



ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Editor's Bumbings...

This is the final newsletter of the strangest year I've ever lived through & this may be the last that I write, as I would like to pass on the baton of editorship to a fresh pair of eyes.

If anyone is keen to take it on, please do send me an email & we can take it from there.

I'm writing this on a crisp, cold & frosty morning, with one son at home self-isolating, one begrudgingly on a bus heading to school shivering in a pair of pe shorts, a very lonely father stuck in France & with Christmas heading towards us highlighting what would normally be a lovely, social family period, I can honestly say all I want for Christmas is a vaccine.

I really hope you are all still able to check in on each other & are finding small pockets of joy that can be found closer to home away from the news, the views & nature which envelop Elkstone are those for me.

The Winstone Community Pop Up is such a lovely idea & exactly why living in a village is mostly, a true privilege.

Wishing you all the best possible Christmas & here's to a wonderful 2021, hopefully leaving 2020 to the history books!

Laure, editor@elkstonevillage.com Deadline For Next Newsletter, 20th December

Features

Winstone Community Pop Up
 Elkstone Village Hall Virtual AGM
 Christmas Meal 2020 Update
 Children's Society
 Update on Auction of Joyce Haslam's Paintings
 News From The Trust

Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste – Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 1 st , 15 th & <u>nb</u> Weds 30th December
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493 Postponed
Art Club	Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663 Postponed
Relaxation Sessions	Village Hall TBA – info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

Diary Dates

Winstone Community Pop Up	Winstone Glebe	Every Saturday	5.30-7.30pm
Village Hall AGM	Remote on Zoom	10 th November	7.30pm

Elkstone Parish Church

We have full services planned for Advent & Christmas in the Parish.

This is hoping that we can meet in the church due to Covid -19, we will let you know if there are changes to these arrangements, as it'll be back to Zoom & YouTube

www.churnvalley.org.uk.

The Church porch will always be open, & as usual the Food Bank donation box is collected every Tuesday morning. Please do consider popping some groceries & toiletries into the box, there are some very needy families in our local area.

Normally the Church is always open for private prayer, of course do make full use of the hand sanitiser that is provided.

December Church Services

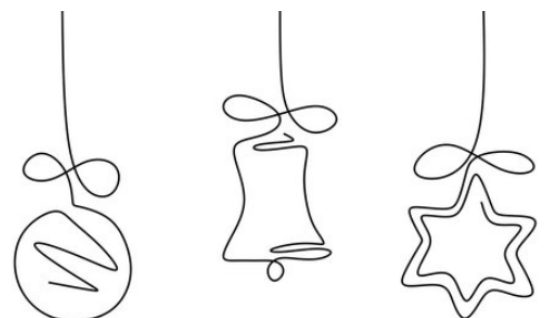
6 th	11am	Morning Worship Rev	David Minns
13 th	3pm	*Drive - in Carol Service*	In Colesbourne opposite the Garage
20 th	11am	Crib & Carol Service	Revd Arthur Champion
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Service	Rev Arthur Champion
Christmas Day	11am	Christmas Service	Rendcomb Church
Christmas Day	11am	Holy Communion Service	Rev Cliff Pooley at Cowley Church
Sunday 27 th	No Service		

Elkstone Village Hall Virtual AGM

The Annual General Meeting is to take place on Thursday 10th December starting at 7.30pm. Due to COVID restrictions the AGM will be conducted online via Zoom this year, so if you would like to attend, would you please email agm@elkstonevillage.com with your name & address, & in response you will receive an email with the Agenda & Reports, together with instructions on how to join the meeting. If you have not used Zoom before & would like help with setting this up, then please include this information & your contact number in your email & you will receive assistance by phone in good time.

Please note that attendance & voting is restricted to residents of Elkstone, as the Hall's primary purpose is to be an amenity for their use.

Jeremy Davies Chair - Elkstone Village Hall Committee



Christmas Meal 2020

At this time last year & on many previous years' decisions on menus, requests for payment & discussions on dates at The Green Dragon were underway. But sadly, not this year. The virus has changed so many plans for all of us. Hopefully we can get together again for a celebratory meal in 2021. We will miss being together (not socially distanced), enjoying festive food & wine while admiring their amazing decorations.

Recently The Green Dragon won a Good Food Award for Gastro Pubs. Congratulations.

Jennie Howlett

Children's Society House Boxes

During January I usually collect The Children's Society house boxes, empty them & deposit the proceeds for this charity in the bank before returning them. Because of these uncertain times I have decided to wait until later in the year to complete this. Please continue to fill up your boxes - even though so few of us are using cash at the moment. There are still children who need all the help they can get & in these strange times may be even more vulnerable.

If you wish you can make a donation to:

childrenssociety.org.uk

Jennie Howlett

Winstone Community Pop Up Saturday 14th November

We think that having something to look forward to in lockdown & winter is really important. That is why we have decided to open the Winstone Community pop up take away that will run every Saturday until further notice.

On offer will be delicious take away meals which will be a main course & a pudding.

We will run from 5.30-7.30pm & will be located in Winstone Glebe garage, Croft Lane.

You can do a drive through if easier in the wet & dark, & food will be passed safely to you in your car. Alternatively, potter down & we will take your orders, you can wait in the dry & collect your food. All precautions will be taken to ensure that we all remain safe & well.

There will be a meat option & a vegetarian option (gluten free) & simple children's food.

All lovingly made at home.

Adults £10

Children £6

Polly 07941 672296 & Amelia 07912 028388

polly.@hasslefreeweekends.co.uk



Update on The Auction of the Late Joyce Haslam's Paintings

As I'm sure you know, a sealed bid auction took place during the weekend of 24th & 25th October in the Village Hall which had been made "Covid secure" in line with Government legislation. More to the point some 15 paintings were purchased by local residents raising nearly £500 in total.

Earlier in the year Elkstone Good Neighbours Initiative had received a local authority grant of £500 for helping neighbours during the C-19 pandemic. Later they were disappointed to learn that LA rules prohibited any money going to the parish church. Therefore, the village hall committee have generously donated £400 from the auction to the parish church whilst retaining the residual to cover their costs on the website, heating & lighting during two days of the exhibition etc.

This means we still have 20 watercolour paintings available. These will soon be identified on the village website: https://www.elkstonevillage.com/?page_id=4764

In January we intend to re-auction the remaining pictures online with a reduced reserve price of £10. Parish Link magazine & other means will be used to invite bids from residents of nearby villages such as Winstone & Syde. If any paintings are still left by the autumn these can be auctioned off at our Harvest Festival & the proceeds split equally between parish church & village hall.

Please watch out for details in the January Newsletter.

News From The Trust, A Reflection On 2020

When the COVID pandemic broke in March 2020 the Trust was ready with supplies & it put in various changes to accommodate the huge increase patients being admitted, many of whom were critically ill. All the staff, including the board, nurses & doctors, & the allied health professionals responded magnificently as the pressure built up. Retired employees came back to work, the number of volunteers working in the hospitals increased & the public sector support was outstanding. The staff of our subsidiary company, Gloucester Managed Services, also worked constantly to ensure a clean & safe environment, provide porters & keep patients fed.

The personal toll on the staff however was enormous as they worked long shifts, moved across wards & departments & into new roles to fulfil need & all the time wearing full PPE. Tired, anxious, concerned about their own health & that of their families they still went above & beyond to put patient care first. Those working in critical care had the added emotional burden of looking after critically ill & dying patients whose families could not be with them. Some wonderful messages of appreciation were received which boosted morale but even so, as the second wave comes in, many are still struggling to recover from what they have already been through.

A comprehensive wellbeing support hub was established & about 8,000 staff approached it for advice & care. Freedom to Speak Up Guardians are always there, with the aim of helping all

staff to feel safe, to raise concerns in a confidential & supportive environment, & peer buddies also offer a support network. Staff were encouraged to rest whenever they could, & to break out for a while if they felt overwhelmed, sanctuary rooms for this were made available.

The second wave of the pandemic has now hit & although the number of inpatients is rising rapidly, fortunately very few are in critical care. Changes made to various services because of the pandemic have proved to be beneficial to both staff & patients & will continue. The innovative digital progress made has had a huge impact, freeing up staff time allowing them to be more 'on the ward', allowing consultants to assess patients without having to travel far, & enabling virtual visiting for families. The virtual ward will allow for earlier discharge for patients safe in the knowledge that their progress at home will be continuously monitored. Partners in the Integrated Care Services are working more closely together. The Trust has also been selected as one of only 3 pilot sites in the South West to be able to introduce twice weekly tests for frontline staff.

Gloucestershire is currently the best performing system in the South West with respect to the national ask of restoring planned activity to pre-pandemic levels. Of note is our outpatient & inpatient activity levels which are currently exceeding activity done in the same period last year & our ability to still deliver CT & MRI imaging within the national 6-week standard. We have been rated once again with a 5* for food hygiene following a surprise visit from Environmental Health. Moving forward, after Public consultation, plans from the Trust on changes for Fit for The Future have now restarted. A new website Get Involved in Gloucestershire has been established where you can see the details of the proposals & have your say <https://getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk>.

Finally, a governor's role includes not only holding the Non-Executive Directors to account, but also being an essential link between the communities that we represent & the board, ensuring that everyone's views are heard. I would therefore like to finish by saying a huge thank you to the editors of various local newsletters who not only publish my news & give me timely reminders, but who also feedback the comments they receive. I would also like to thank those of you who contact me personally.

I will continue to keep you informed so that together we can help ensure that the services the Trust provides reflect the need & priorities of those it serves.

I send to you all my best wishes & keep safe.

Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor)

