

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbings...

Hello,

News is back with a vengeance, so I will just say I hope you all have a super September!
 Laure, editor@elkstonevillage.com Deadline For Next Newsletter, 20th September

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Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling Food & Garden Waste – 13th & 27th September

Waste & Recycling All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 6th & 20th September

Indoor Bowls Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493

Art Club Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663

Diary Dates

Ride & Stride St. John's Church 9.30am 14th September

Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm 18th September

Final Bell Ringing St. John's Church 4pm & 5:30pm 28th September

Bell Removal St. John's Church Morning 7th October

Film Night Village Hall TBC 17th October

Harvest Supper Village Hall TBC 26th October

Church Services September 2019 in St John's, Elkstone

1 st	11 am	Informal Family Service
8 th	10 am	Morning Service
15 th	11am	Holy Communion
22 nd	11am	Rendcomb
29 nd	11am	Combined Benefice Harvest Service Bagendon

Elkstone Bells Appeal Success

(but we still need your help)

For those with a sharp ear, you may have noticed that only five of the six bells at Elkstone Church are currently being rung. The heaviest bell, weighing half a ton & dating from 1657 is now silent, its fittings having decayed to a point where it is extremely difficult to ring.

History of the bells. (Please see photos at the end of the Newsletter)

The original four bells were cast in 1657 by Edward Neale of Burford. They were hung in the medieval bell frame still in use today, & which is considered of national historic importance.

In 1719 one of the bells was re-cast at Rudhalls foundry in Gloucester & again in 1882 another was recast at Taylor's foundry in Loughborough. In 1927 a new bell cast by Henry Bond of Burford was added bringing the ring to 5 bells & in 1933 the 1719 bell was again recast. Finally, in 1977 a final bell was donated by the late Reginald Miles.

Surprisingly, the bells have never been tuned together & so their sound is the result of some good guesswork – a sound which will improve after they are tonally adjusted to fit together perfectly.

By 2018 the bell ringers were reporting concerning changes in how the bells rang & a report confirmed that the fittings, mostly dating from 1882, were badly decayed & in need of renewal. Specific problems included

- The wooden beams supporting the bells are badly rotten & contain live worm. If this gets worse, the beams could fail.
- Bearings upon which the bells swing are failing, particularly those on the heaviest bell.
- The ironwork supporting the bells is badly corroded, meaning it is impossible to keep supporting bolts tight.
- The clappers which hit the bell to create a sound are badly worn & loose.
- The wheels over which the ropes run are rotten & contain live worm.
- Bells 3 & 6 are at risk of cracking due to rusting ironwork.

Without restoration work the bells will fall silent.

What work is to be done?

All six bells will be removed from the tower, thoroughly checked for defects, tuned & repaired as necessary. They will sound better than they ever have. The fittings will be completely renewed with modern standard equipment to ensure safety & ease for the bell ringers & trainees. The Medieval bell frame will be carefully inspected, & any necessary restoration work undertaken to ensure its continued safe use & preservation for future generations. Finally, the bells will be returned to the church & re-hung in the framework ready for another 300 years of use.

Both the bells & frame in which they hang are part of the historic fabric of Elkstone Parish Church a Grade 1 listed building. Their sound has carried over the village to mark

local & national events, weddings, funerals & simply for the ringers to practice & enjoy their music. Without our intervention they will fall silent & the ancient art of change ringing will no longer be practiced by local people. We look forward to their restoration. Please come & be part of it.

The good news: With a brilliant 86% of funding in place, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has felt able to place an order with Whites of Appleton Bellhangers to restore the bells. This work will involve lifting the bells from the medieval frame & carefully lowering them through the tower to the church floor where they will be available for viewing. They will then be loaded onto a lorry & taken away to Whites of Appleton's workshop to be stripped down, tuned & be fitted with new running gear.

This will be the first time the bells have been down to ground level since 1882 when their fittings were last overhauled. It is a rare chance to see, up close & personal, the instruments that have sounded out over Elkstone village since 1657.

The bells will be removed on Monday 7th October. If you would like to watch, they will begin to leave the church around lunchtime. Please come & see this rare & historic sight – a guide will be on hand to answer any questions.

Two final performances will be rung on the bells on September 28th at 4pm & 5:30pm.

Though we are delighted with the speedy response to the bells restoration appeal from Elkstone & neighbouring communities we still need 14% (£5000) of the funding to complete this exciting & necessary project. Any donation will be gratefully received & your gift will be recorded in a book of donors to be retained for future generations. You may wish also to sponsor one or other of the bells at a cost of £2000 per bell. This can be done individually or as a group.

If you are able to donate to the project please contact Simon Ridley, Project Manager, 07881 788118 ringingsimon1980@btinternet.com,

Mr Geoff Gait-Carr, Church Warden, on 07737 621120 jeffcarr53.jc@gmail.com or

Mr Brian Howlett, Treasurer on brianhowlett21@gmail.com

If you are a UK tax payer your gift may be enhanced by 25% by completing a Gift Aid declaration Form which we can make available

Simon Ridley – Project Manager, Elkstone Bells Restoration.

Elkstone Harvest Celebrations

Our Harvest Service in Elkstone Church will be on Sunday 13th October at 10 am.

As in previous years we will be taking donations of food to Cirencester Food Bank. Any donations are so useful & appreciated to the Food Bank.

Please leave any donations in the vestry, & they will be kept secure until we decorate the church for this important service, & then they will be delivered to the Food Bank after the Harvest Service.

Elkstone Parish Church

Harvest Supper

Everyone is welcome to our annual Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday 26 October in the Village Hall.

There is no ticket cost, but we ask that you give a donation to our chosen charity (more news on this in October's Newsletter).

Our new neighbours to the village will be very welcome, as it's a happy evening to catch up with news & chatter. The supper is simple fare of Shepherd & Cottage Pies (meat, veggie, dietary combinations!) & fruit crumbles & custard.

Offers are requested in advance for this bring & share supper.

Please let me know if you'd like to come, & what you'd like to bring.

Carole,

carolebury@hotmail.com 870493

Ride & Stride. Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

The Trust provides grants every year to help repair, maintain & improve the churches in our region, Elkstone Church has a received a grant towards our Bells Restoration Project this year, which we are very grateful for.

Ride & Stride is a fund raising event that takes place on 14th September.

Nearly every Church of every denomination, will be open throughout Gloucestershire on this day, & churches invite groups of walkers, cyclists & horseriders to visit churches which they wouldn't normally see. Riders are sponsored - & offers of this would be very welcome.

Ronnie & I have organised a cycle ride leaving Elkstone Church at 9.30am on Saturday 14th September, visiting 8 churches down the Ermin Way & into the Churn Valley Benefice of about 18 miles in total There will be a picnic lunch at Bagendon Church offered as part of the Ride & Stride Day.

St John's Church here in Elkstone is always open, 24 hours a day, but on this day there will be drinks & refreshments available.

Should anyone like to join us, or would like to sponsor us - please give us a call & we can give you more details.

Ronnie & Carole 870493

News From The Trust

I would like to reassure you that Health organisations in Gloucestershire are aiming high and want all of us to have access to the very best healthcare and as such are committed to engaging with members of the public to hear more about what is important to us, especially when it comes to local services. It is therefore a source of huge regret that misinformation about the future of Cheltenham's A&E service is currently circulating which runs the risk of undermining important engagement activities to which our local NHS is committed.

The re-opening of the newly refurbished & expanded A&E department at Cheltenham should, I hope, reassure you that walk-in, same day urgent care services 24/7 will remain an important and valued service at Cheltenham General Hospital.

Further reassurance, should you want it, comes from the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG) which is a clinically led membership organisation responsible for commissioning (buying) local NHS services to meet the needs of local people. These services include emergency care services, operations or treatments that can be planned in advance, community services and mental health services. Yesterday GCCG published a statement on their Facebook page with the key message that: - The period of engagement on community urgent care & specialist hospital services is an open dialogue. It is an opportunity to discuss ideas & involve people in developing potential solutions to meet future health & care needs. What this means is that despite recent reports, no decisions have been made about the level of care or range of services to be provided at Cheltenham General Hospital in the future.

Many opportunities for public engagement will be up-coming in the next few months as part of an engagement period running over the summer & autumn months (not just August as suggested in the recent misinformation). These will include a survey, drop in events, workshops, an Engagement Hearing & a Citizens' Jury. For more information about how to get involved in these important conversations visit www.onegloucestershire.net which will be launched in August. As I receive more information, I will pass this on to you.

In the meantime, I hope you will join us at the trust's Annual Members' Meeting on Thursday 12th September 2019 at Sandford Education Centre, Keynsham Road, Cheltenham (next to Cheltenham General Hospital). At this meeting you will hear more about our ambitious vision for the future of specialist hospital services which we call our centres of excellence. Come along & hear directly from the clinicians & other health professionals directly involved in ensuring we all have access to the very best healthcare the NHS has to offer and discover more about how your hospitals' services could be organised in the future. The afternoon will start at 4.30pm with interesting stalls & light refreshments & the formal session starts at 6pm – 7.30pm. You can book by emailing ght-tr.corporategovernance@nhs.net or by calling 0300 422 2932. Please come and if you are not already a member, please join.

Finally, a piece of news which is particularly important for me is that we have just launched a youth group within the trust to ensure that the voice of young people is heard. I feel passionately that this is vital & have been working for over a year to get this established, I am so excited that it is now coming to fruition. The group is open to young people from 11-18 years of age & will be led by them with help when they want it from trust staff & governors. I would be delighted if anyone interested were to contact me at anne.davies11@nhs.net **Anne Davies (elected Governor representing Cotswolds)**

From the Parish Council

Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting can be seen on the notice board outside the village hall & in the Parish Council section on the Elkstone Village website. The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 18th September - Village Hall - 8pm

Jane Thorn

Elkstone Film & Supper Evenings Resume in October

Just so you can make an early entry in your Autumn diaries, on Thursday 17th October we plan to run Green Book featuring Viggo Morthensen & Mahershalla Ali. A working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South. Despite their pronounced differences in background, they find a newfound respect for each other's talents & start to face them together. In doing so, they would nurture a friendship & understanding that would change both their lives.

More details in the October Newsletter - hope to see you there! **Jeremy & Anne 870516**

Recipe: Burnt Honey & Pecan Ice Cream

100g honey, A dash of egg white, about 1 teaspoon

150g pecan nuts, 600ml double cream

275g condensed milk, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Pre heat the oven to 190c. In a bowl whisk one teaspoon of egg white, stir in the pecans & mix until coated. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, tip on pecans & toast in the oven for 6-8 mins.

Leave to cool & then roughly chop.

2. Put the honey in a small heavy based saucepan & heat until bubbling. Continue to simmer for about 3 minutes until the bubbles are a pale honeycomb colour. Stir in 4 tablespoon of the cream & leave to cool.

3. Put the condensed milk, remaining cream, honey mixture & vanilla extract in a large bowl. Whisk until soft peaks are formed. Stir in two thirds of the nuts. Tip into a container & freeze for 5 hours or more.

4. Half an hour before serving transfer to the fridge. Scoop into individual serving dishes & sprinkle with the remaining nuts

Antonia Winstanley

Pictures Of The Bells From St.John's Church, Which Are Being Restored

