

Elkstone Newsletter

32nd Year: No. 12 (347)

September 2016

Editor's Bit

Lois has bought three new rescue hens and one of them is a 'boss' hen. She is giving the old hens and the magpies a hard time. I have noticed large numbers of crows flying in a south-westerly direction. Do crows migrate? I have received ten emails and a telephone call from Gigaclear this month. I have asked them to stop because I feel this is close to harassment. Are other villagers being annoyed in this way?

Reg – 21st August 2016

Features	
Elkstone Church Services	Three New Hotels in Elkstone
Ride and Stride	Elkstone Wildflower Meadow
Harvest Celebrations in Elkstone Church	Hare Coursing
Harvest Supper	Rendcomb Patient Support Group
Girls Night Out	Pump Hunt
Diary Dates	
Ride and Stride – Saturday 10 th September – Contact Carole Bury	
Elkstone Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 21 st September – Village Hall – 8.00pm	
Regular Dates	
Waste and recycling	Food + garden waste – Every Friday
Waste and recycling	All bags, bins + boxes — Fridays 9 th & 23 rd September
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 September 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

September 4th -	Morning Prayer -	10.00am - Rev A Champion
September 11th -	Family Service -	10.00am - Rev Janet Williams
September 18th -	Holy Communion -	11.00am - Rev A Champion
September 25th -	Songs of Praise -	10.00am - Sarah Suddrey from Toilet twinning
October 2nd -	Harvest Thanksgiving -	10.00am - Rev Janet Williams

David Pierce

Ride and Stride

Saturday 10th September 2016

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

This year there are even more churches open on Saturday 10 September for you to visit and explore. Our Church here in Elkstone is always open 24 hours a day - every day of the year - but not all are so lucky! We provide biscuits and drinks for any visitors to Elkstone, and lots of other churches are starting to do the same, we have had homemade cakes from some. If you would like to walk, cycle or horse-ride to any of these gems, you can raise money through donations or by sponsorship.

All raised money will be divided equally between our Church and this amazing Charity, which provides grants for all sorts of projects and conservation work in Gloucestershire Churches, both small and large.

I have more details and sponsorship forms, and there will also be some in the Church if you'd like to collect one.

www.ghct.org.uk/rideandstride

Carole - 870493

Simple Gifts: Harvest celebrations in Elkstone Church

This year's harvest festival in Elkstone church, which will be on 2nd October is **both** a traditional harvest thanksgiving **and** a little more. We will give thanks, as we do every year, for the fruits of the earth – for grain and grazing in the fields around the village, and for all the hard labour that sustains them, and also for the harvests of our gardens and allotments. In addition, we will have an opportunity to give thanks for all the other gifts that make our life here in Elkstone so rich: for all the people who give their time and talents to individuals to and the community, in simple acts of neighbourliness, in supporting the activities of the village hall and the church, and in providing support services such as the Rendcomb surgery, the Neighbourhood Watch and so on. Everyone will be receiving an invitation to join us in the church at 10.00am on October 2nd, and a card to fill in naming who or what you are grateful for. Anyone who would like to offer their gratitude but is not able to come to church will be welcome to leave their card in the church a week before the service, or please give it to a neighbour to pass on. After the service there will be time to chat over refreshments.

If your own gifts include growing or producing food and you would like to share it; or if you would like to show your gratitude for all that we receive by donating other useful goods such as tinned produce and toiletries, they will be very gratefully accepted by our friends at the food bank in Cirencester (tinned and packaged produce) and The Family Haven in Gloucester, (fresh produce) which helps vulnerable families to a brighter future, partly achieved by providing hot lunches for the children and parents, and food parcels for the most desperate families. Please bring any donations to church for the service; they will be collected on the day and distributed immediately.

Mindful of how richly we are blessed while others are in great need, we will also collect gifts of money to go to Nchima Trust which is a small charity working in Malawi, the poorest country in the world. They are currently raising funds for a solar project at a school, which will enable them to provide meals for the children with the potential for extra meals to be sold to raise funds, and to power fridges and freezers for the local community to cool food.

David Pierce

Harvest Supper – October 22nd

To complete our harvest celebrations we will be holding our normal Harvest Supper in the village hall on Saturday October 22nd at 7.00pm. This will be a 'bring and share' meal with a selection of shepherds' pies, puddings and cheeses. If you would like to come please let Carole Bury know at carolebury@hotmail.com or 01242 870493. During the evening we will hear more about the work of the Nchima Trust in Malawi and the project we are looking to support this year with our monetary harvest gifts and there will be a chance to give to the project. The Supper is open to everybody.

Girls Night Out, 10k sponsored night walk in aid of Longfield

A Great Night Out for a Great Local Cause

Calling all girls! It's the biggest Girls' Night Out in Gloucestershire and you're invited.

This year's theme is 'Bling it on', so we're expecting sequins and sparkle, from your tiara to your t-shirt and your tutu to your toes. Everybody will start the 10km walk together (9.00pm from Deer Park School in Cirencester, on Friday September 9th), after a pre-walk party and some top quality chat.

You'll be raising money for Longfield (formerly Cotswold Care Hospice) to help people with life-limiting illness to live well and, if you raise more than £150, your entry fee will be refunded. Normal entry is £18 per person (including your t-shirt) but get a group of girls together and the sixth place is free. Bring your children aged 10 and over too, (but make sure 10-16 year-olds walk with an adult please).

So register now at www.longfield.org.uk/Event/girls-night-out . You know you want to!

Three New Hotels in Elkstone to appear on TripAdvisor or Trivago?

What new hotels? you may ask. Did I miss something? On the afternoon of 15th August ten children plus parents and other helpers gathered in Elkstone churchyard to construct three Bug Hotels as part of our eco projects at the Church. Constructed of wood offcuts, bits of cane, bricks, parts of pipes, plastic bottles filled with grass cuttings and trimmings from tree branches, and guided by Geoff Gait-Carr, one of our Church members, the children had great fun using their imagination in constructing the hotels where bugs can establish homes, which will help in their preservation, provide pollinators for wildflowers, and food for others higher up the food chain to help in their survival. All activities designed to help maintain God's wonderful creation. The children really enjoyed themselves including adding ramps for the bugs to access the hotels, and adding unique features like internal swimming pools.

We did not add Wi-Fi, so I am not sure the Bugs will be able to make postings on TripAdvisor or Trivago, but I will have to check in a few months!

The Bug hotels are nearest the fence in the Churchyard by the drive to the Old Rectory, so do go and have a look.

Wildflower Garden in the Churchyard

After a few wet days there was a break in the weather and the bale of wildflowers and grasses was finally delivered to the prepared ground in the churchyard nearest to the road one Wednesday in early August. Breaking off at a moment's notice from other jobs, a willing group of 9 friends arrived with garden rakes, forks, barrows and gloves to set about the unusual task of undoing a huge bale of hay.

This bale was almost as tall as Sylvie and looking very green and fresh. As David forked his loads into the barrow he distributed little mounds around the designated areas, we soon realised that this was no ordinary bale. For one thing it smelt really sweet and fragrant and another, it was full of flower heads, some recognisable and others, to the untrained eye, not quite as obvious. We liberally loosened and scattered the cuttings evenly over the grass. The bale didn't ever seem to reduce in size, and with much puffing and blowing the area was eventually covered.

Fortunately our neighbours at the Old Rectory had expressed an interest in having a wild flower meadow - which is just as well, as they now have one with the remainder of the bale strewn over their field next to the church drive. This will produce delightful flowers next summer.

Our physical efforts were rewarded with cake and coffee, and as we had 3 ordained ministers on the work team, we had some lovely prayers al fresco. We were hot and dirty, but happy that we had been part of a great morning's work laying the seeds for next summer.

The seeds had dried enough by the following Sunday with all the sunshine. By chance, did anyone see the unusual sight of the Congregation trampling the seeds into the prepared ground after the Morning Service? Many hands (and feet) make light work, and we will all be delighted with the flowers next year.

Carole

Letter to the Editor

Hare Coursing

Now that the harvest is in, we approach the season for hare coursing.

We have twice interrupted a gang hare coursing between Highgate Farm and the Brimpsfield roundabout (north end of A417 dual carriageway).

Hare coursing is cruel and illegal, and threatens these fabulous wild animals. It involves dogs chasing wild hares until they are exhausted or killed. Just after harvest is the perfect time.

Please report anything suspicious to 101 **immediately** so that officers can follow it up. If you are able to take registration numbers, even better.

Many thanks

In view of the violent nature of many hare coursers, the author wishes to remain anonymous

GigaClear - Vonage - VOIP

Villagers considering using Gigaclear broadband are asking about using a VOIP telephone connection.

If anyone has any direct experience of VOIP, please could they reply through the Newsletter so that we can all share experiences.

Rendcomb Patients' Support Group

The Support Group would like to thank everyone who helped make the Open Gardens at Daglingworth House and The Chantry, Daglingworth such a wonderful success. The weather couldn't have been better and the gardens were looking spectacular! Special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. David Howard and Mr. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown for their very generous hospitality. The excellent sum of £420 was raised, which will go towards improving the access ramp to Rendcomb Surgery for the benefit of all patients.

Pauline Farman

New 105 Telephone Number

On 6th September, a new national phone number “105” will be launched by electricity network operators for customers to call should they need to report or get information about a power cut in their area. As one of our key stakeholders who work with members of the public who may be affected by power cuts, we wanted to share this information with you. This is a nationwide service that may well be of benefit to them.

Key points to note about this service are:

- Dialling 105 will put customers through to their local electricity network operator – the company that manages the cables, power lines and substations that deliver electricity into homes and businesses in their area.
- 105 is just one of the ways that customers can contact their electricity network operator. Customers can also contact them by phone or via their website, and most network operators are on social media too.
- 105 is a free service for people in England, Scotland and Wales.
- Customers can call 105 no matter who they choose to buy electricity from.
- Customers can also call 105 if they spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put anyone in danger. If there's a serious immediate risk, they should call the emergency services too.

A consumer awareness campaign will run from September through to next spring and will include PR, media advertising, social media and coordinated messaging through partner channels.

Clarke, Michael - <mclarkel@westernpower.co.uk>

Pump Hunt

Thames Water, with all the other wastewater companies in England & Wales, is searching for privately owned sewage pumping stations that would become its responsibility later this year. Some customers may not be aware that the cost and responsibility of their pumping station will pass to us so we hope that this inclusion would help raise awareness.

We would ask anyone with a pump to visit our website: www.thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt