

Elkstone Newsletter

24th Year: No. 4 (279)

January 2011

Editor's Bit

Thank you to parishioners who put their greetings in the December Newsletter. We raised £80.00 which has been forwarded to the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. There are few contributions to this Newsletter, presumably because we were all 'snowed in' from the November and subsequent snow falls. A climatologist said on radio that we are in a Gulf Stream wobble, as per the 1960s, and can expect warm summers and cold winters for about five years, (*and I thought we were being warned about global warming.*)

The Editors wish all a bright New Year.

Reg – 21st December

Features	
ERG Walk Recycle Your Christmas Tree Nature Notes	Update on Church Tower Christingle Service UNICEF update Village Hall AGM Report
Dates for your Diary	
1 st January – ERG Walk – Kilkenny Viewpoint Carpark – 11.10am – Check website/walkleader	
12 th January – Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8.00pm	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 7 th and 21 st
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - <i>Bernard Alder 870255</i>
Deadline for February Edition: Thursday 20th January please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

New Year's Day – weather permitting! Sat 1st Jan – easy but boots-essential .

Meet by 11.10 a.m. at the Kilkenny Viewpoint car park, accessed from the Hilcot turning off the A436; O.S. Landranger 163 / Explorer OL 45 grid ref 003 185.

The walk is about **3.5 miles** long, with a lot of level ground, a few gentle gradients, and just 2 easy stiles. The route goes through one farmyard where muddy puddles are likely, and the path through the woods may be slippery (sticks/walking poles would be useful) but otherwise this is a predominantly tracks and lanes route.

If the weather is fine, the first half could be very scenic, but depending on the wind direction and strength, may also feel cold and exposed.

Check Elkstone website or with leader (Lois – 870375) - before setting out.

Recycle your Christmas Tree

CDC has arranged for its residents to take their real Christmas trees to Dobbies Garden Centre, just south of Cirencester, for shredding and composting. This service will be available from 4th January 2011 for two weeks.

Update on Church Tower roof and Guttering Appeal

Firstly, very many thanks to everybody who responded to the appeal for funds for the work on our wonderful village Church. We were amazed by how much has been received. As many of you know, we had a stall at the Coberley School Christmas Fayre. Many gave items and produce for sale on the stall. Jessie's homemade marmalade proved very popular, as did all the cakes. We also sold items at the Village Hall AGM. From these two events we have raised a further £284. We have also been applying for a number of grants from charities, and this is going to be our major source of funds. All the appropriate bodies are having to be more selective at the moment, because of increased requests and income levels being down due to the current lower interest rates. A number of the bodies we are most hopeful about are meeting over the next few months. Others have "windows" when we can apply, for example English Heritage will only consider applications from Grade 1 listed Churches (which is what we are) after 1 April 2011. There are some which will not consider applications until we have a commitment for at least half the amount required.

Some great news is that we have so far received grants or promises of £3000 and £8000 from two organisations. The latter of these is from the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, and we understand it is one of the larger grants they have made. One of the factors which helped us was that Elkstone has always supported the "Cycle Ride" event in the Autumn, this year called "Ride and Stride". Elkstone made its September ERG walk the opportunity to raise money for the event this year. Thank you to all those who have taken part in these walks and cycle rides, and to the organisers. It has all helped with the current appeal. The Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust does a great job in helping Churches and Chapels across the county. A major proportion of their funds come from donations and fund raising events. There is a fantastic collection of Churches and Chapels in the county, with over 150 being Grade 1 listed. Simon Jenkins in his book on the 1000 best Churches in the country gives more 4 and 5 stars to Churches in this county than any other. This makes you realise the call there must be on the GHCT, and how grateful we therefore are to have received this significant grant from them.

GHCT have asked for the opportunity to hand over their gift. We are currently planning for this to happen at our Songs of Praise service on 23 January. So please join us if you can.

We are currently waiting for formal quotes to confirm the estimated cost figure the architect has given us.

One of the requirements for all the grant applications is that we commit virtually all our reserves to the project. Taking into account this reserve allocation, the grants committed and the gifts and others funds raised we are now about half way to our target. This means we can now apply to other grant bodies. There is still a lot of effort to be made. Thank you for your support so far. Any other gifts will be gratefully received.

David Pierce

Christingle Service

Our candlelit Christingle Service will be held on Sunday January 9th at 10.00am. During this service Christingles are given to all - whatever their age! Children's Society house boxes will be collected and the contents of these boxes and offertory from the service sent to the charity. The Children's Society supports runaways by

using mentors and mediation sessions, in order to help those whose childhood experiences are very difficult.

The 2009 Christingle celebration raised nearly £1.2 million to help make childhood better in this region and beyond.

Please join us.

Jennie Howlett

Thank you for your support

The UNICEF sale of cards and gifts at Church View raised just over £250.

Thanks once again for helping the poorer children of the world.

The Rendcomb Surgery Support Group Coffee Morning in Winstone Village Hall raised over £315 on a bitterly cold morning. This amount astounded most of us as there were many who could not get to the hall because of the snow and icy roads.

Thanks for the generous donations as well as items for sale/raffle.

We thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of the event, but hope they will not be repeated next year.

Jennie Howlett

Nature Notes

Shirley Chester had a big surprise. While talking to a visitor in her kitchen, they suddenly whispered, "Don't make noise, but turn around slowly." There, staring through the window into her kitchen was a fox. Animals and birds are hungry in this weather and sometimes show unusual behaviour like the two deer near the house.

Five long-tailed tits come to the bird table for short visits as a family group.

Once I found a kestrel, which had swooped down and caught a vole in long grass. The talons gripped the vole and twisted the grass round and round the kestrel's legs and they both had died, one caught and one who could not fly away.

Jessie

Village Hall 'Punch & Munch' AGM Report December 8th 2010

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 and has benefited from physical improvements (new emergency lighting), cyberspace improvement (new website), improved purchasing of services such as electricity and a significant financial donation by National Grid. This donation MUST be spent on capital items such as projector and screen – it is not a boost to revenue.

The Hall's lower revenue for 2010 combines with lower than normal visitor numbers at Gardens Open Day to show a loss (balance at end of year being £670 less than at the beginning) for the most recent financial year.

It is pleasing to report that an entire committee has been 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 it is strong. You will be made absolutely welcome in whatever capacity you are able to help. Our approach is to manage with a 'light touch'; we meet approximately once every 2 months.

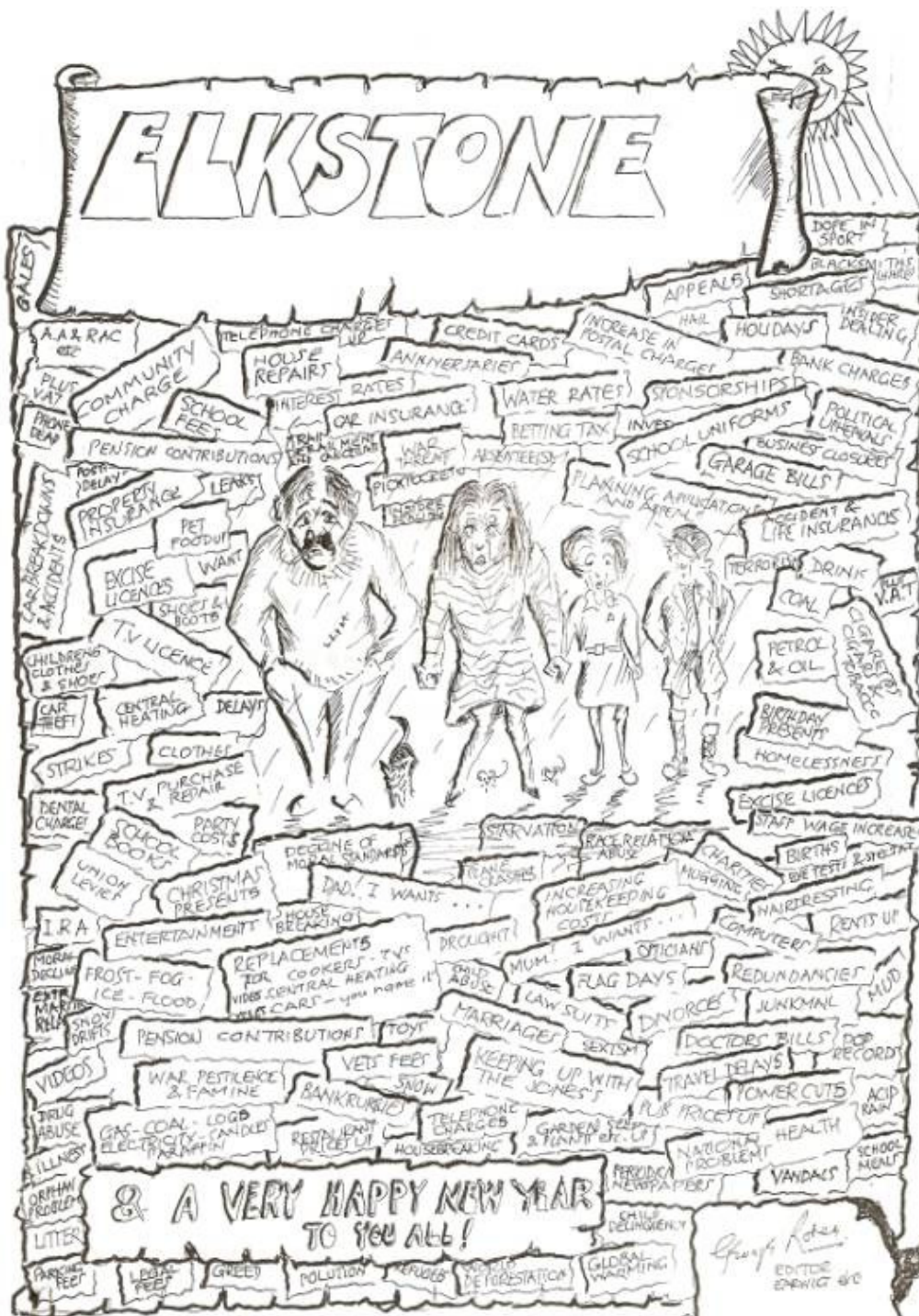
Hot topics for 2011 will be securing the Hall's financial future with a strongly performing Gardens Open Day (our 20th year) and the Golden Anniversary of the Village Hall Foundation (when the Hall passed from the Education Authorities to the care of Elkstone; for the benefit of parishioners). It would be desperately ironic if the

Hall did not thrive in 2011.

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 Hall notice board.

Village Hall Committee

Advert - Wanted: Beg, Borrow or Buy! - Mains Electric Clock of the type that has a motor and hands. It does not matter at all what it looks like, but it does matter that it works and self-starts. Thanks, contact Nic on 01242 870556



A George Robey New Year page which, sadly, has some relevance for today?