

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

# MANAGEMENT MANIA HERITAGE PLAN UPDATE DUE

*Celebrating  
 Saltaire  
 All Year  
 Round*

## HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Bradford Libraries will be holding a Heritage Open Day in Shipley Library on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 3pm, focusing on the history and heritage of Shipley, Saltaire and Baildon. If you would like to contribute to the exhibition of memorabilia, please contact Peter Walker to indicate your equipment needs.

**peter.walker@bradford.gov.uk**  
**Tel. 01274 433671**

The World Heritage Site Management Plan for Saltaire has been updated in draft form, but there is still time for residents to offer suggestions or even objections.

There will be a public consultation event on 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, 2-7pm, in the Caroline Street Social Club, so 'drop in' at any time to see and discuss the Plan. [Continued on Page 4>]

In this issue  
**PICTURE HOUSE REMEMBERED**  
*Plus*  
**ALL OUR USUAL UNUSUALS**

## HISTORY CLUB

The next meeting of the Saltaire History Club is on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> of this month from 7 to 9pm in the Methodist Church on Saltaire Road.

In an appropriately timed programme, Mike and Tish Lawson will be speaking about "Baildon's response to the Great War" while Richard Coomber takes recruiting the troops as his theme in "The Finger Points at You".

**Admission is free and all are welcome.**

## “NOT ABOUT HEROES” – ‘THE SURVIVORS 1919’

A unique promenade play for the Saltaire Festival performed on Saturday and Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> at 11-15am and 2-3pm.

Meet characters whose experiences in the Great War have changed their lives forever. Come and share their stories.

Tickets are now on sale, at £7 (£5 concessions), available from Saltaire Visitor Information Centre - Tel 01274 437942, Salts Walks 01274 599887, mobile: 07801449105, or on-line at [www.saltairvillageexperience.co.uk](http://www.saltairvillageexperience.co.uk)

[www.saltairfestival.co.uk](http://www.saltairfestival.co.uk)

Details and images on websites.

In case of heavy rain performances will be in the Saltaire United Reformed Church (downstairs).

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

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

**The Deadline is always 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.**

# SALTAIRE PICTURE HOUSE



## **Roger Clarke writes:**

**Donald Swift** [See 'Saltaire Folk', *opposite*] showed me a commemorative programme for the opening of the **Saltaire Picture House** (which was on Bingley Road, opposite the Tram Sheds, where the filling-station is now located). The Picture House was opened on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1922 by Thomas Blythe Esq, JP, and Lord Mayor of Bradford. There was a full programme of films including "The Virtuous Vamp" and "Our Mutual Friend" by Charles Dickens. The latter is described as "A superb Nordisk masterpiece". Admission was 8d, 1/- and 1/6d. Proceeds from the opening went to the Princess Mary New Wing at Saltaire Hospital. The programme describes the cinema in detail as follows:- "The Saltaire Picture House is an imposing structure erected in the Renaissance style, with ashlar stone front, over-mounted by a golden globe. It is built from the designs of Mr William Illingworth, and local firms have been mainly entrusted with the work required. There is a verandah over the whole of the front of the building, in the centre of which is a kiosk for the purpose of retailing sweets. There is a spacious main entrance, the floor of which is laid with marble terrazzo, and the same material is utilised for the staircase, the floor of the circle and the auditorium. The fibrous plaster decorations throughout are in the Neo-Grec style. The proscenium is artistically decorated in pale green, cream and gold, and the Ionic columns on each side are also similarly adorned. There is seating for 1,500 people, with tip-up chairs of the latest and most comfortable design. Handsome Wilton carpets of royal blue and gold cover the floor, and harmonise admirably with the entire decorative scheme.

Great care has been devoted to the heating and ventilation of the new building. The hall is well lighted by electric installation, and the whole building is fire-proof. The special orchestra has been engaged under the direction of Mr J W Brayshaw. Messrs Hilton and Hilton has supplied a full concert grand piano. The management can be relied upon to provide the best and latest pictures." The 8-piece orchestra performed as musical accompaniment to these early silent films, and included the grand piano mentioned above and a reed organ.

## **Stories from World War One**

**By Colin Coates**

### **The First of Many Fatalities**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1914 saw Saltaire suffer its first known fatality of the Great War. The brave soldier was **Sam Spencer**, a 32 year old married mill worker with a loving wife, Edith (nee Bennett), and a young daughter, Grace (born 1908) who lived at 10 Fanny Street in Saltaire.

Sam served as a Private with the 1st Battalion Royal Scot Fusiliers. They formed part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade who were one of the first Brigades to see action in France. Sam died as his battalion fought in the First Battle of Aisne.

As reported in the *Shipley Times*, a memorial service was held for Sam on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1914 at Saltaire Congregationalist Church (now URC). Here is an extract from the report;-

*"The pastor, the Rev. P. Drummond Pringle conducted the service. A peal of muffled bells was rung by the church ringers under the leadership of Mr. A. Riley. The choir were in attendance and Mr. W. Sutcliffe officiated at the organ. The church was filled with worshippers who had gathered to express their sympathy with the widow and the other relatives of the deceased.*

*Following a short address by the pastor the organist played the Dead March from Handel's "Saul". The impressive service was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.*

Sam is remembered on the memorial at La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre, a small village 66km east of Paris. He is also remembered on the Rolls of Honour at Nab Wood, St. Pauls, St. Peters & Saltaire URC. Sam had an elder brother, Holdsworth, who also sadly lost his life serving his country.

**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**

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**Roger Clarke's Saltaire Folk  
DONALD SWIFT**

I talked with Donald Swift the day before his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. When he was seven years old he moved into 6, Lockwood St with his parents. He lived there from 1929 to 1933 when he moved to 18, Park St, and remained there until 1946 when he moved out of the Saltaire area to Windhill and later to Sandbeds, Keighley. Many years later, he and his late wife, May, returned to Saltaire to live at 23, Dove St. May was employed as a spinner in the Lobby of Salts Mill, on the top floor of the Mill, and talked of the intense heat there because the roof windows could not be opened. Whitewashing them regularly to keep out the sunlight did little to rectify the problem. Donald was an engineer, but never worked in the Mill. **Donald's recollection of events is remarkable:** One of his earliest memories of the village is watching guests arrive in their limousines at the Lockwood St entrance to Victoria Hall for the first night of the *Conversazione*, a grand three day event of eating, drinking, dancing, etc. The balcony in the main hall of Victoria Hall used to enclose three sides, but in 1929, the floor was re-laid and the side balconies were removed, extending the dancing area by removing the pillars which supported them. I had previously understood that they had been removed earlier to improve the acoustics, but Donald's account is quite credible. All the streets of Saltaire used to be cobbled using sandstone setts, unlike the granite setts which are used on Albert Terrace. New toilets, installed in the houses in the mid 1930s, needed most of the cobbles to be removed from the backstreets, which were then concreted, to accommodate the new sewage system. [If any readers remember the main streets being tarmacked, the *Sentinel* wants to hear from you.] When living at Park St, Donald's house overlooked a number of wooden hostels. He understands that these were built for women from South Yorkshire to work in local mills in the early 1920s but had closed by 1929 when he moved to Park St. In 1934, they re-opened for about 18 months but were then closed again and sold. One building which remained in use was the old dining hall, continuing to be a community resource, housing Salts Gymnastics Club, with a dance every Wednesday to the music of Tom Cheetham and his Raiders. During the War, it was commandeered as a dining hall for the Army Service Corps. Shipley Fire Station now occupies this site. An Ordnance Survey map for 1934 clearly shows the huts, described as a YWCA Hostel.

**The SPA**

**21 Titus Street**  
**The Authentic  
Village corner shop**  
**Open Mon-Sat**  
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**SALTAIRE  
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All the establishments promoted here serve as outlets for this paper. Advertising space is NOT for sale.

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## Notices - News - Announcements - News - Notices

### MORE ON THE GREAT WAR

Dina Plowes, who wrote to us last month, is surely not the only reader to have noticed that our special supplement to commemorate the outbreak of World War One made no mention of the contribution made to the war effort by women or conscientious objectors. This situation will be rectified (with readers' help, we hope) as we continue to follow the tragic history of the conflict month by month. Meanwhile, we are reliably informed that the History Club meeting will focus on women of Baildon during the war, while the station porter, a central character in the drama "Not About Heroes" is female. [See front page for details of both.]

### Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall  
September 21st  
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.

### MANAGEMENT PLAN

[Continued from front page] Since September 2013 public events and meetings have been held in Saltaire to gather the views of residents, land and property owners, schools, businesses and organisations including the Saltaire Village Society, from whose input over fifty projects have been drafted, covering six main areas relating to conservation, tourism, education, transport, community and the buffer zone.

Anyone wanting to see the draft plan and comment on it has until October 6<sup>th</sup> and, if unable to attend the consultation event [see page 1], should visit the webpage:

[www.bradford.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/consultations)  
[www.bradford.gov.uk/saltaire](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/saltaire)

The Management Plan can also be viewed at, and a consultation questionnaire obtained from, Shipley Town Hall.

### SALTAIRE VILLAGE SOCIETY CONTACT DETAILS

Saltaire Village Society can be contacted by e-mail at [secretarysvs@googlemail.com](mailto:secretarysvs@googlemail.com) or via the Saltaire Bookshop, 1 Myrtle Place, in person or by telephone on 01274 589144 - or like our Facebook Page!

### SALTAIRE FESTIVAL

The twelfth Saltaire Festival runs from 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of this month.

While continuing to fulfill its role in reporting other matters the *Sentinel*, as always, extends its congratulations and best wishes for further success to the organisers and all concerned.

The usual brochure is available locally and can be downloaded from the village website:

[www.saltairevillage.info](http://www.saltairevillage.info)

Updated details of events are also on the Festival's own website:

[salthairefestival.co.uk](http://salthairefestival.co.uk)

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

### BANDSTAND GOES TO THE FESTIVAL

FREE music at the bandstand in Roberts Park  
Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>

1-5pm

Den Miller  
Strid

Gerry Cooper &  
Phil Snell  
Roger Davis

Also: Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm:  
Jolly Jivers

### WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



" Management Plan?  
Fine - as long as it doesn't  
keep me off the streets!"

*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@saltairevillage.info](mailto:sentinel@saltairevillage.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.