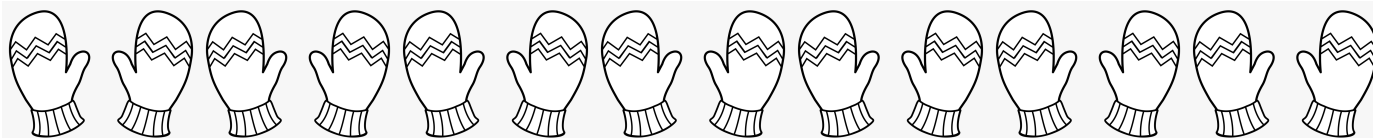


# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Enjoying winter pleasures doesn't mean we forget what is going on in the wider world. In so many ways we are living in a distressingly changing society which causes anxiety and helplessness in many of us. But taking time out to enjoy quiet moments helps us to savour the cold crackle of winter, whether indoors or outdoors, and to hold onto a sense of expectation and joy that a new year brings. May we, in our smaller community, build and maintain those feelings in the year ahead. A contented year to you all!

**Barbara and Kevin**

email: [editor@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:editor@elkstonevillage.com)

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 January 2025

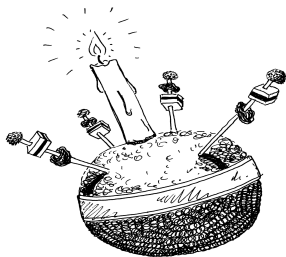
Regular Village Hall Activities		
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday, 7.30pm	Ronnie Bury – 870493 or Martyn Wylie – 870441
Art Club	Every Thursday, 9am - 1pm	Penny Casewell – 03330 119663
Yoga	Every Monday, 9.30 – 10.30am	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary		
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse and garden waste	Saturday 11 January Friday 24 January
	Food Caddy	Monday 6 January Saturday 11 January Friday 17 January Friday 24 January Friday 31 January

Elkstone Parish Church January Services		
Sunday 5 January	Elkstone Christingle Service	11.00 am
Sunday 12 January	Benefice Plough Sunday, Coberley	11.00 am
Sunday 19 January	Elkstone Holy Communion	11.00 am
Sunday 26 January	Service at Rendcomb Church	11.00 am

## **Christingle**

**Elkstone Parish Church Sunday 5 January 11.00am**



Our annual Christingle Service this year is on Sunday 5th January 2025 at 11am in the Parish Church, Elkstone.

Please join us for this candlelit time which draws the Christmas events to a close. Over the last 50 years Christingle celebrations have raised millions of pounds to support the life changing work with children and young people organised by The Children's Society.

The money we raise from the house boxes and the offertory on the day helps to rekindle their hope. The warm magical candlelight of the service brings hope to those living in darkness. Please bring your house box to the service or Jennie will collect it later in the month. Jennie and Elkstone Church.

## **Churchyard Tidy Up Morning Saturday 11 January 10.00am to 12.30pm**

The Churchyard is a special place in the village.



Did you know that it is a fantastic place for biodiversity, containing a rich collection of species of flowers and grasses. The walls and monuments create habitat for little creatures such as small mammals, reptiles and insects, as well as ferns, mosses and liverworts. And over 100 varieties of lichen can be found demonstrating the good air we have in our Village. The birds are plentiful and can be found feeding and enjoying the quality of the trees and berries. There are also bats.

Can you join us in the Churchyard from 10.00am on Saturday 11 January 2025 for a couple of hours to help tidy the ivy from the stone walls and clear any leaves still lying on the pathways, and generally help us maintain this place?

Robert Neal looks after our Churchyard, and we will follow his advice on how to care and maintain the churchyard to keep it beautiful and accessible to our whole community.

There will be cake and warm drinks to keep you fuelled, with laughter and chats. If you have gardening gloves and/or secateurs that would be most helpful, but not necessary.

Anytime between 10am and 12.30pm on Saturday 11 January 2025

**Carole and Elkstone Church**

## **Village Matters**

It was a cold and dark night. Cold and dark as befits a winter evening, but especially cold and dark as a power cut had enveloped the village in deepening gloom. But six committee members and five villagers proved that the indomitable spirit of endurance burned, despite all the setbacks. Huddled in coats, electric torches illuminating notes, the financial report, the booking report and the maintenance report were received with enthusiasm so great that it was thought that the whole village should know how the committee was progressing. Hence this article. And the slight exaggeration!! Financially, under the careful and caring eye of Martyn, the Hall is holding steady, with enough in the funds to protect the building in case of a needed major repair and a gradual saving to allow for some improvements.

Thanks to Penny, bookings are good with new groups using the Hall and regular ones continuing. A villager using the Hall for a wider guest list can hire at a reduced rate. If a village event is planned, purely for villagers, no charge is made.

To aid cleaning, which is carried out so splendidly by Evie, and our thanks go to her, three new brooms and a long-handled ceiling brush have been purchased. To encourage hiring there is a new induction cooker, plus protective cover, a new fridge, wine cooler and water softener, new metal trays, pudding bowls and saucepans. A new floor and mats are being investigated and the kitchen will then be painted by Barbara. A door to protect the water softener will be made and the outside notice board renovated. Long-term expenditure will be aimed at money saving running costs and may include above-ceiling insulation and LED lighting. Cosmetic renovation will happen as money is available.

The meeting closed with heated mulled wine provided by Jeremy and the electricity engineers.

### **Huge thanks to Ronnie Bury**

Ronnie is retiring from the Village Hall Committee after 26 years' service. He took part in the extension programme and the Millennium Celebrations as well as the more mundane, day-to-day business. The committee will greatly miss his common-sense approach, his willingness to work for projects and his quiet humour. Twenty-six years is a long stretch and we can only say – Ronnie, thank you so much. We shall miss you.

Ronnie's retiring, with his valuable link to the Parochial Church Council, means there is a possible vacancy on the Village Hall Committee. If anyone feels they would be able to fill the gap, please let us know.

### **Village Open Garden's Day**

This will be on Sunday 22 June 2025. Please make a note in your diary. More information and requests for help will follow.

### **Beetle Drive**

There will be a Beetle Drive in the Village Hall on Friday 17 January at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome, there is no skill required as everything is decided on the roll of a dice! There is no charge, but please bring your own refreshments for a social time after the game.

### **Wreath Making**

There were 8 participants for Katie's wreath making evening in December. Katie had provided rings of twisted hazel and forsythia, heaps of greenery, florist wire and ribbons and, after a demonstration, the group began work. Everyone was encouraged to create their own 'look' – exuberant or contained, be-ribboned, baubled or dried-fruited. The room was remarkably quiet, broken only by the occasional shriek as a finger was accidentally wired or stabbed by a rose hip branch. But, in the end, there were eight lovely Christmas wreaths and eight very satisfied makers. Thank you so much for the evening and your expertise, Katie.

### **Elkstone Roads**

Elkstone residents won't need reminding about the state of our roads, particularly the 3/190 from Elkstone Studios to High Cross. Our County Councillor, Joe Harris (who is also Leader of Cotswold District Council) has confirmed he will allocate some of his 'highways local' budget to carry out patching of the worst areas. My understanding is that 'patching' is a better/larger repair than a pot-hole fill, but not full, resurfacing!

No dates given at the moment.

### **David Kearney**

## **A417 Missing Link – Works Information**

**The Air Balloon roundabout will be closed overnight on the following dates:**

Wednesday 8 January to Wednesday 15 January 2025 (not including weekends)

Time: 21:00 to 06:00

We will be carrying out digging and surfacing activities, along with the removal of street lighting.

These closures are necessary to ensure the safety of our workforce and to minimise disruption to drivers during periods of lighter traffic.

**An overnight closure between the Air Balloon roundabout and A429 Burford Road junction will take place on: Thursday 16 January to Friday 17 January 2025**

Time: 21:00 Thursday to 06:00 Friday

We will be carrying out work to connect to a water main.

Diversion routes will be in place, approved by Gloucestershire County Council.

## **‘Pedal Eazy’ by borrowing an e-bike**

The ‘Pedal Eazy’ project was agreed by the county council following a budget amendment put forward by the Green Party at a meeting earlier this year. The scheme is being run by the council’s Thinktravel team with the support of Gloucestershire Bike Project and Transition Stroud, and is open to anyone in the county. The main aim of the Pedal Eazy Loan Scheme is to give people the chance to borrow an e-bike for up to three months and see how it can transform their travel and daily lives. Anyone aged 18 and over can borrow an e-bike through the scheme. To check availability and make a booking, contact [Transition Stroud](#) or [Gloucestershire Bike Project](#).

E-bikes are hired on a monthly basis, with a maximum hire period of three months. It costs £70 per month for standard rental and £30 per month for jobseekers. If you decide to purchase a bike or accessories, all hire fees are refunded in the form of a bike voucher to encourage continued cycling.

For more information on the project and support with getting going,

visit: <https://www.thinktravel.info/cycling/pedal-eazy/>

## **Nature Notes**

### **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 24-26 January 2025**

Big Garden Birdwatch is the largest garden wildlife survey in the world, and you can be a part of it! Thousands of nature lovers will be counting birds from their gardens, balconies, parks and local green spaces over one weekend.

It’s fun, free and will only take an hour, whenever it suits you, from **Friday 24 – Sunday 26 January**.

#### **How to take part**

1. Get your free guide.
2. Spend an hour watching the birds in your patch, between 24-26 January, and record the birds that land.
3. Tell RSPB (even if that’s nothing at all)! You can submit your results online or by post.

[https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch?sourcecode=BWEMM0014&utm\\_source=20241211\\_EBGB\\_BGBW-2025-Reg-Launch-NatCon&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=&utm\\_content=8&utm\\_campaign=bgbw25](https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch?sourcecode=BWEMM0014&utm_source=20241211_EBGB_BGBW-2025-Reg-Launch-NatCon&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=8&utm_campaign=bgbw25)

And, because January can bring ice and cold, please remember to feed and provide water for the hungry birds.