

Elkstone Newsletter

22nd Year: No. 8 (260)

May 2009

Editor's Bit

I have now heard a few complaints from villagers finding other people's rubbish in their recycling bins. There should not be any need for this practice. Please ask your neighbour if you can use their dustbin and not assume there will be room for your rubbish as well as theirs. (*Editor exits stage right singing, "You can't put your muck in my dustbin, my dustbin."*)

Reg – 21.04.09

Features	
May ERG Walk Wine Tasting postponed Private Party Notice Music for a Summer's evening	Compost News Nature Notes News from the Parish Council Open Day
Dates for your Diary	
Monday 4 th May - ERG Walk – Bathurst Arms, North Cerney – 9.55am	
Wednesday 13 th May – Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8.00 pm	
Saturday 13 th June – Music for a Summer's Evening – Elkstone Church – 6.30pm	
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 4 th and 18th
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 June Edition: Wednesday 20th May Please	
Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net	

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

Wine-tasting Evening

Unfortunately the Wine-tasting Evening planned for 18th April had to be postponed but it will take place in the Autumn so look out for the date!

Events Committee

Private party to be held at Elkstone Manor, Saturday May 23rd

A wedding reception will be held at Elkstone Manor on Saturday 23rd May.

Dance music will play until 11pm.

Coaches will be used to reduce the number of cars

Christine Shine

Music for a Summer's Evening

may be heard at

Elkstone Church on Saturday 13th June at 6.30 pm

John Qualtrough (baritone)

Andrew Hodges (violin)

David Groves (piano)

Cheese and wine will be served afterwards at the Old Rectory where you will also have the opportunity to bid for a small watercolour of Elkstone Church.

The late Alec Brown MBE painted original watercolours of 240 different churches of the Gloucester diocese in the hope that many people could enjoy them and that they could be used to raise money for the churches.

All proceeds from the concert and the auction will go to the church fabric fund.

Tickets, limited to sixty, cost £10 each and are available from Lindy Price, Carole Bury, Chloe Darling and Sylvie Pierce.

Sylvie Pierce

Compost News

The pioneering composting project run by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is winding down after an unprecedented six year run. Almost 20,000 people (around 8 per cent of the county's households) have benefited from the scheme after receiving help and advice on composting. We hope that everyone will carry on composting.

So, promise yourself that *this* weekend you'll take out all that fresh compost from your compost bin and spread it around your garden. It will refresh and invigorate the garden soil and plant pots: mulch and add nutrients, build up soil fertility and encourage wildlife into your garden.

The compost bin also needs to be emptied to make room for this year's kitchen and garden waste so the natural composting process can begin again when the weather warms. At this time of year beneficial micro-organisms begin to multiply and, very conveniently for us, chemically convert kitchen and garden waste into nutrients, making these available to other larger compost creatures. These creatures will then chew, grind, bite and tear your waste down even further.

So, when your compost is ready, just turf it out! You can't see them all, but these creatures will be present amongst the compost and larger wildlife can then feed off of them.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Nature Notes

We have enjoyed a lovely month so far – dry weather, sunshine, and lots of lovely flowers coming out. The few wet days have really brought on the growth.

We have been amused by the call of a particular thrush, which has added to its song repertoire the sound of a trim-phone ringing. We haven't had thrushes nesting for several years, so it is good to see and hear them again.

One morning, two wheatears were flitting round the sheep racks, having a brief rest before their flight north to nest on higher mountains and moors. Meanwhile, the first returning swallows were spotted just before Easter.

I heard an amusing anecdote about migration – a small committee met to discuss what date they should get the ospreys' site ready for the birds' arrival – repair the nests and make sure all was in order, etc. The first week in April, they went to the site to prepare it, only to find both birds had already arrived and were busy at the nest! You can imagine the birds saying to themselves. "Well, I suppose if they aren't here, we shall have to do it for ourselves."

Jessie

News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council is very pleased to be able to inform you that the Pound has now been sown with spring-flowering wild flower seed, and an arrangement put into place whereby the invasive weeds and other unwanted growth will be controlled by regular strimming.

Councillors are very grateful to those who have made this possible.

N.B. Parishioners are asked to please refrain from mowing the Pound, as this would have a deleterious effect on the project.

There have been a number of contacts from parishioners regarding the side-effects of the 40m.p.h. speed limit on the 3/190. Comments fall into two areas – the proliferation of signs, and the perceived effect of the de-restriction signs. The Parish Council has considered these concerns. The de-restriction signs at the beginning of the Half Mile (downgraded from class 4 lane to public bridleway, with private access, in approximately 1995) have been removed, but there is nothing that can be done about the other extra signs, which have to be in place to show the extent of the speed restriction. In respect of the class 4 lanes through the village; these have never had a speed limit on them, except that the Highway Code requires drivers to proceed with due regard to the road conditions, and although there is no street lighting, these lanes could be regarded as being within a built-up area. It would be possible to ask for the lanes through the village to be made subject to a 30 m.p.h. limit, but this would result in yet more signage, and presumably anomalies such as a de-restriction sign at the village end of the Zeal Track (as this is a class 4 road). Whilst the newly -erected de-restriction signs might be interpreted as "permission to do 60" it is hoped that drivers will continue to remember their Highway Code, and drive according to the conditions!

At this point in time, the Parish Council has therefore decided to take no further action, but will of course review this decision if necessary.

Lois Eyre - 870375



“Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone”
(Open Day) June 21st

Open Day is about 8 weeks away. As is our style we are looking for: Gardens; Stalls/Exhibitions – Books, Plants, Bric-a-Brac, Clothes, Tombola, Wine Shed; Teas – Village Hall & Manor Farm; Ice cream; BBQ organisation; Village clean up; Church – flowers & bell ringing; Car Park marshalling; Signs etc. etc. Please contact the committee (or be receptive if we get to you first!).

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).

*Gardens Committee: Jeremy & Anne 870516, Maggie 870333, Sylvie, Nic & Ann 870556.
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