

Saltaire Sentinel

Hour Lion of

VIGILANCE

Published monthly

SUSTAINABLE STREET BIG GREEN EVENT FOR CAROLINE

*The paper
that could
only be in
Saltaire*

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

For the third year running, Bradford Council's Design and Conservation Team is organising a photographic competition as part of the Saltaire Festival. Sponsored by 'Jessops', the competition, *Inspired by World Heritage* offers £250 in vouchers to be won, including a

£150 first prize.

Entries, on the theme of the competition's title, should be based on one or more of the sites on the World Heritage list, which range from New Lanark to Sydney Harbour (and Saltaire!). Winning entries will be exhibited in the Village.

**The closing date is
September 8th.**

Entry forms are available at
www.visitsaltaire.com
or from

World Heritage Site Officer
Craig McHugh, tel.435319

Caroline Street will be suitably "greened", courtesy of the Sustainable Saltaire initiative, from 19th to 21st of September - the big weekend of the Saltaire Festival.

Areas where cars are normally parked will become small gardens for sitting in, some with gazebos to house a café and an art studio.

The idea comes from an American initiative at www.parkingday.org

MUSIC

There will be something of a "Come All Ye" in "Silver Square" (the site of the old Washhouse, where the old telephone box now is) when **Eddie Lawler** invites musicians and performers to "Come and make some music" in the Performance Corner, with "gentle PA", between 1 and 5pm on all three days. To guarantee a spot, contact Eddie by email at eddie@eddie-lawler.co.uk or ring 07891 254809 - "Or just turn up!" he says.

OPTIMISM

There may well be an atmosphere of guarded optimism at the event, which was originally planned to draw attention to local traffic

problems, following the promise of support made last month by Bradford Traffic Officer **Joe Grint** for a 20mph speed limit for the whole of Saltaire, regardless of what happens about the Roundabout, which he hopes will be permanently in place in about eighteen months. "We have come a long way in a year towards some sensible action," says **Eddie Lawler**, "I think **Helen Livingston's** petition, plus the fact that we got the MP involved, must be important factors here."

FILM SHOW

On the Saturday and Sunday, the offices of architects **Rance Booth and Smith**, at the junction with Victoria Road, will become an Eco Centre. The 'drop-in' event will include Sustainable Design displays, with experts from the firm on hand to give advice on energy efficiency in the home. There will be an environmental film show, and an Environmental Quiz with prizes and free gifts.

The Alternative Technology Centre and the Shipley Fairtrade Group will both have a presence and photographs of the winners of the Backyard Competition will be on display.

In this issue SCUMBLE

Plus

ROUGH AND TUMBLE

Plus

A GOOD GRUMBLE

Plus

ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS

MORE DRAMA FROM HATTIE

'The Whisperers' is an ambitious new play by talented local writer **Hattie Townsend**, which will be performed in Victoria Hall next month. As with Hattie's previous presentations, 'Schooling Miss Martha' and 'Challenging Utopia', there is a factual background, thoroughly researched and authenticated, to the plot. The eponymous Whisperers are ghosts from the past, who reveal what life was really like in the close knit community that was the Saltaire of 1860, in this tale of conflict and tension. The cast includes experienced performers, some familiar local faces and stars of tomorrow on loan from Bingley Little Theatre's Youth Group, 'Kaliedoscope' who have yet to disappoint.

Details next month

WHATEVER IT IS – SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel!*

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

Deadline: 20th

EDITORIAL

**THE ARCHBISHOP
AND THE WURLITZER**

It has been observed, admittedly only by me, that the *Sentinel* thrives on Victorian jokes. Unfortunately, in this case, "What do the Archbishop of Canterbury and a Wurlitzer cinema organ have in common?" is not one such.

The answer is that they both came to Saltaire last month; one on a quick visit to Vicar's Bistro, the other to take up residence in the Victoria Hall. Since the arrival of his Grace was not, shall we say, a "high profile for the press event", this newspaper will have the discretion not to disclose which was which. None of this, of course, has anything to do with the Saltaire Festival – unlike next month's edition of your favourite community newspaper.

So, to begin again: "I say, I say, I say, what do the Saltaire Festival and the *Saltire Sentinel* have in common?" Simple: They both began in 2003 and they both involve a lot of hard work all year round. Regular readers will be well aware that we take every opportunity to promote Festival events far in advance, when requested, especially when it is a matter of organisers appealing for participants or interested parties needing to book tickets and/or put dates in diaries. This issue contains several such references to the Festival; not least because space in the next is already committed to more. Typically, we will continue to concentrate on those events which are generated and presented by local people and are of interest at least as much to the community as to visitors. (Contributors are asked to bear in mind that space cannot be guaranteed and may be allocated on a "first come" basis.) Finally, on the theme of "all year round", the *Sentinel* does not regard September as a holiday from reporting matters not connected with the Festival.

By the way, it seems that the Archbishop was not wearing his best hat – but then you mitre guessed as much.

James Duncan

LOCAL CRAFTSMAN SCUMBLES CHURCH

The cost of restoring Saltaire United Reformed Church, which celebrates its 150th anniversary next year, is huge. Much credit is due to Len Morris and Roger Pollard and their colleagues for putting together comprehensive proposals for English Heritage Funding, but my focus on this page is to acknowledge the work which has already begun, writes **Roger Clarke**.

The doors of the church have looked dilapidated for some time and church leaders have had the sense to employ a local craftsman to rectify the situation.

Robert Whitaker, who lives on Victoria Road, is a craftsman of the old school, taking pride in his work and in preserving old skills. He is scumble graining the doors, recreating the effect achieved when Sir Titus first built the church. The tools and techniques are just the same as the original painters would have used to give the impression of solid oak doors. Robert uses a bewildering display of brushes and combs and even goose feathers, which are applied to the semi-opaque paint to form the grain of the wood. The painter's skill in Victorian times was to represent expensive materials at minimal cost, and so much of the 'marble' and woodwork in the church is down to their efforts. Painting and decorating was a prestigious occupation in those days and the tradesmen were originally dressed in black overalls with a white pinafore and wore bowler hats.

Robert's stories of decorators of the past are numerous. He tells of one old craftsman who grew his thumbnail especially long to use as a tool to get the effect of a particular grain. He also remembers an old man called Sandy, who specialised in sour beer graining in which beer was added to the water based scumble. Sandy was notorious for not beginning a job until he was drunk, and since most of his commissions involved decorating public houses, the means of achieving this were readily to hand.

Robert has been in the trade since his teens. Most of his career was acting as a consultant to large corporations who required specialist paint for large projects. He has worked on oil rigs, on the Thames Barrier, on museums, and numerous other Grade 1 Listed buildings world wide – and still found time to give valued support and assistance to this newspaper in its early days. His **Home Decorating Services** business (Tel 01274 591532) has been operating since the year 2000 and there are many examples of his work around the Village. Robert would love to pass on his skills to young people today, and is seeking a means to do this through involvement in education and training courses in the Bradford and Shipley area.

DENISE PUTS CONSIDERABLE ENERGY INTO COMMUNITY

Last month we reported that Mrs. **Denise Hibbert** had retired from the committee of Saltaire Village Society and it is now our pleasure to clarify that she is to remain an active member.

Roger Clarke went to talk to her again, especially for this issue of the *Sentinel*.

Denise is a born organiser, manager and leader, with a heart of gold combined with a strong dose of Yorkshire common sense. Many people will have met her through the Saltaire Village Society, in which she and her husband Bernard have been members since early in its history. Bernard was Secretary for a time. She continues her interest in the direction which the Village is taking into the future through her involvement in the Project Team which has an overview of the management of the Village. She also uses her administrative skills in organising the holidays and travel opportunities for the Society, with a wide range of activities and destinations throughout the year. She runs a programme of day trips and longer residential visits to places of interest all over the country. She performs the same role for the Lower Airedale Branch of the Embroiderer's Guild, since needlework is her other passion.

Denise is very conscious of the needs of the most vulnerable in society - the elderly and children. In the past she has linked the two by encouraging older members of the Village to share skills and experience with the young, and used to run regular Craft Classes at Victoria Hall. More particularly for children, she used to help with a monthly dance session for local children at the Caroline Street Club. Denise and Bernard came to live in the Village 40 years ago, and have brought up their 5 children here. They now have 10 grandchildren. Denise refined her management abilities in her professional role. She was a nurse for 45 years, 35 of them specialising in midwifery. She began as community midwife for Shipley under the old West Riding structure, but has worked as relief midwife in most areas of Bradford, as well as on the wards at St Lukes and BRI as Senior Sister. Her obvious talent for organisation led her to become Senior Midwifery Officer – equivalent to a Matron under the old system. She now watches "The Royal" on TV with amusement because it is filmed in her old office at St Lukes, and Wendy Craig performs her old role.

Denise retired from nursing in 1990, and has continued to put all her considerable energies into her work for the community – all on a voluntary basis.

SALTS

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ARCHIVE EXHIBITION

Open 10am - 3pm, Tue - Fri

Until August 15th

in the Resource Centre at Shipley College's

Exhibition Building, Exhibition Road

Featuring previously undisplayed

artefacts, including pieces collected by the late Mr Clive Woods and a very rare copy of a contemporary biography of Sir Titus, recently discovered in South Africa. Admission £1. Visitors please report first to Reception

Rachel Noble

Writes On Visiting Northcliffe

"Desperate" to make the most of a rare Sunday afternoon when it didn't appear to be raining, my husband I decided to take a leisurely walk around Northcliffe Park: The views from the park are worth the walk alone as you can see for miles -across to Baildon, Bingley and towards Bradford. The United Reformed Church, Grammar school and Salts Mill were all easily spotted, as were several friendly dogs all eager to come over and say hello. The acres of grass are perfect for dog walkers, as well as kite flying on a windy day. But we decided to go for the woodland walk instead. A few months ago, the tracks were surrounded by beautiful bluebells, but in July, with the endless rain, the woodland walk was decidedly muddy. Ever the optimists, we decided to veer off the signposted walk and venture into the undergrowth. As I skidded my way down a steep embankment and navigated my way across a fallen log over a stream, it was difficult to imagine that we were only a 10 minute walk away from Saltaire's busy roads. This year, the centenary of the miniature railway, kept running on Sundays by the Bradford Model Engineering Society, provides a definite excuse to take my niece for a ride next time she visits. On that occasion, however, we may bring the wellies...

CHALLENGING CAN BE FUN

Villagers have been getting fit in a fascinating, if demanding way in Roberts Park lately at 'The Bradford Boot Camp' run by local initiative 'Re-Evolve'. New participants continue to be welcomed every Monday and Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 9am. Organiser Joseph Rayner told the *Sentinel*, "The sessions are going well and many of the Saltaire residents are enjoying challenging but fun training and getting to know each other quite well. As such, the venture is going some way to achieving its main aim." The one hour fitness sessions are based on a military theme and use all the lovely outdoor locations around the park, and Joseph is keen to stress that the Boot Camp "will not only improve the health of Saltaire and Shipley residents but will also promote the social element," as there is a monthly gathering for that purpose. The sessions are set to continue throughout the winter and Joseph particularly wants to raise awareness of this, as the long nights approach, because the sessions "give an opportunity for people, especially women, to keep fit and safe in the dark". More information is at www.commandofit.co.uk Meanwhile, your first session is free.

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ADVERTISING

in The *Sentinel*

All the establishments featured in this column and the one opposite serve as outlets for this newspaper and are promoted on that basis. No financial transaction is involved. Enterprises and initiatives are mentioned elsewhere, as are events, in the context of their interest and benefit to the local community; not for the profit of individuals or businesses.

Please note that space in the *Sentinel* is not for sale but neither is it offered free for commercial advertising.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

The *Saltaire Sentinel* is available online, via the Saltaire Village Website, thanks entirely to Pamela Reynolds, who manages and maintains the site at

www.saltairvillage.info

One of the many reasons for visiting the site this month is the opportunity to help **Fran Garrett**, who is researching the effect on Saltaire of World Heritage Status and hoping that as many people as possible will spare the time to complete her questionnaire.

BRONTES AT BOOKSHOP

On Thursday, August 7th, **Ann Dinsdale** from the **Bronte Society** will be at the Saltaire Bookshop to talk about the famous family.

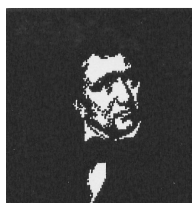
FUNERAL

The United Reformed Church was full on the afternoon of July 25th for the funeral of **Dr. Robin Sisson**, a well loved member of the local community. The service was conducted by the Rev. Paul Breeze and the plentiful music, most appropriately, was by G.F. Handel.

CRICKET IN ROBERTS PARK
First XI home fixtures this month

Saturday 2nd
v **Baildon**
Saturday 16th
v **Pudsey**
St. Lawrence
Saturday 30th
v **Esholt**

Support the lads in their bid to stay in Division One.



The Saltaire Sentinel
JOHN NICHOLSON
POETRY PRIZE
2008
SPECIAL EVENT

Thursday, August 21st 6.30-8pm
Saltaire Bookshop, 217 Bingley Road

Poems are invited, with a view to publication in these pages, from any *Sentinel* reader and there are no stipulations regarding length or form, although subject matter should be restricted to Saltaire and/or Airedale.

ALL entrants will have the opportunity to read and discuss their work with a public audience at this event. Alternatively, arrangements will be made for suitable poems to be read by someone else, if they are submitted with a request to that effect. The event will be FREE and open to the public.

Entries may be submitted at any time, by e-mail to the *Sentinel*, handed in at the shop, or brought on the night.

[Our annual Poetry Prize seeks to encourage the writing of verse on a local theme and takes its name from the 'Airedale Poet' who died in tragic circumstances on the bank of the river, near what is now the bottom of Victoria Road.

The *Sentinel* picture of Nicholson (above) is an electronic adaptation of the engraving by W.O.Geller.]

BENCH OFFICIALLY NEVER WAS

In May, we asked if readers had any information about the bench outside Saltaire Medical Centre, which had disappeared. First to respond was **Councillor Martin Love**, pleased to report that it had been replaced by the Council's Highways Department. "They had no record of it ever being there," Cllr Love told us, "and there was no evidence of it ever having been fixed to the ground. Anyway, a new one is there now and appears to be getting used."

CAMERATA CONCERT REVIEW

For many in the audience at the United Reformed Church for the Skipton Camerata's concert on July 13th, it was their first encounter with Yorkshire's newest professional orchestra, and what a wonderful evening it proved to be! They brought a combination of vitality and enthusiasm with outstanding musicianship to a programme which included Mozart's clarinet concerto, played by BBC Proms soloist **Marianne Rawles**, and Mendelssohn's sparkling octet, written when he was only sixteen. The church interior looked particularly beautiful, and the orchestra's dynamic young founder and conductor **Ben Crick** praised the excellent acoustics; the best they had encountered on this tour.

A new programme is being planned for later in the year, with Bach's Brandenburg concertos. Let us hope that they return to Saltaire - it would be a treat not to be missed. **HT**

'BANDSTAND' PROGRAMME

FREE music every Sunday from 2.30pm. in Roberts Park. (If wet, in Half Moon Cafe.)

August

- 3rd** Otra (folk)
- 10th** Fairburn Singers & Midnight Special (bluesy rock)
- 17th** Nick Watts (piano) & Scott Clifford (flute) (classical duets)
- 24th** First Quarter (jazzy standards) & Fiona Katie Roberts (harp)
- 31st** The Al Bridger Trio (Top local jazz)

Last year's performance by '**First Quarter**' turned into the spectacle of the season when a very smart wedding party was invited to share the roof of the Half Moon for the 'photo opportunity' of a lifetime. This was all the more poignant as the Leeds based duo **Chris and Elaine** celebrated their own wedding shortly afterwards. So it will be a very special welcome for **Mr & Mr Minns** in the **gig not to be missed** on the 24th of this month. This time they share the double bill with Fiona Katie Roberts in what, sadly, is the penultimate **BANDSTAND** concert for the foreseeable future.

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE
Does NOT talk rubbish



"So what's new about 'greening' the street?"

The Saltaire Sentinel is written by the people of Saltaire and photocopied by Shipley College in the heart of Saltaire **EVERY MONTH**. It is not affiliated to, nor in any way controlled or influenced by any group, society or organisation.

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