

# Saltaire Sentinel

*Your Lion of*

VIGILANCE

*Published monthly*

## PARK PROM PLAN TREE REFEREE REQUIRED

*The paper  
that could  
only be in  
Saltaire*

### BE AS FIT AS A COMMANDO

'Commando Fit' fitness events, based on a military theme and using locations around Roberts Park are now available every Monday and Thursday evening at 7pm and Saturday mornings at 9am, thanks to **Joseph Rayner**, who assures us that "the sessions will not only improve the health of Saltaire residents but will also promote the social element as we aim to have a monthly social gathering".

### SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mr Robin Sisson, following a road accident in Sheffield. An expert on Handel's music, railway buff - and pianist at Fanny's Ale House - Mr Sisson was a well known and popular local character.

Discussion documents tabled by Bradford Council at the recent meeting of the Saltaire Project Team, outlining a vision of Victoria Road as "The Promenade to the Park", have enlivened the debate about trees at the heart of the Village.

Should the Council's proposals be agreed and implemented, over fifty trees would be felled, of which more than half would be replaced from a choice of alternative species, which "need to be appropriate for the location and easier to manage for the future".

Stage One would concentrate on Victoria Square, between Victoria Hall and the old school (now College), building and Phase Two, some two years later, would have an enhanced appearance of Alexandria Square, where the almshouses are, as its focus.

### SECOND OPINION

Serious reservations were immediately expressed about the four phase aspect of the proposed works, which would take up to eight years, not least because no realistic plan for funding is as yet forthcoming. Meanwhile, some members of the Team, not satisfied with the

Council's explanation of health grounds for the 'pre-emptive' loss of two trees one Sunday morning (reported on our front page for May), are calling for a second opinion on the necessity of felling. **Eddie Lawler** is to ask Shipley College to provide an arboreal expert to act as "referee" throughout the whole process.

### MASTERPLAN

The 'Masterplan' for the 'The Promenade', of which the trees form only a part, also includes exciting ideas for the reinstatement of walls, railings and cobbles and "rationalised" signage in keeping with the rest of the street furniture. A road platform with setts is proposed at the junctions with both Saltaire and Bingley Roads.

### LANTERNS

Improved visibility "along the road and beyond" is, as might be expected, crucial to the Promenade Plan and helps to explain the removal of big trees. As for those dangerously dark nights, existing lampposts would be removed and replaced with "bespoke columns and lanterns to historic design". [A few more would be welcome, for health and safety reasons - *Ed*]

### In this issue

FETE - PICTURE

Plus

PAVILION PAINTING

Plus

LORD MAYOR -TWICE

Plus

ALL OUR USUAL

UNUSUALS

### WELL DONE, DENISE

Mrs Denise Hibbert has resigned from the Committee of Saltaire Village Society, after serving it loyally since its inception in 1985. "Resounding thanks" were expressed at the Society's Annual General Meeting to Mrs Hibbert, whose many, varied contributions to the welfare of the Village have, indeed, been invaluable - and include much appreciated support for this newspaper.

### NEW ERA

The Village Society entered a new era at its AGM on June 2nd, with a new venue, at Salts Sports Club, and a new Constitution, as well as four new committee members. **Elaine Gilligan**, who remains Chair, reported on the end of a very active year for the Society and looked hopefully to another.

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

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

Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup>

## **EDITORIAL**

The annual Village Fete once again draws attention to the important role, in local community activities, of the building and grounds of Saltaire United Reformed Church. Less obvious, but not to be overlooked or unappreciated, are the efforts of the church membership, without which this, and many other events, would not be possible.

It is to be hoped that the building will feature regularly, in an increasingly positive light, in these pages next year as it celebrates its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary with a programme of concerts and other public invitations of the kind for which it is already so well known.

Meanwhile, the building is open most afternoons through the Summer, and the downstairs café whenever possible, thanks entirely to the commitment of a small, voluntary staff drawn from the congregation, catering both physically and spiritually to the needs of local people and visitors alike. In such ways, as well as the featuring of its façade on so many tourist publications, Saltaire United Reformed Church fulfills the obligations placed upon it by its position at the geographical heart of a World Heritage Site.

It is arguably the appearance of the church, both inside and out, and its impressive setting (not forgetting the bells) that make it a popular venue for weddings and baptisms.

Most importantly of all, however, the *building* continues to fulfill the purpose for which it was built by opening its doors to everyone for worship every Sunday morning. (Services commence at 10.30am.)

Many people have no interest in even a single visit to 'Church', and it is not easy for 'Church', with its overall reputation and outdated ritual, to entice them. Yet anyone in need of non-judgemental, uplifting fellowship – a lesson, in fact, in real Christianity at work – will find it among the *people* of Saltaire United Reformed Church – and I am happy to add the testimony of personal experience to that recommendation.

*James Duncan*

## **VICTORIAN VILLAGE FETE IS A VICTORY**



A Victorian theme brought colourful costumes and recreational reminiscence to this year's Village Fete, hosted by Saltaire United Reformed Church. The church grounds were once again packed with visitors making modest purchases, enjoying the varied entertainment and scooping up prizes. Although it was not the sunniest day of the year, both the wind and the rain held off for the duration and a 'jolly good time', as always, was had by all. Especially nice to see was **Bert Thornton**, accompanied by his wife Sheila, celebrating his ninety-first birthday.

*Left:* Minister's son **Daniel Breeze** savours what he assures us is "a genuine Victorian cup of tea" while taking a well earned break from hard work on the Hoop-La.

### *Rachel Noble*

#### *Writes*

#### **On the Tramway**

My five year old niece Holly often likes to visit my husband and I in Saltaire. There are a number of things she loves about the visit – our cellar, which seems strangely fascinating to her; feeding the ducks at the canal (but never the pigeons); and climbing up and down on the rocks at Shipley Glen. But for her, nothing is as fun as travelling on the Shipley Glen tramway. We took her on it when she first visited, as a sort of novelty experience. The next time, she demanded we go up again. She was especially happy at Christmas when the tramway became the 'Santa Special' and she got to talk to Santa himself and received a present. Despite the journey taking little more than a few minutes and travelling a distance of a quarter of a mile, she spends the entire time in what I can only describe as rapturous wonder, as the cable tramway pulls us up the hill.

The tramway is an important part of Saltaire's tourist attractions, and runs most weekends throughout the year, with special events held around Easter and Christmas. It is run entirely by volunteers, who give up their time to ensure that the tramway is able to continue operating. It was built in 1895 and retains much of its Victorian charm today through the museum and traditional sweet shop.

I think I can be confident in saying that Holly's enjoyment does not come from an understanding of funicular engineering or its history in being Britain's oldest tramway - she just loves the experience. I hope that it continues for another 100 years, so that more people can enjoy it and she can come and bring her own children to visit. And secretly, it's not only children that love travelling on it. My husband and I have been known to catch it without our niece on a few occasions – not that we would ever admit it to her.

### **Rambling Club Gives Better Way to Countryside**

**Writes Ray Wilkes**

With oil prices soaring and concerns about the environment, many people are trying to cut their fuel use. Around here in Saltaire it is fairly easy to switch to train, bus, cycling or walking. But supposing you want to go out into the countryside you will need your car won't you? Think again! By catching a train to Shipley or Bingley you can connect with the Settle Carlisle railway which gives easy access to the western Dales. There are also buses to the Dales from Skipton and Ilkley (see [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org) for details). In fact our rail and bus network gives access to most of the English countryside and much of the rest of the UK.

If the £15 a day cost of owning a car is too onerous, then Saltaire and Shipley are good places to live. There is another good way of reaching the countryside. If you like walking, Bradford CHA Rambling Club provides guided walks and the transport needs are taken care of by our hired coach or by public transport. The coach gives you a relaxing chauffeured service to the walk start and picks you up at the end. No need to do a circular walk back to a car. If you do not like guided walks you can do your own walk and still use the coach.

Information from [www.bradfordwalking.org](http://www.bradfordwalking.org)

The club always has an exciting programme of walks and in the Autumn we are starting the Pennine Way to be done in stages of about one walk a month. It would be very satisfying to do it in one go but for most people this would mean a 3 week holiday costing over £1000 so it makes sense to do it our way and save your holiday money for another part of our lovely countryside. If you would like to walk with us, please have a look at our website. Alternatively ring (01274) 403540 for more details.

## **SALTS**

### **MILL**

**Opened 1853  
and still**

**Open Every Day**

Attractions include

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*Cafe in to the  
Opera*

**SALTAIRE HISTORY  
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**Open Daily**

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## **The SPA**

**21 Titus Street**

**The Authentic Saltire  
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**

## **PAINTING THE PAVILION**



Students from the Arts and Design programme at Shipley College were hard at work last month, with Course Tutor **Hayley Perry**, painting shutters on the pavilion and scoreboard of Saltire Cricket Club in Roberts Park.

"All the students were involved from the planning stage and designed the pictures themselves," said Hayley, "An awful lot of thought, as well as work, has been involved because we didn't want something that looked like graffiti. We wanted something simple and tasteful – very traditional, because that's what local people like".

**Billy Ricketts**, the Club's groundsman, told us "The students have been fantastic. There's an amazing amount of talent around. There has been a lot of trouble in the park, giving young people in general a bad name, but what these students are doing really promotes the positive side of youth".

Hayley, who invited the *Sentinel* to view the work in progress, summed it up nicely: "**Shipley College is all about community**".

Our picture shows, from left to right: **Raheema Ebrahim, Samantha Thomas and Katherine Jones**.

Manor Paint Solutions of Shipley (who sponsor the cricket club) provided all the paint and equipment free as well as a lot of helpful advice, particularly with regard to health and safety issues

## **TWO WALKS ACROSS THE SANDS**

Bradford's Lord Mayor, Councillor Howard Middleton, will be taking part in a walk across Morecambe Bay on Saturday, August 9th. and hopes that local people will join him to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal in aid of the Bradford branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

More information on the walk is available from Alexis Jenner, Lord Mayor's Appeal co-ordinator, on (01274) 434965.

The following day, Sunday August 10th, is this year's date for the annual walk across the bay organised by Shipley Support for Manorlands. Places are strictly limited, but Mrs Amy Booth (01535 273979) will know how many are available.

A book fair and coffee morning in the York Room, Victoria Hall, on **Saturday, July 12th**, from 11am until 2pm, will mark the end of Dementia Awareness Week, raise funds for the appeal, and provide an opportunity to meet the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Admission is free.

## **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**

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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)

**SINGERS SUPERB**

The Aire Valley Singers gave a triumphant first performance (anywhere by anybody) of *The Poppy Field* by Margaret Haley in St. Paul's Church, Kirkgate on Saturday, June 28th. The piece was written for and with them this year as part of the Adopt a Composer scheme, which pairs emerging composers with ensembles.

Elizabeth Jane Noble, who wrote the poem chosen for the setting, on hearing the complete work for the first time, told this reporter she found the performance "absolutely superb".

Like all Premiership teams, AVS finished their season with a fixture filled week. On Sunday they had braved the Saltaire Bandstand crowd and on Thursday had sung before the Lord Mayor at City Hall. [They said later that they were very sorry about this. Had they known that the Lord Mayor was intending to sing they would, of course, have let him go first. This is the *Sentinel*, where authentic Victorian jokes live on!]

**CRICKET IN ROBERTS PARK**

**First XI home fixtures this month**

**Saturday 5th**

v Woodlands

**Saturday 19th**

v Cleckheaton



*The Saltaire Sentinel*  
**JOHN NICHOLSON**

**POETRY PRIZE**

**2008**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**Thursday, August 21st 6.30-8pm**

**Saltaire Bookshop, 217 Bingley 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. ALL entrants will have the opportunity to read and discuss their work with a public audience at this event. Alternatively, arrangements will be made for suitable poems to be read by someone else, if they are submitted with a request to that effect.

The event will be FREE and open to the public.

**Entries may be submitted at any time, either by e-mail to the *Sentinel* OR handed in at the bookshop.**

[The annual John Nicholson 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. The *Sentinel* picture of Nicholson (above) is an electronic adaptation of the engraving by W.O.Geller.]

**MEANWHILE AT THE BOOKSHOP**

**Thursday July 3rd.** Ian Clayton reads from his jazz book, now out in paperback *Bringing it all back home*.

**Thursday July 10th.** Susan Rathmell talks about the new series of Pevsner Guides she has edited. A must for fans of architecture and local buildings. 6.30-8pm. **Free**

**Thursday July 17th.** Rev. Dennis Shaw reads from his very funny book about his life as a vicar, *2A Dangerous Fool: Eighty Years in the Church of England*. 6.30-8pm. **Free**

**Thursday July 24th.** Nick Toczek reads some his much loved poetry for adults.

**Forthcoming:** Thursday July 3rd. Ann Dinsdale from the **Bronte Society** talks about the famous literary family.

**- AND SPEAKING OF THE BRONTES**

Eddie Lawler's musical *Bells*, premiered in 2001, has been revised for 2008, and will be performed after dark in the appropriately atmospheric United Reformed Church, as part of the Saltaire Festival, on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September** at 7.30pm. "In this version," says Eddie, "the Saltaire bellringers go on a so-called 'tower-grab' to ring at Haworth church – and ring more Bells than they had anticipated! Faint hearts bring your own fibrillator!"

The show then goes "on tour" to West Lane Chapel, Haworth (!) (£5/£3), with a cameo version at Ilkley Literature Festival on Saturday October 4th.

**'BANDSTAND' PROGRAMME**

FREE music every Sunday from 2.30pm. in Roberts Park. (If wet, in Half Moon Cafe.)

**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

**Nigel Gotteri** makes a welcome return to the Bandstand this month.

As the performance is billed as an 'Organ Rectial', readers should be warned not to expect a Wurlitzer – this year, at least. A better perception will be gained if we disclose that Mr Phil Fluke turns as handle on the side while Mr Gotteri plays – although, strictly speaking, this is no more true than the rumour that the editor of the *Sentinel* sits on top, wearing a fancy hat and rattling a tin mug. Never mind, a Harmonium recital is something to celebrate – not least in the hometown of the world famous Reed Organ and Harmonium Museum – especially the way Nigel plays.

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

**WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE**

Does **NOT** talk rubbish



**"At last, my chance to join the Promenaders!"**

***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.