

The

# Saltaire Sentinel

*Your Lion of* VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

## PRIZE IS SURPRISE RESTORED PIANO REVEALED

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

### CHARITY IS CHANGE

*Saltaire Inspired*, the voluntary organisation which provides the driving force behind many local events such as the Arts Trail, Advent Calendar and the Makers Fair at the annual Festival, is pleased to announce that it has been given charitable status by the Charity Commission. **Phil Lawler** (Chair) says, "This change in status is a major step forward which will help us to achieve our aims for the future."

**Emma B Penny**



The surprise guest at last month's meeting of the **Saltaire History Club**, in the Fluke Room at Victoria Hall, was the baby grand piano which was awarded to the

Saltaire Prize Choir in 1896 and until recently has been in storage, dismantled, in what was the Harmonium and Reed Museum. [photo by **Ian Watson**] See page 2 >>

### WURLITZER RETURN

**Peter Rushton** of the Cinema Organ Society, tells us that the Saltaire Wurlitzer is back for a brand new season starting in March. For our opening concert, the first of nine for this year's regular monthly series, on **Sunday, March 10th**, we welcome back the ever popular **David Lowe**. Doors open at 2pm and tickets are available at £8 by telephoning **0845 400 2208** or at the door.

**In this issue**  
**FEATURE ON**  
**PAMELA'S**  
**BOOK**  
*Plus*  
**ALL OUR USUAL**  
**UNUSUALS**

### CHURCH CONCERT

The Gisburn Singers will perform a concert at Saltaire United Reformed Church on **Sunday, March 26th** at 3p.m., featuring 500 years of English Music, from Madrigals to Modern, including works by Tallis, Elgar, Britten and the Beatles. Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection in support of the restoration fund. The church café will be open before and after the concert serving teas, coffee and cakes.

**Len Morris**

CONTACT THE *Sentinel* THROUGH THE SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP at 1, Myrtle Place OR by  
E-mail to [saltairesentinel@btinternet.com](mailto:saltairesentinel@btinternet.com) **Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup>**

## OUR PRIZE CHOIR AND THE PIANO THEY WON

Saltaire Prize Choir was formed in 1877 as the Saltaire Wesleyan Choir, to be re-named in 1889 at the height of national popularity of choral singing. Choral contests were organised all over Great Britain with substantial cash rewards, encouraging groups to enter. In 1889, the Saltaire choir won £150 in prizes, and money from engagements was over £500. £350 was given to charity and the rest went to the Chapel Authorities. Over a five year period from 1889, they earned over £1,000. One of their most frequent appearances was at Hawes in the Hardraw Scar Brass Band and Choral Contest, set in a natural outdoor amphitheatre, but in 1891 they also performed at Regents Park, London, Morecambe, Middlesborough, and the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

**Their most enduring prize was the piano which is currently re-assembled in Victoria Hall.**

It has an inscription on a brass plate on the keyboard cover which reads “First prize in the choral contest in the Second Annual International Music Traders’ Exhibition, Royal Agricultural Hall. Presented by the International Trade Exhibitions Ltd, London, July, 1896.” This is a Gebruder Knake – Munster white grand piano. **David King** has researched the details of this competition in the *Huddersfield Chronicle* of July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1896. He found that the piano was valued at 100 guineas. The choir was given a certificate and a gold medal was presented to their conductor, Mr AH Ashworth of Leeds. A bronze medal was given to each member of the choir. They had performed “Daybreak” (Eaton Fanning) and “The Sea Hath its Pearls” (Pinsuti), and were awarded 112 marks. Other choirs competing included groups from Folkstone, Reedyford, Harrogate, Portsmouth, London, Golcar, Tonbridge and Watford. For many years this piano has been in storage, dismantled and un-tuned, at the back of the Harmonium and Reed Organ Museum which was located in Victoria Hall. When the Museum closed, it remained behind timber and equipment at the back of the Fluke Room, but this has recently been cleared revealing the piano. Re-tuning will be expensive and its placement will need to be carefully considered. However, it remains testimony to Saltaire’s excellence on the national scene in the Victorian era. Now that it has been reassembled, discussions are taking place to determine its future. **Should the piano remain in Saltaire? What do *Sentinel* readers think?**

**Roger Clarke**

**Roger**

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## MAGIC LANTERN SHOWS AT VICTORIA HALL

This is the first of three articles from **Roger Clarke** describing magic lantern shows at Victoria Hall.

Mr Salt referred to is Titus Junior, the seventh child of Sir Titus and Lady Caroline.

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1871.**

**Saltaire Club.**

**Lecture by Titus Salt Esq. titled**

**“Reminiscences of a tour of Egypt and the Holy Land”**

“A large screen 25 feet square was suspended above the platform, upon which coloured photographs of the principal scenes of interest, visited by the lecturer, were reflected by the oxy-hydrogen lime light lantern.

Mr Salt commenced his lecture by saying that he started from London on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1865, and went via Paris and Marseilles to Alexandria, touching at Malta where he went ashore for about two hours, and was struck with the number of things he saw which reminded him of old England – some of them rather sad than otherwise, such as drunken sailors and soldiers. He described what were his impressions and feelings when he first landed amongst the Orientals, and gave several amusing illustrations of the customs of the people and the roguery which they endeavoured to practice upon all strangers passing through their country. He described a railway ride in Egypt towards Cairo, and mentioned the fact that all the railway officials were Englishmen, and that the carriages were noticed by himself and his party to be very much like those of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company. On making enquiries they were told that they were the worn out carriages of that company which had been bought and renovated for service in that country. Mr Salt and his friends preferred to ride in some open carriages which were attached to the train, that they might see the country better; and on the journey, which was conducted at a speed which was much slower than on English railroads, they passed many ruins which had been excavated from the sand only to be buried again in the course of time. The natives of those parts took kindly to the trains as a means of locomotion, but they were very guilty of riding without tickets. Europeans were laughed at for taking tickets, and told that the cheapest way to travel was to “tip” the guard, who there also acted as ticket collector. Thus the natives travelled at extremely low fares, and this, of course, would tend not much to increase the dividends of the shareholders, who were mostly Englishmen (laughter)”

*To be continued next month*

**PETER**  
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**NEW HEAD FOR VICTORIA HALL**

Did you know that Victoria Hall is held in a trust? asks Molly Kenyon

It opened in 1871 with the purpose of "promoting and encouraging education and social improvement in the Township of Shipley". The Salt Foundation, an independent charity, still has that purpose. The nine Foundation trustees rely on Shipley College as managing agent, and **Moira Fuller has taken on the key role of Victoria Hall manager. Here are her first impressions:**

I first saw Saltaire in 2009. After a good few years working in venue management in London, we'd finally seen sense and decided to leave the Big Smoke for somewhere the air was fresher, the landscape greener and the smiles warmer. My husband's sister had lived on William Henry Street years before, and I wasn't too far from the station before I knew the village 'felt right'. Victoria Hall struck me from the outset as a Grand Old Lady of a building, full of character and sitting quite proudly in the heart of the community. As I attended various events, I grew to like her more – the decoration, the light, the proportion of the rooms. In recent weeks, I've discovered the elaborate and beautiful pipework for the Wurlitzer organ tucked beneath the stage and seen her recognisable architecture framing archive photos of generations past. As much as I see my role as looking after the Old Lady for future generations to enjoy, it's also about creating memories today. We're lucky to be sited in the centre of such a thriving community, and I'm keen to make the hall your hall. Find out more about events through our mailing list, facebook or twitter accounts, or get in touch with the team to hire the venue for your wedding, party or events.

[www.victoria-hall-saltaire.co.uk/](http://www.victoria-hall-saltaire.co.uk/)

Twitter: @VicHallSaltaire

Facebook.com/victoriahallsaltaire

**REPORTS 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 receive 'write-ups from readers'. (Please note: There is no need to apply formally for the post of 'reporter').

**BOOKSHOP EVENT**

In a special, free event at the Saltaire Bookshop [See above, right], at 7pm on **Thurs., March 28th**, Bradford born **M.Y.Alam**, well known for his novels and his collection "Made in Bradford", will talk about his new novel "Red Laal".

**The SPA**

**21 Titus Street**  
**The Authentic**  
**Village corner shop**

**Open Mon-Sat**  
**8am-10pm**  
**Sun. 10am-10pm**  
01274 - 826534

**SALTAIRE**  
**BOOKSHOP**

**1 Myrtle Place**  
**Tuesday- Saturday**  
**10am - 5pm**  
New/Second-hand books  
01274 - 589144

**VICARS**

**Café Bistro**  
**79 Victoria Road**  
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**ADVERTISING**

**Please Note:** All the establishments promoted here serve as outlets. Advertising space is **NOT** for sale.

*The Sentinel*  
can also be found at  
**VICTORIA HALL**

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**CHURCH**

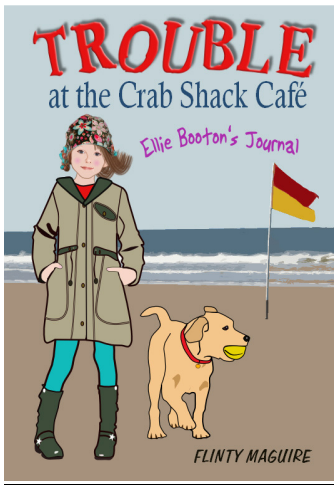
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# Notices - News - Announcements - News - Notices

## PAMELA'S BOOK DOWNLOADING WELL



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

### **SORRY, EUGENE**

Apologies are offered to **Eugene Nicholson**, whose piece here last month, headed *Toni Vivaldi*, was wrongly attributed to 'Eugene Johnson'.

### **CUPPACARE**

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

I run the Saltaire Village website [*see left*], design websites, write copy and illustrate. A few months ago I thought I'd have a go at writing a children's novel, which has turned out to be *Trouble at the Crab Shack Café*. I love children's books and my grandsons always have a story at bedtime. When I was a kid, we lived on a hill with a panoramic view of the coast. It was beautiful - so what better place to set a novel than at the seaside? The book's character, Menella Booton, immortalises my grandmother who was bright and gentle and lived to be 101. I've also used my grandsons' names, Jack and Fin.

Menella (Ellie) moves into her grandma's house overlooking the sea. She writes about her first summer at the seaside in her journal. It's difficult to start over at any age, and just as Ellie is finding her feet, things start to go wrong. I wanted Ellie to be able to think outside the box and to be tenacious and resilient. Her relationship with Grandma is especially close. We all benefit from someone wise to turn to - and of course, everyone needs a good friend, especially when you're new in town.

The book is suitable for children between 8 and 12 and is available on Amazon for Kindle. It has downloaded well in America - some copies in Japan and Germany, and the UK, of course.

I'm writing the sequel to it. Ellie's dad advises - avoid being famous at all costs. [*Watch this space!*] Oh, and I'm using a pen name, Flinty Maguire. I don't know why - but Flinty Maguire is me!

**Pamela Reynolds**

### **Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE in Victoria Hall**

**Sunday, March 17th from 10am**

To reserve a table, call **01274 787908**  
or see [www.saltairvillage.info](http://www.saltairvillage.info)

### **RSPB**

**Airedale and Bradford  
Local Group**

**Friday March 8th,  
7.30pm.**

Room 3, Shipley Library.  
'The Countryside Explained'  
by Chris Tomson

Adults £3, children free.  
**Non-members welcome**

### **WINTER BANDSTAND**

**Caroline Social Club** hosts a series of 'Bandstand' concerts, from 2pm to 3.30pm **Admission free**

**Sunday, March 10th  
Hot Aire**

**Sunday, March 24th  
Cocorico**

with guests from  
Beckfoot School.

### **WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE**

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Come on, now we've got  
the old Joanna, people  
expect more prizes! "

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