
ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbings...

Hello,

As I sit typing this, I'm looking out at beautiful blue skies, watching my Spanish cat happily recreating memories of roasting under blazing rays, resting lazily under washing which is gently flapping on the line. I am willing on the days of summer, with all the joy warm weather brings & of course for Elkstone Open Day, which I hope will be blessed with the same cloudless horizon. Not long now!

Until then, have a mellow May in beautiful Elkstone Village.

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

Features

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Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling	Food & Garden Waste – Every Friday
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 4 th & 18 th May
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie - 870493

Diary Dates

Planting Poppies on the Pound	13 th May 12 am
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting	16 th May 8 pm Village Hall
Cowley Fete	20 th May
Elkstone Open Day	17 th June 2- 6 pm

SERVICES May 2018 in St John's, Elkstone

6th 11 am Holy Communion

13th 10 am Family Service

20th 11am Morning Prayer

Rev'd Arthur Champion

Ruth Edy

Rev'd David Minns

News From the Trust

Many of you will be aware that the trust was awarded £39.5m in a recent capital bid. Following the development & approval of both an outline & then full business case, which it is hoped to have completed by the end of the calendar year, work will start next spring (2019). Whilst largely bound to the benefits set out in the bid, the opportunity will be taken to ensure that the plans submitted still meet the trusts most pressing needs. The capital will be invested in both our sites signalling that both have a vibrant future but with the investment at GRH targeted at addressing the challenges in urgent & emergency care whilst at CGH supporting the delivery of highly efficient, patient-centred elective care.

Most exciting for me however is that, following my expressing concerns about the care given to patients presenting in A & E with mental health needs, a meeting was held which was attended by the Trust's Director & the Non-Executive Director for Quality & Chief Nurse, governors & representatives from the 2Gether trust. This was apparently the first such meeting to take place & I have been told that in future two monthly meetings will be held attended by key members of both trusts. Following these discussions, the trust has decided that improving services for people with mental health needs presenting to A & E should be a CQUIN goal for the next two years thus demonstrating commitment to ensuring high quality urgent & emergency care for these patients. You can help with this if at any time you need this type of help you complete a Friends & Family feedback form; you can also let me know if there are aspects that you would like to see considered.

[CQUIN stands for commissioning for quality & innovation & is a system whereby a proportion of healthcare providers' income is conditional on demonstrating improvements in quality & innovation in specified areas of patient care.]

Anne Davies

Children's Society House Boxes

I finally collected all the house box money & sent off £644.61 at the end of last month. This was an excellent amount which will go towards this children's charity. Their aim is to work with vulnerable children & young adults providing advice & the hope of a better future. The charity works with local authorities, the police, health authorities & churches in order to offer the best help to those in need. Many thanks to all who made contributions & also those who took part in our candlelit Christingle Service in January.

Thanks, Jennie

Planting Poppies on The Pound. Sunday may 13th 12.00am

Elkstone lost six villagers during WW1 & they are commemorated in the church. I have been unable to obtain population figures for 1914 but between 1871 & 1891 the population fell from 302 to 199, there was a slight recovery before 1901, when another decline set in, bringing the population down to 140 by 1971. Given these figures the number of those who died must have been a very significant loss to the village.

I have managed to buy some Flanders poppies which were on sale to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1 & the Parish Council have kindly agreed that they may be planted around the willow tree on The Pound. This is near to the seat that was donated by villagers to commemorate 50 years since VE & VJ Day. I hope that villagers, & especially young villagers, might join me to plant the poppies on Sunday May 13 at 12.00am & then afterwards come to Manor Farm Cottage for a Bring & Share light lunch.

Anne Davies 870516.

Elkstone Stories

This has been truly wonderful to create. I have loved hearing all the fascinating stories of Elkstone past & present & our combined knowledge is quite astounding. Now we have noted down a number of stories & got some fabulous paintings we will start turning them into tiny books to then hide around the village so that on open day then can be a bit of a story trail between gardens. If anyone has any photos or further drawings, poetry items that might be able feature if they could be scanned in & sent, please do send them over to bethan.marriott@btinternet.com or get in touch. Thank you to all those who came along to the coffee mornings, shared stories & brought things to share, & had wonderful conversations. I hope the books we make will be beautiful & interesting! We have one more morning in the village hall on the 19th May. We should have some or all of the books finished by then so do come along & take a look, & we can do some sort of craft (yet to be thought of so do get in touch with ideas!) to make markers to indicate where each tiny book is. All welcome to pop in!

Bethan



Volunteers For Open Day - SUNDAY 17th June 2-6pm

Only a couple of months now until open day so time to start thinking about what we can all do on the day. Firstly it would be great if we could have a few more gardens open so if you would be able to open your garden on the day then please do get in touch. Thank you to all those who have already offered to open their gardens, run stalls & open the church. (And a huge thank you to David & Liz who have volunteered to take on the ice creams this year).

Then there are several other areas that will require some volunteers-

Car Park- We will need a number of people to volunteer in the car park field, ushering in cars & collecting entrance money so do get in touch if you could help here.

Village Hall- We will also need a good team in the village hall to sell tea & cakes so again please get in touch if you could help here.

It would also be nice to have a couple of 'floating volunteers' who could relieve others from their position for a little so that we can all get to enjoy the gardens & a cake. The more the merrier & then we can all relax in the evening with the lovely BBQ! Do get in touch to let me or any committee member know where you'd like to volunteer.

Other than that start spreading the word, sharing the poster, & there's a Facebook event page which can be shared as well.

Bethan-bethan.marriott@btinternet.com

Elkstone Village Hall Tea Room

Over the last few weeks we have visited National Trust properties & a Rare Plant Sale & have been very interested in their catering - especially their teas & cakes. Fortunately we only came across one 'cafe' which offered polystyrene cups & paper plates. It is difficult to have a set price for tea/coffee & a piece of cake as the variety of our homemade cakes is always so different - could be small biscuits or little cup cakes or fruit cake or fresh cream gateaux. If you feel you could bake any of these or any other - your favourite easy recipe, something gluten free, a chocolate cake..... please help! Every contribution is welcome alongside help with the serving, selling, waitressing & washing up. We always enjoy the afternoon & make a large amount for the final total.

Remember the date is Sunday 17th June. We also sell jam, chutney, fudge & welcome all home made sweets, cakes & biscuits.

Further information from Jennie Howlett tel 870462

Pre-loved Jewellery Stall

Once again we're planning to have the Pre-loved Jewellery stall at the Open Gardens Day. Sally has volunteered to run it, & would love to have another helping hand. We'd really appreciate a deep rummage into your jewellery boxes & drawers to get some more lovely pieces! Please let Sally know if you want her to collect your items, otherwise just drop them round at Juniper House. Also, if you can help to run the stall on the 17th, please contact one of us.

Thank-you. sallycthomas@me.com

The Highwayman Pub: A new lease of life

I grew up in & around Elkstone, in the house called "Sparrowthorn", a converted barn a mile or so down the lane leading to Colesbourne.

After moving away to London & then New York, (where I've been living for more than 20 years). I've made regular visits back to Gloucestershire to see my parents. My father (the writer & broadcaster P.J. Kavanagh) died in 2015, but my mother still lives in the house (which she designed & built in the early 1970s, when I was a little boy).

A ritual of these return visits was always a visit to the Highwayman with my father. For nearly 50 years he was a regular there, popping in like clockwork at six o'clock & never staying beyond seven. (A spell in the army, during which he was wounded in action in the Korean war, had taught him admirable discipline in this respect!)

Last time I was back in Elkstone, in February, I popped in for a "swift half" in memory of my dad, with whom, in years gone by, I would have been standing at the bar. A mournful sight greeted me: on a Friday night, the pub was completely empty. I was the only customer. The manager told me sadly that it was to close in two weeks: Arkell's, the owner, had decided to sell the property for conversion into flats.

Making another visit last week, I drove up from London, all windows of the car fully down in the unexpected heatwave. At around six o'clock I was approaching the turn-off to Elkstone. Thinking of how, in past years, I would have dropped into the Highwayman to find my father there, I thought I'd go & have a look at what was going on. Imagine my delight when, instead of bulldozers & construction, I found the pub open & more than a few cars parked outside. Walking inside, there was the buzz of conversation & several people I didn't recognize nursing well-earned, after-work-Friday drinks. I received a warm welcome from Tina & Ian—the new tenants. I was delighted that this historic pub will continue, under managers who want to turn it back into a "local" where all & sundry—both diners & drinkers—are welcome. They're keen to keep regular hours too, which was a bit of a problem previously—you never quite knew when the Highwayman would be open.

I wish Tina & Ian the best of luck... & encourage you to give the Highwayman a try. They need our local support & (for beer-loving readers) I can assure you that Ian knows his beer. The Arkell's "3B" he serves is better than ever.

(Oh—and look out for my father's ancient tweed hat & a little memorial plaque just by the bar where he used to stand.)

Bruno Kavanagh

Dog Walking Offer

As the holiday season approaches if you are going away or just need some help with dog walking, contact Jo at The Hazels, she would be happy to help.

For further details please email Jo at churnbank@gmail.com

Land & Livery

As some of you know my partner & I run a little horse rescue based in Duntisbourne Rouse. We also have our own horses, & a retirement livery.

We would love to rent a bit of land closer to the village, plus we may have a space coming up for one more retirement livery.

If any of you can support us, & have a little patch of land that would benefit from being grazed please do get in touch.

Claire happylittlehorse@mail.com 07967476720

Jam jars, & taller jars anyone? Free to good home...

I have amassed a number of nice wide-necked jam, curd & honey jars (not the narrow-necked type that Basics/Savers jam comes in).

325 & 450 gm sizes,

Also some taller jars which originally held a quantity of maybe 1 kg? of Cafe Hag.

All have screw top lids.

Could anyone make use of these, please? Making jam or preserves? For the Gardens Open Day? Storage in the garage /workshop?

Answers to Lois, or to Laure via her Editor e-mail

Cowley Village Fete



COWLEY VILLAGE FETE

Sunday 20th May, 2 - 5 pm

In the centre of the Village with designated parking

All of our traditional Village Fete activities on offer....

FUN DOG SHOW ALPACA CORNER FLEECE SPINNING

Tug-of-War, *Bottle Tombola*, Coconut Shy, *Splat-the Rat*, Cricket Know-how and *other children's games*

STALLS: Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Books, DVDs and Computer Games, *Genuine* home produce, Plants, pre-loved clothes and SUPER RAFFLE!

REFRESHMENTS: BBQ LICENSED BAR CREAM TEAS



ICE-CREAMS



LIVE MUSIC from the UKESANON UKELELE BAND

Entrance: Adults £2, Children under 16 free

All proceeds towards the maintenance of St. Mary's Church, Cowley.