

Elkstone Newsletter

33rd Year: No. 11 (356)

August 2017

Editor's Bit

It must be holiday time because there is very little news to report.

We have enjoyed the visits of a family of woodpeckers to our bird table but the numbers of swallows are reduced. I have included two sketches of St. John's church that I found in an old book. Even George Robey did not sketch the church from behind.

Reg – 21st July 2017

| Features | |
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| Elkstone Church Services | Thames Water |
| Elkstone Village Open Gardens report | Poppy knitters and crotcheters |
| Jewellery sales | NHS Trust and Cirencester Self Help news |
| There is a coupon at the end of the Newsletter | Please complete and return this tear-off form |
| Diary Dates | |
| Regular Dates | |
| Waste and recycling | Food + garden waste – Every Friday |
| Waste and recycling | All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 11 th and 25 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: Sunday 20th August please | |
| The Elkstone website 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 for August

August 6th - Morning Prayer - 10.00am - Rev A Champion
August 13th - Family Service - 10.00am - Rev Janet Williams
August 20th - Holy Communion & Baptism - 11.00am - Archdeacon P Andrews, and Rev D Minns
August 27th - No service
David

Elkstone Village Gardens Open Day, June 11th 2017

The following is one person's view on the Open Day - thank you Pauline - the weather had been hot in the days leading up to the event, but whilst numbers seemed to be down there was still a good turn out.

On this 25th Anniversary Open Day, the residents of Elkstone had, once again, pulled out all the stops to ensure that this village event was a memorable occasion. With close-clipped lawns and luxuriant borders, the Gardens were a glorious feast for all the senses. As on every occasion, villagers welcomed visitors with delicious cream teas, ice cream, cold drinks as well as tea and cake in the Village Hall. The Tombola is always a crowd-pleaser; a well-stocked plant stall for those who can't resist just one more, and the free trailer rides enabled the less able (and those who just enjoy the experience of an open-air ride) to negotiate the village with ease. There were stalls offering pre-loved baby clothes as well as enticing jewellery. Beatrice Bee was on hand to remind us all just how dependent we are on these beautiful and industrious creatures. A highlight was a visit to the newly opened Eco Loo funded by grants from *Glos. Environmental Trust; Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, The Diocese of Gloucester Mission Fund* and donations from village residents. Well done the villagers and friends of Elkstone for all your hard work to make this event a success supporting both the Village Hall and the beautiful St. John's Church. Hoping to see you again next year!

Pauline Farman

(Thank you to all those who contributed in whatever form to make it a successful day again with nearly £2,400, raised which will be split equally between the Church and the village hall so all parts of the community benefit. David)

Jewellery sales

There was a new stall at gardens open day this year so a big thank you is due to everyone who contributed items of jewellery. Sales were much better than anticipated.

Julia (Wool Barn) and Sally (Juniper House)

Something Fishy at Thames Water

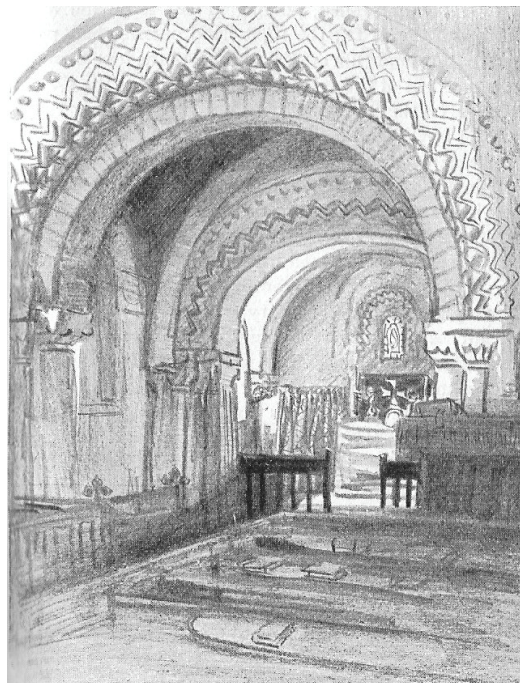
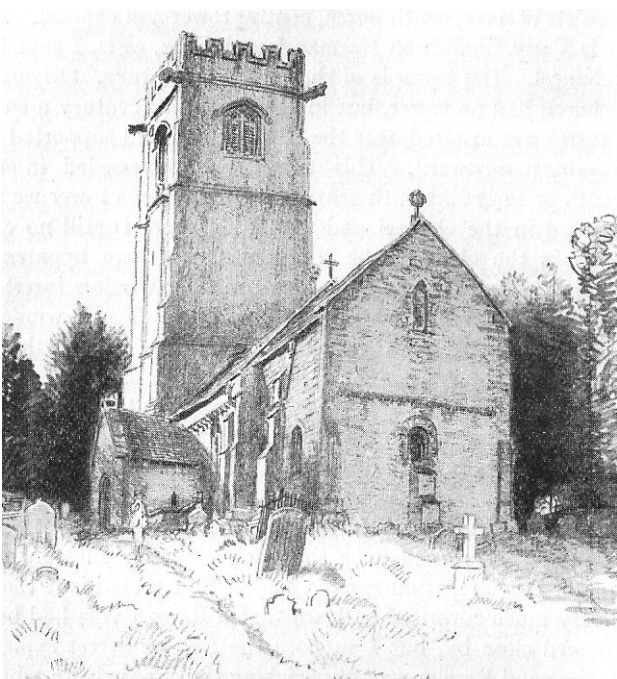
At my request, Thames Water visited my house recently to take some water samples after I had complained that the water tasted of chemicals. They have now responded saying everything is OK, but it isn't. They agreed that a single test on a single day didn't prove a great deal and "as no-one else had complained" that was it. However, I have since heard from two other villagers that they had complained to Thames Water about water quality – one on six occasions no less. So the purpose of this email is to ask anyone who has experienced a chemical taste in their drinking water to let me know and I'll take things up again.

Tony Haynes - tonyhaynes@eastwoodpr.co.uk - 01242 512331

Calling All Poppy Knitters and Crocheters

Thank you so much for knitting and crocheting poppies for the Royal British Legion (Women's Section) appeal to make a poppy cascade in Cirencester Parish Church this November, I am proposing that the cut off date for poppies is the end of September in order to give the cascade assemblers sufficient time to complete the work in time for the 11th November. Please send any poppies to me at: 19 Mayfield Park, Perrott's Brook, Cirencester, Glos., GL7 7BH, or deliver them to Ashley's Woolshop, Dyer Street, Cirencester. Thanks to everyone for a magnificent response.

Pauline Farman



Two sketches of St. John's Church, by Hugh Thomson in "Highways and Byways in Gloucestershire, 1932. It is unusual for someone to give a rear view of the church.

News From Gloucestershire NHS Trust

The long-awaited Care Quality Commissioners report was published this month. Whilst the overall rating for the trust remains 'Requires Improvement', improvements made since the last inspection mean that 73% of ratings are now either 'good' or outstanding. No service was rated as inadequate. One of the very positive outcomes was the consistent reference to staff that the inspectors described as committed, caring and compassionate. The report also highlighted several areas for improvement, which we will be working hard to address.

Also published this month was the independent report into financial governance arrangements commissioned by the trust following the unexpected deterioration in trust finances, which was announced last year. The report describes very openly and honestly how the position came about but perhaps more importantly sets out what we are doing to recover the situation and acknowledges the good progress achieved to date. Of the 19 recommendations 95% have already been actioned and a plan is in place to ensure the remaining actions are full implemented.

Both reports are available on the Trust's website and you will find them on the home page under 'Latest News'.

As a governor, I am delighted at the positivity for the future that these reports convey and this is in part due to our new leadership, which has helped change the culture within the trust to one of openness and listening. This has included setting in place new governance systems and processes in respect of how interaction occurs between the board, committees and the governors.

It has been a difficult and challenging year in which much has been asked of governors and indeed will continue to be so. It is however very rewarding to be able to contribute to the changes that are having such an impact and it remains a privilege and honour to represent you as we go through these changes. Thank you to those who have contacted me with your concerns, comments and ideas which have been of great help ensuring that voice is heard in this work.

Anne Davies

Please advise us about how you wish to receive the Elkstone Newsletter in Future

Times change, and so does the nature of news distribution generally – but now with the Autumn arrival of a new Editor, and the changeover of Printer (thanks again to Nic for years of excellent work!), it is time to take stock of how the Village's newsletter arrives in your household. To this end, could one member of every household in Elkstone please complete the tear-off strip below to indicate how you wish your copy to reach you, *and post it into the letterbox adjacent to the entrance to the Village Hall*. For existing recipients by email – no form needed, unless you wish to make a change.

Many thanks,

Jeremy



Name

Property

I wish to receive the Elkstone Newsletter in future:- (Please tick ONE box below)

In printed form, as at present ☐

By email ☐ email address:

Not needed any more ☐

Cirencester Self-Help Project Update

Jeremy and I were recently invited to talk about CIREN and the difficulties of establishing a new charity at a conference entitled 'Communication Affects Lives' run by the South West Zero Suicide Prevention Collaborative. The conference covered a variety of topics but two statistics emerged that were very disturbing. Firstly, there are around 6188 suicides a year and in the time since the first terrorist attack recently, plus the Grenfell Tower fire, approximately 1047 people will have taken their own lives. Mass killings or deaths hit the news, individual suicides rarely do but the effects on family and friends are just as devastating.

Perhaps more surprising, and of relevance to our charity, was the disturbing information from an attendee from National Car Parks who said that 9 out of 10 people who attempt suicide in the car parks, and whom they manage to stop, are young girls from teens to early twenties who have all self-harmed. If we needed any further convincing that our charity is meeting a real need this certainly did so.

Our charity is now up and running, based at the Ashcroft Centre in Cirencester. We are seeing clients and have had really encouraging feedback such as *'Non-judgmental approach of the sessions allows more honesty and openness'* *'It's great that receiving help won't be on your medical records and is more confidential than mainstream support.'* *'I didn't wait long before I met you - a hell of a lot shorter than that for psychological therapy which is in high demand at the moment.'*

We would like to be able to help more people but at present we can only offer the service one day a week. We have volunteers wanting to help us and ready to start training. The amount that we can achieve however is limited by funding so if you feel that you would like to help us in this cause please visit our website www.cirenselphelp.org.uk for details of how you can donate. Finally, a huge thank you to all of you who donated Waitrose tokens to our cause.

Anne and Jeremy