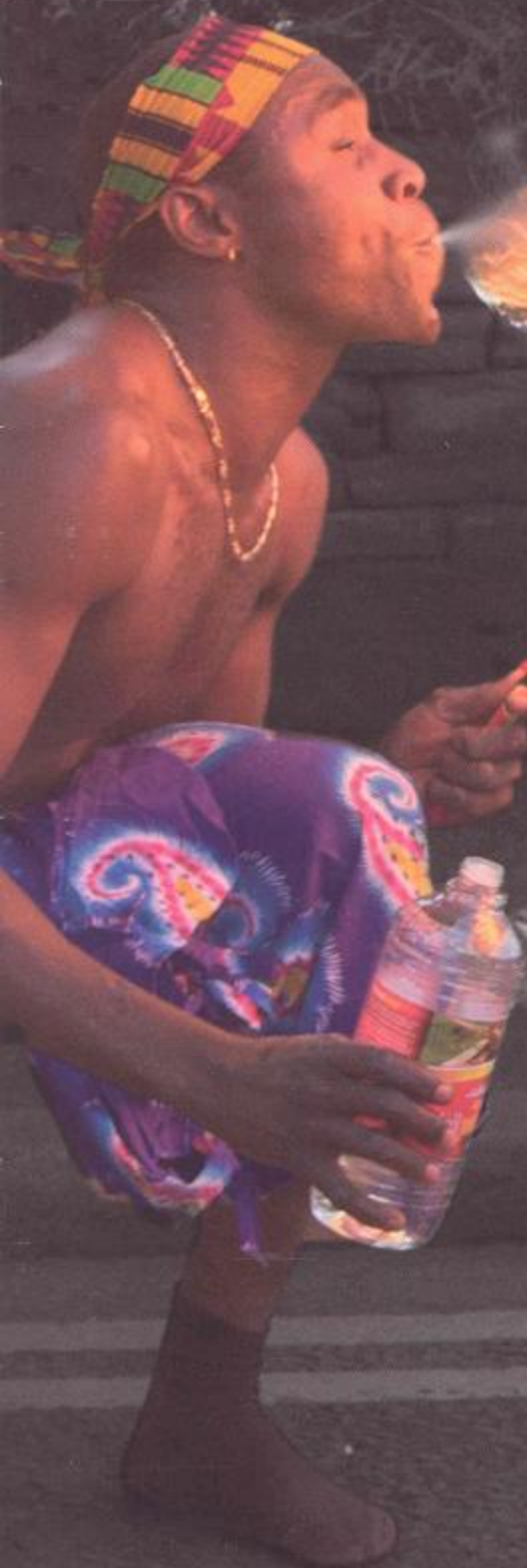




BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Forty Six Summer 2009



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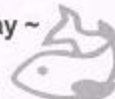
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The Editor, c/o Bollington Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen St., Bollington SK10 5PS

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Cover: Fire-eater during the 2009 Festival procession. Photograph: Paul Beardmore

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LAP OF THE GODS

The monolithic Cheshire East Council bringing together the full array of powers of the Borough and County Council started work on April 1st 2009.

This organisation has the potential for becoming an enormous and expensive bureaucracy full of managers paralysed by rules and unattainable 'targets'.

Cheshire East has decided to make itself more responsive to our needs for inexpensive and effective services by chopping itself into seven parts called Local Area Partnerships or LAPs. Bollington is in the LAP of Macclesfield with about nineteen other surrounding rural parishes like Rainow, Pott Shrigley and Gawsorth.

Each LAP meets about every six weeks and brings together a long list of our service providers. The main ones are Cheshire East, Town and Parish Councils, Police, Emergency Services, Health, Education, Business and Voluntary Services. The idea is that these services will use their collective muscle and resources to make our lives better.

TOO MANY GIRLS GETTING PREGNANT TOO YOUNG - THE LAP WILL STOP THAT...

Your representatives will tell the LAP what we want to improve and they will organise the improvement. If we have too many girls getting pregnant too young the LAP will stop that. If we have too many burglaries the LAP will stop them. If we have too many cars cluttering up our streets the LAP will stop that. If we want some decent facilities for our young people when they are

not in school the LAP will provide those. If we want to cut our waiting time for test results from the local hospital the LAP will speed up the test results...or perhaps not...

It is meant to improve our lives in practical ways.

Although it is meeting at the moment behind closed doors, the first public meeting will be in September. We would urge you to go along. Look out for more information. We will be there and let you know what happens.

We are lucky one of our Councillors, Harold Davenport, is the main co-ordinator. If anyone is in charge he is. Over to you. **Ken Edwards**

cheshireeast.gov.uk

Below: The logo of our new Cheshire East Council, branding itself across Bollington

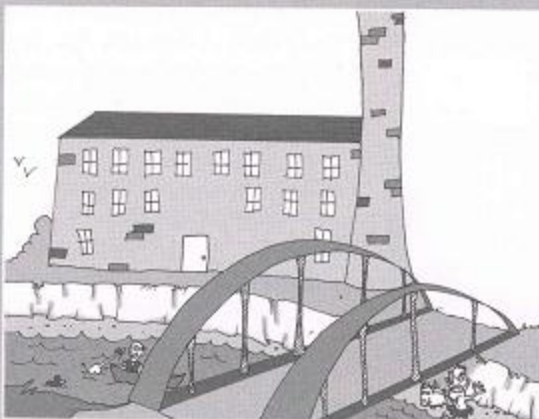


CANAL BRIDGE

At last! After what began as a Millennium Project and years of tortuous negotiation and fund-raising the new footbridge at Clarence Mill is finally under construction! The first sod was cut on Thursday 14th May. Construction started on the following Tuesday and is estimated to be completed by 4th August.

Tim Boddington

happy-valley.org.uk



EDITORIAL

Festival Fatigue. Half of Bollington must be suffering. However, all those involved in putting on Bollington Festival, although now slumped into their armchairs, will have a warm glow inside knowing that once again, the Festival has been a resounding success. No doubt they will be saying "never again", but it won't be long before a meeting is called, people are gathered and the next Festival is being planned.

Clearly this issue could not pass without some review of the Festival; we have a general overview from Carol Barnes, of the Festival Committee, along with a review of the visit of the new Poet Laureate to Bollington. I was hoping that she would write us a poem, but alas it was not to be.

Moving to other articles, we have an interesting account of how a newcomer has found moving to Bollington. Another resident sadly finds that not everyone is as neighbourly as we would like. We also look to the future with proposals for a new and improved Skate Park on Adlington Road. A particularly pleasing article is included about Adlington Primary School's centenary; it is intriguing to look back at education 100 years ago.

I hope you enjoy this issue and find something of interest. Once again, if you have an issue you feel should be covered in **Bollington Live!** get writing and send it in!

Enjoy the summer.



Date for next copy:
Friday 25th September 2009

BRUM TO BOLLY

We feel very honoured to be asked to write an article for **Bollington Live!** about our move from Birmingham to Bollington and what we think about our new home town, so here goes.....

WHY BOLLINGTON?

We are often asked how we came to choose Bollington.

We decided to embrace our retirement with open arms and had begun to plan for it several years before.... Firstly, we needed to answer this important question... What did we want to do with the rest of our lives?

We then needed to consider where we should live to be able to do all of the things we wanted to do!

We both enjoy walking, attending the theatre and art galleries, travelling and watching football. We also enjoy socialising with friends and family, as well as playing with our young grandchildren, who we only saw every few weeks, as they were then 100 miles away in Bramhall.

We then began house hunting in earnest and after looking at several places in the Peak District we identified this part of Cheshire as the ideal location. We first "discovered" Bollington during a weekend visit to the family. After a Sunday lunch at the Windmill Inn, which incidentally was excellent, we then decided to go for a drive around the area to look at houses and began to follow the road signs to Pott Shrigley and eventually Bollington.

From this first encounter with Bollington we loved the character and ambience of the village, the people, the stone buildings, the canal, the walkways and above all, the beautiful countryside.

As well as being near to our eldest son and his family, it was not far away from the M6 motorway, a mainline railway station and the airport. So it would not be too difficult to return to see to our youngest son and friends in Birmingham, or to reach other parts of the country and to travel abroad.



Above: John and Kate Gooding, close to their new home.

Photograph by Anthony Holland

kriv.org.uk
bridgendcentre.org.uk

We scoured the internet and came back time and time again to look at houses in the town, until we eventually decided on our new home and moved here in early February 2008.

Since moving here, Bollington has more than exceeded our expectations.

We have made several new friendships, including our new neighbours, not to mention those through the Bridgend Centre and the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale project volunteers.

We both walk most Wednesdays with Bridgend staff or the Rangers. Ann's walks have provided us with a brilliant insight to the town's history, geography and geology, plus a chance to catch up on the local news. The Ranger's walks, lead by Paul, have helped us identify the local animal and plant life and watch the seasons develop. The Centre's 'Nostalgia Trails', annotated maps, have guided us into pathways and areas that would have taken us ages to find on our own.

Recently Kate has also joined the Centre's weekly Reading Circle

and Book club and, in addition, the Centre's shop is a great vehicle for us to "recycle" clothes, toys, books and bric a brac. We have found many a bargain there. Our two year old Granddaughter especially loves to visit and always takes home a new toy or a jigsaw and a book or two.

In order to de-clutter prior to moving house, we disposed of some of our collections, pottery and pictures on an online auction site. John mentioned this just once at the Bridgend Centre and now we help to boost their funds by selling some of the more interesting donated items on eBay.

John discovered KRIV via the Happy Valley website and last summer enjoyed his first experience of dry stone walling above Cow Lane. Now, on most Fridays he climbs the hill to Savio House or up to Redway Wood to support KRIV colleagues. The group welcomes new members and looks after them well, with coffee and chocolate biscuits! He has learnt several new skills, including hedge laying, tree planting, bramble and gorse clearing, tool maintenance and path building. It's a satisfying,

**WE LOVED THE
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COUNTRYSIDE.**

physical workout. His latest work has been helping to complete a two year KRIV project of building an alternative footpath to White Nancy through Redway Wood.

We have also renewed old friendships; including friends we met at college in Derby some 40 years ago and who now live in the greater Manchester area. We also see more of our Midlands friends, as once people come and visit us they want to come again and again. We now have to keep a list of where we

have walked - and where we have been to eat with our visitors so we can explore new places with them each time! However, everyone has to climb up to White Nancy as their initiation into Bollington.

What are the other 'joys' of living in Bollington? The list is long - those below, in no particular order, are perhaps the most important.

Everyone we meet on the street says "Hello" or smiles.

The public houses, cafe, and restaurants are all excellent, providing good food in friendly surroundings. We still haven't decided on a favourite "local" as they all have different plus points.

The local shopkeepers - bakers, butchers, newsagents, art gallery, hairdressers, post office and take-aways have been so welcoming and are great places for good service and a chat.

Kate's enjoyment of shopping is more than satisfied by using the local bus service for trips into Macclesfield or by car to the Handforth Dean and Cheadle shopping complexes.

The various Arts Centre events are of a very high standard. We both really enjoy the monthly comedy club and have attended other events from 'Godspell' to the 'Messiah'. We enjoyed attending a wide range of events at the spectacular Bollington Festival.

The countryside is truly stunning. We not only wake up every morning to a changing seasonal view of Oak Bank from our bedroom window, we can also watch the clouds scudding over Blaze Hill from our lounge. We can walk out of our front door and be on the top of White Nancy in a few minutes to enjoy the views of the Cheshire Plain.

Our first Christmas here found us singing carols with a huge crowd outside the Town Hall and sharing drinks and food beside White Nancy. Where else in the world would you find a community like this?

Kate Gooding

YELLOW PERIL

The motor car is the basis and bane of modern Bollington. We love our cars and hate them in equal measure. They allow us to go where we want when we want with whom we want. Without cars Bollington's increasing number of houses would be empty shells because we need cars to go to work to pay the mortgage. But where to put them when we live in houses whose only parking space is the road outside? That road is already full of other people's cars.

Our only protection against cars parked in dangerous places is the yellow line. Thin and primrose in Conservation Areas; thick and custard yellow everywhere else. These yellow lines stop people parking because, if caught, they face a £60 fixed penalty

Below: An illegally parked car, on double yellow lines, the pavement and blocking access to the public highway!

Will more yellow lines work?

Photograph by Phil Mannering

fine. If you live near the main road through Bollington these yellow lines are coming to a place near you next October. Traffic Regulation Orders will be published for consultation soon.

Whether you welcome them or reject them utterly you will be able to have your say. Don't miss the chance. **Ken Edwards**



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

For the past few weeks, I have been ill. So ill, in fact, that I was bedridden in constant pain for a week and housebound for nearly two. Then my husband found a note on my car.

There are a number of excuses why a car might be sitting in the same spot for nearly two weeks. I empathize with all of them: broken down, no reason to drive, cannot drive. Would I ever write a note like that myself, though? Never, ever.

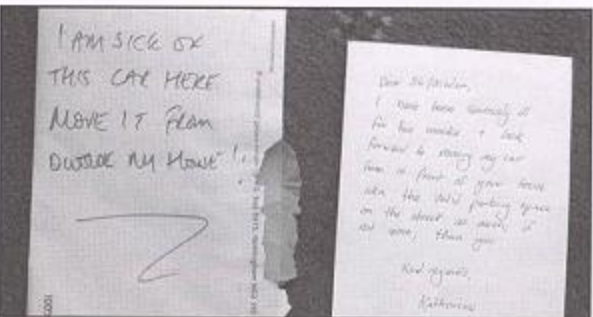
I hate finding examples like this, especially here in Bollington, as it shows the worst of humankind. The writer is demanding and selfish, extending ownership over the street beyond their house with imperative sentences and exclamation points. The method of communication is unplanned, desperate, and guarded (scrawled pink marker on an old envelope, unsigned). They are clearly offended, with the desire to exert dominance by dictating the resolution of their conflict rather than seeking a compromise.

With a bit of planning, the writer could have discovered several ways of contacting me to express

Below: The Phantom note-writer strikes again on several cars in Bollington.

Photographs by Tom Lewis (below) and Janet Beech (bottom)

their desire for me to move my car. They would have discovered, quite humanely, why I have not been able to move my car. Furthermore, they would have realized there was no conflict at all. I don't like my car sitting there, either.



This conversation could have saved a bit of pink marker and also quite a bit of stress on both our parts, because, to be honest, you have to be pretty stressed to write a random note like this. I like to think the best of my neighbours, but it does not seem that the writer thinks the best of me. It does hurt to see someone so upset, especially over something as unthreatening as a legally parked car. **Katherine Lewis**

ADLINGTON SCHOOL THE EARLY YEARS

This year, Adlington Primary School celebrates its centenary. Sandy Milsom looks through the early log book entries to discover what life was like at the school.

One hundred years ago this was the first entry in the School's log book.

'Feb 1st The above School opened for elementary instruction on Feb 1st 1909 Hannah Jackson being in charge assisted by Mrs Shatwell (temp) & Miss Powell. 87 children admitted. Rear Admiral Anson (Manager) visited; Attendance Officer visited.'

It wasn't a smooth start, as by March 1st, forty-four children were absent with German measles and Miss Powell, a teacher, was also ill. The Medical Authorities closed the school for six weeks. This was the beginning of a century of education.

The school log books present a vivid picture of the early days of the school, events, pupils and staff and revealing snippets of information. In 1910 we learn that Hannah Jackson resigned to be replaced by George Thomas Worthington as Head Teacher.

Lessons in the school garden began in 1912, an important aspect of the boys' education as they would be expected to be able to grow their own food. There were some problems as 'black scab' was discovered in the potatoes and the Board of Agriculture had to be informed.

Also in 1912, while the boys learnt to garden, the log book states:

'Miss Clayton and Mrs Fellows called when the former lady gave a football for the sole use of the girls.' Was Miss Clayton a feminist?

In May 1913 a problem with the school pump meant the caretaker had to bring water from a nearby farm, a mammoth task for so many children. School life was full of new experiences and successes as well as problems and in 1914 the children were taken to see the cinematograph pictures "All Around the World" at the Macclesfield Picturedrome. The next year saw the school choir winning the Alderman Frost Challenge Shield

for the highest score at the East Cheshire Musical Competition.

In common with many rural schools, their attendance was affected by seasonal demands of farming. Children were needed to help with the harvest, notably boys needed to get in the potato crop.

During the First World War pupils of Adlington were doing their bit for the war effort, collecting eggs for the National Egg Collection for the Wounded Fund and sending harvest produce to the Rock Bank Military Hospital in Bollington. In 1917 there was a very sad log book entry for 21st April:

'Mrs Moseley has written to say that just prior to leaving home for school yesterday morning she received news of the death in action of her only son Horace and that she was too upset to come to school.'

There is a puzzling entry on 19th October 1917:

'Over 2cwts of Horse Chestnuts have been collected by the pupils of this school in response to the appeal made by the Ministry of Munitions.'

Research revealed that cotton for the making of gun cotton was in short supply and that "conkers" were used as an alternative source of cellulose. The end of the war was celebrated by the children who all had a half-day holiday. The school closed again in December for two weeks, as many of the children succumbed to the flu epidemic spreading across the country.

The 1920s were a time of great hardship and school staff and management were concerned about the welfare of the children. A mid-morning drink of Horlicks was introduced at a halfpenny a cup because children often travelled a long way to school and started early in the morning. In 1929 hot school dinners were introduced at a charge of 3d a head.

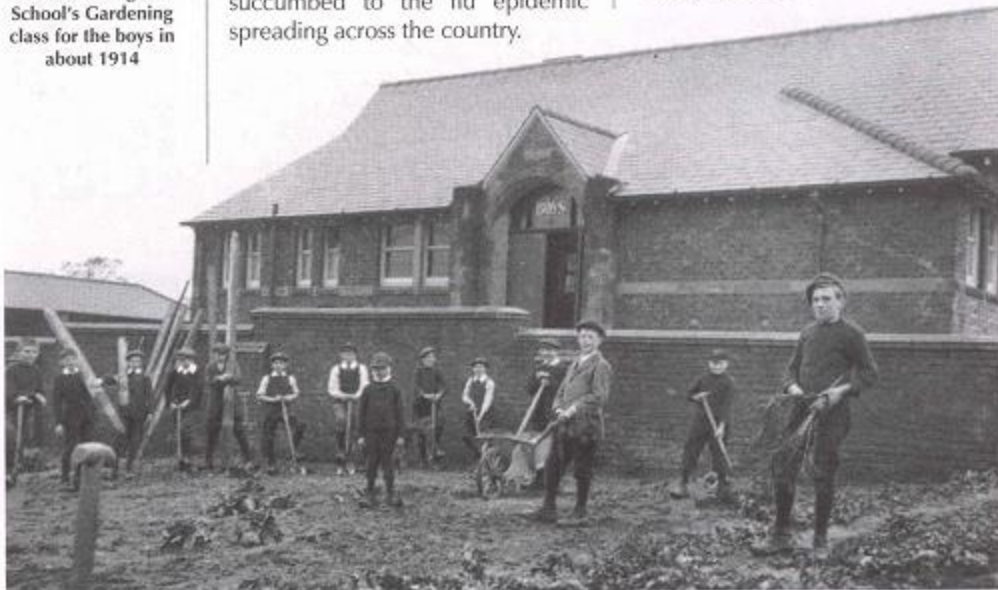
The hard times may have led to crime in the school garden, as the log book for 1925 cites an occasion when a party of nine young men who had stolen flowers were met by a Police Constable as they entered Bollington. It was reported that pilfering of garden produce had been going on for years. The youths, at a subsequent court case, were reprimanded and had 54 shillings in costs to pay.

These early days at Adlington School reflected a community making a living from the land. The children came from a wide area but the school provided a focal point.

A Christmas play in 2004 provided a reminder of the farming roots of the school, employing real donkeys and calves in a stable scene. Dave Hudson, Head Teacher at the time, provided much amusement at County Hall with an unusual risk assessment and also found himself with a large shovelling job. It was a great success, cherishing Cheshire's tradition as a dairy farming County.

Sandy Milsom

Below: Adlington School's Gardening class for the boys in about 1914



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JULY

Saturday 4th – Thursday 19th

Afghan Tribal Textiles Display

The Weave, 10 Bollington Rd
Thurs-Sat. 10am-5pm & Sun 12-4pm.

Wednesday 8th, 10.30am

Majestic Mills Walk for Textile Trail

Bridgend Ctr, Palmerston St. 5 mile walk to Rainow and back. Tel. 576311.

Sunday 5th - Sunday 19th

Threads of Inspiration

Arts Centre: Exhibition celebrating the local textile industry. Mon 10-3, Wed & Fri 11-3, Sun 2-4. Workshops held during exhibition. Tel: 560459

Sunday 12th,

Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race

In aid of the Bridgend Centre.
Tel 576311 for details.

Monday 13th, 10am; 12noon; 2pm; 4pm.

RA Smart Tour

Clough Bank: The leaders in digital fabric printing allow a glimpse behind the scenes. Tours last about 1 hour – max group 12 people. Tel 576199.

AUGUST

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th

Mind Body & Boogie

Cock & Pheasant Marquee. A mini festival of jazz, rock & roots music, dance etc. See below and article opposite for info.

Fri: 7:30pm Indie Band night.

Sat. 1:30pm-7pm Family fun afternoon.

Sat. 7:00pm band night with headliners Brassroots, fresh from Glastonbury.

Sun. 2-8pm Gabriel Minnikin, The Wishing Well and others.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5th 8.00pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

John Hallam Jazztet with Jeff Barnhart, £8; ring 574410.

Sunday 6th – October 4th

Eclectic Stitches

Arts Centre Exhibition. Angela Oswald and the textiles art group show their work. Sun. 2 – 4 and during other events.

Sunday 13th, All day!

Transport Extravaganza

Adelphi Mill, Grimshaw Lane. Charity event with a fantastic display of classic cars, commercial vehicles, motor-bikes etc. In aid of Macclesfield Lions.

Friday 18th, 10am – 12 noon

Looking at Paintings

Arts Centre: A series of eight weekly classes, Robin Hidden explores the meaning of painting. £50 for the course. Enrol at first meeting.

Saturday 26th, 10am – 3pm

Creative Sparks

Arts Centre: A writing workshop with Gail Ashton. £5. Call 877804 to enroll.

OCTOBER

Saturday 24th 7.30pm

Ashton on Mersey Showband

Bollington Methodist Church Tickets £10 inc. Refreshments. Details: 572722.

Saturday 24th, — Sunday Nov 1st,

Sausage, Steak and Seafood Week

In aid of the Bridgend Centre. Tel. 576311.

Friday 2nd, 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Call 560774 or go to www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Saturday 3rd, 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Richard Leach's Seven Stars of Jazz. £8, ring 574410.

Friday 9th, 8pm

The Derbyshire Houdini

Arts Centre: A fascinating insight into the life of Derbyshire's very own Houdini, with poems and historical images from John Lindley, the 2004 Cheshire Poet Laureate. £5, Pay on door

Sunday 11th – November 8th

Landmarks 2

Arts Centre Exhibition: Local artists Nola McGaul and Emma King show a new series of landscapes. Open Sundays 2 – 4 and during other events.

Wednesday 14th – Saturday 17th

Bollington Festival Players

For details ring 875326

Friday 23rd, 07.30pm

The Mikron Theatre

Arts Centre: For details, ring 574687

Saturday 24th, 8pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

Arts Centre: The Navarra Quartet: Music by Beethoven and Thomas Ades. Tickets £12 or £6 (conc.) from 560355 or 575287

Saturday 31st, 11am – 4pm

Festival Fare

A Craft Fair with local hand-made crafts. Free admission.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st, 2pm

The Tin Cup

Arts Centre: A special show for children from Kristin Hurst all the way from Switzerland. Tickets from 573413.

Friday November 6th, 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre. Ring 560774 or visit www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Saturday November 7th 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Harlem Hot Stompers. £8; ring 574410.

Saturday 14th, 2 – 4pm

RSPB Activity Afternoon

Arts Centre: Discover how to help wildlife survive the winter. Free!

November 15th, – December 13th,

Brushes with Wildlife

Arts Centre: An RSPB exhibition. Open Sundays 2 – 4 and during other events.

Friday 20th, 7.30 pm

An Evening with the RSPB

Film evening. £3.50 & £1.50 (children) from Tina Hanak on 503572 or wex@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk

(Contact numbers are 01625 unless stated)

BOLLINGTON WELL DRESSING

Saturday 18th July, 12.30am

Grand Opening at Greg Fountain, Flash Lane. 8 sites will be dressed. Our theme is "The International Year of Astronomy" so make stars to add to our display at Queen Street. Visit: www.happy-valley.org.uk for full details.

Dates for your Diary

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

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL MUSIC THEATRE

Following the success of "Baby in a Box" at the Bollington Festival, the Music Theatre will be performing two new musicals.

On Sunday, December 6th, we tell the story of 'Good King Wenceslas': a real character from history called Vaclav II of Bohemia. Born in 908 AD, he became King when just a boy, and despite his good works, was murdered in 935 AD. There are many tales about him apart from the famous carol, which we'll be acting out live on stage!

On Sunday, May 9th, 2010, we perform 'Wall of Wishes'. A tale with a local flavour inspired by Claire de Ruiter's installation 'Journeys', which was on display in Bollington library during the 2009 Festival. The folk who built drystone walls used to conceal wishes inside them. In our story, some get far more – or far less – than they bargained for!

If you're aged about 7-14 and enjoy singing and performing, why not join us? There are no auditions and you can come along free of charge to see if you like what we do before committing yourself. Sunday afternoon rehearsals start on September 6th at Bollington Arts Centre. For details, phone 0161 427 2870 or visit: www.fun.to/bfimt **Donald Judge**

MIND BODY & BOOGIE

Is a 3 day festival of music and dance run by Mental Health Organisation Week4Aday, a not for profit Community Interest Company.

This year the festival will be on 7-9th August. All events will take place on one site adjacent to the Cock & Pheasant Inn. As well as the usual eclectic mix of local and visiting performers there will be a new focus on children's art, music and dance with an alcohol free 'family session' on the Saturday afternoon. There will also be presentations on self-help treatment for common mental health problems. For tickets and info visit: www.myspace.com/mindbodyandboogie or call in at the Cock & Pheasant.

KERRIDGE RIDGE AND INGERSLEY VALE PROJECT

With new footpaths & ponds, newly laid hedges and rebuilt drystone walls, the KRIV project is really starting to make a difference and have several new projects planned for this summer & autumn. The project provides free training to local volunteers, so if you would like to learn some new skills and contribute to this important conservation project call Richard Thorogood on 560475 or visit the web-site: <http://www.kriv.org.uk>. New volunteers are very welcome, all you need is enthusiasm.



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WANTED: A new editor for the Town Council newsletter, Bollingtonian, starting in September. Details from the Town Clerk on 572985.

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M. CHADWICK

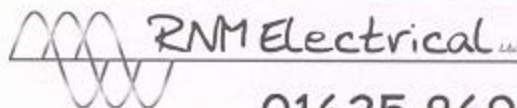


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THREE SHIRES TEXTILE FESTIVAL

Over fifty events have already been confirmed for the first Three Shires Textile Festival, a two-week programme of exhibitions, talks, tours, textile craft fairs, fabric sales and workshops which takes place 4th-19th July 2009. The festival is named after Three Shires Head, where Cheshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire meet. Events will take place in all three counties, with plenty going on in Bollington.

Bollington Arts Centre will promote *Threads of Inspiration*, an exhibition of Creative Embroidery and Textile Art specially created by Ann Ford and members of her classes to celebrate the textile industry's heritage in Macclesfield, Bollington,

Congleton and Leek.

Bollington's new art space **The White Gallery** will host *New Threads*, an exhibition of contemporary textile arts.

The Bridgend Centre will lead two themed walks during the festival: the Three Shires Mill Walk, a five mile walk over the fields to Rainow and back, discovering industrial history and Majestic Mills, a two mile walk exploring Bollington's textile heritage.

The Discovery Centre will put on a special display celebrating Bollington's textile heritage and others are expected to confirm their involvement shortly, including

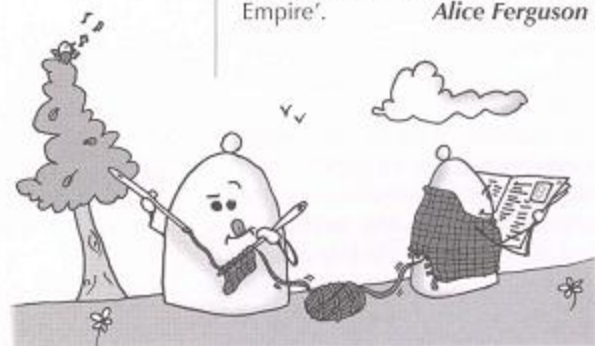
Event details from:

textilefestival.com

The Three Shires Textile Festival 2009 programme is available in Bollington.

RA Smart, Bollington's own textile printing and weaving company, and The Weave.

The festival's Textiles Consultant is Bollington resident Dr Brenda King. Dr King is Vice Chair of the Textile Society, and author of 'Silk and Empire'.
Alice Ferguson



DYED IN THE SILK

Some major aspects of the Three Shires Textile Festival are the exhibitions planned to celebrate the life and textiles of Thomas Wardle and his wife Elizabeth. I am particularly pleased that such a remarkable man as Thomas Wardle will at last be better known through these. This talented couple were responsible for the production of a wonderful range of dyed, printed and embroidered textiles from the 1860s. Wardle's dyeing and printing company was strategically sited at three points on the banks of the river Churnet in Leek, Staffordshire. Leek was a major centre of silk dyeing and the production of yarns. The town was also the home of the Leek Embroidery Society which was run by Elizabeth Wardle, an accomplished needlewoman.

The exhibitions in Macclesfield and Leek will bring together many textiles of various types for the first time. The Macclesfield exhibition *Dye, Print, Stitch: textiles by Thomas and Elizabeth Wardle* will contain loans from leading museums across the country. Although these interesting textiles were made in Staffordshire, the component parts came from all over the developed world. Hand-woven silk cloth and

silk yarns were imported from India and then printed and dyed in Leek. Dye stuffs came from all over the globe, arriving in Leek, Macclesfield and Congleton via the ports of Bristol and Liverpool, travelling from there by wagon and the canal system that still winds its way through the landscape today. Gold thread which was used for the opulent church embroideries came from Japan and China. Inspiration for the patterns was taken from Europe, Persia, and India, from contemporary designers and from past eras when the decorative arts flourished. We can still see fine needlework, symbolic designs and colourings, rich fabrics and fringes; all of these ingeniously combined to create magnificent textiles for the fine churches in our region.

Textiles on display in the exhibitions are windows onto a lost world of many craft skills, which transformed silks and other fine fabrics with rich colours and complex patterns. The crafts people behind the textiles were all highly trained in order that fine quality fabrics could be produced for the world markets.

My second book to feature the Wardles will be published in time

Below: A reminder of Bollington's great textile past, the impressive Clarence Mill and Macclesfield Canal.

Photograph by Anthony Holland

for the July festival. *Dye, Print, Stitch: textiles by Thomas and Elizabeth Wardle in the Arts and Crafts era*, will be published through Macclesfield Museum.

Brenda King



FESTIVAL REVISITED

So what was your favourite part of the Festival? There were so many highlights for me and the quality of the performances and the activities makes it difficult to pick just one.

Some of the relatively unsung high points included the opening of the labyrinth on the Middlewood Way. Not many of us gathered there to hear the words of the Festival Chairman, Andrew Roberts, but he had certainly done his homework and really brought the pink squiggly lines to life with the tale of the labyrinth echoing the circles we find ourselves on in life. I for one am looking forward to the completion of this meditation in local Kerridge stone. Another, little known event, the Scibar at The Vale was one that I really wanted to be a success because I liked the concept and the idea it might continue after the festival is a distant, happy memory. I was mentioning it to everyone and the response was frequently "A what bar?" But I was overwhelmed when I arrived to find the pub was packed, the speaker was interesting and everyone was asking questions – who could ask for more? Well I could for one! I'll certainly be at the next one...

Back in the Festival Marquee and Joni Fuller showed that her real passion is for the violin and what a performance that was! The standing ovation was rightly deserved for the talent and energy in the second half of the show. Another delight was the Screaming Beavers with support from Celebrity Chimp. This gig was packed and tickets could have been

Right: New Rope String Band in the Festival Marquee.

Photograph by Tom Lewis



sold on eBay! The Chimps were fresh and lively and had a delightful humour.

I took the opportunity to dip my toe in the water for productions I thought I might not like and again, surprised myself! Not because I am now a convert to opera, but because, aside from the more obvious and expected talents of the professionals involved, I was

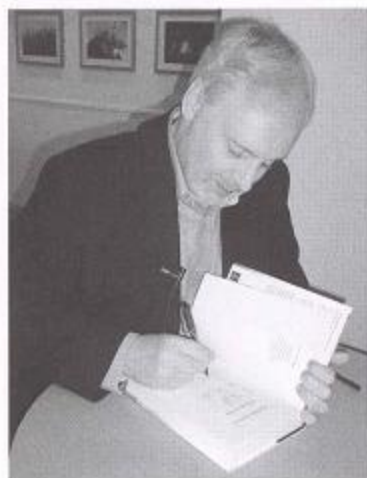
Below: Raku Pottery ablaze in sawdust at the Arts Centre.

Photograph by Tom Lewis



Left: Literary event at the Festival. Crime Fiction writer Stephen Booth signs his books following a talk at the Arts Centre.

Photograph by Anthony Holland



bollingtonfestival.org.uk

delighted by the local divas that I had hitherto been unaware of. Carol Taylor's voice particularly stood out for its clarity, with a powerful and well-tuned delivery.

So many community events provided fun and the opportunity to try new skills. The raku pottery day produced some great works of art and the crowded tables showed just how popular this was. Many people were disappointed, thinking they could walk up and buy tickets there, when it had already sold out. This was true of many events, making this one of the more successful festivals. Janet Beech was

oft heard saying (in jest, I hasten to add) "I wish that marketing team would stop doing its job so well, we're run off our feet!"

Many events were just so enjoyable they were too short, even the ones that went on for hours. The Star Party at Kerridge Cricket Club suffered from clouds, but the speaker was so motivating and enthusiastic, he had people clamouring for more! After some swift "First Aid Marketing" late on Saturday, a second Star party was publicised for Sunday at 10pm to take advantage of the better weather forecast!

The last day was a treat in so many ways. I had spent almost two years planning and executing the marketing for events others had organised and suddenly, the Family Picnic was upon us. I had organised this by myself and I couldn't believe how nervous I was as I approached The 'Rec' to show suppliers to their places and helped them to set up. I started feeling like it might be a success once families and their gazebos started turning up - by the time the River Race got underway, I was grinning like a Cheshire cat!

The festival is testimony to the diversity that Bollington embraces and at times this desire to offer something for everyone impinged on the normal calm that exists. Car parking on Adlington Road was manic at peak times and noise levels of some events were tolerated by those not attending with good grace and for this, I would like to thank the people of Bollington on behalf of the Festival Committee

SONNET AND SHARE

for being such good sports! I also have tremendous admiration for the 1400 volunteers that made this whole festival happen and especially for the site managers and stewards whose days were long and often very wet!

But my real highlight? I think, if you pushed me to pick just one out of the enormous variety on offer for everyone, it would have to be The Good Old Days. Some of the audience dressed up (myself included) and everyone was encouraged into the spirit by the delicious delivery and delectable direction of the dandy Chairman, Michael Barry who amused and amazed with his eloquence! As well as rounding off the whole Calendar Boys project with much tee shirt waving we were treated to David Morris whistling Flight of the Bumble Bee (yes, if you weren't there and didn't see him, I do mean whistling).

THE FESTIVAL IS TESTIMONY TO THE DIVERSITY THAT BOLLINGTON EMBRACES

The evening was rounded off down at The Old Bull and Bush (that's the beer tent to you and me) with singing wenches and a celebrity auctioneer, Adam Partridge and the fantastic sum of £1335 was raised for the Bridgend Centre to put a full stop to the Calendar Boys.

Would I offer to be Marketing Coordinator for the next Festival? After two years of preparation, hard work, foot slog, late nights and juggling jobs? You bet I would! Roll on 2014 and the 50th anniversary of Dr. John's great legacy.

Carol Barnes



Left: Britain's Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy at Bollington Festival.

Photograph by Kate McLean

In recent weeks Bollington has enjoyed a series of excellent events as part of the highly successful Bollington Festival. Certainly one of the most exciting events was an evening with Carol Ann Duffy. Most recently Duffy made headlines when it was announced she was to be the first ever female Poet Laureate, succeeding Andrew Motion and following line of male poets stretching back to Wordsworth, Dryden and Johnson. However, those who have followed her writing will also know that over the course of her career she has found critical acclaim and commercial success with her combination of warmth, humour and striking emotional depth. Indeed by bridging the gap of appeal and sheer talent, Duffy's poetry is now a staple of AQA's English Literature GCSE syllabus; it was through this that I first discovered an enthusiasm for Duffy's poetry.

Bollington Methodist Church was buzzing with excitement, every seat was filled and all eyes were on Duffy. She began by reading several poems taken from her collection "The World's Wife". In these poems Duffy takes historical and mythological figures and considers what it was like for their spouses; she does this in the form of a monologue, adopting the persona of each wife. The result is very effective, with each poem being funny and approachable, whilst also having a sad poignancy and the end result is always thought

provoking. Hearing Duffy read her own poems was a joy; her voice is distinct and not always particularly clear, yet it all contributed to the characters she was presenting, and the humour and the emotion of the poems resonated throughout the room leaving the audience spellbound.

Duffy then proceeded to read a number of short sonnets taken from her collection "Rapture". The poems in this collection are in chronological order as they document the progression of a relationship.

She manages to articulate the human and social consequences of cultural change whilst remaining very appealing - something which love poems, perhaps, should be, and can be, but in Duffy's case they are also masterly examples of poetic form, despatches from a writer working with absolute confidence and fluidity.

In between poems she talked a little explaining the context and the motivation behind each piece; this provided a fascinating insight into

THE HUMOUR AND EMOTION LEFT THE AUDIENCE SPELLBOUND

her work and allowed the audience to identify the very personal aspects of her work. Duffy was very relaxed, witty, dry and professional. It was encouraging to see that she is as playful and unaffected in person as she is on paper.

Certainly it was an honour for Bollington to receive the Poet Laureate, but the true success of the evening was the audience response. Even many whom had followed Duffy's work exclaimed that although they expected it to be good they were taken back by how truly excellent the evening was. For myself I am looking forward immensely to following Duffy as our Poet Laureate and having gone to the reading as a fan of Duffy's poetry I am now proud to call myself a devotee.

Samantha O'Rourke

www.carolannduffy.co.uk

Far Left: A Super Event at the Festival.

Photograph by Tom Lewis

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

Over the years, Bollington has developed a staunch group of supporters of Stockport County Football Club. They have known many lows and occasional highs, such as promotion to Championship Level in the late 1990s and a win at the new Wembley Stadium last year. Throughout this time there has been a steady stream of players and managers descending on Bollington to support the Bollington Hatters.

Following on from the recent Wembley success, the manager who masterminded the recent success, James Gannon, was one of the special guests who met the Bollington Branch of the Supporters' Club at the Queen's Arms pub, as this season's football drew to a close. Gannon was previously a player for the Cheshire club, spending ten years playing 480 games, helping Stockport County rise to what is now the Championship.

James began managing the club immediately following the Boxing Day defeat in 2006 against neighbours Macclesfield Town.



Above: James Gannon and Peter Ward (speaking) at the supporters meeting at the Queen's Arms.

Photographs by Anthony Holland

stockportcounty.com

Below: Edgeley Park, the home of Stockport County since 1902

Arriving at the pub in the early evening, the place was already packed to the rafters. The Top Table guests, along with James Gannon, were the assistant manager Peter Ward - another former player - along with Youth Development Manager Alan Lord. By the time the three arrived, the assembled crowd was spilling out onto the pavement, swelled by supporters from the various branches of the Independent Supporters Club, most notably, the Bollington Hatters.

Most of the questions were unsurprisingly aimed at the Manager, who answered every one thoughtfully and with full openness, which included a detailed explanation of his various arguments regarding the poor level of refereeing seen throughout the season in League One. He was unafraid to speak his mind and quite happily and comprehensively put one supporter in his place after

criticising his management techniques!

Another question related to his decision to turn down the manager's job at Brighton, who had made it clear that they were desperate to snatch him to the South Coast, especially with savage spending cuts underway at Stockport. He replied that he had built up his team, though it was now crumbling through enforced player sales, he hoped to stay and re-build the club with the aim of returning to the Championship.


As more drink was consumed, more questions were asked, regarding the way the club had been run, to which some of the answers are probably best not repeated. Suffice to say that the management team were hopeful that the club would be successful in finding new investment. Little did the packed crowd think that just a couple of weeks later, the club would have been forced into administration by a creditor, resulting in the management team being made redundant. It's never dull supporting Stockport County!

Anyway, it was a cracking night at the Queen's Arms helped in no small part by Tony, Helen and the rest of the staff who did a superb job, keeping the drink flowing, followed by an excellent buffet. Everybody I spoke to whose first visit it was here, said that the hospitality was so good, that many are planning to return to Bollington to sample more of the hospitality our pubs can offer.

Tim Brown




Support your local team next season: Watch Macclesfield Town take on a plethora of local teams including Port Vale, Crewe Alexandra, Rochdale and Bury. Alternatively see Stockport County take on, amongst others, Oldham Athletic, Southampton, Norwich City, Millwall and Leeds United.



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THE SKATE DEBATE

Skateboarding was born in the early '50s in California when surfers, looking to 'surf' even when the waves were flat, customised their boards with roller-skate wheels and rode on land. Over the decades that have followed, skateboarding has grown into a multifaceted sport, particularly popular with young people, including those not interested in the standard team sports.

There are lots of reasons for this. The first, that you need very little cash or equipment to skateboard: yourself, a board, some tarmac – and off you go. Another reason for skateboarding's popularity, especially with young people, is its anti-establishment roots; there are no rules in skateboarding, you can do what you want and be what you want. Skating will take anyone, you just need discipline and courage. Finally, skateboarding gives you a strong identity, a sense of belonging and access to a vibrant, supportive community. Older skaters encourage younger skaters. Good skaters give tips to rubbish skaters.

There are a mass of tricks to learn in skating, from flat ground tricks to street style riding, where you jump on and off ledges or curbs, or down stairs, to ramp tricks where you fly up and over ramps and back down. It is an excellent

athletic endeavour, teaching balance, athleticism, daring do, and persistence. Most tricks don't come easily and staying power to learn them is essential. Achieving a balance between your nerves and your skill can be viewed as an essential life skill.

Two years ago some of the local skaters, dismayed with state of skating facilities in Macclesfield, organised themselves and formed Macclesfield skate park group. We have lobbied to improve the facilities throughout the borough and have had some recent successes include expanding the skate area in West Park and lobbying for state-of-the-art concrete facilities in Poynton and South Park Macclesfield.

Our next area of focus is to serve Bollington, in particularly the Adlington Road play area just opposite Bollington Recreation Ground. This facility is well used but somewhat dangerous and inadequate by modern standards. Working with the Town Council and the Friends of Bollington Rec, we have drawn



macc-skate.org.uk

Photograph by
Mark Pinches

Question: What links roast beef with a 60s porn star and a flamingo?

Answer: They are all skateboarding tricks and they could be happening live in Bollington.

up plans to improve the entire area. These include a concrete skating facility. Such a facility will serve Bollington for many years, and will allow skateboarders, inline skaters and BMXicans to challenge themselves, develop their skills and hang out with their friends without having to travel too far.

Fundraising for this £180K project has just begun and so if you see some skaters collecting with a bucket, please give them your change and if you see them just riding the streets, take a moment to admire their skill, nerves and persistence. *Mark Pinches*

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