

The

# Saltaire Sentinel



*Your Lion of* VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

# TEN YEARS OLD

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**HAPPY  
NEWS  
YEAR**

It may seem difficult to believe (it does to me, as editor), but it is ten years this month since the notice on the left was the headline, as Saltaire's own newspaper was launched.

Thanks to Pamela Reynolds, archive issues are available to read, together with the latest, at the Saltaire Village website:  
[www.saltairvillage.info](http://www.saltairvillage.info)

**In this issue**  
**PAST**  
*Plus*  
**PRESENT**  
*Plus*  
**ALL OUR USUAL  
UNUSUALS**

### ARTS TRAIL APPEAL

The organisers of Saltaire Arts Trail are appealing for volunteers to help plan and run the annual visual arts festival, which runs this year from May 24th to 27th. Pam Lonsdale, Saltaire Arts Trail coordinator, says, "The Saltaire Arts Trail is a real community event and is only made possible thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who help put it together." For more information, contact Pam on 07875 123755

Regular readers will, no doubt, not so much forgive us for as join us now in a little 'self indulgence'.

(New readers may learn more about the ethos of the *Sentinel* from the 'Editor's Choice' on p.2) The names of individuals and agencies who have helped to maintain the feasibility of publication so far are more than 'space permits', but the generous support of Maggie Silver and the co-operation of David Ford's Saltaire Bookshop [see below] deserve special mention as the *Sentinel* looks forward to its future as your community newspaper.

### BUSY TIME AHEAD FOR VILLAGE SOCIETY

It looks as though 2013 is going to be a busy time for Saltaire Village Society (SVS), says **Rob Martin** (Chair), and it would be a great help if you could be more involved. SVS has been at the forefront in protecting the World Heritage Site. The main threats have been to do with roads and traffic wanting to get through Saltaire as quickly as possible. We have been successful in getting a 20mph speed limit and the present roundabout junction should be a lot safer for

pedestrians when it is controlled by traffic lights. SVS will be discussing issues of parking and public transport at our meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at **Caroline Social Club**, will begin with a discussion of the Saltaire Management Plan. Craig McHugh, the World Heritage Site Officer, will explain what needs to be done, how you can help and the consultations he is organizing.

CONTACT THE *Sentinel* THROUGH THE SALTAIRE BOOKSHOP at 1, Myrtle Place OR by E-mail to [saltairesentinel@btinternet.com](mailto:saltairesentinel@btinternet.com) **Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup>**

## THE INVENTIVE AND COLOURFUL GEORGE WHITELEY

By Roger Clarke

**Peter Randall**, barber at 205, Bingley Road, has been cutting the hair of Saltaire residents for almost 40 years, and has met many local characters. Talking with Peter is always entertaining, and he recently recalled a man whose interest in electricity definitely influenced his life style.

**George Whiteley** of Branksome Drive has the distinction of being the first man in Yorkshire to receive TV signals using an aerial at Dudley Hill. He built his own TV set using an old oscilloscope in 1936, and contacted Alexandra Palace in London to say that he'd received their test card, but they denied that it was possible for the signal to have reached Yorkshire. It was not until he described the card in detail, and the fact that it had recently been changed, that they believed his claim.

George's life revolved around his electrical inventions to make everyday tasks easier. His son, **Richard**, who still lives locally, added to Peter's account of his achievements:-

- ❖ His house was at the top of a steep slope and his garage was at the bottom. In order to carry 3 people up the slope, he constructed a cable railway, some 40 or 50 feet long.

- ❖ It was powered by mains electricity, but he also generated his own from an overshot water wheel with a 5 foot diameter, situated on a stream which ran behind his garage.

- ❖ This wheel also provided the electricity for lighting his house, stored in 8 lead/acid 12-volt batteries.

- ❖ Later, during World War II, he constructed an air raid shelter in his garden out of old tramlines and concrete blocks which went 21 feet into the ground – electricity provided home comforts.

- ❖ He adapted a New Imperial motorbike to run on electricity, and he was criticised by government departments for undermining the war effort by wasting energy, despite the fact that he had generated it himself.

He also experimented with:-

- ❖ "Commissionaire" electrical, automatic garage door opening system.

- ❖ Solar panels on his kitchen roof to heat water in his house.

- ❖ An electrically heated toilet seat.

- ❖ "Rotosign", a colourful, revolving advertising sign for businesses. George was featured by ITV on a programme called "Don't Just Sit There" hosted by Magnus Pike and Miriam Stoppard, but it was never shown because of a strike by ITV staff on the date when it was due to be transmitted.

Richard also reflects that his father had other interests too:-

- ❖ An early radio ham, transmitting from his garden shed.

- ❖ Announcer at Manchester Belle Vue and Odsal speedway tracks. Known as "The Golden Voice".

- ❖ Amateur dramatics with Shipley Congregational Players.

Sadly, George died in 1981 aged almost 78 years, but is remembered affectionately by both Richard and Peter as one of the most inventive and colourful characters in the district.

## EDITOR'S TOP TEN FRONT PAGES

- ❖ **March 2003** Albert Bowtell presented us with our first 'scoop', when he brought us a piece of window discovered in the ruins of Milner Field; a great encouragement to the paper in its infancy.

- ❖ **Dec. 2004** Our next 'exclusive' came from Saltaire Cricket Club who wanted *us* to break the news of the club's plans to renovate the "dilapidated Half-Moon pavilion".

- ❖ **April 2005** Having featured the progress of the Roberts Park project for five months, it was a pleasure to report on its successful completion.

- ❖ **Sept. 2006** Our lead story concluded: "It is hoped that there will be sufficient interest to launch a *Saltaire History Club*." The rest, as they say, is history!

- ❖ **Dec. 2007** Only a "community" newspaper could dedicate the front page to one local hero; but Clive Woods, who had died the previous month, was both a regular contributor and a valued supporter from the start.

- ❖ **Jan. 2008** On a lighter note [*He* has to get a mention]: "Roger Clarke, [was] Our Man on the Telly"

- ❖ **April 2009** Unusually, the whole front page (complete with photo) was dedicated to one story: the 150th anniversary of the opening of Saltaire Congregational Church (now URC).

- ❖ **Feb. 2010** "Fish May Be First – Little Doubt About Trout" was an interesting item, - *sent by a reader* – but too 'absurd' to be the lead anywhere else.

- ❖ **April 2011** No.100 coincided with the first World Heritage Weekend and was a 'bumper' issue, produced with, and sponsored by, Saltaire Village Society.

- ❖ **August 2012** Under the second of three headlines about the proposed hydro-electric scheme, we gave equal space to two very different views – both from respected voices within the community.

**PETER**  
**RANDALL**  
***Gentleman's***  
***Hairdresser***

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**VICTORIA TEAROOMS NEWS**

In retail Saltaire, for every sad farewell there is a  
welcome, Says Roger Clarke

Tracey Bennett and her Mum Andrea have  
successfully run the Victoria Tearooms at 8, Victoria  
Road for the past seven and a half years, but due to  
personal circumstances have had to give it up.  
Tracey says "I have had such a rewarding time  
owning a business in Saltaire, and it has been a  
privilege to get to know everyone, both customers  
and people in the village." I know many people  
who have enjoyed Tracey and Andrea's warm  
welcome and excellent food, and will be so sad to  
see them depart.

However, on November 27<sup>th</sup>, the Tearooms re-  
opened with new owners. They are another mother  
and daughter team of **Dora Karczewski and Nicky**  
**Tinsley**, both of whom have previous links with this  
area. Dora came to England in 1971 from Poland  
and lived in the Shipley area until 1991 when her  
family moved to Leeds. Nicky was born here and  
returned to Shipley between 2001 and 2011. The  
pair has not worked together previously and this will  
be their first venture into catering. Dora was  
previously a graphic designer and then worked for  
the Yorkshire Post as Editorial Liaison. Nicky had a  
career in banking. However, they are excited by  
their new enterprise, and have lots of new ideas  
which they will be trying out over the next few  
months. They are conscious that most of their  
customers will still expect a traditional English  
afternoon tea in this World Heritage Site, and will  
still be providing this, but it would be foolish of  
them not to offer some alternatives for customers  
who would appreciate something a little different.  
Nicky's enthusiasm is for good quality coffee and  
she has introduced this as an addition to the  
Tearoom fare. Dora's strength is her baking and her  
Polish recipes. She has already tried out her Polish  
apple cake and Polish breakfasts, which have both  
been well received.

The *Sentinel* wishes Dora and Nicky every success  
in the future. *We are pleased to say that you will still*  
*be able to pick up your monthly copy of the Sentinel*  
*at the Tearooms as usual.*

**Roger**  
**Clarke**

**REPORTS ALWAYS WANTED**

To fulfill its role as the local Community News-  
paper, the *Sentinel* needs to contain reports as well  
as promotions. It is always pleased to receive 'write-  
ups from readers'. (Please note: There is no need to

**The SPA**

**21 Titus Street**  
**The Authentic**  
**Village corner shop**

**Open Mon-Sat**  
**8am-10pm**  
**Sun. 10am-10pm**  
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**SALTAIRE**  
**BOOKSHOP**

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**ADVERTISING**

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

*The Sentinel*  
can also be found at  
**VICTORIA HALL**

**Saltaire**  
**UNITED**  
**REFORMED**  
**CHURCH**  
**Saltaire**  
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**INFORMATION**  
**CENTRE**  
**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](http://www.saltairvillage.info)

### **OUT OF THE BLUE**

"Having someone from beyond the world of academia select your work makes you feel like there's some sort of real purpose for it, that it has a place in the outside world." So says **Joanna Hemsley**, one of the nine new graduates hand picked by **Kath Libbert** from the Royal College of Art to take part in the latest exhibition at her jewellery gallery in Salts Mill. "Spotting and supporting cutting edge new graduates has always been central to the ethos of the gallery" says Kath.

*Out Of The Blue* runs until **January 27th**.

### **CUPPACARE**

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

### **Saltaire History Explorers Investigate**

#### **TRACES OF WORLD WAR II**

With Jonathan's class studying 'The Home Front' at school, we went looking for surviving traces of the Second World War in Saltaire. A structure with viewing slits, where employees of Salts Mill took turns at fire-spotting, could still be seen on the roof of the north-west corner of the mill until recently, but has now been removed. As with many other UK towns, the cast iron railings outside Victoria Hall were scrapped and their absence provides a long-living reminder of war-time sacrifices. We now realise that much of this removal was more of a morale boosting exercise than genuine recycling to aid the war effort. More solid evidence includes a surviving, but blocked, rifle defence position built into a wall next to Glen Rd., presumably constructed by the Home Guard to protect Saltaire from the North. What most caught Jonathan's imagination were reports of air raid shelters at the top of Albert Rd which a few long term residents remember playing in as children. There is nothing to see above ground now but James Bonsall from Bradford University tested out new archaeological geophysical techniques ('geophys' to Time Team watchers!) here and on various open spaces of Saltaire. Sure enough, beneath the tarmac of Saltaire Primary School's all weather pitch the ghostly outlines of the shelters can be made out, awaiting the attention of future archaeologists.

**David and Jonathan (aged 9) Starley**

### **Saltaire Cricket Club TABLE TOP SALE in Victoria Hall**

**Sunday, January 27th from 10am**

To reserve a table, call **01274 787908** or see [www.saltaire.play-cricket.com](http://www.saltaire.play-cricket.com)

### **RSPB**

**Airedale and Bradford  
Local Group**

**Friday Jan. 11th, 7.30pm.**

Room 3, Shipley Library.  
'Washburn Valley – Part  
Two' by Peter Riley

Adults £3, children free.

**Non-members welcome**

### **WINTER BANDSTAND**

**Caroline Social Club** hosts a series of 'Bandstand' concerts, with a varied programme of quality music from 2pm to 3.30pm (approx). **Admission free**

**Sunday, Jan. 13th**

#### **Lemurum**

Ethnic and ancient  
sounds in modern  
context

### WORLD HERITAGE WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



"Of course, I'm not quite old enough to remember the first issue! "

[He appeared in No.2 - Ed]

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