



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Three Winter 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

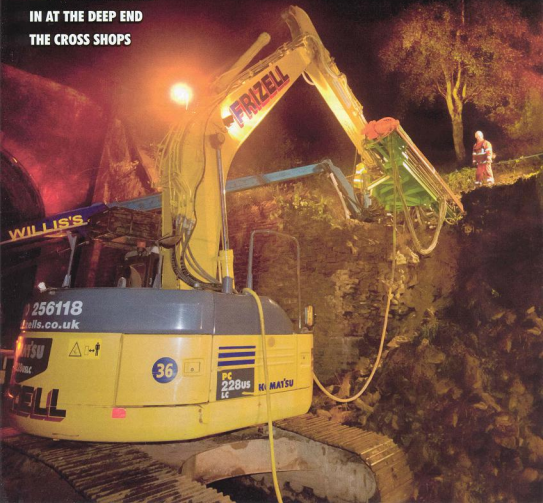
DON'T MENTION THE WALL!

BIRD-MAN OF BOLLINGTON

LARRY THE LANDLORD

IN AT THE DEEP END

THE CROSS SHOPS





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**BOLLINGTON****Live!**

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Cover: Emergency Repairs to 'The Wall' Photograph: Simon Nottage

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DON'T MENTION THE WALL!

Once again, Bollington has been divided by a highway problem that lasts for months longer than mere mortals would think it should. This refers of course to the wall beside Palmerston Street aqueduct. It has had a small bulge for years – then, in May it became a larger bulge...

If we had been lucky it would have fallen down during the quiet of the night. But we weren't – and so began a saga lasting up to the end of September.

Clearly it was dangerous, and pedestrians and traffic had to be kept away from it, so Cheshire East Council hastily installed barriers and temporary traffic lights.

Then the problems began. Before it could be knocked down, there had to be a flat survey (none were found), followed by a small vertebrates survey (none were found). These required scaffolding to be erected, not to hold up the wall, but to provide access. There was concern that the problem might be caused by water behind the wall – what if the wall came down and the canal emptied itself into the street! Does anybody know anyone who ever saw water seeping out of

this very porous wall? Then, if the wall was removed, maybe the earth bank would slide into the street. A borehole was sunk and all it found was the native rock...

Just to be sure, The Council commissioned a survey and a repair plan from a geotechnical engineer. She requested a local person to show her around this extremely interesting area of Bollington, so that she could fully understand the structures of the canal, river tunnel, and road. Two weeks later the scaffolding came down and CEC announced that reconstruction would begin right after the Bank Holiday. Alright, so it took another week.

Deep holes were drilled into the rock and pins were grouted into them to hold steel netting in place across the whole face of the native rock. As this progressed, the wall was removed (that which hadn't collapsed when work began, cutting off traffic completely for a few days). Once complete the wall was rebuilt with mortared stone and the small gap between wall and rock was filled with concrete.

Tim Boddington

happy-valley.org.uk/services/thewall

Left: Waiting at 'The Wall'

Photograph by Anthony Holland

Date for next copy:
Friday 27th
January 2012

EDITORIAL

Thank you for picking up and reading this latest issue of *Bollington Live!* Once again, I hope that there is something to appeal to all ages. Indeed, in this issue, our articles are written by people aged from their teens through to their seventies. When I took over as editor, sixteen issues ago, I hoped to broaden the range of contributors to Bollington's only truly representative community magazine – produced entirely by Bollington people for Bollington people.

It has been especially difficult to get younger people contributing, perhaps because they feel this magazine is not for them. It is. If a story is good enough, it does not matter how old the writer is! Therefore I am particularly delighted that in this issue, two of our main contributions are from sixteen-year-olds. Keri Slade writes of her experiences with the Sea Cadets, whilst Oliver Kershaw gives his view on 'his Bollington' in a question and answer article, which I hope will become an ongoing series. Please let me know if you would like to be questioned next!

Elsewhere, we range from Bollington in the seventeenth century, through to the twenty-first century concerns of collapsing walls and the future of a key (or perhaps Kay?) industrial site in our Town.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to this issue of *Bollington Live!* dropping through your door. It truly is an amazing team effort – over fifty people make sure this magazine arrives through every door in Bollington.

All the best!

Anthony Holland



THE CROSS SHOPS

As with the many little pockets of shops around the village, the corner of shops at Bollington Cross have been meeting the needs of the surrounding community for years.

Well placed to serve, the shops are surrounded by, not only, the local houses on South West Avenue, Ovenhouse Lane and Princess Drive to name just a few, but Bollington Health & Leisure and Bollington Community Centre are also on their doorstep. The shops are not a only a great example of community based services but also demonstrate that through both longevity and reputation and investment in new business, it is possible to ride out the recession and the national trend seen on the high street of store closures.

This year Jill Hackey will celebrate 18 years as a hairdresser in Jill's Salon on Crossfield Road and when asked the secret of nearly two decades of success Jill is definite on why she is still there. 'It's all down to me!' she says with a smile. 'No seriously, we pride ourselves on our friendly, welcoming atmosphere. I have just a small team of staff but we all want everyone to feel good while they are here and after they leave. For some people getting their hair done is a treat and we want to help make sure they enjoy it.'

These sentiments are echoed by new kid on the block, Tracey Lovett, of Cosy Caf. 'We are clean, friendly, helpful and go that extra mile by delivering on foot to houses in the immediate area, so if people struggle to get to us they can still enjoy fresh, made to order, sandwiches.'

Unlike Jill's Salon, the Cosy Caf is yet to enjoy

Right: Hairdresser Jill Hackey with Ruth Rodgers



Below: The 'Cosy Caf', a welcome addition to the small shopping parade



Photographs by Anthony Holland

Bottom: The three businesses: 'Jill's Hairdressers', the 'Cosy Caf' and 'Bollington Cross Stores'

18 years of success, but if the first few months are anything to go by this will be well within their reach. Next-door-but-one to the salon, the café has been consistently busy since opening on the 6th of June 2011 and has already built up loyal customer base of people calling in for a cooked breakfast and a chat or just picking up a snack for lunch. 'We have a decent sized menu and take orders over the phone,' says Tracey who, like Jill, has just a small team of staff. 'We also welcome people to eat in or use our outdoor seating area, we just want people to be comfortable, enjoy some food and maybe even have a good old gossip over a brew.'

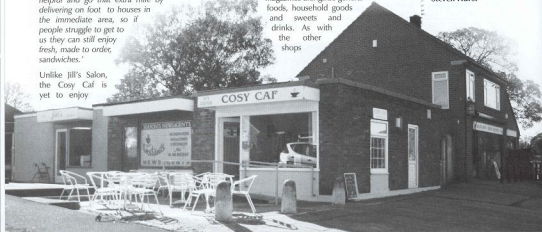
A quick stroll round the corner to Bollington Cross Stores will help find something to accompany that brew as the shop run by brothers Guz and Muzzy Ali for the past two years sell newspapers and magazines alongside general foods, household goods and sweets and drinks. As with the other shops

the staff are friendly and happy to help, and try to ensure that both regular and new customers alike find everything they need. The shop itself has been a feature of Bollington Cross for many years but as the current owners are relatively new to the area they are looking with some concern to the future, 'we are central to the local houses and community and have a good stock of items, but we do have some concerns about the rumours that a big supermarket might come to Bollington, and that will make life difficult for smaller shops like us.'

While there may be concerns on the horizon, it seems like there are three great examples of successful small business thriving in Bollington Cross and both Jill and Tracey feel there could be more. 'Next door was once a thriving newsagent,' says Jill 'and it is now run down, which is sad to see and I hope something can be done.' When asked if a new business could succeed in the shop next door Tracey thinks so. 'Definitely, you only need to look at us to see that the right type of shop would fit in well.'

So with friendly staff, ample parking and ideas about the future, there has never been a better time to support the small bank of successful shops at Bollington Cross and in the words of Jill, 'I love being here and would never have envisaged being here after 18 years. Long may the shops continue!'

Steven Hurst



BOLLINGTON'S GOLDEN FESTIVAL

It may feel a long way off, but anyone over 25 knows that time speeds up relative to age and the (less than) three years to 2014 will fly by in a blink. In that blink, about £100,000 needs to be raised to ensure a marquee and all the amazing variety we have come to expect from this magical festival. With funding and grants disappearing fast, we have to be far more self-contained in how we raise that money.

In the past, as each festival drew to a close, the committee and the thousand or so volunteers involved would breathe a collective sigh of relief and only start to think about a 'next festival' once the memory of all the work involved had faded. The longest gap between festivals was in the 1970s, when we had a seven-year hiatus! Some of this has to do with how much festivals cost to put on – we only have to look at the recent news about the 'Capesthorpe

Friends of Mine Festival', which is facing liquidation, owing more than £200,000. However – in the words of Baldrick from Blackadder – we have a cunning plan!

We have already developed an exciting events plan for 2012, with many dates already confirmed, that promises Bollington will become ever more vibrant and a real destination town for things to do. Opera di Briscola is already sold out, but why not book in for Limelight at Livesey's or Music at Maggoty's, both happening in November? Check our website for more details and ticket sales.



The Bollington Prize Winning Beer Fest on 13th and 14th April 2012 will be bringing together local and national beers that all have one thing in common – they have won awards for their excellence. Put the dates in your diary and on your calendar now!

We want to provide a wide range of interesting and fun things for you, your friends and your families to enjoy, and from these events will come the wherewithal to fund the 50th Anniversary Bollington Festival – from 16th May to 1st June 2014.

Carol Barnes

If you want to be part of this exciting approach, email info@bollingtonfestival.org.uk and tell us how. To support the fundraising effort you could join the 100 Club or become a Festival Friend – find out more on the website:

bollingtonfestival.org.uk

WILL IT BE O-KAY?

On Sunday 8th of October at the Bollington Civic Hall a whole day was devoted to the question of what is happening to the Kay Metzler site. The day's theme, 'Planning it Right', was, in effect, a second public consultation. It built upon the information you provided in February 2011 when every Bollington household was asked for their views.

You were not backward in coming forward then: You wanted the site to have a mix of residential, retail and employment; you wanted the medical centre to relocate there; you wanted a riverside walk; you wanted the Co-op to relocate there and you wanted to ensure that any retail on the site would not disadvantage local shops. The day attracted a high turnout which demonstrated your continued interest in this site and the once in a lifetime opportunity it offers to address some of Bollington's needs.

The day was designed to show that the developers were continuing to listen and follows a series of meetings with the Town Council, Cheshire East Council and the Civic Society. The aim is to agree a future for the site that reflects local needs and aspirations. It will also, of course, need to provide a reasonable financial return for the developer. The day was facilitated by local architects Bower Matlin who prepared displays and had experts on hand to discuss any relevant issue.

Three options were on display showing how the site could be developed, complete with house types, road layouts, river walkways and bridges. Also shown on each option were a new medical centre and a relocated Co-op store. Examples house designs were also shown for each of the draft options.

These options generated a great deal of interest and each visitor was

STOP PRESS!

Following a meeting on 25th October with Bollington Town Council's Strategic Planning Committee, it was revealed that the Co-op are prepared to relocate to the new site.

Work on redevelopment could begin as early as next summer.

Visit the Bower Matlin website to find the results of the survey:

bower-matlin.co.uk

given a questionnaire to complete asking for their views. The results from the questionnaires will be published via Canalside Radio and on Bower Matlin's own website. Copies of the three draft layouts and the house types associated with them can also be seen at the Bollington Town Hall. Pop in to look at them if you missed the consultation day. Weekday mornings are best.

When will the site be developed? Well, perhaps sooner than you think, an outline planning application is likely to be submitted before the end of this calendar year.

In summary – progressing well – this consultation will help to refine the residential, employment and retail proportions; the mix of house types; layout and building design.

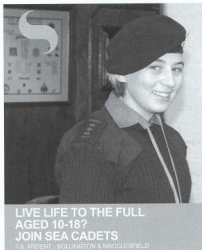
David Naylor

ALL AT SEA!

My cousins were sea cadets at the Bollington & Macclesfield Sea Cadet Unit at the Wharf on Grimshaw Lane in Bollington.

My brother expressed interest in also joining, but as I was only ten years old the thought of joining the cadets did not interest me at all but I tagged along when my brother enrolled. As I was sitting and waiting, I was asked if I wanted to join in a quartermaster's lesson, as I was quickly showing interest in what the staff were showing us. I was asked if I wanted to see if I would pass the test to get the quartermaster's badge. I did and passed on the very first night; from then on I was hooked and earned my nickname of 'Pocket Rocket'!

Seven years later I am now a Petty Officer Cadet which is the highest rank to be achieved as a cadet. This year alone, I have been on a First Aid First Class course which is the equivalent of a St John's Brigade First Aid Qualification and a Windsurfing Level 2 course in Scotland. I have achieved my Expedition Leadership 5 which means that I have to show clear understanding of access and conservation issues, land clearance procedure, observation of country



*Above: Poster Girl
Keri Slade*

*Below: Keri gets
to grips with
windsurfing*

*Photographs by
The Sea Cadets*



code, footpath erosion, conserving animal and plant life, the pressure on the countryside and the differing needs of other users. I had to demonstrate party management, pace, individual needs of group members, quality of the experience and the management of an overnight camp.

I have achieved my Boatswain's Badge which can only be awarded after I have successfully passed five different boating qualifications. This badge is very rare and I am only the second cadet to have achieved it at this unit.

I can often be seen on ceremonial parades. I have had the honour of being in the guard of honour at Stanneylands Hotel in Wilmslow on the occasion of the Manchester Royal Naval Officers Association Annual Trafalgar Day Mess Dinner. I also have been given the honour of laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the Bollington War Memorial.

Every year we attend a service of remembrance as a mark of respect for the lost sailors at the HMS Ardent Association Reunion which is a highly commended event. Places are limited and therefore attendance is based upon merit,

and I have been fortunate to have been chosen five times. I thoroughly enjoy the experience, so much so that my mother has now joined the cadets and is working towards her Petty Officer's rank. Our training ship, TS Ardent, is named after the Type 21 frigate HMS Ardent, which was tragically lost in the Falklands on the 22nd May 1982, along with 22 lives of the brave sailors.

During my final year at school I elected to work on board HMS Mersey, which is a Royal Navy Fishery Protection vessel. This was in place of work experience and is called Naval Acquaint. I joined the ship by rib, a powerboat, in North Shields. I was allocated a cabin and was introduced to the rest of the crew. I had the opportunity of experiencing life at sea and was taken under the wing of crew

I WAS HOOKED AND EARNED MY NICKNAME OF 'POCKET ROCKET'!

dealing with tasks as varied as helping prepare the crew's meals in the galley to marine engineering. It is from this that my interest in electrics has developed and I am now an apprentice electrician with John Potts Electrical.

During the summer months we can often be found honing our skills on the water, undertaking activities such as canoeing, sailing, kayaking and power boating at Errwood Reservoir which is near Buxton. Over the last few years I have achieved my canoeing level two and I am now currently working towards my level three which involves carrying out my skills unaccompanied. I have also been accredited with my level one kayaking.

Sea Cadets has helped me to become more confident in myself and in tasks which I carry out. Also I feel that Cadets has given me some fantastic lifetime opportunities which I would never have got to do if I wasn't in Sea Cadets.

Keri Slade

LARRY THE LANDLORD

Larry Broomhead is the landlord of the Dog and Partridge and is also co-ordinating another project close to his heart at the old Whiteley Green Chapel, developing an educational facility for young people and other groups. Larry was happy to talk to *Bollington Live!* about his vision, his change of career and what motivates him.

Bollington born and bred, he was one of the first pupils at a newly built Dean Valley. He then went on to Poynton High School where he thrived, getting involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and achieved a Gold Award. Much of this was through the 1st Bollington Scouts and he was inspired, like many other Bollington boys, by Jeff Newcombe, the scout leader, and his wife Joan.

HIS VISION IS TO CREATE A WARM WELCOMING PLACE, OFFERING GOOD VALUE PUB GRUB.

Larry received the Queen's Scout Award, which was a great achievement. 'I remember going to Windsor and meeting the Queen Mother. I also met the Duke of Edinburgh when I received the gold award. He put me at my ease by saying, 'you're here because you didn't fall off a cliff.'

Larry went on to Leicester University to study economics. After graduation he went to London to work for a financial magazine. He had always wanted to be a teacher and he completed a teaching qualification.

He taught in inner-city schools, a challenge, but also very rewarding. Larry later went on to teach Business Studies and Economics at the London Nautical School on the South Bank. Larry became head of year in 2003, just as his mother, Sandra, became seriously ill.

He was allowed a sabbatical to help care for his mother. 'I felt a pull back to Bollington and a spiritual awakening.'

Larry's return to Bollington led him to acquire the old Chapel at Whiteley Green. His vision was to renovate the building for use as an educational resource, to enable people to learn in a beautiful environment. The Chapel became the Countryside Education Centre at Whiteley Green.

Larry's father, Mike, helped with the renovation, bringing expert building skills to the project. Since acquiring the property Larry acquired adjacent land from Dennis Chadwick, which gave the centre an outdoor space for camping and raft building on a small lake.

It soon became clear that the centre would need more facilities, especially toilets, and in 2010 an application for planning permission for an extension was put in. This was eventually granted and a new extension was added. Larry could now see a future for his project. 'I was keen to ensure that this building was kept as a place for learning in the widest sense.'



Larry is aware that the Centre needs careful marketing and a website developed. He hopes that by expanding the use of the centre for conferences and seminars, organised by companies, revenue from this can help subsidise educational use by youngsters of all abilities. Larry is applying for funding to enable more disabled young people to enjoy better access to the countryside.



Above: Larry at the Dog and Partridge

Photograph by Janet Beech

Below: Larry at the Whiteley Green Countryside Education Centre

Photograph by Sandy Milsom

It was quite recently that Larry's career took yet another turn, when the Dog and Partridge needed a new landlord. Larry needed an income to support the centre he was creating and running a pub was something he always fancied doing. The pub was his local and he felt that it would be a challenge. On a practical note the large kitchen at the pub would enable him to provide food for the centre.

In the six months since taking over the pub Larry has made a few changes. His vision is to create a warm welcoming place offering good value pub grub. The upstairs function room has been redecorated and, with an independent bar, will provide a function room for parties, small weddings, funerals and christenings and also provide an exhibition space.

Managing two businesses is challenging but Larry has a great team behind him who help with the day to day running of the pub. There are plans to renovate more but Larry assures us that it won't destroy the character of the pub. Watch this space...

The move back to Bollington has given Larry Broomhead a few challenges but it is not something he regrets. 'I want to put something back into the community in which I was born and bred.'

Sandy Milsom

Bollington Live! would like to thank Larry and all previous landlords at the Dog and Partridge who have provided us with a meeting room since our very first issue back in 1994.

BOLLINGTON IN THE FOREST

This article marks the quatercentenary of a detailed survey carried out in September 1611 that included the whole of Bollington. Our township was entirely within the Forest of Macclesfield, a royal hunting ground where development had been controlled for centuries to protect game.

Money was the motivation for the survey: who lived in the forest, how did they farm, what was the value of their property? What revenue might be generated for the coffers of Prince Henry, Earl of Chester, by allowing landowners to enclose and cultivate the common and waste lands?

Bollington Common, lying mainly to the east of the line of the present-day Middlewood Way, is itemised in the survey as several parcels of ground. Many of the names sound familiar to us today, but spellings vary in the 1611 survey manuscript. The Hurst or Hurste and Stekulls, Steakulls or Steakles were poor quality ground. Further east was the Cockshutte. On Kayridge, "two parts covered in stone by reason of a stone delie", quarrying rights were leased to the mayor and burgesses of Macclesfield.

One "great parcel" of common included the Swyne-Roots, the Oule-hurst, Beestall-bancke, and Ardes-hill. To the western side of the township Bollington Mosse and Tiderington Heath were the best sort of ground. We see Bollington now as well wooded, and it may have been so in 1611, but to a different pattern. There were no trees that might produce timber on Bollington Common "except one little tree about worth five shillings". Instead there were hollins (holly bushes), in abundance, considered good for firewood, owlers (alder) and gorse.

On the moors beyond Bollington the occasional wicken tree (rowan or mountain ash) is referred to in the survey as a boundary marker. As well as having grazing rights on the common land, the wealthier residents of Bollington held their own enclosed fields by a form of long-term tenancy known as

A brief snapshot (below right) from the 1611 manuscript record of the survey of Macclesfield Forest which is now preserved at the Public Record Office in London, along with two large scale maps. Complete copies have been made and transcription of the manuscript and interpretation of the maps is underway as part of the Bollington History Group's activities.



copyhold. On John Shrigley's copyhold land in Bollington in 1611 there were 170 oak trees and 30 ash trees – small numbers compared with the 10,573 oak and 1,205 ash recorded as growing throughout the copyhold lands of Macclesfield Forest.

least one occupant enjoyed the luxury of a "fether bed". The Will and inventory of 1628 are kept at Chester Record Office.

What of Bollington industry in 1611, aside from the quarries of Kerridge common worked by Macclesfield men? No coal mining was recorded in Bollington, but Francis Pott held the mining rights for the whole Forest and was working a pit in neighbouring Rainow. Bollington corn mill is not named as such but it almost certainly formed part of a substantial property occupied by John Shrigley. This included "a dwelling house of five bays, one stable of one baye, one barn of four bays with an out ile, one

Transcription of part of the text to the right:

Item in the occupacion of Joane Shetwall, the wydowe of Jasper Shetwall in Bollington aforesaid one little dwelling house of one baye. One Barne of two bayes, and other outhouses for Beasts and fuel of three bayes One Garden and two little hempyards, by estimation half an acre

One close of Arr[able] called the crofte by estimation

Other property in Bollington was owned freehold by the neighbouring nobility and gentry who included Sir Urian Leigh of Adlington and Lawrence Downes of Shrigley. The major landowner in the forest as a whole, William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby, owned Hollin Hall, a 6-bay mansion house lived in by tenant Henry Mekin or Maykin. When Henry died in 1628, friends and neighbours Thomas Greene, William Motteshead, James Barber and Richard Legh made an inventory of his possessions including one pair of beasts, three keyne (cows), three calves, an old mare and five sheep – and in the house at

other barne of three bayes, one milne of two bayes, one kilne of one baye, other outhousing of 5 bayes, two gardens, one orchard, and other yards by estimation half an acre".

According to the Reverend Betts' history of Bollington, the mill came into the hands of an earlier "John Shriggeley" in 1453. Textiles manufacture was largely cottage based at this time – Henry Mekin's possessions included an old spinning wheel – but the note of a "dwelling house and a fulling milne of two bayes" occupied by Katherin Broadhurst suggests the use of water power.

Tom Swailes

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Saturday 12th, 8pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

Arts Centre: The outstanding Eblana String Trio with David Curington play pieces by Bach, Mozart, Finzi, Britten and Moeran.
£14 (£7 conc) from 560355 or 575287

Sunday 13th, 10.30am- (Service 10.55)

Remembrance Sunday

Procession starts from Kay Metzeler on Wellington Rd. to the Memorial Gardens

Sunday 13th, 8pm

Second Sunday Folk Club

Arts Centre: An evening of folk music.
Listen or perform. £2.00 call 574617

Monday 14th, 6.30pm

Bollington Sci Bar

The Vale Inn, Adlington Rd: Anyone from Junior School age up is welcome; just bring an inquisitive mind! Further details at <http://www.bollingtonscibar.co.uk/> Jamie Gilmore, Professor of Planetary Science, Uni. of Manchester discusses meteorites and what they tell us about the planets.

Thursday 17th, 7.30pm

Hands-On Christmas Decorations

Ovenhouse Lane Community Centre, Bollington Horticultural Society

Friday 18th, 7pm

Music at Maggoty's

Acoustic blues and dinner. Tickets: £25 from Jose Spinks on 01625 573413

Saturday 19th, 1 - 5pm

Samba Drumming Workshop

Arts Centre: Learn drumming / percussion skills with tutor John Hartshorn. All welcome. £15 and £6 for 7-16 year olds. Under 12s must be accompanied by paying adult. 07766 020612 or 560355

Saturday 19th, 7.30pm

Countdown to Christmas

Bollington Methodist Church: Hazel Grove Male Voice Choir and Bollington Brass Band Training Band. £5. 573957 / 573851

Sunday 20th - Dec 18th, Sundays 2-4pm and during other events.

Emily Muiridge and Joan Fisher

Arts Centre: Exhibition

Sunday 20th, 7pm

Music & Dancing in Regency Evening

Arts Centre: Diana Rosenthal discusses the importance of music-making and dance in the early 19th C. £5. (£3 conc.) T: 560355.

Friday 25th, 7.00pm

Bollington Festival Photography Club

Meet at Sympson Pool Cottage: "The Night Sky" led by Professor Ian Morrison

Saturday November 26th, 7.30pm

The Houghton Weavers Folk Group

Bollington Methodist Church £10 inc, tea or coffee. Proceeds to the Church Building Fund. Tickets: Pam Green on 577222.

DECEMBER

Friday 2nd, 6-8pm

School Christmas Fair

Pott Shrigley Church: All Welcome.
www.pottshrigleyschool.cheshire.org.uk

Friday 2nd, 8.15pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Don't forget the NAFFLE! Over 18s. Advance booking essential via www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk. £9.

Saturday December 3rd, 10 - 11.30am

Coffee Morning

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane: Christmas flower arrangements, cake stall etc. Bacon Baps will be available. Come and support your Community Centre.

Saturday 3rd, 9.30am - 3.30am

Film Study Day

Arts Centre: Tutors Creina Mansfield and Alan Sennett explore the classic 1947 film version of Brighton Rock. Pre-enrol on 573413 and bring lunch on the day. £25.

Saturday 3rd, 8.00pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Alan Barnes Liquorice Stick All Stars. A night of Benny Goodman. With Jim Hart playing Lionel Hampton on vibes and Paul Clavis being Gene Krupa for the night on drums; £9; ring 574410 to reserve

Sunday 4th, 5pm and 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Music Theatre

Arts Centre: B.F.M.T. celebrates its 25th birthday with a double bill of brand new musicals. Children of Lidice tells the story of a Czech village destroyed by the Nazis in 1942 while Roma Girl tells of a Romanian Gypsy girl's fight against prejudice. £6. Call 0161 225 4680 or visit www.fun.to/bfmt

Sunday 11th, 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Choir

Bollington Methodist Church: The choir sing 17C. Music from Heinrich Schütz's Christmas Story and words from the King James Bible, Carols in English and German. Also instrumental music with a French flavour. £10, £3 under 18s, from 575554.

Sunday 11th, 8pm

Second Sunday Folk Club

Arts Centre: Details as 13th November.

Messiah For All

Arts Centre: Courtesy of Boll. Festival Choir and conductor Donald Judge. Come and sing this timeless classic (music can be provided). Proceeds to North West Ambulance. Tickets £6, call 269133

Saturday 24th, 6pm

Carols Around the Tree

Bollington Town Hall: The annual Christmas Eve get together and sing song with Bollington Brass Band.

Sunday 25th, 12noon

White Nancy with the Band

Climb White Nancy and celebrate Christmas day with Bollington Brass Band.

JANUARY

Saturday 7th - 8th, 11th - 14th 2pm

matinees 7.30pm evenings

Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

Arts Centre: Bollington Festival Players present their annual pantomime. Written by Alan Frayn. For details call 875326

Sunday 8th, 8pm

Second Sunday Folk Club

Arts Centre: Details as 13th November.

Sunday 22nd, - February 19th,

In the Gallery

Arts Centre: Paintings by David Lunt Open Sundays 2 - 4 and during other events

Saturday 28th 8.00pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Spats Langham's Hot Combination explore the golden age of jazz from 1920s New York to 1930s Swing. Tickets £9 from 574410

It has been brought to our attention that the telephone number for the Bollington Medical Centre was incorrect in a previous issue. The correct number is:

08443 878481

Dates for your Diary

TO INCLUDE YOUR FUTURE EVENTS, CONTACT LILY HARDEBECK ON 560364 OR E-MAIL: LIVEDATES@HAPPY-VALLEY.ORG.UK

FEBRUARY

Friday 3rd, 8.15pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre: Don't forget the NAFFLE? Over 18s. Advance booking essential via www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk. £9.

Saturday 4th, 8pm

Bollington Chamber Concerts

Arts Centre: The Barbinelli Quartet perform throughout Europe. Haydn, Bartok and Verdi. £14 (£7 concs) For info call 01625 560355 or 01625 575287

Monday 13th, 6.30pm

Bollington Sci Bar

The Vale Inn, Adlington Rd: Anyone welcome. Further details at <http://www.bollingtonscibar.co.uk/> Tonight Sue Kimber, professor at Manchester Uni. gives a talk including human embryonic stem cells.

Friday 17th, 8.00pm (Bar open 7.30)

Arts Centre Ceilidh

With local band 'Maplewood' Test the sprung floor in the newly enlarged hall, and enjoy a real family occasion Tickets £9 (Families of 4 £27, of 5 £30) Tickets from Jan. 1st on 573413 or 575060

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Winter Programme: "Total Workflow"

Four talks through the winter covering the basic elements of the total photographic workflow from planning a shoot, taking, processing and reproducing digital images. The talks will give both the how and the why of photographic essentials, providing practical advice and hands-on experience. The talks are for anybody who wants develop their camera skills and confidence.

Thursday 3rd, November

Overview & camera technical basics

Thursday 24th, November

Controlling focus and exposure

Thursday 23rd, February 2012

People aspects, composition & flash use

Thursday 29th March 2012

Processing and reproducing images

The talks will be held at the Printshop in Bollington (back of Pool Bank car park) starting at 7.30pm. There is no charge or need to book. Contact - John Appleby - 07742 656187 - jda@johnapplebydigitalimages.com

ARTS CENTRE FOLK CLUB

My introduction to the Arts Centre came during the last Bollington Festival. I was very impressed that such a small community could not only put on such a fantastic and diverse programme of cultural events, but that there existed an Arts Centre offering a year-round diet of music, drama, comedy, visual art and so on.

Having moved into Bollington in June 2010, I made a point of attending a number of events at the Centre and my initial good impression was confirmed and so, when some of us discussed the possibility of opening a folk/acoustic music club, the Arts Centre was our automatic choice.

Discussions with members of the management committee produced a positive response and so it was with their encouragement that we set about organizing two trial musical evenings. These took place in the spring of 2011 and proved to be very popular, with over sixty singers, players and audience attending. Everyone concerned had a good time and said that the Arts Centre was a fantastic venue for such a night. Most of us are used to finding our music in the back rooms of pubs which is fine, however it was a pleasant change to be able to play and listen in such a sympathetic environment.

Our official opening night was Sunday September 11th when we had eighteen 'acts' performing to a packed room. Singers and players not only benefited from the amazing acoustics of the newly refurbished room, they were lit by a professional lighting rig. There were moments when it felt like Glastonbury!

So, what is the purpose of the club? It is to provide an opportunity for singers, players and lovers of folk and acoustic music, to meet once a month in a comfortable and professional environment. By having the Second Sunday Club in such a fantastic building, we hope to encourage performers of all ages to come and sing and play. We believe that nothing beats live music and we hope that we can make the club as successful as the jazz and comedy nights.

The Second Sunday Club meets every second Sunday at Bollington Arts Centre, doors open from 8pm. Entrance £2. Singers and players are welcome. More information available on our website: outofbollington.com or from 01625 574617.

Mark Abernethy

(Contact numbers are 01625 unless stated)

ARTS CENTRE NEWS

The newly refurbished centre has its usual rich schmorgasbord of events for this winter. The Grant from WREN has allowed the auditorium to be re-designed and the backstage area to be upgraded.

As well as classical and jazz concerts, there are dramas interesting talks and of course the infamous comedy club. Your centre also hosts many different classes and can be hired for your own events.

August saw the launch of the Arts Centre's brand new website with online booking - www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Look for full listings of the exciting events on offer this Autumn. The Website is just part of a much larger project to upgrade, update and refit the Arts Centre as a whole. Take a look for yourself and tell us what you think.

POTT SHRIGLEY CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 4th December: Holy Communion 8:30am, Christingle 10:45am

Sunday 11th December: Holy Communion 8:30am, Church Nativity 10:45am

Sunday 18th December: Holy Communion 8:30am, Carols by Candlelight: 4pm and 6.30pm (no service at 10:45am)

Christmas Eve: Holy Communion 11pm

Christmas Day: Family Communion 10am

New Years Day (Sunday): no service at 8:30am Family Communion 10:45am

Servies on Sundays are at 8:30am and 10:45am as usual except as noted above.
www.pottshrighleychurch.org.uk



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BUSY AS A BEE

Bees have been around for hundreds of thousands of years. Spanish cave paintings from 7000BC show the earliest record of beekeeping, and bee fossils have been found to date back about 150 million years!

But why are bees so important? Well, honey bees pollinate about 80 per cent of flowering crops, so without them, it is estimated that a third of our food wouldn't be available. Vital to the human economy, bees generate £millions each year – mostly through crop pollination, but also from sales of honey, beeswax and royal jelly.

In ancient times, bees were thought to have special powers, and are the only insect that produces a food eaten by man. Honey, the most significant bee product, has always been regarded as special; it was offered as a gift to the gods by the Romans, Greeks and Egyptians, and was even used instead of gold by the Romans to pay their taxes!

First used as sweetener by the ancient Egyptians, (a 2,000 year old jar of honey unearthed in an Egyptian tomb was said to have been delicious!), the natural sugars in honey are very quickly digested by the body, which is why it is often used by sportsmen for a quick and natural energy boost.

Discovered by the Greeks to be an important healing medicine, honey is thought to help everything from sore throats and digestive disorders to skin problems, hay fever and beauty treatments. It has antiseptic properties and can be used to dress wounds and provide first aid for cuts and burns.

As well as honey, bees also produce beeswax, an important ingredient in food production (where it is often referred to as E901), cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Beeswax is also used to make candles, and is found in many other household products such as shoe and furniture polish.

Royal jelly, so called as it is the special food secreted by bees to feed queen bee larvae, has a high vitamin, mineral and enzyme composition. Used in many beauty and cosmetic products, its

antioxidant properties have been used in treatments to reduce the signs of aging, as well as treatments for multiple sclerosis, menopause, heart disease, and high cholesterol.

However, honey bees are in danger of disappearing, and in 2008, the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) reported a 30% fall in numbers from the previous year. Pesticides and modern farming focusing on single commercial crops are part of the problem, but the most significant threat is the varroa mite, which carries a number of viruses, and can wipe out entire colonies. A Bees Act was introduced in 1980 to control the pests and diseases affecting bees, and official Bee Inspectors are appointed to monitor bee populations, and help reduce the incidence and severity of disease.

So what can we do to help? To start with, diverse, organic, planting will help provide the right environments for bees to thrive. There are plans to create 'bee friendly' areas on Bollington's Recreation Ground, and thoughtful planting in gardens and allotments can help enormously

too. Secondly, it is important for more people to learn the craft of beekeeping, so that bees can reproduce and thrive despite the environment.

Janet Beech is one of three or four bee keepers in Bollington, and has kept bees for the past 25 years. She describes beekeeping as similar to livestock management, whereby the beekeeper has a duty of care to look after them properly, provide food and water, clean and tidy accommodation, and enough space for an expanding colony during the season. They need to make sure their colonies have young queens (for future colonies), and ensure that disease is well managed.

Janet's advice to any new starters is to contact the local branch of the British Beekeepers Association (our nearest is in Stockport), and learn as much as you can before you start. It is a good idea to meet other beekeepers, and 'taster days' run by local beekeepers are a really good introduction – there are some scheduled for 2012 at the Windmill Inn. The BBKA encourage sharing of knowledge within the beekeeping community and often assign mentors to novices – there is a lot to learn!

Finally, I went in search of local honey. I discovered that our Bollington beekeepers only usually supply honey to family and friends, and could only find commercially available honeycomb from New Zealand at Livesey's. Plans are afoot to make Bollington's honey more available – and I can't wait!

Kate Kilpatrick

Above: Bee on Flower

Photograph by Janet Beech

bbka.org.uk

STOP PRESS!

Happy Valley Honey from one of Bollington's Beekeepers is now available at Livesey's Delicatessen on High Street

FROM THE LEISURE CENTRE

Most of us know that exercise is good for us, it keeps us trim, helps stave off illness and leads to a long and healthy life, but those of us that do exercise probably also know it can feel much easier in the summer!

Fair weather fitness fanatics, you are not alone, cold weather, dark nights and what feel like darker mornings can all tempt us indoors and we all know the feeling of not wanting to go back out of the house to go to the gym, swimming or a class, but don't despair and abandon your health and fitness over the winter months.

Keep yourself motivated by changing your exercise patterns, try during lunch instead of after work, or now might be the time to try a new activity or class and meet some new people to help keep you on track.

You might even decide to explore the beautiful local winter countryside with a walk or jog, whatever you decide remember that it might feel cold and miserable now but before you know, it beach body time will be here and you will regret that winter break! Good luck with your winter fitness! *Steven Hurst*

"HAPPY VALLEY"

*If Bollington wasn't there,
no historic mills would be restored,
Or Recreation Ground with Green Flag Award.
The Greg Fountain never to have been,
A proud Aqueduct then only a dream.*

*No busy streets, their shops and pubs quite bare,
The remembered 'fallen' honoured elsewhere.
Church spires and towers for religious grace,
Would point not to here, but some other place.*

*Viaduct arches passing a Centre for Arts,
Neither used, without Bollingtonians in these parts.
A railway not built to later close; do you suppose,
White Nancy might be painted now,
perhaps with a frown -*

If there never was, a Bollington Town.

Roger Molineux

CHAMBER MADE

The new season is already under way, with both audience and performers really enjoying the benefits of the wonderfully refurbished auditorium. There is still the intimate atmosphere, with the performers now in closer contact with the audience, the even more fabulous acoustics - as well as the bar and the cakes!

REVIEW - THE SACCONI QUARTET

It was a happy choice to have such a magnificent quartet to open the season. They are brilliant - and never more so than in this their fourth concert for the Bollington Arts Centre. They chose Haydn, Bartok and Schubert. For the Haydn opus 77 no 1, nothing was wanting in their understanding of the form of the 18th century or in their technique.

There was the precision of Haydn, his sensitivity of expression especially in the Adagio, and they showed a wonderful cohesion and vigour in the final Presto. Their account of the Bartok Quartet no.3

*Some dates for
your new 2012
diary!*

*Sat. February 4th
The Barbirolli
Quartet*

*Sat March 3rd
The Wu Quartet*

*Below: The Sacconi
Quartet*

*Official publicity
photograph*

quite stunned the audience. This compressed dance music of the 20th century has an edge and a bite in its wide variety that the Sacconi seized upon with such energy. Finally, they came to Schubert's D minor Death and the Maiden. The four played with such freshness and passion the listener rejoiced to hear it. Again, it was a performance of outstanding excellence.

The Andante showed an exquisite depth of feeling and lightness of touch, in turn giving way to a powerful attack in the Scherzo, which in turn yielded to the spell

cast by their final outbreak of amazing mastery in the Presto.

The quality of this concert given in the new setting offered a truly great evening of music. The Sacconi was one element: the combined efforts of the Committee in the reconstruction of the hall, was the other. We, the audience, are exceedingly grateful to both, and rejoice in it all.

The next concert, on November 12th, will be the Eblana Trio with oboist David Curington. The Eblana started performing together in 2006 and they won the RNCM chamber music award in 2010, a very prestigious achievement. They also now work with the brilliant oboist, David Curington, who actually gained a first class degree in Maths at Cambridge before going on to study oboe and composition at the RNCM. He has received prizes and recognition in both.

Yvonne Singer



BOLLINGTON BY...

In an effort to find out what our readers thought of our town, Bollington Live! over the next few issues, will be asking a range of people for their answers to a series of sensible and lighthearted questions.

We start in this issue with Oliver Kershaw.

Firstly, tell us a bit about yourself?

My Name is Oliver Kershaw and I am 16 years of age. I live in Bollington and have done all my life. I love my sport, especially rugby. I am currently studying Level 2 Engineering at Macclesfield College alongside being at school. After leaving school, I am hoping to work in aeronautical engineering and get an apprenticeship. Whilst I was answering these questions I was on work experience at Manchester Airport with 'Thomson', shadowing their engineers for the week. I also love being out and about when I can - and not sit at home doing nothing - especially if the weather's nice.

Tea or coffee?

Tea in the morning - Coffee in the afternoon.

What is good about living in Bollington?

The good thing about living in Bollington is that you get to know a lot of people within and around the village who will be useful to you all through your life; sometimes 'It's not what you know, it's who you know.'

What is bad about living in Bollington?

There are not enough activities for older teenagers.

Tell us about your sporting interests and achievements.

I love rugby and have played it for around four years. I currently play for Tytherington High School and Macclesfield Rugby Club. I also used to play for Cheshire for a period of time. Other than sport, I have gained a bronze Duke of Edinburgh through school over the past couple of years.

Who (dead or alive) do you admire?

The people I admire the most are the people in the armed forces who risk their life for our freedom.

If you were a tree, which type of tree would you be, and why?

If I could be a tree it would be an Oak tree, for the simple fact I like the shape of their leaves.

What music are you currently listening to?

The music I am currently listening to varies from Rock, Drum and Bass, Indie, Dubstep etc... pretty much everything!

Which magical power would you choose and why?

If I could have any magical power, it would have to be being able to fly. It would save walking everywhere and would be a lot cheaper than the bus!

Where is your favourite place?

Somewhere looking over the Mediterranean whilst the sun is setting.

If money and time were no object, what would you do to make Bollington better?

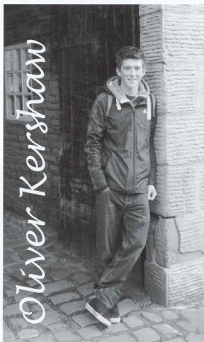
If I could do anything to make Bollington better it would be to make more attractions for teenagers aged from 13-17, simply because sometimes the weather can be a big factor in what you can do and it can put most people off coming outside for sport and getting together, so maybe more indoor activities would be good.

How many hats do you have, and what types?

I have one hat and that is a Macclesfield Rugby bob hat which I wear when working.

What makes a good night out?

A good night out involves plenty of people who you can socialise with, male and female. You need a quality place to keep everyone satisfied - and a bit of decent music.



Above: Oliver Kershaw on High Street

Photograph by Anthony Holland

If you were a dinosaur, which would you be, and why?

I had to look on the internet for this bit as I am not a dinosaur enthusiast! If I could be any dinosaur I think I would be a Barosaurus as they are a bit of a whopper and as a plus, they don't have to hunt for food, they just eat leaves all day long and I could just chill out in the grass.

Where do you hope to be in five years time?

I hope to be working in the Aeronautical Engineering industry. It is what I have wanted to do for a long time and now I have been on work experience there, it has definitely made my mind up.

Bollington Live! would like to thank Oliver for his time in answering our questions - some slightly more serious than others!

Anthony Holland



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BOOKISH BEHAVIOUR

Bollington has a number of book groups, several of which are supported by the allocation of a monthly box of books provided by our excellent Bollington library. However, others are simply a group of individuals who meet together on a regular basis with a specific focus.

This article is a description of the experiences of one particular local book group, and is written in order to give ideas for others who may wish to start a book group of their own.

Our book group was started approximately three years ago. Apart from one member who has lived here for 25 years, we are all relative newcomers to Bollington. The majority of us met through the Bridgend Centre Wednesday Walking Group. The rest are new friends who met at a range of other town activities.

Initially, we planned take it in turn to host the meetings, but the size of the group (there are now nine members) meant not everyone has sufficient room to host the evening. Therefore, we meet at the home of just two or three of the members.

On the first Wednesday of each month we initially chat and catch up on any gossip over a glass of wine or two. We then submit the chosen book to a detailed discussion over more wine and nibbles before returning home stimulated by the debate (and the wine...!)

Each member takes it in turns to pick a book to be discussed. In terms of book choices there is a

vast range of tastes. Books chosen have ranged from science fiction e.g. 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?' by Philip K. Dick to classics e.g. 'The Mayor of Casterbridge' by Thomas Hardy. Of course, not everyone has the same view of the book. We have some very lively and stimulating discussions, and indeed some of the most vociferous are those in the group that haven't even had time to read all of the debated book! But what is most rewarding is that often we may thoroughly enjoy reading a book that we would never have chosen ourselves.



As friendships have grown we also attend other social events together, such as visiting the Cinemas recently to see the film 'Jane Eyre' and the theatre to see plays such as 'Pygmalion' at The Manchester Corn Exchange and MADS to see 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie'. Last year, we attended events in Knutsford as part of the Elizabeth Gaskell centenary events. One other very interesting experience was a walk in the Coyt Valley, following in the footsteps of the characters

There are a number of websites to give advice e.g. www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub/running1.shtml and staff at the Bollington library will help.

Above: Coffee, chat and a good book at Café Waterside

Photograph by Ian Walker



in the book 'Thursbitch' by Alan Garner. (This book is certainly worth reading if you are interested in the history and geography of the area).

"SOME OF THE MOST VOCIFEROUS ARE THOSE IN THE GROUP THAT HAVEN'T EVEN HAD TIME TO READ ALL OF THE DEBATED BOOK!"

Our club isn't intellectually rigorous but it is a really pleasurable network of women who meet regularly with a particular focus... (No man has ventured to ask to join!). Therefore, I do urge others who are considering organising such a group to take the initiative and do it!

As you can see joining a book group has many rewarding spin offs, including being able to take part in the Arts Centre Annual Literary Quiz. Indeed, this year some of us were delighted to join with members of the Bridgend Book Group and came an honourable joint second in this year's competition!

Kate Gooding

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IN AT THE DEEP END

LEARNING TO SWIM AT 72 (YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD FOR A CHALLENGE)

I was visiting Bollington Leisure Centre just before Easter this year and saw a poster asking for help to train their swimming teachers. They needed adult non-swimmers for one hour per day over the Easter holidays and there would be no charge.

I had learnt to swim first of all at the age of 40 and actually managed to get a certificate for one breadth but I did not keep it up and my fear of water very soon returned and I hadn't been in a swimming pool since that time.

I plucked up the courage to go along to 'help' them to train their teachers and on the first afternoon arrived, along with two other people, at the poolside. It was greatly reassuring to discover that the trainee teachers would be in the water alongside us, with their instructors telling them how to help us, from the poolside. Overcoming our fear of the water was the first and main thing they had to help us with, plus encouraging us to actually put our faces into the water. The water at Bollington Leisure Centre is always kept lovely and warm and is crystal clear and that goes a very long way to overcoming the fear.

The trainee teachers were very understanding and very considerate and did their utmost to reassure us all the time that they were there at our sides and we would be fine. In no time at all they had us floating



Right: Pat in her garden

Photograph provided by Pat Murphy

bollingtonleisure.co.uk



on our backs, and gliding with our faces in the water. We learnt how to get into the pool safely even if there were no steps available. My biggest achievement was being taken into the 'deep' end and encouraged to jump under the water holding on to the bar at the side and then doing a star float (with my instructor by my side in case panic set in!). We had a go at learning backstroke, front crawl and breaststroke in a very splashy amateurish way but we felt we had really achieved a lot by the end of the course and felt extremely grateful to all our trainee teachers and their instructors for the opportunity to overcome our fear of the water.

As a result of my Easter holiday venture, and realising how very enjoyable it would be to be able to actually enjoy swimming once I

overcame for good my fear of the water, I decided to join the Adult Swimming Course on a Wednesday morning at the Leisure Centre. I have been going now for about six weeks, still in the beginners' group, but advancing rapidly due to the patience and encouragement of Helen our teacher who does not seem to mind at all when we panic, because we cannot regain our feet in the water and just grab at the nearest thing to us which happens to be her! Last week I did a whole length backstroke, very splashy and wobbly, but at least I made it – thank you Helen (and I didn't grab her at all on that one).

My youngest grand-daughter (11) asks me each week how my swimming lessons are coming along and listens with a supercilious smile on her face when I tell her I did a whole length (she of course can do 30 without stopping). I told her this week I had jumped into the deep end from the side (with Helen to catch me!) and she said to wait until I am actually diving in. I think I may have to get to 82 (hopefully) before I am able to do that. They say to keep doing challenging things to try and stave off dementia – well my first challenge was to pluck up the courage to try the Easter trainee teachers course and now every Wednesday morning is a challenge for me but it is getting much easier.

Pat Murphy

SILVER & GOAL!

**THE QUEENS ARMS
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IT AIN'T WHERE YOU'RE FROM
IT'S WHERE YOU'RE AT !**

Following our article on The Queen's Arms FC in the previous issue of *Bollington Live!* we are pleased to say that the team's home pitch is now The Recreation Ground. Pop down every other Sunday morning to support them!

Additionally, shortly after going to press with our last edition, the team competed in a cup competition organised at Stockport County's Manor Farm Training Ground, against dozens of other teams. After a closely fought final, The Queen's Arms team were victorious, bringing

the trophy to Bollington, where it can now be seen, proudly displayed behind the bar in the pub.

Sadly I understand that the open-top bus tour to parade the newly acquired silverware was cancelled on police advice...

Anthony Holland

Bollington Live! would like to offer our congratulations to the team, and wish them every success for the current and future seasons.

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FLIGHT OF FANCY

Martin Hough trains athletes. They compete in races all over England and Europe. Some are sprinters, others long distance specialists. Martin races pigeons and throughout the spring and summer his birds fly home to Bollington from Picaudville or Poole, Blandford or Bergerac; as far as 700 miles non-stop, averaging speeds of 30 to 70 mph depending on the wind.

Martin has been breeding and racing homing pigeons all his life, inheriting his passion from his father Frank. During the war Frank Hough was in the Army Pigeon Service and trained pigeons in Burma. Once some birds were sent to a nearby village to be released as part of their training none returned. On investigation it was found that the local Naga tribesmen had thought the pigeons presented to them in baskets were gifts; and had eaten them.

Today the notion of Rainow natives tucking into Martin's birds is perhaps little far-fetched, but the threat of raptors is an ever present danger. Sparrowhawks have attacked and killed Martin's pigeons right outside his loft, and the young are

Martin Hough with 'National Blue'

Photographs by Tim Neale

particularly at risk. Martin plays a CD of the hoots and screeches of a European Eagle Owl in order to put the hawks off their potential feast. Peregrines are also a threat to birds when racing and Martin has had several birds injured en-route.

Each bird has a different

vehicles taking the birds to their release points. There is also a lot of money involved and birds with proven track records can change hands for thousands of pounds because of their breeding potential.

The sport is very keen to encourage new enthusiasts and Martin would be more than happy to give advice to newcomers. The local Macclesfield club has a very strong membership and good facilities.

How the birds recognise Bollington may remain a mystery, but I expect the site of White Nancy in the distance is as heart warming to Martin's pigeons as it is to us.

Tim Neale

Martin Hough and his champion pigeon 'National Blue'. He can be contacted by email at

martinhough52@btinternet.com or you can find out more from the Royal Pigeon Racing Association www.rpra.org.

personality that must be understood to get the best from them, as well as honing their natural homing instincts. One bird may catch on quickly to the benefits of returning as fast as possible to the loft, some are more wary, but might have a stronger character on the longer distance races.

There are three lofts in Bollington, but there were once thirty. The sport is not as popular as it once was but it is still highly competitive and has become increasingly sophisticated, with electronic timing systems recording the exact race times and climate controlled



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