



# BOLLINGTON

*Live!*

Number Forty

Summer 2007

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The Great Cotton Swindells

More Stickleback Stories

Canalside Radio Revival

Rock 'n' Rope

ISSUE  
40!



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Historical editions: [www.happy-valley.org.uk/live](http://www.happy-valley.org.uk/live)

Cover: *Adelphi Mill, Midnight*

Editor..... Anthony Holland (01625 268047)  
john.holland80@ntlworld.com

Editorial Team..... John Liley, Tim Neale, Tim Boddington,  
Sandy Milsom, Steve Murphy, Ken Edwards  
Simon Nottage, Mark Stedman

Advertising ..... Tim Neale (01625 576397)  
Mark Stedman (01625 575227)

Distribution ..... Janet Beech (01625 574618)  
Ken Edwards (01625 571126)

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Cartoons by..... Matthew Wray

## "Not 'arf Pop-Pickers"

### Canalside Radio goes online

Nick Wright gives us an update on East Cheshire's Community Radio project.



With the help of support staff and experienced volunteers, Bollington and the surrounding area had better get set for some mind blowing radio from our local schools from September onwards. Guest presenters and volunteers will also be thrown in the mix. Canalside Community Radio is due to begin broadcasting once again - but just on the internet for now.



Gail & Nick Wright

Although an internet service is not accessible to all, we have to progress and following our two previous broadcasts, Festival 2005 and Christmas 2005, we have learned a lot and gained plenty of experience. We know how to deliver a first class community service. Unfortunately as yet, we at Canalside Community Radio do not yet have a full-time broadcasting license to enable the station to go 'on air'. We have however not

been standing still and things have certainly been moving in the right direction over the past twelve months.

Following my recent attendance at this year's Community Radio conference in Manchester, I can confirm that Community Broadcasting is now well and truly up and running all over the UK. Bollington wants to be part of this new Radio Revolution.

One question that I get asked on a regular basis is 'Why haven't you got a license yet?' It's not through the want of trying I can assure you! The process unfortunately is a long drawn out bureaucratic affair and if I tried to explain all the whys and wherefores this article would take up the next six issues of **Bollington Live!**

On a positive note all our equipment is in place, all the necessary licenses have been purchased and apart from the dotting of the I's and crossing of the T's we are raring to go with our internet service. Everyone at Canalside Community Radio has done everything possible to assist our application. When we re-apply for a full broadcast license in August and, if successful, we will be all set to go.

If you would like to have a 'dabble' yourself please telephone the studio on 01625 576689.

Listen to Canalside Community Radio online at [www.ccr-fm.co.uk](http://www.ccr-fm.co.uk) from September onwards.

Nick Wright



Some of Canalside Radio's presenters in the Grosvenor Centre

## Editorial

It seems that every issue I start writing my editorial for has some major milestone. This issue definitely meets that criterion! It is the big 40.

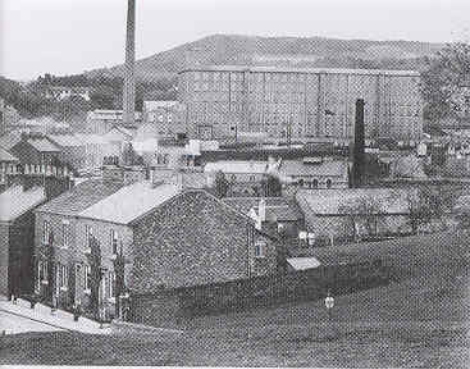
Whichever way you look at it, for a volunteer community magazine it is a major achievement. Thanks have to go to the army of deliverers, many of whom have delivered **Bollington Live!** since the beginning - thousands of copies each. Thank you to each and every one of you for distributing this magazine so promptly and efficiently. There have been some necessary changes in the delivery this time, but Janet Beech has worked hard to ensure it goes smoothly. If you know of anywhere that has slipped through the net, please let her know.

This issue as always contains a wide variety of articles, all written in their author's own style. As editor, I try not to change articles, other than a bit of light pruning here and there! The different styles of writing make **Bollington Live!** that bit more interesting. Some writers are very formal, concentrating on firm facts, whilst others favour a flowery flowing prose! Hopefully there is space for all and in this issue we have a wide range on contributors. Ken Edwards writes a major historical piece on Adelphi Mill, whilst John Liley's canal reminiscence continues. I am also amused by our ability to have a 'sports' page which has so far fastidiously avoided the more conventional sports in Bollington. This time Gareth Davies writes about Rock Climbing. Who knows which sport will feature next time!

On a final note, if you want to take a look at previous issues of the magazine, don't forget that some are now available 'on-line'. Please refer to the top of this page for details.

*Anthony Holland*





## A Tale of Two Brothers ... ... when Cotton was King

**The Adelphi Mill is not only the younger brother to the Clarence Mill but it was managed by a younger brother when it opened in 1856.**

George Swindells was the youngest son of Martin Swindells I who had died in 1843 as the Clarence was being built. George gave up a promising career in the law to return to the family and help manage the cotton spinning business established in Ingersley Clough Mill and Rainow Mill in 1821 by his father Martin. The leases to these mills had run out in 1842 and the Swindells family had taken advantage of the Macclesfield Canal, which opened in 1831 and the now well established steam engine, to open the Clarence Mill run by the eldest son also named Martin. To cement the family relationship, the new mill, started in 1856, was named Adelphi after the Greek word for Brothers. This was rather ironic as the brothers' families had very little to do with one another. George settled at Pott Hall while Martin lived at Rock Bank now known for some strange reason as Carterbench. Even now Pott Shrigley and Bollington retain a mutual but very distant respect for each other's communities.

The Adelphi was built at a time of great national power and pride. Economic historians recognise the period from 1851 to 1873 as 'Victorian Prosperity'. The early history of the Adelphi reflects these national trends, up and down.

Adelphi Mill when first built must have been a splendid sight. George must have been very proud of the new mill. Remember there was no housing around it. Clough House, built for the manager, was set back at the head of Tinkers Clough. The railway did not appear until 1870. The only building above it was Grimshaw Farm.

The huge octagonal stone chimney soared 140 feet into the air next to the engine house. The mill was set as close to the canal embankment

as possible on slightly rising ground. There was one entrance to the main mill. You can still see the metal base of the revolving crane which used to bring in from the canal barges, the cotton bales to be spun on all six floors of the new building. You have to imagine the other crane base just in front of the huge arched window of the smaller engine house at the north end of the mill.

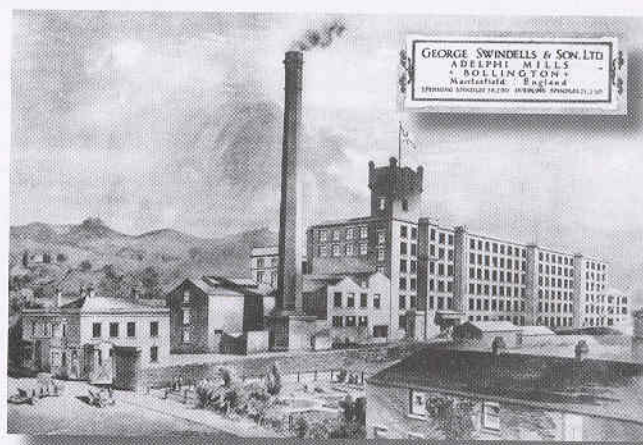
You can imagine George walking with you around the mill and there is very little difference now. The lovely ashlar sandstone gatehouse on the corner was built at the same time as the mill. As you come into the front yard the huge plinth with its rounded base stones that supported the chimney is still there with the octagonal base just visible above.

As you walk along the front of the building immediately on your left you will note the door to the original mill with GEORGE SWINDELLS 1856 still clearly carved above. Next to the door is the lift shaft built in 1919. If we look up we see the familiar Adelphi Tower glimpsed from all over Bollington now festooned with mobile phone aerials. George would be surprised by the four corner turrets which were also added in 1919.

Walk three windows further and you come to the first of three lavatory shafts serving the six floors. Originally they were dry long drop with night-soil men arriving to take the rich proceeds away to local vegetable gardens, but if you look carefully you can see the outlet pipes indicating later water-closets. Now there are only a couple of soil pipes despoiling the face of this magnificent building which recedes

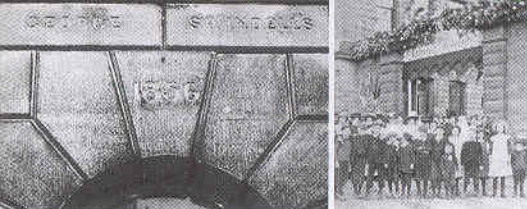
before you in decreasing perspective seven, six and five bays. The little three-storey extension at the end was added in 1924 with a further small annex, built in 1928 which is now the entrance used by the Lock Fitness Studio.

Life in the mill for the workers from 1856 through to 1974 was concerned with spinning cotton until 1946 followed by nylon, rayon, and silk. At the Adelphi Mill cotton was king for ninety years. Cotton, our whitest natural fibre, does not deteriorate and is so versatile it can be spun into soft and downy fabrics, or into smooth and hard wearing canvas and above all it is the coolest of fabrics for summer wear. Its strong capillary action makes it easy to dye while its resistance to alkalis makes it easy to wash. Processing cotton makes it crease resistant, unshrinkable, water repellent, and flameproof. No wonder it lasted so long.



To spin fine cotton however needs constant warmth and humidity. The spinning and doubling rooms at the Adelphi were kept at about 90 degrees Fahrenheit and the cotton was passed through troughs of water. The machines required regular maintenance and plenty of oil. The floors were slippery and the workers worked in bare feet or clogs. The hours were long; even in the 20th century, 8-10 hour shifts





were common. By 1856 child labour was disappearing but workers often joined the mills as soon as they could, perhaps at twelve years old and spent long years working their way up.

The Swindells family were associated with the Adelphi for at least five generations. At first in various partnerships, then in limited liability companies and from 1898 onwards with the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Association. This later became the Fine Spinners Association. In 1946 the Association reported "Messrs George Swindells & Son Ltd of Bollington is one of the few firms in the world which, in addition to spinning and doubling cotton yarn, also throws silk, rayon and nylon at the Adelphi Mill in Bollington".

It was in June 1940 that the Adelphi enjoyed its 'finest hour'. Lord Beaverbrook demanded that the directors of the FSA should attend him on the 16th June. He wanted to increase cotton production to make barrage balloons to protect Britain's cities from the Luftwaffe. The plan was made to concentrate production seven days a week, 24 hours a day, in the most productive mills. "When shall we start?" demanded the Directors. "The mills must start tomorrow morning, Quarter to eight", replied Beaverbrook. The mills were working six days a week, but never before had they worked on a Sunday. Late that Saturday night workers at the Adelphi were warned by their managers running around the streets of Bollington and at 7.45am on Sunday 17th June 1940 alone of all the cotton mills in the country, the Adelphi, Clarence and Waterhouse mills were at work. On Sunday 24th June, as though in retribution, five bombs were dropped on the town, luckily causing no damage or injury. The mills worked on.

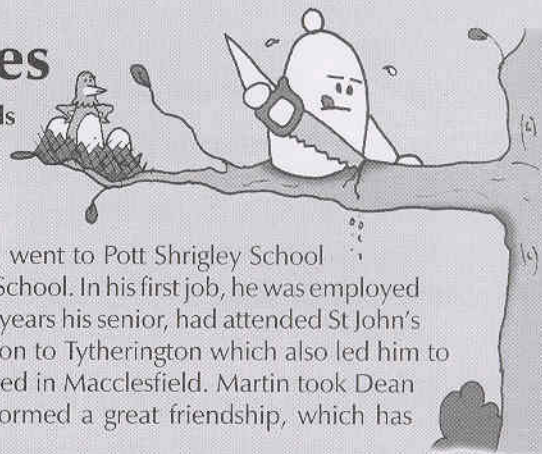
*To be continued... KE*

*NB: Ken welcomes corrections to inaccuracies and particularly would welcome information and reminiscences of the Adelphi Mill on 01625 571126*

[ken@molepolole.freemove.co.uk](mailto:ken@molepolole.freemove.co.uk)  
[www.adelphimill.co.uk](http://www.adelphimill.co.uk)

## Joining Forces

**Two boys living at opposite ends of the village met for the first time a short while ago, whilst working in Macclesfield.**



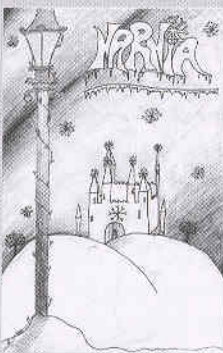
Dean, the younger of the pair, went to Pott Shrigley School followed by Tytherington High School. In his first job, he was employed by a local joiners. Martin, four years his senior, had attended St John's in Bollington before following on to Tytherington which also led him to the same local joinery firm based in Macclesfield. Martin took Dean under his wing and the two formed a great friendship, which has held firm to this day.

Life at work took a steady pace learning the trade and honing their skills, working on construction jobs from 'The Drome' in Macclesfield to the new Cottrills showrooms in Wilmslow. There is a saying that in this world you make your own luck. When the opportunity arose to set up their own business, this saying had to be tested. Two days after leaving work, 'P&D Joinery of Bollington' was formed. Within the first week these proactive young men had started a successful venture. Joinery work was now being carried out on their home ground in and around Bollington, extending out into Pott Shrigley and Prestbury.

This must be a rare thing nowadays for young men to be born in the village, be educated within our local education system, learn a trade and apply that knowledge back within their own community. This has a slight ring of the old days, local people employed and living locally. All of this has been achieved by two young men of 20 and 24 years of age, so keep your eyes open for the boys working in and around the village. The clue to spotting them may be their work-wear, with P&D joinery on the back.

**Edward Dalton**

*Right: Dean & Martin at work*



## Czech Out!

**Bollington Music Theatre certainly gets about - without ever leaving the comfort of the Arts Centre. The last three shows have been set in Africa (King Leo and Jungle Juice), Scandinavia (Snow Queen), and the magical land of Narnia (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe).**

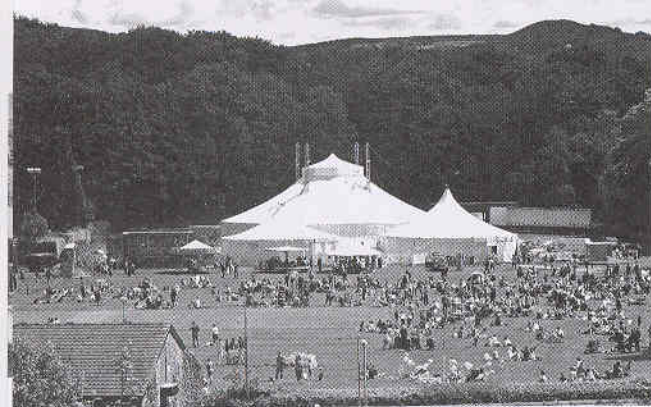
The Music Theatre's next visit is to the Czech Republic, and the town of Český Krumlov. One of the best preserved historical towns in Europe, not only the castle (haunted by a White Lady) but almost every building is steeped in history and boasts either a ghost or some strange tale. An egg that hatched into a basilisk, a man who bet his best cow that he could drink beer faster than his friend, a water nymph who rescued a drowning child, an elf who only let polite folk catch pearls in the river, the handsome baker who gave possible brides an impossible mental arithmetic test and so died unmarried, the lady whose lucky black hen brought her wealth and misery in equal measure...

The Music Theatre's director, Donald Judge, has made the town his summer retreat, where he divides his time between walks in the forest, concerts at the Music Festival, and writing pieces for the Music Theatre and Festival Choir. 'Creepy Tales from Český Krumlov' promises to be an ideal entertainment on a winter's night. Rehearsals begin on Sunday 9th September, with performances on 2nd December. If you're aged seven or over, and like performing live on stage, come along - **if you dare!**

**Donald Judge**

Full details from 0161 427 2870 or [www.marple55.freemove.co.uk](http://www.marple55.freemove.co.uk)





## Following That Festival...

The trouble with past success is that it's such a hard act to follow! However, work is underway to guarantee that Bollington Festival '09 will be another big boost for our town. Once again, at its heart will be the enthusiasms and skills of Bollington people.

May '09 is the magnet drawing together interest groups to celebrate all areas of community activity. What we need now are the energies of individuals ready to steer bright ideas through and into the festival programme.

Annette Hurst's enthusiasm and willingness to take part is exactly what makes Bollington's festivals thrive. She has launched a science group.

We are hoping to bring science to the festival in a fun and educational way, with something to suit all ages. We want to celebrate the great achievements science has made to our

lives and most of all, we'd like local people to get involved and help!

If you can see yourself entertaining our children with a 'Pops and whizzes' demonstration, or giving a talk on biodiversity in Bollington, then get in touch! Equally, if you prefer the wings to the stage we would love you to join our science group and help organise some exciting events. (Tel: 574953)

**September 21st sees the next Festival Public Meeting, 7.30 at the Arts Centre.** There will be updates on funding and visiting performers along with coordinators of Food and Drink, Music, Visual Arts, Sports and

Literature groups who will describe what's already underway.

The Festival Executive can offer support and practical help for new ventures. If YOU fancy starting a group, or taking part in any way, contact one of the following:

**Andrew Roberts**, Festival Chairman,  
rardjr@beeb.net 572052

**Jean Ransley**, Vice Chair and jransley@btinternet.com 575287

**Nicholas Smith**, Artistic Director  
nicholasrsmith@aol.com 560355

*Jose Spinks*

**Go on - join in! Help make Bollington Festival '09 another winner.**

## Bollington's Extravaganza

The popular Transport Extravaganza will take place at Adelphi Mill Car Park and Cloughbank on Sunday 9th September between 11 am and 4 pm.



As usual, there will be something for all members of the family. In addition to a quality display of vintage, veteran and classic vehicles, there will be numerous side attractions, including craft stalls, live music, and children's activities. The Mary Sunley canal boat will be providing trips. A range of food and drink as well as a licensed bar will be available throughout the day.

For further information or if you would like to be involved on the day please contact: George Cann, The Lions, 01625 575576 (Day) 574489 (Eve.)  
Bollington Town Hall 01625 572985 Cllr. David Laffan 01625 560336

## Civic Society & Tourism

Tourism has great potential for the economic future of Bollington and it is slowly developing. The Civic Society would like to give a spur to this development and are interested in establishing a group to promote the subject. If you have an interest please email [tourism@happy-valley.org.uk](mailto:tourism@happy-valley.org.uk) and we will call a meeting in September.

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# BOLLINGTON



## 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

Water Street School 7.30-9.30pm  
Adelphi Mill canal side 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)

## TUESDAY

Art (WI Group)  
Tea Dance  
Keep Fit for over 50s  
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)  
Methodist Hall 2.15pm  
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)



## September

Saturday 15th at 8.00 pm

### Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Navarra Quartet from the RNCM.  
£12.00, £6 conc. Tel: 560355 / 575287

Sunday 16th at 7.30 pm

### Robin Hidden looks at Castle Howard

Admission £5/£3. Pay at door

Thursday 20th 2.00pm

### Votes For Women! - History Wardrobe.

£7.50 & £6.50. Tel: 573413

Sunday 23rd 2 - 6pm

### An Enemy of the People

Play reading workshop (part 1 of 3)  
Tel: 267545 for details and to register. £5  
per session or £12 for all three.

Saturday 29th at 8.00 pm

### Jazz at the Arts Centre

Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz  
Tickets £8. Tel: 574410

Sunday 30th 11.00am - 4.00pm

### Bollington Food Fair

Taste and buy local food. Free entry

## October

Friday 5th 8.00pm

### Comedy Club. Over 18s only

Tickets £8. Tel: 560774

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# Dates for your Diary

17th – 20th October

## Bollington Festival Players

Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley

Times and tickets ring 01625 875326

Sunday 21st 2-6pm

## An Enemy of the People (part 2 of 3)

The study of Ibsen's play continues.

Sunday 21st 7.30pm

## Gardeners' Question Time

David McMullan CHE., RHS., & colleagues answer gardening problems. £5/£3 At door

Friday 26th 7.30pm

## The RSPB Show – Part 2

Wildlife films - £3.50 / £1.50 (children)

Details from Ray Evans. Tel: 432635

Saturday 27th Between 2.00 – 4.00pm

## The RSPB's Feed the Birds Day

FREE. Details: Tina Hanak. Tel: 503572

Saturday 27th 8.00pm

## Jazz at the Arts Centre

John Meehan's Savannah Jazz Band Tickets £8. Tel: 574410

## November

Friday 2nd 8.00pm

## Comedy Club. Over 18s only

Tickets £8. Tel: 560774

Saturday 3rd 8.00pm

## Bollington Chamber Concerts

Viola Quintet from the NCO

£12.00, £6 Conc. Tel: 560355 / 575287

Friday 9th 8.00pm

## Bollington's Carbon Revolution

Nicola Riley talks about a low carbon future. £5/£3 Pay at door

See the Arts Centre leaflet or visit the website for more details and events.

[www.bollingtonartscentre.org](http://www.bollingtonartscentre.org)

[www.bollingtondancing.co.uk](http://www.bollingtondancing.co.uk)

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## Kerridge Ridge & Ingersley Vale Project EVENTS

All activities start at 9.45am at the Volunteer Barn, Savio House unless stated

### JULY

Fri 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> Footpath Upgrading  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup>-Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dry Stone Walling Level 1  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Training: Tree Identification

### AUGUST

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Pond Creation  
Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Butterfly Identification  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Dry Stone Walling  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Training: Intro. to Dry Stone Walling  
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> River Management

### SEPTEMBER

Fri 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> Trod Footpath Restoration  
Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Training Course - Moth Identification  
Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Bat Walk (6.30pm)  
Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Nature Area Management (9.30am)  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Historic Hedge Reconstruction  
Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Course: Intro. to Dry Stone Walling  
Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Redway Wood Path Creation

For more details call Nick Martin on 560475 or 07764 655669 or visit: [www.kriv.org.uk](http://www.kriv.org.uk)

### OTHER EVENTS

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am  
**Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race and Drop-in Open Day**

Saturday 14th July,  
**Well Dressing Opening**  
Greg Fountain, Bollington Cross

Sunday 15th July, 10am - 4pm  
**Middlewood Way Open Day**

Sunday 15th July 2-5pm  
**Bollington Children's Friends Strawberry Tea**  
11 Poplar Grove, £3.00, 572710

### Can you help us?

**Bollington Live!** is delivered by about thirty volunteers. Unfortunately we do not have regular deliverers for: **Bollington Road, Henshall Road, Princess Drive and Nursery Close.**

If you, or someone you know could deliver **Bollington Live!** please contact Janet Beech on 574618. Many thanks for your help.

Saturday September 1st 2.00pm  
**Bollington Horticultural Society Annual Show, Civic Hall**

Sunday 2nd September 8.00pm  
**RSPCA Quiz Night,**  
Church House, £5 per team of 4

Sunday 9th September  
**Transport Extravaganza**  
Adelphi Mill. Admission Charge

Friday 21st September 7.30pm  
**Open meeting Bollington Festival 2009**  
Arts centre, Everyone welcome!

Sunday 30th September 11am - 1pm  
**Car Boot Sale**  
Drop-in Centre

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October  
**Bollington Children's Friends Jalapenos, Rock 'n' Roll night**  
Civic Hall, £8.00, 572710

**Friends of the Rec Car Wash**  
10.00am-1.00pm Every other Thursday,  
£2.00 Recreation Ground Car Park

## Bollington Discovery Centre Opening Times

Wednesday	Saturday	Sunday
1.30-4.00pm	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](http://www.happy-valley.org.uk/civicsociety) [www.happy-valley.org.uk/discover](http://www.happy-valley.org.uk/discover)



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Wed: 9-11 am 2-3pm 4.30-6.30pm Sat: 9-12.30pm

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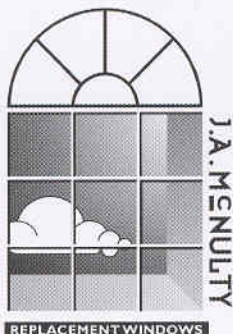
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# Once more upon a Canal

*John Liley continues his reminiscences from our previous issue, leading on from his early canal adventures with his canoe 'Stickleback'...*

So fully laden was the 'Stickleback' as we pushed her up Sugar Lane, that we were exhausted before we had begun. My brother had trimmed us down to the smallest tent, the tiniest Primus stove. All the same, we were tottering.

So, as it proved, was the trolley on which 'Stickleback' could be 'portaged' - to use the Hiawathaesque term for getting round the locks. A licence for a canoe cost £2 10 shillings, but locks were sternly verboten. I wish now we had cheated. For at Bosley the trolley, jolting over a stone, splintered sufficiently as to present itself through the canoe's hull. It was a black moment, made all the blacker by an angler who, with the sparkling wit of his kind, advised us to "batten down the hatches - there's a storm coming up." If ever justifiable homicide could have been pleaded, it was then. It took a long time to mend things, after which the bedding and our clothes existed in a kind of swill, leaking through the patch.

We camped in the rain, pitched the Pup tent, repaired the Primus with the packet that our soup came in - then were visited by a farmer. He was a decent man as it turned out, but he had bulls in the field (somewhere in the mists). So we had to move on.



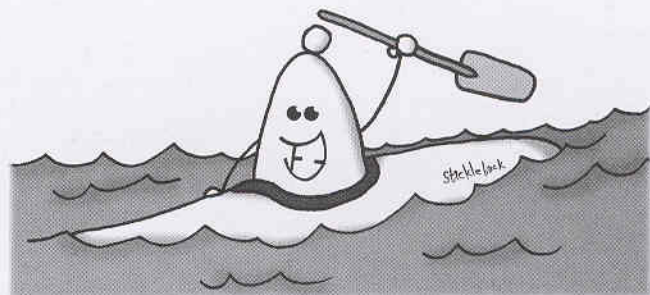
I will skate over the re-packing, the night in a leaking tent and the shrinking of the spray-cover that my mother so kindly made. Then there was

the lemna. This is duckweed, which can multiply four times in a day, and does. Lemna lay like a lawn on the water, to be flung onto ourselves as we paddled. "Keep still a moment," came a voice in my ear. "There's a leech crawling across your hat."

Lemna retreats if boats go by, but beyond the locks at Bosley there were rarely any. I began to reflect now on the usefulness of the craft we had seen, at weekends back at Bollington. Army pontoons these often were, with a kind of garden shed on top. Narrow boats were a rarity, and the purpose-built kind for leisure had yet to be invented.

On this trip, only at Bollington had another vessel been met. This was the 'Viking', a converted lifeboat, powered amazingly, by a steam engine. Fleetingly there was the sight of Mrs Viking, peering through a medley of pipes and rods as the boat skittered by. How I envied her and her husband now. Despite the lack of space on board, since the engine took most of it, they could at least moor without the need for a tent.

The attraction of something with a cabin on was reinforced when we discovered Hall Green, the place so important it

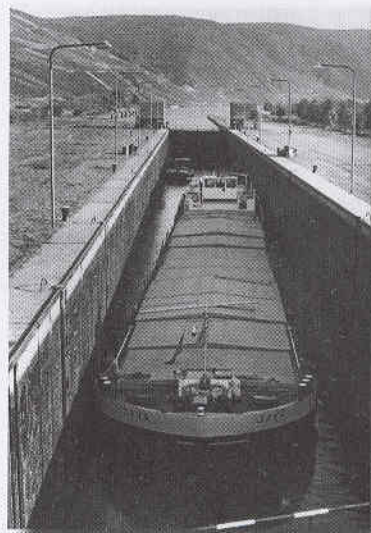


was removed from the milestones during World War II. It was just a hamlet with a single shallow lock - that we were not allowed to use. To add to the anticlimax the beam from one of the gates came so close to a wall we could not wheel 'Stickleback' through. We had to unload again. And still it was raining.

The soggiess of that trip, which continued, only partly put me off. I did, in the end, move on to craft with cabins, some of which, because they were at sea, proved wetter even than 'Stickleback'.

Canals then felt attractive again, and I was to explore many, in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, where freight by water exists on a scale unimaginable here, with locks the size of football pitches and still more routes are being planned.

For several years, though, canoeing continued. Sometimes, when trips were projected on distant



ivers, they started in the guard's van of the train to Macc. There, in the eccentric way of transport in England, 'Stickleback' had to be wheeled from Central Station, where the Bollington train came in, to Macclesfield Hibel Road, where ongoing trains went out. But those are other stories.

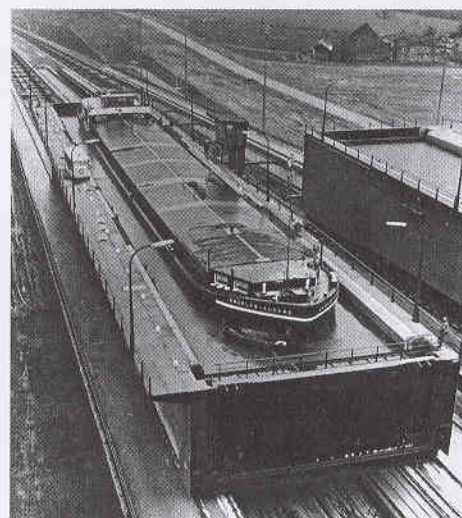
JL

*Left: Peter Liley cooks supper during a dry moment on a 'Stickleback' expedition.*

*Above: Waterways abroad. A lock on the Mosel in Germany, opened to navigation*

*in 1964. John Liley's later vessel 'Arthur', twice the width of a narrow boat, is the barge at the back of the lock.*

*Right: Waterways abroad. A 1,350 ton freighter on the inclined plane at Ronquieres in Belgium, opened in the early 1960s. The rise of each caisson, weighing 5,800 tons, is 220 feet.*





# Sunley Shines!

The Macclesfield Canal is one of the prettiest in the country and for the disabled and elderly a trip on the slow-moving narrow boat, the Mary Sunley, means that they can enjoy this beautiful stretch of countryside.

The Mary Sunley was launched in 1980 and refitted in the late 1990s. She was named after Mrs Mary Sunley, the wife of one of the original benefactors, Mr Bernard Sunley. The boat is purpose-built to provide daytime trips on the inland waterways for the physically and mentally disabled and has been equipped to cater for their specific needs. A hydraulic lift provides easy access to the cabin which has seating for twelve people, including space for up to four wheelchairs. The toilet has wheelchair access and there is a kitchen area.

After several years based in Bollington, the Mary Sunley is now based at Lyme View Marina, Adlington and regular trips during the season take place along the top pound of the Macclesfield Canal. The very reasonable charges are subsidised for recognised disadvantaged



Mary Sunley moored at Lyme View Marina

groups and trips for these groups can be sponsored by an individual or company. Although preference is given to disabled groups, private groups may book (at a slightly increased rate).

To maintain this boat in excellent condition is costly and a new engine and gearbox were installed in April 2006, resulting in a quieter trip and a greater reliability. The boat will now meet the more stringent targets for emission levels expected to be introduced in the near future.

The Mary Sunley Canal Boat is a registered charity which depends on the support of the community. Volunteers are always welcome and can assist in many ways, crewing, fundraising, or on the committee.

Once again, in September 2007, Bollington residents and visitors will have the opportunity to take an hour-long trip on board the Mary Sunley, when she once again takes part in the annual Bollington Transport Extravaganza, raising funds for the boat and also introducing disabled and able-bodied people alike to the joys of a gentler means of transport along the waterways.

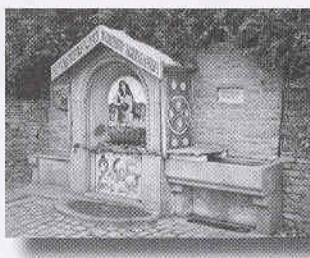
SMi

# Well Dressed!

Bollington's well-dressing is entering its third year this July. Whilst this may not be long enough to be classed as a tradition, it is now a regular event on the town's calendar. Most importantly, it is an event in which all sections of the community can and do take part.

Last year there were six well-dressings, all linked into a trail. One featured a traditional dressing of the waterfall in Ingersley Vale. The public were invited to add to the dressing, by adding something extra themselves. The response was amazing. We had expected flowers and ribbons, but alongside these, additions such as sparkly pan-scourers, carefully designed messages by children and the most beautifully crafted declarations of love, written in runes. As the week passed, more and more was contributed to what was both an individual and a collective piece of folk-art.

What of this year? The organisers are keen that well-dressing in Bollington should be as inclusive and innovative as possible. While this may upset some of the well-dressing purists in Derbyshire, our well-dressing will be



Greg Fountain in all its splendour, 2005

alive and fun. It will also be a true celebration of the gift of water. Some of the activities include local

youngsters dressing the Recreation Ground - with a sculpture made from recycled materials. Clarence Mill will also host a dressing with a canal theme. It will be produced at the Drop-In Centre, using the classic well-dressing technique of petals pressed into clay.

Members of Bollington Flower Club will produce a floral dressing for the spring at Cow Lane and Dean Valley School will dress the Greg Fountain, with Mount Hall Residential Home also providing a panel.

Once again, you are invited to make the waterfall at Ingersley Vale truly beautiful.

The celebrations are to be launched on Saturday 14th July at the Greg Fountain, Bollington Cross, with a dancing display by the children of Dean Valley School. If you are not already involved and would like to be, please contact Janet Beech on 574618.

David Beaton



Dressing Ingersley Vale waterfall



## You're Nicked!

Nick Millard has been with Cheshire Police since November 2006 as Bollington's Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).



Prior to this he was at university in York, studying Sport and Exercise Science, as part of a Royal Air Force University Bursary. Nick tells us that he enjoys playing hockey, golf and going to the gym. After completing his training, which included spending time in the company of an experienced officer he was, in February, made aware of the opportunity to work within the Bollington community. **Bollington Live!** asked him for his first impressions of our town.

"Since starting my duties within Bollington, I have been impressed with the sense of pride and community spirit displayed by the residents of Bollington. I feel that I have been welcomed warmly into the village during the first few months of my time in Bollington. Bollington is an ideal area to work as a PCSO, due to the nature of the majority of issues faced by Bollington residents and also due to the willingness of the community to tackle problems such as Anti-Social Behaviour and petty crime. My role so far has been greatly helped by the residents of Bollington's realisation that the most important tool in tackling crime is community intelligence."

"I have so far greatly enjoyed my time in Bollington and relish the opportunity to help Bollington residents to tackle issues that concern the community. My main aim is to make people safer and also to make people feel safer; this is only going to be achieved by working closely with the community."

Nick says, "Should anyone wish to contact me, please do not hesitate to use the details given below". **MS**

**PCSO 20360 Nick Millard**

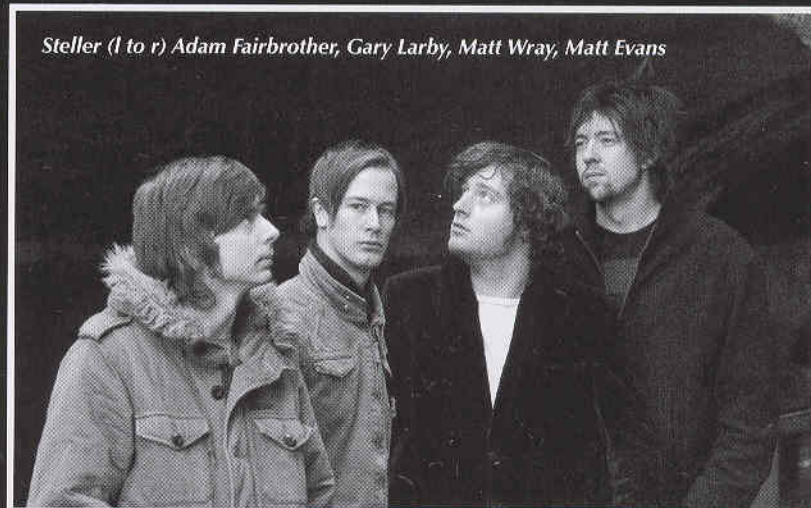
**Tel: 0845 458 0000**

**macclesfield.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk**

## Making all the Right Noises

### Bollington 'indie' rock band poised for success

They have a ruck of live gigs under their belt, have been favourably compared to the likes of Snow Patrol and Razorlight and have even been dubbed the next big thing by music business insiders - **Bollington Live!** catches up with local 'indie' band Steller as they reach for the Stars.



*Steller (l to r) Adam Fairbrother, Gary Larby, Matt Wray, Matt Evans*

You may not have heard of them yet, but Bollington band, Steller, are certainly making all the right noises. This intelligent, talented and hard working four-piece have already played an impressive 150 live gigs since forming in 2002 and are attracting attention in all the right places.

Three of the band, Gary Larby (guitar, lead vocal), Adam Fairbrother (lead guitar, vocal) and (**Bollington Live's** very own cartoonist) Matt Wray (bass) met at school, with the fourth member, drummer and vocalist Matt Evans, joining them in 2006.

The band, now in their twenties, say that their musical influences range from the Beatles through to West Coast alternative rock legends Incubus. With such a wide and varied range of influences to call upon you'd expect Steller to have an original musical style – and you'd be right.

Steller's creative output brings together a combination of good 'ole' rock, inspiring vocals and melodic guitar lines; a mix that is proving to have an irresistible appeal to an ever increasing fan base. At the last count, around 30,000 people had down-loaded the four songs available on their myspace web-page.

"Gary writes most of the songs but all four band members contribute to the writing," says Ken Larby from their management team AAA Management.

"The boys are currently in the studio recording new material and preparing for their summer gigs. They've already had a lot of attention from record labels and they are looking to secure a recording and publishing deal later this year."

Listen to Steller at: **[www.myspace.com/stelleruk](http://www.myspace.com/stelleruk)**

Go and show them your support at **The Cavern**, Liverpool, at 8:00 pm on 14 Jul 2007.





## Pond Life:- days out with KRIV!

Before Easter I took a few Fridays off work to join the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale (KRIV) project volunteer training group. Looking up the activities on the internet, I emailed Nick Martin, who runs the volunteer work, and checked where to meet and what to bring (a packed lunch; everything else was provided).

Nick has been organising various free training courses and countryside management activities, including dry-stone walling, hedge-laying, woodland skills and fencing. On my dates we were going to create a wildlife meadow and dig ponds on the site of the old Redway Tavern car park in Kerridge. I've always fancied having a garden pond so it seemed a great



opportunity to learn the theory and the practical steps involved. I duly turned up and met the rest of the gang – Nick found me some steel toe-capped boots, gave us a health and safety talk and then explained the principles of pond construction. First step? Dig a hole, of course! It's amazing how much was achieved with twelve of us digging and wheel-barrowing earth around the site. Another two days were spent laying the rubber pond-liner and preparing the ground around the ponds for

seeding with wildflowers and grasses. I also spent a day clearing brambles around the fascinating remains of Cow Lane Mill in Rainow, where KRIV are undertaking an archaeological exercise to preserve the remaining features of this very early mill.

Soon there will be a pool of volunteers who can tackle all sorts of improvement projects around the KRIV area. They are a nice bunch – all ages, men and women, all different walks of life and there is room for many more.

Thanks to the volunteers, Nick, KRIV project manager Richard Thorogood and crucially the support of local landowners, there will soon be some tangible improvements to the much loved Ingersley Vale and Kerridge area between Bollington and Rainow.

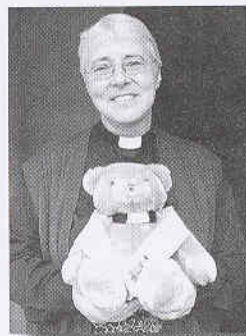
[www.kriv.org.uk](http://www.kriv.org.uk)

TN

## Hydon Preach!

The Reverend Veronica Hydon began her ministry in Bollington on Mothering Sunday, March 18th 2007, receiving a warm welcome from the parishioners.

Veronica has had a varied career. She has been a primary teacher and a marine cargo insurance broker at Lloyds, one of the first women employed on the Floor. In 1988 she realised her calling and undertook theological training at Westcott House, Cambridge. At that time women could only become deacons, but Veronica recalls how on November 11th 1992 she, along with a group of "Westcott Women", attended the historic debate of the General Synod and witnessed the vote which finally allowed women to become priests. Veronica became one of the first women to be ordained a priest in the Church of England.



Since her ordination, Veronica has worked in a variety of parishes, from rural areas to an urban parish with a rich ethnic diversity. Her last parish was in Timperley.

Veronica is warmed by the sense of community in Bollington and is cultivating links with all the schools in the area, taking assemblies and planning to involve school music groups in family worship. She hopes to make the church a welcoming place and looks forward to many social and fund-raising gatherings and creative events as well as worship. She welcomes people's open and honest ideas about the growth and development of the church family as the parish prepares to celebrate the centenary of St Oswald's Church in October 2008.

SMi

## Fifty Golden Years

Those Bollingtonians who are old enough to remember, will know that the present Church of Saint Gregory is the successor to the old church built in the 1830s and sited in Chapel Street.



St. Gregory's Church, 1957

In 1952, when Father Thomas Osbyrne arrived in Bollington as Parish Priest, he quickly realised that the old buildings needed to be replaced, in a location more central to the village. The site in Wellington Road was chosen, the foundation stone laid and the church duly built. It was opened and blessed by Bishop Murphy of Shrewsbury on 16th May 1957. There followed many years of various fund-raising efforts, all generously supported by the people of Bollington.

In this 50th Anniversary year of 2007, we pay tribute to all our former Parish Priests and especially to the Priests of the Salesian Order, who have given more than twenty-five years ministry to the parish. We remember with gratitude all the long years of voluntary work done by so many of our parishioners past and present, who are keeping that tradition alive today.

Now, through **Bollington Live!** we have an opportunity to say - "From all of us, thank you for being so much a part of Saint Gregory's 50 Golden Years".

Mary Bann

[www.stgregorysbollington.co.uk](http://www.stgregorysbollington.co.uk)





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# Live!

## Cliffhanger...

Having just put my crampons, ice-axes and winter climbing equipment away for another season, thoughts turn to what can be accomplished on the rock-face for the rest of the year. The sun is shining and there's not a cloud in the sky, so I have a ring around and before long, a group of us are pulling into the lay-by at Windgather Rocks. To our amazement, we're the first people there.

Gathering all our gear, we head off up the track to the bottom of the rock-face, get kitted up and sort out the equipment. The choices of climbs are endless, especially as we are the only people up there. Choosing a climb, we check the equipment once more, better to be safe than sorry, split into pairs, then off we go. After a few minutes and a selection of awkward moves, I 'top-out' at the end of the climb. Quickly rigging-up a top-belay, it's time to wait for my mate to 'second' the climb, taking out the gear that I had placed as he climbs. Before I know it, he is 'topping-out' the climb as well.

After de-rigging, we both stop to savour the views from the top of the rock-face, where there's not a sound to be heard either. That's one of the joys about climbing. The views are worth every penny it costs and it's great to see the unspoilt landscape. After a few more minutes we head down and reaching the bottom of the face, we are greeted by some fellow climbers who have just arrived. We pass the time of day, but the silent beauty of the morning is over.

Before long, Windgather is bustling with climbers and groups, all out to have a great day in this beautiful location. As a venue for climbing, Windgather is great as it has climbs for all abilities and is close to Bollington for access. You'll always find a good atmosphere up there, talking to other climbers and people who are just out for a walk and are intrigued as to what everyone is doing.

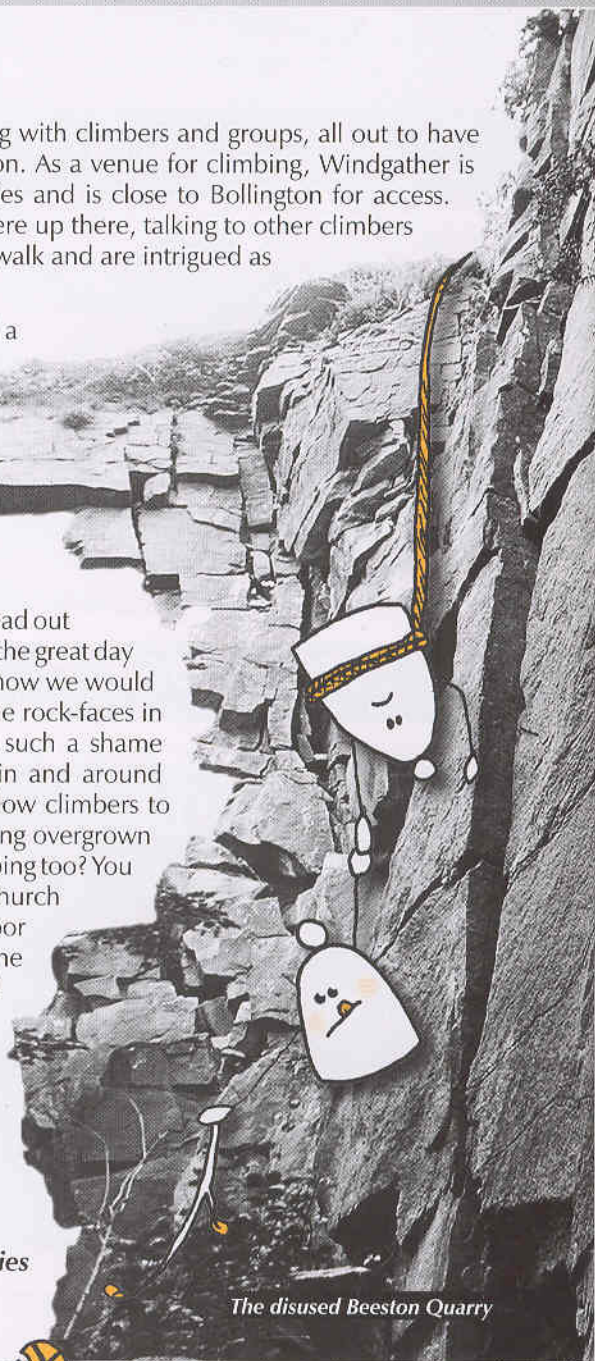
After a few hours, having both led a few climbs each, we decide to call it a day and trundle off back to the car, making sure not to leave any rubbish; if people want to be able to enjoy the outdoors, then they have a duty to look after it.

Dropping the car off at home, we head out for a beer (or three). Chatting about the great day we've had, the discussion turns to how we would love to be able to climb some of the rock-faces in Bollington's disused quarries. It is such a shame that none of the closed quarries in and around the town have been opened to allow climbers to enjoy them, instead of just becoming overgrown wasteland. How about indoor climbing too? You never know, one day, St. John's Church could be used once again as an indoor climbing wall, just as they have done with churches in Warrington and Ardwick.

Heading home, we hope for another sunny day soon, so that once again we can drop everything and head for the hills, forgetting about everything that's going on in the world.

Gareth Davies

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The disused Beeston Quarry

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