

Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 449 APRIL 2016

A voice for Eldwick

MAY 5th will be an exciting day for Eldwick.

Not only will people be voting in the local authority elections, but residents of Bingley and the surrounding areas will also be choosing their representatives for the new Bingley Town Council.

By May 20 the new councillors will be meeting for the first time and among them will be two representing Eldwick.

Their job will be to represent the village, fight for the things it needs and make sure the views and wishes of the people who live here are taken into account when decisions are made.

We believe the new town council will provide a great opportunity for local issues to be discussed, and, where necessary, referred to City Hall for further action.

The full list of candidates is now available and includes the usual

political representation in addition to a number of strong local candidates.

It's a big job that carries a lot of responsibility and your vote will be critical in ensuring Eldwick gets the representation it deserves.

The Eldwick Village Society is anxious that the right people are chosen for this important job and we believe they should be individuals with strong ties both to the village and to its community.

Further correspondence from one of the candidates – Mark Truelove – has been received by the Editor and is reproduced on this page.

Any similar information received from other candidates will be shared accordingly.

This is probably one of the most important events in the village's history – please make your vote count.

The Editor



Dear Reader

FURTHER to my last letter to all the residents of Eldwick, it is now clear that there are a number of candidates putting their names forward to represent the village on Bingley Town Council.

I believe the town council creates a unique opportunity for the people of Eldwick to ensure that the issues that concern them are debated and, where possible, action is taken.

To do this, the election of someone with a real understanding of the area and its challenges will be critical.

I will be standing for election as an Eldwick resident of 36 years and I have no political affiliation. I think this is very important in ensuring that issues can be tackled without outside constraints, and my only focus will be to deliver the right outcome for the people of Eldwick.

My two children went to Eldwick Primary School and were both involved with the Eldwick Junior Football Team and the Eldwick Venture Scouts.

My wife and I have been involved in many community activities and organisations within the village over the last 30 plus years including the Burnt Bangers team that feeds the hordes at the Eldwick Gala, the beer festival and the bonfire and fireworks display.

I am already aware of concerns about policing levels, speeding and dog fouling. These are all issues I will seek to address if elected and, with your help, I will identify others that are important locally.

As a local resident, I will be able to meet and discuss issues with individuals and village organisations alike, and I give you my assurance that I will work closely with them all for the good of the village and its residents.

Your vote is important – elect me to represent Eldwick, to give the village a local voice on Bingley Town Council.

With your support, we can build a better tomorrow for all the families of Eldwick.

Kind regards
Mark

Election timetable details

THE ELECTION of councillors for the new Bingley Town Council takes place on Thursday, May 5.

Below is the timetable of proceedings up to and including that day. Please remember – your vote counts!

- Last date for registration on the electoral role Monday, April 18
- Last date for receipt of postal vote applications or for changes to existing postal and proxy votes 5pm Tuesday, April 19
- Last date for receipt of new proxy vote applications 5pm Tuesday, April 26
- Publication of notice of poll Tuesday, April 26
- Deadline for appointment of poll and count agents Wednesday, April 27
- First day to issue replacement lost postal ballot papers Thursday, April 28
- Day of poll 7am to 10pm Thursday May 5
- Deadline for receipt of emergency proxy vote applications 5pm Thursday, May 5
- Last day to issue replacement spoilt or lost postal ballot papers 5pm Thursday, May 5

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Letter to the Editor

Hello,
I am writing to introduce myself to the electorate of Eldwick who will be able to vote 2 local councillors into office in the forthcoming Bingley Town Council, on 5th May. I will be standing as an Independent councillor.

My name is Chris O'Neill, I have lived in Eldwick for 5 years, with my wife Carole, in Barden Drive. We have five grown up children. I retired, aged 57, four years ago.

As soon as we moved to Eldwick I started getting involved in village life. I joined the Eldwick & Gilstead Gala Committee over 4 years ago. I am an active member of this group which organises childrens discos, the pet show, and, of course, the Gala. We donate £4,000+ each year from funds raised by the Gala to local groups, mainly involving children.

I joined The Eldwick Church the week before the Methodist & Anglican churches in Eldwick merged. I have been a Trustee of the Church for 3 years and expect to start another 3 years in this office shortly. I am also on the Property & Social committees of the Church.

For two years I volunteered at Shipley & Bingley Voluntary Services (SBVS) driving clients to medical appointments and driving their mini bus for local charities etc. I have stopped this work now as the patient transport scheme has ceased, and I am no longer able to drive mini buses due to a medical issue.

Amongst the issues that concern me in Eldwick are vehicle speed on the three main roads from Eldwick roundabout; fly tipping – which seems a growing issue; dog fouling – a permanent issue and increasing crime in Eldwick. As an Eldwick councillor I will endeavour to tackle these problems, and others brought to my attention. When elected I will keep in contact with the electorate via a "Councillor Corner" in this Newsletter, and set up dedicated Facebook, Twitter and e-mail functions when more urgent, two way, contact is required.

I would encourage the electorate to vote for Independent candidates, such as myself, in this most local of local elections, rather than steer towards traditional national party candidates. I tend to call a spade a spade, and would not see that attitude changing in



discussions with the Town Council, or with Bradford Met, where I would fight for the cause of Eldwick & Bingley.

I hope I can rely on your support on 5th May, and look forward to serving as your Town Councillor.

Thank you. Chris O'Neill

ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

HISTORY ON OUR DOORSTEP

In March, Trevor Moody from the National Trust made a return visit to Eldwick to tell us about the history of East Riddlesden Hall with a bit about horticulture tacked on to the end!

The present Hall is a 17th-century manor house built in 1642 by a wealthy Halifax clothier, James Murgatroyd. There is a medieval tithe barn in the grounds, two Yorkshire Rose windows, a walled garden, the ruined Starkie wing and several ghosts (reputedly). A hiding place for Catholic priests was installed during the 16th century.

Between 1125 and 1400 the estate was owned by the Maude family and a single-storey hall was built in the early 1300s. A new farmhouse was built to the west of the hall and inhabited by the Paslew family from 1400. Their coat of arms still appears outside the west window of Bingley Parish Church. Ellen Paslew married Robert Rishworth of Halifax and the Hall passed to him in 1572 and then to James Murgatroyd, a Royalist who left his mark in symbols and graffiti around the building. In the Tea Room you can see the heads of Charles I of England and Henrietta Maria of France carved in the topmost stone work.

The family were notorious "for their profanity and debauchery". He died in 1653 and East Riddlesden Hall was mortgaged to the Starkie family. Edmund Starkie obtained

full possession in 1708. After he died in 1712 his nephew Nicholas took control and East Riddlesden Hall settled down to a century of stability.

For the next 120 years, the Hall belonged to absentee owners (the Bacon and Bence families) and was occupied by a number of tenant farmers. Between c.1860 and 1930, the estate was sold off little by little. Two brothers from Keighley, William and John Brigg, saved the building from demolition in 1933 and donated it to the National Trust in 1934.

In 1992 East Riddlesden Hall was used as a film location for *Wuthering Heights* and also for the 2009 TV adaptation. It was also used in the *Sharpe's Justice* episode from the *Sharpe* TV series in 1997 and featured in the paranormal TV programme *Most Haunted*.

Back to horticulture: the garden was designed by Graham Stuart Thomas for the National Trust. It features a short avenue of pyramid apples and pears, a small sunken and a paved rose garden with box hedges. The borders are filled with a modern scheme of shrubs and plants designed to provide beauty and interest throughout the season.

Our next meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17 May in the Memorial Hall is a Gardeners' Question Time session with David Allison in the Chair, supported by Martin Walker and Terry Marshall. Have your question ready!

Mike Hitchen

ELSTEAD LADIES' CHOIR

SPRING CONCERT and Buffet Supper

on Friday 29 April 2016
in Eldwick Church Hall
at 7.30pm

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Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

It was our Annual Spring Party on Tuesday 8th March 2016. 50 Members attended and were entertained by Roger and Barbara Davy who were from Ilkley Playhouse. They gave a really interesting talk and also showed members how they made masks which are used in their productions.

We had a quiz. Many thanks to our caterers. The food was delicious.

The speaker for our next meeting on 12th April is Andrew Quarrie. His talk will be on (Life at Sea on Passenger Ships in 60's).

There will be a Decorated Egg Competition, and we hope many of you will take part.

Our Annual Trip this year is on Wednesday 17th August. We are going to Port Sunlight and the Wirral.

10th May is our AGM and Speaker.
New Members Welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH at The Eldwick Church Hall Saturday 21st May 12noon - 2pm

Enjoy a simple lunch of soup,
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MESSY CHURCH

Saturday 16th April 4.00 – 5.30 pm
Saturday 21st May 4.00 – 5.30 pm
Mussy Church is a worshipping community of all ages, it is for all the family. It will be held in the church hall and the church. There will be craft activities as you arrive in the church hall, stories from the Bible, songs and prayers in the church – rounding off with sharing a simple meal together in the church hall. This is an event for all the family – whatever your age, why not come and join in the fun!

PAUSE TO PRAY:-

Wednesday 6th April 2.00 – 3.00 pm
Wednesday 20th April 6.00 – 7.00 pm
Wednesday 4th May 2.00 – 3.00 pm
Wednesday 18th May 7.00 – 8.00 pm

LADIES FELLOWSHIP:-

21st April 7.30pm James Greig
"The Leprosy Mission"
19th May 7.30 pm Glynis Prince
"The Lindisfarne Gospels"

SERVICES:

3rd April
09.15 am Holy Communion led by
Rev. Barbara Walls.
10.30 am All Age Worship.
10th April
10.30 am Holy Communion led by
Rev Max Wigley.
17th April
09.15 am Holy Communion led by
Rev Alan Brown.
10.30 am Morning Worship led by
Mr Maurice Baren.
24th April
09.15 am Big Breakfast.
10.30 am Holy Communion led by
Rev. Nigel Ogley.
1st May
09.15 am Holy Communion led by
Rev. Sandie Exley-Head.
10.30 am All Age Worship.
8th May
10.30 am Holy Communion led by
Rev Gordon Day.

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15th May

09.15 am Holy Communion led by
Rev Alan Brown.
10.30 am Morning Worship led by
Miss Doth Lund.

22nd May

09.15 am Big Breakfast.
10.30 am Holy Communion led by
Rev. Alan G Raine.

29th May

10.30 am Morning Worship led by
Mission and Outreach Team
"Caring for Life".

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday - 09.30-12.00 Church Café
Wednesday - 09.30 – 12.00
Embroiderers /Probus
13.30 – 15.30 Craft Group
Thursday - 15.30 – 19.15 Dance Classes
Friday - 19.15 – 21.15
Elstead Ladies Choir
Pre School Group - 08.45 – 15.15
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Friday in the month Friday Footsteps
3rd Thursday in the month Ladies Fellowship
Mid Saturday Mussy Church
Pause to Pray 1st and 3rd Wednesday

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:- Contact Ann Shoebridge 564690

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FROM SPRING TO SUMMER IN 1914

Over the years a collection of articles from local newspapers has provided a great deal of information of interest related to Eldwick and the surrounding area. Publications like The Airedale Courant, The Shipley Times and Express, The Bingley Chronicle, The Bradford Observer, The Bingley Guardian of bygone days and the Keighley News which continues today include almost 180 years of news. In the local context it could be Blondin in Peel Park, Dickens at St George's Hall, Eldwick Mill for Sale or the closing of The Travellers Rest pub in Otley Road.

Shipley Glen features for its events and walks particularly at Feast times like Easter when there was some controversy about the old Easter Carnival about 'to suffer imitations', meaning it was to become more like a Fun Fair. The toiling thousands of Bradford, Leeds and beyond had thronged to celebrate their first national holiday of the year. Many passed through the Glen heading across the moor to Ilkley as the Show Folk prepared the amusements for the Good Friday event. There was the motley collection of fairground games like the three sticks a penny knock em down gallery, swings, roundabouts and even the 'raree show' of an alleged mermaid caught on a recent date!

In the afternoon the crowds gathered from the various routes to the Glen, by bus and waggonette, with each driver striving to fill to capacity to multiply fares. 'No sooner is one load landed than the horses are whipped up and driven helter skelter back for another freight.' Of course many people travelled by rail to Saltaire and a mass in a stream would all be going in the one direction to the Glen.

Complaints in letters to the editors criticised Colonel Maude, the owner of Baildon Moor and Shipley Glen for allowing more permanent structures, bigger and better than ever as fairground attractions, ruining the natural beauty of the Glen. So one solution in 1914 was to

suit everyone. Since electricity and petrol had driven the horses off the roads, thanks to trams and cars, even larger crowds were expected. So a Grand Fair was to be planned for the Eldwick side of the Glen at Mr Denby's White House at the bottom of Sheriff Lane, today's Broadstone House. It was so popular for dancing and entertainment it was termed 'New Scarboro'. It was said, 'Thus the contemplative man will be able to study nature unadorned on one side and, on the other side the roysterous will have free course for enjoying the elementary pleasure in the fun of the fair.'

A series of articles was regularly printed to encourage people to enjoy what little time they had off work by taking pleasant walks in the countryside once it had become more accessible by transport.

One particular featured destination was the locally famous Nicholson's Rock above Eldwick. Again the route followed the Glen, turning left over the stone Lode Pit Bridge to pass Hammondale (today's Netherdale in Saltaire Road.) This was the retirement home of the dialect poet Ben Preston who had built and run the Glen Pub. 'He came of the people, he wrote for the people, and the people received him gladly', it was said.

Higher up the road were the large houses given over to nursery gardening where the original 'villas' had become horticultural businesses. Produce of fruit, flowers and vegetables was sent off to local shops and markets. The houses on one side of the beck overlooked the open fields of the working farms, the kennels and Huntsman's Cottage of the Airedale Beagles. Next came the cluster of cottages of Eldwick Beck Bottom with the three lane ends, the dilapidated mill

spanning the beck, cottage houses and The Travellers Rest 'an old fashioned country hostelry'. There was the 'new' Wesleyan chapel, the Council's elementary school and up to date villas to show how the new was taking from the old.

Passing down the road in front of the Travellers Rest the route followed a 'bye-land' to the left which ran parallel to the stream. Not an ideal country road to some but a typical North Country lane, today's The Green. Here was the ancient public house (The Acorn), and 'several houses of the peasant type with their small patches of vegetables and flowers.' Along the way in summer time were all the wild roses, foxgloves and flowers in full bloom before another old mill came into view together with a row of ruined cottages. This was the Corn Mill which had once been a woollen mill, together with New Row which had housed its workers. The road became a switchback, lined with stone paving slabs.

Ultimately the desired location was reached, by the side of the Eldwick reservoir – Nicholson's Rock. This was the retreat of John Nicholson, the Airedale Poet, and a sometime Eldwick 19th century resident. The very stone on which John carved his name is in a secluded glen, in a cleft in the moorland, 'so completely hidden that you may walk within a hundred yards or so of its circumference and fail to discover its presence if you were from a strange locality'. From there the view is down over the expanse of the reservoir. Sitting on the rock with his hautboy (oboe) Nicholson could have composed, "The treble sings the lark on high – in Tenor joins the thrush – The bass the mellow blackbirds try – Upon the blossomed bush".

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