



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Seven Spring 2013

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24 Pages
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Cover: 'Adelphi Mill and Princess Street' watercolour by Martin Bence

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Illustration of new Medical Centre extension: West Hart partnership

MEDICAL NOTES

For the past six years, Bollington Medical Centre have been seriously investigating ways of increasing our working space. The Medical Centre buildings, although loved by patients and staff alike, do not provide sufficient clinical space which is easily accessible to all patients.

In May 2012 we learnt that we had been successful in our bid for a grant from the Primary Care Trust. This, together with financial input from the GPs, would enable us to develop the existing property to provide a health care facility for our patients fit for purpose in the 21st century. The big snag was that we had to spend the grant before April 2013, as by that date the Trust would no longer exist.

Time was short. We needed to move quickly and be decisive. Plans were submitted to the council and at the same time the plans were put out to tender - before they had even been approved.

We began to plan the move from the Coach House into the Waterhouse for the duration of the build. This

was not just a removal matter; we had to run the same number of clinics from less space when we were already short of rooms. A timetable was devised where all rooms were used all day, meaning that clinicians had more pressure to keep to time to let the next doctor in.

We received planning permission on 6th September. On 16th October we opened the five tenders submitted under sealed bids and made the choice of contractor. Not long afterwards we moved out of the Coach House and into the Waterhouse. Then, in November, A&S enterprises began to set up their site and work began.

Since then the administrative staff and the hot-desking clinicians have been working in the Waterhouse Library - a large cold room with no central heating over winter. The work on the extension is, however, going well and is currently on time;

The projected end date is Monday 8th July 2013. **Jan Appleyard**

EDITORIAL

Another year, another *Bollington Live!* And while it may seem a little belated to say 'Happy New Year', this is our first opportunity to do so and we all wish you well for the year ahead.

2013 is a year of 'building up' towards the next Festival in 2014. With that in mind, this issue, and those leading up to the Festival hope to be a part of that Festival Fever. You will notice that for our front cover, instead of our usual photograph, there is a wonderful watercolour, painted by Martin Bence. I hope to feature different artists' work on the four front covers leading up to the Festival as part of our contribution to the 'Creative Arts Group'.

Additionally, there is another four-part theme taking us up to the Festival. Late last year I commissioned the 'Festival Literary Group' to write a serialised 'murder mystery', set in Bollington. Where they went with the idea was up to them, but the first short story is in this issue. I have no idea how it will develop or end, but I am looking forward to finding out!

There is plenty to discover in this issue, and I am looking forward to this year's series of issues. I hope that amongst them, you too will find something of interest.

Why not make it a resolution to get more involved with some of the many groups and organisations we feature amongst the pages of *Bollington Live!*? I am sure you will be made most welcome.

Additionally, you could write about your Bollington based experiences for *Bollington Live!*

Date for next copy:
**Friday 24th
May 2013**

PAVILION DREAMS

It all started back in 1977 or so, when the old wooden cricket pavilion on the Rec. was burned down. The pavilion had been a very useful community base, with a very pleasant atmosphere and all the normal facilities for a fully functioning social centre. Plus it was far enough away from most houses for a good noisy band to play with no complaint from neighbours, apart from the time when a lone piper was tuning up in the nearby car park of the Vale Inn, when suddenly an upstairs window was thrown open and an irate voice shouted "shurrup, I'm trying to get a baby to sleep here"...oh yes, happy days!

Anyway to get back to the point, the village had now lost a valuable asset. The new Pavilion, which was eventually provided by Macclesfield Borough, was functional yes, but purely a sports venue, utilitarian to a degree and lacking in warmth, literally. Several suggestions over the recent past have asked if a second storey could be added to the initial build but they never seem to progress further than that - a hopeful suggestion.

Meanwhile, the Bollington Brass Band, resurrected for the first Bollington Festival in 1964 by the late Dr. John Coope, was pretty well rendered homeless. Since the late '70s they have had many bases throughout the village, but a permanent home, big enough to accommodate instrument storage, music stands, volumes of sheet music, a practice area and most importantly a growing number of musicians of varying ages, was always on the wish list. As the band became more and more successful it became obvious that a long term permanent home was beginning to be fairly crucial. And that is where Kay Metzeler came in.

As a local councillor, on the M.B.C. Planning Committee, I went to see as many application sites as possible, particularly those in Central ward, which I represented. Kay Metzeler had seen a chequered history, with two serious fires during my time of involvement with planning, so any applications from them had

Photograph of the Waterhouse Mill Pavilion by Sylvia Roberts



to be very closely monitored. On one such visit, approaching the main office block, (the only decent part of the original mill which had been retained) I noticed, tucked away down by the viaduct area, a smallish building, obviously underused, but didn't give it too much thought. Over time I gleaned some more information about this sad looking place. It had been the social hub of the old Oliver's mill, the Waterhouse Mill, where for generations the bulk of the sport and social activities took place, not only for the mill workers, but many birthday and wedding celebrations were held there - indeed it was a focus of entertainment for many local folk.

Accordingly, the next time I visited the factory, I asked for permission to look at the disused building. When I was fully able to see the size and location of the building, its potential was obvious, despite the lack of maintenance over many years. A double fronted, brick built and slate roofed little treasure. Moreover a tangible part of Bollington's social and employment past for several decades. Brilliant place for a Brass Band too!

Sufficiently enthused, I tried to engage the interest of the Conservation Officer at M.B.C. - nothing doing. Then I tried as many groups involved with conservation and local history as I could, trying to get them to understand the intrinsic value of this sad little building, in order to secure it for the village in perpetuity, but again was unsuccessful.

When next I was visiting Kay Metzeler, I asked about the firm's plans for the rapidly deteriorating structure; "That? Oh yes, we intend to pull it down, it's only used for odd bits of storage, we could use the area for car parking". After swallowing down my incipient hysteria... I explained my interest in the building as an important part of the history of the village. To my amazement the response to that was, "Well, in that case, you can have it!" I was practically speechless! Well I'd never been given a Pavilion before! There was however, one proviso, it had to be removed from the site within 18 months.

After some deliberation and remembering slightly similar instances of buildings being moved, I wondered about a systematic process of removal, brick by numbered brick, and similar with the roof slates, to a new site and rebuild to the same footprint. Why not? After all, the site on the raised area of the Rec, in the ownership of Macclesfield Borough Council, could be the very place, and it had the remains of all the services too. Perfect, I thought in my rosy dreams, to have found an answer to the two concerns, a new home for the band and the retention of a building which was remembered fondly. Sadly reality and common sense brought the whole scheme crashing down. Architects, lawyers, builders, demolition firms; all were consulted, all showed interest but sadly, they were pretty well of a mind, hard-headed and practical,

to dismantle and rebuild was indeed possible, but would cost a fortune; a simple demolition and rebuild was the only practical solution. So, forget the continuation of a long history, lose all aspects of Oliver's Mill, let go another small piece of the infrastructure of the past...

One fascinating tidbit, which was given to me by a senior, long serving manager at Kay's, was that the total cost of the site, when purchased from Oliver's, was more than covered by the proceeds of the sale of the stone from the original building, in effect they got it for nowt!

Then of course came the indications that all was not well in the Kay

Metzeler world; ownership was changed several times. There was a fair amount of difficulty defining who the actual owners were, as I wanted to convey to these shadowy beings the fact that they were also the recipients of a piece of history which was of local interest. Eventually it was apparent that the latest in a line of owners was happy to work with the idea of letting the building go, for, after all, they wished to eventually clear the whole site, and in fact they even offered some financial help in the disposal!

So a strange situation is developing, critical in many ways. The uncertainty over the Methodist Church, which is where the Brass

Band currently rent space, has still a few months to be decided. In the coming months the Recreation Ground will revert back to the ownership of Bollington Town Council, who hopefully will be favourable to the installation of a previously well known and loved bit of the town's built environment. All we need is a kind and benevolent body who is aware of the importance of two main elements of this saga, the old Waterhouse Mill Social Club and the championship Bollington Brass Band, and can help in their combining together in the perfect spot, the award winning Recreation Ground. **Sylvia Roberts**

*Can you help?
Please contact
Sylvia on 572065*

BRUSH STROKES **MARTIN BENCE**

Moving to Bollington last summer was the culmination of a 20 year fascination with drawing, painting and photographing its streets, hills and terraces for artist Martin Bence.

After training at Edinburgh College of Art, Martin worked in London and the south east as a commercial artist and illustrator specialising in buildings and landscapes.

'I'm not a portrait artist', says Martin. 'My interest was always in places - towns, villages, houses and

the way they were set against the landscape. So I've worked for the last two decades for clients ranging from major retail developers, architects and private home owners - anyone who wanted a picture of a particular place or building.'

But throughout those years, Martin and his wife Sally were regular visitors to friends who lived in the village, and he began to draw, paint and photograph Bollington at different times of the year and in different lights.

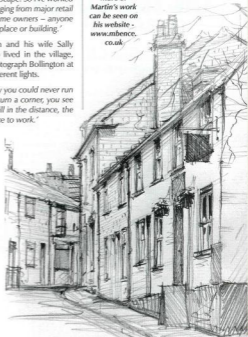
'It's so varied', Martin says, 'that's why you could never run out of subjects here. Every time you turn a corner, you see a new angle on a row of houses, a mill in the distance, the hills beyond. It's just a wonderful place to work.'

Since Martin and Sally moved to the village permanently last summer, he has begun to build up a body of work around Bollington, including the painting used as the cover in this issue of **Bollington Live!** His work as an illustrator and photographer is as rich and varied as it was in the south-east, but with one crucial difference - 'Now all I have to do is look out of my studio window and I have all the subject-matter I need', says Martin.

Martin Bence

Bollington Live! thanks Martin for his specially commissioned artwork on this front cover.

*More of
Martin's work
can be seen on
his website -
www.mbence.
co.uk*



OH WELL!



In the early days, Well Dressing was a Pagan custom of making sacrifice to the Gods of Wells and Springs, to ensure a continual supply of fresh water. It was adopted by the Christian Church as a way of giving thanks to God for His gift of water. In nearby villages it has been traditional to dress wells, and this craft has been introduced into Bollington, as it was thought that we have an abundant supply of water!

The event will run from 6th July until 14th July and a Trail leaflet will be available.



The dressing of wells in the town started in 2005 and has continued each year since then, with local organisations, schools and individuals all taking part in this ancient craft.

Last year, an enlarged committee secured grants from Bollington Town Council, Cheshire East Council, Macclesfield Lions, Macclesfield Castle Rotary Club and, we believe, a first for a Well Dressing, from the Arts Council England. Additionally, local artist, Debra Tracey, was employed to assist in the designs.

The theme chosen for the event this summer is "The Four Seasons of the Year". Boards will be displayed at five sites: the Greg Fountain; the Memorial Gardens; Pool Bank; beside NatWest Bank on Ashbrook Road; and the water trough at the top of Lord Street.

Photos by Janet Beech

In addition to the Well Dressers, pupils from St John's and Pott Shrigley Schools, residents and staff from Mount Hall Nursing Home and volunteers from local organisations will all take part in the decorating of the boards.

Preparations will take place from 3rd to 5th July 2013 at the Cricket Pavilion on Adlington Road. Visitors are invited to come along and watch, or take part in the petalling of the panels, from 10.30am to 4.30pm – so be sure to put these dates in your diary!

The Opening Ceremony of the Festival will take place at the Greg Fountain, Flash Lane (opposite the Cock and Pheasant) on Saturday 6th July 2013 at 11.30am, when there will be entertainment provided by pupils from St John's and Pott Shrigley Schools.

Chris Gosling

*Further details from
Joan: 572559 or Chris: 574208.*

ON THE BUSES

Much farnac has passed under the tyres since David Naylor wrote about our bus situation in the last issue.

You know the story about London buses? You stand in the pouring rain waiting patiently and then a load of them come along nose to tail? Well, David wrote about the 10A that runs between Bollington and Macclesfield (and then zooms up to the Moss Estate to fill in a bit of time).

The 10A dispute was recently joined by the row concerning the Bollington kids going by bus to Tytherington High School (or rather NOT going by bus). Here is a summary of which stop each bus is at:

10A Bollington to Macclesfield.

Relations with Arriva have improved immeasurably recently. Midweek usage of the service is still pitifully poor but there is now no talk of

Arriva have kindly offered to carry advertising on their buses to help us promote local events such as The Festival and Arts Centre - what an offer!

Have any Bollington Live! readers any ideas how best to take advantage of this?

Photograph by Richard Buck

Concerned about the school bus? Let them know.

*E-mail cabinet member for children:
rachel.bailey@cheshireeast.gov.uk*

cutting the service completely. Members of the Town Council and Bill Livesley have now met the Arriva Managing Director and Local Manager and there are more meetings scheduled to see how usage can be improved.

The Tytherington School Bus

Cheshire East have had the incredible idea that it was perfectly safe for a child to yomp between Bollington and Tytherington down the partly lit, sometimes muddy, sometimes snowy, Middlewood Way, whilst carrying a cello, sports kit, books etc. This is before even considering being accosted 'en route'. The path has been tested for suitability by a large group led by Heidi Reid and, to a person, the idea was given the thumbs down.

Bollingtonians raised such a stink about all this that Michael Jones, leader of Cheshire East Council,

made the trek himself on 24th January. After being dug out of a snowdrift, he would still not commit himself and decided that he would like to 'go and think about it'.

We await his decision...

David Edwardes



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INFINITY AND BEYOND

Since Nick Wright gathered a small team together in 2004 to give North East Cheshire its ONLY Community Radio Station, Canalside Radio has gone from strength to strength.

"It's not been easy," said Nick in a recent interview, "With funding opportunities virtually drying up". However, the recent teaming up with the 'MakeitMacclesfield' hub and the 'TheThread' network the now re-tweaked 'Canalside's The Thread 102.8fm' is still ticking all the boxes and delivering on its key commitments.

"In fact" said Nick, "We have gone way beyond the call of duty and those who have not checked us out should do so even if that's just dipping in and dipping out from your other favourite Radio Station - we don't mind being second on your list! If you went to the Olympics and got a silver medal, I think anyone would be a happy bunny. Our policy is some of the listeners some of the



'Canalside's The Thread' broadcasts to Bollington, Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Poynton, Prestbury and surrounding areas

style of music via the schedule on the website."

For youngsters there is the 'Phase One' project. This operates over the internet under the Canalside umbrella and is an opportunity for young people to get together, volunteer, join in and take part in all things that make young people tick. The music is tailored for young people, and over the last two years Canalside trained 167 young people. The Thread is helping to bolster the funding and the training reaches out to socially excluded young people and those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Over the past nine years, fourteen people have gone on to find full-time employment in radio and TV following the experience they gained at Canalside. These include working for the BBC, Imagine, Key, CBeebies, Gems, Absolute, and elsewhere in the Music Industry. There are currently 26 youngsters on-board with many from local schools choosing to do their work experience at Canalside.

On the Station from time to time there is poetry, plays and local history, whereas on the other hand local musicians and unsigned bands are showcased weekly on The Thread's 'Music Lowdown'.

Presenter Brian Moores, said, "Nick reminded us that it was Canalside Community Radio

that led the way back in 2004 on local music. We were the first to get old Billy who had been singing down at the pub for the last 40 years to come into the studio and give us a warble or two. We have had a regular Music Lowdown for 9 years and it is still going strong."

'Canalside's The Thread 102.8fm' still is and will always be the local Community Radio Station - the only one in the area. All monies received are re-invested into the project; there are no dividends, no shares and no bonuses. The whole project is run on a not-for-profit basis.



Whether you are a listener, a participant or a business, why not get behind your local station and help us move to the next level. The next five year licence has been submitted so the message is 'to infinity and beyond'. With everyone's support, it is achievable.

Nick Wright



time. If we achieve that, then it's smiley faces all around! There is a lot happening, there's diversity and there is something for everyone... so why not have a listen?"

Things to do and places to go feature greatly on the website and in the quarterly magazine, with the on-air service cram-packed with local news, local organisations, local people and of course 'what's on' events. For music lovers Nick added that "Canalside Radio still delivers the goods with sounds covering eight decades - check out your favourite

www.thethread.org.uk

www.phaseoneradio.co.uk

Photographs provided by Nick Wright

Canalside's
Thread
102.8 fm

BRICKS AND BIKES

John Drabble has been in the building industry for all of his working life and although reaching retiring age, does not envisage throwing in the towel just yet. He still enjoys his working life, which has mainly been spent in Bollington.

He is responsible for many restorations and extensions in the area and has a reputation for work that preserves the character of the original building, using local stone whenever possible.

John was born in Rainow at New Hey Farm and went to Primary school in Rainow. He remembers his schooldays with some amusement, as he says, 'I couldn't have been shy then as I remember being in all the pantomimes.' He is married to Cath and has two children and three grandchildren. He now works with his son Stuart and is always busy. He did take some time off to talk to *Bollington Live!* about building and the joys of motorcycling.

John started work in the building industry when he was fifteen. His father was a builder so it was perhaps inevitable that he would follow in his footsteps. He worked for different building firms but 47 years ago he and his father started working together. The Drabble father/son partnership continues into the next generation as John is

now working with his son Stuart. 'It works very well,' said John, 'I sometimes get a little frustrated with all the red tape associated with building these days but Stuart doesn't remember how it used to be. We do get on well though.' John expressed some doubts as to whether the Drabble line of builders would continue in the future. 'I'd like to think that one of my grandsons would carry on the family firm but I don't know whether they will. That's something for the future.'

At the moment Drabble and Son appear to have plenty of work. 'We are very lucky that jobs do not seem hard to come by and we always have something in the pipeline. I don't feel ready to retire yet, and I still enjoy what I do. I'll go with my boots on.' He is currently working on an extension and an underground garage. 'I like to finish one job before I begin another but it doesn't always work out like that.'

As far as possible John likes to source materials locally. He likes working in local stone and making sure the building is in keeping with other buildings around. He matches up brick and stone where he can. He also likes to employ local craftsmen.

He clearly takes a pride in his work and when asked what he felt was

Photographs by
Tim Boddington



his greatest achievement he said, 'Each job is an achievement in its own way. We did once win an award from the council for an extension in Rainow. I was also very pleased with an extension on Beeston Brow, which fitted in well with everything around it.'

John has lived in Bollington for many years and likes the people here. He does, however, feel that the young people do not have as much to do as he did in his youth, when he remembers going to a youth club to meet up with mates.

Of course life is not all work and John has a very good way to relax. Motorcycles are his relaxation. He has four vintage bikes, all restored and treated with loving care, and he rides them regularly in specially arranged trials. He is a member of the Vintage Motorcycle Club and organises runs around the Cheshire countryside. The Vintage Motorcycle Club meets on the last Thursday of the month at The Railway Club in Edgeley and will always welcome new members. His wife Cath is also involved and organises day trips for the members and friends to places of interest.

John also takes some time off to visit Cath's sister in Canada and has enjoyed those visits. However, he has not been able to resist a little dabble in construction over there. In this country one of his favourite spots is Whitby.

It is clear from talking to John that he derives a great deal of satisfaction from his work and many homes in Bollington have benefitted from his skill and expertise. He will not be riding off into the sunset on his bike just yet.

Sandy Milson



FORAGING AROUND

As part of the foraged book project, Bollington artist and forager James Wood will be writing a number of recipes over the next couple of issues, helping us to include more wild plants into our everyday meals. He will explain and show us what plants to pick, when to pick them and how to transform these seemingly useless hedgerow plants into edible hedgerow delicacies.

"In this issue I'll be showing you how to use two extremely common plants found almost everywhere in Bollington: Jack-by-the-hedge and Hawthorn can be found on nearly every street you walk down. In our foraged alcohol section we will also be showing you how to spice up your spring gin using beech tree leaves."



Jack-by-the-hedge (*Alliaria petiolata*) is found on waysides, hedge banks and in open woods. This plant is widespread standing at 20-70cms tall. Its leaves sit on a long slender stalk; they're bright green with heart-shaped bases that give off a garlic and mustard aroma when crushed in the palm of your hand. It flowers in mid-spring displaying four white petals with a yellow centre.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus Monogyna*) can be found in woods, hedges and on scrub-land; it is commonly used for hedging due to its thorny nature. A shrub or small tree, it grows from 5 to 14m tall holding a dense crown of foliage. The bark is dark brown with vertical orange cracks. The leaves are 4-5cms long, deeply lobed, the upper surface being dark green and the lower being more

Photographs by James Wood.

Clockwise from top centre: Hawthorn, Beech, James Wood running a foraging workshop, Beech leaves and Gin in a jar, Jack-by-the-hedge leaf sauce, Jack-by-the-hedge

For more recipes, ideas and to find out about workshops soon to take place in Bollington visit www.theforagedbookproject.co.uk



pale in comparison, and look fairly similar to parsley. Flowering in mid-spring the flower presents 5 white petals. This plant signifies re-birth and the strong smell of its flowers is commonly associated with sexual desire.

Jack-by-the-hedge leaves can be eaten in salads and can be easily added to sandwiches adding a subtle garlic/mustard taste, while hawthorn leaves, flowers and fruit can be used in a tea form to treat heart ailments. The leaf, flower and berries contain a number of bioflavonoids which are strong antioxidants helping to improve extremity circulation of the blood.

Despite all of these uses, today we will be making a jack-by-the-hedge and hawthorn leaf sauce which will accompany lamb and white fish very well.

What you'll need:

50g (a handful) of jack-by-the-hedge leaves

25g (half a handful) of hawthorn leaves

150ml of olive oil

Juice of half a lemon or 1 table spoon of white wine vinegar

Finely chop all of the leaves and place in a bowl, add the olive oil slowly whilst stirring the mixture until it resembles the consistency of pesto. Add the lemon juice or vinegar to taste. Serve this in a small bowl to accompany lamb or white fish.

Beech (*Fagus Sylvatica*) trees are 15-40m tall with a smooth grey bark which may develop cross-ridges as they grow older. The leaves are arranged alternately on the branches appearing as pointed

ovals of 5-7cm in length. They contain a brush-like edge along their wavy margin and will look almost ribbed when young.

What you'll need:

A carrier bag full of young beech leaves

Up to 750ml of Gin (cheap is good as the flavour is covered)

150g white sugar



Fill a large jar full with beech leaves, cramming them in as much as possible. Mix the gin and sugar in a separate container or jug until the sugar has dissolved. Pour the Gin and sugar mixture in to the beech leaf filled jar until the leaves are covered and put the lid back on to the jar. Shake this filled jar vigorously until the Gin is evenly dispersed. Leave this to rest for as long as you can resist, (1-6 months) as the flavour and colour will become more intense and smooth over time.

James Wood



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BOLLINGTON

Live!

March

Saturday 2nd March 2.00pm-4.00pm
Bollington and District Hort. Soc. & Flower Club - 47th Spring Show
Civic Hall. Everyone welcome. 572668

Sundays: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st 2-4.00pm
Paintings by Bollington Artist Anna Barker
Arts Centre Gallery - Free Admission

Friday 8th March 8.00pm
Bollington Folk Club
Dog and Partridge (Upstairs).
Guest Night with Roy Clinging, Cheshire based performer of traditional music.
Admission £7

Saturday 9th at 8.00pm
Bollington Chamber Concerts present The Danish String Quartet
Arts Centre. Tickets online or 576402 / 575287 £14 -£7 (Students and conc).

Sunday 10th at 8.00pm
Second Sunday Folk
Arts Centre. £2 tel. 574617

Monday 11th March at 6.30pm
Sci Bar at the Vale
Rishma Vidyasager will tell us about research that tries to make the brain change (such as after consumption of caffeine). Further details of all Scibars can be found at www.bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Saturday 16th at 7.30pm
Lucy Ward
A mixture of traditional and modern folk songs. At Bollington Arts Centre.
Tickets: £9 online or on the door

Sunday 17th at 2.30pm / 5.00pm
Bollington Festival Music Theatre present: Voytek the Bear
A brand new musical play by Donald Judge. Tickets online. £7 (£3.50) children.

Tuesday 19th at 7.30pm
Bollington Town Assembly
Civic Hall - Your chance to have your say. Everyone welcome! Free refreshments.

Thursday 21st at 7.30
Bollington Horticultural Society
Herbaceous borders - a talk by Jane Alison of Mayfields Nursery. Bollington Community Centre. Members £1.50 Non members £3.00

(Contact numbers are 01625 unless stated)

Friday 22nd March 8.00pm
Bollington Folk Club
Dog and Partridge. Guest Night with Fake Thackray. Brilliant tribute to the late, great Jake Thackray. £7 on door. Details 573255

Sunday 24th at 8.30pm
Bollington Festival Choir present Mendelssohn's St Paul
Methodist Church.
Tickets: £12 (£3 under 18) from 575554.

Saturday 29th at 8pm
Jazz at the Arts Centre
The Sweeney Todd Off cuts.
Tickets £9 Tel. 574410

April

Friday 5th at 8.00 pm
Bollington Comedy Club
The biggest laugh in Happy Valley.
Arts Centre. Tickets £9.90 online.

Monday April 8th at 6.30pm
Bollington SciBar at the Vale
Manchester Museum's Bryan Stith will talk about a group of skeletons found near Chester in 1930.

Friday 12th at 7.30pm
Stitch and Stone
A talk by Dr Brenda King, textile expert.
Arts Centre. Admission £5 on the door.

Sunday 14th, 21st, 28th at 2-4.00pm
Arts Centre Gallery: Peak Discovery
A photographic discovery of the Peak District and beyond by Nigel Danson.
Free admission

Sunday 14th at 8.00pm
Second Sunday Folk
£2 at the Arts Centre

Wednesday 17th and 24th
Bowling Club Taster afternoons
Recreation Cld. If you fancy having a go at bowls come along on these two afternoons and find out about the bowling club.

Thursday 18th April at 7.30pm
Bollington Horticultural Society
Bollington Community Centre.
Pot Pourri - a talk by Harry Delaney

Friday 19th at 8.00pm
Bollington Folk Club
Dog and Partridge. Guest Night with Nelson Peach. One of the most engaging bands to emerge from the folk circuit in recent years. £7 on door. Tel. 573255

Saturday 20th at 8.00pm
Bollington Chamber Concerts
Navarra String Quartet. Arts Centre.
Tickets £14 (£7 students and claimants)

May

Friday 3rd at 8pm
Bollington Comedy Club
Arts Centre. The biggest laugh in Happy Valley. Tickets £9.90 available online.

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May at 8.00pm
Jazz at the Arts Centre
TJ Johnson & his band. Tickets: £9 Tel. 574410

Thursday 9th at 2.30pm
Clothaholics
Arts Centre. A love story of Japanese fabric and textiles designs. Tickets £5 at door

Saturday 11th at 7.30pm
A Grand Night for Singing
Bollington Methodist Church.
The celebrated Kinder Choir in concert songs ranging from pop, Parry and Lady Gaga. Come and hear the wonderful sound and harmony of this uplifting and inspiring choir. Tickets from Deborah Roberts 01625 572052 Adults £15, under 12yrs £5, (includes refreshments)
All profits divided between the Bollington Arts Centre and the Methodist Hall Fund

Monday 13th at 6.30pm
Bollington SciBar at the Vale
From Fukushima to Outer Space- Threats and Opportunities for the UK Nuclear Industry in the 21st century

Thursday 16th May at 7.30pm
Bollington Horticultural Society
Bollington Community Centre.
Late summer plants and special perennials. Martin Blow shares his experience.
£1.50 members £3.00 non members

Friday 17th May at 8.00pm
Bollington Folk Club
Dog and Partridge - Guest Night with Anthony John Clarke. The opening concert of the Folk Festival. £7 at door.
Tel. 573255

Saturday 18th at 10.00am
Bollington Horticultural Soc. Plant Sale
Community Centre - Bedding, perennials and veg plants.

Dates for your Diary

TO INCLUDE YOUR FUTURE EVENTS, CONTACT SANDY MILSOM ON 573191 OR E-MAIL: LIVEDATES@HAPPY-VALLEY.ORG.UK

Arts Centre contacts and tickets available from www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

June

Friday 7th June at 8.00pm

Bollington Folk Club

Upstairs at the Dog and Partridge. Guest Night with Ian Bruce, an always popular guest from North of the Border. £7 at door. Tel 573255

Sunday 9th 7.30pm

Evening of English Song & Piano Music

St Oswald's Church. Guests: Angela Rowley, soprano and James Pelham, piano. The Festival Choir presents a delightful selection of English music. Tickets £10 (£8 under 18) from 575554

BOLLINGTON Festival Photography

WE NEED YOU! We are hoping to stage an exhibition of photographs with the theme "Life and Locations of Bollington" at the 2014 Bollington Festival. This theme will form the centre of our activities this year.

We extend a warm invitation for you to join us on our monthly Friday photo walks. We usually meet at 7pm on the **last Friday of the month** at Pool Bank Car Park (but look for last minute details on Twitter@BollyPhotoWalks and on www.bollingtonphotos.com/)

Friday walk dates this year are:-
26th April, 31st May, 28th June,
26th July, 30th August, 27th Sept.

Also, during the summer we are hoping to repeat our successful programme of more technical meetings at the Printshop, Pool Bank. Look for details on Twitter and also on the Bollington Festival Website.

If, however, you can't join us in person, then look for our work on Flickr – or, better still, post your own Bollington photos onto Flickr and tag them 'Bollington'. This means that they will then show up on the Bollington in Photos website for all to see. Alternatively, email them to janetbeech@btinternet.com and I will post them for you. **Janet Beech**

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th May Bollington Folk Festival

All details confirmed in April.
Visit the Arts Centre web site:

www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Friday 17th at 8pm **Celidh**
Arts Centre. Hosted by Maplewood.

Saturday 18th at 1.45pm - 3.15pm
and 3.30pm - 5.00pm

Folk Festival Workshop sessions

Four to choose from each session

Saturday 18th at 7.30pm

Concert: Steve Tilston

Supported by Second Sunday Folk

Sunday 19th at 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Two Workshops

Sunday 19th Second Sunday Folk

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL 2014

The Visual Arts Group will once again be organising an Artist's Trail during two weekends in the May Festival.

Are there any local artists out there who would like to be part of the Artist's Trail?

Express your interest and please ring
01625 572931.

Chris Connick (Festival Visual Arts Committee)

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

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

Monday: Computer Classes,
a.m. by appointment

Tuesday: Silk Painting / Card Making -
10.15am to 12.15pm
Scrabble - 10.15am to 12.15pm
Monthly Book Group - 2nd Tuesday of
each month 2 to 4pm

Wednesday: Weekly Guided Walks
Stitchwork - 10am to 12.15pm
Creative Writing - 2.15pm to 4.15pm
Mah Jong - 2pm to 4pm

Thursday: Yoga - 10.30am to 12.00pm
Reading Circle - 11.00am to 12.30pm

Bridgend Ctr. Walks

These graded circular walks start and finish at the Bridgend Centre unless otherwise stated. £2.50 per walk incl. tea, coffee and biscuits at end. Please ensure that you wear suitable footwear and clothing and bring a drink. Phone 576311 for further details.

Wed 6th March, 10.15am, 6 miles
Shrigley Road to Mines, Bricks & Bakestones

Wed 13th March, 10.15am, 5 miles
Kerridge, Moat Hall, Middlewood Way

Wed 20th March, 10.15am 4miles
Ranger's Natural History Walk

Wed 27th March, 10.15am, 5 miles
White Nancy and the saddle of Kerridge

Wed 3rd April, 10.15am, 6 miles
Butley Town, Middlewood Way,
Tinkers Clough, Canal

Wed 10th April, 10.15am, 6 miles
The Nab, Sugar & Holehouse Lanes,
Canal

Wed 18th April, 10.15am, 4 miles
Ranger's natural history walk

Wed 24th April, 10.15am, 5.5 miles
Oakenbank, Rainowlow, Harrop Valley

Wed 1st May, 10.15am, 6 miles
Bluebells in Harrop Wood, Further
Harrop Farm

Wed 8th May, 10.15am, 4½ miles
White Nancy, Rally Road, Fields to
Hollin Hall

Wed 15th May, 10.15am 4miles
Ranger's Natural History walk

Wed 22nd May, 10.15am, 6 miles
Spuley Lane, Berristall Hall,
Moorside Quarry

Wed 5th June, 10.15am, 6 miles
Harrop Wood, Lima Clough,
Ingersley Vale

Wed 12th June, 10.15am, 6 miles
Canal, Tinkers Clough, Dunbath
Hollow, Butley Tn.

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BOLLINGTON BY...

My name is Emily Rafferty and I am 14 years old. I went to St. Gregory's Primary School and am currently at All Hallows in Macclesfield. I love summer and am looking forward to the holidays when I can see my friends and hopefully go away somewhere hot.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to hang out with my friends. I also love music and play the flute and piano, which I have been doing for several years now. Other things I like to do include art and photography.

What is good about living in Bollington?

I like Bollington because it is so friendly and everyone knows you! It is a very pretty village with a really nice atmosphere and is near Manchester too!

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

Bollington is already perfect but I suppose it would be good if it had a cinema I could visit with my friends.

What music do you listen to?

I really like Two Door Cinema Club and Plan B is good.

What do you do on a Saturday morning?

I wish I could sleep but what I actually do is go to my flute lesson.

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

That's a very hard question but I would have to say all of my family.

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

Flying would be cool but I would love to be able to teleport to any place because I love going to new places.

What is your biggest achievement?

It is probably passing flute and piano exams as they are quite hard.

What book are you reading?

At the moment I am reading a book called Finding Violet Park by Jenny Valentine. It's about a boy finding some lost ashes of an old woman called Violet who was left behind in a taxi.....I would recommend it.

What is your favourite TV programme?

My Name is Earl has to be the funniest thing ever.

What one thing in your opinion would make the world better?

If we could all get along better

Who would you invite to your dream birthday party?

Everyone I know!!

If you could be someone else for a day who would you be?

Probably a famous film actress or an Olympic gymnast.

What trait do you deplore in yourself?

Sometimes I can be a bit quiet with people I don't know well.

What trait do you deplore in others?

Bullying

Do you have a motto?

'Follow your dreams - they know the way'.



What's your favourite place?

Underwater

Messy or tidy?

Messy

Pizza or pasta?

Pasta

Tea or coffee?

Coffee, especially espressos!

What's your favourite colour?

Pale blue, but I like all colours.

What's your favourite food?

Krispy Crème doughnuts

Tell us a joke?

I moustache you a question but I'm shaving it for later.

Annette Hurst

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

WET WET WET!

Last year was indeed extremely wet, as weather data recorded by our very own Bollington weather station has confirmed.

The weather station has been recording data since mid 2007, and the rainfall for the five complete years since 2008 reveal 2012 as the wettest with 1502mm recorded (that's 59.1 inches or almost 5

feet!). That figure is more than twice the rainfall recorded in 2010 when 743mm (29.25 inches) fell. The average for the other three years was 950mm or just over 37 inches.

Other data reveals 2008 as the windiest year, and 2010 as the least windy. In terms of temperature, 2011 and 2012 were about one

degree Celsius warmer over the entire year than the years 2008 to 2010.

Chris Do Wet

If you would like to follow the Lord Street webcam and weather website, click on the Webcam & Weather link on the Happy Valley website home page, or go to 'tinyurl.com/BollyWeather'. Twitter users can get an hourly weather summary by following '@BollyWeather'.

BOLLINGTON LINES - PART ONE

'Bollington Lines - a quartet of stories based in Bollington'

In each edition of Bollington Live! until the Festival there will be a short story, based in Bollington. These four stories will be complete in themselves but there will be a thread that will run through them all. The stories will be as different as the authors and may take you down some twisted roads but in the end bring you back to Bollington.

'Miss Sarah, Miss Sarah, I wrote my name.'

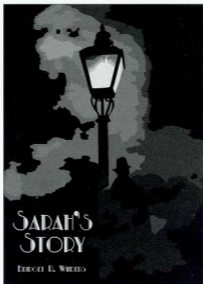
'See mine too.'

The children's voices brought Sarah sharply back to her task. She was teaching her small charges their letters and they had become restless and eager to be outside, bowling hoops and skipping. Sarah too longed to be out in the fresh air.

The nausea was worse today and she had noticed a breathlessness due to the confines of her boned corset. She had not touched her breakfast and she worried that she would upset Mrs Forster, the household's very capable cook, who regarded every morsel of food returned from the nursery to be a personal affront. Sarah also could not face the kindly concern of the Mistress.

Lessons over, she allowed the two children to tumble out of the house and into the stable yard. They ran and jumped like puppies, warmly wrapped against the December chill. Sarah stood watching them envying their innocence. Her hand felt for the brooch at her throat. Fingering the gold filigree and the cluster of turquoise stones in the centre she thought of the secret at the back of the brooch, the curled lock of dark hair lying next to the picture of her mother and father.

Tears pricked her eyes as she remembered their death in a fire three years past. She had been away at the time helping Cousin Harriet through her second confinement. The brooch was all she had left of her parents. She treasured it.



SARAH WALKED TO BOLLINGTON STATION. IN THE BITTER WEATHER HER DESPAIR RETURNED. WHAT WOULD BECOME OF HER?

If you enjoy writing and would like to join a group, the Bridgford Writing Group meets on Wednesday afternoons at 2.15pm at the Bridgford Centre. Contact the Bridgford or Sandy on 01625 573191

She was wearing the brooch when she met George, the son of a quarry owner. She thought about the handsome, dark young man. Of course he loved her and she would have no cause to fear the future. Had he not protested his undying love so often? Sarah brightened at this thought.

This afternoon she had some time off. When she had given the children their luncheon they were allowed to accompany James in the trap to the station in Bollington to meet their grandmother from High Lane. It was a great treat for them to see the trains. The railway had come to Bollington three years past; a finger of iron connecting families as well as moving coal, cotton, silk and stone.

Once freed of her duties Sarah put on her warmest coat and stout boots as the weak December sun had given way to ominous dark clouds. She set off up the road to the track which led past the quarries up Kerridge Hill and along to the ridge.

The hill was scarred with the quarrying, men working like flies round each wound. She looked for her sweetheart amongst them, supervising the loading of the trucks that would be carried down the Rally Road to Kerridge Wharf, but she could not see him. She cursed her unsuitable skirts, which hampered her movements and slowed her down.

When she reached the ridge she turned left towards White Nancy. She could see Rainow nestled below her and the smoke from the mill chimney in the vale. The steep climb had warmed her but the misty air carried flakes of snow. At White Nancy she looked down over Bollington, the smoke from the mill chimneys curling up through the mist. Far below her were towers, spires and arches and the rows of stone cottages reaching along the hillside streets around the mills.

Up on the hill above it all she felt detached, invincible and strong. She turned to look the way she had come and her heart leapt as she saw him stride across the ridge and she ran into his comforting arms.

'Sarah my dear, my time today is short and I have some news,' George whispered as he took her hand and led her through Nancy's door.

'I too have news George.'

'And pray what is that?'

As gently as she could, Sarah informed him of her well founded suspicions, only to see the look of horror on his blanched face. He withdrew his hand from hers as if he had been scalded.

'My dear, Sarah this cannot be. I am to marry another.'

'But you promised we would wed.'

'What I promised and what I must do are very different things. If I go

against my father's wishes he would cut me off without a penny. You must understand.'

Sarah understood only too clearly. She rose with as much dignity as she could and would not let him know the misery she felt or see the bitter tears fall. She would not return past the quarries and stumbled down the steep slope to Bollington.

'Sarah,' George shouted after her. 'What will you do? If my father hears about this it will kill him, I cannot allow that to happen.'

'What I do is no concern of yours.'

In despair she returned to the Hall, packed her small carpet bag with her few belongings and fled. Her thoughts turned to her cousin Harriet on the farm near Marple. Harriet would know what to do. She resolved to seek refuge there.

Snow had begun to fall in great billows as Sarah walked to Bollington Station. In the bitter weather her despair returned. What would become of her?

'Can I have a ticket to Rose Hill?' She asked the station guard.

'Are you all alone love, best wait inside out of the cold. There's a train in ten minutes.'

But Sarah wanted to stand outside with the chill and the swirling snow enveloping her. She removed her brooch to take one last look at the lock of hair. She could not remove all the traces of the man who had betrayed her, but she could get rid of that. Through the turmoil of her mind she could hear a distant whistle and then the hiss of steam and the smell of smoke. The train was close.

The station guard stepped forward to raise his red flag. Sarah had thought that the two of them were the only people on the platform, but through the grey smoke of the engine and the white whirl of snow there seemed to be a dark cloaked figure behind her.

A moment later as the train rushed on towards her she felt a push and then she felt no more...

Bridget R Winders

GREAT DANES!

We've had a wonderful time recently enjoying Danish television drama. There is something about that culture that seems to have edged its way endearingly into our consciousness.

On March 9th we have an opportunity to engage with it again when the Danish String Quartet play at Bollington Arts Centre. They are an extraordinary group; four young men who deliver a performance full of energy and excitement. They joke about being modern Vikings, 'perhaps a touch more harmless than our ancestors!' They are hugely talented and have performed in major concert halls all over the world. They have a passion for Scandinavian composers, whom they play alongside the classics, and they have drawn praise from critics, audiences and fellow musicians for their profound interpretations. The review they recently received from the New York Times for Janacek's Kreutzer Sonata, which they are also playing



Concerts start 8pm.

Tickets £14, concessions for children and anyone claiming means-tested benefits.

Email: chamberconcerts@bollingtonartscentre.org.uk
or tel. 576402 or 575287

in Bollington, was wonderful. When they played here two years ago, the evening was spellbinding. This time they are playing Debussy, Janacek,

Abrahamson, and some Scandinavian folk music; it will be exciting! They love to perform a mixed programme, and it will be an experience to hear folk music played by brilliant classical musicians.

Chamber Concert regulars will be delighted that The Navarra Quartet is also making a return visit to Bollington on April 20th; they just love playing at

the Arts Centre! They first came together when they were at the Royal Northern College and have since become very successful, having won many prizes, and having performed at many major venues. They are playing Haydn, Brahms, and Benjamin Britten, to celebrate the centenary of his birth. The Navarra was thrilled to be chosen to be Quartet in Residence at Aldbrough this year.

Yvonne Singer

READING FOR LEISURE

January is usually the time that people start to exercise the body after the Christmas binge but it's also a great time to start exercising the mind with a good book!

Bollington Health & Leisure are proud to have served the community for over 30 years as a not-for-profit organisation and as such are looking in 2013 for ways in which to raise funds for much needed repair work.

We currently have a second-hand book sale, with all books just a minimum donation of £1 and everyone is welcome to come in and browse the selection.

The book sale has raised over £2,000 in just 4 months so you can make a real difference

by spending a small amount, donating a book or both!

Book donations are welcome and you can always bring a book back to recycle it once you have read it.

There is something at the sale for everyone so whether you're a romance, thriller, horror or sci-fi fan or looking for a book for the kids you'll be able to find something to help while away the winter months while helping a good cause at the same time.

Do what you can and grab a book today!

Steven Hurst

MEMORY LANE

Remember Mrs Watts' sweet shop in Water Street? When I was around seven to eleven years old in the mid 1950s that was definitely my most important shop in the village.

Just one tiny room but packed with shelves of sweet jars – glass jars, not plastic – stuffed with all kinds of wonderful creations. Floral gums, sherbet lemons, cough candy, Uncle Joe's mint balls, liquorice and butterscotch tablets. Funny, but quite a few sweets had medicinal names; I loved chloridine lozenges. I think that's what they were called: octagonal flat things the colour of a donkey-flone. (When you walked along Water Street on your way to school you'd be sure to see at least one woman industriously donkey-stoning her door step!)

Threepence could buy you a whole two ounces of the least expensive sweets which Mrs Watts would carefully weigh out and then pour into a small conical paper bag... but not before you'd spent an age deliberating the best investment under her watchful eye.

Pear drops or aniseed balls? Or how about some Kayli, a weird sort of cross between sherbet and sugar, coloured a brilliant yellow or orange? Just one penny could provide an hour of sucking if you bought a gobstopper. A Bassetts liquorice stick also cost a penny but was a tough chew so guaranteed to provide lasting enjoyment. Saturday was the day I got my 6d spending money – of which Mrs Watts was usually the sole recipient!

Further down Water Street, on the other side, was some sort of hardware shop, often with unexciting things like buckets displayed outside. It didn't sell anything edible so was not of any interest to me or my friends. But a little way past there, close to the secondary school, was The Pastry Bowl. They made the most delicious meat and potato pies. Well-seasoned, well-filled, we often had them at home on Saturday as a quick and easy lunch. (Of course, we called it dinner in those days – none of your posh southern ideas then.) They also sold a wide array of cakes, of which

choux buns seemed to me to be the most exotic of delights imaginable. Unfortunately my mother regarded them as too luxurious to be regular purchases!

Opposite The Pastry Bowl was a greengrocers where I sometimes accompanied my mother when she was shopping. Boxes of fruit and vegetables would often be outside on the pavement – but you weren't really supposed to help yourself. You looked then went inside to ask the shop assistant to get what you asked for. Next door? Was it the fishmongers? We had fish EVERY Friday and I hated it so much that I think I've tried to erase fish from my memory. Perhaps it was the way my mother cooked it, rolled in bright orange breadcrumbs, an early cook's aid, shaken from a cardboard tube.

Towards the junction with High Street, Mrs Coe had a shop, or a sort of shop. My school friend Eileen lived there and I went to play at her house but I can't remember much about it. Was it a decorator's shop or just the premises of a working painter and



Photograph (right)
Joan aged 5
taken outside
8 Highfield Road,
Bollington

Fashion note:
Joan is wearing a
striped pinafore
dress, hand made
from her mothers'
cast-off clothes!

Cartoon:
Matt Wray

Great Balls Of Fire!

Wake Up Little Susie

Jailhouse Rock

Carolina moon



decorator? But across the road and round the corner into High Street was Maddock the Butchers which I do remember quite a lot about. Whole sides of animals hung from large hooks behind the counter and dripped blood into sawdust: half a cow, a pig and maybe a sheep. When you asked for something, Mr Maddock would find the right animal, and the right part, and chop it up on his big chopping block, dented and shaped by years of work. Then Mrs Maddock would wrap it up in paper for you to put in your shopping basket. If you hadn't time to get to the shop, then not to worry because the butchers also did deliveries to your house.

Past the green and tucked back a little was Chadwick's book shop. I went there to choose my Sunday School Prizes each year. The amount available to spend was based on attendance and Mrs Chadwick would show me the range of books I could make my selection from – respectable stuff like beautifully illustrated bible stories. My dad bought me Toby Twirl and Rupert annuals from there as well.

Finally, just across the road, was Mrs Dransfield's grocery shop. This was probably the first shop I ever went into and seemed very important. In 1952 we had just moved to Bollington and a few things were still rationed. I remember my mother's ration book being used in the grocer's – maybe for sugar? Mrs Dransfield had a big sugar sack. She would take out metal scoops of sugar and transfer them to a blue

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sugarpaper bag then deftly fold the top of the bag over and seal it with sellotape; I think you could buy flour and tea loose in the same way. Probably rice as well, but only pudding rice. It would be another ten years before our family started eating rice as a savoury dish! The shop had dark wooden floorboards and dark wooden shelves and had a cave-like feel compared with the well-lit shops of today. Often my mother would call in just to leave her order – a handwritten list – and this would be delivered in the evening, packed in a cardboard box.

It's fascinating to take the time to recall these shops, characterful small businesses, many of them run by women. Now I can go to a supermarket and find all the things supplied by those varied shops in just one store. Mind you, it takes me as long to walk round Asda as it would to walk up Water Street and High Street, the sweets are not as good, and you never get all the gossip!

My dad was very keen on DIY long before the advent of B&Q or Wickes, so the shop that provided the essentials was Odeys, near the Council Offices in the middle of Bollington. It was actually rather like the one in the four candles sketch by the Two Ronnies. Mr Otley seemed to have everything. Not in neat little packets of six that cost a small fortune but by the hundreds in boxes on the shelves. Dad could ask for a precise number with none of this "We only sell them in packs of ten," nonsense. Not far from there was Tute's the shoe shop and cobblers. Back then a pair of men's shoes would often last for more than a decade with some regular soiling and heeling and I can still remember the smell of the black rubber wellies that came from there.

Opposite Tute's was Ron Drabble's grocers which also sold sweets and then, next to the Dog and Partridge, was Goodwin's tiny little sweet shop. Tiny it may have been but it stocked a wonderful range of goodies which included licorice roots (they looked and felt like twigs) and the most delicious home-made ice lollies I've

ever eaten. And although he didn't have a shop, just a motor bike, Mr Granell's ice creams took some beating too. The miles that man must have ridden to sell his cornets and wafel sandwiches sprinkled with raspberry juice.

As my time at junior school drew to an end I began to wander further afield from home; away from the safety of playing over the canal or on the woodstacks in the woodyard; and nearer to the sophisticated thrills of the Milk Bar. This establishment was presided over by the formidable "Ma Edwards". She needed to be formidable in order to control the new phenomenon in Bollington: teenagers! Hoards of them could be found sitting at formica tables, drinking coffee or nonchalantly sipping Cola from a glass. The Milk Bar had a juke box! How hip was that? Was it 6d for one play and 1s for three? By the time I was a teenager it was an art form to make a drink last an hour and by pooling our cash, getting the best value in hit records. However, there was always the worry that Ma Edwards would lean humorlessly over the counter and ask pointedly if you had finished... at which time one of the four or five at our table would, of course, decide to have a second drink.

Another great place to meet boys, especially boys who might not be all that keen to meet up with you, was to bump into them at the chippie. There were two chippies in Bollington, which no doubt had proper names but were only known to us as the 'Top' and 'Bottom' chippie. It had nothing to do with superior catering skills - one was at the Wagon (and Horses) and the other at the top end of Palmerston Street. Ah, the hours I've tramped between those two chip shops in my ice-blue duster coat and chizel-toed heels, hoping to see some lad or other. Then, after all that usually fruitless walking, all we could afford was a bag of chips between us - served on yesterday's newspaper, of course!

Joan Taylor (Franklin)

It's less than 18 months until the 50th anniversary of the first Bollington Festival and plans are well underway for the 2014 Bollington Festival.

Several thousand of you have already enjoyed fundraising events such as evenings of music and fine dining at Oliver at Bollington Green and Briscola (supported by the Martyn Donaldson Music Trust), a Beer Festival, a Garden Festival, micro-theatre at Livesey's, a fringe festival of theatre, music and comedy and many more.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, sponsors and grant agencies our funds currently stand at around £38,000. A large amount to be sure but not nearly enough for our needs. Rather than only standing around shaking buckets, we'll continue putting on exciting fundraising events this year to help us raise the monies needed to put on a fabulous Bollington Festival of music, drama, literature, photography, art, sport and science for the community.

Another beer festival is planned for July and we are planning another garden festival and more musical evenings. Sign up for our e-mail updates at the Bollington Festival website to get advance information; we only send out e-mails about once a month so we won't fill up your inbox!

If you have an idea for a fundraising event that you would like to organise, please contact us through our website. You can also support the Bollington Festival (and have a chance of winning some cash through our monthly draw) by joining the 100 Club, or receive special advance invites and discounts on upcoming pre-Festival events by becoming a "Friend of the Festival". Alternatively, if you would just like to send a donation, please make cheques payable to Bollington Festival and send to 2 Nab Lane, Bollington, SK10 5RA.

Jon Beck
(Chairman, Bollington Festival)

Details of the 100 Club, Friends of the Festival, the various community groups (Carnival, Literature, Photography, Science, Sport, Visual Arts, Music and Dance), news about the Festival etc. can be found on the Bollington Festival website:
www.bollingtonfestival.org.

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

Looking through the on-line archive of *Bollington Live!* past editions, Bollington Folk Club has featured on several occasions, evidence of a living strand of musical tradition within the community.

Local "folk legend" Arthur Wakefield ran the club for at least 37 years (the actual start date is shrouded in the mists of time), during which some of the biggest names in the folk music scene have made an appearance. Although July 2012 saw Arthur step down as organiser,



The club's "retirement cake" for Arthur Wakefield

the club he handed on is heading strongly towards its fourth decade of providing the best in folk music, from the British Isles and beyond.

Meeting in the upstairs room of the Dog & Partridge on Palmerston Street each week, it has a great reputation as a cosy, welcoming venue, both for regulars and visitors from far and wide, some of whom are lured from narrow boats on the nearby canal by the siren voices floating out of the room on warm summer evenings. Most Fridays feature a 'Singers Night', and each

month there is also a 'Guest Night' featuring artists of national standing. Pete Wood, who has now taken over the reins, explains: "Although I'm nominally the organiser I'm helped by a number of people who run the raffle, do publicity - including our constantly updated website - and help out with many other tasks.

Whereas some forms of music work well in a more formal setting, folk music is at its best in a more informal atmosphere, and the upstairs room at the Dog is a venue most folk

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club organisers would give their eye teeth for – especially welcome in the cooler months is the real fire which lends a rosy glow to proceedings.”

So what is a ‘Singers Night’, anyway? “Well, we devise a programme (on the hoof), depending on who turns up to perform. All styles of folk music are welcome, from the very traditional to the contemporary, and many singers (including me!) have had their first go at performing in public in the friendly, supportive atmosphere. So if you fancy having a go, just turn up and let us know – we aim to let everyone perform who wishes to, the length of a slot depending on how many singers we’ve got to fit in the time available”.

Prices for Guest Nights vary, but in the region of £7 – see publicity for more details, ring Pete on 01625 573255, or consult the website –

<https://sites.google.com/site/bollingtonfolkclub/>

It’s not just for singers – all are welcome to come and listen, and although the emphasis is on folk songs we usually have some sort of instrumental interlude, often provided by our home-grown band ‘The Name Escapes Me’ (yes, that’s really their name).

The range of instruments played in the last couple of months – in addition to the ubiquitous guitar, of course – includes whistle, uilleann (Irish) pipes, mandolins, concertinas, recorder, double bass, accordion, fiddle, bouzouki, melodeon, tea chest bass, bodhran, etc. but not all at the same time! Occasionally we get a monologue or verse to give an extra touch of variety.

Each month we feature a guest night (see our website for exact dates). We have recently managed to feature a wide range of styles, and we also aim for a mixture of well known, long-established performers, and younger acts to give a fresh perspective.

Admission on ‘Singers Nights’ is a mere £2 – less than the price of a pint, even allowing for the great value real ales served up by mine hosts Helen and Frank Shepley, to whom thanks are due for their support for the club. So come up and see us some time – but get here early!

Pete Wood

THE HAPPY VALLEY?

Maybe the name Johann Heinrich Zschokke might not mean much to the people of Bollington, even though (more or less) he provided us with our local nickname as ‘The Happy Valley’. He wrote a book called ‘Goldenthal’ which was obviously read and admired by Local Hero and Industrialist, Samuel Greg Jnr.

Zschokke was German, but also lived in Switzerland. His book ‘Goldenthal’ is an idealistic tale about a young man named Oswald who turns up in his old village and finds it pretty miserable and far from happy. The people are drunkards, the village elders are averse to change, the clergy are not all that spiritual, things are run-down and lots of people are up to their eyes in debt. It is, however, a comparatively turgid and wearisome read, but obviously it greatly influenced Greg, who, I believe, came to see himself in the same light as Oswald, the hero of ‘Goldenthal’.

Oswald appoints new people in the village, including a new vicar, he sets up a savings bank, and he improves the housing and so on. Certainly – for a time – Samuel Greg, with the better housing he

provided and the educational and social facilities he put in place at Lowerhouse, must have thought that all was on-track to make Bollington into his very own utopian ‘Happy Valley’, his personal ‘Goldenthal’.

Sadly, he was to be disappointed. His workers went on strike over the introduction of a new machine at the Lowerhouse Mill and Samuel Greg became so disillusioned that, it is said, he never again walked down the hill from his home at The Mount to mingle with his ungrateful and disobedient workers. Bollington never reached his idealistic levels and when he died (a broken man) he and his business were virtually bankrupt.

It was rescued later by other members of his family who were the Gregs of Quarry Bank. History reveals that Bollington was never any more happy (or unhappy) than any other small industrial community of its time. Even so, Bollington still clings to its ‘Happy Valley’, a myth which never quite passed into reality. Even so, it doesn’t do us any harm to have a target to aim at. After all, if this is to be truly a Happy Valley, it is up to those of us who live here to make it so.

Roy Arnold



Photograph:
Discovery Centre collection

BELLE OF THE BALL

The classic Disney fantasy "Beauty and the Beast" is being brought to the local stage by Bollington Light Opera Group in May.

The stage production, which made its debut in 1994, is based on the popular Disney animation of the same name, and had nearly 5,500 performances on Broadway, making it the eighth longest-running show in the history of the Mecca of musical theatre.

The show will be staged from May 14 to 18. BLOG is expecting a high demand for tickets and has introduced a matinee performance on the Saturday afternoon, when there will be a discounted family ticket.

The timeless story of how the essential goodness of human nature triumphs over evil represents a major challenge to BLOG, with a plot featuring a vain and uncaring prince, transformed by an enchantress into a hideous Beast and his servants into various household objects. The enchantress gives him a rose to use as an hour-glass, telling him the only way he can break the spell is to learn to love another and earn her love in return by the time the last petal falls.

The prince seems to be doomed until Belle, a beautiful girl from the nearby village, is drawn into the plot and a race against time begins. Will Belle teach the prince the error of his ways before the rose sheds its last petal? Or will the prince be destined to live out his days as a lonely and hated monster?



Director Mike Raymond and Musical Director Andrew Burr have assembled a strong cast to bring out every element of drama and comedy, alongside powerful and poignant solo numbers and boisterous chorus scenes, all of which will test BLOG's membership to the full.

Tavis Hill takes the part of the Beast, with Katherine Cooke as Belle, while Nigel Wells plays Gaston, the village bully who sets his sights on marrying Belle. Other village characters are played by Jon Weinberg, who is Le Fou, Gaston's sidekick; Paul Shortt, who is Belle's father Maurice; and Paul Yardell, who is M. D'Arque, keeper of the local asylum.

In the castle, Diane McIntyre is Mrs. Potts, the cook transformed into a teapot. Playing other key characters among the prince's staff are Richard Cornish as Lumière, the flamboyant maître d' transformed into a candlestick; Craig Harris as Cogsworth, the stiff and starchy major domo transformed into a clock; Carol Pratt as Madame La Bouche, a retired opera singer who is housekeeper and transformed into a wardrobe; and Angela Theobald, as Babette, French maid transformed into a feather duster.

In support is BLOG's renowned chorus.

Says Mike Raymond: "On a trip to London we decided to see some West End shows, one of which was Disney's Beauty and the Beast. It wasn't exactly my choice but I

went along not expecting to enjoy this fairy tale, after all, it's for kids isn't it? Well, how wrong could I be! Never before had I seen such a spectacle of colour, effusion and dramatic special effects mixed with pathos, comedy and drama all set to some of the best music you will hear in a musical - it was fantastic.

I mused about BLOG producing the show but I thought at first that the financial and technical challenges made it a dream only. But this is Disney and If You Wish Upon a Star.....

We are now looking forward to the challenges and to hearing from our audiences in May how well they think we've met them."

BLOG has been performing musical theatre for its Bollington audiences at the Civic Hall since 1974. Their early years saw them perform most of Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas, but they later developed into more mainstream musical theatre. Fiddler on the Roof, Hello Dolly, Anything Goes, Calamity Jane, and South Pacific have all wowed capacity audiences in recent years, but BLOG have occasionally gone back to their roots with excellent productions of The Gondoliers, The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado.

In addition to their May shows, BLOG also produces an annual 'Showtime', a cabaret style event which widens the scope of the society and gives scope for a variety of styles and numbers.

Peter Kent

Beauty and the Beast will be staged at Bollington Civic Hall from May 14 to 18, with performances nightly at 7.30 pm and a matinee at 2 pm on the Saturday.

Tickets are £12 for adults, with a £10 concession Tuesday-Thursday.

Family ticket for matinee only party of four (including at least two children) - £40

Tickets are available from Ruth Stubbs on 01625 431038 or blogbookings@aol.com

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