

The Saltaire Sentinel

Hour lion of

VIGILANCE

No 64 April 2008

COUNTING THE COST A LOT OF LEAD IS A LOT OF BRASS

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

CRICKET IN ROBERTS PARK

Saltaire C.C

v

Pudsey Congs
with the
Sentinel Ball

Saturday, April 19th

As Roberts Park again resounds to the exciting Slap! of leather on willow - - I'm sure that's awfully old-fashioned, but that's the whole point; this is the **Sentinel** Ball we're talking about. Once more, the match ball which opens the season will be sponsored by the Community Newspaper as a gesture of support and goodwill to the local club - and in the hope of encouraging others to follow the example. Sponsoring a ball is easy and, (as you will have gathered by now), not at all expensive.

STOP PRESS: The series *Locks and Quays* will now be shown by Yorkshire Television on Thursdays from April 3rd at 7.30 pm, with an appearance by Roger Clarke expected on April 10th or 17th.



The theft of lead from the roof of the Salt Mausoleum at Saltaire United Reformed Church is already, unavoidably, in the public eye. To make sure that *Sentinel* readers are reliably informed, **ROGER CLARKE** spoke to the church's Publicity Officer **Len Morris**, who also provided us with the above photograph.

Work has actually been going on to replace the lead over the past four months and there have been three thefts in all. Following the first, scaffolding was erected and the fact that it was boarded over at night failed to prevent a return visit. Even the razor wire fitted when the lead was replaced did not deter the thieves. The result is that the Church now faces a bill of somewhere in the region of six thousand pounds to replace the lead a second time. There is little option as the Church is the only

Grade 1 Listed building in Saltaire and there are strict controls on materials used in renovation and restoration. A further disappointment for the church members is that the insurance company may not cover the loss if the policy only covers damage inside the building. Negotiations are continuing about this. If you have any information, please contact the Shipley Neighbourhood Policing Team.

*What sort of person steals from a church?
See page 3*

In this issue
HISTORY CLUB WALK
Plus
ARTS TRAIL PLANS
Plus
MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

PHOTOGRAPHER

Reflects on
EXHIBITION

Tony O'Connell tells us that '*Reflections*' is an appropriate title for the collection of his photographs currently on exhibition in the Village, because he is "particularly fascinated by the way that reflections in a variety of surfaces can give an image a dimension and depth which is absent in the original view". Tony, a self taught photographer, whose interests obviously include people, places and travel, has won a major prize, exhibited at several prestigious venues, undertaken commissions and taken part in a number of art markets in the last two years.

The exhibition is at the House of Rose and Brown, (by the pillar box) in Victoria Road, until April 3rd.

SAY IT IN THE **Sentinel**

The Saltaire Sentinel

SALTAIRE JOTTINGS: The Price of Cloth

By John Collins

The vivid pictures painted at a recent meeting of the History Club by **Stanley King** and **Frank Senior** of working at Salts were reported in last month's edition of the Sentinel. Hearing Frank speaking so calmly "in his 90th year" about his experiences working with RW Guild in the sales costing department, and also about his service in the Royal Air Force in Egypt, was both illuminating and refreshingly clear. As a trained weaver, Frank's knowledge of cloth construction, fibre and yarn content, and all the different processes in the Mill, would have been invaluable in making cost calculations. At those times, the price of cloth would probably be determined by cost, whereas today the selling price of garments is dominant, and quality, richness of fibre and style in the fabric are all forced down to fit retail price points. On January 17th, 1983, the local press carried an article with accompanying photograph showing Frank, with his wife Ilma, being presented with a silver tea set by Edward Stanners, the then Managing Director of Salts of Saltaire, in recognition of his 50 years service with the firm.

Roger Clarke's SALTAIRE FOLK: Albert Bowtell

We first profiled **Albert Bowtell** in the Sentinel in October, 2003, when James Duncan described how this modest, self effacing man was spending his retirement in bringing interest and entertainment to others through lectures to various organisations throughout the area.

His subject was Sir Titus Salt and the history of Saltaire, and his lectures (he would have probably described them as presentations or talks) were enhanced by the use of slides and a witty sense of humour. James also mentioned that Albert was a deviser of quizzes. He was perhaps unaware that Albert had also developed a series of talks for use with blind and partially sighted people based on comic and music hall songs and jokes, guaranteed to engage those people for whom slides were an inappropriate medium. He was adaptable, inventive, and conscious of the needs of his audience.

I say "was" because sadly, in 2003, Albert died following a short illness. His widow, **Joyce**, has only recently begun to think about Albert's photographs, slides, audio tapes, video tapes, lecture notes and the various items which he accumulated in the course of his work at Salts Mill prior to Mill closure in 1985. Having already donated a pane of glass from Milner Field mansion to the Salt Archive at Shipley College Resource Centre as Albert wished, Joyce thought that these other items might find a home there. As a result, I have been cataloguing "The Albert Bowtell Collection" over the past few months. I have begun to realise the extent of Albert's knowledge and experience of the Mill as I've researched each item (with the assistance of the Industrial Museum and Saltaire History Club members).

Albert worked at Salts Mill for 28 years. He joined after working at Bradford and Bingley Building Society, moving to Salts Mill Accounts Office in 1957. Late in his career there he was co-opted by his colleague, Stanley King (previously Lord Mayor of Bradford and currently a hard working councillor, especially on transport issues) to set up a museum at the Mill. They also ran guided tours of the Mill, and it was here that Albert developed his presentation skills. After the Mill closed in 1985, Albert continued to work in accounts, eventually for a car dealership, but he never lost his enthusiasm for his Salts experience. He retired in 1999.

I have much to thank him for. His photographs are of outstanding quality, his attention to detail makes cataloguing relatively easy, and the wide and varied range of Saltaire related artefacts which he accumulated make his collection a rare base upon which future researchers can build.

Joyce was undecided about me publicising Albert's gift to the Archive. He was an unassuming man, who disliked the limelight and self aggrandisement. He liked to be acknowledged for his work, but without any fuss involved.

So, thanks mate. It's appreciated. **Roger**

HISTORY OF THE ALMSHOUSES

Part Three

Last month we looked at the problems posed by the residents of the almshouses. But just who did live here in the nineteenth century?

An examination of census returns give an indication of gender, age and marital status of the residents in 1871 and 1881. Direct comparison is difficult because of 3 changes in numbering the houses in 1871, 1880 and 1900.

Despite these difficulties, it can be seen that the residents of the 1871 almshouses were mainly elderly, as Titus Salt had intended. 31 of the 44 cottages housed widows, the majority in single occupancy, but almost half with dependants living with them. The dependants were either children or grandchildren, or (in 3 cases) were lodgers of similar age and gender. Only 3 elderly widowers are listed as head of house. The remaining elderly men in the almshouses lived with their wives, (just 5 families). Ages of the heads of households were between 57 years and 83 years, with the majority in their late 60s and 70s.

The pattern in 1881 is different. Now only 6 of the 26 properties called almshouses were occupied by elderly widows (none with dependents), while married couples (often living with their dependents) occupied 12 cottages. They were young couples, typically in their 20s and 30s, all in employment. 4 cottages were uninhabited at the time of the Census, and the remainder held elderly spinsters.

In 1887, the houses were handed over to the Governors of the Salt Schools, as trustees for the inhabitants of Shipley, as a Jubilee gift by the late Dowager Lady Salt and Mr Titus Salt. The Governors continued to run them until the turn of the century.

In 1900, it was announced that Shipley Urban District Council would take over control of the Salt Schools, the almshouses and the debt of £6,500 existing on the Trust. The transfer took place just 2 years later in 1902.

Roger Clarke

The Saltaire Sentinel

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WHO STEALS FROM A CHURCH?

In the case of the theft of lead from the roof of the Mausoleum at the United Reformed Church it's obviously a persistent question.

Consider for a moment the task faced by the relatively small congregation at the Church. The offertory plate, income from services (births, marriages and deaths are still marked here), and income from tourists bring in a relatively small but steady income. Salts Walks has a regular working arrangement with the Church, and most of the guided tours around the village start from here. **Maria Glot** is the co-ordinator of the Walks, and comments that "Salts Walks have raised almost £2,300 to support the Church over the past financial year, and it is very saddening to see this contribution, and all the work of the Church Elders, being undermined by the wanton destruction and greed of mindless vandals and thieves".

This Church, which cost Sir Titus £16,000 to build in 1859, now pays out this amount of money just to have the survey work done to find out the extent of the problems. The last major renovation was in 1998, and made good the roof and strengthened the upper part of the tower. Now the lower part of the tower needs attention, disabled access has to be installed, and the grounds and lower rooms require urgent attention.

So I ask again, what sort of person steals from a church? The people I spoke to on the streets of Saltaire were clear in their views. **Kevin Treadwell**, aged 53, from Otley described the act as "despicable, anyone who would desecrate a grave can have no scruples". **Tim Stretton**, 45 from Derby thought that "they must be totally lacking in values and completely self centred". And finally, **Geoff Hampson** from Wigan was unsurprised because "there are some cultures in our society who have no respect for common, decent standards". **Roger Clarke**

OPEN HOUSES SOUGHT FOR ARTS TRAIL

If you've always wanted to have your house overflowing with some of the finest art and craft Yorkshire has to offer, now is your chance, writes **Zosia Lewis**.

The Saltaire Arts Trail needs houses in the Village to open as unique galleries as part of this year's Saltaire Festival. Beautiful paintings and photography will adorn your walls while handcrafted textiles, tableware and ceramics grace the surfaces of your kitchen, sitting room, hall or stairs.

Last year, ten houses around the Village opened their doors to the public. The people met more neighbours, made new friends and enjoyed themselves immensely. The whole Arts Trail was a huge success and, with your help, we'll make this year even better. We need houses to be open for both weekends of the festival 13th/14th and 20th/21st September. We will provide each house with artists, public liability insurance and someone to show you the ropes. To make the whole experience even more rewarding you'll receive a percentage of the total sales taken in your house. If you are interested, please email hello@saltaireinspired.org.uk or call David on 07802445786.

We are also looking for people to join us and volunteer to help with a host of exciting events, including Open Houses, a Makers Fair, an Open Exhibition, Public Art Interventions and a Children's Mini Trail. Please email hello@saltaireinspired.org.uk or call Zosia on 07900848247.

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

217 Bingley Road

Open Mon-Sat. 10- 5

Late opening Thurs. till 8
New & second hand books

Regular Events

at which authors read
from their works.

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MAGIC

NUMBER THREE

2 Victoria Road

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Fantastic organic food and
coffee, art, crafts, gifts.

SALTAIRE HISTORY CLUB

**Thursday, April 17th,
7 - 9 pm.**

**Exhibition Building,
Shipley College,
Exhibition Road**

This meeting will feature
two informative lectures:

FROM BAILDON MOOR TO SALTAIRE

A walk through history

By Mike Lawson

THE LOST MANSIONS OF THE SALTS

By Tish Lawson

The club meetings are
informal gatherings over
light refreshments.

ALL WELCOME!

Further information from:

Dave Shaw (mobile:)

07736 408339

daveshaw@saltairevillage.info

www.saltairevillage.info

VICAR'S

79 Victoria Road

T: 0127426.9 597818

Vicars café/bistro
serves food for thought.

The Saltaire Sentinel

MORE - NOTICES - NEWS - ANNOUNCEMENTS - NEWS - NOTICES - MORE

CYBERSPACE & SALTAIRE

By Pamela Reynolds

Running a village website is a very interesting job. We receive loads of emails which are syndicated to various people who have generously volunteered to help answer them. It works pretty well. A few days ago **Rebecca Hill** and **Colin Waghorn** from Oxted in Surrey contacted the website team to share information on a Bible which came into their possession from a house clearance 25 years ago. It just happened to have once belonged to Titus Salt's parents, Daniel and Grace. The time and date of their children's births, christenings, and the untimely deaths of three of their children is recorded inside the Bible. **Dave Shaw**, historian and writer, contacted **Denys Salt**, great grandson of Sir Titus, with this amazing news. We have images of these pages which will be published on the website soon. Many thanks to Rebecca and Colin.

Recently I've emailed **Philip Gibson** from Crewe in Cheshire who's bringing his parents for a visit to Saltaire and wanted the gen on what to do. Easy enough to answer... I just tapped into the knowledge base generated by the indefatigable **Roger Clarke** who has written loads of tourist tips on Saltaire which appear on the website and more recently as an article in a fab free glossy local magazine called **Prosider** (also available on-line at www.prosider.co.uk). The magazine was started by **Richard Sadowskyj**, from Baildon, who began by working from his bedroom and is now staffed by a small team, including **Scott Elliott**. Scott, (nice lad) also from Baildon, has made sure that the Saltaire website gets lots of plugs. The magazine was originally called "The Insider" a name "owned" by **Piers Morgan** who got nervous of its success and demanded a name change. The Saltaire Village website will soon be promoting the beautifully conceived, award-winning **Prosider** which even managed to secure an interview with **Al Gore!** Hats off to the Baildon boys!

And greetings to **Keith Salt** in Toronto, Canada, who believes that Sir Titus Salt was his great grandfather's great uncle. Dave Shaw is looking into it... Ain't the internet swell?
www.saltairevillage.info

AIRE VALLEY SINGERS

present

SHAKESPEARE IN MUSIC

Director: Doreen Anderson

To include settings of Shakespeare's words by composers from the 17th to the 21st centuries.

Saturday, April 26th 7.30 pm

St. Paul's Church, Kirkgate, Shipley

Tickets: £8 (Concessions £6) inc. refreshments

Reservations: (01274) 595416 or 563736

Collection in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

THE TITCHMARSH CONNECTION

By Roger Clarke

Frank Senior, who is mentioned in John Collins' *Saltaire Jottings* this month [page 2], was also one of two links I came across this month to **Alan Titchmarsh**. Alan was recalling his time at Shipley College in a radio broadcast recently, which Frank tuned into and thought that *Sentinel* readers should be aware of this celebrity product of the College. The second reference to Alan came when I was going through the papers of Clive Woods, who sadly died on 22nd November last year. I came across a number of letters from **Mr Franks** of Spalding in Lincolnshire, who had corresponded with Clive about his family history in Saltaire. Mr Franks is now retired but his previous employment was in horticulture, and he became the Horticultural Officer for the West Riding County Council after the War. As such he had many links with Shipley College, and organised courses at the Horticultural Practice Unit on Exhibition Road. He remembers how Alan Titchmarsh started his Stage 1 City and Guilds Horticulture course there. Current students may also be interested in the fact that Mr Franks grew a tomato tree in the main hall at the Exhibition Road building which grew so tall that it was higher than the balcony which goes around the hall. It must have been quite a sight, and a good advert for his courses.

EARLY MUSIC AUDIENCE FOXED

The very large gathering in St. Paul's Church on March 14th for the debut performance by local consort Sundrie Ayres was taken aback by the intervention of a fox, the appearance of whose friendly, furry facial features from behind a music stand coincided most amazingly with the last line of Thomas Ravenscroft's 'Tomorrow the Fox'. However, as the outcome of intrepid investigation, this reporter can now reveal that the attractive intruder was, in fact, given a helping hand by one of the musicians and was, upon close examination, found to be less than organic. It needs, nonetheless, to be emphasised that the revelation of Reynard was but one of many highlights of an evening's entertainment of the very highest standard.

CONTACT SALTAIRE

Based at the entrance to Salts Mill, **Wednesday, 10am-1pm**
Come and talk about community issues.

Email contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteers needed. Telephone 01274-537416

CONCERT SEASON

St. Paul's Church

Kirkgate, Shipley

YBS Concert Band

Friday, April 18th

Bradford Youth Concert Band & the Church's Choir

Friday, May 16th

Concerts begin at 7.30pm.

Tickets: £5.

(Accompanied under 12s free)

Reservations: 01274 595416

WOODWORK CLASSES

A brand new ten week course in woodwork, aimed specifically at families, begins at Kirkgate Studios and Workshops this month. Participants can look forward to working on projects which range from kites to birdhouses. The two-hour sessions, supported by the Big Lottery Fund, are absolutely **free** and travel expenses are available for anyone in receipt of means tested benefits. Family places are available for sessions on Tuesdays 4pm, Wednesdays 6pm or Saturdays 10am. To book your place or find out more, call **01274 598928**, email info@ksandw.org.uk or visit www.ksandw.org.uk.

KNITTING ALERT

On going to press, the *Sentinel* has received word that Saltaire Knitterati seeks participants for the exciting Knitted River Project, to celebrate the central role of the River Aire in Saltaire's history. Full details from Maria on 07881874796.

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Come on then, Congs!"

The Saltaire Sentinel is written by the people of Saltaire and photocopied by Shipley College in the heart of Saltaire EVERY MONTH. It is not affiliated to, nor in any way controlled or influenced by any group, society or organisation.

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