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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 Live! - A voice for everyone" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome to:

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Bollington Live! is an independent publication, published in association with Bollington Arts Centre & Bollington Civic Society.

Cover: The floral detail of Last Year's Well Dressing at the Greg Fountain See article below for details of this year's event.

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Cartoons by Matthew Wray

A LIVE!(ly) party in Bollington!

One evening in May we invited all the volunteers who help us create Bollington Live! to the Arts Centre for a drink, a bite to eat and a chat to say thank you for their indispensable contribution to the magazine. Advertisers and sponsors are of course crucial as well, but without a distribution network we could not have got the magazine through every household door in Bollington for 37 issues since 1994. A grand total of over 4250 copies are now printed and distributed each issue.





The editor pontificates...

While we had everyone there we took the opportunity to record the event for posterity and so we took the group photograph opposite.

If you enjoy Bollington Live! and wish to be more involved, we often need new deliverers as sometimes people cannot continue or need to cut down the size of their rounds.

We also need new contributors with fresh ideas for articles or you might like to help out with generating the advertising revenue that pays for the printing of the magazine. If you want to join the committee then just contact us on one of the numbers printed above. We are all volunteers and the magazine is produced on an entirely non-profit basis. TN

A Well Dressed Trail

15 July 2006 sees the launch of Bollington's Well Dressing Trail. Seven sites will be decorated, linked to form a walk around the town. Water can be found at all the sites, although none is actually a well.

The technique for producing these 'petal pictures' is painstaking, but easily mastered. Moist clay is pressed into specially prepared boards and

then the designs are created by pressing seeds, leaves and othernatural materials into the clay. Four of the dressings will be made by this method and three will be prepared in other ways.

The Greg Fountain will be decorated,

using natural materials pressed into clay, by the children (and teachers) of Bollington Cross School, but the trail proper starts at the Drop-In

Centre.

At the site of the old dye-works, where Church Street. becomes Ingersley Vale, is a mill pool that used to change colour depending on the dye being used. To mark the part

water played in the textile industry,

the decoration here will be made from coloured fabrics. Further along Ingersley Vale is a waterfall which will feature a clay dressing celebrating water power in industry. Visitors are invited to add ribbons or trinkets as an offering to the water spirits. A climb up the hill takes us to a stream crossing the field, guarded by the Green Man. The spring at Cow Lane will be dressed using the petals on clay method and the final dressing is at the Drop-In Centre where Harop Brook and the River Dean meet.

The Mayor opens the event at the Greg Fountain on Saturday 15 July at 12.30pm, moving on to the Drop-In Centre by pony and trap. The displays will be in place until Sunday 23 July.

continued on page 5...

The last gas attack!

If you enjoy, as I do, walking idly through the narrow streets of Bollington you will be fascinated by the detail of the houses and the glimpses of life espied through the windows that face directly on to the street.

Sometimes there are greater mysteries to unravel. One such is the faded painted sign on the side of No. 6 Shrigley Road, the handsome stone house opposite the New Con Club. Walk down the rough drive a little way and look up; you will see the word HAMSON picked out in faded white and red paint in a curve rather reminiscent of the top of a particular gravestone in St. John's Churchyard. Who was this Hamson and why is the name blazoned under the traditional small paned metal windows that light the top storey of the house?

Just next door is the new drive way, Hamson Drive, leading to some modern houses on the site of the Oak Bank Print works.

The key to the mystery is a photo of well known local Town Councillor Mrs. Betty Bonson proudly standing by this sign. As Betty Hamson she is the great, great granddaughter of the Joseph Hamson who opened his high class painter and decorators business at 6, Shrigley Road in 1806. Betty is rightly proud of her family's long association with the town of Bollington.

Having been Mayor in 1982-83 she is still remembered for giving a bottle of whisky to the Bollington lads who served in the Falklands War. At 79. Betty is still a very active Town Councillor, and presented a new flag to the town in 2005. As president of the local branch of the N.S.P.C.C. she has carried on the family tradition of charity work started by her mother 50 years ago. However, she started her working life as a junior clerk in the offices of the much lamented Bollington Urban District Council that passed away in 1974. She still possesses their year book of 1948-49 which notes in the back in her neat handwriting 'Folies Bergere Revue Monday May 23rd. for three weeks'. Another mystery; Betty was 22. Was she attending or performing in a Bollington extravaganza, a precursor of our famous Festival?

The Diary is a mine of information. The BUDC had incorporated Kerridge in 1900 when that proud



hamlet realised that if they wanted piped water they would have to rely on Bollington to get it. Parts of Tytherington and Adlington had been added in 1936. There were eleven Standing Committees including Highways, Housing, Health, Waterworks and Gasworks. The list of officers was 17 names long and included Miss B. Hamson, shorthand typist and general clerk. Ruling over all was the august and authoritarian figure of Alfred Clough, 'King Alfred' Clerk and Chief Financial Officer and Rating and Valuation Officer. Alfred, she says, was a great companion of Dr Geoffrey Coope, father of Dr. John who died on Christmas Day 2005. After the day's work was done they would often retire to the snug in the Dog and Partridge for a chat and to argue town politics.

Only once, says Betty, did she ever see Alfred overruled: at the time of what she calls, 'The Last Gas Attack'.

On Saturday March 3rd, 1946 counting for the Bollington and Poynton Division of the County Council elections was taking place at the large Sunday School in Bollington that became the secondary school and was later pulled down to make way for the modern Library and Civic Hall (now itself under threat from Macclesfield Borough Council, who wish to abandon their support).

Mrs. Dilys Davies, deputy Mayoress of Stockport, the Conservative candidate was ranging up and down the room watching the counters with a fierce concentration. Mr. Joseph Shrigley, the Independent candidate, was sitting and chatting in a relaxed manner. The sun shone through the high windows. The counters began to nod in the warm air. Betty felt a headache coming on and the crosses on the ballots began to dance in front of her eyes. The candidates left the room. One of the older counters groaned and laid her head on the table. Soon eyes were watering, everyone had a choking sensation and they all wanted to leave. Alfred remained adamant. The ballot boxes had been opened; the count must

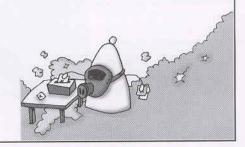
Suddenly Dr Geoffrey was in their midst. He had been called by Police Sergeant Harris who was the first to realise that gas from a fractured boiler pipe was leaking into the room. "Get everyone out Alf. Now!" he shouted. Alfred came towards him ominously, arms raised ready to resist this unwelcome intrusion, and collapsed on the floor. By this time Betty had passed out.

More than thirty people were gassed that day. Most recovered quickly but an ambulance had to be called to take Betty to Macclesfield Hospital where she remained for three days.

Alfred got everyone back into line on Sunday morning and the final result was 2,309 votes for Joseph Shrigley and 765 for Dilys Davies. No wonder Joseph was so relaxed.

Betty still has the report in the Sunday Express. 'The alarm was raised only just in time, some were sprawled in their seats others were staggering towards the door'.

'If I had died that day.' says Betty, 'there would have been room for me in the family vault in Bollington Churchyard. Now I'll have to join my husband, Trevor, in the Columbarium.'



for Dr John Coope



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Belfields Bakery
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Bollington water
The soft silky feeling of
Bollington Cotton
You are the talent in the Arts Centre
You are the cheerful air around us
You are my Bollington
Mary Thorp (age 11)

...continued from page 3

There will be a guided evening walk on Sunday 16 July, starting at the Drop-In Centre at 8pm (adults £3, children free). A leaflet describing the trail will be available from the Drop-In Centre and other local outlets.

For information contact Janet Beech 574618 *David Beaton*

Our first project was the Surgery in the Coach House at the Medical Centre. This was achieved with a great deal of help from Dr Maurice Coope who readily appreciated the difficulties some patients were having with the many steps both inside and out at the Water House.

We have worked closely with the Borough and the County Council to promote dropped kerbs where possible, to make crossing our very busy roads slightly easier for wheelchair users. The Sensory

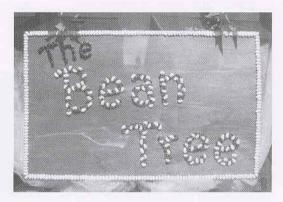
The Bean Tree?

The Bean Tree is a new shop selling dried fruit and nuts, beans and pulses, herbs and spices cereals, flour and herbal teas. There is also a range of organic foods including an order service for organic vegetables. You can also pick up bird food and a range of healthy alternatives to chocolate bars.

The shop, at the bottom of Grimshaw Lane, next door to 'Flowers & Things' is the retail outlet for the products of M&R Healthfoods that has been wholesaling to local markets, catering suppliers, restaurants and healthfood shops from its base next to the Adelphi Mill for the past 15 years. So many people came into the warehouse asking for things

that owner David Messenger thought it would be a good idea to open the doors to all Bollington – hence The Bean Tree!

The locals who've visited the shop have been really helpful and supportive and seem genuinely pleased that there is a healthfood shop in



Bollington – particularly useful for mum's who can now buy healthier alternatives to chocolate bars and crisps!

Prices are very reasonable and with such a wide range of produce there is bound to be something you need to stock up on!

David is having a promotional day on 22nd July with bargains and free samples, so why not go along and take a look at the varied range of goods on offer.

TN

Can you get in?

Bollington Access Action Group was started 12 years ago in response to several requests from Bollington residents who were experiencing access difficulties into some of the town's public buildings.

Garden, based in the Memorial Gardens is a scheme which is primarily for our visually impaired residents so that they can more fully enjoy gardens. It was funded by the Lions Club and built and maintained by Macclesfield Borough.

Last year we compiled a "Where to Eat" Guide, for residents and visitors with all types of disabilities, describing the facilities available in many of the excellent eating places in our town. The booklet has been very well received and is about to be updated.

We are aware that much more needs to be done, and that many Bollington residents are unaware of the Access Group. If indeed anyone has concerns for themselves or relatives with physical disabilities, we would be pleased to offer our help. We have an open door policy for those who wish to join our group, with or without disabilities.

If we can help, please contact Joy Tunstall on 01625 430743

Sylvia Roberts

Bollington Civic Society – Carbon Neutral Bollington?

At their last meeting of the winter season two dozen members of the Civic Society (www.civicsociety.happy-valley.org.uk) enjoyed a very constructive and wide ranging discussion which began on the subject of recycling. This quickly developed into environmental matters in general and the carbon footprint of Bollington in particular.

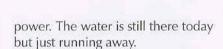
A village close to Chester, Ashton Hayes, has recently received publicity for its work in 'Going Carbon Neutral'. Indeed, they aim to be England's first carbon neutral village. See their web site at www.goingcarbonneutral. co.uk. The question arises – could Bollington do something similar?

What would "going carbon neutral" mean for Bollington? Well, it seems to encompass all the obvious environmental objectives of the day – such as more recycling, reduced usage of hydrocarbons (oil, coal, gas), more insulation of houses, local power generation, more trees to soak

up carbon dioxide, etc. Of course each of these headings covers huge range of possible actions, some highly beneficial, some practical, some less so. Here is an example: The Harrop brook particular was once used to drive several

mills through waterwheels. The mills included Ingersley Clough, Rainow, Higher and Lower mills. Sowcar brook provided power for Oak Bank, Defiance and Bollington corn mills. Together, as the river Dean, they powered Lowerhouse mill.

So we can see just how many times the same water was used to provide



Perhaps we could intercept the rivers in a number of places as in previous centuries but this time, instead of putting it through waterwheels, feed it into modern high-tech turbines (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/water_turbine) and generate electric power, which can be fed into the grid.

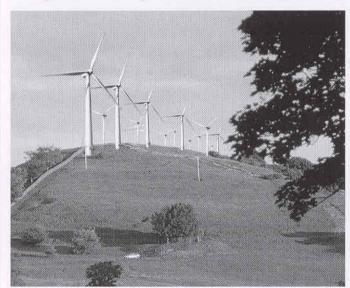
Now if that were to be practical what better way of reducing our carbon footprint? Just one of many ideas and there are many grants available for appropriate projects.

If you have an interest in a carbon neutral Bollington please email co2@ happy-valley.org.uk or phone Tim Boddington on 574888 and if there is sufficient interest we will call a meeting of all interested parties and see where we go from there.

Tim Boddington



Part of the old wheelhouse at Ingersley Clough Mill, that once housed the largest water wheel on mainland Britain.



The Civic Society committee have since discussed it and have agreed that it would be well worth investigating the subject further. So may I encourage those of you with an interest in such a potential project to make yourselves known – come and talk to us and tell us what you think the town could achieve through such a project.

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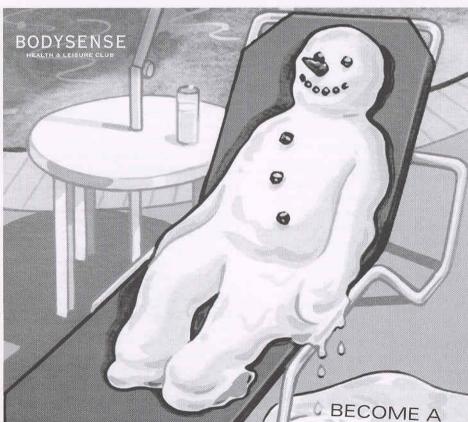
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BOLLINGTON



July

Tuesday 11th, 8pm

Bollington Trade Forum

Town Hall: Exploring establishing a food & drink festival. All Welcome.

Wednesday 12th, 2pm

Primary Schools' Bible presentation

Civic Hall: Annual presentation to year 6 pupils. Guest Speaker Roger Johnson

Saturday 15th to 23rd

Well Dressing

Seven sites this year! Details:-page 3

Sunday 16th, 11.30am - 4.30pm

Middlewood Way Open Day

Higher Poynton Station: Tel: 573998

Monday 17th, all day

Surya Indian Jewellery

Drop In Centre: Exhibition and items

for sale. Tel: 576311

Saturday 15th, 7,30pm

Community Action Team Meeting.

St John's School

Wednesday 19th, 11am

Ranger Services Guided Walk

Drop In Centre: Circular route with wildlife and historic points of interest.

Tel 576311

Saturday 22nd, 7.30pm

"Guitar Ray" Pickens

New Conservative Club. Members only (New members welcome).

Tuesday 25th, all day

"Impressionist Flowers"

Arts Centre: Artist Melanie Cambridge leads this workshop. Ideal for water colour painters wanting to move onto

something different. *

Wednesday 26th, all day

"Step into Abstract"

Arts Centre. Melanie's second w/shop: Experiment manipulating your original drawing or photograph into something

a little more abstract. *

*Both courses: £32.00 per person to include paints, basic equipment, tea and coffee. Tel: 0208 660 4982

31st July – 4th Aug or 7th -11th Aug. or 21st Aug.-1st Sept. 10am – 4pm

Great Shakes.

Arts Centre: Shakespeare for Children aged 8-13, one or two week project leading to final show. For information tel. Fiona Penney on 0208 508 3880.

August

2nd to 27th

Textiles Exhibition

Discovery Centre: Come and enjoy the work of artist Elizabeth Brimelow.

Saturday 12th, 1.30pm

Bollington Cricket First XI

Recreation Ground: Boll. v Urmston. Tel: 573708.

Tuesday 15th, 2 till 4pm

Kids Fun Day

Recreation Ground: Ranger led event with games, adventure and fun for all children aged 7-11(ish!). Tel 504518

Wednesday 16th, 11am

Drop In Centre Walk

Drop In Centre: Ranger led circular route with wildlife and historic points of interest. Refreshments. Tel: 576311

Saturday 26th, 1.30pm

Bollington Cricket First XI

Recreation Ground Boll. v Cheadle.

Tel: 573708

September

Saturday 2nd, 1.30pm

Bollington Cricket First XI

Recreation Ground Boll. v Poynton.

Tel: 573708

Saturday 2nd, all day

Horticultural Society Show

Civic Hall: Annual Show. Competition

classes for all ages. Tel: 429338

Saturday 2nd, 8.00pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Savannah Jazz Band. Book your seat by

ringing 01625 574410 - £7.50

Sunday 3rd, 11am-1pm

Car Boot and Open Day

Drop In Centre: £6 per pre-booked pitch, or £7 on the day. Tel: 576311

Friday 8th, 8.00pm

Organic Food - Is It Worth It?

Arts Centre: Arno de Snoo, Organic Development Officer at the N.West Organic Ctr. and Simon Bennett a Cheshire-based organic farmer discuss. £5 (inc. glass of wine) £4(concs) Pay at door. Ring 575287 for details.

Saturday 10th, 10am till about 5pm Bollington Transport Extravaganza Adelphi Mill car park. Saturday 10th – October 1st Something Old, Something New. Arts Centre Gallery: Boll. Art Group. Open Sundays 2–4, also during events.

Saturday 16th, 1.30pm

Bollington Cricket First XI

Recreation Ground: Boll. v Chester

Tel: 573708

Sunday 17th

6th Nostalgia Trail Opening

Drop In Centre: A wonderful day for

all the family. Tel: 576311

Sunday 17th, 7.30pm

Sunday Night Talk Series

Arts Centre: Matthew Hyde follows Nikolaus Pevsner's footsteps in the North-West and gives a 21st Century view of the buildings first written about 40 years ago. £4, £3(concs) at door.

Wednesday 20th, 11am

Drop In Centre Walk

Drop In Centre: Ranger Service led circular route. Tel 576311

Wednesday 20th, 7.30pm

Community Action Team Meeting St John's School

Saturday 23rd, 8.00pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

Arts Centre: The much-loved Sorrel String Quartet return to play Haydn, Shostakovich and Beethoven in a concert dedicated to the memory of Dr. John Coope. Tickets £10 & £5 (concs) from 560355.

Sunday 24th, 7.30pm

The Mediaeval Scribe

Arts Centre: Derek Harley looks at the work of these master craftsmen, the impact of printing on their lives and the recent resurgence of interest in calligraphic art. £4, £3(concs) at door

Friday 29th, 7.00pm

Bollington Utd. Grand Auction and Dinner Dance

Shrigley Hall Country Club: Tickets £30. per person. Tel: Will Spinks 01625 573413.

Friday 29th 8.00pm

Jim MacCool's Celtic Night

Arts Centre: An evening of Scottish and Irish songs and poetry, including Jim MacCool's Ionan Tales. £6, £4 (concs) £12 family (2adults 2 children) Tel: 575287 or 573413 for tickets.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 30th 8.00pm Jazz At The Arts Centre Wabash Jazz Band. Book your seat by ringing 574410, £7.50

October

Sunday 1st, 2-6.30pm & 7.45-10pm The Play Readers

Arts Centre: Explore great plays with a rehearsed reading led by theatre director David Beaton followed by "Dancing At Lughnasa" by Brian Friel. Tel: 267545 to book tickets @ £7.50

Tuesday 3rd, 7 - 9.30pm

Let's go Caving:- Alderly Edge.

Down the old Copper mines. Old clothes a must, some ladder climbing and crawling involved. Suitable for adults and older children Booking in advance essential, £3.00 T: 504505.

Friday 6th, 8.00pm Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Welcome back to the best in stand-up £7.50 Over 18s only. Ring 560774 to book your place

Sunday 8th - Sun. 12th November Embroidery and Textile Art

Arts Centre: Exhibition by Ann Ford and her students. Small items will be for sale. Open Sundays 2-4pm and during other events

Thursday 12th, 7pm Horse Racing Night

Drop In Ctr: £6.00 inc. race prog., hot pot supper and licensed bar. 576311

Sunday 14th, 10am - noon

Table Top Sale
St John's School: Sale of children's toys
& equipment.

Wednesday 18th, 11am Drop In Centre Walk

Drop In Centre: Ranger Service led circular route with wildlife and historic points of interest. Tel: 576311

Wed. 18th – Sat. 21st 7.30pm Bollington Festival Players

Arts Centre: Spring and Port Wine by Bill Naughton. £6, £4.50(Concs) from 875326

Sunday 22nd, 11am until 3pm Chainsaw Carving Demonstration Phone the Rangers for Locations and details Tel: 573998 Friday 27th, 8pm Our Lives In Pictures

Arts Centre. Don McPhee & Denis Thorpe discuss their 50 years of photographs for The Guardian, £4, £3(concs). Pay at door.

Saturday 28th

The RSPB Day
Arts Centre: 2-4pm Young
Ornithologists' Activity A/noon – FREE.
7.30pm wildlife film - £5. Ring 574410
or 432105 to reserve a place.

November

Friday 3rd, 8.00pm Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Chase away November's blues. Ring 560774 to ensure a place Over 18s only. £7.50

Saturday 4th, 8.00pm Jazz At The Arts Centre

James Evan's Incredible String Four with Enrico Tomasso £7.50 Ring 574410 to book a seat.

Saturday 11th, 10.30am till 3pm Hedgelaying

Try your hand at this ancient skill. Phone the Rangers for locations & details Tel: 573998

Friday 10th, 6.30pm Beetle Drive

St. Johns's School: Heroes and Villains themed evening.

Saturday 11th, 8.00pm A French Affair

Arts Centre: An evening of Anglo-French music by composers like Trenet, Gainsbourg, Aznavour, Piaf etc, sung in English and French by Monique accompanied by world-class musicians. Their sound fuses jazz, world music and chanson Tel 574410 for details.

Sunday 12th ,11am until 3pm

Chainsaw Carving Demonstration

Phone the Rangers for Locations etc.

Sunday 12th, 2–6.30pm & 7.45–10pm The Play Readers

Arts Centre: Another rehearsed reading This month, Miller's masterpiece: "The Crucible". Tel: 267545 £7.50

Tuesday 14th – December 17th Moving Clay

Arts Centre: Exhibition. Open Sundays 2 – 4pm and during other events

Wednesday 15th, 11am Drop In Centre Walk

Drop In Centre. Ranger Service led circular walk. Refreshments. T: 576311

Saturday 18th, 8.00pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

Arts Centre: Sacconi Quartet return to play Kurtag, Mozart, Haydn & Wolf. Tickets £10, £5 (concs) from 560355

Sunday 19th, 2pm School Christmas Fair St. Gregory's School

Sunday 19th, 7.30pm The Pre-Raphaelites

Arts Centre: Robin Hidden returns to help us look afresh at some well-loved works of art £4, £3 (concs) Pay at door.

Wednesday 22nd, 7.30pm Community Action Team Meeting St. John's School

Sunday 26th, 4.30 &7.30pm

The Snow Queen

Arts Centre: The young performers of Bollington Festival Music Theatre present the Hans Christian Andersen story as re-told by Donald Judge. Details from 0161 427 2870 or www. bcmturl4life.com

December

Friday 1st, 8.00pm Bolly Comedy Club

The festive season starts here! Book your place by ringing 560774 - £7.50 Over 18s only

Saturday 2nd, 8.00pm Jazz At The Arts Centre T.J. Johnson's Bourbon – ring 574410, £7.50

Sunday 3rd, 11am until 3pm Chainsaw Carving Demonstration Phone the Rangers for locations etc.

Saturday 9th, 2 – 4pm Christmas Fair St. John's School

Tuesday 12th, 7.30pm Messiah For All

Arts Centre: Come and sing Handel's wonderful music with the Festival Choir, but bring a copy if you can (we'll lend you one if not) Tel. 261933 to buy your ticket. £4, incl. cup of tea and mince pie. All proceeds to M.A.S.T.

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"Bollington to Zanzibar"

An Entertaining read by Graham Hibbert

Must be something in the water – it seems we are forever reviewing books by local authors!

Graham Hibbert was brought up and has lived most of his life in Bollington, but he's had many an eventful time in places that couldn't be more different... Graham has now decided to share some of his adventures...

"Bollington to Zanzibar" begins with life as a Bollington teenager in the 1950's with memories of dance halls, clubs, pubs and girls. The first chapter goes on to tell how a group of local young men tried to avoid National Service by failing the entrance medical. Fortunately for the reader this did not succeed and the account of basic army training will bring back memories to the over 65's and for younger generations give them a graphic taste of what they missed.

Most of Graham's army life as permanent medical staff was reliably "cushy" and was the start of travel that took him all over the world.

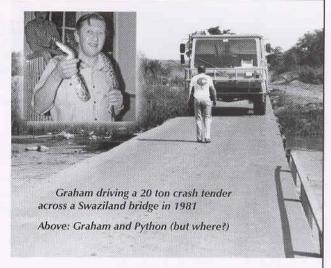
Twenty-five years as a retained firemen in Bollington is crammed into one chapter with accounts of events both funny and tragic.

When Graham left the army he joined a Winsford Company testing fire engines: leading to exciting adventures in such exotic sounding places as Zanzibar and Swaziland. In 1983 the Macclesfield County

Express ran a full page news feature with headlines that read "Grahams race against time and crocodiles" an account of driving a huge airport crash tender across the African bush to arrive in Swaziland in time for the arrival of Princess Margaret.

The second half of the book deals with his travels for MMB International, a subsidiary of Macclesfield Motor Bodies, and details the dangers of travelling in Nigeria, along with accounts of the Middle east and his invitation to fire the 'Noondaygun' in Hong Kong.

"Bollington To Zanzibar" is funny, interesting, exciting and is fully



illustrated. Published by Churnet Valley Books at £8.95, it is available at the Discovery Centre, Bollington Cross & Wellington Road Post Offices.

AE



"Memories of old Bollington"

is a booklet of Brian Webb's memories of life in Bollington, mostly in the 1950s and 60s. As well as painting a lovely historical picture of people's work and social lives at the time; it is highly entertaining as well.

The story of Alfred Snape (Tippin) and the tree was worth the cover price of £1.50 alone and is one of the funniest stories I have heard in a long time. I'm sure Brian has done lots of other things in his life but he seems to have most recollection about Bollington's pub life - so how reliable these stories are I'm not sure. I'm sure this will bring back a lot of fond memories for many. It is available from the Drop In Centre, Heathcote's Butcher's and I expect the Discovery Centre too. TN

If you have any good stories of life in Bollington in the past please contact us. Both Graham and Brian's books show that many of you have stories that should be shared with a wider audience.

Festival 2005 Wins Award!

Earlier this year key members of the 2005 Festival committee, Ian Walker, Jean Ransley, Catherine Hoe and Jose Spinks together with representatives from AstraZeneca, the main festival sponsor, travelled to London for the annual 'Arts and Business' awards ceremony at The Barbican Centre.

AstraZeneca and the Bollington Festival had been shortlisted in the Arts, Business and Community Event category and whilst this was a tremendous honour and achievement, we all felt that we had little chance of winning as we were in the illustrious company of Barclays and Aldeburgh Productions, Theakstons and Harrogate International Festival and Rolls-Royce working with Derby Playhouse!

Imagine how thrilled we all felt to be announced as the winners and, what's more, by the unanimous decision of the Judges who felt that our Festival stood head and shoulders above the other nominees.

We owe a tremendous vote of thanks to AstraZeneca for their commitment and, of course, to the Artistic Director Nicholas Smith whose enthusiasm, hard work and knowledge inspired everyone to create a Festival to remember.

After the Presentation, Ian dedicated the award to the memory of Dr. John Coope who organised every Festival, from the first in 1964 through to 2000.

Congratulations Bollington!

Jean Ransley

Methodists face the future

Sitting resolutely opposite the Town Hall the Methodist Church tells a big part of our town's story. Since the sad closure of St. John's parish Church it is the largest public meeting place in Bollington and its size is a testament to the growth of the town on the back of King Cotton nearly two centuries ago.

I suppose many of us just whoosh by it as we conduct our busy lives, but lots of people regularly use its meeting rooms for various different community activities. There is, of course, another and most important group for whom the old church is a holy place where they come to worship, sing hymns and pray. It is this last group who are having to come to terms with some significant

challenges that affect the future of the building and the nature of their Christian worship. They are likely to need our support if we are to retain this cornerstone of the Bollington community and not see it lying empty like St. John's C of E Parish Church.

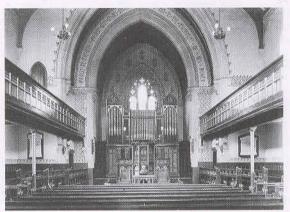
The Methodist church has a steady—if not huge—congregation and it is to their credit that they have recently secured funding for important structural work to make the steeple safe.

Methodists are a pragmatic lot and the second story they added in the 1970's provided vital room space on the ground floor. It is this area that now needs to be refurbished to meet the community demands of the 21st Century and to help generate some revenue to sustain the building's future.

The Methodist Church & Manse - Circa 1960

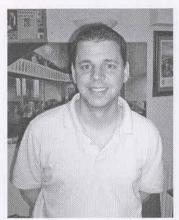
Spiritual leadership through these changes comes in the surprising form of a young man from Washington DC.

The red trainers peeping out from under the cassock may have caused a few eyebrows to raise, but the Rev. John Squares is very serious about his calling and quite traditional in his outlook, whilst being fully aware of the need to modernise the church, its fabric and its ministry, to reflect the needs of the community. He comes from 5 generations of Methodist preachers and studied alongside



Early 1900s picture of the Chapel before the creation of the second storey in the 1970s.

Desmond Tutu in Atlanta, Georgia. His roots may be transatlantic but his wife Nicola is English and they have a small child, John Squares Jnr. (known as Jack by his friends).



Rev. John Squares

I asked him how the church can remain relevant in a world which becomes ever more secular and where modern Christians are often portrayed as the 'God Squad' or 'happy clappies'. John understands



this and is not comfortable with the way that some of the more evangelical strands of the church have frightened some people away. That's not the type of ministry that John believes is

right for Bollington or the other two Methodist Churches under his care at Prestbury and Over Alderly. He believes the church can fill an ever growing need in our modern lives by providing a rare contemplative space which can allow people to express and explore spiritual needs. He has even found that there are now a few new members of the congregation coming to find a zone of calmness to relieve the stresses of our modern world (as if living in Bollington were not enough).

The future of the Methodist Church is something that affects more than just the Sunday Service and we should not take it for granted. Support them where you can.

TN

RUNNING FOR CHARITY

The Adelphi Group would like to thank all who participated or sponsored someone in the Adelphi Fun Run on May 7th.

Between us we have collected over £1,300 to be divided between Breast Cancer Care, the East Cheshire Hospice and the MAST Appeal. Well done everyone!

Pat Mellish

Mind, Body & Boogie

Still got those festival withdrawal blues? Well we might just have a cure for you!

Get your diaries out, pencils ready? Turn to 2nd/3rd of September and write: "Bollington – Mind Body and Boogie - all weekend!".

Mind Body and Boogie will be a two day free mini festival of music, dance and sporting activities organised by Week4ADay, a locally based community interest company. This will be the biggest community event in Bollington this year and at least 5 venues will be putting on over 100 hours of music including blues, jazz, rock, folk, acoustic and classical donated by musicians from Bollington all the way to New Orleans. At each venue poems, art work, and information promoting positive messages on managing mental health will be exhibited. Week4ADay are also organising a schools concert and poetry, song-

Whetted your appetite enough? They also hope to host have-a-go dance sessions for jive, waltz, Latin American and circle dancing. There will be children's events and a multifaith service on the playground opposite the Memorial Gardens (depending on local council and community support). The events will be going on from 1pm-midnight on Saturday and 1-11pm on Sunday

writing and poster competitions as

part of the festival.

The venues confirmed so far are The Crown and The Red Lion who plan to have open air stages and The Poachers, The Spinners, The Holly Bush and on the Recreation Ground.

Week4ADay are a not for profit community interest company that provides a stepping stone helping

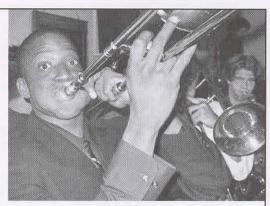


between the statutory mental health services and a return to work or education. They provide supported work placements for people with mental health issues that engage them in a range of activities that promote social inclusion. They are based in Macclesfield and if you want to find out more then check out www.week4aday.org.

A community interest company is a new type of organisation that uses its profits for the public good.

Star act at the festival is undoubtedly Troy 'Trombone Shorty' Andrews

and his band Orleans Avenue. Troy and his band are the latest big thing from New Orleans who effortlessly blend jazz, funk with a instinctive feel for all the ingredients that have made up the New Orleans sound over the past century. Troy is just 20 and started playing on the New Orleans streets



"Trombone Shorty" in New Orleans

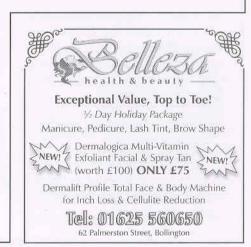
when he was 6. We hope he regards it as progress to now be playing in Bollington pubs. We are very lucky to get musicians of this calibre playing locally (and for nothing!). Troy and his band will play short sets at each of the venues as well as a concert at the Arts Centre and a gig at BarCuba in Macclesfield the following week.

Other bands include Black Bart who have just been booked as a support act for one of Bob Dylan's summer gigs. Chunky Butt Funky, a Leeds based soul and funk band, Three Miles High, Hot Bananas and The Screaming Beavers. Other music is being provided by a host of local musicians, and you can join in – just bring along instruments for the open-Mic and Jam sessions.

All the sessions are free apart from the Arts Centre and Bar Cuba concerts and all proceeds will be split between Week4ADay and the Katrina Relief Fund. A program of events will be on sale before and during the festival.

If you want to volunteer some help or get involved then Week4Aday can be contacted on 0845 838 5590 Monday to Friday 9-5 or 01625 573036 outside of work hours. It's not often something done for a good cause promises to be so much fun. Don't miss it. *TN*





A Potted History...

The hamlet of Pott Shrigley is not just a sleepy backwater in the shadow of Bollington...

There are few schools in the country that can boast of 514 years of continuous education.... Pott Shrigley can.

The school owes its existence to Geoffrey Downes of Shrigley. His 1492 will provided for three priests to say masses for his soul at Pott Chapel and one of them was charged to teach the children of the parish. This is the first record of education at Pott Shrigley.

Subsequent generous benefactions ensured that the school continued to provide for the education of at least some of the children in the area. Around 1820 William Turner built a Sunday school, which in 1853 became the day school.

In more recent times the school has been threatened with closure on several occasions and each time this has been fought with vigour and tenacity by villagers, resulting in a reprieve. A major restoration of the building took place in 1967 and with village

hall funds and a huge local fund raising effort the old building was bought and retained by the community and leased to the School Trustees. The alterations included the building of a Village Hall, which was formally opened in 1974.

Since then the Hall, the Church and the School have worked together to ensure the school's future. In recent years extensive building work has added to the accommodation and modernised the interior. After five centuries the school still remains at the heart of the community.



Fund raising for Uganda

Pott Shrigley School is a small school with a big heart. This academic year it is hoping to raise a massive £14,000 to build and equip a home, called Hope House, for twelve children, in Uganda, orphaned by AIDS.

Makonge School in Uganda was set up in 1994, by the charity International Needs, to cater for orphans who had fled the city to live on the shores of Lake Victoria. Although some of the children can be fostered by local families, this is not possible for all of them and housing children in family units of up to twelve children and a house parent is preferable to them sleeping in large dormitories.

Pott Shrigley School has been linked to Makonge for two years. The head teacher Phil Mellen has had a link with Makonge School since 1998.

The children have been exchanging letters and cards and building up relationships with their Ugandan counterparts. They have been making a special effort this year to help their new friends in Uganda.

The Ugandan director of the charity Justus Mwasa and the UK director, Pete Staley, have visited the school twice and talked to the children, who learned a great deal about the lives of those children at Makonge School.

Several high profile events have

taken place or are planned. In June a team of staff and parents undertook the challenge of climbing the three peaks of: Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon in 24 hours and raising money through sponsorship. The children, not to be outdone held their own mini three peaks challenge, conquering the slightly lower peaks around Bollington, but raising a great deal of money with their efforts. A major fund raiser was a 12 hour music concert on 20th May, featuring several local bands and with The Commitments (of film fame) topping the bill. This event was held in the show field at Pott Shrigley, in the open air. Typical British weather turned the field into a Glastonbury mud bath, but it was a fantastic event with quality musical performances, unfortunately attended by fewer people than expected.

An enthusiastic team of staff, parents and children has already raised a great deal of money with a variety of smaller events and the school is well on track for reaching its target.

SM

Discovery Centre

Our thanks go to the Discovery centre and the Civic Society for their permission to reproduce photographs from the Civic Centre archive.



The remarkable collection can be searched and viewed on computer screens at the Discovery Centre at Clarence Mill. The Centre is open on Wednesdays, Saturday and Sunday from 11am till 4pm. Organised school visits can be arranged outside the normal opening times to suit the school timetable.

The Discovery Centre can also be opened at other times for special purposes by arrangement and can be contacted on 572985.



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Time up for our Town Hall??

So Macclesfield Borough Council want to move our Bollington Town Council from the smart Victorian House, sold to the then Bollington Urban District Council in 1933, and move it to the dull soulless Civic Hall. This will allow the sale of the building for development, which probably makes very good sense when viewed as a line item on the borough council's balance sheet.

While they are in the mood perhaps we should suggest to Macclesfield Borough Council they move from their grand neo-classical tomb and relocate themselves in the loft at Macc. Leisure centre. Why stop there. It cannot make pure economic sense to have to maintain the crumbling structure of the Houses of Parliament. Why not move them a couple of miles to some of the nineteen-sixties tower blocks in the Elephant and Castle.

Well of course nobody would consider the last idea (maybe the

second though?). The Houses of Parliament are a crucial symbol of our historic commitment to democracy. They are also a key ingredient to the 'branding' of Great Britain. They not only help us to be proud of our country and institutions (and we often need a

bit of help for this), but they are also or it ought to anyway.

part of the image of ourselves the we present to the outside world. This allows us to continue to hit above our weight and size on the world stage:

Surely in a much smaller way the same applies to Bollington Town Hall. It is a quite modest symbol of civic pride but is part of an important hub of political, cultural and historical buildings that are part of the Bollington image that we cling to. Think of it, The Town Hall, The Arts Centre, The Viaduct, The

Methodist and Catholic Churches. Without them would we have had the vision and audacity to stage award winning arts festivals, sustain a vibrant arts centre and some 30 years ago launch a campaign that managed to save the Viaduct from demolition?

I expect the building is expensive to maintain and it is only right that our parent council assess the costs and benefits, but they need to look beyond bricks and mortar.

Bollington Town Hall is a key

ingredient in the complex mix of history, culture and community thart makes Bollington such a popular place to live and work, This unique blend, in turn, helps to bring wealth into the area and keep crime low, factors that are very much to the benefit of Macclesfield Borough, The Council and the community at large.

If the building is still standing, but the council relocated, would it really matter? Well yes, I think it would. Buildings lose

their significance once they become 'the place that used to be...'

So do we have any say? Well who knows? But, if you feel strongly either way then letters sent to Bollington Council will certainly not go amiss and will allow an assessment of public opinion. I think you can already sense mine.

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