arts Centre. Tel: 0161 427 2870

Wednesdays, 8pm

Festival Players

Arts Centre. Tel: 574583

Sundays, 2pm

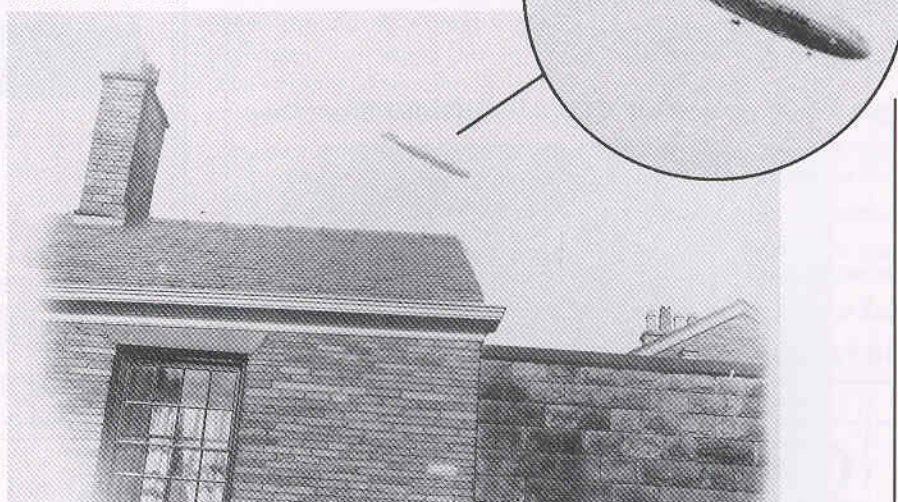
Junior Players

Arts Centre. Tel: 575921

DIRIGIBLE OVERHEAD!

We were handed this interesting photo by one of our readers.

Whilst scanning the picture we 'zoomed in' on the airship and could just about detect the markings on the tail. Enhancing the image gave us 'R36'. Some hunting on the internet led us to www.aht.ndirect.co.uk/airships/r36/ which had a wealth of information. The R36 was a forerunner of the R101 that crashed in France in 1930.



The web site also shows the Flight Log of the R36 (G - FAAF), it only made 9 flights, but on the 9th June 1921 it flew from Nottingham to Liverpool on a demonstration flight and it seems likely that it was that day that it flew over Bollington.

TN



LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Nobody has contacted us about the certificate as published in our last issue and so it has been decided to present it to Bollington Medical Centre where it is to be displayed.

If you missed our last issue and are related to Joseph Stubbs, who worked at Oliver's Mill for 40 years until, at least, 1931, please get in touch with the Medical Centre.

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*If you have a community event
that you want to publicise please
contact our 'Events Editor'
Wendy Parry on 01625 575093
or write to her at
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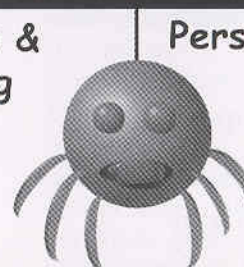
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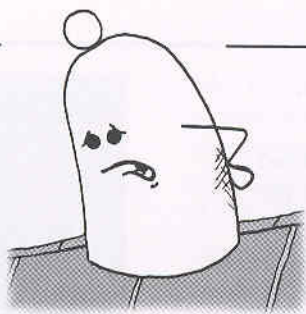
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BACKS AND BAGGAGE



On of a series of articles offering health tips to Bollington's Residents...

The other day in Kerridge I passed two women chatting over the wall and lifting over a heavy object; a present or a parcel? No, it was a stone.

Untrained men and women are repairing stone walls and collecting heavy shopping. Chronic back pain is increasingly common and the problem is even getting more frequent in schoolchildren who carry loads of books often on one shoulder. In this sedentary society sitting for hours loads the spine in a harmful way and other problems such as obesity can make things worse.

Here are some tips...Try getting up and walking about every half hour. Being aware of good posture keeps your muscles strong. If you are lifting anything keep your back straight and bend the knees. Cooking is easier if you have a pan rack and some cupboards at shoulder height. Using a rucksack for carrying weights can balance the load evenly. If you stand a lot you can alter the angle of the spine and rest the back by changing your shoes after a few hours. Swimming, Tai Chi and Pilates exercises strengthen the muscles and improve balance and you may be helped by a session with a physiotherapist.

But why carry shopping when it can be taken out of your hands? Some businesses offer free delivery in Bollington and others will do it for a small charge.

Hilary Dickie; Jean Coope

Shops and businesses offering free delivery.

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Flowers 'N' Things. Florists. 2-4 Grimshaw Lane, Bollington. Tel. 01625 572228. E-mail, flowers-n-things @ talk 21.com

Hamilton's Fruit & Veg. Greengrocers. 29 Palmerston Street, Bollington. Tel. 01625 572714.

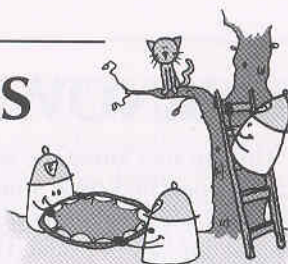
J & JW Snaith. General Stores, Off Licence and Post Office. 52 Ovenhouse Lane, Bollington. Tel. 01625 572083.

The Washing Well. Laundry and Dry Cleaning. 84 Palmerston Street, Bollington. Tel. 01625 572526.

Threshers. Off Licence. Palmerston Street, Bollington. Tel. 01625 576524.

West Bollington Post Office. Post Office. Gift/Card Shop. 65 Wellington Road, Bollington. Tel. 01625 572378.

FIREFIGHTERS RE-UNITED



The Bollington Fire Station would like to hold an open evening for any ex-members who served at either the present building, or the old station that was located in the grounds of the Lower House Mill. Whether you served for 2 or 20 years Bollington's firefighters would like to hear from you. Currently there are 13 serving officers, but many more have come and gone over the years and this will be an excellent opportunity for the old to meet the new, renew friends-ships, socialise and see how the service, together with appliances and equipment, has changed over the years.

Many ex-officers still live and work locally so there is every chance of a great turnout. If you ever served at Bollington Fire station or you know someone who has, then contact James Eyres at the station on a Monday night between 7-9pm. tel 01625 575913

JE



Various pictures of the Bollington Firemen from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s



UNKNOWN PLEASURES

"Do you two know the answer, you look bright enough?" hollered a lady perched on a stool next to the bar. It was quiz night in the Royal Oak, and the complement was well received. However, our sober appearance belied the fact that we were more or less incapable of remembering our own names, never mind Inspector Morse's first. We swiftly finished our pints of Marston's bitter and headed outside into the freezing cold.

It was now well after nine o'clock, a mere six hours since we started our quest to visit all the pubs in Bollington. Fourteen of them...In one day?...Quite!

Foolishly, I'd presumed my research had been thorough. I'd driven around the village and plotted the location of all the hostelrys on a street map. It hadn't occurred to me that some of the pubs might be closed.

On a fresh February afternoon, we first headed for The Red Lion. We needed to escape the icy winds running down from White Nancy, into the comfort of a warm and welcoming pub. There were no lights on and there was nobody home, so we headed down the hill along Lord Street towards The Crown, where again another closed door greeted us.

Unperturbed by our run of misfortune, we headed along Church Street in the hope of joining the congregation at The Church House Inn, but we missed the lunchtime service by half an hour. Things were getting serious. Who ever heard of a pub-crawl where you didn't actually go in any of them?



The Cotton Tree, as it is today

OPENING TIMES	
MONDAY TO THURSDAY	2PM-11PM
FRIDAY SATURDAY	12MD-11PM
SUNDAY	12MD-3PM
	7PM 1030PM

The New Con Club now occupies what was once The Turner's Arms, but when we turned the corner delight replaced despair as it emerged that The Cotton Tree was indeed open, and a hive of activity was underway inside.

The fire was roaring next to the door, a small dog skipped around the bar, whilst the Jennings 'Snecklifter' was a lively pint that soon brought the colour back to our cheeks. They were advertising a "Ghanaian Feast" for the night after St. Valentine's Day, and in one corner gathered around an old green leather chair, was a selection of musical instruments. Almost everyone said hello to us. This was a good start.

It seemed a shame to leave, but we were on a mission. We gulped the remains of our excellent beer, leapt over the dog, and headed past the Viceroy Indian Restaurant, out of the village towards The Poachers Inn. Once again our timing was lousy, because the poacher was out, so we traipsed back past the Cotton Tree and along Palmerston Street in search of another pint.

The Meridian, not quite at the centre of Bollington, was not due to open till half past four. Refuge appeared to arrive in the shape of The Spinner's Arms, as the door was wide open, beckoning us inside. The bad news was that we had just missed last orders, but we were sent happily on our way with the news that both



The Queen's Arms and The Dog & Partridge would still be open.

With a spring in our step, we hurried down High Street into the relaxed atmosphere of The Queen's Arms. Whilst enjoying a pint of Robinson's bitter, Roy, having misspent his youth more than me, proceeded to humiliate me on the pool table. Despite the humbling experience of losing two games in a row, I felt at home, not least because a picture tribute to the 'Team of the Nineties' was proudly displayed on the wall.

A brisk walk along Water Street and then under the canal brought us to The Dog & Partridge, where we were able to catch the end of 'Ready Steady Cook'. I drank another pint of Robinson's best, and Roy, being more adventurous, plumped for a pint of Robinson's 'Hatters' mild.



One of our lost pubs, The Orange Tree (c1905), situated opposite the bottom of Flash Lane

With no time to be wasted, we waltzed around to The Vale Inn on Adlington Road, where my better half earned pocket money as a waitress some years ago. Another fine ale was served, Samuel Smith's 'Old Brewery' bitter. Our posse then gained a member as Paul, my future brother-in-law, joined us for a swift pint of orange juice.

At this point, time began to race away from us and all hopes of drinking in all fourteen pubs



vanished. (I'd made the assumption we'd never get round to The Lord Clyde, or indeed The Redway Tavern and Bulls Head). We had made a tactical error by accepting a lift up to The Cock & Pheasant, not because it was an unpleasant place to go, far from it. Roy and I each devoured a delicious plate of nachos with melted cheese, salsa, guacamole and sour cream, washed down with Boddingtons bitter. No, the problem was purely logistical. Paul (our driver) had to go home under orders from his fiancée and so we had no transport to get back down into the village. By half past eight (time really had passed us by) it was unbelievably cold as we scurried back towards Grimshaw Lane. This also meant we lost valuable drinking time as we shivered in the blustery valley.

After our dalliance with the regulars of The Royal Oak quiz night, we crossed the main road and quaffed another good pint of Boddington's in The Waggon & Horses.

Meanwhile, Paul had sent me a text message saying he was 'chillin', which apparently is a phrase used by younger members of our society to indicate that they are staying at home and relaxing. Well, let me tell you, Roy and I were most certainly 'chillin' during another brisk walk towards the bright lights of Palmerston Street.

In our vain attempt to get a drink at all the village boozers, we started to drink halves to save time. The oak-panelled glory of The Holly Bush flashed before us as half a pint of Robinson's was downed at twenty to eleven. Then we darted across the road and paid our second visit of the day to The Spinnars Arms, where we secured two halves of Boddingtons, and downed them with the clock ticking away.

We eventually caught up with time in The Meridian. The strikingly colourful interior provided the

perfect backdrop to the end of a thoroughly enjoyable day. Roy, being a veteran of such marathon drinking events, bought a double round of Boddington's on the stroke of closing time. We had managed to drink in ten of the fourteen pubs in the village, and made to feel welcome in every single one. This was my first pub-crawl around Bollington and it will not be the last, now that I have discovered the previously unknown pleasures to be had.

"Endeavour! Inspector Endeavour Morse!" exclaimed Roy as we walked under the orange glow of the streetlights. Endeavour indeed.

KS



We used to have our own beer, the brewery, next door to St. John's Church, was burnt down in 1931.



... White Nancy Boys - continued from back page

attraction, coupled with good food and the (very) hot sun, well what the heck, life just doesn't get better than this.

Soon enough reality bites and its back to the old trails in the Peaks, time to stack up some more rides and plan the trip to Ambleside on the 5th, April.

GC

We can be contacted by email . Geoff@biker8.freemove.co.uk or view the Bollington Leisure Centre web site for our link www.bollingtonleisure.freemove.co.uk.

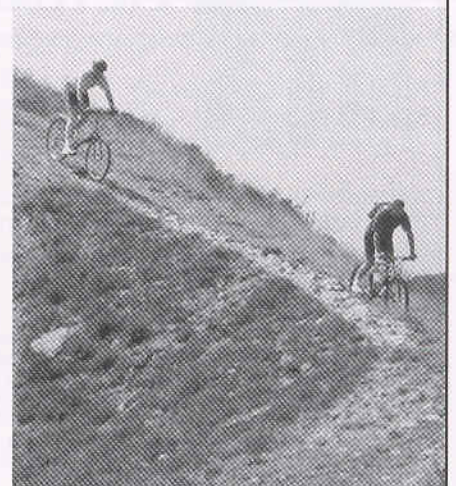
At the Pym Chair car park (left) ... and in action near Pott Shrigley Brickworks (below)



BOLLINGTON FOLLIES

Richard Sardiner, who lives on Beechway, has managed to find out many of the names on the front cover picture from our last issue. It showed the performers from the "Bollington Follies" in the nineteen twenties. Richard says there is a bit of doubt about a few, so if you know better or can complete the list then please contact us!

???? Brogden	Alf Harden	Harold Crighton
???? ?????	???? ?????	Albert Bennet
???? ?????	???? ?????	Rupert Hampson
Geoff Hampson	Ron Chadwick	Albert Bass



Why not drop in?!!

The Drop-in-Centre applied to the Lottery Community Fund last year and fortunately, were one of the 121 successful organisations. What does this mean for Bollington?

Believe me, it is absolutely fantastic news for our community. The Drop-In Centre has been a local amenity for over twelve years, and with this grant, it means that we can put into place a three-year funding & development strategy that will strengthen the Centre's future. 'Community Integration' is the key to our success, and we continue to breakdown social barriers, with over 600 local people a year, both young and old, benefiting in numerous ways from our Centre.

The Drop-In provides the following weekly activities: bingo, poetry, Reading Circle, Painting and Drawing, Mums & Dads Tots & Babies, Creative Writing, and Computing for Beginners, Sing-Alongs, quizzes and games, talks and demonstrations and the Gardening Club. We are always open to new ideas for our weekly activities and fund-raising events. Please call in for a copy of the latest weekly activity timetable.

Other activities include the Workshop, Shopping, Heritage & Reminiscence, Education & Activities and Well-Being Projects. The Centre is open to all and relies on committed volunteering from local people to run these projects. Two new exciting innovations are Bollington's very own Internet Café and our recycling shop called 'Revival'.

The Internet Café is open at 9am – 1pm Monday to Thursday. It is the only Internet Café in Bollington. We particularly encourage people who

have had little opportunity to use the Internet, and we offer help and assistance to first timers. People come to research information on their hobbies, interests and societies that they are members of; it could be root vegetable growing, football clubs, job recruitment agencies, genealogy, music sites, local churches, narrow-boat renovation or cheap holidays and flights, national societies & clubs or antiques buying. Within five minutes you can be sitting in front of the biggest encyclopaedia in the world searching for information. I'm always surprised at the diversity of hobbies that local people follow, and enjoy helping them find a relevant website. The Drop-In Centre does require a donation of £2 per session to cover running costs, but this is a lot cheaper than having to buy your own computer.

'Revival' Recycling Shop offers a place for the public to donate unwanted bric-a-brac, clothes, books etc. The shop was started last summer and raised over £1400 last

year. We are probably the only second-hand recycling shop in Bollington. Sheila Skelhorn, one of the Drop-In Centre volunteers, who organises our Revival shop says, "It's amazing what people bring in to the Drop-In. If anything is not suitable for our shop then we still try and find a home for it. Teapots to knitting patterns, clothes, books and everything in between arrive here! We even take requests for specific items on our WANTED and FOR SALE board. We are hoping to double the funds we raise in 2003, so please come in and find something you need. It is becoming a regular shopping spot because of the bargains people can pick up."

Finally, the important Fund-raising dates for the next six months are: St. Patrick's Evening (Horse Racing and Irish Super) 17th March, 1st Car Boot, 6th April, the opening of our latest Nostalgia Walk 25th May, and The Caribbean Cruise Themed Night 27th June. For further details about these events and how you can become involved with the Drop-In, please contact Haydn on 01625 576311.

Haydn Vickerman, Drop-In Administrator / Community Worker



The Drop-In Centre occupies this interesting and lovely building at Bridgend, Palmerston Street.



PICTURE PUZZLER

The flood was on 22nd June 1941. Local bobby Dick Davies and his wife Jean were only two days back from their honeymoon. Jean was cooking her first Sunday dinner in Bollington when the flood, caused by a breach in the Lamaload Reservoir, quickly flooded

their home at 21 Ingersley Rd. Jean, now 81, remembers wading outside and being hailed by Billy Jackson (pictured) to help him rescue his hens from their coop "Got a hand for these hens?" Billy had a butcher's shop on Palmerston St.

57 years after her first flooding, in 1998, Jean's flat in Dean Court was flooded when the River Dean flooded many properties around Water St. Jean was 'rescued' from her flat feet first through the living-room window by the fire crew. When she returned she was surprised to find a duck had taken up residence in her bathroom.

TN



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Saturday June 14th Summer Dinner Dance

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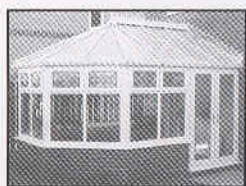


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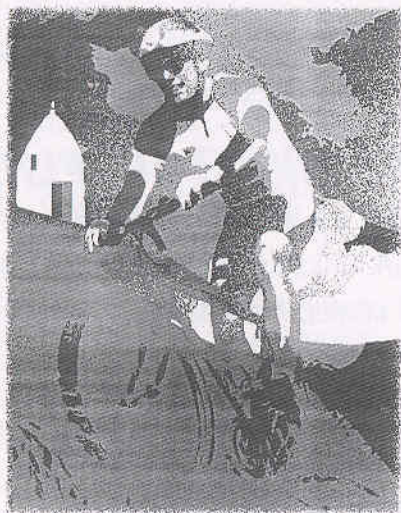
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BOLLINGTON

Live!



WHITE NANCY BOYS

About 8 years ago a new cult was introduced into Bollington's sporting history, a group of like minded men engaged in the tough sport of mountain biking, a sport in which adrenaline rushes are part and parcel of every ride.

The club's name was invented by one of the founders, Geoff Coe, one time roadie and full time sporting junkie. His preoccupation with sport placed him in the driving seat of the mountain biking club and he is still there today. The club has around 22 members and although there is no official membership the group are a

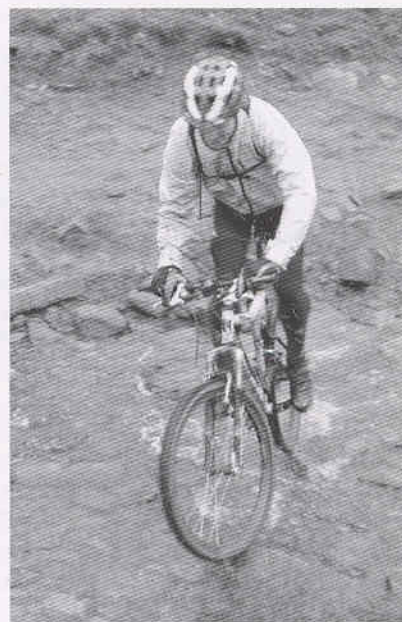
close knit group of boys all pursuing the art of "just get out and do it". New members are always welcome providing they have a sense of humour and don't mind being shown up and unmercifully ridiculed, (just kidding!).

The club takes to the road on Sundays, usually from the Turners Arms at the crack of dawn; reaching the route's starting point by bike or car. Macclesfield forest is a favourite local ride and with a bit of tweaking various loops may be added or subtracted to make longer or shorter rides. The only certainty is that although the rides can be tough the Nancy Boy's sense of camaraderie and good humour makes every ride memorable.

The club spend several weekends each year in The Lake District, Wales, or the Yorkshire Dales. We have a route-planning meeting about every 2 months where we plan a set of rides and events; it usually takes place in a local watering hole and is always well attended. For 2003 we are planning some events to involve our families, such as barbecues, curry nights, palm reading, and the like. It all makes for a very interesting year with the White Nancy Boys.

A particular highlight of our year is the Christmas awards evening, dubbed this year as the "The Sheriffs Rusty Badge Awards". These awards are given to members, sometimes for something as insignificant as being certified as clinically obese. Our onboard team of scriptwriters can

usually find a few delicate threads of insecurity in most members. All this makes for a splendid evening, with lots of laughs and a good curry, remarkably we all remain friends (I think?).



The club takes a foreign trip each year, the past 2 years we have been to the Costa Del Sol to test ourselves against the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the riding is tough and testing but the scenery in that part of Spain is worth the effort. The mountain villages are so spectacular and we have many happy photographic memories to help us through the winter months in good old England. The trip is obviously hard work but of course as dedicated Nancy Boys we make the most of what the area has to offer. Cheap booze is an

continued on page 13...

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BOLLINGTON

Live!