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Live!

Number Forty Eight Spring 2010

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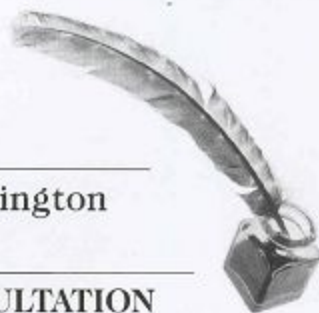
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Editor..... Anthony Holland (01625 268047)
liveeditor@happy-valley.org.uk

Design & Layout... Anthony Holland, Simon Nottage

Editorial Team..... Tim Neale, Tim Boddington, Sandy Milsom,
Annette Hurst, Janet Beech, Betty Bonson
Simon Nottage, Mark Stedman, Ken Edwards.

Advertising Tim Neale (01625 576397)
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

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STAGE BY STAGE

For 25 years the Arts Centre has been an integral part of our local community offering an eclectic line-up of theatre, music and comedy, to name but a few things! The newly re-roofed Arts Centre is now weather-proof for a good number of years to come and plans are afoot to revamp the inside of the building too.

Over the last eight months the Management Committee, in collaboration with Andrew Bunce, a local architect, has been working hard on plans to develop the Arts Centre to provide more space and flexibility for community use. Preliminary plans have reached the consultation phase and current Arts Centre users are being asked their views on the Arts Centre's most ambitious project to date.

In brief (without giving away too much!) the plan is to increase the auditorium space so more people can come and enjoy the fantastic programme of events; reconfigure the backstage area which really is in need of a TV-style make-over; and completely refit the upstairs to make it ready for meeting space hire.

Did you know there was a room up there with fabulous hill views?

The Arts Centre is used practically to capacity. Currently, the building can only accommodate one group at a time due to important fire regulations and inadequate access to the backstage and upstairs areas. The planned redesign will allow several groups to enjoy the centre at the same time, in safety and comfort. Chair of the Management Committee, Bruce Kendrick commented, "These plans will really propel the Arts Centre into a different league in terms of being a fantastic community resource".

The Management Committee at the Arts Centre is keen to 'ask the audience' - that's you - what you think about the refurbishment plans. An open public meeting to unveil the entire project was held at the end of February.

There will be future meetings, so please come along and have your say - the Arts Centre is a legacy Bollington can't afford to let stand still.

Annette Hurst



bollingtonartscentre.org.uk



Above: Photograph "Icicle" by Simon Nottage

Left: Arts Centre from top of Methodist Church Steeple.

Photograph by Janet Beech

Date for next copy:
Friday 28th
May 2010

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of *Bollington Live!* for 2010. The New Year brings with it a lot of challenges for our team of volunteers, in particular Mark and Michele who have worked incredibly hard with our advertisers and sponsors enabling us to expand the magazine to a bumper twenty pages. Clearly, many thanks must go to those advertisers and sponsors and I hope that we continue to produce a magazine that you feel proud to be an important part of.

We have just had one of our coldest winters for many years. Temperatures in Bollington dropped to an unprecedented low of around -14°C. This however, enabled people to enjoy the snow in a variety of ways, from skiing on the slopes of White Nancy to building Igloos and Snowmen. Our front cover features a spectacular snow sculpture from Beechway, a truly stunning, though temporary piece of work.

Articles in this issue range from the historical - Bollington Urban District Council and Lower Mill, through to contemporary issues, including Tinkers Clough Wood, the Bollington Ladies Hockey Team and the Air Cadets.

Once again, many of our photographs, which do so much to add to our magazine, are provided by members of the Bollington Festival Photography Group. A picture paints a thousand words!

As always, I hope you will be able to find something of interest. All of our articles are based on Bollington; please continue to be involved and send in your thoughts and ideas.

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS...



Top Left: Before the restoration work,

Top Right: building the new steps toward the canal.

Centre Right: Volunteers and guests celebrating the re-opening

Bottom Left: the new walkway.

Photographs provided by: Jose Spinks and BIT

A clear path through Tinkers Clough is now recreated, restoring for community use a safe, pleasant walk linking the Middlewood Way and the Macclesfield Canal (at Bridge 26).

First identified in the 1831 Bryant County Map, this ancient woodland is first and foremost a valuable natural habitat for a variety of wildlife. The Groundwork Trust took over its management in 1983 and created footpaths and boardwalks to encourage local people safely to stroll, jog or walk dogs through the Clough without unduly disturbing the area. However, the combination of storms, erosion and, sadly, some vandalism, overtook the wood and Tinkers Clough became a neglected, bedraggled wasteland.

In recent years the Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) has directed efforts between a new landowner, local volunteers and professional workers to rescue the wood for both wildlife and walkers. Stubbornly and successfully, BIT representatives have steered the project through the thickets of regulation and consultation to bring to fruition the Woodland Management Plan first drawn up in conjunction with Chris Burnett Associates in 2006.

Thanks to cooperation with Bollington Town Council, and

Make a note of the next Town Council Tidy-Up on Saturday, March 13th, starting at 10 o'clock. It includes a litter-pick in the wood. Perhaps you'd like to sign up then to become an official "Friend of Tinkers Clough", to help keep it in good order?

www.happy-valley.org.uk



Macclesfield Borough Council, now Cheshire East Council, restoration of this semi-wild space is realised. Funding has been sourced chiefly from a Changing Spaces grant from the Big Lottery Fund, and includes a sum from Cheshire's "Parish Small Grants Scheme". Final tree and undergrowth clearance in Spring is expected to be financed by Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN). This will amount to a total investment of over £50,000 – for an invaluable sustainable asset for Bollington.

Local support has been vital. Many individuals sent emails to accompany funding applications. Others turned out for clear-ups, typically in driving rain! The Rangers and Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale (KRIV) organisations sent volunteers to tackle dense undergrowth and rebuild dry-stone



Drainage channels direct springs away from the path. The tree canopy is thinned so the wood is already lighter and less damp; it will dry out significantly next year. Finally, the stone walls and other boundaries are now restored.

But don't worry; this is no tamed pixie grotto! Conservation experts have guided all clearance work – with preservation and regeneration of natural species of bird, animal and plant life the priorities. The



walls. It has been a communal effort allowing BIT to deliver a principal aim: 'To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the town and its surrounding countryside'.

If you go down to the woods today, a path guides you safely down one steep side and up the other, clearly marked and firm underfoot. Well-spaced steps manage the gradient and a lengthy, broad walkway spans the wetland in the valley bed. Secondly, the stream runs through the Clough from a rebuilt small weir to the newly grilled-off culvert (its watercourse deepened and embankments strengthened).

greater part of Tinkers Clough is deliberately left inaccessible; it is a home for wildlife – we humans must stick to the path.

Look out for events in the wood this springtime to celebrate its reopening. Plans include the installation of bird and bat boxes, limited signage to point out natural features and the development of specific educational packs by local junior schools. In the meantime, just enjoy passing through this natural woodland once again as the seasons change throughout the year.

Jose Spinks