

Elkstone Newsletter

33rd Year: No. 3 (350)

December 2016

Editor's Bit

And then the winter arrived! What a shock to the system, from mild to cold temperatures, and windy and wet. We are now into the dark days of the year. I was disappointed by the sighting of the 'super' moon, which was supposed to be at the nearest point to earth, but did not look any larger than usual.

Reg – 22nd November 2016

Features	
Elkstone Church Services	Manor Barn seasonal invite
Christmas at Elkstone	Thank you Elkstone from Margaret Holder
Village Hall AGM	UNICEF Sales report
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Elkstone Christmas Meal	Village Agent's News
Carol Singing	Glos. Hospitals NHS Trust News
Christingle service	Christmas Greetings to other Elkstoners
Diary Dates	
Village Hall AGM and Festive Refreshments - Thursday 1st December - 7.30pm	
Rendcomb Surgery Support Group coffee morning & cake sale, Winstone - 10.00am Sat 3 rd Dec	
Christmas Meal – The Green Dragon - Friday 16th December – 7.00pm for 7.30pm	
Carol Singing – Church View - Wednesday 21st December – 6.00pm	
Christingle Service – Elkstone Church - Sunday January 8th 2017 - 10.00am	
Seasonal Invite to Manor Barn – Sunday 15 th January – 3.00pm to 6.00pm	
Regular Dates	
Waste and recycling	Food + garden waste – Every Friday up to 23 rd December
Waste and recycling	All bags, bins + boxes — Fridays 2 nd , 16 th Dec; and Tues 3 rd Jan 2017
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: Tuesday 20th December 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>	

Elkstone Church Services

December 4th - Morning Prayer and Christening - 10.00am - Rev A Champion
 December 11th - Family Service - 10.00am - Mrs Alexandra Dyer
 December 18th - Carol and Crib service - 11.00am
 December 24th - Midnight Communion - 11.30 pm - Rev Janet Williams

No service on December 25th or January 1st

Christmas at Elkstone

Come and celebrate the birth of Christ with us this year. Our Christmas services will be as follows:

Sunday 18th December at 11.00am - Carol Service - service of traditional readings and carols, with building of the stable and crib during the service by the children.

Saturday 24th December Midnight Communion at 11.30 pm - join us to greet the birth of Christ.

All are welcome.

David Pierce

Village Hall AGM and Festive Refreshments - 7.30 pm Thursday 1st December

As many people as possible are warmly invited to review reports on last year's activities and discuss ideas for next year, be they improvements to the facilities, Open Day ideas and of course, if you are not already a user, how to best make use of Gigaclear super fast broadband. We will have a demonstration set up for anyone who is interested.

There is also the matter of electing Officers to serve on next year's committee and so please get in touch with Marion Cooch on 870244 to indicate your interest.

The meeting will be followed by festive refreshments, which will be provided by your committee
Jeremy – 870516

Rendcomb Surgery Support Group Coffee Morning

We will be holding our annual Christmas Coffee Morning in Winstone Village Hall on Saturday December 3rd from 10.00am to 12.00noon. As well as tea/coffee and biscuits/mince pies there are several stalls selling home made cakes, Christmas cards and decorations, and white elephant goods, all alongside a raffle. If you would like to make a contribution to any of these but are unable to attend you can leave items at the surgery or I will collect them in the village.

Alternatively, please bring them to Church View, or telephone 870462 for further information.

P.S. Many of you will have seen the new ramp in the surgery, which is so much more suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. This is to be followed by automatic doors, again for easy access. RSSG have been helping with these plans over the last year.

Jennie

When: 15 th December 7.30pm	£7 per person	Where: Elkstone Village Hall
Please confirm your interest by 14 th December		Frames, wire and some materials will be supplied, but please bring anything from your garden, hedgerows etc. you wish to include
Contact Katie Hobbs 01242870477	Make Your Own Christmas Wreath	
hobbs-78@hotmail.co.uk Feel free to bring drinks and snacks!		

Elkstone Christmas Dinner

The meal is booked in The Function Room of The Green Dragon for Friday December 16th at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. There has been an excellent response and I hope to confirm your menu choices and collect the money by the beginning of the month. You can check the menus again on their website www.green-dragon-inn.co.uk and I have a few paper copies as well. If we pay £24.00 for 3 courses and £19.00 for 2 courses we will have money over for a tip. Coffee is also available for £2.00.

Everyone is very welcome - the more the merrier!

Jennie - 870462 - ejenniehowlett@gmail.com

Carol Singing 2016

When? Wednesday 21st December

What time? 6pm for mulled wine/soft drinks and nibbles

Where? Church View

(Please wear warm clothing and bring a torch. Carol hymn sheets will be provided.)

After a brief practise we'll start our tour around the village about 7pm, hopefully arriving at the Village Hall in time for further refreshments and entertainment.

If anyone has a party piece they are keen to share with an audience this is your chance - may be a poem, a story, a song, a short drama, a magician's trick.....

Any assistance at the Village Hall would be very welcome. Please let me know if you can help. As in previous years we will not be collecting money.

We just enjoy the tradition of singing Christmas carols among friends.

You will be given a very warm welcome.

Jennie - 870462

Christingle Service - Preliminary Notice

Our traditional candlelit Christingle Service is planned for Sunday January 8th 2017 at 10.00am. If you are a Children's Society box holder please bring it along, or I will collect it. More arrangements will be detailed in January's newsletter. Many thanks for all your contributions. Last year we raised over £700.

Jennie

Dear Residents of Elkstone!

We would like to invite you all to Manor Barn for tea and cake/ wine and cheese on the afternoon of Sunday January 15th. Please feel free to drop in anytime between 3.00pm and 6.00pm. We would love to see as many of you as possible. If you are new to the village then do come along as it is a great opportunity to meet the people of Elkstone and we are a very friendly bunch!!

We look forward to seeing you. Please let us know if you are coming so I have a rough idea of numbers. Meanwhile we wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Best wishes,

Rachael and Andy Richardson - RSVP – 870581 - rachael@pobox.com

Elkstone and Supper Evening

There is too much Festive activity this December to fit in a film night, but please note in your diaries that on **Thursday January 19th**, we will be running the postponed **Hunt for the Wilder People** which has had huge acclaim. We look forward to seeing you then.

Greetings to all

Jeremy and Anne - 870516

Thank you letter

I would like to thank neighbours and friends for the kindness and help and for the lovely cards and flowers. I would also like to thank the people who have visited me in 24 St.Peter's Court in Cirencester, and would welcome all visitors.

I am very well and I think I have made the right move but it was hard clearing the accumulated rubbish of a lifetime.

Margaret Holder

UNICEF Sales

Over many years I have organised open house sales of cards and gifts for this children's charity. The UNICEF agents who encouraged me to be a supporter have decided that they are no longer able to supply the items from their catalogue, so I too have "retired" from my role. Many, many thanks to all who have provided funds of well over £2000. I hope you have enjoyed the hours round the fire eating mince pies with a warm drink as well as spending some relaxed time together in the run up to Christmas.

Jennie

Report on Elkstone's Harvest Project

This year for its Harvest project Elkstone Church decided to support the Nchima Trust, which is a small charity working in the small landlocked central Africa country of Malawi, which according to a recent World Bank report on GDP is now the poorest country in the world. The Nchima Trust only has an income of £60,000 and gives away 90% or more of its income. Volunteers in this country and Malawi staff it. The charity supports a thriving community centre, health education and a school. It ensures its money gets to the causes and people intended. It especially supports young women and girls in Malawi. The Charity has been supporting a community secondary school, which is well managed. However the cooking is done on a wood burning arrangement, which is wasteful and damages the building. With an average of 7hours sunshine a day throughout the year, solar power is popular but limited to small installations and little has been done in invest in larger applications, such as cookers and fridges. The Nchima Trust is planning to install a solar energy kitchen to provide meals for the students; give the school an income by recharging mobile phones; selling meals and offering cooling space. This will require 20 panels of 250watts each, with each costing about £130. The standard installation on a UK house requires 20 panels.

We decided to give our monetary Harvest service and Harvest Supper gifts to this project hoping to be able to buy 2 or 3 panels. In total it looks as though with Gift Aid we will be able to send the Nchima Trust over £700, which will buy about 5 panels. Thank you to everybody who so generously gave to this project.

David Pierce

Refuse & Recycling Collections

Week commencing Monday 19 December 2016:

Normal collection day	New revised collection day
Friday 23 Dec	No change
Friday 30 Dec	Will move to Tues 3 Jan 2017
Friday 6 Jan	Will move to Mon 9 Jan
Friday 13 Jan	Will move to Saturday 14 Jan
Friday 20 Jan	No change

The collection schedule will return to normal on the week beginning Monday 16 January

Village and Community Agent - December 2016

Home Fire Safety-quick tips

- With the Festive Season soon upon up just a reminder of simple precautions to make sure everyone has a safe and Happy Christmas. With extra candles and open fires being used.
- Last thing at night, ensure internal doors are shut where possible
- Turn off or unplug unnecessary electrical items. Don't leave dishwashers or washing machines running over night especially tumble dryers
- Remove/empty ashtrays out side
- know where door and window keys are
- Take a mobile phone to bed.
- Ensure everyone in the house knows of the escape plan or route and an alternative if that route is blocked.

From

Rob Cook, Fire fighter, Blue watch Stroud Community Fire Station

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service

For a free 'safe and well check', phone - 08001804140 or visit www.glosfire.uk

Smoke detectors are Free and the Home Safety Team will install them when they visit,

The Fire Service have items for anyone with hearing loss, and those who smoke if this is anyone you know do contact the Home Safety Team.

I hope everyone has a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and look forward to a Healthy 2017,

Best wishes to you all

Cynthia Laird - cynthia@villageagent.grcc.org.uk - 07776 245 780

Getting your views heard by Gloucestershire hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

This month I was delighted to be elected as a governor to the Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The GHNHSFT is one of the largest hospital trusts in the country and is the trust looking after our health and wellbeing. Leading the trust forward is the new Chief Executive Deborah Lee, whom I met recently and she is determined to ensure that the trust moves forward in a very positive way. I was recently elected as one of two governors elected to represent Cotswold District and I would like to thank those of you who voted for me. I regard it as an honour to serve you and in this role I shall be representing, not just my own views, but also those of all residents of the Cotswold community and especially Elkstone residents. We all have a part to play in seeing that we get the best possible delivery and service from our NHS and we can do that by taking an interest and making our views known. I will do my best to represent you in a helpful and productive way and whilst I will not be able to deal with any personal complaints about care I would be able to help you to ensure that, if they arise, they are directed to the correct department and, with your permission, could use them as an example to ensure that lessons are learned when necessary.

One of the statutory roles of governors is to hold non-executive directors to account for the performance of the board. Many of you will have read that recently our NHS trust has large financial deficit and is currently in financial special measures. This will present a challenge to all of us in the coming year and your views on the way forward are important. Recently introduced is the Strategic and Transformation Plan for Gloucestershire which can be found on the trust website, www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk. This is a very important part of our 'moving forward' and you may find it interesting to read as a starting point of getting our views heard. Following the publication of this plan there a 3.5 months programme of engagement, which will present an opportunity for everyone to learn more and have their say. A member's event is planned for 10th January 2017 and I will include details of this in the newsletter when they become available. Meanwhile there will be on-going governors meetings to discuss the plan and if you have any comments or ideas that you would like me to raise on your behalf please feed them back to me and I will do my best to ensure that they are heard and considered. . For those of you who are not yet members of the trust this is open to all and instructions for joining are also available on the website. You will find several other publications on the site that you may find interesting to read that give further details of what is planned e.g. the Operational Plan.

Anne Davies – 870516



Christmas Greetings to fellow villagers

Bryan and Lye and family wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Reg and Lois wish all readers a Happy and Peaceful time over the festive season – and beyond!