

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Hello Everyone

This is a slim newsletter this month, but there is a lot of information, and dates to note within.

Pop in your diaries the Village Hall AGM on 4 December at 7pm. And read the article about the future of the Newsletter. We love to hear from you, and your thoughts. I am always interested to hear your news, or contributions you would like included.

Apologies to you all for giving you the incorrect dates for the bin collections in October.

Information is on our village website www.elkstonevillage.com for past newsletters and online Hall Bookings. Editor: Carole Bury

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 November 2023

Features

- 8 November. Parish Council Meeting. Elkstone Village Hall
- 9 November. Margaret Holder's Funeral 2pm. Elkstone Church
- 12 November 10.45am Remembrance Service. Elkstone Church
- Profile on Molly Hobbs
- News from Anne Davies and The Trust

Regular Village Hall Activities

Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday, 7.30pm	Ronnie Bury – 870493 or Martyn Wylie – 870441
Art Club	Every Thursday, 9am-1pm	Penny Casewell – 03330 119663
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.15 – 11.15am * * Return to the Village Hall * *	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary

Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse and garden waste	Tuesday 14 November Tuesday 28 November
	Food Caddy	Every Tuesday in November

Continues overleaf. . .

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Sunday 5 November – 11am Family Service

Sunday 12 November – 10.45am Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 19 November – 11am Holy Communion

Saturday 26 November – 11.00am Service at Rendcomb Church

Funeral of Mrs Margaret Holder

Our dear village friend Margaret died on Tuesday 10 October in the Nursing Home in Cheltenham. Margaret was born in the village and remained a very good friend to many of us.

Her son, Trevor Holder, has let us know that her funeral will be at Elkstone Church on Thursday 9 November at 2pm. We are all welcome and there will be refreshments in the Village Hall after her Service.

Remembrance Sunday

A Service for Remembrance Sunday will be held in the Church on Sunday 12 November 2023.

The Service will begin at 10.45am.

All of the collection from the morning's Service will be given to The Royal British Legion.

Elkstone Church

Great Western Air Ambulance Charity

Thank you to you all who donated to the Air Ambulance over the weekend of our Harvest Supper and Harvest Service. We are still waiting for the final count of the cash donations from their Head Office.

The final total will be in the December newsletter.

Elkstone Church

Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall

8 November. Commencing at 7.30pm

Belinda Holder. Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council

The Old Rectory, Colesbourne

Jason and Michelle invite us to their Wednesday evenings' Supper Club during the Winter months.

They recommend booking online, and their opening hours.

<https://oldrectoryrestaurant.co.uk/bookings/>

Please participate and help set out the future of the Elkstone Newsletter

Since October 1987 the Newsletter has appeared monthly with virtually no exceptions. However, there are some 'headwinds' affecting its onward publication, and we all need to think together as a village to decide its future.

The fact is that the availability of regular contributors has virtually dried up, making it very challenging for any editor to produce something that is interesting and worthwhile. Moreover the rapid adoption of social media, notably WhatsApp means that for many households in the vicinity this is by far the most rapid, convenient, and relevant source of current news, situations etc which cannot possibly be matched by a monthly printed newsletter.

A third aspect is that printing costs are starting to rise, but this is not itself a crucial factor. One point that none of us should ignore is that many in our community don't use smartphones, internet etc, and we could for some be looking at withdrawing a really significant source of village news.

Finally, our current Editor (Carole) has indicated that she would like to relinquish the role as early in 2024 as possible, so a successor is sought - please don't be shy in coming forward!

At the forthcoming AGM of the Elkstone Village Hall (4th December, see separate item) we can gather to pool ideas - Electronic (PDF) distribution only, reduction of frequency to four quarterly editions, and most extreme - cease its publication altogether

So please try to attend this gathering and participate in the discussion - if you cannot attend but would like to contribute anyway, please email agm@elkstonevillage.com

Thank you, Elkstone Village Hall Committee

Village Hall Annual Annual General Meeting - Monday 4 December 7pm

Our AGM will take place at the Village Hall and all in the village and locality are very welcome to attend as we discuss various topics including the finances for the year ended 30th September as well as agreeing a recommended budget for the current year.

If you have opinions about new or existing facilities at the hall or any other improvements you'd like to see, this is the time to express them! As also covered in this edition, there will also be a discussion regarding the future of the Newsletter.

After the formal proceedings, there will be 'Punch 'n Munch' social which is always an enjoyable get-together - we hope to see you there!

If you cannot attend, but you would like to comment on any topic regarding the Hall,
please email agm@elkstonevillage.com

News from Molly Hobbs

'Why did you choose THAT career?!' everybody asks. And I reply 'I just know it's my calling.'

As cliché as it may sound, since I first volunteered with an Undertaker aged 17, I knew the profession was my vocation.

I attended a funeral of a Great Uncle, and having been struck by the profoundness of the pall bearing and the lowering of the coffin into a straw lined grave, I asked the Funeral Director if I could come and see what the day to day role entails.

He welcomed me with open arms and there I started my voluntary role within the profession. I threw myself into all aspects of the job. I would help put handles on the coffins, collect people from the hospital mortuary, meet with families to hear about the life of the person who had died, learn what and who was important to them, we would start to plan how we were going to commemorate their life and personality in a way that felt right.

Not formulaic or prescriptive.

My 'employer' and I would walk to bakery to get lunch, stop and chat to the locals we passed by, Everybody wanted to give us a nod, a hand shake, a kind exchange of words. With sandwiches in hand we would make our way up to the church to mark where a grave was to be dug. We would take a turn round the churchyard and I would hear the stories of the people that lay beneath, who had been laid their by my mentors own hands. Whilst awaiting the grave digger we would lean on a headstone in the sun and eat our lunch.

I was lucky enough to start being introduced to local ministers and fellow Undertakers who knew and worked alongside my Grandfather. He became notable for his 'good funeral' services, summarising ones character, warts and all. These relationships that I was now learning of and continuing were decades long, important and fundamental, to both the past and present.

It was during these formative months and years, that I learnt the most significant aspect of the career for me. Community. Somewhere we belong in life and in death. Why would you not choose this career?!
Molly Hobbs. Bashall and Hobbs Funeral Directors. Elkstone

News from the trust.

This will be my last News from the Trust as I am now leaving my governor role after seven years. I became interested in how the Trust works, when, after having had an operation on my hand I had serious complications resulting from overuse of a particular antibiotic. As a retired pharmacist I raised concerns about this, but no one listened. I stood for election as a governor hoping that I would then be heard. This role gave me the opportunity to raise issues within the trust, be informed of trust activity by directors and to work with my local communities to ensure their voices were heard on a range of projects, including 'Fit for The Future' which offers an exciting future for the trust.

Having also spent many years as a Family Group Conference co-ordinator, and as a youth counsellor, I knew how important it is that young people are listened to. In championing engagement with young people, I helped set up the Young Influencers Group and I am delighted that, as I leave my role, the age for trust membership has been reduced and a young person of 18 is now an elected governor.

Mental health wellbeing has also been important to me, and I was concerned about what I found when I was elected as a Governor. Fortunately, and with very positive support from within the trust I was able to use expertise, skills, and passion to help shape services in a way which now benefits both patients and staff. My talking about my own past mental health issues opened the door for other people, including the Chief Executive, to speak about their own struggles and I was humbled to have my role in this acknowledged at the recent annual members meeting. In a recent staff release she says, '*I remember when I shared my own experiences via a podcast it sent ripples across my peers that I had spoken so openly about my own struggles whereas now there is a rarely a meeting when these conversations are now centre stage*'. I have also recorded a video about my own understanding of mental health issues for trainee doctors.

Finally, to anyone who is thinking of becoming a Governor, I would say 'do it!' It really is a great way to listen, question and contribute to local services and represent local people and member. It really is a privilege to work alongside frontline staff, and the Board to support the Trust and help make a difference! Thank you for having given me this opportunity, it has been an honour to serve you.

Anne Davies