

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER

Editor's Bumbings...

This has been such a heart-warming edition to piece together, highlighting the community within Elkstone & some of the people who help to create that. It's really nice to read such positivity against the backdrop of the uneasiness of our current climate.

I hope you are all managing to find ways to cope with all the uncertainty.

Laure, editor@elkstonevillage.com    Deadline for Next Newsletter, 20<sup>th</sup> October

## Features

Elkstone Good Neighbours News  
 Thank You to Jenny & Graham  
 The Late Joyce Haslam's Paintings  
 News From The Trust  
 Cleaner Wanted for Village Hall

## Regular Dates

Waste & Recycling	Food Waste – Every Tuesday
Waste & Recycling	All Bags, Bins & Boxes – 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – Ronnie – 870493 <b>Postponed</b>
Art Club	Every Thursday 9am - Village Hall - Penny - 03330 119663 <b>Postponed</b>
Relaxation Sessions	Village Hall <b>TBA</b> – info@alisonfernandes.co.uk

## Diary Dates

Sealed Bid Auction	Village Hall	24 <sup>th</sup> October	10am – 4pm
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## Elkstone Good Neighbours

At the end of August, the last of the villagers whom Elkstone Good Neighbours has been supporting since March felt able to shop independently again. We had no idea at the time, & still do not, how much of a resurgence of the coronavirus there is likely to be in the coming autumn & winter months; nonetheless, it felt important to formalise even a temporary 'standing down' of our many lovely volunteers in the village who have so generously given time to helping others cope during the national lockdown. I am sure we all share the heartfelt appreciation expressed in the comments printed below. Special thanks to the couple of people mentioned specifically, but also to those who are not mentioned but also went the extra mile – you know who you are, & so do we 😊

The EGN Group thought you might like to know how the support that was carried out translates into numbers. We are aware that many shopping trips for neighbours were arranged privately & so the statistics here cannot reflect the true scale of what was achieved. However, here's the information we collected.

Shopping trips – 43

Prescription pick-ups – 35

EGN Cuppa & Chinwag Zoom Calls – 18

EGN Newsletters - 10

*“We wanted to thank you so much for your wonderful support & help during the past few months during what's been a challenging time for everyone. Our particular thanks must go to James Hutchison who became our personal volunteer, collecting prescriptions from Rendcomb & Rowlands Pharmacy in Bath Road, Cheltenham. He really went beyond the call of duty & for that he must be thanked & congratulated.”*

*“EGN is a brilliant & rare example of people pulling & working together & you should be rightly proud of what you've done for this small community.” (David & Rinske Tuke-Hastings)*

*“I remember with great pleasure on VE Day having a socially distanced cuppa in Liz & David's front garden & listening to a very moving performance of The Last Post by Jamie Richardson outside the village hall.” (Martyn Wylie)*

*“The Elkstone Good Neighbours Covid-19 was a brilliant initiative. The members of the committee & all its volunteers have done sterling work during these past few months ensuring that each & every one of us, in our small community, has access to all kinds of support & help if & when required. A big thank you to you all.” (Anonymous)*

*“We really appreciated all the support we received during lockdown. All the shopping Antonia ordered & delivered to us was a life saver, & the virtual gardens day & VE celebrations were very enjoyable. Additionally, delivering bulletins round the perimeter of the Parish made me cycle again & get much fitter!!” (Marion & Michael Cooch)*

*“Could you convey my gratitude to all the volunteers who made life more bearable during the lockdown.” (Michael Brassington)*

Please remember that you can still reach the Elkstone Good Neighbours Group at the same email address **goodneighbours@elkstonevillage.com** or you can call **David Kearney** on **07799 700000** if you need support at any time. We will start up the volunteering again if there is another lockdown.

Stay safe & keep well, **Elkstone Good Neighbours Group**

### **Thank You to Jenny & Graham**

I know I will not be alone in saying a huge 'Thank you' to Jenny and Graham Hopkins who have been the driving force behind Elkstone Good Neighbours over the past months. Both have worked so hard to keep up the momentum & ensure effective co-ordination, timely responses to requests for help & pushing other initiatives.

Jenny & Graham's IT skills have been invaluable in ensuring villagers have been able to communicate well during the lockdown and since.

Thank you both from me &, I'm sure, all in the village for a job really well done.

**David Kearney**

### **The Late Joyce Haslam's Paintings**

Joyce & Ken Haslam lived in Elkstone from 1986 until quite recently. Ken came into the village as a Headteacher & Joyce had been a Civil Servant. They loved our community & invested much of their time & talents serving on parochial church council as well as the village hall committee. Everyone who knew them was sad when Ken died in October 2015 & more recently Joyce in January this year.

Joyce was an accomplished artist & some of her watercolour paintings adorn the village hall. Quite recently her daughter-in-law, Mrs Ann Carruthers, has kindly donated 35 of Joyce's paintings for Elkstone residents to purchase. She hopes this will raise funds that can be split equally between the Parish Church & the Village Hall.

Arrangements are now being made for a sealed bid auction to take place during the weekend of 24th & 25th October from 10 am to 4 pm in the Village Hall, which will have been made Covid secure in line with Government legislation. All visitors will therefore be required to wear their own face covering.

If you are unable to attend in person then you might like to view the pictures on the Village Hall website available from Sunday October 18th. Each picture is identified by a number which needs to be quoted when making your sealed bid. Please note each painting has a reserve price of £20. The successful bidders will be contacted on Sunday evening.

Any unsold paintings will be retained for auctioning at the 2021 Harvest Supper. Envelopes will be available to make your sealed bids on the two days, or you can submit your bids using the form on the website. Thank you in anticipation!

**Revd Arthur Champion (Parish Church) & Jeremy Davies (Village Hall)**

### **News From The Trust**

I would like to update you on two items in my September news. The temporary changes that were put into place to cope with COVID were reviewed by the County's Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) meeting on September 15th & I 'virtually' sat in on the meeting. There was a lot of discussion & questions raised around planning for winter, made more difficult because of the possibility of a new COVID surge. The committee were satisfied

however that it was in patients' best interests to maintain the changes & agreed that this should be for six months to avoid big changes during the height of the winter surge. During this it became apparent that false information had been fed to the press about the recent critical incident, sadly it appeared by individuals associated with REACH. If you would like to view this meeting there is a link on the Gloucestershire County Council website.

The plans for 'Fit for the Future' have been assessed by a senate of fifty independent clinicians drawn from across the South West & were strongly supported. They were particularly impressed by the engagement programme & the multidisciplinary support. If these are passed by HOSC they will go out to public consultation in the new year.

Youth features highly for me this month. At the first meeting sounding young people out about their concerns, teenagers commented that the children's department was not planned with older young people in mind. This has been picked up & over the summer a Bright Ideas competition was held with children from primary & secondary invited to submit ideas for a new theme, name, & uniform. The results will be announced soon. Our first virtual young people meeting was a great success, many questions followed from a talk given by an orthopaedic surgeon, we announced the winners of our writing competition & many young people signed up to become ambassadors. Our next online meeting will be held online on 30th October 10.30-12.30 & to attend contact [anna.rarity@nhs.net](mailto:anna.rarity@nhs.net).

Other positive news is that for the first time since June 2014, in July 2020 the Trust met the 62-day GP cancer referral time with 177.5 new cancer treatments registered & 152 treatments being completed within 62 days from referral to treatment. This has been achieved by multiple teams working together to ensure quicker pathways for patients & particularly with urology opening a suspected prostate diagnosis pathway, where suitable patients can attend for an MRI scan prior to being seen by a consultant urologist. The Trust has also been shortlisted in multiple categories for the Patient Experience Network Awards. You can read more about this at <http://patientexperiencenetwork.org/awards/>

Finally, two bits of COVID news. You will have heard in national news about fears that there may be staff shortages due to lack of COVID testing facilities. This however relates to the national pillar 2 Lighthouse testing facilities whilst in Gloucestershire we are fortunate to have pillar 1 testing for patients & staff which is provided by a locally set up testing centre independent of the national programme. The second bit of COVID news is that for Trust patients who were most seriously ill with COVID, they, together with their families, are being invited to spend time exploring how they are doing both physically & psychologically. At a clinic, a bit like a one stop shop or speed dating, they can move around (with socially distanced tables & rooms) & talk to consultants, physios, pharmacists, nurses, psychologists & a lifestyle coach. These clinics aim to identify & help with what is now being referred to as 'LONG COVID'. This initiative is being held as an exemplar for other trusts, but sadly is dependent on continuing funds. **Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor.)**

### **Cleaner needed for Elkstone Village Hall**

Approximately two hours per week. This is a paid role. If you are interested, please contact **Martyn Wiley** on **01242 870441**