

Letters to the Editor

15 Parkinson Street, Foulridge, Colne, Lancs., BB8 7PS

Dear Editor

Thank you to all involved with the Newsletter which I always enjoy reading. Some surnames on the back page of the last issue I remembered from school days – Feather and Fawcett. I hope you have all been able to cope with the heavy snows, and had a very Happy Christmas 2009.

This year for our younger family has been quite sad. I am the only one left now from seven children from Herbert and Elizabeth Royston. My brother Fred spent some of his youth gardening above Delph Hills, land which belonged to our grandparents in Eldwick. He went into the navy during the War, served on the destroyer H.M.S. Vigilant doing suicide missions. Cared for by his family to the end, Audrey his wife, and two daughters both nurses and son John. Approx. eight weeks later my sister Martha died, also an ex-service woman during the war and driver in the R.A.F. My mother Elizabeth was in the A.T.S. as a cook. Martha and Ernest and Fred and Audrey both celebrated their diamond weddings just as our grandparents Samuel and Martha did, they lived at Spring Farm.

Trusting the year 2010 will bring peace and our young men and women home again.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

Thank you again, Yours Maureen Green nee Royston

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to read of the obvious displeasure from Mr Carter with regard to the Carol Singing at the Memorial Hall on Christmas Eve.

Whilst I myself am not deeply religious I went along to join in the evening knowing it was an evening of Christmas carols and was probably going to be attended by friends and also strangers to myself from around Eldwick, indeed upon arrival my thoughts were pretty much correct. The first two people I recognised were Peter Sykes and Ian Holgate both sat on stage and obviously later could be seen contributing whole heartedly to the band and what a good time the band enjoyed, you could see the enthusiasm in their faces.

I could not be seated simply because of the support the night generated, if the band and the hosts required a warm start from the audience, which they didn't, then they certainly got one anyway. Yes there were moments of 'not quite' but moments within the event that were entertainment personified, I will never forget the twelve days of Christmas, movement and energy that I don't suppose the audience expected but certainly enjoyed, I guess the night before got mentioned positively on many a Christmas dinner table the following day.

Yes Christmas is about remembering and we all do in many different ways but the smiles on the children's faces in the Memorial Hall stated the time of the year and also set the theme for the following morning.

I suspect I may have to get there earlier next Christmas, well done to all concerned with the event.

Graham Brewster

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

So delighted and grateful was the full house audience on Christmas Eve at the Christmas Singalong that they gave generously to the retiring collection. The Yorkshire Air Ambulance Charity wishes to thank the Eldwick Village community for the £220 donated.

In addition, an individual has expressed thanks for an enjoyable evening and has given £100 towards the cost of the new 'Christmas Praise' songbooks to be used every Christmas Eve.

Copies of 'A Victorian Gentleman' by Peter Knight, recently publicised in the Newsletter may be obtained from www.Lulu.com/ or, preferably from Mr.Knight direct by telephone 01274 551339 price £9.50 + p&p.

Eldwick & Gilstead Horticultural Society

Young ones really dig the gardening scene

Mrs Jayne Franz is an Assistant Head Teacher at Eldwick Primary School whose pupils have a tradition of supporting our society by competing in the children's classes for artwork, poetry, creative writing and craft (making model gardens and other items) at our annual Spring Fair.

Jayne came to address our January meeting on the subject (naturally) of Children in the Garden. With its rural outlook and extensive grounds, the school lends itself to all forms of horticultural activity. It is a place where as the children grow up and progress through the school, they have lots of opportunities each year to gain hands-on experience in preparing the ground for sowing seeds, planting them and overseeing their care and maintenance. This applies to flowers, vegetables and glasshouse subjects such as tomatoes, peppers and other tender species. Some produce will end up in the school's kitchen and will ultimately be consumed by the same young gardeners who tended and nurtured the spuds and broccoli and whatever else was on the menu that day.

Following a plant's progress from seed to dinner plate with a small-scale local dimension must give the children an invaluable insight into how the world works to feed itself and into some of the problems involved in food production.

The school's interest in horticulture began in a small way at its old site. With the move to Warren Lane a few years ago, the keen young gardeners found themselves with almost more space than they could handle. The work is

ongoing however, and will be for some time. There's room for a pond (with visiting heron, of course), an extensive vegetable patch, areas for herbs, sunflowers, beans, raspberries, tomatoes, chillies and root vegetables. The children observe all these, regularly measure their progress above and below the ground. They deal with pests and predators, observe how the sundial can tell them the time on a sunny day, and learn, learn, learn all the time. There's even a separate raised bed area where the very small nursery children can carry out their first studies. Beats double maths and physics!

When a school visit was arranged, Eldwick was host to a class from a school in Girlington, whose pupils just couldn't believe that children were being educated in this country setting on the edge of the moors. ("What's a moor?" asked one little visitor, who hadn't seen one before!).

Thanks to Wm Morrison plc's garden voucher scheme, the school has been able to acquire a greenhouse and poly tunnel while the Woodland Trust has provided 10 rowan and 10 hazel saplings which will form the nucleus of a small forestry operation outside the school. Here I must record that Jayne would like advice on rabbit deterrents - the little pests have been stripping the foliage from these small trees. She would also be grateful for more parent help - keeping the site tidy is a full-time job. A couple of volunteer hours a week from a few grown-ups would make a big difference.

Thank you, Jayne, for an inspirational talk.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16 March: Low Maintenance and Wildflower Gardens: the speaker is Michael Myers. All are welcome.

Mike Hitchen

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YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The January meeting was cancelled due to treacherous weather conditions.

All members have time to submit entries to the Home Craft Fair to be held in March at Wetherby, please contact Sylvia Slater for entry forms.

On March 6th the Eldwick Branch will hold their Party, at 7pm. Eldwick Memorial Hall.

Thursday Afternoon Club

The Eldwick and Gilstead Thursday Afternoon Club met on January 21st 2010 after quite some time. That is to say we had to cancel meetings by virtue of the winter weather. Our thanks to BBC Radio Leeds for broadcasting the cancellation notices when required. So we had a delayed 80th birthday celebration for Mrs Kath Hardy and we were doubly pleased to see everybody after the long break.

We also had a talk on the Bradford Millennium Way by Mr. Robert Whitehead.

On our most recent meeting January 28th, 2010 we were entertained by Margaret and Arthur to easy listening music entitled "Nice 'n' Easy". Familiar tunes known to everybody were expertly provided and many feet were tapping and there was singing along by many members.

Thanks to our syllabus secretary for providing regular and interesting acts and speakers.



Mrs Kath Hardy cutting her cake

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ST. LAWRENCE'S NEWS

FEBRUARY

21st 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship
28th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
(A.G.M. afterwards)

MARCH

7th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Big Family Praise
14th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
(Mothering Sunday)
21st 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship at
Eldwick Methodists
6.30 p.m. Evensong

LADIES FELLOWSHIP meets in church hall at 7.45 p.m. 18th Feb. – Jeanette Wallace on "The Former USSR". 18th. Mar. – Sheila Hodgkinson on "The Children's Society". 1st. Apr. – Maundy Thursday Service in church. 15th. Apr. – Michael Savage on "Rennie Mackintosh".

WALKING GROUP Next outings leave church car-park at 9.00 a.m. on 20th Feb., 20th. Mar. and 24th Apr.

COFFEE, CRAFTS & CHAT meets in church hall every Tuesday at 10.00 a.m. Contact Chris on 564694.

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.

PLEASE NOTE change of email address for the Newsletter
eldwicknews@yahoo.co.uk

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SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY

7th 10.30 am Revd Ruth Parry
14th 9.15 am Communion
Revd Ruth Parry
10.30 am Mr David Varley
21st 10.30 am Joint service at
St Lawrence's
28th 9.15 am Big Breakfast
10.30 am Mrs Ann Fox

MARCH

7th 10.30am Revd Ruth Parry – All Age
– Holy Communion
14th 10.30am Mrs Ann Mott
21st 9.15 am Communion
Revd Ruth Parry
10.30am Revd Alan Raine united
with St. Lawrences at
Eldwick Methodists
28th 9.15 am Big Breakfast
10.30am Revd Ruth Parry –
All Age worship

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Fri Friday Walk 9am
3rd Sun 9.15 am Holy Communion
4th Sun 9.15 am Big Breakfast

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 Barraclough on 774526

www.eldwickmethodistchurch.co.uk

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THE WESLEYAN WHODUNNIT

Just as Cottingley had its myth of photogenic 'fairies' which took years to be dispelled, so too did Eldwick have its own mystery which differed, in that it took over a century to be solved.

In the middle of the 18th century, the Stansfield family took the estate of Esholt Hall, which comprised of 20,000 acres of farmland, and later, mills and textile businesses. By marriage and inheritance the family became Crompton Stansfield and owned many farms in Eldwick, as well as Eldwick Corn Mill. One of those farms was 'Toils Farm', sometimes referred to as 'Middle Farm' as it lies off Otley Road, halfway between Eldwick Beck and 'Dick Hudsons'.

In 1759 Mr. John Whitley became the tenant and soon afterwards joined the Wesleyan Society, becoming a useful local preacher on 'the circuit' as well as giving rest and refreshment under his roof to visiting preachers. Indeed even the Reverend John Wesley called here on his journeys between Keighley/Bingley and Otley/Guiseley, some thirteen occasions between 1761 and 1784.

During his stays at Toils Farm he was said to have written poetry and shorthand on panes of glass in the windows, as well as an etched portrait of himself. Exactly one hundred years ago, a public meeting was held in the Eldwick Beck Wesleyan Chapel for a very special occasion, the gift of the panes of glass from Toils Farm, presented to the trustees from the Crompton Stansfield family. Neatly mounted in a frame, the three glass panels were to be displayed prominently in the chapel. Previous requests to Miss Crompton Stansfield to donate the panels had been refused as she said they should remain in the farmhouse in which they had been inscribed. Later, when alterations were being made to Toils Farm, the panels were removed to Esholt Hall where they remained until the family sold the estate to Bradford Corporation. Only then did the Crompton Stansfield descendants offer the revered panels to the Eldwick Beck Chapel. One of the proud recipients of the gift was Mr George Severs, who had previously researched and studied the mystery of the panels, and he made a public address on his conclusions.

Of the first pane, he stated that the portrait was evidently intended to represent Rev. John Wesley and that it was "after the portrait by Nathaniel Hone, R.A., now hanging in the National Portrait Gallery, or the engraving of this by Bland in 1765." The shorthand inscribed was to be interpreted by 'Williamson's System' as "God is love and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him", signed Samuel Smith who came as a minister on the circuit in 1776.

Speaking on the second pane, Mr. Severs said that in 1776 Mrs Whitley died so perhaps the inscription was written then when Mr Wesley appealed to Mr Whitley to enter the ministry as he was 'free to travel'. The shorthand is attributed to Macaulay's system of 1747 and bears the signature of Samuel Smith again, Mr. Severs suggesting it was one Smith learned in his youth.



The third pane has words from part of a verse often found on tombstones of the period.

"Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell, think Christian think.
You stand on vast eternity's dread brink.
Faith, Repentance, Piety and Prayer.

Despite this world, the next be all your care."

This was signed by John Denton, April 9th 1802, and he was Wesleyan Minister for the circuit for a period of 36 years.

Mr. Severs, a trustee of the chapel, wrote all these findings to be preserved by his descendants and in his notes he continued with the story of the Whitley family and Toils Farm. Once John Whitley entered the ministry, his son Francis took charge of the farm and for the next 44 years this farmhouse continued to be the centre of Wesleyan influence in Eldwick. Sarah Whitley, John's daughter, married Thomas Nicholson and they lived at Eldwick Beck which was at the time a smaller hamlet than Eldwick Cragg and neither settlements had chapel or church.

It was the Stansfield family, as major landowners, who generously gave land at Eldwick Cragg for the first chapel to be built, in 1815. Whilst Toils Farm had been a centre for Wesley and visiting preachers it was the Anderson family who had provided a room for the Wesleyan Services. The farm, adjacent to 'Dick Hudson's', was one of the many properties all along the highway which belonged to the Crompton Stansfields, as did both Rattlebank Hall and Hogg Hall, which once stood behind the Eldwick Cragg Chapel.

When the Crompton Stansfield family sold the Esholt Estate to Bradford, after arbitration over the disputed value, in 1906, the final amount was £269,000 ! As far as the Eldwick estate was concerned, Eldwick Hall, Eldwick Corn Mill and various farms were valued at £12,918 in 1929.

One by one the properties were sold off, usually at a price equal to 25 years rent but the legacy of the family remains with various lettered and dated stones on properties renovated at High Eldwick, as well as the 'Wesley Windows' from their 'Toils Farm'.

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Issue No 375 February 2010

The Eldwick Village Society Newsletter.

Email: eldwicknews@yahoo.co.uk

PAVEMENT PARKING

Further to recent correspondence about Pavement Parking in the village and its vicinity I would like to add my concerns.

I live in Warren Lane and as the pavement area outside my house is quite wide it is used very frequently as a parking place. I have to contend with vehicles being parked almost right up to my garden wall causing a 'blind spot' and making driving vehicles out of our driveway to my home very dangerous as it's impossible to see what traffic is coming up Warren Lane.

When I recently approached some culprits of this selfish parking I was told that the parking DID NOT create a problem for me and that the particular parked vehicle in question was parked on the pavement 'so the bus could get through.' This is utter rubbish! Warren Lane is wide enough to accommodate the odd parked vehicle without causing major, troublesome obstruction to other road users.

Having lived at my address since 1981 I consider that I am more than qualified to make an informed judgement and decision as to whether I am able to see clearly what traffic may be heading up Warren Lane from my right as I drive my vehicle out of my driveway, without being told by selfish and thoughtless individuals whether or not this is so. Please note that I DRIVE my car out of my driveway and NEVER reverse into Warren Lane.

Pavements are for the use of pedestrians and do not exist to provide off-road parking for ANY vehicle – whatever that vehicle type may be, and like previous correspondents I have witnessed pedestrians of all ages and abilities having to step out into the road to pass around a vehicular obstruction on the pavement. I too have had to do this and it annoys me intensely. As correspondents have already pointed out, it is also illegal to park on a footpath.

A Bradford Council Highways Dept. employee recently visited my home ahead of carrying out necessary maintenance work to the pavement outside my garden and informed me the cost of repairs to footpaths/pavements due to illegal parking on them runs into thousands of pounds every year.

Maybe if this method of parking were addressed with some kind of policing of the area and vehicle owners receiving parking tickets, people might think twice about their actions.

Sincerely,

Gillian Anderson, Warren Lane.

BROWNIES NEED YOU

We have three brownie packs in the Bingley area and without new leaders, two will have to close.

So what is a brownie leader ?

Brownies is for girls aged between 7-10

A leader or unit helper would work with other leaders in bringing a fun filled programme to the girls, including crafts, cooking, games, badges, drama etc. There is plenty of help, support and training

Packs meet once a week in term time

Please give it some thought, maybe you could help with a friend.

You will find working with the girls very rewarding and lots of fun

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Gala News

Gala Day Saturday 26th June 2010

To advertise in the programme, have a stall on the day, take part in the parade,
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email : eldwickgala@blueyonder.co.uk

GALA QUEEN SELECTION DISCO

FRIDAY 5th 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.

ENTRY £2

Gala Queen Entry Form

ELDWICK AND GILSTEAD GALA Saturday 26th June 2010

I would like to be considered for **Gala Queen / Attendant** for the 2010 Gala. The Gala Queen will be chosen at the **'Gala Queen Selection Night' on Friday 5th March, 7pm till 8.30pm** in Eldwick Memorial Hall (Disco entry £2). The Gala Queen should be 11 years of age or over and the attendants between the ages of 7 and 10 (girls or boys). The Gala Queen's name and all Attendants' names will be drawn out of a hat by the 2009 Gala Queen.

The Gala Queen and her attendants will ride in the Gala Parade, and are invited to attend other local Galas in 2010 and 2011 representing Eldwick & Gilstead

Name _____ Tel No. _____

Address _____

School _____ Age _____

I do live in Eldwick or Gilstead.

Signed _____ parent

Please return this slip to 8 Moorcroft before 4th April 2010

Paul Rae C.A.R.P.E.T.S

Please call Paul on 07778 568845

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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**