

# Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 523 April 2023

## Eldwick & Gilstead Gala 2023 Gala Theme

### "CORONATION"

Congratulations to Alessandra Hepworth on being selected as the 2023 Eldwick & Gilstead Gala Queen at the Royal Gala Disco.

Alessandra will be crowned at the Gala on Saturday 24th June.

Well done too to Imogen Bailey (Deputy Queen), and Attendants Tilly Wightman, Anna Forrest, Rose McAvan and Alicia Cockshott.

A great night at the Disco with all the right tunes thanks to Andy's Party Mania Disco !!



With glorious weather and a record attendance last year we expect no less in 2023. STALLS AND SIDE SHOWS bookings are coming in and entertainment being organised. Ideas for the PARADE are being planned.

Local organisations have been able to raise substantial funds by bringing along games stalls - get your thinking caps on, what could you do ??

100s of children attend and need GOOD VALUE entertainment - adults will have a go too! Let your imagination run wild !

The return of the GRAND SUMMER RAFFLE for 2023 - if you would like to donate a prize please contact us with details. With over 90 fantastic prizes last year, ticket sales helped us raise over £5000 for the Gala Fund to distribute to local charities and children's organisations.

Entry will again be FREE on Gala Day The programme is in production, over 2500 copies will be distributed free on and before the day.

Contact us for advertising info.

TO GET IN TOUCH -

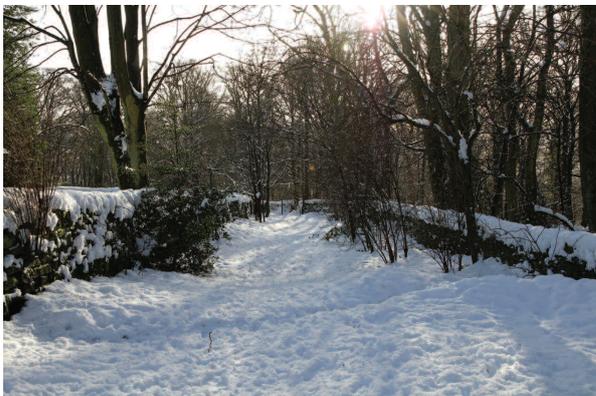
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Eldwick & Gilstead Gala.

**GALA DAY 2023**  
**Saturday 24 June**

*By the community  
for the community*

## ELDWICK IN THE SNOW



## PUBS

We are very lucky to still have four pubs within or near the village.

Over the years pub trade has declined which is extremely sad. The pub can be the hub of the village and can provide many things from food, music, entertainment or just a drink. In these days when mental health is an issue and people feel more isolated the company of others is crucial. Even if that is "offloading"

your last visit to the doctors or talking absolute gibberish meeting with others is very valuable.

We are really glad to report the Acorn appears to have a more secure future now that Grahame Albinson has secured the tenancy.

It is also excellent news to hear that a local family the Hartleys, have taken the tenancy of the Glen which will be opening its doors again on 1st April.

## Thanks Daniel

Many thanks to Daniel Rayner who has been picking litter for one hour a week throughout the village for the last three months. Daniel has been doing this for his Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.

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## AGM for EVS

The Eldwick Village Society held their AGM for 2022. The meeting was well attended and chaired by Tony Clegg as the Chairman for 2022.

The Eldwick Village Society has been in existence for nearly fifty, years founded in 1978. There was a sort silence to remember our late President John Edwards who sadly passed away last year.

2022 was a busy year for EVS starting with the Jubilee event (Big Lunch) at the Memorial Hall in early June. This was an enjoyable and well attended event with the band Super Strutt providing the music. At the end of June we did our usual "Burnt bangers" and managed to cremate twelve hundred sausages. The profit from this underpins the cost of the fireworks for Bonfire Night.

August saw the Beer and Banger Festival. This is our favourite event and is well supported by the village. The sponsorship is fantastic with all thirty barrels sponsored by local businesses. We are very grateful to Black Sheep Brewery who have been very supportive over the years. We now have our own bar and a considerable amount of reconditioned handpumps. We continue to have a good relationship with the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and they usually manage to land one of their helicopters on the rec' during the Saturday afternoon. We also had Manorlands and Guide Dogs for the Blind fundraising as well.

During October we had an unusual request to organise the road closure along with the Remembrance Service supported by the Church and held at the Cenotaph. This

worked well with the bonus of a bugler adding atmosphere to the event. EVS also puts up the display of poppies throughout the village.

Bonfire Night has always been a difficult event, with safety being the main issue. We are lucky to have volunteers to help during the day who are rewarded with brews, bacon butties and pies and peas. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking them all. The Sea Scouts and Bingley Airedale Rotary also help a great deal.

Fortunately the weather was really kind to us and there was a fantastic turnout. The fireworks were excellent and the event passed off without incident, a great relief.

The Chairman stated that the Newsletter was going out regularly and thanked the loyal deliverers for all their hard work in all weathers.

The accounts were scrutinised and it was agreed by all that it had been a successful year. All this meant that we could make generous donations to various organisations. The YAA was given seven thousand five hundred pounds. Other recipients were Eldwick Memorial Hall, Bingley Sea Scouts, Eldwick Lawn Tennis Club, Bingley Airedale Rotary, Bingley Congs, Manorlands and Guide Dogs for the Blind

The executive were voted in with Tony Clegg as President, Nigel Bailey as Chairman, Gareth Ashton as Vice Chair, Mark Truelove as Secretary, Mark Ricketts as Treasurer, John Hagerty in charge of coordinating all the events throughout the year, Paul Rae in charge of marketing and John Rishworth as Membership Secretary

New members were made welcome.

## BINGLEY JANUS CLUB

Last month we decided to have a collection for the recent Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal and members donated £245.60. Our committee then agreed to double the amount from club funds, which meant that we were able to send a cheque for £491.20 to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

What an excellent talk we had this morning (16th March) from retired footballer & cricketer Michael Hellawell. He played football for Sunderland, Birmingham City, Q.P.R., and Huddersfield. He once played against Stanley Matthews; trained with the 1966 World Cup squad including rooming with Bobby Charlton; and he knew Alf Ramsay, Brian Clough & Jimmy Greaves. He once sat alongside Danny Blanchflower when getting his first pair of football boots and he even played against George Best. In county cricket he played for Warwickshire and made his debut for the Yorkshire 2nd team playing alongside Geoffrey Boycott. It was a real privilege to hear Michael Hellawell recount these stories from his book published in 2020.

Our weekly meetings continue at 10am on a Thursday morning in Eldwick Memorial Hall, where you will receive a very warm welcome from our President, Wally Quirk, before the talk begins at 10.30am. One of the future highlights will be Thursday 11th May when Nadeen Yousef, another retired Yorkshire Cricketer, will be talking about: "My whole life in Cricket".

If you require any further information, please contact our Secretary, Graham Anderson, on telephone 01274 563843. New members welcome.

## Come back Eldwick's Swifts!

Long ago, in the 1980's, when all the wonderful children of the original Eldwick First School were perfecting their Maypole dances on the Story Stones field, the Swifts used to return from their 3,400 mile annual African migration, wheeling round the village with their shrill calls and dare devil flying.

Every year they would return to their nest sites under the eaves of the Caretaker's house (The unforgettable Calvin Weston, who taught many Eldwick children musical instruments), until the year in which emergency roof repairs, together with noise, roofers and ladders, caused such a disturbance that the Swifts left and never came back. One classroom became an



intensive care suite for the chicks which had prematurely fluttered to the ground, and some did survive on their diet of maggots from the fishing shop,

flying towards the moors on release during the summer holidays.

But to my knowledge, there have been no colonies of Swifts in Eldwick since that time. The RSPB say that the population of Swifts has halved in the past twenty years, due, it is thought, to diminishing nest sites; the renovation of old buildings has played a part. Consequently, they are now on the Red list for

conservation.

It would be wonderful to bring them back to Eldwick. Swift nesting boxes are available from the RSPB (they make a great birthday present!), and I understand that playing recordings of Swift calls outside in the early morning and evening just might encourage young birds to investigate new sites. Perhaps this newsletter could be a forum for reports of new sightings.

Jean Holdgate



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## ELDWICK & DISTRICT LADIES GROUP

The speaker at our meeting on 14th March was Deinol Williams talk was about My Arctic Adventure. He went on 26 Feb 2020 and came back on 27 March 2020. He had a little bit longer away due to covid. He had lots of slides and information on the places he visited. Well worth listening too.

Our next speaker on 11 April will be Julie Antill (Tropic Beauty Products).

9 May is our Coronation Party. (Members Only) 6 for 6.30 pm. £14.

13 June is our AGM and Quiz.

Summer trip is on Wednesday 9 August. More details to follow.

New Members are welcome, please contact Bev on 01274 565077

## ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Tuesday 21st March, 50 members listened to Sarah Hopps talking about "Glorious Spring Gardens". She brought many examples of spring plants in flower, which were displayed at the front of the Hall. The talk was also illustrated with various colourful slides including Wisley, the Eden Project, and the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland. It was a most entertaining evening for everyone.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 18th April at 7.30pm in Eldwick Memorial Hall when the speaker will be Geoff Wilson talking about "Leaf Nibblers and Sap Suckers" – sounds intriguing doesn't it?

And finally: feed hungry shrubs and roses; sow new lawns or repair bare patches; and for the more adventurous feed citrus plants, prune fig trees, divide bamboos and waterlilies. Happy Gardening !!

# NEWS FROM THE ELDWICK CHURCH

Easter is almost upon us! Here are our Easter services:

**6 April Maundy Thursday:**

Simple informal service at 7.00 pm

**7 April Good Friday:**

A service of reflection 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

**9 April Easter Day:**

Holy Communion on Baildon Moor 7.00 am (meet at the top car park) & Family Holy Communion 10.30 am in church.

**The Church in the Garden** project continues to develop, albeit at a slower pace during the winter months. As a reminder, this is the garden that runs alongside the church car park and is for anyone to visit or work in. Please do come along and have a look at this young garden.

The children's area is about to have their giant floor clock installed, decorated with bright painted pebbles and stones. Also in this area, the willow tunnel was recently clipped and tied, and a new wooden children's kitchen put in place with more to come.



One of the raised beds is undergoing transformation into a herb garden and the raised bed nearest the gates has now flowered into a lovely spring garden.

We have a Peace Pole which will hopefully be erected on 1st April in time for Easter. A peace pole is what it says - a very big pole with the words, "Let peace on earth prevail" in different languages

**Hospitality at the Eldwick Church**

We have had three amazing coffee and cake events over the last few weeks all raising huge amounts of money for Hope for Tomorrow (mobile cancer care units); the Turkey and Syrian earthquake disaster, and the Children's Society. Over £3,000 was raised for these

deserving charities.

Watch out for the Christian Aid Lunch on 20th May, again for families who live in desperate times and locations - Cost £3 for bread, cheese and soup lunch drop in between 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm.

The Link Café continues to be very busy with some recent amendments to the menu to help serve meals on a Thursday in a timelier manner. Tuesday café runs from 9.30am – 12.00 noon and Thursday Café runs from 10.00 am - 1.30 pm.

We are so very grateful to our local community in Eldwick as we have now five community volunteers. We would be lost without them; they are like gold dust! If you want to join our team, we would love to hear from you – even if you can only help for a couple of hours a month. Please contact the Eldwick office number and we will get back to you.

On the third Saturday of every month, we run **Messy Church** which is for families and people of any age. Forward dates are 15th April & 20th May. Starting at 3.30 pm, there are crafts, songs, storytelling & some shared food. For April's Messy Church, please bring a small picnic tea. All are welcome! Bring a friend along...

Please contact us if you would like us to pray for you or for someone in need. Prayer requests can be submitted to where they are forwarded anonymously to our prayer team.

For general enquiries, please email office@eldwickchurch.org.uk or telephone 01274 422015. You can keep up with everything we're doing on social media or on our website <http://eldwickchurch.org.uk>

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## A PLAY ON WORDS

In a recent Newsletter a tribute was paid to the worthy volunteer dry stone wallers, working in liaison with Friends of Prince of Wales Park, to repair the boundary walls at the top of the park. A similar act of community support has recently been carried out by volunteers of the Aire Rivers Trust who have built walls and dams to repair the footpath which used to cross Load Pit Beck – or Lode Pit Beck? Both names have been given in the past to the lane linking Sheriff Lane to Saltaire Road, the latter being named Load Pit Road in the 1851 census where one Load Pit House was occupied by the family of a quarryman who may well have worked in the quarry, pictured. That 19th century industry on one side of the beck was preceded by a 12th century monastic ‘industry’ marked on old O.S. maps on the other side of the beck as ‘site of ancient bloomery’. Thanks to archaeological metallurgy research, the background to this history began in 1132 with the foundation of Rievaulx Abbey whose estates would stretch from Keld in Swaledale to Teesside and Scarborough in the east, across to York, Wharfedale, Airedale and Calderdale, often in the form of Granges. Individual sites located included Halton, Shipley, Harden, and Eldwick, the latter being worked by the monks and lay brothers of Faweather Grange whose 16th century features are still evident today.

Some local monasteries were supported to acquire land and to establish buildings for their Cistercian role and it was the Birkin family from the Selby area who were exceptionally generous to Rievaulx. Adam ‘son of Peter’ Birkin created a charter of 1150 to 1160, specifying use of land in a grant to Faweather (Fagheder on Rombolds Moor) and its environs for building smithies to be worked by wood and charcoal for smelting. That grant also specified three ‘bovates’ of land (15 to 20 acres) partly for pasture at Faweather. The great wealth of Rievaulx came from its wool trade, at one time in 1310 was based on 14,000 sheep.

By 1267 trade was being made with Italian merchants who even ordered in advance to ensure their demands for wool were met, almost exclusively. Evidence of the early local metal industry could be based on artefacts from ‘The Museum of Baildon Moor’ which included four axe heads of Late Bronze Age found in Eldwick. Since the constituents for bronze, being copper and tin, neither of which could be found locally, it must be assumed that the axes came from elsewhere, perhaps specifically to be used in clearing dead wood

for charcoal. So, the question is, where were deposits of iron found, in what form, and, most importantly, what evidence led to an awareness of their existence? It has been suggested that discoloration in stream water as well as staining on ancient walls were clues. As to the original sources, the soft coal and mudstones of Baildon Moor contain bands of ironstone. In addition, lodestone nodules containing a lot of iron from rich groundwater and weathered rock exist within the mudstones. So, just as one may spend time at the seashore looking for interesting pebbles, it may be possible to stand in the beck and find nodules, brought down as pebbles in the stream which had cut through mudrocks containing ironstones, heavier than anything else.

Just as the Italian merchants had requested some kind of priority with their orders, Adam de Birkin gave exclusive rights to Rievaulx. In a charter of 1160 he stated, “Let it be known that I have granted and established and confirmed that I and my heirs will never accept any other men of any other religious order in any vill, or pasture, wherever I have given them land or pasture or mining rights, except the said monks of Rievaulx.” Such exclusivity was very much sought after by the monasteries, and Adam, son of Peter promised just that in his grant of iron and dead wood to Halton, Bingley, Shipley, Heaton and Chellow.

The actual process of smelting in the bloomeries, involved creating layers of bands of ironstones alternately with charcoal, which produced a very high temperature. The bloomery itself (pictured), consisted of a pit with heat resistant walls made of earth, clay



or stone at the base of which would be a gap in the side walls which would let air, either by draught or simple bellows, to enter the pit. The product was a mass of iron and slag called a bloom which eventually could be



forged as required. It was perhaps the discovery of the presence of such blooms on either side of both Glovershaw Beck and Lodepit Beck, as opposed to remnants of original bloomeries, which gave the evidence of the existence of the local monastic phase of ‘industry’.

The other reason for several sites being used was that the smelters only worked in one place for a few months in a year before moving to a different location, returning to the first site some 10 to 15 years later, by which time the local woodland would have regenerated to produce the charcoal for the smelt. Some monastic orders were not in favour of the industrial grants of Rievaulx but its focus on such was to be the foundation of iron and steel production in former parts of the Rievaulx Estate, lasting into the 20th century.

### HEALTH INFORMATION PROJECT – PEOPLE NEEDED

- You will be asked to read a medicine leaflet and answer some questions about it.
- The session will last around 30 mins and be conducted over Zoom.
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