



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Two Summer 2011

MILL LANE

BOLLINGTON

THE POACHERS
INN
FREEHOUSE

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**BOLLINGTON***Live!*

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CONGESTION CHAOS

The Town Council and local residents are still working to improve pedestrian safety and vehicle congestion around the Co-op on Albert Road. The results of a traffic survey carried out from 7am - 8pm on Friday 20th May by the Town Council and local volunteers emphasised the scale of the problem.

The survey counted over 670 vehicles parking at the Co-op during this period and, with only six general and one disabled spaces, a high number of vehicles ended up parked on the roadway, pavement and even in the doorway. The survey also counted 849 vehicles

The solution, which will also consider what happens on Moss Brow, is likely to involve road treatments to slow traffic, signage and potentially more parking spaces. It may also include more loading and parking restrictions with more active enforcement.

Cheshire East Highways has been evaluating a number of options and it is hoped that the results will be forthcoming soon. The Co-op has also been approached to become more involved in delivering these solutions and not being seen in some quarters as just the cause of the problem. The Co-op is a well used and valued facility - but such



Photograph by
David Naylor

turning into Albert Road and 845 leaving (not having stopping at the Co-op). Added to this were 199 vehicles turning into Riverbank Close and 193 leaving.

These are significant numbers and when the mix includes a proportion of heavy lorries, buses along with manoeuvring and stationary Co-op delivery vehicles, it presents a congestion and safety problem in need of a solution - especially when Albert Road is the home to two primary schools.

success carries a responsibility to minimize impact on local residents and to carry out, as far as possible, a safe operation.

In recognition of the potential hazards to children, Cheshire East Council has provided a zebra crossing, albeit recently damaged by a passing lorry. Cheshire East Council is also funding a lollipop crossing patrol person but their advert has not attracted an applicant. If there are any readers who would like to take on this role please contact the Town Clerk.

David Naylor

EDITORIAL

Summer is here and our deliverers are once again pounding the streets. Thank you to our many 'unsung heroes' for getting yet another issue of *Bollington Live!* to every household and business in Bollington. Hopefully there is a bit of something for everyone. Of course if you think we are not covering your particular area of interest, please do get in touch with your stories and ideas.

This time around we seem to have something of a 'green' theme. Our article on making more use of our town for growing produce gives food for thought - and hopefully can be a catalyst for action. We also take a look at how Bollington Carbon Revolution is progressing, as well as seeing how two of our businesses are 'going green'. An article on butterflies also emphasises the importance of caring for our environment.

Elsewhere we look at a few current events - the problems with traffic on Albert Road for one. Is there a solution? The development of the new Skate Park is much more positive as is the news of the forthcoming Walking Festival.

Our readers who look forward to historical articles will be pleased to read the latest instalment on Bollington Urban District Council. We also compare the future, present and past for St. John's Church.

Finally we hear about the exploits of some of our footballers and the sheer idiocy of a Bollington team having to play home games in Macclesfield and Macclesfield teams playing their home games in Bollington... You couldn't make it up!

Enjoy the issue.

Anthony Holland

Date for
next copy:
Friday 30th
Sept. 2011

GARDENING GALORE

"Those aren't leaks, those are drips!" It was early in 2010 when my neighbour saw me returning from my allotment with a pitiful harvest. I decided that I would have to try harder.

Fruit and veg have always been my favourite part of horticulture. I remember as a child being taken for a walk by my father past the wonderful walled kitchen garden at Savio House and then dreaming of gardening there myself. Now I am one of the lucky few who have an allotment in Bollington and I love it!

There are 55 people on a waiting list for allotments at the moment and a lot of those have been waiting for a long time! The only ones available are some privately owned ones at Lowerhouse and half-a-dozen or so provided by Bollington Town Council near to Bollington Leisure Centre.

This is obviously not good enough so perhaps Bollington's famous 'we'll sort it' attitude should be allowed to take over!

To quote the Bollington Town Plan: "Inevitably there are commercial pressures on any land in the town but clearly the Town Council should be supported in its efforts to increase the provision of allotments..."

The Bollington Cross Youth Project proposed to make some

Most allotment strategies quote the 1969 Thorpe Report which recommends a minimum provision equivalent to fifteen allotments per thousand population.

By this reckoning, Bollington Town Council should be looking to provide over 100 allotments - they have some way to go!

Photograph by Janet Beech



new allotments available by the Leisure Centre but, to quote a representative, 'vociferous local pressure denied this opportunity'.

A more hopeful prospect is at Harrop Road where an area has been found with space for 8 to 10 allotments. Arrangements are being made to prepare the site but it is hoped that community action could prevail and a working party be assembled to do what is necessary.

There is a community garden at Ingersley Vale that has plenty of space but needs enthusiastic gardeners.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO HAVE LARGE COUNCIL MAINTAINED SPACES WITH FLOWERS AND ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS WHEN FRUIT TREES AND PERENNIAL VEGETABLE PLANTS ARE SO ATTRACTIVE?

Putting on 'allotment seeking glasses', what can we find? Some of our former mill-owner houses have large walled gardens that might be suitable. So Mount Hall, Limefields, the Waterhouse, and my long time favourite Savio House could be candidates. Some gardens throughout Bollington might be too difficult for their owner and a landshare agreement could be reached whereby their garden was utilised for growing produce.

Thinking further, why do we have to have large council maintained spaces with flowers and ornamental shrubs when fruit and/or nut trees, currant bushes and perennial vegetable plants are so attractive? Couldn't some of the planting areas outside the Clarence Mill be used for herbs to give, cut and come again, along with salad crops for the Café Waterside to cook with? Maybe the lovely outdoor seating area of Maggoty Johnson could be planted with tumbler tomatoes,

nasturtiums and other pretty edibles. What about the large borders outside the Library and on the Recreation Ground? Why not grow ground covering, weed-smothering alpine strawberries? So what if people sample them? Come on Horticultural Society, get an edible planting scheme that could be implemented and maintained by the younger part of the Community. I was interested in gardening from my childhood and there are lots of young people living in the town who might welcome the chance to look after some of the open spaces, with guidance. Then, if they want to pick some of the results of their labours, then they will have deserved it!

I tried so hard with my growing last year that I had a surplus of some crops. Bollington came to the rescue again. I saw an advert in the newsagents window. 'Galore', a small local company producing preserves and chutneys, was looking for anyone with lots of fruit and vegetables who would be willing to trade. I swapped rhubarb and apples and got something rather tasty in return.

'Liveseys' on High Street is willing to put any spare crops on a stand outside their shop for people to use.

What about the Bridgend Centre using one of its display carts for people to swap surplus food?

Finally, can we have a Farmers Market once a month? Perhaps situated on the Middlewood Way by Grimshaw Lane, or even on our suitably named Market Place? All it needs is volunteers to co-ordinate efforts. There are lots of people who are interested and just need a focus to get started. **Janet Beech**

Could we take a (edible) leaf out of the hugely successful "Incredible Edible" scheme undertaken by the community at Todmorden?

<http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk>

Nearer to home, the Food4Macc website might give more food for thought.

<http://www.maccinfo.com/Food4Macc/index.html>

SKATE PARK

Bollington is closer to having its own state-of-the-art skate park at Adlington Road. The Town Council has recently become the overseeing body for this project and at its July 5th meeting it is expected to give the go ahead for tenders to be invited.

The Skate Park will be formed from earth hollows and banks with a blown concrete surface and its curves and jumps will provide an exciting ride for our many local enthusiasts. Young people have been involved in the design of this facility and experience has shown in other parts of the country that these facilities are well used and cared for. Planning permission is being sought; however the low banking will be less obtrusive than the current structure.

Funding is being provided from a variety of sources, including Landfill Credits (WREN) and Community Spaces. The Town Council has also contributed to the proportion of local match funding that has to accompany such funding bids. The total sum for this project will be about £70,000. The completion date for the project will be March next year.

Readers will also be aware that new play equipment has recently been installed in the children's play area at Adlington Road. This was opened by David Rutley MP during the Annual Family Picnic. It was a bright interlude in a somewhat wet and windy day. David is also being considered to open the Skate Park, he is an energetic guy, but even he may have to bow to the skills of the potential users of this facility. The current front runner is Mark Pinches, the project leader, who has worked tirelessly to deliver this project.

David Naylor



If you have a hedge that requires laying please contact Richard@kriv.org.uk

Photograph by Tom Swales



For further valuable insights into what has been and still is a truly remarkable project and memorable experience for all those involved, do have a look at the website at www.kriv.org.uk or via its link at www.happy-valley.org.uk

Image of planned Skate Park (below) produced by Mark Pinches

ALIVE & KRIVING!

THE KRIV PROJECT CONTINUES:

The KRIV Countryside and Heritage Project was a community project that was first formed in 1998. It aimed to retain and restore industrial heritage features found in and around Bollington and Rainow. In 2006 the project was awarded the UK's first Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme, for a four year programme.

Despite many people in the area thinking that the project had ended when the lottery funding ceased in July 2010, seamlessly, a second phase of the project began.

has provided training in skills which have supported the undertaking of the above tasks, as well as 'First Aid and 'Team Leadership'. Since the Lottery funding ceased, members mostly learn their skills through observing and working alongside 'experienced members'. Volunteers lead the planned task each week. Very occasionally, the group is joined by professionals for specific tasks, e.g. Marbury Country Park Rangers have helped with hedge laying and charcoal making, while local professional waller, John Robertson, has shared his skills in dry stone walling with the group.

The KRIV volunteers are now trained hedge layers and with over five years experience working as a team, are able to offer their skills to local landowners to lay hedges in the traditional Cheshire style. There are now fine examples of their work in Rainow, Swanscoe and Pott Shrigley.

The volunteers have also hosted team-building days in association with Savio House, when 45 of the employees of the National Union of Students, based in Macclesfield, enjoyed a taste of life as KRIV volunteers. They will be back again this year for a third time. All money raised from these activities goes towards the annual costs of overheads and new tools when required. Not to mention the chocolate biscuits on Fridays!

KRIV have developed close ties with the local landowners on whose land they work, including Tullis Russell Coaters of Bollington. A small number of the KRIV team were pleased to take all of their workers on a guided walk over Tullis Russell land in the KRIV area during the mill's 'away day'.

The volunteers current Steering Group meet twice a year to discuss the tasks, which will ensure all the good work the project has completed over the past four years, is still in good order. This group will continue to meet twice a year until 2015 and have a small budget to help with the maintenance of the heritage features during this period.

Kate and John Gooding

This second phase aims to maintain the features that have been restored over the past four years and is supported by a dedicated KRIV volunteer team of like-minded enthusiastic individuals.

At the first meeting back in September 2006 four volunteers turned up for the task, three are still working with the group today. There are now approximately twenty men and women who meet every Friday, with a few volunteers also undertaking tasks during the week.

Regular tasks carried out by the team include: woodland and river-bank management, footpath maintenance, hedge laying, repairing dry stone walls, clearance of undergrowth... and the repainting of White Nancy.

These KRIV volunteers have steadily grown in experience. In the past, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)

HOW GREEN IS OUR VALLEY?

For the last five years the Bollington Carbon Revolution group has helped us all to understand how important it is to reduce our carbon footprint and to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle.

They started with a small group of volunteers who came together to look at ways in which they could help Bollington understand and reduce its carbon footprint. Since forming in September 2006 as part of the Bollington Civic Society, the group has helped our town achieve a saving of 445 tonnes of carbon, by providing simple, useful information to local residents via training and behavioural change programmes, events, displays and film screenings, a thermal imagery service, a community garden scheme and a tree planting scheme.

SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS HAVE IN THE PAST REDUCED THEIR UTILITY BILLS BY AS MUCH AS £400 PER YEAR BY GETTING INVOLVED

The Bollington Carbon Revolution team of volunteers are currently running a training programme, available free of charge to households to help them understand and reduce their environmental impact - successful participants have in the past reduced their utility bills by as much as £400 per year by getting involved. The group also has designs and half the funding needed to turn the disused toilet block at the end of Shrigley Road into an exemplar low-carbon building, showcasing a whole range of technologies with the aim to educate and inspire local residents and businesses to follow suite. Future plans also include generating community renewable energy and running a bulk purchasing scheme. Meanwhile, *Bollington Live!* has looked at two local companies to see how green our Happy Valley is so far.

Right: Ralph Pettengell of Carbon Footprint Investments.

www.carbonfootprintinvestments.co.uk
www.bollingtoncarbonrevolution.org.uk
www.tullis-russell.co.uk/coaters

Below: Paul Williams (Tullis Russell) receiving the company's environmental award

Tullis Russell Coaters recently won an award for the way it has reduced its emissions and reduced how much of its waste has to go to landfill. Paul Williams, who is their Health, Safety & Environmental Officer, showed *Bollington Live!* around the factory. Tullis Russell Coaters products include postage stamp paper, security papers for passports and visas, ceramic and fabric transfer papers, and heat sealed coatings. They acknowledge the helpful advice they have got from both Groundwork Cheshire and the Carbon Trust. Simply turning down the thermostats, insulating steam pipes and fitting low energy lighting has made a big difference. Annual CO₂ emissions are now down by 46%. Waste is separated and then recycled and a waste paper compactor also helps them to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 81%, giving a site recycling rate of 96%. Groundwork Cheshire has calculated that their carbon footprint is down by 21% in the last two years. Paul says they can use the Forest Stewardship Council to trace where all their paper comes from and where their recycled waste ends up.

Paul explained that they hold weekly communications meetings to keep everyone involved. Three key projects work as follows: *H-2-Low* greatly reduces the use of water; *WOW* is a war on waste; and *Kill-a-Watt* saves energy. "Ensuring that all the improvements are implemented has been spurred on by taking those initial no cost or low cost measures. Then step by step as

we have increased our investment, this has resulted in shorter payback periods and the level of savings for us has mushroomed. Environmental efficiency is one of those rare situations in business where every party involved is a winner. The cost savings stack up; we consume less natural resource; the whole company is proud of its collective achievements; we've won awards; the results impress our customers; and our philosophy boosts our brand and business worldwide".



The offices of Carbon Footprint Investments were opened in Clarence Mill in January 2010 by Ralph Pettengell, their chief executive. He told *Bollington Live!* that he quickly decided the office space provided at the Mill was exactly what he was looking for. The hills around our town provide for two of his hobbies: fell running and mountain biking!

His company is based on his recognition that investments made in companies having the lowest possible carbon footprint are bound to perform better than the average, because governments are starting to penalise those companies that pay no attention to the risks associated with global warming. His company has created a new investment fund that tracks the companies in the FTSE 350 and is tilted towards those that have the lowest carbon footprint because they will be better placed to deal with the wave of climate change legislation and changes in taxation that we know are to be introduced in the next few years.

Nicola Percival & Mark Stedman



FROM GRAVE DOUBT...

It was in Spring 2003 that an article appeared in *Bollington Live!* about the threatened closure of St. John's Church on Church Street. Our worst fears came to pass and the building has remained empty and unused since the end of May 2003.

Various ideas were considered for the future of the 1834 building, ranging from its potential to be developed for flats, to a heritage centre, or its partial demolition to produce an attractive open space with a better managed and improved graveyard. In 2003 a brief was prepared for a thorough feasibility study to look into the options, but nothing was progressed at that time.

By 2010 the Civic Society had been unable to find any satisfactory financially viable use for the building and therefore supported the proposal by the Simply Group (based in Adelphi Mill) to convert it for residential use.

There was a final chance to ring the bells at St. John's Church on the weekend of 15th/16th January 2011. The Vicar, Revd. Veronica Hydon, suggested that the peal be rung in honour of St. Agatha, who is the patron saint of bell foundries and also of people suffering from breast diseases: so the proceeds of the event, a wonderful £424, were split between the Stockton Heath, Warrington, church funds towards the re-homing of the bells and the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity. St. Agatha's feast day is actually



5th February, but the final peal had to be before that as the bells were being removed in the week beginning 17th January. The Church was crowded with those who wished to hear this historic peal one

last time. Yet more stood outside in the rain for an even better sound. After the bells, the organ was given a final opportunity to fill the church with its wonderful sound, before it too was dismantled and taken to an organ builder for complete renovation. It will eventually find a new home in St. George's Church, Nailsworth, in Gloucestershire.

During the following week the eight bells were dismounted and lowered to the ground. They have been taken, together with their metal hanging frames, to the J. Taylor & Co. Foundry in Loughborough where they were cast 130 years ago in 1880. There they will be stored until the church in Stockton Heath is ready to hang them once again.

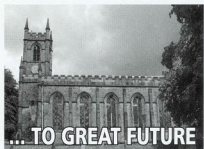
ST. AGATHA IS THE PATRON SAINT OF BELL FOUNDRIES AND ALSO OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM BREAST DISEASES

The conversion of the church has begun with the removal of memorial stones from 110 graves. No bodies are being moved. All the affected graves are over 100 years old. The stones have been moved to other parts of the graveyard where their inscriptions can be seen. They were all photographed before work began.

The conversion of the church will begin shortly. There will be thirteen duplex apartments and they will occupy a completely freestanding structure within the existing building. The only changes to the outside of the building will be the insertion of some roof lights. The apartments will be finished to a very high standard and will be rented out as premium residences.

History of St. John's Church

The Church of England was the last of the main Christian religions to establish a church in Bollington and it was built in 1834, a Commissioners Church. Prior to that Bollington was part of Prestbury parish. Many are the tales of wedding and funeral



Above: St. John's Church
Bottom Left: Relocated gravestones. - Photograph by Anthony Holland

Bottom Right: St. John's Church in its heyday. Discovery Centre Collection

The picture (below) shows the gravestone for the George Unwin family. George was a clogger, and would have made clogs for mill workers.



parties trudging their way across the fields to St. Peter's. Rainow was also a part of Prestbury Parish and the route to church was over the saddle of Kerridge Hill and down through Five Ashes!

The land for the church was given by William Turner of Shrigley Hall whose generosity also provided for the original St. Gregory's Chapel at the end of Chapel Street, long since demolished. Turner, later Sir William Turner, used to be remembered by the naming of the Turner's Arms and will be again in Turner's Eco Lodge when funds are found to refurbish the toilet block at the foot of Shrigley Road.

Of course there are all kinds of people that we know well from the history of Bollington buried in the graveyard, from mill owners to their most menial servants and mill workers - all find equality in the graveyard. **Tim Boddington**

A new book has been published illustrating Bollington life as it was in 1911, called 'Bollington 1911'. It is now available at the Discovery Centre.



BE A LEPIDOPTERIST! (THAT'S A BUTTERFLY SPOTTER TO YOU AND I!)

The previous issue of *Bollington Live* included an article on the variety of birds that have been spotted in Bollington over the past year. Since then, I've been reliably informed that Bollington is also home to a wide range of butterfly species, thanks in the main, to the variety of flowers grown – especially the Buddleia – more commonly known as the 'butterfly bush'.

Butterflies are extremely important pollinators, coming fourth after bees, beetles and flies. Fluttering from plant to plant, they sip nectar from flowering plants and carry pollen from plant to plant, aiding pollination and plant reproduction.

They are also fascinating – for instance, do you know that butterflies can see red, green and yellow colours? Also, did you know that many can 'taste' leaves with their feet to find out whether the leaf they are sitting on would make good food for their

Bees, another excellent pollinator, are reported to be dwindling in number. If you are a bee keeper, or bee expert, it would be great to hear your thoughts on Bollington's bee population for a future edition.

Photograph by
Janet Beech

caterpillars, should they decide to lay their eggs there?

Often confused with moths, butterflies always fly during the day, sometimes basking with wings open, warming up in the sun. Moths, conversely, usually fly at night and rest with their wings outwards. Another, but more difficult to spot difference, is in their antennae, the butterfly antennae is always clubbed at the tip, whilst the moth is more hair-like or feathery.

Over the past year, Norma Mitchell, Bollington's own butterfly spotter, has been keeping an eye on the butterfly population of our Green Flag winning Recreation Ground and Adlington Road play area.

DID YOU KNOW THAT MANY BUTTERFLIES CAN 'TASTE' LEAVES WITH THEIR FEET?

Orange Tip butterflies were spotted in May. Only the male Orange Tip butterflies have orange tips to their forewings – and they are most commonly found amongst meadows and woodlands between April and June.

Some butterflies have eye spots to warn off predators. The Peacock butterfly has the largest eye spot, which it not only flashes to warn off predators, but also makes a scraping sound, by rubbing its wings together. They are one of the most common garden butterflies and were spotted between June and August. Watch out for Peacock caterpillars (black with white spots and short spines) amongst the stinging nettles during May and June.

In July, Meadow Brown and Large White butterflies were found. The Large White is another

very common garden butterfly, their caterpillars often considered a pest by gardeners, spoiling brassica crops, such as cabbage, kale and brussel sprouts, and nasturtiums.

The widest variety of species were spotted during August, which, no doubt, was due to the range of flowering plants blossoming. In addition to the Large White and Peacock butterflies, Norma also found the Small White, Green Veined White, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Holly Blue, all of which are widespread in England and Wales.

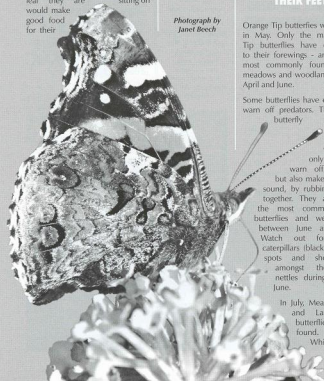
The Small Tortoiseshell is among the most well known of butterflies in Britain. It has a striking and attractive patterning and can be found at almost any time of the year in urban areas. It is one of the first butterflies to be seen in spring and in the autumn it often visits garden flowers in large numbers.

Holly Blue butterflies are a small species and are the first blue butterflies to emerge in early spring. They tend to fly high around bushes and trees, and as the name suggests, are commonly found in parks and gardens around holly bushes.

The Large White, Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell were joined by the Speckled Wood butterfly during September. Speckled Wood butterflies fly in partially shaded woodland with dappled sunlight, feeding on honeysuckle in the tree tops, rather than flowers.

There are many things we can do to encourage more butterflies to visit our gardens and open spaces. On the Recreation Ground, Norma has recommended the planting of wild flowers, such as Dame's Violet and Knapweed.

In gardens, you can encourage more butterflies by planting a variety of flowering plants in sunny, sheltered spots. Spring flowers are great for butterflies coming out of hibernation and autumn flowers help butterflies build up their reserves for the winter. The best plants for summer nectar include the Buddleia, Verbena Bonariensis, Lavender, Perennial Wallflower and Marjoram. **Kate Kilpatrick**



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SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 3rd 8.00pm
Jazz at the Arts Centre.
Ring 01625 574410 for details.

Friday September 29th 7.30pm
Beer Street.
Mikron Theatre Company. Slightly earlier this year, but no less welcome. Mikron is back for its annual visit with one of its unique drama/documentaries which entertain and inform simultaneously. Come and enjoy hearing about the history of beer and brewing. Tickets and more details from 01625 574687.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 1st 8.00pm
Jazz at the Arts Centre.
Mart Roger Manchester Jazz. An old favourite returns. Tickets £9.
Ring 01625 574410.

Friday October 7th 8.00pm
Bolly Comedy Club.
Tickets £9 plus booking fee from www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk Enquiries to: bollycomedyclub@virginmedia.com

Saturday October 8th 8.00pm
Bollington Chamber Concerts.
The Sacconi Quartet. Back for the fourth time, an indication of how highly we rate them, the Sacconi will play quartets by Haydn, Bartok and Schubert. Tickets £14 (concessions £7 for students and claimants) from 01625 560355 or 575287.

October 18th - 22nd 7.30 pm

Bollington Festival Players.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. This musical by Stephen Sondheim tells the story of a bawdy slave named Pseudolus and his attempts to win his freedom by helping his young master woo the girl next door. Tickets Tues, Weds, Thurs £9 (Concessions £7) Fri, Sat all seats £9 available from 01625 875326 or email valpostance@btinternet.com

Friday October 28th 7.30pm

Bollington Walking Festival.

Martin Wainwright - Walking, Writing, Talking. The Northern Editor of The Guardian on striding from coast-to-coast and other expeditions. £5/£4 Pay at Door.

Saturday October 29th 11am - 4 pm

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NOVEMBER

Friday November 4th 8.00pm

Bolly Comedy Club.

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ARTS CENTRE CONTACTS

Secretary: Catherine Hoe, 575001
Art Exhibitions: David Ransley, 575287
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
Wt Art Group: Sheila Ratcliffe, 877844

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday July 10th

Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race.
Race starts at 11am. This will be the seventh year that this event has taken place. Details from the Bridgend Centre 01625 576311.

Sunday July 10th

July Fair.

Bollington Recreation Ground.

Thursday August 18th

Naturecraft for Kids
Riverside Park, Tytherington. Enjoy arts and crafts with natural materials. Suitable for accompanied children aged 6-11 years. Booking Essential (book from 18th July onwards) tel. 01625 504505.

Saturday October 15th

Toy Sale.

St. John's School. More than twenty tables of nearly new children's toys, clothes and baby equipment. 10.00am to midday.

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 and forthcoming events contact Joyce Burton on 572668 or email bollington.horticultural@hotmail.com

Thursday July 21st 7.00pm

Garden Visits

A visit to Joyce Burton and Ann Stringer's gardens. Refreshments, bring and buy sales table. All proceeds to the East Cheshire Hospice.

Saturday September 3rd 2-4.30pm
Bollington & District Horticultural Society 47th Annual Show.

Bollington Civic Hall. Adults £1.00. Children and concessions 50p.

All entries are welcome and must be registered with the show secretary Joyce Burton by Wednesday 31st August, 9.00pm.

Dates for your Diary

TO INCLUDE YOUR FUTURE EVENTS, CONTACT THE EDITOR ON 268047 OR E-MAIL: LIVEDATES@HAPPY-VALLEY.ORG.UK

HISTORY GROUP

Tim Boddington, whose Happy Valley website gives a very good overview of Bollington History along with relevant historical publications, organised a meeting at the end of March to discuss establishing a new Bollington History Group.

Attendance was good and a number of sub-groups have been set up:

Liz Donlon, Coordinator

Alison Draper, Collections

David Haddleton, Oral History

Ursula Wainwright, Bollington Families

Tom Swailes, Land and Industry

If you would like to know more, or would like to get involved yourself, please e-mail: bollington-history@googlegroups.com

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Friday Photo Walks.

Each walk will concentrate on a different photographic technique. Bring a camera. Meet at 7pm at the Ranger Station, Adlington Road.

July 29th Camera on Manual
August 26th Panoramas
September 30th Low Level

GRANTS SCHEME

Bollington Town Council annually allocate grants, from their budget, to voluntary organisations in Bollington.

The Council is particularly keen to assist organisations that are concerned with the welfare of young people and the elderly of the community.

Grant application forms can be downloaded from the website <http://parish.cheshire.gov.uk/bollington> or collected from Bollington Town Hall and must be returned by **Friday 31 August 2011** to:

Jennifer Brockbank, Responsible Financial Officer, Bollington Town Hall,
Wellington Road. Tel: 572985

email: j.brockbank.bollington.tc@btconnect.com

WELL DRESSING

As it is now the middle of summer, the Bollington Well Dressers are putting the finishing touches to this year's decorations in readiness for the 2011 Festival, which begins on 2nd July and lasts for one week.

The preparation is being done in the Cricket Pavilion in Bollington Recreation Ground between Wednesday 29th June and Friday 1st July. Anyone who would like to see how the pictures are made will be invited in and will be able to 'have a go' and hopefully stay for an hour or two! All help will be very welcome, especially from former petallers.

Bollington Cross School pupils have designed and made the tableau in the Nat West Bank grounds, the Flower Club ladies have decorated the spring at the top of Lord St. The other dressings are in the Memorial Gardens, the well in the garden off Pool Bank and of course the Greg Fountain.

The Greg Fountain is the venue for the Opening Ceremony which will be at 11.30 am on Saturday 2nd July and performed by the Town Mayor.

Trail leaflets will be available in the Post Office, Library, Medical Centre along with local shops, and direction arrows will be placed in appropriate locations.

We hope everyone in Bollington will follow the trail and view these well dressings, together with the many visitors our town welcomes every year.

For more details please phone Jean on 01625372539 or Chris on 01625374208.

Chris Gosling

TEXTILE & WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITIONS

JULY & AUGUST

The Greys and their Lady's Maid - A story through textiles and watercolours.

Discovery Centre, Clarence Mill.

Wed. 1.30-4.00, Sat./Sun 11.00-4.00,

Bollington Library, Palmerton Street.

Tues. 09.30 - 19.00, Wed.- Fri. 09.30 - 17.00 (closed 13.00 - 14.00), Saturday 09.30 - 13.00

In the Discovery Centre, the story of the Greys' Lady's Maid through her textiles and needlework. Samuel Greg Junior of Lowerhouse Mill was a prominent textile manufacturer in Bollington in the nineteenth century, and the son of Samuel Greg of Quarry Bank Mill. The story of the family and their Maid is told through clothing, letters and photographs. In Bollington Library there will be a related exhibition of the watercolours of Bollington scenes painted by Amy Greg, Samuel Greg's daughter.

LOCAL ORGANISED WALKS

The Bridgend Centre organise regular short, moderate and longer walks, taking in points of interest and local history along the way.

The short walks (about 2 miles) will run on Tuesdays, setting off from the Centre at 10.30am on June 28th and July 26th.

Moderate walks (about 3 miles) are on Wednesdays, again leaving the Centre at 10.30am.

Longer walks (about 4-6 miles) take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, take about 2½ hours and leave the Centre at 10am.

For more information please contact the Bridgend Centre on 01625 576311 <http://www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/> info@bridgendcentre.org.uk

East Cheshire Ramblers also run regular walks, usually on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. To view the latest planned walks please visit the website at: www.ramblers-eastcheshire.org.uk/scenic.html or contact:

membership@ramblers-eastcheshire.org.uk to get involved.



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IT'S ALL AN ACT!

The first time I stepped into Bollington Arts Centre, I was very nervous and a little scared at all the staring faces. At 13 I had next to nil confidence but somehow I plucked up the courage to be part of the local theatre group.

I was introduced to everyone and before I knew it I was in my first play. It was a play called 'Rabbit' written by Pat Penny, who has been part of the Arts Centre for many years.

I remember playing the characters San and Kron (completely made up in Pat's brilliant mind I'm sure) and before I knew it, I had become part of one of the most important things in my life - Bollington Festival Players. From then on I became what I would call 'slightly obsessed' them and wanted to get involved with so much more as acting seemed to have become a very big part of my life in a very small amount of time.

My first Pantomime was 'Mother Hubbard' and it was one of the best experiences of my life. Ironically, the Arts Centre seems to come out of hibernation in the wintering season. Everyone comes together as one big team and attempts to put on "The best Pantomime Bollington has ever seen..." and every year it seems to come true!

**AS THE ACTORS AGE
RANGED BETWEEN
ELEVEN AND SEVENTEEN,
THERE WAS QUITE A
LOT OF WORK TO DO
TO KEEP THEM UNDER
CONTROL!**

As the number of shows I was in increased, so did my confidence. I changed from a timid young teenager to a confident older one who now wants to do so many different things involved with theatre. I started stepping in for production rehearsals I wasn't in and even got to do the lighting for a few of them.

Right now, I am concentrating on the directing side of acting. It is probably the most stressful. I directed my first play last year called



'Mugged' and the most recent was in March where I did 'Kidsplay', with much needed help from Pat Penny and David Postance. As the actors age ranged between eleven and seventeen, there was quite a lot of work to do to keep them under control! The thing that I love about it is that it seems so worthwhile in the end. You forget about all the problems and how much your throat hurts after rehearsals from all of the shouting you did. You just sit back and try to relax whilst watching a show you have produced. Fortunately, everyone who has been in a play of mine has done me proud. They are exceptionally talented and have the most wonderful personalities. I honestly love all of them with all my heart and I cannot thank them enough for how much they have helped me to make one of my dreams come true.

However, I do believe that there are two people that are mostly to thank, their names being Valerie & David Postance. They have been a dedicated couple of the Players for over 20 years and a lot depends on them. I always feel as though I can talk to them when I need to, which makes the Players feel so much

more like a family than just a place to perform.

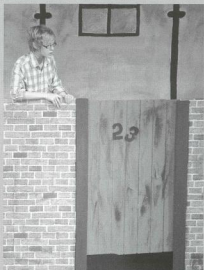
There are many people that I could mention here who make it feel like home, but then most of my article would only consist of names. However, there is one other name that I have to mention here, Graham Lawson. What a wonderful and caring man. Graham was the gentleman who got me started with theatre lighting and showed me another side to what is needed to make a performance so much better. He would help anyone with anything and would go out of his way to make people happy.

Sadly and shockingly, Graham passed away on February 20th this year. I still cannot believe that he isn't with us anymore, as he was there all the time and always so dependable. It just shows how you never know what is going to happen in the future and I think everyone at the Arts Centre only recently appreciates how much Graham did. He will always be in our hearts and his soul will always be up in the lighting box, shining on the stage of so many talented people.

Emma-Clare Sheldon

*Bollington Festival
Players in action*

*Photographs by
Janet Beech*



TOGETHER AGAIN: BOLLINGTON AND KERRIDGE

Feelings about communities and within communities grow and develop over time and often become settled features of the cultural landscape. If you asked the average Bollingtonian what are their feelings about Adlington, it is doubtful you would stir much interest or comment. Ask them about Prestbury and you may get a more vigorous reaction!

For hundreds of years Bollington was subject to the religious dominance of Prestbury Parish. In the early 19th century they became parished themselves and with one bound they were free!

What is clear from our local history is that relations between Bollington and Kerridge have not always been easy, even though we are close-knit communities with a common history, stretching back centuries emerging from the Royal Forest of Macclesfield. There are obvious differences. Kerridge's prosperity was based on hard coal and stone; Bollington's on the rapid flow of soft water. Kerridge found the source of its wealth on the hillsides overlooking the Cheshire Plain; Bollington in the depths of the valley that held the fast flowing River Dean, trapping the soft damp air that made cotton spinning so easy. Kerridge's houses are scattered in tiny clumps; Bollington's are huddled together in close-knit streets.

So it was that in 1862 the Bollington Improvement and Lighting Act excluded both Kerridge and Bollington Cross from its provisions. When the Bollington Urban District Council was created at the beginning of 1895 the boundaries were narrowly drawn and excluded Kerridge and Bollington Cross.

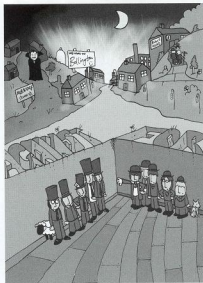
By 1900 Kerridge and Bollington Cross residents had recognised their mistake and asked Bollington UDC to petition Cheshire County Council to allow them to amalgamate.

This was a big step to take and involved a complex process similar to a modern planning enquiry.

In December 1900 a distinguished group of local worthies met in Macclesfield Town Hall. Proceedings

were presided over by County Councillor Alderman Beeley with local County Councillors Francis Greg JP and Frank Barlow.

The importance of the occasion for Bollington UDC was emphasized by the fact they had retained a barrister at great expense to present their case, a Mr. Honoratus Lloyd. No less a person than Mr. Reginald Potts, Clerk to the County Council was present to advise the adjudicators.



The main opposition was from the Macclesfield Rural District Council that stood to lose prestige and rateable value if Kerridge moved to Bollington. Such a move might encourage other small parishes to move as well. A lot was at stake. However a Rural District Council did not have the resources of Bollington and they were represented merely by their Clerk Mr. J. E. May.

The atmosphere in the room was tense when Alderman Beeley invited Mr. Lloyd to present his case for amalgamation. Mr. Lloyd did so at great length but in summary he

said three things. Firstly, Kerridge people were now unanimously in favour of amalgamation. 177 people had attended a Parish meeting, 176 had voted in favour and the one who voted against wrote in the next day saying he had changed his mind after a 'conversation' in the Bull's Head! Secondly, there were strong geographical links between Bollington, Bollington Cross and Kerridge, the only real difference was that you could see in Bollington at night - because the streets were lit and safe to walk about in! Thirdly, Bollington could provide pure running water to all except five of the houses in Kerridge and their general rate would not increase due to the profits made by the BUDC's own gasworks!

His case was supported by officers and members of Kerridge Parish Council. Mr. Blunt their Clerk merely added bluntly, that he had 'nothing to add'.

The opposition in the form of Mr. J. E. May stood to address the meeting. Mr. May had a difficult job. He was Clerk to the Macclesfield Rural District Council and they had been struggling to provide water for Kerridge - but even if they could buy some from Macclesfield, there would be 214 houses they couldn't reach. However they then discovered that Macclesfield lacked the legal power to sell water in bulk. They had no profitable enterprises like Bollington's gasworks. They had tried to provide sewage disposal for Bollington Cross but had to use the land of Mr. Greg and Mr. Antrobus who got into a competition between them as to how much rent they wanted which made the whole plan 'ruinously expensive'.

Trying to defend their case was Mr. Thorp the District Council's surveyor. He ducked and dived but eventually admitted that he knew of no opponents to the amalgamation of Bollington and Kerridge.

Counsel Lloyd sensed a killer moment. He adopted a sharper tone. 'Then if Kerridge wants it and Bollington wants it what does it matter to you?' Thorp replied: 'I am not raising any objection.'

REUNITED.

Lloyd 'Don't you think it a very reasonable thing?

Thorp 'No sir; because we shall be crippled in carrying out schemes in our own area.'

Lloyd 'Do you think it would be of advantage to Kerridge?'

Thorp 'No sir, I think it would be of advantage to Bollington.'

Lloyd 'Why?' By increasing their rateable value - isn't that what Macclesfield Rural District Council doesn't like?

Thorp 'Certainly'

Lloyd 'And that is the whole matter?'

Thorp 'I should think so.'

Lloyd 'And so should I.'

This clear exposure of Macclesfield RDC's selfish reasons for opposing the amalgamation clinched the decision. There were further exchanges during a long day's work but the Adjudication Panel's minds were set firmly on the advantages to both communities and particularly Kerridge of the amalgamation.

When the decision was announced a little later in 1900, Kerridge and Bollington Cross were amalgamated with Bollington - and we have lived scratchily together ever since.

Ken Edwards

The Bollington Initiative Trust, which now has devolved management of the school (now renamed the Water Street Centre) would be very interested in receiving any other stories from or about former pupils or teachers at Water Street School.

Right: Ronald Grounds

Bottom: Arthur Grounds

Photographs provided by G.A.Walley

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

On reading the article on Water Street School in the previous issue of *Bollington Live!* I wondered if anyone had thought of what happened to the children who were taught there. Recent events which have happened to me have made me think of my wife's family's early days in Bollington.

My wife's father, William (Bill) Grounds, left Bollington to emigrate to Canada, and as the First World War broke out he volunteered for the Canadian Army and finished up in France, getting wounded at Ypres. Having been transferred to England he met and married on 12th August 1919 a young lady who worked as a Nanny at the home of the owner of the biscuit makers, Huntley and Palmer, in the south of England.



Later, Bill returned to Bollington, to work at Oak Bank Mill, bringing his family - his wife, two boys and a girl, Madeleine Marguerite, who became my wife. (Incidentally, Madeleine was named after a French Governess, who had also worked at the house of the Huntley and Palmer's owner). All three attended Water Street School.

The eldest boy, Ronald, joined the Royal Army Service Corps on leaving school, progressing to becoming a Sergeant. In the Second World War he served in Singapore and became commissioned as an Officer. Later he transferred to Hong Kong, when the Japanese attacked the Island. On 21st December 1941 he showed incredibly bravery by leading an action which led to his untimely death. For this action he was Mentioned in Despatches.

The report in the London Gazette of Thursday 29th January 1948 read as follows:

"Repulse Bay Hotel:

At about 0930 hours Lt. Grounds, 1 Middlesex Regt., rang up on a civil telephone and reported that the Japanese had surrounded the Hotel. He was ordered to put the women and children on the lowest floor space and make them lie down, to organise the defence himself and to take full charge with Lt. Tresidder, R.A.S.C., to assist. With him were two or three Royal Navy personnel, and his own Middlesex machine gunners. Lt. Grounds did excellently until he was unfortunately killed whilst organising an attack on the isolated Hotel garage with the object of driving out a strong enemy party and rescuing HKVDC (Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps) officers and others imprisoned there."

My wife's second brother, Arthur Grounds, volunteered for the RAF in 1939 and became a wireless operator and gunner. He was promoted to Flight Sergeant and served in Bomber Command throughout the war, flying in 98 Squadron and 226 Squadron until he left the service in 1947.

In 1935 my wife and I met in Macclesfield, where she worked as a court dress maker for Charles Wilson Ltd. and I was a building surveyor. We moved in 2003 to Bollington. Madeleine sadly died in February this year after 74 years of marriage.

G.A. Whalley



CHAMPIONS!

At the beginning of May Bollington Brass Band received official confirmation that, as from January 2012, they will be playing in the Championship Section of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. This puts them on a par with bands such as Foden's, Fairley's, Black Dyke and Grimethorpe - and is a really tremendous achievement!

The band has progressed through the sections before this year's wonderful promotion to the top section.

Congratulations are due to Peter Christian (Musical Director) and to all the players, and especially to the five who will have played with the band in all five sections - Paul Berry, Mike Cheetham, John Nicol, Matt Berry and Chris Royle!

Roger Johnson

The band's next concert is in aid of Christie Hospital and will be held in Bollington Methodist Church at 7.30pm on 16th July. Tickets (adults £7, children £10) can be ordered from 01625 613851



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HANGING ON THE TELEPHONE

The new telephone charges at the Medical Centre have created significant controversy.

In a nutshell it seems that they have been given a 'free' telephone system in exchange for signing a contract committing them to use an 0844387 number provided by the equipment provider. The latter gets a kickback from the charges levied on the caller for every call made to the Centre; this funds the purchase of the equipment and provides their profit. In effect patients are being required to pay for the new equipment. Sadly, whatever opinion one might have on the ethics of this, it seems that it is entirely legal.

Ofcom's statistics indicate that 15% of the population have no fixed line and are dependent on mobile phones alone - again these are typically used on contracts where calls to landlines are 'free' up to a certain limit. In none of these situations are calls to 0844387 numbers included in the package. It seems likely that those with no fixed line are people on low incomes: people living in temporary accommodation, or on boats or in caravans. The call charges are likely to bear particularly heavily on such people.

It's worth pointing out also that, while it's usually possible to avoid calling these numbers, calls to the Medical Centre tend to be the exception. If you are ill, there is often no choice other than to telephone and the worse your health the more it's going to cost you.

As an indication of the charges to G11 numbers (the code for 0844387) I recently checked the following providers:

Sky G11
10.11p connection 4.09p / minute

Talk Talk G11
11.14p connection 6p / minute

Virgin PG11
12.24p connection 8.16p / minute

BT G11 (BT Basic and BT Standard Rate Customers)
3p connection 4.084p / minute

BT G11 (other domestic customers)
11.5p connection 4.084p / minute

Note that BT's charges to BT Basic and BT Standard Rate Customers are unusually low. It seems positively perverse that Ofcom use this as their basis for comparison.

It is clear that the Medical Centre is operating within the strict

From 'Which' magazine, June 11

'Earlier this year the Department of Health called on NHS health services to stop using 0844 numbers. They require them to ensure that the call charge should be no more than the equivalent for an 01 number.

The Dept. expects GPs to take 'all reasonable steps' to stop using expensive numbers.'

Photograph of The Medical Centre by John Appleyard

interpretation of the law and that they have already made a contractual commitment. I had hoped that our MP might see fit to find a way to publicise this issue to save other medical centres falling victim to these salesmen, but doubtless the government has more pressing issues to concern it.

To be fair to the staff at the Centre they have undertaken to do their best to contain these costs by offering to ring people back if a call threatens to be of long duration. We will see how this works out in practice.

Peter Hinch



KEEP STROLLIN' STROLLIN' STROLLIN'...

The Bridgend Centre is a key player in Bollington events, hosting both the Walking Festival and The Nostalgia Hill Race.

The first Bollington Walking Festival took place last October and was a great success drawing many people from the local area and beyond, introducing people to the many varied walks.

This year's Festival will be held from Friday 21st of October until Sunday 30th October. The Bridgend Centre is once again playing a vital role, leading at least one walk each day.

The walks vary from a ten mile hike to a two mile stroll and include all

the Heritage Trails and the new Tree Trail, which opened in June. The Centre is hosting two quiz walks for children and a specialist art walk and workshop led by local artist Lainey Ross. If you are new to Bollington this is a fantastic introduction to the beautiful countryside around us.



www.bridgendcentre.org.uk

Bridgend will also be involved in the social side of the Festival organising the opening Ceilidh, which will be held in Bollington Civic Hall on Friday 21st October. They will have a stall at the Arts Centre Craft Fair on Saturday 29th October and the Poacher's Inn will be hosting their usual Pub Quiz Night in aid of the Bridgend on Sunday 30th.

Walks around Bollington are led by staff at the Bridgend on most Wednesdays and now on some Mondays. The Centre staff enhance the walks with snippets of local history and interest and most people, even the regular walkers learn something new about Bollington.

Sandy Milsom

BOWLED OVER

Situated just a few feet within the Rainow parish boundary in Ingersley Vale, the Lower Mill Bowling Club sits at the foot of Kerridge Hill and this provided the original turf for laying the Bowling Green in 1923.

A.J. King, a textile bleaching firm in the Vale had the foresight to build this amenity for their employees, but business changes led to closure and five years later, H.L. Slater Ltd., having established a paper coating mill nearby in 1875, bought the present club site.

The Green was officially opened on 19 April 1928 by Colonel Sir Alan J. Sykes and the event engraved on the stone gate-post. The old Bollington Conservative Club in Adlington Road also has his name engraved on its foundation stone when it was laid in 1908.

For the next 61 years, Slater's were the owners, hence it still often referred to as 'Slater's Club.'

The Bowling Green's unique shape and pace has earned its reputation for being one of the most difficult to play in the area - especially during dry weather!

Over 82 years, only four keepers have maintained it: Bill and his son Tom Cumberbirch up to 1972,

Derrick Brooke for 25 years and now Paul Bradley, all living less than a mile away, three of whom were club members. Derrick now prefers bowling at Pott Shrigley Cricket Club - and writing their history.

Meanwhile, the club hut was little more than a shelter and so the nearest bush were the toilets, the bar was the local pub and a carpark was not a requirement for many years. Now, all are on site and are usually used in the reverse order!



For Coronation year 1953, a Cup was presented and played for annually between other paper mills in the APM company group: the Card Factory in Macclesfield, Peter Garretts at Otley in Yorkshire and Cooke & Nuttalls in Horwich, Lancashire. These were well

Below:
**'Champions of Bowling League'.
Members of H.L. Slater 'A' Bowling Team with the trophy won as 1969 champions of the Macclesfield & District Bowling League.**

*Photograph above
provided by Roger Molineux*

supported, especially as the coach fare and evening meals were paid for by the mill group.

In 1956, a fund raising handicap for the Lyme Green Paraplegic Settlement was followed the next year by an appeal for 'the whole of Lower Mill to increase the fund to £25 for a wheelchair'. Membership then reflected wage disparity, at three shillings for men and one for women.

1969 saw the team as Champions of the Macclesfield & District Bowling League.

Tullis Russell Coaters bought Lower Mill and also gained the Club in 1989. With H.L. Slater going, so did many of our best bowlers. The second team had to fulfill first team's fixtures and the wooden spoon was not long in coming! However, the league complimented us for our valiant efforts - not that we had much choice.

For the 80th anniversary in 2008, I commissioned a Bollington artist to capture the fine country setting of our green. The painting now hangs in pride of place, in the Managing Director's office of Tullis Russell in appreciation of their valued support for the club.

Roger Molineux

FROM THE LEISURE CENTRE...

There can sometimes be a misconception that exercise is only for the young but in fact the opposite is true - exercise promotes health and well being in all ages and can often help with some issues that are often associated with getting older.

Exercise helps to prevent heart disease, osteoporosis, help manage high blood pressure and cholesterol issues. It can help prevent type two diabetes, depression and even certain types of cancer. What's more, getting out and doing more is a good way to feel good about yourself, meet new friends and help pass the time of day productively.

Thirty minutes of exercise three times a week can really change your life. Gyms aren't for everyone but exercise should be. You can swim, take an exercise class, go for a walk, jog or run, ride a bike or even try that gym, the list is endless. What is important is that you get your heart rate up above what it is when you are resting.

Bollington Health & Leisure has a number of options to help you get active from classes such as yoga, pilates and aqua aerobics to swimming, to a gym that has walking machines, stationary bikes, stepping machines and rowers, so you can gain the benefits without

braving the elements. Lifting even the lightest of weights can help you build a healthy heart and expert staff are always on hand to advise you on exercise choices, even if you don't want to become a member!

Steven Hurst

*Right: Photograph
by Anthony Holland*

**www.
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GRASS ROOTS!

Imagine the scene. A soggy Sunday morning. There's a group of lads running about on a football pitch. It's The Queen's Arms Football Club.

The team play in the Macclesfield & District Sunday League, where, having gained promotion last season in only their first season in existence, have this year settled into the Premier Division with ease.

The team is managed, by Ben Dunkerley, who explained the team's beginnings.

"We started as a group of friends in a 6-a-side team. We played every week and won a few trophies along the way. This inspired us, with a few additions, to start up The Queen's FC. We haven't looked back since!"

Looking back on those two eventful seasons, Ben added "The first season was tough, we didn't know what to expect, winning some games by eight or more goals, then the next week, losing at half-time and having to battle for the points - but normally coming out on top! It was only to an experienced Spinners Arms team, managed by my good friend Jimmy Bask, that we just missed out on winning the league in our first



Photograph by Ben Dunkerley

If you can help the team with sponsorship or fundraising, please contact Clare Steinman at queensbollingtonfc@googlemail.com

season. Not bad going for a bunch of kids!!

In this, our second season, our first in the top flight, is one we can look back at and be proud, we got off to a great start with a long run of games without a loss. It was only due to a bad string of results mid-season, that we finished in mid-table. We also reached the semi-final of the League Cup. As the manager I knew how much this game meant to everyone because all the players and myself would have loved to represent Bollington at the Moss Rose. Maybe next season?"

It has not all been plain sailing however. In their first year, the home ground was at Bollington Cross. This year, sadly, they have had to call Macclesfield's Victoria

Park home. It seems bizarre that teams from Macclesfield and Wilmslow play their home games on The Rec, whilst a Bollington team has to play their home games elsewhere. "We really want to be playing in Bollington" Ben added, "especially as Bollington's only other Sunday League team at The Spinners Arms folded earlier this year".

It is also an expensive game to play, "It costs £600 per year just to use a pitch. On top of that there is all the equipment and kit to buy. The team pay their subs every week, but we need to do fundraising to help raise the money. We are looking for local businesses to sponsor the kit and team. Any offers of help would be gratefully received!"

One trophy which has been decided in the end-of-season awards is that for Top Goal Scorer, which goes to Stuart Ainsworth for the second year in a row. A special mention must also go to Team Captain, Calum Stanley for leading the team throughout the season.

Ben's final words? "I want to say thanks to the squad and that I am looking forward to another exciting season and...WE WANT OUR BOLLINGTON PITCH BACK!"

Anthony Holland

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