

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

LET THE MUSIC PLAY
A SPECIAL *Sentinel* APPEAL

Yet Another
**HAPPY
 NEWS
 YEAR**

**COLLEGE
 OPEN DAY**

Shipleigh College will be holding an Open Day on Thursday, January 22nd, (4.30-7pm) at its Exhibition Building on Exhibition Road.

The college invites everyone to come along and find out about the wide range of full and part-time courses on offer in 2015. This is a great opportunity to meet the staff, who will be happy to provide information and advice on the educational opportunities available.

Regular, free music in the spectacular setting of the bandstand in Roberts Park has become part of our local culture, especially during the summer months.

But it does not happen without the support of local people who organise and supervise the events, which run on Sunday afternoons and on several Saturday evenings from late May to Festival time in September.

A Programme Organiser is already in place for 2015, but more people are needed to volunteer

time (from about 1.45 to 4.15 on a Sunday) to set up and supervise, and one person is needed to co-ordinate the volunteer diary for the coming season (which can be done from home).

Full advice and training is available, so please **contact the *Sentinel*** (details below) with your offer to help.

Your contribution will be most welcome!

You can also meet some of the people involved at the meetings of Friends of Roberts Park at Salts Sports Club at 7pm on Wednesdays February 4th and March 4th.

**In this issue
 MORE THAN
 MISTAKES**
 (See especially p.2)
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
 UNUSUALS**

**CANTEEN
 OUTLET**

Our more observant readers will notice a slight change this month to the 'small ads' on page 3: No 79 Victoria Road, until recently known as Vicars, is now the Saltaire Canteen. The proprietors of this commendable venture have agreed to provide an outlet for this newspaper and we look forward to providing an informative article on their success at the earliest opportunity.

DENYS SALT

The death of Denys Salt, great-grandson of Sir Titus, on December 21st, 2014, may no longer be "front page news"; but for *this* newspaper, at its first opportunity, it could hardly be less.

Please see page 4 for our obituary >>

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

sentinel@saltairevillage.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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Roger Clarke continues his investigation of the history of

SIR HENRY WILLIAM RIPLEY

Last month's *Sentinel* featured the story of the Newlands Mill tragedy when Lord Ripley's mill chimney collapsed after Christmas in 1882 with the loss of 54 workers. Despite a Coroner's verdict that this was accidental death with no blame attached to the owners, it was felt by many that Lord Ripley had some responsibility here. This would not be the first time Lord Ripley had shown poor judgement. In the 1868 parliamentary election, he forfeited his seat because of electoral corruption, when he spent over £7,000 in persuading the electorate to return him as MP for Bradford. But there's more to the man than his mistakes. Along with Titus Salt, he was a prominent entrepreneur and philanthropist. His discovery of ways to dye mixed fabrics, especially alpaca worsted, revolutionised the worsted industry.

Like Salt, he was originally a Liberal and a Congregationalist, and a member of Horton Lane Chapel which so many influential men in the textile industry attended. One of them was Robert Milligan, first Mayor of Bradford, and Ripley married his adoptive daughter, Susan, in 1836. Milligan lived at Lightcliffe and was a neighbour of the Salts. Ripley also bought property in Lightcliffe and made firm friendships with both families which continued even when Ripley changed both his politics and religion. Ripley became an Anglican in 1858 and eventually an Independent, serving as MP for Bradford in the Disraeli administration of 1874. He was later defeated in the 1880 general election, standing as a Conservative.

The Ripley family had established their spinning and weaving mill and their two dye-works in West Bowling in 1803, and it was here that Henry William built the small industrial colony of Ripleyville between 1866 and 1871. It was nothing like the size and scale of Saltaire, but did include 200 houses, a few shops, an elementary school and nursery, a schoolmaster's house and an Anglican church. A vicarage and 10 almshouses were later added. He was already aware of the model villages created by his friends Edward Akroyd (*Copley in 1846 and Akroyden in 1855*) and Titus Salt (*Saltaire in 1853*). A major difference with Saltaire is that the Ripleyville houses were for sale, not rent, and many of the residents were not Ripley's employees. Ripleyville was demolished in the early 1970's, and a large industrial complex now occupies the site.

Other positive achievements are that Henry William was a founder of Bradford Chamber of Commerce which dealt mainly with worsted cloth, and developed a code of by-laws for settling commercial disputes. He had an active role in the Yorkshire Penny Bank. He promoted education in Bradford especially the Borough West School and the Mechanics Institute. He lived for a time at Rawdon and later built Woodlands Convalescent Home there. He also built a large mansion called Bedstone Court in Shropshire. He received a baronetcy in 1880.

He died in November, 1882 aged 69 years.

More information about Ripleyville can be found in Bob Walker's "When was Ripleyville Built", available from SEQUALS, 24, Westcliffe Rd, Shipley, BD18 3EE. Currently being researched is a second booklet "A Journey to Victorian Ripleyville".

HISTORY CLUB

The Saltaire History Club continues to go from strength to strength.

Last month, everyone present was treated, in addition to the traditional Christmas Quiz, to an informative talk by Colin Coates and invited to participate in a singalong led by Eddie Lawler. Meetings, held regularly at the Methodist Church on Saltaire Road, are open to all. The next one is on **Thursday, March 12th** at 7pm.

CREATING A BETTER OPINION ?

Continuing his Stories of World War One, Colin Coates shares his research into the argument which William Lonsdale presented to the Shipley Tribunal:

From January 1916 The Shipley Tribunal met at regular intervals to hear cases of men making appeals for exemption from fighting in the war. The case of William Lonsdale, a weaving overlooker employed at Salts Mill, was reported in the Shipley Times on July 21st. The tribunal chairman was Councillor C. E. Learoyd and the members included Mr. J. A. Burton J. P., who was the military representative. Lonsdale said that he appealed on conscientious grounds and also for business reasons. His trade was in the reserved list.

The Chairman: *"The question of your being engaged in a reserved occupation rests with the Tribunal."*

Lonsdale: *"And what about the other grounds? As a Christian I do not feel that I can bring myself to such a state of mind as to enable me to train in order to kill a fellowman."*

Mr. Burton: *"How long have you held these views?"*

Lonsdale: *"Practically all my life."*

Mr. Burton: *"You have got a wife and two children, would you not take any steps to protect them?"*

Lonsdale: *"Yes I would."*

Mr. Burton: *"Supposing you were placed as our Allies in Belgium were placed and the Germans over-ran your village. Would you invite them into your house, or would you strive to protect your wife and children?"*

Lonsdale: *"One can scarcely tell what one would do."*

Mr. Burton: *"What do you think you would do?"*

Lonsdale: *"I would do my best to protect them."*

Mr. Burton: *"That is all you are asked to do now."*

Lonsdale: *"It is a different thing altogether. You are asking me to prepare myself to slay my fellow men."*

Mr. Burton: *"No, it is making yourself fit to protect them."*

Lonsdale: *"I am not going to prepare beforehand for an emergency of that kind. I believe that, if everybody would accept my views such wars as this would not be possible."*

Mr. Burton: *"But you see they have not accepted your views. The country is in danger and the Germans have not accepted your views. Do you quite realise the meaning of it all? Do you seriously tell the Tribunal that, as an Englishman, you wish to remain at home enjoying the privileges and the freedom of an Englishman and will not lend a hand to help those hundreds of thousands of men, who are fighting your battles and mine today?"*

Lonsdale: *"I think I am lending a hand in trying to create a better opinion. I have nothing more to say."*

The Chairman: *"Are you basing your appeal on your conscientious objection or on your trade?"*

Lonsdale: *"Well I am claiming on both grounds."*

Mr. Burton: *"Your business claim is not before the Tribunal."*

The Chairman: *"Your appeal will be refused, and you will be sent to non-combatant service."*

Lonsdale was in accordance with his request handed an appeal form. We do not know if his appeal was successful or not. We can find no record of William Lonsdale doing military service.

You can view his biography online at www.saltairevillage.info.

The SPA

21 Titus Street

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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.saltairvillage.info

REPORTERS REQUIRED

To fulfill its role as the local Community Newspaper, the *Sentinel* needs to contain reports of recent events, to complement its promotion of forthcoming attractions and articles on local history. **Write-ups by readers are always welcome.**

(Copies of the *Sentinel* are held in the Saltaire Archives for the interest of future historians.)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

From the Editor

Would-be contributors are asked to appreciate that technical problems have severely affected the production of this month's *Sentinel*.

Your communication has not been ignored, is appreciated and will receive the appropriate response in due

OBITUARY

Denys Geoffrey Crossley Salt, great-grandson of Sir Titus Salt [the fact that he was known to so many of us simply as Denys is, itself, a tribute to the nature of the man], died on December 21st, 2014, following a period of ill health, in hospital in Graz, Austria, where he had lived for many years with his wife Eva, (a native of the city who died in 2010).

He was cremated at the local Evangelical cemetery of St. Peter on January 2nd, and his ashes will be interred in his mother's grave in Cheltenham next month.

Born on May 4th, 1918, Denys, after service with the British Government in Austria during and after the war, and 28 years of work for the BBC, found an interest, during the 1950s, in Saltaire, which he never thereafter missed an opportunity to exhibit. He will be sadly missed by so many people for so many reasons: not least by all those of us who continue to share his passion for the past, the present and – most importantly – the future of this special village.

Such apparent platitudes may trip easily from the pen; not so the words to express the loss of one for whom one will always retain that rare combination of reverence and affection.

James Duncan (Editor)

BRADFORD ORNITHOLOGICAL GROUP MOVES MEETING PLACE

After holding their monthly meetings at Saltaire United Reformed Church for a year, **Bradford Ornithological Group (BOG)** are moving to a conference room kindly offered by the Hallmark card company on Bingley Road, Bradford.

Shaun Radcliffe, Chair of BOG says, "This is no reflection on the church, which always made us most welcome, and I am particularly thankful to Len Morris for his assistance"

Anybody wishing to know more about the group, and their new venue, please visit the

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
January 11th
North Wind Tribal Belly Dance

Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALES

Victoria Hall
January 18th
Doors open at 10 am.
01274 787908

Cuppacare

is a non-profit café and bookstall run by Shipley Christians Together in New Kirkgate and open to the public on Mondays and Fridays from 10.am to 1.30pm.

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"'Technical' problems?
[See opposite] I wish I could pull an excuse like that out of my old hat!"

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.