LIGHTING UP TIME
GREAT GET-TOGETHER AGAIN

For the second year running, Saltaire will have its own community Christmas tree, in the grounds of the Victoria Hall, the illumination of which will be a grand public spectacle.

The Grand Switch On will be on Saturday 6th at 4.30pm. Maria Glot will be switching on the lights and Bradford Festival Choral Society will lead the carol singing, accompanied by the Gawthorpe Brass Band. There will be free mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards.

OPPORTUNITY
"The event provides a great opportunity for everyone to come together in celebrating the beginning of the festive season in true Saltaire style", says David Worsley, who has once again been hard at work for some time now bringing his idea to fruition.

Over the weekend of the 6th and 7th, the Hall will host a Craft Fair, featuring nineteen stalls of crafts and gifts as well as demonstrations by several of the participants. Organiser David Harrison, who hopes to be showing his own skills in leather carving, told us: "We have been working with the Christmas Tree Committee to arrange the times of the Grand Switch On of the lights by way of arranging to keep the Gawthorpe Brass Band to play at the event."

MUSIC
Music will be provided throughout the day by Ian Beddow on guitar and keyboards, as well as by the brass band who will play a variety of music, including carols.

Locating the twenty-four properties which, from the first of the month, will be taking part in the Living Advent Calendar, will be easier than ever before this year. Maps showing the locations of all the windows involved will be available all round the Village, and the Calendar now has its own website, which will help to keep track of the progress of the windows as they open.

Keep track of the Living Advent Calendar by visiting: www.saltaireinspired.org.uk/livingadventcalendar

Meanwhile, photographs of the past two years’ participants can be seen on the Saltaire Village Website [address on page four>>].

WHERE VILLAGERS’ VIEWS MAKE THE NEWS

TOURIST INFO
Two years ago this month, our front page lead story was the closure of the Saltaire Tourist Information and Gift Centre at 2, Victoria Road. Now we have learned of a new plan for a ‘TIC’ in the old Mill dining hall, next to the station – which is unlikely to open before 2010. Councillor Martin Love has asked for the issue to be placed on the agenda for the next Saltaire Project Team meeting. Roger Clarke has been investigating.

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CAROL SERVICES AND CONCERTS
Plus
ALMSHOUSES
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL UNUSUALS

FOLLOWING CALENDAR MADE EASY
Locating the twenty-four properties which, from the first of the month, will be taking part in the Living Advent Calendar, will be easier than ever before this year. Maps showing the locations of all the windows involved will be available all round the Village, and the Calendar now has its own website, which will help to keep track of the progress of the windows as they open.

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WHATEVER IT IS – SAY IT IN THE Sentinel!
E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com
Deadline: 20th
TOURIST INFO SHORTFALL

Well known tour guide Roger Clarke shares his thoughts on the provision of World Heritage Tourist Information

The recent closure of the Shipley Information Centre on Wellcroft, next to the Library, dealt a blow to tourist information in the district. Limited information can still be obtained from Shipley Town Hall where Reception staff try their best to be helpful, but it is now only concerned with access to Council services and for benefits such as Passport to Leisure applications and Blue Badge registration for the disabled. There is an area in the entrance where leaflets are on display. It is nothing like the comprehensive service which was formerly offered in the much more centrally located Wellcroft. Meanwhile, in Saltaire there is still no sign of developments to set up a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) to assist the thousands of visitors who come to the Mill and village each year. Providing information for visitors on site is such an obvious basic requirement in promoting tourism that it is difficult to see how any planner would miss it, but Bradford Council has significantly failed to give it any sort of priority or urgency over the past 10 years or more.

Roger and Anne Heald ran the Information and Gift Centre at Number 2, Victoria Road from 1993 to January, 2007, filling the gap in provision which the Local Authority failed to fill, but they have now closed this shop. There is currently only a small leaflet display in Victoria Hall, well away from the main tourist footfall in the Mill, and totally inadequate to meet visitor needs. There are now plans to open a TIC in the old Mill Dining Hall, on Victoria Road, immediately next to Saltaire railway station. The building is part of Shipley College. This would be an ideal location, and it is encouraging to find that the Council and the College are working together to plan to develop the site. Funding seems to be the problem. Craig McHugh, World Heritage Site Officer, and Councillor Martin Love have been helpful, as always, in outlining the current state of negotiations, but the picture remains frustratingly bleak. It seems unlikely that there will be any improvement in the actual provision, on the ground, of local information for tourists or residents in 2009. Patricia Tillotson, Visitor Economy Manager with the Commercial and Support Services Department of the Council says that Shipley College is in the final stages of its bid to fund a £15 million project in which a TIC in the Shipley College Mill building would be a part. If the bid is successful, the TIC would be in the first phase of work, and building work could commence in summer, 2009. Assuming the most optimistic view of progress, on this timescale, visitors will still be without anywhere to take their enquiries until 2010. In the interim, local shopkeepers and staff at the Mill answer questions from tourists as best they can, but there is nothing to equal what Roger and Anne Heald used to provide, or what other centres such as Bradford, Haworth, Skipton and Ilkley have enjoyed for many years. As a temporary solution, it would be good to find the Council and College thinking creatively to work more closely with the private sector in the area, such as the Mill, to resolve the immediate shortfall. There is an enormous amount of goodwill towards Saltaire from local businesses which are proud to be based here, and their regular sponsorship of events and projects are a testimony to this. Saltaire has been a World Heritage Site since 2001. It is doubtful that you would find another Heritage Site anywhere in the world where the needs of tourists and visitors have been so neglected and ignored.
Seasonal Greetings
to All our readers
and contributors
from The Saltaire Sentinel

CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT
6.30pm Sunday, December 21st
At Saltaire United Reformed Church and at Saint Paul’s Church, Shipley

Shipley Rotary Club
Annual Festival of Christmas Music
(Sponsored by PACE MICRO TECHNOLOGY)
Otley Brass Band
and Shipley Musical Union
Saltaire United Reformed Church
7.30 pm Tuesday, December 9th
Tickets £4 (conc. £3) ring 595600

AIRE VALLEY SINGERS
present
A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS
Our popular annual selection of seasonal music with refreshments to match
7.30pm Friday, December 19th
St Paul’s Church, Kirkgate, Shipley.
Booking: 01274 563736 or 01484 717473

GLEN SINGERS
25th Annual CHRISTMAS CHARITY CONCERT
Bingley Arts Centre
7.30pm Saturday, December 20th
Tickets £8 or £7 Call 592093 or 408809
In aid of Bradford Nightstop

ISIS PROJECT
PARTY
in need of gifts
Organisers of the Isis Project, on Farfield Road, Shipley, are looking for gifts for their Christmas Children’s Party.

Isis provides an essential service to women from all over the district suffering from varying degree of mental distress, including post-natal depression, who have been referred to the centre by their doctor or health visitor. One in three people will suffer from mental illness at one time in their lives and it is the aim of the Isis Project to help women survive the trauma of mental distress by providing time and space within a safe and nurturing environment, so that healing and recovery can take place. Via a wide range of group activities, the users of the centre are encouraged to build confidence and self esteem, and to realise they are not alone and that there are many other women experiencing similar feelings and difficulties. The centre, which opens from 9am to 4.30pm, is unique as it provides an OFSTED inspected free crèche catering for children up to the age of five.

As Christmas is coming and our houses will be filled with more and more presents, it seems an opportune moment to pass on to an extremely worthwhile cause those toys and games that might be tucked away in a corner or hidden at the bottom of the toy box. You can be assured that they will be greatly appreciated by the staff at the Isis Project and the women who use the centre.

You can contact the centre on 01274 532858, email Susan at susan@isisproject.co.uk or visit their website: www.isisproject.co.uk.

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP
217 Bingley Road
Festive Event
Thursday, Dec 18th
ROBIN HOOD – The Yorkshire Legend
Explained by Barbara Green
Mince pies, etc.
Also this month
Thurs. 11th Ian Parks, poet and author of ‘The Cage’.
Forthcoming
January 8th 2009
Frank Dickinson, Nab Wood poet: "Them Days Are Gone".
All events are on Thursdays 6.30-8. £2.50 admission (in advance or on the door) includes refreshments and a raffle ticket for the prize draw.

WOODWORKERS’ FESTIVAL SALE
FOR SALE: REMAINDER
DOORS AND WINDOWS
(Heritage specifications)
4-Panel back door and casing (New) door size = 800 x 1960mm casing size 900 x 2050mm to suit masons opening approx 870 x 2035mm £60.00
4-Panel back door only (New) door size = 678 x 1962mm £30.00
SLIDING SASH WINDOWS (Ex demo!) 3/6 Pattern D01 1060 x 1690mm – Green gloss painted and glazed £30.00 3/6 Pattern D01 1075 x 1610mm – White primer painted £30.00
PROCEEDS TO SALTAIRE FESTIVAL
Bradford Woodworkers 01274 499353

CHRISTMAS FAIR
December 6th
11am – 2pm
CRAG ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH
"Come and bag a bargain."
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. The site is interactive, not for profit and staffed entirely by volunteers.

PARKING PROBLEMS AT ALMSHOUSES

In February we reported on problems with car parking at the almshouses at the top of Victoria Road, arising largely from the conflict between the needs of the current population and the need to conserve the past. Shipley Community Housing Trust (Incommunities) and the Conservation Department of the Council had a difficult problem to balance the needs of the residents with the requirements of Saltaire as a World Heritage Site. An inconclusive meeting in November, 2007, has been followed by further information gathering from residents. They were asked to complete a questionnaire to identify the most needy in terms of access to their cars. The Conservation Department stated that they will look at the possibility of disabled parking bays for residents with a need i.e. disabled badge holders. Given that there is too much demand for limited resources, the Council should be complimented in its open and transparent approach to the problem. There may yet be other ways to satisfy demand, and the Council have accepted that in the interim visitors can still use the access path to pick up and set down when required.

Roger Clarke

AWARD FOR LOCAL BUSES

Many people in Saltaire find the local public transport very good, writes Ray Wilkes. We have a modern rail service with good bus services by First Bradford and Keighley & District Travel along Gordon Terrace. If you have not yet sampled the luxury leather seated 662 service maybe the following will tempt you. Keighley & District Travel, operator of the Bradford Keighley 662 and the Leeds Keighley 760, was recently named ‘City Operator of The Year 2008’ at prestigious awards held in London, following scrutiny by independent judges, in recognition of passenger, revenue and profit growth whilst maintaining high levels of customer satisfaction and quality of operation generally. Further investment coupled with strong marketing activity has significantly grown passenger journeys on targeted primary services and the company’s management style and culture has ensured a stable workforce which has been well supported and further developed throughout the year. The UK Bus Awards Scheme is designed to recognise and reward excellence and good practice in a wide range of disciplines associated with the operation, design and promotion of bus services. Over the past twelve years, UK Bus Awards nominees have provided excellent examples of quality and innovation. Nigel Eggleton, Transdev Blazefield’s Director of Business Development, said; ‘We’re delighted to have won this award, which is true recognition of the hard work and commitment put in by all our staff.’ Further information about the award may be found on the www.ukbusawards.org.uk website. Bus info can be found by googling either bus company or by ringing Metro at 0113 245 7878 who will answer inquiries and mail timetables to your door.

HAPPY OUTCOME FOR LUCY

Following last month’s story about Lucy Bauer, the teacher with fond, childhood memories of Saltaire who had been put in touch with Denys and Eva Salt through the Village Website, Dave Shaw tells us that Lucy has been in touch again with news that the Salts have visited GIBS, the school in Graz, Austria, where she now works. “Denys talked to the pupils who are working on the Industrial Revolution about Saltaire for one and a half hours. He was fabulous”, says Lucy. This is just the latest in a succession of happy outcome stories instigated by the website and helped along by Dave.

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.