
ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbings...

Well hello 2019!

I hope you all had a fantastic festive period & managed to find time to sit back & reflect on the year behind us & make plans for the crisp new year ahead.

It feels really positive to have passed the shortest day & to look forward to welcoming the energy that lighter & longer days bring.

I wonder whether we'll get the snow that last year brought, the kids are all certainly hoping so, we never quite got the roof on the igloo, so there are itches that need to be scratched!

Have a jolly January Elkstonians.

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

Features			
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting			
Elkstone Church January Services			
News From The Trust			
Elkstone Film Club			
Elkstone Village Gardens 2019			
Christingle			
Regular Dates			
Waste & Recycling	Food & Garden Waste – 8 th & 19 th & 25 th January		
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 2 nd & 14 th January		
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493		
Diary Dates			
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	8pm	9 th January

SERVICES January 2019 in St John's, Elkstone

6 th	11 am	Christingle Service, Children's Society	Jennie Howlett
13 th	9.30 am	United Benefice Service	Bishop Rachel, Bagendon Church
20 th	11am	Morning Service	Rev'd David Minns
27 th	11am	Holy Communion	Bagendon Church

Film & Supper Evening, Thursday 17th January 2019

In the last Newsletter we said we planned to run Widows, but long delays on DVD availability means we have changed the planned movie.

Inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, The Greatest Showman is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business & tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a Circus spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

Featuring Hugh Jackman as PT Barnum & Rebecca Ferguson as Jenny Lind, the Swedish operatic star who he persuaded to join his troupe, this story is told as one of the best movie musicals of 2018.

The film will be preceded by a fish 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 14th January; film-only attendance is £5 each, pay at the door.

Regards, hope to see you there, Jeremy & Anne 870516

Elkstone Village Open Gardens 2019 – Sunday 9 June

Following on from last year's successful event, it was agreed at the recent Village Hall AGM to hold Elkstone Open Gardens this year on Sunday 9 June.

Although it's less easy to imagine a warm summer's day at this time of year, please make a note of the date in your diary. Proceeds from Open Gardens make valuable contributions to the Village Hall & Church. The event is always popular both with those who live in the village & visitors to the event. If you feel you can contribute in any way, (help on the day as well as, of course, opening your garden), please contact David Kearney dnke@btinternet.com or 01242 506234.

Remember, size does not matter, nor the style of garden. Variety & interest count.

Thank you & I look forward to hearing from you.

Christingle Service

For 50 years now, Christingle has played a vital role in supporting vulnerable young people. The money we raise through our Christingle celebration will help children who need care, security & support look forward to a better 2019. The Children's Society runs over 100 services across the country that tackle serious issues affecting children today. Through their services & campaigning, they listen, support & act to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children. Please join us for our candlelit celebration at St John's on Sunday 6th January at 11am. This will be an Epiphany service remembering the gifts brought by the wise men & offering our own. If you are a box holder please bring it along to the service, or I will collect your house box during January. Last year we raised nearly £650 - an excellent amount from a small village.

Jennie Howlett,

ejenniehowlett@gmail.com, 01242 870462

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

Instead of writing monthly news I would like to give you a brief overview of the year gone & the challenges facing us this year. Some figures may also help to understand the context in which we work.

As an organisation we care for a population of 628,000 people, we are the largest employer in Gloucestershire with more than 7,7000 employees across two sites & we provide maternity services at Stroud Maternity Unit. Having our two main sites close together is in effect like 'one hospital with a long corridor & two front doors' & this is our constant challenge. With 365 beds in Cheltenham General & 533 in Gloucester Royal, we face a huge challenge both in staffing & finance, but you can be assured that we are committed to maintain both sites in line with our vision of 'Best care for everyone' & our mission 'Improving health by putting patients at the centre of excellent specialist health care'.

Leading the way in this is our fantastic & rejuvenated board who are approachable & who listen. As governors we feel that we are respected & increasingly are being consulted & heard. The Trust's embedded ethos of 'Journey to Outstanding' has been adopted by our tremendous staff in all areas. (You can find more about this online). This year our mortality rate has reduced; we have much better results in our diagnosis, treatment of sepsis & fractured neck of femur; enforcement notices in respect of both A&E & finance have been lifted; we are very often meeting the A&E national targets even in busiest times; we have exited from financial special measures & are on our way to digital recovery after a very difficult period following the introduction of TrakCare, a unified healthcare information system . This is a huge move forward, which in part has been achieved by reconfiguration of services & has been recognised by a capital award of £39.5m to support transformation. This is a vote of confidence from National Health Service England who in their report said, 'It was apparent that the Trust has, or is progressing, the majority of the opportunities which were highlighted in our diagnostic analysis & we commend your rigorous approach to making best use of your resources.' Other changes this year which are contributing to improvements include a variety of new methods of working.

The introduction of Gallery Wing for patients ready for discharge, but without suitable accommodation to go to, has resulted in 70% of patients experiencing reduction in length of stay & a better quality of time whilst in hospital with many up & dressed & enjoying numerous activities. This has the knock-on effect of freeing up bed space. Also contributing greatly to our changes is the work of our Gloucestershire Safety & Quality Improvement Academy in training staff to progress & encouraging research. Of the latter, Don Berwick who is working with NHS England to improve care outcomes & costs said, 'What's in the water here? I've not had an experience in these visits as exciting as what is happening here in Gloucester. I don't think I've seen anything like this....its really very special'. My own satisfaction comes from the trust nominating our aims to improve care for patients presenting with mental health needs as a Quality & Innovation goal on which part of our income is conditional on demonstrating improvements in this area. This is something governors were particularly focused on. The public have welcomed our extended opening hours.

The challenges ahead of us are many & include: including operational care in the context of rising demand & complexity, workforce gaps in key services & staff groups e.g. radiographers, developing a sustainable financial plan & addressing drivers of deficit, whilst maintaining quality & safe care, reducing spend, avoiding change fatigue & maintaining staff resilience. We shall be consulting with the public & our members to ensure that their voices are heard. Please join us on our journey & I wish you all a wonderful 2019.

Anne Davies (Elected public governor Cotswolds)



Happy
New Year
2019