

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbings... Please look after one another in these bewildering times. Stay safe & if you need anything, please do look at the village website, there is great support out there.

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

## Features

Elkstone Church April Services Cancelled  
 Elkstone Open Gardens Postponement  
 Elkstone Good Neighbour's Scheme  
 Children's Society Total Update  
 Elkstone Film Night Announcement  
 Relaxation Classes Update  
 News From The Trust  
 Wool Plea  
 For Sale  
 Cowley Fete Cancelled

## Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste – Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Indoor Bowls	Suspended – updates next month - Ronnie – 870493
Art Club	Suspended – updates next month - Penny - 03330 119663
Relaxation Classes	Suspended until further notice

## No Diary Dates

### Church Services, New Arrangements for Our Parish Church

As we all know the Government has introduced a series of far reaching precautions to control COVID-19. To quote the Archbishop of Canterbury: "Churches should be open where possible but with no public worship services taking places. Prayers can be said by clergy & ministers on behalf of everyone & churches should consider ways of sharing this with the wider community ...."

Our parish church in Elkstone will remain open as usual, 24 hours a day, & you are invited to use the building for your own periods of quiet prayer & reflection.

Please observe social distancing recommendations!

Therefore, we are having to become a "different sort of church" in the coming months to face the challenge of coronavirus. We have a "prayer tree" near the East end of the church where you can write a short prayer request which we will share on your behalf during regular prayer times. Although a relatively small congregation we aspire to be in the forefront of providing practical care & support for the poorest & the most vulnerable during the crisis. Please enjoy the churchyard as the flowers are beginning to bloom in the Wildflower Meadow & the birds are very busy nest building.

If you wish to speak to a member of the Clergy or you have specific requests please do contact us through the website <http://www.churnvalley.org.uk/contact-us>

## **Postponement of Elkstone Open Gardens 2020**

Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus, the Open Gardens Committee (OGC) has reluctantly come to the decision that this year's Open Gardens Day planned for Sunday 7th June will have to be postponed. We will monitor the situation & consider if it can be reinstated later, possibly in the Autumn.

In the meantime, I would like to thank all those villagers who had kindly offered to help in so many ways.

Despite this disappointment please read on... **David Kearney**

## **A Change of Focus for the Open Gardens Committee – Elkstone 'Good Neighbours' Scheme**

The Coronavirus threat is affecting all our lives. Many of us are looking at ways to support neighbours & there are already offers of help in this issue of the newsletter. A thought has occurred to us: is there a way that our community could go one better than individual acts of kindness & co-ordinate a village-wide response? For example, could the Open Gardens Committee be re-named & transformed into an 'Elkstone Good Neighbours' committee? (Additional members welcome, of course!)

A 'Good Neighbours' scheme could incorporate all the valuable initiatives which have already been started, such as the online form on the Elkstone Village Website accessible at [www.elkstonevillage.com](http://www.elkstonevillage.com), & pull together the individual offers of help around shopping & picking up medication if people choose to opt into the scheme. Operating across the whole village, we could also co-ordinate daily check-in calls for anyone who has fallen ill, or a chat if someone is simply feeling a bit down. With more people involved, we could perhaps be even more ambitious. One member of the committee has already come up with the exciting idea of people filming 3-minute tours of their garden. What a lovely idea for those who had planned to open their gardens in June. This is a way we can help each other through the challenging weeks ahead, especially for those who need to self-isolate.

This is just an idea. If you would like to be involved, either as part of a (remotely managed) committee of ideas, or simply to register your interest as a possible volunteer &/or someone who may be in need of support, then please let us know by emailing [goodneighbours@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:goodneighbours@elkstonevillage.com). If there is enough interest, we'll do our very best to get this up & running as soon as possible. If you do not have access to email, then drop a note through any of the letterboxes of your neighbours listed below or phone

David Kearney on 01242 506234.

The Open Gardens Committee –

**Graham & Jenny Hopkins, Brian Howlett, Ronnie & Carole Bury, Tim Winstanley, David & Liz Kearney, Martyn Wylie, David & Sue Collins, Anne Davies**

## **Children's Society House Boxes**

Earlier in March I finally collected all the boxes & deposited £535.37 into The Children's Society account. Many, many thanks to all who continue to support this charity. The money will help children who may be taking on the role of carer to a relative in the household & those who may benefit from counselling because of difficult circumstances at home. The society is able to provide such support to over 48 000 children.

As we are moving away from using cash it's gratifying that so many box holders continue to donate their coins & notes. Once again, thanks.

**Jennie Howlett**

## **Film & Supper Evening 2nd April now Postponed until Autumn**

As is happening with so many other events we are postponing our showing of State Secrets until the Autumn - so we look forward a time when improved conditions will allow us to proceed. Watch for further announcements in late summer.

**Jeremy & Anne**

## **News from The Trust**

Not unsurprisingly, COVID-19 is a huge focus in the trust this month. Whilst (at time of writing) the trust has had only 9 COVID-19 positive inpatients under its care, you can be reassured that plans are being put in place to ensure a rapid a response should it become necessary to look after an (expected) increase in the number of patients who are confirmed as positive. The trust is also working closely with the partners in the Integrated Care System Action.

The overall priority is to reduce risk to all involved whilst ensuring that patients continue to be given the best possible care. A dedicated seven-day Incident Management Team has been established & many staff are taking on work & responsibilities above & beyond their normal working pattern which is hugely appreciated. Measures are being put in place to support home working for staff & meetings will take the form of online gatherings. Extra equipment has been ordered to support the sickest patients who will require intensive care.

Our wonderful staff are one of our biggest assets & they are the ones who will most certainly have to shoulder the extra burden that the pandemic may have on NHS Resources, I have always thought that I had good insight into their workload & the difficult decisions that they often must make but my understanding of the reality & scope of this increased enormously whilst watching the recent TV programme 'Hospital'. I was reassured on a recent walkabout when I asked the staff on our intensive & critical wards how they dealt with the emotional trauma that must affect them at times & was told that they have a staff 'huddle' at the end of a shift. All of our staff also have access to the recently established wellbeing hub for personal support & to 'Speak Up Guardians' should they have concerns that they feel unable to personally address directly with senior management. Our pastoral team are also very approachable & available to all.

One very disappointing, but understandable casualty of the need for care & prevention is that the Youth Day which was planned for the 27th March has had to be postponed. This however is only a hiccup & we are determined that with the extra time that we now have for planning we will be able to make it bigger & better! Many people, including youth ambassadors have worked extremely hard over the last few months to put together a wonderful day with speakers, stalls quizzes & visits around the hospital. As one of our ambassadors said, "It is a great opportunity for young people in Gloucestershire to have a say in what they think we should provide to improve confidence levels of teenagers & young people when accessing the services provided at the hospital." This has grown from my germ of an idea & I am so grateful for all the support that it has received from both within & outside the trust.

To end on a more positive note the work that has been done to transform aspects of our outpatient services is one of just three nominations shortlisted for a coveted Health Service Journal award, & the Ophthalmic Imaging Team are one of six finalists shortlisted for a Leading Healthcare Award in the Technology Solution of the Year category.

**Anne Davies (anne.davies11@nhs.net)**

## Relaxation & Well Being Sessions

In light of the present health crisis, wellbeing sessions have been paused until further notice. Thank you to those of you who came to the first sessions & supported this group. I hope to be able to reinstate these classes in the not too distant future, once things have become more settled. In the meantime, I hope that everyone remains well while we all practice our social distancing. **Alison Fernandes**

## Wool Plea

I'm knitting & decorating 'twiddle muffs' for dementia patients. They're knitted muffs with items like ribbons/ fabrics/ beads attached both inside and out.

People with dementia often have restless hands and like to have something to keep them occupied. A twiddle muff provides a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation, plus keeps hands snug and warm at the same time.

If anyone has leftover/odd balls of wool, please let me know and I will arrange to collect.

Thank-you, **Sally, sallycthomas@me.com 07854 534316**

## For Sale

Modern beech coloured, four drawer filing cabinet in perfect condition. Height 54" (140 cms). Depth 26" (66 cms). Width 20" (50 cms). Two keys.

£36. Buyer to collect.

**Tony Haynes, Wool Barn, Elkstone, 870589**

## Cowley Fete

Sadly, we have to announce that Cowley Fete is cancelled due to the prevailing situation, it may happen in September, but we will assess this nearer the time.

Many thanks, **Lynn**

