

POSITIVE ABOUT THE PARK THE PAINFUL ROAD TO RESTORATION

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



In this issue
**AN ARBORICULTURAL
EXTRAVAGANZA**
Plus
**HISTORY CLUB
HIGHLIGHTS**
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

ACTORS WANTED

Harriet Townsend has written a play for this year's Festival, based on research into the triumphs and tragedies of the 1860s. It has a cast of 11 characters, and she is particularly looking for two women, aged 20 to 25 years; one woman aged 30+; a teenage boy aged 14 to 16 years; and a teenage girl aged 13+ for a demanding central role.

Contact 01274 783846 or the Sentinel. Info on the Saltaire website shortly.

EARTHQUAKE FOLKS FEEL EARTH MOVE

An earthquake lasting 10 seconds and measuring 5.3 magnitude at its epicentre near Market Rasen in Lincolnshire was felt in Saltaire on 27 February just before 0100 GMT. Only very sound sleepers would have missed the deep rumbling as beds and wardrobes shook. Mrs. Lockwood of Hirst Wood said she knew it was an earthquake straight away. "We live in a quiet street, but it felt like huge juggernauts were driving by." An earthquake of magnitude five or thereabouts, will occur roughly every 10 to 20 years in the UK. The largest earthquake to strike the UK was about 60 miles off the east coast of England and had a magnitude of 6.1 [PR]

The recent tree felling in Roberts Park has left many people shocked as work to restore the park begins, evidence that the painful process of restoration has begun. Jane Travis of HTLA, the company responsible for the restoration plans agreed the park would look "a mess" for two or three years, but that it was important locals stayed positive and looked to the future.

The work has been instructed by Bradford Council who have yet to hear if they have been successful in their £4.9m bid to the 'Parks for People' Heritage Lottery Fund.

Tree felling is considered the first step towards restoration, allowing important and healthy trees to flourish, ridding the park of gloomy and overgrown places and clearing space for the magnificent views of Salts Mill to emerge again. The decision of which trees to axe was made by an arboriculturist, with the help of a public consultation on 3 July 2007, when people were invited to identify their favourite trees. Other trees will be planted strategically, pending the lottery bid's success, and the park will gradually recover from its current bleak look. Bradford Council have now sited an information post close to the iron bridge, so that visitors to the park can be kept

informed. Pending a successful lottery bid, new trees will be planted including several varieties of magnolia, Jelena, the Indian bean tree, as well as flowers, flowering shrubs and herbaceous perennials. Repairs to the buildings originally designed by Lockwood and Mawson, the architects of Salts Mill, will be undertaken, and toilets and a café will be added, together with a herb garden and games area. A Park Ranger will be appointed and the cars which have blighted the park in the recent past, will be banished. The pièce de résistance will be the installation of a beautiful bandstand with high-tech lighting, responsive to music, and with a terraced viewing area.

In the build up to the final bid for lottery money, Bradford Council's application had to show how much Roberts Park was valued by the community. The application was greatly enhanced by evidence of the community's dedication and enthusiasm for the park. In 2004, the Friends of Roberts Park was formed to promote and protect the park, the Friends working closely with the council and other interested parties, organising litter picks, and getting involved with tidying and planting. For the past two summers there has

been a programme of free concerts on the site of the former bandstand, organised by the Half Moon Steering Group, made up of representatives from Saltaire Cricket Club and other local organisations. The Saltaire Village website promotes Roberts Park and developed on-line questionnaires for HTLA to elicit feedback on the proposed plans, and also hosts the Acrobat files showing HTLA's development plans for the park.

Roberts Park was described as "one of the most beautiful in the world" and was opened in 1871 by Sir Titus Salt. Originally "The People's Park", it became known as Roberts Park in 1920 when James Roberts, manager of Salts Mill, gifted it to Bradford City Council. The park was added to the English Heritage Register as a park of "special historic interest" in 1984 though many of the park's original features have deteriorated or vanished from lack of care and investment by Bradford Council.

Plans to restore the park began in 2003 with lottery money enabling the council to appoint award winning landscape architects, HTLA, to devise restoration plans and assist in the application for further lottery funds. The result of the final bid will be heard this month, and success is hoped for.
Pamela Reynolds

WHATEVER IT IS – SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel*

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

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

APRIL 08 deadline: 20th MARCH

The Saltaire Sentinel

HISTORY CLUB DOES RECORD BUSINESS

A report by Dave Shaw

The most recent meeting of Saltaire History Club, held on 31 Jan, had a record attendance, with the two guest speakers attracting a packed house of history enthusiasts. The opening atmosphere was close to that of a Harrod's sale, as people arrived to hear **Cllr Stanley King** and **Mr Frank Senior** recall the years of production up to the Mill's closure in the mid 1980s. **Mrs Ilma Senior** was also on hand to add to the recollections, having also worked at the Mill for many years. Their presence prompted attendance of several more of the Mill's important figures from its final years of textile manufacture – including former Director and Chairman of the Illingworth Morris Group, **Mr Donald Hanson**; Estates Manager **John Collins**; and Dye House Manager **Mr Riley**.

A valuable collection of photos, gathered by the late **Mr Albert Bowtell**, has recently been kindly donated by his widow to the Saltaire Archive at Shipley College. The photos feature early scenes of machinery and workers at Salts Mill, and a screening of the photos at the meeting led to a well-informed dialogue led by Industrial Museum expert **Derek Bird**. The plan now is to fully document the collection.

ACCIDENT FAILS TO DETER BRAVE BRONWYN

A fall en route to the meeting which led to a broken ankle didn't stop History Club stalwart **Bronwyn Clarke** attending, before later heading for hospital. The very good news is that Bronwyn's ankle is now on the mend, and we wish her well for a full recovery.

The History Club's next meeting is at 7pm on Thursday April 17th at Shipley College, Exhibition Rd. For further details, see next month's Sentinel, or visit www.saltairvillage.info and follow the History Club link. All welcome!

Roger Clarke's SALTAIRE FOLK

Pamela Reynolds runs the website www.saltairvillage.info. She first visited Saltaire with her two young daughters, Claire and Elizabeth, in the early 90s. A few years later she met Patrick who had moved to Saltaire in 1999 and they married in 2003. Claire and Elizabeth, now grown up and married with children, have both moved to the area and live within walking distance of their Mum. Pamela's grandchildren, Erin, Jack and Daniel will have Saltaire in their earliest memories. Saltaire has become the family home.

Pamela became interested in computers at university as a mature student. She graduated in 1996 with a degree in Cultural Studies and Public Media. A couple of years later, after endless temp jobs, she was employed by YTV working on a variety of contracts, including that of project manager for an Ebay-like website where children could swap unwanted toys online. The contract expired but Pamela's interest in websites continued. Pamela's idea for the Saltaire Village website was inspired by the small town of Nelson in British Columbia, Canada (inland from Vancouver, just North of the USA border). Nelson is very appealing with its rural setting, attractive architecture and parochial main street. Saltaire was Pamela and Patrick's Nelson – a real home, a friendly place, a cultural treasure trove. After visiting the Nelson website, Pamela and Patrick received an email from Shirley and Joe Karasz who had grown up in Nelson, met, married and moved away but still kept in touch via the Nelson website. This was a shining example of how a website could keep people informed, bring people from opposite ends of the earth together and trigger friendships. Pamela was amazed that Saltaire didn't have an interactive website and began putting one together in 2005, incorporating the Saltaire Sentinel from January, 2006. By this time she had left YTV to work independently. The Saltaire website is a labour of love. Patrick is the perfect foil – an IT Support Analyst with great complimentary skills, keeping the hardware going and solving technical problems.

Many people now support the Saltaire website and make regular contributions. Local businesses are invited to advertise on it free of charge; there are tourist tips, picture galleries. Local news and articles are always welcome; it is home to the Saltaire History Club and the Saltaire Journal, which serves to publish new research on Saltaire. Anyone in the world is free to join the interactive chat board to post their news, views and comments. People write to the website from all over the world, and emails are syndicated between a team of volunteers so that there's always someone with the right knowledge-base to answer queries. And when something is published on the website, it's there to stay. The website is structured as a living history book.

The website has helped Pamela, who has had more than 30 addresses, settle into Saltaire life, feel part of the community and make friends. And Pamela and Patrick are still friends with Shirley and Joe from Nelson.

[Sentinel readers, whether or not they have visited the website yet, may be more familiar with Pamela's work than they realise: She is a valuable member of the team which produces this newspaper, writing articles (see pages 1&4) and taking full charge of typesetting.-Ed.]

HISTORY OF THE ALMSHOUSES

Part Two

Last month we looked at Sir Titus Salt's generosity towards his less fortunate employees. The story of the almshouses continues here.

Following Sir Titus' death in 1876, the 44 almshouses were left to Lady Caroline Salt (his widow), and Mr Titus Salt (his son) "for their absolute use and benefit, free from any Trust either expressed or implied". They also received a £1,300 per annum endowment to be applied "for the benefit of the sick and aged poor, for the time being residing within 3 miles from the Saltaire Institute". This residential condition seems to apply to the endowment and not obviously to the almshouses.

In 1877, the managers of the almshouses were concerned about the residents and their behaviour. In an effort to offer them more support, the managers devised a plan to offer the most needy residents a residential period in Salts Hospital across Victoria Road, under the supervision of the Matron. The experiment was abandoned after several cases of drunkenness, a number of insanity and one case of theft left the Matron in no doubt that other solutions had to be found. The problem was that relatives were just abandoning the residents, even when they became bedridden and incapable of caring for themselves. And more able bodied residents did not help them either. The managers reported that "the habit of activity and thought for others is lost, and the leisure of not a few is spent in gossip and grumbling". The more able bodied had other things on their mind, and the managers noted that "some residents have thrown open their houses for show and to solicit money from the crowds of excursionists who visit Saltaire on Sundays and holidays".

To their credit, the managers tried to be creative in their solutions to the problems. For example, weekly allowances might be paid to deserving poor persons (for a limited period) to live with relatives or friends. Or, subscriptions might be paid to Convalescence Homes (in Scarborough, Buxton, Harrogate, Ilkley and Cookridge) to accommodate residents following illness. Or, with residents remaining in the almshouses, two or more sick nurses might be employed to care for them.

Administration of the almshouses must have been an expensive and time consuming business. (Thanks to the West Yorkshire Archive, Bradford, for access to this information). Following these recommendations Titus Jnr. implemented them including allocating some of the houses to his active workforce. More next time...

Roger Clarke

The Saltaire Sentinel

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TREES ON VICTORIA ROAD

Last month we looked at the need to square the needs of the residents of the almshouses with the requirements of the Conservation Section of the Council. The important question posed was how sensitively the Council manages resident's involvement in decision making.

This month I'd like to look at another issue about which most residents are likely to have an opinion.

The trees along Victoria Road have begun to damage the pavements as they grow ever larger. Disabled residents and visitors find it difficult to get from place to place, and are at a risk of injury if they trip and fall. It is a health and safety issue. A further factor here is that in autumn the fallen leaves present a slippery surface when wet. The fact that there are numerous conkers around also emphasises that these are chestnut trees, which grow to be very large. They will get bigger! Who decided to plant such giants?

It's worth noting that the trees were not an original feature of Victoria Road. There are many old Victorian photographs which show clear pavements which sprout only gas lamps. There was a very open aspect to Victoria Road, especially when the old river bridge was in place, which completed this straight avenue right into Roberts Park. I have seen photographs which seem to be taken in the 1950s, where the trees are only saplings.

On the other hand, the trees are attractive and decorative, linking with the gardens and allotments to draw the surrounding countryside into the village. They are the lungs of the village, surrounded as we are by cars. And the present population of Saltaire have got used to them. They represent the village as we know it today. To change them would be to change the character of the village.

I asked Craig McHugh, World Heritage Site Officer about the status of the trees today. He tells me that all trees are protected within the Saltaire conservation area. Not just the Victoria Road trees, but even trees in your garden. You have to apply for permission if you wish to chop one down. Obviously, if trees are dangerous or decayed they may be removed.

In terms of funding, Roberts Park has the priority for improving Saltaire, and Victoria Road would probably be the next project to be considered after this. Further surveys are due to be held during 2008 to provide information which will determine whether residents, visitors and students/employees still see Victoria Road as a priority for improvement.

It's good to know that the Council are not rushing to cut trees down, but health and safety issues remain to be addressed.

Craig gave a word of advice however. Even if a survey indicated the need to improve Victoria Road, it will be a long wait before action is taken because money would have to be found to fund it. Just because the area is a World Heritage Site does not mean that money automatically follows. **Roger Clarke**

SALTAIRE JOTTINGS: Sale of houses

By John Collins

The vast majority of the residential properties in Saltaire were sold to Bradford Property Trust Limited (BPT), the actual conveyance being dated 6th. October 1933. The houses were built between 1851 and 1871 to the design and layout of the Bradford architects, Lockwood and Mawson who also designed the main mill (1853) and, later, the New Mill (1868) lying to North of the Leeds and Liverpool canal. The conveyance lists 964 properties commencing with:- Ada Street - 44 cottages Nos. 1 to 44 and ends with:- Wycliffe Road - 13 cottages.

BPT was a local company which was, eventually, quoted on the London Stock Exchange and specialized in the ownership for rental of domestic property which was unusual on such a large scale at that time (from the 1930s to well after the end of WWII). Upon purchase BPT guaranteed that they would not disturb any tenants and that the tenants would have an opportunity to buy their houses. The consideration for the 964 houses was £164,500 - about £170 average price per house. A copy of the conveyance can be examined upon application to the West Yorkshire Archive Service - 6th. Floor Bradford Central Library.

DAVID FORD'S SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

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Late opening Thurs. till 8

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KATH LIBBERT JEWELLERY

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The Saltaire Sentinel

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

SALTAIRE VILLAGE WEBSITE

The webmaster writes: Before the dawn of the digital camera I used to snap photos only on "occasions" but then digital photography changed me into an obsessive collector of images. Out of the thousands of photos I've taken, I have managed some half-decent ones. (Maybe the good ones are taken by my husband, Patrick - we swap the camera so much, we never know who's taken what.) I'm glad we've taken loads of Roberts Park. When we went into the park a couple of weeks ago, just as the work of felling trees had started, we felt bad. It looked crazy and I was sad to see my favourite trees marked for the axe. They're a pair - the small ones which flank the lawn just behind the statue of Titus Salt. These trees have given my family shade when we've gathered together to enjoy the park. HTLA, the company who have designed the new look for Roberts Park, organised guided walks on 3rd July to identify favourite trees but we were on holiday and missed the opportunity. Now they're for the chop. Today, I was walking on the path near the statue and saw new views of the mill, revealed by the cutting down of trees. It was lovely - so that makes me hopeful. I'm going to take lots of photos to document the changes and create a Roberts Park gallery on the website. From old to new...

HTLA got in touch a while back and asked if they could have some info posted on the website. We were the only internet site to organise the publication of PDF files of the restoration plans, and to create on-line questionnaires to facilitate the feedback process. To see the plans, go to the news section and follow the link from there.

And for eclectic news in general, look out for [sweeble.com](http://www.sweeble.com). This is a news website where visitors write the stories. It was started by ex T&A news editor and ex-Saltaire resident Sue Greenwood who was fed up of rejecting good stories because they didn't quite fit. The site is interactive and well organised and has tips on how to become an internet journalist. No qualifications needed! Don't forget that the Saltaire website welcomes input. Feel free to email with ideas and articles.

Pamela Reynolds

www.saltairevillage.info

BAD LADS & JUSTICE

In May, 1880, Arthur Spencer (13) of 27, Shirley Street and John Bower (12) of 6, Amelia Street, stole property to the value of 2/- from Crabtrees, Confectioners shop in Westgate, Shipley. They gained entry down a cellar grate, and stole 6d in copper, wine, ginger beer, keys, a hairbrush, a riding whip and a cork remover. They were later found by a policeman asleep in a hamper. Bower, of previously good character, was discharged with a caution. Spencer was regarded as having led him astray, and was sentenced to a period on a training ship until he should be 16 years of age. **Roger Clarke**

CRICKET CLUB NEWS

The Saltaire Cricket Club annual Sporting Dinner has as its guest speaker **Ronnie Irani**, the former Lancashire, Essex and England all-rounder. Ronnie is currently a presenter on Talksport Radio and is a very entertaining speaker with a wealth of hilarious stories.

The Dinner is being held on Friday 11th April 2008 at the Victoria Hall, Saltaire commencing at 7-30pm. There is an excellent menu and a bar. Cost per ticket £30. For tickets and further information please contact Geoff Porter on 01274 826177.

CHARITY ART EXHIBITION

Review by Rachel Nobel

It's not often that I willingly pop along to the dentist's surgery. But clearly I was in the minority, as the exhibition by artists **Steve Simpson** and **Paula Dunn** held recently in Saltaire Orthodontics was full of art lovers, all eager to see paintings by the two Saltaire residents. The Valentine's exhibition was held on the weekend of 9th and 10th February, with a preview the previous Thursday. And judging by the number of art lovers snapping up their work, there was much demand for their styles.

This is their first exhibition together. They came up with the idea after exhibiting their work at Saltaire Festival's Art Trail - a testament to the success of the festival in encouraging local artists to showcase their work.

Both of them draw inspiration from the local landscapes, although they have very different styles. Steve uses vibrant colours to create abstract, vivid pieces that seem to jump off the wall at you. His work has already been commissioned by local bars and restaurants as well as Leeds-Bradford airport.

Paula uses heavy, thick brush strokes to create imposing pieces, inspired by sights such as Pen-Y-Ghent and Baildon Moor. Her paintings often depict famous sites but from an alternate view - demonstrated at the exhibition most effectively by her imposing painting of Malham Rocks, which portrays the sheer scale and presence of the setting. The exhibition was in aid of The Candlelighters - a Leeds based charity which raises money for those affected by childhood cancer with 25% of all sales being donated to the charity.

It was encouraging to see how much interest there was - and how happy local businesses are to open up their doors to new artists. The village has long been associated with the work of David Hockney, but events such as this demonstrate that not all of Saltaire's art is within the Mill.

SHIPLEY GLEN TRAMWAY

Opening times over Easter: Friday through to Monday offering a spot the Easter egg competition, meet the Easter Bunny, the chance to win Sunday lunch for 4 at the Glenhouse AND free chocolate eggs!

Shipley Glen has been the traditional Easter break destination for Bradford folk over centuries. Come and follow in your ancestors footsteps with a trip up the Tramway, a drink in the pub and a stunning ramble along the rocks. Time to blow the cobwebs away!

Open 12noon - 4pm on Friday Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Please note that over Easter, children will be charged £1 instead of 50p to enjoy the competition and other Easter delights.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONTACT

CONTACT SALTAIRE is based at the entrance to Salts Mill. Wednesdays, 10am to 2pm. Come and talk about community issues.

E-mail: contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk

CONCERT SEASON

St. Paul's Church

Kirkgate, Shipley,

Friday, March 14th

'Pastime with Good Company' (early music)

Friday, April 18th

YBS Concert Brass

Concerts begin at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £5

Reservations: 595416

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my back yard!"

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