

Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 521 February 2023

COUNTRYSIDE HEROES!

During the past three years, come wind, rain, snow or high temperatures, members of the Dry Stone Walling Association (Otley and Yorkshire Dales branch), have been rebuilding broken down areas of The Prince of Wales Park perimeter wall. These volunteers finally finished a whopping 250 yards of wall just before Christmas and can be seen celebrating their achievement.



Those of you who notice that (L to R), David, Lawrence, Peter, Richard, Roger, Colin and Adam appear to have no female colleagues, need to know that Julie Ramsden, a Friend of the Prince of Wales Park volunteers, is herself a member of the Association and suggested their involvement in the project.

The Wallers say they enjoy preserving the environment and valuing our heritage. Some of our dry stone walls have been marking boundaries, providing habitat for birds and mammals and shelter for farm animals for hundreds of years. They are a distinctive feature of these parts. If Dry Stone Walling appeals to you, the Association runs training courses, details of which are available at www.otleyorksdalesdswa.org.

A big Thank You to these volunteers who have ensured the walls will be there for years to come. JH

DIARY DATES

ELDWICK AND GILSTEAD GALA Saturday 24th June 2022

Like Follow us on our facebook page Eldwick & Gilstead Gala

Get involved in your fantastic local community event - watch this space. Just in case you need reminding Discos, Pet Show, Fun Run, Gala Day. Over £5000 raised and donated to local children's organisations and charities, lets make it another record breaking year

ELDWICK & GILSTEAD GALA QUEEN / KING SELECTION DISCO

Friday 10th March with Andy's Partymania Disco

ELDWICK & GILSTEAD GALA QUEEN/KING SELECTION DISCO FRIDAY 10TH MARCH 2023

Gala Queen/King or Attendant Entry

I would like to be considered for Gala Queen/King/Attendant for the 2023 Gala. The Gala Queen/King will be chosen at the 'Gala Queen/King Selection Night Disco' on Friday 10th March, 7pm till 8.30pm in Eldwick Memorial Hall (Disco entry £3). The Gala Queen/King should be in year 6 or over and attending the selection evening and the attendants between the ages of 7 and 10 (girls or boys). All names will be drawn out of a hat by the 2022 Gala Queen at the Disco.

Name _____ Tel No. _____

Address _____

School _____ Age _____

I agree to my child's picture appearing in the Eldwick Newsletter and local press. I do live in Eldwick or Gilstead.

Signed _____ parent/guardian

Please return this slip to Eldwick Post Office by 9th March 2023.

ELDWICK & GILSTEAD GALA Royal Selection DISCO

Friday 10th March 2023

With Party Mania Disco

7.00pm - 8.30pm 7-11 year olds

ELDWICK MEMORIAL HALL

2023 Gala Day 24th June f: Eldwick & Gilstead Gala

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ELDWICK WAR MEMORIAL

Historic England Context – In 2017 as the centenary of the end of World War One approached, over 1000 localities were encouraged to ensure protection of their War Memorials.

Case Number 1444856 Full Inspection 01 June 2017. Eldwick War Memorial is located within Eldwick Beck Conservation Area and is not considered to be under threat. 24 August 2017, Historic England - the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Eldwick War Memorial to the list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial is now listed as Grade II. Reasons – historic interest and architectural interest. List Entry Number 1447944

ALLAN MIRFIELD original applicant

Letter to the Editor

ROUNABOUT OBSERVATION

Referring to the incident at the top of Warren Lane on Saturday 20th January, whilst we don't know the precise details (will we ever be told?), may I make an observation? Over the years since the mini roundabout was installed I have encountered drivers approaching the roundabout at far too higher speed, particularly from the Otley Road and Park Road directions. I appeal to ALL drivers to obey the Highway Code rules, namely "slow down and be prepared to stop" at the single dotted line across the carriageway. We are also supposed to drive ROUND the white disc, at least with our front wheels, not drive across it, or even pass it on the right.

My next suggestion if the situation doesn't improve would be to abolish the roundabout, make Warren Lane - Heights Lane the through route, with mandatory stop lines across Otley Road, Park Road and Pollard Avenue. That's cheaper than the ultimate step, which would be to install traffic lights with monitoring cameras.

Regards Joe Tarver



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BINGLEY JANUS CLUB

Our meetings for 2023 are now well under way and, by the time you read this, we will have held our AGM and the new committee will be in place.

As always, you will receive a very warm welcome at 10am on a Thursday morning in the Memorial Hall before the morning's talk starts at 10.30am.

Here's a sample of some of our forthcoming talks:

Thursday 2nd March: Martin Chappelow "The Lifeboats"

Thursday 9th March: Mike Deegan "Liverpool's Maritime History"

Thursday 16th March: Mike Helliwell "The story of an England footballer"

If you require any further information, please contact our Secretary, Graham Anderson, telephone 01274 563843. Bye for now. Cheerio.

JUST BEGUN

The VE fire of '45 – the '47 snow –
These memories are still alive – from days
of long ago.
An ancient television set – with magnifying
screen
To watch the coronation of Elizabeth, our
Queen.
The rag and bone man's plaintiff cry – we
hurried to exchange
Our bags of rags for crockery – we found it
very strange.
We climbed the oak trees – what a view!
And hid ourselves up high –
Came home with hands and faces blue – to
wait for bilberry pie.
The switchbacks, up and down with glee –
the stepping stones so wide
Past brambled walls with food for free – to
feast on either side.
We played outside the livelong day – on
glen and moor and park
Till shouts of 'Tea time!' came our way –
before impending dark.
Now we've become the O.A.P's who
reminisce and chat.
We wear our purple clothes with ease – and
love to 'chew the fat'.
And people see what we can't hide – we're
old (and frail?) who knows ...
They never guess that deep inside – a living
ember glows.
Those childhood years of innocence – with
summers full of fun
Refresh the mind, maintain the sense – of
something just begun. H.C.

ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Tuesday 17th January Sarah Owen-Hughes from Askham Bryan entertained at least fifty members and friends with a talk entitled: "Secrets of the Soil". It was amazing what Sarah could tell us about our samples of soil from "clay" to "sand" and how to enrich them.

This month's meeting is on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall and our membership secretary will be contacting our members nearer the time with the exact title of the talk.

In the meantime: prune Clematis, Wisteria and Hydrangea; sow early seeds under glass with extra heat and light (if you can afford it !!); plant summer flowering bulbs; & cut back Sedum & other perennials. Happy Gardening !!

Letter to the Editor

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT ELDWICK GRANGE

Amendments to the original plans are due by 27th January 2023.

The original planning proposal in December 2022 was for 4 large, 4 bedroom detached dwellings each with a double garage on garden land to Eldwick Grange and a double garage extension to Eldwick Grange.

The proposed development would be likely to lead to an intensification of the use of Sheriff Lane and Lyndale Road to the detriment of highway and pedestrian safety. The full Highways report can be read on the Bradford Planning Portal, Application Number 22/04641/FUL. Residents, drivers and pedestrians who use Sheriff Lane and all the side roads off Sheriff Lane, will be affected by the proposed planning application.

Support or objections can be made anonymously on the Bradford planning portal.

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ELDWICK & DISTRICT LADIES GROUP

We held our annual Beetle Drive on January 10th 2023. Unfortunately only 13 people turned up. This was mainly due to people being not well or on holiday. The ones who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The speaker for the 14th February will be from Yorkshire Air Ambulance. It is quite a while since they came so it should be interesting.

The Committee wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

New members are always welcome, please contact Bev on 01274 - 565077

NEWS FROM THE ELDWICK CHURCH

All are welcome at **Time to Breathe**, which returns on Thursday February 9th from 8.00pm - 9.00pm. It's a peaceful time of worship with a mix of quiet, alternated with reflective readings and hymns to listen to or sing along. There's soft lighting, candles, and an atmosphere of calm. No need to stay for the whole hour, come and go as you please.

On Saturday February 11th, the Church Craft group are holding a coffee morning raising money for the charity **Hope for Tomorrow** who run mobile cancer care units. The coffee morning will run from 10.00 am -12.00 noon with crafts etc, on sale.

If anyone is interested in joining the craft group, they meet on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30 pm until 3.00 pm. Folk can either bring their own knitting, sewing or craft and enjoy the company or join in with occasional group projects. Just £1 a week which includes a cuppa and a biscuit. Do drop in!

Do you know that on the third Tuesday of every month at 2.00 pm, there's a Golden Oldies session at Church? Goldies is a fun and friendly sing-along, with tunes from the 50s onwards, followed by bingo and afternoon tea. Goldies sessions are open to everyone but aim particularly to combat isolation in older adults. The group is dementia friendly and free to all residents of Bingley. For more information, please contact Carole on 01274 560539.

A forward date for your diary is Saturday March 11th, when we're holding an Open Day / Working Day for our **Church in the Garden**. From 10.30 am until 3.00 pm, there's a chance to come and roam round the garden and see what's



what. If gardening is your thing, please feel free to bring your wellies and muck in! A soup and sandwich lunch is provided for everyone, whether you're one of the workers, or cheering the workers on from the sides. All are most welcome.

Contact us if you would like us to pray for you or for someone in need. Prayer requests can be submitted to prayer@eldwickchurch.org.uk where they are forwarded anonymously to our prayer team. For general enquiries, please email office@eldwickchurch.org.uk or telephone 01274 442015.

You can keep up with everything we're doing on **Facebook** @TheEldwickChurch or on **Twitter** @EldwickChurch or on our website: eldwickchurch.org.uk

TAYLOR, ANDREW JOHN



Passed away on 2nd January 2023 at Airedale Hospital, after a sudden and unexpected illness, aged 67 years.

A beloved father to Penny and Danielle, husband to the late Stephanie, son to Betty and the late Colin, a dear grandpa, father-in-law to Matt, a brother to Ian, an uncle, a cousin and a lifelong friend to many in the local community (Taylors Footwear).

Donations in lieu can be made please to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

To book the Memorial Hall
07926 616687

Or email bookings@
eldwickmemorialhall.co.uk

Your photographs are most
welcome for the Newsletter
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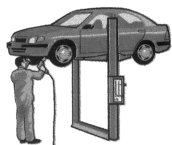
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PARK KEEPER – HEAD GARDENER – AN.OTHER?

In continuing the story of the Prince of Wales Park Lodge there are lots of questions relating to who, what, when and how? Even before the park was to be declared open in 1865, some opening times had been decided.



The view down Park Road from the Front Room of the Lodge.

From the 1861 allocation of land, the obligatory fencing (walling), had to be completed as part of the award. However, in all records available, it was almost thirty years before there was any mention of gates to open and close. Who was to open and close the park at the agreed times? In 1864 those were to be from 5am to 10pm May to September and 6am to 7pm October to April, free entry except on special occasions. In 1863 a work plan was made, presumably for hardworking mill and factory workers to complete? To fund the work and materials it was said that £1000 would be needed so a clever mathematician produced the formula.

If all the 1,113 people who had signed to agree to the Enclosure were to give three quarters of a penny six days a week for a whole year, £1085 three and sixpence would be raised. At the AGM of the park's committee in 1865, it was reported that, by then, workers had planted 1500 trees, laid 1480 yards of good walks and cleared out the 'Ariana' to hold 1000 people'. First mention of a gardener came the year after when 'Mr Waddington is laying out the park'. This was Walker Waddington of Bingley, born in 1798, living at Regent Street between 1851 and 1871, always listed as a gardener. At the time he was working in the park he would have been in his sixties and, a year before his death in 1872 he was still in work!

In 1881 who was the park person accused of neglecting his duties by allowing so much damage to be made?

How many persons in 1884 received part of the total wage bill of one pound and seven shillings in the accounts?

Major events to help the security of the park and the job of a future park keeper began in 1885 when gas lights were installed, at the main entrance, midway up the footpath and at the Eldwick entrance. The small entrances had gates with fittings marked by Longbottom's Ironworks of Park Road Bingley, 're sketch 1'. The stone pillars cost ten pounds six shillings, gates and fittings five pounds fifteen shillings. The 'rusticated stone piers' at the main and pedestrian entrances had metal gates added, presented by the Park's Committee. Bingley's local tradesmen were used in the construction of the Lodge, each with his own business.

Edwin Johnson was the builder and his father was a sandstone quarry employer with 18 men. Edwin was living at the family's Johnson buildings in Toad Lane (now Park Road) actually at 11 Johnson Street and became a stonemason. Alfred Bolton of Main Street was the plumber, retired at 64 by 1911! Henry Spurr was the plasterer, of Industrial Street. James Atkinson was the joiner from Regent Street, with a name later known in Bingley as a timber merchant. The painter and decorator was William Walker of North Terrace who employed two men and an apprentice. The most interesting worker involved was William Thornton as the slater. In 1841 his father was a slater and slate merchant which was what William had become aged only 32, living at 90 Lyndon Terrace in 1871, employing six men and two boys. Business must have been good because ten years later he was living at Woodwells House in Bromley Road, a villa with six main rooms. The roof slates for the Lodge supplied by William would have been very expensive because they were The Blue Bangor slates from a single Welsh quarry, preferred to ordinary grey slates, 'because they were baked 600 million years ago.'

So, all was ready for the first park keeper to take up residence. Like many others to follow, Richard Robinson, born 1830, was not originally a gardener. Moving from Bridge Street in Bingley in 1881 once employed as a warp dresser in a mill, to be recorded at the Lodge in 1891 aged 61, with wife Mary. He was listed as being a gardener in a public park, paid 20 shillings a week, rent 4 shillings and in 1902 he was told to make further improvements.



First Park Keeper Richard Robinson with his wife outside their Prince of Wales Park Lodge in 1904

Working until his death in 1910 he was followed by Joseph Clarkson who was to vary his performance. Once being told to improve his performance in six months or his employment would be terminated. by Bingley Council, by 1930 he was head gardener and manager. Joseph passed away in 1939 aged only 58. Next came Ronald Sant, an expert gardener by which time the Bingley Parks had a superintendent and 40 men. When Ronnie left it was to open his own nursery in Addingham growing dahlias as a speciality.

So it was on 23rd March 1957 that William Wilson (Bill) arrived to make his remarkable mark on the park during 20 years. He was fully qualified with group IV class 1 in horticulture and gardening, only initially being paid £9/15/- a week. Retiring in 1977, he and his wife were allowed to stay in the Lodge until 1990, after which time it was tenanted with no garden links to the park. Now awaiting a new owner!

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