

Village Diary

Wilsden Parish Council meeting...

Mon Sept 6th, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon Oct 4th, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon Nov 1st, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Mon Dec 6th, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall

Wilsden Neighbourhood Forum...

Wed Dec 1st, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wilsden Gardening Association...

Annual Show Sun Sep 19th, 2pm, Village Hall

Wilsden Wedding Fair Sat Sep 11th, 10am - 4pm, St Matthew's Church

Edwardian Fair Thurs Nov 25th, 6 - 8pm, Village Hall

Senior Citizen's Xmas Party Sat Dec 4th, 2pm, Village Hall

Wilsden Xmas Lights switched on Fri Dec 10th, 6.30pm, Wilsden Park

Local Nursery Rhymes from 100 years ago

The gift to the Parish Council of the Dialect Dictionary, written by Aethelbert Binns over 100 years ago, has resulted in some other surprising discoveries. When the book was handed to the West Yorkshire Archive they realised that some of their other documents were by a more significant figure than they had previously realised. Amongst these was a hand written articles headed "West Yorkshire Childhood Ditties" where Aethelbert Binns talks about dialect versions of some of the nursery rhymes sung by local children and their parents over 100 years ago. We have not space here to reproduce the whole article but just to include a few examples.

"Rushing out of school on a winter's day when snow flakes are falling children would shout:

They're killin' geese i Scotland
An' sendin' feathers here;
Tak' yor' feathers back agean
We don't want 'em here!"

Another rhyme described as "one of the commonest in this neighbourhood is

Round about, round about applety pie,
Daddy loves ale and so do I
Mammy gets up
And fills us a cup,
And Daddy and me we sup it all up,
Sup it all up,
Sup it all up,

In repeating the above lines, the parent takes hold of the child's little outstretched hand and begins to run the tip of his or her forefingers round the open palm, thus tickling it. This round about motion is continued until the words 'sup it all up' are reached, when the parent uplifts the child's hand to its mouth as though it were 'supping it all up'. Copies are available to anyone contacting Peter Allison on 01535 273403.

Patient Participation Group for Wilsden

The Wilsden Medical Practice has established a Patient Participation Group to improve communication with local residents. They have also started to produce a regular newsletter, which is widely available, describing what is happening to the medical facilities in our village.

THE WILSDENER

Latest news from around the village,
PLUS Wilsden Parish Council Newsletter

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AUG 2010

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN WILSDEN

Sergeant Diane Collins of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team has asked us to include the following message:

"As some of you may be aware there has been an increase in litter, particularly bottles, being disposed of incorrectly in Wilsden Park. This is due to individuals gathering in the park, often drinking and then smashing the bottles on the floor. I have made this area a team local priority, which means that patrols from your Neighbourhood Policing Team will increase with the intention of identifying and dealing positively with offenders.

I am currently working with Councillor Ellis and Bradford Council enforcement team to try and obtain an anti-social drinking ban for Wilsden Park. This will mean that if officers believe that individuals are drinking and they believe that anti-social behaviour will result then alcohol will be seized from any person and they will be required to leave the area. I will also continue to robustly utilise our powers regarding anti-social behaviour. There are several individuals in Wilsden that are already subject to this process.

If you witness anybody behaving anti-socially could you please report them to the team. All such information will be treated confidentially."

This behaviour is not just making the area unsightly as we had an incident recently where a bottle thrown into the Play Area was broken. When a young girl accidentally trod on this broken glass it went straight through her shoe and cut her foot so badly that her mother had to take her to Accident and Emergency. Sergeant Collins can be contacted at Bingley Police Station, tel 01274 475331; mobile 07736 086704. Alternatively you can report incidents at the Contact Point at Wilsden Village Hall or speak to PCSO Paul Allwood when he is patrolling in the village.

A NEW FORMAT FOR THE WILSDENER

After many years of producing the Wilsdener in the larger A4 size format we have decided to experiment with the smaller A5 booklet format. This change is designed to both make it both easier to read and also easier for the deliverers to post through your letter boxes. This new format will also be more flexible if we wish to increase the number of pages.

The cost of producing the Wilsdener is paid for by the Parish Council as a service for the village and we always welcome contributions and suggestions for improvement.



Brought to you by Wilsden Village Hall (Reg. Charity No. 511626) & Wilsden Parish Council

~ Covering Wilsden, Harecroft & Hallas Bridge ~



Changes at Church and Chapel (part 2)

In the last edition of the Wilsdener we included an article by Ian Griffiths the new minister for Wilsden and Harecroft Methodist Churches. In this edition we hear from the Bob Evans who was licensed as the Vicar of Harden and Wilsden on March 15th.

May I Introduce myself?

My name is Bob Evans. I am the new Vicar of Harden and Wilsden, as well as of Cullingworth and Denholme. My wife, Suzanne, and I moved into the Vicarage in Wilsden Old Road in Harden in February but I'm no stranger to the area. I was brought up in Shipley, educated at Salt's Grammar, then studied Estate Management at Reading University. I became a Chartered Surveyor and worked for various organisations including Magnet at Keighley and JCT600 motor group. I lived in Bingley during my early adult life.



I have always loved the outdoor life and at various times have been involved in rock climbing, sailing, canoeing, water skiing, orienteering, and long distance walking. Now I am thoroughly enjoying exploring Goit Stock, St Ives and Harden Moor with my dog, Molly. Some will remember me from my involvement in Scouting. For a few years I was the District Commissioner for Bingley and I used to visit the uniformed groups in Wilsden. It's great to find that some of leaders the still remember me.

Until about 20 years ago I didn't believe in God at all. I regarded myself as a scientist and felt sure that God can't be proven to exist. Then I met with Him and both my science and my life gained a new perspective. Suddenly my values changed, my eyes were opened and I saw things and people differently. To cut a long story short, I found myself called by God to cease working as a Chartered Surveyor and to become a vicar. This came as a considerable surprise to myself and my family! My journey then took me through the church selection process to Ordination training with an MA in theology, then a curacy at Pudsey, then vicar of Low Moor, Oakenshaw and Wyke, and now to vicar of Harden & Wilsden, Cullingworth and Denholme. I look forward to meeting many of you and getting to know you. This is a new beginning for the parish churches in Wilsden and Harden and I want to say from the outset that 'the church doors are open', metaphorically speaking at least. We are a small fellowship who will welcome those of little faith and those with none, those who have attended church for many years, those with questions, and those with burdens. Jesus Christ rose again from the dead so that we might all have life and live it to the full, and if there is any way I can walk with you on your journey of faith then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

You may have heard about our new "Pick'n'mix" worship for families as it seems already to be attracting large numbers. It takes place on the second Sunday of the month at 9.30 at St Matthews and is worship like you never knew it before! It always includes craft and food activities, action songs and reflective options for all ages. Why not come and see?

We are also blessed with a wonderful choir at St Matthew's and the traditional worship which happens on every other Sunday at 9.30 is guaranteed to be uplifting and joyful. There is going to be a "Songs of Praise" on 24th October which is open to everyone and the hymns will have been chosen by the community. If you would like to vote for your favourite hymns then there are ballot papers in church – or just ask any church member. We welcome enquiries for 'Christenings', for 'thanksgivings' for weddings or renewal of vows – there are no hurdles to jump, we are the church that loves to say 'yes' and we hope to be available to serve you. Please get in touch if you would like to talk.

Revd Bob Evans tel 01535 273758 e-mail vicarbob@talktalk.net

50 Years of Harden & Wilsden working together

This summer is the 50th anniversary of the joining of the Church of England churches of St. Saviour's Harden and St. Matthew's Wilsden to form a United Benefice. The anniversary has been celebrated with a series of events – an organ recital by parish organist Chris Exley in St. Matthew's, exhibitions of village life over the past half-century in both churches, a lively ceilidh in Wilsden Village Hall. A parish picnic for all ages, complete with duck race down Harden Beck, took place on the lawn behind the Malt Shovel, appropriately just about on the boundary between the original two parishes of Harden and Wilsden. A key event was a special joint service at St. Saviour's with the opportunity for couples to renew marriage vows. The Very Revd David Ison, Dean of Bradford Cathedral and a patron of the benefice, was guest preacher.

The final item in the summer programme was a well-attended evening at St. Matthew's with the theme 'Then and Now'. Four speakers reflected on changes over the 50 years. Astrid Hansen set the scene with a brief survey of changes in available employment in the two villages, shopping patterns and social activities. She outlined changes in church life in all the denominations represented in the two villages and ended with the situation at St. Matthew's and St. Saviour's in 1960 when the "marriage" took place.

Dr. Roger Selby, who joined the Wilsden medical practice in 1959, surprised the audience with some of the changes he recounted. Blood tests for puzzling conditions were a rarity and meant the doctor had to go to Bingley Hospital to collect the appropriate syringe. No secretaries and no appointment system meant long hours for the doctors, with surgeries at Cullingworth and Denholme to cover as well as Wilsden, but for patients at least the chance to be seen if you were prepared to wait. Lots of home visits too, even by consultants called in by the practice, but against these 'good old days' we must set the lack of diagnostic tools and very limited range of treatments then available.

After refreshments and chance to study an old large-scale map of the area, it was a 'back to school' session as Alan Fox reminisced about his early days as a teacher. He became head teacher of Wilsden School and later of Parkside Middle School. The exalted title of Head of Cod Liver Oil that Mr. Fox was awarded at a London school is lost to today's education system, as is the cane. Views were more divided on how much homework is enough and the merits of learning tables. Fortunately we were not tested.

Revd Bob Evans rounded off the evening with a very funny and apt short film about traditional C of E reaction to change. He concluded by explaining the different approach to ministry now that the old model of "one village, one vicar" has almost disappeared. Harden and Wilsden are now part of a bigger group, taking in Denholme and Cullingworth, for which our early, not to say pioneering, experience of uniting should stand us in good stead. There are more special events to come in autumn, with Songs of Praise services at both churches and return visits from several of our past vicars.

Wilsden Wedding Fair

On Saturday 11th September a Wedding Fair is taking place at St Matthew's Church, Main Street. This will not only be an opportunity to talk about a church wedding but will also allow you to meet some of the many local businesses who supply everything you may need for your wedding. You will be able to meet suppliers of dresses and accessories, a florist, a photographer, hair stylists and beauticians, caterers and providers of venues for the reception.



Come and be surprised how much is available locally. Chance to win great prizes.

A New Green Open Space for Wilsden

Many of you will have noticed that in recent weeks the open space at the corner of Lingfield Road and Main Street has been grassed and new walls have been constructed. The ownership of this land is in the process of being transferred to the Parish Council and when this has been completed and the grassed area has had chance to bed in, the fences will be removed and people will be able to enjoy the area and use the seat. The land has been owned by Mr Ray McCarten of 24 Laurel Park for a number of years and when he was making a planning application to build 3 houses in an adjacent area he approached the Parish Council to consider what could be done with the area.



As a result of these discussions a condition of the grant of planning permission by Bradford Council was that this land is transferred to the Parish Council after renovation. The Parish Council will be responsible for the future upkeep of this area but this will not have an impact upon the money we raise from council tax precept for many years to come because we were also granted a sum of £8,000 towards ongoing maintenance costs. The Parish Council appreciates the way that Ray McCarten has contributed to the improvement of the village. The benches on the site, which are made from recycled plastic, come from Aborplas of Wilsden Business Park.

Although this area has not been built upon for many years it was the site of 207 and 209 Main Street. The former is notable for being the last house lived in by Aethelbert Binns and his family before they emigrated to Australia in 1907. The house next door was for many years the site of Ramsbottom's grocers.

Wilsden Walling Group

Many of you will have read the report by Cllr Tony Caunt in the last edition of the Wilsdener about the activities of this group. Over recent weeks they have been even busier both repairing a section of wall at the corner of Bob Lane and Haworth Road and also the walls on the footpath through the Pie Hole, between Tweedy Street and Cplowe Lane. This time we thought we would let the pictures tell the impressive story of their work. New volunteers are always welcome to join the team and if you want to know more please phone Tony on 01535 273709.



The walls at the Pie Hole before and afterwards



Wilsden: walk the walk

Most of us take our lovely village surroundings for granted, although we all have our particular gripes about desirable local improvements. Perhaps the most common grievance raised by villagers is the extent to which dog fouling taints our streets, footpaths and open spaces and especially the antisocial lethargy of dog owners who fail to clean up after their animals. While this is an irritant that we literally sidestep when we come across it, just consider the position of those people who cannot take evasive action because they are partially sighted or blind.

William "Billy" Buxton has lived in the village for several years and he is blind. He is nevertheless keen to retain some measure of independence and daily walks up the village on a specific route where, over the years, he has mastered any potential hazards he may encounter to the extent that he is comfortable and confident that he is both aware of and can negotiate them. However, he can neither see nor anticipate deposits of dog excrement left on the pavement by an uncaring dog owner. Stepping into dog mess is always an unpleasant experience but for Billy it is much more than that. Not only does he have to return home with his footwear or cane fouled but his overwhelming concern is that if dog mess is deposited on a narrow part of the pavement, he will slip and fall into the flow of traffic. Encountering unexpected hazards can be very disorientating for a blind person and it is all too easy to lose a sense of direction and turn towards danger. As Billy says, whenever he goes out "it's on your mind all the time".

Dog mess is not the only significant risk that Billy takes when he goes out; branches from trees and shrubs overhanging the pavement at head or eye level are problematic, particularly roses which Billy describes as "lacerating like razor wire". Most owners give their shrubs an annual trim but this may not be sufficient, particularly as pruning tends to stimulate growth.

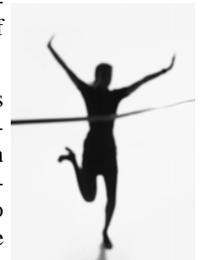
During last winter many of us will have spent time clearing snow from our drives or from the road immediately in front of our houses. Where did we put the snow? Probably we just shovelled it in a pile on the pavement. Billy remembered a close encounter of the snowy kind when he fell into just such a mound on his daily walk at the beginning of the year.

We can make life so much easier for our blind and partially sighted residents simply by thinking and taking just a little care in very practical ways every day. Dog deposits should be bagged and either binned in a public waste bin or taken home for disposal. Householders whose properties adjoin the highway can easily check periodically to see whether their shrubs and greenery could present a hazard to passers by and get the clippers out. Although we all hope that next winter will not be nearly as white as the last one, if it is, let us think about Billy and others like him and clear our snow with care.

Bradford City Run 2010

This event, which takes place on Sunday October 17th, is a half Marathon that will pass round the edges of Wilsden. This will not only mean that there will be an opportunity for people to go out and watch but it will also result in a number of road closures.

The 13.1 mile run starts in the City centre, outside the Alhambra, continues along Thornton Road to School Green and then takes a route that eventually joins Back Lane at the Duke of York public house. The runners turn onto Haworth Road at Shay Gate and run through Sandy Lane and eventually finish at Lister Park. Back Lane and Haworth Road will be closed to traffic between 09.30 am and 12.30 pm that day. In addition most of the routes from Harecroft towards Thornton or Keelham will also be closed for a similar period.



Wilsden Parish Council Newsletter

Are you interested in being a Parish Councillor?

Following the resignation of Cllr Sheila Jones, when she moved out of Wilsden, the Parish Council is looking to co-opt someone to be a councillor until April 2011. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk.

In April 2011 the term of office for all the parish councillors for Wilsden and Harecroft comes to an end and they must stand down. If they wish to continue as councillors, they must apply for re-election. Unlike Bradford Council, where a third of the council are elected in rotation, all parish councillors sit for the same fixed period. Parish councillors are elected for four years and all parish councils in the Bradford area are normally elected at the same time. Anyone who has lived or worked in the Parish Council area for 12 months or lives within 3 miles of the borders is eligible to stand.

The main requirement to stand is that you get 2 eligible electors in the parish to agree that they support your nomination. In the last council everyone stood as an Independent, even if they were a member of a political party. If someone wished to stand as an official representative of a political party they must get the signed consent of the party but if you are standing as an Independent no consent is required.

The Wilsden Parish Council area is divided into two wards, the Harecroft ward which elects one councillor and the Wilsden ward which elects 8 councillors, a person can only stand in one ward for a specific election. If there are just sufficient candidates for each ward people are elected unopposed but if there are more candidates an election must take place.

If the Parish Council is going to be strong it is important that it represents as many strands of opinion as possible. If you feel that the current Parish Council is either spending too much or too little money in the area, now is your chance to have your say. If you feel it is involved with the wrong sort of activities or ought to do more of what it is currently doing, now is your chance to make a contribution. The main commitment is to attend one Council meeting a month, although all the current councillors put in much more time than that.

Can you help?

Many readers will have heard of the Volunteer Car Scheme, organised by Wilsden Parish Council, which offers people who do not have access to their own transport lifts to the Medical Centre or the Village Hall. The scheme is in danger of becoming a victim of its own success as the demand from users is growing faster than the number of drivers. We are therefore looking for additional volunteer drivers.

On average volunteer drivers carry between 100 and 150 people a month with about half the trips being either to the Tuesday Luncheon Club or the Thursday Senior Citizens meetings at the Village Hall. At the current time the scheme is dependent upon the majority of the volunteer drivers being available and if a significant proportion are either on holiday, ill or otherwise unavailable it can be a challenge organising lifts. The users of the scheme refund the expenses of the drivers at 40p per mile. While some of our volunteer drivers may do a number of trips a week we also have people who can only do an occasional trip a month and we can readily accommodate both. If you can help or want to know more about what is involved please call either Margaret Harrison on 272305 or Peter Allison on 273403.

The Parish Chest

Hello. Since the last issue of "The Wilsdener" the most significant activity of the Parish Council has been the production of the long-awaited (and delayed) Parish Plan, a copy of which is being delivered to every household in Wilsden and Harecroft along with this newsletter. The Plan was the result of a wide ranging consultation exercise, although I know that there were significant omissions that will be addressed in the future. Please let the Parish Council know if you think that we are on the right tracks. The important thing to realise is that the Parish Plan is the start of the process and not the conclusion: it is very much "work in progress" and will benefit from the input of both individual parishioners and from organisations and groups throughout Wilsden and Harecroft.



In order to address some of the issues raised during the consultation period the Parish Council has appointed an assistant to the Clerk and the Council; I am pleased to welcome Vicky Day to this role. Vicky started at the beginning of June and her appointment will allow the Parish Council to improve its handling of planning applications in the wake of changes made by Bradford Council and to address the criticism quite rightly levied at the Parish Council concerning the currency and completeness of the Parish Council website.

Other issues that we have tackled have included the long running matter of dog fouling. Chris Murdoch from the Shipley area office gave a presentation at our June meeting, outlining what was happening in the area. I reported in the last Parish Chest that two Neighbourhood Wardens have been appointed; Chris informed us that they have now received the necessary training to hand out fixed-penalty notices to owners of dogs who foul. So, if you are caught allowing your dog to foul it will cost you £50. If you are one of those owners who bag the deposit and leave the bag on the side or hanging on a tree branch you will be fined £75 as you have additionally committed a littering offence. Remember, sealed bags can be deposited in ordinary litter bins and the Parish Council is pressing for additional bins throughout the village.

Some of you may have noticed some recent building activity on Main Street opposite the pharmacy, including the building of a wall. The land between the wall and the road is being donated to the village as a public space and is currently being landscaped ; more on this on p6.

I reported in the last issue that Bradford's Highways Department were proposing to carry out a traffic survey that would contribute towards finding a solution to the parking problems in Tweedy Street at peak school hours. I am pleased to report that the funding for this work has been secured and that work has now commenced.

On the subject of highways, Main Street Wilsden will be the subject of traffic restriction during August. Replacement gas pipes are being laid on a 200m stretch covering the road below Smithy Lane to the far side of Lee Close. Temporary traffic lights will control one-way working. Work starts on 16 August and is expected to last for approximately three weeks.

The annual meeting of the Parish Council was held in May; both the Chair and the Vice-chair, Councillor Allison, were re-appointed for a further year. Can I conclude by again reminding you that the Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.00 hours (There is no meeting in August). The venue is the Village Hall. I know that I am speaking for the whole Parish Council when I say that we would really welcome more of you at the meetings.

Peter M Ketley