

The
Saltaire Sentinel
Your Lion of **VIGILANCE** *Published monthly*

ANOTHER AWARD VILLAGE VOTED GREAT PLACE

**HAPPY
NEWS
YEAR**

WRITE WITH US

For thirteen years now, the *Sentinel* has sought to live up to its claim to be the local Community Newspaper by publishing the truth about Saltaire, “warts an’ all”, – as it is perceived by residents. It is neither a tourist brochure nor a salacious rag. It goes online around the world and it goes into the Saltaire Archive for, we hope, the benefit of historians yet to be born. Your name can be in it and go with it if you simply send your views and reports of news to one of the addresses below.

Saltaire came third in the Royal Town Planning Institute’s competition to find ‘England’s Greatest Place’, in which over 11,000 people voted online for one from a shortlist of ten.

Liverpool Waterfront turned out to be the most popular place, but our village took the title of “Greatest Place in Yorkshire” – and since we all know that there is no greater place than Yorkshire, the accolade remains open to some dispute!

This newspaper first brought the contest to the attention of its readers, under the front page heading ‘Vote for Village’, last November.

To what extent this influenced the result we shall never know, but *Your views* on the subject will be still be welcomed.

For example, what does this title mean – and what do we stand to gain – or even lose? How might Saltaire be improved; and what are the threats to its future?

In this issue
BOBBINS IN MILL
Plus
GUNS IN PARK
Plus
ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS

UNIQUE LANDSCAPE

Findings from the first year of the Northcliffe Heritage Project will be under discussion in the hall of Northcliffe Church, Hall Royd, on Saturday, Jan. 16th.

Displays will be open to view from 1.30pm and presentations, lasting for about an hour, will commence at 2.

The event will provide details of the exciting discoveries made so far about the “Unique Landscape” of the area, as well as information, and the opportunity to hear, and ask questions about the plans for the future of the project.

SALTAIRE’LL DO SINGS EDDIE

A new number by local singer-songwriter (and so much more) **Eddie Lawler**, broadcast on local radio last month and penned “in response to Saltaire being in the top 200 nominations for Great Places, let alone top ten or even third”, can be heard on his website:

www.eddie-lawler.co.uk

Eddie tells us: “I imagine the title reflects what Sir Titus (a man of few words) might have said.”

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.

BOBBINS IN THE MILL

Concluding our series on the recollections of
Edward Stanners
as recorded by **Roger Clarke**.

Salts Mill is built in the shape of a letter 'T' (for Titus).

The horizontal on the letter 'T' is the area in which the public now have access, and this was entirely devoted to spinning.

I recently had an enquiry about the recesses or boxes which are set into the walls of these galleries. I had always thought that these were used to house bobbins, but checked with my friends **David King** and **Frank Senior**, both of whom used to work in the Mill although not in the production process. They agreed with me but couldn't be absolutely sure of the detailed operation of the recesses.

I looked up how the bobbins found their way into spinning and discovered the following:

The "tops" went from the combing to the drawing and then onto spinning. In the combing the long fibres are combed into a sliver which is wound into a ball called a top. In the drawing the sliver is drawn out to 300 times its length with the diameter being reduced, producing a roving. The roving is quite large and bulky and was much too big to fit the recesses. In spinning the roving is spun in a fine thread of yarn onto smaller bobbins and these could have been small enough for the recesses.

I then contacted **Edward Stanners**, MD for the Mill between 1979 and 1984. Edward has a detailed and encyclopaedic knowledge of the processes and sent me this reply, which I thought would be of interest to *Sentinel* readers:

"I can confirm that the niches were for bobbins, or 'packages' as they are often called in the trade. For much of the life of the spinning block, the packages were made of wood, so they were heavy. Carrying boxes was hard work, particularly when done at speed. In order to get as many spinning frames as possible into a small space, they run parallel to each other with a narrow aisle between each frame. When it is time to 'doff', ie take the bobbins which are now full to capacity with yarn, the aim is to swap empty bobbins for full ones as fast as possible. So, rather than having lots of boxes or carts of bobbins being pushed down the aisles, the niches would be piled high with empty bobbins. Then a team of doffers would move down the frame removing full packages almost as fast as the eye could see. Immediately behind them would follow another team who would take the empty bobbins from the niche and push them onto the spindles. Regardless of which decade or century, speed was the essence of a 'doff' such that the spinners were paid a basic rate plus a bonus for high production. This gave them an incentive to make sure every spindle was producing yarn, avoiding breaks. This is the origin of the expression 'keep your end up'.....each thread is an end and in an ideal world a spinning frame needed all its ends up. The spinner's bonus was based on the weight of yarn spun, hence the fact that some shifts started to pee on the yarn carts to make the wool weigh more. Wool can hold more than 15% of its own weight in water before it feels wet."

Many thanks to Edward for explaining all this in such amusing detail.

A fuller account of Edward Stanners' 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

GUNS IN THE PARK

Last November, we published an article by **Richard Coomber** about the two canon which were positioned by the original bandstand in Roberts Park, concluding with the question, "Where are they now?" With amazing rapidity, **Colin Coates** supplied the answer, with this cutting from the *Yorkshire Post* of January 3rd, 1942:

"Bradford Corporation Parks and Cemeteries Committee yesterday decided to recommend acceptance of an offer to buy the cannon in Peel, Harold and Roberts Parks for use as scrap. There are two cannon in each park, and it had been decided previously to offer them for sale."

Donald Swift, who remembers playing on the guns when he was a boy, confirms that they were scrapped during the Second World War, along with the railings at the top of Victoria Road, but does not recall any protest at the time; possibly because "they were gone before most people realised what was happening".

Roger Clarke comments: "I had the more heroic idea that [the canon] went for munitions, thus continuing the job they were designed for. They might have ended up for this purpose, but we cannot be sure. Presumably, the railings were used for munitions in response to Central Government request for metal for the war effort; a cost written off by the local Council, and so no compensation involved."

Can *Sentinel* readers throw any more light on this fascinating subject?

PETER RANDALL

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PHOTOGRAPHS ON SHOW AT CANTEEN

Now on display at the Saltaire Canteen is a collection of photographs which show some of the other locations for the Real Junk Food Project, taken by volunteer Shy Burnham.

Most of the collection is displayed on the staircase leading to the upstairs rooms at **79, Victoria Rd**, with larger images available in the main room.

The most impressive exhibits are the large photographs in the main upstairs room, one from the Paris project and another with the message 'Refugees Welcome'. The rest are examples of groups working together and enjoying the Canteen experience, grouped together in sections such as families, teamwork, amity, youth, places etc.

I was most impressed by the clarity of the purpose of the Project which is chalked on the staircase and which the photographs demonstrate so well.

Its purpose is to build and restore relationships and their values emphasise community, hospitality, service, generosity, excellence and FUN.

The Project is the idea of one man, Adam Smith, in 2013, who was shocked by the fact that 30% to 40% of world food production is wasted. The Real Junk Food Project aims to remedy this through two simple principles – the interception of wasted food and pay as you feel, ensuring that no one should be excluded from good food. Call in and enjoy it.

Roger Clarke

CAR CLUB SOLUTION

Kate Smallwood, Environmental Awareness Officer of the Environment & Climate Change Unit, writes:

Hourly, self-service car hire has now landed in Saltaire! City Car Club is a low-cost, greener alternative to traditional car ownership, offering a great solution to parking, congestion and the associated costs of owning a car. Members can save on average, £3,500 per year. It is also a fantastic option for people who would like the ease of owning a car without owning one. Independent research has discovered that nine private vehicles are removed from the road for every Car Club car made available. So how does it work? Simply join up, reserve online, jump in and drive away! We cover the MOT, tax, maintenance, insurance and even the fuel, so you only have to take care of the driving. Exhibition Road in Saltaire is home to a brand new Toyota Yaris. And that's not all... Saltaire residents can currently sign up and claim four hours free driving credit using code **SALT230!** Sign up at www.citycarclub.co.uk

The SPA

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***The Saltaire Sentinel*
can also be found at**

Saltaire

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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.saltairevillage.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,
January 17th**

Doors open at 10 am.

Cuppacare

CUPPACARE is a popular café and bookstall, open to the public on most Mondays and Fridays, from 10am to 1.30pm in New Kirkgate, Shipley. We are a non-profit service provided by Shipley

MILNER FIELD PLAN COULD BE THREAT

We understand that landowners Hartley Property Trust have resubmitted a plan to develop Milner Field Farm as "Bradford Innovation Centre" which has a Facebook page. The references for information and for comments on the Bradford Council Planning Portal are 15/05538/MAF and 15/05552/FUL

PEOPLE IN FOCUS

Why Don't We is a new Bradford based charity which uses photography to develop the skills, confidence, well-being and independence of people with learning disabilities through a range of commissioned and collaborative projects. Its innovative approach as a volunteer-led group in 2014 attracted finance for two projects; one on Healthy Eating, the other addressing Hate Crime. Both reached out to people from all communities to consult on awareness, encourage participation, and enable the group to produce resources. Why Don't We recently received funding, until March 2017, from the People's Health Trust for a project called People in Focus, to work on a range of photographic projects that will also develop learning resources.

Participation is open to adults with learning disabilities who will decide the issues to focus on and help promote the resources produced. Although the issues and concerns at the heart of projects are serious, the overwhelming feedback from participants and their families stresses how much fun the sessions are; and the positive impact they have on people's development.

Why Don't We is aimed at people aged 18 and over with a Bradford postcode.

To find out more, contact the co-ordinator, Tony O'Connell on **07887 885011**

tony@why-dont-we.com

or visit the website:

www.why-dont-we.com

Irene Lofthouse

WINTER BANDSTAND

Free concerts at **Caroline Social Club** on the second Sunday of every month from 2pm

January 10th

JOLLY JIVERS

OPEN HOUSES

Saltaire Inspired asks, "Could you open your home as a gallery during the Arts Trail weekend (which will be **May 28th – 30th**)?"

Now in its ninth year, The Open Houses is a hugely popular arts and community event, offering a unique opportunity for artists to exhibit in a domestic setting.

To "play host", contact team@saltaireinspired.org.uk

By January 23rd

More details can be found at www.saltaireinspired.org.uk

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does **NOT** talk rubbish



[See front page]

"I, for one, would rather live here than on the Waterfront!"