



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Sixty

Spring 2014

INSIDE THIS 60th ISSUE

FULL FESTIVAL EVENTS LISTINGS

MADE OF STONE

BOLLINGTON LINES... PART 4

OFF THE RAILS

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FESTIVAL
FEATURE
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**BOLLINGTON***Live!*

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

Cover: 'Bollington on the Water' - Composite Mosaic by Debra Tracey.

Editor..... Anthony Holland (01625 268047)
 liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk
 Design & Layout..... Anthony Holland, Simon Nottage
 Editorial Team..... Tim Neale, Sandy Milson, Annette Hurst,
 Janet Beech, Lily Hardebeck, Simon Nottage,
 Mark Steadman, Ken Edwards, Steven Hurst,
 Kate Gooding.
 Advertising..... Mark Steadman (01625 575227)
 Michele Leigh (01625 572953)
 liveadverts@happy-valley.org.uk
 Distribution..... Janet Beech (01625 574618)
 livedistribution@happy-valley.org.uk
 Printed by..... Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)
 Illustrations by..... Matthew Wray
 Events..... Sandy Milson (01625 573191)

A FESTIVAL WELCOME

Since our planning started in 2011, acting as an aged George Bernard Shaw, scrabbling around on hands and knees in Belfield's window to put up advertising and having my bare backside appear on the front of Festival calendars have been just a few tests of my abilities (and dignity) for the Festival.



I feel privileged to be part of this wonderful event. When I volunteered to become chairman, the economic crisis had got into gear and there were doubts as to whether something as incredible as the 2009 Bollington Festival could be financially viable again. I took on the role with the intent of not only helping make a 2014 Festival happen but also to financially secure it for the future. We won't know if those aims have been met until June but I plan on having a lot of fun finding out.

We've done our best to include events and activities for every sector of our town in the areas of science, art, literature, music, drama, dance, sport, comedy and

more. I very much hope that you'll find things here to entertain, intrigue and delight you. If you're young ones, consider staying in Bollington for the half-term break in May (and invite friends and relatives from far afield) - I'm sure that there'll be more going on here than on some dull beach and you don't need to sit 30,000 feet up crammed in a sardine tin or stuck on a motorway for hours on end to get here!

This is probably the largest volunteer-run festival in the UK with over 100 events taking place over 17 excitement-packed days. The effort that is being put in to make this a success is phenomenal. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who are helping to put this Festival together - it's a pleasure and privilege volunteering with you. I also want to thank the many sponsors and donors without whose generous support the Festival would not be possible.

I look forward to a fabulous 2014 Bollington Festival in the hope that it keeps Dr John Coope's 1964 vision alive.

Jon Beck - Festival Chairman

Photograph of
Jon Beck by John
Appleyard

EDITORIAL

You wait patiently for a Bollington anniversary, then two turn up at once! This is our sixtieth edition of **Bollington Live!** and whilst our (long suffering) deliverers may curse the fact, this issue has the most pages (hence the heaviest to deliver) yet.

Bollington Live! is inextricably linked to Bollington Festival, having been borne of the festival programme in 1993. The group who produced that programme were inspired to continue together, starting **Bollington Live!** which was then, a twelve page magazine. This issue has twenty-eight pages, many of which are focussed on the fiftieth anniversary Bollington Festival.

In addition to articles written especially for this issue by the Festival Team, you will also find the full Festival listings in the centre-pages of this issue. I hope that you will find something of interest to attend and support Bollington's amazing festival - there is surely something for almost everyone!

Further articles in this issue, interspersed with those concerning the Festival, are our usual **Bollington Live!** articles. I hope you find something of interest to read. From our recent online survey, we have found that articles concerning history and Bollington people are most popular. Both can be found in this issue.

So, two anniversaries for the price of one. Enjoy the Festival in May, and I hope this issue of **Bollington's** magazine whets your appetite for some of the varied, interesting and exciting events happening in Bollington over the next few months.



Left: The 2009
Festival Marquee
on the Recreation
Ground

Photograph by
Anthony Holland

FESTIVAL FEVER

You could, of course, go to Edinburgh or Glastonbury. But those festivals seem a little limited compared with what the Bollington Festival has offered for 50 years.

Bollington can do opera and drama. But Bollington has also done brass bands, poetry, and swimming; races on foot, in canoes, on bikes and with pigeons; family picnics, science and gymnastics; folk and flamenco; golf, bridge, bowls, tennis and fishing; art and garden trails; It's A Knockout; rifle shooting and dog shows; and cricket and comedy. And the original festival was able to advertise a dance with two "beat groups".

That first festival ran for six 'swinging sixties' days in September 1964, a mere month before Harold Wilson and Labour won a general election after 13 years in the political wilderness. The festival's souvenir brochure (price two shillings and sixpence) says nothing about politics but reveals just how many shops there were in the Happy Valley 50 years ago, including a ladies' outfitter that was a "sole agent for Pullfront corsets and Playtex".

The festival was the idea of John Coope, Bollington's legendary doctor, who wrote in that brochure: "I hope [the festival] will serve to stimulate interest in this attempt to re-ignite the community spirit by reminding Bollington of its past and also of its present achievements, both in its industry and its busy social life. Perhaps we can hope that when our present itself becomes a page of history, it may also be worth remembering."



Photos of the 1964 Festival from the Discovery Centre Collection

The community spirit was not just re-kindled; it caught fire. Half a century on, Dr. John would be happy to know that Bollington residents have for three years been fretting about tents and toilets while planning, organising, programming and fundraising for the 16 days of the eleventh festival. He would have been delighted that so many people were willing to fall out of bed early one Sunday morning last September to pack Palmerston Street for a crucial scene in a Bollington movie to be given its world premiere at the 2014 festival.

Many of the organisations Dr. John badgered into existence for that first festival are still going strong. In 1964 he directed the newly-formed Festival Choir in a performance of Handel's Messiah; this year the choir will tackle Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, whose texts are not for people of a sensitive disposition.

There has always been all kinds of music at the festival, and drama too: Dr. John played Oberon in a production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in 1980, and in 2000 wrote 'The Wedding Photo,' a play inspired by and celebrating a Bollington marriage.

But the festival has also evolved in 50 years, grown bigger, more ambitious. It has sometimes looked beyond east Cheshire to the world - in 1993 Croatian musicians played a piece for clarinet and strings inspired by ferocious attacks on Dubrovnik by Serbian forces.

The same year, a choir from Granada joined the Festival Choir for a performance of 'Verdi's Requiem' and in later years other choirs from Sweden and the US have come to sing. In 2005, a Canadian electric folk band rocked both the Big Top and several Bolly pubs, and in 2009 New York bass singer Joe Chappel gave the choir a sensational lesson in how to perform George Gershwin's 'Porgy and Bess.'

Big names were also drawn to festivals: Humphrey Lyttleton and George Melly came in 2000 and there have been repeat visits from the Chris Barber Band and Ken Dodd, whose shows lasted so long that elderly patrons were said to have begged to be allowed to go home before the sun rose over White Nancy. Poet Carol Ann Duffy did not go on quite as long when she came to the Methodist Church in 2009 to give her first reading after being appointed poet laureate.

The 2005 festival was perhaps the last one when money wasn't too much of a problem and the sponsorship partnership between the festival and AstraZeneca won an Arts and Business award. Undeterred by a global financial crash, the 2009 festival team set about serious fundraising, taking over the Viceroy for a biryani and boogie night and persuading 13 respectable local businessmen to get their kit off for a calendar that raised £11,000. That was also the year the hugely successful science strand was introduced into the festival.

And so to 2014. And when that's all over, planning will start for the next festival but only, in the words of Dr. John, "when the pain of the last one has ended".

David Ward



Dr. John Coope - taken from the 1964 Festival Programme



DON'T GO BREAKING MY ART DEBRA TRACEY

The cover image was created by local artist Debra Tracey, as a commission for *Bollington Live!*, entitled 'Bollington on the Water', a composite design mosaic.

Debra can usually be found in her studio which is situated overlooking the canal and next door to Cafe Waterside.

When she is not facilitating schools or community groups to create



mosaic murals or fused glass public artwork, Debra provides a creative space for others to make mosaic, create glass fusions or paint on silk during therapeutic workshops.

However, on the occasion that she is working on a commission, be it a mosaic composite of Venice, Brussels and Bollington; White Nancy, Pet Portraits or her personal development creations as an artist, you may just find a sign up saying 'artist at work, please do not disturb'. "I love getting visitors at the studio and anyone who knows me will be aware of just how much I like to talk but when my head is 'in the zone' I need to keep it there, particularly if I'm working to a deadline."

During the festival, Debra aims to exhibit new pieces of her own, work from her mosaic club students and a piece produced by participants at Limewalk Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit. She will also be launching her new 'White Nancy Giftware' range which will



include White Nancy themed cufflinks, jewellery, candles and the even more exclusive 'Roses and White Nancy's canal boat art painted metalware.

Debra Tracey

Debra is available on 01625 574905 or through her website www.thecreativespacestudio.com

A MATTER OF TRUST...

The Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) was established and registered as a charity in 2005 to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Bollington and its surrounding area.

BIT has much of the characteristics of a Local Development Trust and is a member of Locality (the former Development Trusts Association). All of the Trustees and members of BIT are volunteers from the local community.

Over the last 8 years, BIT has led a number of projects to preserve both buildings and land. These include:

The reclamation and maintenance of Tinkers Clough Wood

The transformation of the former toilet block into Turner's Eco-Lodge

Managing Water Street School and completing the transfer of the School to the Trust.

These projects have brought over £100,000 of funding to enhance community assets and have now - with the occupation of Turner's Eco-Lodge by Go-Lo, a community interest company, which is helping people with energy efficiency - also brought new jobs into the town. We believe these projects have contributed significantly to Bollington's sense of community and civic pride.

BIT has considerable skills in developing projects, accessing funding, project management and, increasingly, managing a portfolio of community assets. We have a wide potential remit and could, in theory, tackle projects ranging from the redevelopment and

management of land and buildings to the operation of services that would help the community.

Kate Gooding

If you would like to provide any input into this review or find out more about BIT, please contact Will Spinks, Chair of the Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) either by email (w.spinks1@ntlworld.com), by phone (01625-573413) or look at our website: <http://bollingtontrust.org/>

Photo by Margaret Park



MADE OF STONE

Walking around the town it's easy to see the imposing quarry faces where the stone used to build the mills and houses of Bollington was prised out of the hillside. The quarries in Bollington have long since closed, but up in Kerridge the quarries continue to produce high quality stone products that are used across the country.

As you walk south along the ridge from White Nancy you can see the quarries spread out below you on the west flank of the hill, but it's not so easy to tell how they are worked. In the past there were also quarries on the west side too, now long since abandoned.

In a quest to find out more I visited Sycamore Quarry to chat to Doreen Earl who, with her son Andrew, runs Earl's Stone. The family business was started by Doreen's father Alfred, who first went to work in the quarries about a hundred years ago.

Doreen showed me over the quarry where she has worked for much of her life. It seems a much larger area than I had imagined, and strangely peaceful. It has a rugged beauty that shows the mark of so many years of human endeavour. Many men worked here in the old days of chisels, picks and hammers.



Photos by Tim Neale:

Doreen and Andrew Earl in front of the stone saw

Sycamore quarry face



Nowadays, modern excavators, loading shovels and CNC (Computer Numerical Control) saws mean that just a handful of people can do what it used to take twenty to do.

Doreen pointed out me the different strata of rock on the quarry face. Each layer is made up of stone with differing qualities. The rock

is levered out of the face in huge boulders that are hand-picked to fulfil specific commissions. The best Kerridge stone has a pale colour, with a very fine grain and is very hard. It lends itself to high quality architectural features like stone gutters, window sills, coping stones and fireplaces that are cut to order. They also supply block wallstone, which is used like bricks. The stone is first cut to size by a huge circular saw and then a CNC saw cuts the stone precisely to the shapes required.

Because of its fine grain Kerridge stone is resistant to pollution. This is one of the ways you can tell Kerridge stone houses from Bollington ones. The Kerridge stone keeps its pale colour. The Bollington Stone has a coarser grain and absorbs the grime over time. If you want to see an example of fine Kerridge then take a look at the Millennium Cross at Bollington Cross.

Stone unsuitable for fine cutting is broken up into suitable sizes for dry stone walling, thin slabs can be broken into crazy paving slabs.

Doreen showed me some unusual stone, which runs in a single layer throughout the quarry, that

she called 'pappy'. It has a knobbly surface, the fossilized result of tiny crabs burrowing through the mud laid down in Carboniferous period (300 million years ago – give or take) that was subsequently compressed to form the rock we find today. Other thinner layers in the quarry have a fine mica coating that makes them sparkle. To show how local stone from only a few miles apart can have such variety Doreen pointed out a pile of rocks from Winberry Moss Quarry, from the hills above Rainow, which has a completely different texture and is distinctly pink.

If you need stone for a building or in your garden, I would recommend visiting the Kerridge quarries and talk to people like Doreen Earl who (perhaps) literally have stone running in their veins. As well as Earl's Stone the neighbouring Erndon Quarry also provides Kerridge Stone products.

Tim Neale

Earl's Stone have a website with interesting pictures of their history and their products (www.earlsstone.co.uk).

If you want to find out more about the history of the quarries it is worth looking at George Longden's 'Historical Study of Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale', which you can find online at www.kriv.co.uk.





Bollington

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Bollington Town Assembly

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TICKET TO RIDE

HOW & WHERE TO BUY YOUR FESTIVAL TICKETS

The 2014 Bollington Festival box office will open soon and we expect 20,000 tickets to be available for upwards of 100 events. Like most festivals nowadays, it will also go 'online'.

About 30% of tickets were booked online for the 2009 Bollington Festival - this time we expect a much higher proportion to be done this way. However, other means of booking will be available for those who do not find computers very appealing!

The website is the best place for up-to-date information on all events, taking place both before and during the Festival. You can easily filter and search through all the events based on your particular interests.

Once the Festival brochures are distributed the festival website will

offer online booking, accepting payment by debit/credit card or PayPal.

Anyone who needs guidance can visit any of a number of help points located at Bollington Library, at Harvey Scott's estate agents on Palmerston Street and at Bollington Health and Leisure. Staff will assist in ordering via the online system; in all cases the tickets ordered will arrive by post a few days later.

The central Festival Box Office will be at the Arts Centre, and visitors here will be able to pay by cash, cheque or debit/credit card. Postal and telephone applications will also be received here. This main box office and 'phone lines will open on the 5th March.

Geoff Atkin

ORDERING YOUR TICKETS:

ONLINE www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

You can also place orders online by visiting:

Harvey Scott Estate Agents, Bollington Library and Bollington Health and Leisure.

Please note these venues don't accept telephone orders or cash and cheques - payment will need to be online by debit/credit card or PayPal. Opening times may vary.

BY POST: Fill in the order form and follow the instructions in the programme

BY PHONE: 01625 578071
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VISIT: Bollington Arts Centre
Wed to Sat - 10.00am to 1.00pm

Disabled Access - Please call the Box Office on 01625 578071 before the event to let us know if you have any special requirements. To access the Disabled Car Park you will need to have a Blue Badge.

THE BEST OF BOLLINGTON...

Dr. John Coope created the 1964 Festival to celebrate our community achievements and to inspire more of them by building literal stages and by encouraging local ambitions. Fifty years later, Bollington is unique; we boast more active societies, organisations and publications (such as this *Bollington Live!*) "than you can shake a stick at".

The 2014 Bollington Festival starts with a salute to our own. Over a hundred talented local singers, dancers, bands, and comedians are lined up, ready to show what they can do and we can enjoy. Bollington's Best, the Festival's opening variety event on May 16th takes place in the marquee on the recreation ground. Canalside's 'The Thread' radio, another of Bollington's exceptional treasures, has supported Festivals since 2005 and this time is helping to promote this event and source performers. The planned programme can still be stretched to include more...

Over future weeks you can also nominate to Canalside's 'The Thread' radio local names for consideration in a variety of categories as Bollington's Best... babysitter, joker, view, grandma, teacher... Winning nominees will be revealed and honoured on the night.

Other festivals might sport a Fringe; we're having a 'HALO!'

Since 2012 a huge tribe of people have been meeting and planning activities in May to surround the core Festival programme. Exhibitions, pub music nights, 'Bookcrossing' and 'Postapoems', and scientific scarecrows will be popping up all over Bollington.

Many different venues, including private homes and gardens, are opening to the public to enjoy photography, art and flower exhibitions, an Open Gardens tour, an Artists' Trail, an Historic Boat Gathering on the canal and much more besides.

If YOU know someone who is exceptionally good at something and you judge they'd go down well, for 10 minutes or so, with a 500 strong Bollington community audience, send in any recommendations or nominations to jose.spinks@nthworld.com

Especially convened Festival groups have contributed priceless energy and enthusiasm to this Festival programme. "Happy Valley" is lucky to enjoy such a generous volunteering ethic and you simply couldn't buy what people give freely. No-one's asking for a medal, but we shouldn't be ashamed of being proud. Enjoy the Festival Halo.

Check the Festival website regularly to follow updated particulars of all Halo events. **Jose Spinks**

Bollington Festival Photographers' 2009 Exhibition in the Methodist Church. Photo: Simon Nottage



ALL ABOUT US

BOLLINGTON - 'A TOWN IN ITS OWN RIGHT'

Bollington - 'a town in its own right' was the masthead slogan for *Bollington Live!* when the first issue was published in 1994, some 20 years ago.

I suspect there are many people who will still remember receiving that first issue. I wonder how many of these copies still exist as I am aware there are many people who still conscientiously keep every issue.

Many of the characteristics of the first publication still remain. First and foremost, it continues to be developed and produced by a small group of volunteers. This editorial team consists of people from diverse backgrounds - from education to accounting to leisure management. This diversity of personnel has similarities with the founder members of the magazine, Linda West, John Liley, Graham Barrow and Walter Menzies, who still have a keen interest in the publication.

The ideas for the articles come from a wide range of sources. Some are written by members of the editorial team; others are 'commissioned' and some are sent independently to the Editor. Although, of course, there has to be some editorial control regarding content and length anyone is welcome to send suggestions for articles and/or to write them. We are always delighted to receive fresh ideas and articles with a different slant.

We are also lucky to have such a dedicated editor. The editor's role in *Bollington Live!* is much more than just cutting the content to fit the pages. It ranges from knowing what is going on in Bollington, sourcing a varied range of articles, proofreading, grammar checking, designing the page layout and more often than not sourcing photographs

or artwork for the front cover and the articles inside.

Bollington Live! is delivered to every household and business, along with extra copies for visitors available at the various cafes; restaurants; pubs and community centres throughout Bollington. Indeed 5,000 copies of each magazine are produced. This circulation only takes place through a dedicated group of 67 deliverers, who go out in all weather, pushing the latest copy through every letter-box in Bollington!

The size of each copy varies from issue to issue. Whilst the earliest issues were of twelve pages, more recently the magazine has expanded to either twenty or twenty-four pages. This issue is expanded further, to a bumper

twenty-eight pages! Our biggest issue yet! However, the decision as to whether the magazine is produced at all relies entirely on the generosity of our sponsors and advertisers.

These are obtained by two of our volunteers, who work relentlessly keeping personal face to face contact with those loyal to the magazine, while at the same time seeking out new sponsors and advertisers.

From the outset the publishing of the magazine has very ably been undertaken by Simon Nottage and Bollington Printshop and through their dedication and professionalism, the quality of the magazine has improved copy by copy.

Kate Gooding



BOLLINGTON LIVE! NEEDS YOU!!

NEW EDITOR
WANTED

If you are interested in undertaking this role (you won't be dropped in at the deep end but will be guided and mentored every step of the way) or require further information, please contact Kate Gooding on 01625573248 or liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk

THE 60TH EDITION QUESTIONNAIRE

Specifically for this 60th edition Tim Boddington has kindly supported the Editorial team, in producing a questionnaire.

We wished to obtain the views of the Bollington community on how well or otherwise the magazine was received; what we could improve and what should be the future direction for the magazine. We were delighted to receive over 80 responses.

Thankfully, the vast majority enjoy reading it (only 1 person didn't!) The articles most enjoyed were those concerned with Bollington news; its history and its people. Least popular articles according to the respondents are sports and creative writing. Should we focus less on these in future?

There were some excellent ideas for future articles, for example one respondent suggested producing a series of articles entitled 'A Day in the Life' featuring local personalities such as the mayor; dentist; and newsgang.

With the desire to attract the younger generation another idea proposed is a youth section and discussion has already taken place with the Youth Forum.

All the comments and ideas will be taken on board by the editorial team. We were also pleased two people indicated they would like to join the committee. We always want more so please get in touch.

Kate Gooding

SINGING OUT FOR BOLLINGTON

One day in the 1930s, a schoolboy called John Coope was caught messing about in a music lesson. The teacher ordered him to stand on a chair and sing by himself, no doubt thinking the resulting humiliation would be a far worse punishment than the cane. Happily, John's musical talent was discovered and nurtured, and singing became a passion alongside medicine, literature, and theatre.

30 or so years later, in 1964, Dr. John Coope dreamed up the first Bollington Festival, with music making by the community at its heart. Like any good doctor, he knew that the Arts help to improve physical and mental health. The rumour is that his first question to new patients was 'Do you sing?'

He formed Bollington Festival Choir for the first Festival, and conducted it for 37 years, introducing singers to an astonishing range of music, some of it seldom tackled by amateur choirs. In 2002, he handed

the baton on to Donald Judge. Donald will be conducting Carmina Burana in the 2014 Festival – not to mention the latest piece of his own, which celebrates Bollington and sets words by, among others, Samuel Greg junior of Lowerhouse Mill. The Choir no longer relies on 'doctor's orders' to attract singers, and people keep coming. It is truly a community choir, in that anyone can join without audition. Some founder members still sing with the Choir.

John also started the still flourishing Bollington Brass Band, and conducted it for a while. People came along to play for him even though, in the words of one bandsman, 'he didn't know one end of a cornet from the other'.

For the 1986 Festival, John asked Donald Judge, then the Choir's accompanist, to be musical director for a community performance of Britten's Noye's Fludde. Alongside the professionals there were amateur musicians, including

handbell ringers from Poynton, and a large contingent of children playing Noah's family and the animals on the Ark. Some of these were the first members of Bollington Festival Music Theatre, a unique group that focuses on staged performances where much or all the drama is sung.

Over the years, hundreds of local youngsters, including John's grandchildren, have trod the boards in at least two shows a year, and at all the succeeding festivals. John even starred in one himself, as the evil Chimney Sweep in Britten's Let's make an Opera. Several of the 30 or so shows Donald has written specially for the group have a local flavour, being inspired by such things as the Labyrinth and local history.

Happy Valley? Haunted Valley! to be premiered in the 2014 Festival is no exception – a musical play for, and about, the local community.

Donald Judge

FESTIVAL FOLK

'Second Sunday Folk & Acoustic' has been meeting at Bollington Arts Centre on the second Sunday of the month for over 2 years and gives a host of local musicians, singers and songwriters of all ages and abilities opportunities to perform in front of appreciative, relaxed audiences.

It has supported two Bollington Beer Festivals and organised a weekend of folk music and dance offering workshops and chances to play with other musicians. Excitingly, the club has also brought concerts to Bollington Arts Centre starring professional folk artists such as Steve Tilston, Pilgrim's Way, Lucy Ward and Claire Mooney.

There is a full Saturday of Folk Music & Dance on May 24th. Come along to workshops and have a go at something new or share your talents with others. Sing and play well-known folk tunes with other musicians in the bar. Enjoy a first-



Photo of Folk Musicians (above) by Mark Aherne

rate concert by renowned singer songwriter, Clive Gregson, (who has played with Richard Thompson, Eddi Reader and Christine Collister).

Many other Bollington venues offer folk evenings too, hosted by SSF and friends (see listing pages for details) and if that's not enough to whet your whistle, I'll eat my hat!

Helen Bailey

ART WISHES

Local artist Claire de Ruiter is creating a small installation in Bollington Library for the Festival linked to 50 years of bio-medical discoveries.

You may remember that in 2009 locals contributed 'wishes', which were then built into Claire's felt stone wall and tree. This time she wants to hear from people whose lives have been changed by any of the hundreds of scientific discoveries since 1964. Will you contact her with news and dates of the procedure or medication that changed your life?

All contributions will be fed into her artwork. Please contact Claire on 01625 574389 or at 10 Hough Close, Rainow, SK10 5UN or by email clairederuiters@btinternet.com

This imaginative Festival project fusing Art, Medicine and his beloved Bollington is 'so' Dr John Coope.

His legacy continues... *Jose Spinks*

LAB COATS FOR DUMMIES!

If you had asked us in May 2012 when we first met as a science group to start planning for the festival in May 2014 we couldn't have dreamt of the things we are doing now!

Thanks to a Wellcome Trust People Award, we've been able to expand our sometimes narrow scientific horizons into other unfamiliar worlds such as fabric design and printing. This seems far from science but we have used amazing science photos to make patterns to be printed on fabric before its made into, yes, you might have guessed, custom-made lab coats!

For further information, please contact annette.hurst@bollingtonfestival.org.uk or 07709 404933.

If you would like to lend a helping hand to the science group or any other festival group please email volunteering@bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Having Wellcome Trust grant means that we can use images from their extensive photo library free of charge. In November we set about selecting images that depicted our themes, would work well as a pattern and would look good printed on fabric, as that was the plan.

As you might imagine we didn't get very far because we knew nothing about designing fabric patterns or printing on fabric! Recognising our skills gap we did what we have done a lot lately – phoned a friend – that friend was Kate McLean who took a lot of festival photos in 2009 and is now lecturing in fine art in Canterbury. Kate recommended a fellow designer – Aisling Duffy – who specialises in fabric design and over the Christmas holidays she was very busy making patterns with our images.

Simultaneously, we needed to get up to speed with fabric printing and how fortunate we are in Bollington to have R.A. Smart on our doorstep. They print fabric for some of the top fashion houses in the UK! Alison Smart was happy to give us an ABC tutorial on what we needed to know and give us advice on how to proceed! Having got our heads around fabric weights and widths, digital printing, colour matching and finishing and the whiteness of white fabric we pressed the print button!

The printed fabric is being made into 20 lab coats each with a different custom-made design.



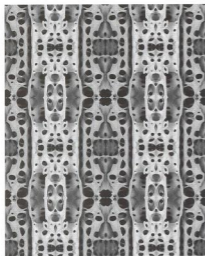
Fernley de Ruyter, a theatre costume design student is on her year out and she is going to make the lab coats for us. Here's a sneak preview of one of the designs: The picture on the left was produced by Professor Alan Boyle, – 'it's an electron micrograph of normal bone which we picked to illustrate the 1962 discovery/achievement – the first hip transplant.'

We plan to display the lab coats on mannequins during the festival – we are just missing the mannequins! If you are reading this and can lend us a mannequin or 20 mannequins we would be very grateful.

Annette Hurst

Photo above:
Aisling Duffy with her work.

Image left:
Copyright Wellcome images



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BOLLINGTON



Date	Event	Time	Place	Cost
Fri 16 May	Bolly's Best -A celebration of Bollington's talent	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£5
Sat 17	Parade - Celebration of "50 years of..." followed by afternoon of free family entertainment on the Atax Field	11am start	The Poachers Inn	Free
	Carmina Burana & much more: Festival Choir, King's School & R.N.C.M	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£12
Sun 18	Piano in the Park: Nick Curror, international piano soloist	2pm	Festival Marquee	£7
	The Kinder Children's Choir of the High Peak	3pm	Methodist Church	£8
	Byrd and Victoria: 16th Century English & Spanish Music	7:30pm	St. Oswald's Church	£12
	Sounds of Simon: tribute to Simon and Garfunkel	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£15
Mon 19	History Wardrobe - Jane Austen: Lucy Adlington	2pm	Shrigley Hall Hotel	£10
	Happy 5th Birthday SciBar: Profs. Wilson & Swinton	6:30pm	Civic Hall	Free
	'A Compás': Jaleo Flamenco	8pm	Festival Marquee	£15
	'My Stepson Stole My Sonic Screwdriver': Comedy show Toby Hadoke	8pm	Arts Centre	£10
	A Bard @ Briscola: poet Michael Symmons Roberts (incl. meal)	7pm	Briscola	£25
	'Stitch & Stone': Dr Brenda King of the Textile Society	7:30pm	St. Oswald's Church	£5
Tues 20	'Bob the Builder & Raa Raa the Noisy Lion' Curtis Jobling	10:30am	Civic Hall	£2 for US's
	'Regeneration': Explored: Drs. Creina Mansfield & Alan Sennett	1:30pm	Arts Centre	£10
	Fiction 4 Teenagers: authors Bryony Pearce & John Mayhew	2pm	Community Centre	£10
	'Where Wolves Walk': Fantasy humor for young people	4:30pm	Community Centre	£5
	A Walk on the Wild Side: Curtis Jobling, Jon Mayhew & Bryony Pearce	6pm	Dog & Partridge	£5
	Bollington Movie - Matinee	5pm	Festival Marquee	£7 Adults / £5 U16s
	Bollington Movie - Gala Evening	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£12.50
	The Festival Literary Quiz	7pm	Civic Hall	£5
	Wikileaks - explore behind the film "The Fifth Estate" - Luke Harding	6pm	Arts Centre	£10
	Songs & Stories of the Sea: local story tellers and singers (incl. meal)	7:30pm	The Pounce	£10
Wed 21	Bollington Brass Band: "Brass on Broadway"	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£10
	Stephen Booth - Crime Writer of Peak District novels	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£8
	Gaming for the Real World: Professor Robert Stone	7:30pm	Civic Hall	£3 Adults / £1 U16s
Thurs 22	'Where Do You Think You Come From?': Family History Club	10:30am	Arts Centre	Free
	Life & Works of Elizabeth Gaskell: author Elizabeth Williams	2pm	Community Centre	£5
	Signing & drama workshop for the hearing impaired: Caro Sparks OBE	10am	Arts Centre	£12
	'Signs of a Diva' actress Caro Sparks OBE	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£8
	'A Life Of Crime' crime novelists Chris Simms & Kate Ellis,	7:30pm	Community Centre	£8
	Dave Spikey - "Words Don't Come Easy": comedian & writer	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£22
Friday 23	'Writing from History' fiction writer Livi Michael	2pm	Community Centre	£5
	Oysterband: folk-rock band	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£18
	Sarah Moule - Chanteuse	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£10
	Seeing the Skies with Other Eyes: Dr. Dave Clements	7:30pm	Civic Hall	£3 Adults / £1 U16s
	Pevsner Revisited - Cheshire: Historian Matthew Hyde	7:30pm	Community Centre	£8
Sat 24	'All-day Folk' workshop	10am-5pm	Arts Centre	£3
	Clive Gregson folk singer	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£8
	'Sing "Les Mis" in a Day' workshop	9:30am-2pm	Civic Hall	
	The Fab Lab - Fabulous family fun doing biology!	2.30-3.00pm	Festival Marquee	£17
	National Festival Circus	1-4pm	St. Gregory's School	Free
	Jackie Kay - Poet and Author	1 & 2:30 & 4pm	St. John's School	£5
	Dead End - Drama	5:30pm	St. Oswald's Church	£12
	Massed Male Voice Choir - 170 singers from 5 choirs	7pm	Community Centre	£7
		8pm	Festival Marquee	£15

FESTIVAL Box Office Tel. 578071 Bollington Arts Centre

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL

16th May – 1st June 2014

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk



Bollington Festival 2014

Date	Event	Time	Place	Cost
Sun 25	Jazz @ BAC: The Magnificent 7	8pm	Arts Centre	£10
	Dog Show	11am	Recreation Ground	Free
	The Fab Lab - Fabulous family fun doing biology!	1pm	St. Gregory's School	Free
	Dead and Alive! Young Poets & World War 1	12pm	Dog & Partridge	£10 (inc food)
	Northern Chamber Orchestra "Concert for Families"	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£16
	A Night with the Stars: Macclesfield Astronomy Club	7:30pm	Kerridge Cricket Club	£5 Adult / £1 U16s
Mon 26	A Chorus of Voices: drama by playwright Robin Hemmings & friends	7:30pm	St. Oswald's Church	£5
	The Fab Lab - Fabulous family fun doing biology!	11am-4pm	St. Gregory's School	Free
	Wise Move Dance	11am	Arts Centre	£2
	Morgan & West: Time Travelling Magicians	1pm	Festival Marquee	£8
	Two Song Cycles: one German, one English: Mike Bell & Martyn Parkes	2pm	Arts Centre	£4
	Williams' wonderful 'Songs of Travel' Folk Martin Simpson & Lucy Ward	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£13
	'An Evening With' Sir Mark Elder & The Hallé Quartet	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£15
Contemporary Novelists: Helen Walsh & Jenn Ashworth	7:30pm	Community Centre	£8	
Tues 27	The Fab Lab - Fabulous family fun doing biology!	11am-2pm	St. Gregory's School	Free
	Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" Heritage Opera	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£18
	"Love's Sweet Song" operatic singer Rosie Lomas & friends	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£12
	"Spinning a Yarn in the Pubs"	7:30 pm	The Vale, Spinners, Poachers	Free
	'A Chorus of Voices': drama playwright Robin Hemmings & friends	7:30pm	St. Oswald's Church	£5
Weds 28	Ian Duhig: Reading his Poetry and Book-signing	6pm	Arts Centre	£1
	Man, Medicine & Morals: Professor Robert Winston	7pm	Festival Marquee	£7 adults / £1 U16s
	'A Chorus of Voices' drama playwright Robin Hemmings & friends	7:30pm	St. Oswald's Church	£5
	Ghost walk - listen to ghost stories & folk tunes as you walk	6:30 pm	Café Waterside	£1 adult/50p U16s/45p free.
Thurs 29	The Big Chris Barber Band	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£18
	Cayman Caves to Badland Dinosaurs: Dr Phil Manning	7:30pm	Civic Hall	£3 Adult / £1 U16s
	Samfire Acoustic Duo	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£5
Fri 30	The History of Bollington, WW1: author Dave Williams	2pm	Community Centre	£3
	Simon Simeon: A Pre-Raphaelite Restored: Frank Vigon	2pm-4pm	Arts Centre	£5
	R.N.C.M. Jazz Collective	8pm	Festival Marquee	£12
	Festival Comedy Club (over 18's only) 4 comedians	8pm	Arts Centre	£10
	'Life & Musical Times of Joy Division & The Stone Roses': Reade & Robb	7:30pm	Civic Hall	£10
	Folk along the Bollin	8:30pm	Dog & Partridge Pub	£2
Sat 31	Rock on the Rec	12-4pm	Festival Marquee	£5
	Babbling Vagabonds "The Brothers Grimm" puppet-making workshop	10am	Arts Centre	£5
	Gypsy Jazz Workshop Tim Kliphuis	2-4pm	Arts Centre	£15
	Vibrations and Vegetables: The Science of Sound	1pm & 3pm	Civic Hall	£4 Adult / £1 U16s
	Scream'n' Beavers	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£16
	Gypsy Seasons Tim Kliphuis, Nigel Clark & Roy Percy	7:30pm	Arts Centre	£12
Ceilidh : Maplewood Band	7:30pm	Civic Hall	£10	
Sun 1 June	Family Picnic	12pm	Recreation Ground	Free
	An Afternoon with Don Maclean: with Paul Kerryson	2:30pm	Festival Marquee	£7 Adult / £1 U16s
	Happy Valley? Haunted Valley! musical: Festival Music Theatre	2pm & 4pm	Arts Centre	£7 Adult / £3 U16s
	Upbeat Beatles : Beatles tribute band	7:30pm	Festival Marquee	£20

Also... Please don't forget the 'Halo' events. Visit the Festival website for more details.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the Festival listings are correct, **Bollington Live!** cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

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BOLLINGTON

Dates for your Diary



March

Friday 7th at 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre. Tickets £9.90 (over 18s only)
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Sunday 9th at 8pm

Second Sunday Folk

Arts Centre. The friendly club where you can perform or listen. £2. Info: call 574617 or visit www.outofbollington.com.

Monday 10th at 6.30pm

Bollington Sci-Bar: Citizen Science

The Vale Inn. Making Volcanologists out of members of the public. How you can get involved in scientific research.

Saturday 15th from 9.30am- 4.30pm.

Carmina Burana Rehearsals

Arts Centre. Sing with the Festival Choir for the Festival performance. Weekly rehearsals also on Tuesday evenings. For information and an application form: www.fun.to/bfnt or call 01612254680

Saturday 15th from 2-4pm

Bollington & District Horticultural Society & Flower Club 48th Spring Show

At the Civic Hall Bollington

Monday 24th at 7.30pm

Bollington Air Cadets Open Evening

Slaughter House, Shrigley Road.
Contact Sam Mayers Tel:575131

Thursday 29th at 7.30pm

Bollington Horticultural Society

Community Centre. A talk by Don Witten: Euphobias and Spring Perennials.

Saturday 22nd from 3.30pm-5pm

'Towns'

Arts Centre. A verse drama written and performed by Joy Winkler. With musical accompaniment by Andrew Rudd. Rosie's quest to find her birth mother. £7 (incl. tea/cakes); T. 573191 / pay at door.

Saturday 29th 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre

The Gambit Jazz Men. Our friends from the south return after a 5 year gap. Ticket £9. To book call 574410

Sunday 30th March - Sunday 27th April

'In The Gallery' - Arts Centre

Preview Exhibition by the Bollington Visual Arts Group devoted to the artists taking part in the Art Trail during the festival. Sundays 2-4pm & during other events.

April

Friday 4th at 8pm

Bolly Comedy Club

Arts Centre. (See March for details.)

Saturday 5th at 8pm at the Arts Centre

Boil, Chamber Concerts

The Pleyel Ensemble perform piano trios by Beethoven, William Matthias & Brahms. Tickets £15 Tel: 576402/574435

Monday 7th. at 6.30pm

Bollington Sci-Bar: The i-knife

Vale Inn. The i-knife enables scientists to differentiate between cancer, pre-cancerous and non malignant tissue. The speaker is Mike Morris.

Thursday 12th at 7.30pm

Bollington Horticultural Society

Community Centre. A talk by William Wood from Blackbrook Herb garden.

Sunday 13th at 8pm

Second Sunday Folk

Arts Centre. (See previous month)

Saturday 26th at 8pm

Jazz at the Arts Centre- Wabash Jazzmen

One of our favourite bands and one of the most swinging quintets on the scene. Tickets £9 call 574410

May

Monday 12th at 6.30pm

Bollington Sci-Bar:

The History of Brewing

Vale Inn. James Sumner talks brewing. details: www.bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Saturday 17th at 10am

Plant Sale

Community Centre. Sale of bedding, perennial and vegetable plants.

June

Monday 9th at 6.30pm

Bollington Sci-Bar: Engineering Materials

Vale Inn. Neil Glover from Rolls Royce. Details from www.bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Thursday 23rd at 7.30pm

Bollington Horticultural Society

Grow Better Fuchsias. Community Centre. Linda Hunchcliffe will give help, hints and some ideas

Bollington Light Opera Group takes to the high seas for its Spring production: Gilbert and Sullivan's 'HMS Pinafore', at the Civic Hall. May 13th - 17th.

They have assembled a fine and experienced cast of principals, featuring Steve Donnelly, Paul Yandell, Sharon Davies, Paul Shortt, Mike Raymond, Angela Theobald, Carol Pratt and Peter Cliffe.

Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions on the 13th, 14th and 15th) from 01625 431038 or blogbookings@aol.com

Wednesday Bridgend Walks

All begin from the Bridgend Ctr. at 10.15am

For details: Tel 576311 or www.bridgendcentre.org.uk

12 th March	Keridge, Moor Hall Middlewood Way	5 miles
19 th March	East Cheshire Ranger's ramble	3-4 miles
26 th Mar	White Nancy and the Saddle of Keridge	5 miles
2 nd April	Burley Town, Middlewood Way, canal	6 miles
9 th April	The Nab, Sugar Lane, Canal	6 miles
16 th April	Guest leaders walk	
23 rd Apr	Oakenbank, Rainoslow Harrup Valley	5 miles
30 th May	Middlewood Way, Canal, Stypson, Long Lane	5 miles
1 st June	White Nancy, Rilly Road, fields to Holes Hall	4 miles
23 rd May	Bluebells in Harrup Wood	4 1/2 miles
28 th May	Mines, Inicks and Balesstones	6 miles
4 th June	Harrup Wood, Lina Clough, Ingensley Vale	6 miles
11 th June	Highways and secret byways	6 miles
18 th June	Guest Leaders walk	
25 th June	Strolling up the Nab	4 miles

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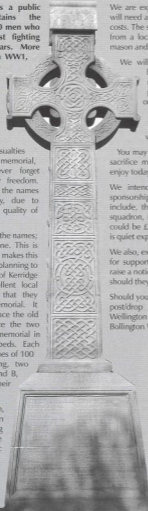
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

In Bollington there is a public garden, that contains the memorial to some 200 men who lost their lives whilst fighting this county's world wars. More than 170 were lost in WW1, that equates to one in five who went to war from Bollington; some 49 have no known grave; in other words, their remains were unidentifiable or never found.

The names of all fatal casualties are marked upon the memorial, so that we will never forget their sacrifice for our freedom. Unfortunately, many of the names are being worn away, due to weather and the poor quality of stone.

It was intended to recut the names; but, this cannot be done. This is because the poor stone, makes this impossible. So we are planning to build two new plinths of Kerridge stone, using this excellent local stone will guarantee, that they will outlive the old memorial. It is not intended to replace the old memorial; but to place the two plinths facing the old memorial in the adjacent flower beds. Each plinth will hold the names of 100 men each, representing, two Army Company's, A and B, standing guard over their own memorial.

The Royal British Legion, working with Bollington Town Council; is doing all that it can to raise the money. This is a civic memorial to the people of Bollington; thus we are asking the people of the town to assist in this most noble of causes.



We are expecting some financial funding, but we will need assistance to raise the £10,000 anticipated costs. The stone for the monuments is being sourced from a local quarry, it will be inscribed by a local mason and built by a local builder.

We will be undertaking fund raising events, but as this is such a very important local monument, we are asking the good people of Bollington to donate as much or as little as they feel that they can afford.

This may be because you wish to commemorate your family members, who may be named on the memorial.

You may just wish to show your generosity for the sacrifice made by these men for the freedom we enjoy today.

We intend to offer each stone brick for sale/ sponsorship, also it is suggested that this should include, the name of the men's regiment, ship or squadron, in be engraved on the stone bricks. This could be £50 to £100; please, note that, the stone is quiet expensive and each letter costs more than £2.

We also, expect to write to each local business asking for support; if there is sufficient support, we will raise a notice board listing all business sponsors. Also, should they wish, the private supporters.

Should you wish to support this great project; please post/drop off, your donation to the Town Hall, Wellington Rd, Bollington, stating that it is for the Bollington War Memorial fund.

Allan Williams / Deryck Sutton

You can also post/drop your donation into The Royal British Legion, 76, Chestergate, Macclesfield, again stating it is for the Bollington War Memorial fund.

Please make out your cheque, to- Bollington War Memorial Fund.

Thank you for your generosity

*For more information:
Allanwilliams04@aol.com
or 01625 574612*

*Photographs of regimental crests in St. John's and St. Gregory's graveyards.
Photos by: Anthony Holland*



THINK VISUAL...

What do we include in the visual arts? If you were living in Bollington before 1900 you would think of the fine arts as painting, sculpture and printmaking. After that time the Arts and Crafts Movement, led by William Morris and his brotherhood, widened the horizons to include work by highly skilled craftsmen and applied decorative artisans. Woodworkers making functional pieces such as fine furniture, metalworkers and potters were embraced by the art world.

In the 21st century we include architecture, digital photography, graphic design, interior design, video and computer aided design. The debate still goes on. The boundaries are blurred as it is now possible to make a 3D generated piece entirely by computer. Is this to be called sculpture or is it something else? Ask the 'experts' and they will all have a different answer.

What can you expect to see at our 50th anniversary Bollington Festival? Well in our Visual Arts Group we have an **Art Trail** that takes you through the streets of Bollington and up towards Pott Shrigley and on to Rainow. Over two weekends you can have a delightful walk and peer into studio spaces and see how the artists work.

There will be painters of all subjects in different media; potters, woodworkers, silk painters, photographers, textile artists, glass makers and 3D craft workers using foraged materials.

To complement the Art Trail we have the **Art in Gardens**. This developed from the popular Open Gardens of our last Festival. Some artists and craft workers expressed an interest in teaming up with gardeners and displaying work within the open gardens and will be a lovely family event.

Exhibitions are always part of our Festival. The first **Art Trail** exhibition is in March at the Bollington Arts Centre. It will give you a taster for the Art Trail. This will be followed by the main 'Art Trail' exhibition (also at the Arts Centre) which runs throughout the Festival.



The Bollington Art Group will be exhibiting at the Civic Hall and some members will be on the Art Trail for the first time. Once again, the photography exhibition will be at the Methodist Church.

What about the children of Bollington? All the primary schools can enter an art competition which will be jointly run by the Town Council and our visual arts group. The winning work will be displayed at the council offices during the Festival.

For details of events mentioned, please take a look at the Festival website and the links to the Visual Arts blog. <http://www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk/>

<http://bollingtonfestivalarttrail.blogspot.co.uk/>

Workshops in felt making, mosaics and painting will run during the Festival.

Grayson Perry said "People used to celebrate the art, now they celebrate the celebrity."

I can't guarantee that you'll meet celebrities in the Bollington Festival but I think there will be plenty of art to celebrate. **Nola McGaul**



ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

New to this Festival is an exciting opportunity for more than 100 local musicians of any age to play and sing alongside professionals, a unique experience on our doorstep at only a small cost. Even better, due to the support of the Martyn Donaldson Music Trust (www.mdmt.org.uk), participation is available for 20 people aged under 25 **ABSOLUTELY FREE**.

Look in the Programme listings and you'll spot events - **Sing LesMis in a Day**, a classical music concert by the **Northern Chamber Orchestra** and a concert by the **Tim Kliphuis Gypsy Jazz Trio**.

Contact programme@bollingtonfestival.org.uk

OR call Jose Spinks on 01625 573473 as soon as possible for scholarship application details

OR follow instructions on the Festival website.

In each case amateurs can experience a workshop rehearsal conducted by talented professionals and later join them on stage, playing in a concert. The Festival website: www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

outlines the standards of musicianship required to participate, but a range of instruments, voice styles and registers is encouraged.

Enthusiasm is key in the awarding of scholarships, of which there are 20. Buying a ticket from the Box Office secures the chance to join in. You buy the ticket, you bring the instrument, you play, we applaud. - Simple!

Jose Spinks

OFF THE RAILS!

In 1863, Bollington businessman and cotton magnate, Thomas Oliver, promoted a scheme for a local railway line to cover the 10 miles from Macclesfield via Bollington to Marple, where it would connect with the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (MS&LR).

In its short life, the only recorded railway accident on the line happened in the goods yard near Bollington Station on the morning of the first of November 1875.

During shunting, a wagon laden with furniture became detached. This 'furniture' was all the belongings of a Mrs Walker, a widow who was about to move from Bollington to Oldham. The detached wagon picked up speed and ran, completely unnoticed, down the slight incline from the goods yard, past the passenger station, and all the way to the viaduct opposite Mr Oliver's Mill where it came to rest.

When the 'Woodley Goods' train set out Northwards from Bollington station, the furniture wagon remained unseen until the Goods train dashed into the wagon with such tremendous force that the engine was derailed and the left buffer was broken off.

According to the Macclesfield Courier, "the wagon smashed to atoms against the viaduct wall... and splintered furniture was precipitated into the river below". Only the viaduct parapet prevented the engine from following the debris over the edge.

The driver, Mr Champion Lunn, of Beech Lane in Macclesfield, was killed instantly from a serious head injury during the collision, and his body was carried down to the Wagon and Horses public house. The 29 year old was married with 2 children and had only been driving the line for 2 weeks. The engine stoker, Charles Hipsley, and the guard, Jamie Davie, also from Macclesfield, were slightly injured.

The station master took charge of the situation, and in a very short time a gang of about 50 men were on the spot, engaged in clearing the line, which re-opened the next day.

Andy Skelhorn

Photos: Discovery Centre Collection

Above - Viaduct, Below Bollington Station



END OF THE LINE

In 1963 Dr Beeching published his notorious report on "The Reshaping of British Railways", and the Urban District Council, which was already worried about the future of our railway line, quickly arranged for six councillors and 3 other citizens to make a survey of how useful the line was to local people. The survey was carried out on 7th October, using a house at 33a Grimshaw Lane as the base for the operation. This was the home of Mr S Goodwin, and his assistants included Cllr H Holland and Cllr Mrs E.A. Mosley. The Town Archives do not include their findings, but a more thorough survey of the whole Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Line, carried out three years later, found that an average of 950 travellers used the line daily, and 78 of those people used the Bollington Station.

There were petitions against closure and several public meetings were organised. These vigorous campaigns did delay matters until 1969, when the Railway Board announced that complete closure would take place on 5th January 1970. They also claimed that annual income from the line was just £20,100, whereas annual expenditure was over £100,000. If the line continued in use there would also be a need for capital works costing £40,000.

The last northbound train left Macclesfield at 10.31 pm, carrying 31 passengers. Basil Jeuda, in his book 'The Macclesfield, Bollington & Marple Railway', reports: a ship's bell was tolled at each station, accompanied by a fanfare on the diesel's horn. Eighty passengers boarded the last southbound train, which left Romiley at 11.37 pm. The bell and horn were worked in concert to wake the neighbourhood at each station. Detonators were let

off at High Lane and Bollington. Bollington Station came to life - part of the platform was lit and many of the 20 departing passengers stayed to wave the train off. The train arrived at Macclesfield at 12.06am with the passengers singing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The battle over our railway was not yet complete. The first effort to save the line was an attempt to purchase it from British Rail and then run it privately. However, there proved to be little local support for this and the section of the track going through Bollington was raised in February 1971, with the station buildings being demolished at the end of that year.

In 1982 a new scheme was put forward to enable pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to use the route of the line for recreational purposes. By this time the Urban District Council had been abolished and Macclesfield Borough proposed the demolition of the old railway viaduct. This idea horrified the people of Bollington and they signed a petition, organised a protest meeting in the Civic Hall, and suspended a sign over the viaduct. Eventually the Department of the Environment said that the viaduct should be saved and MBC bought 7 1/2 miles of the line from BR for just £1, while Stockport Council found they had to pay £10,000 for their section of the line! The Middlewood Way opened in 1985 and it remains in regular use and is seen as a real asset for the community. *Mark Stedman*



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TO FLOOD OR NOT TO FLOOD



Left: Lowerhouse from the top of the Mill chimney.

The proposed development is within the centre field.

Photograph by Janet Beech

At Lowerhouse the land to the left of the road to the recycling site and up to the river Dean is about to become the subject of a planning application for housing.

About six years ago there was a strongly contested application to change the zoning of this land from green belt to industrial and after a public enquiry permission was granted for the construction of industrial buildings. This has now lapsed and the owners chose not to apply for an extension.

Rowlinson Construction of Poynton have indicated that they propose to apply to develop an estate of houses on the site. As part of their obligation to consult with the local community they gave a presentation to Bollington Town Council Planning Executive Committee on Tuesday 4th February 2014 at which many from the Lowerhouse community were also present.

The draft plan is to build 34 properties – 8 one & two bed apartments, 1 two bed bungalow, 19 three bed houses, 6 four bed houses.

There was, of course, very significant opposition to this from both councillors and public. The main concerns were flooding and traffic.

This field is presently part of the river Dean flood plain and the plan is to raise the level of about 80% of the land to a safe height above any possible flooding (higher than the present road). The remaining 20% of the land would be lowered

to accommodate the same amount of flood water as the whole field presently holds. Harold Skelhorn, who has lived at Lowerhouse for most of his life, gave a spirited reasoning as to why the plan was flawed.

CORONATION GARDENS

Editor,

Your article about the Coronation Gardens (Bollington Live! - Summer 2013, page 3) brought back vivid memories.

Shortly after the gardens were opened, the Council invited each school in Bollington to nominate 2 pupils to take part in a tree-planting ceremony. I was in my final year at St John's Church School and was lucky enough to be selected. The other representative was Pat Dawson who lived in a cottage on Palmerston Street opposite the Holly Bush. The other schools taking part would have been St Oswald's, Bollington Cross; St Gregory's RC School, Chapel Street and the Secondary School, Water Street.

The tree-planting took place on Saturday, 5th December 1953, and all the children lined up along the right hand side of the gardens (the Congregational Church side) together with their small tree. Mine was a *crataegus punctata*, which I now know to be a Hawthorn. We then took our turn with the ceremonial spade to complete the planting process. The ceremony took place about lunch time, and there was a good crowd of spectators, even though it was a cold and miserable day. Fortunately, the proceedings did not last long, and I was still in time to nip across the road to the Empire Cinema for the Saturday afternoon matinee.

We were all presented with a handwritten certificate shortly afterwards, each signed by the Chairman of the Council, Aubrey Lomas and the Clerk of the Council, Alfred Clough. I remember both gentlemen very well; Aubrey Lomas, who lived on Chancery Lane, was the owner of a factory in Handforth that built ambulance bodies onto previously manufactured chassis, and Alfred Clough's wife had been my very first teacher when I started school in St John's infants.

I am fairly sure that the trees have not survived, but my certificate has, and a copy is attached.

John Medley

As with every development proposal for Albert Road and Lowerhouse, there were major concerns regarding the increase in traffic to this already clogged area. There are two primary schools, an infant nursery, the fire station, a factory and the mill, as well as large numbers of houses. David Roberts, Rowlinson's, held that traffic capacity had already been proven at the public enquiry for the previously authorised development.

Sandra Edwards, Bollington Civic Society, said that this land must now be returned to the green belt. It is clear that this will be a very strongly contested planning application.

Tim Boddington



BOLLINGTON LINES - PART FOUR - 'GENESIS'

Katherine stared at the table and rubbed the grain with a chapped finger, she knew she was being difficult, deliberately avoiding his eyes. Bill's hand formed a cage around hers, stopping the nervous energy of her movement and forcing her to look at him.

"I have been patient with you, Kate, but I am getting no younger. We said when the Gaskell folly was built - and now you can look out of the window, up to Kerridge Hill, and see that Dod's finished." Katie shifted her gaze to the window and nodded. Bill's large fingers squeezed hers. "It's time to let him go."

In answer Katherine stared at the brooch that lay on the table between them. The gold that represented a year of saving, the small turquoise stones that he had said reminded him of her eyes. Tremulously she turned the trinket. Their dark hair curled, entwined like the lovers they had once been, trapped behind the little sheet of glass; a memory. Beneath, the inscription; the words that made it so hard.

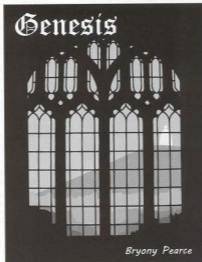
"To death and beyond," Bill snorted. "He was always so dramatic."

Absently Katherine nodded as she touched the engraved text, remembering the day her lover had given her the brooch, the look in his eyes when he read the words, the swelling of her heart as she had nodded agreement. 'To death and beyond', she had not imagined that there would ever be another for either of them. And yet ...

Bill was a sensible choice: he would make a good husband and a kind father. She loved him, but her heart tripped traitorously, no-one would ever look at her again, as though a single word from her lips meant life or death.

"He's gone, Kate, gone for a year now. Wellington took them all." He turned her chin. "I can't compete with a dead man any longer. Let him go, or let me go." His grey eyes grew sad. "Remember how he frightened you, at the end?"

Katherine's fingers stilled on the brooch. She remembered. "I'll do it today," she whispered. "Tomorrow, we'll announce our engagement."



Bryony Pearce

'Genesis' was the last of Bollington Lines, a story written by four authors, in instalments, in honour of the Bollington Festival.

This overarching title, Bollington Lines, has meanings beyond the obvious. Three of the contributing authors live in Bollington and we pen our lines of text while looking at White Nancy.

'Lines' also refers to the Bollington Railway line, opened in 1869 and closed in the 1970s.

Bollington Live! thanks all four authors for their contributions.

Katherine pulled her shawl closer as she hurried. She glanced up. The lowering clouds created a false twilight, and a sickly yellow light burned behind the new folly, lighting it against the ash coloured sky. Lord Street was quiet and the cobbles slippery beneath her boots, but she pushed on towards the field behind Daisy Bank and the oak tree in the centre: their place.

The brooch was heavy in the pocket of her skirt, as though it were made from stone and not gold. She felt every bump against her leg and imagined that she would have a bruise by the end of her journey.

A bell ringing in Lower Mill told her the cotton workers would soon be following her footsteps towards the public house. She wanted no audience. She placed one hand inside her pocket, closed her fist around the brooch, and walked faster.

As she reached the track into the field and hitched up her skirt, Katherine was certain that she felt someone beside her; not Katherine, not Kate, but Katie. Her younger soul flew across the field with her ankles flashing, watching the sun for the time, desperate for every second with him.

Katherine sighed, slowed, and clutched the brooch tighter. She could almost see the girl waiting beneath the oak with her heart in her mouth. Her loosening hair tangled around her shoulders and framed her sparkling eyes. In those days, with him, everything sparkled.

And there he was, approaching from the quarry, hair so dark it was almost black. He wore it long on his shoulders and in his eyes, so that he watched the world through thick shade. Had he ever really seen her? Kate wondered. He walked insouciantly, as though there was no rush, his long legs devouring the ground. Katie had loved to watch him approach. And now she leaned back against the tree, as though she had not been watching for him like a dog outside the butcher, as though she had simply found herself in their place because she had fancied a walk; mere coincidence.

And he would clutch her hands and beg for her to look at him. And then ...

Kate sighed, rubbing the brooch with her thumb. She had reached the tree. Kate released her shawl to touch their initials, carved in bark one sunny afternoon before he went off to fight. K + J ALWAYS.

Always: a word that had meant nothing to Katie, but to Kate, the weight of long, lonely years.

"Always," she whispered with a shake of her head.

'Beyond death'. The reply seemed to come on the wind. Kate looked up as a gust pulled her hair and chilled her with a lash of cold rain. The sky was near black; Katie's sunshine memories vanished into the darkness.

She shook her head. She had no time to remember. She had to let him go.

With hands that barely seemed to work, she fumbled at the glass behind the brooch, finally opening the cover. She pinched the lock of black hair between her fingertips and lifted her arm to the wind. As she opened her hand, she seemed to see him again; a shadowy figure on the path.