

The  
**Saltaire Sentinel**  
*Your Lion of* **VIGILANCE** *Published monthly*

# TURBINE TALKS

## COMMUNITY TO BE CONVINCED

**IT'S NOT  
 THE PAPER  
 PEOPLE BUY,  
 IT'S THE  
 PAPER BY  
 THE PEOPLE**

### WURLITZER REMINDER

As announced in these pages last month,

**Friday, July 20th** sees the 'Seaside Comes to Saltaire' once again with ball-room dancing to the famous Wurlitzer in Victoria Hall when Phil Kelsall, resident organist at the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, returns to the keys. Doors open at 7pm.

A list of events being organised by the Cinema Organ Society is available at the Victoria Hall and the Visitor Information Centre. **Peter Rushton**

The controversial plan for a hydro electric scheme at Saltaire Weir will be the subject of a Public Consultation at the United Reformed Church on **Thursday, July 5th.**

Proposals, which involve the installation of an Archimedes Screw type turbine and, it is claimed, could reduce carbon emissions (*for the city of Bradford*) by 23,000 tonnes over the next forty years, met with approval from the Council at a recent meeting of the Shipley Area Committee (held in Baildon) – but local opinion remains divided. **Richard Sabey**, Director of *Sustainable Saltaire*, is of the opinion that: "The Council's scheme, although not a community project, is a first positive step towards Saltaire becoming a centre of sustainable living."

But **Les Brook**, of *Friends of Roberts Park*, while acknowledging that "The need for progress on green energy is undeniable, as is the generating potential of Saltaire weir," adds:

"Too many questions still remain unanswered. Without further work and without engaging the community, the current proposal has the potential to *set back* the development of sustainable energy.

**The Sentinel's Roger Clarke concludes:** "This is likely to be a big story because the Green case is compelling and the Heritage case is equally convincing, especially when there has not been adequate consultation with the public over the latter."

**The Consultation will be open 11am – 7pm.**

**The 'Paper By the People' awaits Your comments.**

**In this issue**  
**MASONS**  
*Plus*  
**STARLEYS**  
*Plus*  
**ALL OUR USUAL UNUSUALS**

### GALLERY BIRTHDAY

The famous **Kath Libbert Jewellery Galley** is celebrating sixteen years in Salts Mill with two exhibitions opening this month.

An amazing array of international artists will help the gallery maintain its reputation for pushing and blurring the boundaries between art, jewellery design and fashion, resulting in jewellery that is, says Kath, "Perhaps, best described as wearable art."

See Page 4 >>

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

[saltairesentinel@btinternet.com](mailto:saltairesentinel@btinternet.com)

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup>**

# THE MASON CONNECTION

by Roger Clarke

Donation of a copy of a legal document such as an affidavit (a sworn statement to be used in Court) sounds boring, but that which was recently donated by **John Collins** (General Manager in the Estates Division of Illingworth Morris plc between 1975 and 1997) was far from it.

Mention a Board Room dispute at Salts Mill in 1981 and it sounds dull. Add **Pamela Mason, wife of film star James Mason**, and it begins to promise more drama. The truth is that this story was followed in the Press like a soap opera.

Pamela was the daughter of Isidore Ostrer, whose large fortune was made on the stock market, in banking and in the film industry. He also owned 46% shares in Illingworth Morris, owners of Salts Mill. When he died in 1975, Pamela became his sole executrix and had control over these shares. She was used to getting her own way in business, and began to intervene in the administration of the Mill. Her ideas ran counter to the way in which the Mill directors saw the future, and she attempted to vote out the two top directors. Other members of the Ostrer family objected to her behaviour and wanted her to proceed with the sale of the family shares. Her step-sister Isabella took this matter to Court, and swore two affidavits which made the case for her complaint. The copy of Pamela's affidavit which is now in the Archive is her response to Isabella's accusations.

Pamela and her son, Morgan were voted off the Board in October, 1981. She never accepted that the voting was legal, but never contested it in Court.

Entrepreneur Alan Lewis acquired Pamela's 46% stake in the business in 1983. In 1987, the mill was sold to Jonathan Silver.

The case received so much publicity because Pamela was such a well known and flamboyant figure, used to conducting her life in the glare of the Press and TV. Her marriage to James Mason was well known to the public, and she was a film actress in her own right. They were very different personalities. James was dour and taciturn but Pamela was garrulous – described as having been “vaccinated with a phonograph needle”. Their marriage was to last for 23 years until they divorced in 1964. James eventually died in Switzerland in 1984. They had 2 children, daughter Portland and son Morgan.

The Masons made a number of films together and were also in TV, Pamela starring in her own chat show in America.

There is much information contained in the affidavit about Pamela's expensive lifestyle and tastes (she always travelled first class and stayed in the best hotels), and of her successful business career in the USA.

Pamela died in Beverley Hills, California in 1996 aged 80 years.

Every donation to the Archive carries a story about families and relationships, which are important to record as part of Saltaire's history and heritage.

**If you have a donation, loan or Saltaire memorabilia to share, please contact Julie Woodward or Sandi Moore at Shipley College Resource Centre on 01274 327225.**

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## MAUSOLEUM ALMOST RESTORED

**Work on the Mausoleum at Saltaire United Reformed Church is nearing completion.** With the roof and interior decoration done, all that remains is the cleaning and restoration of the sculptures and monuments. A number of grants have been supplemented by proceeds from various events and donations of all sizes from visitors and other interested parties. "It has been a tremendous achievement, thanks to the efforts of all concerned", said **Len Morris**

## THE STORY OF THE SENTINEL

By Roger Clarke



Whenever I submit an article for the *Sentinel* I never know how much of it will appear. James is very fair in his editorial role, but there is usually more copy than the space available – and the main issue on which he and I always struggle to reach a compromise is achieving a balance between 19th Century stories and present day news. Saltaire history has always been a popular focus for the *Sentinel*.

**Clive Woods** regularly contributed the results of his researches into the Victorian Press from the outset and **Dave Shaw** submitted quizzes and other snippets of historical information before, together with **Phillip Barlo**, presenting the A to Z of Saltaire Street Signs series, which outlined in detail the background to those named on the signs.

To do your own research on the history of the *Sentinel*, and the history it records, visit Pamela's website (See page 4): [www.saltairvillage.info](http://www.saltairvillage.info) where all back numbers are archived.

[**Roger Clarke**, whose own contributions are always much appreciated, is Local History Editor for the *Sentinel*.]

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**01274 - 531163**

**PERFORMERS REQUIRED**

'Multi-Story Water' is an interactive, site-specific performance event currently being planned for September this year, which will be a celebration of the waterways in our area. We now need volunteers to help bring the project to life, by sharing your own creative ideas and taking on roles as actors, musicians, storytellers, tour guides (no experience needed). We are also interested in drawing on *your* experiences. Do you have memories of rising flood waters, falling pollution, changing uses of the waterways, good times or bad times spent by the river? Meetings and rehearsals will be arranged to suit you. We only need you to commit to being available on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (daytime).

For more information see

[www.multi-story-shipleys.co.uk](http://www.multi-story-shipleys.co.uk)

Contact us by email at [multi-story@live.co.uk](mailto:multi-story@live.co.uk) or  
call 07504 417323.

Steve Bottoms

**David and Jonathan Starley**  
**ON THE TRAIL OF THE**  
**FLYING SQUIRREL**

A recent school project for my son at Saltaire Primary School provided an opportunity to look into a less well known aspect of local history. In the years prior to World War 1 Scott motorcycles were renowned for their innovative design and powerful two-stroke engine. Surviving examples including the famous "Flying Squirrel" can be seen at Bradford Industrial Museum. Although the firm's logo included the location "Shipley", several descriptions of the bikes suggested a Saltaire origin. But *where* was the factory? For once the internet provided no clues and young Jonathan was forced into more traditional research techniques. Peter Randall, always a great source of local knowledge, was able to suggest that most of the factory was now gone, with Spinning Mill Court built on the site. However, part survived on the Hirst Wood Road Industrial Estate. We visited this site and were fortunate to be invited inside by the managing Director, Glyn Brown, of the present occupiers Archerdale (clearly still doing good business, in fasteners for the construction industry). The interior of the factory, with its distinctive north-facing roof lights, matches closely some 1926 photos of the Scott assembly shops. (Scott's occupied the site from 1912.) The early innovative approach of the firm failed to develop after the founder left in 1918, and in 1952 production on the site ceased, a much diminished output being continued from Birmingham.

**SALTAIRE**  
**BOOKSHOP**

**1 Myrtle Place**  
**Monday- Saturday**  
**10am - 5pm**

New/Second-hand books  
**01274 - 589144**

**The SPA**

**21 Titus Street**  
***The Authentic***  
***Village corner shop***  
**Open Mon-Sat**  
**8am-10pm**  
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**VICARS**

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**ADVERTISING**

All the establishments  
featured in these 'small  
ads' serve as outlets for  
this newspaper and are  
promoted on that basis.

*The Sentinel*

can also be found at  
**VICTORIA HALL**  
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# Notices - News - Announcements - News - Notices

## 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](http://www.saltairevillage.info)

## **SALTAIRE HANDMADE**

**Arts and Crafts**

All handmade, all local.  
(new venue this year:)

**Caroline  
Social Club  
Saturday,  
July 21st  
10am-3pm**

[enquiries@htgevents.com](mailto:enquiries@htgevents.com)

## **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

With reference to Roger's piece on the history of the *Sentinel* and the historians of Saltaire [p.2], I suspect that our little friend on the right intends to leave a 'teaser' for future researchers. If they prove to be anything like Messrs. Woods, Shaw, Barlo, King, Clarke and others of our day, I am afraid that he will more than meet his match.

## **GALLERY FLOURISHING**

Kath Libbert, whose Jewellery Gallery has been based at Salts Mill since 1996, is marking her sixteenth birthday with flair by hosting two exciting exhibitions:

*Flourish* showcases a "fantastical" international array; from Dutch artist Nina Sajat's surreal transformation of cabbages and sprouts into fine porcelain neckpieces, to South Korean Seulgi Kwon's delicately tinted silicone organisms that come to life when worn. Additionally, a hundred international jewellers involved with the gallery since the beginning have been invited to enter an exuberant celebratory ring into a flamboyant competition called *FlourishRing!* Visitors to the gallery will be able to vote for their favourite by trying it on and being photographed modelling it. These photos will then become part of a growing installation on the walls of the gallery and the one which gets the most votes will win £250. "We are honoured that so many celebrities and new creative talents are taking part," says Kath, "I can't wait to see what they come up with!" *Flourish* and *FlourishRing* run from July 12th to September 30th.

**Saltaire Cricket Club**  
**TABLE TOP SALE in Victoria Hall**  
**Sunday, July 8th from 10 am**  
To reserve a table, call **01274 787908**  
or see [www.saltaire.play-cricket.com](http://www.saltaire.play-cricket.com)

## **CUPPACARE**

The café and bookstall in New Kirkgate, is a non-profit enterprise, run by Shipley Christians Together, **10am-1.30pm Mondays and Fridays.**

## **OBITUARY**

We have been asked to report the sad news that **Reg Hodgson**, known and loved by many as the local baker, died on 5th of last month in Dewsbury Hospital.

## **BANDSTAND PROGRAMME**

Regular Summer Sunday concerts are in full swing again at the bandstand in Roberts Park. All events are free, with a collection for the performers. Please note: The concerts this year are 2.30 to 4pm.

### July

**1st Jolly Jivers**  
**8th Hot Aire**  
**15th Wilsden Band**  
**22nd Bradford Metropolitan Concert Band**  
**29th Bradford Comhaltas**

**"Jazz & Curry"**  
Saturday, July 7th, from 6.30pm: Octarine (7.30)

## WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



" Well, *someone* has to carry the torch for Saltaire! "

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