

Elkstone Newsletter

22nd Year: No. 10 (262)

July 2009

Editor's Bit

June was an exciting month. We were able to have our say, albeit by placing a cross on each of two voting slips for electing our local councillor and a number of representatives to speak for us in Europe. Closer to home final preparations were made for the Open Gardens Event and the Summer's Evening of Music. Both events meant a considerable amount of work for the organisers but I hope the comments received will help them to feel valued.

Reg – 24.07.09

Features	
Welcome to Elkstone July ERG Walk The Fountain Nature Notes	Letter to the Editor Music for a Summer's Evening History Section Open Day Impressions
Dates for your Diary	
Saturday 11 th July – ERG Walk– Daneway, Sapperton – Meet 9.45 for a 10.00 start	
Wednesday 15 th July – Parish Council Meeting - 8.00 p.m. – Elkstone Village Hall	
Saturday 22nd August - local evening walk followed by a barbeque	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste – Every Monday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Mondays 13 th and 27 th
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - <i>Bernard Alder 870255</i>
Deadline for August Edition: Monday 20th July Please	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

Welcome to Elkstone Village

Deborah Jones and daughter Georgie in Carriage House

ERG Walk 11th July 2009

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Golden Valley Walk

A 5 mile walk, newly published by the Wildlife Trust, which links 4 Nature Reserves in Stroud's Golden Valley. Undulating terrain through woods, farmland and nature reserves. Lovely views and the chance to see rare flowers and butterflies.

Arrangements: Meet at The Daneway Inn, Sapperton 9.45am for a 10.00am start.

Those intending to patronise the hostelry can park at the pub: otherwise please use the lay-by **before** the bridge.

Leaders: *Monica H and Derek T* - 01242 526159

Memorable music for a summer's evening

On the 13 June, at Elkstone Church, many of us enjoyed an evening of music which ranged from the 17th to the late 20th century and from baroque fantasias to modern musicals.

John Qualtrough treated us to his rich baritone voice which he augmented with many humorous props, whilst Andrew Hodges' violin both complemented and added a richness to the performance. They were sympathetically accompanied by David Groves, who also played a Handel's fantasia for us.

Afterwards we strolled over to the Old Rectory, where we were greeted by the most delicious variety of canapés laid out on the dining table ready for us, with wine served from the adjoining terrace.

We then held our breath as R A Brown's water-colour of Elkstone Church fetched £185 by auction. (*Please see last page of Newsletter – Ed*)

This was a memorable evening indeed, which not only brought us together, but raised £605 for the Church fabric fund.

Thank you Sylvie, David and everyone involved in organising this event
Marion Cooch

A message from the Green Dragon Quartet (formerly known as the No Name Quartet)

Firstly, thank you very much for inviting us to play at the Elkstone Open Day. It gave us an excellent reason to get together and start playing as a quartet – something that we plan to continue going forward. Thank you, too, to everyone who came to listen to us, particularly in the church. It was lovely to have so many people in the audience. As you can see, we now have a name! We were delighted to receive quite a number of suggestions and after much deliberation chose Sylvie's suggestion of the Green Dragon Quartet. We were especially keen on this one because it will remind us of the reason we formed in the first place and also continue the Welsh dragon theme. Thank you Sylvie!

We loved the acoustics of the church and would love to come back and do a "proper" concert at some point. Arthur is also eyeing it up for a 'cello recital at some time, so watch this space.

Thank you for welcoming us as part of your Open Day.

If anyone wants to get hold of us, please contact:

Anne & Jeremy Davies - 870516, or Richard Green - 07736 457018

You may be interested to know that our next concert with Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra will be in St David's Hall, Cardiff on Friday 26th June at 7.30. The programme is:

The William Tell Overture	Rossini
Symphonic Dances from West Side Story	Bernstein
Jazz Suite No 2	Shostakovich
The Pines of Rome	Respighi

Tickets are available from the St David's Hall Box Office on 029 2087 8444

Nature Notes

Elkstone is so fortunate in having a view of wide skies. We can see the Malverns and the Marlborough Downs – beautiful sunrises, lovely sunsets and ever-changing clouds in between.

Once about seventy years ago there was a dramatic Aurora Borealis – very bright – moving all over the sky! Awesome – using the word as it used to be applied.

There have been other delights in the skies lately. For a week or so at the end of May, there were hundreds of Painted Ladies to be seen, the first time for several years that this migratory butterfly has arrived in Elkstone. In mid-June, a barn owl was spotted in flight just after 8 o'clock one morning. And the baby birds have been a delight. A baby woodpecker has been so interesting, sitting on the birdfeeder with that infant look on its face; then the mother arrives, pecks some nuts and feeds it. After a few lessons, it has a go for itself, then gets tired so the mother feeds it again.

Now after 3 or 4 days' tuition, it has pecked away by itself for quarter of an hour so perhaps it's launched.

Jessie

Dear Editor,

Your last editorial raised a very interesting idea to address the issue of drivers who seem intent on ignoring the new 40mph speed limit past the village. It is probably unlikely that they would pay any attention to a lorry parking space notice and they would just speed on regardless. Perhaps however if the owner of the tractor were to visit High Beech for coffee sometime between 7.30 and 9.00 am, and afternoon tea between 5.00pm and 6.30pm each day for a while, parking his tractor outside, he would have a legitimate reason for the obstruction and it might produce the desired result!

Anon. – (or even our local PCSOs! – Ed)

The Fountain

Long ago, in mid-Europe, a small community was finding the winter hard.

Everyone was invited to a meeting to talk about how best to care for those who were struggling. "In the heart of our village," said somebody, "is a fountain, unused. Why don't we fill it with milk, this bitter weather, so that anyone in need may take some for food, comfort and fellowship?" So it was agreed: by nightfall, the fountain would be scrubbed clean. And each able family promised to bring a jug of milk by dawn.

But over supper, one family made its decision. They filled a jug with water, and crept out into the night. The next morning, the village assembled. Everyone, old and young, gazed at the sparkling fountain and its basin, which was now full.....of water.

Sylvie Pierce

Village Hall Maintenance Morning

Thank you to everyone who came to the hall maintenance morning.

We cleaned and carried out minor repairs and generally had a good time and a few cups of coffee.

Thank you everyone, especially to those not on the committee who lent a hand.

It is our village hall, after all.

Village Hall Committee

Open Gardens at Elkstone Comments

Despite the odd rain spots all our customers on the bric a brac stall were as chatty, enthusiastic and friendly as usual. What never ceases to surprise me is that one man's junk literally is another man's treasure. One man was very excited over a lamp which I would never have thought would sell and another lady was delighted to find a set of cutlery to match her own which was no longer made. I was really pleased with a cake stand that looked very sad and dirty, but washed up beautifully and will be used for the World's Greatest Coffee Morning on 25th September in the Village Hall. We have kept some items back to sell on eBay in August and will report back on our takings and how we get on. Our chopping boards made by my dad, from recycled hardwood worktop off cuts were also a great success.

Many thanks for all the generous donations and to the Soutter family, Steve and Hannah for a great team effort.

Julia Davey

What A Great Day We Had!

We would like to thank everyone who so generously donated items to the Tombola stall. Every ticket was sold making a good contribution to the final total.

Sue & Bernard

From an Outsider

On Sunday, friends and I travelled down from Worcestershire to join in the Elkstone Open Day. We came to see the Cotswold gardens; and we were certainly not disappointed. They were many and varied: ranging from compact manicured lawns edged with carefully tended borders crammed with colour, to multi-tiered broad expanses of grass surrounded by trimmed hedges and shrubs.

But an unexpected pleasure was the number of extra attractions: everything from a display of vintage cars and tractors, to a delicious cream tea eaten in a garden to the music of an alfresco string quartet.

The pride of the householders in their beautiful Cotswold village was evident at every turn. My friends and I had a thoroughly enjoyable day, and I feel I must write to express our thanks to the residents of Elkstone who welcomed us into their village, and particularly those who organized the event.

Brian - Malvern

Wow- Open Day Is Over!

After almost six months of planning, and weeks and weeks of activity, Open Day is over. As I clear away the debris of cream teas I know that, like my wonderful band of helpers, I don't want to see another speck of clotted cream for quite a while!

Copy date is approaching fast and I reflect on a day that went ahead brilliantly but which so nearly didn't happen. Just a few weeks previously, as a committee, we had to seriously look at the prospect of cancelling the event because of a lack of gardens to open and a lack of volunteers to run stalls. To those villagers who, when they heard of the problems offered to help and thus saved the day - thank you.

At the wonderful barbecue in the evening the friendship and community spirit which first drew us to Elkstone on Open Day two years ago shone through and finished the day perfectly. Those of us who worked so hard are exhausted but seeing the pleasure of those who came to visit, and knowing that profits on the day will mean that the village hall and church have additional funds to help with the running costs, makes all

the effort worthwhile. These centres are the heart of our village and continuing financial support for them is vital.

I would like to share with you some comments that I heard during the day: -

‘ Cream teas in a beautiful garden - this is England at its very best.’

‘This village is beautiful and the people are so friendly. Where we live no one talks to anyone else. This village has such a lovely atmosphere and community spirit.’

‘We saw the day mentioned in the Sunday Times this morning and have travelled from Brecon. It has been so worth while.’

‘We have loved playing in the church. The acoustics are the best that we have ever encountered and the peace and atmosphere just made playing there very special. We want to come back and play again.’

.....and from someone who so kindly stepped into the breach at the last minute and opened a small and very unique garden :-

‘A thoroughly enjoyable Sunday afternoon. What a delight to hear others thoughts and comments on our eco garden. With thanks and praises from visitors one and all. One particular view was that they wanted to stay and relax in our raw and rustic but with plenty of charm tranquil corner of the Cotswolds...’

I finish this piece with a question for you to reflect on and a thought to carry with you.

Do you want to have an Open Day next year?

This special day for a special place can only happen if it is well supported by all of us who are privileged to live here.

YOUR VILLAGE OPEN DAY NEEDS YOU!

Anne Davies - Open Day committee member – (Comments can be sent to the Editor – Ed)

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Wanted!

We are grateful to Trevor Price for all the years he has been Elkstone’s NWC – but he really would like to stand down now.

If you would like to take on this role, please contact Lois - 870375



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

This year's Open Day was very special in a number of ways: first, as always it engaged the imagination of so many people, involved so much hard work by a dedicated band of villagers; nothing binds our community in such a way, nothing raises money like it does for the church and village hall ... and both are central to our social lives.

We had a fantastic day with a gratifying number of guests (raising over £940 on-the-gate). Topped off with the BBQ to end all BBQs. Perfect.

Thank you to all who played a role: gardeners, stallholders, car park attendants, helpers, tea ladies etc etc. Some who were on holiday took great care to make sure they gave all they could - Thank you.

There was great variety in amongst old favourites. Even Keith & Mandy's wishing well raised £2.05; the Village Hall's share of this will pay the electricity bill for half a day; (729 half days to go).

The committee especially thank Alex & Melinda who, in spite of Melinda suffering an awful riding accident on Friday, refused to consider not opening their garden. We all pass on our very best wishes and love for a speedy and complete recovery.

The proceeds were £2,200 and will be split 50:50 church to village hall. It is salutary to note that this is more than half of the total annual income of the village hall. For reference, in 2008 the total raised was £2,200.

As a committee we thank everyone who helped in any way; as the chairman, I particularly thank the committee: Jeremy & Anne, Ann, Sylvie and Maggie. We had several very pleasant and occasionally silly evenings planning this year's event. We made some firm friends and put in quite a bit of effort – a win-win situation.

It is right that we should celebrate our achievement, (and I celebrate enthusiastically). However, it is only right that everyone understands that we were 2 days away from cancelling Open Day for lack of support. We would then have considered what to do; one option would be to wind up the Village Hall Trust and sell the property. Our guests were gushing in their envious compliments about the village and our community spirit. We urge the village not to sleep walk to disaster.

'til next year - Nic

A Personal Greeting from Nelson Mandela

I am sure that few believed me 2 years ago, when I read out the gracious letter from Prince Charles, regretting that he would be unable to attend open gardens. So I guess that you will also not believe me when I publish this year's letter.

Dear Mr Williamson

Thank you for your invitation extended to Mr Mandela to attend the Elkstone Village Open Gardens Day.

Mr Mandela will unfortunately not be able to attend the function. As you know, Mr Mandela turned 90 last year and during his birthday he also expressed the wish to now turn his retirement into reality. He will therefore scale down on public appearances significantly, especially when it involves travel.

We trust you will understand his position and we wish Elkstone well.

Sincerely
Ms Thoko Mavuso
Nelson Mandela Foundation

phone +27 (0) 11 728 1000
107 Central Street | Houghton, 2041
Private Bag X 70 000, Houghton, 2041, SA
www.nelsonmandela.org

As Lindy will testify, Prince Charles did actually visit the village. So keep your eyes peeled for Nelson! He is known to love gardening. The Xhosa for 'Hello' is 'Dag'.

Open Day Odds & Ends

If anyone wants a programme, please contact 870556 (before we recycle).
Stall Holders / Teas etc.: Please remember to e-mail quantities used. Good supplier's details, lessons learnt to openday@az.azteck.com

Lost: Child's blue sweatshirt. I have the owner's phone number. Ring 870556.
Found: Black umbrella

Advertisement

Holiday cottage in Devon: between Beer and Branscombe

Available from August

Charming 16th century cottage in beautiful rural setting, ten minutes from the sea. Sleeps 4/5. Sitting room with beams and log fire, ceramic tiled kitchen/dining room, 3 bedrooms and newly fitted bathroom. Pretty and sunny cottage, garden and off road parking. (Regret no pets)

£200 per week for two, £280 for 3 and £340 for 4

e-mail marion.cooch@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01242 870244 for more information and photos



R A Brown's water colour painting of Elkstone Church which fetched £185 at auction.

Elkstone History Following on from Pauline's magazine article last month:

The Ringing World 4th November 1977, page 968

“Ermin Street, alias the A417, is perhaps the bleakest road in Gloucestershire as it strides across the Cotswolds through countryside which has changed little since the Roman Legions marched its length from Corinium to Glevum. There is scarcely a house in sight for the whole ten miles from Cirencester to Birdlip, but turn aside from the highway into the byways and one is rewarded with delightful Cotswold villages nestling in the valleys, whose churches are second to none. Visitors are familiar with such gems as North Cerney, tiny Duntisbourne Rous with its miniature crypt, Daglingworth and Syde, but none of these can rival Elkstone, undoubtedly the best known in the whole Cotswolds for its Norman work. Dating from about 1160, the church is basically Norman with some Perpendicular additions. Its vaulted chancel and tympanum with Christ in Majesty must be familiar to many readers through the many photographs which appear in guide books, but we must not omit to mention the unique columbarium situated above the chancel and reached by a short spiral staircase. Originally the church had a small central tower similar to several other Cotswold churches, but following its collapse it was replaced by a fine 15th century tower at the west end. It is thought that this tower has always contained four bells, for the contemporary medieval frame with four pits is still in existence and forms the basis of the present frame. Unfortunately, none of the medieval bells remains. Of the bells in the tower today the two oldest were cast in 1657 by Edward Neale of Burford, who seems to have been unusually busy in Cotswold churches during the time of the Commonwealth. A bell cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1719 was recast by Meal and Stainbank in 1933 and there is a Taylor bell of 1882. “

To be continued next Newsletter - Ed