**Elford Sports and Social Club**

Ballroom and Modern sequence dancing on Saturday 27th August will be to Graham Derby, from 8:00-11:00pm. There is an auction every Monday evening with viewing from 6pm, opens at 7:30pm. Wednesday night is open mic with Barry John, from 8:00pm, hot dogs and cobs available. For further information please contact Maurice, the Club's entertainment secretary on 01827 383461.

# Elford Scarecrow Festival, August Bank Holiday weekend

The annual village Scarecrow Festival will be held on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August, 11:00am-4:00pm both days.

We need donations of books, soft toys and bottles. Plus any homemade cakes greatly appreciated. Please contact us on the email below!!

Come along to the 2 days over the Bank Holiday weekend, and follow the scarecrow trail to vote for your favourite scarecrow out of over 90 on display around the village! There will be tea and a wide variety of cakes for sale in the Village Hall, a BBQ on both days plus a wide range of stalls and entertainment for all ages! There will also be a display of local art in the Village Hall, you can visit the Stanley Tombs in our beautiful St. Peter’s church and take a stroll around the Walled Gardens, opened by the Countess of Wessex in 2012. Car parking is free, entry is £2 for adults, £1 for children and under 5’s go free. There is also disabled parking available. Please email elfordcrowfest@gmail.com, phone/text 07970099141, or check out our Facebook and Twitter pages for more details.

# Elford Art Group

# There will be an exhibition of art works at the Highbury Theatre, Sutton Coldfield, from September 7th to October 5th. The artwork comes from a long established group of artists who meet each Friday morning in Elford Village Hall.

**St Peter’s Church**

Our next Café Church is on Sunday September 4th 2016 from 9.30 am. Come and join us for Café Church in Elford Village Hall. The theme on this occasion will be Fairtrade. It is a gathering of informal worship for all the family, bring friends too. Breakfast will be served from 9.30 am; this is free of charge and any donations offered on the day will go to the organisers of Fairtrade. Do come along we offer lots of fun for the children, food and fellowship for all.

**Messy Mice**

The next session will be on Thursday September 15th from 3.30-5pm at The Howard School Elford. We welcome all children under 12 from across the Mease Valley to this special time for them to learn about faith and biblical stories which demonstrate God’s Love. It is a time for them to gain knowledge through activity and play. Children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult who could for example be a parent, older sibling or grandparent. As long as parents designate a responsible adult, there does not have to be one adult per child.

**Shoebox appeal**

Marilyn Davies is collecting shoeboxes for the Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Project. St Peter’s Church has supported this charity for many years now. If you have any empty shoeboxes of medium to larger size to spare, please leave them at the back of the Church and Marilyn will find them, cover them and make them look inviting. At Christmas time, “A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal*”. Quote from Operation Christmas Child website.* If you would like to get involved by filling a box for a child please contact Marilyn on 01543 263538

**Heroes and Heroines**

On 25th Septemberin Elford Village hall, starting at 9.30am, there will be an event with a difference! We are hoping that some, if not all, young or simply young at heart, will dress as a favourite character; from a book, including the bible, a film or from real life. A prize will be awarded for the best homemade costume. But don’t be put off – come,as you are, and enjoy the fun! The morning will start at 9.30am with coffee while costumes are judged and prize(s) awarded. A short time of informal worship, starting at 10.15am, will be followed by coffee and socialising. A hot lunch will served at 12 noon. There is no charge for lunch but donations for Help for Heroes will be gratefully received. Do join in for some, if not all, of the parts of this event. We look forward to your company!

# Elford Walled Gardens

Boules evenings coming up on 2nd & 9th September. Just bring a picnic and enjoy!

**Swapping Library**

A swapping library has now opened at the Gardener's house at the Walled Garden. The idea is that books, magazines and CDs can be taken away for a small donation or swapped for something left by the user. Essentially it’s a free service available for anyone to use on volunteering days!

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people donating books to the ‘new’ free library at the Hall Gardens.   The room is now absolutely full of books etc and in danger of becoming a hazard!   We now need people to come and take some of the books away to read.    So – holiday time is approaching – come and sort out your holiday reading from our fantastic and varied stock.   For the time being, we just can’t handle any more books until people take some away.   I’ll let everyone know when we need more stock! If you haven’t got the habit yet – we’re open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday till around 4pm. Thanks to all of you who are using the library.

**Village Hall**

Come along to the Coffee Shop in Elford Village Hall on Church Road each Tuesday morning from 9 am to Noon. This new venture has been a great success! A café complete with checked table clothes and flowers, where you are served and can sit and chat with friends. A good meeting place. Delicious homemade cakes and scones, a choice of coffees and tea. All ages welcome.

Ursula Middlemore 07970099141