



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Forty Five

Spring 2009

**FESTIVAL
FEATURE
EDITION**

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Cover: *Festival Procession 2005 with Adelphi Mill in the Background*

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IT'S FESTIVAL TIME

Welcome to the Bollington Festival feature edition of *Bollington Live!* who have kindly provided space in this latest edition to feature a selection of articles based on the upcoming festival. This year's festival runs from May 8th-25th and there will be a choice of 95 (35 of them free) exotic, innovative, unique entertainments - **and all of them on your doorstep.**



This ninth festival will be the first without the festival's founder John Coope being with us, but his vision remains just as strong in 2009.

The marquee on the recreation ground will be the venue for many events ranging from the Big Chris Barber Band to African dance, opera, classical and popular music, theatre and comedy. The varied programme has been carefully devised to suit all ages and tastes.

You can partake in many events such as the exciting carnival on May 9th which will give a taster of the

activities that Bollington provides. There is also the fell race; dancing at the ceilidh, the club and silent discos; informative walks; squash competition; the dog show; the book quiz - and for the intellectuals, the pub quiz.

The Science Committee presents exciting experiments and mysteries including practical astronomy, hunting dinosaurs, discovering news and hands-on quality slime time! Local authors will be able to tell you how to write a crime novel in the Peak District and the Arts Group will show some of the extraordinary talent we have locally.

The Festival is about inclusivity and celebrates our town and the spirit, diversity, dynamism and creativity that make it the unique place it is.

Ticket prices have been held at 2005 levels. So book now. Enjoy the events, enjoy the company, enjoy the 2009 Bollington Festival. Have a wonderful 17 days!

Andrew Roberts

Supporting the Festival..

We are grateful to Bollington Printshop for sponsoring our colour cover for this festival feature edition

Left: Festival Chairman Andrew Roberts

EDITORIAL

Through all the gloom and despondency we hear on a daily basis, it is somewhat lifting to be able to present this latest issue of *Bollington Live!* looking forward as it does, brim-full of positivity about the forthcoming Bollington Festival.

Despite initial worries that the 'credit-crunch' would affect advertisers wishing to support our magazine, once again, the majority have shown faith and continued to advertise. Not only that, but a number of new advertisers have joined us to help produce a magazine of which we can be justifiably proud.

It must be difficult by now not to be aware that Bollington is once again putting on its unique award-winning festival. However, if you were still in the dark, this issue of *Bollington Live!* concentrates predominantly on the Festival and the vast array of events to suit all tastes.

There is still a little space for some other items of interest, one being a recent update of the work carried out by the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Project, where the ongoing improvements can be seen across the area, from re-built dry-stone walls, re-laid hedgerows, repaired footways and gateways. That's not to mention all the historical and archaeological research which has gone on to improve understanding of the area. This neatly ties in with another article based on a recent survey on the tourism potential for Bollington.

As always, please let us know what you think of everything that is going on in Bollington, the best letters and articles will find a place in the next issue of *Bollington Live!* Thanks for reading.



The fabulous firework display at the finale of the 2005 Festival

DATE FOR NEXT COPY:

Friday 22nd May



BOLLINGTON WELCOMES...



JENNI MURRAY

Left: BBC Radio 4's Jenni Murray

Jenni Murray, who will officially open the 2009 Bollington Festival on May 8, is seen by many as the voice of Radio 4.

She was once described as a national institution by the Media Society and as having "the most beautiful voice on radio, ever"

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

by the veteran broadcaster and journalist Charles Wheeler.

Born in Barnsley in 1950, she acquired a "well stocked mind" - her favourite complement from a colleague - courtesy of Barnsley Girls High School and went on to study French and drama in Hull.

She began her career in local radio in Bristol, followed by a stint in television, presenting 'South Today'. She then moved to London to present 'Newsnight' on BBC2 and the 'Today' programme on Radio 4. In 1987, Jenni took over from Sue MacGregor as main presenter of 'Woman's Hour' - which, as a child, she would listen to with her mother after lunch.

'Woman's Hour', never afraid to tackle controversial issues, was the first programme to discuss the menopause, homosexuality and

co-habitation. With Jenni at the helm, it continued to debate important issues such as abortion, euthanasia and cancer. In 2006 Jenni herself was diagnosed with breast cancer and took extended leave to receive treatment.

Jenni's articles in opposition to marriage once led to her being described as "the most dangerous woman in England" and her recent television documentary advocating the legalization of assisted suicide, provoked a national debate.

In 1998, Jenni was Broadcaster of the Year and in 1999 she was awarded the OBE for her services to broadcasting. She is the author of four books, has two sons and lives with her partner in a farmhouse in the Cheshire Peak District, close to Bollington.

Fiona Bailey

FESTIVAL - HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Bollington's festival is unique: there is no other event in Britain like it. No other small town (or large village) organises anything similar. No festival of similar scale and scope is run entirely by volunteers. No other festival is so enthusiastically supported by so many local people and organisations.

As the Festival's chairman Andrew Roberts says: "The great attraction of the Bollington Festival is its inclusiveness. It brings the people of the town together to work and enjoy themselves for two weeks."

Those new to Bollington or living far from the Happy Valley may wonder why Bollington has a festival. It was all the idea of one man, John Coope, a visionary doctor who cared for the health of thousands of patients but also found time to write a book on Chekhov and consider the future of post-war society.

Almost single-handedly, Dr. John set out almost 50 years ago to create in the town a sense of community to counteract what he saw as a drift away from the collective towards



Above: The late Dr. John Coope MBE, founder of the festival.

the individual. His work continued until his death on Christmas Day 2005. The 2005 Festival was the first in which he played no major role; the 2009 Festival will be the first without his benign presence. If it's good, it will be a fitting memorial to a great man.

He was full of enthusiasm, energy and ideas. He believed passionately that a community should be alive and kicking and, above all, active, a place where people join together to achieve more than they can as lone operators.

His legacy is the organisations he launched, revived and often led: the Brass Band; the Drama Group; the Festival Players; the Light Opera Group; the Civic Society; the Festival Choir... (He went on a conducting course so that he could direct a performance of Verdi's 'Requiem'). He was also the driving force in the creation of the Arts Centre (how many English towns of 7,000 people have one of those), a regular venue for string quartets, jazz, stand-up comedy, plays, pantomimes, plus talks and lectures.

He also founded the Festival (the first was in 1964) and led from the front, enthusing, cajoling and inspiring. He was the kind of man to whom it was difficult to say no and many a patient who went to the surgery with a sore throat found himself signed up for the basses in the Festival Choir before any prescription was written. Dr. John was awarded an MBE in 1993 for services to the community (whose members still want to know where he got his energy from). "People cease to live the moment they leave school and become cannon fodder for commercial exploitation," he said in a 1964 interview. "They forget the little they have learned. One should go right on from leaving school and never give up learning."

The spirit of John Coope lives on in the 2009 Festival.

David Ward



WHAT'S GOING ON?

The scale and ambition of the 2009 Bollington Festival is immense: 94 events in 18 days, including everything from a dog show to an opera (or three). The centre pages of this festival edition of *Bollington Live!* contain the full list from the opening ceremony with Jenni Murray to the traditional torchlight procession up White Nancy on the last night.

Here are few highlights, selected at random to suggest the range of entertainment and activities on offer. One of the first artists to appear in the Festival Marquee is Joni Fuller, a 17-year-old singer-songwriter who plays piano, violin and guitar. Hear her big voice on her website.

For something completely different, try the aZZiZ company of drummers and dancers with traditional music from South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Senegal. Audience participation is encouraged, as it is at the festival ceilidh, the silent disco and the far from silent junior disco for children aged six to eleven and the club disco night for 13-18s. Expect more contemporary sounds when local bands perform in the Festival Marquee.

For a different kind of dance, try some late night tango with Kim Schwartz and David Benitez who "dance with elegance, precision and a natural chemistry. Their performances are a living demonstration of their passion for dance and for each other".

There should be music in the festival programme to suit all tastes: the Italian symphony by birthday boy Felix Mendelssohn (born 200 years ago) is included in the Festival Symphony Orchestra's concert; there's jazz with the RNCM Jazz Collective and Dave Mott; the New Rope String Band who "play all sorts of hoedown, pan-celtic, old-timey, up-beat, down-home music"; and the Upbeat Beatles sing the Fab Four's great hits live with the Festival Orchestra. Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial by Jury takes over the Town Hall for an afternoon and evening. See elsewhere in *Bollington Live!* for details of the Festival's other two operas.

Comedy has two big nights: one in the marquee, with a triple bill of guests, the other at the Arts Centre, with James Sherwood. The Festival Players launch the drama programme of 'The Importance Of Being Earnest' on the opening night; the Bollington Festival Music Theatre, a very talented group of young people, stage 'Baby In A Box' by Donald Judge. The Leeds Library Theatre Company presents a matinee performance of the ever popular 'Wind In The Willows' and returns in the evening with 'Weekend Breaks' by John Godber, the third most-performed playwright in Britain.

Bollington likes its books so the Festival includes several literary events, including readings by some of Britain's finest poets. Then for those who fancy a little intellectual stimulus with their pint or alcopop, join in the pub quizzes that culminate in a grand final at the Poachers Inn. **Russell James**



Above: Tango with Kim Schwartz & David Benitez

Below: Multi-talented Joni Fuller

www.jonifuller.com



BOX OFFICE

After a search for suitable premises which included the disused toilet block opposite the Turner's Arms, artistic director Nick Smith's new shed and other possible venues, the Box Office for the 2009 Bollington Festival has now found a home at the Arts Centre.

The Box Office is open from Tuesday to Friday from 1pm to 4pm and on Saturday from 10am to 1pm. It will remain open until the end of the festival.

During the Festival, tickets will be on sale at each venue but we hope by then that house full signs will mean that our work has been done.

Contact details for the Box Office are: Bollington Festival, c/o Bollington Arts Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5JR. Telephone: 01625 573863.

For the first time bookings for tickets can be taken by email at bollingtonfestival@btconnect.com

We have set up a PayPal account for those who wish to use the email address. But if you visit us in person at the box office there will probably be cake...

The stairs at the Arts Centre may be a problem for some people. Don't worry: if you have a problem, ring the bell on the wall by the door - we will put a big sign up so that you know where it is!

Come and see us. We are looking forward to meeting you.

Janet Beech

*Please send in your reviews and thoughts on this year's Bollington Festival for publication in future editions of **Bollington Live!***

Send your submissions to the editor, c/o Bollington Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen Street, Bollington SK10 5PS, or e-mail liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk

THINK VISUAL

A positive smorgasbord of visual arts is being served up at this year's festival, with artists and craftspeople from around the region preparing to showcase their work.

"We're absolutely delighted with the events that have been organised," says artist and visual arts co-ordinator, Nola McGaul, "and so impressed with the time and effort people have put into things."

Painters and printmakers, textile artists and sculptors, Beavers and Brownies have all been busy creating art that can be seen and enjoyed. Various workshops, including embroidery and textile art, felt making, raku ceramics and willow sculpture, will also take place throughout the festival, allowing you to have a go yourself.

An illustrated map, drawn by local artist Dean Entwistle, will guide visitors around the village, with musical accompaniment provided by buskers from the Royal Northern College of Music.

Other visual highlights include a life-size dry-stone wall and wishing tree made out of felt, by international artist Claire de Ruiter.

Finally, there will be an opportunity to reflect, as we hope to build a memorial to Doctor John Coope in the shape of a labyrinth next to the Middlewood Way. All being well, artists Jeff Teasdale and Lorna Green will begin work on the sculpture this spring. It's hoped that the labyrinth will be a haven for both wildlife and generations of people to come.

Fiona Bailey



Above: A fine example of a piece of Raku pottery



Below: The marquee for this year's festival.

PEGGED OUT

IT WAS EASY FOUR YEARS AGO

Along comes a man with lorry and a fork lift truck and two days later we have a completely equipped Festival Big Top with stage, seating and lights. One stop shopping for a festival. Just the one little problem though – it left a bill for £20,000 worth of damage to the Rec. - Think again!

The brief: Find a temporary structure to house 35 events and 600 people, with a vast array of lighting and sound, a flexible stage, bar, dressing rooms, heat, box office, complete blackout, power, toilets and which requires no machinery to erect it.

First task: Create a short list of suppliers who can provide all these things from one source. I still have the blank sheet of paper. How about half of the list from one supplier? Thinking there was a psychological advantage I halved the size of the sheet of paper. Same result.

So I started with the tent. Years ago, when I ran Performing Arts Management, we hired marquees all the time. I always had site meetings with pot-bellied, tattooed, unshaven, former all-in wrestlers who put up the marquees where they said was best at a time that suited them. Things have changed. Jane, from Field and Lawn Marquees does not have a pot belly, has no tattoos (at least not on the bits I was allowed to see) and will arrange for the marquee of choice to go up where and

when you want. With no fork-lifts. Suddenly there is a sudden rush of volunteers (all male) to help with site management. Funny, that.

Then, where would we be without that centre of all communication, Anne Belfield? Nowhere. Anne mentions to a regular and obviously discerning, sandwich buyer that the Festival was coming up again. He turns out to be an international expert on sound systems for public events. Enter Darryl Thorpe who also has colleagues specialising in lights, who also manage to find a power supply on the Rec that will save us thousands.

No need for a blow-by-blow account of every nut and bolt. All you need to know is that we also have tiered seating, a stage, a complete trussing system for the lights and a host of gismos which only the anoraks among you will want to know about.

The result: We are going to have a fantastic performance venue, now officially called the Festival Marquee. Everything from rock to opera, from comedy to silent disco will be catered for.

So I've ordered the bits and had fun. Now just spare a thought for four people who have to put all this together: Terry McGaul, who is taking over as site manager; stage manager Barry Matthews, bar supremo Lee Wainwright and box office boss Janet Beech. Well, they did volunteer...

Nicholas Smith





HIGH LAND HARD WORK

Many of us will have noticed the ongoing improvements in the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale (KRIV) project area. **Bollington Live!** asked project manager Richard Thorogood for an update on progress so far, along with plans for the future.

The KRIV project is in the process of improving the footpaths around Redway and the trod footpath leading from Lord Street up the hillside. I think you will all agree that the work completed to date is a great improvement to the access of the area. The work includes, replacing the galvanised kissing gates with KRIV style black gates which are partly hidden by the original gate stones that were there previously, removing scrub from the trod footpaths which has widened the path for easier access, the large hawthorn hedge has been laid in traditional Cheshire style and several trees have been crown lifted.

The next project is to install a kissing gate next to the cattle grid by the Redway Steps. The existing gap between the wooden fence next to the cattle grid and the wall is 40cm, which forces many people to walk across the cattle grid. A section of the hillside will be excavated with a dry-stone wall built to be the revetment wall and a kissing gate installed. This will become the new 'entrance' to White Nancy and I hope will look in keeping with the area, but also create a lasting impression on the visitor.

The KRIV volunteers have been working very hard for two years building a new footpath up to the top of the hillside through Redway Wood. With 75% of the work completed it is planned that the final work will be completed in March. The plan is to have the footpath open in time for Easter. An official opening will take place later in the summer. The footpath will be classed as dedicated and become part of the East Cheshire Council Public Rights of Way Network. The KRIV volunteers will carry on with maintenance and improvements to the footpath, but public liability will be the same as the other footpaths and be East Cheshire Council's

responsibility. Our thanks should be extended to Gaynor Qualtor and Tullis Russell Coaters Ltd. for donating the land for the footpath to be built on.

Additional work that will be completed on the hillside will be to replace the fence around the capped coal mine which can be seen above the road that divides the hillside in two. Improvements to the vegetation will also be part of this project. The livestock fence at the top of the hill will also be replaced as this is looking untidy. The KRIV volunteers will return in the summer to paint White Nancy.

As you can see a wide range of work is planned for the hillside to improve public access and the overall appearance of this important area. I look forward to hearing from you with any comments about the proposed work or other ideas of projects that can be included. Send your thoughts in to **Bollington Live!**

Richard Thorogood

*Right: PCSO
Lindsey Whitehead*



*Below: New KRIV
Kissing Gate on
the way up to
White Nancy*

www.kriv.org.uk

ON PATROL

Bollington Live! asked Lindsey Whitehead, Bollington's Police Community Support Officer for her first impressions of Bollington.

"On my first day, I parked up in Pool Bank, walked into the bakers and the newsagents to make myself known. I have to say, as a first impression, I thought the residents seemed quite reserved people.

Patrolling on foot through the pretty streets, stunning hanging-baskets in full bloom were hanging outside the houses and pubs. Residents were chatting amongst themselves. It was a nice season to arrive in Bollington because people were out and about, so I managed to meet quite a lot of the residents very quickly. Bollington is a big place and it's going to take me some time to get to know the residents properly. My intention is to carry out a lot of foot patrols; this should give people lots of opportunity to make themselves known to me.

I have to say I really enjoy working here and have found the majority of people extremely supportive. As big as Bollington looks from the outside I have found on close inspection the community to be very close-knit and one with great pride in their home town."

Lindsey Whitehead

Telephone Lindsey on 0845 458 6371 or email: Macclesfield.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

FESTIVAL FLASH

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FUN, FUNDS & FESTIVALS

"Goodness," said someone in the pub, "it's nearly the Festival. We ought to be coming up with ideas soon or it won't happen." I replied to my well-meaning friend that planning for the 2009 Festival had begun two and a half years ago and that no new ideas could be accepted as the festival diary was already full.

This year's festival, with more than 90 events, will be the biggest yet but funds have been much harder to find than in 2005. Nonetheless, 58 sponsors have signed up to support the Festival, which could not have gone ahead without them.

When it was clear that self-help would be needed to secure funds to cover artistic and other costs, Bollingtonians rallied to the cause and many creative minds turned thought into action. Byriani and Boogie started the ball rolling and the generous spirit of local business people and individuals was soon apparent. Many events followed and the success of the Calendar Boys has now passed into local legend!

Byriani and Boogie, a night of food and music at the Viceroy, brought together the essence of Bollington with local business people and individuals providing classy prizes for the silent auction. Several holidays were on offer as well as fine pieces of furniture and much more.



Above: Graham Norton featuring our Calendar Boys on National Television

Below Left: Byriani and Boogie at The Viceroy

Below Right: Carol Barnes touching up the Calendar Boys at the fundraising Craft Fair!

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk



The evening was packed with live music provided on a voluntary basis by local artists Helen Walford and Johnny Gunn, followed by Nick Wright from Canalside Community Radio with dancing into the small hours. The event raised more than £5000 from ticket sales and silent auction and was so much fun that we want to run it as an annual event to build up festival funds during non-festival years.

The Calendar Boys project was dreamt up in the warm after-glow of a Kerridge barbecue and it became another major source of funds for the Festival. The calendar has sold far and wide and full use has been made of the latest technologies in online sales. The shopping cart feature on the Festival Website has proved popular with buyers from Europe, America and Australia.

The calendar had the benefit of much goodwill from local trades people. Professional photographer Kate McLean gave her time and artistry to support the cause, working on photo-shoots into the early hours. Volunteers soon began running around to keep busy sales outlets stocked and copies of the calendar have been sent around the globe.

Other events and plans have helped raise much-needed cash at a time when the world is reeling from financial melt-down. It has been tough but the show has to go on. The fair at the Arts Centre late last year attracted many visitors who were looking for Christmas presents and contributed £1700 to festival

funds. A festival raffle brought in an extra £1300 and a wine tasting raised £1000.

The Festival Choir's Messiah For All in early December, one of the best ever with the scratch choir, orchestra and soloists giving a passionate account of Handel's oratorio, raised £770 for the Festival. For months before that, choir members had had to run the gauntlet of Sally Smith and her collecting tin at every Tuesday rehearsal: all means of escape were covered and the only way to leave the Arts Centre was to drop a pound or two in the box.

In February, a Valentine's Day dance at the Arts Centre provided an extra funding boost.

Festival treasurer Pete Tunwell and his band of fundraisers worked tirelessly, to find those 58 commercial sponsors. "We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses in what is clearly a difficult economic climate," said Pete. "Even up to six months ago I was rather pessimistic about reaching our targets and we had contingency plans in place for a scaled-down version of the Festival. But now with the grants, sponsors and fundraising totals on budget, it is down to hitting budget again with ticket sales.

"With the 95 very varied events there should be something for everyone to enjoy. Without our sponsors and fundraisers, there would not have been a festival so again a massive thank you."

For a full list of sponsors, please see page 11.

Carol Barnes



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DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE	COST	
Fri 8	OPENING CEREMONY & RACES Jenni Murray	6.30PM	Recreation Ground	Free	
	IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Festival Players	7.30PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £7/child £5	
	BIG CHRIS BARBER BAND 11 piece Jazz Band	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £16	
	FIREWORKS DISPLAY Pyro 2000	10.30PM	Recreation Ground	Free	
	LATE NIGHT FRIDAY Silent Disco with Nick Wright	10.45PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £8	
Sat 9	CARNIVAL PROCESSION Grand Parade through Bollington	11.00AM	Bollington	Free	
	ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIO TRAIL Open 11-6	11.00AM	Bollington	Free	
	SQUASH COMPETITION Opening rounds	2.00PM	Leisure Centre	Free	
	THREE PEAKS FELL RACE	2.00PM	The Vale Inn	Free	
	BOLLINGTON CANAL REGATTA Festive parade of boats	4.00PM	Bollington Canal Basin	Free	
	JONI FULLER Singer-songwriter & Festival Strings	7.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £8	
	IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Festival Players	7.30PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £7/child £5	
	AZZIZ TRIBAL DRUMMERS AND DANCERS and acrobats!	9.30PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £12	
	WALK Seven miles. Bring packed lunch	10.00AM	Bridgend Centre	Free	
	BOLLINGTON CANAL REGATTA Macclesfield Canal Society	11.00AM	Bollington Canal Basin	Free	
Sun 10	ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIO TRAIL Open 11-6	11.00AM	Bollington	Free	
	BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL MUSIC THEATRE Baby in a Box	2.30PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £6/Child £3	
	SONGS OF PRAISE	5.30PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £5	
	BOLLINGTON BRASS BAND Peter Moore, trombone	7.30PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £10/Child £4	
	FESTIVAL 'SCI-BAR' Prof. Enrique Amaya	6.30PM	The Vale Inn	Free	
	DR FAUSTUS Marlowe's play staged by Third Party Productions	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £10/Child £6	
	SIX MILE FANCY DRESS TRAIL RUN	7.00PM	The Vale Inn	Free	
	A GOOD READ Discussion of a modern novel	7.00PM	Library	Tickets: £2	
	HUNTING DINOSAURS IN THE 21st CENTURY Dr. Phil Manning	7.30PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £3/Child £1	
	FESTIVAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Judith Ingolfsson, violin	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £15/Child £5	
Wed 13	INFANT SINGALONG Bollington Primary Schools	1.30PM	Festival Marquee	Free	
	WALK Short heritage walk with Cllr. Ken Edwards	7.00PM	Town Hall	Free	
	THE BIG COMEDY NIGHT Three top comics	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £15	
Thu 14	AN ELEGANT ECONOMY: THE COSTUMES OF CRANFORD	2.30PM	Shrigley Hall Hotel	Tickets: £10	
	CAROL ANN DUFFY Leading poet reads her own work	7.30PM	Methodist Church	Tickets: £10/Child £4	
	THE GOOD OLD DAYS Festival Orchestra, songsters, Calendar Boys	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £15	
Fri 15	THE AMAZING NATIONAL FESTIVAL CIRCUS Animal free!	4.00PM	St John's School	Tickets: £5	
	THE AMAZING NATIONAL FESTIVAL CIRCUS Animal free!	5.30PM	St John's School	Tickets: £5	
	THE AMAZING NATIONAL FESTIVAL CIRCUS Animal free!	7.00PM	St John's School	Tickets: £5	
	GIG NITE High School bands of the future!	6.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £5	
	CEILIDH The Albiero Band	8.00PM	Civic Hall	Tickets: £10	
	MARK ELDER An evening with the Hallé's music director	8.00PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £10	
	LATE NIGHT FRIDAY Julia Martin: Lady Legends	10.45PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £8	
	TALKING ROMAN ADVENTURES Caroline Lawrence. Ages 7-11	10.00AM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £5/Child £2	
Sat 16	ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIO TRAIL Open 11-6	11.00AM	Bollington	Free	
	HOW TO WRITE A MYSTERY OVER LUNCH Caroline Lawrence	12 noon	Civic Hall	Tickets: £10	
	SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY Hands on science workshops	1.00PM	Methodist Church	Free	
	TRIAL BY JURY Gilbert & Sullivan in the Council Chamber	4:00PM	Town Hall	Tickets: £5/Child £3	
	TRIAL BY JURY Gilbert & Sullivan in the Council Chamber	7:30PM	Town Hall	Tickets: £5/Child £3	
	SATURDAY NIGHT SCIENCE Dr. Graeme Jones	7.30PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £2	
	ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC JAZZ COLLECTIVE	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £10	
	WALK 4/5 miles. The Nab and Harrop Valley	10.00AM	New Con Club	Free	
	DOG SHOW Judged by Bollington Vet Nick Rushton	11.00AM	Recreation Ground	Free	
	ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIO TRAIL Open 11-6	11.00AM	Bollington	Free	
Sun 17	O DUO Percussion workshop	11.30AM	Festival Marquee	Free	
	KERRIDGE GARDEN TRAIL 7 picturesque hillside gardens	2.00PM	Kerridge	Tickets: £5/ Child £1	
	RAKU POTTERY CLASS	2:00PM	Arts Centre	£3 for materials	
	O DUO Percussion Concert	3.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £10/Child £5	
	METEORITES, STARDUST & THE SOLAR SYSTEM Dr. Jamie Gilmour	7.30PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £3/Child £1	
	AN AUDIENCE WITH THEATRE DIRECTOR BARRIE RUTTER	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £10	
	HOW THE NOSE KNOWS Dr. Matthew Cobb	5.00PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £3/Child £1	
	TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL Family opera by Jonathan Dove	7.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £12/Child £5	
	Mon 18	TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL Family opera by Jonathan Dove	7.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £12/Child £5

FESTIVAL Dates for your Diary

Box Office: 01625 573863

Tue 19	WILLOW SCULPTURE WORKSHOP	Jeff Teasdale	10.30AM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £5
	MATINEE CONCERT	Festival Orchestra strings	1.30PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £5/Schools £3
	WALK	Short heritage walk with Cllr Ken Edwards	7.00PM	Town Hall	Free
	BASED ON THE BOOK	Quiz for teams with up to six members	7.30PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £6 per team
	NEW ROPE STRING BAND	Folk group	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £10
Wed 20	POETRY PLEASE OPEN MIKE	Bridgend Writers Group	10.30AM	Bridgend Centre	Tickets: £5
	STEPHEN BOOTH	Peak District crime fiction	6.00PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £6/Child £4
	TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL	Family opera by Jonathan Dove	7.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £12/Child £5
	LATE NIGHT TANGO	David Benitez & Kim Schwartz, tango dancers	9.30PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £12
Thu 21	POETS OVERHEARD	Jackie Kay and Michael Symmons Roberts	7.30PM	Methodist Church	Tickets: £6
	ASCENSION DAY SERVICE		7.30PM	St Oswald's Church	Free
	FAST FORWARD TO WHERE?	Where has science taken us?	7.30PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £3
	ROCK CONCERT	Concert for local bands	7.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £8
Fri 22	BOLLINGTON ARTS GROUP EXHIBITION	Open 10-6	10.00AM	Civic Hall	Free
	JUNIOR DISCO	with Nick Wright. For 6 to 11 year olds	4.30PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £3
	CLUB DISCO NITE	with Nick Wright. For 13-18 year olds. Alcohol-free	7.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £5
	DYE, PRINT, STITCH	Textiles by Thomas and Elizabeth Wardle	7.00PM	St Oswald's Church	Tickets: £6/Child £4
	COMEDY CLUB	James Sherwood	8.00PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £9
	STAR PARTY & BBQ	The night sky with fun food	8.00PM	Kerridge Cricket Club	Tickets: £3/Child £1
	LATE NIGHT FRIDAY	Celebrity Chimp. Wit, wisdom and wild music	10.45PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £8
	BOLLINGTON ARTS GROUP EXHIBITION	Open 10-6	10.00AM	Civic Hall	Free
	WALK	Town Mayor's Boundary Walk: 7.5 miles. Bring packed lunch	10.00AM	Town Hall	Free
Sat 23	WIND IN THE WILLOWS	Leeds Library Theatre Company	2.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £8/Child £5
	SQUASH COMPETITION FINALS		2.00PM	Leisure Centre	Free
	SACRED HARP WORKSHOP	Passionate music from the southern U.S.A	2.30PM	St Oswald's Church	Tickets: £5
	FESTIVAL SCHOOLS' SWIM GALA		3.00PM	Leisure Centre	Free
	WEEKEND BREAKS	John Godber's farce. Leeds Library Theatre Company	5.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £10/Child £6
	DAVE MOTT'S JAZZ CLASSICS	Mainstream/Dixieland jazz	8.00PM	Arts Centre	Tickets: £8
	SCREAMING BEAVERS	Return of the Festival's favourite band	9.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £12
	BOLLINGTON ARTS GROUP EXHIBITION	Open 10-4	10.00AM	Civic Hall	Free
	FESTIVAL SERVICE	A big sing and a big celebration	11.00AM	Festival Marquee	Free
	PUB QUIZ FINAL		7.30PM	The Poachers	Free
Sun 24	PORGY & BESS	Concert version of Gershwin's masterpiece	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £15/Child £5
	BOLLINGTON ARTS GROUP EXHIBITION	Open 10-4	10.00AM	Civic Hall	Free
	FAMILY PICNIC	Climbing wall, planetarium, the Play Team & more	12.00PM	Recreation Ground	Free
Mon 25	THE UPBEAT BEATLES	Authentic Beatles music live	8.00PM	Festival Marquee	Tickets: £18
	TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION TO WHITE NANCY		10.30PM	From Festival Marquee	Free

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**MARCH**

Saturday March 7th 8.00pm
Bollington Chamber Concerts
The Barbirolli Quartet
 Quartets by Mozart, Brahms & Ravel.
 Tickets £12/£6 (Students & Claimants)
 Tel: 560355 / 575287.

Saturday March 14th 7.30pm
Voices
 Duncan Taylor (Guitar) & Katrina Demagos (Soprano) bring life to the Golden Age of English Music: Songs by John Dowland, Thomas Morley & Thomas Campion. Guitar Pieces by Francisco Tarrega, Isaac Albeniz & Fernando Sor.
 Tickets £5 from 575287.

March 18th - 21st
Bollington Festival Players
 Ring 01625 875326 for details of the Players' Spring production.

March 22nd - April 26th Sundays 2-4 pm
Exhibition: A View of the Landscape
 Danielle Lewis is a print and textile artist. Photographs printed onto different materials and worked using stitch, quilting and other techniques.

Friday March 27th 8.00pm
Bolly Comedy Club
 Mad as a March Hare? Probably! Book your place by the Arts Centre Website or ringing 560774 (Over 18s only).

Sat. March 28th 10-1 & 2-5 (Two sessions)
Festival Sculpture Workshop
 Artist Gavin Darby uses recycled materials to make beautiful sculptures

**BOLLINGTON ARTS CENTRE
SPRING PROGRAMME**

for your garden and home. Workshops to learn about transforming plastic bottles and carrier bags into peonies, poppies and pelicans! Tickets: The White Gallery, Wellington Road; £2.50 (adult) £1.50 (child) or £5 (family). Numbers limited. Drinks available. Tel. Fiona Bailey 260016.

Saturday March 28th 8.00pm
Jazz at the Arts Centre
 Mike Lovell and Six in a Bar. Newcomers to the Arts Centre, a truly entertaining band. Ring 574410.

APRIL

Saturday April 4th 10am - 3pm
Pre-Festival Reader Teaser Day
 For anyone who enjoys reading. £5 - bring a picnic (tea/coffee provided) and a book for the Book Exchange.
 Tel: 573413 to enrol.

MAY

May 8th - 25th
Bollington Festival '09

JUNE

June 7th - 28th
Exhibition: The Romantic North
 Artists Colin Halliday and Dean Entwistle show paintings inspired by the landscape of the North of England.
 Open Sundays 2-4pm.

JULY

July 5th - 19th
Threads of Inspiration
 Ann Ford shows work by members of her classes in an exhibition specially created to celebrate the textile industry's heritage in Macclesfield, Bollington, Congleton and Leek. Open Mondays 10-3, Wednesdays 11-3, Fridays 11-3 and Sundays 2-4. Workshops will be held while the exhibition is open. For details: 560459.

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

FESTIVAL FLASH

Chris Barber, a big hit at the 2005 festival, is back with his 11-piece big band.

Festival Marquee, May 8 (opening night), 8pm.

FEBRUARY

Saturday 28th, 4.40 for 5pm
Senior Citizens' Committee Annual Party
 Civic Hall: Transport available. Any Bollington resident aged 60+ welcome. Call Cllr. Angela Williams on 573851 or pick up an invitation from the Town Hall.

MARCH

Wednesday 11th, 7.30pm
Fun Evening at Spivey's Web
 Chestergate, Macclesfield: In aid of Bridgend Centre Tel 576311 for details

Monday 16th, 8pm
Civic Society
 Ovenhouse Lane Community Centre. Tonight's discussion "Cheshire East—How will Bollington be Represented?" All welcome.

Tuesday 17th, 7.30pm
Race Night at the Vale Inn
 Ingersley Road: In aid of Bridgend Centre Tel 576311 for details.

OTHER EVENTS

Wednesday 18th, 10.30am
Bridgend Centre Walk
 Bridgend Centre, Palmerston St.
 A Ranger led walk. Tel. 576311

Friday 27th
Town Mayor's Civic Dinner
 Details from Boll. Town Hall (572985)

APRIL

Sunday 19th, 11.00am
Adelphi Charity Fun Run/Walk
 Adelphi Mill, £5.00 entry (under 8s free)
 Call Michelle Foden 577266 for details.

Monday 20th, 8pm
Civic Society—Bollington Matters
 Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane.
 Discussion and photos. All welcome.

Friday 24th
Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
 In aid of Bridgend Centre Tel 01625 576311 for details

MAY

Monday 18th, 8pm
Civic Society "Ingersley Centre Project"
 Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane.
 Discussion and photos. All welcome.

Sunday 24th, 11am
Kerridge Cricket Club 6-Aside Comp.
 Kerridge Cricket Ground, Clarke Lane.
 Tel: 572124

Tuesday 26th, —Sat 30th,
Anything Goes
 Civic Hall: Bollington Light Opera Group's latest production. Tel 431038 or blogbookings@aol.com

JUNE

Saturday 20th, 12-3pm
Dean Valley School Summer Fair
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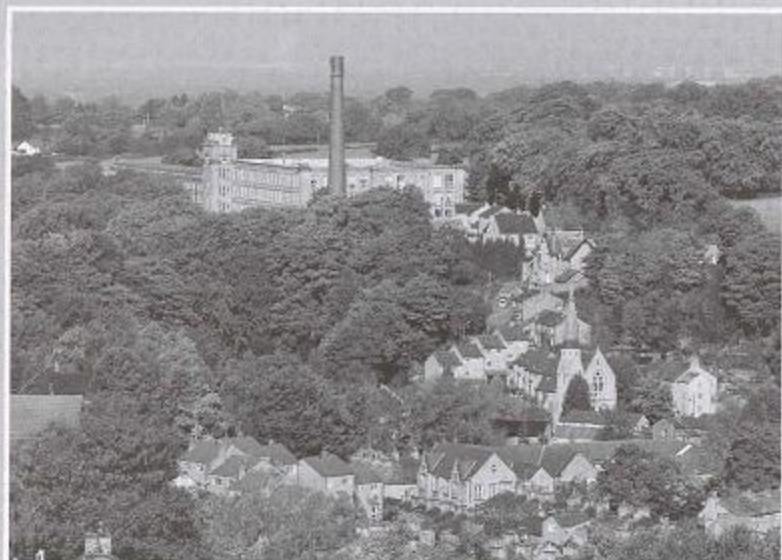
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TOURIST TRAPPINGS



Left: Bollington - A tourist hot-spot or a "local town for local people"

'Visit Cheshire' has recently commissioned professional 'destination analysts' Blue Sail to prepare a survey on the potential of our small town as a tourist destination. The survey came to the following conclusions.

Lots of people come to Bollington already, but it doesn't feel crowded. Sadly, local shopping has declined significantly with specialist shops and cafés struggling for enough custom to prosper. There are nice places to stay, but the amount of accommodation is limited. When visitors come at present there's not much for them to spend money on, so there's limited benefit to the local economy. More tourism would help shops and services survive for the benefit of tourists and residents.

Bollington is a 'quietly popular' destination for leisure visitors. Its charm is its unspoiled character and understated attractions: the countryside, easy walks, the canal, the stone-built town. Neither residents nor visitors would welcome radical change or a brash visitor attraction and any way it is hard to see where a major new development could go. So building the visitor economy is about incremental improvements to consolidate the current offer and about making the town easy and welcoming for visitors.

There is a core area for visitors between the Middlewood Way, the Canal and the town leading towards White Nancy where the needs

of visitors should be particularly catered for. The following appear to be the opportunities - each will require businesses, voluntary bodies or Councils to take the initiative:

1. Access to the Canal and Clarence Mill could be improved by the proposed canal footbridge, better upkeep of the access road to it and acquisition of land for car parking.
2. The ground floor of Clarence Mill could provide concentrated visitor facilities - a café, specialist shop and gallery, artists' studios and the Discovery Centre.
3. The Sports Pavilion could become an 'Adventure Centre' - a base for visitors and activities on the Middlewood Way and in the park.

www.visitcheshire.com



4. There are opportunities for the Wharf and hotels/guest houses to offer bike and canoe hire.
5. Pedestrian and cycle route signage on Middlewood Way, the Canal and in the town needs to be substantially improved.
6. Bollington is a good place for events; a Walking Festival could play to its strengths.
7. It is not clear whether there is an overall shortage of beds for staying visitors, but Savio House could offer accommodation to suit organised groups, events and conferences at a relatively low cost.

It was clear from the survey that the main draws for visitors are outdoor activities, coupled with the attractive ambience of the town. Walking and cycling were regularly cited. When asked what they liked most about Bollington, it was the countryside that appealed most, followed by the general appearance of the town. Least appreciated are the car parking and the shopping. Pubs and restaurants divided opinions; some thought them a positive asset, but almost as many were disappointed, commenting on the lack of decent cafés and places for children to eat.

Do you think Bollington should be promoted more as a tourist destination? Let **Bollington Live!** know.

Graham Nicholson

BOLLINGTON TOWN MEETING

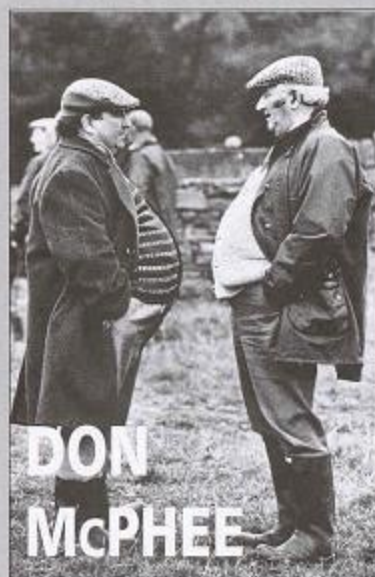
**Tuesday 17th March
in the Civic Hall at
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Speakers & to join in our
Question-and-answer session*



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**DON
McPHEE**

Don McPhee, the most modest of newspaper photographers, worked in the Manchester office of the Guardian for 33 years until his death in 2007. From there he travelled Britain and the world, taking pictures that revealed a sure news sense, a deep sympathy for people, an instinct for the beautiful and an ironic sense of humour: it's hard not to resist a smile when you see his picture of two large farmers locked in belly-to-belly conversation.

His shot of a striking miner in a toy policeman's helmet eyeballing a line of police officers has become a key image of the 1984 miners' strike and his picture of the Humber Bridge is a wonder of composition.

Don knew Bollington well. He lived in Poynton and used to sail his narrowboat south over the aqueduct to Aldephi Mill for an afternoon outing. He once very reluctantly agreed to talk with his former colleague Denis Thorpe at the Arts Centre and grabbed the fascinated attention of a large audience. For the 2005 Festival he photographed school children making little White Nancys for a fine colour front page of the festival edition of *Bollington Live!*

The Guardian staged an exhibition of his work in London early in 2008 and many pictures from that show will be seen at the Arts Centre during the second week of this Bollington Festival and through the following week. It should be a fine tribute to the man and his work and it is hoped that his wife Lillian will open the show. **David Ward**

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

FREE EVENTS

There has been great community involvement in developing events for the 2009 Festival. Because so many local residents, have generously given their time to organise something they are passionate about, the Festival is able to offer many free events to everyone throughout the 18 days.

What's on? Let's look through the Bollington lucky bag. At the opening ceremony on May 8, Jenni Murray, one-of Radio 4's best known voices, will formally launch the fun at the Recreation Ground. That will be followed by a children's fancy dress race and, later in the evening, by a free fireworks display sponsored by Tullis Russell as part of the company's 200th anniversary celebrations.

Free family events include the carnival on May 9, which will again be a walking parade with a green theme and on May 25, the final day of the Festival, a family picnic with many attractions and things to do, including looking at stars, pond dipping and various playtime activities.

The infant singalong during the afternoon of May 13 will be a chance to hear so many little voices sing big songs.

Those more interested in art can combine a walk with an exploration of the artists' trail. Many local artists

have opened the doors to studios in and around Bollington to show you their work. Trail maps will be available in plenty of time from the box office at the Arts Centre, which will also have spare copies of the 'What's On' guide that lists all events, including those that are free. There is no charge to see the exhibitions to be staged at the Arts Centre. Bollington Arts Group has its own show at the Civic Hall during the final weekend of the Festival.

The regatta takes to the waters of the Macclesfield Canal during the weekend of May 9 and 10. There is a charge if you want a narrowboat ride but there is no cost for looking at a grand flotilla of craft.

Science, as you can read elsewhere in this edition of *Bollington Live!* plays a major part in this year's festival and one of its most popular events is likely to be the first Bollington SciBar to be launched at The Vale Inn on May 11. The Vale will form part of a chain of Cheshire pubs linked by video so that people in different towns can present ideas and discuss theories. It won't be a lecture: presenters are not allowed to inflict death by Powerpoint. Instead they will use ordinary household objects to simulate the Big Bang. Who needs a Large Hadron Collider anyway when you have bicarbonate of soda?

Carol Barnes

FESTIVAL FLASH
 Carol Ann Duffy, tipped to be the next poet laureate, reads her work.
 Methodist Church,
 May 14, 7.30pm.

Top Left: Don McPhee's farmers - belly to belly!

Below: The Big Family Picnic 2005

FESTIVAL FLASH
 See tomorrow's rock legends:
 High School bands take to the stage for a gig nite showcase.
 Festival Marquee,
 May 15, 6pm.





THE BIG BANG...

A couple of years ago, I asked a friend, "Why don't we have some science-focused events at the Festival?" I felt then that so many people were frightened of science and even more broadcasters were going in for dumbed-down reporting on any scientific story.

A group of like-minded people have since come together to create for the festival a diverse and fascinating programme of science-based events for all age groups.

At the Vale Inn, you can find out whether humans can grow new limbs. If you liked the film Jurassic Park, come to the Arts Centre and learn about dinosaur mummies, fossil blasing and how to do an autopsy on a real dinosaur.

For children (and the child in the rest of us), visit the Methodist Church and experience Super Science Saturday: a chance to make slime, measure the speed of light with a microwave oven, learn about newts, the solar system and DNA (pipe cleaners provided) - all in three hours.

The programme also offers a definitive guide to having a good time. Is alcohol a good catalyst? Can chemistry really help you pull? The Saturday night science show could offer some useful advice to youngsters off on a night out.

More interested in space? We have two events: learn about the formation of the Solar System at the Arts Centre and then come to the star party and BBQ at Kerridge Cricket Club where members of Macclesfield Astronomy Society will give star-gazing advice.

The stars, a dark field and a burger: what more could you want? A blow-up planetarium will also be in place at the traditional family picnic on the last day of the Festival.

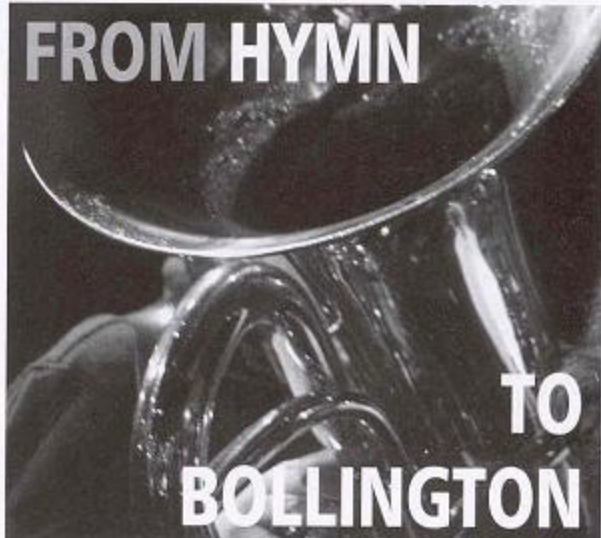
Ever wondered how our sense of smell works? 'How The Nose Knows', a family event about our sense of smell will be at the Arts Centre.

A debate at the Arts Centre titled 'Fast Forward To Where?' will ask what the discovery of the human genome has done for us so far and how we have benefited from putting men on the moon. Turn up and have your say.

Many of the scientists coming to the Festival have offered their time without charge. However this kind of programme still needs some serious funding. We have managed to secure a grant from the Granada Foundation which has become the main festival sponsor for the science events. One of the foundation's aims is to engage and inspire young people and adults to take an interest in science and we hope that with this funding and our programme we can help fulfill that aim. We have also received funding from the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 (a fund established by Queen Victoria) and BAE Systems for individual science events. The Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC) have kindly agreed to provide and staff the planetarium for the family picnic.

Now all we need is you to come and enjoy our events.

Annette Hurst



Above: Bollington Brass Band

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Bollington has a new hymn tune which will be given its first public performance at the 2009 Festival. It is not the work of a Bollington composer or even one from distant Macclesfield but has been composed for the town by a watchmaker in Macon, Georgia, in the deep south of the United States.

Raymond Hamrick, now in his nineties, writes in the Sacred Harp tradition. The Sacred Harp is a hymn book, first published in 1844 and never out of print since. Some of the music is more than 200 years old, some much more recent. But all of it is written in a system of shape notes that has helped generations of singers to sight read music.

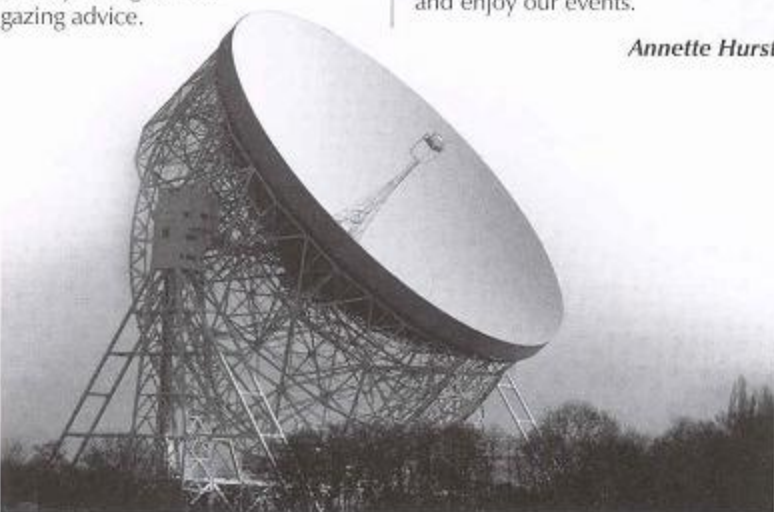
Today, people gather in country churches in the southern states to sing through the book with a raw and passionate energy that makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end.

At this year's festival, choral director Robert Bunting will lead a workshop exploring the tradition and some of the finest tunes and anthems it has produced. Bollington and other compositions by Mr. Hamrick will be included.

This is democratic music: you don't have to be a wonderful or experienced singer to come and enjoy it. You need to book early: the workshop is limited to forty places. For more information, call 576653.

Donald Judge, conductor of the Bollington Festival Choir, is arranging the tune for the town's Brass Band and it is hoped that it may also be sung at the festival's Songs of Praise.

David Ward



Left: Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope

FESTIVAL FLASH
Every Bollington dog can have its day: lead him or her to the dog show. Recreation ground, May 17, 11am.



FESTIVAL OPERATICS

Of course we are all in favour of media productions which further the interest in music, but it may come as a surprise to learn that the BBC's 'Maestro' series was about as far removed from the realities of professional conducting as John Sargeant is from being a prima ballerina. Occasionally a conductor will inspire musicians, but most of the time orchestras will play well despite the conductor. It's called self-preservation.

However much autonomy symphony players wish they had, there is one area which doesn't lend itself to the group dynamic and democracy: programming. It is a vital part of the conductor's job and rather like tactics with a football manager, can make or break an orchestra – or in this case a festival. The trick is to stick your neck out, but not so far that it gets broken. So, Bollington Festival gets, for its two most expensive events, programming which is not routine, predictable or often performed.

Central to the Festival this year is an opera production. Forget 'Carmen' (we mustn't encourage smoking) or 'Aida' (shortage of elephants): we're going for 'Tobias and the Angel' by Jonathan Dove - well at least you can pronounce it. Not like 'Die Entführung aus dem Serail' or 'Z Mrtveho Domu'. 'Tobias' is a great, great opera. The story line is very powerful and very moving and the drama is greatly heightened by quantities of real humour, both theatrically and musically. Don't worry too much just now about who's who, but poor Sarah keeps getting married (seven times so far) and new hubbie dies the moment he climbs into bed with her. Every time. Enough to give any woman a complex. Just to drive the point home, we switch to her father's henchmen who have a wonderful moment bemoaning the fact that they've run out of space in the orchard to bury more bodies.

Musical humour can fall flat on its face, but just listen to this Jewish wedding music, complete with fiddle, accordion and screaming clarinet. Brilliant.

The opera lasts about 75 minutes and is non-stop action. If you've never been to an opera you must



give this a try. I have no reservations, you will love it. If you're an opera buff, this is still a must: you'll never forget where you first saw this opera.

A special grant from Awards for All has meant that we have been able to engage a top stage director, Michael Barry and amazing soloists.

Joe Chappel is coming over from New York especially for the Festival; Abigail Kelly comes up from Birmingham; Ksynia Reynolds and Phillip Jones from London; the rest from around the North-West. Altogether there will be more 100 performers in this production – a spectacle in itself.

FESTIVAL FLASH

Time for a laugh
at the festival
Comedy Night.
Festival Marquee,
May 13, 8pm.

A large-scale choral concert has been a feature of Bollington Festival ever since the first event in 1964. In fact John Coope formed the Festival Choir for that very purpose. Successive Festivals have allowed the choir to tackle major works in the

repertoire including Verdi's 'Requiem', 'Carmina Burana' and the 'St. Matthew Passion'. Time for a change I'm thinking, so here is a concert version of Gershwin's 'Porgy and Bess'. Much of the music is very familiar: 'Summertime' and 'Bess You Is My Woman Now'. Despite this, the opera is not often done as a staged production because Gershwin insisted (and his estate still insists) that the cast must be all black – not a problem with soloists, but certainly tricky for a Bollington-based chorus. For this rarely performed concert version we are still required to have black soloists, but the solo parts have been condensed to just one soprano and one baritone. This obligation is only an advantage. We have contracted the very beautiful Abigail Kelly and the equally gorgeous Joe Chappel! Luckily, the chorus can be of any ethnicity.

So no problem – we offer you the unforgettable music of 'Porgy and Bess'. Ah yes, well there is one small problem. Language, or more precisely accent. 'Porgy and Bess' is set in Charleston, in the deep South. So "heaven" becomes "hebben" and we really can't put a Cheshire accent on "Yes de Lawd will meet you at de court house do". So it's dialect lessons from Joe when he gets here. Fortunately he's only a Yankee by adoption.

Anyway, how far have I stuck my neck out? Well, I'm sleeping at nights - and after you've read this you'll be buying tickets, won't you? Neck saved.

Nicholas Smith

Above: Abigail Kelly

Nicholas Smith is artistic director of the 2009 Bollington Festival

FESTIVAL FLASH

Sir Mark Elder,
music director of
the Hallé, talks
about his orchestra,
opera and other
musical passions.

Arts Centre,
May 15, 8pm



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THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

The Bollington Festival Three Peaks Fell Race is a new event at which we hope to encourage many fell runners to come and experience the beauty of the countryside and hilltops surrounding Bollington.

Unknown to many people who live in the area, the hills behind Bollington are the playground of a thriving local fell running community focussed around the Macclesfield Harriers. Annual races, such as the Nostalgia race and the Rainow Five pass through Bollington, but the 2009 Festival sees the launch of the first Bollington 'Three Peaks' fell race. This packs the Three dominant summits of Kerridge Hill, White Nancy and Nab Hill into a distance of just under six miles, plus a climb of 1,200 feet.

Although most of the route follows public footpaths, some of the race is on private land, enabling a better circuit and the chance of some proper fell terrain.

The race is sponsored by The Vale Inn on Adlington Road and registration is 'on the day' in the pub. The £5 entry fee will help to support the Festival and also includes food at the finish.

Prizes will be awarded to all the usual suspects, plus a special

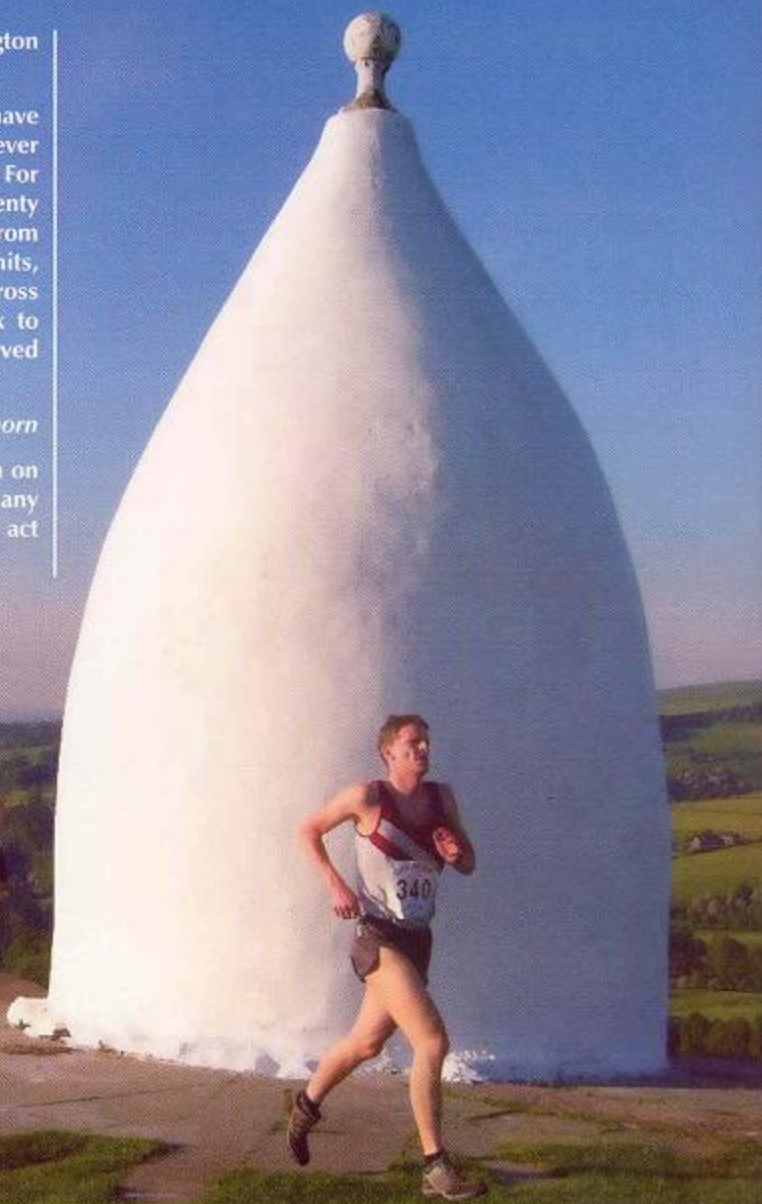
prize for the fastest Bollington man and woman.

Everyone is welcome to have a go, even if you have never tackled a fell race before. For spectators there should be plenty of thrills and spills – either from below one of the three summits, or as the winners sprint across the Recreation Ground back to the Vale Inn for a much deserved pint of beer.

Andy Skelhorn

Please contact Andy Skelhorn on 01625 575067 if you have any queries or if you are able to act as marshal on the day.

Other sporting activities at the Festival include: The six-mile fancy dress run organised by the Cheshire Hash and a series of organised walks if you're not feeling quite energetic enough to run up and down the fells. You can also get involved in the squash competition or swimming gala, with heats and finals all taking place at the Leisure Centre.



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