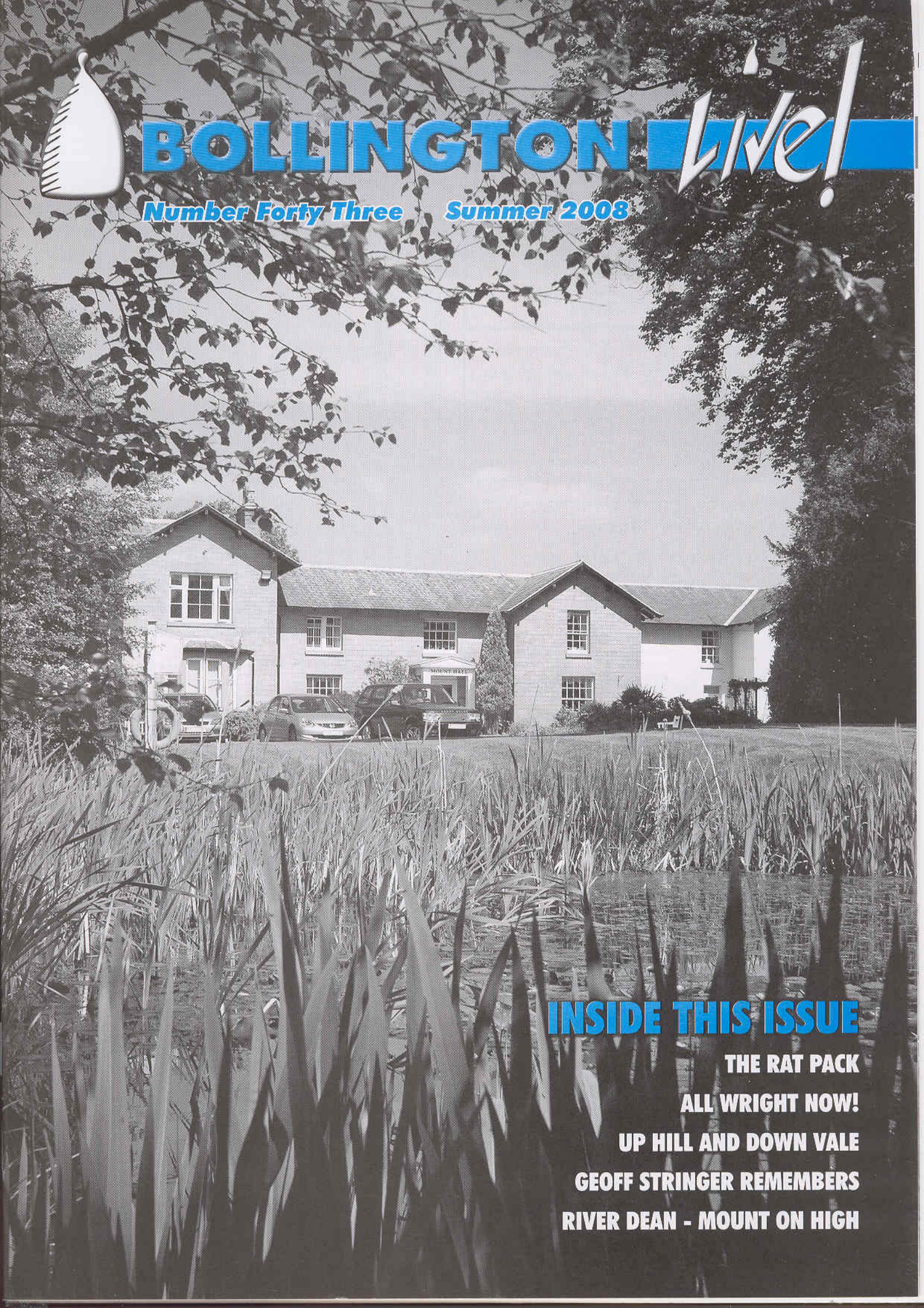




BOLLINGTON *Live!*

Number Forty Three Summer 2008



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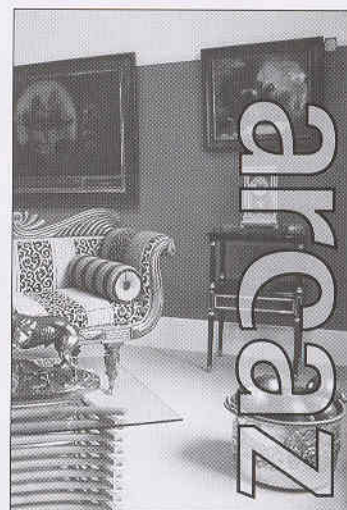
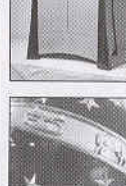
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Editor..... Anthony Holland (01625 268047)

liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk

Editorial Team..... John Liley, Tim Neale, Tim Boddington, Sandy Milsom, Annette Hurst, Ken Edwards, Simon Nottage, Mark Stedman, Janet Beech.

Advertising Tim Neale (01625 576397)
Mark Stedman (01625 575227)
Michelle Leigh (01625 572953)
liveadverts@happy-valley.org.uk

Distribution Janet Beech (01625 574618)
livedistribution@happy-valley.org.uk

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PARKING FINE

The intractable problem for every town like Bollington – how do we fit in all the cars, overnight in front of our houses; during the day around our schools, shops and businesses? Should we be looking for ways to accommodate more cars, or should we be looking for ways to reduce the number of cars and the need for cars? We could start by agreeing that there isn't room – there isn't room for more street parking and there are few options for increased off street parking.

So what do we do? Well, the Town Plan group undertook a parking survey last September. It didn't produce any real surprises. Residential streets that were never built for the motor age, such as Church Street, Lord Street, Water

**...THERE ISN'T ROOM
FOR MORE STREET
PARKING AND THERE
ARE FEW OPTIONS FOR
INCREASED OFF STREET
PARKING...**

Street and even 1960s Barnfield Road, all have a serious parking problem, especially overnight. Should we allocate the space by issuing residents' permits? One car per property? So what do you do with the other one?

The school run is an especially difficult problem. Why don't more children walk to school? Perhaps we should implement a permit scheme like the one in London - £75 per year to drop off and pick up the children. Why not enhance that by making it free for cars with three or more children in them. Maybe the schools should have an off street

drop off/pick up area; drive in drive out to solve the turning problem.

The new parking control regime got underway in May. Parking Attendants are patrolling the Macclesfield area. Bollington offers a rich reward for the council if they pedantly enforce the regulations here. Steps have been taken by the Town Plan group to agree a practical protocol with the council to accept that some offences should be overlooked, otherwise many occupants of the smaller houses may be put into an impossible position, while shops and some businesses may be driven out of business. We need the council to take a sensible approach, not a tick box, penalty, pay up approach. However, worryingly, no response has yet been forthcoming from the council.

Please send your views to the editor; we'll publish the best.

Tim Boddington

www.happy-valley.org.uk/townplan

The picture below illustrates the problems faced by the lack of adequate parking for Bollington's businesses.



FROM THE EDITOR

It's always a dilemma. Which articles should be in **Bollington Live!** and which need to be saved for a later issue? Sadly it is not possible to please everyone and inevitably some people will be disappointed upon opening this latest issue to find their article not included. I am sure people realise that there is a limited amount of space to squeeze everything in. I apologise now to those people – and rest assured that your articles are not forgotten.

Our lead article in this issue is regarding a walk, around the planned re-development, at Ingersley (Clough) Mill. I asked Ken to write a thousand words, and received three thousand. It was quite an editing task! The extra information will not be wasted though, I have a feeling that the trimmings from the work could well turn into at least one other article somewhere down the line!

Other articles run the gamut from rat-catching to kayaking on the River Dean. There is an informative look back on the Bollington of fifty years ago, along with a celebration of the Methodist Church's bi-centenary. Quite a good variety – but only as good as those you send in for publication. Please continue to do so.

After two years as editor, I felt that **Bollington Live!** needed a bit of a face-lift. I hope you like the more contemporary feel of the magazine.

Anthony Holland

DATE FOR NEXT COPY:

Friday 26th September 2008

UP HILL AND DOWN VALE



A favourite walk for Bollingtonians and many of our visitors starts at the Crown Inn, on the corner of Church Street and Ingersley Vale. The road passes the new development of three-storey town houses on the left and the mock mill of Dyers Court on the right. You then pass across a cobbled rectangle just before the bowling green which marks the border between Bollington and Rainow. You go past McNulty's Double Glazing works (previously where Rainow Mill once stood) and leaving Bollington behind; you enter the narrow valley that will soon open out into the wonderful open stretch of green fields that leads to the pubs and other delights of Rainow.

Tucked in on the left are a group of dilapidated buildings bordering the River Dean. The road passes by a huge stone matchbox that once housed the biggest waterwheel in mainland England. Hovering above the walker is a precarious looking metal conduit held up by rusting struts. This carried the water from the long mill race that starts at Clough Pool above the waterfall at Waulkmill. The huge wheel powered the Ingersley Vale Bleach Works and Slater Harrison's Board Works until 1932.

Ingersley (Clough) Mill in its current state of dilapidation.

On the left of this picture you can see the building, which at the time, held the largest water-wheel in mainland Britain



Edward Collier's plaque of 1809

Look down and across at the edge of the deep cut, where the Dean flows underneath the mill. On a large oval golden sandstone plaque at the base of the stairwell, are carved the initials E1809C. These are the initials of Edward Collier who had already constructed the weir above Waulkmill Farm and left his initials there with the date 1800. Edward obviously wanted to be remembered. This weir created Clough Pool, still visible above the lovely waterfall, which glows with a thousand mysterious colours when the sun shines on the frozen water in mid-winter

Pass around in front of Ingersley Mill and you see a sorry jumbled mess of pipes, ad-hoc extensions and murky depths where the Dean flows underneath the works. The experience is one of a general sense of neglect and decay. This is relieved only by the majestic façade of the mill rising four stories to a ruined roof gaping open to the grey sky above. A footpath past a rotting gate takes you up the slopes near Savio House, formerly Ingersley Hall, with magnificent views towards the hills called Back Edge above Rainow. Breathe a sigh of relief and stride away.

You might think this decay stretched back into the dim and distant past but no, just to 1999 when a disastrous fire brought over 200 years of continuous industrial activity to an end. If you had walked that way on the evening of November 17th 1999, you would have seen in the gloom, massive flames and huge clouds of smoke rising into the evening sky. Nine fire engines were pouring hundreds of gallons of water into the mill and a huge turntable with a long ladder would have been spraying water into the roof from a height of forty feet. Such was the destruction no one discovered how the fire started. Shrigley Dyers claimed for hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of destroyed textile and rubber goods. Luckily the workforce had just left, as the fire was reported at 6.15pm. There were no injuries. The mill has not been used since, though the sheds were still used for a time. Bob Higginbottom, manager at the time, thought a lighted match or an electrical fault might have caused the fire. We shall never know.

...YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN MASSIVE-FLAMES AND HUGE CLOUDS OF SMOKE RISING INTO THE EVENING SKY...

Recent walkers past the Mill will notice attempts have been made to secure the site. The open spaces have been fenced off and the holes in the wooden doors have been patched. This is because the mill is about to start a new lease of life. Like so many working places in Bollington, it has been bought by developers who wish to convert the buildings into a complex of town houses and apartments. Outline plans have been produced, artist's impressions have been commissioned and many Bollingtonians are fiercely discussing the merits of the development.

People think the positives are that it will bring life back to redundant buildings in a sympathetic manner. The mill will be restored with many of the unsightly additions removed.

The water will flow again from Clough Pool and be used to generate electricity through turbines in a sustainable manner. The river will be exposed and integrated into the development. Cars will be housed out of sight. The upper Dean Valley will spring to life once more.

At a meeting in a packed Bollington Town Hall, it was confirmed that there would be sixty-six units, of which fifteen would be affordable housing, six would have three bedrooms and twelve would be four bedroom homes. The four bedroom units would each have room for three cars. The one bedroom units would also have a room suitable for use as an office for home workers.

The water powered electricity generation plant would generate up to 200kw, generally enough to power the whole development. Surplus power would be sold to other local users or the grid; shortages would be drawn from the grid.

Following concerns that some of the town-houses were out of keeping with the Vale, the fronts of the town houses upstream of the mill have been redesigned to echo the front of the mill, with a couple of stone towers in front of the window line and more stone finishes to the front walls. Public car parking will be provided at

the far end of the site where the concrete hard standing is today.

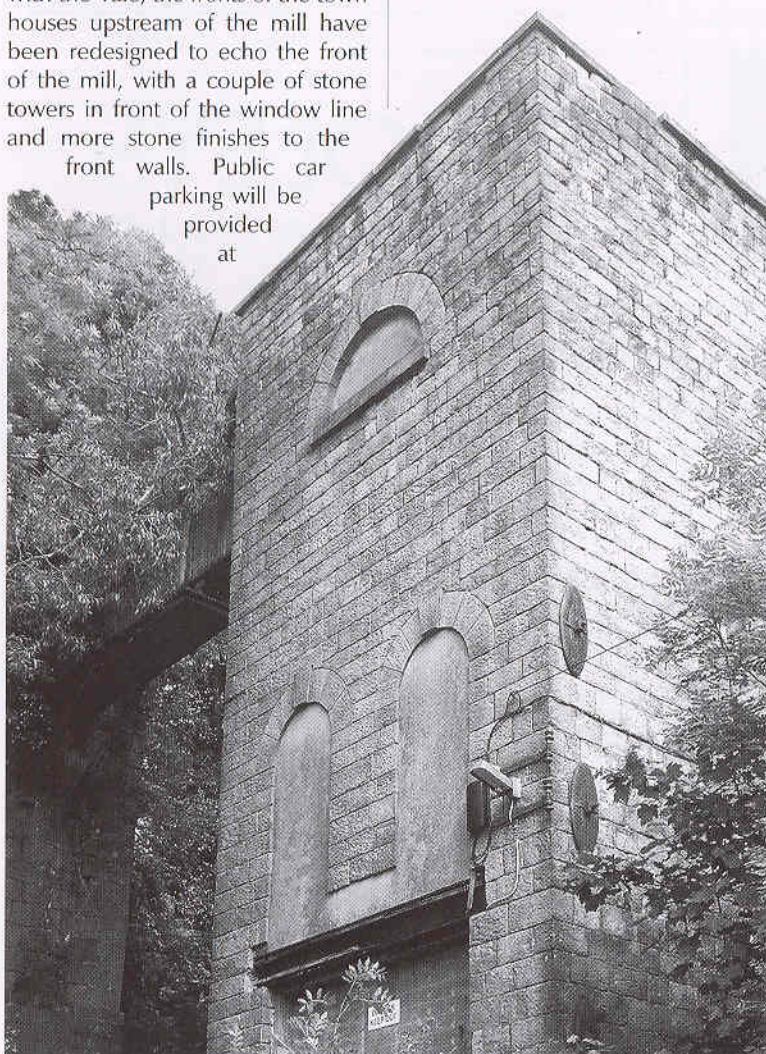
There are negatives of course. Are sixty-six housing units too many for the site? Will the traffic generated be too heavy for the local area? What will happen to rights of way that follow narrow roads now needed for cars? Will the design of some units be appropriate next to the restored mill.

Whatever the outcome, enterprise and technological advance are returning as it has always done to this narrow valley.

My thoughts return to Edward Collier. If he were to see these plans he would be very pleased. His plaque will be a prominent feature of the restored mill. He will still be remembered! Though some people may in the future think the initials could stand for the new developer - Edward Clunn!

Ken Edwards

www.happy-valley.org.uk/civicsociety/ingersley



Left: The aqueduct could soon be carrying water to the wheelhouse which could resonate again to the hum of machinery.

Water turbines are planned to provide the development with renewable green energy.

YOUR FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU!

As May 2009 draws nearer, the Festival Committee confronts many challenges to secure a Festival next year that matches the huge victories of its predecessors. Helped by many allies in local businesses and well-wishers among our community, the campaign is underway to pin down the financial guy-ropes of the Festival Big Top without any major sponsorship.

Much has been accomplished, but much still remains to be done. What is needed now is an army of volunteers to support our fund-raising efforts including the Festival 100 Club, the Autumn Craft Fair planned for November 1st along with many other

MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BUT MUCH STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE...

ventures. Later, other brave men and women will be called upon to offer themselves as stewards in the May 2009 action. A hard task lies ahead of us but we will prevail. What can you do to contribute to one of Bollington's finest hours. Perhaps you would care to sponsor a children's music show, part-fund a science lecture, or donate a Festival trophy for the dog show? The possibilities are legion so please do volunteer your support and ideas.

The Festival website provides all necessary information about events and donations and Festival Treasurer, Pete Tunwell, will happily talk about money. (tel: 560165) So, ask not what your Festival can do for you but...

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

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GEOFF STRINGER REMEMBERS

On the 5th April, earlier this year, a group of Geoff's friends, like-minded people and interested parties gathered at the Cock and Pheasant. A very suitable date for a man who spent much of his career in finance to have his birthday! Geoff and his beautiful and charming wife Joannie were toasted with champagne and as the laughter rose, he commented that the event was supposed to have been held at his home on Flash Lane, but, as he remarked: "none of you buggers can walk up my driveway – and I'm older than all of you!"

Geoff told us that he had received more cards than for his previous birthdays, but that was because people were surprised that he was still alive. Joannie and Geoff posed for the local newspaper's photographer and received gifts and well-wishes. In the evening they dined at 'The Bridge' in Prestbury.

Geoff never boasts about his war service, quite the contrary, the stories he tells usually make you laugh or blush. Yet he fought at El Alamein and Monte Cassino. He lost both beloved brothers during the war.

One of the reasons I wanted to tell people about this unforgettable local character was that when I



Above: Geoff and Joannie celebrating Geoff's 90th Birthday earlier this year, at the Cock and Pheasant

mentioned El Alamein to him recently, his response was "remind me, where was that?" I found that very sad.

'Lest we forget' is being overlooked by some in today's society and age is blunting the memory of those remaining. What we owe to people like Geoff who fought for us in those dark years, must never be forgotten.

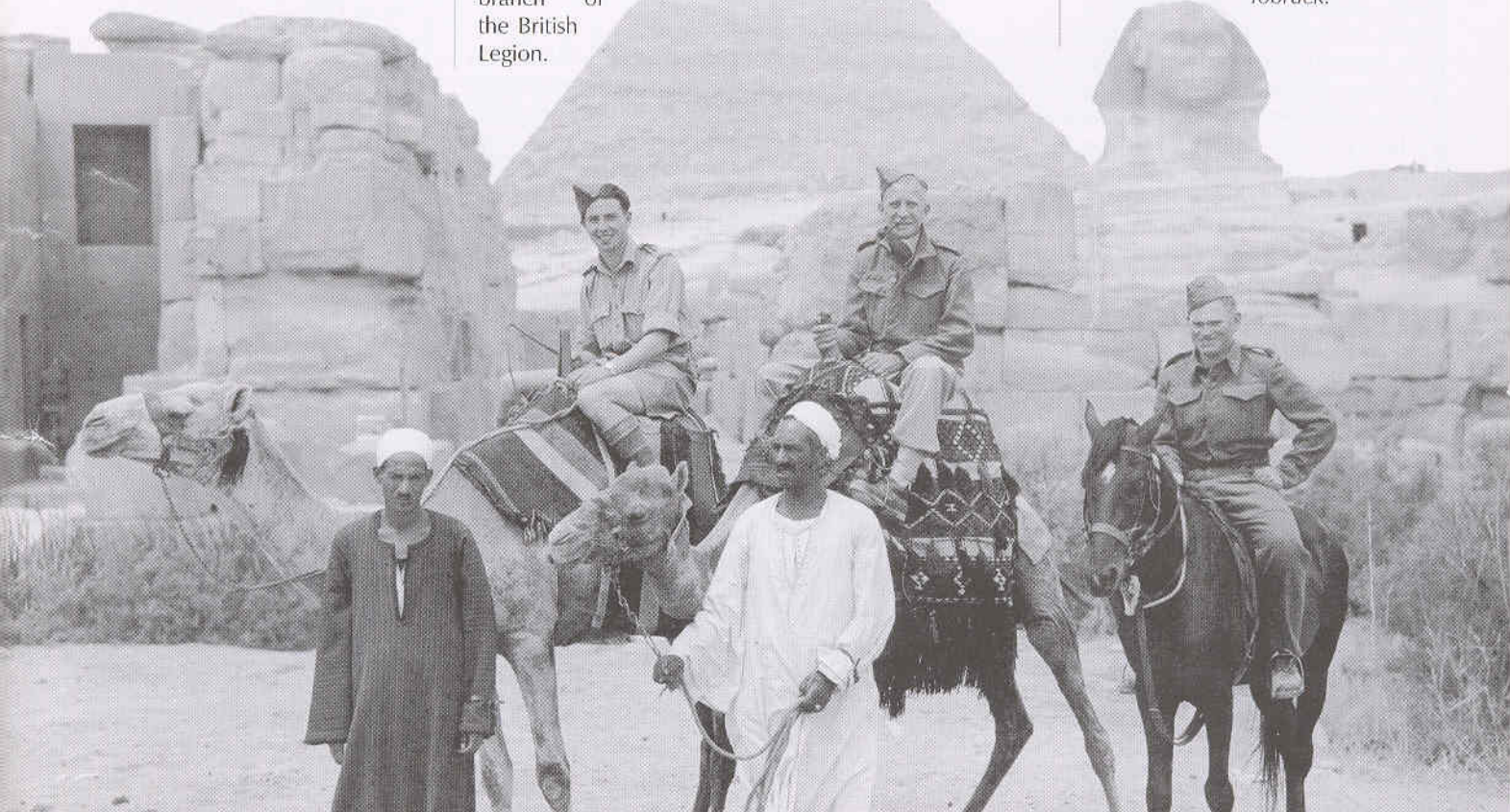
Geoff was manager of the TSB bank branch in Macclesfield for almost twenty-five years. I am sure many will remember him in that role and, have cause to be grateful; by all accounts he was a somewhat unusual bank manager. He was in the Rotary Club and is a member of Probus. Additionally he is a lively participant and supporter of the Prestbury branch of the British Legion.

Joannie and Geoff are thriving. On most Fridays they are to be found at the Cock and Pheasant with the 'Knights of the Round Table' and the 'Three Wise Men'. There, Geoff entertains us with amusing anecdotes of his past.

In Geoff's own words... "I sailed from the Clyde estuary in 1941, round Africa, calling at Sierra Leone, Cape Town, Durban and Aden. I served in the Western Desert for two years in the 8th Army. In October 1941, came the battle of El Gubbi to relieve Tobruk. I got diphtheria and was evacuated to Alex. I re-mustered with the Light Field Ambulance and went from El Alamein to Tunis, dealing with casualties from forward armour.

In September 1943, I sailed in a tank landing craft, with transport and a field dressing station, from Tripoli to Salerno, landing with Ten Corps, part of the American 5th Army. I was in two battles at Monte Cassino and was badly wounded in central Italy. I was transferred to the Army Educational Corps and sent to Perugia University. I was overseas for four and a half years with no home leave. I lost both my brothers, one was a gunner in Benheim and the other was killed not far from me in Tobruk."

Below: Geoff (left on camel) in the Valley of the Kings in 1941



RIVER DEAN...

When Samuel Greg junior was searching for a suitable location for his cotton business, he discovered the valley of the river Dean. He built his home at 'The Mount' from where he could oversee his empire.

Samuel Greg junior was the son of the owner of Styal Mill, now a famous National Trust tourist destination. Samuel Greg bought the lease of Bollington's Lowerhouse Mill in 1832, when he was only 28, from Philip Antrobus. The mill could be powered by a water-wheel or by steam power, but it was in a state of dereliction so that Samuel had to work hard to develop a profitable concern.

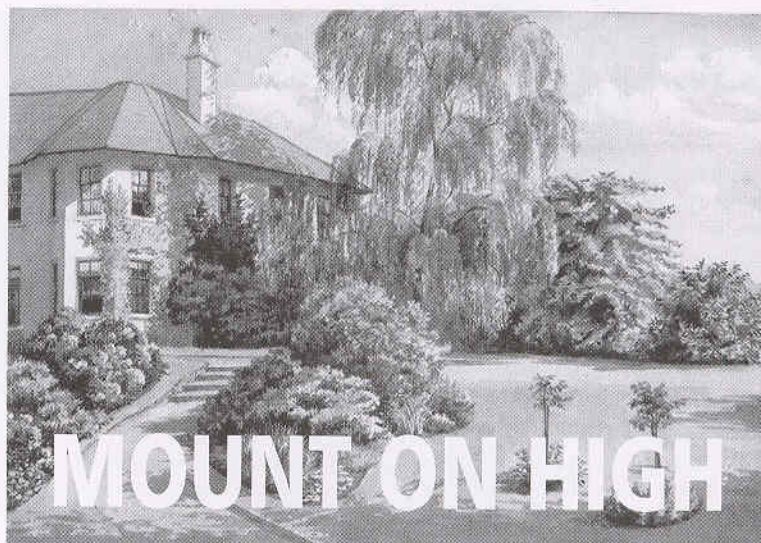
He lived as a bachelor at 'Turner Heath' but married Mary Needham in 1838, starting at once to develop the 119 acres he bought off Flash Lane, into a farm and estate, with handsome gardens. He moved to 'The Mount' some eight years later. He was very fond of riding and hunting; frequently riding either to Quarry Bank, to see his father, or to Manchester, where his brother owned another cotton mill.

Samuel's estate at 'The Mount' overlooked his Lowerhouse cotton mill and he worked to create a model village there for his workers, with good housing and allotment plots in front of the cottages. He opened warm baths for the workers, with tickets costing one penny. Additionally, he also opened a library, a school and a well-run local shop. He called this new community "Goldenthal" which we now translate as "The Happy Valley".

Mount Hall (right), as painted in 1898 by Amy Gregg, is now a home for the elderly run by Bupa - in our next issue, we will continue the story with more recent happenings, along with Bupa's plans for the future.

www.happy-valley.org.uk/arts/amygregg

www.bupa-carehomes.co.uk



However, soon after he moved to his new home the workers at the mill went on strike. Some years after his death, Mary Greg described what happened in these words:

"He had been trying some new machinery for stretching cloth, which proved unpopular in the mill; and the workpeople, instead of coming to talk the matter over, as between friends, trusting him to meet them in the same spirit, surprised and grieved him by a turn-out."

Samuel's health suffered a breakdown and he had to arrange for his brothers to take over the management of the mill. He never went to the mill again.

His health did recover sufficiently for him to continue as a magistrate in Macclesfield as well as to ride to hounds. He wrote the hymn "Stay master stay upon this heavenly hill". He also wrote articles for local newspapers and he gave lectures to young workers for the Useful Knowledge Society.

He was still able to entertain friends and relatives at 'The Mount' and Elizabeth Gaskell, author of the novel 'Cranford,' was one of his regular guests. Elizabeth had been born in Knutsford, but she now lived in smoky industrial Manchester. She told her friends that she always enjoyed staying at 'The Mount', which she described as "rather grand" and she praised the Bollington air as "so useful and so pleasant".

Mrs Gaskell wrote much of her novel 'Mary Barton' while staying at 'The Mount' and she walked regularly the three miles, to and from the Unitarian chapel in Macclesfield on Sunday.

Samuel Greg lived with his wife, his sister and his eight children in 'The Mount' until he died in 1876. His funeral procession was accompanied by "mill workers, civic dignitaries, members of the Useful Knowledge Society, clergymen and members of their congregations, and friends." **Mark Stedman**

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Building work is well underway at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School in Bollington and the very youngest children are looking forward to the completion of a brand new, state-of-the-art classroom. They are eagerly watching the progress of the building, which is due to open in July. It will mark a new chapter in the school's history, as did also,



in February of this year, when John Daley (pictured left) was appointed as the new Head of the school.

John, as a Welshman cannot hide his passion for rugby but is keen to encourage many different sports and has already managed to inspire some good team spirit and enthusiasm from the children. The new Head also plans to give creativity a high profile, with art, drama and music becoming important aspects of the curriculum.

To add a global dimension to the children's education, John plans to forge links with a school in a lesser developed country. Closer to home the school has close connections to St. Gregory's Church and is involved in the wider community of Bollington. With a Welshman at the helm the school may well have a first rate choir ready for the next Bollington Festival!

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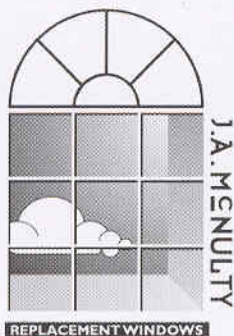
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BOLLINGTON

Live!

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 6th 8.00pm

John Hallam Jazztet with Jeff Barnhart
Ring 01625 574410 (£8)

September 7th – October 5th

In The Gallery

"Shadow Play" Paintings by Diane King.

Saturday 20th, 8.00pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Sacconi Quartet play Quartets by Turina, Haydn, Holloway and Tchaikovsky.
£12/£6 (concs) Tel: 560355 / 575287

Friday 26th - Saturday 27th 7.30pm

An Inspector Calls

David Beaton directs this play by J.B.Priestley. Tickets £6/£4 (concs) from 01625 267545 or 573413

Sunday 28th, 7.00pm

Michael Symmons Roberts

Michael reads poems from his new collection "The Half Healed" and his novel "Breath". Tickets £6/£4 from 573413

OCTOBER

Friday 3rd, 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Over 18s. Tickets (£9) ring 01625 560774 or visit www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk
Saturday October 4th, 8.00pm

The Wabash Jazzmen

Ring 01625 574410 (£8)

Friday October 10th, 8.00 pm

Five Books of Marriage

Harry Owen, Cheshire's first Poet Laureate, returns for the UK launch of his new collection. £5/£3 pay at door.

Sunday 12th – Sunday November 16th

In The Gallery

"Verse and Views from Bollington and Beyond" An exhibition of photographs with poems by Ruth Mitchel-Hill.

Thursday 15th - Saturday 18th

Bollington Festival Players

Production to be announced! For details and tickets ring 01625 875326

Friday 24th, 8.00pm

Mikron Theatre presents Fair Trade

The Co-op Movement history, as told by Mike Lucas. Tel: 574687 £9 /£7(concs).

Saturday 25th, 8.00pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Holywell String Quartet perform music by Haydn, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn. £12/£6 (concs) Tel: 560355 / 575287

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 26th, 7.30pm

Old Bollington

A talk by Tim Boddington using photos from the archive held at the Discovery Centre. Admission £5 /£3 Pay at Door

Thursday 30th, 2.00pm

The History Wardrobe presents "The Fabulous Fifties"

Inspired by the fashions of the decade that reinvented dazzle, Doris Drudge is transformed into Mrs Dreamwife. Remember the Liberty Bodice? Tickets £7.50/£6.50 (concs) from 01625 575287.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st, 11am – 4pm

Festival Fare

Pictures and hand-made cards, home-made cakes, books, RSPB stall, antiques etc, linen, lace and hand-made jewellery. In support of Bollington Festival '09.

Saturday 1st, 8.00pm

Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz

Tickets £8 from 01625 574410.

Friday 7th, 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Details - as Friday 3rd October

Saturday 8th, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Carbon Revolution - EcoRefurbishment

Nick Parsons from the Centre for Alternative Technology leads a one-day course looking at heat loss in buildings and renewable, eco-friendly materials. £10 for Bollington residents, £20 others. For details contact myskos@ntlworld.com

Sunday 9th, 7.30

Living in Siberia

After her wedding in 1931, Margaret Lorimer travelled to Siberia with her mining-engineer husband James. Her daughter, Jessie Beard, recounts life in that vast wilderness. £5/£3 Pay at door.

Friday 14th, 7.30pm

Confessions of Honour

Opus Theatre Company present a moving drama about an old soldier's search for the truth. £7.50/£6 (Conc) 573413 / 575287

Sunday 16th, 9.30 – 4.30

Playing Shakespeare

Director David Beaton leads a workshop with readings and rehearsals based on Twelfth Night. Min. age 16. £16/£10(conc) Ring 01625 267545 by November 9th.

Saturday 22nd, 10 am – 3pm

Wordsense with Gail Ashton

A poetry workshop using the senses to observe, explore and create poems. Booking: £5 Tel: 575287

Sunday 23rd – Sunday December 28th

A Taste of Cheshire

Paintings by Allie Pottinger.

Saturday 29th, 8.00pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Fitzwilliam String Quartet with Lesley Schatzberger (Clarinet) play Mozart, William Sweeney, Borodin and Weber. £12/£6 (conc) from 560355 / 575287

Sunday 30th 4.30 & 7.30pm

Requilda and the Bear

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Dates for your Diary

TO INCLUDE YOUR FUTURE EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT TIM NEALE ON 576397 OR E-MAIL: LIVEDATES@HAPPY-VALLEY.ORG

GENERAL EVENTS

Thursday June 26th 7pm

Biryani & Boogie - At the Viceroy

Fabulous food, live music, disco. Raising money for the **2009 Festival** Tickets £18 from 574618 janetbeech@btinternet.com

Sunday June 29th

Ruby Treasure Trail & Picnic 2pm

Celebrating the 40th anniv. of St. John's Grimshaw Lane school. Bring a picnic. £1 per walker plus £1 per route pack. Register at St John's school. Tel 261895

Saturday July 12th - 26th

Rainow Scarecrow Fortnight

All around Rainow!

Saturday July 12th - 19th

Bollington

Well Dressing

Various Locations around village

Sunday July 13th 11am

Bollington Nostalgia

Hill Race

Starts: Bridgend Ctr. £5. Info: 576311

Sunday July 13th

12noon - 2pm

St Gregory's School Summer Fair

Albert Road

Sunday July 13th 2.15pm

Kerridge War Memorial Parade

Meet at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday September 14th

Transport Extravaganza

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DISCOVERY CENTRE

Opening Times

Wednesday	1.30-4.00pm
Saturday	11.00-4.00pm
Sunday	11.00-4.00pm

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KERRIDGE RIDGE & INGERSLEY VALE PROJECT

Continues its popular volunteer days on wildlife recognition, hedge-laying, dry-stone walling and woodland crafts etc. Call Richard Thorogood on 560475 or visit: www.kriv.org.uk/events.html Activities continue, mostly on Fridays, throughout the summer. As we went to press the team are just completing another a community 'dig' at Cow Lane Mill, Rainow. All activities start at 9.45am at the Volunteer Barn, Savio House unless stated.

BRIDGEND CENTRE WALKS

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

BOLLINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Bollington & District Horticultural Society meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane at 7.30pm (£1:00 members £3:00 non members). They run a range of activities with interesting expert speakers and visits to gardens. Vegetable Growing, Creating a Kitchen Garden, Growing Chrysanthemums are all up-coming evenings. They also hold a show on the first Saturday of March and September. Contact Joan Grindford on 572688 or bollington.horticultural@hotmail.com for more information.

MIND BODY AND BOOGIE

Bollington's unique music festival dedicated to raising awareness for mental health problems will be held on the weekend of 29-31 August. Back for the third year, our pubs will host a cavalcade of music with a main stage at the Cock & Pheasant. If you can lend a hand or want to know more check out www.myspace.com/mindbodyandboogie

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL MUSIC THEATRE & FESTIVAL CHOIR

Is a unique children's theatre group. Donald Judge has produced 2 shows every year since 1986. The works are challenging but entertaining. Sunday afternoon rehearsals resume in September at the Arts Centre, and are open to all without audition. If you're aged 7-13 and interested in joining, phone 0161 427 2870 or visit www.fun.to/bcmt for further details.

The Festival Choir welcomes new members. There are no auditions, and the Choir seeks to achieve high standards in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Anyone interested in joining us can come along to rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, 8 pm at the Arts Centre, starting on Tuesday Sept. 9th. For further details contact Donald Judge, 0161 427 2870.

WELL DRESSING

Bollington's celebration of well dressings returns for a fourth year. It will be opened on Saturday 12 July, 12.30pm at the Greg Fountain, Flash Lane by the Mayor, Councillor Helen Kennedy. She will be joined by dancers from St Gregory's School.

The other sites are: Ash Brook, behind Barrow's Butchers; The Vale public house, Cow Lane Spring. Endon Cottage at the junction of the Rally Road and Higher Lane, Kerridge and Bollington Recreation Ground, where a model of a fish, made from aluminium cans, made by local Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, will be swimming in the River Dean.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

They would like to hear from anyone who has memories of the school in its early days or stories to tell from their own time at the school. Any contributions (anecdotes, photographs, films, newspaper cuttings) can be sent to the school office via email, or post, subject marked 'Ruby Anniversary', to admin@stjohnsboll.cheshire.sch.uk or by post to The Parents Association, St John's School, Grimshaw Lane, Bollington, Cheshire, SK10 5LY.

CIVIC SOCIETY

Some of the historical photographs in **Bollington Live!** are provided by the Civic Society and can be seen at the Discovery Centre. The Society meets 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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**MELLOR &
JACKSON**

THE RAT PACK

On returning from a holiday, I could not wait to see how things on my allotment had changed while I was away. It's always fun to see what is ripe for picking and how tall the sweet-corn now is. I had not expected to find a full grown rat munching something tasty on the top of my compost heap! It was sleek, shiny and just as surprised to see me. Where is the camera when you need it?

I know rats come with health warnings, but this one seemed happy and in the peak of condition! I promised myself that I would try to see it again and take its photograph! For the next couple of days I turned into a stalker, creeping up on my compost heap from all angles, camera at the ready. My neighbours are used to these antics and did not even ask what was happening. No luck, though and I turned my lens on other things.

I KNOW RATS COME WITH HEALTH WARNINGS, BUT THIS ONE SEEMED HAPPY AND IN THE PEAK OF CONDITION!

Four months later I was on the phone, looking out of the window while I was talking and guess what? A rat was walking away from next door's bird table, peanut in paws. At this point I started to think! Perhaps this was more of a problem and less of a wild-life photo opportunity.

I contacted the Pest Control Officer from the Council, who came within 2 days of my call (apparently rats are a priority). He confirmed that there was a problem nationally after a series of mild winters and he had already had several calls in our neighbourhood. He showed me holes in my compost heap that were "rat made". He baited one of these holes with poison and told me that if I found a dead rat, just bury it! As he left, I suggested that the neighbours might work together to conquer the problem. "No one has

ever suggested that before" was his parting comment.

Now this was a challenge! A meeting was organised at my house. I researched on the internet for rat-related information to ready myself for questions. About a dozen people attended the meeting and several more sent their apologies. This was far more than expected. We discovered that one person at the meeting had been an Environmental Health Officer and had received training in rat infestations while one person is a qualified Badger Consultant with expertise in tracking animal movement and habitation. Bollington is like that. Expertise just oozes out of us. So... we formed an action plan...

Survey the area to map out where the rats are living and feeding. Then if baiting or trapping becomes necessary we will know where to concentrate our efforts.

- Tidy up easy access to food. Food left out for foxes, cats, dogs and birds is also food for rats.
- Rat proof the compost bins!
- Feed the birds but clean up underneath the bird tables! Rats are good climbers. If possible, get food containers that are more of a challenge to them.
- Poison is only to be used if all else fails. Poisoned rats do not die quickly and owls, buzzards, foxes, badgers, cats and dogs etc. could all be affected if they eat a contaminated animal.
- Co-ordinate our efforts so as to keep treatments to a minimum. Alert everyone when poison is being used, so that pets can be guarded.

I put together some "Rat Packs" containing information gathered from a variety of sources. These are being passed around to my neighbours.

- The R.S.P.C.A. advise that the first line of approach should be to try to prevent problems arising.



Janet's futile attempt to capture on film one of these furry fiends! -

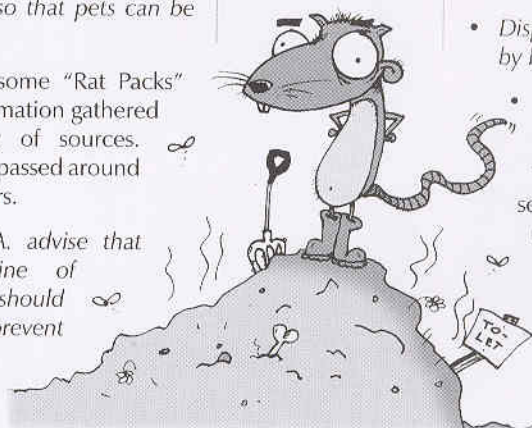
Note from editor... 'Must try harder!'

- Common rats live in any situation that provides food, water and shelter. In homes they will live in loft spaces, wall cavities, cellars or under floorboards. In gardens, they will nest in compost heaps, grassy banks or under sheds. They are also commonly found living in sewer systems.
- Do not leave household waste where rats can get at it. Food and food waste should be stored in sealed containers. That includes compost bins!
- Have a good housekeeping system for any outdoor pets, e.g. rabbits in hutches or pigeons in lofts. Poor housekeeping can easily result in a rat infestation.
- Drowning live rats is a prosecutable offence.
- Disposal of dead rats should be by burning or burial.

- The collective noun for rats is - a mischief.

The results of our survey seem to show that the rats are using the old stone sewer system to live in and travel around.

The rats are seen more when there has been a lot of rain. **Janet Beech**



METHODIST BICENTENARY

In 1808, George III was on the throne and Napoleon Bonaparte ruled France, a year earlier slavery had been abolished in British dependencies. In Bollington there were less than 300 houses and there was a population of around 1500. Agriculture employed some seventy-four families, trade provided work for another one hundred and forty, while there were seventy-one families in other occupations. Some of the inhabitants decided, on a great leap of faith, to build a Methodist Chapel. It must have seemed impossible, with so much money to be raised, but they believed what they were doing was important. Two hundred years on, this May, the present Methodist Church congregation invited Bollington to join in their Bicentenary celebrations.

Before 1808, Methodists met in local houses, but, in July 1807 Peter Lomas, who lived at the Waterhouse, gave a parcel of land, known locally as Knowles Green, for the building of a chapel. It was part of the present Methodist Church site and extended along the road for twenty-seven yards and some fifteen yards deep. The annual rent for the land was one pound and one shilling.

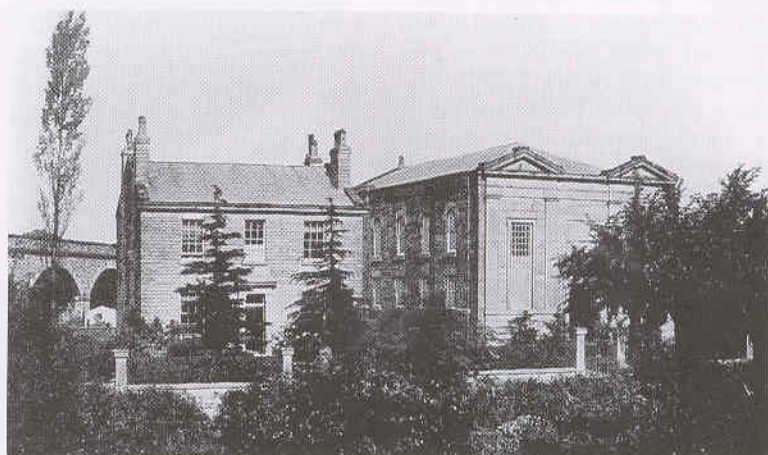
By 1836 the population of Bollington was growing. Although Peter Lomas had died in 1822, his son-in-law and successor at the Waterhouse Mill, Thomas Oliver was an equally good and generous Methodist giving extra land for a larger building. The frontage was not altered but an extra 510 square yards were added at the rear. Thomas Oliver had come from a Methodist family at Longnor and he was a great benefactor of the church. So they built a new chapel costing £2100 to accommodate 560 people. About forty years later, that chapel, which had formerly been described as 'new and beautiful' was now considered, 'plain and unpretentious', pews were becoming old-fashioned and uncomfortable whilst the roof was rotting and unsafe. So, on July 9th 1884, a farewell service was conducted in the now impossible old church.

Right: The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and Manse circa 1880 (the second of three chapels on the site)

If you have further interest about the church history Jean Wright has written a fascinating book charting the 200 years. There is also a DVD with a pictorial record.

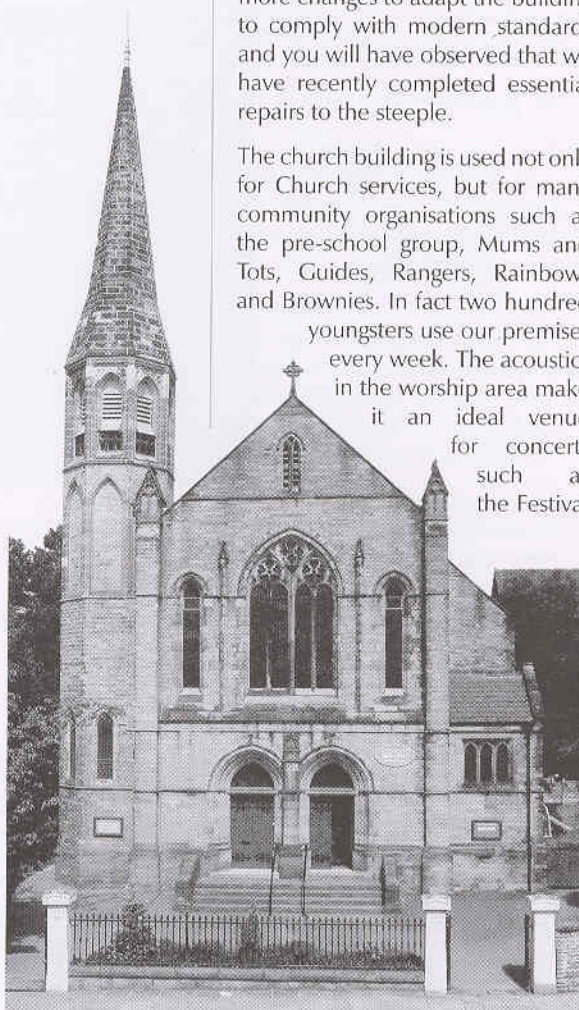
The book costs £6.50 and the DVD £10, both obtainable from Chris Woods (01625 575453).

Below: The Third (current) Methodist Church today, resplendent with its newly refurbished steeple.



On Wednesday 17th March 1886 came the happy day of the dedication of a new building. This is the building we have today, although the interior was altered in 1959 and again in 1984 when a floor was added at gallery level to create the ground floor community rooms together with the upper worship area. We are again in the process of more changes to adapt the building to comply with modern standards and you will have observed that we have recently completed essential repairs to the steeple.

The church building is used not only for Church services, but for many community organisations such as the pre-school group, Mums and Tots, Guides, Rangers, Rainbows and Brownies. In fact two hundred youngsters use our premises every week. The acoustics in the worship area make it an ideal venue for concerts such as the Festival



Choir and the Brass Band. There are also various classes for dance, salsa, violin and gentle exercise.

For the Bicentennial celebrations the church was beautifully decorated with flower arrangements depicting the various activities of the congregation and the work of the church. On the Thursday evening that marked the date that the church was first dedicated in 1808 there was a ceremony conducted by Rev. John Squares and attended by about eighty people. The church also housed an exhibition which was a wonderful talking point for the many older members who had made the trip for the celebrations, some travelling from as far as Canada to join us. Friday saw a steady stream of visitors that kept the catering staff on their toes. Friday evening was a Church family party with eighty people sitting down to a sumptuous feast and then enjoying wonderful entertainment provided by the members for one another. Saturday was very busy and culminated in a choir concert given by the Lan Dhoo Male Voice Choir from the Isle of Man. Sunday was special with several old ministers joining us for morning worship then onto a busy afternoon with an evening of "Hymns for All" to round off an excellent weekend.

The Flower Ladies did a marvellous job of creating the displays as well as all the necessary watering and tidying that needed to be done on a daily basis. Thank you Ladies!!

Tim Neale & Congregation!

BOLLINGTON 1958 - THE WAY WE WERE

The first of an occasional series of articles looking at Bollington in the years gone by. Derek Ford provides his diary extracts from fifty years ago. Do you remember any of these events or do you have a tale to tell?

JANUARY

The custom of 'shooting' the old year out - all the bells rung simultaneously, fifty-seven times - was observed at St. John's Parish Church. The Bell Major was ninety-year-old Mr T.J. Moss Snr. The Clarence and Adelphi Mills were on short-time. About three hundred of the five hundred employees were on shorter hours.

FEBRUARY

'Bollington Personalities' were featured in the 'Macclesfield Times'. Ambrose Wood, sixty-one years a blacksmith of The Smithy, Queen Street, had come to Bollington forty-five years earlier, when there were about six horses to shoe every day. He saved enough money to buy the business by working for Lord John Sanger's Circus, with which he travelled widely. Another personality, Tom Warburton (eighty) of Palmerston Street, had looked after Bollington's clocks and watches all his life, the business having been started by his grandfather. His father took over the business which kept five men amply employed. One of the main jobs was looking after the clocks at Lyme Park and Errwood Hall, which someone had to visit once a week to wind all the timepieces. They amounted to about 450, on top of the twelve church clocks they also attended to.

MARCH

The Rookery at Bollington Cross was sold by auction for £4000 to J.E.O'Hanlon. The Recreation Ground Committee charged Bollington Cricket Club £85.00 for the preparation of match and practice wickets during the 1956 season. John Williamson (seventy-nine) retired from The Crown Inn, Church Street. His grandfather, Robert Stubbs, built the Inn in 1852 and it had always been in the family and never tied to one brewery. In the early days, The Crown was open from six in the morning until eleven at night.

APRIL

About two-hundred employees of Henry and Leigh Slater came out on strike over new working arrangements on the coating machines. Bollington Cricket Club secretary, Mr A.A. Arnold, at the annual meeting spoke of the outstanding events during the 1957 season. These included the opening of the new Tea Pavilion, the visit of the Pakistan Eaglets and the winning of the Second Division Championship by the club's second eleven.

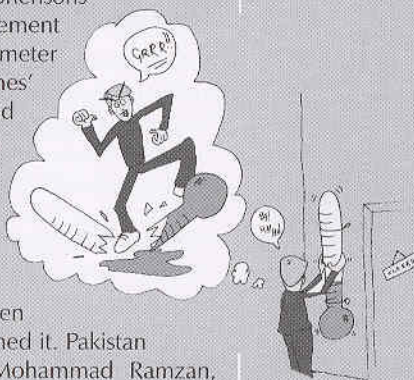
JULY

It was announced that the Empire Picture Palace on Palmerston Street would close in August, with the final film being 'The Naked Truth'. The cinema had been built about 1912, owned by Richard Bailey and managed by J.S. Whittaker. Furniture for a 'prefab' classroom was delivered to Bollington Cross School, which was so overcrowded that lessons were held in the canteen.

AUGUST

The large Stephensons Ink Advertisement and thermometer outside Jones' stationers and toy shop on High Street, there for over twenty years, had to be taken down when

vandals loosened it. Pakistan test player, Mohammad Ramzan, captain of the young Pakistan Eaglets, then touring the country, was the star of their game with a Bollington eleven on the Recreation Ground, batting sixty-six runs in very quick time. The Bollington Carnival, held on 19th July, made a profit of £250. Proceeds were to go to the fund for the Village Hall. Negotiations were underway for a site on Ovenhouse Lane.



Derek looks back at the Bollington of fifty years ago - some things have changed - for the better, whilst some, perhaps have not...

SEPTEMBER

Bollington were champions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Cricket League and also winners of the Saville Whittle Trophy. The prize money for winning the two championships amounted to £45.00 and this was to be spent on buying tankards for all the players. Bollington UDC approved plans for the adaptation of Hollin Hall into a residential hotel for Mr. H.F. Lucius.

OCTOBER

The Social and Recreation Club in Store Street, long known as the 'Dagger Club', closed. It was owned by Ind Coope and Allsopp. The Bollington Derby-and-Joan Club, which had been meeting there for the last eleven years, was now to meet in the Congregational Church schoolroom.



NOVEMBER

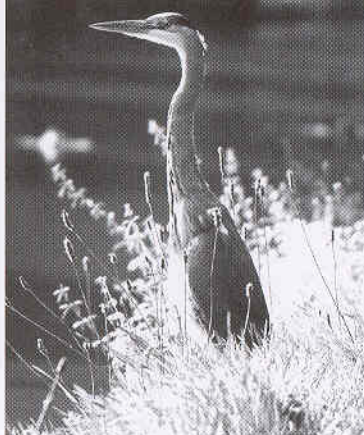
In a football game at Bollington, CSOB (Central School Old Boys) were leading 2-1 when the ball burst and, as the referee declared the only other ball available unsuitable, the game was abandoned after sixty-one minutes. Bollington Council turned down the Cricket Club's request to play a Sunday game on the Recreation Ground.

DECEMBER

Bollington UDC celebrated 25 years in the Council Offices on Wellington Road having previously met in an office at Bollington Gas Works. Decorators at the Queen's Arms, moving cupboards in an upstairs room discovered an old notebook belonging to the Bollington Order of Druids. Dated 1862, it recorded that twelve months' rent of the meeting room was ten shillings, and six months' doctors' bills were £1 19s. The druid's regalia was still in the large clubroom upstairs.

Derek Ford

THE HERON



Left: a heron surveying the canal patiently waiting for a fish supper!

Come the early grey hours and the lightening dawn,
I drift out of bed to look out the wide windows,
Across the houses and down the hill,
Across to the valley of Bollington.

There he comes across the rooftops now,
With slow lazy undulation,
The heron comes with leisurely flap; the hopeful, silent thief gliding soft between houses,
Descending low over damp lawns and the still garden pools.

For a moment, being on the hill top, I am higher than he;
I can see his outstretched neck,
His wide wing dipping and his white narrow back, his long questing beak;
He thinks he is someone special;
He knows he has the best views and has learnt a trick or two.

Deep in the depths in the unseen quarters,
Does the fish in the suburban pond sense his passing shadow?
Does he feel the hint of his own mortality,
Does he know who watches and waits?

Today, he might think, have some vague awareness;
Is that a shadow he sees that makes him dive down deep?
Today might be the day,
But a neighbour cracks open his garden door and flaps the heron away.
The unknowing fish escapes for another day.

Linda West

ALL WRIGHT NOW!



Right: Nick and 'Clarence' getting frisky during the last Bollington Festival - (shades of Rod Hull & Emu)

Nick Wright was born in Macclesfield Infirmary in September 1960 and has lived in Bollington all his life. His father's side of the family came from Macclesfield but his mum's side were true Bollingtonians. Nick attended Bollington Cross Primary School followed by Broken Cross Secondary School. After leaving school Nick has worked driving lorries, working in factories, engineering, agriculture and retail while at the same time doing the love of his life – DJ'ing, radio and music.

Nick's radio career began back in the 1970s when he (and some friends) founded Hospital Radio in Macclesfield; he later worked in the outside broadcast teams at the Piccadilly and Signal radio stations, before joining Silk FM in

1994, which he helped set up in Macclesfield. Now Nick's passion lies in Canalside Community Radio, which has just been awarded a full-time licence – well done Nick! Along with the radio station, Nick continues to DJ so if you need someone for that special day you are planning, give him a call.

Now here are some things you might not know about Nick...

What was your happiest moment?
The birth of my daughter Nicola in 1985 and my son Scott in 1988. I think everyone who has had children would struggle to find a happier moment in their lives. However...I'd like to add just one more happy moment which was the long awaited (4 years!!) phone call from OFCOM confirming our full-time licence here at Canalside.

What has been your biggest success?

I played a bit of semi-pro football in my twenties – I always wanted to play for Macclesfield Town but I was never quite good enough, although I did play for Buxton, when they were in the Northern Premier league. I played against Macclesfield on the Moss Rose when my uncle, Alan Brocklehurst was chair of Macclesfield, when Buxton won 3-1; it didn't go down well!!!

What has been your biggest disappointment?

I try not to get disappointed!

What is your favourite place?

I had a fascination with the US and Spain, although Blackpool does take some beating! I like Torquay, Newquay, and Edinburgh, not to mention of course Bollington and Macclesfield – I wouldn't live anywhere else – even if it was free!

WE'VE GOT A LOP-EARED RABBIT CALLED FLORENCE WHO HAS BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY NIBBLING HER WAY THROUGH THE BT CABLES DOWNSTAIRS FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

What is your favourite song?

How am I supposed to answer this one? Andy Williams' version of Barry Manilow's 'Can't smile without you' is up there with the best. Anything Sinatra, plus all of those songs from the golden era of song writing in the 20s and 30s – Gershwin, Berlin, Rodgers and Hart, Porter, Arlen, Young etc...

What is your favourite food?

Something very Indian, washed down with a Guinness or a port – correction – washed down with a Guinness AND a port!

Where would you most like to be right now?

Standing in the circle at Wembley having a kick about with Bobby Charlton, Norman Hunter, Georgie Best, Colin Bell, Emlyn Hughes, Pele and Maradona!!

What was your most embarrassing moment?

This is!

If you won the lottery what would you do with the money?

I'd fund Canalside of course, then I'd hope I'd become Mr Generosity and give, give, give and keep giving. Even Father Christmas would be jealous!

Tea or coffee?

Either – except when Canalside's Matt Isaacs is making 'em – then it's orange juice or even chip oil!

What makes you sad?

Poverty

What makes you angry?

Greed, bullying & thoughtlessness

Do you have a motto for life?

Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself

Who/what is the greatest love of your life?

Apart from my wife, my offspring of course (daren't say children now!) I really miss my dad who died a couple of years ago. Who delivers **Bollington Live!** in heaven?

How do you relax?

Relax – what's that?

How healthy are you?

I feel OK – perhaps I'm a bit overweight but I manage. I do worry about my epilepsy – I wouldn't wish it on anyone.

What football team do you support?

Macclesfield Town – come on you Silkmen!

Name a person you really admire?

No one person in particular – but I do admire all the 'movers and shakers' in Bollington – the people who make things happen and make Bollington such a wonderful place to live.

What is your favourite TV programme?

Dad's Army.

What is your guiltiest pleasure?

Don't go there!

How 'green' are you?

I try my best – my wife gets a bit brassed off when I keep turning off the landing light when she's coming down the stairs. You can always spot our house – it's the one in the row in total darkness – is that green enough?



Above: Nick and Gail

Have you got any pets?

We've got a lop-eared rabbit called Florence who starts a job at BT next week – or at least she should do!! She is a house rabbit and she has been systematically nibbling her way through the BT cables downstairs for the past six months. So if you phone me at home give me a chance to run upstairs to pick up the phone as Florence has cut us off downstairs! We've got a better behaved hamster called Benji too.

What is your least appealing habit?

Shouting when I get excited!

What do you listen to in the car?

Canalside of course!

If you could change one thing in the world what would it be?

To relieve poverty and stop all conflicts.

What important lesson has life taught you so far?

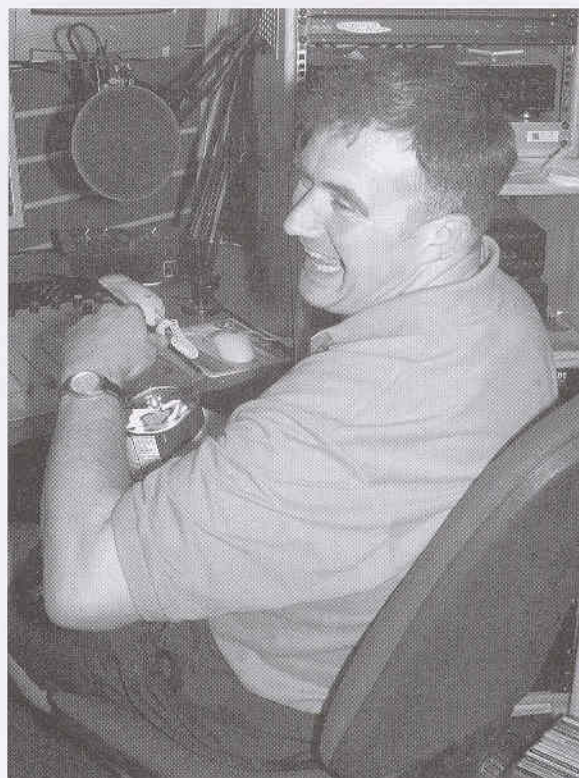
To be happy with your lot – the grass isn't always greener.

Annette Hurst

www.ccr-fm.co.uk

All of us at **Bollington Live!** thank Nick for his time in this interview, and wish him all the best for the future. We look forward to Canalside Radio's programming, targeted to its Bollington audience.

Below: Nick at the controls of Canalside Community Radio



ELECTION LET-DOWN

Much was made of the May 1st local elections in the national press. But the essence, of course, is the running of local affairs...

And how did Bollington do? The answer, alas, is strange indeed.

Next year, we will sit in a new "unitary authority". Soon to be abolished will be Cheshire County Council. Gone too will be Macclesfield Borough Council. Instead a new area has been concocted roughly half the size of Cheshire (but not entirely Cheshire) with eighty-one councillors voting on matters previously dealt with by both.

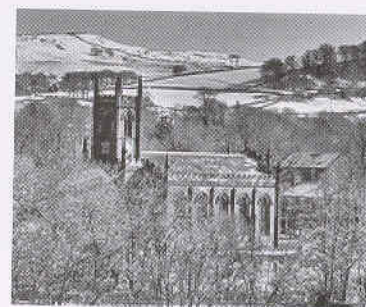
In Bollington's patch, three new councillors were elected. One resides in Macclesfield, the other two in Disley. Disley! A distant place, rarely visited by Bollingtonians. Disley, has many merits. But it lies across the hills, its allegiances surely more with Stockport.

Now, by accident or design, Bollington, a township of 8,000 souls is represented by three people who do not live here. This is not to impugn the integrity of the three. Chances are that they are worthy and concerned. However...

Disley and Bollington are distinctly different places. They have different communications, different near-neighbours. Yet they have been lumped together as a constituency under the new scheme. How was such a set-up arrived at? To revive the old joke about a camel being a horse designed by a committee, the outcome is a cock-up. Will it be looked at again? Who knows?

It becomes all the more important, meanwhile, that Bollington Town Council makes itself felt. It passed largely un-noticed that on May 1st there could have been an election for Bollington Council too - except that for the twelve places to be filled there were only twelve candidates. So no vote was needed. Now, in the three years ahead of them, it is up to those twelve to assert themselves. No longer will they be in the third tier of local government; they are the second tier. Will the new Cheshire East Council pay them any heed? Or, as has happened before, will their wishes be largely ignored? But we did, then, have Bollington people in those higher places. Now we have none. Weird. **John Liley**

Right: St John's Church last winter, awaiting an uncertain future



FUTURE OF ST. JOHN'S

Below: As power drifts inexorably away from Bollington people, is it time our town councillors were given more control over the local issues that they know best about? Should they fight for our future or just shut up shop?

Bollington Civic Society called a public meeting in April to discuss how the town might influence the future of the redundant St John's Church which is set for disposal by the church authorities. Sixty parishioners explored the situation and agreed that they should call themselves the Friends of St John's Church and set in place a small committee to examine possibilities.

The diocesan redundant churches managers have made it clear that demolition of the Grade II* listed building would be an absolute last resort. They are putting the building to the market to see whether there is any interest - presumably for domestic development. The present economic situation probably means it is unlikely to be of interest to developers though.

The committee have identified a funding source to enable a professional analysis to be carried out to identify a range of possible uses for the church. An application has been submitted.

Tim Boddington

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DEAN THERE DONE THAT!



The River Dean is not famous as a transport route. Through Bollington it is rarely more than six inches deep. 'Pooh Sticks' is the most significant water-sport that the river ever hosts. But for a short time last year, the torrential rain turned the quiet stream into a surging swollen river. Two intrepid explorers, Mark Butland and Richard Bower had a sudden urge to see if it was possible to get from Bollington, via the Rivers Dean and Bollin, to the sea.

We dusted off our kayaking gear, usually used for white water in

Above: Richard Bower tackling an obstruction on the flooded river.

Whatever you do - don't try this at home!

wonderful places like Built Wells in Wales or the River Crake in Cumbria and off we went to Bollington Recycling Centre to check out the River Dean. The flow was actually rather deep, making it quite a river - well it was deep

A RUSHING OF WATER INDICATING THE BECKONING OF AN ONCOMING WEIR

enough for a small modern kayak. On this first section of the trip we were also accompanied by fellow paddler Stuart Melias.

We set off with care, which was challenging as the swollen waters were running fast and full, lapping over the banks into the bushes and almost into the fields. We had to get out in a few places where the river went through a fence, or really a fence ran across the river and surprised a few dogs at the farm by the railway line.

At one point the current took us into an enchanted wood complete with pagoda (the grounds of Adlington Hall) and then we heard a rushing of water in the distance, indicating the beckoning of an oncoming weir. This was a deep narrow affair with barbed wire all over it; originally,

I think, to keep water level up through Adlington Hall grounds. Luckily we could portage (carrying a canoe round an obstacle). Much of the paddling was around small meanders and often we were seemingly paddling towards each other.

I should stress that this is one of those 'don't try this at home', types of journeys. The River Dean can only be paddled when in spate and by paddlers experienced in this kind of 'specialised' expedition. It took two sessions to get to the confluence of the River Dean and its bigger cousin, the Bollin, in the Country Park near Wilmslow.

The Bollin provided more water and so we swapped to 'Canadian' open canoes; they are a bit longer, at fifteen foot and easier to quickly get in and out at the numerous tree blockages, which can prove treacherous. The Bollin was tackled in several sections over the following months.

The British Canoe Club state that there is no formal access agreement to the River Bollin, as advocated by the Environment Agency, but the river has been paddled for years with no objections raised. The River Dean is not even considered a river that anyone in their right minds would try to paddle. What do they know! **Mark Butland**

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