

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbblings...

A bumper edition!! Hope you're all as smiley as the VE day girls pictured below.

Laure, editor@elkstonevillage.com Deadline For Next Newsletter, 20<sup>th</sup> June

## Features

Elkstone Good Neighbour's Scheme List of Traders

Garden Waste Collection Information

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Pork & Lamb Offer

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Broadband Gigaclear Information

Gloucestershire Age UK

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## Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling      Food Waste – Every Tuesday

Waste & Recycling      All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June

Indoor Bowls              Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493 **Postponed**

Art Club                    Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663 **Postponed**

## Diary Dates

Virtual Elkstone Gardens      Remote on Zoom                      11am                      4<sup>th</sup> June

Elkstone Open Gardens              Cancelled until 2021

## Garden Waste collection to restart in Cotswold District

Cotswold District Council has announced that fortnightly garden waste collections will restart from Wednesday 13th May.

- Collections will be operating to the published collection schedule (see calendar);
- The service is available to all customers who hold 2019/20 garden waste licence(s)
- We will only collect what is in the CDC garden waste bins & bags
- No side waste will be accepted;
- Crew safety means we cannot collect significantly overloaded bins;
- There will be no additional or catch-ups for collections;
- Existing licences have been extended & we will process renewals in June

Cllr Doherty added: "We are anticipating a risk that we may not always be able to collect from all properties on their scheduled day. In these circumstances, we advise residents to leave their bins presented until they have been emptied, which should be the next day."

Gloucestershire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres are not yet reopening.

**Cllr Julia Judd**

**Paul from the Market Garden has offered to provide a direct delivery service as follows**

Place order on Tuesdays using email to [pacoyle@sky.com](mailto:pacoyle@sky.com)

Delivery around 4 pm Wednesdays

One collection point - namely Elkstone Manor

**Pork & Lamb**

I have boxes of pork & lamb available to purchase. Being the only livestock farmer in the village, I would love to sell our produce to our neighbours! All the pork is priced (very competitively) at £7.50/kg & all lamb at £12/kg.

I don't always have all cuts of meat available all the time, as you can only get so many chops off one animal!

I would love to advertise our meat in the newsletter as it has travelled a maximum of 20 miles in its lifetime. A LOT less than imported New Zealand lamb or Danish pork!!

I will deliver all meat boxes to the door & payment can be made through bank transfer cheque or cash.

Warm regards hope you're all avoiding the virus!

**Molly Hobbs, High Cross Farm**

**Elkstone Gardens**

As you know, the Open Gardens event has had to be cancelled this year. A number of villagers have suggested a couple of ideas so that those with gardens & allotments (and especially those that have spent many extra hours in their gardens during the lockdown) can share some of their results with our village.

1. The virtual garden – Send 4 or 5 photos of something of particular interest in your garden. Maybe a plant or border that looks really great this year or a project you've been working on like a pond, new bed (or even chickens or wildlife!). Send from your phone or PC to Elkstone Good Neighbours at [goodneighbours@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:goodneighbours@elkstonevillage.com) along with a few words too. Please send these by Friday 29th May to allow Graham to prepare the presentation.

On Thursday 4th June at 11am there will be a Zoom 'Presentation' of the photos. Please contact Elkstone Good Neighbours [goodneighbours@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:goodneighbours@elkstonevillage.com) for an invite.

Following the presentation, if we have each garden/allotment owner's permission, the pictures will be uploaded on to the village website for posterity & memories of the Great Lockdown of 2020.

2. Gardens to share – This idea would be subject to some easing of lockdown restrictions at the beginning of June & take place only if the weather is favourable.

Would you be willing to open your garden or allotment on a restricted basis & only to those in the village who would be interested in seeing your garden? This would take place on Sunday 7th June, the day originally planned for the Open Garden event.

The idea would be that each garden would be opened at a particular time for say 20-30 mins, with the garden or allotment holder present to show villagers around.

To raise some funds for the Church & Village Hall you may wish to put some plants out for sale or even bake a cake & leave an 'honesty plate' for donations.

This is a great opportunity to see how those with 'green fingers' have been doing.

**Please contact David Kearney on [dnke@btinternet.com](mailto:dnke@btinternet.com) or 506234 if you'd like to join in.**

## News From The Trust

What a month for us all as COVID 19 continues to impact on our lives. There have been several features about the trust on Points West, one of which focussed on our Department of Critical Care units which were rated outstanding in the recent CQC assessment. In intensive care, between 15th March to 1st May, the number of patients who survived was 87 being 68% of those treated. This is recognised as being a high ratio & it has been down to extensive planning, the outstanding care of the health team across Gloucestershire & to public cooperation. Traditionally these departments have the capacity to treat up to a maximum of 18 ventilated patients, but carefully considered plans were in place to treat 192 Intensive care beds, of which 142 were equipped with ventilators. Normally it would take several years to increase capacity by even two beds!

As you can expect the trust has been busy & thought some figures about COVID positive patient numbers may be of interest to you.

Date	Patients in Gloucester Royal	Patients in Cheltenham General	Patients in critical care across both sites	COVID Patients discharged.
7th April 2020	86	49	22	None recorded
14th April 2020	91	36	26	181
21st April 2020	78	38	18	259
28th April 2020	61	24	9	313
5th April 2020	66	19	5	356
12th April 2020	37	24	4 (none in CGH)	423

The staff have been amazing but now the impact is beginning to show, as indeed is being reported across the country. A year ago, the trust started a staff wellbeing hub which staff can contact whenever they feel in need of support. On 14th May we celebrated this with our own Rainbow Day when everyone dressed up in rainbow colours. This support has been increased recently with a fully comprehensive psychological wellbeing package entitled 'Caring for those who care'. We have been approached about this by other trusts to let us know how it has inspired them & others including Guys & St Thomas have asked to use this. This, for me, is a wonderful indication of caring of the staff, which makes me feel so proud. Whilst COVID 19 has been headline news, & we all feel the consequences, especially for those families who have lost loved ones, we must not forget that life does go on as normal in other ways. The 5th May was the International Midwife Day & this was celebrated by the most amazing display on the Tower Block at Gloucester Royal. You can find this & see it on the Gloucestershire Hospitals Facebook page. On a walkabout of the department, I was not only extremely impressed, but also felt somewhat overwhelmed to see how the whole range of human emotions are forever present in such a small area. These range from the joy of a healthy new-born, to the concerns of a baby born with problems that may result in it needing intensive care or which may affect it for its entire life, to the heartbreak of a still born baby. The staff are totally amazing as they deal with this every day & the department has fantastic facilities & support to help all families through all these outcomes.

The trust is now planning for the second phase of the pandemic & the overriding aim is to keep patients & staff safe. In line with national guidance temporary changes are being considered to some services to create as much separation as possible between services caring for COVID & non-COVID patients. This approach will be to limit the risk of transmission

within our hospitals, whilst still being ready for a possible second surge. You may have read or heard about this in the local news. Unfortunately, local MP's have failed to recognise that the suggested changes are purely a response to the pandemic, & will, if approved after wide consultation, be enacted under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding by the One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System. They will be temporary for an initial three-month period & then be reviewed. Governors will be involved with this. The trust has already confirmed that it has no intention of closing Cheltenham A & E; an undertaking that was recognised in parliament last year by Alex Chalk MP for Cheltenham.

Finally, some great news! All NHS providers (trusts & foundation trusts) each year are offered a 'control total' that they can accept or reject. This 'control total' is a financial target that must be achieved to unlock access to national funding & other financial benefits. This year we accepted ours & delivered it, a wonderful 'silver lining' & testament to all those working within the trust who have worked so hard to ensure that our spending was kept under control whilst not impacting on patient care.

**Anne Davies** ([anne.davies11@nhs.net](mailto:anne.davies11@nhs.net))

## **VE Day Elkstone Style**

Victoria sponges

Everything stops for tea.....

Distance & decorum

Anniversary with an afternoon of amicable ambiance

Youthful memories.....

In Elkstone the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe was remembered with the raising of the Union Flag at the Village Hall by Ronnie & Carole Bury on Saturday 7th May, the actual date of the signed surrender to the Allies. The anniversary of WW2 drawing to an end came at a time of a different type of worldwide challenge. We had been in 'Lockdown' for several weeks. Life had changed for many. Despite the beautiful weather we had been living in a different way to normal just as many others around the planet. In the Cotswolds, we are blessed by the space we can share easily. Over the last few weeks many of us have been out & about taking our daily exercise & gradually getting to know each other a little more.

Neighbours helping in quiet ways, a community spirit gathering momentum.

On Sunday 8th May, VE Day brought bunting blazing along the stone walls & hedgerows, flags from around the Globe were raised, the Union Flag fluttering in a gentle breeze.

Impromptu gatherings at a careful distance, meant villagers could share something rather difficult to describe. Some had dressed in clothes of a previous era, Marion Cooch dressed as a land girl with her dungarees. Jo Dickson with her hair pulled up in a headscarf, Liz Kearney with her Bakelite Radio & table set complete with tea service all added to something a little different that day. Passing villagers shared anecdotes & brought their 'cuppas for a chinwag'.

The weekly Zoom chat took place at 5 o'clock & a quiz related to WW2 took place. As it came to an end Jamie Richardson came down to the Village Hall with his union flag & trumpet to play the 'Last Post' as he had as part of a national call to musicians at 11.55am that day at the other end of Elkstone. Elderflower Gin & cordial were drunk & spirits were raised. This was a very special day for many reasons, one we will all remember as part of a year of many new experiences.

**Liz Kearney**





## An Update on Restoration of The Historic Bells at Elkstone Parish Church

You may recall that in the pre COVID 19 world we had hoped to have the bells returned to the church so that they would have rung out joyously at the start of the village Garden Open Day on 7th June.

As you know Garden Open Day has been cancelled until next year, & in short, the bells are also unlikely to return home to the church until well into 2021. This is sad news, but I thought it worth sharing with you as so many of you in the community had contributed generously to the restoration fund. All I can say is that at least the money you had donated is accruing some interest in the Elkstone PCC bank account!

You will not be surprised that the contractor who is working on the bells, Whites of Appleton is in lockdown & is yet to find a way to comply with the Government's rules on social distancing to recommence activities. Furthermore, installing the bells will be impossible until social distancing is relaxed. Finally, bell ringing will be one of the last activities to re-emerge after the immediate crisis ends.

Let's all look forward to many celebrations when the bells finally return & ring out over the village as they have done for centuries before. **Brian Howlett – Treasurer Elkstone PCC**



## Gloucestershire Age UK

The Age UK Gloucestershire team is just a phone call away & we're keen to support all older people in the county during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are providing support in the following ways:

### Over the phone

Call our Help Team if you have an immediate problem. The Team provide information & guidance about a range of issues including shopping, community support local to you, prescriptions, benefits & finances & accessing health & social care. The Team will advise on how you can access support if you have recently left hospital.

Call 01452 422660. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm

**Call our Friendship Line FREE** if you would like a friendly chat. We know that social distancing is really difficult & lots of you are missing having someone to talk to regularly. Our staff & volunteers are on hand, with a listening ear & time to chat & we'd love to hear from you.

Call 0800 2980579. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm

### Helping you connect with others

Greet Your Street is a chance for neighbours to pop outside for Elevenses together whilst still maintaining social distancing. Many areas are already involved with one commenting:

"People are talking more to each other, it's brought them together. It was like they needed permission to talk."

To find out how easy it is to get your street involved, visit

[www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire)

**Gloucestershire Springboard** is a Facebook Group where you can meet friends, join in activities & have fun. Members are sharing gardening tips, recipes ideas, photographic challenges, taking part in online quizzes & more. If you're online & would like to join, search: [facebook.com/groups/gloucestershirespringboard](https://facebook.com/groups/gloucestershirespringboard)

For accurate & up to date details for individuals & community groups about all the information & support we are providing, visit our website:

[www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire)



#### We're just a phone call away

 <b>Help Team</b>	<b>01452 422660</b>
Information and guidance about a range of issues for older people and those around them. How to access support if you have recently left hospital	
 <b>Friendship Line</b>	<b>0800 2980579</b>
A Free phone line for older people who would like a listening ear and a friendly chat	
<small>Both lines are open 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday</small>	

#### Helping you connect with others

 Gloucestershire ageUK	Connect with your neighbourhood and create some real community spirit. Printable posters and details about how to get involved available at: <a href="http://ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire">ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire</a>  #GreetYourStreet
 Springboard Facebook Group	Gloucestershire Springboard is a Facebook Group where you can meet friends, join in activities and have fun. Search: <a href="https://facebook.com/groups/gloucestershirespringboard">facebook.com/groups/gloucestershirespringboard</a>

For more information visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire)



Age UK Gloucestershire registered charity number 1111773

## **CVB An Update from your clergy**

After over two months of being mostly confined to our homes the relaxation of rules is bringing some welcome relief, but we do need to be patient & continue to take care. Progress may be cautious & frustrating!

To quote Blaise Pascal (1623 – 1662), “All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone.” When the chips are down & maybe even access to worship over YouTube is uncertain, we are left to work out our own salvation. Very few of us have ever “done time” in prison but for many who have been forced to spend hours alone they’ve found the Bible to be an excellent companion! Perhaps that’s why the popular radio programme of Desert Island Discs always has the Bible as a given before the celebrity chooses anything else. As a further aid some of us make use of daily Bible reading notes, such as the CofE’s ‘Reflections for Daily Prayer’. As the promotional blurb says: “Enhance your spiritual journey through the rich landscape of the Church’s year with this popular prayer companion.”

Just the usual reminder that a recent article provides useful tips to help you get onto the CVB website, Facebook group & YouTube channel. We all continue to be on a steep learning curve so please persevere & ask for help if you need it.

For convenience you can now access CVB services just by following/copying this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8tFvSwMNjxmX1IK5sb59UA>

On arrival please click inside the red rectangle so that you will then automatically receive notifications by email just before the start of a worship service.

Please help maintain our churches during the pandemic - During this period when we are unable to hold services our church finances are suffering due to the lack of collections. Although our incomes are reduced, we must still pay regular outgoings such as the Parish Share which goes towards paying our clergy & also the general diocesan costs. We are grateful to some members of our congregations who have donated their collections or sent in their weekly envelopes. If you would like to do the same, then please contact your PCC treasurer (telephone & email details at the back of Parish Link) who will be able to tell you how to do this. Many people now make their regular donations to the church by standing order or by using the Parish Giving Scheme which has the advantage that we receive gift aid on your donation every month. If you would like to consider such ways of making your regular donations, then your parish treasurer will be pleased to let you have the necessary information.

**Rev'd Arthur Champion**

## **Broadband in Elkstone**

Our District Councillor, Julia Judd, has advised that Cotswold District Council have some funding to connect broadband to remote parts of the district that are not able to achieve an acceptable speed. In our parish we are generally well served by Gigaclear ‘Fibre to the Property’, however there might be some households on the edge of the parish that don’t receive a good service.

If you are unable to get a good broadband service & do not have Gigaclear available to your house let me know & I will pass your details on.

**David Kearney**

