THE PARK BUILDINGS

The Park buildings were designed by Lockwood and Mawson, and some by William Gay, the designer of the Park, and were built by 1870. Whilst many of the historic buildings survive, such as the Lodge, Half Moon Pavilion, and shelters, they are all in varying stages of decline, and some require urgent repair. Some features, such as the bandstand, cannons, railings and urns have been lost.

When we talked to visitors to the Park in 2003, 85% thought that the appearance and maintenance of the buildings and structures could be improved. The buildings and structures were chosen as the top priority for improvement. We want to know how you think these buildings should be used, once they are restored. Tell us what you think of our ideas, and let us know yours.

THE LODGE

The Lodge, listed Grade II, stands at the main entrance to the Park. Its Gothic Revival architectural style is used throughout Saltaire Village. It is likely that the park keeper would have lived in the Lodge - the bell on the southern gable would be rung at sunset to inform Park visitors that it was time to leave. In the 1920s, it was home to the Head Gardener. The Lodge has lost its blue slate roof and the iron railings that once surrounded it were removed and replaced with modern steel railings. Without an adequate roof, the building will continue to deteriorate.

The Lodge today: boarded-up and disused. A sad and neglected entrance to the World Heritage Site.

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THE SHELTERS

The three shelters, all listed Grade II, originally contained wooden bench seats, around the three walls, and the west shelter even had men's public toilets beneath it.

All the shelters are suffering from neglect, decay and vandalism. The East Shelter has fared particularly badly from arson and has lost most of its roof.

The North Shelter could be used as a seating area and also act as a storage area for gardening tools and games and sports equipment, for loan to visitors (see possible design, to left).

The East and West Shelters could be restored to their original use, providing a covered seating and picnicking area. One or both could also contain storage areas for Park equipment.

We think the shelters would have to be closed up at night, to prevent further vandalism.

The Lodge could provide:

- An attractive and striking welcome to the World Heritage Site.
- An interior area for displays, including local history and art.
- A small meeting room
- An adjacent plant sales area.
- Public toilets.
- Office for the Park Manager.

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THE HALF MOON PAVILION

The Half Moon Pavilion is the centrepiece of the Park and is listed Grade II. It was originally a Tea Room, with a balcony area on its roof, on which stands F Derwent Wood’s 1903 statue of Sir Titus Salt. The Pavilion is now used by Saltaire Cricket Club for storage and as a café.

Thanks to the Club’s ongoing work, the building is still structurally sound and is the only one in the Park still used. This building has the greatest potential for revitalising the image of Roberts Park but is in need of great investment and renovation.

The sketch to the left shows how the interior of the Pavilion could be redesigned to contain:

- A larger café and seating area
- Two toilets, with disabled access
- A function area, divisible from the café by a folding screen

In addition, the roof of the Pavilion (above) could be used for further café seating, during fine weather.

THE BANDSTAND AND PERFORMANCE AREA

Nothing now remains of the Bandstand, built some time after the opening of the Park and shown in this early 20th century postcard. This area was one of the original focal points of the Park, containing two cannons bought by Titus Salt from the Admiralty, and a wooden flagpole. Music performances are already an integral part of Roberts Park and a restored performance area would make a valuable contribution to this thriving tradition, as well as helping to reinstate the original purpose of this important area. The area could be reinvigorated with:

- A new bandstand, following the historic model or a more versatile, modern design, incorporating ramped access for all.

The area of tarmac is the former location of the Bandstand. The lawn, in front of the North Lodge, slopes down towards the Bandstand site, forming a useful area for concert audiences to sit and/or picnic.