

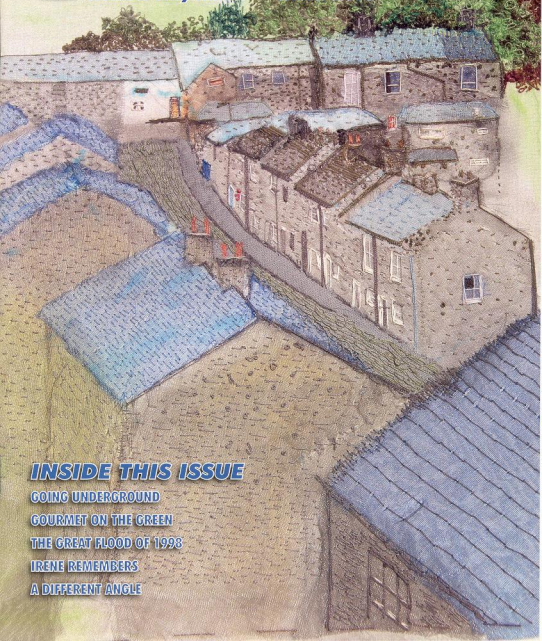


BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Nine

Winter 2013



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**BOLLINGTON**

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 3PS

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Cover: 'Queen Street from Beeston Quarry' - textile art by Janet Beech.

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WHAT'S INSTORE?



It's all green lights now for the Co-op move to the Kay Metzeler site following Cheshire East Council's approval of Bower Mattin's Reserved Matters Planning Application.

Outline planning permission had already been secured and this final hurdle was to approve the details such as the store's construction materials.

We should now see the start of a process that will end the severe traffic problems around the existing Co-op site on Albert Road. The existing site will then change from retail to housing; in fact outline planning permission has already been granted for four linked houses. The change in use of this site is governed by a legally binding agreement so I have to say sorry to Bollington's rumour mongers, but we are not having a Tesco Express or a hot food takeaway opening in its place even though some people living a little further away would like it to happen.



Work has already started on the new Co-op site, which is situated to the right of Kay's main entrance. This work to date has involved drilling boreholes to test the ground for the store's foundations, and during late November or early December the site will be taken over by plant and machinery as building work starts in earnest. The plan is to have the new Co-op open in the Spring.

The new store will be slightly larger than the present store but to trade on Sunday it needs to keep its sales area down to a maximum of 2800m² (3,014 sq ft). The Prestbury Store is a good example of its size and what it will be like inside.

There are some who say it will cause traffic problems on its new site. However, it will have more parking spaces and will not have the crazy situation of drivers backing out into Albert Road or drivers cutting across the Albert Road junction to scramble for one of the six parking spaces. It's also not on the route to two schools, a household waste site and factories. It has to be an improvement!

Happy shopping!

David Naylor

Date for
 next copy:
 31st January
 2014

EDITORIAL

The nights drawing in... the clocks going back... and the winter edition of **Bollington Live!** dropping on the doormat. All indicators that another year is drawing to a close. But what a great summer we have just had!

As always, activity in Bollington goes on whatever the season - and this edition of **Bollington Live!** looks back to some of the events of the summer - such as the Beer Festival and the 'Bollington Movie' carnival parade, a precursor to next year's 50th Anniversary Bollington Festival. Also, you will find the third instalment of 'Bollington Lines', our short novel by members of the Festival Literary Group, a story which will culminate in our next issue - a 'Festival Special'.

Elsewhere, we conclude our year-long look at foraging. Has it inspired you to get out into the countryside and sample some of nature's free food?

Looking back a little further we go back fifteen years to the flood of October 1998 - when residents living close to the River Dean found themselves a little too close for comfort to the torrent. Staying with a watery theme, we look at the hidden, dark depths of both the River Dean and Harrop Brook, with a pictorial journey through the tunnels and culverts where our waterways disappear under our feet. I must stress however that it is not recommended to seek out these dark places yourself! A 'don't try this at home' sort of thing!

The **Bollington Live!** team hope that you find something of interest between the covers of this issue. As always, send in your thoughts and articles for our next issue.

All the best!

Anthony Holland

A WELCOME GRANT

The Bollington Festival science group has recently been awarded a People Award by the Wellcome Trust for a whole host of science projects and events during the Bollington Festival called '50 years of scientific discovery'.

The Science Group outlined their vision in the grant as follows: 'Our vision is to celebrate and communicate the place of biomedical science in our world. We will make science accessible to all by using mixed arts media to showcase scientific discoveries, and by inviting the public to participate in related hands-on experiments.'

The grant is worth nearly £30,000, with almost £5000 going towards the main festival organisation and

If your group or organisation would like to make a science scarecrow please contact
anette.hurst@bollingtonfestival.org.uk or 07789 484933.

If anyone wants to join the group and help to stage these events please contact me or email
volunteering@bollingtonfestival.org.uk.

the rest being split between three ambitious projects.

The Science Group plan to have a spectacular opening to the festival at the parade with biomedical discoveries depicted through dance, costume and art.

The history of biomedical sciences over the last 50 years will be explored through life-sized scarecrow scenes placed in gardens and public spaces, forming a biomedical science walking trail.

During the festival, a pop-up laboratory will engage the public with hands-on experiments and exhibits based on the biomedical science discoveries depicted by the scarecrows and also in the carnival parade.

So what happens now? We would like to run scarecrow-building workshops before the festival, offering creative and scientific input and funding for all the materials. Each workshop will select a scientific discovery. Artistic help in terms of how to depict the scarecrow scenes would be on hand. We plan to make 20 scarecrow scenes so don't delay - get in touch!

Annette Hurst told *Bollington Live!* 'Now we have the Wellcome Trust award, we can put on some really exciting events based about around recent biomedical science discoveries.'

Annette Hurst

BRING ON THE POPCORN!

Once I had got over the shock of being announced the winner of the 'Bollington Movie' script, I soon became immersed in developing characters and a storyline which I hoped would please all.

I remember the expression on James' face when we first discussed the final scene. Throughout the next two years, that expression would alternate between excitement and terror at the mere mention of it. Back then, the idea of closing the busiest road in Bollington and organising a crowd scene with dancers and community groups, whilst filming from a moving truck, was something to 'think about later.'

How soon time flies! While most of us have been getting on with our usual day-to-day lives, James Nicholas and Amanda Stott have lived, breathed and slept 'The Bollington Movie,' along with many volunteers from Bollington and nearby. The work that has gone into the making of this movie is incredible.

Once I handed over my story to James and Amanda, the work of fine tuning (thanks Una Hosey)



Photograph of Carnival Parade by Debra Tracey

www.bollingtonmovie.co.uk

and then turning words into actions became something I simply enjoyed hearing about, but the last few days leading up to the final scene began to make me a little anxious. 'What if no-one turns up?' was the last thought before I closed my eyes at night. 'What if it rains?' My brain tormented, the moment I awoke each morning, I am sure these thoughts and feelings were magnified for James and Amanda. I mean, how were they going to create a festival atmosphere if the heavens opened and only 20 people turned up?

As I opened my eyes at 6.15 am on Sunday 29th September, I looked

out at the black sky with a heavy heart. By the time I showered, the day began to look a little brighter. The weather forecast was good but there was still the possibility of walking into a ghost town.

As my hubby and I approached High Street, we saw that Bollington was bustling! HUNDREDS of people had turned out to support this community movie. I do not suppose I was the only one who had to choke back a tear or two.

The atmosphere was thrilling - a community brought together for mutual benefit, working together for no personal gain but in doing so, receiving so much in friendship and celebration.

The next stage of incredibly hard work now begins with the editing - and I await with the proverbial baited breath for the completed film. The Premiere is due to be shown at The Bollington Festival on 20th May, in the marquee on the Recreation Ground. One thing is for sure, I have a feeling James and Amanda may need to order more chairs. Bring on the popcorn!

Debra Tracey

COVER ART – TEXTILE ART GROUP

The cover image of 'Queen Street from Beeston Quarry' was created by Janet Beech, a member of the 'Textile Art Group'.

Janet, a retired primary school teacher lives in Bollington and is involved in several community activities including the Festival Photography Group and the Well Dressing team. She is also Distribution Co-ordinator for **Bollington Live!**

The Bollington 'Creative Embroidery and Textile Art Group' meet weekly at Bollington Arts Centre. It is about eight years ago since the embroidery classes started attracting people from various backgrounds including complete beginners. Development grew with students learning to embroider creatively. They began with simple stitch ideas which, over time have developed beyond recognition into precious pieces of art.

The first exhibition was held in 2006 in the Arts Centre gallery. This created much interest. It was at this time I decided to introduce the Textile Art class. This is where the students have learned to explore and discover the creative use of mixed media and stitch. I usually give the group a theme, i.e. landscape, environment, or buildings.

Ideas evolve from simple techniques when making samples. They seem to enjoy this format but are then encouraged to develop their own individual style. They do support each other and excitement grows as work is developed.

Both groups have been brought together by sharing the art gallery for exhibitions. The most recent very successful exhibition was at the Macclesfield Silk Museum.

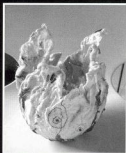
I get great satisfaction from teaching

the group and watching their skills, confidence and friendships develop.

Watch this space! - Bollington Festival is to be our next challenge.

Ann Ford.

If you are interested in the Textile Art Group, contact Ann Ford on 560459



THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENTS

Bollington Medical Centre began operating from the new building at the beginning of September. The new premises are an extension and refurbishment of the Coach House building which is in the existing medical centre grounds.

Patients should now go to the new reception area which is in the extension. The new premises are much more suitable for a medical centre, offering wheelchair access, wide corridors, hearing loops, and hopefully patients will find that it suits all of their needs.

The waiting room has been designed to create a welcoming first impression retaining some of the Coach House features but with the added benefit of a ceiling light, air conditioning, and 2 types of seating including some chairs with arms that are higher and more suitable for patients with limited mobility. The premises are fully compliant with infection control requirements and they should be easier to maintain and clean, creating a pleasant environment for patients.



The staff at the Medical Centre are extremely grateful for all the support they have received from patients, local groups and the Town Council. There was an open day on Saturday 7th September and approximately 400 people attended, providing excellent feedback about the new building.

Some of the comments were: 'Excellent building that is accessible, light and airy and brings a smile to the local community. Nice to see investment in the local area' and 'I

am so impressed. It is spacious and practical and I feel we are so lucky'

The open day presented a fabulous opportunity to bring local groups together and promote healthcare and keeping fit in the community. Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group were also present promoting the new Caring Together initiative and helping to educate patients about medication wastage. A confident estimate is that over £150,000 a year of tax-payers money is wasted in Bollington alone through unused medication. Patients can help reduce this amount by only ordering the items of medication that they need. **Trish Atkinson**

Photograph:
Janet Beech

bollingtonmedicalcentre.co.uk

Bollington Medical Centre is keen to engage with patients to ensure that they can offer the best services in the right way.

There are two patient groups that the practice corresponds with to gather feedback and to help make decisions about business changes.

If you would like to get involved why not sign up to the Patient Reference Group. You can pick up a form in the waiting area or send an email to the following address requesting a form cec-pct.bollington@nhs.net

BEER TODAY... GONE TOMORROW...

This year's Bollington Beer Festival was a great success and articles have already been published elsewhere describing the event. But how many of you have considered what goes on behind the scenes in organising and running a beer festival?

The current beer festival committee consists of Lee Wainwright from Bollington Brewery, Helen and Rob Ellwood from The Poachers, Rob Nicholson, Mai Wilson and Dave Atkins from the Campaign for Real Ale, Louise Barber, Mark Ahern from Second Sunday Folk Club and Geoff Atkin and myself from the Executive of the Bollington Festival. A small, but perfectly formed group!



If you want to help next year please contact Roland Edwards on 01625 574466.



Planning meetings start just after Christmas at which decisions are made on number of tickets to be made available, their cost, what musicians should be engaged, catering and, most importantly what beers and ciders should be exhibited. This last task fell to Mai Wilson and Dave Atkins who produced what many attendees felt was one of the finest and most eclectic selections seen in many a year.

Staffing was in the capable hands of Louise Barber. Most were volunteers from last year which meant that we had a group that were experienced in serving and stewarding. This year we introduced the purple t-shirts, firstly to help attendees identify the staff and also as advertising for the main festival which runs from 16 May to 1st June 2014.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the beer festival was the setting up and tearing down the tent and beer stillage. On the Tuesday evening ten

hardly souls turned up at the Arts Centre to be confronted by a large marquee in many pieces, stillage, serving counters, all kindly loaned by Lee Wainwright and 40 firkins (9 gallon containers) of beer.

Erecting the tent proved to be as enjoyable and funny as ever. Lots



of head scratching trying to work out what pole went where, what was the order of build and lots of pushing and pulling to get the tent roof in place.

Once the tent was erected and the stillaging put in place we tackled the task of loading the firkins, with cooling jackets onto the frames. After much exertion the firkins



were ready for spilling, a job which fell to me. Given that the beer had been shaken up during loading it was very lively and many of the helpers enjoyed an unexpected beer shower when the firkins were vented. Finally after five hours we repaired to the Vale for well-earned refreshment. Our hard work has been caught by the Bollington Photography Group and is now on Flickr and YouTube.

Early Friday morning saw a small group of helpers set up the site itself. Bunting was strung, safety fences erected and tables and chairs lain out. The beer was tapped and

tasted, a surprisingly popular task, with one dog walker getting some unexpected refreshment when he dropped by to ask about tickets! As six o'clock approached the food providers and the musicians arrived and then the first of the attendees. The next thirty six hours

passed by in a blur; we were kept busy ensuring the smooth running of the festival, talking to attendees, tidying up the site and generally keeping an eye on affairs. Last orders on Saturday night gave us a chance to relax and reflect on what we had achieved.

Early Sunday morning saw us clear the site. As before there was great fun working out how to dismantle and fold up the tent, 40 empty firkins to be manhandled off site and all general clearing. By 2 o'clock we were finished and ready for refreshment and thirty six hours sleep. Why do we do it? Well it is good for the community, it raises money for the festival and the Arts Centre and it is fun!

Roland Edwards

Now on YouTube. Search for "Bollington Beer Festival",

or use this url:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYGjgkyhM

Images of the Beer Festival by members of Bollington Festival Photography Group.

YouTube presentation by Simon Nottage



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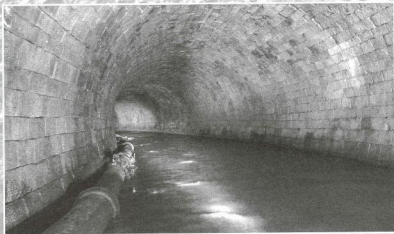
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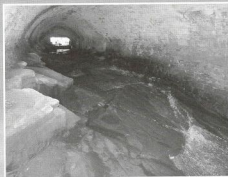
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GOING UNDERGROUND



John Rodwell has made a hobby of exploring the underground waterways in the area. His photographs accompanying this article explore the weird world beneath our feet – a world that few have ever seen!

*Rivers and Tunnels
can be dangerous.
Bollington Live! does
not recommend this
activity.*



One can live in Bollington a long time without realising that there are tunnels about the town.

The first you may discover is the biggest; Water Street to the Recreation Ground carrying the River Dean. It may be a while before you discover others.

The mill town part of Bollington is built in a narrow valley and where it widens out there are two rivers, small maybe, but significant. From Ingersley Vale all through the town to Lowerhouse it is the Dean. From the Shrigley Road side down to Bridgford there is Harrop Brook – often referred to as Sowcar Brook, which then joins the Dean. When they came to build large mills in the valley they needed to be close to the water for their power, but it meant building over the rivers in order to find enough land space.

So where are these tunnels? Firstly the River Dean. In Ingersley Vale the tunnel under the later parts of Ingersley Clough Mill (now demolished) has recently been opened out. It then goes under the original mill and the more modern buildings (remembered by many as Astrand) that stood beside the mill.

The open ground used to be a mill pond before the water plunges over a weir and under Rainow Mill (recently a glass works), continuing under the road and the house, to appear beside Higher Mills pond (formerly Shrigley Dyers).



Then further downstream, behind the late Queen's Arms, the river goes underground again beneath High Street, and the houses on both sides.

Harrop Brook probably spends more time underground than does the Dean. The first tunnel begins adjacent to the Ingersley Road bus terminus, going under Shrigley Road, appearing for a few metres before diving beneath Hamson Drive, where Oak Bank Mill used to be. The brook doesn't re-appear until just before Queen Street, about 200m further downstream.

And then there are the leats and other culverts... a veritable watery underground maze!

Tim Boddington



Photographs (clockwise from top left):

River Dean tunnel above the Recreation Ground, directly under the main road & directly below the canal.

Ingersley Clough Mill water wheel outflow

High Street tunnel beneath the back yards of Park Street

Top end of Ingersley Clough Mill tunnel

Upstream of Ingersley Clough Mill showing mysterious side tunnel, which runs out under the track and rejoins the Dean just further up.

Queen Street end of Oak Bank tunnel

Shrigley Road end of Oak Bank tunnel, looking upstream

Shrigley Road end of Oak Bank tunnel, looking downstream



GOURMET ON THE GREEN

Hungry? Bollington Live! decided to showcase our award winning trio of eateries based in the High Street (near to The Market Place or as often called these days 'The Green').

These purveyors of excellence are 'Livesey's Delicatessen and Coffee House', 'Oliver at Bollington Green' and 'The Lime Tree'. All chose Bollington as they saw the town to be a perfect location to open a new business.

limetree
bollington.com
liveseysdeli.co.uk
oliveratbollington
green.com



For Jo and Dave at Livesey's and Scott & Jaydean at Oliver this was an exciting new adventure. The Lime Tree restaurant, which has a very successful sister restaurant in Didsbury, also saw opening a new restaurant in Bollington as "an opportunity not to be missed".

Although the previous experience of the owners, managers and chefs of these three establishments varies considerably, the quality of the food they provide and their commitment to the local community doesn't.

The quality offered has not only been recognised with Cheshire-wide awards but also on various internet sites. The awards are impressive: Livesey's Deli won 'The Best Deli in Cheshire 2013'.

Oliver had enough votes to take them through to the final 4 in their category of best small restaurant. In addition, Oliver has had the TripAdvisor's 5 star Certificate of Excellence for the last 2 years, which has enabled them to be named the number one restaurant in Macclesfield and Cheshire. They have also entered the Michelin Red Guide.

The Lime Tree continues to receive excellent reviews on websites such as TripAdvisor - "Really enjoyed the ambience, friendly service and great food. Definitely go back again!"

What then makes these establishments winners in the eyes (and stomachs) of their customers and food experts? Firstly, they are all committed to providing tried and tested high quality, homemade, freshly cooked food. All, wherever possible, use ingredients from local sources. Livesey's, for example, purchases ingredients from Calore - another award winning company based in Bollington. All three acquire their beers from one or both of the local award winning micro breweries - The Bollington Brewing Company and the Happy Valley Brewery.

In addition, The Lime Tree is particularly unusual, as it is one of very few UK restaurants that source all their meat from their very own farm, situated in Macclesfield Forest.



Photographs:

Top: Jo from
Livesey's by Mark
Steadman

Middle: Matt from
the Lime Tree

Bottom: Scott
from Oliver at
Bollington Green.
both by Anthony
Holland

Secondly, they have demonstrated their commitment to be responsive to their customers. This has ranged from the introduction of new menus, revised opening times, and improvements to the acoustics and physical layouts.

Thirdly, there is a strong desire to employ and train for the long term, wherever feasible, local people. All employees are seen to bring their own individual flair and expertise and are recognised as a big part of the success; "all (of us) have a passionate interest in providing excellent food... the key to our success is that we work as a team

and complement each other's skills" says Natasha, chef at Livesey's.

Matt, the Lime Tree Operations Manager, also states that "all staff superbly play their role in ensuring the provision of a unique dining experience".

One only has to look at some of the descriptions on the inspiring menus to be convinced of the flair and thought that goes into the food available. Dave at Livesey's describes this as "food with personality"; whilst Scott at Oliver says "our food is provided from the heart".

When asked about the future, all three wished to ensure that whatever they did was informed and responsive to their customers and also the wider community. These included the provision of a meeting room for local groups (The Lime Tree); the further development of their successful outside catering (Livesey's); and maintaining a relaxed and friendly dining experience which will appeal to all diners (Oliver).

All three are also keen to pursue the idea of an occasional farmers market on the 'market place' but know there are lots of factors to consider, including ensuring their immediate neighbours are not inconvenienced.



After meeting this delightful and energetic group of owners, chefs, and staff, it is clear that Bollington is extremely fortunate to have such establishments and to agree with the Chester Food, Drink & Lifestyle Festival event organiser when he said "The Bollington Green area is offering an immensely high standard of food and drink."

Kate Gooding

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BOLLINGTON

Live!

November

Friday 1st November 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club - Arts Centre
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Saturday 2nd November 10am-11.30am
Bollington Well Dressing Coffee Morning
Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. £1 includes tea/coffee and a biscuit. Quiz, tombola, cake sale. Contact Chris 574208

Saturday 2nd November 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre
The Adrian Cox Quartet. Adrian has played many times here with TJ Johnson but is bringing his own quartet. Call 574410 to be sure of a place.

Saturday 2nd November 7pm

Pott Shrigley Bonfire and Fireworks
Real Ale and BBQ.
Adults £7 Child £3 Family (2+2) £16

Mondays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th November
10am-12noon Arts Centre
Musical appreciation with Diane Rosenthal
Topics for study will include Dvorak's opera Rusalka, The music of Kurt Weill and a selection of contemporary pieces.

Sunday 10th November 8pm

Second Sunday Folk Club
Arts Centre. Admission £2

Monday 17th November 6.30

Sci - Bar- New Tricks. Changing Climate and Old Diseases - the changing landscape for TB and Malaria
Sci-Bar events are held at The Vale Inn. Come early to get a seat

Friday 15th November 8pm

The War to End All Wars
Bridgend Centre. Singer songwriter Darren John Poyser with special guest Anna Barker. Tickets £6

Sunday 17th November- 15th December
In the Gallery- Inspired by Gardens
Arts Centre. Paintings and drawings in charcoal and pastels by Duncan Whatmough and 3 dimensional pieces in mixed media by Maureen Sawyer

Saturday 23rd November 8pm
Bollington Chamber Concerts-The Jubilee Quartet

Arts Centre. A young quartet play Haydn, Prokofiev and Mozart. Tickets: £15 (conc. available) from 576402, 574435 or email chamberconcerts@bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Thursday 24th November 7.30pm

Bollington & District Hort. Society-
Community Centre. Make your own Christmas wreaths with Wendy & Angela.

Tuesday 26th November 10am-12.30pm

Bridgend Body Shop Pamper Morning
Makeup demos. Try Body shop products. Free entry

Friday 29th November 7.30pm

In Search of the Shetland Bus- Bollington to Bergen by Boat

Arts Centre. Terry McGaul recounts the story of his and Nola's latest holiday sailing to Norway. Contact Terry on 572931

Friday 29th November 6pm-9pm

Christmas Fair
Pott Shrigley School

December

Sunday 1st December 2.30pm and 5pm

Bollington Festival Music Theatre
Arts Centre. *Lucia and the Trolls*. The talented children perform a new piece written by Donald Judge. Tickets adults £7, child £3 from 0161 225 4680

Friday 6th December 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club, Arts Centre.
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Saturday 7th December

Jazz at the Arts Centre
Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants Great arrangements of unusual tunes. Tel 574410

Sunday 8th December 8pm

Second Sunday Folk Club
Arts Centre. Admission £2.

Sunday 8th December 7.30pm

Ay! Andar!
Bollington Methodist Church. An usual and varied Christmas Concert. The Festival Choir present folk inspired music, English and Iberian. Tickets £10 (£3 under 18s)

Tuesday 10th December 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Choir - Messiah for All
Join the Choir and Orchestra in raising the roof at the Arts Centre with Handel's uplifting and joyful music. £6 from 261933

January 2014

12th January 8pm

Second Sunday Folk
At the Arts Centre £2

Tuesday 19th - Saturday Nov 23rd

BLOGS present Showtime 2013

At Bollington Civic Hall, Tickets £12 including a hotpot supper. Tickets: blogbookings@aol.com

The show features popular songs from musical theatre both modern and traditional blending fine solo, small groups and large ensemble choral numbers.

This year's 'Showtime' is in the hands of highly experienced joint producers, Diane McIntyre and Craig Harris, who have incorporated numbers from diverse shows such as, 'A Chorus Line', 'The Wizard of Oz', 'Wicked' and 'Bugsy Malone'.

They told **Bollington Live!**, 'Showtime' is in many ways is a difficult show to produce as we always have to start with a blank sheet, aiming to put together a varied and entertaining programme which also gives the opportunity for a wider range of people within BOLL to showcase their talents. We have been rehearsing since June to perfect the words and dance moves and are hoping for a great show.'

Sunday 19th January to Feb 16th

In the Gallery - Arts Centre
Incubation Arts presents Women in Art

Saturday January 25th 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre
Spats Langham's Hot Combination with Emily Campbell. £9 to book 574410

Wednesday 29th January 8pm

Bridgend Swap Shop
£4 including a glass of wine.

PANTO TIME!

Friday Jan. 3rd evening, Saturday 4th (matinee & evening) 8th-11th January (evenings & matinee on the 11th)

Bollington Festival Players present

Dick Whittington

Bollington Arts Centre. Tickets £9 full, £8 concession. Family of 4: £32, family of 5: £36, under 2s on knees £2.50. Bookings- bfpbookings@hotmail.com or 560559

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

On Parade!

The Bollington Festival 2014 parade will be held on Sunday 18th May starting at 11 o'clock starting from the Poachers Inn at the top of Ingersley Road. It will wind its way through the village to end at the Atax field by the Sports Centre on Heath Road. There will be a family picnic at the end of the parade, displays by some of the participants and other side stalls. Food and drink will also be available.

The parade has always been a central and colourful part of the festival and the 2014 celebration of village life will be no different. The theme is "50 years of..." and the aim is to use the event to mark that anniversary of the festival. Both the Bollington Samba Band and the Zumba Group have agreed to take part and it is also intended to have Morris Dancers and a Belly Dancing Troupe as part of the parade. Local groups are also well represented and include the Beavers, Brownies, Guides and the Science Group. At the time of writing the organisers are waiting to hear from a couple of local sporting groups and from Classic Car clubs. The organising committee are also intending to engage jugglers and other street artists to provide further entertainment. Does anyone know a fire-eater who would like to take part?

If your local community group, or business, or even a group of friends would like to take part in the parade please contact Roland Edwards through *Bollington Live!* We are also looking for volunteers to help make, and hang out bunting along the route. The parade will be great fun so why not take part?

Roland Edwards

Festival Choir

Both Bollington Festival Choir and the Festival Music Theatre are seeking additional performers for their Festival 2014 ventures.

The choir will be singing Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and invites anyone interested in singing it to come along and swell the ranks. The Music Theatre is for all 7-14 year olds.

For enquiries about taking part in either group, phone 016146870 or visit www.fun.to/bfnt

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL

16th May – 1st June 2014

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk



Bollington Festival 2014

Bunting

Look out for the pink festival bunting bins! We need material!

Festival parade route:

1.5 miles or 2.4 km or 2400 metres

Average width of road:

16 feet or 5 metres

Average length of bunting per single span of road: 32 feet or 10 metres

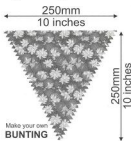
If every 15 metres there is a span of bunting there will be 160 lengths of bunting needed so that's 5120 feet or 1600 metres or...

A MILE OF BUNTING!

In the next few weeks you will see pink bunting buckets spring up around Bollington – if you have any spare cotton material and a pair of scissors (preferable pinkish shears, but not absolutely necessary!) how about using the pattern on this page to cut out bunting triangles and drop them into the bins.

If you haven't got time to cut out bunting but have some spare, brightly coloured cotton you don't need please drop it in the bins too!

If you own a sewing machine and would like to get involved sewing the bunting together please either leave your contact details in one of the bins or email volunteering@bollingtonfestival.org.uk



Make your own
BUNTING

Literary Group

The Literary Group have managed to put together an eclectic programme of events for the Festival from an 80s evening featuring talk and music from the Stone Roses and Joy Division to an apocalyptic drama called 'Dead End.'

Poetry is well represented in the programme with Michael Symmons Roberts and Ian Duhig and a welcome return visit by Jackie Kay. Helen Walsh and Jenn Ashworth, two contemporary young novelists will talk about their books and Stephen Booth, the creator of Peak District based crime fiction will return once more to Bollington to talk crime and yet more crime from writers Chris Simms and Kate Ellis.

The young are not left out as Bryony Pearce, Curtis Jobling and Jon Mahew will hold a question and answer session for teens and Michael Roberts will introduce young poets reading WW1 poetry. The youngest children could seek out Bob the Builder in the Library. In pubs and restaurants there will be storytelling, song and poetry and even, for the brave, a ghost walk round Bollington. The History Wardrobe will again delight us with costumes and tales from Jane Austen's England. Dave Williams talks about the history of Bollington in wartime and Frank Walker tells us about English eccentrics and there is more...

Mix in a quiz, adult and children's writing competitions, a treasure hunt, writing workshops and stir well, a recipe for a literary feast.

Hopefully something for everyone!

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IRENE REMEMBERS

Meet Irene Warren, an active octogenarian who still enjoys work and has no immediate plans for retirement.

Her friendly face peeps out behind the cakes and buns at Belfield's Bakery on Palmerston Street, where she has been working for the last eighteen years. This is just the most recent job in a lifetime of employment in Bollington.

Irene has never been out of work and has turned her hand to a variety of occupations since she started her working life as a fourteen year old paper sorter at Henry & Leigh Slater's paper mill.

Irene was born in 1932. Her family lived in Church Street and she remembers a close community that lived around the square. She went to St. John's School in Lowther Street and recollects her school days with pleasure, recalling having to take a meal up to Mr Shatwell at the Adelphi Mill during her lunch hour from school. She remembers the many children who lived around the square and how she used to look after the smaller children. She also still has vivid memories of a child drowning when she was young.

It was wartime for much of her young life; times were hard and the celebrations that marked the end of the war saw Bollington people (as they always do in times of celebration) climbing White Nancy. 'We stayed up there all night,' says Irene.

Irene has happy memories of the fairs on Pool Bank and the Bollington Wakes Week though she very rarely went out of Bollington. The family never went on holiday, making do with local days out.

The young people enjoyed films in the Empire Cinema, now flats next to the Memorial Gardens, and Irene thinks back to the large numbers of shops that Bollington once supported. Everyone shopped locally as most needs could be catered for within the community. Irene only went into Macclesfield occasionally to buy a live chicken to keep in the shed. She has seen many changes in the town but does miss the old Bollington that she grew up in and especially the range,

variety and number of the shops that existed in the town.

Irene's next job after Slater's was at Sheratt's, Dyers and Finishers in Ingersley Vale. She worked there for seventeen years. She married in 1950 but managed to continue to work whilst bringing up her children with the help of her mother, who looked after them while she worked. Families remained close to each other in those days and grandmothers often took on child care. Irene continued to work. 'I've never been out of work,' she says with pride.

One of Irene's favourite jobs was as a packer at the chocolate liqueur factory that opened up when the Empire Cinema closed. She remembers tasting the chocolates and also how workers were allowed to buy the products cheaply. Some of Irene's other jobs included Hambleton's Bakery, Pattinson's Electric Light Company and Oliver's Cotton Mill, where she worked as a combier. She also worked in the Adelphi Mill as a packer and her last job before retirement was at Jay Metzler.

Of course her retirement was not going to be permanent. Irene soon took a job as a cleaner at The Spinners Arms and it was while she was working there that she was headhunted by Ann Belfield at the bakery and she has been working there ever since. 'I have never been fed up with work. I have enjoyed all my jobs,' she says. Listening to Irene is like taking a step back into Bollington's recent past when many industries and businesses thrived. Sadly many of the places where Irene worked are no longer there, but new businesses have sprung up in the mills and Bollington's community spirit continues as it always has.

Irene is resilient; she has coped with many changes in her life and still continues to give to the community. For many years she has helped run the bingo at the Community Centre and it is obvious that she thrives on the banter among staff and customers that is part of a busy Bollington shop. It is no mean achievement to



Photograph by
Sandy Milsom:
Irene with Ann
Belfield (and buns!)

have worked continuously for sixty eight years and still to be enjoying her work.

Sandy Milsom

Dear Sir, I was born and brought up in Bollington, before moving to pastures new. I lived at 1 Clarence Terrace (1946/71) and recently revisited Clarence Mill to relive old happy times and picked up your superb magazine which brought back further fond memories.

John Pleeth, (his dad Harry was my scout master 29/1/52), Eileen Perrin (Coe), Pat Kershaw who lived at Rock Bank, and Carol Hanks. Apart from attending St John's, I also attended the Bollington Sports Clinic, in the grounds of Oliver's Mill due to a disability and, in 1958 aged 12, received a small bag from swimming in Clarence Pool for which I got a thick ear from my mum, a letter of thanks from Bollington UDC and the Boy Scouts medal for gallantry!

The opening of Coronation Gardens in '55 was a setback to us kids, before then it was a wilderness where, after Saturday matinee at the Empire Cinema next to Broadlands garage, we would play as cowboys, superman or whatever film we had just seen.

I remember until the 1964 Festival, I'd just qualified as a referee, and Dr. John asked (ordered!) me to ref all the football games. On the day of the semi, a ref turned up from Macclesfield, who was at the time a Football League ref and told Dr. John he had been appointed by the FA to officiate the semi and final since I was not experienced enough. Typically in his own quiet way, it was explained to the ref concerned that either I did the matches or there would be no matches. I seem to recall Bollington Athletic were the ultimate winners. I know 2015 is the 50th anniversary. I'm still an active referee so if you need my services please let me know.

Ren McCall



TOP OF THE HILL

'Addy and The Hill' is becoming one of our most popular local bands. They are energetic and love the music they play; and it shows.

The last time I saw them was at 'Rock on the Rec' where Addy came offstage with bleeding fingertips. Fortunately for the band, their audiences love their music as much as the duo enjoy playing it.

Addy Oldman is 18 but already an 'old hand' in the music business, having been writing from an early age. He wrote his first song when he was 11 and now has a catalogue of over 60 songs. A Bollington St. John's boy, Addy went on to Tytherington High School and from there to college where he has just finished his Level 1 in Hairdressing. He also works in the kitchen at a local care home. His best friend Mary, who is 92, lives there and they enjoy a fish and chip takeaway together once a month.

Fil Hill, 41, is from Macclesfield and has lived in the town since he was five.

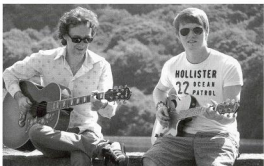
Fil likes to earn his living with anything to do with music and works with disabled people in Liverpool and Stockport. He is the only person in Europe who has developed an interface to help people with even a severe disability where they communicate in blinks to make music. It is a totally personalised package written for each individual. One person who Fil works with has used it to write a string quartet.

"ADDY HAS A HATE LIST WHERE THE BEATLES AND OASIS ARE THE TOP TWO"

Fil has recently delivered a talk in Genoa, on the communication interface and has aspirations to offer it cheaply through universities, rather than commercially because he believes products for the disabled are priced artificially high.

It is easy to see why Addy and Fil get along. They have a similar outlook to life, both showing a deep care for their communities. They met

Photograph of Fil (left) and Addy (right) by Carol Barnes



An Addy and The Hill website is being developed but in the meantime, if you want to find out when the next gig is, check:
www.filhill.net

If you want to book the group, call Julie on
01625 266244.

through friends and have been playing together since February 2012. "We're good friends as well as playing in the band together."

Addy's musical influences include Elton John and Luther Vandross; his favourite song is Lionel Richie's 'Endless Love'.

Fil's musical influences began with Iron Maiden but then expanded into early George Benson. He now enjoys Bosnian folk music. "I'll listen to everything because everything has a lesson to give me."

As a band, the kind of covers they play include 'I heard it through the grapevine', 'Sweet child o' mine' and gangster rap... but in an Addy and The Hill style!

Addy has a hate list in which The Beatles and Oasis are the top two of his most hated bands and will actually turn the radio off if they come on! Both Addy and Fil appreciate the quality of their songs but prefer to hear them covered by others such as George Benson.

Addy's mum Julie is the band's manager and rather than spending time looking for gigs, the bands popularity has grown and Julie now gets phone calls from pubs asking if 'Addy and The Hill' can come and play for them.

Addy and Fil have their feet on the ground, both being very down-to-earth characters and have no aspirations for super-stardom. Addy explained, "We want to enjoy our music and wouldn't like stardom to impinge on that. My songs are like my babies and I wouldn't want them taken away from me."

Both Addy and Fil write music and a typical gig is roughly two original songs to one cover version within a one-and-a-half hour set.

Both like the idea of building up a following in the different towns they play in. Aspirations for the band at the moment are to get an album done and grow their audience. "I feel we are growing organically which is really comfortable."

One great opportunity was being asked to open a gig for The Christians. "When we were warming up one of the Christians started jamming with us which was a real highlight!"

They would both like to play at one of the bigger festivals like the Isle of Wight as festivals offer a wider exposure to people who will not yet have heard of them. Fil has a recording studio in his cellar and they often put videos on YouTube so that way people going to gigs can familiarise themselves with the songs.

Carol Barnes

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THE GREAT FLOOD

An interesting way to meet the neighbours...



I'd only been living around the Market Place for a couple of weeks when I awoke late on the morning of Tuesday October 27th 1998 to discover the River Dean wasn't where it should be.



as the Dean found the most direct and lowest routes.

But then things took a turn for the worse for people living on Oldham Street, Water Street & the old Market Place. Unbeknown to us, the river bank in the adjacent factory had been breached, turning their car park into a reservoir and flooding through the mill buildings. The wall at the end of Oldham Street held back the rising water for a while but eventually gave way, sending a flood wave through a recently married couple's house - destroying their wedding presents still in boxes. My friends and I were alerted by the shouts of alarm as we looked out on Market Place which was rapidly filling up with water. An old Jaguar, parked at the lowest point, disappeared in minutes. I had just time to move my car out of the way before the water hit the front door.

*Photographs by
Rob Nicholson*

Fortunately (in a way), I was late rising as a couple of friends had stayed for a house warming, otherwise I'd have been at work and missed any chance to save my belongings. Many of my neighbours didn't get away as lightly as me.

Whilst we were asleep, the heavens had opened and something like the whole of October's rainfall had fallen in two hours. A huge deluge a couple of days earlier had already filled the river to bursting point and it had already been raining heavily for weeks before, so this latest deluge had nowhere to go on the sodden steep sided valleys above Bollington except into the already full rivers. For me, the breach wasn't too bad as it hadn't yet reached the house although the cellar was filling, but people living in the aptly named Water Street were not faring as well,

My door held back most of the water and there wasn't much clutter as I'd just moved in. My friends created a channel of old clothing across the wooden floor and out the back. Neighbours further down fared far worse as the flood breached their houses, destroying possessions and memories, flooding the downstairs rooms to about waist height.

The flood went almost as fast as it came but not for a pleasant reason. One of the front doors just couldn't hold back the tide and opened, emptying the flood waters through their house. There was a jet of water out of the cat flap at the back. Peering in, I saw treasured possessions bobbing about in the water, mixed in with the recently cut grass from the Market Place. In a way, their sacrifice helped everyone else on the Market Place as the water level soon dropped, leaving behind a trail of disaster. Then began the start of the painful business of the clean-up, insurance claims and subsequent rebuilding.

There was much speculation as to the cause but I don't believe it was the result of Lamaload reservoir's sluice gates being opened - they had no reason to. We just have to accept that it rained very, very hard and the river just could not cope.

But it was an interesting way to meet the new neighbours....

Rob Nicholson



ADLINGTON IN BOLLINGTON

Swimming is a really big part of my life and after retiring from competing, I wanted to remain in the sport, so looked at teaching.

Although I have great swimming knowledge to impart, I still needed to gain the qualifications to enable me to do this properly, safely and in line with recommended guidelines.

I visited Bollington Health & Leisure in order to complete my training. This involved observing the swimming lessons with the Centre Manager, Steven Hurst and then teaching a group of eight swimmers, while Steven observed me.

Obviously swimming is really important to me and as such, I hope to see great things at grass roots level, so that we can build future Olympians.

I was excited and happy to experience the teaching at Bollington. I thought that not only were the lessons well organised, but

that the teachers were also really friendly and above all, the kids were having fun. I hope lessons continue in this way at Bollington for a long time to come and I look forward to seeing some of the kids from the pool on the Olympic podium in years to come.

I am happy to endorse lessons at Bollington Health & Leisure and would like to say thank you to the staff and kids for being part of my training.
Rebecca Adlington

Photograph by Steven Hurst:
Rebecca Adlington
with swimming
instructor
Liz Mirrlees.



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BOLLINGTON LINES - PART THREE - 'BLOOD & WATER'

The unending rain carved lines through the dirt on the old windows of the Vale Inn. Autumn had come earlier than Jacob had hoped, and winter looked to be hard this year.

He shuddered involuntarily as he straightened his collar for the fourth time, glad that he wouldn't be working in his father's butcher's shop during the icy mornings to come. The thought of handling the frozen carcasses, chopping and carving while his father barked out orders made him glad of his escape. The shop wasn't his problem, not any more. National Service had some benefits after all, it seemed. It had freed him from the cycle of life under his father, the long, slow drudgery of a preordained life.

Instantly guilt took hold of him for leaving his father, leaving Bollington, far behind him. Since the fire he'd longed to leave this place and never return. Only one thing still held him here, still brought him back whenever he could.

She was late, as usual. Jacob checked his watch, already knowing the time. He downed the froth at the bottom of his glass and ordered another.

Jacob's hand rested inside his uniform trouser pocket on the gift he'd chosen for Rebecca. He felt foolish, like he was fifteen again, during that long summer when she had led him by the hand up to the pool at the end of Clarence Terrace. His fingers trembled as he remembered that golden afternoon and he wished he was still that hopelessly naive boy.

A chill breeze shouted through the quiet bar, Jacob looked up and saw Rebecca framed in the doorway as she struggled with her ratty umbrella, still beautiful in spite of the storm's rage.

"Here," Jacob said as he stood to greet her. "Let me."

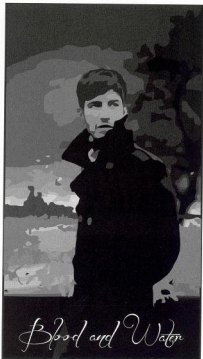
Rebecca smiled at him. It was a warm smile but she turned her back as she closed the door, her eyes to the floor.

Jacob led her to a table away from the bar. He was glad it was quiet tonight. As she sat down he put his

hands on her shoulders, hoping to help her with her wet coat. Rebecca flinched.

"I'll keep it on," she said, her voice brittle.

Jacob half laughed. "It's soaking wet!"



If you would like to know more about Niel and his work, please visit his website www.nielbushnell.com

His novel, Sorrowline, is available wherever good books are sold.

"I'm fine."

Jacob stood over her, unsure of what to do next. "Drink?" he asked feebly.

"Just sit down, please," Rebecca said.

Jacob obeyed, wishing he didn't feel so on edge. "Well?" he asked eventually. "You've decided?"

Her blue eyes locked onto the table, refusing to meet his. His stomach sank; he knew her answer. Frustration welled up inside him and his fists tightened. "Say 'yes'!" he hissed. "Please!"

Finally she looked up, her eyes adrift in tears. "You know I can't!"

"But you said you wanted to be together! Forever!"

"I do!" Rebecca looked away as she hunted down her handkerchief. "I did."

"Then let's go! Tonight, just the two of us. We can be in Cretina by morning. Then when I get shipped out it'll all be official."

"Why the rush? The war's over."

Jacob scowled. "I could be in Korea before the end of the month! You know what could happen there, don't you?"

"I won't be a widow, Jacob. I won't!"

He reached out and covered her hand with his. This time she didn't flinch. "You won't be a widow, silly. I'm coming back. But I need something to come back for, you see?"

He put his other hand in his pocket and pulled out his gift. "Look, I didn't want to get you a ring, not till you said. I didn't want to jinx it. But I got you this." He opened his rough hand to reveal a small brooch resting in his palm. Delicate gold edged a nest of turquoise stones that shone even in this grey hall-light. "It belonged to my mother, before the fire, and I think she'd have wanted you to have it. I know brooches are a bit old fashioned so I put it on a chain, see. Makes a lovely necklace, don't you think?"

Rebecca retreated back into her chair. "No, Jacob, not that."

"Why? Why not? It's pretty."

"I'm sorry, Jacob, I don't want it! Don't make me take it." Her eyes were wide like a cornered animal's.

Jacob stared at her, puzzled. "What's wrong?"

"You know what's wrong! She had that on when... when she died."

"So? It's clean."

"You just don't get it, do you? It's not right. You should have thrown it away. I'm sorry, Jacob." She stood up quickly, knocking his drink over as she pushed past him towards the door.

BOLLINGTON BY...

"Rebecca!" Jacob rushed after her as she disappeared out of the pub. The rain still fell like needles, soaking through his uniform. He splashed after her, grabbing Rebecca by her wrist.

"Jacob! You're hurting me! Let me go!"

Confusion filled his head, pushing the blood up into his cheeks. "Why won't you say yes? Just take the brooch!"

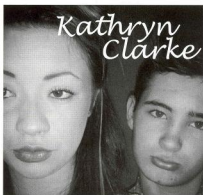
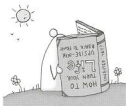
"No!"

Suddenly his hands were at her neck, forcing the brooch over her head. It was as if he could no longer hear her screams, only the pounding of the rain as he dragged her down Adlington Road. He stopped at the old stone bridge, his weight pinning her to the low wall. His fingers took hold of the chain and tightened it until it dug into the soft skin of her throat, squeezing her screams away.

"You're mine! Always mine!" Jacob shouted as he watched the brooch pushing into her flesh, her blood marking the chain. Her legs went limp and she fell into his arms, her eyes staring through him. His wild breath slowed as he held her there in one final lover's embrace.

Jacob kissed her soft cheek, wondering why he felt no emotion, no tears. Instead his mind filled with practical thoughts, of what to do next. He removed the stained brooch from Rebecca's neck and threw it into the river. It disappeared quickly into the brown torrent of water. He looked about him to see if he was still alone, then picked up Rebecca's body and began to walk towards his father's shop.

Niel Bushnell



My name is Kathryn Clark and I will be 16 in November. I go to Tytherington High School and work at Livesey's on Saturdays and whenever they need an extra hand and it fits into my other plans.

What and who is important in your life at present?

My Mum Jo, Jacob my boyfriend and Maizey Dog who is funny and has got her own personality, the dog that is.

What makes a good day?

Being with friends around the village, going to the park - The Rec, chat, listen to music or a lazy movie day - watching films and telly all day with 1 or 2 other people, get a takeaway.

What do you like about living in Bollington?

The people in the village and the friendly atmosphere, people acknowledge and speak to you. The bus service is OK, you never have to wait more than 30 minutes, so my friends and I can go to Macc without having to bother our parents.

Is there anything you do not like about living in Bollington?

There are not enough sheltered places where we are welcome, such as a bandstand. In the pavilion we have to sit all in a straight row, and it is really uncomfortable when trying to talk with each other. Being able to sit in a round would be great.

Kathryn Clarke and boyfriend, Jacob.

Photograph: Jo Weselby

What would you wish for to happen in Bollington?

A "Rave on the Rec" for my friends and me! With a DJ on the grass steps, mixing and sampling, R&B, Pop, DubStep and D'n'B (Drum & Bass for our interviewer) and a tent with drinks.

If you had all the money and time in the world and all rules and regulations were suspended, what would you change in your life?

More holidays, being allowed in pubs - and a big house, I mean a B-I-G house out in the hills close to Bolly. On the outside looking like a cottage, techno on the inside. A spacious living room for my friends, a garage with cars for each of us. I would do my own cooking, but I would have a maid, who would be paid and treated well. She could live in the house too if she wanted. My Mum would have her own house not too far away.

Which magical power would you choose?

Invisibility of course, because it would be sneaky and fun. The real one would be to have a wish granted a day and I could pass that wish on to somebody else if I wanted.

What would you change in this country or in the world?

Stricter punishment for murderers and people who do other horrid things, such as abusing animals and other people.

Bonus wish?

Spare cash to go shopping.

Who would you like to be like?

I would not really like to be like anybody, just me.

Favourite plant / animal / type of countryside?

Poppy. Sloth. Green with lots of colours, wild flowers, with a "magic well on the hill" and pretty - and all that around a building like the one on the hill in Lyme Park.

Tea or coffee?

Coffee, very milky.

Lilli Hardebeck Becker

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

FORAGING AGAIN...

For our final forage, we are looking at autumn wild foods which are free and abundant in our local countryside.

Starting with hawthorn berry ketchup, which goes great with practically anything you'd previously have used tomato ketchup for (we'll get you off store bought ketchup in no time) and for our alcohol, although rosan berry wine can be very tantalising we will stick with the well regarded sloe gin.



Hawthorn can be a shrub in a hedgerow, or grow into a small tree 5 to 12 metres tall. The young stems of the hawthorn have sharp thorns and it is these that make for an aggressive hedge that is so useful in agriculture. Hawthorn flowers in early spring but what we're interested in, is the berries or haws that grow around this time of year. These bright red fruits are about 1cm in size, contain a hard pip (not to be eaten) and taste slightly similar to a mashed apple when eaten raw.

Hawthorn Ketchup:

When collecting haws it's advisable to be wary of the sharp thorns that this plant gets its name from – wearing gloves can help. Strip any stalk away from the berry before putting it in your collecting container as it makes the cooking stage easier.

You'll need:

- 500g hawthorn berries
- 150g sugar – brown or white
- 300ml white wine or red wine vinegar
- 300ml water

Simply boil the haws (stalks removed) with the water and vinegar for 30 minutes. Once gloopy and broken, pass this mixture through a sieve to remove pips from the haws. Chuck these out – and place the resulting

Along with Schola Foris I will now be running wild food events throughout 2014 where we will identify wild edible plants, make some recipes and give you a wild food preserve, chutney or pesto as well as veg to take home and eat to your hearts content.

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mixture, along with the sugar, into a pan and simmer for 10 further minutes. Prepare your storage containers by thoroughly washing and pour the mixture in. Simple and effective – delicious hawthorn berry ketchup to have with your next Bollington burger!

Next up.... Sloe gin!

Sloes are the fruit borne by the Blackthorn, again the due is in the name. This plant also produces sharp thorns so again gloves are advised when picking this berry. These small shrub-like trees can grow up to 6m tall, but take on the appearance of a shrub due to their continuous young growing stems that flood the openings at the base of this tree. The leaves are 2-4.5cm long and oval or widest towards the tip and with small teeth. The upper surface is dull and hairless, the lower is hairy on the veins. Again this plant flowers earlier in the year, but we're interested in the fruits, which are 1-1.5cm long with a very short stalk. They are bluish-black but the colour may be almost entirely hidden by a thick, greyish and waxy bloom on the skin.

What you'll need:

- 500g sloes (stalks removed)
- 200g sugar – brown or white
- 1litre gin – don't worry too much about the quality as the original flavour will be masked.

If you couldn't resist picking your sloes before the first frost then simply place them in the freezer for an evening and then defrost when you're ready to make the sloe gin – alternatively you can pierce the sloes with a fork to help allow some of the flavours seep out into the gin.

Firstly place your gin in a large jar or container that can be sealed, to this add your sugar and stir until it's fully dissolved, next add your defrosted or spiked sloes and leave the mixture to mature. It's said the longer you leave it, the fuller and more developed the flavour will become – so resist drinking it for as long as you can. I'd recommend at least 3 months.

When you can no longer wait, strain the mixture through a cloth

(an old clean t-shirt or pillowcase will suffice) into a thoroughly cleaned bottle and drink to your heart's content.

A cloudy sky cocktail:

2 shots sloe gin, Juice of ½ a lime
100ml ginger ale
Mix the three of these together with crushed ice for a zingy Christmas treat.

Bottoms Up!

James Wood



Eight things to do with a pumpkin!

It is that time of year again. Crisp, colourful leaves, underfoot; that autumnal smell and shops full of pumpkins. Sadly, many pumpkins are purchased purely to make into 'Jack o'Lanterns' but have you thought how much you can do with one of these wonderful fruits?

Make into a 'Jack o'Lantern'

Wash and dry seeds to plant in May or June

Wash the remaining seeds and bake very slowly in the oven, cool down and peel before eating.

Make pumpkin soup

Make pumpkin pie

Make pumpkin stir fry

Make pumpkin curry!

Take the top and or bottom of the pumpkin, thread some braided raffia through and hang from a tree for the birds to eat

Debra Tracy

You can find more pumpkin recipes, instructions & fun pumpkin facts at: www.thecreativespacestudio.blogspot.co.uk



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A DIFFERENT ANGLE!

In the 1950s angling was a popular sport with nearly every working man in Bollington participating in some form or another. This led to the formation of the Bollington Angling Society in 1952 with its inaugural meeting being held in the Church House Inn, under the Chairmanship of Bob Barlow. The cost was 15 shillings and attracted a growing membership.

Shortly after forming, the club acquired the fishing rights to Lower Brook and Mill Brook pools in Rainow, which was a great step forward, but a heck of a long way to walk or hike with your fishing tackle. There developed an enthusiastic match fishing section with matches fished on the canal through Bollington nearly every weekend, attracting many local anglers.

The club prospered through the 50s and 60s and in 1974 joined forces with another local club, The Royal Oak, forming the Bollington & Royal Oak Angling Society, commonly known as 'The Oak'. The next 20 years were the heyday for 'The Oak' under the stewardship of Alan Worthington, Bernard Rowbotham, Terry Barber, Mick Weight and Peter Howard. The membership expanded and the club acquired waters in Bollington, Macclesfield, Rainow and Prestbury.

The Oak expanded into fishing the National Angling Championship against teams from around the country, starting in Division 4 and over a short period of time gaining promotion to Division 1.

In the early days not many people had cars, so the canal was the most popular venue to fish. However this was not without problems. Access to the canal for those who lived at the top

end of Bollington was either by Pleasuregate or the Hole-in-the-Wall steps. Pleasuregate provided easy access but by the time you had got to the canal you had been bitten by hundreds of midges (no wonder The Rec. was referred to as the Gnat Hole). You could have used an insect repellent called Citronella but it repelled most of your friends as well!

The other way up, by the steps was far more daunting, being extremely steep and especially so when laden with a large basket and holding all your rods. Not many made it to the top without taking 2 or 3 rest stops on the way, try it you will know what I mean!

Times move on and we are still here. The membership is a little more aged - angling doesn't seem to appeal as much to youngsters these days. Perhaps the best way forward is for every angler in Bollington to come together in a joint society promoting angling in Bollington for the foreseeable future.

Current club waters include Clarence and Lowerhouse Pools and two ponds at Moat Hall Farm, Kerridge; these are all mixed coarse fisheries. In addition to roach, perch and bream, Lowerhouse has a substantial number of carp, some over 20lbs!

Additionally, trout fishing is available on the River Dean at Lowerhouse.

Tony Woolley

Photograph: Young angler with a good catch

Membership is £20 (£8 for Senior Citizens, Ladies & Juniors) and is open to everyone. Details: www.bollingtonroyaloakanglingclub.co.uk or speak to Tim Woolley on 07831 297921.

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