

Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 527 August 2023

13TH BEER AND BANGER FESTIVAL

18th and 19th August are the dates for the thirteenth Eldwick Village Society Beer and Banger Festival. This very popular event will be held at the Eldwick Memorial Hall with some slight alterations to opening times this year. Friday will be slightly earlier at 3 and Saturday will be 12 allowing for lunch of course.

We will have thirty locally sourced beers all on handpump. The award winning sausage will be lovingly cremated over charcoal and will be served in locally sourced bread rolls.

Manorlands are joining us on The Friday night and Guide Dogs on Saturday afternoon. One of the YAA helicopters will appear on Saturday afternoon subject to operational needs.

This annual event has raised over £60,000 for the YAA. The Village Society also raises money for local organisations and charities. The event will be "weather proofed" by various event shelters and gazebos.

Tickets are now available from The Post Office and The Birches. You may also pay on the door. The tickets are £5 and include entry for both days, a pint of beer, tasting notes and a glass.

We are indebted to all our sponsors, especially Janus Interiors, our main sponsor, without them this popular village event would not be possible.

Safety note: No drones please as the helicopters are not allowed to fly if they are in the vicinity. See you there.

NEWLY REFURBISHED BIRCHES NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS.



THANK YOU

Many thanks to David Selby for looking after the Millennium Stone planting. It is looking fine.



At the other end of the village we have the "Eldwick stone" which is being looked after by ?.



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BIRCHES – THE FAMILY CONNECTION

With the recent transition of the Birches Freehouse it seemed an appropriate time to reflect on, not just a little background of the building, and its links with the Birch family whose name it adopted. Mr Alec Birch and his wife Muriel Birch in their time, with involvement and commitment to the village, could have been termed Mr and Mrs Eldwick. I have been fortunate over the years to have known the late Mrs Birch and her family for providing me with a collection of their archives. The photos of local people at village events would actually make an interesting display for family histories.



That collection of photos, letters and press cuttings is a valuable resource, the photos alone could feature many past and present Eldwick families, related to the school, church, Memorial Hall, Gala, etc. Mr Birch retired as head teacher of Eldwick Primary School in 1965 after thirty years in that post. He had succeeded Mr Tom Murgatroyd, and his wife, the former Miss Muriel Abbott, was also a teacher at the school, Mr Birch had attended Skipton Grammar School, later playing for Skipton Rugby Club, having trained as a teacher at St John's in York. At first he taught at an 'all age elementary school' in Silsden, then at Skipton before becoming a permanent supply teacher for five years for the West Riding County Authority.

Before moving to Eldwick, he became a teacher at Mornington Road Primary School in Bingley. Compared to that large school, his number on roll at Eldwick was fairly constant at 90 or 100 pupils until, in his later years as head, it rose to 150. The accommodation then would have been mainly in the original building with the 1930's extension at the rear. Soon, after taking up his post, Mr Birch took a keen interest in organisations both in Eldwick and Bingley, starting with the Eldwick Gala Association in which he was first a committee member and then the chairman. In that role he always enjoyed being responsible for organising the children's sports, the 1953 Coronation Gala programme names him as race starter. He became a warden at St Lawrence's Church, as well as office treasurer and sidesman until 1961, continuing as committee member.



Mr Birch was a founder member of the Eldwick Dramatic Society who held three plays annually, performing in the tiny church school hut at the rear of the building. One of the photos shows a scene from a play in which he took a role, another of the opening of the new facility, before that of the Eldwick Memorial Hall. It was that which was perhaps the finest achievement of Alec and his team of village volunteers who constructed and completed the Hall. First formulated in 1945 as a fitting tribute to the fallen, it took until 1954 before being officially

opened. A tablet in the Hall pays tribute to the years Mr Birch acted as secretary to the Memorial Hall committee. As a founder member also of the Eldwick and Gilstead Horticultural committee, a member from 1940, then later as president. Both he and his wife were keen gardeners and bee keepers, Muriel even having hives on an allotment in Warren Lane and, like Alec, was a member of the Keighley and Craven Beekeepers Association.

When Muriel lived at Park House (now The Croft) at the top of Park Road, she developed a lovely south facing garden which was to include fruit trees. Details relating to those were kindly passed on to subsequent owners who now know of every variety! In the photo collection is one showing Alec opening the courts of the Eldwick Tennis Club on 31st May in



1961. His keen interest came from being secretary of the Memorial Hall Committee during the time of its involvement in the construction of the courts. Once again, as with other organisations in which he became involved, in recognition of his work, Alec was honoured with the presidency and life membership of the club. On his retirement, he was pictured, at the school, being presented with golf clubs as he was a member of St.Ives. Muriel was a founder member of the Eldwick & District W.I. and, as well as a full list of all others, there is a picture of a W.I. Bring & Buy Sale in her Park House garden in 1970. Pictured here are Mrs Birch turning the first sod for Birches in 1984 with Eldwick builder David Wildman, Mr Birch himself, his opening of the Eldwick Tennis Club in May 1961.



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ELDWICK & DISTRICT LADIES GROUP

Our July speaker was Frank Pickles who was Head Ranger on the North York Moors. His talk was very interesting. There was only about 20 people who turned up. There is no meeting in August as it is our trip. September's speaker will be Richard White from Bracken Hall. Our Macmillan Coffee morning is Friday 29th September. We will be having a cake stall and a raffle. If anyone would like to supply us with anything to sell please just bring it along on the day. Please come and support this very worthy cause.

New members are always welcome. Please call Bev on 01274-565077

ELDWICK MEMORIAL HALL INVESTMENT

The Memorial Hall is going "eco friendly", a large investment has been made to make the Hall better insulated and improve the lighting. The ceiling is to be taken out completely, the void is to be filled with sheep's wool (see photo). The ceiling panels will all be replaced and all the lighting will be converted to LEDs. This is a costly project but obviously saving energy over future years.



The work has started at the end of July and will go on into August. The Trustees apologise to Hall users for the disruption.

The hall is a registered charity and is self funding. Income comes from lettings and rent from the adjoining Birches building. The Hall is used for a very diverse activities from dance groups to funerals. Visit our website eldwickmemorialhall.co.uk and check for availability or ring our bookings secretary directly 07926 616687. The Birches bar may also be booked to complement your event.

BOND GARDEN SERVICES

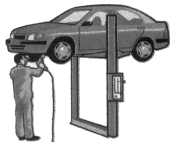
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NEWS FROM THE ELDWICK CHURCH

Church Services:

Sunday 6th August 09.15

Holy Communion &

10.30 Family Worship with Baptism

Sun. 13th August 10.30 am

Family Worship

Sunday 20th August 10.30 am

Family Holy Communion

Sun. 27th August 10.30 am

Family Worship

Both 'Time to Breathe' & Messy Church are on a pause during August.

Other Regular Weekly & Monthly Events:

The Link Café is open on Tuesdays 9.30 am - 12.00 noon & Thursdays 10.30 am - 1.30 pm, with light lunches served on Thursdays.

Goldies (Golden Oldies) Tuesday 15th August 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Goldies sessions are open to everyone but aim particularly to combat isolation in older adults. Goldies features sing-along songs from the 50's onwards, followed by bingo & afternoon tea. Dementia friendly, free to all residents of Bingley, transport available. For more info: 01274 560539

The Church Craft group meets every Wednesday from 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. Bring your own craft and enjoy the company. Small charge to cover refreshments; just drop in!

Early September Diary Date:

Saturday 2nd September 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm 'Get to know Rev Clare!' The Eldwick Church is an Anglican / Methodist local partnership. Rev Terry Keen, who was our Methodist Minister, has now retired and Rev Clare Stainsby, who is already the Airedale Circuit Superintendent Minister will be replacing him. Come and meet her - all welcome.

Please 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 social media or on our website <http://eldwickchurch.org.uk>

FOCUS ON GROUPS

An opportunity for you to showcase what your organisation does. We are looking for groups to promote themselves in the Newsletter.

There are many organisations within the village who we would like to give space to which, we hope would include photographs etc.

Please contact Tony Clegg
01274 562643 or
news@eldwickvillage.co.uk

New deliverer

Many thanks to Ann Green and Ann Capenhurst who have been delivering newsletters for many years in all weathers, they are now retiring. Terez Green who is the daughter in law of Ann Green has very kindly agreed to step in and deliver the round.

INTERIOR PAINTING AND DECORATING



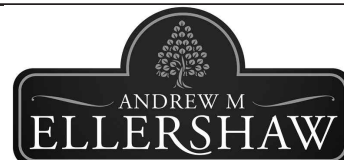
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ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Eldwick & Gilstead Horticultural Society
We are pleased to announce that our **105th Annual Show** of Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers and Home Produce will be opened by **Mark Truelove**, local councillor & member of the "Burnt Banger" team, on **Saturday 26th August at 2.45pm** in the Memorial Hall with refreshments in the Church Link.

Entry Forms will be available between 6pm and 8pm on Friday 25th August in the Church Link for which the fee is just 20p per item per class. Thank you to the Show Secretary, David Bell, and his assistant, Dawn Sutcliffe, for organising the event. We look forward to the pleasure of your company



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