

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbings...

From last month's bumper edition to this month's very slim pickings! I hope this means you have settled into this strange shift of life & you're occupying yourselves in your gardens, enjoying this Mediterranean style heat! Take good care of yourselves.

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

Features			
Elkstone Gardens Update			
News From The Trust			
Neighbourhood Watch Co Ordinator Needed			
Recycling Bin Plea			
Regular Dates			
Waste & Recycling	Food Waste – Every Tuesday		
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes –14 th & 28 th July		
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493 Postponed		
Art Club	Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663 Postponed		
Diary Dates			
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting	Remote on Zoom	8pm	22nd July

Elkstone Open Gardens

The Open Gardens event was sadly cancelled this year. This didn't stop some of our gardeners kindly sharing some fantastic gardens & allotments with villagers though. Many in the village have taken the opportunity of the lockdown to spend more time in the garden so there were some wonderful sights.

On Thursday 4 June Graham & Jenny Hopkins hosted a 'virtual tour' of village gardens with a number of recent photos together with a commentary from some of the gardeners. The photos have now been collated & are on the Elkstone website www.elkstonevillage.com as a video record of some of 2020s 'horticultural highlights' in the village.

Sunday 7th June was the original date planned for the open gardens event; 14 villagers kindly opened their gardens & allotments for 'social distance' viewing by others from the village. This was a great opportunity to see at first hand some wonderful gardens, plants & vegetables tended during the lockdown warm days of April & May. A few spots of rain at 3pm did not affect the enjoyment of the afternoon – nor did it provide any much-needed rain at the time for the gardens themselves.

A number of plants & books were sold on the day & a worthwhile sum of £181 was raised for the Church & Village Hall. Thank you to all who participated & especially Graham, Jenny & Jeremy for their IT & presentation skills helping to make a lasting memory of 2020 for future years.

Many thanks, David

News From The Trust

In this news I am happy not only to be able to update you on COVID but also, with the pandemic easing, to announce a writing competition for young people.

This month the trust moved into the second phase of planning for COVID 19 after extensive consultation with Integrated Care Partners, the Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee, local groups including REACH (Restore Emergency At Cheltenham General Hospital) MP's & Governors. At the heart of these changes are the goals of minimising the risk of transmission of the virus to patients & staff. Importantly, the changes will benefit patients needing urgent operations, those who may need cancer surgery & many who have had delays to planned treatments. The changes also leave the trust in a good position should a second surge occur in a way that will not have the disruptive effect on service delivery & staff that was experienced in phase 1. These temporary changes have been made possible due to the trust having two sites close together, & the staff have been amazing in adapting quickly to change, as they have throughout this pandemic.

The main concerns expressed related to the temporary downgrading of Cheltenham A & E to a minor illness & injury unit (MIU) & its overnight closure during this period. Alongside the MIU however an enhanced Ambulatory Emergency Care Service (AEC) will operate Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm to see patients referred by GP's who need specialist reviews but are unlikely to require admission. Discharged patients will also be followed up at this centre. Governors also expressed concern about the safe transfer of patients between sites e.g. someone admitted via A & E at Gloucester Royal with a stroke, may after stabilisation be transferred to Cheltenham Hospital acute stroke unit to continue their treatment. I am pleased to report that a contract has now been signed with a company that can deliver high quality & safe care when needed.

Moving on, it has been widely reported nationally that the Black, Asian, & Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities are twice as likely to be affected, & have poor outcomes to COVID 19, we have not seen this in the trust, however. There has not been a disproportionate impact on local BAME communities admitted & furthermore, the mortality rate among them has been much better being 12.5% against 36.47% of other deaths, the latter figure is in keeping with the national picture.

Gloucestershire Hospitals Youth Group Creative Writing & Poetry Competition

It's been a tough ten weeks under 'lock down' and now is the chance for all young people in Gloucestershire to free their thoughts & release their imagination by writing a short story or poem inspired by our titles 'Silver Linings' or The Covid Wars. The following categories will apply:

- Short story (500 to 1000 words) in three age groups 11-14, 14-16, & 16-18
- Flash Fiction (max 150 words) open to all ages, and
- Poetry (max 30 lines) also open to all ages.

We hope to publish the winning entries so nothing personal should be included in the entry & each winner will also receive a prize. It is important for those taking part to include their name, age, category, word count for stories, & parental/guardian contact email & telephone number if under 18. The closing date for entries is July 31st.

Email your entry (only one per person) to esha.holloway@nhs.net

Anne Davies (anne.davies11@nhs.net.)

New Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator needed.

I am giving up the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator at the end of July. If there is anyone interested in taking on this task, then please get in touch with me.

E-mail: itsupat@outlook.com or phone 01242 870477

Many thanks, Pat Hobbs

Recycling Bins Plea

A number of us in Elkstone cannot place our wheelies, crates etc outside our houses on recycling days (due to limited access for Council collection vehicles), so instead we have to move them to a communal area by the main road through the village.

Of late there have been instances of 'dumping' of quite hazardous materials including broken fizzy-drinks glass bottles into householders' crates (once emptied) on collection day. There are obvious health hazards attached to gathering up and disposing of them safely, and to create these risks does not align well with a community such as ours where mutual support and caring are watchwords, so it is fervently hoped that this sort of activity will cease!

(Name provided to Editor, but not published here)

