

# THANK YOU, CLIVE SAY WE WHO LOVE SALTAIRE

Number



## CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICES

Sunday Dec. 23rd  
6.30pm

At both

Saltaire United  
Reformed Church

St. Paul's Church,  
Kirkgate, Shipley

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Saltaire  
United Reformed  
Church

Sat & Sunday Dec.  
15th/16th

Various local organisations decorate their own tree in a distinctive style and the results are displayed in the church, which is open to visitors throughout the afternoon.

Clive Woods died on November 22nd at his home on Victoria Road. It is not the role of this paper to announce this sad news, which is surely already well known throughout the Village. Regular readers will agree, nevertheless, that nothing else could take precedence on our front page.

We all know, both as individuals and as a community, why Clive will be so sadly missed.

This is not the place to attempt to list his accomplishments or the ways in which he earned our affectionate respect. "Thank You, Clive" sums them all up as Saltaire faces a future in which **he will be conspicuous by his absence.**

It is, though, relevant here to acknowledge that his support for the Sentinel, from the time when it was little more than an idea, was invaluable. So too were his contributions; his very popular 'Through the Saltaire Keyhole' column being particularly memorable.

One more thing remains to be said. I won't be the only one saying this, but I want to say it here, publicly in a personal

tone: Clive Woods was a fine friend.

James Duncan, Editor

### Funeral Arrangement

There will be a ceremony at Nab Wood Crematorium at 2 p.m. on Monday, 10th December to say goodbye to Clive.

### In this issue **CHRISTMAS STOCKING FILLERS**

Roger Clarke digs up  
Ghosts of Christmas Past

**Plus** Pamela Reynolds  
- and she should know!-

### **WHAT'S ON T' WEB**

**Plus**  
ALL OUR USUAL  
UNUSUALS

## JOURNALS LAUNCHED RECENT RESURGENCE OF INTEREST

November saw the launch of a new publication series for Saltaire history buffs, *writes Dave Shaw*. The Saltaire Journals provide a means for historians to read and publish findings on the history of the village and its people. The really good news is that the facility is free to contributors and readers alike.

Recently there has been a resurgence of interest in Saltaire's history, with a growing number of people attending meetings of the Saltaire History Club. At the same time, several local historians have been uncovering accounts of events and characters who featured in Saltaire's earlier years. A means to document these findings has been needed, and that has led to The Saltaire Journals.

The spirit of the venture is to make The Journals freely available on a world-wide basis to historians, and to research and educational

bodies. This is achieved by placing the issues on the Saltaire Village website [www.saltairevillage.info](http://www.saltairevillage.info), with the reader free to print off the articles as they wish. A limited number of copies are printed centrally, for deposition in libraries and archives, and for History Club members lacking computer access. Formal deposition with the British Library has been arranged, to ensure permanent preservation of the Journals. The topic featured in the first issue is "Traces of Salt in London" - a travelogue of the Salt family's London links in the 19th century.

**Saltaire history will get its next public airing at the History Club meeting on Thurs, 6 Dec, Shipley College, Exhibition Rd, 7 - 9 pm, with a double bill of talks on Women's Education 1870s - 1950s. All welcome!**

WHATEVER IT IS - SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel*

E-mail: [saltairesentinel@btinternet.com](mailto:saltairesentinel@btinternet.com)

OR use the form to be found on the website: [www.saltairevillage.info](http://www.saltairevillage.info)

JANUARY 08 deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> DEC

# The Saltaire Sentinel

## SALTS MILL

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the Sentinel. Advertising space  
in these pages is not for sale.

## Roger Clarke's SALTAIRE FOLK

STACEY CLARKIN has been the manager of Victoria Hall (the Saltaire Institute) for almost 2 years now. It is easy to see why she was successful in getting the job. She's bright, dynamic, full of ideas and enthusiasm, and has a practical background which has equipped her to perform her role effectively.

After beginning a graphic design course at Northumbria University, she decided that this was not the career for her and returned home to Leeds. There she took a job as receptionist with a facilities management company, and within a year had taken over her boss's job as one of the facility managers. The company was a specialist firm who managed buildings for large corporate bodies. This enabled the employing corporation to focus on their core business.

Stacey managed and co-ordinated the facilities of a number of high profile buildings in this way between 2002 and 2005, becoming something of an expert in multi-tasking and attention to detail. But she always preferred the people-centred side of the job, and when the Victoria Hall post was advertised she decided to take on a new challenge. This post was the management of one building, full of history and character - very different from the modern structures which she had dealt with before.

And she loves it. She has the support of a hardworking team of 2 caretakers (**Howard Whiting** and **Phil Fluke**) and a cleaner (**Jenny Whiting**). A part time event co-ordinator, **Lucy Goldsmith** was appointed in February, 2007.

She is employed by Shipley College who are the managing agents for Victoria Hall, which is owned by the Salt Foundation.

Stacey is impressive because she has a vision about how Victoria Hall might be developed in the future. She wants it to gain a reputation for being a unique venue for community events - a modern approach within a superb historical setting. They key to this is personal attention to detail, and Stacey is keen to make people feel special. Nothing is too large or too small.

She wants the building to meet new needs and demands. She refers to it as "the rise and rise of Victoria Hall". On this route, it was licensed for weddings recently, which will boost the venue which already conducted successful wedding receptions. Stacey also has plans to resurrect the Saltaire Conversazione which was featured in last month's Sentinel.

Stacey has put down personal roots in the Village, and has been resident here since November, 2006 - and she loves it. The people are so friendly, she feels safe here and the Village still has a character all of its own.

Stacey is refreshing in so many ways, and I felt that someone so pro-active and positive is bound to bring new life to this old building.

The future will tell whether she can be successful in her dream.

P.S. In April, 2008, Stacey is embarking on a 10 day trek along the Great Wall of China, to raise money for the mental health charity, Mind. She is seeking sponsorship to try to raise over £2,600 for the charity. To support her you can donate via the website [www.justgiving.com/staceyclarkin](http://www.justgiving.com/staceyclarkin), or keep an eye open for events which she is organising.

## SALTS MILL THE SILVER YEARS

*It is twenty years since Jonathan Silver bought Salts Mill. Here, **John Collins**, who worked in the Mill from 1975 to 1986 and was General Manager in the Estates Division of Illingworth Morris at the time, tells us more about the events leading to the purchase.*

Production of worsted yarn and cloth ceased in 1985, and by 1986 the Mill was empty of machinery.

There had been 3 businesses operating in the Mill before closure. Salts of Saltaire controlled the weaving section, and they sold the business (the name, pattern books and some of the machinery) to Drummonds in Bradford.

Salts Spinning Co. went to Daniel Illingworth on Thornton Road in Bradford at their Whetley Mills.

Illingworth Morris had offices in the Mill.

Before the Silvers expressed an interest in buying the Mill, John was involved in looking at possible alternative uses for the building. In 1987, Illingworth Morris made an offer to Bradford Council to lend them the purchase price, interest free, or to let the Mill to them at "a peppercorn rent". The Council declined these offers, and so a general marketing campaign was launched,

To this end, John helped to set up a one day conference with Bradford Council Economic Development Unit.

A chartered accountant by profession, John was ideally placed to conduct these negotiations and look at viable alternatives. He did his homework thoroughly, including visits to other large structural re-developments in Britain, such as the regeneration of the Albert Dock in Liverpool.

There were many interested parties attending the conference, including English Heritage, the Victorian Society, architects, town planners, and local councillors. Notable individuals who attended included Ernest Hall and Roger Suddards.

Bradford Council also commissioned an appraisal of the use of the Mill by DEGW, a copy of which can be seen at the Shipley College Resource Centre.

In the end, the Mill was sold to Salts Estates Ltd (owned by Jonathan Silver). Assurances were given that the future of the building and the overall site would be protected, and that the community at large could benefit from this historic landmark, the same assurances which had been sought from the Council.

In all respects, this was the critical turning point for the fortunes of the village and its inhabitants.

**Roger Clarke**

# The Saltaire Sentinel

## WHAT PRICE SERENDIPITY?

Herbert Price was born at 13, Joseph Street, Grimethorpe, in 1907. Irene Goodison was born at 13, Joseph Street, Grimethorpe in 1909. Her family bought the house from the Prices. The Prices moved to Denaby, where Herbert worked as a miner. They then moved to 9, Caroline Street. The Goodisons also moved, quite independently, to Denaby, and then remarkably to 10, Caroline Street! Herbert and Irene fell in love (they'd not met until Saltaire worked its magic), and they married on 28th April, 1928.

Both spent some time working at Salts Mill – Herbert was a percher (inspecting the woven fabric for faults and marking them for the attention of burlers and menders), and Irene as a doffer and a twister.

You may also have met Herbert on the football field, because he was a founder member of Saltaire Hotspurs AFC, and played with them until they disbanded 5 years later.

Irene was a keen dancer, and was also MC at the former Clarendon Ballroom in Commercial Street, Shipley, before it was demolished.

My thanks go to their daughter, Mrs Margaret Lonsdale, for telling me this story when she visited the Salts Archive Exhibition in July. She also provided photos of the couple's Golden Wedding celebrations in 1978.

Like so many of Saltaire's families, several generations of the same family worked in the Mill. Margaret's sister, Betty (married name Keighley, living on George Street) was in picking plus her Auntie Bertha (Whitlam Street) and her cousin Elsie Holland (Ada Street), were there too.

Roger Clarke

## CHRISTMAS STOCKING FILLERS

### 'T'was Christmas Day in the Workhouse

In 1877 at Christmas, the inhabitants of the North Bierley Workhouse numbered 285 individuals who were dependent on Parish relief for their care (Saltaire was within this administration area). They had good reason to be satisfied with their Christmas quarters. Their dining hall was tastefully decorated, and at the top was placed a Christmas "pie", buried in evergreen and decorated with dolls and toys for the children. Apart from the inmates who were confined to the Infirmary, the rest sang grace and very soon ample work was found for the guardians and others who acted as carvers for the huge joints of beef, which soon presented a much dwarfed appearance. Plum pudding followed, and afterwards pipes and tobacco for the elders and oranges for the children were distributed. A short and appropriate address was given by the chairman, Rev. G Leatherdale, and at the close a round of cheering was given for Mr and Mrs Helmsley, the Master and Matron.

A week later, a New Year's treat was given, consisting of a substantial tea, when the treasures of the Christmas "pie" were given to the children. Imagine these deprived kids seeing this present every day for a whole week before being allowed to have access to it!

### Who'd be a postman at Christmas?

On Christmas Day, 1900, several postmen at Shipley exceeded 5,000 letters for each delivery. It took 11 hours just to sort them, and despite the use of a cart and an assistant, one postie was on continuous duty from 8am until 11pm the following day trying to cope with the demand. Comment in the Shipley Times and Express was that "In all departments the pressure was very great, and will be remembered with fear and trembling this time next year."

### The Great Christmas Hamper Swindle

In 200 newspapers across the country in 1877, Bentley, Kemp and Company of Birmingham placed an advert advertising their renowned Christmas hampers. You could obtain one for a guinea, containing fine wines and spirits, and for £2 was one double the size which also contained a casket with small samples of 3 choice liqueurs in cut glass models of decanters.

The hampers were to be sent out, carriage paid, to all parts of the kingdom, on receipt of a Post Office Order. Forty or fifty PO Orders a day flooded in.

When the hampers did not arrive, applicants "became troublesome", and would no longer accept assurances that "our carman has just been despatched with them to the station". The police were called, and James Bentley was apprehended on a charge of fraud – just as he was about to leave town with his wife and a considerable amount of money. Two other associates were never found.

A search of the firm's premises found no trace of wines, spirits or any other goods.

### Edison's phonograph at Victoria Hall

On December 27th, 1890, Mr William Lyrd gave a lecture and demonstration of this phonograph at Victoria Hall, Saltaire. He described how sound could be captured on wax cylinders, to be replayed at any time. He demonstrated with the repeated sounds of a coach horn – and then with a bassoon solo, the low notes of which caused much amusement amongst the audience. Two songs were then recorded, followed by the entire Saltaire Brass Band on stage playing a selection of tunes. All were then replayed to an astonished audience.

Mr Lyrd described the many uses for the device. Businessmen could record letters for their clerks to transcribe. Lovers could record a kiss or a sigh (which he demonstrated to the audience's delight). And finally, the phonograph could make dead men speak, noting that the poet Browning had made such a recording of his work before he died.

Roger Clarke



## SANTA SPECIALS at Shipley Glen Tramway

Once again, Santa is setting up his grotto at Shipley Glen Tramway. He will meet children and listen to their Christmas secrets on the following dates:

**Saturday and Sunday 1st,  
2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th,  
22nd, 23rd.**

**Noon until 4pm.**

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**EVENTS THIS MONTH**  
**December 6th**

Danuta Reah  
(nom de plume, Carla Banks)  
will be reading from her  
novels "Strangers" and  
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**All events are free**  
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food for thought.



# The Saltaire Sentinel

A HAPPY & PEACFUL CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

## SALTAIRE VILLAGE WEBSITE

The website has undergone some changes this month. The Saltaire Journal, has come into being (FANTASTIC!) and is now on the website (details on the front page). I don't know if I need to get out more, but it's been so exciting! The Saltaire Journal is driven by **Barlo & Shaw**, publishers of **Balgarnie's Salt with Commentary and Additions**. They're motivated historians and really nice blokes and you can download **Balgarnie's Salt** (Sir Titus Salt's biography) with their compliments from the website.

The Saltaire History Club now has a real presence on the website, and is properly branded with a redrawing of the Belwarp logo, produced by artist **Katie Clarke**. AND - The Saltaire Sentinel is now on-line as an Acrobat file, and can be downloaded on to your computer and printed off, as it appears here. Fab!

The readership of the Sentinel is far and wide. **Denys Salt**, great grandson of Sir Titus and his lovely wife **Eva**, read the Sentinel over coffee and croissants in Austria, and **Shirley and Joe Karasz** read it over pancakes and maple syrup in British Columbia, Canada. You may ask why are people devotees of The Sentinel? It's not that easy to answer, but I do understand it. It's like me tuning into the **Prairie Home Companion** - a radio show broadcast from Minnesota every week. I love the News from Lake Wobegone, where "all the women are strong, all the men are good looking and all the children are above average." I love listening to why Powder Milk Biscuits are necessary in life. I adore **Mrs. Sunberg's** website column which always begins, "Listened to the show Saturday and it was not bad." Similarly, I love seeing The Sentinel in Salts Mill, or Magic Number Three - or my other haunts - and I pounce on a copy, gaze at it, read it, fold it carefully into an envelope and post it to my Mum and Dad in Withernsea, so that they too can have a good read with a cuppa and a dish of Kellogg's, while the birds tap on the window, wanting to be fed.

Oh, and if you desire to make your life even richer and happier, Google "Prairie Home Companion" and download some archived programmes. Read Mrs. Sundberg's column and try out a few of her recipes for Christmas. Log onto the Saltaire website if you can, snowflakes will be added for Xmas no matter what the forecast says, and of course, ponder over The Sentinel which surely contributes to World Peace and contentment.

Warm regards and Christmas cheer,  
**Pamela Reynolds**  
[www.saltairvillage.info](http://www.saltairvillage.info)

## AIRE VALLEY SINGERS 'CHRISTMAS CHEER'

Our popular annual selection of seasonal music with refreshments to match.

**Friday Dec. 21st. St. Paul's Church,  
Kirkgate, Shipley 7.30pm**

Early booking is advisable: 01274 563736  
or 01484 717473.

## ST PETER'S BOWLING CLUB CHRISTMAS FAIR

December 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am-12 noon. Shipley Library.  
Stalls, Tombola, Refreshments

## SALTAIRE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH TUESDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 AT 7.30 pm

Featuring...

**OTLEY BRASS BAND &  
AIRE VALLEY SINGERS**

TICKETS £4.00  
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## SHIPLEY ROTARY CLUB CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Sponsored by Pace Micro Technology  
Featuring **OTLEY BRASS BAND**

**Tuesday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Saltaire United Reformed Church 7.30 pm**

Tickets £4 (£3 concessions)

Pay at the door or ring 412919

## SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

With **Thornton Vocal Union,  
St. Paul's Junior Choir & Andrew Hesselwood**

St. Peter's Church,  
Moorhead Lane

**Saturday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 7 pm**

Tickets: £6 from Amy Booth: 01535 273979

Peter Chamberlain: 01274 583769

[chmbrlpt@aol.com](mailto:chmbrlpt@aol.com)

Mulled wine and mince pies

## ORGAN RECITAL

**Geoff Bellamy**

**Sunday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Saltaire United Reformed Church 2pm

## CONTACT SALTAIRE

Based at the entrance to Salts Mill. Wednesdays,  
10am to 2pm. Come and talk about community  
issues. E-mail: [contactsaltair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:contactsaltair@yahoo.co.uk)

## SHIPLEY RETIRED MEN'S FORUM

Shipley Library at  
10.15am on alternate  
Wednesdays

### Speakers this month:

**12<sup>th</sup> - John Bonner**

Jimmy Stewart,  
bomber pilot

**New members welcome  
591745**

## SHIPLEY ROTARY CLUB

Lower Hall, Otley Road  
Every Tuesday  
12.30 - 2pm  
**01535 270615**

## BRACKEN HALL COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE

Glen Road, Shipley Glen  
Friday 21st

Guided Walk around  
Baildon (4¾ miles)

Packed lunch required.

Meet at Bracken Hall

10.30am.

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## WORLD HERITAGE

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"It's time this newspaper  
had its own Community  
Choir!"

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Sadly, sooner or later you will dispose of this copy of the Sentinel. Please do so with care for our World Heritage Site environment.