

Sustainable Saltaire  
(A sub-group of Saltaire Village Society)

Sustainability guide for Saltaire homes

## Introduction

Although there are many great positives to living in a World Heritage Site such as Saltaire, one of the drawbacks is the increased difficulty in making home improvements that are in keeping with the image of Saltaire as a 'living industrial-era village'.

Ironically the way Saltaire was created would by today's standards be considered intrinsically sustainable due to its location, with over 1,500 jobs within walking distance of the village, excellent local retail, dining, drinking and leisure facilities along with good public transport links to Leeds, Bradford and further afield.

Where Saltaire falls short (if anywhere!) is in the energy efficiency of its housing stock when compared to today's modern houses.

Of course we all support measures to keep the World Heritage Status of Saltaire and consider it a price well worth paying to keep the village in the pristine condition it is in, however we still have to deal with the same problems that come with less energy efficient older housing stock as people free of the restrictions of a World Heritage Site do.

Thankfully over the last few years with improvement in technology it has gradually become easier for people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes in heritage sites, but often people don't know where to begin.

With this in mind, Sustainable Saltaire, a sub-group of the Saltaire Village Society, has produced this guide to improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of your homes in a way that is in keeping with the World Heritage Status of Saltaire.

They range from the simple to do to the not so simple and cover areas such as energy, water, and food as well as a few general suggestions.

Please bear in mind though, that we are not experts in the field and while all advice here is intended to be helpful we would recommend consulting widely before attempting serious work to your property, such as the Council's Conservation Team, Building Control or qualified surveyors.

For general guidance documents on heritage buildings, sustainability and energy efficiency you may be interested in reading the following documents:

English Heritage Practise Guide:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/pps-practice-guide/pps5practiceguide.pdf>

Alex Ross-Shaw

Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire  
v1.0



Government Policy Document on Planning and the Historic Environment:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1514132.pdf>

Sustainable Saltaire and Saltaire Village Society are community groups, made up of Saltaire residents, so all comments and suggestions are welcome!

## ENERGY SAVING

The first thing you should do when looking at improving the sustainability of your lifestyle and environmental impact of your home is to look at improving its energy efficiency.

Put simply, nine times out of ten it will be the cheapest and most effective way of reducing your carbon footprint and also your energy bills.

Below we list some of the more common and not so common ways you might want to consider improving the energy efficiency of your home. If you think of something we've missed, get in touch and we'll see if we can add it.

### Boiler

One of the biggest options open to households in Saltaire is to replace your boiler with a new, energy efficient one. Since April 2005 all new boilers have to be condensing A-rated boilers with an efficiency rating of around 90%.

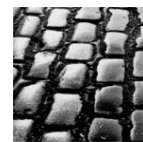
If your existing boiler is around fifteen years old or more then replacing it with an A-rated boiler could save you on average around £235 a year on your energy bills through improved efficiency alone meaning it could pay for itself in ten to fifteen years. However, it is expensive so you may be better looking at other forms of efficiency measures such as insulation first.

We have received further advice on boilers from the World Heritage Team at Bradford Council which we reproduce for you below:

*“Installing the latest generation of condensing boilers is not likely to require listed building consent providing careful consideration is given to a few key issues. Make sure you discuss the work in detail with your Gas Safe registered engineer before they order their parts and begin work. If you are in any doubt please contact the Design and Conservation Team.*

*Pipework: Modern combination boilers require hot and cold overflow and condensate pipes and a gas supply pipe. These should be run internally as far as is possible to minimise external clutter. Installers should apply the exemption granted to them in Regulations 8-10 of the Building Regulations Part L1B to achieve a minimal impact on the external appearance of the property. External pipework is also vulnerable to freezing in extreme weather conditions and live copper gas pipes are a known target for desperate metal thieves in Saltaire.*

*Location: agree a location for the boiler that will have a limited external as well as internal visual impact. Boilers should be located on the rear of the building on the ground floor, in the cellar or in the outhouse on most properties. External pipework can be very obtrusive so discuss with your engineer exactly where pipework will run.*



Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire

v1.0

*Infill repairs: redundant boiler vents and pipework should always be removed. Any infill repairs from the removal of existing boiler flues should be made with natural locally-sourced stone to match the existing and lime mortar. Ready-mixed cement mortar should be avoided; it is often orange or grey in colour and unsuitable for use with stone walls. For small repairs Tarmac's Limelight Heritage Mortar 4, is a convenient ready-mixed lime mortar."*

## **Cavity Wall Insulation**

Cavity Wall Insulation merits its own place in this booklet, though sadly only to mention that due to the age of the houses in Saltaire it is not really feasible.

This is a real shame as it is the best way to reduce heat loss in your home in both environmental and cost terms but as the houses in Saltaire were built before the 1930s when cavity wall construction became more common it's not something that can be pursued.

## **Chimney Pillows**

If you have an open fire but never used it, then you may want to consider putting an inflatable 'chimney pillow' up it to block draughts and reduce noise and heat loss.

They're designed to be tear resistant and also to allow a little ventilation to pass around the pillow.

A pillow should cost less than £20 and can be bought from various online stockists.

It is worth remembering that chimney ventilation should never be blocked up entirely as they help prevent damp and the staining of chimney breast plaster but you should be fine with a chimney pillow to help reduce draught and heat loss.



## **Curtains**

As there is a very limited choice of double-glazing when it comes to replacing your windows in Saltaire, and what exists is very expensive, putting up thick, lined curtains to help trap the heat in your house might be the next best thing!

Remember to close them when it gets dark to trap heat inside and keep the cold outside.

## **Double glazing (and alternatives)**

Double glazed windows both reduce heat loss in a home and reduce the amount of noise that gets in from outside (and vice versa) meaning they would be ideal for many homes in the village in the vicinity of Victoria Hall or one of the various pubs and restaurants.

However, due to the restrictions on structural changes to buildings in Saltaire for the preservation of its World Heritage Status the installation of double glazing in Saltaire has been severely restricted. Ordinary double glazing is not allowed as the space between the glasses is deemed too wide.

Nonetheless, there have been discussions involving Sustainable Saltaire about what, if any, types of double glazing might be suitable for homes in Saltaire village if they were in keeping with the look of Saltaire.

One issue is that the thinner the gap between the panes the more expensive the window is, as it has to adhere to strict quality standards.

Our very own chair, Rob Martin, had his back door replaced and was given permission to use Slimlite double glazed panes on the door, even though Slimlite windows were previously dismissed as unsuitable for general windows.

We contacted the council about the current situation regarding double glazing and they provided us with the following advice:

*“Slim profile double glazing units of 10-12mm thickness will normally be permitted on Grade II listed homes in Saltaire providing the following conditions are satisfied.*

*1 The windows to be replaced do not contribute to the significance of the listed building i.e. the windows to be replaced are of a modern design or are replica sash windows installed since the property was listed.*

*2 The replacement double-glazed window authentically replicates the traditional patterns found in Saltaire.*

*An application for listed building consent will always be needed to replace any window with a double-glazed sash window. A sample section of window may need to be provided if your joiner has not previously made a double-glazed sash for installation in Saltaire. Listed building consent is also needed to retro-fit double-glazed units to existing windows.*

*Many slim profile double-glazed units contain inert gasses, the manufacture of which results in significant CO2 emissions. Homeowners may wish to consult the following report commissioned by Edinburgh Council to aid their choice of glazing supplier:*

Alex Ross-Shaw

Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire  
v1.0



<http://www.changeworks.org.uk/uploads/Double-Glazing-In-Listed-Buildings-Project-Report.pdf>

Bradford Woodworkers do most of the window work in Saltaire Village and you can visit their website here: <http://www.bradfordwoodworkers.co.uk>

For more guidance you can read a report English Heritage recently did on double glazing in heritage buildings by clicking the link below:

[http://www.climatechangeandyourhome.org.uk/live/content\\_pdfs/580.pdf](http://www.climatechangeandyourhome.org.uk/live/content_pdfs/580.pdf)

You can enquire to the council about double glazing on 01274 435319 or email them at [craig.mchugh@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:craig.mchugh@bradford.gov.uk).

One alternative to double glazing is 'secondary glazing', a clear plastic 'window' you put up yourself using magnetic tape, thus creating a window cavity to reduce heat loss, condensation and draughts without touching the structure of the windows or the listed building.

The only provider we've found is at [www.365plastics.com](http://www.365plastics.com) and has been recommended by The Times newspaper.

For older properties, particularly Grade I Listed houses where you cannot change the windows at all, this is the closest to double-glazing you can get.

Another alternative to double glazing is 'window seal', which can be bought at DIY stockists and in some general stores.

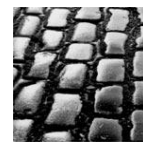
Window seal, sold by a company called 'Seal' is a transparent film of plastic you blow dry onto your window, acting as a mini-cavity and thus helping prevent heat loss as well as helping with draught and condensation.

Please remember that SVS make no guarantee as to the effectiveness of these products as we haven't had the opportunity to use them all ourselves, we're merely detailing what is on the market!

## **Draught proofing**

Draught proofing can often be a cost-effective solution for reducing heat loss when double glazing is too expensive. Installation can cost £200 (half that if you do it yourself) and will pay for itself in around eight years according to the Energy Saving Trust (again half that if you do it yourself).

It can take form in a range of products, from draught excluders to sealant and foam strips.



Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire

v1.0

If you do decide to install draught proofing measures in your home remember that ventilation is important, especially if you have solid fuel fires, gas fires or a boiler with an open flue.

Ring the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012** for free, impartial advice on saving energy in your home.

## Energy Monitors

Energy Monitors are often confused with Smart Meters (see below). For clarification, a proper Smart Meter replaces your existing gas or electricity meter in the home, an Energy Monitor attaches to your existing meter and provides you with real-time data on your energy usage. Some will also provide historical usage data over weeks and months.

This means you can see how much energy you are using at any given time and also helps you see how much energy various activities around the house, such as cooking or turning on the kettle, use.

According to the Energy Saving Trust, in the first year of using an Energy Monitor you could save between 5% and 15% on your energy bill, which would be anything from £25 to £75 on a £500 bill.

There are various varieties of Energy Monitors on the market so shop around before choosing the one for you. A basic one would cost around £30-40 but some of the more designer or specialist ones can cost over £100.

## Insulate your hot water tank and pipes

If you have an old boiler with a hot water cylinder, wrapping it in an insulating cylinder jacket to a thickness of 75mm can save you £35 a year due to reduced heat loss. A standard jacket would cost around £12, meaning it would pay for itself within six months.

Likewise if you have water pipes running through your home, lagging them will help reduce heat loss. Lagging your pipes only costs around £10, the same amount it saves in a year according to the Energy Saving Trust.

Hot Water Cylinder

Cost: £12

Savings: £35p/a

Carbon Reduction: 190kg



Pipes

Cost: £10

Savings: £10 p/a

Carbon Reduction: 60kg

## Letterbox eco-flap

If your door opens directly into your living room then your letterbox may be providing an escape for any heat in your room.

An 'eco-flap' is totally draught proof and also protects the inside of your home from the elements.

They cost around £20 so consider whether a traditional brush letterbox cover would be suitable first.



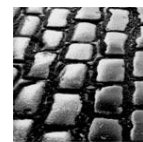
## Loft insulation

Although most of the heat produced in your home is lost through your walls, cavity wall insulation is not an option for houses within Saltaire Village.

The next best thing is loft insulation, as a quarter of the heat produced in your home is lost through your loft.

The recommended amount of loft insulation has risen over the past decade or so to 270mm, meaning if you have had insulation installed in the past it may not be up to modern depth standards.

The cost of insulation varies, generally if you receive any form of benefit you should be able to have it installed or topped up for free regardless of how much you already have installed, otherwise you will still probably be entitled to a discount. Similarly insulation is usually on a half price or Buy One Get One Free sale at DIY stores such as B&Q if you wish to install it yourself.



Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire  
v1.0

An issue particular to some houses in Saltaire concerns the loft hatches, which are sometimes too small to allow entry into the loft to install insulation. Again if you receive a form of benefit then the Council does offer a hatch widening service for free, but otherwise you will need to pay to get the entrance widened before you can install the insulation.

If you are interested in increasing the size of your loft hatch you do not need consent from the council but you should consult a professional tradesman to ensure the structural stability of the ceiling isn't compromised.

The guide below should help you to investigate your options regarding loft insulation.

<b>Figures taken from the Energy Saving Trust</b>	<b>Loft insulation (0 - 270mm)</b>	<b>Loft insulation (50 - 270mm)</b>
<b>Annual saving per year (£)</b>	Around £150	Around £45
<b>Installed cost (£)</b>	Around £250	Around £250
<b>Installed payback</b>	Around 2 year	Around 6 years
<b>DIY cost</b>	£250 - £350	£200 - £300
<b>DIY payback</b>	2 - 3 years	5 - 7 years
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> saving per year</b>	Around 800kg	Around 230kg

## **Light Bulbs**

Over the past few years energy saving light bulbs have begun to take many different forms. There are the 'traditional' 'curly' ones, LED bulbs and halogen bulbs.

Their early history is dogged with various claims against them, such as the length of time it takes to brighten, general dimness, causing migraines and so on.

Thankfully newer bulbs are far more efficient and powerful than the older generation, and the advance in technology has caused a drop in price for most bulbs.

This process will be speeded up as EU and UK government rules kick in banning old fashioned bulbs over a period of years.

The latest energy saving bulbs tend to have a much quicker 'start-up' time, becoming bright in just a few seconds. If you find you still cannot get used to the brightness but want to stick with energy efficient bulbs (which save you money over the long term after all) then you could always buy a bulb for the next brightness up, e.g. instead of a 60W equivalent, buy a 100W equivalent, and give that a go.

If you're willing to pay more you can also buy bulbs that mimic natural light if you find that the tone of the light is unsuitable.

In 2008 concerns were made that the fluorescent basis for many energy saving bulbs were causing migraines in some people. At the time the Energy Saving Trust blamed this on 'old technology' and encouraged people to only buy bulbs bearing their logo. Of course, this was three years ago and the technology has moved on even further since then. The fact the story quickly faded from the press and hasn't been raised since suggests that it is no longer an issue for migraine sufferers.

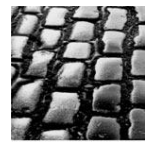
A typical energy saving bulb can save around 80% of the energy required to light an inefficient bulb so the combined savings in a single house can be quite significant.

Swapping two 100W bulbs used for five hours a day with their energy saving equivalent could save you £30 a year and 292kwh of energy. Given that the average electricity usage for a household over an entire year is 3300kwh it's not to be sniffed at.

So if it's been a while since you tried energy saving bulbs, now would be a good time to give them another go, after all – they'll be banned soon anyway!

## **Radiator Booster**

A radiator booster is a device that sits on top of your radiator and uses a fan to suck heat from the radiator and pumps it out into the room.



## Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire v1.0

They can only be used on flat-top water filled radiators, only cost around 30p a year to run and according to Nigelsecostore.com they can save you between £70 and £140 a year on your heating bill as its efficiency is equivalent to a two degree reduction in your thermostat. The new model is also more noise efficient, being no louder than running a home computer.

They cost around £20 and can be bought from various online retailers.



## Radiator panels/foil

Radiator panels are reflective foil panels that you fit behind your radiator. It helps pumps air into the room that would otherwise be lost into the walls the radiator is attached to.

They are proven to save up to 20% on your heating bills, but of course if your room is already cold then you won't necessarily save money – as you'll be making your room warmer, not lowering the radiator temperature.

A single pack of ten sheets costs between £25-35, which should be enough for four or five radiators. If the 20% saving is realised they can pay for themselves over a single year.

They can be bought from many online stockists, try searching online for 'Heatkeeper Radiator Panels'.

A cheaper alternative can be found at stores like Wilkinson's in the form of Radiator Foil, which ostensibly does much the same job.



## **Smart Meters**

Due to the confusion in terminology with 'Energy Monitors' (mentioned above), Smart Meters merited their own entry in the booklet.

A Smart Meter replaces your current gas or electricity meter and provides precise updates on energy usage to your energy supplier on a regular (often hourly) basis. This means you would not get estimated energy bills.

The government has committed to ensuring every home has a Smart Meter by 2020 and as this is part of a drive to improve the energy efficiency of households presumably they will come with the functionality to provide energy usage to consumers like an energy monitor does. Having this function would enable consumers to make their energy usage more efficiently.

## **Washing Line**

Although they can be a great convenience, tumble dryers use a lot of energy and can add up to £50 a year to your electricity bill just to run. They can be an issue in houses that are prone to damp, like in Saltaire, due to the extra heat and moisture they pump out.

Try putting the odd load of washing out on a washing line to dry during the summer - or hang them on a clothes horse if it's raining or too cold outside (though this won't help with damp problems) - to save energy *and* money.

If you dry them outside you have the added benefit of them smelling nice and fresh when you bring them in!

## **WATER**

With ever more increasing pressures on our water supplies, both domestically and internationally, reducing the amount of water we use is an excellent way to improve on our sustainability. Even better, with a water meter fitted the more water you save the more money you save!

Listed below are some ideas on how you can reduce the amount of water you use, a bigger list is available on the Water Wise website <http://www.waterwise.org.uk/>. If you think of any other ideas then let us know!

### **Install a water saving device in your toilet**

Installing a water saving device in your toilet is a great way to cut down on your water usage without much fuss or cost.

Yorkshire Water give away free devices that sit in your cistern and save a litre of water per flush, while Thames Water go one better and are also giving away Hippo Water Savers, which sit in older designed cisterns and save up to three litres of water per flush, and you don't have to live in the Thames Water area to get the freebie!

Follow the links below and apologies for the convoluted address, try searching 'water saving device' on either website to find the same page:

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/cps/rde/xchg/corp/hs.xsl/6672.htm>

<http://www.yorkshirewater.com/water-usage-advice/water-saving-tips.aspx>

### **Install a water butt in your back yard**

A water butt is an excellent way to reduce your reliance on mains supplied water for watering and feeding any plants you may have in your yard or home.

A space saving water butt will still hold 100 litres of water and only cost around £20, though you may need to rope in a DIY enthusiast to help you install it!

### **Replace your showerhead with a water efficient version**

For around £30 you can replace your shower head with a modern, eco-friendly version that will reduce the amount of water you use when you shower, save energy and even reduce limescale.

A typical water efficient showerhead can reduce water use by up to 75% according to B&Q while still providing the same water coverage. This is because the water is 'aerated', which means the water droplet is pumped with air that 'explodes' (harmlessly!) on contact, providing greater coverage with less water.

They are available from all good DIY stores and online.

### **Install low-flow taps**

One thing to consider when renovating your bathroom is a water efficiency tap. There are a few varieties, such as aerated taps (see our water efficient shower head entry for an explanation) or 'eco-click' taps, which have two settings, a low flow option that saves 72% of the water it uses, or the full-flow, which still saves 32%.

### **Install a water meter**

Although it won't save you water directly, by installing a water meter and paying for the amount of water you use you will be encouraged to save water to reduce your billing.

Unless you are a family of four or five the chances are you will save money immediately upon installing a water meter, though it's best to check on a water meter calculator such as the one on Yorkshire Water's website.

Water meters can be fitted for free and they come as standard on new build houses. If you install a water meter then all the water saving ideas suggested here will save you money as well as water.

<http://www.yorkshirewater.com/your-water-services/water-meters.aspx>

### **Shower-Timer**

A shower-timer, such as the Ripple or the Showerdrop, encourages you to spend less time in the shower by recording the amount of time you spend in the shower and recording alerts when you pass a set period of time. You can use online calculators on the Showerdrop website to then record how much water, money and CO2 you save by cutting down your time in the shower.

## FOOD

When it comes to improving our sustainability, food is one of the areas where we can have the biggest impact. However, it can often be confusing balancing out an ethical desire for Fairtrade foods with an environmental desire for locally produced or organic food. Furthermore, economies of scale mean that trying to buy food from independent producers is often more expensive for people who are used to paying supermarket prices.

However, buying food produced as locally as possible has wider benefits from the environmental benefits associated with fewer 'food miles'. A study by The New Economics Foundation in London suggested that for every £10 spent on locally produced food around £25 is pumped into the local economy compared to just £14 spent at a supermarket. This is from local businesses spending money locally that they have received from consumers spending their money locally, e.g. a farmer going to a pub or restaurant.

Organic food costs more as it is produced with strict environmental and ethical codes of practise that far outstrip equivalent supermarket produced food.

Therefore however nice it is to buy more 'ethical' yet expensive food, not everyone can afford to do so. Nonetheless there are still plenty of things people can do to improve their food sustainability and we have included a list of some of them below.

### **Saltaire Farmers Market**

Farmer's Markets are springing up across the country and Saltaire is lucky enough to have its very own, which is held on the third Saturday morning of every month at Caroline Street car park (over the road from Vicar's and Don't Tell Titus).

A Farmer's Market is a market where all produced sold has been produced within a set amount of miles from where it is sold, usually around 25 miles.

You generally find the usual array of butchers who sell more specialist varieties of meat than you'd find in a supermarket, as well as bakers and even soap makers.

The existence of the farmer's market does depend on it being used by the local community and visitors to Saltaire, so please make the most of it!

### **Allotments**

In the 1940s allotments provided 10% of the nation's food. With the rise of the supermarket and the decline in quantity and quality of many allotments the figure is well below that today.

Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire  
v1.0

However, the renewed interest in growing your own food and the health benefits of outdoor activities over the past few years has led to a resurgence of interest in allotments, many of which are now massively oversubscribed.

Sadly the allotments in Shipley are typical examples of this, with some waiting lists extending to ten years.

However, if you're still interested in putting your name on the waiting list for an allotment, you can ring the Council on 01274 434212 or 432247 to find out about the Shipley allotments at Caroline Street, Northcliffe Park and Carlton Avenue.

There are some private allotments behind the United Reform Church called the Saltaire Canalside Allotments, and again it is worth ringing to check for plot availability as new members can sometimes be accommodated through plot sharing. You can contact the allotment by ringing 01274 594797 or email them at [alisonallotment@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alisonallotment@yahoo.co.uk).

## **Green Roofs**

The 'green roof' is a concept that is growing in popularity across the country. The idea is basically that you 'green' your roof by turfing it or planting on it to improve the green space around your home.

A turfed roof can often act as effective insulation and many people convert the roof of their garage into a small vegetable or herb garden to get a practical use out of it as well.

Due to the nature of the existing buildings in Saltaire it is difficult to see how they could be converted to green roofs, however it is an attractive and sustainable option for new build in and around the World Heritage Site, as evidenced by Saltaire's first green roof which can be seen at the rebuilt Boathouse pub by the river, which added a green roof at the suggestion of Bradford Council's Conservation Team.

## **Land Sharing**

As part of the renewed interest in allotments as mentioned above, Channel 4 and celebrity chef Hugh Fernley-Whittingstall created the 'Land Share' website, <http://landshare.channel4.com/>, where people can log on and either offer or request land to use in growing fruit and vegetables.

Many people have large gardens they no longer use and are happy to offer it up to people interesting in growing food in it. Likewise some people have used as much of their own back yard as is possible and are now looking for a bigger challenge.

To use it you simply enter your postcode and the website presents you with a list of postings in your area. You can reply to any of these or make your own post.

So far over 55,000 matches have been made through the website, check it out and see if you can make a match of your own!

## Grow Your Own

There are many ways to grow your own fruit and veg around the home without access to an allotment. Rather than detail each one separately we'll name a few of the more interesting or typical ones below. If you discover or come up with a way to 'grow your own' not listed here then please get in touch and let us know!

- **Barrels and Planters** - Does what it says on the...barrel. Literally a plastic barrel that grows potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes or various other things, which you pluck out when ready. They cost anything from £15 upwards and are ideal for those with small or concrete yards.
- **Hanging baskets** – The old favourite but still one of the best ways of growing fruit and vegetables in limited spaces, I visited a friend once who seemed to be growing full size peppers out of theirs. They're also a cheap but excellent way in making your yard look nicer and are good for attracting bees if you put the right flowers in them.
- **Window boxes** – Perfect for growing herbs, which you can then dry out and store for use later, e.g. Rosemary or Mint.
- **In the cellar** – Less common but no less effective, try growing mushrooms or mung beans and other sprouts in your cellar. They thrive in the dark, cool atmosphere and can be a good use of previously unused space.
- If you have the space, such as in a disused shed, you could also try **brewing your own alcohol!**

## Drink locally brewed beer!

Since the introduction of an excise duty rebate in 2002 for breweries that produce below a set volume of beer, the number of micro breweries in the UK has more than doubled and the number is steadily increasing year on year.

In Shipley we have the Saltaire Brewery and Old Spot (Cullingworth), and slightly further a-field we have Naylor's (Keighley), Old Bear (Keighley), Timothy Taylor's (Keighley), Goose Eye (Keighley), Copper Dragon (Skipton), Ilkley (Ilkley!), Wharfedale (Otley), Salamander (Bradford) and Leeds Brewery (Leeds) to name but a few.

Drinking locally brewed beer not only benefits your local economy but also reduces what is known as 'beer miles' – the distance the beer has to travel before it is drunk.

Naturally the lower the 'beer miles' the more environmentally friendly your beer is – so get drinking (responsibly)!

## Compost Bins/Wormeries

Whereas the other items in this chapter relate to the growing or purchase (or drinking!) of food, this item concerns the last part of the food chain – its disposal.

Although only a few houses in Saltaire Village have gardens, there are still good reasons to use a compost bin or wormery to further reduce the amount of waste you send to landfill.

It isn't ideal, but compost bins can be placed on stone and still attract enough creepy crawlies to break down your food waste and wormeries are designed so they can be placed indoors or outdoors.

You can compost many things, from teabags to toilet roll as well as your vegetable and fruit peelings. Wormeries have an even wider array of items you can put in them, including meat and just about any cooked food. This is because a wormery is totally sealed off and as such cooked food and meat will not increase the risk of rats as a compost bin would. A wormery will also segregate the compost into a detachable tray making it easy to maintain.

The compost you make can be bagged and given away to friends who do have gardens and local allotment users would be only too happy to take it off your hands, or you can use it in your potted plants. Wormeries also separate the waste into a liquid feed that can be used on your plants around the home.

Visit [www.recyclenow.com/home\\_composting](http://www.recyclenow.com/home_composting) for more info on compost bins, or ring them on 0845 0770757. You can find out more information about wormeries with a simple online search or by visiting a garden centre. Both items will cost around £30 to buy.

## TRAVEL

When calculating carbon footprints, travel will usually make up a large proportion of your entire carbon footprint. For example simply having a car often pushes up your carbon footprint by a third. However our lifestyles and the way modern society is set up can often dictate the method of transport we have to use, e.g. out-of-town shopping centres necessitate a car to get there with any sort of ease.

Despite this, with the internet offering alternative shopping methods and an ever-increasing interest in sustainable transport there are options for the public to reduce their travel carbon footprint and make it more sustainable wherever possible.

Although this guide is primarily concerned with sustainability issues relating directly to Saltaire, with travel we have widened the scope slightly to include issues relating to travel outside of Saltaire, not just for commuters but also for holidays and general travel.

Below we have listed some ideas to get you going; if you have any ideas of your own don't hesitate to get in touch via our website!

### **The Leeds-Liverpool Canal/Airedale Greenway**

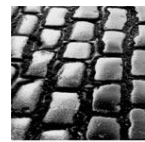
As with many towns across Britain, Saltaire prospered due to the presence of a canal which provided access to trade routes and ports on the coast as well as water for the mill to help produce the wool.

In many towns the decline of canal trade precipitated the decline of the towns themselves but today Saltaire has reinvented itself as a World Heritage Site and the mill still provides an economic centre to the village due to the presence of the 1853 Art Gallery and skilled employment provided by the set-top box manufacturers Pace.

The Leeds-Liverpool canal that intersects Saltaire is still well used by holiday makers as well as other groups, and plenty of members of the public use the canal to walk or cycle along as detailed below. The ability for holiday makers to hitch up on the canal for an evening provides an important tourist attraction for Saltaire and its relative proximity to the Five Rise locks in Bingley make the area attractive for people to visit in a barge or narrow boat.

Part of the canal was established as the 'Airedale Greenway' in 2009 to encourage people to walk and cycle along the canal by improving signage and providing information in minutes rather than distance.

The Council, along with British Waterways, cycling charity Sustrans and the Airedale Partnership produced a handy brochure highlighting the route along the canal and picking



Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire

v1.0

out areas of interests for visitors. You can download it by visiting the Airedale Partnership's website [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

One of the groups to still use the canal are Dream Achievers, who in the summer months offer trips up and down the canal to the public for a small fee, and at Christmas offer a trip to 'Santa's Grotto' for families and children.

The group will also cater for events allowing groups to hire a boat and team for a trip along the canal lasting several hours, for instance they ran a trip for the Interlude Tea Rooms, who are based in Shipley, which was open to the public and the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group fund trips for the elderly every year.

These events help fund the group's work, helping disadvantaged and disaffected young people learn useful skills in the healthy environment of the canal and the outdoors. You can contact Dream Achievers on 0845 2415497 or via website at <http://www.dreamachievers.co.uk/> to arrange your own events.

There have been plans to reconnect the canal to Bradford city centre, allowing the restoration of the canal bus that is still signposted around Shipley to the confusion of many. Due to the cost and the logistical problems of restoring previously filled in sections of the canal this is a long-term project but shows that the canal is alive and well in Shipley and the Bradford area and can play a part in the regeneration of the area and in its current form it still provides plenty of travel opportunities for holiday makers, walkers and cyclists.

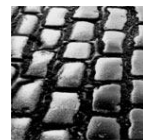
## Cycling

There has recently been a lot of work done on the Leeds/Liverpool canal that runs through Shipley and Saltaire by British Waterways, designed to improve access to the canal for cyclists and walkers.

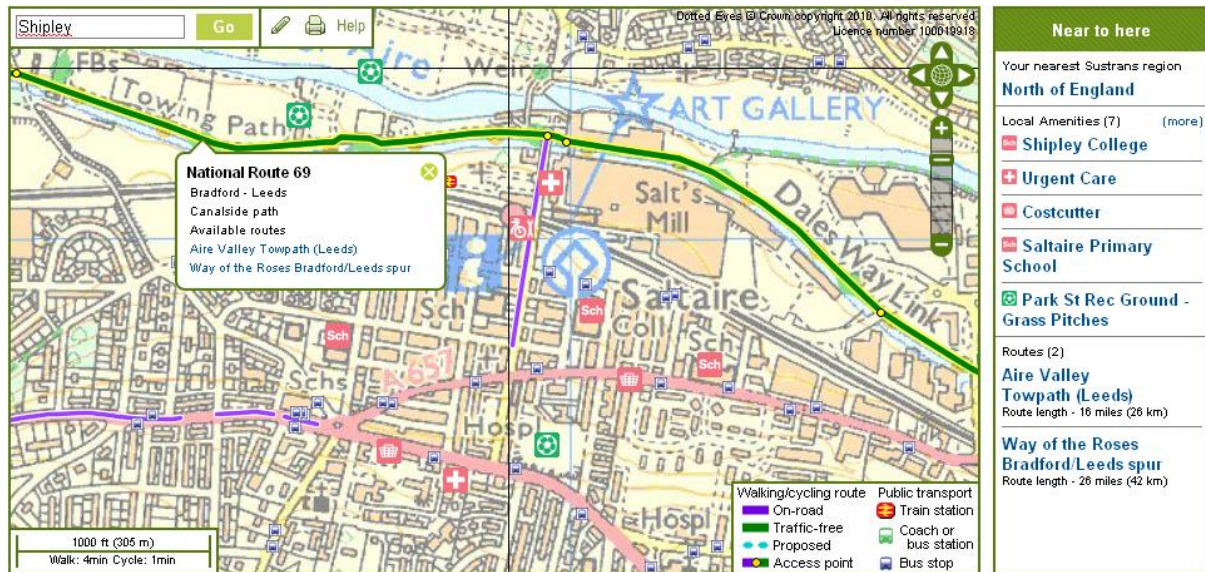
As you can see on the Sustrans map below the canal is an official cycleway (known as Route 69) and Victoria Road in Saltaire is an official link point. There are two cycle ways for Route 69, the Aire Valley Towpath (16 miles) and the Way of the Roses Leeds/Bradford spur (26 miles).

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.airedalepartnership.org/pdf/Airedale%20Greenway%20Map.pdf>



## Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire v1.0



You can view the map on the Sustrans website at <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/map>. Alternatively you can view the range of cycle maps produced by Bradford Council at [http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/transport\\_and\\_infrastructure/transport\\_planning/bradford\\_cycle\\_map](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/transport_and_infrastructure/transport_planning/bradford_cycle_map).

From Saltaire you can cycle along the full length of the canal, meaning a day out cycling finishing in Skipton, Leeds or beyond is perfectly feasible at zero cost except to the wellbeing of your legs!

There is a cycle shop in Salts Mill, All Terrain Cycles, which sells bicycles and equipment to get you started. You can visit their website at <http://www.allterraincycles.co.uk/>.

If you do want to cycle along the canal please make sure to buy a cycle bell to ring when approaching people to ensure they have enough time to stand aside to let you safely past.

## Walking

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century when Salts Mill first opened, workers from the Mill would walk up to Shipley Glen during their lunch break to enjoy the views and surrounding countryside while eating their lunch. It's a testament to Saltaire and Titus Salt that today people are still attracted to the area due to it's proximity to wide open green spaces that make for excellent for walking and cycling minutes from your doorstep.

There are plenty of local walks that can be found in various walking books, starting in Shipley or passing through, including walks up to the glen (also known as Bingley Moor) and over to Ilkley and along the canal in the direction of Bingley, Keighley and Skipton.

## Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire

v1.0

You can download a selection of walks from the Council website [here](#)<sup>2</sup>, and if you find some more walks available to download then please let us know and we'll link to them in this guide.

### Train

Did you know that Shipley train station is technically an international train station? Any station with a direct link to London counts as an international train station, underlining the extensive rail links Shipley and the surrounding areas benefits from. Trains run from Shipley to London as early as 6:30am meaning you can be in London by 9am.

It is also far quicker to journey into Leeds or Bradford by train (12 and 20 minutes respectively) from Shipley than it is by car and it is more environmentally friendly too. Quite often it will also be cheaper to pay for the train ticket than it is to park in the city centre if there is no free parking.

There is currently a campaign called taking place to reopen the Skipton-Colne train line, which would reduce train journeys from Pennine Lancashire to the Leeds City Region by reconnecting Skipton with Colne, which would lead on to Burnley, Blackburn and Preston. The reopening of this line could potentially open up Saltaire to more tourist opportunities and also provide more employment opportunities to residents in the area.

Furthermore there would also be environmental benefits due to the expansion of the train network, which is a lower carbon form of transport than car and bus.

The campaign group is called Selrap and it's backed by a large number of MPs, MEPs, Councils and other bodies. More information on their campaign can be found on the Selrap website at <http://www.selrap.org.uk/>.

### Bus

The 662 bus runs regularly through Saltaire from Keighley to Bradford, making it an easy and reliable method of journeying into either town or city. The 760 also runs through Saltaire to Leeds and Keighley, but takes far longer than the train – though it is free to pensioners with a bus pass.

There is also a direct bus link to Leeds/Bradford airport from the Shipley Market, which is cheaper than using your car and paying to park it for the length of your holiday.

### Car clubs and car sharing

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bradford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BDF1C30B-1268-43E4-B08F-8D2352E7EAC1/0/SaltaireAWalkfromtheTowpath.pdf>

## Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire v1.0

A car club is basically a way of hiring a car for short-term use, which makes it ideal for people who may only need a car for the odd-commute or shopping trip.

There will be a designated parking spot for the car, where it is kept when not hired out. When you hire it you pick it up and drop it off at the same spot.

Sadly plans for a Car Club to be set up in Shipley and Saltaire have had to be shelved by the council due to the recent spending cuts. Thankfully plans were far enough advanced that should funding become available the project could be easily implemented, but without funding there currently isn't a commercial operator willing to complete the project.

However, communities across the country have taken to starting their own car clubs, often using their own cars in the scheme. If there was enough demand for a similar scheme in Saltaire then the officers at Bradford Council would be more than happy to help set one up, so if you'd like to see a community-run car club scheme in Saltaire then get in touch. A car club scheme operates in one community in Leicester with just six members!

Meanwhile there is also a schemes operating already, such as 'Whipcar', which operates across the country on a similar basis. It's free to join and you can sign up as a driver or offer your car for sharing. A simple search of a database brings up results of all available cars in your area and the cost of hiring them per hour.

For a more traditional car share scheme you can sign up for free to [www.liftshare.com](http://www.liftshare.com), which operates on a simple car share scheme where you enter your postcode and destination and it tries to match you with people offering lists on a similar route. Given the number of commuters based in Saltaire the opportunity is there for it to be a very useful tool, sharing a daily commute with two other people could cut your fuel usage and costs by over 60%.

Whipcar details: <http://www.whipcar.com/>

Carplus – charity promoting car share schemes: <http://www.carplus.org.uk/>

Example of a community-run car share scheme:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/woodgatecarshare/home>

## Coach

Although trains are quick and environmentally friendly, they tend to be more expensive than either flying or coach travel.

Travelling by coach can be a good halfway house between finding a cheap form of travel and a more environmentally friendly one than by using a car.

Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire  
v1.0

It does tend to take much longer to travel by coach than plane or car; however you can find variants such as Megabus who offer cheap journeys that include a mix of rail and coach for a low price, which speeds up journey times.

## **Carbon Offsetting**

The concept of 'carbon offsetting', where someone pays a company to 'offset' their carbon emissions by investing in projects that reduce the equivalent amount of carbon emissions elsewhere, has been dogged by controversy from its inception.

One of the biggest controversies surrounding carbon offsetting in the early days was the use of tree planting as a means of offsetting carbon. As the life cycle of the tree could not be guaranteed for the amount of time necessary for it to soak up the equivalent amount of carbon, such schemes were criticised for offering something they could not promise.

Most good carbon offsetting companies now focus more on renewable energy and energy efficiency projects rather than tree planting as a means of offsetting carbon.

It's important to remember when considering carbon offsetting that even if you carbon offset, for example a flight, you are still releasing the same amount of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. The only difference is you're paying for emissions to be reduced elsewhere.

While this is clearly better than nothing - and many of the projects involved in carbon offsetting are worthwhile not just from an environmental viewpoint but, as in the case of carbon offsetting providing funding for solar powered stoves in India to replace dirty coal powered ones, also from an international development viewpoint - it should always be remembered that carbon offsetting is a last resort.

The first port of call should always be to try reducing your carbon emissions in the first place. If you do decide to carbon offset be sure to use a reputable company.

## RECYCLE

The recycling system in Saltaire Village is handled by the not-for-profit company, Aire Valley Recycling.

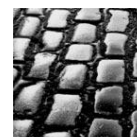
Instead of a recycling bin you have a recycling box, which is collected fortnightly, while your general waste bin is collected weekly.

For more information about Aire Valley Recycling you can ring them on 01274 586619 or visit [www.airevalleyrecycling.co.uk](http://www.airevalleyrecycling.co.uk).

Below is a list of items you can recycle in your recycling box:

- Aerosols
- Clean clothes and textiles
- Envelopes (not brown)
- Foil (clean)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Grey and white thin card (not brown or corrugated or egg boxes)
- Paper (catalogues, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, shredded paper, telephone directories (but not the Yellow Pages)
- Plastic Bottles
- Shoes (paired)
- Tetra Pak cartons

Sadly no household collection can ever recycle all your recyclable items. Below is a list of further items you may wish to recycle and directions on where you can send them:



Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire

Item v1.0	Details	Where can it be recycled?
Batteries	Not car batteries, which should be taken to a Household Waste Recycling centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household Waste Recycling centres</li> <li>• Shipley Library</li> <li>• Various stores and supermarkets</li> </ul>
Cardboard	Brown and corrugated cardboard can now be recycling in kerbside recycling bins but still not in Saltaire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household Waste Recycling centres</li> <li>• Some Bring Sites</li> </ul>
CDs, DVDs, VHS cases, cassette tape cases	All these items can be recycled, though sadly actual VHS and cassette tapes cannot easily be recycled due to the tape inside. However, all cases <i>can</i> be recycled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polymer Reprocessors will take these items free of charge if you post them to: Polymer Reprocessors, Peninsula Business Park, Reeds Lane, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 1DW</li> </ul>
Furniture	<p>Re-useable furniture can often be difficult to get rid of without sending to a Household Waste Site. Windhill Furniture Project will arrange for a free collection of your furniture, which will be sold on to families on low budgets. Alternatively the British Heart Foundation in Bradford city centre will take it off your hands for free, or you can Freegle it.</p> <p>Due to Health &amp; Safety regulation some places cannot take furniture if it doesn't have a fire safety tag still attached. For more information ring the charity in advance to see if they can take it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Heart Foundation – 0844 499 4183</li> <li>• Freegle (see below)</li> <li>• Scavenger (see below)</li> <li>• Windhill Furniture Project – 01274 593196</li> </ul>
Plastic Bags	Supermarkets usually have a plastic bag recycling point inside the store.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supermarkets</li> </ul>
Torn/Unusable clothes	<p>Many charity shops sell unusable clothes to the rag trade, ring your local charity shop and find out if they do the same.</p> <p>If they do then you can donate torn or tatty old clothing to the charity shop to sell on for recycling. Today's jumper is tomorrow's car seat stuffing!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charity Shops</li> <li>• Traidcraft clothes banks</li> </ul>
White goods	<p>Re-useable white goods can often be difficult to get rid of without sending to a Household Waste Site.</p> <p>Windhill Furniture Project will arrange for a free collection of your white goods, which will be sold on to families on low budgets.</p> <p>Alternatively the British Heart Foundation in Bradford city centre will take it off your hands for free, or you can Freegle it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Heart Foundation – 0844 499 4183</li> <li>• Freegle (see below)</li> <li>• Scavenger (see below)</li> <li>• Windhill Furniture Project – 01274 593196</li> </ul>

## Green Waste

Houses on George Street, Albert Road and Alexandra Square can now also take part in the Green Waste recycling scheme run by the Council. You can request a green bag by ringing 01274 431000. In the mean time you can use an untied bin bag to put your green waste in for recycling.

Below is a list of things you can put in your green waste bags, after Christmas you can also leave your whole tree on the kerbside for collection – presuming it's not plastic!

- Grass cuttings
- Hedge clippings
- Leaves
- Twigs and small branches (cut into small pieces)
- Weeds
- Old garden plants

Please do *not* put in:

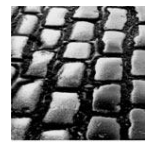
- Cardboard, plastic and plastic bags
- Food and kitchen waste
- Glass and metal
- Pet bedding and straw
- Plant pots and seed trays
- Soil, rubble and stone
- Wire off plastic plant ties

## Household Waste Recycling centres

The closest Household Waste Recycling centre to Saltaire is Dowley Gap on Wagon Lane in Bingley (BD16 1TP), although there are eight in the Bradford district.

They offer a wider range of waste disposal services to help you dispose of your waste responsibly. See the list below for items that you can't recycle in your fortnightly collection:

- Batteries
- Bicycles (Bowling Beck Lane and Keighley centres only)
- Car batteries
- Cardboard
- Cooking oil (small quantities)
- Electrical Goods
- Energy bulbs
- Engine oil (disposing of this down your drain is **illegal**)
- Fluorescent tubes



Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire  
v1.0

- Garden Waste
- Handbags
- Hardcore and rubble
- Paint (this will be re-used by the Community Repaint project cf. [www.communityrepaint.org.uk](http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk))
- Plasterboard
- Scrap metal
- Soil
- White goods
- Wood

### **I.T. Equipment**

Although you should recycle old electrical equipment in any condition at your local Household Waste Recycling centre, you can also donate your IT equipment to SavaComp, which is a not for profit organisation in Keighley. For more information call 01535 662089 or visit [www.savacomp.org.uk](http://www.savacomp.org.uk).

### **Unwanted Mail**

While it's always good to recycle, it is the last in the chain of green behaviour when it comes to waste. You should also take into account reducing the amount of waste you produce, and reusing it, as part of the 'three R's' – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

To reduce the amount of junk mail you receive in the first place you can join the Mailing Preference Service who will remove your name and address of up to 95% of direct mailing lists.

Visit them at [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk) or ring them on 0845 703 4599.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy is a vexed issue in Saltaire, due to the World Heritage Status of the village itself various forms of micro-generation are instantly ruled out, such as wind turbines and solar panels, due to the adverse effect they would have on the uniformity of the village skyline.

However, in general the approach of the World Heritage Officers at the Council is to take each application on a case by case basis.

For instance, they approved the installation of air source heating and heat recovery, however the project had to be scrapped as a local installer could not be found.

As ever with renewable energy, it's not worth thinking about before more cost effective measures on energy efficiency have been considered, such as insulation.

If however, you believe you have made your home as efficient as possible and think you have the potential to install a renewable energy source on your property then contact the Council officers. They actively encourage residents to submit applications and they'll do what they can do help.

The current contact is Craig McHugh, who can be contacted via email at [craig.mchugh@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:craig.mchugh@bradford.gov.uk) or by phone on 01274 435319.

The last government introduced a 'feed-in tariff', which meant you now get paid for all the electricity you produce in your home, even if you use it yourself. You can then sell any electricity you create on top of what you need back to the grid. However, in conjunction with this the grants previously available to install electricity based micro-renewables have been taken away meaning the initial outlay is now more expensive, though the payback period has also reduced dramatically.

## GENERAL

Here we list some of the things you can do that didn't fall easily into another category.

### Eco-Paint

As with many environmental products, eco-paints have increased in quality and availability massively over the last five years or more.

All paints have to abide by set standards with regards their ingredients, particularly after new rules by the EU came into force in 2010 reducing the amount of VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds).

However, there are still various options on paints to consider when redecorating your home, that are more environmentally friendly, lower in associated carbon emissions and even compostable!

There is too much information to go through in this guide, but should you be interested in using a 'green' paint (of any colour!) then the guide linked to below from the Guardian website provides a useful overview to get you started:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/feb/09/eco-natural-paints-guide-best>

### Freegle

Formerly known as 'Freecycle', Freegle is a free to join grassroots organisation where people give unwanted items away for free, as long as the items are not then sold on for profit by those who take them.

It aims to reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill by finding a home for items that may not sell in a charity shop or car boot sale, such as old computers, toys, records and even bath tubs and carpets!

The group is internet based and runs from the Yahoo Groups pages, so to join you need to create a Yahoo account, which is free. Once you have created the account you can join the group and receive emails with details of who is offering what, and also who is requesting what. Simply search for 'Freegle Bradford' in the Yahoo Groups search.

Items being given away are advertised by a post saying 'OFFERED' along with the area the poster lives in, a request for an item someone would like is advertised by a post saying 'WANTED'. To get in touch with a poster you simply email the person who made the original post. As most items will receive numerous requests you won't get every item you ask for, but if you do then you can arrange a way to pick up the item.

Alex Ross-Shaw



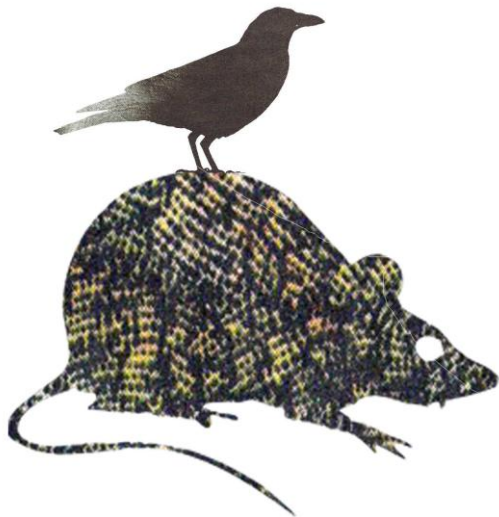
Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire  
v1.0

Once the giver has chosen someone to take the item they put on a post saying 'TAKEN' and likewise when you receive an item you make a post saying 'RECEIVED'.

That's really all there is to it! It's an excellent way to stop items going to landfill and is an excellent place of last resort if you think it won't sell in a charity shop (for instance if it is too specialist or they won't take it) and it hasn't sold on an online auction site. Do bear in mind that people who join simply to make 'WANTED' posts without offering items are frowned upon and you may be kicked out of the group.

For more information on Freegle, visit <http://www.ilovefreegle.org/>.

## Scavenger.co.uk



Scavenger is a relatively new website created by Saltaire and Shipley residents, Tom Wimslow and Steve Strange and is a welcome addition to the Freegle tradition.

The idea is similar to Freegle except the website format is more akin to ebay, with a search facility and items being 'auctioned' with a location, picture and count down before it is taken offline. The difference is everything on Scavenger is free.

We contacted Tom about the idea and this is what he told us:

"Scavenger aims to make it easier for everyone to pass on their unwanted things to somebody who would like them. By passing on to others items that are surplus to our requirements we can all help to reduce the strain on the earth's precious resources."

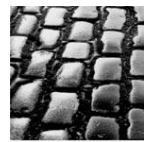
Since its launch it has registered over 400 members from across the country. Registration is free so it's well worth joining. The site will be revamped for the New Year to make it easier to navigate and use so sign up now before the rush!

Alex Ross-Shaw

Saltaire Village Society/Sustainable Saltaire

v1.0

You can visit the website at <http://www.scavenger.org.uk/>.



**Saltaire**  
Village Society

## **Thank You**

Special thanks go to Craig McHugh, World Heritage Officer at Bradford Council for all his help in making sure this guide was as accurate and up-to-date as possible. Any mistakes in this guide are entirely the fault of the author!

Thanks also go to the rest of the Saltaire Village Society for numerous helpful suggestions and support after reading the guide during the various stages of its gestation.