

The  Sentinel
Your Lion of VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

TIME TO TIDY UP

WAR ON WORDS WHERE NOT WANTED

*The paper
of the
people of
Saltaire*

NAV SPECIAL GUEST AT SVS AGM

Nav Chohan, Principal of Shipleigh College, will be discussing his role and that of the college in the community when he is guest speaker at the **Saltaire Village Society Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday, June 14th in the Half Moon Café in Roberts Park. Doors open at 7pm, to allow time for light refreshment and a chat before (one hour of) business, which will include reports and elections, commences at 7.30 prompt.
All welcome.

Councillor **Kevin Warnes** [Green Party] has launched a war on graffiti across Shipleigh, including Saltaire, and a team is already at work repainting 'hot spots'.

Residents are urged to let the Council know if they notice any more that need dealing with.

The black bin bags, full of garden waste, which are regularly 'fly-tipped' near the almshouses are also on the 'clean up' agenda. The Council is not responsible for

collecting these but Cllr Warnes, who will be writing to the residents directly involved, hopes to arrange for garden waste sacks to be provided and for these to be emptied by the Council in the usual way.

Meanwhile, Cllr Warnes tells us that, having been in communication with Northern Rail, he is "watching closely" the situation at Saltaire railway station, regarding rubbish, which has featured prominently in these pages of late.

In this issue
BLACKSMITHS
Plus
TRAMS
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

HISTORY CLUB HULL CONNECTION

Saltaire History Club meets again at 7pm on **Thursday, June 16th** in the Methodist Church on Saltaire Road. **Craig McHugh**, the World Heritage Site Officer, will give a talk entitled "Sir Titus Salt and the Orphans of Hull" and **Tish Lawson**, who until very recently was the Senior Archivist at West Yorkshire Archives, will speak about The Royal Yorkshire Jubilee Exhibition of 1877. [We understand that the refreshments will be of especial interest -Ed]

KING JAMES AT URC

Saltaire United Reformed Church will be celebrating four hundred years of the **King James Bible** with two special events this month: An exhibition of paintings, embroideries, collages and models runs from Thursday, 23rd

until Thursday, 30th. (2-4pm). On **Sunday, 26th**, solo speakers and verse speaking choirs will recite sections of the "Authorized Version". Details are available of these and all events in the Church on the website:- www.saltaireurc.org.uk

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

saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

Deadline: 20th

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RED HAired WOMEN

By Roger Clarke

Is it an urban myth that red haired women who worked in Salt's Mill were prized for the properties of their urine?

It is one of those ideas which perpetuate themselves without anyone knowing their origins. The story is that Titus needed his female workers' urine as a source of protein in his dye house to act as a mordant to fix the colour in his cloth. There is lots of evidence for the use of urine in the textile industry, especially when it was a cottage industry. The resultant finished cloth had a particular odour, but in Victorian times this would hardly have been noticed. But what about the special urine of red-haired women?

Rather than perpetuating the story, I decided to check it out.

I have a friend, **Malcolm Brown**, who was Curator of the Colour Museum in Bradford in 2004 and still has many links there. He agreed to ask colleagues. They all agreed that they had heard the story and accepted it as a fact, but no-one could say where they had heard it. So it is not just in Saltaire that the myth survives. Not happy with the lack of a scientific explanation, Malcolm dug deeper. He is also the Honorary Secretary of the Society of Dyers and Colourists, and had a reputation to maintain. He discovered that there is some truth in the fact that the urine of red-haired women is especially effective as a scouring agent, but not necessarily as a dyeing agent. It contains more alkali and is more potent for scouring.

[* *Aside - The scouring process follows wool sorting and then washing. Raw wool may contain up to 50% dirt and natural grease (lanolin), and these are removed by passing it through long tanks containing progressively weaker solutions of soap and alkali. After refining, the lanolin is used for the manufacture of ointments, plasters, and disinfectants, and is the basis of many cosmetics. Less refined grades are used for polishes, inks, soaps and veterinary products. Any burrs or seeds which remain after scouring are removed by carbonising (baking in dilute sulphuric acid at a high temperature).*

The wool is then passed on to the carding process where the fibres are disentangled to produce a continuous sliver of untwisted fibres.]

By now Malcolm is warming to the task! On the internet he found a book called "The Strange World of the Brontes" by Marie Campbell, in which she mentions that farmhouses in the area had special toilets for redheads in order to collect their urine, which was valued above that of other women.

Perhaps, therefore, Titus was aware of these facts and created special toilets for redheads too. There are so few records from the Mill that it is impossible to know – unless *Sentinel* readers can throw more light on this fascinating subject.

What of us, gentlemen? I am aware that there were many tanning works in the Frizinghall area, and urine was used extensively in the processes of leather production. That's any old urine, so men's would have been equally useful here.

Titus sourced as many of his materials as locally as possible, and so who knows where he obtained the leather belts for the transmission on his machines. Or is this creating yet another urban myth!!

TREASURE HUNT RESULT

Carol Burton of Beverley is the official winner of The World Heritage Treasure Hunt, devised by Eddie Lawler (published in April's *Sentinel* and elsewhere), for which she receives the prize of a £25 voucher kindly provided by Salts Mill.

A draw was made by Rob Martin, Chair of Saltaire Village Society, as the competition resulted in six joint high scores of 18½ points out of 22.

PORTRAIT DRAWING GROUP

The first of a series of informal portrait drawing sessions was held upstairs at The Butterfly Rooms on Bingley Road on Saturday, May 14th.

In a room that overlooks the rooftops of Saltaire, participants enjoyed two hours sketching in a relaxing environment.

As these sessions are intended simply as an opportunity to practise, there is no tutor but all abilities are welcome. A fee of £3 is payable to The Butterfly Rooms for the use of the workshop space but the activity itself is separate from this and not-for-profit. Artists are therefore asked to bring their own drawing materials. Basic boards and a model are provided.

The next sessions are on the following Saturdays from 2p.m. until 4p.m.: **June 11th**, July 9th and August 6th. The room has a capacity for about eight, not including the model.

Please note that the space is on the second floor and that access is via stairs.

Helen Graham

Enquiries: **07981 348020**.

CUPPACARE

The café and bookstall in New Kirkgate, Shipley, is a non-profit enterprise, run by Shipley Christians Together, **open 10am - 1.30pm Mondays and Fridays**, which will be celebrating its **25th anniversary** this year.

TRAMS READY TO ROLL BUT VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED



Shipley Glen Tramway is on track to re-open at the end of this month – provided enough volunteers step forward to operate it.

The trams (*one of which is pictured, above, courtesy of the Tramway*) have been completely refurbished, each now having a new chasis and emergency braking system. The original tops have been reinstalled and the original seats, stripped of their layers of paint, have been newly varnished.

Councillor **Dale Smith** says, "We have been working so hard to bring things to a satisfactory outcome and at long last we are nearly there!"

Volunteers are very much needed who would be willing and able to do any of the following: Drive and operate the TRAM; Staff the BOTTOM STATION; Staff the SHOP; Maintain and renew the fabric of the buildings; Check, maintain and refurbish the mechanical and electrical installations.

Volunteers work at times suitable to themselves, on a rota, four or five hours slots at weekends and Bank Holidays and similarly on weekdays to carry out maintenance work.

The Tramway can be contacted by post: Shipley Glen Tramway, Prod Lane, Baildon, BD17 5BN, or email: info@glentramway.co.uk

CRICKET IN ROBERTS PARK

Saltaire First XI

JCT600 Bradford Cricket League Division 2

Saturday, June 18th (1.30pm) v **Idle**

Saltaire Cricket Club

TABLE TOP SALE

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Saltaire Sentinel

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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.saltairvillage.info

REPORTERS ALWAYS WANTED

To fulfill its role as the local Community Newspaper, the *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.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE OPEN

We are pleased to announce that the long-awaited Visitor Information Centre is now open, every day 10am-5pm, at Salts Mill.

"I hope you will pop in and see us, and pass on the news that we are finally open!" says the Visitor Information Manager **Rachel Oxborough**.

LAST OF THE BLACKSMITHS

Sentinel reader **Kevin Archer** writes:

When I moved into our bungalow [in Grosvenor Avenue] in 2004, I learned from our neighbour, whose husband had built it in 1959, that it was on or adjacent to the site of the last blacksmiths in Bradford. She recalled parties of schoolchildren visiting and that it looked after the horses at Salts Mill. Last autumn I found a 1911 map in Shipley College archive and noticed that the building between us and the shops (now Schofield's) had existed at that time with open land behind it. In my deeds there is a reference to a blacksmith William Pedley and I found him recorded with that profession in the 1901 census living on Oastler Road. Confirmation came during the World Heritage weekend in April when I met Mr Frank Senior at a fascinating lecture on the waterfronts of Saltaire. Associated with the Mill from 14 year-old basement worker to sitting on the Board of Directors in the 80's, Frank remembers our bungalow being built and William Pedley working at the site probably until the 1950s.

I would be very interested to hear from any readers who have similar recollections or indeed knowledge of any records or photographs in existence.

Shipley College Reprographics Service

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**Saturday, June 25th
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With music provided by
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"Before anyone quotes the cliché, I can tell you that Cllr Warnes *has* tidied up his own back yard!"

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