

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

SVS DISCUSSION

'PARISH' COUNCIL POSSIBILITY

**THE PAPER
OF THE
PEOPLE OF
SALTAIRE**

TRAMWAY CONCERT

An evening of musical entertainment is offered to all at Victoria Hall on **Friday, October 23rd**. All proceeds will support Shipley Glen Tramway.

The World Famous Wurlitzer Organ will be played by David Lowe, and the Hot Aire Concert Band will be performing.

A bargain for £6, with refreshments and a raffle.

Dina Plowes

BUT NEW STORE CONCERNS

Vanessa Pilny,

Chair of Saltaire Village Society, (SVS) writes: Around 50 people were present at our AGM last month and we were very pleased to welcome five new committee members.

One of the aims of the meeting was to gauge opinion re. a possible **Community Council**, (like a parish council with people elected every four years at the ballot box). which would be better able to represent the residents of Saltaire.

Support for the idea was overwhelming with 12 people starting a working group to begin

the process which includes working out the boundary and petitioning local electors.

Meanwhile, SVS is considering calling a public meeting to discuss concerns about a second application by Sainsburys to build a 360m store on Bingley Road.

Objections to a previous application, which was rejected, will not be taken into account, so if you feel strongly you need to write again. The plans can be seen on Bradford Council's website.

The application number is 15/04044/FUL.

To find out more and/or get involved, e-mail:

secretarysvs@googlemail.com

or visit the Saltaire Bookshop

(address below) and speak to David.

**In this issue
EVER ACTIVE**

ALAN

Plus

**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

MORE MUSIC

Winter Bandstand commences again on the second Sunday of every month at Caroline Club, with **free** music, 2 to 4pm. **GMC Jazz** are "first up" on **October 11th**.

Steve, the Council employee who cleans the streets of Saltaire all the time, says Thank You to all the volunteers who helped him to tidy up after the Festival.

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.

WHEN THE LOOMS NEVER STOPPED

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

In Salts Mill whole departments, as well as the individuals within them, were 'characterful'.

Weaving, and its associated (and adjoining) department Warping were the least eccentric. I think that stemmed from two things: Firstly, it was too noisy to talk – we tried to make sure that the looms never stopped, 168 hours a week. Each loom was very expensive and we needed to generate the maximum revenue from every one of our Sulzers. But it was also hugely skilled work and skilled people tend to regard it as below them to descend into frivolity. They are diligent.

In 'Mending', the process after weaving, the menders were very talented and extremely funny. There was shift-long banter amongst them; in fact many came in 30 or 40 minutes early to start the process, and they were a very closely knit group of women. I had the impression that they came to work as much for the fun as for the money. Tightly-knit teams come to work to be together, not just to earn.

Christmas was a notoriously riotous time in our mending rooms. It was a clear rule that if any man ventured into the menders' area near the end of 'term', they would be attacked and de-trousered – or worse!

Dyers and Finishers were also a close-knit team, even more so in our case because we were 'Denby men'. There were a lot of 'in jokes' and comments which would today be regarded as too sexist. Pin-ups covered the more out of the way walls and a lot of the men saw themselves as mini sex symbols. But the banter from the women of Salts of Saltaire tended to be coarser than from the men. In the Mending department, the ladies would be openly suggestive to a man, whereas the heavily male departments would not have spoken to a woman in that way. Sexism is a strange thing: contrary to general theory about British men, the men at Salts respected women whereas the women did not always respect the men. Smaller departments, - Perching and the warehouses – had their fair share of strange behaviour. We still had quite a few Italian and Polish colleagues who had come to Britain in the late 40s and they could be tricky to manage. They could speak perfectly adequate English until they were asked to do something they did not want to do, when they suddenly became unable to understand.

At Salts we still had a Company Doctor and a Company Dentist. The tradition of our dentist had certainly been strongly maintained. A course of treatment was still twelve and a half pence in the early 1980s – something I found very odd. Halfpenny coins no longer exist, but even then they were rare. So I asked why we charged such a difficult amount. The answer: it had been fixed at half a crown during the war and no one had ever wanted to change it.

One of the great regrets I have now that I am getting older is that such eccentric behaviour seems to have died out. Companies were harder to manage because of it, but the 'odd bods' made coming to work more fun, and I miss that. Life is too bland now.

More next month

Stories from World War One

By Colin Coates Shipley Volunteers

(Continuing the report of the meeting held at Victoria Hall in October, 1914)

Replying to questions, the Chairman, Cllr. F. Fearnley Rhodes, said the Athletes' Volunteer Force had a much wider scope than civic guards, as this was an organisation for national defence, and members would be willing to serve in any part of the country.

The Shipley Committee had asked for the use of schools for drill in the evenings, whilst for Saturday afternoons they had had a field offered at the Nab Wood tramway stage. They could not accept anybody between the ages of 19 and 39 unless for some reason they could not be enlisted in the Regulars or Territorials. The minimum age would be 17, but they had not fixed any maximum age, as they wanted to obtain the support of all eligible men.

To cover expenses, the Committee had put the membership fee at two shillings, while recognising that the earnings of many workers had been reduced owing to the war, and they did not want the financial obligation to stand in the way of any man willing to join. The resolution forming a Shipley Branch of the Athletes' Volunteer Force carried at the previous meeting was unanimously enforced and about 150 members were later enrolled.

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Roger Clarke's SALTAIRE FOLK
ALAN ROBINSON

Alan Robinson is an 87-year-old Saltaire resident whose reading of my book A Penny For Going prompted him to get in touch to share memories of the village in the 1930s. Born at the Norman Rae Nursing Home (now Shipley Hospital) in 1928, Alan was brought up on Albert Avenue and later lived on Dallam Walk. He attended Albert Road School and then, from 11 years old, the Salt School opposite Victoria Hall. He remembers the youngest class at Albert Rd having compulsory "sleep" time on stretcher beds each day. His friendship group tended to be from outside the village boundaries—from the Hirst Wood estate and the Grosvenor Rd area. They attended St. Paul's Church Sunday School, and his most vivid memories are of the early years of WW2 when he was in his teens. He recalls that the younger male teachers at Salt School were called up into the armed forces and older, retired male teachers were recruited to take their place in school. I had not realised that Wycliffe School on Saltaire Rd was turned into a multi-functional community resource during the war years. Alan's best memories are of the youth club which was held there every night from 7 to 10, with table tennis, badminton and dancing his favourite pastimes. He attended the Army Cadets there too. Also in the building were the National Fire Service HQ and the Local Defence Volunteers, in addition to the school. There was a school kitchen which gave the building the all-pervading smell of boiled cabbage. Alan's memories of shops tended to be of Gordon Terrace, where he found his first employment at 215, Bingley Rd at the Abbey Stores, part of the Thrift Group of grocers. He has a photograph of himself, aged 12, outside the shop, which shows clearly the anti-shatter tapes across the window; against possible bomb damage. This was only one of the Saturday jobs which the ever active Alan undertook. He did deliveries for Robert Stead, greengrocer at 205 Bingley Rd, riding the red shop bike which he was allowed to take home (his little sister Eileen rode many miles sitting in the basket on the front). Part of his job was to take unusable fruit and veg to the rear of No.201, just behind the tram sheds, where Collyer Pig Swill had a collection point. He says that many of the streets in Saltaire had bins for swill, which was collected weekly. A paper round before school, with a 6.15am start, for Earnshaw's at 213, Bingley Rd completed his teenage employment. Alan's adult life was away from Saltaire, where he and his wife raised seven daughters.

The SPA
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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

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

Please contact the bookshop with suggestions, for more details of what's going on, and/or to be added to the mailing list:

01274 589144

davidford100@yahoo.co.uk

Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

**Victoria Hall
Sunday, October 18th
Doors open at 10 am.**

01274 787908

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.

COUNCIL WINS AWARD

The July *Sentinel* commented on the high standards of workmanship and planning which had gone into the Victoria Road Public Realm Improvements Scheme. This scheme is just one part of the Saltaire Management Plan which has won the **Royal Town Planning Institute Yorkshire Planning Excellence Award 2015**. The Plan was put together by Council Officers under the leadership of a Steering Group of local stakeholders, businesses, resident groups, building owners and Ward Councillors, chaired by Cllr. Val Slater. The intention was to set objectives for the conservation, protection and development of Saltaire over the short and long term. The Plan was judged on planning content, sustainability, good practice and community involvement, with praise for the extensive consultation with local people as well as 68 local, regional and national organisations.

Sentinel readers can view the Plan on:

www.bradford.gov.uk

Roger Clarke

TRIBUTE TO DENYS

Eddie Lawler writes: Another Saltaire Festival, but without Sir Titus' great-grandson Denys Salt who passed away last December at the age of 96, much missed by all who met him on his annual September visits. But at the Festival this time, he reappeared in the form of a photograph with text unveiled in the Mill, courtesy of Mrs. Maggie Silver. This will go on permanent display in the Mill, and shows Denys toasting the viewer with a smile behind a glass of bubbly, a fitting tribute to this most cheerful and cheering character. His second cousin Nick Salt was present, along with some descendants of Salt's successor Sir James Roberts. The portrait and text were produced by three Davids: Weber, King and Shaw. The Village Society is holding funds which amount to almost £500 in donations, intended for a plaque to commemorate Denys in the foyer of the United Reformed Church.

RSPB

AIREDALE & BRADFORD GROUP Friday, October 2nd

Illustrated talk: "The Extremely Far East" by Tim Melling. Kirkgate Centre, 7.30 pm. £3 adults (members & visitors); children free.

Saturday, October 3rd
Field trip- Fairburn Ings & St Aidan's RSPB reserves.
Car share- meet at Shipley Station 8am (return 6pm)

Sunday, October 25th
Falling Leaves Event, Cliffe Castle, Keighley.

Join us for wildlife activities 11am to 3pm

**For further information:-
Tel 01274 582078**

abrspb@blueyonder.co.uk
or see our website

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/airedaleandbradford

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Although not a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

[See above],

I do have many feathered friends who often drop in !"

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.