

Eldwick

Village Society

Newsletter

Issue No. 499 DECEMBER 2020

A Sort of Merry Christmas to all our Readers

I hope that you are able to read this Newsletter as a proper publication. As you will appreciate it has been very difficult to deliver the Newsletter safely in these strange times. This is the first year in my forty years of the Newsletter that this publication has not gone out every month.

To say that 2020 has been an odd year is an understatement. In terms of village events the first casualty of the year was the Cheese and Wine Evening closely followed by the demise of the Fun Run and Gala (this would have been the first year that the Newsletter team would have been cremating vegan sausages as well as the usual award winning ones). The Beer and Banger Festival had to go as did the Horticultural Show, the Bonfire and Fireworks Display and lastly the Carol Singing in the Hall. This does give one the chance to reflect on how much we enjoy these village events and at least we can look forward to them in 2021. Credit does go to the Church for trying very hard to provide some sort of Christmas celebration.

We are very keen that you use the Newsletter to air your views about Covid, perhaps you would like to thank someone for their kindness or just to express your views on Covid. You may contact us through our email news@eldwickvillage.co.uk or Nigel will take normal post at the Post Office.

We are trying to offer support through the Newsletter and have included some useful contact numbers for support organisations should you wish to use them.

This Newsletter will be posted on our website where it can be downloaded and printed off. www.eldwickvillage.co.uk It will also be posted on the Eldwick Village Facebook site and other Facebook sites.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Nigel and his staff at the Post Office for their hard work and patience throughout the pandemic.

TONY CLEGG, Editor

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The village society have managed to fund some new Christmas lights to replace the old ones outside the Hall. We have now run out of volunteers who, in the past have scaled the tree to fix the lights!



Christmas Eve



Light-Up Nativity
@ The Eldwick Church



3 - 7pm

Outdoor, illuminated self-guided walk through the Christmas story.

As we are in Tier 3, there is free ticketed entry to keep everyone safe. Book at lightupnativity.co.uk

Please wear a face covering.



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WILLIAM GATH OF WARREN PARK ESTATE

DIVORCE – BANKRUPT – EMIGRE

From being at one time a successful businessman, a philanthropist and a happy family man, William's life was radically altered within the space of twenty years. In a decade from 1850, he supported the Bradford Mechanics Institute and looked after all his mill workers. One year he took them all by train to Apperley Bridge for dinner, tea and an entertaining party. He owned the Talbot Hotel in Bradford and donated to the Peel Park Appeal Fund. The Rev G.S. Bull, under whom William had served as a Sunday and Day School scholar once received a special gift. It was described as 'a handsome suit of robes made from a special blend of Alpaca wool, woven and dyed in Bradford'. Did William procure it from Salts Mill?

However, events in the next decade were to change his life. The London Evening Standard of May 1860 printed a report from the Court of Divorce – Gath v Gath v Woodward. William had married Nancy his wife in 1842 and they had four children, the eldest being 15 at the time of the case. It was alleged that, in 1850, Mrs Gath 'became addicted to habits of intemperance and violence' which led to a separation in 1858 with an annual allowance of £60 granted for her. She left Bradford to lodge in Skipton, taking only her youngest child with her and it was there that she allegedly 'became very intimate' with a man named Woodward who was an inspector of men on the Midland Railway and he resided in the same house. It was a servant in the house who observed curtains and shutters being closed at unusual times by Mrs Gath and Woodward and eventually saw 'indecent familiarities pass between the two parties in the case'. This she reported to the detective who William had employed to observe the situation and then there was the matter of anonymous letters brought before the Court. These, it was alleged, had been written by William, in the guise of a lover, who spoke of wishing time to spend the night with Mrs Gath. The jury were given the opinion of the judge who said was there anything improbable of a woman like Mrs Gath, who was of intemperate habits, being guilty of immoral conduct? Consequently the jury found Mrs Gath guilty of adultery with Woodward who, in his evidence, had said, what was a man to do when a pretty

woman makes advances on him? Their Lordships decreed the dissolution of the marriage; the woman seeming to have seduced the young man Woodward. Commenting on the part played by William, the judge described him as 'a low minded vulgar man who had written such filthy letters'.

So, how did that impact on William if all this became common knowledge locally where he was a highly respected Parish Constable, employer and a member of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce? Is that why he chose to leave Bradford to develop his gentleman's estate of Warren Park (pictured), in the open countryside on what had been wild moorland until 1861? Did he lose interest in his business whilst investing in his estate and his rich lifestyle? What happened to Nancy and the children after the court case? The 'emigration' of William to South America was eventually reported in The Standard or River-Plate News, an English printed newspaper first published in 1861. The Bradford Observer carried the story later and was also advertising the disposal of the contents of the Warren Park Estate after William's departure and subsequent bankruptcy. On January 6th 1866 William had arrived in South America and in July he married one Mary, originally from Liverpool. The service was led by the British Chaplain of Buenos Aires aboard HMS Spiteful off Monte Video where William was living. John William, the eldest son had obviously travelled with William as he had his own family there by 1875. In that year it was recorded that William had married Maria and more children followed.

Earlier, back in Bradford in March 1866, there was the disposal sale of the contents of the Warren Park Estate by auction. Listed is the evidence of the lifestyle of a wealthy gentleman. Expensive furniture, 250 volumes of literature, oil paintings and engravings, silver plated articles, even down to cutlery, sugar tongs and salt and pepper pieces. Perhaps most interesting listing was of the '20 dozens of wine and



spirits'. That comprised, port, sherry, hock (white wine), claret, brandy, rum, champagne, highland whisky and a cask of gin containing ten and a half gallons. (Why had Mrs Gath become intemperate?!).

There were also greenhouse plants, vines, garden frames, a summerhouse and rustic garden chairs. The Dead Farming Stock showed that the estate had its own 'home farm', since there were carts, harnesses, ploughs, hay cutters, vegetable crops, hay in store and many farming implements. There was even a double barrelled gun and a revolver as well as 'much other truly valuable personal property'.

It is evident that John William carried on the business with William and more family records are held in St John's Cathedral in Buenos Aires, including the death, on 4th December 1887 of Guillermo Gath aged 68, commerciante, which matches his birth date. Initially William was buried in Victoria Cemetery but, between 1894 and 1927, the expatriates were transferred to the British Cemetery in Chacarita, Buenos Aires. There the gravestone reads William Gath. The story of William ends but what of Nancy and the other children?

SOME USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

CAP - debt counselling Tel: 01274 760720
Email: contact@capuk.org

Cruse - bereavement counselling 01756 797799 Craven@cruse.org.uk

Local NHS counselling service
mywellbeingcollege.nhs.uk 0330555 5551

The Eldwick Church 01274 442015
office@eldwickchurch.or.uk



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BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Following the revamp of the old toilet block in Bingley, now converted into an office facility for Bingley Town Council Staff. Included in the project the provision of two accessible toilets with baby changing facility. They opened to the public on Saturday 24th October, opening hours 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week with a small access charge of 20p. The office accommodation will open shortly when outstanding snagging items completed by the main contractor.

We are all aware of the ongoing Covid problems and the further lock down is clearly a cause of concern to everyone especially for the pensioners who are vulnerable to this awful virus. For those who are staying at home help is at hand from Bradford Council. **Ring 01274 431000** and they will put you through to the area support group who will arrange to help you with your requirements. For those who are tech savvy there is a Facebook page, run by Michelle Chapman and Jo Reynard. "Bingley & Bingley Rural Wards Community Coronavirus Resilient Group". They along with a group of supporters will help with obtaining food and medical supplies

Monthly Markets will return next year commencing from February onwards. Please make a note in your diaries, come along, and support your local traders.

Dear Sir,



I am wondering whether other people in the village are encountering problems of living in 2020. Not just the threat of coronavirus but the very real threat of living in a black hole of 21st century communication.

Restricted in my movement I am more than ever reliant on electronic communication. In the room where I live there is no mobile signal for voice calls and texts are intermittent.

Recently I had to give in to internet banking which relies on me responding to texts within 5 minutes where they can take 9 minutes to arrive. This only occurs on the occasions when I have contact with the internet, this is, at best intermittent.

I am wondering whether these problems beset others in the village. I know that I am not alone. Could everyone please take up cudgels on the matter and write to the relevant companies and politicians. You cannot contract real viruses by electronic contacts. Please help me.

Thank you.

Godfrey Lomas, Sunnymead, Otley Road, Eldwick

NEWS FROM THE ELDWICK CHURCH

CHRISTMAS!

This Christmas we invite you to be an Advent Star for Eldwick. From 1st December, let's brighten up our front windows with a star or other advent scene to cheer up passers-by.

On **Christmas Eve, Light-Up Nativity** is happening in the Church grounds from 3-7 pm. **As we are in Tier 3, we have decided to have ticketed entry to keep everyone safe.** Here's the link to get a free ticket: lightupnativity.co.uk

Come and walk through an outdoor self-guided tour of the Christmas story. The illuminated walk-through will follow a one-way system and begins in the car-parking area behind Church. Please access the start via the wooden gate opposite the tennis courts on the Birches side of the boundary wall. We request that you wear a face covering.

This year, our Christmas services will all be available online for you to share safely at home.

★ Sing your favourite carols at home with **Online Carols and Readings** on Thursday 17th at 7.30pm.

★ Learn how to make a Christingle with the family **Online Christingle** on Sunday 20th December at 10.30am.

★ Spend a little time on Christmas Day thinking about the real meaning of Christmas with the **Online Christmas Day Family Service** on 25th December at 10.00am.

To access our YouTube channel, just type 'YouTube' into your internet search bar, then on the YouTube home screen type 'The Eldwick Church'. Our services start at 10.30am on Sundays, but you can also watch at any time after the initial screening.

If you want to join us in church on Sundays, booking arrangements apply, as our numbers are restricted to 25 per service (when we are permitted to worship in person). Please contact office@eldwickchurch.org.uk or ring 01274 442015 to book.

Do join us! We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas in these difficult times.

A FOND FAREWELL TO PETER AND EILEEN MAYO-SMITH

The Reverend Peter Mayo-Smith has recently retired from The Eldwick Church and has moved with his wife Eileen to Rhuddlan in North Wales.

Peter came to us from Haworth less than four years ago when he was invited by the trustees to delay his retirement and finish his ministry at Eldwick. During the time he was with us he provided great leadership, including the oversight of the new building project, a mammoth exercise that has transformed the space, facilities and capacity of the church for the benefit of the community as well as church members.

Peter worked hard to develop a vision for the church in Eldwick by reaching out to the broader community and developing closer links with the primary school – whose excellent choir participated in some of our services (pre-COVID) and who we hope to welcome back some day soon. Peter believed in lay leadership – encouraging non-ordained Christians to lead the congregation in worship – and he was a great coach, mentor and friend to many. He led with humility, wisdom, and gentleness of spirit and will be sorely missed.

Eileen was also well known around the village for her kind and generous hospitality, her work with young children, her support of Peter and her contribution to every aspect of church life.

We would like to thank them both for all they have added to the life of our church and our community. We wish them all blessings in their new life in Wales.

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Thinking about an electric vehicle?

They say it's the way forward don't they? The use and sales of electric or hybrid vehicles is increasing....and with it comes the problems associated with charging these vehicles. Now however, the "luxury" of having your own smart electric vehicle charging point at your home or place of work can be a reality.

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Looking to lease an electric vehicle? Need help and guidance on the best deals?
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RETIRING DELIVERERS

We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Isaac for their hardwork in delivering the Newsletter in the past. They have both now retired. Many thanks.

Should any person like to "fill their shoes" the delivery round is Clarendon Avenue.

John and Barbara Pullin are retiring as well. They have both delivered the Newsletters for many years and now deserve a rest. Many thanks to them. Again if anybody would like to volunteer the two rounds are Otley Rd South side from Moorcroft to Sheriff Lane including Beech Grove Glenview Rd and West View.

The second round is Sheriff Lane both sides from Otley Rd to Southway including Sherwood.

For more details please either email the Newsletter news@eldwickvillage.co.uk or telephone 01274 562643

REMEMBRANCE IN ELDWICK



ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

I hope your gardens have all been kept spic and span as we have little else to occupy us this year. Our meetings inevitably cancelled. We do not have a date for their resumption yet but as gardeners, we live in hope.

Our AGM may not be taking part but the committee has still been working on your behalf. We would like to publicly thank Michael Sutcliffe for being the Treasurer for 11 years as he is stepping down. He has been unflappable and consistent throughout, always at the door with a smile to



greet new members and working behind the scenes tirelessly.

John Muggleston has a big act to follow and we look forward to welcoming him on to the committee as well.

The annual trip was to Wales, so I

decided to have one on my own at the same fabulous hotel. I visited a couple of the gardens that were on the itinerary and can't wait to go back next year.

Currently, I am planting bulbs ready for spring. A small batch for me this year of around 800. Half go in pots, the rest in the ground. My favourite small narcissus being Minnow, a pale multiflowered bulb which sits well with its brash neighbour, Tete-a-Tete. Once they are finished, all the bulbs from the pot go in the garden.

Sally Robinson - Lighthouse Gardeners - 07964 934676

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