

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



This is the time of year when magazines feel they should introduce even more excitement into readers lives by suggesting innovative ideas for the Christmas jollity. This is just one idea amongst the plethora available.

'Get a tree bough from the forest floor, foraged when on a walk'. (First locate your forest, not a wood - for heaven's sake don't be feeble about this - stagger back carrying the said heavy object, possibly ruining clothes and temper, thus prematurely exhausting yourself before the festivities even begin).

'Then suspend it from the ceiling' (Using what? Ropes, hooks, heavy chains?). 'Decorate with presents along the entire length, making an unusual Advent Calendar' (Absolutely unusual as the excited child climbs onto the nearest unsafe apparatus in order to disentangle the gift. And more than one child? Then just double the presents and double the disaster).

'Of course, you could decide to make it an attractive decorative feature over the Christmas meal table' (That's the bough, not the child and that is if you foolishly decide to trust an unreliable structure which, in spite of ropes and good intentions, descends, flattening family and/or guests. Which leaves you with a hefty insurance claim or having to spend the entire remainder of the season re-plastering the ceiling).

So, perhaps leave the magazine supplement to one side, leave the forest floor unmolested and have a very gentle and relaxed Christmas.

Good Wishes to you All!!

Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstoneparish.gov.uk

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 December 2025

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 – 07775 941876
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.00 - 11.00am	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary		
Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse, food caddy and garden waste	Friday 12 December Friday 29 December (No Garden Waste) Saturday 10 January (No Garden Waste)
	Food Caddy only	Friday 5 December Friday 19 December Monday 5 January

Elkstone Church. Christmas Services



ADVENT BENEFICE SERVICE

30th November 11.00am Colesborne Church

DECEMBER

7th December 11:00am

Advent 2. Morning Worship

21st December 4:00pm

Family Carols and Crib Service

24th December 11:30 pm

Midnight Service

JANUARY

4th January 11:00am Christingle Service

Villager or Visitor, you are all very welcome!

Churn Valley Singers.

Tuesday 2nd December at 8pm at North Cerney Village Hall. An informal Christmas Concert for friends and family, by the Churn Valley Singers, the community choir who sing every year in the church for our Open Gardens Day.

The concert was originally scheduled to be in Elkstone Church, but will now look forward to a Summer Concert, when it's warmer.

Fun, friendly community choir open to all adults. Rehearsals at North Cerney Village Hall, Tuesdays (in term time), 7:15-8:45pm.

Carol Singing

We meet at the Village Hall on Thursday 18th December at 6.00pm. We will then make our way round the Village. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age. We return to the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles. If you prefer not to sing, please feel free to join us there at 7.30pm.

We do NOT collect money; we are just there to wish Villagers a Happy Christmas.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to the Village to Emily and Dominic Betts. We hope you'll both be very happy here.

Just to remind, it would be helpful if, when someone new moves into the Village, that we are told about it with a mention of names. If no-one tells us then we can't print a welcome, which would be a shame. Many thanks.

From Archivist and Local Historian - Matt

Taken from 'The New Universal Parish Officer'. This book was given to me by the late John Cripps and is dated as belonging to James Coates Chedworth, 1765. This extract is a small part of the law associated with keeping your main road to market in good repair.

'The Constable and Church Wardens shall announce before the Feast of St John the Baptist which four days everybody had to join forces in maintenance of the main highway. If you had plough land (grew crops) you were expected to provide horses, carts and tools, if you defaulted it would cost you 10 shillings a day. All other householders, cottagers, labourers able to work, had to also turn up for the four days and if they missed a day? Fined 12 pence. If you sent a cart and it wasn't needed, then you had to supply two labourers instead and everyone was expected to put in a full eight hours work each day. Also, there were six days a year appointed for anyone with land adjoining the highway to mend their fences, which should be 'repaired and kept low and all trees and bushes growing in the highway cut down'. If you left your bushes or trees obstructing the highway it would cost you 40 shillings. I imagine quite a fine in its day.

I thought this was of particular interest given our newly repaired main road to market!!

Cotswold District Council Roundup

The Corinium Museum in Cirencester is celebrating winning Silver in the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category at the Bristol, Bath, Somerset, including Gloucestershire, Tourism Awards 2025.

Cotswold District Council is urging residents, businesses, community groups, and everyone who cares about the future to get involved and help influence the direction of the district as it launches a major Local Plan consultation after the Government more than doubled its housing target.

Running from 14 November 2025 to 2 January 2026, the consultation sets out high-level proposals - including the Council's preferred option - to try and meet the Government's target for development of more than 18,500 new homes across the district by 2043.

The updated Local Plan will serve as a blueprint for where new homes, jobs, services and supporting facilities should be located across the district. Crucially, it will help ensure that new housing is planned in a way that reflects local priorities and brings with it the required infrastructure.

The easiest way for residents to make sure they have their say is via the Local Plan online consultation site your.cotswold.gov.uk.

There will also be a series of events across the district during November and December, where people can speak to planning officers and ask questions. Our closest event is on 18 December at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester (2-7pm)

Gloucestershire County Council



In a town centre bustling with Christmas shoppers and eventgoers, finding a parking space can be both time-consuming and stressful.

Conveniently located just off the A40 and with easy access to the M5, the hub has almost 1,000 secure parking spaces on site. Simply drive in, park and then travel on the frequent 100 bus service straight into the heart of Cheltenham in just 12 minutes.

Parking is free when you buy a bus ticket and return fares on the 100 bus service cost £3.50 for an adult and £1.75 for a child. Alternatively, you can park your car at the hub for just £5 and everyone in the vehicle gets a free return bus ticket on the 100 bus service, making it an easy and affordable way to travel together.

From Friday 28 November to Saturday 10 January 2026, the 100 park and ride service will also run until 10pm from Monday to Saturday for late-night shopping and there will also be a new permanent regular service on Sundays.

Nature Watch

As the weather gets colder, please remember the birds and hedgehogs. Both need water as well as food; put the water in a shallow container for accessibility.

Birds appreciate suet pellets, seeds, sultanas and peanuts, if you can. Putting food in a special container on a hook is best, and a plastic tray underneath prevents attracting vermin.

Hedgehogs will feed if the weather isn't bitterly cold. NOT bread and milk please, it will kill them. They love a dry specialised food.

All foods, containers and advice can be found online. Any help you can give through the winter is wonderful for our wildlife.

Christmas Quiz (Just for fun, answers at the bottom of the page)

1. What are the names of the three wise men, said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
2. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?
3. How many points does a snowflake have?
4. Who is officially credited as the author of Auld Lang Syne?
5. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
6. Who wrote 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'?
7. In which modern country is St Nicholas's birthplace and hometown?
8. In what year was Band-Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas', the UK Christmas chart-topping record?
9. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
10. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
11. What date is St Stephen's Day?
12. In the inspirational 1946 film, It's a Wonderful Life, what's the name of George Bailey's guardian angel?
13. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
14. The character Jack Skellington appears in which 1993 Tim Burton film?
15. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics 'To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray'?
16. Name the original eight reindeer from the 'Twas the night before Christmas' poem?
17. In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' 'my true love brought me nine..' what?
18. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
19. The song 'White Christmas' was performed in which 1942 film?
20. In Charles Dickens' novel, 'A Christmas Carol', who was Scrooge's dead business partner?

1. Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar 2. Panettone, 3. Six, 4. Robert Burns, 5. Mexico, 6. Dr Seuss
7. Turkey, 8. 1984, 9. Christmas cracker, 10. Hogmanay, 11. 26th December, 12. Clarence
13. White, 14. The Nightmare before Christmas, 15. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,
16. Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen, 17. Ladies dancing,
18. Norway, 19. Holiday Inn, 20. Jacob Marley