



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Eight

Summer 2013



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

Cover: 'Coronation Gardens' in mixed media by Matthew Wray

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PLAYTIME

Sixty years ago Bollington Urban District Council laid out a special garden to commemorate the Coronation on June 2nd 1953 of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The gardens are now known as Coronation Gardens and they are reserved for the enjoyment of young children, their parents and carers.

The Bollington community celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with street parties, a Town Parade, a beacon by White Nancy and a fireworks display on the Recreation Ground. A volunteer group decorated White Nancy with a wonderful commemorative design and a special picture of it was sent to the Queen.

Now the Jubilee is over White Nancy has been returned to her white garb. The Town Council thought hard and decided that a more permanent recognition of the Jubilee was required. What better way to encourage our children to remember this great event than to turn Coronation Gardens into Diamond Jubilee Gardens?

A consultation was held, children from Dean Valley Community School were asked for their ideas and Cheshire East Council were persuaded to find some funding.



Bollington residents enjoying the new facilities.

Photograph:
Simon Nottage

Marianne Hodgkinson, an experienced project officer worked with the Mayor, Ken Edwards and an artist Christine Wilcox-Brown to put together a plan to make the gardens even more child and family friendly while commemorating the Jubilee with a celebratory archway over the main gate.

As planned, the gardens were ready for the opening ceremony on Sunday 2nd June 2013 and as we hoped the younger children in Bollington were out in force to enjoy the new play equipment. Their parents and carers will also be able to relax with them, tell stories, enjoy a picnic and be amused by the presence of the large hare who appears as the storyteller.

Our thanks go to all those children who contributed ideas, to those people who commented on possible plans during the consultation and to the work of Cheshire East Borough Council and Bollington Town Council. A particular warm word of thanks to Christine Wilcox-Baker and Marianne Hodgkinson for their dedication to the practical realisation of our renewed children's playground.

Ken Edwards

Left: Former Mayor Ken Edwards draws a large crowd on the opening day

Photograph:
David Naylor

Date for next copy:

**Friday 27th
September
2013**

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this, our summer edition of **Bollington Live!** I hope that you will find at least an article or two of interest.

Special thanks must go to the hard work of our advertising team - Michelle and Mark, along with our many local advertisers and sponsors, as we are once again able to continue with another twenty-four page issue.

It is never a difficulty finding enough articles to fill the pages we have. In a similar way to motorway building (the more lanes provided, the more traffic appears to fill them) even though **Bollington Live!** now has twice the number of pages it once had, there is still a surplus of submissions to squeeze in between the covers.

As always, I aim to fill the pages with articles in a broad spectrum of interests and this issue is no different. From the past we can learn about a job now consigned to history, with the story of 'The Last Knocker-up'. Current issues are not forgotten either, with articles regarding the Hurst Lane Canal Wharf and the recent battle to maintain the free school bus service to Tytherton High School. We also have the continuation of our 'Festival Novel - Bollington Lines'.

I would also like to thank, once again, our delivery team, who aim to deliver to every property in Bollington. Hopefully now that it is July, it will be a joy to walk around our streets delivering in the sun!

Best wishes for the summer.

Anthony Holland

THE LAST "KNOCKER-UP"

When I was told that the 91 year old daughter of William Harding, the last Clarence Mill 'Knocker-upper', was still living in Bollington, I was intrigued and couldn't wait to meet her and hear her memories.

Before I met her I thought I ought to do my homework, as although I had heard of the title, I had to admit I knew very little of the role. So I reached for my computer and began to Google the term. First turning to Wikipedia..... "A Knocker-up (sometimes known as a knocker-upper) was a profession in England and Ireland that started during and lasted well into the Industrial Revolution and at least as late as the 1920s, before alarm clocks were affordable or reliable. A knocker-up's job was to rouse sleeping people so they got to work on time"

What then of Elizabeth Oldfield's father, the last knocker-upper of Clarence Mill? William was born in Macclesfield in 1887. He eventually moved to Bollington to seek work, where he met a local girl whose family tree goes back in Bollington some 150 years on the female side. Her name was Mary Doolley.

William and Mary married in 1910 and had 5 daughters; Eva, born in 1911, Annie in 1915, Kate in 1920, Elizabeth in 1921 and finally the youngest, Elsie, in 1930. The family eventually moved to live in Union Street (off Church Street, now the site of Shrigley Court). The children all attended St Gregory's RC School and were regular attendees at the Church. Unfortunately, Mary contracted rheumatoid arthritis in her 40's and became bedridden. This naturally placed a heavy burden on William and the sisters.

Elizabeth has really fond memories of her father and could recall vividly helping him in his task of waking up the hard working workers of Clarence Mill. It was a very early start for him with the mill workers needing to be at their machines by 6 in the morning. Elizabeth remembers, as a 12 year old, helping her father light his paraffin filled storm-light on the dark mornings. With the storm light and a long fork-ended stick with its wired, forked end, William would set off on his rounds.

Right: William Harding, Back row, arms folded wearing dark shirt and braces

Photograph: Discovery Centre collection



William, with Elizabeth often in tow, would trawl the Bollington streets knocking on the workers' bedrooms windows, not leaving until they were sure that the client had been awoken. Indeed, they would often go round to the house again to be certain! In return, William would be paid three pence a week. Young Elizabeth would also go with him to collect the monies and recalls that they were often told by the workers that they were finding it difficult to pay, as times were hard and money was in short supply!

Elizabeth also recounts one tale, in which her father told her he regularly saw one man, who despite William saying to him "Good Morning", the man never used to reply. It was only several weeks later, William discovered that the man had been sleep-walking every time he saw him!!

Often, in other towns and cities, the job of the knocker-upper was carried out by elderly men and women, or sometimes police constables, who supplemented their pay by performing the task during early morning patrols. However, William, who I learnt was a very hard working man, in fact had several jobs! After his early morning knocker-up shift, he would go on a paper round and following this, he would then undertake his third job of the day as a postman!

Annie, William's second daughter, in her memoirs, also recalled that her Dad had a fourth job....

"During the Wakes holiday, there

was no holiday pay and Dad used to get a job with a local farmer"

However, there once was a real problem for William during this employment...

"The job involved heavy lifting and he came home in great pain one day. He had hurt his back and was unable to work and for the first time in his life, he had to apply for assistance from the Board of Guardians, as there was no sick pay. They agreed he could have thirteen shillings a week to keep us all, but they said if he couldn't manage on this amount, Mum and us would have to go in the workhouse. Dad was devastated and for the first time, I saw him cry. Luckily we managed, thanks in part to an old friend of Dad's who loaned us some money which was paid back in full when Dad was well enough to go to work."

William worked hard like this for approximately 20 years and when the knocker-upper role was phased out, William went to work in the Clarence Cotton Mill. Mary died in 1961 followed by William in 1962. They had been married for more than fifty years. **Kate Goodling**

Postscript

During the course of researching this article, I was also privileged to be put in contact with Carol Heaps; Annie's daughter and therefore, William's granddaughter. Carol kindly shared with me a copy of Annie's memoirs, which further illustrated her sister Elizabeth's memories of her father.



Above: The process of "Knocking-up"

COVER ART – MATTHEW WRAY

I guess I'm what you'd call a local lad, having lived and worked in Bollington for over 30 years.

I've been painting and drawing for as long as I can remember. From simple cartoon sketches to full wall murals in the Children's Ward at Macclesfield Hospital and the illustrations for *Bollington Live!* Art has always been part of my life.

My main influences in art stem back to the comic books I read as a lad. I'd copy, draw, re-draw and re-draw them again to get the technique right. Then on through basic art history: Picasso, Klimt, Dalí, Beardsley through the whole Pop-art movement, Oldenburg, Lichtenstein, Johns and Pollock.

I also get influenced by famous modern artists, but only as much as I get influenced by life around me. I don't think I have a 'style' as such, I paint based on how I feel. I suppose a very much hands-on style if anything, brushes can be really restricting at times, so my hands and fingers allow me to express myself

properly. The trees in the cover picture, for example, were painted by 'finger'.

I like my paintings usually to contain lots of movement and life; lots of energy. I paint with a wide variety of materials, media and resources, basically anything I think will work or I can get my hands on.

For this cover painting I had to be a little more controlled, but still vibrant and lively (with a little hint of comic book style).

If you would like to give Matthew a commission, then contact him at funkymattrocks@hotmail.com and he'll see what he can do!

*Right:
Jimi Hendrix*

*Below:
'I am the Walrus'*



One of my other loves is music, so I like to paint while listening to my eclectic music collection. For the cover pic I had The Clash and lots of Northern Soul keeping me company. I also play bass in my band 'Steller'.

For anyone else painting, designing, doodling or just living, I would only have one piece of advice: do what you love and love what you do, there's nothing worse than wasted talent. **Matthew Wray**

IN THE COUNTRY

Bollington is a 'hidden gem'. Our industrial heritage is second to none. Within a short space we have huge stone built mills, impressive aqueducts, stone-built terraces and splendid views across our valley.

We are perched on the edge of some of the best walking country in the Peak District, the oldest National Park in England. Following the valley of the River Dean takes walkers up into the Peak District and within reach of Shuttlesloe, Shining Tor and the Cat and Fiddle Pub. By following the Gritstone Trail that runs past our prominent local landmark, 'White Nancy' we can enjoy Lyme Park to the North and a long walk to Mow Cop with spectacular views over the Cheshire Plain to the South.

This combination of picturesque local history and wonderful walking country led a group of enthusiastic locals to organise Bollington's

first Walking Festival, four years ago. Supported by Destination Bollington Forum, our local community hub, the Bridgend Centre, East Cheshire Ramblers, the Bollington Civic Society and other enthusiastic groups have provided a varied programme to suit all tastes.

This year, for the first time, Moorland Adventure are organising a walk for those keen on improving their map reading skills across wild open country. There is another popular celebratory Beer Walk (is this different from a pub crawl?), as well as a tour around the Bollington Brewery organised by the Vale Inn. The aim is to host a festival that both enables local people to understand and enjoy their heritage and the beauties of the surrounding countryside - and also to attract visitors while having as much fun as possible.

This year's Festival, scheduled for

For further information please contact the Bridgend Centre or the happy valley website or Town Council website.

the last week of October will be bigger and better. If you are a keen single walker or like to walk as a family during half-term holidays, there will be something for all of you, including a variety of evening entertainments. It will be sizzling sausage week at the Bridgend Centre and the Bollington Festival players will be presenting the ever popular Calendar Girls at the Bollington Arts Centre.

Those with a taste for the dangers of outdoor walking can be thrilled by a talk detailing Buxton Mountain Rescue by a volunteer with 30 years experience. For the really energetic there is the 'Long Walk' on the final Saturday which this year is an 18 mile jaunt from Bollington to Disley and back.

For visitors and local residents alike it will be a week full of fun, entertainment, information and vigorous exercise in our wonderful countryside. **Ken Edwards**

HURST LANE WHARF DEVELOPMENT

The Macclesfield Canal was built in the late 1820s, opening on 9th November 1831. The first sod was dug at Bollington wharf off Grimshaw Lane and the last part to be completed was the embankment alongside Clarence Road. The canal's engineer, William Crosley, lived at the Rookery on Bollington Road.

The wharf at Hurst Lane was one of many along the canal and in the 1880s was occupied by two companies, Arncliffe and Beards. At least one of these was trading coal, unloading it over the side of the canal and down the bank onto the roof of the building that stands today beside the aqueduct from where it was loaded through a hole in the roof into horse drawn wagons for delivery round the town.

Around 1920 the wharf was taken over by the Needham family and used by them for more than 80 years as a timber yard. They supplied timber to local builders and the community, as well as manufacturing timber packing cases. In more recent years RED Joinery have based their woodworking business on the wharf.

All this time the wharf has been in the ownership of the canal company, firstly its builders, the Macclesfield Canal Company, then from 1847 the Manchester Sheffield & Lincoln Railway Co., followed on railway amalgamation in 1923 by the London & North Eastern Railway Co. (LNER). Since WWII a number of public bodies have been responsible, latterly from 1968 British Waterways (BW), and now the Canal & River Trust (CRT), the charity that has taken over from BW to manage the English and Welsh waterways for the public benefit.

Like all charities, one of CRT's priorities is the raising of funds. One of the best ways of doing this is to sell land for property development. The wharf at Hurst Lane has little heritage value, the small building on it is not noteworthy, and so it is a natural target for early development. CRT have entered a partnership called H2O with specialist developers Blo.



Above: Artist's impression of the proposed development

H2O have submitted a planning application to CEC for seven 'family sized' homes. This is supported by Bollington Town Council with conditions. Five of the proposed houses are planned to be built around a courtyard next to the canal wharf, with two to front onto Hurst Lane having their own access. For once the developer's idea of 'family sized' homes appears to mean homes of a reasonable size, homes for which there is said to be a demand in Bollington.

H2O is also working with custom-build company Plot (I promise you I'm not making up these names!) on an innovative new way to give buyers some say over the internal design of their homes. It will be interesting to see what this means in practice. This is not self-build, but simply an opportunity to buy 'off plan' and influence the internal layout and finish of the property.

There has been extensive consultation with the community. Of course there have been objections, especially from those living closest to the site. But in general the community seem happy for the present eyesore to be cleared and this development to go ahead. A number of comments and objections have been listened to by H2O and changes made to the design of the development including a reduction in the

number of houses. There remain justifiable concerns regarding the two accesses onto Hurst Lane and their effect on parking availability. There are also worries about the heavy traffic that would be using the narrow lower part of Hurst Lane with its sharp corners and the narrow canal bridge during construction. Access to this site by large vehicles has always been difficult resulting in regular damage to the bridge parapets.

In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of boats mooring on or adjacent to the wharf. However, being on a corner and adjacent to Hurst Lane bridge, the site is no longer regarded as a safe place to moor boats.

It is normal practice that a developer should fund improvements to the local area for the benefit of the community at large, and H2O have agreed to rebuild the steps to the towpath adjacent to Hurst Lane bridge. For the record, the steps and handrail were last re-built by the late Dr. John Coope and others in the 1980s and the wall at the top was re-built by the writer of this piece more than 35 years ago!

Tim Boddington

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GROWING WILD

FORAGING AROUND - PART 2

Following on from the last edition in conjunction with The Foraged Book Project, local artist and forager James Wood has written us another wild food recipe. 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 a wide range of edible possibilities for wild Japanese and Dog Rose petals, from the morning delight of Rose Petal Jam to the evening pleasure of Sparkling Rose Petal Wine."

Japanese Rose (*Rosa Rugosa*)
Dog Rose (*Rosa Canina*)

"Although these plants are different, they look almost identical. They are both widespread and common in hedges and scrubland. You should find a tall, sturdy shrub, 1.2 - 3m in height with hooked prickles. The leaves are toothed. Flowers between June and August.

The flowers are large, white-pink with five petals. The main difference comes later in the year when they fruit. Japanese Rose fruits are more rounded and larger than those of the Dog Rose. You might remember the fruit from these plants from the use of their seeds as itching powder when you were younger.

Rose petals have a whole range of uses from candying to perfume. They can be used to flavour ice creams and yoghurts as well as being used for decorative purposes included in salads. They're high in vitamin C and are traditionally used in Chinese medicine for treating stomach ache and stopping the spread of cancers. The Rose is unrivalled for historical symbolism, from the War of the Roses to its link with the God Isis."

ROSE PETAL JAM:

What you'll need:

A loose handful of rose petals
(I'd advise wild but the petals from any rose will do)

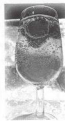
2 cups of sugar

4 ½ cups of water

Juice of 2 lemons



Photographs
provided by
James Wood



Wash the rose petals thoroughly and place in a clean bowl. Sprinkle half of the sugar over the rose petals and bruise lightly with a spoon. Cover and leave to stand overnight in a fridge. On the next day, place the remaining sugar, water and lemon juice in a pan and heat until the sugar is fully dissolved. Only then, add the previously sweetened and bruised rose petals. Simmer the whole mixture for 25 minutes; it will look as though the petals have dissolved into the mixture. Take this off the heat and allow it to cool for 15 minutes. Now you can place all of this in to a clean and sterilised glass jar. You can easily sterilise a pre-used jar by placing the jar and lid in a pan of boiling water for 15 minutes and filling it while hot.

SPARKLING ROSE PETAL WINE:

What you'll need:

1 gallon of water

3 loose handfuls of rose petals

1kg of Sugar, White or Demerara

1 packet of yeast (bread, wine or beer will work)

Wash the rose petals thoroughly and place in a large food grade container. Pour the sugar over the petals and bruise them lightly, with a rolling pin or similar utensil. Boil as much water as you can fit in your kettle and pour over the rose and sugar mixture. Loosely cover the container and leave it to stand for 24 hours. Strain the liquid through some muslin into another container. Stir this mixture thoroughly to make sure all of the sugar is dissolved. To this mixture add your packet of yeast (approx. 1 tablespoon). Again, cover this loosely, preferably with cloth so it can breathe and allow it to stand in a warm place for 4-5 days to allow the fermentation to come to an end. Pour this mixture into sterilised glass swing-top (or plastic screw top) bottles. Seal and allow to stand for another 5 days (it is wise to open or pop these bottles every two days for the first 10 days to make sure the bottles don't over carbonate or explode).

James Wood

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

BACK TO BOLLINGTON

The people of Bollington responded to the Town Council's consultation saying: "Take back the Civic Hall into local control!"

After a lot of discussion and argument the transfer occurred in October 2012 with the Civic Hall being transferred from Cheshire East to Bollington Town Council. Since then a new management group has been formed and a Users' Group created. All these volunteers are working together with Town Hall staff to refurbish and modernise the hall. Since then bookings have increased because the hiring charges have been simplified (and lowered in some cases) and booking is much easier. Just contact Jennifer at the Town Hall on 572985.

Much excited discussion has taken place over types of chairs, colour schemes, forms of lighting and what to do about the floor. You can now use wi-fi and there will be new curtains. All this change is due to the detailed attention of our Town Hall staff. A new caretaker, Peter has been appointed.

In general we expect users to make their own arrangements for furniture and leave the hall ready for the next user. Help with setting up is available but only at an extra cost.

We hope over time to increase use, and thereby reduce the subsidy from the precept but we expect there will always be some charge on the community although we would like that to be as small as possible.

Our aim is to have all the improvements completed by the time of Bollington Festival in May 2014 so that our community hall will become a destination of choice.

Ken Edwards

FLUSHED WITH PRIDE!

An exciting transformation of the disused toilet block at the Turner's Arms bus terminus is underway. This sturdy old building is being brought back to life for an energy saving project.

Plans to turn the toilets into a green, low-carbon demonstration building have now reached the end of the first stage of renovation. On completion of the project, the newly named Turner's Eco-Lodge will be where Bollington residents can get advice on how to reduce their carbon footprint whilst saving money. In addition, it will be available to the community as a venue for small meetings, having a kitchen area and, of course, a toilet!

After years of hard work by the Bollington Initiative Trust, funding for the project has been achieved at last. Through grants applied for by a newly formed partnership of the trust and Go-lo, a local community-based energy organisation, renovations are well underway.

The Bollington Initiative Trust is an independent development

trust which works to promote conservation and to protect the environment. It has championed a number of projects in the town to preserve both buildings and land. These include the reclamation of Tinkers Clough, the management of Water Street School and now the revival of the toilet block.

The conversion of this fine building, whilst retaining its charming character and heritage, now include many important ecological and energy saving features. Glen Warrington, of Solarcrest and builder in charge of the renovations said, 'We've used sprayfoam insulation for the roof space and walls to form an airtight seal. A-rated double glazing, solar panels and a modern aga-type wood burner for heat and cooking will give the building almost zero carbon rating.'

He added that any new timber for doors and window frames is from sustainable sources and the replaced lintels have been crafted locally from Kerridge stone. In keeping with the ethos of

sustainability, the original stone has been recycled to build new walls.

When the building project is completed later this year, Go-lo will be leasing the building from the trust so that the Bollington community can see at first-hand energy saving schemes and get advice for their own homes. Seeing the success of the project so far, the Bollington Initiative Trust and Go-lo are flushed with pride!

Margaret Park

Photographs of the 'Eco-Lodge' by Margaret Park



CELLO AGAIN!

Chamber concert-goers will be delighted with the programme for next season. It's not often that they get the chance to hear a sextet, and on September 28th there will be two, Brahms String Sextets numbers 1 and 2 played by The Errington Ensemble.

The ensemble was formed in 2009 by renowned cellist, Helen Thatcher, who started and led the Sorrell quartet for many years, and violinist David Aspin. Errington is the name of a beautiful area near to Hebden Bridge, where the founder members live.

Helen and David bring to the group a passion for chamber music with a wealth of experience on the national and international stage. It will be an exciting evening. Just a point that may be of interest, the 1st

sextet was used as a soundtrack by French director Lois Malle in the film 'Les Amants', and the second movement was featured in Star Trek!

The November concert will bring the Jubilee Quartet to Bollington for the first time. They are a brilliant, young, all female quartet, who have been showered with prizes and adulation since they began playing together in 2006 while studying at the Royal Academy of Music. Their name comes from the fact that they all lived near the Jubilee Line when they began playing together. On November 23rd they will be playing Haydn, Prokofiev and Mozart.

On another note, the last year has brought a new musical experience to the Arts Centre. On Monday

mornings Diana Rosenthal has run a musical appreciation class, which has been the most extraordinary success, and will continue next term. She has helped a group of thirty music lovers to delve deeper into all kinds of classical music, in a way that has been both fun and fascinating! She has a wonderful informal style that has really appealed to the new students, many of whom have no musical background other than having enjoyed listening to music.

Yvonne Singer

Concerts:

*Saturday
Sept. 20th, 8pm
The Errington
Ensemble*

*Saturday
Nov. 23rd, 8pm
The Jubilee
Quartet*

*Tickets: £15. Subscriptions and concessions available from
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk*

Or email chamberconcerts@bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

*Or phone:
01625 576402 / 01625 574435*

CARE AND THE COMMUNITY

Tucked away in a little corner of beautiful Bollington is Ingersley Court care home. As well as going the extra mile to provide the best possible care for older people, the dedicated team is always looking for new and effective ways to continue to ensure that residents remain involved with the local community.

A key aspect to providing person-centred care is ensuring a varied programme of activities and events is made available to the residents. This would not be possible without members of the local community visiting residents from their various clubs and offering a diverse range of activities to brighten up older people's days.

As well as card games and bingo, poetry readings and arts and crafts, Ingersley Court regularly has volunteers and visitors from the local community come and spend time with residents. This can be watching shows and performances to a quiet chat and a cup of tea.



Even the small things can make a big difference. Musical entertainers and animal sanctuary visits are always encouraged as both are proven to improve interaction and social skills, as well as visits from school choirs, which offer wonderful inter-generational benefits.

CLIFFORD'S STORY

Clifford Holmes, aged 83, born and raised in Bollington, has been an Ingersley Court resident for almost a year. He admits that he was nervous at the thought of going to live in a care home, but is now completely settled and happy.

*Right:
Clifford Holmes*

*Below: Residents
enjoy a cruise
along the canal*

*Photographs
provided by
Ingersley court*



"I have spent all my life in Bollington, and wouldn't like to leave. I worked for the printers when I left school at 14, before going into the building trade. I spent a short time in Germany transferred from the Cheshire to the Worcestershire regiment, but returned to my building roots.

I have built lots of houses in and around Bollington and it's nice to know that I'm part of the town, in the different buildings and brickwork. I enjoyed the trade so much that I was a labourer until I retired at 65!

My wife Eileen and I married in 1949 and had four children together. Sadly, my wife has now passed away, but I am still close with my children, who visit me at Ingersley Court most days. One of my favourite memories is getting all the odd jobs and DIY done around the house when my wife went on holiday with the children. I didn't care for holidays and much preferred to work on the house or enjoy relaxing doing my photography.

I have always enjoyed a game of darts and dominoes. I used to go to the pub to play, but now I sit and play with my friends here. Since I moved in to Ingersley, I have seen musicians, held wild animals and have just been on a canal boat, which I had never done before!"

Clifford's daughter, Sandra Moorhouse, comments that this is the happiest she has seen her

father in 15 years. She said: "Before coming to live at Ingersley Court, my Dad had lost all motivation and didn't have much of a life. Now he has his life back and enjoys different activities and company every day, and still has all his independence and freedom. It was a difficult decision to make, but as a family we could not be happier, knowing Dad is safe and being looked after."

Jennifer Jones, Home Manager added: "There is nothing more rewarding than working with older people, and they are entitled to good care. I always say that you should think about how you would want to be treated when you're older, and that's the absolute best.

When I think about what offering good care means, of course, I think about providing comfort, compassion and dignity for our residents, but I also think about the countless times that the Bollington community has supported our many fundraisers and awareness weeks over the years.

Thanks to their help and continued support in helping us to raise money and attending our open days, we can show the exceptional care we offer and Ingersley Court residents can feel that all important community spirit. A big thanks to our local community!"

Jenna Fordie

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BOLLINGTON



July

Saturday 6th July

Bollington Brass Band and 'B' Band in Concert

7.30pm at Bollington Methodist Church.
Event sponsored by the Co-operative Membership. Admission free to Co-op members on production of card. Non members £10 adult £3 child. Tel 5613851

Saturday 6th July

Well Dressing Opening Ceremony

11.30am Greg Fountain, Flash Lane, Bollington. The Town Mayor of Bollington will open the ceremony.

Monday 8th July

Bollington Sci Bar

The Vale Inn, Adlington Road.
Dr Penny Lewis, a lecturer at Manchester University in the Neuroscience and Aphasia Research Unit will tell us about the techniques used in the Sleep and Memory Lab to study sleep
Talks start at 6.30pm. Arrive early to get a good seat. All welcome. No charge.

Sunday 14th July

9th Nostalgia Hill Race

11am start from the Bridgend Centre.
£6 entry in advance. £7 on the day.
Refreshments available.

Thursday 18th July

Bollington and District Horticultural Society Garden Visit

An afternoon visit to Tress Atwell's garden at 31 Adlington Road, Wilmslow, SK92BJ.

19th July

Tea dance, 2pm. Arts Centre.

Dance to live music, hot and be refreshed with a cup of tea. £5 pay at the door

Friday 26th - Saturday 27th July

Bollington Beer Festival - Arts Centre

Live music, hot food and plenty of delicious beer.

3 sessions: Friday 6-11pm

Saturday: 12-6pm, 6-11pm

£6 (includes free glass)

August

Wednesday 14th August

Swap Shop - Arts Centre

8pm till late. Bring unwanted clothes and swap for £1 an item.

£3 a person. Buy your ticket in advance and bring a bottle. Tel 576311

September

Saturday 7th September at 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

The Lime House Jazz Band
This great ten piece band from Holland play arrangements from the Swing Era and having a big sound means they can really pull it off. Tel: 574410

Saturday 7th September

Bollington and District Horticultural Society and Flower Club Annual Show

Civic Hall Bollington 2-4pm Everyone welcome to enter. Schedules available from Joyce Burton Tel: 572668

Sunday September 8th - Sunday October 6th

In the Gallery - Arts Centre

Changing Places. Paintings by Chris Sheehan and David Ransley
Open Sundays 2-4pm

Sunday September 8th 8pm

Second Sunday Folk Club - Arts Centre

Admission £2

Monday 9th September

Bollington Sci-Bar:

Starchaser - The Sky is Not the Limit

Space Tourism is just round the corner. Come and find out about British Space Company Starchaser from its founder Steve Bennett. Talks start at 6.30pm at the Vale Inn www.bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Thursday September 19th 2-4pm

Literature: Queen of the Arts? - Arts Ctr.

In his book What Good are The Arts, John Carey argues that "literature is superior to the other arts." A short lecture by Derek Meakin takes this as his starting point. £5 pay at the door

Thursday 19th September 7.30pm at the Community Centre

Bollington Horticultural Society

Beekkeeping Graham Royle shares his knowledge of these essential insects
Members £1.50 non members £3

Friday September 20th at 7.30pm

Mikron Theatre - Arts Centre

Beyond the Veil - DCI Mark Starkey thinks he has a quiet patch in sleepy Thistledale but that is about to change... Contact Don Mirlees 574687

Sunday September 22nd

Legends of the Edge - Arts Centre

Bringing to life the Myths and legends of that mysterious escarpment. Entrance £5. 574517 and www.outofbollington.com

Monday Sept. 23rd, 30th, Oct. 7th, 14th

Music Appreciation with Diana Rosenthal

- Arts Centre
For more details contact Yvonne-singer@tiscali.co.uk or on 572648

Friday September 27th at 7.30pm

Bardsey Island and the Scottish Outer Islands - Arts Centre

Bruce Kendrick will talk about the natural history of the islands. £5 pay at door.

Saturday September 28th

Bollington Chamber Concerts - Arts Centre

The Errington Ensemble A really special and rare concert Tickets from 576402, 574435 or email chamberconcerts@bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

October

Friday October 4th

Bolly Comedy Club - Arts Centre

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www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Saturday October 5th 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

The Nova Scotia Jazz Band
A new band from Scotland led by the irrepressible John Burgess.
Book your place on 574410

Saturday October 12th 8pm

Second Sunday Folk Club - Arts Centre

Claire Mooney, singer and musician, Entrance £5 Ring Mark on 574617 or visit www.outofbollington.com

Saturday 12th October

Toy Fair at St. John's School.

More than 20 tables of nearly new toys, baby equipment and clothes. To book a table email yvonnellaffan@btinternet.com

Dates for your Diary

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

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

Sunday 13th October

In the Gallery - Arts Centre

Silk'n' threads. This multi-talented group will display many kinds of work using silk as their medium

Saturday 19th October

Ceilidh

Bollington Civic Hall 8pm-11.30pm

Tickets £9 from the Bridgend Centre

Saturday 19th to Saturday 26th October

Sizzling Sausage Week

Enjoy a selection of sausage meals at local pubs, whilst supporting the Bridgend Centre

Saturday 19th - Sun 27th October

Bollington Walking Festival

Have fun joining a variety of walks throughout the festival. Most start and finish at the Bridgend Centre. Adult: £2.50 £1.50 child. Refreshments included.

FESTIVAL CHOIR & MUSIC THEATRE

Two long established Bollington musical groups have announced exciting plans for the coming season.

Bollington Festival Choir celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2014. The Christmas Concert in 2013 features music from the Old and New Worlds, including traditional carols from Sheffield, pieces from the North American Sacred Harp tradition, and some of the extraordinary music that resulted from the interaction of Spanish and South American native musicians in the 17th century. In February, a concert at the Arts Centre will include many pieces which were favourites of Dr John Coope MBE, who founded the Choir and directed it for 37 years. As part of the Festival in May, the Choir will perform the thrilling Carmina Burana, with young singers from the Kings School, soloists, pianists and percussionists from the Royal Northern College of Music, and singers invited to join us from a wide area.

Bollington Festival Music Theatre dates back to the 1986 Festival and presents two shows at the Arts Centre every year. In December, the young cast will tell a story from Sweden, 'Lucia and the Trolls', while on June 1st they'll perform 'Happy Valley/ Haunted Valley!' as part of the Festival. Worried about their young son's obsession with computer games and cyber friends, his parents book a holiday in Britain's friendliest place, hoping he'll find some real playmates. But the children he befriends seem just as insubstantial with their tales of lives working in the mills, narrowboats and grand houses of Bollington - and just who is the mysterious girl in the white skirt shaped very much like that landmark on Kerridge Hill?

Donald Judge

New members welcome. Adult singers and youngsters aged 7-13. There are no auditions and full details can be found at www.fun.to/bfnt or 0161 225 4680

Bridgend Ctr. Walks

These graded circular walks start and finish at the Bridgend Centre, 10.15am start 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 3rd July, 6 miles

Canal, Higher Hurdfield & Kerridge

Wed 10th July, 5 miles

Oakenbank, Rainowlow & Harrop Valley

Wed 17th July

Guest Leaders Walk

Wed 24th July, 5 Miles

Canal, Styperson Pool, Long Lane, Shrigley Road

Wed 7th August, 5miles

White Nancy, Rainow & Waulkmill Wood

Wed 14th August, 5 miles

Albert Road, Holehouse Lane, Middlewood Way

Wed 21st August

Guest leader's Walk

Wed 28th August, 6 miles

Canal, Butterfly Meadow, Lyme View

Wed 4th September, 5 miles

Ingersley Vale, Rainow, Oakenbank

Wed 11th September, 6 miles

Around Harrop Valley

Wed 18th Sept, 4 miles

Ranger's Natural History walk

Wed 25th Sept, 5 miles

Middlewood Way, Tinkers Clough, Canal

Wed 2nd Oct, 6 miles

Adlington, Hibbert Brow, Whiteley Green

Wed 9th Oct, 6miles

Packhouse Bridge, Bakedonedale, Pott Shrigley

Wed 16th Oct, 4miles

Ranger's Natural History Walk

Sat 17th Oct to Sunday 27th

Bollington Walking Festival.

See page 5 for more details.

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 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 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 janetbeeche@btinternet.com and we will post them for you.
Janet Beech

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BOLLINGTON BY...

My name is Joe Evans and I'm 14 years old. I play for Bollington United and I'm in year 9 at All Hallows Catholic College.

Hobbies:

Xbox and football.

What is good about living in Bollington?

All my mates are here and everything is nearby.

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

A shopping centre on the site of Kay Metzlers with shops and fast food places like KFC.

What music do you listen to:

Rap, pop.

What football team do you support?

Manchester United; I've been to one game, but I usually watch the games on TV.

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

Cristiano Ronaldo because he is a fantastic individual and amazing at what he does.

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

I would like to be able to fly so I could get to places quicker than walking!

If you could be anyone or anything what would you be? Why?

I'd like to be a fish in the Caribbean where it's hot and sunny and the sea is amazing!

What is your biggest achievement?

When I was 8 I was scouted for Manchester City and was the top goal scorer for my team. My dad is a City fan and he was very proud of me!

What is your favourite TV programme or computer game?

Fifa 13 and Corrie.

What is your worst trait?

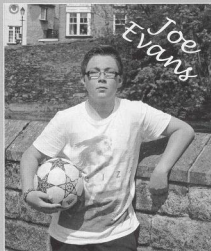
I use too much slang.

What's your favourite place?

Definitely on the football pitch or in my bedroom.

Cat or dog? (which do you like best?)

Definitely dog.



Photograph:
Anthony Holland

Bollington Live!
would like to thank Joe for his time answering our questions. If you would like to be next, please get in touch.

Coke or lemonade?
Lemonade.

Tea or coffee?

Tea, not too strong with 2 sugars – but I like coffee too.

What's your favourite food?

Chinese takeaway – my favourite order is chilli chicken.

Annette Hurst

ROCK ON THE REC

The day dawned bright and clear and hopes soared with the birds that it would stay that way.

Last year's inaugural 'Rock on the Rec' was washed out by weeks of deluge beforehand leaving the Rec... well, a wreck. This year the weather promised more and delivered - mostly.

The bright sunshine also brought with it warmth, activities and lots of happy people. Families came along and enjoyed the inflatable slide, the mini-Wurlitzer and the cricket club's mouthwatering BBQ with meat provided by Heathcote's.

The organisers, Rachael Bennett, Canalside The Thread and Friends of Bollington Rec also provided music and refreshments to bring

smiles to everyone's faces. On the sound stage were the young stars of tomorrow and more seasoned groups, some singing their own songs and others reminding us of the hits of yesteryear.

The talent kept coming from Bleeding Hands, Douglas Francis, Carry Henshaw, Moose Patrol, Addy and the Hill and Big Jam. Addy came off the stage with raw fingers he gave us so much!

The event raised a lot of money for its stated causes and the beneficiaries, each receiving £400 are SSAFA, the Carers Trust and Friends of Bollington Rec.

Organiser Rachael said "I just want to say a big thank you to everybody that helped me make it what it was!"



Photographs:
Carol Barnes



Sadly the good weather only saw us through to mid afternoon when the clouds came in and by 4pm only a hardy few were still at the sound stage and huddled under gazebos brought from home to spur the acts on. The organisers brought the event to an earlier than expected finish at 6pm, so let's look forward to next year, hope for a whole day of good weather and let the rock roll on!

Carol Barnes

MEMORY LANE – RE-VISITED

Having lived in Bollington all my life I was fascinated about the Memory Lane article in the last issue and thoroughly enjoyed reading about the shops in the Water Street / High Street area which brought back happy reminiscences of my childhood living in Water Street.

I was even more surprised to see my name mentioned and I realised that the piece had been written by an old school friend of mine – Joan Taylor – or Joan Franklin as I remember her. We regularly used to get together after school at the back of the shop at 73, Water Street.

The Coe family businesses included Plumbing, Glazing, Painting & Decorating. In Water Street, Number 73 was a decorating shop, selling all paints and wallpapers and associated products and this was run by my mother, Mildred Coe and we lived behind and above this shop. We also had the property next door – Number 75 which was run by my Auntie - Florrie Coe - selling similar products. My father – also William Coe – had his workshop for the plumbing and glazing business just around the corner on the Market Place – not Bollington Green as some newcomers wish to call it!

Joan and I were school mates in our primary school days and I was pleased to find two particular photographs of our school classes on the very useful Bollington Photos website. Firstly there was the class of 1955 at Lowther Street Infant School. This would have been our last year at the infant school as we then moved down the road to St. John's Junior School on Church Street. The second photograph of us in the Bollington Photo collection is our class of 1956 at St. John's School. We both left in 1959 but both schools remained open until the new school was built in 1968.

The infant school in Lowther Street closed in 1968, but the building continued as the church hall and was used for many church activities plus guides, scouts, brownies and cubs as well as the local youth club. It could also be hired for parties. It was closed when St. John's Church finally closed its doors. After many

Photograph Top Right: the two properties from a much earlier time c 1925 William Coe together with who we believe is his 2nd wife and also his daughter Florrie Coe standing outside the door of No 73 Water Street with another lady – unknown – standing outside 75, Water Street.

Photographs provided by Eileen Perrin



years of lying empty, the school has just been converted to 3 flats with 2 further houses built on the old playground. Sad in one way but pleasing that the whole site is now looking so much better after many years of neglect.

St. John's Junior School in Church Street was also closed in 1968 when the new school was built in Grimshaw Lane. This school was knocked down to build housing and the site today is the beginning of Vine Street. I have a photo in my collection of a fancy dress party for the kids at St. John's. The date must be about 1958 – plus or minus one year – and includes myself as a bride with my "groom" Pat Kershaw as "The Wedding Of Cinderella & Prince Charming". I believe we

came second to the two behind us who came as the "Bisto Kids". Joan came as a nurse with her sister Helen as the patient.

The new St. John's School was opened in real royal style when on the 5th November 1968, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret performed the opening ceremony. A few years later my own children – Louise and Caroline – attended the new school.

I am also pleased to say that because of the article, and after many years, I have now been in touch with Joan by email at her home in Scotland and intend to keep in touch with her in the future.

Eileen Perrin (nee Coe)

Photograph bottom right: c. 1958, St. John's school panto.



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IS IT A SAFE WAY?

Whilst cooking tea for the kids in November, I got a call from a worried friend alerting me to a letter sent by the head teacher of Tytherington High School, Mr. Steven Jowett, to the parents of Bollington pupils.

The letter detailed the intention of Cheshire East Council to reassess the Middlewood Way as a possible safe route to school, and in the event of it being assessed as an available route, allow them to withdraw funding for the currently subsidised free school buses that take our children safely to and from school.

It became apparent that there were a great number of equally distressed parents voicing concern over the suitability of the Middlewood Way as a walking route to school. Worries included the isolation of the route, the potential for children using the route regularly to be targeted by thieves and worse, fears around insufficient lighting, challenging weather conditions, flooding, bullying, children getting to school tired and not ready to learn, and distress over the potential danger to pupils choosing to short cut their route to school by crossing the Silk Road during rush hour.

Coming as it did hot on the heels of All Hallows losing council subsidies for their buses, and the withdrawal of authority funding for the town's 10A evening bus, it was suggested by many that our cash strapped council had set its sights on Bollington's transport as a means of achieving savings.

Over 100 people turned out to a late November 'Is It Safe?' walk, intended to assess first hand the hazards of the route at 4pm, the time pupils would be expected to use the Middlewood Way to walk home. Footage was taken of high sided embankments of the former railway cuttings which mean the route cannot be seen and gives a child in distress little means of raising an alarm. Footage was also taken of dark stretches without any form of lighting; and of the many hiding places for criminal activity to take place.

Support from local politicians left many feeling buoyed up and positive

Photograph by
Richard Buck



that no authority would pass the route as a viable regular walking route, but with the publication by the council, of legislation that explained that routes would be assessed with the 'assumption that pupils are accompanied as necessary by a responsible person' i.e. Mum or Dad, it became apparent to me - and a small working party of other parents, that the council's transport department were keen to use that legislation to deem the route available.

The 'Is It Safe?' letter writing campaign was having an impact with information leaking that of the 26 routes to school under assessment only one was being contested, that being the Middlewood Way. Transport officer Chris Williams allegedly said of Bollington residents "They put up a good fight don't they?" And they did...

Petitions were signed, freedom of information requests were submitted to emergency services asking for response times to accidents on the Middlewood Way, and the feasibility of getting an ambulance or fire engine to a serious incident. Police were asked for crime stats, and damningly the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, the charity set up to help us 'Live Life Safe', had this to say:

"It would be unwise for anyone to take this route when they are alone and clearly unsafe for young people using it to walk to and from school when it is dark."

The Trust feels strongly that forcing the pupils to take this route by withdrawing the school bus will put them at an unacceptable level of risk

and think it worrying that the Local Authority would put them in this position."

Some of us turned up at council meetings to raise our concerns, and were delighted, if not slightly amused, when the Leader of Cheshire East Council, Michael Jones, agreed to my request to join me in walking the Middlewood Way.

He turned up after heavy snow fall in the depths of January to valiantly walk the 2.9 miles in a pair of wholly unsuitable shiny, office shoes. Make no mistake, the walk was treacherous, with much slipping and grabbing onto one another, and Cllr. Jones conceded that on 'that particular day' the route was not safe.

Come April, local politicians felt that an assessment had happened, and that a council officer had deemed the route available and would be referring the decision to the next Cheshire East Council Cabinet meeting for approval. Eventually, on 25th April, Cllr. Michael Jones, Leader of the Council was interviewed on Canalside Radio, where he told listeners that it 'would be madness' to withdraw the buses, that democracy was alive and well in Cheshire East, and that he shuddered to think of children using the Silk Road as a shortcut to school. A success for local democracy?

Bollington people did the children of our town proud!

Heidi Reid

SHUTTLE SERVICE!

It is now ten years since John Kershaw thought of a use for a box full of old cotton weaving shuttles, which he had salvaged from Adelphi Mill. They had lain in his beloved garden shed, covered in oil and dirt, with no particular purpose for many years until he had a bright idea!

At this time, John was Deputy Mayor of Bollington. I was Mayor. Towards the end of each mayoral year, it is tradition for the Council to hold a civic dinner, to which the great and good of Bollington are invited to celebrate the Mayor's year in office.

John thought of his pile of shuttles - and wondered - if polished up, with a brass plaque attached, one might make a nice memento to the Mayor. The event rolled on, the food and drink was consumed, and then on past the speeches, when suddenly, John surprised me with a beautifully polished shuttle, to thank me, on behalf of Bollington, for work done as Mayor over the year. It was a wonderful gift.

Shortly afterwards John and I got together to see if it would be worthwhile developing the idea of a 'Bollington Shuttle Award'. The plan was to give the award of a shuttle to a small number of people each year, in recognition of voluntary work

done on behalf of Bollington. So, John got polishing - and we thought about who our first few recipients could be. It was all done in secret, as the plan was to surprise whoever was to receive one.

The plan worked. Shuttles were polished, brass plaques attached and suitable events found where the recipients could be surprised...

The first of our shuttles went to Dr. John Coope MBE, who was, as hoped, suitably surprised, as we leapt out at the chosen event brandishing said shuttle. Searching for the right words, his response was along the lines of "it's wonderful, I'll put it straight on the fire...! I mean on the fireplace!" A success!

Along the way, we have overheard people comment "I'd like one of those..." but to no avail. We can't be bought. This isn't the honours system you know! However, people can be suggested to us. All they need to be doing is voluntary work to the benefit of Bollington. We have in the past had suggestions of Bollington people - for example a head-teacher from one of our schools - but they are not eligible for a Shuttle Award, as superb a job they are doing, they are doing what they are paid for.

If you know of someone who would be eligible, please get in touch with either John or myself. We could surprise them - and they do look good above the fireplace!

Anthony Holland

Photo of John Kershaw and Barry Matthews by Anthony Holland



Shuttle Award certificate designed and printed by Bollington Printshop

The full list of recipients of the 'Bollington Shuttle Award' so far is:

- Inaugural Shuttle: **Anthony Holland**
 Shuttle 1: **John Coope MBE**
 Shuttle 2: **Betty Benson**
 Shuttle 3: **Deryck Sutton**
 Shuttle 4: **John Pleeth**
 Shuttle 5: **Jackie Lane**
 Shuttle 6: **Alan Symmons**
 Shuttle 7: **Mike Burdakin**
 Shuttle 8: **Tim Boddington**
 Shuttle 9: **Graham Barrow**
 Shuttle 10: **Fr. Robert Coupe**
 Shuttle 11: **Dick Warren**
 Shuttle 12: **Roger Johnson**
 Shuttle 13: **Anne Cave**
 Shuttle 14: **Sylvia Roberts**
 Shuttle 15: **David Thickett**
 Shuttle 16: **Richard Thorogood**
 Shuttle 17: **Claire Crosbie**
 Shuttle 18: **Pat Haddleton**
 Shuttle 19: **Mark Stedman**
 Shuttle 20: **Paul Whitehead**
 Shuttle 21: **Barry Matthews**



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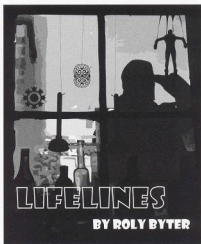
BOLLINGTON LINES - PART TWO

Aaha. Now that'd do it!

Relieved, even slightly excited, the browser reached forward to flip the little white tag and make sure it didn't display a frighteningly high price, (£5.50. Good!), before embarking on the awkward manoeuvre of detaching the brooch from the lattice of black ribbon on the display board. The pin was slightly bent which didn't make things any the easier but eventually it came free. Once released from the constraint and blur of the other jewellery, the turquoise stones winked in Chris' palm between lifeline and curled fingers.

The gold filigree surround was delicate, but turning it over explained why it was quite weighty. A small glass panel protected a space for a keepsake: the brooch doubled as a locket. Chris didn't know if Anne would bother with a photo or indeed if she would instantly remove the strands of darkish hair curled behind the window. Keepsakes were all very well but Chris considered it mawkish to keep hair from a possibly bleak past life, spooky even. Those memento mori things always put a bit of a damper on present laughter, the dead hand of the past delivering bad luck anew and all that. But Anne would like the brooch, surely? Chris was no expert but recognised a piece that would jazz up a tired jacket and bring a smile. It couldn't be of huge value or eagle-eyed Kate would have whisked it off for a vintage market but it had gravitas somehow, and a history, no doubt. Anne would appreciate that, might even use it on a darkening Friday afternoon to prompt a Creative Writing class.

This place was always worth a visit, a little treasure trove constantly morphing into new spaces, like the Tardis, offering familiar and random delights. The current incarnation boasted a new spaciousness and, it was true, a rather startling purple décor but the goodwill and inventiveness that sustained the Bridgend Centre were a constant. It offered a welcome raft of tolerance in Life's sometimes edgy, uncompromising



seas. Visitors imbibed acceptance in the tea and chatter of the sitting area. And beyond, between the lurching fluorescent lights and the unexpected slopes and steps of the back room, one could stumble and marvel contentedly to one's heart's content.

Clearly the building was no design statement, no sop to Style and twittering City Trendies. Mary Portas would NOT be impressed. The Bridgend enterprise reflected the community kindness and belligerence of Bollington. We'll do it our way, thank you very much; we're Spirit of Derbyshire Hills, not the Andes. Better an Oik than a Toff. Come on, let's get this sorted...

Moving into the rear rooms was a submergence, Chris felt, like slipping into an aquarium. Plungers and tombola boxes lurked like strange guppies just below the ceiling; steamy windows held back dripping water and glinting crystal. As if viewed through goggles, clothes swam along curving rails and incidental furniture loomed, reflected queasily in mirrors. Shoals of silk and wool floated above a grotto portal, as spiky anemones of hats scowled on. In the heart of the room loomed a formation of wood, china, beads and Pyrex; a reef of

merchandise. Walking in meant merging into an undersea bazaar.

"Oh hello, Chris. It's nice to see you here again. How are you these days?"

Chris' mind resurfaced to register the lady with the small money purse slung across her front like a tourist, the one whose gentle smile was as irresistible as a child's hug.

"You've found a good one there. It's old but still lovely, isn't it? It only came in last Thursday. A lady was clearing out her aunt's house on Crossfield Road and brought it in along with a lot of blankets and things. The aunt wasn't a one for jewellery but apparently her husband found it, would you believe, sometime in the early '70s when he was working on the demolition of the Bollington Railway Station. You know, the grassy area by the Middlewood Way? Just off Grimshaw Lane? It was hidden away under one of the sleepers, that's why it's still nice, kept it protected....a bit of Old Bollington.

Did you realise you can open it?"

**PLUNGERS AND
TOMBOLA BOXES
LURKED LIKE STRANGE
GUPPIES JUST BELOW
THE CEILING; STEAMY
WINDOWS HELD BACK
DRIPPING WATER AND
GLINTING CRYSTAL.**

Chris murmured greetings and registered appreciation, before declining the offer of tea that followed. The lady twinkled off to welcome a newcomer marooned beyond the doorway and Chris moved away, struck by the strange clothes-horse adorned with its rainbow of pendulous woollen tassels. Like a rather self-important knitted gamelan instrument, tubular bells for Tubbies, it resembled a row of portly bellringing clergy, the smug, gold one definitely

*If you enjoy writing
and would like to
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afternoons at
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Bridgend or Sandy
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573191*

FESTIVAL 50

the superior. Derek Nimmo: Oh Brother, where art thou, now?

Smiling at the salvaged name, Chris marvelled at the persistence of memory, the web between what is lost or abandoned and what remains; indestructible lines of connection, telegraphing the past to the here and now. Accidental recall of, even, a minor TV series can evoke a whole period of one's life, it seemed, strike some distant bells of childhood.

Chris' adult choices had driven a coach and horses across the simple, sunny meadow of childhood, demanding of others a broader understanding, a reinterpretation. For many, this proved simply an adjustment too far and old friends dropped away, angry, disappointed or just plain embarrassed. Lines were drawn: For or Against Chris.

Except for Anne, who continued to keep in touch, offering irregular but welcome news of her busily expanding family. Her continuing friendship was a key anchor in Chris' past now that the older generation had gone and they found themselves, somehow, amazingly, sailing past middle-age. In the worst period, Anne had thrown a lifeline; hers was a fidelity not to be underestimated. More than that, Chris believed it should be rewarded.

Hence, this brochure for her birthday. It would travel to Anne in Somerset in a jiffy-bag, nudging up against one of those jaunty cards that teases about encroaching old age while simultaneously reassuring of a youthful sense of humour. "Do not go gently" and all that.

So, next stop, Bollington Post Office. It was always good for a saucy card.

Chris placed the brooch carefully on top of the two books selected earlier from the careful shelves, an anthology of Hardy's love poetry leaning against a Jeanette Winterson novel, and headed for the counter.

Roly Byter

The 2014 Bollington Festival is less than a year away! We're making great progress with planning and fundraising - we now have sufficient funds to enable us to hire a marquee in which we'll be able to seat around 500 for some of the larger events.

The programme is coming together nicely and we will be putting on lots of terrific events for all of the family related to Literature, Drama, Photography, Science, Sport, Visual Arts, Music and Dance - there should be something for everyone!

Once again, we are planning to have a parade at the beginning of the Festival. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Festival, the theme will be "50 years of...". If you are a member of a local group and would like to take part in the parade, please get in touch via the website.

To help with our fundraising we're holding another Beer Festival on July 26th/27th. There will be live music, hot food and of course lashings of delicious beer to wash it down with. We will be featuring a selection of approximately 40 beers and 15 ciders and we'll even provide a free monogrammed beer glass to hold onto as you sup your way around the barrels! Tickets are only £6 and will be available on the Bollington Festival website.

We are also holding a "Night at the Opera" on 29th June at Bollington Arts Centre. This will be an evening of operatic arias, duets and trios accompanied by Heathcote's Hog Roast during the interval.

For details of these and other events visit the website. You can also sign up for our email updates at the Bollington Festival website to get advance information of other events - we only send out e-mails about once a month so we won't fill up your inbox! 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. 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. If you don't have internet access, call Jon Beck on 07876 063475

Jon Beck

THANKS TO... YOU!

Bollington Health & Leisure would like to say a big thank you to everyone that has contributed to its fundraising efforts so far.

As previous publicised, the Centre is looking forward to making some renovations. As a not-for-profit organisation, we have also looked back to the inspiration of the original leisure centre fundraisers in the hope that this spirit is still alive and well in Bollington - and it certainly seems that it is!

Fundraising started in September 2012 and included a Christmas raffle (additional thanks to all the local business that donated prizes), an ongoing book sale (second hand donations welcome), a pop-up café (with delicious cakes baked by the staff), a car wash (with the staff rolling their sleeves up) and donations from local people.

So far, in just that short space of time we have been amazed by the generosity of our users,

as we have raised over £30,000 and this means the refurbishing of our swimming pool changing rooms can start much sooner than expected.

There will be more fundraising activities coming soon, including a sponsored swim, a new Bollington 10k run and lots of smaller ideas.

Once again we have been amazed by the generosity of local people and feel proud to be part of a community that supports local initiatives such as ourselves, the Bridgend Centre, the Arts Centre and the upcoming Bollington Festival.

Steven Hurst

If anyone would like to know more about their fundraising effort or would like to help out then please get in touch on 01623 574 774 or email Steven@steven.hurst@bollingtonleisure.co.uk

RAMBLING AGAIN...

East Cheshire Ramblers, who celebrate their 40th anniversary this year, will again be making a major contribution to the Bollington Walking Festival.

Historically, Bollington has always figured large in the group's activities, both as a popular walking venue and because many of its members live in and around the town.

"As a Bollington resident and a keen walker myself, I have watched with interest to see how the Walking Festival has expanded and grown in stature over the years," said Chairman David Cylee. "I was pleasantly surprised and encouraged by the attendance at the last Festival with visitors coming from far and wide. I am convinced Bollington is now firmly established as one of the places to be for walking festivals and people are returning every year."

His words were echoed by another local resident, Sandra Edwards, former Town Mayor and a member of the 'Destination Bollington' forum. Four years ago she was instrumental in launching the walking festival with tourism experts from Visit Cheshire and Cheshire East Council. "From the start, Bollington Town Council was also very enthusiastic, as was the Bridgend Centre which has organised several of the walks every year, leaving it for East Cheshire Ramblers to run the longer walks," she explained. "It has proved a very useful partnership for the town and one that has shown a lot of walkers just what Bollington has to offer, many of whom are seeing the area for the first time."

David and Sandra are among several ECR members who will be leading walks again this year.

Inaugurated as the Ramblers' Association's Macclesfield and District Group in October 1973, East

For membership enquiries and further information on the group's 40th anniversary celebrations, walks and other activities go to www.ramblers-east-cheshire.org.uk.



Photograph by Roger Fielding

Cheshire Ramblers prime purpose then was officially recorded as the preservation and maintenance of footpaths: the 1970s posing increased demands on the local countryside – and hence public rights of way – for the construction of new roads, housing and industry.

Today the club has over 650 members and an extensive annual programme which encompasses more than 250 weekend and midweek walks in Cheshire and the neighbouring Peak District, plus surrounding scenic areas like the Lake District, Snowdonia and the Yorkshire Dales.

There are also regular coach outings and social events, local history and ecology walks and training courses in practical subjects, such as map reading or dealing with an emergency outdoors.

Even so, ECR continues to champion people's right to roam by actively monitoring and maintaining public rights of way in more than 30 East Cheshire parishes, thanks to an army of voluntary inspectors whose job it is to report on any obstructions or walking hazards and

produce an annual survey which last year covered no less than 1,251 footpaths and bridleways.

Occasionally and with backing from Ramblers' national headquarters, the group takes action against landowners who have unlawfully closed a footpath or obstructed a right of way, e.g. by ploughing it up or blocking a stile or footbridge.

A case in point was a path in Bollington to the 285m summit of The Nab which affords wonderful views of the town and its backdrop of rolling hills and fields. A fiercely fought campaign (led by local historian Bill Shercliff, a keen ECR member who died in 2005), involved extensive negotiations with landowners, Bollington Town Council and the County highways authority and required collecting evidence from local residents who were prepared to swear that the path had previously been walked by the public for at least 20 years.

Victory was declared when the path was finally re-opened in 1996 following a public enquiry where over 70 people gave evidence of the path's continued use within living memory over many years.

One of those closely involved was the late Joyce Blanchard, another stalwart who had been with the group since its formation. A plaque in her memory was recently unveiled by Chairman David Cylee, alongside a popular footpath connecting the Middlewood Way with the Macclesfield Canal and Lyme Park which was greatly improved for walkers at Joyce's instigation.

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Bollington has long been famous for its number of pubs, for example in the year 1900 the village boasted twenty seven fully licensed premises. However since then the demise of the pub has been well documented. Bollington has suffered the loss of many pubs recently.

Slowly but surely we are losing our traditional pubs. Pubs with dartboards, dominoes, cards, skittles and pool tables. Pubs with character and characters, beer, wine, spirits, crisps and nuts, people laughing and joking over the bar, coming and going, busy all day, young and old alike sharing the local news and gossip – not a menu, napkin, knife and fork in sight.

The Landlords of our traditional pubs increasingly rely on the support of their teams. Darts, Dominoes, Cards, Quiz, Football and Pool, regular weekly fixtures ensure the pub is busier on what might be deemed as quieter nights. My

personal bias leans towards Pool. A game of Pool has an amazing ability to draw a crowd, entertain groups of customers, it creates a great atmosphere and challenges are soon to follow. Whilst a few Bollington teams play in the Macclesfield Summer League, we are proud to host our very own Bollington Winter Pool League. Should you venture down to the Royal Oak, Dog and Partridge, The Spinners, Red Lion or the Con Club on a Wednesday evening during October to January, you will be sure to hear the light-hearted banter, roars and cheers of the local teams competing against each other. Each team plays the others home and away, currently there are eight teams in the league which means the league runs for fourteen weeks, breaking only for the Christmas holidays.

The league concludes mid January, and at this point I would like to congratulate the Dog and Partridge on their league title this season, indeed retaining it from the previous one, well done guys. I say guys but let's not forget the gals; yes the league is mixed, our top lady this year was Rose Jones who plays out of the Con Club. As well as the league we also run our annual cup competitions, singles, doubles and team knockouts, these extend the season until the end of March,

Last season, Rob Coultard, Pete Cleaver, John Gosling and Chris Plant all picked up accolades for the cup competitions and merits, well done fellas!

That brings me nicely to this year's cup final! The competition is named after our great friend and fellow 'Poolster' Mr Trevor Spencer, who was sadly taken from us far too soon. It was therefore very apt that Trevor's old team, The Royal Oak, should fight their way to the final against The Spinners. The atmosphere was amazing, for the final, held at the Dog and Partridge, lots of the other players from the pubs came down to watch what was a nail-biting, tense final, after going three frames to nil down, the Oak rallied themselves and scrapped their way back to three frames all. Alas, the fourth frame was one too many for Trevor's lads and the Spinners piped them to the post.

We have unfortunately lost the Queen's Arms recently and the Cotton Tree have now removed their pool table, so if any Landlords out there are interested in getting their pub name on the trophies, why not install a pool table and join us? We are always on the look out for new players and new teams to join the village league. It's a great way of meeting people and supporting your local pubs, joining in the banter and who knows write yourself into Bolly pool folklore!

Brian Fisher

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BOLLINGTON Live!