

The Friends of Swindon Health Hydro

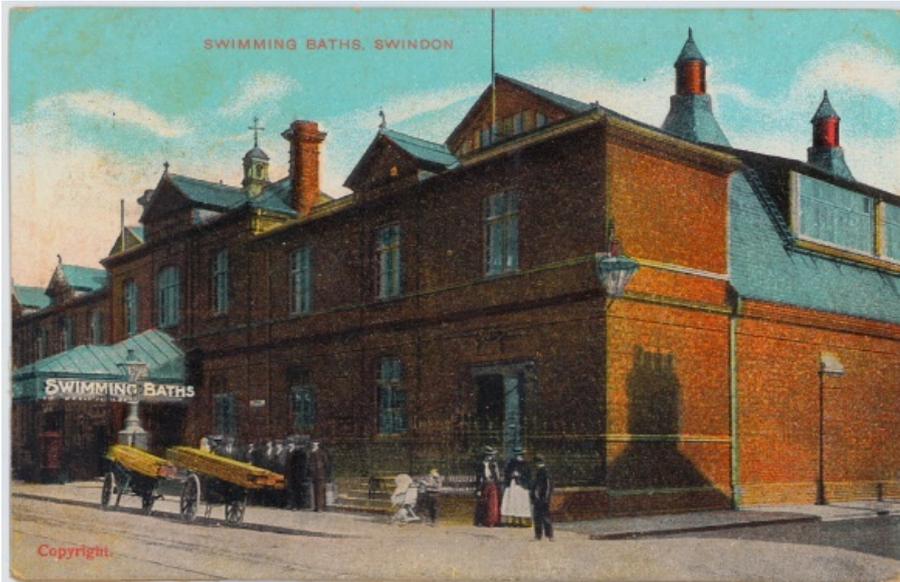
(est. 1892 as The Medical Fund Baths & Dispensary)
Newsletter No.2

(March 2021)

This is truly a momentous week for the Swindon Health Hydro!

This unique and much loved building, so dear in the memory of so many Swindonians, has been successful in its bid for £5million from the government's Towns Fund.

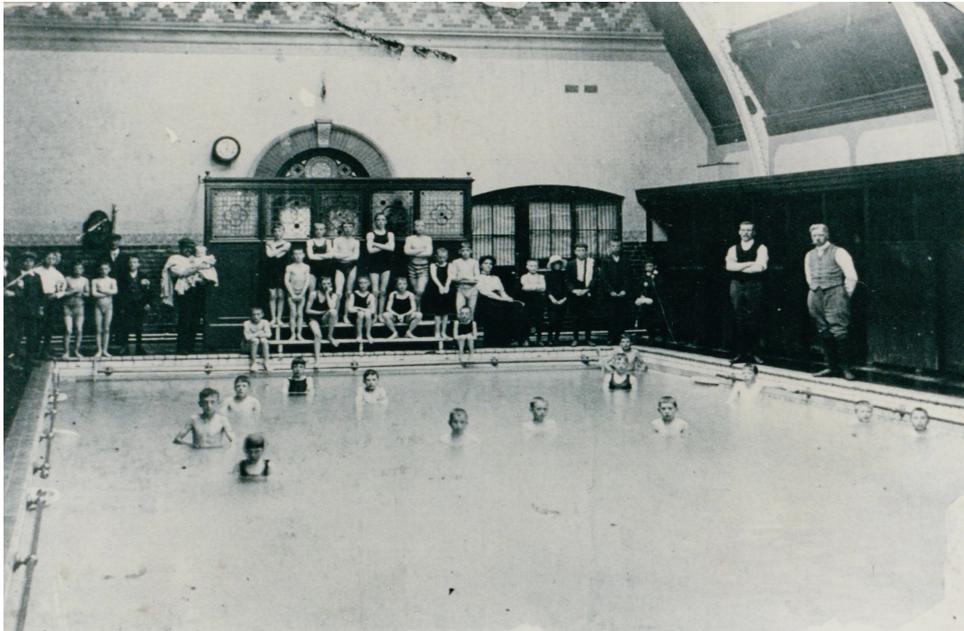
We hardly dared to dream.....



The money, along with the £1.5million already pledged by Swindon Borough Council, will see a complete restoration of this Grade 2* listed building, so fundamental to the town's railway heritage.

It will be the first time since the 1980s that work of any significant nature will have been carried out on the building. Forty years of minimal maintenance has taken its toll on this grand old lady. This once bustling building was already a shadow of its former self long before the pandemic added to its woes.

Last December heavy rain resulted in a substantial flood in the Mall (former doctors waiting area); peeling paintwork can be seen throughout; we are now in the third winter without heating in the changing rooms; and who can forget the learners' pool, this has now been closed for over five years.



small pool circa 1900

Please be patient, don't expect work to start anytime soon, these things quite rightly take a great deal of planning. The first requirements are to build a sustainable business case that will run alongside the planning of the programme of works. There is much to contend with including a decimated leisure sector and the complications of an ongoing pandemic.

This is a 'once only' opportunity to relaunch the Health Hydro, we must get it right. It is vital that all parties (SBC, GLL, the 'Friends' group, heritage stakeholders and the wider community) work together to secure the future of the Health Hydro for its next 100 years!

Yours,

The Friends of Swindon Health Hydro

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Photographs courtesy of Local Studies (Swindon Libraries)

This is a brief newsletter to inform you of the good news, another newsletter to follow in the not too distant future.

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