



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty One Spring 2011

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**BOLLINGTON****Live!**

Bollington Live! is published three times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of **"Bollington Live! - A voice for everyone"** we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome to:

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Cover: **Bollington Brass Band - Christmas Eve 2010** Photograph: Simon Nottage

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COMMUNITY CHANCE

The biggest and most important re-development opportunity in Bollington for many decades is how we might describe this 14-acre industrial site. Located behind the Waterhouse Medical Centre in the river valley and stretching from the Middlewood Way viaduct almost to Garden Street, the site currently houses Kay Metzeler. They built the present factory 48 years ago and now plan to withdraw in the summer.

Bollington Town Council is aware of the importance of this site, and last autumn was approached by the owners, Rock Asset Management (RAM), who recognised that the town would have a view as to what should replace the redundant factory. The Town Council have since commissioned Bollington Civic Society to undertake a public consultation. The Civic Society have conducted further talks with the owners firstly to identify their objectives and secondly to establish the need for community input to their plans before they submit any planning application.

Bollington Civic Society have provided a questionnaire to every household in the town in order to identify the community's priorities and will send the results to Bollington Town Council. The results will also steer further discussions with the owners, RAM, who are keen to establish a consensus with the town before they submit a planning application.

There are, of course, constraints. The resulting development has to be financially viable; the properties developed have to be capable of being sold or let. The plans have to be acceptable to the planners at Cheshire East Council. I should



stress that the community's views can never be imposed – ultimately the owner has to decide whether to go along with our ideas or ignore them and go their own way, with the risk that the community will oppose them through the usual process. RAM have made it clear that they do not wish to take the latter route and that if they and the community cannot agree then they will be prepared to leave the site undeveloped for many years and collect a continuing rent from Kay Metzeler. I believe the community would agree that this would not be a good outcome.

So, please fill in your questionnaire, attend the consultation and make your voice heard in the Civic Hall on 3rd March from 10.00am onwards.

Your views count!

Tim Boddington

YOUR BOLLINGTON LIVE!

Bollington Live! is your magazine.
If you have any stories or reminiscences which might be of interest, please send them to the address at the top of this page by the 27th May.

Photograph of Kay Metzeler entrance and offices by Tim Boddington.

Inset photograph by Simon Nottage

www.happy-valley.org.uk

EDITORIAL

I am writing this just after listening to the Peal of Bells from St. John's Church for the very last time. It was wonderful to hear them ring out through the valley. It is sad to think we will most probably never hear a peal of bells ring out in Bollington ever again.

Finally, as the bells fell silent we heard the stirring sound of the magnificent Church Organ. Whilst the rain lashed the cobwebbed windows, some in the church had tears in their eyes. The sounds of that organ and those bells provided the soundtrack to many events in Bollington's life. Things can never stay the same, but there is a comfort for many people in continuity.

Speaking of continuity, **Bollington Live!** marches on into another year - and we are again delighted to be able to present yet another twenty page issue - with thanks to our advertisers and sponsors who continue to have faith in the quality of our magazine.

The success of **Bollington Live!** in my opinion is the quality of the articles. We are a Bollington magazine, so we have Bollington articles - and yet again we are bursting at the seams with them! From the futures of the Kay Metzeler and Water Street School sites, to the past of the Urban District Council, and from the hopeful candidates at Local Elections to the winning success of our Bollington Brass Band, we are and will remain focused on what is happening in and around Bollington.

Enjoy the issue - and roll on summer!

Date for next copy:
Friday 27th.
May 2011

Anthony Holland

BOLD AS BRASS

Years ago, playing in a brass band was a pastime for the working class. Bands used to be male-dominated and their roots were firmly set in the mining communities and mill towns of the north of England.

Nowadays, more than 100,000 dedicated men, women and children from all walks of life play in a total of some 3,500 active brass bands throughout Britain. These numbers are growing, and players are becoming younger, more competitive, more active and achieve amazingly high standards of musicianship.



Brass bands will always be an important part of our cultural heritage, although they will continue to change with the times. The brass band movement is now on a more professional footing than ever before, with its future secured by the continuous influx of young players. It is now a nationally recognised study subject within many universities, which offer degree courses in performance, arranging and conducting.

Brass bands are classified into five divisions or sections (Championship, First, Second, Third and Fourth), rather like football clubs, with points gained through successful competition results – and, of course, promotion and relegation!

The Championship Section boasts the likes of Grimethorpe, Black Dyke, Fodens and Brighouse & Rastrick bands; Bollington are currently in the First Section.

Bollington Brass Band was first formed in the 19th century, but the present Band owes its origin to a group of enthusiasts who met together in 1972, with Dr.

John Coope as Musical Director. When Brian Taylor was appointed as Musical Director in 1985 the Band began to make considerable progress, gaining promotion from the Fourth to the Second Section. After Brian's tragic death in 1994 the baton passed first to Bob Wyatt and then to Tim Power before Peter Christian was appointed Musical Director in August 2001.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION BOASTS THE LIKES OF GRIMETHORPE, BLACK DYKE, FODENS AND BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BANDS; BOLLINGTON ARE CURRENTLY IN THE FIRST SECTION

In March 2003 the Band was crowned North West Champions (Second Section) at the annual Regional Championships in Blackpool, and narrowly failed to add the National title to their honours when they were beaten by a solitary point at the Great Britain National Championships the following September. In 2006 the Band again qualified for the National finals – and were again beaten by a single point! However, Peter's continuing success with the baton has seen the Band promoted to the First Section, just one step away from the Championship section, and in 2010 they recorded

their best ever result in the North West Championships when they were placed 3rd.

Besides the Senior Band there is also a thriving "B" Band for up-and-coming musicians of any age which has its own programme of concerts and performances, and in 2009 this Band cut its first CD.

Each year the Band takes part in the annual Whit Friday Brass Band competition in Tameside – as featured in the film 'Brassed Off'; this event attracts bands from all over the country, including many from the Championship Section. In effect it is a series of open contests held at 11 venues throughout Tameside, with prize money on offer at each event: Saddleworth district hosts a similar event on the same night.

In 2010 Bollington played at 9 of the 11 venues – an amazing feat in itself – and finished with their best set of results ever, being placed a very creditable 8th out of 86 bands. Highlights were a 4th place at Heyrod (Fodens were placed 5th!), where they were awarded the George Bowes Memorial Cup and a cheque for £150, and a 5th place at Stalybridge Celtic (where Leyland were 6th!).

Bollington Brass Band is fiercely proud of its independent status. It is not sponsored by big business like many other bands; rather it relies on its own fund raising efforts (through concerts, carolling, etc.) and regular donations from a large number of individual patrons. For an annual

BECOMING A PATRON

If you are interested in becoming a patron, attending a concert or even playing with either band please 'phone either

*Bev Needham
(Band Chairman
01625 576367)
or Roger Johnson
(01625 613851).*

BAND WEBSITE

For more information about Bollington Brass Band (players, forthcoming concerts, etc.) please visit the Band website at

*www.
bollingtonbrass.
co.uk*

*Photographs by
David Naylor*

*This year's Whit
Marches are
scheduled for
Friday 17th June.*



TWITCHING ON THE REC

fee of £10 these supporters receive regular newsletters and a free ticket to the autumn Patrons' Concert – as well as the satisfaction of enabling their local band to continue to provide first-class entertainment!

The Band also enjoys good support from the Town Council, and is committed to the local community; it gives frequent concerts in the immediate area – the next one is on Saturday 19th March at the Methodist Church – and takes part in civic events such as the annual Remembrance Day parade.

BOLLINGTON BRASS BAND IS FIERCELY PROUD OF ITS INDEPENDENT STATUS AND RELIES ON ITS OWN FUND RAISING EFFORTS

During the Advent period the Band plays carols round the town, culminating in leading "Carols round the Tree" on Christmas Eve followed by Christmas on White Nancy at 12.00 on Christmas Day.

Musical Director Peter Christian began playing in brass bands at the age of nine when he joined New Mills Band. Two years later he became a member of the National Youth Brass Band on First Baritone, before joining Fodens Band in 1971.

In 1979 he transferred to the prestigious Black Dyke Mills Band and during the next thirteen years won three National, three British Open and eight European titles with them! Further successes followed with both Williams Fairey and BNFL Bands before Peter decided to concentrate his considerable talent on conducting, and accepted the invitation to conduct Bollington Brass Band almost 10 years ago. Peter works as a peripatetic music teacher for Stockport LEA and lives in Disley with his wife Pat and daughter Rebecca.

Roger Johnson

How many different species of bird do you think you'd find in Bollington? Ten? Twenty? Well, you'd be surprised, as Geoff Atkin, from Friends of the Rec, found out over the past year.

At any time of year, blackbirds, wrens, dunno, and occasionally song thrushes, can be seen in the bushes along the path by the river or at the edge of the woods around the Recreation Ground. In autumn and winter flocks of tits and finches forage through these same bushes and may also visit the feeders by the bridge. They may be joined on the feeders by a nuthatch or house sparrows.

*Photographs of
Redwing
(top right) and
Blackbird
(Bottom Right)
by Geoff Atkin*

*Heron (centre)
by Simon Nottage*



Whilst rooks, crows and jackdaws are often heard or seen in the tops of trees around the Rec, they also frequently fly across the field from one side to the other, as does an occasional jay, magpie or wood pigeon. In the River Dean, particularly in early morning, a heron or mallard may be seen feeding.

Last autumn and winter, Geoff spotted many resident species including: Blue Tit, Crow, Great Tit, Rook, Coal Tit, Jackdaw, Long-tailed Tit, Jay, Robin, Magpie, Blackbird, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Dunnock, Green



Woodpecker, Song Thrush, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Heron, House Sparrow, Nuthatch, Chaffinch, Tree Creeper, Greenfinch, Tawny Owl and Goldfinch.

This winter Geoff spied a Redwing, a winter visitor from Scandinavia. Not usually seen so close to human habitation, the Redwing is likely have been driven into the town to rummage in leaves where the snow was less deep for food.

In early spring, other species, which have moved elsewhere in the UK during the winter, return to breed and nest. Along the river, Geoff discovered a Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, and a pair of Dippers.

In summer flocks of swift or swallows may appear and in acrobatic flight over the field feed on insects in the air – returning from southern Europe or Africa where they spend the winter. In addition to these, Geoff also saw a Garden Warbler and Collared Dove, but no Kingfisher – although they have been seen in previous years.

Geoff spotted 35 different species on the Rec over the year – how many do you think you might recognise?

Kate Kilpatrick



BACKING A WINNER!

You may recall that in our previous magazine, celebrating fifty issues of *Bollington Live!* we held a competition with the prize of a hamper worth £50 from Livesey's Delicatessen on High Street.

It was a wonderful gesture from Jo and Dave to provide such a worthwhile prize - and we were inundated with entries listing the back-issue numbers of all the *Bollington Live!* covers scattered throughout the magazine. The draw was held at Livesey's, and the winning ticket was pulled from the hat by Jo.



The winner was Chris Loveday, who is also one of our many deliverers of *Bollington Live!* Her first words upon hearing she had won were "Goodness! I never usually win anything!" Chris has added a few more words of her own below:

"What a surprise to be the lucky winner of the Livesey's hamper! On a very cold, frosty morning in December I went to collect my prize at the shop - which also gave me the opportunity to browse and take a look at the other goods on the shelves, whilst sipping steaming hot coffee from the coffee machine. I was able to identify ideas for future treats, or unusual gifts."

The hamper was a delight to receive. Bernard and I enjoyed exploring and tasting the contents which included delicious savoury biscuits, manuka honey fudge, chocolate, nuts, coffee and a small bottle of white wine.....all enclosed in a lovely wicker hamper basket.

Thank you Jo and Dave for donating such a lovely prize - and very best wishes for your continued success!"

Anthony Holland

A GOLDEN LEGACY

Though 2014 seems such a long way off, time flies. Why mention 2014 at all you ask? Because it will be the 50th Anniversary of the first Bollington Festival and we want to celebrate in style with another terrific festival. A "kick-off" meeting was held recently with those who have already agreed to volunteer to get their views about what the next festival might look like.

While no decisions have yet been made, all their thoughts are now on the festival website news page. We would also welcome your ideas, hoping you will step up to the plate and volunteer your skills and/or time to help make Bollington's future festivals sustainable.

We would love to hear from you NOW if you would like to get involved in fundraising and getting sponsorship in place.

Carol Barnes

Read the festival notes from the kick-off meeting on the news page and then share ideas to your heart's content at: www.bollingtonfestival.blogspot.com

Photograph (Left) by Simon Nottage, of last issues' Competition Winner Chris Loveday at Livesey's, with Dave, Jo and our Editor, Anthony Holland

Photograph (below) by Anthony Holland

FRIENDS OF THE REC.



The Recreation Ground was gifted to the people of Bollington in 1901 by Frances Greg. Now with thoughts of devolved services in mind, your help is needed to love it and get involved.

This volunteer group do their best to maintain it as a place of beauty in which we can all play and relax, but we are few in number while the Rec is used by hundreds of

people each year. Could you give an hour a month to agree actions? Could you give time to carry out some of the non-skilled maintenance like washing the gates, weeding or litter-picking?

Come along to a meeting and see what is involved without committing yourself! We meet at 7.30pm in the cricket pavillion on the first Monday of each month (or 2nd if there is a Bank Holiday).

Carol Barnes

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2011

Thursday 5th May is Polling Day. There is usually a high turn-out of voters in Bollington, and we hope this will happen again on 5th May, when there will be a great deal at stake. We shall be asked to elect two Councillors to the Cheshire East Council, and we will also be able to elect twelve Councillors onto our Town Council for the next four years.

At present the Town Council has representatives of the three main parties and four independents. Several of the serving Councillors have announced that they are not standing again so Bollington Town Council need some new people to come forward. If they fail to fill the twelve places we could lose our 'Quality Status' which was awarded just last year, and which should enable our council to do much more for our community.

Anyone who would like information and advice about becoming a candidate may wish to consult with David Naylor at the Bollington Town Hall. (Telephone 572985) Alternatively you may wish to ask one of our present Councillors about what is involved. Their names and telephone numbers are all given in the newsletter "The Bollingtonian", and also on the website:

parish.cheshire.gov.uk/Bollington

In addition on 5th May we are likely to be given an additional voting paper to express our views in a referendum on the best system of voting in future general elections. Should we continue to use the 'first past the post' system? Or should we adopt the alternative vote (AV)? It used to be argued that the present system ensures strong single-party government, and avoids coalitions, but after seeing what happened last year, that is not so obvious. Supporters of AV explain that under that system all MPs must win the support of over half of the voters in each constituency.

We have invited representatives of the three main parties to write for us in preparation for Polling Day, and their contributions are given on the next page.

Mark Stedman.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2011



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

I've lived in Bollington since 1987. I'm married with two grown-up children. They attended Dean Valley School then Tytherington, before going to University. I worked in Macclesfield as an accounts clerk for many years but now commute to Stockport to work as an activity organiser in a nursing home. My husband works in IT for a company based in Didsbury.

I don't think party politics has any role in local elections; we are here to serve our community as best we can, trying to represent their interests. If you can tell which party we support at council meetings we are not doing our job well! I like to be able to express my views and the Liberal Democrats allow me to do that, before we - hopefully - can arrive at consensus of the whole group.

As a Macclesfield Borough councillor I chaired the Performance Monitoring Committee. I think it is vital to keep track that individual departments are doing a good job and are within budget - preferable to coping with the aftermath when things go wrong!

We plan to have three candidates standing for the Town Council. Two would be new councillors and hopefully could bring new skills to the council, making it more representative of the community of Bollington.

Shirley Sockett



CONSERVATIVE

I have been a Bollington Town Councillor since 2008. This was at a time when we were seeing great changes in Local Government. In May of that year we saw the inception of Cheshire East Council as a unitary authority which replaced the old two-tier system of Macclesfield Borough Council and Cheshire County Council. Some of us were new to the way in which Councillors work and all of us had to understand the new system.

I have a particular interest in planning and the conservation of Bollington and our buildings. I enjoy the discussions we have and especially the participation of the general public when we try and come to decisions which are best for the community as a whole. This is not always an easy task.

My interest in local politics stemmed from my family who were part of a close-knit local rural community in Cheshire, where we now have a family boat marina alongside the Macclesfield Canal.

My other interests are canals and waterways and vintage engines. When I'm not working, or on Council business you will often find me at the Anson Engine Museum.

Mike Hodgkinson



LABOUR

"We're so lucky to live in Bollington."

I say it every time I enjoy a picnic on the Rec, run along the towpath, or share carols around the Christmas tree; I express how grateful I am to live somewhere this unique. But that uniqueness has to be handled with care. It must be nurtured, and protected, in a way that enhances the local economy, delights us and our visitors, but doesn't get lost in the process.

As a presenter for local radio, I scrutinise decisions made by Cheshire East Council. I question proposals that are intended to stimulate our economy, change the way the vulnerable are supported, or change services provided for children. I'm not afraid to ask questions and remind decision makers of their obligations. In my role as school governor I track performance, investigate improvements and allocate budgets.

I would be honoured if the people of Bollington would allow me to use these skills to be their voice at Cheshire East Council. Mine would be a unique voice, as a working mum living in Bollington and using all the town's facilities.

I stand for the Labour Party because the party stands for fairness and justice for all. But it's the whole of Bollington I'll be representing, because it's the whole of Bollington I care about.

Heidi Reid

To ensure fairness, each candidate was asked to submit a photograph and a 200 word election address.

Their submissions have been reproduced as received by the editor.

A CLEAN SLATE ON WATER STREET

The Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) is our town's Development Trust and operates in Bollington and its surrounding area and has charitable status.

It was established to safeguard and improve land and buildings for community benefit and although an independent organisation, it works in close consultation with Cheshire East Council and Bollington Town Council.

Its voluntary board of trustees and committee members, all of whom live locally, have a range of professional skills which include property management, business, education, financial management, planning, tourism and consultancy experience.

BIT and the Water Street Centre

Cheshire East Council has devolved the management of Water Street School (now renamed the Water Street Centre) to BIT with the long term aim of handing over the ownership of the building, in its entirety, to the Trust. However, before the final decision is made, a full architectural survey, development and business plan has been commissioned by BIT with a grant from the national Community Builders Fund. In the meantime, aiming to publicise the role of the Trust in managing the Centre, and to elicit opinions from the nearby residents as to its potential future uses, a survey of their views was undertaken.

The Questionnaire

In September 2010, around 300 questionnaires were delivered to homes and businesses in neighbouring streets. Sixty replies were received, giving a 20% response.

Respondents' Comments

Offices: It was thought that small business office lets would bring in a good income, even to the extent of making it modern and attractive enough to be used as a small conference centre. Artists' studios and craft centre, with a community trading centre such as a farmers' market were also suggested.

Community Education: There was a general feeling that as the building was designed originally for education, the Centre should continue to fulfil that role. With Heyday Pre-School already established on the ground floor, other aspects of education would be appropriate. It could become a centre for Macclesfield College adult education or an organisation providing University of the Third Age (U3A). Courses suggested ranged from music education to dog training, and pilates to line dancing and even a climbing wall could be provided. Outdoor table tennis tables and raised bed allotments were suggestions for the playground.

For further information on the Centre and other BIT projects please go to www.bollingtontrust.org



Meeting Venue for Local Groups: Meeting rooms for activities such as coffee mornings, singing and book groups, musicians and theatre groups using the space for rehearsals or studios and hiring rooms for children's parties were all suggestions.

Photograph (above) of the former Water Street School, by John Appleyard

Youth Club: Those who were in favour of this being revived at the Centre thought that an internet café with pool tables and table football would be a positive move.

Residential Apartments: Some thought that this use would bring in the highest income.

Car Parking: Although not itemised on the questionnaire, parking drew most comments. The majority of local residents stressed the need to keep the playground as an overflow parking facility. It was even suggested that the land across the river, with a widened bridge, could be used too.

General Comments: The Centre is thought to be 'a handsome building' which deserves renovating and refurbishment with the building and the grounds more fully used to 'put something back into the community'. Taking the comments as a whole, it was felt that the Centre should remain a vital centre point in the conservation area because it is 'part of Bollington's heritage'.

BIT's Response

It has been decided to hold an open day in late spring 2011. This will enable local people to view the building, providing a further opportunity to express ideas, should the Centre come into ownership of the Bollington community under the auspice of the Bollington Initiative Trust.

Kate Gooding & Margaret Park

The question: What do you think the school should be used for?

Opinions	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Don't know %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Total %
Offices	6	40	3	27	23	100
Community Education	57	33	2	5	3	100
Meeting Rooms	38	52	0	5	5	100
Youth club	23	17	3	15	30	100
Residential Apartments	2	13	3	27	55	100

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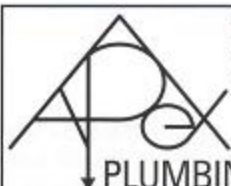
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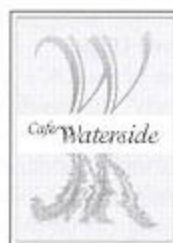
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BOLLINGTON

Live!

ARTS CENTRE EVENTS

MARCH

Friday 4th, 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Usual great stand-up and the infamous Naffle. £9 (over 18s only) Tel: 560774.

Saturday 5th, 8pm

The Expatrio Trio

Fiona Corston, a brilliant Australian pianist, Anna Zweck (flute) and Adrian Calef (cello) play music by Mendelssohn and Francaix. £14/£7 Conc. Call: 560355 or 575287

Wednesday 16th, - Saturday 19th, 7.30pm

'Kidsplay'

Written by John Lee, and set in the north of England, Bollington Festival Players present a lively play about a day in the life of 8 to 10 year olds. Performed by the younger members Players and directed by Emma Sheldon, its sharp observation and subtle characterisation offer a fascinating journey back into the childhood world of games, intrigues and arguments. Tickets £5 (£7 on Sat.) From Val Postance 875326 or valpostance@btinternet.com

Saturday 26th, 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Gentlemen Jim McIntosh and the Jazzaholics. Tickets £9 call 574410.

APRIL

Friday 1st, 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Drive away those early spring blues. £9 (over 18s only) Tel 01625 560774.

Sunday 3rd, - Sunday May 8th,

Canvas Thread & Steel

Exhibition of paintings by Sabine Kussmaul. Sundays 2-4 and during other events.

Saturday 9th, 7.30pm

The Erringden Ensemble

Helen Thatcher and Gina McCormack, former members of the much-missed Sorrel Quartet, are joined by brilliant viola player David Aspin. Music by Schubert, Beethoven and Mozart. Tickets £14/£7 Conc. Call: 560355 or 575287

Sunday 10th, 2.30pm & 5.30pm

Divine Pursuits

Donald Judge presents a musical play, by Sarah Dawson and Cecilia McDowell,

telling the story of the adventures of Odysseus with some unexpected and humorous twists. A family show from the talented youngsters of the Children's Music Theatre. Tickets £6/£3 Children. Call 07774 514517 or on the door.

Saturday 16th, 7.30pm

Silver Dogs

One of the UK's "finest ambient folk rock bands". Stunning vocals, soaring guitar, blistering fiddle & rhythm section. Expect treatments of darker trad. songs, and more contemporary work from the likes of Sandy Denny, Lal Waterson and Antje Duvekot. Info: www.myspace.com/thesilverdogs Tickets £8/£7 (Conc) Tel: 573413

Easter Monday 25th, - Friday 29th,

Great Shakes

Acting course for children aged 7-14yrs. Participants put on a Shakespeare play, after a week of stagecraft, acting games and rehearsals. For info. go to www.greatshakes.org.uk. £110 for the week. Call Fiona Penney 07930 653145

Saturday 30th, 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Hot sounds from the fabulous T.J. Johnson Band. Tickets £9 call 574410.

MAY

Friday 6th, 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club

A man walks into a pub with a flying shuttle on his head...., find out what's looming in the world of Stand-up, £9 (18+ only) Tel 560774.

Sunday 8th,

The Hermitage Quartet

A quintet of male voices from St. Petersburg keeping alive the great traditions of Russian sacred music and folk songs. Members of the ensemble are among the finest soloists performing in opera, musical theatre and Churches. Tickets £10 (including coffee) Tel: 575287 / 560355

Saturday 14th, 10am - 12.30pm

Samba Drumming Workshop

All the family can learn Samba percussion with John Hartshorn who led the Samba Band in the Barnaby Festival. Tickets £10/£5 (children under 16). Children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Tel: 07766 020612 / 560355

Friday 20th, 8pm

The Boll. Arts Centre Literary Quiz

Read, roll up with your team and pit your literary wits against other readers! Win fame, glory and wine. Pre-register on 573413. £18 per team (up to 6 per team).

Sunday 29th, 7pm

"Precious Nonsense"

On the centenary of W.S. Gilbert's death, Frank Walker assesses the theatrical career of the remarkable Victorian dramatist, famous for his collaborations with Arthur Sullivan. Tickets £5/£4 Conc. Pay on door.

Bollington Festival Choir

Sunday 17th April, 7.30 pm

Boll. Methodist Church

The choir will perform two choral classics with orchestra, professional soloists and organ. Mozart Solemn Vespers and Divertimento in D with the Organ Fantasia in F minor and the Haydn 'Nelson' Mass Tickets £12 (under 18s £3) from 420615.

(Contact numbers are 01625 unless stated)



THE ORGANIST ENTERTAINS!

On Saturday April 2nd, at 7.30pm, Bollington Methodist Church host a 'Grand Concert' featuring Radio 2's Nigel Ogden supported by 'Flute Salad', a teenage flute ensemble from New Mills. Nigel has performed several times before at the Methodist Church and it is always a fabulous evening. Proceeds from the evening will go towards Church Funds. Tickets £8 (£6 for children under 12 years) from Pat Burgess on 875322.

Dates for your Diary

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

OTHER CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Bollington Horticultural Society

Meet 7.30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Community Centre on Ovenhouse Lane, non-members welcome. For information contact Joyce Burton on 572668. Forthcoming events include:

Saturday March 5th, 2 - 4.30 pm
45th Annual Spring Show (Civic Hall)

Thurs March 17th, 7.30 pm
"Nine Lives" - History in Tatton

Thurs April 21st, 7.30 pm
"Around the Year with Clematis"

Thurs May 19th, 7.30 pm
"Unusual Edible Plants and Flowers"

Sat May 21st, 10am
Plant Sale at Community Centre

Bollington Probus Club

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Civic Hall, at 10.15am to 12 noon. The club is for retired men of professional background to discuss topics of general interest. Trips organised to places and events. Bowls, walking and golf sections.

Tuesday March 8th
The Caledonian Canal

Tuesday April 12th
The Gilt on the Ginger Bread

Tuesday May 10th
Inside Secrets of a Magician

Tuesday June 14th
The Spitfire

Tuesday July 12th
The History of the Longbow

Tuesday August 9th
The Coal Industry in the 17th Century

Bridgend Centre

Info. at www.bridgendcentre.org.uk.

Thursday, March 17th

St Patrick's Race Night

Vale Inn - Hotpot supper included. Tickets available from the Centre and the Vale Inn.

Sunday, March 20th, 10am to 4pm

Vintage Fair Stall

Wilmslow Leisure Centre. Entrance £3.00

Saturday, April 9th, 10am - 12noon

Jumble Sale

Bridgend Centre. With 'Vintage Corner'. Free entrance

Friday Mat 6th, 8pm - 11.30pm

Ceilidh

Civic Hall - "Dancing to Maplewood". Tickets £8

Sunday June 5th, 10.30am

Nature Trail Opening

Start at Bridgend Centre: 'See the Wood AND the Trees' is the inspiration for the latest in the Bridgend Centre walks

Sunday July 10th, 10am - 2pm

Nostalgia Hill Race Open Day -

Bridgend Centre: 7th Annual Fell Race. Starts 11.00am

COVER SHOT

Our spectacular 50th anniversary cover image of the Clarence Mill Chimney managed to get people talking. John Appleyard, the photographer explains how he captured the moment for **Bollington Live!**



"It's good to hear that the photograph of the chimney and night sky was perfect for your golden edition. I've had a lot of positive reaction back from people who've seen it, which is satisfying for me and also shows that people are appreciating your publication.

I've also had some sceptical views, like "where did you get that sky from", or "what did you use to light the chimney", or "it must have taken you ages to paint the stars in", implying that the image was digitally created or set up in some way. The truth is that it is a single image taken on the night, with the moon as the light source, and subject to standard processing with no digital trickery."

John Appleyard

CRAFT FAIR 2011

There have now been three Craft Fairs at the Arts Centre and each one has shown crafts of a very high standard, in execution and design, from makers in Bollington and the immediate area. The organising committee is now on the look-out for stallholders to take part in the 2011 Craft Fair on Saturday October 29th and would like anyone interested in taking a table to contact them.

We must stress that every item for sale must be made by the stallholder and must be of a sufficiently high standard to echo and even enhance the standards of previous years and we do reserve the right to refuse any work which does not meet those criteria. Tables are either 6 or 4 feet long and the cost of renting is either £25 or £18 depending on the size you would like to hire.

So, if you want to take part, do get in touch with Carole Selby on 574410 or Sally Smith on 560355 and arrange to show them some samples of your work.

Jean Ransley

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



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GREAT SHAKES

How many of us have studied Shakespeare, line by line, at school but found the experience just a little boring? Not at a Great Shakes workshop.

Here the children get the chance to explore the text of the play interactively, discover the emotions and motivation of the characters, and explore the themes of love, jealousy, intrigue, greed, ambition and mistaken identities. They live out the life of the play, which gives them an unforgettable, fun experience.

Fiona Penney is the force behind these amazing workshops. A professional actor, workshop leader and director, she has worked in schools around the country for over ten years, and realised that there was also an opportunity to bring Shakespeare to children during the school holidays, and so Great Shakes was created.

EXPLORE THE THEMES OF LOVE, JEALOUSY, INTRIGUE, GREED, AMBITION AND MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

Fiona spent a good deal of her childhood here in Bollington; acting and performing was a family tradition. She studied drama in London and became a professional actor. She also became a workshop leader and director, specialising in the plays of Shakespeare. Although Fiona is now based in London, she likes to come back to Bollington to work with the children.

Great Shakes was originally intended for children up to the age of 14 as Fiona felt that they would have outgrown it by then, but her oldest student is 16, so there is now no cut-off point. However, if sufficient numbers of young adults want to take part, Fiona is considering running a senior course. The workshops last for five days and culminate in a performance of the play in front of an audience.

Fiona works with children in the same way as she does with

professional actors, exploring the text, developing characters, honing acting skills and learning lines. Through drama she feels that children learn other life skills-communication, fun, bravery and respect for others. They learn how to focus and direct their energy, how to work as a team for the sake of a happy week and a successful production.

The final stage production is professional in every way. There are lights, music, sound effects, stage effects and full costumes. The children learn new skills, depending on the play presented, singing, dancing (modern and historical) and one skill that always proves popular with the students, the art of (safe) stage fighting, a common feature in many Shakespearean dramas.



The feedback Fiona has received from children and their parents is a testimony to her skill in inspiring youngsters to enjoy Shakespeare and to make it fun, interesting and relevant. Many children will have had a taster at one of the school workshops that she had done in local schools and some go on to try a week's workshop.

'I felt safe at Great Shakes because everyone is kind and helps each other... At the end of each day I would look forward to the next...I enjoyed doing all the dying, stabbing and fighting... I enjoy acting with lights and sound

Photographs on this page by Fiona Penney



effects... Emma really enjoyed it and never stopped talking about it. James had a real sense of pride in what he had achieved in one week, a great confidence booster.' (Some of the many comments on feedback forms.)

LEARN A SKILL THAT ALWAYS PROVES POPULAR WITH THE STUDENTS - THE ART OF (SAFE) STAGE FIGHTING

Fiona's Easter courses will be held at the Arts Centre from 10am until 4pm from April 18th until April 22nd (five days), and for four days from 25th until the 28th April (four days because of the royal wedding).

For the five day course the cost is £110 with a concession reduced to £90 for a second or third child. The four day course will cost £90 with a reduction to £70. Great Shakes, have now introduced a scholarship place, as Fiona does not want any child to miss out on the experience because of financial difficulties. Parents should feel free to contact Fiona for full sponsorship details, in confidence, and if anyone would like to sponsor a child that would be fantastic.

In the summer, whilst the Arts Centre undergoes refurbishment, Fiona will run courses at MADS Little Theatre in Macclesfield and she will run free workshops in Macclesfield schools to introduce herself and her methods and publicise the course. The dates for the summer are July 25th until July 29th and August 8th until August 12th.

Contact Fiona Penney on
07930 653145 or
02085 083880

Web: www.greatshakes.org

Sandy Milsom

BROTHERS IN ARMS?

Bollington Cross, Bollington Town and Kerridge now live within the same urban parish framework, as they did at the end of the eighteenth century in what was then known as Bollington Township. However, the stresses and strains brought about by the industrial revolution on urban life - lack of pure water, effluent everywhere, the costs of technical change and improvement - brought about a separation between them that had to be dealt with by the newly formed Bollington Urban District Council in 1899.

The major industrial families in Bollington such as the Gregs, Swindells and Olivers, ably supported by religious leaders such as the Reverend Richardson, thought that Bollington could take advantage of powers offered by Parliament to

OVERTURES WERE MADE TO KERRIDGE RESIDENTS TO RETURN TO BOLLINGTON, BUT THEY REJECTED THE OPPORTUNITY

make improvements in the local community. Accordingly a Bill was presented in Parliament in 1860 called the Bollington Improvement and Water Bill. This was designed to give the local Board of Health the powers to borrow money and introduce improved lighting and the provision of pure water. The Bill passed through the House of Commons, but before it went to the House of Lords some influential, but an unnamed, gentlemen from Kerridge objected to the Bill. A compromise was reached and the Bollington Improvement and Water Act of 1862 excluded the area of Kerridge and Bollington Cross. Consequently when the gas works were built at what is now Spinners Way, gas lighting was only provided in the narrow Bollington streets.

In 1894 with the advent of the Bollington Urban District Council overtures were made to Kerridge residents to return to Bollington, but by a vote of about 100 to 60

they rejected the opportunity to join the Urban District and so were absorbed in the huge ring of rural parish councils around Macclesfield that became Macclesfield Rural District Council.

What changed opinion was the go-ahead nature of the early Bollington Urban District Council and in particular the provision of fresh flowing water connected free to



Cartoon by
Matt Wray

In old money:
£1 = 20 shillings (s)
and 1 shilling =
12 old pence (d)
Price of a pint of
beer = 2d
= 1 new penny (p)

every house in Bollington prepared to pay a water rate. This abundant flowing water coincided with the very hot dry summer of 1899. The scheme had been officially opened on February 19th 1899. In Kerridge the wells ran dry and the River Dean stank to high heaven. There seemed to be no prospect of free flowing water for ratepayers who lived in the Parish.

The Kerridge Parish Council had done its best since 1894. The Chairman, Mr. W. Woodall, described the Parish Council's attempts to improve things at a crowded meeting to discuss joining with Bollington held at the Sunday School (now the site of the Library) on the evening of Tuesday August 15th 1899. This meeting was called to confirm the bold decision of Kerridge Parish Council to unite with Bollington.

'We wanted to improve sewage disposal, bring in pure water, light the streets and clear away rubbish', he told the excited ratepayers. 'We were allowed to do none of those things. We did manage to hire a rubbish cart for £4 a year and we were threatened with a surcharge by the local government auditor. We tried to get the Rural District Council to do things for us. We are just a small voice with one member representing us on the Rural District Council.' They did try to get a sewage scheme going but were opposed by local landowners so dropped it. 'We did want to bring water to our ratepayers from Macclesfield. At first they said they could supply it to Bollington Cross then we learned the Macclesfield corporation had no power to sell it to us. 'Finally', the Chairman said, 'we thought we could make improvements from water supplies in Kerridge itself but the landowners refused us entry to their land under any circumstances.'

This meeting was told how Bollington, through careful borrowing and sound finance, had provided lighting, rubbish clearance, attendance to public health and now pure fresh water in every house. Councillor Gardiner went through Bollington Council's accounts in great detail, pointing out to Kerridge ratepayers how

IN BOLLINGTON THE ABUNDANT FLOWING WATER COINCIDED WITH THE VERY HOT DRY SUMMER OF 1899 - IN KERRIDGE THE WELLS RAN DRY.

each of the accounts - gas, water and general finance - showed a positive balance, and the overall cost of borrowing could easily be accommodated. He pointed out that the rates in Bollington and Kerridge were similar at 3s 4d in the pound but Bollington had a healthy profit from the gasworks that could reduce their rates if they wished.

HOME WATCHED

Having carefully prepared the eager ratepayers, Councillors now moved to the crucial part of the meeting for them. Mr Charles Blunt, solicitor, had prepared very carefully four separate resolutions that were now put to the meeting. The first proposed by Mr. Woodall himself was that the ratepayers should agree to the resolution passed by Kerridge Parish Council to seek amalgamation with Bollington Urban District. This was passed with only one person opposing: 177 in favour with 1 against. The second proposed by Mr. Blunt was that Kerridge Parish should be re-warded and integrated into the three Bollington wards each to have five Councillors. The third resolution proposed by Kerridge Councillor, Mr. Owen, asked the Chairman to sign a petition on behalf of the ratepayers present to be sent to Cheshire County Council praying that the County Council would order an enquiry under Section 57 of the Local Government Act of 1888 and make an order for the union of Kerridge and the Urban District of Bollington. Finally Mr. Davies proposed Bollington Urban District Council be asked to act in every way possible to confirm the amalgamation. These were passed unanimously. The Chairman pronounced it the most businesslike meeting he had ever attended. Kerridge Councillors had succeeded in persuading their ratepayers to follow their lead.

But opposition was mounting. Not in Kerridge or Bollington Cross but in the Macclesfield Rural District Council. They could see that they would lose influential residents and valuable rates.

If Kerridge were to go, then who might be next?

Next time – the enquiry... and its result!

Ken Edwards

If you wish to know more about Homewatch, please contact Jane Thirsk on 01244-612725

or e-mail: jane.thirsk@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

It must have been 5 years ago when I became the Homewatch Coordinator for Long Lane & Beeston Brow in Bollington.

We had a meeting at the home of Dr. Jean Coope with most of the neighbours plus Jane Thirsk from the Cheshire Police. She explained what is involved with Homewatch and how by being observant we can cut down on crime.

At the end of the meeting she asked if anyone present would wish to be the Coordinator. There was a deathly silence, and then eyes turned to me, so that was how I got the (unpaid) job!

Recently, I have widened my area to take in Queen Street, just off Palmerston Street, after a spate of

burglaries in the Street earlier this year.

Each Homewatch Co-ordinator has their own way of involving their neighbours in keeping crime to a minimum. I forward e-mails sent to me from Jane Thirsk to my neighbours, but first I edit them, keeping the information very local. I keep people without e-mail informed by letter.

Also, I have become a nagger! My mantra is "Keep your doors, windows and cars locked". By being vigilant in our habits, our eyes open, by taking down car registration numbers and gently challenging someone who looks suspicious, one can make a difference. I like to think so anyway! **Jane Clucas**



Bollington Medical Centre

Photograph by John Appleyard

SURGICAL SPIRIT

It was with careful thought that the Bollington surgery changed the telephone system, because the Practice considers that the new system is superior to any of the other surgery telephone systems available. Some of the benefits of the new system include:

- **Patients no longer hear the engaged tone and there is a queuing system**
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We have now identified the regular number of calls between 8am and 9am and subsequently we have recruited more receptionists to help deal with the demand during these busy times.

Some patients may have phone packages, where by paying a monthly amount they receive free minutes or local calls which do not include 084 numbers; subsequently the change in our telephone number may result in

an increased cost to these patients. This is not a premium rate number and when calling from a fixed line you will only be charged a local rate. If you have concerns about the cost of calling the surgery we recommend that you:

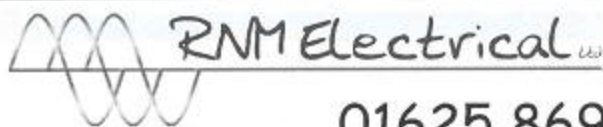
- **Phone the surgery during our quieter periods after 9.30am**
- **Use a fixed line to call the surgery which is likely to be cheaper than calling from a mobile phone**
- **Discuss with the surgery if you require regular appointments and we will aim to book these in advance for you**

The majority of our appointments are released 2 weeks in advance so availability should be much better for our patients. Please only phone between 8am and 9.30am if you require an urgent on the day appointment.

We would like to thank patients for their feedback as it helps us to examine our procedures and improve standards where necessary.

Trish Atkinson

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DED MOROZ

"A what?... Can't be true! ... But it is true!"

For the last two years there has been a small Russian Language school taking place in the Ovenhouse Lane Community Centre.

There are in East Cheshire a considerable number of natives of Russia who are married to British people resident in the area. They were concerned that their young children were not having the opportunity firstly to learn the Russian language, and more importantly to speak it.

At Christmas they have a traditional Russian Christmas party; the only similarity to ours being a tree and a kindly old man dressed in red who hands out presents.

After games round the tree the kindly man makes his entrance. He is Ded Moroz, "Grandfather Frost" and at first he has to endure the children's teasing – they steal his gloves and pass them around as he chases them. However, he does have an ally in Baba Yaga or the "Wicked Witch", who chastises and chases the children with her broom. Nevertheless all are soon forgiven and presents are distributed.

This year the part of Ded Moroz was taken by a proud grandfather on holiday from the Ukraine – and he was not complaining about the British Winter, because it was snowing outside!

This is just one activity that takes place at the Community Centre.

David Haddleton

To our health!
На здоровье!
(na zda-rov'-ye)



'Ded Moroz' and his partner, the snow maiden 'Snegurochka'

www.happy-valley.org.uk

Right: Bollington Community Centre

Photograph by John Appleyard

With the current climate of austerity measures and cutbacks it is encouraging to see that once again, the people of Bollington have proved that when something needs doing, a group of volunteers will get together and do it.

This is what happened with the Community Centre in Ovenhouse Lane. When the building was threatened with closure by Macclesfield Borough Council in the late 1990s a group got together and eventually signed a 20-year lease on the Centre in 2002.

The challenge really began, to obtain grant funding to upgrade a desperately neglected building. Since the end of 2002 approximately £90,000 has been obtained and spent to completely revamp the building to meet all the current regulations required for public buildings. Grants were obtained from a variety of sources, but the largest contributions have been from WREN, (Waste Reclamation Environmental), Macclesfield Borough Council, the Town Council and the NHS have also contributed towards all the work, together with some generous 'gifts in kind' from local companies.

There were times when the volunteer management committee began to wonder what they had taken on, but it has all been worthwhile. The result is a versatile building, providing a large main room with excellent catering facilities, together with two meeting rooms on the first floor.

We now have a Centre of which we can be proud; it is welcoming,

comfortable and to use a common saying 'fit for purpose'. It is currently being used by a variety of clubs and societies for their regular meetings, and it is also used for parties and training courses. However, there is still available capacity for the Centre to be used more by the community.

As everyone knows, running a building the size of the Centre is not cheap. As a result, we have to hold a constant round of fund raising events to help towards these costs. We have a group of very loyal supporters who attend many events to raise money, so through this article I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

Our motto is, 'Locally Managed for Local People', so please consider using the Centre when you want to hold an event, or set up a new club activity, just get in touch with me or any other committee member.

Pat Haddleton

Please look on our webpage on the Happy-Valley website for more details.



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BOBBY DAZZLER

Bobby Mason (See issue 39 for "Skating to the States.") returned from the USA in June 2009. He had been voted the best U18 netminder in Colorado, and was invited to join the USA National squad until they found out he had a UK passport. He had a great three years playing against and with some of the best hockey players on the planet.

While in the States he had heard of an improving Inline Hockey scene developing across Europe with the best players from around the world joining teams in Italy,

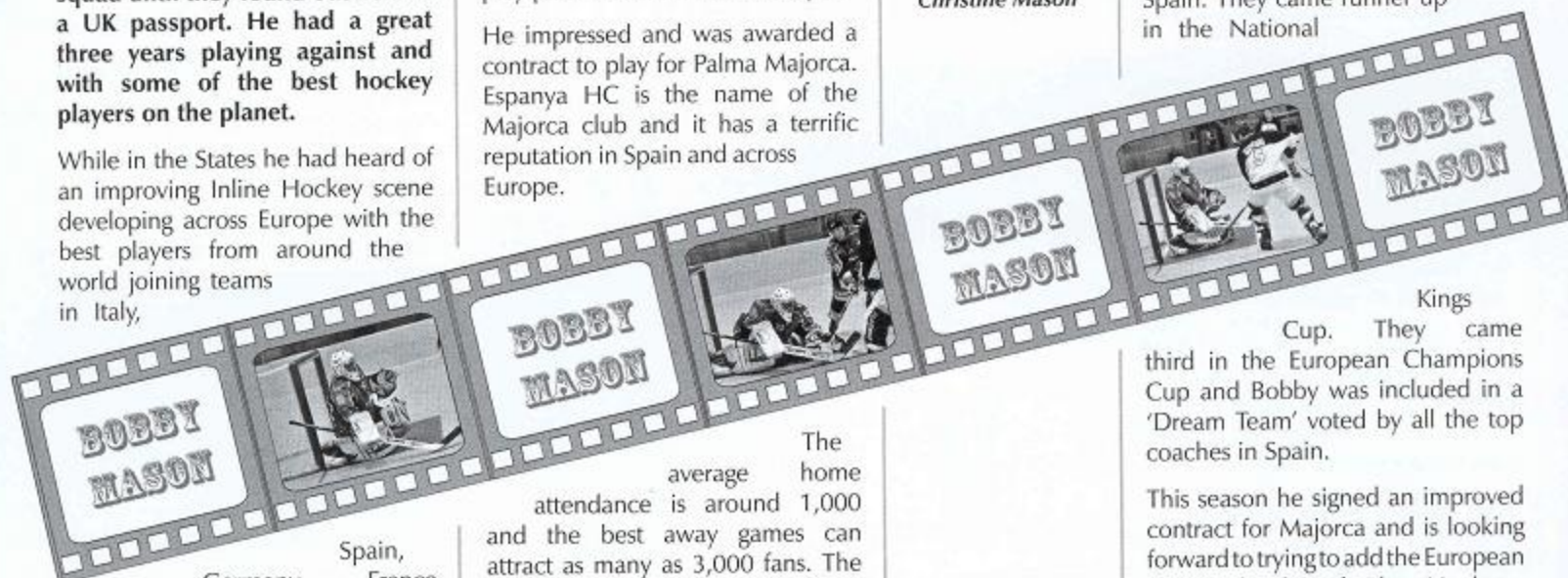
approached by Palma Majorca to train with them. It was a bit of a gamble on their part as Bobby had a reputation in the States but had no recent history on this continent and at 20 was considered young to play professional Inline in Europe.

He impressed and was awarded a contract to play for Palma Majorca. Espanya HC is the name of the Majorca club and it has a terrific reputation in Spain and across Europe.

Photographs supplied by Christine Mason

Canada, Sweden and Norway in the Spanish league with teams based in Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Las Palmas, Bilbao and Tenerife.

In Bobby's first season, Espanya HC won the Elite Championship of Spain. They came runner up in the National



Spain, Germany, France and Belgium. He decided to come home and take a look. While playing in and winning a tournament in Wales, he was

The average home attendance is around 1,000 and the best away games can attract as many as 3,000 fans. The games are televised on occasion, and most games are live on radio. Bobby joined other pro-players from Slovenia, USA, Czech,

Kings Cup. They came third in the European Champions Cup and Bobby was included in a 'Dream Team' voted by all the top coaches in Spain.

This season he signed an improved contract for Majorca and is looking forward to trying to add the European Cup to his list of titles. He loves Palma, as do his Bollington parents, and he has gained numerous new young fans as he coaches the youth team. He has also given promises to team GB Inline Hockey that he will make himself available for the World Championships this year.

You can keep tabs on the team and on Bobby's progress if you Google Espanya HC or add Espanya HC to your facebook friends.

Christine Mason

ON YA BIKE!

In August I decided to see how much money I could raise for the charity KidsCan. I had no idea how much I would raise but it quickly became apparent that people were very willing to make a donation to my sponsor fund.



KidsCan

My targets of £1000 and £2000 were quickly reached and I have raised almost £3000 which will equal about £3500 with the GiftAid supplement.

The event started at Peak Cycle Sport in Fence Avenue, Macclesfield, setting off at 9a.m. Approximately 150 people signed up for the event, each entrant paying £25 to register. 128 starters enjoyed a sunny but windy day. The route took the riders through Pott Shrigley, Brickworks, Kettleshulme, Goyt Valley, Bosley Cloud to the refreshment point at Rudyard Lake. From there the route took the riders through Thorncliffe, Earl Sterndale, Axe Edge, Macclesfield Forest before finishing where it all started, at Peak Cycle Sport.

There were very few flat stretches of road throughout the route which

Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/steven-dean or by cheque payable to KIDSCAN, to be sent to Steven Dean, 78 Clarence Mill, Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5GR.

involved over 7000 feet of climbing. Particularly difficult was the climb out of Thorncliffe, strong side winds and a long steep climb meant that at one point I was struggling to force the pedals around. All in all though, the route, designed by Andy of Peak Cycle Sport, was very challenging and well planned.

KidsCan plans to organise perhaps 2 sportives in 2012, again with Andy of Peak Cycle Sports, so those of you who took part this year and enjoyed the experience, please spread the word in cycling circles and help increase the numbers for next time.

Steve Dean

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MAKING A SPLASH

Over thirty years ago, with a proposed new build at Bollington Cross, the people of Bollington were asked what leisure facility they would like. The most popular answer by far, being mindful of local streams and the canal, was a pool in which to teach the children of the village to swim, and so Bollington Leisure Centre was born. Now Bollington Health & Leisure, the centre has always taken its swim teaching responsibility very seriously. Especially as so many have learnt a life skill there, the chances are if you have grown up in Bollington over the last thirty years then you will have been in the pool - you might even remember the slide!

Swimming is an important sport; it is accessible to all regardless of age, ability or disability, it is great for rehabilitation, it leads on to other sports such as canoeing and diving, it re-invigorates and re-energises as it uses more muscles of the body than other sports, and most importantly it can save lives.

Bollington Health & Leisure strives to ensure that children in the village and where possible, the surrounding communities, have the opportunity to learn to swim and has an extensive

*The Centre is open
7 days a week*

*Contact them on
01625 574774*

*www.
bollingtonleisure.
co.uk*

*Photograph of
the Bollington
swimming pool by
Simon Nottage*

school swimming programme for primary schools. Always forward thinking, the centre established school swimming long before it was made compulsory by the National Curriculum in 1999 and has since strived to ensure its lessons are fun, structured and relevant to the children that attend. There is a cost involved to each school but this is kept as low as possible by the centre, while maintaining high standards of teaching, so that local children can have the best swimming opportunities.

The main concern of Bollington Health & Leisure is the Bollington Primaries, of which all four, Bollington Cross, St John's, Dean Valley and St Gregory's, have lessons there, but the centre also teaches an additional eight schools, including one pre-school and one private school, with a total of 500-600 swimmers per week.

Bollington Health & Leisure teaches all swimmers to the National Curriculum framework and ensures feedback is individually given to each school at the end of every term. They must be

doing something right as all four Bollington schools are in the top six of forty-nine primary schools in the Macclesfield School Sports Partnership for swimming provision and are therefore producing high achievers.

Some pupils taught by the school swimming programme continue on to swim with swimming clubs such as Satellites and Phoenix or in some cases come back to Bollington Health & Leisure to work as lesson helpers, swimming teachers or lifeguards!

One of the great things about swimming is that it can be enjoyed by the whole family, so for those who

have left school behind, the centre has recently started the SwimFit programme, a coach-supported free training scheme that can be used before work or in your lunch hour, where you set the pace to help you get fit and keep up with the kids - it's never too late, so come and take a dip, the water's lovely!

Steven Hurst

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