

Elkstone Newsletter

32nd Year: No. 3 (338)

December 2015

Editor's Bit

The met-people have started giving names to storms coming our way. I thought it was quite enough to hide away when high winds and rain were hitting us but having a name somehow personalises the 'blame factor'. Our gardens are now covered in fallen leaves for the second time and maybe that's a chore we can forget about – apart from remembering to clear the compressed leaves in the down pipes from the roof.

* ** *** **Season's Greeting** to all our friends and neighbours from Reg & Lois *** ** *
Reg – 20th November 2015

Features	
Elkstone Church Services Ken Haslam Tribute Remembrance Day Service Christmas Services & Christingle Service From the Parish Council Film evening	Rendcomb Surgery Coffee in Winstone Coberley School Christmas Fayre Christmas Meal at The Green Dragon Invitation to Elkstoners Village Agent Notice Advance notification – two dates
Diary Dates	
Rendcomb Surgery Coffee in Winstone – Saturday 5 th December – Winstone Village Hall Elkstone Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 9 th December – Elkstone Village Hall – 8.00pm Elkstone Film Evening – Thursday 10 th December – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.30pm Christmas Meal – Green Dragon – 11 th December Wine Tasting Elkstone Gardens Open Day – 5 th June 2016	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste – Fridays, but Mon 28 th instead of Fri 25 th
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays – 4 th & 18 th December
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: Friday 18th December please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net	

Elkstone Church Services

December 6th – Morning Prayer – 10.00am – Rev. A Champion

December 13th – No service – service of thanksgiving for ministry of Rev W Heathcote following his retirement at Rendcomb Church at 10.00am

December 20th – Carol Service – 11.00am – Archdeacon Of Cheltenham Robert Springett

December 24th – Midnight Holy Communion (CW) – 11.30pm – Rev. Arthur Champion

December 27th – No service – Joint service at Coberley at 9.30am – Holy Communion

David Pierce

Tribute to Ken Haslam and his life in Elkstone

It was in 1986 that Ken and Joyce moved from Charlton Kings to Elkstone. Although we were living in Charlton Kings at the same time, it was not until we made the same move in 1993 that we met Ken, on our first day in the village. As was so typical of him, Ken was one of the first people knocking on our door, as he did with so many others when they moved to Elkstone. He was like a self appointed welcoming committee. You were not being checked up on to see if you were of the right sort to be living here, but there was a genuine sense of being welcomed into the community. He turned up with a small guide to

the village full of useful and practical information, and offered to help in any way he could. So typical of the Ken we came to know.

Ken was always actively involved in aspects of village life. This was never just the place where he and Joyce lived, but was where their friends and what became their “family”, lived. Because of that he wanted to be involved and to put back into our community. Some of the aspects where Ken was involved included:

- The Village Hall Committee which he served as Chairman for many years. Even when he stood down as Chairman he continued to be on the committee and it has only been in recent years that he stopped dealing with the booking of the Hall.
- He was a long serving member of the Parochial Church Council, and was still a member when he died. I remember at meetings his most constant passion was that as much as possible should be done for the children in the village.
- His love of teaching children was seen in the help he provided in running the Sunday School which used to take place once a month during one of the Church services in what was then known as the Garden Room at Manor Farm Cottage.
- He was a member of the Elkstone Ramblers’ Group in its early years, specialising in devising and leading Treasure Hunt walks
- For a few years Ken stepped in to chair the Gardens Open Day Committee, when nobody else came forward.

Other roles that Ken undertook in the village included:

- Being MC at Ronnie and Carole’s wedding reception. He did a fantastic job with a lot of humour.
- On the occasion of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee in 2002, he showed his hidden talents as an actor and took on the role of Prince Philip, accompanying his Queen (played by Lindy Price) on a royal visit to Elkstone. To see him wandering around talking to people, with his hands behind his back, just like the real Prince Philip, you would have believed it was a real royal visit. I understand his greeting to those he met was “So you are part of the riff raff around here are you”!
- Invariably Ken would perform at the village Christmas social, with one of his favourite party pieces being the Northern monologue of Albert and the Lion.
- One of his lesser roles, but very important, was as one of the newspaper boys for the Village Hall end of the village.

Ken would often have a joke, about what was happening, often delivered totally straight faced as though he was being serious, and then you would see the twinkle in his eye, and you realised he was joking. He was always interested in people and their lives, not out of curiosity, but out of a genuine love for them.

I think it is so special that the last evening Ken spent in Elkstone, before he went into hospital, was in the village hall at the Harvest Supper, where he was amongst his friends and neighbours enjoying a typical village event.

Remembrance Service

Nearly 50 people gathered at Elkstone Church on November 8th to remember those who have given their lives in the two World Wars, and other armed conflicts. The offering from the service of £125 has been given to The Royal British Legion.

Christmas Services at Elkstone

Our Carol service will be on Sunday December 20th at 11.00am. This will be the traditional eight carols and seven readings, with the building of the crib by the children during the service. This year the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, Robert Springett, will lead the service.

Christmas Eve will be our midnight Holy Communion (CW) at 11.30pm.

Please join us at one of our services to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christingle Service

Sunday January 3rd at 10am will be our annual Christingle service when we remember the work of the Children's Society. If you have collecting boxes, which you have been using during the year, please remember to bring them to the service. We hope to have a representative from the Children's Society at the service to talk about some of the work in which they are involved.

Buy online and make a gift to the Church or Coberley School

A staggering proportion of items are now bought online, especially at Christmas time. If you are one of those who buy in this way, then why not also produce a gift for the Church for no additional cost or effort. All you have to do is register with The Giving Machine website and select a charity you want to support. St John the Evangelist, Elkstone and Coberley School are two of the listed charities. Each time you want to buy from a retailer included in The Giving Machine list, go through their website to the retailer's website, and the retailer will make a donation to the charity of your choice on any purchases. These donations can now be gifted aided which enhances the gift. Many of the major retailers are included, such as Amazon, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Tesco, Sainsbury and Argos. Over the last couple of years Elkstone Church has received over £300 from this source, so thank you to all those who have chosen us as their charity.

David Pierce

From the Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting postponed from November will now take place on Wednesday 9th December. Martin Hutchings of the Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council will be coming to speak to the possibility of conducting a new Housing Needs survey, as that done in 2010 is now considered by CDC and GRCC to be out of date.

The GCC Intergrated Transport Unit is currently conducting a survey, both online and via consultation evenings, which will be of interest to anyone who uses public buses, or might want to do so in the future. GCC is seeking views on how it prioritises the funding available for public transport, with options for changes to some local bus services.

The consultation is available online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fundedtransport and paper copies are available for those unable to access the online questionnaire.

Three Engagement evenings will explain the thinking behind the Funded Public Transport Consultation, and include some workshop activity to help identify local public transport needs. If you would like to attend one of these evenings, please phone 01452 427081 or email: victoria.powell@gloucestershire.gov.uk to confirm your attendance.

- Cirencester Bingham Gallery Wednesday 2nd December 18:30 – 20:30
- Stow-on-the-Wold St Edwards Hall Wednesday 9th December 19:30 – 21:30
- Gloucester Guildhall Thursday 10th December 18:30 – 20:30

Public consultation on the next stage of the **Cotswold Local Plan** has started. Cotswold District Council is now consulting on planning policies and standards. When adopted, these will set out the ground rules to be followed when considering applications for development. The proposed policies will cover a wide range of issues from housing and employment to design, infrastructure and the environment.

Should you have any queries after reading the consultation documents we would encourage you to attend one of the **drop-in sessions**, where officers will be present to answer any queries. The drop-ins are taking place:

- **Trinity Road Council Chamber, Cirencester** - Tuesday, 17th November (2.00-6.30)
- **Moreton-in-Marsh Area Centre** - Wednesday 18th November (2.00-6.30)

For more information and for the link to the consultation documents please see the CDC Emerging Local Plan webpage: <http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan/>

Deadline for comments/feedback - 12 noon on Monday, 21st December 2015

Film night with Paddington Bear

Thursday 10th December 7.00pm for drink and mince pies, the film will start at 7.30pm. With Christmas approaching we thought we would change the format of film night in December. We will be showing the film Paddington Bear, a fabulous family comedy in which a young bear, having escaped from his home in Peru following a massive earthquake, travels to London in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone at Paddington Station, he begins to realize that city life is not all he had imagined - until he meets the kind Brown family, who read the label around his neck ('Please look after this bear. Thank you') and offer him a temporary haven. It looks as though his luck has changed until this rarest of bears catches the eye of a museum taxidermist. Starring Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins and Julie Walters.

£5.00 for adults: £2.50 for children under 12; mulled wine, coffee or soft drink and mince pies £1.00

Anne and Jeremy - 870516

Grand Christmas Coffee Morning/Cake Sale

Winstone Village Hall, Saturday 5th December 2015 from 10.00am to 12.00noon

Cake Stall – Raffle

Tea/Coffee and Mincepies

Fancy Goods and Cards

Festive Decorations

A chance to meet and chat

Support **your** local Surgery

See you there!

(Donations for all stalls greatly appreciated)

Jennie – 870462 - Rendcomb Patients' Support Group

Coberley School Xmas Fayre

Saturday 5th December 12.00 – 2.00pm

Free entry and fun for all the family including grand raffle, face painting, gingerbread decorating, lucky dips and many stalls to help with the xmas shopping, plus our Christmas café with sandwiches and cakes galore.

Come and join the festive fun!

Sian

Christmas Meal at The Green Dragon

This year we have managed to book the function room at The Green Dragon for the evening of Friday 11th December. The menu is on their website:

www.green-dragon-inn.co.uk and the cost is £16.95 for 2 courses and £19.95 for 3 courses. There is a wide choice, which will suit everyone (hopefully).

If you would like a brochure with all the options please ring the number below and we'll post a copy through your letterbox.

The deposit has been paid so please put the date in your diary and let's enjoy an evening together - no preparation, cooking or washing up - just lovely food and interesting company in a beautiful setting. The Christmas decorations are always wonderful in The Green Dragon.

Later we'll be asking for your menu choices (and for a small contribution towards a gratuity), but for now just let us know that you wish to be there on the night.

Brian and Jennie Howlett – 870462 - brian.howlett@virgin.net

Dear Everyone,

We would like to invite you all for drinks at Manor Barn, Elkstone on Sunday 10th January from 3.00pm to 6.00pm. Please let us know if you can come. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Best wishes,

Rachael, Andy, Oscar, Tom and Jamie

RSVP - 870581

Parkinson's UK Cirencester and Stroud Branch

A meeting is held every 3rd Monday at St Lawrence's Church Hall, Countess Liliat Road in Chesterton, Cirencester, GL7 1ST

Time 2.00pm - 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome and there are interesting talks followed by refreshment's and outings in the summer. Transport available for Stroud Residents

For more information contact Jo Sankey 012856548809

The Festive Season is getting closer so it just remains for me to wish everyone Season Greetings to all and best wishes for a Healthy New Year.

Cynthia Laird

Future Date Alert**Wine Tasting Evening at the Village Hall Saturday 7th May 2016**

Based on the success of the 2015 evening of *art de vivre* there seems to be support for another in Spring next year. Watch this space for further news".

Brian Howlett - brian.howlett@virgin.net

Elkstone Gardens Open Day 2016 Update

The Committee is beginning to form with so far three commitments to participate including one of the latest arrivals in the village, which is very encouraging indeed. Ideally I need another person to sign up so that we can share out responsibilities equally for the various activities needed to make next year's event as successful as in 2015.

Teas will be organised by Jennie and Margaret at the Village Hall as usual with ice creams served at Enfield Farm and cream teas at a venue to be decided. Once again we are grateful to Jo and John Allison for the use of the Rectory field for car parking.

The core of the event and its main attraction is of course the many beautiful gardens there are in the village; and I am pleased to have already 6 villagers who have offered to open their gardens. Ideally we need a total of 10-12 gardens. Big or small doesn't matter. Visitors like to see how people have adapted their plot to the maximum effect so as to take away inspiration for their own gardens. Please help if you can.

As for the last few years we are planning for the first weekend in June for this year's event. There are several advantages to this selection: fewer competitive events, ahead of the main summer sporting highlights and peak holiday period. Most of all though, the village always looks gorgeous at this time with the leaves still fresh green on the trees and the lanes frothy with cow parsley.

Please mark the date 5th June 2016 in your calendar and please indicate if you are able to help in any way. On the day we always need support in particular for the teas and for marshalling the car park and most importantly the post-event barbecue on the Village Green.

Finally as you know the proceeds from this event are fundamentally important contributors to the Village's two main community centres: the Church and Village Hall, as well as bringing the village together in a joint venture. So all offers of help are of course most welcomed.

Brian Howlett - brian.howlett@virgin.net



We will start digging in your area very soon! The wait for ultrafast fibre broadband is nearly over...

Herefordshire County Council, Gloucestershire Council and Gigaclear are shortly going to transform your online experience. Work, play, communication, entertainment and study will never be the same again!

Gigaclear is delighted to announce that the construction of the network has officially started, bringing your community one step closer to having the UK's fastest* broadband! The civil works will take approximately three months to complete and we expect the first customers to go live in Cockleford in December. Other remaining customers will go live in phases throughout January 2016.

In the meantime, let us remind you of what you will get with Gigaclear:

- Unlimited data usage and ultrafast speeds of up to 1000Mbps
- The speed to make full use of 'Smart TV' and other online media equipment
- The ability to use multiple devices, simultaneously
- Unlimited and uninterrupted access to all online services
- Crystal clear audio and video Skype conversations, making working from home an option

To find out more about the project rollout:

Visit: www.fastershire.com

Email: info@fastershire.com

To find out if your property is included, to register for updates or to place an order, please visit:

www.gigaclear.com/fastershire

For updates, follow us on:

Twitter: [@Gigaclear](https://twitter.com/Gigaclear)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gigaclear

*Delivering up to 40x faster broadband than the average UK broadband speed.
(Source: Ofcom's overview of fixed broadband speeds published 26th February 2015.)



**SUPERFAST
BRITAIN**

Rendcomb Surgery Support Group

Our annual coffee morning this year is on Saturday 5th December from 10 to 12 noon in Winstone Village Hall. We hope to have cakes, Christmas decorations, cards and other goods for sale along with our excellent raffle. Please join us for a coffee/tea and mince pie/ cake /biscuit and a chance to talk to others from the neighbourhood. You will be made very welcome and all proceeds will benefit Rendcomb Surgery patients.

Offers of raffle prizes or goods for the stalls to Jennie Howlett, Church View, 870462

Carol Singing and Social Evening

When?	Friday 18 th December 2015
What time?	6pm
Where?	Church View
Dress Code?	Warm, waterproof clothing and footwear

We start the evening with mulled wine/soft drinks and nibbles in Church View along with a vague rehearsal. The more the merrier – everybody is welcome, especially if they possess an efficient torch to light the way.

Later, hopefully around 7pm, we sing our way around the village. Please let us know if you would like a favourite carol sung at your home and we will try our best!

In recent years the evening has continued with more music, poetry, "turns" and stupidity fuelled with mulled cider and sausage rolls.

If you feel you have missed your vocation as an "actor" or comedian or storyteller this could be your opportunity to surprise the village.

All contributions, no matter how banal, will entertain us! Start practising now and turn up on the night!

It's always an excellent evening which remains in the memory and is talked about for months afterwards.

Further information – Jenny Howlett Church View 870462

Preliminary Notice for Children's Society Box Holders

The Christingle Service is on Sunday 3rd January 2016 at 10am. Many of the boxes are collected at this time and along with others the money is donated to The Children's Society. If you are a box holder you are very welcome to join us at this special candlelit service. More information in the January edition of the newsletter. Jennie Howlett Church View 870462