

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

WINDOW WATCHING

HUNT FOR HIDDEN SNOWMEN

Seasonal Greetings to all our readers

HISTORY CLUB

Sheila Binns, will be talking about her recently published book 'The Aesthetics of Utopia' at the Saltaire History Club meeting on **Thursday, Dec. 5th (6.30-9.15pm)** in the Methodist Church Hall, Saltaire Road.

Anne Harrison will be the club's other guest and there will, as ever, be the chance to chat over refreshments.

All are welcome
 – and it's FREE !

It may be getting dark earlier, but that's all the better for viewing the illuminated windows which comprise the Saltaire Living Advent Calendar, writes David Starley

As usual from 4pm each day in December, one more window will be "opened".

Due to unprecedented demand to be involved, a number of community buildings and shops will also be taking part, **from December 1st to January 5th.**

This year the organisers have given preference to

first timers, so we can expect some fresh ideas. With youngsters in mind, there's a chance to spot four Saltaire snowmen: *Titus, Herbert, George* and *Albert* hiding in many of the windows.

For a magical experience on Christmas Eve, don't miss the carol singing around the windows – meeting up at Saltaire Bookshop at 7pm.

Flyers containing a map of the locations will be delivered to local houses and be available from the Visitor Information Centre and Victoria Hall - or look on the website:

<http://salthaireinspired.org.uk/living-advent-calendar/>

In this issue
CHURCH CLOCK
Plus
QUEEN'S FROCKS
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL UNUSUALS

CAROL SERVICE

An invitation is offered to all by Saltaire United Reformed Church to "Come and celebrate the Christmas story" at **The Village Carol Service**, the traditional offering of lessons and carols sung by candle-light, at **6.30pm on Sunday, December 22nd** Holy Communion on Christmas Eve begins at 11.30pm and on Christmas Day there will be a short Family Service from 11am.

ROTARY CAROL CONCERT
 Saltaire United Reformed Church
Tuesday, December 10th 7.30pm.
 Otley Brass Band & Baildon Primary Sch. Choir
 £5 on the door, for Rotary and Restoration Fund.

WHATEVER IT IS - SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel* !
 sentinel@salthairevillage.info OR c/o The Saltaire Bookshop, 1 Myrtle Place
 The Deadline is always 20th of the month prior to publication.

Roger Clarke's HISTORY OF DYEING



"Dyeing at Salts Mill." Photograph courtesy of the Albert Bowtell Collection in the Saltaire Archive held at Shipley College.

When Titus opened his Saltaire Mill in 1853, the industry was still using natural dyes but with improved mordants.

In 1868, Titus built New Mill on the north side of the Leeds/Liverpool canal, and used it to house a new dye works. Significant changes had been made in the dyeing process with the introduction of **aniline dyes**. Their discovery is a fascinating story.

In 1856, an 18 year old chemistry student named William Henry Perkin was looking for a cure for malaria and trying to synthesise quinine. His experiments were with coal tar which was left after coal was "cooked" to produce gas for commercial use. His experiments were unsuccessful and a common result of failed experiments in organic chemistry is a thick black residue in the bottom of the flask. While cleaning the flask with alcohol, Perkins noticed that it formed a purple liquid which could be used for dyeing cloth. He called his substance "mauveine". Other colours followed mauve, including magenta, fuschia, violet and then a plethora of blues and greens. Previously the only way to produce a bright green was to use arsenic – hence the title "poison green".

The popularity of Titus' alpaca worsted was partly due to Queen Victoria's fashion of the crinoline which used so much of this "Orlean's cloth" in its manufacture. On the death of Prince Albert in 1861, black became the order of the day as the Queen went into extensive mourning. Fortunately, she liked the new mauve and felt that it was suitable to wear in her unfortunate circumstances.

Most of these aniline dyes produced very bright colours which were acceptable in daylight, firelight and gas light but under electric lighting they appeared garish and harsh. As a result of this, and of the criticism of these crude, bright colours by the Aesthetic Movement, there was a slow return to the more subtle shades of vegetable dyes by the 1890s. However, this revival was short lived.

As a final aside, the pharmaceutical industry had its origins in the dyestuffs industry. It was found that many of the new chemical dyes killed bacteria.

In this series I have shared some of my early thoughts about dyeing in Saltaire, in the hope that readers might have additional information to share to build up an accurate picture on the pages of this newspaper.

[Some such information has already been received, and will be published next month-*Editor*]

Stories from **World War One**

Joshua Marshall

Research by Colin Coates

On Saturday March 27th, 1915 RMS Falaba sailed from Liverpool bound for Sierra Leone with 145 passengers and 95 crew aboard. The following day 104 lives were lost when 50 miles off the Welsh coast the Falaba was torpedoed by the German U boat, U28.

One of the survivors was Joshua Marshall, a native of Saltaire who returned home to tell the tale.

Joshua was in with the ship's barber when a steward shouted, "There's a submarine coming alongside." Within minutes, the captain of a German U-boat was shouting through a megaphone, telling the captain to stop his ship. With escape not an option, the ship was brought to a stop and the order was given to lower the lifeboats. With men still aboard, the Falaba was struck by a torpedo; resulting in a terrible explosion that Joshua witnessed from a lifeboat less than thirty yards away. The Falaba listed heavily to starboard and quickly sank. The crew of the U-boat appeared to be on deck as the Falaba went down. They made no attempt to save the men struggling in the water.

After rowing for about three hours Joshua and his fellow survivors were rescued by a trawler and returned safely home via Milford.

To help with local commemorations of World War One, please contact either Colin Coates or Dave Shaw:

**historyclub@saltairevillage.info
or mobile 07736408339**

PETER RANDALL

***Gentleman's
Hairdresser***

205 Bingley Road

01274 - 597140

VICTORIA TEAROOMS

8 Victoria Road

Open Daily

Coffee, tea, cakes, scones,
snacks and novelty gifts

01274 - 823092

CAROLINE SOCIAL CLUB

Caroline Street, always
has a welcome for all.

Regular Events

01274 - 585140

SALTS MILL

**Opened in 1853
and still**

Open Every Day

Attractions include:

SALT'S DINER

***Cafe in to
the Opera***

**SALTAIRE
HISTORY
EXHIBITION**

1853 Gallery

THE HOME

and many other, varied
retail outlets

ADMISSION FREE

01274 - 531163

Saltaire History Explorers Investigate The Sometimes Sad Stories of SALTAIRE ARTISTS

Saltaire is a vibrant centre for Visual Arts, with the works of David Hockney in the Mill, the Saltaire Art Trail, and *one of the highest densities of professional artists in the UK*. The weekly art club in the Methodist Church Hall is thriving and Shipley College offers a range of part-time courses, while Titus Salts School pupils have been working with professional artists. **So much for the present**, but did our predecessors in this industrial village have much exposure to art? **Colin Coates** passed on a clipping from the *Shipley Times* in which The Shipley Technical College and School of Art (now the Exhibition Building) advertised a showing of students' work and "valuable" works from the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1914. The later headmaster, Walter C Foster (1887-1927) was an artist, and prints of his work can still be bought in Salts Mill. He died after falling from a window. William Capling Stevens, (b.1870), whose paintings never sold well, is reputed to have starved to death in his Albert Terrace home in 1912. More recently, the passing of Govinder, aged only 44, was a sad loss to us all. **David and Jonathan (10) Starley**

SPONSORS OF TIME

Len Morris of Saltaire United Reformed Church writes: For some years now we have set, reset and corrected the clock on the church which, we presume, is used by those passing by on their way to school, work or other pressing appointments. This is not easy: Having climbed the 65 steps to the ringing room, you then need to climb a steep ladder to access the clock mechanism. As this is electrically driven, you need to look at the balance weights to the hands and try to imagine the face in 'mirror' image; set it anti-clockwise to go clockwise, etc.- while holding a torch, because it is dark up there - and then spin the electric motor in the correct direction. On at least one occasion I have come out to find the clock two hours wrong because I had spun the motor the wrong way! **But now the clock has stopped.** Experts tell us that the mechanism is worn and needs replacing. However, the cost will be about £1,161 - and church accounts are not "slopping around" with cash, £450,000 having already been spent on the (continuing) restoration programme. So the question is: **Is it worth keeping the clock going? If so, is anyone prepared to help sponsor the time on the tower with a donation?**

The Sentinel welcomes readers' views.

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

"Pop in and see us!"

01274 - 597818

ADVERTISING

All the establishments
promoted here serve as
outlets for this paper.
Advertising space is
NOT for sale.

The Saltaire Sentinel
can also be found at
VICTORIA HALL

**Saltaire
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH
Saltaire
POST OFFICE**

**Saltaire
MEDICAL
PRACTICE
Saltaire
VISITOR
INFORMATION
CENTRE
Shipley
LIBRARY**

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.saltairvillage.info

SEEMBERJEET APPEAL

Information is still needed regarding Seemberjeet Kaur (34 years old and 5'4" tall) last seen in Roberts Park on Wednesday, October 23rd wearing a beige jacket, jeans and brown boots. A photo of Seemberjeet appears on www.saltairvillage.info

If you can help, please call 101 and ask for Bradford CID, or contact Missing People on 116000

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.

Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall

Sunday,

December 8th

Doors open at 10 am.

01274 787908

VILLAGE SOCIETY

Vanessa Pilny writes: As the new Chairperson of the Saltaire Village Society (SVS), I would like to take this opportunity to give *Sentinel* readers an update on our activities:

In October we hosted Saltaire Connected – representatives from over thirty local groups came to let others know what they do and to find new members. It was a successful night and we raised enough money to buy two hundred more lights for the Christmas tree outside Victoria Hall, the switching on of which, with carols, stalls and free mulled wine, we organised.

Next year SVS will be celebrating its thirtieth birthday and we hope to grow into a stronger group representing the interests and concerns of the residents of Saltaire.

To do this well, we will need more members!

We meet over a drink about once every six weeks at Caroline Street Social Club. All our meetings are open, so **please come along to see what we do.** Our next meetings are both on **Tuesdays, December 3rd and January 14th** at 7.30pm. We can be contacted by email at secretarysvs@googlemail.com or via Saltaire Bookshop on **01274 589144**

SALTS WALKS WEBSITE

Maria Glot, Bradford's first Tourism Officer and local resident since 1987, has launched a new website to promote **Salts Walks**, the enterprise she instigated, with the help of Anne Heald, in 1996, which aims to bring the history of the village alive with costumed guided tours. The team of guides includes writer Roger Clarke, linguist Sally Clegg, expert on Victorian medical matters Sheila Landsdell and experienced teacher Viv Swaine. Together, they raise funds for the restoration of Saltaire United Reformed Church (over £3,500 in 2012) and are working with the History Club to produce a World War One Saltaire Trail for 2014.

saltswalks@saltairvillageexperience.co.uk

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Leeds Concert Band will be presenting entertaining music from stage and screen, with a seasonal flavour, at Saltaire United Reformed Church on **Saturday, Dec. 14th** at 7pm. £5 (£4 conc.) on the door.

WINTER BANDSTAND

Caroline Social Club offers a varied programme of music on the second Sunday of every month from October to May. Doors open at noon and the show starts at 2pm. **Admission free**

**December 8th
Gerry Cooper
and Phil Snell**

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"I intend to get 'lit up' - and hope that *nobody* notices!"

[See page 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.