

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year, all. For many of us, Christmas 2021 didn't turn out quite as originally planned but having succumbed to an unpleasant non-Covid virus in the run-up to the festive season, it's a reminder that trying to keep well is really very important. Graham and I were disappointed to have to pull out of the Christmas meal at the Green Dragon at the last minute, but very glad to hear that it was a success. As we start 2022, let's keep our fingers crossed that there is a better year ahead and we can look forward to more occasions when we can come together as a village community. In the meantime, please note that one or more of the events mentioned below may be subject to late change if fresh social distancing measures have been introduced by the time you receive this newsletter, so do check with the organiser. Stay well, everyone.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th January 2022

Features

- Elkstone Parish Church Services
- Christingle Service
- Film and Supper Evening
- Local Metal Detectorist: Can You Help?
- News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Citizens Advice: Don't Forget to Claim your State Pension
- General Knowledge Quiz: Remembering 2021

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 |

Other Dates for your Diary

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|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Elkstone Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall, Wednesday 12 th January, 8pm | Jane Thorn – elkstonepc@gmail.com |
| Film and Supper Evening | Village Hall, Thursday 20 th January, 7pm | <i>Jeremy and Anne Davies</i> – 870516 |

Waste & Recycling

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| Waste & Recycling | Food Waste | Every Tuesday |
| Waste & Recycling | All bags, bins, and boxes | Tuesday 11 th and 25 th January |

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 2nd January – 11am **Christingle Service** with the Revd Jan Moore.

Sunday 9th January – 10am **Morning Worship** with Ruth Edy.

Sunday 16th January – 11am **Holy Communion** (by ext.) with Mark Venn.

Sunday 30th January – 11am **United Benefice Service** with the Revd David Minns.

Christingle Service

As I am sending this article for the Elkstone Newsletter today (19th December), there is a degree of uncertainty for future arrangements when we gather inside our church.

Hopefully we will be able to go ahead with our candlelit Christingle Service on 2nd January at 11am. I intend to make the Christingles and will leave them in the church for anyone to collect if there is a further lock down. Please take one home and light it in a prominent window to offer some hope for the coming months.

Usually, house boxes are brought to the Christingle Service and the money from these as well as the offertory from the service go to the Children's Society. These donations make a real, lasting difference to the lives of so many children. One teenager living in a violent home commented, "I feel like everyone else deserves the help I got" after she was supported by a Children's Society project worker. There are many other examples of how the money is spent helping children cope with difficult circumstances.

Collecting the house boxes may be delayed yet again but I will complete this soon if the 2nd January service is postponed/cancelled.

The Children's Society website at childrenssociety.org.uk has information on how the money is spent.

Happy New Year.

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

Film and Supper Evening – Thursday 20th January

We open the New Year (subject to display licensing and COVID regulations) with a real paradox – a grand finale...

In *No Time to Die*, Bond has left active service and is enjoying a tranquil life in Jamaica. His peace is short-lived when his old friend Felix Leiter from the CIA turns up asking for help. The mission to rescue a kidnapped scientist turns out to be far more treacherous than expected, leading Bond onto the trail of a mysterious villain armed with dangerous new technology. This being the last Bond film with Daniel

Craig in the lead, it brings together the various aspects of his nonconformist interpretation of James Bond in a most satisfying way, with no compromises over the latest and most dangerous gadgets.

The film will be preceded by a sausage casserole supper starting at 7pm, the film starts at 8pm. Tickets are £10 a head for Film + Supper. Payment in a marked envelope, please, through the letterbox of Manor Farm Cottage by 6pm on Monday 17th January. Film only attendance is £5 each, pay at the door.

Hope to see you there.

Jeremy & Anne Davies -870516

Local Metal Detectorist: Can You Help?

My name is Ben Curme. I am a metal detectorist and have spent the past couple of years searching a small piece of land owned by Mr and Mrs Williamson of Swallows, Manor Farm. On this land I have found silver roman coins, bronze roman coins, a bronze roman ring, silver hammered medieval coins, 17th century trade tokens, medieval jettons and most recently a medieval silver finger ring which is going through the Treasure Act (1996). The Corinium Museum in Cirencester is interested in acquiring this piece.

Elkstone clearly has a rich history and I wonder if there would be any landowners in Elkstone who would be willing to allow me to detect on their land. I am fascinated by history and love to share my passion with landowners - I send pictures of all my finds following my visits and Mr and Mrs Williamson will happily provide me with a reference. I would love to share my knowledge of the finds with any local people if they are interested. I can provide images of my finds from Elkstone if required. The parcel of land known as "the Pound" is very interesting to me as the old footpath that leads through from the Swallows land goes on to the Pound and then the church. I believe this is owned by the Parish Council and I would be grateful; if you know whom I might contact at the council to ask for permission. I am a 39-year old father of 3 girls and Operations Director of a Property Management Company. I am fully insured via the National Council of Metal Detecting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ben Curme - email ben@yourabode.co.uk

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Varying news from the Trust this month. Encouragingly, very positive work has been started on developing a mental health strategy based on input from experts with experience in this field. Secondly, following the recent aborted election of a young person as a governor, action is underway to give young people a formal voice within the Trust.

Next, I must address the recent ITV news report NHS from staff working in Gloucestershire hospitals who reported that they would be "really worried" to have treatment there. Since the report was aired, many staff members have written to those in charge, supporting the same managers and leaders that others have felt let down by. A CQC inspection of A & E was reassuring, with positive feedback from

families that said that they felt well cared for and heard, and from staff that they felt respected and listened to. The report also commended the appointment of a person whose role is to look after patients' needs while they wait. Everybody has the right to speak out, but to do so respectfully. I remain confident that the Trust's Executive Team understand the issues and are seeking to address them.

The current crisis within the NHS as a whole is inevitably taking a huge toll on the staff as summed up in a post on the hospital Twitter account, which read, "I'm not going to lie, I'm exhausted. Work presents daily challenges and just when I think I'm at my limit, I am tested again. But I am and will continue to be grateful for the fabulous people I work with. Always awesome, every single one of them." I think this is probably a true reflection of how nearly all staff are feeling. They deserve our recognition and thanks, and we must do our bit by keeping ourselves safe.

After a difficult year we can only hope for an easier 2022 and I send you all my best wishes.

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

Citizens Advice (Stroud & Cotswold Districts): Don't forget to claim your State Pension!

In years past you would have received your State Retirement Pension automatically. You may not be aware but this is no longer the case, so you will have to claim it to receive it! At Citizens Advice, we have been contacted by an increasing number of people who did not realise that this was the case.

You should get a letter from the Pension Service no later than 2 months before your 66th birthday (which is the current State Pension Age) telling you what to do to claim your pension. If you do not receive this letter, you can still make a claim in the 4 months up to reaching your state pension age.

It is important to claim your State Pension as soon as you can, as there may be delays in payment if you leave claiming it too close to your 66th birthday, which could lead to financial difficulties for some people.

How to claim. The quickest way to get your State Pension is to apply online at www.gov.uk/get-state-pension but if you don't have access to the internet you can request a form by calling the Pension Service on 0800 731 7898.

You can check your State Pension age online at www.gov.uk/state-pension-age

Get a forecast of how much money you might get at www.gov.uk/check-state-pension

Further information on the State Pension is at www.gov.uk/new-state-pension or see our website – www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Some of our clients have experienced delays after claiming, which has caused them financial hardship. If you need any help to claim your State Pension or experience problems with claiming, contact one of

our friendly advisers at **Stroud and Cotswold Citizens Advice**. Please call 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm (calls are free from landlines and most mobiles).
or use our online email page at www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php

We are now able to see a limited number of clients whose problem cannot be dealt with on the phone in person at our Cirencester office. Due to Covid, we cannot offer drop-in sessions, but if you need face-to-face advice you can be seen by appointment only. We are planning to open our outreach sessions gradually from December onwards.

With thanks to Penny Casewell for providing this article.

General Knowledge Quiz: Looking back on 2021

Answers at the bottom of the page. Good luck!

1. The Zoom meeting of a UK council went viral in 2021, with one guest memorably exclaiming, "You do not have the authority, Jackie Weaver!" What was the name of the council?
2. A new £50 note entered circulation in June 2021. Which mathematician is celebrated on the new note?
3. A legal dispute hit the headlines in April 2021 when Colin launched legal proceedings against Cuthbert. Who are Colin and Cuthbert?
4. In April 2021, the Queen's husband Prince Phillip died. What type of vehicle did he choose to carry his coffin at his funeral?
5. Whilst Emma Raducanu was winning the US Open tennis, who won the men's event?
6. The cast of which long-running American sitcom reunited in 2021 for the first time since the show's finale in 2004?
7. Which singer-turned-actress spent nine months speaking in an Italian accent for her role in the film 'House of Gucci'?
8. Who's highly anticipated 2021 album features tracks including 'I Drink Wine' and 'Oh My God'?
9. Richard Osman had a best-selling debut book, 'The Thursday Murder Club' but what is his second novel called?
10. He passed away in late 2021, widely considered to be the most important lyricist of the past six decades who started his musical career by writing the lyrics of 'West Side Story'. Who was he?

Quiz answers: 1. Handforth Parish Council; 2. Alan Turing; 3. Caterpillar cakes, from Marks & Spencer and Aldi respectively; 4. One of his beloved Land Rovers; 5. Danill Medvedev; 6. Friends; 7. Lady Gaga; 8. Adele; 9. 'The Man Who Died Twice'; 10. Stephen Sondheim.