

Saltaire Sentinel

Your Lion of

VIGILANCE

Published monthly

SQUARE SHAPES UP PEOPLE'S SUGGESTIONS POUR IN

*Where
Villagers'
views make
the news*

HALLOWE'EN MUSICAL TREAT

There will be no tricks but a wealth of treats when the Skipton Camerata returns to Saltaire on Friday, October 31st.

Their dynamic conductor, Ben Crick, has chosen a programme of contrasts and unexpected surprises, including Mozart's beautiful flute concerto in G with Proms artist Ben Griffith, the later Sibelius Romance, and Suk's serenade for strings.

Once again they will be performing in the United Reformed Church, a venue which enhances their mellow sound.

A real treat on our doorstep for all Saltaire's music lovers. Not to be missed!

H.T.

See page 4 >>

Representatives of Saltaire Village Society (SVS) were joined by other local residents and by volunteers from Kirkgate Studios in working hard to ensure the success of a public consultation in Silver Square on Caroline Street last month. One of the

leading figures in the event, over the 'big weekend' of the Festival, was Rob Martin of SVS, who told us, "We had a very busy two days, the sun shone and lots of people stopped and talked and made suggestions. They were encouraged to look at the display of photographs by Shipley College Library, sign the petition for a 20mph limit and give their ideas for Silver Square." At the meeting of the Saltaire Project Team on October 15th, Joe Grint, Traffic Officer for Bradford Council, promised to look through the comments in detail and said that the consultation had been a big help to him in firming up proposals to help ease the parking and road safety issues. People's ideas for the Square were also well received and the meeting asked if SVS could push the ideas as a community led project, which Rob agreed to do. See page 2 >>

The Library Bus arrives on Caroline Street a little after 6.30 pm every Wednesday, and stays for about half an hour near the junction with Albert Road. Anyone who is housebound can apply for a Home Delivery service. Information:433669.

In this issue BOOKSHOP

Plus

BIKE BUS

Plus

BLUES

Plus

ALL OUR USUAL

UNUSUALS

ROGER'S RESEARCH RESULTS IN MONOGRAPH

A research paper by Roger Clarke, on the subject of the Saltaire Conversazione, is soon to be published as the second in the series of *Saltaire Journals* produced by Barlo and Shaw. The Conversazione was a great social gathering which took place regularly at the Victoria Hall during the second half of the nineteenth and first part of the twentieth centuries. Roger originally revealed his interest and some of his findings at a meeting of the Saltaire History Club in September, 2007. Coincidentally (??), the intrepid local historian and popular writer was back at the History Club this very month; this time to talk about his work on the Saltaire Almshouses (featured recently in four articles for

these pages) – which is "well on the way", he tells us, to becoming another in the series of academic papers. [More details of the *Saltaire Journal* can be found on the Saltaire Village Website.]

As another part of the same entertaining and informative evening, many former employees of the Mill were among those able to enjoy the anecdotes of Edward Stanners who, having been taken on as "assistant assistant gardener" [*sic*] was Managing Director by the time the business was wound down in the 1970s. "He was a charismatic, workaholic director," observed Roger, "He seemed able to carry the workforce with him, making a success of a failing enterprise."

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

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

Deadline: 20th

The Saltaire Sentinel

JOHN NICHOLSON POETRY PRIZE

This year, our annual poetry prize culminated in an evening's pleasant entertainment at the Saltaire Bookshop, when an enthusiastic audience was able to enjoy and comment upon all the entries. Along with Jim Saville's *Saltaire*, (featured last month), Sarah Barnett-Benelli's *Climate Change* (below) proved a firm favourite. It was also a pleasure for the editor to give a public airing to the latest offering from past "winner" Michael Burgess.

CLIMATE CHANGE

By Sarah Barnett-Benelli

May Monday morning; rain stooping on the canal
Boats closed up – smoke from stove-pipe chimneys.

The fisherman throws his line, retreats beneath his
umbrella
Old Jack with the Labrador's wearing his winter coat.

Global warming, we said, in April
Moonscape in Airedale; lunch on the decking:

black juicy olives, sheep's cheese from Greece
red leaves grown in Italy, vine tomatoes from Sicily –

Pass me the vino, per favore. Caffè?

I read a news report, last night:
albatross chicks, dead on Midway Island
putrescent bodies spewing out polythene bags.

*The mothers believe that anything bright on the water is
squid.*

White sand
Stench of rotting flesh
Mosaic of glittering plastic under a hot Hawaiian sun.

Life stirs on Llamados
She circles,
turns for the double flight.

Down by Dobson Locks the rain
beats out a war-dance, the coke cans duck and dive
A pink and white striped carrier won't lay down and die.

THE WEIR AT SALTIAIRE

By Michael Burgess

Trees grow near
living water
and the heron stilts
upon the weir.
Grey clouds scud. Laden.
The river licks its banks
and the heavens open.
Hillside goats,
cuts and runs
swell the torrent.
The current is charged.

Against the weir, the water's
backwards bore
strives to climb
the too steep pitch.
A broken tree surges
and rides the storm,
crashing the barrage
to join an unerring race
to the sea.
In time,
the sun finds its gaze.
The clouds clear
and the heron stilts
upon the weir.

Poems by *Sentinel* readers on the theme of Saltaire and/or Airedale are welcomed throughout the year. They can be delivered to the Bookshop (address opposite) or e-mailed to the newspaper.



WATCH THIS SPACE !

Our picture shows the area which has become known locally as Silver Square as it looks today. It is on Caroline Street and is the site of the infamous and relatively shortlived washhouse which Sir Titus built.

It was also the site, during the recent Saltaire Festival, for a public consultation, organised by Sustainable Saltaire and the Saltaire Village Society, which included, among other things, residents' suggestions for its possible future use. Ideas ranged from an archaeological excavation (with a body in it!) to a crazy golf course to be designed by local artists and schools on appropriately local themes. Various kinds of garden featured prominently in the list: a garden for peace and contemplation, a memorial garden to Sir Titus, a forest garden, a garden with fountain(s), etc.

Comments not only varied but, inevitably, revealed rather significant differences of opinion, as in these two examples:

- a) "It would be great to make Saltaire safer and nicer for children – seating in Silver Square would be cool and maybe things for kids to play on."
- b) "We don't want seating because we think it will attract unpleasant youths & become a drinking area."

Sentinel readers are welcome to send us their own comments and ideas, which we will be pleased to publish. (Please see address on front page).

MOST AGREE 20mph FAST ENOUGH

Another issue very much in the local news and naturally of considerable concern to residents wishing to make their views known at the Silver Square event is the speed at which traffic travels along Caroline Street in particular. A petition (the early impact of which was reported in our August issue) calling for a 20mph limit throughout the Village had over five hundred names added to it on the Saturday (Sept.20th) alone. Here is just a suggestion of the comments collected on this subject:

"Prominent 20mph signs outside the Village and then strict enforcement of 20mph, at least for the first few weeks so that people realise it is not worth cutting through or speeding."

"Parking in the Village for residents only. Put up signs that glow in the dark that say 20 miles per hour. NO more - or else !"

"Put marked residents parking on all streets. This would make them narrower for cars and enable pedestrians to use the pavements too. Perhaps go back to cobbles?"

"Reveal the heritage cobbles – this will slow the traffic."

"I'd like to see the street cobbled – I don't think the hardened drivers who speed through would stick to a 20mph limit but cobbles are more likely to slow them down."

"Why not 15mph speed bumps, please?"

"Only firemen, police and ambulances should be permitted traffic in the Village."

SALTS

MILL

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**The Authentic
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CHILDREN'S EVENTS NEW FEATURE AS BOOKSHOP BOOMS

The Thursday evening events at the Saltaire Bookshop have become so popular that booking is advisable, though not essential. All events are now "ticketed (or pay on door)". An admission charge of £2.50 has been introduced – but this includes refreshments.

On October 23rd Australian poet **Thom Woodruff** will be the guest from 6.30 to 8pm.

On Friday October 31st a special Hallowe'en event includes storytelling and theatre with a s-c-a-r-y feel!!!

Authors already booked for the near future include **Jill Swallow**, who wrote *Days Before Dibley* about women ordinands (November 2nd) and the poet **Ian Parks** (December 4th).

This month sees even more excitement at the bookshop with the introduction of Children's Events on Saturday afternoons (all at 2pm): Individual tickets for these are £2.50 each, but there is an option of a £5 ticket which will admit three children. In either case, the price includes £1 off a book bought from the shop.

Elaine Bamford will be reading and talking to the youngsters on October 25th and the programme for next month looks like this:

November 1st **Pauline Chandler**, historical novels for children. Her latest is "Mark of Edain" (10-13 year olds)

November 15th **Penny Dolan**, author of "Mr Pod" and the "Rickety Halo" stories (8-11 year olds)

November 29th **Josephine Feeney**, author of "Makeover Madness"(8-11 year olds)

Rachel Noble

Writes On The Bike Bus

With the cost of petrol rising quicker than you can say 'credit crunch' do you fancy saving fuel costs at the same time as getting fit for free? Two keen cyclists have started the 'Aire Valley Bike Bus' – a fun new initiative to encourage residents in the Aire Valley to cycle to work. The route runs from Keighley (for the die-hards amongst you) through to Bradford's Centenary Square. There are 'bus stops' along the way, including two in Saltaire.

Manjit Kumari, who with David Carpenter developed the idea, believes that it offers a safe and environmentally friendly way to commute into Bradford. Cyclists already using the Bike Bus say that there is definite safety in numbers, and that it's especially beneficial to people who are new to commuting by bike, who have not got the confidence to tackle Bradford Rd during the rush hour on their own. It's also a great way of meeting fellow cyclists. The scheme has only been going since August, but has new cyclists joining every week. There is currently one 'bus route' running on Wednesday mornings. It leaves Saltaire roundabout at 07:50 and arrives in Centenary Square at 08:10. However Manjit is keen to extend the scheme if there is demand for it – she is already planning a return journey on Wednesday evenings. If there are fellow cyclists willing to 'drive' the bus, then she hopes to have several 'Bike Buses' running every day.

There is loads of information on their website - www.airevalleybikebus.org.uk and new members are welcome. Most reassuringly of all, the website includes fancy weather pie charts revealing that the 'Bike Bus' has only encountered rain once since it began running. Surely an indication that the sun shines on the righteous.

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

217 Bingley Road
Open Mon-Sat 10-5
Thursdays until 8pm
New and second hand books

Regular Events
On Thursdays 6.30-8
Authors read and talk.
01274-589144

SALTAIRE NEWSAGENTS

9 Victoria Road
Newspapers, sweets,
tobacco etc. and a new
line in cards.

**Daily door-to-door
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Open 6am-5pm
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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

SALTAIRE POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONTACT POINT

(Based by the entrance to Salts Mill on Victoria Road)

Open Wednesday
10-00 -1.00 p.m.

We are here to help with any problems or concerns regarding Police, Council and community issues, as well as personal safety, security, etc.

Eco bags available now and they are free!

CONTACT US ON:

01274 537416

E.MAIL:

contactsaltair@yahoo.co.uk

GOOGLE SCUMBLE

In August we ran an article on local craftsman Robert Whitaker and his part in renovating Saltaire United Reformed Church, which included the line "He is scumble graining the doors." Nothing unusual in that, you might think. However, the story has a sequel which may prove beneficial to Mr Whitaker: It would seem that a scumble seeker in Leeds, having recourse to the famous internet search engine 'Google', was directed immediately to our article and consequently enabled to open a channel of communication with Saltaire's own expert. To give credit where it is due, The *Sentinel's* presence on the web is a result of the efforts of Pamela Reynolds, by which our pages are incorporated into the Saltaire Village Website (see above).

MIKE HITS THE BLUE NOTES

Mike Gilbert's guitar playing has become a regular Tuesday night attraction from 9pm at Fanny's Ale and Cider House on Saltaire Road. The gig is not a commercial venture, as Mike explains: "I am doing it for free beer and the pleasure at the moment, but I feel that it is offering people an alternative source of live music." Mike, who now works for a company housed in Salts Mill, moved to the area only recently and, in search of a new social life and venues to play, quickly came into contact with Marcus Lund, owner of the famous Ale and Cider House. "The gig is free and the venue is a warm, pleasant place. I started playing boogie-woogie and blues occasionally on their piano and eventually Marcus agreed to let me play my guitar music at the pub every Tuesday night.", he says. Mike's music is derived from many blues and jazz sources and more modern stylists of the bottleneck (slide) guitar such as Ry Cooder and Leo Kottke. He plays original blues and boogie numbers in the styles of pre-War blues singers such as Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell, Blind Willie Johnson and Bukka White, as well as his own jazz/blues solo variations. "My voice is deep and blue," he tells us, "and complements many of the guitar numbers, including my own unusual 'one man band' versions of band music." From time to time, Mike is joined by other musicians, which he sees as "a very positive addition to the evening. It is not an open-mike or jam session, but I am happy to let other musicians play."

CAMERATA COME AGAIN

Skipton Camerata makes a welcome return to Saltaire United Reformed Church on Friday the 31st of October, following a successful debut there in July. The fully professional orchestra is delighted to be joined in Mozart's celebrated Flute concerto in G major by the young flautist **Ben Griffith**. Fresh from recent performances with the pianist Alfred Brendel, The London Chamber Orchestra and at the BBC proms, Mr Griffith explained the appeal of working with Skipton Camerata when he said 'the excitement of this concert comes from creating a chamber music atmosphere, where all the players, conductor and soloist are all feeling the music in the same way. The orchestra makes a fantastic ensemble sound and that gives the piece so much energy and drive.' Other works in this concert are the Sibelius Romance, the Suk serenade for strings and Mozart's Symphony 33. **Artistic Director Ben Crick** says the interest for him in this programme lies in the fact that 'there is always the unexpected to be found. Even works like the Mozart symphony have moments of subtle harmonic change that go against our expectations and in the Suk work, particularly the first movement, in the middle of some boisterous fast passage there is suddenly a gentle, lyrical motif that for me is some of the most beautiful string writing in the whole romantic period.' The concert begins at 7.30pm and tickets, costing £10 or a concessionary rate of £9, can be purchased online at www.skiptoncamerata.co.uk or by calling 01756 707606.

DONATION HELPS RESTORE FAITH

Says Maria Glot of Salts Walks

Salts Walks regularly gives donations to Saltaire United Reformed Church, but we seldom have spontaneous gifts donated by groups who have been on tours with us.

In July, a small group booked a tour with us. They were so impressed by the Church, and the efforts of the congregation to meet the costs of keeping the Grade 1 Listed building open, that they have sent £100 which was voluntarily raised by members of their organisation towards the Restoration Fund.

We at Salts Walks were so touched by the gesture that we'd like to share it with *Sentinel* readers.

The group in question are young people at The Academy for Sustainable Communities, at the Round Foundry Media Centre on Foundry Street in Leeds.

We've heard so much about vandalism and the theft of lead from the Church this year that this story redresses the balance a little, and does much to restore our faith in human nature.

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does **NOT** talk rubbish



"I am advised not to joke about a refuse collection point in Silver Square."

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.