



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Four Spring 2012



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Back issues on line at: www.happy-valley.org.uk/live

Cover: Bollington Festival Players' 2012 production of Snow White Photograph: Anthony Holland

Editor..... Anthony Holland (01625 268047)

liveeditor@happy-valley.org.uk

Design & Layout... Anthony Holland, Simon Nottage

Editorial Team..... Tim Neale, Tim Boddington, Sandy Milson, Annette Hurst, Janet Beech, Betty Bosson
Simon Nottage, Mark Stedman, Ken Edwards
Steven Hurst, Kate Gooding.

Advertising..... Mark Stedman (01625 575227)

Michele Leigh (01625 572953)

liveadverts@happy-valley.org.uk

Distribution..... Janet Beech (01625 574618)

livedistribution@happy-valley.org.uk

Printed by..... Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)

Illustrations by... Matthew Wray

Events..... Lily Hardebeck (01625 560364)

TAXING MATTERS

Why has Bollington Town Council increased the parish council tax on all Bollington properties by 59%? It will rise to £54 from £34 per annum for an average Band D property.

The reason is that the Town Council is negotiating with Cheshire East to take back into its own ownership and control assets that were lost to the Borough in 1974. It appears they could be lost or neglected if they are not taken on by Bollington. So, after carrying out an opinion survey in the Council's newsletter that was sent to every household in the Town, the Council has decided, in principle, to take over responsibility for the Civic Hall, the Town Hall and the Recreation Ground.

It is also worth noting that there is no indication that our Cheshire East Council Tax bill will be reduced to compensate, as that council will no longer be running these facilities.

In order to manage these resources, and to ensure they are modernised and fit for maximum use by the community, the Council will need to meet the cost of running them effectively. This requires the precept to rise in two stages for 2012/13 and 2013/14. In particular at the Civic Hall, the Council will need to subsidise the running costs, as rents earned currently do not cover the current costs of cleaning, insurance, heating etc. The facilities are also in serious need of modernisation, being well past their sell-by date.

The plans are to upgrade the Civic Hall so that as many people as possible will want to use it regularly, and to fix rents at a level that will ensure maximum use. The Council is still exploring ways of managing the Civic Hall on behalf of the



Photograph of the Recreation Ground through the Arched Gateway by Anthony Holland

The 'Rec' is one of the local amenities which could be returned to Bollington jurisdiction.

community. One proposal has come from the Bollington Initiative Trust who would take on the management for an annual fee.

The Town Council is keen to seek volunteers who would be willing and able to form a Management Committee to take on the day-to-day running of the facility with the help of Town Hall staff and Councillors. If you or your organisation would be interested in taking some responsibility for managing the Civic Hall on behalf of the community and the Town Council, please contact David Naylor on 572985 or by email at bollington.tc@btconnect.com or just pop in to the Town Hall and speak to David directly.

Ken Edwards / Mark Stedman



www.parish.cheshire.gov.uk/bollington

Date for next copy:
Friday 25th
May 2012

EDITORIAL

Every new year it surprises me that we are able to continue to put together this magazine! I worry that with the state of the economy our advertisers or sponsors will choose to cut back - but no! Yet again, they have provided a ringing endorsement for our community magazine, and yet again, thanks to their unstinting support, we look forward to another successful year.

I would like to welcome Lily Hardebeck to the important role of collating all the different events for the centre pages. Good luck in pulling everything together.

It seems that many of our article contributors have made New Year Resolutions to get healthy. It would explain why this issue has more than its fair share of health and fitness related articles; from eating healthily to attending gymnasiums. With all of this content in just one issue, it has made me feel tired just designing and editing it all together!

There are however some alternatives to this endless quest for health. We look back 100 years to the 29th February Bollington Canal Burst and staying with water, take a journey down the River Dean in the first of a three part study of our river's course. Additionally, we have, amongst others, an interesting article regarding how we buy our food and another of Bollington's young residents gives us their view of our town. There is also an excellent review of the recent pantomime (oh no there isn't!).

Finally I would like to wish Rick Gratton good luck in running the London Marathon for charity.

All the best!

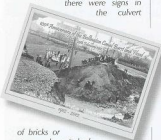
Anthony Holland

THE BOLLINGTON BURST

Leap Year's day, Thursday 29th February 1912, saw a collapse of the towpath bank almost opposite the dock at Kerridge on the Macclesfield Canal.

The failure is believed to have happened at One o'clock at night and the whole length from Whaley Bridge and Bugsworth all the way to Bosley top lock is thought to have drained away. By great good fortune an early photographer took a series of very good pictures enabling us to take a close look at the canal and the breach - and also some of the steps taken to repair the hole.

Cause: It seems probable that a culvert beneath the canal at this point was responsible. Malcolm Bower, Secretary of Macclesfield Canal Society, notes that 'When the culvert was examined a few years ago, the contractors told me there were signs in the culvert



of bricks or stones where it had been rebuilt.'

Damage: The culvert carries the Tinkers Brook under the canal and all the water went with it into Tinkers Clough. Today the clough is a haven of peace and quiet, a damp wooded area in a deep valley providing a home for a wide variety of flora and fauna. It is publicly accessible from Bridge 28. It has been the subject of an environment project in recent years and provides a very pleasant walk through the wood and valley.

The clough was at least partly wooded in 1912, though none of the present trees are of any great age. However, there can be little doubt that the rapid inflow of water and its depth would have caused considerable damage.

Photographs:
Discovery Centre
Collection

The full collection of pictures relating to this event can be seen at the Discovery Centre together with Keith Scammell's superb model of Kerridge wharf as it was in the 1870s.

A new postcard is also available for sale throughout Bollington to commemorate the event

happy-valley.org.uk/history/misc-kerridgebreach.htm



This huge flow might well have gone through West Bollington causing enormous damage and with risk to life and limb. However, one piece of good fortune meant that the inhabitants suffered little more than wet feet. This was the fact that the clough had been filled in at its lower end by the construction of the railway in 1869. Beneath this infill there was another culvert leading a good 200 metres well beyond the railway. This small culvert would certainly have slowed down the escape of water from the clough. It is also likely that water would have flowed over the railway, no doubt seriously damaging it, but we have no evidence of this.

There are pictures showing flooding in the streets at West Bollington and at the Bollington Urban District Council Gas Works which was beside and below the railway where Spinner's Way is today. The Manchester Guardian reported that the furnaces were extinguished by the flood and the gas supply closed off.



Repair: Just one picture in the collection shows how the repair might have been carried out. This is taken from the top of bridge 28 looking down on the north side of the bridge. It shows a group of boats, presumably held up by the stoppage.

It also shows that a boat is under the bridge. This means that the water is being held up by something other than the bridge stop planks, which cannot be used if a boat is standing in that position. Why would they want a boat there? The reason is visible beside the boat - tracks laid for a tramway come through the bridge and extend a few yards on a frame which would have been in the water (no doubt similar on the south side until the tramway for the purpose of unloading fill into tramway trucks which would then have been pushed along the towpath and emptied into the breach. What a pity the picture looking south does not show the tramway.

It looks as though most pictures were taken on Sunday (3rd March 1912). This is because large numbers of people have turned out to look at the incident and most are in their best clothes! Only on a Sunday would they be dressed like that, and have had the time to visit.

The picture taken from the top of Bridge 28 (left) looking south shows the buildings surrounding the dock at Kerridge. **Tim Boddington**