

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

SEASON OF SONG WORSHIP AND WASSAIL

*Seasonal
 Greetings
 to all our
 Readers*

**POETS HELP
 FIGHT EBOLA**

Saltaire Bookshop will be hosting an evening of poetry to raise funds for the Ebola emergency at 7pm on **Thursday, December 11th**. The event will be led by local poet Bruce Barnes and will involve a number of talented and evocative poets. All funds raised will be sent to Medicine Sans Frontieres. Although the event is **free**, a collection tin will be rattling and poetry will be on sale. **All welcome**

The Village Carol Service, with lessons as well as carols by candlelight, is at the United Reformed Church on Sunday, 21st at 6.30pm.

Those who prefer to do their singing outside should meet at the Saltaire Bookshop at **7pm on Christmas Eve** to spend an hour on a tour of the windows illuminated to form the Living Advent Calendar.

WINDOWS

Supported by Saltaire Inspired, the Calendar is now in its ninth year and able to boast a record number of 37 windows, with 14 already lit by 1st and one more each night until Christmas Eve. A leaflet showing their locations is available from the local Visitor Information Centre and,

in a new development this year, students at Shipley College are designing an online map. The displays will remain 'open' until January 5th.

CONCERT

Back at the church, the Rotary Club of Shipley present their annual concert, featuring the Otley Brass Band and St. Paul's Junior Choir, on **Tuesday, 9th**. (Tickets at £5 from Rotary members or pay on the door, with all proceeds to benefit Rotary charities and the church restoration fund.)

SERVICES

Christmas services are at **11.30pm** (Communion) on 24th and 11.30 the following morning. Sunday 14th sees the Church Parade and Toy Service, at 10.30am, when gifts will be collected for donation to Barnardo's.

In this issue
SALTAIRE STORIES
Plus
Saltaire stories
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
 UNUSUALS**

**SEASONAL
 SURPRISES**

Saltaire History Club has seasonal surprises in store when it meets on **Thursday, 4th** of this month at 7pm in the local Methodist Church. **Colin Coates** and **Eddie Lawler** will be joined by other special guests as they use both music and words to examine how attitudes changed during the four years of the First World War. The ever popular annual Christmas Quiz will not be forgotten.

Admission Free

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.**

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Stories from World War One By Colin Coates

Recruitment for the British Army

During WW1, there were three distinct British Armies. The 'first' army was the small volunteer force of 400,000 soldiers, over half of which were posted overseas to garrison the British Empire. This total included the Regular Army and reservists in the Territorial Force. Together, they formed the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), which was formed for service in France and became known as the Old Contemptibles. The 'second' army was Kitchener's Army, formed from the volunteers in 1914-1915 who were destined to go into action at the Battle of the Somme. The 'third' was formed after the introduction of conscription in January, 1916. Conscription was introduced as there were not enough men volunteering. By the end of 1918 the army had reached its maximum strength of 4,000,000 men. The Derby Scheme was a voluntary recruitment policy created in 1915 by Edward Stanley, 17th Earl of Derby. The concept behind the Derby Scheme was that men who voluntarily registered their name would be called upon for service only when necessary. Married men had an added incentive in that they were advised they would be called up only once the supply of single men was exhausted. The scheme was also referred to as the "Group System" as men were classified in groups according to their year of birth and marital status and were to be called up with their group when it was required. 215,000 men enlisted while the scheme was operational, and another 2,185,000 attested for later enlistment. Despite using the execution of Nurse Edith Cavell by the Germans on October 12th, 1915 in recruitment rallies by Lord Derby, the scheme failed. 38% of single men and 54% of married men who were not in 'starred' occupations failed to come forward. The scheme was abandoned in December, 1915 and was superseded by the Military Service Act 1916 which introduced conscription. The Military Service Act was introduced to Parliament on January 5th. However, as men would not be called-up under this scheme until March 1916, and direct enlistment was proving insufficient, it became necessary to resurrect the Group Scheme in January, 1916. The Group scheme came to an end for single men at midnight on March 1st, 1916. At midnight the provisions of the Military Service Act took effect and all single men between the ages of 18 and 41, not otherwise exempt, were "deemed to have enlisted". A system of appeals tribunals was established, to hear cases of men who believed they were disqualified on the grounds of ill-health, occupation or conscientious objection. Some trades were deemed to be vital to the war economy: they were called *starred occupations*. The first meeting of the Shipley Tribunal (which covered Saltaire) took place on Thursday, January 6th, 1916. Sixty-seven men had given notice of appeal. The Tribunal consisted of Councillors T Hill (chairman), T F Doyle (Saltaire), C E Learoyd, F F Rhodes and Mr Ernest Illingworth. A former councillor, Mr J A Burton, represented the military authorities.

Next month my article will feature conscientious objectors from Saltaire.

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

historyclub@saltairevillage.info or mobile 07736408339

REPORTERS REQUIRED

The *Sentinel* is always in need of people willing to report on local events, conduct interviews and/or generally have a 'finger on the pulse' of public opinion. No experience is required, nor regular commitment involved.

Roger Clarke reports on **A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DISASTER**

One of Bradford's worst tragedies occurred on December 28th, 1882, at Sir Henry William Ripley's spinning and weaving mill in West Bowling. The following notes are taken from research by **Alan O'Day Scott** and published in the *West Bowling Local History Newsletter*.

This picture [right] in the *Illustrated London News*, carried the caption: "*Fall of a factory chimney at Bradford....Rescue of the boy David Brewer*"



Newlands Mill was built in 1862 on land which had been used to mine coal and ironstone in the past. The mill incorporated a huge chimney on the site, built on a filled-in pit shaft which was filled with stones, timber wedges and cement mix. Ripley determined that the chimney would be the tallest in the area at 300 feet high. Despite the fact that the builder counseled against this and built one at 255 feet, the foundations were still too weak to support such a huge structure. The chimney was completed in 1862. In 1865 and 1873, cracks appeared and were repaired. In October, 1882, a bulge appeared and pieces of masonry and concrete began to fall from the chimney. Builders decided to make repairs to the chimney over the Christmas period. There was a Christmas holiday for the workers between December 22nd and 27th. Fortunately the collapse happened at breakfast time when the machinery was stopped and the hands were not at work. Over 100 workers were employed in the Mill and almost 53 were killed instantly. About 50 other workers were seriously injured, some beyond hope of total recovery. The very last to die was Grace Ellen Fawthrop aged 15 years who died 10 days after the accident. The youngest person to die was Susan Woodhead aged 8 years. The last body to be recovered was that of Sarah Henderson aged 13 years. Twenty-six of those who died were under 16 years. The majority who died were in their teens or 20s. Only five were over 30. The Coroner's Inquest returned a verdict of accidental death. It reported that the foundations of the chimney were good, and said that the strong winds on the day of the accident led to the tragedy. No blame was attached to the owners. It was regretted that the works were not stopped during the repairs. There was public outrage at the verdict. Ripley had received a baronetcy in 1880. He died just two months before the Newlands Mill tragedy occurred.

Henry Ripley was one of the major industrialists in Victorian Bradford, with many positive achievements in his lifetime.

Roger Clarke will continue his story in future issues of the Sentinel.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All the establishments featured on the right and opposite serve as outlets for this newspaper and are promoted on that basis.

Advertising space in the *Sentinel* is NOT for sale.

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VILLAGE WEBSITE

The *Saltaire Sentinel* is available online every month, together with **archived issues**, via the not for profit Saltaire Village Website, thanks to **Pamela Reynolds**, who manages the site at www.saltairevillage.info

CHURCH CEREMONY

Joyce Poot was one of many members of Saltaire United Reformed Church who joined councillors **Kevin Warnes** and **Martin Love** and others at a special ceremony on the steps of the church on 2nd of last month. The event, organized by the church's Treasurer, **David O'Loan** celebrated the completion of renovation work to the bell ringing chamber and the steps.

A grant from Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) was gratefully acknowledged.

The honour of officiating was bestowed on **Geoff and Dorothy Mawson** in recognition of their many years of hard work and devotion to the church.

An excellent buffet was provided afterwards.

[It is always a pleasure to include follow-up reports of events previously promoted in these pages - *Ed.*]

NEW CHARITY, SHARED PURPOSE

Molly Kenyon describes the journey of *Saltaire Stories: Past, Present and Future*

In 2009, many people attended a consultation about Saltaire's educational potential, because they believed in the widest possible use of the village as a "world classroom". A report had been prepared about resources available and gaps were highlighted, including the need for material designed for schools, and for an interpretation centre. It was clear that a working group was needed to pursue the improvement of resources. During 2010 an informal group called Saltaire Learning was set up. This group shared information and ideas leading to Saltaire's first World Heritage Weekend in April, 2011. It also carried out an audit of what meeting spaces were available for educational groups. Via Saltaire Learning, people from the United Reformed Church, Shipley College and the Salt Foundation met, and by 2012 were discussing what they could do. Educational resources would require funding, and it was agreed that the three bodies should set up a new charity. That took a year of hard work but the Saltaire World Heritage Education Association was created. Even the acronym SWHEA is a mouthful, hence the working name Saltaire Stories: Past, Present and Future. Charitable status was granted in October – a big relief, but just one milestone on a long journey. Central to the purpose of Saltaire Stories is to work alongside other groups and individuals – both longstanding contributors to educational resources in the World Heritage site, and those who offer new ideas and energy. This shared sense of purpose is at the heart of plans for the *Conversazione* to be held at Victoria Hall on April 18th. At their December meeting, the History Club will have a special invitation to take part.

WINTER BANDSTAND

Free music concerts at **Caroline Social Club** on the second Sunday of every month
Club opens at 12pm with live music from 2pm
December 14th
Anchor Big Band

Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall
December 7th
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.

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does **NOT** talk rubbish



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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

Sadly, sooner or later you will dispose of this copy of the *Sentinel*. Please do so with care for our World Heritage Site environment.