

# Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 468 November 2017

## BONFIRE AND FIREWORK DISPLAY

This year's event took place on Saturday 4th November. It was a well attended event with approximately two and half thousand people coming through the gates. Mr. Dan entertained the children, the firework display was spectacular and beautifully choreographed music. Over seven hundred sausages were consumed. The girls raising money for their trip to Borneo by selling popcorn, did well as did the Football Club, up on the field, selling coffee and teas.

The event was run by Birches Freehouse and The Eldwick Village Society. There were many volunteers including The Bingley Sea Scouts and Bingley Rotary, thanks to all of them.

Thanks also to Nigel Horsfall at the Post Office for all his help and to our sponsors Janus Interiors and Premier Property Sales and Lettings.

We hope to be making substantial donations to local organisations and The Yorkshire Air Ambulance.



## Art Show

We had a good range of entries this year with a wide range of media from watercolours to Rob Slator's conceptual creation "Man and Machine". Betty Bradley took the prize for the most favourite piece, a painting of a Highland Cow. Scarlett Whitehead, aged 9, won the under fifteen section with her piece Northern Lights. Scarlett received a cheque for twenty five pounds worth of Art materials donated by The Village Society.

Photographs show Scarlett with Northern Lights and Rob Slator with Man and Machine.



## • NOTICEBOARD •

**Change of date for Christmas Events**  
**Christingle 16th not 10th December**

**Advent Trail Leaflet inside**

**Christmas Eve Carol Singing in The Hall**  
We are delighted to report the internationally recognised musician Robert Suddall will be providing the music for this year's event. Starts at six in The Eldwick Memorial Hall and it is a free event.

**Village Society AGM Monday 4th December in Birches at 7pm**

**Gin Festival 28th April**

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## BIRCHES

9am – 1pm Monday to Friday  
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**NOW SHOWING SKY SPORTS**

# ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

Anne Drake came to tell us about John Tradescant and his son, also John. She took an enrapt audience through a fascinating period of English history in the 16th and 17th centuries when John Tradescant the Elder, naturalist, gardener, collector and traveller, began his career as head gardener to Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury at Hatfield House. Here the "lady kneelers" weeded the gardens for 6 pence a week. Male gardeners (who had to stand up to work) were paid a little more.

Later, Tradescant was gardener to the royal favourite George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham. Tradescant travelled to Arctic Russia in 1618, to the Levant and to Algiers during an expedition against the Barbary pirates in 1620, returned to the Low Countries, where tulips were delivered to him wrapped in bolts of cloth. These bulbs were priced at 10 shillings a hundred – expensive in those days – but bed and breakfast in Delft and Leiden cost Tradescant a mere one shilling and sixpence a night.

Among the prizes collected on this long expedition were Muscovy roses, pinks, figs, pomegranates, agapanthus, geraniums and a cherry tree with pliable branches plus the first

abacus to reach England. This became a great asset to Tradescant in keeping meticulous accounts of his expenses to present to his patron.

After Buckingham's assassination in 1628, Tradescant was then engaged in 1630 by King Charles I to be Keeper of his Majesty's gardens, vines, and silkworms at the queen's minor palace, Oatlands Palace in Surrey.

On all his trips he collected seeds and bulbs everywhere and assembled a collection of curiosities of natural history and ethnography which he housed in "The Ark", his house in Lambeth, London.

From their botanical garden on the south bank of the Thames, he and his son John introduced many plants into English gardens that have become part of the modern gardener's repertory. A genus of flowering plants (Tradescantia) is named to honour him.

John Tradescant the Younger, born 4 August 1608, was a botanist and gardener. Like his father, who collected specimens and rarities on his many trips abroad, he undertook collecting expeditions to Virginia between 1628 and 1637. Among the seeds he brought back, to introduce to English gardens were great American trees, like



Picture shows: Mrs Anne Drake and the tapestry

Magnolias, Bald Cypress and the Tulip tree, and garden plants such as phlox and asters.

Without the travels of the two John Tradescants, whose discoveries are said to account for 80 per cent of the plants we grow in our gardens today, how much poorer would our gardens be?

Don't miss news of our 2018 programme of talks and trips in the next Newsletter. In the meantime I would ask any reader who would be happy to sit in the dark at our seven-times-a-year speaker meetings and scribble an account of each event for the Newsletter to get in touch with any member and volunteer their services. After 11 years in this role, I'm ready to hand over the golden ballpoint.

Mike Hitchen

## Eldwick War Memorial

Each time I walk past the memorial I have the same thoughts: how cramped it is on the corner of Otley Road with Saltaire Road; how insignificant the site has become in its roadside location; how much it must be affected by rushing traffic, fumes and noise. How much more it would be appreciated in a better setting.

For many years now a special road closure order is needed so the Remembrance Day service can be held at the Memorial; for the other 364 days of the year the site is continually beset by traffic passing close by. Otley Road has become a major thoroughfare. It would be difficult for anyone to sit at the memorial for quiet contemplation, remembrance and appreciation of sacrifices made by local people.

The work at The Eldwick Church, with the possibility that this might lead to a makeover of the front garden, raised the thought that the Memorial could well go there. That said, I'm sure there are alternatives. Wherever it goes, it will be to a better site than the present one has become.

The War Memorials Trust issues guidance on relocation. There needs to be approval by

local people, descendent families of those inscribed on the memorial, the local councils, town planning authorities, conservation authorities and the like.

My starting point is to invite views and thoughts, through the medium of our Village Newsletter, about its relocation, comment, encouragement (or not!), and alternative location suggestions. If relocation appears well supported and a new site agreed, my next step will be to get an idea of cost of relocation as a guide for fund-raising purposes.

Please make your views known to our village Newsletter. John S Dekker

## Dear Editor,

I chanced across a copy of the Eldwick Newsletter No.465 recently and the article on the back page, "What time is it Mr Wolf" caught my eye. I should not have bothered, it is a confusing jumble of half digested theories which goes no where in the end.

With regard to the Cryer clockmakers, there were two men of that name in the general area, and since both were millwrights are not listed in any reference books dealing with clockmakers. Your writer has mixed the two. Billy Cryer of Cononley,

active c.1830, was responsible for three known church clocks at Cononley, Addingham and Burnsall. The clock at Cononley being his masterpiece and the finest church clock you could hope to see. He also did land survey work and is reputed to have created the lake at Coniston Cold Hall.

John Cryer of Bingley was active c. 1860s and as far as I know was no relation to Billy. His clocks are more prosaic, his wheel work, of cast iron, was crossed out with curved spokes such as you would find in mill work and the same as can be seen in old, domestic laundry mangles. Church clocks made by him are at Haworth, Cullingworth, and Oakworth--Dial only surviving. He also made the clock for the Cottingley village institute and one for a mill at Steeton. There will be others.

Hope this is of some help!

David Barker FBHI ACR.

Horological Conservator and Historian.

Formerly Clocks Adviser to the Diocese of Bradford, Wakefield and Carlisle

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## Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

All the members who turned up for our October meeting had an enjoyable evening. It was our annual Bingo and Quiz night. Thanks to Linda and Pauline for organising this. We also had a competition, the theme was Halloween. This was won by Sylvia Slater who had done a lovely painting.

Our Trip to York for the Carol Service on Friday 1st December, cost £10. Please contact Maureen Beckwith if you would like to go.

Macmillan Coffee Morning made £237.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12 December. We will be entertained by a Mens Barber Shop Choir. Mince Pies will be served.

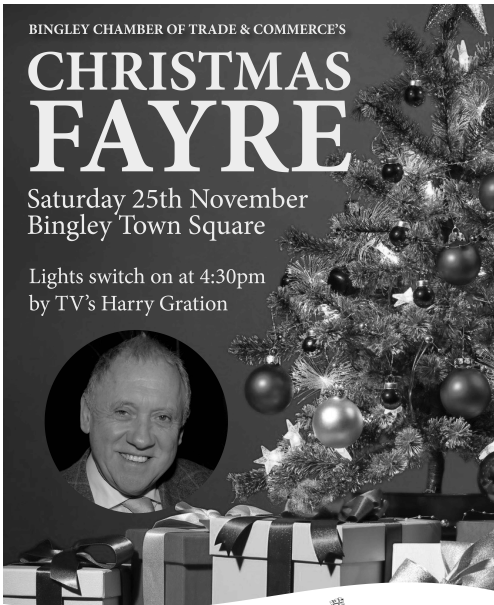
All new members are welcome. Please contact Bev on 01274 565077

BINGLEY CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE'S

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 25th November  
Bingley Town Square

Lights switch on at 4:30pm  
by TV's Harry Gration



Event Organised by  
Bingley Chamber of Trade & Commerce  
Event fully supported by Bingley Town Council



## COFFEE CAKE CHAT

Every Tuesday 9.30 am – 12 noon

The Eldwick Church

Fresh Fairtrade Coffee & Tea –  
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First Tuesday Of The Month we have  
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# THE ELDWICK CHURCH

## MESSY CHURCH

Saturday 18th November 4.00 – 5.45 pm

Saturday 16th December 4.00 – 5.45 pm

Messy 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 December 2.00 – 3.00 pm

Wednesday 20th December 2.00 – 3.00 pm

## THE ELDWICK CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 16th November Rodney Davey

“Christmas Cake Decorating”

Thursday 7th December Christmas Party.

## BABY AND TODDLER PLAY

Wed. 13th December 9.30 – 10.30 am

## SERVICES

### 5th November

09.15 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Barbara Fairburn.

10.30 am Family Worship led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

### 12th November Remembrance Sunday

10.30 am An Act of Remembrance  
led by Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

### 19th November

09.15 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

10.30 am Morning Worship led by  
Mr. David Varley

### 26th November

09.15 am Breakfast.

10.30 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Barbara Walls.

## 3rd December 1st Sunday in Advent

09.15 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Barbara Walls.

10.30 am Family Worship led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

## 10th December 2nd Sunday in Advent

10.30 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

## 17th December 3rd Sunday in Advent

09.15 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

10.30 am Carnival Nativity led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

18.30 pm Words and Carol Service led by  
Rev Alan Brown.

## 24th December 4th Sunday in Advent

10.30 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

4.45 pm Crib service led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith

11.30 pm Christmas Eve Midnight  
Communion service led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith

## 25th December Christmas Day

10.00 am Morning Worship led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

## 31st December

10.30 am Morning Worship led by  
Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday - 09.30-12.00 Church Café

Wednesday - 09.30 – 12.00 Embroiderers  
(1st and 3rd) / Probus (4th)  
13.30 – 15.30 Craft Group

Friday - 19.15 – 21.15 Elstead Ladies Choir  
Pre School Group - 08.45 – 15.15 Mon-Fri.

## REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Friday in the month Friday Footsteps.

2nd Wednesday Baby and Toddler Play

3rd Thursday in the month The Eldwick

Fellowship.

Mid Saturday Messy Church.

Pause to Pray 1st and 3rd Wednesday.

## CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:-

Contact Ann Shoebridge 564690

## Tec2k

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warm welcoming environment ... the childminder  
is highly skilled”.

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# THE MODERN DAY HERMIT

At a time of year in the present day the first need to turn on the central heating or to put the logs on the wood burning stove is probably here.

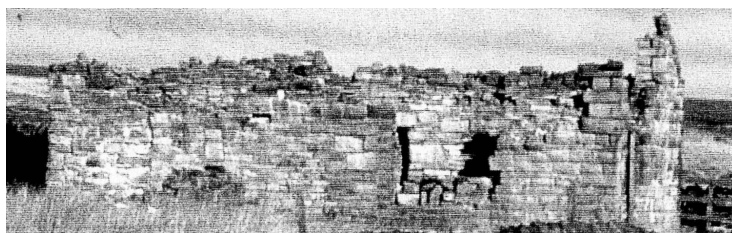
Spare a thought then for the man known as the Rombalds Moor Hermit who lived for many years at High Eldwick on the main road near Weecher Reservoir. From almost the beginning of the 20th century John Benjamin Ball led the life of a hermit. He had a short white beard, long hair in ringlets to his shoulders and had chosen to withdraw from the workaday world for peaceful solitude but not exactly in monastic style. His antics in running an illicit navy's canteen and shabeneering – selling beer and spirits, have been written about before but his life story is quite remarkable. Born in 1849 in Tiverton, Somerset, he retained his accent and dialect to the end of his days, aged 84, greeting people 'Oh good morning. I be up a stick! How be you?' When still a child he worked in a brickworks, leaving for London at 12 to be a worker creating the docks at a place he called the Isle of Dogs. When he returned to Tiverton he took up poaching but, when caught and sent to jail for three months, he returned to the life of a navy. He worked on the railways near Nottingham and Sheffield and then on the Settle-Carlisle from Kirkby Stephen. Next he moved into Yorkshire for the era of building the reservoirs for the expanding industrial towns, namely at Barden, Fewston, Eccup, Ilkley and Eldwick/Gilstead.

In the 1880's he came to this area to join the workforce building the

Gilsted Filter Beds and then on to Weecher. A stone's throw from that he later built his simple stone cottage, the remains of which can still be seen today. There he established his shabbeen, equidistant from Dick Hudsons and the Gaping Goose at the Hawksworth Lane junction. Various raids were made, once by constables dressed as navvies. When they arrived they tip-toed amongst the inebriated sleeping navvies to discover the alcohol store.

There was another occasion when John briefly took in a sick man, only later to be told it was smallpox! Twice he was in court for his shabeneering and fined £20 each time, paying in 40 gold sovereigns, appearing 'in coster style' with black velvet coat and black and white check cap. He also gained the middle name of Baker because he

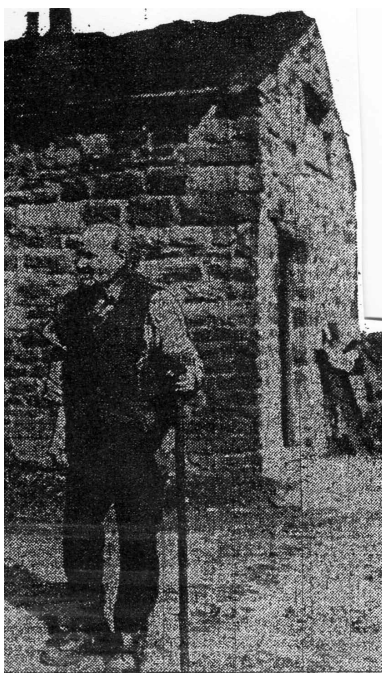
worked and lodged at Dick Hudsons frying hundreds of hams and eggs. This came naturally since he was in great demand around the farms as a killer of pigs and curer of hams. Ironically, considering his criminal record, he even worked for a local judge as a gardener and groom. When he did actually visit a local inn he was known to break into song to entertain everyone. He had a lurcher dog called Blurcher, trained to catch anything it could scent. If John 'imbibed' too well on Saturday night in Bingley, he would latch on the Blurcher who would haul him up home. At one time he worked on a reservoir at Marsh Ghyll in Ilkley, again running a shabbeen which eventually cost



him his job. So it was then, in 1910 that he returned to the cottage at High Eldwick, his final home.

That home on the edge of the moor had crude furniture, two chairs, a bed, a stove and a rough table. He always said he was proud of what he had there and was far happier than many rich men in Eldwick in their handsome homes. His outlook on life was the simple philosophy of the moors. 'The four walls give me shelter, the stove gives me warmth, the spring outside gives me clear pure water and the grocers' carts bring my food to me door. What else could an old man want?'

When he first lived in the cottage many walkers crossing the moor used to call but later only on special holiday at Easter and Christmas. In old age he suffered from rheumatism so did not go out much. How did he pass the time? He said that he could not read very well and newspapers were a mystery to him. He admitted he did not learn to read until in his 20's and that was only the Bible, from which he could readily quote. 'The Bible is my whole library and a splendid library it is.' John always went to bed as soon as night began and often rose at dawn. His long life and excellent health was attributed to the invigorating moorland air, before he passed away, 'having lost his mind', at the Keighley St John's Hospital in January 1933.



A partnership of St. Lawrence's Church of England & Eldwick Methodist Church

**Friday 8th December**  
**at 7.30pm**  
**Eldwick Memorial Hall**

**Christmas Concert**  
with

**Gerry and the Attricks**

Big Band and Christmas Music

Entry by Ticket only: Adults £7.50  
(includes tea/coffee and mince pie)

Tickets available from: The Eldwick Church Café,  
Eldwick Post Office and The Card Emporium, Bingley

In aid of The Eldwick Church Building Fund

**ELDWICK GIN FESTIVAL**  
**28th April**

We are excited to launch the first Eldwick Gin Festival in the Spring of next year.

An exciting event to add to the local events calendar. Organised by four local lads looking to bring the current gin revolution to the community.

In association with the Eldwick Village Society and The Birches, the event is looking to bring, not only the gins of Yorkshire and the World for all to sample, but also a festival atmosphere with great music and tasty food.

A portion of the sales will be donated to local charities. Those charities will be confirmed shortly.

Please like and share our Facebook page to keep up-to-date with the Eldwick Gin Festival's exciting news.

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