



A BIT OF BLACKPOOL SEASIDE IS COMING TO SALTAIRE

NUMBER

75

MORECAMBE BAY WALK

Once again, the *Sentinel* is pleased to give notice of the annual sponsored walk across Morecambe Bay organised by Shipley Support Group for Manorlands, the Sue Ryder hospice at Oxenhope. This year's eight mile walk with Queen's Guide Cedric Robinson MBE is due to take place on **Sunday, May 17th**, leaving Arnside at 11am. To take part, it will be necessary to obtain an entry form and number from Peter Chamberlain:
chmbrlpt@aol.com

Whatever the weather may be like outside, when Phil Kelsall, resident organist at the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, comes up through the floor of Victoria Hall, with the full force of the recently installed Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ at his fingertips there is bound to be a distinct flavour of the seaside in the air.

Thus will begin an evening of Ballroom Dancing on **Saturday, March 21st. Doors open at 7.30pm**, so "Polish up those dancing shoes and come along," says **Peter Rushton** of the Cinema Organ Society.

Easter weekend will see the start of the inaugural concert season, with a Gala Opening Concert on April 11th featuring Nigel Ogden and Simon Gledhill and including Piano and Wurlitzer duets. Monthly Sunday concerts begin on 12th.

Further details are on the Cinema Organ Society's website: www.cosnorth.co.uk
To make sure of a place, call the **booking line: (01274) 589939**

In this issue
THE CASE OF THE
LOOKALIKE CHURCH
Roger Clarke investigates, with the help of architect Tim Smith
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS

JEAN SAYS FAREWELL TO SHIPLEY COLLEGE PRINCIPAL IS PRINCIPLE GUEST OF HISTORY CLUB MEETING

Jean McAllister has announced her intention to retire from her post as Principal of Shipley College and will mark the occasion with a talk to the Saltaire History Club in which she is expected to reflect on her many years of dedicated service. Jean, who came to Yorkshire from Southampton in the 1960s, has worked in Saltaire since 1978.

At the same meeting, on March 5th, there will be a presentation of the life and work of Ann Moss, Saltaire poet, by Roger Clarke and Harriet Townsend.

The Club's regular meetings are informal gatherings over light refreshments, always feature fascinating speakers and provide a marvelous opportunity to make new friends.

SALTAIRE HISTORY CLUB

Thursday March 5th 7-9pm
Exhibition Building, Exhibition Road
Admission Free All welcome

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

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

Deadline: 20th

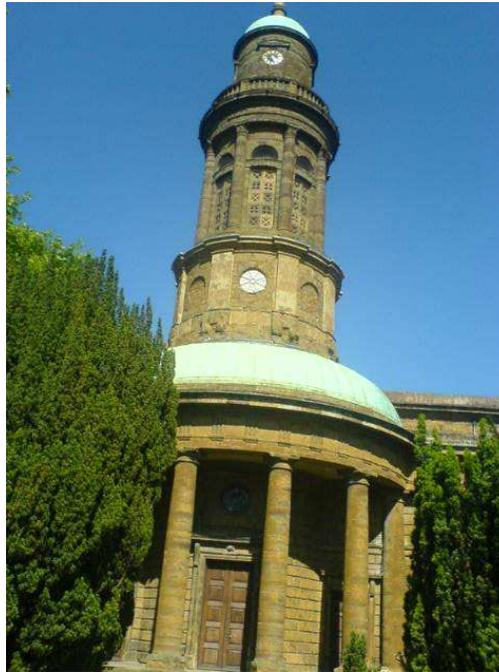
THE CASE OF THE LOOKALIKE CHURCH

IS THIS OUR TOWER?

Roger Clarke reports

on Saint Mary's in Banbury

which, on first sight, bears an uncanny resemblance to the building which is now Saltaire United Reformed Church. On the right, Tim Smith of renowned local architects Rance Booth and Smith gives his considered opinion. *Photograph kindly supplied by Chris Sharp.*



Sir Titus Salt's church, designed by Lockwood and Mawson, is often described as an "iconic" building and until now was regarded, by local folk at least, as unique. However, new questions have inadvertently been raised by a recent piece of research:

Former Shipley College lecturer **Jane Hedworth** wanted information about the architecture of Saltaire for her website (angloitalia.com) and asked me for help. This contact, via the College, led to further investigations, and by chance Jane found an image of St Mary's Church, Banbury, which at first glance could easily be mistaken for the Saltaire version.

Fortunately for us, Jane has been very generous and shared her discovery.

St Mary's pre-dates the Saltaire Church by many years. There was a medieval building on the site, but the present building is Georgian and was consecrated in 1797. Part of this building and the old tower collapsed in 1790, and were not replaced and rebuilt until the present tower was completed in 1822. Were Lockwood and Mawson, architects of the Saltaire church, aware of the Banbury Church before designing their own? Or are there links between Sir Titus and Banbury? Research so far reveals no obvious links. Significantly, St Mary's was an Anglican church until relatively recently when it became United Reformed. However, neither congregation was aware of the similarity of the architecture in the two buildings.

Dave Shaw and **Hattie Townsend** have both taken the trouble to call at Banbury, and both comment on the large size of the church tower, with its extra tier of building which they describe as "impressive". The church has a particular claim to historical fame because Jonathan Swift is said to have taken the name Gulliver from tombstones in the churchyard. The Banbury Church was designed by Samuel Pepys Cockerill, great, great nephew of the famous diarist, and he is thought to have modelled it on St Stephen's Church, Walbrook, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. At one time Clerk of Works at the Tower of London, Cockerill was then, together with John Nash of Brighton Pavillion fame, apprenticed to Sir Robert Taylor in the East India Company and made a number of visits to India. His designs, such as that for St Anne's Church in Soho, often feature ornate towers, perhaps reflecting the architect's background.

Jane's discovery has opened up a puzzle about Saltaire which future research may build upon – and perhaps, one day, solve!

An Architect's Eye View

It is certainly possible that Lockwood and Mawson did visit Banbury Church or at least see some drawings of it. It is the portico downwards where the closest similarities lie, with the portico door and the six Corinthian columns being very similar. There are major differences however. Banbury appears to have no imposing flight of steps to the entrance, and the tower and lower roof are completely different. At Saltaire Church the base of the tower above is wider than the portico base and this has caused some structural problems. This does not appear to be the case at Banbury. The plans and forms of the buildings appear to be very different, and it is only the façade where the similarities are. Bearing in mind that Lockwood and Mawson had no Schools of Architecture at that time, they would have learnt their trade in an office and by studying the numerous books of classical styles, or by visits. A classical revival church would be likely to have a classical portico in Corinthian columns. Lockwood went to London reviewing buildings and styles and it is certainly possible that he visited Banbury on such a visit. He would be picking up ideas from all quarters for the church at Saltaire.

Despite some similarities with Banbury, overall Saltaire United Reformed Church is unique.
Tim Smith

PETER RANDALL

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CHRISTINE WANTS WORDS TO CHANGE THE FUTURE

Changing The Future – Rethinking Childhood is the subject of the latest Creative Writing Workshop to be led by well known, locally based poet Christine Bousfield. The event will be held at Vicar's Café in Victoria Road from 10.30am until 4pm on **Saturday, March 14th**. £6 per person covers costs, including lunch and light refreshment. Christine, who ran a very successful writing workshop at the venue last year, says participants should bring a notebook, pen and, if possible, a 'factual' history of the twentieth century with old family photographs and information about the area they grew up in. To book a place, telephone 562656 or e-mail: www.christine-bousfield.com

SOUL GIG TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FESTIVAL

DJ Joe Warren will host a fantastic Soul Disco to raise funds for the 2009 Saltaire Festival. It will be held on Friday, March 20th at the Shipley Social Club on Saltaire Road. Tickets are priced at £5 in advance or £7 on the door, and a pie and pea supper is available on the night, priced at only a pound!! Tickets from Paul the Newsagent in Victoria Road, or from the Saltaire Festival Office (585877) Come along to a wonderful evening of music, raffles, prizes and surprises, and support our own Festival, which will run from September 11th to 20th this year, promising to be as successful as ever. HT

Correspondence

As occasional visitors to Saltaire from south West Yorkshire, my family were shocked to see the destruction to the river bank trees on Sunday morning. The decimation is saddening in these days when we thought mature trees were appreciated and protected. Do you know why they were cut down? Those near the weir seemed not to have been chopped by an expert. It was ironic to read of your fight to reprieve four trees elsewhere in Saltaire.

Ms L Hardwick

[An extensive programme of replanting is in progress in the park, which will cause inevitable, unsightly disruption. Previous reports in the *Sentinel* (March 2008 and January 2009) can be read on the Saltaire Village Website (see page 4) –*Editor*]

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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

FERNIEHURST DELL PLANS

The first meeting of the newly formed Ferniehurst Dell Improvement Partnership took place on the first of last month. Improvements in mind include the planting of fruit trees and bushes in the dell, at Baildon, the name of which is thought to come from the Salt family's choice of the location for the growing of ferns.

The Partnership hopes to bring its ideas to a Neighbourhood Forum cycle in Baildon in the summer.

SALTAIRE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Morning Worship on Sunday, March 29th (10.30am) will be led by Revd. Peter Whittaker, Chairman of the West Yorkshire District of Methodist Churches.

The church welcomes all to worship every Sunday morning at 10.30.

AIRE VALLEY SINGERS PSALMS AND SACRED SONGS

Brazilian Psalm (Berger); Dixit Dominus (Carissimi); Psalm CXLVII (Holst) and other works from the 17th to 21st Centuries

**Saturday, March 7th, at 7.30pm
St. Paul's Church, Kirkgate, Shipley**

Children of school age free if accompanied by adult
Charity collection for Alzheimer's Society

Tickets £8 Reservations: 595416 or 563736

KATH'S BIG THING ABOUT RINGS

The eighth *Alternative Wedding Show* at Kath Libbert's famous jewellery gallery on the third floor of Salts Mill features *The Big Ring Thing* – which is, says Kath, "As far away from the high street as you could get - massive rings for big personalities!" Along with plywood rings by Anthony Roussel, carved Whitby jet rings set with black diamonds by Jacqueline Cullen and huge coiled silver 'Mobius' rings by Michael Carberry, Jerwood Prize winner Jacqueline Mina exhibits her collection of kinetic outsize precious gem set gold and platinum rings. In addition to this special showcase, over twenty other new collections of wedding jewellery are on display. Meanwhile, new this year, a special *Mainly Men* section showcases a large selection of jewellery exclusively with fellahs in mind.

The Show runs **until May 3rd** and tasters of all the collections can be viewed at www.kathlibbertjewellery.co.uk

CONCERTS AT St. PAUL'S

The present season of regular concerts at the church continues on **Friday, March 20th** with *Miscellany*, returning by popular request. The performance is sure to include some very slick choreography, lots of laughter and a very high standard of musicianship. Other concerts will feature the *Baildon Players* on April 24th and the ever-popular *Hot Aire* on May 15th. Tickets cost £5 if purchased in advance or £6 on the door and season tickets are available at £20.

Reservations: 01274 595416

SALTAIRE POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONTACT POINT
(At the Victoria Road entrance to Salts Mill)

Open Wednesday
10-00 -1.00 p.m.

Come along and talk,
or contact us on:

01274 537416

contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk

MAYORESS IN THE STALLS

The Lady Mayoress of Bradford will open a Mother's Day arts and crafts fair called *The Stalls* in Victoria Hall on Sunday, March 22nd at 11am. Admission to the fair, which will be open until 4pm, costs only £1 for adults and 50p for 13-16 year-olds, while under 12s get in for free and a £2.50 Family Ticket admits two adults and two children (of any age) "A not-to-be missed event with must-haves for any occasion" **Natasha Harris**

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does **NOT** talk rubbish



**"Ballroom Dancing?
Strictly not in my
backyard!"**