

Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 432 November 2014

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ELDWICK CHURCH SITE & BUILDINGS

Following the well-attended consultation meeting at Eldwick Church Hall on 25th September, the trustees of The Eldwick Church (TEC) have been re-considering the options available for practical and sensitive development of the current site and the (church and hall) buildings.

A subsequent meeting was held between Ian Holdgate, some trustees and the architect (Peter Harrison Architects – PHA). Ian presented an idea for a different form of extension scheme (to that already considered by TEC). This would see the worship space extended into the car park area, retaining much of the facade of the

existing church building. This third (extension) option requires more detailed development, and the trustees have agreed that this is merited.

Appropriate instructions have, therefore, been given to PHA to build on this idea (adding in the various other non-church, community facilities required), and to complete a full design. Cost estimations for the alternative scheme will also be obtained. The resultant design and costs will then be compared and evaluated against the new build option and the conclusions again presented to a church meeting, and (subsequent) an open meeting with

village residents. With the busy Christmas season almost upon us, the aim is to hold the church meeting before Christmas and the open consultation meeting early in 2015.

Ian Holdgate has kindly agreed to work with the TEC trustees, providing feedback on the design/plans as they are developed and refined.

Finally, thanks to those who have sent comments and questions to eldwickchurchcomments@yahoo.com

This mailbox is still available for anyone who wishes to use it.

Chris O'Neill

£4000 to The Yorkshire Air Ambulance



The photograph shows John Edwards President of Eldwick Village Society presenting the cheque for £4000 from the proceeds of The Beer & Banger Festival to Katie Collins of YAA.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

Christmas Eve at Birches

Free entertainment with Daniel King who performed at the Beer Festival

New Year's Eve at Birches

The Whitney Houston tribute act Beverly Savarin (X Factor contestant 2011) as

“just Whitney”. Tickets are £17.50, including supper, and are available from Birches now. Tickets will sell out quickly.

APOLOGY

We printed the wrong date for the meeting of the proposed Bingley Town Council. Sorry. However this meeting was very well attended and very informative.

ELDWICK BONFIRE

Thanks to all who made this event a true success. Especially our main sponsor Premier Lettings. Thanks also to Simply Bathrooms for stepping in at the last minute to sponsor Mr Dan the children's entertainer. Manningham Concrete were extremely helpful in supplying materials to build platforms for the fireworks and thanks to Advanced Supply Chain for the pallets for the fire. There were many volunteers from “sparkies” to “sausage cremators” who all gave up their time. This was an excellent team who worked enthusiastically to make this a truly memorable event. More importantly, thank you to all of you who attended.



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Friends of Prince of Wales Park volunteers working every Wednesday and Saturday from 9am. We'd love you to join in!

ELDWICK VILLAGE SOCIETY AGM

Monday 1st December
at 7pm in Birches

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ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SOWING AND GROWING AT SWINCAR

At our packed October meeting Andrew Fisher told us about the beginnings of Swincar Nurseries, which he now runs with his wife, Diane, under the wind turbine on Chevin End Road above Guiseley.

Back in the last century, Andrew explained, his grandfather, Herbert, was a successful Otley butcher, Andrew's father, Richard, enjoyed growing vegetables and flowers in the garden behind his shop. In 1964 he expanded his horticultural activities and bought a damp and derelict nursery on the sunny side of the Chevin.

Money was tight after this major expenditure and so the whole family set to work renewing the glasshouses and other buildings, plus the two great coal-fired boilers that kept the plants warm. Production began in a small way, initially growing tomatoes, cucumbers and cut blooms for Bradford market and the Co-op funeral service, while Andrew contributed by helping shovel coal into the boilers, ton after ton, day after day.

There was always a job to do: as a boy, he literally grew up with the business, laying bricks, reglazing the glasshouses, sowing seed, pricking out, learning new skills. At that time the nursery was mainly a modest wholesale spring/summer business, with limited sales at the nursery gate. Sales volumes increased until the fuel crisis in the 1970s made coal too expensive, and the family converted the boilers to oil, which cost "only" £46 for 1,000 gallons in 1972. Today the price is £2,900 for the same quantity. (But no shovelling required!)

Andrew told us he worked full-time from 1979 with some formal training through a block release course at Askham Bryan college. By then Swincar was growing bedding plants, a business with a short window from April to June each year, and conifers to spread sales more evenly throughout the year. Soon the family were bringing on batches of 30,000 to 60,000 Leylandii at a time!

To increase their buying power Swincar teamed up with other nurseries in the north and north-west to grow and market geraniums under a "prop and grow" scheme. With so much expansion occurring, the family held a "board meeting", decided on a 10-year plan and put their plans to the bank manager. The first loan in the early 1980s was negotiated at a whopping 22% rate of interest!

It was "all hands to the pump" again, with Andrew's dad making the most important decision in the company's history. "No more cuttings, no more Jiffy 7's," he vowed. "Too expensive, too labour intensive."

So the mechanisation of Swincar began:

buildings were again refurbished, a forklift truck now handled the compost and other heavy lifting tasks, and a new machine automated the seed-sowing while a single-head transplanter pricked out the resultant seedlings on an industrial scale. The whole process was quicker, it was cleaner and it produced healthy plants at a competitive price. Today Swincar uses a 6-head transplanter – the first one having worn out after only four years.

In the 1980s Swincar began importing trees, shrubs and pot-plants from Holland. These are Andrew's responsibility and he told us that he never buys without inspecting every item first. Today he also buys "on the clock" at Aalsmeer in Holland, the largest trading centre for plants and flowers in the world. It covers 10.6 million sq ft or 243 acres and it's just a stone's throw from Schiphol airport. Andrew has the honour of being one of the only Englishmen permitted to sit on the clock – a tiered auction room with four "clocks" where miniature trains of flowers and plants are rapidly shunted in by the truckload, while prices on the clock tumble until the price drops to the level you can afford and still make a profit. That's the moment to press the BUY button in front of you and reserve your chosen lot from the 20 million flowers sold here every day.

There's a lot more to tell about Swincar . . . if only we had the space. Perhaps Andrew will return to Eldwick soon and give us the next instalment. Meanwhile, watch out for full details of our 2015 programme in the next Newsletter. **Mike Hitchen**

Letters to the Editor

I have lived in Eldwick for approx. 40 years. I have been appalled recently to hear that there is a proposal to demolish St. Lawrence's (now Eldwick Church) and replace it with a larger building and a glass fronted café.

I would have thought that the Eldwick residents, Church goes or not, would be up in arms about this. The Church as it is now, represents the village and its people, it was recognised by Mrs Ferrand (St Ives) in MDCCCXCIII (1883) and is also listed in the Domesday Book.

If the Methodists need a larger church why not go down to Morningson Road?

PLEASE everybody that reads this make some sort of protest. Eldwick Church is a village icon. You simply cannot knock it down.

Yours sincerely
N. Richardson

As a former Eldwick resident for over 36 years and a member of a national historical society for over 40 years, I understand concern over the proposed demolition of the Eldwick church building from a historical and heritage perspective. However, it is easy to object to such change when it doesn't cost you. Regular church attenders are the ones who put their money where their mouth is and foot the bill and maintain the building. Morally it is they who should make the decision.

Roger Owen

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS

Come and join us in the Memorial Hall at 6pm for our traditional hour of carols, accompanied by the band of the Salvation Army.

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Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

Our usual reporter is away on holiday.

Our meeting on Tuesday 14th October began with items from the YCA Newsletter.

Notable dates to remember:

Carol Service – York. Friday 5th December. Cost £10. Coach leaves Warren Lane 8.45am, Memorial Hall 8.50am. Leave York for home @ 4pm (this is to avoid 'rush hour' traffic). Any member wishing to go: please contact Maureen Beckwith 01274 591055.

West Riding Carol Service – Otley Methodist Chapel - Thursday 11th December. Service starts 11am. Members and friends to make their own way there.

December meeting is on Tuesday 9th December 7.30pm @ Eldwick Memorial Hall. This is the Christmas Festivities meeting. Entertainment will be 'Music for Christmas' – Margaret Wilcox.

After our meeting I heard the news that long standing member Kathleen Koch-Osbourne died on the 23rd October. Y.C.A. send their condolences to Michael and Family.

† THE ELDWICK CHURCH †

MESSY CHURCH

Saturday 15th November 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm
Saturday 13th December 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm
Christingle celebration.

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!

HAPPY HOUR FUN SIZE CHURCH

for young families – All welcome
Wednesday 26th November from 09.15 am – 10.15 am
Wednesday 17th December from 09.15 am – 10.15 am

PAUSE TO PRAY:-

Wed. 19th November 12.00 noon – 4.00pm.
Thursday 27th November 7.00 – 7.30pm.
Wed.y 10th December 12.00 noon – 4.00pm.
Monday 15th December 7.00 – 7.30pm.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP:-

20th November 7.30 pm Dr. John Rhodes
"Mercy Ships".
4th December 7.00 pm Christmas Party.

SERVICES:

2nd November
09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev Rosemary Nash.
10.30 am All Sorts Family Praise led by Rev Betty Pedley.
9th November Remembrance Sunday
10.30 am Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Hodgson.
4.30 pm A service of commemoration for loved ones departed led by Rev Helen Hodgson.
16th November
09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.
10.30 am Morning Worship led by Mr Maurice Baren.
23rd November
09.15 am Big Breakfast
10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev Terence Porter.

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30th November

10.30 am Morning Worship led by Mission and Outreach Group speaker Brian Horsfall from Bradford Street Angels.

7th December

09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Exley Watts
10.30 am All Sorts Family Praise led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

14th December

10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

21st December

09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.
10.30 am Nativity Service led by Rev Helen Hodgson.
6.30 pm Carol Service.

24th December

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

25th December

10.00 am Family Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

28th December

09.15 am Big Breakfast
10.30 am Morning Worship led by Rev. Terence Porter.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday - 09.30 – 11.15 Livewires,
Tuesday - 09.30-12.00 Church Café
Wed. - 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 – 21.00 Elstead Ladies Choir
Pre School Group - 08.45 – 15.15 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Sunday in the month Youth Club 7.00 – 9.00 pm
1st Friday in the month Friday Footsteps
3rd Saturday in the month Saturday Strollers
3rd Thursday in the month Ladies Fellowship
4th Wednesday in the month Happy Hour
Mid Saturday Messy Church

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:-

Contact Ann Shoebridge 564690

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ROYAL RECOGNITION FOR THE FRIENDS OF PRINCE OF WALES PARK

On October 16th four of the founder members of the Friends of PoW Park travelled down to Rotherham for a ceremony in which we were presented with a community award by HRH the Duke of York. The *Duke of York's Community Initiative* is presented annually to a small number of Yorkshire based organisations that, after rigorous and robust scrutiny are deemed: "of real value to the community, well run and an inspiration to others." As you can imagine, we were very proud to receive it on behalf of all our members and supporters.

It was wonderful to meet the Duke of York, and we explained that the park is an English Heritage Grade II listed site because of its special historic interest, and that it had been named after his great, great grandfather on the occasion of his wedding.



Left to right: David Drucquer, Allan Mirfield, Ruth Leman and Jean Holdgate with HRH the Duke of York

We told him about our aim as a Friends group: to reverse the neglect of decades and restore the whole park to its former glory, making it once more a well-tended park for everyone to enjoy. We also mentioned that next year was a very significant year for the park, being

the 150th anniversary of its opening. The Duke of York seemed particularly interested in the royal connection and said he would mention us to his brother! **Update on our latest plans and projects**



The Drinking Fountain in its heyday

We are working on several projects at the moment. Firstly we are planning to renovate the area around the drinking fountain. We want to clean and repair the stonework and deal with the damaged wrought iron decoration. Then we will put back two heritage-style seats (see photo) and improve the surface which is eroded and uneven. We are pleased to say that we are already well on the way to raising the amount needed for this project. We have received a £1,000 donation to buy the heritage seats and now just need to raise the cost of the stonework renovation. Please let us know if you can help.

Planting plans

Over the last few weeks we have been working with the Council's newly appointed Technical Officer for Design to produce an ambitious design for planting throughout the lower park. This is a long term plan and will take several years to complete and take effect, but it should

provide wonderful year round interest and colour and also enhance the existing natural attractions of this area of the park.

We have already secured £1,000 for new plants from the Northern Horticultural Society and have raised another £600 through donations. The Council has agreed to cover the cost of plants for the Lodge entrance and surrounding area (the labour of putting them in will be done by the volunteers). However, in total it is a very large area to cover and we expect that it will cost well in excess of our current funds. Please get in touch if you know of any sources we may be able to access (and indeed if you have gardening skills and would like to come and help with the planting.)

The empty plinth

There is an empty plinth at the bottom of the park near the Lodge entrance, which once held a bust of the early 19th Century poet John Nicholson. Born in Eldwick, in his lifetime he was highly regarded and is still worth reading today (look him up on Google – there's a striking poem about a group of poachers), so we thought it would be fitting to re-dedicate the plinth to him by installing a plaque in his memory. The Bingley and District Local History Society supports our plan, and we are hopeful that we have found a source of funding. So watch this space (or rather the space on the plinth!).



Of course all this is on top of our ongoing twice weekly work mornings in the park, where we have recently prepared a long bed adjoining Park Road for planting to improve the image of the park from the outside, and removed unwanted saplings in the area adjoining Lady Lane.

STOP PRESS Look out for our 2015 calendar marking the 150th year of the park with some very special heritage photos. All proceeds will be put towards our current projects. Thank you.

Ruth Leman
Friends of Prince of Wales Park

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