

# Eldwick Village Society

# Newsletter

Issue No. 519 DECEMBER 2022

A very happy Christmas to all our Readers

## ELDWICK BONFIRE

It was an extraordinary event in that I have never seen so many people on the recreation ground at one time. We had a record breaking gate from which I am sure that the Yorkshire Air Ambulance will do well.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who put this event together from those making the coffee and those who actually let off the fireworks. This event is a success because all these people give their time for free.

Thanks to the Bingley Airedale Rotary who manned the gate. The Scouts who did most of the stewarding and thanks to our main sponsors Janus Interiors and Manningham Concrete.

*All photos by Bill Faulding*



## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Many thanks to all who attended the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on Sunday 13th November. This was a collaboration between the Village Society and the Church.

We were heartened at the attendance and apart from the slightly early two minute silence things seemed to go quite well. The bugler Millie Brooke was excellent as were the two pupils from Eldwick Primary School, Erin Airey and Benjamin Lee who read the names of the fallen from the two wars.

Thanks to Paul Rae and Matt Lynch who put up and took down the poppies.

New restrictions have made the road closures very difficult and there is a strong feeling that the Cenotaph should be moved to the centre of the village. The Village Society does not have a view on this but we would gladly print any comments that you may have.



## CAROL SINGING

The Village Society Carol Singing will be taking place as usual in the Memorial Hall on Christmas Eve starting at six o'clock. The Salvation Army will be in attendance.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sawdust at the Eldwick Memorial Hall  
Tickets are available from Birches.

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## ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all our members and friends.

At our A.G.M. in November David Feltwell was appointed as our new President and the retiring President, Stephen Wilkinson, was thanked for his long contribution to the Horticultural Society.

At the same time, some new appointments were made as follows:

Minutes Secretary: Jill Wigglesworth;  
Assistant Show Secretary: Pauline Bowen;  
and Membership Secretary: Lindsey Henry, replacing Dawn Sutcliffe, who had held this position for many years.

After the formal business, members enjoyed a pie and pea supper followed by a general knowledge and gardening quiz.

If you would like to become a member, the annual subscription is now £12 (twelve pounds), and this can be paid by BACS to: Eldwick & Gilstead Horticultural Society  
Sort Code: 05-02-42

Account Number: 32508441

But please put your name in the reference box. Thank you.

Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque at any of our meetings. The next one is on Tuesday 17th January at 7.30pm in Eldwick Memorial Hall when Pam Laking will be speaking about:

### "The St. Ives Story Continued..."

Entrance will now be £1 for members and £3 for visitors & guests, which will include a free raffle ticket at each monthly meeting.

Finally, here's a couple of gardening tips for December: Dig over empty borders & prepare your soil for next year's planting.

Group potted plants in a sheltered spot to protect them from winter. Happy Gardening !!

## LET THERE BE LIGHT: PART 2

Many thanks to the Eldwick Juniors Football club for upgrading the NEW LED flood lights on the recreational ground which were in need of repair. 9 flood lights were replaced and all posts were repainted. The Club would like to thank Bingley Town Council for their large donation towards the lights as well as JCH Electrical for installing them.

The Grant was organised by Eldwick Juniors Committee as well as club funds which went to towards upgrading the lights for the club and the people of Eldwick to use on the darker nights. If you attended the Bonfire this year, you can see how effective these were. Thanks again to the Eldwick Juniors committee and the football club. Dan Holt

## BINGLEY JANUS CLUB

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our members and their families. We're now averaging about 50 members at our weekly meetings. Let's hope this continues into the New Year when our first meeting will be on Thursday 12th January at 10am in Eldwick Memorial Hall. As always, you will receive a warm welcome from our President, Ron Harding, with coffee or tea & biscuits before the morning's talk starts at 10.30am. If you require further information, please contact Graham Anderson on 01274 563843.

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## FOCUS ON GROUPS

An opportunity for you to showcase what your organisation does. We are looking for groups to promote themselves in the Newsletter. There are many organisations within the village who we would like to give space to which, we hope would include photographs etc.

Please contact Tony Clegg 01274 562643 or news@eldwickvillage.co.uk

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## WREATH MAKING

Wreath making with Michele from Eldwick Post Office on Sunday 11th December in Eldwick Memorial Hall. A few places remain.

For details ring 01274563750

\*\*\*\*

## Friends of Prince of Wales Park Carnival Unclaimed Raffle Prizes

Please check tickets and contact 07788 237181 before the end of December if you have a winner.

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Some of those are £100 in value!

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## MANORLANDS FUNDRAISER

Saturday night saw the return of the charity music night fundraiser in aid of Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice held at The Birches in Eldwick. Featuring live music by the popular band The Maestros, guests enjoyed a mixture of hits from the swinging 60s through to the 90s!



One of the many highlights was a crowd pleasing charity auction with a range of exciting lots including a Range Rover driving experience and helicopter trip as well. The event raised over £2500 which will help Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice to continue providing expert and compassionate palliative care for local people living with life-limiting conditions, as well as supporting their families.

Harriet Wood, Community Fundraiser at Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice, said: "Organiser Anton Kitchen has been so dedicated to this event in recent years and we can't thank him enough for the money he has been able to raise as a result. The 2019 event raised £1800, 2021 raised £2000 so adding in this years total we now stand at an overall of over £6300.



We must also thank Birches and Eldwick Memorial Hall for their continued support, Bob Harrison for his help on the night hosting the auction, Richard Fernside for lighting, Graham Brewster for his fantastic photography. Cathy Hulin and Nick Kichen for collecting amazing raffle and auction prizes.

Not to mention all the local businesses, volunteers and guests who contributed towards this incredible total; every pound raised will help to support our vital palliative care and bereavement support." Thank you!



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# NEWS FROM THE ELDWICK CHURCH

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- THURSDAY 8-10AM

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For more info, email:  
office@eldwickchurch.org.uk



The Eldwick Church is part of the local network of 'Warm Spaces' developed to help residents during the cost-of-living crisis. On Tuesdays from 8.00 am - 9.30 am and on Thursdays from 8.00 am -10.00 am, between now and Christmas, we are trialling a free / pay what you can, self-service breakfast of porridge, cereal, toast, and hot drinks. After the warm space time, stay on for our community Café, which will operate as normal. Other local warm spaces are advertised on the website: <https://costoflivingbradford.co.uk/warm-spaces/>

At Church, there's lots going on in December:

**Carols by Candlelight** with mulled wine and mince pies takes place at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15th December.

**Messy Christingle** is for all of the family and takes place on Saturday 17th December starting at 3.30 pm. Make your own Christingle orange, take part in other crafts, and enjoy songs, a story, a prayer, and something to eat.

**Photobooth Nativity** lets you book a slot from 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm on Christmas Eve and puts you inside the Christmas nativity story. Learn about the first nativity, then grab a prop and we'll set you up for a family photo collage at the scene. Carols and refreshments. Free booking online at [www.lightupnativity.co.uk](http://www.lightupnativity.co.uk)

Also on Christmas eve, there's **Midnight Communion**, starting at 11.30 pm. Finally, come along to the **Christmas Day Family Worship** at 10.00 am. Bring a

present to show – so long as it's not alive!

If your diary for January is looking empty, how about a **Quiz Night** at Church on Saturday 7 January with proceeds to Christian Aid? Arrive 5.40 pm for a 6.00 pm start. Tickets £6 to include a pie, pea & pud supper. Teams of up to 8. For tickets, please email: [technical@eldwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:technical@eldwickchurch.org.uk) or ring the office (see below).

Contact us if you would like us to pray for you or for someone in need.

Prayer requests can be submitted to [prayer@eldwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:prayer@eldwickchurch.org.uk) where they are forwarded anonymously to our prayer team.

For general enquiries, please email [office@eldwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@eldwickchurch.org.uk) or telephone 01274 442015.

You can keep up with everything we're doing on **Facebook** @TheEldwickChurch, **Twitter** @EldwickChurch; or on our website <http://eldwickchurch.org.uk>



## ELDWICK & DISTRICT LADIES GROUP

The speaker for our November meeting was Michael McCabe. He gave a very interesting talk about His time working for Brown Muffs and also the history of the department store.

Our Bring & Buy stall made £50 and this will be sent to Manorlands. Thank you to all who came and contributed.

We made £317 at our MacMillan Coffee Morning in September.

Our next meeting is 13th December. We are entertained by Tony Read (Baldon Ukelele) his theme is Christmas Celebration. January is our Annual Beetle Drive.

## QUIZ NIGHT

7TH JANUARY 6PM

- Teams of up to 8 people
- Arrive from 5:40pm for a 6pm start
- Includes pie, pea & pud supper

TICKETS **£6**  
Per person

All profits go to Christian Aid

Booking essential-  
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# MERRIE ENGLAND

## A Happy Christmas to all – with customs old and new

'England was Merry England when Old Christmas brought his sports again. It was Christmas that broached the mightiest cask of ale. Twas Christmas that brought the merry tale. A Christmas gambol oft could cheer the Poor Man's heart through half the year'. Such was written about the characteristically English custom of keeping Christmas. Many symbols, such as the Christmas tree, Yule Log, and Holly sprigs are much older than the Christian Festival. In fact, some of those symbols are of pagan origin.

Holly – in olden days holly berries were thought to bring protection from witches so were brought into the home. The Christmas Tree – was also called the crown of thorns with its blood red berries relating to Christ's Crown of Thorns. Mistletoe – an ancient druid plant, never honoured as much as holly but found on oak and other trees as a parasite spread by birds. The plant was once hung from ceilings in the home to protect from harm but also said to carry potency in love and marriage, hence the mistletoe kiss.

There was No Christmas in Cromwell's time whose puritans had a horror of superstition and festivals. The worst in that time was that even Christmas chimes could not be rung. The climax of doom, for everyone deprived of a normal Christmas, came in 1644 when Christmas Day fell on a Wednesday; the last of the month which was when the puritans had a solemn day of fasting. Even parliament met as normal but Londoners celebrating Christmas had visits by the mayor's men banning such a celebration.

On one occasion when such a visit was made to lay down the law, mischievous urchins played a trick on the visitors. As the men were inside, the children cheered and shouted so much that the horses of the Mayor's men took flight, leaving the men to continue their missions on foot.

Once the King was returned to power all went back to the happy extremes of goodwill and cheer. Back came the yule log, the carols, the mince pies, the good old roast beef, goose and plum pudding. Yule Tide related to the burning of the yule log for the beginning of Christmas on Christmas Eve. Mince pies were filled with shreds of mutton and the pastry sometimes shaped as a cradle manger. Plum pudding is a survivor of plum porridge from days gone by – somewhat 'compound' as it contained beef, bread, raisins, prunes, currants, two kinds of wine and sugar. The Christmas Tree and Santa Claus are both of German origin with Queen Victoria's Prince Albert introducing a decorated Christmas tree as a seasonal fashion.

A Russian Santa Claus traditional tale is based on the legend of an old woman called Baboushka. In the story she was working at home when the Wise Men from the East passed by. They invited her to go with them in their search for the Christ Child, following the Star, but she said she would have to finish her work in the house and then would follow them. Even though she worked quickly and looked outside, the Wise Men were out of sight and the Star shone no more. She never saw the Christ Child but is said to take care of Russian children, coming to fill their stockings and to decorate their Christmas tree. She fancies, the story continues, that in each little child she visits she may eventually find the Christ Child.

By contrast, in warmer parts of the world, the people may celebrate in a topsy turvey way. In blazing hot sun tropical clothes for outdoor celebrations there may even include a game of cricket! Maybe no evergreen trees and holly berries, no roast beef, potatoes and peas but a variation on plum pudding with fresh peaches, strawberries and cream. Back to olden days in English customs there was



Not Merrie England but Gdansk Christmas!



and still is the celebration of Candlemass, a Christian festival of February 2nd but also with the tradition that bad luck would follow if all Christmas decorations had not been taken down by that date.

'Down with the Rosemary, Down with the Bays and Mistletoe. Down with the Holly, Ivy and all that you dress the Christmas Hall. Not one branch to be left behind. Neglect all those and so many goblins you shall see!'



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