



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Thirty Nine

Spring 2007

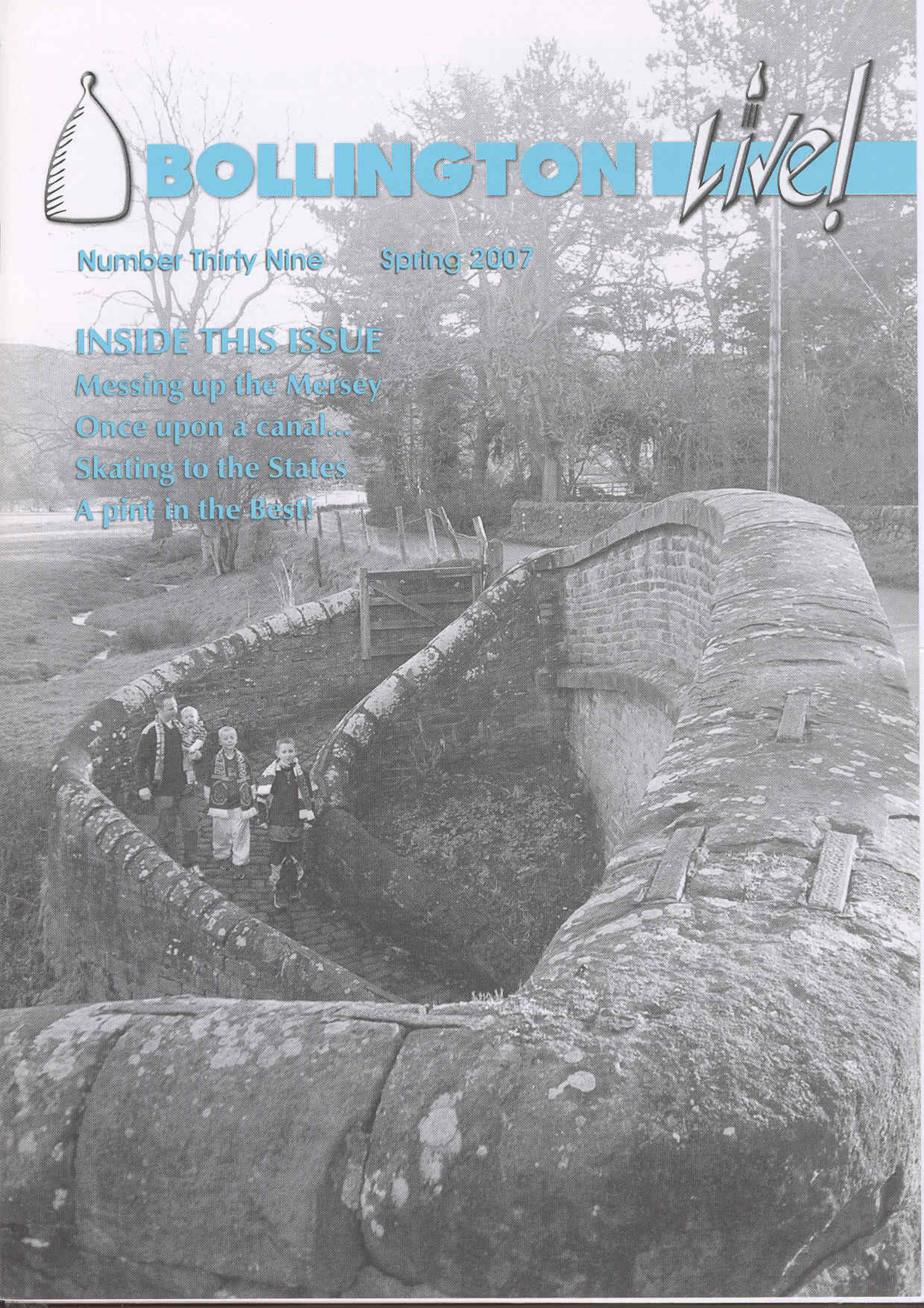
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Messing up the Mersey

Once upon a canal...

Skating to the States

A pint in the Best!



HOLMES ~ NADEN

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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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Your Magazine is now on-line:-

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Festival 2009

Can it possibly be that time again?

That time when Bollingtonians are starting to think of Big Tops, bunting, sponsorship and volunteer committees...?



Just two years on from the hugely successful Bollington Festival 2005 which took over the town and saw not one, but three enormous tents erected on the Rec, it seems it's time to get our organizing hats on all over again.

The Bollington Festival 2009 needs you! The Festival depends entirely on the skills of everyone living in the town to make it the thrillingly vibrant, diverse, artistic, musical, literary, dancetastic event that it is, and once again, the Festival Committee is asking for your suggestions, energy, enthusiasm, creativity and time.

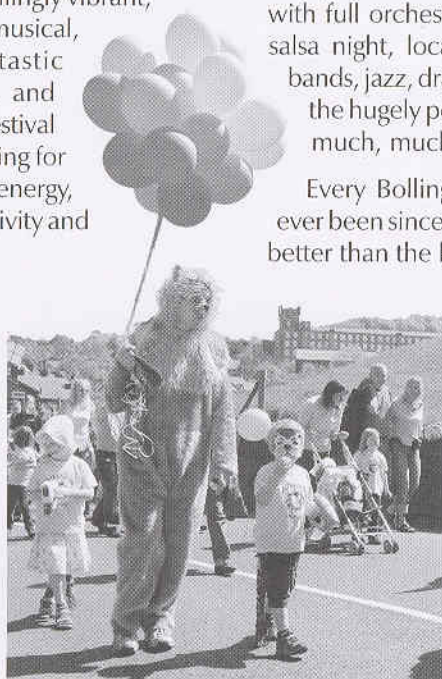
There will be a **public meeting** to discuss the next Festival on **Thursday April 29th** to which all Bollington residents are warmly invited. It will be held at 7.30 at Dean Valley School.

It's clear that there is a vast pool of talent in Bollington, and many of the clubs and societies which make it such a fabulous place to live started life as Festival events. The festivities in May 2005 alone boasted an internet novel, written and uploaded every day for the three weeks of the Festival, a specially commissioned poem written by that year's Whitbread Poetry Prize winner, classical concerts with full orchestras, comedy gigs, a salsa night, local and international bands, jazz, drama, art installations, the hugely popular dog show and much, much more.

Every Bollington Festival there's ever been since 1964 has been even better than the last. The 2009 event will need your ideas and your organizational abilities, your effort and your inspiration. Please come along to find out more - you'll be welcomed with open arms.

Louise Tickle

Photo: Festival Parade 2005



www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Editorial

How many people would have thought that **Bollington Live!** would still be going strong into a fourteenth year. This is possible of course only because of a large number of people supporting and helping the magazine, some who have done so for many years.

A particular thank-you has to go to all the businesses in Bollington and the surrounding area that are willing to support this local venture where it matters, by paying for advertisements and sponsorship mentions. Although the team are all volunteers (and more are always wanted) the magazine is not an inexpensive product to print, so to those who support us in this way, **thank you!** your help is invaluable. I hope that you find **Bollington Live!** a worthwhile product, as it supports our aim of enhancing our community.

This issue contains a couple of major articles, one on the river Dean by Walter Menzies regarding the improvements to cleanliness through the Mersey Basin, all of which follow on from a small comment two issues ago about the former Higher Mill Pond. Staying with a watery theme, John Liley reminisces about his canal adventures beginning in Bollington. I am also particularly pleased to include an item about the success in the USA of a rising star from our town.

As always keep sending in your letters and articles for submission, this is **your** magazine. If you have a interesting local story to tell, please get in touch.

Enclosed with this issue is Bollington Town Council's newsletter 'The Bollingtonian'. We have agreed to help the Council out on this one occasion with distribution in a mutually agreeable arrangement. **Bollington Live!** always has been and remains totally independent of Bollington Town Council.

Anthony Holland



BOLLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

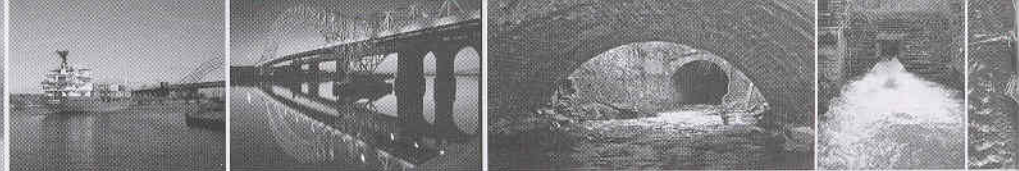
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What's the Mersey done for us?

Bollington resident Walter Menzies is the Chief Executive of the Mersey Basin campaign but writes here in a personal capacity about our rivers.

Who said: "The river is an affront to the standards a civilised society should demand of its environment. Untreated sewage, pollution, noxious discharges all contribute to water conditions and environmental standards that are perhaps the single most deplorable feature of this critical part of England"? An eco-warrior? No, it was Tory Environment Minister Michael Heseltine in 1982, speaking about the Mersey. Bollington's River Dean and Harrop Brook are both tributaries of the Mersey. They have played their part in the degradation of a once great river.

As many older residents remember, Bollington's rivers often ran a rainbow of colours. Industrial pollution was the norm. One toxic example was Kier Liquor. This was a by-product of the silk printing at Bollington Printing Company. It poured untreated waste into the Dean. "Horrible, caustic stuff", remembers John Capper who in the sixties worked for the Mersey and Weaver River Authority. John now works for the Environment Agency.

The River Dean rises above Rainow before flowing into Lamaload Reservoir. This reservoir supplying drinking water to Macclesfield was completed in 1964, and is managed by United Utilities. The Dean flows through what Bollington historian George Longden has described as "the most intensively industrialised parts of the east Cheshire hills"; the industrial valley which was once the site of the second biggest water-wheel in the British Isles. The river then flows through Bollington, finally joining the River Bollin near Styal. The Bollin flows into the Manchester Ship Canal, which leads to the Mersey Estuary.

So, Bollington lies within the Mersey Basin. We are part of the Mersey river system. The town's industrialisation and development was dependent on water power from our rivers. Our pollution and waste flowed through the system into the Mersey Estuary.

Like most of the other rivers in the system, the water quality of the Dean and the Harrop has improved dramatically over the last thirty years. Both are now clean trout streams. Heavily polluting industry has long gone. In the seventies, a turning point was the diversion of trade effluent

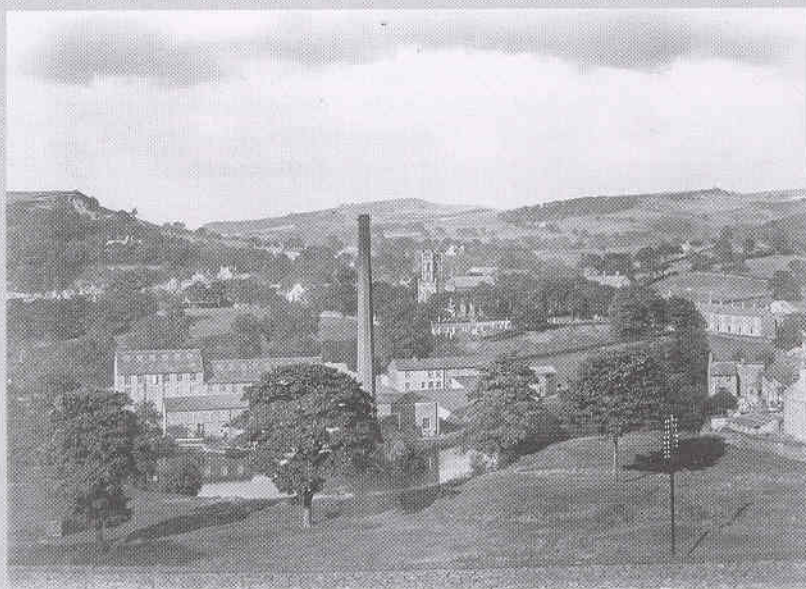
Another issue is diffuse pollution from agriculture. This is washed off fields into the watercourses. This is not as big a problem in and around Bollington as it is in intensively farmed areas. Ten years ago the Environment Agency was established; a powerful regulator. Its experienced people on the ground use both carrots and sticks to maintain standards and solve problems, often working alongside the water company United Utilities.

"People in Bollington are very good at letting us know if there is a problem; they are amongst the best", says John Capper, "perhaps because the houses are very close to the rivers and they can always ring the Environment Agency Freefone 0800 80 70 60 in an emergency".

Bollington's rivers are now cleaner than at any time since industrialisation. Regular monitoring of their chemical and biological state proves this. There are new environmental challenges though: climate change means more frequent extreme weather conditions—storms, floods and droughts. Substantial investment has been made

in our flood defences. Bollington is not immune.

Last summer's drought in the southeast was a reminder that water is a precious resource. The less we run the tap in the house or garden, the less has to be taken from rivers and reservoirs, leaving more for the fish and wildlife



Lower Mill, Bollington and the River Dean

from the water course, into the foul sewer for treatment at Macclesfield Sewage Works. "This solved major problems with the Dean and Harrop Brook", John Capper remembers. Since privatisation of the water industry in 1989, there has been a massive increase in investment in ageing Victorian water and sewerage systems. Environmental regulation has been tightened up. Fines to polluters have become heavier though not nearly as heavy as many environmentalists would wish.





A selection of views along the River Mersey courtesy of NWDA. Other photos showing Bollington's river Dean.

that depend on it. A running tap can use nine litres of water a minute. It has been calculated that if everyone in the Northwest region turned off the tap while brushing teeth it could save more than 36,500 million litres a year – enough to fill a reservoir the size of Thirlmere in the Lake District! We need to waste less water and use it more wisely.

More and more people of all ages feel strongly about the state of their local environment and want to do something about it. The Mersey Basin Campaign supports local volunteering through our local partner organisations. In Bollington this is with the long established Bollin Valley Project. The project's Emma Houghton is a Bollington resident: "You'd be amazed how many shopping trolleys end up in the rivers," she says "and clean-ups with volunteers can make a big difference". Emma and the team also work on habitat creation, tree planting and tackling the problem of invasive species.

In autumn every year, the Mersey Basin Campaign celebrates the contribution of volunteers to riverside environmental improvement through Mersey Basin Week. This year the week begins on September 28th. The Campaign's Bev Mitchell explains: "We can sometimes help local groups with small grants. We find that with some projects a little money can go a very long way. Just being able to hire a skip for instance can be a big help."

What did the Mersey ever do for us? The short answer: no Mersey = no river system = no Bollington. Everything is connected. The long answer will be in our book – "Mersey the river that changed the world". The title says it all.

Walter Menzies

www.merseybasin.org.uk

"Mersey – the river that changed the world" will be published by Bluecoat Press in November 2007

Bollington's Bayleaf

On Wednesday 6th December a new enterprise opened its doors in our town - Noor Miah's bar and restaurant 'Bayleaf' - taking the place of the empty Waggon & Horses pub. Shops and businesses welcomed this event as a marked improvement and were duly entertained by Mr Miah on the evening prior to opening. The first paying customers included several reporters from *Bollington Live!*



We can report that two months later their highly flavoured Indian cuisine is becoming much in demand as locals regularly book tables or arrange takeaways. After a slower start their Sunday lunch 'special offer' is also catching on.

We understand that diners come to the Bayleaf from Adlington, Poynton, Prestbury and Tytherington. Mr Miah already runs a number of other restaurants in the North West, Preston and Ramsbottom to name but two. We welcome him and his experienced staff to the town. They have extended the choices open to the residents in and around Bollington, who are seeking an evening out.

www.bayleaflounge.co.uk

MS

On the beat...

Meet Deborah Quaile, a Police officer and part of the Community Action Team (CAT) dealing with non-emergency Police work. She is the local PC assigned to Bollington and although she has only been in post since May 2006 she has wasted no time in getting to know the local residents, walking around the village and talking to people. She is young, friendly, approachable and has time to listen to people's concerns.



PC Debbie Quaile

Community policing is an important part of the modern Police service as it addresses the issues that affect the quality of life for people. Community action meetings are held every 12 weeks at St. John's School providing a platform for local people to bring to the attention of the local Police those things that concern them. Under-age drinking, anti-social behaviour, litter and graffiti, speeding and drivers using mobile-phones are all issues discussed by Bollington residents at previous meetings.

Debbie is pleased at the response of people in Bollington, who, she says, have become involved in tackling some of the problems in the town, with the advice and support of the Police. A multi-agency approach seems to be working well and Tristram Morris, a special constable, patrols the area regularly and keeps a check on anti-social behaviour. Two neighbourhood wardens also work closely with the community police.

Debbie is keen to involve young people in the Community Action meetings and some have expressed their worries about drugs. She also liaises with local schools and is happy to talk to young people about their special concerns. It is this accessibility and making the time to listen to local people both young and old that Debbie feels are the special strengths of the CAT.

If you want to get to know your local PC and Community Support Officers, come along to the regular meetings. Look out for the flyers that notify you of the time and place, telephone CAT on 0845 458 6371 or you may just bump into Debbie as she walks around Bollington.

www.cheshire.police.uk

SM

Sack it off!

Yippee, no wheelie bins here. Or so we thought. It seems a lot of Bollington does not have wheelie bins, but are continuing with the black bags. All well and good, but the rest of the paraphernalia is a problem, paper bag here, cardboard sack there, blue box lurking in the kitchen. Don't get me wrong, I am all for recycling, but surely there must be something better? Piling stuff out onto the pavement - where else can it go in the terraced streets? Problem one, the pavement is blocked for pedestrians - isn't it illegal to block the highway? Problem two, with nowhere to put the emptied sacks and so on, they are left to blow along the streets, together with the detritus of what has blown out prior to collection.

To top it all off, fresh black bags are left stuffed into the letter box, with a double whammy effect: when it rains, they form a channel for water to drain in and onto the carpet and they are also the perfect advertisement as to who is not at home. Do the police think this is a sensible thing for our Borough Council to be doing?

Recycled Ranter

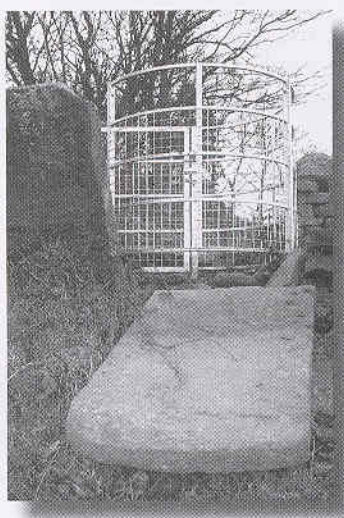
A look of Flamingo

As regards to the letter in response to 'A well dressed trail' article, Mr. McAllister is wrong about the pool at Shrigley Dyers changing colour. It did happen, but NOT from Shrigley Dyers. The dye came from 'Sherrat's Mill', higher up Clough Road. Sometimes if they were draining too many dye tanks at once, the drains could not take it and would overflow, hence the waste water got into the river. I myself know it happened and was reprimanded by the management, Mr. Sherrat and Mr. Pearson, because the swans on the pool had a look of flamingos about them, as the colour in question was pink!

A J Arden

Heritage Lost

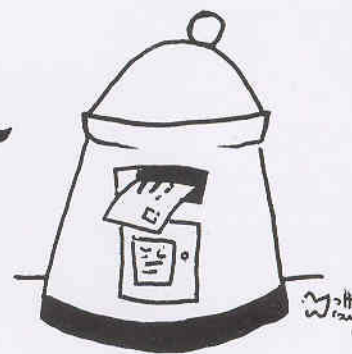
I am writing to ask if you have any idea who is responsible for the kissing gate recently erected at the top of the steps on the way up to White Nancy from Cow Lane. It is a disaster. The kissing gates on the summit ridge are fine - they fill in gaps in walls that were falling down and are a much tidier and effective solution. I also really like the stone pitching on the upper part of the climb to White Nancy - it is done in local stone and the irregularity is excellent - much more in keeping than flagstones for example.



The kissing gate that I don't like replaces a squeezer stile that must have been there for over a hundred years. It was local stone and it did need attention as the stones were too close together but replacing it with an out-of-character galvanized steel kissing gate is an eyesore and two of the stones that formed part of the original have been pushed over and one smashed.

Dave Hudson

Postbag...



Not Wheelie Good

I have always paid my community charge but I'm considering reducing the amount I pay as I believe the rollout of wheelie bins in Bollington has been a disgrace and a waste of our money. Don't get me wrong, I do agree that we should be recycling our rubbish, that's a good step forward. However I think the Borough Council administration could do with an audit!!

I received 2 wheelie bins but no letter of explanation of what to do with them and when!

I 'phoned the council twice before being given information which I then found was wrong! I hadn't received a bag for cardboard or textiles and requested those from the Town Hall; I received them in a large green recycling box which I didn't want. What a waste of money. Everyone I speak to about wheelie bins raises their eyebrows and tells me their story.

I've spoken to several people at the Town Hall about the collections and they've all been very polite but haven't been able to help. I don't think they could run a bath.

What about the recycling Lorries driving up Moss Brow to do their collections!! No-one can drive up or down Moss Brow at 8.45 am when the traffic is at its worst and everyone is in a hurry to get to work.

Anyone else any stories to tell??

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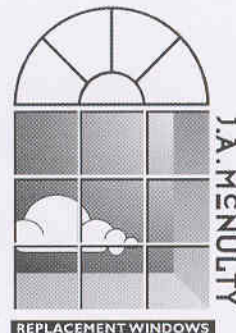
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MONDAY

Air Training Corps
Canoe Club
Boll. Cross & Lowerhouse WI
Embroidery Class
TS Ardent Sea Cadets (Senior)
Art Group
1st Bollington Cross Guides
Brass Band Practice
Modern Sequence Dancing
Keep Fit for over 50s

Water Street School 7.30-9.30pm
Adelphi Mill canalside 7.00pm (01925 756728)
Christian Life Church 7.30pm (2nd Mon)
Arts Centre (Tel: 560459)
Adelphi Mill Wharf 7.15-9.30pm
Civic Hall 7.45pm (Tel: 820685)
Methodist Hall 7-8.30pm (term time)
Methodist Hall 7.00pm Youth, 8.00pm Senior
Civic Hall, 8-10.30pm (0161 428 4650)
Methodist Hall 1.30pm

TUESDAY

Art (WI Group)
Tea Dance
Festival Choir
Youth Club
Senior Citizens' Social Club
2nd Bollington Rainbows
2nd Bollington Brownies
2nd Bollington Beavers
2nd Bollington Cubs

Arts Centre (Tel: 877844)
Civic Hall, 1.30-3.45pm (Tel: 0161 428 4650)
Arts Centre 8.00-10.00pm (0161 427 2870)
Water Street School 7.30-10.00pm
Community Centre 7.30pm
Methodist Hall 5.00-6.00pm (term time)
Methodist Hall 6.00-7.15pm (term time)
Scout Hut 6.30pm
Scout Hut 7.00pm

WEDNESDAY

Flowers, fauna and history walks
Tea Dance
Spanish
Italian
Community Ctr. Luncheon Club
Junior Festival Players
Festival Players
Art Group
Flower Club
1st Bollington Rainbows
1st Bollington St John's Brownies
TS Ardent Sea Cadets (Junior)

Drop-In Centre 11.00am (3rd Wed)
Civic Hall 2.00pm-4.00pm
Arts Centre (Tel: 611483)
Arts Centre (Tel: 572130)
Community Centre 12.00 noon
Arts Centre, 7.00pm (Tel: 571028)
Arts Centre 8.00pm (Tel: 574085)
Arts Centre 1.30pm (Tel: 820685)
Community Centre 7.30pm (2nd Wed)
Methodist Hall 4.30-5.30pm (term time)
Methodist Hall 6.30-7.45pm (term time)
Adelphi Mill Wharf 7.00-9.00pm

THURSDAY

Family History Society (1st Thurs)
Brass Band Practice
Horticultural Society
Bollington Light Opera Group
TS Ardent Sea Cadets (Senior)
Bridge Club
Youth Club
1st Bollington St John's Guides

Arts Centre 10.30-12.30pm (872057)
Methodist Hall 8.00pm (Senior)
Pott Shrigley School (3rd Thurs) (Tel: 422371)
Arts Centre 8.00pm (Tel: 610983)
Adelphi Mill Wharf 7.15-9.30
Arts Centre 2.00-4.30pm (Tel: 575508)
Water Street School 7.30-10.00pm
Methodist Hall 7.30-9.00pm

FRIDAY

Bridge Club
Bollington (236 Squadron) ATC
Folk Club
Live Wires
Fuse Youth
Salsa, Methodist Hall

Arts Centre 7.00-10.00pm (Tel: 575508)
Water Street School 7.30-9.30pm
Dog and Partridge 8.30pm
Christian Life Church 6.15-7.30pm
Christian Life Church 8.00-9.30pm
7.00pm (Improvers) 8.00pm (Beginners)

4002-9002

BOLLINGTON
Arts
CENTRE

2006-2007

MARCH

14-17th

Bollington Festival Players

Habeus Corpus – Alan Bennett comedy
Tel: 875326 for details and to book

Sunday 18th 2-5pm & 7-9.30pm

The Play Readers

The Lady's Not For Burning
Tel: 267545 to book £7.50

Friday 23rd 8.00pm

Poetry Reading

by Paul Farley Award winning leading poet
£5.00 (£4.00 conc) pay at door

Saturday 24th 8.00pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Stillman Quartet Tel: 560355 to book
£10.00 (£5.00 conc)

Sunday 25th 7.30pm

Sunday Night Talk Series

"The Pre-Raphaelites – concluded"
£4.00 (£3.00 conc) pay at door

Friday 30th 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Celebrate the arrival of spring!
Tel: 560774 to book £7.50 (over 18s)

Saturday 31st 8.00pm

Jazz At The Arts Centre

Dave Mott's Jazz Classics £7.50 Tel: 574410

APRIL

Sunday 15th 7.30pm

Sunday Night Talk Series

Beauty and Utility – Arts and Crafts £4.00
(£3.00 conc) pay at door

Friday 27th 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club

More than just April Fools Day!

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 28th 8.00pm
Jazz At The Arts Centre
 John Hallam's Jazztet with Alan Barnes
 Tel: 574410 to book

MAY

Friday 11th 8.00pm
The Talk Series – Transferred
 Travels Without A Yak - Mal Creasey
 Tel: 573945 or 575287 to book £5.00

Sunday 13th 2-5pm & 7-9.30pm
The Play Readers
 Desire Caught By The Tail
 Tel: 267545 to book £7.50

Saturday 26th 8.00pm
Jazz At The Arts Centre
 James Evans' Incredible String Four
 Tel: 574410 to book

JUNE

Look for details of a special musical celebrating 20 years of the Music Theatre. For dates, times etc., ring Donald Judge on 0161 427 2870 or visit www.marple55.freemove.co.uk

IN THE GALLERY

February 25th – April 1st
The Riseley Retrospective
 Three generations of family paintings
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April 8th – May 27th
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 Major North-West Textile Group pushes the boundaries of contemporary stitch.
 Tel: Clare de Ruiter 574389 for details
 Sunday 2-4pm and during other events

BOLLINGTON TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 20th March
in the Civic Hall at
7.30pm.

Bollington Town Councillors invite you to hear our Guest Speakers & to join in our Question-and-answer session

Kerridge Ridge & Ingersley Vale Project EVENTS

All activities start at 9.45am

VOLUNTEER DAYS

March

Fri. 2nd. Coppicing
 Fri. 9th. Coppicing
 Fri. 16th. Introduction to pond creation
 Fri. 23rd. Pond creation
 Fri. 30th. Wildflower meadow creation

April

Fri. 13th. Drainage & revetment work
 Fri. 20th. Drainage & revetment work
 Fri. 27th. Improving access

May

Fri. 4th. Step construction
 Fri. 11th. Step construction
 Fri. 18th. Dry stone walling
 Fri. 25th. Dry stone walling

TRAINING COURSES

March

Sat. 3rd. Bird identification
 Fri. 16th. Intro to pond creation
 Sat. 17th. Intro to health & safety
 Fri. 30th. Wildflower meadow creation

April

Sat. 14th. / 21st. Post & wire fencing level 1

May

Fri. 4th. / Fri. 11th. Step construction level 1
 Sat. 26th. Wildflower identification

For more details call Nick Martin on 560475 or 07764 655669 or visit: www.kriv.org.uk

DROP-IN FUNDRAISING

Monday 5th March
Art for Pleasure
 Enrol for a 6 week course: (cost £25)

Thursday 29th March
Race Night – ring for details.

Sunday 15th April
Car Boot Sale: 11am – 1pm

Monday 24th April:
Drop-In A.G.M.

Tuesday 15th May
Town Mayor's Coffee Morning

Sunday 17th June
Opening of new Nostalgia Trail

OTHER EVENTS

Sundays 4th March & 3rd June 7.30pm
RSPCA Quiz Night,
 Church House Inn £5.00

Saturday 10th March 7.30pm
Nigel Ogden 'The Organist Entertains'
 Methodist Church 875322

Sunday April 1st 7.30pm
St John Passion - JS Bach
 Boll. Fest. Choir & Orch.; Meth. Church
 £10 (£5) from choir or Tel 420615

Thursday 29th April 7.30pm
Bollington Festival Public Meeting
 Dean Valley School

Sun. 9th Sept. **Transport Extravaganza**

Bollington Discovery Centre Opening Times

Wednesday	Saturday	Sunday
2.00-4.00pm	11.00-4.00pm	11.00-4.00pm

Some of the historical photographs in **Bollington Live!** are provided by the Civic Society and can be viewed along with thousands more at the Discovery Centre. The Discovery Centre is run entirely by volunteers under the auspices of the Bollington Civic Society who hold monthly meetings. The Society meet at 8.00pm on the third Monday of each month (not December) at Ovenhouse Lane Community Centre.

www.happy-valley.org.uk/civicsociety

www.happy-valley.org.uk/discover

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Once Upon A Canal

In the summer of 1953 a rally of boats was held at Macclesfield on the canal. "Nothing remarkable in that" it might be said: such an event, were it staged today, would scarcely make the local paper. In the 50s, though, things were different. The canals were under threat. The British Transport Commission had its beady eye on routes such as this, and wanted them abandoned.



A youthful John Liley on his first canal cruise in 1952.

If you belonged to the Inland Waterways Association, as I did, you heard the tales. That Mr and Mrs Shackleston in the working narrow boat 'Parrot' forced their way to the rally through the Ashton Canal was a significant event, for the Ashton, in particular, was in Authority's sights. Soon enough, in defiance of the protection that, by statute, the Commission was meant to provide, the Ashton Canal would be closed. Then, in a process that was familiar, the next in the chain, the Peak Forest Canal, came to be closed as well. It happened as it usually did, through sheer neglect: a piece the size of a public urinal fell from the side of the historic aqueduct at Marple and into the river below.

Gatherings of boats were essential in resisting this trend. 20,000 visitors attended the Macclesfield Rally, despite the rain, to be harangued over loudspeakers as to what was going on. On the canal to Stratford-on-Avon, itself in decay, an Association member, Arthur Goodland, attempting in the spirit of the Shacklestons to make a voyage himself, encountered, against all the odds, a lock-keeper. "If any more of these so-and-so boats turn up," that worthy declared, "I'll be packing this job in!"

Such were the times. Having been taken by my dad on a cruise in 1952, I was hotly into injustices such as these. Canal holidays then were far from fashionable, and the route that we followed, through the grimmer outposts of Birmingham, attracted amazement from our neighbours. But there were still cargo-carrying narrow boats then. It was an alternative world, not in any way a theme park. You took it as you found it. I thought it wonderful, well worth our joining in the fight.

Back in Bollington, with my brother Peter, I pored over the possibilities of us owning a boat ourselves, one like the 'Parrot' for preference, but my pocket-money was against it. In the end I settled for a canoe.

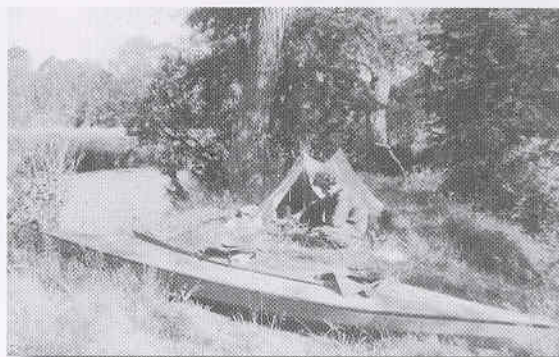
'Stickleback' she was called. A shorter name would have been handy, as Peter pointed out when he did the lettering; but I was proud of her, and built a boathouse at the bottom of our garden in Adlington Road.



From there, on a folding trolley, 'Stickleback' would be wheeled up Sugar Lane to Bridge 26 of the Macclesfield Canal. So rare was motor traffic that the prospect of being mown down never occurred to us. There must have been some, I suppose, but I do not recall any. When, later, I was swotting for my exams I would do so sitting on the parapet of the self-same bridge, undisturbed by cars or boats. For - rallies apart - the waterway too was little-frequented.

At first we explored locally. There was a terrific patch of blackberries at Adlington. There were Bollington's mills, still working, with a swing-bridge outside the Clarence; and the mysterious milestones from which, to deny German paratroopers essential information, the Home Guard had

chiselled away the place-names. I have to tread carefully here, for my brother, ten years older than I, with a closer understanding of World War II, says that, much as he enjoys 'Dad's Army', the determination with which the nation prepared against invasion is not to be derided. From a printed canal guide, given as a Christmas present, the obliterated name on one of these stones could be placed at Hall Green, somewhere towards Stoke-on-Trent. It must, I thought, be quite a spot.



John Liley, tent and 'Stickleback' during a later voyage - this one was on the Thames.

The 'Stickleback' was a two-person canoe, built of canvas on ash-wood frames, a plodder rather than a sprinter, but with space on board for the paraphernalia of camping. Soon enough, the lure of faraway places set in. Following the Macclesfield event, other rallies had been planned, at enticing destinations such as Coventry. We would be going to these. Amongst other things, they would allow me to visit Hall Green.

JL

www.penninewaterways.co.uk

to be continued...

The Ashton Canal in the 1950s, left to disintegrate.



I'll gi'tha six month...

On the other side of the world, the British troops were reclaiming the Falkland Islands. Back in the peaceful backwater of Bollington, there were changes as well. One spring morning, April 20th 1982, Barry and Pat Gilpin made their first tentative steps through the doors of their new pub. Bucks Fizz were number one on the jukebox with 'My Camera Never Lies'. Paul Weller's Jam were living in their 'Town Called Malice'. The self-same jukebox played seven-inch, round pieces of black vinyl.

Known to be forthright in their views, Bollington regulars were unimpressed, upon hearing of these incomers taking over their pub. One remarked, "I'll gi'tha six month". That was probably being charitable. The Queen's Arms was a traditional local, and the price for a pint of their foaming Robinson's bitter was 55p. The pub needed a change, someone to get the place back on its feet.

Twenty five years on, Barry and Pat have decided to finally call time. Just when Barry had got the beer to perfection too! Running a pub for so many years must accrue a wealth of memories and anecdotes. Pat smiled, knowingly, "Ah, but we have to protect the anonymity of our clientele you know..."



Pat & Barry Gilpin

In their early years at the pub, the couple had it totally modernised, giving the place a bright, clean and friendly atmosphere. All of the pub games are played, pool, dominoes, darts and cards, not to mention Barry's starring role as quizmaster general every other Sunday night. The jukebox may have changed from vinyl to CD,

but you can still pay for three minutes of The Jam. Bucks Fizz don't seem to have stood the test of time quite so well, but can be ordered at the bar.

What does the future hold for Bollington's longest serving licensees? Well, they're not going too far initially, just around the corner to live on Oldham Street, close enough to keep an eye on the quality of the beer, only from the other side of the bar. There may be trouble keeping Barry out of the beer cellar though. Perhaps he can set up some brewing equipment

in his new cellar; rumours abound that his first beer could be called Pat's Mild. She does, frequently!

Barry and Pat at The Queen's have become something of an institution.

A pub needs stability, and over the twenty five years the pub has had just that. We wish them well for the future. Barry still reminds that regular, Jack, about his prediction of a dismal six months. Three hundred months later, perhaps he's become more charitable still, "A's'pose tha's not done ser'bad then".

AH

Best of British!

A Bollington pub that was taken over by a group of regulars just 18 months ago has been named the Best Community Pub in the UK and has also scooped two other top regional prizes at the prestigious national pub awards ceremony in central London.

The Church House Inn took three awards from its four nominations by also winning Best Pub in the North West and Best Community Pub in the North West, ahead of stiff competition from across the region.



Described by some as the 'Pub Oscars' and backed by trade publication "The Morning Advertiser", this programme of national annual awards seeks to highlight the very best of the licensed trade and aims to specifically reward licensees for their hard work, dedication and entrepreneurial skills.

Bollington residents and Church House Inn consortium members Allan Sherratt and Steve Murphy attended the glittering awards ceremony and received their awards from TV comedian Rob Brydon and "Morning Advertiser" editor Andrew Pring.

"We are delighted to win Best Community Pub in the UK and to be recognised as the

Spooked in the Spinners & Haunted in the Highwayman.

All pubs sell spirits, but not all can boast their own ghosts – or at least unexplained occurrences.

Karen, the landlady of the **Spinners Arms**, came into the empty bar one morning to find the glass washer had not only switched itself on during the night, but had taken possession of a framed certificate which had been securely attached to the wall at closing time the night before...

Meanwhile, up at the haunted **Highwayman**, landlady Kristie found a gin bottle standing on the bar just where it had been left the night before, however it had now assumed all the attributes of a complicated jigsaw puzzle. Although the seal on the cap was still intact, there was neither stain nor smell of gin anywhere in the vicinity – strange but true!

Is there anybody there?....

who has a similar spooky or unexplained experience they would like to share. Please contact Karen on 01625 572515.

overall regional winner and pick up the Best Pub in the North West award."

"There are some 60,000 pubs in the UK so to be nominated as a finalist in the first instance is a great achievement. Bollington's pubs have always played an important role in our community and we are extremely proud and grateful to our staff, customers, suppliers and supporters who have all helped us to gain this accolade", says Steve Murphy.

Judges praised the fact the pub management team had "played to their strengths" and forged strong links with their neighbours and sourced local food.

They also praised the fact that The Church House has developed links with a local church by appointing a pub Chaplain, The Reverend John Buckley from nearby St Christopher's in Pott Shrigley, and now hold regular Christian services in the bar.

Steve Murphy

For more details contact:

The Church House Inn,
Church Street,
Bollington,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
SK10 5PY
Telephone:
01625 574014



www.the-church-house-inn.co.uk

www.happy-valley.org.uk/pubs

Pictured on previous page, left to right: Award Winning Church House Inn Consortium Members - Steve Murphy, Allan Sherratt, Trevor Gregory, Dave Casson and Gez Lewis with staff member Charlotte Measures

Just Drop In!

Bollington Drop-In Centre is a unique asset, promoting a sense of community, and providing a friendly meeting place for everyone in Bollington and the surrounding area. Now it is struggling for survival.

Most Bollington residents will be aware that the Drop-In Centre is under 'threat of closure'. Leaflets have been circulated throughout the village to encourage local people to help raise the £50,000 needed to prevent this happening. So far part of this has been pledged or raised but there is some way to go yet before the target is reached. This situation has arisen because of a change in government and trust fund policies. Although fresh applications are being submitted, it can take up to six months for a decision to be made. Funding is essential to cover this interim period.

The Drop-In Centre was set up in 1990 as a non-profit making independent registered charity. It operates an open door policy encouraging social inclusion for all ages, abilities, social background and medical conditions. Attendance at the Centre has increased year on year, a clear demonstration of the need for a place like this. The present building is rented and very suitable for its purpose, as it is homely, welcoming and has enough space to accommodate a variety of activities.



Drop-in regulars

Perhaps not all of the people of Bollington are aware of the uniqueness of the Centre or what it means to so many people. The views of the regular 'Droppers-In' who take part in the varied activities or who just call in for a cup of tea and a chat are a clear indication of its importance in so many lives.

Many people develop new skills at the Centre. Geoff, who in retirement felt left behind in the age of technology, has learnt to use e-mail and the internet in his weekly computer learning sessions. The workshop buzzes to the sound of saws and drills as people hone skills and share expertise, helping with repairs and maintenance as well. David, twenty-nine years old and a wheelchair user, is a regular at the Drop-In and is enhancing his life skills, using the computer and doing voluntary gardening. Most importantly he feels useful and loves the social contact.



Party Celebrations

There is a Creative Writing group and a Bridge class amongst many community driven activities.

The list of activities grows as people offer to share skills. Regular walks encourage good health and the local Rangers, who lead the walks, are a wealth of information about the local area. The popular Nostalgia Trails developed at the Centre have provided interesting and informative routes around the local area and have involved the local schools in related projects.



Drop-in guided walk

Elderly people have reminisced of past times for a series of interesting booklets about a bygone Bollington. They have shared wartime memories with schoolchildren bringing the young and the old together.

The Drop-In Centre is a place we do need to cherish if we value a sense of community. 'Drop in' or call 576311 and check it out to see if you can help. **SM**

www.bollingtondropincentre.org.uk

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Conserving our Heritage

The objective of a Conservation Area is to ensure that permitted change retains the essential character of the heritage. But are we really interested in conserving our heritage areas? The question is worth considering because it seems that there are so many changes taking place that we can no longer be sure that the heritage is actually conserved.

Conservation Area status is the lowest level of protection for a heritage street. It 'protects' only the faces of the buildings visible from the street, usually the front wall and the front roof. However, it doesn't stop the erection of TV aerials on the roof, satellite dishes on the front wall, and soon, windmills and solar panels for gathering renewable energy. Neither does Conservation Area protection cover anything the highway authority (Cheshire County Council) wants to do in the street. So we have a scheme for Conservation Area improvement in Water Street and parts of High Street and Palmerston Street which, by law, has to begin by making the streets compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. Some of the requirements of the act are arguably destructive of the visual

attributes of the heritage area, in particular the extreme contrasting colour of the tactile paving at the large number of crossing points. I've nothing at all against providing assistance for the disabled but should we really be doing this at the expense of our heritage?

So we find ourselves in the absurd situation where Macclesfield Borough Council planners challenged an application to replace an old window frame with a uPVC double glazed frame specially designed for a heritage situation (they lost, but at our expense) while they are busy implementing a highway scheme in which they are



Water Street - part of the 'Historic Triangle'

required to install features entirely out of keeping with the heritage and which will spoil the street scene for evermore. Crackers or what? **TB**

www.happy-valley.org.uk



Harry Pleeth MBE 1910 - 2007

Harry Pleeth was a well known 'adopted son' of Bollington who gave over 50 years of service to the community.

The former Works Director of Friedland plc and part-time Bollington fire-fighter was also a Director of Cheshire Building Society, Governor of Ryles Park High School and Macclesfield College.

Born in London, Harry arrived in Bollington in 1941 because his factory in Tottenham, producing aero-engine coils, had been destroyed by German bombs. The vital war work was re-started at Lowerhouse Mill.

Arriving in Bollington in 1941 as an evacuee to be billeted in Lowerhouse, he teamed up with best friend Sid Hartley to put together comedy shows and pantomimes and was involved in several Bollington Festivals.

Harry became interested in Scouting in the early 1950s. He went on to become President of the Macclesfield & District Scout Council and District Commissioner for Macclesfield and Congleton Scout Association. During this time he played a major part in the creation of Barnswood Scout Camp near Leek.

Harry received the MBE in 1998 for services to industry and Scouting.

For Bollington's Millennium preparations, Harry insisted that we should bury a 'time capsule' so that our descendents could learn what it was like to live in "The Happy Valley" at the end of the twentieth century. Harry helped judge the competition to find the family that had lived longest in Bollington.

MS/Steve Murphy



Claude Harlington MBE 1922 - 2007

Claude became the first Town Clerk of the newly created Bollington Town Council in 1974 and served the people of Bollington for nearly twenty-five years. His wise guidance helped to establish a vital role for the Mayor and Councillors.



Working often behind the scenes he encouraged initiatives such as the annual walk around the boundaries of the Town, the annual Christmas carol service outside the Town Hall, and the VE Day Anniversary Celebrations. Regular help was given to new voluntary groups such as the Leisure Association which built Bollington's Swimming Pool and the Drop-In Centre.

He wrote an illustrated history of the first twenty years of the council, with a separate chapter for each Town Mayor. He then started the Council newsletter, which has become 'The Bollingtonian' and is enclosed with this issue. Claude attended the Drop-In Writing Group regularly and his book of stories and poems was published at the end of last year.

Claude will be missed greatly by everyone who knew him, and he should be remembered by all the people of Bollington as one of the creators of our happy community.

MS



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BOLLINGTON

Live!

Skating to the States!

Bollington's Bobby Mason is a rising hockey star, playing both on ice and 'inline', a similar sport played using roller blades instead of ice skates. He first learned to skate on roller blades in Bollington, playing with his older brother in Robins Way.

At the age of twelve, he became goaltender for the inline hockey team



Macclesfield Meltdown. A few years later on he became goaltender for the Altrincham Aces ice-hockey team, developing the quick-witted skills that would get him noticed at the highest levels.

By 2004 Bobby was selected to represent Great Britain in European under-14 and under-16 roller hockey competitions, and the British team won the Champions Cup. Following that success, last summer he was chosen to play for the British under-18 team competing in the World roller hockey championships being played in Detroit, where they reached the

finals. This success in The States led to him being noticed on their side of the pond as well.



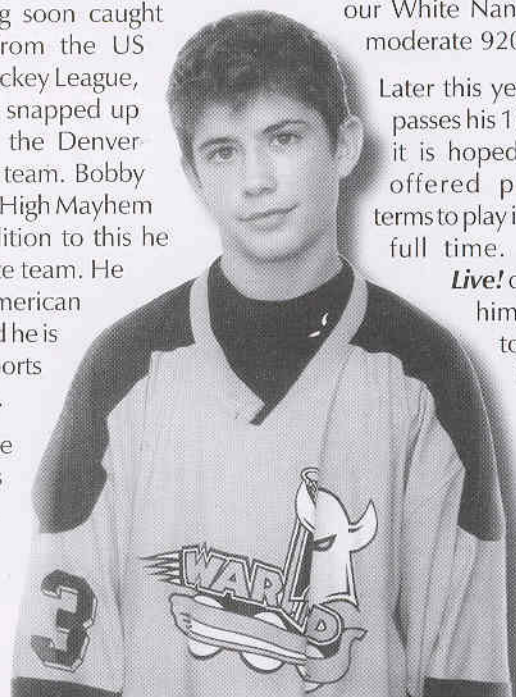
Bobby's goal tending soon caught the eye of scouts from the US Professional Inline Hockey League, leading to him being snapped up to play regularly for the Denver-Blizzard inline hockey team. Bobby also plays for the Mile High Mayhem hockey team. In addition to this he trains with the US elite team. He now lives with an American family in Colorado and he is supported by a US sports equipment company.

The names of these teams reflects Bobby's exciting situation.



Denver is regularly hit by repeated heavy blizzards. They usually get plenty of snow each winter as Denver lies 5450 feet above sea level in the Rocky Mountains. Playing sport at such altitude develops its own range of difficulties, something that could not really be worked on in Bollington. Denver's position over a mile above sea level dwarfs the height of our White Nancy at a very moderate 920 feet!

Later this year, when he passes his 18th birthday, it is hoped he will be offered professional terms to play inline hockey full time. **Bollington Live!** congratulates him and hopes to follow with interest, the continued success of Bobby Mason.
MS



www.macclesfieldmeltdown.co.uk www.blizzardinline.com

www.milehighmayhem.org www.altrinchamaces.co.uk

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BOLLINGTON

Live!