

# Eldwick & Gilstead Horticultural Society

## ONE MAN'S ISLAND IN THE SUN

The speaker at our September meeting was Allan Mirfield, no stranger to Newsletter readers. Allan took the gardens on the Island of Sark as his subject and this presented him with a problem: what to leave out. Allan has been visiting Sark for 32 years and has accumulated a deep knowledge of this magical location plus a huge number of slides which he had edited into an impressive powerpoint presentation for the evening.

Sark is the smallest of the four main Channel Islands, located some 80 miles off the south coast of England. It is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, and as such is a British crown dependency. Whilst only three miles long, and a mile and a half wide, Sark boasts 40 miles of what must be one of the most picturesque coastlines anywhere in the world which draws visitors like Allan and his family back for their holidays, year after year.



A corner of the Seigneurie Gardens

There are no cars, giving Sark an enchantment which is quite unique. It has a population of about 600. Its main industries are tourism, crafts and finance and it was the last European territory to abolish what some called classic feudalism, in 2008.

Sark consists of two main parts, Greater Sark, and Little Sark lying to the south. They are connected by a narrow isthmus called La Coupée which is 90 metres (300 ft) long and has a drop of 330 ft on each side. Before protective railings were erected in 1900; children would crawl across on their hands and knees to avoid being blown over the edge. There is a narrow concrete road covering the entirety of the isthmus, built in 1945 by German prisoners of war under the direction of the Royal Engineers.

John Michael Beaumont is the current and twenty-second Seigneur of Sark, inheriting the position in 1974. He lives at La Seigneurie where he retains the sole right on the island to keep pigeons and is the only person allowed to keep an unspayed bitch. I'm sure all our readers were desperate to know that.

A visit to Sark's Seigneurie Gardens is rewarding for everyone and a must for gardeners. They will enjoy the unusual plants which thrive in the frost-free climate, grown in a formal setting in the walled garden, designed to be colourful throughout the season. There is a maze with a castle in the middle to keep children amused while the adults enjoy the flowers. The ponds made by monks many centuries ago to drive their mill are now home to ducks.

There are gardens all over Sark and the main ones offer visitors a cup of tea at the end of their tour. Allan cheerfully admitted that he is no botanist/horticulturist but advised his audience



Public Transport on the island

to visit Sark to see for themselves the sheer variety of plant life on the island.

He reminded us that Sark is a car-free zone where the only vehicles allowed are horse-drawn vehicles, bicycles, tractors, and battery-powered buggies or motorised bicycles for elderly or disabled people. Passengers and goods arriving by ferry from Guernsey are transported from the wharf by tractor-pulled vehicles.

Allan made Sark sound like the perfect holiday destination, an oasis from the hustle and bustle of the modern world where visitors can enjoy a holiday or a short break free from the stress of everyday living. 'And don't forget to visit the gardens while you're there'.

Our final meeting of 2009 is the AGM at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17 November, followed by a faith supper. Do come and join us!  
**MIKE HITCHEN**

## Thursday Afternoon Club

Recently members of Eldwick and Gilstead Thursday Afternoon Club set off by coach to journey through the Dales to North Yorkshire. We passed near the Ribbleshead Viaduct which was surrounded by tourists in their cars and wended our way through spectacular scenery. Our selected stopping place was Leyburn, always a good place to see and several members went to take the view from the Shawl, others found tea rooms.

Reboarding the coach we eventually got our meal stop in the village with a castle, namely Snape. We had a pleasant tea in the village hall prepared by the ladies of the Snape Methodist Church.

As the evening drew on we journeyed home and had been blessed all day by good weather.

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# YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Over 50 members attended the meeting held on the 8th of September.

Members please make a note in your diary for the 4th of December when a coach will be travelling to York for the annual Carol Service, cost will be £7.50 so please contact Maureen Beckwith to book your seat.

Our speaker was Steve Thorpe, a gardener of enthusiasm and inspiration who works in the local community. Steve is an advisor for the Food for Life Partnership. In 2006 won National School Food hero and was the founder of the Haworth Primary School Garden Club. As a gardener he has taken his skills into schools and shown children the joy of gardening, and the benefits that can be obtained from a garden. Haworth Primary School began their school garden in 2002 with the view of brightening up their school, and then developed the vegetable garden, from where vegetables are then used in the school kitchen. It has enriched their lives; they have developed nature and wildlife areas and a wildlife area that both children and staff can use to relax in. All children can learn to be healthy, enjoy their achievements and achieve economic well being. The children have taken their love of gardening into the wider community visiting nursing homes and enabling the elderly to do gardening by planting bulbs or growing outside in raised beds. All the gardening is done on a tight budget and the children raise funds by selling plants, which they have grown. Steve now gives advice to other schools and projects and his commitment to gardening is inspirational.

Our next meeting will be on November 10th when our speaker N. Down will talk on The Moon, the Stars and 4 Clocks.

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# ✠ THE ELDWICK VILLAGE CHURCHES ✠

## ST. LAWRENCE'S NEWS

### OCTOBER

18th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (at St. Wilfred's due to redecorating)  
25th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (at Methodist Church)

### NOVEMBER

1st 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Big Family Praise  
8th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
15th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship  
22nd 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** meets in church hall at 7.45 p.m. 19th Nov. – Edna Morrell on 'The Duke and Duchess of Windsor'. 10th Dec. – Christmas Party.

**WALKING GROUP** Next outings leave from church carpark at 9.00 a.m. on 17th Oct., 21st Nov., 12th Dec.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING** to be held at Little House, Bingley on 31st Oct. at 10.00 a.m. Raffle, home-made cakes, books, gifts, Christmas Cards, refreshments (donation). All welcome.

**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% off standard charge). Contact our bookings secretary, Ann Shoebridge on 564690.

## 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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## PHILIP DAVIES MP

To contact Philip ...

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Email: [daviesp@parliament.uk](mailto:daviesp@parliament.uk)

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

Website:

[www.philip-davies.org.uk](http://www.philip-davies.org.uk)

## SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

### 18th October

9.15 am Communion Rev Ruth Parry  
10.30 am Mr Michael Webster

### 25th October

9.15 am Big Breakfast  
10.30 am Rev Alf Waite United Service with St Lawrence's

### 1st November

10.30 am

### 8th November

10.30 am Remembrance United Service with St Lawrence's  
Rev Ruth Parry

### 15th November

9.15 am Communion Rev Ruth Parry  
10.30 am Mrs Louise Makin

### 22nd November

9.15 am Big Breakfast  
10.30 am Rev Jacky Hale

### 29th November

10.30 am Rev Ruth Parry

## 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](http://www.eldwickmethodistchurch.co.uk)

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# TRAMPING ON ROMBALDS

As the proposed Eldwick Beck Conservation Area makes slow progress through administrative channels, it is encouraging to learn that additional proposals from the local public have been readily accepted.

As well as focusing on Eldwick Beck, comments were invited as to how the hinterland is such an attractive landscape which draws visitors from far and wide. Comments like, rural tranquility, wide open moorland, and an abundance of footpaths and bridleways, were forthcoming.

For well over a century, crossing Rombalds Moor from Airedale into Wharfedale has become a leisure pursuit rather than a vital link for trade and industry. It was said that the advent of the motor car became a nuisance to pedestrians using country roads but at least there was one place unmolested and still a sacred hunting ground for the 'happy tramps'. This referred to ramblers who crossed Rombalds from Eldwick to Ilkley to enjoy the wild romantic beauty of the rugged moorland.

Families would even set out with donkeys to carry their children, first in panniers, then astride the animal, until able to walk the whole way. If there was only one donkey the children would have to take turns in the saddle.

Various routes could be taken, one being from the former Gaping Goose inn, along a wall side via Burley Woodhead. The beautiful converted building on the roadside today, just before the junction down to Hawkworth, was once not just a lonely moorland farmstead but an isolated inn with a lively reputation. The rendezvous for travellers, traders, poachers, fighters and gamblers, saw its heyday during the construction of the moorland reservoirs with crowds of navies as regular customers.

Reaching Burley Woodhead, there was a chance of seeing Job Senior, the Rombalds Moor Hermit. His 'hermit's hole' was little better than a hovel in the hillside, patched up with turf and heather.

By far the most popular crossing of Rombalds has always been from 'Dick's to Ilkley. Way back in the 1860's, the

track was an indifferent one, particularly in winter months. Neither the local authorities nor landowners offered to keep it in good repair so private enterprise had to step in. Men stood with collecting boxes as if in church and these were shaken in the faces of pedestrians every Sunday at both the Eldwick and Ilkley ends of the route. This was continued until the costs, of ditching the roadway on both sides and patching it up into a solid roadway, were defrayed. A leader of this enterprise was one Old Joe Dickinson from Bingley who knew the moor better than anyone. A popular 'tramper', he was also an excellent cook with skills he even practised on Rombalds. In a secret corner, far from the beaten track, he kept a set of cooking utensils etc, the etc being a black bottle of his favourite brew. For the favoured few he would cook inch thick ham steaks from a home-fed ham, cooked in red-hot embers fired in a pit cut out of solid peat.

In 1909 comment was made that the gable on the new building at Eldwick had painted in big bold letters 'DICK HUDSON'S', as if everyone needed to be reminded of the background to the family running The Fleece Inn.

A third route across the moor comes from Baildon up Sconce Lane by way of Faweather, Little London and Old Wood, to reach the main moorland highway from Keighley to Otley. In past times this was a pack-horse route with Little London being a kind of trading centre from all directions and stone tablets still remain in part of the lane.

Emerging onto the highway west of the Gaping Goose, the walker crosses straight over to the track which leads to Horncliffe. Again, a century ago, the rough one storey cottage and its small enclosures reclaimed from moorland was still standing, whereas today only faint traces remain. The vital spring still bubbles with crystal clear water which enabled this homestead to exist. Could anything short of madness have established a day school in such a wilderness? Yet the stories were told of how Joshua Briggs kept a school here



two hundred years ago, even though scholars were scarce and payment in fees was small. Perhaps it was the reason why Joshua the teacher and preacher was compelled to combine his teaching with skills in besom-making. He used his pupils to scour the moor for the heather he would use to construct sturdy brooms which he would then sell in Baildon. Most of his teaching was also done in the open and he opened Sunday schools in Baildon, serving the community until 1827 when he died. In his time at Horncliffe there were far more dwellings all along the road from 'Dick Hudson's', peopled by farm workers, weavers and quarrymen so there would have been more prospective pupils, miles from any other schools in the area.

The other popular custom of walking the bounds has now died out but at one time all local boundaries led to Ashlar Chair in the centre of the moor and it was there that different groups from Bingley, Baildon, Burley, etc, would meet during their circumnavigation. Even today the large scale Ordnance Survey maps will show that there are lots of routes to take to enjoy the beauties of Rombalds Moor.

## PLANNING

09/04064/FUL Construction of detached bungalow and garage at Whitecroft Barn, Otley Road.

09/04148/FUL Construction of one 6Kw wind turbine on a 15 metre mast on land adjacent to Ramsgill, Otley Road.

09/04029/FUL Construction of detached dwelling with garage at 6 Glen Road.

09/04228/HOU Construction of two storey rear extension and part of single storey at 7 Warren Avenue.

09/04485/HOU Construction of 2 storey side extension and single storey side extension at 22 Heaton Crescent.

09/04605/HOU Construction of conservatory at 11 Sheriff Court.

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The Eldwick Village Society Newsletter.

Email: Eldwicknews@aol.com



## Eldwick Bonfire and firework display

Yes it is that time of year again. This popular event will be held on Saturday 7th November. The fire will be lit at 7 and the fireworks at approximately 7.30. There will be a stilt walker fire-eater and after the fireworks, in the Hall a magician! There will be a barbecue, pie and peas and of course, the bar. There will be bigger and better fireworks making this an even more memorable event – all we need now is the weather.



We are pleased to announce that local businessman Jack Bairstow's firms PFF and Arvensis are the main sponsors.



## GALA WINTER DISCO

**FRIDAY 27th November  
7 - 8.30pm**

**Eldwick Memorial Hall**  
For all 7 to 11 year olds  
Entry £2  
(Refreshments 20p)

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**Eldwick & Gilstead  
Gala Association AGM  
Monday 23rd November  
In the Birches at 8pm**

Come along and be involved in the planning of future events !!  
Be involved in your community.  
**2010 Gala Day – Saturday 26th June**

**2009 GALA** Proceeds of over £2000 will shortly be distributed among local organisations, in addition to the funds raised on Gala Day itself by those who took part. Local event supporting local organisations.

## Eldwick Village Society IT Facility.

Monday 21st September saw the launch of the Village Society IT facility. This consists of six laptops wireless broadband a large wallmounted 50" plasma screen, a printer, projector and sound systems. Representatives of the Council, organisations within the village and users of the hall were treated to a demonstration of the equipment in the more intimate surroundings of Birches and in the Memorial Hall where Abba and pie and peas were available. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bradford Council, the Shipley Area Panel, our Councillors Hesseltine, Penington and Owens but especially Dave Horsman our community support officer, for their help in setting up this facility. This equipment is available for organisations within the village to book.

Commercial use of this facility is also welcome, as these venues now provide an excellent venue for training. For details please telephone 01274 562643.

## BLACK DYKE CONCERT – 5th December 2009

Following the success of last years concert, Bingley and Airedale Rotary Club will be presenting another performance of brass band music by the famous Black Dyke Band. This year's concert will be in celebration of Bingley Airedale's silver jubilee and will be held in Bradford Grammar School on Saturday 5th December 2009 commencing at 7:00 pm (Please note that this years concert is being held later in the year and commences 30 minutes earlier than in previous years). Ticket prices have again been held to last years price of £10, (with discounts for groups of 10+). Proceeds will be given to SmartRisk UK and other Rotary Charities.

**Tickets are obtainable from Richard Colton, 8 Waterside,  
Bingley, BD16 2SN. Tel. 01274 561941**

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## CHRISTMAS REVISION.

After more than 20 years of regular use on Christmas Eve at the Memorial Hall Community Singsong, the booklets providing the words are in need of replacement.

This gives an opportunity to revise the contents to include not just popular carols but, by request, some Christmas songs and even a couple of children's favourites. If you would like to suggest items for inclusion, please drop a note into the Eldwick Newsletter postbox within Eldwick Post Office. Thank you.

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