

The Saltaire Sentinel



Hour lion of

VIGILANCE

No 62

February 2008

GOINGS ON AT MILL MAGGIE REVEALS EXCITING PLANS

**IT'S NOT
THE PAPER
PEOPLE BUY,
IT'S THE
PAPER BY
THE PEOPLE**

SPEED LIMIT INAPPROPRIATE

The driving and parking of motor vehicles receive a good deal of attention in this issue of the Sentinel for various reasons. The situation in Caroline Street particularly is, quite rightly, the cause of increasing concern and likely to feature prominently in our pages this year. A straightforward suggestion to at least begin to tackle the dangers posed by 'rat running' there is the imposition of a twenty mile per hour speed limit. Here is the 'official' view, as given to Cllr Martin Love, who supports the idea, by Council Leader Kristan Hopkins:

"There are many rules and regulations attached to 20mph speed limits/zones which may result in the implementation of self-enforcing features (traffic calming) and/or an increase in the number of speed limit signs in the Saltaire area. Such factors are perceived as inappropriate for the World Heritage Site which by design has many traffic calming factors already in place (narrow streets, junction layouts, site lines, residents' parking etc). Hence there are no current proposals to progress this type of initiative here."

The new arrangements for improved access to Salts Mill are likely to remain in place for the next few months at least, as consultants look at ways of creating a more permanent structural entrance for the disabled and for families, while also restoring the symmetry of the frontage. Roger Clarke has been talking to **Maggie Silver**, who is keen to keep Sentinel readers informed of these and other developments... A new entrance has already been created, with disabled and pushchair access via a ramp, on the south side of the Mill, and automatic doors have been installed to retain the heat. Visitors can now access the 1853 Gallery directly from here, without the need to negotiate cobbles and steps, and transport can pull right up to the ramp to unload. This is a much improved arrangement and is visitor friendly. Meanwhile, the old entrance remains open, giving direct ac-

THE DOOR IS STILL OPEN TO INDIAN SPLENDOUR MADE IN SALTAIRE

Visitors using the newly created entrance to the 1853 Gallery no longer pass the door of the internationally renowned **Zeba-Asmara**, which has been trading here, in hand made rugs and furnishings made in India, for nearly 8 years. However, the old entrance to the Mill is still open, and access can also be gained through the gallery. The organisation is run by **Santosh and DD**, with their design team, bringing style and quality to both domestic and business customers. They already control a large warehouse in Bradford and a newly opened store in Harrogate as well as the flagship store in Salts Mill, and there are plans for other outlets in major Northern cities. Essentially, Zeba-Asmara provides customers with bespoke furnishing and design services. You can choose your own matching designs and colours and have these coordinated throughout your house, with furniture covers, blinds, cushions and rugs exclusively tailored to meet your taste. All the domestic furnishings that are made to measure are created in the workshop in Salts Mill. There is also a contract service for businesses, especially hotels and restaurants. Their list of clients is impressive, with the Aagrah restaurant chain, the Dubrovnik Hotel, Bradford and Café Spice in London all benefiting from the Zeba Touch. Telephone 598894, email: asmara-home@btconnect.com

cess to stairs to all floors. Demolition work, on the left hand side of the yard at the bottom of the steps from Victoria Road, is now completed and work is due to begin on creating a Piazza here, in fulfilment of Jonathan Silver's original vision for the Mill. Work is due to begin on replacement of windows in the Spring, and Landscape Architects (Maslens, who are based in the Mill) are now finalising designs, and choosing materials and suitable plants for the environment. Materials are being recycled on site wherever possible. Original features of Mill architecture will be retained and highlighted alongside modern facilities for visitors, in keeping with the successful pattern used in the rest of the building. Other plans under discussion include an Espresso Bar, a wheelchair lift, and a feature called the Colonnades with a walkway/terrace/

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Plus

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A FRIENDLY FAIRY

Plus

ALL OUR USUAL

UNUSUALS

viewing area. This is a very exciting development, all the more so that it is being carried out in the 21st Anniversary Year of the Silvers reopening the Mill. It shows how Maggie and her executive planning team are still investing heavily in Saltaire's future growth and development.

Roger Clarke

ROGER CLARKE OUR MAN ON THE TELLY - BUT NOT YET

Last month, in this very column, we announced the imminent screening of the television series *Locks and Quays*, in anticipation of an episode featuring Roger Clarke on January 17th. Unfortunately, news only came through on the 8th of a change of schedule. **Paul Turley**, who produced the series for **Centini**, said "Until very recently we were all under the impression that Yorkshire Television would transmit these ten episodes from January 3rd, at the same time as Granada in the Northwest. Neither Centini nor Granada were aware that Yorkshire Television's schedulers had amended the simultaneous broadcasts."

The series is now due to be seen in our region at 7.30pm on Thursdays from **July 3rd**.

WHATEVER IT IS - SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel*

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

OR use the form to be found on the website: www.saltairevillage.info

MARCH 08 deadline: 20th FEB

The Saltaire Sentinel

Roger Clarke's SALTAIRE FOLK

Husband and wife team **Karan Singh and Parveen Kumari** took ownership of 12, Victoria Road in May, 1987, the same year that the Silvers bought the Mill. The shop was already an off licence. The Singh family had it after Jack Grimley who left 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 household items. Karan already had some limited retail experience because his father had owned an off licence shop.

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. Salts Grammar School pupils 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 his trade in Summer, but more serious threats come from Asda supermarket in Shipley, which is now open 24 hours a day and the Co-op on Bingley Road which has expanded premises and has extended opening hours.

They live behind the shop, which is open from 8am to 9-30pm, and have always been an important part of the Village community. Karan has been a regular at the Social Club on Caroline Street since 1987, and they visit the Boathouse Inn on a regular basis. They also have an allotment behind the Church, which Parveen finds particularly relaxing. She is vegetarian and grows vegetables there. Their 2 children (Punam and Vikrant Rana) have attended local schools, although they are now grown up.

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.

SPEEDING AND PARKING POSE PROBLEMS

Karan and Parveen's shop is at the junction of Victoria Road and Caroline Street, exactly where I have had my most unpleasant experiences with rat running cars in my capacity as tour guide. I frequently take groups of 25 to 30 Primary School children and their teachers around the village, and all the adults have to exercise extreme vigilance. It is the same with elderly and disabled visitors who book on tours. Both roads are straight, and cars travelling both East to West and North to South exceed the speed limit, despite the presence of parked cars on both sides of the road. The Caroline Street drivers are too busy watching for cars with the right of way on Victoria Road to be concerned with pedestrians. They are much too bothered about their own desire to get through the village as quickly as possible. The same excessive speeds can also be found on Baker Street which tends to be the main entrance and exit road for the rat run.

Parveen, and many of her customers, signed the recently publicised petition to control cars through the village. She has seen many near misses at the junction – and at the Titus Street/Victoria Road junction too. The young and elderly are particularly vulnerable, but others were also keen to express opinions. Twenty-nine year old **Andy Lawler** from Herbert Street talked of cars travelling at 40 to 50 miles an hour at rush hours and later in the evening. Despite his youth and fitness he has often been at risk.

Parveen hopes that reports in the Press that new legislation to force Councils to take notice of public petitions will mean that something will be seen to be done this time. Without it, she is pessimistic that the same will happen as with other appeals which she has been involved with – absolutely nothing! **Roger Clarke**

LOCALS HAVE THEIR SAY

Living close to the Caroline Street/Victoria Road junction, opposite the car park, 65 year old **Mervyn Dixon** is better qualified than most to comment on Saltaire's rat running problem. He says "I have had my parked car damaged on many occasions as cars try to avoid oncoming traffic which is accelerating across the junction. The street narrows here because of lawfully parked cars. I now have to fold in my wing mirror." He has also noticed how the most hair raising situations arise as traffic crosses the junction. "Cars travelling along Caroline Street edge forward across Victoria Road, unable to see oncoming traffic because of parked cars and because the Victoria Road traffic travels so fast, and they don't notice pedestrians. Their eyes are on other cars which might damage theirs."

NEW SERIES:

HISTORY OF THE ALMSHOUSES

Part One: The Early Years

In the nineteenth century, the poor and destitute of Shipley had little option but to look towards the North Bierley workhouse for their support. This was built in 1858 at Nab End, Clayton, served 15 parishes, and so was remote from the Shipley area. Thornton View Hospital took over the buildings in 1948.

Sir Titus Salt devised a much more local solution when he built his almshouses at the top of Victoria Road in 1868. He was very generous towards his elderly and infirm employees when they were unable to work in his Mill. He gave them a cottage in the almshouses, rent free, with furniture and fuel provided, and with a pension of 7/6d a week for a single person and 10/- per week for a married couple – all on condition that they should not undertake any work, and that they should not stay away from their house overnight without permission. This was at a time when average wages for spinners and weavers were between 15/- and £1 per week. (For a full account of the Regulations of the Almshouses, see Abraham Holroyd's book "Saltaire and its Founder").

Titus sometimes took a personal interest in admissions to the almshouses, as an account of the life of Abraham Wildman, poet, politician and Saltaire pensioner shows. Born in 1803, Wildman was a man of modest means who was passionately involved in the campaign for shorter hours for workers in factories and mills. He was responsible for drawing up petitions for both Houses of Parliament to support this issue. More locally, he was the first relieving officer for the Keighley Board of Governors under the new Poor Law Act. Unfortunately his private life was full of tragedy. His daughter was crippled in a mill accident, his son went to Australia and was never heard of again, and his wife died soon afterwards. His own health was not good. Fortunately he was also a poet, and Abraham Holroyd, Saltaire poet, bookseller and stationer who had a shop at 79, Victoria Road, preserved some of his work. Holroyd became aware of Wildman's reduced circumstances, and approached Titus Salt on his behalf. Titus offered Wildman and his daughter one of the almshouses in 1868, making him one of the early tenants. Given that Titus never supported legislation for shorter hours in mills, this was perhaps a surprising offer. However, there was no happy ending here. Wildman suffered with paralysis which led to his death in 1870.

(Information from "The poets of Bingley, Haworth and District" edited by Charles Forshaw – published by Thornton and Pearson, 1891).

The 1871 Census does not mention Abraham Wildman, but the 1881 Census lists Alice Wildman, an unmarried weaver aged 31 years. She lived at number 19, Almshouses with her two nieces, Fanny and Mary, both aged 17 years, who worked in Salts Mill as a spinner and a weaver. **Roger Clarke**

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AND MORE PARKING PROBLEMS...

It is almost inevitable that whatever problems are faced by the Council in Saltaire, there will always be a conflict between the needs of the current population and the need to conserve the past. Both are important and both are the legitimate concerns of the Council. The interesting thing is how the conflicts are resolved. In this context, I became very interested when I heard about a problem which has surfaced recently.

The current population of the almshouses need to park their cars close to their houses. Most motorists take this for granted for convenience and security, but the residents have an additional reason. Many of them have been housed here by the Shipley Community Housing Trust because the houses are single storey bungalows, ideal for tenants with mobility problems. They need their cars nearby to function effectively in their everyday lives. The cars are a necessity and not just a luxury. The problem is that the paths within the almshouses complex were designed for pedestrians. They are narrow and bordered on one side by grass. Parked cars have begun to turn the verges into an unsightly quagmire, which neither the Council nor the tenants want to happen. Both are proud of this attractive environment in Alexandra Square, but a purely functional solution to the problem might not satisfy the Conservation Department who are responsible for protecting this World Heritage Site.

I understand that the first step was encouraging. A meeting was held in November, 2007 to hear the concerns of residents at first hand, immediately emphasising that they are party to open discussion and debate of the issues. Conflicting interests were aired, but there was no immediate solution evident. The most sensible thing was to find out all the facts of the case and state them as clearly as possible. A survey is to be carried out and the results discussed. The most appropriate forum for this discussion has not yet been indicated - the Saltaire Project Team, a further meeting with residents or some other arrangement.

Let's hope that the process will continue to be as transparent and open as it has been to date, that anxious residents are kept informed of progress, and that a solution be found which satisfies the able bodied and disabled residents as well as the Community Housing Trust and the Council. *Roger Clarke*

CAR CLUB "ALMOST READY"

Many people in Saltaire will remember hearing about the idea of a car club early last year, writes **Simon Parker**.

A car club is a system of shared cars that you can access any time you like without all the costs and hassle of having to own a car yourself. Every car club vehicle created means that at least seven older cars are taken off the road. This means that parking becomes easier, congestion is reduced and air quality increases.

Car clubs are very simple to operate. Whenever you decide you need a car just go online or get on the phone to reserve one. At your booked time, you walk to the car, open it with your smartcard, and drive away. You then pay for the hourly use of the car with a small charge for mileage. All the usual costs of insurance, tax, repairs, servicing, MOT's, tyres etc are all covered in this hourly charge.

The response to a survey in Saltaire, Shipley, Bingley, and Bradford city centre, was very encouraging indeed, and we can report that a car club is likely to be formed in the city this spring. If you would like to learn more or register your interest, please do not hesitate to contact simon@carplus.org.uk

DAVID FORD'S SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

217 Bingley Road

Open Mon-Sat. 10-5

Late opening Thurs. till 8

New and second hand books

Event: 9 Feb, see below...

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FOOD, DRINK & FUN AT FORD'S FOR BOOK LAUNCH

Food, drink and fun are all on the menu for a party at David Ford's bookshop from 2 to 3.30 pm on Saturday, February 9th when children's writer **Liz Kessler** launches her latest publication. Philippa Fisher's Fairy Godsister tells the story of eleven-year-old Philippa and her new friend Daisy, who, as a fairy, is able to grant her the traditional three wishes. Believe it or not, things at first do not turn out quite as Philippa wishes. With references to modern gadgets and common problems, contemporary dialogue and illustrations by Katie May, the book sparkles with humour and fun. Liz, whose published titles include the popular Emily Windsnap series, lists sailing, fire spinning, guitar and "pootling about" in her campervan among her hobbies and is sure, like her writing, to keep both young and old entertained. Thanks to **Kate Christer** of Orion Books for this information. kate.christer@orionbooks.co.uk

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The Saltaire Sentinel

MORE - NOTICES - NEWS - ANNOUNCEMENTS - NEWS - NOTICES - MORE

SALTAIRE VILLAGE WEBSITE

The webmaster writes: An important recent addition to the website has been an on-line letter of objection, kindly written by **Mark Taylor-Batty** of Saltaire Village Society, to the bypass plans championed by Cllr. **Anne Hawkesworth** and other misguided officials. Cllr. Hawkesworth seems to think it's a great idea to support the plan of a single-carriage road through the Leeds/Liverpool Canal conservation area, running alongside woodland designated 'Ancient and Semi-Natural', a road which would tunnel under Shipley town centre and Saltaire Village. Would it solve the traffic problem? No! What these pesky councillors don't seem to get is that Saltaire is a designated World Heritage Site, and has been designated as such because it must be PROTECTED and PRESERVED. Decisions like tunnelling under it, damaging the environment, ruining views, increasing noise pollution should not be left to local officials. Who do they think they are? These councillors, MPs and planners are complacent and must get their heads round the fact that a World Heritage Site is not just a local concern because it has a recognised value to the world and future generations. It has to be said that others, like **Martin Love** of the Green Party, already know this. The local, the here-and-the-now, the quick fix, is too short sighted. Even the feasibility study is such a waste of money. Who is benefiting from that exercise? Not the rate payer, that's for sure. So, if you feel motivated to let these really thoughtless officials know that you don't approve of this current bypass plan, email **Anne Hawkesworth** anne.hawkesworth@bradford.gov.uk or fill in and fire off the on-line form to her, found on the website. **Pamela Reynolds** www.saltairevillage.info

SHIPLEY RETIRED MEN'S FORUM

Meetings, with a guest speaker, on alternate Wednesdays in Shipley Library at 10.15am
New members welcome
591745

SALTAIRE CRICKET CLUB

is holding weekly 2 hour sessions of cricket training for children under the age of 14 at Bingley Grammar School Sports Centre on Sunday afternoons (4pm to 6pm) until Easter. Cost per session £2. New players are welcome. For further details please contact Geoff Porter on 01274 826177, email gnporterone@blueyonder.co.uk Further details on website: www.saltaire.play-cricket.com

CHARITY ART EXHIBITION

By **Paula Dunn** and **Steve Simpson**,

two of the artists who participated in the Saltaire Arts Trail

February 9th and 10th

in the reception areas of **Saltaire Orthodontics** at **No.4 Victoria Road**, generously made available by owner **Sandeep Sharma**.

The exhibition will raise money for the Candlelighters charity for children diagnosed with leukaemia.

CHILDREN'S CHARITY SEEKS CARING VILLAGE HOMES

Children's Charity NCH, looking to recruit ten new foster carers in the Bradford area, is running a special publicity campaign in the Village this month. Many children and young people whom the charity works with have been abused, neglected or not given the stimulation they need and many have disabilities, medical problems or learning difficulties. The challenging behaviour of these children sometimes means they have moved many times and what they need now is people with patience, understanding and the skills to offer a secure, loving foster home.

NCH gives excellent 24 hour support, ongoing training, 28 days respite per year and fees of up to £450 per week, plus additional allowances for the child. If you have the strength of character, determination and compassion, please contact Foster Care NCH on 0845 200 5162 or log on to the website: www.nch.org.uk/fostercare

CONCRETE CAKE STANDS, COPPER WIRE HATS KATH'S EXHIBITS AS ORIGINAL AS EVER

A new exhibition opens at the Kath Libbert Jewellery Gallery on 10th of this month and runs until May 4th. Something Old, Something New is the gallery's seventh and largest annual Alternative Wedding and Valentine Show, featuring the work of twenty jewellers and designers, many of whom celebrate the possibilities of recycling materials to create a wide range of unique pieces. Also on display are contemporary classics crafted from precious metals and jewels, including Edwardian diamonds, black diamonds, sumptuous Tahitian pearls and star rubies.

Or, if you are searching for that perfect wedding gift that is not to be worn but will last for years – forget crockery, cutlery and crystal vases – look no further than Victoria Kershaw's concrete cake stands! Victoria casts delicate, filigree lace patterns into the concrete, which are echoed through into the silver servers, giving precious life and qualities to an unexpected material. Meanwhile, in one of the Gallery's biggest ever collections for men, renowned Birmingham jeweller, James Newman, launches his new range of rings in silvery grey palladium – a lovely material that looks like platinum but costs less than gold.

So, says Kath, "Whether your heart's desire is to be pretty in plastic (or pearls), ravishing in rubber (or rubies), cool in copper (or hand cut diamonds), or to cut your cake on concrete – then grab your man, your mum or your mates and head for KLJ!"

For more information on the exhibition, call 01274 599790 or visit www.kathlibbertjewellery.co.uk for a private preview of all the new collections.

CONTACT SALTAIRE

Based at the entrance to Salts Mill. Wednesdays, 10am to 2pm. Come and talk about community issues. E-mail: contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk

CONCERT SEASON

St. Paul's Church

Kirkgate, Shipley,

Friday, February 22nd

An Organ Concert

By Stephen Mott

Friday, March 14th

'Pastime with Good

Company' (early music)

Concerts begin at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £5

Reservations: 595416

(accompanied under

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"Speeding? Not me, officer! As for parking, well, y'know..."

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Sadly, sooner or later you will dispose of this copy of the Sentinel. Please do so with care for our World Heritage Site environment.