

History of Eastburn



Photograph supplied by David Smith

The name Eastburn is thought to originate from the Anglo-Saxon words Est – meaning East and burn meaning stream. It is thought that the Romans may have passed through Eastburn en route between forts at Ilkley, Elslack and Colne. The earliest written record of Eastburn is in the 1086 Domesday book. Eastburn's tithe barn required substantial repair following damage by Scottish raiders.

During the medieval period the Parish of Kildwick, which included Eastburn, was given to Bolton Priory. At the time of the Dissolution Kildwick Manor, wherein Eastburn was located, was sold to clothiers from Bradford and Halifax who subsequently sold it once again.

Nan Pemberton an Eastburn resident who was accused of witchcraft is remembered in the names given to the land bordering Devils Lane.

In 1881 Eastburn became joined to Steeton when Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council was created.

During the 18th C extension of the canal, while it was not directly accessible in Eastburn, made transport of goods through the valley easier. Later the opening of the turnpike road also contributed to this.

In the 19th C arrival of the Railway made a significant contribution to the development of Eastburn. New industries were introduced and with this newcomers arrived in the village seeking jobs. This created a requirement for new housing and amenities to meet the needs of an expanded population.

Originally an agricultural area Eastburn in the 19th C became industrialised. It is known that a textile mill, foundry and a quarry were in production during this period.

During the early 20th C many small businesses and shops were trading in Eastburn making the village almost self sufficient.

Formal schooling began in Eastburn in a cottage in 1871. By 1894 it was decided to build a school which is still thriving today as is the village surrounding it.