

The  Sentinel
Your Lion of VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

SHAPING UP SQUARE

GREEN PLAN FOR SILVER SPOT

*The paper
of the
people of
Saltaire*

Silver Square is set for an exciting ‘makeover’ thanks to a decision by Bradford Council to allocate £7,500 from its Community Infrastructure Funds to this popular cause.

local residents could take on as an ongoing project - And of course we welcome interest from residents who want to get involved.”

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In this issue
MEET THE MAN
IN CHARGE AT
ROBERTS PARK
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS

STREET SIGNS

Saltaire Village Society’s Street Sign Project, which involved the replacement of all the black and white street signs in the Village with a Prussian blue version in keeping with the originals, has now reached a successful conclusion. The signs have been paid for by individual sponsors with an interest in local heritage – many of them *Sentinel* readers, in response to our front page feature in January this year.

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(Silver Square is the paved area alongside Caroline Street, where the washhouse provided by Titus Salt once stood and there is now a famous red telephone box. It is popularly named after the late Jonathan Silver, there being a local consensus that the area be renovated to reflect an appropriate tribute to his memory.)

Cllr. Kevin Warnes (Green Party) told the *Sentinel*, “Saltaire Village Society have some terrific ideas for transforming the square into a community space with plantings, new fruit trees, seating etc. that

SIGHT AND SOUND OF BRASS

Hammonds Saltaire Band make a welcome return to the United Reformed Church on **Saturday, Nov. 6th (7.30pm)** Undoubtedly one of the finest brass bands in the country, whose ability and enthusiasm for their musical craft is a joy to see as well as hear, the ‘Hammonds’ have taken every opportunity to strengthen local ties by

appearing regularly in the area since changing their name from YBS last year.

The concert is the latest in a series being organised by Saltaire United Reformed Church to raise funds towards repairs at the landmark building so, as the band’s Chairman, **John Myles**, puts it, “the cause for the whole community at Saltaire is really worthwhile”.

Tickets are available, at £8 (£7 concessions) from both the Church and the Band - by contacting Valerie Jenkins: 01274 542510 or Ted Griffiths 01924 478933. Further details can be found at www.saltaireurc.org.uk www.hammondsband.org.uk

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

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Deadline: 20th

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MARTIN IS THE MAN AT OUR PARK

Appointment to the role of assistant manager of a prestigious new development such as the refurbished Roberts Park does not overwhelm **Martin Bijl**. He's come back to Saltaire where he worked for twenty-six years as a horticulture tutor at Shipley College. He loves the area and has many contacts here which will be useful in his new role. His journey to reach this point is fascinating.

Born in Holland, his parents came to Scotland when he was an infant. He grew up in St Andrews in East Fife, and there remains a faint burr in his accent which betrays his childhood there. A decision to go to drama school in London rather than a career in forestry was to lead him into a series of theatrical opportunities for the next eight years. He did some touring with theatre groups, was involved in drama education, and was a member of a rock group. This lifestyle took him all over Britain and to international destinations too. In his late twenties, Martin came to Bradford. His parents had moved here and it seemed a good location for him. He already had an inclination towards horticulture, and at one point was possibly Bradford's first organic gardener. An opportunity of a job as a technician at Shipley College brought him to Saltaire, and he soon moved on to being a horticulture tutor at the college. He remained in this post for 26 years, retiring in 2005. Too young to hang up his gardening gloves, he invested in a van and trailer with the intention of once again setting up in business as a gardener. But it was not to be, and on the third day of self employment he fell from a ladder and suffered serious injuries which almost cost him his life. He continues to be grateful to surgeons at Leeds General Infirmary. Re-evaluating his life took him to employment as a supervisor at the Woodville Centre in Keighley, which provides opportunities and training for individuals with special needs of all kinds. However, it had always been his ambition to "finish with my fingers in the soil", and his current post was an ideal opportunity to capitalise on his skills and knowledge. Martin is clear about his vision for the Park and its development. He calls it "Our Park", owned by everyone who visits it (and he estimates that over 1,000 people a week do so). He wants the Park to be a central part of the community where people can feel safe, be happy, and extend themselves. He can manage the Park but it's up to the community to make it work, and so he's especially appreciative of The Friends of Roberts Park and of Saltaire Village Society. But it's also used by a wide range of individuals and groups, and I raised the issue of possible misuse and vandalism. He agrees that some form of control is necessary to protect the £3.2 million of Heritage Lottery Fund and the £1.3 million invested by Bradford Council. This comes from the police and Rangers who regularly patrol it. There is also a newly installed CCTV system which is now operative. They, and Martin, are the eyes and ears of the Park, but he's clear that he's also interested in winning hearts and minds. He has already encouraged attractive artwork on the graffiti wall in the play area, and is always receptive to positive ideas to engage the youth of the district. There is little vandalism, but more serious was the theft of specialist and very expensive plants. Martin is enthusiastic about his new role and has practical ideas about the future of Roberts Park. He is working on horticultural maps for trees and other plantings, on building up the holly collection, to establish interpretation boards in the North Lodge, to arrange for a virtual tour of the Park to be made, and to have its own park website. We also talked about the concept of a new pedestrian bridge along the line of the original road bridge, which would encourage easier access to these five hectares of formal parkland. Sir Titus wanted his workers to have the opportunity for "disciplined leisure", and the newly refurbished park gives this chance for people and their families to enjoy themselves in a park to be proud of.

Roger Clarke

SALTAIRE IS A MAGNET FOR BUSINESSES

Says Roger Clarke

As soon as premises become vacant there is a new occupant waiting to take up trading in this vibrant community.

Technically just outside the village boundary, No. 217, Bingley Road (until recently the bookshop) now has a lick of white paint and a brand new sign to say that it is opening as **Jamie Bell's Physiotherapy Clinic**. Jamie qualified ten years ago and has held positions with Keighley Cougars and Bradford Bulls, as well as establishing clinics in Keighley, Halifax, Hull and Pontefract.

An equally striking sign has appeared at 75, Bingley Road (on Gordon Terrace) where **The Craft Station** has been trading for a few weeks now, extending their existing business in Morley, with a colourful range of craft materials, cards, toys and stationery.

No 9, Victoria Road, previously the newsagent, has now opened as **XS Hair and Beauty**. Mike Overend is the owner, and has re-located his business from Tyrrel Street in the centre of Bradford. He specialises in organic and ecocentric biological and vegetable products and treatments as well as ammonia-free colouring. This is a return to a childhood home for Mike, of whom I hope to tell more in a later *Sentinel*.

FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday, November 20th

9am – 3pm

Caroline Street car park

**There is a Farmers' Market
on the third Saturday of every month.**

MARKET UP FOR REVIEW

The Farmers' Market continues to be under some threat as its future is up for review by Bradford Council in the New Year. **Eddie Lawler** reports that at least some of the stall holders see the salvation of the market in the opening of it to non-food stalls. There is, meanwhile, a strong feeling that the market is not publicised enough by Bradford. For example, the banner which goes up at the roundabout is their own and not the Council's. Since our article in March, this community newspaper has promoted the venture with a regular notice [see above] and continues to recommend its readers to visit the market, where a surprising range of fare can be picked up at very reasonable prices and where there is a strong emphasis on locally produced goods.

SILVER SQUARE PLANS

(> from p.1) **Cllr. Kevin Warnes explains:**

The Bradford Community Environment Programme (BCEP) team will probably carry out the initial improvements. This will involve reducing the height of the walls and improving the surfacing, perhaps providing some landscaping.

We then hope to enlist a group of volunteers via Saltaire Village Society (SVS) who will take the space on and develop it further. The Forest of Bradford team can help as well in terms of providing the fruit trees. Herbs and other edible plants could also be planted in boxes or raised planters. It is at an early stage yet, and I have not yet met with SVS to discuss this fully. But once the initial work is done, there is huge potential here to engage the local community in transforming this space into something they can take great pride in and maintain in the future. I am very keen to plough these funds into this part of Saltaire as a means of encouraging the Village Society and, perhaps, nearby allotment holders to pick this up as an opportunity to develop some herb planting and/or food growing projects in the near future (Sustainable Saltaire etc) – which would tie in brilliantly with our wider efforts on the Council to promote local initiatives of this kind.

MAGIC NUMBER THREE

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ADVERTISING

All the establishments featured in the 'small ads' on these pages serve as outlets for this newspaper and are promoted on that basis. **Please note: space in the *Sentinel* is not for sale, but neither is it offered free for commercial advertising.**

*The
Saltaire Sentinel*
can now also be picked
up from:

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**Saltaire
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VICTORIA HALL**

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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.saltairevillage.info

NEWS REPORTERS ALWAYS WANTED

To fulfill its role as the local community newspaper, the *Saltaire Sentinel* needs to contain reports as well as promotions. It is always pleased to hear from readers who would be willing to provide write-ups, on their own initiative and/or when requested, conduct interviews and accept invitations to various events on the editor's behalf.

SALTAIRE POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONTACT POINT

At entrance to Salts Mill
Wednesday 10am-1p.m.
01274 537416
contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk

Cuppacare, in New Kirkgate, Shipley, is a non-profit enterprise kept open from 10am until 1.30pm on Mondays and Fridays by Shipley Christians Together as "the café with a heart in the heart of town".

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

(Continued from front page) The *Sentinel* first brought the Village Society's Street Sign Project to readers' attention in May, 2009. As explained then, "The project was originally begun by Clive Woods in 2000 and SVS would now like to see it completed as a fitting tribute the man still remembered affectionately as 'Mr Saltaire'. About half the signs had been replaced by 2001, thanks to donations by residents, as well as local businesses, a grant from the Council and a sizeable investment by SVS itself, but work came to a standstill when this initial funding dried up, leaving forty awaiting sponsorship."

In January (2010) we reported SVS's intention to complete the project this year, in time for the opening of the proposed new Visitor Information Centre, and by July, thanks partly to this announcement in these pages, only four streets remained 'unsponsored'.

Credit and congratulations are due to everyone who sponsored a sign and especially to **Molly Kenyon** who took on the responsibility of seeing the project through to completion – which she has done **on target** (and, incidentally, in "nice" time for the anniversary of Clive's death on November 22nd.)

CAROLINE CANNOT WAIT

"I just can't wait for our next event," says **Caroline Brown**, with reference to the **Saltaire Antiques & Collectables Market** which she will once more be organising **on Saturday November 13th from 9.30am to 4pm in the Evans Room at Victoria Hall** -

"We can't promise there'll be priceless Chippendale chairs or Ming vases, but you never know what you might find! We're especially looking forward to seeing some vintage glass Christmas tree decorations and curious little presents for the family" **Admission is just £1 on the door.** Caroline's *House of Rose & Brown* also has a Vintage Home and Fashion Fair on Dec.4th

CHRISTMAS **MUSIC AT THE** **BANDSTAND**

Special musical events are planned for the Christmas season in the Half Moon Café and at the (suitably illuminated) bandstand in Roberts Park. **Eddie Lawler**, whose tireless efforts in this department are legendary, told us " 'Bandstand' was a great success this summer, often with crowds of 200-plus, lots of attention from passers-by, and the Half Moon Cafe swamped on occasion. It all culminated in 'Bandstand Goes to the Festival' on September 12th, with free music of all kinds." Readers will be particularly pleased to learn that Eddie was quick to add, "I intend to carry on the planning for 2011 as my contribution to the community's pleasure."

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Remember, Remember:
No gunpowder, treacle or
pots!"

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.