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Live!

Number Fifty Four Spring 2012



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**BOLLINGTON**

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Back issues on line at: www.happy-valley.org.uk/live

Cover: Bollington Festival Players' 2012 production of Snow White Photograph: Anthony Holland

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TAXING MATTERS

Why has Bollington Town Council increased the parish council tax on all Bollington properties by 59%? It will rise to £54 from £34 per annum for an average Band D property.

The reason is that the Town Council is negotiating with Cheshire East to take back into its own ownership and control assets that were lost to the Borough in 1974. It appears they could be lost or neglected if they are not taken on by Bollington. So, after carrying out an opinion survey in the Council's newsletter that was sent to every household in the Town, the Council has decided, in principle, to take over responsibility for the Civic Hall, the Town Hall and the Recreation Ground.

It is also worth noting that there is no indication that our Cheshire East Council Tax bill will be reduced to compensate, as that council will no longer be running these facilities.

In order to manage these resources, and to ensure they are modernised and fit for maximum use by the community, the Council will need to meet the cost of running them effectively. This requires the precept to rise in two stages for 2012/13 and 2013/14. In particular at the Civic Hall, the Council will need to subsidise the running costs, as rents earned currently do not cover the current costs of cleaning, insurance, heating etc. The facilities are also in serious need of modernisation, being well past their sell-by date.

The plans are to upgrade the Civic Hall so that as many people as possible will want to use it regularly, and to fix rents at a level that will ensure maximum use. The Council is still exploring ways of managing the Civic Hall on behalf of the



Photograph of the Recreation Ground through the Arched Gateway by Anthony Holland

The 'Rec' is one of the local amenities which could be returned to Bollington jurisdiction.

community. One proposal has come from the Bollington Initiative Trust who would take on the management for an annual fee.

The Town Council is keen to seek volunteers who would be willing and able to form a Management Committee to take on the day-to-day running of the facility with the help of Town Hall staff and Councillors. If you or your organisation would be interested in taking some responsibility for managing the Civic Hall on behalf of the community and the Town Council, please contact David Naylor on 572985 or by email at bollington.tc@btconnect.com or just pop in to the Town Hall and speak to David directly.

Ken Edwards / Mark Stedman



www.parish.cheshire.gov.uk/bollington

EDITORIAL

Every new year it surprises me that we are able to continue to put together this magazine! I worry that with the state of the economy our advertisers or sponsors will choose to cut back – but no! Yet again, they have provided a ringing endorsement for our community magazine, and yet again, thanks to their unstinting support, we look forward to another successful year.

I would like to welcome Lily Hardebeck to the important role of collating all the different events for the centre pages. Good luck in pulling everything together.

It seems that many of our article contributors have made New Year Resolutions to get healthy. It would explain why this issue has more than its fair share of health and fitness related articles; from eating healthily to attending gymnasiums. With all of this content in just one issue, it has made me feel tired just designing and editing it all together!

There are however some alternatives to this endless quest for health. We look back 100 years to the 29th February Bollington Canal Burst and staying with water, take a journey down the River Dean in the first of a three part study of our river's course. Additionally, we have, amongst others, an interesting article regarding how we buy our food and another of Bollington's young residents gives us their view of our town. There is also an excellent review of the recent pantomime (oh no there isn't!).

Finally I would like to wish Rick Gratton good luck in running the London Marathon for charity.

All the best!

Anthony Holland

Date for next copy:

Friday 25th May 2012

THE BOLLINGTON BURST

Leap Year's day, Thursday 29th February 1912, saw a collapse of the towpath bank almost opposite the dock at Kerridge on the Macclesfield Canal.

The failure is believed to have happened at One o'clock at night and the whole length from Whaley Bridge and Bugsworth all the way to Bosley top lock is thought to have drained away. By great good fortune an early photographer took a series of very good pictures enabling us to take a close look at the canal and the breach - and also some of the steps taken to repair the hole.

Cause: It seems probable that a culvert beneath the canal at this point was responsible. Malcolm Bower, Secretary of Macclesfield Canal Society, notes that 'When the culvert was examined a few years ago, the contractors told me there were signs in the culvert

*Photographs:
Discovery Centre
Collection*

*The full collection
of pictures relating
to this event can
be seen at the
Discovery Centre
together with Keith
Scammell's superb
model of Kerridge
wharf as it was in
the 1870s.*



*A new
postcard is
also available
for sale
throughout
Bollington to
commemorate
the event*

of bricks or
stones where it had
been rebuilt.'

Damage: The culvert carries the Tinkers Brook under the canal and all the water went with it into Tinkers Clough. Today the clough is a haven of peace and quiet, a damp wooded area in a deep valley providing a home for a wide variety of flora and fauna. It is publicly accessible from Bridge 28. It has been the subject of an environment project in recent years and provides a very pleasant walk through the wood and valley.

The clough was at least partly wooded in 1912, though none of the present trees are of any great age. However, there can be little doubt that the rapid inflow of water and its depth would have caused considerable damage.



This huge flow might well have gone through West Bollington causing enormous damage and with risk to life and limb. However, one piece of good fortune meant that the inhabitants suffered little more than wet feet. This was the fact that the clough had been filled in at its lower end by the construction of the railway in 1869. Beneath this infill there was another culvert leading a good 200 metres well beyond the railway. This small culvert would certainly have slowed down the escape of water from the clough. It is also likely that water would have flowed over the railway, no doubt seriously damaging it, but we have no evidence of this.

There are pictures showing flooding in the streets at West Bollington and at the Bollington Urban District Council Gas Works which was beside and below the railway where Spinner's Way is today. The Manchester Guardian reported that the furnaces were extinguished by the flood and the gas supply closed off.

Repair: Just one picture in the collection shows how the repair might have been carried out. This is taken from the top of bridge 28 looking down on the north side of the bridge. It shows a group of boats, presumably held up by the stoppage.

It also shows that a boat is under the bridge. This means that the water is being held up by something other than the bridge stop planks, which cannot be used if a boat is standing in that position. Why would they want a boat there? The reason is visible beside the boat - tracks laid for a tramway come through the bridge and extend a few yards on a frame which would have been in the water (no doubt similar on the south side until the tramway could regain the towpath), all this to provide a quay side through the bridge hole for the purpose of unloading fill into tramway trucks which would then have been pushed along the towpath and emptied into the breach. What a pity the picture looking south does not show the tramway.

It looks as though most pictures were taken on Sunday (3rd March 1912). This is because large numbers of people have turned out to look at the incident and most are in their best clothes! Only on a Sunday would they be dressed like that, and have had the time to visit.

The picture taken from the top of Bridge 28 (left) looking south shows the buildings surrounding the dock at Kerridge. **Tim Boddington**



*happy-valley.org
uk/history/misc-
kerridgebreach.
htm*

ALL DOWNHILL

THE RIVER DEAN'S JOURNEY – PART 1

Rivers are like people; they come in all shapes and sizes with different characters and personalities. Some are devoted to pleasure; some to work. Some are big; some are small. Like people who you meet at one time in their lives they make you curious. People have a past and future; rivers appear in your community and disappear out of it. Rivers raise questions.

So what of our own River Dean that passes through Bollington. Is it like our community; warm and friendly in places, or shy and retiring?

It appears from under Ingersley Vale Mill and crosses into Bollington from Rainow opposite the Bowling Green; passes through the town and then the river curls away across flat fields into Adlington Parish below Lowerhouse to join the River Bollin, seven miles away.

In between it absorbs the tributary Sowcar Brook which drains the wide and hidden Harrop Vale and offers itself to the public view as a stretch of water on the southern side of the Recreation Ground. Where does it come from? Where does it go? How important is it now and how important has it been to Bollington's rich industrial past?

The River Dean rises in the hills on a small reedy plateau by the infamous 'most dangerous' road in England, the A537 from Macclesfield to Buxton identified as Long Clough in Macclesfield Forest. It descends with a number of other small streams into the mighty Lamaload Reservoir which provides our piped water. Lamaload was built between 1958 and 1964 and at 308 metres above sea level is the highest constructed dam in England. From the Lamaload Reservoir, with its flow now carefully controlled, our river winds in a curve westwards through a beautiful green wooded

valley down to Rainow.

This is classic hill farm country, with small steep fields, grazing sheep and water meadows shaded with ash, hazel and alder. A walker can appreciate the whole upper Dean Valley by taking the footpath from Pedlars End in Rainow off the B5470 and heading south past Thornsett Farm along a tamed lane. Just past the farm, take a field path on your right down into the valley where an isolated footbridge set in an idyllic green dell takes you across the Dean. Follow the path up to the Lamaload Road. Take the road up to Snipe House then take the rising path to your right over Ely Brow until you come to Lamaload. The source



Photographs of Hough Hole weir and Lamaload Reservoir by Anthony Holland



of the Dean is in rising ground to the South. The views back down the valley takes in Kerridge and the far Cheshire Plain.

Just before the Dean reaches the Rainow main road, the Dean has been diverted over a weir to create a small reservoir, which with the associated waterworks originally provided water for the local area. These waterworks were built by

Bollington Urban District Council early in the 20th century.

From Rainow Bridge until the Dean enters Bollington, the river is dominated by the impressive outlier of the dark gritstone peak known as the Saddle of Kerridge looming over its eastern bank. The Dean itself is busy below, absorbing the waters from Hayles Clough, filling a reservoir at Hough Hole Farm, then bypassing the silted Clough Pool tumbling over the wonderful weir at Waulkmill. Here the steep fall produces a splendid rushing cascade of water in spring and a frozen glittering magic of sparkling icicles in a hard winter. Happily it is easily reached by the average Bollingtonian, up the surfaced lane from Ingersley Vale road at the top of Bollington.

Just before entering Bollington, the Dean is literally swallowed up by the works associated with Ingersley Vale Mill. It travels through two hundred metres of stone built tunnel, emerges briefly before going underground at Rainow Mill and Rainow Mill House and enters Bollington proper at the mill pond next to Dyers Court.

Part Two is continued in our next edition, where the River Dean takes its journey through Bollington.

Ken Edwards



IT'S ALL IN THE DAME!



Nearly every village or town has an amateur dramatic society, but few are as professional, dedicated and welcoming as the Bollington Festival Players, so when I was asked to go and see their most recent production of *Snow White & the 8(!) Dwarfs*, I was only too happy to oblige!

The Festival Players have been a huge inspiration to many young budding performers since 1964. And they've certainly had a big impact on my life.

It all started back in 1996 when I was 10 years old. I was playing my first 'big role' in my primary school's production of *Little Red Riding Hood* when, after the show, I was asked if I'd like to join the Bollington Festival Players. I was totally 'gob-smacked' (a rare occurrence now, I can assure you!), but back in my little primary

school hall, it was like I had been asked to star in a Hollywood movie. I'd always known about the Festival Players, but I didn't realise that it was something that I could get involved with. Well, it certainly was, and I certainly did...

Over the years, I have been privileged to take part in many a production with the Festival Players. From the annual pantomime and one-act play festivals, to performing live at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester. Moreover, being part of such a supportive group, acted as a much needed confidence boost for me and I owe a great deal to them for helping me to make my dream of attending professional Drama School, a reality. Since then, I have performed in, and directed a number of professional shows in Leeds and Edinburgh and also fulfilled another dream - to work for Haven Holidays as a *FunStar!* All of this has certainly put me in good stead to carry out my current role as a Primary school teacher (where every day is like being onstage!)...



*Pantomime
Photography by
John Appleyard
and Anthony
Holland*

The tradition of the annual panto is one that the Festival Players take very seriously and I have always loved every minute of every pantomime that I have taken part in with the company. I don't think people realise just how much preparation goes in to making these shows such a success; months of rehearsals, stage, lighting, costume and make-up design, choreography, backstage, front of house, ticket sales, photography and much more. Everyone who's involved is a volunteer and the sense of

community spirit and teamwork is overwhelming. What's even more heart warming is seeing different generations coming together with a common love for performing, and this year was no exception.

Directed by Nigel Wells, the 2012 production of *Snow White* was a credit to all those involved. It was particularly special for me, as this was the first pantomime that I ever did with the Festival Players over fifteen years ago. Back then, I was only in the chorus, but the stagecraft training offered by the company soon propelled me into taking principal roles, of which I'm probably best known for (and dare I say, my all-time favourite role) playing the dame! I once saw a professional pantomime at Buxton Opera House, and was secretly pleased that I'd managed over twelve extravagant costume changes as the dame, as opposed to the four that were achieved at Buxton!! Not bad for an 'amateur' company eh?

Anyway, back to the script... What was lovely to see about this year's panto was the amount of young talent onstage. The majority of the principal roles were acted by budding young performers, and it was so nice to see just how much talent Bollington really does have. In particular the eight dwarfs worked so well together, creating a cheeky sense of camaraderie, yet genuine tears for the young *Snow White*, when the Wicked Queen successfully poisoned her. Here, Emma-Clare Sheldon played the part of the evil queen with skill and maturity, blending moments of sheer malice with excellently timed one-liners and facial expressions to die for! Kate Edwards played the dashing Prince Ferdinand, and as always, had the principal boy role down to a tee. Not forgetting, Tom Grime's humorous portrayal of Chuckles, who ensured that the audience got involved with the compulsory panto audience participation! (Oh no he didn't...!). Playing the title role of *Snow White* was Abbie Plant, who acted the role beautifully and had a lovely singing voice to match. Not forgetting Dame Edna Bucket of course played by Anthony Davies,



CHOOSE HEALTH



www.bollingtonleisure.co.uk

who seems to take to the role so 'naturally' and didn't disappoint on the costume front!

All of these were superbly supported by an abundance of young actors and dancers, playing various other roles, all of whom look thrilled to be taking part in the pantomime and enjoying the experience of performing with such a talented cast. The music, choreography, scenery and lighting design made good use of the newly refurbished Arts Centre performance space, captivating audiences and bringing the true magic of panto to life. Roll on next year!

If you're reading this and thinking that you've never been to see a show by the Festival Players, then I would definitely recommend going. Being a relatively small company, they really do need your support and with talent like this on our doorstep, who needs the West End?!

Matthew Gratton



www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

There seems to be too many health & fitness choices out there at the moment. You can go for a run outside, play Zumba on your games console or just race around after the kids all day.

You can join a small gym, a big gym, an expensive gym or a cheap gym. Some gyms boast the modernist of modern equipment, while some claim to have the most. Some gyms are independent, some part of a bigger chain, some are run by the local council and some gyms have won awards. So how do you decide where to go to help you maintain those ever elusive New Year's resolutions?

For 35 years we at Bollington Heath and Leisure (previously Bollington Leisure Centre) have been quietly getting on with the business of

providing the best for Bollington, so much so that the fact that we are still a not for profit organisation has been forgotten by some and although there are other centres in and around the village, none are run in this unique way.

Bollington Health & Leisure is a registered charity. That means all the money we make is reinvested in our friendly, helpful staff and superb facilities, ensuring the people of Bollington have the very best leisure facilities right on their doorstep. We are not just for you, but for the community too.

So, remember when making those health & fitness choices you can also support the local community – if you join our gym, the benefit is all yours.

Steven Hurst

LET'S DO IT! TOGETHER

Bollington Festival 2014 will mark 50 years of Bollingtonians' ideas taking hold, gathering support and proving the truth of Dr John Coope's adage that individuals acting together in a shared enthusiasm explode into a force that far exceeds the sum of its numbers.

The next Festival will feature a Community Programme packed with events arranged by or starring local groups in many local venues, including the big marquee. Some events will be ticketed, many will be free. They'll be indoors or out, in one location or 'on the hoof'. Some will be variations on proven favourites and others unexpected and extraordinary. Additionally, all established groups are of course invited to enrich the Festival mix, by planning something special for May 2014.

Already, several brave local people have agreed to coordinate particular interest

groups, guiding those involved through the imagining and planning process of the next two and a half years. During that time, it is hoped that small groups will enlarge and completely new ones 'pop up'.

If you and a few friends have the energy and commitment to start up a particular special-interest group, the Festival Team will help you make it happen and then shoehorn it into the overall Programme. Hopefully, in 2012 and 2013 all Bollington can enjoy a few small-scale Festival practice runs and then be fully primed for May 2014's humdingar.

SO, think beyond today. Watch out for notices on boards and websites inviting you to join in a Festival community group. Then show up, bringing along friends, ideas and goodwill; expertise welcome but not essential!

So let's do it! Together.

Jose Spinks

WAR & PEACE IN BOLLINGTON

The findings of the 1911 Census have been kept confidential for 100 years and have now been made public.

Are you curious about what life was like in Bollington at that time? Also, have you ever, like me, stood by the war memorial in the Bollington memorial gardens and wondered about the men whose names are engraved there? If so, I am sure that you will want to read two books that have been written by two local authors, Roy Arnold & Dave Williams.

About the authors:

Roy was born in Macclesfield Workhouse and after his ordination in 1963 served parishes in Bristol, Chester, Stockport, Sale and Sheffield. He returned to Bollington in 1997. Dave Williams, however, was born further afield in Shrewsbury and came to Bollington with his wife the Reverend Veronica Hydon, when she became the Vicar of Bollington.

These knowledgeable authors have provided us with a fascinating history of Bollington during the early twentieth century. Both books make easy reading but are full of fascinating facts.

Bollington 1911 covers what the Census revealed and what local life was like



100 years ago. It goes into considerable detail about the people, travel, schools, shops, pubs, cinema, leisure and churches as well as special events. It is also illustrated throughout, with many interesting photographs, giving us a pictorial record of Bollington's inhabitants and buildings past and present.

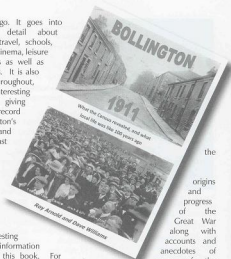
Indeed, there are

numerous really interesting snippets of information contained in this book. For example, did you know Sir James Chadwick (1891-1974), a Nobel Prize winner in 1936, for the discovery of the Neutron, which led to atomic bombs in Japan, went to Bollington Cross School? Or did you know that a large number of women, throughout the country, frustrated with the government's refusal to grant women the vote, boycotted the 1911 census by refusing to be counted. In Bollington there appears to be no such suffragette refusals and no spoilt returns. Also, were you aware that if you didn't pay the rent in 1911 your front door was removed!

Bollington 1914-1918 and more

The second more recent publication 'Bollington 1914 - 1918', describes The Great War in the context of its effect on Bollington and its families. It lists every man killed in both World Wars giving pen portraits of their lives before service in the military, and as much as is known about death and places of burial. One very disturbing fact is that 'over 160 local men died - about one in five of the more than 600 local men who fought'. Particularly poignant are the letters written by some of these incredibly brave soldiers and their officers prior to their death.

This book also gives the reader numerous interesting insights into



the origins and progress of the Great War along with accounts and anecdotes of some of the personalities involved who were in command during the time that many Bollington men were killed. For example, we read about one British Commander, General Stopford, who took an afternoon nap during one horrific campaign in the Dardanelles! He was subsequently 'replaced' with many people saying he should not have been appointed in the first place as he was too old and inexperienced. Little comfort, one imagines, to those surviving relatives.

I, therefore, strongly recommend both of these books as they are well researched, informative and would prove a valuable resource to those interested in local history.

Profits are to be shared between the church and the charity 'Combat Stress', which provides support for those returning from war zones with post traumatic stress disorder.

Both books are available at St Oswald's Church; the Post Office and the Discovery Centre, and are priced at £7.99. However, please note there are now limited copies of the 'Bollington 1911' book currently available.

Kate Gooding

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BOLLINGTON

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Bolly Comedy Club

It's Spring (nearly) so celebrate!
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or £10 on the door

Saturday March 3rd 2-4.30pm

46th Spring Show

Bollington & District Horticultural Society
& Flower Club at the Civic Hall. £1,
children & conc. 50p Refreshments
available Everyone welcome to enter.
Schedules from Joyce Burton 572668

Saturday March 3rd 8pm, Arts Centre

Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Wu Quartet play Smetana, Ligeti,
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Sunday March 4th - Sunday March 25th

A World Away

Paintings by wildlife artist David Finney
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Friday March 9th 7.30pm, Arts Centre

On Yer Bike

The epic story of Bernard Selby's bike ride
from St Malo to Cadiz. £5 / £4, pay at door
Proceeds to BAC and the MS society
Enquiries to 575287 & 574410

Saturday March 10th, 10am - midday

Spring Toy Sale

Lots of good quality nearly new baby
items, toys and clothes for young children
St. John's School, Grimshaw Lane

Monday 12th 6.30pm, The Vale Inn

Using the Energy in Light

With Dr Darren Graham. Arrive early! free
admission, details: David Whalley 611608

March 14th - 17th

Bollington Festival Players Arts Centre

Details & tickets: Val Postance on 875326

Thursday March 15th 7.30pm

Gardening all the Year

Sue Beesley from Bluebell Gardens at the
Community Centre Bollington hosted by
Bollington & District Horticultural Society
Members £1.50, Non-Members £3

Sunday March 18th 8pm, Arts Centre

Second Sunday Folk Club

Yes, it is the third Sunday just for once,
but still the successful format of local
singers and players offering their best to an
enthusiastic audience. Tickets £2
www.outofbollington.com Tel: 574617

Sunday March 25th 2.30 & 5pm Arts Centre

Bollington Festival Music Theatre

The talented cast of 7-14 year olds present
Ramayana, the great Hindu epic. Reserve
tickets £6 / £3 on 0161 225 4680 or on-
line on www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Friday 30th 8pm (doors open 7.30)

Totally Tina, www.totallytina.co.uk

featuring the talent and glamour of "Tina
Turner", her band and exotic dancers at
the Arts Centre. Over 18's only. Tickets
£10 from www.wegotickets.com/
totallytina or tel: 573945, 575076, 573863

Saturday March 31st 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Gentleman Jim McIntosh and the
Jazzaholics. Tickets £9 ring 574410

April

Sunday April 1st - May 6th Arts Centre

Nature's Own

Arts Centre Gallery - Creative Art Group
Ann Ford's students show their latest works
Sundays 2-4 & during other events

Friday April 6th 8pm, Arts Centre

Bolly Comedy Club

Tickets £9.90 online, £10 on the door
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Sunday April 8th 8pm, Arts Centre

Second Sunday Folk Club

See www.outofbollington.com or
ring 574617 for more details, tickets £2

Monday April 16th 6.30pm, The Vale Inn

Tissue Engineering

With Professor Cay Kielty, Manchester
University. Free admission, more details:
David Whalley 611608

Thursday April 19th 7.30pm

All Aspects of Vegetable Gardening

Harry Delaney, from Reaseheath College
at the Community Centre hosted by
Bollington & District Horticultural Society
Bring along your problem plants.
Members £1.50, Non-Members £3

Saturday April 21st 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Dave Mott's Jazz Classics with Suzanne.
01625 574410 to book your place (£9)

Saturday April 28th 8pm, Arts Centre

Bollington Chamber Concerts

The Rhodes Piano Trio
play Schumann, Rihm and Brahms. Tickets
£14, £7 from 575287 or 526402

May

Friday May 4th 8pm, Arts Centre

Bolly Comedy Club

Tickets £9.90 online, £10 on the door at
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Saturday May 5th 7.30pm, Arts Centre

From Gilbert & Sullivan to Glyndebourne

Macclesfield born singer Sue Gorton with
a mixture of arias and light-hearted songs,
accompanied by Russell Lomas
Tickets £8 575287

Sunday May 6th 2-4pm, Arts Centre gallery

Nature's Own

Last chance to see Ann Ford's students
showing their latest works

Saturday May 12th 7.30, Arts Centre

Pilgrim's Way

A three-piece band which draws
inspiration from the 60s / 70s.
See www.pilgrims-way.net & Facebook.
Local artists will perform before the main
act. Tickets £8 from 574866 or 573413

Sunday May 13th 8pm, Arts Centre

Second Sunday Folk Club

See www.outofbollington.com or
ring 574617 for more details, tickets £2

Saturday May 19th 7.30, Arts Centre

Music from Chetham's

Tomorrow's musical stars play string
quartets. £5, students free 575287/526402

Sunday May 20th 12 - 3pm

Spring Fair

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School
Albert Road, 01625 572037
admin@stgregorys.cheshire.sch.uk

June

Saturday June 2nd 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Amy Roberts' All Stars
Book your seat (£9) on 574410

Saturday June 9th Doors & Bar 7.30pm

Howden-Jones at the Arts Centre

Singer-songwriter duo with "bare
knuckle acoustic balladry". Visit www.howdenjones.co.uk
Our own local singers
will provide support. Tickets (£9) from
574866, 574866/573413

Sunday June 10th 8pm, Arts Centre

Second Sunday Folk Club

See www.outofbollington.com or
ring 574617 for more details, tickets £2

Dates for your Diary

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

Bollington Festival Events

The Bollington Festival Fundraising Teams have been busy planning some great activities and are hoping to appeal to different interest groups in our aim to involve the whole community. If you want to know more about each event, check out www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk/events-at-bollington-festival/

21st March, 7.30pm

Classical Guitar Evening

Oliver at Bollington Green, Food and service with panache, accompanied by two extraordinary guitarists. Tickets £25.

23rd April 7.00pm

Music di Briscola

A Harpist and flautist from the RNCM will enchant every sense while you enjoy the fine Italian fare. £25.

12th May, 2pm

Registration 1pm at Bollington Brewery

Not for the faint-hearted, this 9km race includes 370m of climb across three of Bollington's best-loved hills. Reg. £5.

7th - 5th June

Hunt for White Nancy Exhibition and Auction

2D and 3D works of art, all depicting White Nancy are on show at Bollington Arts Centre over the long weekend; each piece of art will be auctioned online to raise funds for the Festival.

3rd June, 12-4pm

Family Picnic, The Big Jubilee Lunch

Adlington Road Rec. - Families across the UK will all be "joining the Queen for lunch". Bring your picnic and enjoy the inflatable slide and other attractions. Free.

4th June, 11am

Family Treasure Hunt for White Nancy

Clues will be available to view during the exhibition so your family can hunt down photos of the art exhibition pieces hidden around Bollington. Prizes for all! £3.

16th - 17th June

Open Gardens

Two very different days of garden exploration have been made possible by the generosity of the garden owners. Day one is a driving tour to some of the more out-of-the-way gardens, while day two's walking tour takes in central Bollington. £5

Bridgend Walks

Please note varying starting times and that the Centre will not be open until 10.00am. These graded circular walks start and finish at the Bridgend Centre unless otherwise stated. £2.50 per walk - includes tea, coffee and biscuits at end of walk. Ensure you wear suitable footwear, clothing and bring a drink. Phone 01625 576311 for further details.

Wed 7th March, 10.15am, 6 miles.

Mines, Bricks & Bakesones

Wed 14th March, 10.15am, 5 miles

Following the River Dean

Wed 21st March, 10.15am

Guest Leader's Walk to be arranged

Tues 27th March, 10.30am, 2 miles

Quarry Cottages below Keridge Ridge with AgeUK

Wed 28th March, 10.15am, 5½ miles

Oakenbank, Rainow, Harrop Valley

Wed 4th April, 10.15am, 6 miles

Burley Town, Middlewood Way, Tinkers Cough.

Wed 11th April, 10.15am, 6 miles

The Nab, Sugar & Holehouse Lanes, Canal

Wed 18th April, 10.15am, 3 miles

Ranger's natural history walk

Tues 24th April, 10.30am, 2 miles

Cow Lane & Ingersley Vale with AgeUK

Wed 25th April, 10.15am, 6 miles

Middlewood Way, Whiteley Green, Lowerhouse

Wed 2nd May, 10.15am, 6 miles

Bluebells in Harrop Wood, Further Harrop Farm

Wed 9th May, 10.15am, 4½ miles

White Nancy, Rally Road, fields to Hollin Hall

Wed 16th May, 10.15am

Guest leader's walk to be arranged

Wed 23rd May, 10.15am, 6 miles

Spuley Lane, Berristall Hall, Moorside Quarry

Wed 6th June, 10.15am, 6 miles

Harrop Wood, Lima Cough, Ingersley Vale

Wed 13th June, 10.15am, 6 miles

Canal, Tinkers Cough, Dumbah Hollow, Butley

Wed 20th June, 10.15am

Guest leader's walk to be arranged

Tues 26th June, 10.30am, 2 miles

Sugar Lane, Long Lane & Canal with AgeUK

Wed 27th June, 10.15am, 4 miles

Strolling up the Nab, Long Lane

Photography Group

Summer Photo Walks and Talks

The aim of the summer season walks and talks is to cover photographic theory techniques on the Thursday, which are then actioned in practice on the following Friday Photo Walk. Free to attend, all welcome.

'How to' Thursdays

April 19th, May 17th, June 14th,

July 19th, August 16th, September 20th

Talks will be held at Bollington Printshop, Pool Bank at 7.30pm

Photo Walks on Fridays

April 27th, May 25th, June 22nd,

July 27th, August 24th, September 28th

Meet at 7pm. Details of meeting places will be on the Bollington in Photos website and on Twitter at @BollingtonPhotoWalks.

Look on line or on posters around Bollington for special photographic challenges throughout the year.

Please join in!

At the Bridgend Centre...

The Internet Café and Charity Shop are open Mon - Thurs 10am to 4.30pm, and Saturday - 10am to 3pm

Coming Soon:

Art for Pleasure, Bridgend Babies

Monday

'Scene Setters' improvised drama group 10.30am to 12.30pm

Computer Classes, am, by appointment

Tuesday

Silk Painting / Card Making - 10.15am to 12.15pm

Scrabble - 10.15am to 12.15pm

Monthly Walk with AgeUK

Wednesday

Weekly Guided Walks

Creative Writing - 2.15pm to 4.15pm

Mah Jong - time to be arranged

Thursday

Yoga 10.30am to 12.00pm

Reading circle - 11.00am to 12.30pm

Computer Classes, pm, by appointment

Saturday

Internet Café, Charity Shop 10am - 3pm

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BOLLINGTON BY...

We continue our ongoing series of sensible and lighthearted interview questions with a cross-section of Bollington's younger residents. In this issue, the burning questions are asked of Miriam Beck.

Firstly, tell us a little bit about yourself.

My name is Miriam Beck and I'm 15 years old. I have lived in Bollington all my life and in fact I was born in Bollington at home! I love living in Bolly because you are near to shops and cafes but in the countryside at the same time so its easy to chill and be away from the hustle and bustle of a city centre. I am a self-confessed chocoholic and I love nothing more than snuggling on the sofa on a cold night by the fire watching TV!

Any hobbies?

I go to ballet twice a week and I help out at the ballet school on Saturday mornings with the little ones which is fun. I've been going trampolining with a friend for five years now – we like to chat as much as we bounce! I also play the flute.

What is good about living in Bollington?

I love seeing White Nancy out of my bedroom window and I like walking in the hills and along the canal, especially when there's a hot chocolate at the end at the Waterside!

If you had a magic wand what would you wish for Bollington?

I wish Bollington had a chocolate shop! I love chocolate and I think it should do a chocolate fountain and churros (Spanish style donuts you dip in melted chocolate!).

What music do you listen to?

At the moment I like Adele and Katy Perry.

How many pots of nail varnish do you have?

33! My favourite colour is powder blue with a glittery coat on the top!

What person(s) do you admire most and why?

Sounds soft but, my parents as I wouldn't be me without them!

If you had a magical power what would it be and why?

I would like to be able to fly as I think it would be really cool – I'd be able to see everything if I could fly over the rooftops and I'd be able to get places really fast!

What is your biggest achievement?

Two things – passing the last flute exam and building a vegetable patch in the garden with my gran last year and harvesting our first potatoes!

What book are you reading?

I've just read a fab book called 'Left Neglect' by Lisa Genova. Its about a woman who has an incredibly busy life with a high powered job, a big house, a family and a house in the countryside and one day while she is on her mobile while driving she has a really bad crash. She is lucky to live, but when she finally wakes up she has no knowledge of 'left' hand side of herself or the world around her – a condition called 'left neglect'. The story is both about her rebuilding her life and her realising what is important to her – her husband, her children etc. The book is both hilariously funny as she tries to negotiate the world with no knowledge of 'left' and very poignant as she struggles to find her new 'normal'. I recommend it!!

What trait do you deplore in yourself?

Putting things off.

What trait do you deplore in others?

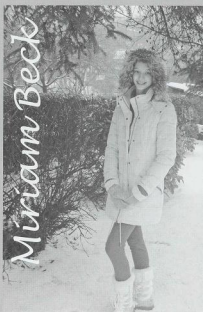
Bossiness. I hate being bossed around.

Do you have a motto?

'Use your noggin'!! My mum told me this once before my exams and it works really well! We are told so much at school out of context and if you just think yourself you can often just work things out!!

What's your favourite place?

Montreal. My godfather lives there – I love the snow and the Canadian bagels!



Photograph of
Miriam by Annette
Hurst

Rabbit or guinea-pig?

I'd love a guinea-pig!

Coke or lemonade?

Lemonade – the cloudy one or even better homemade!

Tea or coffee?

Tea, white one sugar.

What's your favourite colour?

It changes, but at the moment it's yellow.

What's your favourite food?

Warburtons' sliced white bread

Tell us a joke?

What did the fish say when he bumped into something? Dam!

Bollington Live! would like to thank Miriam for her time in answering our questions. If you would like to be featured in future editions, please get in touch!

Annette Hurst



LOCAL FOOD REVOLUTION

Do you know where your food comes from? Do you care? We are the first people in history to stop doing so. We need to look at the heart of a problem that is fast developing into one of this country's strategically important issues.

We have something here in the UK which mankind has longed for. We have an endless supply of cheap, readily available food which we take for granted, being able to buy what we want around the clock. But do we know where it comes from, how it gets here and at what environmental and social cost? Is there another way, which will make us healthier, our local economy stronger and bring food back into our consciences? Here in Bollington there is... fortunately.

'Food4Macc' was created by a small group of people who wanted to do something positive about the issues associated with peak oil and climate change. They decided to focus on food and have been engaged in raising awareness and encouraging people to grow their own food, through creating a food map showing where local food is produced, establishing community gardens, running a garden share scheme, giving talks on food related topics, and more recently, setting up a local food purchasing club.

'Food4Macc Direct' - their social enterprise scheme, sources the majority of food from within a twenty-five mile radius of Macclesfield. This means that we can now buy local food delivered direct to our (almost) doorstep.

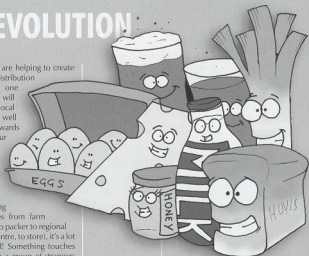
A few of us in Bollington were so excited by this project that we have teamed up and set up a Bollington distribution hub at the Fitness4All gym. You place your order at the start of each month, and pick up your shopping from the gym between 7pm and 9.30pm on Thursday evenings, at no extra cost.

Yes, OK so it's not as convenient as popping into the supermarket on the way home from work, but with a little planning, it's well worth it. Not only are you buying fresh, local Cheshire produce straight from the

farm, but you are helping to create a new food distribution structure, one which will help the local economy. As well as going towards reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, (the food isn't being flown in from abroad, or travelling large distances from farm to processor, to packer to regional distribution centre, to store), it's a lot of fun as well! Something touches the soul when a group of strangers come together to create a change for good in their community.

It's my belief that these kinds of structures are going to be our future and we should support them where we can, working alongside supermarkets - and maybe one day replacing them.

A sustainable future food supply aside 'Food4MaccDirect' offers high quality produce at a competitive price, and since using them my



For more information visit www.food4macc.org, or contact email: food4macc@gmail.com or on telephone 07824 060566.

Photograph by Michael Wakelin

monthly food bill has gone down, and not up as I expected, as I am keeping out of the supermarkets and their marketing traps! New product lines are being introduced every month and members enjoy local vegetables, home-made cakes, Wincle fish, Cheshire cheese, bread, and meat amongst other things. Of course, we are lucky in Bollington to have such a wonderful choice of local food shops, and 'Food4Macc Direct' supplements these, offering an alternative to the supermarket.

Finally, for those of you thinking about, or already growing your own fruit and vegetables, 'Food4Macc' can lend a helping hand with advice, and even find a garden for you if you are tired of being on an allotment waiting list. They currently have more gardens going spare than people who want them - you could be growing your own food this year.

So, did you manage to stick to your new year resolutions? Well, why not make another one - reduce the amount you shop at supermarkets, or stop going to them altogether and support local businesses in Bollington, including 'Food4Macc'. Now wouldn't that be amazing? Go on, try it for a month and see how you feel - you will be surprised what you can find for sale in local shops in Bollington - and make friends along the way.

Nicola Percival



SET IN STONE

Part of the ancient boundary between the townships of Bollington and Rainow runs roughly north in a straight line down from White Nancy to the lower end of Ingersley Vale.

The upper part of this boundary line, on Kerridge hill, is a dry stone wall, described in 1810 by the vicar of Disley as a 'fence of stone'. The lower part, towards east Bollington, is marked by a hedge. Walking the boundary armed with an 1873 Ordnance Survey map, I found a dressed stone lying flat beside the hedge with a carved letter K on the visible face. Returning with the KRIV countryside volunteers to turn the stone over, we found a B on the hidden face, and an R on one side.

So, the stone marked a less ancient boundary, one of 1862 or just after, that once divided Bollington town from Kerridge for the purposes of



the Bollington Improvement Act. This Act brought a gas works, street lighting and better sanitation to the unhealthy and more densely populated parts of the township that were dominated by the cotton mills and housing for their workers. One part of this 150 year old

Photograph by
Tom Swailes

www.kriv.org.uk

boundary, running from the end of Cow Lane along the hillside to the older Bollington-Rainow boundary, is apparent as the last remnants of an old hedge.

The Bollington-Rainow-Kerridge boundary stone is now reinstated close to its original position with the permission of landowner Tullis Russell, a major Bollington employer that uses water from Kerridge in the manufacture of coated papers and is a supporter of the KRIV countryside volunteers.

Tom Swailes

Bollington Cross and Kerridge were not included under the Act - see the articles by Ken Edwards' in issues 51 and 52 of Bollington Live! A photo album showing some of the past year's KRIV volunteer activities can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/kriv>

FOCUS MANAGEMENT

Bollington is very fortunate to have a number of dynamic businesses with an international reputation.

In January I was kindly invited as Chair of *Bollington Live!* to attend the champagne reception celebrating the refurbishment of Focus Management Consultants' head office on Albert Road.

Created in 1990, the company has been the premier brand in the food and drink recruitment industry and it now operates with a database of over 280,000 food and drink industry professionals. It also has long-standing relationships with some of the biggest names in global food manufacturing and retail.

The event, to which I was very warmly welcomed, was to celebrate the opening of their redeveloped and refurbished building, which was originally the old telephone exchange on Albert Road, near to the Co-operative store. This sensitive redevelopment, undertaken by a

local firm began in October 2011.

Focus Management Consultants was experiencing a significant growth which required further expansion of the office to accommodate additional employees. Indeed, up to 30 employees can now be based in this impressive, light and airy two-storey building. In addition to an increase in capacity, the office now boasts three interview and meeting rooms, a glass fronted board room, a directors office, a 'media room' and a fully functional kitchen and communal dining area.

The business is currently recruiting for a number of new staff to join existing employees, such as the Administration Manager, Lynne Wilmot, a Bollington resident, who has been with the business since 1998, and who cut the tape at the opening ceremony.

At the opening one of the directors, Stephen Jones, said, "We wanted to create an environment that would

www.fmc.co.uk



The architectural detail of the modern staircase and new exterior

allow the business and everyone here to develop, and that's what we've done". This was followed by the comments of another director, Michael Staniland, who said "It is great that we can invest in the Bollington area".

It is pleasing to realise that businesses such as this are thriving in a competitive market, and importantly, are located in our town of Bollington.

Kate Gooding



Photographs by Simon Notlage



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SPRING CHICKENS?

Get fit for Spring in Bollington this year with the help of Age UK Cheshire East and their Healthy Lifestyles team.

Although their activities are primarily aimed at anyone over 50, everyone is welcome to join in. Age UK Cheshire East runs three activities in the Bollington area – Tai Chi, Keep Fit and a Walking for Health Group.

Keep Fit and Tai Chi classes take place on Tuesdays at the Methodist Church Hall - Keep Fit from 1.30-2.30pm and Tai Chi from 4-5pm.

The Keep Fit Class is full of fun routines done to music, ranging from seated warm ups to more

vigorous standing routines which can be tailored to the capabilities of individuals. These sessions are aimed at improving your strength, flexibility and stamina but above all having fun!

Tai Chi is a Chinese form of exercise full of gentle flowing movements that is superb for developing your balance, flexibility and coordination. After a session, you will feel physically invigorated but also calm and tranquil.

One participant says "I've been practising Tai Chi for over 3 years and am amazed how much it helps with balance, loosening up stiff knees and shoulders, and generally giving

a feeling of relaxation and wellbeing. It is gentle flowing exercise and is good for the mind and body; I think everyone should try it!"

If you would like to learn more about these activities please contact Age UK Cheshire East on 01625 612958.

The Walking for Health Group meet on the last Tuesday of every month, setting out from the Bridgend Centre at 10.30am, exploring the footpaths and byways around Bollington. These sociable walks usually cover two to three miles at a relaxed pace giving you the chance to enjoy our lovely countryside. Details of the walks planned for the year are available at the Bridgend Centre.

Chris Comer

FIT4PURPOSE IN THE ADELPHI

There has been a gym at the far end of the Adelphi Mill, off Grimshaw Lane, for over 25 years. In January 2009, Chris Rowlands, a Sports Science graduate then working at Virgin Active in Manchester, had heard that this gym, then known as 'The Lock Fitness Centre', was up for sale.

With the help of his parents, Mike and Linda, who have lived in Bollington for 30 years, and a huge bank loan, over £200,000 was invested and in April 2009 a new gym, now named 'Fitness4All' was born.

Chris said, "to take on such a debt at the start of a recession was seen by some people as barney but now, nearly three years later, with over 500 members we're beginning to prove that it's all been worth it and we've actually had to expand twice in that time and we're now over 6000 square feet."

'Fitness4All' has helped to put Bollington on the map for the past couple of years by twice becoming runner-up in categories at the National Fitness Awards. A couple of months ago, Chris and his staff attended the awards at the National

If you want to see for yourselves what all the fuss is about just have a look at the website, [www.f4a.co.uk](http://f4a.co.uk) or simply drop in.



Conference Centre in Birmingham. "We were the only gym in Cheshire to be invited to the finals and it was fun explaining to other finalists from towns and cities all over the country where Bollington was! Google maps certainly came in handy on the night. We've got this far by focussing on service and results for our members and this year we are going for third time lucky and hope to get the gold medal instead of this year's silver."

Mike Rowlands

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CHIRPY CRICKETERS

Bollington Cricket Club achieved their most successful ever season in the Cheshire County League in 2011.

The 1st XI led by Matt Dawson finished fourth in Division One on a club record 342 points and just 24 points off promotion to the Premier League. The team also reached the 20/20 finals day at Warrington Cricket Club and the semi-final of the Cheshire Shield.

Calum Rowe broke the 1,000 run barrier on his way to 1246 runs and was well supported by overseas player Tom Groth who accounted for 894 runs. Tom Gower (808), Matt Dawson (452) and Ged McKernan (382) all supported well.

Winter nets will run every Sunday 6-7pm for juniors and 7-8pm for seniors at Tytherington High School from January to April. New players of all ages and abilities will be welcomed.

Keep up to date with all the club news on the Bollington Cricket Club Facebook page.

The bowling honours were also shared around as Mo Jahangir despite having an injury-hit end to the season finished with 56 wickets, Mo Ali - 51, Stuart Plant - 32, Aldo Palazzo - 32, Matt Dawson - 17 and Toby Ward - 17. Toby will be captaining the 1st XI in 2012.

The 2nd XI were rejuvenated by skipper Chris Plant in the second half of their campaign with highlights being centuries from veteran Rick Paterson and youngster Karan Deepak. Two other teenagers, Ted Price and Jake Dickinson, both took 24 wickets.

The 3rd XI led by Andy Pearce finally achieved the holy grail of promotion from their division, thanks to big contributions from the

prolific batting trio of Alex Sykes, Matt McGuinness and Dan Carter who all averaged in excess of 50.

The thriving junior section also continued to flourish with the Under 18's and Under 14's winning their respective leagues. The Under 13's and Under 15's also performed admirably, both finishing as runners-up in their leagues.

Plans are in place for new sightscreens, refurbishment of the practice nets along with continued development of The Rec.

Main Sponsor in 2012 will again be The Bollington Brewing Company, whom the club would like to thank for their continued support.

Matt Dawson

DICKIE'S TIPS

Bollington Physio is part of the comprehensive health care service in Bollington, involving doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

Hilary Dickie has worked as a Physiotherapist in Bollington for twelve years and has had a wide range of experience in treating patients of all ages with musculoskeletal problems. She has worked in hospitals, sports injury clinics, GP surgeries, private practice and also industry. She now has a private practice and the NHS contract at Bollington Medical Centre.

Jon Bowden, who works with Hilary, was a professional footballer who then trained as a physiotherapist and worked with professional football and rugby clubs. He has worked in private practice and in NHS hospitals before joining Bollington Physio last March. Jon has a great deal of experience dealing with sports injuries.

Bollington Physio see an increase of various injuries in spring when



Photograph by Sandy Milsom

www:
bollingtonphysio.
com

people start activities that they have not done all winter, gardening, decorating and D.I.Y. among them.

If you take up something new and energetic you need to start gradually.

Hilary finds people in Bollington to be generally quite fit and many people enjoy walking which is very good for exercising your heart, but other useful exercises are swimming, gym programmes, Aquafit, Pilates, Yoga, Tai Chi and any form of dancing. If walking is your thing, the Bridgend Centre has regular guided walks on Wednesdays.

Here are some useful tips and ideas about how we can prevent injury and keep us fit and mobile.

Most of us will have some problems with bad backs, necks or shoulders in our lives and Hilary says that watching our posture is very important. Sitting, driving and bending for prolonged periods causes problems. It helps to get up and move about regularly.

Hilary sees many patients, even young people, who have problems because of their poor posture whilst sitting in front of a computer. Laptops are particularly bad. You need to sit at a table or desk with your back straight and have your mouse at your side so you are not reaching out for it.

Everyday activities such as vacuum cleaning, ironing and cutting the grass can aggravate problems. Putting more gusto into these activities and doing them quickly is not using the machines' technology. Elbow grease in this situation is not necessary, let the machine do the work.

'Bollington is a great place to work and I would love to come and live here,' she says. 'Everyone is so friendly and it's a real community.'

Bollingtonians are lucky to have such good health care in our village.

Sandy Milsom

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KEEP ON RUNNING

After nine years of trying, Rick Gratton nearly didn't apply for the 2012 London Marathon draw. But one night he made a few clicks on the computer and a few weeks later received a letter saying he'd been accepted. Rick and his wife Sarah had been going through a difficult time as Sarah's mother, Joyce Warrington, had died from a stroke a few months earlier. They knew it was an excellent opportunity to raise money for Macclesfield Hospital Stoke Unit, where Joyce had been so wonderfully looked after.

Rick, (now 45) has been racing since school and is regularly

*Photograph
provided by Rick
Gratton*



seen at local fell running events; including the Bollington Three Peaks. He has run several half marathons, but a full marathon cannot be treated lightly and so a strict training regime was required. Three times a week he runs home from Hurdfield, where he works for Halmatex Ltd. When I chatted to him, on a wet Sunday afternoon in January, he had just run to Higher Poynton and back along the Middlewood Way on his weekly twelve mile run.

Rick has a lot to live up to; his father, Bollingtonian Frank Gratton was once one of Britain's finest marathon runners and almost made the Olympics. Now eighty-seven, Frank has hung up his pumps, but in 1949 he was ranked 94th in the world! Rick has no Olympic aspirations; he runs

mainly to keep fit and for the buzz he gets when he tearing along the tops of the hills.

Sponsorship does not raise itself. Rick's fund-raising is managed by his brother-in-law Paul Ledger (he is married to Sarah's sister, Claire). Their centre of operations is the Dog and Partridge Inn. All the regulars and landlord Larry Broomhead are all behind Rick and are holding regular fund-raising evenings. Other vital helpers are Rob Nolan, Rick & Sarah's daughter Nicky and their niece and Mollie and nephew James. They hope to raise £2000 for the Stroke Unit.

The race itself is on April 22nd, and if all things go to plan Rick is hoping for a time of around 4 hours. This means an average speed of around 6.5 mph, about twice a normal walking speed.

To sponsor Rick, give him a call on 01625 268387 or email him at Rick.Gratton@ntlworld.com or you can pick up a sponsor form from behind the bar at the Dog & Partridge.

Tim Neale

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