

Loose Ends

Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School

11th January 2012

Weekly Newsheet

School Diary

Sat Jan 14	9.30 a.m.	Goethean Science workshop
Tues Jan 17	7.30 p.m.	Stream of Sound
	8.00 p.m.	Open Evening
Wed Jan 18	9.15 a.m.	Open Morning
	12.30 & 3.15	Class 4 Bread stall
Tues Jan 24	7.30 p.m.	Class 6 Parents' Evening
Wed Jan 25	3.15 p.m.	PTFA meeting: Eurythmy Room
Mon Jan 30	7.00 p.m.	Class 7 Parents' Evening
Mon March 12	7.30 p.m.	Talk in Town Hall by Chris Clouder

School Affairs

Dear Community,

You may have noticed the two new benches which have recently appeared on the front lawn. They were bought with some of the money left as a legacy to the school by Rhona Everett. Rhona Everett taught at Elmfield for many years as a class teacher and was one of the founder teachers of the school along with her husband Roland (also a class and language teacher). Rhona was very artistic and Roland was very musical and in their lifetimes they both made an enormous contribution to the school and so we would like to remember them.

Vanessa Mansell

Education for a new future

Talk with Christopher Clouder

12 March 19:30 – 21:00

Town Hall, Wollaston Room

Christopher Clouder is Secretary General of the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education, which is registered in Brussels, and speaks for 670 European Steiner schools in 26 countries. He is a member of the executive group of the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship for the UK and Ireland and a co-founder and International Director of the Alliance for Childhood, which is a global network of advocates for the quality of childhood. Previous to this he taught adolescents for 5 years in the state system in the Netherlands, where he was instrumental in founding a Waldorf school, and then for 18 years in Steiner Waldorf schools in England. He writes and gives public lectures widely throughout Europe and internationally on educational matters, such as play and imagination, contemporary issues and cultural evolution. He gives many key-note presentations and lectures at conferences, universities and teacher education courses, as well as representing and discussing educational issues with policy makers. He has published numerous books and articles on education and childhood. In 2009 he was appointed the founding Director of the Botin Platform for Innovation in Education, based in Santander in Spain, which is working to promote social and emotional education and creative learning in educational practice across the world.

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to welcome Christopher to Stourbridge. Please put this date in your diaries now so you can come and bring a friend along!

Time to discuss!

You are warmly welcomed to a new group for parents (without their children) starting on a Tuesday morning after half term from 9am to 11am in the Parent and Toddler room opposite

the nursery classroom. We will be discussing child development, discipline, Steiner Education etc. The topics are yours! The cost will be 50p towards a hot drink. If you like to use your hands while sitting bring your own knitting projects etc. but nothing which needs pins and sewing needles because of health and safety requirements. Please bring slippers or indoor shoes to wear because this floor is used by crawling babies. (Please remember to first sign in at reception and pick up a Visitor Badge.) If you want to find out more please ring Janet Klaar 01384 352177

Goethean Science Workshop at Elmfield

On Saturday 14th January 2012 from 9.30 until 1.00 in the Goethean Science Building (formerly the Eurythmy Hut) within the grounds of Elmfield School. Anyone interested, please register interest by calling the school office (01384 394633) or email Judyth Sassoon (js7892@bristol.ac.uk). Booking is not essential but an idea of numbers would be useful.

This workshop will demonstrate as clearly as possible how Goethean Science differs from mainstream science. The workshop is open to anyone (teachers, parents, members of the community) and no prior knowledge is assumed.

If this has piqued your curiosity, please read on.

Goethean Science: What is it?

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the 17th Century poet-naturalist, stood as a key point in the growth of Western thought. His scientific publications include detailed accounts of ideas, observations and deeply personal experiences of nature. They are intensely autobiographical and totally in keeping with Goethe's approach to science, as a reciprocal, participatory activity between observer and the observed. Goethe studied nature with scientific exactitude, combined with highly evolved artistic sensitivities. He strove towards developing a new method of perception, through which he could discover the underlying unity in nature.

In his time Goethe presented a comprehensive theory of metamorphosis and evolution, based on a mutable, "protean" concept. For Goethe the leaf represented the protean potential within the world of plants, and the vertebra that for animals. However, many scientists misinterpreted the meaning of Goethe's "protean archetypes", regarding them either as physical manifestations or as Platonic ideals. This led to their rejection once Darwin's magnificent theory of evolution had entered the mainstream. However, these "protean archetypes" should not be interpreted as either concrete physical entities, from which the phenomena emerge, or as detached spiritual "ideals" standing behind the phenomena. Instead, they can be discovered within the actual phenomena of nature by a correctly tuned human consciousness. The starting point is to recognise what it is that one is looking for. With a certain amount of training, it is possible to recognise that Goethe was working with the productive forces behind nature.

Parents, Pupils, Staff and Friends of Elmfield we need your input please! We are keen to hear your fresh ideas to inspire and add to our '[New Project List](#)' which is currently being reviewed. The scope of any new project can be as big, small or simple as you wish. They are all valued. The only criteria are

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that they need to enhance the pupils educational experience and maintain the quality of our treasured school. This may take the form of equipment or resources, development of an area for a new or dual use, redevelop or redesign an existing space. Please put forward all ideas even if they feel unaffordable or unachievable as they will help to inspire, and contribute to medium and longer term planning which is also underway. Contributions from **all** members of our school community are actively encouraged. We would like to gauge which areas of the grounds, or school life are a focus of your ideas. Be assured they will be fully considered. Please send your ideas to: elmfieldnewprojectideas@yahoo.co.uk, text 07938 857315, or drop a note into the school reception marked 'Ideas for New Projects for Elmfield'. Earlier gives more opportunity for consideration. NB the email address will not exist permanently but at least until end of January. Liz Groves and Ann Gulbis

Invitation to a Parent's Consultation on "The Needs of My Child" held in collaboration with Wolverhampton University at the School of Education, Walsall Campus, Gorway Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD Rooms WN201 and WN202. Consultation date 14th January 2012.

You may come to **one** of the two identical sessions:

Session One 10.00am-12.20 OR Session Two 1.30pm. - 3.30pm. There is no charge.

If you are interested in attending to discuss issues such as Concentration Levels, Handwriting, Motor Activities (e.g. ball skills), Making Friends etc. you are very warmly welcome either as a practitioner working with children or as a parent/guardian. The aim of this session is to consider setting up activity groups for children that will aim to meet their individual needs.

If you wish to attend one of the sessions please phone Janet Klaar 01384 352177 or email her at janetklaar@yahoo.co.uk by Friday evening no later than 20.00hrs.

Archery Evening:

Dear pupils and Parents: An evening of Archery for the pupils of the Upper School will start Monday 16th of January. I will coach beginners from 5.30 – 6.30pm, with an Archery club for pupils and experienced adults from 7pm - 9pm. Permission forms available from the office or myself. Mr Neale

Bothmer gym courses for parents, Easter term.

Mr. Neale will offer an introduction to Bothmer gym (special subject for Steiner schools) and games from 11th January, 9-10 in the morning on Wednesdays until half term. In the **social space hut near school book shop**. Suggested £3 contribution per session, (for Gym equipment for our students). No booking necessary, you can come to any sessions. Please wear loose trouser and gym shoes with thin soles. if you have any inquiry, please contact Kumiko 07962429029 or 01384370375

Thanks! Pat, from the Stourbridge Black Country Foodbank group rang me last week to say a big thank you to Elmfield families who donated shampoo, deodorant and children's toothpaste and tooth brushes just before the Christmas holidays. So thanks to all who contributed thereby supporting this valuable local project. Sarah Clay

Elmfield Bookshop

Welcome back! We have now replenished our stocks of "Dr Hauschka", "Weleda" and "Speick Men" toiletries, cosmetics and shaving products. So please visit the shop to see the full range. *N.B. This will be your last opportunity to buy the Weleda range at 2011 prices. So stock up now with your favourite items and beat the 2012 price rise!*

We have also re-stocked our range of sweet and savoury snacks and drinks to keep you energised throughout the day. Happy 2012! The Bookshop Team.

Music Matters

Community Choir – meet Wednesdays: early Choir 7pm – 8pm for all singers. Late choir 8pm – 9.15pm for more experienced singers. We meet in the Eurythmy Room or the Hall. Ring Diana Ball 01384 371348 or Sue Whittaker 01384 376804 if you need more details.

PTFA

Advent Fayre a great success! Thanks to everyone's hard work, enthusiasm and dedication a wonderful £5,615 was raised for the school, after expenses. This money will be used by the PTFA for the benefit of the pupils, staff and parents throughout the year. Apologies for the delay in getting this final sum to you, we know you've been waiting!

Open House

ALUMINIUM: CAN RECYCLING: Many thanks to all those who have donated foil and cans to the recycling project. I will let you know how much we have made when I take the next loads to be weighed. If you are keen to take part **PLEASE**

- Use a magnet to check your can is aluminium. If steel, the magnet will stick.
- Please squash the can and make sure it is reasonably clean.
- Only clean foil. Please put in a bag (well sealed).
- Please do not put anything else in the box.

A Christmas mouse had gnawed through the dumpy bag and plastic Bags and had shredded a considerable amount of silver foil! Full of good cheer, he made off when I found him at the bottom of the bag. I can only continue the recycling if people comply with the above requests. **ALL FUNDS GO TO PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT.** Rosanne Adams

About Loose Ends

Deadline for copy is Tuesday at 3.30 pm for publication the following day, subject to space. Ads will be edited if they are very long. Please make sure all ads for inclusion include your name.

Please be aware that *Loose Ends* is published on the Elmfield website each week.

Sections other than *School Affairs* are offered as listing opportunities for members of the Elmfield community; however the School cannot accept responsibility for the quality of goods or services offered in *Loose Ends* by third parties.

Publication of a listing does not imply Elmfield's approval in any way. Any views expressed are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect those of the School. We reserve the right to edit content. The Editor's decision is final.

Maigread Reynolds, Editor.

Beginners' and Improvers' Ashtanga Yoga – 10 week course at Elmfield School starts Thursday 5th January 2012 (8pm-9.30pm). Mind calm, body vibrant. For details please call James Critchlow 01384 394702 / 07967 211748 www.yogabirmingham.co.uk

Recycle your Christmas tree and cards

Start the new year with some recycling. If you had a real Christmas tree, you could shred or compost it for your own garden, or if you have a wood stove you could saw your tree into small logs and branches to dry for kindling for next winter. The Stourbridge Household Waste site also accepts trees and other garden waste which they make into compost. Christmas cards can be recycled or you can cut out pictures to use as gift tags next year.

Offers and Wanted

Hunter and Day photography; Beautiful family portraits in our studio or in your home. Book now £25 including a free print
Tel; Mandy Hunter on 07967 026765

Qualified Carpenter will undertake any work DIY / gardening/ home. No job too small, anything considered. Professional and reliable. Tel: Dean 07817 517926

Cello & Theory of Music Lessons

SEAN GILDE (BA HONS) ABSM
Availability after school and week-ends
Music for Functions & Events. Competitive Rates
Call: 07931 781737
Email: seankgilde@hotmail.co.uk
Web: www.thecelloteacher.co.uk

Vacancy – Assistant wanted in Steiner inspired child-minding setting. Please apply in writing detailing childcare experience / qualifications and enclosing a CV.
Annie Bunting, 2 Frog Hall Cottages, Iverley, Stourbridge, DY7 6PL

For Sale

Grand piano for sale: Bechstein Cost £13,500 (valued at £15,000. 6ft (184 cm). Model A, Nr 121011, black polished, ivory. Bright ebonised case on square tapered legs, together with a black stool. Please contact Saori for more information on 07884 051039

Seasoned logs for sale: £60 per cubic metre. Free delivery within Stourbridge area. Local friendly service. For more info call Dave on 07950 452722

ITEMS FOR SALE

Single Pine bed with mattress. Both very clean/good condition. £90 ono
Daler - Rowney Painting easel. Full size. £35

Estates

Last but not least:

We should take care not to make the intellect our god. It has, of course, powerful muscles but no personality.

Albert Einstein