

A FACE OF THE PAST LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

**HAPPY
NEWS
YEAR**
TO ALL OUR
READERS

WRITERS REQUIRED

Since it started, six years ago this month, this paper has sought to emphasise the heritage of Saltaire; not for its own sake but for its importance to both the present and the future of this special place.

In reporting news, the *Sentinel* records the ongoing history of the Village - as it is experienced by the people who work and have dealings here. There is always a need for volunteers to help to ensure that it remains true to its claim to be **The Paper By The People**.



Can anyone help to identify this gentleman captured by the camera in Saltaire a hundred years ago?

It would seem highly unlikely that anyone will actually recall him personally. However, somebody, somewhere must know who he is and such a person may well be a *Sentinel* reader. What we do know is that the photograph was taken outside the magnificent building which is now

Photograph: Saltaire Village Society

the United Reformed Church. So, putting a name to the face would make a great story for this, the Community Newspaper, especially in the year that the church celebrates its 150th anniversary – an occasion to which we hope to draw further attention. Any ideas from readers about the identity of the man or the history behind the photograph, will be greatly appreciated.

In this issue
PLENTY ON PAINTING
Plus
LOTS ABOUT LIGHTS
Plus
MUCH OF MULCH
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL UNUSUALS

TREES AT A CROSSROAD

The future of *those* four trees, featured in our November issue, at the junction of Victoria and Saltaire Roads, has been added to the agenda for the meeting of the local Area Planning Committee on January 14th.

See page two >>

ETHICAL CLOTHING

One of our most popular outlets has undergone a change of appearance and a change of approach which will help you to change yours.

See page three >>

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

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

Deadline: 20th

TREES AND TRAFFIC

The future of the four trees at the junction of Victoria Road and Saltaire Road is due to be discussed by the Shipley Area Planning Committee at its meeting on January 14th, as an item added to the original agenda in response to the petition of 307 signatories, presented by Saltaire resident Helen Duffy, calling for them to be saved. The Committee will be asked to consider a "Report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration", written by Principal Engineer Simon D'Vali, which recommends that the trees be removed. According to the report, which may be found, if with no little effort, on the Council's website, "In order to remove ambiguity from the junction location, Officers believe the only solution is to signalise the junction. If this proposal goes ahead, the four trees cannot co-exist with the signal heads." (It may be that what the layperson knows as "traffic lights" are being referred to here, since the photographs published in our November issue evidenced the peaceful co-existence of the trees with the large "STOP" signs already in situ.) However, one new piece of potentially vital information is brought to light by the report: It seems that the "Avenue Effect", whereby the tree canopies mask the building lines, "giving the illusion that Victoria Road is seamless... is exacerbated when Saltaire Road is **free from traffic**." That explains why the trees are dangerous. ... Doesn't it?

James Duncan

Roger Clarke's Saltaire Folk: DAVID STARLEY

Sentinel readers may have noticed the stunning pictures which were displayed in Shipley Library over the festive season, and recall similar images on the Arts Trail, in the Half Moon Café, in Massarella's or even at the Winter Fair in Lister's Mill. These are large canvasses painted in oils, featuring familiar Saltaire landmarks. Local artist **David Starley** lives in the Village and is inspired by the architecture here. He is also inspired by painters from long ago, particularly an artist from the early 19th century, David Roberts. Roberts was a water colour artist who was fascinated by Middle Eastern landscapes, and his lithographs were widely known to Victorian audiences. The feature of his paintings which fascinated "our" David was Roberts' depiction of light on ancient buildings, and David has adopted the same style in his Saltaire work. This can be seen in practically all his Saltaire oils, which makes them stand out so strikingly and gives such a rich intensity to his work. His images are bold and his colours are beautiful.

David's career has been varied and unusual. Born in Warwickshire, he trained as a metallurgist in Sheffield before taking three and a half years to travel around the world, working as diversely as a banana picker, youth hostel warden, scallop 'splitter', hospital orderly, archaeological digger and historic house minder for the Tasmanian National Parks Service. It was whilst working in a steel foundry in Australia that he signed up for an art course at Sydney University, sowing the seeds of his current interest in art. Travel had stimulated and refined his interest in architecture and ancient sites and this led him to Bradford, where his PhD was in medieval and later ironworking. He met his wife **Cathy** in Bradford. She is also an archaeological scientist and was living on Albert Terrace – hence the link with Saltaire. Unfortunately, the demands of employment took David away again to London, where he was employed with English Heritage, before returning to the North with a job at Leeds Armouries. Redundancy from there has allowed him time to develop his painting. He has not forgotten his metallurgical or archaeological background, however, and now provides freelance advice across the country to archaeologists who encounter the remains of ancient metalworking processes on their sites.

David's paintings are displayed all over the walls of his home, but are not all of Saltaire. His paintings of flowers have the same vibrancy as his landscapes. His more recent work has been paintings of ancient stone circles, including the Twelve Apostles on Ilkley Moor.

David and Cathy have a son, Jonathan, whose birth five years ago was celebrated in one of the first *Sentinels* (issue number 6). Only time will tell if he has inherited his father's artistic talent. At present, his efforts on the family allotment behind the church are certainly appreciated.

ROBERTS PARK RESTORATION "GATHERS PACE"

Work in Roberts Park, which began with some controversial cutting back of trees and shrubbery almost a year ago, is now in its second phase and restoration is "continuing to gather pace", according to a news release issued by the Council, supported by £3.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund Parks for People programme. The planting of approximately fifty new trees, as well as many new shrubs, is now promised, while the old trees continue to serve a purpose, fuelling the new bio-mass boilers at City Hall and providing mulch for the district's flower beds.

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NEW, BUT NO LESS MAGIC

Magic Number Three is now open again with a very different look but the same warm welcome and generally good feel. Sensing the time for a "change of direction", newly married Georgia Mack has turned her proven sales expertise to ethical clothing – all of which is organic, fair trade and/or locally produced. [News soon on the exciting alpaca connection!] Similarly, local artists and craftworkers feature predominantly in the extensive collection, which is retained at the rear of the shop.

Regular customers in search of their favourite, distinctive food lines are happily redirected to Coxon's Kitchen, the new deli on Gordon Terrace.

Meanwhile, Georgia continues to stock choc.[Magic!]

Rachel Noble Writes

On The Advent Lights

It's an honourable thing I suppose, ditching the car in favour of commuting to work by train. But now that winter, with its snow and frost, is well and truly upon us, the warm glow I feel about my carbon footprint is not quite enough to warm my regular feet as I traipse up the Saltaire streets each evening. It could be seen as quite a romantic setting – locals in their coats and scarves, breath blowing a gust of icy air, walking the cobbled Victorian streets. But it's still not enough to cheer up my journey.

The same cannot be said however, for the Saltaire Advent Calendar: Twenty-four windows dotted around the village, one of which was lit up every day in December until they could all be seen. I picked up my map on the first of December, detailing which street each of the houses could be found on, and placed it in my handbag alongside my packed lunch and season ticket. Each evening, rather than sloping my way up the hill, following the same well worn route as before, I took a detour and purposefully headed towards the latest advent window.

I've often spoken about the great sense of community that residents of Saltaire can feel a part of, and there is no better example than the Saltaire Advent calendar. These days, everything seems to need a purpose. People talk about 'a shared vision', or meeting the demand for a need that didn't seem to exist before. But the only purpose of the calendar seemed to be to do something a bit different; to show off the beautiful windows and to demonstrate the cutting and sticking skills of the buildings' inhabitants. And of course, to lighten up a weary commuter's journey home.

I only wish it lasted longer than twenty-four days.

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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 not for profit Saltaire Village Website, thanks entirely to Pamela Reynolds, who manages and maintains the site at www.saltairvillage.info

REMEMBER RUSSELL ?

Russell Fenwick would love to hear from anyone who was at Salts Grammar School from 1947 to 1952.

Russell contacted the Village Website to share his memories of Saltaire in the 1940s and 1950s.

He came to live at Dallam Avenue in 1941, and later at Elliot Street, off Saltaire Road, from South Wales where his father was posted in the army. He attended Shipley Church School before passing his 11 plus examination for admission to Salts Grammar in 1947. By then he had moved to live in Gaisby Lane, Bolton Woods. He remained at Salts, then housed in the old Factory School and in the Institute, until 1952. Russell, who later joined the RAF, is now retired and living in Guildford, where he plays keyboards, guitar and banjo and has recently started a folk and skiffle group.

FULL HOUSE FOR FILM

The Saltaire History Club just gets better and better. David Weber's excellent film "The Story of Saltaire" played to a very full house at the last meeting, on December 11th, despite the poor weather conditions, and extra seating had to be provided before it could commence. The DVD is an accurate and comprehensive account of Saltaire history using many previously unseen photographs. It also has computer-generated images of the construction of the Village and is very professionally produced.

A bonus to Club members was the offer of a considerably discounted price on the DVD and accompanying book (by Weber, Shaw and Barlo), as well as on Shuttleworth and Walker's book about Sir Norman Rae.

There were lots of other bargains for Club members to enjoy including a genuine Salts Mill pen for just 10p. Unfortunately, the ink had dried up in the pens, but where else can you buy an original artefact from Salts! - proceeds to History Club funds. Mince pies, Hattie's ever popular Santiago tart, and wine kindled the festive spirit, followed by the Great Saltaire Christmas Quiz. Maria Glot and Hattie Townsend devised the questions, and Eugene Nicholson from Bradford Industrial Museum brought in some puzzling industrial and domestic items for teams to identify. Members of the winning team each won a Salts pen.

The next Club meeting will be on Thursday, March 5th. Admission is free.

Roger Clarke

CHURCH CONCERTS

A second season of concerts at St Paul's Church, Kirkgate gets underway on **Friday, January 23rd** with an appearance by **Otley Brass Band**.

Other concerts will feature: Peter Frank Dixieland All Stars (February 27th); Miscellany, returning by popular request (March 20th); The Baildon Players (April 24th) and Hot Aire, plus performances by local primary schools, (May 15th).

Tickets cost £5 if purchased in advance or £6 on the door and season tickets are available at £20.

Reservations: 01274 595416

LIBRARY BUS

The Library Bus is at the junction of Caroline Street and Albert Road every Wednesday for half an hour from 6.30pm. For information on the Home Delivery service, ring 433669.

EXHIBITION,

Curiouser & Curiouser, an exhibition of intriguing jewellery collections by new British graduates, runs at the Kath Libbert Gallery in Salts Mill until January 30th.

SALTAIRE POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONTACT POINT

(At the Victoria Road entrance to Salts Mill)

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