

The
Saltaire Sentinel
Your Lion of  *Published monthly*
 VIGILANCE

CHALLENGES AHEAD

HELEN PUTS HERSELF ABOUT

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

**NEW PLANS FOR
 OLDER FOLK**

A meeting at Saltaire Methodist Church, on **Wednesday, June 4th**, (4-6pm), will showcase plans for the **Saltaire Extra Care Scheme**, which aims to provide "older people" with support from, and links with, the local community; to help in times of crisis and enable them to play a more active part. For more information, please call (01274) Tony Dodd **437196** or Umar Hayat **431808**

Helen Thornton, our World Heritage Site Officer, will be telling this month's meeting of the Saltaire History Club about the job, and the challenges it entails.

FUTURE

Whatever the challenges may be, Helen is clearly willing to discuss them, as she will also address the Annual General Meeting of the Village Society later this month.

[See page 4>>]

PAST

Meanwhile, the History Club's other speaker, **Trevor Hart**, Visiting Research Fellow of the Dept. of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, looks back, as well as ahead with his talk on "Saltaire - lessons from the past".

Saltaire History Club meets on Thursday, June 5th, at the Methodist church, on Saltaire Road, at 7pm. As always, admission is free and all are welcome.

In this issue
**DICKENS IN
 LOCAL HOSPITAL**
Plus
BOATING ON AIRE
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
 UNUSUALS**

**LOCAL SUPPORT FOR
 TRAMWAY PAYS OFF**

Following our promotion in this space last month of a benefit for the Shipley Glen Tramway, Dina Plowes writes:

A big thank you to everyone who made the concert on May 16th at Caroline Street Social Club such a pleasant event: Management and staff of the club, the artists, the residents of Albert Avenue who donated raffle prizes – and, of course, the audience.

[Watch this Space for future events!]

The Tramway which, having opened in 1895, is the oldest extant attraction of its kind, has recently been awarded by the respected website *Trip Advisor* its "Certificate of Excellence, 2014". Staffed entirely by volunteers, and weather permitting, the Tramway runs every Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

WHATEVER IT IS - SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel* !
sentinel@saltairvillage.info OR c/o The Saltaire Bookshop, 1 Myrtle Place
The Deadline is always 20th of the month prior to publication.

DICKENS AT SALTAIRE HOSPITAL

By Roger Clarke

I found this account of Salts Hospital among my notes last year.

*Unfortunately author and source are unrecorded. However, it is an account which *Sentinel* readers might find enlightening, and hopefully someone might recognise it and know its source.*

The hospital was another building which opened as I arrived.

It treats injuries sustained in the Mill. There are in-patient facilities of nine beds in separate wards for men, women and children. There is also a dispensary for out-patients. It is under the control of a competent surgeon and a live-in nurse (Sarah Turner). In 1869 it treated 153 out-patients and 35 in-patients.

Sir Titus has recently extended its brief to offer treatment for anyone living in a three mile radius – thus taking in the whole of Shipley.

Mr. Dickens toured the hospital when he visited two years ago, and has written the following about it:-

“Upstairs are what we would call the wards, but what are really the brightest and most cheerful little apartments for the patients. At the head of each bedstead is the usual official certificate of the case and dietary table, a bell to summon the nurse, and a couple of strong ropes and pulleys pendant from the ceiling, to aid the patient in raising himself in bed. Throughout the whole place cleanliness, cheerfulness, and order reigned supreme. Nor can I fancy a more comfortable home in illness, or one affording a better chance for speedy recovery, than the Infirmary at Saltaire.”

Tragically, Mr. Dickens died shortly after his visit to us. I remember that he looked terribly ill, a result of his most punishing tour of Britain and the USA where he gave ‘actings’ (rather than readings) of some of the most violent scenes from his books – with full blown histrionic effects. The poor man was physically exhausted.

There is also tragedy here in Saltaire.

That wonderful fibre, alpaca, holds a deadly secret. Within its hanks are the spores of anthrax, which are released when the woolcombers work upon it, and are inhaled by those poor wretches. The disease is always fatal, and all that the hospital can do is make these patients as comfortable as possible until the Lord mercifully welcomes them to his bosom.

In addition to the hospital, there is a Sickness Benefit Scheme run by the Mill.

Men pay 8 pence each month and women 6 pence.

For every member enrolled, Sir Titus contributes a further 4 pence.

Members are entitled to:

- 8/- per week for the first 6 months
- 4/- per week for the next 6 months
- 3/3p a week for the next 6 months
- 2/- per week thereafter

The Hospital opened in 1868

Charles Dickens died on June 9th, 1870 aged 58.

The Sickness Benefit Scheme was run, like the Funeral Brief Society for death insurance, by overlookers and senior workers in the Mill. The Mill supported both schemes but did not instigate them.

Stories from World War One

By Colin Coates

Victoria Hall

During World War One Victoria Hall was at the hub of everyday life of Saltaire and Shipley. The hall was home to the Saltaire Institute and of one of two libraries in Shipley.

Fund raising concerts, dances, bazaars, whist drives etc were held there throughout the war. It was also the headquarters of various fund raising groups, and a venue for committee meetings. The hall hosted lectures to educate and entertain the villagers; it also held inquests into their deaths.

The hall played its part in the changing political situation; holding meetings for the emerging Labour Party, the Suffrage movement and for all parties in the 1918 General Election.

However the hall was not without its problems and controversies. Shipley Urban District Council took over the running of the hall in 1903 and some saw it as a burden, not as an asset.

More on this next month.

HELP

To help with local commemorations of World War One, please contact either Colin Coates or Dave Shaw:

**historyclub@saltairevillage.info
or mobile 07736408339**

HELP

Plans are in hand for a four page supplement to the August issue of your *Sentinel*, commemorating the outbreak of the Great War and the sacrifices made by Saltaire residents of the time. As always, all contributions will be “gratefully received”.

PETER
RANDALL

***Gentleman's
Hairdresser***
205 Bingley Road
01274 - 597140

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8 Victoria Road
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Opened in 1853
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Attractions include:

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***Cafe in to
the Opera***

**SALTAIRE
HISTORY
EXHIBITION**

**1853 Gallery
THE HOME**

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retail outlets

ADMISSION FREE
01274 - 531163

**Saltaire History Explorers
Investigate**

BOATING ON THE AIRE

No Victorian Park of importance was complete without a boating lake, but Roberts Park had the natural advantage of the River Aire. The boathouse, constructed in 1871, originally provided a base for Bradford Amateur Rowing club, founded in 1867. Rowing boats and a canoe were also hired out to the public, locals swam in the river and a steam launch, *The Rose of Saltaire*, provided pleasure cruises. Such heavy use, particularly during the busy summer months, undoubtedly led to problems during the Rowing Club's races and regattas.

The solution was for the rowing club to move up-river. In 1893 a new, private boathouse was built on the south bank, just above Hirst Mill on land owned by their president, the Earl of Rosse. The land was sold to Salts Estates in 1911, with the Rowing Club paying £2 rent annually. Unfortunately, strained relations with the owner of Hirst Mill reached the extent that, in 1922, the club moved to the opposite bank. The club building was taken apart, ferried across the river in pieces and re-built on its present site! Continued development has included additional boatsheds and extensions to the changing facilities. The Club provides facilities for Bradford University Rowing Club and Bradford Grammar School. BGS boats are housed in a building on an adjacent plot and the Club has a programme to encourage juniors from other schools to become involved.

Success and expansion has not detracted from the charm of the historic building and its setting. However, a serious concern is the recently reported threat of collapse of the Hirst Mill Weir, which has led the club to the formation of a company to raise funding for repairs. We hope Saltaire residents will provide support in their challenge. For more information, contact info@hirstweir.co.uk.

New members to the club are welcome, although there are waiting lists for some categories. The Spring regatta is held on June 28th, so do come along.

David and Jonathan (aged 10) Starley

**REPORTERS ARE ALWAYS
REALLY NEEDED**

The *Saltaire Sentinel* continues to require volunteered reports of recent, local newsworthy items – and writers who will accept invitations to forthcoming events on the Editor's behalf.

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
"Pop in and see us!"
01274 - 597818

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
VICTORIA HALL

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VILLAGE SOCIETY

Vanessa Pilny Writes:

We have been planning our **AGM on June 24th** – it will start at 7 for 7.30 and will be followed by a talk from new World Heritage Officer Helen Thornton from 8pm. The venue is the **Half Moon Café**. Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase and a raffle will be held (donation of prizes appreciated!) At the AGM we will be discussing and voting on changes to our constitution re. membership. We are planning a three tier structure with all residents of Saltaire being Associate Members, people who want to be a bit more involved can become Full Members with voting rights and the most interested/involved can be Committee Members. There will be no fees for membership. Remember: the more members we have, the more representative we are!

We are also looking more seriously at becoming a designated Community Group with the Council under the Localism Act and will discuss that further at the AGM. Our next ordinary meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday July 1st at Caroline's Club, when the new Committee will appoint the next officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer).

secretarysvs@googlemail.com
or contact via Saltaire Bookshop

TAKE THE HIGHWAY

Say Chris and Tony Grogan:

Sharp eyed Saltarians might have spotted the sign at the bottom of the Information Board in Carloline Street car park which reads: **"Saltaire is the start of a Dales High Way – 90 miles to Appleby, across the glorious high country of the Yorkshire Dales."** Many people have heard of the Dales Way – the famous long distance path from Ilkley to Bowness-on-Windermere which is walked by over 4,000 people each year. Well it's got a younger, tougher sister. A Dales High Way was created in 2008 by us Saltaire locals. The high level route between Saltaire and Appleby-in-Westmorland takes in Rombald's Moor, Malhamdale, Ingleborough, Whernside and the Howgill Fells. Walking it takes around a week and walkers often return on the Settle-Carlisle line, whizzing back in a few short hours through the landscape it took days to walk. The route is gaining in popularity every year and we are confident that by next summer over a 1,000 walkers will be setting off from Saltaire. Give them a cheery wave if you see them - a long distance walk is always a daunting prospect so any encouragement is very welcome.

Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE

Victoria Hall

Sunday, June 15th

Doors open at 10 am.

01274 787908

ENJOY THE MID-YORKSHIRE SUNDAY CRICKET LEAGUE IN ROBERTS PARK

Saltaire Cricket Club First XI

Home fixture in June

Sunday, 29th v Farsley

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

BANDSTAND

PROGRAMME

FREE music in Roberts Park every Sunday from 2.30 pm.

June

1st **Bradford Metropolitan**

Concert Band

8th **Otra (folk duo)**

15th **GMC Jazz**

29th **Bradford Voices**

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.

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"I must confess that I am not the best of company when it comes to long distance walks!" [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@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.