

# Elkstone Newsletter

27th Year: No. 3 (303)

December 2012

## Editor's Bit

BBC Radio has decided that Christmas starts at the beginning of November while most large stores and supermarkets start it mid-November. Am I alone in thinking that the story of Christmas has been forgotten in the rush to commercialise the period?

The weather continues to deliver rain which is holding the water level nearer to the surface. Any further rain now lies on the roads but drivers pass our village at the same speeds and put themselves and walkers in danger.

*Reg – 22<sup>nd</sup> November*

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church Village Hall AGM and 'Punch + Munch' Village Hall Booking Arrangements Elkstone Cinema Evening Christmas Social and Carol Singing	Elkstone Ramblers Group Festive Walks Nature Notes Neighbourhood Watch Elkstone Community Speed Watch Christmas Greetings Advertisements
Dates for your Diary	
Village Hall AGM – 10 <sup>th</sup> December – 8.00pm – Village Hall	
Elkstone Cinema Evening – 13 <sup>th</sup> December – 8.00pm – Village Hall	
Christmas Social and Carols – 20 <sup>th</sup> December – 6.00pm – Church View	
ERG Boxing Day Walk – 26 <sup>th</sup> December – 10.30am – Car park 5 miles away!	
ERG New Year's Day Walk – 1 <sup>st</sup> January – 10.30am – Village Hall	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 14 <sup>th</sup> & scheduled for 28 <sup>th</sup> but please check waste collection calendar on CDC website nearer the date.
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: <b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – <a href="http://www.elkstonevillage.com">www.elkstonevillage.com</a>	
<b><i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></i></b>	

## Christmas Services in Elkstone

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, a time for families, a time for giving, a time for sharing, but most of all a time to remember and give thanks for God's gift to us of Jesus.

The services in our parish Church over the Christmas season are:

Sunday 23rd December - 10.00am - Carol Service - a traditional mixture of carols and readings, including the building of our Christmas crib.

Monday 24th December - 11.30pm - Midnight communion service

Sunday 30th December - 10.00am - Joint Benefice communion service

All are welcome to join us in the Christmas celebrations.

*David Pierce*

## **Village Hall 'Punch & Munch' AGM**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 8.00pm**

In spite of being a year of 'cutting our cloth' and careful management to ensure the survival of this treasured parish asset we have enhanced the facilities considerably. We now have a full-blown commercial dishwasher and a professional quality AV projection and sound system.

Come and join us for a brief meeting, where we can discuss the success of the recent fund raising. The future of parish social events will no doubt feature in discussions and our concerns.

Afterwards, there will be an informal time with each other, with 'Punch & Munch' provided by your Committee.

*Village Hall Committee*

## **Village Hall Bookings**

### **Thank You and New Arrangements**

As many will know, Ken Haslam has been the bookings aficionado for the Village Hall for years. He has decided to hang up his calendar and will be passing this co-ordination role over to Jeremy Davies. The committee join many parishioners in expressing our gratitude to Ken for his work on this.

Jeremy will be taking full advantage of the bookings facility that he has built into the Elkstone web site [www.elkstonevillage.co.uk](http://www.elkstonevillage.co.uk) while Ken will help with issuing keys and collecting money. We will discuss this in greater detail at the 'Punch & Munch' AGM Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> 2012, 8.00pm

*Village Hall Committee*

## **Elkstone Cinema evening**

### **Thursday December 13th 7.15pm/8.00pm *Salmon Fishing on the Yemen***

On December 13th, by popular request, the film will be 'Salmon Fishing on the Yemen'. We will not offer supper on this occasion because it is likely that we will all be getting caught up in pre-Christmas social events but we thought that it might be nice to start the evening with mince pies, some savoury canapés and mulled wine.

Cost for Film + Mulled Wine, etc. will be **£7.50 per person**, pre-booked (see below), starting at 7:15pm

Cost for Film Only: **£4.00 per person** pre-booked, £5.00 payable on the night

Tea and coffee will also be available before the film at 50p per cup.

**Pre-booking:** Please put money in an envelope with your details through the letterbox at Manor Farm Cottage by 6:00 pm on **Monday 10th December**

We would like to thank those who supported us in November at the showing of 'The English Patient'. We were delighted to welcome visitors from Coberley and Winstone and we hope that they will visit us again.

We started these evenings as an experiment and have been very pleased so far with the results. Numbers were down for The English Patient, a film which we thought was worth a try as it is a bit of a classic, but we appreciate that many of you had seen it before. We nonetheless had an enjoyable evening. We are happy to continue to run the film evenings in the New Year and to include supper but we really would appreciate feedback so that we know that we are organising an evening that you would like to attend so we would ask again please for ideas for films that you feel would appeal to you. We do need to attract a good audience as low attendance means losses and we cannot do that to village hall funds.

*Anne and Jeremy – 870516*

### **Christmas Social and Carols – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Come and join us for our annual Carol singing event. Come to Church View around 6pm (with torch and warm clothes) to warm up first with Jennie's mulled wine and mince pies, and then we will set off around the village. We will finish at the Village Hall around 8pm where more mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Do come along and join us either for carols or just come to the Village Hall and enjoy the festive occasion. You are welcome to do a skit, poem or short performance – all very spontaneous! Plus there will be some carols for us all to sing. It's usually a lovely evening bringing all our villagers together no matter what the age.

For any further information please contact

*Jennie Howlett - 870462*

### **ERG Walks for the Festive Season – all welcome!**

#### **Boxing Day – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am**

Our Boxing Day walk will start from a car-park within 5 miles of Elkstone, and there will be a choice of two easy routes – just over 2 miles or about 3.5 miles. Both routes will include 2 stiles which we will be able to bypass if the adjacent field gates are not padlocked, and a short flight of shallow steps to descend. The shorter route is mostly level walking, the longer route has two more noticeable gradients towards the end. Muddy patches seem inevitable, so boots will be essential.

Both routes include a section of scarp-edge Cotswold Way, so expect stunning views if the weather is clear, and possibly a number of other walkers, some with children and/or dogs, and maybe a few cyclists.

Please contact me (preferably by e-mail if you have it) for further details...

*Lois - 870375*

#### **New Years Day – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, 10.30 am**

We shall be keeping this walk local and finalise the route closer to the time when we know what the conditions are likely to be. We will however make it approximately 5 miles. You cannot leave Elkstone and do a circular walk without tackling hills but where possible we will look for the gentler options!

We thought it might be nice to make it a bit of celebration with a buffet and mulled wine afterwards. We will start at Elkstone Village Hall at 10.30am and there should be enough parking space for those who need to come by car. Please bring with you a plate of food suitable for a finger buffet.

We would appreciate having some idea of numbers in advance please to help us with setting up.

*Anne and Jeremy – 870516*

### **Nature Notes**

Surprisingly, the hedgehogs are still feeding and, because I think they are amazing little animals and are also an endangered species, I'm very happy to go on putting out food. They are also creatures of habit and if the food isn't on time then they are lined up waiting, virtually tapping their claws and checking their watches!

Of course, the more they eat now the greater their chances of getting through the winter, but also providing shelter in the form of log piles or branches piled inside with lots of leaves gives them a safe haven, and can also provide refuge for frogs, toads and invertebrates. It means too that the winter garden can be a bit untidy, so no guilt about staying in front of the fire!

*Barbara*

### **Tribute to Jessie**

It is with great regret that Elkstone Newsletter will be without Jessie's brilliant Nature Notes. She has sadly decided that she needs a break, and she really has not been that well lately. I have agreed to step in, but I must say that my notes will be very different. Jessie is a true countrywoman and, although born and bred in the country myself, I do not have Jessie's outstanding breadth of knowledge.

Jessie is also one of those wonderful people who live their Christian life through everything they do. I was privileged to be her Minister for some years and was able to experience the love, care and concern that permeate her whole life, and were reflected in her Notes. The Elkstone Newsletter will deeply miss you Jessie, but if you ever feel you want you take up your pen once more, the position is yours again willingly. Emotionally, of course, it always will be.

Thank you so much for all your many loved and appreciated observations.

*Barbara*

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Well my first week of being Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator didn't get off to a great start with a burglary at Rose Cottage where the garage was broken into and power tools were stolen. The same night there was an attempted break-in at the house also having an extension built, at Ivy Cottage Farm. The message from the police is for us to ensure we have good locks on our garages, outbuildings and sheds to keep them secure.

In the last few weeks there have been a number of vehicles where the occupants have been acting strangely or looking out of place and if you see anyone who is acting suspiciously do contact the Police on 101 straight away. Last week a 4x4 was stolen in Sapperton and then abandoned and set on fire. Police are requesting that owners of 4x4 vehicles ensure that they continue to be vigilant with security and wherever possible vehicles are locked away from sight and that keys are also kept in secure places.

**PCSO Andrea Shutt has provided the following security advice for me to circulate:**

#### **Do:**

Shut and lock windows and doors when you are out – lock your back door when you are in.

Make your house looks occupied by using lights and radios on a timer and outside lighting

Shut and lock your side gate

Plant prickly plants in your garden

Secure sheds and garages

Install a good burglar alarm

#### **Don't:**

Leave valuables on display

Leave your car keys so that they are visible or reachable from the door or window

Hide keys in obvious places such as under your doormat or in plant pots

Forget to lock away and secure valuable items and spare car keys when you are out or away

Forget to lock away items or tools that can be used to break in with

Put empty boxes for expensive items by your bins as these advertise what's inside your house

Park your wheelie bin by your side gate as it provides a handy step!

PCSO Andrea Shutt is happy to attend any property in Elkstone to conduct a Basic Crime Reduction Home Survey free of any charge. If you are interested please either email or telephone Andrea.

*PCSO Andrea Shutt - 101, Local Policing Team, Cotswolds Local Policing Area, Gloucestershire Constabulary - email [andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk)*

I receive email alerts from the Police very soon after incidents happen and I forward this information on via email (blind copy) to Neighbourhood Watch members who have requested me to do so. If you would like to receive this information please let me have your email address, if you haven't already done so.

### **Neighbourhood Watch in the Community – Coming up in 2013 .....**

There will be a coffee morning in January (date to be confirmed in next Newsletter) for people who do not have email access at all or very regularly, to come and chat with our PCSO Andrea Shutt and PC Victoria Stinchcombe, and to meet our Village Agent, Mike Bone, who can help those over 50 with assistance on Pensions and all other allowances and the forms and procedures involved, help to receive support and respite services for Carers, advice on recommended organisations to carry out small home repairs etc .....

In February we will be running a bicycle marking morning on a Saturday when you can get bicycles security-marked free of charge. Tack can also be marked at the event.

*Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - The Old School House -*

*Telephone - 870038 Email - [jrdavey@btconnect.com](mailto:jrdavey@btconnect.com)*

### **Elkstone Community Speed Watch**

We have another volunteer who has agreed to be trained as a member of our team. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me.

We have gone into hibernation for the winter because of the weather and long hours of darkness, so that we do not cause an accident when drivers suddenly become aware of our presence and brake sharply.

*Reg, CSW Co-ordinator – 870375*

### **Christmas Greetings**

Jeremy and Anne send Seasons Greetings to all, and would like to say a big thank-you for friendship and support throughout the year.

“A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friends in Elkstone.”

2012 saw some good friends leave the village and we enjoyed excitement of welcoming new neighbours.

Nic and Ann

“Christmas Wishes and a very happy New Year to all of our old neighbours in Elkstone.”

Love John, Phillipa, Rebecca and Christopher

“Season's Greetings to all our friends and neighbours”

Reg and Lois

### **Advertisements**

#### **Coberley School Christmas Fayre Saturday 1st December 11.00am - 2.00pm**

Take a stroll around our traditional Christmas Market with a wonderful selection of beautiful handmade and locally produced crafts, gifts, cards, jewellery, chocolate and much more.

Light Lunches, Delicious Cakes and Refreshments in the Christmas Café,

Grand Raffle Draw, Chocolate Tombola, Secret Santa, & the Wishing Line

Bring your family and friends and join us for all the festive fun and enjoy listening to the delightful carol singing of the school choir.

Free Entry

For more information please contact the School Office on 01242 870366

Coberley School, Coberley, Nr Cheltenham, GL53 9QZ

# THE OLD RECTORY RESTAURANT

The Old Rectory, Colesbourne, Cheltenham  
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## **Celebrate Christmas**

*Enjoy the festivities with a 3 course multi choice menu*

**Lunch £16.50    Dinner £19.95**

## **New Year Eve Dinner £26.50**

Enjoy a superb 3 course dinner with all the party  
trimmings!

**Bookings please - Telephone 01242 870120**