

Elkstone Newsletter

32nd Year: No. 7 (342)

April 2016

Editor's Bit

I hope you were all out supporting 'Sport Relief'? I did 1.5k in the Swimathon on Friday morning, and the London to Brighton Run on Sunday. Fortunately, my 1913 Sunbeam motorcycle enjoys me taking her out for a jaunt to the coast. One Monday morning recently, I emailed the Highways Department to report that there were 31 potholes in less than two miles from High Cross towards Woodmancote. By 9.00am on the Wednesday, they had two crews out and filled them. Is this a record?

Reg – 21st March 2016

Features	
Elkstone Church Services Supper and Film Evening Village and Community Agent News	Elkstone Wine Tasting Evening Elkstone Gardens Open Day Optical connection in the Village Hall Local Adverts
Diary Dates	
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 20 th April – 7.30pm - Village Hall Elkstone Parish Annual Open Meeting - Wednesday 20 th April – 8.00pm - Village Hall Elkstone Supper and Film Night – Thursday 21 st April – 8.00pm for film – Village Hall Wine Tasting – 7 th May – 6.30pm – Village Hall Elkstone Gardens Open Day – 5 th June 2016	
Regular Dates	
Waste and recycling	Food + garden waste – Every Friday
Waste and recycling	All bags, bins + boxes — April 8 th and 22 nd
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: Wednesday 20th April 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

April 3rd - Morning Prayer 10.00am - Rev A Champion

April 10th - Family service 10.00am - Alexandra Dyer

April 17th - Holy Communion – 11.00am - Rev C Pooley

April 24th - Songs of Praise – 10.00am - Rev G Cox

David Pierce

Elkstone Film Night - Thursday April 21st

This month we are actually showing **Bridge of Spies** - We didn't realise that the DVD would not have released in time for last month's newsletter, hence it re-appears here...

Directed by Steven Spielberg, **Bridge of Spies** is a dramatic thriller, which tells the story of James Donovan (played by Tom Hanks), a Brooklyn insurance claims lawyer who finds himself thrust into the centre of the Cold War when the CIA sends him on the near-impossible task to negotiate the release of a captured American U-2 pilot.

The evening starts with a sausage casserole supper at 7.00 pm, followed by the film at 8.00 pm.

Supper plus Film: £10.00 each paid via marked up envelope through our letterbox at Manor Farm Cottage, Elkstone by 7.00pm Monday 18th April please; Film-only viewers: £5.00 paid on the night

Jeremy and Anne - 870516

Village and Community Agent News

Gloucestershire Trading standard have issued the following message:

“Beware Blue Badge application scam”

G.C.C is warning of scam websites that are charging people to apply for a Blue Badge, when the process should be available free.

A blue badge is available to disabled people to allow them free parking and access to services and facilities. It can be applied for free of charge through the Gloucestershire County Council website or by contacting the Countywide Blue Badge Team on 01242 532302. They will post the application form directly to the applicant.

There is now a charge of £10 if a badge is issued sent with the completed form with a recent photograph.

When it becomes time to renew an existing badge a renewal form should be sent automatically to the badge holder, though applicants may be asked to attend an assessment for mobility needs. I hope this information will be of some help when applying for a Blue Badge in future.

Best wishes

Cynthia Laird - Cynthia@villageagent.grcc.org.uk - 07776 245780

GCC is carrying out an all-age Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Needs

Analysis to map need and trends for people with physical disabilities and impairments. The outcome of this will be the creation of a report, which will help to inform future GCC policy.

If you have a disability, and would like to participate in this survey, (or ask someone to reply for you,) it's online at <https://gloucestershire-consult.objective.co.uk/public/socialcare/pds/pds>

Hard copies of the survey are also available. The survey is open until Sunday 8th May.

Elkstone Wine Tasting - May 7th 2016 at 18.30 in the Village Hall

Balkan and Levant Trilogies

Olivia Manning's Balkan and Levant trilogies encompass battle, marital misery, the fear of defeat, many personal betrayals and tragedies, and contain extraordinary portrayals of life as it was really lived in Bucharest, Athens, Cairo and Damascus at the end of the British colonial era. This is a compelling read or viewing as the BBC series Fortunes Of War!

Our now selected wines for the 7th May follow the main protagonists of the series, Guy and Harriet Pringle as they flee the advancing Nazi armies from Bucharest to Athens, Damascus and Cairo. "The Balkans has a surplus of history, which it exports," Winston Churchill remarked; and fortunately now the same is true about their wines

So now we can all move on to the fun bit of tasting these wines. The committee has certainly enjoyed selecting them. We can assure you that although sometimes idiosyncratic and idiomatic of their territories, you will find all excellent in their own ways.

Tickets are now available for the many friends and neighbours who have already indicated that they will attend the event and started forming themselves into teams. That said some places are still available so if you have not already put the date in your diary, do contact one of the committee as soon as possible.

As a reminder, tickets are £10 a head, which will include a typical Elkstone Mediterranean themed supper as well as the tasting wines; and, of course there will be points as well as prizes for the oenophiles and the wine-gums.

Andy - andy@pobox.com

Arnold - arnolddeering@gofast.co.uk

Brian - brian.howlett@virgin.net

David - drpierce@msn.com

Latest Update on Elkstone Gardens Open Day 5th June 2016

We now have even more village gardeners who have committed to opening their gardens on 5th June, including those who have never opened previously or who have taken a break for several years. Once again we would like to say many, many thanks to all of you for making this valuable and fundamental contribution to the Elkstone Village Open Day.

If you would like to help in other ways then volunteers are most welcomed for car parking duty at the Rectory field. We aim to limit each stint to a maximum of 1 hour. Ronnie Bury has kindly agreed to organise the roster. If you would like to take part in marshalling the cars and taking payment from our visitors please contact him or the Committee. The roster is beginning to fill, though we would ideally like more to commit well ahead of time so that we know that this important aspect of the day is covered.

Additionally Jennie Howlett and Margaret Holder always need help at the Village Hall teas and donations of home made cakes, which our guests particularly enjoy. Rachael Richardson and Catherine Birch will also need lots of supporters for the popular cream teas, which this year will be at Granary Barn.

Finally the Plant Stall is always a must go-to for our guests; and we are pleased that Jo Allison has kindly offered to organise and host the stall on the Rectory Drive near the church: an ideal location. A further reminder too that we would be grateful for horticulturally inclined villagers to pot up a few extra cuttings or seedlings for sale on the day. In particular visitors have commented that they would like to purchase plants they see in the open gardens. So please bear this in mind as you prepare your donations.

Dave Collins is up for organising the Tombola stall and would welcome good quality items to feature as prizes. Though as yet we have not been able to find an organiser of the Bric a Brac stall. This feature always makes a significant contribution to the overall proceeds of Open Day so we would be grateful to anyone who would like to step up and take on this responsibility. Publicity is well in hand and Elkstone Open Day will be featured in a wide range of media from now onwards. There are also A4 and A3 posters available for you to place in your workplace, favourite nursery, social club, etc. Please contact the Committee if you need some. Finally Social Media savvy villagers please re-tweet on Twitter and/or share on Facebook.

A warm spring is now needed to bring out the best in our gardens by June!

Brian – brian.howlett@virgin.net

Anne – seabran@btinternet.com

Eric – e.magnuson@me.com

Maggie – maggie.marriott@btinternet.com

Superfast Broadband comes to Elkstone Village Hall

Ed's note

I asked Jeremy to take us through why the Village Hall is connected and running, whilst villagers who have been signed up and had routers installed (as long as six weeks ago) have had various "go live dates" and / or "technical reasons" why they cannot have their service activated.

At the appointed time, two admirable engineers from Boxcom, Gigaclear's commissioning contractors arrived at the hall to install the router.



Outside, a little channel through the paving from the pot to the wall of the hall was easily created with a big grinder.

After a few minutes' discussion, the best place for the router inside the hall, and its connection to the 'pot' outside was decided upon, and the work commenced. Drilling the small hole for the final run of cable is always done from the inside, so as to avoid damage to the décor. There was virtually no dust, what was there collected on the sheeting.



After ten minutes of checking connections, the router was powered up, and after about 90 seconds of blinking lights on its panel, it was up and running

There remains a small amount of work to do to make the wifi signal easy for hirers of the hall to link up laptops, etc. (without it being free to all and sundry) but by the beginning of April, all should be in place.

The completion of this installation has clearly happened well ahead of the many households who having enrolled several months ago, and the Hall Committee appreciates how this has happened so easily and quickly, it is a very important amenity for the village.

For everyone still waiting for their routers to go live, the fact is that, unseen, a great many checks have to be made to ensure good data integrity on one of the fastest services in the country, possibly even in Europe, and achieving this for every household will take until the end of May.

Having for so long been living in a 'backwater' for internet connectivity, residents of Elkstone will come to regard themselves as very fortunate.

Jeremy Davies – Chair, Elkstone Village Hall

Advertisement

Cowley Village Fete "A Grand Day Out"

Saturday May 14th 2016, 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Our traditional village fete activities, stalls and games including

Fun Dog Show, Terrier Racing, ALPACA corner and fleece-spinning,

Tug-of War, Tombola, Coconut Shy, Face-Painting, Splat-the-Rat, Sack Race,

Egg and Spoon Race, and other entertainment for children.

Stalls include Cakes, Plants, Genuine Home Produce, Books, DVDs, Computer Games, Pre-loved clothes, Bric-a-Brac

Refreshments BBQ, Licensed Bar, Cream Teas, Ice-Cream

Live Music – UKESANON UKELELE BAND

Venue Centre of Cowley Village – which will be signposted

All proceeds for the maintenance of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Cowley