

Elkstone Newsletter

22nd Year: No. 7 (259)

April 2009

Editor's Bit

It is good to be back from 'down under'. So much seems familiar and yet it is not. e.g. Morning bird songs sound different; although we both drive on the left, driver habits are different; the sun rises and sets in the North – now that is odd!

Looking around Cirencester after a break reveals many changes too. Some shops have closed while others in the new Corn Hall have opened.

One thing that has not changed is the community spirit in Elkstone. The quiz evening showed great humour and some wisdom. Many thanks must go to the Collins Family for the way they all took part in the organisation and execution of the evening.

Reg – 24.3.09

Features	
Free Decorative Mulch Stoned Elks Ride Again Nature Notes April ERG Walk Wine Tasting	May ERG Walk 10 Pin Bowling Parish Liaison Warden Rendcomb Surgery news Open Day – A Personal View
Dates for your Diary	
Wednesday 15 th April – Elkstone Parish Council – Village Hall – 7.00pm	
Wednesday 15 th April – Annual Parish Open Meeting – Village Hall – 8.00pm	
Saturday 18 th April – ERG Walk – Cleeve Common – 9.45am	
Saturday 18 th April - The Annual Wine Tasting Night – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.00 pm	
Monday 4 th May - ERG Walk – Bathurst Arms, North Cerney – 9.55am	
Sunday 21 st June – Open Day – Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone - 2.00pm	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste – Every Monday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Mondays 6 th and 20 th
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	Tuesdays, - Hill View - 11.45am to 11.55am
Deadline for May Edition: Monday 20th April Please	
Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net	

Broken Slate as a Decorative Mulch - Free

As many of you will have seen we have had work done on our roof. When replacing a Welsh slate roof there are always many broken or unusable slates, and we have quite a number – four full crates in fact. These can be broken down into smaller pieces and used as decorative mulch. If anybody would like some then please come and help yourself from the crates by our garage. If you want to give something then please make a small gift to Elkstone Church, otherwise it is **FREE!** Anything left after mid April is going in a skip.

David Pierce, Manor Cross, Elkstone

The Stoned Elks Ride Out Again....

Our teams have been limbering up well for the new fund-raising season which runs up to the Cotswold Gardens Open Day (Sunday June 21st).

On March 4th at the Bathurst Arms we came 4th, and on March 18th at the Colesbourne Inn we came 2nd, and won money!

The trend is clearly with us, and we would be delighted if others would join our group on one of the upcoming sessions which will be roughly every fortnight. We find everyone has their own particular field of expertise and all are welcome to swell the pool of knowledge e.g. we need subject matter experts on topics like Postman Pat, and Led Zeppelin!

We next go to the Colesbourne Inn again, starting at 8:30 on Wednesday 1st April, clearly a good day for fun questions!

Do please contact me, all are welcome - I'll be co-ordinating the numbers on Sunday 29th to book our table in good time.

Jeremy Davies 870516

(Team C, 80% Stoned Elks in composition, won the annual Elkstone Quiz Night – in spite of being shakey on some topics including Postman Pat! – and have donated their prize to the Gardens Open Day Fund – Ed.)

Nature Notes

Following a cold winter, the whole countryside looked brown, trees, fields, hedges, all brown. Now, after a short warmer spell and some sunshine, every day brings surprises, crocus spring almost overnight, today there was the sight of quite a lot of white violets, and the fields are looking greener.

The miracle of new life and growth is amazing.

Things are so wonderfully made. Once I found dead buzzard in Uncombe and had a good look at its eyes. Round each eye was a circle of fan shaped structures so that in life its eyes could rotate to look for prey in all directions. It was all so beautifully adapted to its lifestyle.

There are so many wonderful things to hear or see every day.

Welcome back to our Editor after a sterling job done by Mrs. Editor in his absence.

Thank you.

Jessie (Please may I second that? – Ed)

ERG Walk

Saturday 18th April, Cleeve Common

An approximately 2.5 hours ramble, starting from the Cleeve Hill Quarry carpark – over hill, through woods to valley, and return climb back to Common; virtually no stiles, but quite hilly.

Meet in time for a 9.45 a.m. start, in the Cleeve Hill Quarry car park, on Cleeve Common – Explorer 179 map ref 990 272. Take the B4632 out of Cheltenham through Prestbury and past Southam, and at the crest of the hill, turn right across the dual carriageway; pass the Golf Club Clubhouse, go over cattle grid, turn left then sharp right into the Quarry carpark.

Note – take care not to park in the Golf Club car park in case of being clamped!

Also, there are likely to be sheep grazing on the Common, so dogs must be kept under close control.

After walking, lunch/refreshments can be taken at the Golf Club or the Rising Sun.

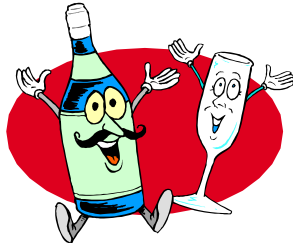
Margaret – 01242 244833

**Wine Tasting Evening
Saturday 18th April – 7.00pm**

First Come, First Served for this very popular event which is now in its 7th year

Places are limited and must be booked in advance. You don't need to come as a team

Cost £7.50



For those who are unfamiliar with the evening, we work in teams matching wines to their descriptions and prices

Those attending will be asked to contribute food to the Buffet Supper which will follow the wine tasting. If you would like further information about the evening please ring Sue on 870255

**Book Your Place Now By Ringing Sue Alder On 870255
Deadline Monday 6th April**

Advance notice – ERG Walk

Monday 4th May, The Bathurst Arms, North Cerney.

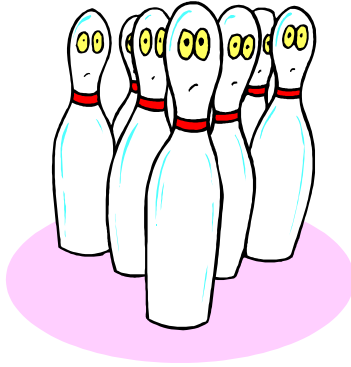
An easy, attractive and quite varied walk of about 4.5 miles, heading north from North Cerney along the line of the old (pre-1825) road to Rendcomb, turning onto some infrequently used paths, with return on the Monarch's Way.

Few stiles, but could be muddy in places; a lot of level walking with only a few ups and downs – one short but steep descent towards the end.

9.55 a.m. start from the Bathurst Arms, North Cerney – please park at the far end in the overflow carpark; no need to pre-order lunch before walking.

Lois - 870375

10 Pin Bowling



Book your place now for this very popular event

- Saturday 9th May 2009
- 5.30p,m
- Cheltenham bowling alley (make your own way there)
- 2 games per person
- £7.50 per person to include shoes
- Sorry – no unaccompanied children but we would love to see families – maybe a separate lane for the younger generation
- For those who would like to we will go for a meal afterwards. We are hoping to book The Little Owl in Charlton Kings
- **Deadline Is Friday 17th April but why not book now before you forget!**

This event is great fun and will suit all ages and abilities so hopefully we will have a good turnout.

If you really do not want to bowl but would like to come for the meal afterwards then this is fine.

Please ring Sue Alder on 870255 asap to book your place or get more information. Payment for bowling **must** be received by the deadline as we have to pay when making the booking.

The Events Group

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens - Parish Liaison Warden

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens help to look after the Cotswold ANOB. The work done by the voluntary wardens is varied and includes guiding walks, planting trees, giving talks etc. One role undertaken by volunteers is that of Parish Wardens. Parish wardens act as a link between communities in the Cotswolds, with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens Organisation and also the Cotswold Conservation Board, the organisation that exists to oversee the AONB, I have just accepted the role of Parish Warden for Elkstone.

My own particular interest is Rights of Way but I am happy to be involved in the wider aspect of the role namely the ongoing conservation and protection of this very special area. Please get in touch with me if you feel there is something that needs attention within our area and if I can't attend to it myself I will do my best to ensure that your concerns get passed to the person most capable of dealing with them.

Cotswold Lion is an interesting newssheet published by The Cotswold Conservation Board. Apart from highlighting matters of interest within the area it also lists many guided walks that Cotswold Volunteers organise throughout the year. I have recently distributed some copies of the latest issue around the village. If you would like a copy and did not get one please me know.

Cotswold Lorry Management Strategy

In the previous Cotswold Lion it was reported that in response to concerns about the adverse impact of HGVs in the ANOB a trial Lorry Management Zone is being put into place. This will restrict HGVs over 7.5tonne to the A40/417/419/429/436 and the M5, unless they are loading or unloading at a destination within the area. It is currently anticipated to become operational from mid April. I contacted the authorities involved and received the following:

‘We are aware of the problem with HGVs using the route through Elkstone although we would welcome additional information - please provide us with registration numbers and numbers of vehicles which we will forward to the County Council and the police for action.’

Recently a very large lorry was stopped at Manor Cross. The driver advised that he was going to Cowley and when it was pointed out that he would not get through and he was offered help it transpired that he wanted Cowley near Oxford! Maybe a concerted effort by us all would result in HGVs ceasing to use the village road as a rat run. If you agree and you see a lorry that you feel is using the village as a rat run please let me know or contact Jeremy.Callard@atkinglobal.com.

Anne Davies – 870516

Rendcomb Surgery – Easter

Please note that the surgery will be closed on Good Friday, April 10th and will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 14th April.

If you need to contact a doctor over the Bank Holiday period, please phone 0845 220220 as usual.

An excellent way of contacting the practice, other than the telephone is via the surgery website www.rendcombsurgery.com.uk . By registering for online access patients can make or cancel appointments and order repeat prescriptions 24 hrs a day. The website can also be used for information on clinics, opening times and minor illnesses.

The practice has a ‘Duty Dr’ available on the telephone every morning. Patients wishing to speak to a doctor can phone the practice between 8:30 and 9:00 and, if not immediately available, the doctor will endeavour to call them back before 9:30. Calls later than 9:00 may result in a return call much later in the day.

Patients are asked to telephone with repeat prescription requests after 12:00 in order to keep the lines free for urgent calls to a GP or those wishing to make on the day appointments

The practice is also taking part in the Government initiative on Extended Opening Hours and is open on Monday Evenings 6.30-8.00pm for routine, pre-booked appointments. These appointments are intended for those patients who find it difficult to attend the surgery during normal opening hours. Please note that the dispensary will NOT be open during these times.

For urgent problems please contact the Out of Hours service on **08454 220 220**

Jennie – Patient Support Group



'Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone'

A Personal View from Nic

“Aren't You Bored With That?”

A few years ago I asked a villager if they would like to open their garden for Open Day. They replied: “Oh! Aren't you bored with that?!” This got us thinking: almost everything we value so highly about Elkstone centres around or is triggered by the Church or Village Hall, and both are substantially funded by Open Day.

Both buildings are of great beauty and are to be treasured, developed and protected. The Hall was doubled in size by public subscription through the avenue of Open Day. Designed, project managed and built by villagers – such things should not be happening – we left such community spirit behind in the '30's – it's only the Amish who help each other – or is it?

Practically all our friendships have been initiated, have blossomed and matured through joint interest, joint work for and the sheer pleasure of Church and Hall related activities. I am writing from the Antarctic and my travelling companions cannot believe that we have a village cinema – what a simple joy! We have wine tasting, quizzes, bowls, Christmas parties, fireworks, art classes, talks, meals, BBQs, Newsletter, village trips out, poetry, neighbours-who-care etc. It sounds like the lost halcyon days between the wars – simple values, simple pleasures, true friendships, great joy.

We find it quite difficult to think of a friendship, an event or an aspect of village life that is not catalysed by either the Church or Village Hall. Even the Newsletter is administered by the Elkstone Village Hall Management Committee. Nothing comes close except possibly a decent blizzard or civil emergency.

The facts are stark: the Church (even maintenance & repairs) is **ONLY** funded by voluntary donations, (Open Day is a significant contributor); the Hall is 50% funded by Open Day (there is no charitable trust writing cheques). Without Open Day we would have to reach deep into our individual pockets; even a low performing year puts both at risk. Open Day is the only source of external revenue.

Open Day may not be perfect, but little else would provide such a ratio of external revenue for internal effort while operating with style appropriate to our village and while developing a bond of community spirit. If you can think of a better idea, join the committee or run an event yourself – there are no barriers – that's how Open Day started.

So, “Aren't you bored with that?” – No absolutely not, we love it, we love every second. Thank you Elkstone.

Last month's Newsletter included our 'help needed' list. Please contact the Committee: *Jeremy & Anne 870516, Maggie 870333, Sylvie, Nic & Ann 870556. openday@az.azteck.com*