

Bob's Snippet



Bob has not been well – we wish him a speedy recovery

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The meeting held on the 11th of November was attended by 47 members.

Norma Feather gave feedback from the A.G.M. which had been held at Askam Bryan.

Members to make note of the Homecraft Show which will be held at Wetherby Church Centre on the 28th of March 2009. Several categories to enter and application forms can be obtained from Sylvia Slater.

Central office are compiling a 'Chuckle Book', which can be sent easily by post to cheer people up. Any members with suitable jokes, childrens' sayings etc. please submit to Central Office.

John Haigh was our speaker and gave an illustrated talk on the history of Bingley Parish Church. It was very interesting to hear the history dating back to records from 1120. It is also thought that an earlier church may have been on site prior to this date as a shaft from a Saxon cross and a large stone with runic inscriptions were found in the grounds of the church during the 19th Century. Over the years the church has been extended and rebuilt, the lovely South East chapel window is attributed to the 14th Century. The Chantry Chapel was built in the 15th Century around the time of the foundation of Bingley Grammar School. Bingley Church survived the Civil War due to the resident vicar, Thomas Howgill 1618-1661 who was of puritan disposition.

The first clock was installed in 1704, and today the parish clock remains important to the residents of Bingley. Throughout the years parishioners and benefactors have contributed to the growth of the Bingley Church and it stands as a beautiful and understated building.

Next meeting on January 13th. Peter Watson will speak on Folklore and Supernatural.

PLANNING

The following applications have been submitted to Bradford Council.

08/06353/FUL Construction of 3 detached dwellings at Half Acre, Sheriff Lane.

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ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Grassroots Grant will make 2009 programme possible

As we go to press, the good news is that our society has been awarded a grant under the Grassroots Grants Fast Track Scheme operated by CNet, the Community Empowerment Network for Bradford and District Grassroots Grants. This money will supplement the sponsorship already provided by Bradford & Bingley plc, Damartex UK Ltd and Naylor Wintersgill Chartered Accountants and will enable us to stage the interesting programme of speaker meetings and educational excursions that we have planned for 2009. A full day's visit to Sheffield Botanical Gardens and Brodsworth Hall and Gardens has been arranged for June and an afternoon visit to York House, Dacre Banks will take place in July. More details will follow in a later Eldwick Newsletter.

Thanks to our successful grant application, our society will be able maintain its affordable admission charges of £1 for members and £2 (non-members) for another year.

Grassroots Grants is a National Programme that aims to invest in a thriving community sector across the whole of the UK to build stronger and more active communities. CNet has been appointed the "Local Funder" to deliver Grassroots Grants in the Bradford Metropolitan District.

These Grants aim to support small, largely volunteer-led community organisations and groups, often with limited resources, and are intended for projects and activities that will build their capacity and address local needs.

This is a good opportunity to thank Councillor David Heseltine, who lent tangible support to our application at very short notice.

WHO'S WHO IN 2009

November's Annual General Meeting was well-attended and the Faith Supper that followed it was quite sumptuous, but no hands were raised when our chairman asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President and Junior President. The VP understudies the President during his/her term of office and then takes over when the present incumbent decides he needs to spend more time with his/her family. The JP is

the next one in line.

With no new names coming forward to join our committee despite our heartfelt entreaties to members new and old, the officers elected for 2009 are as follows:

President - John Pullin
Vice-President - Stanley Varo
Junior President - Dorothy Isaac
Treasurer - Michael Sutcliffe
Asst Treasurer - John Churchman
General Secretary - John Churchman
Show Secretary - David Bell
Asst Show Secretary - Jane Hitchen
Membership Secretary - Barbara Pullin
Programme Secretary - John Pullin
Excursions Secretary - Stanley and Sheila Varo
Funding and Publicity Secretary - Mike Hitchen
Allotment Secretary - Dorothy Isaac
Catering Secretary - Barbara Pullin.

Our 2009 programme

Tuesday 20 January - Plants to Die For - Alan Wilson;
Tuesday 17 February - Aire Valley Views & Geology - Alan Plowright;
Tuesday 17 March - Mansions & Music - David Moreland;
Tuesday 21 April - Wild Flowers & Folklore - Chris Abbott;
Saturday 25 April - Spring Fair and Children's Competitions;
Tuesday 19 May - Rhododendrons, cycles & TIDK - John Pullin;
Saturday 6 June - Day excursion to Sheffield Botanical Gardens and Brodsworth Hall and Gardens;
Saturday 27 June - Plant sales stand at the Eldwick Gala;
Saturday 11 July - Afternoon visit to York House, Dacre Banks;
Saturday 29 August - 92nd Autumn Show;
Tuesday 15 September - Gardens of Sark - Alan Mirfield;
Tuesday 20 October - Planning for Spring - Ken Green;
Tuesday 17 November - Annual General Meeting and Faith Supper;
Our friendly meetings are held in the Memorial Hall, at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Admission for members is £1, non-members £2. This includes tea or coffee and biscuits and a raffle ticket.



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Please Note

A young pregnant refugee will be looking for somewhere to have her baby. She will be starting her search at Eldwick Methodist Church at 4.00pm on 24th December. It is rumoured that young shepherds and angels will be joining her as she travels with her husband to the Acorn Pub and through the village up to the Birches. She may well end up having her baby in the vicinity of St. Lawrence's Church. Some travellers from afar will be ending their search in St. Lawrence's Church hall with mulled wine and hot chocolate. If you would like to join in this journey, come prepared to walk. If younger children would like to come suitably dressed but don't have a costume, some will be available from 3.30p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

For more details contact Monique Lees 01274 565482



CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE COMMUNITY

Have you ever wondered why Eldwick, in common with many other communities, has for generations held Christmas Eve carol singing in the Memorial Hall, a secular building, when there are perfectly good churches nearby?

Originally thought to have roots in pre Christian celebrations of Yule, honouring the winter solstice, Carols began as dances, and developed into folk songs written by country dwellers. Their jollity made them very popular, but it meant that they were thought to be unsuitable for the sombre church worship of the day, so they were banned by the church and instead sung outside churches or from house to house.

As the church realised the popular appeal of the carols, they were gradually introduced into Christmas worship, but the tradition of joyful carol singing in the community and away from the churches, has survived to this day.

Join the Community Carol Singing in Eldwick Memorial Hall on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm.

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London, SW1A 0AA

Website:

www.philip-davies.org.uk

✠ THE ELDWICK VILLAGE CHURCHES ✠

ST. LAWRENCE'S NEWS

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

December

- 14th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion
4.00p.m. Christingle Service
21st 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.30a.m. Morning Worship & Nativity Play
6.30p.m. Carol Service
24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**
4.00p.m. Travelling Nativity Celebration starts at Eldwick Methodist Church, finishing at St. Lawrence's at about 5.15p.m. with mulled wine & mince pies. For all ages.
6.00p.m. Village Carols at Eldwick Memorial Hall
11.30p.m. Midnight Service with Communion

25th CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10.30a.m. Morning Worship
28th 10.30a.m. Family Service

January

- 4th 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.30a.m. Covenant Service at Eldwick Methodist Church
11th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion
18th 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.30p.m. Morning Worship
6.30p.m. Evensong

St. Lawrence's Church Hall is available for hire for children's parties (one payment of £35) and community events (main hall £10 per hour; committee room £14 for half day and £27 for full day; registered charities 50% of standard hire charge). To make enquiries, contact our bookings secretary, Ann Shoebridge on 564690.

SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER

- 14th 10.30am & 6.00pm Rev Ruth Parry
21st 9.15 am Café style Communion
Rev Ruth Parry
10.30 am Nativity Rev Ruth Parry
24th 11.30 pm Rev Ruth Parry
28th 10.30 am Mrs. Judith Craven

JANUARY

- 4th 10.30 am Joint Service with St Lawrence's Rev Ruth Parry
11th 10.30 am Rev Derek Hoe
18th 9.15 am Communion
Rev Ruth Parry
10.30 am Dr. Mervyn Flecknoe
25th 9.15 am Big Breakfast
10.30 am Rev Alistair Newton

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- 12th / 13th / 14th Christmas Tree Festival
20th Christmas Chaos

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

- 1st Fri Friday Walk 9am
3rd Sun 9.15am Holy Communion
Hand Bell Group - Alternate Tues

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Eldwick Methodist Church Hall is available to the community for events and children's parties, our newly refurbished kitchen is ideal for catering.

To enquire about dates please contact the booking secretary Phil on 774526
www.eldwickmethodistchurch.co.uk

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE – CAROL SINGING 6pm
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL



CHRISTMAS EVE

Live entertainment from Buddy Holly aka Mark Chrystyn all welcome free entry.

NEW YEAR'S EVE – Birches / Memorial Hall

Bring in the New Year with live entertainment. Pow Wow, very pleasant easy listening duo will set the mood for an enjoyable and relaxing evening. Supper will be provided. The Hall will be decorated to provide a suitable ambience for this popular evening. Seats and tables may be booked but tickets are limited for your comfort and enjoyment. Tickets are £12 and are available from Birches. Book early to avoid disappointment.



House Swap in Eldwick

Well, as promised, an update for the "dating service for homes". I have had a good response, but need lots more applicants, one "date" have been put in touch, so fingers crossed. Briefly, for those residents who didn't see my letter in the October issue, I am offering an impartial "dating" service for Eldwick residents who are interested in selling or exchanging their homes in Eldwick only. Post your details to me or the Eldwick Newsletter of your house, bedrooms, semi or detached, price required (please be realistic) and if you would like to sell or exchange, type of house you're looking for and wanting to pay*. I am trialling the idea for 6 months. Absolute confidentiality. All letters will be destroyed after that time. No fee required, just a genuine desire to get the Eldwick housing market moving again.

*Name, telephone number, email address required.

Ann Oakden, 17 Southway, BD16 3EW

IN REMEMBRANCE

Your article in the recent newsletter prompted me to look at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website where the death of Lieutenant William Starkey is recorded, quite early on in WWII, on 16 April 1941 although the place at which he died is not mentioned.

He was obviously a brave soldier having been awarded the Military Cross. His grave, or rather his commemorative stone, is in Bingley Cemetery.

I attach the CWGC "certificate" for your interest.

J.G. Collins

In Memory of

Lieutenant WILLIAM STARKEY MC
141356, 11th Bn., Green Howards
(Yorkshire Regiment)

who died age 45 on 16h April 1941

Son of Enoch and Rebecca Starkey, of
Bingley; husband of Donna Starkey, of
Eldwick, Bingley.

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BINGLEY CEMETERY



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the Commonwealth War Graves
Commission



CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



From the 17th century, Broadstones House at the bottom of Sheriff Lane was the location for a Quaker community whose members were first linen weavers, later woolcombers and weavers in the woollen industry. So it was not surprising that, by the 19th century, Broadstones had become a Temperance Hotel and Coffee House as an alternative to the evil of demon drink, promoted by the proliferation of local beerhouses and inns. Eldwick had The Acorn, The Travellers Rest and Dick Hudsons whilst Gilstead had The Glen.

In 1837, 'A New Way of Keeping Christmas' was reported locally when "to celebrate the establishment, principles and benefits of the Temperance Society, a large and happy party of friends of the movement had their Christmas Party". The room of a large mill was used for the event when all sat down to tea at three o'clock, "supplied plentifully with the health-inspiring viands".

The room was decorated with flowers, evergreens, paintings, etc., pleasing to the eye and mostly having been made by the young females who worked at the local mills.

In 1842 there was concern that Christmas Day would be difficult to celebrate because it fell on a Sunday when "lawful and unlawful pastimes, mince pies and plum pudding could not be enjoyed". Locally, and nationwide, those who worked in the mill, at the shop counter, or elsewhere for six days a week, who had looked forward to Christmas Day as a holiday for months, were in despair. No Act of Parliament to change the day could be obtained, as parliament was not sitting!

The solution was to secure the day after, Boxing Day, for a general holiday, so the local Bingley mill-owners succeeded in coming to such an agreement and, "on Monday next all the mills and shops will be closed, the same as though it were Christmas Day, to allow the prentice lads, mill girls and others, the opportunity of commemorating and enjoying the Season of the Year.

Fifteen years later, at the local workhouse, where 370 inmates from around Bingley were regaled with roast beef and plum pudding on Christmas Day, the ladies and gentlemen of the district responsible for such charity were given three hearty cheers. At dinner time traditional food was served, with an abundant supply of 'Old October'. During the afternoon, oranges were distributed to the children, whilst the old folk quaffed foaming brown stout and smoked pipes of Virginian weed. The entertainment from the inmates was mainly vocal and went through to the evening when spice cake, cheese and ale were served up.

The bill of fare for this Christmas Feast included 375lbs of beef, 2 packs of flour, 2 loads of potatoes, 36 gallons of ale, 90 lbs of currants, 60 lbs of raisins, 90 lbs of sugar, half a pound of nutmegs, 2 lbs of all-spice and 2 lbs of candied lemons.

For the common people in the community, life was still hard and for them it was more difficult to celebrate in such ways so there were several cases of people being prosecuted for poaching 'coney' in Milnerfield and on Gilstead Moor – all the open moor between Eldwick and Gilstead. One such case in 1868 was against a worsted weaver of Eldwick Beck, for Night Poaching. The man had a gun and threatened to shoot the policeman who approached him at midnight. As a result he was sent to prison for a month, after which he would have to produce a bond of £10, or remain in prison for another month.

In a different way, people took it upon themselves to decorate their homes with traditional greenery, risking prosecution. Both the grounds of Milnerfield in Primrose Lane, abundant in holly and yew as part of the Wagnerian Gothic landscaping to match the Mansion, and the new Prince of Wales Park, fell prey to such activity. In 1868, only a few years after being opened, it was said that the evergreen trees in the park were again suffering, as they had in past winters prior to the Christmas season. "It is hoped they will in future be protected and the branches spared to enjoy the summer's sun of 1869. Spare the trees and the plants, for if none are gathered then all may enjoy them". Maybe the fact that the pine and spruce trees had been donated by the then Prince of Wales himself led locals to believe they were collecting royal decorations.

In 1899 Mr. W.C. Ferrand of Daisy Bank in Gilstead Lane, local dignitary and Chairman of the Bingley School Board, entertained the Eldwick School pupils to a Christmas Tea. A lantern show was given by son, Vincent Ferrand, 63 book presents were given, and Mr. Ferrand presented gifts to the Schoolmaster and his two teachers. In return they presented Mr. & Mrs. Ferrand with an afternoon tea kettle and brass stand. Each scholar on departing, received from Mr. Ferrand a box of chocolate, an apple and an orange. Two years later Vincent Ferrand followed his father's benevolence by giving another lantern show, this time of Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol', to all the villagers of Eldwick at Eldwick Wesleyan Chapel on Christmas Eve.

ALLAN MIRFIELD

C & J Bettes

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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

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Issue No 361 December 2008

The Eldwick Village Society Newsletter.

Email: Eldwicknews@aol.com

A Merry Christmas to all our Readers



PHOTOGRAPHS OF ELDWICK IN THE SNOW
BY MIKE BAMFORD



BULB PLANTING ON THE REC.

Parks and Landscapes of Bradford Council provided 2,000 daffodil bulbs to be planted on the rec and outside the Memorial Hall. The photograph shows pupils of Eldwick Primary School eagerly assisting in the planting of the bulbs. Thanks to Parks and Landscapes and the pupils of Eldwick Primary School.



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