

# Elkstone Newsletter

25th Year: No. 3 (291)

December 2011

## Editor's Bit

Jessie tells me she has had her car cleaned by the very helpful young man at Colesbourne Garage, and hopes that others will encourage this local service. A reminder that the last post for Christmas is 20<sup>th</sup> December for 1<sup>st</sup> class, 17<sup>th</sup> December for 2<sup>nd</sup> class and Europe and overseas 5<sup>th</sup> December. Enjoy any seasonal festivities that you go to!

*Reg – 23rd November*

<b>Features</b>	
Church Service Times Big Thankyous Village Hall AGM & Punch and Munch Rendcomb Surgery Support Coffee Morning Christmas Meal at the Green Dragon Carol Singing	ERG Walks for the Festive Season News from the Parish Council Nature Notes Seasonal Greetings Advertisements
<b>Dates for your Diary</b>	
Village Hall AGM & Punch + Munch – Thurs. 1st December - 8.00pm - Elkstone Village Hall	
Rendcomb Surgery Support Coffee Morning - 3rd December –10 am - Winstone Village Hall	
Christmas Meal – Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> – 7.30 pm - Green Dragon Inn, Cockleford	
Carol Singing – Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – 6.00 pm – Church View	
ERG Boxing Day Walk – Monday 26th December – 10.30 am -Daglingworth Village Hall	
ERG New Year's Day Walk – Sunday 1st January – 10.30 am – Colesbourne Inn	
<b>Regular Dates</b>	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 9 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – <i>Trevor - 870246</i>
Deadline for next month's edition: <b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</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>Editor - Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></b>	

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

December 4th - Holy Communion - 9.30am

December 11th - Family Service - 10.00am

December 18th - Carol and Crib Service - 11.00am

December 24th - Midnight Communion - 11.30pm

December 25th - no service

January 1st - Holy Communion - 9.30am

The service on December 18th will be the traditional readings and carols. We will also be building the crib, which will stay in the church over the Christmas period during the service, so there will be plenty of opportunities for children to be involved.

There is no service on Christmas Day, but we will be having a midnight communion service on Christmas Eve, starting at 11.30pm. At the close of this service we will greet the arrival of Christmas Day.

Please join us at one or both of the Christmas services.

*David Pierce*

### **One Bat Dropping – and a Big Thankyou**

An ecologist visited Elkstone church recently looking for evidence of bats in the church. Apparently it is very rare not to see significant evidence of bats in old churches, so when, after carefully wiping pews, checking the window ledges, crevices and floor he was able to find only one solitary dropping he was amazed. He commented that had never seen a church that was so beautifully clean. This is a wonderful a testament to the efforts of Lindy and Margaret who every Saturday sweep and polish the church, and it seems very fitting to share this recognition of the tremendous job they do, and to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to both of them for their untiring efforts.

*Anne Davies*

### **Another Big Thankyou - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

Wing Cdr (Henry) Trevor Price became Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the parish of Elkstone in May 1997.

He is a well-liked and well-respected resident in the village and his involvement with Neighbourhood Watch has served to raise the profile of the movement locally. He has been a first class ambassador in the village, not only for Neighbourhood Watch but also for the Constabulary, which he has consistently supported throughout. Advancing years have meant that he has decided to hand over the reins to someone else in the village, who will find that Trevor is, in fact, quite a hard act to follow. We shall miss his active support but, nevertheless, greatly appreciate all he has done for us over the past fourteen years.

*Andy Fogden*

Elkstone Parish Council would like to express grateful thanks to Trevor Price for all his years as our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

*Lois*

Trevor has done a sterling job for many years as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and I am sure we would all like to thank him for the work he has done on our behalf.

*Anne Davies*

### **Village Hall ‘Punch & Munch’ AGM**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 at 8.00pm**

It has been a year of ‘cutting our cloth’ for our Village Hall, and careful management to ensure the survival of this treasured parish asset.

Please come and join us for a brief meeting, where we can discuss how we have utilized the generous gift to the Hall’s Charitable Foundation. The future of parish social events will no doubt feature in our discussions too.

We will end informally, with ‘Punch & Munch’ provided by your Committee.

*Village Hall Committee*

### **Rendcomb Surgery Support Group**

Please join us at our annual Christmas Coffee Morning in Winstone Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December from 10.00 am until noon.

There will be a cake stall and a raffle, as well as other items for sale. If you would like to make a donation for the event please contact me or, better still, go along on the morning.

Over the last two years we have raised funds for an ear syringe machine, home use blood pressure monitors, a coagucheck machine, a doppler monitor and 2 patient beds.

Although last year's Coffee Morning was held after a heavy snowfall we still managed to raise over £320 towards our funds. Let's hope the weather is kinder this year.

*Jennie Howlett – 870462*

### **Elkstone Christmas Celebration Meal**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011** at 7.30pm

This year we have organized our traditional village Christmas meal at the Green Dragon.

We are well booked, but (as we write) there are a few places available.

Anyone from the village/parish is more than welcome. This is an excellent way of getting to know new and old alike.

We need to know your menu choices (menu at end of Newsletter) and therefore please contact Swallows on 01242 870556 or [aw@azteck.com](mailto:aw@azteck.com).

For anyone who is coming **full payment is now due**, as follows:

2 courses £16.95

3 courses £19.95

plus £2 for coffee and mints (optional)

plus contribution to the tip fund, 10% would be appropriate.

If you have paid a deposit with an earlier booking, this can be deducted from the amount.

Please bring your full payment to Swallows.

Please note that hearing on the grapevine that you are attending is not the same as booking.

Merry Christmas!

*Jennie, Ann, Brigitte*

### **Carol Singing**

Keeping the Christmas tradition alive, our loyal village carol singers will meet at Church View on Monday 19th December at around 6.00 pm.

We welcome new voices - old and young. As usual we'll prepare ourselves for the evening with mulled wine and nibbles. Please wear warm clothing and bring a torch.

We hope to complete our tour at the Village Hall around 8.00 pm where there may be more entertainment. If you have a suitable party piece, practise now!

Surely in Elkstone there are budding actors/singers/comedians keen to display their talent!?

Please join us for our celebration at the beginning of the Christmas week.

*Jennie Howlett 870462*

## **ERG Walks for the Festive Season**

All parishioners, their relatives and friends welcome!

### **Boxing Day – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December - easy but boots-essential 4 mile walk.**

**Meet by 10.30 a.m.** in the car park of Daglingworth Village Hall; O.S. Landranger 163 / Explorer 170 grid ref 994 051.

**Please bring** some small change as a donation for the use of the car park is requested. Directions - Leave A417 NW of Cirencester at Quarry Junction; if Cirencester-bound underpass the A417 (or turn west off the A 435 at Perrotts Brook and continue straight on to underpass the A417) and at south side roundabout turn SW signed towards Daglingworth. In Daglingworth, at the T-junction at the bottom of the hill, turn right, the Hall is on the right at the next corner.

The walk is about 4 miles long, with quite a lot of level ground and a few gentle gradients, also 8 easy stiles, two short flights of steps, a horse-friendly vehicle barrier (a new feature for ERGers!) and a viewpoint. Expect a little mud in some places.

*Lois 870375*

### **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 car park 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*

## **News from the Parish Council**

The revised bus timetables are now in operation – no obvious changes to the times of the 852 between Cirencester and Gloucester, although Pulham's Coaches are now providing the buses on this route. Jessie has already made one trip to Cirencester and reports that the bus was very comfortable, with a low level floor making boarding easier, and a friendly driver. We hope that more people will find it possible to patronise the bus service, as such support could help to keep it reprieved.

The new Thursday bus to Cheltenham is re-numbered the 23 – (potential for confusion here as there's a 23 bus in the Forest of Dean district too) and is provided by Cotswold Green. It is scheduled to leave Westerleigh Crossroads at 10.05 am, arriving at the Royal Well at 10.40. The return bus leaves Royal Well at 1.15 pm.

Winter arrangements – supplies of road clearing salt + grit from CDC have been reduced this year, so what has been delivered (there won't be any top ups) will need to be used parsimoniously. Whilst it would be good not to have to contend with difficult weather conditions, we hope that all parishioners are prepared, with their own supplies of salt and grit for their paths and drives...

We have been informed that our waste and recycling collections will be unaffected by Christmas and New Year, but in the event of snow, up-to-date revisions of arrangements can be checked on the 'Waste' pages of the CDC website. Also, as in previous years there will be a 'side waste amnesty' for the first full collection after Christmas Day ( i.e. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January). This will allow residents to present additional amounts of non-recyclable waste in bin liners next to their grey wheeled bin/beige refuse bags - everything will be collected.

CDC has opened a Budget Consultation – all are invited to respond, closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> December. Go to the CDC website, enter Budget Consultation in the search box.

*Lois - 870375*

## **Nature Notes**

Let us forget for a few minutes the three Ds – death, dishonour and destruction – which are ever before our eyes in the media... Looking at my bird nut feeders one afternoon, imagine my surprise to see a mouse clinging to the mesh and having a jolly good feed. After several minutes, it spread out its paws and dropped to the ground 7 ft below, like a missile without a parachute. I sat watching, and after about 10 minutes up it climbed again, up the metal support, hopped across the seed tray and back onto the nuts, where it repeated its performance. Not content with this, it reappeared a third time, but by now, its stomach was so full and round – it looked at the drop and seemed to decide discretion was the better part of valour; it climbed slowly down the metal support and I have not seen it since. It must be the Ranulph Fiennes of the mouse world.

The lovely chuckling of the field fares can be heard as they feed on the haws, also the twittering of the redwings as small flocks fly over – there are lots of rotting apples for them this year.

*Jessie*

## **Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speedwatch**

For some time Trevor has wanted to relinquish Neighbourhood Watch and, as reported by Andrea in the last newsletter, I have offered to take over this role. I am happy to do this for the parish, but I am just the co-ordinator, to make it work effectively we all need to be involved, reporting suspicious-looking behaviour or incidents, anti-social behaviour, etc.

We are extremely lucky to have Andrea Shutt as our PCSO and PC Hazel Watkins as our Beat Manager for The Rural North Community. Thanks to their work, and the work of residents in supporting them, it was reported at the last Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting that whilst over the Cirencester area the crime rate had dropped and the detection rate had improved, the Rural North area was way ahead in these figures!

Reminder: the new police number for all non-emergencies is 101.

In the New Year we hope to become one of the pilot schemes for Community Speedwatch in the Cotswolds and volunteers are needed to train for this role.

Please contact me, Andrea or Hazel if you would like to help with this.

*Anne Davies - elkstonecoordinator@hotmail.co.uk - 870516*

## **Scam Alert**

As Christmas is fast approaching, please beware of scams, such as this:

A card is posted through your door or perhaps you receive an e-mail from a ‘courier firm’ suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to phone them on 09nnn nnnnnn (a Premium rate number).

Unless you are certain of the probity of the courier firm do not call this number; as you will hear a message that is designed to waste your time and thus incur charges.

Useful numbers:	Phoney Pay Plus (the Regulator)	020 7940 7474
	Royal Mail Letters Security Helpdesk	020 7239 6655
	CrimeStoppers	0800 555111

A useful website is [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) This gives information on scams and, at the other end of the scale, warnings of ‘scams’ that are actually viral rumors with no foundation. The regulatory maximum charge for a premium number is £1.53 /min (which helps one to distinguish a real warning from a rumor).

### **Last month's signpost picture**

The picture of the Elkstone signpost was taken on the B5053 in the Peak District, Staffordshire (just south of Warslow.) The motorcycle was a BMW.

*Bryan Taylor recalls "It was years since I travelled that road but I do recall one evening following one of the signs and discovering little more than a farm and a few houses preceded by a place sign with "Upper Elkstone" on it. Never did find Elkstone (or Lower Elkstone!)"*

### **Season's Greetings**

We are settling in gradually to our new surroundings. It still seems a bit unreal after 15 extremely happy years in Elkstone but no doubt it will feel like home in time. Thanks to everyone for their good wishes and especially for your friendship over the years. We will keep in touch and hope to return to some village events.

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Sue and Bernard*

Christmas Greetings and Happy New Year to all my friends

*Jessie*

Christmas Greetings and every good wish for the New Year from  
*Julia, Eliza and Oliver, the Priest's House.*

*Steve, Julia and Hannah* would like to wish all our fellow villagers a very Happy Christmas and health and happiness for the New Year x

A Very Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone in Elkstone. May you have Peace, Good Health and Happiness.

*Lye and Bryan*

Season's Greetings to all our friends and neighbours

Love, Light and Peace

*Reg and Lois*

## Colesbourne Filling Station Shop and Post Office

Why not talk to us about Christmas?

Local Turkeys - Beef - Chicken and Ham – Pheasants and Partridge

Fresh bread, cakes and mince pies, etc., etc.  
Remember that we sell logs, coal, kindling, Calor gas  
Plus wines, spirits, beers, lagers, etc.  
Newspapers and magazines  
We are here to help!!

Open everyday except Christmas Day  
Don't forget to use your local post office which is also open every day  
Telephone 01242 870357  
email [sarah@churnvalleyservice.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:sarah@churnvalleyservice.eclipse.co.uk)  
Hand car wash, valeting service available  
Laundry, shoe repairs, animal feed

**Orders being taken for Christmas**

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### **Christmas Party Menu 2011**

Smoked salmon tartare

Honey parsnip soup

Pork and chicken liver pate with cranberries and fingers of toast

Roasted Mediterranean vegetable puff pastry tart topped with goat's cheese

\*\*\*\*

Traditional roast turkey with chestnut and cranberry stuffing, bacon wrapped  
chipolata, cranberry sauce and gravy

Grilled hake fillet in garlic and lemon with a dill and crayfish sauce

Ham hock with bubble and squeak with a wholegrain mustard and cider  
sauce

Root vegetable and mixed nut cutlet with a sweet Pimento red pepper sauce

**All served with fresh seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes**

\*\*\*\*

Christmas pudding

Strawberry cheesecake

\*\*\*\*

3 courses £19.95 – 2 courses £16.95



The Colesbourne Inn  
Colesbourne  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL53 9NP

Tel: 01242 870376  
Email: [colesbourneinn@wadworth.co.uk](mailto:colesbourneinn@wadworth.co.uk)  
Web: [www.thecolesbourneinn.co.uk](http://www.thecolesbourneinn.co.uk)



The Colesbourne Inn, Colesbourne, Gloucestershire, GL53 9NP  
Email: [colesbourneinn@wadworth.co.uk](mailto:colesbourneinn@wadworth.co.uk)  
Tel: 01242 870376

*Welcome to Wadworthshire*



*If you wish to be entered into our monthly prize draw to win a meal for two please fill in your details below:*

Name .....

Address .....

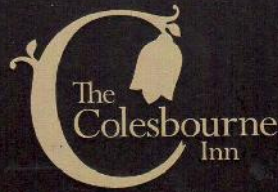
.....

Email .....

.....

Tel No. ....

D.O.B .....



*Trevor and Liz Johnson welcome you to The Colesbourne Inn.  
Whether you are passing by or calling in for drinks, food or simply to enjoy get togethers with family and friends beside one of our Log Fires, you can always be sure of a warm welcome.  
We also cater for small informal gatherings.*

[www.thecolesbourneinn.co.uk](http://www.thecolesbourneinn.co.uk)

Voucher No. ....

**£5 OFF**

*Your meal when ordering from our Main Menu or Special Board.*

*Available Monday to Thursday.*

**UNTIL 30.12.11.**

CANNOT be used in conjunction with any other offer

*It's time to celebrate  
With the festive season almost here The Colesbourne  
is a perfect place for that very special family Lunch,  
Dinner, Christmas Party or a traditional Christmas  
Day Lunch  
The Colesbourne Inn is open throughout during the  
Christmas period offering the warmest of welcomes  
and real log fires.*

*Welcome to Wadworthshire*





## Pre-Christmas Party Menu 2011

Cream of parsnip and honey soup  
Smooth chicken liver with grape chutney and granary toast  
Twice baked goat's cheese soufflé with sun blushed tomatoes and pesto  
Slices of Galia melon with Parma ham  
Smoked mackerel and salmon terrine with cucumber salad and Melba toast  
\*\*\*  
Roast turkey, chestnut stuffing, chipolata, roast potatoes, roast gravy and fresh vegetables  
Fillet of cod with a pea and herb risotto and crab bisque and fresh vegetables  
Roast vegetable and goat's cheese strudel with sauté potatoes and tomato butter  
Steak, mushroom and Stilton pudding with mash, onion gravy and fresh vegetables  
Slow roasted pork belly with bubble and squeak, port wine sauce and fresh vegetables  
\*\*\*  
Christmas pudding with rum sauce  
Chocolate terrine with Chantilly cream  
Raspberry cheesecake  
Syrup sponge pudding with custard  
Selection of cheese and biscuits  
\*\*\*

£19.95 per head with this advertisement  
01285-821221 - Beech Pike, Elkstone - GL53 9PL

### THE OLD RECTORY RESTAURANT

The Old Rectory, Colesbourne, Cheltenham  
GL53 9NP

Tel: 01242 870120

*Sean & Diana offer you a warm welcome to their charming Restaurant*



#### **Dine in Style**

Enjoy the finest Cotswold Meats, Game & Poultry  
Fresh Fish & Seasonal Vegetables  
Delicious Homemade Desserts

#### **Celebrate Christmas**

*Enjoy the festivities with a 3 course multi choice menu*

**Lunch £15.50    Dinner £18.95**

#### **New Year's Eve Dinner £29.50**

*Enjoy a superb 4 course dinner with all the trimmings*

**Bookings - please telephone 01242 870120**

**[www.theoldrectorycolesbourne.co.uk](http://www.theoldrectorycolesbourne.co.uk)**