

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Henry James once wrote, "Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language". The lines are taken from his short story *An International Episode*, first published nearly 150 years ago. How differently some of us might describe the July afternoons of 2022. Far from feeling joyful and care free, I confess to being one of those who over recent days has been shielding inside from the record-breaking temperatures, glued to an indoor air purifying fan, watching TV for ever more scary news about climate change and with only the Tory leadership contest for light entertainment. Yes, yes, I know. I need to get out more. Will do, now the weather's at last cooled down a bit.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th August 2022

Features

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- News from the Parish Council
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- News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 10-year ambition to halve the number of serious road accidents
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- Stone Stiles Project – answers to common questions
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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

Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 9 th and 23 rd August

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 7th August – 11am **Morning Worship** with Mark Venn.

Sunday 14th August – 10am **Songs of Praise! Service** with Ruth Edy.

Sunday 21st August – 11am **Holy Communion** with the Revd Jan Moore.

Continues overleaf. . .

News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council has high hopes of shortly securing local authority funding for a planting scheme at the entrances to the village. The aim would be to make these approaches both more attractive and visible. This sort of scheme has in other areas been shown to have some effect in moderation of motorists speeding.

David Collins

Goodbye and thanks to the Richardsons

If all goes to plan, the Richardson family at Manor Barn will be leaving Elkstone within the next month or so. We will all miss them. They have been great supporters of village activities, including providing some wonderful cream teas on past Open Gardens Days. They have also on occasion generously opened their home for a New Year neighbours get-together. They are not going that far and hope to settle in Caudle Green. Rachael, Oscar, Tom and Jamie, we wish you all the very best and hope that you will come back to see us as often as you can.

Martyn Wylie

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Again, we have COVID numbers rising, and mask wearing has been reintroduced for staff and visitors. The news has been full of the problems faced by NHS services countrywide, and our trust is no different. But there is a lot of good going on behind the scenes so I thought to focus this month on some of those to cheer us up.

- The awarding of the George Cross to the NHS recognised 73 years of dedicated service, including for the courageous efforts of healthcare workers across the country battling the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There are now 489,952 people on the Organ Donation Register. This represents around 76% of the total county population of 640,650. 9 patients who donated their organs after death at Gloucestershire Hospitals last year, helped save or improve the lives of 19 people.
- Many charity-raising activities have taken place. Over 200 NHS staff, patients and supporters raised between them over £14,000 when they took part in 'Walking for Wards'. An epic wing walk raised nearly £5,000 for our CT Gamma Scanner Appeal. Mowgli Street Food in Cheltenham raised over £10,000 for the Gloucestershire Oncology Centre. A new Vitascan scanner has been funded for our Acute Medical Units.
- Finally, Laura Ferguson, an advanced nurse practitioner in the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, who was this year's winner of the patient choice award at the annual award ceremony, has now been nominated for a national award. Throughout lockdown she supported couples going through pregnancy loss, as well as going above and beyond to help higher-risk families get access to the specialist support and care they needed.

Anne Davies (Public-Elected Governor Cotswolds, GHNHSFT) - Email: anne.davies11@nhs.net

10-year ambition to halve number of serious road accidents

A new road safety policy 2022-2032 has been drafted by Gloucestershire County Council, which aims to deliver safer roads, healthier streets and lower speed limits where people live. People are invited to give their views on the draft policy by taking part in an eight-week consultation period, which runs until 11th September 2022. You can take part in the survey here:

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/gloucestershire-county-council-road-safety-policy>

Help shape the future of cycling in Gloucestershire

Are you one of Elkstone's cyclists and e-bikers? Gloucestershire County Council says it is committed to encouraging cycling across the county by both improving facilities and promoting cycling wherever possible. Investment has been made into a flagship cycle route linking Gloucester to Cheltenham, which forms part of the proposed 26-mile cycle spine stretching from Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve. They are now seeking views from residents all over the county to help form the long-term ambitions for cycling in Gloucestershire. As well as wanting to hear from cyclists about their experiences, the county council is keen to understand any potential barriers to residents getting on their bikes. The consultation will close on Friday, 19th August, so do have your say. To take part in the consultation, visit the website at <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/cycling-improvement-plan>. Alternatively, paper copies of the consultation are available. To request a paper copy, call 01452 426 793 or email ltp@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Help if you're struggling with the cost of living

Many people are currently struggling with rising living costs. That's why it's important to know what help and support is available now, that could benefit you, a relative, friend or neighbour. Cotswold District Council has a website page which lists some sources of support that could help you or someone you know. It's available at: <https://cotswold.gov.uk/costofliving>

"Stone Stiles Project" – answers to common questions

I have been asked a few questions following the post some months back about the "Stone Stiles Project". Here are some facts to update everyone's information:

The Project

The project has four aims:

1. To update existing records of all existing stone stiles before they are 'lost'.
2. To provide contemporary photographs of each stone stile as a permanent record
3. To create: a) a digital online map, and b) accessible notes about the history of each stile, to add an enjoyable dimension of local knowledge for walkers.
4. To preserve and protect existing Cotswold stone stiles in situ whilst facilitating easier access (this fourth aim has been added in response to news that some stone stiles are being replaced with galvanised kissing gates).

Protecting Stone Stiles – the challenge

1. Stone stiles are unprotected*
2. Landowners can do what they like with them. Many, but not all, are caring for them.
3. Most stiles are on recognised Public Rights of Way (PROW).
4. Where there is a PROW the landowner must maintain access to the PROW, but they also may need to keep in livestock
5. Ramblers and others are pressing for easier accessibility, especially for the disabled and users of push chairs etc. The most recent update to the Countryside Code was published in 2021.

Proposal

1. My colleagues and I believe that ancient stiles still *in situ* should be listed and protected
2. We support easier access but not by destroying our ancient stone stiles. Instead, we favour placing alongside them wooden latched gates, as found on bridleways. These are made of a traditional rural material (wood), and are less intrusive on the landscape than, for example, metal kissing gates.
3. Funding. Government policy for the countryside is to invest public money for public good. This is done through the ELMS schemes which provide money for farmers to restore stone walls and stone gate posts. These could also be used to preserve ancient stone stiles and provide friendly traditional wooden access latched gates alongside them.

Peter Wilson. Contact by email to: peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk

August Quiz

A suitably summer theme. Good luck and answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Which British rock band had a debut single called “In the Summertime”?
2. In which British university town is the suburb of Summertown?
3. What term is often given to a period of sunny and above-normal temperatures in the autumn?
4. In Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, by what two names is the character Puck also known?
5. Who met and fell in love with Marge Bouvier in a 1974 summer camp?
6. Which group had a Top 10 hit with “Summer Sunshine” in 2004?
7. The “dog days of summer” are named after the Dog Star; what is the better-known name of this star?
8. Which of the following is a traditional ingredient of Summer Pudding? a) bread b) rice c) sponge
9. Which novel is told partly by its heroine Esther Summerson?
10. On 19th July 2022 the UK Met Office weather agency registered the hottest ever temperature in the UK. Where was this recorded?

Quiz answers: 1. Mungo Jerry 2. Oxford; 3. Indian Summer; 4. Robin Goodfellow; 5. Homer Simpson; 6. The Corrs; 7. Sirius; 8. a) bread; 9. Bleak House by Charles Dickens; 10. Coningsby in eastern England.