



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Forty Five

Spring 2009

**FESTIVAL
FEATURE
EDITION**

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Cover: *Festival Procession 2005 with Adelphi Mill in the Background*

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IT'S FESTIVAL TIME

Welcome to the Bollington Festival feature edition of *Bollington Live!* who have kindly provided space in this latest edition to feature a selection of articles based on the upcoming festival. This year's festival runs from May 8th-25th and there will be a choice of 95 (35 of them free) exotic, innovative, unique entertainments - **and all of them on your doorstep.**



This ninth festival will be the first without the festival's founder John Coope being with us, but his vision remains just as strong in 2009.

The marquee on the recreation ground will be the venue for many events ranging from the Big Chris Barber Band to African dance, opera, classical and popular music, theatre and comedy. The varied programme has been carefully devised to suit all ages and tastes.

You can partake in many events such as the exciting carnival on May 9th which will give a taster of the

activities that Bollington provides. There is also the fell race; dancing at the ceilidh, the club and silent discos; informative walks; squash competition; the dog show; the book quiz - and for the intellectuals, the pub quiz.

The Science Committee presents exciting experiments and mysteries including practical astronomy, hunting dinosaurs, discovering news and hands-on quality slime time! Local authors will be able to tell you how to write a crime novel in the Peak District and the Arts Group will show some of the extraordinary talent we have locally.

The Festival is about inclusivity and celebrates our town and the spirit, diversity, dynamism and creativity that make it the unique place it is.

Ticket prices have been held at 2005 levels. So book now. Enjoy the events, enjoy the company, enjoy the 2009 Bollington Festival. Have a wonderful 17 days!

Andrew Roberts

Supporting the Festival..

We are grateful to Bollington Printshop for sponsoring our colour cover for this festival feature edition

Left: Festival Chairman Andrew Roberts

EDITORIAL

Through all the gloom and despondency we hear on a daily basis, it is somewhat lifting to be able to present this latest issue of *Bollington Live!* looking forward as it does, brim-full of positivity about the forthcoming Bollington Festival.

Despite initial worries that the 'credit-crunch' would affect advertisers wishing to support our magazine, once again, the majority have shown faith and continued to advertise. Not only that, but a number of new advertisers have joined us to help produce a magazine of which we can be justifiably proud.

It must be difficult by now not to be aware that Bollington is once again putting on its unique award-winning festival. However, if you were still in the dark, this issue of *Bollington Live!* concentrates predominantly on the Festival and the vast array of events to suit all tastes.

There is still a little space for some other items of interest, one being a recent update of the work carried out by the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Project, where the ongoing improvements can be seen across the area, from re-built dry-stone walls, re-laid hedgerows, repaired footways and gateways. That's not to mention all the historical and archaeological research which has gone on to improve understanding of the area. This neatly ties in with another article based on a recent survey on the tourism potential for Bollington.

As always, please let us know what you think of everything that is going on in Bollington, the best letters and articles will find a place in the next issue of *Bollington Live!* Thanks for reading.



The fabulous firework display at the finale of the 2005 Festival

DATE FOR NEXT COPY:

Friday 22nd May



BOLLINGTON WELCOMES...



JENNI MURRAY

Left: BBC Radio 4's Jenni Murray

Jenni Murray, who will officially open the 2009 Bollington Festival on May 8, is seen by many as the voice of Radio 4.

She was once described as a national institution by the Media Society and as having "the most beautiful voice on radio, ever"

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

by the veteran broadcaster and journalist Charles Wheeler.

Born in Barnsley in 1950, she acquired a "well stocked mind" - her favourite complement from a colleague - courtesy of Barnsley Girls High School and went on to study French and drama in Hull.

She began her career in local radio in Bristol, followed by a stint in television, presenting 'South Today'. She then moved to London to present 'Newsnight' on BBC2 and the 'Today' programme on Radio 4. In 1987, Jenni took over from Sue MacGregor as main presenter of 'Woman's Hour' - which, as a child, she would listen to with her mother after lunch.

'Woman's Hour', never afraid to tackle controversial issues, was the first programme to discuss the menopause, homosexuality and

co-habitation. With Jenni at the helm, it continued to debate important issues such as abortion, euthanasia and cancer. In 2006 Jenni herself was diagnosed with breast cancer and took extended leave to receive treatment.

Jenni's articles in opposition to marriage once led to her being described as "the most dangerous woman in England" and her recent television documentary advocating the legalization of assisted suicide, provoked a national debate.

In 1998, Jenni was Broadcaster of the Year and in 1999 she was awarded the OBE for her services to broadcasting. She is the author of four books, has two sons and lives with her partner in a farmhouse in the Cheshire Peak District, close to Bollington.

Fiona Bailey

FESTIVAL - HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Bollington's festival is unique: there is no other event in Britain like it. No other small town (or large village) organises anything similar. No festival of similar scale and scope is run entirely by volunteers. No other festival is so enthusiastically supported by so many local people and organisations.

As the Festival's chairman Andrew Roberts says: "The great attraction of the Bollington Festival is its inclusiveness. It brings the people of the town together to work and enjoy themselves for two weeks."

Those new to Bollington or living far from the Happy Valley may wonder why Bollington has a festival. It was all the idea of one man, John Coope, a visionary doctor who cared for the health of thousands of patients but also found time to write a book on Chekhov and consider the future of post-war society.

Almost single-handedly, Dr. John set out almost 50 years ago to create in the town a sense of community to counteract what he saw as a drift away from the collective towards



Above: The late Dr. John Coope MBE, founder of the festival.

the individual. His work continued until his death on Christmas Day 2005. The 2005 Festival was the first in which he played no major role; the 2009 Festival will be the first without his benign presence. If it's good, it will be a fitting memorial to a great man.

He was full of enthusiasm, energy and ideas. He believed passionately that a community should be alive and kicking and, above all, active, a place where people join together to achieve more than they can as lone operators.

His legacy is the organisations he launched, revived and often led: the Brass Band; the Drama Group; the Festival Players; the Light Opera Group; the Civic Society; the Festival Choir... (He went on a conducting course so that he could direct a performance of Verdi's 'Requiem'). He was also the driving force in the creation of the Arts Centre (how many English towns of 7,000 people have one of those), a regular venue for string quartets, jazz, stand-up comedy, plays, pantomimes, plus talks and lectures.

He also founded the Festival (the first was in 1964) and led from the front, enthusing, cajoling and inspiring. He was the kind of man to whom it was difficult to say no and many a patient who went to the surgery with a sore throat found himself signed up for the basses in the Festival Choir before any prescription was written. Dr. John was awarded an MBE in 1993 for services to the community (whose members still want to know where he got his energy from). "People cease to live the moment they leave school and become cannon fodder for commercial exploitation," he said in a 1964 interview. "They forget the little they have learned. One should go right on from leaving school and never give up learning."

The spirit of John Coope lives on in the 2009 Festival.

David Ward

