

Elkstone Newsletter

28th Year: No. 11 (311)

August 2013

Editor's Bit

Now we are having a 'real' summer with friends coming back from holidays and commenting how hot the weather is in the UK. It is very tempting to leave windows and doors open to encourage a through draft to keep the house cool, but always remember that this can make it very easy for others to enter your house and help themselves to your belongings.

The recent Speed Watch results show that some motorists and motorcyclists are having fun by accelerating away from the 'speed gun', through the 40mph zone, at very high speed. They ought to realise that the speed device we use records the speed of receding vehicles as well as those coming towards the device. If we had more volunteers, we could operate on more days. If you are interested, please contact me.

Reg – 22nd July

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church	BHS Gloucestershire TREC Thanks & Report
ERG Walk for August	Neighbourhood Watch
Gardens Open & Green Dragon Concert report	Nature Notes
Dates for your Diary	
Sunday 18 th August – ERG Walk – Waterloo Car Park, Cirencester – 10.30 am	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 2 nd , 16 th 30 th August
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: Tuesday 20th August 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>	

Church Services in Elkstone for August

August 4th 9.30am Holy Communion

August 11th 11.00am Family Service – please note change of time of service

August 18th 11.00am Morning Prayer

August 25th No Service

David Pierce

ERG Walk “Sunday Stroll” August 18th

Our ERG walk this month is a family and dog-friendly 2 hour stroll (approx 3.5 miles) through Cirencester; two thirds of which is through parkland.

Meeting place and time: 10.30am from Waterloo Car Park (free on Sundays) walking through the Abbey Grounds to Cirencester Park and then to the Roman Amphitheatre, with return through the town; taking in many places of interest along the way.

Walking grade: easy and level.

Lunch: Cirencester offers many and various opportunities for anything from a coffee to a full Sunday lunch. There may even be a chance of a picnic in the Abbey Grounds if fine!

Leaders: Monica Tolman (was Hall), Sally Newport and Teazel

Directions: Enter Cirencester from the Burford Road Roundabout, straight ahead to traffic lights, turn right into the Waterloo.

Contact: *Monica - monica@derektolman.com*

Gardens Open Day and Green Dragon String Quartet Concert

Many thanks to everybody for their contributions for the success of the Open Day. I was in our garden all day and was amazed by the number of visitors who voluntarily said how much they were enjoying the day, the gardens, the flower displays in the Church and all the activities going on. Another year I will have to do a refresher course on the names of the plants and trees in the garden, or label them!. The Church's share of the amount raised is very important, and is paid into our Fabric Fund. This means that it is used for the maintenance and general care of the fabric of the Church, such as insurance, maintenance of the churchyard, and general repairs. Our total fabric costs last year were about £4,000, so the Open Day money is a great help in meeting those costs.

Also, many thanks to all those who helped with the concert by the Green Dragon String Quartet on Saturday July 13th. Those who attended, were treated to pieces by Haydn, Mozart and Dvorak. A particular favourite for everybody was the final piece from the Dvorak String Quartet in F No. 12 "The American" with the Finale movement, which at the beginning reminds one of getting on a train. It was introduced by the comment "let us board the train and depart for our trip to David and Sylvie's". Which is what we did when the concert finished as people gathered for drinks and nibbles at Manor Cross.

We raised about £350 from the evening for the Church Fabric Fund. Again many thanks to everybody

David Pierce

BHS Gloucestershire's TREC 13th & 14th July

Thank you to everybody who helped with this competition in some way or another!

It was very hot, the flies plagued the horses, but the competition went off successfully, we didn't need to use our First Aid or Vet on Call cover, or take out the rescue trailer.

Our Level 1 winners came from Oxfordshire (a rider attempting her first ever TREC!) and Gloucestershire; our Level 2 winners came from Dorset and Nottinghamshire.

What many of the riders will remember about their weekend in Elkstone is the wonderful Saturday evening social, with buffet supper, in the Village Hall.

Jennie and her team wanted our competitors and to experience true Elkstone hospitality - I'm sure they did! and am so grateful to Jennie and all her cooks and helpers.

Below is some of the feedback we've had about the Saturday evening:

- The Saturday night meal was amazing and will be very difficult for other organisers to beat !! The village hall made a lovely location with tables laid up beautifully. It was lovely to have some homemade food and desserts and was very refreshing after a long hot day. The ice water and lime drink was just the icing on the cake.
- The meal on Saturday evening was the best ever. Everyone was very welcoming and friendly, and the food was just fabulous.
- People will remember the food and socialising long after the horseflies have faded from memories – Saturday's meal was an inspiration. It's surprising how something not directly connected with the competition makes such a difference to the whole atmosphere of the weekend. Please pass my thanks on to all.
- The meal on Saturday evening was the best ever at a TREC event - the food was simply amazing and delicious, people had obviously gone to a lot of trouble to prepare the meal, and it was really appreciated.

£133.00 was raised for Village Hall funds.

Lois

Neighbourhood Watch

I attended the Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group meeting on 3rd July, where the Inspector assured us that incidents of crime generally were down from last year. The exception to this was an increase of 8% in thefts from motor vehicles. A large number of these thefts were from vehicles that were not locked. Even if you are popping into the local shop, leaving the car on your drive, paying for petrol, or going back into the house for something you've forgotten, **always** lock your car. Some people not only leave their cars unlocked in these, but also leave the keys in the ignition. The message is "**Lock it or lose it.**" Police also urge drivers to leave nothing on display in their vehicle when they park. Leaving high value, removable items on display is tempting trouble. This applies as much to items such as CDs or sunglasses as it does to very valuable items like laptop computers, Sat Navs and removable stereos. By not leaving valuable items visible, motorists can significantly reduce their risk of becoming a victim of car crime.

In the hotter weather it's tempting to leave windows open, but the Police recommend that if we are out, we shut and lock all windows and doors. If you're away, make your house look occupied using lights and radios on a timer and outside lighting, shut and lock your side gate, secure sheds and garages. In any circumstances, please don't leave any valuables or keys on display.

Now summer has finally arrived and the weather is staying hot Gloucestershire Police are reminding dog owners not to leave their pets in hot cars. There have been a number of incidents in the last month where officers have received reports from concerned members of the public who have spotted distressed dogs trapped in sweltering vehicles or tied up in direct heat outside shops with no water or shade. In each of the instances officers alerted a dog warden or the RSPCA and, where possible, the owners were spoken to and given strong words of advice. A Gloucestershire Police spokesperson said: "The stark message is that dogs die in hot cars. Even leaving a window open is not enough to keep a stuffy car cool enough for your pet. When temperatures reach 22°C outside, in just 60 minutes your car can soar to a deadly 47°C."

Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Event - Winstone

Do come along to the Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Event taking place from 11am – 3pm at Winstone Village Hall on August 13th. Crime prevention advice, free Bike and Tack security marking, Victim Support assistance, and of course Neighbourhood Watch.

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

PS. If you would like to be added to the NHW email WatchWord Alert list, please send an email on jrdavey@btconnect.com

Coberley School Fayre

A huge thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets for the Summer Draw which was drawn at the School Fayre on 29th June. I'm pleased to say there were quite a few winners in Elkstone. Thank you for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Julia Davey

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Many thanks to everyone who kindly put Sainsbury vouchers through my door for Coberley School – the scheme is now closed. We managed to collect an amazing 4737 vouchers in total and these will be sent off shortly in exchange for sports equipment for the school.

Julia

Nature Notes

Probably, by the time the newsletter appears, the hot, baking spell will be over. The lawns may have suffered but the compensation of wonderful displays of roses, peonies, daylilies and sweet peas have more than made up for the slowly-spreading brown patches on the once green sward. The pond is teeming with hundreds of waterboatmen, flicking underwater at the smallest sign of perceived danger from some huge sulphur-yellow and black dragonflies zig-zagging over the surface.

Out in the fields the greenish pineapple weed creates a stunning effect with pink musk mallow and the perfectly globular heads of seeded groundsel. (I feel quite affectionate towards these plants when they're not in my garden!) And there seems to have been an increase in the number of butterflies, including Speckled Woods, Wood Whites and Red Admirals along the shaded field paths; and in the sunnier patches, the Large Whites - another species which I enjoy much more when they are at a good distance from my brassicas.

Barbara

Dates for your Dairy:

Ride and Stride on September 14th 2013

This charity is run by Gloucestershire Historic Churches trust and supported by the National Churches Trust. It is a great way to support and make a difference to our Church and other churches across the county. It is an annual Sponsored walk, bike ride or horse ride, which always happens on the second Saturday of September.

Walkers and riders turn out to follow their chosen route between churches which open for the day. It is a lovely chance to see inside some historic gems that are not always open for visits. Here in Elkstone, the church is always open, day and night.

On the 14th September, refreshments will be left out for visitors in the Church.

Whether you go on your own or with friends and family, you'll be joining hundreds of people across the county raising money for an important cause. Further information and a sponsorship form is available from Carole on 870493 and then you'll be ready and set to ask your friends and family to sponsor you. 50% of the money you raise goes to the Church of your choice. www.ghct.org.uk

Carole Bury - www.carolebury.com

Friday 27th September, 10.00am – 12.00noon, Elkstone Village Hall

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Once again I will be organising Elkstone's part in this Macmillan worldwide event. So far the World's Biggest Coffee Mornings have raised over £60m for people living with cancer. I hope you'll come to get together with friends, family and neighbours on Friday 27 September and make time for tea, coffee, homemade cake and what really matters. There will be a few local craftspeople selling lovely cards, handmade jewellery and gifts.

Julia Davey - 870038