

The Saltaire Sentinel

Your Lion of **VIGILANCE** *Published monthly*

NOW AND THEN SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



**In this issue
BUYERS' WIVES
BEHAVING
BADLY
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

COLLEGE ADVICE

Shipleigh College offers Post GCSE Advice and Guidance sessions on 20th and 21st of this month, (10am-3pm), at the Salt Building, for anyone who has just received their results and is wondering where to go next. On Thursday, 27th (4.30-7.30pm), there will be an Adult Guidance Event. Call 01274 327222 for more information. Stella Downs

As the changes to Victoria Road are a continuing cause of controversy, Roger Clarke writes: "Whatever Sentinel readers feel about the removal of the trees, I hope you agree with me that the other changes to the road are stunning."

[See Page Three to see if you do agree >>]

[We are indebted for the picture above to Saltaire Village Society and the Resource Centre housed by Shipleigh College.

The first difference I notice is the absence of our beloved Lion of Vigilance, who should be clearly visible, bottom left – or is it just because of the trees that we can't see him? – Editor.]

As always, *Your* comments are welcome.

SWEET SUCCESS

As part of Saltaire Festival, there will be a treasure hunt for sweets! Willie Wonka (of Chocolate Factory fame) will hide clues round Roberts Park, and in Shipleigh Glen Tramway, and there will be a prize for spotting them all. So come to the Shipleigh Glen Tramway on September 12th or 13th (12 – 4.30pm) and see what you find! Dina Plowes

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.**

KREBS PROVIDE SIGNS OF LIGHT

Continuing the recollections of Edward Stanners
as recorded by Roger Clarke

Edward Stanners was the Managing Director of Salts Mill 1979-84. A fuller account of his reflections can be found in the Saltaire Archive at the Learning Resource Centre of Shipley College, Exhibition Road, or online at:

www.saltairvillageexperience.co.uk

“Salts lost £86,000 in my first month as Managing Director. How could we get back on the buyers’ radar? We needed large and regular orders. **Peter Hardy**, my immediate boss, agreed that I might spend £9,000 on a promotional weekend party! The offer was an all-expenses weekend trip for two, first class rail, two nights at the Bankfield Hotel, which is a mile from Saltaire, lavish meals and unlimited drink. The latter was a big attraction.

The weekend itself was a success. I knew all the buyers, and went down to London the night before so that I could look after the London contingent who came up on the Friday morning. The chef did us our own sitting and that helped to bond everyone. But the Saturday evening was the main part of the weekend. By then, everyone was on very friendly terms and, to add a bit of majesty, we had the Black Dyke Mills brass band to play for us – a bit cheeky since they were part-funded by John Fosters, who were a rival mill. The Salts team had been told not to drink until after midnight, so we were clear-headed enough to break up arguments and to carry people upstairs. We even let down one man’s car tyres as he said he was going to drive home. Yes, Sir Titus would not have approved of the alcohol, but these were desperate times.

Two of the buyers’ wives behaved particularly badly and that proved a real problem on the night. But on the Monday one buyer rang up to apologise and to give us an order for 16,000 metres. Then the next day, another whose wife had been carried to bed, gave us an order for 38,000 metres. In rough terms, every metre generated us one pound in contribution, so the £9,000 invested in the party gave us at least £55,000 in gross profit; plus a huge amount of goodwill. The buyers were talking about us again – we were back on radar screens.

We still had a problem, though: our machines were nearly empty. We could put sample lengths in the looms so that we looked busy, even though we had very little ‘bulk’. But then we had a lucky break: A friend of mine was agent for a big German mill called Krebs; and they were extremely busy. They were specialists in ‘poly/wool’ and ‘and ‘poly/viscose’, whilst we were almost exclusively 100% wool. Krebs did not want to weave their surplus in Germany, so we started to weave for them. Salts had already started to weave for other mills (some quite ‘big players’ like Clissold and Booth Bros. had no looms of their own) under the BELWARP label. Krebs quickly came to trust us totally and we established a system which worked so well that they gave us work week after week. We were able to make the mill look busy, even though we were still a long way off recovery.

So, whilst weaving for other mills is never as profitable as weaving your own orders, the losses started to fall, morale started to lift and we could show prospective customers around a mill which was humming. We were beginning to see signs of light at the end of the tunnel.”

Stories from World War One

By Colin Coates
Shipley Volunteers
(Continued)

At a meeting at the Manor House, Shipley, on Oct.16th 1914, a Mr. Haigh-Lumby proposed that a Shipley branch of the Athletes’ Volunteer Force be formed.

The resolution was adopted and it was agreed that the Executive Committee should comprise of:

Cllr. F Rhodes (Chair)
Sir Ellis Denby
Mr. Ernest Parkinson
Cllr. H Pitts
Mr. H Thornton
Mr. Haigh-Lumby
Mr. A Wilkinson
Mr. R H Facey
Mr. C E Beck
Mr. J W Dobbs
Mr. A Abbott
Mr. L Hatfield
Cllr. L Shackleton
Dr. Sharpe

Rev. W Bowker.
Mr. Harold Barnes (Accountant to Shipley District Council) was thanked for his offer to act as Secretary of the Shipley Branch and was appointed to that position.

It was announced that Mr. Sam Hill, butcher, of Gordon Terrace, was willing to let the Shipley Branch the use of a field at the tramway stage, Nab Wood, for the purpose of drilling and rifle practice. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Hill thanking him for his offer.

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ROGER CLARKE ON VICTORIA ROAD
[continued from front page]

I had a look at some of the paperwork and discovered that the **overall aim** of the renovation is "to improve accessibility, open up views of the Listed architecture and improve the appreciation of the planned nature of Saltaire in its setting against Baildon Moor". To my mind it already achieves all of those objectives and more. The result is achieved by close co-operation between the Landscape, Design and Conservation team of the Council and the Highways Maintenance team (North) who arranged for the firm of **Jaggers** to carry out the work. As an historian and a tour guide, the most effective changes for me are the **pavements**, and especially the **dropped fan-ends** to the corners of the streets. This was a feature of most of Saltaire when it was built, but over time many have been removed to be replaced by tarmac and concrete. However, you can still see some old ones on Albert Road, side roads on Exhibition Road and on Caroline Street. It was wonderful to see the care taken by workmen as the first fan was built in front of Rance, Booth & Smith, Architects, at the end of Caroline Street. It took almost two days to complete, to be followed by remarkable changes to the pavement in front of Victoria Hall; where attention has been paid to improving the accessibility of the building. These are new paving flags, as are the ones in front of Victoria Road shops, but the ones further down, towards the railway, are repaired and re-laid existing Yorkstone. At least wheelchair users and parents with prams no longer have an obstacle course of heaved pavements and awkward steps to negotiate. Alongside improved pavements there has been improved **lighting** – replacing the old concrete lamp posts with modern LED lights based on a Victorian lantern style. There is more to come with architectural lighting onto the Saltaire Lions. There are already a few replacement **trees** planted in front of the Almshouses, but there are also plans to encourage further tree planting in the gardens of Victoria Hall, the Salt Building and the Almshouses. New **street furniture and signage** will be in a unified 'Saltaire Green', a colour found on the original paint layers on railings in the village. There are new **information boards** at the entrance to the Caroline Street car park, with a history of the Congregational Sunday School which used to occupy this land, and a notice board for local organisations, maintained by Saltaire Village Society.

It is lovely now to see the full extent of Victoria Road from Bradford Road down to Salts Mill just as Victorian eyes must have seen it.

The SPA
21 Titus Street
The Authentic
Village corner shop
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Sun. 10am-10pm
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CENTRE
Shipley and Baildon
LIBRARIES

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

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

1 Myrtle Place

**Tuesday- Saturday
10am - 5pm**

Please contact the bookshop with suggestions, for more details of what's going on, and/or to be added to the mailing list:

01274 589144

davidford100@yahoo.co.uk

**Saltaire Cricket Club
TABLE TOP SALE
Victoria Hall
Sunday, August 2nd**

Doors open at 10 am.

Cuppacare

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

THREE NURSES COME BACK TO LIFE

Tickets are now on sale for the performance of **Hattie Townsend and Kate Breeze's** celebration of 'Three Nurses' told in words, music and a delicious afternoon tea in the Café in to the Opera, Salts Mill, courtesy of Mrs. Maggie Silver, and to be presented as part of the Saltaire Festival on Tuesday, **September 15th** at 3pm. Tickets, at £16 (no concessions), are available from Salts Mill, the Saltaire Information Centre, and online from www.saltairfestival.co.uk

Talented actress **Sheila Lansdell** plays all three nurses from different periods in history, and all the stories are true.

WASH HOUSE BENCH

Dina Plowes reports:

The Wash House Garden in Caroline Street is full of herbs, which people are welcome to take (please pluck responsibly) and flowers – so please enjoy them. And now, a bench under the trees! Please sit comfortably. The bench has been provided by donations from local groups and individuals, including **Saltaire Women's Institute** and **Rainbow Morris**.

Recently, **Hattie Townsend** has done sterling work weeding between the flags and removing bags of goose grass.

It is great news that the bench is in place in time for the **Open Gardens Event**, part of the Saltaire Festival, on **September 12th & 13th**.

REPORTERS REQUIRED

To fulfill its role as the local Community Newspaper, the *Sentinel* needs to contain reports of recent events, to complement its promotion of forthcoming attractions and articles on local history.

Write-ups by readers are always welcome.

BANDSTAND PROGRAMME

FREE music in Roberts Park every Sunday from 2.30 pm. This month:

2nd **Fiona-Katie Roberts**
9th **Hall Royd Band**
16th **Darren Dutson
Bromley Fraternity**
23rd **Strid**
30th **Fiddle 'n' Feet
Rainbow Morris**

**Second Saturday Sunset
Dancing**

**7-9pm with the Bandstand
in lights and the
Half Moon Café open for
great food and drink:
8th August
Aire Valley Shuffle**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE
ALWAYS NEEDED
to keep concerts running
Tel: 01274 594797
Mob: 07910 834964
forp@saltairvillage.info**

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



**"I don't understand why I
never appear in
photographs of Saltaire
'at its best' !"**

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.