



Elkstone Open

Gardens

2010

9<sup>th</sup> June

2-6pm

Our  
27<sup>th</sup> Year

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbblings...

Hello again,

The month of Elkstone Open Gardens is finally upon us. I have started the anti-rain dance in anticipation, judging by the contents of the Newsletter, it's going to be another good one, so I really hope the weather will behave. Looking forward to seeing you all at the barbecue. Have a lovely jubbly June!

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

## Features

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## Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling	Food & Garden Waste – 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> June
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 14 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>st</sup> June
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493
Art Club	Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663

## Diary Dates

Girl Guide Afternoon Tea	Deer Park	2 - 5 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Colesbourne Barn Dance	Colesbourne	7pm	8 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Elkstone Open Gardens</b>	<b>Elkstone</b>	<b>2 – 6pm</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>
Village BBQ	Elkstone	7pm	9 <sup>th</sup> June

**Church Services June 2019** in St John's, Elkstone

2 <sup>nd</sup>	11 am	Morning Worship	Rev'd Arthur Champion
9 <sup>th</sup>	No Service as it's Elkstone Open Gardens, the Church will be open all day		
16 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Holy Communion	Rev Cliff Pooley
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11am	<b>Rendcomb Church</b>	
30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	United Benefice Service at Stratton Church	

## **Elkstone Open Gardens 2019, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2 – 6pm**

When this newsletter drops through your door it will be just a couple of weeks until this year's open gardens in the village. My grateful thanks to all who are already helping with the preparations & also in advance to those who've offered help on the day. If you've not offered to help but could spare even just an hour on the day your help would be much appreciated. Please call or email.

We have an exciting extra attraction at Open gardens this year. Following concerns about the bells in Elkstone parish church a team of specialist was called in for consultation. The 15<sup>th</sup> Century tower houses a ring of six historic bells the earliest dating from 1657 & the most recent in 1977.

The frame in which the bells hang was identified as being a rare example of a working Medieval bell frame of national historical significance.

Unfortunately, the Victorian fitting & running gear are suffering from wood rot & worm & it will soon become unsafe for the bells to be rung. A scheme has been devised to restore the bells to prime condition, preserving them & the Medieval Frame for future generations to enjoy. As a result, the bells will not ring on Open Gardens day but thanks to the specialists involved a very special opportunity will be available when they erect the large working structure of bells known as the Charmborough Ring.

See <http://www.charmborough.org/> Of course the main attraction to many visitors is the gardens that villagers have kindly agreed to open on 9<sup>th</sup> June. My thanks to all who I know are working hard to get their gardens looking their best & provide a great variety of interest. Please come along on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> to support the village & have an enjoyable afternoon too. Let's hope the sun will be shining!

Don't forget the BBQ in the evening- see separate further down the Newsletter.

**David Kearney 506234 dnke@btinternet.com**

## **Bottle Stall & Tombola – Appeal for Donations**

We will once again be running a bottle tombola & a book stall at the Village Open Gardens so all donations of bottles & books would be gratefully received. Bottles could include spirits, wine, bottled beers & ciders, but also bottled soft drinks & toiletries. The book stall was very popular both with adults & children last year, so hopefully we will have a good stock of books again this year. We would also like any jigsaw puzzles too.

Please deliver all donations to Briars Cottage from week commencing 27th May, or if preferred, we could collect.

**Sue & David Collins 01242 870373**

## **Village Hall Tea Room**

Thanks to all those who have volunteered or been coerced in to helping on June 9th. I hope to put together a rota so we can have some time off to look around the gardens. I will be in the hall from 1.00pm to complete the setting up & receive any cakes/cup cakes/preserves/bread or any other similar homemade items. All contributions are welcome - some will be sold with the teas while whole cakes are may be purchased by visitors to take home. Anything remaining is usually eaten after the barbecue. Hope the sun shines on us. **Jennie Howlett 870462**

## **Plant Stall**

This year the Plant Stall will be located in the grounds of Manor Cross with many thanks to Sylvie Pierce for hosting this. Sylvie as usual will be in the Church explaining its key role in the active community of Elkstone & it's history & architecture to the visitors; & this year with particular reference year to the historic significance of the bells & bell frame & the Restoration Appeal.

So the stall will be ably managed by Robert Neal & his partner Ali Smart who have strong links to Elkstone Village. Many of you will know that Robert maintains some of the gardens in the village as well as the churchyard & its wild flower meadow.

Please bring your donations of plants e.g. spare seedlings, divided perennials etc to Manor Cross from the morning of Sunday 9th onward. Visitors often like to purchase plants that they will see in the gardens on view so samples of these would be particularly welcomed. Miserden Nurseries has also agreed to let us have a selection of choice & unusual plants for display with a share of the sale of any of these being donated to the proceeds of Open Day.

## **Village BBQ on 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Line of Duty & Victoria are no longer keeping us in on a Sunday evening so there is no excuse for missing the annual BBQ after the Gardens Open Day. It will surely be a lovely summer's evening but if not, we will have the food in the Village Hall.

The BBQ is open to all & it will be very helpful for us to know the numbers in advance (so we can be sure of getting enough burgers & bangers). Please let me know as soon you can that you will be joining us. The cost is only £5 each preferably paid in advance to me at Langdale. We don't aim to make a profit on the BBQ but we don't want to lose money, so your early reply will be very helpful. Many Thanks.

**Martyn Wylie, Langdale, 870441 or [mgw123@btinternet.com](mailto:mgw123@btinternet.com)**

## **Dog Walking Offer**

Do you or anyone you know nearby need your dog walked at weekends?

Our family is happy to help on an ad hoc basis, anyone that perhaps is not able to get out as much as they would like, as our daughter loves dogs! No payment needed.

**Please give Sian a call on 07985 804 782**

## News from The Trust

This month I write to you after a local campaign group has challenged the legitimacy of the Trust's proposals to pilot changes to certain services, without having first undertaken formal public consultation. After very, very careful consideration the Trust Board has concluded that it would set aside the proposed pilot but, importantly, not the work on the proposal itself which will continue to be developed as the only viable option which can be implemented in a timescale commensurate with the increasingly pressing need to address the shortcomings in emergency surgery. I would like to give you the background as to why the trust is looking to make these changes & how the current proposed pilot scheme came about.

Within the trust, despite the very best efforts of a team of incredible surgeons, nurses, allied health professionals & managers, general surgery is falling behind the best centres & on occasions, patients are receiving sub-optimal care, albeit safe care, which is not what anyone wants. Discussions about reconfiguration to address problems relating to surgery were started in 2011. All options were designed by clinical teams & considered by a panel chaired by the national lead for the General Surgery Getting It Right First Time programme (GIRFT) & included other independent clinicians, a patient representative & a commissioning representative. A proposal was accepted which, in effect, was for centres of excellence on both acute sites with centralisation of emergency general surgery at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital & a proposed long-term strategy to centralise planned (elective) day case & short stay surgical services at Cheltenham General Hospital: With this context, positively, there is no dispute amongst clinicians about the best model for emergency general surgery but contention remains in respect of the best way to handle the consequences that arise from this change, for planned surgical care. The difference of opinion rests around the preferred location of complex planned (elective) general surgery.

The issues to be addressed in the current system of emergency patient care is that patients often wait to be reviewed by the surgical team; patients see the right specialist <50% of the time resulting in significantly sub-optimal care & are currently admitted unnecessarily. Under the new proposals all patients will see a sub-specialist surgeon; surgical 999 patients & patients referred by a GP will go to GRH, CGH walk-in surgical patients will be seen in an Ambulatory Care Clinic at CGH & those who require specialist care, will be transferred directly to the GRH Surgical Assessment Unit. If a patient is too ill to transfer, a GRH surgeon will go to CGH (24/7). This will lead to rapid initiation of treatment & investigations. Other problems arising under the current arrangements are that day case & short-stay patients may be cancelled due to numbers of emergency admissions, & the priority of planned major operations, whilst under the proposals, three times the number of patients will have their operation at CGH, there will be a reduced risk of cancellation & there will be enhanced ability to look after planned higher risk inpatients

As your representative I have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward & I remain confident that they represent a real opportunity to ensure best care for all. I want to assure you that the trust remains committed to doing its best for patients & when the matter is subject to full public consultation I will do all that I can to ensure that you have all the relevant information so that you are in the best position to consider the alternatives. **Anne Davies (elected public governor Cotswolds)**

## Elkstones in the Peak District

The Cotswold's Elkstone is such a nice village that I've often wondered how it would compare with the Elkstone's (Upper & Lower) in the Peak District. My curiosity had been raised by Sylvie Pierce who once received a request from someone who was researching their family history but had got the wrong village. Then there was the time when a lorry pulled up asking her for directions to the industrial estate when clearly, they must have keyed the wrong postcode into their sat/nav.

At last I was able to visit the other Elkstone on a relatively warm Spring morning with daffodils in full bloom. I was heading 120 miles North to explore Ecton Copper Mine where the Duke of Devonshire had made a fortune during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

The village & the mine are very close by so a brief diversion was easily done.

What should have been a two-hour drive to Leek in Staffordshire was somewhat longer because of motorway congestion around Birmingham. However, these hassles were soon forgotten once the road started to climb into the Pennines. The views across towards a rocky outcrop known as The Roaches were quite spectacular. The road forked off to the right at the Mermaid Inn & I was reassured by a road-sign pointing to Elkstone. The single-track road led along the crest of a hill then down through hairpin bends until after two miles I reached a dead end with nowhere to turn around! So far there had been only a few scattered farm buildings so I was feeling quite disappointed & puzzled.

It was only by accident when descending that another road-sign saying "Elkstones" came into view & soon after I was in the centre of a small village perched on a hillside with fine views across the Manifold Valley.

Unlike the honey coloured buildings of the Cotswolds, these houses & farm buildings made from dark Millstone Grit but still attractive in a different way. It looked like the village school had been turned into a private home. An inviting footpath ran alongside but I turned to look at the village noticeboard which had posters about the book club, a live concert, Pilates, X country running, Nordic walking, Lent lunch, bingo, Parish Council meeting, church services, fashion show... All very impressive!

I parked at a spring & followed a sign to the church. On the way I said hello to a lady sitting in her garden & enjoying the sunshine whilst reading a newspaper. My first impressions were that the parish church looked more like a Baptist Chapel. It has an interesting history. The interior was flooded with natural light with the East end featuring a beautiful stained-glass window depicting Jesus at prayer in Gethsemane. It was a nice surprise to find a gallery & box pews similar to ours. The parish church was clearly being very well cared for.

I started to recognise some similarities between the Cotswold & Peak District villages:

- deeply rural locations & at high altitude
- situated in beautiful countryside
- blessed with a thriving community life
- a flower festival & open gardens events being held in June
- historic parish churches with box pews & dedicated to St John (ours to the Evangelist & theirs to the Baptist!)
- influenced by the arts & crafts movement
- belonging to a benefice with eight PCCs

On the way back to the car, the lady in the garden offered me a glass of water & we sat there talking for a few minutes. I bought a copy of "Elkstones at 800 years": an A4 sized

book consisting of 174 pages packed with colour photos! She also gave me various phone numbers of villagers who would be able to explain about the history & culture of the village. It was good of her to take the risk of giving hospitality to a stranger. Soon afterwards I plucked up courage & phoned someone in Upper Elkstone. It turned out that the person at the other end of the phone had once visited our Elkstone some 30 years ago & she had fond memories of our parish church. Apparently, their annual Flower Festival is being held on the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June & will culminate on Sunday evening with a special service in the parish church of St John the Baptist at Upper Elkstone. I wonder if a car load of us might like to visit? If not then, hopefully some other occasion...

**Arthur Champion (Revd)**



### **Chorister Fundraising**

As many of you know for the past five years I have been a chorister at Tewkesbury Abbey where I sing Evensong four times a week & also take part in CD recordings & radio broadcasts. This summer we are going on a tour to Sweden singing in the beautiful cathedrals of Uppsala & Vasteras. We have to raise the money for the tour ourselves & on Sunday 16th June 2019 the choristers will be walking 12 miles from the front of our school, Dean Close Preparatory school, to Tewkesbury Abbey. This is a meaningful walk & particularly challenging for some of our younger choristers who are just 8 years old. We have a fundraising page & if you would like to sponsor me I would be extremely grateful. You are also welcome to join us on the walk from Dean Close to Tewkesbury Abbey for a donation of £5. We start at Dean Close Prep School at 8am on the 16th June. The link for the fundraising page is :

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/WitnessTheFitness2019>

If you have any further questions please do contact my mum Rachael,  
Manor Barn 01242 870581

Thank you & best wishes, **Jamie Richardson**