

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

The end of May 2021 sees the retirement of the Revd Arthur Champion, who has been minister at Elkstone Parish Church for the past 7 years. This issue includes a farewell note from him, as well as information about a special service on 23rd May. On behalf of the whole village, huge thanks for the contribution you and Margaret have made to our community, Revd Arthur, and all the very best for your future.

In the meantime, other aspects of community life are slowly re-starting, including – yay! – Elkstone Village Hall weekly activities. Stay safe, everyone, as we continue the gradual journey to a ‘new normal’. Please also use the Gardens Open Day poster to help publicise this year’s highlight village event.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th May 2021

Features

- News from Elkstone Parish Church
- Farewell Note from Revd Arthur
- Found! Pet Collar
- Village Hall Reopening
- Gardens Open Day: Sunday 6th June
- Village Hall Tea Room: Sunday 6th June
- News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Nearby Specialist Plant Sales
- Notice of Charlton Hill Road Closure
- Monthly Quiz
- Gardens Open Day Poster

Regular Village Hall Activities

Indoor Bowls	Resumes Tuesday 18 th May	Ronnie Bury – 870493
Art Club	Resumes Thursday 20 th May	Penny Casewell – 03330 119663
Relaxation Classes	Resuming soon. Check the village website for news later in May.	Alison Fernandes – info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

Other Dates for your Diary

Local Elections	Thursday 6 th May, 7am-10pm	Elkstone Village Hall
Cuppa and Chinwag – online get-together	Thursday 6 th May at 7pm	Graham – 07931 124165 for more details
Special Retirement Service for Revd Arthur	Sunday 23 rd May, 10.30-11.30am	St Giles Church, Coberley
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting	Wednesday 26 th May at 8pm	Elkstone Village Hall

Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All bags, bins and boxes	Tuesday 4th and 18th May

News from Elkstone Parish Church

Listed below is the schedule of Sunday services in May. Please note that there will be a special retirement service for and led by the Revd Arthur for the Upper Church Valley Churches, to be held on Sunday 23rd May 10.30am-11.30am at St Giles Church, Coberley.

Sunday 2 nd May	11.00am	Elkstone Morning Worship (MV)
Sunday 9 th May	10.00am	Elkstone Morning Prayer (AC)
Sunday 16 th May	11.00am	Elkstone Holy Communion (DM)
Sunday 23 rd May	10.30am	Coberley Holy Communion (AC)*
Sunday 30 th May	11am	North Cerney Benefice Holy Communion (DM/AC)

* This parish church normally seats 135 but in view of “safe distancing” at 2m, this means reducing the capacity to 40 seats, assuming households sit together. Tickets for the service are available now through Eventbrite. Given that the website link is lengthy and would be impossible to copy and paste from the hard copy of the newsletter, the editor will email a link to everyone on the Elkstone bulletin list. Alternatively, please get in touch at editor@elkstonevillage.com if you are not on this list but would still like to receive the link.

Farewell from Revd Arthur Champion

Dear Elkstone friends and neighbours,

It's been a privilege and a responsibility to be living and working here but now the time has come to say goodbye.

The CofE expects clergy to retire at 70 which in my case will be next month. Margaret and I came here in December 2014 hardly knowing anyone but we've really enjoyed being with you. Elkstone is such a caring community. It's hard to accept our last Sunday will be on 30th May. The Diocese has granted us until the end of June to move out of Cowley Rectory and away to a village in the Derbyshire Dales.

God has sustained and inspired Elkstone parish church ever since the Norman conquest and we trust this will continue until that great day when Jesus returns in glory to fully establish His kingdom here on Earth.

Blessings.

Revd Arthur

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

Found! Pet collar

A pink USB pet collar has been found recently near to Elkstone Manor in the village. If you are the owner, or know who the owner might be, please get in touch with Linzi at 10 Hill View.



Elkstone Village Hall is Reopening

We are very pleased to be reopening the Village Hall for events from Monday 17th May, when the COVID regulations change, always subject to prevailing rules which we will monitor carefully. To obtain a quote and book the Hall, simply visit www.elkstonevillage.com and follow the links.

We are also very pleased to announce that Penny Casewell has assumed responsibility for Hall bookings administration, she can be contacted at admin@elkstonevillage.com

It has been an extraordinarily long gap without activities at the Hall, so we look forward to the 'social round' of the Village resuming as soon as possible, do please start thinking about your events!

Jeremy Davies - Chair, Elkstone Village Hall Committee

Gardens Open Day: Sunday 6th June

Plant Stall

By the time you read this, we shall only be a few weeks from the big day. So here is a final reminder to pot up seedlings and cuttings, and divide perennials for the Plant Stall. Please deliver these and other horticultural donations ideally on Saturday afternoon, 5th June. As it was two years' ago, the Plant Stall is to be located in Sylvie's garden at Manor Cross and managed by Robert Neal and friends. You can leave your plants in a shady corner in the courtyard in front of the house.

Verges

A key feature of the day will be the wild-flower meadow in the churchyard, which is now in its fifth year and should look resplendent on the day. To achieve this maturity and abundance of flowers, the grass is left uncut until late summer so that many insect species are attracted, and allowing as many of the plants as possible to self-seed.

With that in mind, the gardeners in the village have requested that we treat the verges in the same way to allow the wild flowers to flourish there as well. In particular, one of the glories of the English countryside in early summer is the frothy, cream and white flowers of Queen Anne's Lace, also known less romantically as Cow Parsley, which line country roads and lanes, including Elkstone. Please do not cut these back when tidying up before Open Day. The lanes will look much prettier if they and other species are left to grow naturally through the summer. Also, this will encourage more plant diversity and wild life corridors in which pollinating insects may thrive.

Brian Howlett

For more information about any aspect of the Gardens Open Day, contact Martyn Wylie Email: mgw123@btinternet.com Mob: 07788 912645

Village Hall Tea Room: Sunday 6th June

In order to comply with current Covid legislation, we have been visiting outside catering facilities over the last few weeks - not an onerous activity! For almost three decades we have followed a well-tuned schedule, but this year we will need to make some changes regarding screens, seating, serving and

payment. However, we hope to offer a warm welcome and excellent service as before. After 17th May we should have more information available for the actual day. In the meantime, all offers of help towards baking, serving, as well as organising under these different circumstances, is very welcome. It's always a really uplifting event and we always have fun on the day.

Jennie Howlett – Email: ejenniehowlett@gmail.com Tel: 012420 870462

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Exciting news from the trust this month, as COVID figures fall. After several years of planning and public consultations, the planned reconfiguration of the hospitals, under the title 'Fit for The Future', has been signed off by NHS authorities. This programme will see specialist services centred either at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH) or Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH) to provide individual centres of excellence and improved care for patients.

GRH will offer acute medical care, allowing for admission of patients to hospital to be assessed by a consultant, leading to further investigation and treatment; also emergency general surgery, vascular surgery and trauma surgery. CGH will be the centre for Inpatient Orthopaedics and Gastroenterology services. This decision follows a successful trial period. CGH is already the centre for cancer care and the plans also include a multi-million-pound investment in operating theatres to ensure that the trust can deliver world-leading cancer surgery.

Another major and significant planned development is the establishment of an Image Guided Interventional Surgery (IGIS) at GRH, with a spoke at CGH. This will facilitate, for example, emergency access to stop internal bleeding, centring cancer probes to deliver treatment, as well as other treatments which currently are only available at large centres. Further consultation is taking place about planned general surgery. A&E at CGH will function at pre COVID levels and GRH will be expanded. With these services established, many patients who currently are sent to Bristol, Birmingham or Oxford can be treated locally. And for patients for whom the travel to local hospitals is difficult, funded transport will be available.

This is the start of incredibly significant times for the trust, for the staff and for patients and I am looking forward to being involved in this. My first role is on the Accessibility Advisory Group set up to ensure that our new buildings work for all, so if you have any ideas that you feel may be helpful to patients with disabilities, visible or hidden, please contact me.

Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Nearby Specialist Plant Sales

With so many keen gardeners in Elkstone, it's worth sharing news that with the gradual easing of Covid restrictions, there are some upcoming specialist plant sales in the local area. With thanks to Caroline Carne and Brian Howlett for telling us about the following. These are two events in May which will showcase a wide range of rare and interesting plants, with some of the leading nurseries in the country attending. In addition, the gardens where the events take place are well worth a visit in their own right.

The Old Rectory, Quenington, nr Cirencester GL7 5BN

Date: Sunday 16th May 11am-4pm (Entry by ADVANCED BOOKING only.)

Contact tel: 0845 468 1368 or email: info@rareplantfair.co.uk

The Generous Gardner, The Coach House Garden, Ampney Crucis, nr Cirencester

Date: Friday 28th May 10am-2pm. Contact Mel Tanner on 01285 850256 or email:

mel@thegenerousgardener.co.uk

Notice of Charlton Hill Road Closure

Many thanks to Frances Toase for sending information through on the proposed road closure of Charlton Hill from 1st June to 31st December 2021. This is likely to affect all of us who regularly travel into Cheltenham via that route. There are of course alternative routes, including via the A417, Air Balloon roundabout and then Leckhampton, but it would be wise to build in extra time for any journey during the seven months that Charlton Hill will be closed.

The Charlton Hill road closure is to allow for landslip repairs to be carried out by Gloucestershire Highways. They have advised that emergency access will NOT be maintained due to the size of equipment being used on site.

For further further information, you can contact Gloucestershire Highways on highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Monthly Quiz

Thank you, David Collins, for contributing our quiz this month. It's a tough one and will test your knowledge of countries, states and capital cities around the world. Good luck! (Answers as always at the bottom of the page.)

1. How many names of countries begin with the letter 'A'? *(There are 11)*
2. Can you name 7 capital cities beginning with the letter 'V'?
3. Which two USA states have double vowels in their name?
4. And which one starts with two vowels?

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Quiz answers: 1. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Albania, Australia, Andorra, Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Angola, Algeria. 2. Vaduz, Valletta, Vatican City, Victoria, Vienna, Vilnius, Vientiane. 3. Tennessee, Hawaii. 4. Iowa

Poster for Elkstone Open Gardens

Attached to this newsletter is a Poster for the 6th June Gardens Open Day. Please help promote this key event in our calendar by asking at any of the public places that you visit if they would display it.

Many thanks

Anne Davies