

The Sentinel

Your Lion of **VIGILANCE** *Published monthly*

DAVID NO SCROOGE BRIAN WINS DICKENS OF A PRIZE

**HAPPY
NEWS
YEAR**
FOR THE TENTH
TIME, READERS



In this issue
CAROLINE CLUB
Plus
SPECIAL OFFER
Plus
**ALL OUR USUAL
UNUSUALS**

**STORY
SO FAR**

Yes, folks, the *Sentinel* is now in its tenth year. Our celebrations begin this month with two new features: A series in which Roger Clarke "spills the beans" on our "story so far" and a slightly bigger, brighter World Heritage Wheelie. We continue to rely on our readers to read (*obviously!*) as well as to help to provide the content which justifies our claim to be the Village's Community Newspaper. **All contributions gratefully received!**

Saltaire Bookshop added a twist to last year's Living Advent Calendar by turning their entry into a Christmas quiz, writes David Ford.

The shop's window depicted four panels showing cryptic clues to the four ghosts in Dickens' seasonal book *A Christmas Carol*, which competitors were invited to identify. Our photograph shows David (right), who owns the shop, presenting the prize, an illustrated

edition of the book, to winner **Brian Jeffery**. The Living Advent Calendar has now become an annual event, organised by *Saltaire Inspired*, in which houses and shops throughout Saltaire volunteer to paint and design windows representing each of the twenty-four days of Advent. The Saltaire Bookshop, at 1, Myrtle Place, deals in new and second-hand books and is open from 10am until 5pm Monday to Saturday.

**ARTS
TRAIL**

The organisers of the now well established Saltaire Arts Trail, which will be held this year during the Bank Holiday weekend of May 5th -7th, are now looking for houses to participate. If you are interested in taking part by opening your house or would like more details, including the chance to talk to someone who has previously opened their house, please email: **hello@saltaireartstrail.co.uk** before Saturday 14th.

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

SENTINEL STORY

On the right we begin a new monthly series in which **Roger Clarke** reveals previously unpublished truths about this newspaper.

The hope is that his efforts will result in a book to celebrate ten years of the *Sentinel* in 2013. Suggestions from readers are always welcome.

CHAP POKED A FORTNIT SIN

Roger Clarke's research has led him to believe that Titus Salt was a shrewd, hard-headed businessman whose vision in creating Saltaire was to gather together a sober, healthy, dependable workforce to work at a high level of efficiency to produce his alpaca worsted. But he was also a deeply religious man with an awareness of the plight of the population in the purgatory which was Bradford in the middle of the 19th century. He had a genuine desire to improve the lot of his workers by giving them improved housing, better education, leisure, environment and an improved quality of life.

All in all, despite a tendency to over-control his workers and restrict their freedom, a pretty good guy. Not many people can boast such positive achievements in one lifetime. Imagine Roger's surprise to discover the following satirical item in "**The Voice of the People and the Labour Advocate**", 1857, which lampoons Salt's motives. It suggests that Titus Salt (Tim Pepper) gave his workers treats such as a trip to Malham, and then took every opportunity to recoup the cost of his liberality. Saltaire is called "Peppertaan" in the article. "Na then, Tim thout 'twere time to get back t'brass he liggid aat e plessur trips and sturs, so he began dockin 'twage, an poking (sacking) t'high wage chaps to make low wage uns tak their places; an for flaid 'thands sud'nt du wark eniff, he got pieces o'wood made, an gev em to t'overlookers, an nobuddy cud go to't privy withaat assin t'overlooker fur a pass, as he mud know ha long they'd bin; so if a boddy wor poorly, an stopp't oer long, they wur in danger o getting t'sack - - - If anny on em gets a pint or two o'ale at neet after wark, they got poked. A chap wur poked a fortnit sin fur that crime. Another chap has flitted there wi his wauf and two lasses, and got fifty shillin i't week atween them, dus'nt get thirty na, nor near it, for all fower on 'em, an three-an-sixpence i't week aat o' that for rent; an they ar'nt alla'ad to sell ought if they live in a cottage haase; they mun tak a shop at a ho (high) rent to do that." **Roger hopes that the rules were relaxed for the New Year!**

THE STORY OF THE SENTINEL

By Roger Clarke

This is the newspaper which the Victorians should have written, in the manner in which they would have written it.

When James Duncan came to live in Saltaire he saw it as a small Victorian town, which, to his mind, should have its own newspaper, and he set about capturing the nature of such a publication. Saltaire had a character all of its own, and the character of the Village was to be embodied in the *Sentinel*. The content of such a paper would have upheld standards, righted wrongs and triumphed community pride and involvement. It would have had standing and authority, and spoken out against injustice. It would have been the people's paper, independent, free from vested interests, and ready to speak the truth whatever the consequences. With such ideals the *Sentinel* had to have its own language, laced with Victorian pomposity and verbosity. Yet, however much James had his tongue in his cheek in creating the *Sentinel* in 2003, the following eight years have demonstrated the importance of having a local free, paper which represents integrity, honesty and free speech - hopefully as relevant in the 21st century as they were in the 19th.

NEW LIGHT SHED ON TITUS' ACQUISITIONS

Roger Clarke reviews an exciting new book by a fellow historian:

Ian Watson follows leads and clues, sifts evidence, and spends time in archives and on the internet, to give us insights into the life and thinking of the most private of individuals, Titus Salt. His most recent contribution to the story has never been researched so thoroughly before. He has chosen to look at the very earliest period in Saltaire history when Titus' ideas for his model village were taking shape.

"The Land Acquisitions of Titus Salt in Shipley and Baildon" (Price £4, 40 pages with colour photographs and available at local outlets) examines his purchases and sales of land between 1850 and 1874. It suggests that Titus had only a general idea of what he wanted to create in Saltaire – and that there may have been no detailed blueprint. His original ideas were much more extensive, and included a hotel, a covered market, an abattoir and housing for up to 10,000 workers. What he could actually afford to build depended on the geography of the site, on the economic conditions prevailing at the time, but also on what land was available to him. He was ever the pragmatist and an opportunist, buying land and adapting his ideas as he went along, as possible solutions to practical problems occurred to him. For example, Ian shows that his first purchases were not in Shipley at all – they were on the Baildon side of the river, which makes one wonder if he first considered building his Mill there! Titus was a speculator, and his Baildon purchases eventually resulted in the building of the residences at Ferniehurst, The Knoll and Milner Field and linking them via the Coach Road with the Mill. It is doubtful that he ever had a grand plan for this development. Titus was also a patient man - some of his final purchases were to complete the building of Gordon Terrace, with the corner plot at the junction of Saltaire Road and Bingley Road not being acquired until eight years after the rest had been built, and just two years before he died.

The book is in two parts, looking first at Shipley and then at Baildon.

The Shipley section considers the exact position of the Mill; the bridging of the river, canal and railway; the layout of the houses; and the alignment of the roads (especially Victoria Road, which Ian shows did not follow the line of the original Dixons Mill Lane). The road bridge over the river had to be re-aligned and Ian details this too. In fact, Titus' land acquisitions in Baildon were more extensive than those in Shipley. In Baildon he bought at least 250 acres over a 16 year period, compared with just over 100 acres in Shipley. It extends as far as Charlestown in Baildon, and Ian adds a postscript to explain how there was a second Roberts Park off Otley Road which Bertram Roberts gave to Baildon residents for recreational purposes.

How many *Sentinel* readers knew that, I wonder?

SALT POTS STUDIO OPENS - WITH OFFER

Salt Pots Ceramic Studio – featured in last October's *Sentinel* - is now open on the first floor of the Butterfly Rooms, Gordon Terrace for paint your own pottery, pottery painting parties for all ages and personalised commissions.

Anyone mentioning the *Saltaire Sentinel* will be given a 10% discount off the price of pottery bought and any party package booked in advance.

Please see www.saltpots.co.uk for more details or email hello@saltpots.co.uk

CUPPACARE The café and bookstall in New Kirkgate, Shipley, is a non-profit enterprise, run by Shipley Christians Together, open 10am - 1.30pm Mondays and Fridays

SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP

1 Myrtle Place

Monday - Saturday

10am-5pm

New/Second-hand books

01274 - 589144

VICARS

Café Bistro

79 Victoria Road

"Pop in and see us!"

01274 - 597818

CAROLINE

STREET

SOCIAL CLUB

Regular Events

01274 - 585140

ADVERTISING

All the establishments featured in the 'small ads' above and on page 2 serve as outlets for this newspaper and are promoted on that basis.

*The
Saltaire Sentinel*
can also be found at

VICTORIA HALL

Saltaire

UNITED

REFORMED

CHURCH

Saltaire

POST OFFICE

Saltaire

MEDICAL

PRACTICE

Saltaire

VISITOR

INFORMATION

CENTRE

(Salts Mill)

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.saltairvillage.info

SALTAIRE HANDMADE

Arts and Crafts
All handmade, all local.
**Saltaire United
Reformed Church**

(downstairs)

Saturday,

January 21st

10am-3pm

enquiries@htgevents.com

EXHIBITION

Original, contemporary work by artist **Diane Thornton** will be on show at the Gallery Restaurant at The Old Tramshed, 199 Bingley Road, Saltaire, **until January 18th**. Her work, including landscapes, cityscapes and still life, appears in exhibitions, at galleries around the country and in private collections throughout the world.

LOTS ON OFFER AT CLUB

There is a great deal going on at the moment at **Caroline Street Club** - in addition to the Winter Bandstand (see right) - including the search for a new name, discussion of how to improve signage, development of a website - and a new membership drive, which involves a great variety of enticing events:

Music for the next **Salsa Night, on Friday, January 13th**, will be provided by a local band called *Salsacomoloco* which translated means *Salsa like crazy!* The evenings are open to anyone regardless of whether you have danced before or are a complete beginner (no partner needed). The cost is a mere £5 on the night and there is always a live band playing. If you are still unsure whether this is for you give Dave a call on **07974 198720** for further details.

The Snowgoose Theatre Writing Group comes to the club for the first time on **Friday, January 20th**, giving aspiring writers the opportunity to hear their scripts read to an audience. Email hall_jonathan@hotmail.com. (Note the *audience* element; even if you are not submitting a script you are welcome.)

A suitably tempting line-up of entertainment for the **New Members Night** on **Friday, January 27th**, consists of: Richie Penrose (Quality & Class Soul/Motown), Mike Kelly (Popular comedian with Bradford Roots) and Freshly Squeezed (Girl Duo to finish the night with Fun & Dance).

Every Tuesday from 10am there is the NOTHY club, ("a little bit like a youth club for the over 50s") organised by the Welcome Project. Transport can be arranged for those living locally who are struggling with mobility. To learn more, contact Shona on **01535 647675**. Meanwhile, if your New Year's resolution is to take up **line dancing** then you are in good hands, with classes on Mondays (7.30pm - 10pm), Tuesdays (1.15pm - 3pm) and every third Sunday of the month (2pm - 5pm).

RSPB Airedale and Bradford Local Group
40th Anniversary Year
Friday Jan. 13th, 7.30pm.
Room 3, Shipley Library.
Illustrated talk: 'Mexico's Great Wildlife Spectacles' by Tim Melling.
Adults £3, children free.
Non-members welcome

WINTER BANDSTAND

Caroline Street Club is hosting a series of concerts, featuring the bandstand mix of singing, jazz and folk. The club opens at 12.15pm with performances from 2pm till 4pm every second Sunday of the month. **Admission free**; there is a collection.

Sunday, January 8th
Cocorico (Jazz)

WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Just in case regular readers were wondering what the Revd. Cowan did with that old top hat of his!"

The Saltaire Sentinel, written by the people of Saltaire and photocopied by Shipley College in the heart of Saltaire every month, 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. saltairesentinel@btinternet.com