

VIC ROAD REVIVED

A LOAD OF OLD COBBLES

**THE PAPER
THAT
COULD
ONLY BE IN
SALTAIRE**



**In this issue
MILNER FIELD
FARM
Past, Present
and Future (?)
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

HELP NEEDED

The *Sentinel* always seeks 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.

Consequently, it **continues** to reiterate: **Your news and views are always welcome.**

Furthermore, in order to survive, this local **Community** newspaper **urgently** needs *your* help with reporting, **deliveries** – and even editing!

Please contact us at the e-mail address below.

Victoria Square, the stretch of Victoria Road bordered by our four famous lions and across which Victoria Hall and the Salt Building face each other, is in the process of being restored to its former glory by the reappearance of old cobbles.

We are reliably **informed** that although these cobbles are not the originals, which were found to be ‘unsuitable’ after so long under tarmac, they are appropriate and genuine in terms of historical origin.

So far, the results look promising.

HOW THE SOMME CAME HOME TO SALTAIRE

A hundred years after the unimaginable carnage of the Battle of the Somme, which lasted for five months, Colin Coates names the local men who lost their lives on the very first day; July 1st 1916 . *See Page Two >>*

COLLEGE INVITE

ShIPLEY College will be holding another **Adult Guidance Event** on **Thursday, July 7th** (4.30-7pm), in its Exhibition Building, on Exhibition Road.

Stella Downs, who is the Colleges’s Marketing Assistant, says,

“Come along to find out more about the part-time courses we have on offer. Meet our staff and receive guidance on your future choices.”

The new part-time course guide is out now.

Call (01274) 327222 or visit:

www.shIPLEY.ac.uk

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

sentinel@saltairevillage.info

The Deadline is always 20th of the month prior to publication.

PETER
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COMMEMORATING

Colin Coates writes about the Battle of the Somme, which was fought in Northern France from July 1st to November 18th 1914, and the men from Saltaire who lost their lives in the awful conflict which was:

BRITAIN'S BLOODIEST DAY

For five months the British and French armies engaged the Germans in a brutal battle of attrition on a 15-mile front.

In total, there were over one million dead and wounded on all sides.

The opening day was the bloodiest in the history of the British Army, with 19,240 soldiers losing their lives.

Six of those soldiers were from Saltaire:-

Herbert Bullock, aged 36, married with four children, lived in Caroline St.

George Henry Clegg, 30, married; Amelia St.

Fred Foster, 28, married; Helen St.

Maurice Helliwell, 27, married; George St.

Thomas Horsfall, 24, single; Baker St.

Herbert Thompson, 25, married with one son; Victoria Road.

Full biographies of these brave men are online at

www.saltairevillage.info/WW1_Roll_of_honour.html

SHIPLEY LIBRARY EXHIBITION

Local historian **Richard Coomber** has also dedicated much time to researching and presenting information about the impacts of World War One on the Shipley area, including **Saltaire**, Windhill, Baildon, Thackley, Idle and Eccleshill, and has developed a website which can be found at

www.shipleyww1.org.uk.

Shipley Library is hosting a special exhibition, made possible by Richard's hard work, for two weeks, beginning on **July 2nd**, in memory of those killed, wounded or missing after the Battle of the Somme.

MEANWHILE, NOT TOO FAR AWAY

After several years of research, **Clive Harrison** has published a book about life in the village of **Cottingley** during the First World War. Based on contemporary newspaper reports and archive materials, "**A Village At War**" is a 90 page A5 publication which tries to describe the effects of the war on the residents of the village and how they carried on while many of their menfolk were away fighting for their country. At least 171 men joined the armed forces and 31 gave their lives. Copies of the book will be on sale at Cottingley's Fun Day on Saturday, July 9th and at Cottingley Town Hall's Heritage Day on Saturday, September 10th, but can also be obtained by sending a cheque or postal order for £6.99 payable to "Clive Harrison" to 39 Woodside Avenue, Cottingley, Bingley, BD16 1RB.

SOMMETHING [sic] OF A TRIBUTE

I doff my cap, and thank God it's not a tin helmet, to **Fred Roberts**, **Jack Pearson** and others who managed to produce small, informative yet incredibly humorous newspapers, for a very local readership one might say, in the horror of the trenches. The Somme-Times [sic] perhaps unsurprisingly, appeared only once (Monday, 31st July, 1916), but was "incorporated" with the (now better-known) Wipers Times, The "New Church" Times, the Kimmel Times and The B.E.F Times, "Printed and published by Sherwood, Forester and Co., Ltd, 'Sommewhere' [sic] in France."

The Editor

CAMPAIGNING

Our *Local History Explorers* David and Jonathan Starley go **DOWN ON THE FARM**

Travellers on Saltaire station have been surprised to hear the clucking of hens behind the wall. This is a result of Shipley College's new partnership with Askam Bryan College, hosting their animal care courses in Saltaire. Links between the village and animal husbandry have a much longer history, as we discovered when we visited **Milner Field Farm**, which overlooks Saltaire. Titus Salt Junior invested in a model farm, to investigate how agriculture could be made more efficient, in a similar way to that in which the village improved the lives of residents. So, planning lay at the heart of the scheme, and clearly no expense was spared; in particular the 'C' shaped courtyard around which different agricultural activities were conducted in beautifully finished stone buildings. The venture has proved a long-lasting success. After the initial running of the farm under Salt's employees, the farm was let out to tenants, of whom our guide, **David Downs**, is the fifth generation of his family to farm the land. For many years their operation has concentrated on dairy cattle, with half the milk being distributed locally and the remainder being processed elsewhere, (look out for Primrose Dairy products!).

Sadly, despite the farm's history, surviving buildings, viability or the 114 year tenancy of the family provide little security for the site, and the land owners are currently seeking planning permission to build on the land.

The Downs and other individuals and groups are keen to motivate public support to protect this green field site on the edge of Saltaire.

For more details, please read their website:

<http://www.milnerfieldaction.co.uk>

We can only hope that this little known historic site, with strong links to our World Heritage village, might achieve the recognition it deserves and be allowed to survive for the benefit of future generations.

David and Jonathan Starley

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was good to see the piece in last month's *Sentinel* concerning the ongoing threat to the site of Milner Field Farm, encouraging people to raise objections to the Planning Application to turn the site into an 'innovation centre'. Previously I had read that the application was on behalf of the University of Bradford, but I now understand that the University were 'consultants' to the proposal and that the applicant is actually Hartley Property, owners of the farm site - and that the same company owns the canalside site on which the short-lived Saltaire Garden Centre was based. If this is the case, the derelict state of the former garden centre site raises a big question about what might happen to the farm site if farming should cease.

J.W. Bromley

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

The Institute of Cancer Therapeutics at the University of Bradford have joined forces with Breast Cancer Specialists in West Yorkshire and are now recruiting healthy volunteers for a pioneering research study to create a new diagnostic test which could detect breast cancer at its earliest stages. You are not being tested, but you will be helping women in the future. Confidentiality is paramount and you will remain anonymous throughout the study. Participation will involve two 20 minute visits. There is no age limit; everyone can help! If you would be interested in finding out more about the study, please call our Research Nurse, **Mrs. Joanne Mullarkey** on **01274 235849** or e-mail her at

j.mullarkey@bradford.ac.uk

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can also be found at
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LIBRARIES

ADVERTISING

Space in the *Sentinel* is
not for sale.

Please note, nonetheless, that we are always pleased to print, free of charge, short articles (approx. 200 words) 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.saltairvillage.info

WASHHOUSE BLOOMERS

Dina Plowes writes about looking after The Washhouse garden on Caroline Street: It needs some attention and a notice board informing people of the plants, and their usage. Anyone interested in joining in or fundraising for this please contact Dina on **07905000545**. Or just pull out the goose grass as you pass - **you know you want to!**

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.

Saltaire Cricket Club

TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall

Sunday,

July 17th

Doors open at 10 am. To book a table, contact Simon Hicks: **01274 787908**

BRACKEN HALL BACK

Debbie White tells us: The garden is flourishing, the bees are buzzing, the rooms are refurbished. **Yes, Bracken Hall is back!**

Exhibits are returning from storage and some new ones are under construction. It's very much "work in progress", but there is progress week on week. Guided walks and children's school holiday activities (Wild Wednesdays) continue to run (see our Friends programme for details). The rooms are available for hire for schools and other organisations, with or without tuition on nature-based themes.

The centre is currently open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, 12-4 pm, manned by a team of volunteers and more recruits would be welcomed. **For more information, see www.baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk/bracken_hall.php or www.friendsofbrackenhall.org.uk**

or call in and see us at a weekend!

VICTORIA OPEN AGAIN

Our Roving Reporter writes: Not so long ago the Victoria on Saltaire Road was the only public house in Saltaire. It's the traditional two-room pub with large lounge (smart, formerly buzzing with local folk in conversation) and smaller, basic "public bar". Since the turn of the century it has struggled to stay alive, lost its place in the Good Beer Guide, and the shutters have literally gone up on this listed building more than once. **Now**, it's open for business again, run by bright new landlord Cliff Williams, with a varying range of real ales from local brewers. It's even got real flowers in the window-boxes. Let's hope it can fill up again with real local people.

WORK AT CHURCH

As Saltaire United Reformed Church looks forward to a major renovation of its **café and toilets**, congratulations are in order to the members of the church whose hard work has secured the grant from the National Churches Trust which makes this possible. Thanks to them, the welcome just gets 'warmer'!

BANDSTAND PROGRAMME

FREE music in Roberts Park every Sunday, 2pm.

This month:

- 3rd** Schools Showcase
- 10th** Love to Boogie
- 17th** Dave Hanson
- 24th** Bradford Metropolitan Concert Band
- 31st** Anchorage Big Band

SATURDAY SUNSET DANCING EVENT

July 16th

7-9pm

DJ Al & Gus

Bookings are organised this year by **Nanette Brimble** and **Gus Bousfield**. Bands and musicians, dance groups etc. can get in contact with both Nan and Gus with an email to all of the team:

forp@roberts-park.org

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Reading this page, it seems that everything is being caringly 'revived' and 'renewed'; except, of course, 'Yours Truly'!"

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.