

Elkstone Newsletter

32nd Year: No. 5 (340)

February 2016

Editor's Bit

Winter has arrived! Well, for a week anyway. The morning lark's song is confused by the scraping sounds coming from car drivers who forgot to put their cars away the previous night. And still the drivers on the 3/190 are travelling too fast for the conditions. Oh well, Spring is on the way – I have seen the daffodils appearing!

Reg – 22nd January 2016

Features	
Elkstone Church Services Supper and Film Evening	Wine Tasting Evening Gardens Open Day A 417 Traffic Survey - response
Diary Dates	
Elkstone Gardens Open Day – 5 th June 2016	
Regular Dates	
Waste and recycling	Food + garden waste – Fridays 5 th and 19 th February
Waste and recycling	All bags, bins + boxes —Every Friday
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – <i>Trevor - 870246</i>
Deadline for next month's edition: Saturday 20th February please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

Elkstone Church Services

February 7th – 10.00am – Morning Prayer – Rev A Champion

February 14th – 10.00am – Toy Service – Geoff Gait- Carr

February 21st – 11.00am – Holy Communion – Rev C Pooley

February 28th – 10.00am – Songs of Praise – Rev Joan Hobbs

David Pierce

Toy Service – February 14th at 10am

On 14th February we will be holding our annual Toy Service, which will be led by Geoff Gait-Carr. Children out-grow toys, and will have been given new ones at Christmas, so the Toy Service is an opportunity to give good quality toys, that are no longer required, to others who are in need. This year we will be giving the donated toys to the Stroud Beresford Group, which runs a women's refuge. This is for women who have often had to leave home, with their children, in a hurry and have little in the way of possessions. If you are not able to come to the service but have toys you wish to donate, please leave them in the vestry on the Saturday before the service.

Wine Tasting Evening at the Village Hall

Saturday May 7th 2016 at 18.30 in the Village Hall

Balkan and Levant Trilogies

The countries around the Eastern Mediterranean, collectively known as the Balkans and the Levant have been throughout history regions of foment because of their strategic global situation, cultural mix and rich natural resources. “ One day the great European War will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans”, said German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in 1888.

Bismarck's prophecy proved doubly correct in not one but two great European Wars in the 20th century. Olivia Manning's remarkable literary masterpieces: The Balkan Trilogy and The Levant Trilogy, chronicle the period of World War II in those area and are regarded as the finest fictional record of war in this period. You will probably remember that the BBC vividly brought the series to life in 1987 as "Fortunes of War" starring the then current *jeunesse doree*: Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson.

Nowadays these countries, spanning amongst others, Greece, Albania, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, have emerging and growing reputations for good and even fine wines. Many have featured significantly in The Decanter wine magazine awards of recent years.

So this year we offer Elkstonians and their friends the opportunity to taste wines from the eastern Mediterranean: following the example of Olivia Manning's enthralling stories, two trilogies of excellent wines: three from the Balkans and three from the Levant. We guarantee you will be similarly fascinated and surprised as by Manning's novels. Especially if you have not tried wines from these countries, or have been discouraged by some plonk from Bulgaria.

As usual there will be prizes for those teams that pin point the wine to the tasting description, country and price. Above all it is a reason to gather together in symposium and have a good natter and laugh with your neighbours.

Last year's occasion was a perfect example of *art de vivre* in the community and moreover a sell out success. Tickets are once again £10 a head to include a typical Elkstone supper as well as the tasting wines. We are limited in space to ensure the event is managed efficiently and effectively on the day. So, book your ticket now to avoid disappointment! To do this, please contact any of the organising committee. Offers of help are also most welcome at this early stage, especially with supper dishes.

Andy	andyr@pobox.com
Arnold	arnolddeering@gofast.co.uk
Brian	brian.howlett@virgin.net
David	drpierce@msn.com

Film Nights February and March

We will be unable to have a film evening in February, watch out for more details next month regarding the **March** session, when we will feature **Bridge of Spies**, directed by Steven Spielberg.

Set in 1957 during the Cold War, an American lawyer is recruited to defend an arrested Soviet spy in court, and then help the CIA facilitate an exchange of the spy for the Soviet captured American U2 spy plane pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

See you soon!

Jeremy and Anne

Elkstone Gardens Open Day 2016 Update

The Committee is beginning to form with, so far, three commitments to participate including one of the latest arrivals in the village, which is very encouraging indeed. Ideally I need another person to sign up so that we can share out responsibilities equally for the various activities needed to make next year's event as successful as in 2015.

Teas will be organised by Jennie and Margaret at the Village Hall as usual, with ice creams served at Enfield Farm and cream teas at a venue to be decided. Once again we are grateful to Jo and John Allison for the use of the Rectory field for car parking. The core of the event and its main attraction is of course the many beautiful gardens there are in the village; and I am pleased to have already 6 villagers who have offered to open their gardens. Ideally we need a total of 10-12 gardens. Size doesn't matter - visitors like to see how people have adapted their plot to the maximum effect so as to take away

inspiration for their own gardens. Please help if you can.

As for the last few years we are planning for the first weekend in June for this year's event. There are several advantages to this selection: fewer competitive events, ahead of the main summer sporting highlights and peak holiday period. Most of all though, the village always looks gorgeous at this time with the leaves still fresh green on the trees and the lanes frothy with cow parsley.

Please mark the date 5th June 2016 in your calendar and please indicate if you are able to help in any way. On the day we always need support in particular for the teas, for car park marshalling, and most importantly, the post-event barbecue on the Village Green.

As you know the proceeds from this event are fundamentally important contributors to the Village's two main community centres: the Church and Village Hall, as well as bringing the village together in a joint venture, so all offers of help are of course most welcomed!

Brian Howlett - brian.howlett@virgin.net

RMAS Elkstone

In October Sylvie and I received a visit from Barry Walden and his wife Jo. Barry had worked for about twenty years as the engineer on the RMAS (Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service) Elkstone.



The Elkstone was one of 32 boats of the Clovelly Class built between 1971 and 1981, and was in commission until about 2008. RMAS boats were operated by a British Government Agency as non-combat support vessels for the Royal Navy. They had a crew of 4, which increased to about 6 when they went to sea.

Some of the tasks which they undertook were ammunition dumping; burials at sea; transporting SAS troops for training exercises; and supplying nuclear submarines.

Barry retired from the vessel when it was de-commissioned, and at that time was given the boat bell; ensign and RMAS plaque. He has felt for some time that these items should be given to the Church in Elkstone, and the items were officially given to us at the meeting in October.

After its de-commissioning the Elkstone was sold, and for some time was in the harbour at Milford Dock. The latest sighting was in August 2015 when it arrived at Bideford Quay.

The PCC has decided the best use of the bell is to lend it to the village hall, where in due course it will be hung permanently inside the hall. It has already been used to start PCC and Village Hall AGM meetings.

David Pierce



Gigaclear Superfast Broadband Connections in Elkstone

As will be evident to all, the main trunk optical fibre cable has been run up the main road past the village, and the feed into the north end of the village is being done as this is being written. Very shortly the Village Hall will be fully connected and if there are enough people still undecided as to whether to 'sign-up' with Gigaclear, some demonstration sessions will be conducted so that the difference in connection speed can be fully appreciated.

The 'North' (Village Hall) end of the village had the white spray spots painted some time ago, and the actual pots are (at time of writing) starting to be installed over the next 10 days

The 'South' (Church end) will have (had) spots painted w/c 25th January so if there are any problems you already have please use the contact sheet previously delivered so that adjustments can be made; the actual cable and pots installations at this end will follow once the North end work is done.

This is all subject to weather, etc., but by early to mid February, it should all be done!

Jeremy - Chair, Village Hall Committee

Response to Katharine Gough's letter in December's Newsletter

Firstly I would like to thank her for clarifying various points regarding surveys etc. but I would also like to highlight the fourth paragraph, which relates to the traffic count, made by Glos.CC.

I have been constantly telling anyone who will listen that the daily traffic count through our village lane increased from circa 1000 to 10,000 per week (Monday to Friday only) 'as soon as' the A417 dual carriageway was opened. The figure cited in Katharine's letter is even higher.

I have in my possession the 2003 Halcrow plan for calming the lane using tried and tested unobtrusive narrowing and wiggling of the lane. The scheme widens the grass verges, using railway sleepers to hold the verges in place, and a short section of non-black road surface at the entry points to this scheme. Passing places along the lane are incorporated by simply not widening a length of present-day verge (in accordance with Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board Highway Management Guidelines and CPRE Verge Management Guidelines)

The Parish Council approved the scheme and the bid sent to Glos.CC who told us they hadn't enough money.

Perhaps others would agree with me that whilst Glos.CC is apparently spending more than £1m promoting the Loop Scheme, (which is not necessary as the scheme is already in the government's Road Investment Strategy,) some of this £1m (our money) should now be spent on our approved calming scheme.

Anyone wishing to view the scheme is most welcome to contact me and make an appointment to view the scheme.

Christine - 01242 870525 - Campaign for Better Transport - Cotswolds

Coberley School is collecting Sainsbury's Vouchers – can you help?

Sainsbury's are issuing their Active Kids vouchers again. Last year, with your help, we collected enough vouchers to 'buy' new goal posts, outdoor toys, a table & chair set for class 1, a tent and cookery vouchers.

Please can you collect vouchers for us again this year so that we can buy more equipment for the children? Vouchers can be posted through the door of The Old School House, next to the Village Hall.

Many thanks
Julia Davey

Neighbourhood Watch News

Neighbourhood watch isn't just about crime and suspicious activities, it is also about social inclusion, being part of an active community and trying to alleviate loneliness that can affect anyone of any age. I saw this opportunity and would encourage women to go along and make new friendships.

Scams are schemes that con you out of your money. They might come to you in the form of adverts, cold-callers, emails, letters, phone calls or texts. They include:

- lottery scams, in which you are told you have won a large sum of money but must pay a fee to release the cash or supply personal documents such as a passport for proof of identity
- phishing scams which trick you into revealing personal details, such as usernames and passwords which can allow fraudsters access to your computer, mobile devices or bank account
- 'get rich quick' schemes that promise huge returns if you invest money first

The criminals behind them are making billions of pounds each year exploiting unsuspecting consumers.

Whether you are a victim of a scam, or suspect that you have been the target of one, we would encourage you to report your experience to us. Information will help to build an intelligence picture, which can be used by police and other anti-fraud organisations to tackle fraudsters. Alternatively, you can report scam emails directly to Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud-reporting centre) either by telephone 0300 123 2040 or on their website: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-scam-or-fraud/report-a-scam/>

If you would like to be added to the Elkstone email Watch Word message list, which gives information on the local criminal activity or reports of suspicious behaviour to watch out for, please email me julia.davey@outlook.com. All the emails go out blind copy so the whole group does not see your email address.

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Winstone WI

Winstone WI meetings have got under way and are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Winstone Village Hall. It would be lovely to see new members, as everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please email Wendy treggy23@hotmail.co.uk this is a great opportunity for local women to meet up and make new friends. If anyone wants to go but doesn't have a lift, please contact

Julia Davey - 870038



RMAS Elkstone