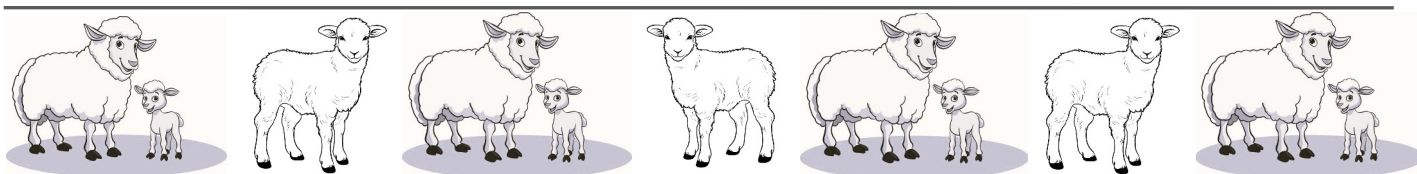


# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



**Remember your clocks will go forward by one hour at 1am on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.**

Hello Elkstone friends and neighbours

I love the longer, lighter days giving time for planting seeds in the greenhouse ready for the allotment to start producing. The allotments and gardens around the village are beginning to take shape, showing plenty of new life with flowers and vegetables. I always sow too many seeds, and I'm always willing to exchange and share excess!

Lots of further news and information on your village website [www.elkstonevillage.com](http://www.elkstonevillage.com)

Editor: Carole Bury email: [editor@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:editor@elkstonevillage.com) Deadline for next newsletter 20 April 2024

## Features

- Easter Day and Easter Egg hunt in the Church 11am
- Easter Monday Egg Hunt – Elkstone Studios 10-4pm
- A417 Missing Link - Public Info Event 3 April, 2-6.30pm. National Star College GL53 9QU
- Elkstone Roads and Potholes
- Parish Council. Village Hall. 7.30pm - 8 May 2024
- Parish Council Questionnaire – please fill in and return to Graham Hopkins or Village Hall postbox

## 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
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.00 – 11.00am	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

## Recycling

All Recycling, Food Caddy	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Refuse and Garden, bins and bags	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April
Food Caddy	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April

*Continues overleaf. . .*

## Elkstone Parish Church Services

### EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31st March      11am      Easter Holy Communion

Followed by the Easter Egg Hunt in the Church and Churchyard

Sunday 7th April      11am      Morning Worship

Sunday 14th April      11am      Holy Communion

Sunday 21st April      10.30am      Benefice Service with Bishop Robert, Stratton

Sunday 28th April      11am      Rendcomb Church



**EASTER SUNDAY at St John the Evangelist, Elkstone**

Everyone is welcome to join together for a service of

Holy Communion at 11am on the 31<sup>st</sup> March

To be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Church and Churchyard

For adults and children alike

## Elkstone Studios Easter Fair. Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Join us for our Easter Fair at Elkstone Studios on April 1st, 2024, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Exciting activities await, including a petting zoo, silly Olympics, whack-a-rat, hook-a-duck, craft activities, a lunchtime show, a dog show, and an Easter egg hunt sponsored by Knead Bakery.

\*\*\* Plus, participate in our raffle, with all proceeds supporting Elkstone Church. \*\*\*

Admission is £10 per adult, £5 for ages 13-17, and children under 12 enter for FREE.

Location: Elkstone Studios, Cheltenham, GL53 9PQ.

Buy your tickets now: [www.elkstone-studios.com](http://www.elkstone-studios.com)



## Elkstone's Roads and Potholes

You'll not be surprised to learn that the subject of Elkstone's roads and potholes comes up for discussion at every Parish Council meeting. Despite significant amounts of correspondence to Glos. County Council Highways (who are responsible for the maintenance of our local roads) the problems show no signs of improvement. Without better investment in our roads it is difficult to see how the situation will improve, especially in the short term. The only glimmer of hope is that maybe we will enjoy drier and warmer weather over the coming months, which will reduce the deterioration.

It has been suggested that more complaints may make a small difference in prioritising repairs and even getting larger areas of the road properly patched rather than just lots of small and often ineffective repairs.

If you have time and are able to report potholes to GCC please go to

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> Enter your postcode and you should find it easy to report the pothole or other defect. I would encourage you to report a pothole even if it appears others have already. Photos help but are not essential.

If you witness a vehicle that has sustained tyre damage, or even more serious damage, due to the road condition, please take a photo of both the road defect and, with the driver's permission, the damage to the vehicle itself.

Please send the info to Julia Judd, our District Councillor at [julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk) who is excellent at lobbying the right parties. I am sorry that the issue isn't going to be resolved properly but the best chance we have of seeing any improvement is by keeping the pressure on GCC Highways.

David Kearney

## **Keep an Eye on your Oil**

Recently my boiler stopped working so Ramtech turned up the following day to take a look. It turned out I was out of oil even though the gauge showed there was plenty in the tank.

Three days later Sweetfuels delivered some oil but the boiler did not fire up. Ramtech returned, changed a filter and everything's fine now.

However, the point of this story is that Sweetfuels can supply their own gauge which automatically sends them a message if the oil drops below a certain level. Then they will turn up and top up so the problem of running out is alleviated.

The only stipulation is one must pay monthly by direct debit, which suits me as it does away with a big one-off bill and costly repairs.

If you'd like to find out more, the Sweetfuels contact is Tristan on 01367 710666. He will also fit the gauge if necessary..

Tony Haynes

Wool Barn

## **May 2024 Elections**

Are you ready to vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, on 2nd May?

Make sure you are ready to vote in the upcoming elections on 2 May and play your part in local democracy.

Below is a checklist for you to make sure you are prepared:

- Are you registered to vote? Deadline for registering is 16 April
- Are you applying for a postal vote? Deadline for applications is 5pm on 17 April
- Are you using a proxy vote? Deadline for applying for proxy votes is 5pm on 24 April
- Have you got the correct photo ID if you are intending to vote in person at a polling station? Without valid photo ID you will not be eligible to vote. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

If you don't have ID you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, the deadline to is 5pm 24 on April.

## **A417 Missing Link - Public Information Event**

There is to be a public information event, where you can find out more about the project and ask any questions that you may have.

Wednesday 3 April, 2pm to 6.30pm

The engagement van will be parked at National Star College - National Star College, Ullenwood Manor Road, Ullenwood, Cheltenham, GL53 9QU

Use this website for all up to date road closures and traffic. <https://a417missinglink.com/>

Or sign up to receive regular email newsletters - [Jeannie.Dwyer@kier.co.uk](mailto:Jeannie.Dwyer@kier.co.uk)

## **Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

In Elkstone Village Hall 7.30pm

Belinda Holder

Clerk to Elkstone Parish Council

## **From the Parish Council**

The Parish Council has been asked to lead with the preparation of a Community Emergency Plan.

Whilst emergencies happen rarely, when they do, the impact can be very serious.

Most emergencies affecting communities will be dealt with by the Emergency Services and /or the County and District Council, but, if there is a delay in their arrival, or the scale of the situation means their provision is stretched, then we want to ensure our community has a plan in place.

That way, we can organise things to respond quickly and effectively and help the Emergency Services as needed.

With this in mind, we would like to establish a Community Response Group to co-ordinate and write the Emergency Plan. We need to identify where and how an emergency could occur and affect us.

From there, we can see the resources we need. A key resource is of course the help that residents can offer.

I am sure a lot of people would come forward if we had an emergency situation, and we just want to have this on record so that we know in advance the individuals we could call on.

If you have specific skills we can use, let us know. Alternatively, you may think you could be vulnerable in an emergency situation, in which case we would want to know so we can offer help.

Either way, please do complete and return the brief questionnaire to help with this process. If you could put it in the box at the village hall or return it to me that would be very helpful.

If you have any questions or simply would like to find out more, come and talk with us in the village hall on Thursday 8th May 2024 at the parish assembly meeting and keep an eye on the parish newsletter to find out how things are getting on.

Graham Hopkins

Pendle House

## **Strictly Fun Dancing!**

Cheltenham American Square Dancers are looking to recruit new members, singles or couples welcome.

'Come and Try' evening on Friday April 5th at Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road, Charlton Kings, starting at 7.45pm

Square dancing is done in groups of eight with constant interaction between all the dancers as they follow the beat of the music, and move around following the Caller's instructions.

What our members say: "You meet a great new set of friends"; "I like the camaraderie"; "the exercise keeps mind and body active"; "wonderful new pastime which I wish I had started earlier"; "I have 2 left feet, but can square dance with the best!". For more information, visit our website at

[www.cheltenhamsquaredancing.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamsquaredancing.co.uk)

## **The Old Rectory Restaurant Colesbourne**

Mid-week roast special. Thursdays 12.00 – 4pm. £11.95 per person

Include a glass of house wine (125ml) at £14.95 per person with your midweek roast

Home-made dessert menu available

Group bookings welcome. Booking essential ....call 01242 870120

Jason and Michelle

# Elkstone Community Questionnaire

## Community Emergency Plan Can you offer help before, during or after an emergency?

*Please return to Graham Hopkins at Pendle House*

Your name:

Address:

Email: Telephone:

Mobile:

### How can you help?

***Do you have any of the following skills that you are prepared to offer in an emergency? Please tick***

Doctor	Builder	Mechanic
Pharmacist	Plumber	Corgi Gas Installer
Nurse	Electrician	Fire Fighter
First Aid	Engineer	Catering
Administrative	HGV License	Counselling
Amateur Radio	Plant Operator	Vet
Other (please describe)		

***Do you have any of the following that you are prepared to offer for use in the event of an emergency?  
Please tick***

Tractor	JCB	Radio transmitter
Trailer	Lifting gear	Portable heater
4x4 Vehicle	Generator	Gas cylinders
Emergency Lighting	Portable pump	Mobile water tank
Chain saw	Camp Beds	Blankets/Pillows
Other (please describe)		

Any Notes: