

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Hello dear friends and neighbours!

No shade, no shine, no butterflies,
no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves,
no birds! —
November!

A very gloomy picture of this subtle month from the Nineteenth Century poet and humourist, Thomas Hood. But there are plenty of things in this month to brighten the days — we just have to be a bit proactive to enjoy them, whilst putting on a few extra layers to keep warm.

The beeches are still golden brown in the autumn sunlight, my wild service tree is spectacularly stunning with its brown berries (or chequers) once used for colic, although perhaps not unless desperate.

Deer are finishing their annual rut and squirrels are preparing for the harder weather, although I much prefer the red to the aggressive grey. And grey seals are giving birth, — I haven't actually seen them around my garden pond, but I'm sure more windswept waters are teeming. At least I hope so.

Cherish your hedgehogs by leaving a few piles of leaves and bring indoors some berries and leaves to lift your spirits. I hope you enjoy the season!

Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 November 2024

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, 9.30 – 10.30am	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary		
Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse and garden waste	Friday 1 November Friday 15 November Friday 29 November
	Food Caddy	Every Friday in November

Elkstone Parish Church November Services		
Sunday 3 November	Morning Worship	11.00am
Sunday 10 November	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	10.45am
		
Sunday 17 November	Holy Communion	11.00am
Sunday 24 November	Service at Rendcomb Church	11.00am

Michael Cooch died on Sunday 27 October 2024.

Michael was a gentle, thoughtful man, quiet but with a lovely sense of humour. Interested in many things, including rugby, theatre and classical music and he also enjoyed discussions and different points of view.

He will be much missed by all who knew him.

Our thoughts are with Emma, Robin, Eric, Oliver, and Lucy.

Harvest Supper on the 5th October

Harvest was celebrated with friends and neighbours in the Village Hall on the Saturday evening. Good food, with plenty of puddings and cheese to enjoy together. Bringing us together in a true noisy gathering with plenty of chatter, clattering of plates and children enjoying a large hall to explore.

Thank you everyone for your support for the evening, reminding us we live in an area where we see first-hand the Harvest being brought in each year, and we can enjoy the fruits in the hedgerows and our gardens. We were able to send an impressive cash donation of almost £200.00 to the Cirencester Food Bank, and 4 large shopping bags of non-perishable food items. Thank you for your generosity at the Supper and the Church Service the following morning.

A special mention must go to the flower ladies who decorated the church with beautiful sunflowers and autumn foliage and colours. Opening the church door to the scent of flowers is always a thrill, realising that this building is important to so many people who visit, whether as visitors or villagers. The church is always open 24 hours a day, and there are always flowers to enjoy.

There is a large box in the Porch for any food donations for the Food Bank. We deliver this regularly to Cirencester, thank you in advance for any gifts you can spare.

Elkstone Church

Are you a Wild Woolly Woman?

The Wild Woolly Women meet in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month 10am to 12.30pm. This is the link to their website www.wildwoollywomen.co.uk They always welcome new members.

Village Hall

We are hoping to hold a Beetle Drive this month, date to be announced. Please keep an eye on the App and spread the word. All welcome and suitable for all ages capable of throwing a dice!

A417 Missing Link - Works information

Full overnight closure of the A436 (both directions) We will be closing the A436 from the Air Balloon Roundabout to the Ullenwood Manor Road for us to undertake the installation of permanent drainage and gullies, installation of kerbs, surfacing and ducting works.

Tuesday 29 October to Friday 1 November, 9pm to 6am

Monday 4 November to Saturday 9 November 9pm to 6am

Chilli Hot Chocolate

If you enjoy cooking then this is the season for homemade soup and bread, a cheering lunch if coming in after working or walking. A little more indulgent is hot chocolate with chillies, a real shot of warmth to keep you going.

You will need for two cups;

400ml of milk

½ cinnamon stick

EITHER 1 whole chilli (deseeded), or a few chilli flakes (be careful the flakes are very strong!)

Drinking chocolate to taste (you can use grated chocolate, but it is a bit time consuming).

Heat the milk, cinnamon and chilli, take it off the heat and leave to infuse.

Remove all the spices.

Reheat the infused milk and pour over the chocolate.

You can top it all with whipped cream, but, for goodness sake, don't enjoy yourself too much!

Gloucester County Council News

Fostering isEverything

'Everything', launched on 17 October, is the seventh film produced to promote local authority fostering. It follows foster carer Mike and his family on a journey through time with two of the children they have looked after, who are now adults. The concluding message of the film is that what you do with your life could forever change someone else's – encouraging people to foster to make that change.

In Gloucestershire, there are nearly eight hundred children and young people in care, and there is an urgent need for more people to foster for the county council. Foster carers are needed across the county, and particularly in Cheltenham, Stroud and Tewkesbury.

Gloucestershire County Council's fostering programme provides a strong support network. Anyone who fosters for the council will receive training and a dedicated allocated social worker will provide monthly visits. Competitive payments and allowances are offered to recognise the cost, time and skills needed to care for a child or young person.

To find out more, call 01242 532654, text FOSTER to 60060 or visit

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering.

Brighter journeys ahead for Gloucestershire

After nine years, the council have completed the replacement of streetlights with LED bulbs. The modernisation has resulted in a more reliable service, reducing lighting outages by 50%. It has also significantly reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions by up to 70%.



The work has been carried out with sensitivity to special architecture. For example, historic streetlights on Prestbury Road in Cheltenham have been restored with replica lanterns, almost exact copies of the originals, now enhanced with the efficiency and performance of modern LED technology. Once home to tramlines that operated for three decades until 1931, today the road is recognised as a conservation area, retaining four of the original columns that previously carried tram power lines but are now used for street lighting. The columns have been repainted and repaired to return them to their former glory.

Nature Notes

From an article by Dominic Couzens in The RSPB Magazine

In formation

It's a familiar, but breathtaking sight in our winter skies, a flock of birds flying in V formation, perhaps against the setting sun. But why do they do it? It's not for aesthetics, but has a biological purpose, and that is to help the flock members save energy. They can fly further than they would alone, and tire less. One study found that a bird in V formation could fly 70% further than a bird on its own.

The reason that the V formation is so effective, for large birds at least, is to do with airflow created by a bird's wingtips. As a bird ploughs forward, its wingtips produce turbulence in the form of rotating vortices. Immediately behind the bird the air plunges down, but off to one side is a strong upwash and it is this that the following bird is riding. The same applies to any flock member slightly behind and to the side – hence the adoption of a V in its various forms, which are not always symmetrical. The best position for large birds to follow one another is about a metre behind and to the side of the wingtip of the bird in front.

Recent studies have revealed that following birds are careful to fly precisely the same path as the bird in front, coordinating their whole wingbeat cycle to the vagaries of the uplift. It is a dynamic process, with birds constantly shifting their position and often making mistakes and missteps. It is also a learned process. Young birds weave all over the place: the 'perfect' formations we see don't begin that way!

One question that everyone asks about V formations is, "what about the poor leader who is doing all the work and the direction-finding too?" There is no doubt that the bird in front is working the hardest, but, not surprisingly, the leader is always temporary and in all V formations everyone moves around. As yet, the social aspects of formation flying haven't been worked out; it would be interesting to know whether the birds 'volunteer' to lead, and, if so, who decides, and who is the map reader? Do some individuals fail to cooperate? And, on a long flight, an argument could become very serious for the whole flock!



Next month — Carol Singing!

