

# Elkstone Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> Year: No. 3 (326)

December 2014

## Editor's Bit

Your Editor is recently returned from a tour of western Turkey. It was amazing to walk among the ruins of religious and other sites from antiquity such as Troy. I am wondering if we are walking over ancient sites in Elkstone?

*Reg – 23<sup>rd</sup> November*

Features	
Dates for your Diary	
Village Hall Committee AGM – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.30pm - Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	
Elkstone Supper and Film night – Elkstone Village Hall – 8.00pm – Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> , & Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec, & Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 5 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec & Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
	N.B. the 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan collection will include a 'side waste' amnesty
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>Saturday 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>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 7th - Morning Prayer (CW) at 10.00am - Alexandra Proctor

December 14th - Family Service at 10.00am - Will Halse

December 21st - Carol Service at 11.00am - Rev Cliff Pooley

December 24th - Midnight Communion (CW) at 11.30pm - Rev Janet Williams

December 28th - no service at Elkstone, joint Benefice Holy Communion service at Coberley at 9.30am

The Remembrance Service gifts were £150, which has been passed to the Royal British Legion. Thank you to everybody who contributed.

As Christmas approaches we think about buying presents. Please remember that, if you buy online, you can also make a gift to a charity at no additional cost to you. All you have to do is register with The Giving Machine website, and select a charity(ies) you want to support. St John the Evangelist, Elkstone is one of the registered charities with the site. Coberley School is another option. Then if you go to the retailer's website through The Giving Machine website, the retailer will pass a percentage of what you spend back to the charity of your choice. Some of the retailers registered are Amazon, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis and House of Fraser.

Our Carol service, is on Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 11.00am, which is the traditional Christmas readings and carols. During the service the children will help in the building of the crib. There will be a midnight communion service on Christmas Eve starting at 11.30pm. Please come to at least one of these occasions to celebrate Jesus's birth and the joy of Christmas.

Advance notice that Sunday, January 4th at 10.00am will be our Christingle service. We hope to have a representative from the Children's Society, who will talk about their work to help children.

*David Pierce*

### **Village Hall AGM and Wine and Cheese**

**7.30 pm, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Do come to the village hall for a brief meeting at which we can discuss a successful year and hear about next year's Open Day and other forthcoming social events.

We hope that those who are new to the village will join us as we plan ahead and strengthen this most important focal point of our community.

Afterwards there will be wine and cheese provided by your committee.

*Village Hall Committee*

### **Rendcomb Surgery Support Coffee Morning**

As in previous years our coffee morning, bring and buy sale and raffle will be in Winstone Village Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 12noon.

The proceeds of this event (often around £400) go towards items, which benefit patients of the surgery. In the past we have purchased blood pressure machines for home use, a staff photo board, a patient couch, plants for the garden.....

All offers of help are welcome - bake a cake, provide prizes for the raffle, help on the morning or just come along and bring your friends.

Further information;

*Jennie Howlett – 870462*

### **Coberley School Christmas Fayre**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am -2.00pm

Christmas stalls - Usbourne books, exclusive jewellery, phoenix cards, local crafts and handmade wooden gifts

Christmas café - Homemade soups, sandwiches, cakes and mince pies galore!

Kids fun - Face painting, sleigh rides, chocy tombola, gingerbread decorating

+ Grand Raffle with £500 worth of prizes

Entry FREE

Please come along and support your local school"

Many thanks

*Sian Macfarlane - Westwood House*

### **Elkstone Pre-Christmas Film Evening**

Thursday 11th December 7:00 and 8:00 pm: "Nativity!"

On December 11th, we will be showing the film "**Nativity!**", to reflect the festive season:-

With the approach of Christmas, primary school teacher Paul Maddens is charged with producing the school's nativity play. Competing against the posh rival school for the honour of best-reviewed show in town, the stakes are raised when Paul idly boasts that a Hollywood producer is coming to see his show with a view to turning it into a film.

Maddens suddenly finds himself a local celebrity and at the centre of quarrelling parents and over-excited children desperate in their bid for fame and fortune. Many manoeuvres and skirmishes follow, not to mention a romantic sub-plot, which continues to the end....

The film will start at 8:00 pm, preceded by an informal get together at 7:00 pm, with a buffet and mulled wine, just to set the mood!

For those attending both film and fare, the entrance is £10 per person, pre-paid in a marked-up envelope through our letterbox please by Monday 8th December; for attendees at the film only - the charge is £5.00 payable at the door.

*Jeremy and Anne - 870516*

## **Christmas Meal**

We have booked the small dining room on the ground floor of The Five Mile House for the evening of Thursday 18th December for our annual Christmas Meal. We hope many villagers will join us to celebrate the season.

Christmas Party Menu A offers several choices and is priced at £16 for 2 courses or £19 for 3 courses.

There are vegetarian options, but wine and tea/coffee are not included. More details are on their website.

The room accommodates 24 diners - so first come, first served!

Please ring 870462 or e-mail [brian.howlett@virgin.net](mailto:brian.howlett@virgin.net) if interested.

I could have a further one to add later in the day.

*Thanks – Jennie*

## **Open Invite to Elkstoners**

Dear everyone,

As you know, for the last two years we have opened our house to everyone for tea and cakes/ cheese and wine in January. We have thoroughly enjoyed these afternoons and loved catching up with all the special people in Elkstone.

This year we are doing something a little different. Our boys sing with Schola Cantorum choir that sings weekday services in Tewkesbury Abbey. They are an excellent choir regularly making CDs, touring abroad and, earlier this year, they did a live Broadcast on Radio 3. Next summer they are going on tour to The Netherlands and need to raise £8000 to fund themselves. The choirmaster has agreed to bring the choir to Elkstone on Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> to sing a concert for the lovely people of Elkstone. This will be followed by the usual tea and cake/wine and cheese and get together at our house.

The concert will be in Elkstone Church at 2.15pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Tickets for the concert are £10 each and all money will go to the Netherlands Tour fund. If you are able to support Schola Cantorum, that would be wonderful. If you would just like to come for the social gathering at our house then that would be fine and there will be plenty of opportunity there to donate to the Schola fund!!!! The social part will begin at 3.30pm.

Please let me (Rachael - 01242870581 - [rachael@pobox.com](mailto:rachael@pobox.com),) or Sylvie Pierce (01242870181 - [sylviepierce@btinternet.com](mailto:sylviepierce@btinternet.com)) know if you would like:

- a) a ticket for the concert
- b) just come for tea
- c) both!!

*Rachael - Manor Barn*

## **Nature Notes**

December is a quiet month weather-wise often characterized by still, expansive skies and empty landscapes: the prelude to winter taking hold. Against this greyness the nation's favourite bird, the Robin, injects a welcome blast of colour and character and through this has developed a strong association with the coming of Christmas. Some might remember that postmen used to be called Robins because of the red tunics they use to wear, strengthening the Christmas connection through the delivery of Christmas cards.

The Robin is a common visitor to gardens and once attracted to your bird table it will return all winter through. Perhaps the best way to see a Robin is to take some exercise and dig over a flower bed for winter; within minutes one is likely to perch on a fence or branch nearby waiting to inspect the newly-turned soil for earthworms.

Robins are fiercely territorial over food supply. Not more than one robin will occupy a small garden, unless it is his mate. When their food source becomes scarce in winter they will eat just about anything put out for them on a bird table, especially fatty foods such as bacon rind and cheese.

So have a great Christmas and look after your Robin.

*Francis*

### **Village and Community Agent Cynthia Laird**

We give support and information to anyone who is 50+ it is free and confidential, if you would like to contact me, please e-mail or phone the mobile no 07776 245 780 and leave a message with your name and phone number and I will contact you as soon as possible.

As Village and Community Agents, we host a Social Lunch each month at the Hungry Horse at Seven Springs. The date For January is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 at midday, no need to book just come, its not a club just a chance to meet other people and have an enjoyable time.

Christmas is soon upon us, so it just remains for me to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

*Cynthia*

### **Warm and Well**

Cotswold District Council is working with Severn Wye Energy Agency to help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their fuel bills. Severn Wye manages Warm and Well, the Council's approved energy efficiency advice scheme. Warm and Well offers a free phone advice line, providing local energy efficiency advice and information on how householders can make their homes more energy efficient and save money on their fuel bills. Trained energy advisors can help residents in your area by informing them if there is funding available for any necessary works, referring them into the Warm and Well scheme if they are eligible for support, or directing them to local installers who can carry out the work.

Cotswold District Council and Severn Wye would like the Newsletter's help to provide information to residents in your area. Severn Wye advisors would be happy to attend Parish Council meetings to provide briefings and talks or to attend any local events and speak to people directly.

For more information, please call or email the Warm and Well team:

**0800 500 3076** (the free Warm and Well advice line)

[warmandwell@severnwe.org.uk](mailto:warmandwell@severnwe.org.uk)

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Warm and Well team.

*Louise Croot*

Shared Energy and Resources Project Officer

Environmental Services

T: 01285 623434

E: [louise.croot@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:louise.croot@cotswold.gov.uk)

W: [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)

**Cotswold District Council** is on the hunt for communities who can find innovative ways to Reuse, Recycle and Reduce waste.

The Council is joining forces with its environmental services provider Ubico Ltd and the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership to launch the gRRReen awards competition. In line with the 'three R's' (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), communities will be urged to find new ways to combat waste being sent to landfill. The three best performers will qualify for funding worth a total of £2,000 to finance further improvements.

The competition **begins on 24 November and runs until 20 February 2015**. It will be open to groups of people of all ages who want to pool ideas and develop initiatives to reduce waste - and also show how their improvements can be sustained.

**Application details will be announced on 24 November.** The entries will be judged at the end of February by a panel drawn from the Council, the Joint Waste Team and Ubico, and they will award £1,000 to the best entry, £700 to the runner-up and £300 to the third placed group on the understanding that that prize money would be used to continue progress with green initiatives.

Commenting on the gRRReen awards, Cllr Sue Coakley, CDC Cabinet Member for the Environment, said:

“Thanks to our residents, recycling levels in this District are the highest in Gloucestershire, but the tonnage figures have dipped over the last year, and we hope that this new competition will boost our totals again. This is a great opportunity for communities to join together and really make a difference – we can make this beautiful district an even better place for residents and visitors to enjoy.”

“We are trying not to be too prescriptive about what comprises a ‘community’ for the purposes of this competition – the main objective is to encourage people to work together and take on the gRRReen challenge. We are looking forward to see what they can achieve and, hopefully, all the competitors will inspire others.”

For more information about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle please go to:

[www.recycling-guide.org.uk/](http://www.recycling-guide.org.uk/)

### **Gardens Open Day - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

We have decided to organise the gardens open day again as no one came forward to take it on and the funds that we receive are all for our benefit i.e. the upkeep of the Church and Village Hall and Marion Cooch has kindly offered to help me this year which will be a great help. Thank you Marion. I have emailed a few people asking if they would kindly open their gardens or help on the day and have had some lovely replies but will still need more people to come forward to open their gardens or help on the day. Look forward to hearing from you in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and health and happiness in 2015.

Tess - [teresa.dick@btinternet.com](mailto:teresa.dick@btinternet.com)

### **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

I am (again) mounting a campaign against the Loop Scheme.

The Loop will not help Elkstone: just ask Google maps for directions from Charlton Kings to Cirencester.

GCC is spending £500,000 on promoting this awful scheme: yet they plead poverty when it comes to making the Elkstone rat-run unattractive (wider verges, passing spaces etc.)

Wearing my CampaignforBetterTransport hat, I have a petition running that has produced far more supporters than I would have hoped for (the [petition.gov.uk](http://petition.gov.uk) could only amass 127 before it closed.)

GCC has over 6,000 - which basically means that 29,000 AADT did not support them, despite their advertising.

What we need is a full study of the route within the AONB to go into the Autumn Statement. We do not want is the Loop to go into the Autumn Statement all by itself.

I have influential allies that are pressing for this.

Yes - we do need to keep the traffic flowing on the A417, thus stopping congestion and rat-running through the other side (e.g. Caudle Green), but a simple underpass with a green bridge (and I don't mean paint!!!) between the cottages and the Air Balloon Pub would eliminate the cross-over of traffic caused by the re-routing of the A40.

Please have a look at the petition and its link to the CBT blog to see what we consider to be a workable option. It contains the traffic rather than increasing it, and keeps it moving - slowly! <http://www.change.org/p/no-loop-scheme-in-the-cotswolds-aonb>

This may have been too late for the November Newsletter, but I am hoping to stage a Protest Rally at the Air Balloon Inn on Churchill's birthday, 30<sup>th</sup> November; I am sure we don't want the Loop, so is there any way we can rouse people to stand up to Glos. CC?

*Christine Shine*

### Something for Nothing

Nic, our Hon Printer, has been having a clear-out, and has deposited with me a printed archive of copies of Elkstone Newsletters, going back to the original No 1 edition, October 1987.

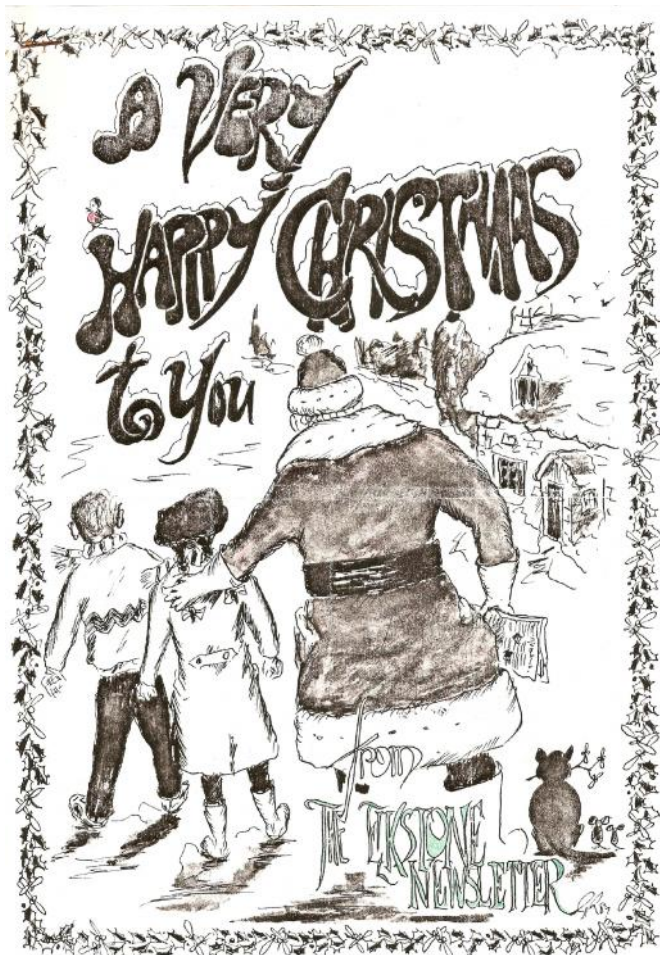
I'm planning to scan these (progressively...) and put them on the website, but once that's done, I'm not sure I want to store them in perpetuity - they are copies, not George Robey's originals, so I'm minded to bin them after that, or does any person in Elkstone who keeps any sort of collection of Elkstone ephemera want them?

*Jeremy*

### From the Newsletter Editorial Team



Reg, Lois, Nic and Ann send **Season's Greetings** to all Friends and Neighbours



A scan of George Robey's drawing from when he was the Editor of the Elkstone Newsletter