



# **BOLLINGTON**

# *Live!*

**Number Thirty One**

**Summer 2004**

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***Flood Alert***  
***Trying for Tourists***

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Extra volunteers are needed to help out on **Sunday, 19th September** at this year's **Bollington Transport Extravaganza**. This year's event gives the people of Bollington the chance of putting on a show of which Bollington can be proud. Granada TV has heard of the event and is interested in filming on the day.

Thanks are due to our Major sponsors & site providers, but volunteers are still needed.

Extra help is needed in the following areas :-

- Gazebo erection and dismantling
- Stall holder positioning
- Site decoration - putting up bunting etc.
- Vehicle check-in marshals
- Ferrying items to/from site
- Ticket desk helpers
- Car park marshals
- Festival stall helpers
- Tidying site after the event

Various activities in the run up to the event :-

- Production of signs/posters
- Advertising / PR
- Putting up / taking down signs
- Assembling children's treasure trail packs
- The inevitable running around

If you'd like to volunteer your services on the day and /or in the run up to the event please contact Jackie or Helen on **01625 574448** or e-mail [peter@toadstone.com](mailto:peter@toadstone.com) and help make this a day Bollington can be proud of. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

## Palmerston Travel

15 High Street, Bollington, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 5PH

**Tel. 01625 574448 Fax. 01625 575926**

**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:

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

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Cover: *Could this be what our future holds? Turn to page 14 for full story!*

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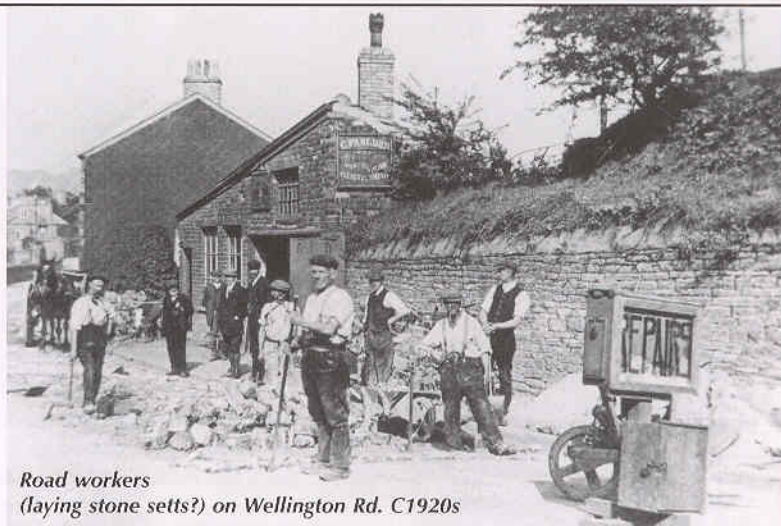
## Too Much Change... ...or not enough?



Recurring themes in **Bollington Live!** where we continue to explore what it is that makes our town special and to celebrate and promote those qualities.

Now there are those Bollingtonians who will tell you that things were better in the old days, before folk tried to change things. I'm not so sure. There are plenty of things we want to preserve, but many others we can improve – and that means change. The trick is to come up with a consensus on what needs changing and how to go about it. We hope that **Bollington Live!** can contribute to this process.

This issue has articles about tourism, the burgeoning Bollington music scene, and the good old days when



Road workers  
(laying stone setts?) on Wellington Rd. C1920s

there was a cinema, as well as news of up-coming events in and around town.

We hope you enjoy this picture from the 1920s, curiously reminiscent of the Autumn 2003 cover? Some things change but others eternally remain the same. **TN**

## In the Market Place...

**Roy Arnold writes:**

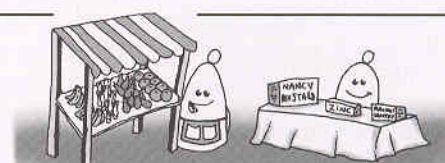
I grew up (from the mid 1930s) in Bollington's Market Place. That, in case you don't know, is the grassy square in High Street, Bollington, which, incidentally, is not, and never has been called "The Village Green".

In fact, in my younger days it wasn't even green. It was just a large open dirt square with a small patch of Dandelions and Chickweed near "the stumps". As World War II came along - the Market Place was graced by two flat-topped, brick, air-raid shelters and a Pig Bin. The latter - sponsored by Bollington Urban District Council - was for food scraps and part of the war effort.

When the war came to an end, the shelters - never used except, I suppose, by occasional courting couples, were knocked down and eventually the centre space was grassed over. The stone



A Sunday School Procession  
in the Market Place, 1912



"stumps" along the street-side remained and, in fact, seem to indicate that there had been - many moons ago - an actual market and the sale of animals in the Market Place. The "stumps" - which we used for jumping - had presumably been used for tethering animals. But otherwise, no-one that I ever knew remembered cattle sales in the Market Place.

It's name and very existence seem to indicate one of the earliest layers of Bollington's history: that it was originally a small community serving the needs of the local farming folk.

*continued overleaf...*

# DEVELOPING BOLLINGTON'S TOURISM ECONOMY



## The Bollington

Town Plan exercise has identified that many people think that developing local tourism would be a good idea. Various UK towns and countryside areas have, in recent years, been trying to attract more visitors and encouraging them to spend more time and money in their local areas. Bollington has many features that tourism development officers around the country would give their right arms for.

Our town has stone built houses and buildings of character (in fact Bollington is the only town in Cheshire that has predominantly stone buildings at its core) and The Peak District National Park is on our boundary. We have one of the most attractive canals in England, with striking c.19<sup>th</sup> mill buildings alongside it. White Nancy is a unique monument, with a view to rival many in the north of England.

Over 15 million people live within an hour and a half's drive and there is a mainline railway station just 10 minutes away, with direct links to London, Manchester, the Potteries and Birmingham. We also have many

pubs and a few restaurants to provide sustenance to visitors.

Unlike many similar small Pennine mill towns which went through a period of depression after their mills closed, such as Hebden Bridge and Holmfirth in Yorkshire or Wirksworth in Derbyshire, Bollington has not seen its' revival linked to recreation and tourism growth. The town is nevertheless attracting an increasing number of walkers and cyclists. But there has not been any growth in shopping and eating opportunities or in accommodation for visitors.

Would developing Bollington's tourism economy be a plus or a minus for our town? More spending by visitors could create some new jobs, broadening the local economy and helping to

support existing shops, pubs and restaurants. It may also attract some new shops and catering opportunities, benefiting visitors and locals alike. Some houses offering bed and breakfast, guesthouses, or even a youth hostel could also open up. On the down side, though, tourism could increase the pressures of traffic and litter.

If we did want to encourage recreation and tourism here are some ideas:

Develop a museum or heritage centre (this is already being planned for at Clarence Mill).



*The view over Market Place c.1905*

*... continued from previous page*

I suppose, if Bollington ever has had a town-centre, perhaps from the early 1900s up to the 1960s, High Street and the Market Place (with the nearby shopping facilities in Palmerston Street up from the Holly Bush Inn) was it - **with an excellent array of shops and businesses!**

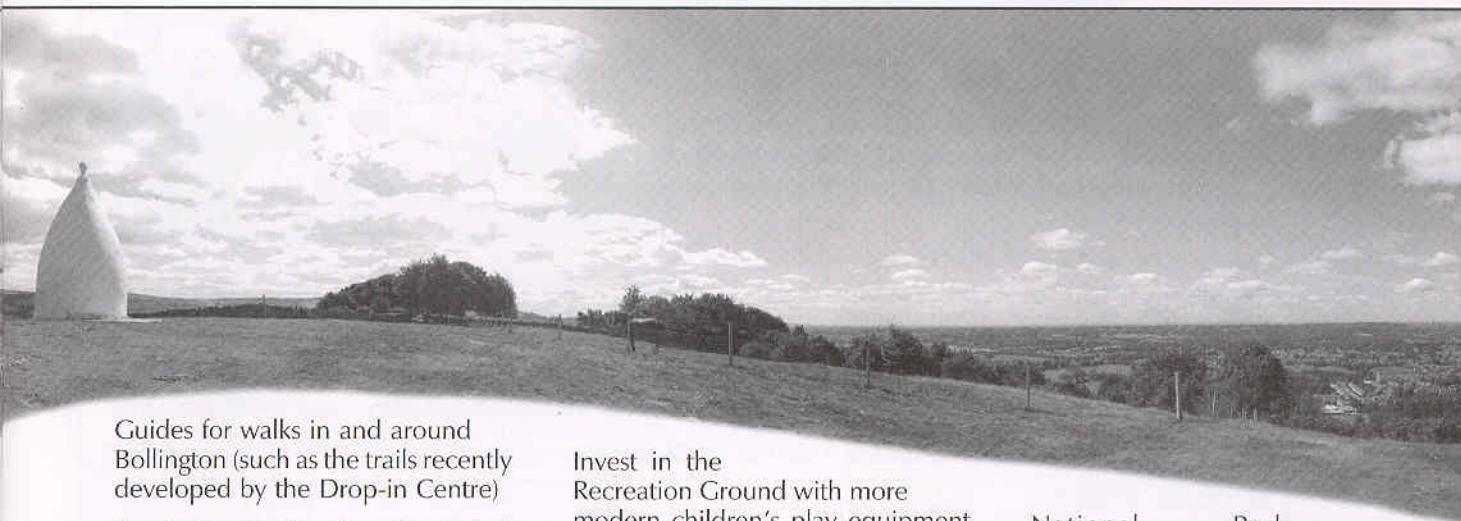
When I grew up in the Market Place there was a Coal Merchant (Mr. Andrew Worrall) in one corner and Coe Brothers' Workshops (Plumbers and Painters and Decorators) in the other.

I always understood that the house we lived in - Number 41 in the corner - had, in the dim and distant past, been an Ale House. Opposite, along High Street, there was a grocer's shop, newsagent's, milliner's, baker's, butcher's

and greengrocer's, a chip shop, and a magical shop (Jones) for books, toys, magazines and even printing.

There was everything the local shopper might want. Of these only Chadwick's Newsagents (now moved to the top of High Street) remains in the same family ownership.

As I grew up, on the corner where the present general store is, was a rather spooky Chemist's Shop owned by the Misses Walkley. Some complication with a Will, I believe, meant that the shop was closed, but rather like Miss Havesham's wedding feast in "Great Expectations", the shop inside - with its counters, displays and large bottles of coloured water (symbols of a chemist's shop in those days) were all intact and could be seen by peering through the side of the closed window blinds. Eventually the whole lot was bought and removed to a museum.



Guides for walks in and around Bollington (such as the trails recently developed by the Drop-in Centre)

Produce an attractive illustrated Visitors Guide to Bollington

Get some funding support for people who wanted to develop bed and breakfast or guesthouses.

Enhance the Conservation Areas with better paving and street furniture and encourage homeowners to make sympathetic conversions of their doors and windows that respect the period character of their houses.

Improve the appearance of the Pool Bank car park area.

Work with British Waterways to enhance the canal corridor.

Invest in the Recreation Ground with more modern children's play equipment and possibly a new pavilion and café.

Redevelop the derelict Ingersley Vale Mill, retaining its heritage interest.

Continue to develop and expand the Arts Centre.

Capitalise on the Bollington Arts Festival and Transport Extravaganza events

Create a good and safe footpath and cycle-way link between Prestbury station and Bollington Cross.

Encourage links with the Peak District

National Park Authority, by joining their tourism promotion efforts and erecting some boundary signs to indicate just how near the National Park boundary we are.

Support the Trade and Tourism Committee of the Bollington Town Council and the Peaks and Plains Tourism Association.

Do you have any ideas or opinions, for or against? Write to **Bollington Live!** and let us know. **GB**

*This impressive panorama is reproduced with the kind permission of Simon Nottage at Bollington Printshop. Individual prints, up to 3 metres long, are available to order*

Although it may not have been used as an actual Market Place in more recent times, it seems it was certainly a known meeting point in the village, even though the nearby Pool Bank was the venue for the annual visit of Fairground Rides and even Circuses. Church processions, would gather in the Market Place and in 1842 a large crowd of some 3000 striking mill workers from Macclesfield and Bollington, associated with the Chartist Movement, gathered there while local shopkeepers hastily boarded up their premises in case of violence.

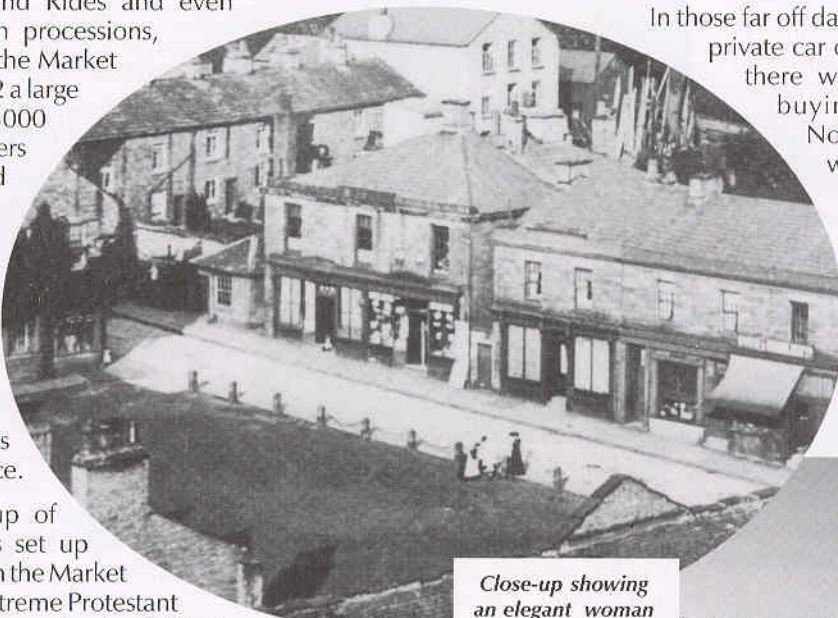
In 1902 a group of Kensit Preachers set up their soapboxes in the Market Place but their extreme Protestant views were not popular in Bollington and they were booed and generally shown the door.

Meanwhile local shops and businesses obviously thrived around the Market Place. An 1874 handbook lists the following as being around the Market Place:

George Brookes (Grocer), Mary Bunting (Carter) Charlotte and Hannah Orme (Milliners and Drapers), George Brooke (Grocer), David Oldham (Butcher and Farmer) and Samuel Shrowden (Hosier, Draper and Haberdasher).

In those far off days before the advent of the private car or even a local bus service there was no real alternative to buying it in Bollington. Nowadays, you might say without fear of contradiction, that Bollington's shopping choice is much more limited - even around the Market Place.

Roy Arnold



*Close-up showing an elegant woman and a maid? helping to lace up a child's shoes. Another child watches from a doorway on High St.*

**Market Place today**



# The Bollington music buzz

1985. Live Aid was being performed and beamed around the world. Bob Geldof's utopian dream had crystallised into a global reality, raising huge amounts of money to help the poverty-stricken in Africa.

An entrepreneurial soul decided that Bollington also should be a part of Live Aid. He hired one of the biggest TV screens in Europe, ("fresh from a Bruce Springsteen tour"). Rumour has it that the Live Aid show began on the "rec" ground, but, as the crowds swelled, the show was moved to a field in Pott Shrigley. Despite a few technical and weather related problems, the show went ahead. Bollington was part of the global community, and money was raised for a worthy cause.

This enterprising spirit is what creates a buzz about Bollington, and in particular, its thriving music scene.

1985 was, coincidentally, the year that I first visited Bollington and came upon a glorious music session in the Meridian. As I recall, there was an upright piano in the corner, with an elderly gentleman tinkling the ivories, who had clearly studied at the Les Dawson conservatoire. No matter, for the whole pub was singing around the Joanna, joyfully belting out a selection of glorious old time tunes from a bygone era.

Enter Arthur Wakefield. Arthur has run his legendary Friday night folk club upstairs at the Dog and Partridge, for over twenty years. He regularly attracts top musicians from the folk scene, and has kept the club running for all these years because of his love for the music. It is well worth a visit, and Arthur's hard work is to be commended.

The Arts Centre also has a variety of music events, with classical and jazz music being well catered for, and is well worth visiting.

2005 sees the Bollington Festival return, promising a wonderful music programme under the visionary guidance of Nicholas Smith, who was responsible for bringing a gospel choir from America to the last festival, a concert that sent shivers down the spine, and is still spoken of in reverential terms by all who were lucky enough to see it. This time there are plans for, amongst other events, a dj "scratching" competition, and possibly a Battle of the Bands.

Several pubs have regular live music. The Holly Bush is the latest addition, with The Revivers recently playing a great selection of 70's and 80's hits to packed houses.

The Cotton Tree has bands playing on most Saturday nights, Tony Butterworth has made a real effort to attract good quality acts and has featured Cajun, bluegrass and traditional Irish music recently, with some serious session players reputed to be keen to play there, so get in early if you want a seat!

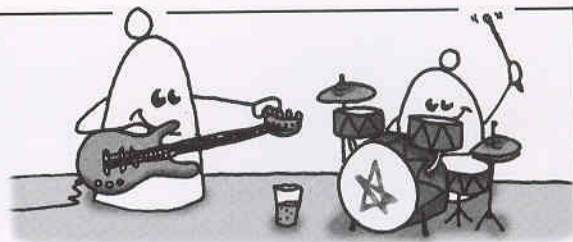
Another pub that keeps music live is the Meridian. Here there are two music sessions each week: Monday, which is mostly folk and Irish, and a new session on Thursday, which is blues and rock based. (The editor of a well known local publication has even been spotted playing here; I want that guitar Tim!) Any readers who fancy coming along to play or sing will be made very welcome, Keith the landlord might even play the bongos if you are lucky!

A few local bands also deserve a mention:



*"The End" the thinking man's rock group*

**Amandla** are an excellent Bollington based blues and r'n'b band who also regularly feature at the Dog and are destined for great things. They have been on the scene for around eight years and deserve their reputation as an excellent crowd pleasing group. ([www.amandla.org.uk](http://www.amandla.org.uk))



**Steller** are a very new, up and coming band, who practice in Bollington and are fast gaining a good reputation, having performed at Cuban Knights and The White Lion in Macclesfield and at the Macc. Beer Festival. Why not support the lads at their next gig at the Roadhouse, Manchester on the 7th August. ([www.steller.co.uk](http://www.steller.co.uk)).



*Another "Steller" performance! on stage at Cuban Knights*



The latest addition to the local music scene is **The End**, a newly formed band who debuted at a secret sold out gig last year.

Playing a mixture of classic guitar oriented rock hits by Thin Lizzy, The Beatles, Crowded House, Santana and the Rolling Stones, the band features twin blazing guitars, a funky rhythm section of drums, bass and percussion, and the excellent vocals of Ross Phillips, a combination that should get you up and dancing.

**The End** will be playing at the Arts Centre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, and again on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, so book early as they will quickly sell out! For tickets call: 01625 268734: ([www.jb.man.ac.uk/~kim/end\\_page.html](http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/~kim/end_page.html))

Support your local live music venues, and get the Bollington music buzz!

Mark Lineham



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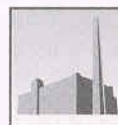
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# BOLLINGTON



## JULY

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>, All day

### Revolving in Time

Drop In Centre. Opening of their 4<sup>th</sup> Nostalgia trail in and around Bollington. Come and join in the fun.

## SEPTEMBER

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

### Jazz at the Arts Centre

Richard Bennett's New Orleans Jazz band. Tickets £6.50 Ring 01625 574410

Saturdays 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> – Sundays 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> – Weds. 15<sup>th</sup> &

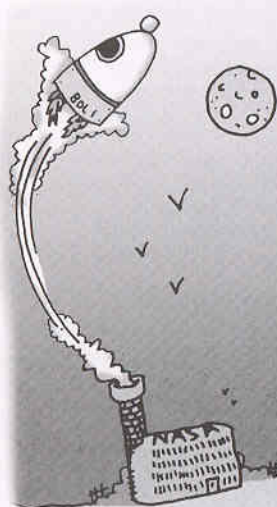
### Watercolour Paintings by Eric Holmes

Arts Centre. Exhibition is open 2-5.30pm on the above dates. Artist can be contacted on 573120

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, 11.00am-4.00pm

### Transport Extravaganza

Adelphi Mill car park, Bailey Business Park, Canal. From Penny Farthing to Space Rocket, and everything in-between! (see back page for details) Small entry charge.



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

### The End

Formed in 2003 by seasoned Bollington musicians. The End features blazing twin guitars and fat funky rhythms from drums, bass and percussion. The band plays a lovely mixture of rock, pop and blues classics guaranteed to get you dancing. Tickets £5 Ring 01625 268734

## OCTOBER

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, 8.00pm

### Jazz at the Arts Centre

The Eagle Jazz Band. Tickets £6.50 Ring 574410

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, - Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>,

### Wildlife Photography Exhibition

Arts Centre. Open Sundays 2-4.30pm and during all other Arts Centre events. The artist, David Tolliday can be contacted on 01625 432105

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8.00pm

### The Sorrel Quartet

Arts Centre: Bollington Chamber Concerts presents music by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Brahms Tickets £10, £5(concs.) 560355

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7.00pm

### Hatting in Stockport

Arts Centre: A talk by Howard Green, member of Stockport Heritage Services. £3 pay at door. Ring 575287 for more details.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Bollington Festival Players

Arts Centre: "Bedroom Farce" by Alan Ayckbourn Call 572527 for tickets and more details.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, 2pm and 7.30pm

### RSPB at the Arts Centre

At 2pm, Young Ornithologists' Activity Afternoon, 'Making Bird Food' turn up any time. FREE!

At 7.30pm, 'The Eagle Odyssey' A new film about white tailed eagles in Scotland. Tickets £3 adults and £1 children, call 574410

## NOVEMBER

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

### Jazz at the Arts Centre

The Blue Magnolia Jazz Band. Formed in 1968, top act from Lancashire with music by Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver and many others. Tickets £6.50 from 01625 574410

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

### Micron Theatre Company – 'Pedal Power'

Arts Centre: A new show by this small travelling theatre group whose visits are eagerly awaited by those 'in the know'. You can guarantee an evening of laughter, drama, and music in this story of an obscure piece of social

history. 'Pedal Power' celebrates the centenary of the National Clarion Cycling Club as they get out of the cities and enjoy the open country (including a visit to Bollington) - 100 years ago!

Tickets £7 & £5(concs) Tel. 574687

Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> November - Fri 24<sup>th</sup> December

### Etchings

Arts Centre. Open Sundays 2-4.30pm and during all other Arts Centre events.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

### Sacconi String Quartet

Arts Centre. Bollington Chamber Concerts presents one of the finest young quartets in the country. Music by Mozart, Bartok and Beethoven. Tickets £10 & £5(concs) from 560355

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, 7.00pm

### Thomas Wardle's Indian Silks

Arts Centre. Textile historian and writer Brenda King reveals the story of the Leek manufacturer's travels to India in search of new designs. £3 – pay at the door. Call 575287 for details.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm

### Poetry evening with Michael Symmons Roberts

Arts Centre. This well known local poet reads some of his own work, including examples from his new book "Corpus". £3 – pay at the door. Details: 573413

## DECEMBER

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

### Jazz at the Arts Centre

Arts Centre. T.J. Johnson's Bourbon Kick, one of London's most exciting young bands. Tickets £6.50 T. 574410

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>, 4.30 and 7.30pm

### Cinderella's Seasons

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# EVENTS



**bollington festival 2005**

Theatre presents this piece by Donald Judge. Rehearsals start Sunday Sept. 5th 2.30-4.30pm. Tickets and more information from 0161 427 2870 or [www.bcmt.url4life.com](http://www.bcmt.url4life.com)

*Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm*

## **The End**

Arts Centre. Another chance to see this excellent Bollington band (see 25<sup>th</sup> Sept). Tickets £5 Ring 01625 268734

*Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm*

## **Bollington Festival Choir**

Methodist Church. Christmas concert including the attractive Mass for Choir, Organ and Brass by Belgian composer Joseph Jonger and carols for choir and audience. Call 0161 427 2870 for details.

*Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm*

## **Messiah For All**

Arts Centre. All welcome to join in singing this glorious music. Tickets (essential) £3 from 01625 575287. All proceeds for charity.

*Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm*

## **Half a Christmas Cracker**

Arts Centre. Bollington Chamber Concerts present The Classic Buskers, Michael Copley & Jan Moore who play a selection of popular classics on improbable instruments at ridiculous speeds. Tickets £10, £5 (concs) Ring 01625 560355.

**It's just under a year until the Bollington Festival kicks off, and we're delighted to announce that AstraZeneca has offered a generous package of support to become the official Festival Sponsor. We also have an offer of substantial funding from the Cheshire Building Society.**

In the spirit of making next year's exciting events and activities accessible to as many people as possible, there will be a golden ticket offering any five Big Top performances for £40 – this represents a substantial discount and we hope to have the tent bursting at the seams with enthusiastic punters who have perhaps come along to watch something that they wouldn't have tried out before.

For the opening ceremony, we need to plunder your address books! If anyone has a hot tip on a hot celebrity who could launch the Festival with suitable aplomb, we would love to hear from you and may even stretch to a drink in the pub of your choice. Seriously though, all ideas welcome – please email to [louise@louisetickle.co.uk](mailto:louise@louisetickle.co.uk) or call 01625 576986.

Watch out for the appearance of two new Festival Noticeboards where you can find out latest news and details of Open Meetings; the aqueduct is soon to be festooned with a banner publicizing the Festival dates, and a cunning plan is being hatched involving the transformation of the two roundabouts at the entrance to Bollington into a glorious riot of Festival branding, Macclesfield Council planning department permitting...

For further information or to volunteer, check out [www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk](http://www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk)  
**Louise Tickle**

# Civic Society News

## **The Civic Society is going through a particularly busy time.**

**We are deeply involved in the development of the Parish Plan; much effort has gone into our applications for grants from funding bodies for the Discovery Centre development at Clarence Mill and there is renewed interest in Conservation Areas (CA).**

We have three CAs in the town, Bollington & Kerridge, Macclesfield Canal and Bollington Cross. There is now interest in creating another at Lowerhouse where there is a rich collection of historic buildings relating to the Gregg era. Ken Edwards is pursuing his specific interest in CAs and he has embarked on the probably lengthy process of establishing one at Lowerhouse.

One part of our contribution to the Parish Plan will be a professional review of all the public use buildings in the town. We have quite an inventory and yet there are groups who, quite reasonably, complain that they do not have suitable premises in which to practice and perform. We intend to find out how the buildings fit the needs and from that we can identify the buildings that no longer serve a useful purpose, which could be usefully modified and what new buildings we should be striving to obtain. The Civic Society will once again be offering a winter programme of interesting speakers with opportunities to discuss the hot topics within the Happy Valley - please do come along; this next meeting will be on Monday 20th September at the Community Centre.

Visit Bollington's web site - [www.happy-valley.org.uk](http://www.happy-valley.org.uk) - it's all there!

Tim Boddington



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## Anyone fancy a sing in my kitchen?

(Can't do it in the sitting room - no room there even for a string quartet.) I'm looking for a few people (sops, altos, tenors, basses) who might like to sing together occasionally for fun.

Not what you might call a mainstream repertory at first: hymns and psalm tunes from 18th and 19th century America and England the sort of stuff sung by the Mellstock Quire in Hardy's "Under The Greenwood Tree". It's good to sing and not too difficult, which suits me because my sight-reading is like the average three-year-old's literacy. Classier stuff may follow but the whole point of the gatherings is that they should be relaxed and enjoyable.

I can't direct this kitchen choir but may be able to bully someone into doing it for me. And I'll probably be able to provide a bottle of plonk at half-time. Call me if you like the idea and we'll see how it goes.

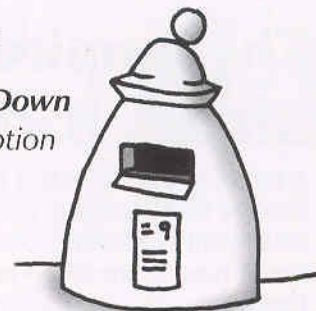
David Ward 576653.

## Letters to the Editor

*In Bollington Live! your article asks why 'Down Fout'... (Doun'th Fout) Well, it is a corruption of "the fold"....*

It seems to have been a smallholding of sorts as there was quite a lot of land attached to it which went right back to St Gregory's School. It was a wonderful place to play (trespass) in a jungle of willowherb.

This reminds me of my late Father-In-Law who was an old Poyntoner and ex-miner nearing 80. While standing at his garden gate one day he was approached by a motorist for the whereabouts of Shirdfold Farm, Adlington. "Sorry, never heard of



it!" he replied. A pedestrian passing by was able to explain where to find it. Thus informed, my Father-in-law said "Well, I've lived here all my life, even worked there as casual labour during hard times and never known it as anything other than "Shot Fout".

Tom Barrow

## More 'Down Fout'...

The 'Down Fout' article triggered some other memories. Ian Whitehurst's grandfather, Harry, ran the baker's shop next door to the Waggon and Horses since the early 1900s. Just after WWII Harry Whitehurst purchased this shop, the shop next door and the area of land

known as 'The Fout' including the cottages of Courier Row.

The auction leaflet, reproduced opposite, shows details of the properties and the associated rents.

By coincidence Ian's Granddad Harry is pictured on page 14 of this issue, in our

'Flood Alert!' article. He is the central figure holding onto the little boy, Ian's father Jack.

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Water 5 5 0 28 7 6  
**NET RENTALS £90 7 8**

Nos. 123 and 125 are assessed at £21 R.V. and Tenant pays his own Rates.

**LOT 2.**  
**FIVE COTTAGES** numbered  
**1 to 9, Courier Road (off Wellington Rd.)**  
together with Land used as Gardens and Small Croft.  
Site contains 3161 square yards or thereabouts.  
Gross Annual Rents £276 18 4  
Less General Rates 5 5 0 26 7 6  
**NET RENTALS £48 10 10**

Further Particulars from the Auctioneers, 10 & 12 Church Street, Macclesfield (Tel. 3024) or  
**Messrs. Hastings, Hooley & Co.,**  
Solicitors, King Edward Street, Macclesfield (Tel. 2671).

continued on page 13...



## Bollington CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH

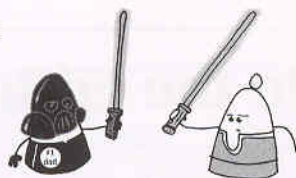
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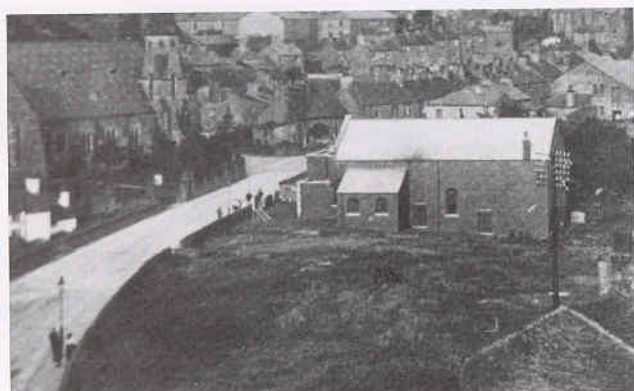
# The Empire Strikes Back



A building site has taken the place of the anonymous cement clad building, reminiscent of a Swiss chalet, which, until recently, stood abandoned on Palmerston Street next to the Drop-In centre. Who would guess that this was once the pulsating, warm heart of Bollington's entertainment industry – *The Empire*, Bollington's cinema.

Jean Drabble, provider of general provisions to Bollingtonians for 40 years, remembers; "We were so good on Mondays and Thursdays as children. That's when the programme changed. We needed to squeeze a shilling out of Mum. Dad was easier, but he was never there when wanted. I was allowed to go with a friend when I was 10, not before. We always went in the red plush seats at the back, not down the front in the orange ones. They were only 6d. The rough lot from Lord Street filled those up. They always shouted and stamped their feet when the film broke or just to annoy Mr. Whittaker who rushed up and down with his torch waving it about like a sword in the smoky dark shouting "Be quiet".

Jean remembers the first *talkie* she ever saw was 'Dark Red Roses' in 1931, at The Majestic, the poshest cinema in Macclesfield. "We always had the best seats. In the balcony they were 2/4d. We never went to The Regal. That was the Bug-hut! We loved Tom Mix, Abbott and Costello and Charlie Chaplin. *Destry Rides Again* was my



*The Empire cinema c.1914, from the aqueduct*

favourite film." No wonder! A handsome James Stewart, tames a violent small town called Bottleneck while a singing Marlene Dietrich, straddling the bar in fish net tights, tames James Stewart!"

The gas side lamps hissed in the *Empire* from 1912 onwards. Margaret Jackson and Geoff King remember competing for those coveted red plush seats in the forties. "It was the only place you could go to be on your own if you were courting. We had to book sometimes, especially if it was a Randolph Scott film. He was very popular with us girls. Ron and I went twice a week for three years. There was only the films and walking out in the summer and sometimes a dance at the old Conservative Club."

"We were queuing in the dark in the blackout. Suddenly we heard the drone of the German planes coming to bomb Manchester. The sky lit up, the guiding flares blinded us as we stared up into the blazing sky."

*The site on Palmerston Street in the early 1900s before the Empire Cinema was built*



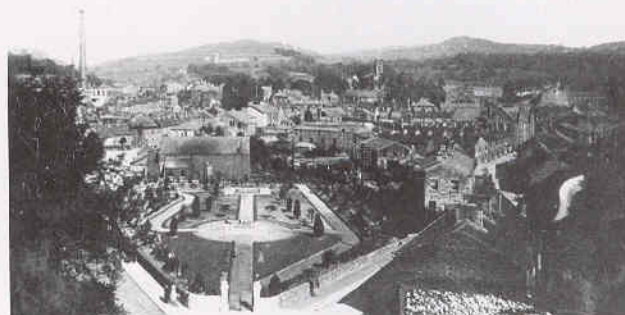
The Empire seemed a safe place, huddling together in the dark, watching the brilliantly lit screen through a haze of cigarette smoke." Geoff remembers Randolph Scott as a competitor. "All the girls liked him. We called him the freeman of Bollington. He could have walked out with any of them."

The Empire Picture Theatre closed on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1958. Geoff remembers *Shane* as the last film shown. The memory prefers quality to accuracy. *Shane* was shown in 1952. The Macclesfield Courier and Express, still a daily paper, reported the last film as being *The Naked Truth* starring Peter Sellers. There were no speeches. 1958 was a bad year for Bollington. The huge mills Adelphi and Clarence, were on short time, and the secondary school was lost to Poynton.

The Empire had been losing about £6 a week all year. An era had ended. Like many small farms surrounding the town, the buildings were worth more than the business. Improving movie technology like Cinemascope, barring clauses which prevented small cinemas from showing the latest films, fierce competition from cinemas in Macclesfield but above all the increasing prevalence of television, made life for this haven for the young at heart impossible.

For nine years Jean worked in the building making Turret Liqueur Chocolates with 24 young women. The Hadfields from Wilmslow brought the secret of pouring 100% proof sweet alcohol into pressed sugar cases to Bollington from Switzerland. Then in 1961 the licensing laws were relaxed: liqueur chocolates could be sold everywhere and Lindt and Cadbury's moved in to this specialist market. The Turret Company gradually melted down. 'Cheshire born and Cheshire bred 70% proof and goes to the Head' was swallowed up.

After Turret Liqueurs the old cinema building had a number of users, the last residents being LinkLaser Ltd..



*Soon after the Memorial Gardens were created. c.1926*

Redevelopment of the building was considered but in the end it seems a brand new structure is to be built.

The old cinema building has now gone, demolished in May this year.

A number of new flats are being built on the land, the Empire cinema and its audiences all but forgotten. But maybe – from time to time perhaps – the new residents will feel an odd chill and then a thrill, as the ghost of Mr. Whittaker rushes down to the front stalls furiously waving his torch to quell the noise of stamping feet.

Somewhere in the hearts and minds of our 'old guard' the magic created in that cinema lives on.

*The demolition in progress, 2004*



*... continued from page 11*

Ian is the boy with the tricycle in the picture of the shops. He remembers riding, as a young child, with the horse drawn van that delivered bread to Prestbury every Saturday.



The horse shown in the picture here died shortly after this photograph was taken, in a nasty accident that

occurred when it tried to jump over a barbed wire fence securing the field by Hall Hill where it was kept.

The horse had been frightened by some children on their way home from school.

By the time Ian was old enough to travel with the bread van, Harry Whitehurst had a different horse. Our thanks to Ian for these pictures and the stories.



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put to the  
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## Film Festival Competition



To get you in the mood for the Festival next year we have compiled a special competition. The winner will receive a bottle of (what else!) Bollinger Champagne.

The questions are all about Oscar winners of the 1990's

1. Which single film gained the most Oscars?
2. Which star gained successive Oscars for best actors?
3. Which is the only foreign film in which the star won an Oscar for best actor?
4. Which country produced the most Oscar winners in the Foreign Language film category?
5. Which director won more than one Oscar for best director?
6. Two winners for leading actress had the same first name. What was it?
7. English person won two Oscars? Who was it?
8. Only two films won Oscars for their leading actor and their director. They were?
9. Emma Thompson won two Oscars for films of famous English novels. What were they?
10. Only one film star was given a sole Oscar for Best Picture. Who was it?
11. In only one film did two actresses win Oscars. Which was it?
12. Only one film gained Oscars for both leading actor and leading actress. Which was it?
13. A film of one Shakespeare play gained an Oscar. Which play was it?
14. Alan Menken won a record number of Oscars for music in film but exactly how many did he win?
15. Bruce Springsteen won an Oscar for an original song. What was its title?
16. Russell Williams II won a deserved Oscar for the sound of *Dancing With Wolves*. For which other film did he win a Sound Oscar?
17. What film earned the greatest number of shares in the Oscar for Best Picture?
18. Which English playwright won an Oscar?
19. Oscars for make-up! One person won three of them. Who was it? Bet you don't know. Can you find out?
20. Even the Swiss won an Oscar in the 90's. 'Journey of Hope' told the story of an immigrant family in Switzerland. Where were they from?

Send your answers to Film Committee c/o Ken Edwards, 48 Hurst Lane, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5LT by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2004. In the event of a tie the winner will be chosen by lot. The winner will be announced in the next issue.

# FLOOD ALERT!



There have been a number of flooding incidents in our town over the years. In 1941 and 1998 there were river bursts and if the climate change predictions are correct these incidents might become more frequent. Perhaps though, the most dramatic flood was the canal burst of 1912.

The breach occurred on 29th February (Leap Day) a few hundred yards south of the Adelphi Mill. It drained a long length of the canal into Tinkers Clough and then over the railway into Grimshaw Lane and the gas works (now Spinners Way), where it put out the furnaces. There was substantial flooding and damage in the properties around the Waggon & Horses. We don't know for how long the canal was closed but it would have been at least a few weeks. We do know that the canal was stanked (damned



*The flood water near the Waggon and Horses*



*The breach in the canal side at the top of Tinkers Clough*

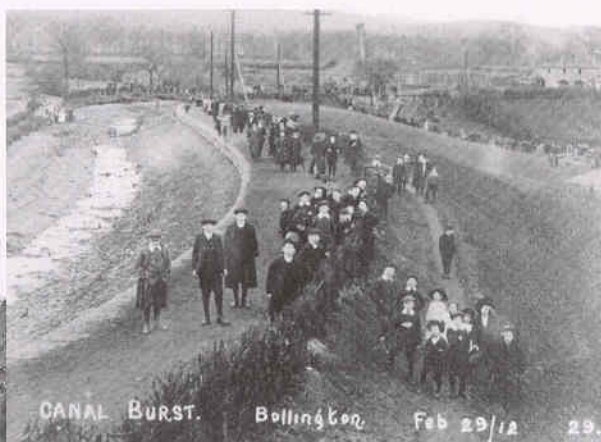
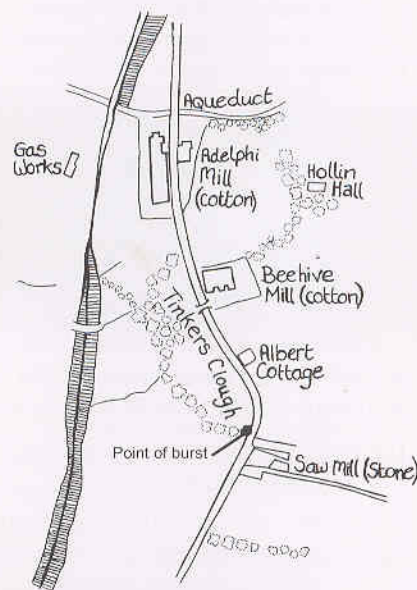
Sightseers (left) to the north of Beehive Bridge, together with the view today. Sketch map (below) showing presumed point of burst



by placing baulks of timber down the slots cut into the stone work at the sides of the bridge) at Bee Hive Bridge (28) so the loss of transport between Clarence and Adelphi mills and Bollington and points north would not have been for more than a few days at the most.

Could it happen today? A couple of years ago a leak from the canal embankment above the recreation ground was allowed to fester for many months before the canal was finally drained and the damaged bank repaired – imagine the consequences if a burst had happened. **TN**

(1912 canal burst info supplied by Tim Boddington)



*The drained canal and sightseers in 1912 with the (much overgrown) view today*

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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

## BOLLINGTON BLAST OFF!!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Bollington Transport Extravaganza will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 11am till 4pm on the Adelphi Mill Car park, the Bailey Business Park and Clough Bank.

It will feature the usual array of classic vehicles etc. but if you think that the event is too firmly rooted in the past, think again, this year will feature a very special attraction that reflects very much the future of transport.

The NOVA/Starchaser 4 is the largest rocket ever launched over the UK mainland and we are really lucky that Bollington Insurance have agreed to be sponsors in order that we can have it on display at the Extravaganza to help raise funds and awareness for the Starchaser goal of winning the coveted \$10million 'X prize' competition. The X-prize is to be awarded to the first privately financed rocket team that builds and launches a spaceship to carry 3 people to 100 kilometres, returns safely to earth and repeats the exercise within two weeks (see [www.starchaser.co.uk](http://www.starchaser.co.uk)).

Standing **13 metres high** on its launch pad, the Starchaser rocket will be the central exhibit at what promises to be the most exciting Transport Extravaganza yet, showcasing the whole history of transport with all kinds of vintage and veteran cars, bicycles, motorbikes, boats and micro-lites. There will also be music, food and children's activities.

Put the date in your diary **now**.

This is a key event in the Bollington calendar.



If you want to get involved and help out on the day then call Jackie or Helen on 01625 574448....or e-mail [peter@toadstone.com](mailto:peter@toadstone.com)

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



# BOLLINGTON

# Live!