

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

PIANO ON ITS WAY NEW HOME IS FOUND IN HALIFAX

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

ARCHIVE HIGH FIVE

Congratulations are in order to the many people who last month once again made possible the opening to the public of the Saltaire Archive:

Julie Woodward and her colleagues at Shipley College put together, as ever, an excellent exhibition, which was well staffed by a team of willing volunteers and was made even more interesting by a variety of artifacts only recently donated by local folk.

Following our front page stories in March and May of this year, we are pleased to report that the piano awarded to the Saltaire Prize Choir in 1896 now has a new home.

Molly Kenyon tells us: Great care and not a little emotion attended the departure of the chamber grand piano from Victoria Hall on July 26th. It was transported to Halifax, where it will have pride of place in the home of professional musician Mark Walker.

Mark and two of his daughters were present. They visited the Saltaire Archive, meeting both Julie Woodward and Veronica, an Archive volunteer who happens to be a keen pianist.

Rob Martin and Moira Fuller photographed the move, and images will be made available for the Archive.

Mark and his wife Dawn have made a donation to Victoria Hall and intend to have the instrument restored to full working order.

The technical side of the move was undertaken by Andy Wood of Haworth based Pied Piper Pianos. Staff at Victoria Hall, trustees of the Salt Foundation and Archive volunteers share the pleasure of the Walker family in knowing that the Choir Prize Piano, which was recently rediscovered, dismantled, in storage in the former Harmonium and Reed Museum, will be loved and well used.

[See Editorial, P.4 >>]

**In this issue
PADDLING
FOR SLAG
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

TRAFFIC SIGNS

Work has begun, according to the signs, on the removal of Saltaire Roundabout and the implementation of the long awaited, often hotly disputed alternative.

As we go to press, the only evidence is, to put it politely, a load of bollards. To be fair, the same signs, announcing the commencement of work in "Mid July", do add that "Delays [are] possible."

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

sentinel@saltairvillage.info

We can also be contacted c/o **The Saltaire Bookshop, 1 Myrtle Place**
The Deadline is always the 20th of the month prior to publication.

LOOKING DOWN ALBERT ROAD AGAIN With Roger Clarke

Last month we looked at four houses at the top of Albert Road. At the bottom of Albert Road is their mirror image, repeating the four-house villa design. These houses also display evidence of having been in use flexibly as shared accommodation, and as such have earned an important place in the educational history of Saltaire. Once again I draw on the expertise of **Colin Coates** and **David King** for census and Bradford Directories information.

These houses were originally 34 to 37, but since renumbering in 1928 are now 67 to 73. Between the 1881 and 1901 census they were used as a boarding school. In 1881, Nos 34 to 37 were occupied by Martha Jowett, school mistress, 3 assistants, 5 servants and 17 female students aged 8 to 18 years. By 1891, only Nos 36 and 37 were still a boarding school with Elizabeth Thompson, 39 year old teacher, living with her sister, a visitor, 2 servants and 4 female students. In 1901, the situation remains the same, with Jessie Miller Wilson, 29 year old house mistress, living with 2 assistants, 2 servants and 6 female pupils. By 1911 the properties were again 4 houses.

There is a link between these houses and the prestigious Salt Girls High School which opened in September, 1876, with lessons being conducted in the Saltaire Club and Institute (now Victoria Hall). The first Headmistress there was **Miss Medina Sara Griffiths** who lived in Albert Road and took in boarders. Girls came from all over the country to study in Saltaire, and Miss Griffiths bought one house after another to accommodate them. At one point she owned 5 houses, including No 38 (now 75). When she left the school in 1886 there were 150 girls in the school and a large percentage were boarders. Miss Griffiths took 40 of the boarders with her when she took up her next post in Isleworth in Middlesex. There is Directory but not census evidence that she lived at No 37. Miss Griffiths and her successor, **Miss Harriet Byles**, were outstanding in the way in which they improved education for girls to a high academic standard.

Denise and Bernard Hibbert live in No 71 today. Denise was featured in the *Sentinel* in August, 2008 for her contribution to the regeneration of Saltaire. This time she kindly gave me permission to focus on their house. The ground floor has three well proportioned rooms, which basically remain as they were built. The cellar gives more clues to the boarding school history. It is now divided into three compartments, but the dividing walls are of relatively modern brick, and originally this was one large space which still had the meat hooks and stone slabs in place when Denise bought it. There used to be a large cooking range here before Denise moved in. This was the kitchen for the school linked through to the houses on either side. The picture is similar on the first floor with 4 large rooms which Denise believes formed the dormitory for the school across all four houses. She considers herself very fortunate to live with all this history.

HATTIE'S TOURS OF CARTWRIGHT HALL

Hattie Townsend will be leading the next of her guided tours of Cartwright Hall on Sunday, August 25th starting at 2.15pm. The tours, which are free and informal, are expected to last about forty minutes, taken at the pace of the group. Refreshments will be available. For more details telephone Cartwright Hall on 01274 431212, or consult the website.

Stories from World War One

Corporal Harry Skirrow

Corporal Harry Skirrow died at the age of 24, in tragic circumstances on May 4th 1916. He was not killed by enemy fire; he met his death through a hand grenade accidentally exploding. His wife (and two young children) received the news by letter, whilst she was living with her parents at 7 Dove Street, Saltaire.

Harry, after serving a year with the 20th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment, had recently been transferred to the 12th Battalion. He was undergoing grenade training at a bombing school. The day before he died he wrote a letter home, of which the following is an extract:-

"I am in the firing line, but at present am going through a course of bombing behind the trenches. You know what thunder is like, well it is a thousand times worse than that out here. I am in danger, but cheer up, I know God will watch over me and bring me safely back to "Blighty".

Harry was formerly employed by Messrs. Waite Bros., painters of Shipley. He had previously served for five years with the Shipley detachment of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

His grave can be found at Reninghelst New Military Cemetery in Belgium and he is remembered on the Rolls of Honour at Nab Wood and St Peters.

Research by Colin Coates

If you would like to help with the planning of local commemorations of the First World War, please contact either Colin Coates or Dave Shaw via historyclub@saltairevillage.info or mobile 07736408339.

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**Saltaire History Explorers Go
PADDLING FOR SLAG**

Saltaire is proud to be one of the historically significant industrial sites awarded World Heritage Status. Another, Coalbrookdale claims to be the birthplace of the industrial revolution, with its pioneering use of coke to smelt iron. Our region has a part to play in that story also. Yorkshire's Cistercian monasteries were heavily involved in iron production and after the dissolution several entrepreneurs, such as Sir Richard Shireburn at Esholt set up in business. A more colourful figure was Thomas Proctor, who had a water-powered forge, apparently on Bradford Beck near where it joins the Aire. Proctor was clearly a man of imagination, if not sound business ethics and he obtained the first patent for smelting iron with coal, peat and (more conventionally) charcoal. He persuaded another investor, Edward Cage to build a blast furnace and forge at a place identified as Brucrofts "near unto Shipley" about 1590. Another entrepreneur, Richard Topcliffe temporarily used this facility for a trial of Proctor's method. The iron produced was poor quality and difficult to work. An acrimonious legal battle ensued (which is why we know so much about this failure), but not about any prior or subsequent successful operation of the furnace. But where was this site? Perhaps under New Hirst (fulling) Mill which was built in 1745 at the bend in the Aire in Hirst Woods and which had proposed to widen "Old Forge Goyt", the leat that cut across the bend in the river. A water-powered mill is also shown at the other end of this leat on Thomas Jeffrys' 1775 map, close to where a field name "Cinder Hills" is recorded on a document in the Saltaire Archives. Having now narrowed down the search to two possible sites the history explorers were joined by geophysical surveyor, Dan Shiel and his magnetometer. Unfortunately, no conclusive hot spots were found. Perhaps because of the "noise" of more recent construction (and beer cans). More success was achieved by putting on wellies and paddling in the river. Iron-working slag there is in plenty, but it is unclear exactly what the process was, or where the activity was centered. 400 years on, the construction of the canal and railway and a shifting watercourse have blurred the physical evidence. It is, however, clear that the iron industry, has an older, longer and more significant history in the vicinity of Saltaire than many of our local histories suggest.

David and Jonathan (aged 10) Starley

The SPA

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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.saltairvillage.info

PIANO PIECE

It may seem to many of us a pity that the Saltaire Prize Choir piano will not be staying in the Village. [See page 1] However, as the instrument has lain for so long not so much forgotten by as unknown to most of us, we must beware of inappropriate sentimentality. After all, pianos are made to be played, not looked at.

Molly Kenyon is to be applauded for her efforts to find this one a new home and Mark Walker's response must be met by optimistic gratitude. Yet without Phil and Pam Fluke's museum this piece of history *would* be lost.

James Duncan [Editor]

Saltair Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall

Sunday, Aug. 4th

Doors open at 10 am.

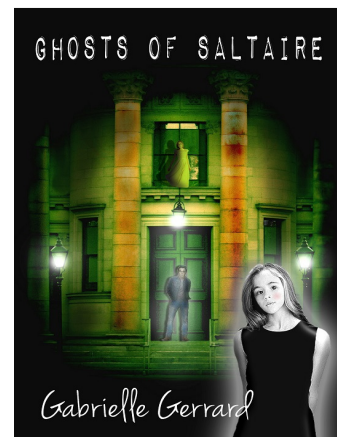
01274 787908

GABRIELLE'S GHOSTLY NEW BOOK

A new novel by Gabrielle Gerrard tells a fictional story underpinned by facts gained through extensive research into local myths and legends, as well as the 1881 archives. The year is 1881 and Sir Titus has been dead for five years.

When the stone lions run down to the river to drink, four 21st century children are whisked back in time to experience the splendour and squalor of life with four Victorian families as Sir Titus weaves his powerful magic over the village he created.

Gabrielle, who has an MA in Creative Writing and is currently Leader of Learning with the Kennet Project, based on the historic canal boat which travels the length of the Leeds and Liverpool canal tells us, "*Ghosts of Saltaire* was written to entertain, but also to ignite the imagination and interests of younger generations. The future of the historic village lies in their hands. I owe a great deal to a group of children from Salts School who confirmed my belief in '*Ghosts of Saltaire*'. After my session with them, which included readings, discussion and consultation based on the unfinished novel they asked, 'When can we buy it?'" The answer is - NOW! - on Kindle



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.

BANDSTAND PROGRAMME

Free in Roberts Park, Sundays, 2.30-4pm.

August

4th Rainbow Morris

11th GMC Jazz

18th Bradford Voices

25th Fiddle 'n' Feet

Jazz and Curry Evening from 6.30

Saturday 17th Aeroplanes at Brescia

CRICKET IN ROBERTS PARK

Saltair Cricket Club First XI

Home fixtures in August

Sat, 3rd Lightcliffe

Sat, 17th Hanging Heaton

Sat, 24th Pudsey St. Lawrence

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"I, too, feel undervalued, overlooked and in need of being moved sometimes!"

[See column 1]

The Saltaire Sentinel, written by the people of Saltaire and photocopied by Shipley College in the heart of Saltaire every month, is not affiliated to, nor in any way controlled or influenced by any group, society or organisation. sentinel@saltairvillage.info Sadly, sooner or later you will dispose of this copy of the *Sentinel*. Please do so with care for our World Heritage Site environment.