

## January 2012

25<sup>th</sup> Year – Number 4 – 292  
Banner from a Newsletter produced by George Robey

### Editor's Bit

Welcome to 2012. I guess we all have some anxieties about what might happen this year but we in Elkstone hope that all will be well and we will continue to smile and greet each other. Happy New Year!

Reg – 23rd December

Features	
Hello and Welcome	ERG Walk for January
Church Service Times	Nature Notes
Village Hall AGM Report	Letter of thanks from Macmillan
Reports from UNICEF and Rendcomb Surgery	Advertisements
Dates for your Diary	
ERG January Walk – Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January – 10.30 am – Colesbourne Inn	
Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January – 8.00 pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup>
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – Yvette Levick 870485
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Trevor - 870246
Deadline for next month's edition: <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b> please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – <a href="http://www.elkstonevillage.com">www.elkstonevillage.com</a>	
<b>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></b>	

## **Hello and Welcome**

Greg Herd and his daughter will be moving in to the Doll's House.  
We hope you enjoy your stay in Elkstone.

**Services at Elkstone Church in January** are as follows:

January 1<sup>st</sup> - 9.30 am - Holy Communion  
January 8<sup>th</sup> - 10.00am - Family Service -Christingle service  
January 15<sup>th</sup> - 11.00am - Morning Prayer  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10.00am - Songs of Praise  
January 29<sup>th</sup> - 10.00am - Joint Benefice service at Elkstone - Holy Communion *David Pierce*

## **ERG Walk - New Year's Day – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January – easy but boots-essential 3.5 miles**

**Meet by 10.30 a.m.** in the lower carpark of the Colesbourne Inn (on the A 435) for a pleasant, leisurely, and stile-free local walk, with fine views and interesting features.

The Inn will be open for lunch from 12noon, but offering a limited menu, probably mostly baguettes.

*Sharon 01242 528794*

## **Report from the Village Hall 'Punch & Munch' AGM – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

The AGM was held in the Hall with a full committee and 12 non-committee members attending.

The committee reported that the Hall is in good shape both physically and financially.

Unexpectedly, the Hall bookings were up for 2011 with the Hall proving a popular venue for parishioners and 'out of towners' alike. This has been a valuable revenue stream and it is reassuring to see the Hall being used as it was intended.

Our current project is the installation of the dishwasher which we purchased with the National Grid donation. Clive Hester has kindly offered to undertake the plumbing work, while committee members are co-ordinating contractors to do the carpentry and electrical work.

Ronnie Bury has asked to leave the committee. It would be difficult to over-estimate the amount he has contributed to the Hall and through it to the village and wider parish. The committee, parishioners attending the AGM and, I am confident, many others especially thank him for his efforts on the parish's behalf.

The remaining committee was elected to serve for another year. Parishioners who wish to be involved in this vital ingredient of the parish's social wellbeing may wish to note that the best time to join a committee is when there is a strong committee. You will be made welcome in whatever capacity you are able to help. Our approach is to manage with a 'light touch'; we met twice in 2011, it really is not onerous.

Hot topics for 2012 will be furthering the Hall's financial future with a strongly performing Gardens Open Day (our 21<sup>st</sup> year). The harsh truth is that year upon year it costs about £1,500 to own (but not use) the Hall.

After the Hall matters were reported and discussed, we all enjoyed an evening of Punch and Munch provided free of charge by the Committee. Minutes are published on the website and the Hall notice board.

Village Hall Committee

## **Nature Notes**

The magic of Christmas is so special! It starts from when we are all small children taking part in nativity plays, and the excitement of presents and the whole special atmosphere. In the country, the night-time carol singing and the jollity of going from house to house are particularly special too.

The holly berries seem to get eaten earlier by the birds, but some berries are perhaps not so tasty and get left, so they can be used for decorations along with ivy. Christmas trees have that lovely scent and look special decorated with lights – each year similar, but different. The surprise this year was two snowdrops out early in spite of the cold weather. Let us continue to be surprised by joy.

*Jessie*

Macmillan Cancer Support  
Worcestershire Fundraising Office  
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**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

Mr R J Eyre  
High Beech  
Elkstone  
CHELTENHAM  
Gloucestershire  
GL53 9PA

9 December 2011

Dear Mr Eyre,

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £50.00 raised by villagers sending seasonal greetings along with a donation to your village newsletter. Thanks to generous supporters like you, we can continue to improve the lives of the two million people in the UK living with, or beyond, cancer.

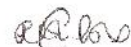
When you're living with cancer, the difference between a good day and a bad day can often come down to really small things. Getting answers on something you're worrying about, finding out you can get some financial support or just having a chat with someone who understands. Everyday Macmillan helps thousands of people to have a good day.

We're also currently campaigning to get a better deal for those affected by cancer, now and in the future. We want everyone to receive the right level of treatment and support. We fight discrimination - from challenging unfair travel costs and hospital parking charges to improving the UK-wide benefits system.

These are just a few of the areas of our work made possible by people like you. You have helped change lives.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,



**Rebecca Caswell-Fox**  
On behalf of the Community Fundraising Team

### **Rendcomb Surgery Support Group**

Thank you to all who supported our annual Christmas Coffee Morning in Winstone Village Hall. We collected just over £300. An excellent result!

### **UNICEF Card and Gift Sale**

It was all going so well - and then Margaret missed her footing on our doorstep and ended up with a broken leg.

Even so we raised over £250 - and Margaret even made a contribution from her hospital bed.

Thanks to all who made purchases at Church View. The local UNICEF agent is always impressed by our contributions to this worldwide children's charity.

### **Christingle Service**

Our candlelit service will be held on Sunday 8th January 2012 at 10.00am in St. John's Church.

Everyone's welcome to celebrate Christingle with us.

If you hold a Children's Society house box please bring it to the service. The money from these boxes along with the offertories from our Christmas worship helps to raise vital funds for vulnerable children across the country. This year a Children's Society representative will give us more information about the help we have supported over the last year. Amazingly we sent almost £1000 to the society in January 2011.

Further details from *Jennie Howlett* - 870462

### **Village Hall Available for Bookings**

Our wonderful historic hall is available to parishioners and 'out of towners':

parties

clubs

meetings

play groups

social gatherings

Check [www.elkstonevillage.com](http://www.elkstonevillage.com) then click on 'Village Hall' tab at top (in green) for full details.

The large hall can be subdivided into 2 cosy rooms. A well-equipped kitchen is adjacent as are toilets.

*Village Hall Committee*



A reminder of the snow that fell on Elkstone in December 2011