

Issue No 373 December 2009

The Eldwick Village Society Newsletter.

Email: Eldwicknews@aol.com



We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas

YULE NEVER BELIEVE THIS!

With the credit crunch still affecting many of us, our postmaster has had to cut back on labour costs this year by investing in a self-erecting Father Christmas decoration. On a cold November morn Santa slipped off the top step of Nigel's step ladder and only just managed to hang on to fixings above. Health and Safety have been informed but they tell the Newsletter that no further action is necessary and prosecution is unlikely.



AN INVITATION FROM ELDWICK VILLAGE SOCIETY TO THE CHRISTMAS SINGALONG ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE MEMORIAL HALL AT 6PM TO SING WITH THE BRASS BAND LOTS OF CAROLS, CHRISTMAS SONGS AND FUN SONGS FOR CHILDREN. BE THERE EARLY !

Eldwick Pre-School

Here at Eldwick Pre-School we offer opportunities for children to make friends and develop social skills. Taking children from 2.5 years, we have highly qualified, experienced and enthusiastic staff who are able to meet the individual needs of each child (e.g. cultural, dietary, physical, developmental).

Whether your child enjoys painting, baking, dressing-up, trains, cars, dinosaurs, building, books, puzzles, role-playing, singing, dancing or driving cars, we have something they will enjoy. Learning through play is very important to us and through planning activities around the children's individual interests and needs, we help them to learn without them really knowing!!

Fully Ofsted registered, you are able to access the 15 hours of free childcare supported by the Government (the term following your child's 3rd birthday), within our setting. For more information and to check availability, please contact either Sue Barber on 07968274149 or Jane Courtney on 07981124093. Alternatively, please call in and see us at the Methodist Church within Eldwick Village. No appointment necessary, we are open every day from 9.20 until 12.20 and also a Thursday afternoon until 2.50 and would love to see you...

Sue and Jane

ELDWICK TRAVELLING NATIVITY

Come and join Mary and Joseph on their magical journey this Christmas Eve. Travelling by donkey they need to find somewhere in the village to have their very special baby but will they be able to find anywhere? Please come and join with shepherds, angels and kings from the east to see them on their way. (If you can come dressed as one of these that would be even better!). The journey will start at 4.00pm outside Eldwick Methodist Church and will finish (approx 5pm) with celebrating the birth of their child with mulled wine and hot chocolate in St Lawrence's church hall.

Thank you
Jonathan & Monique
01274 565482

BIRCHES STOP PRESS

Christmas Eve at Birches Freehouse

Enjoy Christmas Eve at Birches with the Robert Sudall Trio featuring the excellent blues singer Lauren Spink, not to be missed. Entry is free and all are welcome!

New Year's Eve at Birches Freehouse

Fantastic live entertainment with boy girl duo, on the stage in the Memorial Hall. See the New Year in at your new public house. This is a ticket only event. Tickets are available from Birches at £15.

Paul Rae C.A.R.P.E.T.S

Please call Paul on 07778 568845

Briarwood House, Preston Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1LU
Tel: 01274 390254 Mobile: 07778 568845 Fax: 01274 727245

NEWSLETTER ON LINE

The Eldwick newsletter can now be viewed on line.

If you log on to the Eldwick Memorial Club, Birches website: www.thebirchesclub.co.uk

POLICE UPDATE

West Yorkshire Police are today launching the 2010 Explorer Programme.

The Explorers is a 20 week voluntary programme for 16-18 year olds that enables young people to get an insight into 21st century policing.

For two hours each week the Explorers will receive an input from various police departments including, Scientific Support, Homicide and Major Enquiry, Counter Terrorism Unit, Child Protection Unit, Hi Tech Crime and many more.

All sessions are informative yet very interactive.

Recruitment for the 2010 programme will open today and close at 17.00 on Monday 4th Jan 2010. The application forms including vetting, parental and media consent forms are available to download from the main force website,

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/explorers

Please note that all sections of the application forms must be completed. Any incomplete application forms will not be considered.

The programme will commence with an induction day at Force Training School on Saturday 13th February 2010 with the actual programme beginning w/c Monday 15th February 2010.

The Explorer programme provides a fantastic opportunity for young people to go behind the scenes of West Yorkshire Police .

In your role as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator please can you help promote Explorers among your scheme members and anyone else you know who may be interested..

If you require further information then please don't hesitate to contact me,

chloe.dummer@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk or telephone me on 01924 292904.

Chloe Dummer, Project Officer,
Local Policing

PHILIP DAVIES MP

To contact Philip ...

Call: 01274-592248

Email: daviesp@parliament.uk

Write to: House of Commons,
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JIM BAMBER

We are very sorry to hear of the sad news of Jim's death. certainly a local character, who will be missed by a lot of people.

Jim and Elaine lived in Lyndale Road for many years. Jim was involved in the community in many ways, as well as delivering the Eldwick Newsletter. He will be especially missed by the Thursday Afternoon Club, which he supported tirelessly.

Over the years, Jim was involved in many different committees and working parties. One knew as soon as he walked through the door that you were not going to get an 'easy ride'. Jim was excellent at 'the debate' and some exchanges were fairly lively, he was very concerned that the procedure should be correct.

We extend our sympathy to Elaine and family.



Dear Editor

I was both pleased and ashamed to read the letter "Pavement Parking" as I have intended writing a similar letter for the last nine months but didn't get round to it. Earlier in the year when we had the snow I watched a young mum struggle with a buggy and 2 children on a very snowy road close to school while cars parked on the pavement near the shop. It really was a disgraceful situation and I am amazed that so many of the lovely people of Eldwick and Gilstead seem to think pavement parking is acceptable. Please remember pavements for people and roads for cars.

Yours sincerely
Joy Rolfs

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Prop: Graham Sutcliffe

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THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB



The Eldwick and Gilstead Thursday Afternoon Club members went on a coach trip to Langho in Lancashire recently.

The occasion was the annual Christmas lunch.

The hotel provided us with a good meal and the drive to Langho through pleasant scenery was enjoyed by all.

The following week we were entertained by local band "Notably Music".

Two of the personnel in the band come from Eldwick.

We were entertained by popular songs and carols and the genial bandleader kept us entertained with other activities and a quiz.

There will be no meetings after December 3rd until January 7th 2010.

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YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The meeting on the 10th of October was well attended.

A budget, credit crunch calendar is being printed by Central Office, so contact central office if you would like a copy.

Our speaker was Nicola Down who spoke about the Moon, the Stars and 4 Clocks. An intriguing tale from history starting with early navigation by the moon and the stars and the introduction of a chronometer in the latter part of the 17th century. In the 17th century the seas were sailed on by explorers, traders and pirates in their square-riggers, which had to follow the trade winds. For without longitude there was no way to steer a ship with any precision. To know where you were by the stars time was essential. In 1675 the Meridian Line was introduced at Greenwich, so all time would be measured as Greenwich Meantime. The invention of an accurate clock that could be taken to sea was essential. A Longitude Committee was set up and 1714 a competition was announced with a prize of £20,000 for an accurate chronometer. John Harrison a Yorkshire clockmaker made a series of clocks H.1 in 1735, H2, H3 but were all too heavy and cumbersome on board. In 1772 Harrison in conjunction with his son built a H.4 model 5 inches in diameter weighing three pounds. The clock was accurate and portable. The committee had reimbursed Harrison with small donations so he could carry on his work but he did not win the big prize money. An interesting talk on a subject we take for granted in today's world.

The next meeting will be held on January 12th. A Beetle Drive.

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✠ THE ELDWICK VILLAGE CHURCHES ✠

ST. LAWRENCE'S NEWS *Happy Christmas to Everyone!*

DECEMBER

- 20th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Nativity Service hosted
by St. Lawrence's & Eldwick
Methodist in Memorial Hall
6.30 p.m. Christmas Carol Service
24th 4.00 p.m. Travelling Nativity from
Eldwick Methodist to St. Lawrence's
with refreshments in St. Lawrence's
Hall at 5.00 p.m.
6.00 p.m. Village Carol Service in
Memorial Hall
11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion
25th 11.00 a.m. Family Service
27th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

JANUARY

- 3rd 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Joint Covenant Service at
Eldwick Methodist
10th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
17th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship

St. Lawrence's Church hall is available for hire for Children's Parties (one payment of £35) and community events (main hall £10 per hour, committee room £14 for half day and £27 for full day – registered Charities 50% off standard charge). Contact our Booking Secretary, Ann Shoebridge on 564690.

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SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER

- 20th 9.15 a.m. Café style Communion
Rev Ruth Parry
10.30 a.m. Nativity service in the
Memorial Hall jointly with
St. Lawrence's
6.00 p.m. Carol Service jointly with
Bingley Methodists
at Bingley
24th 11.30 p.m. Rev Ruth Parry
27th 10.30 a.m. Joint service with Bingley
Methodists at Eldwick

JANUARY

- 3rd 10.30 a.m. Rev Ruth Parry Joint
Covenant and Communion
Service with St. Lawrence's
10th 10.30 a.m. Mrs. Tanya Short
17th 9.15 a.m. Communion
Rev Ruth Parry
10.30 a.m. Rev Barbara Walls
24th 9.15 a.m. Big Breakfast
10.30 a.m. Mrs. Kathleen Miller
31st 10.30 a.m. Communion
Rev Terence W. Porter

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

- 1st Fri 9.00 a.m. Friday Walk
3rd Sun 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion
4th Sun 9.15 a.m. Big Breakfast

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Eldwick Methodist Church Hall is available to the community for events and children's parties, our newly refurbished kitchen is ideal for catering.

To enquire about dates please contact the booking secretary Phil on 774526.
www.eldwickmethodistchurch.co.uk



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A WINTER'S TALE

Earlier this year, through the Eldwick Newsletter, an enquiry came from Peter Knight enquiring for information from the Eldwick Archives which would help him in writing his grandfather's biography. This will shortly be published, entitled 'A Victorian Gentleman', about the life and times of John Pike Knight (1834-1916), one time resident of Eldwick. Like many others, J.P.Knight came to Eldwick to live in a newly constructed semi-detached villa on what was Gilstead Moor before the 1861 Enclosure. By the late 1870's Eldwick was a kind of divided nation, with the original industrial hamlet and its farms being populated by the working class, whilst the development on Gilstead Moor provided villas for merchants and others with commercial interests.

John Pike Knight was a wool merchant who came to live at Moorland House in 1872/3 with his wife and family, whilst Ralph Fawcett, paper manufacturer, lived in the adjoining Moor Edge House. The property stood on the corner of Warren Lane and Park Side, with extensive outbuildings and a lodge for each of the two residences, as well as extensive gardens. Although the main building was demolished some years ago, both lodges and The Coach House remain today.

Peter Knight has made extensive use of his grandfather's diaries which include a graphic account of the great winter of 1878 and its frosts and snows which lasted for several weeks.

John Pike Knight wrote, "I think it was 1878 when this country was visited by a great frost which lasted some ten weeks. This trouble fell very heavily on all engaged in outdoor labour. I was, at this time, living at Moorlands, a house some 640 feet above sea-level. About

half a mile away from my house was situated the village of Eldwick. Most of the villagers were engaged delving at the stone quarries there, or working on the land. So, during these weeks of frost, their work stopped and consequently their earnings were stopped also. One Saturday evening I was toiling up the hill to my house, when I overtook an Eldwick villager and asked him how matters stood there ?

His reply was heart rending, he told me that many of the families were starving. He told me of many homes, where the only food they had was bread and water, and some had little of that. They had no coal and therefore no fires and, in this bitter weather, what could the poor children do but die off like flies. As I heard him talk I experienced a great lump in my throat and I said to him, "Look here my friend, I will just go home to get the meal awaiting me and will then walk down to Eldwick. So you tell your neighbours I am desirous to have a word with them".

At nine o'clock I started off for the village. There were no lamps and everything was as dark as pitch. After much groping I found myself on Eldwick Bridge and commenced calling at the top of my voice, "Neighbours, neighbours!" Whilst I heard doors open and the sound of feet approaching me, there was not a single light in any window. There was, evidently, no money for candles. As soon as three or four people had joined me, I asked if there was any place where we could have a light and have a talk? One of them suggested we might find one at the Board School, so we proceeded there and very shortly found some dozen villagers present. Amongst them I was delighted to find Mr Wm Greenwood, popularly known in the neighbourhood as 'Billy Greenwood'. He was a good looking elderly man and greatly respected. He was Landlord of 'The Acorn' and also kept the only grocer's shop in the village. I told them why I had come down, then heard from them the piteous tale that I had before listened to, was all too true.

Addressing Greenwood I said, "Mr

Greenwood, you know me, I wish you to let every family belonging to Eldwick, have this night, half a stone of flour, four ounces of tea, a hundredweight of coal, and, where there are children, a quarter of a pound of treacle. I want you all to meet me in this room on Monday night at seven o'clock when we will arrange what is best to be done."

At the Monday meeting, a body of five people were elected as a relief committee, including Mr Greenwood and Mr John Bruce, a prosperous joinery owner with a large mill off Sheriff Lane.

Mr Knight then began canvassing other wealthy villa owners in Eldwick to raise further funds to provide for the relief committee, which would in turn, distribute food etc to the needy. Those merchants and tradespeople would have included Mr Dawson of Eldwick Grange, Mr Mallett of Moorland House, Nicholas Feather of Glen View, the owner of Eldwick Beck Mill, Ralph Fawcett, and of course Titus Salt junior of Milnerfield.

Thanks to Peter Knight we have this excellent story so watch out for his book being published.

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