

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



November has a habit of making many of us feel reflective. Here's something I came across online which I think captures the spirit of the month well:

"I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So I like best of all autumn, because its tone is mellower, its colours are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and its content." - Lin Yutang (1895-1976), author of 'The Importance of Living' (1937).

Jenny, [editor@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:editor@elkstonevillage.com)

Deadline for next newsletter: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Features

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## 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

## Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> November

*Continues overleaf. . .*

## Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November – 11am **Morning Worship** with Mark Venn.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November – 10.45am **A Service of Remembrance** with Revd Janet Anderson-Mackenzie.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November – 11am **Holy Communion** with Revd Roger Scoones.

## Film and Supper Nights

After a lot of thought, we have decided to suspend our film nights due in part to the cost inflation factors described in the last newsletter. More recently, it has also become apparent that COVID is on the rise again – we ourselves succumbed to it late last month, though thankfully we were clear quite quickly – and we would be loath to find we have organised ‘spreader’ events.

Accordingly, we will take stock next autumn when we hope to have a more stable and reliable basis for going forward. Thanks to those who provided comments and feedback. All will be considered next year as we come to review the prevailing conditions, films available etc.

*Jeremy and Anne Davies*

## Elkstone Village Hall AGM – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Our Annual General Meeting will start at the Hall at 7.30pm, and everyone from our locality is warmly invited. This is your opportunity to express your views about the use and running of the Hall, and of course to elect officers for the year to come. There is currently a rise of COVID incidence, so we will ensure that spacing etc keeps everyone as safe as possible.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, new committee members are always welcome. More specifically, having been Chair since December 2014, I will stand down from this role at the AGM, though I am very willing to be re-elected to serve on the committee. So give it some thought. These are interesting times for us all, and new initiatives could well arise from next year’s committee!

As always following the formal proceedings, there will be Punch ‘n’ Munch nibbles on offer, providing an early opportunity for festive socialising. Do try to come along.

*Jeremy Davies – Chair, Elkstone Village Hall Committee*

## Christmas Meal at The Green Dragon – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December



Please join us on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December for the annual traditional meal at our local inn. The three-course menu is posted on The Green Dragon website and there are paper copies available both at the inn and at Church View. In order to provide a gratuity, a charge of £33 seems appropriate. Choices from the menu are varied, and the incentive of no planning, shopping or washing up is very attractive – as well as meeting up with friends from Elkstone and elsewhere.

The booking is 7pm for 7.30pm and a warm, log-fired welcome awaits.

*Further information from Jennie Howlett. Email [ejenniehewlett@gmail.com](mailto:ejenniehewlett@gmail.com) Tel: 870462. Or call in at Church View.*

## Gardens Open Day – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023

As we approach winter, it is a good time to be thinking about summer and our Annual Gardens Open Day. We've fixed a date of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, so please make an early note of this in your diaries. The event raises vitally important funds for the Church and the Village Hall, and is also a great opportunity for the village to work together and show off some of the great gardens we have here.

There is a small group of us that try to organise the day, and we really need your help. At this stage, it would be great to know if you are able and willing to open your garden, or help with the myriad of tasks that need doing on and before the day itself. A small amount of time from you on the day makes all the difference to making everything run smoothly. If you would like to help us with the planning, then our small steering group will be meeting early in the New Year and would welcome your involvement. Just let me know.

*Martyn Wylie. Email [mgw123@btinternet.com](mailto:mgw123@btinternet.com) Tel: 870441 or 07788 912645*

## News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

When I was first elected as a governor in 2016, the Care and Quality Commission (CQC) rating for the trust was 'Requires Improvement'. It improved to 'Good' and everyone was then working to try to achieve 'Outstanding'. It was therefore a huge disappointment that, following the recent CQC inspections, it has been downgraded from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement'. The CQC will re-inspect the services in the next few months.

The pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented and challenging period in the NHS's history. This has led to staff shortages, staff working to exhaustion, and difficult decisions having to be made, including the temporary halting of mandatory training to free staff time for vital work. In addition,

there has been disruption caused by the building work associated with the 'Fit for the Future' goals. Ward disruption has also occurred to make more beds available for COVID patients. The trust during the pandemic continued to offer surgery to people with cancer and other urgent conditions, a decision that undoubtedly saved lives and led to us now having some of the lowest waiting times nationally. Over the last few days, staff at every level have been involved in reflecting on the findings of the CQC report. Those in charge have been honest in accepting the failings that have been listed and, together with a new Chief Operating Officer, are keen now to make the necessary strides forward. Many CQC concerns have already been met and, working with partners, there has been a reduction in ambulance delays.

Despite all the challenges, staff of course continue to do everything possible to deliver the very best care. Whilst the latest CQC rating is a setback, their efforts are acknowledged by the many patients and visitors who have since taken the time to share their own positive experiences.

Finally, please be aware that COVID numbers are once again on the rise in our area. Currently, there are two patients in critical care and 146 inpatients. I myself succumbed recently, although fortunately recovered fairly quickly. It came as a sharp reminder that none of us can let our guard drop.

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

## **Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts – Recruiting Volunteer Advisers**

Do you have 8-10 hours to spare per week and are interested in gaining new skills in a friendly environment? Would you like to do a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding?

Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts is looking for volunteers to help us deliver our service giving information and advice to clients. No prior experience necessary. Our next training programmes starts early 2023.

To find out more about the role and what is involved, please head to our website at [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk)

Information sessions will take place:

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2-3.30pm at Cirencester**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am-12 noon at Stroud**

To register your interest in one of the above sessions, or to have a chat about volunteering with us, please contact -

*Britta Lippiatt, Learning & Development Officer. Email [britta.lippiatt@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:britta.lippiatt@ca-scd.org.uk) Tel: 01285 425543*

## **Cotswold 'Clean and Green Programme'**

Millie Lawlor and Joe Woodfield are the new 'Clean and Green Officers' for the Cotswolds. The initiative is designed to bring people together to take action to maintain and improve the district's beautiful environment. The purpose of these officers is to be available to advise community groups,

Parish and Town Councils, as well as members of the public, who want to take a more active role in looking after their neighbourhoods.

The 'Clean and Green Programme' has a small pot of funding that has been designated for use by parishes, community groups or individuals, to support and effect environmental improvement for the benefit of residents within the communities of Cotswold District Council. Examples of what kind of projects the 'Clean and Green Programme' can help to facilitate are as follows:

**Planting:** Establishing wildflowers, trees, herb gardens and bulbs in communal areas.

**Local improvements:** Cleaning or decorating street furniture (signs, benches, community buildings)

**Educational programmes:** Targeted educational campaigns, litter picking etc.

For more information, email Millie at [millie.lawlor@publicagroup.uk](mailto:millie.lawlor@publicagroup.uk)  
or Joe at [joseph.woodfield@publicagroup.uk](mailto:joseph.woodfield@publicagroup.uk)

## Elkstone Village Newsletter – could you be the new editor?

December will be my last month as editor of the Elkstone village newsletter. Could you be the new editor? It's a great way to contribute to our community and the work involved is just two to three hours each month. Training will of course be provided. To find out more, please contact Jeremy Davies on 870516.

## November Quiz

1. 'No-shave November' raises money to fight which disease?
2. Crystal Palace, the huge glass building that housed the Great Exhibition of 1851 burned down on 30<sup>th</sup> November in which year? a) 1916 b) 1926 c) 1936
3. Which politician resigned as British Prime Minister in 1940 and died in November of the same year?
4. 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 marked the end of the Great War. What is this day known as?
5. November is the only month used in which alphabet?
6. Which Henry was crowned King of England on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1429?
7. He wrote the classic tales 'Treasure Island', 'Kidnapped' and 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' and was born on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1850. Who is this author?
8. Which group first recorded 'Do they know it's Christmas?' on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1984?
9. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605, Guy Fawkes was arrested beneath the Houses of Parliament when a plot was uncovered to blow up which monarch? a) Elizabeth I b) James I c) Charles I
10. On 28<sup>th</sup> November 1919 she was elected Member of Parliament for Plymouth, Devon, becoming Britain's first woman MP. Who was she?

**Quiz answers:** 1. Cancer (specific to men) 2. c) 1936; 3. Neville Chamberlain; 4. Armistice Day; 5. Phonetic; 6. Henry VI; 7. Robert Louis Stevenson; 8. Band Aid; 9. b) James I; 10. Nancy Astor



theWI  
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