

# CAROLINE CHAOS

## RESIDENTS RESIST RAT RUN

**THE  
PAPER  
PEOPLE  
ARE  
PART OF**

### HELP NEEDED

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.

Several residents of Caroline and nearby streets have taken up the issue of cars speeding and rat-running with the Council, who have promised to look into the problem.

One of the leading campaigners told us: "The Saltaire Junction has had its trial period and it's clear that much of this traffic has no business in the village; and some of it travels far in excess of the 20mph limit. Some residents who work at home have moved their workplace upstairs because of the noise. This must be one of the few streets anywhere with a 20mph limit but no enforcement, no signs to that effect and no attempt to slow traffic down. We are blessed with a number of small children living here and parents are

rightly concerned.

As there are so many junctions on Caroline Street, an accident is more or less inevitable under the current conditions."

Cllr. Kevin Warnes (Green) commented: "Personally, I would strongly welcome measures to slow the cars. However, there are serious heritage considerations to take into account and any measures proposed would presumably also require Area Committee approval (and funding!). So, unfortunately, there are no quick fixes." Meanwhile, another representative of the local people, who have been petitioning the Council for the past **nine years** and are, understandably, growing increasingly impatient, declared: **"It is time for more positive action."**

**In this issue  
A LOT OF  
HOT AIR  
(IN THE  
HINDENBURG)  
Plus  
ALL OUR USUAL  
UNUSUALS**

### ARTS AGAIN

The increasingly popular Saltaire Arts Trail takes place this month on the Bank Holiday Weekend, **28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**. In addition to the usual 'Open Houses' and Makers' Fair, this year's event features three new participatory installations created by established Bradford-based artists and two innovative exhibitions by photographers based in Saltaire. There will also be creative activities and workshops at various venues and artists will be giving demonstrations in Victoria Hall and the Methodist church.

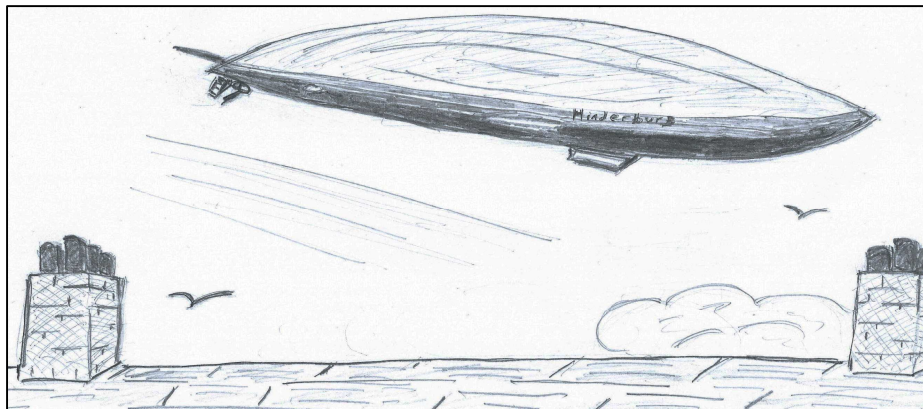
**WHATEVER IT IS - SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel* !**

**sentinel@saltairevillage.info**

**The Deadline is always 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.**

**Roger Clarke** writes about

## **THE HINDENBURG OVER SALTAIRE** In May, 1936



*Our artist's impression*

Germany had two well known airships in the 1930s: The Graf Zeppelin made regular flights between 1928 and 1937. It was 787 feet long, 100 feet in diameter and had a cruising speed of 72 mph.

**The Hindenburg** was bigger at 808 feet long, 135 feet in diameter and cruised at 76 mph. It had a shorter life, commencing service in 1936.

Passenger capacity was 50 to 72, with 40 to 60 crew.

Remarkably, there was a smoking lounge, pressurised against the leakage of gas. Originally the gas used was helium, which is non-flammable and lighter, providing more lift. However, it was much more expensive to obtain from natural sources, and so the very much cheaper (but flammable) hydrogen was used – the most abundant element in the world, maximising profits! There were regular flights from Frankfurt to New York and back, none of which were scheduled to fly across England unless forced to do so by bad weather.

**Three times, the Hindenburg was sighted crossing the Aire Valley:** May 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1936. (The weather was fine on all three occasions.) It was feared that these were spying flights to assess and photograph industrial sites in the north of England.

On **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, a bunch of carnations and a crucifix were dropped over Keighley, along with a message asking the finder to put them on the grave of the sender's brother at Morton church yard. Two Boy Scouts found it and complied, with the episode captured by the Yorkshire Observer newspaper which informed the sender aboard the Hindenburg by radiogram. (*Details researched by Alan Cattell, Bingley Historian*).

The Hindenburg was destroyed in 1937 when it caught fire and exploded whilst coming into land at Lakehurst, New York with the loss of 36 lives.

**Our regular informants Alan Robinson and Donald Swift saw the Hindenburg on one of its flights.** Alan, then aged 8 years old and attending Albert Road School, describes it as “a huge dark round shape at the front which was all I could see at first, but then, WOW, it passed in front of us to go across Saltaire coming from Hirst Wood locks. It was immense. There was no noise. It just floated slowly past, quite low”.

Donald was a little older, aged 14 years and attending Shipley Central School (now Wycliffe Primary on Saltaire Rd). Again the Hindenburg was travelling west to east “like a huge silver cigar with a number on it. Hardly any sound, just a low hum.”

**Did any of our older *Sentinel* readers see it too?**

## **COLIN'S COLUMN**

### **Soldier Marriage**

From the Shipley Times

May 12<sup>th</sup> 1916:

“The marriage took place on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 1916, at the Registry Office, Bradford, of Corporal Arthur George Brown, Royal Engineers, George Street, Saltaire, and Miss Annie Harris, Victoria Road, Saltaire.

The bridegroom fought on the Gallipoli Peninsular, and has spent the last two months at the Front in France.

He was married at 9 a.m. and at 10.25 a.m. he left Bradford, for the continent, with the best wishes of his many friends, that he might have good luck and a safe return.”

**Arthur John Brown**, the sixth of nine children, was born 1893 in Hunslet to Charles William Brown and Ann Maria Reeve.

In 1901 the family were living at 4 William Henry Street in Saltaire with Charles employed as a gas worker.

By 1911 they had moved to 41 George Street in Saltaire with Arthur working as a packing overlooker.

In 1917 Arthur was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in action. He survived the war and he lived with his family at 41 George Street in Saltaire.

By 1923 they had moved to 10 Hirst Wood Road and in 1934 they were living at 13 Park Street in Shipley.

**Colin Coates**

**You can read many more of Colin's World War One stories on the Saltaire Village website:**

[www.saltairvillage.info](http://www.saltairvillage.info)

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**LOCAL HISTORY  
EXPLORERS CONSIDER  
WATER POWER**

When last winter's floods breached the weir at Hirst Mill, the water level upstream dropped by about 3 to 4 feet and gave us a glimpse of the River Aire's natural appearance - a shallower, fast flowing river with stony bed. This suggests the river was never useable for water-borne transport prior to the building of this part of the canal in the 1770's. However, although of little value for transport, the river system was certainly well used for water power. Thomas Jeffereys' map of 1775 shows numerous water wheels, predominantly on the smaller tributaries leading into the Aire, where the flow was more easily controlled. These would have provided rotary power to the machinery of a range of textile, food processing and metalworking industries. Utilising the much greater power of the Aire itself required fairly substantial engineering including the building of weirs and goits several of which survive: In Saltaire, the weir channelled water to provide power for Dixon's Mill, which preceded Salt's Mill. At Hirst Mill the water powered their fulling operation. Further upstream, at the bend in the river, a less substantial weir diverted water through a goit to power an iron smelting furnace in the 1590's (see *Sentinel*, Aug. 2013). Later this channel was re-used by Hirst New Mill, again involved in fulling. A further weir is situated just downstream of Baildon Bridge in Shipley. It is these four weirs which still give the Aire its relatively deep and leisurely appearance (at least when not flooded). Water wheels cannot reliably deliver power when the river is low or high and the weirs helped extend the periods when they could be used. However, for a factory the size of Salt's Mill, water power would have been inadequate and stationary steam engines provided the motive power. Water was still drawn from the river (requiring maintenance of the weir), but for processing purposes not power.

**David and Jonathan Starley**

As well as being a highly qualified archaeologist, **David Starley** is a popular, talented painter whose work can be seen (and purchased!) around the village *at any time of year*. His son **Jonathan** was born in the same year as this paper (2003).

How quickly news becomes history!

The *Sentinel* seeks to preserve both for posterity, with the assistance of the likes of our own 'Local History Explorers'.

**All contributions gratefully received!**

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**ADVERTISING**

Space in the *Sentinel* is  
**not for sale.**

Please note, nonetheless,  
that we are always pleased  
to print, free of charge,  
short articles which feature  
enterprise of interest and  
potential benefit to the  
local community.

## 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](http://www.saltairevillage.info)

### Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall

Sunday,  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>

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 Christians Together.

### OBITUARY

Sadly, we report the death, last month, of **Nora Ward**, who lived in Saltaire for a very long time, at the age of **107**. Seven years ago, when Roger Clarke interviewed her for his 'Saltaire Folk' column in the *Sentinel*, he concluded: "It would be hard to find such an energetic and independent centenarian than Nora, whose love of life and people make her such entertaining company."  
[Rest in Peace, Nora – but leave us that love – Ed]

## WORLD HERITAGE WEEKEND SUCCESS

**Rob Martin reports:**

A gentle stroll, conversation, things to look at, things to do. There was certainly a lot of activity over the World Heritage Weekend and, judging by the feedback, folks enjoyed themselves. The Shipley Glen Tramway had 1178 passengers, 40 of whom had the old 1d and so got to ride free. 50 people took part in the "Baildon Welcomes Walkers" walk to Bingley Five Rise and a few thousand looked at alpacas, played croquet and had a go with "boaters' games" and wood turning demonstrations in Roberts Park.

The main theme of the weekend – the abundance of leisure facilities in Saltaire which attracted tram loads of Bradford folk every weekend – was ably described by students of Shipley College Travel and Tourism courses to forty people who went on the guided walks. The silent film of Easter 1912 on the glen, shown at Bracken Hall, was a firm favourite along with the refreshments served at Saltaire United Reformed Church.

**Colin Coates adds:**

An interesting lecture took place at the Learning Resource Centre in Shipley College on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, organised by Helen Thornton, World Heritage Officer, in conjunction with Saltaire Stories and Saltaire History Club. The first speaker was Ian Watson, a well-respected local historian. Ian's talk was based on letters written by Sir James Roberts between 1914 and 1917. These private letters are on loan to Saltaire Archives from the Roberts family at Strathallan Castle. The second speaker was Nick Salt, a great-great grandson of Sir Titus. Nick's lively talk was concerned with the life of Titus Salt Junior and his home, Milner Field.

The audience, comprising of local historians and members of the Salt and Roberts families, enjoyed the afternoon. It was gratifying to see the interest shown in the history of Saltaire.

## SO ROLL ON NEXT YEAR

Thanks to all who braved the cold and enjoyed the sunshine. Anyone interested in helping out in the **World Heritage Weekend 2017** please get in touch with [saltairestories@gmail.com](mailto:saltairestories@gmail.com)

### RSPB

Talks and walks organised by the Airedale Branch of the RSPB will start again in September. **Debbie White** tells us, "You may see our stall at various fetes and galas over the summer, so come and say hello." Meanwhile, the website at [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/airedaleandbradford](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/airedaleandbradford) will carry write-ups of recent events and information about next season's programme as details are finalised.

### WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"I will be following the Arts Trail, as usual – although I don't expect to pick anything up!"

**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](mailto: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.