

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



It's March. The carpets of snowdrops are set to be upstaged by showy daffodils, a sure sign of early spring. I find daffodils the cheeriest of plants, but until recently I was unaware that the same legends which associate a bunch of daffodils with good fortune, also warn never to bring a single bloom indoors as it can herald bad luck. You knew that. How did I not know that?

Jenny, [editor@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:editor@elkstonevillage.com)

Deadline for next newsletter: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## Features

- Elkstone Parish Church Services
- Christingle Service
- Film and Supper Evening – film: *Dream Horse*
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The Big Jubilee Lunch
- Elkstone Open Gardens
- Looking for a new home – six kitchen chairs
- News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Driving in storms, rain and high wind

## 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

Elkstone Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm	<a href="mailto:elkstonepc@gmail.com">elkstonepc@gmail.com</a>
Film and Supper Evening	Village Hall, Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 7pm	<i>Jeremy and Anne Davies – 870516</i>

## Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> March

## Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March – 11am **Holy Communion** with the Revd Jan Moore.

*Continues overleaf. . .*

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March – 10am **Morning Worship** with Ruth Edy.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March – 11am **Holy Communion** with the Revd David Minns.

## Christingle Service

Many thanks to all who supported The Children's Society Christingle Service at the beginning of January. The offertory and donations raised £124 - an excellent amount.

Hopefully COVID restrictions are now easing, and I would like to collect the house boxes over the next few weeks. If you can bring them to the church service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10am, we can celebrate the work of this charity once more. Otherwise, I will collect them from the holders and complete the task of counting the money. It really has been more than 2 years since I had dishes of different denominations of coins and notes and cheques to sum up on the kitchen table.

Our donations have made a difference to children's lives.

*Jennie Howlett*

## Film and Supper Evening – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Our March evening will feature *Dream Horse*, a 2020 comedy-drama film that follows the true story of Dream Alliance, a horse that raced in the 2009 Welsh Grand National and won. The film is set in a small valley town in South Wales, where despite innumerable odds a young foal becomes a dream horse. It brings new hope to a community, filling everyone with enthusiasm as they look to the race ahead.

The film will be preceded by a salmon-based supper starting at 7pm, with the film starting at 8pm. Tickets are £10 per person for Film + Supper, and please make payment in a marked envelope through the letterbox of Manor Farm Cottage, Elkstone by 6pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Film-only attendance is £5 a head, payable at the door.

*Jeremy & Anne Davies –870516*

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The Big Jubilee Lunch – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

You may have seen that as part of the four-day 'Platinum Jubilee' bank holiday weekend, communities around the country and commonwealth are being encouraged to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. Big Jubilee Lunches will take place on Sunday 5 June.

We would like to invite all who live in Elkstone, have lived here, or have village connections, to an Elkstone Big Jubilee Lunch. No firm arrangements have been made except the date.

We would envisage a 'bring and share' lunch/picnic/BBQ on the village green but are open to ideas as to how to make this both an occasion to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and have an enjoyable get together. Any ideas would be welcome. Please let us know what you think.

*David and Liz Kearney, The Hawthorns, 01242 506234 or [dnke58@gmail.com](mailto:dnke58@gmail.com)*

## Open Gardens Day – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Just a brief update this month. Thank you to those who have already offered to open their gardens this year. There will be at least eight gardens, and more are of course welcome. There is also always room for more volunteers on the day, so please do consider whether you might have time to help out, even for a short shift. Look out for a more detailed update next month.

Martyn Wylie – Email [mgw123@btinternet.com](mailto:mgw123@btinternet.com) Tel: 870441 or 07788 912645

## Looking for a new home

6 kitchen chairs - solid oak in traditional ladder-back style with reed/straw seat. They are modern pieces (not antique). £50 to our favourite charity.

Anyone interested, please contact Frances 07721 450355

## News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Lack of availability of bed space due to COVID in part has been made worse by problems to do with patients who are no longer in need of acute medical care but, for one reason or another, are not being discharged. To help flow through the hospital, the trust has launched a campaign called 'There's no place like home' to help spread the word that timely discharge is invariably better for patients.

A new medical Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) unit has opened at Gloucester Royal. This offers a better, less crowded space than the Emergency Department, for adult patients who present with an acute medical condition that may require rapid access to treatment or intervention but who are unlikely to need hospital admission.

Nursing and midwifery have introduced flexible working for staff. The aim is to reduce the number of staff who leave because a full-time commitment is no longer right for them. It is also hoped the move will encourage new recruits with nursing experience to the trust. If this applies, please get in touch.

Some good news! An anonymous donation of £200,000 was received for our £1.2m CT Gamma Scanner Appeal. The appeal was launched in November 2021 and has so far raised £722,000 towards providing three new CT scanners and two digital mobile X-ray machines. This up-to-date imaging technology will help reduce waiting times for people with a wide range of conditions, including cancer, heart conditions, and premature babies who need urgent treatment.

Finally, please save the date Sunday 8th May 2022 for our *Walk for Wards* at the Bathurst Estate at Cirencester Park. You can take part in a 3km or 10km challenge to help raise funds for the ward or hospital area of your choice.

Anne Davies (Public Governor for Cotswolds, GHNHSFT) - Email: [anne.davies11@nhs.net](mailto:anne.davies11@nhs.net)

## Driving in storms, rain, and high winds

The Great British weather presents all sorts of challenges for drivers at any time of year. But given the very high winds and storms in recent weeks, below is some useful advice from the experts at National

Highways, RAC and the Institute of Advanced Motorists. Please do remember before setting off on any journey to check the weather forecast and plan ahead.

- Even moderate rain can reduce your ability to see and be seen. A good rule of thumb is 'if it's time for your wipers, it's time to slow down'
- If heavy downpours are expected, avoid starting your journey until it clears
- If you can, choose main roads, where you are less likely to be exposed to fallen branches and debris and flooding
- Use dipped headlights if visibility is seriously reduced
- Gusts of wind can unsettle vehicles – use both hands to keep a firm grip on the steering wheel. This is particularly important when planning to overtake
- Keep an eye out for gaps between trees, buildings or bridges over a river or railway – these are some of the places you are more likely to be exposed to side winds. Ensure that you maintain enough room either side of your vehicle so you can account for it being blown sideways
- Roads will be more slippery than usual in wet weather – be sure to give yourself more time to react when approaching a hazard. Increase your following gap to at least four seconds from the moving traffic in front
- Always keep your eyes on the road, as spray from other vehicles can suddenly reduce your visibility. Remember it affects others too, so anticipate their actions and be prepared.

### **What to do when the road is flooded**

If the road is flooded, turn around and find another route.

Stay away from swollen rivers and don't attempt to walk or drive through flood water. Although the water may seem shallow, just 12 inches (30cm) of moving water can float your car, potentially taking it to deeper water from which you may need rescuing.

Flood water also contains hidden hazards which can damage your car; just an egg-cupful of water sucked into your car's engine could lead to severe damage.

Remember to give vulnerable road users including cyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians more room than usual. They are more likely to be blown around by side winds, so always keep a safe distance.

Report fallen trees or debris on the roads. If anything poses an immediate danger to public safety, please call the emergency number 08000 514 514.

### **And finally. Did you know? . . .**

On 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first-ever phone call. It was to his assistant, and he said, "Mr Watson, come here. I want to see you."