



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Three Winter 2011

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DON'T MENTION THE WALL!

Once again, Bollington has been divided by a highway problem that lasts for months longer than mere mortals would think it should. This refers of course to the wall beside Palmerston Street aqueduct. It has had a small bulge for years - then, in May it became a larger bulge...

If we had been lucky it would have fallen down during the quiet of the night. But we weren't - and so began a saga lasting up to the end of September.

Clearly it was dangerous, and pedestrians and traffic had to be kept away from it, so Cheshire East Council hastily installed barriers and temporary traffic lights.

Then the problems began. Before it could be knocked down, there had to be a bat survey (none were found), followed by a small vertebrates survey (none were found). These required scaffolding to be erected, not to hold up the wall, but to provide access. There was concern that the problem might be caused by water behind the wall - what if the wall came down and the canal emptied itself into the street! Does anybody know anyone who ever saw water seeping out of

this very porous wall? Then, if the wall was removed, maybe the earth bank would slide into the street. A borehole was sunk and all it found was the native rock...

Just to be sure, The Council commissioned a survey and a repair plan from a geotechnical engineer. She requested a local person to show her around this extremely interesting area of Bollington, so that she could fully understand the structures of the canal, river tunnel, and road. Two weeks later the scaffolding came down and CEC announced that reconstruction would begin right after the Bank Holiday. Alright, so it took another week.

Deep holes were drilled into the rock and pins were grouted into them to hold steel netting in place across the whole face of the native rock. As this progressed, the wall was removed (that which hadn't collapsed when work began, cutting off traffic completely for a few days). Once complete the wall was rebuilt with mortared stone and the small gap between wall and rock was filled with concrete.

Tim Boddington

happy-valley.org.uk/services/thewall

Left: *Waiting at 'The Wall'*

Photograph by Anthony Holland

EDITORIAL

Thank you for picking up and reading this latest issue of *Bollington Live!* Once again, I hope that there is something to appeal to all ages. Indeed, in this issue, our articles are written by people aged from their teens through to their seventies. When I took over as editor, sixteen issues ago, I hoped to broaden the range of contributors to Bollington's only truly representative community magazine - produced entirely by Bollington people for Bollington people.

It has been especially difficult to get younger people contributing, perhaps because they feel this magazine is not for them. It is. If a story is good enough, it does not matter how old the writer is! Therefore I am particularly delighted that in this issue, two of our main contributions are from sixteen-year-olds. Keri Slade writes of her experiences with the Sea Cadets, whilst Oliver Kershaw gives his view on 'his Bollington' in a question and answer article, which I hope will become an ongoing series. Please let me know if you would like to be questioned next!

Elsewhere, we range from Bollington in the seventeenth century, through to the twenty-first century concerns of collapsing walls and the future of a key (or perhaps Kay) industrial site in our Town.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to this issue of *Bollington Live!* dropping through your door. It truly is an amazing team effort - over fifty people make sure this magazine arrives through every door in Bollington.

All the best!



Date for next copy:
Friday 27th
January 2012

THE CROSS SHOPS

As with the many little pockets of shops around the village, the corner of shops at Bollington Cross have been meeting the needs of the surrounding community for years.

Well placed to serve, the shops are surrounded by, not only, the local houses on South West Avenue, Ovenhouse Lane and Princess Drive to name just a few, but Bollington Health & Leisure and Bollington Community Centre are also on their doorstep. The shops are not a only a great example of community based services but also demonstrate that through both longevity and reputation and investment in new business, it is possible to ride out the recession and the national trend seen on the high street of store closures.

This year Jill Hackey will celebrate 18 years as a hairdresser in Jill's Salon on Crossfield Road and when asked the secret of nearly two decades of success Jill is definite on why she is still there. 'It's all down to me!' she says with a smile. 'No seriously, we pride ourselves on our friendly, welcoming atmosphere. I have just a small team of staff but we all want everyone to feel good while they are here and after they leave. For some people getting their hair done is a treat and we want to help make sure they enjoy it.'

These sentiments are echoed by new kid on the block, Tracey Lovett, of Cosy Caf. 'We are clean, friendly, helpful and go that extra mile by delivering on foot to houses in the immediate area, so if people struggle to get to us they can still enjoy fresh, made to order, sandwiches.'

Unlike Jill's Salon, the Cosy Caf is yet to enjoy

Right: Hairdresser Jill Hackey with Ruth Rodgers



Below: The 'Cosy Caf', a welcome addition to the small shopping parade



Photographs by Anthony Holland

Bottom: The three businesses: 'Jill's Hairdressers', the 'Cosy Caf' and 'Bollington Cross Stores'

18 years of success, but if the first few months are anything to go by this will be well within their reach. Next-door-but-one to the salon, the café has been consistently busy since opening on the 6th of June 2011 and has already built up loyal customer base of people calling in for a cooked breakfast and a chat or just picking up a snack for lunch. 'We have a decent sized menu and take orders over the phone,' says Tracey who, like Jill, has just a small team of staff. 'We also welcome people to eat in or use our outdoor seating area, we just want people to be comfortable, enjoy some food and maybe even have a good old gossip over a brew.'

A quick stroll round the corner to Bollington Cross Stores will help find something to accompany that brew as the shop run by brothers Guz and Muzzy Ali for the past two years sell newspapers and magazines alongside general foods, household goods and sweets and drinks. As with the other shops

the staff are friendly and happy to help, and try to ensure that both regular and new customers alike find everything they need. The shop itself has been a feature of Bollington Cross for many years but as the current owners are relatively new to the area they are looking with some concern to the future, 'we are central to the local houses and community and have a good stock of items, but we do have some concerns about the rumours that a big supermarket might come to Bollington, and that will make life difficult for smaller shops like us.'

While there may be concerns on the horizon, it seems like there are three great examples of successful small business thriving in Bollington Cross and both Jill and Tracey feel there could be more. 'Next door was once a thriving newsagent,' says Jill 'and it is now run down, which is sad to see and I hope something can be done.' When asked if a new business could succeed in the shop next door Tracey thinks so. 'Definitely, you only need to look at us to see that the right type of shop would fit in well.'

So with friendly staff, ample parking and ideas about the future, there has never been a better time to support the small bank of successful shops at Bollington Cross and in the words of Jill, 'I love being here and would never have envisaged being here after 18 years. Long may the shops continue!'

Steven Hurst

