

The

Saltaire Sentinel

Your Lion of VIGILANCE Published monthly

ALPACA AT CHURCH

A WONDER OF THE WORLD

HERITAGE WEEKEND

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

POST OFFICE

From the first of this month, Saltaire Post Office can be found at 32 Bradford Road, (just across the way from its former location on Gordon Terrace), now incorporated with Saltaire Wines. (The move was reported on our front page last month, but the date was changed after we went to press.)



Appropriately arty animals, created by Friends of Roberts Park (left) and Saltaire Village Society, craftily entice visitors to the exhibition.

The United Reformed Church last month hosted an exhibition of work by artists including **David Starley** and **Sharon Ashton** which was just one of the many highlights of this year's **World Heritage Weekend**. The coincidence [?] of this celebration, already recognised as an

annual event, with the 40th (Yes, *Fortieth*) Day of Dance and the launch ("This is only the starting point" says **David Ford**) of *Totally Locally* serves to underline the fact that the best things in Saltaire are instigated, brought to fruition, supported – and funded – by the local community.

**In this issue
DIGGING FOR
VICTORY**
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

TRAMWAY BENEFIT

Caroline Street Social Club hosts a special concert on May 16th (7.30pm), featuring local folk music acts, including 'Into the Buttercup', with all proceeds to benefit the Shipley Glen Tramway. **Tickets**, at £6 (£5 if you are under 14 or over 65), are available from the club, or call **Dina** on 07905000545.

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

sentinel@saltairvillage.info OR c/o The Saltaire Bookshop, 1 Myrtle Place

The Deadline is always 20th of the month prior to publication.

Roger Clarke's SALTAIRE FOLK LEN AND DOREEN MORRIS

Len and Doreen Morris have lived in this area since 1990, and have invested much of their free time in **Saltaire United Reformed Church**, joining the congregation in 1991, when **John Jenkins** was the respected Minister there. Len was still in full-time work with Bowers Internal Gauge as Technical Director at this time. On his "retirement", Len felt able to join the team at the church as fundraiser, working mainly with **Dr Ian Livingstone** who had the main responsibility for the restoration programme and **David O'Loan**, Church Treasurer. He soon realised the huge task which confronted him in obtaining grant funding. The estimated cost of Phase Two of the restoration was £500,000. Much of this was raised through English Heritage which donated 50% of the cost, but remarkably over 10% was achieved through the efforts of the congregation themselves. Work was completed on the porch, the windows, and the mausoleum. Between 2005 and 2013, £514,000 was raised by the restoration team. Planning for Phase Three is now under way. Major tasks are to install disabled access and to establish the lower rooms as an education centre. This demands new funding sources because English Heritage only awards grants for restoration, not for improvements. The solution is for the church to work much more closely with other institutions in the community, and a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation** is being formed consisting of the UR Church, the Salt Foundation and Shipley College. Trustees are appointed from these bodies, who will in turn recruit others from groups within the community. In October, 2013, Len was short-listed as a **World Heritage Angel** acknowledging the work which he has done for church restoration. Typically he says that it was the church team which was recognised, not just him. What is equally clear is that **Doreen's contribution to the achievement is considerable**. These teenage sweethearts have recently celebrated their golden wedding. They went to school together in Swindon, and after obtaining a degree in Physics at Leicester University Len took a post with Unicam Instruments Ltd in Cambridge which later became Philips Scientific, part of the Philips electronic equipment firm. He was part of the research and development team which developed equipment such as atomic spectrometers which have applications in a wide number of fields. He later became manager of their laboratory. In the meantime, Doreen was establishing her own career in the laboratory of the Great Western Railway Company in Swindon, before bringing up their two children. She eventually joined the International Wool Secretariat in their laboratories, mainly testing dyes but also involving herself in interesting asides such as analysing effluent. Her period of study came at this point when she undertook a distance learning course in Analytical Chemistry, leading to a job analysing pesticide residues in wool. They joked that much of their conversation at this time was about her use of technology which Len had developed. Very compatible! When Len began consultancy work, Doreen acted as secretary and accountant, and when there was £450,000 to raise on church restoration she was again at his side supporting this very demanding role. The support isn't always passive, and I've seen Len quail at the prospect of Doreen's disapproval. Love, respect, sharing and more than a touch of humour are at the basis of both their achievements, and it is Saltaire's great good fortune that they are settled here. **[For Len's latest news from church see Page 4 >>]**

Stories from World War One by Colin Coates Saltaire's War Hospital

At the outbreak of the First World War the governors of The Salt Charity granted use of Saltaire Hospital, if it should be required, for nursing wounded soldiers and sailors. The hospital had seventeen beds following the addition of a third floor in 1909.

The hospital flourished under the popular matron, Miss **Hannah Mitchell**. When she joined the hospital in 1897 they dealt with 300 "out patients" and 37 "in patients"; by 1915 this had increased to 1400 and over 200.

The hospital received its first soldiers on May 6th, 1915 – a batch of ten including four who had received bullet or shrapnel wounds.

There was an appeal in the *Shipley Times* for donations of "eggs, pots of jam, biscuits, sweets, chocolates, tobacco and cigarettes." There was also an appeal to car drivers to give the men rides out to help with their convalescence.

The inhabitants of Saltaire and Shipley were very generous and the men were well looked after by the hospital staff. One of the men, Private **A. W. Patrick** (18th Battalion Kings Liverpool Regiment), wrote a letter to the *Shipley Times* stating "*my convalescence at Shipley is a cherished memory, never to be forgotten*".

**To help with local commemorations of World War One, please contact either Colin Coates or Dave Shaw:
historyclub@saltairevillage.info
or mobile 07736408339**

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**Saltaire History Explorers
Investigate**

DIGGING FOR VICTORY

An 1881 plan of Saltaire shows numerous allotment plots around the village. Apparently with Sir Titus' support, workers enjoyed the productive recreation of fruit and vegetable growing. By contrast, Sir James Roberts, the Managing Director of the Mill from 1893 to 1919, is said to have believed that 'if his men were giving good value for money during working hours they would not have enough energy left for gardening'. In 1919 he even bought up one area of allotments, between canal and river (the current site of The Boathouse).

The allotment holders were given replacement plots at Hirst Lane, but by the time of the 1934 Ordnance Survey map, further plots had been laid out, on their current site behind the URC church, perhaps as part of the government's Allotment Gardens for the Unemployed scheme. At some point the Allotment Society's shed was physically moved there. Old account books and the secretary's notes, found in the shed and dating to the Second World War relate to this. The feint carbon copies of letters are headed 'Hirst Lane Allotment Society', but in 1944 the decision to change the name to Saltaire and District Allotments Society is recorded, presumably to include the Saltaire plots.

The records provide a fascinating insight into the most famous era of the allotments, when growing your own veg. not only helped keep your family adequately fed, but was regarded as a patriotic duty, indeed part of the war effort. Membership again expanded rapidly. Amongst the secretary's letters securing supplies of fertilizer are a request to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to supply 'Dig for Victory' posters and thanks expressed for gifts of seeds from Australia and the USA.

Post-war, the allotments slipped into a more settled routine. Amongst the, predominantly male, members a number of East European refugees showed amazing ingenuity in building remarkably well equipped sheds from re-used building materials. However, feuds between neighbors were not uncommon. By the end of the millennium that generation were hanging up their spades and plots lay unused. The current century has seen a huge revival of interest, with waiting lists longer than ever. The holders are now more likely to be families with an aim of producing organic veg. whilst enjoying outdoor exercise - the good life indeed.

David and Jonathan (aged 10) Starley

The SPA

21 Titus Street
**The Authentic
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Open Mon-Sat
8am-10pm
Sun. 10am-10pm
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SALTAIRE
BOOKSHOP

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10am - 5pm
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VICARS

Café Bistro
79 Victoria Road
"Pop in and see us!"
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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
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Notices - News - Announcements - News - Notices

VILLAGE SOCIETY

Vanessa Pilny Writes:

At our last meeting we looked at the council's proposals for changes to Victoria Road which were presented at two recent consultation sessions. The committee felt that the best choice would be (a combination of "Options 2 and 3"): removal of some large trees - to be replaced by smaller ones - if they are causing serious damage to pavements or buildings, management of other larger trees and improvements to paving and lighting. We have also suggested an area of setts between Victoria Hall and the Salt Building with a no parking zone and colourful planters. If you want to help SVS in any way, or just come along to one of our Tuesday meetings at Caroline Street Social Club, you are most welcome. Next meeting: **May 20th** at 7.30pm.

We can be contacted via email at

secretarysvs@googlemail.com
or via Saltaire Bookshop in person or on **01274 589144**.

**Saltaire Cricket Club
TABLE TOP SALE**

**Victoria Hall
Sunday, May 18th
Doors open at 10 am.
01274 787908**

MARIE CURIE MEETING OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES

Marie Curie Cancer Care is appealing for two key volunteers in the local community to take on the roles of Chairperson and Secretary in their new Shipley & Saltaire Fundraising Group which will be launched in May 2014. Local residents are invited to a meeting on **Tuesday, May 13th**, at Asda, in Shipley from 6.30pm onwards to find out more. The fundraising group will support the work of Marie Curie Cancer Care in the area by co-ordinating the Great Daffodil Appeal, organising a Blooming Great Tea Party, looking after the collection tins as well as any other fundraising activities they enjoy. The group will meet every 4 – 6 weeks and the Chair and Secretary will play a key role in making the most of all fundraising opportunities in the local area. Anyone interested in taking on either of these challenging but rewarding roles, who is not able to attend the meeting, is asked to contact **Helen Rowlands on 01274 337 034** or email helen.rowlands@mariecurie.org.uk

GOOD NEWS FROM CHURCH

Titus Salt, or at least his statue, is having his first clean for 150 years. Next time you come through the vestibule of Saltaire United Reformed Church, have a look (but please bear in mind that as I write, some intricate parts have yet to be worked on). The mausoleum has been closed recently while the monuments in there are cleaned and repaired – including the trumpet in Gabriel's hand. The scaffolding which you may have noticed around the base of the tower was needed to correct the pointing in the stone work where water has been leaking into the church. It is all costing *a lot* of money, of course, – but everything is noticeably better.

Len Morris

VILLAGE WEBSITE

The *Saltaire Sentinel* is available online, via the not for profit Saltaire Village Website, thanks to **Pamela Reynolds**, who manages the site at

www.saltairivillage.info

Archived issues include September 2010, which features Roger Clarke's history of the Post Office in Saltaire.

WINTER BANDSTAND

Caroline Social Club
FREE live music from 2pm
May 11th
Den Miller
Strid

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.

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"I'm sure my contribution was appreciated by visitors to the Heritage Weekend!"

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@saltairivillage.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.