

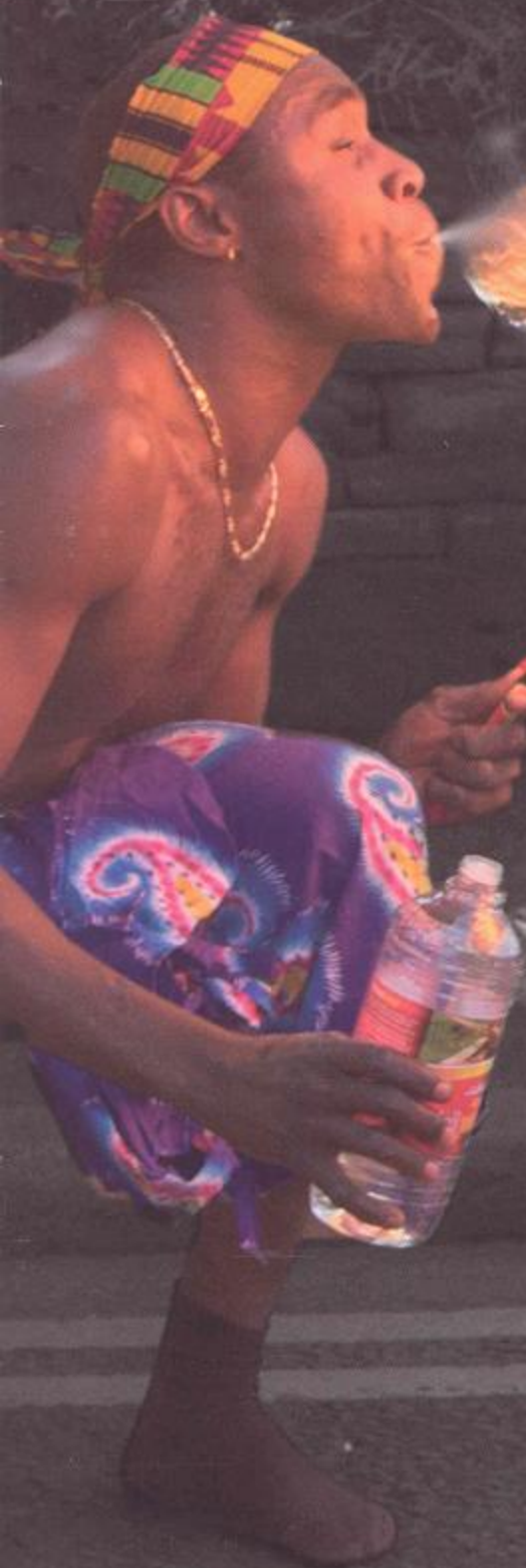


BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Forty Six

Summer 2009



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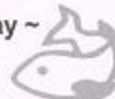
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Cover: Fire-eater during the 2009 Festival procession. Photograph: Paul Beardmore

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LAP OF THE GODS

The monolithic Cheshire East Council bringing together the full array of powers of the Borough and County Council started work on April 1st 2009.

This organisation has the potential for becoming an enormous and expensive bureaucracy full of managers paralysed by rules and unattainable 'targets'.

Cheshire East has decided to make itself more responsive to our needs for inexpensive and effective services by chopping itself into seven parts called Local Area Partnerships or LAPs. Bollington is in the LAP of Macclesfield with about nineteen other surrounding rural parishes like Rainow, Pott Shrigley and Gawsorth.

Each LAP meets about every six weeks and brings together a long list of our service providers. The main ones are Cheshire East, Town and Parish Councils, Police, Emergency Services, Health, Education, Business and Voluntary Services. The idea is that these services will use their collective muscle and resources to make our lives better.

TOO MANY GIRLS GETTING PREGNANT TOO YOUNG - THE LAP WILL STOP THAT...

Your representatives will tell the LAP what we want to improve and they will organise the improvement. If we have too many girls getting pregnant too young the LAP will stop that. If we have too many burglaries the LAP will stop them. If we have too many cars cluttering up our streets the LAP will stop that. If we want some decent facilities for our young people when they are

not in school the LAP will provide those. If we want to cut our waiting time for test results from the local hospital the LAP will speed up the test results...or perhaps not...

It is meant to improve our lives in practical ways.

Although it is meeting at the moment behind closed doors, the first public meeting will be in September. We would urge you to go along. Look out for more information. We will be there and let you know what happens.

We are lucky one of our Councillors, Harold Davenport, is the main co-ordinator. If anyone is in charge he is. Over to you. **Ken Edwards**

cheshireeast.gov.uk

Below: The logo of our new Cheshire East Council, branding itself across Bollington



CANAL BRIDGE

At last! After what began as a Millennium Project and years of tortuous negotiation and fundraising the new footbridge at Clarence Mill is finally under construction! The first sod was cut on Thursday 14th May. Construction started on the following Tuesday and is estimated to be completed by 4th August.

Tim Boddington

happy-valley.org.uk



EDITORIAL

Festival Fatigue. Half of Bollington must be suffering. However, all those involved in putting on Bollington Festival, although now slumped into their armchairs, will have a warm glow inside knowing that once again, the Festival has been a resounding success. No doubt they will be saying "never again", but it won't be long before a meeting is called, people are gathered and the next Festival is being planned.

Clearly this issue could not pass without some review of the Festival; we have a general overview from Carol Barnes, of the Festival Committee, along with a review of the visit of the new Poet Laureate to Bollington. I was hoping that she would write us a poem, but alas it was not to be.

Moving to other articles, we have an interesting account of how a newcomer has found moving to Bollington. Another resident sadly finds that not everyone is as neighbourly as we would like. We also look to the future with proposals for a new and improved Skate Park on Adlington Road. A particularly pleasing article is included about Adlington Primary School's centenary; it is intriguing to look back at education 100 years ago.

I hope you enjoy this issue and find something of interest. Once again, if you have an issue you feel should be covered in **Bollington Live!** get writing and send it in!

Enjoy the summer.



Date for next copy:
Friday 25th September 2009

BRUM TO BOLLY

We feel very honoured to be asked to write an article for *Bollington Live!* about our move from Birmingham to Bollington and what we think about our new home town, so here goes.....

WHY BOLLINGTON?

We are often asked how we came to choose Bollington.

We decided to embrace our retirement with open arms and had begun to plan for it several years before.... Firstly, we needed to answer this important question... What did we want to do with the rest of our lives?

We then needed to consider where we should live to be able to do all of the things we wanted to do!

We both enjoy walking, attending the theatre and art galleries, travelling and watching football. We also enjoy socialising with friends and family, as well as playing with our young grandchildren, who we only saw every few weeks, as they were then 100 miles away in Bramhall.

We then began house hunting in earnest and after looking at several places in the Peak District we identified this part of Cheshire as the ideal location. We first "discovered" Bollington during a weekend visit to the family. After a Sunday lunch at the Windmill Inn, which incidentally was excellent, we then decided to go for a drive around the area to look at houses and began to follow the road signs to Pott Shrigley and eventually Bollington.

From this first encounter with Bollington we loved the character and ambience of the village, the people, the stone buildings, the canal, the walkways and above all, the beautiful countryside.

As well as being near to our eldest son and his family, it was not far away from the M6 motorway, a mainline railway station and the airport. So it would not be too difficult to return to see to our youngest son and friends in Birmingham, or to reach other parts of the country and to travel abroad.



Above: John and Kate Gooding, close to their new home.

Photograph by Anthony Holland

kriv.org.uk
bridgendcentre.org.uk

We scoured the internet and came back time and time again to look at houses in the town, until we eventually decided on our new home and moved here in early February 2008.

Since moving here, Bollington has more than exceeded our expectations.

We have made several new friendships, including our new neighbours, not to mention those through the Bridgend Centre and the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale project volunteers.

We both walk most Wednesdays with Bridgend staff or the Rangers. Ann's walks have provided us with a brilliant insight to the town's history, geography and geology, plus a chance to catch up on the local news. The Ranger's walks, lead by Paul, have helped us identify the local animal and plant life and watch the seasons develop. The Centre's 'Nostalgia Trails', annotated maps, have guided us into pathways and areas that would have taken us ages to find on our own.

Recently Kate has also joined the Centre's weekly Reading Circle

and Book club and, in addition, the Centre's shop is a great vehicle for us to "recycle" clothes, toys, books and bric a brac. We have found many a bargain there. Our two year old Granddaughter especially loves to visit and always takes home a new toy or a jigsaw and a book or two.

In order to de-clutter prior to moving house, we disposed of some of our collections, pottery and pictures on an online auction site. John mentioned this just once at the Bridgend Centre and now we help to boost their funds by selling some of the more interesting donated items on eBay.

John discovered KRIV via the Happy Valley website and last summer enjoyed his first experience of dry stone walling above Cow Lane. Now, on most Fridays he climbs the hill to Savio House or up to Redway Wood to support KRIV colleagues. The group welcomes new members and looks after them well, with coffee and chocolate biscuits! He has learnt several new skills, including hedge laying, tree planting, bramble and gorse clearing, tool maintenance and path building. It's a satisfying,

WE LOVED THE CHARACTER AND AMBIENCE OF THE VILLAGE, THE PEOPLE, THE CANAL AND ABOVE ALL, THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE.

physical workout. His latest work has been helping to complete a two year KRIV project of building an alternative footpath to White Nancy through Redway Wood.

We have also renewed old friendships; including friends we met at college in Derby some 40 years ago and who now live in the greater Manchester area. We also see more of our Midlands friends, as once people come and visit us they want to come again and again. We now have to keep a list of where we

have walked - and where we have been to eat with our visitors so we can explore new places with them each time! However, everyone has to climb up to White Nancy as their initiation into Bollington.

What are the other 'joys' of living in Bollington? The list is long - those below, in no particular order, are perhaps the most important.

Everyone we meet on the street says "Hello" or smiles.

The public houses, cafe, and restaurants are all excellent, providing good food in friendly surroundings. We still haven't decided on a favourite "local" as they all have different plus points.

The local shopkeepers - bakers, butchers, newsagents, art gallery, hairdressers, post office and take-aways have been so welcoming and are great places for good service and a chat.

Kate's enjoyment of shopping is more than satisfied by using the local bus service for trips into Macclesfield or by car to the Handforth Dean and Cheadle shopping complexes.

The various Arts Centre events are of a very high standard. We both really enjoy the monthly comedy club and have attended other events from 'Godspell' to the 'Messiah'. We enjoyed attending a wide range of events at the spectacular Bollington Festival.

The countryside is truly stunning. We not only wake up every morning to a changing seasonal view of Oak Bank from our bedroom window, we can also watch the clouds scudding over Blaze Hill from our lounge. We can walk out of our front door and be on the top of White Nancy in a few minutes to enjoy the views of the Cheshire Plain.

Our first Christmas here found us singing carols with a huge crowd outside the Town Hall and sharing drinks and food beside White Nancy. Where else in the world would you find a community like this?

Kate Gooding

YELLOW PERIL

The motor car is the basis and bane of modern Bollington. We love our cars and hate them in equal measure. They allow us to go where we want when we want with whom we want. Without cars Bollington's increasing number of houses would be empty shells because we need cars to go to work to pay the mortgage. But where to put them when we live in houses whose only parking space is the road outside? That road is already full of other people's cars.

Our only protection against cars parked in dangerous places is the yellow line. Thin and primrose in Conservation Areas; thick and custard yellow everywhere else. These yellow lines stop people parking because, if caught, they face a £60 fixed penalty

Below: An illegally parked car, on double yellow lines, the pavement and blocking access to the public highway!

Will more yellow lines work?

Photograph by Phil Mannerling

fine. If you live near the main road through Bollington these yellow lines are coming to a place near you next October. Traffic Regulation Orders will be published for consultation soon.

Whether you welcome them or reject them utterly you will be able to have your say. Don't miss the chance. *Ken Edwards*



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

For the past few weeks, I have been ill. So ill, in fact, that I was bedridden in constant pain for a week and housebound for nearly two. Then my husband found a note on my car.

There are a number of excuses why a car might be sitting in the same spot for nearly two weeks. I empathize with all of them: broken down, no reason to drive, cannot drive. Would I ever write a note like that myself, though? Never, ever.

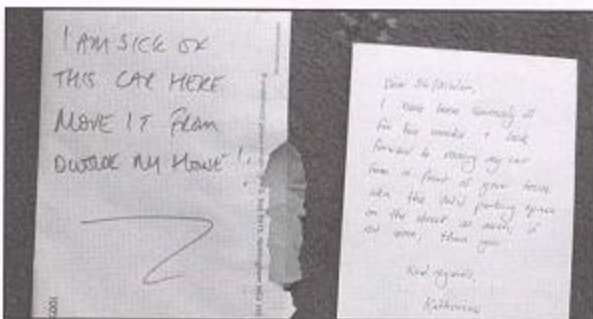
I hate finding examples like this, especially here in Bollington, as it shows the worst of humankind. The writer is demanding and selfish, extending ownership over the street beyond their house with imperative sentences and exclamation points. The method of communication is unplanned, desperate, and guarded (scrawled pink marker on an old envelope, unsigned). They are clearly offended, with the desire to exert dominance by dictating the resolution of their conflict rather than seeking a compromise.

With a bit of planning, the writer could have discovered several ways of contacting me to express

Below: The Phantom note-writer strikes again on several cars in Bollington.

Photographs by Tom Lewis (below) and Janet Beech (bottom)

their desire for me to move my car. They would have discovered, quite humanely, why I have not been able to move my car. Furthermore, they would have realized there was no conflict at all. I don't like my car sitting there, either.



This conversation could have saved a bit of pink marker and also quite a bit of stress on both our parts, because, to be honest, you have to be pretty stressed to write a random note like this. I like to think the best of my neighbours, but it does not seem that the writer thinks the best of me. It does hurt to see someone so upset, especially over something as unthreatening as a legally parked car. *Katherine Lewis*