



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty One Spring 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BROTHERS IN ARMS - BOLLINGTON & KERRIDGE

WATER STREET SCHOOL - A CLEAN SLATE

BOLLINGTON LOCAL ELECTIONS 2011

BOLD AS BRASS

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COMMUNITY CHANCE

The biggest and most important re-development opportunity in Bollington for many decades is how we might describe this 14-acre industrial site. Located behind the Waterhouse Medical Centre in the river valley and stretching from the Middlewood Way viaduct almost to Garden Street, the site currently houses Kay Metzeler. They built the present factory 48 years ago and now plan to withdraw in the summer.

Bollington Town Council is aware of the importance of this site, and last autumn was approached by the owners, Rock Asset Management (RAM), who recognised that the town would have a view as to what should replace the redundant factory. The Town Council have since commissioned Bollington Civic Society to undertake a public consultation. The Civic Society have conducted further talks with the owners firstly to identify their objectives and secondly to establish the need for community input to their plans before they submit any planning application.

Bollington Civic Society have provided a questionnaire to every household in the town in order to identify the community's priorities and will send the results to Bollington Town Council. The results will also steer further discussions with the owners, RAM, who are keen to establish a consensus with the town before they submit a planning application.

There are, of course, constraints. The resulting development has to be financially viable; the properties developed have to be capable of being sold or let. The plans have to be acceptable to the planners at Cheshire East Council. I should



stress that the community's views can never be imposed – ultimately the owner has to decide whether to go along with our ideas or ignore them and go their own way, with the risk that the community will oppose them through the usual process. RAM have made it clear that they do not wish to take the latter route and that if they and the community cannot agree then they will be prepared to leave the site undeveloped for many years and collect a continuing rent from Kay Metzeler. I believe the community would agree that this would not be a good outcome.

So, please fill in your questionnaire, attend the consultation and make your voice heard in the Civic Hall on 3rd March from 10.00am onwards.

Your views count!

Tim Boddington

YOUR BOLLINGTON LIVE!

Bollington Live! is your magazine. If you have any stories or reminiscences which might be of interest, please send them to the address at the top of this page by the 27th May.



Photograph of Kay Metzeler entrance and offices by Tim Boddington.

Inset photograph by Simon Nottage

www.happy-valley.org.uk

EDITORIAL

I am writing this just after listening to the Peal of Bells from St. John's Church for the very last time. It was wonderful to hear them ring out through the valley. It is sad to think we will most probably never hear a peal of bells ring out in Bollington ever again.

Finally, as the bells fell silent we heard the stirring sound of the magnificent Church Organ. Whilst the rain lashed the cobwebbed windows, some in the church had tears in their eyes. The sounds of that organ and those bells provided the soundtrack to many events in Bollington's life. Things can never stay the same, but there is a comfort for many people in continuity.

Speaking of continuity, *Bollington Live!* marches on into another year - and we are again delighted to be able to present yet another twenty page issue - with thanks to our advertisers and sponsors who continue to have faith in the quality of our magazine.

The success of *Bollington Live!* in my opinion is the quality of the articles. We are a Bollington magazine, so we have Bollington articles - and yet again we are bursting at the seams with them! From the futures of the Kay Metzeler and Water Street School sites, to the past of the Urban District Council, and from the hopeful candidates at Local Elections to the winning success of our Bollington Brass Band, we are and will remain focused on what is happening in and around Bollington.

Enjoy the issue – and roll on summer!

Date for next copy:
Friday 27th.
May 2011

BOLD AS BRASS

Years ago, playing in a brass band was a pastime for the working class. Bands used to be male-dominated and their roots were firmly set in the mining communities and mill towns of the north of England.

Nowadays, more than 100,000 dedicated men, women and children from all walks of life play in a total of some 3,500 active brass bands throughout Britain. These numbers are growing, and players are becoming younger, more competitive, more active and achieve amazingly high standards of musicianship.



Brass bands will always be an important part of our cultural heritage, although they will continue to change with the times. The brass band movement is now on a more professional footing than ever before, with its future secured by the continuous influx of young players. It is now a nationally recognised study subject within many universities, which offer degree courses in performance, arranging and conducting.

Brass bands are classified into five divisions or sections (Championship, First, Second, Third and Fourth), rather like football clubs, with points gained through successful competition results – and, of course, promotion and relegation!

The Championship Section boasts the likes of Grimethorpe, Black Dyke, Fodens and Brighouse & Rastrick bands; Bollington are currently in the First Section.

Bollington Brass Band was first formed in the 19th century, but the present Band owes its origin to a group of enthusiasts who met together in 1972, with Dr.

John Coope as Musical Director. When Brian Taylor was appointed as Musical Director in 1985 the Band began to make considerable progress, gaining promotion from the Fourth to the Second Section. After Brian's tragic death in 1994 the baton passed first to Bob Wyatt and then to Tim Power before Peter Christian was appointed Musical Director in August 2001.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION BOASTS THE LIKES OF GRIMETHORPE, BLACK DYKE, FODENS AND BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BANDS; BOLLINGTON ARE CURRENTLY IN THE FIRST SECTION

In March 2003 the Band was crowned North West Champions (Second Section) at the annual Regional Championships in Blackpool, and narrowly failed to add the National title to their honours when they were beaten by a solitary point at the Great Britain National Championships the following September. In 2006 the Band again qualified for the National finals – and were again beaten by a single point! However, Peter's continuing success with the baton has seen the Band promoted to the First Section, just one step away from the Championship section, and in 2010 they recorded

their best ever result in the North West Championships when they were placed 3rd.

Besides the Senior Band there is also a thriving "B" Band for up-and-coming musicians of any age which has its own programme of concerts and performances, and in 2009 this Band cut its first CD.

Each year the Band takes part in the annual Whit Friday Brass Band competition in Tameside – as featured in the film 'Brassed Off'; this event attracts bands from all over the country, including many from the Championship Section. In effect it is a series of open contests held at 11 venues throughout Tameside, with prize money on offer at each event: Saddleworth district hosts a similar event on the same night.

In 2010 Bollington played at 9 of the 11 venues – an amazing feat in itself – and finished with their best set of results ever, being placed a very creditable 8th out of 86 bands. Highlights were a 4th place at Heyrod (Fodens were placed 5th!), where they were awarded the George Bowes Memorial Cup and a cheque for £150, and a 5th place at Stalybridge Celtic (where Leyland were 6th!).

Bollington Brass Band is fiercely proud of its independent status. It is not sponsored by big business like many other bands; rather it relies on its own fund raising efforts (through concerts, carolling, etc.) and regular donations from a large number of individual patrons. For an annual

BECOMING A PATRON

If you are interested in becoming a patron, attending a concert or even playing with either band please phone either

Bev Needham (Band Chairman 01625 576367) or Roger Johnson (01625 613851).

BAND WEBSITE

For more information about Bollington Brass Band (players, forthcoming concerts, etc.) please visit the Band website at

www.bollingtonbrass.co.uk

Photographs by David Naylor

This year's Whit Marches are scheduled for Friday 17th June.

