

DELIGHT OF LIGHTS CALENDAR BIGGER AND BETTER

*Seasonal
Greetings
to all our
Readers*

CHURCH SERVICES

The Carols by Candlelight Service at Saltaire United Reformed Church will be on Sunday, 20th at 6.30pm. There will be a midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve and a short service at 11am on Christmas Day. In addition, the toy service with gifts for Barnardo's is on Sunday 13th (10.30am), when there is also carol singing in the church grounds at 5pm with the Salvation Army Band. All are, as always, more than welcome.

David Starley writes: Our annual winter treat, the local Living Advent Calendar is with us again. Now in its tenth year the event is bigger than ever with eight community venues having their windows in place to coincide with the tree lighting on November 29th, followed by the first six houses on December 1st. From then until Christmas Eve, one new window will be revealed each evening. Timing is from 4pm to 10.30pm and all windows will remain in place until January 5th.

"Every year we aim to delight and illuminate the village with what is a unique and genuinely heartwarming event," says Kate Thompson, who co-ordinates the Calendar for Saltaire Inspired.

"The people who are producing art to go in windows can be artists or simply families joining in something that is open to all."

A map showing the location of all the windows is available from the Information Centre and Victoria Hall.

TREAT

For a special treat, wrap up warm and join in the carol singing on Christmas Eve (meet at the Saltaire Bookshop at 7pm to visit all the windows en route).

SPONSORS

The organisers are delighted this year to be sponsored by the Edwards St. Bakery.

CARDS

Another first is a set of special Christmas cards which features previous years' windows, available from Salts Pots, the Visitor Information Centre and the Bookshop.

In this issue
**CHRISTMAS
IN SALTAIRE
100 YEARS AGO**
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

DENYS SPECIAL

This month's *Sentinel* includes a special four-page supplement as a tribute to Denys Salt, great-grandson of Sir Titus, to mark the first anniversary of his death.

Denys was always a keen supporter of our little newspaper and, in fact, the first to contact us with positive feedback, as early as our third issue in 2003. More importantly, as our tribute makes clear, he will always be fondly remembered by so many of us as a dear friend.

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.

A SWEET TIME AT THE MILL

**A Christmas special, 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

Factories are very good at celebrating Christmas - far better than their service industry cousins. And Salts was better than most factories. In fairness, the building was perfect for the time of year. It always felt cosy, despite it's having been the biggest building in the world when it opened. And Salts had a very strong family spirit, adding to the feeling of 'Goodwill to all Men'. Even had you not looked at the calendar, you would have sensed that something important was coming during the second half of December. Day by day, people came to work in clothes that fit better than normal. Men took more trouble with their hair, the ladies put that bit more 'lippy' on. Certainly, I was not allowed to forget the date once we arrived at December 15th. "For God's sake don't go in the mending room next week - they'll have you", Alan Dawes would warn me. What quite 'they' would do was never fully explained, but there were rumours that four or six menders could hold down any man and have his trousers off in the twinkling of Santa's eye. Somehow a group of ladies at the Shipley end of the long corridor, many the far side of 40, had gained the status worthy of The Sirens. They had mythical powers. One day, it would be rumoured that one of the young designers had dared to venture into the Mending Room and had lost his pants - and then been marked for life with boot polish. Another day it would be rumoured that the menders had set up a cocktail bar on one of the mending tables. Throughout the factory, decorations went up in early December, but it was the General Office and the Mending Room which excelled. I suppose that was 'a woman's touch'. Individual desks and mending tables vied with their neighbours, but the best examples had some, or all home-made decorations and little touches which singled them out. Mending tables in particular lent themselves to a lot of Noelling. They were the size of a large, two-seater, school desk with a 'table' area which the cloth could be passed over to be repaired. From either side, two metal tubes headed skyward and these supported the florescent tubes which lit the cloth. But it was an unimaginative person who did not realise that the real purpose of these uprights was not to carry the lights and their wiring, but to have tinsel and crepe paper twined up them. They were ideal for traditional British decorations which coiled their way up like sweet peas go up a trellis. Sir Titus would have been mortified had he known it, but we turned a blind eye to drink in the areas where there was no heavy machinery in the last couple of days before 'breaking up'. The last full day, usually the 23rd, was particularly convivial. Everyone was 'demob happy' and we all knew - management and shopfloor alike - that, despite the holiday not officially starting until 5.00 on the 24th, we would call it a draw at lunchtime on Christmas Eve if we had 'got everything out'. That way, everyone could do their last minute shopping. From senior management's point-of view, the break was wonderful. It was the one time when we knew that little could go wrong until around January 5th, when we went back. Yes, perhaps the mill could freeze up, but even that was unlikely as Christmas tended to be mild. And yes, we could have a break-in, a fairly regular happening then, particularly in The New Mill. But even villains celebrate Christmas, and they usually gave us a little holiday So the three Directors knew that they would have as good a break as everyone else. You may even suspect that we - the 'high-ups' - would have a much better time than everyone else since the 70's and 80's were an age when suppliers gave out quite lavish gifts at Christmas. But, rightly, these came in the main to Alan Dawes, our Production Director, and he shared them out very fairly amongst his team. Perhaps I got the odd bottle of whisky, but it was such a rare occasion that I cannot remember it. Those who had done the hard work in the production team creamed off most of the seasonal fare, as was only correct. Perhaps the strangest part of the mill's Christmas, though, was coming back to work after the holiday. Most of us agreed - we were secretly pretty happy to be back. It was partly because we were jaded by too much food and drink, but also because there really was such a family spirit and it was nice to hear of everyone's exploits - who had fallen out with whom, who had 'got off' with whom, et cetera. Yes, Christmas was a sweet time at the mill.

SANTA SPECIALS THIS YEAR

The ever popular 'Santa Specials' will be running on the Shipley Glen Tramway for the first three weekends in December from 11.am – 4.30pm.

A SPECIAL *Saltaire Sentinel* SUPPLEMENT
in remembrance, on the first anniversary of his death, of
DENYS GORDON LOCKSLEY SALT

4 May 1918 – 21 December 2014

Salt Family Historian

the Great-grandson of Sir Titus Salt, Grandson of Titus Salt Jr, Son of Harold Salt



A tribute to Denys Salt is now a permanent installation in Salts Mill.

The following pages of this special supplement contain exclusive contributions, gratefully acknowledged, from readers who knew Denys well.

Dave King recollects:

To me Denys was the quintessential English gentlemen - polite, thoughtful, generous and unassuming. Many people will have commented on his charm and ease of getting on with people. He had that twinkle in his eye up to the end, especially with the ladies, all of whom were captivated by him. He was an accomplished speaker and could talk about a subject at the drop of a hat without any previous chance to prepare what to say. His memory of past events was remarkable for a person of his age. He regularly attended the Saltaire Festival, well into his nineties; not an easy journey from Graz to Saltaire, but he did it. When at the Festival, he would always make a point of visiting the Beer Festival at the Saltaire Brewery. I remember at one Festival we were sitting in the large marquee when a sudden deluge of rain came down.

In minutes water was flowing through the marquee and under our table to a depth of a few inches. There was nothing we could do other than to tuck our knees under our chins to raise our feet and Denys joined in the fun. In that same year his doctor had advised him to not overdo his consumption of alcohol, but he did not refuse a drink. When asked he made some quip along the lines of 'make sure the rain doesn't water down the beer.'

Denys was meticulous in the organisation of his paperwork. When Dave Shaw and I visited him in Graz for his 95th birthday we were astounded to see his well-organised filing system, all neatly labelled and arranged in order. Not only did he read all the e-mails he was sent but he also kept a paper copy of each one. It was the same with his other correspondence. He must have had many friends in many parts of the world to whom he wrote, but if you were on his Christmas card list you would receive a card each year, and not with just a signature, but also with a few lines which showed his personal interest in you.

When Dave Shaw and I visited him in Graz he was obviously overjoyed that we had done so. His hospitality was outstanding and when we left we were showered with requests to come again whenever we wished. Unfortunately, this was the last time we were to see him as he died approximately eighteen months later. **We still hold fond memories of our visit.**

My cousin Denys was the last of his generation on my branch of the Salt family, which descends from Titus Salt Jnr. and his wife Catherine. His father Harold had been born to them at Milner Field in 1868, and I have always felt that Denys was a direct link back to those confident and heady days at Saltaire.

I got to know Denys in London in the 1960s, when he would sometimes invite me for supper at his elegant and orderly flat in Holland Park, a welcome change from my somewhat scruffier art student life. He would talk about the history of the Salt family, which is in fact remarkably small and not very prolific, and would show me some of the photographs, documents, letters and objects that he had collected over the years. In his role as the unofficial family historian he was very skilled at gathering up and sorting out the sort of information that is often considered unimportant, and tends to get lost forever when someone in the family dies.

Over the last few years he had been passing some of it on to me, much of which has now been deposited in the Salt Archive at Shipley College, where it is proving to be a very useful source of information to the keen and active group of local historians. He had a remarkably good memory for facts, as well as being a witty and engaging storyteller. The spirit of Denys will live on in his long and strong connections with the people of Saltaire, and in the many documents and objects in the Archive which he collected and saved from oblivion.

For myself and my siblings he was also the last surviving link to the generation of our father, John Salt, and will be much missed.

Nicholas Salt



Denys with his wife Eva.

Dave Shaw shares with us his happy memories:

As the great grandson of Sir Titus and Lady Caroline, and grandson of Titus Jr and Catherine Salt, Denys was the last of his generation. He embodied and personified the means by which one could relate to Saltaire's origins. And what a wonderful part he played!

Denys had good qualities in spades – modesty, charm, a winning smile, wisdom, knowledge, good humour, mischief, enthusiasm, and a willingness to support all the endeavours that safeguarded Saltaire's heritage and history and helped its community.

I first met Denys at his London apartment - I wasn't the first generation of local historians to beat a path to his door. He and his dear wife Eva were warm in their welcoming of a stranger into their home, and that first meeting ran much later than either of us had expected – so many thoughts to share! When he and Eva moved to Graz in Austria in 2005, we adopted a routine for getting them back to Saltaire for the annual Festival and other major events – he would fly from Graz to Stansted; we'd then make the long evening drive to Saltaire, arriving late and tired, but safe in the knowledge that Mrs Silver – Maggie – would have made perfect provision for Denys' arrival. With days full of promise in Saltaire ahead of him, Denys was always in the best of spirits. Happy days!

Catching sight of a photo of Denys always brings a smile to my face, and a memory of someone we were privileged to have among us. What better example to follow than that of Denys?

I don't know one.

Sir Titus and Lady Caroline would have been very proud of their great-grandson.

I wish I had known Denys and Eva better, but pressures on their time during the Saltaire Festival limited our time together. I felt much affection for them both and grateful to them for their appreciation of our endeavours at the Mill.

If only they had lived here, then we could have really celebrated them and enjoyed their company!

Maggie Silver

Julie Woodward contributes a special story:

Many of us have fond memories of Denys's annual visits to Saltaire. Before the advent of the Saltaire Festival, back in 2003, I remember Denys often used to visit in early July when the Library staff were busy setting up the annual summer Saltaire Archive exhibition. Most of the students had finished their studies for the year and this was our opportunity to display the collection and invite the public to come and share it with us. Back in 1995, Denys had generously donated many family artefacts and documents to the Archive and of course these items took pride of place in all our summer exhibitions. Denys always took a great interest in the displays and wanted to know all about any new additions, as he always appreciated that the Archive had a wealth of information donated by not only members of the Salt family but also from residents of Saltaire and former workers at the Mill.

One particular year I remember, we had 17 year old Shafiq on work placement in the Library. Denys was making his annual visit at the time. Shafiq, realising Denys was a member of the Salt family, went up to him and said he was very pleased to meet Sir Titus Salt. Denys was highly amused to be mistaken for Sir Titus; but ever the diplomat he let Shafiq down lightly by telling him he was in fact the great-grandson of Sir Titus Salt. Shafiq was a bit embarrassed by his mistake but Denys, sensing this, put Shafiq completely at his ease by asking him about his work placement. This then gave Shafiq the confidence to ask Denys a barrage of questions about why Sir Titus Salt built Saltaire, which of course Denys answered with great patience and thoughtfulness. This is how I will always remember Denys – he had the great gift of making everyone he met feel at ease and comfortable in his presence.

He is sadly missed by everyone at Shipley College but his legacy lives on in the Archive and in the happy memories we have of him.

Denys was not only a regular reader of the *Sentinel*, he was always an enthusiastic contributor. As **Roger Clarke** puts it: "It's a measure of the man that he took pleasure in supporting everything which positively promoted Saltaire, and the *Sentinel* is careful to do this."

Hattie Townsend puts into words a fitting conclusion:

When Denys Salt's name is mentioned people invariably smile. This warmth reflects Denys' own generosity of spirit and zest for life which made him so special. His greatest gift was empathy, the ability to connect with people, from crowds of school children sharing a re-creation in Roberts Park, to national figures; his interest and perception was total. We will remember him as Sir Titus Salt his great-grandfather, complete with top hat and beard, relishing the fun of several Saltaire Festivals; or giving a polished, witty and brilliantly delivered talk about the family to a spell-bound audience in the *Cafe in to the Opera*. But there was more to Denys than an out-going enthusiast and charming raconteur. He was a man of understated courage and resilience. In his last decade the loss of his beloved Eva was a devastating blow. For a man so active all his life, the loss of mobility, when his mind was as sharp and active as ever must have been deeply frustrating, but he seldom complained and retained his lively interest in the lives and work of his many friends right until the final week of his life. Now his photograph, complete with a glass of wine, hangs in the gallery in Salts Mill and he will be remembered in the United Reformed Church, appropriate as his understated but deep Christian faith motivated what he was.

**Those who had the pleasure and privilege of his friendship will never forget him.
So goodbye to a gentle man and a Gentleman.**

PETER
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JANE HUGHES 1962 - 2015

Jane Hughes, who died on October 24th, brought compassion, inspiration, and fun to community-improvement in the Shipley area, as a resident, as a volunteer and, for over a decade, as a Bradford Council officer. Jane knew that we are strongest when we all work together, and generously gave her time and energy to building and sustaining many partnerships and projects across Shipley. Some of these were formal regeneration partnerships, others were informal gatherings of residents and service-providers as in Saltaire, Hirst Wood, the Norwoods, Dockfield and other neighbourhoods, where she worked to increase community pride and help residents tackle local concerns. Jane was employed by Bradford Council, initially responsible for the allocation of European funding to give access to employment to Shipley residents and will be remembered for her support for the creation of training programmes,

environmental and health-improvement projects, community safety projects, social enterprises such as Windhill Furniture Store, and the gaining of funds for new community centre buildings at Windhill and Bolton Woods. Jane subsequently became Assistant Area Co-ordinator, in which role she chaired many Neighbourhood Forum meetings across Shipley. She always applied her creativity and energy to ensure that the agendas for the Neighbourhood Forums were relevant and engaging, and that the voice of the people who lived in the neighbourhood could be heard.

Jane had a great sense of humour, as can be seen from the work that she led with school children to help them to produce "tackling dog dirt" posters, including the locally famous "Dog on a Bog" picture, still to be found attached to Shipley lampposts and never failing to raise a smile.

Nevertheless, Jane took all issues raised by the public very seriously, and put into action her beliefs that the people who live in a neighbourhood usually "know best" about what goes on there, and local problems. Many Shipley folk will remember, with gratitude, the way in which she found new ways of addressing local needs and empowering residents through environmental projects, fun days, school holiday activities and community arts.

Jane's contribution to the tapestry of community life across the neighbourhoods of Shipley will not be forgotten and will continue to inspire all those of us who seek to help to build tolerant, peaceful, and creative communities.

Chris Flecknoe

[We hope to publish more next month about Jane's involvement with the Kirkgate Centre.]

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***The Saltaire
Sentinel***

is available from all the
venues promoted on this
page, as well as:

**Saltaire
UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH**

POST OFFICE

MEDICAL PRACTICE

**VISITOR
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CENTRE**

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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.saltairevillage.info

WINTER BANDSTAND

Free concerts at **Caroline Social Club** on the second Sunday of every month from 2pm

December 13th

ANCHOR BIG BAND

**Saltaire Cricket Club
TABLE TOP SALE**

**Victoria Hall
Sunday,**

December 6th

Doors open at 10 am.

CANTEEN PHOTOGRAPHS

Watch this space for details of an exciting exhibition of photographs by **Shy Burhan** which is due to open this month at the Saltaire Canteen on Victoria Road.

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

SALTAIRE CHRISTMAS 1915

By Colin Coates

On Christmas Eve a supper for 60, organised by the Band of Hope, was held in the Saltaire Wesleyan Church. Afterwards the party went out carol singing visiting the sick members of the church. Meanwhile the choir of St. Walburga's Roman Catholic Church were singing seasonable hymns in the infirmary hall of Saltaire Hospital. On Wednesday, December 29th the officers of Saltaire Wesleyan Church entertained the friends and families of the Shipley Soldiers and Sailors. Over 200 people attended the gathering in the schoolroom. At the invitation of the Shipley War Service Club over 400 children between the ages of three and ten whose fathers were with the forces, were entertained in the Saltaire Institute on Thursday 30th. An appetising tea was held in the social rooms, leaving the Victoria Hall free for the distribution of toys. Entertainment was provided by a Punch and Judy show, conjuring tricks and a magic lantern exhibition.

BIG BAND CONCERT

A concert in aid of Shipley Support Group for Manorlands (the Sue Ryder hospice in Oxenhope) at **St. Peter's Church**, Moorhead Lane on **Sunday, December 13th (2pm)**, will be given by **The Sultans of Swing**.

Tickets cost £8, which includes refreshments. To book your place, or for more information, please contact:

Sally Dyer on 01274 582987

THANKS FROM TRAMWAY

A great big thank you to everyone who made the recent fundraising event at Victoria Hall in aid of Shipley Glen Tramway such a success, including local shopkeepers, Shipley Glen Tramway volunteers, and, of course, the public who came out to enjoy the Wurlitzer Organ ably played by David Lowe, and the Hot Aire band.

Dina Plowes

BIRD WATCHING AWARD

At a recent meeting of the Airedale and Bradford RSPB Local Group, **Ruth Porter** from Addingham was presented with a long service award, a signed limited-edition print, by Group Leader, Paul Barrett.

The Group's next indoor meeting takes place at the Kirkgate Centre, Shipley, on **December 4th**, when the guest speaker will be Gianpiero Ferrari, presenting an illustrated talk on *The Okavango Delta, Botswana*. The talk commences at 7.30pm and the entrance fee is £3; children admitted free. The meetings generally finish around 9.30pm.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/airedaleandbradford>

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

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"So, another year done. I've had my fill of 2015; although perhaps I speak too soon!"