

# Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 446 JANUARY 2016

## A Happy New Year to All Our Readers

### THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2016

#### SCOUT AND GUIDE FUN RUN

Friday 24th June



#### ELDWICK GALA Saturday 25th June



#### THE ELDWICK BEER AND BANGER FESTIVAL 19/20th August



#### THE ELDWICK BONFIRE AND FIREWORK DISPLAY Sat 5th November



#### THE ELDWICK ART SHOW 14/16 October

The Eldwick Village Society are involved in all of these events.

PLEASE NOTE.  
To contact the Newsletter

By letter  
to Eldwick Post Office

Email the Newsdesk  
[eldwicknews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eldwicknews@yahoo.co.uk)  
or  
[info@eldwickvillage.co.uk](mailto:info@eldwickvillage.co.uk)

Website  
[www.eldwickvillage.co.uk](http://www.eldwickvillage.co.uk)

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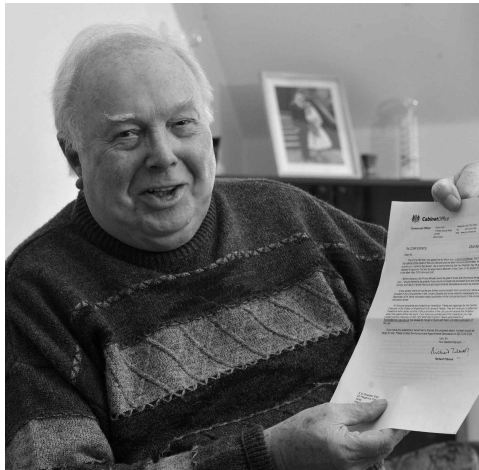
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# *Congratulations to*

**DAVID SOWDEN**



David has been involved with the Scout movement in Bingley for many years. His work has now been recognised and he has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's honours list.

David and the scouts have worked with Eldwick Village Society on many events including the Bonfire where the scouts have been involved in building the fire and acting as stewards under the leadership of David.

## **WANTED**

Elaine Bamber has now retired from her Newsletter delivery round. We thank Elaine for her hard work over many years and wish her a happy retirement. We now have a vacancy for a delivery round in Lyndale. If you are interested, please ring Tony Clegg on 01274 562643.

# **MURIEL BIRCH**

We are informed by Muriel's daughter, Catherine, that her mother passed away peacefully on the 3rd December last year aged 96.

Muriel's first connection with Eldwick dates back to childhood visits with her mother, from their home in Doncaster, to visit the Stead family at Lily Cottage in Sheriff Lane (now renamed Stone Cottage). Muriel had a copy of the Memorial Service held for the Stead's son, L/C Arthur Bruce Stead, who was featured in a recent Eldwick Newsletter.

Although Muriel moved away from Eldwick in 1990 to be nearer to family, she held a deep affection for Eldwick, always taking an interest in the Village Society's activities, Birches and the Memorial Hall. She had supported the creation of Birches as a social club to help finance the Memorial Hall.

Arriving in Eldwick in 1943, Muriel Abbott was appointed Infants Teacher at Eldwick School and married the head teacher, Alec Birch, in 1945, who was then living at Stone Cottage. As a couple they lived in Otley Road, rented from the Barrett plumbing family, - a house with a beautiful bathroom!

In later years Muriel, with her husband, became involved with the creation of Eldwick Memorial Hall. She was Sunday School Superintendent at St. Lawrence's for many years, a founder member, secretary, treasurer and president of the Eldwick & Gilstead W.I., supporter of the Horticultural Shows and Show Secretary of the Keighley & Craven Beekeepers Association - keeping bees on her allotment.

In 1957 the family moved to Park View House (picture taken there at W.I. Tea Party with Muriel centre, serving). Brian Sellers, the Yorkshire Cricket Captain was a near neighbour and Muriel moved



to 34 Southway (which had originally been built for Brian), in 1983.

Even when she had been working full time as a teacher at Lady Royd, of Bradford Girls' Grammar School, Muriel always found the energy and enthusiasm to give time and practical support to all village activities, as did Alec.

This monthly newsletter never failed to re-kindle in her, very happy memories of the forty plus years she lived at the heart of the Eldwick community.

Muriel was widowed in 1975 but twenty years later she married a childhood friend from Doncaster to become Mrs Eric Bingham.

We are indebted for this tribute to Muriel from daughters Josephine and Catherine who have kindly forwarded details for publication.

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## Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

At our Meeting on Tuesday 8th December our members were entertained by 10 men who call themselves "The Brotherhood Male Voice Choir". They performed a lot of songs which everyone knew. For example, When the Saints go Marching in, Climb Every Mountain, You'll Never Walk Alone and many others.

The choir's compere told a little story after each song. This was very amusing. There were a couple of soloists. Even our members were encouraged to join in with The Grand Old Duke of York, and Pedro the Fisherman. Afterwards we all had tea and mince pies.

The next Meeting is on Tuesday 9th February 2016. Speaker is David Pearson. His talk will be about "Work of West Yorks Lieutenancy and its people".

A date for your diary – 8th March. This will be our Party Night.

New Members are always welcome.

## CAROL SINGING AND DONATION

Many thanks to June Driver and Allan Mirfield for organising the Annual Carol singing in the Memorial hall on Christmas Eve. The donations on the evening came to an amazing £466.09 including a one hundred pounds donation from the Village Society.

The Memorial Hall provided the premises free of charge.

## COFFEE CAKE CHAT

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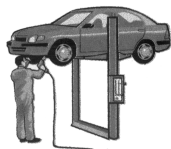
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# ✠ THE ELDWICK CHURCH ✠

## MESSY CHURCH

**Saturday 16th January** 4.00 – 5.30 pm

**Saturday 20th February** 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!

## PAUSE TO PRAY:-

**Wednesday 6th January** 2.00 – 3.00 pm

**Wednesday 20th January** 7.00 – 8.00 pm

**Wednesday 3rd February** 2.00 – 3.00 pm

**Wednesday 17th February** 7.00 – 8.00 pm

## LADIES FELLOWSHIP:-

**21st January** 7.30 pm Jeanette Wallace  
"Turkey".

**18th February** 7.30pm Charley Bolt –  
"Medals"

## SERVICES:

**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 Ministries.

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## 7th February

09.15 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev. Ruth Crompton.

10.30 am All Age Worship.

## 14th February

10.30 am Communion led by  
Rev. Alan Brown.

## 21st February

09.15 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev Alan Brown.

10.30 am Morning Worship led by  
Mrs Patricia Henny.

## 28th February

09.15 am Big Breakfast.

10.30 am Holy Communion led by  
Rev. Terence W Porter.

## 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:-

Contact Ann Shoebridge 564690

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## THE ELDWICK BUS – IT GOT YOU THERE AND GOT YOU BACK

Some, now possessing Metro Bus passes and saving handsomely on fares, may even recall through a hazy, rosy glow, the good old days, when one old halfpenny was sufficient to get one from Bingley to Eldwick, which rose to a whole nine pence some forty years ago!

The route up to Eldwick has varied, as has the terminus. There was a time when a bus would run all the way up to Dick Hudson's – and inevitably in real winter snows was known to get stuck there! Later there was the somewhat difficult turn round at the bottom of Spring Lane, hence the width of the road in what was the layby.

Whatever one thinks of the bus service today, it would not have been quite so appealing in the 1920's. One Mr Arthur Murgatroyd of the well-known Eldwick family (aka Brian the milk), decided that there was more to his life than just selling milk. Why not become the first man to run a bus to Bingley?

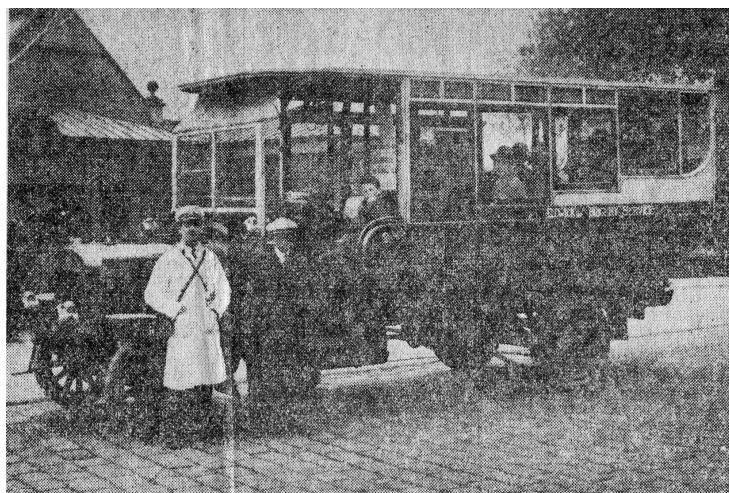
When Arthur had finished his morning round, he got rid of the milk churns and all other vestiges of his trade, put some benches on the back of his milk lorry, put a cover on top of the vehicle and went plying for hire. Later, as pictured, he acquired a vehicle that looked more like a bus. Mr Norman Skaife, of Glen Road, who had the original picture, believed that the proud white coated man standing confidently by the bonnet of the vehicle, was the pioneering Arthur Murgatroyd himself.

The bus was a success. Indeed it did get you there and back for a whole halfpenny. But there were hazards on the journey that one would not expect to encounter today. The roads were rough and the springs on a milk lorry did not provide the comfort taken for granted today. As one passenger is reported to have quoted, 'It doesn't half give your liver a good pounding'. If the passenger pictured beside Arthur does not look too happy as if he was not relishing the prospect of having to get off and push at some point on the climb to Eldwick.

By all accounts though the service was very regular, except in very bad weather and it was well used and typical of what was springing up all over the area. As better services led people to Bradford and Leeds it seemed that Bingley tradespeople would lose out but, as the villages, like Eldwick, continued to grow, people were quite happy to shop in Bingley, where the majority of people worked, as well as in the village.

In the 1930's the regular bus services were going through Bingley from beyond and Arthur's experiment, linking the town to outlying villages, was complimentary to the much larger venture. However, immediately after the 1914-18 war, the only way to get from Cullingworth to Bingley and back, was by train via Keighley, and to get to Eldwick one had to walk up Parkside or meander through the Prince of Wales Park.

Locals soon became accustomed to taking bus rides instead of walking, thanks to people like Arthur. It was not



long before his one man business gave way to the Premier Bus Company which had already been running in Keighley, and that too later succumbed to the West Yorkshire Company which began to decimate most of the smaller bus companies.

### DISASTER STRUCK IN APRIL 1927

A tragic bus smash, which resulted in the death of one person and injuries to four others occurred on Wednesday 20th April. The bus, belonging to the firm of Messrs T. Briggs and Co of Wilsden, was plying the route from Bingley to Eldwick, having only recently taken over. The dead man, who leaves a widow and one child, was Hector Jackson, 26, a driver, of Ferncliffe Road and the injured were three conductors and a driver, all of the company, the only occupants of the bus. When the bus reached the top of the slope down to Eldwick Beck, something went wrong and the bus ran 300 yards to approach a dangerous corner. At that point, Jackson jumped off and suffered a fractured skull. A little further on, Charles Paget, a 19 year old conductor, jumped from the front door. The driver, Ronald Rushworth, 23, the driver of the bus, with great courage, stuck to the wheel of the bus for the whole time and tried to turn the corner. The bus veered to the right and hit the wall of 'a refreshment booth'. Here, Fred Sanderson, the other conductor, was thrown out and the bus snapped a two foot square gatepost which threw the bus sideways. It turned a somersault, rolling down a bank 20 feet, taking out another section of a wall and, but for a tree stump, against which the bonnet was crushed, the bus would have dropped 10 feet down into the Beck. By then the body of the bus had already been wrenched off. Rushworth and John Moore, the third conductor were pinned under the wreckage. All were removed to Bingley Cottage Hospital, Rushworth and Moore in a critical condition. At the inquest a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded on Jackson, after hearing the joint on the transmission shaft had become detached. The jury added that in their opinion, buses of this type should be prohibited in hilly districts around Bingley.

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