

# Saltaire Sentinel

*Hour Lion of* **VIGILANCE** *Published monthly*

## WOOL IS US

### EVEN IF KNITTING NOT YOUR THING

*The paper  
that  
doesn't  
fleece you*

#### PROJECT TEAM TO MEET AGAIN

The Saltaire Project Team, comprising representatives of the Village Society, Shipley College, local residents and traders, Councillors and Council Officers, is due to meet on the 26th of this month, when it expects to hear proposals from the Council's Landscape Architects regarding the trees in Victoria Road.

#### SVS AGM

Saltaire Village Society (SVS), has its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 7.30 until 9pm on

**June 2nd**

at Salts Sports Club, beside the towpath, just beyond the tennis courts. Nominations will be considered and voted upon for the posts of President, Secretary and Treasurer, and offers to join the committee will certainly be welcomed.

It was, indisputably, West Riding wool which made Bradford the great city it used to be. Even more locally, in fact parochially, Saltaire's great and famous Mill was built, in a very real sense, on the back of alpaca. Very appropriately, therefore, a new community initiative, launched this month to culminate as a high profile contribution to the local Festival in September, celebrates the fluffy stuff of our heritage - and what local people today are capable of doing with it. The exciting

**Knitted River Project** begins by asking us to imagine a 50 metre long, meandering knitted river in greens and blues running through the heart of Saltaire - and then get together to make it real! It may never literally run through the Village, but it will be displayed as part of the Mini Arts Trail.

#### CHALLENGE

'Knitterati' is looking for "experienced knitters, closet knitters and knitter-wannabies" willing to take up The Knitting Challenge. **The Project calls on everyone in the local community to participate and get involved.**

Every effort is welcomed.

"We are calling on participants from across our community, young and old to join in" says

Claire Wellesley-Smith.

#### PRIZE

A small prize will be allocated to the group knitting the most squares before the deadline.

#### AMNESTY

If knitting really is not your thing and you want to get involved in the Knitted River project you may want to take a look in your wardrobes and attics to see if you have any blue or green woollen items that can be donated to Knitterati's Wool Amnesty. These will then be recycled into patchwork woollen squares and become part of the knitted river.

#### WORKSHOPS

Knitterati will be putting on workshops in Saltaire and Shipley between June and September, providing a perfect opportunity for absolute beginners in the craft of knitting.

#### PICNIC

There will also be two lovely 'Knitted Picnics' in Roberts Park during June and August. Everyone is invited to come down and enjoy knitting circles, food and chat in the lovely surroundings.

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**Plus**

**POETRY PRIZE NEWS**

**Plus**

**RACHEL NOBLE**

**Plus ALL OUR USUAL UNUSUALS**

#### **BANDSTAND CONCERTS**

Mother and daughter duo Bonsai Kittens set this year's series off to a rocking, not rocky, start on the windy afternoon of May 25th. Completing the double bill, folk singer Mark Roberts was also welcomed by the fifty strong throng, despite having made a special trip across the Pennines for the occasion.

From now until the end of August, there will be free musical entertainment in the park every Sunday at 2.30pm; on top of the Half Moon Café, or inside it in case of inclement weather. The concerts are organised by the Halfmoon Steering Group and sponsored by Shipley Community Housing Trust - although everybody knows that Eddie Lawler is really to blame.

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

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

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup>**

## **EDITOR GETS OWN COLUMN**

The *Sentinel* is a bit of what used to be called a "Village Pump". No apologies are offered for its rather old-fashioned appearance or the old-fashioned attitude to reportage which informs it. No effort is made to compete with websites (Saltaire already has one of the best to be found), glossy magazines or the wider press in general. A thing does not have to be big or bright (Saltaire, for example, is neither) to be worth taking a pride in and looking after. Everyone will have their own ideas of what "community newspaper" means, but perhaps I may indulge myself with a regular column in which to share some of mine.

To begin with, this paper relies on members of the community for its content. If at times it appears that 'big' stories are overlooked in favour of something more 'homely', it all comes down to who has approached the paper. Quite simply, our contributors want to be seen to be subscribing to the community ethos which drives this publication. The *Sentinel* encourages community initiatives at the expense (as it were) of would-be 'contributors' in search of free publicity for profit driven schemes. Such distinctions are not always so easily drawn but the various mentions, in this very issue, of David Ford's Saltaire Bookshop, demonstrate how a concern can be run as a business and at the same time earn respect for its role in local life. Meanwhile, this month's front page carries the exemplary *Sentinel* story.

In this postmodernist era, when changes in work patterns, technology and consumerism combine to herald the demise of genuine communal identity and the very idea of 'heritage' is seriously threatened, the *Sentinel* unashamedly aims to please those who agree that a community newspaper has a more important role than ever, not least in the special place that is Saltaire.

*James Duncan*

## *Rachel Noble* **Writes**

## **On the Railway**

There's nothing we English folk like more than to moan about trains. I sometimes wonder to myself if conversation as we know it would simply grind to a halt should the miraculous happen – and all trains ran on time. What would we talk to the in-laws about, how would we explain being late home again? But the railway in Saltaire is a key part of our life. Would Sir Titus have been so keen to pick the same spot to create his model village if the railway hadn't been present? And the railway continues to be crucial for today's commuters. In a 2005 survey, Saltaire residents were asked how they travelled to work. A massive 28% used the train. In fact if you include the figure for those that used the bus to regularly travel to work (6%) this meant that more people used public transport than used the car (31%). In a society increasingly reliant on cars, this is pretty incredible – and possibly an indication of the awareness many Saltaire residents have of their own environmental impact.

Obviously the Aire Valley line which travels from Skipton to Bradford and Leeds, through Saltaire is not faultless. The gap between the train and the platform is large enough that you could easily lose a small child in it. The trains seem to have a habit of always arriving at the station two minutes late, despite there being no reason for a delay. And the flooding of the tunnel outside Shipley in January this year caused three days of total misery for the thousands of commuters forced to find some other way to get around. But the service remains one of the best in the area, and something that should be utilised more by those who live here. As traffic congestion and talk of a by-pass continue to dominate local news, perhaps it is time we made more of what is available to us – after all, Titus certainly did.

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### **SALTAIRE FOLK SPECIAL – Roger Clarke Himself !**

In recent years, *Roger Clarke's Saltaire Folk* has proved a popular feature on this page and the hard work which has gone into it has surely been appreciated by readers, the many people interviewed and, not least, the editor. It must be time, therefore (while he's not looking), to turn the spotlight on the only person in Saltaire who thought he had a chance of escaping *Folkdom*.

Born in 1942, Roger grew up close to the Sheffield United ground, in the centre of the city and travelled daily by tram to the outskirts for his childhood education. So by the time he left school he had developed the travel bug which took him as far as Leicester, to pick up a degree in Social Sciences, and then north again and further north to work as a Trainee Psychiatric Social Worker with Bradford's Mental Health Services. In this role, ever energetic Roger covered out of hours psychiatric emergencies, in addition to daytime hospital admissions, preventative work and rehabilitation with vulnerable clients. Qualification as PSW at Leeds University led on to senior status in the service and a place on the team at the Child Guidance Clinic for children with emotional and behavioural problems. In 1974, when Social Services Departments replaced the old Mental Health, Children's and Welfare Departments, the Child Guidance Service and the School Psychological Service fell within the Education Department, which gave the young Clarke the opportunity to work in a clinical setting with children and families, to work in University departments, and in teacher and social worker training. After twenty years within this service, ten as Principal Social Worker, early 'retirement' actually sent Roger back to school, this time as Support Assistant with Special Needs students, until five years in this role at Belle Vue Girls School brought to a close a professional life of over thirty-five years with Bradford Council. Roger claims to have "retired completely" in 1998, to concentrate on his hobbies of long distance walking and running, and, of course, local history. A sports injury in 2003 put a stop to the running, but allowed the budding expert more time to focus on Victorian Saltaire. Other hobbies have included working with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; as a volunteer worker with the Fire Victim Support Service at the inception of this service; as a walk leader with the Walking for Health initiative, and finally as an amateur geologist. "All these hobbies", says Roger, "have been shared with my wife Bronwyn – We're a formidable team!" Bronwyn also had a career in education, teaching maths in upper schools. Together the 'formidable team' raised two children, Catherine and Richard, and now have four grandchildren.

A familiar figure around the Village, most easily recognised, on his guided tours, in the clerical garb of Reverend Cowan (a genuine Victorian minister at the local church) and still at his happiest surrounded by vociferous youngsters, Roger recently appeared in the Yorkshire Television series *Locks and Quays*, speaking of the important local tradition of people caring for and looking after each other. Typical!

## **SALTS MILL**

**Opened 1853  
and still**

**Open Every Day**  
Attractions include  
**SALT'S DINER**  
*Cafe in to the  
Opera*

**SALTAIRE HISTORY  
EXHIBITION**  
**1853 Gallery**  
AND MUCH MORE  
**ADMISSION FREE**  
**01274-531163**

## **VICTORIA TEAROOMS**

**8 Victoria Road**  
**Open Daily**  
**01274-823092**

## **PETER RANDALL**

*Gentleman's  
Hairdresser  
Picture Framer*  
**AND MORE !**  
**205 Bingley Road**  
**01274 - 597140**

## **The SPA**

**21 Titus Street**  
**The Authentic Saltaire  
Village corner shop**  
Savouries, Frozen Food,  
Groceries, Sweets, Etc.  
**Mon-Sat 8.30am - 10pm**  
**Sunday 10am - 10pm**  
**01274- 826534**

## **VICAR'S**

**79 Victoria Road**  
**The café/bistro serving  
food for thought**  
ALL ages welcome  
**01274-597818**

## **SALTAIRE IN THE SIXTIES**

### **Subject of Brilliant New Book**

Author **Greg Thomson** was at the Saltaire Bookshop at the beginning of last month to introduce his new book *A Time in Our Lives*, which tells of his own teenage years, revolving to a large extent around the Youth Club run by the then Congregationalist Church. He warned his listeners (ie potential readers) not to expect "a barrel of laughs", for the book tells of life as it was at a particular time and place, tears and all.

*A Time in Our Lives* certainly is a feast for anyone with memories of, or an interest in, Sixties Saltaire. If the words fail to tug any heartstrings, the photographs will succeed (*Oh, that Sunday School building!*) Greg told the *Sentinel*, "I hope the book will resonate with many local people whose memories are similar to my own". On the evidence of the lively gathering that evening, he has no worries there – and to his own admitted surprise, sales were by that time already into three figures. Yet there is much more to the book than simple reminiscence:

This is not just a good book, it is a 'nice' book; many of the 'youngsters' featured still meet up on a regular basis and the author is keen to acknowledge their support and co-operation in the writing. Greg, who was born at the Crag End end of Shipley and now lives in Bingley, spent thirty-four years in youth work, ending his career, recently, as Chief Officer of a national youth homelessness charity and his concern for the young people of today shines through every word of his conversation. So when he writes of the friends, parents and other relatives, parents of friends, and the church youth group which shaped his life and those of his colleagues for the better and for ever after, it is in a positive, if not 'tutorial' tone, with no hint of the bitterly nostalgic indictment of the present which it might so easily have become. Meanwhile, for young and old alike – not forgetting all those of us who like to describe ourselves as "a bit of each" – here is a jolly good read!

A favourite character of mine in the book (as in real life) is "the delightfully funny, playful and pseudo rebellious" Dick Clark. It is so nice to know that *some* things have not changed.

*A Time in Our Lives*, written and published by Greg Thomson is available now from the Saltaire Bookshop – and a sequel is eagerly anticipated.

## **KNITTED RIVER PROJECT**

### **Claire and Maria make it clear:**

Taking water as your inspiration, knit squares or rectangles, any size from 4 x 6 inches in any shade of green and blue. These can be plain or beautifully embellished. Once you have made one don't stop. Keep knitting and see how many you can make.

Our aim is to have completed stitching together a 50 metre long knitted river by September which will then be displayed and embellished further at a workshop on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the Saltaire Arts Trail and Saltaire Festival.

Please either drop you completed squares into Knitterati on Wednesday mornings 10 - 12 at Vicars, or contact us and we will be happy to collect. Contact:

**maria@saltaireinspired.org.uk** or **07881874796**

From schools, after school and holiday clubs, knitting circles, brownies and guide groups, to social groups pick up your needles and start knitting. Pass on your skills and teach someone to knit!

Look out for more information around the Village.

## **SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP**

**217 Bingley Road**  
**Open Mon-Sat 10-5**  
**Thursdays until 8pm**

New and second hand books  
**Regular Free Events**  
**On Thursdays 6.30-8**  
Authors read and talk.  
**01274-589144**

## **SALTAIRE NEWSAGENTS**

**9 Victoria Road**  
Newspapers, sweets,  
tobacco etc. and a new  
line in cards.

**Daily door-to-door  
deliveries**

**Open 6am-5pm  
Mon-Sat**

**6am-2pm Sundays**  
**01274 - 595389**

## **MAGIC NUMBER THREE**

**2 Victoria Road**  
**Open Daily**  
Fantastic organics  
**01274-823092**

## **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](http://www.saltairvillage.info)

**OPEN SPACE**

**Transition Bradford**, part of the Transition Towns Network, set up recently to help unleash Bradford's collective genius, announces an Open Space Event on **Sunday June 8th**, 11am-4pm, at Bradford Arts and Resource Centre, 17-21 Chapel Street, Little Germany. Organiser Jonathan Pollard says "Transition Bradford is just getting underway. It's a chance for people both young and old, to put skills, experience, ideas and a little bit of their own genius into action."

**GALA**

Friends of Northcliffe have their annual Rae Gala on **Sunday, June 8th, 2-4.30pm**, in Northcliffe Woods, near the miniature railway. Admission is free, with disabled parking available. Attractions include ferret racing.

**CRICKET IN ROBERTS PARK**

First XI home fixtures this month  
Saturday 7th v Brighouse  
Sunday 15th v East Bierley  
Saturday 21st v Bowling Old Lane  
Sunday 22nd v Pudsey Congs  
*Refreshments in Half Moon*



*The Saltaire Sentinel*  
**JOHN NICHOLSON**  
**POETRY PRIZE**  
**2008**  
**SPECIAL EVENT**

Our Poetry Prize seeks to encourage the writing of verse on a local theme, taking its name from the self-proclaimed 'Airedale Poet' who died in tragic circumstances on the bank of the river, near what is now the bottom of Victoria Road. Poems are invited, with a view to publication in these pages, from any *Sentinel* reader and there are no stipulations regarding length or form, although subject matter should be restricted to Saltaire and/or Airedale.

This year, in association with David Ford, there will be a special event at the Saltaire Bookshop, where entrants will be able to read and discuss their work with a public audience.

Final arrangements will be announced next month, but the event will be **an evening in August** (before the Festival gets under way). Entries may be submitted at any time, either by e-mail to the *Sentinel* OR handed in at the bookshop.

**MEANWHILE AT THE BOOKSHOP**

The Saltaire Bookshop, 217 Bingley Road

**Thursday June 5th. Tricia Platts** will be reading from her book "Bradford in the First World War". A must for those with long memories and an interest in the Bradford Pals and those who lost family members in the war. 6.30-8pm. **Free**

**Thursday June 19th. Rubina Khan**, creator of the "Yarnspinners" takes us on an oral tour of Bradford. Rubina will surprise you with her writings on the secret city. 6.30-8pm. **Free**

**Forthcoming:** Thursday July 3rd. 6.30-8pm. **Ian Clayton** reads from his jazz book, now out in paperback "Bringing it all back home" and shares his witty and wry observations of Yorkshire characters from his programme "My Yorkshire".

**Please note:** there is a £4 charge for this event. Tickets available in advance at the shop or on the door. 6.30-8pm

**SALTAIRE**  
**HISTORY CLUB**

**Thursday, June 26th,**  
**7pm.**

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

The club meetings are informal gatherings over light refreshments -ALL WELCOME.

Further information from **Dave Shaw**  
(mobile:) 07736 408339

[daveshaw@saltairvillage.info](mailto:daveshaw@saltairvillage.info)

**'BANDSTAND'**

**FULL PROGRAMME**

FREE music every Sunday from 2.30pm this Summer, with refreshments served in the Half Moon Café.

**June**

- 1st Hall Royd Brass Band**
- 8th GMC Jazz**
- 15th Bradford Youth Concert Band**
- 22nd Aire Valley Singers**
- 29th Creek Alley Western Line Dancers (Starts at 1pm)**

**July**

- 6th Hot Aire (Big Band)**
- 13th Nigel Gotteri (Organ Recital)**
- 20th Voice Male/Achord - in close harmony**
- 27th Jazz Duo Darren Dutson-Bromley & Fiona Pearson**

**August**

- 3rd Otra (folk)**
- 10th Fairburn Singers & Midnight Special (bluesy rock)**
- 17th Nick Watts (piano) & Scott Clifford (flute) (classical duets)**
- 24th First Quarter (jazzy standards) & Fiona Katie Roberts (harp)**
- 31st The Al Bridger Trio (Top local jazz)**

**Watch this space** for dates, news and reviews.

**WORLD HERITAGE**

**WHEELIE**

Does NOT talk rubbish



**"Try not to look sheepish - the needles are out!"**

***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.