

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



September is a favourite month of the year for many people. It makes sense. The end of the summer and the beginning of a new academic year makes it a temporal marker. Time to get serious, buckle down, start a new routine, learn something fresh. Even if your summer has been uneventful and you're long past your student days, September still seems to offer a sort of reset button. Featured in this issue of the newsletter is information about the Full Peal taking place at our village church on September 11th. I am sure the event will reinforce that feeling of fresh start.

Jenny, editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for next newsletter: 20th September 2021

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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

Other Dates for your Diary

Cuppa and Chinwag	Thursday 2 nd September, 7pm-8pm	Graham Hopkins – 07931 124165
Parish Council Meeting	Wednesday 22 nd September, 8pm	Elkstone Village Hall

Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste	Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All bags, bins, and boxes	Tuesday 7 th and 21 st September

Elkstone Parish Church Services

Service times this month are as follows:

Sunday 5th September – 11am Morning Worship with Mark Venn

Sunday 12th September – 10am Morning Prayer with Ruth Edy

Sunday 19th September – 11am Holy Communion with Revd Roger Scoones

Sunday 26th September* – 10am Holy Communion

***Please check nearer the date. This service currently features on one website source, but not on my regular go-to reference.**

For more information: <https://www.churnvalley.org.uk/calendar/>

Full Peal at Elkstone Parish Church and 40th Anniversary of Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust – 11th September 2021

In June 1982, the newly formed Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust made its first ever grant – a gift of £100, made towards essential repairs to the St John the Evangelist, Elkstone. It therefore seems fitting that as the trust prepared to celebrate its 40th anniversary, it should again make a generous grant to Elkstone, to assist with the cost of restoring the historic church bells.

Since its formation in 1981, the GHCT has given over two million pounds in grant funding to churches throughout Gloucestershire and North Bristol. It is dedicated to keeping church buildings alive as active centres of community life and landmarks of the wonderful architectural heritage of the area.

The Trust is widely supported throughout the county, not only by generous benefactors but also by the hundreds of people who take part each year in the annual Ride and Stride. This year, on 11th September, hundreds of people will be putting on their boots and climbing into their saddles to raise money and promote the work of the Trust by sponsored journeys to many of the county's churches.

Between 10am and 1pm, those visiting Elkstone will be greeted by the sound of the newly restored bells. However, this will be no ordinary ringing.

Change ringing originated in England in the 17th Century and is a sound that has been heard across the United Kingdom and beyond ever since. Only twice have bells been silenced nationally – once during the Second World War and, more recently, for 18 months during the Covid crisis.

Elkstone bells are unique and are of considerable historical interest. Originally a ring of four bells cast in 1657 by Edward Neal of Burford, in 1882 they were restored, and the 3rd bell recast by John Taylor of Loughborough. In 1927 an additional bell was cast as a war memorial and in 1933 the then 3rd bell was recast in London. In 1977, a final new bell was added to the ring.

By 2018 the fittings on which the bells hung were dilapidated and major restoration was needed to ensure the bells would remain safe to be rung.

In 2019 the bells were removed from the tower to Whites of Appleton Bellhangers. They returned in 2020 resplendent with new fittings and running gear. While away the bells had also been tuned as a complete instrument, so the sound you hear today is the best they have ever been. Finally, the ancient wooden bell frame, pre-dating the bells, was strengthened and restored for continued use.

Unlike much of Europe where bells are swung by mechanical means, bells in England are swung through a full circle, using a rope and wheel. Due to this control, ringers can change the order in which the bells sound,

producing musical melodies known as “changes”. These numerical permutations are arranged to create a continuous piece of music, which is performed entirely from memory.

Performances usually last no more than 15 minutes, but on the 11th of September the ringers will be attempting to perform a full peal; a marathon of 5040 continuous changes taking around 3 hours to complete. No hesitation, repetition or deviation - a feat of memory, concentration and skill.

If successful this performance will be dedicated in thanks for the work of the first 40 years of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, of which the recent rehangng of these bells were part, and in grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the bells’ restoration. A display of all project donors can be seen in the church.

Starting at 10am, the bells and ringers will be viewable live on a TV monitor in the church. Please come and listen and, to support the GHCT, why not make your visit part of the 40th anniversary Ride and Stride Appeal for the GHCT?

Further information can be found at:

www.ghct.org Gloucestershire Historic Church Trust 40th Anniversary Appeal

<https://cccbr.org.uk/> Central Council of Church Bellringers

Simon Ridley

*Photos courtesy of
Simon Ridley*



Cuppa and Chinwag

A big thank you to Anne and Jeremy for hosting the August Cuppa and Chinwag. A great turnout, despite the rain, and everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity for another catch-up. Stuart and Jean Pearson have kindly offered to host the September Cuppa and Chinwag and so this will take place at Bay Tree Barn (south end of the village) on Thursday 2nd September at 7pm. All are welcome although, as always, please let us know if you plan to attend so they know how many to expect. Refreshments will be provided.

Graham Hopkins – 07931 124165

Planned Resumption of Supper and Movie Nights

An early note for your diaries. Assuming no sudden reintroduction of COVID restrictions, this is to let you know that we plan to feature the film *Nomadland*, preceded by a fish-based supper, at Elkstone Village Hall on Thursday 21st October. Further details will follow in the October newsletter.

Jeremy and Anne Davies – 870516

Cancellation of Relaxation Classes

Regretfully, due to poor demand for classes and an increasing therapy workload, I am unable to continue to make space available to hold relaxation classes at the Village Hall at the present time. Thank you to those people who expressed an interest.

Alison Fernandes – Email: info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

From the Parish Council: Litter Picking

If anybody is interested and would like to carry out a litter pick, litter-picking equipment can be made available through David Collins on 01242 870373.

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

Newspaper Delivery

Thanks to Caroline Carne for passing on the information that if anyone is looking to have a newspaper delivered either daily or at weekends, Gloucester Paper Services are happy to come to Elkstone. Their contact details are as follows:

Gloucester Paper Services – Email: gloucesterpaperservices@outlook.com Mob: 07739 926421

News from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Three pieces of good news to share this month!

Our *Fit for the Future* programme continues with new building work on both sites, and the introduction of new innovative technology. The trust will be a European demonstration site for the recently acquired Versius robot at GRH, and the robot at CGH undertook its first ever day-case prostatectomy. This is a procedure that not very long

ago would have resulted in several nights in hospital and a prolonged recovery. The trust is also set to become one of a handful of pilot sites for a new technology that will significantly reduce the need for endoscopy in patients who are at risk of developing cancer.

With climate change very much in the news, and the trust being one of the first to declare a climate emergency, the first meeting has taken place of a Green Council. This will provide a framework for the Green Champions and staff to discuss and develop sustainability actions and targets. They will also connect people working on similar projects, or with similar interests, to develop ideas and make a bigger difference.

Finally, and for me the most fantastic news, is that a Youth Ambassador from our recently established youth group at the trust, is now standing for the vacant Cotswold Governor position. Bryony was a patient at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital from birth and a member of their Youth Forum, advocating for patients and their families. She has a passion for driving improvement and will have a different viewpoint to other governors that will make her contribution unique and invaluable. If you are a trust member, please consider voting for her. Voting starts on August 31st. If you are not yet a member, please join and have your say. Details on the trust website.

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

Just Down the Road. . .Elkstone Studios

If you haven't already checked out the small new business park just before the A417 slip road to Cirencester, it's worth doing so. We popped by the other day and discovered Origin Health, a health and wellness centre, run by identical twins Ben and Dan Wilkinson. Both are skilled osteopaths and healthcare professionals, who also happen to be official osteopaths to Gloucester Rugby Club. They offer a range of injury recovery and healing treatments, and alongside this the centre is starting Pilates and yoga classes.

For more information you can visit the Origin Health website at: www.originhealthgroup.com

The Month of September Quiz

Answers at the bottom of the page. Good luck!

1. In September 1952 which novelist published the Pulitzer Prize winning novel 'The Old Man and the Sea'?
2. American Bobby Fischer beat which opponent in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1972 to become the world chess champion?
3. In 1715 which French king died after a reign of 72 years?
4. The Great Fire of London ended in September 1666, but how many people died? a) 6 b) 60 c) 600
5. Which two students founded Google in 1998?
6. In September 1752, Great Britain adopted which calendar almost two centuries later than the rest of Europe?
7. In 1829, the first British police force was established in London. They became known as 'bobbies'. Why?
8. In 1620 a small ship with 102 passengers set sail for America. The pilgrims finally set foot in Plymouth three months later. What was the name of the ship?
9. On 1st September 1939, Germany started World War II when it invaded which country?
10. In the Harry Potter books, on which day does the Hogwarts Express depart for the start of school?

Quiz answers: 1. Ernest Hemingway; 2. Boris Spassky; 3. Louis XIV; 4. 6; 5. Larry Page and Sergey Brin; 6. Gregorian; 7. They took their nickname from the name of the Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel; 8. The Mayflower; 9. Poland; 10. 1st September.