

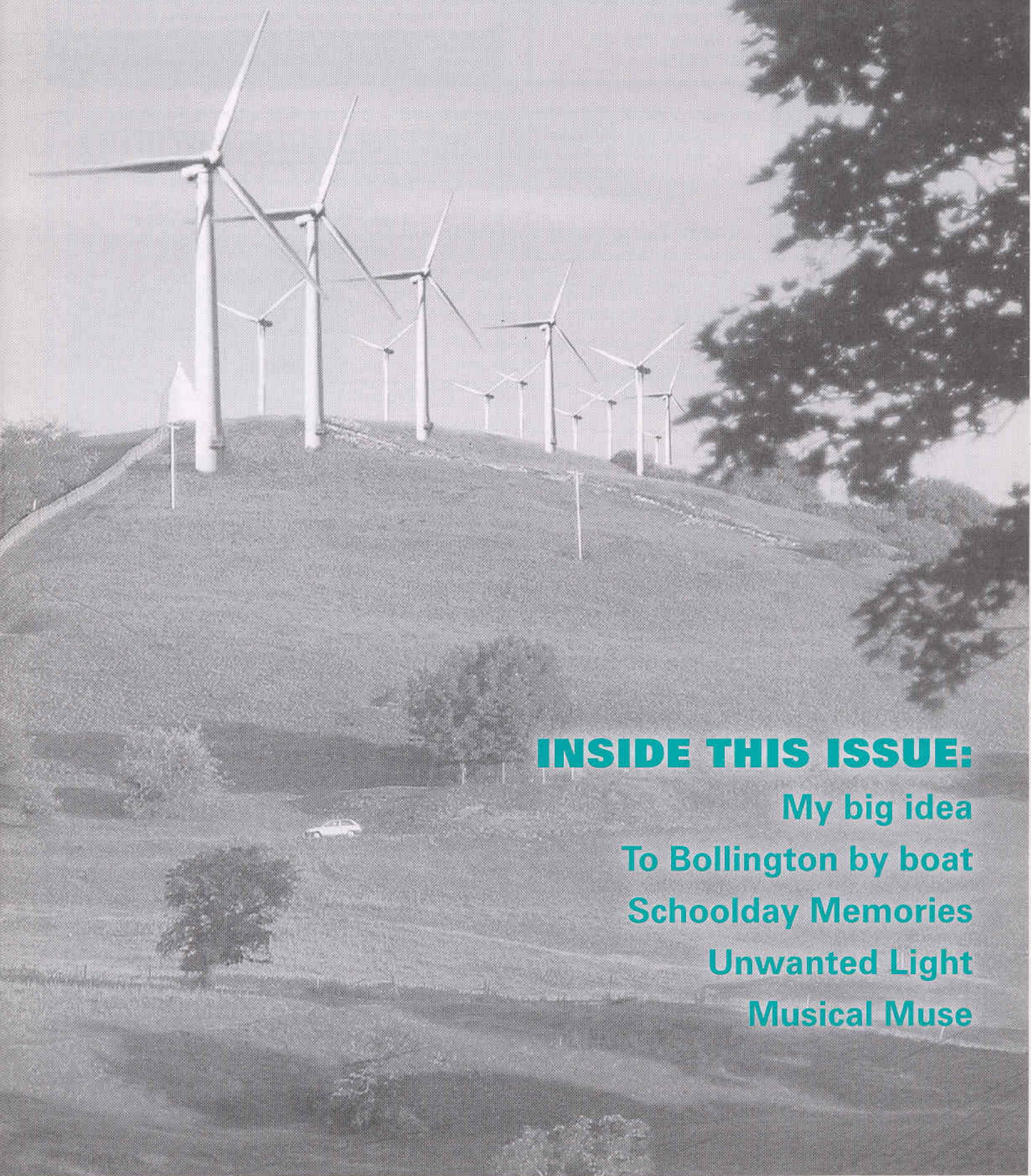


BOLLINGTON

Livel!

Number Thirty Two

Autumn 2004



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To Bollington by boat

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Unwanted Light

Musical Muse

HOLMES ~ NADEN

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Cover: Here's a 'big idea' for Bollington. Now turn to page 4-5 for more of them.

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That Cover!

Yes you were right, last issue's cover picture was a spoof.

If that view of the aqueduct is ever seen it will mean that the polar ice caps have completely melted, perhaps as a result of global warming. Either that or North West Water decide they need a new reservoir to serve the ever expanding water needs of Greater Manchester.

Mind you, since our last issue Bollington has had a real flood, too much rain rather than a canal burst. Here's a picture to prove it!

*Flooding along Ingersley Rd.
this summer*



It turns out that the cause of the 1912 canal burst was a blocked culvert under the canal. Could it happen again? John Jackson of Kerridge Dry Dock (opposite the site of the burst) told me that it certainly could. The 1912 flood was apparently not the first and if the culvert is not maintained properly the bank could fail again.

The 'Parish Plan' has just been published, and we recommend you get your hands on a copy to read (visit www.happy-valley.org.uk or go to the library). The Bollington Live! committee have put our thinking caps on and come up with our personal alternative ideas for Bollington (see pages 4 and 5). You may have your own. Send them to us and we'll publish the best.



Last issue's 'spoof' cover

A REVIVAL at 2nd Bollington HQ!

2nd Bollington Scout Group on Albert Road is alive and kicking! Three years ago the refurbishment of the Scout Hut started and we are gradually managing to bring the building up to date.

All the work has been done with money from donations or fund-raising events that mostly take place in the scout hut. Valentine Night raised over £800; the Beach Party in June and Halloween both raised more than £1000. These sell-out nights have brought a great community spirit to the area.

Activities in the hut revolve around the community and children, with the Beavers and Cubs getting together on Tuesday & Thursday nights, run by volunteers who give up their own time to keep these traditional Scouting events going.

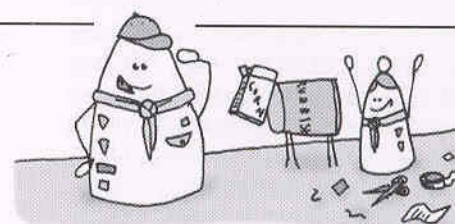
Dorothy Blake teaches Latin American, Sequence, Disco & Ballroom dancing for children of

all ages every Saturday morning. Find out more on 421945.

Mark & Gavin have been teaching Karate for 8 years. Their classes run from 6.30 - 9.30pm on Mondays and are open to all ages. For details contact Mark Nolan on 572357.



'Boxercise' at 2nd Bollington Scout Hut



Carla Gilder, is a fitness instructor who uses the Scout Hut almost daily for classes in boxercise, circuits, post-natal and more. Carla has expanded the use of the Scout Hut to create a small gym, using two rooms previously used for storage. Only 20, Carla's business has breathed some new life into the Scout Hut. For more information contact Carla on 576797 & 07753 170424

A special thanks must go to Steve & Sue Jackson who have worked tirelessly for many years running Scout Groups, fund raising and generally being the minders of the building, they have seen many changes, and I think they are proud that this renewed enthusiasm means that we continue to have Scouting and a Scout Hut in Bollington for many years to come.

June Gilder

The BIG Idea...

What if ???

If you were given free reign to improve Bollington, the facilities, and/or the environment, regardless of the expense, what would you change? Below are some of our Ideas that didn't get into the Town Plan!

Although much time and effort has been (very usefully) put into the Town Plan, it is, by its very nature, constrained by financial limits. However, during a recent editorial meeting the above question was posed. The committee members of **Bollington Live!** put on their thinking caps to see what inspirational alternative ideas they could come up with, that would enrich our Town. Thanks to the sterling efforts of all concerned, we are pleased to unveil our **BIG IDEAS** for Bollington. Maybe you will agree with some of them. Do you have any better ones? Write or e-mail and tell us what **you** would do to improve life and revitalise the community in Bollington.

'Marketing' Bollington

For a town with a population of 5,000+, the number of shops in Bollington is pitiful.

Our hard-working residents have little spare time and don't want to spend it travelling from one end of the village to the other in search of a packet of cornflakes. Like me, they mostly drive to Tesco's or Sainsbury's and get everything under one roof.

What can we do to revive our shops? I think we should concentrate on locally-produced food items, such as those sold at Farmers' Markets up and down the country. If I could walk to the old market place on High Street every Saturday and buy home grown fruit and veg, unusual cheeses or locally produced honey, I really think I would.

But perhaps the thought of trudging through horizontal rain to see a couple of drenched market stallholders fighting to keep their wares anchored to the ground doesn't appeal. OK, what about this: How about demolishing St. John's Church and creating a purpose built retail centre where stallholders and shoppers would be warm and dry. Local artists could hold weekly exhibitions; children could paint and draw while their parents shop or take refreshment in one of the new trendy coffee bars and restaurants flanking the main hall.

Something along these lines would encourage people to visit Bollington. (Hartington seems to have managed this by having a good selection of second hand book shops...)

Any how, what do you think? **SN**

Cheshire Town To Take On The Roman Look (from 'The Times', 2014)

Nestling in the Cheshire hills, the small town of Bollington is to feature a theatrical innovation comparable to the re-creation of Shakespeare's Globe. In a dramatic announcement yesterday, Culture Minister Juno Mee overturned planning objections to give the go-ahead for a Roman-style theatre on a hillside nearby.

Wearing her trademark green trouser-suit, the flamboyant Ms Mee declared "Such a stirring project deserves every success." Grants from the European Commission and the Lottery Fund look certain to follow.

The proposed structure will seat 800 people in a hollow beneath White Nancy, Bollington's prominent beacon. Modelled on the Roman amphitheater at Dougga in Tunisia, it follows classical outlines to provide the town with the larger performance area it needs.

"Bollington will become a focal point for visitors, interested in both theatre and architectural history," declared local Councillor Maurice Tancer. "We expect many of them to stay. The proposal came to us anonymously," he added. "At first we thought it ridiculous; then it began to take hold."

In a further innovative move, consultants have been approached to design a folding roof for the theatre, making it proof against the chief distinguishing characteristic between Bollington and North Africa - the weather.

(Similar accounts appeared in many national and provincial newspapers, the local 'Macclesfield Express' leading with "Bollington To Twin With Rome?")

JL



No Car Day

Have you ever wanted to know what the lanes of our town would look like if there were no cars parked on the curbsides, as it was 100 years ago (but in colour, unlike the old B&W photos).

How about an annual 'anti-transport' extravaganza, where people are not only discouraged from driving, but we park all our cars on a local (amenable) farmer's field for a day, or overnight. The farmer could be paid a nominal sum (say 50p per car), which should cover the

inconvenience and the cost of some young people to watch the cars for a bit of pin money. We could even generate a bit of money to pay for skateboard ramps and Cricket Pavilions etc.

The bus would still run as usual and folk could be taken around to enjoy seeing Bollington as it was before car became king.

TN



Railway Revival

This magazine has regularly talked about the value of increasing Bollington's tourist potential, but what can the tourists do when they get here, after all, it won't take them long to look around the shops...

How about becoming the Llanberis of Cheshire, OK, we haven't got Snowdon, but we have got Kerridge Hill. All we are lacking is a narrow-gauge steam railway to take the hordes of tourists to the summit, you can just imagine a busy base station, perhaps on the lower slopes, off Lord Street, winding through Ingersley Vale, before climbing up towards the summit. Imagine the view on a clear day, far better than Snowdon up in the clouds for most of the year. It could be a real winner. You could even convert White Nancy to have a door, and a little kiosk selling Ice Cream and Souvenirs whatever the weather.

AH

Wanted... A Canal Bridge?

The two swing bridges at Clarence Mill were lost when the mill closed in 1970. One had carried cinders and ashes away from the steam engines and the other enabled workers to cross the canal from the towpath.

In 1997 Bollington's Millennium Committee agreed that a new canal bridge was desirable, but it was not possible to proceed with the project until Ted Clunn, the new owner of the mill, offered to construct the bridge.

Although at first British Waterways seemed reluctant to give their permission it does now appear that the long-awaited bridge should be in place before the end of the year.

MS

Linking Bollington with Prestbury Station

We all know that we should be using public transport more than we do. Since Bollington lost its railway station in 1971, most people drive to Macclesfield to catch their trains.

The nearest railway station to Bollington is at Prestbury; only a mile from Bollington Cross. But it is very dangerous to walk along Flash Lane and Prestbury Lane, as neither have a pavement and are narrow and busy, so very few Bollington residents use Prestbury station.

A purpose built new footpath and cycleway (with lighting for the winter months) could be constructed across the fields, to link Bollington Cross with Prestbury Station – possibly in association with the proposed northward extension of the Silk Road towards Adlington. A link from Lowerhouse could also be considered.

This is an ideal time to be pressing for a footpath and cycleway link, with the government reviewing the transport needs of the southeast Manchester area. Either an underpass or a ramped bridge would be required to get the path across the main Stockport road and the narrow gap where Prestbury Lane cuts through the rock would require a creative solution, but all things are possible, if there is the will.

Unless we invest in public transport and make it more accessible we will find it difficult encouraging more than a small minority to use it.

How green is the Town Plan? GB

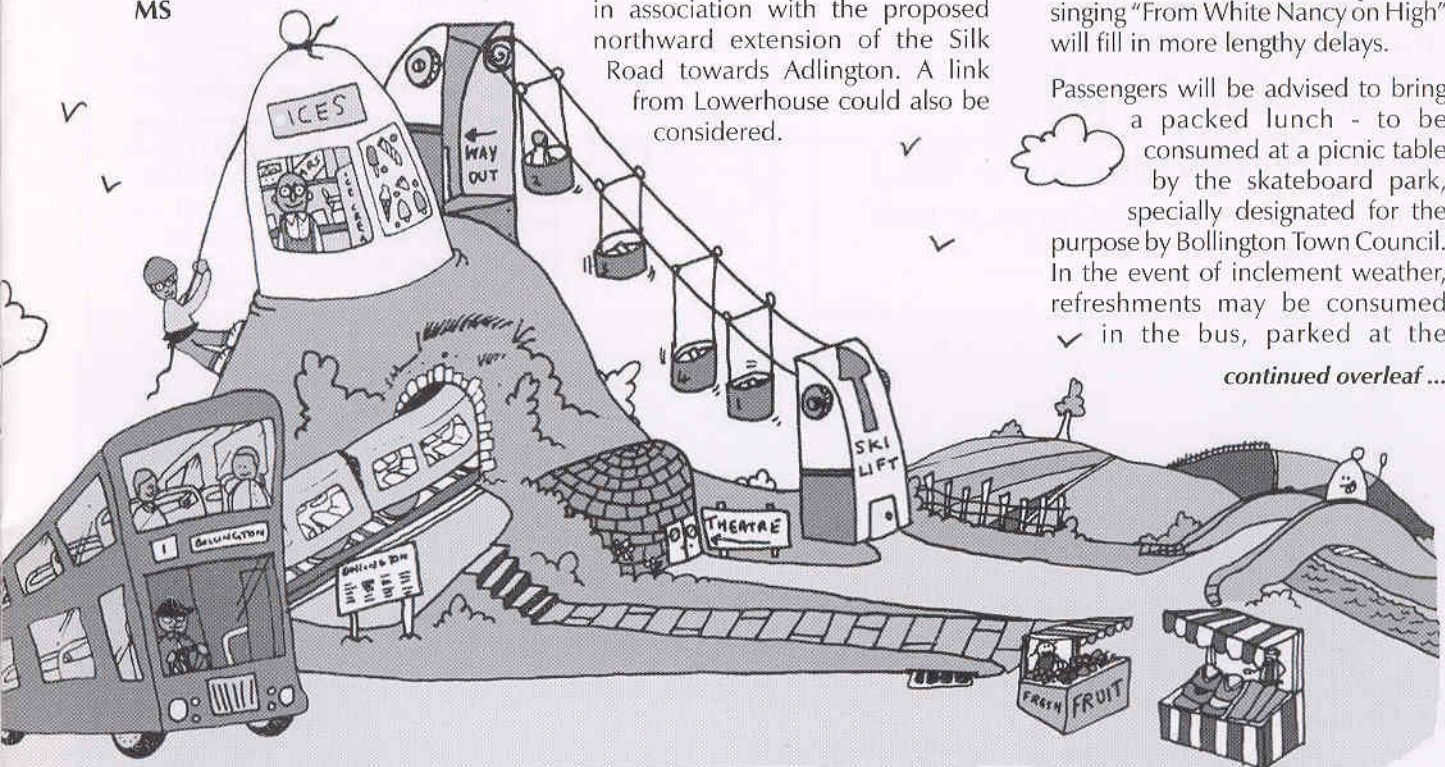
The Big Red Stoppa Bus...

an open-top double-decker bus-journey of Bollington's glorious attractions; from White Nancy to the tip - run by TipTop Tours. And guaranteed to attract and keep tourists in Bollington.

The tour will be accompanied by commentary pre-recorded by a native Bollingtonian – written translation available on demand. The clippie, dressed in a Nancy costume, will have an override control to deal with interruptions caused by any extensive and haphazard carriageway repairs. A loop recording of Arthur Wakefield singing "From White Nancy on High" will fill in more lengthy delays.

Passengers will be advised to bring a packed lunch - to be consumed at a picnic table by the skateboard park, specially designated for the purpose by Bollington Town Council. In the event of inclement weather, refreshments may be consumed

continued overleaf ...



The BIG Idea...

...continued from previous page

The Big Red Stoppa Bus...

Turner's Arms turning circle, adjacent to the disused public conveniences.

The highpoint of the tour will be the jaunt up and down the handy steps to White Nancy, before bowling back through the windy lanes of picturesque Kerridge and down Grimshaw Lane for a jolly singalong and local knowledge quiz at the Waggon and Horses. Future development might include the introduction of a 'Bollington DuckBus', an amphibian vehicle that enables our tourist to experience the delights of Bollington's waterways.

JS

Bolly Rocks

No not music! Hard rock!

What distinguishes Bollington from most villages? The heart of the village is set between two great rock faces. The village is built of that same hard sandstone. The quarries under Beeston Brow are disused.

The tallest stone building in the village St. John's Church, is standing empty; abandoned by all but God and the Civic society.

What should we do? We should propose Bollington becomes the centre for a National Rock Climbing School. The Church can be adapted for indoor training. Its height and strength can be exploited to create a series of graded rock climbs to train beginners and test experts to the full.

The Beeston Quarries can be exploited for outdoor training, their sheer faces present a challenge to any climber.

This combination is irresistible. The nearest competition is the Rope Race in Marple and it has no outside facilities. The resulting activity would revitalise the town. Climbing enthusiasts from all over the country would flock to use the new venue. Specialist shops would spring up, cafes, restaurants, and overnight accommodation would all be in demand.

People and their money would flow into the town.

Rock on Bollington!!

KE

...continued from page 12...

my maths and English had improved since I left St. John's Junior School on Church Street. Was this my fault for being more interested in kicking a ball about than doing maths, or was it the fault of my teachers who didn't seem to either push or encourage me? Perhaps they just wanted an easy life, as did I!

It has often been said that once you failed your 11 + you were thrown on the scrap heap. With my experience I tend to agree.

Three days after leaving school, at the age of fifteen years and thirty days I started work on a minimum 48-hour week. It wasn't long before I was thinking that indeed your school days could very well be the happiest days of your life.

A few years later the school was closed down, the Large Sunday School demolished and the children of Bollington transferred to Tytherington, Broken Cross or Poynton.

Despite possibly not having the best of education the pupils of class 4B who left Water Street school in July 1962 have all become decent honest citizens. Perhaps our teachers did teach us something very important after all.

For the last forty years, despite an increased population there has been no school for over elevens in Bollington.

J Holland



New 2-10 at the Transport Extravaganza

THE NEW "2-10"

This local band, who appeared at the Bollington Transport Extravaganza and at the Scout Hut Halloween Party, didn't get a mention in our "Bollington Music Buzz..." article last issue. The band expanded to an exciting eight piece earlier this year. The play list includes Motown, Rock & Roll, original material and classic covers of songs by Simply Red and Jackie Wilson. For Information on future gigs, tel. JTM on 576797.

Bollington Book Hunting?

WATCH OUT! During next year's festival 400 books will be let loose in Bollington. You may confront a wild paperback anywhere: in pubs, bus-stops, the butchers. But do NOT panic. Join in the safari by trapping a book, enjoying it and then releasing it elsewhere. Easy, eh? No gun required and ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Sporting pink "READ ME" stickers, paperbacks will appear all over Bollington. Inside the cover instructions will tell you how to record your reading reaction and where you released it back into the wild. The library will offer a readers' log and a computer for responses, or else you can go on-line at home. You can find out what other readers thought about "your" book, trace where it's been and where it goes next. (In 2003 a book released in Manchester roamed to Kabul!)

Bollington will become part of a global phenomenon called BookCrossing (www.bookcrossing.com). This started in California in 2001 and there are currently 1,500,000 books loose in 86 nations.

Oh; there will also be poems roaming free too, Postapoems. You have been warned...

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BOLLINGTON

Live!

NOVEMBER

Friday 12th, 8pm

Pedal Power

Arts Centre. Micron Theatre Company present this celebration the centenary of the National Clarion Cycling Club and the visit of a Stockport cyclist to Bollington a hundred years ago.

Tickets £7, £5(concs) from 574687

Saturday 13th, 8pm

Trio Alonza

Arts Centre. Jazz Concert by three young musicians, two of whom are about to cycle the whole length of Spain to raise money for Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. Contact: trionalonza@hotmail.com for more info.

Sunday 14th, 10.30am – 3pm

Hedge Your Bets!

Rangers Hut Adlington Road. Try your hand at the ancient craft of hedgelaying. All tools provided. Drop in or stay all day. Wear old clothes. Sorry, but you must be over 16 to use the tools. More info. 573998

Friday 19th – December 24th

Etchings by Jane Osmond

Arts Centre: Open Sundays 2 – 4pm and during other Arts Centre events. Contact 612478 for more details.

Wednesday 17- Saturday 20th

Showtime 2004

Civic Hall: Bollington Light Opera Group presents their popular annual cabaret-style evening. At the Civic Hall, Bollington. Tickets £8 including a hot pot supper. Tickets from Blogbookings@aol.com or 610983

Saturday 20th, 8pm

Sacconi String Quartet

Arts Centre: Acknowledged as one of the finest young quartets in the country. Program includes pieces by Beethoven and Mozart. £10, £5(concs) Tel. 560355 for tickets.

Sunday 21st, 10am – 12 noon

Conservation in the Coppice

Poynton Coppice Car Park, Shrigley Rd, Higher Poynton. Ranger Ed Pilkington explains some of the traditional woodland management techniques and how they help to maintain wildlife habitat. Info on 573998

Sunday 21st, 7pm

Thomas Wardle's Indian Silks

Arts Centre: Textile historian Brenda King PhD reveals the story of the Leek manufacturers' Indian travels, in search of new designs. £3 pay at the door. Ring 575287 for details.

Friday 26th, 7.30pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre. This new regular event is proving to be a great success. What's the difference between Lulu and Walt Disney? (eds joke) *Over 18s only!* Tickets £6 on the door. Ring 50774 or 574410 for details.

Saturday 27th, 12-3pm

Dean Valley School Christmas Fair

Dean Valley School, Albert Rd. Father Christmas, children's crafts & games, hot food, Bottlebola, cake and gift stalls. Pay on door. 50p per adult, accompanied children free.

Sunday 28th, 7pm

Michael Symons Roberts

Poetry at the Arts Centre; Michael reads his own poems including examples from his new book "Corpus". £3 at the door. Details: 573413

DECEMBER

Friday 3rd, 7.30pm

Shifting Sands in Romeo and Juliet

Arts Centre: Two men and a feisty English Rose decide to put on Shakespeare's romantic tragedy. Can a cast of three succeed? A fresh, invigorating version full of clowning and visual delights. Tickets: £5 (concs), £6, £12 (family of four) from 573413.

Saturday 4th, 2-4pm

Christmas Fair

Bollington Cross School: Father Christmas, children's crafts and games and Christmas Coffee shop. First fair in the new building, come and look. Small fee on the door.

Saturday 4th, 8pm

T.J. Johnson's Bourbon Kick

Jazz at the Arts Centre. Tickets: £6.50 Ring 574410

Sunday 5th, 10.30am – 3pm

Hedge Your Bets

Rangers Hut Adlington Road. If ancient man could do it so can you!. Come and learn to lay a hedge. All tools provided. Drop in or stay all day. Wear old clothes. You must be over 16 to use the tools). More info. 573998

Sunday 5th, 4.30 and 7.30pm

Cinderella's Seasons

Arts Centre: Bollington's Festival Music Theatre. Not your usual Cinderella! The Four Seasons help our heroine cope with the impossible demands of her appalling step-mother Satsuma and ugly sisters Lemonia and Orangina. For info visit www.marple55.freemove.co.uk/ Tickets from 0161 427 2870

Saturday 11th, 8pm

The End

Arts Centre: Stylish pop and rock from one of Bollington's best bands. Tickets £5 from 268734

Tuesday 14th, 7.30pm

Messiah For All

Arts Centre: Your annual chance to sing this glorious music. Tickets essential; £3 from 575287. All proceeds to charity.

Saturday 18th, 8pm

The Classic Buskers

Arts Centre: Michael Copley and Ian Moore play their choice of popular classics on improbable instruments at ridiculous speeds in a programme called "Half a Christmas Cracker" Tickets £10, £5(concs), Ring 560355

Sunday 19th, (visit between 12-3pm)

Bodge It!

Nelson Pit Visitor Centre, Lyme Road, Higher Poynton (near Boar's Head pub). Bodging is the ancient skill of turning wood on a pole lathe. Come along and watch, or maybe have a go yourself! More info. 573998

Friday 24th, 6pm

Carols around the Tree

Bollington Town Hall. Join Bollington Brass Band in our annual Christmas celebration.

Dates for your Diary

Don't forget.

If you have an event that you wish to be publicised, send the details to:

The editor, Bollington Live!
C/o Bollington Printshop

JANUARY

Saturday 8th – Saturday 15th

Babes In the Wood

Arts Centre: Festival Players perform this pantomime by Paul Reakes.
Tickets and details: 875326

Saturday 22nd – Sun 27th Febuary

Textile Images by Collette Scorey

Arts Centre: Open Sat 22nd 3 - 5.00pm,
Sundays 2 – 4pm and during other Arts Centre events. Tel: 574436 for details

Friday 28th, 7.30pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Ring 560744 for details.
Over 18s only. Pay at the door.

Saturday 29th, 8pm

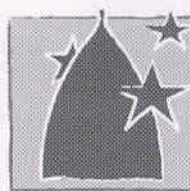
Rivendell Wind Quintett

Arts Centre: Boll. Chamber Concerts present a program including works by Gershwin, a selection from Porgy and Bess (arr. Phillip Nicholas); Rogbert Keelys' 'Bagatelles' and 'Karl Nielsons' 'Quintet'. £10, £5(concs)
Tel. 560355 for tickets.

Sunday 30th,

Grand Auction

Shrigley Hall Hotel: Pott Shrigley Church School are holding a fund raising auction to re-furnish the infant classroom. The last auction raised over £5000. A local auctioneer and Sir Nicholas Winterton will be in the hot-seat. Tel: Helen Kennedy on 576378



bollington festival 2005

Planning for the Bollington Festival is now well underway.

We would like to express our appreciation to the overall Festival sponsor **AstraZeneca**, the sponsor of the Festival Big Top, **Cheshire Building Society**, and the sponsor of the Race Up White Nancy and Five A Side Football, **Hillcrest Homes**.

Acts that have been confirmed include **Chris Barber's Big Band**, Latin dance and flamenco company **Orchuestrua** and the **Screaming Beavers**. More are signing up all the time. Watch out for the publication on the official Festival Programme coming free to all homes in the New Year - book your tickets fast!

We would love to hear from any Bollington-based bands for the Gig Night, being organised by Shelagh Malley - if you would like to take part and play the night away in the Big Top, please contact Shelagh *urgently* by e-mail: s.malley@macclesfield.gov.uk or Tel: 01625 500500

If you like to volunteer, whether for a night, the duration of the Festival or in helping to organise over the next several months, please contact emma_s_king@yahoo.co.uk. You simply can't imagine the welcome you'll get!

Don't Forget the Festival Open Meeting on Friday 21st January at 7.30pm at the Arts Centre - **Everyone Welcome**

FEBRUARY

Saturday 19th, 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

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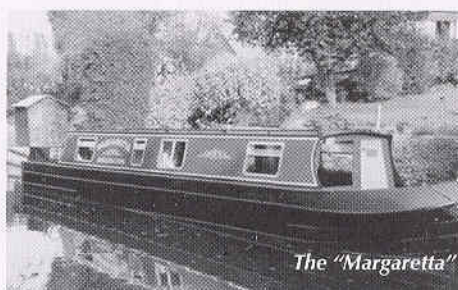
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Coming to Bollington...

... by Boat

When Jean and I cruised "The Cheshire Ring" in 1991, we hired a boat from Stone in Staffordshire and we eventually passed through the centre of Manchester on the Rochdale Canal. It was dark and dirty and we were told that the police had fished a body out of the canal earlier that day. We worked in a thunderstorm up the flight of locks on the Ashton Canal, and reached the junction with the still derelict Huddersfield Narrow Canal. The Peak Forest Canal took us to Marple and we entered the Macclesfield Canal, hurrying past some very impressive cotton mills, and zooming over two aqueducts through Bollington, without stopping until we reached the 'bright lights' of Macclesfield. We had no way of knowing that we would be living in Bollington only two years later.

One year later we both decided to retire from full-time work and to leave London, moving to a house with a mooring for a narrowboat at the bottom of the garden. We started by hunting for a suitable second-hand boat, and in November found a 44 ft steel boat at Calcutt Boatyard, near Rugby, which was just what we wanted.



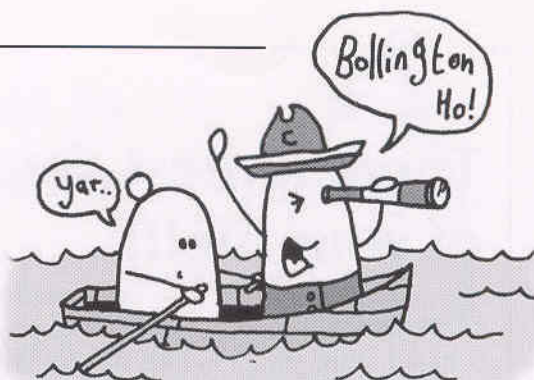
Our next task was to find a house and garden with a mooring long enough for the boat. We wrote to about thirty estate agents all over England who could have some properties beside canals, but whatever house we visited either the mooring or the house proved to be too small. We were beginning to despair when Andrew Hart phoned me from Bollington saying he had just the house for us, with a mooring of the correct size. Within a fortnight we had bought the house in Cedarway, knowing there would be plenty of time for the mooring to be rebuilt professionally before I retired. Then in June our boat "Margaretta" left Calcutt and we made our seven-day trip to Bollington with growing excitement.

Our spirits fell when we found the mooring was incomplete and not fully dredged yet – owing to rain in the previous weeks. A surprising number of neighbours emerged to talk to us, as we wondered what to do. Their best advice was to turn the boat around at the nearest winding hole – about twenty minutes to the north – and then moor on the towpath beside Adelphi Mill. As I steered past the next few Cedarway houses I saw a man standing on what looked like a lovely mooring, with no boat. I asked him, half joking, whether we

could moor there for a few days. As I expected, he said no.

However as we returned some time later, having turned the boat around, John Platt was waiting for us, and he invited us to moor there after all. It seems our new neighbours had explained who we were and what our problem was, and he was now keen to help. We needed to use the gangplank to get ashore as his mooring also needed dredging, but he told us that he would pull our boat in over the soft mud a little at a time. As this was much better than mooring on the towpath we were very pleased. Some ten days later, when our mooring was finished, our neighbours very kindly moved the boat to its proper place, five houses down the canal.

On Friday, 30th July, while the office party marking our retirement was winding down, Jean and I caught the train at



Euston and we were on board "Margaretta" by 6.55pm. The work on the mooring was now complete. We turned the boat around at Adelphi Wharf to face north again, and slept on the boat, ready for a prompt start next day. Showers during the morning did not discourage us, and we congratulated each other on our good fortune as we cruised above the Goyt Valley to Whaley Bridge, where we ate one of our favourite egg and bacon suppers.

On 1st August we passed 43 boats during our seven-hour return journey to Bollington so we were in good company. That evening we celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary in a Kerridge pub.

Later in August we organised a two-day move from Highgate to "The Happy Valley". My son Thomas helped us this time, sharing the driving up to Bollington, and we all slept in the boat, waiting upon the arrival of our furniture on the following day. After breakfast we entered the empty house and found a card waiting for us from another neighbour. It read, "Welcome to Bollington!"

MS

An extract from the 2nd chapter of Mark Stedman's memoirs: From Highgate to the Happy Valley

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The happiest days of your life!!!!

In the summer of 1958 at St. John's Junior School I failed my 11+. This did not bother me in the slightest, as my schoolmates and I had convinced ourselves we didn't want to go to school in Macclesfield anyway.

So on the morning of 25th August at the age of 11, the Church Street/Lord Street gang met at the gates of the paper mill (Henry and Leigh Slater) to go to the "big school".

The most popular route was to take the short cut through the mill, entering at the Church Street entrance and exiting via Oldham Street.

The school was divided between two buildings, the school that still stands in Water Street and the Large Sunday School that stood on the ground now occupied by the Civic Hall and Library.

On the first day we were given a test, in the Water Street School assembly room, to decide which grade we would be put into. We were divided into 3 classes: 1A, 1B and Lower Remove. I now find myself wondering what kind of a name was Lower Remove for a school form. What message does this give, what had these young children been removed from?

We were then put into our three houses, named after three local stately homes: Ingersley (red), Shrigley (blue) and Errwood (green).

House marks were awarded for good work and marks lost for poor work or bad behaviour. If you lost 3 house marks in a week, you would have your name read out at Monday assembly followed by a visit to Mr Taylor, the headmaster, for the cane. What a great way to start the week!

Very often your first lesson would be at Water Street and the second at the Large Sunday School, necessitating a slow walk to waste as much time as possible and enable the smokers amongst our group to pop into Alice Watts' shop for 5 Woodbine or Park Drive.

When you got to the Large Sunday School it was obvious that the old building was on its last legs. The stone steps going up the three storeys were badly worn, floorboards were

many other schools had, a canoe club situated on the canal at Hurst Lane, complete with canoes made by the pupils themselves.

Bollington Rec, doubled as a playing field. Many is the time after borrowing the school football at break time we would 'accidentally' kick the ball into the River Dean and have to follow it downstream to retrieve it. This would often take until lunchtime and another maths lesson dodged! The same thing would happen in the afternoon when we would get back just in time to go home.

The sad fact was that some teachers didn't seem to care. An exception was Mr. Frank Slack, who I think had the respect of all concerned. Mr. Slack, as I remember, taught Science and Rural Studies. Although we could be a pretty unruly lot Mr. Slack would always maintain a reasonable level of discipline - if a few well chosen words didn't work, a quick slap usually did the trick. Believe me,

we sometimes deserved it, and no, it didn't do us any harm.

Less than four years after I had started my secondary education it was time for me to make my way in the world. What had I gained from my time at Water Street School? Well, I knew how to make a Mortice and Tennon/Dovetail joint - thank you Mr. Griffiths! Also I could plant potatoes and grow Snowball Turnips - thanks Mr. Slack. That apart, I don't think

... continued on page 6



John Holland remembers Bollington Secondary Modern



splintering and the windows rattled when you walked past them. On one occasion during an unsupervised P.E. lesson in the gym a few of us dropped medicine balls on the top floor causing the plaster in the classroom below to drop off the ceiling, destroying a large papier-mâché model of Bollington. Apart from this we did have a decent garden at the back with an old air-raid shelter that doubled as a garden shed and a large wood/metalwork room (the girls had cookery lessons at Water Street). Also we did have something that not

I am writing in reply to your article 'The Empire Strikes Back'.

In this article the passage "the rough lot from Lord Street" is a slur on the lovely people brought up there. I was one of them, we were not rough, we were not as well off as some, but we lived in the real world. The so-called posh folks did not have the harmony we had. We had nothing and shared it. I cannot think of any of us brought up in Lord Street who had any trouble with the law. That cannot be said for the posh folks. We have more humanity in us than a lot I can think of. So in future before you print such rubbish do your research. I am sure a lot of Lord St. folk will agree with me.

Yours sincerely,

Alf Arden

Ed. Well we don't wish to open old wounds but it is interesting that feelings still run deep even after 40 or 50 years. Who else has memories of what it was like to be youngster in Bollington 50 years ago? How do things compare with the 'youth of today'?

Apologies due...

My apologies to Jean Drabble and Margaret Jackson.

It was Margaret, not Jean, who worked at the Turret Liqueur Chocolate Factory after the Empire Cinema closed.

Sorry. **KE**

Letters to the Editor



Re: The Empire Strikes Back -

Bollington Live Summer 2004.

In this article, you state that Bollington Secondary School was lost to Poynton in 1958; Indeed, this was no so.

In August 1962 I began my teaching career at Bollington Secondary School together with two other teachers, one being Bill Greensmith, a former Town Mayor of Bollington. We taught there until July 1966 when the school closed. This proved to be a short sighted decision, because not long afterwards, the existing Poynton buildings could no longer accommodate Bollington children and they were then sent to Broken Cross and Wilmslow Secondary Schools until Tytherington Secondary School was enlarged in order to meet the needs of Bollington children.

The staff of Bollington Secondary School went in different directions.

Three of them did go to teach at Poynton but Andrew Donaldson and myself went to teach at All Hallows in Macclesfield.

Dai Williams

Lost & Found Sept 27.



Halfway up White Nancy...

A tent. No pegs, no poles, no flysheet, no inhabitants. Tent body Royal camping Monodome2, little triangular bit, pole bag and tent carrybag in attendance. Evidence of cows. Cleaned up, and awaiting claimant. Tel. 573413

Badger, Badger, Badger

About a fortnight ago, I got up at about three a.m. to get a drink of water. I was aware of weird noises coming from the bottom of the garden. They were so loud, curiosity got the better of me and I went outside to hear better.

We are lucky enough to have a large garden and have seen hedgehogs and the occasional fox walking across the lawn. The hedgehogs make little snuffly sounds as they grub about in the flower beds, but I had never heard anything like this before. It honestly sounded as if a horse that was about to foal, was

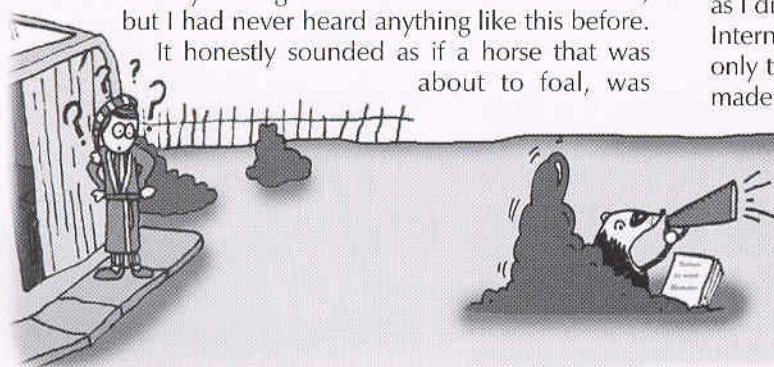
trapped inside a garden shed, arguing with a bull and a panther; and all this in the middle of the night!

I don't frighten easily but the hairs on the back of my neck prickled. The bellowing and snarling noises continued, on and off, for the next hour or so - by which time I had retreated back indoors - it was too scary outside.

Next morning, I asked our nextdoor neighbour if she'd heard anything during the night. She hadn't, but wondered if it could have been a badger. I was extremely sceptical as I didn't think they made much noise, but went on the Internet www.wildcru.org/research/ecol/badgercalls.htm only to discover the blood-curdling noises were, indeed made by badgers. Apparently they have a wide vocabulary, including the growl, churr, kecker, snort, snarl, etc.etc.

Every day a school-day! **Louise Nottage**

Ed. Have you seen or heard anything unusual? Why not tell us about it. Write or e-mail us c/o Bollington Printshop



A Light in the sky

I read the article in Bollington Live! (Spring 2004) on light pollution with interest.

As Chairman of Macclesfield Astronomical Society, based at Jodrell Bank, I was requested to write a report on the effect of light pollution on astronomy for a Government select committee.

The most recent hearing was held within the House of Commons chamber, where I was surprised to find that part of my report was read out during the debate.

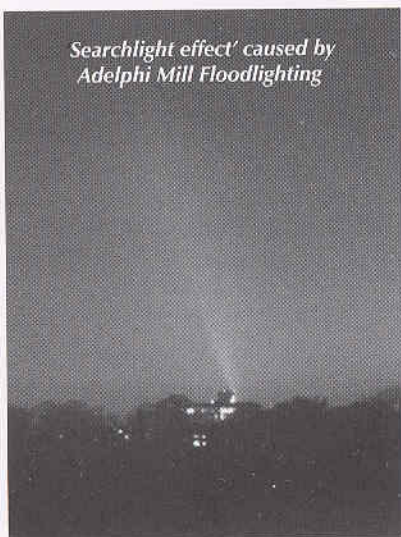
All contributors are now awaiting the Governments' final response to the evidence presented. We are hoping that legislation will be brought in to class light pollution as a statutory nuisance.

I would like to make a call for action, to begin combating the effects of light pollution in the skies of Bollington and Kerridge.

As I live in Kerridge it is particularly close to my heart. Since it is a designated Conservation Area, is it unreasonable to expect that we should consider curbing light pollution? After all, shouldn't our night sky environment be protected and treated as equally as our environment at 'ground level'?

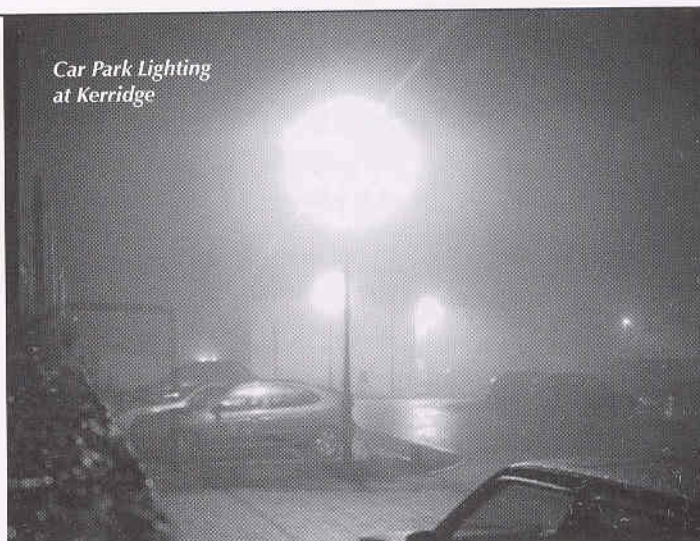
We have an opportunity to set an example to the rest of Cheshire and surrounding areas. Bollington and Kerridge could become pioneers in taking steps against the uncontrolled spread of light pollution.

Searchlight effect' caused by Adelphi Mill Floodlighting



Those of us who are lucky enough to live on the outskirts of Bollington and Kerridge can still enjoy the sight of the 'Milky Way' during clear summer nights, but the sad truth is that in a very short time this spectacle will be lost to the all-pervading orange glow of light pollution. It has

Car Park Lighting at Kerridge



been calculated that in a few years residents of all populated areas of the UK will no longer be able to see any trace of the Milky Way. Those that can at present, represent only 1% of our total population ... Since 1997, we have seen no less than a 30% increase in light pollution levels.

I have noticed an increase during the past two years. More street lighting has been installed in our area, using inappropriate light fixtures that spread at least 30% of emitted light into the night sky. This represents a considerable waste of energy. There have been light pollution-friendly street light fixtures available for years, but councils avoid using them because they are slightly more expensive to buy. Why are the long term cost benefits of energy saving ignored!

There are many poor uses of light in our area. Here are just a few:

Adelphi Mill's spot lights shines directly into the sky. On a cloudy night it is possible to see the lights shining onto the base of the clouds above.

Hollin Hall Hotel could also improve it's spotlighting. From where I live I can't see the lights or the hotel, but I can clearly see the 'dome' of light above it.

The floodlighting on the recreation ground near Sugar Lane is so bright it blinds me every time I drive past it. I can't see that any of the light is directed where it is needed.

Almost every home security light around Bollington and Kerridge produces massive amounts of light pollution.

Here's a fact: **The most powerful lighthouse in Britain uses a 1000-watt bulb.** The wattage of ONE security light averages at 500 watts... Think about how many are in use. It's a sickening thought.

This only represents the very tip of the iceberg. If we look a little beyond our locale, we open a bigger can of worms when we look at the industrial complexes by the side of the Silk Road.

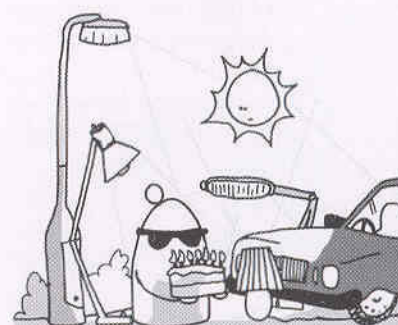
I am afraid to say that just using black-out curtains, as your article suggested, will not have a measurable effect in combatting light pollution, though every little helps, I know.

I propose that we start a campaign to reduce our light pollution, and set an example that can spread to other towns.

Perhaps as well as the successful nature trail walks held in our area, we could invite people to admire the beauty of the Bollington night sky. A quarterly event could be held to take people on tours of the seasonal night sky.

If you would like to be involved please write to Bollington Live! or email: chairman@maccastro.com

Andrew Greenwood.

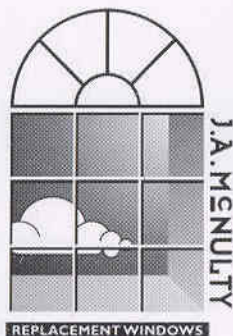


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BOLLINGTON

Live!

A 'Steller' Time in Bollington

During October, my band (Steller) played four gigs in a week, two in my home 'town' of Bollington. We've played in Manchester, Crewe, Macclesfield and even Stoke. Usually we receive a good crowd, but we knew it wouldn't be an easy task getting a decent local turnout.

I'll explain. A couple of weeks earlier, I'd been out for a birthday drink with my sister (5 of us in total). The atmosphere was ok, and things were busy until about nine-ish, which is when Bollington nightlife faces its big problem; all the adventure seekers go to the fun capital of Cheshire!, Macclesfield as it's known.. The reason? It would seem to be music. Not just live music, but loud exciting music, as found in clubs such as Cuban Knights, The Litten Tree, JarBar. Although hardly excitement Meccas, they are more interesting than 'the local' back in Bollington. Despite having to put up with all the drunk young 'uns', more expensive drinks and even if conversation consists of repeating "do you want a drink?" with a miming wobbling hand style, the music, albeit a sound that resembles cats being strangled (dance music apparently) means you're probably gonna have more fun!

I'm not saying you can't have a good night out in Bollington, with the right crowd you can, but it's just not a guaranteed packed night.

So how do we bring them back round our way?

Long story short, Steller (my band) had a gig at the Waggon and Horses, We expected: a handful of family

and friends. We got: a packed pub shouting for more, with talk of the "Best night in ages, when can we go back? Encore!" And this came from loyal locals not expecting what they got.

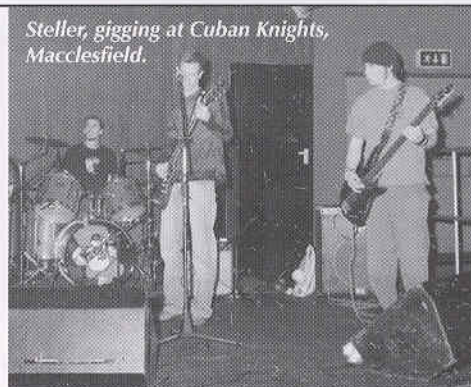
So this example would seem to answer my question. Live music, local music, club style music, basically just Music! Sure, karaoke gets a laugh, and an unexpected guitar can produce a good sing-along, but from my experience people want more!

Simple then. All the pubs should get music licenses and risk money on a new venture, while we sit back and collect the posters, autographs and memories.



Perhaps I'm wrong. People prefer a quiet night out. Funds, safety, policing and the bookings of bands to ensure a constant flow of punters, all of these are a big list of cons that would probably put most off the idea. But they could be done.

Steller, gigging at Cuban Knights, Macclesfield.



So who's actually gonna get up and do something? Maybe I've started a ball rolling or maybe I've just wasted a few minutes of your life telling you something you already know or didn't really care about. Either way, how long before the number of pubs go from nearly twenty to nearly none due to 'lack of interest'?

Get a six pack and watch MTV if you want. Go somewhere else if you want. Or, support local talent and local business.

At the end of the day this is all just my opinion, but if it's one you share, do something about it. Check out what's on your doorstep.

So maybe I'll see you at our next gig. It's in Macclesfield, incidentally, just in time for Christmas. **MW**

More Local Talent

Please turn to page 6 to read about another local band playing to packed houses and getting rave reviews!

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BOLLINGTON

Live!