

TREES : THE TRUTH OFFICER FINDS PHYTOPHTHORA

*The paper
that could
only be in
Saltaire*

CLIVE'S ASHES SCATTERED

The ashes of Mr Clive Woods, who died last November, were scattered by a small group of family and friends in the garden area next to his beloved Shipley Glen Tramway early last month.

WURLITZER ON ITS WAY

Local architects Rance Booth and Smith will be responsible for major renovation work in Victoria Hall to facilitate the installation and operation of a seventy-year-old genuine Wurlitzer organ, worth £800,000, which is due to arrive from the Ritz in Brighouse this August, thanks to a partnership between the Salt Foundation, Shipley College and the Cinema Organ Society.

The sudden felling of two trees in the centre of the Village, on a Sunday, caused understandable concern in the Village, not least because they were believed by many to be in the best of health and the remaining 'taped up' stumps were an eyesore. Happening right under the nose of the original Lion of Vigilance, this was bound to be a front page story here.

World Heritage Site Officer Craig McHugh responded immediately and very fully to our request for reliable information:

The two trees in question were deemed by the Tree Officer to be an immediate danger and needed to be felled urgently. The one outside 64 Victoria Road was completely dead and the other, a Horse Chestnut on the corner of Higher School Street, had a condition called Phytophthora which causes limbs to die and drop off.

PROJECT TEAM

The Saltaire Project Team, which exists to foster useful links between major stakeholders in the future of the area and includes representatives of major local businesses, Saltaire Village Society, Shipley College, local residents and traders as

well as Ward Councillors and Council Officers, met last month to discuss the results of a survey it had commissioned of the condition and maintenance of all the trees on the road. This had found that most of the trees were unsuitable for planting in a paved and built up area and consequently were under considerable stress and showing varying stages of disease. They will therefore need to be replaced with more suitable species.

REPLACEMENT

Members were concerned about how a replacement tree planting scheme might look, says Mr. McHugh, but want to retain trees on Victoria Road wherever possible, as they add to the character of the street, although **they are not part of the original layout.**

The Council's Landscape Architects have been asked to present proposals to the next meeting of the Project Team on June 26th.

SALTS TENNIS CLUB OPEN

DAY

May 4th

See page 4

In this issue

PETER BOTTOMLEY

At the History Club

Plus

RACHEL NOBLE

Enjoying the Towpath

Plus

ALL OUR USUAL

UNUSUALS

SPONSORED BALL

The sun shone on April 26th, enabling the cricket season to start just one week late in these parts. Unfortunately, over Roberts Park it chose to shine more in the direction of Manningham Mills, whose 108 for 6 was slightly better than the home side's 104 for 9, although Saltaire's opener W Munwar was by far the best scoring batsman with 36. The match ball was sponsored by the *Sentinel*, as is traditional for the first home match. (The encounter with Pudsey Congs was postponed from April 19th until Sunday, June 22nd because of bad weather.)

The next opportunity to see the First XI in the Park is when they entertain Hanging Heaton on **May 10th.**

There is better news, written for us by Club Secretary **Geoff Porter**, on page 3.

WHATEVER IT IS – SAY IT IN THE *Sentinel*!

E-mail: saltairesentinel@btinternet.com

Deadline: 20th

HISTORY CLUB HEARS OF LOST MANSIONS

Peter J Bottomley Reports

The April 17th Meeting of the Saltaire History Club in the Exhibition Building of Shipley College was another well attended one with about sixty people there. The two guest speakers were Mike and Tish Lawson who are both local historians.

The first talk, by Mike, was called 'A Walk through History'. Mike talked about how Saltaire and Baildon are joined together by the moor and Shipley Glen. The slide show showed everything from the cup and ring stones, iron and coal mines to bullets from the Territorial Army and The Bradford Pals who practised on the hills above Saltaire, and the talk explaining them held everybody's attention.

The second talk, 'The Lost Mansions of the Salts' by Mike's wife Tish, was also very good, as a lot of people at the meeting knew of the houses that she talked about. Some of the houses are still standing and are owned by the local councils and their grounds are now public parks but sadly some have been demolished. The slides that Tish showed were of a by-gone era of large houses and the cost of furnishing them to the cost of staffing them as well. The Baildon and the Salt families both owned big houses around this area and a lot of history is still being looked into today about the demolished ones, the ones still standing and the ones being renovated like the North Lodge at the Gilstead end of Milner Fields Estate.

To learn more about *your local history*, come along to the next meeting on **June 26th**.

Saltaire Almshouses

In our final review of the almshouses on Victoria Road, we look towards the Shipley Times and Express of January, 1903, for an insight into local politics.

It reports on a series of letters between Sir James Roberts and the Governors of the Salt Schools. At this time Sir James was in sole charge at the Mill, and in many ways had assumed the role of philanthropist and benefactor which had been vacated by Sir Titus 30 years earlier. He is perhaps best known for his gift of Saltaire Park (later Roberts Park) to Bradford Council in 1920 (not to Shipley Council, you will notice).

In December, 1902, Sir James made an offer to the Governors to buy the almshouses at the top of Victoria Road, and to make them available to "the worthy aged of Saltaire" rent free – as had been the case when Sir Titus was alive. Sir James wanted to allocate them to elderly Salts workers himself, thus releasing properties in the village for the use of current workers. The Governors were being asked to make a decision which would then have to be approved by Shipley Council, the Board of Education and the Charity Commissioners before the sale could be finalised. The sticking point for the Governors was that they wanted the almshouses to be let to anyone living within a 3 mile radius made available to the of Saltaire, and they wanted to appoint a committee to oversee the allocations. Correspondence was increasingly acrimonious, and the Governors turned down his generous cash offer. Remarkably, the correspondence was general public through the local Press, but the Shipley Times doesn't enlighten us about who released it to them.

The almshouses are still Council owned (Bradford Metropolitan District Council) and administered by Shipley Community Housing Trust. They are the only block of housing which is rented and not owned by individuals in the Village.

Roger Clarke

ROGER DOES SELF AND SALTAIRE PROUD

Much trumpeted by these columns, the episode of 'Locks and Quays' filmed by *Centini* last Summer, was finally screened by Yorkshire Television on April 17th. Local historian and popular tour guide Roger Clarke took to the camera like a star and gave a most impressive, upbeat but totally realistic account of Saltaire's past, present and prospective future.

The programme also featured fascinating archive footage and photographs, together with contemporary views of the Village. A slight disappointment, however, was that Saltaire United Reformed Church featured in only one brief exterior and one brief interior shot, with the purpose of showing the bust of Sir Titus in the vestibule; scant reward for the hours which the church's publicity officer, Len Morris had dedicated to assisting the production team.

Rachel Noble MAKING THE MOST OF THE LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL

My husband and I decided to make the most of the first sunny day of the year, so set off on our bikes along the canal. According to British Waterways, it costs around £2.5m to keep the canal open, which works out at £18,000 per mile. At that rate, I don't feel we've been getting our money's worth over the last few months, only venturing out to occasionally feed the ducks or pop along to Bingley five-rise to watch the boats go through. A hundred years ago there were over a thousand boats working on the canal, and between Wigan and Liverpool a loaded boat would pass about every five minutes. These days it's a bit less hectic, but it's still entertaining watching them navigate first the 5-rise locks and then the 3. Back in 1774, when the five-rise locks were first used, the first boat through took 29 minutes to navigate its way through. No wonder they put in moorings for those who couldn't face the arduous task until the morning. Our next planned trip is to Skipton – although we may wait until there are slightly less puddles around. We both returned from our last ride looking like some sort of artistic tribute to Jackson Pollock – speckled in mud from head to toe. We fancy having a look at the Springs Branch of the canal, which leaves the main canal at Skipton, and branches round the back of Skipton Castle for half a mile. It was added in 1797 at the insistence of castle occupier Lord Thanet, who wanted to load up boats direct from his backdoor. My husband and I plan to submit an application for a similar addition leading to our front door in Titus Street, so that we have an uninterrupted route onto the canal and possibly pizza and takeaways delivered direct to our door via barge.

Rachel Noble is a freelance journalist who lives in the Village.

MYSTERY OF THE MISSING BENCH

Does anyone know what became of the bench which was by the pedestrian crossing near the junction of Victoria Road and Bingley Road, in front of Saltaire Medical Centre?

Pat Reeton, a care worker with Czajka Care Services, is especially concerned for the welfare of the people she looks after but points out that they are by no means the only ones in need of rest and recovery after the long haul uphill from the Village and the difficulty of crossing the busy A650.

The Council has no record of the bench ever having been there and the matter is clearly not the responsibility of the Medical Centre. Any information, or indeed comments on the situation, from *Sentinel* readers will be appreciated.

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SIXTIES SALTAIRE RECALLED

Greg Thomson, author of *A Time in Our Lives*, which deals with life in Saltaire in the 1960s, will be discussing his work and sharing memories at the Saltaire Bookshop from 6.30 until 8pm on Thursday, May 1st. Admission Free.

"THE FUTURE IS THE YOUTH"

Says Saltaire Cricket Club Secretary Geoff Porter

It has been a busy close season at the club with many challenges to resolve such as: building the team, raising finance, new car parking restrictions from the Council and problems with the scoreboard. Jeff Driver has also retired as Chairman. The club owes him a great debt of gratitude for his hard work over the years. The club is in safe hands with his successor Ed Duguid taking over the reins as Chairman. There have also been many changes at Roberts Park. We are delighted to welcome Tim Linley, the former Oxford UCCE and Sussex paceman from Brighouse. We have also brought in the experienced opener Javid Umarji from Idle. In the fruition of our youth policy we are proud to have promoted to the First X1 four fine young prospects solely on merit. In Tuseif Arshad we have a fine pace bowler who last season took 6 wickets for 12 runs in the Priestley Cup against Baildon., Tom Slater is a classy batsman and scored 97 n.o. in a masterful innings in the Under 17s Cup final last season; Nadeem Mohammed played half the first team matches last season and is an impressive seamer; Awais Ijaz is a batter bowler and last season's cameo in the HW Cup against Yeadon secured victory. Many of these lads were playing Under 12 & U13 cricket for the club a few years ago. We have a blend of youth an experience with Ijaz Khan , one of the club's all-time most successful captains leading the side. We also have signed 33 year old Indian overseas player Rahul Kanwat who has an excellent first class pedigree scoring 3386 runs but also is a useful off-spinner taking 161 wickets. It is interesting that many are writing us off already. We will take great pleasure in not only seeing our talented young players flourish but also in surprising many people. The youth is the future of a club like ours and dare I say the Bradford League which is full of the merry-go-round of the same players changing clubs every year for even more money.

KNITTED RIVER PROJECT

Last month we just had time and space for a quick mention of an exciting new, local project. Here's more, courtesy of

Claire Wellesley-Smith

To celebrate the central role of the River Aire in Saltaire's history, imagine a long meandering knitted river in greens and blues bringing our community together. Saltaire Knitterati have created the Knitted River Project and over the next 6 months are calling on our community to join in. They are calling for all knitters to knit squares in blues and greens. These will be knitted together using giant knitting needles at a workshop in September as part of the Mini Arts Trail.

For all you would-be knitters, Knitterati will be putting on workshops throughout this time for absolute beginners who have always wanted to learn the craft but not known where to start. This could be your perfect excuse and every effort is welcomed. Look out for more information about this project around the village. If in the meantime you would like to find out more about the project, please contact Maria **07881874796**.

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

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Thursdays until 8pm

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ADVERTISING

in The Sentinel

All the establishments featured in this column and the one opposite serve as outlets for this newspaper and are promoted on that basis. No financial transaction is involved. Enterprises and initiatives are mentioned elsewhere, as are events, in the context of their interest and benefit to the local community; not for the profit of individuals or businesses.

Please note that space in the *Sentinel* is not for sale but neither is it offered free for commercial advertising.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

The *Saltaire Sentinel* is available online, via the Saltaire Village Website, thanks entirely to Pamela Reynolds, who manages and maintains the site at

www.saltairvillage.info

In the recent past, Pamela has also worked very hard and made an invaluable contribution to the publication of our printed pages, which is gratefully acknowledged by the editor.

SHIPLEY STRIDE

Macmillan Cancer Support's annual walking event in Bradford, the Shipley Stride, is on **Sunday 18 May**. With their sights set on smashing the £18,000 raised last year, organisers hope to get over 1000 people registered to take part. Local Community fundraiser Charlotte Stern said: "The Shipley Stride is a fantastic family event and the support we receive from the local people means it just keeps getting bigger and better." Taking part, and raising sponsorship, helps Macmillan to deliver the best possible care to people affected by cancer. Contact Kea on 01924 232 440 www.macmillan.org.uk /getinvolved

STILL HOPE FOR BOATHOUSE

Although it was gutted by fire early on April 11th, the chequered history of the Boathouse building which, having opened in 1871, sacrificed its proper purpose to the Licensing Committee in the 1980s and hosted the *Saltaire Sentinel* 'Great Sir Titus Beard Competition' in 2003, may not yet be over.

Watch this space!

TENNIS CLUB OPEN DAY

Salts Tennis Club will have an open day on Sunday **May 4th** from 1 to 5pm. Free coaching will be available from LTA qualified coaches, and everyone is welcome. "Kids, bring your mum and dad with you and have a go," says Gul Rashid, the club's coach. Mini Tennis coaching will be available for juniors aged 5 to 15 throughout the day, with adult beginner coaching and 'beat the ball machine' also being organised, so there is something for the whole family. Members of the club will also be on hand to explain the club membership, social events and activities that are run during the year, and the number of teams that Salts have entered in the local and Yorkshire leagues. "Our weekly coaching is open to any child from 5 to 15 years old who would like to come and try out tennis" Gul said. "We cater for all standards of juniors, from those who have never picked up a racquet before to juniors who are able to rally and play good tennis. We are working with the local schools, and are looking to provide 'affordable tennis', subsidising the costs with local sponsorship".

Salts Tennis Club is a part of Salts Sports Association, and is situated in the playing fields at the bottom of Victoria Road in Saltaire (over the canal, turn left, and the courts are 200 meters down the driveway on your right).

John Bretherick, Secretary, Salts Tennis Club

SPORTY VENUE FOR SVS AGM

Salts Sports Club, which Eddie Lawler promises will be "a short summery walk on the Canal path", will be the venue for the **Annual General Meeting of Saltaire Village Society (SVS) on June 2nd**, from 7.30 to 9pm.

SVS remains, as ever, busily 'in on the local action', leading from the front. Presently, the Society is involved in lobbying and monitoring developments in the proposals for the Saltaire Bypass, while at the same time campaigning for measures to discourage rat-running in the Village. (A petition on this, with nearly 600 signatures, will be formally handed to a full Council meeting in July.) Meanwhile, a new series of "Saltaire Bandstand" concerts has been lined up for summer Sundays [**Watch this space!-Ed**] and news of the restoration bid for Roberts Park is expected this month, following the local elections.

The Society's 'Sustainable Saltaire' project is gathering relevant information for residents regarding reduction of fuel bills and carbon emissions in our ageing but listed properties. Not least in the impressive list of SVS activities, **Saltaire Festival** arrives for the sixth time in September volunteers are needed for all sorts of activities

- if interested please phone the hotline **585877**

CONTACT SALTAIRE

Based at the entrance to Salts Mill, **Wednesday, 10am-1pm**

Come and talk about community issues.

contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteers needed. Telephone 01274-537416

CONCERT SEASON

St. PAUL'S CHURCH

Kirkgate, Shipley

Friday, May 16th

Bradford Youth

Concert Band

&

St. Paul's Church Choir

7.30pm. Tickets £5.

(Accompanied under 12s free)

Reservations: 01274 **595416**.

[This is the last in this year's season, which has proved to be extremely popular.-Ed]

ART WORKSHOPS

Shipley Kirkgate Studios and Workshops offer a

range of one day art workshops on Saturdays in May. People will have the chance to experience felt making, life drawing, printmaking or working with vintage textiles. **Local artists** including Inez Spencer and Claire Wellesley-Smith will be conducting the sessions which are open to anyone from beginners to the more experienced. A full day session costs £38 which includes all materials. Phone 01274 598928 or visit www.ksandw.org.uk

Kirkgate Studios and Workshops is a not for profit organisation.

WORLD HERITAGE

WHEELIE

Does **NOT** talk rubbish



"Wurlitzer?

Not in my backyard!"

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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.