

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



April is here, with longer days and gardens growing and flourishing!
This is the month to be planning for the Coronation of King Charles – and you'll read there's lots of news in this newsletter,
And April means Easter – Elkstone Parish Church have asked me to let you know there will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard after the Service at 11am. There are usually plenty for all, so please pop into the Porch and collect a bag of little eggs if you can't make the Service.

Editor: Carole Bury email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter 20 April 2023



Features

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|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| • Elections | Village Hall | Thursday 4 May |
| • Elkstone's Coronation Celebration | Village Hall | Sunday 7 May from 12.30 |
| • Gardens Open Day | Sunday 11 June | 2pm to 6pm |
| • Open Gardens Village BBQ | Sunday 11 June | 7pm |
| • Recipe | | |
| • News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation 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	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary

Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse and garden waste	Tuesday 4 April Tuesday 18 April
	Food Caddy	Every Tuesday

Continues overleaf. . .

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Sunday 2 April – 11am **Palm Sunday** Joint Benefice Service. North Cerney Church

Thursday 6 April - 6.30pm **Maundy Service**

Sunday 9 April – 11.00am Easter Sunday, followed by Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard.

Sunday 16 April – 11.00am **Holy Communion**

Sunday 23 April – No Service

Sunday 30 April – 11.00am Joint Benefice Service. Rendcombe Church

SAVE THE DATE Elkstone's Coronation Celebration



Sunday 7 May from 12.30

Come and join us at Elkstone Village Hall for the Coronation Bring and Share Big Lunch

To celebrate this historic occasion, children of all ages are especially welcome and we will be organising games for all ages. Please contact Antonia to let us know numbers and what you would like to bring and share, for example, a salad, a savoury dish, or a sweet treat.

Bring your own drinks.

We look forward to hearing from you and to mark this special community event.
Liz and Antonia

A435 Charlton Hill and Road Closure

Construction began on Monday 20 March, after the Cheltenham Festival finished, and is due to be completed by the end of September.
Work will be undertaken to provide slope stabilisation at the areas experiencing the most severe movement. The road will be resurfaced as part of the project from Seven Springs roundabout to Lilley Brook Golf Course. The aim is to take advantage of the necessary road closure by carrying out all the work. i.e. Slope stabilisation, Drainage improvements, Footway improvements, Carriageway resurfacing, Partial use of the crawler lane to provide a safe zone for cyclists travelling uphill
Road closures and diversion routes will be posted on this web page.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/a435ch/>

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2120999/road-closure-and-proposed-diversion-route-plan.pdf>

Bus information

Service 51 linking Cheltenham, Cirencester and Swindon will take a diversionary route using the A40 (London Road) to Shipton Oliffe turn, then the A436 re-joining the normal route at Seven Springs Roundabout. A revised timetable will be introduced from 19 March. College Service C51 also uses the same diversion.

For more information see <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/west>

Gardens Day Sunday 11 June 2023

We have made great progress on our plans for Gardens day since the last newsletter. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help. We now have eleven gardens open and, with many thanks to our new residents Guy and Kate and family, we have provision of cream teas at the south end of the village. We've also made progress with our publicity and Amy McDonald is creating a presence for us on Facebook and Instagram.

We still need volunteers to help on the day. In particular an hour or so on car parking duty (contact Ronnie Bury on 870493) or helping with teas in the village hall or at Manor Barn (contact Jennie on 870462 or Kate on 07789882175) would be very welcome.

So make sure the date is in your diaries including the evening barbecue and let's hope for a really warm day with plenty of sunshine.

Martyn Wylie (870441 or 07788912645)

Gardens Day Plant Sales

The sale of plants at Gardens Day brings in valuable income for the Church and the Hall. As last year we will have an arrangement with Exedra Nurseries from Rococo Gardens who will supply some of their special plants in bloom on a sale or return basis. We benefit from a percentage value of their plants sold on the day. Exedra always presents a colourful display for us.

However visitors are always interested in buying plants they have seen in flower in the gardens they have visited.

Now is an ideal time to plant seeds or take cuttings of plants that you know will be flowering in mid June. If you have opened your garden previously, you will know the plants that visitors point out and ask you about. These are ideal candidates to have on sale on the Open Day itself.

So please start planning and planting now. The plant sales will be in Sylvie's Garden and you can deliver what you prepared there on Saturday 10th June.

Elections 4 May 2023

Please follow this link if anyone is interested in standing at the next PC election

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/i3qbcft1/parish-and-town-nomination-paper-pack-v3.pdf>

Belinda Holder Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council

How to vote: Information about registering to vote can be found at: www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote/ or visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter

Or phone Cotswold District Council for support on 01285 623002 or visit their offices in Cirencester. From May 2023 anyone wishing to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper.

ID required: a suitable form of photographic ID to the polling station. The most commonly used IDs with photographic evidence include your Passport, Driving Licence, UK Residence permit, Identity Card (PASS card), Blue Badge, HM Government or local authority concessionary Travel Pass, EEA ID card. For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Only original documents will be accepted; scanned images or copies won't be accepted.

Recipe

Hot Coronation Chicken – serves 4

1 tablespoon oil
4 large chicken thighs, boneless and skinless, cut into strips or chunks
1 medium onion, peeled and sliced thinly
1 tablespoon curry powder (medium or go hotter)
1 rounded teaspoon turmeric powder
300ml chicken stock or vegetable stock
juice of 1 small lemon
a handful of chopped dried apricots
2 teaspoons mango chutney
a small pot of natural yogurt (about 150-200ml)
1 rounded tablespoon plain flour
salt and pepper to season
a handful of toasted almond flakes, optional
a handful of fresh coriander, chopped

1. Heat the oil in a pan and add the onion, spices, chilli and seasoning. Cook for about 5 minutes or until the onion takes on a little colour, and add the chicken. Cook gently for a couple of minutes, stirring to combine all the flavours of the spices.

2. Stir in the flour and cook for 2 minutes, stirring all the time.

Add the stock, a little at a time, the lemon juice and the remaining ingredients, except the yogurt. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer gently for 10-15 minutes.

3. Remove from the heat and stir in most of the yoghurt.

Serve with a sprinkling of toasted almond flakes, if using, a few spoons of yoghurt dotted over and the coriander.

Neighbourhood Watch

Police have issued a warning after several distraction thefts have happened in just two weeks in March where victims have either had jewellery or cash stolen.

Since the beginning of March there have been several reports, locally, of people being targeted by thieves who distract them and then steal from them. Often victims are elderly, and police are urging people to make their family, friends and neighbours aware of this type of distraction theft.

A common theme amongst the incidents is fraudsters pretending to collect money for charity, and finding ways to get physically close to the victims to either steal a watch, jewellery or cash from their purse or bag. Officers are asking people to be vigilant to this type of theft and to be wary if approached by an unknown person who asks you to donate cash.

If you see suspicious activity and the offenders are present, or if a crime has just happened, you should call police immediately on 999.

Call 101 for a non-emergency or report online:

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

News from the trust

The annual national NHS Staff Satisfaction Survey, just released, sadly shows deterioration in our trust's results. This reflects the difficulties that staff have faced including staff shortages, distress caused to patients and staff alike by the consequences of the lack of flow through the hospital, and concerns about ward corridor boarding which was introduced to overcome this despite patient safety always being at the forefront of these decisions. Large scale building works have also necessitated ward moving and caused difficulties parking. Though the results are very disappointing the way the staff have worked to overcome these obstacles is amazing. I was however heartened to hear at the recent board meeting, firstly that personal letters have been sent out to every member of staff and secondly that a positive programme has been put in place to address the issues. The survey showed that staff from diverse ethnic backgrounds feel they are subject to discrimination despite the many measures already in place to address. Further measures will be put into place to ensure they feel not only supported but also feel confident to raise their concerns and report any act of discrimination that they experience or witness.

A new integrated care system (ICS) initiative called 'Flow Friday' has been established to support discharge of patients who no longer need hospital care is producing very good results. When it started 6 weeks ago the trust had 65 patients who had waited more than 50 days to be discharged, there are now 8. Two young patients who had been in the trust for more than 180 days were discharged with one of them reunited with her young family. This work has had learning at the centre of its approach and has identified process issues and gaps in services. Attention is now turning to those waiting more than 40 days.

Finally, four people have approached me this month to let me know of the very positive treatment they had received within the trust. The trust also gets letters of positive messages from patients. This month eight reviews on Google and five on NHS.UK gave the trust five stars. This recognition not only boosts morale but also highlights to the staff the reasons and value of the wonderful work they do.

Anne Davies (Public Governor Cotswolds anne.davies11@nhs.net)



ELKSTONE VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY

**Sunday 11th June 2023
2.00pm – 6.00pm**

Many Interesting Open Gardens to View
A wonderful Norman Church to see.
Refreshments including teas and ice creams
Plant stall.

**Adults: £5 Children: FREE
FREE CAR PARKING**

Elkstone lies midway between Cheltenham and
Cirencester just off the A435 or A417

All proceeds in aid of the Church and Village Hall

Assistance only dogs in the gardens

www.elkstonevillage.com