

# Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 501 May 2021

## ELDWICK & GILSTEAD GALA NEWS

Looks like we are on track for Saturday 17th July 2021

Get your fancy dress outfit ready for the Masquerade – everybody is invited to dress up for Prizes!

The Gala raises over £2000 each year for local children's activities. You can help achieve this by contributing on-line via our Facebook page. Eldwick & Gilstead Gala.

Free entry this year (we won't be having a programme). Please contribute via our Facebook page to the Gala Fund. There will be some collection buckets around too.

**A few things to keep the day as safe as we can.**

- To keep things safe we won't be having the parade this year – but there will be music!
- To avoid the crowds at the entrance – we will open the field from 12.30pm.
- There will be our very own Q-code to scan with your phone.
- The Gala Queen and her party will arrive on their decorated vehicle ready for the 1.30pm crowning ceremony.

Terrier racing will be the feature of the afternoon - with a chance to enter your own family pooch. Start that training! What can be easier than running in a straight line.



## Beer and Banger Festival

Is booked for 20 / 21st August.

If you would like to get involved or get details for sponsorship of this event please contact us through the newsletter (details on back page).



There will be lots of things to do Donkey Rides, Races, Fancy Dress Masquerade for all, Dancing, Entertainment, Terrier Racing, Fell Race, Rides, Burnt Bangers, Cake, Stalls, Music, Ice Cream & Sunshine.

Bingley Harriers will be putting on the Fell Race too for the more serious runners.

To book a stall or to volunteer to help on the day email [galaeldwick@gmail.com](mailto:galaeldwick@gmail.com) or message our Facebook page - Eldwick & Gilstead Gala

**(The Gala Pet Show and Discos will make a return in 2022 as indoor events.)**

## 2021 FUN RUN

The Scout & Guide Fun Run will be on Friday 16th July at 7pm the evening before the Gala. Entry forms available next month here and from the Post Office.

(Just the 1.5 mile run this year, Pre booked entries £3, £4 on the day).

A medal for every finisher.

Route from the Memorial Hall, Otley Road, Warren Lane, Moorcroft, Southway, Sheriff Lane, Glen Road, Saltaire Road, Otley Road to the finish opposite the Memorial Hall. Get into the training soon!



## Eldwick Village Society Welcome Back Barbecue



All welcome to this barbecue Saturday 15th / Sunday 16th May from 3-7pm. Both days at the Eldwick Memorial Hall

Entry is free and there will be the usual barbecued delicacies which can be sold to eat at a table or as a takeaway. There will be plenty of seating and tables under cover. Covid regulations will be adhered to in order to allow a safe environment for all the family. Birches will be serving drinks outside in line with Covid policy. There is no need to book a table, we will work on a "first come" basis.

Hopefully the weather will be good and families will be able to use the playground facilities or picnic on the field!

Entry is free and the profits from the barbecue will go to national and local charities.

## DELIVERERS

Thanks to Wendy Clarke who has just retired from delivering the Newsletter and we now welcome Stephen Wilkinson who will be taking on Wendy's round.

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## BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

The Council has lost two of its staff, one of our part time administrators left for pastures new and the Town Clerk who is leaving to join Ilkley Council, whilst they will be missed council business carries on as usual. We have made an appointment of a deputy Town Clerk who will be joining us soon.

I hope that as lockdown starts to ease the council will soon start to hold face-to-face council meetings, these should resume after 6th May, we are awaiting final details from the government as to the rules governing such meeting given Covid 19 is still prevalent in society.

When you read this, we will have gone into step 2 of the Government's Road Map out of lockdown, at last we will be able to go to the hairdressers for that long overdue haircut, public buildings, including libraries and community centres and indoor leisure facilities will also open, all be it certain restrictions will still apply.

The council is pleased to report that progress has been made on the Changing Places Project. Architects drawings are now in our possession; once reviewed by the project team they will be submitted to Bradford Planning for approval. The working group will consult with Bradford giving early notice that they will be seeking funds from the government's newly advertised Changing Places fund of 30 million.

At last, Eldwick will be getting a long overdue pedestrian crossing this will be located opposite to the entrance of the Memorial Hall. Residents will be able to cross the road safely and not have to take their life in their hands every time they cross Otley Road. Unfortunately I cannot give you a date for the installation of the crossing but will keep you updated when information is available from Bradford.

The council had a presentation from a company called BRSK regarding the installation of new infrastructure to support high-speed broadband. It is currently being rolled out in Cottingley and installation is going well; other locations in the Bingley Parish will have the infrastructure in due course. It is anticipated that some free broadband connections will be offered to local schools and community groups.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on the 4th May via Zoom further details will be posted on the council web site and Facebook page.

The Monthly Market returned on Saturday 3rd April and will be held on the first Saturday of every month thereafter, your support for the market is appreciated

Local Elections will have been held and we will know who our district councillor will be representing Bingley on Bradford Council. Additionally Bingley Town Council will have two new local councillors representing the Priestthorpe ward to bring the council back to full strength.

The Neighbourhood plan-working group has now completed its draft plan, the next stage is for the plan to be submitted to Bradford for consideration before going out to local consultation.

## Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

Hello to all our Members.

This is the countdown to our reopening. Just over 4 months to go. Not much info yet but there will be nearer the time.

Now that we can start to mix with other people please take care.

See you all soon

## The Great War

Eldwick Beck Wesleyan Chapel had a "Roll of Honour" which recorded the names of the men from the Chapel who had fought in the Great War. One of the soldiers, Sergeant Charles Rowley, won the Military Medal for gallantry and he survived the war. He lived at Low Wood Cottage in Eldwick and he was in the Reserve Brigade of the 2/4 Duke of Wellington's Regiment. But why then is his name on the Eldwick Cenotaph?

Charles Rowley worked for Bruce's Mill at the bottom of Glen View Road and the answer can be found in his military service records. His employer, Mr. J.R. Bruce, wrote to the "Infantry Records" at York on the 11th February 1920 as follows:

"Employed by me after his release...but did not work long before he was too ill to continue....died 13th October 1919 through disease contracted on active service by acute nephritis" (which is a disease of the kidneys).

In addition to the "Roll of Honour" the Chapel also had a brass plaque inscribed with the names of three soldiers "who fell in the Great War" as follows:

Lance Corporal Arthur Bruce Stead, 9th. Duke of Wellington's Regiment. (He lived at Lily Cottage, Sheriff Lane in Eldwick and died 3rd August 1916)

Private John Steel, the Royal Highlander's Regiment - The Black Watch. (He lived at Golcar Farm, Spring Lane, Eldwick and died 15th October 1917)

Private John William Steel, the 10th Lincoln's Regiment. (He lived at Sunny Bank in Eldwick and died 17th April 1918)

The picture is of Lance Corporal Arthur Bruce Stead and is taken from the website of the Imperial War Museum, which notes that he was the son of George and Annie Maria Stead of Lily Cottage, Eldwick and that he was a member of Unit "A" Company, 9th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment. (The West Yorkshire Regiment)

Arthur Bruce Stead was one of the Sunday School secretaries at the Wesleyan Chapel and during the Great War the minute books recorded the following:



1915: "As you are all aware, Mr. Arthur Stead, who has shared the duties of secretary, has most nobly responded to his Country's call, and is at present trying to equip himself for the task he may be called upon to perform".

1916: "It seems very strange that we should teach in our Sunday Schools, the Love of Christ, and goodwill toward men, whilst at the same time many of our Sunday School teachers, and many thousands of young men who have been taught in our Sunday Schools, are actively engaged in trying to put down the Prussian menace. Last year our thoughts were towards my colleague Mr. Arthur Stead who at that time was in training for the arduous duties in the trenches to which he has since been called, and I am sure we are all delighted to know that he is well and in good spirits and will be thinking of us tonight, just as we are thinking of him".

1917: "During the year which has just passed our school has sustained a great loss through the death of our esteemed secretary Lance Corporal Arthur B. Stead, we had been looking forward to having him amongst us once again".

You will be pleased to learn that the Sunday School minute books were deposited with the West Yorkshire Archive in Bradford under reference no: 78D89 and that the "Roll of Honour" and the brass plaque are now with the Eldwick Church. **John Muggleston.**

Postscript: Lance Corporal Arthur Bruce Stead is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave at Serre Road Cemetery No.2, Beaumont-Hamel and Hebuterne (L-Z), in France.



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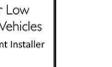
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## ZEBRA IN ELDWICK

How lovely to receive the 500th edition of the newsletter. Congratulations to all involved in its production and in the village society. We note you have been "advised by Bradford Council" that a zebra crossing is to be placed outside the Memorial Hall. This 80s and 70s couple have no trouble crossing the very busy road just there in two halves using the central reservation already in situ.

What we really need, as the age-group more likely to use buses, is some way of getting across the road to and from the bus stop at the Warren Lane end of the village street. What do other people think?

Len and Susan Oldfield, Dalesway

## ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The horti committee is beavering away in the background organising trips and shows but not a lot is happening publicly. Most of the excitement is in the garden at the moment as it changes daily. Spring is definitely in the air, even though the nights are still below freezing and a drop of rain wouldn't be amiss. As gardeners, we are never happy with the weather.

Bedding plants are being ordered and brought on under wraps. Annual seed and veg planted and warming on windowsills - it's so close but not quite the frost free nights.



Very few magnolias looked this good this year as the frost played havoc with all our plants, seed-lings and plans. If yours is getting out of hand, now is the time to prune it so it has as much time as possible to form the new buds ready for

next year's display. The same with your camellias. Don't forget to feed and mulch it after you have done it to give it a little boost.

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# NEWS FROM THE ELDWICK CHURCH

## Church Services

We have recently resumed worship in person although we are still limited to a small, socially distanced congregation. We are hoping that restrictions will lift shortly to allow us to accommodate more people. If you would like to book a seat, please ring the office in the first instance. Contact details are at the end of this article. You can still join us online as our services are livestreamed each Sunday at around 10.30am. Find us by typing 'The Eldwick Church' into the YouTube search bar.

## Church Café

The Church café is now open on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 am to 12 noon and at the moment is takeaway or outside only. On Tuesday 18th May we hope to open the café indoors and on Thursdays we will reopen for morning and lunchtime café from 10.00 am to 1.30 pm. All of these dates are dependent on Government guidelines.

If you would like to give some time to volunteering in the café, we would love to hear from you. Please contact either Julie Smith 07591 430501 or Susan Rishworth 07811 699579. We look forward to seeing you all at the café very soon.

## The Church in the Garden

There is a small church team working to develop the piece of overgrown land which forms the end of the back garden of Winston Grange (the vicarage). We have gained permission from the Diocese to cultivate this area.

The aim is to create a garden which will remain a place of safety and peace as well as a place in which to be thankful and celebrate God's awesome creation. The intention is that once completed, it will be a place suitable for anyone in the community - all ages and abilities - to share and enjoy by visiting, sitting, or doing some gardening!

We are blending two design ideas, bringing together elements of an allotment type garden and a landscaped garden.

- We hope to develop the area into 3 zones:
- The area nearest Winston Grange will house 4 long split-level raised beds for flowers & vegetables
  - The central area is a gravelled labyrinth with seating.

- The remaining area is shrubs and small trees with a bordering hedgerow.

Other features will include a bird feeding station, hedgehog homes, bat boxes and nest boxes, a wormery, a log bug hotel, small child-friendly nature trail, sensory planted bed, flowers, and shrubs to attract butterflies, bees, etc.

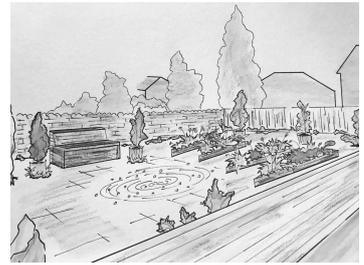
So far, fences have been erected to define boundaries and we have begun to clear the undergrowth and rubble. We are hoping to start on the first of the 4 raised beds very soon. We hope the community of Eldwick and beyond will be able to become more involved once we make some initial progress.

If you would like to help, please contact the church office or if you would like to donate to the garden fund, there is a link on the homepage of our website: [eldwickchurch.org.uk](http://eldwickchurch.org.uk).

Do 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](mailto:prayer@eldwickchurch.org.uk) where they are forwarded anonymously to our prayer team.

For general enquiries, please email [office@eldwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@eldwickchurch.org.uk) or telephone 01274 422015.

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



Artist's impression courtesy of John Muggleston's brother.



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## THE BLEATHERHEAD'S PARTY IN THE PARK

There have been no events organised by Friends of Prince of Wales Park since the start of the pandemic so here is the story of one that took place 150 years ago. The groups who called themselves Bleatherheads were comical strolling players, given to flamboyant dress, make up and hilarious play to the weirdest musical instruments. It was on Saturday 5th October in 1872 when such a group arrived in Bingley and visitors who would normally have been strolling in the woods or by the riverside were drawn to a special attraction. Many arrived by train, the better class from Manningham demanding first class seats, whilst all others were on benches or even in the guard's van. Arriving in Bingley, the throng made their way across the station yard to Main Street where, on the Market Hall were a collection of posters. One placard stood out, headed by 'Ad Captandum Vulgus' a Latin phrase meaning to captivate the masses, or even rabble or mob. The message on the placard announced that the Bingley Bleatherheads would be holding their 4th Grand Festival on October 5th in Prince of Wales Park. In actual fact a similar group had performed during the opening of the park in 1865.

For this Grand Festival everyone would be welcome but the loyal followers of the Bleatherheads would meet at the 'Antient Inn' (the White Horse?) in full gipsy costumes. From there would be a parade throughout the town led by the 10th Bingley Rifle Band. From Main Street all processed over Toad Loin Brigg, (Park Road Bridge), up past Mushroom Hall towards the park where the loyal followers would partake of a stupendous banquet. A brass band of sorts with loud singing/shouting followed the band. A reporter declared that, in all his travels, he had never seen the likes of such an assembly. To quote, (with local place names which may need interpretation), he had visited the trackless plains of Rumelsmore, the sunny shores of Mohrkumbai, the mountain ridges of Ortann-bangt-top, even the bleak deserts of Wibzass Lake.

The Bleatherheads provided such a spectacle that it was said that Bingley people, as shoppers, forsook the counters, mothers their duties and policemen their officiousness. So the placard headline proved its worth as so many people

crowded to watch the 'King and Queen' on horseback in the lead followed by a motley collection of Gorgons, Hydras, Druids, Egyptian Mummies, Witches and Aztecs. Headgear included coal scuttles, chimney pots and, of course, the simple bladder.

Music from so called instruments included rolled up trumpets, crumpled horns, drummers and whistlers, all conducted by the trouper with his hand brush. Two enormous 'guitars' with real string, had bodies with emble 'Thornes Trinidad Coconas' and 'Best Quality Sweets'. There was a Potato Locomotive, a hawker's cart full of tin ware, of which the travelling people make a pretext of selling. Accompanying Fortune Tellers seemed to have masculine voices, some with moustaches or even whiskers and all smoking clay pipes. The procession was closed by Dolly Varden on stilts, ( a Dickensian character in Barnaby Rudge) wearing her distinctive fashionable hat.

So it was that the rag tag and bobtail mass wound its way up the steep hill, quickening pace to reach the moorland park with which the name of the Prince of Wales is associated. There the Bleatherheads climbed the rocky ways until they arrived at the grand camping ground, situated in an old disused quarry. Here the camp fires were lit, the tents pitched and the soup pans put on to boil. Soon the pea soup was doled out to the hungry crowd at one halfpenny for a saucerful and two May Day clowns set up their gingerbread stall. There had been the promise of 'light fantastic performances' so, when some loyal followers formed a ring, the Rifle Band struck up familiar music and dancing commenced with a waltz, followed by several other dancers, even the Can-can leg displays, Everyone frisked around with gaiety and abandon, even rolling on the floor with laughter. However, the 'Queen' merely whirled round in stately dignity as became her. Even more spectators arrived from all directions to take their places on the craggy heights of the moorland, to overlook the spectacle in the grand Ariana.



The Ariana Today

After all the dancing and games were ended, the Bleatherheads retired to their tents to enjoy their primitive banquet, including doing justice to the hot pea soup. After the feed there were the final dances and performances as darkness began to descend. In expectation of the chill of the night there was no wish to sleep in cold tents so the Bleatherheads departed. They left the the rugged Bingley Park 'where the furze and heather are the only signs of vegetation'. But in those times it was a place treasured as a standpoint' from where the Aire valley below lay open for people to enjoy an immense panoramic view. As for the Bleatherheads it was their usual custom at the very end of the Grand Festival to wend their way back into Bingley Town when all and sundry would once more avail themselves of the delights of The Antient, probably making a night of it!

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