

employ. In addition to the many educational institutions he built to allow workers to better themselves, he also commissioned the alms-houses on Victoria Road. Today they are separated from the core of the village by Saltaire Road but are well worth the crossing for a visit. The 45 alms-houses were built to provide shelter for those who couldn't support themselves, such as widows and injured workers. On opening it, Salt is reported to have said: "My sole desire is that you should be happy, and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to know that you are so."

15. Methodist Chapel

The Wesleyan Methodist Church that originally stood on this site was built in 1868 on land provided by Salt. The original church was demolished in 1970 due to its deteriorating condition. The current Methodist Church was built in 1971 and was subsequently modified to be more in keeping with the surrounding village.

16. Salt Schools

The Salt Schools opened in 1868, for both day scholars and half-timers, who would work at the mill for half a day and attend school for the other half. Before this, the factory school was housed in the Dining Hall. In 1878, the school split, with infants moving to Albert Road Board School (today Saltaire Primary School) and the Salt Schools becoming the Salt High School. This eventually moved to a new site on the far side of Roberts Park. Today, the original building, along with the Exhibition Building, Dining Hall and the Jonathan Silver building, forms Shipley College, a further education institution. Outside the Salt Building, there are two lions, and two more on the opposite side of the road. Their names can just be made out, inscribed on their pedestals: Peace, War, Vigilance and Determination. Local legend has it that these were originally constructed for Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. This is, unfortunately, almost certainly a myth.

17. Victoria Hall

Originally, this building was known as The Saltaire Club and Institute, with only the main hall called Victoria Hall. Opening in 1871, it was one of the final pieces to complete Salt's vision of a model village, providing everything a person needs in life. The institute was intended to provide a social gathering space for residents (rather than a pub) and as an educational institute. Although not part of the temperance movement, Salt was staunchly opposed to the construction of a public house in his village, having seen many workers in Bradford drink their wages away as soon as they were paid and fail to provide for their families. Residents were free to drink at home or at pubs outside the village, but Salt hoped they would be attracted by the more immediate Social Club and Institute. The building housed rooms for billiards, bagatelle, chess and drafts, reading, classrooms, a library, a laboratory and a large hall for lectures and concerts. It also housed the Schools of Art and Science, which later moved to the Exhibition Building. Today, the building is managed by the Salt Foundation and provides a venue for community events and weddings.

18. Primary School

As the population of Saltaire grew, the Factory School on Victoria Road (today the Salt Building) became inadequate for the number of children requiring an education. The local school board (chaired by Titus Salt Jnr.) opened the Albert Road Board Schools in 1878 to cater for 815 younger children. The original Factory School remained in use as the High School. Children at the Albert Road schools were taught in mixed classes of around 40 children, although boys and girls were still seated in separate halves of the room, and corporal punishment was forbidden. Today, the buildings are Saltaire Primary School, with pupils aged 5-11.

19. Bath and Wash houses

In the 19th century, most houses didn't have indoor bathrooms. If people wanted to bathe, they had to fill a bath with water heated over the fire and washing was usually hung across the streets to dry. To avoid both these problems, Salt built the Bath and Wash houses in 1863 at a cost of £7000 (over £600,000 today). These housed 24 baths, 12 each for men and women and a Turkish bath. A warm bath would cost 6d. and a cold one 3d. As in the rest of the North of England, the Bath and Wash Houses did not prove popular. People preferred to bathe in the privacy of their own homes and wash clothes in their own kitchen where they could also complete other tasks. The buildings were converted into houses in the late 1800s before being demolished in 1936. Today, a community garden has been planted on the site, following consultation with residents in 2011.

20. Don't Tell Titus

One of Salt's few restrictions on Saltaire was that there would be no public houses in the village. Since the buildings are now privately owned, this restriction is now commemorated in the name of this bar.



Saltaire Stories
Past, Present and Future



Saltaire Stories is the education program of SWHEA : Saltaire World Heritage Education Association
charity no.115756

Saltaire Heritage Trail

Welcome to the Saltaire Stories Discovery Trail!

Over 150 years ago, a man called Titus Salt began an incredible task. His aim was to build a new village for all the people who worked for him, with everything they needed.

Saltaire is one of the best preserved model villages in the world with 96% of its building undamaged. Take our trail to discover some of its hidden secrets.

For more information or to access our resources contact : salttairstories@gmail.com or visit www.salttairecollection.org

Based at : Saltaire Stories, Shipley College
Exhibition Building (Learning Resource Centre),
Exhibition Road, Shipley, BD18 3JW



@salttairstories



@salttairstories



1. Saltaire Railway Station

The original railway station in Saltaire was opened in 1856 by the Midland Railway but closed in 1965 following the Beeching Cuts, a series of closures as part of an overall strategy for reshaping the railways. The original stone buildings that stood on each platform were demolished in 1970 and were replaced by the current wooden and stone structures when the station reopened in 1984. The nearby railway, along with the canal, was likely an important factor in Salt's decision to build his model village on this site. Today, the station lies on the Northern Line and has services to Leeds, Bradford and Skipton.

2. Dining Hall

The dining hall served many purposes during the early years of Saltaire. In addition to serving 600 breakfasts and 700 dinners every day, it doubled as a school for 'half-timers', children who would work in the mill during the morning, then attend school in the afternoon. It also served as a meeting hall, library, reading room and a venue for religious services. Today, the Dining Hall is owned by Shipley College, following a major refurbishment and conversion in 1998. While the interior has been modified to make suitable for lessons, the changes are entirely reversible.

3. United Reformed Church

Titus Salt was a devout Congregationalist. The Congregational Church (now the United Reformed Church) was built in 1859 with £16000 of Salt's personal fortune (around £1.4 million today). The church stands in its own grounds with a small churchyard. Like the rest of the village, the church was constructed in Italianate style, with fluted columns, tower and scagliola pillars. Two ornate chandeliers of cut glass were suspended from the ceiling, requiring roof trusses to be added later to support the weight.

4. Boathouse

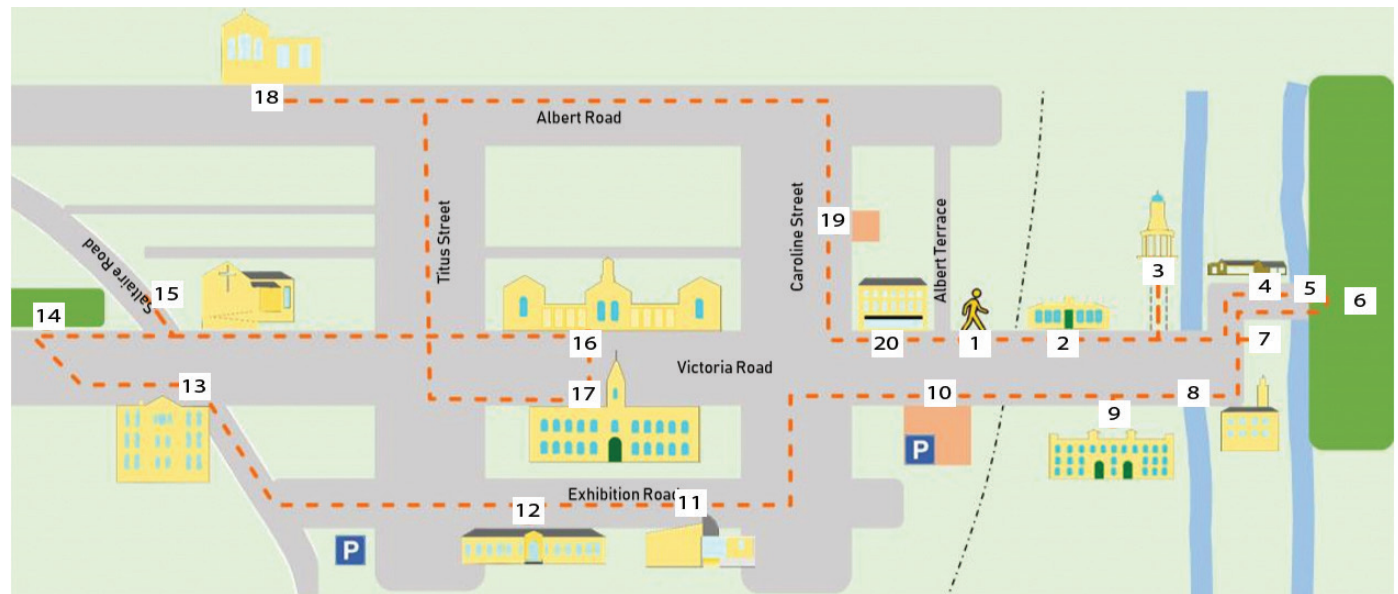
The original boathouse was built in 1871 and eventually converted into a pub. By the start of the 21st century, the building was derelict. The present owners refurbished and opened the Boathouse in its current incarnation as the Boathouse Inn.

5. River Aire

The River Aire rises in North Yorkshire at Malham Tarn, becoming an underground stream near Malham Cove and rising again at Aire Head. The Aire flows through Skipton, entering West Yorkshire where it passes through Keighley, Bingley, Saltaire, Shipley and Leeds. The river valley around Bradford is known as Airedale and historically provided a low-altitude route through the Pennines to the west coast. The presence of the Aire was extremely important in Salt's decision to build here. Industrial machinery in the mid-19th century required huge quantities of water to power it. At Saltaire, this could be easily drawn from the river, with the canal and railway offering more direct routes for trade with other towns and cities.

6. Roberts Park

Originally Saltaire Park, the 14-acre space opened in 1871 and was free for anyone to enjoy. The park was originally reached by a bridge from the end of Victoria Road, over the valley to what is now the West entrance, at the lodge. This bridge had to be demolished after World War II, thought to be due to damage caused by tanks crossing to use the area for manoeuvres. Although provided for all to enjoy, there were strict rules enforced in the park. Among other things, political and religious demonstrations were banned, as were wheeled vehicles and unaccompanied children under 8. After the Salt family



were forced to sell the mill and the village, Sir James Roberts, the subsequent owner, renamed the park, Roberts Park – not after himself, but in memory of his son, Bertram Foster Roberts.

7. New Mill

The New Mill was built in 1868, in a similar style to the main Salts Mill. The mill expanded to incorporate other processes required for manufacturing textiles, including a dye house in 1871. The New Mill was extensively refurbished in the early 1990s and is now a combination of office space for Bradford Health Authority and 98 privately owned apartments. All the internal modifications are entirely reversible.

8. Canal

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal is the longest canal in Britain to be built as a single waterway. It runs 127 miles from Liverpool, through East Lancashire and the Pennines, along the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, then through Bingley and Saltaire to Leeds. The Victorian equivalent of the motorway, along with the railway, the canal would have been an important factor in Salt's decision to build here. The land that would become Saltaire was perfectly positioned – a safe, but not excessive, distance from the pollution of Bradford and with rapid transport links to major industrial centres at Leeds and Liverpool where supplies could be bought, and products sold.

9. Mill

The first building to be constructed, Salts Mill was designed to manufacture textiles on a truly industrial scale. Salt's intention was to incorporate all elements of the manufacturing process under one roof, rather than each taking place at a separate location as his previous mills in Bradford required. Employing around 3000 workers, the Mill was the very heart of Saltaire.

The Mill changed hands three times over the years. Following the collapse of the textile industry in West Yorkshire, processes were gradually moved out of the Salts Mill building. In 1985, the last processes were relocated, and the empty mill put up for sale. In 1987, Jonathan Silver purchases the Mill and refurbishes it into the building we see. Rather than a single manufacturing centre, the Mill is a cultural hub of Saltaire with shops, art galleries and restaurants.

10. Congregational Sunday School

This was the last building constructed in Salt's lifetime, built on the corner of Caroline Street and Victoria Road. Originally intended as the site of a hotel, it was repurposed for the Sunday School. Salt was a keen proponent of Sunday Schools and lived just long enough to see his own completed. Titus and Caroline attended the opening ceremony but were forced to leave early due to his failing health. His grandson, Harold Salt, opened the

Sunday School in May 1876. Sir Titus died in December the same year. The Sunday School was demolished in 1973 and is now a council-run car park.

11. Jonathan Silver Building

Constructed in 2015 for Shipley College, this was the first significant new building in 129 years.

12. Exhibition Building

This building was constructed by Titus Salt Jr. as a memorial to his father. Today it is leased by Shipley College and houses the Saltaire historical collection, which is open to visitors by Appointment.

13. Hospital

Along with the alms-houses, Salt also built an infirmary on the corner of Alexandra Square to care for the village residents. Eventually, it had enough wards and beds for 27 patients, and a dispensary and a surgery for treating workers the workers and residents of Saltaire. Much of Salt's philosophy was the catalyst for what became the welfare state. It is perhaps fitting that the hospital was taken over by the NHS in 1948. It was sold in 1974 and became a private nursing home.

14. Almshouses

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Salt was determined to ensure a decent quality of life for his workers, even after they left his