



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Forty Eight Spring 2010

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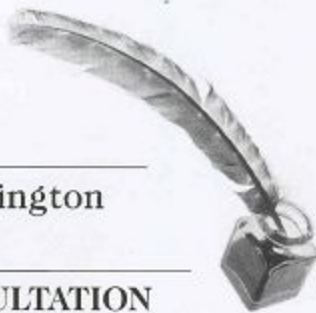
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Cover: Snow Viking from 17 Beechway shopping on Palmerston St. Photograph: Anthony Holland

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STAGE BY STAGE

For 25 years the Arts Centre has been an integral part of our local community offering an eclectic line-up of theatre, music and comedy, to name but a few things! The newly re-roofed Arts Centre is now weather-proof for a good number of years to come and plans are afoot to revamp the inside of the building too.

Over the last eight months the Management Committee, in collaboration with Andrew Bunce, a local architect, has been working hard on plans to develop the Arts Centre to provide more space and flexibility for community use. Preliminary plans have reached the consultation phase and current Arts Centre users are being asked their views on the Arts Centre's most ambitious project to date.

In brief (without giving away too much!) the plan is to increase the auditorium space so more people can come and enjoy the fantastic programme of events; reconfigure the backstage area which really is in need of a TV-style make-over; and completely refit the upstairs to make it ready for meeting space hire.

Did you know there was a room up there with fabulous hill views?

The Arts Centre is used practically to capacity. Currently, the building can only accommodate one group at a time due to important fire regulations and inadequate access to the backstage and upstairs areas. The planned redesign will allow several groups to enjoy the centre at the same time, in safety and comfort. Chair of the Management Committee, Bruce Kendrick commented, "These plans will really propel the Arts Centre into a different league in terms of being a fantastic community resource".

The Management Committee at the Arts Centre is keen to 'ask the audience' - that's you - what you think about the refurbishment plans. An open public meeting to unveil the entire project was held at the end of February.

There will be future meetings, so please come along and have your say - the Arts Centre is a legacy Bollington can't afford to let stand still.

Annette Hurst



bollingtonartscentre.org.uk



Above: Photograph "Icicle" by Simon Nottage

Left: Arts Centre from top of Methodist Church Steeple.

Photograph by Janet Beech

EDITORIAL

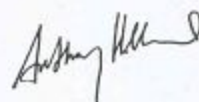
Welcome to the first issue of **Bollington Live!** for 2010. The New Year brings with it a lot of challenges for our team of volunteers, in particular Mark and Michele who have worked incredibly hard with our advertisers and sponsors enabling us to expand the magazine to a bumper twenty pages. Clearly, many thanks must go to those advertisers and sponsors and I hope that we continue to produce a magazine that you feel proud to be an important part of.

We have just had one of our coldest winters for many years. Temperatures in Bollington dropped to an unprecedented low of around -14°C. This however, enabled people to enjoy the snow in a variety of ways, from skiing on the slopes of White Nancy to building Igloos and Snowmen. Our front cover features a spectacular snow sculpture from Beechway, a truly stunning, though temporary piece of work.

Articles in this issue range from the historical - Bollington Urban District Council and Lower Mill, through to contemporary issues, including Tinkers Clough Wood, the Bollington Ladies Hockey Team and the Air Cadets.

Once again, many of our photographs, which do so much to add to our magazine, are provided by members of the Bollington Festival Photography Group. A picture paints a thousand words!

As always, I hope you will be able to find something of interest. All of our articles are based on Bollington; please continue to be involved and send in your thoughts and ideas.



Date for next copy:
Friday 28th
May 2010

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS...



A clear path through Tinkers Clough is now recreated, restoring for community use a safe, pleasant walk linking the Middlewood Way and the Macclesfield Canal (at Bridge 26).

First identified in the 1831 Bryant County Map, this ancient woodland is first and foremost a valuable natural habitat for a variety of wildlife. The Groundwork Trust took over its management in 1983 and created footpaths and boardwalks to encourage local people safely to stroll, jog or walk dogs through the Clough without unduly disturbing the area. However, the combination of storms, erosion and, sadly, some vandalism, overtook the wood and Tinkers Clough became a neglected, bedraggled wasteland.

In recent years the Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) has directed efforts between a new landowner, local volunteers and professional workers to rescue the wood for both wildlife and walkers. Stubbornly and successfully, BIT representatives have steered the project through the thickets of regulation and consultation to bring to fruition the Woodland Management Plan first drawn up in conjunction with Chris Burnett Associates in 2006.

Thanks to cooperation with Bollington Town Council, and

Top Left: Before the restoration work,

Top Right: building the new steps toward the canal.

Centre Right: Volunteers and guests celebrating the re-opening

Bottom Left: the new walkway.

Photographs provided by: Jose Spinks and BIT

Make a note of the next Town Council Tidy-Up on Saturday, March 13th, starting at 10 o'clock. It includes a litter-pick in the wood. Perhaps you'd like to sign up then to become an official "Friend of Tinkers Clough", to help keep it in good order?

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Macclesfield Borough Council, now Cheshire East Council, restoration of this semi-wild space is realised. Funding has been sourced chiefly from a Changing Spaces grant from the Big Lottery Fund, and includes a sum from Cheshire's "Parish Small Grants Scheme". Final tree and undergrowth clearance in Spring is expected to be financed by Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN). This will amount to a total investment of over £50,000 – for an invaluable sustainable asset for Bollington.

Local support has been vital. Many individuals sent emails to accompany funding applications. Others turned out for clear-ups, typically in driving rain! The Rangers and Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale (KRIV) organisations sent volunteers to tackle dense undergrowth and rebuild dry-stone



Drainage channels direct springs away from the path. The tree canopy is thinned so the wood is already lighter and less damp; it will dry out significantly next year. Finally, the stone walls and other boundaries are now restored.

But don't worry; this is no tamed pixie grotto! Conservation experts have guided all clearance work – with preservation and regeneration of natural species of bird, animal and plant life the priorities. The



walls. It has been a communal effort allowing BIT to deliver a principal aim: 'To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the town and its surrounding countryside'.

If you go down to the woods today, a path guides you safely down one steep side and up the other, clearly marked and firm underfoot. Well-spaced steps manage the gradient and a lengthy, broad walkway spans the wetland in the valley bed. Secondly, the stream runs through the Clough from a rebuilt small weir to the newly gridded-off culvert (its watercourse deepened and embankments strengthened).

greater part of Tinkers Clough is deliberately left inaccessible; it is a home for wildlife – we humans must stick to the path.

Look out for events in the wood this springtime to celebrate its reopening. Plans include the installation of bird and bat boxes, limited signage to point out natural features and the development of specific educational packs by local junior schools. In the meantime, just enjoy passing through this natural woodland once again as the seasons change throughout the year.

Jose Spinks



WINTER WONDERLAND



'In the meadow we can build a snowman...' or a Viking, or perhaps even an igloo. Winter. It seems that for the first time in perhaps a generation Bollington has shivered through a true winter wonderland. Instead of our prevailing climate of tropical maritime, bringing warm, damp air, we had a succession of weather fronts dragging cold continental air from the north across Britain.

Of course the Meteorological Office were predicting this all along. Following our 'barbecue summer' we were advised that there was only a 'slim chance' of a colder than average winter. Anyway, at the time of writing in early February, there is still the occasional snow flurry and the drifts of white can still be seen hugging the field boundaries of our surrounding hills.

NOT A LOAF WAS LEFT BY LUNCHTIME!

The snow started in December and stayed all through the school holidays. Perfect! Too often the

snow falls and before you can say "Where did we put the sledge?" it has turned to rain and gone. As December rolled into January, we had even more snow and Bollington was cut off. On that Tuesday morning, it seemed that time itself had reversed! The roads were silent. Families walked to the local shops together in the middle of the roads, unencumbered by traffic. Not a loaf was left by lunchtime!

Nearby Woodford took the acclaim for a record low temperature of -17°C , but that was out on the bleak frozen plains of Cheshire.



Even in our built-up environment, I measured a low of -12°C , others recorded -14°C . There was quite a chill in the air!

The north face of Nancy looked more akin to the Alps; skis and snowboards joined the sledges. The Festival Photography Group was in their element; everywhere you went, people were photographing the snow as if it may never be seen again.



Perhaps colder winters will become more regular with climate change. Maybe is it part of an ongoing cycle? We had colder than average winters in the 1980s, 1960s and 1940s. This could just be the next part of that cycle. Now, where can that sledge be?

Anthony Holland

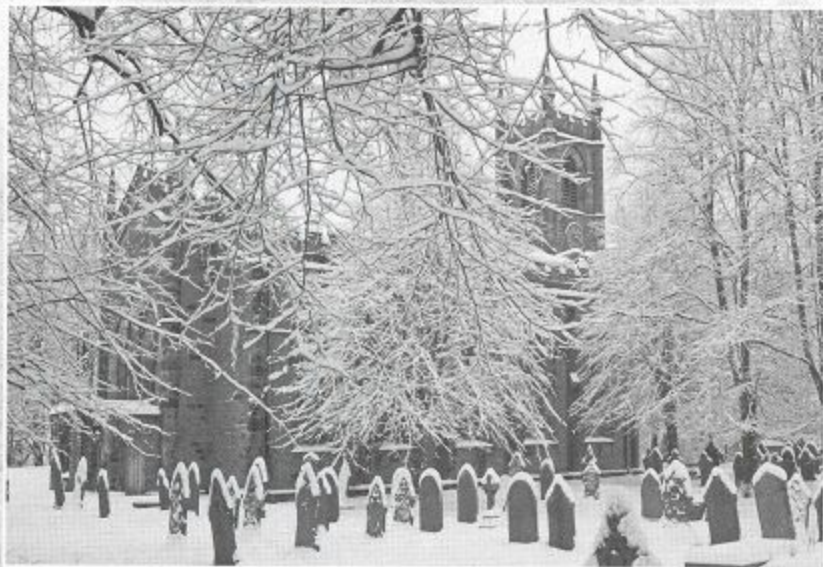


Photographs:

'Deep Drift on Kerridge Ridge', 'Unsuitable for motors', 'Lone Piper on Christmas Day' and 'Aqueduct' by Simon Nottage.

'Frozen Canal' by Tom Lewis.

'St. John's Church' by Anthony Holland.



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COUNCIL CREATION

Before 1974 Bollington had an Urban District Council that had a wide range of responsibilities for road maintenance, leisure services, housing, and originally gas and water supply. This Urban District Council came into existence in 1895. Before this there was an extremely complicated system of local government in England which led to the Local Government Act of 1894.

The 1894 Act was consummated through elections to Rural and Urban District Councils in December of that year. It allowed Bollington Urban District Council to be created and the Council met for the first time on Thursday 3rd. January 1895 at the office of the Gasworks which had been established off Princess Street. The Gasworks had been established by the predecessor to the Urban District Council, the Local Board of Health in 1863.

THE WOMEN VOTERS TURNED UP 'AS ONE MAN'

Politics in the party sense did not enter into this local election. There was a group of concerned ratepayers who joined a Ratepayers Association which provided a 'slate' of candidates. Their candidates were; Messrs. Hamson, Harrison, Meakin, Nelson, Richardson, Shatwell, Shires, Thompson and Unwin. Five were elected. The members of the local Board



Above: Urban District Councillors Declarations book. Contains signatures of all Bollington's Councillors from 1895 to 1974

Below: Page showing the declarations of Francis Greg and Nathaniel Shatwell. As there was no clerk at this first meeting the other Councillors witnessed the declarations.

Comments and corrections are always welcome. Thanks to the Cheshire Record Office for access to BUDC Minutes and the Macclesfield Library for access to the Macclesfield Courier.



of Health who had looked after Bollington's needs since 1862 had ten candidates and seven were elected. George Swindells, Francis Greg, James Cope, Ellis Jackson, Thomas Oliver, John Leigh and Joseph Warburton had obviously served the community well. Philip Hockenhull, James and John Leighton had clearly not impressed the local voters.

The election itself was described as a quiet, unexciting affair. Only 422 of the 793 registered electors voted. The right to vote was still restricted based on property, as can be seen as the population of the District Council area in 1891 was 3,913. One interesting innovation was that women were allowed to register and vote for the first time. Kerridge Parish ran a separate election. There the atmosphere was very different. The women voters turned up 'as one man' and made a great deal of noise. 250 out of the 330 eligible to vote did so and Mr. William Wetton topped the poll with 195 votes, probably since he owned most of the stone quarries in the vicinity.

There were 15 members of the new BUDC, many names well known to this day. There was George Swindells whose family had built the Clarence and Adelphi Mills, and Francis Greg, nephew of the Samuel Greg who had spun cotton at Lowerhouse Mill since 1832. There was the Anglican vicar, Frederic Richardson and the local

Headteacher of St. John's National School, Oliver Kenyon. The other members were; James Cope, Alfred Hamson, Edwin Harrison, Ellis Jackson, John Leigh, Arthur Richardson, Nathaniel Shatwell, Thomas Turner, Samuel Unwin and Joseph Warburton.

Elections had been held on Saturday, December 15th 1894 based on the whole of Bollington and the results declared on the 17th December. The number of candidates for the 15 seats was 27. By far the largest number of votes cast was for Edwin Harrison. At 315 votes he was 94 votes ahead of the next most popular person, George Swindells of Pott Hall with 221 votes. There was a reason for this. Mr. Harrison was the local funeral director. A respectable funeral service and dignified burial was a most prized and required family event among the working class people of Bollington. Mr. Harrison could ensure that respectable end and was well known to all throughout the Town.

THIS WOULD PROBABLY MEAN A 50% TAX INCREASE!

This newly elected group took the fate and prospects of the Town into their experienced hands. At their first meeting they elected George Swindells as their Chairman. He had been the Chairman of the Board of Health for many years. Francis Greg in proposing him noted that he was a gentleman, an important status at that time. He had a kindly disposition and an amiable way of doing things. George accepted gracefully, though noting he was getting on in years and was no longer as sharp as he had been. In his opening speech he outlined the challenges the new Council faced. The first was financial. The BUDC took over the finances of the Public Health Board. The Board had had debts of £15,000 mainly associated with the gas works and roads. They had paid off £10,500 over a long period of time but now the Local Government Board was demanding the balance be paid off in 6 years. This would probably mean the rate rising from one shilling in the pound on each property owner to one shilling and six pence, a 50% tax increase! This

was serious business because the BUDC wanted to pursue a water scheme and a sewage scheme both of which would require money.

The second problem was far more immediate and serious. The late nineteenth century saw great fluctuations in trade and Clarence Mill had to close in 1884 for a period. Many Bollington families faced unemployment and required assistance. There was no welfare state. The Board of Guardians still operated workhouses for the poor who could not find work. These local community leaders wanted to avoid the 'pauperisation' of the town's people at all costs. There was a long discussion. The Chairman proposed the formation of a Relief Committee made up of the BUDC members and local clergy. The Rev. Richardson agreed. He personally knew of a dozen families who were in deep trouble, who could not pay their rent and might be forced onto the street. Road surfaces were 'metalled' with crushed and broken stone. The traditional way of helping the poor was to buy stone for the roads in large blocks, place it along the roadside in heaps and pay the unemployed to break it up and roll it into the road. After much deliberation, the Council agreed to spend £40 on stone to provide work.

A small Finance Committee and Committees of the whole Council for Gas, Water and Highways were established. They would meet monthly before the main Council meeting. When discussing the Relief Committee, Francis Greg opposed the Clergy being involved. It was forbidden in Manchester as they were too unrealistic when it came to costs. The Chairman thought he had lost the idea when Thomas Oliver pointed out that the ladies of the Town were being continually importuned for help. Additionally, he had given a lump of beef and one shilling to one family every weekend only to be told a barrel of beer was being delivered to the house instead!

I hope to follow the Council's fortunes in a series of vignettes down the years. The next instalment sees a new and dynamic Liberal Chairman replace the dominance of the aging George Swindells and the Rev. Frederick Richardson.

Ken Edwards

FESTIVAL POSTSCRIPT

A huge number of people attended the 2009 Festival - over 17,000 in total. We hoped to follow in the ideals set by Dr. John Coope to give people new horizons, make new friendships and renew old ones, as well as enhancing the sense of community in Bollington. In the past, new permanent societies were started as a result of the Festival and 2009 was no exception. Out of the new science events has burst forth a permanent series of participating talks called the "Scibar" which takes place at the Vale Inn. The Bollington Festival Photography Group was formed to which all are welcome, and which is lively in its ideas and events. A little late, but finished in October, is the Festival Labyrinth-a superb participatory sculpture situated on The Middlewood Way on Grimshaw Lane.

The Canal Bridge was finished in September, and although not strictly a Festival project, the Civic Society promised it would be ready for the Festival, so I like to think we were a catalyst. Graham Barrow is reported to have said he would jump in the canal fully clothed if it was not finished in time. Over to you, Graham! In

all there were in some 400 volunteers and over 1,000 others took part in the Carnival. The use of the Recreation Ground helped it to retain its prestigious Green Flag status. On the money front, the turnover was some £200,000, but the aim was never to make a profit, just to avoid a loss, and this was managed leaving some monies over for the next Festival. When will that be?



This is where a phoenix must appear from Bollington as there are a number on the existing committee who feel others should take over. Next time does not have to be so ambitious or large. On May 16th 2010 at 6.00 p.m., the Arts Centre is booked for a meeting open for all those who would like to be on the next Executive Committee! Please come.

Finally I would like to thank the people of Bollington for their patience and forbearance during the Festival regarding car parking and noise levels. It was great fun for us and I do hope that all Bollingtonians felt there was something for them. That was our aim.

Until the next time! **Andrew Roberts**

bollingtonfestival.org.uk

IN BRIEF...

Word reached **Bollington Live!** at the start of January that Cheshire East Council were considering charging to park on Pool Bank. We know that a group was set up and it was proposed to charge on many local car parks in the new Cheshire East. Paperwork suggests Bollington was to be 'Band C', or 40p per hour. Following uproar in many of the smaller towns, notably Sandbach, the plans were scrapped and a denial that there ever was such a plan was issued from the Council. We understand that Pool Bank has a covenant placed upon it for the free use for Bollington. We must remain vigilant it stays that way.

St. John's Church is finally being readied for sale. Plans for the disused Church include conversion to living accommodation and car parking. This will be over the graveyard to the right of the Church when viewed from Church Street. Human remains will be left in situ, but gravestones will need to be moved. We need to ensure that the minimum changes possible are made and that any moved gravestones are re-sited within the graveyard grounds.

The old tipping ground by Hall Hill has been put up for sale by H. Cumberbirch & Son Ltd. Over the years, the site has been used for tipping, notably of dangerous chemicals when the site was owned by Oak Bank Printworks. Despite this, the land has become a pleasant local amenity. It seems likely that this will be lost to housing if it is bought by a developer.

Anthony Holland

Thanks go to Ken Edwards and Tim Boddington for this information.

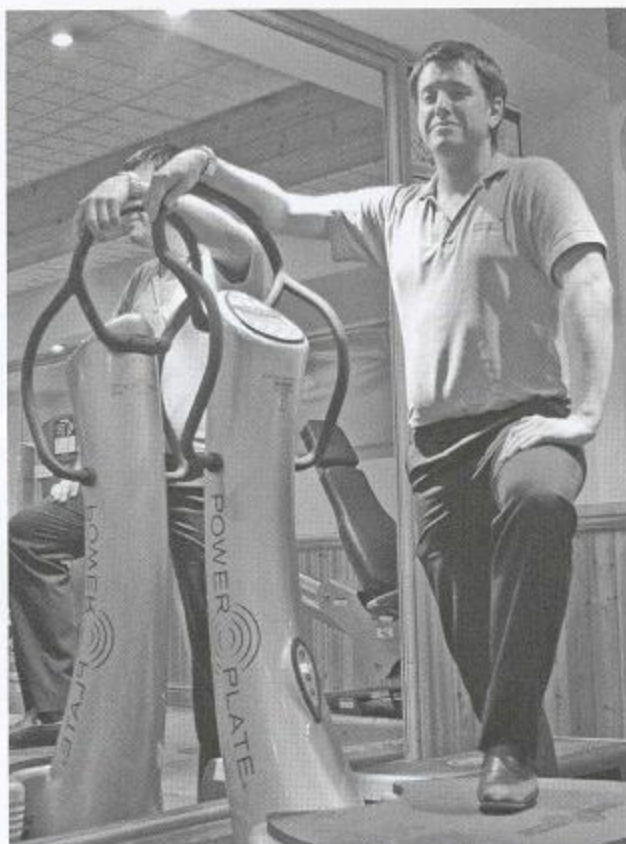
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MARATHON MAN

Having worked at Bollington Leisure centre for the last decade, Steven Hurst, the Centre Manager, has always been interested in sports and fitness – not just elite training – but in the general fitness of us all. His belief is, “Everyone should have their own personal goals and challenges which can range from walking up stairs without getting breathless, to losing a few pounds, to completing a triathlon.” Regardless of what it is, why not try out the Leisure Centre to help you achieve your goal?

Like most of us, Steven admits to slightly too many indulgences over Christmas, and knows how hard it can be getting motivated to exercise, but he says, “That is the beauty of the Leisure Centre; it’s run by normal people for normal people and has something for everyone.”

Steven needs to get motivated by May 23rd this year as he is taking up the challenge of the Edinburgh marathon. After downloading a 16-week training programme Steven will be running five days a week before the big day! With the Bollington weather he thinks a few of his runs will have to be on the Centre’s treadmills, but he has already mapped out running circuits around Clarke Lane, White Nancy, Rainow and Ingersley Vale. He says, “The benefit of working here is that I can do my early morning run in any weather – outside if it’s not too wet and otherwise inside”.



Above: Centre Manager Steven Hurst.

Photograph by Janet Beech.

Any questions? Steven would welcome feedback email him at:

steven.hurst@bollingtonleisure.co.uk

Marathon runners also need muscle power – what better place to start than the Centre’s gym! “Stretching and cooling down are as much a part of training as the actual running,” says Steven, “so I’ll be using the new Powerplate in the gym, which not only helps you to build muscle but also can help you to relax tired muscles”. With sports massage for pre and post treatment and an in-house nutritionist for

food and fuel advice at the Leisure Centre, Steven has no excuse for not being in tip-top shape by May.

“RUN BY NORMAL PEOPLE - FOR NORMAL PEOPLE”

A full-time job and the pressures of marathon training might be enough for most people, but Steven is also finishing his Master’s Degree in Strategic Sports Management! No stranger to part-time learning Steven completed his Leisure Management degree three years ago.

As Bollington Leisure Centre is a registered charity all the gym memberships and general takings are reinvested in the facilities for the residents of Bollington. Supporting our local amenities is vital if we are to see them continue to thrive, so if you are out of shape, would like to be a bit more active or just want to meet new friends in one of the many classes, call in or phone to talk to someone on 574774.

Watch out for Steven’s marathon time in the next issue – Good luck Steven!

Annette Hurst

NAVY KNEW HIS ONIONS!

“Fecundity of the Onion - It was recently stated that a gentleman in Lancashire had raised 8,000 ounces of onions from twelve ounces of seed. Mr Crossley, the engineer of the Macclesfield Canal, residing at Bollington having seen this statement, was induced to weigh his own crop, when he discovered that from two ounces of seed, the produce was the amazing quantity of 2,496 ounces, or 156 pounds, being nearly double the produce of the former in proportion to the quantity of seed sown” - Gloucester Journal Oct 27 1832 and The New Monthly Magazine - 1833

Item discovered by Graham Cousins, Historian to the Macclesfield Canal Society, who we thank for permission to republish this item. William Crossley lived at The Rookery, Bollington Cross. happy-valley.org.uk/history/misc-canal.htm



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GENERAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Friday 26th, 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Doors & Bar Open at 7.30pm (over 18s only) Online Tickets £8 (plus booking fee) Book early - always a sell out! www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

MARCH

Friday 5th, 8pm

Naked Eye Astronomy

Arts Centre: Andrew Greenwood, of Macclesfield Astronomical Society reveals the mystery and beauty of the night sky. £5/£3 Pay at door

Saturday 6th, Public. Op. 2pm-4.30pm

Annual Flower Show

Civic Hall: Boll. & District Hort. Socy & Flower Club. Adults £1.00 Children 50p O.A.P. 50p. For info call: Joyce Burton on 572668 or www.happy-valley.org.uk/horticulture.htm

Sunday 7th - Sunday 11th

In The Gallery: No Ego

Arts Centre: Photography by Katherine Lewis, Ewa James and Kate McLean. Open Sundays 2-4 and during other events.

Monday 8th, 8pm

Bollington Sci Bar - Nuclear Fusion

Vale Inn: Prof. Philippa Browning of Manchester Uni. asks the question "Nuclear fusion - power for the future?" Giving us a chance to find out the basic principles behind fusion and progress so far towards a workable fusion reactor.

Wednesday 10th, 10am - 1.30pm

Rangers Wednesday Walk

Rangers Office: Adlington Rd. Ranger Dan Coates leads a 5 mile walk to White Nancy and Kerridge. No dogs please. Info. 504518.

Saturday 13th, 10am

Annual Bollington Spring Clean

Clough Bank Car Park: Community litter pick. All equipment provided. For details call Andrea Paterson on 572985.

Sunday 14th, 07:30pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts;

Arts Centre: The wonderful Danel Quartet perform a programme by Haydn, Weinberg and Brahms. Tickets £12 and £6 (conc) from 560355 or 575287

Wednesday 17th, 8pm

St. Patrick's Hot Pot Supper

Vale Inn: Hot Pot Supper at the Vale in support of Bridgend Centre. Info: 576311.

Monday 15th, 8pm

Bollington Civic Society—Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Ovenhouse Lane Community Centre. Everyone welcome. Non-members are asked for a small donation on the night.

Tuesday 16th, 7.30pm

Town Assembly

Civic Hall: Come and see what is going on in Bollington, meet the Councillors and have your say. Refreshments provided.

Wednesday 17th, 10.30am

Bridgend Centre Walk

Bridgend Centre, Palmerston St. History & Wildlife walk with refreshments. t.576311

Wednesday 17th - 20th

Festival Players Production

Arts Centre: "Last Tango in Little Grimley" & "Little Panto in Little Grimley". Two one-act comedies by David Tristram. Ring 875326 for details

Friday 19th, 7.30pm

"Kings in the Community"

Methodist Church: Kings School Music Department present a musical evening to suit all tastes in aid of the Community Centre. Info from Pat Haddleton 575557.

Friday 26th, 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Over 18s only. Online tickets £8 (plus booking fee) - Book early always a sell out! www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Saturday 27th, 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Arts Centre: T.J. Johnson Band. £8 Ring 574410 for details



Sunday 28th, 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Choir Concert

Methodist Church: The Festival Choir & soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music, perform Bach & Vivaldi Magnificats and a new work by Donald Judge, May Magnificat, words by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Tickets £10 (£5 conc) from 01625 420615

APRIL

Friday 16th, 8pm

Bollington Festival Photography Group

Arts Centre: Find out about the group and learn the secrets of wonderful photography £5/£3 Pay at door.

April 17th, 8pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

Arts Centre: Cropper, Welsh, and Roscoe; These distinguished musicians will delight with piano trios by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Schubert Tickets £12/£6 from 01625 560355 or 575287

Sunday 18th - May 23rd

In The Gallery "A Place in Time"

Arts Centre: Paintings by Lynn Daley and Ronald Daley Open Sundays 2 - 4 and during other events.

Monday 19th, 8pm

Bollington Civic Society

Ovenhouse Lane Community Centre: "Bollington Matters", an open discussion. Everyone welcome, non-members are asked for a small donation on the night.

Wednesday 21st, 10.30am

Bridgend Centre Walk

Bridgend Centre, Palmerston St. History & Wildlife walk with refreshments at the end. Info. 576311.

Saturday April 24th, 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

The Old Fashioned Love Band, £8. Ring 01625 574410

Friday April 30th 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

April Fools? Over 18s only. . Online tickets £8 (plus booking fee) - Book early always a sell out! www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

The Danel Quartet are based in Belgium and are the Resident Quartet at Manchester University. They perform at the Arts Centre on March 14th,

(Contact numbers are 01625 unless stated)

Dates for your Diary

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

MAY

Saturday 8th, 11am-4pm

Family Picnic

Recreation Ground: Family Fun Day. See article on right of page.

Saturday 8th, 2pm

Bollington Three Peaks Fell Race

Recreation Ground: sponsored by The Vale Inn - £5 entry on the day. See article opposite.

Saturday 8th, 7pm till late

Brewery Open Night and Spit-Roast

Adlington Road Light Industrial Estate 7pm onwards - Brewery Open Night with lamb spit-roast.



Featured as part of the regular "Jazz at the Arts Centre" sessions. Saturday April 24th.

Sunday May 9th 2.30 & 5.00pm

Bollington Festival Music Theatre

Arts Centre: "The Wall of Wishes" Did you know that our stone walls conceal wishes and people get more - or less - than they wish for? Full details and tickets (£6/£3) from 0161 427 2870 or www.fun.tobfnt

Saturday 15th, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

A Spring Evening in Kerridge

Start at Holy Trinity Church Jackson Lane: A 4 mile ramble exploring the history wildlife and hidden pathways of Kerridge. Led by Ranger Ed Pilkington. Info 504528

Tuesday 18th - 22nd

Bollington Light Opera Group

Civic Centre: Hello Dolly, the Herman & Stewart classic. For tickets ring 431038 or email www.blogbooking@aol.com

Sunday 16th, 10am - 12noon

Bollington Dog Show

Recreation Ground: Various classes and best in show, judging will be by a notable Animal Welfare Professional - is that another name for a local vet?

Wednesday 19th, 10.30

Bridgend Centre Walk

Bridgend Centre, Palmerston St. History & Wildlife walk with refreshments at the end. Info. 576311.

Sunday 23rd, 10am - 12.30pm

Sunday Lunch Ramble

Rangers' Office, Adlington Road: A Ranger led circular 8km (5 mile) family walk to Rainow and the Dean Valley followed by Sunday lunch at the Vale Inn in Bollington. Prior booking essential 504528.

May 30th - June 27th

In The Gallery "Festival 2009"

Arts Centre: Pictures by the Photography Group. Open Sundays 2 - 4 and during other events.

JUNE

Sunday 13th, 10am - 12 noon

Discovery Centre Walk - Yesterday's Folk

Discovery Centre, Clarence Mill, Join the Rangers on a circular walk in partnership with the Discovery Centre looking at people from Bollington's Past. Info 504528.

Friday - Saturday 18th - 20th, All Day

Macclesfield Barnaby Festival

Macclesfield Town Centre: A revival of the old Maxonian tradition of feast days to honour St. Barnabas the patron saint of silk workers. Exhibitions, competitions a street food market and a fabulous parade. A real community event.

Handbags and Gladrags.

The Bridgend Centre are taking stalls at Vintage Clothes Fairs at Wilmslow Leisure Centre on Sunday 21st March and Chester Racecourse on Sunday 18th April. If anyone can donate any clothes, buckles, buttons, trimmings, shoes, bags or anything suitable that you no longer want, the Centre would be really grateful. Call Cath. on 576311 for Info.

Bollington Fell Race and Family Picnic

On Saturday May 8th Bollington hopes to repeat the success of last years festival family picnic with a day of fun on the Recreation Ground in support of the community and to raise funds for future festivals. The Picnic opens at 11am. Attractions include a climbing wall, a Planetarium, a Bouncy slide and other fairground attractions. Bring your own picnic (try to shop locally).

The highlight of the day is the Bollington Three Peaks Fell Race; sponsored by the Vale Inn. It will be a six-mile run taking in The Nab, White Nancy and Kerridge Hill. It starts at 2pm, from the Bollington Brewing Company on Adlington Rd.

There is a £5 entry fee and free food for all entrants. In the evening, the fun continues with music at the Bollington Brewery on the Adlington Rd. Light Ind. Est. where they are going to hold a lamb spit-roast.

ARTS CENTRE CONTACTS

Secretary: Catherine Hoe, 575001

Art Exhibitions: Faith Walker, 574640

Art Group (Wed): Graham Ritchie, 820685

Art Group (Tues): Sheila Ratcliffe, 877844

Festival Choir/Childrens Music Theatre:

Donald Judge, 0161 427 2870

www.marple55.freemove.co.uk

Chamber Concerts: Sally Smith, 560355

Bridge Club: June Cash, 575508

Comedy Club: Caroline Leadsom, 560774

Festival Players and Junior Players:

Kath Portlock, 574085

Light Opera group: Peggy Russell, 610983

Jazz: Bernard Selby, 574410

Sunday Night Talks: Jean Ransley, 575287

Creative Embroidery & Textile Art

Classes: Ann Ford, 560459

Italian Class: Audrey Parnell, 572130

Spanish Class: Kate Barraclough, 583897

Dance Class: Sue Lane, 574176

Bookings Secretary: Mick Wilkins, 576810

WI Art Group: Sheila Ratcliffe, 877844

Play Readings: David Beaton, 267545



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CHAMBER MADE!

Twenty five years after it was founded by a small group of people who had a great love of music and lot of faith, Bollington Chamber Concerts is still promoting five concerts a year, attracting superb musicians who really enjoy playing in the very special acoustic of Bollington Arts Centre's main hall.

You may think that chamber music is very specialised and "elitist" – and I admit that it isn't always easy – but hearing a string quartet in an intimate setting is a wonderful experience and one that's worth trying at least once in your life! Some members of our audience travel from the surrounding area including Greater Manchester, and some come from Sheffield, so we must be getting something right!

Two special concerts are coming up this Spring and both will produce outstanding performances. On Sunday March 14th the Danel

Quartet is playing a programme which includes quartets by Haydn, Weinberg and Brahms. Mieczyslaw Weinberg, a Polish composer who spent much of his life living in Russia, is not well known and the Danel have been playing all his quartets in an effort to introduce his work to a wider audience.

Just one word about the musicians; the Danel are French and have been the Quartet in Residence at Manchester University since October 2005 where they give concerts, masterclasses and the benefit of their huge experience to students.

Our season ends on Saturday April 17th with a piano trio – no, not three pianos but one plus a violin and cello. The players are Peter Cropper, founder and leader of the Lindsay Quartet, Moray Welsh, a cellist with an international reputation and Martin Roscoe, a pianist of equal renown. They will be playing

bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

trios by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Schubert, all composers who wrote wonderfully lyrical and pleasing music with Schubert's trio in B flat being an especial favourite with BCC's committee.

Do come and "give us a go". If you ring 01625 560355 or 575287 and explain that you've never been to one of our concerts before, we can offer you a half-price deal – for only £6 you may hear a night's music that will change your life!

Jean Ransley



Right: A Piano Trio.
From left, Martin
Roscoe, Peter
Cropper and Moray
Welsh

IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY...

In 1978 when Peter Davies was Town Mayor there was a proposal that Bollington should have a town twin. An organisation that put similar towns in touch with each other suggested Thurles, a small town in County Tipperary.

Thurles is a town of a similar size to Bollington. Sitting astride the River Suir its main claim to fame is as the birthplace of the Gaelic Athletics Association and it boasts the Semple Stadium, a state of the art building, and a Cathedral. Bollington became the first English town to twin with a town in Ireland and the twinning ceremony took place on April 16th 1979. A copy of the twinning agreement is held in the library.

In the early years of the twinning several reciprocal visits took place. Our delegation visited Thurles for the All Ireland hurling final at Semple Stadium and delegates from the Irish town visited Bollington.



Cultural exchanges have included a visit by Bollington Brass Band and the Festival choir. The Festival choir made a second visit in 1996 and it was during this visit on June 15th that the Manchester bomb went off. Claire Crosbie, who was deputy Mayor at this time, recalls the shock and horror of their Irish friends at this atrocity. In 1998 the Thurles Choir came to Savio House and also in that year an Irish dance group

went into the schools in Bollington to teach Irish dancing.

Over recent years the links have cooled a little but in Thurles they are trying to get new people on the council interested. In Bollington there are many people who have been involved with the twinning over the last thirty years who have formed strong friendships across the Irish Sea and who would be sad to see the links die.

Claire Crosbie was hopeful that the links would continue and felt that it would be helpful to get the schools more involved, which would open up many possibilities of cultural and sporting opportunities for young people.

Mrs Yvonne Houghton is the present Chair of the Twinning Committee (tel: 575133) and anyone interested in the twinning can contact her.

Sandy Milsom / Betty Bonson

www.thurles.ie

THE LOWER MILL STORY... CONCLUDED

Some of the machinery at HL Slater's mill was made and installed by German engineers and this part became known as 'The Germans.' During the last war, it produced graphite coated paper, carried by allied aircrew to deflect their radar!

The space between the old and new mills, called the 'Gap' was the main passage for goods through Oldham Street. As business expanded after wartime, it was incorporated into the factory and Church Street became the main route, with despatch onto Palmerston Street where Parrott's house had been; this way being nicknamed 'Burma Road.' (Reason unknown)

UNUSUAL ACTIVITY... CERTAIN AREAS WERE BEST AVOIDED DURING A NIGHT SHIFT!

The 'Gap' is now filled by Tullis Russell Coater's newest coater/laminator for making self-adhesive stamps. 1949 saw the installation of an 84 inch wide air knife coater with the then latest electronic controls. The other five machines used badger brushes to apply the coating and produced much coloured paper, for Cadbury and Nestles and an entry from a machine man's log in 1954 read: "After 19 months on colours, spent seven hours cleaning to run white." Within six weeks, they were back on colours again!

1962 saw the old offices and labs replaced with the present block and a larger base paper store. Paper itself has never been made on site, being bought from a number of mills including Tullis Russell in Scotland and the uncoated reels are stored upright, end on end for stability to prevent them rolling. Commissioning of a sheet cutter

Right: Calender Machine used to smooth out the paper for printing and writing on it and to increase the gloss on the surface.

Photograph provided by TRC

tullis-russell.co.uk

Below: Lower Mill at Night

Photograph by Anthony Holland

soon followed, with automatic sorting of defects and was the first in Europe to have a computer control.

This was boom time with over 400 employees which included trade-skilled men and haulage drivers, with about 26 female hand sorters. A fire drill was like half of Bollington coming out! However, by 1980, the workforce was under 300, with 212 in the factory and the resident mill cats down to just one. In 2006, the total count of 133 reflected the increased automation and changing working practices.

In 1969, the newer mill adjacent to St. John's parish church was extended, causing subsidence to the banking side of the graveyard. Since this disturbance, there have been occasional reports of 'unusual activity' unconnected with business and certain areas were best avoided during a night shift. Another unusual action was the sites only strike in 1979, which was settled within the week.

The next decade saw changes in manufacturing generally and a round of redundancies came in 1981. A competitor in Macclesfield, Backhouse and Coppock, closed and part of the staff founded a new company at Cheddleton, near Leek which opened in January, 1982 as Coated Papers Ltd. Tullis Russell took it over two years later and in 1989, following HL Slater's decision to close, they transferred to Bollington. So, after 114 years, the site had a new owner.

The MD and founder was Derek Gilmour who had worked for the Slater firm 25 years earlier. Many of the redundant staff from the closure were offered back their old jobs (me included), but the joining of two workforces, the buyers

and the previous tenants, needed time to settle down. Commerce is not sentimental and the site's only remaining brush coater was eventually dismantled after a century of production and a source of great interest to visiting paper students. Still, the wooden drying rods made good broom handles! Much less missed was the pile of coal behind the boiler house, when the switch to oil was made.



One date that will never be forgotten by Lower Mill and residents nearby is October 27, 1998. The River Dean burst its banks and flooded the entire ground floor, demolished a high stone wall into Oldham Street, crossing High Street and continued down aptly named Water Street into Dean Court.

Since then, the river defences and bridge in the mill yard have been raised and drainage improved. In appreciation of the workforce clearing up and restoring production, when the anniversary came the following October, TRC treated its employees to a dinner at the Viceroy Indian restaurant. Unfortunately, I missed the big clean-up through being on holiday, but felt duty bound to support this free meal - after all, we may never have another flood.

Roger Molineux



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PENNEY FOR THEM...

George and Pat Penney have been an integral part of Bollington life for the past forty years and have contributed a great deal to the town's cultural scene.

George was born in 1925 and grew up in Kidderminster. He left school at fifteen and went to work in the Post Office as a sorting clerk and later worked at the Tax Office. In 1943 he joined the Fleet Air Arm as a radio mechanic. His war service inspired George to apply to university. He did a degree in French, linguistics and phonetics and remembers his tutor in phonetics, Dr. Nicolas Bachtin, a Russian with heavily accented English, being less than impressed with his French accent and commenting, "You must not speak French again until you can speak it properly otherwise you will speak French like I speak English." George did manage to improve his language skills and graduated from university and worked in a variety of jobs.

"YOU MUST NOT SPEAK FRENCH AGAIN UNTIL YOU CAN SPEAK IT PROPERLY OTHERWISE YOU WILL SPEAK FRENCH LIKE I SPEAK ENGLISH."

A chance encounter during the rail strike in the early 1950s led to a meeting with his future wife, Pat. As he drove his treasured Alvis to Kidderminster he met a friend, who he had not seen for some time, stranded by the rail strike. George offered him a lift and was invited to visit the school where his friend taught, a grammar school for the deaf. Pat was also a teacher there and they met over breakfast; romance blossomed and George and Pat married in 1955.

In 1968 George took a job at the National Computing Centre in Manchester. This involved work for the National Institute of Industrial Psychology developing personality and aptitude testing for Systems Analysts. This was early days for both computer science and personality testing - pioneering work.

Right: Pat and George Penney relaxing at home.

Photograph by Sandy Milsom



The move north involved finding a new home and the family wanted to live in the country. Whilst house hunting they found themselves in Bollington, a good place to live. Pat's initial impression, on a snowy February removal day, was not favourable. The grey terraces did not inspire her. However, as soon as they moved in she was visited by persuasive members of the newly formed Festival Choir eager to expand their ranks. Pat was enlisted. She then applied for a job at the surgery and came into the orbit of Dr. John Coope. George too was enlisted when Dr. John came to the door. "I believe your husband sings tenor," he enquired to Pat.

Pat also joined the Festival Players. The first play she was involved with was called *Trap for a Lonely Man*. They were short of the lonely man and Pat was asked, "does your husband act?" George became the lonely man. Both of the Penneys have appeared in numerous plays and pantomimes over the years. Just before the third festival Pat was instrumental in launching the successful Bollington Light Opera Group. She was also a prime mover in the development of the Bollington Arts Centre.

George retired in 1990, but continued to be active and involved with Bollington life; in fact he became a Town Councillor and in 1996, Town Mayor.

During his time as Mayor he recalls the development of the skate park, opened after repeated request by the town's youngsters. His interests are widespread and he uses skills he acquired in his working life, teaching French at U3A (University of the Third Age) and yoga at AIR, (Activity in Retirement). He was the treasurer of the Bollington Civic society and the chairman of AIR. He still continues to teach yoga and French. George attributes his physical fitness to yoga, walking and his great love of gardening.

The next generation of Penneys are also involved in drama, two of them having attended drama school. Fiona is well known in Bollington for her lively and inspiring introductions to Shakespeare for school children. She has run workshops in schools and provides summer and Easter sessions at the Arts Centre in Bollington under the title, 'Great Shakes'.

Now regarding Bollington as their home, Pat and George say that there is nowhere quite like it. They love the sense of community. It is clear that it is the commitment and involvement in the life of the community of people like Pat and George that make Bollington such a great place to live.

Sandy Milsom

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STANDING STONES

The Bollington Festival Labyrinth has caused quite a stir within the community and passers-by, as it guards the Middlewood Way entrance off Grimshaw Lane.

This is no pile of stones: it is an intricately designed masterpiece, based on designs dating back in time to our pagan ancestors and to last the passage of time for our grandchildren's grandchildren and beyond. Fifteen meters in diameter, the majestic circle of carboniferous sandstone catches the sunlight all day, casting eerie elongated shadows at the end the day. The sculpture's character changes throughout the day and seasons and it has become a popular monument for photographers, exuberant children and those seeking to find an inner spiritualism for which labyrinths are associated. Even in the January snow, evidence of footprints shows how many people are enjoying this community sculpture.

A large crowd gathered around the Labyrinth on 22nd November

2009, as the sun shone through the clouds over the 148 standing stones and their central towering mother stone, for the exact 30 minutes of the opening ceremony.

These ancient stones are very much a feature of Bollington and its local landscape and proved to be the inspiration for local poet Michael Symmons Roberts who dedicated a poem to the Bollington Labyrinth, which he read at the opening ceremony. Michael is professor of poetry at Manchester Metropolitan Museum, has worked widely for BBC radio, and has been awarded for his fine poetry books. So for Michael to dedicate one of his poems to this sculpture is quite a privilege for Bollington. But this is a sonnet of rhyming couplets, beautifully lyrical and descriptive and yet heavy with gravitas and earthiness like indeed the stone structure itself. **Deborah Roberts**

Dr. John Coope, founder of the Festivals, whose commemorative plaque we unveiled at the opening, and a great lover of poetry, would have definitely approved.

BOLLINGTON LABYRINTH

*Once in this place a river splayed its hand,
spread fingers out across the burning sand
to feed into an ancient tropic sea.
And now that buried delta is cut free,
in dry stone walls that crossed the rain-soaked hills,
in serried rows of houses, churches, mills,
in doorsteps, in slabs to mark our dead,
this valley town was built of riverbed.
And here we set these griststones in a curl,
a spiral eye to look out at the world,
to wonder at the distance we have come,
to map the route we travel to come home.
So take the track and let your steps unwind
the twisted pathways of your heart and mind.*

Michael Symmons Roberts

IT GIVES YOU WINGS!!

You may not know it, but the Air Training Corps (ATC) has been operating in Bollington for 22 years. Those who have discovered it have been given the opportunity to foster an interest in aviation together with other activities including sports, outdoor pursuits and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Founded in 1941, the Air Training Corps is the Royal Air Force's cadet force. This is a national youth organisation with more than 40,000 young people aged 13 to 20 attending over 1000 units known as Squadrons in the UK. Here in Bollington our own unit is called 236 Squadron, which parades (or meets) every Monday and Thursday from 7 to 9 pm at Water Street School.

236 (Bollington) Squadron was formed in 1988, having previously operated as a 'Detached Flight' from 201 (Macclesfield) Squadron. Its growth and development since then has been entirely due to two incredibly dedicated volunteer staff; Anne Cave and Deryck Sutton, who have been with the squadron since its foundation.

Bollington's Air cadets have a very varied and busy programme of activities. We are fortunate to be so close to the Peak District and regularly undertake camping expeditions locally and further afield. Last year 12 cadets completed Bronze Level Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. This year those cadets will progress to Silver Level and eventually go for Gold.

Cadets and volunteer staff attend camps at Royal Air Force stations in the UK and abroad every year. Last year, Bollington cadets went on one week camps to RAF Valley on Anglesey, home of RAF fast-jet training and to RAF Kinloss on the Moray Firth in the north of Scotland. We are fortunate to have a

long standing association with RAF Kinloss who train the crews that operate Nimrod MR2, the RAF's maritime patrols aircraft.



Closer to home is our 'parent' station RAF Shawbury in Shropshire, where the RAF trains its helicopter pilots and air traffic controllers. It is RAF Shawbury that provides much of our logistical support. We visit the station on a regular basis for rifle shooting; this is one of many popular sporting activities. We also run teams for football, hockey, swimming, cross country running and, everyone's favourite, table tennis. Cadets from Bollington were selected last year to represent the ATC at regional level for swimming and Cadet Sam Spencer captained the region's rugby team.

All cadets are regularly offered 'Air Experience' flights in RAF training aircraft and gliders at weekends throughout the year. Cadets who enjoy these flights can apply for gliding and flying scholarships. Cadet Nick Jenkins, 17, was awarded a gliding scholarship last year and previous cadets have not only been awarded scholarships but also progressed to flying solo and been awarded their 'wings'.

This year we jumped at the chance to buy the drums from the recently and sadly disbanded Bollington Corps of Drums. We are very fortunate to have Flight Lieutenant Alan Bethell; an experienced Drum-Major and Miss Jess Seddon an

Photographs:
Bollington Air Cadets
undertaking a range
of activities.

Photographs
provided by Paul
Riordan

If you are
interested
in joining or
would like more
information please
visit our website
www.236atc.co.uk

accomplished musician on the squadron. So we now run a Corps of Drums. We are practicing in preparation for the civic events of 2010 where we hope to show off our new skills at some of our first performances.

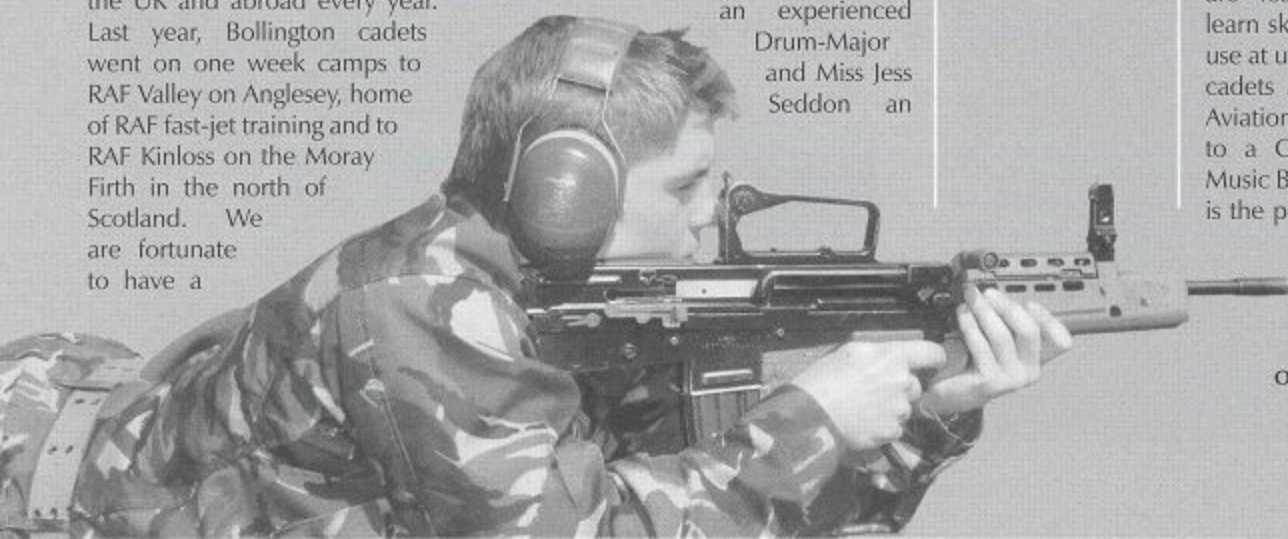
As a youth organisation we feel that it is important that we play an active role in our own community, to acknowledge its support and to show our gratitude. 236 Squadron participates in many civic occasions during the year including Remembrance Sunday and the Mayor's Civic parade to name but a few. We actively fund-raise for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and the RAF Association's Wings Appeal.



This all sounds like a lot for young people who are already busy with school work at an important time in their lives. Cadets, however, find that far from interfering with school responsibilities, the ATC bolsters and enhances their school experience. Strong personal ethics are fostered and young people learn skills that can be put to good use at university or in a career. Most cadets also leave with a BTEC in Aviation Studies which is equivalent to a GCSE. Public Services and Music BTECs are also offered. But it is the personal development of the cadets as confident and spirited young people that is the ATC's main aim.

Paul Riordan

O/C 236 (Bollington) Squadron ATC





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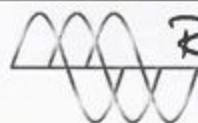
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BULLY FOR YOU

With a wide range of ages, backgrounds and professions, you could be forgiven for questioning why this motley crew meet twice a week brandishing sticks.

No it's nothing that sinister, we're the Bollington Ladies Hockey Club. The club has been running for over 25 years and along the way has accepted members of all abilities. As long as you're a willing participant ready to turn out on those rainy winter Saturdays, then you're in!

We play in Division five of the Cheshire Ladies Hockey league - no it's not the bottom division, there are actually seven!

We are having the best season we have had for a long while (at time of writing we are sitting fourth in the league) so it meant that when it was time for our Christmas night out, we all let our hair down, with Hollin Hall seeing a sharp rise in bar profits during that night!

For more information please contact:

Nicola: 07887 652131
Jen: 07515 672806

Photographs provided by Jennifer Sayers

Our team consists of doctors, teachers, students (and most other things in between) and we all find belonging to the club benefits us in different ways. Some of us use it as a tool to keep fit, some to save money so they're not at the shops every Saturday, some to expend all the weeks stresses and strains and others just use it as an excuse to escape from the kids for an hour or two.

With our captain Nicola ruling the roost and putting us through our paces, we have all noticed our game improving over the past few seasons, and although sometimes our playing technique and finesse leaves a lot to be desired, we have managed to achieve the highest goal difference I've seen during the last eleven years.



Unfortunately we no longer play our matches in Bollington (due to the lack of an Astroturf pitch) so our home ground is Kings School, and you can see us play there most Saturdays in our eye-catching green kit. Practices are also based there on a Thursday night 8pm-9pm and all new players will be welcomed, as would any umpires.

Jennifer Sayers

Bollington Ladies Hockey team are in dire need of an umpire, if you would be willing to devote your Saturdays (or at least some) to the fair playing cause and have some experience with the game (need not be qualified - we can send you on a course)

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