

Elkstone Newsletter

32nd Year: No. 4 (339)

January 2016

Editor's Bit

The view outside is of sunshine and light winds. This is really unusual for the end of December. The high winds, over-clouded skies and rain mixed with the current warm spell is confusing some of our SAD readers so nip out when you can and take a dose of vitamin D!

The Gigaclear works to lay fibre optic cabling is coating the lanes with mud so please take care!

Reg – 22nd December 2015

Features	
Elkstone Christingle & Church Services Invitation to Elkstoners Supper and Film Evening Rendcomb Surgery Support Group Report	Wine Tasting Evening Gardens Open Day Community Speedwatch Training A 417 Traffic Survey
Diary Dates	
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 13 th January – Elkstone village Hall – 8.00pm Elkstone Film and Supper evening – Thursday 21 st January – Village Hall – 7.00/8.00pm Elkstone Gardens Open Day – 5 th June 2016	
Regular Dates	
Waste and recycling	Food + garden waste – Monday 28 th , Saturday 9 th & Friday 22 nd
Waste and recycling	All bags, bins + boxes — Monday 4 th Fridays 15 th & 29 th
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 January please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net	

Elkstone Church Services

3rd January - Christingle Service at 10.00am - Jennie Howlett and Children's Society
(Please remember to bring your collection boxes for the Children's Society to the Christingle Service on 3rd January.)

10th January - Family Service at 10.00am - Rev Arthur Champion

17th January - Holy Communion at 11.00am - Rev Arthur Champion

24th January - Songs of Praise at 10.00am - Frank Booth

31st January - United service at Cowley at 10.00am - Archdeacon Robert Springett

David Pierce

Christingle Service

Sunday January 3rd at 10am will be our annual Christingle service when we remember the work of the Children's Society. If you have collecting boxes, which you have been using during the year, please remember to bring them to the service. We hope to have a representative from the Children's Society at the service to talk about some of the work in which they are involved.

Christingle celebrations have been taking place all over the country for the past 47 years. In that time, Christingle has grown to become an incredibly popular event, embraced by people from all areas of society.

Our Christingle celebration includes songs, prayers, an entertaining talk, and a collection to help support work by The Children's Society, so that it can keep working with some of the country's most disadvantaged children. During the service house boxes are also returned to add to the collection. Last year about £2 million was raised from these boxes - an amazing amount considering most of the donations are made up of loose change.

The highlight of the Christingle service is the lighting of the Christingle candles under dimmed lights - a very special moment for children and adults alike. Please join us for this special service.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

Dear Everyone,

We would like to invite you all for drinks at Manor Barn, Elkstone on Sunday 10th January from 3.00pm to 6.00pm. Please let us know if you can come. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Best wishes,

Rachael, Andy, Oscar, Tom and Jamie

RSVP - 870581

New Year's first Supper and Film evening: Thursday 21st January

The film to start the year at Elkstone Village Hall will be **Suite Française**: Based on the best-selling book by Irene Nemirovsky and set during the German occupation of France in the 1940's, the film tells the story of Lucile Angellier as she awaits news from her husband, a prisoner of war. As Parisian refugees pour into their small town, soon followed by a regiment of German soldiers who take up residence in the villagers' homes, Lucile's life is turned upside down, further complicated by the arrival of refined German officer, Bruno. This is a story of the power of love and the tragedy of war.

Cast includes: Kristin Scott Thomas, Margot Robbie, Ruth Wilson, Michelle Williams.

Supper will be Chicken Tarragon starting 7:00pm, with the film at 8:00pm.

Film and Supper £10.00 each in a marked envelope through our letterbox at Manor Farm Cottage Elkstone by 6.00pm Monday 14th please; Film only £5.00 paid at the door.

Jeremy and Anne - 870516

Rendcomb Surgery Patients' Support Group Christmas Coffee Morning/Cake Sale (5th December, 2015)

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such a wonderful success. With the weather being mild it was very well attended. Thanks to all who made cakes and mince pies; those who provided Raffle prizes and lots of things to sell; as well as those who came along to help make it such a special occasion. The £405.10 raised will be used for the benefit of Rendcomb Surgery patients.

Pauline Farman and Jennie Howlett

UNICEF Gift and Card Sale

Thanks to all who supported the UNICEF Sale last month. I was able to take nearly £150 to the local agent in Fairford. He is always so grateful for our contributions to this children's charity.

Jennie Howlett

Future Date Alert

Wine Tasting Evening at the Village Hall Saturday 7th May 2016

Based on the success of the 2015 evening of *art de vivre* there seems to be support for another in Spring next year. Watch this space for further news".

Brian Howlett - brian.howlett@virgin.net

Elkstone Gardens Open Day 2016 Update

The Committee is beginning to form with, so far, three commitments to participate including one of the latest arrivals in the village, which is very encouraging indeed. Ideally I need another person to sign up so that we can share out responsibilities equally for the various activities needed to make next year's event as successful as in 2015.

Teas will be organised by Jennie and Margaret at the Village Hall as usual, with ice creams served at Enfield Farm and cream teas at a venue to be decided. Once again we are grateful to Jo and John Allison for the use of the Rectory field for car parking. The core of the event and its main attraction is of course the many beautiful gardens there are in the village; and I am pleased to have already 6 villagers who have offered to open their gardens. Ideally we need a total of 10-12 gardens. Size doesn't matter - visitors like to see how people have adapted their plot to the maximum effect so as to take away inspiration for their own gardens. Please help if you can.

As for the last few years we are planning for the first weekend in June for this year's event. There are several advantages to this selection: fewer competitive events, ahead of the main summer sporting highlights and peak holiday period. Most of all though, the village always looks gorgeous at this time with the leaves still fresh green on the trees and the lanes frothy with cow parsley.

Please mark the date 5th June 2016 in your calendar and please indicate if you are able to help in any way. On the day we always need support in particular for the teas, for car park marshalling, and most importantly, the post-event barbecue on the Village Green.

As you know the proceeds from this event are fundamentally important contributors to the Village's two main community centres: the Church and Village Hall, as well as bringing the village together in a joint venture, so all offers of help are of course most welcomed!

Brian Howlett - brian.howlett@virgin.net

Letter to a parishioner

Thank you for your recent enquiry to our Customer Contact Centre about the recent traffic surveys in Elkstone near the A417, received by our department on 25th November 2015.

Your enquiry has been passed to us in the Major Projects department, as we are the team that will manage the delivery of the scheme that commissioned the survey.

The purpose of the surveys was to collect information on the traffic travelling through the road section between Cowley and Air Balloon roundabouts that will be subject to studies on improving this section of the road as well as Crickley Hill. The information collected included both numbers and types of vehicles as well as information on the origins and destinations of traffic movements through conducting interviews with drivers.

The location of the interview survey sites was chosen for this purpose and so that surveyed vehicles could be stopped safely in laybys. With the survey locations to the north of the Highwayman and the route through Elkstone this particular survey will not directly advise as to the extent of the problem of cars diverting off the main road using the "fastest" route between Cirencester and Cheltenham. However these surveys will be only part of the information being collected in the area.

Recent count surveys commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council included counts on many local roads in the area. These included turning counts on the Highwayman Junction and an automatic traffic count on the road via Elkstone. Having spoken to the council I can tell you that the provisional results showed daily traffic of the order of 2850 vehicles per day using this route however the analysis of this data has not yet been completed.

Gloucestershire County Council would be the best group to contact to raise your concerns over the use of this route, since they are the highway authority for this road. Highways England only sign local destinations from the nearby junctions on the A417 to discourage longer distance traffic from using these less suitable local roads.

I hope that the explanation above answers your questions about the recent traffic surveys. There is a direct correspondence mailbox available for any further questions you may have about the A417 "Missing Link" scheme

A417MissingLinkatAirBalloon@highwaysengland.co.uk further information about this scheme is available on or web site at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/>

Yours Sincerely, Katharine Gough, Project Manager, Highways England

NB. The reference to the traffic count of 2850 vehicles per day is interesting.

As Editor, I would invite you to send for publication, copies of correspondence with either of the agencies mentioned above. When this work starts, we could be in for exciting times on 'our' bypass link to Cheltenham. We can already see the effect that the Gigaclear workings are having on our local lanes.

Community Speed Watch Training Sessions

Some newer arrivals now living in Elkstone have asked if they could help with the Speed Watch sessions based at the Westerleigh cross-roads -

"In response to recent enquiries I propose to run the above at Cirencester Police Station on the times and dates below. I understand that there are volunteers who are keen to join existing schemes. I would be grateful if you could establish their availability and send Andrea, our local PCSO, and Reg Eyre their names along with which date they could attend."

Saturday 9th Jan 2016 at 3.00pm

Tuesday 12th Jan 2016 at 6.00pm

Depending on the numbers attending the training will take between an hour and an hour and a half.

Sgt. Garrett Gloyn

Stop Press

Yesterday (21st December) the Editorial Garret was subject to a frontal attack by the forces of the Great FibreOptic Installers. The three operatives dug their way along the 3/190 from High Cross, across the field gate entrance, pedestrian access and the drive in a little over one morning. They have re-instated the surfaces that were dug out to lay the cable, and will provide turf to cover the exposed trench top.

I would say that they, like the men who dug the gas main pipeline a few years ago, are professional in their work and relatively tidy.

The downside was watching impatient vehicle drivers who ignored the temporary traffic lights and were then forced to reverse when faced by traffic travelling in the opposite direction and obeying the green light.

Editor

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Ultrafast fibre broadband is coming!

The first Gigaclear fibre cabinet and first customers are live on our network!

We are delighted to announce that the first Gigaclear fibre cabinet in Cockleford is now live and connected to the Gigaclear network and there are already customers benefitting from our ultrafast fibre network.

The rollout will now continue, with residents in Coberley, Upper Coberley, Cockleford, Colesbourne, Cowley, Elkstone, Seven Springs and Stockwell, set to have access to Gigaclear's ultrafast Internet service in the first quarter of 2016.

The current schedule is as follows:

- The Gigaclear fibre cabinet went live in Cockleford at the beginning of December 2015 which will enable us to test all the connections before they can be made live for customer use.
- The fibre broadband connection points (pots) which we place at the boundary of each property will be tested and expected to be useable by our customers between now and the end of March 2016.
- We anticipate the Gigaclear network build in your area to be completed by the end of March 2016.

Note: Dates may be subject to change if external factors beyond our control prevent us from carrying out our works.

In the meantime, let us remind you of what you will get with Gigaclear:

- Unlimited data usage and ultrafast speeds of up to 100Mbps for downloads AND uploads
- The speed to make full use of 'Smart TV' and other online media equipment and entertainment services
- The ability to use multiple devices, simultaneously
- Our network will not limit or interrupt access to online services at any time of the day
- Unlimited and uninterrupted access to all online services
- Crystal clear audio and video Skype conversations

To find out more about the project rollout:

Visit: www.fastershire.com

Email: info@fastershire.com

To find out if your property is included or to place an order, please visit:

www.gigaclear.com/fastershire

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