

TREES FACE THE AXE BUT VILLAGERS PUT UP A FIGHT

*Where
Villagers'
views make
the news*

STORY OF SALTAIRE IS NEW FILM

A new film, "The Story of Saltaire" will be introduced by its producer and director **David Weber** at the next meeting of the Saltaire History Club on Thursday, **December 11th**.

Mince pies and wine will be on the menu at this special festive meeting which will also feature a Christmas Quiz. Like all the Club's get-togethers, this one will be held at Shipley College Building on Exhibition Road, and will start at **7pm**. Admission free (there will be an honesty box).

The meetings, which have proved increasingly popular since they began in September 2006, provide a great opportunity to meet informally with local folk who share an interest in the unique history of Saltaire.

Bradford Council is set to take "immediate action" on the removal of four trees at the junction of Victoria Road and Saltaire Road – despite a popular campaign to save them which has the support of councillors for the ward and the MP for the constituency.

The fate of the four has not been considered as part of the widely publicised "Public Realm Consultation" on the future of Victoria Road.

This was made very clear by a leaflet delivered by the Council to households in the Village and made available at the recent workshops and exhibition in Victoria Hall.

The same leaflet, which describes the removal of the trees as "measures to reduce the high accident rate at this junction" claims the action to have already been **"discussed and agreed with the Saltaire Project Team and the Saltaire Village Society"**.

However, this newspaper is reliably informed that **this is not the case.**

The road safety argument is unconvincing, to say the very least, and the figures presented, by the leaflet, to support it can be shown to be misleading.

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Shipley MP Philip Davies (Conservative) told us "I have every sympathy for the residents who are unhappy about the felling of the trees. If any local residents contact me about this, I will happily take up their concerns with Bradford Council."

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MUSICAL TABLETOPS
Plus
LITTLE WEIGHTON
Plus
LITTLE WEIGHT ON
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS

ADVENT CALENDAR SET TO SHINE AGAIN

- RESIDENTS' HELP REQUIRED

By **David Worsley**
Christmas is on its way again: the time for huddling in front of an open fire, of decorating houses, of coming together as families and communities. **The Living Advent Calendar** will be decorating Saltaire again this year. We are looking for 24 Saltaire residents' houses each to design a festive scene for one of their windows visible from the street to be backlit, so that it comes alive after dark. On December 1st the first window will be 'lit', on December 2nd the second will be 'lit', continuing through the month until on December 24th all 24 windows are 'lit'. The calendar provides a

magical journey through Saltaire, a surprise and a treat for residents and visitors alike.

You can help to make Saltaire sparkle in this unique and individual way by taking part in the Living Advent Calendar. If you have not seen it before, be prepared to be charmed and delighted.

Oh, and practise your singing, because there will be a Grand Switch On of the Christmas tree lights, where carols will be sung. **Look out for posters around the village.**

To take part in the Advent Calendar, contact David on 07802 445786
david@saltairainspired.org.uk

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

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

Deadline: 20th

THESE ARE THE TREES

"These trees clearly do not impede visibility as they are too far from the junction. In several cases there are other more prominent obstructions standing proud of them! I am not disputing the seriousness of accidents at this junction - just the cause! Accidents at this junction are due to the volume of traffic, police cars speeding dangerously up and down this road and drivers trying to cut into the traffic without due care or consideration. The substandard, existing traffic management of the junction is the villain - not the trees!" **Helen Duffy**



SALTAIRE IS START OF GREAT NEW WALK

Saltaire is the starting point for a brand new long distance walk. It's called A Dales High Way and was **devised by local couple Tony and Chris Grogan**. The 90 mile route starts outside Victoria Hall in Saltaire and goes all the way to Appleby-in-Westmorland through some of the most beautiful scenery in the Yorkshire Dales. It's a high level route which takes in some spectacular landscapes including the mysterious Rombalds Moor, where walkers can discover examples of Stone Age rock art, before heading for the limestone scars of Malhamdale and mighty Ingleborough. Later in the walk the less well known Howgill Fells are crossed in a breathtaking six-mile ridge walk before the route finishes in Appleby where walkers can catch the train back to Saltaire.

TAKE TIME AND ENJOY

"This walk can easily be completed in a week" says Chris. "A strong walker could do it in six days but we advise taking your time and enjoying it. It's also very easy to do in stages using public transport. One of the great things about the walk is the return journey on the Settle-Carlisle line. We really hope walkers will leave their cars behind and take advantage of this spectacular train line." A Dales High Way (www.daleshighway.org.uk) website gives details of accommodation and all the points of interest along the route.

GUIDEBOOK

The guidebook to the route costs £6.99 and can be purchased via the website or from Saltaire Bookshop and Allan Austin's in Salts Mill.

WHICH OBSCURE A ROAD JUNCTION

"The proposal from the Council's Highways Department to remove the four trees adjacent to the junction of Victoria Road and Saltaire Road is based on the theory that the continuous avenue of trees along Victoria Road gives the impression to drivers that the road itself is continuous and that the junction does not exist, which in turn causes accidents. They claim that to remove these four trees will break up this continuous effect and make it more likely that drivers will stop at the junction," explains **Councillor Martin Love** (Green Party), who continues, "**Personally I find this argument spurious.**"

MISLEADING FIGURES FAIL TO CONVINC

According to the information broadcast by the Council [see front page]: "Over the past 5 years ending 30 June 08 there have been 5 accidents resulting in 11 casualties." Councillor Love, having looked into the matter more closely, finds that there have, in fact, been seven collisions since July 2003. "However," he points out, "Only two of these (in July 2003 and August 2005) have been attributed by the police to 'junction overshoot'. There is no evidence in the police reports that either of the drivers involved have claimed that the continuous avenue effect has caused them to overshoot the junction. The other five accidents were caused by drivers making manoeuvres or both vehicles travelling on the same road and could not be attributed to them not seeing the junction." Consequently, the councillor concludes, "Having now seen the detailed accident statistics for the junction I feel the proposed remedy is utterly pointless."

Saltaire resident **Eddie Lawler** agrees. "In my personal opinion", he said, The junction is overworked and has been since the opening of the Bingley Relief Road. Removal of trees will not alter this one jot. The trees do not interfere as alleged with sight-lines of drivers. Indeed, our work at 'Sustainable Saltaire' would suggest that **improving sight-lines only makes traffic go faster**. We are working hard, and progressing, to reduce traffic speeds in Saltaire."

SPEED LIMIT, IF AND WHEN ENFORCED, WILL BE ENOUGH

Sentinel readers may recall from our August issue that Bradford Traffic Officer **Joe Grint** had promised his support for a 20mph speed limit zone to cover the whole of Saltaire, including Saltaire Road and regardless of improvements or otherwise to Saltaire Roundabout, which he hoped would be in place by 2010. "If properly enforced," said **Councillor Love**, "I feel that this will have a beneficial effect on the village as a whole, including this junction. **Introducing this reduced speed limit should be the priority, rather than the removal of irreplaceable trees.**"

CURIOUSER THAN EVER AT KATH'S WONDERLAND

There is, not surprisingly, a decidedly Wonderland theme to 'Curiouser and Curiouser - New British Graduates' - an exhibition of intriguing collections from the UK's best new jewellery talent, to be seen at the **Kath Libbert Gallery in Salts Mill** until January 30th. "Playful, surreal and, occasionally, unsettling," says Kath, "these quirky new collections include oversized castings of baby teeth turned into rings and necklaces, 'batty bunnies' masquerading as brooches and an army of ants escaping with precious jewels. There's recycled materials used to make mini magical worlds, bejewelled 'bird poo', a necklace that's also a helter-skelter, intriguing timepieces and parts of puppets strung together. It's a topsy-turvy world ..." The exhibition is open from 10am, until 5.30 Monday-Friday, 6pm at weekends, and a catalogue is available from www.kathlibbertjewellery.co.uk

SALTS

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and still**

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food for thought

ALL ages welcome

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The SPA

21 Titus Street

**The Authentic
Village corner shop**

Mon-Sat 8.30am - 10pm

Sunday 10am - 10pm

01274- 826534

TAKING A TRIP INTO HISTORY

As we leave summer excursions behind us and face the turn of the year, it was good to hear from **Roger and Anna Bastin from Little Weighton**. Their request was for help to discover what was happening in Saltaire on June 21st, 1887! They are railway enthusiasts, and had heard of a special train which had run empty for the ten miles from Hull on that day, and had Little Weighton as its first passenger pick up. Little Weighton is only a small Wolds village which, with its surrounding hamlets can only have had a population of about 200. Half the population of the area must have gone on this excursion. Roger and Anna also noted that this was not the first time that there had been an exodus from the Little Weighton area. The neighbouring village of Rowley had been almost completely emptied when the Pilgrim Fathers took the residents to America. **Dave Shaw** was the first to offer help, and pointed to the close link between Sir Titus Salt and Hull, with his many examples of philanthropy there, particularly towards the Hull orphans. But what was the attraction? A search of the local Press held the solution – this was Queen Victoria's Jubilee, a time of national celebration. Salts Mill was closed for two days, schools were given a holiday and the elderly inhabitants of Saltaire were given free dinners. There were special trains arriving at Saltaire from all over the region – Leeds, Wakefield, Doncaster – and Little Weighton. The Bradford Observer gave us some idea what the excursionists would have seen. There were many attractions in the new Exhibition Road building, including a large switch back ride (later to be transported to Shipley Glen). But it was the lesser performers who appeal to me most. There were Harry Lyons and Nellie Danvers who thrilled the crowd by shooting apples off the heads of live dogs; Clemo with his performing dogs and a live monkey called "Ally Sloper"; Ena the lady contortionist, who supplemented the efforts of The Legere Troup and the Eccentric Olives, who gave acrobatic and gymnastic performances; the Claxtons with their chair act; and for all comers there was a 5 mile cycle race. But our Little Weighton visitors would have missed Major Rowe and his den of lions, and music from the Blue Hungarian Band, because they didn't appear in Saltaire until the following week. Total attendance for the day was 5,566, of which rail excursionists numbered 1,756. **Roger Clarke**

BANDSTAND MOVES INDOORS AS TABLETOPS GO MUSICAL

The Tabletop Sales organised by Saltaire Cricket Club have been a fortnightly well-attended event for many years. The Club has suggested that the event be enhanced with a bit of music, so "Saltaire Bandstand" is being taken to Victoria Hall for an experimental four-event series between now and Christmas. As with the Summer "Bandstand" there is a range of music being provided, free of charge, the success of which will be measured in the collection taken for the players. The music also gives winter continuity to the Bandstand project. If successful, music will be a regular feature at the Tabletop Sales in the New Year.

Eddie Lawler

[A folk duo is on the bill for the sale on Sunday, November 16th, - there is another on 30th - commencing at 10am. As well as a café, proceedings include the cricket club's famous Cash Draw. To hire a table, ring Robin Hill on: 01274 593320
Donations of items, such as books, CDs and DVDs to be sold to help raise funds for the club are always welcome.]

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,
cards, tobacco etc.

**Daily door-to-door
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Open Mon-Sat

6am-5pm

Sundays (new times)

8am-4pm

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MAGIC

NUMBER

THREE

2 Victoria Road

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Fantastic organics

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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.saltairevillage.info

SALMON WITH THE SALTS

Dave Shaw tells us that Lucy Bauer contacted him a few weeks ago, seeking contact with Denys Salt. Lucy, whose father was from Bradford and who has happy memories of going up to the funfair on the tramway and boating on the river in the late fifties, teaches English in Graz, Austria, where Denys and his wife Eva now live. After a "nostalgic half hour" on the Saltaire Village website, Lucy decided it would be nice to ask Denys to visit her school and talk about Sir Titus as part of her pupils' project on the Industrial Revolution, but wasn't sure how to contact him – or even if he would be interested in being involved (which, of course, he was). Dave and the Saltaire Admin Team were able to put her in touch, the visit was arranged and Lucy got in touch again to say: "Just to let you know I spent a pleasant afternoon with Denys and Eva Salt today as they plied me with salmon sandwiches and sparkling wine and we chatted about everything under the sun but mainly Saltaire! Denys has lent me his copy of the new DVD and we are going to arrange for him to come and visit us at school. Thanks for putting us in touch." Just think, says Dave, "If Pamela Reynolds hadn't set up the website, the Graz students probably wouldn't be receiving such informed input to their education, and Lucy wouldn't have had the pleasure of salmon sandwiches with Denys & Eva!"

**AIRE VALLEY SINGERS
MAGNIFICAT**

**Settings by J S Bach and John Rutter
St. Paul's Church, Kirkgate, Shipley
Saturday, November 15th 7.30pm**

Tickets £8 (£3 concessions) (refreshments)
Accompanied children admitted free.
This season, the Aire Valley Singers' Charity collections will benefit the Alzheimer's Society.

**GETTING FIT FOR CHRISTMAS
SAVES SHEDDING POUNDS LATER**

says Joseph Rayner

The *commandofit* training organised by local initiative 'Re-Evolve', mentioned in the August *Sentinel*, continues to prove very popular. There is a 6.30 am class now taking place on Monday and Thursday mornings in addition to the 7pm sessions, so that you can get your exercise done before work and have all evening to spend with family and friends. The sessions have been well received, with many participants making fantastic fitness gains in a remarkably short space of time (some are now as fit as the instructors!), but we are still hoping for more people to get the benefits. We now exercise under floodlights due to the kind assistance offered by Saltaire Sports Association.

Lots of friendships have also been made and the 'Boot Camp' has achieved its aim of being a great community event. There are places available as we have two instructors in place at the popular sessions so it may be a good idea to get fit for Christmas instead of the usual after Christmas effort to shed those pounds!

FEMALE FOOTBALLERS WANTED

Still very much on the subject of keeping fit: there is now a female football team in Saltaire, based at the Sports Association, which is looking for new players to continue playing in the league on Sunday afternoons.

CAMPAIGNER JOAN WILL BE MISSED

Joan Miller, who started the Shipley and Baildon section of the Aire Valley Preservation Society in 1970 in response to proposals to build a six lane motorway at the foot of Shipley Glen, has died. Joan's achievement, after transforming herself from an ordinary housewife into an astute campaigner, was to mobilise ordinary apolitical residents in Coach Road who without her leadership may have accepted the utter destruction of their neighbourhood. Her presence at the 1980 Public Inquiry was a major influence on Inspector Chance's determination to see that justice was done and that the superb environment of Lower Baildon and Dowley Gap was preserved for generations to come. We should be especially grateful to Joan who made sure we stuck at the campaign and enriched our lives by her example. We will miss her greatly.

Ray Wilkes

**Christmas is coming,
- ready or not !
THE *Sentinel* IS THE
PLACE TO
PROMOTE YOUR
EVENTS**

**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:

contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk

LIBRARY BUS

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. For further information, ring 433669.

**WORLD HERITAGE
WHEELIE**

Does NOT talk rubbish



**"Fortunately, the Council
does not see me as a
health & safety hazard."**