

Bob's Snippet

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

Dear Sir

IN REMEMBRANCE

In reply to J.C. Collins' considerate letter in your December Newsletter, Lt. W. Starkey was killed along with another Officer during an air raid over Belfast.

They were on patrol but the Army offered little information due to security at that time.

The coffin was sent home sealed and under escort with instructions that it must not be opened.

Until recently a photograph of Eldwick Home Guard was hanging in Birches Club, this was taken when he relinquished command of the Unit upon recall to the Colours.

Yours faithfully
C.W. Starkey

PLANNING

The following applications have been received by Bradford Council
08/07061/FUL Construction of extension at Prospect House, Prospect Lane.

08/07012/FUL Construction of two storey side extension, 73 Warren Lane.

08/07365/FUL Retention of extended gravel farming area, two lighting columns and a length of dry stone wall at Royston Fold Farm, Saltaire Road.

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THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

The Eldwick and Gilstead Thursday Afternoon Club met recently to hold their Christmas Party in the Memorial Hall. A pleasant meal accompanied by a raffle and also carol singing was enjoyed by about forty members. The afternoon was enhanced by the outstanding Christmas decorations which graced the hall.

The meetings will recommence on January 8th 2009.

Shown in the photo are our

oldest member Mrs Edith Wilson (left) talking to vice president's wife Mrs Ann Smith. Seasons Greetings to all villagers from the Club.



SHIPLEY CONSTITUENCY NEWS

from Shipley Area Committee and Shipley Area Co-ordinator's Office
January 2009

NOW IS THE TIME TO REQUEST RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS 2008/09

If your community wants to be involved in community clean-up activities in the coming year now is the time to complete and send in a proposal form. A copy of the form is enclosed with this mailing for your use.

**Closing date for completed forms to be submitted:
Friday 30 January 2009.**

We are hoping to move away from funding bulky refuse collections and, instead, want to encourage all residents to make use of the council's FREE doorstep, bulk refuse collection service throughout the year (by telephoning 01274 431000). Please do not use the enclosed form to request bulky refuse clean-ups this year. If you feel that your neighbourhood still needs one of these, please contact Dave Horsman by email.

**For further information contact
Shipley Area Co-ordinator's Office
Dave Horsman – Neighbourhood Support Officer
T: (01274) 437146**

E: dave.horsman@bradford.gov.uk

NOMINATE YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY HERO!

Do you know an individual or a small community group, who deserves recognition for the voluntary work that they do?

Why not nominate them for a Community Hero Award, to the Shipley Area Committee? All "Heroes" will be invited to a special presentation night at Victoria Hall, Saltaire, in March 2009.

AWARD CATEGORY CRITERIA

Adult	• Aged 22 or over
Young People	• Aged 21 or under
Small Community Group	• With no paid staff.

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON
Friday 30 JANUARY 2009**

**Contact Shipley Area Co-ordinator's Office for a nomination form on
(01274) 437146 or email:**

shipleyareaneighbourhoodforums@bradford.gov.uk

COMMUNITY CHEST

The Shipley Area Committee has a small budget each year for grants to local groups or young people involved in artistic, sporting, or voluntary work. Community groups can apply for a maximum of £500. Funding can only be awarded for one-off events or start-up costs, or items of equipment/refurbishment. Grants cannot be used to fund on-going expenses.

**For full details of the criteria and application form contact
Shipley Area Co-ordinator's Office
on 01274 437146**

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**GEOFFREY WILSON O.B.E.
Gentleman.**



Christmas festivities in Eldwick were tinged with deep sadness on Christmas Eve, with the death of Geoff, at his home, The Cottage, Eldwick Beck.

Distinguished in appearance, dress, speech, manner and profession, this gentleman loved Eldwick and its community spirit, both of which he admired and revered. So much so that, only recently, he instigated the move amongst fellow residents, to have the Eldwick Beck hamlet designated as a Conservation Area. Living with his dear wife Dorothy in the beautiful and picturesque former mill location, Geoff treasured the gardens, shrubbery, and the pretty watercourse of the Beck. A lover of natural beauty, his local birdlife included kingfishers and herons, and he even had Jacobs sheep in his field behind The Cottage, to remind Eldwick of its agricultural heritage.

Beyond Eldwick Geoff was a principal of Bingley Flower Fund Homes Ltd, with whom, as Secretary, he endeared himself to the residents. He was a regular visitor to these sheltered homes, always having a kindly word, taking a keen interest and giving heartening support to the elderly residents.

In Bingley itself he was involved with the Round Table, the 41 Club and the Little Theatre.

However, it was his distinguished professional career in education, advising the Danish government on In Service Education, and even Mrs Thatcher's Department of Education, that received royal recognition and reward. In the Thatcher years his advice 'was not always palatable' because he

PHILIP DAVIES MP

To contact Philip ...

Call: 01274-592248

Email: daviesp@parliament.uk

Write to: House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

Website:

www.philip-davies.org.uk

✠ THE ELDWICK VILLAGE CHURCHES ✠

**ST. LAWRENCE'S
NEWS**

JANUARY

18th 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.30a.m. Morning Worship
6.30p.m. Evensong

25th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion

FEBRUARY

1st 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.30a.m. Big Family Praise

8th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion

15th 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
10.30a.m. Morning Worship

The Travelling Nativity was a great success, with about a hundred people following the star, Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men on a journey through the village – from the Methodist Church to the Acorn (where there was no room) to a stable outside the Memorial Hall. Mary rode on a real donkey called Ben who was very well-behaved and very popular with

fervently believed children and students should enjoy learning by being proactive in gathering life-long skills, rather than just being recipients of knowledge.

Geoff was keen to support and encourage this philosophy when accepting the position of Chairman of Governors at Eldwick First School .

In all his roles, even only as a member of the Eldwick community, he would be the first to recognise any initiative, kindly deed, or village activity by making a supportive phone call or writing a personal letter of praise.

Thus, this true gentleman will be sadly missed and well remembered in many circles.

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Dorothy and family in the knowledge that Geoff's presence and involvement in Eldwick, and far beyond, will have had a major impact on the lives of people of every age group, near and far.

**THE VILLAGE
ACTION PLAN**

As you will be aware the Village Action Plan requested by Bradford Council has now been lodged with them along with the accompanying DVD. Two of the main issues in the plan were the traffic calming measures on Otley Road and the issue of taking gardens for building known as "garden grabbing".

On Thursday 8th January at tea time a Rover car ploughed into the back of a Porsche just above Lyndale Road on Otley Road. And also in the last couple of weeks the Council have granted planning permission for three houses in a garden down Sheriff Lane, which involves knocking down a perfectly good house.

Really worth all the hardwork that went into the Action Plan then?

the children. We sang lots of carols on the journey and ended up in St. Lawrence's church hall having hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and biscuits. It was such a lovely way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Even the Christmas Eve weather was kind to us. Many thanks to the police who controlled the traffic so that our procession could go ahead in safety.

Sunday Club for children and young people meets 10.30-11.30a.m. in the church hall. Contact Jackie on 569203 for details.

Livewires Toddlers Group meets 10.00-11.30a.m. in the church hall on Mondays. Contact Ruth on 560081 for details.

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.

**SOCIETY SPEAKER WILL DIG DEEP
INTO OUR VALLEY**

The next meeting of the **Eldwick & Gilstead Horticultural Society** is on Tuesday 17 February when guest speaker Alan Plowright's subject will be Aire Valley Views and Geology. Gardeners, this is your opportunity to get to know our bit of Bingley better. All welcome at 7.30 pm.

Dear Sir

On the Wednesday after New Year I attended the live Jazz session in Birches. I was totally knocked out by the quality of the music. There appeared to be two groups of differing ages which provided a very broad range to the music. Some of the younger members providing a more contemporary style with bass guitar and drums. The more mature musicians providing excellent sax and double bass. It is excellent that live music of this sort of quality is provided within walking distance of home.

Thanks – L. Armstrong

**Live Jazz in Birches every
Wednesday, all welcome, admission
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**To book Birches with The Memorial
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THE WHEELS ON THE BUS

Only a few weeks ago there was news of the Eldwick Beck hamlet being considered for designation as Conservation Area. A survey was undertaken last summer and a documented draft summary was published in July which listed features and their value within the conservation area.

Amongst the buildings included was 'an ancient 19th century barn' at Meadowsweet Farm in Spring Lane, with a relatively modern house attached. Despite a report from a conservation officer, "that demolition of the barn and its replacement by a modern building set back from the road would detract from the historical character of the Eldwick Beck Conservation Area", and further, retaining the barn but replacing the house could be supported, a planning application to demolish both buildings was granted in November.

Not only has the splendid huge barn and its striking blue doors now disappeared, but with it has gone another piece of Eldwick's history – the birth of Eldwick's bus services.

Late in the 19th century Arthur and Frank Murgatroyd were two of many children of Eli Murgatroyd, market gardener, of Strawberry Gardens on Gilstead Moor. Arthur continued in his father's occupation before becoming the farmer at The Springs, in the 1920's. The farm consisted of what is now the kennels/cattery and the barn opposite, what was Meadowsweet.

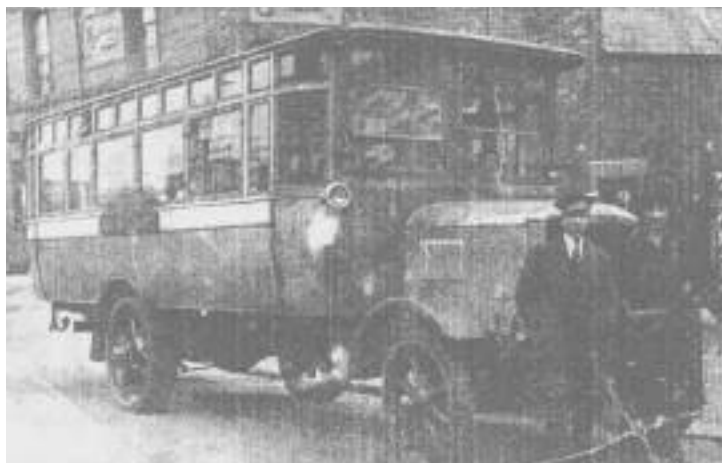
Arthur was a dairy farmer and had a wagon to deliver his milk around Eldwick and district. As a public service he then put wooden forms on the back of the wagon, which had a covered roof, and conveyed Eldwick people down to Bingley.

Often groups decided to go to a dance or to the cinema so Arthur would oblige, charging thruppence or sixpence for a return trip, and arranging a time to pick the people up and drop them off at home.

However, in time, proper omnibuses were introduced by commercial companies so Arthur's young brother Frank, decided to form The Eldwick Motor Services, purchasing three vehicles to compete with the Premier Bus Company of Keighley on local routes. Eldwick people would then let an opposition bus go by in order to wait for Frank's bus. His fleet of Karrier, Morris, and Guy buses were kept in Arthur's barn and began their journeys from Spring Lane.

The West Yorkshire Road Car Company had been formed in 1906 and gradually bought out small independent firms to take their routes. Keighley's Premier Company went in 1926 and, after the West Yorkshire Bus Company was renamed in 1928, Frank's business was taken over by them in March 1929.

Two years before that, there was a fatality on the Eldwick bus route. One of many local firms running services through Bingley was that of T. Briggs & Co of Wilsden. They too competed with Frank on the Eldwick route and, on April 20th 1927 three conductors with two drivers of the company, were making a trial run to Gilstead and Eldwick. All went well until, after the West View stop at the crest of the hill, the transmission shaft broke and came up through the floor of the bus, which then ran away down Otley Road. Just before reaching the bend at Saltaire Road, Hector Jackson, 28 jumped from the rear door and suffered a fatal fractured skull. Others jumped out as the driver stuck to the wheel as his bus



demolished refreshment sheds at the top of Saltaire Road, before somersaulting 20 feet down the bank. If it had not been for a tree stump, the bus chassis, having lost its body, would not have stopped there but would have continued down into the beck. The Inquest recorded a verdict of accidental death and recommended buses of the type involved should not be used in hilly areas.

Once the West Yorkshire buses were running, much higher standards were welcomed and the company continued to expand. It was already running buses all the way up to Dick Hudson's and, in 1931, applied to introduce a Baildon to Bingley service through Eldwick, to relieve congestion in Towngate. At the enquiry it was argued that Eldwick 'only had about 20 houses' so why should Baildon pay for roads to be improved and widened, so the application was rejected.

The great winter of 1933 saw a bus engulfed in snow at Dick Hudson's and there it remained for several days but, remarkably, West Yorkshire were normally complimented for keeping the whole route open in winter by spreading ashes on the road.

The Bingley terminus was in Station Square and criticisms were voiced about unruly queues both at lunchtimes and at teatimes so barriers were erected to solve the problem.

In 1939 the problem was further solved when an air-raid shelter was built in the middle of the square. In the same year, as the last tram ran in Bingley, West Yorkshire started the service through the Ferncliffe estate, charging tuppence ha'penny to Eldwick Beck and fourpence ha'penny to Dick Hudson's. During the war, services were reduced, with none at all on Sundays.

In 1947, scenes reminiscent of 1933 saw the great snow-up with bus services terminating at Gilstead in the March blizzards. One day the snow completely filled in Warren Lane wall to wall so it was impassable and the snow plough with several cars, was completely buried. Huge bands of workers were employed to dig out the road up to Dick Hudson's, after which services resumed.

The terminus was eventually moved down from Dick's, when single decker buses could reverse into the lay-by in Spring Lane, so near to the bus depot of 1920, before that junction became so busy the buses went back to High Eldwick.

C & J Bettles

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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 362 January 2009
 The Eldwick Village Society Newsletter.
 Email: Eldwicknews@aol.com



Proper Snow! Warren Lane 1947


 Happy
 New
 Year



A POLITICALLY CORRECT CHRISTMAS

The photograph shows Joseph holding the Risk Assessment Document for the nativity procession wishing that the donkey had been fitted with orange flashing lights to complement the blue flashing lights of the police van that accompanied the procession up Otley Road on Christmas Eve. The group gathered outside Birches to be told by the grumpy pub landlord (Allan Mirfield) that there was no room in the inn, but they could shelter in the biodegradable cardboard stable nailed to the side of the Memorial Hall. Soon the baby Jesus was born and the Three Wise Men approached "This looks like a breach of the Trades Description Act" one of the Shepherds was heard to say. Later that day a strange man in red costume arrives (carefully negotiating the community speedwatch) to cheer revellers at the Carol Service, is this man an illegal immigrant

taking the jobs from local people?, a younger man posing as a pensioner?, a younger man posing as a pensioner?, has the fuzz around his face been treated with fire retardant? and, as he appears to be endearing himself to children, has he been CRB checked? What is more, he is handing out food with no warning that these oranges may contain pips!

One true story of that same evening. A young lady working behind the bar aged eighteen had gone to a local supermarket to buy a few last things for Christmas. At the checkout she was asked for her ID "But I have not bought any alcohol" she said. "No, the ID is for the crackers, they contain explosives!" replied the checkout assistant.

On a serious note thanks to all those people involved in the Nativity and the Carol singing who made Christmas in Eldwick a very special time.

P.S. £365 was raised for Charity from the collection at the Carol Singing.

Paul Rae C·A·R·P·E·T·S

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