

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone

The Elkstone Editor and Elkstone Village Hall Committee wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Read inside for latest information on roadside Waste collections, Village events and Christmas Services in St John the Evangelist Church.

Take part in the Hall AGM on the 4th December and consider the Village Hall if you are planning an Event or Party.

And everyone is welcome to sing Carols around the village – or open your door to hear the Carol Singers.

Information is on the village website for past newsletters and online Hall Bookings.
www.elkstonevillage.com

Editor: Carole Bury

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com



'Glory' image copyright Carole Bury

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 December 2023

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
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.15 – 11.15am * * Return to the Village Hall * *	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Recycling		
Waste & Recycling	Tuesday 12 December Thursday 28 December Tuesday 9 January	All Waste bins and boxes Waste bins and boxes - NO Garden Waste All Waste bins and boxes
Food Caddy	Tuesdays 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , Thursday 28 December. Wednesday 3rd January	

Continues overleaf. . .

Elkstone Parish Church Services**All are very welcome to the Christmas Services**

Sunday	3	December	11.00am	Advent. Morning Service
Sunday	10	December	11.00am	Advent. Morning Service
Sunday	17	December	3.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday	24	December	11.30pm	Midnight Service

Bell Ringing

Please note the following times and dates when there will be Bell Ringing

Wednesday 29 November 7 – 8.30pm

Some Monday evenings in January/ February/ March 2024

Saturday 22nd June 4-6pm - I will remind you all about these dates.

Great Western Air Ambulance Charity

Thank you to you all who donated to the Air Ambulance over the weekend of our Harvest Supper and Harvest Service. Our final total is a whopping £445.00, for which, the Charity are very grateful to us.
Elkstone Church

Christmas Carol Singing

Thursday 21 December

Meet from 6.30pm in the Hall to congregate and warm our voices up, ready to walk around the village and sing to as many homes as we can manage. We will be leaving about 6.40pm.

Wear warm clothes and bring a torch, we will provide the Carol Sheets. Afterwards we will enjoy refreshments and some festive drinks in the Hall, please bring along contributions of nibbles or drink to make the evening jolly and full of fun.

Carole and Barbara

**Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall**

10 January 2024. Commencing at 7.30pm

Belinda Holder. Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council

Village Hall Cleaning

The hall is a great asset to the village and we need to raise funds to ensure it is well maintained and well used. Key to this is keeping it clean and welcoming. Unfortunately we are about to lose our current cleaner due to personal circumstances and we are therefore looking for someone to carry out this important task. Is there anyone who would like to earn a bit of extra money? The time involved is probably three to four hours a month and can be varied to fit in with other priorities and when the hall is heavily used. We pay £10.50 per hour and the equipment needed is provided.

Please let me know if you are interested. Martyn Wylie 07788912645 or mgw123@btinternet.com

Christmas Quiz 2023

Questions

1. What year was Wham's 'Last Christmas' released.
2. Who sings the first line on 'Do they know it's Christmas' by Band Aid in 1984.
3. Nine Lessons and Carols is broadcast on the BBC from which College.
4. What record is the biggest selling single of all time to not make Christmas No 1.
5. Who shouts? "It's Chriiiiiiiiiiiiiistmaaaaaaas!" The iconic yell of Slade's lead vocalist.
6. Often sung at New Year, who wrote 'Auld Lange Syne'?
7. Who wrote the words, and who composed the music to the Carol - 'In the Bleak Midwinter'?
8. Who had a best selling album at Christmas 2010 called 'The Gift'?
9. Which charity single held off the 'X Factor' winner in the 2011 Christmas chart?
10. What year was the film 'White Christmas' released?
11. The Beatles had four Christmas number ones, which was their first in 1963?
12. The carol 'Joy to the World' is based on which Psalm and who was the carol written by?
13. Which music legend had a 1964 hit with 'Blue Christmas'?
14. Who had a hit in 1985 with the theme tune to 'The Snowman' - 'Walking in the Air'?
15. What is the only band in the history of the UK singles charts to have achieved Christmas number one twice with the same song?

Answers

1. 1986
2. Paul Young
3. Kings College Cambridge
4. 'Last Christmas' by Wham
5. Noddy Holder
6. Robert Burns.
7. Christina Rossetti wrote the poem and Gustav Holst composed the music.
8. Susan Boyle.
9. Military Wives with 'Wherever You Are'
10. 1954
11. 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand'
12. Psalm 98 and written by Isaac Watts in 1719
13. Elvis Presley
14. Aled Jones
15. Queen - with Bohemian Rhapsody in 1975 and 1991

The Old rectory, Colesbourne

The Old Rectory Restaurant now has Christmas gift Vouchers that slip nicely into greetings cards and can be purchased for any amount so your friends and family can enjoy the fabulous food on offer. Valid for 12 months they are proving popular. Also a new pick up/drop off service is available for restaurant bookings within 8 mile radius. Call 01242 870120 or see the website for more information.

Regards, Jason

Really Simple Cranberry Sauce

Ingredients

100g light muscovado sugar
100ml orange juice, Fresh or Carton
250g fresh or frozen cranberries

Method

Tip the sugar and orange juice into a pan and bring to the boil.
Stir in the Cranberries and simmer for about 5 minutes
The sauce will thicken as it cools. Will keep in the fridge for 1 week.

Living Alone in Elkstone

Sylvie's funeral is to be held this coming week as I write this piece for the newsletter.

Her untimely death has made some of us think a bit more about the ramifications of living alone and we have been considering if we can take any extra precautions. Some of what follows may be of wider interest but it is, of course, mainly relevant for those of us who live on our own. Immediate thoughts are:

- Make sure at least one neighbour has a key to your house or purchase a key safe and let someone know the code.
- Do NOT leave your own key in the door as this can prevent anyone using the spare key
- Let your neighbours have a family or close friend contact number and also let them know if you are going to be away.
- It might be practical to share with others any signs that you are not well or have fallen by the fact that something that always happens, like drawing curtains.
- Falls are of course a major issue. Carrying a mobile phone at all times can be useful.
- Cotswold District Council run a system called Careline which provides an alarm to a manned facility in case of an emergency using a pendant or wristband.
(cotswoldcareline@fdean.gov.uk)
- Age UK have a similar system which will work anywhere using GPS.
(personalalarms.ageco.co.uk)
- If you have a neighbour or friend who lives alone do check with them periodically. If you really think something is wrong alert the police who will react and use the powers that they have.

The above is not comprehensive and is meant purely to be helpful.

Martyn

Village Hall Annual General Meeting - Monday 4 December 7.00 pm

Our AGM will take place at the Village Hall and all in the village and locality are very welcome to attend as we discuss various topics including the finances for the year ended 30th September 2023 as well as agreeing a recommended budget for the current year. Several families have moved in to Elkstone the last year, it would be wonderful if some could attend and perhaps form new friendships as well!

Restrictions on Hall hirings and revenues while COVID prevailed meant that we had to be cautious with expenditures; hopefully we are now in a position to implement some overdue replacements and upgrades – the committee has a list of recommendations in this regard, which will form part of the evening's business as we confirm the budget

So, if you have opinions about new or existing facilities at the hall or any other improvements you'd like to see, this is the time to express them! There will also be a discussion regarding the future of the Newsletter, more on this appears below.

There will also be a session to discuss and set a date for Open Gardens 2024 which usually takes place in June; all are welcome to contribute ideas around features, events, promotion etc

After the formal proceedings, there will be 'Punch 'n Munch' social which is always an enjoyable get-together - we hope to see you there!

If you cannot attend, but you would like to comment on any topic regarding the Hall, please email agm@elkstonevillage.com

Elkstone Village Newsletter – the future

As a brief prelude to 'the future', it is only fitting that we recognise the wonderful printing services provided for us for some years at very reasonable cost by Wendy Nichols, Print Manager at Cotswold District Council. Her great skills at producing excellent quality newsletters (no matter how close to print date we were with copy) were amazing – however, the District Council has seen fit to cut back to only providing statutory services, and sadly her department has been disbanded – she will be greatly missed. Community newsletters for many parishes in this locality have been likewise affected, and some are actually ceasing to publish altogether, though some are resorting to e-mailed distribution of PDF versions only. We are pleased we have alternative printing arrangements, it remains to be seen if this is sustainable in the long term.

To the future: Carole Bury has previously indicated that she would like to step back from this role at the end of this year, but has kindly agreed to continue mid 2024 when the edition which precedes Open Gardens, and that which follows have published. As mentioned above, we really want the print edition to survive for the simple reason that some 40% of the community we serve do not have access to digital facilities, it would be so wrong for 'locality news' to be cut off from them.

The future evolution of the Newsletter must necessarily take account of the widespread adoption of social media, notably WhatsApp. We therefore hope that a new Editor can take up the role from Carole before long, and become a significant contributor in shaping its future. if you'd like to find out more, do please write in the first instance to editor@elkstonevillage.com

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds shares tips for how to save money on your energy bills

As people across Stroud and Cotswolds Districts face another winter of high energy bills, Citizens Advice shares how small changes can make a big difference when it comes to saving energy and lowering costs.

The charity has teamed up with the Energy Saving Trust to share advice on getting help if you are struggling with energy bills and tips on how to cut energy costs around the home.

People can make simple changes to save money on their energy bills and don't need to wait until the colder months to do so. These include:

- Washing clothes at 30°C could save around £15 per year - and reducing the number of wash cycles by one per week could save a further £15.
- Reducing shower time to four minutes could save a typical household as much as £75 a year.
- Swapping one bath a week for a four-minute shower could save an average of £17 a year.
- Avoiding overfilling the kettle could save around £12 a year on electricity.
- Draught-proofing windows and doors will help your home feel warmer and could save around £50 a year on bills.
- Turning appliances off at the wall/plug when you're not using them could save an average of £60 a year.
- Turning the thermostat down by 1°C could save around £115 a year.

Installing a Smart Meter can help people get better control of their energy use and budgets. Smart meters come with an In-home Display Unit (IHD) that shows how much you're using and its cost, almost as you use it – in real time. The government has instructed all energy suppliers to offer households a smart meter by 2025. You don't have to have one but may benefit from reduced tariffs with some suppliers. The government estimates that customers with smart meters save an average of £50 a year.

Check you're getting all the support you're entitled to...

Lifestyle changes won't be possible for everyone and may not be enough to cover the hole in household budgets caused by higher prices, so Citizens Advice is also urging people to check they're getting all the support they're entitled to. This could include:

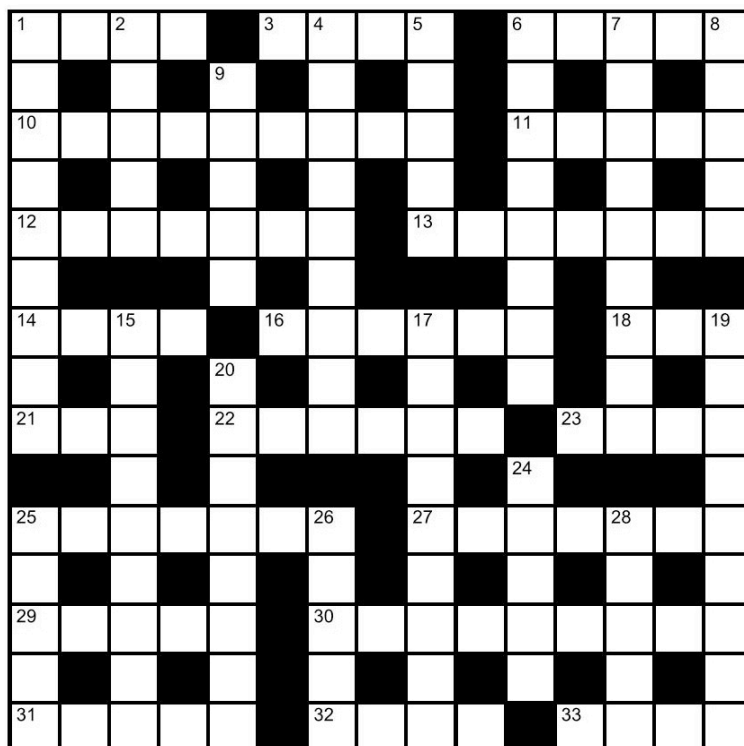
- ☐ Checking what benefits you're entitled to by using a benefits calculator
- ☐ Warm Home Discount – a £150 annual discount if you get certain benefits
- ☐ Cold weather payments – payments if you get certain benefits and the weather is extremely cold
- ☐ Grants from your energy supplier – to help you pay off debts you may owe

For more information, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

If you owe money to your energy supplier, you should speak to them as soon as possible. They're responsible for helping you find a way to pay your bills.

Contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511
www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk

Finally, seasonal puzzle for our readers – a little hint – the asterisked * clues have a common theme – try to identify it first!



Across

- 1 Case of tree (bay) (4)
- 3 See 23
- 6 * Trumpeters appear pale in a ship (5)
- 10 Terribly egocentric with no time for porter (9)
- 11 * Reportedly praises cricket ground (5)
- 12 Time to peg out - dash about getting in the way (7)
- 13 Note development of a cult - really! (7)
- 14 Transported bird of prey - there's no alternative (4)
- 16 * They blow softly in seaside features (6)
- 18 Thanks Penny, but it's not very much (3)
- 21 Father shortened a knight's address (3)
- 22 * New ideals for cultured women (6)
- 23/3 * They are on the beat - policeman arrests stranger (8)
- 25 Manages assorted credits (7)
- 27 Prevent grump re empty bottles (3-4)
- 29 Record "divide by zero" without inspector (5)
- 30 I hid spasm, shaken to the core on board (9)
- 31 The fish reeked! (5)
- 32 * Strangely, she wears new layers (4)
- 33 Apply lipsalve evenly, Lewis... (4)

Down

- 1 Unexpected drawbacks send us in this direction (9)
- 2 * Gym equipment buzzes (5)
- 4 Idle Barry became a worm catcher (5,4)
- 5 Quiet! One of Santa's team is watching you from here (5)
- 6 "Cos Miles" needs to be corrected. It's a grammatical mistake (8)
- 7 Play it like Clapton, no strings attached! (3,6)
- 8 Fibre optics is always secured (5)
- 9 * Offers to cage rook or rooks (5)
- 15 * Some high ground for game (9)
- 17 Former English politician into complicated dispensation (9)
- 19 Ed's team is playing for a small cup (9)
- 20 Loss of consciousness, need to stop fight? (8)
- 24 * Some we see going west may be wild (5)
- 25 * Cote residents not into fighting (5)
- 26 The horde was hidden by the first ashore (5)
- 28 * Is mad about girls (5)

(The answers appear on the reverse side of this page)

bark	1 Case of tree (bay) (4)
3 See 23	
Swans	6 * Trumpeters appear pale in a ship (5)
conierge	10 Terribly egocentric with no time for porter (9)
Lords	11 * Reportedly praises cricket ground (5)
washday	12 Time to peg out - dash about getting in the way (7)
factual	13 Note development of a cult - really! (7)
rapt	14 Transported bird of prey - there's no alternative (4)
pipers	16 * They blow softly in seaside features (6)
tad	18 Thanks Penny, but it's not very much (3)
sir	21 Father shortened a knight's address (3)
ladies	22 * New ideals for cultured women (6)
DrumMers	23/3 * They are on the beat - policeman arrests stranger (8)
directs	25 Manages assorted credits (7)
pre-empt	27 Prevent group re empty bottles (3-4)
video	29 Record "divide by zero" without inspector (5)
amidships	30 I hid spasm, shaken to the core on board (9)
smelt	31 The fish reeked! (5)
Hens	32 * Strangely, she wears new layers (4)
isle	33 Apply lipsalve evenly, Lewis... (4)
Down	
backwards	1 Unexpected drawbacks send us in this direction (9)
Rings	2 * Gym equipment buzzes (5)
early bird	4 Idle Barry became a worm catcher (5,4)
shelf	5 Quiet! One of Santa's team is watching you from here (5)
solecism	6 "Cos Miles" needs to be corrected. It's a grammatical mistake (8)
air guitar	7 Play it like Clapton, no strings attached! (3,6)
sisal	8 Fibre optics is always secured (5)
Birds	9 * Offers to cage rook or rooks (5)
Partridge	15 * Some high ground for game (9)
exemption	17 Former English politician into complicated dispensation (9)
demitasse	19 Ed's team is playing for a small cup (9)
blackout	20 Loss of consciousness, need to stop fight? (8)
Geese	24 * Some we see going west may be wild (5)
Doves	25 * Cote residents not into fighting (5)
stash	26 The horde was hidden by the first ashore (5)
Maids	28 * Is mad about girls (5)
Across	