

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



So, let's not discuss the recent weather. Really, let's not. This issue of the newsletter arrives just a week or so before the return of our much-anticipated **Elkstone Gardens Open Day**. Thanks to the committee led by Martyn Wylie, and to everyone in the village who has so kindly offered to open their garden or help in some way on the day, everything is in place for a most wonderful event. Just don't mention the 'w' word and it will be perfect. Tea and cake, anyone?

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 19th June 2021

Features

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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
Relaxation Classes	Re-start date to be advised	Alison Fernandes – info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

Other Dates for your Diary

Cuppa and Chinwag – online get-together	Thursday 3 rd June at 7pm	Graham Hopkins – 07931 124165
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting	No meeting this month	Elkstone Village Hall

Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All bags, bins and boxes	Tuesday 1 st , 15 th and 29 th June

Gardens Open Day: Sunday 6th June

Under two weeks to go now until we host our Gardens Open Day. The programme is printed and gardens are being feverishly tidied. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to help. Your involvement makes all the difference. If you haven't been asked to help and are able to, Ronnie may still need some help with the car park and Jennie is looking for extra volunteers to help serve teas in the hall. Rumour has it that there is a heatwave coming. That would be great, but I'll settle for a dry day. Not much to ask, is it?

For more information about any aspect of the Gardens Open Day, contact Martyn Wylie. Email: mgw123@btinternet.com Mob: 07788 912645

Plants and Wildlife: Sunday 6th June

First, here is a reminder to pot up seedlings and cuttings, and divide perennials for the Plant Stall. Please deliver these and other horticultural donations ideally on Saturday afternoon, 5th June. As last year, the Plant Stall is to be located in Sylvie's garden at Manor Cross, and managed by Robert Neal and friends. You can leave your plants in a shady corner in the courtyard in front of the house.

Once again, the Nursery at Miserden has agreed that we may have a display of their beautiful and unusual plants. This is usually a major attraction to encourage all 'plantaholics' to visit our stall, and the village benefits from a significant proportion of the proceeds of all Miserden specimens that are sold on the day.

The wildflower meadow in the churchyard is already looking fine with displays of mainly camassias, pheasant-eye narcissi, with some aquilegias and cornflowers. By Open Day, the meadow should be reaching its peak, with masses of ox-eyed daisies and scabious. Already evident are the leaves of many spotted orchids, which should be in flower on Open Day.

To achieve this maturity and abundance of flowers, the grass is left uncut until late summer so that many insect species are attracted. This allows as many of the plants as possible to self-seed.

With that in mind, the gardeners in the village have requested that we treat the verges in the same way, to allow the wildflowers to flourish there as well. In particular, one of the glories of the English countryside in early summer is the frothy, cream and white flowers of Queen Anne's Lace, which line

country roads and lanes, including Elkstone. It is now coming into flower and will look its best around 6th June.

Please do not cut these back when tidying up before Open Day. The lanes look much prettier if they and other species are left to grow naturally through the summer. Also, this will encourage more plant diversity and wildlife corridors in which pollinating insects may thrive.

Brian Howlett Tel: 01242 870462

Village Hall Tea Room: Sunday 6th June

Many thanks for the offers of help with baking cakes and helping on the actual afternoon. The more the merrier, then we can all have some time off to look around the village gardens – so extra helpers are welcome to join the team. I will be in touch by the end of the month with more definite duties and timings. Because serving in the hall will be different this year because of the Covid restrictions, I am intending to limit the variety of cakes for sale. Instead of a choice of cheaper biscuits to more expensive fresh fruit and cream cakes, it is easier for standard pricing to offer traditional sponges, fruit cake, brownies, flapjacks etc. This will make paying by card reader simpler. Please do not think that you have to raid any cookery books, just make your favourite cake (the one you find easiest).

Hoping that the one-way system works inside the hall and all our guests enjoy their time in our Tea Room.

Jennie Howlett – Email: ejenniehowlett@gmail.com Tel: 01242 870462

Elkstone Village Hall is Reopening

After a year of enforced shutdown, it is great to see that activity is resuming quite quickly, albeit with all the necessary COVID-compliance measures in place. We are most grateful to the work done by Penny Casewell to develop very necessary event Risk Assessment documents, initially for the auctioning of Joyce Haslam's paintings, but more recently for the Local and PCC elections. Our measures were inspected by Cotswold DC electoral services officers and found to be fully fit for purpose.

The Hall Committee has invested in Perspex screens for the servery hatch, and also sterilising hand-wash dispensers in key Hall locations. Spacing reminder signs and walk-through signage ensure that no congestion occurs.

The Bowls Group has convened for a pilot session where the appropriate cleaning/sterilising procedures were all easy to follow, including for the serving of teas and coffees; the Art Group is resuming, and we already have a family event booked for late June; Relaxation Classes will resume before long. Preparations for the Tea Room in the Hall on 6th June Open Day are well in hand, and the Committee has also invested in contactless payment technology to eliminate cash handling and reduce time spent at the pay desk.

We've every reason to expect that activity levels in 2021 will restore very quickly, and we look forward to seeing you soon. Let's see those bookings, just visit the www.elkstonevillage.com website to obtain quotes and make Hall reservations.

Jeremy Davies - Chair, Elkstone Village Hall Committee

Art Club Returns

There was joy in the Village Hall on Thursday 20th May as the Art Club returned for the first time in seven months. Those present each brought something to work on: some painting and some drawing. Everyone was very happy to be back and thoroughly enjoyed the morning. We discussed what we would like to do for the next few months and a programme of topics was produced. We hope to book some visiting artists to run the occasional session for us and will work through our programme for the rest of the time.

If you enjoy art and would like to join us, just come along with some materials on any Thursday morning. You do not have to stick with the topic for the day if you don't want to! Don't worry if you haven't done any art for a while (or since you were at school!), we all help each other and try to offer constructive comments as well as lots of support.

We meet every Thursday between 9am and 1pm, just come at a time to suit you.

For more information, please call Penny Casewell on 03330 119663

Elkstone Parish Council: Speeding Issue

The Parish Council has responded to a number of Elkstone residents' concerns regarding the noticeable increase in speeding traffic along the Cockleford Road, in particular the 40mph zone between the two ends of the village.

Residents who have lived in the village for some time will know that the issues of traffic and speeding have been raised in the past and although some measures were implemented, the problems have not gone away. The reduced traffic during lockdown periods over the last year were a benefit to all but a return to 'pre-Covid' levels of traffic have again highlighted the matter.

At the Parish Council meeting in March, Councillors Frances Toase and David Kearney were asked to investigate the issues and constraints, what proposals might be effective and how much these might cost. Frances and David met after Easter and agreed it will be essential to get advice and share the expertise from Gloucestershire CC Highways team.

David Kearney met with Daniel Tiffney, Deputy Highways Manager on 18th May. The speed limit cannot be reduced without streetlighting, but he suggested that an 'impact scheme' at each end of the 40mph starts such as a 'gateway sign', improved road markings and wildflower planting on the verges would highlight the change in character as you enter the village.

The issues will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 26th May.

The Parish Council would encourage residents to share any ideas or views on this matter; please send your comments to elkstonepc@gmail.com Updates will be provided in future newsletters.

Jane Thorn, Clerk, Elkstone Parish Council, Email: elkstonepc@gmail.com

Can you help?

Jane Thorn, Clerk to the Parish Council, has also asked for the following enquiry from a Mr Neil Crocker to be shared:

A number of years ago a parishioner of Elkstone identified herself as the daughter of a member of the 51st Highlanders who fought the rear guard at Dunkirk. Her letter to the daily Telegraph coincided with the Remembrance services and at the time I was reading Julian Thompson's book *Dunkirk*.

There is currently a lad buried in France who needs to be identified and laid to rest from that action. Perhaps your parishioner and the Legion could get their heads together. Who is she?? Could this question be asked within the parish?

Just trying to join the dots.

If you have any information that might help, please contact Neil Crocker directly at his email address neil.crocker@btconnect.com

Charlton Hill Road Closure - update

Many thanks to Elkstone Parish Council as well for an update about the proposed road closure of Charlton Hill from 1st June until the end of the year. This plan has been postponed and will now probably take place next year. This follows a review of the scope of works, which indicates additional funding will be required to complete the project.

For further information, you can contact Gloucestershire Highways on highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

A highlight for the Trust this month was the visit by Her Royal Highness (HRH) The Princess Royal to open the COVID commemoration gardens at each hospital. In addition, she also visited Gloucestershire Health and Care (GHC) staff at the Wotton Lawn site. Those who met her commented that she was well informed, curious about the work of those she met, and engaging. The visit, which lasted much longer than planned, was a huge boost for all those involved and a morale boost to staff across both hospitals.

The Care Quality Commission completed an inspection of the Trust's approach to Infection, Prevention and Control. The final report describes an incredibly positive picture with the themes of strong leadership, high staff engagement and innovation characterising the Trust's approach. In a similarly positive vein, the board have listened to governors' concerns about mental health care for patients, whether they present in crisis in ED or when they are under care for their physical health. The newly established Mental Health Working Group, of which I am part, has made good progress and it is hoped

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to have an established dedicated worker soon. The 2020 hub continues to support staff struggling with mental health and psychological wellbeing. Another positive is the continuing increase in the amount of routine surgery being undertaken and the Trust is top of the South West Region “leader board” in respect of activity undertaken, compared to the baseline period in 2019/20.

Finally, with the continuing reduction in COVID cases, there is to be a planned, phased reopening of Cheltenham A&E. On Wednesday 9th June it will open as a consultant-led service seven days a week between 8.00am and 8.00pm but will remain closed overnight. On Wednesday 30th June, the overnight nurse-led service will resume. Work has also started at CGH in the radiology department, which involves the installation of three new CT scanners, an additional MRI scanner, and an improved physical environment for patients.

Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor for Cotswolds, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)
Email: anne.davies11@nhs.net



The Month of June Quiz

1. The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place in June of which year?
2. June has two zodiac signs. Can you name both?
3. The War of the Roses was ended when Lancastrian forces defeated Yorkist supporters in the final battle of the war. In which county did the final battle take place?
4. Which musical event usually – although not this year – takes place near Pilton in June?
5. In this month in 1936, *Gone With the Wind* was first published. Who was the author?
6. In 1913, Emily Davison, a women’s suffrage activist was fatally injured. How?
7. Anne Boleyn was crowned queen of England, but in which year? A) 1533, b) 1583 c) 1633
8. In 1989 the Chinese Government sent in troops to clear which square that had been occupied for seven weeks by protesters?
9. In June 1949 George Orwell published his political novel of life under a totalitarian government. What was it called?
10. The first Boat race held on the Thames between Oxford and Cambridge took place in June of this year. Was it? a) 1829 b) 1849 or c) 1869

Quiz answers: 1. 1953. 2. Gemini (until June 20) and Cancer (from June 21). 3. Nottingham. 4. Glastonbury Festival. 5. Margaret Mitchell. 6. Trampled by a horse at the Epsom Derby. 7. 1533. 8. Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China (1989). 9. Nineteen Eighty-Four. 10. 1829.