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Number Fifty Winter 2010

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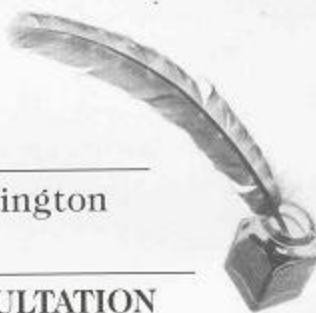
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SMOKE STACKS

Mills mean chimneys – except that they seem to be getting fewer in number and shorter in stature!

When they were built, Bollington's water-powered mills, such as Ingersley, Rainow, Higher, Lower, Oak Bank, Waterhouse and Lowerhouse mills, had waterwheels and no chimneys. When they needed more power they added boilers and steam engines plus a fine tall chimney. Clarence and Adelphi were built with these from the outset.

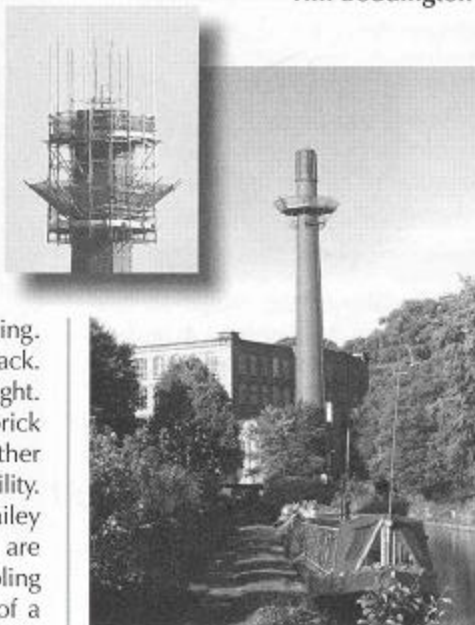
Alas, over the years the chimneys have been disappearing. Adelphi lost its very beautiful stack. Lower Mills has lost some height. Lowerhouse is losing its brick chimney metre by metre as weather and age diminish its stability. Bollington steeplejacks Bailey International Steeplejacks, are removing three metres of crumbling brickwork to leave something of a large stump held together by metal straps.

Clarence lost its two original chimneys decades ago. Its present stack was built in 1914 by H. Cumberbirch & Sons and it is sound and upright. However, plant life took hold in the higher elevations and has damaged some of the brickwork. Three metres, the most beautiful bit on the top, were taken off in 1977. Options are being discussed as to what should be done now – repair the damaged section (favoured by Bollington Civic Society), remove five metres off the top, or even demolish the whole stack. It is a 'listed' building so the first option should really be adopted.

Of course, don't forget the two little chimneys that stand on Beeston

Hill and above Ingersley Vale. These were connected to their boilers by tunnels built up the hillsides. As things are going they could become the last reminders of our happy valley full of smoky chimney stacks!

Tim Boddington



Photographs: Clarence Mill by Anthony Holland; inset: Lowerhouse Mill by Simon Nottage

50TH ISSUE COMPETITION

Win a hamper worth £50 for our 50th issue kindly donated by the new Livesey's Delicatessen on High Street.

Simply tell us the issue numbers of the back issues of *Bollington Live!* scattered throughout this issue.

Answers to the Editor by e-mail or by post to Bollington Printshop.

Closing date 30th November 2010

happy-valley.org.uk/history/mill-clarence_chimney.htm

EDITORIAL

Reaching our fiftieth issue is something of a milestone. This is a time for both looking back - as well as looking ahead into the future.

John Liley, the magazine's first editor, remembers in his article - and thanks many of those involved at the beginning. I would like to extend those thanks to everyone who has contributed in whatever way over fifty issues, from writing articles, providing photographs, to illustrating with cartoons, not to mention delivering to every household and business in our town. Our committee members and I are all proud to be associated with Bollington's magazine. Regular feedback also tells us that Bollington looks forward to receiving their copy through the door.

Our advertisers are a crucial part of this success. Again, thanks are due to them. Many have been with us for almost every issue - a special thanks to M. Chadwick, Michael Hart, J.J.Heathcote, Marie Anne Holmes Naden, Stylers, J.A.McNulty and Bollington Printshop amongst others. The Printshop deserves extra thanks for continually helping us improve our magazine and for being our printer of choice since the beginning.

Sponsors were also introduced after a couple of years, several of which have been a continual source of support, again, helping enormously. Tullis Russell, Bollington Town Council and Bollington Civic Society have sponsored every issue. Slater Harrison, Bailey Business Park and The Adelphi Group are not far behind.

I hope our readers, advertisers and sponsors, old and new continue to support *Bollington Live!* for many more years. Thank you, once again.

Here's to the future!



IN THE BEGINNING...

In the very first issue, published in 1994, my name is listed as Editor of *Bollington Live!* So ... it must be true. In practice, I was away in France on business at the time Number One was produced and it was Linda West, Walter Menzies and Graham Barrow who put it together. Some of the sentences were mine, under the heading of 'Terrible Traffic', but the rest was other people's work.

In the issues to follow I had to do the job more closely, having in a moment of light-headedness volunteered within the hearing of the late Dr. John Coope. John, the begetter of the Bollington Festivals and the driving force behind so many of the offshoots that the Festival produced, announced one day that after eight years as Editor of the magazine for the Arts Centre and Civic Society that he had had quite enough. It was only a little magazine, but it had to be written, and distributed, which seemed to consist of John hiking round the town to put it through the members' letter-boxes. On top of all this, he was a busy GP - and a very good one. He sorted out the asthma that plagued me for 14 years by observing, three minutes into our consultation, that I had a broken nose, a fact overlooked by a lengthy roster of previous doctors (not, I hasten to add, in Bollington). So I owed him something.

Editorially, I had come to his attention, I suppose, by writing the copy for the 1993 Festival Brochure (a tricky commission, given the several major acts remaining unconfirmed by the supposed publication date). Graham contributed too, with Walter getting it to press. That they- and others, had been plotting *Bollington Live!* was unknown to me then. Free newspapers were booming at the time, but the closest came from Macclesfield - with little concerning us. Ought not Bollington to assert itself? Hence the masthead slogan of *Bollington Live!* "A town in its own right."

So, there was a theme. Walter already had the logo designed, but some major decisions had to be



Covers: Two early issues and the issue featuring Dr. John Coope MBE.



made. Should the magazine have a price on it, or should it be free? Should it be decently produced, or done in the traditional manner of society journals, with smudgy type and a staple in the corner?

In any event, how could it be paid for? By its advertisements, theoretically, but who, if anyone, would obtain them? John who, in the gathering of sponsorship for the Festivals, had no qualms about marching into the chairman's office of any company in the area and coming out with the boodle, since the last time they had faced one another they were at the respective ends of a stethoscope - was too preoccupied to do this now. Anyway, he had been trying to give the magazine up.

One of the best things we ever did was to place a notice in the

Macclesfield Express, asking for help. This drew the attention of Dennis Caulfield and Mark Stedman, a newcomer to the area who became a town councillor and later our Town Mayor. Without Dennis and Mark, *Bollington Live!* would never have left the ground.

Although I was, professionally, an editor once, it was in the days of laying out the pages using scissors and paste. *Bollington Live!* on the other hand, was stretching into the computer age, a difficult concept for me, though Simon Nottage of Bollington Printshop smoothed the way and we ironed out the text together.

There were doubts, when we began, as to how long *Live!* might last. Magazines run by volunteers have a tendency to peter out. We felt we were doing well when the second year of publication came upon us, but sufficient volunteers kept turning up - and the squad doing the deliveries round the houses became a uniting strength. None of us, though, foresaw such a run. Fifty issues, by golly! I only edited nineteen. Well, eighteen, really- and it was thinner than! Looking at the magazine today, I am full of admiration for the input it represents. Wholeheartedly, I salute all involved: Tim Neale, who took over from me and Anthony Holland, his successor, who has put so much into it, with an effect that I envy. Plus, of course, the many others who pitch in. John Coope would have been delighted, too.

John Liley

