

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Well, what an eventful and mindboggling start to 2022 it has been. I guess the village newsletter is not the place to dwell on the recent goings-on concerning Parliament, Djokovic and the Australian Open, the public MI5 outing of a Chinese 'spy', the volcano and tsunami that struck Tonga, or even the abrupt abandonment of 'Plan B' following the apparent decline in Covid cases. But really, what else are we going to talk about? Fortunately, some of our regular contributors have come up with another round of interesting articles, so thank you to them and happy reading to you all. (Incidentally, the weather is not looking too bad as we head into February.)

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th February 2022

Features

- Elkstone Parish Church Services
- Film and Supper Evening – film: *Official Secrets*
- Elkstone Gardens – a date for your diary
- Elkstone Parish Council - recruiting
- News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Citizens Advice (Stroud and Cotswold Districts): 80 years of continuous service
- February 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

Other Dates for your Diary

Film and Supper Evening	Village Hall, Thursday 24 th February, 7pm	<i>Jeremy and Anne Davies – 870516</i>
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Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 8 th and 22 nd February

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 6th February – 11am **Holy Communion** with the Revd Jan Moore.

Sunday 13th February – 10am **Morning Worship** with the Revd David Minns.

Sunday 20th February – 11am **Holy Communion** with the Revd David Minns.

Churn Valley Benefice Parish Link magazine

Following a reduction in the number of free printed copies of the Churn Valley Benefice Parish Link magazine available in the church, those interested in keeping up to date are now directed to access it online via this link <https://www.churnvalley.org.uk/parish-link-magazine/>

Film and Supper Evening –Thursday 24th February

After an extended lockdown, we're finally able to run *Official Secrets*, featuring the true story of Katherine Gun (played by Keira Knightley). Gun was a British intelligence specialist working for GCHQ, who risked everything to stop an unjust war. The government of the day called her a traitor. Based on world-shaking true events, the film tells the gripping story of how, whilst handing classified information in the run up to the 2003 Iraq War, Gun receives a memo from the US National Security Agency with a shocking directive: the United States is enlisting Britain's help in collecting compromising information on United Nations Security Council members in order to blackmail them into voting in favour of an invasion of Iraq. Unable to stand by and watch the world be rushed into an illegal war, Gun makes the gut-wrenching decision to defy her government and leak the memo to the press. So begins an explosive chain of events that will ignite an international firestorm, expose a vast political conspiracy, and put Gun and her family directly in harm's way. The film also stars Ralph Fiennes and Matt Smith.

The film will be preceded by a Lasagne and Salad supper starting at 7pm, the film starts at 8pm. Tickets are £10 a head for Film + Supper. Payment in a marked envelope, please, through the letterbox of Manor Farm Cottage by 6pm on Monday 21st February. Film-only attendance is £5 each, payable at the door.

Jeremy & Anne Davies –870516

Elkstone Gardens – Sunday 19th June 2022

I realise that we are still in the dark days of winter, but Spring is really just around the corner and we have begun our planning for the 2022 Gardens Day. This year we have decided to hold the event a couple of weeks later than usual, as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations clash with our usual date of the first Sunday in June. Please put Sunday 19th June into your diary.

To ensure this important day for the village is a success, we need volunteers. Volunteers to open their gardens, as well as to help with preparation and on the day. If you are happy to open your garden, please let me know. It really doesn't have to be a "showpiece"; you will find people enjoy seeing all types and sizes of garden and it's the variety that adds interest as they wander through the village. Showing visitors around your garden is extremely rewarding. Alternatively, if you can volunteer either before or on the day, there are a myriad of tasks needing to be done, including helping with teas in the Village Hall, car parking and more. The time commitment on the day doesn't need to be onerous.

Funds raised from the day are split equally between our Church and Village Hall and are important to help with the running costs of both these village assets. If you can help in any way, please contact me.

Martyn Wylie – Email mgw123@btinternet.com Tel: 870441 or 07788 912645

Elkstone Parish Council

Elkstone Parish Council presently has 4 councillors, namely Matt Hobbs (Chair), David Kearney, David Collins and Frances Toase, all ably assisted by Barbara Holder, our clerk. However we are seeking a fifth councillor to be co-opted into the council to serve until the Parish Council elections of May 2023, and hopefully beyond.

The council considers and comments upon planning applications and future developments. It manages village assets such as The Pound and its trees, grit bins and bus shelters, and liaises with the District and County Councils over other matters of concern to the village. For example, the 40mph speed limit was originally introduced, and indeed just last month the road lines were repainted, because of this liaison.

Meetings are held every two months in the village hall but day-to-day matters are normally dealt with by email.

Please note that to be eligible, the candidate would need to live or work in the Parish.

This is an opportunity to help make a difference in our area and we would urge anybody interested to approach any of the above councillors, or to email elkstonepc@gmail.com for further information, and without any obligation.

David Collins

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

This month I am relating how NHS problems you will be aware of through the news are currently manifesting in the Trust.

Around two-thirds of the recent COVID patients in hospital were admitted for reasons other than COVID, which only showed on subsequent testing. COVID-positive patients this time around are generally younger, with 53% under 60 years of age, compared to 36% in wave 1, and they are less likely to have had their booster. Most experience milder disease, require less intervention, and go home much earlier than in previous waves. Staff have welcomed some especially heart-warming compliments from patients and families cared for in recent weeks.

'Critical incidents' indicate a time of concern which is serious but not major for the whole system, and refer to changes in management of the hospitals at the busiest times. They normally last for 2-3 days but not long ago one lasted for nine days. They are linked to excess patient numbers and staff, and bed shortages. A contributing factor is a continuing high number of patients awaiting discharge. Whilst normally around 100, this figure recently reached 205. It was also 150 at Christmas, when it would normally be 30-40. Another contributing factor has been the loss of about 60 beds to ensure the necessary separation of patients to inhibit the spread of COVID. Ambulance waiting times are also seriously impacted by the shortage of beds.

*Anne Davies (Public Governor for Cotswolds, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) -
Email: anne.davies11@nhs.net*

Citizens Advice (Stroud & Cotswold Districts): 80 years of continuous service to the community

Life was very different 80 years ago when a local branch of the national Citizens Advice set up in Dyer Street, Cirencester. It was 1941 and the height of the Second World War. Concerns of clients were understandably often related to getting through the war, with many queries about food rationing, inadequate clothing, and damaged property.

Fast forward to today and our top enquiry areas are benefit entitlements, debt, housing, energy, employment and family problems. We work closely with the North Cotswold and Cirencester foodbanks and enquiries about Food Vouchers continue to be high.

Advice given by well trained volunteers, backed up by a small number of staff is still key to a much-needed service.

In 2013 the local Cirencester branch joined with Stroud Citizens Advice to become Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts. Even with the merger, we remain a small local charity which relies on support through grants, donations, and fund raising through the Friends of Cotswold Citizens Advice (a separate charity).

If you would like to become involved in supporting Citizens Advice in our district, why not join the Friends? They can be contacted at FoCCAB@gmail.com, or by writing to:

Friends of Cotswold Citizens Advice, C/O 2/3 The Mews, Cricklade Street, Cirencester, GL7 1HY

With thanks to Penny Casewell for providing this article.

Churn Valley Community Choir welcomes new members

Do you enjoy singing? The Churn Valley Community Choir meets every Tuesday from 7.15pm to around 8.45pm at North Cerney Village Hall. £5 subs per rehearsal and no need to book. If you are interested in joining, please contact Amanda Morgans by email to amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk

February Quiz

Q. Using the same letters that make up the name of our village, can you spot another eight-letter word?

K L S E
O T E N

Answer: Skeleton