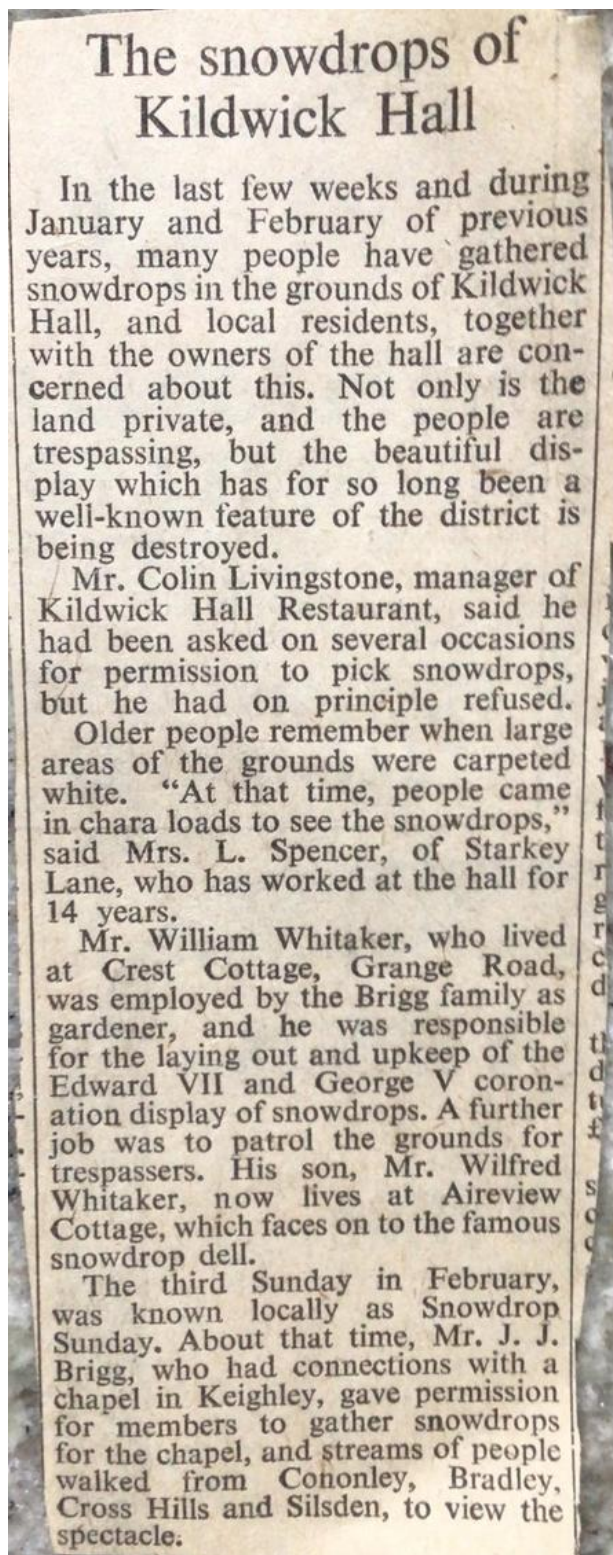


Snowdrops

In winter snowdrops can be seen on a number of the verges around in Farnhill and Kildwick. Kildwick Hall used to be renowned for them – thanks mostly to the efforts of the gardener at the Hall in the early part of the 20th century, William Whitaker.



Undated newspaper article about snowdrops at Kildwick Hall (probably mid-1970s, Craven Herald)



Snowdrop bank at Kildwick Hall – date of photo unknown

William Whitaker appears on the Farnhill censuses from 1881 (aged 9). He married in 1895 and set up his own home on Grange Road. From the 1901 census onwards he is recorded as being a gardener.

To commemorate the death of Edward VII and accession to the throne of George V, he planted a decorative display of snowdrops in the grounds of Kildwick Hall by Grange Road.



Snowdrops commemorating Edward VII (king from 1901) and George V (king from 1910)

He died in 1935.

His second son, Wilfred (born in 1899), continued to live close to Kildwick Hall, but moved over the border into Kildwick in the 1930s, and set up home in Aire View Cottage.

In 1953 Wilfred planted a display of snowdrops to commemorate the coronation of Elizabeth II, in the garden of Aire View.



Snowdrops planted by Wilfred Whitaker in the garden of Aire View Cottage

Wilfred Whitaker died in Surrey in 1983 and is buried in St. Andrew's graveyard.

There are no snowdrops on his grave.