

# LOCAL CONTROL

## IDEAS FOR OUR OWN COUNCIL

*The paper  
of the  
people of  
Saltaire*

### COLIN'S QUIZ

Join Colin Coates for another of his quiz nights in the lounge at St. Peter's Church on Moorhead Lane, at 7pm on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

The event will be hosted by Shipley Support Group for Manorlands, the Sue Ryder hospice at Oxenhope.

Admission costs £8.50, which includes pizza, salad, ice cream and fruit juice. (If you want anything stronger, you have to bring your own!)

**Tickets** are available from

scghudson@blueyonder.co.uk  
07793 754218

An idea which is up for discussion this month is that Shipley could benefit from a Community or Town Council which would bring additional funding into the district.

Pauline Bradley-Sharp comments, "the tax levied on builders would stay in Shipley, and we could also attract funding for innovative ideas for our communities."

As we reported in September, A **slightly different idea**, for a Parish Council for Saltaire, is already being considered, with the support of the Village Society, largely because it seems the best chance of saving the public conveniences on Caroline Street; with Ilkley and Haworth cited as successful role models.

(It seems too late to save the Information Centre, but the Village Society has already been in discussion with the Council about the possibility of taking the public toilets on lease and using part of the building to provide some visitor services.)

As for her idea of a Town Council for Shipley, Pauline asks, "Would you be interested in getting involved in some way to make it happen and getting your ideas for Shipley's regeneration listened to and perhaps acted upon?" Look at Baildon and Bingley: both a pleasure to visit as they are so much better looked after than us. It works for them so why not us?

Let me have your ideas and I will collate your suggestions and let's see where we go."

[pbradleysharp@gmail.com](mailto:pbradleysharp@gmail.com)

**In this issue**  
**BURIAL  
GROUND –  
THE TRUTH**  
*Plus*  
**ALL OUR USUAL  
UNUSUALS**

### OPERATION DEBRIS

Autumn is here!

Volunteers have been involved with Major Pruning and General Clear-Up in the WHG, (the Washhouse Garden on Caroline Street), resulting in a mass of garden debris which needs to go to the tip. We would welcome Private Individual to volunteer use of car and trailer or large van to remove rubbish.

Rewards for service on offer are tea and cake. Thanks in anticipation.

Recruiting officer :

**Marion Rolfe**  
07508731942

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

**[sentinel@saltairevillage.info](mailto:sentinel@saltairevillage.info)**

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

## MILNER FIELD – THE FUTURE

*Sentinel* readers have been following the unfolding story of the threat to ‘develop’ the historic Milner Field Farm, and the heroic campaign to save it, for most of this year. **Les Brook** continues to keep us as up-to-date as possible: The withdrawal in May of the Hartley Group’s planning application was wonderful... but it did not signal the end of our efforts to protect the farm. The withdrawal followed a ‘recommendation to reject’ from the responsible planning officer. This was grounded in a host of major issues such as the inappropriateness of the proposed development in the Green Belt and the adverse impact on landscape and heritage. **But what does this mean for the long-term, both for the farm and indeed for the whole Milner Field estate?** A great deal of work has been (and is being) put into answering that question. Consideration has also been given to what more can be done to protect the farm from any future assault. The wider estate is now in the frame: this has been under assault from neglect for decades. What can be done about *that*? We are assured that any future proposals for the ‘development’ of the farm would face “significant challenges” and we are confident that the chances of a successful planning application to ‘develop’ Milner Field Farm are negligible. However, this does not mean that enhancing the farm and the wider estate would not be worthwhile. An improved Milner Field would be an even more resilient Milner Field – as well as being a more valuable community asset. We have initiated a conversation with Helen Thornton, our World Heritage Site Officer, concerning a heritage-led regeneration initiative. In addition, Bingley Town Council is now an even more important player. The Town Council has powers in law to set priorities and goals through the creation and adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan - and it is making good progress to that end. Finally, we have been in discussion with a number of supporters to determine how to take forward the proposals for enhancement of the farm and estate which we made in the Alternative Landscape Management Plan. At a supporters’ meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, we identified objectives in the Plan which we believe we can implement, together with individuals who will lead the charge.

## PEACE & CRAFT FAIR

**Saturday November 25th sees the 14th annual Peace & Craft Fair** in Victoria Hall. Always a successful event, packed with around 80 unusual and handmade craft stalls, campaign groups and more, this year there will be even more for children with an ethical Santa’s Grotto and face-painting. Together with wonderful live music, the brilliant local veggie Cafe - Dandelion, homemade cakes, and tombola featuring gifted crafts, this promises to be a fantastic day. A perfect place to do some Christmas shopping, supporting local artists and charities. Don’t miss it! For more information contact [cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

## AIREDALE & BRADFORD RSPB

For information on the exciting events being organised by the Airedale and Bradford Group of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds this month, including a coach trip to Filey (booking essential), ring **01274 582078** or E-mail: [abrspb@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:abrspb@blueyonder.co.uk)

## COLIN’S COLUMN CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

There are not many local newspaper reports regarding men who refused to fight in World War One. But here is one such report from the *Shipley Times* of November 9<sup>th</sup> 1917: “Two conscientious objectors appeared in the dock at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday morning. They were William Raistrick, mechanic, of 24 Alexandra Road, Shipley and Smith Pickles, newsagent, 2 Maddocks Street, Saltaire. Both were charged with being absentees under the Military Service Act, and both pleaded “Not Guilty.”

Police Constable Church, who had apprehended the men, said that Raistrick when arrested remarked, “I am against militarism altogether.” Pickles observed, “I refuse to have anything to do with militarism.”

Corporal Turnbull, who presented on behalf of the military authorities, said that when Raistrick appealed to the Shipley Tribunal for exemption from military service, he gave as the grounds of his claim that he was engaged on work of national importance, and said nothing about his being a conscientious objector. Raistrick now said he could not be an absentee because he was not a soldier, whilst Pickles declared that he was opposed to militarism in all its forms.

Each of the prisoners were fined 40s and ordered to await an escort.

There were in court many women sympathisers.”

**Colin Coates**

## **BURIAL GROUND - BY THOSE WHO KNOW**

Last month we published a short piece in which Pauline Bradley-Sharp drew to our attention the condition of Hirst Wood Burial Ground, using the phrase, “a very neglected location” and concluding, “Hirst Wood Regeneration Group have considered trying to get some funding to tidy the place up but we have pulled back as we think the project is too big for us.” This elicited two responses, for which we are very grateful and are sorry to edit, for lack of space:

**Revd John Rainer, Vicar of St Peter’s Shipley, writes:**

I read with interest your article in October’s *Sentinel* about the state of the Hirst Wood Burial Ground. Whilst geographically this area is in St Peter’s parish, you are right to point out that it remains the property of St Paul’s parish. This anomaly dates back to a time before the creation of St Peter’s parish in 1909. I was involved in discussions about the future of the burial ground with Revd Colin Penfold prior to his departure in 2008. Since then there has been no further discussion between the Church of England parishes about it. However, the discovery of war graves in the burial ground has put a new complexion on the issue. The area ought to be substantially improved for that reason alone. I can see little reason why the church councils of either parish should object to any effort to see the burial ground improved. I understand the reluctance of the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group to commit to a project of this kind. However, I wonder whether the existence of neglected war graves would make this a key moment for seeking the substantial funding necessary from grant-awarding bodies to improve the area. In 2018 we will mark the centenary of the ending of World War 1, and it may be that after that there will be less compelling reasons for anyone to fund such a project. I would suggest that with its excellent track record in Hirst Wood, the Regeneration Group is rather better placed to access this kind of funding than the Church of England.

**Tony Hesselwood**, who is the Administrator for Hirst Wood Burial Board (A sub-committee of St Paul’s Parochial Church Council) shares with us the correspondence which he instigated with Pauline as a result of our article:

It is some years since I approached the Regeneration Group to see if there were things which we might do together to improve the whole woodland area between Nab Wood and Slenningford and was told that the group were concentrating on the lower parts of Hirst Wood – and what a difference you have made. I have also had discussions with the “Forest of Bradford” about managing the burial ground and they would only be able to assist if the whole of the woodland area could become one project, but the ownership of the area between Hirstwood Road and Bingley Road was uncertain and so they could not get the necessary permissions. They too have moved on to other projects.

I was involved with the Barrett’s initiative to do a litter pick and I know that they have heart to do more. I would be more than happy to meet with representatives of the Regeneration Group and Rachel Barrett to see what would be feasible for the future. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have installed one new memorial since I got involved in late 2008. That has gone on a grave which had an inscription regarding a soldier which became invisible due to the act of vandals who pushed over a fairly robust memorial stone – still evident on the plot. In recent years we have done small amounts of coppicing and treated Japanese knotweed, hoping to eradicate it entirely. I am currently in conversation with two groups of folk with a view to having more thinning out of the many saplings which are growing and clearing the pathways. The maintenance of the surface of graves is, actually, the responsibility of the families who have bought the plots. Please let us continue in conversation, there is too much to tackle without drifting into a blame culture and we can no doubt do more together. I just wish that the *Sentinel* had made an attempt to contact St Paul’s through their website before going to press. [**“Fair cop”, Tony – Ed**]

## **DINA PLOWES REPORTS**

### **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**

I am now looking after this. Books are donated and free to everyone. There has been a little problem with vandalism. If anyone wants more information or wants to report any acts of vandalism please contact me directly. Dina 07905000545

### **MONKEY PUZZLE**

If people have noticed the Monkey puzzle tree in George Street they may be interested to know that it was planted by Pauline Bradley-Sharp about 46 years ago. Monkey puzzle trees eventually breakdown to produce coal. They are protected so if you want to stop development of a greenfield site pop a Monkey puzzle tree in (or dig a pond and hope for newts, or encourage bats to roost!)

### **SANTA SPECIALS**

**Father Christmas writes:**

There is just enough time to start being good and qualify for a present at the Santa Specials at Shipley Glen Tramway.

The Santa special tickets will cost £5. (Normal fares apply for other tickets )

Santa will be at the Tramway every weekend in December up to and including Saturday 23rd. (11am - 5pm)

Santa tickets will only be available at the bottom station at the Tramway and only on these dates.

Santa has heard that there are already quite a lot of good people in the area, so please come early and be prepared for a wait.

**Be Good!**

## Notices - News - Announcements - News - Notices

### 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)

### The SPA

21 Titus Street

8am-10pm

Sun. 10am-10pm

PETER

RANDALL

Gentleman's  
Hairdresser

205 Bingley Road

### SALTS MILL

Open Every Day

Attractions include:

SALT'S DINER

Cafe in to the  
Opera

SALTAIRE HISTORY  
EXHIBITION

1853 Gallery

AND MUCH MORE

ADMISSION FREE

01274 - 531163

Saltaire Cricket Club

TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall

Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Admission 50p. Doors open  
for customers 10am-1pm.

To book a table, ask Simon  
Hicks: on 01274 787908

### SHIPLEY LITTLE THEATRE NOW KNOWN TO HUNDREDS

Established in late 2016, Shipley Little Theatre has completed its first touring play, taking in six venues in the second half of September. Saltaire-based author Eddie Lawler's new play *Making Light* was seen and enjoyed at two locations in Saltaire, one in Bradford, two in Leeds, and at the Frazer Theatre in Knaresborough, the birthplace of the central character Blind Jack Metcalf who celebrates his 300<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. An ensemble of nine actors told Jack's life-story with gusto, and with the help of the elusive character of Mother Shipton, a modern fixture on the Knaresborough visitor-scene. Not only were audiences pleased with the drama, many confessed to being ignorant of the Yorkshire hero's existence until they came along. Feedback includes: "Thoroughly enjoyable, and educating, excellent"; "Exceptional acting and play script"; "What an entertaining story. I never knew of Jack Metcalf."

The performance at St Peter's Lounge in Saltaire raised over £900 for the Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice. The tour also took in the new branch of Henshaws College in Bradford which caters for students with visual impairment, and the final venue was also appropriate – Seven Arts in Leeds is on one of the roads built by Blind Jack so long ago. Shipley Little Theatre meets every Tuesday at 7pm at the Kirkgate Community Centre opposite Shipley Town Hall and all are welcome. See website at

<http://www.shipleylittletheatre.org.uk/>

### ARTS SOCIETY

Arts Society Saltaire will meet again in Victoria Hall at 2pm on December 6<sup>th</sup> to hear Dr. Annie Gray talk about 'Mrs Beeton's Christmas', using recipe books, such as Beeton's *Book of Household Management*, published in 1861, and other artefacts to demonstrate the development of the seasonal celebrations. Admission £5

[www.theartssocietysaltaire.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietysaltaire.org.uk)

### WINTER BANDSTAND

#### Free concerts

(with donations to support the performers welcome) at **Caroline Social Club** on the second Sunday of every month.

Club opens at 12pm with live music from 2pm.

Real ale at £2 a pint.

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Mockingbirds**

**Six Days**

For more details, visit

[www.carolineclub.co.uk](http://www.carolineclub.co.uk)

### 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.

### WORLD HERITAGE

#### WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



[See page one]

"Vote for me!

– for a greener Saltaire and a  
councilor who is always on  
your doorstep !"

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