

The Saltaire Sentinel

Hour Lion of VIGILANCE Published monthly

HOW WOZ THAT ?

-AND HOW CAN WE MAKE IT ?

*Celebrating
Saltaire
All Year
Round*

FESTIVE WISHES

As always at this season, the *Sentinel* offers congratulations and best wishes for further success to the organisers of the **Saltaire Festival** – as well, of course, to all the many volunteers without whose hard work it would not be possible. This year, the Festival runs from **11th to 20th** with a huge number of exciting events, well publicized on the Saltaire Festival website: www.saltairefestival.co.uk and the Saltaire Village website: www.saltairevillage.info



*The cricket pavilion in Roberts Park, in early days.
Photo courtesy of Saltaire Village Society
Arjun McMillan (leg-spin bowler, aged 7) and
Dean McMillan, (father), report:*

Cricket has been played at Saltaire Cricket Club since 1869. The Club is run by volunteers and they do a lot of work to make sure that everyone can enjoy cricket there. **Billy**, the groundsman, is there nearly every day of the year. **Julien** has been at the Club for over 50 years and still helps by training the under-9s and under-11s.

Saltaire is a friendly club, so lots of different types of people come to play there. Until the end of September, Mars Milk will be giving away £1,000 to a sports club. The entry that gets the most votes will win. If you would like to vote, please go to the link shown below. The Club will use the money to help fix the roof and windows.

<http://www.marsmilk.com/play-fund-2015/clubs/saltaire-cricket-club>

In this issue
THE BLACK ART
OF DYEING AND
FINISHING
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS

BIG BOOK LAUNCH

A major event will take place at Salts Mill on Saturday, Sept. 5th at 11.30am, when **Jim Greenhalf** introduces the new edition of his book *Salt & Silver*, by talking about what inspired him to write it, and signing copies. **Tickets** are available from the 1853 Gallery in the Mill for £5 - redeemable against the price of the book and including the cost of refreshments, as well as a rare chance to view items from the Salts Mill archives.

01274 531163

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.

DYERS DID NOT LET US DOWN

Continuing the recollections of Edward Stanners as recorded by Roger Clarke

Edward Stanners was the Managing Director of Salts Mill 1979-84. A fuller account of his reflections can be found in the Saltaire Archive at the Learning Resource Centre of Shipley College, Exhibition Road, or online at: www.saltairvillageexperience.co.uk

Unfortunately, in 1979 we had only enough work to fill a third of our capacity, so short hours were the norm. Short-time working is very hard for the lower levels of any business where people have very little slack in their home budgets. I decided to take a tour of the Mill to discover how short of work we were and started with the mending room; always full of characters – very skilled but notoriously outspoken. I marched up to the first two ladies who were tackling cloths designed for Japan. “Hello, I am Edward, your new Managing Director”, I said. The eventual response was, “Eh, love, you’re a bit young.” The other lady was not to be outdone in the league table of frankness and joined in, “Love, I’ve worked here nineteen years and I’ve never met an ‘igh up.” There was no doubt; the shop floor were not used to being treated as equals and I told my two ladies that the only difference between me and them was that I wore a tie – we were all in it together. It was not quite as easy to form relationships in other departments though. Weavers are notoriously taciturn, partly I think because the weaving shed is so noisy, so you cannot talk. The other big department – dyeing and finishing – were a law unto themselves. Each department thinks it is the most key in a mill, but dyers and finishers really do practice a black art and they let management know it daily. Our dye house was unusual though, because we were nearly 100% Denby men. Denby’s Mill at Charlestown had been the subject of Britain’s longest running industrial dispute. The management had locked the workforce out and that led to very deep emotions on the part of “the Denby men” who worked at Salts. They were very ‘bolshy’ and, in many ways, ‘worked to rule’ all the time. So when, quite a while after I had arrived, the dyers and finishers announced that they were going to take two days off to celebrate the wedding of Charles and Diana, I was staggered. It would cause huge problems for production. I used my friendship with the dyers to try and appeal to their better instincts regarding their plan to take an unofficial (and therefore unpaid) holiday. Then, a few days before the wedding, the dyers sent two men to see me. “We won’t let you down.” “Do you mean you won’t be taking time off?” “No, we’re taking the holiday, but we won’t let you down, that’s all we’re saying.” “Well, if you won’t work, you are letting us down – we need every ounce of production we can get.” “Wait and see, we won’t let you down.” It was all confusing. That was until two days before the wedding, when Alan Dawes, our Production Director, told me: “I’ve just walked the Mill and there isn’t a single piece of cloth waiting to be finished, not a single cone of yarn waiting to be dyed.” They hadn’t let us down.

Everyone knew that the writing was on the wall, and all departments gave their utmost to keep the Mill going. It was one of the most rewarding things I have ever played a part in.

Stories from World War One

By Colin Coates
Shipley Volunteers

(Continued)

A meeting in connection with the Shipley Section of the Athletes’ Volunteer Force was held on Friday, October 23rd 1914 in Victoria Hall. There was a large and representative attendance. The Chairman, Cllr. F. Fearnley Rhodes, said he had the satisfaction of knowing that their movement had been approved by the Army Council. Although the Athletes’ Volunteer Force was a purely voluntary organisation, so members would only remain associated with it as long as they desired to do so, he was sure they were all animated by a very serious purpose, and would loyally do their best to promote the success of the corps. Discipline was a very important point. The membership would include men in all stations of life and it must be distinctly understood that so far as social footing was concerned they would all be equal. The commands of officers should at all times be obeyed in a soldierly way. After they had got into working order, promotion would be by merit and merit alone. Every member must try to make himself as efficient as possible. They must all aim at making the Shipley corps as smart and efficient as any other corps, and that could only be done by devoting as much of their leisure time as possible to drill etc.

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HISTORY CLUB

Saltaire History Club meets next on **Thursday, September 10th** from 7pm to 9pm at Saltaire Methodist Church.

Kathryn Hughes will talk about 'World War One – Musical Beds' and **Christine Verguson** will talk about 'A Story of the West Riding: Wool, Saltaire and the BBC'.

Admission is free. Refreshments are served during the interval. **All are welcome.**

BANDSTAND

FREE music in Roberts Park from 2.30pm.

Sunday, Sept. 6th

Penny & the Sausages

SUNSET DANCING

7-9pm with the Bandstand in lights and the Half Moon Café open for refreshments.

Saturday, Sept.12th

The 309s

Jump, jive and swing.

BANDSTAND GOES TO THE

FESTIVAL

Sunday, Sept 13th

1-5pm

Den Miller

Reuben & Ruth

Gerry Cooper & Phil Snell

Phil Cockerham

Volunteers are needed to keep the concerts running.
forp@saltairevillage.info

EDDIE AT THE FESTIVAL

(What would it be without him?)

Eddie Lawler, "Bard", "Songster" and Saint of Saltaire [Don't argue, *I'm the Editor here - JD*] tells us that his main contribution to the Festival this year will be "Salts Waters 2" (tales and songs from our local area), with **Steve Bottoms**, in the Half Moon Café, Roberts Park, on **Tuesday, 15th** (7.30-9.15pm). £5 includes a glass of wine and canapes. Eddie will also be one of several performers of "Buskers on a Barge" by the canal bridge on **Sat/Sun 12th & 13th** (12-5pm) and will be taking to the Bandstand at 12.45 on **Sunday, 20th**, before rushing up to the Tramway to take part (c.3.30pm) in the "Song for the Tramway" event.

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

1, Myrtle Place (Saltaire Road)

Note to Visitors: Any local will point you in the right direction – and it is not to be missed.

LET'S USE IT, NOT LOSE IT

The SPA

21 Titus Street

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can also be found at**

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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.saltairvillage.info

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

On Saturday, **Sept. 12th Irene Lofthouse** will be reading from her book "Strange Tales from the Dales" at 2pm. This is a free event, for children *and* adults. Both will hugely enjoy this event. Irene has a great reputation for presenting her stories in a dramatic way. Come along on the 12th or contact the bookshop for more information

01274 589144

davidford100@yahoo.co.uk

**1 Myrtle Place
Tuesday- Saturday
10am - 5pm**

**Saltaire Cricket Club
TABLE TOP
SALES**

**Victoria Hall
Sundays,
Sept. 6th and 27th
Doors open at 10 am.
01274 787908**

SVS AGM

(With no apologies for using the same headline every year)

Saltaire Village Society (SVS) has its **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, Sept. 24th at 7pm in Caroline Street Social Club.** As well as the usual 'business' involved in an AGM, the meeting aims to address the question: "What Next for Saltaire Village?" **All Welcome.**

MYSTERY OF THE HISTORY OF THE SWEET SHOP

Can anyone remember visiting Shipley Glen Tramway when there was not a sweet shop at the Top Station? I know people in the hundreds have noted the passing of the funfair, the Ariel Glide, and the Peacocks at the café! But the sweetshop is a constant source of delight with its old fashioned sweets, still weighed out and bagged by hand! Nothing too modern about the actual shop as well. Although it has just been re-fitted, it still retains its old fashioned charm. Come along and see for yourselves, and remember, sweets are not just for the children! **Dina Plowes**

GRAND OPENING OF HIRST WOOD NATURE AREA

The Hirst Wood Nature Area, easily located at the side of Hirst Lock, which has been created by volunteers from the Hirst Wood Re-generation Group over many months of hard work, has its grand public opening on **September 12th from 1pm.**

Pauline Bradley-Sharp tells us, "There will be a marquee with food and drinks, music and lights – and a portalo! Please come along and bring some cash as we are hoping for donations towards Public Liability Insurance costs. Please walk to the venue if possible, as parking space is likely to be limited."

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"It is interesting to note that Saltaire Village Society is set to debate, "What Next for Saltaire Village?"

I am old enough to remember when the first item on the agenda was "Waste Disposal". I can clearly recall who was the Chair, and most vociferous in opposition to my 'immigration'.

I refrain from mentioning his name for the simple reason that he is now the Editor of this newspaper – and I need my column.

Talk about politics!

Then again, if he had the power of Rupert Murdoch you would not have me to 'walk out with' while sharing your Community newspaper!"

Cuppacare

Cupacare, in New Kirkgate, Shipley, is a non-profit enterprise, kept open from 10am until 1.30pm on Mondays and Fridays by Shipley Christians Together.

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 organization.** 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.