

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbblings...This Newsletter is so full, I have no room to write! Hope you all stayed safe & warm through the storms, fingers crossed that has blown winter away at last.

Laure, editor@elkstonevillage.com Deadline For Next Newsletter, 20th April

Features

Elkstone Church March Services
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 Bells Restoration Update
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 Cowley Fete

Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling	Food & Garden Waste – 14 th & 28 th February
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 7 th & 21 st February
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493
Art Club	Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663
Relaxation Classes	Alternate Fridays 6pm – Village Hall –info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

Diary Dates

Neighbourhood Meeting	Daglingworth Village Hall	7pm	5 th March
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	8pm	18 th March
Relaxation Class	Village Hall	6pm	13 th , 27 th March
Lent Concert	St.Johns Church	6pm	29 th March
Film & Supper Club	Village Hall	7pm	2 nd April
Cowley Fete	Cowley Manor	2-4pm	2 nd May

Church Services March 2020 in St John's, Elkstone

1 st	11 am	Family Service
9 th	10 am	Morning Service
15 th	11 am	Holy Communion
22 nd	11 am	Mothering Sunday, Rendcomb Church
29 th	10 am	United Benefice Service Stratton Church
29 th	6 pm	Early Evening Concert Gregorian Chant.

Elkstone Film & Supper Group - the next performance is 2nd April...

Due to restrictions imposed by Jeremy's impending knee surgery, we're having to postpone our "March" film to Thursday April 2nd. The film is Official Secrets featuring the true story of Katherine Gun (played by Keira Knightley), a British intelligence specialist working for GCHQ who risked everything to stop an unjust war - the government of the day called her a traitor. Based on world-shaking true events, the film tells the gripping story how whilst handing classified information in the run up to the 2003 Iraq War, Gun received a memo from the US National Security Agency with a shocking directive: the United States is enlisting Britain's help in collecting compromising information on United Nations Security Council members in order to blackmail them into voting in favour of an invasion of Iraq.

Unable to stand by & watch the world be rushed into an illegal war, Gun makes the gut-wrenching decision to defy her government & leak the memo to the press. So begins an explosive chain of events that will ignite an international firestorm, expose a vast political conspiracy, & put Gun & her family directly in harm's way. The film also stars Ralph Fiennes & Matt Smith.

The film will be preceded by a Chicken based supper starting at 7pm, the film starts at 8pm. Tickets are £10 a head for Film & Supper, payment in a marked envelope please through the letterbox of Manor Farm Cottage, Elkstone please, by 6pm on Monday 30th March; film-only attendance is £5 each, pay at the door.

Elkstone Open Gardens – Sunday 7th June

We hope you have the date now in your diary – hard to believe it's just over 3 months away. A dedicated committee are working hard to plan this year's Elkstone Open Gardens; we'd love to repeat the success of last year in raising a valuable contribution to our Village Hall & St John's Church.

The success of the day is down to a team effort- both in the planning & preparation but just importantly on the day itself. Can you spare an hour (or two?) on Sunday 7th June? Your help would be really appreciated to ensure all those who have already committed their time on the day can at least have some time to look round the gardens or at least gather their breath!

Many hands make light work so please let me know if you can lend a hand- even if only for a short time.

Thanks to all those who have already offered their help & support in so many ways. Look forward to hearing from you if you can help or have any questions or ideas.

Many thanks, **David Kearney 01242 506234 dnke@btinternet.com**

Elkstone Open Gardens – Sunday 7th June

By Easter weekend it will be less than 2 months until Elkstone Open Gardens.

Are you getting your garden ready for summer? If you have any seedlings you can grow on or perennials that could be split & potted, they would be much appreciated for the plant sales on the day (which always raise a very worthwhile sum).

Help is still needed – especially in the car park & with refreshments. No experience required – just enthusiasm & a smile!

Please let me know if you can spare any time on the day

Many thanks, **David Kearney 01242 506234 dnke@btinternet.com**

Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group Meeting

Andy Biddle PCSO for Rural North (which includes Elkstone) invites all parishioners to a Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group meeting at Daglingworth Village Hall on Thursday 5th March at 7pm. Look forward to seeing you there.

Pat Hobbs(Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator).

Lent Concert of Gregorian Plainchant by Candlelight, St John's Parish Church, Elkstone, 29th March 2020 at 6pm

A reminder that Elkstone PCC invites you to a performance of poetry & Western medieval plainchant performed by renowned specialists in this musical genre, Schola Nova Silvana. Consisting of a small, mixed voice vocal ensemble based in the New Forest, Schola Nova Silvana is dedicated to singing from this vast musical repertoire in Latin, in unison & without accompaniment.

The group aims through its activities to help raise funds for the maintenance of resonant historic buildings such as St John's Elkstone, dating from 1160, & intended originally for the singing of plainchant.

Wine & nibbles will be served after the concert which will give those attending the chance to mingle with members of Schola Nova Silvana & learn more about their scholarship & work in this field.

As you can hear in extracts of their music on the website www.scholanovasilvana.org.uk the concert promises to be a memorable & moving experience. Demand for tickets has already been steady & places in the church are limited so book your tickets £10 inc refreshments. (Tickets from Carole, Sylvie or Brian)

Brian Howlett, Treasurer Elkstone PCC, brianhowlett21@gmail.com

St John's Parish Church Elkstone Restoration of The Historic Bells & Bell Frame

You will be pleased to know that in excess of £40,000 has been raised from within the community to complete this project. The Elkstone PCC would like to thank all in Elkstone & those with past Elkstone links for their generous donations to this appeal.

Next steps are for the frame works to be completed in the coming weeks & headstocks to be delivered & machined to the bells sometime after Easter. Then, depending on bell hanger availability, the bells will be returned to the church well in time for Open Gardens Day on the 7th June. The Bell Hangers, Whites of Appleton have offered to open up their workshop near Abingdon in Oxfordshire for Elkstone villagers & guests, provisionally on May 2nd at 10.30. They will provide a guided tour (tea & biscuits included) & to see the bells all fitted out with their new running gear. The Bells Project Manager, Simon Ridley has asked that the 1657 Tenor Bell could be lifted on to a ringing stand so it can be swung up & heard. There is room for 25 – 30 people for this opportunity to see the refurbished Bells before they return home to Elkstone. If you are interested in this, please contact Simon directly on ringingsimon1980@btinternet.com to put your name down.

Brian Howlett – Treasurer Elkstone PCC

Well Being: Relaxation & De-stress Group Sessions

Relaxation & de-stress sessions are taking place at the village hall on Friday 13th March & Friday 27th March at 6pm. Hopefully the weather will be a little kinder to us all by then & the evenings a little lighter.

You are welcome to attend any of the sessions on a casual basis or, alternatively, can contact me on info@alisonfernandes.co.uk to confirm a place. The cost per session is £8 per person, which is payable on the evening by cash or cheque. Alternatively, I can accept payment by faster payment or Paypal (please contact me for details). Correct change would be very much appreciated for anyone wishing to pay cash. Thank you.

Please do wear comfortable clothing to the sessions. I will have several cushions available, as well as an exercise mat. However, you may wish to bring a floor cushion or yoga/exercise mat with you if you would prefer to be at floor level for the sessions.

I look forward to seeing you there. **Alison Fernandes.**

News From The Trust

In what has been a cold wet & windy, busy & challenging month it is nice to be able to share positive news from the trust. We, like many other trusts, have seen greatly increased demand for our services & thanks are due to all staff who have worked so hard to ensure the best possible care for patients. Staff in A&E have been particularly affected & thanks to their efforts, despite our waiting times being poorer than last year we were the top performing type 1 A&E in the southwest. With Coronavirus very much in the news it is reassuring to know that the clinical & operational teams have responded very quickly, Coronavirus Patient Assessment Pods are now active on both Trust sites & have been set up to provide a location where patients can phone 111 for advice & clinical assessment without having to enter the Emergency Department.

February saw important steps happening to take forward discussions on our Fit for The Future proposals. Following on from the public engagement programme that took place last year a 'Citizens Jury': the jurors were recruited by an independent company through advertisements in a variety of places & 18 were chosen from 181 who applied. They sat for 5 days to consider staff & public feedback including survey findings, outputs from events, service workshops & the engagement hearing. They also heard evidence from expert witnesses on the need for change, access to services & best clinical practice. They then made recommendations about the benefits & drawbacks of a wide range of potential solutions & the evaluation criteria as part of a Jurors Report. The feedback from those who attended as participants & observers has been overwhelmingly positive, as has feedback from the jurors themselves. You can learn more about this on the One Gloucestershire site.

I was one of the 72 individuals who then took part in two days of Solutions' Appraisal workshops. We worked in teams of 9 (including lay people, clinicians, partners & others) & considered the feedback from the different engagement activities alongside a 'long list' of options for future service configuration. Our role was to use evaluation criteria previously designed with patient & lay representatives to assess possible solutions for the future configuration of Emergency & Acute Care, General Surgery, Image Guided Interventional Surgery, Trauma & Orthopaedics & Gastroenterology. The validity & openness of the engagement phase, I believe is shown by the fact that options were considered that were not described at the outset of the engagement, but which have come through as strong themes over the past few months.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been chosen to pioneer a groundbreaking tissue donation initiative in England. This month saw the arrival of our two specialist tissue donation nurses. The team, employed by NHS Blood & Transfusion, are the first to pioneer this new role under a national pilot initiative and, have the potential to bring both lifesaving & life-changing transplants to as many as 50 recipients for every donor. Working at the forefront of the "sadness" associated with this part of the transplant pathway, this really is about as tough (& hopefully rewarding) as it gets. While organ donation can result in one untimely death saving several lives, tissue donation has the potential to touch the lives of 50 patients & their families.

To finish on a more personal note those of you who read my news will know how I highly regard the work of our Gloucestershire Safety & Quality Improvement Academy in enabling staff to work on ideas that will be of positive benefit in the care of our patients. In order to know more about this, I attended a training workshop & am now the proud holder of my bronze award. **Anne Davies (anne.davies11@nhs.net.)**

For Sale: As-new cream Laura Ashley metal-frame double bed. Standard size 6' (180 cms) long, 4'6" (140 cms) wide. Tip top condition - £195. Buyer to collect. Hurry ... only one remaining! **Tony Haynes, Wool Barn, Elkstone, 870589**

New Book: Short Walks in the Churn Valley

One of the most enjoyable aspects of living & working here in the Churn Valley is the convenience of being able to set off walking for an hour or two in any direction along a network of footpaths, bridleways & country lanes. I've recently compiled some of the best walks into a booklet which has been printed on good quality paper with maps & photographs in colour. It's a bargain at a suggested price of only £5 (although feel free to give more!) & all money raised at Elkstone will go towards supporting our local historic parish church. Copies are available inside the church building & Cowley Rectory. If picking one up from church, please drop you coins into donation slot in the wall by the main doorway. Several friends & neighbours have asked about trying out some of these routes so I'm proposing to lead some walk on the following Saturday mornings which hopefully will be good for families:

21st March	Elkstone	18th April	Colesbourne
9th May	Stratton	20th June	Bagendon
18th July	Rendcomb	15th August	Baunton
19th September	Coberley	17th October	North Cerney
21st November	Cowley		

Each walk will start at 10.30am usually at the local parish church & finish off with the option of having a pub lunch. Everyone is warmly invited. It helps if everyone is reasonably fit. There's no need to reserve a place in advance. I'm happy to deal with any questions or concerns (01242 870402).

Come & join us on Saturday 21st March by meeting at 10.30am in Elkstone parish church (GL53 9PD). The route will be familiar to most Elkstone residents: going across open country & returning along a secluded valley. Its only two & a half miles & covers a vertical range of 180 feet. What a privilege to be with like-minded neighbours, enjoying gentle exercise in such a beautiful landscape!

Arthur Champion (Revd)



First Local Fete of 2020



Cowley Village Fete and Fun Dog Show!

Saturday 2nd May, 2 - 5 pm

*In the grounds of **Cowley Manor Hotel** - designated parking*

Traditional Village Fete activities including....

FUN DOG SHOW

(judged in 5 Categories with rosettes, prizes and dog treats.
Kindly sponsored by *Knight Frank*)

ANIMAL CORNER (Alpacas)

ACTIVITIES: Coconut Shy, *Splat-the Rat*, Children's Games,
Face Painting

STALLS: Cakes, Vintique, Bric-a-Brac, Children's Clothing, Toys, Books, DVDs, Computer games, *Genuine* home produce, Plants, Bottle Tombola and **Super Raffle!**

REFRESHMENTS: *BBQ LICENSED BAR CREAM TEAS ICE-CREAMS*



LIVE MUSIC from the UKESANON UKELELE BAND

Entrance: Adults £2, Children under 16 free



All proceeds for the upkeep of St Mary's Church, Cowley.