

The

Saltaire Sentinel



Hour Lion of VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

PRIZE PIANO PLEA

PIECE OF HISTORY NEEDS HOME

**BACK
BY
POPULAR
DEMAND**

**MISSING
SENTINEL**

Last month, for the first time in ten years, the *Saltaire Sentinel* did not appear, due to (dramatic) circumstances beyond our control. We trust that contributors looking forward to seeing their pieces in print will accept our apologies for any inconvenience. As all copy, contact and calendar details have been lost, please resubmit, using our new address (*below*).

A recently rediscovered important piece of our local heritage is in serious danger of being lost again unless a suitable benefactor steps forward this month.

Our front page in March reported how the beautiful white baby grand piano, which was awarded to the Saltaire Prize Choir in 1896 had emerged from storage in the former Harmonium and Reed Museum in Victoria Hall and been reassembled in time to appear at the Saltaire History Club.

Unfortunately, if understandably, the delicate instrument is at present unplayable - which turns out to be a bigger problem than many of us may expect, as it seems that our baby is no longer welcome in its home of over a hundred years.

Molly Kenyon, on behalf of the Salt Foundation, tells us, "The piano can stay in the Fluke Room until May 31st. After that builders move in. Restoring it isn't feasible - our priority is increasing income to address the deficit."

In this issue
RETURN OF
THE SALTAIRE
PRIZE CHOIR
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS

As we go to press, an approach has been made by a private buyer, but Moira Fuller, the Venue Manager for Victoria Hall says, "Our preference would be for it to go into public collection." - a sentiment with which, we trust, *Sentinel* readers will agree.

If you can help in any way, please contact
Moira Fuller, Venue Manager, Victoria Hall: mfuller@shingley.ac.uk
Dave Shaw, who is leading investigations into retaining the piano in public
ownership dbshawuk@yahoo.co.uk
or the *Sentinel* (see below)

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

Please note that the *Sentinel* now has a new e-mail address:

sentinel@saltairvillage.info

We can also be contacted c/o The Saltaire Bookshop, 1 Myrtle Place

Saltaire History Explorers Investigate THE LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL

A recent survey showed the canal to be one of Saltaire residents' favourite amenities - well used by walkers, joggers, cyclists, and boat owners. Its origins were, of course, founded in the commercial world of freight carriage. A horse could pull fifty times more weight on water than in a cart on the road, and vastly more than the pack horses that crossed the Pennines.

Building started from both ends, under the supervision of John Longbotham, in 1770, with Leeds to Gargrave completed by 1777.



The whole 127 mile route took a further 39 years, partly perhaps because the two ends of the canal were commercially successful in their own right, but also because the cross-Pennine route proved a formidable challenge. Major achievements included the Foulridge tunnel which avoided a further 40 foot ascent, Bingley five-rise lock with a 108 foot rise and Dowley Gap Aqueduct which carries the canal 30 feet above the Aire. The aqueduct, together with Dowley Gap two-rise lock, was open for the public to walk through during the recent maintenance by the Canal and River Trust. A fascinating (and not entirely mud-free) experience, much to Jonathan's enjoyment. And yes, like a bath tub, the canal has a plug to drain the water out! (*pictured*) Part of the canal's success lay in the exceptionally wide lock chambers which, when used with "Short" boats that exploited the full width, allowed the canal to remain competitive with the railway into the twentieth century. Unlike many canals, it never entirely went out of use. A surviving short boat, *Kennet*, run by the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society visited during Saltaire Heritage Weekend (April 13-14) and will return for Saltaire Arts Trail (May 24-27). We will again be first in the queue! **David and Jonathan (aged 9) Starley**

WHAT TITUS JUNIOR SAW

The second of three articles By Roger Clarke, describing magic lantern shows at Victoria Hall.

Last time, we heard of Titus Junior's journey to Egypt. Now more of the detail of what he saw. "Mr Salt then described Cairo, and then went on to speak of their visit to the tombs of the Mameluke kings, to the bazaars of Cairo, and to some of the pyramids. He and his friends mounted the largest of the pyramids. He experienced considerable difficulty in the ascent, although he was assisted by three natives, two to pull him by the hands and the other to push him. Not being able to speak the native tongue he could not make them understand that he would like to rest (laughter). The top of the pyramid was about thirteen feet square, and on it was cut the names of a great many travellers who had ascended it. Many English names were there, for Englishmen always carved their names (laughter). The pyramid covered an area as large as the Saltaire Park. He spoke of the Sphynx near the pyramid, which he said was sixty feet high and had been carved out of a solid piece of rock.

Having concluded his account of his tour in Egypt, Mr Salt introduced two persons attired in the male and female costumes of the Orientals. He said that he had bought the female dress while in Egypt, and had walked about in it, the natives not knowing but that he was a woman, as it is the custom of the females to show nothing of their faces but the eyes (laughter). The tour through the Holy Land, and the pilgrimage of his party to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Tombs of Absalom, Jericho, Bethlehem, Samaria, Nazareth, Capernaum, and other places of note in Scripture history, were next described. Mr Salt related instances of the impostures which the natives carried on in order to deceive and fleece travellers, and towards the conclusion he gave a description of Damascus, which he said on account of its antiquity was entitled to the appellation "Eternal City".

The views which were exhibited were very numerous and well executed, and enabled the audience to realise the scenes depicted and described. At the termination of the proceedings, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr Salt for his kindness in giving the entertainment."

From "The Saltaire Monthly Magazine - A Miscellany of Local and Useful Information for the People" 1871.

To be continued next month

PETER RANDALL

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COMMEMORATIVE TRAIL PLAN

Some members of Saltaire History Club are busy preparing to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

It is always humbling to visit a War Grave Cemetery, or stand in front of a Memorial listing the names of those who died. Saltaire lends itself to another, equally meaningful, way of remembering. Because nearly all the original houses remain standing, it is possible to identify the individual homes from which the young men left to fight in the War. Many did not return – over 100 soldiers with direct links to Saltaire died in the conflict. With the cooperation of local residents, it is hoped to establish a Commemorative Trail which will identify the homes of the soldiers, and allow their individual stories to be told. In the coming months, a series of articles will be featured in the Sentinel telling some of these stories. It is hoped that, by working with descendants, residents, churches, schools, and community groups, arrangements can be made which allows Saltaire to remember this part of its history, & to honour the lives of its past residents.

If you would like to help, please contact Colin Coates or me via historyclub@saltairevillage.info or 07736408339.

Dave Shaw

COULD YOU SEE THIS HAPPENING TODAY?

Asks Roger Clarke

After winning first prize at Morecambe in 1896, the Saltaire Prize Choir returned home by train at 1.30am on a Sunday morning to be greeted on the station by hundreds of supporters to welcome them back. In the pouring rain the crowd demanded a short concert on the railway bridge where the choir gathered and sang "The Sea Hath its Pearls" by Pinsuti and "Great God of Love" a madrigal in eight parts by Pearsall – all without copies and under umbrella canopies.

CHURCH CONCERT

The Gisburn Singers will perform a concert at Saltaire United Reformed Church on Sunday, **May 26th at 3pm**, 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

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can also be found at
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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

EDITORIAL

My sincere gratitude is due to all those people who expressed concern and conveyed their best wishes to me personally following the events which prevented publication of last month's *Sentinel* – and to those who have helped to make publication of this month's possible, especially Fiona and David Scruton, Pamela Reynolds and Roger Clarke.

James Duncan

Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall

Sunday, May 12th

Doors open at 10 am.

01274 787908

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.

The *Saltaire* History Club



Established in 2006 to further the knowledge and awareness of the history of the village.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 6th
Fluke Room, Victoria Hall, 7-9pm**

All welcome – and it's FREE!

historyclub@saltairevillage.info

SPRINGTIME SAUNTERS

Helen's Heritage Walks offer "Springtime Saunters around Saltaire". On **Saturday, May 11th** a circular walk will take participants along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal through Hirst Wood to Nab Wood Cemetery, offering a chance to discover the sites of the Hirst Mills, old and new, along the way. The graves of local mill owners and other interesting characters in the cemetery will then be visited. Adults: £5.00; Children: £3.00; Families £12. Meet at the Half Moon Café in Roberts Park at 10.30 am.

To book, call 01274 532425

or (mobile) **075 28361857**,

or e-mail **helen@saltairevillage.info**

www.helensheritagewalks.co.uk

ENJOY CRICKET IN ROBERTS PARK Saltaire Cricket Club First XI

Home fixtures in May

Sat, 4th Manningham Mills 2ndXI

Sat 18th East Brierley

Mon, 27th Morley

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we report the death of **Bill Hampshire**, author of "The Watermills of Shipley" (published when he was eighty years old) and regular supporter of the Saltaire History Club. Close friend Roger Clarke described him as "a true gentleman".

HISTORY CLUB

The next meeting of the Saltaire History Club [See left] will feature not one but two guest speakers:

In a talk entitled "Polish Threads", **Sarah Dietz** will be looking at a model textile township near Warsaw, developed by Bradford-based textile magnates in the 19th and early 20th century, and with links to Saltaire.

Hattie Townsend will present "The Clash of the Titans", discussing textile businessmen Cunliffe Lister, Titus Salt, Isaac Holden, and their battles over machine patents, and Lister's role in the creation of Cartwright Hall. The talk will include an account of the contribution of sculptor Abraham Broadbent to the Hall's success.

Dave Shaw

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Baby grand? Not in my back yard!"

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