



Silsden and the Battle of Trafalgar 21st October 1805

Silsden is an ancient settlement with a rich heritage of prehistoric rock art dating back several millennia and has also seen many changes as evidenced by the discovery of Flint axes, Bronze axes and a hoard of Roman Gold Coins in the area of Silsden.

Silsden is an Anglo Saxon name and echoes of its Viking past can still be heard in its place names such as Brunthwaite and Gill Grange - a corruption of Gilgrennes still in use in the 16th century.

By the time of the Domesday Book (1086) Silsden was an established large agricultural estate which continued to form the bases for Silsden's development for the next millennia.

By 1732 there are records of Flax being grown extensively on Silsden Moor to meet the demand for cordage and sail caused by the expansion of the Royal Navy. In this pre-industrial society many villages round the country supplied the ever growing demand of the largest navy in the world.

In addition to the need for sails and cordage, the Royal Navy also needed nails - some almost a foot long - to join the planking on the hull. Prior to the industrial revolution these nails were made by hand and in 1761 the Kildwick Parish Register records William West, believed to have come from the Birmingham area, as the first nail maker in Silsden. This nail making activity expanded to over 250 forges at its height in 1850 and was Silsden's main employer. However, this cottage industry could not compete with the mass production of the industrial age and eventually ceased in 1919.

HMS Victory was launched in 1765 and commissioned in 1778, seeing active service until 1812. By the time of the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 it is not beyond the realms of possibility that HMS Victory was made with nails and powered by sails from Silsden or in the intervening period had been repaired using Silsden nails and sailcloth.

Cllr Adrian Naylor

Planning

Almost everyone is subject to planning permission. Parliament has given the main responsibility for planning to local planning authorities. In Silsden's case this is Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC). If you have any queries about a particular case, the first thing to do is to ask the planning department of your local council. (**Area Planning Officer Town Hall, Bow Street, Keighley telephone Keighley 01535 618071**). You may also be able to find out more about planning law in your local library.

If you are concerned about a legal problem involving planning, the local Citizens Advice Bureau or a solicitor may be able to help.

Although Silsden is not a planning authority, it has the right to agree or object or request amendments to planning applications.

Silsden Town Council receives a copy of all planning applications submitted within the town just as a neighbour or person affected by an application receives notification. The Council will either look at each application in an appropriate council meeting or will delegate it to the Planning Committee (a sub committee of the Council) in a separate meeting. Details of when an individual application is to be heard by Silsden Town Council is posted at the Town Hall. Individuals directly affected by an application will also receive notification and if they wish to object they must contact the Area Planning Officer at Keighley in the required time frame.

Cllr Adrian Naylor

Silsden Town Council's main meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month; Planning and Finance on the third. All agendas and a list of Town Councillors are displayed on the notice board at the Town Hall.

TOWN CLERK

1 Oak Tree Court, Silsden, Keighley BD20 9QS

Tel: (01535) 218014

E-mail: silsdentownclerk@blueyonder.co.uk



SILSDEN TOWN COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER NO.3 SEPTEMBER 2005

Welcome to the third newsletter

It is with pleasure that I write the first report since being elected Mayor of Silsden. I am honoured to have been chosen and hope to introduce new ways in which the Town Council can represent the wishes of its electorate whenever possible. I am improving the ways in which we communicate to you. This is the third newsletter and I hope you like its new format. We hope to issue these every three months.

There are occasional surgeries held during the coffee mornings at the Methodist Church between 10.15 and 11.15 on a Friday morning. Look out for notices in and around town to find the date of the next one.

This year we are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 29th October at the Town Hall. This is for you to meet the Councillors on the Town Council, to have a look round the council chamber to look at the memorabilia and to have a FREE cup of coffee.



We hope to have members of the Youth Council, the Christmas Lights group, West Yorkshire Fire Authority and the Police. Look out for further information and notices around town and in the press.

Michael Elsmore
Mayor of Silsden

Finance

The Town Council is now in its second year of working with our own budget. We have replaced the benches by the beck, and have brightened up the three mileposts within the parish boundary.

We have been able to support some of the local clubs and societies and have set aside some of the budget to continue to do so. Our accounts have been audited both internally and by the nationally appointed Audit Office. These are available for inspection by contacting the Clerk.

We are still open to receive suggestions from you in ways in which the Town Council can work with Bradford Council to improve Silsden. Please contact the Clerk, come to a surgery, or use the "silden.net" website.



SUCCESS for SILSDEN YOUTH COUNCIL

2005 has seen the completion of our first project 'ROCKS & RAMPS'.

The building of this started in March and was completed, very efficiently, by BRADFORD PARKS & LANDSCAPES.

In May the Youth Council visited SWINDEN QUARRY to say a huge THANK YOU for the free rocks they supplied. This visit was organised by our Community Police who work very closely with the Youth Council.

In July we held the successful launch of 'ROCKS & RAMPS'. This brought together all the people who helped to fund this exciting project.

Now we need your ideas for our next project.

Cllr Pat Bottomley

Your Town Council is setting up a committee to promote Silsden.

The aims of this committee are not just about outside tourists but ensuring all people get the most out of Silsden.

We live in a fantastic community and we want to let visitors and new families moving to Silsden know about what there is to do, how to access local services, what they can buy in our shops and a little bit of history of the place.

Our first objective is to devise a New Residents Pack which will be a handy resource for newcomers, telling them useful information like doctors' surgery opening times, the clubs and societies they can join, how to contact the Council, and some local sayings and terms. We will be looking for sponsorship from local businesses and shops to cover our costs. The wider benefit of doing this is that it could also be developed into something for general visitors.



Whilst we are never going to be a major tourist site in the long term we can start looking at improving the signage, developing a town trail and applying for funding to tap into the benefits of the canal.

There are many fantastic groups in Silsden who are involved in areas like promoting the lovely walks in the area, or providing support for local businesses. We want to work with them to ensure the features and benefits of Silsden are known to residents and visitors alike.

Cllr Nick Garrett

Have you seen...

the five-page article with over twelve images of Silsden in the September issue of Yorkshire Life?