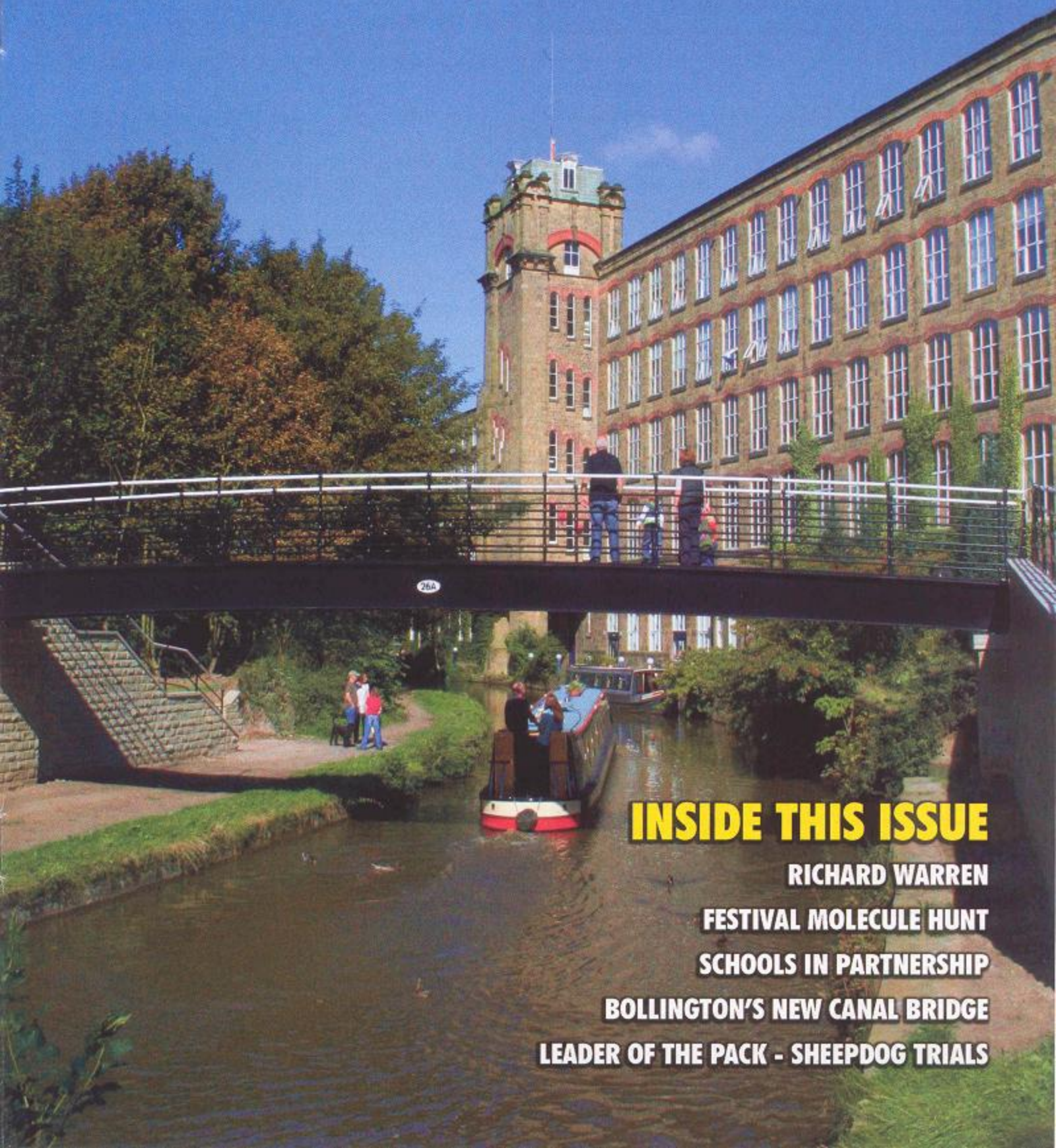




BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Forty Seven Autumn 2009



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

RICHARD WARREN

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SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP

BOLLINGTON'S NEW CANAL BRIDGE

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Cover: The new canal bridge - 26A at Clarence Mill. Photograph: Anthony Holland

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BOLLYHENGE?



Take a walk or bike ride along the Middlewood way and you will see the Bollington Festival Labyrinth. It can be found just off Grimshaw Lane on the site of the old railway station and has already attracted a lot of positive comments from all who pass by that way.

Planned over a year ago, it was hoped to begin and finish the project during the Festival itself, but planning issues delayed matters, however tons of gritstone have come from Endon Quarry to make the drawing a three-dimensional reality.

Designed by Artist-in-Education Jeff Teasdale, the labyrinth is being made in collaboration with artist Lorna Green and local drystone waller, Robert Sharpley.

The labyrinth has been produced in conjunction with 'The Big Draw', a National drawing event that takes place across the UK and all the local primary schools have had their chance to draw their own labyrinth, under the guidance of Jeff and Lorna. Funding is from The National Lottery.

This labyrinth is not now just a drawing on paper, it is a work of art made up of lines that you can be physically part of, not just a work of art that you are only able to look at. Labyrinth designs go back 3000 years, and all seemed to have emerged on the planet at about the

same time, from Arizona, Sweden, West Africa and the Pacific Islands. I even found two earlier this month carved on a cliff in a deep valley near Tintagel in Cornwall that are also thought to go back this far in time. They are a very complex mathematical design and unlike a 'maze' there are no 'dead-ends'. You just travel through a series of interlocking circles to the centre, and then out again. Maybe this one will last into the next 3000 years

Left: Rocks being delivered from Endon Quarry.

Below: The team before Labyrinth construction.

Photographs by John Appleyard.



to be 'catalogued' by a human being in the distant future. **Jeff Teasdale**



Left: The Labyrinth on final construction day.

Photograph by Anthony Holland.

happy-valley.org.uk/arts/labyrinth

EDITORIAL

This has been a difficult year for many of our advertisers and sponsors, so my first thanks in this issue of **Bollington Live!** must go to those who have been able to continue their support, enabling us to produce another year of our community magazine.

I also sympathise with those who have found themselves unable to advertise or provide sponsorship in these more challenging economic times. I hope that they will soon feel able to support us once again.

As the current editor, I feel that I need to try to include 'something for everyone' in **Bollington Live!** It is not always possible, as of course we rely on articles being sent in from anyone who feels they have something to contribute. If you have a **Bollington** article, bursting to get out and into print - send it in!

There is much more besides, hopefully 'something for everyone'. All of the **Bollington Live!** team of volunteers hope you find something of interest.

Finally, some people have asked how environmentally friendly **Bollington Live!** is. Consequently, I feel it is important to mention our 'green credentials'. **Bollington Live!** is printed using vegetable based inks, on paper which is manufactured from sustainable sources, containing a proportion of post-consumer waste. Additionally, from this issue forward, **Bollington Live!** is pleased to support a tree planting project in Ethiopia thus offsetting our carbon footprint by about twenty tons of CO₂ per issue.

We'll be back next year!

Date for next copy:
Friday 29th January 2010

BRIDGE OVER MUDDIED WATER

The Clarence Mill in Bollington was built in four stages, beside the new Macclesfield Canal; the first stage of construction was in 1830.

The mill was constructed by Martin Swindells of Macclesfield to initially manufacture cotton, but by the 1930s the mill made a mixture of silk and rayon for ladies' stockings. During the Second World War it became famous for its silk parachutes.

The mill finally closed in 1970 and the two swing bridges across the canal were removed. One had carried cinders and ashes away from the mill steam engines and the other enabled workers to cross the canal from the towpath. Older residents in Bollington remember these bridges with affection.

In the mid 1970's landscape architecture students from the then Manchester Polytechnic carried out a group design project in Bollington and one of their suggestions was for a new bridge across the canal at Clarence Mill. Then in 1997 Bollington Town Council's Millennium Committee agreed that a new canal bridge was desirable, to provide easy access from the towpath to the shops and the café which was located inside the Mill at that time, but raising the finance proved too difficult and the project was not progressed. For a few years little progress was made until the mill changed hands and the new developers obtained planning permission to convert the upper floors to luxury flats and the ground floor for retail.

A new footbridge across the canal was part of the scheme, which obtained planning permission in 2000. Unfortunately the cost of a bridge again caused problems and much to many people's disappointment the final solution was for the developers to lodge £30,000 with Macclesfield Borough Council as part of a "Section 106" payment. Sadly the bridge was going to cost a lot more than this and it was not constructed...

By this time a number of retail business had been attracted to the ground floor of the mill on the



Above: Print used on certificates by the Fine Cotton Spinners & Doublers Association of Clarence Mill in 1920, showing the two former swing bridges.

Engraving: Discovery Centre Collection.

understanding that a footbridge would be built. Bollington Civic Society had been offered free space for a new Discovery Centre. But the bridge was not built and one after another, businesses came and went as the footfall was insufficient to make them viable.

At this point the Civic Society decided to take a lead and Graham Barrow, who had been instrumental in raising the money for the Discovery Centre, set about getting the bridge project off the ground. There was great support from all quarters for this, including the Mill owners, the Bollington Town Council and the remaining two retail companies in the mill; Café Waterside and Kellico furniture restorers. Macclesfield Borough Council and Cheshire County Council proved to be willing partners and Richard Doran at MBC was particularly active in getting the support of both his Council and the County Council.

So to cut a rather long story short, the bridge was designed by a consultant to the County Council's bridge engineers department and

the Civic Society approved one design from a choice of four and agreed its location with British Waterways and the Borough Council. The bridge was going to now cost in the region of £150,000, as it had to both have long ramps to be disability access compliant and had to provide clearance over both the canal and the towpath, so had to have some height - possibly more than we would have chosen without these stipulations from British Waterways. The Clarence Mill Company had signed a lease with BW for the land on which the footings of the bridge would be constructed and the Civic Society and Macclesfield Borough set about raising the money. After two failed applications, some £50,000 was granted by landfill tax distributor WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd.) and the County and Borough Councils had agreed in principle to make up the rest. The Civic Society had allocated an initial £1,000 from its reserves to kick the funding process off.

So the story concludes with the official opening ceremony that took place at 10.00am on Saturday 29th August with various speeches from assorted dignitaries. Some fifty invited guests and a further fifty or so local Bollington people attended the ceremony and many then went in to the Café Waterside for refreshments. We now all wait to see if the bridge triggers the opening of more retail units on the ground floor of the mill and whether the whole area becomes a focus for visitors and leisure shopping. **Graham Barrow**

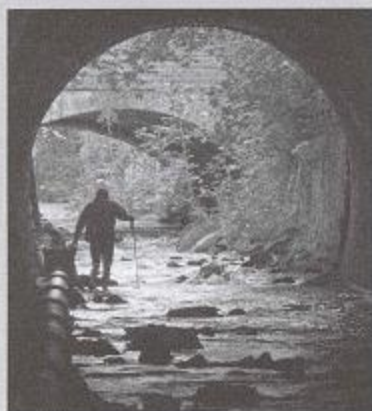
Right: The new Canal Bridge on its opening day.

Photograph by Tim Boddington.



SHOOT ON SIGHT!

Perhaps you have seen more people with cameras around Bollington lately. Are they tourists? Unlikely. You could well have seen members of the Bollington Festival Photography Group laughing, joking, drinking... but most importantly, making a record of Bollington in photographs, picking out the beauty in our town, recording it for posterity.



Throughout the summer, we undertook a series of 'photo walks', taking in all parts of Bollington, ranging from a delightful evening stroll through the lower fields of Kerridge, to a mooch around Bollington's two atmospheric graveyards. Much fun was had on the long-delayed river walk. This was dreamt up after one of our monthly meetings,

(probably after a few pints in the Vale Inn) to walk up the River Dean from the Recreation Ground as far as physically possible. IN the river, NOT beside it! Consequently there was a long wait for a dry spell this summer... It took a while, but it was accomplished, as we walked through the various tunnels, hacking through undergrowth, scaling waterfalls and trying not to fall over, before emerging in Ingersley Vale!

The group currently has about fifty members and we keep in contact with a monthly meeting, along with email, the 'Flickr' photographic website and our 'Bollington In Photos' website.

Maybe you have seen some of our photographs. During the Festival, we held a very successful exhibition at the Methodist Church. More photographs are currently exhibited at the Vale Inn, from our Group tour of the Bollington Brewery.



Many of the photographs in recent editions of Bollington Live! are taken by members of the Bollington Festival Photography Group.



Photographs: 'Background Sheep' and 'River Tunnel' by Janet Beech.

'Rock Crusher at Endon Quarry' by Tom Lewis.

'Adlington Road at Ground Level' by Katherine Lewis.

We are actually a very informal bunch and we would welcome more members to help record Bollington for the future. Please get in touch, you will be made welcome. Bollington Photographers may take their photography seriously, but we are just as much about having fun! **Janet Beech**

View more pictures at: bollingtonphotos.com and flickr.com

Contact Janet on janetgbeech@btinternet.com or telephone 574618

Do you want us to photograph your event? Please get in touch.