

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

BACK ON TRACK

VOLUNTEERS SAVE TRAMWAY

**IT'S NOT
THE PAPER
PEOPLE BUY,
IT'S THE
PAPER BY
THE PEOPLE**

NEW VENUE

Saltaire History Club is trying out a new venue for its meeting on Thursday, March 3rd : the recently designated Archive Room, in the Resource Centre housed by Shipley College's Exhibition Road building. The Resource Centre is on the second floor, accessible either by stairs or lift.

The meeting will begin at the usual time of 7pm and **all are welcome** to hear a talk by **Ian Watson** and to share refreshments as well as interesting conversation.

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The famous Shipley Glen Tramway, founded in 1895 by Sam Wilson [pictured, above] is up and running again every Sunday from noon until 4pm, despite the devastating effect of heavy rain at the end of last year, thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers.

As reported here last month, the historic attraction was brought to a sudden halt by the dramatic December deluge; although even then the shop and museum were kept open at the usual times.

Congratulations are due to all involved.

To avoid confusion [See photo, above], the tramway's website assures us, "In 1895 it would have cost you about 2d for a round trip on the tramway. It will now cost you £2.00 for *unlimited* travel for a day, so we now offer even better value for money!"

**For the latest information, see the website:
shipleyglentramway.co.uk**

**In this issue
MARCHES
PAST
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

NEWS VIEW

As the local Community Newspaper, the *Sentinel* needs to reflect – and record for posterity – life in Saltaire as it is experienced by the people who live here, as well as the way it is observed by visitors.

Your news and views are always welcome.

A particular vacancy presently exists for an enthusiastic reporter to follow up stories and accept invitations to events on the Editor's behalf; although as the post is unpaid, no regular commitment is required.

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.



JANE HUGHES REMEMBERED

**CHERRY TREE IS PLANTED
BY FRIENDS - AN IDEA SHE
WOULD HAVE LIKED**

Writes Richard Coomber

Family and friends of **Jane Hughes** gathered in the Jubilee Blossom Orchard on Sunday, February 21st to plant a cherry tree in her memory.

Jane, who died on October 24th, was one of those people whose passing left a gap in the lives of people well beyond her immediate circle.

It was most appropriate that the tree should be planted on the site of one of Hirst Wood Regeneration Group's projects because Jane was always a good friend of the group during her time working at Shipley Area Office. Even though she had worked the usual office hours during the day, Jane could always be relied upon to turn up at evening meetings and to offer enthusiastic advice on the best way to get things done. And her commitment didn't end there, for she would follow up and do whatever she could to help make things happen. It always felt as though she was going the extra mile just for us but we knew that we weren't the only people benefitting from Jane's energy and commitment.

As former Shipley Area Co-ordinator Chris Flecknoe said in her tribute published in the *Saltaire Sentinel* [December, 2015]: "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."

Jane was diagnosed with a rare cancer in January 2009 and as she admitted, "my known world fell apart. I had a busy life as a working mum of two teenagers, with a passion for fitness and the outdoors."

She described the period following major surgery and treatment as being "rock bottom" but, typical of Jane, she threw herself into supporting Cancer Support Bradford, where she became a Trustee, and also into Zest Coaching, helping others fulfil their potential.

Jane would have liked the idea of a tree growing in her memory and for the very many people whose lives she touched, it will be a reminder of a woman who packed so much good into a life that was taken far too soon.

CLUB TO HEAR NEW CHAPTER OPENED

On Thursday, March 3rd at 7pm. **Ian Watson** will give a talk to the Saltaire History Club, based on new research of the papers kindly made available by the family of Sir James Roberts, entitled: 'A Textile Magnate in the First World War: The Letters of Sir James Roberts 1914-1919'.

Dave Shaw, who tells us, "This research of the Roberts era is opening up a new chapter in Saltaire's wonderful history," says of the new Archive Room at Shipley College, where the meeting will be held, "The recent designation of this part of the College's premises is a huge step forward in the management and development of Saltaire's historical artefacts and documents, and your involvement in its use is encouraged."

IT HAPPENED IN MARCH

By Colin Coates

Wed. March 18th 1868
Weavers at Saltaire Mills went on strike demanding higher wages. The following day, the company locked the gates and closed down all production. Work resumed on Monday March 23rd with Mr Titus Salt Junior agreeing to pay the weavers the same rate of pay as other firms in the area.

Saturday, March 5th 1881
At an entertainment held in a crowded Victoria Hall, Mrs Titus Salt presented certificates of the Royal Humane Society to Robert Haley and Robert Thompson for the bravery displayed by them. In November 1880 they helped save the life of a little child named Ann Skirrow, who during a heavy flood fell into the river Aire, and would have probably died if Haley and Thompson had not jumped in the river to rescue her.

Sunday, March 12th 1916
Private Harry Bolton, of 19 Amelia Street was killed on his first night in the trenches. See his full biography at www.saltairevillage.info/W1_biography_B_001.html #Bolton_Harry

Sunday, March 30th 1930
The Bradford to Saltaire via Thackley tram route was converted to trolley buses.

Saturday, March 20th 1965
Saltaire Railway station closed.

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A SNAPSHOT OF SALTAIRE
In 1902 (part 2) By Roger Clarke

On Victoria Road alone there were three bakers, two butchers, two greengrocers, two boot and shoe makers and repairers, a newsagent and stationery shop, a cabinet maker/upholsterer/undertaker, a fish and chip shop, a hairdresser, a draper and milliner and a chemist. Most of the shops had been selling the same kinds of goods since Sir Titus built them, and it was often generations of the same families, like the Feathers and Charlesworths who kept them. 1902 was a turning point for Gordon Terrace. Until this date there had only been two grocer's shops here (at No 51 and No 81 - current numbering). The rest had been dwelling houses with small gardens at the front. This was before the increase in trade, kick-started by the electric tram service which brought potential customers in their thousands at weekends to enjoy the delights of Shipley Glen. Plans were approved for the conversion of Nos 16 to 24 into shops, and many opened the following year. The face of education changed in 1902, when all schools were placed under the control of Local Authorities rather than the old School Boards. The Salts Schools had been in financial difficulties, relying on the fees of the students, but now the Urban District Council could levy a 2d rate for secondary education from local taxes. More students could now enter the Schools on scholarships, and enter college and university on County Major Scholarships. It is touching to note that just a year later Miss Medina Griffiths was invited back to Saltaire by some of her old pupils. She was the charismatic Headmistress of Saltaire Girls High School from 1876 to 1886. (She left to open a private school in London.) 50 or 60 old girls attended, each with a card around her neck giving maiden and married names. Tea was served in the gymnasium at Victoria Hall. One table had 20 little "olive branches" who had come by invitation of their mothers. Miss Griffiths was presented with a silver inkstand by her former pupils. She had paved the way for girls to have the same educational opportunities as boys, and receive exactly the same advantages. With its ordered, self-contained community, Saltaire was protected from the worst excesses of urban life. In 1901, Seebom Rowntree had produced a report on 11,000 families in York, and concluded that the chief characteristics of slum life were "the reckless expenditure of money as soon as it is obtained, the rowdy Saturday night, and the Monday morning pilgrimage to the pawnshop". This is not to say that these features were totally absent in Saltaire, but they were not the norm.

The SPA
21 Titus Street
The Authentic
Village corner shop
Open Mon-Sat
8am-10pm
Sun. 10am-10pm
01274 - 826534

SALTAIRE
BOOKSHOP
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The Saltaire Sentinel
can also be found at
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PRACTICE
VISITOR
INFORMATION
CENTRE
Shipley and Baildon
LIBRARIES

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

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,

March 27th

Doors open at 10 am.

Cuppacare

CUPPACARE is a popular café and bookstall, open to the public on most Mondays and Fridays, from 10am to 1.30pm in New Kirkgate, Shipley. We are a non-profit service provided by Shipley

"STORIES" FUNDING TO BOOST ARCHIVE

Molly Kenyon reports:

Saltaire World Heritage Education Association (known as **Saltaire Stories** – Charity No.1158756) **has won initial Heritage Lottery Fund backing of £11,700 to promote use of the Saltaire Archive.**

The Saltaire Archive held by Shipley College contains thousands of documents,

photographs and artefacts illustrating the history of our unique community. Last autumn a Saltaire Archive Room was created within the College's Learning Resource Centre. Volunteers are sorting boxes of fascinating documents and the HLF grant will pay for guidance from two consultants.

An archivist will map themes in the archive material and advise on updating the catalogue. An education consultant will match those themes to elements in the national curriculum and in Further/Higher Education.

Relationships will be strengthened with informal education providers such as Saltaire History Club, Bradford Museums and the West Yorkshire Archive Service.

Saltaire Stories aims eventually to put the Archive online, with learning resources tailored to the needs of a wide variety of users. Making this wealth of material available locally, nationally and internationally will raise the profile of Saltaire as a "world classroom". Everyone can learn something of interest here.

Putting the archive online will require further fundraising and several years of work. Another long-term goal is to have regular opening hours for the Saltaire Archive Room, but a substantial amount of sorting and cataloguing is still needed. This project relies on the time, energy and skill of very active volunteers.

More information can be gained from www.saltairestories.org

from our Facebook page, or by ringing **Maggie Smith** on **01274 596448**.

WINTER BANDSTAND

Free music at **Caroline Social Club**, second Sunday of every month from 2pm

March 13th
**NORTH WIND TRIBAL
BELLY DANCERS**

RSPB

On Friday, **March 4th** at **7.30pm** in the **Kirkgate Centre, Shipley**, the **RSPB Airedale Branch** presents *British Owls*, an illustrated talk by **Peter Smith**.

Admission **£3**

(children admitted free.)

On Saturday, **March 26th** there will be a free guided walk around the Washburn Valley, led by **Peter Riley**.

For further details of either:

01274 582078

abrspb@blueyonder.co.uk

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Saltaire Stories?
I could tell a few!
In fact, I have my own
'Archive'!"

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@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.