

The

# Saltaire Sentinel



*Your Lion of* VIGILANCE *Published monthly*

# WE CAN MANAGE

## INVITATION TO CONSULTATION

**IT'S NOT  
THE PAPER  
PEOPLE BUY,  
IT'S THE  
PAPER BY  
THE PEOPLE**

Rob Martin, Chair of Saltaire Village Society (SVS), is keen to remind us that Saltaire has a Management Plan and that it is now officially time for it to be reviewed.

Roberts Park have a say in what and how "things" are done in Saltaire. This is a consultation process. Make sure you are in from the start!  
See p.4 for more SVS >

**In this issue**  
**GAS**  
*Plus*  
**STEAM**  
*Plus*  
**ALL OUR USUAL  
UNUSUAL POWER**

**FESTIVAL THOUGHTS**  
Ros Garside tells us: As Directors of Saltaire Festival we have been listening to feedback on the 2012 Festival and are beginning to plan the Festival for this year. We have already decided that the dates will be September 14th - 22nd. On **February 5th** we are holding a meeting at **7 pm at Caroline Social Club** on Caroline Street to share our initial thinking about the 2013 Festival and to take further feedback on our plans.

You are invited to attend the SVS meeting on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm at **Caroline Social Club**. Craig McHugh, the World Heritage Site Officer, will be outlining the public consultation activities coming up later in 2013 for putting together a plan for the next six years and setting out the processes for managing the World Heritage site so that it keeps its unique historical identity and is a pleasant place to live and work - and so that residents and groups such as SVS, Saltaire Traders, Sustainable Saltaire and Friends of

**GARDENING GROUP PLANS CLIMATE WEEK**

During the cold, dark days of winter the 'Taste of Saltaire' community gardening group are thinking ahead to Spring and the sowing, planting, growing and eating that follow. A hardy bunch of us are still meeting regularly, sowing seeds of ideas through planning and discussions that will start to emerge as seedlings of activity very soon. Look out for activities we are planning during **Climate Week**

(**March 4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>**), as the theme is 'Climate Cuisine' and we are planning a seed swap, community plant stall, eating demonstrations, and hopefully launching the first of our edible growing beds. Much like the garden: it might look quiet but things are quietly happening! Keep an eye on our Website for details or email us to get involved:  
**Sheri-Leigh Miles**

[@sustainablesaltaire.org](http://www.sustainablesaltaire.org/sheri-leigh)

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>**

## WHEN GAS WAS KING

By Roger Clarke

The demand for a new source of illumination came first from mill owners who wanted something safer and cheaper than lamps and candles for lighting their factories at night. The French wars (1793 to 1815) had interfered with the supply of whale oil and Russian tallow. The first gas-lit mill was in Salford in 1805, thanks to research by **William Murdoch**, who was awarded a Gold Medal by the Royal Society in 1808 for his paper on lighting by coal gas.

At first the public did not understand a form of lighting which did not have a wick, and it was popularly held that the gas was on fire as it was carried along the pipes and so the pipes must be intensely hot. However, street lighting was demonstrated on Pall Mall in London in 1807, and Westminster Bridge was lit by gas in 1815. Manchester built its own gas works in 1817. Suddenly the streets became safer, night work became a possibility, and public buildings were illuminated by gas, encouraging social life. Gas flames were given popular names such as bats wing, fish tail and cockscomb. Private companies were established in most major cities, including Bradford, where the Bradford Gas Light Company was set up in 1840. They were very profitable, and most councils soon realised that control of water, gas and sewage could generate much needed income. Gas profits funded the £40,000 art gallery in Birmingham in 1885, where there is a memorial "By the gains of industry we promote art." Leeds took over provision of gas in 1870, and Bradford in 1871.

However, **Titus Salt** had long ago ploughed his own furrow by establishing a gas works as part of his model village in 1853.

**W Cudworth** notes that "There are two large gasometers with the necessary retorts, purifiers etc. The amount of gas made daily is upwards of 150,000 cubic feet."

**Jack Reynolds** goes on to say that "The houses in Saltaire were supplied with gas direct to the home from the mill more cheaply than was available locally". The gasometers and gas works were located on the north side of the canal to the east of where New Mill was built.

There is anecdotal evidence about what it was like to live with gas in the houses in Saltaire. There was a gas ring in the kitchen connected to the gas point by a flexible rubber hose. The gas ring supplemented cooking on the black leaded fireplace in the living room. Gas mantles hung from the ceiling in both rooms, and **Anthony Briggs** still has an example of a bracket which could be extended to allow the mantle to be closer to a seated person. It has a water seal to stop the gas escaping as it extends and retracts. Anthony was a plumber in the village and reminds me that gas supply was via a penny meter. There was always a strong smell of gas, grease (and cabbage) in the kitchen.

Gas remained king in Saltaire until after World War I.

**David King** notes that "when James Roberts was appointed to Shipley Council in 1897, he set about selling Saltaire supply pipes and the right to supply gas to Saltaire to Shipley Council for £33,500. Presumably the gas works were closed soon afterward. The gas works and gasometers are shown on an OS map for 1893. A 1908 (revised 1906) OS map shows that gasometers are still there, but no longer used in connection with gas production." **Dave Shaw** confirms that "the area east of New Mill was redeveloped between 1907 and 1909, and a five storey mill was erected where the gas works were previously located."

It is reported that 964 houses were sold by Salts (Saltaire) Ltd for £164,500 to Fred Gresswell's Bradford Property Trust in 1933. The houses were renovated with improved sanitation and electric lighting costing £100,000. No 3, Victoria Road opened as Gresswell's estate agency to sell to the owner/occupiers who could afford them.

**Do any *Sentinel* readers have memories of living with gas at home or at work?**

## AUDIO VISUAL SHOW

The Leeds Audio Visual Group will present its thirty-eighth Colour and Music Spectacular on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, **writes**

**Len Morris** of Saltaire United Reformed Church.

If you like good pictures with good and varied music and a good story then you will enjoy an evening at this presentation.

Those who came to the Church photo evening last autumn will have had a taste of what they might expect only more varied and often better.

The show is held at the St Chad's Parish Centre in Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds – LS16 5JT for your navigator!

There is plenty of parking but come early as it is always busy.

The show starts at 7.30pm and lasts about two hours, including a break for free refreshments.

Usually over £1000 is raised to support Wheatfields, Martin House and St Gemma's hospices.

**Tickets, at £6, are available now from [len.morris@physics.org](mailto:len.morris@physics.org) – 01274 597894**

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

205 Bingley Road  
01274 - 597140

**VICTORIA**  
**TEAROOMS**  
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**Open Daily**

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Caroline Street, always  
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**Opened in 1853**  
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**Open Every Day**  
**Attractions include:**

**SALT'S DINER**  
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**SALTAIRE**  
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**EXHIBITION**

**1853 Gallery**  
**THE HOME**

and many other, varied  
retail outlets

**ADMISSION FREE**  
01274 - 531163

**Saltaire History Explorers**  
**Investigate**

**SALTAIRE RAILWAY STATION**

One factor behind Saltaire's recent revival was the re-opening of Saltaire railway station in 1984. The station is certainly now well utilized, with over 600,000 journeys starting or ending there each year. A surprising turnaround, given that the original station was a victim of the Beeching closures of 1965.

The Railway line pre-dates the mill by some years, and was presumably an important consideration in Titus Salt's choice of the location. The line was originally built as part of the Leeds and Bradford Extension Railway, the first section of which, from Shipley to Keighley, was opened in 1846.

Of the more ornate Victorian station which opened in 1856, all but a few traces have gone. However, the remains of the Albert Terrace entrance can be made out. The railings and their footings, though now blocked off, turn inwards and beyond them the masonry that supported the steps down can be seen amongst the brambles. A footbridge also crossed the line at this point and behind the westbound platform a massive stone block with iron fittings may have been part of this. Whilst the station served passengers, the all important freight was loaded and unloaded from sidings alongside the mill.

For Jonathan, rail traffic on the line is always interesting, whether it is the regular passenger 'EMUs', the heavy diesel freight locos hauling limestone or the occasional steam-powered 'special'. A handy web site for the latter: <http://www.beholder.co.uk/steam/> lists all these, so don't miss the next "Tornado" run.

David and Jonathan (aged 9) Starley

**REPORTS ALWAYS WANTED**

To fulfill its role as the local Community Newspaper, 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 apply formally for the post of 'reporter').

**BOOKSHOP CHANGES**

Readers' attention is drawn to the change of opening hours at the Saltaire Bookshop [see above, right], which is now closed on Sundays and Mondays.

In addition, proprietor **David Ford** tells us that his e-mail address, david.ford4@btconnect.com, is now redundant and has been replaced by

**davidford100@yahoo.co.uk**

**The SPA**

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

**Open Mon-Sat**  
**8am-10pm**

**Sun. 10am-10pm**

**01274 - 826534**

**SALTAIRE**  
**BOOKSHOP**

**1 Myrtle Place**

**Tuesday- Saturday**  
**10am - 5pm**

New/Second-hand books

**01274 - 589144**

**VICARS**

**Café Bistro**

**79 Victoria Road**

***"Pop in and see us!"***

**01274 - 597818**

**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**  
**POST OFFICE**  
**Saltaire**

**MEDICAL**  
**PRACTICE**

**Saltaire**  
**VISITOR**  
**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)

## **TINO VALDI**

*Sentinel* readers might be interested in a hitherto little known Saltaire fact:

The singing sensation of the 1950s Volodymyr Havrylovyh Luciv *aka* TINO VALDI had been a weaver, when he was 18, at Salts Mill, where he worked for about two years from 1947/8, before beginning his serious singing career.

(He may have taken singing lessons in Manningham.)

If I am not mistaken, he gave up singing, after appearing on cruise ships and TV, concert halls etc., to be one of the world's leading authorities on the bandura.

**Eugene Johnson**

## **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.**

## **PARKING PROPOSALS**

At the meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> Saltaire Village Society (SVS) had a special item on "Parking in Saltaire". After some discussion, it became apparent that the prevailing thought was that if the public transport links were advertised and used more and the present car parking space was used more efficiently then Saltaire has enough capacity for parking of residents' and visitors' cars. Every idea that was thought of had, of course, two or three reasons why it wouldn't work: People won't walk more than a few yards, it would cost too much to enforce, it simply wouldn't be allowed, etc.

Some ideas were a little facetious, some not:

Use the fire station land when (if) they close the fire station down.

Disc parking.

Vintage bus "park and ride" using the Inland Revenue and other car parking space between Salts Mill Road/ Victoria Street and Salts Mill.

More permit only space for residents.

Make more use of the Coach Road.

Use of the Salts Mill car park in the evening.

Daytime Use of Caroline Social club car park

Use of Saltaire Primary and Shipley College car parks at the weekends.

Car club.

Steam train from Forster Square to Saltaire (OK; need to build a siding so it could stop by the mill and reverse back into Bradford)

**What do you think?** (Wheelie might have some answers!) [See right] You can send your ideas to [secretarysvs@googlemail.com](mailto:secretarysvs@googlemail.com)

**Rob Martin**

## **Saltaire Cricket Club**

### **TABLE TOP SALE**

**in Victoria Hall**

**Sunday, February 17th from 10am**

To reserve a table, call **01274 787908**

or see [www.saltair.play-cricket.com](http://www.saltair.play-cricket.com)

## **RSPB**

**Airedale and Bradford Local Group**

**Friday Feb. 8th, 7.30pm.**

Room 3, Shipley Library.

'Trinidad and Tobago'

by Ian Newton

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**

Cask Ale £2 per pint.

**Sunday, Feb. 10th**

**Otra**

Folk duo with feeling

## WORLD HERITAGE

### WHEELIE

Does NOT talk rubbish



" Parking?"

Not in *my* back yard! "

[See left]

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