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BOLLINGTON *Live!*

Number Thirty

Spring 2004

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HALL
BOLLINGTON

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Fout
Vag*
Who am I?

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Hot Bricks at Hammonds

Down Fout?

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HOLMES ~ NADEN

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**BOLLINGTON****Live!**

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: **Bollington's new Town Clerk** - See article below for full story.

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30 ISSUES - A DECADE...

... AND STILL GOING STRONG!



To start the first edition of 2004, we want to say a big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers who distribute the magazine to 4500 homes in Bollington and Kerridge, and also to the businesses that advertise or sponsor **Bollington Live!** Your support is crucial and is highly valued.

We think the magazine is pretty unique – we keep looking around to see if other towns have anything similar but have so far drawn a blank. If you know of any others let us know.

We always welcome new members to the **Bolly Live!** Team. You may have ideas on how we could improve the magazine or could you help with the advertisements? If you have an idea for an article, go on, send it to us. Do you have an unusual hobby or know some interesting stories; or do you have an fascination with photography. We have no pre-conceptions about the magazine's contents – apart from a link or relevance to Bollington.

For those of our 'non resident' readers, **Bollington Live!** can now be accessed via the internet. Go to www.bollingtonprintshop.co.uk and click on the appropriate link. We can also highly recommend two other excellent Bollington web sites. Tim Boddington's www.happy-valley.org.uk is packed with information on Bollington's history, businesses and organisations. Try also the slick www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk the official web site for the 2005 Bollington Festival.

Editor

ROGER JOHNSON BOLLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL'S NEW CLERK

Roger took up his part-time post in December 2003. He had a successful career in primary school education, moving to this area in the late 1970's. Roger was Head at Whirley Primary School when he chose early retirement in 2002, but took a temporary Headship at Hollinhey Primary School in Sutton for 2 terms last year.

Roger and his wife Barbara live in Tytherington and have three grown up daughters. Heidi Johnson, their youngest, was a member of the Bollington Brass Band and introduced her father to the cornet. Roger assumed the chair of the band in 1999 and through this activity and having friends here, has become very fond of Bollington.

Once finally "retired", Roger started looking for an outlet for his considerable skills and experience, so the part-time post as Town Council Clerk seemed ideal. But he is certainly not looking for a sleepy retirement job and has real ambition for our Council. "It's an exciting time for Parish and Town Councils,

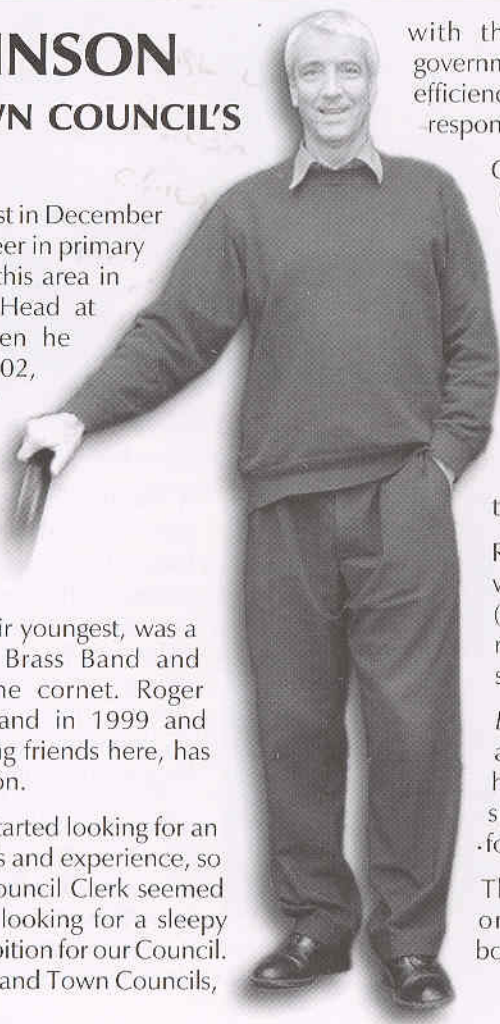
with the proposed reorganisation of local government" he said. "I hope we can increase the efficiency of our Council and possibly take on more responsibilities in the future".

One of Roger's initial concerns is the forthcoming Town Council election in June. "We need good councillors to help develop the role of the Town Council. Many people don't realise that they don't have to be associated with any political party to stand for election as a Town councillor. Independent Town Councillors are just as welcome as those with a political party label. I hope the people of Bollington take an interest in the June elections and that we can encourage a high turn out."

Roger's interests span brass band music, walking, golf, bowls, snooker and CAMRA (the campaign for real ale). He can also regularly be found at the Moss Rose ground, supporting Macclesfield Town Football Club.

Bollington Live! wishes Roger a successful and enjoyable period as Town Clerk. We hope that through his encouragement and support our local council can be an effective force for good in the town.

The Town Council can be contacted on 01625 572985 or by e-mail at bollington.tc@btconnect.com **GB**



Bricks, Hot or Cold?

Pott Shrigley Days Recalled

At an ungodly hour in the morning, the bus would stop up our road. Inside, a sombre group of men, yawning and bleary-eyed, would be lighting up more fags. Most people smoked: if you went to the cinema wreaths of the stuff rolled about in front of the screen. On buses it was the same; had anyone said this was wrong, they would have been lynched.

It was January, 1960, and it was snowing. The bus, toiling out of Bollington, began to slip. At Pott Shrigley, to negotiate the turn, we had to get out, push, then somehow run faster in order to catch up again. Five minutes later, along Bakestonedale, more pushing took place, as the vehicle turned round. This was as far as the bus went, a twice-daily service to the premises of William Hammond Limited, firebrick-makers; and we were the labour force.

Those that could, the older, more respectable part of the group, disappeared at that point, inside a shed. These were the skilled people, the kneeders of clay into elaborate moulds, from which, provided we did not drop them, the linings of gas retorts or fireboxes would emerge. Hammond's bricks had travelled worldwide, to Rhodesia, the rocket range at Woomera in Australia; to islands in the Pacific - where, packed into barrels, they were rolled up the beach.

Life for the rest of us was not so exotic. "You can always work at the brickworks," they said at the Labour Exchange in Macclesfield. Not long finished as a student, with a gap to fill, I could not afford to be fussy. And so I joined the mixed group of labourers, local lads, misfits and downright scallywags employed to shift the bricks about.

Job Number One, most mornings, was to load the company lorry. Back from some foray into the wider world the previous evening, the lorry would be parked in the road dividing the site. The bricks, stacked alongside,



Colin Hammond, of the fourth generation of the family working on the site, stands at the entrance to the industrial estate he now manages. This is where the bus from Macclesfield, bringing in the workforce, used to turn each day.

conventionally shaped for the most part, were thrown from one to another of us, in pairs. Unhappily, since these had frozen together in the night, they were horrible to handle. I tried a pair of gloves the second day, but after 20 minutes they effectively disappeared, worn away by the abrasion.

Next, and briefly it was a pleasure, we would empty a kiln. As a counterpoint to what had gone before, serious warmth could be found here. The bricks on the fringes, with luck, might be prodded to the ground, to lie there cooling, but the practice was frowned upon.



Inside the moulding shed in the 1950s

A chipped brick was an unsaleable brick, so sleeves would be pulled over hands instead, to lessen the shock. There was a tramp called George at this time, who slept beside the kilns, sometimes almost inside, once firing was over. Occasionally, though, he got the temperature wrong and my mother, with others of the WI, would appeal through the community for replacement trousers for him, charred as the originals were by the heat.

A foreman with an asbestos pair of hands would decide when a kiln might be cleared. From then on speed was the thing. A terrifying system of bonuses spurred the squad forward, so that the barrows, nasty, single-wheeled things with a propensity for capsizes, would be loaded with



Outside repair work taking place in 1961. The lorry is the one we used to load on those cold, snowy mornings.

70, perhaps 80 bricks rather than the specified 45. To hit any obstacle - usually a previously fallen brick - was to invite catastrophe. It was then, with bonus prospects diminishing, that camaraderie might dwindle as the air turned blue. It was better to stagger on, to the brick-freezing centre we had visited first of all.



William Hammond's brickworks, Pott Shrigley, in full cry in 1948

Colin Hammond, of the fourth generation of the family, who now manages the site as an industrial estate, reckons the road once went round the back; but people kept wandering through the middle. The origins of industrial work here, in 1820, with separate businesses, would have encouraged this. When, in 1865, William Hammond Senior married into one of the operating families, there were a number of mines here digging out the coal and high-quality clay; and the highway became their artery.

Thousands of vehicles whistle along this route today, following, to the chagrin of those beside it, the most direct course from Sheffield to Manchester Airport. There was no such hassle in 1960. As we tottered about with our barrows, hardly a car passed by.

Mercifully, a new recruit, who could have played the title role in *The BFG*, came to join, and I moved to a safer spot by the machine pressing out standard, ordinary bricks. There they could be loaded onto - and this was luxury indeed - a two-wheeled barrow.

At lunchtime, we would gather for our sandwiches and an exchange of philosophies. Tom and Sid, young, fit guys, dreamed of digging up roads for the Council. Others had vaguer plans, to see what Manchester might bring, or to work out at Hyde, stacking the fridges for Walls Ice Cream. I did this myself for a spell, and got nasty rheumatics. This is not to impugn the attitudes at Walls who, like Hammonds, were responsible employers; standards were different then, and the protection anyone

expected very much less. All of us envied the lorry-driver, and the freedom that he had. As none of us, I guess, had access to cars the chance of following such a career path seemed remote.

Hammond's brickworks, in its heyday, had 120 employees - including miners. In the Sweet Seam, which extended 2 miles eastwards, a 3 foot thickness of clay lay directly above the 18 inches of coal, a fruitful combination. Deep shafts gave access at the majority of these pits, including four on leased ground by Long Lane.

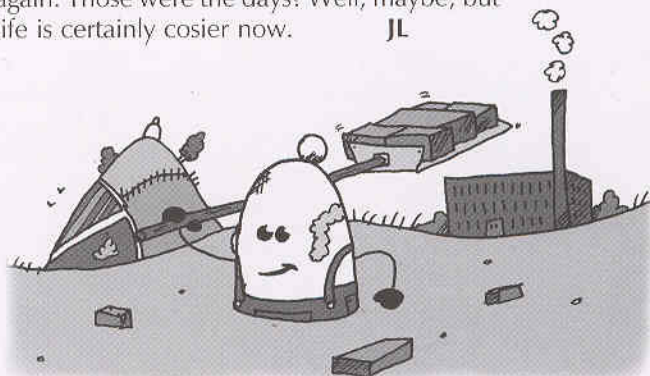
During World War I, when women were employed here, a Zeppelin, lured by the glow of the kilns, dropped an incendiary bomb, which the night-watchman, after extinguishing the fuse with his foot, had to be restrained from taking as a souvenir. In World War II, with women recruited again, the woodlands around were felled on Ministry orders for pit-props. Then came contraction, as demand diminished and the problems of mining became more acute. When I was there, the clay arrived from a colliery near Oldham. Later it was brought from Scotland. Other work then developed as, through the 1960s, firebrick production wound down.



A 1950s view down the road dividing the site

Today, as an industrial estate under Colin Hammond's management, with all manner of activities and an extensive programme of tree-planting going on, it is tempting to say "you wouldn't recognise the place." And, in a way, I don't. But only in a way. Meeting Colin, and standing where the bus turned round, was to bring it all back again. Those were the days? Well, maybe; but life is certainly cosier now.

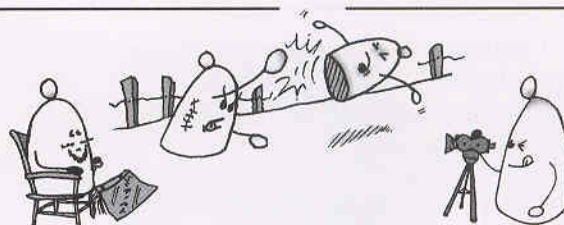
JL



FOCUS ON FILM!

Film Festival 2005

I have two abiding weaknesses; a fascination with film, and Bollington's endless opportunities for community involvement.



The 2005 Bollington Festival, offers a chance for our talented folk to present their interests to a wider audience. I too, have dreamt of fame.

For me, dreams of fame have long been replaced by absorption in the dreams of others. I grew up with cinema, a world of passion and fantasy, a world of quick talking wise guys, slow talking gun-toting lawmen, beautiful women always hovering on the brink...

Johnny Weismuller, as Tarzan, gleaming knife held between gritted teeth, slipping into the dark waters of a jungle river to wrestle with a cruel and vicious tiger, would momentarily distract me from a close encounter with a warm and generous girl, nestling with me in the back seats of the 'Regal' cinema in Minehead. We had already eaten our marmalade sandwiches.

Every Saturday in the dreary winter weeks in that seaside town, a hundred scruffy urchins would shout at Laurel and Hardy, and yell "Hi Yo Silver" as the Lone Ranger and Tonto confounded the villains of the Wild West. Later, in London, as a student, long hair swinging around my shoulders, dressed all in black, I

watched Vanessa Redgrave in Antonioni's Blow-Up. The Media age had begun!

Julie Christie entered our lives as unspoken competition for girlfriends and lovers. Now it's Catherine Zeta-Jones or Jude Law, who set pulses racing as we snuggle into the comfortable seats. Julie Christie was called "marvellous, absolutely adorable, enchanting, sexy, alive, vibrant, astute, clever." Its that multifaceted character we demand from our stars. They lift us beyond ourselves.

Bollington too, is alive and vibrant, a world full of societies, clubs and classes for young and old. If the Sea Cadets don't get you then the Bridge Club will.

When I retired here in 1996 I intended to put my feet up and watch the movies I had missed, or slept through on a Friday night after a busy week in school. Then I met Mark Stedman, Bollington's answer to Action Man; I had to go abroad to work for another 6 years to escape! When we returned 18 months ago I met Jean Ball, succumbed to her enthusiasm and joined a Spanish Class. This year she again caught me

at a weak moment. "We need a Film Festival," she said, "as part of the 2005 Festival, just come along..."

Fantasy has become reality, my dreams come true. My very own film festival...all the Julie Christie movies in one week, will I see Last Tango in Paris at last? I was quickly corrected. "No, Ken", you can write an article explaining about the Film Festival in **Bollington Live!**

So here are the committee's initial choices. During the Festival we can have three general films, and one children's film. Tell us which you would like by filling out the form below (or write in your own choices) and return by April 30th, 2004. Copy or tear (tear! Bolly Live? surely not? Ed.) out the form and post to me: Ken Edwards, 48 Hurst Lane, Bollington SK10 5LT - OR - put it in the Film Festival Box at the Library.

In the next **Bollington Live!** there will be a Prize Film Quiz. Also if anyone has memories of going to the cinema in Bollington please contact me on 01625 571126 or ken@molepolole.freemove.co.uk.

Ken Edwards

Bollington Film Festival 2005 Only the Best for Bollington

Choose **THREE** Films - Add your Own Favourites. Send to: Ken Edwards 48, Hurst Lane, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5LT or place answers in the box in the Library by April 30th, 2004.

COMEDY

- Four Weddings and a Funeral ☐
A Fish Called Wanda ☐
The Life of Brian ☐

MUSICAL

- Moulin Rouge ☐
West Side Story ☐
My Fair Lady ☐

THRILLER / SUSPENSE

- The Third Man ☐
Day of the Jackal ☐
The Usual Suspects ☐

YOUR OWN CHOICE :

WESTERN

- High Noon ☐
The Unforgiven ☐
The Big Country ☐

BEST OF BRITISH

- The English Patient ☐
Chariots of Fire ☐
Touching the Void ☐

WAR

- The Cruel Sea ☐
The Deer Hunter ☐
Saving Private Ryan ☐

HORROR

- The Exorcist ☐
Psycho ☐
The Others ☐

PERIOD DRAMA

- Much Ado About Nothing ☐
Sense and Sensibility ☐
Far From the Madding Crowd ☐

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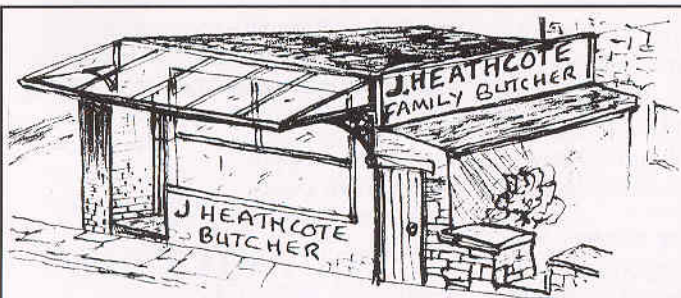
Friday June 18th
70's & 80's Evening
4 Course Dinner + Dancing - £15.95pp

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BOLLINGTON *Live!*

MARCH

Wednesday 10th, 10am – 1.00am

Wednesday Walk

Car Park behind Admiral Rodney, Prestbury. Experience the charm of Prestbury village on this 4 – 5 mile ramble with the Macclesfield countryside Rangers Jenny Barker and Ray Weaver. Call 504518 for info.

Tuesday 16th, 7.30pm

Annual Town Assembly

Civic Hall, Bollington Town Council, Your chance to have a say! About the Town Plan, The council, The elections etc etc...

Wednesday 17th to Sat. 20th 7.30pm

Once A Catholic

Arts Centre. Bollington Festival Players. This highly successful comedy by Mary O'Malley is a sharply critical exposition of a Catholic girlhood in a London convent school in the late 1950s. *"The play works like the ceremonial incense: one sniff of that overpowering sweet scent and you're on a spiritual high so orgasmic, you can almost see St Peter at the heavenly gates"* Tickets 875326

Monday 22nd, 7pm

AGM and Open Evening

Drop In Centre, Palmerston St. All welcome. Tel 576311 if you would like to come along.

Friday 26th, 07.30pm

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Arts Centre. Bollington Children's Music Theatre present this piece by David Bedford (words by Coleridge of course). Tickets and more information from 0161 427 2870 or www.bcm.turl4life.com

Friday 26th, till Sunday 18th, April

'Pure Landscapes'

Arts Centre. An exhibition of paintings by Tom Brown. Open during all Arts Centre events and Sundays 2-4pm.

Saturday 27th, 8pm

Red River Jazz Band

Arts Centre. Another in the 'Jazz at the Arts Centre' concerts, a welcome return for these 'Trad' stalwarts. Tickets £6.50 from 01625 574410

Sunday 28th, 11am – 1pm

Car Boot Sale

Drop In Centre, 104 Palmerston St. £6 per car, book early as there are limited spaces. For details call 576311

Sunday 28th, 7pm

All The Fun of The Orbit

Arts Centre. A talk by Hugh Beggs. A light hearted summary of the many ways in which the Earth's being in orbit around the sun impinges on our daily lives. £3.00 at the door. More details from 01625 575287

Wednesday 31st, 7.30pm

Bollington Freelancer's Network – FIRST MEETING

Are you self-employed or running a freelance business in Bollington? Come along to the first gathering of the Bollington Freelancer's Network – it's a chance to meet others who share the highs of having no boss but yourself, understand the depth of relationship that can be achieved with a PC, and have been brave enough to abandon their study to trek up the hill to 10 Cocksheadhey Road (off Beeston Mount) for a glass of wine and a chat with fellow escapees from the world of employment. Call Louise on 01625 576986 or 07766 236364.

APRIL

Sunday 12th, 10.30am – 3.30pm

Well I never Knew That

Ranger's Office Adlington Road Car Park. Ranger Ed Pilkington leads this 8 mile walk through the countryside of Bollington and Kerridge, finding how people and nature have left their marks on the landscape. Info on 573998

Saturday 24th, 8pm

The Yorkshire Stompers

Arts Centre. Another in the 'Jazz at the Arts Centre' concerts. A great chance to see this traditional jazz outfit from 't'other side of the hills'. Tickets £6.50 from 01625 574410

Thursday 22nd 7pm – 11pm

St. Georges Horse Race Evening

Drop In Centre, Palmerston St. £3 including supper. For details call 576311

Friday 30th, 7.30pm

Radio Days and TV Times

Arts Centre. Time Of Our Lives Music Theatre as part of the Rural Touring Network present a hilarious mix of song, dance, remembering ITMA, The

Goons, The Sound of Music, ready Steady Go and many more.

Tickets £6, £4 concs. £12 family 01625 573413 and 575287.

MAY

Saturday 1st, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

A Spring Evening in Kerridge

Bus Stop on Jackson Lane, Kerridge. Ranger Ed Pilkington leads a 4 mile ramble exploring the history, wildlife and hidden pathways of Kerridge. Info on 01625 573998

Saturday 8th, 7.30pm

NSPCC Barn Dance

Arts Centre. £6 including buffet. Tel 575427 for info and tickets.

Tuesday 25th, 8am – 11am

Bollington's Birds

Ranger's Office Adlington Road Car Park. RSPB's Peter Kirk and Ranger Paul Hughes leads this leisurely 4 mile walk discovering which summer visitors have joined the resident bird life. Info on 01625 573998.

Saturday 22nd, 8pm

Old Fashioned Love Band

Arts Centre. A 'Jazz at the Arts Centre' concert, a welcome return for these fine exponents of New Orleans ensemble Jazz. Tickets £6.50 from 01625 574410

JUNE

Friday 11th, 7.30pm till late

'Cowboys and Indians' Evening

Drop In Centre, Palmerston St. £5 including supper. Details: 576311

Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th All day

NSPCC Open Gardens Weekend

Various – look out for details in press and posters around Town. Tel. 572864

JULY

Sunday 18th, 10.30am

4th Nostalgia Trail Opening

Drop In Centre, Palmerston St. Bring a picnic lunch. Trail Packs £2. Tel 576311 for full details.

Sunday 18th, 11.30am – 4.30pm

Middlewood Way Open Day

Higher Poynton Station, Shrigley Road North. Music, craft, demonstrations, plant and produce, storytelling and much more. FREE entry and parking. Info on 01625 573998

EVENTS

Friday 9th, until Sunday 11th

Bollington Art Group Ruby Exhibition

Civic Hall, Palmerston St.

All Welcome, admission free.

10am – 6pm on Friday and Saturday,

10am – 6pm on Sunday.

AUGUST

Sunday 8th, 10am – 12.30pm

'Driving' To Nancy

Rangers Office, Adlington Rd. Ranger

Ray Weaver leads a 5 mile walk

around town, climbing the "Rally

Road" and up to White Nancy.

Info on 01625 573998

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday 9.00pm

Acoustic Jam session and music workshop

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Tuesdays, 8pm

Festival Players

Arts Centre, Tel: 574583

Wednesdays, 7.00 - 8.30pm

Bollington Junior Festival Players

Arts Centre. Tel: 875326

Thursdays, 2pm and Fridays, 7pm

Bridge Club.

Arts Centre: Tel: 575508

Thursdays, 8pm

Bollington Light Opera Group

Arts Centre, Tel: 574085

Fridays 9.00pm

Folk Club

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Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane

from 7.30 - 9.30pm on the 2nd

Wednesday of each month: Contact

Audrey Downs on 01625 575082

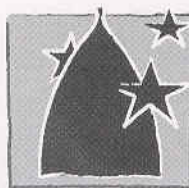
Bollington & Dist. Horticultural Soc.

Pott Shrigley School at 8.00pm on the

third Thursday of each month: Contact

Mr H Royall on 01625 422835 or Mrs

W Stoddart on 01625 422371



bollington festival 2005

Festival website goes live!

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

The official Bollington 2005 Festival Website has just been launched - log on and find out how to get involved in the huge variety of events, including live bands, theatre, music, literature, sport, jazz, film, exhibitions and otherwise brilliant activities that are being planned.

Later this year, you'll be able to browse the full programme of events online - in the meanwhile, find out how to make your very own model White Nancy for an art installation, or follow the daily countdown to the opening ceremony - in 453 days (at the time of writing...)

Volunteer organisers for the Festival are always warmly welcomed! We are currently looking to fill three crucial roles: a co-ordinator for local Fund-raising events, a Sports co-ordinator and someone to oversee the action for Bollington's Under-30's - please contact Emma King on 01625 572841 to find out more.



Wanted -Scouting and Guiding Leaders

As ever the various youth groups are looking for leaders.

If you would like to volunteer to help with Guides, Brownies or Rainbows call Polly Broadhurst on 572329

1st Bollington Cubs are looking for a warranted leader or someone prepared to train. Call Claire on 431855.

2nd Bollington Scouts are looking for a Scout Leader call Mike Garritty on 575549 or Steve Jackson on 573327

The Scouting and Guiding Associations have excellent training schemes that allow adults to be involved at whatever level they can commit to. In short, you will **'be prepared'**.



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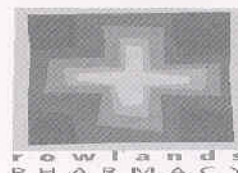
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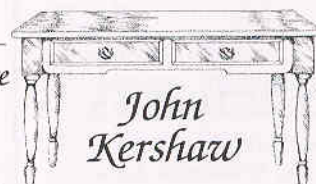
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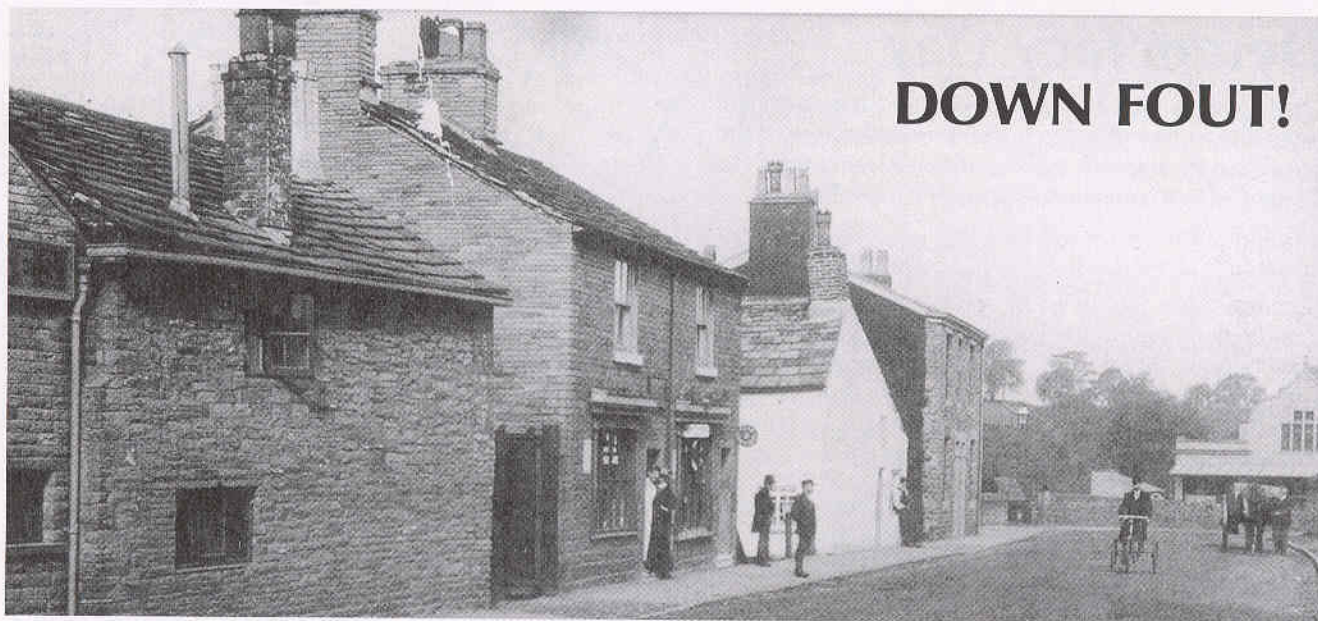
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DOWN FOUT!



Edith Shatwell's Uncle Jack was a remarkable man.

He worked as a spinner at the Waterhouse Mill for all his working life and was a quiet man who kept himself to himself. He spent a lot of his leisure time working with the St. John's Ambulance, especially during World War Two. But although these were the things that Jack Walton would have measured himself by, they are not remarkable in themselves.

No – Jack was remarkable because he lived to be one hundred and five years old. Jack died in 1989, but a few years earlier, he was interviewed on tape by Dr. John Coope to provide material for the 1980 Festival theme 'The Seven Ages of Man'. They chatted about Jack Walton's early life in Bollington. Listening to the conversation now, some twenty years after it was recorded, one gets a faint echo of a very different Bollington, but one that is still quite recognisable today.

Jack was born in 1885. "Yes, down Courier Row...we called it -Down Fout", that's what everyone then called the little row of cottages that still lie beyond the gate near the chippie on Wellington Rd, does anyone now know why?

Jack and his 4 brothers and 4 sisters all went to Bollington Cross School where they were taught "Reading, writing, arithmetic and a 'little bit of history'", by a Mr Sutton.

Jack's father was a farm labourer who had tragically lost a leg in an accident with a steam tractor. "There was no compensation in them days."

Money was very tight. They had no electricity, gas, running water or sewage. "We had to carry all the water in buckets... there was a pump for drinking water..." Jack's mother went out washing and cleaning to

make ends meet.

When Jack was ten and a half he started work as 'piecer' at Waterhouse Mill, on Wellington Rd. by the viaduct (where Kay Metzler is now). He worked half a day at the mill and half a day at school, getting up each morning to start work at 6 o'clock, 6 days a week. At eleven years old, he went full time. He earned a penny an hour to start with (a penny farthing after three months) and he continued to work at the mill as a spinner until he was 75.

Leisure time was spent at Church, fishing, Belle View on Wednesday afternoons, and trips to Blackpool.

Jack remembered older boys going to the Boer War, The relief of Mafeking, The Canal Burst and the

first Motor Car in Bollington, owned by the local MP AJ King. Before cars, the first steam wagons trundled through the town and the age of mechanised transport had begun. "The horses felt it as well, and had to be trained with fireworks or suchlike, on a farm up at Kerridge, to get them used to the noise".

Jack Walton married before the Great War "She was a Macclesfield girl, married about 1910, lived at the bottom of Shrigley Rd." Later they moved to Coronation Buildings. Dr John asked him about the names of the local Doctors he could remember, "Dr Doyle, Dr Maine... then the Coopes of course, they've put Bollington on the map!"

Dr John asked "Do you feel life was hard compared to now?"

"No, I don't think we did, we expected it, you know, we had to make our own amusement, same as whip and top and skipping ropes in the middle of the road – you couldn't do that today."

Jack was pretty fit right up to the end of his life. Dr John only interviewed him about his early life, but he must have had so many other stories to tell.

My thanks to Jack's niece Mrs Edith Shatwell, and Dr John Coope who allowed me to use the material from the interview, a remarkable piece of history and a remarkable man. **TN**



Wellington Road, circa. 1905.
Courier Row (The 'Fout') runs to the left,
of the white cottage in the centre of the
photograph above.

Democracy Day

On Thursday 10th, June the people of Bollington will have the opportunity to choose nine Members of the European Parliament (MEP), fifteen Members of the Town Council and three Borough Councillors.

These three elections will take place on the same day, and everyone on the voters register will be posted three separate ballot papers to be returned as a postal vote. Four English Regions, including the North West Region, have been selected for a pilot scheme to see whether we find it more convenient to vote by post, in the hope that the "turnout" can be greatly increased from the 50% Bollington has achieved in the last few local elections.

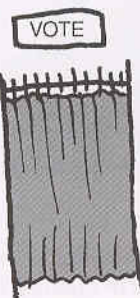
There will be no polling stations and some may think that polling day will be quite boring. Nevertheless the decisions made will affect us all for the next four years.

As in June 1999 the elections to the European Parliament will be conducted by "proportional representation": this ensures that every party that receives a significant vote will have at least one MEP. When we used the traditional "first past the post" system a majority of one was sufficient and if you voted for a loser you had wasted that vote. In the Euro-election every vote will count.

Bollington is divided into three wards: East, Central and West. Each ward will elect one Borough Councillor and five Town Councillors, counting the votes on the old "first past the post" system.



Provided there are contests in every ward the Town has a reasonable chance of achieving Quality Status (already achieved by Poynton). This would enable the Town Council to take charge of more of the affairs of the town, instead of being so dependent on decisions of the Borough and County Councils.



As well as the main party candidates we believe that it would be healthy if some Independent candidates put their names forward. Regular readers will know that **Bollington Live!** is completely independent and the views of the magazine committee range across the whole political spectrum. However our policy stance has always been that Bollington must be seen as a town in its own right.

We gave each of the main parties a chance for one of their candidates to tell our readers of their motivations for standing; and their objectives should they succeed. Reproduced (opposite) are their responses.

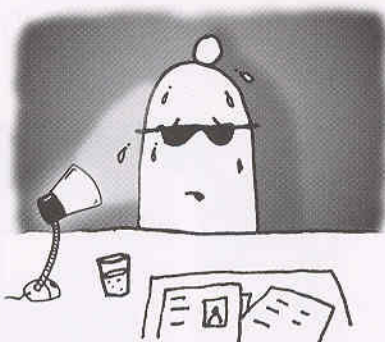


Bring Back Blackout Curtains?

Next time there is a good clear night – step outside – are there as many stars as there used to be? The answer is, of course, yes, but you probably can't see them because of all the man made lights around you. Street lights, domestic and industrial lighting. It's a real shame, and so unnecessary.

Light pollution, a problem usually associated with inner cities not semi-rural locations like ours, is encroaching upon us at an alarming rate. Clarence Mill's car park now has enough candle power to light Old Trafford football ground. Its dazzling lamps are directed almost horizontally and some of the fields nearby are bathed in light 24 hours a day.

We all have a part to play, by drawing curtains and planning how we position our external security lamps. Perhaps we could write to Bollington Town Council to see if they can apply some pressure on local businesses and draw up planning



guidelines for lighting. Fewer lights means smaller electricity bills after all. Surely it's daft to have planning regulations for our conservation area that say plastic drainpipes are unsuitable, but that you can place search lights around your home with

sufficient power to have illuminated a Heinkel III at 5000 feet during WWII.

This is an invasive form of pollution that can be easily solved with a little thought. So let's act, I want my kids to be able to see the real Milky Way; in the sky, *not in a chocolate bar wrapper....* TN

BOLLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

**ANNUAL
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YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY!!

Conservative

It is an honour and privilege to serve the people of Bollington as a Borough Councillor on Macclesfield Borough Council, a position I have held since my election in May 2000.

When I was originally asked to stand as the Conservative candidate in the May 2000 election, people did not believe that I could win against determined campaigns from Labour and the Lib Dems...the end result was that I polled more votes than the other two parties put together!



So what do I offer as the Conservative candidate? I believe that I offer a particular outlook on life and a specific set of values based on a love of family, friends and community.

We all live in fast moving and changing times and we all have to balance what changes are in our best interest and those that we would rather not have forced upon us by this Labour government based in London or indeed the European Union from Brussels.

Defending Bollington against the worst excesses of developers have been the hardest and longest battles that I have fought, I have won some and lost some but the fight continues.

Bollington is changing and I know some of the changes concern people, however I hope and believe that despite its changes Bollington is still a unique and fantastic place to live, work and socialise. It still needs defending however and I have worked hard to represent the people of Bollington on the Borough Council to the best of my ability. I work hard, I give it my best shot and I certainly "Beat the Drum for Bollington"!

I find it very rewarding to help people, being a councillor is an interesting and rewarding position, I recommend it... we could do with some new blood!

Cllr Graham Evans

Liberal Democrat

My husband, two sons and I moved to Bollington in 1975. Our daughter was born in 1982. The children attended Dean Valley and then Tytherington Schools, the whole family has worked, or are still working, in the town and Arthur has run a Folk Club in various local hostleries since we arrived (currently the Dog and Partridge). As a result of these activities we have met numerous local people, many of whom we number among our closest friends.

I was co-opted on to the council early year when the incumbent representative of West Ward became too ill to attend council meetings. Although I enjoy being on the council I know that unlike many other councillors, who are extremely hard working and have impressive local knowledge, I have not achieved all that I could. In my defence I, in common with others, have a full time job, family commitments, an active social life and I am in the third year of taking an Open University degree. It is important to know the area you represent and living in Central Ward, perhaps I do not know enough about the people or problems of the ward I represent and they do not know me as well as I would like, but this is improving.



I joined the Liberal Democrats a number of years ago. I abhor the extremes of politics and I find that Liberals are less likely to be extremists and approach problems with more common sense than those of other political persuasions. There is a strong and committed group of Liberal Democrats on both the Town and Borough Councils. Having said this, I don't feel that Party Politics should play a large part in local government. A love of and a desire to do the best for the area in which we live should be our overriding motivation.

Cllr Myra Wakefield

Labour

Bollington is special! Big enough to support local activities and services, yet small enough to be understood by everyone. I've been lucky enough to make my contribution to the community as a member of the Town Council. In these busy days people find it difficult to think of serving the community in this way. Yet it is rewarding work and I still have time to spend with family and to follow pursuits I enjoy, such as hill-walking and seeing the latest films.



My Council work is an extension of an interest in politics inherited from my parents. I've been a Labour supporter all my life. For me that means wanting a better quality of life for ordinary people. The Town Council is a forum to decide how we want our neighbourhood to develop. I see us doing this in 3 ways. Firstly we use the small amount of money we have from the Council Tax to support people helping others, through grants to groups who improve opportunities for young people like the Brownies and the Sea Cadets, or work with adults at the Drop in Centre. Secondly through attending ceremonies and visiting local bodies like schools, we can tell people who serve the community how much their work is appreciated. Thirdly we can comment on planning applications affecting our town, although local opinions can be overruled by Macc. Borough Council. Recently we have supported a very important initiative; the creation of a Parish Plan, which will bring ideas for improving our community into a coherent framework and inform future thinking.

There are frustrations and setbacks, but everyone on the council has the good of the community at heart. From different viewpoints and ideas we aim to create a united way forward. Working towards that aim I find really rewarding.

Cllr Sandra Edwards

A lot has happened since *Bollington Live!* featured the Community Centre in Autumn '02.

Having formed a new management committee and with a 20-year lease from Macc. Borough Council, we set about the day-to-day running of the Centre and embarked on an ambitious refurbishment programme.

Just before Christmas 2002 we discovered that the NHS Inequalities Fund were able to award grants to organisations that contribute to the health and welfare of local communities, especially for older residents. The primary use of the Centre is the provision of facilities for older residents and in great haste the committee submitted a grant bid, and were overwhelmed to receive a phone call to say that £10,000 had been awarded to refurbish the main room. We also received £1,000 from our own Bollington Town Council.

New radiators were installed in the main room, which was also re-wired with new lighting and a new false ceiling. Once new double glazed windows had been installed workers from the Community Service programme, run by the Probation Service, did the decorating. In fact they did such a good job in the main room, they were asked to do the rest of the ground floor of Centre.

Generous donations were received from 2 local companies, Gradus provided new curtains and carpet and Broadstock's provided new chairs and tabletops. We are very grateful to these companies who put the icing on the cake, making the main room comfortable and welcoming.

Thanks also, to Barlow Walsh for the plumbing and Mr Gilmore for the electrical work; and to McNulty's, who installed all the windows. They managed to work around the day-to-day activities of the Centre, ensuring that it remained open, with a minimum of disruption.

The improvements are not just internal, because a wonderful garden has been made out of the overgrown wilderness behind the building. The Probation Service cleared the undergrowth, and Lisa Bysh, one of our



The Community Centre on Ovenhouse Lane, Bollington Cross

volunteers, took over the design and planting, with many plants and bulbs generously donated by local residents. Everyone is looking forward to spring and summer when the garden will blossom into its full glory.

All those who attend Day Care, the weekly Luncheon Club, the Bingo Club and the Flower Club are thrilled with the refurbishment. The room looks really smart and it is much warmer and more comfortable.

BOLLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sadly, our plan to complete the refurbishment using a Lottery Grant was not to be, because the Lottery's Community Fund cannot be used for council owned premises. It is, therefore, essential that alternative sources of funding be found to undertake the remaining work. This includes the installation of disabled facilities, new toilets, replacement of the remainder of the heating system and refitting the kitchen. We also want to convert the 1st floor flat to provide additional meeting rooms.

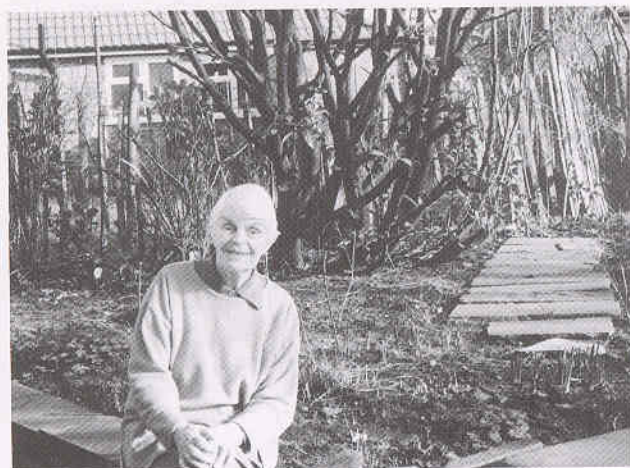
The Borough Council Access Fund will contribute towards the disabled facilities, and the installation of a fire detection system and emergency lighting.

The future of the Centre is looking much brighter than it did 2 years ago, and the committee are determined to continue with the refurbishment to provide a first class amenity for Bollington.

It is essential to expand the activities at the Centre, to make sure that full use is made of this valuable facility. Do you run a club, if so are you looking for new premises? Are you looking for a location to hold a lecture or run some courses? Do you want to hold a birthday or anniversary party?

Why not come along to our Open Day on the 13th March and see what facilities are available or contact me, **Pat Haddleton** on 01625 575557.

Lisa Bysh, (pictured left), who has done so much hard work in creating the newly cleared and planted garden.

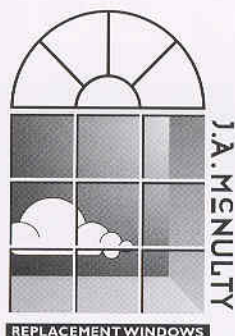


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BOLLINGTON

Live!

She's one of "them rangers"

I became a volunteer with the Macclesfield Countryside Rangers through a community action programme run by school. I had no idea that two years later I would still for some inexplicable reason, enjoy getting cold, muddy and wet as we battle on through treacherous winds, icy rain and worst of all potent animal excrement. There's just something about this team of rangers and the work that they do that really makes me happy and extremely proud to be a part of.

You may have seen us this winter carrying out our works on the Middlewood Way. We are currently carrying out tree felling in a big way. Although this seriously looks as though we are heartlessly tearing down the local countryside, it does have tremendous benefits: The diversity of species will increase as light floods into the woodland banks, by the spring more vegetation will have a chance of appearing which will encourage an array of birds and butterflies, and the views from the top path of the walkway will be outstanding. Not only this, I feel it results in a safer environment for walking, jogging and cycling.

In addition to felling we have been hedgelaying. This not only looks impressive, it carries with it tradition of our British heritage and provides an excellent habitat for birds and small mammals. There are several hedgelaying events each winter, which means you can come and have a go too! We have also been creating barley fields providing feeding grounds for birds, as well as attracting beautiful insects and butterflies in the summer months.

I could carry on and on. Anyone who would like to try something new, make new friends and feel part of a strong and friendly team should definitely come and meet us at one of our events or just pop in and say 'hey' at our office on Adlington Road or call 01625 573998.

Sophie Shaw

*Recently layed
hedge just North
of Bollington
Viaduct*



Hedgelaying Notes

Most native hedgerow trees will regenerate themselves however hard they are cut back. It is this characteristic that allows a hedge to be 'layed' and amazingly when they are all but cut through, and bent over, as long as a small sliver of bark and trunk is retained, the top section (pleacher) will continue growing along with new growth from the cut. Most hedges are predominantly hawthorn or blackthorn and when layed make a pretty impenetrable barrier. Around Bollington you can find hedges that were layed, many years ago, and the old gnarled pleachers can still be seen spreading almost horizontally from the main trunk. A hedge should be re-layed every now and again and this process can go on forever, hence many hedges are hundreds of years old.

Old Billhook

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BOLLINGTON

Live!