



# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

Number Fifty Seven Spring 2013

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# Bollington

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DINNER : 5.30 - 10pm ( MONDAY - FRIDAY ) SATURDAY : 4.30pm - 10.30 pm



*Bollington Live!* is published three times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of *"Bollington Live!"* - A voice for everyone! we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome to: The Editor, c/o Bollington Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen St., Bollington SK10 5PS

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Cover: 'Adelphi Mill and Princess Street' watercolour by Martin Bence

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Illustration of new Medical Centre extension: West Hart partnership

## MEDICAL NOTES

For the past six years, Bollington Medical Centre have been seriously investigating ways of increasing our working space. The Medical Centre buildings, although loved by patients and staff alike, do not provide sufficient clinical space which is easily accessible to all patients.

In May 2012 we learnt that we had been successful in our bid for a grant from the Primary Care Trust. This, together with financial input from the GPs, would enable us to develop the existing property to provide a health care facility for our patients fit for purpose in the 21st century. The big snag was that we had to spend the grant before April 2013, as by that date the Trust would no longer exist.

Time was short. We needed to move quickly and be decisive. Plans were submitted to the council and at the same time the plans were put out to tender - before they had even been approved.

We began to plan the move from the Coach House into the Waterhouse for the duration of the build. This

was not just a removal matter; we had to run the same number of clinics from less space when we were already short of rooms. A timetable was devised where all rooms were used all day, meaning that clinicians had more pressure to keep to time to let the next doctor in.

We received planning permission on 6th September. On 16th October we opened the five tenders submitted under sealed bids and made the choice of contractor. Not long afterwards we moved out of the Coach House and into the Waterhouse. Then, in November, A&S enterprises began to set up their site and work began.

Since then the administrative staff and the hot-desking clinicians have been working in the Waterhouse Library - a large cold room with no central heating over winter. The work on the extension is, however, going well and is currently on time;

The projected end date is Monday 8th July 2013. **Jan Appleyard**

## EDITORIAL

Another year, another *Bollington Live!* And while it may seem a little belated to say 'Happy New Year', this is our first opportunity to do so and we all wish you well for the year ahead.

2013 is a year of 'building up' towards the next Festival in 2014. With that in mind, this issue, and those leading up to the Festival hope to be a part of that Festival Fever. You will notice that for our front cover, instead of our usual photograph, there is a wonderful watercolour, painted by Martin Bence. I hope to feature different artists' work on the four front covers leading up to the Festival as part of our contribution to the 'Creative Arts Group'.

Additionally, there is another four-part theme taking us up to the Festival. Late last year I commissioned the 'Festival Literary Group' to write a serialised 'murder mystery', set in Bollington. Where they went with the idea was up to them, but the first short story is in this issue. I have no idea how it will develop or end, but I am looking forward to finding out!

There is plenty to discover in this issue, and I am looking forward to this year's series of issues. I hope that amongst them, you too will find something of interest.

Why not make it a resolution to get more involved with some of the many groups and organisations we feature amongst the pages of *Bollington Live!*? I am sure you will be made most welcome.

Additionally, you could write about your Bollington based experiences for *Bollington Live!*

Date for next copy:  
**Friday 24th  
May 2013**

# PAVILION DREAMS

It all started back in 1977 or so, when the old wooden cricket pavilion on the Rec. was burned down. The pavilion had been a very useful community base, with a very pleasant atmosphere and all the normal facilities for a fully functioning social centre. Plus it was far enough away from most houses for a good noisy band to play with no complaint from neighbours, apart from the time when a lone piper was tuning up in the nearby car park of the Vale Inn, when suddenly an upstairs window was thrown open and an irate voice shouted "shurrup, I'm trying to get a baby to sleep here"...oh yes, happy days!

Anyway to get back to the point, the village had now lost a valuable asset. The new Pavilion, which was eventually provided by Macclesfield Borough, was functional yes, but purely a sports venue, utilitarian to a degree and lacking in warmth, literally. Several suggestions over the recent past have asked if a second storey could be added to the initial build but they never seem to progress further than that - a hopeful suggestion.

Meanwhile, the Bollington Brass Band, resurrected for the first Bollington Festival in 1964 by the late Dr. John Coope, was pretty well rendered homeless. Since the late '70s they have had many bases throughout the village, but a permanent home, big enough to accommodate instrument storage, music stands, volumes of sheet music, a practice area and most importantly a growing number of musicians of varying ages, was always on the wish list. As the band became more and more successful it became obvious that a long term permanent home was beginning to be fairly crucial. And that is where Kay Metzeler came in.

As a local councillor, on the M.B.C. Planning Committee, I went to see as many application sites as possible, particularly those in Central ward, which I represented. Kay Metzeler had seen a chequered history, with two serious fires during my time of involvement with planning, so any applications from them had

Photograph of the Waterhouse Mill Pavilion by Sylvia Roberts



to be very closely monitored. On one such visit, approaching the main office block, (the only decent part of the original mill which had been retained) I noticed, tucked away down by the viaduct area, a smallish building, obviously underused, but didn't give it too much thought. Over time I gleaned some more information about this sad looking place. It had been the social hub of the old Oliver's mill, the Waterhouse Mill, where for generations the bulk of the sport and social activities took place, not only for the mill workers, but many birthday and wedding celebrations were held there - indeed it was a focus of entertainment for many local folk.

Accordingly, the next time I visited the factory, I asked for permission to look at the disused building. When I was fully able to see the size and location of the building, its potential was obvious, despite the lack of maintenance over many years. A double fronted, brick built and slate roofed little treasure. Moreover a tangible part of Bollington's social and employment past for several decades. Brilliant place for a Brass Band too!

Sufficiently enthused, I tried to engage the interest of the Conservation Officer at M.B.C. - nothing doing. Then I tried as many groups involved with conservation and local history as I could, trying to get them to understand the intrinsic value of this sad little building, in order to secure it for the village in perpetuity, but again was unsuccessful.

When next I was visiting Kay Metzeler, I asked about the firm's plans for the rapidly deteriorating structure; "That? Oh yes, we intend to pull it down, it's only used for odd bits of storage, we could use the area for car parking". After swallowing down my incipient hysteria... I explained my interest in the building as an important part of the history of the village. To my amazement the response to that was, "Well, in that case, you can have it!" I was practically speechless! Well I'd never been given a Pavilion before! There was however, one proviso, it had to be removed from the site within 18 months.

After some deliberation and remembering slightly similar instances of buildings being moved, I wondered about a systematic process of removal, brick by numbered brick, and similar with the roof slates, to a new site and rebuild to the same footprint. Why not? After all, the site on the raised area of the Rec, in the ownership of Macclesfield Borough Council, could be the very place, and it had the remains of all the services too. Perfect, I thought in my rosy dreams, to have found an answer to the two concerns, a new home for the band and the retention of a building which was remembered fondly. Sadly reality and common sense brought the whole scheme crashing down. Architects, lawyers, builders, demolition firms; all were consulted, all showed interest but sadly, they were pretty well of a mind, hard-headed and practical,