

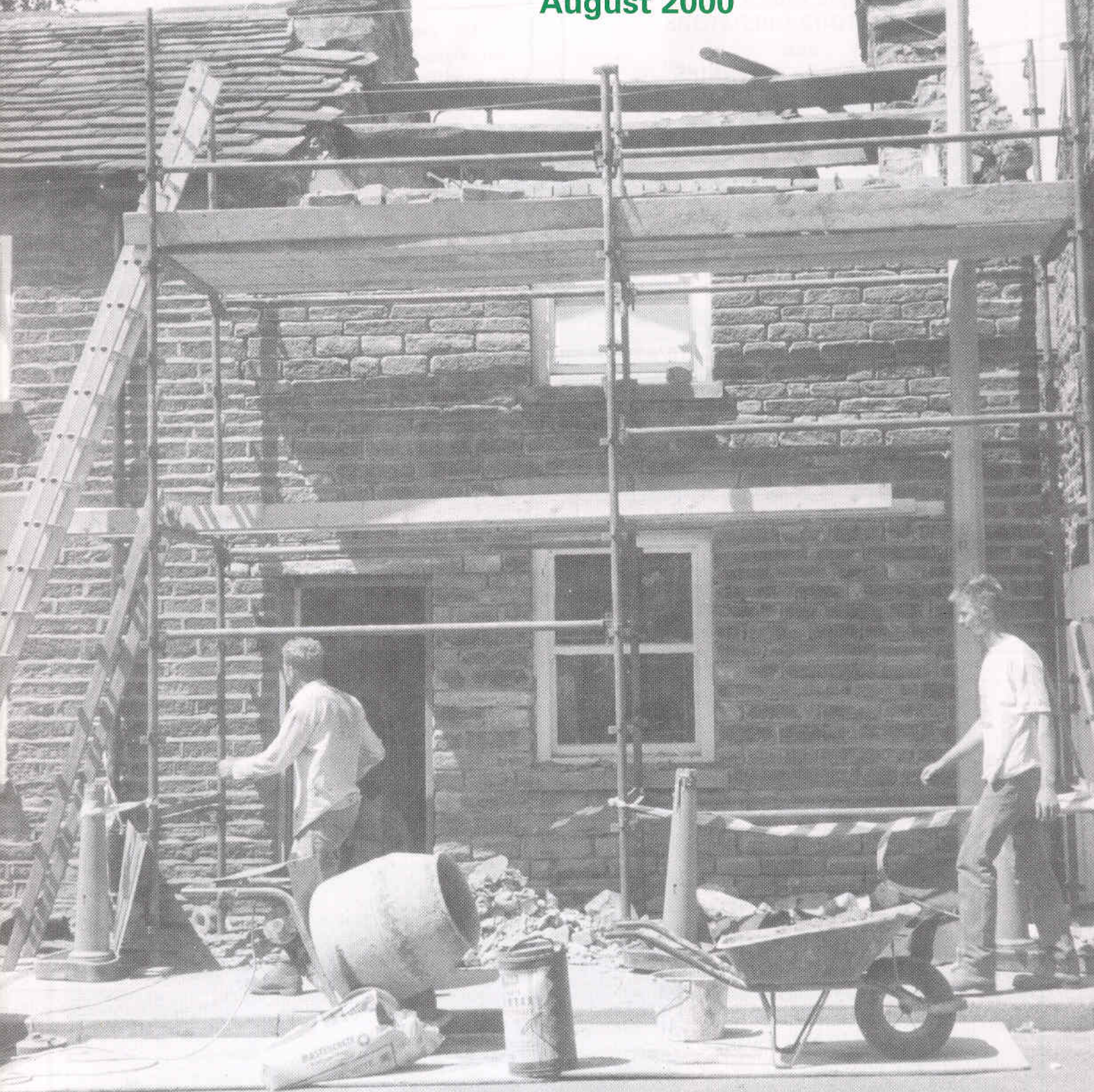


BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Nineteen

August 2000



**IN THIS ISSUE: Going Up - House Prices Rise
Building the Bridges
Festival Review**

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Bollington Live! is published 3 times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington a town in its own right!" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome to the Editor c/o Bollington Medical Centre, Wellington Road, Bollington.

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Cover: Renovation work on a traditional Bollington house in Wellington Road.

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Going Through the Roof House prices increase - again

In May 1997 *Bollington Live!* carried out a survey of the asking prices for houses in our town. The average was £82,247 and the total estimated value of all houses here came to £255 million. Three years on, our latest survey, made in April this year, shows the average Bollington house to be priced at £106,851. This puts the estimated value of our 3,300 properties at £353 million!

Is this good news or bad? The increase in prices means that a first-time buyer, possibly a son or daughter of local parents, may not be able to afford living here. The cheapest two-bedroomed houses are now at over £55,000, meaning that someone has to be earning at least £18,000 a year before they can obtain a mortgage - and this is for one of the smallest properties.

The average three-bedroomed family house is costing £120,000 whilst the very few four-bedroomed properties are priced at between £125,000 and £200,000. House prices in Bollington have risen by an average of 30 per cent in the past three years, making them comparable with parts of the south-east of England.

An estimated 200 new properties have been built here in the past three years, while there are fewer houses for sale now - a reflection, probably, of the speed at which they are selling. This buoyant market has attracted the property developers to Bollington, and every plot of land that is not designated as 'Green Belt' in the Local Plan is a

target. The latest planning application is for homes on the land presently occupied by the Eric Britton factory premises, now closed, on Jackson Lane in Kerridge.

Because the housing developers can sell almost anything they build in Bollington and make a profit, they do not necessarily build what Bollington needs most. The biggest demand now is for larger houses with three or four bedrooms, preferably in stone and with a garden and garage. But this, of course, is the type of housing that is most demanding of land - and the most expensive to build and purchase.

Elsewhere, things are different: in many European and Scottish towns, families live in flats and the density of housing is much higher as a result. The conversion of part of the Clarence Mill into flats, as described in the last edition of *Bollington Live!*, could introduce this type of accommodation here for the first time.

Will house prices continue to rise? "Almost inevitably" is the answer. With no significant increase in the provision of housing land in Bollington, there is a finite supply of buildings. The local demand in the Macclesfield area is high, partly as a result of the booming economy and

Continued overleaf...

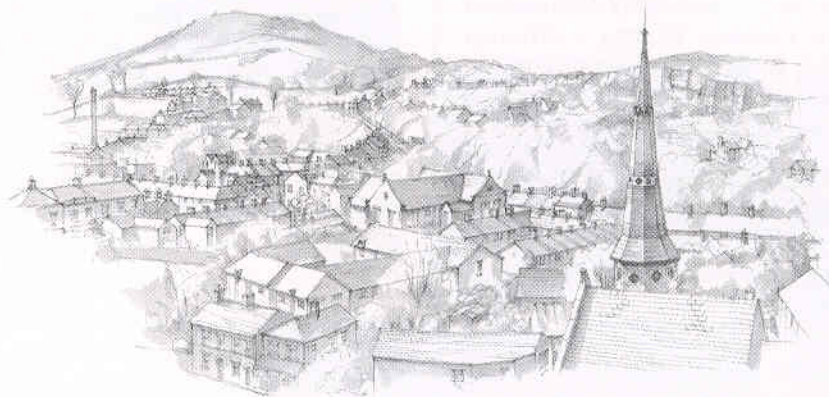


Illustration by courtesy of K. Mosley, The Greenhouse Gallery



The Eric Britton factory site in Kerridge, now unoccupied, the subject of a recent planning application for residential homes.

...continued from previous page

partly because of the national trend towards smaller households with more and more people living alone - and more people working from home.

The prices of properties of comparable size in Prestbury, Alderley Edge and Wilmslow are still higher than in Bollington, so some potential remains for "catching up", and the process may well be under way. Comparison with Poynton, to take a different example, shows that where, not long ago, Bollington prices were lower they are now much the same.

We must not be surprised if the recent growth in Bollington prices continues for some time yet, possibly at a slightly lower level of around 8% per annum. There is one group in particular, of course who could benefit: if you are planning to move to Galashiels in the Scottish Borders and have a Bollington house to sell, or if rural Lincolnshire beckons, you are in for a pleasant surprise!

GB



Changes in the Way Lost routes around the town, described by George Longden

Following my previous articles on lost routes in Bollington, some further stretches are worth mentioning:

Until the Clarence Mill and the canal were built in the late 1820s the traveller from the north, arriving at the Bollington end of Long Lane, could have followed a gentle descent through Swinerood Wood to emerge at the bottom of Sugar Lane. This road is shown clearly on Burdett's Cheshire map of 1777, and Greenwood's of 1819.

The River Dean would then have been crossed at the Adlington Road bridge. Here routes from the north, from Bollington Cross and from Kerridge, all converged. The importance of this site is demonstrated by a comparatively early bridge here, described on a map of 1611 as 'New Bridge.'

To reach the bridge, traffic from the Kerridge quarries, which were in use from medieval times, would come down Hurst Lane, continuing by way of Round Gardens - for the southern part of Adlington Road dates only from the mid-nineteenth century.

Though proof of lost routes is often hard to find, it is nonetheless likely that others existed, especially as the settlement pattern of Bollington was so fundamentally altered during the Industrial Revolution. I suspect, for instance, that the Kerridge fields may once have been crossed by an important route, perhaps from the Coldarbour area. But that as they say, is another story....



Looking up Hurst Lane from Round Gardens, Bollington. The pedestrians crossing the road here are directly following an old trading route from the Kerridge quarries down to the bridge across the River Dean

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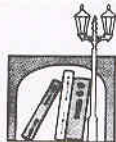
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AUTUMN DANCE

arranged by the East Cheshire Hospice - Bollington Support Group. **Bollington Arts Centre** on Saturday, 23rd September. Live Music & Disco. Starts 7.30-11.30pm. Tickets: £4 Tel. 01625 572514 / 560459



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AFTER THE SHOW



Events at Bollington's recent Festival attracted big audiences and critical acclaim. Despite weather that added a £900 heating bill to the £22,000 already spent on hiring the marquee, there is every sign of financially breaking even. The final reckoning takes place at a meeting in September. In the meantime, below, we feature a few recollections of a memorable two-week celebration. Pictures are by Simon Bagley and the *Bollington Live!* team.

"Bollington Festival just happened a few weeks ago. Lots of people enjoyed it, and so did I ..."

"I went to the Big Top and watched Rumpelstiltskin. It was BRILL. The puppets were called: Rumpelstiltskin, Queen, King, Dad and Girl ..."

"There was everything from football tournaments to singing in the Big Top ..."

"I was on the Brownie and Rainbows float ..."

"It was a good idea because it brought the people in Bollington together ..."

"My brother was a baker's man. He wanted to be Buzz Lightyear, but he had to be something out of a nursery rhyme ..."

"At Beeston Brow it was great for all the audience that went to watch the hill climb ..."

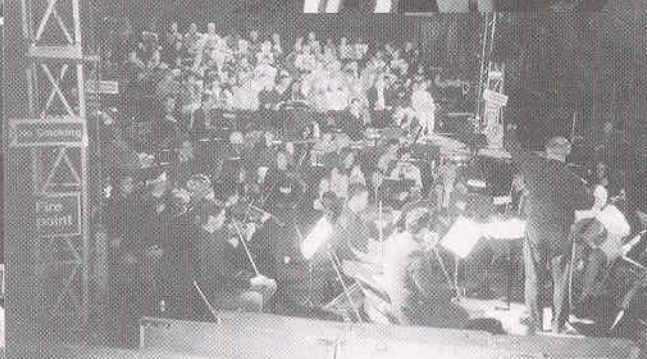
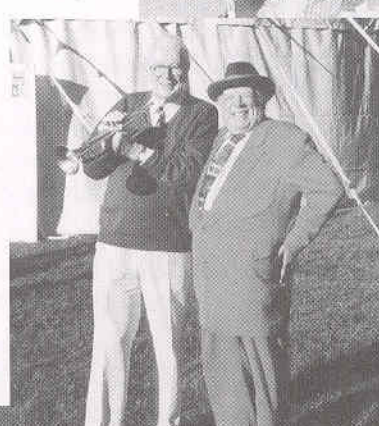
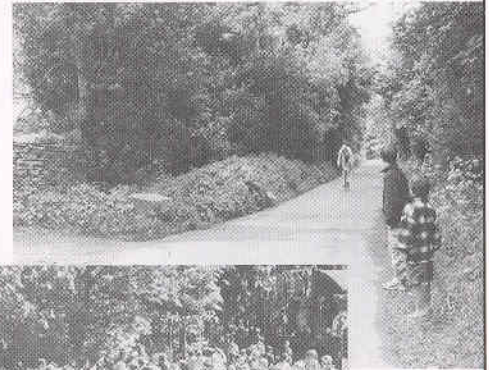
"I also think it was a huge success because of the determination involved ..."

"I was in the winner's waggon with my Mum and Dad. My Dad drove it ..."

"I would like to thank everyone who organised the Festival ..."

"The fireworks were excellent. I liked the Kalinka dancing. Please can we do it again next year?"

(From letters by pupils at Dean Valley School)



Paging Mr Handel...

What does it take to stage a Festival event - to be responsible for everything, from writing the script and engaging the performers, to getting a programme printed and laying on the catering? We asked STEVE THORPE, who arranged the highly successful 'Mr Handel at Adlington Hall', to outline what was involved.



Every Bollington Festival, since the first in 1964, has included an event at Adlington Hall. From string quartets to opera, the Great Hall at Adlington has hosted a range of musical delights. This was how Dr John Coope started to describe my mission. He asked me to think of what could be done at Adlington in the Millenium year.

Now, at that point, I had never visited the Hall but knew that Handel was reputed to have played the organ there. After a little digging, I found that, with the exception of the Kings School in Handel's tercentenary year of 1985,

no-one had ever dedicated a concert at the Hall to the great man.

Certainly, no-one had ever looked at Handel's links with the building through his eyes. Dr John liked the idea. We would bring Mr Handel back to life not only through his music, but through the words of an actor. I got the job!

That was back in October 1998; and so began the task of staging "Mr Handel at Adlington Hall."

First things first: book the Hall. That done, there followed numerous planning meetings with Dr John, Sally Smith of Performing Arts Management, Adlington Hall, and Professor Ian Tracey*, who would be the musical director. There was much to be done and we had to break even!

I had never embarked on such a project before and was surprised at how much there was to do, and at some of the costs. Not only did we have to pay for the Hall but also to use the organ and have it tuned! We needed a Public Entertainment Licence another £75. I had started to look for sponsorship in the autumn of 1999, but, as the new Millennium dawned, so did the realisation that there might be a shortfall. Apart from a very kind anonymous donor, I was unsuccessful in obtaining any sponsors. My first budget showed we could need up to an extra £1,000. It was time to raise funds and reduce costs!

We raffled tickets and held a quiz in the Arts Centre. Cutting costs was more difficult. Even small orchestras don't come cheap; along with the hire of Hall and organ, the most expensive item.

The final hurdle was the music programme and script ... oh, and we still didn't have our actor! Lynn Melville, a friend from the Festival Choir, came to the rescue. She suggested the TV actor Alan Rothwell and put me in touch with him.

The big night came and was a great success. Alan Rothwell brought Mr Handel back to life! The sight that made it all worthwhile for me was the sight of the audience enthralled and hanging on Mr Handel's every word.

And, I almost forgot to say, we broke even!

**Professor Tracey is giving a recital in Bollington at St John's on Thursday, September 14th - see our Events listing on pages 8 and 9 for details - Ed*

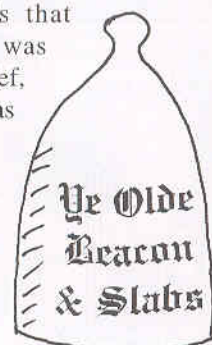
Nancy Add-Ons



WHITE NANCY, the symbol of our town, has been receiving some attention. In a crumbling condition, with the path heavily worn, our local beacon surely merited the grant aid it recently attracted. And as a result, a dry-stone wall has been built, enabling those who have toiled up the hill to walk around White Nancy unhindered.

Significant improvements have also been made to paths and stiles in the area. Other alterations, however, are more controversial. A surrounding of slabs laid on the ground and a flight of concrete steps to an observation point in a hollow nearby have, in the words of one visitor, "municipalised the place". Other observers commented that "once you've got to the top you expect something raw and windswept, a feeling of freedom. You don't want to be reminded Authority has been up there already." *Bollington Live!* received letters warning of these possibilities before the work began. Those letters went unpublished on the grounds that embellishment was not part of the brief, and only repair was intended.

May the grass grow quickly.



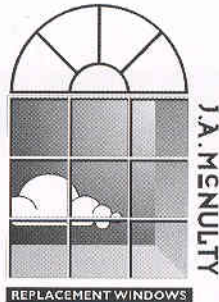
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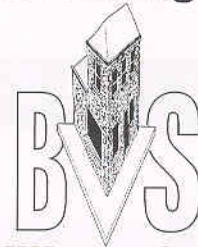
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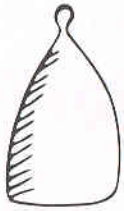
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BOLLINGTON



AUGUST

Thursday, 10th

MR PUNCH'S MUSIC SHOW

Traditional Punch and Judy, combined with live music and magic by Mr Jellyspoon and the Great Chrishendo. A 50 minute show starting at 10.30 am in the Civic Hall, Palmerston Street. Tickets at £2.50 from the Library, at the door (if available) or Tel. 504523.

PARK TALES

with the Rangers, on the Recreation Ground, Adlington Road. Stories, fun and games, suitable for 3 to 6 year-olds (accompanied by an adult). 3 to 4 pm. Places are free but limited. Please book in advance on 01625 504505.

Saturday, 12th and Sunday, 13th

STREET BEAT DANCE WEEKEND

From 10.30am to 3 pm each day, funky street dance for 8 to 14 year-olds, with Sara at the Civic Hall. £15. For details and bookings Tel. 01606 861770

Monday, 14th

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members Evening with Dutch Supper, at the Methodist Church, Wellington Road, 7:30pm. Tel. Mary Foster on 573571

Thursday, 17th

"HOSTAS"

With John Dearden from the British Hosta Society. A Bollington Horticultural Society meeting in the upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, Palmerston St, at 8:00pm. Tel Blanche Royall on 422835

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 2nd

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

Annual Flower Show. All details available from Cath Moores Tel: 429338

Sunday, 3rd

BOLLINGTON BRASS BAND

in concert, in aid of Old People's Welfare. At the Methodist Church, 8:00pm. Refreshments available. Tickets at £3.00 can be bought on the door. Contact Betty Bonson on 573187

Monday, 11th

"OLD MACCLESFIELD"

A talk by Mrs D. Bentley-Smith on behalf of the Women's Institute, at the Methodist Church, 7:30pm. Tel. Mary Foster: 573571

Wednesday, 13th

PARTY LIGHTS DEMO

with Bollington Flower Club at the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 7:30 to 9 pm. Contact Blanche Royall of 422835

Thursday, 14th

ORGAN EXTRAVAGANZA

at St John's Church, Bollington, with Professor Ian Tracey, Organist of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and recitalist of international repute. 7.30 pm. Tickets at £6 (£4 concessionaires) from Palmerston Travel, Harry Smith Travel of Macclesfield, Bollington Town Hall, or Tel 01625 427982.



Professor Ian Tracey, Organist at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, who will be performing at St John's Church, Bollington on Thursday, September 14th.

Friday, 15th

FRIENDS OF BOLLINGTON ARTS CENTRE

A Cheese and Wine Party at Bollington Arts Centre, Wellington Road, at 8 pm

Sunday, 17th

CARS & MOTORCYCLES - THE GOLDEN AGE

At the Belgrade Country House Hotel, Jackson Lane, a display of some of the finest vehicles ever from the period 1920 to 1960. A spectacle for all the family, from 11 to 3 pm. With free entrance!

Monday, 18th

BOLLINGTON IN BLOOM AWARDS

Presentation of awards. Drop-in Centre, Palmerston Street at 8pm. **Note Change of venue**

Thursday, 21st

ANTIQUES

with Bollington Horticultural Society. Antique dealer John Jones will be inviting members and guests to each bring along one article for valuation. In the upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge at 8 pm. Tel. Blanche Royall: 422835

Saturday, 23rd

CHORAL CONCERT

with the Macclesfield Male Voice Choir & Midal Ladies Choir, in the Methodist Church, Wellington Road at 7 pm.

OCTOBER

Sunday, 1st

THE FITZWILLIAM STRING QUARTET

with Lesley Schatzberger. The programme includes pieces by Fauré and Shostakovich and Brahms' Clarinet Quintet. A Bollington Chamber Concerts production at the Arts Centre, 8 pm. Tickets £10 (£3 children, students and claimants). Tel: 560000 or 575287

Wednesday, 4th

"FRUIT AND FLOWERS"

An opportunity to learn how to arrange and display, with Bollington Flower Club at the Community Centre, Ovenhouse lane, 7:30 - 9pm. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835

Friday, 6th

"BEER STREET"

A great show, revived by the Mikron Theatre Company: the rumbustious story of pubs and beer and the part they've played in our Society. "A heady draught of people, pubs, brews and brewing", at Bollington Arts Centre, 8pm. Tickets £5 (£3 concessions). Tel: 574687

Monday, 9th

HOLIDAY IN BRAZIL

A talk by Mrs. D Webster for the Women's Institute, in the Methodist Church, Wellington Road at 7:30pm. Tel. Mary Foster on 573571

Wednesday, 18th - Saturday, 21st

"ARSENIC AND OLD LACE"

Joseph Kesselring's classic play, performed by Bollington Festival Players at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road. "One of the first and funniest comedies of multiple murder." Curtain up at 7:45pm. Tickets £4.50 (£2.50 concessions). Tel 572527

EVENTS

Thursday, 19th

COUNTRY HOUSES AND GARDENS

A slide show by Malcolm Withers for Bollington Horticultural Society, in the upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, Palmerston Street, at 8 pm. Tel. Blanche Royall on 422835

Thursday, 26th - Friday, 28th

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"

Pantomime, in the Methodist Church, Wellington Road. Evening performances at 7:30, Saturday Matinee 2:30pm For further details contact Barry Jackson on 572259

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 4th

THE ALBERNI STRING QUARTET

playing works by Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert. A Bollington Chamber Concerts presentation of this distinguished group, in the Arts Centre, Wellington Road at 8 pm. Tickets £10 (£3 children, students and claimants). Tel. 560000 or 575287 for further information

Wednesday, 8th

CHRISTMAS DEMO

with the Christmas Sales Table. Bollington Flower Club, in the Community Centre, Ovenhouse lane, 7:30 - 9 pm. Contact Blanche Royall on 422835

Sunday, 12th

BOLLINGTON BRASS BAND

in concert in aid of the British Legion. At the Methodist Church, Wellington Road 7:30pm

Monday, 13th

W.I. - AGM.

with Surprise Hot Supper, in the Methodist Church, Wellington Road, at 7:30pm. Tel. Mary Foster on 573571.

Thursday, 16th

"WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE..."

... and we know where you live." Guest Speaker John Lanidey gives a talk on the use of personal information in marketing and credit. Bollington Horticultural Society, in the upstairs room at the Dog & Partridge, 8 pm. Tel: Blanche Royall 422835

Friday, 17th

"THE GIRL WHO CUT FLOWERS"

The story of a girl growing up, told by the Horse & Bamboo Theatre Company, bringing powerful masks with shadow imagery and black light effects to puppet theatre. A production by the Rural Touring Theatre Network at Bollington Arts Centre, Wellington Road, at 7:30 pm. Tickets £4 (£3 child), £11 family. Tel: 560000 daytime, 560355 evenings.

French? Italian? Tai Chi?

The Autumn Term for Adult education classes at Bollington Arts Centre commences on Monday, September 11. The French (Foundation) course will be held on Tuesdays from 1.00pm, with Italian (Advanced Level 3) each Thursday at 9.30am.

Enquiries should be made to Macclesfield College on 01625 410002. Additionally lessons in Tai Chi (for everyone) will be held on Thursdays from 7 to 8.30 pm. Contact Louisa on 873471.

Alderley Mine Exploration

Not a Bollington event but of sufficient local interest, to merit inclusion here, the opening of the celebrated mines of Alderley Edge takes place during the weekend of September 2 and 3 from 10am to 5pm each day. With signposting from the car park near the 'Wizard' inn, a 40-minute floodlit guided tour is provided, taking the visitor back through 3,000 years to early Neolithic settlement in the area. A charge of £3 and £2 is made for visitors and hard-hats are provided. Decent walking shoes will be required. The volunteer group conducting these visits is always anxious to encourage new members to join the team. The next opportunity for public visits will be in April, 2001. Private parties can be taken by arrangement. Contact Paul Stubbs on 0161 486 6852.

"Wedding Photo" Awards - and a Reprise

Amongst several innovative successes at the recent Bollington Festival, 'The Wedding Photo', a play with music by John Coope and Winston Barraclough, has attracted two awards.

The Greater Manchester Drama Federation has presented a cup "for the best original production in the year", while the Adjudicator's Award of Cheshire Theatre Guild was for the enterprising production by the Festival Players and the highly successful inclusion of some non-members with little previous experience of the stage.

"Fresh, highly original, and inspiring" and "a vivid evening that sprang from a fragment of paper from the past" were amongst the comments attracted. Production of the play by Pat Penney was such an acclaimed success that



further performances are now planned for next year at the Arts Centre, Wellington Road, from Wednesday, March 21 to Saturday, March 24, 2001. Cast members in the photo are, from left to right, Helen Valentine, Stephanie Evans and Jill Hackey



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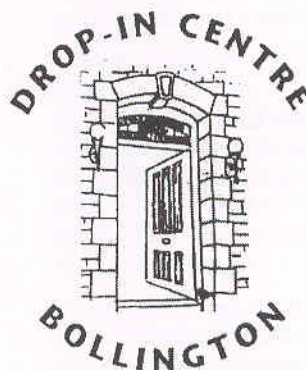
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It Happened Here..

Bollington's Secret Wartime Weapon

by Roy Arnold



“Very well, let us open the window.” These innocuous sounding words, spoken by Winston Churchill at a meeting in 1943, gave the go-ahead for the production of a secret weapon that was to cost many thousands of German lives and save British bomber crews during the dark days of World War II. And the weapon in question - made only of paper - was produced in Bollington. To the best of my knowledge, the local angle of this story has not been seen in print before.

The background is given in the book ‘Most Secret War’ by R V Jones, an RAF boffin with a particular interest in Radar. The weapon called ‘Window’ sprang from the thinking of Jones and his team as a means of totally confusing the German Radar system.

Originally it was to have been made from thin strips of wire but, in the event, it consisted of small packets of paper strips coated with a graphite substance similar to the effect gained by hard scribbling with a pencil. The paper in question was coated in Bollington at the mill then owned by Henry and Leigh Slater Ltd - today the premises of Tullis Russell Coatings Ltd.

The small packets of coated paper were sprinkled from one or two bombers over occupied territory. The effect was to jam and baffle the German Radar screens with the impression of whole squadrons in the air rather than one or two aircraft. German fighters and air defences were totally caught out by this and the real attacking forces were able to penetrate enemy air space and wreak terrible damage as a consequence.

R V Jones reveals that ‘Window’ was used in some of the most famous bombing raids of the war, notably those on Hamburg and Essen. In some of these raids, bomber losses were reduced from 6.1% to 1.5% - the lives of 300 men - because German night fighters had simply been sent to the wrong place.

Good news for the RAF was bad news for Hamburg, where an estimated 50,000 people lost their lives. Field Marshal Milch, Head of the Luftwaffe, said “If we get just five or six more attacks like those on Hamburg the German people will just lay down their tools, however great their willpower.” He was wrong, as it happened, and, like British people in the Blitz, the German people gritted their teeth and fought on to the bitter end.

There are two personal notes to add. The first is that I can verify the part played by Henry and Leigh Slater because my late father, Frank Arnold, was one of those involved in production. A Machine-man, or paper-coater, at Slaters before the War, he was actually released from the RAF to aid the war effort by resuming his old job for a while, before eventually going back into the RAF until the end of the fighting.

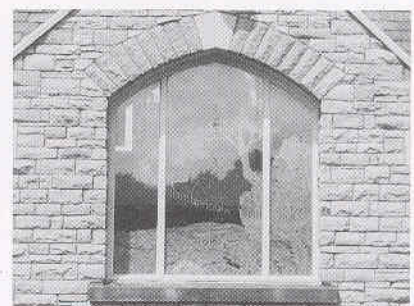
The second note is that in recent years my wife and I have become close friends of a German Pfarrer, or Vicar, and his wife. How much more satisfying is making friends than making war. They tell me that, during World War II, when German children found the ‘Window’ strips on the ground, they took them home to decorate their Christmas trees. How ironic, in view of the fact that the original name of the secret weapon produced in Bollington was to have been ‘Tinsel’.

In addition to the industrial activities described, many local men and women enlisted in the armed forces. 32 servicemen from Bollington died on active service during World War II.

The scene shown left, of a parade marching up Adlington Road from the Recreation Ground, took place during War Weapons Week in 1941



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Bollington Before Politics

Councillor Richard Warren: a profile.

“The thing I notice, mostly, is the buses - I can remember when they were absolutely full, bringing people into Bollington.”

For many of us, it's hard to imagine Bollington as a small busy industrial town of that kind. For Councillor Dick Warren it is a vivid and very real memory. He has lived nearly all his 85 years here, and has worked as representative of both working people and the general public for most of his adult life. I interviewed him, on a typically damp Bollington evening, at the Town Hall, something of a second home to Dick.

Dick's father was from farming stock living near Macclesfield, but he left home to join the army and subsequently settled in Bollington. He had fought in both the Boer and Great Wars and died when Dick was just 17. Dick was born in Nancy View, off Church Street, in 1915. “Funnily enough”, He told me, “I later had the chance to buy that house for £75.”

Dick went to work as a jig dyer for Bollington Print Company on Oak Bank, where he stayed for much of his



Dick Warren seen, left, at a town meeting in the mid-1990s. Others in the photo are Claude Harlington, until recently Bollington Town Clerk and the then Mayor, Councillor Mary Hartley.

working life. He told me how hard Bollington was hit during the depression with so many folk without work. In 1939 Dick joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and was stationed in Malta for three and a half years and later in India. He spent 6 years in the army, a period which significantly shaped his future outlook on life and particularly his politics. “There were things that I knew about that should not have happened.”

On his demob he went back to his old job at the Bollington Print Company. He found fitting back into the old ways difficult but says he gradually

got used to it. He threw himself into his work as a union representative and became a member of the Labour Party. Most importantly, Dick married his wife Alice in 1952 and they had two sons, Richard, now a senior consultant surgeon in London's Harley Street, and Alistair, who conducts medical research at the University of Sheffield.

The post war years have seen Bollington change from an industrial to a mostly residential town, a process that Dick has never liked. “We used to have mills in Bollington that employed a thousand people. Now we are similar to Prestbury, we don't want to encourage industry.”

In 1976 he became a Labour Councillor and apart from three years has been on the Council ever since and was Mayor in 1991. Despite his own political affiliations, he firmly believes that Bollington Council is not and should not be political. “It's Bollington before politics,” he says.

Dick is now 85 and he has had plans to retire but has been persuaded to stay on for the present. He is still busy as a local representative on several local bodies such as the Footpaths Commission, the Oliver Trust and the Transport Liaison Committee.

Dick's contribution to Bollington life over so many years has been immense and extremely valuable. Long may it continue.

TN



Planting a tree on the West Bollington Council Estate in 1954.

How Was It Done?

Building the Bollington Bridges by Peter Liley

Anyone walking the canal towpath from Bollington towards Poynton, and passing under Sugar Lane bridge, must have seen the stonework of the arch there and wondered, firstly, why the builders chose to construct it in that apparently awkward way; secondly, how on earth did they do it?

Yet such bridge-building was commonplace in the 18th and 19th Centuries. That the bridges have stood so long - bearing a greater amount of traffic than could ever have been dreamed of - is a tribute to the masons and the soundness of the system.

Each canal bridge is to some extent different, and construction drawings were prepared by the engineers. Where a road crossed the waterway at right angles the work was straightforward; but when the crossing was oblique a special technique was needed.

Stone arches have been built since Roman times and the method has always been the same. First, a timber frame, known as "centring", is made to support the arch during construction. The wedge-shaped stones, called "voussoirs", are built up on this support. When the top stone, or "keystone", is put in place the centring is removed and the arch becomes self-supporting. Traditionally the keystone is bigger, but this is purely for decorative purposes.

A properly built arch will carry an enormous load. The voussoirs cannot slip inwards, being wedge-shaped; nor

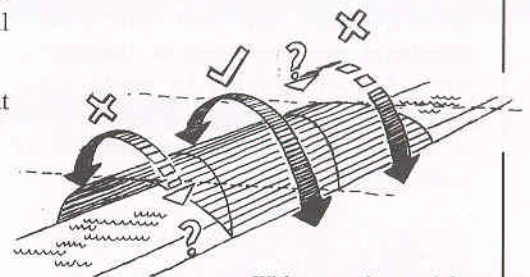


Two views of Bridge 26, where Sugar Lane crosses the Macclesfield Canal. The first stones here were cut at an extreme angle - impossible to judge beforehand, without the calculations described.

outwards, as they are held in place by the surrounding masonry. Also, because the load is always at right angles to the joints there is no sideways pressure. Of course, it only works if the arch is complete - remove any one voussoir and the entire structure will collapse.

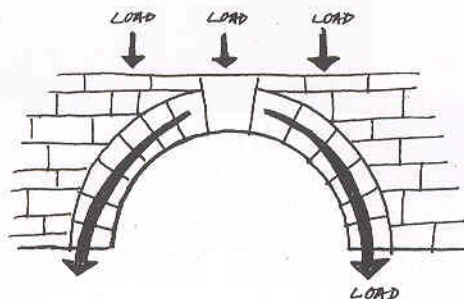
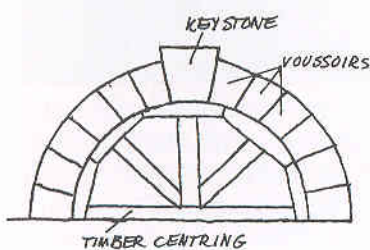
When, however, the crossing is not at right angles the problem becomes

much more complex. If the normal method was followed, the middle part would be fine - but the oblique ends would not be fully supported, as my diagram shows.



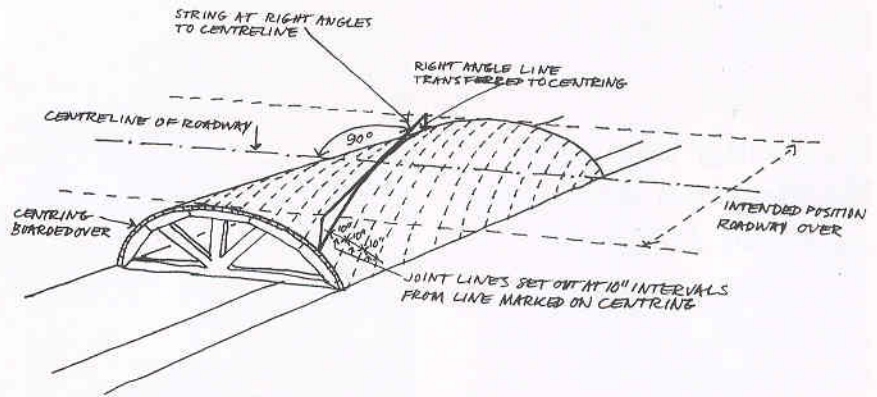
With a crossing at right angles, simple arch construction supports the roadway, as demonstrated in the first two diagrams. At an angle, however, as the upper illustration shows, support cannot be provided

Continued overleaf...



....continued from previous page

To overcome this difficulty a special technique would have to be used. First, the centring would be built, forming the shape of the arch, and boarded all over to provide a platform for the construction. Then string, or a timber batten, would be placed across it to mark the centre-line of the road which was to pass above. From where this string rested upon the top of the centring, another string would be stretched at right angles to the first and dropped down to a point at the edge. From there the width of each course of masonry, let us say 10 inches, would be marked with chalk or pencil. Joining these marks, as in the diagram, showed where the joints had to come between each course of stones. At the base of the arch, the angle of the first wedge-shaped piece would be indicated also.



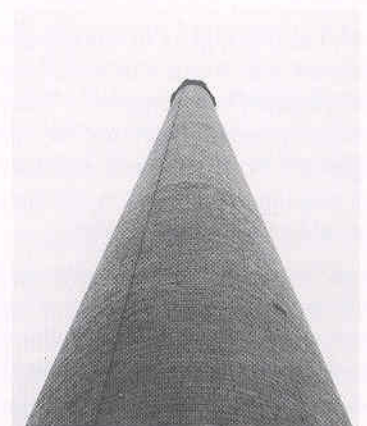
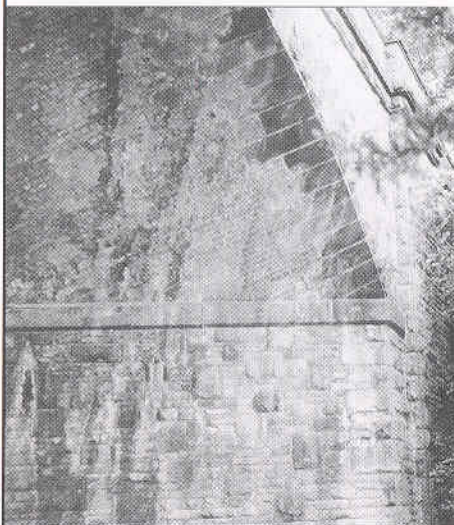
How the stone cutting was calculated. Above the centring, the roadway was marked, then a line was drawn at right angles to it. From this, at regular intervals, the arrangement of the stones could be marked, from the top of the arch down towards the ground. There the angle becomes apparent at which the first stones must be cut.

The masons could then lay the stones from the bottom upwards in the normal way - but always following the marks on the centring. Then, when the building is finished, the load is always at right angles to the joints and nothing can slip or be squeezed out.

Once the centring has been removed, the outer face can be trimmed up by eye. The same technique can be seen in the huge stone and brick arch of the old railway viaduct where it crosses Wellington Road. While the courses of brickwork are at right angles to the centre-line of the railway that once passed above, they tilt considerably near the foot.

Angled stones where the old railway viaduct crosses Wellington Road, left, required careful calculation. But how were the mill chimneys constructed? This one at Clarence Mill, right, demonstrates the builder's skill.

Well, that's how they made that bridge; but... can anyone tell me how they built the fine chimney of the Clarence Mill? - perfectly vertical, with a fine taper, each course diminishing by less than a millimetre in diameter, involving thousands of bricks, yet without any irregularity whatsoever?



Sir James Commemorated

A commemorative plaque to the distinguished scientist Sir James Chadwick was unveiled at Bollington Cross School in May by pupils Alice Benson and Jamie Hough in the presence of fellow pupils and members of Bollington Council.



The son of a cotton weaver, James Chadwick was born in Clarke Lane in 1891. After four years at Bollington Cross School, he went, via schooling and studentship in Manchester, to a period of study in Berlin. There, having met Albert Einstein and others, he had the ill-fortune to be interned as an undesirable alien during World War I. With his health

seriously damaged, he returned to work with Professor Rutherford at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. There, his discovery of a new atomic particle, the neutron, gained him the

Nobel Prize for Physics in 1935. Knighted as a result, his subsequent research work included involvement in the Manhattan Project in the USA, leading to the first Atomic bomb.

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Playing Our Part - With the National Park

In 1951 the Peak District was declared Britain's first National Park - and we are right beside it. The boundary of the Park runs from just to the east of Bollington, following Oakenbank Lane northwards from Rainow to the bottom of Blaze Hill, then along Spuley Lane, past the 'Cheshire Hunt'. From there it cuts across fields, following the Bollington Parish Boundary to the northern end of Long Lane.

Most of Bollington lies within two kilometres of the Park boundary, but somehow we do not seem orientated towards this nationally recognised area on our doorstep.

As far as I know, no businesses in Bollington use the 'Peak' name and our connections with the countryside and recreation policies of the Peak District National Park Authority are tenuous. Macclesfield Borough Council provides one representative to the Peak Park Planning Board, Councillor Mrs. Gaddum, who lives in Sutton.

If you walk or drive from Bollington to Pott Shrigley, you enter the National Park along Shrigley Road at the Bollington boundary, but there is no sign there to tell us this. Maybe we should have one?

A second sign could be erected at the bottom of Blaze Hill and the millstone

boundary markers of the Peak District National Park would look well in both these locations.

These markers would do much to raise awareness of the Park in the minds of local people, and might in a small way contribute to our links with the Peak District.

The National Park Authority is always concerned about the ever-rising pressure of visitors to attractive



'honey-pots', such as the Goyt Valley and Castleton, and as an alternative they are keen to hold visitors at sites around the edges of the Park wherever this is possible. Bollington's role as a gateway to the National Park and our links with the National Park Planning Board in Bakewell could be developed further, to the advantage of our town.

Not many people will know, but the Peak Environment Fund, an experimental conservation charity, has granted £7,500 towards the White

Nancy millennium project, being managed by Groundwork for the Town Council. This project illustrates how by better managing the countryside around Bollington it may be possible to accommodate more visitors without damage. We may be able to divert further national and regional funding towards the management of our nearby countryside and provide for the needs of visitors if we strengthen our dialogue with the Peak District National Park. A good number of day visitors could spend money in Bollington shops, pubs and restaurants. Some might even decide to stay a night or two in our town. This, surely, is a concept worth exploring?
GB



The prominent millstone symbol of the Peak District National Park is seen near the 'Setter Dog' Inn on the Macclesfield Buxton Road.

Should the Bollington outskirts have similar markers, one might appear at Ormes Smithy crossroads on Blaze Hill, seen in the other photo, looking back from the Park area towards Bollington.

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