

THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE SOAP OPERA STORYLINES OF SALTAIRE AND BRADFORD...



Although the soaps are currently cancelled, that doesn't necessarily mean there isn't an exciting soap opera within your family or within your community...

Salts Mill had its own link to the spotlight in the 1970s, when Illingworth, Morris had ownership of the mill.

Pamela Mason, a film actress and Hollywood chat show hostess had acquired 46% of shares when her father died. For a time, Pamela Mason appeared to be content with the affairs of Illingworth, Morris, whose headquarters were at Salts Mill. She urged the directors to promote their products more in the USA and appointed her son Morgan Mason to the board. However, when dividends began to reduce and the firm needed to make arrangements with their banks to deal with a large overdraft, she became angry with the 'Yorkshire Directors' and appointed two further American directors. One of these was Caspar Weinberger, who was then campaigning for Ronald Reagan to be president of the USA.

She began a 'war of words' with the 'Yorkshire directors'. Donald Hanson had become chair of the company and joint chief executive with Peter Hardy. They were bombarded by faxes, telephone calls and media interest as the 'war' progressed and the media was full of stories about the raging board disagreements passing between Beverly Hills and Illingworth, Morris HQ in Saltaire.

In 1981 Yorkshire Directors led by Donald Hanson made a bold move and called an Extraordinary General Meeting in 1981 with a proposal to dismiss Mrs. Mason and her son Morgan from the board of the company. To the stock Exchange's surprise, the board defeated Mrs. Mason with her 46% holding in the company.



TASK: Is there a 'bit of a drama' that your family wouldn't mind sharing? Or do you have a famous connection?