

The

Saltaire Sentinel

Your Lion of VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

PATIENCE, PATIENT PRACTICE TO MAKE PERFECT

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

PAUL BREEZE

The Revd. Paul Breeze, who was Minister at Saltaire United Reformed Church from 2003 until 2011 died on January 20th this year, following heart surgery. He was 62 years old. He leaves behind his wife Kate and his two sons, Dan and Josh. On February 3rd, following his funeral, a service of celebration of his life was held in Rawdon, where he ended his ministry. This month, our Page 4 is devoted to his memory.

Patients who rely on the Saltaire Medical Practice [surely most of our local readers – and certainly our Editor!] are being encouraged to join *their* Patient Participation Group.

Catherine Darlington, Business Manager at the Practice, tells us:

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) has become more active as the NHS wrestles with changes at every level. Events are held three times a year, and a steering group meets more often. A PPG event on February 5th included a quiz on key facts, which revealed that some participants were surprised that appointments can be

The steering group can be contacted via the Practice on 01274 599263 or through Mark Edwards: mark@edwardshirstmill.com

booked up to three months in advance. Suggestions included more information on notice boards. The next PPG event will be at 6.30pm on June 5th.

In this issue HOW YOU COULD HAVE HELPED YOURSELF
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL UNUSUALS

SHIPLEY COLLEGE BUILDING PLAN

ShIPLEY College is planning a new two storey building between Maddocks Street and Exhibition Road (where the greenhouses now are). While this area lies just outside the World Heritage zone, it will be the most significant development in close proximity to it for over forty years.

An information meeting has already been held, with another to follow in the very near future. It is expected that the college will leaflet every house in the village. Planning application is to be submitted this month. Yellow notices will, of course, appear on local lamp posts but, meanwhile, more information is available on the Village Website: www.saltairevillage.info

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.

A SHORT HISTORY OF SELF-HELP

(Part Two of two)

by Roger Clarke

Saltaire had its own Men's and Women's Societies which insured against sickness, but nationally it was the Friendly Societies which provided the main safety net in times of adversity. In 1911, when the National Insurance Act was passed, the Friendly Societies had 6.6 million members. Thrift was a popular idea and "Rags to Riches" was suddenly within the reach of everyone. And yet what was the reality behind the claims? For most working men the best they could hope for was to rise out of the ranks of wage earners to run little businesses of their own; a corner shop perhaps. But once they had it they were ill-equipped to maintain it. They had little access to credit, and were not equipped to withstand competition or slack periods of trade. The number of industrialists in the Industrial Revolution who began without capital or connections of any kind was a minute fraction of the whole, despite the impressive list which Samuel Smiles compiled in his book, *Self-Help*, which sold 20,000 copies in 1859. Was this concept of self-help a reflection of the wave of optimism sweeping Britain in the 1850s and 1860s? Was it a piece of propaganda to pacify a workforce which might otherwise turn to Chartism to express its frustration at its need for better conditions? If it was a myth, it was a very plausible myth, just because Smiles was able to write it with such conviction. But it was completely fictitious as the complete story of entrepreneurial enterprise in Britain, or even a major part of it. Smiles was not an entrepreneur or a "rags to riches" businessman. From a well-off background he was variously a doctor, a journalist and finally an officer of railway companies. One reason for the success of Smiles' concept was that it was part of a Free Trade agenda which was one factor in the successful establishment of a Middle Class. Smiles wrote "Where men are subjected to over-guidance and over-government, the inevitable tendency is to render them comparatively helpless." The idea of self-help still remains engaging, logical and compelling, and was especially so between 1939 and the 1960s, when it may well have featured in the upbringing of some *Sentinel* readers, as it did in mine. Could it also have relevance at times of austerity such as the present, despite the previous "buy now, pay later" culture which prevailed between the 1970s and the first decade of the 21st century? Credit Unions are one sign that it perhaps can.

I looked up the 1996 publishers of my copy of "Self-Help" and found that The Institute of Financial Affairs is a free market think-tank, founded in 1955. It promotes the intellectual case for a free economy, low taxes, freedom in health, education and welfare, and lower levels of regulation. It is independent of any political party or group, and accepts no money from government. The author of the Foreword, Lord Harris (1924 to 2006), was remarkably like the examples to be found in "Self-Help" - the son of a tramways inspector and brought up on a Council Estate in Tottenham, London, before going to Queens College, Cambridge. He was made a life peer, but sat on the crossbenches to show his independence from any political party, although for most of his political career he had supported Conservative free-marketeers.

Perhaps self-help has also been part of readers' lives? We will be pleased to publish any comments.

Stories from World War One

by Colin Coates

The Clay Family

Thomas and Kate Clay of 9 Dove Street, Saltaire must have been proud parents with two sons serving their country and a daughter working tirelessly raising funds. Their youngest son, Vincent, survived the war having served as a Private with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Elder son, William, also survived having served as a Lance Corporal with the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Their youngest daughter, Ethel, raised funds for the troops by organising concerts.

In early 1918 Ethel raised £83 in aid of the Soldiers and Sailors Parcel Fund and £20 for the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Her efforts were much appreciated by the soldiers. Here is an extract from one of the many letters she received:-

"I am glad to think that although I am several thousand miles away from "Blighty" I have not been forgotten by yourself, your concert party, and the public. Out of the 2s 6d you sent me I am treating my "Tommy" chums to a little refreshment and a few smokes and a conversation. We shall finish up with three cheers to the public at home, to the hardworking concert party and to Miss Ethel Clay for giving us a treat."

Fund raising was an important activity during the war years.

(More on this next month.)

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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Roger Clarke's SALTAIRE FOLK RICHARD FREEMAN

The year 2000 marked more than the turn of the century for **Richard Freeman** – it marked a complete change in his life. Prior to this his career had been in textiles, first as a wool and waste merchant, and in the late 70s changing to synthetic fibres, running his own business with a partner. But success came at a cost. Richard was working up to 15 hours a day in a very stressful environment, and in his late 50s he had a life-threatening stroke. He retired in 2000 aged 60 years and decided to change his lifestyle completely. He began to eat more healthily, embarked on a regime of physical fitness through walking and running, and joined the **Baildon History Society**. Contacts here led to involvement in community action. His first project was with the **Jenny Lane Action Group** campaigning to establish the fields there into a village green. Their efforts so far have failed, but the group went on to consider the number of other open spaces in Baildon which could be developed for community enjoyment, and in July, 2001 the old school playground on **Hall Cliff** was identified as a possible **Community Garden**. Community consultation, negotiation with many outside bodies and endless fund raising has led to the jewel which we can see and enjoy today. The History Society also led Richard to become interested in the **Shipley Glen Tramway**. A steering group of volunteers took over the Tramway in December, 2002, with some funding and charitable status. A group of Trustees was formed to administer the scheme, with Richard as Treasurer. Since then numerous problems have been overcome so successfully that last year the Tramway welcomed almost 25,000 visitors. Richard has been Treasurer of **The Friends of Roberts Park** since its foundation in 2004, and in 2010 was a founder member of **The Friends of Baildon Moor**. He is also Chairman of the **Baildon Walkers are Welcome** committee, and his most recent project has been to help **Walkers are Welcome in Baildon** to receive accreditation as part of a national scheme. The logistical, financial, team building and negotiation skills which made Richard a successful entrepreneur have been transferable to a voluntary community setting with equal success. He says, "My forte is organization and I know that I can make things run smoothly." Richard commands huge respect in the community for his tireless efforts on its behalf, made possible with the support of his wife, **Christine**.

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REMEMBERING THE REVD WITH LOVE



Paul Breeze was a great supporter of the *Sentinel*, long before he featured as the subject of 'Saltaire Folk' in October, 2005.

It was, typically, at his suggestion that the local United Reformed Church became an outlet for the newspaper (it remains one of our most popular), to help forge stronger links between the church and the village.

As Editor, I have to confess that his death has presented me with one of my greatest challenges to date; which is perhaps a poor excuse for the delay in, and brevity of this 'obituary'. For I am acutely aware of the loss (albeit only in terms of physical presence) of a very dear friend and a source of inspiration which I shall carry to my own grave.

James Duncan

On Monday, February 3rd, Trinity Church, Rawdon was packed with a crowd of friends and colleagues gathered to give thanks for the life of **Paul Breeze**. Although thanks were there, the service was tinged with sadness and sense of loss, felt by so many, at Paul's shockingly unexpected passing. Most had vivid memories of his kindness, enthusiasm, and selfless service to his congregation and community. His energy and commitment steered many causes smoothly to the best possible outcome. Chair of Governors at Saltaire Primary School, he understood its educational needs and shared great fun with the children. The Saltaire Festival 'happened' year after year, because of his diplomatic hard work on the committee and 'hands-on' participation during events; behind a tape-deck or a lighting board Paul would be there, and who could forget him chasing about Roberts Park dressed as a Victorian policeman arresting errant children? He was a valued Rotary Club member, and showed real empathy for the many disadvantaged teenagers he worked with. The service included Paul's favourite hymn, the words of which, (by Paul Schutte, based on Isaiah Chapter 6), sum up his ministry:

*"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night,
I will go, Lord, if you will lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart."*

The Breeze family had put together a touching presentation which gave glimpses of Paul's wide ranging interests, including a passion for the open air, walking, the sea, singing, stained-glass making – and above all, his love and pride in his family. Perhaps the best way to conclude is to quote Tennyson's poem 'Crossing the Bar', so beautifully set and sung at the service. 'May there be no sadness of farewell when I embark' So we remember Paul with thanks and a smile for all he did and was.

Hattie Townsend

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

Archived issues are accessible (including of course, October 2005, with Paul Breeze as 'Saltaire Folk' [see col.1]). The website pays tribute to Paul, who, as Pamela writes, will be "remembered with huge affection. Our hearts go out to his family: Kate, his wife, his sons, Dan and Josh, and his countless friends."

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"I'm sure Paul would laugh to hear me say I'd take my hat off to him - if the 'technology' of the *Sentinel* would let me!"

[We're working on it! - Ed]

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

Sadly, sooner or later you

will dispose of this copy of the *Sentinel*. Please do so with care for our World Heritage Site environment.