

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Hello Everyone

What a delight to see visitors enjoying our lovely village on the Sunday afternoon of Open Gardens. There are a couple of reports in the newsletter, but for now all the road signs are back in their shed for another year, and our gardens and village become the sanctuary we respect most about this place we call our home.

Editor: Carole Bury email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 July 2023

Features

- Open Garden reports
- Deer Park Guides Centre
- Feature from Citizens Advice
- 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 11 July Tuesday 25 July
	Food Caddy	Every Tuesday in July

Continues overleaf. . .

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Sunday 2 July – 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 9 July - 10am Morning Service

Sunday 16 July – 11.00am Holy Communion

Colin Perkins

It is with great sadness that we hear of the passing of Colin on Monday 19 June 2023. One of the last members of the parish to remember the village when it was based entirely around one farm. He became the Herd Manager for the Price family, at that time there were two herds one based at Slutswell and the other in the village. Colin had many humorous tales of farming life in Elkstone and a very useful encyclopaedic knowledge of all the various water pipes which had been laid to serve outlying properties. When the Elkstone herds were dispersed Colin and Pauline who also sat on the Parish Council for many years, latterly as chair, developed a very successful game bird rearing business specializing in Partridges, supplying birds to shoots throughout the south and west, this worked very well with his love of training and working Spaniels, something he continued to do and enjoy into his retirement.

Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall

Wednesday 12 July. Commencing at 7.30pm

Belinda Holder

Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council

Elkstone Open Gardens Day

Sunday 11 June 2023

News from the Village Hall Teas

What a wonderful display of home made cakes and biscuits on display in the Village Hall for Garden Open Day.

Many thanks to all of the bakers who provided so many varieties. Our guests were quite astonished at the choices. There were many compliments from them.

This year the team of helpers in the hall were kept on their toes but it was a very happy and successful afternoon. I can't thank you enough for all your help both on the day and beforehand.

Just brilliant

Jennie



Elkstone Open Gardens June 11th 2023

Despite a pretty terrible weather forecast last Sunday we had a successful Open gardens day to raise funds for our Church and our Village Hall. So many people from across the village worked very hard both before and on the day to make it all work. It was a great team effort. We raised £2204.60 which will be split 50/50 between the Church and the Hall. There will be an additional amount of around £200 once I have claimed Gift Aid on the donations from those kind folk who agreed to do this when paying in the car park. So in more detail the results are as follows;

Car Park

From a rota drawn up by Ronnie we “manned” the car park from around 1.30 to 5.30 and collected £1140. Special mention must be made of the sterling efforts by Nic and Ann Williamson in taking the money and recording Gift Aid contributions. Many other villagers helped with marshalling of the cars. A particular thank you is due to Jo and John and Sarah for the use of their field.

Village Hall Teas

As she has done for many years Jennie Howlett organised our teas and home made cakes in the hall. The team raised £765 which is a great sum of money and testament to all those who helped on the day and prepared cakes in advance.

Cream Teas

Newcomers to the village Kate and Guy took on the daunting task of providing Cream Teas at the south end of the village. They and their team, including family and other villagers, raised the amazing sum of £470.

Plant Sales

With the kind permission of Sylvie and the use of her garden Robert Neal and his wife raised £117. The majority of this income was from seedlings sowed by villagers especially for the day. Our cooperation with Exedra Nurseries gave us a little extra income as well.

Ice Creams

David and Sue sold ice creams and raised £123.

Barbecue

Well who knew it could rain quite so hard in Elkstone? A storm of almost biblical proportions caught out our intrepid cooking team on the green around 15 minutes before we were due to eat. Despite the fact that they were soaking wet they decamped to the hall and a jolly good evening followed. Huge thanks therefore to Alastair, Tim, John and their helpers. The intention for the barbecue was not to try to raise extra money but to enjoy ourselves after a busy day. That we did and broke even on the finances.

Other acknowledgements

Clearly the most important contributions were made by those who agreed to open their gardens. Every year our visitors remark on the beauty of this village and of our gardens and it is a great credit to all of those who allow people into their gardens. Without them the day would not be possible. So, many thanks to Barbara, Nic and Tim, Bryan, Anne and Jeremy, Graham, Kate and Guy, Brian and Jennie, Sylvie and Catherine and Gareth for all the work done to make their gardens look fabulous.

Thanks also to Bryan who organised the programme printing, to Jeremy who kept us all on track with our contactless payment system, to Amy who added a younger voice to our organising group and

spread the word via social media, to Carole and Jeremy who organised the advanced signing around the village, to Anne who got our message out to several magazines and to David Kearney for his valuable help with pre event parking signage and a long stint with his phone to take contactless payments on the car park.

I humbly apologise if I have forgotten to mention anyone but you can be assured your contribution is really valued.

Martyn Wylie. 18/06/2023

Open Gardens 2023 – A View from the Car Park

Experienced gardeners, enthusiastic amateurs, unenthusiastic children, newcomers, 'old lags' all found their way to the Car Park, en-route to a wonderful afternoon.

So many people. So many questions. "Where do we go?" "Will it be raining?" "How many gardens are open?" "How much is it?" They started to arrive before 2pm, "Can we just park and have a picnic?" They were still arriving at 5.30pm, "Are we too late?"

The weather sought to put a dampener on proceedings but failed dismally. People had 'come prepared'. They walked, they talked, they bought plants and ice creams and tea and cakes.

We saw them in, we saw them leave. They'd had a lovely time. Now, we asked them questions: What did you like the best? "Beautiful gardens, charming village, lovely people", "Lovely to see how the gardens have developed since last year", "A great range of gardens and plants". And their favourite garden? "All different, I loved them all".

They came, they saw and they left happy and contented. And they'll be back next year. You have been warned!!

Kaycee

Elkstone Church Flowers

Do you enjoy arranging flowers?

Would you like to join the friendly church flower group?

For more details, please contact

Anne Gait-Carr

01452 537597 email. annegc3@icloud.com



Harvest Supper in the Village Hall

Date for your diaries - Saturday 30 September

More details to follow, but I know lots of you enjoy this regular date, and at last it is returning after 3 years.

Harvest Service will be on Sunday 1 October at 10am in the Church.

News from Deer Park Guiding centre

I sit on the management committee for the guiding outdoor centre as a link between them and our village so we can share local knowledge that may be of concern, or be helpful, to either community. At the last meeting, following several years of negotiations, they have now been able to purchase the land which houses the main site at Deer Park, which had been previously leased. In addition, they have also purchased the small site opposite the car park entrance, and the adjacent woodland, which will allow their land to be connected safely to Bubbs Hill once more.

Owning the main site and buildings helps secure the future of Girl Guiding Gloucestershire at Deer Park. It enables them not only to continue to offer amazing outdoor opportunities to their young members but they can now also welcome other young people and school groups to share their facilities. This was previously denied by the terms of the lease. They are thrilled to have been able to complete this purchase, and the extra freedom they now have will not only benefit a wider range of young people but, hopefully, will also benefit Deer Park by generating extra income.

I also learned that the new owners of Cowley Manor are proposing to hold outdoor events until 2.00am and are seeking feedback. The concern for guiding is that it may disturb those camping, I have not been able to find any online information about this but I bring it to your attention and ask you to consider the impact of late noise and outdoor lighting to our area. I am happy to collect feedback and report it via the Deer Park route.

Anne Davies.

Citizens Advice

Booked a package holiday? Worried about what to do if something goes wrong?

Hopefully you'll have a lovely time but if something does go wrong with your package holiday, the Citizens Advice website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) has lots of information about what to do and what compensation you may be eligible for.

Firstly, tell the company or travel agent you booked with as soon as possible. This way you're more likely to be able to get it sorted quicker. If you don't say anything until you get home, you might get less or no compensation at all.

If the holiday you went on turned out to be lower in value than the one you originally booked you can make a claim for 'loss of value'.

You can also claim compensation for any extra money you have to spend while away, for example the hotel was a bus ride away from the beach rather than across the road as advertised. This is called claiming for 'out-of-pocket expenses'. If this does happen make sure you keep all your receipts for things like bus journeys.

If big parts of the trip you booked didn't happen or services weren't provided, you can make a claim for 'loss of enjoyment'. You can also make this claim if something happens that causes you distress or disappointment, such as the pool was closed for the whole trip.

It's worth noting that there's no strict guidance on how much you can claim for loss of enjoyment but any claim you make must be reasonable. You can't get compensation if you simply didn't enjoy the holiday or if the problem was out of the holiday company's control - like bad weather. Check the information you received when you made the booking to see what you're supposed to get. If you don't get the service you've been promised, you may be entitled to compensation for breach of contract. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance – check if your policy covers this. If you're still not sure what to do, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline **0808 223 1133** or talk to an adviser online through the Citizens Advice website.

Recipe from Mary

Minty Summer Rice Salad

Ingredients

250g long grain rice	Grated zest and juice of lemon
250g bunch asparagus	2 x 125g packs of mini mozzarella, halved (or 2x
1 red pepper, seeded and chopped	125g balls of mozzarella, chopped)
3 tbsps olive oil	1 large bunch of mint leaves, shredded

Method

- step 1 Drop the rice into a pan of boiling salted water and cook for 10 minutes. Toss in the asparagus and cook for a further 3-4 minutes until the rice is completely cooked and the asparagus is slightly crunchy. Drain into a sieve and hold under the cold tap until cool.
- Step 2 When the rice is cold, stir in the red pepper, oil, lemon zest and juice, mozzarella and mint leaves. Season well.

July News from the Trust

This month saw International Clinical Trials Day, on which the clinical research community pauses in reflection, recognition, and admiration of all that has been accomplished thanks to clinical trials. In the West of England GHFT is leading the way with 381 recruiting studies across the organisation covering over 40 different specialties. Through partnering with academia and other institutions, our Trust is at the forefront of making improvements for our patients that make a real difference to them, enabling them to access new and novel therapies whilst contributing to the evidence base that will enable advances in future solutions in healthcare.

The trust continues to perform well in respect of elective waiting times and is well placed to achieve the 65 week national standard and this during ongoing national strikes, . Despite making good progress in attracting and recruiting new midwives maternity staffing difficulties continue and as a result the temporary closure of the Aveta Birth Unit at Cheltenham to labour and births as well as six postnatal beds at Stroud Maternity Unit will be extended until October 2023 when a further review will be undertaken. Meanwhile the Trust has secured around £2.7m government funding which will be used to transform the birthing unit at Cheltenham into a purpose-built midwifery-led facility. It is hoped that this will also help us attract and retain midwives. Thank are due to the staff going over and above to achieve this.

Finally, can I urge you to consider becoming a member of the trust. This brings the opportunity to learn more about what we do and to be involved in shaping services and sharing your views as well as other benefits You can learn more about this on the trust website under 'About us' then 'Support out trust'. As a member, you are also eligible to stand for election as a governor. The trust holds elections each year and this year nominations open on 30th June until 28th July. If you are interested in this you can learn more by emailing ghn-tr.corporategovernance@nhs.net or calling 0800 019 3303.

Anne Davies (Public elected governor) anne.davies11@nhs.net