

# Elkstone Newsletter

22nd Year: No. 6 (258)

March 2009

## Editor's Bit

While we were experiencing the worst 'snow event' for 30 years, Reg was e-mailing that he had got a bit sunburnt, and had been finding the heat (35° C) too much! Strangely, no-one hearing this news has expressed much sympathy!

The snow resulted in shovels, sledges, snowman art, and some great examples of neighbourliness, much appreciated by the recipients. Also appreciated were the efforts of David the Postman, who managed to make deliveries almost every day, and those of Martyn and David, our Snowplough Operators, who were out some mornings before 7.00 a.m. to make a start on clearing the snow from the Parish's roads and lanes.

*Mrs. Ed – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009*

<b>Features</b>	
Thankyou, Thankyou "The North Wind doth blow..." Nature Notes Multi Parish Meeting Elkstone Rural Cinema ERG Walk	Quiz Night Wishing Well Time to Sow The Stoned Elks Wine Tasting Open Day
<b>Dates for your Diary</b>	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March – Stoned Elks Quiz Team – Bathurst Arms – 8.00 pm	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March – PCSOs' Multi Parish Meeting – North Cerney Village Hall – 7.30 pm	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March – Elkstone Rural Cinema – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.30 pm	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March – ERG Walk –Avening – 10.00 am	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March - Parish Council Meeting - Elkstone Village Hall – 8.00 pm	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March – Stoned Elks Quiz Team – Colesbourne Inn – 8.30 pm	
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March - The Annual Village Quiz Night – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.30 pm	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April – Wine Tasting Evening – Elkstone Village Hall	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June – Open Day – Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone - 2.00 pm	
<b>Regular Dates</b>	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste – Every Monday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Mondays 9 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - <i>Bernard Alder 870255</i>
Mobile Library	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Hill View - 11.45am to 11.55am (not 24 <sup>th</sup> )
Deadline for April Edition: <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b> please	
<b>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></b>	

**STOP PRESS: Stoned Elks needed for 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March - please see back page!**

## **Thank you, Thank you**

Margaret Holder wishes to send A Big Thank you to everyone who helped her during the snow, and to say how much she appreciated their help.

Also, the Events Committee wishes to thank Trevor for his interesting and informative talk, much enjoyed by those who were able to attend in spite of the snow.

## **Is this The Icicle of the Winter?**



## **“The North Wind doth blow...”**

The North wind doth blow  
And did we have snow!  
And what could poor Elkstone do then? Poor thing!

From Russia with love  
Snow fell from above  
And wiped out the first signs of Spring - Poor thing!

While other towns thawed  
We merely got bored  
With slipping and tumbling down. Oh dear!

But at last we are free  
And what can we see?  
But the glorious green and the brown – Good cheer!

*Con Baker*

## **Nature Notes**

This month, we have had more snow than for the past few years. It was very soft, and coated every twig and branch when it fell in the still air. Everything looked so beautiful, and the world went very quiet as traffic was temporarily halted.

On the last day of January, the birds were singing – robin, blackbird and great tit – they had decided Spring was on the way. Then during the snow, finding food was their chief concern. No doubt the bird feeders in most gardens were a lifesaver.

A barn owl was seen hunting in broad daylight, and a fox has been seen close to the house, waiting to pounce if any hens were left unguarded.

It is interesting to try following tracks in the snow, but this year it was so very soft and deep that it was not so easy to be a successful detective.

*Jessie*

*Two tracks of deer slots were noticed, running almost perfectly straight across the three fields from behind Elkstone Manor's garden to the edge of Cowley Woods.*

*Mrs. Ed*

## **Neighbourhood Management**

**The Gloucestershire Constabulary Safer Communities Team  
Cirencester Rural North Community**

### **Multi-Parish Meeting**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, North Cerney Village Hall. 7.30 pm**

PCSOs Andrea Shutt & Victoria Beale invite you to this meeting for your community. Please come along, bring your neighbour everybody is welcome. This is your opportunity to meet the Safer Communities Team, your Local Village Agent, Parish and Ward Councillors, as well as other local residents.

Cllr. Mark Tufnell will be chairing this meeting as it is being hosted by the Parish of North Cerney. We will be looking to discuss priorities, and areas of concern, which the community as a whole can work at addressing. We hope to see you there!

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Watches encourage people to share crime prevention advice and activities, keep an eye on each others property and improve home security.

It's about bringing people together and improving quality of life. Residents often feel more secure in their own homes and their fear of crime is reduced by the knowledge that neighbours and friends are keeping an eye on their home while they are out.

If you would like more information about Neighbourhood Watch in your area, or on becoming a co-ordinator, please contact Andrea or Victoria by email or speak to us at the meeting in March.

E-mail: [Andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:Andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk)

E-mail: [Victoria.beale@gloucestershire.polic.uk](mailto:Victoria.beale@gloucestershire.polic.uk)

## **Elkstone Rural Cinema**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Elkstone Village Hall - 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.**

Please come and join us when we will be showing the highly acclaimed movie:

### **THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS cert 12A**

A drama based on the novel by John Boyne, this is a timeless story of innocence lost and humanity found.

Set during World War II, it is seen through the innocent eyes of Bruno, the eight-year-old son of a concentration camp commandant whose forbidden friendship with a Jewish boy on the other side of the fence has startling and unexpected consequences.

Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Entrance is £3.50 adults and £2.50 for under 16's

## **ERG Walk**

**Saturday 14th March 2009 N.B. change of date for this walk!!!**

Start at 10 a.m. from the High Street layby opposite Church Street in Avening. (Avening is on the B4014 between Nailsworth and Tetbury) The walk is a little over 2 hours duration and incorporates a couple of short climbs and some awkward stiles. However, you will be rewarded by excellent views to Nags Head and over Gatcombe Park. Lunch, if desired, will be available at one of several nearby pubs.

*Sue & Dave – 870373*

## **Elkstone Quiz Night**

**Saturday 21st March - Elkstone Village Hall - 7.30 p.m.**

Please join us for our customary evening of working out those little grey cells followed by a bring and share supper. Don't forget to bring a drink too! No worries if you haven't got a team as we can make up groups (of **5 maximum** please!) on the night. I will co-ordinate food if you would like to give me a call on 870373. Prizes will be available for the best team!!

*Sue Collins - 870373*

## **‘Wishing Well’**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March -The Bingham Hall, Cirencester - 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.**

Wishing Well is a free health and wellbeing event for older people, sponsored by Age Concern and the Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council.

Refreshments and light lunch available, range of stands and demonstrations on healthy living, complimentary therapies, singing and much more!

Transport may be arranged. More details from:

*Barbara Piranty or Vicki Hewlett 01452 528491*

## **Time to sow**

No calendar can predict when the soil will be warm enough to start sowing – so feel it with your hand (or traditionally, another, more sensitive area is bared and lowered to the ground to check!)

By now you may be able to sow some seeds. But a bit of forward planning will help.

If you covered your soil with compost over winter, you can now rake back any fibrous residue and return that to your compost heap. Hopefully this will reveal a loose, pre-fertilised, worm-worked soil that, weather permitting, will warm up a little more, and be ready for your seeds. Doing this a couple of weeks before you expect to sow will allow any weeds to show themselves and be hoed off.

If you’re sowing in trays or pots, you will be needing “compost” – but not simply neat compost from your regular garden/kitchen heap; by itself, this is too rich for seed sowing.

If you want free DIY seed compost, dilute ordinary garden compost with at least its own volume of loam (e.g. molehills) or better still, use well-rotted leaf mould or composted shreds instead. Add some washed sand if you can, perhaps another 10%-25%. All of this should be sieved.

As most compost contains some viable seeds (if only tomato seeds) you need to think ahead to be sure you know which seedlings are yours! With big seeds like beans it’s usually obvious. If you are worried, fill the seed trays, and bring them somewhere warm so the weeds all germinate, then you can uproot them before sowing your own. Alternatively you can cook the mixture in a low oven, or even a microwave (a bit at a time!) before you use it.

**Sadly our composting project is nearly over – so if you want a free Composting Pack, please call 01452 313761 before the end of March. And watch this space to hear what Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is doing next!**

## **Future Dates for Your Diary**

### **The Stoned Elks Quiz Team**

The fund raising for the Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone Open Day begins in March: the Stoned Elks Quiz Team is now entered at The Bathurst Arms, North Cerney, on Wednesday 4th March starting at 8:00 pm; and at the Colesbourne Inn on Wednesday 18th March, starting at 8:30 pm. Other sessions will follow in **April, May** and **June**. If you would like to be part of the team for any of these, please contact me:  
*Jeremy Davies 870516*

### **Wine Tasting, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

Our very popular Wine Tasting evening will be run on 18th April in the Village Hall – put the date in your diary!

Information on how to book your place/s will be in the next Newsletter.

*Julia Davey, Events Committee, 870038* [jrdavey@btconnect.com](mailto:jrdavey@btconnect.com)

### **European and County Council Elections Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

The Elections Team at Cotswold District Council is looking to fill the following roles: Presiding Officer, Poll Clerk, Count Assistant, Postal Vote Issue and Opening. If interested, please phone 01285 623229 or Email: [elections@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:elections@cotswold.gov.uk)



### **“Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone” (Open Day) June 21<sup>st</sup> – now a firm date**

We have had our first meeting and are ‘on a roll’.

The principal conclusion is that open day works, it achieves its objectives and therefore with a few tweaks we are planning our traditional day.

Would villagers please contact us to let us know what they would like to do/contribute: old hands, new comers etc. there is no hallowed ground, no elitism, all are most certainly welcome. Just because someone has done X for 12 years, does not mean that they would not welcome help or handing over the reins.

Gardens, Car Park, Stalls/Exhibitions, Teas, BBQ, Pub Quizzes, Village clean up, Signs etc. etc.

A specific appeal for a new feature: we are going to have greetings cards printed. Please contact us with suitable photos. Cards will feature ‘Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone’ and the surrounding area; this brief includes views as well as single blooms (as an example). Please throttle back on snow photos.

*Gardens Committee: Jeremy & Anne 870516, Maggie 870333, Sylvie, Nic & Ann 870556.  
[openday@az.azteck.com](mailto:openday@az.azteck.com)*