

The

# Saltaire Sentinel



*Your Lion of* VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

# TOTALLY LOCALLY TOGETHER MORE THAN EVER

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

## VILLAGE SOCIETY

Vanessa Pilny reports: Heritage Weekend will this year be on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. It is organised by Bradford Council's Heritage Department and *Saltaire Learning* and we at Saltaire Village Society help by volunteering. We have secured a grant from the council's Community Chest which will bring the horse drawn canal boat The Elland back for the weekend.

[Continued on P.4>]

*"Watch this space"*, writes David Ford, for the local launch of 'Totally Locally', an idea, gaining ground in the UK, focusing attention and resources on local communities, drawing in shops, community facilities and lots of local energy from enthusiastic people.

We are planning a launch in Spring, with the combined efforts of the Traders Association, the WI, Sustainable Saltaire and the Village Society.

### MEETING

There will be a planning meeting on **Tuesday, Feb. 11th** at Caroline Social Club from 7pm.

This is to get organised for the launch, and anyone who feels they can help with this is very welcome.

For more information, please contact either Angela at the Butterfly Rooms on Gordon Terrace or David at the Saltaire Bookshop on Myrtle Place.

**In this issue  
A HISTORY OF  
SELF HELP  
Plus  
ALL OUR USUAL  
UNUSUALS**

## WORLD WAR ONE DETAILS NOW ONLINE

Colin Coates tells us: We now have online biographies of over 150 men from Saltaire who served their country in WW1. The biographies can be found on the Village Website

[See page 4], for which credit must be given to **Pamela Reynolds**. More biographies will be

added regularly. So far we have found 579 men from the village who served in the war. From August, 2014 we hope to publish a diary showing events from 100 years ago, in addition to articles depicting what life was like in Saltaire at the time.

Should anybody have any queries or indeed information on any aspect of Saltaire in WW1 please do not hesitate to get in touch with [colincoates@saltairevillage.info](mailto:colincoates@saltairevillage.info)

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

[sentinel@saltairevillage.info](mailto:sentinel@saltairevillage.info) OR c/o The Saltaire Bookshop, 1 Myrtle Place

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

# A SHORT HISTORY OF SELF HELP

## (Part One of two)

by Roger Clarke

Workers in Saltaire were inspired to help themselves, judging by the number of insurance schemes, business ventures, societies and recreational activities organised on a voluntary basis. Titus Salt was their example, in the context of the tenets of Victorian morality. I decided to investigate further.

My starting point was one of the best selling books of the time – “**Self-Help**” by **Samuel Smiles**, which sold 20,000 copies in **1859**, the year of publication, and a quarter of a million copies by 1900. It describes how all men have potential which can be realised through hard work, perseverance, thrift, prudence and self reliance. Self-improvement was the watchword. Industry, diligence and determination were the ways of achieving success. “With hard work a man can accomplish anything”. “Heaven helps those who help themselves”. “Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.”

The front cover of the book states that it gives “Illustrations of Conduct and Perseverance”, and it is full of examples of men of lowly origins who achieved greatness. Self-made men from all walks of life – inventors, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists, explorers and generals. And at the end of it all Smiles lists the qualities of a gentleman. These are ordinary men who live their lives honourably, true to their own beliefs and with a duty to help their fellow men.

Titus Salt was not amongst the list of working class heroes, but perhaps his retail origins do not qualify him for inclusion.

Poverty was rife and many people, including those in employment, were existing in poor living conditions with little prospect of improvement. However, the Reform Act of 1832 had enfranchised the owners of houses which could be rented out for £10 a year or more, which meant that in industrial towns where house prices were high almost all male householders had the vote. Self-help provided some means through which anyone might aspire to the middle class dream. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert exemplified the importance of family and duty, and Prince Albert in particular had an interest in science and industry. Smiles wrote that “National progress is the sum of individual industry, energy and uprightness just as national decay is of individual idleness, selfishness and vice.”

Suddenly there were deserving and undeserving poor, and “Respectability” was something which everyone could aspire to. Appearances counted. “Keep the front doorstep clean - there’s more passes by than comes in.” Possession of a piano, a watch and chain, and a clock on the mantelpiece were all critical indicators.

*My copy of Smiles’ book is a reprint of the original, and it was re-published in 1996 by the Institute for Economic Affairs. I asked myself why, and then read the Foreword by Lord Harris of High Cross who concludes that “on such external verities we must urgently refashion failing social policy if the next millennium is to escape the self-inflicted follies of the present.”*

*In the next edition of the Sentinel I will look at the realities of self-help and whether it still has credibility today.*

## Stories from World War One

by Colin Coates

### Military Medal & Bar

**Corporal Gordon O’Donnell**, a Scout in the West Yorkshire Regiment, was awarded the Military Medal on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1917.

He won the medal for securing valuable information behind enemy lines. Against an enemy patrol in Belgium he and another corporal were under continuous fire for an hour. They had to swim a river over which the Germans had built a bridge.

Corporal O’Donnell subsequently destroyed the bridge and swam back to safety.

He won the Bar for patrol work on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1918 when he brought in a wounded comrade after narrowly escaping with his life under machine gun and rifle fire.

Gordon lived with his parents at 45 George Street in Saltaire. When home on leave in April 1918 as a former caddie at Shipley Golf Club he was awarded an “Easter egg” of 30 shillings by the club.

On the day he went back to the front, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, he was the guest of honour at Bradford Khaki Club. The lounge room was crowded with uniformed men who cheered Corporal O’Donnell when Major Stapleton pinned the decoration on his tunic. Mr. H.C. Derwent then presented him with a silver cigarette case on behalf of the club.

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

## **PETER** **RANDALL**

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## **Saltaire History Explorers** **Investigate**

### **THE COUNTESS OF ROSSE**

Whilst Jonathan's experience of pubs is restricted to an occasional coke and an packet of crisps, his dad is fond of his beer and has always assumed Saltaire residents found their own outlets, despite Sir Titus's apparent disapproval. The imposing presence of the Rosse Public House on the roundabout, suggests premises soon sprang up to satisfy demand. But who was the Countess after whom the pub was named?

Ian Watson's *In the Shadow of the Rosse* provides some background. The area north of Bingley Road was part of Shipley Low Moor - common land to which local residents had rights. A bill of enclosure, proposed in 1815 and finalised in 1825 led to it being divided up for private ownership. Not surprisingly large land owners got the lion's share and the absentee lord of the manor of Shipley, John Wilmer Field received a 16th part, including a large field near 'Four Lane Ends'. Ownership of this land passed to his daughter, Mary Field. She was clearly a remarkable woman: an accomplished blacksmith, pioneering photographer, amateur astronomer, not to mention mother to 13 children by her husband William Parsons who was a leading astronomer and builder of the world's largest telescope in 1845 (Mary worked on the iron supports!). He later inherited an Irish Peerage and after his death Mary took the title of Countess of Rosse. Her most famous son, Charles Algernon Parsons, was an engineer credited with the invention of the steam turbine who, more tragically, constructed an early steam-powered car which, in 1869, caused the first recorded fatal car accident. Whether the Countess had a liberal attitude to drink (or drinking establishments) can only be guessed. She owned the land at the time planning application for the pub was granted in 1869, but it was then sold to local entrepreneur Charles Edward Rhodes, former keeper of the Beehive beer house on Murgatroyd Rd (later rebuilt and more recently re-named the Shipley Pride). With a choice location on the Bradford to Skipton Road, on the edge of the famously dry village, the Rosse Hotel must have thrived. such a facility abutting the village can hardly have pleased Sir Titus, (who died in 1876). It would seem, however, that the Countess shared some of Salt's concern's over social issues, with a number of streets (Ferrand, Oastler and Ashley) on her land being named after child labour law reformers.

**David and Jonathan (10) Starley**

## **The SPA**

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

## **SALTAIRE** **BOOKSHOP**

**1 Myrtle Place**  
**Tuesday- Saturday**  
**10am - 5pm**  
New/Second-hand books  
01274 - 589144

## **VICARS**

**Café Bistro**  
**79 Victoria Road**  
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### **ADVERTISING**

All the establishments promoted here serve as outlets for this paper. Advertising space is NOT for sale.

***The Saltaire Sentinel***  
can also be found at  
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## Notices - News - Announcements - News - Notices

### VILLAGE SOCIETY

[From Page 1]

#### INFORMATION

If you would like to help, we need leaflet deliverers in early April and people to hand out information and point people in the right direction during the weekend. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours it would be a great help – you can even don your favourite Victorian costume if you want!

#### OBJECTION

The committee also agreed to object to proposals to extend the car park at Riverside Court which would lead to loss of green space and increased traffic at the lower end of Victoria Road.

#### MEETINGS

If you want to help the Village Society in any way, or just come along to one of our Tuesday meetings at Caroline Street Social Club, you will be most welcome. Upcoming dates are February 25<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. We can be contacted via email at

secretarysvs

@googlemail.com

or via Saltaire Bookshop in person or on

01274 589144

### STATION MASTERS STORY

By Colin Coates

What links 12 William Henry Street, 38 George Street, 77 & 78 Victoria Road?

They were all home to Saltaire's railway Station Master between 1871 and 1920. The station was opened by the Midland Railway in May 1856. William Secker was born in Doncaster c1835. In 1861 he was a railway porter lodging with Joseph and Ruth London at 1 William Henry Street. He married Mary Kershaw in Barnsley in 1865 and by 1871 they were living at 12 William Henry Street with William now the Station Master. They moved to 77 Victoria Road in 1893. William retired on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1901 and in 1913 moved to Liversedge but died the same year.

Thomas Ripley was born in Wray, Lancashire c1857. He married Margaret Miller in 1888 at Lunesdale in Lancashire. He became Saltaire's Station Master on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1901, having previously held the same post at Hornby in Lancashire. He lived with his family at 38 George Street before moving to 78 Victoria Road between 1915 and 1918. Thomas died on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1920 at Salt's Hospital.

### BIRD WATCHING CLUB

A local bird watching club known as Bradford Ornithological Group now holds its monthly meetings at Saltaire United Reformed Church. The meetings normally take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in the evening and finish by 10 o'clock. At most meetings, there is a guest speaker and time is also set aside to mention birds reported from the local area.

Full details are available on their website – [www.bradfordbirding.org](http://www.bradfordbirding.org) or you can ring Shaun Radcliffe, who will be pleased to provide further information, on 01274 770960.

Before you all write in, there is no apostrophe in "Station Masters Story" above as it is a story about, not belonging to station masters. [- Ed]

### 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.saltairvillage.info](http://www.saltairvillage.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.

### WINTER BANDSTAND

Free music concerts at Caroline Social Club on the second Sunday of every month  
Club opens at 12pm with live music from 2pm  
February 9<sup>th</sup> Otra

### WORLD HERITAGE

#### WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"I've never heard of Self Help [See page 2] but 'Help yourself', by all means !"

*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@saltairvillage.info](mailto: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.