

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Summer is almost behind us with warm days now tempered by sharper mornings. Soon it will be time to swap those sandals for boots and go for a brisk walk among the changing leaves. Personally, I love October for its pleasantly cooler temperatures, its red, orange and gold beauty, and because it's a month that seems to inspire thinking and reflection. Roll on, Autumn, the moody and majestic season.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 16th October 2021

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Regular Village Hall Activities

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Indoor Bowls | Every Tuesday, 7.30pm | Ronnie Bury – 870493 or Martyn Wylie – 870441 |
| Art Club | Every Thursday, 9am-1pm | Penny Casewell – 03330 119663 |
| Film and Supper Night | Monthly through the autumn/winter | Jeremy & Anne Davies - 870516 |

Other Dates for your Diary

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| Cuppa and Chinwag | Thursday 7 th October, 7pm-8pm | Graham Hopkins – 07931 124165 |
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Waste & Recycling

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| Waste & Recycling | Food Waste | Every Tuesday |
| Waste & Recycling | All bags, bins, and boxes | Tuesday 5 th and 19 th October |

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 3rd October – 11am Morning Worship with Mark Venn

Sunday 10th October – 10am Morning Prayer with Ruth Edy

Sunday 17th October – 11am Harvest Festival Service with Mark Venn

For more information: <https://www.churnvalley.org.uk/calendar/>

Film and Supper Nights are Resuming

We're very pleased that at last we can resume Film and Supper nights, and on Thursday 21st October, the first film we are featuring is *Nomadland*.

Fern (Frances McDormand), following the closure of a gypsum mine where she worked near the Nevada town she calls home, packs her van, and sets off on the road. Exploring an unconventional life as a modern-day nomad, Fern discovers a resilience and resourcefulness unlike any she's known before. Along the way, she meets other nomads who become mentors in the vast landscape of the American West. Despite the harsh realities of late-stage American capitalism, her experience of heartfelt human interactions despite all adversity makes this a deeply compelling tale of modern times.

The film will be preceded by a fish pie supper starting at 7:00pm, the film starts at 8.00pm. Tickets are £10.00 each for Film + Supper, pre-payment in a marked envelope please through the letterbox of Manor Farm Cottage Elkstone, by 6:00pm on Monday 18th October; film-only attendance is £5.00 each, pay at the door.

Hope to see you there.

Jeremy & Anne Davies 870516

Cuppa and Chinwag

Our thanks to Martyn Wylie for stepping in at short notice to host last month's Cuppa and Chinwag. Happily, Stuart and Jean Pearson are back in circulation and ready to host the October meet-up. This will take place at Bay Tree Barn (south end of the village) on Thursday 7th October at 7pm. All are welcome although, as always, please let us know if you plan to attend so they know how many to expect. Refreshments will be provided.

Graham Hopkins – 07931 124165

Possible Theatre Group

Now that things are returning to something like normal again, I am wondering if any villagers would like to join a Theatre Group. We are quite lucky in so far as we have several theatres within a reasonable commuting distance and there is a wide variety of shows on offer. As a regular theatregoer, I am aware that the whole experience can be enhanced if one is able to go with others, so I'm prepared to take on the task of organising visits if people wish.

As a first step could you register your interest 'in principle' by sending me an email on mgw123@btinternet.com or by a message on my phone 07788 912645. I'll see what interest there is and we can take it from there.

Martyn Wylie

From the Parish Council: Problems Caused by Overgrown Trees

Comments have been received from drivers of larger vehicles that at several points in the village overgrown trees and shrubs are causing difficulties in access. Fire engines, bin wagons and delivery lorries all come through the village and the local authorities have powers to cut back obstructions to the carriageway at the home-owner's cost. However, the Parish Council simply wishes to ask those who potentially have foliage overhanging the road to have a fresh look at it, so as to confirm that they are not contributing to the issue. After all, now that leaves are starting to fall, this is a great time to deal with these matters.

Thank you.

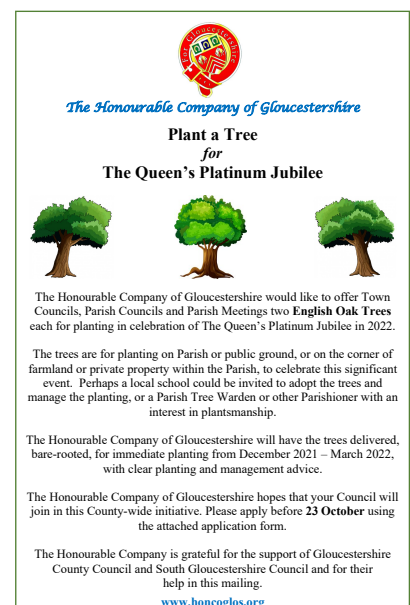
Jane Thorn, Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council. Email: elkstonepc@gmail.com

From the Parish Council: Plant a Tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire is offering local Town Councils and Parish Councils the opportunity to 'Plant a Tree' in celebration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Elkstone Parish Council has applied for the trees on behalf of the village and if anybody has any suggestions of where the trees could be planted, please contact me.

Thank you.

Jane Thorn, Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council. Email: elkstonepc@gmail.com



Churn Valley Community Choir

Rehearsals are under way at the Churn Valley Community Choir every Tuesday evening 7.15pm to 8.45pm at North Cerney Village Hall. In the first weeks, members will sing songs by Carly Simon, The Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, and Verdi. Subs are £5 per rehearsal, and the choir prides itself on being welcoming and inclusive to new as well as experienced singers. You don't need to be able to read music, you don't need to book, you can just turn up and sing! There is a community car park opposite the village hall.

For more information, contact Amanda Morgans via email churnvalleychoir@gmail.com

A417 'Missing Link' Update

Villagers who haven't seen National Highways (Highways England's new name!) updates may be interested in the progress:

- The Development Consent Order (DCO) was submitted in June and accepted by the Planning Inspectorate at the end of June. If it were a building, this would be the equivalent of submitting a planning application.
- The DCO submission had been delayed to reconsider a number of objections from interested parties, and a number of revisions were made to the scheme before it was finally submitted
- The Planning Inspectorate have appointed an 'Examining Authority' (Ken Stone and David Wallis) to scrutinise the DCO and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Examining Authority will receive further written representation and convene public hearings. The process takes about a year.

It is hard to say when construction work could start but in their last update National Highways indicated that, subject to approval, construction work should start in 2023 with the road open to traffic in 2026. National Highways have a large amount of info available on <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/south-west/a417-missing-link>

David Kearney

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The recent Open Day at the Trust showed how the hospital is investing £101m over the coming two years (2021/23) on modernising buildings, transforming services, and providing better patient care at Cheltenham General and Gloucestershire Royal Hospitals.

The investment is aimed at establishing centres of excellence for emergency and planned care and will be used to construct new buildings, provide cutting edge technology, develop pioneering clinical practice, digital transformation, and green initiatives. This will help ensure improved patients' outcomes with the right care, in the right place, at the right time; reduce waiting times; ensure that fewer operations are cancelled; enhance safe staffing levels and attract and retain the very best staff. One innovation on show was a portable X-ray machine, and the staff using it were very enthusiastic about how this was dramatically changing their work for the better.

Led by an art manager (a 12-month post part funded by charities and also by Patient Experience), an artwork contribution showed how creative activity is enhancing the staff and patient experience to support the medical treatment given and thus improve patient welfare. This idea goes back to Florence Nightingale who once wrote "variety of form and brilliancy of colour in the objects presented to patients are actual means of recovery". One such project, Mindful Photography, designed to support those whose mental health and overall wellbeing has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, was shown at Gloucestershire Cathedral. Comments quoted included "A Spa Day in lockdown". (Staff) • "I have felt less lonely and have even made friends" (Patient) and • "Best friends forever" (Inclusion Glos.).

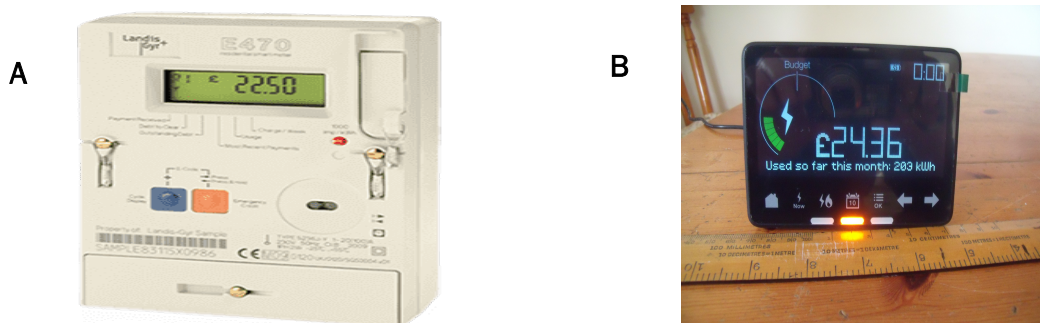
The ending to the event was a video of a special song, put together from contributions from children across Gloucestershire, to say 'thank you' to frontline workers. This was incredible and uplifting and you can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgVk2dkR6SI>

Finally, we must not forget that COVID is still with us. The figures on 14th September are 3 patients in ICU and 24 confirmed patents in other inpatient beds.

Anne Davies (Public Governor for Cotswolds, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) -
Email: anne.davies11@nhs.net

Smart Prepayment Meters May Bring Benefits. Here's How.

We are all becoming more environmentally aware, and a Smart Prepayment Meter can be a first step to making positive change that can help reduce electricity usage, and at the same time save you money. Stroud/Cotswold Citizens Advice offer the following case study article that explain the possible benefits. CA is careful to state that not everyone has such a positive experience from using a Smart Prepayment Meter (SPPM), but this may help you make an informed decision.



Picture A is a Smart Prepayment Meter (SPPM). Picture B is the In-House Display unit (IHD) which displays all the information being collected by the smart meter.

Traditional prepayment meters (PPM) are notorious for giving little information to the user, yet the tariff that most PPMs use are above average in cost. Most energy suppliers provide PPM tariffs that are very similar, so there is little to be gained from switching suppliers. However, PPMs are popular since they avoid the user getting into debt but have the complication of requiring a key, computer, or mobile phone to be used to load the money onto the PPM.

Recently, Citizens Advice was contacted by a client (client B) who had a traditional PPM but had applied for and got a Smart Prepayment Meter installed. With an app on his mobile phone, client B successfully loaded money onto the SPPM. Then the IHD provided him with an enormous amount of information which he used to hunt throughout his house for ways of reducing his electricity and gas usage.

Firstly, the IHD provided 'real time' information on his actual usage. So, taking electricity as the example, Client B switched off all his electrical appliances so that there was no electricity being used. This revealed that there was a faulty electrical socket in which the electricity was arcing between the wires and using 88 watts (annual cost £100+). Switching off all the plugs in this socket stopped the wastage and reduced the usage to zero.

Client B then switched on, one by one, each of the electrical appliances that he needed to run his home, thereby seeing how much electricity each used and assessed what he could do to save electricity. The client used two approaches (1) was to use gas rather than electricity whenever possible because the former is 80% cheaper by, for example, boiling water in a saucepan rather than an electric kettle. And (2) switching off appliances not required. For example, client B found that there was a fan for drawing air into the house to reduce dampness which was totally unnecessary in periods of dry weather - so it was switched off in these periods. The client's action reduced the electricity by half without loss of any necessary appliances while maintaining a home which was kept warm, safe and healthy.

The lesson from this case study is that a Smart Prepayment Meter could give valuable information to consumers which, if used, could save money. Smart meters on their own do not save money, it is the actions taken by the consumer based on the smart meter information which could save money.

For more information, contact Stroud/Cotswold Citizens Advice, Freephone 0808 800 0510 / 0808 800 0511)

The Month of October Quiz

Answers at the bottom of the page. Good luck!

1. The first complete English-language Bible (the Coverdale Bible) was printed in October of which year? a) 1335 b) 1435 or c) 1535
2. In October 1915 the man often regarded as the greatest cricketer of all time died. What was his name?
3. When did the October Revolution take place? a) 1915 b) 1917 c) 1919 or d) 1921
4. In October 1925 who performed the first test of a working television system?
5. In October 1926 this book was published and written by A.A.Milne. What was the book?
6. In October 1936 200 men marched from their home town to Westminster to highlight the poverty caused by the closure of their shipyard. What was the march known as?
7. October 1940 saw the premiere of which Charlie Chaplin film?
8. The United Nations was formed in October 1945. What organisation did it replace?
9. Before its reunification with West Germany in October 1990, what was East Germany known as?
10. The photo sharing app Instagram was founded in October of which year? a) 2008 b) 2010 or c) 2012

Quiz answers: 1. c) 1535; 2. W.G. Grace; 3. b) 1917; 4. John Logie Baird; 5. Winnie the Pooh; 6. The Jarrow March (Crusade); 7. The Great Dictator; 8. The League of Nations; 9. The German Democratic Republic; 10. 2010.