

Elkstone Newsletter

23rd Year: No. 6 (270)

March 2010

Editor's Bit

Snow is still falling and laying as I assemble this Newsletter and I wondered how villagers coped in days past. Just then, Margaret Holder telephoned and we talked about her school days in what is now the Village Hall. Because the children lived in the Village, as did the teacher, everyone walked in and then huddled around the pot-bellied stove to keep warm.

Reg – 23/02/2010

Features	
Thank-yous Elkstone Church Services for March March ERG Walk Elkstone Quiz and Supper April ERG Walk	Plea from your Events Committee Nature Notes History of our Houses Open Day 2010
Dates for your Diary	
Wednesday 10 th March – Parish Council Meeting - Elkstone Village Hall – 8.00pm	
Thursday 11 th March – Rural Cinema - Cancelled	
Saturday 13 th March– ERG Walk –Cotswold Gateway car-park – in time for 10.00am start	
Saturday 27 th March – Quiz – Elkstone Village Hall –7.15pm	
Monday 5 th April – ERG Walk – The Plough Inn, Ford – by 9.40am	
Sunday 27 th June 2010 – Elkstone Open Day	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste –Mondays 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd and 29 th
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes –Mondays 8 th and 22 nd
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - <i>Bernard Alder 870255</i>
Deadline for April Edition: Saturday 20th March please	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

A Thank You Note from the Phillips Family

Dear friends and neighbours of Elkstone

Thank you so very much for all your kind messages and generosity in welcoming Francesca to the village. We are so very grateful and hope to introduce her to everyone over the coming weeks.

All our love

Ali and Rupert

Another Thank You

Margaret Holder would like to thank all the villagers who, during the recent snowy weather, have helped her with shopping, getting coal and wood in, and generally checking that she was okay. I think we would all wish to join her in thanking Dave the postman for maintaining deliveries of the mail through this extreme of winter weather.

Elkstone Church

On 30th January, we had a fabulous evening with the Green Dragon Quartet. Despite the snow, a full church enjoyed Chamber Music Favourites and mulled wine. We also raised £413.52 towards the upkeep of the church and churchyard. The money has been put towards the bill for removing the deadwood and overhanging branches in the churchyard trees.

Many thanks go to all those who brought toys to the Toy Service on 14th February. The toys will be given to a women's refuge nearby, for the children's playroom.

Services for March -

7th 9.30 am Holy Communion
14th 10 am Family Service for Mothering Sunday
21st 11 am Morning Prayer
28th 9.45 am at the Village Hall, 10 am at Church for the Palm

Sunday Family Communion. Every donkey in the vicinity is booked up from year to year (like film stars!) but we hope to have Bobby, a very tiny horse from Cowley, to accompany us from the Hall to Church.

Well done to Michael Redman of the Old Farmhouse, who is now a member of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Bell-ringers. He has recently rung for Colesbourne's snowdrop weekends.

David Pierce and Ronnie Bury, Churchwardens

ERG Walk for March

The ERG walk for March 13th will be a linear route of about 5 miles commencing at the Cotswold Gateway car park (on the Spine Road near South Cerney just off the A419).

Walk starts at 10 am. The route is fairly level but being in a water park may be a bit wet in places!

We will end at the Greyhound pub at Siddington where lunch for those requiring it should be available. A vehicle will be available to return drivers to collect their cars from the start. There is also a cafe adjoining the Cotswold Leisure shop at the start for those desiring a lighter bite.

For any further information please contact the leaders:

Sue and David - 870373



Quiz and Supper

Saturday 27th March

Village Hall 7.15pm

David Collins has again very kindly agreed to set the questions for our extremely popular annual quiz, for teams of up to four.

Don't worry about coming as a team as it is easy to make up 4 to a table!

The evening will end with a cold buffet supper so please ring Julia Davey on 870038 before the 27th with your offer of food so that we can co-ordinate a good spread.

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring any other drink you would like.

Hopefully we might see some new faces at this event – it's great fun!

Entrance £2

Events Committee

Elkstone Village Cinema

There will be no film showing on Thursday 11th March as originally planned. The films on offer this season have not been good, and certainly don't have wide appeal in the village judging by the extremely low turnout for all but one film this season! We have therefore decided that it is not financially viable to go ahead with the March showing.

Sue Collins - Events Committee

Advance Notice: ERG Walk: Monday 5th April

The date of April's ERG Walk is confirmed as Easter Monday – Monday 5th April.

Meet by 9.40 a.m. at the Plough Inn, Ford – on the B 4077 Teddington Hands (Tewkesbury) to Stow on the Wold road, at grid ref approx 088 294.

Please park in the rear car park behind the pub

Our walk will start promptly at 9.45 a.m. The route is a mild to moderate circuit of about 6 miles via Pinnock and Cutsdean, with a steepish climb up out of Temple Guiting – an ascent of 50 metres in just under 0.25 of a mile; however, there will also be some level or near-level walking, and not many stiles, so we should make good time.

Expect mud in a few places, scenic points, historic buildings and a couple of surprises.

Lois – 870375

Images of ERG walks by George Robey, first

Editor of the Elkstone Newsletter



February Beetle Drive

Sadly the Beetle Drive and Supper, which was planned for 6th February, had to be cancelled due to lack of support – only 5 people said they would like to come. This was very disappointing for the Events Committee who were trying to put on an event earlier in the evening to encourage families to come.

This is not the first event that has had to be cancelled due to lack of support, and indeed several other events have been poorly attended. The last two cinema showings have had less than 10 people and have made losses.

The Events Committee think it would be a great shame if our village social life did not continue but are struggling to think of events which you would like.

- Do you enjoy coming to events in the Village Hall or are you not at all interested?
- Which events do you particularly like?
- Is there an event you would like that is not currently covered?
- What do you think of the Rural Cinema?

Please let us know your thoughts either by phone or e-mail or a note through the door and help us to organise events which will be well attended.

Thank you

Bernard – sbalder@tiscali.co.uk – 870255

Phillipa – phillipabyrne@btinternet.com - 870434

Sue – davidocollins@tiscali.co.uk - 870373

Julia – jrdavey@btconnect.com – 870038

Nature Notes

Looking out at the bird feeder crowded with birds and observing the behaviour of some of their pecking orders reminded me of the incident, several years ago, of the carrion crow. This particular crow got addicted to pecking at windows. One morning at dawn, a very loud bang had me jumping out of bed to look for a suitable weapon to repel burglars! But what I found was the crow pecking at the window. It continued to attack our window early most mornings, and also attacked the church stained glass windows, causing quite a lot of damage. This could not go on, so I asked a local farmer to come, and he soon solved the problem.

There was also a jackdaw, which tapped at windows to its advantage. It was begging for food; as soon as it saw anyone in the kitchen it would start tapping, and as it got fed, it became quite tame, and had a good easy living for some years.

A recent very interesting observation was a brief glimpse of a stoat in its black-tipped white winter coat, or ermine.

Our thoughts begin to turn to planting when the weather warms up; there is a lovely little poem, which talks about the miracle of seeds – the phrase is ‘holding a forest in the palm of your hand’.

Jessie

History of Our Houses – High Cross

High Cross was originally a pair of cottages dating from about 1880, although there was an earlier cottage (‘Willy’s House’) which faced onto Highgate Lane. The cottages were known as Gwylies Cottages, and Elkstone’s first post office was located in the north cottage until the 1900s. The postman was Mr. Newman. The post arrived from Cheltenham early in the morning, and he would set off to deliver to Elkstone, Syde and Caudle Green, collecting and bringing back any new post.

The family living in the south cottage were named Cripps; that Mr. Cripps came from Winstone, and the family were distant relations of the current owners!

In the 1930s, the two cottages were converted into one, and re-named after the crossroads. The conversion work was mostly done by Mrs Hitch’s father, he was an ironmonger in Cheltenham. There was a spring-fed well, 66’ deep, from which fresh water was pumped, and a large rainwater tank. Mains water didn’t arrive until the early 1980s; and we find that we are now very green, as we’ve continued to use water from the rainwater tank for certain purposes – it’s much softer than our tap water.

When we first moved here, we were told that the beech hedge had been planted from saplings grown from the Gloucester Beeches up on Ermin Street.

John and Millie Cripps

Open Day 2010 – June 27th 2010 - Help Please!

As a relatively new villager put it:

“If I can’t open my garden for an afternoon for this village, it’s a poor do.”

Help is still needed with:

- Gardens - of course! big, small, in-progress (always much appreciated) etc.
 - Bric-a-Brac - very important as it normally earns the most
 - Books • Plants • BBQ • Looking after signs • Car Park
 - Special features, such as last year’s very successful Vintage machinery display
- We have as confirmed: village hall teas, Manor Farm teas, hay rides, bell ringing, string quartet, clothes, tombola, ice cream, art show, church flowers.

... it is not my event, it is yours and ours.

Open Day Committee - openday@az.azteck.com - Nic – 870556

Anne’s Potato Supplement

Open Day Potato Growing Competition

Enter this competition and you will have lovely home-grown potatoes, help to raise money for the Village Hall and Church, and you could win a prize! Buy a ready-chitted seed potato (first early) and a bucket for £5. Plant your potato, then love and care for it as you wait until Open Day. On Open Day your bucket will be emptied and your potatoes weighed. You keep the crop. There will be three prizes, one for adults, one for children under 15 for the largest crop and one for the largest potato grown. Please join in!



Potatoes and buckets available from Anne and Jeremy Davies, Manor Farm Cottage 870516 from March 6th-14th and after that from the Committee. - openday@az.azteck.com - Nic – 870556

Open Day Miniature Garden Competition



We plan a miniature garden competition. The visitors will judge the result by donating coins against their favourite gardens (Waitrose charity style – greatest donation wins). Eligible ‘gardens’ are of any media: plants, paper, plasticine, knitting etc. and are grown or erected on a tea tray or similar sized board. Please let us know soon if you would like to take part – clearly, there is a critical mass of miniature gardeners (of any and all ages) needed to make this viable.

Contact: Anne and Jeremy Davies, Manor Farm Cottage 870516 from March 6th-14th and after that to the Committee. - openday@az.azteck.com - Nic – 870556