

# A PENNY FOR GOING



A history of Saltaire and its regeneration  
told through its shops

Roger Clarke

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# A PENNY FOR GOING



*By Roger Clarke*  
*Artwork by Kate Clarke*

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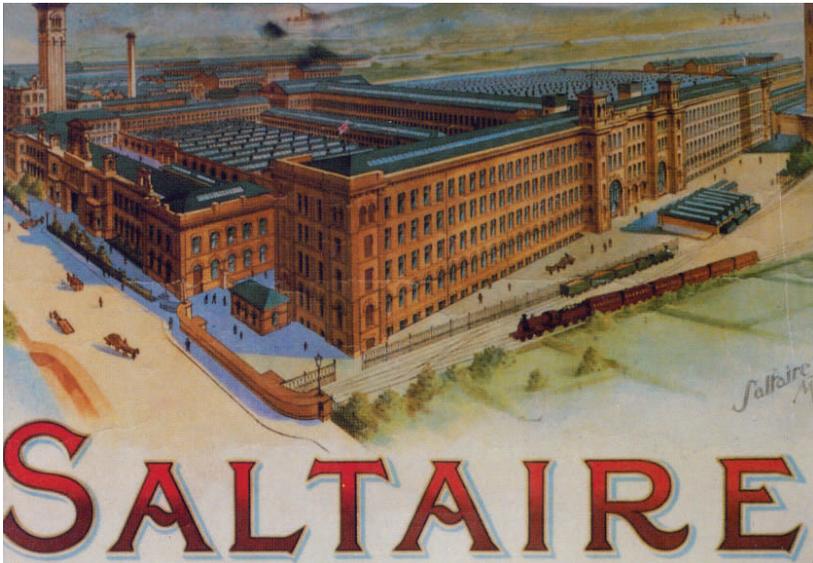
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Saltaire is not a museum. It is a living, breathing, exciting and vibrant place to visit, live in and work in.

It has a lifeblood coursing through it, consisting of its industry, commerce, educational establishments, shops, housing, and the desire of its residents to develop a sense of community here.

Other model villages are preserved in the formaldehyde of grants and subsidies. Saltaire has to work hard at staying alive, adapting and developing in the modern world.

# A PENNY FOR GOING

A history of Saltaire and its regeneration told through its shops and shopkeepers.



*Saltaire United Reformed Church, formerly Saltaire Congregational Church*

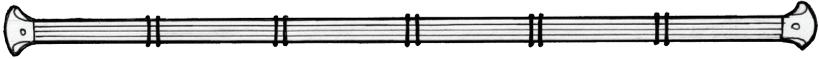
Thank you for buying this copy of “A penny for going”.

In doing so, you have contributed directly to the Saltaire United Reformed Church Restoration Fund, since the proceeds from this book are donated to this cause.

This Grade 1 Listed building depends on voluntary donations for its maintenance and restoration.  
Your donation is much appreciated.

Mrs Valerie Jenkins, Church Secretary

# SALTAIRE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



## **Formerly Saltaire Congregational Church**

The building which is the subject of your donation is situated just a hundred yards from the Mill. On the opposite side of Victoria Road to the Mill is the iconic, Italianate style tower of the church. It's remarkable that this Congregationalist church (they are usually square, simple and unadorned) has Corinthian columns with acanthus leaves at the top, a clock, a peal of bells, a decorated lattice, and a large golden finial on top of the cupola. This is a building which makes a statement to the glory of God, and a testament to the wealth of the man who positioned it so carefully, so close to his commercial enterprise. He firmly believed in his family motto "Quid non Deo Juvante" (what cannot man do, God helping), and his religious belief was the firm foundation on which his life was built.

The interior is just as impressive – from the circular tower (so the devil can't hide in the corners!) to the great vaulted church interior. Go there to be overawed by its splendour. Take the children to count the number of times the monogram T intertwined with S is featured above the windows and over the choir stalls. And dependent upon their nerve, take them behind the curtains into the entrance to the Mausoleum which is guarded by the superbly sculpted Archangel Gabrielle (by John Adams-Acton), where they can imagine the lead lined coffin of Sir Titus placed on a platform beneath their feet. You will know whether your particular child will find this experience deliciously spooky or just plain terrifying!

English Heritage gave the building a Grade 1 Listing (the only one in the village), and as a result the upkeep and restoration is prohibitive.

Sir Titus built it for £16,000 in 1859, and it took 1 year to build, with pews for over 400 people. It continues to function as a working church (now United Reformed) with regular baptisms, weddings, and funerals. There are regular Sunday services for its 90 strong congregation, most of who now live outside the Village. There was a restoration in 1954, in which the tie bars which span the Church were introduced to support the walls, and extensive dry rot was treated. In 1998, the building was completely re-roofed, the tower



repaired, and the rear wall reconstructed. This latest restoration cost over £500,000, with money coming from English Heritage, the Lottery Fund and the European Union. However, Church members had to find the money for the early survey work and professional fees, and this small group remarkably managed to raise the £30,000 required. Gold leaf decorates the lattice and the finial on the insistence of English Heritage, whose standards are very

high. Surveys are carried out every five years, and inevitably remedial work has to be carried out each time. For the immediate future, the tower canopy and steps require urgent attention, disabled access needs to be constructed, the windows should be restored, and work needs to be done on the lower rooms, the mausoleum and the grounds.

*Roger Clarke*



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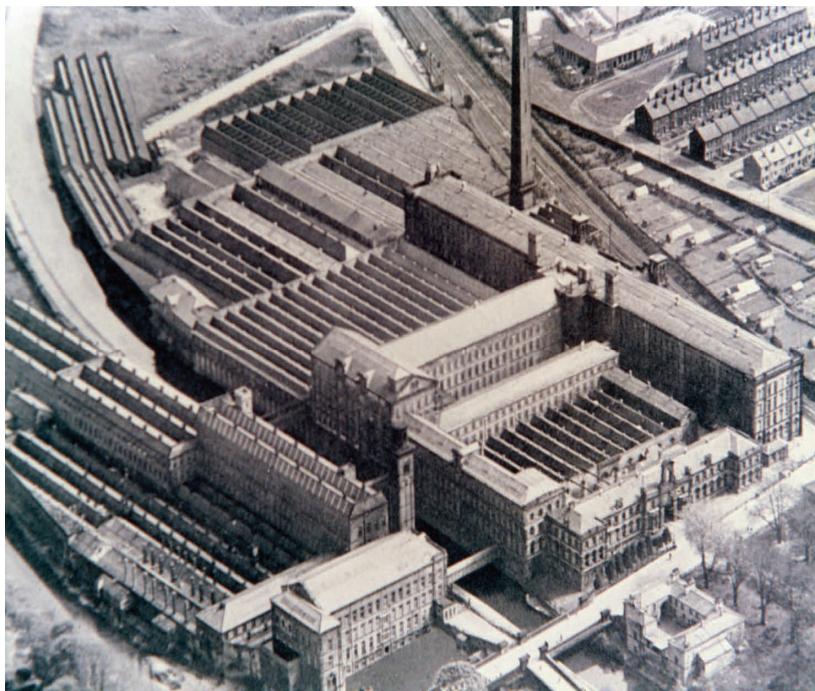


This book tells the story of Saltaire through its shops, and charts the changes in retail trading over time. In particular, it examines the evolution from the retailing of essential and basic goods and services which met villager's needs in the 19th and much of the 20th centuries.

At the outset, it is necessary to define what constitutes "essential and basic goods and services". I've used a definition which includes those shops which afford a balanced diet, basic clothing and footwear, and professional services which contribute to good health and financial security. There are many obvious inclusions. Food shops include those of grocers, butchers, greengrocers and fruiterers, and those providing fish, game and poultry. Clothing shops include tailors, drapers, milliners and boot and shoe shops. Essential to good health are doctors, dentists, opticians and chemists. Banks and post offices are included as providers of financial services.

There are other shops about which I've made arbitrary decisions, but have tried to apply them consistently. This was a difficult task since it could be argued that economic and social progress bring changes in lifestyles, with more goods and services joining the list of what customers regard as essential. I've tried to stick with the idea of basic human needs, which help to sustain life and health. This leads to the inclusion of hardware and glass and china shops. It also led me to include coalmen, plumbers and electricians, because of the necessity for warmth and sanitation. I've excluded shops which provide luxuries, (although some people would argue that life's not worth living without the occasional luxury!) and have also arbitrarily excluded public houses (this is "dry" Saltaire after all!) and shops which provide fashion items or services. Basic hairdressing services are included, but styling and beauty services are not. Outside my strict definition should also have been newsagents and sweetshops, but these were so common in the list of shops in Victorian England that I could hardly discount them. The need to have information about the outside world is so basic that I think that newsagents could be justified on these grounds too. The two often go together.

The book is in two parts. Firstly, there is an account of the history and regeneration of the Village from 1853 to the present day, focussed on its shops. For this account, the Village is divided into three categories—Victoria Road premises, corner shops in the Village, and the shops of Gordon Terrace. Each category has individual features which have determined whether the shops have survived as retail outlets, and I have tried to outline these. Secondly, there are appendices which detail the history of each of the shops and the changes of ownerships and tenancies.



*Aerial view of Salts Mill*





*“Titus Surveys”*

*Ink caricature of Sir Titus Salt against an industrial landscape,  
courtesy of local artist Nick Tankard*



One consequence of the Industrial Revolution, and the social migration from countryside to towns, was the separation of workers from their traditional sources of food. There is much evidence of the scale of rural poverty at the end of the 18th century, but many rural workers grew their own food on allotments or relied on payment in kind to ensure against starvation. In contrast, and now entirely dependent on wages paid for their labour, the urban workforce relied on other people to produce their food, and to then distribute and sell to them via retail outlets. Gary Firth (5) has described the changes in retailing in Bradford at the beginning of the 19th century. The rural economy responded well to the growth of Bradford's population. Oats were the staple cereal crop of the area, given the local climate, soil type, and elevation. The area already excelled in dairy farming, and producers quickly added poultry and eggs to their range of goods. Small wonder that Yorkshire puddings remain popular!

The pattern of retailing changed over time – as illustrated by the meat trade. The beginning of the century had meat sales in markets in Bradford centre, with producers (farmers) slaughtering and selling from stalls there. By mid century, specialist retail butchers began to set up shops, buying from farmers and selling to consumers, often in shop premises which were also their own homes. Retail outlets grew up throughout the area, serving the needs of local populations as Bradford's urban sprawl increased. Meat consumption increased, although many Bradfordians could afford little more than offal. For many, however, oats and potatoes formed the staple diet. Fruit and vegetables continued to be distributed mainly through central markets, which also sold general provisions.

The population of Bradford grew from 13,000 in 1801 to 66,000 in 1841, and then to 103,782 by 1851. Inevitably many problems arose, including shortages of supply, high prices, and the adulteration of food and drink. The workers in Titus Salt's textile mills in Bradford in the 1830s and 1840s experienced all these problems, which Salt saw daily as employer, magistrate, and later as Mayor of Bradford. In the construction of his model village of Saltaire he determined to

rectify as many of the failings as possible.

### **Other model villages and their shops**

Titus Salt's vision for his model settlement was based in part on similar developments which had been set up before he began construction of Saltaire in 1851. However, it is always difficult to know what was in his mind. He committed few of his thoughts to paper and made few public statements. It is left to historians to establish that he had knowledge of other developments which were occurring at the time and which may have influenced him.

We know that he was an admirer of Benjamin Disraeli, despite their different politics. One of the reasons for him entering Parliament (which was against his own inclinations, having been persuaded by friends as to his suitability) was "to cultivate the friendship of that exceptionally gifted man, Benjamin Disraeli". (Ref. "Saltaire" by Robert K Dewhurst, in *Town Planning Review*, Vol XXXI, number 2, July, 1960.) We also know that Disraeli had visited this area in the 1840's, visiting the Ferrand family of St Ives Estate at Bingley, although there is no evidence of contact with Titus at this time.

Disraeli's novel "Sybil" or "The Two Nations" was first published in 1845, and well known for his description of an ideal factory and model village. Mr Trafford is a character in the book, and is an industrialist. He believed that between an employee and an employer "should be other ties than the payment and receipt of wages". To this end he built a rural "manufactory" for 2,000 people, using the latest techniques in ventilation and architecture. He also built a village near to the factory, containing houses for the workers, a church, a school, public baths, allotments and a horticultural society. In every street there was a well for clean water. He believed that this environment has beneficial effect on the morals and manners of the employed, that there was cleanliness and order, and that crime was positively unknown, in his village (which he called Trafford after himself). It differs from Saltaire in that Mr Trafford lived in the village. There are, unfortunately for us, no references to shops!

As to actual examples of utopian settlements, the Moravian settlement at Fulneck at Pudsey, Leeds, was an offshoot from an earlier settlement at Smith House in Lightcliffe, near Halifax. This is close to Crow Nest (the mansion which was the Salt family home from 1844 to 1858, and then from 1867 to 1878). In the small community of Lightcliffe, the deeply religious Salt family would have been aware of the Moravians and their Fulneck venture. Fulneck was established in 1744, and in addition to communal living accommodation, the community had a shop:

*“The shop sold everything you could possibly want. As well as basics like tobacco, treacle, oatmeal, flour, hops and cheese, there were also semi-luxuries such as tea, coffee, raisins, salt fish from Hull, dried fish from Liverpool, ginger, oranges and lemons. Items of haberdashery included hooks and eyes, whalebone and habit gloves (the last two for Miss Plumbe of Tong Hall), and you could also buy copper kettles, sandpaper, lettuce seeds, senna, chamber pots, bed cords, exercise books, coffin handles, and much else.” (7)*

There were other Moravian settlements closer to Saltaire at Baildon and Lower Wyke in Bradford but neither have this shopping element, possibly because they are much closer to other centres of population. Fulneck had to be self sufficient in its more remote location.

There is also a link between Salt and another utopian community which is much further away. New Lanark in Scotland (11, 12, 13) was established by David Dale, and later developed by his son-in-law, Robert Owen, in 1800, around their cotton spinning mill. Historian Dave Shaw has established that there were many visitors to New Lanark from the Leeds/Bradford area between 1821 and 1832. Not least was a Samuel Hailstone, a Bradford solicitor who is known to have been a personal acquaintance of Titus during this period. And in 1824, a Milligan of Bradford, also visited New Lanark. This may have been Robert Milligan, the first Mayor of Bradford (Titus was the second). It seems very likely, therefore, that Titus knew of the settlement in detail long before Saltaire was built.

In addition to providing accommodation for his workers (including pauper children as apprentices) Owen's New Lanark had a village store. Most of the basic provisions sold came from the Company farm which was nearby. The staple diet of the workers was porridge and potatoes, with seasonable vegetables. A bake house for bread was added later. Occasionally they had fish, such as herrings, and meat. There was a slaughterhouse at the rear of the store, but meat was seen as a luxury. Other "luxuries" included tea and alcohol, although milk from the farm was more readily available.

Robert Owen paid his workers both in cash and tickets, sometimes described as the "truck system". The "Tickets for Wages" could be exchanged for goods at the village store. Here, produce was bought in bulk and said to be cheap and of good quality. Prices were estimated to be 25% cheaper than elsewhere, and residents from nearby Old Lanark, were attracted to use the village store. The store was owned by the Company, and in the relatively closed community of New Lanark this seems to have been a workable system.

There is no evidence that Owen abused the system at his workers expense, and he used the profits from the store to defray the expenses of the village school. Other employers throughout the country abused the truck system for their own profit, and exploited the workforce. Nationally the system was so unpopular that it was eventually banned by Act of Parliament in 1831, and so would not have been an option for Titus Salt to use in Saltaire. However, the Act was poorly enforced, there being only a handful of inspectors across the whole country. Indeed, the New Lanark shop stayed open until 1871!

In 1846, John Grubb Richardson established a flax mill at Bessbrook, near Newry in Northern Ireland, and built a model village around it.<sup>1</sup> Bessbrook's similarity with Saltaire is remarkable. The mill employed 3,000 operatives, and was constructed away from urban centres, in a rural setting. It was constructed of locally

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<sup>1</sup> *The idea dea had come from the industrial village of Portlaw in County Waterford, and John Grubb Richardson was related by marriage to David Malcolmson, the originator of Portlaw.*

quarried stone (granite not sandstone), and the layout was geometric. The intention was to produce a “temperate and controllable colony”. “No pubs, pawnshops, policemen, prison or paupers”. Model housing was provided for the workers, along with social and recreational amenities, a school, a dispensary and a community centre. Each house had an allotment garden. Company shops were opened, but care was taken not to introduce any elements of the truck system. The parallels with Saltaire are persuasive but not conclusive. Grubb Richardson was a Quaker, and a staunch supporter of the Temperance Movement.<sup>2</sup>

Bessbrook received wide publicity through this movement, and it is likely that Titus would have heard of it, immersed as he was at the time with the problems of alcohol consumption and its consequences in Bradford (he became Mayor of Bradford in 1848). There is a report of Mr Grubb from Belfast being a speaker at a public meeting organized by the Temperance Society in Bradford in 1846 – as reported in the “Temperance Recorder”.<sup>3</sup>

William Fairbairn, the engineer employed by Salt to design and build engineering facilities at Salts Mill, is a further link to other sites.

Glasshouses in Nidderdale is just two miles from Pateley Bridge. Here the Metcalf family, Wesleyan Methodists, established a flax spinning mill in 1828. In 1850, they began to build housing, a school and a chapel for their 264 workers, with a Gothic mansion for

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<sup>2</sup> *The first Temperance Society in Great Britain was established at New Ross in Ireland in 1829.*

<sup>3</sup> *There were definite links between New Lanark and Portlaw in Ireland. There is documentary evidence, and Robert Owen was involved in establishing a model community in County Clare. I have been unable to discover similar links between Titus and the Irish communities.*

*The closest comes in the Inland Waterways News, Winter, 2002, which notes that “Bessbrook influenced George Cadbury’s plans for Bourneville and Titus Salts model village of Saltaire.” Hardly a primary source however! And with similar reservations, is a note in a dissertation in 1993 by Paul Walsh that “Salt, consciously or unconsciously, was following along the lines of other similar projects that had been undertaken in various parts of the country eg. Copley and Bessbrook.*

themselves nearby. They employed Fairbairn to build and install a huge breastshot suspension waterwheel in 1850.<sup>4</sup> Fairbairn was working closely with Salt in 1851, and it is very likely that his other recent projects would have been discussed.

Much closer to home, and a direct competitor of Titus in the production of firstly woollen goods and then alpaca worsteds, was John Foster's Black Dyke Mills at Queensbury on the outskirts of Bradford, opened in 1835. (30) Foster operated a truck shop, which was well used by the handloom weavers in his employ. They were especially vulnerable to debt, at a time when power looms were being introduced. There is little evidence that Foster abused the system. He seems to have charged reasonable prices in his shop and treated the home-based handloom weavers very fairly. "Those who cared to do so were put to work on the machinery which he determinedly introduced, but those who preferred the old methods were allowed without demur to work their time on the familiar hand loom".

Although the Truck Act of 1831 took effect immediately, Foster's shop still existed in 1841. By this time most of the weavers had moved into the mill and were being paid cash wages on a regular basis. In addition to building housing for his workers, Foster also provided a library, an Institute, swimming baths and (in 1868) a village gas supply. In 1855, his workers opened a Co-operative Store which grew to have five branches locally, and there is still a Co-op store on the original site to the present day.

Preceding the building of Saltaire, Edward Akroyd built Copley on the outskirts of Halifax in 1847, to protect himself against the sudden withdrawal of labour. (6)<sup>5</sup> This settlement at Copley included the mill, 136 houses for workers to rent, a library, a dining shed, a school, a branch of the Penny Bank, and a co-operative store. There was a close relationship between the Salt family and the Crossleys of Halifax (Titus Junior married Catherine Crossley), and the Crossleys knew of Akroyd's village. They were to go on to build the West Hill

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<sup>4</sup> *This is now reconstructed at Styal in Cheshire.*

<sup>5</sup> *The idea for the village was derived from a model mill settlement at Greenfield near Saddleworth, where the Whitehead brothers had set up in business.*

Park community in Halifax in 1857 as model housing for their workers, with corner shops as an integral part of the plan.

The Crossleys also supported the development of Charlston, near Wakefield. (15) The New Charlston Colliery Company built worker's houses in 1850. Francis Crossley bought out a beer shop to keep the village alcohol free. Within the village they built a co-operative store. You will see that Co-operative stores are frequently a part of model village structures. But sometimes such villages were built around the Co-op. For example, the Brighthouse Co-operative Society built houses for sale to members between 1865 and 1890. (15)

Titus Salt did not establish a truck shop, mill shop or a co-operative in Saltaire. It is surprising that he did not take a more active role in the development of retailing in his model village. The rules and regulations imposed on the residents in other areas of their lives are well known. He seemed to be content to rent the shops to reputable dealers of good character and then let a free trade market economy evolve, with the obvious exception of licenses for alcohol.

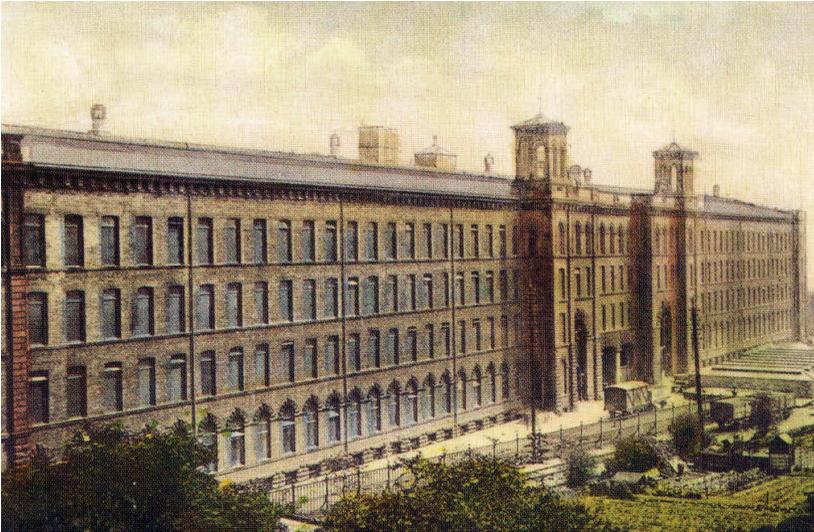
### **The scale of it all!**

Titus Salt's Saltaire differed from all these ventures. It was quite simply bigger than anything seen before. The integrated mill was the largest of its kind having all the processes of worsted production under one roof. With between 3,000 to 4,000 workers to accommodate, the village also required a lot of thought and planning. In many ways, Titus Salt can be seen as the first town planner, putting right all the wrongs of the Bradford experience – from a clean water supply delivered to every house, “through houses” instead of “back-to-backs”, a toilet for every house, a grid plan for the streets, and public facilities for washing and bathing. In addition, Titus built four major public buildings for the benefit of his workers. It is important to realise that he need not have built them. His profits were already assured when he built the Mill, its dining hall and houses. The public buildings were The Institute (Victoria Hall), the school, the hospital, and the almshouses – all located on Victoria Road. Taken together with the Congregational church, Sunday School, wash-house and the park (now Roberts Park), they catered

for all the workers' spiritual, recreational, health, and educational needs.

### **Salt's shops were equally well planned**

We should remember that Titus had had a retail background. Life as a shopkeeper's son was part of Titus's early history. His father, Daniel, inherited his father-in-law's drysalters business shortly after his marriage to Grace Smithies in 1802. A drysalter was a dealer in gums, dyes, drugs and sometimes in oils, spices, and pickles. The family lived in Morley at the time, and Balgarnie (3) notes that



*A postcard image of Salts Mill, frontage*

Daniel was known there as “a white cloth merchant and drysalter”. They remained there until 1813, when Titus was 10 years old. They moved to Crofton, near Wakefield, where Daniel became a farmer, and where Titus was educated at a private school for boys in the old Salem Chapel yard in Wakefield. He was later to be apprenticed to Joseph Jackson as a wool stapler in his warehouse in the town. It is worth noting that this Wakefield connection almost resulted in Titus building his mill and village there – and that he also considered sites in Brighouse and Burley-in-Wharfedale too, before eventually

deciding on Saltaire.

There is hearsay evidence recorded in the Wakefield Express, that he considered land known as the Ings for his Mill. Other references say that he was prevented from developing the site by a local pressure group who wished to preserve the town's genteel character. Sam Baines in the Express of March, 1929 does not mince his words . . .

*“But he (Titus Salt) had reckoned without his host, for the obstinate short sightedness and unpatriotic conduct of certain of the aristocracy of the town was for a time sufficient to thwart, and finally to bar, the carrying out of his purpose.”*

*The sequel is well known. “Respectability” – all quietness and light and, no doubt, chuckling that the horrid spectre of Trade that has erstwhile hovered about, was eventually scared away – carried it's stately head past empty houses and along grass grown streets: whilst Wakefield at this time became distinguished as the dullest hole in Creation”. (18)*

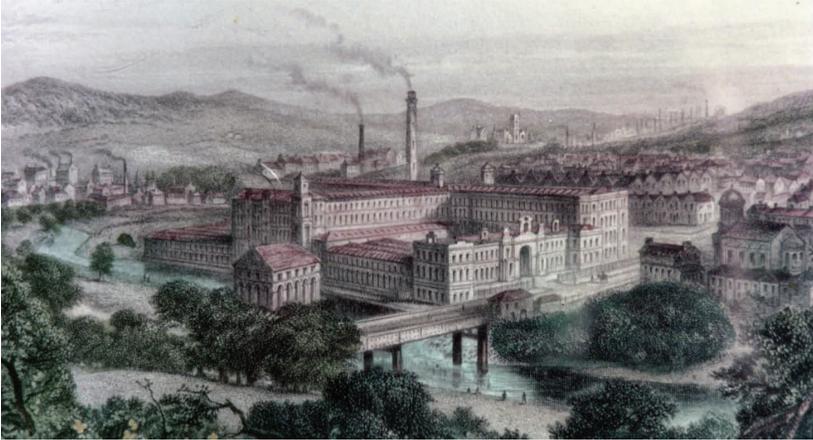
The site was formerly a dyeworks occupied by Richard Mellin who went bankrupt in 1839, and then taken over on lease for an ironworks in the 1840s, before becoming British Ropes Ltd in more modern times.

Salt is reported to have considered other sites too. There is some documentary evidence that Brighouse was a possibility. J Horsfall Turner in 1893 records that “He (Titus Salt) meditated on a large project instead, and it is asserted that he offered to purchase a slice of the valley from Brighouse gas works to Alegar well”. From a different source, Turner says that “I have often heard it stated that had Sir George Armytage been willing to part with Clifton Bridge Fields as freehold, Mr Salt had fixed upon the Calder Valley, East of Brighouse, as a suitable situation for his workpeople's village and mills”. (21)

Burley-in-Wharfedale was also in the frame, and Harry Speight records a note by William Fison . . .

*“We applied to the solicitor to the Estate, and received a*

*letter stating that the property (Greenholme) was on offer to the late Titus Salt, who had not then founded his great works at Saltaire and received his title. The solicitor said that he could not negotiate until after 1 o'clock on the day, and that if the Estate were not then sold he would be prepared to negotiate. We went at 1*

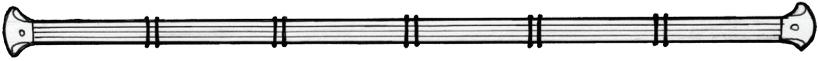


19thC print of Mill

*o'clock, Forster (WE Forster) and I, and the Estate was not sold. We accordingly made an offer. It was not accepted, but ultimately we came to terms, signed the agreement for the purchase, and were just leaving when who should we meet but Mr Titus Salt coming up the stairs prepared to increase his offer and buy the property. Vexed enough he was, too, as to his being too late. Had he kept the appointment before 1 o'clock, Saltaire works would have been here instead of where they are. That is how we bought Greenholme. Some may say that it would have been better for Burley had Mr Salt and not ourselves been the purchaser. Be that as it may." (19).*

The date was 1849. There is some anecdotal evidence that sites in Skipton and Knaresborough were also considered.

# FOOD & DRINK IN BRADFORD & SALTAIRE



## **Fresh, unadulterated produce**

By choosing this green field site for his village, Titus ensured that fresh produce was available for sale in the shops. Titus owned the shops but, normally, didn't interfere with the way they were run. He insisted on interviewing each tenant, however, to ensure that people of the right qualities would not exploit his workers (or "operatives" as he called them). He also examined their business credentials and trading history. Having lived and worked in Bradford for 31 years (1822 to 1853), he would have been conscious of the adulteration of food which took place there on a regular basis. Brick dust used to be added to cocoa; sand to sugar; alum and china clay mixed with flour; ground acorns to coffee; currants and raisins were rubbed in treacle to make them heavier; and toxic chemicals were used as colourings. Other undesirable additives included strychnine in rum and beer; copper in pickles; and lead chromate in mustard and snuff. Water and chalk were added to milk. Ingredients in meat pies were always suspect. Tea had become the national beverage for all classes by the early 1800s, and consumption steadily increased from 1.5lbs (680 grams) per annum per head of population in 1841, to 5.7lbs (2,600 grams) in 1891. However, much of it was adulterated. Large quantities of "tea" were made from the leaves of ash, sloe and elder trees, curled and coloured on copper plates. It is estimated that 4 million lbs of this "tea" was sold each year, compared with 6 million lbs of genuine tea. Some of the tea imported from China had already been adulterated by dyes, chemicals and iron filings. In 1872, an investigation found that 36 out of 41 samples of tea had been adulterated with sand, magnetic iron, China clay, Prussian blue, and "spurious leaves" (which included used leaves bought from tea shops). (35)

We know that Titus was aware of the major tragedy which struck Bradford in 1858, when a sweet manufacturer accidentally added arsenic to his sweets. The most expensive ingredient in sweet manufacture was sugar, and it was common practice to replace it with a calcium compound such as ground limestone or Plaster of

Paris.

On this occasion the apprentice took the additive from the arsenic barrel by mistake! Peppermint lozenges were made from it, and many fatalities resulted. Titus Salt was MP for Bradford at this the time of the parliamentary debate of the 1859 Adulteration of Food and Drink Bill, but he did not participate in the discussion. This is perhaps not surprising since, despite his regular attendance to vote, he never made his maiden speech before Parliament. However, he must have known of the poisoning incident in his own constituency.

In 1860, the Bill became law. It imposed fines for adulterating food, and required public analysts to be used by Local Authorities. (34)

### **Allotments**

Titus was also aware of his workers' rural backgrounds. After all, his father, Daniel, had become a farmer at Crofton, near Wakefield, after abandoning his drysalting business. While the experience was relatively short-lived (1813 to 1822), Titus spent his teens in a rural environment, and would have appreciated his workers' attachment to the soil. The workers' allotments, opposite the earliest shops in Victoria Road, were part of the townships early development, with other sites being made available later. We can still see them, and they are still worked by villagers, especially those to the west of Saltaire Church. Titus was ahead of his time, and it wasn't until the 1887 Allotment Act that local authorities had to provide allotments if there was a demand for them. The allotments were not just places to cultivate vegetables.

The workers kept pigs and chickens here. There was no food-waste disposal problem in Saltaire. If you didn't actually own a pig, you contributed towards the upkeep of one in terms of waste food to feed to it, and received a part of the butchered carcass in return. One of the most popular village societies was the Horticultural, Pig, Dog, Poultry and Pigeon Society, founded in 1876. Imagine how much discussion and negotiation went into deciding on this unwieldy name! More recently, allotment holder Eddie Lawler<sup>6</sup> recalls how

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<sup>6</sup>*Eddie Lawler is a local author, poet, playwright, and musician.*

there were buildings for animals on his plot when he first acquired it, and a group of Polish villagers used to share their considerable horticultural knowledge with other allotment holders.



*A view of the allotments situated between Salts Mill and Caroline Street*

### **A word about public houses**

It is not known if Titus was aware that, before his arrival in this valley, alcohol was already being sold here. “Up to the removal of the old mills (Dixon’s Mill) in 1850, there were two houses which were suggestively known as the ‘Whistle Jacket House’, where malt liquor was brewed and sold without license, or if there was one, it was of the old type of the ‘pious smuggler’ age”.(22) However, Saltaire itself has always been known as a temperance village. Reputedly, Titus had never intended alcohol to be sold here, and would not allow beer houses or public houses to be built. He needed his workers to be sober and fit to work when they arrived at his Mill at 6am each day. He had seen the social consequences of over-indulgence of alcohol in

Bradford, both amongst his workforce and the public at large in terms of violence, vice and immorality. In 1849, as Mayor of Bradford, Titus commissioned a report on the moral conditions in the town. Beer was commonly drunk by the working classes. It was safer than the polluted town water which led to epidemic diseases such as cholera and typhoid. However, it was common practice to water down beer, and one account describes how the average strength of porter bought from breweries was 5.25%, but that it averaged only 4.5% when bought from the public house. Prior to 1830, licensing magistrates only granted licenses in limited numbers, but the 1830 Sale of Beer Act made it legal for anyone to sell beer on payment of an excise fee of two guineas. (See footnote) Anyone could open a beer house. In Bradford there were 460 beerhouses compared with 140 licensed houses. Adulteration of beer increased when a price war broke out and landlords needed to cut costs. There was a general substitution of drugs (eg opium) in place of malt and hops, and many poisonous substances were added to watered beer to give the illusion of strength. Beerhouses were places of gambling, blood sports and prostitution, as well as places where political issues were aired (whether to join the militant Chartists or go on strike about poor wages, working conditions and mechanization). (36)

Ever the pragmatist, Titus preferred to support organizations which limited the spread of public houses and their influence, rather than giving his active support to the broader initiatives of the Temperance Movement. And so we find him, in 1871, along with Titus Junior, sponsoring and opening the Alpaca Beerhouse in Croft Street in Bradford. This was previously a beer house which Titus changed into a teetotal public house, which had reading rooms, a library and educational and Bible classes. He offered to furnish this house, which was opened at his own expense, and provided £25 per annum for upkeep. (14)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *There were a number of reasons why the Act was passed.*

*Wellington's Tory Government was keen to win popular support; increased beer production would help barley and hops growers at a time when there was agricultural depression; and, finally, the government wished to promote consumption of beer rather than spirits. They abolished the duty on beer completely (36)*

The Saltaire Institute and Social Club in Victoria Hall was designed by Titus to “supply all the advantages of a public house without its evils”.

When the Rosse Hotel was built just outside the village boundaries in October, 1870, outside Titus’ control, it is clear that his ban could never have been more than a gesture.



*Early photo of The Rosse Hotel*

In fact, Titus was not opposed to the judicious enjoyment of alcohol, in moderation. Wine was served at his own table, he had a sizeable wine cellar at his Crow Nest mansion (it appears as an item in his will), and he served wine to his workforce at the huge celebrations which were held at the opening of the Mill, and to mark his 70th birthday at Crow Nest. Beer was served to the Saltaire Rifle Volunteers while on manoeuvres (they were a kind of “Dad’s Army” formed to defend against possible invasion by Napoleon). However, historian Jack Reynolds (2) reports that “he yielded to great pressure and had allowed an off-licence shop to be opened, but after a short

trial period he had closed it down. In fact, there was always an off-licence shop after 1867, if not before. Mary Stallworthy, the tenant, was fined for selling beer outside licensed hours in 1868 (probably at her grocers shop at No 1, Katherine Street) , and months after Salt's



*Saltaire Rifle Volunteers  
Courtesy of Peter Randall*

death in 1877, GH Bailey, the apothecary with premises in Victoria Road, was advertising his excellent stocks of ports, sherries, Irish and Scotch whiskey, gin, brandy, claret and champagne.” There is evidence that, within Salt's lifetime, the village residents consumed as much alcohol as everyone else. They only had to go into Shipley, Bingley or Bradford. Reynolds again reports that “the (Saltaire) village chemist sold as much liquor off-license as was sold in some of the best public houses”. There continued to be resistance from residents to the sale of alcohol in the village, and as late as 1976 an application for a liquor license for a shop on Titus Street was rejected by Keighley magistrates after 150 residents petitioned for the license, but 365 opposed the application. The recent opening of a wine bar called “Don't Tell Titus” on Victoria Road shows how times have changed.

## **Diet in Bradford and in Saltaire**

If you were a low paid woolcomber in Bradford in 1860, you would eat mainly potatoes and bread, with gruel or porridge, washed down with tea. Cheese would be available, but very little meat (apart from offal) and very few vegetables – and then only a few times a year. Your bread would have been oatcakes or “haverbread” (from which the word “haversack” is derived). Wheat does not grow well in the heavy, rain-soaked, and poorly drained soils of Yorkshire. Oats were a much better option, and you would have eaten most of your haverbread dried and scattered on stews or into milk or ale.<sup>8</sup>

Compare this with the workers at Salt’s Dining Room who could buy a bowl of soup and bread for a half penny and a meal of potatoes and meat for 3d - at a time when average wages for spinners and weavers were between 15/- and £1 per week. Rents were around 2/6d for workers’ cottages and 3/6d for overlookers’ houses (remember, twelve old pennies in 1/- and 20/- in £1). Some workers brought food to work with them, which would be cooked free of charge. By all accounts, the workers were messy eaters, because Titus’ agent in the dining hall earned £50 per year just from the sweepings from the floor, which he sold on to pig farmers.

Cudworth, (4) writing in 1886, provides us with detailed accounts of the cost of basic groceries in the 19th century. In 1800, flour was 4d

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<sup>8</sup>*The ingredients of havercake are simple – whole oatmeal, salt, milk or butter milk, yeast to rise them, and water. The skill lies in mixing them together and then throwing the cake. Hird Lord comments that “the novice usually produces a puddle of soft batter that goes into the pig bucket”. Children like to eat them soft, spread with butter or treacle and made into a roly-poly. Or the 12 inch by 8 inch cakes were put over “t’fleeak” to dry. The heat makes them curl and crisp up, and improves the nutty flavour of the oats. They are so good that the members of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment ate so many that they were called the “Havercake Lads.” Havercakes were also regularly served at Mayoral Luncheons at Bradford Town Hall until 1955. They were sampled by the Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales, who described them as “unique” and had regular supplies delivered to him. Hird Lord experimented and produced “havercrisps”, saying that a fortune awaits a man who can turn out the delicate, thin product in quantity. There’s a challenge for today’s technology!! (50)*

per lb; oatmeal 2d per lb; butter 1/7d per lb; lump sugar 1/4d per lb; and treacle 6d per lb. He writes that at this time “malt, meal and treacle were, in country places especially, the chief articles of food. Home brewed beer was largely drunk in place of tea, which was too high in price to be within the reach of the humbler classes. The food was coarser and of less variety. Breakfast consisted of oatmeal porridge (or “meil steaks”) with skimmed or “old” milk, in country places around Bradford. Dinner was bacon, potatoes and oatbread, varied occasionally by “stir-about” – oatmeal and bacon fat mixed together over the fire in a frying pan. Occasionally a suet pudding with treacle would be added, or dumplings with broth.” A sheep’s head for Sunday dinner was the diet for a married man with a growing family, with “meil steaks” on other days of the week. By 1846, flour was 3d per lb; oatmeal 2d per lb; butter 1/- per lb; treacle 4d per lb.

Between 1861 and 1886, flour, sugar and tea reduced greatly in price, leading Cudworth to comment that “in far too many instances, however, the porridge pan has given place to the teapot, especially in the case of women and children.” Tea prices reduced from 3/8d per lb in 1861 to 1/4d per lb in 1886. He concludes that by 1886, “a much better quality of food is being eaten now-a-days by the artisan class.”

In *Saltaire*, workers could experience something of the quality of life of the middle classes. An annual event called the “*Conversazione*” was held at Victoria Hall, and we have numerous accounts of the food and the guest list.<sup>9</sup> It was held early in January, and consisted of three days of festivities, beginning with a ball on Thursday evening attended by the wealthiest members of the local community. Friday brought more dancing, and Saturday had a Children’s Party followed in the evening by dancing for all the villagers.

It began in 1878 and continued until 1964, with some breaks in

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<sup>9</sup>*“Conversazione” is defined as “a meeting for informal discussion of intellectual or cultural matters” – or “a soiree given by some learned or arts society”. But there was never any pretence of intellectual eminence in the Saltaire version. From the beginning this event was a glittering social occasion.*

continuity because of national crises and the two World Wars. It always had the echoes of an era which was slipping into history, and



*Illustration of Saltaire Conversazione, Victoria Hall*

it is remarkable that it survived for so long. Local shops were frequently used as suppliers. [See receipt, overleaf.] For example, in 1880, GH Bayley of No 12, Victoria Road provided wines, A and E Charlesworth of No 2, Victoria Road provided confectionery, George Ramsden, butcher, of No 39, Titus Street supplied the meat, and the Charlesworths of No 9, Victoria Road provided bows and linings. Mr Camm delivered goods using a horse drawn two wheel spring cart.

This has always been a charitable event, which in 1881 generated profits of £136-19-11d.

### **A more varied diet after 1880**

In a comparison of the diet for a working class family in 1880 and a family in 1914 it can be seen that the consumption of bread remained level, that of meat more than doubled, potatoes decreased, and milk, tea and sugar all doubled. Ham and bacon consumption quadrupled. There were practically no vegetables on the list. "The diet of working class families above the poverty line was now becoming adequate for health" (24) "It is estimated that the wages of an average urban worker rose by 60% in the period between 1860 and 1900." (1)

Prices of staple imports such as tea, sugar, grain, lard, cheese, ham and bacon fell, and these goods became much more affordable.

Meat became much more available too. Not only did farming in this country become more efficient, increasing amounts of meat was imported from Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.

The first shipment from USA arrived here in 1874, and from Australia in 1881. The first cargo of frozen mutton left New Zealand in 1882. Advances in refrigeration made this possible. Canned goods were also beginning to appear on shop shelves. Canning had begun in jars, as early as 1795 to stop Napoleon's military supplies from spoiling. In 1804 came the first vacuum packing plant, and in 1810, the first metal containers were used. 1858 saw the first patent for a tin opener, and this patent was improved upon in 1866 and 1870. In 1875, Libby invented the first tapered can for corned beef, and by the 1880s canned meats and fruit began to appear in shops in Britain. The first tuna canning occurred in 1909, and that for spam

Refreshments etc

Expenditure					
Lemonade, 40 doz Schweppes @ 3/6		7	.		
Soda Water do " " @ 4/6		3	15		<del>15</del>
Carriage on Do		1	10	3	10 5 3
Lemonade etc, Walker & Gibson,		4	10	.	4 10
Oranges <sup>apples</sup> ex Greig Bid?		7	7	8	
Carriage on Do		10	10		7 18 6
Bradford School of Cookery		1	16	6	
Halloway		1	8	.	
Dave & Leech Confectionery		8	9	9	
Shroud & Co Ham, Buttery, &c.		8	3	.	
Sagar Butcher		1	3	.	
Mitchell Butcher		3	15	6	
Almsgill Butcher		6	13	.	
Radcliffe "		1	19	.	
Bishop Bros Groceries		4	5	.	
Hartley Loan of Ware				3	1
Bread etc Sundry		1	4	8	
Charlesworth Confectionery			7	6	
Bayley "			12	3	
Mrs Purdon (Cook)		2	5	.	
Mr Walker (Assistant Do)			13	.	
Mr Sact, With 2/1 Beef 79/9		4	9	9	47 8
Tordoff (Sea Coffee)			3	.	
Atkinson, as per list		4	19	1	
Mr Dover 44, Fry Brand for Do 10/4		2	12	.	7 11 1
Mr Fox Loan of Ware					
" Newby Ice					
Mrs Byles (Celery &c)			5	.	
Mr Rhodes Son Loan of Plate			17	6	
Returned Carriage			17	6	
Sunday School Committee, Loan of Ware			6	6	2 6 6

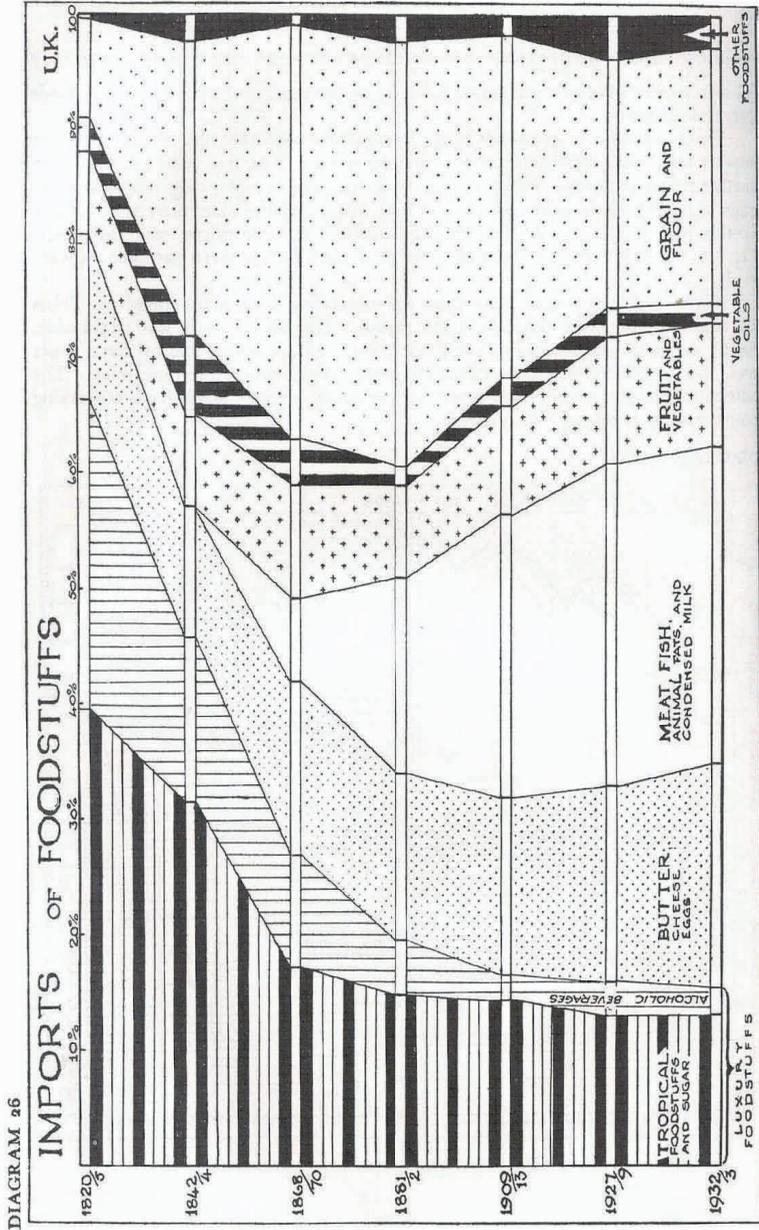
in 1926.

Grain was also more available after bulk transport was improved sufficiently to import wheat from the prairies of North America, which reduced prices in Britain. In the 1890s, the cost of a 4lb loaf fell to 6d. [See import diagram, overleaf.]

Quick to respond to these imports, British farmers switched from the production of grain, beef and mutton and turned to dairy farming. In 1902 it was estimated that the average British worker was consuming 10lb of cheese, 15lb of butter and 8.5 gallons on milk per head, annually.

Standards of living increased appreciably between the 1920s and 1960 (despite the dip for wartime rationing). Most families who were in employment found that a lower proportion of their income was spent on food (from 50.7% in 1920 to 46.6% in 1938). At the same time, the range of products available was increasing very rapidly. Fewer were bought in bulk and weighed out at the counter. They were now packed in the factory, and sold under brand names such as Pear's soap and Cadbury's chocolate. The end of the 19th century had seen the rise of huge businesses devoted to supplying essential items to a growing urban population. This was the time of more model villages, such as Cadbury's Bourneville in 1879; Port Sunlight on the Wirral in 1888; and Rowntree's New Earswick at York in 1901. Birchall (16) notes that "ready made products such as custard powder, jellies and blancmanges were invented, American style cereals such as cornflakes and puffed wheat came in, and imported canned salmon and peaches became the fashion for Sunday tea. There was an enormous increase in packeted chocolate bars and snacks (1928 saw the first ever packet of crisps)".

Closer to home, in 1902 W Fletcher and Son were trading as wholesale drysalts, druggists and manufacturing chemists at their Dale Street Works in Shipley. They had machines for preparing, refining and packing table salt; they produced their own "County Relish"; wrapped their own pumice soap; packed their own "Perfection Baking Powder"; produced their "Sunshine Furniture Cream"; and made a concentrated soup tablet which was composed of the finest English meat and the choicest vegetables. They paid



1881

Import diagram

particular attention to attractive packaging, and to advertising. Their products were exported to the “Klondyke, Malay States, Canary Islands and the colonies of Canada and South Africa”. (39)

Despite this relative abundance of varied foodstuffs, they were not available to everyone in society. One of the biggest shocks of World War 1 was the discovery that only three in nine conscripts were classed as fully fit at their medical examination. Of the remaining six, two were below average, three were completely unfit, and one was a chronic invalid, undernourished and unsuitable for service.

After the War, this led to initiatives such as the Milk in Schools Scheme in 1934, and by 1939, Health Departments were giving mothers and infants free milk, cod liver oil and vitamins.

World War Two brought more changes. Women were increasingly employed to keep industry, farming and public services running, bringing a change in eating habits across the nation. Communal eating became the norm, in factory canteens, school kitchens and “British Restaurants” (originally called Community Feeding Centres). By 1945, British Restaurants were cooking fifty million meals a week (charging 1/- for a three course meal). After the War, universal school meals were provided by Central Government, and one in three children had their main meal of the day at school. (This responsibility remained until it was passed to Local Authorities in 1980 by the Thatcher Government). In 1947, rations were lower than they had been during the War, and each adult was only allowed each week to have 13oz of meat, 1.5oz of cheese, 6oz of butter and margarine, 2 pints of milk and 1 egg. Attempts to change eating habits often failed. Whale meat was offered for sale “off ration”, as was snoek, a tropical, barracuda-like fish, sold in cans and intended to replace sardines. (23)

Then came a revolution in the way in which we shopped, and it came from America. In 1918, Clarence Saunders patented self-service grocery retailing, and opened his Piggly Wiggly store in Memphis. By 1955, supermarkets were responsible for 60% of US retail sales.

But in Britain, this change came much later. We first had to see economic recovery and optimism in the 1950s, marked initially by the 1951 Festival of Britain, The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, in

1953, and food taken off ration and freely available in shops.

### **The textile industry roller coaster**

There had been fluctuations in the textile industry at many periods during the history of the Mill, but it had always weathered the storms by diversifying its product. In 1892, textiles were in decline following world wide deflation, changes in the fashion industry, and the McKinley Tariff in the USA. The Mill company went into liquidation, and links with the Salt family ceased. A new Board of Directors was set up, including James Roberts, and by 1902, Roberts controlled the Company. World War 1 was a difficult time because many male workers were recruited into the Forces. Sir James Roberts retired in 1918, to be followed by a new Board which included Sir James Hill.

In 1923, the Company was re-formed as Salts (Saltaire) Ltd., a public company with more cash for investment. A period of expansion followed, with new markets and new products. But, inevitably, a downturn followed, and in 1933 the Board decided to raise money by selling off the village houses and shops to a Bradford estate agent. The agent, Fred Gresswell of Bradford Property Trust, replaced gas lighting with electricity throughout the houses, installed inside toilets, and then offered to sell the properties to owner/occupiers. The ownership link between the Mill and the village had been broken, and the properties no longer housed just Mill workers.

World War II brought many changes. Production was increased, especially to provide cloth for uniforms for the Forces, and a new workforce duly arrived, as displaced people from Europe came into the area. The post War period saw a high spot for the Company, and it celebrated the centenary of the opening of the Mill by the works trip to Blackpool in 1953.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *All the workforce were taken by special trains, and reduced prices were arranged for the rides on the Pleasure Beach on production of a special ticket.)*

1958 brought further change, when Illingworth Morris and Co. Ltd. took over the Mill. Some production at Saltaire was transferred to its subsidiaries (scouring and combing) but the Company made further investment in spinning at Saltaire. Unfortunately the competition from foreign imports adversely affected the worsted trade. In 1986 Illingworth Morris sold their worsted weaving interests to Stroud Riley Drummond in Bradford and production ceased at Salts, after 133 years continuous trading. (10)

Employment in the wool and worsted industry in the Bradford region fell from 73,710 in 1901, to 9,068 in 1998.

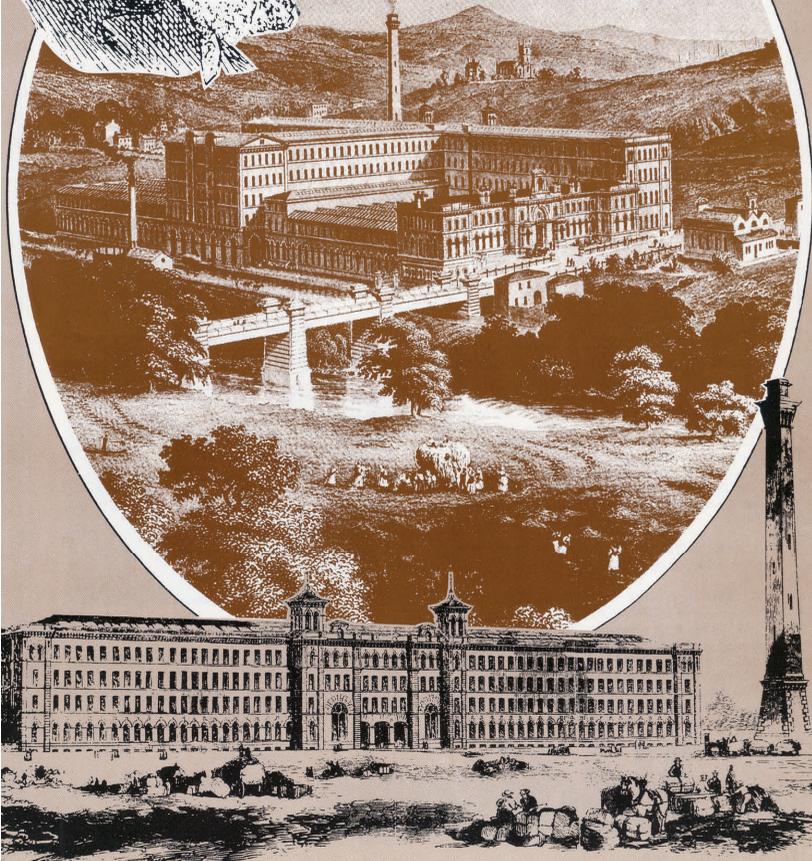


*Sir Titus Salt Creator of Salts Mill*



# Saltaire

*Are you  
the inheritors of  
this man's dream..?*



*Promotional Sales Brochure for Salts Mill 1986  
Courtesy of John Collins*

## SECTION 1 - VICTORIA ROAD



Victoria Road was built as the main thoroughfare of the village, directly outside the Mill. It was originally called Victoria Street but then renamed as Road to reflect its importance.

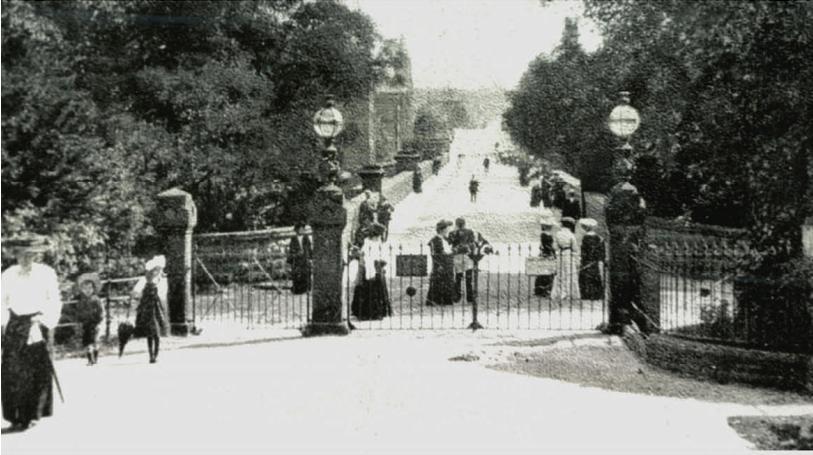


*Victoria Road*

It was never a major through-route, although there used to be a road bridge over the River Aire, leading to Coach Road. This road bridge was demolished in 1967; it had been closed to vehicles since World War II, following concerns arising from its use when transporting heavy military equipment. [See image, overleaf.]

It was never replaced as a road bridge, and a pedestrian bridge was built instead. Victoria Road became a cul-de-sac, a feature which was to determine its subsequent retailing life.

After completion of the Mill and dining hall in 1853, the first building phase of the workers cottages was the block just south of the railway – including William Henry Street, George Street and Amelia Street – and the shops at Nos 1 to 11, Victoria Road. They were completed by 1854/5. The shops at Nos 12 to 17 came in later phases of building. All 824 houses, more than forty shops and the public buildings were built by 1876, although the housing and shops had been completed by 1868.



*Victoria Road looking south from park, showing old bridge*

From 1861 onwards, the shops provided the essential provisions for life in the village – a grocer, butcher, greengrocer, chemist, draper etc. These were large, three storey properties, and their tenants typically lived above the shops.

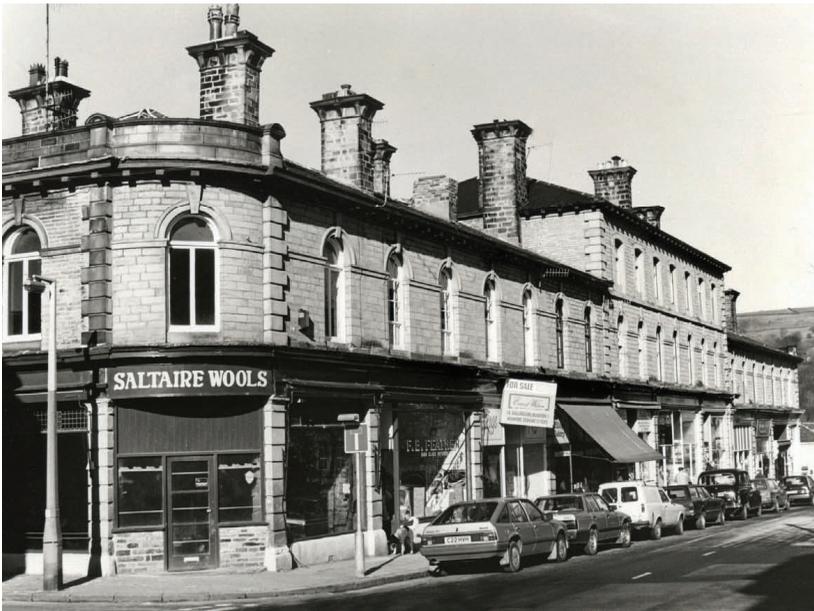
Even a cursory glance at the Victoria Road shops over the period 1861 to 1961 reveals the consistency of their trading. Individual types of goods were produced and sold at the same address. For example, No 7 was a greengrocer's shop from 1871; No 10 a butchers over the same period; No 8 a baker from 1894 to the present day; No 12 a chemist; and No 9 a draper. The tenants might change but the same goods were sold there. Although, in fact, some shops tended to stay with the same family as tenants, with the Feather family as the butchers at No 10 from 1894 to 1962, and the Firth family as the bakers at No 2 for most of the 20th century. This pattern persisted while the Mill continued to operate. Perhaps this list of shops on Victoria Road should also have the addition of Salt's Dining Room, opposite the Mill, from which Titus sold meals to his workers, especially before the village was built when they travelled daily to Saltaire from Bradford and the surrounding area. As usual, Titus insisted on providing good quality food at reasonable prices, and his meals were subsidised – after all, a well fed workforce is a productive workforce!

## **Victoria Road - the move away from shopping for essential household goods**

### *The 1960s*

Illingworth Morris' transfer of scouring and combing away from Saltaire may have adversely affected the local retail trade from 1958, with fewer workers on-site. In 1962, the railway station closed as part of the Beeching cuts. Although this may have reduced visitor numbers to the village, the workforce at the Mill was still in need of staple foods, and retail trading was not significantly affected.

In 1963, Salts Grammar School relocated to its present position north of the river, close to the Glen Tramway, but this is sufficiently close to the village for the pupils still to shop there when travelling to and from school and at lunchtime. However, it seems significant that two of the Victoria Road shops changed their usage in the 1960s. No 3 became a Commission Agents, and No 11 became a furniture shop after trading as a grocer and a baker since 1861. Up to this point



*Victoria Road shops, view from the junction of Caroline Street*

there had been three bakers on Victoria Road (Firths at No 2, Davidsons at No 8, and Readys at No 11). Demand presumably had fallen so that only two could be sustained.

Other factors which may have led to this early change may relate to other retail outlets opening nearby, since the re-development of Shipley town centre had commenced in 1954. The new Arndale Shopping Centre in Shipley was opened by the entertainer Bruce Forsythe in April, 1960, and the new Market Hall was opened in 1962. The Airedale Co-op also had a prominent position on the corner of Market Square, and there were also Fine Fare and Liptons shops, undercutting Saltaire shop prices for basic items. Car usage was increasing, but Saltaire residents have traditionally had low car ownership, and usually walked to do their shopping – Shipley being easily within walking distance. It was too early for supermarkets to have much impact on sales. Britain can claim some early self-service stores, and in 1948 the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) opened Britain's first self-service shop in Portsmouth. There were few large supermarkets, although Ken Morrison opened his first at Girlington in 1961, keen to develop the self-service concept. It was so far out of the city centre that a car was a necessity. However, it was so successful that he quickly opened two more.<sup>11</sup>

### *The 1970s*

Into the 1970s, there were five more changes of use in Victoria Road premises. No 1 moved out of sweets, tobacco and confectionary and into retail clothing. No 9 changed from a draper to a café and then a boutique and jewellery shop. No 12 from a chemist to an off licence (the first time Saltaire had been without a chemist since 1861). No 13 changed from a greengrocer to a boutique and then a bookshop, and No 17 from a boot and shoe shop to baby and children's wear. Fashion clothing seems to have moved into Saltaire, perhaps sensing a broader customer base. And for the first time on 20th century Victoria Road, an off-licence moved in too, presumably responding

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*11 By 1967, his stores were listed on the stock exchange as Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd. In 1999 he opened his 100th supermarket at Nelson in Lancashire.*

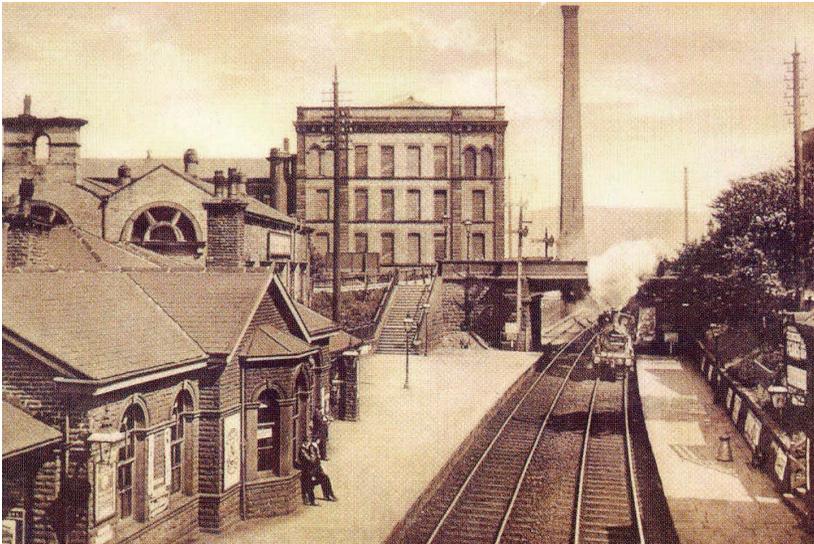
to the changing needs of the village population. From 1973 onwards, the appearance of the village was improved by sandblasting its houses.

### *The 1980s*

The 1980s saw the biggest changes of all. The Mill was winding down to eventual closure in 1986 - Illingworth Morris sold their worsted weaving interests to Stroud Riley Drummond in Bradford. Production was transferred there, and 133 years of textile manufacture at Salts Mill ended.

This was part of a national decline in textile production. The number of textile workers in UK had fallen from 1,142,000 in 1970 to less than 400,000 in 1986. New Mill on the north side of the canal became derelict, with windows smashed and lead stolen from its roof. Victoria Hall and the Schools were structurally unsound.

However, the seeds had been set for regeneration when the Railway Station re-opened on 8th April, 1984. This was a particularly significant development which helped subsequent regeneration of the village. Saltaire was linked directly with other rail centres, and

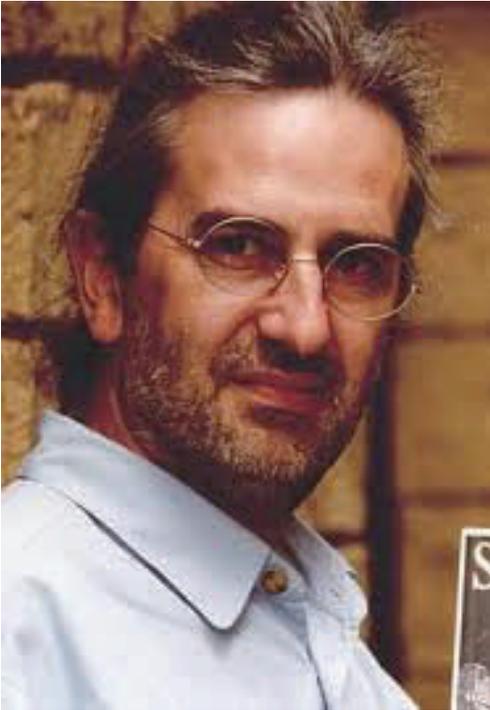


*The original Saltaire Station*

for commuters it was now only ten minutes to Bradford and twenty minutes to Leeds. Tourists could now alight just a hundred yards from the entrance to the Mill.

In 1984, the Saltaire Village Society was formed, born out of opposition to the trunk road which was proposed to run through the village. The threat to Saltaire village of the proposed new road had been building since 1972, and after twelve years of successful fighting against it at several public inquiries, residents of the village felt empowered to protect Saltaire through strategic action and a continuing organization which is still functioning today.

In 1985, English Heritage listed Saltaire. The Church was now Grade 1 listed, and the village and other public buildings were Grade 2 Listed. Its protected status was essential for its future stability and development, and the confidence of businesses to relocate to Saltaire.



*Jonathan Silver*

*Courtesy of Maggie Silver*

There can be no doubt that the key to regeneration came when Jonathan Silver bought the Mill on 10th June, 1987. He opened the 1853 Gallery in November of that year. There followed at the Mill thirty one cultural events in thirteen years, including Hockney specials, Victoria Wood and Alan Bennett performances, and a West Side Story production (9th February, 1988). Jonathan's belief that "only the best will do", applied to all aspects of

his development of the Mill. The Mill came to be associated with quality products, be they in culture, art or business – and the potential of the Mill to attract affluent tourists began to be realized.

In the village, the Township Scheme was established, with 40% grants for villagers to re-instate original features and fittings. Between 1989 and 1998, English Heritage had put in £635,000 and the villagers £952,000 (£19,000 per house). In July, 1989, the Telegraph and Argus reported the availability of Government grants totalling £30,000 to renovate shop fronts on Victoria Road. With all these changes, it seemed as if retailing in the village was holding its breath to see whether the potential for revitalised trading in the village would become a reality. Only two businesses changed use from providing basic produce in the 1980s. No 8, formerly a baker, changed to Beeties restaurant. No 16 was formerly a drapers and then a sweet shop, before splitting in half. One half became a Craft shop, and the other (which used to be the owners residence) opened as a sandwich shop catering for Shipley College students and for businesses and residents located at the southern end of the village.

There were also changes in retailing outside the village, most noticeably when Asda's Shipley supermarket opened in August, 1984. With its huge car park and proximity to Saltaire, it's a wonder that Saltaire shops selling basic provisions did not change their use more quickly in the late 1980s.<sup>12</sup>

Additionally, more Co-ops were being established in the Shipley town centre, in addition to the pre-existing Airedale Co-op with a corner position in Market Square. There was also a Co-op supermarket in Shipley's Otley Road, and the West Yorkshire Co-op Supermarket (with electrical goods) was located on a central site in Shipley now occupied by the bowling alley.

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<sup>12</sup> *Asda had been founded in 1965 by a group of farmers from Yorkshire, who began trading as Associated Dairies. After a difficult period in the early 1990s, it was revived by Archie Norman, who was chairman from 1996 to 1999. By 1999 it had 229 stores, and was then purchased by the American retail giant Wal-Mart. It has now become the second largest supermarket group in Britain.*

## *The 1990s*

During the 1990s, the changes in shop-use accelerate. Six shops changed their use, away from products directly serving the villagers and into other businesses, especially connected with tourism. No 2, previously Firth's bakers, was taken over as Saltaire Information and Gift Centre. No 4, previously a newsagent and stationer became an antiques centre. No 5 had been a café and takeaway, and then a junk shop, but became a photographic agency, mainly based on the first floor of the building, leaving its ground floor empty and under-used. No 7 was a greengrocers and became Beeties Tapas bar and (upstairs) restaurant. No 10 changed from a newsagent to an architects practice. And finally, No 79 (on the corner of Caroline Street and Victoria Road) had long been the village barber, but changed first to a ladies hairdresser (with sunbeds upstairs) and then to a gift shop, selling pottery, batik clothing, jewelry, soft furnishings, basketwork, and cards, with a gallery upstairs for local painters to display their work for sale.

The year 1990 maintained the tone of positive regeneration when Pace Micro Technology moved into the Mill to occupy 250,000 sq feet (the whole of the first floor) making modems, decoders and satellite receiver dishes. And then in 1992, work started to repair and refurbish New Mill and its adjacent buildings for residential and office use. In 1996, it opened as Bradford Area Health Authority HQ and apartments. The 100 luxury apartments housed some 200 residents, and the Health Authority employed 300 staff on this site, which together with the "Pace" workforce and other staff in the Mill brought more potential customers for local shops.

In 1996, the micro technology business consolidated its influence in Saltaire when Filtronic Comtek built and opened a new factory on land sold to them by Jonathan Silver, close to Salts Mill. The public buildings in Saltaire Village were also renovated. In 1996 the Salt Foundation forced Bradford Council to meet its legal obligation and restore Victoria Hall and the Schools. In the same year, the Exhibition Road buildings were restored by Shipley College. Little wonder that in this same year of 1996, Saltaire won the Civic Trust Centre Vision Award Europa Nostra medal for conservation. When

Prince Charles visited, he described the Mill as a “cathedral of industry”.

What a tragedy when, in 1997, Jonathan Silver died of cancer, aged just 47 years. Fortunately he managed to see his dream turned into reality - his vision and charisma reflecting those of Sir Titus 135 years earlier. His widow, Maggie continues to run the business.

In 1998, restoration of the Church began. The decade and the century culminated with village’s nomination for UNESCO World Heritage status.

In 2001, Saltaire became a World Heritage Site through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

**Five other retail outlets on Victoria Road should be mentioned for us to have a complete picture of shopping there.**

Salts Mill is a remarkable building. Titus Salt had purchased most of the 49 acres from WR Crompton Stansfield of Esholt Hall for £12,000, and the Mill building cost £120,000. Designed by architects Lockwood and Mawson, the initial plans were on Titus’s desk a week after he commissioned them. The relatively unknown architects must have been very much aware that their employer was one of the wealthiest men in the country, and that their future reputations depended on what they designed in Saltaire. Titus sent the initial plans back with instructions to “make it bigger”, which they did, and soon produced the final design for his fully integrated alpaca worsted mill which was accepted. Raw alpaca could now be offloaded from canal barges (along with coal) at the northern end of the Mill, and the finished cloth loaded onto trains at the southern end for distribution throughout the country and beyond.

It is worth noting that the infrastructure of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal (1770’s) and the Midland Railway line (1847) were both in place before Titus came here, and he did not have to pay a penny for their construction. He soon became a director of the railway company however, and as well as having a spur line built into his



*19thC print of Salts Mill*

mill yard, he had a station built in the village.

Jonathan Silver was careful to retain original features which give a clue what the Mill was like in the past. He retained the wide, open spaces of the spinning section. You can still see in the 1853<sup>13</sup> Gallery the sheared off metal struts remaining in the stone flagged floor where the machinery was positioned, and bins are left in place along the walls. The ceiling structure is original too. The building was built to be fireproof (Titus had learned the lessons of the wooden structures in Bradford and elsewhere). The fine grained sandstone came from twenty local quarries, some opened specially, close to the village, and the ironwork from Bradford where the Bowling and Low Moor ironworks were located.

We should be thankful that Jonathan replaced the dreadful noise of the machinery with a high spec sound system playing classical music in the 1853 Gallery and a more upbeat selection in the bookshop on the second floor. He also replaced the stink of oil, wool and worker's sweat and urine with the delicate scent of lilies which decorate the galleries. Titus's workers were served good wholesome food in the Dining Room on Victoria Road, and visitors can still enjoy good quality food in Salts Diner on the Second Floor (where there's a real cosmopolitan buzz, especially at weekends). The Diner was

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<sup>13</sup> *20th September, 1853 is the date when Sir Titus opened the Mill, on the occasion of his 50th birthday.*

extensively renovated in 2005 to a high standard. On the third floor is a seafood restaurant.

Jonathan's widow, Maggie Silver, reflected with me about these early days in 1987/8. This story really begins with the sale of Jonathan's retail empire. He had 13 shops in major cities across the country, selling menswear. It continues with his association with Sir Ernest Hall at Dean Clough Mills in Halifax. His ideas then perhaps distilled over the course of a three year trip around the world which he took with his wife, Maggie, and their daughters Zoe and Davina.



*Maggie Silver, courtesy of Pamela Reynolds*

On their return to Yorkshire, the girls needed to be settled in school. Jonathan and Maggie took Zoe for interview at Bradford Girl's Grammar School in February, 1987, and afterwards had coffee in a first floor café above No 24 (or was it No 26?), Bingley Road, then a ladies outfitters on the ground floor. Looking across the rooftops at the Mill shrouded in mist ("Like the Marie Celeste" says Maggie), they decided to buy it. The price is reported elsewhere to be "less than a million", but in its dilapidated state there's small wonder that there was a bargain to be had, if you had the cash. Jonathan saw opportunities where others saw only dereliction. He not only had the cash, he also had the vision, drive, self confidence, and the certainty and ability to make things happen.

His aim was to make the Mill into the northernmost part of the Victoria and Albert Museum, perhaps to house its Asian Collection – but sadly this dream was not realised. However, other dreams soon became reality, due to Jonathan's hard work and willingness to fettle himself in whatever jobs needed to be done. He was night watchman, chasing away children and youths intent on smashing windows and vandalising the property. He helped to tear up the floors in the galleries to reveal the Yorkshire stone flags underneath. He managed to open the 1853 Gallery in November, 1987, just five months after the Mill had been bought. It was a family project, and Maggie recalls that she was the first Gallery Assistant. She was also one of the first chefs in the Diner, making fish cakes and salt beef for service to Jonathan's business contacts who were encouraged to bring clients there. The watchwords were quality, culture and commerce, and the way in which Jonathan combined the three was pure genius.

The Mill provides an interesting shopping experience, with a wide range on businesses trading under the same roof. The Silver family operate some of the Units, whilst others are let to tenants. At the time of writing the Units there include:-

- ❖ Zeba, selling designer rugs and hand woven textiles.
- ❖ 1853 Gallery with its range of artists materials, art books, cards, and permanent exhibitions of the works of David Hockney and Burmantoft Pottery

- ❖ Kath Libbert Jewellery Gallery
- ❖ Allan Austin's bespoke footwear and brand name clothing
- ❖ Salts Book and Poster Shop
- ❖ Salts Diner
- ❖ Gallery 2 with David Hockney's giant "Tennis" Fax.
- ❖ The Home, which describes itself as selling "the finest quality of the practical, the essential, the luxurious, the bizarre, the outrageous and the beautiful".
- ❖ The Café into the Opera fish restaurant
- ❖ Opera Florist
- ❖ David Hockney's Opera Set Designs
- ❖ Carlton Antiques, offering 19th and 20th century oil paintings, watercolours, furniture and objets d'art
- ❖ Salts made-to-measure gentleman's tailoring and accessories

Opposite the Mill, the Mill Shop was opened in 1952, but is now closed down. This was originally part of the stable block and coach house, and also contained some housing for grooms and Titus Salts servants at the Mill. The buildings form a square around an enclosed courtyard.

Illingworth Morris opened the Mill Shop (or the Llama Shop) on the Victoria Road side of the square. This was the building in which Titus's landau used to be housed. Windows and a door were created onto Victoria Road, and material from the Mill was sold there, as well as some finished outfits which had been used for exhibition purposes.

Eventually this shop was moved into larger premises in the main Mill building. By 1980, the stable block shop was owned by Derek Arnold, who also owned the Boathouse restaurant. He sold bric a brac, old furniture, cards and pictures. In July, 1985, the building was gutted by fire. A condition of the insurance pay out was that it should re-open as a shop owned by Derek Arnold. This happened, but it was then taken over by Wesley Flanagan, a bespoke picture framer who had a gallery in Pudsey. It was then, briefly, "More Balls Than Most", a juggler's suppliers – and then Alan South sold old books and records there. Later, the door and window were bricked

up, possibly to provide more storage space.

On the forecourt of the Mill, by the base of the chimney, Shed 48 was built in 1922/1924 to house the maintenance staff (plumbers, electricians, painters and mechanics). The 10,000 square feet of retail space is now used to house All Terrain Cycles.

The Boathouse was opened in 1871, when Sir Titus created Saltaire Park (later Roberts Park), and sold tea and scones to the boaters. The Victorian sailors could choose between rowing boats, an Indian canoe, or a steamship called the “Rose of Saltaire”. The attractive red and blue boats had apparently been built on site. In the 1970s, Derek and Christine Arnold bought the boathouse from the Mill, and Derek used to repair the 23 rowing boats. In 1980, Derek and Christine obtained a loan, developed the property, and opened a very successful restaurant, featuring Victorian evenings and other initiatives. The rowing boats could still be hired until 1991, when a Liquor Licence was granted to the owners, who faced the prospect of huge public liability insurance premiums if they sold alcohol to their boaters. Also at this time, the man who hired the boats out had a heart attack and could no longer manage the business (Source



*Early 20thC postcard of the Boathouse*

Telegraph & Argus newspaper). The boathouse was then converted to an Inn serving meals and drinks, just as it is today. Unfortunately it was gutted by fire in 2008 and rebuilt in 2009.

Also, in the 1890s the dining hall was in business as the Royal Café, run by the Bradford Coffee Tavern Co. Ltd. The Coffee Tavern Association was a national organisation which had been set up in 1878 to provide cheap restaurants and cafes to compete with public houses. It was part of the Temperance Movement. By 1893, there were 33 Coffee Taverns in Bradford. The Café was still there in 1903 but the Bradford Coffee Tavern Co. Ltd was wound up in 1904, and went into liquidation in 1905/6 and 1916. (14) In 1919/20 “in order to overcome a temporary shortage of operatives, a temporary wooden hostel for one hundred girls was erected in Saltaire Road, near the hospital. The old coffee house, previously leased and long neglected, was taken over by the Company (Salts) and linked to the



*The Dining Hall*

Mill yard by an underground passage. Three course meals were served for a shilling, and the upper floor was available for socials and dances.” (10)

In 1932, it was still being used, and was still known as the Royal Café. “Brass Band News” reported that Salts Silver Band of twenty four performers had a practice room there. They were led by Mr HB Hawley, conductor, organist and composer.

It is now part of Shipley College. These developments at the bottom of Victoria Road and in the Mill building are all based on tourism. This is especially so in the case of The Boathouse and the Royal Café. From 1893, there were trams travelling between Bradford and Saltaire every fifteen minutes – first horse drawn, then steam and finally electric trams.



*Northern end of Victoria Road*

### **What might have been**

A proposal for the routing of trams along Victoria Road has recently been discovered by two volunteer researchers (Graham Hall and David King) at the Bradford Industrial Museum. This was dated 1900/1901, but was never acted upon. One can only speculate what a boost this would have made to the Saltaire economy, and how the retail picture might have been very different if tourists had come in even greater numbers to buy souvenirs of their day out, and to buy food as they descended from the tram, in Saltaire rather than on Bingley Road. Would the owners of houses on Gordon Terrace have



### **Victoria Road in the 21st century**

The Victoria Road parade of shops used to be the hub of the village, where people used to meet daily to chat and gossip in this relatively closed community. It was an important centre, especially for the women who had left the Mill to raise a family and were at home all day. In 2006, the Environmental Capacity Study (44) notes that 91% of residents use local shops at least once a week; 68% of students and workers use them at least once a week; 34% of residents use a local restaurant or café at least once a month; and 45% use Salts Mill at least once a month.

In January, 2009, eight out of eighteen properties are used by businesses which are not concerned with the needs of villagers or with tourism – or are not used for any business. They could be located anywhere. Of the remainder, two are gift shops, and five are concerned with preparing food, either as restaurants, cafes, wine bars or sandwich shops. The newsagent, and the off licence make up the list.

Similarly, the 2006 Environmental Capacity Report notes that “There are currently ten businesses with active street frontages on Victoria Road and three with static frontages . . . there is no capacity for additional static frontages on this street before its character starts to be undermined . . . the Council could consider developing planning policy to protect the vibrancy of the street.”<sup>14</sup>

It further found that in 2005 there was “an 8% level of vacancy of commercial and retail premises. The level of acceptable vacancy is based on that established in town centres, and was clearly exceeded at this time. However, action is only required if the level of vacancy is sustained over a period of time, as it could merely reflect a turnover of business rather than a more fundamental problem. Consequently, a further survey is required to verify the results.”

2006 was a time of great change on Victoria Road. No 1 opened as ArtParade selling fine art photography and designer crafts. No 2 was up for sale in December, and in April, 2007 re-opened as the re-

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<sup>14</sup> “Active frontages” are associated with retail premises, and “Static frontages” are associated with professional service providers .

located Magic Number Three. Victoria Antiques closed at Nos 3 and 4, and Malcolm Gray transferred his business to the third floor of the Mill. The Victoria Road premises were then taken over by Orthodontist, Sandeep Sharma, who uses the upper floors as his consultancy and treatment area. In June, 2006, No 3 was taken over as “Magic Number Three”, selling arts and craft goods at the rear and a delicatessen and café at the front. No 6 was bought by brothers Jas and Bobby Bhatt and opened as a Wine Bar, amusingly called “don’t tell Titus”. No 7 closed as Beeties Tapas Bar and Restaurant in November. By summer it re-opened as a restaurant owned by Jas and Bobby Bhatt, part of “don’t Tell Titus”.

No 16 gave notice of closure as the Victoria Frame and Needlecraft Centre. And finally, No 79 was sold in December, and Helen Kemp moved out in January, 2007. In addition, the newsagents at No 9 changed hands in November, 2006. There were nine changes in this one year, after a long period of stability. There are many reasons why this year was prone to these changes, and these include the retirement of a group of shopkeepers who had worked together for many years since the early 1990s as the Saltaire Tradesman’s organisation, with Jonathan Silver as the president; increasing competition in all retail areas from internet shopping and cheap foreign imports; a decline in customer numbers due to traffic congestion around the village,<sup>15</sup> and finally, there was no longer a driving force with vision and money to invest in the village. With World Heritage Site status in 2001, Bradford Council tackled the problem of measuring the size of the problems facing Saltaire, and identifying the key issues and objectives which needed to be addressed (in the excellent “Draft Management Plan” (42) in 2000,

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<sup>15</sup> *Traffic volume increased along Bingley Road and Saltaire Road and around Saltaire traffic roundabout. It became increasingly difficult to get in and out of the village. At the same time, rat running cars used Caroline Street and Titus Street in an effort to avoid the Saltaire roundabout delays. The Bingley Relief Road was officially opened by John Prescott in January, 2004, but had been open to traffic since its completion in 2003. It greatly increased traffic around the perimeter of the village.*

*It was also difficult to access the village via Salts Mill Road because of delays at Fox Corner. The Shipley East Link Road, (continued opposite)*

and subsequent “Management Plan” (43)). There was then the inevitable problem of how improvements were to be funded. Conscious of spending public money, of conflicting demands and priorities, and the need to take the many investors in charge with them, it is perhaps unsurprising that the approach of councillors and officers was cautious, careful and conservative – a decision to “monitor and manage” (Saltaire Environmental Capacity Study). Their dilemma must be that the Bradford District as a whole is partly dependent upon its tourist attractions, such as Saltaire, for its growth and development. If they don’t shine, then nor will Bradford.

Recent projects have been funded by Lottery money (the proposed changes to restore Roberts Park to its former glory), and by the Salt Foundation and Shipley College (the restoration of Victoria Hall, which was formally re-opened in December, 2006). Council involvement in the Saltaire Festival, which has increased year on year, was a step in the right direction, but more was needed.

The early months of 2007 gave more reason for optimism. After a year of being without a Saltaire World Heritage Officer, and other key personnel changes in the Council, Craig McHugh was appointed as World Heritage Site Officer in June.

There were also more rapid changes to the shops on Victoria Road. In just four months between Easter and summer, three new businesses arrived and one re-located. There was a trend towards more shops devoted to food. Magic Number Three moved from renting No 3 to owning No 2, and continued their very successful three pronged business of delicatessen, gift shop and café. No 79 also changed use to become a café, trading as “Vicars... food for thought”. It opened in June.

No 7 re-opened as a restaurant in August. All proving that Saltaire

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*which had been downgraded to the Government’s long term road building programme in 1995, had begun to be mentioned as a possible reality (ARUP Plan) once again. This is acknowledged as the key catalyst for the regeneration of Shipley, but is still only a long term (2012 to 2020) possibility.*

*In the 2006 Environmental Capacity Report, it is noted that “congestion is a significant concern, impacting on residents and on the character of the site.*

could sustain many different food outlets and eating experiences so long as there is sufficient variety in what is on offer.

A second trend was towards galleries which exhibit the work of a number of artists, especially in the visual arts. Kath Libbert in the Mill already used her gallery to promote the work of both established and up and coming jewellers. Beverley Stewart at “ArtParade” exhibits the work of photographers and other artists in the same way. “The House of Rose and Brown” opened in May at No 16, and had the same approach with artists in textile design, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, painting and prints.

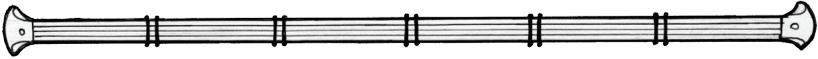
This whole trend builds on a firm base of quality products of the art world which is provided by the Hockney paintings in the Mill, antique paintings at “Carlton Antiques”, original etchings at “Magic Number Three”, and original paintings and ceramics at “Massarellas”.

Coincidentally, there were new plans produced for a Saltaire bypass in 2007, which mobilised the Village Society into activity to oppose the proposals. Community action of this kind is what prompted the changes in the 1990s, and a new surge of optimism from residents and businesses alike.

Appendix 1 shows the history of each of the shops on Victoria Road since the 1861 Census. Census data, Trade and Postal Directories, adverts in newspapers and magazines, and resident’s recollections have been used to compile the history, but there are inevitable gaps. Any verifiable amendments or additions to add to this record would be welcomed.



## SECTION 2 - OTHER PARTS OF THE VILLAGE



Corner shops were built as part of Titus's original design. They are mainly situated on the main roads running east to west – Caroline Street and Titus Street, but there were others built in the later stages of house building. These later additions are close to, or are on, Saltaire Road, and this fact may have helped their survival. The majority of these shops have now closed down and have been residential properties for many years. Structurally, you can still see the decorated frontages and larger windows of those which were intended to be used as shops.

The ones which have survived include:-

- ❖ Nos 20/21, Titus Street, which started life as a hairdressers in 1871, but then became a grocers and bakers. It was part of the Spar chain between 1967 and 1992, when it was taken over by an independent retailer who sells groceries, wines and spirits.
- ❖ Nos 30/31, Caroline Street was a grocers in 1879, and by 1898 had become the Windhill Industrial Co-operative Society, No 5 Branch until 1964/65. It was then a laundrette which was closed down by 1987. It became the offices for a design and marketing consultant, and at the time of writing is humyo.com. As the Co-op it was one of the main retail grocery outlets in the village at the turn of the century.
- ❖ No 23, Shirley Street was a drapers and is now Shirley, hair stylist.
- ❖ No 14, Katherine Street had always been a butchers shop, and still is! The shop now trades as Harry Hodgson, butcher.
- ❖ No 5, Fern Place was a grocers until it was converted to a fish and chip shop by 1938, and is now Fern Furnishings since the 1960s.
- ❖ For many years, No 1 Myrtle Place was a doctor's surgery. It then became Village Estates, an estate agent, before becoming Saltaire Bookshop, run by David Ford.  
(Email: [enquiries@saltairebookshop.com](mailto:enquiries@saltairebookshop.com))

The Saltaire Road shops have fared better, situated on a main road. No 107 was a house furnisher and funeral director and is now a hairdresser; No 105 was a house furnisher and funeral director and is now a laundrette; No 103 was a fancy draper, but is now a

hairdresser; and finally, No 101 was Schick, pork butchers in 1916, and Dowling, butchers in 1928 - it is now a gent's hairdresser.

Appendix 2 gives details of the histories of the corner shop properties in the village. There were originally twenty one shops, and at least ten sold food. There are just eleven remaining – and of these only two still sell food to villagers.

### **The demise of the corner shop and the rise of supermarkets**

It is easy to see why so many of the corner shops in the village, away from Victoria Road and Saltaire Road, have reverted to residential properties. The power of the supermarkets, particularly in price competition, has undercut grocers, greengrocers and drapers. Add to this their increasing operating costs, their lack of capital for investment, and their tendency to overstock. Further problems have arisen with national, and later international, legislation.

There have been attempts by the Government in the past to offer some protection for small independent corner shops in the face of supermarket power. The 1950 Shops Act said that shops had to close at 8pm and on Sundays, except to sell perishable goods such as fruit and vegetables, and to sell newspapers and magazines. The Act was repealed in 1994, and there's now Sunday trading for supermarkets, discount stores and garage forecourt shops – all taking trade away from traditional corner shops. Some supermarkets, such as Asda in Shipley, now open 24 hours a day. In addition, Resale Price Maintenance in Britain limited the discount which larger stores could give. They got around it by offering Green Shield stamps! It was designed to protect small shops. RPM was repealed in 1964.

At the same time, the Government did little to control the growth of large supermarkets. The 1980s was a period of de-industrialisation, and more large sites became available on edges of towns and cities. These were Enterprise Zones under a Conservative Government and their development as retail outlets was encouraged. There was space for huge units and even more for car parking. The number of supermarkets grew from 775 in 1990 to 1,200 by 2000. Now most of

the prime sites have been taken, so supermarkets are shifting to smaller formats again.

In May, 2005, it was reported that the number of independent corner shops had fallen by 7% in 2004. But sales at convenience store formats owned by supermarkets (such as Tesco Metro) rose by 18%. Smaller format stores are a threat to independent grocers because computer technology allows them to enjoy the economies of scale of the supermarkets. Small shops can perhaps redress the balance by specialising in brands not stocked by the large supermarkets and claw back some trade. In addition, as early as 1990, Davies and Harris (25) were commenting that “Small store bar code scanning systems are already on the market, with associated software packages providing full purchasing and inventory control. Electronic shelf price display units are currently being developed by the multiples and will soon be available to the small scale operator.” In 2007, there are many electronic point of sale systems with software covering every aspect of the small business – with prices which reflect the competitiveness of the market.

Franchising is another avenue open to the small business. In 2007, the British Franchise Association listed 141 full members and 77 associate members, many of whom were the type of businesses to be found in the village. The benefits of bulk buying, the use of trade marks and advertising, and research and development are obvious, but there is a downside too. This includes the cost of the initial franchise fee and other costs, and loss of independence when franchisors impose controls over the way in which the franchise is conducted. Convenience stores are another choice for the small business, and at least one shop in the village took the opportunity to become a Spar shop for a time. Unfortunately, the growth of competition from petrol stations and forecourts is very strong, with their long opening hours and the increasing tendency for them to stock grocery items and newspapers on their shelves. The Shell garage at Saltaire roundabout is a case in point.

The Government is continuing to monitor trends. An All Party Parliamentary Group for Small Shops reported in 2004. They said that small shops may vanish by 2015, squeezed out by supermarkets

who exercise predatory (below cost) pricing. They believe that nationally, small shops are disappearing at the rate of five a day. To combat this, there is now an Action Plan for Small Businesses which was completed in 2006, and which identifies seven key strategic themes and their associated “drivers”, including making more finance available (such as the Phoenix Fund which operated from 2004 to 2006, the Small Firm Loans Guarantee, and Enterprise Capital Funds). A more complete Implementation Plan is to follow, the Department of Trade and Industry being responsible for this service for small businesses. In December, 2006, Alastair Darling, Trade and Industry Secretary, pledged to cut red tape in the Department of Trade and Industry by 25% by 2010, and make essential regulations for small businesses much simpler.

The Government sees small shops as “the social glue which binds communities together”. The experience of the shops in the rest of the village, away from Victoria Road and Gordon Terrace, is that it is increasingly difficult to maintain this cohesion. Change may come too late for them. Hodgsons butchers at No 14, Katherine Street are now open only at selected times during the week because there is insufficient trade to justify full time hours. It is a similar picture at No 5, Fern Place where Fern Furnishings now opens just three days a week since August, 2006. None of the corner shops in the village have taken advantage of the Government initiatives, or the new technologies. An example is the grocery store at Nos 20/21, Titus Street:- Leslie and Reginald Hodgson (now aged 80 and 77 years) took over the shop in 1962. Leslie and Reginald opened the shop full time (8am to 10pm) 7 days a week. Their background was in managing a bakery in Dewsbury, and so the presence of a bakery at Nos 20/21 was an incentive for them to buy it. They built the business up to a point when there were over 400 customers a day coming through the door, with a turnover of £6,500 per week. They employed two assistants at peak times. They became part of the Spar chain in 1967, and were able to offer groceries at very competitive prices because all the advertising, bulk buying and overheads (even down to providing paint for the outside of the shop) were taken care of by Spar. For some time they operated a mobile service using a van

to trade door to door in the Coach Road area, a section of the business which had £100 per week turnover on its own. They became a registered company (Hodgson's Ltd).

The present owners are Raman and Ramila Lad, who took over the shop in 1992, having had limited previous retail experience. However, the Hodgson brothers continued to live above the shop and were able to teach them how to run the business and how to organise the shop for about six months before moving out of the village. Customers now want fast food such as frozen ready meals, fine wines, home made samosas, and more unusual items which they can't easily get from supermarkets. Raman and Ramila stayed in the Spar group for only a few months in 1992, before trading independently. They felt that the Spar organisation exercised too strict a control of pricing. There's no bar coding or electronic stock control; no advertising; no market research or price comparisons with competitors. They just stay open for as long as customers want them (8am to 10pm) and get to know their customers, and what they like, very well. (There is a fuller version of this account in Appendix 2)

Local butchers provide an example of an industry which has had new technologies forced upon it by the Government and the EU. They have had to comply with regulations about the handling and storage of meat, and with new training requirements. An example is the shop at No 14, Katherine Street:- Harry Hodgson took over from 1974, and his son, Eric, has the shop today. At the height of trade there were six full time and two part time staff working there. The shop used to open full time, six days a week, but times have changed radically. Eric now opens only two days, on Fridays and Saturdays, 7-30am to noon.

The main impact on the market was obviously the foot and mouth crisis from February, 2001 to January, 2002. Rules, regulations and paperwork followed the outbreak, some from the Government and some from the European Union. In 2000, butchers were required to be licensed, requiring a weeks training course, regular inspections and a license fee of £100 per year. This requirement was abandoned in January, 2006 as unworkable, costing the Government £2.4

million to resource. But the paperwork remains. Eric has to read and record fridge and freezer temperatures three times a day. He has stopped making home cooked ham because the Government has identified nine different processes involved in this, and each stage has to be documented when completed. They have issued guidelines in a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point file, several centimeters thick. Eric says that he would have to employ a secretary if production was much above the present reduced level. All products have to have ingredients listed and labelled. And there are more regulations to prevent cross contamination. Many of the restrictions seem reasonable in today's world, but it is easy to see why small butchers struggle to survive them. It has not been the competition from supermarkets which have led to his reduced trade. Indeed he believes that high street and corner butchers shops are offering very competitive products, of better quality, at lower prices, are much more conveniently located for the majority of meat customers, and provide a personal service.

He now spends much of his time trading with restaurants, pubs, clubs and nursing homes, rather than behind his shop counter. (A fuller version of this account can be found in Appendix 2). Compare Eric's account with that of Richard Binns, butchers, on Bingley Road, with a much better location and involvement of extended family members (in Appendix 3)

### **The “gentrification” of Saltaire**

Urban sociologist, Ruth Glass, first used this rather unwieldy term to describe the change of a working class area, often run down and neglected, into a middle class neighbourhood. She was considering the derelict housing of large cities such as London or New York, which regenerate to provide desirable residences for affluent tenants. But there is some evidence that the same thing has happened in Saltaire (38), and that the changes in the shops on Victoria road are a major indicator of this trend. The photograph below shows the derelict state of the New Mill in 1987, subsequently restored and developed as luxury apartments.

The houses in the village were mainly two bedroomed workers' cottages



*Rear of New Mill - 1987, courtesy of Kate Clarke*

and three bedroomed overlookers houses (although there are notable exceptions around the village). When Gresswells Estate Agency bought them in 1933, and converted one of the bedrooms into a bathroom, it effectively made them the one and two bedroomed accommodations which we find today. This does much to determine the population of the village in the 21st century. The 1991 census reveals that only 14.1% of the residents were aged 0 to 19, compared with 29.2% in Bradford. But, 41.4% were aged 20 to 39, compared with 29.1% in Bradford. And 21% of the population were aged 60 to 79, compared with 16.1% in Bradford.

While there are still residents here who have lived in the same house since they were born, and are now in their 80s and 90s, their numbers are inevitably declining. The main occupants of the houses are now single people, or couples with no children or perhaps one child. Walk around the streets of Saltaire in 2006 and you will find them strangely quiet, whether you visit mid week or weekends, at

any time of the day (with the exception of Victoria Road and the main arterial roads). There are very few children to be seen. The convenience of the railway means that middle class commuters can be at their desks in Bradford or Leeds without using cars to get there, without all the problems of congestion and car parking in the inner city.

A recent Environmental Capacity Study (completed in March, 2006) (44) commissioned by Bradford Council, states that 25% of the population of the village are now tenants, rather than owner occupiers. Houses in the village have been bought by investors for the rental market, to meet the needs of shorter term residents. The same study revealed that 46% of residents have lived in Saltaire for less than three years. More positively, a further finding was that 99% of residents were happy to be living here.

Saltaire is now becoming a place for middle class visitors and middle class residents, demanding to be catered for in high quality retail outlets. The basic requirements of life can be obtained with minimum effort from supermarkets and super stores further afield. Fortunately for Saltaire, there are a number of the residents who came to the village in the 1980s and 1990s who have a sense of community, especially those who successfully opposed the road scheme of the 1980s, and formed the Village Society.

**The**  
**Saltaire Sentinel**



**Hour Lion of** **VIGILANCE**

There is a monthly village newsletter, The Saltaire Sentinel (first issued in January 2003 by its creator and editor, James Duncan), which is free and is printed and distributed locally, and online on the Saltaire Village website ([www.saltairevillage.info](http://www.saltairevillage.info)) which was devised and is managed by Pamela Reynolds. The website went online in January 2006 and is supported by volunteers and run on a not-for-profit basis. The Sentinel and the Saltaire Village website

cover news and record Saltaire's history, and support local businesses and events.

The village is developing a lively musical tradition, centred upon the excellent venue of Victoria Hall. For example, twice a year since 1995, Louise Eaton organizes a Day of Dance which raises many thousands of pounds for charities such as Oxfam and CND. Phil Fluke has his long established Harmonium and Reed Organ Museum housed there, and the acquisition of a Wurlitzer organ in 2009 (which rises up from under the stage in the main hall) is a major attraction. Saltaire Live concerts are always well attended.

There is also the Saltaire Festival, organized for many years by Helen Kemp, as a joint effort between the Council, Village Society and others, which is held in the weeks around Sir Titus' birthday in September, featuring a continental street market, fun fair, and dramatic and musical productions which celebrate the life of the community and highlight its talent. Local authors and playwrights Hattie Townsend and Eddie Lawler have created new works which have inspired participation.

Saltaire Inspired has produced an annual Arts Trail in which villagers are encouraged and enabled to open up their houses to visitors, and display art work by a range of local artists and designers. In a similar manner, at Christmas villagers are invited to be part of the Advent Window trail, vying with each other to produce the most eye-catching displays.

Local businesses play a part in these community events too, with Rance, Booth and Smith sponsoring an annual back yard in bloom competition, and contributing to the Saltaire Festival celebrations.

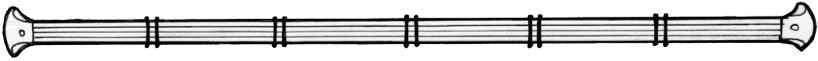
Here is a vibrancy and sense of expectation in the village which has only come with regeneration and "gentrification". The village "grass roots" are providing the impetus for these initiatives which improve the quality of life, and focus on building community involvement. With these new initiatives come more customers for the village shops, and the popularity of the village grows. Tourists now replace Mill workers as the main customer base.

**What of the future?**

ARUP, Business Consultants, produced a strategic masterplan for Airedale in 2005 (51). Its brief was to “deliver the aspirations of the Bradford 20/20 Vision.” The emphasis is interesting, and at odds with a survey carried out by Yorkshire Tourist Board in 2003, which found that 59% of their sample of visitors came to visit Saltaire village as a whole, whilst 17% came just to see the Mill. Also in 2003, Stephen Biscoe in the Yorkshire Post comments that “The village and the Mill are symbiotic. Each relies on and benefits from the other’s ability to attract visitors and business.” And in 2006, the Environmental Capacity Study notes that “both the village and the Mill are key drivers for visitors to the site”. The ARUP Report seems to see the hook for tourism as the Mill, and the village and the rural setting merely provide a context for this. Of this context, they say that it “does not offer much for the non-specialist visitor”, and “the fossilisation of the place presents a threat”. “Salts Mill is a significant employment site, containing a variety of innovative and successful businesses, and provides the largest area of business space within Airedale.” Their solution is to plan for a Visitor and Interpretation Centre to be built on the Caroline Street Car Park, to provide “a secondary destination, supplementing Salts Mill.” The aim for this is within the 2008/2012 time period. A longer term aim is for a hotel to be built between Saltaire and Shipley, to enable Shipley to “tap into some of the economic benefits generated by Saltaire.” The aim for this is within the 2012/2020 time period.



## SECTION 3 - GORDON TERRACE



Gordon Terrace is situated on the southern boundary of Saltaire village, on the main road between Bradford and Keighley. It's the main A650 trunk road, and as such has a high volume of traffic, notably following the building of the Bingley by-pass in 2005. The A650 was named the Bradford and Keighley Road until 1882, when it was renamed. It became "Bradford Road" east of the Ring O'Bells pub, and "Bingley Road" west towards Bingley and Keighley.



*Gordon Terrace in the late 19thC*

In 1871, Gordon Terrace was a row of twenty four substantial residential houses with small gardens in front, built towards the end of the village building programme. There was one shop at the end of the row – then numbered No 1, now No 49, following renumbering of the row in 1882. This shop was John Watson's grocers, which became Walter Barkershead, grocers by 1881. On 31st January, 1899, planning permission was given for a new shop adjoining No 24 Gordon Terrace.

In 1900 the usage situation is less clear. A Postal Directory has Nos 20 to 24 with occupants whose trades were glass and china dealer, milliner, butcher, chemist and draper. It seems likely that the houses were then shops. In 1902, plans were approved for the

alteration of all the houses to shops on Gordon Terrace.

By 1903, Nos 16 to 24, Gordon Terrace had become shops, while No 2 to No 15 remained residential. They were mainly providers of essential goods for villagers – two grocers, a confectioner, butcher, greengrocer, and chemist. And, interestingly, the Post Office moved from Victoria Road, and has remained at No 16 (No 81 as it is now) ever since. Shortly afterwards, No 2 to No 15 were also converted to shops.

I don't believe that we can look at Gordon Terrace in isolation. It is part of a retail development which takes in the opposite side of the road too. Although the opposite side is strictly outside the Saltaire village boundary, it still forms a coherent whole from a retail point of view.

On the other side of Bingley Road, from the Rosse Hotel eastwards towards Bradford, were streets running north to south with rows of approximately 160, mainly back to back, houses (outside the Saltaire village boundary). At the ends of these terraces were shops, numbered from No 62 nearest to the Rosse to No 20 at Richmond Road. Here were three grocers, three confectioners/bakers, and many other services needed by the community such as draper, milliner, boot maker, newsagent, hairdresser and plumber.

The history of the development of shops here is much more complicated than the considered and substantial building of Gordon Terrace. To begin with, many were wooden structures, the remnants of which we can still see at No 60 to No 62 Bingley Road.

Ian Watson has chronicled the history of this site (37) as follows:-

In October, 1869, the Countess of Rosse sold three x 100 square yards of land at the bottom of Moorhead Lane to Charles Edwin Rhodes, landlord of the Beehive Hotel on Saltaire Road (now the Shipley Pride).

In November, 1869, the Local Board gave permission for four streets to be laid, running at right angles to the Bradford and Keighley Road. They were named after Queen Victoria, WB Ferrand of St Ives, Bingley, Richard Oastler, Ashley, Earl of Shaftsbury, and John Fielden, Todmorden MP. These were people involved in the reforms

of child labour laws. Queens Road still exists next to the Rosse, and prior to 1968, it was followed by Ferrand Road, Oastler Road, Ashley Road, and then Ferncliffe Road.

The first building constructed was the Rosse Hotel in 1870. The second was built just behind the Rosse at No 2, Moorhead Lane, where John Baxter (a baker) lived in the house and used the cellar as a bakehouse to produce haver cakes. The first “shop” was built into the front of the Rosse, where a boot and shoe repairer plied his trade.

At the other end of the site, at the bottom of Ashley Road, Jabez Copley built his grocers shop. At the end of Oastler Road another grocers opened, and this continued to deal in groceries until 1968.

In 1885, the Windhill Independent Co-operative Society built two shops at the end of Ashley Road. At the side of these, a further three units were built and were used as a butcher, grocer and draper until demolition in 1968.

The area must have been becoming more fashionable by 1887, because a temporary building was constructed for the Bradford Coffee Tavern Company. In 1891, five wooden shops were built at the bottom of Oastler Road, housing a confectioner, hairdresser, and a plumber. There was also a small stable here. These shops were demolished in 1926.

One part of the shop frontages along Bingley Road which is familiar to us today is between Queens Road and Ferrand Road (now No 56 to No 62). In 1886, Benjamin Hargreaves, grocer and confectioner, built a row of shops which were occupied by a photographer, a greengrocer and a sweets and tobacco shop. In 1891, James Kay bought the site with Walter Minakin. The sweetshop was run by Edith Minakin, perhaps his sister. In 1944, Percy Warnes leased the sweetshop and it became part of the “Annes of Saltaire” group. Rooms above the shops were used in part by Mr Warnes to produce chocolate eggs and other sweets. In 1923, No 56 was rebuilt in stone and occupied by Chell’s butchers. The chip shop at No 62A has been there since 1900.

The shops between Ashley and Ferrand Roads (now No 36 to No 54) were demolished by Shipley Council at the same time as the houses

in 1968/9, and new shops were built in the early 1970s.

The above changes, taking in both sides of the Bingley Road, are seen to be, by any standards, a large retail development.

### **Trams**

Apart from the increasingly large residential area both north and south of Bingley Road, there was another factor which encouraged this surge in retail trading. The Bingley Road area was being put on the transport map with the arrival of the tramway system. J Stanley King has traced its development, summarised below. (26) This was a faltering and tentative development at first, with horse drawn trams running on Saltaire Road between Shipley and Saltaire in 1882. A small depot was built at the junction of Exhibition Road and Saltaire Road to house ten trams. This building was demolished in 1904, and

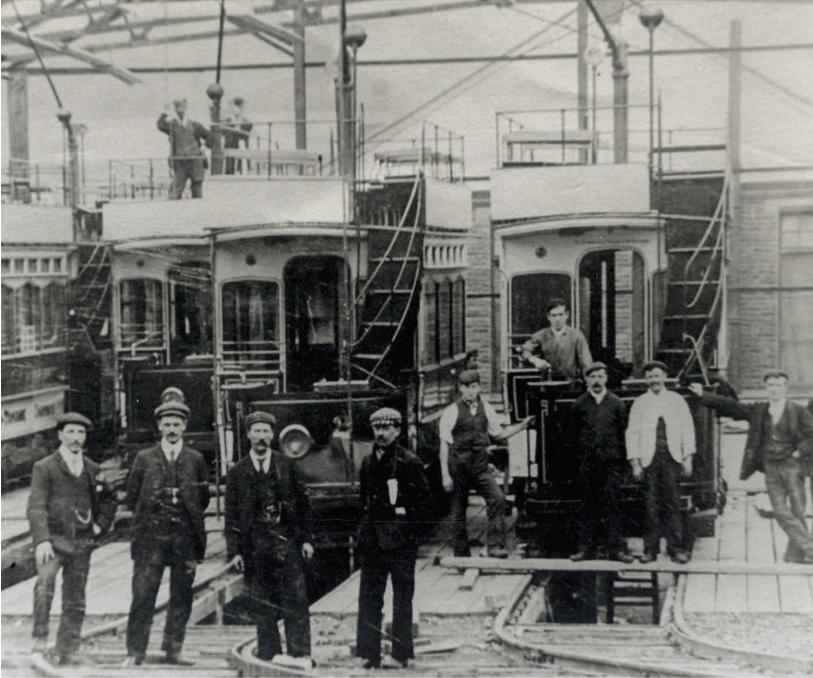


*Saltaire Road tramsheds under construction*

is now a car park. However, the route which was to have most impact on the retail prospects of Bingley Road was the Bradford to Saltaire link, with two companies competing to develop it.

In January, 1882, horse drawn trams ran from Bradford up Manningham Lane to Oak Lane. In 1885, the tracks were extended to Frizinghall, and steam trams were run as well as horse drawn trams.

At the other end of the route, in 1888 a service was run from Saltaire roundabout to Frizinghall, but the Bradford Tramways and Omnibus Company would not allow the horse drawn trams to run into Bradford. Instead, they introduced steam trams onto the Undercliffe to Frizinghall route. As a result the Shipley Company



*Saltaire Road tramsheds in operation*

went out of business, but then so did the BTOC in 1891. Shipley was left tramless again.

In 1889, Bradford became a County Borough, and on Good Friday, 1893, at last a steam tram service was opened between Undercliffe and Saltaire. It used a depot which had been built near the bottom of Moorhead Lane, behind the Rosse Hotel to house ten horses and two trams. Steam trams were then housed here. There were post boxes on the trams, which were emptied when the trams passed through Forster Square (the sorting office). Customers paid one penny for the privilege, but only if the tram had to stop specially for a letter to be posted. This service continued until 1939!

Horse trams were not withdrawn from the line until 1902. Steam trams operated a service every fifteen minutes until 1902, when they were also withdrawn in favour of electrified trams.

The Moorhead Lane depot was rewired for the use of electric trams in 1902. It continued to be used for them until 1904, when Bradford Council took over the Shipley system, and the tramsheds were built on Bingley Road. The Moorhead Lane depot building still exists as a warehouse behind the Rosse Hotel. The traffic roundabout at Saltaire was created in 1937/38, and the tramsheds next to it are now a large restaurant and wine bar. In Bradford, trams were withdrawn in May, 1950 in favour of trolley buses. The trolley bus system was closed down in 1972 – the last in Britain. It is not surprising to see retailers recognising the potential for business, with Bradford residents having easy access to suburban Saltaire.

### **Tourism**

1895 to 1914 was also the boom time for tourism in the area. Even as early as 1876 there was obviously a market for leisure pursuits in this area with the construction of the Victoria Park Skating Rink on the South side of the Bradford and Keighley Road, by the Rosse Hotel. This was a temporary wooden structure devoted to the new fashion for roller skating. It was owned by the Shipley and Saltaire Roller



*Bingley Road tramsheds*

Skating Company, and erected by Messrs Rhodes Brothers. The skating area was 500 square yards, and the height of the roof was 45 feet in the centre. A quadrille band provided musical accompaniment, and refreshments were available. The management provided “Swallow” patent skates for use there. The Shipley Times and Express in 1876 reported that it was only very moderately patronised at first, but then a number of competitions were held and its popularity grew.

But Shipley Glen was the real draw. There was the tramway up onto the Glen (an iconic funicular railway), a funfair at the top, entertainments on the Glen itself, and wonderful scenery. Saltaire and Shipley Glen were major attractions for Victorian day trippers, and the area was one of the closest rural beauty spots for Bradford families. Families came to enjoy Roberts Park and the river, and then to take a trip on the Shipley Glen Tramway for the quarter mile trip uphill to the attractions at the top.

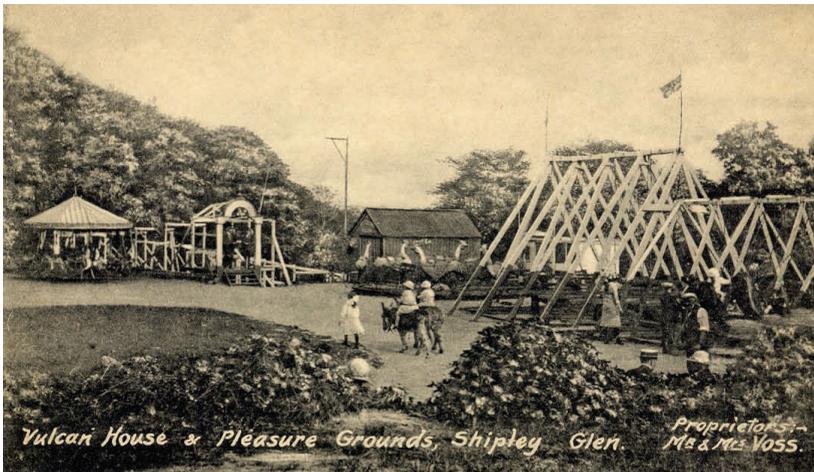
The Tramway is a funicular railway (i.e. a cable railway in which an ascending carriage counterbalances a descending carriage). It was built by showman and entrepreneur Sam Wilson. It continues to operate today. At the top of the Tramway was a pleasure ground,



*Shipley Glen tramway*

where wild animals were on display. The ever resourceful Sam Wilson used to operate rides on a horse drawn tram around a pond just above the pleasure ground. There were Japanese Gardens, complete with a boat ride along a small canal. And once they reached the Glen itself, Victorian tourists would have experienced the delights of two Camera Obscura, a toboggan run, a switchback railway, an aerial glide, temporary fairs at Bank Holidays, and lots of opportunities to buy food and drink.

For the aerial glide, great towers were built along the edge of the Glen, supporting a cable from which gondolas were suspended.



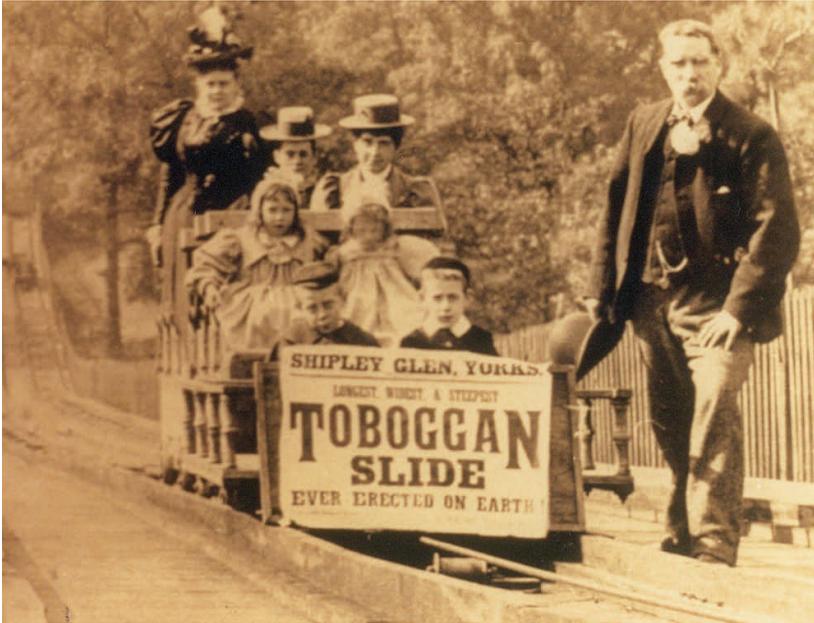
*Shipley Glen pleasure grounds*

Visitors were transported high above the trees which grew up from the valley floor. Sam Wilson's toboggan ran from the top of the crags to the valley floor. It comprised three narrow wooden tracks down which wheeled toboggans careered at great speed, slowed by friction brakes towards the bottom. The toboggans were then winched back to the top of the crags by a large winding drum. In 1900 there was a major accident here, when one of the haulage ropes snapped and several people were injured. Sam Wilson immediately demolished the ride.

However, the overall success of Sam's various tourist ventures

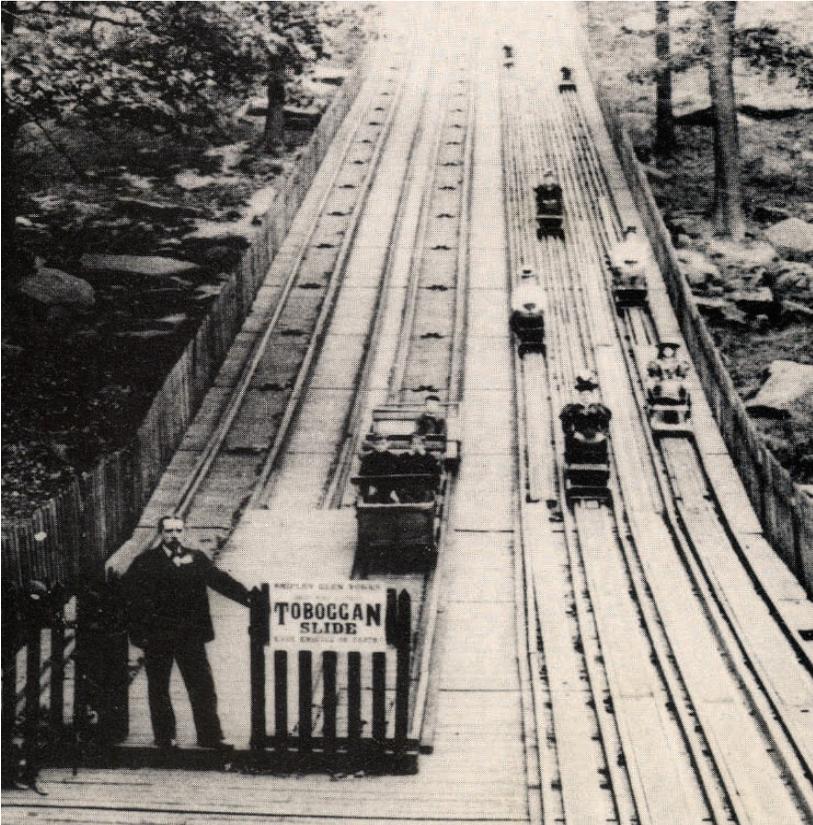
(which also included a local cinema) must have been very lucrative. He was one of the first people in the area to own a motor car!

The popularity of the area can be seen from the fact that on Easter Monday, 1915, 17,000 people travelled on the Tramway. People came in their thousands each weekend to escape the grime and smoke of Bradford.



*Sam Wilson and his Toboggan Slide*

Just as the re-opening of the railway station in Saltaire was a necessary pre-requisite to regeneration in 1984, so the tram system kick-started Gordon Terrace in 1889. By 1916, all the houses on Gordon Terrace had become shops. With the developments on the other side of the road, there were a total of forty two shops – including five grocers, three bakers/confectioners, two butchers, two greengrocers, two chemists, two fish and chip shops, three drapers and milliners, two hairdressers, a bank, a Post Office and a pub – with a tripe shop (!) thrown in for good measure, plus plumbers, painters and decorators, and electricians to service your home.



*Toboggans running*

### **Change came over the period from 1962 to 2006**

Basic food and essential services shops on Gordon Terrace have fallen from six to zero - whilst cafes, restaurants and take-aways have increased from one to four, estate agents from zero to four, and gifts/mobile phones/electrical goods from two to five. Only three shops are still involved in essential services, according to my definition – two opticians and a post office.

On the opposite side of the road, more shops have retained essential services with a GP surgery, a chemist, butcher, greengrocer, baker and confectioner, a Co-op grocer. There's also a considerable fashion and footwear presence. A florist, travel agent, betting office, video rental shop, and a Kentucky Fried Chicken make up the rest. Nine

shops out of twenty on this side of the road are still devoted to essential services.

Gordon Terrace and the opposite side of Bingley Road can be seen as serving a very broad residential base. In addition to the residents of the back to back houses which were demolished in 1968/69, there are large middle class houses in Nab Wood and up Moorhead Lane, plus some newer builds from the 1960s and 70s. It also serves Saltaire village customers. We might view the residents of Hirstwood as gravitating more to Gordon Terrace than Saltaire village because they are used to coming up the hill for schools and transport links.

Hirstwood Council Estate was built in 1927. Now many people who live there are owner occupiers after the Council offered the houses for sale. There is also considerable passing trade on this busy road, with roadside parking and a nearby pay and display car park.

### **A broader view?**

It is inappropriate to consider Gordon Terrace and the shops on the other side of Bingley Road in isolation, because they are part of a longer ribbon development of retail premises. We need to think of Gordon Terrace as being part of a retail corridor which extends towards Bradford as far as the Branch public house, where it is known as Bradford Road.

From Trade Directories of 1898 and 1928, all but five of the shops on this part of Bradford Road provided essential goods and services. Some of the properties were residential at this time and have been converted to shops later. In 2006, out of fifteen premises on Bradford Road, some double fronted, there are only three which offer essential services. These are a multi-chain grocer which is a Tesco convenience store; until recently a Post Office; and an ironmongers which offers old fashioned personal service, good value and is well used by Saltaire residents as well as local builders. It is noticeable that there are a number of empty premises on Bradford Road which have been empty for some time. There are also premises which are converting to housing, such as the site of the old classic car showroom at the corner of Avondale Road and Bradford Road, which

is now five houses/flats. In contrast, Bingley Road shops have tenants moving in as soon as they are vacated.

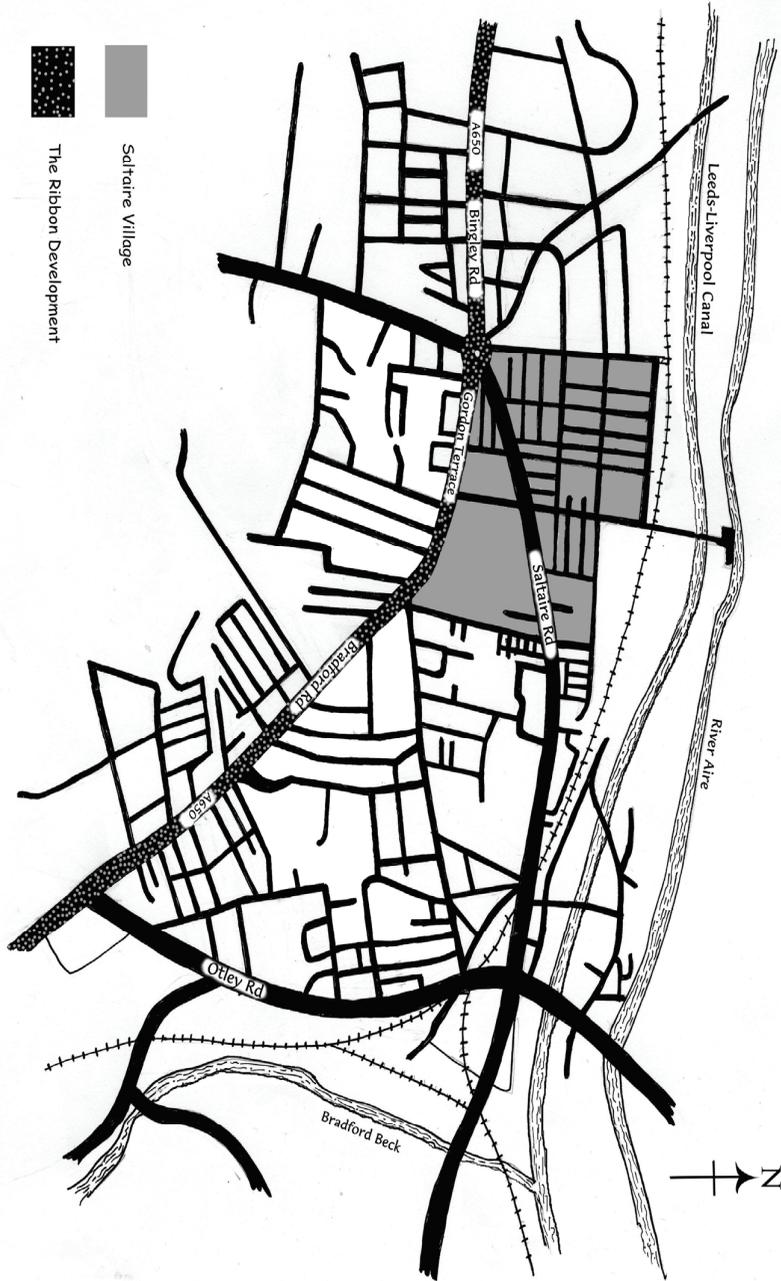
There is also a row of shops on Kirkgate, at the junction with Bradford Road and Bingley Road. In 1912, this row of twelve shops saw eight devoted to essential trades such as grocer, butcher, fruiterer, two confectioners, a milliner and a draper. It seemed to sustain one grocer at No 95, for most of its trading life, and possibly two confectioners at No 97 and No 103, although less reliably so, at least until 1962. But the big success here has been a specialist florist for the past 68 years, and a painter and decorator who managed to survive for 45 years until at least 1962.

The rest have gone the way of fashion and beauty, like so many more on this corridor, and three have been empty for some time. We might also say that this corridor extends from Saltaire Roundabout towards Bingley, with twelve shops on the right hand side of the road (when walking towards Bingley). In 1928, all but two catered for basic needs for the local population. In 2006, only a dentist and a newsagent fell into this category.

### **The whole ribbon development**

In its heyday, this longer ribbon development was a major centre for entertainment. There are the three public houses (The Branch, The Ring of Bells, and The Rosse), and there were two cinemas – the Princes Hall, near to the Branch (which has recently had houses built on the site), and the Saltaire Picture House, where the Shell petrol station is now built. Princes Hall opened in 1910, eventually becoming Unit 4 in 1978, and then Shipley Flicks, before closing down in July, 2001. Saltaire Picture House, accommodating an audience of 1,500, was opened in 1922, became the Gaumont in 1948, closed in 1957, and was eventually demolished in 1966.

In the present day, when eating out has become such a national leisure activity, the large restaurants have taken over the appeal of the cinema – with Da Tonino's Italian restaurant, and Zaara's Indian Restaurant on Bradford Road; La Rue on Bingley Road, and the Old Tramsheds at the Saltaire Roundabout. There are a number of café bars including Franco's at No 44, Bradford Road, The Terrace Café at No 83, Bingley Road and The Deli Café at No 211, Bingley Road.





## Victoria Road shops

There has been a complicated evolution of numbering the premises on Victoria Road (or Victoria Street as it was before 1871). The complication arises partly because the Almshouses were first excluded and years later included into the current numbering system. Houses on the Shipley side had 3 different numbers over the course of 30 years, between 1871 and 1901. The numbering that follows refers to the present day.



*Vintage postcard scene of Victoria Road*

**No 1** Thomas Spencer began trading here in 1861. The shop was then run by Charlesworth, flour dealer and confectioner, from 1878. It was Bowan, sweets and tobacco shop by 1928. In 1931, it became E Holmes, confectioner, who advertised as Vimto's Temperance Bar. There was a bar along one wall in the shop where customers could drink their Vimto, dandelion and burdock or sarsaparilla. The owner made so much of the connection with the drink (including a Vimto sign above the door, and putting the product name on the letterheads for the shop) that villagers used to think that it had been invented here. In fact, it was invented in 1908

in Manchester. It was produced as a concentrate, which was then sent around the country for shopkeepers to mix with still or fizzy water. This very neatly solved the problems of transporting a heavy product, and the company used to issue shopkeepers with Vimto labels to stick on the bottles and with advertising and promotional novelties. Many claims were made about the healthy and restorative qualities of the drink, as a stimulant, a diuretic, and an expectorant – to give you vim and vigour! In Manchester, you can now buy a Vimto CURRY.

Young, confectioner, had taken over by 1936. The shop was occupied by Mrs Eva Barker in 1952 (she was a cousin to the Quanburys at No 16), and Holmes, sweets, later in the 1950s. Miles Wilde traded in sweets and tobacco from 1958 at least to 1963. It was Fred Ramsden's sweetshop in 1969. For a time it was the Pine and Cane Shop. In the 1990s it became Zeba rugs and fabrics (who have now moved into the Mill), and by 2004 it was "Era", a shop selling 1920s and 1930s clothing.



*Victoria Road, when No 1 was "Era" selling vintage clothes*

The shop was then closed for a short period before re-opening as ArtParade, selling the finest contemporary craftworks, jewellery, and design led gifts. It features fine quality items in ceramics, art glass, metals and textile art. There are also hand made cards and accessories. In addition to these gifts, there are two floors of contemporary art photography. This spacious gallery has two floors, linked by a spiral staircase. ArtParade bridges the gap between the Mill and the shops in the village, having a commanding corner position close to the entrance to the Mill. The gallery also takes the theme of quality, fine art gifts from the Mill into the village.

Email [info@artparade.co.uk](mailto:info@artparade.co.uk) Telephone 01274 590619

**No 2** Ellis Shaw's butchers shop was here in 1861, and an unnamed accountant and house agent took over in 1871. In 1880, it was run by A and E Charlesworth, confectioners. Their advert in 1880 says that they stocked:

*“Huntley and Palmer's biscuits, jams, jellies, blancmanges, sponge, seed, citron, rice, and plum cakes. Bride cakes are made to order. Funerals are supplied with wine, biscuits and cards”.*

It remained a confectioner and grocers shop until being taken over by Mrs Annie Firth, baker, by 1935. Mrs Firth ran the business with her sons Frank and Jack. They had previously owned a shop on Saltaire Road. Jack was a qualified baker and managed the business at No 2. However, he became ill and Ronnie Smith was employed in the bakehouse in his place. In the late 1950s they also bought No 3 and expanded the bakehouse into the cellar there. They began living on the first floor at that address, and let the ground floor out to a variety of businesses as short term lets, including a ladies' hairdresser and a bookmaker. Firths closed in 1988, since most of their trade had been with Mill workers.

It became the Information and Gift Centre in 1993, run by Anne and Roger Heald. The basement was converted to a residential unit in 2006. The Information Centre closed in January, 2007, and at Easter, 2007, No 2 reopened as Magic Number Three, recently relocated from next door. It sold arts and crafts, and a delicatessen

featured speciality foods. In January, 2009, the shop changed in emphasis when one of the owners, Georgia Mack, took over the business and opened an ethical clothing and accessories boutique (with some alpaca garments) alongside a contemporary art and craft gallery. She also sells natural, organic skincare products for men and women.

Website [www.magicnumberthree.co.uk](http://www.magicnumberthree.co.uk) Telephone 01274 587313.

**No 3** No 3 was initially William Taylor, chemists shop, but by 1871 housed an un-named joiner and cabinet maker. It became Edwin Stephenson's base as a cabinet maker, undertaker and upholsterer, from 1879 until 1903.

A description of Stephenson's business in "Shipley through the Camera", notes that the business was established in about the year 1859 at a cottage in George Street. It rapidly expanded into No 3, Victoria Road, and he established a large workshop in Saltaire Road.

Furniture manufacturing was carried out on the ground floor, and polishing, upholstery and finishing on the first floor. He also sold "carpets, mats, linoleums, wringing machines, sewing machines, pictures and general furnishings". "Some time ago, the premises in Victoria Road were scheduled for improvements by the Midland Railway Company, and Mr Stephenson cast about him for new premises. He was fortunate at being able to purchase a Saltaire Road site from Sir Titus Salt, Bart, Sons and Co, next to Sir Titus Salt's Hospital, and he erected thereon the large workshop already referred to. At the present time he is building a house and a shop, as an attachment, which is expected to be ready shortly. The old shop in Victoria Road, however, will be continued for some time". This description was published in 1902.

In 1916, G Morrell, Saltaire Estate Agent, used this as his office. It was then Hirst's ladies and gents outfitters in 1928. From this date it was variously a furniture stores, Gresswell's estate agency (on behalf of Bradford Property Trust which bought the village in 1933), a stationer and a commission agent by 1952, trading as Teale and Potts, which it still was in 1962. In 1994/5, it was combined with No 4 to form Victoria Antiques. No 4 had been let to a ladies'

hairdresser immediately before the antiques shop took over.

Malcolm Gray was first encouraged to come to trade in the village by Jonathan Silver (who had been known to deal in antiques in the past), and he took over No 1, Victoria Road as Carlton Antiques around 1990. Looking to expand the business in 1994/5, Malcolm needed two shops next door to each other. When No 3 became available, he also looked to occupy No 4. The newsagents at No 4 had to be relocated to another building nearby, and so Malcolm bought No 10 for the newsagents to move into. What convoluted and difficult negotiations these must have been, but they resulted in the birth of Victoria Antiques. Structural alterations internally within Nos 3 and 4 brought Andrew Draper and Malcolm a Boots Civic Award for the best conversion of a building in 1995. After 1995, other antiques dealers rented space from Malcolm and Andrew, and stock became more diverse and varied as a result, widening the appeal of the shop to the public. In 2004, Malcolm relocated to Salts Mill – see later description of his business there.

No 3 was bought by orthodontist, Sandeep Sharma in March, 2006. On 29th June, 2006, it was re-named “The Magic Number Three”, a business organised by three women, Faiza Shaikh, Georgia Woollard, and Norah McWilliam. It was a delicatessen and vegetarian foods outlet, alongside gifts, cards and jewellery. This business transferred to No 2 at Easter, 2007.

In June, 2007, No 3, opened as the Victoria Road Gallery, displaying a wide range of original artwork. David Johnson displayed his own work and that of other artists for customers to browse and to buy. At the rear of the shop was a studio where David could be seen at work.

David closed the gallery in September, 2007. In March, 2008, Shimu moved into the property, selling classical Chinese furniture. [www.shimu.co.uk](http://www.shimu.co.uk)

**No 4** No 4 began life as Henry Robinson’s grocer’s shop in 1861, transferring to William Edmondson, grocer, in 1871. It became a printing and stationery shop from 1876. It was the home of The Shipley and Saltaire Times, run by Benjamin Allsop

whose six children were all born there. (Ben also had a shop on Saltaire Road, selling books, toys and stamps, since he was a keen philatelist). It remained a newsagent and stationery shop from 1898 until 1995, trading variously as Woods in 1900 and then Dysons (1916), Suttons, Taylors and Edmundsons. (Harold Sutton had formerly been owner of the Boathouse Inn). In 1962 it became Taylor's, newsagent. In 1994/5 it combined with No 3 to form Victoria Antiques. It remained so until 2005, when the antiques business moved to the 3rd Floor of the Mill (Carlton Antiques). It was then taken over by orthodontist Sandeep Sharma in March, 2006. His reception is on the ground floor and orthodontic services on the first floor.

[www.saltaireorthodontics.co.uk](http://www.saltaireorthodontics.co.uk) Tel. 01274 531567

**No 5** No 5 was owned by a general dealer in 1871, later to become Hartley's china dealership in 1879. By 1894 had become a fish and chip shop. In 1898 and 1903 it was Sam Long's butchers, and in 1916 was Dewhirst's lemon cheese makers of Glen House. In 1928 it was Heap's "Victoria Tea and Dining Rooms". By the 1930s Nos 5 and 6 had jointly become Sealey's Refreshment Rooms, serving take away fish and chips as well as a sit down café. This combination of café/restaurant and take away continued (for a time known as the Copper Kettle, and as Carringtons,) at least until 1962 when Mrs Sugden ran it as a café/restaurant. It was then taken over as a second hand furniture shop (run by John and Barbara McGee). Transformation into a junk shop followed in the 1980s, with a coffee shop at the side which only opened when the Mill workers were around. The shop was owned by "John the Junk", who would buy anything from you, and could reputedly get you anything yo wanted! Guzelian took over No 5 in November, 1993.

Guzelian is the surname of the owner, Asadour Guzelian, an Armenian who runs a photographic agency servicing national newspapers from the first floor of this building. The ground floor was originally intended to be used as a photographic gallery organised by Asadour, but the demands of the core business meant that this idea has never been developed. Displayed there were photographs taken by Asadour of a village in the Kurdish area of

Northern Syria where he waited when bringing his father's body back to Britain. Early in 2009, Asadour relocated his business to Cathedral House, 26-28, Church Bank in Bradford BD1 4DZ, opposite Bradford Cathedral. Telephone 01274 737222. After spending 15 years in Saltaire, this central location in the Little Germany area of Bradford is an ideal setting for his thriving, expanding and successful business.

In October, 2007, the ground floor of No 5 was taken over as a commissioned jewellery shop. John Bradley, designer goldsmith, designs rings for special occasions, using computer technology. He trades as Dot Jewellery Ltd.

www.dotthejewellers.com Telephone : 0845 603 3165

**No 6** This shop was owned by Saltaire Independent Co-operative and Industrial Society in 1871, and was then a grocery shop in 1881, John Earnshaw, grocer, in 1883, and a greengrocers by 1894. In 1900, it became a fried fish shop, trading as Samuel Wade and then Paul Wade, as Ramsden, as Joe Beavers (father of Miss Beaver who ran the drapers at No 9) and then as Rhodes. Clara Barraclough (28) notes that Paul Wade's shop was "well patronised at 1d for fish and chips. He used to give the junior cricket team their supper every Saturday during the Summer, and he had a small café at the back of the shop for those who wished to eat his delicious fish and chips indoors." It became part of Sealey's Refreshment Rooms in the 1930s.

In 1962, it was trading as J Giez, fish, game and poultry before reverting to fish and chips. In 2005, No 6 closed as a fish and chip shop, and Jas and Bobbie Bhatt's wine bar opened there on 3rd March, 2006, under the amusing title "don't tell Titus". The Wine Bar is on the ground floor, with kitchens and toilets downstairs. The kitchen serves home cooked food – a tapas, munchies, and snack style menu with an Indian theme. The first and second floors have been converted to 2 bedroom apartments.

**No 7** No 7 was for many years the village greengrocery shop. It was described as a George Shuttleworth "fruit merchants" in 1871, a fish and game merchant (Netherwood) in 1879, and a "fruiterer" in 1881, still Henry Netherwood. It was John

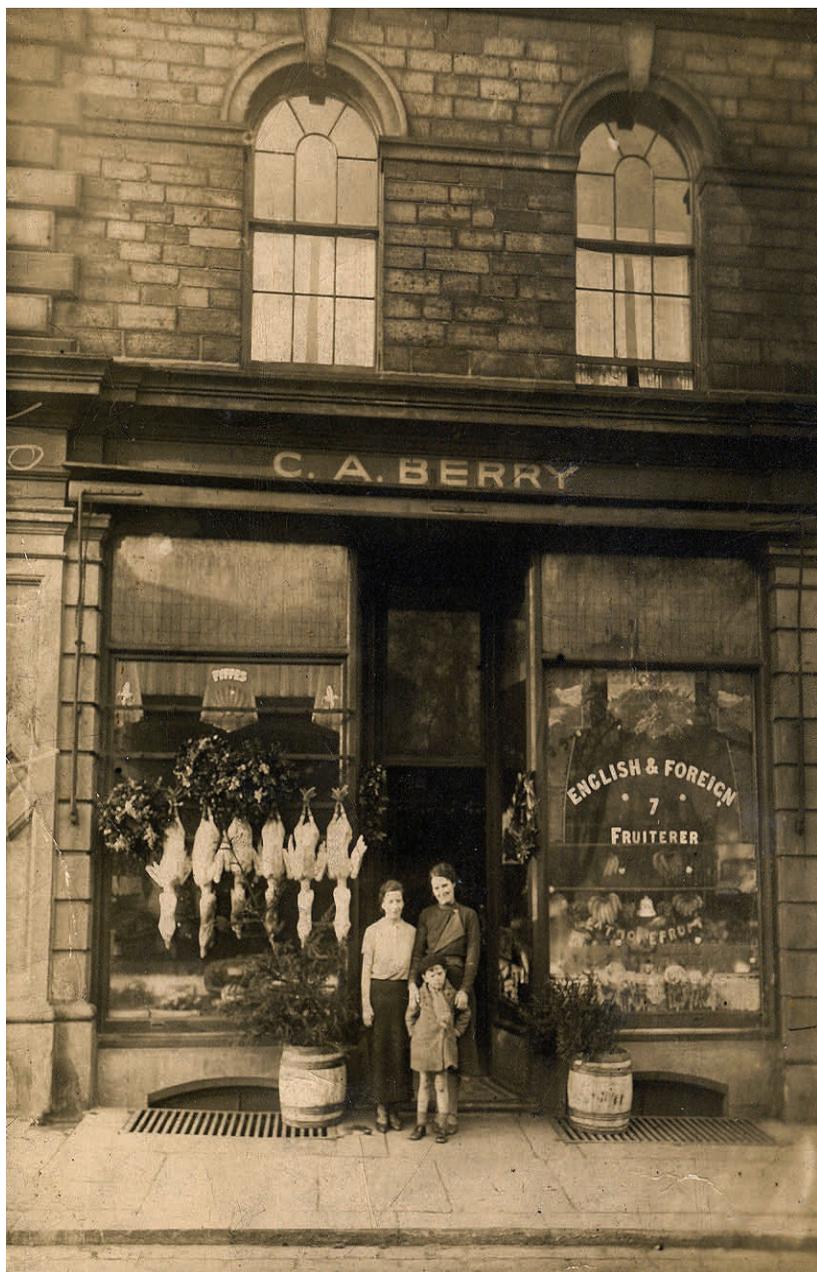
Rhodes, greengrocer in 1883, and then George Clarke from 1898 to 1916 (George Clarke Junior by 1916).

Between 1916 and 1942, it traded as A Berry (a family business, started by Aldam Berry in 1915, and then passing to his son, Cecil, in 1930. Cecil opened a shop in Towngate, Idle, after he closed at Victoria Road). Then as Harney, as Muschamp, as NJ Halliday (1962) and finally McCauley, selling fruit and vegetables. For a



*Berry's Grocer's shop*

short time BMX bicycles were sold and repaired here in a shop called Bullets, before becoming Beetie's Tapas Bar and upstairs Restaurant in 1989, owned and run by Maureen and Mervyn Dixon. The Dixons bought the premises from Jonathan Silver. The name Beeties was taken from Mrs Beeton, whose cook book was so influential in Victorian kitchens. The Dixons used to serve some of the authentic dishes from the cook book to their customers, with a modern twist! Mervyn Dixon was a plumber and heating engineer by trade, skills which were useful in creating bedrooms upstairs for guests, and a thriving 4 Diamond graded bed and breakfast business was begun.



*No 7, Victoria Road*



*Beeties, courtesy of Pamela Reynolds*

In November, 2006 Beeties closed. By the following September, the premises had been extensively refurbished to become part of “Don’t tell Titus”. A wall was knocked through between No 6 and No 7 creating a large ground floor bar area with the restaurant above.

[www.donttelltitus.co.uk](http://www.donttelltitus.co.uk) Tel. 01274 595633

**No 8** The Leeds Industrial Co-operative Society had a shop here from 1861 to 1885, with the Saltaire Industrial Coal Society also based here from 1871. It is listed as William Edmundson and then James Wilkinson trading as grocers, presumably for the Society. In 1885 it became a bakery and confectionary shop.”It traded as Samuel Beanland at the turn of the century, Clement Smithie from 1916 to 1928, and then Frank Davisons until 1943. It was then L Sture and Sons, baker, until August, 1950, and could have been Kershaws after this. (Lars Sture was a Norwegian.) His wife Ruth and daughter, Mary, served in the shop and his sons Roland and David were the bakers. It was Pickersgill in 1962. It became G and M Temperley, bakers in 1969. In 1978, it was taken over by Gordon Wilson and his former secretary, Mrs Webb to trade as Wilson and Webb. They were there for six years before it was taken

over by Maureen and Mervyn Dixon in 1984. As so often in Saltaire, family links were important, because Gordon Wilson was the first husband of Maureen's sister. Their daughter Jayne used to have a Saturday job with her uncle.

The Dixons were looking for a sandwich shop, but decided to open a thirty seat tea room instead. With the bakery, it proved to be so popular that they decided to buy No 7, next door, and knock through to link the two premises. It was let by the Dixons to the present occupier in 1998, and remains a very popular bakery and café. In the basement are the Victoria Tearooms, run by Tracey Bennet and Andrea Easson.

**No 9** No 9 had perhaps the most consistent usage of all the shops. It opened as Elizabeth Lund's linen drapers in 1861, remaining a drapers and milliners until the 1960s, with several tenants including the Misses Charlesworth, HS Sunderland in 1900, and the Elstubs in 1916. In the 1930s it was owned by Edith Beaver and her sister, who continued trading there for over 30 years. Miss Beaver also ran the Beavonian School of Dancing, producing a regular pantomime each year at Victoria Hall. In 1962, it was Bebe, baby wear.

No 9 was converted to a café in the 1960s by Mavis Wood. In the 1970s and 1980s it became a boutique (called The Rage) and jewellery shop. More recently it was "The Bodhran", selling books, cards and music, especially with a Celtic theme.

It has been a newsagent shop since 2003/4, when Rance, Booth and Smith, Architects expanded their business into No 10 and relocated the newsagency to No 9. Ronnie and Shirley Atkinson owned the business until November, 2006, when Paul Treadwell and Deborah Bird took over. In October, 2010, it became hairdressers "XS Hair & Beauty", notable for its use of environmentally-sensitive products.

**No 10** No 10 was the Village butchers shop from 1871, when the Sagar family were the tenants – but perhaps most famously trading as Feathers from 1898. Mr Horace Feather lived at Midgeley Farm, Baildon Green. He owned land from Thompson Lane through to Milner Field (the Council estate and Titus Salt



*No 9, Victoria Road*

School are now built on the site), as well as having land on the Coach Road, close to the river, and two further fields close to the Shipley abbatoir on Ashley Lane. He bred his own cattle, including some Highland cattle. The Highland cattle were bought from farms in Scotland and the Lake District. For other supplies of beef, it was convenient that the local slaughterhouse was located on Ashley Lane where the present Salts Wharf offices now stand. Cattle were brought by train, and off loaded in a siding close to the abattoir. They were run down through a gate onto and across Ashley Lane into pens, awaiting slaughter (where the Wharf private car park is now). You can still see where the gate used to be because of changes in the brickwork in the wall, near to the pedestrian tunnel which runs under the railway. Mr Feather was well known for his generosity at

Christmas, giving sausages away to his regular customers.

The shop was very striking, because of the head of a Highland cow which had been stuffed and hung on the wall. Also on the wall were old photos of the Feather family, and rosettes which the family had won with their prize cattle at local shows, and for their quality meats. Horace's son, Frank continued in the business and was a judge at many of the agricultural shows in the area.

In the 1930s, as a child, Les Smith (local resident at this time) remembers being sent for "a piece of beef to roast for 1/6d". He was afraid to go in the shop because Herbert Feather was so stern with children!

No 10 continued in the family until the tragic death of David Illingworth, who had married one of the daughters of Frank Feather and had become involved in running the business. He died of a heart attack whilst driving near Otley, approximately 20 years ago. His wife continued with the business for one or two years, and then sold it.

Rance Booth and Smith, Chartered Architects have occupied No 10 since 2000, but before that it was the local newsagents shop between 1995 and 2000 by Ronnie and Shirley Atkinson.

**No 11** No 11 was a grocery shop in the 19th century, trading as Joseph Charlesworth in 1861, as Robert Leach in 1871, and then as Skirrow, and finally Jeremiah Green, grocer in 1883, before becoming a specialist bakery. The first bakers were Misses H & C Hustler in 1900, but the shop was then taken over by the Holgates to become Holgate and Hustler, plain and fancy confectioners, by 1910. The shop then became J Crossley and Son, and Simpson in the 1930s.

In December, 1937, it traded as HW Ready, baker, until the 1960s, (well known in the village as the place for wedding receptions and funeral teas. The owner of Ready's was Henry Williamson, a member of the United Reformed Church. He had previously been in the Merchant Navy as captain of a sea clipper). Newspaper adverts show that Ready's also had branches at No 207, Bingley Road, No 18,

Kirkgate and No 16, Highfield Road, Idle.

It became a furniture shop named Smithfield in 1963 (the name from the husband and wife team who ran it, Smith and Field!) and then a TV supply and repair shop. It then became a wool shop, and finally a shop which sold artificial flowers.

Chartered Architects Rance Booth and Smith took over in January, 1989. They repaired, restored and reinstated the shop, and the flat above it, to its original design, providing quality business premises on three floors. In 1996, the practice was awarded the Civic Trust Award for an outstanding contribution to the improvement of a town. In 2000, the practice purchased the adjacent premises, to complete its transformation. The exterior was restored with its original appearance and design from Sir Titus Salt's day. Internally, there is a new conference room and staff facilities on the ground floor, linked by a light-well to office space and a design studio on the lower ground floor. Internal features include a gallery overlooking the design studio with an impressive glass bridge leading to the full height glass screen of the conference room. The changes demonstrate a mixture of contemporary and historical features which give a new lease of life to old buildings. It provides accommodation for over 30 staff, and has scope for further expansion. It has also been upgraded to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. Rance Booth and Smith are truly a Saltaire business. They have been architects and property advisors to Shipley College since 1993, assisting in the recent renovation of Victoria Hall which was completed in December, 2006. They undertook the £500,000 refurbishment of Saltaire United Reformed Church in 1999. They have also sponsored and organised the annual Backyard Competition since 1990, sponsored the Saltaire Festival since its inauguration in 2003, and contributed to Village Society matters.

Professionally, Rance Booth and Smith undertake work in a variety of sectors, including new build, refurbishment, conservation, commercial, residential, and education and health, along with master planning and strategic planning.

[www.rbsarchitects.co.uk](http://www.rbsarchitects.co.uk) Tel. 01274 587327.

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Concerning the original tenant of the shop, Joseph Charlesworth's great-great-grandson (Robert Welbourn) now lives in Waban, Massachusetts. He has researched the family history, and gives Joseph's birth and death dates as 1816 and 1868 respectively, having been born at Hepworth, south of Huddersfield. The Charlesworth influence on Victoria Road was considerable. Son, John, became a grocer at No 1; daughter Sally married the chemist George Bayley at No 12; daughters Annie and Ellen were confectioners at No 2; and daughters Mary, Alice and Elizabeth were drapers and milliners at No 9. Youngest son, Moorhouse became assistant to George Bayley, and it will be noted that in 1898, No 12 was also being managed by the Charlesworths. By 1903, a John Charlesworth was also trading at No 24, Gordon Terrace as a grocer.

**No 12** No 12 was for a great many years the village chemist shop. It was run by George Bayley between 1871 and 1883. In 1880, he provided goods for the annual *Conversazione* at Victoria Hall, and his letter head reads like an advertisement:

*“Chemist and dentist. Physicians’ prescriptions carefully prepared. Patent medicines and perfumery. Horse and cattle medicines. British wines, vinegar, spices, pickles and sauces. Oils, paints, colours and varnishes. Agent for Horniman’s Pure Tea, Gilbey’s foreign wines, Schweppes mineral waters, Daily and Co soda water and lemonade.”*

It was run by John Charlesworth in 1898, and for over 25 years through the turn of the century it was the Albion Drug Stores, owned by Mrs Bauer and then, in the 1930s, by Arthur Albert Abbot. Arthur was not a qualified chemist, and so relied on employing qualified staff to run the Saltaire branch and his other shop in Shipley centre. In 1934, an advert describes his shop as “wine and spirit merchant, patent medicine vendor, and drysalter” avoiding all reference to it as a pharmacy. In 1916, EH Wright was the drug store manager. It was known as Rimmington in 1936. It then became Richardson until 1951.

The Richardsons had a son, Tony, who became a famous film maker

and director and married Vanessa Redgrave, actress. There is a plaque in his memory on the wall of 30, Bingley Road, which was their main chemist shop. Clarence Richardson was a flamboyant personality, invariably wearing a bow tie. He was also a Conservative councillor.

In 1951, when Clarence could not find a qualified chemist to run the shop, he sold out to Jack Grimley, who had previously been working for JR Leach, chemist at Queensbury. Jack wanted to set up on his own, and saw the 3,500 people who worked in Saltaire Mill and lived in the village as a firm customer base. It traded as J Grimley in 1951, and remained so until Christmas Eve, 1976. Jack bought the property for £7,500 and sold it for £23,000.

In 1972, there is an advert in the Official Guide to Shipley for J Grimley, Wine and Spirit Merchant, photographic, toilet and baby requirements (agent for Coty, Max Factor, Yardley, Gala etc), which sounds like a chemist in the change! Jack decided to diversify his products, and the wines and spirits trade soon accounted for 25% of turnover. Residents remember how wines were advertised in the window at Christmas (eg Wincarnis, and port and ginger wine. Coleman's Wincarnis was a tonic wine made of port wine, Liebig's extract of meat, and extract of malt). Jack also created a garage next to the shop, from an old cottage (on Caroline Street). He took down the ground floor wall, but retained the upstairs rooms which were used as a storeroom for the shop. The walls were lined with orange boxes from the greengrocer next door, to form shelves. It has now become residential property again. After giving up this business, Jack Grimley did some temporary work at the Co-op pharmacy at Sunwin House in Bradford. In 2009, Jack was still alive aged 98 years, living in a care home just outside the village boundary.

Husband and wife team Karan Singh and Parveen Kumari took over ownership of No 12, Victoria Road in May, 1987, the same year that Jonathan Silver bought the Mill. The shop was already an off-licence. The Singh family had it after Jack Grimley left at Christmas, 1976, and they converted it from a chemist. Akbar and Doreen then took over, extending the stock to sell a wider, and more eclectic, range of goods.

In addition to wines and beers (and the inevitable QC sherry), they stocked many small items as diverse as needles and cottons, mops and buckets, paint brushes and paints, nails, tape measures, sandpaper, buckles, fuses, and many other items which householders might need for DIY or sewing.



*No 12, Victoria Road*

Karan already had some limited retail experience because his father had owned an off licence shop, and Karan had helped out in his spare time. Karan and Parveen extended their stock of alcohol and groceries, and no longer kept the wider range of goods which Doreen had stocked. Their main customers have always been local villagers, but they have also had the advantage of passing trade, situated as they are on the main street in the village. Titus Salt School students and Shipley College students are regulars too. The locals want basic groceries, alcohol and cigarettes, while the students go for soft drinks, sweets, crisps and snacks. They also sell pre-packed sandwiches. Very few tourists use the shop, and gravitate towards the Mill or the restaurants, wine bars, cafes and tea rooms lower down Victoria Road. As a result, weekdays are the busiest times.

Karan is acutely aware of increasing competition. The local ice cream van takes their trade in Summer, but more serious threats come from Asda supermarket in Shipley, which is now open 24 hours a day; the Co-op on Bingley Road which has expanded premises and has extended opening hours; and a Bargain Booze store on Saltaire Road which is able to undercut prices. The shop is open from 8am to 9-30pm (it used to be 11pm).

The couple live behind the shop, and have for many years been an important part of the village community. Karan has been a regular at the Social Club on Caroline Street since 1987. They also have an allotment behind the Church, which Parveen finds particularly relaxing. She is vegetarian and grows vegetables there. Their two children (Punam and Vikrant Rana) have attended local schools, although they are grown up now.

Despite the pressures of running the corner shop, this gentle, friendly couple have put down roots in Saltaire, and the community has benefited enormously from their presence.

**No 13 & 13A** Nos 13 and 13A were two properties, originally one house but later becoming two shops in 1896. It began life as residential accommodation, and G Jackson, President of the Saltaire Industrial Coal Society lived here.

## Saltaire Industrial Coal Society, Limited.

OFFICE:—No. 8, VICTORIA ROAD

ESTABLISHED 1864.

**ENTRANCE FEE 1s. SHARES £1 EACH**

Which may be paid at entrance, or by allowing the Bonus to accumulate until it amounts to that sum.

Members are paid Bonus on the consumption of Coals. The amount of Bonus paid for the Eleven half-years.

Prior to 1870.....	} 1s. 6d....per Ton.
For the last Two half-years. }	

1s. 8d.... ,,

**NON-MEMBERS ALLOWED  $\frac{1}{4}$  PER CENT. DISCOUNT.**

**PRICE OF COALS: BEST, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., SECONDS, 7d. per. Cwt.**

Persons desirous of becoming Members, to apply to the President or Secretary.

President :

Secretary :

G. JACKSON, 13, Victoria Road.

J. COPLEY, 10, Wm. Hy. Street.

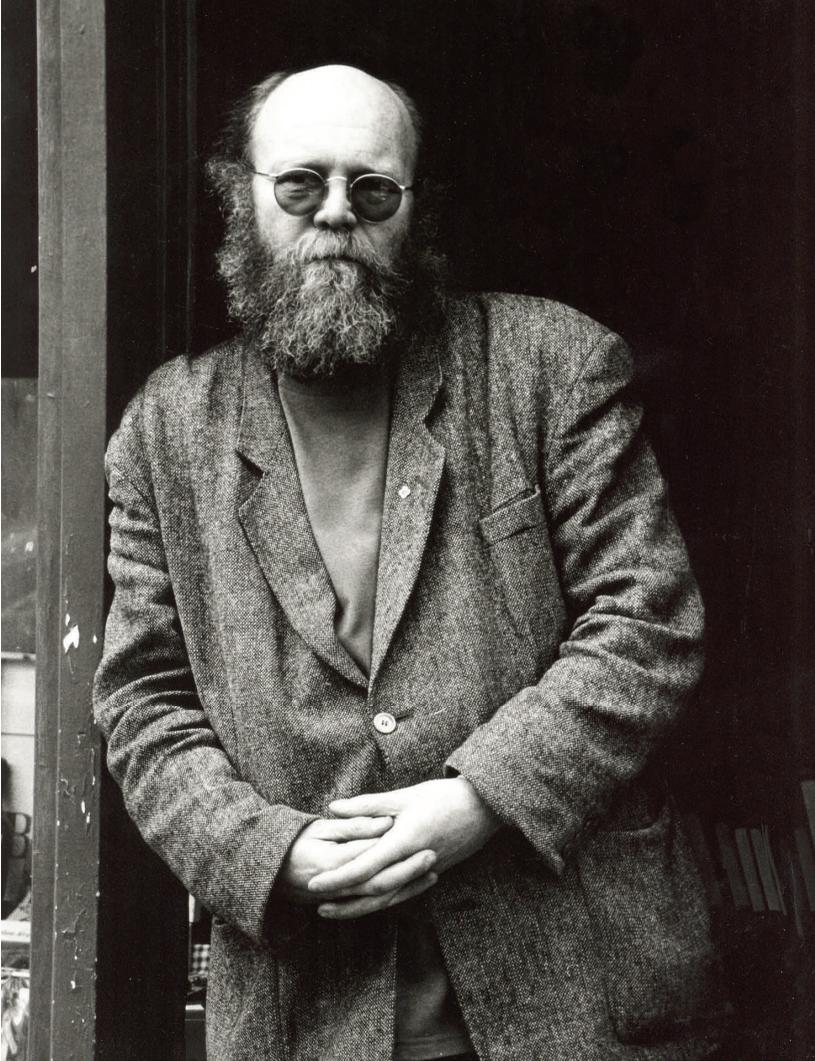
His occupation is described as overlooker in the 1871 census. The 1881 census has a landscape artist living here. In 1883, Joseph London, coal merchant was here. The change to two shops came in 1896. In 1900, Dennis Lambert, pork butcher was in No 13, while Gallon and Sons, grocers were in No 13A. By 1903, Mrs Marion Herbert sold confectionary at No.13, whilst Gallon and Sons were still at No 13A. The Hodgson family took over, selling fruit by 1905. The family still traded there in 1937. Charlie Hodgson also used to sell greengroceries from a horse and cart, which he kept on land at Hirst Wood which is now the Garden Centre. He kept pigs, chickens and a horse there and used to collect leftover food for pig swill from schools and hospitals. He also ran a pig club during the war, which enabled a few lucky family and friends to enjoy extra pork at Christmas. His wife, Ann, ran the shop, collecting fruit and vegetables from Bradford Market in the early mornings.

Clive Woods was well known as a respected local historian and local “character”. In 1986, Clive came to Saltaire and opened a second hand bookshop, “Falcon Books”, at this address, living above the shop. He made a huge impact on the village during the public inquiries into the Aire Valley Road Scheme in the 1980s when it was proposed to build a trunk road through the village. Clive was an important figure in the protest against this, helped to establish the Village Society (he was the first chairman), and was part of the group which had the village listed by English Heritage and got the Town Scheme adopted. With the then Shipley MP Chris Leslie, and other organisations including Bradford Council, he was also responsible for convincing the Government to recommend World Heritage status, which UNESCO accepted.

Unfortunately, in May, 2001, Clive suffered a stroke. He lost the use of his speech and an arm, and his leg was seriously weakened. He regained use of all three, but his illness weakened him considerably. When I asked him about the consequences of his stroke, I’d expected a catalogue of the physical symptoms which continue to plague him. But he was the professional historian for Saltaire, and his answer was “a year’s lost research”. His mind still raced with ideas whilst his body struggled to keep up. He had clear research aims – for an up to

date biography of Sir Titus Salt, plus a biography of Anne Moss, poet. He also worked tirelessly for the Glen Tramway and the establishment of a museum there. His guidebook to the village and its regeneration was a best seller.

Clive was eccentric and proud of it! In Jim Greenhalf's book "Salt



*Clive Woods, courtesy of Richard Heald*

and Silver” he is seen as a “pocket sized Cezanne”. And you can see why. When emphasizing a point his face reddened, his whiskers bristled, his eyes opened wide and he gesticulated wildly. But there was another side to him – when his face relaxed into a grin with childlike humour, you could see why he had so many friends, and why villagers felt able to bring their memories of Saltaire to him. Clive’s great hero (apart from Sir Titus) was Charles Waterton, a 19th century naturalist. He was a brilliant scientist, but had very eccentric ideas and practices. Since Clive’s death, the shop was sold on and is soon to be re-launched as “Hopwoods at 13A, Quality Sandwich and Coffee Shop.”

The Swedenborgians also used this property for their meetings. In 1873, Abraham Holroyd wrote that “the New Churchmen or Swedenborgians meet for reading and conversation in a room at No.13 in Victoria Road, on Sunday and Monday evenings; where they have a flourishing Sunday School. They are about 150 in number”. Holroyd himself was a member of this group, and was a close friend of Sir Titus. No 13 is listed as a Swedenborgian (or New Jerusalem) Chapel in an 1879 Directory. In 1870, Sir Titus had also allowed the Swedenborgians to use two rooms in Saltaire Rd, close to the Almshouses and Alexandra Square. Recent research reveals that they met in the chapel at what is now No 29, Victoria Road. By the 20th century they had an option to buy land in Park Street, just outside the village boundary, on which to build a church, but they did not proceed with this plan. The project never became a reality, and the land was eventually sold to fund the building of a church in Frizinghall. Saltaire was an important early centre for this group, and many members were employees at Salts Mill. Emanuel Swedenborg (1688 to 1772) asserted that he had witnessed the Last Judgement and the second advent of the Lord, and that an interpretation of the Scriptures had been divinely revealed to him.

**No 14** This shop has also had a chequered history. It began as a boot and shoe makers and repairers. First Henry Kaye in 1871 and then the Armitage family had it from 1879 until 1916 (Joseph Armitage, bootmaker in 1900). In 1916, it was run by the

Long family, butchers – first Sam and then Charles. It was then a grocery, a ladies' hairdressers (Edith Gibson and then Mrs E Wilson in 1938), a laundrette in 1940s, and then sold bric a brac, run by the Kilkenny family in the 1950s. In the 1960s it sold gifts, toys and fancy goods, still with the Kilkenny family in residence. “John the Junk” then opened here, having previously traded at No 5, Victoria Road, selling lawnmowers, scythes, buttons, lace and fabric – anything you wanted. John and Barbara McGee then bought it for Mrs King to run (she was Barbara's mother and was quite elderly). At some point in the early 1990s it was named Treacle Tubs, selling original paintings, personalised cartoons, animal portraits, hand painted pottery, glass and woodcrafts, and a picture framing service. It has been Massarella since 1997, a fine art gallery and tea rooms, housing paintings by local, national and international artists.

**No 15** No 15 has always been residential accommodation. It is believed that it was built with a view to making it a shop, but that never happened. Early tenants in the 19th century were Charles Thompson, watchmaker (in the Postal Directories of 1879 and 1883, and in the 1881 Census) and then an insurance agent,



*No 16, Victoria Road*

but it is not clear whether they actually traded from there. Hy Hirst, labourer lived there in 1938.

**No 16** No 16 was originally a tailor and drapers shop, and was combined with No 17. [Fig 52] Benjamin Binns was the owner of both shops. Between 1896 and 1923, No 16 was the Village Post Office (see below). In 1924, it was taken over by Titus Whitfield, a confectioner and tobacconist. Throughout much of the 1930s it was a sweet shop, trading as Milner, confectioner. Edward Milner retired and sold the shop to George and Mabel Quanbury. (The money for the shop came as a result Ruth Milner having physical difficulties due to her small size, since the family gave it to the couple to help with her care. Ruth was brought up with the Quanburys. George had also worked as a cloth finisher and then night watchman at the Mill).

The Quanburys had the shop from 6th November, 1943 to September, 1969. They continued to run it as a sweet shop, and the seven occupants of the house (three generations of Quanburys, Ruth and Albert E Nutton) lived in very cramped conditions on the first floor. They had lived in a house opposite (No 73, Victoria Road) since 1933, and rented it out when they moved into the shop. They returned to live there in 1969 when they gave up the shop. Mrs Quanbury was well known in the Village for always playing the Dame in the local pantomimes.

The Quanbury family history in Saltaire is well documented by Albert and David Nutton. Albert writes "The family came from Market Deeping in South Lincolnshire, not far from Peterborough. Emma Quanbury was born in 1863 and died in 1945. As she grew up she found that there was not much work for women. You had to work on the land or go into service. She chose the latter, waiting upon the landed gentry, moving around the area to different mansions. In about 1889, she saw an advert for a vacancy as "upper maid" with Mrs Edward Salt, daughter-in-law of Sir Titus." She was accepted, and after a year or so in Shipley met Richard Trotter and they married. They had five children. The daughters were particularly long lived. Bertha never married, but lived for 91 years

continuously at her house in Harold Place. Mary Jane lived in Shirley Street, where she went on to raise her grandson, Bert Thornton, who is still an active participant in village life, aged 92 years in 2009.

In 1968, the shop was sold to the Circuit family, who continued selling sweets. The owner is Paul Earland, who took over No 16 in 1987. He ran one half of the property as a Craft and Hobby shop, and in 1991 created new access to the other side to begin trading as a Sandwich Shop.

Paul continued to run the Sandwich Shop himself until 1996, but since then it was let to other tenants who have continued the business. The tenant since 2003 has been Stephen Jones who has traded as “Saltaire Sandwiches”. In addition to supplying over-counter sandwiches, he has a delivery service to nearby businesses, and also has an external catering service supplying buffet meals for all kinds of functions.

Paul let the Craft shop side to the last occupants, “Victoria Frame and Needlecraft”, in 1993. In January, 2007, Alan and Joan Breban decided to close their needlework shop. Joan went into retirement, and Alan decided to run his framing business from home. At Easter, 2007, the property opened as The House of Rose and Brown by Caroline Brown (her Mum is the Rose). This gallery sells vintage clothes, furniture, jewellery, and creative artwork of all kinds, including paintings, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and prints. Caroline seeks to encourage local artists, in all forms of creative expression, to display and promote their work through her gallery. Caroline’s history is interesting. She graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Interior Design at Huddersfield. Rather than joining one of the large Interior Design studios, she decided to take a risk to develop more creative ideas involving the community. Caroline is keen to make contact with local artists, and she can be contacted at [carolinebrownart@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolinebrownart@yahoo.co.uk) or on 07985181120.

In 1995, Paul Earland, and his father Christopher, jointly produced historical research into the Post Offices of Saltaire, (27), summarised below:-

Paul’s father, Christopher, was a keen philatelist, and what is more

natural that a stamp collector should go on to be interested in everything to do with the postal services. They describe how Saltaire Post Office changed location at least four, and possibly five, times. They discuss whether No 79, Victoria Road, was the original post office. Abraham Holroyd has been described by historians as a postmaster at this address (which was his bookshop) from 1868 to 1870. The Earlands present evidence for and against, and draw no firm conclusions. For the remaining locations, however, there is plenty of written evidence. No 12, Victoria Road (in 2008, the off licence shop at the corner of Caroline Street) was formerly a chemist's shop. The chemist was George Bayley, who spiced up his pharmacological work with diversions into dentistry, the sale of fishing tickets and, between 1870 and 1879, the job of postmaster.

No 72, Victoria Road, on the corner of Titus Street, then became the Post Office. If you look carefully, there are still remains of the sign on the wall above the ground floor windows. William Campbell was the postmaster here between 1879 and 1896.



*Corner of Victoria Road and Titus Street, courtesy of David Walker*

William continued in this role in the next location at No 16, on the opposite side of the road, between 1896 and 1923. The post box is still outside this address. The final move subsequent to 1923 saw the post office transfer to Gordon Terrace at No 81, Bingley Road, still within the village boundaries. It was here, in one month during 1969, that the office suffered two major robberies, one by a former detective inspector of police.

Included as an Appendix to the original research, is an account by John Sanctuary of Skipton, grandson of William Campbell. He gives a fascinating account of how Saltaire Post Offices were always telegraph offices, sending and receiving messages by Morse code and later by telephone. All the telegrams for Salts Mill came through them, as did War Office telegrams in the 1914-18 War, informing relatives of the death of their loved ones.

On a happier note, the first Old Age Pensions were paid through the Saltaire offices in 1908. This sum was just a few shillings a week, but “this was far from derisory, and as Salts Mill also ran a pension scheme, those who had worked in the Mill, if not affluent, were above the poverty line.” Sadly Christopher Earland died in 1997, but Paul is still proud of his father’s work, and generously wants to share it with others as part of Saltaire’s unique history.

**No 17** No 17 continued to be a tailoring and drapery shop after the Post Office opened at No 16. It is described as a ladies’ outfitters, and was The Gown Shop from the 1930s. In 1898, it was a boot and shoe shop, run by Fred Murgatroyd who was still there in 1903. By 1910, it was Denby Drake’s boot and shoe shop, and a Mr Cox had taken over by 1928. When the light is right, you can still see the outline of old lettering on the window, advertising “revolving heels”. You turned the circular heel of the shoe around as its back edge suffered wear.

In a Hospital Concert programme at Victoria Hall on 12th March, 1925, Mr JA Cox is described as a footwear specialist.

*“Call and see our display of all the latest styles in footwear for spring. We stock the Violet and Hygrade for ladies, and the Kornless and Cathedral for men. Try us*

*for your repairs”.*

In 1937, it was Jennifer, “millinery, ladies clothing and baby wear”. In 1938, the shop was that of Mrs Elizabeth Arnold, ladies outfitter. In 1942 and 1951, according to St Peter’s Church magazine, it was Jennifer baby wear and lingerie shop. Other owners selling children’s clothing were Cissy and Clifford Boocock.

Evidence from 1958 and 1963 shows this as The Gown Shop, selling evening and cocktail dresses, as well as coats and gowns. A Mrs Wigglesworth and her daughter Irene Moorhouse ran it first, and then Eileen and John Short took over in the 1960s. For a short period in the 1970’s it was a childrens’ clothing shop, perhaps owned by the Sexton family from Pocklington.

Since 1973 it has been owned by David Walker, who has run his accountancy business there for the past 33 years – which must make it the longest unchanged, continuous use of commercial premises under the same ownership in the village today. David is justly proud of his achievement, and of the shop, which still has its original shop front.

**No 79** We should not forget to mention No 79 (which was previously 36) on the opposite side of Victoria Road, which had been the Village Post Office in 1870 in the charge of Abraham Holroyd, whose advert describes himself as “Bookseller, Bookbinder, Stationer, Periodical and News-agent”. Holroyd was

<p><b>ABRAHAM HOLROYD</b></p> <p>Bookseller, Bookbinder, Stationer, Periodical and News-Agent,          No. 36, Victoria Road, Saltaire, respectfully informs the people of Saltaire, that he will punctually supply all the Daily and Weekly London and Country Newspapers, to Subscribers at their homes, immediately after the arrival of the trains. Orders for all kinds of New Books, Periodicals, Magazines, Music, or anything in the trade, will be strictly attended to. A Block Plan, and Views of Saltaire on Letter and Note Paper, on sale.          No. 36, Victoria Road, Saltaire.</p> <hr/> <p>THOMAS HARRISON, PRINTER BY STEAM POWER, ETC., MAIN STREET, BINGLEY.</p>
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also an author, poet and antiquary, and wrote one of the first and most complete guides to Saltaire ever written, in 1871. Thompson Furniss was hairdresser at No 79 from 1879 to 1916, and the premises continued as a barber’s shop – first Snorehams, then Ernest Clough Hardaker, and later Tommy Rhodes. Jonathan Silver

bought the property from Tommy soon after he came to the village. It was then a ladies' hairdressers (with sunbeds upstairs) until 1982. Helen Kemp took over in 1983, and in 2001 she bought the property from Jonathan Silver (who had turned down several other tenants as unsuitable – just as Titus Salt used to vet tenants) and began to live in the upstairs flat. She sold pottery, batik clothing, jewellery, a selection of Mind, Body and Spirit books, plus literature on green politics and ethical issues. Upstairs she used to have soft furnishings, basketwork and used it as a gallery for local painters.

Helen closed down her business at this address in January, 2007. It re-opened on 9th June, 2007 as “Vicars . . . food for thought”, a café in the community. Rev Andy Bowerman and his wife Alison, provide a good space to eat and meet, where all parts of the community are welcomed. Andy is a “vicar without a church”, and is currently chaplain to Bradford City Football Club. Alison is a midwife. Upstairs they have space for groups to meet, and have already had interest and bookings from a range of community groups.

Their advertising includes a café, a weekend bistro, Fairtrade gifts and food, art workshops, Nooma Nights (a short DVD that stimulates discussion about life issues + a simple meal) and the fact that they are baby friendly. Telephone 01274 597818 for bookings. At the turn of the 19th century, Clara Barraclough (28) noted that “Shopkeepers worked very long hours, being open from 8-30am to 8pm, and on Fridays till 10pm or 11pm. No shops in those days closed for lunch. Tuesday was half day closing.”

## Street Traders

It should also not be forgotten that there were many street traders, who sold door-to-door around the village. The examples listed below date from recollections of local people from the 1930s onwards. Some of them were shop owners such as Charlie Hodgeson at No 13, Victoria Road, who sold some of his greengroceries in this way, and Cecil Berry at No 7, Victoria Road who also did this. Others were village families who saw a way to supplement their incomes. Examples here include pie and peas in winter sold by the Atkinsons,



*Cecil Berry with horse and cart*

who would give you a choice of green or grey peas, sold from heated canisters which were carried door to door. There was also ice cream in summer sold by the Jukes and the Schofields. The Jukes family lived at No 5, Caroline Street. The Schofields lived in Ada Street, and also had a thriving door-to-door trade in skimmed milk. Mrs Schofield was an accomplished accordionist, and played at all the street parties. Mr Schofield's main job was as a postman.

One man used to grow celery locally, and went around the village every Sunday to sell it. Local man, Alan Metcalf used to sell firewood from a horse and cart. He also sold eggs from his small holding on Coach Road, where he had a persistent problem with foxes killing his hens. His main job was as caretaker at the British Legion on Moorhead Lane. Ilma Senior's Aunt Florrie used to sell fresh yeast in Shipley and Saltaire to whoever placed an order with her, and she would regularly deliver door-to-door. A man called "Clockie" (McLoughlin) sold crumpets around the village.

Other traders from outside the village plied their trade on Saltaire's streets on a regular basis. Holmes Milton, the milkman delivered twice daily because his cows were milked twice daily. Later his son, Morris, took over the business. They lived at No 19, Ada Street, and

obtained their milk from a farm at the top of Hollins Hill. Another milkman was Edgar, a farmer from Wilsden, who carried his churns in a horse and cart, delivering door to door into jugs and basins. By 1955, A Farrar and Son of Moorview Avenue, Shipley, delivered eggs, poultry and milk to Saltaire residents.

Audrey Tattum (41) tells of her milkman, Mr Rhodes, who brought the milk churns on a horse and cart and delivered to the door in a covered pail which had measures inside, They were ½ gill (an eighth of a pint), ½ pint (2 gills), 1 pint, and 1 quart (2 pints). She also speaks of unemployed old soldiers who would sing sentimental songs on the street to earn money.

Barrons was a firm which delivered coal. It was run by a family named Gardener. Barrons went on to become the removals firm which it still is today, with a depot on Crag Road. Sam Murgatroyd was another coal merchant, selling around the village. An earlier coal merchant was Joseph London, who traded in the village in 1871, living in William Henry Street. Joseph was brother to William London who had the grocers shop on Daisy Place.

Jesse Shooter sold his Superior Ices from a donkey cart in the village. He emigrated to Australia in 1911. Photographic evidence is supplied by his great-great-grand-daughter, Elizabeth Hughes, who lives at Willunga, a village near Adelaide where Jesse and family disembarked.

In 1903, The New-Church Magazine of the Swedenborgians mentions one of its members, Mr James Mattack, who had a shop in Baildon and “carried on a very miscellaneous business”. He sold fruit on the streets of Saltaire, but said that “if anyone gave him an order for spiritual wares, he was always willing to suspend orange vending in favour of an excursion into the spiritual world, where his best affections lay, as he enjoyed a tilt with unbelievers of all sorts, religious and non-religious”.

And finally there were a multitude of occasional visitors to the village, selling all around the region. These included a man with a crutch, who had been disabled in World War One, who sold soaps, bootlaces, pins, press studs, and nit combs from a suitcase, door to door. Peddlers, hawkers and gypsies were also visitors here. Solly



*Jesse Shooter and his donkey and cart, courtesy of Elizabeth Hughes*

Jerome was an itinerant watchmaker from Poland, who progressed to selling fents (clothing remnants) door to door, and eventually formed the Jerome Company which traded at nearby Victoria Works.

Clara Barraclough (28) gives us a good account of the street traders:-

*“The Butterfield Brothers from Bingley sold fish, cockles and mussels. We used to take a metal ladling-can called a “piggin” for a quart of cockles and mussels, and they were deliciously tasty when boiled in a huge pan on the rib. The sweep was a regular visitor, and with his brushes over his shoulder would call out “Sweep Oh, sweep your chimney for a shilling”. He did a good trade with homes having coal fires. On Shirley Street, we often had the flat cart of Daniel O’Leary, the Out Porter at Shipley Station, his cart loaded with material and linoleum for Miss Moore’s shop. Another character was Pot Mary who came from Leeds, with a huge black bundle on her back full of china ornaments, to barter in exchange for outgrown clothing, which she sold in the poorer districts of Leeds. Then there were two brothers called Wooller who sold oat cakes, or havercake as it was*

*called in those days. They were well known athletes, and won several competitions. Almost every house has a string of oatcakes hung on the fireplace; they were thin, oval cakes composed mainly of oatmeal. When bought they were soft, and we enjoyed them buttered, spread with treacle and rolled up. But when hung on the fireplace they quickly dried and became very crisp. We would eat them on a Sunday, dipped in gravy as the meat was roasted in the oven."*

Nellie Fern also remembers that:-

*"There used to be carts come round every day. The milkman used to come, of course, and he delivered to your door. Then there was a man come round with a horse and cart and what they called old milk. Today it's called skimmed milk. There'd usually be two or three greengrocery men come round. On Tuesday there was always a dry clean man come round. On Friday there'd be a pot man who sold pots and pans and paraffin and candles. In winter time there'd be a muffin man, and at night a man selling hot peas. Summer, they'd come round selling ice creams. They used to have nick names for some of them. One man was always called Tatty Tommy".*

In the Coronation Souvenir Handbook of Shipley in 1953 (price 6d) are a list of Old Shipley Characters, and Tatty (or Tater Tommy) features amongst them. He's described as "Tom Hardacre was small in stature with an unusually small face, yet he was the son of a six footer and brother of another. He kept a little fire engine and hot potato wagon, with a long thin chimney. He did a "rooarin' trade" on wintry days with his penn'orths of hot potatoes. Popular use was to carry them in one's pockets to keep the hands warm".

Other characters include Owen Conley, a greengrocer and fishmonger whose cry when selling rabbits was "Fat 'uns a shilling. Thin 'uns a bob". And "Pudding Tom" who sold black puddings and awarded himself a pinch of snuff every time he made a sale. Or "Owd Chintz", a decorator who advertised "Whitewashing done any

colour” and “Cellar steps taken in to whitewash”.

And finally, Percy Price has told me about Jackie Tomlinson, known to locals as “t’uman ‘oss”. He was a young man of great physical strength who conducted a one man haulage business, consisting of a large two wheeled flat cart which ordinarily would have had a horse between the shafts. He wore a pair of bottle bottom spectacles, and lived on Helen Street. Mrs Porritt had a second hand shop half way up Rosse Street, Shipley and Jackie often did business with her – challenging because of the steepness of Rosse Street. On one occasion he was employed to take some household effects from Saltaire to Morecambe, more than 60 miles including the formidable Buckhaw Brow. He did the trip once fully loaded and then returned for the piano. Later in life he developed a series of respiratory illnesses and his magnificent physique deserted him. A sad end to this local legend.

## Businesses in the Mill building since 1989

Pace Micro Technology moved to Salts Mill in 1989, and celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2004. David Hood founded the business in the back bedroom of a terrace house in Bradford in 1982. Years before the widespread use of the internet and PC’s, Pace began as a company developing cable modems and software. It moved into television work, developing set top boxes which led to the launching of the first pay TV television services across the globe.

In the mid 1990s it moved into digital services and enjoyed rapid growth as the market exploded. As Britain, and the rest of the world, experiences a change over from analogue to digital TV services, and with the introduction of more high definition content, more and more people will be looking to use Pace products. Tel. 01274 532000  
Website: [www.pacemicro.com](http://www.pacemicro.com)

The retail businesses which operate from the Mill building have been far-sighted enough to appreciate the magnificent setting and large floor space afforded for their shops, and the needs of the modern shopper. Allan Austin, the Walking and Climbing Shop, is a case in point. They were founded in 1973 in an old mill building on Jacob

Street, just off Manchester Road, in Bradford. Allan's sport was climbing, and initially this was the focus of the shop. They still stock climbing gear, but the emphasis has changed to walking. They now have an extensive range of outdoor clothing and footwear. They cater for the whole range of walking experience, from the first time country walker to more adventurous Alpine walkers. They pride themselves on having one of the largest ranges of walking boots in



*Salts Mill frontage, present day*

the country, with over 100 models in stock, with extended sizes up to size 15. The business expanded to Salts Mill in the year 2000, to provide outdoor equipment and clothing for the world wide adventure travel market.

Kath Libbert Jewellery Gallery also capitalises on the cosmopolitan mix of the visitors to the Mill, and their discriminating taste. In 1996, Kath took the gamble of moving her fledgling jewellery business from a table top stall in Leeds' Corn Exchange to the Mill. In 2008, she achieved major success and is now firmly established as the region's only gallery specialising solely in contemporary jewellery, silver and metal-smithing. She aims to encourage good design which uses unusual materials and new techniques. She has over 80 international designers regularly displaying work in the Gallery, and their work bridges the gap between art, craft, sculpture

and jewellery design to create original and unique pieces of wearable art. They can all be adapted by the designer to meet individual needs, or new pieces can be commissioned.

[www.kathlibbertjewellery.co.uk](http://www.kathlibbertjewellery.co.uk) Tel. 01274 599790.

We have already met Malcolm Gray at Victoria Antiques on Victoria Road, where he traded until 2004. He retired from the business at this time, but then returned to help Andrew Draper to run his antiques business here. When Andrew decided to close the business, Malcolm took over space on the third floor of the Mill, opposite the Hockney opera sets, and opened Carlton Antiques. He now has thirty antiques dealers trading from this Unit. Malcolm's own interest is in 19th and early 20th century oils and watercolours, and in quality furniture (especially Art Deco). He has a display of some of these larger items at the Mill. Malcolm can be contacted on 01274 592103 or on mobile 07709 960376, as well as his website [www.carlton-art-antiques.co.uk](http://www.carlton-art-antiques.co.uk)

Professional services have also relocated here. Runhams, solicitors, was founded forty years ago. It is a dynamic and ambitious firm, committed to delivering a top quality service to all its clients. It provides reliable, thorough and friendly legal services to a broad range of private and commercial clients throughout West Yorkshire and beyond. It relocated to its splendid offices in Salts Mill in 2003. In 2009, they relocated to 89-93, Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD1 3BN. [www.runhams.com](http://www.runhams.com) Tel. 01274 381938.

All Terrain Cycles has occupied Shed 48 at the Mill since Easter, 2006. This is a local business. It started life in 1907 as Riley Brothers Cycles, based in Crosshills near Keighley. It was run by the founder, who then passed it on to his son, Ralph Riley, who ran it as a local repair shop until 1993. It was then taken over by Dereck and Simon Green (of the Green Family Scrap Dealers in Skipton) until Tony Booth purchased it in January, 1996. He continued trading as Riley Bros for two years, but then changed the business name to All Terrain Cycles. With huge investments in stock, and one of Europe's largest cycle websites, the business has grown from strength to strength. [www.allterraincycles.co.uk](http://www.allterraincycles.co.uk) Tel. 01274 588488.



## Shops in the rest of the Village

### *Caroline Street*

**No 30/31** This was James Parfitt, grocer's shop in 1879, with his son William Henry as his assistant. By 1898, it had become Windhill Industrial Co-operative Society, Branch No 5. There's an advert for Windhill Industrial Co-op in 1927, but no address given (in Saltaire Cricket Club Bazaar programme). Local people recall it trading well beyond this date, at least until 1964/5. It then became a laundrette called, in 1969, the Village Wash trading, until 1987. It then became Rone, design, and later Geraghty design and marketing consultants. In 2008, it was occupied by humyo.com. In 2011, the humyo sign has been removed and the premises is up for sale.

In January, 1900 there had been plans for alteration and extension of the Co-op at this address.

The following advert was taken from the 1923 Shipley Shopping Carnival programme (40):-

*"The Windhill Industrial Co-operative Society*

*The Society was never in a better or a stronger position than it is today. It has now over 11,000 members and the sales average nearly £9,000 per week. Nearly 300 people are engaged in the 50 shops and other departments of the Society. It has Grocery and Butchery Branches in every District. There is a model Bakery on Carr Lane, a smart little café in Market Street, besides the usual Drapery, Tailoring, Boots and Shoes, Furnishing, Painting and Coal Departments.*

*The amount due to members on Loans and Deposits stands at over £265,000, and is increasing every week.*

*Some years ago a fine building site was acquired by the Directors for the new Central Premises. The site has been*

*termed, by many who claim to be judges, as the finest shop in Shipley. Abutting as it does on the Market Place, there is no doubt when a building is erected in keeping with the Society's requirements, it will be an improvement in the appearance of the town, and a monument to the thrift and business capacity of the members.*

*There are no restrictions on membership. Any person over 16 years of age may become a member and partake of all the benefits AT ONCE by paying 1/- which is put into their share account, and in the case of withdrawal will be repaid. The only financial responsibility is that every member is expected within twelve months to have at least £1 share. 5% per annum is paid on all shares and deposits, and many members make the Society their bank, bringing in deposits as they can spare the money, knowing it is to be had if required, at call.*

*If you are not a member, join at once at any of our shops or at the Registered Office, Shipley Hall, Shipley”.*

By 1875, there were more than 130 co-operative societies in Yorkshire alone. In 1889, there were twelve Branches of the Windhill Society at Commercial Street, Shipley; Thackley; Valley Road, Shipley; Crag End, Windhill; Caroline Street, Saltaire; Windsor Road, Shipley; Bingley Road, Saltaire; Livingstone Road, Bolton Woods; Baildon Wood Bottom; Wood End, Windhill; Charlestown; and No 64, Saltaire Road, Shipley.

Branch No 5 received goods deliveries every Thursday and Saturday at 9am. In 1959, the Co-op planned to open a newly built shop in Hirstwood to serve the local estate. In 1960, a Fuel Centre was established in Saltaire Road, in place of the Coal Office at Shipley Railway Siding. They proudly proclaimed that “We pioneered the sale of pre-packed coal early last year, and we constructed our own pre-packing plant at Thomas Place. Fuel in these clean, strong, paper sacks has found a ready market”.



## *Titus Street*

**No 20/21** In 1870, this shop was run by William Holt, tobacconist, but in 1871 it was taken over by Mattias Taylor, hairdresser. From this point on, until the present day, it has been a food shop. In 1879 and 1881 it was Hargreave, grocer. Benjamin Hargreave was the 42 year old owner in 1881, assisted by his sisters-in-law, Rachael Sagar and Elizabeth Ann Mitchell who were both confectioners. His 17 year old daughter, Helen, helped in the shop. In 1898, it was William Greave, confectioner. In 1912, it was TJ Clark, grocer.

In 1936, it was Edith and Emily Garnam, confectioner and baker, in 1938 Harry Raistrick, confectioner, and by 1962 it's DA Porter, baker and confectioner. This was Gordon Porter, his wife and their children Keith and Nancy, who came to the village from Charlestown, just down the valley. Gordon was a Trustee of the Methodist Church. Their son, Keith was the baker, but left to take a driving job. Leslie and Reginald Hodgson (now aged 81 and 78 years) took over the shop in 1962. They bought it from the owner who had previously rented it out. Leslie and Reginald opened the shop full time (8am to 10pm) seven days a week. Their background was in managing a bakery in Dewsbury, and so the presence of a bakery at 20/21 was an incentive for them to buy it. Reginald was the baker (up at 4am to bake the bread) and Leslie the confectioner (also serving behind the counter). They built the business up to a point when there were over 400 customers a day coming through the door, with a turnover of £6,500 per week. They employed two assistants at peak times. As well as bread they produced other confectionery, including wedding cakes. Leslie's cakes were highly decorated and very popular, and Reginald's Cornish pasties were the talk of the area, selling over 200 a day. The pasties retailed at one shilling, small loaves were two and a half pence, large loaves four and a half pence, and teacakes were a penny. They became part of the Spar chain in 1967, and were able to offer groceries at very competitive prices because all the advertising, bulk buying and overheads (even down to providing paint for the outside of the shop)

were taken care of by Spar. For some time they operated a mobile service using a van to trade door to door in the Coach Road area, a section of the business which, on its own had £100 per week turnover. They became a registered company (Hodgson's Ltd). They were very conscious of the threat to business when Asda opened in Shipley, extending their range of goods to include beers, wines and spirits. They also noticed that customers would shop at Asda and then get a taxi home, and so they costed out the taxi fare and reduced their prices to take account of this. They soon won back their regulars! They lived across the road at No 49 Titus Street. Altogether they owned and ran the shop for 29 years and 3 months, and when they retired had spent a total of 60 years in the grocery and bakery trade. Their retail philosophy was based in their religious belief – both church goers (to St Peter's, Moorhead Lane) and both with a belief in the Christian philosophy of work and service to others.

Raman and Ramila Lad took over the shop in 1992, having had limited previous retail experience. However, the Hodgson brothers continued to live above the shop and were able to teach them how to run the business and how to organise the shop for about 6 months before moving out of the village. The couple continued to bake bread and confectionary there until 2004, when the preference of customers was for more pre-packed bread. They moved on to have a mixture of sliced, pre-packed and unsliced, unpackaged bread, the latter coming from an external bakers. Raman reflected how his customer base has changed in character as the social trends in the village have changed, and his stock is much different too. The older customers have mainly left the village, many into Care Homes or living with their families. These customers used to buy raw ingredients with which to cook their own menus. Since 2001, the population of the village has changed. Younger customers (25 to 35 year age range) now shop with him, and their tastes reflect the current fast-moving society. They want fast food such as frozen ready meals, fine wines, home made samosas, and more unusual items which they can't easily get from supermarkets. Raman offers the kind of service which says "if we've not got it in stock, and if it's



*Raman and Ramila Lad outside The Spa, Titus Street*

available, I'll have some for you tomorrow". I spent over an hour chatting and observing customers and what they bought. Most popular items seemed to be bread, milk, alcohol and cigarettes, but there were examples of the sort of specialist service which Raman had described. One lady wanted, and obtained, some candles for a cake, and a young man wanted some coriander (to make coriander soup for the evening meal). After a moment's hesitation, Raman disappeared into a back room and reappeared with a bunch, to the delight of his customer! Another customer told me that, unable to get poppy seeds at any supermarkets, she happened to mention the fact to ex-baker Raman who produced some on the spot.

Raman and Ramila stayed in the Spar group for only a few months in 1992, before trading independently. They felt that the Spar organisation exercised too strict a control of pricing. Apart from householders from the village, they also have students from Shipley College who buy sandwiches and drinks there. I was impressed with the couple's commitment to personal service to the community. They feel that the village needs and deserves a reliable grocer on the doorstep. The shop continues much as it has always been run. There's no bar coding or electronic stock control; no advertising; no market research or price comparisons with competitors. They just stay open for as long as customers want them (8am to 10pm) and get to know their customers, and what they like, very well.

**No 37** In 1871 these premises were occupied by Joseph Armitage, bootmakers - there is still a discernable sign on the outside wall of the building. By 1900, it was Samuel Thornton, grocer and confectioner. By 1910, it was under the name of John William Thornton, presumably in the same family.

Annie Hall was a child when Thorntons had the shop and she remembers that "Mrs Thornton was tall and majestic, and always wore a toque (a small soft brimless hat) like Queen Mary's when she was in the shop. Mr Thornton was also tall and thin, with a walrus moustache. He always wore a bowler hat, and a spotless white apron over his suit. He never wore the jacket of the suit when he was in the shop. They were good Congregationalists, and although stern were

very kindly. They sold everything from bacon to tiger nuts. Whenever I had a penny or a halfpenny I loved to go to Thorntons for such delicacies as pear drops, tiger nuts or snow drops”.

Nellie Fern also remembered the shop as the place where “on Good Friday he sold hot cross buns, still hot on a tray covered with a white cloth. I also remember buying slate pencils there”.

There was a change of hands in 1928, with Maurice Rayner grocer, trading as Ripley and Rayner. Then in 1938, there was Daniel Gates Wilkinson, shopkeeper. In the 1950s, it was Fawbert, grocer and confectioner, and finally in 1955 it was D and E Burnett, grocer.

By 2006, it had become a run down property with a net curtain across window and a sign which said Baildon Electronics. In 2007, the sign was removed but the property remained empty.

**No 38** From 1870 to 1898, this was a butchers shop. George Ramsden was the 51 year old butcher here in 1881, and his four sons also helped in the business. Eventually his youngest son, Fred, took over. It then became the fish and chip shop. From 1903 to 1936, Thomas Taylor owned it. Start-up money for the business came from compensation paid for injury sustained in the Mill. His family owned probably the first privately owned car in the village – a Jowett open tourer. By 1938, Mrs Mary Taylor trading as a fried fish dealer, continued the tradition. There is also a reference to a family named Airton who traded here in the 1940s. In 1962, it was RK Ashby, fish, game and poultry, and by 1963 he'd changed his trade to RK Ashby, fish and chips. His family came from Skipton.

In 1985/6, it traded as Titus Street Fisheries (according to St Peter's Church magazine) and there was a sign above the door to this effect. In 2008, the property is empty, but the sign remains.

**No 46** This was, throughout its commercial life, a grocery shop. In 1870, John Poole owned it, followed by Mr Joseph Dunford in 1879, and Walter Bailey from 1881 to 1903. It was Hunter's Stores in 1916, and Mrs Lily Stead, shopkeeper, in 1938. In the 1950s it was Carrington, grocer. In 1962, it was Clough,

grocer – “green shield stamps given”.

Apparently, Stanley Clough used to deliver groceries locally in a Morris Minor Traveller. Stanley and Margaret ran the shop with the help of Stanley’s mother. It was residential by 2008.

**No 48** Opposite the present day Spar shop, the window of the shop is now blocked up, and with a sign which is very difficult to read. The name Hodgson can be made out in the centre, and on either side of it, in a different script, it seems to say “Goodman” and “salesman”. A 1900 Trade Directory identifies that a Robert Goodman, fruiterer, traded here and a 1903 Postal Directory says Greenwood and Pennington, fruiterers, did likewise.



*No 48, Titus Street*

There’s no mention of occupants in Directories for 1898, 1916, or 1928, but in 1916 there was a reference to it being Saltaire Wesleyan Men’s Own Rooms. In 1938, it was occupied by Eli Drew, labourer.

The Hodgson brothers see (Nos 20/21, Titus Street) lived for a time next door at No 49, and tell me that the sign above No 48 does not refer to them! It is not known when the window was removed. Of all the shops in the village this is the most puzzling!!



*Shirley Street*

- No 9** A 1963 Directory sees John Pickard and Son, decorator, living here.
- No 21** The same 1963 Directory has JA Burke, plumber and gasfitter, at this address.
- No 23** In 1871 this was Robinson Walker's shop, general dealer. After 1879 it was for many years a drapers shop. The Misses Moore ran it from 1879 to 1916 (Elizabeth in the shop and Mary-Ann as the dressmaker). In 1916 the shop was taken over by the Parkers, and in 1938 by Miss Ada Fieldhouse. (It is said that Miss Fieldhouse had only one arm, and used to tie very neat packages using her arm and her chin. The money to start the business reportedly came from compensation paid following an accident at the Mill). By 1963 it was LE Fox, draper. In 1974, it was taken over by June Shirley Jowett, and was run by her as a hairdressing business until 2011 when she gave up her business and this address again became residential property.
- No 24** This shop was held by Parker, milliner, from 1879 to 1903. It is not mentioned in 1916 directories. Could this be the same Parkers who were at No 23 in 1916? By 2006, it had become residential and remains so in 2009.
- No 31** There is one reference to this property as Hardacre, ironmonger (St Peter's Church magazine in 1926). Otherwise it seems to have been a residential dwelling.
- No 32** In 1871, this was Peter Hargreaves, "Grocery and Stationery Warehouse". He was a "general provisions merchant, stationer and bookseller – paper, pens, ink, Valentines, birthday cards, and other stationery kept in stock". It was described as a double shop, with stationer's shop at the front and greengrocer at the back. From 1879 to 1903 it was Hargreaves greengrocer, but was not mentioned in 1916 directories. In 1901, it was described as

Grace Hargreaves (widow), greengrocer and newsagent. In 2006, the door was blocked up, and, in 2009, blue boards clad the window.



## *Katherine Street*

**No 1** The 1871 census lists the premises as a shop (trade unspecified) – “wife attends shop”. In 1881, the census records Phillipson, grocer. It was a grocer from 1898. Then it became Helliwell, sweets, bakers and cooked ham. It was residential in 1916 (Harry Cooper, blacksmith). In 1963, it was G Rushforth, grocer, but it is not clear if he was trading from here. In 2009, it is residential.

**No 14** This has always been a butcher’s shop - Anderson Rhodes from 1871 to 1903, and Thomas Rhodes by 1916. There’s no mention in a 1928 Trade Directory, but a butcher’s shop remained on the site. It then traded as Hodgsons. This was Archie Hodgson, who died suddenly in 1974. His brother, Harold, used to play at half back for Salts in the 1940s. Then an unrelated Harry Hodgson took over from 1974, and his son, Eric, continued the family business.

Harry also had a butchers shop in Legrams Lane, Bradford. Eric used to own a farm near Leeds/Bradford airport where he raised cattle for slaughter, for sale in his shops. Eric learned his trade at the Leeds Co-op, where he served his apprenticeship. He recalls how one of his jobs was to collect Irish cattle from the railway and drive them along Leeds streets to Gelderd Road where there was a slaughterhouse. When he first started work in his teens (1962) cattle were still being pole-axed, although shortly afterwards more humane slaughtering methods were used. He also worked at the Legrams Lane shop, where peak times were lunchtime, mid afternoon and teatime, when local mills released workers for breaks. They would serve cooked food, as well as slices of meat for workers to put into bread cakes from the bakery nearby.

The Katherine Street shop was also very busy. At the height of trade

there were six full time and two part-time staff working there. The butchers made their own sausages and pies on the premises, along with potted meat, brawn, black pudding, tripe and polony. Eric recalls how there was an oven at the rear of the shop with 18 shelves, holding 36 pies on each shelf, which was baking pies for five hours a day, producing literally hundreds of pies for sale each day, with a ready market for them. At Christmas, there were 300 turkeys to be plucked at home, and he'd be awake and working for three days and



*Eric Hodgson, courtesy of Pamela Reynolds*

two nights, preparing food and serving in the shop, to queues which stretched round the corner onto Saltaire Road, as far as the bank on the corner at 1, Albert Rd.

Since this long period when the shop was open full time, six days a week, times have changed radically. In 2007, Eric opened only two days each week, on Fridays and Saturdays, 7-30am to noon. The foot and mouth crisis, from February, 2001 to January, 2002, had a major impact on trade. There was an outbreak of the disease at a farm in Scotland Lane, just one mile away from the Hodgson farm. Before this time they held sixty cattle, 200 breeding sheep, and some

horses. After the crisis they kept a few goats, and their animals became pets. The whole infrastructure was decimated. There used to be 12 slaughterhouses on Yeadon High Street alone before World War One. Now there are none.

Rules, regulations and paperwork followed the outbreak, some from the Government and some from the European Union. In 2000, butchers were required to be licensed, requiring a week's training course, regular inspections and a license fee of £100 per year. This requirement was abandoned in January, 2006 as unworkable, costing the Government £2.4 million to resource. However the paperwork remains. Eric has to read and record fridge and freezer temperatures three times a day. He has stopped making home cooked ham because the Government has identified nine different processes involved in this, and each stage has to be documented when completed. They have issued guidelines in a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point file, several centimeters thick. Eric says that he would have to employ a secretary if production was much above the present, reduced level. All products have to have ingredients listed and labelled. There are more regulations to prevent cross contamination. Many of the restrictions seem reasonable in today's world, but it is easy to see why small butchers struggle to survive.

However, there is some hope. Alistair Darling, the then Trade and Industry Secretary, announced (December, 2006) the aim to cut 25% of all DTI red tape by 2010, and to make essential regulations simpler. Unfortunately it comes a little late for 61 year old Eric.

It has not been the competition from supermarkets which have led to his reduced trade. Indeed he believes that high street and corner-shop butchers are offering very competitive products, of better quality, at lower prices; are much more conveniently located for the majority of meat customers, and provide a personal service. He now spends much of his time trading with restaurants, pubs, clubs and nursing homes, rather than behind his shop counter. He was also wise enough to diversify his business interests in the past into property trading and development, and this shrewd move has safeguarded his family against the worst recessions of the industry.

For 25 years his family has served Saltaire residents well!



## *Daisy Place*

**No 1** From 1871 to 1903 this was William London's, grocery shop. William London first established the business, and then his son, William Edwin took over. By 1916, it was Hammond, grocer; in 1927, J Warner, grocer; and from 1951 to 1965, G Rushforth, grocer and provisions merchant. In 2006, it became Village Estates.

**No 5** This property obviously used to be a shop from its frontage. In the 1871 Census, it was occupied by Maria Stalworthy, grocer. Residents report that it then went to a tenant called Swift (her married daughter), and then on to Hutley and London families. The 1881 census has Nos 4 and 5 as Sam Swift, grocer and tinner. In 1898 and 1903, this was Philipson, grocer. In 1900, Mrs Mary Philipson was at No 3 and Harrison Philipson as a grocer at No 5. There is no reference to a shop here in 1916 Directories. In 1938, Maurice Stott, bus driver, lived here and it presumably continued as a residential property because there is no other reference to trading from here.



## *Myrtle Place*

**No 1** In 1898 and 1903 this was a doctor's surgery occupied by Dr Emerson, surgeon. It was occupied by Dr Edward Sharpe in 1916 and remained a GP practice until the 1970s

**No 5** In 1903 and 1916 Directories, this was Lloyds Bank .



## *Fern Place*

The Ramsden family may have had a carpentry business here in 1875, from which they moved to No 105, Saltaire Rd. It was a greengrocers shop later in the 1870's, owned by Jabez Giles. On the 1881 census he is described as the 63 year old proprietor. His great great grand-daughter, Janet Clark, still lives in Shipley. She believes that one of his children, Martha, was a milliner, and may have taken over the shop when he retired. In fact, a 1900 Directory lists a Mrs Martha Giles is a milliner here. Janet also has a photo of Jabez, with a horse, outside the shop, with his wife standing in the doorway.

In 1916, it was Bramley Badland, fent (textile remnant) dealer. There was a newspaper advert for seeds and bulbs being sold on Fern Place in 1927, but no number is given. There were nurseries on Victoria Avenue (off Queens Road by the Rosse pub), owned by B Badland. They also had a shop on Market Street, Shipley, and specialised in crosses, wreathes and floral tributes. It is understood that two Miss Badlands ran premises at Fern Place as a greengrocers in 1933.



*Jabez Giles, courtesy of Janet Clark*

In 1934 it became a fish and chip shop, trading as Fern Fisheries. It was owned by James and Rose Ellison, and it has remained in the same family ownership to the present day. James and Rose previously had a decorators shop off Leeds Rd in Bradford, and had no previous experience of running a fish and chip shop. James had always wanted to be a farmer, but Rose had her heart set on this shop. The matter was settled when her father (James Hartley) and her uncle (who had a shop fitting business in Bradford) equipped the shop as a fish and chip shop as a wedding present. It became well known locally as the only chip shop with a coal fired unit. James was fiercely independent, and refused to join the Fish Fryers Federation because they controlled prices. His fish and chips sold for six old pence in the late 1940s and 1950s. He also used to give oranges away to children of customers at Christmas. The shop has only closed twice in all its years of trading. The first was during the War when James was employed on munitions. The second was in the late 1950s when James' father became ill and needed to be cared for. They closed the shop until he died a few years later.

In 1969, it re-opened as Fern Furnishings, run by Rose and her daughter Irene (now Chapman). They dealt in reconditioned furniture, buying from sales and auctions, and renovating it. They then reconditioned transit damaged furniture, before Irene's sons, John and Ian, and her husband, Jack, joined the business and began to make their own units. John joined in 1970, Jack in 1973, and Ian in 1975. They opened a small factory at Bolton Woods, and Fern Place became their sales outlet. Since 1993, they have had a factory at Eccleshill (moving in 1993), and have invested profits in increasingly sophisticated machinery. They sell fitted bedrooms from the Eccleshill base, and free standing units from Saltaire. Since August, 2006, Fern Place has only opened on a part time basis (Thursday to Saturday, 10am to 3pm) run by 73 year old Irene. This reflects the demand for free standing units and availability of staff, but the fitted bedrooms continue to sell very well from Eccleshill.

On his retirement, James did buy a small holding at Wilsden, hoping to rear pigs, hens and geese for home consumption as he used to do in Bradford, but sadly never managed to see this as a reality. Irene

had a moment of fame when she took the lead role in Cinderella at Victoria Hall, the final pantomime which Miss Beaver (from Victoria Rd and the Beavonian School of Dance) produced.

On the opposite side of George Street, at the rear of No 18, is a property numbered **18a, George Street**, which may have been used by the Ramsden family for their carpentry business here in 1875, from which they moved to No 105, Saltaire Rd. Since 1978, this property has been The Cottage, Unisex Hair Centre, run by Janet Normington. Janet believes that the property was previously used as a meeting room for religious groups.



## *Saltaire Road*

**No 107** This property was first mentioned in 1927 as Samuel Hardacre, ironmonger. By 1938, it traded as Alf Foulds, furniture broker/junk shop. It was JH Ramsdens (see below) from 1954 to 1968. It is then believed to have been a shop selling frozen foods, and then an antique shop, before becoming a hairdresser's. In 1997, Nicola and Andrew Hudson opened their Strand hair salon here and in 2008 was still running successfully, employing 10 staff and serving the local area.

**No 105** In 1875, James Jonas Ramsden opened a small carpentry shop on George Street. He bought No 105 when his son (James Henry) joined him in the business soon afterwards. They were later joined by his grandson (James Arthur). They sold house furnishings such as furniture and carpets in addition to their carpentry, and they added undertaking and funeral directing (coffins were made in the cellar of the shop), soon becoming the main funeral directors for the village. In 1937, an advert notes that the family residence is No 1, Bromley Road, Shipley, presumably so that the undertakers business was available 24 hours a day. They expanded into No 107 in 1954. After James Henry died in 1962, his grand-daughter Mary took over the accounts

side of the business. She is now Mary Newnham, and provided me with information and photographs about the business. The business closed in 1968 in the face of competition from larger companies. In 2006, it became a launderette, and remains so to date.



*Ramsden & Son, House Furnishers and Undertakers*

**No 103** This shop was owned by Hiram Kellett, fancy draper in 1916, and then Purcell, draper in 1928. In 1963 and 1969 it was Hellon (proprietor, at first Mrs A Hellon, and later Mrs J Coates). “For general drapery, knitting wools and baby wear”. It then became a second-hand clothes shop, trading as Carousel, and then a gift shop. In 2006 it was Everything’s Rosey, “natural hairdressing”. In January, 2007 it changed to Martin and Co, Property Management and Lettings.

**No 101** In 1916 this shop was run by Mr Schick, pork butcher (Mr Schick was German, and was interred on the Isle of Man during World War I). In 1928, it transferred to Mr Dowling, pork butcher. The Dowlings bought the property from Bradford Property Trust in 1934. (Bert Thornton notes that Walter Dowling was the nephew of Mrs Schick, who gave him the business on Mr Schick’s death). It was taken over by Harry and Violet Baldwin, pork

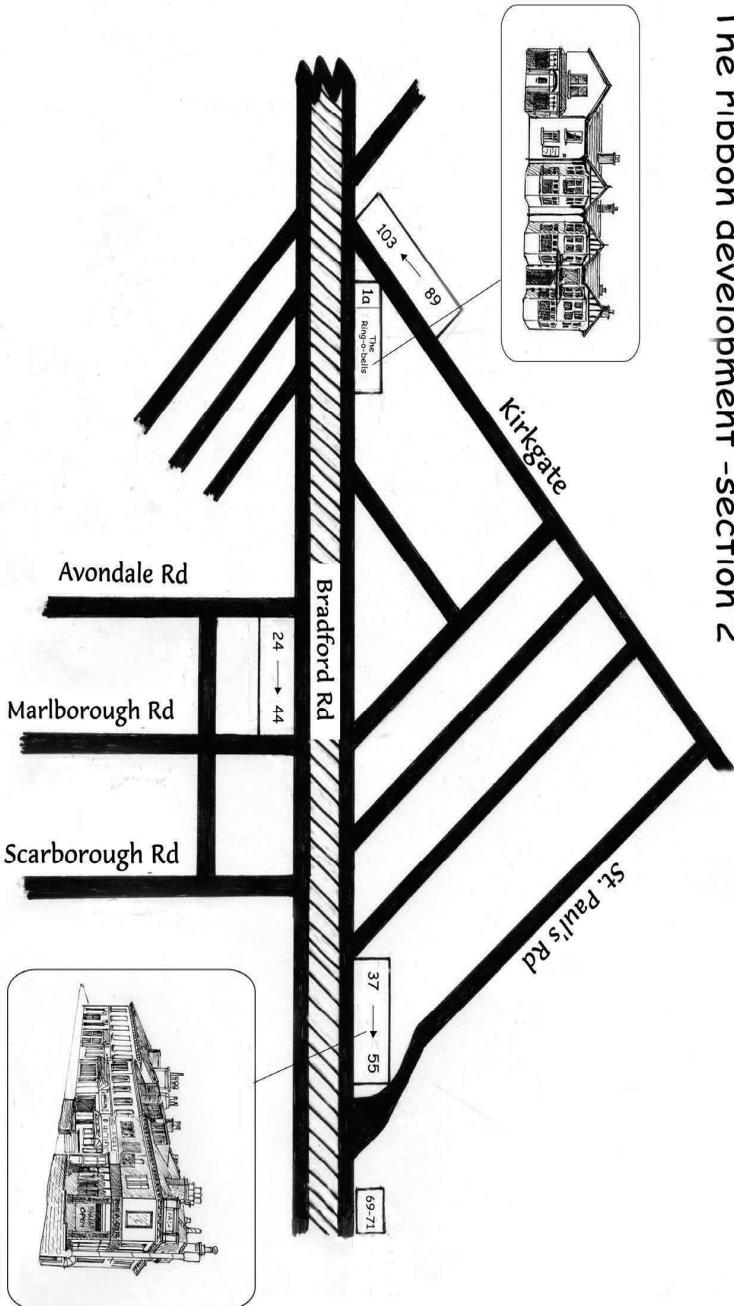
butchers from 1960 to 1987. From 1987 until about 1990 it was a shop selling telephones, and was then empty for two or three years. From 1992 to 2003 it was Carlo's hairdresser, and from 2003 to 2006 it was The Gents Hair Co. Carlo had previously traded in Bradford at the junction of Carlisle Road and Lumb Lane for seven years before moving to No 225, Bingley Road from 1976 to 1992, then acquiring No 101, Saltaire Road.

Mention should also be made of **No 1, Albert Road** since it is on the corner of Saltaire Road. This large property was the residence of Frederick Wood, chief cashier at the Mill, and later continued its connection with commerce by becoming Lloyds Bank. Since 1974, it has been Cotson and Reddish, local insurance agents, and an outlet for the Bradford and Bingley Building Society. Cotson and Reddish also have an Estate Agency at No 55, Gordon Terrace.

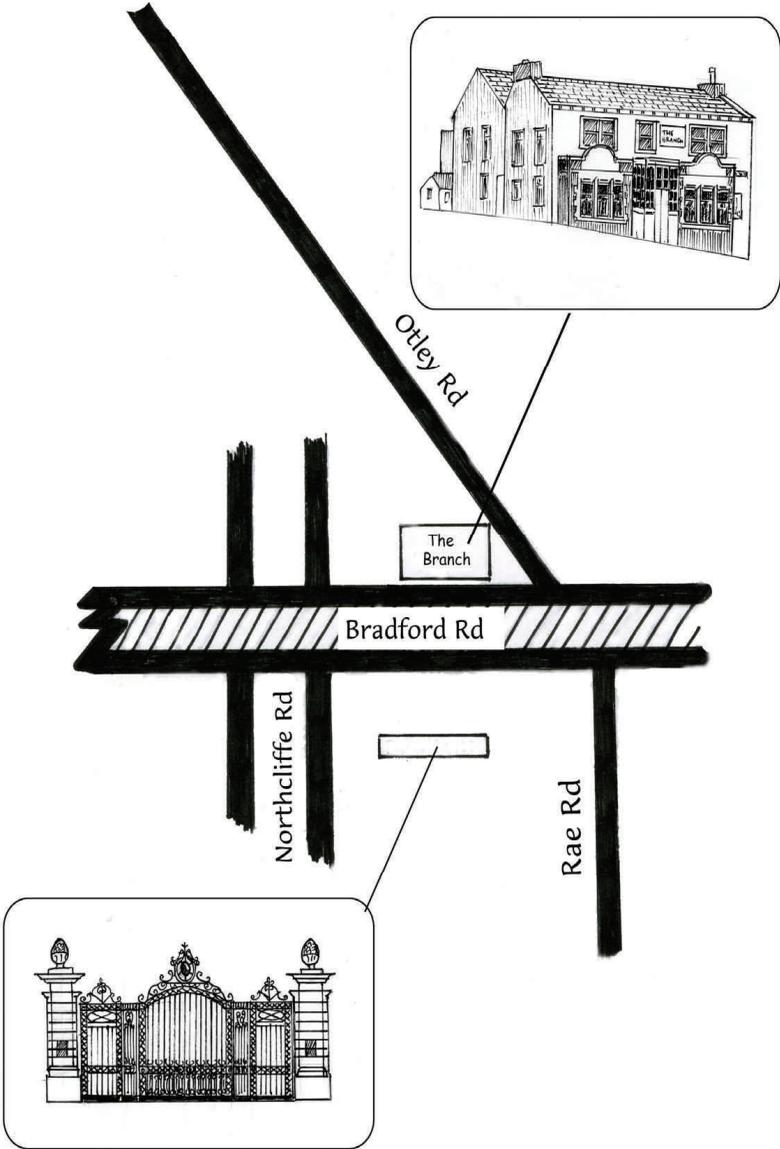




The ribbon development - section 2



# The ribbon development -section 3





## Gordon Terrace

**No 49** This is a property on the eastern side of George Street, and was Joseph Ramsden, fried fish dealer's shop, which he continued to occupy at least until 1928. In 1955 it was Chiver's fish and chip shop (in 1962 referred to as Glandyman, fish restaurant), and in 1977 changed use to become Norman Best, Chemist (previously at No 95, Gordon Terrace). In 2006 it became The Beauty Workshop. In 2011, it is DMusic selling and servicing musical instruments, and offering tuition.

The properties on Gordon Terrace were re-numbered in 1882. In what follows the number in brackets indicates the current numbering.

**No 1 or 51** This property was Watson, grocers shop in 1871, and Barker and Stead grocery in 1881. The head of the household was Ephraim Barker, but it was his 21 year old son, Walter, who ran the shop. 1900 saw Alice Barker, grocer there. [Fig 72] In 1916, it changed use to J Butterfield, hairdresser, and by 1938 it was Robert Shields, ladies and gents hairdresser, which was still there in 1963. For a short time it was a goldsmith who made rings to order. In 1965 it was OS Wain, gent's outfitters. In 1977 it was



*Shields, courtesy of Peter Randall*

Norman Best chemist and in 2010 it is Russo, Italian shoes. In 2011, it has lost its Russo sign and simply says Italian Shoes in the window.

**No 2 or 53** This was a residential dwelling until its first Trade Directory reference as the Singer Sewing Machine Company in 1916; not mentioned (empty?) in 1928, and became the Family Supply Stores in 1938 – presumably a grocers. In 1942, it was a grocers run by Mr and Mrs Solomon. In 1962, this was SG Green, sweets and tobacco. In 1992, the shop was converted into a restaurant, and opened as La Rue. This business transferred to No 61 to No 63 Gordon Terrace in 2001. In 2006 it changed hands to become Compton, menswear and accessories. By 2009 it is Fry, wholesale carpet supplier, and later Steve’s Carpets in 2010. In 2011, it is Fluff, Fur and Feathers, pet supplies.

**No 3 or 55** This shop was owned by Arthur Myers, plumber, in 1916 and 1928 Trade Directories. He was still registered there in 1963 as Arthur Myers Ltd, sanitary engineers. Arthur Myers was born in 1910 and died in 1947. He lived over the shop, and raised his family of George and Beatrice there. George took over the business when Arthur died, and continued to run it until his death in 1974, when the shop was sold to Maxwells Residential, and Cotson and Reddish, Estate Agents.

After the family moved out of the residential accommodation above the shop, it was used as storage for many plumbing items. The ground floor was a shop and business reception, and the basement was a workshop. For many years there was no electricity upstairs – it cost £5 to put in wiring! Arthur used to advertise as No 55, Bingley Road and No 3, Gordon Terrace, as if he had two shops! Anthony Briggs was apprenticed to the firm aged fourteen years (1938?). An apprentice was taken on every two years, and an apprenticeship lasted for seven years before you were trained. Many of the apprentices stayed on with the firm. There were always approximately six staff employed.

The firm had a contract with West Riding Council for plumbing work

on public buildings. They did mainly heating work such as stripping boilers down (asbestos), but could turn their hands to many skills because the different local trades used to provide work experiences for each others apprentices eg joiners, painters, electricians. In 1954, George had a closer business arrangement with Bob Holmes, builder, and they bought a van together which served both businesses. There were many shared contracts. Anthony worked on many schools, especially Albert Road Primary, which was close to his home at No 5 (now No 9), Albert Road. Miss Greenwood was Head teacher, having been preceded by Miss Dalton.

Myers also had a contract with Bradford Property Trust and Anthony did a lot of work in the houses in Saltaire. He also worked extensively on the Congregational Church. George Myers was involved in community affairs. He put up for election as Conservative candidate in local elections, was a keen cricketer, and was a member of a vocal group called "The Victorians".

In 2006, the property was taken over as Cotson, Reddish and Partners, estate agents. On the first floor, was Invercosta Partnership, the Spanish Property Centre. In 2008, it became Maxwells and Cotson and Reddish, and remains so in 2011.

**No 4 or 57** Mrs GH Woods, confectioner, originally traded here, and in 1928 it was still a confectioner's shop run by H and J Wear . By June, 1937, it opened to Press acclaim as Anne's Milk Bar, a super-modern milk bar, café, snack bar and confectionary store. In 1962, this became Anne's (Saltaire) Ltd, confectioner. In 2006, it changed use and became a charity shop for Help the Aged. In 2011 it serves the same charity but is now rebranded, Age UK

**No 3 or 59** This shop was owned by JW Hustler, hardware, in 1916, and in 1923 it was still selling hardware as L and TR Brooke, who were still there in 1963. A 1923 advert described it as selling cut glass, china and hardware. In 1962, this became L and TR Brook, hardware. Between the 1970s and 2000 this



*Said to be Gordon Terrace as residential properties pre-1900.*

was Zavier's, fashion, which occupied four properties from No 59 to No 65. Briefly, from 2006, it was Whitakers, optician, but by January, 2009 it had reopened as Coxon's Kitchen, latterly "Cheese and Chutney at Saltaire", delicatessen and cookware.

**No 6 or 61** The owner of this shop was S Whittingham, fruiterer in 1916, and then EH Tinsley, florist, fruiterer and greengrocer from 1928 to 1963. Between the 1970s and 2000 this was Zavier's, fashion, In 2001 it became La Rue, French Restaurant. In 2007, the owner of La Rue, Lee Wells, introduced a more varied menu and extended the restaurant to three floors. Kitchens are in the basement where there are thirty covers, the ground floor has forty five covers (both serving European fusion food, with influences from all over the world), and finally the first floor has a bar and serves tapas. The restaurant opened at lunchtimes in 2008 and in 2010 it is popular at midday and evenings. (Tel. 01274 595894).

**No 7 or 63** TG Hopkinson, grocer, opened this shop in 1916, and then in 1925, it was taken over by Thomas Hemmant (and Ralph Horn) grocer and provision merchants, who were also tea and coffee blenders and direct importers. Mr Horn had been at the Strand Stores in Bingley for twenty one years, and was brought in as joint owner and manager at this new business on Gordon Terrace. Shipley Times and Express in April, 1919, reports that he and Thomas Hemmant bought the business from William Spence. The main story in the report was that they were selling a quantity of sardines, which had been captured from the Germans, for 6d per tin, each tin containing eight to ten fish.

By 1951 it was trading as simply Horns, grocers. In fact, it was owned by the Thrift grocery chain from 1946, but they retained the name Horns above the shop. They had other Thrift branches in the area. Tom Robinson, who was employed by Ralph Horn, was retained as manager for the Thrift group. Tom Robinson's children (Jean Hiles and Alan Robinson) remember how Mr Horn, who was a single man, living with his sister on Avondale Road, had an office in the shop. In the mid 1930s there were two assistants, Harold Ainsworth and Harry Jackson, who was also the van driver, and two apprentices. During and after World War Two, the male assistants were conscripted into the Forces, and for the first time women were employed in the shop (Marjory Bower and Molly Hiscox are remembered as amongst the first). As manager, Tom used to visit the large houses in Nab Wood to take orders and let them know what special offers were to be had. Here he met Jean and Alan's mother, who was a maid at a house on Staveley Road. Like many families in Saltaire they had their origins in Lincolnshire, this time in Barton-on-Humber. Holiday visits were described as "going abroad" because they had to catch a ferry between Hull and New Holland, a small hamlet on the south side of the Humber estuary!

In 1965 there was a change of use to Whites, chemist. Between the 1970s and 2000 this was Zavier's, fashion, which occupied four properties from No 59 to No 65. In 2001, it became La Rue, French Restaurant (see above).

**No 8 or 65** This was a florist shop in 1916, owned by Alfred Demmock, but was not mentioned in Trade Directories in 1928. In 1938, it became the Midland Bank. In 1962, Maurice J Hey Ltd, electrical engineers, owned the shop Between the 1970s and 2000 this was Zavier's, fashion, which occupied four properties from No 59 to No 65. In 2006, it was Victoria 2, ladies' fashion. In July, 2008 it was Caroline M, ladies' fashions, and later became Xclusive, jewellers. In 2011 it is Tallula's boutique.

**No 9 or 67** Jas. Smith and Sons, dyers and cleaners, owned this shop in 1916. It is not mentioned in Trade Directories in 1928, but in November, 1937, became Bernice, gowns, millinery and modes. In 1962, this combined with No 65 as Maurice J Hey Ltd, electrical engineers. In 2006, it was JI and Co, Estate Agent and remains so in 2011.



*Gordon Terrace looking east*

**No 10 or 69** This shop was not mentioned in Trade Directories in 1916 or in 1928. In 1923 it was W Freedman, costumiers, tailors, hatters and hosiers, and described as having "26 years of good business record". In 1925, there was an

advert for this address (called London House!) for “W Freedman, artistic tailor and menswear. Established 1897.” He offers ladies and gents overcoats from £3-5-0d to £7-7-0d. There are raincoats, dress suits, a boys’ department, and a caps and hats department. There are pullovers and golf hose, “the finest in town”, alongside Dent’s fur lined gloves for motor wear from 6/11d to 30/. “Smart, reliable goods, all guaranteed at keen prices.”

In 1938 it changed ownership to Arthur English, electrical contractor. In 1962, this was Albert Hanson, grocer. In 2006, it was Verona’s, Italian and Mexican takeaway, before becoming Salts n’ Peppa, chicken, pizza, burger and kebabs. In April, 2009 it is Indian Spice takeaway.

**No 11 or 71** WG Anderson, painter and decorator, traded here in 1916 and 1928. In 1934 it changed use to Leonard Crawford, optician, who remained there in 1963. In 2006, it was Opula, opticians, and remains so in 2011.

**No 12 or 73** In 1881, this shop was owned by Eliza Fitton (a 66 year old widow), grocer and her 26 year old son, Alfred, who was a sausage maker. The shop is described on the census as “Fitton and Carrodus”, Amanda Carrodus being a general servant in the household who went on, in 1883, to marry Alfred. (Eliza’s great-great grand-daughter Christine Pennell, descended through Arthur’s elder brother Edwin, who emigrated to Australia in 1874, maintains an interest in her ancestors’ Bradford roots). It was Briggs Feather, bootmaker in 1916, 1923, and 1927 Trade Directories, and F Feather in 1928. In 1934, it was B Feather and Sons, bootmakers, and they were still there in 1963.

A 1923 advert states that the firm was “established as long ago as 1880”. It invites you to visit the “Norvic” shoe department to buy your new spring shoes. The advert continues:

*“Warmer and warmer the days grow, ever more persistently urging us to seek pleasures out in the open, until at last, one by one, we leave the Winter’s fireside all*

*aglow to join the Spring Pageant in which we finally play so many parts. It is then we feel the need for Nice New Shoes – light, dainty, pleasant styles, in shapes a la mode. Illustrated is a Mascot 245, fashionably and finely made, and one of the many we can show to YOU. It's available in fine Glacie Kid and patent leather, priced at 22/6d”.*

There were a female manager and assistant on the sales floor, and three men worked full time in the cellar, doing the repairs. In the mid 1930s, schoolboy Alan Robinson earned 3/- a week doing deliveries after school and at weekends. In 2006, it was Audio Vision, mobile phones, and then The Fone Shop. In July, 2008 it was empty, but by January, 2009 it is Bella Cuscini, designer cushions. In 2011, Butterfly Rooms is a gift shop and art gallery, hosting workshops and exhibitions.

**No 13 or 75** Miss Annie Hallelwell had a baby linen shop here in 1916, and it became her baby linen warehouse in 1928. In 1962, this was Eric J Hall, toys and sportswear. In 2006, it was The Interior, home furnishings, gifts and cards. In July, 2008, it was Isis, ladies' fashions, becoming in 2010, the Craft Station. In 2011 it is Feel Good Independence selling mobility aids for the disabled.

**No 14 or 77** Trade Directories have this shop as John Smith, hatter and hosier in 1916, but it is not mentioned in 1928. It was OS Wain, outfitters from 1927 to at least 1963. There was an advert in a Hospital Concert programme at Victoria Hall on 18th November, 1925 for Wain's house for value in men's wear at an unspecified address on Gordon Terrace. On offer is "Jaeger, Wolsey, Alpha, Two Steeples, Radial, Mawson, Wain Wear, Falcon headwear and Dents." The advert also refers to their "Four stores in Bradford". In 2006 it was Dacre, Son and Hartley, estate agent, and remains so in 2011.

**No 15 or 79** Demas Barraclough, hairdresser, traded from here in 1916. An advert in 1923 describes the

Gordon Terrace Hairdressing Establishment, with Mrs F Tillotson, ladies' hairdresser offering face and scalp massage, hair tinting, Marcel waving, ladies and children's hair neatly bobbed and ladies' toilet requisites. Mr F Tillotson is a gents' hairdresser and tobacconist who offers singeing and shampooing, plus umbrellas made and repaired. In 1928, it was F Tillotson, hairdresser. By 1938, it was E Tillotson, gent's hairdresser (this is thought to be the couple's daughter Eileen who had taken over the business). In 1962 it was again F Tillotson!

In 2006 it was Cartridge World, computer print cartridges, which left in October and the lease was for sale by the end of the year. In August, 2007, it was Eblo Auctions, Collectables Old and New, Packaging and Parcels too. In July, 2008 it was The Evans Partnership selling contemporary jewellery which it does in 2011.

No 16 to No 24 were the first houses to be converted into shops (plans approved in 1902).

**No 16 or 81** This shop has always been the Post Office, with stationers George Briggs in 1903 and 1916, with William Ward in 1928, S Ward in 1962. Joe Dhani was postmaster from 1997 to 2007, when Shirin Kapra took over and is still postmistress in 2011.

**No 17 or 83** Ernest Moss, fruiterer and fishmonger, traded here from 1903 to 1937. On Christmas Eve, 1937, there were adverts for JE Kay, plumbing, heating and electrical engineer here. In 2006 it was The Terrace, café bar and bistro, still trading there in 2011.

**No 18 or 85** This shop also traded as Ernest Moss (as above) in all the dates checked. A 1923 advert says that the business was established in 1900, selling fish, game, poultry, fruit and flowers. "We deliver to Baildon and Menston by

our own car. If you are not dealing with us, are you satisfied with the quality and the price of the goods you are getting? If not, we shall be pleased to have a trial.” In 1925, an advert adds that the shop is at the tram terminus. In 1962, this was T Fox, baker and confectioner. In 2006 it was Sacred Hearts, ladies’ lingerie, changing to Serendipity, gift shop by the end of the year. Serendipity is still trading here in 2011.

**No 19 or 87** This shop traded as E Feather, confectioners, at all the early dates checked. An advert in 1923 describes it as “established over 20 years”. In 1962, it had become T Fox, home made bread and confectionary. In 2006 it was Victoria’s, ladies’ fashions, and remained so until 2009 when it became Terez, cosmetics and beauty.

**No 20 or 89** This property has had a varied occupancy, beginning with Schofield’s glass, china and drapers in 1903. In 1916, it was Miss L Hellowell, milliner. By 1928 it was CB Elliston-Webb, draper and ladies outfitter. On 10th December, 1937 it opened as Sterlings modern shoe shop. In 1962, this became Hammond’s Coiffure, ladies’ hairdresser. In 1977, it was Jayne Eyre, hairdressing. By 2006 it was the Cutting Jungle, hairdresser, and remains so in 2010.

Margaret Cusker from York tells me that she worked at Jayne Eyres until 1976. The business moved from Manningham Lane in Bradford in 1966 and Margaret moved with it. It had been a hairdresser’s shop before they moved in. It was owned by Mrs V Leach, whose daughter was a hairdresser. There were usually three stylists and three juniors working in the salon, and Mrs Leach was the receptionist.

Margaret left to have a child in 1976, with Mrs Leach’s daughter, Jane, working full time when she left, and her youngest daughter becoming a junior hairdresser. Mrs Leach died in the early 1980s, and Jane took over the salon. There were problems in 1974 when the miner’s strike meant that there was no electricity for half the day. Clients were asked to wash their own hair at home and then go to the shop to have it dressed and styled when electricity was available.

Margaret says that “we had to work quickly before the lights went out and we were reduced to candle power.” She also remembered that there was great opposition on Gordon Terrace when a Betting Shop opened, but she can’t remember the number of the shop.

**No 21 or 91** Miss Hellowell, milliner, also traded here (double shop) throughout the early dates checked. In 1962, it was JH Dewhirst Ltd., butchers. In 1977 there was an advert for Burston Bros., toiletries, cosmetics, fancy goods and hardware. In 2006, it was Ocean View Properties, estate agent for the Spanish coast. In July, 2008 it was Hunters, estate agents and later in 2009 became Move2, estate agents.

**No 22 or 93** Samuel Hill, butchers, traded here in 1903 and 1916. The property was not mentioned in Trade Directories in 1928, but in 1938 was Archie Soloman, fruiterer. In 1962, this was Martins the Cleaners. In 1988, it was Scene Interiors, selling co-ordinated wallpapers and fabrics. In 2006, it was Tanning World. In May, 2007 it was The Tube Station, still with a tanning and beauty emphasis. In July, 2008 it was Room 93, still with sunbeds and a beauty salon, as it is in 2010. In 2011 it is The Wedding Mill selling wedding dresses and accessories.

**No 23 or 95** This shop was JE Whittaker’s, chemist in 1903, and then WE Metcalf, chemist in Directories in 1916, 1923 and 1927. It was not mentioned in Trade Directories in 1928, but in December, 1937, the Shipley Times and Express had it as Richardson, chemist, advertising wines for Christmas. CA Richardson had also had a branch at No 28, Bingley Road since 1923. It became Herbert Fletcher, chemist by 1938. Norman Best Ltd. was the chemist here in 1955 and 1962. In 2006, it was Ron Hardy, Audio and Video electrical goods which it is in 2011.

**No 24 or 97** John Charlesworth had a grocery shop here according to Directories 1903 and 1916. The Halifax Building Society was here in 1938. In 1962, this was still the Halifax Building Society. In 2006, it was Art Form, gallery and picture framing, and later in the year Gourmet Corner delicatessen,

which it remains in 2011.



*No 24, Gordon Terrace*



## *The south side of Bingley Road*

NB: Trade and Postal Directories do not always list all the shops.

Just as Gordon Terrace slowly changed from residential use to commercial businesses, more shops were built on the south side of Bingley Road. In 1900, only Nos 32 onwards were shops. By 1903, No 20 to No 32 had been introduced as shops. The whole row must have been completed later because there's an inscription on the wall of 1909, when it's called Wexford Buildings.

The shops between Ashley and Ferrands Roads (now No 36 to No 54) were demolished by Shipley Council at the same time as the houses in 1968/9, and new shops were built in the early 1970s. The following listing indicates where the old roads used to be.

**No 20** In 1903, this shop was Hardcastle and Frankland, confectioners. In 1923 there is an advert for No 66, Bingley Road, for a Smith and Shackleton, high class bakers and confectioners, which says "Also at Richmond House, No 20, Bingley Road, Saltaire" By 1938 it was William Croft and Sons, antique dealers. Also trading from here at the same time seemed to be the Leeds and Bradford Boot Repairing Company. In 1963, it was Les Redhead, fruiterer and greengrocer. In 1977, we had Matthews, fruit and fish, and in 2006, Lloyds Pharmacy, conveniently close to the Saltaire Medical Centre on Richmond Road, which it remains in 2010.

**No 22** Percy Craven, hairdresser and tobacconist, traded here in 1903. Since 1932 it has been used as a butcher's shop with a number of butchers trading here - Sam Hill in 1932, Ramsden's in 1938, A Yeadon in 1963, and Heap's in 1977. Since 1995, Richard Binns has run the butchers shop RC & B Binns at No 22, Bingley Road. Richard had previously traded in Bradford Market, and took over No 22 as a business for his youngest son. Passionate about the butchery business, Richard recognised that this Bingley Road location had potential for growth. He has always felt that quality meats will attract loyal customers, and he only buys the

best animals. Prior to the foot and mouth disease outbreak, he kept some cattle for slaughter at his 20 acre farm in Oxenhope, but now he buys from auction (at Skipton every Monday and Guisburn every Thursday). He uses a modern slaughterhouse which he can rely on (Penneys at Rawdon), and keeps the carcasses in his own fridges below the shop. He refuses to buy pre-packed meats. His quality cuts are ready for serving in the shop after one month of hanging. He has some stock on his farm which he breeds for the shop – these



*Richard, Barbara and Dawn Binns*

are sheep and lambs, chickens, and turkeys. Pork is bought from a reliable supplier in the North of England, and Richard will only buy traditional breeds. From this he produces his own home cooked bacon, sausages and cooked hams.

But the quality of his produce is only half the story of his success. The other half is investment in machinery and the fabric of the shop. He tells me that he spent £50,000, on two new counters, and putting

in new electrics, walls and floors to meet the most stringent requirements of the inspectors from Environmental Health. He found that there was a demand for cooked sandwiches, and installed ventilation equipment costing £3,000 to provide them. Over the past year he has sold stand pies to his own recipe, which required new ovens to be installed.

At over 65 years old, Richard admits that he will never see a return on his investment, but his daughter, Dawn, might. She has joined the business with the same enthusiasm as her father. Other butchers in the area tell me that the most crippling thing for a small business is the amount of paperwork which is required by the Ministry and the European Union. Dawn is on top of this! She was one of the first people in the area to take qualifications in hygiene and quality control, and is totally responsible for the procedures to comply with regulations in the shop. She also deals with the book keeping, and in addition she regularly serves behind the counter. She will see the return on Richard's investment, and is as committed to high standards and customer service as her dad.

The final key to success is to be responsive to customer demand. He has a regular local customer base, and also has passing trade, as well as his sales to local residential homes. The location of the shop is very good, with a bus stop nearby, and other quality produce available locally. He doesn't worry about competition from supermarkets, because bulk buying of standardised produce is not what he has found that customers want in their meat purchases.

Richard's shop opens daily from 8-30am to 6-30pm, There's no lack of demand. It is run as a family business, and Richard's wife Barbara not only serves behind the counter but also buys at auction.

**No 24** Miss L Hulme, milliner, held this shop in 1903. A 1923 advert had it as Miss Elsie Davy, trading as Madame Davy, ladies outfitter. She advertised as the most exclusive house in the district for millinery, ladies and children's outfitting, art needlework etc, and as agent for the famous unbreakable Spirella corsets. By 1963, it was Mrs A Foulds, clothing and milliners, and in 2006, Soos of Saltaire, ladies fashions, which removed to No 30 in

April, 2006 to be replaced by Mirror, creative hairdressing, which it is in 2011.

On a back street at the western end of this parade of shops was an ironmonger and blacksmith, who was still shoeing horses into the late 1930s.

**No 26** Hulme, boot dealer (probably related to Miss Hulme next door) was here in 1903. In 1928, it was Davies, milliner and draper. By 1938, it was Stanhope Bakery, confectioners, and was still this in 1963. In 2006, it was taken over as The Orange Grove, greengrocer, and remains so in 2011.

**No 28** In 1903, this shop was not mentioned in Directories. In 1923, the shop was taken over by CA Richardson, MPS, chemist (who moved from Victoria Road), and he was still there in 1938. He advertised “National Health Insurance Dispensing, plus the finest drugs, chemicals and toilet requisites, with everything for the baby, and all Kodak supplies.” By 1951, it was Boots, chemist, for two years until their new shop opened in Shipley. It then underwent a change of use to D Luty, joiner, DIY, undertaker, and funeral director from 1962 until at least 1987. An advert in 1962 describes it as the Do-It-Yourself Centre, stocking “general ironmongery – leading makes of household hardware – garden tools and accessories – mowers, both hand and power, and demonstrations are given ...” etc, etc. Fifty years on, Mike Briggs recalls his time there as a joiner: “There were four full-time and two part-time staff in the shop, and six full-time joiners with two apprentices working on commissions. The joiners worked extensively on Saltaire properties.” Mike, now a self-employed joiner, continues to work on houses in the village (contact oddjobs05@live.co.uk). In 2006 the shop was trading as Bouquets, florist, as it is in 2011.

**No 30** This shop was Wilkinson, house furnisher, china and glass in 1903. In 1928 it was the Union Bank of Manchester, which it was still in 1938. In 1963 it was Barclays Bank. Roy Taber Travel traded here in the 1990s, but then moved to the rear of the premises and upstairs, whilst the front shop was taken

over by Soos of Saltaire, ladies' fashions. Roy Taber Travel closed completely and moved away from the area in 2007. In 2009, through to 2010, it is Tallula's at Soo's of Saltaire. In 2011, this shop is vacant premises.

*(Ashley Road was previously found between these properties)*

**No 32** Two grocers, Martha Ann Rhodes and Wilcock Firth, traded here in 1900. It was then Mrs S Mitchell, grocer in 1903 and 1916. In 1928 it was Whitfield, grocer and beer seller, and it was still Alex Whitfield in 1938. It was J Scott, grocer in 1963. In 1962, 1965 and 1977 it was Sanderson, grocers, and in 2006 to 2010 it is Saltaire Wines, off licence.

**No 34** Windhill Co-op traded here from 1900 until at least 1938. It was not mentioned in Directories in 1962. In 2006, it was Melvyn Davies, baker and confectioner. Wilf Barber went there to work at Windhill Co-op here, aged fifteen years in 1925 until 1945. He recalls how there were at least seven staff, with the manager being Mr Ray Turner. Other employees included Arnold Watson, Arthur Smith, and Bill Thompson. There were three departments here, for groceries, a butcher and a drapery. Cash was dealt with at a central point in the grocery section for all three units, using a "trolley" system operated on overhead wires and small screw top metal containers. Staff pulled a cord to operate it, and received change in the same way. Flour, potatoes and some other goods were weighed out and bagged on the premises. Flour was weighed into one stone and half stone bags every Friday morning. Sugar came pre-packed in paper bags. Wilf also used to do temporary relief at other branches, including Caroline Street in Saltaire, where he recalls the cold marble counters.

Next to Melvyn Davis in this large property were New Collection, ladies fashions at No 34a, and Walk In Style, footwear, in No 34b in 2008 to the present.

**No 36** This shop was Windhill Co-op from 1900 until at least 1938. In 1963 it was Airedale Co-op (butchers, grocers and drapery). In 2008, it was Choices Video, although by July, 2008

it was empty. In 2010 it re-opened as Scoops ice cream parlour.

**No 38** This shop was Windhill Co-op from 1900 until at least 1938. In 1963, it was Airedale Co-op (butchers, grocers and drapery). In 2006, it was Walk in Style, shoes, handbags and accessories. At the side of this was Swanks, hair and beauty, with KA Turner, licensed conveyancer upstairs. In July, 2008 it was empty after having been occupied by Choices Video earlier in the year. In 2010 it is The Co-op Travel shop.

**No 40** This shop was Windhill Co-op in 1900 and continued as this until at least 1938. In 1963, it was Airedale Co-op (butchers, grocers and drapery). In July, 2008, it was Raymond Town, menswear, as it is in 2010.

**No 42** Miss H Jackson, confectioner, traded here in 1903. In 1923, it was The Chocolate Box, established 1909. It advertised as “The little shop with the big reputation, selling wholesale and retail sweets and tobaccos. It has an up-to-date circulating library and sells hot drinks and ices in season. Our speciality – freshly made chocolates weekly”. It became G Chapelow, confectioners in 1938. In 2006, it was Raymond Town, menswear and is so in 2010.

**No 44** WC Anderson, traded as a painter and decorator here in 1903. In 1920, it was H Ickringill, electrical engineer and contractor, and in 1928 it was Ickringill, tripe dealer, which it remained in 1938. In 2006, it was Done Bookmakers, betting shop. In July, 2008, it changed to Bet Fred, bookmakers, and is in 2010

**No 46** John Butterfield, hairdresser, held this shop in 1903. It was Emmott, antique dealer in 1928. In 1938, it was back to hairdressing with Albert Fox, and in 2006 it was Done Bookmakers, betting shop. In July, 2008, it was Bet Fred, bookmakers.

**No 48** No 48 was J Schofield, draper in 1903, and became Midgeley, painter and decorator in 1928. It is not mentioned in 1938, but has become part of the Co-op grocers in 2006.

**No 50** J Jeffries, framed pictures here in 1903, and Holt, made watches here in 1928 and 1938. In 2006, it was part of the Co-op grocers.

*(Oastler Road was here)*

**No 52** Samuel Schofield, grocer, had this shop in 1900 and 1916, and Newbould, grocer and beer seller in 1928. It was Ackroyd, grocer and off licence in 1938, and AL Bucknell, grocer in 1962 (over 40 varieties of English and Continental cheeses always in stock). By 2006 it was part of the Co-op grocers.

**No 54** There is an advert for a D Fell, joiner, cabinet maker, upholsterer and undertaker in a shop described as “the bottom of Ferrand Road” in 1900. However, by 1903 it was John Kay, plumber. In 1923, it was James Edgar Kay & Co. registered plumbers and electricians, “first class workmanship, first class materials and reasonable prices, satisfaction guaranteed.” In 1951, it became Ethel Bryant, corsets and lingerie. In 1963, it was AL Bucknell, grocers, and in 2006 it became part of the Co-op grocers.

*(Ferrand Road was here)*

**No 54** This shop was a newsagent run by Mrs H Wilson, newsagent, in 1900, John Wilson in 1916, and James Wilson, newsagent in 1903, but became John Chell, butcher in 1925 at least until 1965. In 1981 it was C Cariss, butcher. In 2006, it was part of the Co-op grocers.

**No 54** Isaac Naylor was a bootmaker in 1900 and then Alex Greaves, bootmaker in 1903 and 1916. It was then Walter Minakin, sweets and tobacco until at least 1938. In 1963, it was Anne’s of Saltaire, sweets and tobacconist. In 2006, it was Kentucky Fried Chicken takeaway, with Stachin, Bashir and Green, Solicitors in the upstairs apartment.

*(Queens Road is here)*

**No 60** Miss M Sunderland was a confectioner at this shop in 1900 and 1916, but the premises became a part of Edith Minakin, sweets and tobacco from 1925 until at least 1938. In 1963, it was Anne's of Saltaire selling sweets. In 2006, it was Crystal of Saltaire for handbags and accessories. It used to sell mini motorbikes until February, 2006. In April, 2007 it was closed. In July, 2007 it was reopened as Amore for soft furnishings, blinds, wallpaper and upholstery. In 2011, Amore still trade in the majority of the shop but part of the building is now for rent.

There was a No 60A referred to in this location in 1900, and a TC Bryant worked here as a bootmaker.

**No 62** This shop was not mentioned in 1903 Directories, but may have been part of Miss Sunderland's confectioners. In 1928, it was part of Minakins, sweets at least until 1938. It was also part of Anne's of Saltaire in 1963. In 2006 it was Medusa Masonry – local handcarved stone fireplaces, which closed in 2007. In July, 2007 it was part of Amore, as above.

**No 62a** This shop was not mentioned in 1903 Directories, but was Robinson, fish fryer in 1928 and Rennison, fried fish dealer in 1938 and 1963. It was still a fish and chip shop in 2006 as Salts Fisheries. Webster of Saltaire improved and renovated buildings in July, 2008 and it remains Webster's fish and chip shop in 2010.

*(The Rosse Hotel and Moorhead Lane are here)*

Photographs at the turn of the century show a shop built into the front of the Rosse Hotel, and in 1916 a TC Bryant was recorded as a shoemaker at this address.

*Previous numberings are confused from this point westwards along Bingley Road.*

A 1900 Postal Directory had a **No 64**, where Miss SM Tilsten had a confectioners shop. In 1916, JS Smith was a confectioner here.

**No 66** John Anderson was a tailor at this shop in 1900, and at No 66A Smith and Shackleton, high class bakers and confectioners (also at Richmond House, 20, Bingley Road, Saltaire –

all goods made on the premises) was later listed here. In 1916, JW Ferguson was a cab proprietor at this address. In 1920, Ross Brothers, fish, fruit, game and poultry are here. It was the Roundabout Café in 1963. In 2007, it was the base for the Czajka Care Group, providing community care services. They also had an administrative unit on Moorhead Lane, nearby. Their current postal address is Nos 66-70, Bingley Road.

**No 68** The Ferguson Carriage Co. Ltd was at this address in 1900. It became TH Anderson, tailor in 1938, and Saltaire Wallpaper Stores, painters and decorators in 1963. In 1969 there was “Small Fry” for children’s wear here. It was later demolished to make way for a garage.

There was a **No 68B** in 1900 where Harry Firth cut his customer’s hair. Next to this in 1900 was Saltaire Garage.

**No 70** Mrs Esther Hannah Ferguson, confectioner, traded here in 1938, and then Bailey’s sweets and tobacco. In 1962, the site was shared with Barry’s ladies hairdresser. Mr Bailey’s shop had petrol pumps outside at the pavement edge. The shop was later demolished to make way for the garage, later the Shell petrol station

**No 72 & 74** No 72 and No 74 was JC Ferguson, Saltaire Garage, Motor Engineers.

Saltaire Picture House ended the row, later occupied by the Shell petrol station. In July, 2008 there were proposals to redevelop this site to improve traffic flow at the Saltaire roundabout junction because of increased traffic flow following construction of the Bingley bypass road.



## *On Bradford Road*

In 1923, in the Saltaire Shopping Carnival booklet, there was an advert for Avondale Buildings, “The shopping centre at the top of the road”. It listed eight shops. There is no reference in Directories to the property before this time. In a 1962 Directory it was known as Keighley Road.

**No 4** No 4 – This is Farrar’s Unisex Hair Salon in 2011.

**No 24** This property is listed as a shop in 1938, trading as Chanelle, ladies outfitters. In the 1990s it was Avondale Motors Ltd, new and second hand motor car dealers. It now forms the end of a row of new build flats on Avondale Road.

**No 26** In 1923, No 26 was Hawley’s “home made bread and confectionary of all kinds”. In 1938 it was Mosely Smith, confectioner. In 1962, this was G and W Brice, bakers and confectioners. In 1970 it became Da Tonino’s Italian Restaurant. (Contact number 01274 581195)

**No 28** RW Cawley had fish, fruit and poultry stores here in 1923 – “fresh arrivals daily”. In 1938 it was Lawrence Pullman, fishmonger. In 1962, this was G and M Hudson, fish, game and poultry dealers. In 1972, it became part of Da Tonino’s Italian Restaurant.

**No 30** This shop is listed as Charles Menzies, plumber in 1938. In 1962, this was Elite Valet Service, cleaners. In 2003, it became part of Da Tonino’s, Italian Restaurant.

**No 32** W Verity sold newspapers, tobacco and sweets here, and had a circulating library in 1923. Stanley Gillson was a newsagent here in 1938. In 1962, this was J and JM Pope, newsagent and stationer. In 2006 it was a Chinese takeaway called “Yummy House” (previously the “Lucky Garden” takeaway). It changed from a newsagent to a fast food outlet in the late 1990s.

**No 34** This shop was Deighton and Owens, the cycle and motorcycle shop in 1923. In 1938, it was Herbert Postill, boot and shoe repairer. In 1962, this was Bettashu Service Ltd, boot and shoe repairers. In the 1990s it was Peter Dyer for TV's and electrical goods. In 2006, it stood empty, but then, in 2007, it opened as Zaara's Indian Restaurant.

**No 36** R Lindley, Junior, sold "all electrical supplies from wire to wireless" here in 1923. In 1938, it was Raymond Lindley, electrical engineer. In 1962, this was Ledger's hardware stores. The property was incorporated into Peter Dyers and then Zaara's restaurant from the 1990s.

**No 38/40** West Riding Milk and Pure Cream Co, sold "high class dairy produce - cream is our speciality", here in 1923. In 1937, it was Norman Burgess, dairyman. In June, 1937, this was Kinsey Radio Service, radio and TV engineers, 48 hour service, as it still was in 1962. It later became the Tesco "One Stop Shop" in 2006.

**No 42** Thorps, "for good value in drapery" traded here in 1923. In 1938, it was Johnsons Pure Drug Co., chemist - "Avoid restless nights by taking St Martin;s Brand Lung Tonic at 1/- and 1/9d per bottle". In 1962, this was JA Scott, chemist. It became the Tesco "One Stop Shop" in 2006.

**No 44** This corner property was C Womersley, the Avondale grocery stores for the finest coffee, in 1923. In 1938, it was Jas Jowett, grocer. In 1962, this was Lion Grocery Stores. In 2006, it was Franco's delicatessen/café.

**No 72 to 76** No 72 to No 76, Bradford Road was the Homeleigh Hotel in 2008.

**No 88** No 88, Bradford Road was Martin's Haircare, with Everything's Rosey hair salon next door on Springhurst Road in 2008.

On the **north side of the road** is a pub, the Ring of Bells. On the

same side as the Ring of Bells, going towards Bradford, is:-

**No 1a** This is a small shop on the corner of Kirkgate and Bradford Road. In the 1990s, it was an electrical supplier, and in 2006 it was a replacement window company. It was empty before being renovated in July, 2008, and later became a base for Klean4U, The Ironing Shop, a domestic and industrial ironing service. It re-opened as Redtick Finance and Estate Agent in 2011.

Adrian Beck's car sales and repairs has a postal address on Rossendale Place but is also on Bradford Road.

**No 37** In 1938, this house was described as the Springwood Laundry. A reference in a postal directory in 1916 has Edith Geldes and Kate Slicer living at No 29, Bradford Road and describing themselves as laundry proprietors, but not clear if they were trading from there. And in 1900, Hannah Bentley is at No 29, again a laundry proprietor. In July, 2008 it was the Healthy Body Centre, specialists in the relief of muscular skeletal problems, sports and other injuries.

**No 39** In 1916, Thomas Ives, newsagent traded here. There was no entry in 1938 Directories, but in 2006 it was Excel ladies fabrics. In July, 2008, it was The Garden Room, part of Home and Garden Antique Interiors. At the side of the property was Hopwood and Higgins, Hair Associates, who had traded here since 1996. In 2011, it is now Rose and Brown Vintage Home, an extension of Caroline Brown's business at No 16, Victoria Road.

At the side of No 39 is Hopwood and Higgins, hair salon, which has traded there since 1996.

**No 39a** At No 39a in 2006, this property was a Chinese Restaurant – previously “The Emperor”, but later “The Great Wall”. In July, 2008, it had ceased trading and in late 2010 is being extensively renovated, reportedly to become a chiropractic surgery. In 2011 it has become Bradford Chiropractic Clinic.

**No 4I** In 1928, Holmes, confectionary and tobacco, occupied this shop. In 1938, it was Miss Gertrude Wood, ladies

outfitter. In 1963, it was E Walker, electrical contractor. In 1997, it became “Paula Louise of Saltaire”, a bridal shop run by Paula Barraclough, who owned the building. In 2000, it became Home and Garden Antique Interiors, run from 2001 by former electrician Gary Faulkner who previously had a similar shop in Harrogate. In late 2010 the business is in the process of being relocated. In 2011 it is vacant premises.

**No 43** In 1898, 1900 and 1916 this shop is listed in Directories as the Refuge Assurance Co. Ltd. In 1928, it was Lambert hairdresser and fancy draper. In 1938, it was Fred Jenkinson, hairdresser. In 1963, it was K Bell ladies hairdresser and RB Smith, gents hairdresser. In 2006, it was Sun Essential nail and tanning studio, and by July, 2008, it was also Shipley Homeopathic Clinic. More recently it has become Essential Beauty and Healing Rose Clinic, offering holistic therapies.

**No 45** There was no reference to this shop in 1900 or 1916 Directories. In 1938, it was John Greenwood, dairyman. In 1963, it was A Coverdale, dairyman. In December, 2006, it was Elito, prestige and performance vehicle hire. In July, 2008, it was Revo print, design, print and copy. In 2011 it is Property Village.

**No 47** In 1938, Miss Dorah Marshall, fancy draper, traded here, and she was still there, as a children’s outfitter, in 1963. In 2006, it became Tall Poppies Hair Salon, which it remains in 2011.

**No 49** In 1898, this is a fried fish dealer’s shop. In 1900 and 1916 it was the Windhill Industrial Co-operative Society. By 1938, it became Excel Radio, a wireless supplies dealer which was still there in 1963, described as a radio and TV engineers. In 1998, it became an ironmonger’s shop owned by Liam Cunningham, later to be taken over by Tim Rowbotham. This shop is full to the gunnels with anything you need for DIY. It’s so packed that with two customers it feels full. Tim has an old fashioned approach to business. Take something damaged to him and he sees

it as a challenge to repair it rather than sell you an expensive new one. He'll sell you just one or two items rather than a blister pack of dozens. He's as full of character as his shop, being by profession a water micro-biologist – one who incidentally discovered the link between Legionnaires' disease and the bacterium *Legionella rowbothamii*, which was named after him!



*Tim Rowbotham*

**No 51** In 1898, this shop was Fowlds, chemist. In 1900 and 1916 it was James A White, chemist. In 1938, it was HR Horrocks, confectioner. In 1963, it was a Post Office, managed by M and AM Robson. It remained a Post Office until about 2008, when it became a newsagents and general store. In 2011, this is vacant premises.

**No 53** In 1898 this was a tailor's shop. In 1916, it was David Rushworth, fruiterer, followed by Blamires fish, fruit

and poultry in 1928, and Fred Lambert, fried fish dealer in 1938. In 1963, this was W Woodrow and the Northcliffe Fish Restaurant, and in 2006 it became Drakes fish and chip shop.

**No 55** In 1898 and 1900, Miss N Richardson, confectioner, traded here, with Hanson and Harris, confectioners in 1919 and still a confectioner in 1928. By 1938 it was Herbert Parker, fruiterer, and in 1963 was AE Hall, ladies and gents tailors. In 2006, this was Drakes fish and chip shop.

Further down the road towards Bradford, we had **No 57**, **No 59** and **No 61** which, in 1938, was used as a branch of the Windhill Co-op. By 1962, this was the Airedale Co-op. **No 63** housed JA White, chemist, in both 1938 and 1962. **No 67** was the shop of E and AM Garnett, fruiterers, in 1938, and H Wright, confectioner, by 1962. All the properties between No 57 and No 67 inclusive were demolished to create an improved road junction.

**No 69** No 69 was Harford, Ladies' Hairdresser in 1938, and Renee, ladies' hairdresser, in 1962. In 2008, it was Tony Bray and Co., International Stamp Traders,

**No 71** Mrs Alice Maud Harford, confectioner, traded here in 1938, and N Phillips, fruiterer and greengrocer, in 1962. In 2007, it was Budget, Insurance Agents and in July, 2008, it was Swinton Insurance.

In 1938, the row was completed by a premises of doctors (RP and EL Viret; it is unclear whether this was their surgery) at **No 89**; J Hirst Humphreys, a dentist at **No 93**; and finally J Clough, coal merchant next to the Princes Picture House, before the Branch public house.

**There is also a row of shops on Kirkgate, at the junction with Bradford Road and Bingley Road.**

The earliest found reference to shops here is in 1912. Closest to Shipley is **No 89**, which in 1912 was Arthur Normington, fruiterer. By 1916, it was Ackroyd and Son, fish and poultry salesman. In 1927, it was Robert Beach, stationer, and by 1936 and 1938, it was Harry

Claughton, herbalist. In 1962, it was Albert Priestley with no trade noted, and perhaps this means that it was residential. In 2007, it seemed to be the offices of Bowman, Antique Fairs, and Bradsoft design 26, for website design, marketing and commerce. In the spring of 2010 it opened as Signs By Design.

**No 91** This shop was occupied by James Robert Beach, stationer, in 1912 and in 1916/17 Directories. By 1927, Waite Bros, decorators were at **No 91** and **No 93**. In 1936, it was Hall Brothers, sports outfitters, and by 1938 had become Mrs Sarah Jane Lee, ladies' hairdresser. In 1962, it was still a ladies' hairdresser with Audrey Rennard in charge. It was Elle, ladies and gents hair design in 2007.

**No 93** A butcher, James A Dawson, traded here in 1912, becoming Waite Bros, decorators in 1917, 1927, 1936, 1938 and 1962 Directories. It was Kids Continental, footwear and clothing in 2007.

**No 95** Thomas Pickering, grocer in 1912, and Mrs Elizabeth Pickering in 1917 held the shop here. In 1922, it was Thomas Risdale, grocer. It was still a grocer in 1927 with Eastell and Ogden. In both 1936 and 1938, it was James Arthur Waterhouse, grocer, and 1962 has Naylor, grocer. It was Ischia, pure beauty, in 2007.

**No 97** Miss Lucy Bagnall, confectioner, was at this shop in 1912 and 1917. By 1927, it was Albert Pickard, confectioner, who by 1928 had changed focus to become a newsagent and stationer. By 1936 and 1938, Alfred Beech changed it back to a confectioner. However, it went full circle again in 1962 when F and M Terry changed it back to a newsagent. It was Tinkerbells, designer children's clothing in 2007, but was then unoccupied. In July, 2008 it was Salon 7x9, hair stylists, being replaced in due course by the Hairdesign Team.

**No 99** These premises were built in 1902. It was held by Mrs Hilda and Miss Ellie Walsh, milliners, in 1912 and

1916/17. It was not mentioned in 1927 Directories, but by 1936 it became Miss Josephine Scott, florist, which paved the way for William Eastell to establish his business there in 1938. In 1962, he'd become William Eastell and Sons, nursery and seedsmen, also of Glen Nurseries. 2007 still had Eastell, florist.

**No 101** 1902 is the completion date for this shop. It was Browne and Co., drapers, in 1912, but Miss Mary Cowie had taken over the drapery by 1916, and remained firmly in charge until 1927. By 1936, it was Mrs Clara Benn, boot and shoe dealer. In 1938, William Eastell had taken over the shop for his florist business, and it was still Eastell's in 2007.

The history of the Eastell family and their business is fascinating. William Eastell married Annie Florence Dewhirst in the early 1900s. Annie was born at the Old Glen House on Shipley Glen in October, 1887. Her mother had refreshment rooms attached to the house, with swings and roundabouts and a large pond in the extensive grounds. Her mother used to make delicious lemon cheese and sold it in the café. She eventually sold the recipe to a Shipley jam manufacturer, who called it Dewhirsts Lemon Cheese. (See reference to No 5, Victoria Road in 1916). The jam manufacturer may have been John Smith (Shipley) Ltd who manufactured preserved fruits at Thackley Old Road, Windhill in 1954 – or perhaps ( and more likely) Hammonds Sauce Co of Dockfield Road, Shipley who described themselves as Sauce and Lemon Curd manufacturers. In 1954, Hammonds boast that they have been in business for over thirty years.

William Eastell worked at Salts Mill, before moving to Salts Mill London Office. He and Annie saw the German Zeppelins bomb London in the First World War. Two children were born here. They then returned to live in Shipley in 1917, where two more children were born. They then moved to Shipley Glen, next door to the house where Annie had been born, where three more children were born (a total of four boys and three girls).

In 1930, William retired as a manager at Salts Mill due to the Recession. He started a market garden business, and later a nursery and garden centre. In the early days it was very much a family

business, with sisters May, Kathleen and Edna all helping to start the business. They traded from Shipley Glen Nurseries, and from market stalls in Shipley and Bradford, before purchasing the buildings at No 99 and No 101, Kirkgate, Shipley in 1937. (No 99 was bought from a Miss JL O'Hara, and No 101 from Mr and Mrs W Benn). As well as flowers and plants, fruit and vegetables were also sold, which were a necessity with the outbreak of World War II.

After the War, Norman Eastell entered the family firm. William's health was failing and he eventually died in 1954. Norman formed a Limited Company which flourished and diversified into property in the 1960s. The shop became a member of Interflora in 1955. With the help of his sister May (who managed the floristry side of the business until her retirement in the early 1970s), Norman became a well known local and national florist, earning an excellent reputation for quality and service.

The shop traded as William Eastell and Sons Ltd until 1976. Norman's three brothers (David, Kenneth and Ralph) managed the Nurseries and the property letting side of the business.

In 1976, there was an amicable split between the three parts of the business. The brothers were approaching retirement, and no-one else in the family wanted to take over the business. No-one, that is, apart from Christopher, Norman's son, who had joined the business in 1970, having studied horticulture at Shipley College. Six years later he became a partner in the florist shop with his father.

From 1973, an extended sales area was added and a wide range of floral sundries was introduced, replacing fruit and vegetables.

Annie Eastell continued to live in her house on Shipley Glen until her death in 1984 aged 97 years. Today, William Eastell and Son is still run as a partnership by Christopher and his wife, Susan. A fourth generation, Sarah, has now joined the firm, and in 2008 they celebrated 70 years of trading at this shop.

[www.eastell-florist.co.uk](http://www.eastell-florist.co.uk) Telephone 0800 328 1887

**No 103** This shop was occupied by Miss Harriet Fenwick, confectioner in 1912 and 1916, and John W Shackleton, confectioner in 1927. Hugh Wilkinson, confectioner, had taken over by 1936, and remained there in 1938. By 1962, it had become Mrs A

Hargreaves, grocer, with William Hargreaves in charge of the Telegraph and Argus Newspaper office operating from the same premises.



### *On Bingley Road, West of the roundabout*

The Old Tramshed is located at the top of Hirst Lane, at the side of the roundabout. It was converted to become Jimmy Gee's, a complete entertainment centre for children. It had an extensive toy shop, a café and an entertainment section with slides and ball pools. In 2003, this complex lost its retail toy outlet, and occupied just the rear portion of the building. The front was taken over by The Old Tramshed, a bar and restaurant, serving fresh English cuisine in its a la carte restaurant. Bookings and enquiries telephone 01274 582111. [www.theoldtramshed.com](http://www.theoldtramshed.com)

**No 201** In 1938, Thomas Collyer, dairyman, sold ice cream from a door at the side of this building. Prior to 1962, the building was converted into 4 flats, and has remained a residential unit.

**No 203** In 1938, William Noddle, journalist lived here. It remained a private house until Wilf and Marjory Barber bought it as an investment. By 1952, Mr Eric B Hoffbrand, a dentist, bought it from them. He was followed by Mr Manning, dentist, and in 1993, Dr DJ Harrop bought the practice. It has continued as Saltaire Dental Practice ever since. Dr Harrop's associates are Dr S Bell and Dr L Martin. Tel. 01274 585669.

**No 205** In 1928, it was Clayton's fruit and game shop, and in 1938 it continued in the same trade with Robert Stead, fruiterer. It was later taken over by Mr Crabbe, selling fruit and vegetables. Mr and Mrs Atkinson bought it around 1962 and traded for two years as Thomas Atkinson and Son, before their son, Brian, and daughter in law Wendy took over in 1964, still selling fruit and vegetables. The first floor was converted into flats. From 1973, Peter

Randall, gent's hairdresser, has occupied the premises, and he remains there in 2010. Peter is justly proud of the fact that he's been cutting the hair of Saltaire customers for 34 years – at first with Herbert Shields at No 1, Gordon Terrace, and then in his present shop. His bread and butter customers are his regulars. By and large



*Peter Randall, courtesy of Pamela Reynolds*

they go to him for an “as usual” haircut at a reasonable price, along with the friendly banter and badinage which accompanies it in this predominantly male establishment.

He's almost a caricature of the blunt, outspoken Yorkshireman. He doesn't mince words and is proud of it. If you want to sort out the problems of the world, you'll be sure of a strong opinion in return. Of course, he has to know you first – new customers are treated much more respectfully. The banter signifies that you've been accepted and recognized as one of the locals.

Peter's interests and topics of conversation appeal to his clientele. He's enthusiastic about animals, wildlife, riding, hunting, and the outdoors life generally – with his own special spin to it. He's got

three dogs – and used to have a ferret which went for walks with them without a leash. It thought it was a dog, he says. He shoots clay pigeons – but with a muzzle loading, flintlock rifle! Everything’s larger than life and more colourful with him.

Peter’s local credentials couldn’t be better. He’s a member of the Firth family, who have been in this area since 1723. Dawson Firth had thirteen children, so no wonder they’re so well represented. Peter’s great great grandfather was gamekeeper to the Earl of Rosse at Northcliffe. The Firths were well known for their bakery and shop at No 2, Victoria Road, and many members of the family worked at Salts Mill.

**No 207** In 1928, Jowett, confectioner, occupied this shop, and in 1938 it was Ready’s Ltd., bakers and confectioners (with a bakery built at the rear of the property). Ready’s also owned No 11, Victoria Road which was a very successful café and function rooms. After Ready’s, it became Roy Illingworths painters and decorators by 1962, who used the bake house as storage for their ladders and other equipment. The premises were used as a base for the business, and not really as a shop. It was then renovated with a new shop front and interior, and used as a ladies fashion shop, initially owned by the daughter of the owner of Greenwood’s menswear shop in Bradford. It was then variously called “207” and “Avante”. The latter name had to be changed because this was a C&A brand. It was Nails and Beauty in 2007, and Louise Carey, Nails in July, 2008. By April, 2010, the premises are given over to Altaluci, hair studio.

**No 209** This house was not mentioned in in any Directories in 1928, but in 1938 was Misses Susannah, Sarah Ann and Elizabeth Dibb (presumably residential). In 1962, it was John E Kitwood (residential again). Later in 1962, it was owned by Brian and Dorothy Neale. Dorothy was a well respected teacher at Albert Road School, and Brian was a chiropodist, who set up in practice in the front room. At this time there was no shop front and the garden went down to the pavement level – the houses are set back from the road. When the Neales moved out, it was bought by David Andrews, insurance agent, who ran his business from there. John Massam

then bought it. He was a property developer who owned a number of flats in the area. He used the front room as an office, but then moved into the back rooms and let the front to a lettings agency. It remained in this line of business and was “Move 2” estate agents in July, 2008. In 2010, it is Saltaire Dental Practice.

**No 211** In 1928, this house was was Hill’s sanitary and heating engineers. It was still Thomas Hill, plumber in 1938, and was still Hills in 1962. By the mid 1960s it was bought by Wilf and Marjory Barber, and Wilf began to trade in antiques from the property. He then let out part of it to David Andrews, insurance broker, who gradually rented the whole ground floor and Wilf lived above this shop after Marjory died. David Andrews eventually bought the property and expanded upstairs, with six or seven brokers occupying separate rooms. When David retired, John Massam bought it, converting the upstairs to flats and letting the ground floor for use as a delicatessen and café. The basement was converted into a flat. In 2006, it was The Deli café and remains so in 2011.

**No 213** In 1928, Ben Smith, newsagent and stationers occupied this shop and traded here for about 25 years. In 1938, it was Frank Douglas Earnshaw, newsagent, who ran it with his wife Dorothy for the next 25 years (they were still there in 1962). It then passed to a relative, John Lindley and his wife Joan, who ran it as a newsagents for the next 26 years until 1988. Andrew Fenton and Wendy Craven then took over, selling newspapers, stationary, sweets and tobacco, and trading under the name of “News Parade”. Daniel Tanghe and his wife then took over. Incidentally, his wife Monique started up a business called “Staircase Solutions” in the cellar, and this was still trading in the old bakehouse at the rear of No 207 in 2008). John and Joan Lindley still owned the property and it was leased out.

In 2006 it was still a newsagent. In July, 2007, Aftab and Rahila Alam became the new owners, introducing a range of new products, still under the name News Parade. In 2009 it was still News Parade, but since March, 2010 has been a Mace shop. It is thought that this

was the first house on this terrace of properties to be converted into a shop. Some elementary mathematics leads to an estimate of the year 1912 as the date of conversion.

*The following shops are sometimes referred to as “Claremont” and as “Lynton Terrace” from No 215 onwards.*

**No 215** In 1928, A Smith, grocer and provisions dealer, traded here. In 1938, it was Fras. H Whaley, grocer, and by the 1950s was Abbey Stores, which it remained until 1962. Jack Chapman, greengrocer then took over briefly until it became County Cleaners, a dry cleaning coin-op (not a washeteria), until Dyson Harper took over. It was still run as a dry cleaners, but not as a coin-op. Dyson organised it as a supervised cleaners, with the most specialised, quality garments sent to Dubarry’s in Bradford, who collected and returned items twice a week. Unfortunately the machine at No 215 only cleaned and didn’t press. John and Joan Lindley then bought the business in 1988, after leaving the newsagency at No 213. They ran it for the next eight years until 1996. They then leased it to Colin Smallwood, who ran it until he died in 2000, when his son, Martin took over and still ran it in 2010, continuing as County Cleaners.

**No 217** In 1928, this shop was Madame Dorice, ladies hairdresser. In 1938, it was Joseph Ernest Bryant, boot and shoe dealer. (Is this a relative of the TC Bryant who traded on the other side of the road at the turn of the century, around the Rosse pub?). By 1962, it was Arthur Brear, plumber, whose son, Royle joined him. Royle’s son, John, later took over. A large garage was built at the rear of the property to house a lorry and other equipment. John eventually sold the whole property to Designer Drapes, a curtain shop, who traded there until 2007, when David Ford opened The Saltaire Bookshop. He sold both new and second hand books, and there was a comfortable area on the ground floor where coffee was available. In mid 2010 the business relocated to Myrtle Place, and the premises are soon to reopen as those of Dr Jamie Bell, Physiotherapy Clinic.

**No 219** In 1928, these premises were occupied by Lewis Read, grocer and provisions. In 1938, it was still Lewis Read, grocer. By 1962, this was Charles and Gladys Baker, grocers, who then bought the adjoining premises at No 221. They knocked through into this shop and ran the two as a retail grocers and off-license. This was taken over by Wineways. It was then Thomas James Flooring, changing to Thomas James Interiors in 2004, at this address and No 221. By July, 2008 it was Jonrichard Hairdressing. In 2011 it is Cross and Co, Hairdressing.

**No 221** In 1938, West Riding Automatics, tobacconists, occupied the building. It was then Norman B Lawson, newsagents, confectioners and tobacco, before the Bakers took over, becoming Wineways. It eventually became Thomas James Flooring, and in 2004 was trading as Thomas James Interiors. In 2006, it was Thomas James Interiors. In 2008, it was Jonrichard Hairdressing as above. In 2011 it is Cross and Co, Hairdressing.

**No 223** In 1928 and 1938 this building was not listed as a shop. At some stage it became Congress Stores, and in 1962 was W and I Butterfield, grocer. Charles Baker then bought the property. It became first Dyson, estate agent, and then a wool brokers. A local builder had it as an office prior to 2006, when it became Bingley Finance, which remained until 2010, when Little Hero's, Supporting Kids with Cancer, opened.

**No 225** This address was not listed as a shop in 1928, but in 1938 was J Charlesworth and Sons, grocers (is this the same family of grocers who traded on Victoria Road, and Gordon Terrace?). It is remarkable that this short row of shops could sustain three grocers shops! By 1962, it was Butterfield, grocer, and by 1966 it was Rodrigues ladies hairdressers. Rodrigues eventually moved to first floor rooms, letting the ground floor off to a fancy goods dealer. In 1976, the upstairs rooms were let to Carlo Cavallari, hairdresser, who moved to the downstairs accommodation in 1989, before he moved to No 101, Saltaire Road in 1992. The downstairs rooms had been leased by Tony Russo in 1977, selling gifts imported from Italy, for about five years. They were then taken over by greengrocers, and

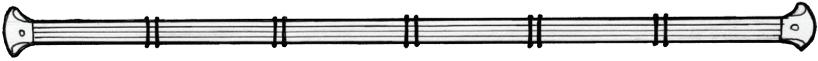


*No 223 Bingley Road - Dyson*

finally a ladies fashion shop before Carlo moved into them. In 2006, it was Creative Hair Studio, and still is in 2011.

This ribbon development reflects the fact that the corridor not only serves the local community, but also picks up passing trade from motorists on this busy east/west route.





## The Co-operative Movement in Saltaire

The co-operative movement was well established in Saltaire from the 1860s onwards. Jack Reynolds in "The Great Paternalist" notes that village co-ops had over 600 members, three quarters of the total number of families in Saltaire at the time. The Leeds Industrial Co-operative Society was the oldest and the largest. It was established in 1847 and it solved the problem of supply by producing its own goods and warehousing them centrally. It opened a branch in Saltaire in 1860 at No 8, Victoria Rd. The Saltaire Coal Co-operative shared the same premises. And finally there was the Saltaire Wholesale Independent Co-operative Society, which was described by Abraham Holroyd in the Bradford Daily Telegraph in 1868 as follows:-

"Sir, - Will you kindly allow me to draw the attention of your readers to a new system of co-operation between working men which has been established at Saltaire, as I know nothing of the kind in England. This association of interests has no enrolled members, no subscribed capital, no regular meeting place, no shop, no shopmen or paid clerk or clerks. Like the Flying Island of Gulliver, it has no resting place at all until within the last few days when a lock up store has been taken which will very likely be almost always empty, and will only be used in emergencies. And yet this society, which calls itself the "Saltaire Wholesale Independent Co-operative Society" has done, and is doing every week now, an immense business. It was begun first in the month of February last; the first purchase made being 24 lbs of castor oil and 120 lbs of powder blue. Since that, the Society has bought and distributed 8 dozen brushes, 60 gross of matches, 125 pounds weight of olive oil, 80 of mustard, 125 of starch,

118 of black lead, 50 of ginger, 80 of pepper, 92 of butter, 50 of coffee, and 530 pounds weight of tea. Also of cocoa 4cwt, of sage 8cwt, of rice 32cwt, and of soap 42cwt. All these goods have been bought in the lump, as written down above, and were sold at the bare wholesale price, within an advance of about a fraction of a farthing in the pound. The best soap, 42cwt was sold at three and three quarter pence in the pound, and the best rice at less than two pence. I give the above facts to show what working men can do when they are disposed. In about a week, in another letter, I will tell your readers how, and by what machinery, this beneficial trading is done; that others may go and do likewise. Wishing prosperity to your new paper,

*I am, Sir, yours truly,  
Abraham Holroyd,  
Saltaire, July 15th, 1868.*"

"Sir, - In my letter to you last week, I promised to explain to your readers the manner in which the new plan of co-operation among the working men at Saltaire is carried on by them; and in doing so I think that I cannot do better than to describe how it has been worked over the past two to three weeks. This society of co-operators consists of a working committee of thirty men, who are all agents or head-centres, and who supply from five to ten families of their friends or acquaintances with the goods bought by the society. The general committee, as I will call it, meet once or twice a week, as business may require; they divide themselves into sub-committees of departments, the members of which are chosen from among those men on the general one who have the most knowledge of goods apportioned to their department. For instance, one of those sub-committees has the power of deciding which

of the samples of tea and sugar sent in is the best and cheapest. And the general committee always decide to purchase the article which has been accepted by them. But the general committee, in full meeting, decide what articles are most needed, and these are accordingly bought first. This general committee elect from amongst themselves a president and a vice-president, a secretary and vice-secretary, and a treasurer and vice treasurer. Two actuaries are also appointed, whose duties are to find out what goods are most needed by the whole society, and who thus become qualified to advise the general committee in full meeting. A sample officer is also chosen, whose duty it is to test every sample of goods sent in, but who keeps the secret of the source from which they have come from the selecting committee so that there can be no partiality shown to any seller of goods to the society over another whose goods may have been rejected. Here let me say, that if at any time the article bought should not be equal to the sample sent in, no goods will ever in future be purchased from the house which has thus broken faith with their own sample. When the general committee have decided which article or articles shall be next bought, every agent visits his friends and customers and informs them all, what has been selected for purchase. He then receives from each as much money as will pay for the things they have chosen, and he enters the amount in a small memorandum book kept especially for that purpose. To make this plainer, I will give a few illustrations. Suppose they wish to take from the agent two stones weight of rice, they give him five shillings which is the wholesale price to them for the best; or say six bars of the best brown soap, they pay him five shillings and seven pence halfpenny; or if two pounds of common tea, four shillings and sixpence; or two pounds of the best tea, six shillings. These have been the

transactions during the last three weeks, and nearly three hundred pounds weight of tea has been distributed to buyers who had paid in advance during the present week alone. All this is done quietly and without fuss through the agent. When the general committee meet, which is every Friday evening, all the agents pay over the money received to the secretary who gives them and acknowledgement. It is then handed to the treasurer who gives a receipt for it to the secretary, and the next day the money is left with the firm of Messrs Salt, and Bank of England notes are got in exchange. The note or notes are then cut in two, and one half of each one then posted to the wholesale dealer whose goods it has been decided upon to purchase. When the goods bought arrive at the railway station at Saltaire they are removed as quickly as possible to the society's store, and the secretary sends at once the remaining halves of the banknotes to the house from which the consignment has been received. On the next Tuesday or Wednesday, in the evening, all the lots of goods paid for by the agents are delivered to them at the store, and by them delivered to the customers who are generally waiting to receive them. And all this gone through in an hour or two at the most. Of course there are expenses attendant on all this such as carriage, licenses, scales, stationery, and store rent; and this is met by an additional charge of a penny on the shilling on the purchaser; yet the society can sell at a lower price than any of the other co-operative shops, all the bonuses included. The tea which this society has distributed this week has been of excellent quality, and only cost the buyer two shillings and three pence the pound. No working man in Bradford can buy tea in a shop at anything near that price. The best tea is only charged at three shillings the pound.

As to the benefits resulting from this kind of independent

dealing there can be no question, as the low prices show. But to show what may be done, I will relate the following fact. On Tuesday evening last a gentleman visited the store as the goods were being delivered, and he purchased tea, &c., newly in, amounting altogether to the sum of £1 1s 8d, and he voluntarily stated that in the shop where he generally purchased his groceries they would have cost him £1 8s 7d, or 7s 1d more than he had paid. This gentleman was unknown to the committee. The Saltaire Independent Co-operative Society is as yet only in its infancy as a system of mutual help. Just now the committee are drawing up a code of rules to be submitted to Mr Tidd Pratt,<sup>16</sup> before registration, and it is then proposed to take up shares with the intention of forming a fund for the purchase of more than actual orders, as at present, it having been found necessary to keep a stock in the store room of some kinds of goods. When these rules are printed, the committee will carefully supply copies to others in distant places, who may wish to form other societies; and a letter addressed to me at Saltaire shall receive attention. If men would only try to “Have faith in one another”

And labour to promote “the greatest good to the greatest number”, as the above named society are doing, there would be much less misery and poverty in the world than there is. Thanking you for your kindness in inserting my letters in your cheapest of all cheap papers.

*I am Sir, yours truly,*  
*Abraham Holroyd*  
*Saltaire, July 23rd 1868.*

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<sup>16</sup> *William Tidd Pratt was the first appointed official whose job it was to certify that the rules of such organizations as friendly, industrial and provident societies were in accordance with the law – information from David King.)*

These arrangements changed a little in subsequent years, and the 1871 census reveals that the Society had taken a shop at No 6 Victoria Rd, certainly for storage and probably for trading.

Despite Holroyd's optimism, just 10 years later in January, 1878, the Shipley Times and Express reported the proceedings of a meeting held in the Lecture Theatre of the Club and Institute on 15th January:-

What steps should be taken in the present state of affairs? There was a large gathering of members, especially the female portion. Notwithstanding the fact that, owing to the dishonesty of their apprentice, the Society is unable to pay more than 2d in the pound bonus. The balance sheet shows a turnover for the half year of £2,810 2s 7d, being £210 6s 6d less than the previous half year. It was decided that no bonus should be paid this half year, but that it should be added to each member's account, and that no share capital should be withdrawn for six months. A new storekeeper was appointed.

A few months later on Saturday, 3rd August, 1878, this same newspaper reported:-

In answer to a circular issued to the members of the Saltaire Co-operative Society, a well attended meeting was held in the Club and Institute last Thursday evening. The meeting had been called to take into consideration the propriety of compounding all calls, claims, and liabilities subsisting between the Society and its contributing creditors (ie members of the Society). Your committee of management have been recommended to take this course by the auditors in consequence of the adverse results of the past transactions of the Society. After discussion it was decided to wind up the Society's affairs.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, 17th August, 1878 it reported:-

Co-operation – On Tuesday evening last, a special general meeting of the members of the Saltaire Industrial Society was held in the Lecture Theatre of the Club and Institute for the purpose of rescinding a resolution passed at a former meeting to wind up the Society. There was a large number of the members present. A resolution rescinding the motion for winding up and substituting compounding with the members instead, was passed almost unanimously, only three voting against it. Messrs Holdsworth, Stell, and Redman, with the assistance of a licensed valuer, were appointed compounders. Messrs Simpson, Rushworth, Marshall, Boddy, Dodgen, and Midgley, committee men; Mr A George, president, Messrs T Light and M Holdsworth, secretaries; and Messrs J Stell and O Redman, auditors. Mr A George presided.

It appeared that the co-op had been saved by a group of enthusiastic residents. It lasted for a short time, but in 1881 the minutes of the Leeds Co-op reported that it had “come to grief” and was no longer trading. In many ways it flew in the face of established co-operative operating by being a single enterprise. Most co-ops operated an extended structure of branches which took advantage of supply from a central depot.

However, this was not the end of co-operative development in the village, because in May, 1881, the Windhill Co-op negotiated with the Leeds Co-op and opened a store at 30/31, Caroline St where it remained until well into the 20thC. The Leeds Co-op closed in Saltaire in September, 1885.





Extensive use was made (especially in the compilation of the Appendices) of the Trade Directories and Postal Directories which are housed at Bradford City Library, 5th Floor, Local Studies Section.

1. "The First Industrial Nation" by Peter Mathias (Methuen and Co) 1969.
2. 2 - "The Great Paternalist" by Jack Reynolds. (St Martins Press, in association with the University of Bradford) 1983.
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## *Postscript*

Readers may find that their memories are prompted by the description of shops contained in the Appendices.

If so, and you wish to contribute to the Saltaire Archive, please let me know. This may be in the form of shared memories, photos, adverts, receipts or letters.



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The original idea for this work came from my involvement with the “Saltaire Sentinel”. This free, monthly community newspaper had been established in December 2002 by James Duncan as an attempt to address local issues of concern, and to record local history and make it available to the community. I suggested to James that the Sentinel might be used to feature prominent people who live and work in Saltaire today, and to record their contribution to the village. James was receptive to the idea and I was allocated a regular column called “Saltaire Folk” from April, 2005. In November, 2005, there were a number of changes of occupiers of shops on Victoria Road, and I offered to cover this story. My interviews with the occupiers in November sharpened my resolve to find out more. A series of accounts of Victoria Road shops have appeared in the Sentinel since this time. The late Clive Woods (village historian) and I chatted about my findings, and it was with his encouragement and active support that I was spurred on to find out more.

I would like to thank all those people who have contributed to the production of this book. I’ve already mentioned Clive and James. Dave Shaw and Philip Barlow are enthusiastic local historians and publishers, freely gave their time and expertise. Hattie Townsend, as always, gave honest opinions and fresh ideas. Pamela Reynolds gave technical support and typeset the book. Julie Woodward and her staff at Shipley College Resource Centre on Exhibition Road in Saltaire gave me access to the contents of their library, the Saltaire Archive, and use of the centre as a base to interview respondents. Their unfailing welcome and support remains undiminished despite my demands on their time. My grand-daughter, Jessica Hollings, helped prepare the manuscript. My daughter, Katie, a freelance artist and designer, used her skills to design the front cover and the maps, and to decorate the pages.

There are also the numerous residents of the village and workers at the Mill, all now retired, who shared their recollections about Saltaire between 1900 and the present day with me. Most

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*Many thanks to the people who have contributed memories and recollections about village life and shop ownership:-*

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Les and Ronnie Smith

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Janet and Dick Clark

David Brown of Carnforth

Betty Hall

Betty and Kenneth Julian

Mervyn, Maureen and Jayne Dixon

John Armstrong

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## About the author



Retirement from his career as Psychiatric Social Worker with Bradford Council, and injury related withdrawal from his sports of long distance walking and running, have given 68 year old Roger Clarke the time and energy to invest in all things Saltaire. Contributing regularly to the community newsletter, the Saltaire Sentinel, to the community website at [www.saltairivillage.info](http://www.saltairivillage.info), and to the Saltaire Journals, he is concerned with both the living history and the Victorian background of the model village. Tour guide, author and local historian, Roger's enthusiasm for Saltaire is infectious.

By the same author:

“Ann Moss, Saltaire Poet”, published by The Prosidier LLP, 2009.





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