



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



BOLLINGTON'S GOLDEN FESTIVAL

It may feel a long way off, but anyone over 25 knows that time speeds up relative to age and the (less than) three years to 2014 will fly by in a blink. In that blink, about £100,000 needs to be raised to ensure a marquee and all the amazing variety we have come to expect from this magical festival. With funding and grants disappearing fast, we have to be far more self-contained in how we raise that money.

In the past, as each festival drew to a close, the committee and the thousand or so volunteers involved would breathe a collective sigh of relief and only start to think about a 'next festival' once the memory of all the work involved had faded. The longest gap between festivals was in the 1970s, when we had a seven-year hiatus! Some of this has to do with how much festivals cost to put on – we only have to look at the recent news about the 'Capesthorpe

Friends of Mine Festival', which is facing liquidation, owing more than £200,000. However – in the words of Baldrick from Blackadder – we have a cunning plan!

We have already developed an exciting events plan for 2012, with many dates already confirmed, that promises Bollington will become ever more vibrant and a real destination town for things to do. Opera di Briscola is already sold out, but why not book in for Limelight at Livesey's or Music at Maggoty's, both happening in November? Check our website for more details and ticket sales.



The Bollington Prize Winning Beer Fest on 13th and 14th April 2012 will be bringing together local and national beers that all have one thing in common – they have won awards for their excellence. Put the dates in your diary and on your calendar now!

We want to provide a wide range of interesting and fun things for you, your friends and your families to enjoy, and from these events will come the wherewithal to fund the 50th Anniversary Bollington Festival – from 16th May to 1st June 2014.

Carol Barnes

If you want to be part of this exciting approach, email info@bollingtonfestival.org.uk and tell us how. To support the fundraising effort you could join the 100 Club or become a Festival Friend – find out more on the website:

bollingtonfestival.org.uk

WILL IT BE O-KAY?

On Sunday 8th of October at the Bollington Civic Hall a whole day was devoted to the question of what is happening to the Kay Metzeler site. The day's theme, 'Planning it Right', was, in effect, a second public consultation. It built upon the information you provided in February 2011 when every Bollington household was asked for their views.

You were not backward in coming forward then: You wanted the site to have a mix of residential, retail and employment; you wanted the medical centre to relocate there; you wanted a riverside walk; you wanted the Co-op to relocate there and you wanted to ensure that any retail on the site would not disadvantage local shops. The day attracted a high turnout which demonstrated your continued interest in this site and the once in a lifetime opportunity it offers to address some of Bollington's needs.

The day was designed to show that the developers were continuing to listen and follows a series of meetings with the Town Council, Cheshire East Council and the Civic Society. The aim is to agree a future for the site that reflects local needs and aspirations. It will also, of course, need to provide a reasonable financial return for the developer. The day was facilitated by local architects Bower Matlin who prepared displays and had experts on hand to discuss any relevant issue.

Three options were on display showing how the site could be developed, complete with house types, road layouts, river walkways and bridges. Also shown on each option were a new medical centre and a relocated Co-op store. Examples house designs were also shown for each of the draft options.

These options generated a great deal of interest and each visitor was

STOP PRESS!

Following a meeting on 25th October with Bollington Town Council's Strategic Planning Committee, it was revealed that the Co-op are prepared to relocate to the new site.

Work on redevelopment could begin as early as next summer.

Visit the Bower Matlin website to find the results of the survey:

bower-matlin.co.uk

given a questionnaire to complete asking for their views. The results from the questionnaires will be published via Canalside Radio and on Bower Matlin's own website. Copies of the three draft layouts and the house types associated with them can also be seen at the Bollington Town Hall. Pop in to look at them if you missed the consultation day. Weekday mornings are best.

When will the site be developed? Well, perhaps sooner than you think, an outline planning application is likely to be submitted before the end of this calendar year.

In summary - progressing well - this consultation will help to refine the residential, employment and retail proportions; the mix of house types; layout and building design.

David Naylor

ALL AT SEA!

My cousins were sea cadets at the Bollington & Macclesfield Sea Cadet Unit at the Wharf on Grimshaw Lane in Bollington.

My brother expressed interest in also joining, but as I was only ten years old the thought of joining the cadets did not interest me at all but I tagged along when my brother enrolled. As I was sitting and waiting, I was asked if I wanted to join in a quartermaster's lesson, as I was quickly showing interest in what the staff were showing us. I was asked if I wanted to see if I would pass the test to get the quartermaster's badge. I did and passed on the very first night; from then on I was hooked and earned my nickname of 'Pocket Rocket'!

Seven years later I am now a Petty Officer Cadet which is the highest rank to be achieved as a cadet. This year alone, I have been on a First Aid First Class course which is the equivalent of a St John's Brigade First Aid Qualification and a Windsurfing Level 2 course in Scotland. I have achieved my Expedition Leadership 5 which means that I have to show clear understanding of access and conservation issues, land clearance procedure, observation of country



**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL
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T.S. ARDENT - BOLLINGTON & MACCLESFIELD

*Above: Poster Girl
Keri Slade*

*Below: Keri gets
to grips with
windsurfing*

*Photographs by
The Sea Cadets*



code, footpath erosion, conserving animal and plant life, the pressure on the countryside and the differing needs of other users. I had to demonstrate party management, pace, individual needs of group members, quality of the experience and the management of an overnight camp.

I have achieved my Boatswain's Badge which can only be awarded after I have successfully passed five different boating qualifications. This badge is very rare and I am only the second cadet to have achieved it at this unit.

I can often be seen on ceremonial parades. I have had the honour of being in the guard of honour at Stanneylands Hotel in Wilmslow on the occasion of the Manchester Royal Naval Officers Association Annual Trafalgar Day Mess Dinner. I also have been given the honour of laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the Bollington War Memorial.

Every year we attend a service of remembrance as a mark of respect for the lost sailors at the HMS Ardent Association Reunion which is a highly commended event. Places are limited and therefore attendance is based upon merit,

and I have been fortunate to have been chosen five times. I thoroughly enjoy the experience, so much so that my mother has now joined the cadets and is working towards her Petty Officer's rank. Our training ship, TS Ardent, is named after the Type 21 frigate HMS Ardent, which was tragically lost in the Falklands on the 22nd May 1982, along with 22 lives of the brave sailors.

During my final year at school I elected to work on board HMS Mersey, which is a Royal Navy Fishery Protection vessel. This was in place of work experience and is called Naval Acquaint. I joined the ship by rib, a powerboat, in North Shields. I was allocated a cabin and was introduced to the rest of the crew. I had the opportunity of experiencing life at sea and was taken under the wing of crew

I WAS HOOKED AND EARNED MY NICKNAME OF 'POCKET ROCKET'!

dealing with tasks as varied as helping prepare the crew's meals in the galley to marine engineering. It is from this that my interest in electrics has developed and I am now an apprentice electrician with John Potts Electrical.

During the summer months we can often be found honing our skills on the water, undertaking activities such as canoeing, sailing, kayaking and power boating at Errwood Reservoir which is near Buxton. Over the last few years I have achieved my canoeing level two and I am now currently working towards my level three which involves carrying out my skills unaccompanied. I have also been accredited with my level one kayaking.

Sea Cadets has helped me to become more confident in myself and in tasks which I carry out. Also I feel that Cadets has given me some fantastic lifetime opportunities which I would never have got to do if I wasn't in Sea Cadets.

Keri Slade

LARRY THE LANDLORD

Larry Broomhead is the landlord of the Dog and Partridge and is also co-ordinating another project close to his heart at the old Whiteley Green Chapel, developing an educational facility for young people and other groups. Larry was happy to talk to *Bollington Live!* about his vision, his change of career and what motivates him.

Bollington born and bred, he was one of the first pupils at a newly built Dean Valley. He then went on to Poynton High School where he thrived, getting involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and achieved a Gold Award. Much of this was through the 1st Bollington Scouts and he was inspired, like many other Bollington boys, by Jeff Newcombe, the scout leader, and his wife Joan.

HIS VISION IS TO CREATE A WARM WELCOMING PLACE, OFFERING GOOD VALUE PUB GRUB.

Larry received the Queen's Scout Award, which was a great achievement. 'I remember going to Windsor and meeting the Queen Mother. I also met the Duke of Edinburgh when I received the gold award. He put me at my ease by saying, 'you're here because you didn't fall off a cliff.'

Larry went on to Leicester University to study economics. After graduation he went to London to work for a financial magazine. He had always wanted to be a teacher and he completed a teaching qualification.

He taught in inner-city schools, a challenge, but also very rewarding. Larry later went on to teach Business Studies and Economics at the London Nautical School on the South Bank. Larry became head of year in 2003, just as his mother, Sandra, became seriously ill.

He was allowed a sabbatical to help care for his mother. 'I felt a pull back to Bollington and a spiritual awakening.'

Larry's return to Bollington led him to acquire the old Chapel at Whiteley Green. His vision was to renovate the building for use as an educational resource, to enable people to learn in a beautiful environment. The Chapel became the Countryside Education Centre at Whiteley Green.

Larry's father, Mike, helped with the renovation, bringing expert building skills to the project. Since acquiring the property Larry acquired adjacent land from Dennis Chadwick, which gave the centre an outdoor space for camping and raft building on a small lake.

It soon became clear that the centre would need more facilities, especially toilets, and in 2010 an application for planning permission for an extension was put in. This was eventually granted and a new extension was added. Larry could now see a future for his project. 'I was keen to ensure that this building was kept as a place for learning in the widest sense.'



Larry is aware that the Centre needs careful marketing and a website developed. He hopes that by expanding the use of the centre for conferences and seminars, organised by companies, revenue from this can help subsidise educational use by youngsters of all abilities. Larry is applying for funding to enable more disabled young people to enjoy better access to the countryside.



Above: Larry at the Dog and Partridge

Photograph by Janet Beech

Below, Larry at the Whiteley Green Countryside Education Centre

Photograph by Sandy Milsom

It was quite recently that Larry's career took yet another turn, when the Dog and Partridge needed a new landlord. Larry needed an income to support the centre he was creating and running a pub was something he always fancied doing. The pub was his local and he felt that it would be a challenge. On a practical note the large kitchen at the pub would enable him to provide food for the centre.

In the six months since taking over the pub Larry has made a few changes. His vision is to create a warm welcoming place offering good value pub grub. The upstairs function room has been redecorated and, with an independent bar, will provide a function room for parties, small weddings, funerals and christenings and also provide an exhibition space.

Managing two businesses is challenging but Larry has a great team behind him who help with the day to day running of the pub. There are plans to renovate more but Larry assures us that it won't destroy the character of the pub. Watch this space...

The move back to Bollington has given Larry Broomhead a few challenges but it is not something he regrets. 'I want to put something back into the community in which I was born and bred.'

Sandy Milsom

Bollington Live! would like to thank Larry and all previous landlords at the Dog and Partridge who have provided us with a meeting room since our very first issue back in 1994.

BOLLINGTON IN THE FOREST

This article marks the quartercentenary of a detailed survey carried out in September 1611 that included the whole of Bollington. Our township was entirely within the Forest of Macclesfield, a royal hunting ground where development had been controlled for centuries to protect game.

Money was the motivation for the survey: who lived in the forest, how did they farm, what was the value of their property? What revenue might be generated for the coffers of Prince Henry, Earl of Chester, by allowing landowners to enclose and cultivate the common and waste lands?

Bollington Common, lying mainly to the east of the line of the present-day Middlewood Way, is itemised in the survey as several parcels of ground. Many of the names sound familiar to us today, but spellings vary in the 1611 survey manuscript. The Hurst or Hurste and Stekulls, Steakulls or Steakles were poor quality ground. Further east was the Cockshutte. On Kayridge, "two parts covered in stone by reason of a stone delie", quarrying rights were leased to the mayor and burgesses of Macclesfield.

One "great parcel" of common included the Swyne-Roots, the Oule-hurst, Beestall-bancke, and Ardes-hill. To the western side of the township Bollington Mosse and Tiderington Heath were the best sort of ground. We see Bollington now as well wooded, and it may have been so in 1611, but to a different pattern. There were no trees that might produce timber on Bollington Common "except one litle tree about worth five shillings". Instead there were hollins (holly bushes), in abundance, considered good for firewood, owlers (alder) and gorse.

On the moors beyond Bollington the occasional wicken tree (rowan or mountain ash) is referred to in the survey as a boundary marker. As well as having grazing rights on the common land, the wealthier residents of Bollington held their own enclosed fields by a form of long-term tenancy known as

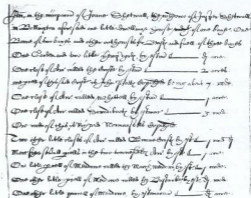
A brief snapshot (below right) from the 1611 manuscript record of the survey of Macclesfield Forest which is now preserved at the Public Record Office in London, along with two large scale maps. Complete copies have been made and transcription of the manuscript and interpretation of the maps is underway as part of the Bollington History Group's activities.



copyhold. On John Shrigley's copyhold land in Bollington in 1611 there were 170 oak trees and 30 ash trees – small numbers compared with the 10,573 oak and 1,205 ash recorded as growing throughout the copyhold lands of Macclesfield Forest.

At least one occupant enjoyed the luxury of a "fether bed". The Will and inventory of 1628 are kept at Chester Record Office.

What of Bollington industry in 1611, aside from the quarries of Kerridge common worked by Macclesfield men? No coal mining was recorded in Bollington, but Francis Pott held the mining rights for the whole Forest and was working a pit in neighbouring Rainow. Bollington corn mill is not named as such but it almost certainly formed part of a substantial property occupied by John Shrigley. This included "a dwelling house of five bays, one stable of one baye, one barn of four bayes with an out ile, one



Transcription of part of the text to the right:

Itm in the occupacon of Joane Shetwall, the wydowe of Jasper Shetwall in Bollington aforesaid one litle dwelling house of one baye. One Barne of two bayes, and other outhouses for Beasts and fuel of three bayes One Garden and two litle hempyards, by estimation) half an acre

One close of Arr(able) called the crofte by estimation)

Other property in Bollington was owned freehold by the neighbouring nobility and gentry who included Sir Urian Leigh of Adlington and Lawrence Downes of Shrigley. The major landowner in the forest as a whole, William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby, owned Hollin Hall, a 6-bay mansion house lived in by tenant Henry Mekin or Maykin. When Henry died in 1628, friends and neighbours Thomas Greene, William Mottershead, James Barber and Richard Leigh made an inventory of his possessions including one pair of beasts, three kyme (cows), three calves, an old mare and five sheep – and in the house at

other barne of three bayes, one milne of two bayes, one kilne of one baye, other outousing of 5 bayes, two gardens, one orchard, and other yards by estimation half an acre".

According to the Reverend Betts' history of Bollington, the mill came into the hands of an earlier "John Shriggeley" in 1453. Textiles manufacture was largely cottage based at this time – Henry Mekin's possessions included an old spinning wheel – but the note of a "dwelling house and a fulling milne of two bayes" occupied by Katherin Broadhurst suggests the use of water power.

Tom Swales

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Valerie House, 39 Palmerston Street, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5PX

Traditional & Alternative
Funerals Undertaken

Chapels of Rest

24hr Service

Horse Drawn Hearse
(by prior arrangement)

Also at:

67 Church Road
New Mills,
High Peak, SK22 4NU
Tel: 01663 742772

The Courtyard,
Market Street, Whaley Bridge
High Peak, SK23 7LP
Tel: 01663 732064

Independent Family Funeral Directors

Tel: 01625 560078

Golden Charter
Funeral Plan



Tel. 01625-575563