

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



I am putting this month's newsletter together after the state funeral for HM Queen Elizabeth II. It feels as though time has been on hold these past few weeks. However you chose to mark this important moment in our nation's history, I wonder if like me you feel a sense of renewed pride in our country, as strangers became friends among the crowds and in the long queues. With rising energy bills, we are faced with a difficult winter ahead, but those most affected will get through it if we can all look out for them.

A reminder that I am stepping down as editor of the village newsletter after the December issue. If you are interested in taking over, please get in touch with Jeremy Davies soon on 870516.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th October 2022

Features

- Elkstone Parish Church Services
- Elkstone Village Hall Committee – new member needed
- Welcome to a new family
- Movie and supper nights
- Cheltenham Almshouses & Aid CIO – new trustee needed
- News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Cost-of-living support from Citizens Advice – Stroud and Cotswold District
- October Quiz

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

Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 4 th and 18 th October

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 2nd October – 11am **Morning Worship** with the Revd Dr Janet Anderson-Mackenzie.

Sunday 9th October – 10am **Morning Worship** with Ruth Edy.

Sunday 16th October – 11am **Harvest Celebration Service** with the Mark Venn.

Continues overleaf. . .

Elkstone Village Hall Committee – new member needed

With the very sad passing of Marion Cooch, who was a valued member of our committee, we would like someone from the village or vicinity to take her place. If you are interested, please email me at admin@elkstonevillage.com, or write to me at Manor Farm Cottage, Elkstone.

Jeremy Davies – Chair, Elkstone Village Hall Committee

Welcome to a new family

A big welcome to Kate, Guy, Loretta (8) and Floyd (7), who have recently moved into Manor Barn. Guy says, “We have been made to feel very welcome by our neighbours. We are settling in nicely. We both grew up in the countryside and wanted our children growing up in this one. We look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks and months. Please introduce yourselves.”

Movie and Supper Nights

Unusually, we find there isn't a recent film release that is very appealing for the sort of evening our audiences enjoy, so we have decided to 'pass' in October, hoping for better offerings before long. Aside from this, it has to be said that the formidable increases in prices we have all experienced of late means that the £5.00 per head for the supper (unchanged since 2012!) is no longer feasible. The suppers proceeds also cover us in the event of less than 20 attending the film being screened. At present we are not sure how much of an increase would be necessary to at least cover costs, but we think it might be in the region of £3-£5. Fortunately film licensing is still the same.

I think it is fair to say we all enjoy these evenings, and it would be sad to see them end. So we are asking you for your ideas regarding price and format from November and onwards. Please contact us at elkstone33@hotmail.com, or write to us at Manor Farm Cottage.

Jeremy and Anne Davies

Cheltenham Almshouses & Aid CIO

I am one of six trustees of this charity based in Cheltenham. We manage 39 almshouses at four sites across the town, and provide much needed housing for elderly folk who cannot afford their own property or to rent privately. The charity is well funded and has two part-time paid staff based in our office in College Street Cheltenham. Last year we built four new properties, and we currently have a small waiting list for when vacancies arise. We are seeking a new trustee to help us in our work. It is not necessary to have experience of almshouses. Some expertise in running a business and/or maintenance of buildings would be helpful, but the real need is to find someone who wants to help the older and more deprived citizens of Cheltenham to a better life. The commitment is at least one trustee meeting every month in Cheltenham, and then above that any extra way that you would be able to contribute. If you would like to know more, please phone me on 870441 or 07788 912645.

Martyn Wylie

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The death of the Queen has reminded me of all those who have died during the COVID pandemic, and of the families who grieved. This has had a huge impact on Trust 'life' in the last three years, and thanks must go to the staff who have given, and endured, so much.

As the country moves on, organ donation has featured highly in the Trust news. Steve Syer, the longest surviving single heart transplant patient in the UK, died just after his 80th birthday. He had his transplant in 1984 at Harefield, Middlesex, operated on by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub and his team. Later in 2016, Steve's wife Chris gave him one of her kidneys. Steve devoted all his life since his heart transplant to promoting the benefits of organ donation and he worked alongside the Trust's organ donation committee. The Trust has a special process to identify potential donors, with timely referral and support for the families involved, led by a team of specialised nurses.

Finally, we are delighted to have our CEO back. In her words, she was "one of the lucky ones" in having made a full recovery from a pretty catastrophic stroke, thanks to the quick actions of her husband and the amazing NHS staff who cared for her thereafter. After heart surgery and a broken ankle, she is now looking to lead a team, named Stroke of Luck, into this year's NHS Military Challenge! The team will compete against 12 other hospital teams from across the Southwest and will be raising funds for stroke services within the Trust. You can contribute towards this at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/deborah-lee9>

Anne Davies (Public-Elected Governor Cotswolds, GHNHSFT) - Email: anne.davies11@nhs.net

Cost-of-living support from Citizens Advice – Stroud & Cotswold Districts

At Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts we are seeing an increase in demand for our services, as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. Over the last three months we have seen a 92% increase in requests for charitable help from the same period last year, with people seeking help with food, fuel or hardship fund payments.

Whilst the Energy Price Guarantee announced on the 8th September comes as a huge relief to households, energy bills are still very high. In winter 2021, the energy price cap was set at £1,277 for typical use. The new Price Guarantee starting on 1 October for households on typical use will be £2,500 a year.

We are very concerned about how vulnerable residents will cope this autumn and winter, when temperatures drop, and they need to turn their heating on. We have already advised clients on prepayment meters who do not have enough credit to run medical equipment that relies on electricity; clients who cannot afford to heat their water; parents who are skipping meals to feed their children and pensioners unable to afford their fuel bills. In our largely rural districts, many residents rely on oil for heating and hot water, and we have been contacted by people who cannot afford the cost of the minimum order.

What to do if you are worrying about money

Our national Citizens Advice website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) has lots of useful advice and tools to help you. You can also access email advice through our local website (<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>) under the *Get Help* section.

If you cannot access the internet please call us on our freephone number 0808 800 0510 to access advice.

If you are really struggling and can't afford food to eat, you can call the Trussell Trust Help through Hardship Helpline on 08082 082138.

Please do ask for help – we understand that these are worrying times.

Penny Casewell

October Royal Family Quiz

1. During the opening ceremony of the London Olympic Games, the Queen appeared to parachute out of a helicopter with James Bond. Who directed the Games' opening ceremony?
a. Danny Boyle b. Stephen Frears c. Ridley Scott d. Christopher Nolan
2. The marriage between Queen Victoria and her beloved consort Prince Albert is perhaps the greatest love story in the Royal family. How many children did they have?
a. 10 b. 9 c. 8 d. 7
3. HM Queen Elizabeth II reportedly used various gestures as signals to her staff when she needed help. What secret signal did she reportedly use to get her staff to help her end a conversation?
a. Moved her handbag from one hand to another
b. Brushed her hair over her left ear
c. Touched her necklace
4. Which actress has played both Princess Margaret and Queen Elizabeth in separate performances?
a. Freya Wilson b. Helen Mirren c. Claire Foy d. Helena Bonham-Carter
5. The Royal family is forbidden from eating certain foods. Which of the following foods is NOT one of these forbidden foods?
a. Spaghetti b. Shellfish c. Garlic d. Dark chocolate

Quiz answers: : 1. a. Danny Boyle; 2. b. 9 children; 3. a. Most of the Queen's signals involved her handbag, including moving it on to the other arm, and placing it on the floor or on the table; 4. d. Helena Bonham-Carter; 5. d. Dark chocolate.