

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbblings...

It's school holidays, even though little will change logistically, I for one am relieved home-schooling is over! I hope you are all coping with the everchanging landscape & have some lovely summer plans, there's worse places to be than here, that's for sure!

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

## Features

Holidays at Home

Lost Bracelet

Relaxation Sessions

News from The Trust

Tree works on The Pound

Elkstone Village Hall - Update

## Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling Food Waste – Every Tuesday

Waste & Recycling All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August

Indoor Bowls Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493 **Postponed**

Art Club Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663 **Postponed**

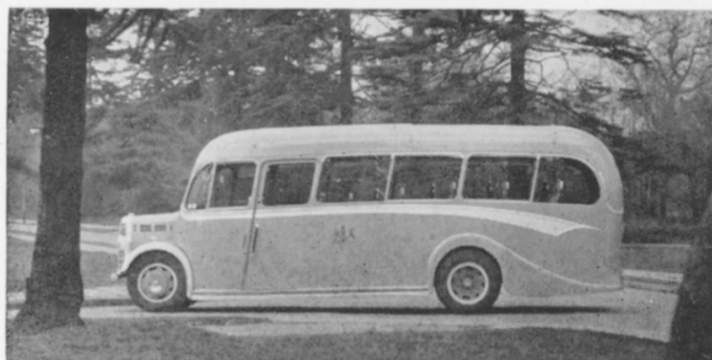
Relaxation Sessions Village Hall **TBA** – info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

## Diary Dates

“All Quiet on the Western Front”....

## Holidays at Home

Arthur Champion sent this picture through from the Elkstone in the Peak District Newsletter, he said, “It brings back memories of growing up in the 1950s & 60s. A day trip to the seaside was today's equivalent of having a foreign holiday!” As we're being encouraged to have 'staycations' this summer, I thought it rather relevant!



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## Lost Bracelet – Can You Help?

Lost, a precious gold bracelet with great sentimental value to my elderly Mum. It could be on walking routes around the Elkstone, the Church, 'Hidden Valley', the stone track leading up from the Valley to Zeal way and around to Hillview. If you spot it I would be so grateful if you could let me know. Here's a photo to show what it looks like:



Thank you,

**Liz Kearney** Tel 07912676851

## Relaxation & Wellbeing Sessions

I hope that everyone is staying safe & well as the coronavirus situation continues to unfold. Relaxation & wellbeing classes are on hold until further notice & it is intended to re-start these when circumstances permit. Many thanks for those of you who supported the group at the outset & I hope to welcome you back once sessions can go ahead again. I hope that I will get the chance to welcome some new faces as well when the time comes.

**Regards, Alison.**

## News from The Trust

The highlight of this month was that the Trust had the privilege of hosting the Prince of Wales & Duchess of Cornwall on behalf of the Gloucestershire NHS & social care system. Sixteen staff, clinical & non-clinical from a wide range of front line & support services joined in the visit, sharing their personal experiences of working during the COVID pandemic. They also received thanks from the Royal couple to share with colleagues throughout the county.

Another Trust highlight was that our Chief Digital & Information Officer was nominated for a Health & Tech Newspaper award. Coming into a trust that was way behind with digital technology he has, in the title of his presentation, taken the Trust 'From Laggard to Leader'. Much of this work accelerated throughout the Trust during the peak of the COVID pandemic period & many of the solutions delivered for it during that time will remain in place and indeed be expanded bringing increasing benefits to the Trust & patients.

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The month also saw the celebration of the 72nd birthday of the NHS & you can see more of the Trust celebrations, including the amazing light displays at both hospitals, on the Trust Twitter page. There have been national celebration days for registered nurses & midwives but not for Health Care Assistants (HCA's) whose work has shone through even more brightly during recent times. The Trust wanted to celebrate their contribution also & did so with a day filled of thanks & goodies, culminating in the lighting up of the Pillars at CGH in "HCA Green"!

After the death of George Floyd & the aftermath, including the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement, more than 50 BAME & non-BAME colleagues, joined members of the Board for a "virtual" conversation. Staff wellbeing is so important & the board wanted to hear more about the impact of these recent events & specifically to understand, from their perspective, what actions they would like the Trust to consider. Everyone spoke openly & concerns arose that previously had not been expressed. I sit on the Equality Diversity & Inclusion Steering Group & what was learnt during that session will be pivotal in shaping early priorities. A 'BAME Speak up Guardian' has already been appointed.

The temporary changes put into place in preparation for a possible second surge of COVID are now working & the concerns governors had about necessary patient transfer between hospitals have been completely allayed. The firm to whom the contract was awarded are incredibly good & getting feedback such as "They have been amazing & treated patients with such care & compassion, nothing was too much trouble" and "The crews have been nothing short of phenomenal ensuring all patients are safely transferred."

Since the changes there have been no cases of COVID-19 infection contracted by patients whilst in hospital, good evidence that the risk of in-hospital infection is extremely low. Services paused or reduced during the phase one of the pandemic continue to ramp up but what is being experienced in the Trust (and nationwide) is the number of patients who are declining offers of care & citing concern about contracting the virus if they come to hospital. As governors we have been asked to spread the word that our services are safe & to encourage people to come to appointments. Please can you help in this.

Finally planning applications for the site developments at both hospitals have been submitted to Gloucestershire & Cheltenham Councils. This is part of the Trust's investment of £39.5m to improve the estate & support the transformation of services.

**Anne Davies** ([anne.davies11@nhs.net](mailto:anne.davies11@nhs.net))

### **From the Parish Council**

The Parish Council have taken arboricultural advice with regard to the trees on the Pound and in the interest of safety will be having tree works and maintenance carried out. If required replacement or new planting would be with appropriate and suitable trees. The willow tree is leaning due to it being heavily weighted and work will be carried out to reduce it in size. The tree works are to be carried out in the autumn.

**Jane Thorn**

### **Elkstone Village Hall - Update**

Sadly, the Village Hall must (for now) remain 'in lockdown' as in the view of the Committee, the insurance conditions are far too onerous and / or costly to undertake. We look forward to more normal conditions returning soon, so watch this space!

**Jeremy Davies** Chair, Elkstone Village Hall Committee