

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



This December's issue marks the end of a second COVID-19 year. Sadly, the world still seems to be in the grip of the pandemic, and no doubt there are still difficult months ahead as winter progresses. Yet the success of the vaccination programme has brought hope and a little more freedom too. Many of us are looking forward to the Elkstone Christmas meal at the Green Dragon Inn, which could not go ahead in 2020. In addition, the newsletter has information about two planned theatre outings early next year. These are signs we are starting to live with the virus and there is light ahead.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas and New Year, and here's to a bright 2022.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th December 2021

Features

- New Churchyard Bench
- Elkstone Parish Church Services
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- Film and Supper Evenings – December and January
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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

Other Dates for your Diary

Christmas Meal	Green Dragon Inn, Thursday 9 th December, 7pm	Jennie Howlett – 870462
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Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 14 th and 28 th December



New Churchyard Bench

You will have noticed this beautiful new bench in our churchyard.

The bench was provided by Richard and Peter Austen and features a lovely inscription in memory of their mother Lindy and her partner Trevor Price. Many villagers will recall the Price family as an integral part of the Elkstone village community and indeed some of us live in houses or on land which once formed part of their farm. Trevor was, for a long time, Chairman of the Parish Council, keen participant of the Gardens Open Day, and avid supporter of the village Bowls Club. Springfield House, where he and Lindy resided, was a happy venue where various village social events were held.

Trevor passed away at Malvern View Care Home in June 2018. Lindy died almost exactly two years later in 2020.

This photo is of Lindy's granddaughter – along with the family dog - taking a seat after the brief dedication service carried out by the Revd David Minns on Saturday 13th November. Richard Austen later wrote: *“Many, many thanks for organising such a wonderful event. . .It was a big surprise and very moving to see so many people in attendance and Rev Minns came up with a service that was spot on. It means a great deal to me and I am sure that Peter feels the same.”*

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 5th December – 11am **Morning Worship** with Mark Venn.

Sunday 12th December – 3.30pm **Crib and Craft Service**. Geoff Gait-Carr will be leading this children's service where there will be a craft area to make nativity scenes. The children will also be invited to sing and act.

Sunday 19th December – 3.30pm **Carols and Lessons** with the Revd Cliff Pooley.

Friday 24th December – 11.30pm **Midnight Communion** with Mark Venn.

Christmas Meal at the Green Dragon Inn

The Lower Bar on Thursday 9th December has been booked for our sole use from 7pm. I have received a good number of menu choices for the meal and await those outstanding. The menu is available on their website: green-dragon-inn.co.uk and I have paper copies if required. The cost is £30 (an extra £2.50 for tea/coffee) to include a tip and this can be paid either by cash, by cheque payable to E. J. Howlett or by BACS.

The decorations at the Green Dragon Inn are always memorable and I look forward to seeing the bar filled with light and laughter.

Jennie Howlett – email ejenniehowlett@gmail.com or call 01242 870462

Theatre Group

I am pleased to say we have arranged our first two theatre visits for next February and March, to see **Private Lives** and **Chicago**. Both are playing at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham. If anyone would like further details, or to be kept informed about future plans, then please contact me.

Martyn Wylie – email mgw123@btinternet.com or call 07788 912645

Cuppa and Chinwag

Our thanks to Ann and Nic Williamson for hosting an enjoyable November event.

With the Christmas meal at the Green Dragon Inn in early December, as well as the start of theatre outings in the new year, there's a sense that it's time to let Cuppa and Chinwag come to a natural end. You will remember this all started as a regular online get-together in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, which already seems so long ago. Since the summer we started to meet up in person, and our thanks to everyone who has kindly hosted in recent months. Cuppa and Chinwag has served its purpose in providing an uplifting initiative for many of us during the difficult period of lockdown. Fingers crossed, we are well out of that now.

Graham Hopkins – 07931 124165

Film and Supper Evenings – December and January

The busy festive season makes it impractical to stage a film and supper evening in December, but we look forward to welcoming everyone for our January feature on Thursday 20th January when subject to exhibition licensing being available (and taking account of feedback from villagers!) we hope to run **No Time to Die**, the most recent James Bond release. Please watch for further details in the January Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Jeremy & Anne Davies – 01242 870516

From the Parish Council: Looking to appoint a Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

The Parish Council is looking to appoint a Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The part time position is approximately 5 hours per week home working on a flexible basis and to include attendance at the Parish Council Meetings which are held 7 times a year on Wednesday evenings in the Village Hall. Duties would include the administration of Parish Council meetings, preparation of agendas, taking minutes and following up actions as required. As Responsible Financial Officer, you will administer all the Council's financial affairs.

A job description is available, and Councillors would be pleased to discuss salary with you.

To apply, please contact a Parish Councillor or Jane Thorn, Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council.

Email: elkstonepc@gmail.com

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The trust is again extremely busy, with activity in urgent and emergency care more redolent of winter months. Whilst some routine surgery has been cancelled, the priority remains to ensure that patients who are clinically urgent continue to be operated upon. The rise in COVID-19 related hospital admissions means visiting restrictions are again in place. The majority of those admitted with COVID-19 are either unvaccinated or have waning antibody levels pending their booster vaccination. However, those who have been vaccinated are showing less severe symptoms.

The long ambulance delays that are being seen are in large part due to a lack of available beds for those patients requiring admission. As I write, 193 patients are ready for discharge but 160 of these need post discharge social care which is proving difficult. Sadly, 82 have been waiting for more than ten days, which is exposing them to greater risk.

Anne Davies (Public Governor for Cotswolds, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) -

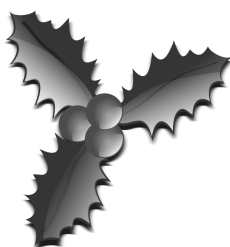
The Month of December Quiz

Answers at the bottom of the page. Good luck!

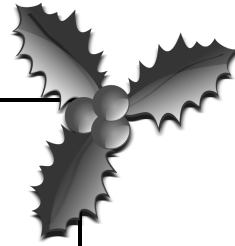
1. In what year was the first public performance by Bing Crosby of Irving Berlin's song "White Christmas"? a) 1941 b) 1945 c) 1949 d) 1953
2. Which country donates the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square each year?
3. What gifts did the Three Wise Men give Jesus on his birthday?
4. Where does the Christmas flower poinsettia originate from? a) Spain b) Brazil c) USA d) Mexico
5. In which year was the original Christmas movie "Miracle on 34 Street" first released? a) 1945 b) 1947 c) 1949 d) 1951
6. Who is the patron saint celebrated on 26th December?
7. How many reindeer does Santa have? a) 7 b) 8 c) 9 d) 10

and because it's Christmas, an extra point for every one of Santa's reindeers you can name.

8. What is the most common date for the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere? (The winter solstice marks the 24-hour period with the fewest daylight hours of the year)
9. Which saint's day is celebrated on 6th December?
10. According to the song "Twelve Days of Christmas", your true love brings nine of these on the ninth day of Christmas. What are they? a) pipers piping b) maids-a-milking c) ladies dancing d) lords-a-leaping



Quiz answers: 1. a) 1941; 2. Norway; 3. Gold, Myrrh and Frankincense; 4. d) Mexico; 5. b) 1947; 6. Saint Stephen; 7. c) 9 – the reindeer were Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Fancer, Vixen, Dancer, Donner, and then Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer; 8. 21st December; 9. Saint Nicholas; 10. c) Ladies dancing



**CHRISTMAS
at Elkstone Church**



**Sunday 12th December
at 3.30 p.m.
CRIB & CRAFT SERVICE**

**Sunday 19th December
at 3.30 p.m.
CAROLS & LESSONS**

**Friday 24th December
at 11.30 p.m.
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**