

Elkstone Newsletter

24th Year: No. 3 (278)

December 2010

Editor's Bit – A Motorcyclist's Christmas Tale

It was Christmas Eve and I was in the workshop getting my bike ready for the Boxing Day meeting at the Daneway, when outside I heard a sort of jingling followed by a crunching sound. A few moments later someone knocked on the workshop door. When I opened it, there stood Father Christmas! He said that he had taken off from High Cross but got his sleigh caught in the telephone wire and crashed, and could I help? We went outside to see the sleigh and I noticed that one of the sliders was bent at ninety degrees to the sleigh. I told him I thought the sleigh ought to be emptied so we could properly assess the damage, so I unloaded the sleigh while he put the reindeer in the field. After a bit of welding and straightening I declared that it was the best I could do and we pulled the sleigh out onto the drive; he loaded the sacks while I got the reindeer hitched to the sleigh. I offered to see him onto the road; I waved him out and as he took off I could hear the jingling sound again. A quick look at my watch showed it was quite late, so time to finish and lock up for the night, but as I walked back to the shed, I fell over a sack he had forgotten to load. He was now somewhere over the village so I dragged the sack into the workshop and realised that the packages were for people in the village. The heavy one appeared to be the 1920s Raleigh gearbox that Dave C had been looking for, the Triumph handlebars were marked for David P, the *Book of the Spagthorpe* was marked for Ken B and there was a petrol tank for Keith R. What was I to do? I finished preparing my Ariel, tied the sack onto the rear carrier with baler twine and set off around the village. Strangely, a jingling sound followed me around. Boxing Day arrived and I rode down to the Daneway to meet all the other club members, but for weeks afterwards they all kept commenting on the jingling sound that my Ariel made!

Reg – Love, Light and Peace!

Features	
Village Hall AGM Christmas in Elkstone ERG Walks for Christmas and New Year Nature Notes	Parish Council News Village Hall Committee Christmas Messages Advertisements
Dates for your Diary	
4 th December – Christmas Fayre – Coberley Primary School	
4 th December – Rendcomb Surgery Support Group Christmas Sale – Winstone Village Hall	
4 th December – North Cerney School Christmas Fayre	
6 th December – ‘Have Your Say’ on bus passes – CDC Offices, Cirencester 2.30pm – 6.30pm	
8 th December – ‘Punch & Munch’ + AGM – Village Hall – 8.00pm	
26 th December – ERG Walk – Daglingworth Village Hall -10.40am	
1 st January – ERG Walk – Kilkeny Viewpoint Carpark – 11.10am	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 10 th and 24 th
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - <i>Bernard Alder 870255</i>
Deadline for January Edition: Monday 20th December please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net	

Welcome to Elkstone Village

We welcome Jackie and Neil Bellamy, who have moved into 16 Hillview.

Village Hall 'Punch & Munch' AGM – 8th December 2010 at 8.00pm

Please note the **change of date**.

It has been a year of concern for our Village Hall and momentous changes for the Hall and the services it provides to the Parish.

Come and join us for a brief meeting, where we can discuss a generous gift to the Hall's Charitable Foundation and how we will be taking full advantage of this gift,. The future of Parish Social Events will no doubt feature in the discussion and our concern.

Afterwards, there will be an informal time with each other, with 'Punch & Munch' provided by your Committee.

Village Hall Committee - Martyn – 870441 - Ronnie 493 - Ken 479, Jeremy 516 - Nic - 556

**Christmas In Elkstone
Wednesday 22nd December**



We will start the evening with our very popular carol singing round the village. Meet at **Church View at 6pm** for a short practice helped along by mulled wine and nibbles. No talent needed - just come and join in this Christmas tradition.

We have the carol sheets, you just need to bring a torch and warm clothing.

We will finish up at the Village Hall to join other villagers for our Christmas social.

Jennie Howlett (870462) for more details

For those parishioners who do not wish to go carol singing – please come to the **Village Hall at 8pm** for mulled wine and mince pies, where some might like to showcase their talents (!?) with poems, skits, songs, etc. We look forward to seeing lots of people and to meeting everyone who has recently moved into the village. This is a very sociable and informal evening.

Julia Davey 870038



ERG Walks for the Festive Season

All parishioners, their relatives and friends welcome!

Boxing Day – Sunday 26th December - easy but boots-essential 4 miles

Meet by 10.40 a.m. in the car park of Daglingworth Village Hall; O.S. Landranger 163 / Explorer 170 grid ref 994 051.

Please bring some small change as a donation for the use of the car park is requested. Directions - Leave A 417 NW of Cirencester at Quarry Junction; (or turn west off the A 435 at Perrotts Brook and continue straight on to underpass the A417) and turn SW towards Daglingworth on Dowers Lane. In Daglingworth, at the T-junction at the bottom of the hill, turn right, the Hall is on the right at the next corner.

The walk is about 4 miles long, with quite a lot of level ground and a few gentle gradients, also 8 easy stiles, two short flights of steps, a horse-friendly vehicle barrier (a new feature for ERGers!) and a viewpoint. Expect a little mud in some places.

New Year's Day – Saturday 1st January – easy but boots-essential 3.5 miles

Meet by 11.10 a.m. at the Kilkenny Viewpoint car park, accessed from the Hilcot turning off the A436; O.S. Landranger 163 / Explorer OL 45 grid ref 003 185.

The walk is about 3.5 miles long, with a lot of level ground, a few gentle gradients, and just 2 easy stiles. The route goes through one farmyard where muddy puddles are likely, and the path through the woods may be slippery (sticks/walking poles would be useful) but otherwise this is a predominantly tracks and lanes route.

If the weather is fine, the first half could be very scenic, but depending on the wind direction and strength, may also feel cold and exposed.

Lois - 870375

The Giving Machine™

We have come across this great Fund Raising Site that will cost you nothing and yet contribute to our Church Roof Appeal. You can now generate free cash donations for **St John the Evangelist Elkstone** every time you shop online. All the main High Street names are represented, from Tesco, Asda, Amazon, Argos to e-bay to name just a few. Just buy from the shop of your choice through **TheGivingMachine** when you shop online, selecting **St John the Evangelist Elkstone** as your nominated charity every time. It will not cost you anything extra - the online shop pays the donation on your behalf. Just go to www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk

- **Join** as a shopper/giver
- **Choose** to support **St John the Evangelist, Elkstone**
- **Remember** to shop at TheGivingMachine every time you buy online!

You'll find more than 300 different shops at TheGivingMachine™ including all your favourite high street names.

TheGivingMachine™ 'You Shop - They Give'

Please help and join this scheme if you can.

On behalf of Elkstone PCC, thank you

Nature Notes

As Novembers can be, this November has been a gloomy month with darker days making winter seem imminent. This lead me to look back on some of the very lovely days we enjoyed in 2010.

Early in the year, I went for a walk down Uncombe Lane when everything was covered in soft snow, and the bright sunshine and absolute silence was like magic. Another unforgettable sight was the dandelions in an ungrazed field, like a cloth of gold, followed in a few days by silver froth shot through by the setting sun.

One day walking by the pipeline there was a mother partridge with 11 tiny chicks, only a day or two old, they were so pretty and the hen partridge so careful – they are devoted mothers.

Later in the year when gathering crab apples I saw many field fares. The smell of crab apples and the chuckling of the birds seemed the very essence of Autumn.

Even later there was morning sunshine illuminating the ivy flowers which were covered in insects enjoying a last lavish feast before the arrival of the cold weather.

So many lovely moments to enjoy, how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful place.

Jessie

News from the Parish Council

Do you have a bus pass or tokens?

From April of next year, Gloucestershire County Council will take over from District Councils the responsibility to provide the concessionary fares service. GCC plans to restrict Monday to Friday use of bus passes to journeys which start after 9.30 a.m. – which means that passes won't be eligible on our morning bus to Cirencester.

Cotswold District Council has been lobbying on behalf of rural communities, and GCC has conceded that this time restriction may be relaxed for villages which have only have one bus a day, running before 9.30 a.m.

However, there are opportunities for you to tell GCC if you would be adversely affected by these proposed changes. You can phone 01452 426263 (or 01452 426233) to request a questionnaire, or follow this link to the website:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/concessionaryfares

or call into the CDC offices between 2.30 and 6.30 on Monday 6th December.

Are you ready for winter ice?

The Parish Council has been warned that the provision of salt and grit to bins will be reduced this winter.

Please be aware that what is provided **is for use on public roads only**. Parishioners wishing to treat their drives should ensure they have bought in sufficient stocks for their personal use.

Salt may be available to purchase from e.g. B & Q or Countrywide Stores, or via the internet, for example: <http://www.decorativeaggregates.com>

The Department for Transport has recently issued a new Snow Code, which can be viewed by following this link:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG_191868

Advice is given on clearing pavements and et cetera, with the suggestion that ordinary or dishwasher salt can be used. Following on from this advice, a cheap way of providing yourself with salt would be to look in your supermarket for the larger bags of cooking salt.

Recycle your Christmas Tree!

CDC has arranged for its residents to take their real Christmas trees to Dobbies Garden Centre, just south of Cirencester, for shredding and composting. This service will be available from 4th January 2011 for two weeks.

Neighbourhood Watch

In the absence of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator with e-mail access, it has proved difficult to alert parishioners to news of a recent spate of burglaries. However, the Elkstone website now has a 'police' page on which latest news from our PCSOs is being posted. Please keep checking it regularly for latest news.

Also – please could you take on the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator role? If so, please contact us!

Complaints

The Parish Council has been receiving complaints about dog fouling and motorists driving fast through the Village.

Dog fouling reminders – it is illegal to allow your dog to foul and not clear up after it on public spaces, in a built-up residential area, or on any road or lane where there is a traffic speed restriction of 40m.p.h. or less.

Owners who don't clear up after their dogs have fouled in fields which are grazed, or on any public right of way, are perceived as inconsiderate and anti-social.

Faeces should be double-bagged, carried home and disposed of in your (waste) dustbin/ wheelie bin.

Motorists are reminded for the need for consideration, please, respecting our single track lanes which are **shared spaces**, that is, used by all from children to the elderly, whether pedestrians, cyclists, or riders, as well as oncoming vehicles!

Christmas Messages

Wishing all our friends in the village a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Sue and Bernard

Wishing all my Elkstone friends a very blessed Christmas and 2011.

Jessie



Warm Christmas greetings to friends, both old and new, in Elkstone and its environs...

"May your days be merry and bright!"

Best wishes from *Julia, Eliza and Oliver – the Priest's House*

Steve, Julia and Hannah wish all our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Steve, Julia and Hannah Davey

To Elkstone villagers and all,
We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2011.
Love and Best Wishes
John, Phillipa and Rebecca x x

We wish everyone a Happy, Joyful Christmas and Good Health, Peace and Happiness
for 2011
Our Best Wishes
Bryan and Lye Taylor

Season's greetings, and best wishes for 2011, to all our friends and neighbours
Reg & Lois

Advertisements

Rendcomb Surgery Support Group

Our annual Christmas Sale will be held on December 4th at Winstone Village Hall
from 10.00 to 12.00 noon.

Offers of cakes, items for sale and for the raffle would be much appreciated.
This event kicks off Christmas preparations and is an opportunity to buy some
presents as well as enjoy a cuppa and a mince pie with friends old and new.
Proceeds from the event will be used for the benefit of patients of the surgery.
Jennie Howlett - 870462

North Cerney School Christmas Fair

Saturday 4 December 2010

11am – 2 pm

At North Cerney Village Hall

A Christmas festive display of quality goods to buy.

Free Entry with a smile!

Trade Stalls, Quality Gifts, Pocket Money Toys, Books, Cakes, Farmers market goods
from Chesterton Farm,

Silent Auction – bag yourself the perfect original gift, Tombola, Raffle & for all those
good children, a visit to Santa!!!

Refreshments & Soup Kitchen

Come & Support us and have some fun!

Many lovely raffle prizes and Silent Auction Items including:

Meal for 2 at the Bathurst Arms, One month family membership at David Lloyd, 5 x
personal training sessions, Bristol Ice-rink tickets, Babysitting, Four Ball – 18 hole
golf course, logs, Luxury Hamper, Corinium Museum family ticket, Meal at Harry
Hares, signed merchandise! To name just a few.....

Karen Grinnell

Christmas Music and Carols with the Cotswold Male Voice choir on Wednesday 15th December at St Andrews Church Montpelier Cheltenham, GL51 3BY at 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £7.50 or £5.00 for Seniors and children under 12 are available from: friends@gvg.org.uk; telephone 01 242 870516, The YMCA Rodney Road or on the door. After the concert Mulled wine and mince pies will be served. This performance is to raise funds for Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

Anne Davies



Christmas Fayre
Saturday 4th December

11am - 2pm

at Coberley Primary School

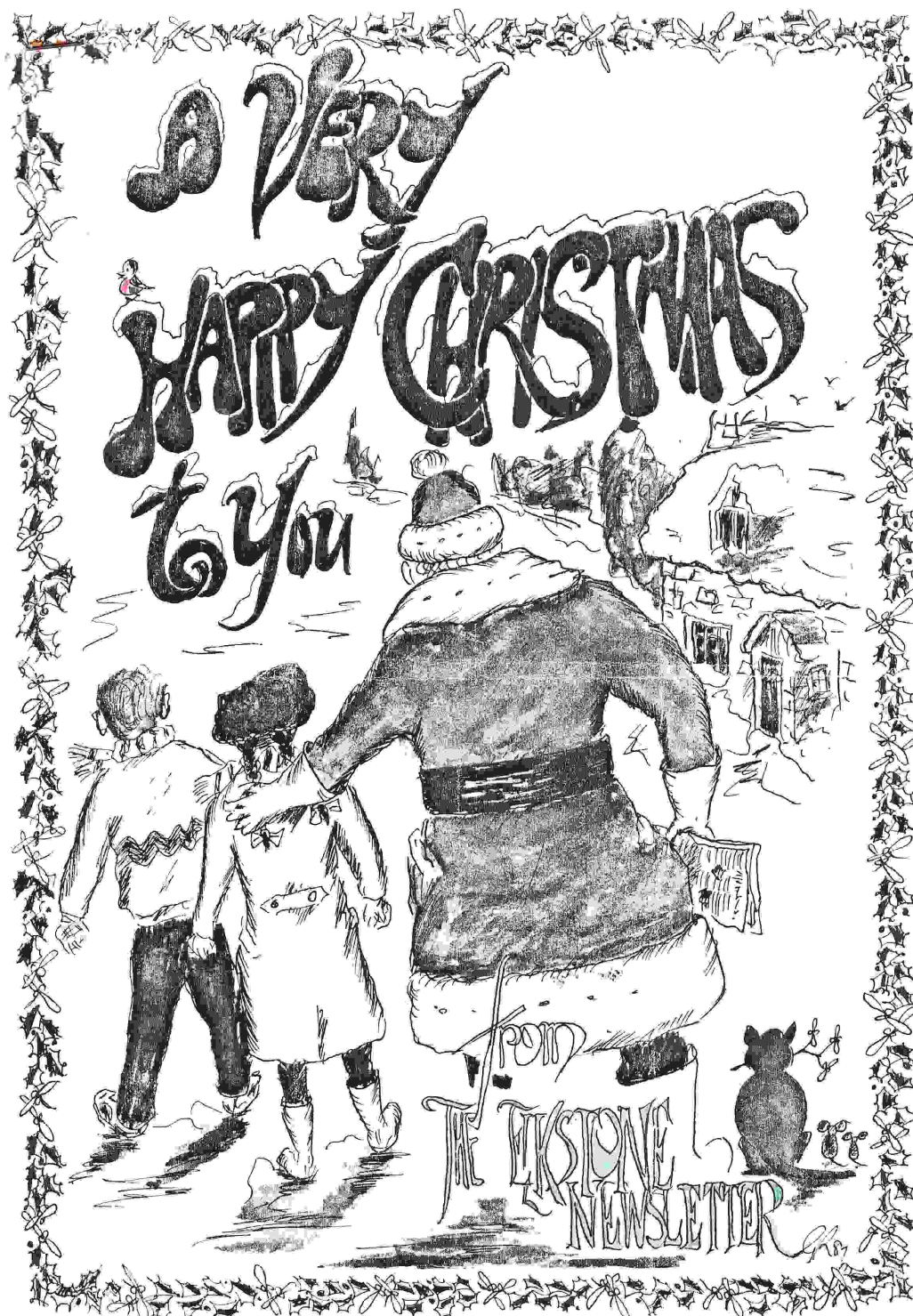
Traditional Christmas Market

Take a stroll along our traditional Christmas Market with a wonderful selection of beautiful hand made and locally produced crafts, jewellery, gifts, soaps, tasty treats and much more.. all at amazing prices !

Bring your family & friends and join us for all the festive fun and enjoy lunch in our Christmas Café

For more information contact School Office: 01242 870366

And finally!...



A scan from an original drawing by George Robey