

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



As we enter April, the world appears in many ways more alarming than it did a month ago. At a time like this nature can be a comforting reminder that life is cyclical, and that darker times are normal. We cannot expect always to be on an upward cycle, and we can't control everything. All we can do is welcome the signs of better times ahead. Spring is many people's favourite season for its spirit of rebirth, and the increased light and warmth it brings. Let's hope it works its magic again this year.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th April 2022

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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
Waste & Recycling	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 5 th and 19 th April (please note: not confirmed by CDC at time of going to print)

Oil tanks - Watch Out for any Suspicious Activity

The oil price hike is staggering. When prices spiked some time ago, thefts from oil tanks became more common, so let's all stay vigilant. If you spot any suspicious activity near oil tanks, particularly around the more remote houses around the village, then please do take note of any vehicle registration number and report it to the local police.

Continues overleaf. . .

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 3rd April – 11am **Holy Communion** with the Revd Jan Moore.

Sunday 10th April – 11am **A Special United Benefice Service** with the Rt Revd Robert Springett, the Bishop of Tewkesbury and Revd David. Meet in the centre of North Cerney village at around 10.30am for a short walk with donkeys to the Church.

Thursday 14th April – 6.30pm **Maundy Thursday Service** with the Rt Revd Robert Springett, the Bishop of Tewkesbury and Revd David.

Sunday 17th April – 11am **Easter Holy Communion** with the Revd Cliff Pooley.

Planting of Oak Trees to Commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Four of our younger residents came up from Coberley school on 15th March, together with their headteacher, Andrew Milner and Julie George, School Business Manager. The children were joined by others from the village to watch them plant two English Oak 'whips'.

The trees were kindly donated by The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire to all Gloucestershire villages who wished to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen.

Although the trees were small, as the saying goes, "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow"! The trees have been planted on the grass verge at the north crossroads to the village. They have been positioned to avoid obstructing visibility to motorists even when they reach maturity. At present all that can be seen are the two green tree guards.

My thanks go to all who helped: Sylvie Pierce for making arrangements with Coberley School, and for donating a large barrow of crumbly compost; Robert Neal for helping prepare the planting area, and his partner Ali who has kindly agreed to engrave two plaques; Andrew Milner and Julie George for allowing the children to come up during the morning; and of course to Maisie and Tallie Ricketts, Jack Hadley and Cassie Smithson who planted the trees and I trust will be around in many years to see two mighty oaks.

David Kearney



Film and Supper Evenings

We're now in "summer recess" until October, having had very successful evenings when conditions allowed them to be held. We really appreciate the ongoing support from our many regulars, who enjoy the social aspect as much as the film and supper - and of course new faces are always welcome!

During the summer we'll be keeping an eye out for interesting new releases. We're also open to suggestions and, to this end, the Social page on the village website www.elkstonevillage.com will shortly have a suggestions form; so if you know of a film that you'd like to see featured, do please let us have the details.

Enjoy the long summer evenings. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Jeremy & Anne Davies -870516

Elkstone Theatre Group

We formed this group at the beginning of this year and have had two very enjoyable visits to the Everyman theatre to see two very different performances. We are also going to see the new production of The Mozart Question at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester in April. If you would like to be added to our list, just let me know and I'll make sure you are kept informed. There is no need to go to every production and we will try to provide a variety of productions around this area.

Martyn Wylie Email: mgw123@btinternet.com

Open Gardens Day – Sunday 19th June

Planning is going well for this important day, which supports our village hall and our church with vital funds. So far, we have the promise of seven open gardens and if you would like to add to this number just let Martyn know at the contact details below. Your garden does not have to be a showpiece and people are very keen to see a wide variety.

With many thanks to John and Jo Allison, who are once again allowing us to use the Old Rectory field for car parking. Visitors arrive throughout the afternoon and we would really welcome help for an hour or so at a time of your choice to ensure the car park is constantly manned. Ronnie is getting the rota together and his contact details are shown below.

Last year the teas in the Village Hall contributed over £850 to our final total of £2800. It was a very busy afternoon and many villagers had spent time in the week before, baking cakes and biscuits, and labelling home-made jams and chutneys ready for sale on the day. Many thanks to all of you. Jennie is hoping that there will be plenty of volunteers to bake, to serve, to make teas and to wash up. We'll also need volunteers to take the money. Jennie will be drawing up a rota of helpers to try to ensure that everyone has the time also to take a look at our lovely open gardens. If you are willing to help in any way, or have any suggestions as to how the arrangements for the afternoon can be improved, please contact Jennie and, again, her contact details are shown below.

Car Parking Ronnie Bury 07500483811 ronaldbury@hotmail.co.uk

Village Hall Teas Jennie Howlett 01242 870462 ejenniehowlett@gmail.com

Anything Else Martyn Wylie 01242870441 or 07788912645 mgw123@btinternet.com

Update: Save our Gloucestershire Stone Stiles

You were kind enough to show an interest in this project. With enormous help from well over 100 enthusiastic countryside walkers, we have recorded 90-95% of the county's stone stiles which are an historic part of our Cotswold landscape.

Of late project contributors are reporting that stone stiles are being removed and replaced with noisy metal kissing gates, or just removed, leaving gaps to ease the passage of ramblers. It seems our efforts to photograph all our stone stiles may just have been in time before many vanish. We have an enormous amount of work to do indexing them, but the evidence has been assembled.



In April 2021 a new Countryside Code was launched and the wording of this may be encouraging the wanton destruction of stiles. The guidance includes making rights of way more accessible for visitors and goes on to suggest to land managers that they should ease access 'for visitors with different abilities and needs. Create gaps, or put up accessible self-closing gates instead of stiles where there is public

access, if possible.' British Standard BS 5709 also suggests for gaps gates and stiles replacement with self-closing gates.

There is nothing wrong in easing access but it should not mean destroying ancient stiles, often 300 or more years old, and an integral part of the countryside.

They should not be destroyed. It is perfectly reasonable to treasure them by placing alongside each a more rambler-friendly access. Why not fund this through ELMS – public money for public good.? ELMS* funds stone walls, for their landscape value, so why not stone stiles as well and for their additional historic value?

For more information: <https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/>

Peter T Wilson, Professor, Rtd, Peter.wilson@woodchestervillage.co.uk

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The trust is in the process of introducing a Whole Person Care Strategy which recognises the need to be equipped to respond not only to the physical health needs of patients, but to understand each person as a whole person. The importance of this has been highlighted by stories from people who have had a bad experience after being admitted for a physical illness, whilst also declaring a mental health condition. In considering priorities for this strategy, there has been significant input from patients with real-life examples, as well as learning from best practice. Having campaigned for improvement for some time, I am delighted to have been actively involved in work that has culminated in this result.

At the height of the COVID pandemic The Care and Quality Commission visited the trust and our partners, and has just published its report. It was heartening to read that they found colleagues in Gloucestershire to be empathetic and caring. They also acknowledged the very challenging conditions facing urgent and emergency care, and equally importantly the knock-on effect to other services such as planned operations. The impact of COVID is still present with a high number of community cases. Whilst the pressure on the Emergency department is reducing, with lower numbers needing admission, it remains congested, with patients being held in queues in ambulances due to the difficulty in discharging patients. Currently only two out of fifty-five care homes are open for admission, the rest being closed due to COVID cases.

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

Anyone for Cricket?

Cowley Cricket Club are the local cricket club for the Upper Churn Valley. Cricket has been playing on the same ground in the village since 1906, the club as it stands today has been playing since 1921. We play social, fun cricket on alternative Sunday afternoons and midweek evenings against other Cotswold villages. We are on the lookout for new players of all age, ability or gender. If any residents of Elkstone would like to join us in 2022 you would be very welcome. Contact Jon (club chairman) 07947-805819 for more details.

Easter Quiz

- 1 What does Easter celebrate?
- 2 What is the traditional flower of Easter?
- 3 In which ocean is Easter Island?
- 4 What name is given to the Sunday before Easter?
- 5 Which chocolate company produced the first ever chocolate egg in the UK?
- 6 What is the name of a male rabbit?
- 7 Which fruit is traditionally seen in a hot cross bun?
- 8 What item does the white rabbit in Alice in Wonderland always carry with him?
- 9 Which 1948 film starred Judy Garland as Hannah Brown and Fred Astaire as Don Hewes?
- 10 How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?

Match the slogan to the correct chocolate bar (for the chocoholics among us)

Slogan

A hazelnut in every bite

It's not Terry's, it's mine!

How do you eat yours?

When you feel like a great big bite

Try both and pick a side

Feel the bubbles

Do you love anyone enough to give them your last?

Chocolate Bar

LION BAR

TWIX

AERO

CADBURY CRÈME EGG

TOPIC

ROLO

TERRY'S CHOCOLATE ORANGE



Quiz answers: 1. The resurrection of Jesus; 2. Lily; 3. Pacific Ocean; 4. Palm Sunday; 5. J.S. Fry & Sons (Frys); 6. Buck; 7. Raisins; 8. Pocket Watch 9. Easter Parade; 10. 30.
A hazelnut in every bite – TOPIC; It's not Terry's, it's mine! – TERRY'S CHOCOLATE ORANGE; How do you eat yours? – CADBURY CRÈME EGG; When you feel like a great big bite – LION BAR; Try both and pick a side – TWIX; Feel the bubbles – AERO; Do you love anyone enough to give them your last one? – ROLO