

The **Saltaire Sentinel**  
*Your Lion of* **VIGILANCE** *Published monthly*

# A FESTIVE FIRST

## VILLAGE SOCIETY SINGSONG

*Seasonal  
 Sentinel  
 Greetings  
 to All*

### HISTORY CLUB

Saltaire History Club meets on Thursday, December 9th, 7-9pm at Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Road. Celebrated industrial historian Mike Clarke will talk about the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and Eugene Nicholson, of Bradford Industrial Museum, will be bringing along a selection of curiosity items for the Christmas Quiz. There will also be chance to catch up on the latest history findings over mince pies and tea – and it's all free!

There are three events this month where your presence will be very much appreciated and you will be given a warm welcome, says Rob Martin of Saltaire Village Society. A complementary drink will be served in the Evans Room, Victoria Hall from 5pm on Friday, 3rd with songs by Champagne Perry from 6pm and the music of Hall Royd Brass Band to accompany the Grand Christmas Tree Light Switch On at 6:25.

There will also be music at the Bandstand on 14<sup>th</sup> [See page 4 col.1]. Finally, on Christmas Eve we have Carol and seasonal song singing following the Advent Calendar windows (probably not in numerical order) starting at 7pm from 1 Myrtle Place. You don't need to be a "good singer" or know all the words - just a bit of enthusiasm and a warm coat.

**This is the start of a Saltaire tradition. Be one of the first!**

**In this issue  
 AS MUCH AS  
 THERE IS ROOM  
 FOR - AND MORE  
 Plus  
 ALL OUR USUAL  
 UNUSUALS**

### ADVENT LIGHTS

This year's annual Living Advent Calendar starts with a design by Saltaire Primary School pupils in the school window on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Each evening until Christmas Eve, one more of twenty-three further designs around the Village will be illuminated. A printed map of the locations, with a handy list of other December events, will also be distributed to local houses and be available from outlets in the Village.

David Starley

### BANDS IN ABUNDANCE

Leeds Concert Band will be giving a Christmas Concert For All the Family at Saltaire United Reformed Church on Saturday, December 18th at 7.00pm. Admission is £5 (£4 concessions) and all proceeds will benefit the church's restoration fund. Contact [steph@leedsconcertband.org](mailto:steph@leedsconcertband.org). There is more news of band concerts on page four, but front page news this month is Congratulations to our own Hammonds Saltaire Band, overall winner of the Northern Open Championship, held in St Helens last month.

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

[saltairesentinel@btinternet.com](mailto:saltairesentinel@btinternet.com)

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

## **VICTORIA** **TEAROOMS**

**8 Victoria Road**  
**Open Daily**

Coffee, tea, cakes, scones,  
snacks and novelty gifts  
**01274 - 823092**

## **PETER** **RANDALL**

**Gentleman's**  
**Hairdresser**

**PICTURE FRAMING**  
**HOUSE SIGNS**  
**AND MUCH MORE !**  
**205 Bingley Road**  
**01274 - 597140**

## **The SPA**

**21 Titus Street**  
**The Authentic**  
**Village corner shop**  
**Open Mon-Sat**  
**8am-10pm**  
**Sun. 10am-10pm**  
**01274 - 826534**

## **SALTS** **MILL**

**Opened in 1853 and**  
**still**  
**Open Every Day**  
**Attractions include:**  
**SALT'S DINER**  
**Cafe in to**  
**the Opera**  
**SALTAIRE HISTORY**  
**EXHIBITION**  
**1853 Gallery**  
**THE HOME**  
and many other, varied  
retail outlets  
**ADMISSION FREE**  
**01274 - 531163**

# **THE REVEREND COWAN'S TOPPERS**

**PAST, PRESENT - AND FUTURE, WE HOPE !**

Salts Walks have been promoting tourism in Saltaire since 1996. In 2006, costumed tours were introduced and guides have turned back the clock to 1877 for thousands of children and adults. The Victorian characters have assumed a reality for the guides too, and the Rev David Cowan, Minister for Saltaire Congregational Church (aka **Roger Clarke**) contacted the *Sentinel* with some good news. "Previously my children were being bullied in school, and my servant threatened to leave my wife to care for our new baby single-handed", he said. All due to a top hat which was so battered that the Reverend began to find excuses not to wear it. Fortunately Mrs Caroline Hill, wife of the Head of Security for Salts Mill (aka **Sally Clegg**) came to the rescue. So grateful for her Minister's support in managing her unhappiness after moving from her life in India, and her subsequent dependence on laudanum, she gave him a thoughtful Christmas present – a new, black, shiny silk hat. "This delightful lady has saved my reputation", says the Minister (although Village opinion suggests the opposite). The significance of the top hat was **researched by Roger Clarke** and shared with the *Sentinel*.

As the owner of a top hat which can occasionally be seen around the village, my eye was caught by a brief history by John Berendt.

It seems that the fashion was first worn in the street by a haberdasher named John Hetherington in London, and it caused a riot! A newspaper account described how passers-by panicked, women fainted, children screamed, dogs yelped, and an errand boy's arm was broken when he was trampled by the mob. I think that we need to take account of journalistic dramatic effect here, but Hetherington was then taken to Court for "wearing a tall structure, having a shining lustre calculated to frighten timid people".

This event must have occurred around 1830. From 1790, hat crowns had been getting taller, usually made of beaver, felt or straw, and unpolished. By 1830, it was common for "hatter's plush" (a fine silk shag) to be used, and from this time top hats became the height of fashion. It was taken to extremes by the French dandy's of the time (called "the Incroyables") who wore hats with flared crowns and swooping brims, of such outlandish dimensions that there was no room for them in cloakrooms.

In 1850, Prince Albert began to wear the shiny British top hat, and the fashion was established through until the end of the century. It practically wiped out the beaver trapping industry in America.

How you wore the topper was critical. The style had been set by a portrait of Lord Ribblesdale by John Singer Sargent, in which the hat is worn tilted forward and to one side at an angle of about 10 degrees. This was seen as a study in refined self assurance, and every gentleman was keen to cultivate the look. The term "high hat" came to signify arrogance and snobbishness.

Top hat primacy came to an end at about 1905, when the homburg made an appearance on the fashion scene. However, the top hat had a brief come back with Fred Astaire, who wore it in a dozen Movies (notably "Top Hat"), when it was worn at a jaunty, almost rakish angle – which is, of course, how I wear mine!



**Lookalikes?** *Left: Revd Cowan with his hat at a "jaunty, almost rakish angle" and Right: a detail from the portrait of Lord Ribblesdale, setting the style, by John Singer Sargent. What do you think, readers? Come to that, what do you think of costumed characters touring the Village?-Ed*





**SALTS MILL**  
**Late Night**  
**Opening**  
**Thursday**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

All shops, galleries & restaurants open until 9pm (Last food orders 8pm.) Join us for complimentary drinks, nibbles & music – & some fantastic special offers.

**HAMMONDS**  
**SALTAIRE BAND**  
 will strike up for a very special festive concert in the 1853 Gallery at 7:30pm - entry free.

Special offers for the night include 10% off all purchases at the 1853 Gallery and Salts Book & Poster Shop. And why not try a two-course candlelit supper in Café in to the Opera - £14.95 inc. a glass of wine. (Booking for both the Diner & the Café is advised)

**Parking at Salts** is, as ever, free. In the evening, you can drive all the way up past the chimney and park directly outside the main entrance.

[www.saltsmill.org.uk](http://www.saltsmill.org.uk)  
 Tel 01274 531163

**ARTS TRAIL IS ON THE MOVE**

For the last four years, the Saltaire Arts Trail has enjoyed a successful partnership with the Saltaire Festival, but it is now expanding to become an event in its own right and from next year will move to the Bank Holiday weekend, May 28th to 30th inclusive. We have some exciting ideas for the coming year and are looking forward to putting them in place. As in previous years there will be the popular Makers' Fair in Victoria Hall and the Open Houses where houses in the village are transformed into unique galleries. Artists and makers interested in exhibiting at these events can go online (<http://www.saltaireartstrail.co.uk>) and complete our application form. The closing date for applications is the January 15th 2011. We are now looking for houses in the Village to participate in the Open Houses for the May event. We will provide each house with artists and makers, public liability insurance and someone to show you the ropes. Our family events are also looking for a volunteer co-ordinator. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact us as soon as possible. So, if *you* are interested in any of the above, please email us at [hello@saltaireartstrail.co.uk](mailto:hello@saltaireartstrail.co.uk). **Paula Dunn**

**WURLITZER VIRTUOSO VISITS**

It's A Wurlitzer Christmas at the Victoria Hall when international virtuoso Richard Hills FRCO visits 'In Concert' at 2:30pm on **Sunday, December 12th**. The Cinema Organ Society are pleased to bring our year of events here in Saltaire to a close with such a highly acclaimed artist, making a most welcome return. Richard has a long association with the Cinema Organ Society, currently being the society's Musical Advisor. He will be joined by Choristers of Bradford Cathedral for seasonal items. The Society is already looking forward to next year, with a wide range of events planned to build on its success in Saltaire, and looks to expand its involvement with local groups. **Tickets** are available at £8.00 by telephoning **0845 400 2208** or on the door from 2:00pm Seasonal refreshments will be available. Thank You to all who have supported the Cinema Organ Society during the year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Peter Rushton** Cinema Organ Society, Saltaire.

**LIVING ADVENT LIGHTS ONLINE**

For further details see the Saltaire Inspired website: [www.saltaireinspired.org.uk](http://www.saltaireinspired.org.uk)

**MAGIC**  
**NUMBER**  
**THREE**

**2 Victoria Road**  
**Open Tues-Sun**  
**01274 - 587313**

**CAROLINE**  
**STREET**  
**SOCIAL CLUB**

next to the car park always has a warm welcome for all **Regular Events**  
**01274 - 585140**

**VICARS**  
**Café Bistro**  
**79 Victoria Road**  
*"Pop in and see us!"*  
**01274 - 597818**

**ADVERTISING**

All the establishments featured in the 'small ads' on these pages serve as outlets for this newspaper and are promoted on that basis. **Please note: space in the *Sentinel* is not for sale, but neither is it offered free for commercial advertising.**

*The*  
***Saltaire Sentinel***  
 can now also be picked up from:  
**Saltaire UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**Saltaire POST OFFICE VICTORIA HALL**

**Saltaire MEDICAL PRACTICE**  
**Shipley LIBRARY**

## Notices - News - Announcements - News - Notices

### VILLAGE WEBSITE

The *Saltaire Sentinel* is available online, via the not for profit Saltaire Village Website, thanks entirely to Pamela Reynolds, who manages and maintains the site at

[www.saltairevillage.info](http://www.saltairevillage.info)

### NEWS REPORTERS ALWAYS WANTED

To fulfill its role as the local community newspaper, the *Saltaire Sentinel* needs to contain reports as well as promotions. It is always pleased to hear from readers who would be willing to provide write-ups, on their own initiative and/or when requested, conduct interviews and accept invitations to various events on the editor's behalf.

### SALTAIRE POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONTACT POINT

At entrance to Salts Mill  
Wednesday 10am-1p.m.  
01274 537416  
[contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:contactsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk)

**Cuppacare**, in New Kirkgate, Shipley, is a non-profit enterprise kept open from 10am until 1.30pm on Mondays and Fridays by Shipley Christians Together as "the café with a heart in the heart of town".

### **BURNS UNIT APPEAL EVENTS IN VICTORIA HALL**

Organised by HTG Events  
Admission free

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Thursday, 9th from 7pm.

In partnership with the YoYo restaurant bar

### **CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Sunday, 12th 9am - 1pm.

### **KATH LIBBERT DOUBLE**

Kath Libbert's famous Jewellery Gallery on the second floor at Salts Mill has two exhibitions running until January 30th. *Cool Construct - New Kids On The Block* is inspired by all things urban and architectural and Kath tells us, "There will be some amazing pieces on show - skyscraper rings, graffiti inspired brooches, and oversized geometric diamond necklaces! As all the jewellers are recent graduates, there's lots of exciting new talent. Alongside all this, there's a dash of dramatic glamour with *Black & Bling* - a sparkling Christmas showcase featuring four distinguished jewellers. For a full web catalogue, see [www.kathlibbertjewellery.co.uk](http://www.kathlibbertjewellery.co.uk)

### **WRITING WORKSHOP IN HALL**

**Diana Finn** (winner of the *Saltaire Sentinel* John Nicholson Poetry Prize) is organising a creative writing workshop on **Saturday, December 11th** (10.00am-1.00pm) at Victoria Hall, for novice and more experienced writers. Diana, who is currently working on a novel based in Victorian Saltaire, tells us, "This is a pilot event and I am hoping to gain funding to run other such workshops at Victoria Hall. As a gesture of support, the management have provided the Dale Room at a half-price fee this time. I am really grateful for this! I am donating 25% of the fees to the United Reformed Church's Education Centre." The fee is £20.00 (£9.00 for unwaged/students etc.) To book or for details: [dianafinn1@sky.com](mailto:dianafinn1@sky.com) 07586857450.

PLEASE SUPPORT:

### **FARMERS' MARKET**

**Saturday,  
December 18th  
9am - 3pm  
Caroline Street  
car park**

### **CHRISTMAS BRASS**

Hall Royd Band will be playing carols in the illuminated Bandstand on **Tuesday December 14th**. The event begins at 6pm with mulled wine and snacks on sale at the Half Moon Cafe and promises to finish in time for people to get to the United Reformed Church for the **Otley Brass Band** and **Baldon Ladies' Choir** at 7.30.

### WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Join in the singing? OK:  
We'er 'as ta bin  
si' I saw thee?"

*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.