## BOLLINGTON LIVE!

NO. 33

MARCH 2005



SPECIAL

EDITION bollington festival 2005

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## AFESTIVAL

Spring in Bollington. Up on the ridge White Nancy gleams white against blue skies and green hills and offers a warm welcome to all who come to the 2005 Bollington Festival. A festival for everyone. A festival fuelled by the imagination of the people who live in and around the Happy Valley.

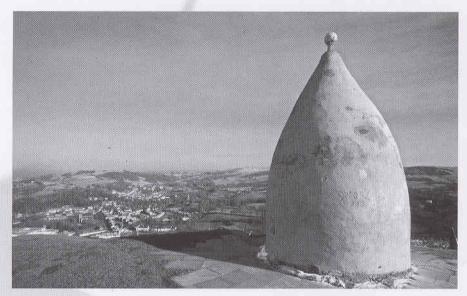
Music (classical, rock, jazz, folk), theatre, dance, art, sport, books, comedy. The familiar and the unexpected, the gentle and the wild, the old and the new. Eighteen days and more than 80 events in the Big Top and beyond.

Take a look at the festival listings in the centre pages of this special edition of Bollington Live! No town of comparable size (and not many bigger towns) can boast such ambition and scope. And as our cover shows, children at Bollington's primary schools are already making 2005 miniature White Nancys, which they will parade on the festival's opening day.

The 2005 festival, the biggest so far, continues a tradition begun more than 40 years ago and seven festivals have left a lasting legacy for the town. But without the energy and inspiration of one man none of those festivals would have happened.

Dr John Coope was the leading light from 1964 to 2000 and his contribution will be a hard act to follow. He wrote in one festival

### FOR EVERYONE



programme: "The Bollington Festival is a call to action. It celebrates the continuing development of a community where people can realise by joint effort the creative potential of their lives. ...Organisations founded at the time of the first festival have grown well during the intervening years."

Those organisations include the Bollington Festival Choir, the Bollington Light Opera Group and the Bollington Festival Music Theatre, plus the revived Bollington Brass Band. All have survived and flourished.

Many of this year's events will take place in the festival Big Top. It's bigger and better than ever and was tracked down after a nationwide search. Some big tops had a stage but no seats. A few had a stage and seating, but no lighting. Or no bar area, no dressing rooms, no sound system or no emergency exit signs.

The festival Big Top has everything and will be brought to Bollington on two articulated trucks so big that the gateway of the recreation ground will have to be widened to let them in.

The festival team are very grateful to the regulars of Bollington Live! for making the magazine available to publicise the events to come. So browse through these pages and fill your diaries for the last two weeks of May.

The festival begins with fireworks on May 13 and ends with more fireworks on May 30, followed by the traditional torchlight procession to White Nancy. Where else?

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, Cheshire SK10 5PS

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Nicholas Smith, Mark Stedman, Louise Tickle, David Ward, Mick Wilkins Special thanks to photographer Don McPhee Design & artwork: www.consortiumdesign.com

# MOZART, PUCCINI, VERDI and

ME



by Nicholas Smith, artistic director of the Bollington Festival

Two unrelated and incredible facts. Cricket is the fastest growing sport in New York. Worldwide, opera is the fastest growing form of entertainment.

Well, OK, it's possible that guinea pig racing in Botswana may have the edge, and mud wrestling in Grimsby is experiencing a brief surge, but you get the thrust. Opera, once considered the most elite of all the performing arts, is suddenly becoming popularist. Opera companies, designers, stage directors are all finding ways of making opera affordable and entertaining. This may involve flooding the floor of the Albert Hall for a few weeks to produce a stunning (but not wildly expensive if you ignore the insurance premium) Madam Butterfly.

We've long expected elephants for the Triumphal March in Aida, but one enterprising supplier of circus animals did point out to me a few years ago that elephants were getting rather expensive but he could offer me a pair of giraffes at a very special weekly rate and that assorted snakes were a bargain at £250. You just need to know the right people.

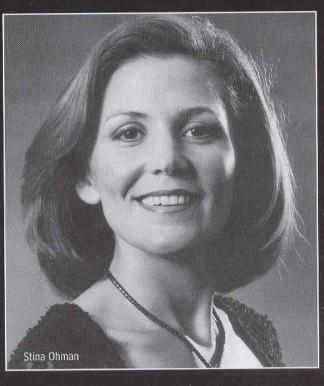
Circuses remind me of a production of The Bartered Bride. The stage director asked me if I thought it acceptable to have some performing poodles in the circus scene in act three: it was all we could afford.

Regrettably the poodles had little ear for music and simply

refused to change their routine just because Smetana had only written 172 bars. So we waited patiently in the pit while six red-ribboned sweety-pies ran, sat, begged and jumped through hoops of fire. And we waited less patiently until a mysterious liquid had stopped trickling over the edge of the stage into the pit. Tubas can have their uses.

But I digress. You may have swallowed the cricket thing, and you may grudgingly believe that attendance at opera performances is growing. But Bollington Festival offering Greatest Opera Scenes? Ever? Well, yes actually: on May 26 in the Big Top. Of course it's rather subjective, and it depends on your criteria. And it's limited to three.

Number one is the finale to the second act of Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro. I'm absolutely prepared to argue that this is the greatest piece of sustained comic writing in all opera: sparkling, fun, character-defining and brilliantly constructed. Don't even begin to make the case.



Number two is the last scene of Puccini's Tosca. Ask any orchestral player: this is the best opera score. Ever, ever, ever.

Number three is the last act of Rigoletto. I know the story is a bit far fetched (I will explain it on the night) but Verdi produces music that is both electrifying, mocking and desperately poignant. It is utterly brilliant.

And to back up all these superlatives the Festival is bringing the Northern Chamber Orchestra into the pit, and an international cast into Bollington. The soloists are flying in from Sweden, New York, Spain and Canada. Oh, and one is driving up from Bethnal Green. They will be in Bollington for a week of rehearsals, costume fittings and schools' performances (May 23) before the Greatest Opera Scenes. Some will stay on to be soloists in the Verdi Requiem (May 29) with a chorus of over 150 and the 60 strong Festival Orchestra. And then they fly back.

# A PIANIST with PASSION

Marina Lomazov has an exotic beauty and breathtaking elegance. She is a fine pianist and a great performer and will play one of the most evocative and romantic works in the entire repertoire, Rachmaninov's second piano concerto, in a concert with the Bollington Festival Orchestra conducted by Nicholas Smith in the Big Top on May 17.

Whether playing the piano to an audience of thousands or just talking to you, Marina has a deep intensity that is nothing short of magnetic.

Born in the Ukraine, she took all the advantages that the Soviet system at its best could offer. She started her education at a normal school but had piano lessons from an early age. At 14, Marina transferred to a specialist music school and flourished. It was a natural progression and a stepping-stone to regional and national opportunities in a Soviet system that genuinely encouraged excellence.

Then came Chernobyl and life for many families around Kiev suddenly became as unstable as the nuclear reactor. There were perhaps other factors in her family's

decision to emigrate to the United States in 1990: economic, religious, intellectual freedom; but safety was the catalyst. And again Marina flourished. She attended the two most prestigious music institutions in the US, Eastman and Juilliard.

Performances followed, and not just because she is good. Japan,

South America, Europe, have joined the US and Russia in embracing her passion for music and for life. Radio and television stations broadcast her concerts; CD recordings have followed.

And there's room for Bollington in all this? Marina stops off for the Bollington Festival between concerts in the US and in Bulgaria.

"It was not a particularly obvious route but Nick and I have performed many concerts together in the States, so to play almost literally in his back garden was too intriguing an opportunity to miss," she said.

The festival concert programme includes the Rachmaninov concerto, Suppé's Light Cavalry Overture and Dvorak's New World Symphony.

### BARBER blows back to BOLLINGTON

British jazz trombonist Chris Barber celebrated his 50th year as a bandleader in 1999. He is still on the road, has given more than 10,000 concerts and moved from 78rpm records, to LPs and now to CD.

Following a sell-out night at the 2000 Bollington festival, Barber will be back in the Big Top this year on May 30.

He was inspired by the King Oliver Creole Jazz Band and formed his first Barber New Orleans Band in 1949 at the age of 19. In 1953, along with Monty Sunshine and Lonnie Donegan (the man destined to become the king of skiffle), he joined forces with Ken Colyer. Then, with the replacement of Colyer by Pat Halcox, Ken Colyer's Jazzmen became Chris Barber's Jazz Band in 1954 and has been one of Europe's most successful traditional jazz bands ever since.

There will be more jazz with T J Johnson's Bourbon Kick ((May 14) and Biggles Wartime Comedy Jazz (May 25).





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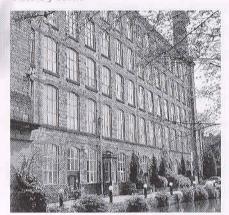
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# DISCOVER THE HAPPY VALLEY

Cousins John and Terry Waite will declare open Bollington's new Discovery Centre on the canal side at Clarence Mill on May 14 and welcome the public to come and see the fascinating history of the Happy Valley.

### SOMETHING for NOTHING

Many of the festival's events are free – including the fireworks displays on the recreation ground on the opening and closing nights.

Here are some more:

- The installation of 2005 White Nancys, the opening ceremony and the formal opening of the Discovery Centre at Clarence Mill on May 13.
- Songs of Praise with Pam Rhodes and the Bollington Brass Band in the Big Top on May 15.
- Floral Festivities, a display of flowers depicting festival events at St Oswald's church on May 20-22.
- Beautiful Bollington, a multi-media celebration at the Methodist church on May 22.
- Family picnic (with bouncy castle) at the recreation ground on May 30.
- And of course: the traditional torch light procession up White Nancy that closes the festival.

This marks the high point of the most significant year in the history of the Civic Society, which has been granted £50,000 by the Lottery Heritage Fund, £29,000 by Cheshire Rural Recovery, with additional sums from the Macclesfield Canal Society, Macclesfield Borough Council, Bollington Town Council, and more than £1,000 from a number of other benefactors and granting bodies for this development.

Bollington photographer Roger Fielding is scanning and curator Fiona Swailes is categorising the society's collection of 6,000 historic pictures of the town, its buildings, events and people. For the first time, visitors will be able to use computers to browse through the wonderful collection and discover the rich history and heritage available. It is believed that there is no other town of its size in Britain with such a large collection. The pictures are being filed in a database that will enable researchers and browsers to use keywords to find the pictures they are especially interested in. Keyword categories will include buildings, industries and people.

The first step will be to make the pictures available to visitors to the Discovery Centre. Later, the collection may be available on the internet for wider appreciation. It will be possible to order prints from any picture at

the Discovery Centre. Popular items including books about

Bollington and its past will also be on sale.

The society has regularly staged exhibitions of selected pictures - it showed more than a dozen panels of wartime pictures at last summer's fair, which happened to be held on the 60th anniversary of D-Day. These displays always attract enormous interest and raise many questions from the public. They also bring in much more information about the places and people illustrated. Now for the first time visitors will be able to take their own time to view what interests them, searching among the pictures, at least 5,000 of which have never been displayed before. "This is a very exciting project that will benefit the whole town by making our history more accessible to everyone," said Civic Society chairman Tim Boddington. "This is only the beginning of what we hope for in the discovery of our heritage and we encourage everyone to join the society and take part in our meetings and activities. We need more people to become involved in the Discovery Centre and in its running."

Call Tim Boddington on 01625 574888. www.happy-valley.org.uk



### 101625 562802

### A GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON, WHEN AND WHERE

FRI 13	1 2005 WHITE NANCYS PRIMARY SCHOOLS SCULPTURE	2PM RECREATION GROUND FREE
	2 OPENING CEREMONY & FESTIVAL RACE	6.30PM RECREATION GROUND FREE
	3 OPENING NIGHT ON BROADWAY! GARTH BARDSLEY	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £15, £12/CHILD £4
	4 MICHAEL SYMMONS ROBERTS POETRY READING	8PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £3
	5 FIREWORKS DISPLAY PYRO 2000	10.30PM RECREATION GROUND FREE
	6 THE LAST LAUGH CONTEMPORARY STAND-UP COMEDY	10.45PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £5
SAT 14	7 CARNIVAL PROCESSION GRAND PARADE THROUGH BOLLINGTON	11AM BOLLINGTON FREE
	8 ARTISTS TRAIL OPEN STUDIOS	11AM TO 5PM VARIOUS VENUES FREE
	9 PROSE, POEMS & PASTA	12.30PM BRISCOLA RESTAURANT £8
	10 BOLLINGTON DISCOVERY CENTRE OPENING CEREMONY	3PM CLARENCE MILL FREE
	T J JOHNSON'S BOURBON KICK	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £7
SUN 15	12 ARTISTS TRAIL OPEN STUDIOS	11AM TO 5PM VARIOUS VENUES FREE
	13 WILLOW SCULPTURE WORKSHOP JEFF TEASDALE	NOON - 4PM MIDDLEWOOD WAY £3
	14 BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL MUSIC THEATRE NEW MUSICAL	2PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £5/CHILDREN £2
	15 SONGS OF PRAISE WITH PAM RHODES FAVOURITE HYMNS	5PM BIG TOP FREE
	16 WILLIAM BYRD SINGERS SCHUBERT, SCHUMANN, BRAHMS	7.30PM ST OSWALD'S CHURCH TICKETS: £8
	17 GET HOT WITH LATIN ORQUESTA CACHE 9-PIECE BAND	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £10
MON 16	18 NTC TOURING THEATRE GREAT EXPECTATIONS	7.30PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £8
TUE 17	19 INFANT SINGALONG BOLLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS	10AM BIG TOP FREE
	20 FESTIVAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NICHOLAS SMITH conductor	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £15, £12/CHILD £4
WED 18	21 EVENING WALK LED BY EAST CHESHIRE RAMBLERS	7PM HOLY TRINITY, KERRIDGE FREE
	22 HOOPER BAND GREAT ROCK FROM FOUR DECADES	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £10, £8
THU 19	23 EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CREATE COMPUTER GENERATED IMAGES	4PM - 7PM LIBRARY FREE
	THE BIG BEDTIME STORYTELLING FOR 3 TO 8 YEAR OLDS	5.30PM - 7PM LIBRARY FREE
	25 KEN DODD HAPPINESS SHOW	7.30PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £18, £16
FRI 20	26 FLORAL FESTIVITIES BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB & FRIENDS	10AM - 6PM ST OSWALD'S CHURCH FREE
	27 GIG NIGHT	7PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £3
	THE LAST LAUGH CONTEMPORARY STAND-UP COMEDY	10.45PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £5
SAT 21	29 'LIVE WIRES' SATURDAY SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CLUB	10AM - 4PM CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH FREE
	30 FLORAL FESTIVITIES BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB & FRIENDS	10AM - 6PM ST OSWALD'S CHURCH FREE
	31 RAKU POTTERY DEMONSTRATIONS CHRIS MALINS	2PM - 4PM ARTS CENTRE SMALL CHARGE
	32 THE FIB & OTHER STORIES GEORGE LAYTON	2PM LIBRARY TICKETS: £3
	33 CEILIDH ALL BLACKED UP	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £8
SUN 22	34 GENIUS LOCI SPIRIT OF PLACE	9AM - 5PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £3, £2, £1
	35 DOG SHOW JUDGED BY BOLLINGTON VET NICK RUSHTON	11AM RECREATION GROUND FREE
	FLORAL FESTIVITIES BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB & FRIENDS	11.45AM - 6PM ST OSWALD'S CHURCH FREE
	KERRIDGE GARDEN TRAIL 7 PICTURESQUE HILLSIDE GARDENS	2PM - 4.30PM KERRIDGE £5/CHILDREN £1
	4-MALITY PERCUSSION QUARTET ADRIAN SPILLETT	2.30PM BIG TOP £10/CHILD £4/FAMILY (4) £20
	39 BEAUTIFUL BOLLINGTON MULTI MEDIA CELEBRATION	7PM - 8.30PM METHODIST CHURCH FREE
	40 CRIME FICTION EVENING VAL MCDERMID	7.30PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £3
	41 BOLLINGTON BRASS BAND PETER CHRISTIAN conductor	7.30PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £10, £8

MON 23	42 SCHOOLS' CONCERTS NORTHERN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA	10AM & 11.15AM BIG TOP TICKETS: £3
	43 SCHOOLS' CONCERT NORTHERN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA	4.30PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £4
	POETRY PLEASE! HARRY OWEN	7.30PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £3
	45 SEVEN NATIONS CELTIC ROCK BAND	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £16,£12
<b>TUE 24</b>	46 SHARING LUNCH & POEMS FOOD FOR BODY & SOUL!	12 NOON DROP-IN CENTRE TICKETS: £5
	47 BERNARD WRIGLEY & THE OLDHAM TINKERS	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £8
WED 25	48 UNDRESSING MR DARCY HISTORY WARDROBE COMPANY	2PM ARTS CENTRE £4 incl refreshments
	49 JUNIOR SCHOOL PUPILS' CONCERT	2PM BIG TOP FREE
	50 FILM CHICKEN RUN	5PM CIVIC HALL TICKETS: £4, CHILDREN £3
	51 FILM TOPSY TURVEY	7.15PM CIVIC HALL TICKETS: £4
	52 ASTRAZENECA CHOIR SWEDEN, KERSTIN HENRIKSSON conductor	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £10, £8
	53 BIGGLES WARTIME BAND COMEDY JAZZ	8PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £7
THU 26	54 MORNING WALK LED BY EAST CHESHIRE RAMBLERS	10AM ADLINGTON ROAD FREE (bring snack)
	55 EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CREATE COMPUTER GENERATED IMAGES	4PM - 7PM LIBRARY FREE
	56 LIBRARY LOCK-IN	6PM - 7.30PM LIBRARY £2 incl refreshments
	57 GREATEST OPERA SCENES INTERNATIONAL SOLOISTS, NCO.	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £16, £12/CHILD £4
FRI 27	58 BOLLINGTON ART GROUP EXHIBITION	10AM - 6PM CIVIC HALL FREE
	59 ADELE GERAS AUTHOR'S TALK & BOOK SIGNING	6.30PM DEAN VALLEY SCHOOL £3/CHILD £1.50
	60 FILM MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING .	7.30PM CIVIC HALL TICKETS: £4
	61 WEDDING PHOTO A PLAY WITH MUSIC	7.30PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £3
	62 CLUB NITE CAMERON DANTE FROM THE ASCENSION	7PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £2
	63 SPORTSMAN'S DINNER	7.30PM TYTHERINGTON CLUB TICKETS: £32.50
	64 THE LAST LAUGH CONTEMPORARY STAND-UP COMEDY	10.45PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £5
SAT 28	65 BOLLINGTON ART GROUP EXHIBITION	10AM - 6PM CIVIC HALL FREE
	66 WEDDING PHOTO A PLAY WITH MUSIC	3.30PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £3
	67 WEDDING PHOTO A PLAY WITH MUSIC	7.30PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £3
	68 SCREAMING BEAVERS BIG SOUL SOUND	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £10 -
SUN 29	69 MORNING WALK LED BY EAST CHESHIRE RAMBLERS	10AM ADLINGTON ROAD FREE (bring snack)
	BOLLINGTON ART GROUP EXHIBITION	10AM - 6PM CIVIC HALL FREE
	71 FESTIVAL SERVICE	11AM BIG TOP FREE
11	72 VERDI REQUIEM INTERNATIONAL SOLOISTS. NICHOLAS SMITH	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £15, £12/CHILD £4
MON 30	BOLLINGTON ART GROUP EXHIBITION	10AM - 4PM CIVIC HALL FREE
	74 FAMILY PICNIC & ENTERTAINMENT	12 NOON RECREATION GROUND FREE
	75 ALAN GARNER THURSBITCH EXPLORED IN WORDS & IMAGES	4PM ARTS CENTRE TICKETS: £5
	76 THE BIG CHRIS BARBER BAND	8PM BIG TOP TICKETS: £18, £16
	77 FIREWORKS DISPLAY PYRO 2000	10.45PM RECREATION GROUND FREE
	78 TORCHLIT PROCESSION UP WHITE NANCY	AFTER THE FIREWORKS FREE

### **GROUNDWORK MACCLESFIELD & VALE ROYAL**



We are a local environmental charity working with Bollington Town Council and other local

groups. During the last 20 years we have carried out a number of projects, including the refurbishment of White Nancy, creation of the Redway Steps, landscape

improvements to the Arts Centre car park, playground improvements at St John's Primary School, and upgrading the towpath to the Macclesfield Canal.

One of our many exciting local projects at the moment is a programme of work to

protect the landscape of Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale.

Groundwork remains committed to Bollington and is pleased to sponsor this year's festival. We wish it every success.

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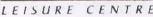
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# Heard the one about the COMEDY CLUB?





Caroline Leadsom, supported by Bernard Selby and other volunteers, has had a

resounding success with the regular comedy events at the Bollington Arts Centre. The 1.00-plus seater venue has been filled to capacity on each show night, and people have even been turned away at the door because all tickets have gone. Caroline has invited three hit acts to take centre stage at the festival's Big Top, which will give many more people the opportunity to start their festival weekends with some (stress relieving) jokes.

Stand-up comedian and rising star, the naturally funny Bill Woolland kicks off the show on Friday May 13. Bill is rapidly becoming a favourite at clubs all over the

Fans of comedy are well catered for at this year's festival with three of the best acts from the successful Bolly Comedy Club series lined up for Friday nights of laughs.

north-west. Known as "the compère beyond compare", he is resident MC at Bolly Comedy Club. On this occasion he will have the stage to himself, when he presents his brilliant one-man show. With bizarre experiences and a slant on life guaranteed to amuse, Bill's humour appeals to all audiences. You'll enjoy some big laughs from this master of quick-fire wit and friendly banter.

The following Friday, May 20, Archie Kelly takes over the spotlight. You may well recognise Archie from his starring role as compulsive liar Kenny Senior in Phoenix Nights and as co-writer/performer of the now legendary World Cup song Meat Pie, Sausage Roll - Come On England Giz A Goal. He'll have you laughing in the aisles with his

unique brand of original material and comedy talent. Loads of hilarious jokes, impressive impersonations and a great singing voice to boot.

On Friday May 27, you'll be able to enjoy the funniest musical comedian on the stand-up circuit, Duncan Oakley. Star of ITV's Comedy Café, Duncan went down an absolute storm at the opening night of Bolly Comedy Club-one guitar, a couple of pints, and a few naughty bits = loads of laughs. Full of energy, you'll be bowled over with parodies, impressions, original songs, puns, groaners and other foolishness. Definitely not to be missed.

Full details of show times, prices and ticket availability can be found on the centre pages.

# WATCH OUT - DODDY'S BACK

People seem to remember Ken Dodd's night in the big top at the Bollington festival in 2000; they all loved it but some wondered whether he would finish before dawn, others whether they would die laughing. So it was inevitable that he would have to be invited back to this year's festival on May 19.

Dodd will be 78 this year but still spends almost the whole year on the road, as he has for 50 years. Not long after his Bollington show, he will be in Weymouth on a Sunday night, then in Oldham the following Tuesday and Malvern two days later. The man does not know how to stop. "Half an hour longer than last year," said one theatre manager after a lam finish. "We don't keep it open this late for anyone else, but there'll never be another one like him, will there?"



# BOLLY ROCKS





The Happy Valley will be throbbing to many a different beat this May, as bands playing rock, folk, Latin and jazz entertain the crowds in the big stripey tent down on the Rec.

From the USA and flying in specially for the festival will be the truly original Celtic rock band Seven Nations (May 23). One of the most exciting bands in the world with a dozen albums to their name, Seven Nations' incredible line-up includes fiddle, bagpipes, guitar, bass and drums, for a transcendent live show that will blow the roof off. Career highlights to date include playing at the 2002 Winter Olympics, headlining the 2001 and 2002 New York City marathons, and having their CD flown on the space shuttle Endeavor, so arriving to play on Bollington's recreation ground can surely only propel their career trajectory onwards and upwards.

From Celtic rock to Latin sizzle: for anyone who has ever felt the urge to wiggle the night away to the seductive rhythms of Cuban salsa, the arrival of the nine-piece big band Orquesta Cache is an opportunity not



to be missed. Let the insistent, sensuous salsa beat sink into your soul, and for those who have never tried Latin steps before and can't help but feel their hips start to writhe, there's no excuse for being shy, as Rafael and Rosa Serrano will be there to demonstrate the basics.

For the town's twinkliest of toe, there's more dancing later in the festival, with ceilidh band All Blacked Up, whose experienced caller will get your feet thundering and the Big Top trembling (May 21).

If the tent is still standing, The Screaming Beavers will be back in Bolly playing hits from the Atlantic/Stax and Motown labels of the 60s and onwards (May 28). A sell-out last time round, this Macclesfield-based soul band is bursting with energy and delivers one of the UK's hottest live acts.

It will be time to get dressed fit to kill for Club Nite (May 27), when the town's young people will be shaking their booty to some superb dance tracks. Talented bands from Bollington and beyond will have the chance to showcase their best tunes on Gig Night (May 20), when the most successful younger local groups play the festival's biggest venue.

And if you fancy a trip down memory lane, then one of the most popular cover bands in the country is bringing favourite numbers from the sixties to the present day. The Hooper Band will be playing an evening of classic rock, and more than a little nostalgia, so bring a clean hanky along with your dancing shoes and kipper tie (May 18).

# From BROADWAY to BIGTOP the BIGTOP

Some aspects of American culture export well, others don't. The world at large has managed to resist American football and baseball. America's very own weapon of mass destruction, fast food, has met firm resistance in Bollington and some other parts of Europe.

On the other hand music has fared well. Jazz and its many allied forms, rock and roll, and the musical have all found their way into almost every corner of the globe. That includes, of course, the festival's Big Top.

The Broadway musical is the new world's answer to operetta, but is distinctive in many ways. The 19th century operetta of Vienna and Paris was based on unlikely stories of the aristocracy falling in and out of love, usually disguised as peasants or bats. The alternative was to find a Greek myth or central European horror story and turn it into a bedroom farce. All jolly good fun, but essentially nothing more than a vehicle for pretty music and an opportunity for audiences to wear their latest evening gowns and bitch about each other.

The musical was born almost a century later into a society which prided itself in being real and realistic. South Pacific, Showboat,

even Oklahoma, deal with real issues, and as a result the music often seems more genuine, more involved. The story line actually matters, and so, therefore, does the librettist. It's possible you know that Lehar wrote the music for the Merry Widow, or Johann Strauss the music for Die Fledermaus, but a huge number of brownie points if you know who wrote the libretto in either case. Quite the opposite with musicals. Rogers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Lowe, Rogers and Hart are all household names, but you may have to think twice about who wrote the words and who wrote the music. Only when you get to the narrow dividing line between musical and opera do things change: Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, Bernstein's West Side Story.

In fact Bernstein wrote the original text for West Side Story. The young Stephen Sondheim was brought in pretty much at the last minute to pep it up, keeping some of

Bernstein's original, modifying other sections, and writing some new material. Both were to be credited as the lyricists, but then Bernstein decided to give Sondheim the sole credit, which also meant Sonheim would receive all the royalties instead of 50%. Sondheim was overwhelmed by this generosity. "Lennie," he said, "it's enough to be honoured as the sole lyricist. There's no need to give me all the royalties." So Bernstein didn't.

We open the 2005 Bollington Festival with a superlative mixture of Broadway favourites (May 13). Garth Bardsley, star of the London production of Phantom of the Opera, and Lindsay Hailton, who starred in Les Mis and Evita, are the outstanding soloists. The Northern Chamber Orchestra turns into a Broadway band for the night, conducted by Nicholas Smith, who is joined by a specially selected chorus and dancers.

### An instant novel on the net

One of the fastest novels in history could be produced during the festival's 18 days.

Twenty writers (including two double acts) have agreed to write a thousand words each in what is best described as a literary relay. A mystery writer begins on May 13 and has to complete his/her chapter by 6pm so that it can be posted on the festival website that same night. Printed copies should also be available at key festival points. The next writer picks up the story the next day and

so on, the story unfolding as the festival proceeds.

The literary list includes, at one extreme, real writers including Adèle Geras who will also be speaking at the festival, and at the other a couple of journalists. In between come local figures such as Bollington's Roman Catholic priest Fr Robert Coupe.

Ground rules have been established: no more than

10 characters and no annihilating previous writers' characters in nuclear holocausts. But there are no rules about style, which means there could be the odd attempt at magic realism. No one is expecting a literary miracle nor is the Booker prize expected to come to Bollington.

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### A soldier's LETTERS

The festival will mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II with the publication of letters a solider wrote to his wife.

Harry Berry died last year and daughter Linda West has seen the collection into print, the event marked by an exhibition at the Library.

Mr Berry said of his letters: "They were written in uncomfortable and sometimes primitive conditions from barrack rooms in England, India and Malaya, from the crowded decks of troopships and as censored postcards and letters from Japanese PoW

camps in Singapore, Taiwan and Japan."



### TOAST the festival in FESTIVALE

It's just gone 8.30am at the Storm Brewing Company in Macclesfield, and Hugh Thompson, co-founder of this award-winning brewery, has already started mixing the mash for this morning's batch of beer.

There's a comforting malty whiff in the cold air, and a vast stainless steel cylinder in the corner is steaming gently at 74C. Inside, mash is being churned around in hot water to create the lumpy, porridgey concoction that is the basis for all real ale.

Today the mash will go into Storm Brewing's Ale Force bitter. Other names include Twister, Windgather, Bitter Experience, Storm Damage and Silk of Amnesia. At Christmas, a seasonal special called Looks Like Rain Dear was slipping down nicely in local pubs.

But soon, Hugh will emerge from bed at the crack of dawn, set off for his brewery and start off the mash for a new bitter - one that will glory in the name of Bollington Festivale.

Made from hop varieties - Fuggles, Golding, American Cluster and Challenger, and the addition of pearl, crystal and chocolate malts, the tasting notes for the festival's own brew explain that it will be "an amber coloured beer with a smoky flavour of fruit and malt - and that characteristic Storm hoppiness".

With an initial batch already tasted and approved by drinkers at the New Con Club in Bollington, the final product will soon be available at the town's independent pubs - the Meridian and Poachers, as well as being the exclusive bitter on sale in all festival venues.

A presentation pack will also be sold through the festival office and in the Big Top.

### ART'S in the RIGHT PLACE

Eleven painters, potters and other artists all over Bollington (plus one in Kerridge and another in Rainow) will throw open their studios between 11am and 5pm on Saturday and Sunday May 15 and 16, with artists on hand to answer questions and discuss their techniques.

An accompanying exhibition of their work will be at the Arts Centre throughout the festival. In a second exhibition, members of the Bollington Art Group will show their work at the Civic Hall from Friday May 27 - 29.

The arts programme is packed with other original events including Genius Loci (Sprit of Place), a one-day painting and drawing competition on Sunday May 22.

Adults and children register, pay a small fee and then disappear somewhere into the local urban or rural area to capture the spirit of their particular place. Work must be ready for judging by 4pm, with prizewinners' work going on show in the festival exhibition.

On Sunday May 15, up to 15 people will be able take part in a workshop to build a willow

sculpture on the Middlewood Way within four hours. The event is open to all but is particularly suitable for GCSE and A level students.

On May 21, there will be a demonstration behind the Arts Centre of raku, a spectacular process of firing pots removed from the kiln while still red hot. It costs nothing to watch but for a small charge you can glaze your own pot, see it raku fired and then take it home as a unique souvenir.

Finally, there will be a venture into digital art at Bollington library on May 19 and 26. Exchange of Views will be a collaboration between visitors and Peter Jones, Bollington resident, artist and art lecturer who died last year. His widow Judith Atkin wishes the event to go ahead in his memory.

It's an interactive exhibition in which visitors are invited to create collaged images on a computer screen using clippings from a virtual scrapbook provided by Mr Jones. The clippings are presented in random combinations, making the job of creating a collage a challenge like a computer game.

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### A POEM FOR BOLLINGTON

Poet and Bollington resident Michael
Symmons Roberts won the Whitbread poetry
prize this year for his collection Corpus,
hailed by one critic for being "as fine a book
of poetry as any published in the last several
years". Novelist Jeanette Winterson says
she loves "MSR'S poetry. He is a religious
poet in a secular age. His work is about
connection between the things of the spirit

and the things of the world. And his work is about transcendence."

Michael will read his work at the Arts Centre on May 13. He was also commissioned to write a new work for the 2005 Bollington Festival. The right poem for the right place, it is published here for the first time.

### MAY LIGHTNING by Michael Symmons Roberts

From the west, from edge, gap, plain: a storm with the voice of a far-off train

haunts the rain-soaked fields all night, in search of place to let-go its light.

The land lies low, its people sleep.
The storm's voice, though loud and deep,

cannot disturb the great white ear at Jodrell Bank, which strains to hear

some whisper in the outer dark, some answer to the farm dog's bark.

The storm now tracks a road, and slips between tall barns like anchored ships,

past Bonis Hall towards Flash Lane, and then, unable to contain

the power it has held all night, it gives a single bolt of light.

In Lowerhouse it wakes a man before his work of dreams is done:

and shows him, in his attic room, a vision of his childhood home.

his father slow packs khaki kit into a bag, which makes him sit

bolt upright, captured by the sight of ghost in jagged bolt of light

which shakes a baby from her dreams on Grimshaw Lane, whose empty screams

wake most of Beechway, Greenfield Road, and drown the heavy-booted thud

of ghost-steps turning up to fill the silk trucks at Adelphi Mill.

In that one flash, light searches us, reveals each face, each heart, each house,

a single bolt makes snapshots of a skein of geese, that floats above

a silent house in Water Street, where lovers lie awake, complete

in anxious union, arms entwined, eyes lit up by the lightning find

a bag packed by the door, a coat, a ticket. It's the small hours: cats,

leaves, spirits hunt the streets.
On Hall Hill owl and fox compete

with thunder, and lose out. But we are found by this one light: the free,

the trapped, the glad, the good, the lost, with eyes on stars and feet on dust,

the ones who sprint the streets all day, scared of nothing, running away,

the hungry babies, old tired dogs, the selfless, shameless, hopeless, rogues,

are stitched by this needle of light into one cloth on a spring night.

No sooner stitched, it unravels. Storm falls dark again, and travels

up to the Peak in search of space, a rain-veil on White Nancy's face.

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### STOP PRESS! The festival material took up so much space that we couldn't squeeze in any of our usual what's on' features, so we've printed this special flyer to cover some of the events that would have been otherwise missed. In order to give the 2005 festival the best possible push, we took a bold decision to allow the festival team a completely free hand to create this edition of Bollington Live! This means that our usual themes have had to take a back Seat on this occasion. On the other hand, it has allowed us to have a pack Seat on this occasion, on the other hand, it has allowed us to have a full colour (all roun moints wolfours) design ideas that we can borrow for future editions (all comments welcome). As a result of the efforts of the designers, the future look of the magazine may change a bit, but the issues that we champion and our interests in Enange a pit, put the issues that we champion and our interests in some of our ideas for future issues will include articles about the same. Some of our ideas for future issues will include articles about the heyday of shopping in Bollington, when you could buy almost anything from the scores of shops that fringed Bollington's roads. We also want to encourage more creative material within the magazine; short stories, poetry and even original pictorial artwork could appear (if Someone contributes of course)! We will continue our campaigns on light pollution and support for improvements in the recreation ground we intend to have more features on local businesses; remember that Bollington was a small industrial town long before it was a pleasant, semi-rural village in East Cheshire. Don't forget, if there's a good story to tell, we'll tell it. The summer magazine, published in July, will give us a chance to take a good The summer magazine, purished in July, will give us a chance to take a good of the postionse of the orionte Place of the property on liked, what you didn't and we'll feature some reviews of the events. Please contact us if you have any good festival memories, particularly stories about things that went on behind the Once again, we want to thank all of our magazines' sponsors, advertisers and volunteers. Their support enables Bollington Live! to be delivered free to every home in Bollington which is a

Tim Neale

Please turn over for the additional 'What's on' and details of a family history by Jean Wright, and a collection of wartime letters, compiled by Linda West

remarkable achievement!

### **Bolly Books**

In the next issue of Bollington Live! we intend to have a feature on a couple of interesting books that are soon to be published by local amateur authors. We thought that since they will be promoted at the festival we should let you know about them in advance.





### **Dates for your Diary**

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### **APRIL**

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Sunday 24th,

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### MAY

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 6pm (4pm Sun)

**Bollington Arts Group Exhibition**Civic Centre. Free admission, to this excellent annual show.

### JULY

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Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2pm- 4 **Summer Fayre and Pet Show** St. John's School, Grimshaw Lane. From Spiders to Sheep, stalls, refreshments etc. 50p or £1 entry fee for entrants to show. Call 572025 for details.

### 'Voices From the Past'

by Jean Wright

'Voices from the Past' is based on a rare collection of family letters, papers and photographs.

The book gives a compelling glimpse of Bollington in Victorian times.

The material illustrates life as a lady's maid in Samuel Greg's factory village community, in service at his home, as well as emigrating to New Zealand and Canada.

The book has over 100 pages and more than 100 photographs and is priced at £15.00.

There is a pre-publication price of £13.50 for orders received before  $15^{\rm th}$  April 2005. Contact Jean Wright on 01625 572118 to place an order.

### 'My Darling Wife'

by Harry West and compiled by his daughter Linda

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This is a collection of the wartime letters and diaries of Harry Berry to his wife Gwen from 1940-1945.

Harry, a journalist and musician was dragged off to fight, was captured during the fall of Singapore in 1942 and spent several years in a Japanese P.O.W. camp. Harry, who died last year loved visiting Bollington.

The book will be launched officially at the festival in May

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