

# *Construction of the Nostalgia Trails*

## highlighting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nostalgia Trail *'Written in Stone'*

### **The 'A' Team**

The first Nostalgia Trail and 'Bee Happy' Adventure Walk was constructed by the 'A' Team, and completed for the Grand Opening in June 2002. Since the Trail was set up, the Local Heritage Initiative, who funded the original walk, have agreed to fund a further four trails over three years, with a view to future funding for four more. Eventually the whole area around Bollington will be linked by trails, all radiating from Bollington Drop In Centre and each with its own nostalgia theme and children's quiz.

The original 'A' Team comprised of four men, aged 55 and over. The group has now expanded to include many more, both male and female, ages ranging from early twenties to almost eighty, and anyone is welcome to join. All give their time voluntarily and attend the Centre on a regular basis. They are individuals from all walks of life and only met through becoming involved in the project. It is now a cohesive group, each person offering their own skills and humour.

The Team is involved in every aspect of the project. Each Trail is walked several times by different groups, to assist in working out description, map etc. Each individual theme is then planned, together with original features to be created. The group designs and then constructs the features, and installs them around the Trail.

Members of the Team have different reasons for their involvement, but are all united by the desire to make a positive contribution to our local community and, by interaction, have enhanced each other's lives. Through the Nostalgia Trails they help to educate and encourage children and people of all ages to respect and enjoy the countryside and gain an appreciation of their local heritage and industrial past. Without the input of all the individuals and skills of the 'A' Team it would not have been possible to create these Trails. The whole team now goes from strength to strength, and is open to anybody expressing an interest.

### **Bollington Primary School Children**

Children from all the Bollington Primary Schools have been, and will be, involved in the Trails. The work is tailored to fit in with the curricular requirements for each individual school. For the first walk the children from all four Primary Schools constructed a linear map (2ft x 20ft) using memories about times past from parents and grandparents. They also produced a contour map of the Trail. The Trail includes the 'Bee Happy Adventure Walk', which has 'Bee' markers and sculptures. The second walk has 'Wildflower' markers and wooden musical instruments. For this walk the children painted the wooden instruments, made shakers for the Opening, and wrote poems relating to Harrop Brook, whose course is followed throughout the walk.

The official Opening of 'Ribbon of History', the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nostalgia Trail and accompanying Exhibition, was a great success. Sir Nicholas Winterton, our local MP, visited the exhibition and then gave a short speech before sending everyone on their way along the Trail. Over 60 people went on the walk, ages ranging from 6 months to 80 years, and even the rain stayed at bay.

The children had a wonderful time searching for the wildflower markers, answering the quiz questions and playing the musical instruments. A reminiscence worker performed a fifteen-minute poem, created using extracts from the children's work, at the waterfall in Harrop Wood. This was followed by a picnic before the group split into two, one following the shorter route and the other walking the longer, more strenuous Trail. The day ended with a drink back at the Drop-In Centre, where Harrop Brook finally merges with the River Dean.

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The theme for the third walk relates to the lives of the quarrymen, who have worked the quarries on Kerridge Side since the fifteenth century. 'Cliff the Quarryman' markers show the way. Mosaic quarrymen, set in stone slabs, a bench made from a massive slab of Kerridge stone, and a mosaic, depicting a leaping hare and made from Kerridge stone and slate, are features that can be seen along the Trail.

### *The Mosaic Quarrymen*

'Go Mad with Mosaics' workshops were run by David Bateman, a ceramicist, at the Drop-In Centre over the summer holidays.

These were attended by children from Bollington's Primary Schools, and gave them the opportunity to explore techniques in working with clay and tile fragments. A variety of individual pieces were produced, which the children took home.

The final workshop involved all the children working together to produce a ceramic wheel. Eight pieces were started, each by a different child. Having worked a section of the segment, it was then passed around to the next person and then again, until all segments were completed. These were mounted on to a circular base to form a wheel. Natural rope was then set around each individual segment, and the final masterpiece is now on permanent display on the veranda of the Drop-In Centre, overlooking the River Dean. Following this series of children's workshops, several children then attended a special Mosaic Workshop run by David.

They designed and created four quarrymen, using clay and fragments of tiles. Each mosaic was set into individual stone slabs from Sycamore Quarry on Kerridge Side, the stone being carved using time-honoured techniques, by Bill Wetton, a local stonemason. Again, natural rope was used to frame each artwork, which was then covered in resin for protection.

Bollington Drop-In Centre's very own 'A' Team, together with much help from the Bollington and Peak Park Rangers, manhandled two of the stones up onto Kerridge Ridge. The remaining two were also dug in, and all four quarrymen are now displayed around the Trail.

### *The Hare Mosaic*

Following the success of the children's workshops, a group of adults at the Drop-In designed a circular mosaic, depicting a leaping hare. The Hare Mosaic is Romanesque in character, and was inspired by the Roman Mosaic at Colchester. Having made a circular concrete base, the mosaic was constructed using a variety of colours of locally quarried Kerridge stone, grey Welsh slate and green Cumberland slate.

Because of the heaviness of the finished mosaic and the fact that it was to be sited on top of Kerridge Ridge, a special carriage had to be constructed so that four people could share the weight. Again the Rangers came to our aid and, much huffing and puffing later, the Hare Mosaic was laid in place, resplendent for all to see.

### *The Kerridge Stone Bench*

Whilst walking the Trail, the group noticed the wonderful view of Bollington and the surrounding countryside that can be seen from Nancyside Road. The notion of creating a stone seat was voiced. The Drop-In Centre's 'A' Team, valiantly assisted by our trusty Rangers, took on the challenge.

The Team were invited into Sycamore Quarry and Doreen Earl, who owns the quarry, let them choose the right stones for the job. Two large stones were chosen for the base and a massive slab was picked to be the seat. Then began the arduous task of transporting them to the side of White Nancy. The Bollington Rangers commandeered a tractor and trailer and everybody rallied round to help lay the foundations,

position the two base stones, and eventually the slab was lowered into place. Because the design is so simple and the stone is from the hill itself, the bench blends realistically into the hillside, and is in a perfect position for panoramic views over Bollington and the surrounding countryside.

## **Community Involvement**

It is estimated that over 150 children and 100 adults were involved in setting up the first Nostalgia Trail, including landowners and local authority workers. More participated in the construction of both the second and the third. This does not include the numerous individuals and families who have used the pamphlets to walk the different Trails.

The third Trail is building upon the interest already generated and, with each new Trail, ever greater numbers of people will become more aware of the history of their own environment. They will be encouraged to take more exercise and gain a better appreciation of their countryside.

Local people, young and old, learn new skills through helping with design and construction. Long-term benefits include an ever-increasing number of visitors, hence boosting Bollington's tourist trade, and an on-going development of the project as new information is discovered and new Trails are routed.

The official Opening of 'Written in Stone', the 3rd Nostalgia Trail and accompanying Exhibition, was highly successful, with Sir Nicholas Winterton visiting the exhibition and sending the group off on the walk. Over 75 people and six dogs went on the walk, ages ranging from 6 months to 80 years, and everyone enjoyed the picnic next to White Nancy on top of Kerridge Ridge.

The children had great fun searching for the 'Cliff the Quarryman' markers, answering the quiz questions and looking for the various mosaics around the Trail, and the walk finished with drinks and biscuits back at the Drop-In Centre.

A great deal of positive feedback has already been received, not only from those who attended the opening walk but also from individuals and families who have used the pamphlet and quiz on their own, and many are already asking when the next Trail will be ready.