



Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 445 DECEMBER 2015

A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Readers

Christmas Eve Carols

Once again the Memorial Hall will resound with the sounds of Christmas. Come and join us for an hour of traditional songs and carols with a brass band.

Eldwick Memorial Hall
6pm-7pm
December 24th 2015.



BIRCHES FREEHOUSE CHRISTMAS EVE

Darren Clynes
Vocal Comedy/Variety
All welcome and free entry.

NEW YEARS EVE
The famous Terry Webster
well known singer.
£18 incl. supper
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PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN CONTACTS FOR NEWSLETTER BELOW

PLEASE NOTE.
To contact the Newsletter

By letter
to Eldwick Post Office

Email the Newsdesk
eldwicknews@yahoo.co.uk
or
info@eldwickvillage.co.uk

Website
www.eldwickvillage.co.uk

BEER AND BANGERS MAKES £5000 FOR YORKSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE.

A cheque for £5000 has now been handed over to the YAA. The money was raised from The Beer and Banger Festival held at the end of August and "topped up" by the Bonfire and Fireworks Display.

Kerry Garner, Regional Fund Raising Manager received the cheque and said "On behalf of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance I would like to express our gratitude to the Eldwick Village Society for their support yet again. It is now a key event in our diary and was a great success, which our staff, volunteers and crew thoroughly enjoyed. The fantastic donation will go a long way



in keeping our two lifesaving Helicopters flying across Yorkshire."

Kerry also presented the team with a YAA Award of Recognition.

The Beer and Banger Festival will be held again in 2016 on 19th and 20th August.

Thanks to Michele at the Eldwick Post Office for doing the planters outside the Hall. Flowers by Eldwick Post Office can provide arrangements for all occasions 01274 563750 mob 07584 221502.

Thanks also to Sally at Lighthouse Garden Design for planting the Millennium stone and David Selby for cutting the grass around it.

Thank you to everyone who filled in the Eldwick Church Community Survey. We are grateful for your feedback and have been reading your comments with interest.

If you still have a survey and wish to return it, please just post it through the Church letterbox (located at the side door). Many thanks

Sue Huntington, Bingley Parish Administrator

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MYSTERIOUS HALLUCINATION

There are many houses in Eldwick, some still standing, some long gone, that have or have had interesting stories to tell. The skeleton in chains in Eldwick Hall's cellars, and Park House and Hammondale (now Netherdale), both supposedly built as pubs. Best of all, the notorious double murder in a cottage in 'Strawberry Fields' in Saltaire Road which resulted in a memorial window in St. Lawrence's Church for one of the victims.

One, in a much lighter vein is about Spring Field in Otley Road, not to be confused with Springfield House on the other side of the road. Today Springfield is two dwellings, accessed by a dirt track next to Meadowcroft, but in the past it was one house, almost a farmhouse with land in front and behind.

The story was told one hundred and ten years ago about a 'Poor Man's Phantom Wealth' relating to a 'Strange Property Purchase at Eldwick'. The principal characters in this 'visionary drama of wealth' were Mr Charles Wilkinson, farmer of Spring Field, Eldwick and a Mr Charles Firth of Bradford who was associated with the Temperance Hall. The farm had three fields and was tenanted by Mr Wilkinson as well as some cottages. It was said that several villas in Eldwick had sprung up rapidly and Bingley Council had considered and passed plans for property to be erected on an estate on 'Garden City' lines. This was to be on today's Grange Road but only The Manor House and six cottages were built before the plans were abandoned, 'the site being far too exposed'. Mr Wilkinson decided that once he found a suitable purchaser he would dispose of his estate and put it into the market by erecting a notice board facing on to

Otley Road 'This House and Land for Sale. Apply Within'.

The notice was up during the Easter holidays with a view to directing the attention of the many people who visited Eldwick at such time. The first person to call was the gentleman from Bradford, Mr Firth. He fell in love with the property and surroundings at first sight and 'immediately prosecuted enquiries' with a view to purchase. He was informed that the price was £1,625 which he thought was a reasonable amount and agreed to purchase at that figure. In the course of the conversation with Mr Wilkinson he announced his intention of building more cottages on the farm land. On the following day he returned to Eldwick and brought an architect with him. He paid the owner £20 'with which to fasten the purchase'.

He then carefully inspected the farm house and gave instructions with regard to the fixing of a telephone and other improvements. He also paid a visit to Mr Rhodes Royston of the well-known Eldwick family of quarry owners and stone masons and asked him for an estimate of stone to be used in the erection of cottages. He also approached the Bingley Sanitary Tube and Lime Company in Heights Lane with a like request, presumably for bricks.

In a few days Mr Wilkinson received a letter from a firm of Bradford solicitors asking on behalf of Mr Firth to see the deeds. Facts however at that point came to light in Bradford, which pointed to Mr Firth 'being under delusions regarding his wealth'. It appeared that, on returning from his first visit to Eldwick, he made an arrangement with a Mr Sutcliffe, auctioneer, for the sale of his household furniture. Posters were accordingly issued to announce the

sale. He borrowed £12 from the auctioneer on account and, with an additional £8 from friends, he paid the deposit on the Eldwick property.

Subsequently returning to Bradford he hired a carriage and pair and drove round to a number of friends, inviting them to pay him a visit at his new farm. At the end of the drive, when asked for payment by the driver, he attacked him with a poker. The following day Firth went to another cab proprietor and told him he was going to his summer residence in Harrogate and would like a coach with his horses ridden by postilions to take him there. The proprietor realised this would be customer to be somewhat strange and politely refused. Firth told him 'I have done with you forever'.

In Bradford he asked another auctioneer to sell up the Wholesale Market on his behalf and told various shopkeepers to give away goods to the poor, and he would pay for them. Workmen on their way to work were stopped by him and assured that 'they would have no need to trudge to their toil any more' as he would make them all rich men.

The news of this eccentricity came to Firth's friends and it deemed advisable that he should undergo some medical examination, and the upshot was that 'he was ordered to a retreat'. It was realised that a strategy would have to be used to induce him to go there for, with the exception of 'matters touching on his phantom wealth' and the farm he had bought, he appeared to be perfectly reasonable and sane.

So what became of Mr Firth in this 'Sad Story of a Remarkable Delusion'?

ALLAN MIRFIELD

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Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

The speaker for our Meeting on Tuesday 10th November was Patricia Clough from Bingley Little Theatre. Her talk was a "Few more laughs". Although Patricia was a little under the weather, she was her usual hilarious self and kept us all in tucks of laughter. She also told us how BLT was going from strength to strength since taking over from the Council.

Our next meeting will be on 12th January 2016. There will be no speaker as we are having our annual Beetle Drive.

YCA wishes you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy 2016.

BINGLEY JANUS CLUB

Meetings held at Eldwick Memorial Hall at 10.00am.

Forthcoming meetings and speakers

- 7 Jan Paul Wooding "Old Comical Movies"
- 14 Jan Chris Bingley "Tax Care and Toy-Boys"
- 21 Jan Gordon Bennett "The Comedians"
- 28 Jan John Coulhurst "The British Red Cross"
- 4 Feb Donald Burslam "Carriages at 9pm"
- 11 Feb AGM
- 18 Feb Patricia Clough "A Few More Laughs Together"
- 25 Feb Tricia Griffin "Peace and Justice in the West Bank"

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† THE ELDWICK CHURCH †

MESSY CHURCH

Saturday 12th December 4.00 – 5.30 pm (Christingle)

Saturday 16th January 4.00 – 5.30 pm

Messy Church is a worshipping community of all ages, it is for all the family. It will be held in the church hall and the church. There will be craft activities as you arrive in the church hall, stories from the Bible, songs and prayers in the church – rounding off with sharing a simple meal together in the church hall. This is an event for all the family – whatever your age, why not come and join in the fun!

LADIES FELLOWSHIP:-

3rd December 7.30 pm Christmas Party.

ANGELS VISIT ELDWICK:-

Eldwick Angels 19th and 20th December. See more details elsewhere in the newsletter.

SERVICES:

6th December

- 09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Ruth Crompton.
- 10.30 am All Age Worship.

13th December

- 10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Malcolm Sharrock.

20th December

- 09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Brown.
- 10.30 am Morning Worship Nativity by Sunday Club.
- 6.30 pm Music and Readings for Christmas: Christmas Music by the Choir, Carols and thought provoking poetry and readings led by Rev Alan Brown

24th December

- 4.00 – 4.45 pm Nativity with Ben the donkey.
- 4.45 – 5.15 pm Nativity Service.
- 11.30 pm Midnight Communion led by Rev Alan Brown.

25th December

- 10.00 am Short Christmas Day Service with communion led by Rev. Alan Brown. Please bring a present to open.

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27th December

- 09.15 am Big Breakfast.
- 10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Barbara Walls.

3rd January

- 09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Sandie Exley-Watts.
- 10.30 am All Age Worship.

10th January

- 10.30 am Covenant Service with Communion led by Rev. Helen Hodgson.

17th January

- 09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Brown.
- 10.30 am Morning Worship led by Rev Nigel Ogley.

24th January

- 09.15 am Big Breakfast.
- 10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Alan Brown.

31st January

- 10.30 am Morning Worship led by Mission and Outreach team with Mercy Ministeries.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday - 09.30-12.00 Church Café

Wednesday - 09.30 – 12.00 Embroiderers / Probus,

13.30 – 15.30 Craft Group

18.00 – 20.00 Weight Watchers

Thursday - 15.30 – 19.15 Dance Classes

Friday - 19.15 – 21.15 Elstead Ladies Choir

Pre School Group - 08.45 – 15.15 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Friday in the month Friday Footsteps

3rd Saturday in the month Saturday Strollers

3rd Thursday in the month Ladies Fellowship

Mid Saturday Messy Church

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:-

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ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

LIVELY AGM REVEALS PRIZE PLAN FOR CARROTS

Annual general meetings are usually fairly boring affairs, with lots of financial reports, proposers, seconders and shows of hands (just to stretch the muscles and help us all keep awake, I guess). Then, before we're all allowed to swoop like gannets on the faith supper, there comes "Any Other Business".

This year the two A.O.B. Items concerned food. First up was carrots: one observant member and regular trophy winner reminded the meeting that at our next Autumn Show the Society is to introduce a new piece of silverware, the Airton Cup. Donated by our regular judge Trevor Nicholson, it is to be awarded to "the best carrot entry".

At the time of writing we know no more, nor less than that. The general nature of "best entry" raises many questions in the minds of our exhibitors: Which variety? What colour? (they come in 'Atomic Red', 'Bambino', 'Cosmic Purple', 'Lunar White', and 'Solar Yellow') How long? How wide? Short and fat or



long and cylindrical? Have they got good shoulders? Are they grown for juicing, culinary use, or Sainsburys?

After a short discussion the matter was brought forward for referral to our Hon Show Secretary. Best of luck with this one, David. Trevor Nicholson is of the opinion that not enough attention is given to the importance of this popular vegetable, a situation which will surely change in Eldwick from 2016. Watch this spade (sorry, I mean "space").

The final A.O.B. discussion was about our 100th Autumn Show in 2017 and how we should mark the occasion. It's not the Society's centenary year (that has already passed) but it will be the 100th time the Society has staged an Autumn Show. Thrown open to the meeting, suggestions flew in thick and fast. Finally it was agreed that the Committee should consider the following options and report back to Members: a celebration lunch or a dinner to be held at a local venue. Suggestions were made for four popular local venues and the Society will obtain menu details and quotations from these. It was agreed that the ideal timing for this event would be late Spring or early Summer, and not when the nights would be drawing in.

Finally I have to report that the composition of the Committee and the other key Society roles remains the same as in the previous year, so they will not be taking up precious Newsletter space in this issue. Before concluding the meeting our President Mrs Jane Hitchen thanked all the Officers, Members, and especially the Tea Room Recruits and Helpers for making 2015 a successful and enjoyable year and wished everyone present a very happy Christmas.

Mike Hitchen

TOUR VENUE CHANGED

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances next July's visit to the Gardens of the Midshires will now not include Burghley House. Instead we shall be visiting Boughton House and its gardens - one of Britain's grandest and best-preserved stately homes within easy reach of Kettering. Its tranquil delights have been carefully restored, resulting in a series of stunning vistas, with wide sculptured lawns, serene lakes and bold water features. Inside the house are superb displays of furniture, tapestries, art, porcelain and carpets, plus a magnificent range of paintings by great artists, including El Greco, Gainsborough, Van Dyck, and John Wootton.



THE ELDWICK CHURCH & ELDWICK VILLAGE SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Saturday 12th December, 4pm to 5.30pm – Messy Church, featuring Christingle, at The Eldwick Church.

Messy Church is a worshipping community of all ages, it is for all the family. It will be held in the Eldwick Church & church hall. There will be craft activities as you arrive in the church hall, stories from the Bible, songs and prayers in the church – rounding off with sharing a simple meal together in the church hall. This is an event for all the family – whatever your age, why not come and join in the fun!

Saturday 19th December 10am to 4pm & Sunday 20th December 1.30pm to 4pm, The Eldwick Angels Festival.

Businesses in the Village and Church affiliated organisations have been asked to make "angels" and then to take part in The Angels Festival. This follows the successful

Christmas Wreath event in 2014. This will be in The Eldwick Church. Refreshments will be served on both open days.

Sunday 20th December 6.30pm Music & Readings for Christmas

Christmas Music by the Choir, Carols and thought provoking poetry and readings led by Rev Alan Brown, in The Eldwick Church.

Thursday 24th December, Christmas Eve Celebration

Ben, the donkey will be in the stable outside Eldwick Church Hall from 4.00pm until 4.45pm. Everyone is invited to bring children to meet and dress up if they wish to be photographed with Ben. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the Hall.

Then from 4.45pm to 5.15pm there will be a short Nativity Service in The Eldwick Church.

Thursday 24th December, 6pm to 7pm The Village Society Christmas Eve Carols.

Once again the Memorial Hall will resound with the sounds of Christmas. Come and join us for an hour of traditional songs and carols. This event is arranged by The Eldwick Village Society. The Salvation Army Band will be playing at this event, providing musical accompaniment

Thursday 24th December 11.30pm at The Eldwick Church.

Midnight Communion led by the Rev Alan Brown.

Friday 25th December 10am at The Eldwick Church, Short Christmas Day service, with Communion, led by Rev Alan Brown. Please bring a present along to open!

Everybody is welcome at each event. Please come along to as many as you are able.

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