

The
Saltaire Sentinel
Your Lion of VIGILANCE *Published monthly*



FAIR IS JUST FIRST

TRADERS SAY THANKS AGAIN

**HAPPY
NEWS
YEAR
YET AGAIN!**

FLINTY'S NEW BOOK

A second novel by successful local author *Flinty Maguire*, is now available on Amazon.

The Lighthouse Code is an adventure-mystery set in a seaside town, narrated by the delightfully quirky Ellie Booton, who understands, despite her tender age, that life is never straightforward.

A coded message flashed from the lighthouse is a warning – but what does it mean and who is it for?

Continued on Page Four

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas Fair, which was a great success, on November 28th, writes David Ford on behalf of the Saltaire Traders' Association.

We would particularly like to thank Phil (Santa) Fluke, the local WI for the raffle, and Emma, our elf. Thanks also to

Saltaire Primary School, Beckfoot school and Hirst Wood nursery for their singing, music and stall and Victoria Hall for hosting and helping with arrangements for the day.

We have decided to have a similar event next year, so if you have any ideas on how to make it bigger and better, please get in touch.

In this issue
**HORSES OF
THE TOWPATH**
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

STATION STUFF

Keith Preston reports: Overgrown vegetation on the Albert Terrace embankment, adjoining the railway station, has now been cut back by Network Rail, but the problem of litter remains. A 'Community Clear-up' is impossible for Health & Safety reasons as electric trains remain live at 25000 volts. For information on the Aire Valley Rail Users Group, visit: www.avrug.org.uk

VILLAGE SOCIETY

A New Year message from Vanessa Pilny:

At our last meeting, we looked back over the year's events and began to plan for 2014. We would value feedback on the Heritage Weekend, Saltaire Connected and the Christmas lights switch on events so that we can improve them in the coming year!

The light switch on is a collaborative event - we provide the tree, lights and mulled wine, Shipley College puts the tree up and the Salt Foundation provide the room. Thanks to donations on the night and contributions from stall-holders we just about raised enough to cover everything this year.

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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.

Roger Clarke's SALAIRE FOLK SHARON ASHTON

Readers will, we hope, welcome the return of this series, in which Roger interviews and records for posterity, the different people who make Saltaire what it is today. (Due to limited space in our pages, as well as other demands on Roger's time, publication will be "occasional".)

Multi-talented **Sharon Ashton** is a self proclaimed "plantaholic". She inherited her fascination with gardening from her Mum who encouraged her to grow plants from being a tiny child. Sharon now lives in Saltaire with a postage stamp sized back garden, once a winner in the Open Gardens competition organised by Rance, Booth and Smith, Architects.

Not satisfied with this, Sharon extends her gardening to an allotment behind the United Reformed Church. After seven years on the waiting list, she and an equally green-fingered friend now rent and work land there, unusually devoted to the cultivation of flowers rather than vegetables. Her house on Edward Street is not far away from the allotment which she says is her relaxation and her therapy. It is also close to the **Wash-House Garden** on Caroline Street, in the creation, design and maintenance of which she has been very much involved.

This would have been enough for most folk, but Sharon has a total passion for her gardening, which has led to her involvement in the largest green space in Saltaire – as **Chair of the Friends of Roberts Park**. When the Council proposed a "Friends" group for the Park in 2004 she was one of the first to respond, having noticed how it was being misused. She never expected to be Chair, being someone who prefers a background role, but she has risen to the task. She says she has been fortunate to have a very stable committee to work with, most of whom have been present since the outset. **Paul Haigh** is Secretary and **Richard Freeman** is Treasurer.

They have been a very active group, organising clean ups of the area (the first collected three lorry loads of rubbish in one morning); staging Easter Egg hunts (the last being in a snowstorm); assisting with the renovation of the Half Moon Café; helping to organise the musical programme there alongside **Eddie Lawler**; and significantly contributing to the Heritage Lottery Fund bid which secured so many positive changes in the Park. She is full of praise for the staff at **Hilary Taylor Landscapes**, who so sensitively designed and carried out the work in the park. Especially important to Sharon has been the full co-operation between the Friends and Council staff, especially **Martin Bijl** as Park Manager.

All this voluntary effort is in addition to holding down a full time job as a designer of greetings cards. Her degree in Graphic Design in 1992 indicates her other interests. She says that she has always been "Arty", manifesting itself in her involvement in the **Art Trail**, and she has opened her house for the past five years with the help of Paul and of many friends like **Hattie Townsend**. Different artists display their work there each year, alongside Sharon's embroidered cards, brooches and landscapes. She is a talented and very creative embroiderer.

Sharon has lived in Saltaire since 2000, and her family links go deep. Her great grandmother bought her house in 1935, shortly after the housing stock was placed on the open market, and her grandparents lived in it for fifty years. Her grandfather, a warp twister, was employed at Salts Mill for three years, as well as at many other local mills.

Sharon continues this legacy and commitment to the village.

Stories from World War One Sorrow to Joy Albert Doyle

Having already lost one son, Thomas Henry, at Ypres in 1915, Councillor Thomas Doyle of 30 George Street, Saltaire was further saddened with news that another son, Albert, was killed in action on September 30th, 1918. He received the following letter from his commanding officer:-

"It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of your son. We had reached our objectives and Doyle had done splendidly. Afterwards your son and I were sent out on patrol to get in touch with a platoon that had been isolated on our left. When close to a German machine gun post we were heavily fired on, and to my great regret I found your son was shot. He was buried two days later at the same spot where he was killed."

The families sorrow over Albert's death remarkably turned to joy when on Tuesday, November 5th they received a postcard from Albert. It stated that he had been wounded and he was a prisoner of war in Germany. He added that he was doing well and was being very well cared for.

There was no mistake as to Albert being alive as the postcard was in his handwriting.

Albert did indeed survive the war!

Research by Colin Coates
To help with local commemorations of World War One, please contact either Colin Coates or Dave Shaw:
historyclub@saltairevillage.info
or mobile 07736408339

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Saltaire History Explorers
Investigate

**HORSE POWER ON THE
LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL**

We're familiar with the sight and "chugging" sound of narrowboats on the canal. A much rarer visitor is a horseboat and the opportunity to help on one as it passed through Saltaire was eagerly taken up. The *Elland* is not a typical Leeds - Liverpool boat, being narrower than the usual "short" boats which worked the canal. However she does have local origins, probably built in Leeds about 150 years ago, her hull is constructed of riveted wrought iron, quite likely from one of the Bradford foundries. Companies such as Low Moor, with their access to low sulphur coal and low phosphorus iron produced the world-renowned "Best Yorkshire" iron, - a material whose corrosion resistance may help explain her remarkable survival.

Motive power was provided by *Bilbo*, a 15.1 hand cob-type horse, bred and trained for the job by Elland's owner, Sue Day. Not that there isn't plenty of manual work, particularly negotiating Five Rise and other locks. Modern obstacles in the form of signage, railings and tree stumps, which snagged the tow line, also gave cause for caution. This was probably a small matter compared with the complications of passing another of the 1,000 horseboats that once made the Leeds-Liverpool the most heavily used canal in the country. Despite strict priorities for who gave way to whom (based on the cargo carried) disputes were apparently common. Sue pointed out some of the surviving remains of horseboating, for example the cafe at Five Rise Locks occupies former stables. It would seem that generally the horses were very well looked after. Jonathan certainly made himself useful; particularly fetching and carrying ropes and the question arose, to what extent boats were crewed by families with children. Reading around the subject, it would seem this was less common on the Leeds-Liverpool canal than elsewhere. The tradition of families (not to mention pets) on board seems to have been a cost-cutting measure when railway competition became stronger in the mid nineteenth century, but died away with the introduction of engines in the early twentieth century - not only because less labour was needed but because the engine occupied the position of the stern cabin. Anyone interested in finding out more about horseboating (helpers much in demand) should visit the website: www.horseboating.org.uk
David and Jonathan (aged 10) Starley

The SPA

21 Titus Street
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NEW BOOK

[From Page 1]

Flinty draws interesting and absorbing characters such as Gilby, a dark force and a sly, school bully. The author, who researched the issue of bullying and has been bullied herself, tells us: "Too often, people become observers, who are reluctant to speak out or intervene when someone is being bullied. When this happens, bystanders unwittingly become passive bullies. It is demoralising and can be dangerous. I wanted to show how resourceful children can be and how kindness can be a lifeline. I also wanted to write a cracking adventure-mystery with lots of funny moments too."

Pamela Reynolds, who manages the website www.saltairevillage.info chose the penname *Flinty Maguire* because it is unique and easily found on Google.

The book is already selling well on Amazon.

The first of the Ellie Booton series, *Trouble at the Crab Shack Café*, was published in 2012, and is especially popular in the USA.

Another Ellie Booton book is in progress.

MORE HISTORY OF DYEING

Eddie Lawler responds to our request for information to supplement Roger Clarke's recent series: I think the colour blue involves the WOAD plant as well as indigo. Apparently the Ancient Egyptians used both, but woad was more dominant in Europe for many centuries. The town of Erfurt in Germany made its wealth out of growing woad and dyeing with it, assisted by the urine of the men who drank the local beer. The inns in the old town have a hole in the front wall, into which a sheaf of barley would be inserted to announce that the landlord had brewed. The industry of dyeing in Erfurt declined with the wider use of indigo from elsewhere. And it was the German chemical industry which developed aniline dyes in the 19th century thus displacing plant-based dyes in general. **Regarding madder**, I noticed in Avignon a statue to the 18th century agronomist Jean Althen, who originated from Armenia but developed the cultivation of madder on an industrial scale in the town. Steady demand for the red colour came for military uniforms, especially French soldiers' trousers. The same applies I would assume, to the redcoats in England.

VILLAGE SOCIETY

[From page one] **Looking ahead**, Heritage Weekend will be on **April 26/27 – more info in next month's update**. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing committee members (Rob Martin, Molly Kenyon, Chrissie Freeth and Chris Grogan) for everything they achieved and their ongoing help. Their input was amazing and we have some big shoes to fill! **If you want to help SVS** in any way, or just come along to one of our Tuesday meetings at Caroline Street Social Club, you'd be most welcome – **January 14th** and **February 25th** at 7.30pm. We can be contacted via email at secretarysvs@googlemail.com, via **Saltaire Bookshop** in person or on **01274 589144**

VILLAGE WEBSITE

The *Saltaire Sentinel* is available online, via the not for profit Saltaire Village Website, thanks entirely to **Pamela Reynolds**, who manages the site at www.saltairevillage.info

Cuppacare

in New Kirkgate, Shipley, is a non-profit enterprise kept open from 10am until 1.30pm on Mondays and Fridays by Shipley Christians Together.

HOW WALKS HELP

Salts Walks, the guided tours of the village organized by **Maria Glot**, raised over two thousand pounds last year for Saltaire United Reformed Church.

saltswalks@saltairevillageexperience.co.uk

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"This paper just gets madder and madder!"

[See above, left]

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 organisation. 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.