

# FLAGSTONES – ELDWICK'S UNDERGROUND TREASURE

Some 350 million years ago Eldwick was basking in the Carboniferous climate, best known for its coal-forming swamps but less so for its sandy deltas. In the Lower Carboniferous strata the flow of pebbles, grits and sand became our Millstone Grit series of rocks visible on Shipley Glen and Gilstead Moor Edge. These coarse outcrops display what is called Rough Rock which in places is 100 feet thick.

The earliest of local maps show quarries in various localities around Eldwick, including the People's Quarry in what is now Pengarth and Landsmoor. Somewhere there must have been exposed the base of the Rough Rock, revealing a very different geological series of 80 feet of Rough Rock Flags and Elland Flags.

Perhaps it was James Fairbank, farmer and colliery owner from Allerton who came to live at Warren Park with its house and home farm in 1875, who first revealed what lay deep beneath his fields.

The first census in 1841 lists ten delvers or quarrymen, a number that grew to 50 by 1871, some of whom were termed stone miners, or delph stone getters. No company records exist from quarry owners, nor royalty records from George Lane Fox of Bramham Park, as Lord of the Manor. However names are given where there were accidents and fatalities in workings, the first at Samuel Johnson's quarry on Gilstead Moor in 1862.

The demand for the Elland flagstones was enormous, both for domestic floors and for the streets of London, due to their durability and non-slip quality. Other flagstones could be split by hand for tiles or what we call slates, hence Slate Quarry Lane. So, between 1870 and 1930 Warren Park was a hive of mining industry with men and horses extracting the flags. When another quarry came up for sale, amongst the contents was "a capital horse gin and a grizzled horse" vital to the process of lifting loads from the shafts. Lists of tools included cutting and riving wedges as well as pick-axes etc.

Between Stone Hill and Slate Quarry Lane on the ground there remains one stone-lined shaft in the fields behind the Primary School's playing fields, and two spoil heaps hiding capped shafts in the clumps of trees next to the old farm buildings.

Paper evidence dates from 1885 when the lord of the manor advertised the sale of his mineral rights and no bids reached the reserves on either the 348 acres of Gilstead Moor or the 1464 acres of Rombalds Moor. The Sale Plan shows five shafts in Warren Park and one on the opposite side of Warren Lane. There was also a geological cross-section illustrated taken from one 85 feet deep shaft. By the time the 1893 O.S. Large scale map was published, not only were the five shafts shown but also the raised beds on which the steam-cranes were located. In 1881 William Tell Lancaster of Eldwick gave his occupation as 'engine man at a stone mine and ten years later John Baker of Sheriff Lane was the driver of a stationary engine at a stone quarry. The



isolated shaft across Warren Lane was behind the later detached house known as 'Flagstones'.

Shafts were constructed eight feet in diameter and up to 100 feet deep leading to horizontal 'pillar and stall workings'. A 'stall' was the area worked out, about 8 feet square whilst the 'stall' was a block left in situ of varying sizes according to the quality of the stone. The stalls were linked by tunnels under 3 feet wide through which miners had to crawl and to drag trolleys of stone.

Recent geological surveys have confirmed these dimensions with 'voids' occurring between depths of 63 feet and 68 feet, together with 'broken ground' where rock overlying the void has collapsed. Timbers were used to support the roofs of stalls as well as 'judd walls' from stone.

Mining to such depths was only possible once steam cranes were in use to lift the loads but still extra problems occurred. In 1885 Messrs Wilson & Moulding were in the bankruptcy court. It was said they had transferred from quarrying to mining after 8 years in business but had always struggled when sinking shafts deeper to reach better quality flags because they had encountered underground water. Better times had come, to clear their debt of £1,600, and escape punishment.

Three other natural features of Warren Park were a concern.

A Geological Fault runs NNE to SSW across the site, with a downthrow to the east, effectively making workings to the east deeper and more dangerous, or impractical. An underground watercourse runs N to S, as Brick Kiln Slack off Heights Lane and emerging in Gilstead Lane beside the Glen pub. It ran near the base of some shafts so was culverted in box drains with some stone troughs or tanks constructed.

Thirdly, the amount of glacial overlay, a stiff clay with a mix of debris from the melting of the last ice sheet, increases to the east of the site. Near Sheriff Lane it is nearly 70 feet thick over the sandstones so one shaft in that area showed no workings around it, having been too much of a risk.

*To be continued*

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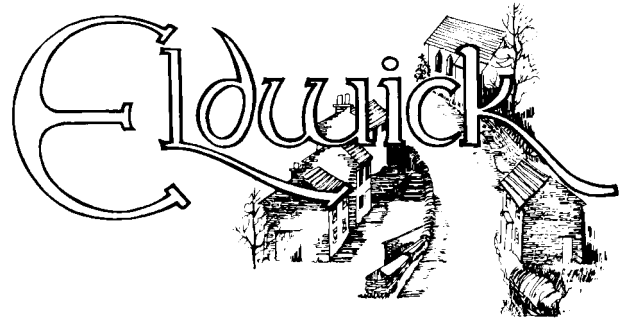
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Issue No. 339 February 2007

The Eldwick Village Society Newsletter.

Email: Eldwicknews@aol.com

# 2007 ELDWICK & GILSTEAD GALA Saturday 30th June

## It's that time of year again !!

### GALA QUEEN SELECTION DISCO

**Friday 16th March 7pm – 8.30pm Eldwick Memorial Hall**  
With the Eldwick's own fantastic DJ For 7 to 11 year olds  
to choose the Gala Queen and attendants for this years event.

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

On Thursday 25th January, The Eldwick and Gilstead Thursday Club met to celebrate their 50th anniversary with a meal. Around fifty people enjoyed sitting down to a good spread.

This was held in Eldwick Memorial Hall, the eldest member Mrs Edith Wilson was invited to cut the cake. Also present were officers from the Bingley and District Old Peoples Welfare Association. An address and a review of the club over the fifty years was given by Life President of the Association Mrs Freda Escritt.

To commemorate the occasion the Thursday Afternoon Club President was presented with a gavel.



### Gala Queen Entry Form

### ELDWICK AND GILSTEAD GALA

**Saturday 30th June 2007**

I would like to be considered for Gala Queen / Attendant for the 2007 Gala. The Gala Queen will be chosen at the 'Gala Queen Selection Night' on Friday 16th March, 7pm till 8.30pm in Eldwick Memorial Hall ( Disco entry £1). The Gala Queen should be 11 years of age or over and the attendants between the ages of 7 and 10. The Gala Queens name and all Attendants names will be drawn out of a hat by the 2006 Gala Queen.

The Gala Queen and her attendants will ride in the Gala Parade, and are invited to attend other local Galas in 2007 and 2008 representing Eldwick & Gilstead

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

I do live in Eldwick or Gilstead.

Signed parent \_\_\_\_\_

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before 16th March**

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# Bob's Snippet

I made no New Year resolutions because no improvement was needed.

## Dear Editor

Why are – what look like – old bath tubs to be seen on the allotments opposite Eldwick Primary School, on Warren Lane? This may be good enough for the slums of Bradford but NOT Eldwick.

Bradford Council is to blame for allowing allotment holders to be so scruffy. These bath tubs should be sent to Bingley Tip!

John Taylor

## YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMENS ASSOCIATION

At our meeting on the 10th January 59 members and 1 guest attended. The speaker was D. Metcalfe who spoke on the Eden Project, a charitable trust in Cornwall. The idea was perceived by Tom Smit in the 1980s, who saw empty china clay pits and visualised a global garden for the 21st century a gateway to a sustainable future and dramatic setting in which to tell the fascinating story of mankind's dependence on plants. It would have a visitor centre, educational facilities and give regeneration to the Cornwall area. The building of such a concept was enormous. The 15 hectare site was 60 metres deep and flooded so a new architectural concept was required. Two Biomes, looking like giant golf balls were built to house the humid tropical plants and the warmer temperate plants, 5,000 plant species received from botanical gardens, research stations, private individuals or commercial nurseries. The Core educational centre was finished in 2006. In 2006 1.19 million visitors attended, all monies raised to go to further charitable objectives.

A fascinating insight into the project.

Meeting March 13th the Spring Fling Party. Will all members who have not reserved a ticket please do so at the February meeting so catering requirements can be finalised.

## CHORAL CONCERT HOMECOMING

The annual Choral Concert featuring the Choral Scholars from Kings College, Cambridge will this year be held at the Bingley All Saints Parish Church, Main Street, Bingley. The ever popular concert which is organised by Bingley Airedale Rotary Club has, for the past few years, travelled around the area delighting audiences with fine music but this year it is back in the wonderful surroundings of Bingley Parish Church.

The concert is at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 21 March 2007 and tickets are £8 on the door or from:

Mike Bamford Tel: 564097

Robert Carter Travel, 3 Queens Court, Bingley Tel: 777737

All proceeds from the concert are in aid of charities supported by Rotary – Registered Charity No. 1056029

# POLICE ADVICE

## BEAT THE BURGLAR

West Yorkshire Police and the Charity Crimestoppers are launching a joint venture to Beat the Burglar.

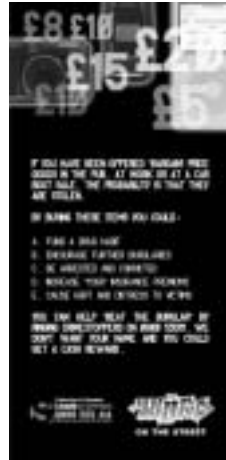
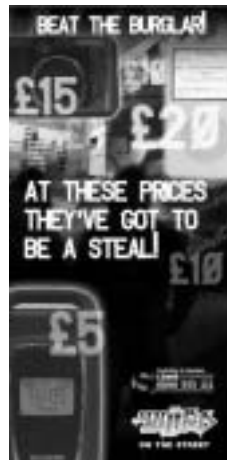
There are numerous burglars residing in our communities. What is going to occur is that uniformed Police Officers will visit all burglars and suspected burglars and residents in nearby houses. They will explain how people can pass information to the Police via Crimestoppers, about any criminal activity and earn up to a £1000 reward and still remain anonymous.

If people are not at home when the Police visit they will be leaving an informative flyer, a copy of which is below.

The aim of which is to:

- Reduce burglaries across West Yorkshire.
- Take the fear of crime to those who commit crimes.
- Increase the arrests of burglars and recover stolen property.

It's at this point we would like the assistance of NHW members to assist with this campaign and to be aware of what is happening. This is to be launched on 1st February 2007 and anyone with any information of any criminal activity can contact the Police or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



## BURGLARIES FROM CARS – THE POLICE ADVISE

Recently there have been a large number of burglaries across Keighley Division where the offender has broken into the property to steal car keys.

### 'KEY SAFE'

- Don't leave any keys in locks, on window ledges or kitchen tables and never on a hook behind the door.
- Keep keys safe and out of sight.
- Keep your doors and windows closed and locked.

### DON'T BECOME THE NEXT VICTIM

There has been an increase in the theft from motor vehicles in the Bingley area, **most of these offences have been from insecure vehicles.**

### The Police advise

- **Never** leave the car unlocked or with the windows left open.
- **Never** leave articles on view in the car. Lock them away out of sight or take them with you.
- **Never** leave money, credit cards or cheque books in the car.
- **Never** leave the keys in the ignition if the car is left unattended.
- **Never** leave any vehicle documents in the car.
- **Always** use a garage if you have one.
- **Always** park in a well lit location.
- **Always** fit a good quality alarm or immobiliser to the car.
- **Always** use an additional steering lock.
- **Always** remove your radio/stereo/cassette if possible. Make a note of its serial and model number and postcode it.
- **Always** remove your 'Sat Nav' and its cradle when leaving your vehicle unattended.

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# ELDWICK METHODIST CHURCH

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## REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

2nd Fri Friday Walk 9am  
 3rd Sun 9.15am Holy Communion  
 4th Sun 9.30am BIG BREAKFAST  
 Last Wed 7.30pm Adult Youth Group  
 Monthly Bible Study Wed Evenings  
 Hand Bell Group 'The Belles'  
 Alternate Tues -

## FUTURE SERVICES & EVENTS

Morning service, Junior Church & Creche @ 10.30 am every Sunday, Fairtrade stall 7—9pm Youth Group

### February

18th 9.15 Early Communion  
 Mrs Lyne Keating  
 25th 10.30am Rev Derek Hoe

### March

4th 10.30am Holy Communion  
 Rev Ruth Parry  
 11th 10.30am Rev Barbara Walls  
 18th 9.15pm Early Communion  
 10.30am Rev Ruth Parry  
 25th 10.30am Mr Don Hassall

### April

1st 10.30am All age worship  
 Palm Sunday  
 Rev Ruth Parry  
 8th 7.00 am Dawn Communion  
 Easter Day  
 10.30am Holy Communion  
 Rev Ruth Parry

Lenton groups meeting 10-11.30a.m. every Tuesday during Lent starting Tuesday 27th February.

## CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Eldwick Methodist Church Hall is available to the community for events and childrens parties, our newly refurbished kitchen is ideal for catering. To enquire about dates please contact the booking secretary Phil on 774526

# ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We were grateful to see so many members turn out on such a cold and dismal night as the 16th January and, in particular, very pleased to welcome 10 new members to our Society.

It was a delight to hear Allan Mirfield's masterly tale of the Eldwick and Gilstead gardens of the past. With all the information he has gleaned over the years of researching the past of our "patch" we had to admire the skill with which he managed to fit a fascinating five hundred year history into 45 minutes.

There was a farm at Milnerfield as long ago as the 16th century. Titus Salt built his grand house on the site in 1873 and planted many trees including fruit trees. Despite the house being demolished in the 1950's those fruit trees live on; some 33 different types have recently been identified.

The Enclosures Act of 1861 from Eldwick Beck Bottom to the Southern escarpment defined the area in Eldwick and Gilstead available to those prepared to enclose and drain the land. This was eventually turned over to vegetables and flowers to cater for the needs of the rapidly expanding Bradford. In 1921 there were 21 gardeners living on their own acreage and most sold direct to walkers at the weekends. The dry stone walls which made those enclosures still remain with those of us whose gardens are defined by them. One of the most successful developments was under the ownership of the Eischel family who came from Magdeburg and erected 22,000 square feet of glasshouses. They sold cucumbers, tomatoes and 10 thousand rose bushes a year.

The Eldwick Smallholders Association started in the 1860s and figured in the weekly Garden Magazine in 1871. They held meetings in the school on Otley Road and became members of the Paxton Society awarding prizes to the children for their interest in plants and gardens long before the Eldwick & Gilstead Horticultural Society was created in 1907. We have continued to offer prizes to young gardeners and those whose interest was in plant-related art and poetry at our Annual Shows in August. Last year however, we moved that aspect of the Show

to the Spring Fair so that the children can see their own efforts and enthusiasm bear "fruit" at a time when they are less likely to be on holiday. The tactic worked well with over 100 entries and we look forward to the same response this year when the Spring Show will be on April 28th.

On March 20th we will hear from Mrs Chris Abbott on "A Garden for All Seasons". Subscription renewals were posted at the beginning of the month and can be paid at the February meeting or by post. Membership inquiries should be made to Barbara Pullin – Telephone 551451.

# BIRCHES

Otley Road, Eldwick Tel 01274 561265

## BIRCHES QUIZ

Thursday 1st March  
 9.00pm

Non-members welcome

Enjoy real ale at Birches.  
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New members are  
 always welcome!

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 details 01274 561265.

## NEWSLETTER ON LINE

The Eldwick newsletter can now be viewed on line. If you log on to the Eldwick Memorial Club, Birches website [www.thebirchesclub.co.uk](http://www.thebirchesclub.co.uk)

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