

BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Forty Two

Spring 2008

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BUMPER ISSUE
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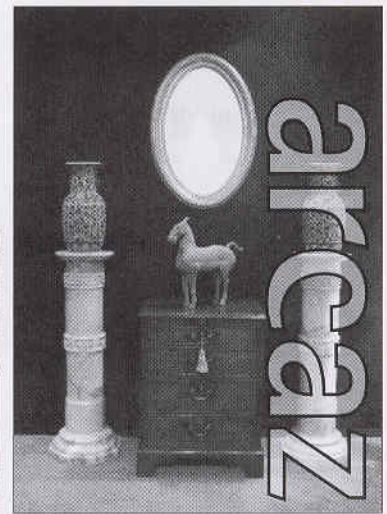
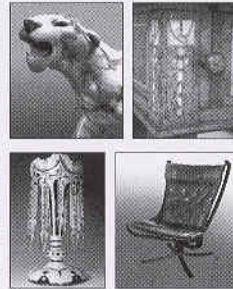
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**BOLLINGTON****Live!**

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Re-vitalised Rec

Our Recreation Ground has been in existence since it was given to the people of Bollington in 1901 by Francis Greg. Long before that it had been in existence as a cricket pitch, known in those days as the "Gnat Hole".

A Friends' Group was formed in 2005 in partnership with Macclesfield Borough Council who are now refurbishing the park to enable us to obtain the prestigious Green Flag (similar to the coastal Blue Flag) award. To obtain a Green Flag, nothing less than perfection will do.

New fencing has been erected at the bottom of the tiered grass viewing embankment; a handrail will also be fitted adjacent to this embankment. All the gates at the Palmerston Street and Adlington Road ends are to be removed and completely restored. A new pedestrian gate is to be fitted in the Adlington Road wall, similar in design to the existing double gates, to link the park with the play-area.

The old toilet block is being given a complete face-lift to bring it into the 21st century. New fencing is to be fitted around the bowling green - this, it is hoped, will stop the vandals riding bikes on the green. The tennis courts are to be re-laid and marked and maintained to a much higher standard.



New seating and extra litter bins are to be installed. Paths and walkways will be repaired as required. The woodland walk alongside the river is to be made more interesting with chainsaw carvings; the work of one of the Rangers, Ed Pilkington. Quite a lot of trees and old hedging are being scrubbed out and in some areas, new trees will be planted. All the flowerbeds are to be re-vamped with new plants, bulbs and small shrubs.

New security systems will include new camera recording equipment and remote (wireless) mini-cameras - these will be fitted at various "hot-spots".

So to conclude, the park is having its biggest makeover since its formation and it will become a place of interest and pleasure, attracting people back to our 'Rec'. **John Kershaw**

www.greenflagaward.org.uk

John Kershaw with the Town and Borough Mayors; planting an English Oak to commemorate Cheshire's 'Year of the Garden'. One of only 12 such trees to be planted this year.

Editorial

Another year, another issue. The start of a new year is always a worry - will the magazine continue - will advertisers wish to support us again - will anyone write anything worth reading... Thankfully, there was no need to panic!

Thanks are due to our advertising team, whose continued efforts have enabled the expansion of our magazine to another four pages. Of course we do not forget those who have supported our publication for many years (There are even a select group who have advertised in every issue of **Bollington Live!** since it began in 1994) without whose help we would not be here today.

This issue has a good selection of articles, ranging from a review of last year's Mind Body and Boogie Festival from the viewpoint of two of the performers, through to the scandal and intrigue of Betty Bonson's schooldays! (only joking Betty!)

Additionally, Allan Sherratt looks back over his lifetime of sporting involvement in Bollington. When an article was delayed, he kindly offered at short notice, to write about his passion for cricket.

You can also find a major feature on the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale project and see how this project is transforming and restoring one of our most beautiful local landscapes. Further afield, Jodrell Bank, visible from Kerridge Ridge is looked upon on its 50th anniversary.

Please enjoy the read and let us have your comments and articles for future issues of your **Bollington Live!**

Anthony Holland



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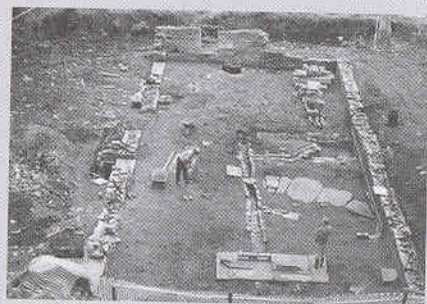
Preservation & Conservation

We value our corner of Cheshire. We are proud to be able to pick out how the labours of our fore-fathers, the farmers, quarry-men and mill workers, can still be traced in the landscape.

The area between Bollington and Rainow is rich in industrial heritage. It is also an area of natural beauty, but preserving the remaining bits of crumbling history and maintaining hedges, dry-stone walls and looking after old woodland is expensive. Landowners are sympathetic, but the economics of modern farming do not allow for the labour intensive traditional land management methods that will maintain an environment rich in wildlife habitats and also protect and restore historically important features. There is simply too much to do.

The only answer is – us! We want things from our countryside, so we are the ones who had better do something about it. It's not our money that is required, although that helps, but our time. We can take pleasure and satisfaction in improving the environment. That's where the KRIV Project comes in.

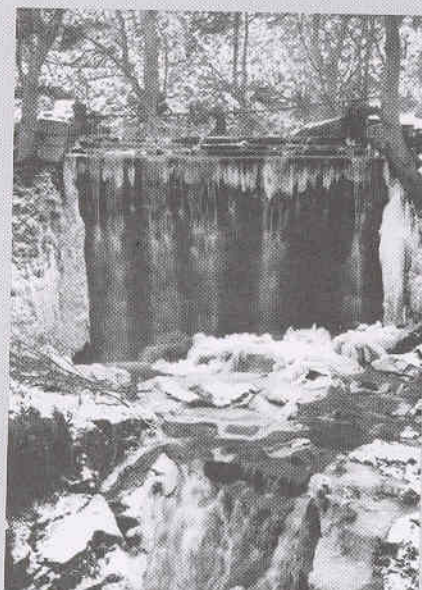
The Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Countryside and Heritage Project was created with the intention of retaining and enhancing the industrial and natural history of the land around White Nancy and along the River Dean. The project won extensive lottery funding and has been fully functional for a couple of years. Its project manager, Richard Thorogood, has the challenging job of prioritising work, allocating budgets and liaising with landowners. To get an understanding of the scope of the project, it is worth exploring the website, but, to really



Archaeological dig - Cow Lane Mill

get a feel for what has actually been achieved, you need to get some stout shoes on and go for a walk.

Start at the footpath that leads from the Redway up to White Nancy. You immediately see the wildlife meadow and the three ponds created on the site of the old Redway Tavern car park. This spring should see an array of wildflowers and hopefully frogs, insects and birds.



A frozen Ingersley Vale Mill weir

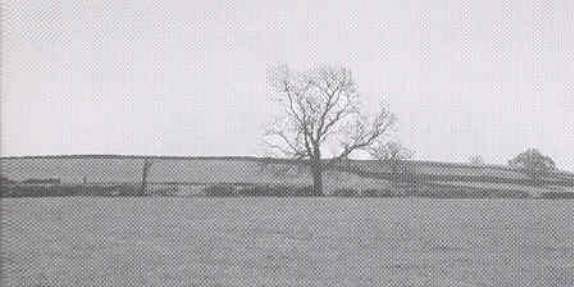
Soon you will come to a 'footpath under construction' through the woods up to White Nancy. A lot of tough pioneering work has gone into cutting a path through the tangled woodland and laying steps up the steep banks. When open, the path will allow scope for extra planting to enhance the mixed native woodland. This is all the work of a band of volunteers, led by training officer Nick Martin, who carefully explains every facet of the jobs, showing the team how to tackle the tasks safely and then letting everyone get on with it. Teamwork is everything; this work is a case of "many hands make light work" - certainly not "too many cooks spoil the broth".

Climb up to White Nancy on the Redway steps, walk along the ridge, then drop down towards Rainow where you can spend a little time looking at the fascinating archaeological remains of Cow Lane Mill; one of the most important parts of the KRIV project work. The mill was built in 1789, but lay disused from 1907 and gradually decayed until it was unrecognisable. Thanks to KRIV the site has been cleared of the sycamore trees, brambles and the collected debris of the last 100 years to reveal clearly the floor of the mill. Much has been learnt about how the mill was laid out. The positions of the wheel-house and even the mill privy have been revealed. You can also see how the stream was routed around the mill. Volunteers have done most of the work and it would have been impossible without them. It's not just the history that is important; the area will be have been improved for wildlife and made more attractive for us to enjoy, the cleared land will hopefully be a delight in spring, as wildflowers once more see the light of day.

Coming back along Ingersley Vale, you can see more evidence of the KRIV project activities. Around Savio House (where the project has its base) much work has been done on nearby walls and hedges, including an unusual feature built on top of a low dry-stone wall.

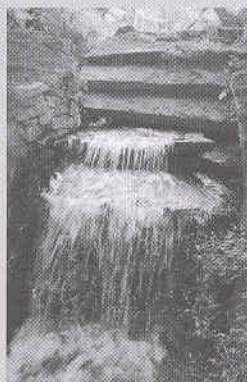
Let's look at some statistics. Over 100 people have taken part in the volunteer training days and have completed nearly 600 person-days of work. 160 metres of dry-stone wall have been repaired and 350 metres of hedgerow laid. 400 metres of footpath have been improved; stiles have been restored; wildflower meadows and ponds created; and 200 trees planted. A major project for this year is the restoration of Ingersley Vale's last remaining chimney. Dry-stone walling and hedge-laying will continue and new paths will be created.

The training courses (free to local residents) have a strong practical basis. They include dry-stone walling, hedge-laying, pond-creation, woodland



management and wildflower, fungi, lichen, bird and tree recognition. Participants come from all walks of life with many different motivations. Some people are keen to develop skills to allow them to pursue careers in countryside management; most just want to find a new hobby. Gradually a skilled local volunteer force will be built up that can continue the work in the future.

The other day I tackled hedge laying for the first time ever. There were six volunteers; Nick gave us a brief introduction to the technique, and we were



Cow Lane Mill weir

soon walking across the snowy fields to a leggy grown-out hedge, not cared for in more than fifty years. At the end of the day, we had restored nearly 40 metres. I can't wait till the spring to see the new shoots coming from newly laid 'pleachers' and the cut hawthorn stools.

Special thanks should be given to the local landowners. The project management and steering committee, work in conjunction with the landowners. Without their support, guidance and local knowledge, the broad array of projects would not be possible.

It's important that the KRIV project is not seen as a short-term fix. The first few years are about catch-up and that's why so much money is needed. How we sustain it over the next 5, 10, 50 years is vital. That's what being sustainable is about. And that's where our time and energy will be the make or break factor. We have to make caring for our environment part of the way we enjoy it.

Tim Neale

www.kriv.org.uk

New Festival - New challenge!

It is already clear that funding for the May 2009 Bollington Festival is going to have to come from new sources. As always it is the Festival Big Top which presents the greatest challenge. The 600 seat structure on the Recreation Ground gives the Festival a tremendous focal point in the centre of the town, and the only viable performance space - but at a price. With all the trimmings it works out at about £60,000 and it really is all or nothing. Half a big top won't work.

So the Festival Committee is launching two major new fund raisers.

Every business in Bollington, and there are over 300, will be asked to make the Big Top happen. Pete Tunwell, Festival Treasurer, believes this is both practical and achievable. "The Festival has had an enormous impact on Bollington over the last 45 years, and most businesses benefit one way or another. The average cost per business works out at about £175. If everyone agrees then we can go ahead immediately with all the Festival plans."



Bollington Festival 1964

Festival Director, Nicholas Smith, explains that securing funding for the Big Top has to come first. "We know pretty well what we would like to see in the next Festival, but without another venue in Bollington remotely approaching 600 seats, we simply can't start the contract process with any artist: without the Big Top we would have nowhere to put them."



Bollington Festival 2005

The second fundraiser will be at the Viceroy. Biryani and Boogie offers a sumptuous Indian banquet, plus great live music from Neil Shaw-Hulme's Double Vision. Whilst you are dining, if you have never experienced a silent auction, this is your big chance to bid for a bargain while remaining anonymous.

Annette Hurst

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

In'spire'ing Landmark

A well known Bollington landmark is currently undergoing restoration to ensure it remains a part of our town's street-scene. The steeple of the Methodist Church on Wellington Road is being partially rebuilt and strengthened to ensure that the building can continue to provide a venue, not only for the Church, but also for the many organisations that use it each week.

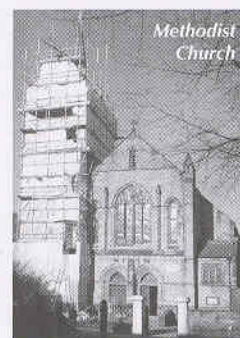


A 'birds-eye' view of Bollington from the top of the steeple

Methodist Church. Over recent months, the Meeting Hall has been provided with a new floor and re-decorated with a fresh coat of paint.

The Church is planning a host of events for June 2008 when the Methodist Church will be celebrating two hundred years on the present site.

Alan Lingard



A Dearth of Earth

I, like many other residents in Bollington, live in a house with a small garden. I have been thinking about getting an allotment for a while and this morning I went down to the local council office to find out if they had a vacant lot that I could rent.

The ladies there were very helpful, in as much as they took my name and phone number so they could contact me if one came available. This was a pointless exercise really as they told me I am No.16 on the waiting list. Talk about 'dead men's shoes' – there will be no digging and planting for me, they will be putting me in the ground before I get to the top of that list.

Undaunted, I thought I'd dig deeper and try to find out what Macclesfield council had to offer in the area. There is a website (below) that explains where the sites are and what benefits can be gained from actively cultivating an allotment. The site lists worthy rewards such as improved mental health, less stress, exercise, access to organic fruit and veg, not to mention protecting the environment by reducing 'food miles'.

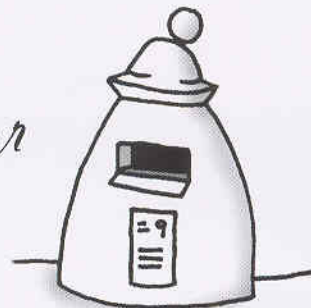
There are sites in Alderley, Handforth, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Poynton and Wilmslow. The sites range from £5.00-£45.00 per annum depending on size. I contacted their office and was told that I had to register first and they recommended that I looked at as many sites as possible and stipulate two choices. However, I was also informed that there were none available. Another stress-inducing waste of time.

If the council is serious about cutting our 'carbon footprint', then give us the opportunity to do something about it. Surely there must be an enterprising farmer or landowner who, perhaps, has a south-facing, well-drained field that could accommodate 20 plots.

Nick Griffin

<http://tinyurl.com/2jtr9v>

Letters to the Editor



Getting the measure of leisure

Hi, firstly let me congratulate you and the team for an excellent Bollington Live!

The 30 year anniversary of the Bollington Leisure Centre cannot and should not slip by without mention of Peter Read who, in my opinion, was the major driving force behind the project.

Peter was an amazing man who motivated a group of people to achieve the building of the Bollington Leisure Centre. He gathered a team around him to push for what seemed in those days impossible, but with an outlook that they would make the Leisure Centre happen. If I miss some names I apologise but Rose Davies, Gerry Atkins, Harold Skelhorn and others were a major part of the team, and we all I think remember the fund raising events such as Buy a Brick, and It's a Knockout and many others that led to the completion of the Bollington Leisure Centre.

With his wife Brenda by his side Peter gave countless hours, weeks, months to the project and never asked or looked for praise, but calmly got on with reaching the goal.

What we all see today in the Leisure Centre is testament to the outsider, who came to Bollington and embraced the spirit of the town, was able to persuade and cajole the team to think big; the drive of Peter Read made it happen.
www.bollingtonleisure.co.uk

Graham Arden

£40,000 - Put it on 'the Slate'

Good news for the Arts Centre – the Management Committee chaired by Bruce Kendrick have just heard that the Centre has won a £40,000 grant from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN).

The grant will go a long way towards replacing the roof which has been shedding tiles in bad weather for some years.

As well as the everyday stuff the present Management Committee at the Arts Centre is busy developing a long-term vision in partnership with all the current users. Bruce Kendrick enthusiastically explains how: "Having a long-term vision for the Arts Centre which continues to focus on a community-based, open to all, facility for arts-related activities is essential to secure the future of this valuable asset to Bollington".

Jose Spinks, a committee member and former Chair of the Arts Centre, elaborates. "Any redevelopment plan needs to start with a careful look at how we use the current facilities in the Arts Centre and then move on to thinking about how we might use what space we already have more flexibly and profitably. Even more daring would be to imagine a redesigned, expanded Arts Centre allowing more local people to enjoy a greater range of opportunities."

So, Bollington Arts Centre's roof is nearly secured! But planning for future development doesn't stop now...

Treasurer John Astbury is happy to advise anyone who wishes to help the Roof Fund meet the final total amount needed to pin down the last tiles. Many thanks are due to all the generous support of individuals and groups in development so far.

Visit the website and see if there's anything on for you:

www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Annette Hurst



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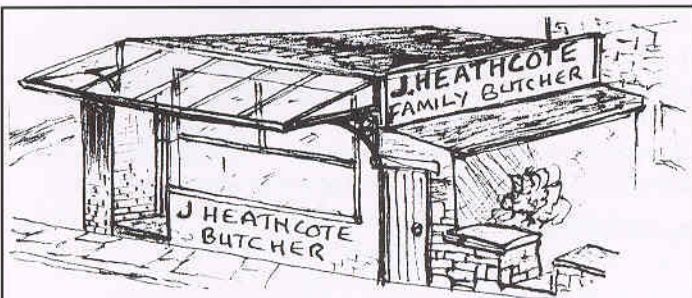
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The Lovell Landmark.

The Lovell Radio Telescope at Jodrell Bank is a prominent landmark in the view of the Cheshire plain from White Nancy. It is now 50 years since it was built, and it is still important in astronomical research. How did it come to be there, what does it do and how long will it last?

When Bernard Lovell returned to Manchester University after wartime radar work, he wanted to detect radar echoes from meteor trails and cosmic ray showers, so he built a telescope lying on its back and looking straight upwards.

No-one would have seen it from White Nancy, as it had an almost invisible surface made of stretched wires. It was useful for radio wavelengths of several metres, like today's FM radio band, but Lovell knew that shorter wavelengths would be more interesting. Furthermore, he wanted to scan the sky and not just look straight up. So the 250 ft Mk I telescope was built, not without difficulty and near financial disaster. Its lifetime was estimated as ten years, yet it is still here; at various stages of its life and at each of two major improvements, its further life was again estimated as ten years. It has now been accorded the status of a Listed Building!

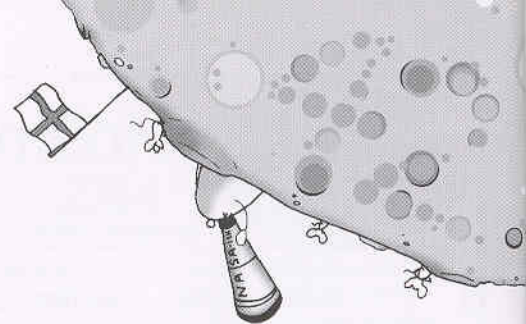
At a major rebuild in 1970 the telescope was given a new reflecting surface, enabling it to work at wavelengths as short as 10 centimetres and recently an even smoother surface enables it to work at even shorter wavelengths. I well remember spending 6 months in 1970 measuring the shape of the surface, using a theodolite and tape measure, clambering round the backing structure helping engineers to adjust the hundreds of mounting screws supporting the reflecting plates to an accuracy of a few millimetres.

By the time the telescope was built, the original purpose had faded away in favour of fundamental new fields of astronomy. It later turned out that the telescope was ideal for monitoring the timing of pulsars, which are such

accurate clocks that they have been used to provide the most accurate tests of Einstein's theory of General Relativity.

There are, of course other radio telescopes now operating, some larger and some with better surfaces. On its own, the Lovell Telescope would now be regarded as outdated, but a renaissance is at hand. This year, the telescope will be joined to a network of other smaller telescopes spread over England, linked by fibre optics in an array known as eMERLIN.

Tests are already being conducted to link the whole array to a European array, including telescopes in as many as ten different countries. Bernard Lovell wanted to build a telescope with as large a diameter as possible, but had to be content with 250 feet.



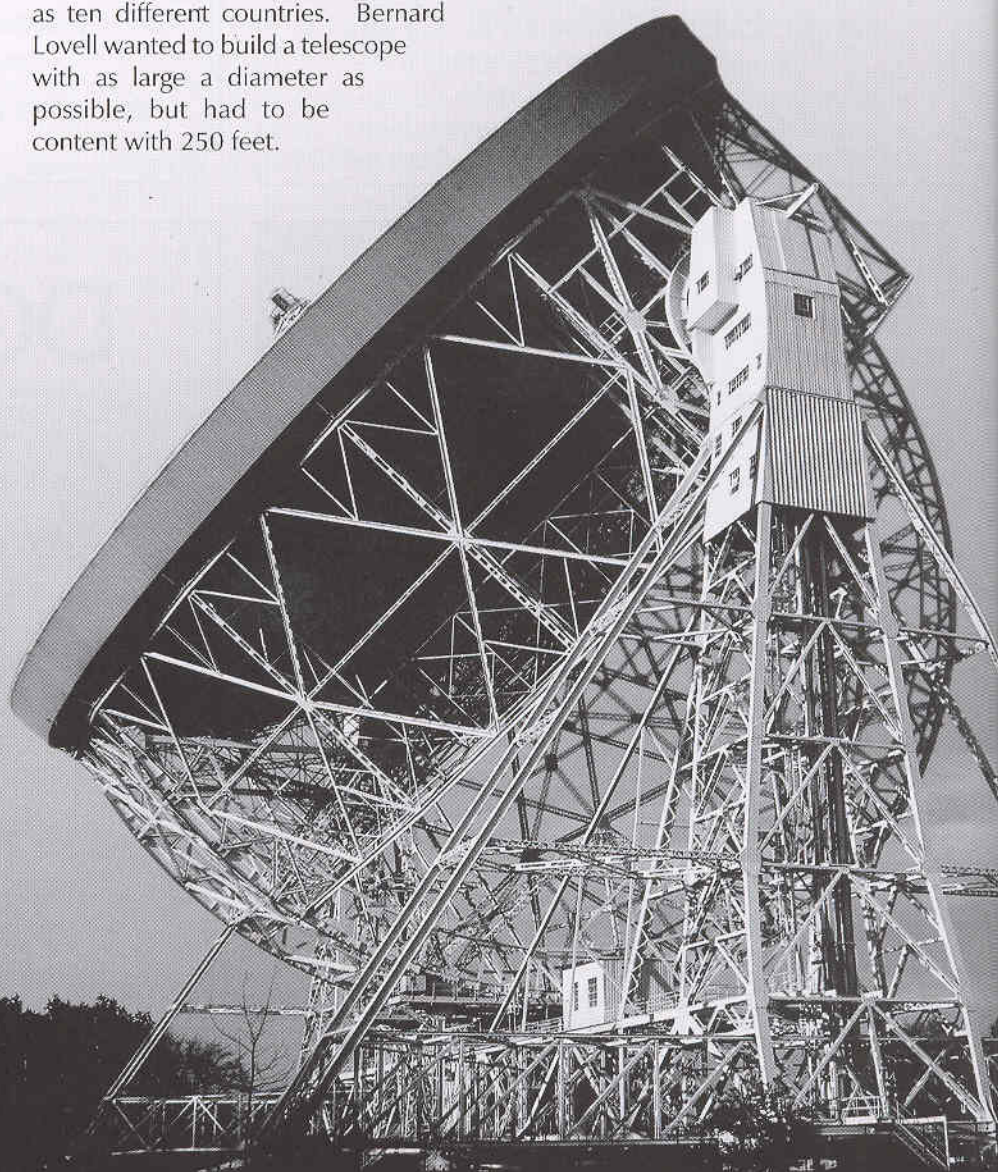
Now his telescope will be a key part of a telescope many hundreds of kilometres across. The view from White Nancy will be the same for many more years.

Sir Francis Graham-Smith

www.jb.man.ac.uk

Editor's Note:

The Lovell Radio Telescope at Jodrell Bank briefly featured in the film of Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. The answer to all life's problems was the number 42. This is our 42nd issue of *Bollington Live*!



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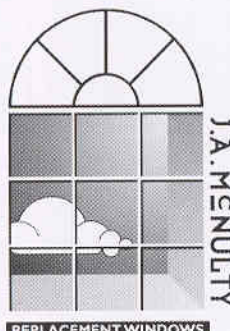
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BOLLINGTON



MARCH

Saturday 1st, 8pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Elias Quartet, formerly the Johnston Quartet. The programme includes Haydn, Bartok and Mendelssohn Tickets £12 / £6 (conc.) from 560355 or 575387

Sunday 2nd – Sunday 30th,

Calligraphy Today

An exhibition of this ancient art, as practised today by Derek Harley. Sundays 2-4pm and during other events.

Sunday 2nd, 7.30pm

Britain's National Parks

Mary Houseman discusses the important role of the National Parks, with an emphasis on our own Peak District Park. Admission £5/£3 (conc.) pay on door.

Friday 7th, 8.00pm

From Cow To Cone

The makers of Hilly Billy ice cream from Blaze Farm in Wildboarclough describe changing the way they ran the farm to create a long-term future. Ice-cream to taste! £5/£3 (conc.) pay on door.

Friday 14th, 8.00pm

Poetry with John McAuliffe

As a prelude to St Patrick's day, Irish poet John McAuliffe, writer and lecturer at Manchester University, will read from his work. £5/£3 (conc.) Pay at door

Saturday 15th, 8.00pm

Jazz At The Arts Centre

Amy Roberts' All-Star Jazz Band, one of the exciting wave of new, young talent all the way from Cornwall via the RNCM. Admission £8 from 574410

Friday 28th, 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Another night of laughter. 18+ Admission £8 Tel. 560774. bollycomedyclub@tiscali.co.uk

APRIL

Wednesday 2nd – Saturday 5th

Bollington Festival Players

For details ring 875326

Sunday 6th, 2-6pm

The Play Readers

The third of the series. Ring 267545 for more details

BOLLINGTON

Arts
CENTRE

For details of daytime classes at the Arts Centre, ring 01625 576810, read the Arts Centre Leaflet or visit:
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Sunday 13th – Sunday May 11th

New Landscapes

Well-known local artist Steve Bewsher exhibits his latest work. Open Sundays 2-4pm and during other events.

Friday 18th, 7.30pm

Art Auction

An Auction of original Art – paintings, textiles, embroidery etc. in aid of the Arts Centre Roof Appeal. For more details ring Ann Ford on 01625 560459

Friday 25th, 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club

The last one of the season – try not to miss it; 18+. Admission £8 T. 560774. bollycomedyclub@tiscali.co.uk

Saturday 26th, 8.00pm

Jazz At The Arts Centre

Dave Mott's Jazz Classics. Probably the favourite band of 2007 making a welcome return. Tickets £8. Tel 574410

Sunday 27th, 4.30pm & 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Music Theatre

Triple bill: How does the CZAR eat potatoes; Arachnophobia – the true story of Little Miss Muffet; the true story of Mr Punch & his faithful dog Toby. Tickets £6 /£3 (conc.) t: 0161 427 2870 www.marple55.freemove.co.uk

MAY

Sunday May 18th, 2-6pm

The Play Readers

The last session this season. For more details ring 267545

OTHER EVENTS

MARCH

Saturday 8th March 10am-12 noon

Toy Sale at St John's School

50p entry. 560336 to reserve a table

Sunday 16th March, 10am - 2pm

Bollington 'Hill Race' walk

Join the Rangers walking the route of the Bridgend Centre Hill Race through Pott Shrigley and Adlington (7m – 11k). Ranger Office Adlington Rd. T. 504528

Monday 17th, 7.30pm

St. Patrick's Day Race Night

The Vale Inn, Adlington Rd. Supper incl. Come dressed for the Races. Prize for the best-dressed. £7.00 tickets from Bridgend and The Vale. T. 576311

Tuesday 18th, 7.30pm

Town Assembly

Come to the Civic Hall to find out what your town councillors have been up to during the last twelve months. It may help you to decide how to vote in the May elections.

APRIL

Thursday 3rd, 7.30pm

THE FUTURE FOR ST. JOHN'S

CHURCH -Public meeting

Bollington Town Hall

The Bollington Civic Society considers that now is time for the local community to come together to try to formulate a plan of action, before the building deteriorates further, is vandalised, is the subject of a fire or developed by a private developer in a way that the community does not want. If you are interested in the future of St. John's Church, please try to attend the public meeting.

Sunday 6th, 1pm – 3pm

Tytherington Tidy!

Volunteers needed to tidy the Middlewood Way. All ages welcome. Refreshments, safety instructions and equipment provided. Organised by the local Rangers. Info on 01625 534790

Dates for your Diary

MAY

Thursday 1st, 8 – 10.30am

Bollington's Birds

Ranger Office, Adlington Rd. Leisurely walk of about 4 miles to find which summer visitors have joined the local birdlife. Info on 504528.

Thursday 1st, 7am -10pm

Polling Day

Full details please see article on page 17.

Saturday 10th, 7.30 – 9.30pm

Spring Evening in Kerridge

Holy Trinity Church, Jackson Lane. 4 mile ramble around Kerridge looking at history, wildlife and hidden pathways led by the local Rangers. Info on 504528.

Sunday 25th, 10.30am – 3.30pm

Well I Knew That!

Ranger Office Adlington Rd. 6mile walk with the Rangers around Bollington and Kerridge finding out how people have made their mark on the countryside. Info on 504528.

JUNE

Wednesday 4th, 7.30pm

Police Community Action Meeting

Public meeting at St John's School. Help decide what needs doing most in Bollington. All welcome!

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th

Clarence Mill Floating Garden Festival

Join in Bollington's Floral Weekend! Send off BW's decorated narrowboat from Clarence Mill on its way down the Macclesfield Canal to the Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival taking place on the following weekend. Details 572985.

Saturday 21st, 12.00-3.00pm

Dean Valley School Summer Fair

Albert Rd. All the usual fun. Stalls, cakes, splat the rat (hopefully) and that bendy wire that rings a bell when you go wrong.

Sunday 22nd, 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Choir

Bollington Methodist Church, Wellington Rd. Karl Jenkins - Armed Man Mass, Janáček - The Lord's Prayer, Benjamin Britten - Jubilate.

Kerridge Ridge & Ingersley Vale Project EVENTS

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

The KERRIDGE RIDGE AND INGERSLEY VALE PROJECT holds regular volunteer days on all aspects of countryside management including wildlife recognition, hedge-laying, dry-stone walling and woodland crafts. For more information: call Richard Thorogood on 01625 560475 or visit the project web-site <http://www.kriv.org.uk/events.html>

Bridgend Centre EVENTS

Palmerston Street. Tel 01625 576311

Open: Mon-Thurs 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Tuesday 25th March, 2 – 4pm

Children's Activity Afternoon

Bridgend Ctr. Age 7-12 years £6. Places limited. Advance Booking please.

Sunday 13th April, 9.30am – 2.30pm

Sunday 18th May, 9.30am – 2.30pm

Car Wash and Open Day.

Come and see what The Bridgend Centre is all about. Minimum donation per car: £4.

Sunday, 1st June 10.00am

Opening of 8th Nostalgia Trail

'Upstairs, Downstairs' Exhibition. Walk starts 10.30am. Please bring a picnic. For information Tel: 01625 576311

Sunday, 13th July

Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race

Race starts 11am. £5.

METHODIST CHURCH BI-CENTENARY

Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th May

Bollington celebrates 200 years of Methodism this year.

To mark this occasion, local historian Jean Wright has written a fascinating book charting the growth of the movement within Bollington.

During spring this year there will be an exhibition on display at the library and during May there will be a number of celebratory events, including an Exhibition / Flower Festival at the Church.

Thursday 15th

Exhibition and Flower Festival

Service at 7.30pm. (Church open from 6pm for the exhibition and festival)

Fri 16th. 10.30am – 7.30pm;

Sat 17th. 10.30am – 7.30pm

(followed by choir concert)

Sun 18th. (service: 10.30am) 2 – 6.30pm followed by "Hymns for All"

Walking for Health from the Bridgend Centre.

Short Walks - These walks are held on the third Wednesday of every month. They are about three miles in length and take approximately two hours. All start and finish at Bridgend Centre and begin at 10.30am.

Moderate Walks - These walks are held on the first Wednesday of every month. They are between 4 and 6 miles in length, cover some hilly terrain and take approximately two and a half hours. All start and finish at Bridgend Centre and begin at 10.00am.

Refreshments are available before and after both the walks.

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

www.happy-valley.org.uk/discover



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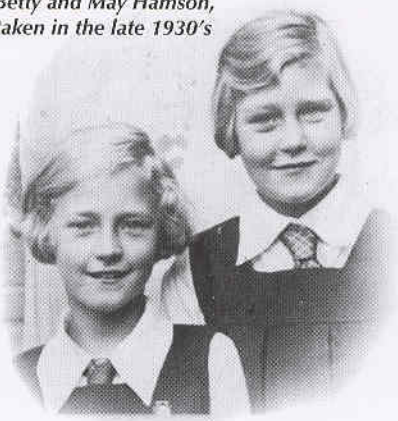
Betty's Schooldays

Most of us carry with us memories of our school days, recollections that are often a mixture of emotions, triumphs and disasters, fun and sadness but to many of us, still very vivid. Betty Bonson, who is now eighty, started school at Bollington Cross at the age of five in 1932 and fondly remembers her days at school. Talking about school today gets her into less trouble than talking did then.

Betty remembers the reception class with its huge black fireplace with a roaring fire in the winter, the wooden desks creaking when the lids were opened, the ink wells that had to be refilled each day by the ink monitors. She recalls the smell of wet clothes drying around the fire that permeated the classroom on wet days.

Her reception class teacher was Mrs Clewer who, as Betty recalled, walked each day from Rainow, even in the winter. There were very few cars in those days and the children would all walk to school too, some from as far away as Whiteley Green. Traffic was very light, a far cry from the congestion at school gates in Bollington today.

Betty and May Hamson, taken in the late 1930's



Classes were no bigger than today's but lessons were much more formal, the three "Rs" dominating the curriculum.

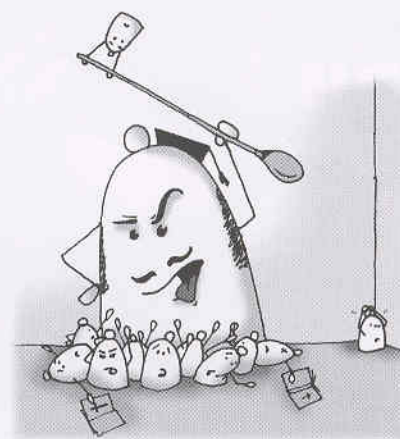
Although mental arithmetic and table chanting may not be totally unfamiliar to today's youngsters, some of the methods employed to teach reception children to write using sand trays were quite innovative in their day. Reading was very important and it was rare for a child not to be able to read at the age of seven. Regular visits by Government Inspectors ensured the good standards were maintained.

The curriculum in those days also included gardening for the boys and needlework for the girls. The school garden became a profitable venture, producing enough to sell.

Absenteeism was frowned upon and School Board Inspectors would regularly check registers for persistent truants who would receive a visit from the Inspector and a strong reprimand. There were no school meals in those days; children walking home for dinner and back again for afternoon school.

Discipline was strict and various punishments meted out for misdemeanours.

"Mr Trueman kept what he called 'a persuader', which was a wooden spoon that acted as a deterrent for would-be offenders," recalls Betty. The use of the cane was common but

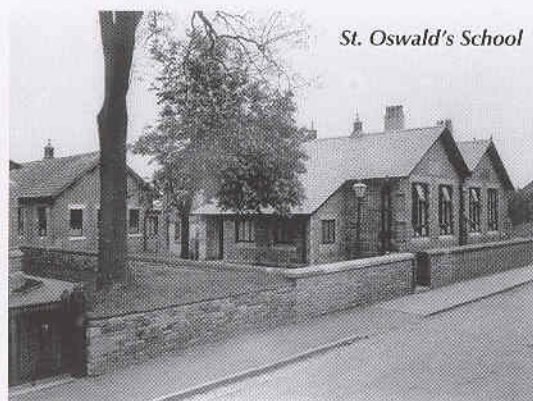


only for the worst offences; for minor incidents the children had to stand in the corner. Betty, although school reports show her to be a well behaved girl, can still remember having to stand in the corner for talking in class. These punishments were not always effective as those who know Betty would agree, but her talking has proved useful in later life as a public speaker and Town Mayor.

For most people a large number of memories of school are about our fellow pupils, our relationships and the games we played. Betty recalls the seasonal rounds of skipping and marbles, spinning tops and hopscotch and the songs and chants that accompanied the games. When winter set in she can remember skating on the pond along Henshall Road on the way to school and sledging on Peggy Hill on Moss Brow.

Betty left Bollington Cross at the age of eleven with a scholarship to Macclesfield Central School. She still has friends that she made all those years ago, even though skipping ropes have long been put away, and carries with her happy memories of a Bollington childhood. *Sandy Milsom*

Betty at a recent fund-raising event for the NSPCC at Red Oaks Farm. The function raised over £450



St. Oswald's School

The teachers were strict but fair. When Betty was at school the teaching staff consisted of Miss Fearn, Miss Nickel, Mr Trueman and the Head teacher Mr Frank Pendlebury, who taught the older children, some as old as fourteen. Betty remembers Mr Pendlebury with affection, as a strict disciplinarian but also a genial man who joined in with the children's games at playtime and who had a great sense of fun. The caretaker, Mr Edge, kept the building clean and tidy. The school nurse kept an eye on the physical well-being of the children whilst their spiritual welfare was provided for by the close links with St. Oswald's Church, as indeed it is today, and the children regularly attended services for the whole school.

Black Bart in Bollington

In 2006 Black Bart travelled up to Bollington for the 'Mind Body and Boogie Festival' at the request of Dave Raines, who is an old family friend of Sam, the drummer. The festival was then in its first year and everyone was up for doing their bit to help out. On the Sunday night we played the Red Lion stage just before Trombone Shorty, then left early the next morning and with three hours sleep, headed to Gatwick for a 'plane to Nashville.

The 2007 event was no less busy or stressful for everyone involved. Dave had asked us again and because we'd enjoyed last year, it seemed like a good opportunity to play somewhere different and hopefully make some new fans. More pubs in Bollington seemed to be involved and the atmosphere was very good across the town. Upon arriving just after noon, we headed straight out to play an acoustic set. As that finished

final show just after nine, we came off buzzing. Some people had clearly seen us last year and were again impressed; others hadn't even heard us or of us and came away equally excited by the performance. Everyone was receptive and seemed to get what we were trying to do. The reception at the first festival was good, but this time it was in another league. A lot of this can be contributed to the efforts of Dave and everyone who helped out over the weekend, including all of the bands and pubs who had given time and space respectively.



we were off for a bite to eat and back to the Cotton Tree for another acoustic set. Finally at The Vale, we had enough time for a bowl of noodles and a beer; then it was back onto the stage with an extended set as one band had pulled out before us.

The reception we had from the people of Bollington was great. Considering we were so tired by the time we had to go on for our

We plan to come back to Bollington, Macclesfield and possibly Manchester and Liverpool to gig at some point in the next six months, as well as an appearance at next year's Mind, Body and Boogie festival, but we need to organise the events to ensure we will get a decent crowd at each venue. Most of our fan-base is around the area we gig in most frequently (Bournemouth, Poole, Southampton), so getting several gigs beyond Watford that will be well attended is hard to do. We have to look into finding venues that generally draw a good crowd whatever the band, and take it from there really. I know Dave and Gary (who was managing The Vale stage and runs a Blues club) are keen to give us a hand there, but any information is welcome. As we're not a hugely successful band yet, we are always on the lookout to do things on the cheap and keep our costs down, so we're looking for all the help and support we can get.

A lot of people who attended our show at the festival came away with a CD and they can rest assured that there's another EP titled 'Town to Town' nearing completion. The tracks are now chosen for it and we have some festival gigs to get out of the way before we can finalise everything to our liking, but you'll be able to buy it online at our site, on several MP3 sites and at all of our gigs in the future.

Peace out.

Rob Joy (Black Bart)

official site: www.faustuss.com/blackbart
www.myspace.com/blackbartband

Editor's note: Charles Earl Bolles (1829–Disappeared 1888?), alias Black Bart, was an American Old West outlaw noted for his poetic messages left after each robbery. A gentleman bandit, Black Bart was one of the more notorious stagecoach robbers to operate in and around Northern California and southern Oregon during the 1870s and 1880s.

Bass Notes...

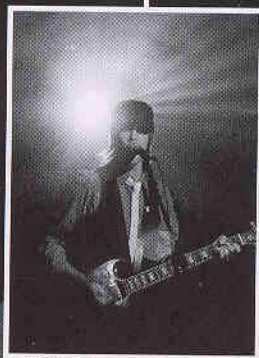
Just a quick introduction so you know who's written what you're about to read, I'm Matt, the faithful Bass Player of England's finest unsigned band Steller. We've been gigging far and wide for the last 5 years, slowly but surely building up a huge following of hard core fans and followers. You can visit our myspace site to see how the gigs are going and find out where we are next. You can also find out how to download our debut single, purchase t-shirts and join our mailing list. So without any further ado I shall begin...

Well, where do I start... the beginning would be a good place! So cast your mind back to the Summer of 2007, well, the end of the Summer of 2007, and to the mighty town of Bollington, a town which, as it turns out, is jam packed with creative musical talent, a fact probably a lot of locals already knew. But, I must admit, I didn't. Now I'm in a band, Steller, and we've been doin' the rounds for about 5 years and in that time we've been slightly aware of 'local' bands, but not to this extent. I honestly feel that whatever your musical taste, rock to pop, soul to country and all the weird and wonderful genres in-between, you'd have found numerous bands to keep your toe tapping, your head nodding and the beer flowing. My only regret about the weekend was I wasn't able to see more!

We (Steller) had the great honour of opening the event on Saturday and I believe we not only got the ball rolling but booted it well into motion, and every band, group and artist kept that momentum firmly rockin' right up to the stormy Sunday night. One of the bands I did get to see and loved every minute of, was the three young lads who played up at the Red Lion on Saturday, mainly because they covered some all time classic rock songs, but mostly because they covered them so well! Definitely one for the future, if not the present!

Something I did notice as I walked from pub to pub was the spirit of Bollington. Everywhere had a certain buzz about it, now some might say that that's the alcohol kicking in, but I know it genuinely wasn't. It was like there were beacons throughout the village, calling out to everyone as the good vibrations worked their way along the roads, trees and rooftops, it made people venture out to see what was going on in what normally is their 'quiet little town'. Unless I'm either being biased or just completely blind to the truth, I don't think anyone went away disappointed. Like I said before, all genres were covered and with Bollington being as small as it is, if you didn't enjoy the melodic sounds of one group you could roll on down the road and jump around like a nutter to another!

Ben Powell Matt Wray Gary Larby Adam Fairbrother



On a personal note, I'd like to thank everyone who made the effort to come and see Steller play, we put the same show on if there are four people or four hundred, but it's always better to have a yard full of people having a good time, with good songs and good beer. I also know that no one band makes a festival, so I think from everyone involved to everyone involved we all say thank you to each other (it's getting a bit emotional now isn't it...?) we put on one helluva show!

On a slightly romantic note, there's one member of this village that's lived here longer than all of us. Good ol' Nancy, sitting atop her big green sofa, probably had the best view of all. Many things have gone on in this village of hers, some good, some bad, some weird and many wonderful, but I think, that that weekend last Summer, would be up there with the best of them. The best thing is, festivals always get bigger and better each and every year, so here's to the next one!

Matt Wray (Steller)

www.myspace.com/stelleruk

Festival Photography

Did Dr. John Coope love his camera? If he had enjoyed photography perhaps we would already have an established photography group in Bollington. The evidence shows he "focussed" on the Performing Arts instead! We aim to redress the balance!

Festival Photography is a new group that has been a long time coming. Our mission statement is to capture the "Life and Locations of Bollington". We aim to produce a body of work that will be exhibited at the next Bollington Festival.

At the moment we have about 15 members attending each meeting. We keep in touch via Email (or snail mail when necessary), through the Flickr photographic website and its discussion board.

If you would like to be involved, all you need to do is contact Janet Beech on 574618. Alternatively, in this electronic age it is easy to pick up our Meeting Dates and Minutes. You will find links to us on the Happy Valley Web Site and, if you keep your eyes open, our cards and posters are scattered around the town. Best of all, view our images on Flickr. In theory you don't even need to leave your armchair to be part of what we are doing, except of course to find your camera and get out and about.

So long as the photos can be tagged "Bollington" they will be welcomed and considered for inclusion. Send any images you have to Janet Beech. We add a new theme each month for our images – currently WORK, NIGHT, CELEBRATIONS and CHILL.

Old or young, digital, film or mobile phone images, colour, black and white – all are welcome. Photograph the life and times of our places and people.

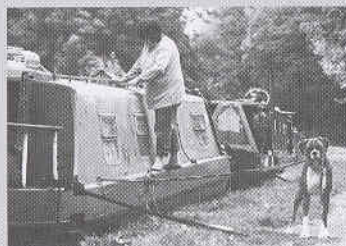
Get all your neighbours out for a Group photo. Record your back garden. Take the camera with you on your favourite walk. When you go to the pub, record the action (with permission of course!)

Join us! Make history.

Janet Beech

A selection of Bollington images taken by some of our group members - see all the rest on Flickr

www.flickr.com/groups/bollingtonfestival



Lowther St. School

A bit of initiative...

The Bollington Initiative Trust, our town's new Community Development Trust, has been working hard with the Town, Borough and County Councils, to acquire a number of buildings to protect and redevelop for the benefit of the community.

Plans are coming to fruition following the work of our part-time consultant Director, Michael King, whom the Trust has been able to employ with the support of grants from Cheshire County Council and the Cheshire Rural Enterprise Fund.

The toilet block at Shrigley Road has been transferred to the Trust from Macclesfield Borough and will be restored to form offices for the Trust and a meeting place for the Civic Society and other community groups. We have applied for a £10,000 grant from the North West Development Agency.

Lowther Street School has been purchased from the Crown Estates with a loan from the Cheshire Building Society. This attractive building will be

restored for office use and either rented out or sold to an appropriate company. Planning permission has been granted. This scheme will create space for a number of new jobs in the town.

Water Street School has been the subject of a feasibility study by the Trust to investigate its transfer from Cheshire County. The plans are to create the "Water Street Centre" to provide improved space for the existing tenants – Bollington Air Cadets and Heyday Play Group, plus potentially reviving the youth club. We will be working closely with the tenants to improve the building and facilities.

The Trust has been assisting the Town and Borough councils over the redevelopment of the upper floor of the Civic Hall. This scheme is dependent on the sale of the existing Town Hall and the refurbishment of the Civic Hall to provide new offices for the Town Council and enhanced community space, including the largest performance space in Bollington.

The Trust has also been working with the Salesians of Don Bosco, the owners of Savio House. A feasibility study has been produced to show how to develop a rural and traditional building skills training, education and business centre.

2008 is going to be a busy time for the Bollington Initiative Trust and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to assist us. Please contact the secretary David Haddleton on 575557 or the chairman Graham Barrow on 573807.

Graham Barrow

www.happy-valley.org.uk/bit

The Mystery of the Rally Road

Bollington's Discovery Centre has thousands of pictures to browse, yet surprisingly one important feature of Bollington and Kerridge's history seems to be missing or has somehow evaded the camera.

Has anyone got photographs of the 'rally' road, or tramway linking the quarries at Kerridge with the shipment dock on the canal? The Kerridge stone was loaded onto boats moored at what is now the dry dock. There are two large scale OS maps of the area for 1875 and 1909 held in Macclesfield Library. The first shows a stone saw-mill by the dock with a travelling crane and the rally leading down to the dock from above Windmill Lane, Kerridge. The later map shows the mill as disused and there are no rails marked, so the utility had finished between these dates.

There is a photo in the Discovery Centre (c 1910) of a little girl with a hoop by Oak Fold Farm where the

tramway crossed Oak Lane by the war memorial, but there are no signs of rails. Most tramways around the country of this vintage have a few photos left, but not one of the 'rally' has yet appeared. The route of the tramway can be walked from the canal and across Oak Lane, though the top section which consists of steps under Windmill Lane is very steep. There used to be cottages close to the canal by the dock and they can be seen in the photos at the Discovery Centre of the canal breach there in 1912. They are said to have been lived in until about World War Two, but stone from this area and from the demolished windmill was removed by allied forces during the war to make the runway for the aerodrome at Burtonwood. Kerridge's contribution to the war effort is bizarrely miles away and hidden beneath Lancashire!

Malcolm Bower



The 'Rally' road toward Kerridge Quarries

www.macclesfieldcanal.org.uk

Making a Fresh Start

Thursday 1st May will enable everyone in Bollington to make a fresh start in the way our political life is organised. It has now been decided by Parliament that a 'unitary authority' will soon be in charge of local government.

On 1st May we shall be able to go to our local polling stations to elect three 'shadow councillors' to represent us on a new authority to be known as Cheshire East and consisting of Macclesfield, Crewe and Nantwich, and Congleton. The new authority is due to take over the functions of both Macclesfield Borough Council and Cheshire County Council on 1st April 2009. At the same time twelve Councillors are due to be elected to the Bollington Town Council, four in each of our three wards. You will be receiving polling cards identifying your correct polling station, and the polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm. You will also have the option of voting by post.

The Bollington turnout in recent local elections has been as high as 50% and we hope that in May the numbers voting will be just as high or even higher. Provided that there are at least four candidates nominated for each ward our Town has a good chance of achieving Quality Status. This would enable the Town Council to take charge of more of the affairs of the town, while working closely with the new East Cheshire Authority.

In addition to the usual political party candidates we hope that some independent candidates will also put their names forward. We do already have several serving councillors who are independent of any party and the Town Clerk has been asked to assist any potential independent candidates to obtain the necessary nomination papers. Contact the Town Hall on 572985. **Mark Stedman**

Canal at War

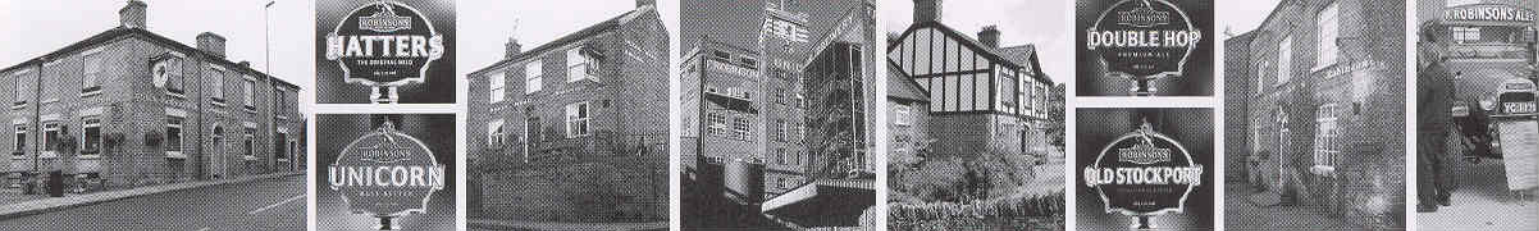
I was very interested in the recent display of wartime memorabilia at the Bollington Discovery Centre. There are still some items to be seen along the canal relating to WW2 and many Bollingtonians will recall this period vividly.

There were three 'tank traps' - cubes of concrete about 5 feet high and several feet square, constructed on some local bridges along the Macclesfield Canal. They were intended to halt the progress of enemy tanks through the country. There are still two to be seen to the north of Whiteley Green which appear to have been dragged off the tops of bridges number 23 and 24. They are a short walk along the towpath from the car park above the Windmill Inn. In addition to the local tank traps, there are still pillboxes to be seen by the canal at Middlewood, Danes Moss and Bosley. More are beside road bridges at Poynton, perhaps to defend Woodford aerodrome.

The 26 milestones, quarried from Kerridge in the 1820s, were buried beneath the towpath and have since been raised by volunteers, although three required replacing. In 1989 the Macclesfield Canal Society demolished the tank trap on bridge number 30, on the track between Kerridge and Tytherington. The parapets of the bridge were also rebuilt over a two year period.

During the Society's work, we had an interesting discussion with a gentleman who was in the Home Guard in the war and who had often patrolled the canal towpath. He recalled there were dutch sappers billeted in Bollington in about 1940 and that they had constructed the tank trap. The trap was of a crude construction, centred on a concrete pipe filled with coarse sand and packed around with concrete, reinforced with strips of metal including bedsteads. He also said the parapets were deliberately destroyed to weaken the bridge. Although the parapets on bridge 23 were left, those on number 24 were also destroyed but rebuilt after the war. I wonder if anyone in Bollington remembers these Dutch soldiers and any more on this episode in our history. **Malcolm Bower**

www.macclesfieldcanal.org.uk



Here's to you, Mr. Robinson

Most people in Bollington will be aware of the Robinson's brewing family, with their pubs radiating out from their base in Stockport. Perhaps less well known is that this brewing empire could well have been based here in Bollington!



William Robinson

It was way back in 1826 that cotton-overlooker, William Robinson, moved from Bollington to become the licensee of the Unicorn Inn on Lower Hillgate, Stockport, subsequently buying the pub on September 29th 1838. Initially, the Inn was just used for selling a variety of the ales available in the area,

until in 1865, when his youngest son Frederic entered the business with him, that they began to brew their own beer.

William's pub, The Unicorn, was demolished in 1935, swallowed up by the expanding brewery, which has since found its way back to Bollington, with four

of our pubs owned by the family firm. The brewery and its most popular beer still maintain the link back to William; they are both named after his first pub in Stockport.

If William had never moved to Stockport, who knows, Bollington could have become the hub of over four hundred pubs.

Anthony Holland



www.frederic-robinson.com

Bollington's Berry

PC Tim Berry started working in Bollington as a member of our Neighbourhood Policing Team last September. He was born and grew up in the Manchester/Stockport area. He has had experience in banking and for a year he owned and ran a bar in Spain on the Costa Blanca.

He moved back to the UK in 2004 and he worked for a period for the Highways Agency, based at Knutsford as a Traffic Officer, working on the motorways dealing with incidents, breakdowns and debris until he joined the Cheshire Constabulary.

"As the Community Action Team Officer I would like to say thank-you for your assistance with local issues in the last few months. It is essential that the public help us by acting as our eyes and ears in order to help us to detect and solve local issues such as drugs, burglary or vehicle crime or Anti Social Behaviour. This information can be passed to us directly or by

using confidential services such as Crimestoppers.

"Since the last Community Action Meeting (CAM) the following issues were designated to be a priority: Youth Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), Licensed premises ASB, and Vehicle Crime. We have been working hard to address these problems.

"Regular checking of the local haunts for Youth ASB has proved successful although we need to be told if the problems have moved on to less



The Bollington Community Action Team:

Tim Berry - Police Constable 4593
Nicholas Millard - P.C.S.O. 20360
Kevin McHardy - Special Constable 8015
Tel: 0845 458 6371
Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

obvious areas. In terms of Licensed Premises there has recently been a campaign regarding Responsible Alcohol Sales and regular meetings with licensees of the premises allow us to feedback any reported problems and to discuss solutions on an individual level. Vehicle Crime is like all things better prevented than solved although the level in Bollington remains very low. Regular patrols and increased partnership working will help the situation and again I ask for the public's help with information." Mark Stedman

BOLLINGTON TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 18th 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

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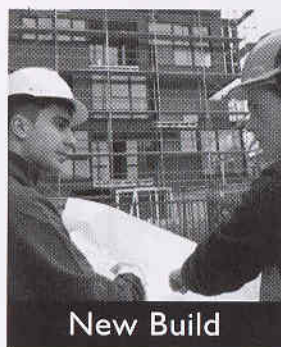
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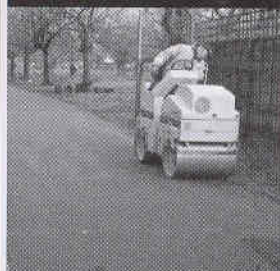
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Tarmacadam



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Howzat!

As it approaches its 123rd year, Bollington Cricket Club (founded in 1885) continues to flourish under the stewardship of its chairman Chris Murray.

My memories of the club go back to the early 1960's when as a 12 year old I used to go to the practice evenings with my school chums - Mike Braddock (who is soon to retire as Managing Director of Slater Harrison & Co Ltd), David Wood (now living and working in Essex), David Hayman, Dave Kershaw and others.

Through the club, I forged numerous lifelong friendships particularly with Dennis Goodwin, Martin Tute and Keith Arnold with all of whom I still regularly have the 'odd' pint.

Like any cricket club, Bollington has experienced its good and not so good times; they now compete in the Cheshire County League Division One which is the second tier of Cheshire County Cricket.

When you reflect on the club's history, the ground has been graced by some outstanding players such as Keith Stackpole who played 43 test matches for Australia scoring 7 centuries. He visited the Recreation Ground as the professional for a Ramsbottom CC side who played a friendly match at the club in the late 1960's. Frank Hayes a Marple CC player, who in 1973 scored a debut test match century against

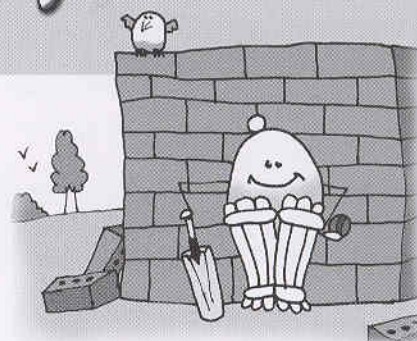
West Indies, appeared on numerous occasions.

Bollington's own Brian Jackson was an outstanding bowler who had an illustrious career with Derbyshire CCC for whom he opened the bowling with the legendary Harold Rhodes. Brian's out-swingers and nagging accuracy



were the scourge of county batsmen in 1964 and 1965.

The club has produced numerous other top quality players such as the brilliant wicket keeper/batsman Tom Hodson who was the first cricketer I ever saw wearing protective equipment. Prior to joining Bollington CC, Brian Cooper, a former 'Busby Babe' (who sadly recently passed away) spearheaded the bowling attack at Longsight CC with



Jimmy Cumbes who is now Chief Exec. at Lancashire Cricket Club.

Clifford Wood (now a nonagenarian) and Reg Carlisle (in his 80's) were both stars of the successful title winning Bollington sides of the late 1950's.

The club's committee used to meet at the Dog and Partridge every monday evening and in 1968 the club explored the possibility of building a new pavilion and wrote to local companies asking for their financial support. Many readers of **Bollington Live!** might recall Sneyd Brickworks at Pott Shrigley, who kindly offered to donate all the bricks free of charge for the project. One committee member offered to calculate the number of bricks required and reported back at the next meeting a total which would have built the Empire State Building. It then transpired that the calculation had not taken account of allowing for any rooms and that it was therefore one mass of bricks! *Allan Sherratt*

Photo: Dennis Goodwin, Nick Wright and I had the pleasure of joining the Club on its tour of Newquay in July 2007

<http://bollington.play-cricket.com>

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BOLLINGTON

Live!