

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



So, here we are, fast approaching the end of 2022, and also my time as editor of the village newsletter. I am not sad, because change is good. If a volunteer steps forward to take on the role, then the newsletter will evolve again and stay fresh. At the same time, my stepping down provides an opportunity for us all to reflect on whether a printed newsletter still has a role to play in our community. Clearly, many of us are now using the village WhatsApp regularly and that may be all we need for the future. On the other hand, not everyone has or wants a smartphone, and perhaps you are among those who would regret a full shift to digital for village communication. The Village Hall Committee AGM is your chance to express a view. Please do share your thoughts. I am sure any successor would welcome starting in the knowledge that this remains an asset to our village life.

Happy Christmas and New Year, everyone!

Email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Next issue: yet to be confirmed

Features

- Elkstone Parish Church Services
- Message from the Village Hall Committee Chair
- Christmas Meal at The Green Dragon Inn
- Gardens Day 2023
- A417 Designated Funds
- News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Christmas Quiz

Regular Village Hall Activities

Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday, 7.30pm	Ronnie Bury – 870493 or Martyn Wylie – 870441
Art Club	Every Thursday, 9am-1pm	Penny Casewell – 03330 119663

Other dates for your diary

Village Hall Committee AGM	Thursday 8 th December at the Village Hall	Jeremy Davies (Chair) - 870516
Parish Council Meeting	Wednesday 14 th December at the Village Hall	elkstonepc@gmail.com
Christmas Meal at the Green Dragon Inn	Thursday 15 th December at the Green Dragon, 7pm for 7.30pm.	Jennie Howlett - 870462

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Waste & Recycling		
Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 13 th and Wednesday 28 th December (excluding garden waste on this day)

Elkstone Parish Church Services

We are all beginning to think of Christmas, the shops are full of festive goods and the annual Christmas adverts are already on the TV enticing us to spend! Advent calendars are ready to open on 1st December, heralding the preparation for Christmas. We have four wonderful services in our Village Church this December and you will all be very welcome at any time. The heating will be on and you can be sure of a friendly welcome, and there are always refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 4th December – 11am **Morning Worship** with Mark Venn.

Sunday 11th December – 10am **Family Praise and building the Nativity Crib during the Service**

Sunday 18th December – 3.30pm **Carols and Readings**

Saturday 24th December – 11.30pm **Midnight Holy Communion**

Sunday 25th December – 11am **Christmas Day Service** in Cowley Church

From us all at the Church, we wish you a very happy Christmas.

Carole Bury

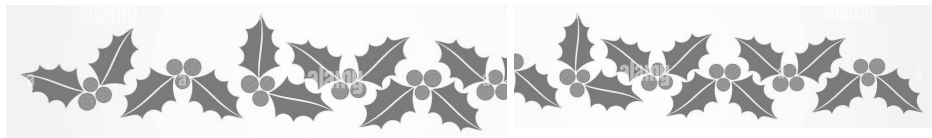
Message from the Village Hall Chair

Just to remind everybody - the AGM of the Village Hall Committee is 7.30pm Thursday 8th December, at the Hall, with Punch 'n Munch to follow the formalities

Whilst at the AGM I'll be stepping back as Chair of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to say a big thank you to Jenny Hopkins who has edited our newsletter with great skill and design work for some time but who now wants to pass on the baton. The newsletter is a big part of our village life, and has been over very many years, so I very much hope that a volunteer will come forward to take this role.

The AGM is your opportunity to have your say as to how Hall can be best used, suggestions for the future, new ways of promoting it, and of course future of the Village Newsletter will be a discussion item as well.

Jeremy Davies – Chair, Elkstone Village Hall Committee



Christmas Meal at The Green Dragon – Thursday 15th December

A warm welcome awaits friends from the village and elsewhere at our local inn for a traditional Christmas meal.

The menu is posted on the Green Dragon website and has several options from which to choose. There are paper copies available both at the inn and at Church View. In order to offer a gratuity, a charge of £33 for the three-course meal seems appropriate.

The booking is 7pm for 7.30pm. Looking forward to enjoying an evening together.

Further information from Jennie Howlett. Email ejenniehowlett@gmail.com Tel: 870462. Or call in at Church View.



Gardens Day – Sunday 11th June 2023

Advance publicity is a vitally important part of the success of our Gardens Day. With all the developments in modern technology and the widespread use of social media, we would like to use this avenue as effectively as we can. Right now, we don't have the expertise available and would welcome any help we can get from a tech savvy individual. Let me know if you feel able to help by spreading the word on social media.

Many thanks.

Martyn Wylie. Email mgw123@btinternet.com Tel: 870441 or 07788 912645

Elkstone Village WhatsApp Group

The Elkstone Village WhatsApp Group is a popular and instant way to ask a question, share information with neighbours, and pass on pre-loved items that are no longer needed. There are now 38 households in the group, and everyone is welcome. If you would like to join, text Jenny Hopkins on 07711 989562 to be added.

A417 Designated funds

You will most likely will have seen in news, the Development Consent Order for the A417 'missing link' has been signed by the transport minister. This effectively gives the 'green light' for construction by Kier starting next year.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Elkstone Parish Council has been preparing a bid for 'designated funds' from National Highways (NH) to undertake improvements in the village. These funds can be applied for by villages and other groups affected by the road construction. This proposal has now been submitted to NH but it is too early to know whether it is likely to be successful.

The initial bid to NH is for feasibility funding only and focusses on improving Accessibility, Biodiversity and Sustainability. The proposals are split into three areas: Village Hall improvements, village environmental improvements and village communications.

Some villagers have requested that a children's play area be included in the proposals. Whilst this is considered a very worthy idea, the problem remains that we have been unable to come up with a suitable site. If anyone has any ideas for a site that could be considered, then please let me know.

David Kearney – Email: dnke58@gmail.com. Mob: 07799 700 000

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The BBC this month published an article that directly criticised our hospitals. This was a huge disappointment to the staff who had been advised that the article was to explore the pressure facing the NHS heading into winter. Sadly, it presented a far more negative picture than the BBC had discussed, and it has been distressing to see the impact on staff who are working so hard in very difficult circumstances.

Gloucestershire, like other trusts, is trying to turn things around whilst having to deal with a growing staff shortage with more than one in ten positions unfilled. We have a good bank staff system of nurses who know our hospital but, even so, agency spend is high. Another huge problem is ambulance delays. After a lot of thought, and balancing risks against gains, 'boarding of patients' has been introduced. Transferring patients to a ward before a bed is available means caring for those patients in corridors with all this entails in respect of risk, a loss of privacy and dignity and asking already stretched staff to care for more patients. This situation is far from what any of us would want from the NHS, but it is done in the belief that it offers a safer solution in the short term than sick or injured people waiting for hours out in the community for an ambulance, after dialling 999. Since October the average handover time has been cut to less than two hours, with no patient waiting more than four. Category 2 ambulance response times to emergency calls, which include stroke victims, have reduced from a peak of 160 minutes to an average of 33 minutes.

Finally, some positive news! The construction of a new Discharge Lounge will start on the GRH site as part of this year's winter response. It will be able to accommodate up to 29 patients at any given time, and it is hoped this will improve patient experience when it comes to their discharge.

Anne Davies (Public-Elected Governor Cotswolds, GHNHSFT) - Email: anne.davies11@nhs.net

Christmas Quiz

1. Which country donates the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square each year?
2. Shakespeare wrote a play for Elizabeth I as a Christmas present. Which one is it?
3. What gifts did The Three Wise Men bring Jesus on his birthday?
4. Where does the name “Boxing Day” come from?
5. Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
6. What colour are mistletoe berries?
7. What were the names of the first eight reindeers?
8. What is the name of Ebenezer Scrooge’s partner in Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol”?
9. Who wants to steal the Christmas?
10. What sort of spirit is Clarence in the film “It’s a Wonderful Life”?

Quiz answers: 1. Norway – the city of Oslo, Norway, has donated the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree to the people of Britain each year since 1947. 2. The Merry Wives of Windsor; 3. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh; 4. Back in the days, Boxing Day was a traditional day off for servants in which they received a ‘Christmas Box’ from their master. They would also go home on Boxing Day to give presents to their families; 5. Isaac Newton; 6. White; 7. Blitzen, Comet, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer, and Donner; 8. Jacob Marley; 9. b) The Grinch; 10. An angel



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INSPIRING WOMEN

WINSTONE AND DISTRICT WI

Christmas Fair

Affordable Gifts
& Delicious Cakes

3rd December
2 - 5pm

Winstone Village Hall, Jackbarrow Road, GL7 7JZ

Refreshments available