

PRICE 5P. NO. 1. AUTUMN ISSUE 1978.

Kirkstall Matters



FORUM

FROM LITTLE ACORNS.....

In January of this year a small group of Kirkstall residents got together to object to the proposed development by Barratt's of the two-acre site at 54 Morris Lane. Their action was successful, and it was from these small beginnings that the Kirkstall Village Community Association was formed.

On May 15th 150 people attended the KVCA's first public meeting, the constitution of the Association was approved, and more people joined the original steering committee.

WHY DO WE NEED A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION?

Because, in short, Kirkstall is a community. The Association's aim is not only to protect our community from the abuses of property companies and the like, but also to enrich and develop the lives of all the residents of our area.

Our Association exists to:

1. Promote the spirit of community
2. Provide opportunities for leisure-time occupation
3. See that the gaps in community service are filled
4. To provide a community centre
5. Bring together the other organisations in the neighbourhood
6. Bring individuals together
7. Provide a corporate voice for the neighbourhood

And to succeed in these aims we need you. The Association is open to everyone in the Kirkstall area, regardless of race, religion, colour and the more people who join the more the Association can achieve. And remember, you can do as much or as little as you want to - just joining the Association will itself be an enormous help.

THE ASSOCIATION SO FAR -

The massive support given to the KVCA's first public meeting has demonstrated in the best way possible the fact that people are interested in their neighbourhood, and that there is a strong local feeling that our area has been neglected for too long. It was with these feelings in mind that several sub-committees dealing with specific issues were formed:-

1. Planning, Housing, Shops a) to work towards the improvement of derelict and neglected property and empty sites b) to act as a watchdog on proposed developments and building applications and to give opportunity for local views to be expressed c) to liaise as closely as possible with the city planning department.
2. Social, Sport, Leisure, Fund-raising a) to encourage the provision of sports facilities for the area and to reinstitute existing neglected facilities e.g. Kirkstall Abbey tennis courts b) to form sports clubs with special concessionary rates e.g. swimming, squash etc. c) to encourage and provide leisure facilities e.g. gardening club, drama club, lectures, discussions, outings, yoga, keep fit, playgroups, creches etc. d) to raise funds for the growth of the association, including the provision of a Community Centre e) to provide back-up to existing welfare services in the care of Kirkstall's aged, infirm, lonely and young.
3. Kirkstall Abbey to promote and encourage awareness of and interest in the Abbey and to push for better care and supervision of the buildings and their surroundings.

4. Roads, Traffic, Crossings a) to provide safe crossings where needed e.g. Abbey Road b) to ensure all roads and verges kept in safe and tidy condition c) for an efficient service in public transport.
5. Clean-Up Campaign to make attractive any neglected and dirty areas.
6. Newsletter to print a periodical newsletter which will report not only on Association events but on any matter of interest which will be relevant to local people.

CONCLUSION

A Community Association is as good or as bad as its members; a good Association brings together individuals, families and existing organisations to think and act together for the benefit of the local community and of each other. Actions by outside groups that are bad for the community can be stopped, things that are good for the community - clubs, playgroups, welfare services for example - can be started and all it takes is the concerted determination of a group of ordinary people with a love of their neighbourhood at heart.

The KVCA is open to all residents; it costs 25p per annum to join - money used to cover the incidental costs of running the Association. And the more people who join, the more the Association can do - for you, for your family and for the community as a whole.

NAME:

ADDRESS & TEL. NO.:

I would like to join the Kirkstall Village Community Association.
I enclose 25p membership fee.
I am/am not interested in becoming more actively involved in the Association's activities.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL.

by Liz St. David Smith.

First of all, THERE DEFINITELY WILL BE A ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL.

We are assured of that, either on the present site or elsewhere. But other possibilities, besides repairing and refurbishing the present building are being explored by the Church and City authorities.

Our school is a happy, friendly place which gives our children an excellent start to their school career. It is firmly based in our community and the building itself, though in a poor state of repair, is distinguished and full of character.

It contributes, by its very nature, to that important and unmistakable atmosphere of solidity, safeness and care. We, who know the place and who have been to the school ourselves; or who send, or will be sending, our children there; appreciate the school's central importance to the health of our community. We also see the school as a direct and positive link with Kirkstall's past.

We appreciate, of course, that everyone concerned with this matter, The Church, The Education Authority, The Community Association want to do the best possible for the children and the school. We also think that it can never be too early for the local community to be involved, to be fully informed and to be consulted.

We believe it is most important that there is free and open discussion and that the authorities carry out thorough research into every possible solution and their effects. The discussion and research must not be hurried though the sooner a decision is reached the better. Above all, we must show that we care.

We have decided to hold a public meeting on this issue. The time, date and place will be widely publicised. Please come.

KIRKSTALL MATTERS, Doesn't it? Meeting probably mid November.

IMPORTANT.

In spite of rumours to the contrary it is virtually certain that there will be no change in the location or character of St. Stephen's School before September 1979 at the very earliest.

THE LAW ON CLOSING DOWN SCHOOLS.

Section 13 of the Education Act. 1944 says that formal notice of intention to close a school, or to make any significant change in its character (which would include a move to another site) must be given to parents. This is done after plans have been sent to the Secretary of State for Education. The managers, or at least 10 electors, may, within two months, submit objections to the Secretary of State.

Those who have been involved in similar campaigns tell us that by the time formal notice is given, it is usually too late. Now is therefore the time for parents and others to be consulted and to make their views known.

KIRKSTALL DIARY

- Friday 27th October 7.30.p.m. Kirkstall Village Community Association Halloween Dance at Paxton Hall.
Exhibition of baby feeding bottles etc. at Abbey House Museum (until 11th December).
- Monday 30th October Schools re-open after half-term.
- Wednesday 1st November 9.15.a.m. Kirkstall St. Stephen's School Family Assembly (All welcome, especially senior citizens). N.B. This service will be in the Church.
- Wednesday 15th November Entries for Children's Painting Competition by this date
- Monday 27th November 8.00.p.m. Kirkstall Village Community Association Open Meeting. Subject and venue to be announced.
- Friday 1st December Contributions and letters for next edition of "Kirkstall Matters" by this date to the Editor please.
- Wednesday 6th December 9.15.a.m. Kirkstall St. Stephen's School Family Assembly (All welcome) at the school.
- Saturday 9th December Kirkstall Village Community Association Children's Party 2.00.p.m. at the Church Hall.
- Sunday 17th December 4.00.p.m. Christingle and Toy Service: St Stephen's Church. This is a family service. Please bring toys for N.S.P.C.C.
- Wednesday 20th December 11.a.m. Punch and Judy Show. Abbey House Museum.
- Friday 22nd December 11.00.a.m. Punch and Judy Show Abbey House Museum. Schools close for Christmas holidays.
- Sunday 24th December 4.00.p.m. Carol Service, St Stephen's Church
11.30.p.m. Midnight Mass, St Stephen's Church.
- Thursday 28th December 2.00.p.m. Punch and Judy Show Abbey House Museum

If your organisation would like its activities mentioned in this diary please send details to Chris Furniss 54, Morris Lane, Leeds 5 by 1st December.

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Friday 27th October
7.30.p.m. Paxton Hall

There are still one or two tickets left for this attractive function with bar and refreshments. Contact Pam Holdsworth (751548) or any Committee member. Help needed to decorate the Hall.

NOTICE BOARD

Mr & Mrs. Hardisty have very kindly agreed to accomodate a K.V.C.A. Notice Board in their fish shop window. We appreciate their kindness very much. (The Hardisty family have been in Kirkstall a long time).

Any individual or group wishing to display a notice should take it along to the fish shop, bearing in mind that we are apolitical, non-sectarian, non-racialist and non-commercial.

So keep an eye on the Notice Board and be up to date.

300 SIGNATURE PETITION

Mr & Mrs. Jones, Commercial Road Sweet Shop proprietors, collected 300 signatures (indeed as reported in the Evening Post) from pedestrians seeking action over the busy Commercial Road Junction. This petition has been handed to the West Yorkshire County Council for consideration. If you feel strongly about this please let us know.

RICHARD OASTLER - CHAMPION OF THE POOR.

Oastler was born in 1789 (the year of the French Revolution), in a house in St. Peters Square, Leeds. One would have thought that the City would have honoured this famous son by erecting a statue to his memory, but you won't find Oastler peering down from a pedestal anywhere in Leeds. The City fathers of the day however did call a block of Quarry Hill flats after him.

Oastler was a leading merchant in the City at one period, but by 1820, his unbusinesslike and open handed ways had made him a bankrupt.

He wrote to the Leeds Mercury newspaper on 29th September, 1830, and his letter was published the following week:-

Gentlemen,

Thousands of our fellow creatures, the miserable inhabitants of a Yorkshire town (Yorkshire was represented in Parliament by the giant anti-slavery Principles) are at this very moment existing in a state of slavery. These innocent creatures draw out unpitied their short but miserable existence in a place famed for its profession of religious zeal, whose inhabitants are everformost in protesting 'temperance' and 'reformation'... compelled, not by the cruel whip of the slave driver, but by the dread of the equally appalling thong or strap of the overlooker, to hasten, half dressed, to those magazines of British infantile slavery - the Horsted Hills in the town and neighbourhood of Bradford!!

Thousands of little children - both male and female, but principally female from seven to fourteen years of age, are daily compelled to labour from six o'clock in the morning to seven o'clock in the evening, with only - Britons! blush while you read it, with only thirty minutes allowed for eating and recreation.

If I have succeeded in calling the attention of your readers to the horrid and abominable system on which the Horsted Hills in and near Bradford are conducted, I have done some good.

I remain, yours etc.,

Richard Oastler.

The above contribution was given by Arthur Mason, and there will be more information about Richard Oastler in the next news letter.

DID YOU KNOW

Contributed by Norman Mason and others

Nearly 1000 years ago, Seleth, a shepherd, with religious inclinations established a hermitage roughly on the spot where the Abbey now stands.

Kirkstall Abbey is said to have been founded on the 19th May 1152.

It has been said that Kirkstall Abbey produced not one single man of any distinction, nor is the world better for one single thing the monastery is known to have originated. (Historians, please contradict).

On 27th January 1779 two sides of the Abbey tower collapsed. Several little smoking pipes were found embedded in the mortar. From this some argue that smoking was practised in England before its introduction by Raleigh and others in the reign of Elizabeth I.

In January 1806, George Hey, a Kirkstall fortune-teller, announced that, on Whit Monday the same year, the world "would be destroyed by torrents of fire.

Kirkstall St Stephen's Church was consecrated on the 25th September 1829. It had been built at a cost of £3240 16s 4d - less than the estimate!

On 29th April 1833 a brilliant flash of lightning, followed by a terrible peal of thunder struck the spire and tower of St. Stephen's Church. A large part of the spire collapsed and an enormous piece of asonry was hurled a considerable distance. Nobody seems to have been hurt.

Isabella Fawcett Holgate, writing to Ambrose Butler (of Kirkstall Forge) at the time of Queen Victoria's Coronation in 1838 said, "I never felt so little inclined to be loyal. My enthusiasm is at zero". Subsequently, the couple married, living, for a time, at the Hark to Rover Cottages. No doubt marriage and the passage of time induced a respectable monarchism.

The legend of a secret passage at Kirkstall Abbey may be of 20th Century origin. It is referred to in an American novel, Beatrix of Clare by J.R. Scott, published in 1907. This is said to be a fine novel in which a sinister Abbott of Kirkstall is an important character. Perhaps not as fine a book but of great local interest is another historical novel, The Abbott of Kirkstall by Colonel T. Walker Harding. This was published in 1926. Colonel Harding, who, lived in Vesper Road, was a swashbuckling character and largely responsible for the creation of Leeds Art Gallery. His novel may still be found reasonably cheaply.

MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to report that we now have 156 paid up members. We welcome more so please encourage others to join. Anyone wishing to join please take 25p to Mrs. Elsie Skene 2, Vesper Walk or ring any committee member for someone to collect. Remember we are having an open meeting on Monday 27th November, subject and venue to be announced. New members, please give name and address.

POEM

The Abbey Inn closed
Down
Before my
Time. It
Was
Not very
Inspiring from outside
But the regulars must have
Been
A bit put out

ANON.

ABBEY GORSE

L.P.C. of Pudsey have again submitted plans. This time for 20 detached houses. The plans may be inspected at the Planning Department, Merrion House Application No. 78/26/00908 Ref. No. A4/jpw/847418/550 Interested persons should submit their own comments to Room 2W, Merrion House, Merrion Way, Leeds 2 by 3rd November. The planning sub-committee will be preparing its own representations and those who would like to come to a meeting at which these will be discussed, please contact Chris Furniss (751266)

CHILDREN'S PAGE

We hope to devote this page to our younger readers every issue. Why not write to the Editor (36, Station Parade, Leeds 5) with your stories, poems, articles etc. or just tell him what you think of this magazine. All suggestions for activities will be looked into.

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Children's Painting Competition.

Bored at Half-term?
Enter our painting competition.
A prize will be awarded in each of these categories;
Any age- Paint the Abbey.
Under ten- My School.
Under five- Any subject.

* * * * *
* Doctor, Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a goat. *
* How long have you had this feeling? *
* Ever since I was a kid. *
* Who invented vulgar fractions? *
* Henry the 8. *

Why not use the back of this page for your entry/entries?

** * * * *

Submit as many as you like. No more than one prize per person. Under fives can use pencil, crayon etc. Write your name, address, age on the back.
Send to The Editor,
Kirkstall Matters, NO LATER THAN WED. 15TH. NOVEMBER.
36, Station Parade,
Leeds 5.

Winners to be announced in the next issue. We hope to exhibit all the entries at our Childrens Party, after which they will be returned.

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Children's Christmas Party.

We are holding a party for all children in the area. Age 3 to 10.
SATURDAY 9TH. DECEMBER 2pm to 5pm. at ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH HALL.
Details elsewhere in this magazine. Tickets from Pam Holdsworth. 751548.
First come first served.

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Children's Pantomime Visit.

Advance notice of Pantomime visit to the Civic Theatre to see Humpty Dumpty between 16th. and 20th. Jan. Adults 70p. Children 40p.
If enough people are interested we can hire a coach. Watch out for details on our Fish shop notice board and in the next newsletter. Book with Pam Holdsworth.

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For our younger readers.

Algie met a bear.
The bear was hungry.
The bear grew bulgy.
The bulge was Algie.

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear.
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair.
So, Fuzzy Wuzzy was'nt fuzzy, was he.

"Who's that tickling my back?" said the wall.
"Me," said a small caterpillar.
"I'm learning to crawl."

Naming fingers.
Tommy Thumb, Peter Pointer, Toby Tall, Ruby Ring, Sammy Small.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY.

All children between the ages of 3 and 10 years are welcome to come to a party on December 9th. at St. Stephens Church Hall from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. The price will be 20p per child.

The afternoon's entertainments will include a Puppet show, films, games, food, and a visit from Father Christmas himself!

Please contact Pam Holdsworth, 41 Vesper Road, Tel. 751548 before November 22nd. if your child would like to come, or if you would like to help in any way.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS.

It is hoped to provide Christmas parcels for some Senior Citizens in the area.

Doctors and Churches will be approached, but if you know of anyone who needs to be remembered at Christmas, please let me know.

We shall be giving the usual gifts of food, so all donations will be gratefully received. However, I thought it would be nice to add a small present too. So do you have any scarves, gloves, handkerchiefs, soap, talc, ornaments, books, etc., that could be given as an extra gift?.

Please contact Pam Holdsworth with all names, gifts, and ideas.

SWIMMING CLUB.

Many people have shown an interest in forming a swimming club. Contacts have been made with Lawnswood School and the swimming pool has been provisionally booked for Friday nights from 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

This would obviously be a good opportunity for some weekly exercise, or to teach the children to swim, or just for leisure purposes.

Unfortunately, we have met a serious problem - two qualified lifesavers, i.e. Bronze Medallion, must be present at all times! Can you offer your services or any suggestions to form a rota so that the swimming club can be implemented?.

Please contact Pam Holdsworth as soon as possible.

DRAMA

GROUP.

A great many people are interested in forming a Drama Group of some description, but as yet, no action has been taken due to the lack of a meeting place. A private house would suffice at first, although larger premises might be needed later.

We also need someone to help form and lead the group. Can anyone make any suggestions so that this activity can be launched? If so, please contact Pam Holdsworth for information and names of other interested persons

SOCIAL, FUNDRAISING AND SPORTS REPORT.

Being relatively new, we are full of ideas and plans but have little practical experience. But, as always, if we don't try, we can't learn and succeed.

What are we trying to do? As individuals, we all hope for improved surroundings and better facilities, but as a community, we can work towards these aims.

What must we do first? Well apart from obvious problems involving the Abbey, derelict property, shops and traffic, our first job is to create a community spirit and awareness. This can only be achieved by providing a means of meeting each other.

Having road so far, you may be wondering, well, what are they actually doing? Did you know that we raised £238.00 at a Summer Fayre in July? Or that a Jumble Sale in September raised approximately £57.00? With some of this money we hope to subsidise an excellent Christmas Party for the Children of the area, and also to give some Senior Citizens a Christmas Parcel.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of Swimming Clubs and Drama Groups. Well, how about a Summer Gala next year, a tennis club, a pantomime visit or a gardening club? It all depends on you and what the community wants.

The Halloween dance will be an ideal occasion for us all to meet socially, so please support this venture.

Anyone with ideas or practical help is extremely welcome, so please contact me on Leeds 751548.

Pam Holdsworth.

Quotation: 'Those who have for long been good advocates are not afterwards on that account the better judges.'

Descartes.

Puzzle: There is a word of six letters, the meaning of which is made exactly opposite by changing the places of the two middle letters.

United

THEY SAY " NOT ENOUGH TRAFFIC TO WARRANT CROSSING AT THE ABBEY"

by Jan Furniss

After a request made by our Association, traffic and pedestrian counts were made by D.O.P.E.T.* of the County Council on Abbey Road near the Abbey. The results, we are told, fall well below the required criteria to justify the installation of a pedestrian crossing. This, they say, confirms the traffic count conducted in March 1977 in response to a similar request.

Two 12 hour counts were carried out; one mid-week, one on a Sunday (We know that the Sunday chosen was dull - therefore few people around. It seems that absolutely no consideration is given to spasmodic use, e.g. by coach parties, sunny busy days, holiday periods, the fact that the Abbey is a tourist attraction with thousands of visitors from far and wide. Still less do they take into account future developments such as the proposed expansion of the museum.

Quite apart from this the absence of a safe crossing may well deter people from visiting the Abbey at all.

We specified problems, such as speeding, parked cars and ice-cream vans, the bend, high kerbs. D.O.P.E.T. will consider lowering the kerbs to make them easier for prams etc., the speeding problem and that of parked vehicles have been brought to the attention of the police at Horsforth - and that is all!

We welcome your reaction to this negative decision. Do we fight for a pedestrian crossing, push for alternatives, such as a foot-bridge or subway, or accept their findings and do nothing? Please let us know what you think.

* D.O.P.E.T. = Directorate of planning, engineering and transportation!

LETTER

Sir, Abbey Road

Those who criticised the construction of the "New Road" 150 years ago were ahead of their time. Even they cannot have foreseen how, with the advent of the motor car, what could be a unique campus (of Park and Museum) is split into two separate units only reached from each other with difficulty. How long will it be before the planners put this road where it belongs namely under ground, in a tunnel? Thus opening the Abbey up to the village, creating room for adequate parking facilities and abolishing, at a stroke, the pollution, noise and danger of the motor car.

Yours etc.
Matthew Bamford

TYPISTS!

WANTED

The Kirkstall Village Community Association urgently wants volunteer typists. To help with correspondence with notices, and with this magazine. Please phone Jan Furniss (751266) if you are interested.

Brain - Teaser

Punctuate and make sense of the following:-

That that is is that that is not is not that that is not is not that that is nor is that that that is not that that that is.

KIRKSTALL VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

HALLOWEEN DANCE

PAXTON HALL

-

KIRKSTALL LANE.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27th 1978 - 8.00pm to 11.30pm.

SYNCRASOUND

DISCO

LICENCED BAR - REFRESHMENTS - TICKETS 80p.

Please do support this social function and help to
make it a success.

There is something to please everyone - a 'quiet' Disco,
a licenced bar, refreshments, and pleasant company.

Tickets are available from :-

Pam Holdsworth, 41, Vesper Road. Tel. 751548
Liz St. David Smith, 50, Morris Lane. Tel. 780218
Terry Cheshire, 36, Station Parade. Tel. 757638.
John Leyburn, 30, Station Parade, Tel. 787985.