



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Twenty Eight

Summer 2003



IN THIS ISSUE:

100 years of Heathcotes

Wildflower walks in Harrop Wood

A 'different' year.. Anthony Holland looks back

B.L.O.G.S success!



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Cover: **Adlington Morris celebrating the opening of the new path up to White Nancy.**
See page six "A year in the life"... of the Bollington Mayor.

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Whither The Rec?

Could It Be Better?

Created in the 1880s on what had been a swamp, the Recreation Ground off Adlington Road was presented to the town by the mill-owner Francis Gregg, a priceless gift that has long been cherished.

In 1974, when the powers of Bollington's Council were largely ceded to Macclesfield, the Recreation Ground was handed over as well. Or the management of it was; as it was felt that Macclesfield was better equipped for the job.

Recently, with other parks, The Rec has come under review. A report has been produced, a committee is pondering, and a mind-boggling budget has been touted in the *Macclesfield Express*.

Prior to this, a questionnaire in **Bollington Live!** gathered local views. Not put together in Bollington, it was inserted by arrangement with Macclesfield Borough, while the questions themselves - and a pretty generalised lot they were - had been devised by consultants in Salford.

From the 4,000 copies in **Bollington Live!**, plus another 700 distributed locally, just 116 replies were received, a response verging on the meaningless. On these, nonetheless, much of the report is based: the stirringly-entitled "Implementation Plan."

As generalised as the questionnaire, though a great deal longer, the plan is not easy reading. 'Develop use for Local Events' and 'Coordinate Furniture Range' are amongst the items it lists, though it is fair to mention that 'Improve Existing Pavilion' is there as well, and a map including the area across Adlington Road introduces several welcome concepts.

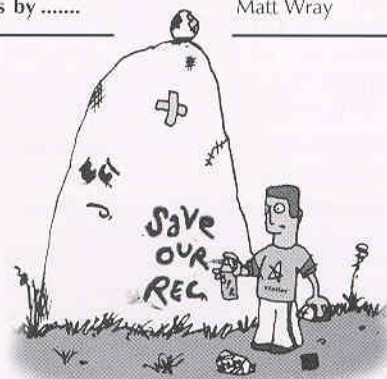
Meanwhile John Kershaw, our Mayor, is leading a campaign for new facilities for the sea cadets, the brass band and others. Possibly a new building could be built for this, or the pavilion on the Rec improved.

But ... couldn't the cricket pavilion be used **now** for these other activities? For band practice? For the Youth Club, which a number of willing people are anxious to revive?

How much money is available to be spent? It was £300,000 in one edition of the *Express*, £400,000 in the next. If so, could some of it be used elsewhere? The skateboard area in Adlington Road, for example, comes nowhere near to meeting demand.

Why not install others, at spots such as Bollington Cross?

The Rec today is in fair working order. There is graffiti by the tennis courts; but the groundsman works effectively, and the playing areas are well-tended.



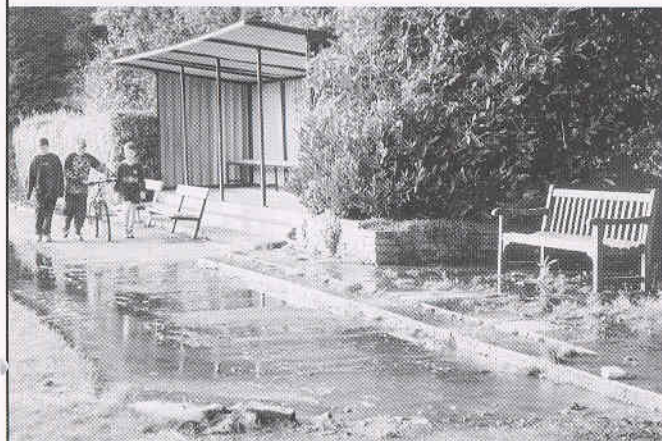
The hedges are trimmed; the bits of damage inflicted are mostly put right.

But how about the management? The old suggestion, that Bollington perhaps could do it better, is not without foundation. Then there would be local input, local concern. Various muddles over the past few years point to a need for far closer supervision. Problems over drainage, neglect in trimming the trees, the ludicrous delay in reporting the leak from the canal embankment: these all point to weak management. A more open presence is needed, along with hands-on management. Someone from Macclesfield, (if Macclesfield it is still to be), who is there often, who can make decisions and get them acted upon. Someone who, after gaining local confidence, can act positively; with regard to the pavilion, or wider access for basketball for example. Someone who, if the canal leaks again, would phone the British Waterways Board **without leaving it to the public to do so.**

It is this all-important factor that documents like the Implementation Plan tend to obscure. Hands-on management, or the lack of it, has been the biggest of problems in the past. It is surely what is needed on The Rec.

JL

Left: The leak from the canal caused flooding and killed several mature trees. Poor management meant that the problem was not addressed for many months and compromised the integrity of the embankment



Heathcote's Family Butchers

Chris Heathcote is a passionate man – you can tell from the vigorous, enthusiastic way he talks about the family business and by how much he cares about the customers he sells to. He's also a man who knows the ins and outs of the livestock trade in a way that only someone who has butchering in his blood could do.

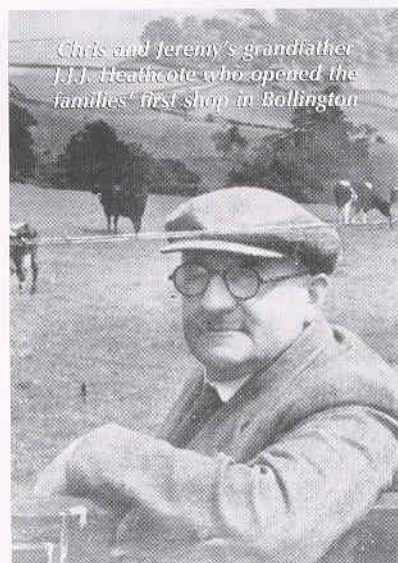
Half an hour after I've put down my notebook, I'm still sitting in his shop, entranced, as he tells me how he learned the trade and how important it is to continue the Heathcote traditions of high quality meat and slaughtering, and genuine relationships with their customers.

As one of a fourth generation Heathcote family team that manages two flourishing shops in Bollington and one in Poynton, Chris says that the business has kept going through keeping to a few simple maxims. "We source our livestock through local farms, and always have done. Key issues for us are animal welfare, what they're fed, the breed, and traceability. All our beef is slaughtered locally, and matured for 14 days before going into the shop. Because we can trace it back, we can actually go to the farm where that animal was bred and see how they're treating their livestock. We're buying from the same families my grandfather was buying from, and that means the relationship is a good one."

I ask about the stories of intensive cattle rearing, and whether anyone can really avoid selling that meat, particularly if it involved refusing to buy from a farmer with whom there is a longstanding relationship. Chris twinkles merrily at me. "Well, as I said, we only buy locally, and there's no intensive farming around here – you can't rear livestock intensively on this kind of land, and you can't plough in fertiliser on such hilly ground. The lamb we sell is essentially organic, and as it's all local, you really do have to wait for spring before you'll get any spring lamb in our shops. My grandfather used to say, 'before you buy anything, find the man who fed it', and that's right."

Apart from anything else he says, customers in Bollington would taste the difference between good meat and the intensively reared variety. "People here, they know. They're

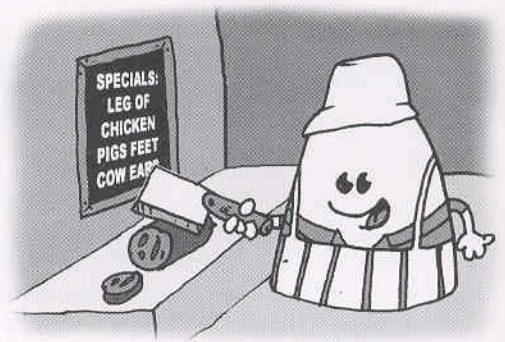
educated, and that's the secret – they've had our meat all their lives and they can tell the difference between an animal where the welfare is good, that's had a good healthy lifestyle, and one that's been intensively farmed. We've helped to give the public an appetite for



good quality meat, so people who shop here are looking for the best stuff – and we ought to supply them with the best."

Educated shoppers, one might say, don't grow on trees, and Chris believes that it is the longstanding relationships with their family business that has helped Bollingtonians learn to put their money where their highly discerning tummies think it should go.

The very first Heathcote's butchers was started by their great-grandfather William in Macclesfield in the late 1870's. He married Helen Jackson who came from a butchery family in Pott Shrigley, and whose two brothers owned the slaughterhouse on Shrigley Road. Their son Jonathon James Jackson Heathcote opened the family's first butchers in Bollington in the 1900s at No 2 Palmerston Street, just a bit higher up than where Jeremy Heathcote's traditional red-and-white tiled shop stands today.



That shop was built for the princely sum of £454 by Cumberbirch's in 1925, and all of the eight children born to JJJ Heathcote and his wife initially worked in the business, with their son Norman extending the burgeoning Heathcote empire to Whaley Bridge. Their daughter Margaret started as the company secretary at the age of 15, and continues to balance the books today, at the age of 80.

When Margaret was just starting, Chris tells me, meat cost around four times what it does now, and all the big houses in Bollington would

		B. Forward	4-14-11
Jan 23 rd	7-6	1 lb. Beef	5-6
		1 lb. Suet	1-0
24 th	2 lb. 2oz. Fillet Steak		3-10
25 th	4 lb. 14oz. Wood Lamb		6-1
	12 Kidneys		3-0
26 th	1 lb. 13oz. Veal		1-6
	1 st Suet		1-0
	5 Kidneys		1-3
	7 lb. Veal		9-4
30 th	7 1/2 lb. of Beef		8-5 1/2
	Parsley		2
31 st	3 lb. Shm Beef		3-0
			£ 6-19-2
		Paid J. Heathcote	
		With Thanks	

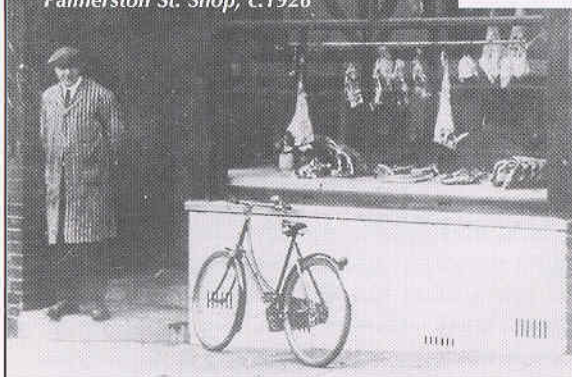
A weekly meat bill for a Bollington family from more than 50 years ago

have had an account book running at the shop, totted up at the end of every week, with tax paid to the government in tuppenny stamps for every two pounds spent. "The way of life was very different" he says. "Women would buy groceries for their families every day, and early in the morning on their way to work at the mill they'd push a note with that day's order through my grandfather's door and collect the packages all wrapped up and ready on the way home."

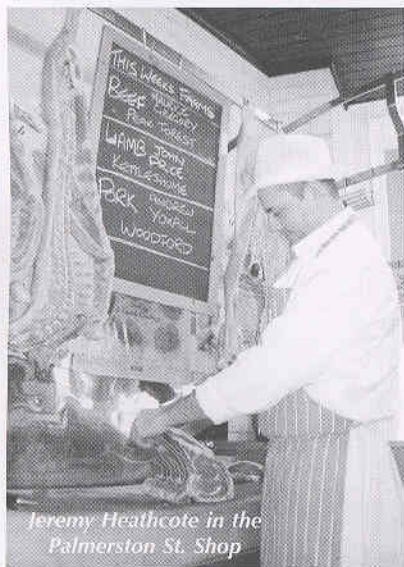
Lifestyles change, rules and regulations move on, and so must business: Heathcote's has just had to take the difficult decision to mothball the family abattoir for a year, after increased costs for blood disposal and new microbiological testing made it financially unviable to continue. The meat is still slaughtered locally at a small abattoir in Knutsford; each individual animal sold in Heathcote's is still fully traceable, and the decision will be revisited next year.

After having visited the abattoir a couple of months ago, and without attaching any blame whatsoever to

J.J. Heathcote outside the Palmerston St. Shop, c.1926



the current closure, this seems a real shame. I believe everyone who eats meat should go around a small local slaughterhouse to witness the painstaking efforts that are taken to ensure that animals are not stressed and that the meat is properly treated once slaughtered. At this abattoir, no animal had to travel far, and the systems for humane slaughter on a small, manageable scale were all in



Jeremy Heathcote in the Palmerston St. Shop

STATEMENT		TEL. No. 22
High Street, Bollington, Cheshire		
June 17, 1926		
Mr J. Heathcote		
To		
HAROLD CUMBERBIRCH,		
BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR.		
THREE MONTHLY.		
At Home Butcher Shop	224	5 3
Materials	209	11 1
Glazed bricks	56	2 0
1/2 front & 1/2 back brick	11	18 11
Roofing flat roof	21	9 0
Glazing windows	7	14 10
Painting timber work	8	10 9
Roofing glazing	25	10 0
Painting & glazing	29	19 5
	£595	1 6
Less paid on 4	120	0 0
	475	1 6
Received cheque from Mr J. Heathcote	475	1 6
22 June 1926		
for Mr H. Cumberbirch		
J. Heathcote	424	10 0

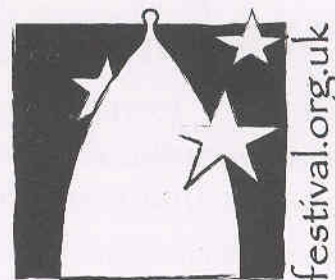
place. It would be wonderful if this commitment to local sourcing and humane slaughter was applauded and encouraged so it could continue into the future.

As I reluctantly make to leave, Chris's eyes twinkle again - he is a very smiley person! - and I'm stopped in my tracks for one last story. "You know, I had this man in from the Meat and Livestock Commission recently, and he said to me 'I can see your stuff must be selling to the rich.' And I just said to him, no, that's not it. What we get is people on limited incomes who want value for money, and who appreciate quality. I told him, our bacon is dry cured, and if you want a pound of bacon you get a pound of bacon, not half a pound of bacon and half a pound of water. When people have had our meat, they don't seem to want anybody else's."

I leave Chris's shop with his final words ringing in my ears as a good motto for life and not just for butchering. "If you follow the best of the traditional ways, and not the road of cheapness and profit, then you won't go wrong." It looks like Heathcote's will be packing them in for some time to come.

Louise Tickle

Editors Note: Bollington's other family butchers 'Barrows' also provides an excellent service to its many customers. They have a well established presence in our town, perhaps the subject of a future article...



festival.org.uk

www.bollington

We're still looking for volunteers to help with the Boll. Festival 2005.

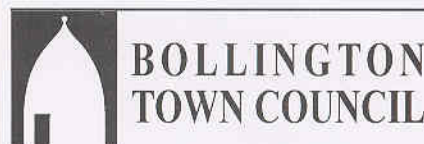
In the autumn the Festival will launch a website that will have a diary showing key events & plans. For now, take a look at our Festival logo. If you want to volunteer, or have sponsorship ideas, call Emma King on 01625 572841.

WANTED... Town Clerk

Ruth Stubbs has informed the Council that she wishes to retire from her post as Town Clerk.

Ruth has served as Town Clerk to the Bollington Town Council for the last three years. Ruth hopes to leave before the end of the year and is giving the Council plenty of notice so that it will be possible to organise a smooth period of transition without disrupting the important work of the Council. It is hoped that a suitable candidate can be found locally and an advertisement appears in this issue of Bollington Live!

John Kershaw, the Town Mayor, spoke for the whole Council when he said how sad he had been when first told of Ruth's decision. She had been an outstanding worker for the Town and she would be greatly missed for her energy, enthusiasm and good humour in dealing with all the Council's business.



Applications invited for post of

TOWN CLERK

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A Year in the Life

Bollington Town Mayor, Anthony Holland looks back on a year that was ...'different'!

It's been a funny old year, with the usual ups and downs, but with the added 'wild card' of being granted the honour of being the 'Mayor of Bollington'. The most common question that I have had to try and answer throughout the past twelve months has been; "So how are you enjoying being Mayor", to which, depending on the level of diplomacy required, would range from "It has been very interesting", down to the rather more ungrateful sounding "I'll be glad when its over". Looking back, it is probably fairest to say that it has been 'different'.

And so it came to pass and all sorts of weird and wonderful invitations flooded into the council offices. Because of my work, weekday events had to be politely passed on to the deputy mayor, John Kershaw, who was kept very busy. The functions took me to places I would never have dreamt of going if I had not been Mayor. One was an 'Antiques Roadshow' at the Women's Institute., where Diane Wellington, my Consort, and I were plied with very nice home made cream cakes and endless cups of tea. Another was to meet The Queen and Prince Phillip, on their brief visit to Macclesfield for the 500th anniversary of the Kings High School. One representative from each parish council was invited, so I had the all-important green pass allowing me to push through the crowds lining Cumberland Street to enter the calm of the school grounds. All those with big gold chains were lined up, and Prince Phillip, ignoring the Lord Mayor of Chester, whom I was standing next to, approached and was introduced to me. Our brief conversation went something along the lines of:

"Ah, the Town Mayor of Bollington, where's that?"

"It's about three miles from here, just by those hills".

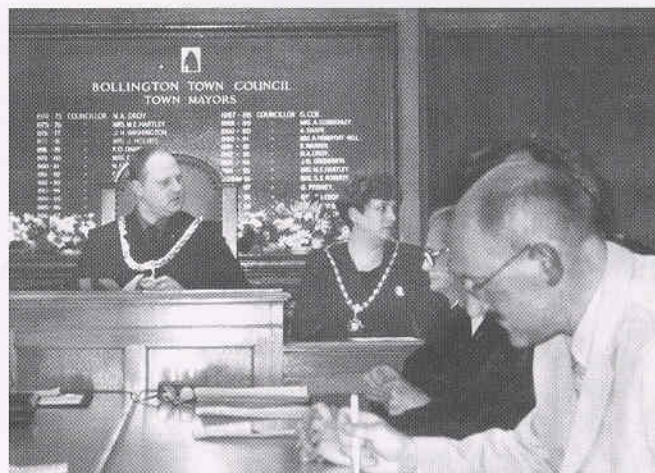
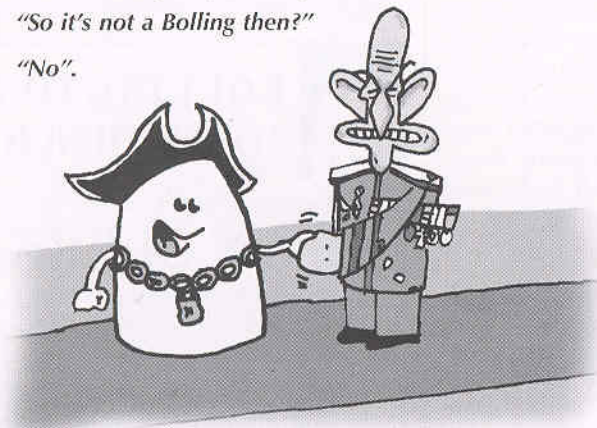
He pointed to the mayoral chain, depicting White Nancy...

"I suppose that's a 'Bolling' then?"

"Actually it's called White Nancy, a monument, possibly commemorating the Battle of Waterloo, on the top of a hill in Bollington, you can just make it out over there".

"So it's not a Bolling then?"

"No".



Cllr. Anthony Holland in the role he enjoyed most while he was Mayor, chairing council meetings.

He then moved on, leaving me to wonder if he would mention the strange "Bolling" to his wife as they made their way to Manchester for the Commonwealth Games. At least when I presented the Golden Jubilee mugs to all of Bollington's Primary School children, they knew it was White Nancy.

The thing I most disliked was making speeches, something I never achieved perfection at. The only thing in their favour was that they were generally very short, partly because they were never planned, and partly because I was sure that no one wanted to listen to me going on about various subjects I knew little about! Looking back, I feel my favourite speech was right at the beginning of the mayoral year, at the Mayormaking Ceremony, which went along the lines of "There's the food, there's the bar, get on with it".

It became apparent to many people over the year (including myself), that I was not the sort of person who wanted to be centre of attention. I am sure some of the previous mayors have enjoyed it, boosting their ego and having their picture in the paper every week, but it was not for me. It was a job, and the most important part was the bit that very few people ever see – chairing the monthly council meetings, which I felt went quite well.

Despite the odds, I had an interesting, if tiring year. I met lots of people committed to making Bollington better and without whom our town would be a poorer place. Indeed, there were many good points, the Festival Players productions, visits to the Sea Cadets and other youth organisations and I particularly remember the proud feeling of laying the town's wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

My high point, I think, was the grand opening of the new stepped stone path to White Nancy, a tremendous improvement, which was birthed as a Town Council Millennium Committee project, and took on a new lease of life with the involvement of *Groundwork*. It was also the geographical high point of the year, with the Adlington Morris Men dancing around White Nancy at 920 feet above sea level.

Now the end of the year has arrived and the question seems to have changed from "are you enjoying your year", to "would you consider doing it again". Does anyone know a diplomatic way of saying "NO". Perhaps I should just stick to saying "It has been 'different'".

Anthony Holland

J.A.MENULTY

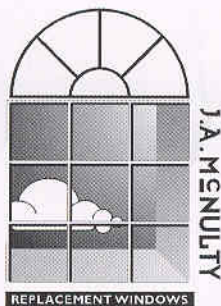
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www.bollington.org.uk



BOLLINGTON

Live!

JULY

Saturday 5th to Saturday 30th August
Art exhibition by Boll. Art Group
Buxton Museum & Art Gallery.
Call 01298 24658 for details

Wednesday 9th 7.30 - 9.30pm
Bollington Flower Club
Coach trip to the award winning shop
in Irlam "The Design Element".
Tel: Blanche Royall on 422835

Thursday 17th 8.00pm
"Iris" by John Trinder.
Boll. & District Horticultural Society

Saturday 19th, 8 till late
Open Air Rock Concert
Berristall Hall Farm. Featuring
Alienesque, Amandla and Hot Fudge
Barbecue and bar. Tickets £5.00 from
Drop-In Centre. Tel: 576311

Sunday 20th 1.00 - 5.00pm
"National Gdn. Scheme Open Day"
Jaqui Parker's garden. Laneside
Cottage, Pott Shrigley. All proceeds to
charity. £3 Adults; £1.50 child

AUGUST

Wednesday 13th
Children's Fun Day and Duck Race
Drop-In Centre. Tel. 576311

Wednesday 13th 7.30 - 9.30pm
Demonstration by Pam Orton
Bollington Flower Club, it's open house
so bring a friend.

Sunday 24th 1.00 - 5.00pm
"National Gdn. Scheme Open Day"
Horticultural Society visit to Jaqui
Parker's garden. Details as 20th July.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 6th, 2.00 - 5.30pm
Annual Horticultural Show
Civic Hall. Boll. & District Horticultural
Soc. Contact Kath Moores 429338

Saturday 6th, 8pm
Chris Watford's Chicago
Feetwarmers
Jazz at the Arts Centre. Tickets £6.50
from : 01625 574410 or 575287

Sunday 7th, 2.30 - 4.30pm
Bollington Children's Music Theatre
Arts Centre, Rehearsals for Donald
Judge's new Christmas musical

"Transylvaniamania" begin. Singers,
aged 8 - 12 all welcome - there are no
auditions! Call 0161 427 2870

Wednesday 10th 7.30 - 9.30pm
Posy for a hospital visit
Bollington Flower Club

Friday/Saturday 12th/13th
"Junior Showcase"
Arts Centre. The Junior Festival Players
present an extravaganza of song and
dance. Rehearsals are on Wednesday
evenings 7 - 8.30pm. Call David or
Val Postance on 875326

Saturday 13th 8.00pm
Folk Evening at Savio House
Featuring "Sad Pig", Licensed Bar
Tickets £6.50 inclusive of Hot Pot
Supper from Margaret on 573256

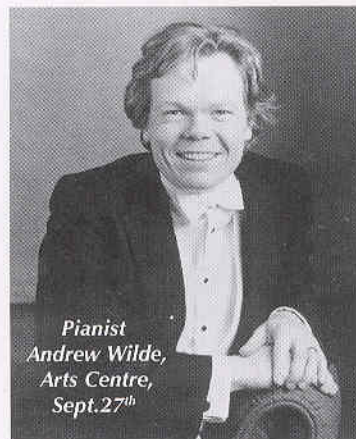
Sunday 14th September - till about 4pm
Bollington Transport Extravaganza
4th annual gathering of classic cars,
motor bikes etc - always a treat.

Wednesday 17th, 10.30 - noon
Italian Continuation Classes
Arts Centre: A Bollington University 10
week continuation course. Call Audrey
Parnell on 572130 for details.

Thursday 18th 8.00pm
"Nature's Detective":
Boll. & District Hort. Soc. Mr Green
on "adapting a garden for wildlife".

Thursday 18th, 2.00 - 3.30pm
Spanish for Beginners
Arts Centre: A 10 week course with
Tony Fehily. Tel: 01260 272133

Sat. 20th to Sun. Oct. 5th, 2 - 5.30pm
Paintings by Eric Holmes
Arts Centre Exhibition open Sat./Sun./
Wednesdays and during other events



Pianist
Andrew Wilde,
Arts Centre,
Sept. 27th

Saturday 27th, 8.00pm
Bollington Chamber Concerts
Arts Centre: Andrew Wilde is a very
popular pianist and the first to give a
solo piano recital at the Arts Centre.
The programme includes music by
Schubert, Beethoven and Chopin and
is sponsored by Astra Zeneca. Tickets:
£10 (£5 conc.) Call 560355 or 575287

Sunday 28th 11am - 1pm
Car Boot Sale at the Drop-in Centre

OCTOBER

Saturday 4th 8.00pm
The Chicago Teddy Bears
Jazz at the Arts Centre. Tickets £6.50,
Call 574410 or 575287

Wednesday 8th 7.30 - 9.30pm
Pew end for a church wedding
Bollington Flower Club

Tuesday 14th - Saturday 18th, 7.30pm
Boll. Festival Players present "Rich"
Arts Centre A new musical by local
writers Chris Barnsley, Chris Tunstall
and David Walsh. Ring: 572527

Thursday 16th 8.00pm
"Well Dressing".
Boll. & District Horticultural Society.
A Talk with slides by Miss Curry.

Sunday 19th, 7.00pm
An Evening with Bertolt Brecht
Arts Centre. Robin Hidden introduces
this important East German writer to
us, and attempts to discover the source
of his enduring appeal. £3.00 at the
door. Ring 573494 for more details.

Saturday 25th, 7.30pm
The R.S.P.B. at the Arts Centre
A chance to see some the R.S.P.B.'s
renowned natural history films.
For details ring 574410

Saturday 25th to Saturday Nov. 15th
Art at the Arts Centre, "Reflections"
Paintings by Faith Walker and David
Ransley. Open Sunday 2 - 4pm and
during other events. Ring 01625
574640 or 575287 for details.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 12th 7.30 - 9.30pm
Audrey's Christmas demonstration
Bollington Flower Club

Saturday 15th November 8pm
McFarlane String Quartet

EVENTS

Arts Centre: Works by Haydn, Ravel and Beethoven. £10 (£5 concs) Phone 560355 or 575287

Thursday 20th 8.00pm

"Ancient Cheshire Trees

Bollington & District Horticultural Society", a Talk by Mr Smart.

Saturday 22nd 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Discovering Antiques

Arts Centre. See article opposite for details.

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Christmas Dinner

Bollington & District Horticultural Society.

Wednesday 10th 07:30

Christmas Party

Bollington Flower Club, Tickets from Wendy Stoddart, on 422371

Sunday 14th December

Harper Ensemble Brass Quintet

Arts Centre: Works by Gabrieli, Bach, Malcolm Arnold and Bernstein. £10 (£5 concs) Phone 560355 or 575287

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

2.30 - 4.30pm from 7th Sept.

Bollington Children's Music Theatre

Arts Centre. Tel: 0161 427 2870

TUESDAYS, 8pm

Festival Choir.

Arts Centre. Tel: 0161 427 2870

WEDNESDAYS

Festival Players: 8.00pm Tel: 875326

Jnr. Festival Players: 7.00 - 8.30pm

Arts Centre, Tel: 574583

THURSDAYS, 2pm and FRIDAYS, 7pm

Bridge Club.

Arts Centre. Tel: 575508

THURSDAYS, 8pm

Bollington Light Opera Group

Arts Centre, Tel: 574085

Dance Classes

(Tap, Modern, Ballet) Tel: 574176

Tai Chi. Tel: 873471

*If you have a community event that you wish to publicise, please contact our 'Events Editor' Wendy Parry, on 575093
35 South West Avenue, Bollington.*

SURVIVING RETIREMENT ...

The *Independent* recently published the dilemma of a retired civil servant: he just couldn't get down to all the things he previously wanted to do so he did nothing. He was advised "to get back in harness for a couple of days a week".

We all need structure... He needed a venture in which someone would thank him and say sincerely, "We just couldn't do without you".

Bollington Arts Centre offers such an opportunity. It aims to promote the arts and improve our local community life, offering stimulus and friendship. Run by volunteers it owns its premises and funding accrues from rents paid by the 'regular' users, like the Festival Players, the Festival Choir and the Light Opera Group, also from concerts, exhibitions, dance and language classes and private parties. It hosts the Civic Society and the lectures for 'Bollington University'.

The programme for 2002-3 included gardening, cookery, jazz, drama, the Children's Music Theatre, group singing and a string quartet. All at a reasonable price and near to home!

The Arts Centre requires volunteers to assist in publicity and also needs a treasurer and a booking secretary. Want to make friends and influence our local community? Join the Arts Centre Team and have a good time.

Tel: John Coope 573494 Pat Penney 574583 Jean Ransley 575287
Sally Smith 560355 Doreen Young 572527

DISCOVER ANTIQUES

The fascination of antiques of all kinds, their history, their authenticity and their value is well attested by the popularity of television programmes like the Antiques Roadshow. We thought that it would be an attractive exercise to do a Roadshow of our own at the Arts Centre.

I have been fortunate in securing the help of two experts in the field, Stephen Bradley and Barbara Archer, who will give their opinion of any objets d'art, pictures etc. that people might care to bring along. As space is limited at the Centre we cannot accommodate large pieces of furniture but otherwise anything would be interesting. I would like particularly to see objects of local interest. Products of local craftsmen of the past, historical relics or documents, heirlooms that have been handed down for generations or curiosities of doubtful nature will all help to make this a fascinating evening. Even if you haven't anything just come along to watch and learn and be entertained. The Antiques Roadshow will be held at the Arts Centre on Saturday 22nd November. Items should be brought between 6pm - 8pm and we will finish the evening with a small auction of selected items. Admission £3. All proceeds to the Arts Centre. **John Coope**

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Bollington Flower Club.

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane from 7.30 - 9.30pm, 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact Audrey Downs on 575082

Boll. & District Horticultural Society

Pott Shrigley School at 8.00pm, 3rd Thursday of each month: Contact Mr H Royall on 422835 or Mrs W Stoddart on 422371

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AN EVENING AT THE BLOGS – Not 'arf!

The Bollington Live! theatre critic enjoys the latest production by the Bollington Light Opera Group

I have to admit to being more than a little preoccupied when I took my seat at "My Fair Lady" at Bollington Civic Hall on Friday 18th May. My elderly mother was sitting alone on the front row, my daughter was at the far end of the stage and my husband was right at the back – the performance was a sell-out (as I think it had been every night) and these were the only tickets we could get. It had also been a particularly fraught day and my mind was more on my impending VAT return, I'm afraid.

These feelings disappeared almost as soon as the orchestra began to play. By the time Eliza cried her first "Eeeeeaaaaaoooww", I was lost in the performance. The dialogue, dancing, costumes and music were superb – I couldn't believe how professional this company is, and doing all this on, what I expect, is a shoestring. Efficient scene changes, perfect timing and excellently clear dialogue. Eliza (Tracy Chuter) was absolutely beautiful, even when dressed as the "pawer flower gal" and sang with power and sensitivity. Henry Higgins (Mike Raymond) was perfect – what a talent this man possesses, with bumbling Colonel Pickering (Craig Harris) the perfect foil for both of them.

It seems unfair to highlight any single member of the cast, as they work together as a perfect team, but I'm afraid I have to say that Alfred P. Doolittle (Anthony Longden) brought the house (and nearly the library ceiling) down during "With a little bit of luck" and when Freddy Eynsford-Hill (Michael Dawes) sat on the doorstep to sing "On the street where I live", all the audience (including cynical old me) were visibly moved. His singing was truly sublime. Is this lad local? Mrs. Pearce (Katherine

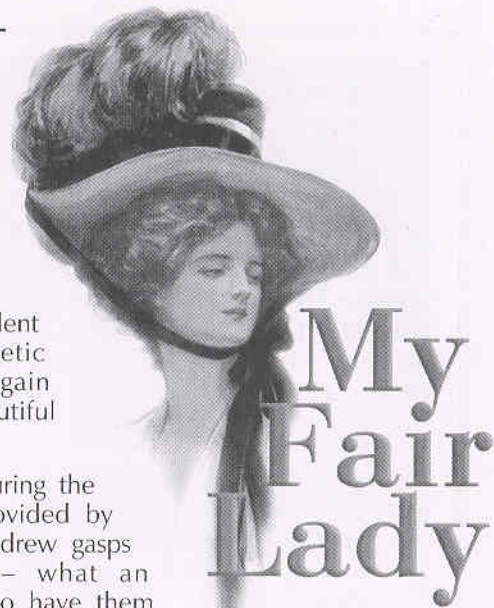
Nolan) was excellent in her sympathetic portrayal and again possesses a beautiful voice.

The costumes during the Ascot scene, provided by Madge Designs, drew gasps and applause – what an innovative idea to have them made in the same striking red and black fabric – but in a variety of styles. I had wondered how the racing scene would be staged and, in view of the vibration caused by the earlier dancing routines, was seriously apprehensive about the effect galloping horses would have.

My only criticism and it really is nit-picking, (I can't keep writing superlatives or you'll think I've been employed by BLOG as publicity spokesperson). The length of the show could have been cut by 15 minutes – by half past ten my numb bum was complaining rather a lot and the last scene seemed a little over-long.

I have only seen one other play performed by BLOG – "Oliver!" and have to admit to being slightly biased, as my son was playing a small role, so of course, it was wonderful. This time, however, with nothing to prejudice my opinion, I thoroughly enjoyed a wonderfully entertaining evening and danced out into the pouring rain humming "The Rain in Spain..."

Louise Nottage



My Fair Lady

FROM BOLLINGTON TO BROADWAY?... THAT'S **RICH!**

Bollington has no shortage of dramatic and musical groups. The Bollington Festival Players present "**Rich!**" a stunning new pop opera from Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th October at the Arts Centre. It's written by Colin Barnsley, Chris Tunstall and David Walsh, three local young men and directed by Pat Penney.

The story, set in 1989, follows Bernard, Chairman of Telford Council and a local entrepreneur, who has won the right to stage the first lottery in his hotel. When ticket proceeds fall short of expectations, suspicions fall on Ernest, the Lottery Finance Director, who not only has a drink problem, but also a history of embezzlement! What happens next? Find out as events unfold in "**Rich!**" This promises to be a *fabulous* show. Tickets available from Doreen Young on 572527.

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Walking Encounters of the Organised Kind

Walking is Britain's most popular recreational activity, and there is plenty of it going on in and around Bollington. Now some people just put on their boots and walk, but there are others who appreciate a little encouragement. Bollington has fantastic scenery, all linked by miles of footpaths, and there are several organisations keen to encourage us to get out and enjoy them. Here is a sample of just two of these local 'organised walks'.

One objective of Macclesfield Borough Council's Ranger Service is to enable residents and visitors to increase their awareness and understanding of the countryside. Their main efforts in Bollington are focused on the Middlewood Way, but they also run other Ranger events throughout the year.

One of these was entitled "Well, I never knew that!" Suitably intrigued, I turned up at the Adlington Road Ranger's Office, just as keen young ranger, Ed Pilkington arrived to lead the day's activity. The group was about 15 strong, from all age groups. Most lived locally, but others had drifted in from as far away as Germany and the United States. This was going to be 8 miles, with hills. But all we had to do was follow Ed. He had not only prepared the route, but also came equipped with the low-down on the local landscape and history.

The first stop was the Middlewood Way, its viaduct, and the sites of Bollington Station and the old stoneyard on Grimshaw Lane. Then we were off along the canal, and up the route of the tramway that climbed up into the quarries on Kerridge Ridge. We detoured to White Nancy for lunch, then descended past the ruin of Cow Lane Mill into Rainow. All the way there was plenty of time to catch up and stop for rests, as Ed kept us regaled with tales of mill workers and miners, barge folk and quarrymen. Finally we followed the flagged path back into Ingersley Vale, past the waterfall and ruined mill, before finally passing beneath Telford's aqueduct to arrive back at the start.

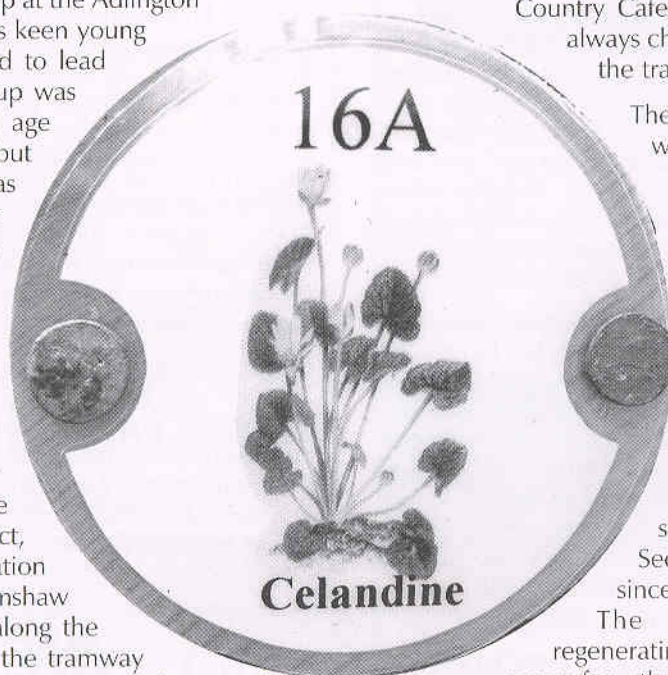
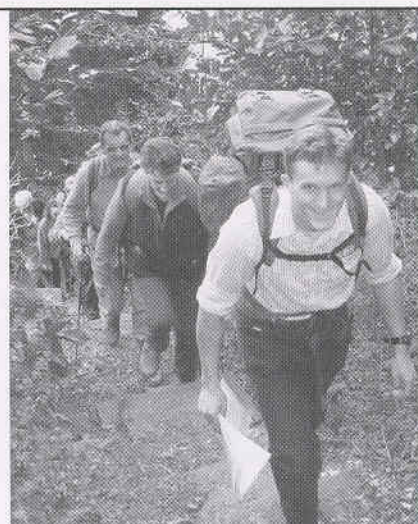
Organised walk number two, was a completely different affair. This was the Wildflower Walk, the second in a series of nostalgia trails which had been laid out by the Bollington Drop-In Centre. This time all of the work had been done in advance: A handy leaflet provided the full route, as well as all the history and anecdotes, a route had already been cleared and way-marked by the Drop-In Centre's infamous A-Team (all of whom model themselves on characters from *Last Of The Summer Wine*), and finally, the walk had been declared officially open by MP, Nick Winterton, omnipresent at all local organised events.

The Wildflower Walk could equally be named the Harrop Brook Walk, as it follows this largely hidden tributary, up from its confluence with the river Dean. The Drop-In Centre marks the start of the route, but as the early section follows the road up to the Country Cafe on Spuley Lane, you could always cheat and start from there, with the track up Hedgerow.

The route is marked with small wildflower roundels, each showing different flowers. The trick is to see if you can: a) Spot all the markers and b) Spot all the flowers

You won't spot all the flowers in one go, but do the walk at different times of the year, and you might well see them all. The real highlight is Harrop Wood. Although littered with old coal shafts and felled during the Second World War, the area has since been left to its own devices. The ancient wood is now regenerating itself. Silver birch provides cover for other native hardwoods such as oak, rowan and hornbeam, and in the spring the woodland floor is a blue and green carpet of iridescent bluebells. An ancient salt track-way guides you deep into the wood,

Continued Overleaf...



Tapping our Bollington talent

Sue Lane's Dancing Classes

If your children, or you, are interested in dancing, or have been involved in shows or pantomimes around town then you are bound to have experienced the energy, enthusiasm and expertise of Sue Lane.

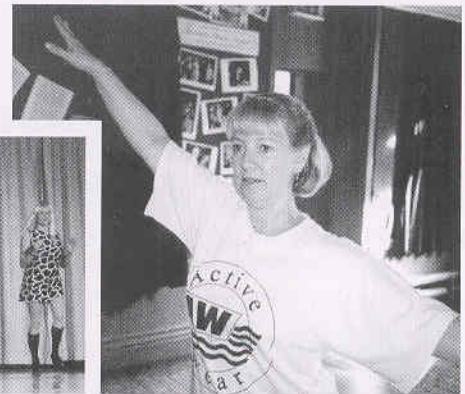
Ever since she asked her Auntie for a pair of tap shoes at the age of three, Sue's life has revolved around dancing. She became a British National tap dancing champion before she was eighteen and although she was too short to become a professional dancer (Sue is 5" short of the required 5'5"), she took teaching exams and has been dedicated to this ever since.

Originally from Middlesbrough, Sue moved with her family to Cheshire during the late 1980s when her husband changed jobs. Quite soon she started up her dancing school, first in Knutsford and then Bollington. She currently teaches fourteen classes. They take place mostly after school and during the early evenings. Sue revels in the joy of getting others to share her passion and to work towards examinations and show performances. She teaches Tap, Ballet and Modern, but tap dancing is her first love.

Sue runs classes for girls, boys and adults and is quite happy to work with both experienced and first time dancers. About every 13 or 14 months, her pupils put on a dancing extravaganza where each class gets a chance to show their talents, and a lot of talent there is! All the way from the cute tiny tots, the confident teenagers, through to the (still cute) adult ladies class.

Sue sets and attains very high standards from her protégés but has a natural gift for explaining and showing others how to get their feet around a double shuffle. Our town is lucky to have someone as talented and well qualified. Sue can be contacted on 574176.

TN



Various routines from Sue's last show at St. Johns School

Transport Extravaganza 2003

The 4th Great Bollington Transport Extravaganza is to be held on Sunday 14th of September

This event requires a great deal of organising and we urgently need the services of as many volunteers as possible to ensure it's success, both during the 'run up' and on the day. Marshalling, manning ticket desks and help in erecting side stalls and cleaning up after the event has closed are the types of 'help' required. The more volunteers we have the better.

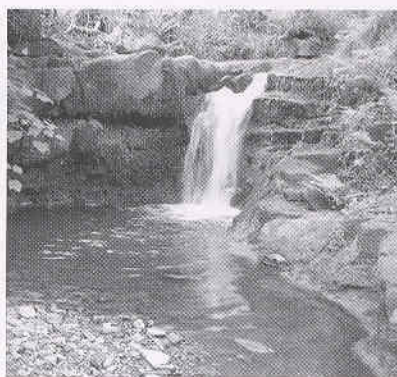
Contact Alan Simmons on 576369

...continued from page 12

past a number of recently acquired musical 'installations', and to a bench overlooking a waterfall. This has to be one of my favourite places.

Here the walk divides in two, a longer route explores the upper valley, while a shorter version crosses the brook and returns via Berristall Hall Farm. This farm is not only blessed with a great view, but also with associations with the Black Prince, and more recent encounters with BBC aliens and Dawn French.

So, you could just put on your boots and walk, or maybe in future you will be tempted to, occasionally, tag along, with a little organised walking. Andy Skelhorn



The pretty waterfall at one of the viewpoints

Top Left: Ranger Ed Pilkington leads the way

Btm. Left: New signposts make sure you won't miss the best bits

HELP NEEDED!

The Trade and Tourism Committee of the Bollington Town Council urgently needs to recruit additional non-council members to help with our activities.

No special skills are required, just enthusiasm for Bollington and its traders and a desire to help enhance the attraction of the town to visitors.

THE LATE SHOP & Albert Rd...

...Trouble in store?!!

What do you think of the parking and traffic situation outside the Late Shop on Albert Road? Do you think that the building is ugly? Or do you think that it is a lovely building that serves a very useful purpose in a convenient location?



The Late Shop as it was (painting courtesy of Jeff Wilson).

At one time, not so long ago, the store was used as originally intended – for local residents only. But since the 'new' store was built with car parking, it caters for passing trade, thus increasing the profits of course, but also increasing the problems.

Albert Road itself has a long history of actual and proposed changes. These have affected the way that it is used, and the way that people view this old road. The Late Shop, or Co-op as was, has also undergone some changes. Here is a brief history of Albert Road and the Late Shop, from their origins to the present day.

Albert Road was opened in the 1860s. Some time later, there were ideas to extend it to the main road at Butley to provide a level entrance to Bollington. In 1901, the discussions even went so far as to suggest the name of 'Victoria Road' for the new road, as a tribute to the recently deceased Queen. However, as we all know, these things always take a long time to sort out, and the road was never completed. This was apparently due to the money being used in 1904 for a sewage works and drainage scheme. The only bit of road to be built was a short extension to Lowerhouse Mill.

How would Bollington have changed if Albert Road were the main access to the town? Maybe the Late Shop would have been a much larger supermarket with 'proper' car parking facilities? In a recent survey by Bollington Live! (July 2001), 58% of residents surveyed would like to see a medium-sized supermarket in the town. Could this have been built on the present Late Shop site?

In the Macclesfield Express (4/9/75), an article stated that Bollington Town Council voted against Moss Brow becoming one-way (towards Albert Road). It was considered that the Albert Road-Wellington Road exit would become even more dangerous, especially as there are two schools and children about.

The original Co-op shop was built in 1881 in Palmerston Street, near Pool Bank by the Macclesfield Equitable Provident Society (MEPS). Some twenty years later, the shop was considered inconvenient for residents in West Bollington so, in 1903, the MEPS built the Co-op at the end of Albert Road. This was a distinctive unit of three shops, which served 160 houses (inc. 90 MEPS members) within ten minutes walk. This lovely building, including a



beautiful wrought iron and glass canopy, did not have car parking (of course), but was very pleasing on the eye.

In 1972, these attractive old shops were demolished to make way for a functional 'box' with car parking. This car parking has now made the Albert Road-Wellington Road junction quite dangerous. I find it amazing that it was allowed to be built, especially when you consider that many children frequent the area. To quote one ex-resident "It is an accident waiting to happen".

Should the Co-operative Society again build a more attractive building on this site, but without car parking? Should the Late Shop get back to its local-shop roots and cater only for residents who can walk to the shop? With the number of shops in Bollington, is there really any need to drive to do the shopping? On the other hand perhaps there is a valid case for disabled parking, and the shop caters for people calling on their way home from work or other trips.

Whatever you think about the Late Shop, it is here, many people use it, and we all have to eat and drink.

Bill Tobin is a local resident and Technical Author. If you have any comments on this article, please contact him by e-mail at bill.tobin@telinco.co.uk. Even better, write a letter or an article of your own and send it to Bollington Live!

Bill Tobin

Acknowledgements

Looking Back at Bollington.

George Longden and Molly Spink (1986). This was an invaluable book when I was researching this article.

Macclesfield Express. - It's amazing what you can find in Bollington Library.

Jeff Wilson - local resident and sometime artist!



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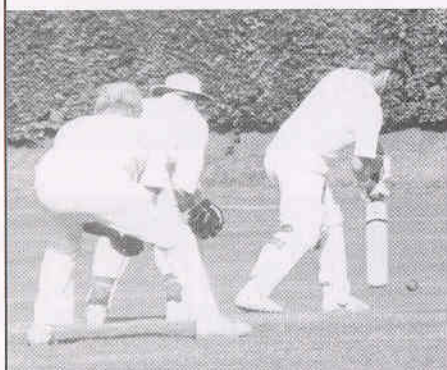
BOLLINGTON



It's All Go For Bollington Cricket Club!

Following a successful campaign last year, Bollington Cricket Club gained promotion to the Murray Smith Cheshire County League thanks to an excellent performance by the First X1, led by Club Captain, Gary Wood.

A condition of the promotion was that the Club undertook a number of improvements to meet the requirements of the County League. This resulted in a great deal of activity over the months leading up to the new season, which saw many club members putting in extra effort to ensure BCC could take it's rightful place in "The Big League".



Any visit to the "Rec" will reveal the evidence of this with a new set of covers now in place on the square alongside improvements to the nets and site screens. The Club's cricketing facilities are now better than many in the league, which, together with the experience of grounds man, Andy McKeith, will ensure that visitors will appreciate and be impressed by the facilities.

If the ground itself wasn't smart enough the whole squad of Senior and Junior players have been kitted out in new shirts, sweaters, caps and tracksuit tops to ensure that everyone associated with the club feels part of the BCC team.

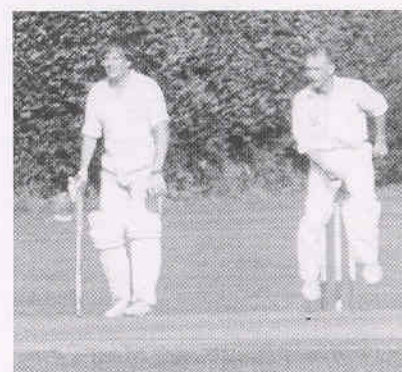
Over the past few years the Club has been developing a junior section, which is now thriving. This caters for 7-10 year olds who play "Kwik Cricket" on Tuesday evenings between 6.30 and 7.30pm progressing through to the Under 11 team who also practice from 6.30pm on Tuesdays and play their league games on Sunday mornings at 9.30am. Finally in the junior section the Under 13 squad practice from 6.30pm on Wednesdays and play their league games on Monday evenings, again starting at 6.30pm.

The Under 11 and Under 13 teams both play in the High Peak League and as this edition goes to press have made a great start to the season. The success of the Junior section is testament to the hard work put in by all the Junior managers and coaches.

Both the Senior First and Second X1's have made a good start to the season with the First X1 already pushing for a promotion spot and



the Second's sitting comfortably in the top half of the league table. A first this year is that the club now has a large enough squad to field a Sunday team, which is so far unbeaten. Add the fact that the Club is still alive in all the senior cup competitions and it easy to see that success is on the cards not just for this season but also for years ahead.



Games at the Rec. start at 1.30pm every Saturday through to the end of the season, so why not go down and support your local team – better still if you're up for a game or you have a child interested in starting to play the game have a word with any of the Club members who will be only too pleased to help. **Chris Plant**

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BOLLINGTON

