



BOLLINGTON *Live!*

Number Fifty Five Summer 2012



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BIT is Bollington's Development Trust and was established in 2005 to manage land and buildings for our community. Current projects include the Water Street School, the Sarnie House walled garden, the Recreation Ground pavilion, Trickers Clough Wood and the closed toilet block on Strigley Road. A new interactive web site is also being developed.

The Trust seeks further members for its Management and Trustee Group and would like to hear from you if you would like to get involved and help move Bollington forward.

To learn more please contact:

Graham Barrow on (01625) 573807 email: graham@gbdtl.co.uk
Margaret Park on (01625) 262988 email: margaret.park@me.com

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**BOLLINGTON****Live!**

Bollington Live! is published three times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington Live! - A voice for everyone" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome to: The Editor, c/o Bollington Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen St., Bollington SK10 5PS

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BUILDINGS CRUMBLE...

The Grade II listed Methodist Church in Wellington Road is due to close at the end of August. For a small congregation the cost of maintaining and running the building has become unsustainable.

A considerable amount of work is now required to arrest the deterioration of the stonework; this comes just after expensive work was carried out on the spire a couple of years ago. The congregation will move on to another church and the Methodist Church authorities are expected to dispose of the

property for probable re-development into apartments as the listed status of the building prevents its demolition. The Reverend Howard Stringer says they are looking for a new location in Bollington.

This closure is a huge blow to the town and raises significant issues due to the main

hall being the town's largest performance space, renowned for its beauty and excellent acoustics.

It is regularly used by the prize-winning Bollington Brass Band both for practice and for concerts. Several other groups use the building and all these will need to find new homes.

Outside the building there are questions regarding Bollington Arts Centre which is located directly behind the Church; indeed, the centre was built to be the Methodist Sunday School and has a right of access through the church grounds. The car park up the drive, however, belongs to the church. A more immediate problem is that the electricity supply for the Arts Centre comes directly from the church. A direct connection to the main will now be required and this will cost up to £30,000 to install!

The present building is the third Methodist Church on the site. Peter Lomas, builder of Waterhouse Mill, gave land, known as Knowles Green, for the first small chapel in 1807. In 1837 Thomas Oliver leased further land to the church and a new, bigger, chapel was built, and the Manse followed in 1853. The present church was built in 1884 to hold 700 people 'with more on benches'!

Tim Boddington

For more history read Jean Wright's excellent '200 Years of Bollington Methodist' available from the Discovery Centre.

The final band concert from the Church will be held on Sunday 15 July, 7.30pm, in aid of East Cheshire Hospice.

Tickets £8 and £2 (children) from Roger Johnson 01625-613815.

Photograph: Anthony Holland

EDITORIAL

Back in the mists of time, **Bollington Live!** was born as a 12 page magazine. This issue is the first time we have achieved a magazine of double that size!

For a voluntary publication to even continue for so many years, never mind still getting bigger and better really is an achievement for Bollington; and I really do mean Bollington - it is you who this magazine is for, you who send in articles, and you whose businesses support us in ever increasing numbers. No matter how many pages we have in **Bollington Live!** there are always more articles than space available. Surely a sign of a positive and vibrant community!

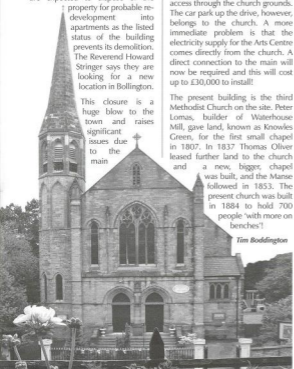
One of the ways that the Editorial Group have tried to improve the magazine is to try to widen the target readership. I think we are going some way to achieving that. In this issue there is genuinely involvement from Bollingtonians aged from eight to eighty.

Whilst we often consider historical articles to be ancient activities by people long since passed, the more recent history is often overlooked. In this issue we have several major articles which back to the 1960s and '70s. Future history also is being written with such events as the new Skate Park and the Diamond Jubilee events, both of which are also included in this issue. I would particularly like to thank our young residents - Billy Schofield and Ashley Brooks - featured on the front cover.

There really are too many articles to mention in this short editorial, so please read on, and enjoy the summer - whatever the weather!

All the best!

Date for next copy:
Friday 28th September 2012



BOLLINGTON

CELEBRATES!

The people of Bollington love local events, whether it's the Youth Fair, the Skate Park opening or the Bollington Festival. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend was no exception and in spite of very mixed weather Bollingtonians turned out in force to celebrate.

On Saturday, streets were closed and parties took place, notably in Barnfield Road, Fairfield Avenue and Clarence Terrace. On Sunday it was the Jubilee parade from Grimshaw Lane to the Recreation Ground along the Middlewood Way. It was very wet and windy but the Town Mayor, Cllr. Ken Edwards, the Bollington Brass Band and over 100



people turned up decked in union flags. As they crossed the viaduct the wind took hold of the union flag umbrellas, but they held their ground to fight another day, albeit a little out of shape! The Mayor, Cllr. Ken Edwards, was however in very good shape and, clothed almost completely as a union flag, led the parade onto the Recreation Ground through a WI guard of honour. Ken, ever the outdoor type, then marched the parade around the ground to ensure everyone was thoroughly soaked but surprisingly very happy.

The weather by this time had declared war on Bollington and the organisers of the Big Lunch had instigated plan 'B' to use the Cricket Pavilion, which was also decked out with union flag tablecloths and 'the full works'. Hot food from the BBQ, hot drinks and locally brewed Bollington ales sustained everyone and a good time was had by all.



Monday dawned fine and dry and at the Arts Centre at 11.00am there was a long queue to enter the Treasure Hunt, to find gems hidden around the gem of Bollington itself. At 10.15pm things started to hot up as the Jubilee Beacon was lit on White Nancy - proud in her new livery. This was following

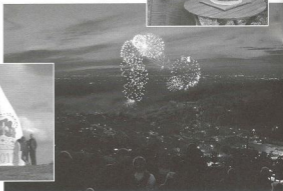


by a firework spectacular on the Recreation Ground. Hundreds turned out and they were not disappointed. The Bar and BBQ on the Recreation Ground were very busy providing much needed funds for the Cricket Club. Nick from Canalside Community Radio had the audience enthralled with his music which was timed perfectly with the firework display.

David Naylor



Photographs by: John Appleyard, Carol Barnes, Terry Heathcote, Tom Lewis, Simon Nottage



GREEN FINGERS

Look east from White Nancy, and about half a mile away across Ingersley Vale is a grand eighteenth century country house with farm buildings and a walled garden in its grounds.

Disused for many years, this walled garden is now being restored to its former glory, as a working kitchen garden by community volunteers from Bollington and Rainow.

Ingersley Hall, as it was then, was home to several generations of the Gaskell family and now, as Savio House, it is a Retreat, Conference and Activities centre owned by the Salesians of Don Bosco, a Roman Catholic order working for young people in over 130 countries across the world.

The resident Savio community, most of whom are young people on a gap year, host visiting youth groups from around the country that come to enjoy good food, comfortable accommodation and a full activities programme in a relaxing countryside setting. The Salesians vision for Savio is as a place for spirituality, where people can belong, and where people can learn and find meaning in their lives.



Under the leadership of Father David O'Malley, the Salesians plan to make greater use of the fields and woodlands surrounding Savio House for the benefit of youth groups. A permanent orienteering course has been established and several large scout camps have been held there this year.

Being one of the larger local landowners, the Salesians were active partners in the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale (KRIV) project.

Supported by the Heritage

Lottery Fund and other bodies, this project was concerned with the conservation and management of natural and man-made heritage features in the landscape.

The funded phase of the project ended some years ago, but a lasting human legacy has been the establishment of the 25 strong KRIV Countryside

Restoration Projects

Above: The tumble-down potting shed

Below left: the remains of the greenhouse

Photographs by Simon Nottage

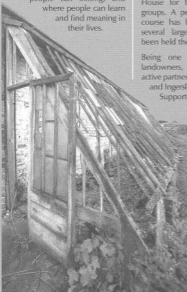
Follow progress via the 'KRIV Community Garden at Savio House' blog:

www.kriv-community-garden.blogspot.co.uk

If you are interested in being a KRIV Community Garden Volunteer, e-mail: kriv.garden@btinternet.com

Volunteers group that continues to work from a base in one of the barns at Savio House. Each Friday, KRIV volunteers are engaged in countryside management tasks, in Bollington, Rainow and sometimes further afield, including footpath and dry stone wall repairs and hedge-laying.

Through the Bollington Initiative Trust, ideas for another project based at Savio House are being developed with the KRIV volunteers and the Salesians. The core of the project is the restoration of the historic walled garden and its semi-derelict but substantial lean-to stone buildings. From spring this year a small group of KRIV Community Garden Volunteers have worked hard to return an area of the garden to cultivation. The KRIV Countryside Volunteers have helped by cutting back scrub vegetation to reveal fine stone flag paths and the task of restoring the garden infrastructure has begun. In the future it is hoped to restore the garden buildings to create 'The Ingersley Centre': a centre for countryside conservation, gardening education and training and a base for a community garden social enterprise. **Tom Swailes**



FLYING HIGH

I've been in planes before but never quite like this. I was hanging upside down in the cockpit of a Grob Tutor flying a loop over R.A.F. Woodvale. This was my first air experience flight after joining the Air Cadets at the age of thirteen in February 2009. Since then I have taken part in many exciting events and had many experiences that I'll never forget.

I had wanted to join the Air Cadets for some time, so when I turned thirteen I joined 236 Squadron in Bollington. At the time we were based at Water Street School with no great facilities, but then, on September 11th 2011, we moved to the site of the old Slaughterhouse on Shrigley Road, where we now have three classrooms, main hall, flight simulator and even an indoor air rifle range. We are also located next to a field where we regularly

Due to the government scrapping Nimrod, R.A.F. Kinloss was rendered surplus to requirements and in July 2011 ceased to be used by the R.A.F. The annual camp is now held at R.A.F. Scampton in Lincolnshire

Photographs provided by Bollington A.C.

www.236afc.co.uk



take part in fieldcraft training and exercises.

Every year we used to travel to R.A.F. Kinloss in Scotland where we held our annual camp, which consisted of visiting various stations on the airbase such as the R.A.F. Regiment or Ground Protection Force and the Nimrod squadrons. Also whilst on the camp we took day trips to R.A.F. Lossiemouth, which is home to several R.A.F. Tornado Squadrons and took part in survival training and life-raft drills.

As well as our squadron camps there are also summer and Easter camps, where cadets from all over the Greater Manchester Wing take part in a week's stay at an R.A.F. base or military training camp. There are also various other week and weekend camps through the year both in England and abroad,

in places such as Germany and Cyprus. There are also various competitions throughout the year from swimming and athletics to football, table tennis and drill.

Our Squadron is also one of the few to have its own band consisting of snare and tenor drums and we also have trumpets, which we are hoping to introduce into the band in the near future. We have played in various public events such as the Remembrance Sunday parades.

With this year being the 30th anniversary of 236 Squadron there's no better time to join, so if you like the idea of flying, shooting, adventure training, field craft, drill, sports and making lots of good mates, then come down on Monday or Thursday between 7pm-9pm and join 236 Squadron Air Cadets.

Sam Walton

MAGIC CARPETS

Tim, Lucy and their children, when sitting relaxing in a local café look like a very pleasant but ordinary family. In reality they live close to magic and myth.

They opened their business, 'The Weave', four years ago in the front room of their cottage in Bollington Cross. When you visited it was like entering a shop in a souk in Damascus or Izmir. The front room was bare boards and around the walls were piled rolled rugs and carpets. Lucy would unroll them on the bare boards and the colours



*Lucy at The Weave
Photo by Anthony Holland*

would glow even in that dim light. Tim would describe the way they were made, the hours of painstaking work that went into each one. As a customer I was fascinated.

On a Saturday evening in May I was invited as a former customer turned Mayor to the opening of their new showroom at Clarence Mill. The showroom is lit by a large window and on the back wall is hung a beautiful silk carpet. It is a representation of the Ardabil Carpet in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The original was woven in 1530.

Around the walls are hung carpets from Iran (Persia) and Afghanistan. The carpets hang like wonderful pictures in an Art Gallery. Tim and Lucy welcome interested visitors whether they wish to become customers or just want to browse.

I recommend a visit to experience the beauty and appreciate the workmanship in this lovely setting. You really feel as if you have been swept magically into a different, quieter and more patient culture.

Ken Edwards

TREADING BOARDS & VOCAL CHORDS!

With Bollington Festival Choir gearing up for its 50th anniversary in 2014, and the Music Theatre celebrating its 25th in 2011, no Bollingtonian will be surprised to learn that Dr. John Coope M.B.E. was the inspiration behind both groups.

The Choir was one of many groups he started (or persuaded others to) for the first Festival in 1964, while the Music Theatre began when John Coope initiated performances of Britten's community opera Noye's Fludde at the 1986 Festival. Both groups are based at Bollington Arts Centre and are still going strong.

Dr. John conducted the Festival Choir for 37 years, inspiring it to perform not only the Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Verdi beloved of choral singers, but also pieces such as Holst's Hymn of Jesus and Finzi's Intimations of

Immortality which few choirs – even professional ones – ever tackle. Donald Judge, who succeeded him as conductor, has maintained this tradition, bringing works such as Honegger's King David, Nielsen's Springtime on Fünen and Pascha's Czech Christmas Mass to Bollington.

Donald Judge also directs the Music Theatre, a unique group for 7-14 year olds which began when he couldn't bear to part company from the talented youngsters he'd worked with in Noye's Fludde. There's a strong emphasis on singing in the stage works it presents twice a year.

The Choir has around 60 singers. A loyal core, including some who were in the very first concert in 1964, turns up season after season, enriched and renewed by occasional – and always very welcome – new faces. Unlike many such choirs, there are no auditions.

The Music Theatre's membership is more transitory, with the first participants now in their thirties.

Both groups have exciting seasons planned for 2012/2013. The Choir will revisit Pascha's lovely Christmas Mass and include folk-inspired carols in a concert, whilst the spring concert is Mendelssohn's St Paul, with outstanding soloists from the R.N.C.M. and orchestra.

The Music Theatre's Christmas show is Yule Lads. In Iceland, the thirteen outrageous sons of the ogress Grylla descend on the population in search of home comforts. The Spring performance is the true story of Wojtek the Bear, adopted as a cub by Polish soldiers in Syria during World War II.

Donald Judge

The success of both Choir and Music Theatre groups relies on an influx of new members, when rehearsals begin in early September.

Look out for posters and flyers at the Arts Centre and other prominent locations or visit the groups' pages at www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk.

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SHOPPING WITH FLARE(S)

Linda Jepson takes a fond look back to the not so distant past of her mid 1970s childhood and the shops which populated Palmerston Street during the decade.

Many of the shop premises are still luckily used for business, - a few are still in the same use - if not the same ownership. Starting from Harrop Brook bridge, Linda helpfully adds what the shops have become.

Gilmour's (Now a house)

They sold everything electrical. I remember many a Christmas morning my dad nipping to see Ian at the back door for batteries and plugs, remember in those days plugs weren't supplied, and Ian and Monica never minded a bit, it was all part of the service.

Co-op & Butchers (Briscola)

I remember the Co-op so well. It was directly across the road from our house. I remember Bert Leighton & Jack Naden so very well, and Beryl Brocklehurst who all worked there. My mum did her weekly shop there. There was a butchery attached at the side, which is now all part of Briscola. I can remember the big round slabs of cheese that they cut off for customers; everything was fresh, nothing pre-packed then. The green shield stamps - remember them? Of course, when the Co-op shut at Five, that was it, no nipping to Tesco for last minute things. My mum cooked all her meals from the Co-op from fresh with only a tiny freezer in the top of the fridge.

Betting Shop (Laundrette)

The bookies was where the Washing Well laundrette is now. I never really went in there as I was too young. I remember many a bloke going in there to place their bets - and when you walked past, if the door was open the inside was clouded with thick cigarette smoke.

Norman's Barber Shop (House)

Famous for his short back and sides. Did he do anything else? Do you remember when Norman locked up at night? Nearly wrenching the door off its hinges checking it was locked. I don't think much changed in there until it closed down much more recently.



Above:
Linda Jepson, as
taken in the Mid
1970's

Do you have
any pictures of
Bollington's people
and places from
the 1960s, 70s
and 80s?

The Discovery
Centre would like
to copy them for
the Bollington
Archive.

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Buddington via
the Happy Valley
website

www.happy-valley.org.uk

Pat's Hairdressers (Costcutter)

I remember Pat's hairdressers where the Off Licences/Costcutter is now.

Margaret Bowden (Belfield's)

They sold fruit, veg, pies, cooked meats etc. Another little shop that did really well before the big supermarkets took over. Margaret and Derek were really lovely people. I remember Eileen Woolley worked in the shop too.

Woolley's Sweet Shop (Pappa's)

I loved that shop, we used to get 2p for sweets - and you could get a bag full for that. You could get four items for a penny. On a good day we got 5p and we could afford a packet of crisps as well. I also remember taking glass Corona bottles back and getting back a deposit.

In the summer we used to get Jubbies, and ice cream cones - such memories. I remember when Glover's took over the sweet shop, they parked their purple Mark 1 Ford Escort on Pool Bank and left the hand brake off, so a few of us pushed it across Pool Bank out of the way. I remember their faces when they thought the car had been pinched. How naughty of us! It was funny though...

Chemist (Crusty's Taste)

The chemist was where Taste and Crusty's sandwich shop were. We really missed the chemist when it moved to Wellington Road. I

remember a lovely lady called Jean Davies worked there. She was lovely to me as a child.

Kitty & Derek Brooke (Motor Support)

Across the road was a brilliant shop - you could get Brownie, Cub, and Scout uniforms from here. My favourite memories are the roller-skates they sold; my sister and I had double ball-bearing ones - and we used to come down Palmerston Street at top speed. They also sold bicycles and you could book your coach travel from there. They also sold fireworks and Christmas things.

Chadwick's Newsagents

Back across the road and still here today. I remember when Neville's dad, (Michael's Grandad) Cyril used to sit on the bench at Pool Bank selling newspapers. They also used to sell Airfix models, (oh the days). I can still remember Neville Chadwick giving me my very first brand new 1p coin when the money changed in 1970. My mum Pam Walters (Mayers) also started working at Chadwick's in 1975 and is still there today. Happy days.

Little People. (Village Florist)

This shop sold knitting wool, baby clothes, etc. It was run by Joyce who still runs it today as a florist.

Fieldsend's (Now a house)

This little shop sold glass and pot ornaments. I used to buy my mum's birthday and Christmas gifts from here. Always a pot animal of some sort. Typical of me.

Post Office (Now a house)

Back on the Pool Bank side of the road, I remember the Post Office being in the news in the early '80s when the post mistress was shot in an armed robbery. Very sad times.

Joan Ottley's (Now a house)

Who can forget Joan Ottley? Infamous for chopping the head off a jelly baby to get the weight right. Also remembered for her white and black school pumps, wellies and the golden dolly school shoes. You had to go to Ottley's when you weren't in a rush as it took her five minutes to come from out of the back into the shop. I also remember the under-age kids buying cigarettes

FIRST RESPONDERS

from her. Joan didn't bother about the age thing then... Sweets were on the right as you went in, the wellies and pumps on the left, and it still had dim gaslight right into the 1980s.

Radio Rentals (Little Luxuries)
This shop sold electrical items. I remember my mum buying my dad one of the first cassette recorders from there.

Webb's (Jeremy Unsworth Funerals)
I remember Mr. Webb, he was a lovely man. He ran a hardware store and sold all sorts of household knick-knacks. He had a dog on the counter that used to nod when you put money in its head. I always cried for money to put in its head.

Wainwright's (Smith's Bakery)
This was the local bakery. It is still a bakery today, run by the famous Irish Francis and his wife Victoria. Wonderful bread and pies.

Heathcote's Butchers
Heathcote's has been there as long as I can remember, now run by Jeremy, Bollington's answer to Google, he knows everything – and if he doesn't, he makes it up. Hehehe...

Charlie Green's Butchers (Estate Agents)
Charlie Green closed many years ago now. He later ran the 'Country Café on Spuley Lane.

Feeling Fruity (Estate Agents)
I remember this being a fruit & veg shop, another lost shop gone due to the big supermarkets. The floor was of bare, well worn stone slabs.

Barton's Gardener's (Chopsticks)
This chippy is legendary. When we were kids we went to the chippy on a Friday night to 'eat in' – in the back 'dining room', because it was a cheap tea. Do you remember pinch bag? My sister Bev, my friends and I would get a seven penny portion of chips and a can of fizzy vimto. Who remembers the purple bench? It has been there since I was a little girl, and my mum was young, and it is still wearing well now in Chopsticks.

Happy Memories! **Linda Jepson**



Above:
Dion Cross

Bollington and District Community First Responders are looking for new volunteers and sponsors to help save lives within the community. The new Emergency First Responders cover Bollington, Kerridge and Pott Shrigley.

The Team Leader of the group has been involved with Community First Responders for six years. He saw the need to set this group up due to the remote location and to provide N.W. Ambulance Service support in the Marcdesfield area.

Anyone interested in becoming a First Responder should call Dion Cross the Team Leader on 07511 123 502 or email: bollingtondistrictresponders@gmail.com

We are looking for as many volunteers as possible. The more volunteers we can get, the more beneficial it will be for the local community.

Volunteers are trained to respond to emergency calls through the 999 system in conjunction with N.W.A.S. Volunteers will be trained by Paramedic trainers to give life-saving care in emergencies such as Cardiac or Respiratory Arrests, Convulsions, Diabetic emergencies, Haemorrhage Lacerations, Strokes and fainting, and Unconscious patients.

The volunteers will be playing a vital role and can often be the first on scene to administer vital treatment. Sometimes the ambulance is not always local and the first four to five minutes in a Cardiac Arrest situation is crucial.

The ambulance service supplies the equipment but we rely entirely on sponsorship from local businesses and the support of the community members to fund the running of the group. All training is free and we only ask for your time. **Dion Cross**

KICKING UP A STINK!

Dog fouling has long been a blight on our beautiful village, but I feel that recently it has become even more commonplace. I have become increasingly angry at having to walk the streets scanning the pavement for dog excrement, warning my children to watch their step at regular intervals.

It's clear to me that the irresponsible dog owners who allow this to happen number more than just a small minority and are worthy of the same contempt afforded to vandals and lager louts. It's obvious that warnings of heavy fines are having little or no impact on the problem. If only it was possible to pass legislation allowing the dogs of owners who display this despicable attitude to be humanely destroyed!

Hard on the animals, I know, but perhaps it would be more of an adequate deterrent. Unfortunately, this is not possible, but I'd strongly urge the powers that be to ban dogs from ALL public areas, including the Recreation Ground, and to install poop bag dispensers on our streets.

I have a number of friends and neighbours who are responsible dog owners – it would be a shame for them to be limited in this way, but I'm afraid that unless drastic action is taken the problem will become worse and these disgusting people will continue to spoil Bollington for all of us.

Simon Dodd



A SIMPLE CONVERSION

Simply Property Developments are a Bollington based company, part of the Simply Group of Companies which runs a commercial business based in Adelphi Mill, Bollington employing 10 local people.

Vicky Robson explains the progress made with the conversion of St. John's Church.

Managing Director Mark Simpkin was raised in Poynton and he has lived in Adlington for ten years. He has already developed and restored a Grade II Listed Barn and Farmhouse on Sugar Lane in Adlington and has previously restored a Gamekeepers Cottage on Brookledge Lane in Adlington.

When he became aware that St. John The Baptist church was in need of someone who understood local restoration, Mark was keen to become involved; on further investigation we quickly found that the church had been proposed for closure in 2004, with the cost of maintenance being considered too great for the congregation to meet. The building was then officially closed for worship on 1st February 2006 before being marketed for sale, following due consideration in 2008. By early 2009 it was only Mark's offer for residential use which remained a viable option.

We have now worked on this scheme for over three years and as a result have widely consulted specialist consultants, surveyors and relevant bodies to develop a concept which will preserve all external original features whilst moving the building into the next phase of its history. Our intention was never to change the essential character and architecture of the building; in fact the majority of the work we will carry out is designed to ensure minimal changes are made to the building envelope and any changes which are necessary are purely those which have been enforced by relevant regulatory bodies.

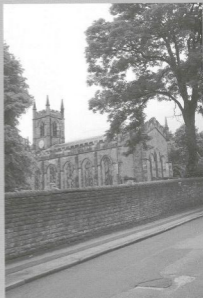
We selected Makin Architects to assist us in this process as they have a demonstrable track record in church conversions and have won several awards for those schemes. Together

we have worked extremely hard to take on board the views of all parties involved, including the local parish following two consultation meetings which we held in St. Oswald's church, and to this end have made considerable changes to our original concept. Whilst the process has taken time, our hard work was worthwhile and our scheme meets the exacting criteria of the Diocese, Highways, Conservation, Cheshire East Planning as well as gaining the full support of the Church Commissioners.

Planning permission was passed by Cheshire East Council in June 2011 and we hold full Planning and Listed Building Consent for conversion of the building into thirteen residential duplex apartments. These will be of a high quality finish and the careful design ensures that each apartment is unique whilst sympathetically making the most of the fabric of the original building. For example, the stained glass windows to the east elevation are being re-fitted into double glazed units to ensure their longevity as part of the building whilst to the west of the church, a duplex apartment has been skilfully incorporated into the lower part of the clock tower providing a very special apartment.

Contrary to rumours that the delay in appointing a build contractor was due to issues with client funding, the tender responses received were in fact significantly over our Quantity Surveyor's build estimate. Unusually we were therefore forced to re-tender in conjunction with more specialists being consulted about detailed aspects of the development.

As a result of the re-tendering process, we were fortunately able to determine an approximate contract price which met with the estimate; however before the contractor is able to confirm a final figure - thus allowing us to sign their contract, there are a couple of further surveys being completed. This is allowing us to ensure that the sub structure design is the most effective way forward in terms of dealing with the large band of peat which sits underneath the church building



St. John's Church

Photo:
Anthony Holland

www.
simplygroupok.
co.uk

As a local company based in the converted Adelphi Mill, Simply Property Developments welcome anyone requiring any further information. Please contact Vicki Robson (Project Manager) or William Knight (General Manager) direct on 01625 576527 where they will be happy to answer any queries.

and provides confirmation for exact measurements of the internal framework which will sit within the existing church walls. It will also rule out the possibility of significant unforeseen costs which could detrimentally affect the conversion once works have begun.

We would like to thank the local community for their continued patience and support as we appreciate that this journey has taken us longer than anticipated. However on completion of this last hurdle, we are now finally looking forward to being able to schedule work to begin at the church. We expect the conversion to take approximately twelve months from the agreed start date, with external groundworks being completed first to allow associated vehicles to park off Church Street and therefore avoid any unnecessary congestion issues.

We look forward to holding an open day once the conversion has been completed. **Vicki Robson**

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BOLLINGTON *Live!*

July

From 30th June to 8th July

Well Dressing

Details from Jean 572559, Chris 574208

Sunday 1st 2-4pm

Bollington Veterinary Ctr. OPEN DAY

Sunday 1st Hillside Cottage, Pott Shrigley

Sat 7th - Sun 8th Holmefcroft, Adlington

National Garden Scheme for Charity

Details from Graham Beech, tel 402946

Sun 8th Reg. 10.00 for 11am Bridgend Ctr

8th Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race

11.4km (7.11mile) run on road, pasture, high moorland (372m/1200ft climb) Runners age 18 and over only. Entry fee £6 in advance, £7 on day. Register on-line www.race-results.co.uk

Sunday 8th 8pm, Arts Centre

Second Sunday Folk Club

Admission £2; tel 574617

Monday 9th 6.30pm The Vale Inn

SciBar

Details from David Whalley 611608

Friday 13th, arrive 7.30pm for 8pm start

Ceiliadh at Tytherington High School

Tickets £8 including cheese + biscuits Call school finance office, tel 610220

Sat 14th - Sun 15th The Hollow, Adlington

National Garden Scheme for Charity

Details from Graham Beech, tel 402946

Sunday 15th 2-6pm, 11 Poplar Grove

Cheese and Wine Party, Ann's Garden

Best of 70's fun to raise funds for Bolly Festival. £5, tickets at Bellfield's Bakery and www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Thursday 19th, Red Oak Farm Kerridge

Bollington & District Horticultural Society & Flower Club

Brenda Buxton will open her garden in aid of charity

Friday 20th 5pm to 11pm, Arts Centre

Beer Festival in Aid of Festival 2014

20+ casks of real ale from near and far, 10 ciders, local folk and jazz, Bollington Brass Band, food and other drinks. Entrance £5, including souvenir glass. Tickets from May at Cock & Pheasant, Poachers and Vale or on-line www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Saturday 21st noon to 11pm, Arts Centre

Beer Festival in Aid of Festival 2014

As yesterday, minus Brass Band, plus BBQ run by the Cricket Club at lunch time

Saturday 28th 5-7 pm

Wine Tasting by the Lake

Styperson Pool Cottage, entrance £10 www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

August

Friday 3rd Hillside Cottage, Pott Shrigley

National Garden Scheme for Charity

Details from Graham Beech, tel 402946

Thursday 16th Cuddington, Northwich

Bollington & District Horticultural Society & Flower Club

Evening trip to Stonyford Cottage Nursery. Details from Angela Barnshaw on 429265

Sunday 26th 11am-4pm, Styperson Pool

Cake by the Lake

Enjoy Tea & Cake with us at Styperson Pool Cottage. Entrance £10 www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

September

Saturday 1st 2-4.30pm, Civic Hall

Bollington Hort. Soc. 48th Annual Show

Schedules from Joyce Burton 572668

Saturday 1st 8.00pm, Arts Centre

Jazz at the Arts Centre

Mike Lovell's Six-in-a-bar with Rosie Tickets £9, ring 01625 574410

Sunday 9th Sept - Sunday 9th October

Artsextra

In the gallery of the Arts Centre, Sundays 2-4 and during other events

Sunday 9th 8pm, Arts Centre

Second Sunday Folk Club

Admission still £2; tel 574617

Friday 14th 8.00pm, Arts Centre

Bollington Festival Get Together

Already involved or wanting to get involved with the festival in 2014? www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Saturday 15th 7.30pm, Arts Centre

An evening with Sunny Ormond

AKA Lilian Bellamy from The Archers. Tickets £10, ring 576402, 575076 or www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Friday 21st 7.30pm, Arts Centre

Shakespeare's New Theatre

David Ward on the reconstruction of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and his book about it. Tickets £5, tel 573413

Saturday 29th 8pm Arts Centre

Bollington Chamber Concert

The Heath Quartet play Haydn, Tippett and Beethoven. Tickets £14 (£7 students + claimants); tel 576402 + 575587

STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER

As the summer holidays approach, Bollington Health & Leisure turns its attention to water safety.

We teach children from thirteen schools in the local area each year. This equates to over 500 pupils every school term.

Our focus is to not only teach the pupils to swim but also to impart our knowledge about water safety. All schools attend a minimum of ten lessons per term, in which the children are taught according to their ability. However, due to our surrounding

area, we believe the most important element of school swimming is being safe in and around water.

Part of the National Curriculum focuses on water safety skills and knowledge. Every child who attends school swimming is guaranteed to receive not only practical water safety lessons, but also in-school water safety presentations delivered by our teachers. These presentations are not only aimed at being safe around open water in Bollington, but they also highlight the need to be safe in the home and on holiday.

A recent BBC news report showed that nationally, 33% of children leave primary school unable to meet the National Curriculum requirements. However, our figures show that only 3% of children who attend school swimming with us leave without attaining the required standard.

We understand the enjoyment and fun that can be gained in and around water, especially at this time of year, but we urge you and your families to stay safe this summer.

Nic Dobson

Dates for your Diary

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

October

Thursday 4th 7-9pm, Dog & Partridge
Samba Rhythm & Fun for Bollington
Join the Sambolles, £5/£3

Friday 5th 8pm, Arts Centre
Bolly Comedy Club
Tickets £9.90 online at www.bollingtonartcentre.org.uk
or £10 on the door

AT THE BRIGDEND CENTRE

The Internet Café and Charity Shop are open Mon - Thurs 10am to 4.30pm, and Saturday - 10am to 1pm

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 Book Group -
2nd Thursday of each month 2 - 4pm

Wednesday

Weekly Guided Walks (see list)
Stitchwork - 10am - 12.15pm
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

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

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' Thursday Talks

July 19th, August 16th, September 20th
Bollington Printshop, Pool Bank at 7.30pm

Photo Walks on Fridays

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.

FESTIVAL 2014

Local fund-raising is well under-way for the festival in 2014 and a big thank you is due to all who have supported the events in any way - by going to them, by hosting a meal and having musicians in your restaurant, by selling tickets, making posters, arranging artists, knitting White Nancy tea-cosies etc.

These things don't just happen: it's a huge team effort! And a big thank you to the Martyn Donaldson Trust (www.mdm.org.uk) which has donated generously to fund up-and-coming young musicians to play at local venues.

We still need to raise a considerable sum of money (around £80,000) if we are to have an all-singing, all-dancing 50th anniversary festival. So what can you do to help? **We need more volunteers.**

Could you:

- Think of an idea for a local fundraiser.
- Run a local fund-raising event.
- Put up posters or deliver leaflets.
- Write an article for local papers to highlight what's going on in Bollington.
- Join or lead one of the festival groups.
- Organise raids on local resources, photo albums and memories to build up a Festival Archive - **CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS.**

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, please contact annette.hurst@bollingtonfestival.org.uk and/or come along to a Bollington Festival 2014 get-together at the Bollington Arts Centre on Friday 14 September at 8pm. **Annette Hurst**

BRIGDEND 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 Brigdend 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 4th July, 10.15am, 6 miles

Canal Higher Hurdfield & Kerridge

Wed 11th July, 10.15am, 5 miles

Oakenbank, Rainow & Harrop Valley

Wed 18th July, 10.15am, 3 miles

Ranger's natural history walk

Tues 24th July, 10.30am, 2 miles

Canal & Middlewood Way with Age-UK

Wed 25th July, 10.15am, 5 miles

Canal, Styperson, Long Lane, Shigley Rd

Wed 1st August, 10.15am, 5 miles

White Nancy, Rainow & Waulkwill Wood

Wed 8th August, 10.15am, 5 miles

Albert Rd, Holehouse Ln, Middlewood Wy

Wed 15th August, 10.15am

Guest leader's walk to be arranged

Wed 22nd August, 10.15am, 6 miles

Canal, Butterfly Meadow, Lyme View,

Middlewood Way

Wed 5th September, 10.15am, 5 miles

Jeggsley Vale, Rainow & Oakenbank

Wed 12th September, 10.15am, 6 miles

Ribbon of History Revisited

Wed 19th September, 10.15am, 3 miles

Ranger's natural history walk

Wed 26th September, 10.15am, 5 miles

Middlewood Way, Tinkers Clough, Canal &

Rally Road

Wed 3rd October, 10.15am, 6 miles

Adlington, Hibbertthrow Wood, Whiteley

Green, Canal

Wed 10th October, 10.15am, 6 miles

Packhorse Bridge, Bakestonedale, Pitt Shrigley

BOLLINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE NEWS

We are delighted to announce that we have secured a grant to put towards a premises extension of the Coach House.

We hope to submit plans for planning permission within the coming weeks with a view to start building work in September/October 2012. The finalised plans will shortly be on display in the Waterhouse. We appreciate that during the building work there will be significant disruption to services but we aim to keep this to a minimum. The extension will give us more clinical space to meet modern standards and will be fully accessible to disabled patients. We are excited about the project and hope that our patients will support us in this endeavour. *Drs. Coope, Maswell, Ramsden, Losel and Wilson*

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Fri: 8-11am 2-3pm 4.30-6.30pm
Sat: 8-12.30pm

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GOLDEN YEARS

The whole of St. Gregory's School was delighted to discover that the 50th Anniversary of the school has popped up out of nowhere! Therefore, this article, which has been thought out by the Fact Seekers in Year 5, is all about their school, known affectionately as St. Greg's.

The school has had lots of changes throughout the years, moving to Albert Road from Chapel Street. In 1962 Fr. Thomas Osbyrne saw the building of the new school in Albert Road, after having the old school next to the church on Chapel Street for quite a few years.

A few weeks ago we interviewed a former pupil to see what she could remember about St. Gregory's. Liz Murphy was at St. Gregory's in the '60s!

Liz Murphy liked the school very much and the school opened with 86 children, (but soon grew to 112), who played like one big happy family. One current Year 5 Pupil asked, "Did you have a crush on anyone?" Everyone stopped! Liz then said she did! The person she longed for was called John. She loved him although he kicked a lot, but never-the-less she had a little soft spot for him!

Liz very much liked maths because her brain loved the adding, multiplying and dividing. The other subjects were reading, nature, craftwork, music, art and history. Her best memory of St. Gregory's just happens to be going to the theatre. The reason this was her best memory was because in her family there were seven people altogether because she had four brothers, so

her mum and dad didn't have the money or time to take them to the theatre.

Another interesting fact was that where some of the houses we live in now in Bollington are, were then just fields. Mrs. Murphy explained "Oh it was beautiful, we had art lessons outside, and there were no houses past the fences. It was just green, luscious fields. We sometimes fed the cows!"

In 1962 there was no uniform, but a few years later the uniform became strict! Back then they wore a smart blazer, just like All Hallows do. Smartly, they wore a blue tie, with the school badge on the front. The school had a school bell which had the letters A.R.P. on which meant Air Raid Patrol for when it was used in the war. It is still part of our school in 2012!

As a treat on a Friday, Mrs. Murphy and her mates would have cheese flan, and for a yummy pudding they would have spotted dick with custard. Today is a whole lot different; we have healthy lunches and a wonderful cook, Mrs. Whyke, who makes the most amazing lunches, and sometimes she puts them in bags so we can eat our lunch in our mini woodlands.

She then told us about THE DREADED PUNISHMENT BOOK! The head teacher was Mr. Kinsella. He was the one who punished the children with the cane. Luckily there were only 18 people caned in three years! (Wow that's good!) Mrs. Murphy spoke about Mr. Kinsella, "He was my favourite teacher when we moved. We'd never had a male



Above:
'The Fact-Finders'
Photo by Sharon
Shepherd

<http://www.stgregorys.cheshire.sch.uk>

Below:
St Gregory's school
on its opening day,
fifty years ago.

Photo provided by
Liz Murphy

teacher before, so we all were chatting and hanging around him!"

Today, we all adore our little school, which has grown and changed throughout all these years. All the teachers are very nice and we are all doing well in our subjects such as literacy and numeracy. We have also started to put on plays at the end of each year and we received an award in 2009 for the best performing school!

Our school today is fantastic. It helps us all to learn in many different ways using techniques and topics. We raise lots of money for charities and help raise funds. We are a lovely school and even OFSTED thought that in 2009. They visited again recently. We are trying to get a high mark maybe even an outstanding. We all have great personalities and we all love to be around each other. Everyone looks after one another like great friends should and we treat other people the way we like to be treated.

St. Gregory's Year 5 'Fact-Finders'



A SMART TIE!

R.A. Smart is one of the several sponsors of 'Bollington Live' whose support makes this publication possible. Situated on our doorstep on Clough Bank this successful firm also makes a valuable contribution to the local community as it employs many local people.

This Bollington Company is a specialist firm weaving silk and printing patterns on silk. It has enjoyed sustained growth in recent years and its wares are now ordered by designers and fashion department stores across the world.

Recently Mr. Ron Smart, managing director of R.A. SMART Ltd, has been presented with a silver medal by the Worshipful Company of Weavers, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the textile industry. The award which was presented at a dinner in London by Mrs Pamela Harper, the chairman of Halcyon Days, acknowledges the significant contribution that has been made by Mr. Smart in over fifty years in the textile industry.



Above: sections of the Silk Printing Blocks made by Peter Stewart showing the intricate work involved

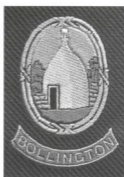
Photos above by Anthony Holland

Left: Ron Smart being presented with his silver medal by Mrs. Pamela Harper

Top and Right: The new Bollington Tie Photos by Tim Boddington

The presentation paid tribute to the work Mr. Smart has undertaken since he first started work for British Nylon Spinners in 1962. During these early years he gained considerable experience travelling and working in Italy, Switzerland and Israel for companies supplying some of the major fashion and retail businesses across Europe.

Returning to Bollington in 1972 he established his own company, R.A. Smart Holdings Limited, manufacturing and selling printing screens and the supply of screen chemicals. Subsequently



introducing screen engraving to the portfolio, his business is now the only remaining independent flat screen engraver for textiles in the UK. Further expanding the business into screen printing fashion products and investing in new digital printing technology, R.A. Smart are now the largest 'direct to fabric' digital printer in the country.

Between 2003 and 2005, driven by his passion to blend old and new technologies, Mr. Smart also introduced four high speed Jacquard weaving looms into the Bollington factory to expand his silk tie production.

THE BOLLINGTON TIE

The firm has for many years made ties with patterns known as 'Macclesfield Neats' and it now makes 'the Bollington Town' tie.

The Bollington tie was designed by Colin Gregory, a Bollington resident (born in Rainow). He is a semi retired artist who designs most of Smart's ties. The designs are then woven in 100% pure silk and sent out to be cut and made into ties. The White Nancy motif on the Bollington ties is copied from the emblem on the mayoral chain and is 'the original' White Nancy before the door was bricked up.

The Company has also been showcased in an episode of TV star Gok Wan's 'Fashion fix' programme. A designer, Brix Smith-Starr, was shown standing with a roll of their silk on Macclesfield railway station, probably not a normal method of dispatching materials! However, the dress, which was subsequently made up with the R.A. Smart material, went on to clinch the win in the section of the programme where high end fashion competes against the 'high street'!

This woven textile business continues to grow, embracing modern techniques and technologies and led by Mr. Smart's energy and innovation.

Importantly, in addition to developing as an industry leader the firm is committed to working with all UK design colleges, where it actively supports and encourages the next generation of designers.

Speaking after the awards ceremony, Mr. Smart commented;

"Education is paramount for the future of our industry, and design students need to be trained in the basics of textile production and to understand more about the origins of our trade, to better appreciate how their art and craft has developed. I am pleased to have played a part in developing this understanding. However, this award is as much an acknowledgement of the skilled and committed team that I have at R.A. Smart, their energy and commitment has made the company what it is today and enables us to push the boundaries of textile production and continue to innovate, in an effort to restore the UK to its former position as a major player in the textile industry. It is on their behalf that I am proud and deeply honoured to accept this award"

Long may this firm continue to provide Bollington with a leading industry of which we can all be proud.

Kate Gooding

www.rasmart.co.uk



UNDER CONTROL

THE RIVER DEAN'S JOURNEY - PART 2

Ken continues his article from our previous issue. Here he follows the River Dean through Bollington. Our next issue will include the final part of its journey as the river leaves Bollington behind.

In Bollington the River Dean loses its free and open character. Gone are the carefree natural movements of its early days. Now it is channelled, controlled, submerged and occasionally ignored on its journey through the Town.

Just like the newly married couple weighed down with a mortgage and the responsibilities of children, this little river had to go to work. The river bustles under the bridge at the bottom of Lord Street and is then ignominiously confined to a brick sluice through the grounds of Tullis Russell Paperworks, famous for its specialist papers and being one of the few companies in the country owned by its employees.

The river forces itself through a narrow sluice, and then dives under the house on Park Street, before curving between Water Street and Palmerston Street. Here it welcomes Sowcar Brook, a busy tributary which in the late 18th century supported power for mills at Sowcar, Oak Bank and the Defiance Mill at the bottom corner of Queen Street, now elegant apartments.

The Dean's increased flow now conveniently passes the back of the Bridgend Centre recently given the Queen's Award for service to the Bollington community.

So far, the river has been hidden away. Before 1830 this whole area was rather swampy, causing problems of disease to the growing population. In 1828 William Crossley started building the Marclesfield Canal and needed to build across the Dean Valley, but the necessarily huge structure could not be built successfully across the swamp where Telford's carefully surveyed line planned for it to go. Several attempts were made and failed. At last a local chap, Charles Nichol, suggested channelling the Dean and Sowcar across the valley

along a gritstone shelf at the bottom of Hurst Quarry and using a huge embankment to support the canal above, rather than a series of arches. This successful plan results in the Dean being channelled along the side of the Memorial Gardens and submerged in a tunnel once again at the bottom of Water Street under Palmerston Street to emerge at last for a breath of fresh air in our Recreation Ground. This was a present from Francis Greg in 1901.

The River Dean runs modestly but delightfully along the south side in a wooded enclave before disappearing under the Adlington Road bridge. The waterfall, a delightful feature of the Recreation Ground is the weir for the watering arrangements at the once great Waterhouse Mill, linked by a short canal to the mill site, just beyond the railway viaduct.

Now the magnificent arches of the viaduct tower 60 feet above the river and the best views of the Dean in Bollington are those from over the wall of the viaduct. This great structure built in 1869 carries the Middlewood Way, formerly the Great Central and North Staffordshire Joint Railway, across the Dean Valley. This central feature in the urban landscape of Bollington was only retained after strong local protest in 1981.

Below:

A view from inside the tunnel under Palmerston Street, looking out towards the 'Rec'. Note the quality and craftsmanship of the stonework - over 180 years old!

Photographs: Simon Nottage

From here our local river is hidden from view. To the east rises a tumbled uncared for woodland reminiscent of the Burmese jungle and to the west the back fence of Kay-Metzeler currently darkens the sky. There is a faint footpath along the first part of this ground beyond under the archway until the edge of the wood. The rangers tell of local lorry drivers in the past parking in the recreation ground car park for lunch and then taking a stroll down under the viaduct and coming back with a fat trout or two.

The Dean passes along the back of The Waterhouse now the Medical Centre behind the huge cedar which must owe its size to being rooted partly in the river. The Dean then flows under a gated private road at the bottom of Garden Street and turns north behind Riverbank Drive. Here it is joined by a culverted stream from Tinkers Clough that formerly drove the wheel of the Bollington corn mill for hundreds of years. The river is now free of the town running alongside Calder Close with open fields to the north. There is a large weir and sluice gate that feeds the reservoir built by Philip Antrobus to drive the waterwheel at Lowerhouse Mill in 1818. The reservoir is one of the hidden pleasures of the Bollington landscape occasionally used by a local angling society. *Ken Edwards*



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 Lisa Gould.

Firstly, tell us a bit about yourself

My name is Lisa Gould, I'm 28 and I've lived in Bollington all my life apart from five years when I lived in London. I have had lots of jobs, mainly in retail, and I've worked as a travel rep all over Europe - Spain and Greece in particular. I enjoy going to the cinema and reading books. I go jogging daily to keep fit. I am into anti-ageing and try to look as young as possible.

What is good about living in Bollington?

It is quiet, peaceful and countryside. It is not over polluted and has plenty of fresh air and is very green.

What is your favourite 'space' in Bollington?

White Nancy. I also like the Middlewood Way and the canal.

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

To have more facilities in Bollington - a mini-cinema would be great.

What music do you listen to?

I like Kylie Minogue and recently I've been listening to Phats and Small. I also like Bananarama, Level 42, Alison Moyet, Gloria Estelan and Sheena Easton.

What is your favourite film?

Labyrinth with David Bowie and Jennifer Connelly. It is about a girl's journey through an exciting Labyrinth to the Goblin King's

Lisa Gould



Castle. It's one of my all time favourites and I watch it time and time again.

How many pots of nail varnish do you have?

32 - not just reds and pinks but also yellow, orange, green and blue!

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

I would create lots of different spells that are very magical and help people to fall in love, be happy and do better in their lives, because it's nice to help others.

What is your biggest achievement?

Working abroad because it's something I always wanted to do and I studied hard to achieve my goal.

After reading our last issue, Lisa got in touch with us to tell us her story.

Would you like to be next?

Please contact us at: liveeditor@happy-valley.org.uk for the opportunity to tell all our readers about yourself

Photo by Anthony Holland

What book are you reading?

At the moment I'm reading Fiona Harrold - 'Be your own life coach' and Roger Moore - 'My word is my Bond'. The life coach book is all about motivation, achieving your potential and overcoming obstacles. The Bond book is about Roger Moore's life as 007, his early and personal life and his work for UNICEF. I can recommend both!

What trait do you deplore in yourself?

Impatience, I need to have more patience as it is a good characteristic to have.

What trait do you deplore in others?

Bad time-keeping.

Do you have a motto?

You only get out what you put in. The more effort you are prepared to put into something then the better the results will be.

Cat or dog?

Dog

Tea or coffee?

Coffee - medium rich roast and numerous cups a day.

What's your favourite colour?

Pink


What's your favourite food?

I like a good beef-burger.

Tell us a joke!

What kind of dance do you do on a trampoline? Hip-hop!

Annette Hurst

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HAPPY DAYS AT THE CHALK-FACE

It all started 50 years ago with an advertisement in the 'Times Educational Supplement (Teaching Vacancies in Cheshire Schools) Bollington County Secondary School - Boys P.E. and Maths'.

I applied for the job and was, to my surprise, invited for interview. Having never heard of Bollington before, I had to find out quickly where it was and how to get there from Ruthin by public transport. In those days not many student teachers could afford a car.

On arrival for interview, the school was certainly not what I had envisaged. It was a split site school with playing fields across the main road. However, I was offered the job, duly accepted it and reported for duty on Monday, 26th August 1962. In those days, Bollington schools started the year in August as they closed for two weeks in June for 'Barnaby' which was a local Macclesfield holiday.

I soon got to grips with the geography of the school. The Water Street site had a domestic science room, a science lab, four classrooms and the school office. School dinners were taken at this site, in a classroom, being delivered in containers from a central kitchen in Macclesfield.

The Large Sunday School site was where I spent most of my teaching time, and had two classrooms, a woodwork/metalwork room and the gymnasium on the whole of the top floor. This was a huge room with two badminton courts and the usual gym equipment. At the rear of the building was the school garden complete with an air raid shelter which was used as a store for garden tools.

The staff at the school were Mr. Joe Taylor (Headmaster), Mr. Frank Slack (Deputy Head), Miss. Gale, Miss. Hough, Mrs. Rankin, Mrs. Gregory, Miss. Redfern and two young male teachers who



Above:
P.E. lessons
at Bollington
Secondary School
Photo provided by
Dai Williams

Below:
Bollington Sunday
School from
Palmerston Street
Photograph:
The
Bollington
Archive

started at the same time as myself. They were Bill Greensmith (who later became Bollington Mayor) and Brian Williams. The secretary was Mrs. Ida Kershaw.

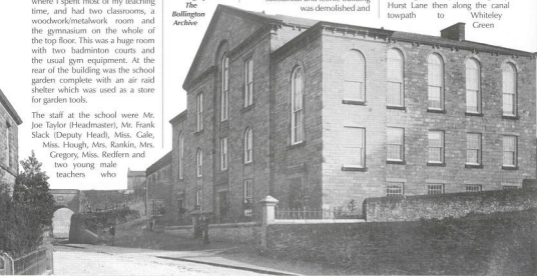
For those of you who are new to Bollington, the Large Sunday School stood on the site of today's Civic Hall and Library. Why such a substantial and iconic building was demolished and

replaced by a modern monstrosity is beyond comprehension. All that was required would have been a revamp of the internal layout. Today, it would have been an ideal location for groups like BLOGS, the ATC, Sea Cadets and Bollington Brass Band and other community activities.

I had first class playing fields across the road on the Recreation Ground, all extremely well maintained by Bollington Urban District Council. There was no Sunday League football then and the only team to use the football pitch was Bollington Athletic every other week. The cricket playing field was an excellent pitch, which enabled us to become champions of Macclesfield schools on several occasions.

Athletic facilities, complete with a sandpit, also helped to provide good results for us against other schools. I did find that Bollington boys had a good aptitude for gymnastics and our gymnastic team was in demand, giving displays at the Macclesfield Show, the first Bollington Festival and several other venues in the Macclesfield area.

Other activities which the children participated in were the cross country run which would begin at the Large Sunday School, go up Hurst Lane then along the canal towpath to Whiteley Green



THURLES TWINNING

and back to Bollington through the fields, then past the Council Tip, up Albert Road and to the Recreation Ground. Can you imagine that happening today? There were no staff marshalling this course and on one occasion a particular boy decided that he had had enough and went home to bed instead of finishing the course...

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme was supervised and several boys were awarded the bronze and silver medals. Other activities enjoyed by pupils were regular visits to the Altrincham Ice Rink, camping in the Lake District and canoeing on the canal. Additionally there was a residential week in Blankenberg in Belgium. The school also had its own canoes and the boathouse was situated at Needham's Wharf on Hurst Lane. The Gilbert and Sullivan opera HMS Pinafore was also performed in the Large Sunday School by the pupils.

Unfortunately, in 1966 it was deemed only big was beautiful, so the school was closed and pupils sent to Poynton. What was not envisaged was that the Poynton school could not cope with the extra numbers, so Bollington pupils were then bussed to either Broken Cross or Wilmslow for a number of years.

Consequently, I then taught in three more schools before being appointed headmaster in Dukinfield, which then was still in Cheshire. Sadly, none of these schools could quite match the unique ethos of Bollington County Secondary School and its pupils. They were the happiest 4 years of my 40-year teaching career.

Finally I am especially indebted to Bollington Secondary School as two pupils, Hilary Green and Barbara Hough, arranged a blind date for me with Angela Coley, a native of Bollington who was employed by Bollington Urban District Council. She has now been my wife for almost 45 years and last year was Town Mayor of Bollington.

As I have now lived in Bollington for 50 years can I call myself a Bollingtonian?

My wife says 'NO!' **Dai Williams**

*Pictured right:
Members of the
Bollington-Thurles
Twinning Team*

*Photo by Sylvia
Roberts*



*If the idea of
involvement
with the Thurles
Twinners strikes
a chord, then
we would be
delighted to hear
from you.*

Contacts:

Angela Williams
573851

Claire Crossbie
573644

Sylvia Roberts
572065

www.thurles.ie

I wonder how many regular readers of this Bollington-centred magazine know that the town has a long standing, if slightly hands-off, twinning with a town in Southern Ireland?

Yes, our relationship with Thurles in Co. Tipperary goes back to 1979, and we have had several mutual trips back and forth since then. One, in fact, was undertaken by the editor of this very publication when he was accompanying the then Mayor Tony Thurman, who, as a keen cyclist, undertook a fund-raising trip on his bike over to Thurles. But don't get the idea that the Twinning is a Council initiative, at least from this end. Obviously Councillors have been involved as representatives of the town, but our group is, as far as possible, self-funded. The situation in Ireland is very different, with the bulk of the funding coming from the Local Authority.

On one enjoyable visit, the magic phrase 'Urban District Council' opened all sorts of pleasurable doors! That was also the memorable time, back in 1998, when the Anglo-Irish Peace Treaty was signed. Those of us who were there will never forget the significance of that special time.

As with most things Irish, time does not factor too highly in arrangements, which is why this information is being delivered now, almost twenty four months prior to the next Bollington Festival. The Twinning group is currently a small band, who would dearly like to get bigger. We are looking for like

minded folk who will offer support, ideas, possibly even hospitality for visitors. Yes, we are hoping that we can welcome back the award-winning Step Dance group who have entertained us, indoors and out, on several occasions. In the past we have been lucky in that we have been able to secure accommodation at Savio House at very reasonable rates, but even so, any offers of a spare bed for a night or two would be very helpful. This open invitation covers anyone from Thurles who wishes to visit, although obviously the Civic representatives will be valued immensely.

The most recent Bollington to Thurles visit was in 2011, a very last minute invitation to go over to celebrate the St Patrick's Day parade, led by the then Town Mayor, Cllr. Angela Williams, and her Consort, her husband Dai. The visit was a hugely memorable event, with many dignitaries from the host side delighted to both greet the Bollington party and afford them a typically Irish welcome.

Although we also stress that it is important to remember the other elements of our village life, we are hoping to strengthen links with local schools on both sides of the Irish Sea. Our cultural strengths in music of all genres are very well documented, furthermore any sporting connections are very welcome. It is a given that Thurles is a golfer's paradise and is also the centre of All-Ireland hurling. All comers are welcome!

Sylvia Roberts

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

Late May marked both the end of a two-year design and build project for a new skate park off Adlington Road and the beginning of the park's life as a skate, BMX and scooter facility.

Around 250 people attended the concrete park's opening, including over 100 riders. The crowd watched Mayor Ken Edwards cut a ceremonial ribbon and make a short speech followed by an afternoon of competitions with riders competing in open jam style sessions to be crowned best scooter rider, in-line skater, BMX rider and skateboarder. Organiser Mark Pinches said "We've had a great day, the weather's been fantastic and we've seen some awesome riding". Reggae and soul music was provided all day despite a vicious wind repeatedly blowing the records off the decks, and an amazing 3-D scale model cake of the skate park was also enjoyed by all.

The £65,000 skate park was built by specialist skate park company 'Wheelscape' during February and March this year after a two-year fund-raising effort led by Mark Pinches. Funds were obtained from the Waste Recycling Environment Network (WREN)

www.macc-skate.org.uk

Special thanks to the riders who modified the original design: Gavin Barber, Ralph McGaul and Jago Pickles

and the community spaces Big Lottery Fund, as well as smaller amounts being provided by the local Town Council, Friends of Bollington Recreation Ground and the Macclesfield Skate Park Group. The skate park has been specifically designed to encourage beginner and intermediate riders

and the design had specific input by local riders. "We encouraged the designers to come up with something that would be suitable for both beginners and more advanced riders - and we think they've delivered perfectly" says Mark, adding "there are even features for more advanced riders such as the stall rock and rollercoaster".

The park replaces the old skate area next to the viaduct. Since the concrete cured, a little over two months ago, it has been massively popular, drawing riders from as far afield as Manchester and Bristol as well as hundreds of locals - growing a community of young riders.

The project has also been awarded a £3500 sustainability grant to facilitate activities over the summer. These include a number of introductory training sessions with qualified instructors for all the local schools and also the general public during the summer months, as well as an opportunity for a local rider to undergo instructor training and qualification. Details of the sessions at the training opportunity will be circulated over the coming months

Kate Fletcher



Photograph by Terry Heathcote

Please note that to avoid injury it is recommended to always wear appropriate safety wear when using the Skate Park

UP FOR THE CUP

The 2011-12 season proved to be a successful one for Bollington's only remaining Sunday League Football Team in winning the Macclesfield & District Subsidiary Cup with a comfortable 2-1 victory over the Railway View.

A goal in the final from top scorer Stuart Ainsworth quickly erased memories of the defeat to the Pack



As you can imagine with the economic climate being as it is, the club are always looking for sponsorship.

If you would be interested in sponsoring us or getting involved, please contact us via the editor of Bollington Live!

*Left:
The Queen's Arms
Sunday League
Football Team*

Horse on the Moss Rose in the other cup final the week before. Ainsworth was partnered up front by Ryan Foster who helped form one of the best strike partnerships in the league, which was one of the main factors in the Queen's Arms Football Team's successful season.

In terms of the league, the team started poorly, losing the opening couple of games but steadily improved during the season and went on to a ten game unbeaten run at the right time in the season finishing third and reaching two cup finals. Centre back Jack Ainsworth was arguably the player of the season and consistently put

in match-winning performances. As well, big goals in big games came from utility man and former captain Calum Stanley.

Unfortunately club goalkeeper Phil Ravenscroft decided to hang up his gloves after winning the cup so the team are now looking out for a proven goalkeeper to help carry them to the Premier League title next season.

A special thank you must go to club secretary Clare Steinman and manager Ben Dunkerley for working tirelessly to secure much-needed funding for the club to survive.

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