

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbings...

A new year, with new beginnings, new horizons & a new editor on the way! What a great way to start the 2021 Newsletter, thank you so much to Jenny Hopkins for taking the editorial baton from me starting next month, I am tremendously grateful.

I am sure that this year will deal us all a better hand than 2020 did, with health, happiness & hope being the aces in the pack.

Happy New Year to you all.



Laure, editor@elkstonevillage.com Deadline For Next Newsletter, 20th January

Features

January Church Services
Midnight Communion
Elkstone Open Gardens
Bubbs Hill Closure
Auctioning of the Remaining Joyce Haslam Pictures
News From The Trust
Editor Appreciation

Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste – Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – <u>nb</u> Weds 13th & 26th January
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493 Postponed
Art Club	Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663 Postponed
Relaxation Sessions	Village Hall TBA – info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

Diary Dates

Parish Council Metting	Remote on Zoom	10 th January	8pm
Joyce Haslam Auction	Online	10 th -23 rd January	

January Church Services

3 rd	11am	Morning Prayer
10 th	10am	Morning Prayer
17 th	11am	Holy Communion
24 th	No Service	

In view of constantly changing C-19 restrictions & risk of bad weather any changes to the schedule will be announced on the Churn Valley Benefice website

<https://www.churnvalley.org.uk/calendar/>

Midnight Communion

Just to make everyone aware that Midnight Communion this year is having to be organised by obtaining an e-ticket from Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/midnight-holy-communion-tickets-131941784429>

The reason is that we typically have 38 villagers attending but the C-19 rules only allow seating for about 25 to ensure safe distancing.

Arthur Champion

Elkstone Open Gardens

Elkstone Open Gardens has for many years been the highlight of the village calendar. Taking place on the first Sunday in June, it is a vital fund raiser for our church & village hall and, more than that, it provides a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community in the sharing of our lovely gardens with visitors from near & far.

The evening village barbecue is a time to thank helpers & celebrate what hopefully has been an enjoyable day for everyone.

We can't be sure at this stage whether it will be possible for Elkstone Open Gardens 2021 to take place in June as usual, or if social distancing measures will make it better to move to the early autumn.

Either way, now is the ideal time to have a first get together to start planning.

Members of last year's Open Gardens group have already expressed an interest in helping to make 2021 a special come-back event. The more the merrier, so please if you are new to the village or have lived here for many years, we would love you to join us for a first informal Zoom get together & see if it is something you would like to be involved in this year. If you don't have access to the Internet but would still like to take part, that's not a problem & simply get in touch by phone.

We are always mindful of the need for a light touch on village events. If it's your first time, rest assured that there is no arm-twisting to do anything more than you happily want to do & have time to do. Look forward to hearing from you.

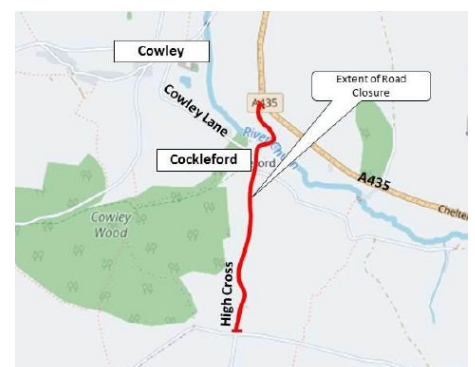
For more details, email opengardens@elkstonevillage.com or phone **Martyn Wylie on 01242 870441**

Bubbs Hill Closure

There is a Temporary Traffic Order to close the road 3/190 Cockleford, Cowley. Planned to last for approx. 5 days (excl. weekends) between the hours of 7am -7pm.

The planned start & end dates are currently Monday 18th January to Friday 22nd January, but please check the website or signs on site for any short notice changes.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/resurfacing



Online Re-Auction of Joyce Haslam's Paintings

10th January to Saturday 23rd

As outlined in last month's Newsletter, we still have 20 of Joyce Haslam's watercolour paintings available. These are identified on the village web

https://www.elkstonevillage.com/?page_id=4764.

In January we intend to re auction the remaining pictures online with a reduced reserve price of £10. Parish Link magazine & other means will be used to invite bids from residents of nearby villages such as Winstone & Syde. If any paintings are still left by the autumn these can be auctioned off at our Harvest Festival & the proceeds split equally between parish church & village hall.

Arthur Champion (Revd) - Tel: 01242 870402 - New Rectory, Cowley

News From The Trust

Throughout 2020 the Trust, supported hugely by the community, has coped well with the COVID19 pandemic. Unfortunately, however there are at present about 25% more COVID patients in hospital than at the peak of the first wave, but the numbers in critical care are not as high as previously. The staff continue to give their all but, not unexpectedly, are feeling the strain.

The end of the year saw the release of a COVID vaccine & the Trust is one of the 50 hubs that will oversee the distribution of the vaccine in the first phase. A matter of celebration is that on the 17th December the Prince of Wales & the Duchess of Cornwall visited the Trust & formally named the Hub 'The Edward Jenner COVID19-Vaccination Hub' in honour of Edward Jenner, Gloucestershire's pioneering scientist & inventor of vaccines.

Despite all the difficulties faced because of the efforts of every member of staff, together with close collaboration with our partners in the Gloucestershire Integrated Care System ICS, it has been possible to continue with urgent & cancer elective activity. This has also been helped by the planned allocation of work between the two hospital sites.

Working together with the ICS will increase over 2021 to deliver the vision of how high-quality health & care services can be sustainably delivered in the future. This will include greater emphasis on prevention of illness, support for more self-care, joined up care & support in the community & quality improvements for hospital services. As part of this, a forward-thinking application was put in for a £39.5m grant for hospital improvement, which was successful. This will be used to provide Cheltenham General Hospital with two new theatres & an additional day surgery unit. This will offer additional operating capacity in purpose-built facilities that will improve patient & staff experience by enabling more efficient working, reduced waiting lists, & fewer cancelled operations. Gloucestershire Royal Hospital will have an improved emergency department (ED), improved acute medical facilities for faster

diagnosis, assessment & treatment, redesigned outpatients & fracture clinic accommodation for orthopaedic patients, additional x-ray capacity & ward refurbishments.

Another exciting prospect for 2021 is that, with the relationship with partner University of Gloucestershire (UoG) continuing to go from strength to strength, two more exciting developments are in prospect. Work has been undertaken taken to develop an Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) degree which will take its first intake in January & offers both traditional & apprenticeship pathways. Work is also on track to establish a degree programme for biomedical scientists that will see the UoG & Trust delivering degrees in all the main healthcare disciplines, except for medical training.

Over the last year there have been 'big conversations' about staff & patient experience covering many aspects of staff & patient wellbeing. For governors one of the main concerns that we hear relates to the treatment of patients who present with mental health issues, either as a current concern in ED or as an ongoing hidden disability. It is therefore really pleasing that this has now become a major priority. Constructive dialogue is taking place & together with specific provisioning being made in ED hopefully 2021 will see this aspect of care improved enormously.

Finally, all the Fit For the Future programme consultations will be completed in 2021 & hopefully the Trust will be able to work on establishing Centres of Excellence & will be well on the road on our Journey to Outstanding.

With my best wishes to you all & stay safe.

Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor.)

In Appreciation of Elkstone Newsletter Editors...

On behalf of the Elkstone Village Hall Committee, I would like to thank Laure Filho for editing our Newsletter Editor for just over three years, having effortlessly taken over from Reg Eyre & made it her own with great effect. A most remarkable feat as she & Luke have at the same time been restoring Wards Hay Cottage (despite all odds). At the same time, we extend a big thank-you to Jenny Hopkins who assumes the role starting with the February 2021 edition.

We wish you both every success in 2021!

Jeremy Davies, Chair, Village Hall Committee

