

# Elkstone Newsletter

23rd Year: No. 5 (269)

February 2010

## Editor's Bit

Confused about dustbin collection dates? – Wrong type of snow on the roads? CDC advice is to put out bags, boxes and bins on the due date, and leave them out if they're not emptied.

However, grateful thanks go to our snow clearing tractor drivers, Martyn and David. I would also like to commend the daughters Hobbs for adding a note of cheer with their display of snow bears at High Cross.

A reminder for anyone out late on Saturday/Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> February that the Gloucester Scouts Marathon takes place overnight and will use a checkpoint tent at Westerleigh, which has been hosted there by the Partridge family for 30 years.

*Reg*

Features	
Winter Grief Toy Service in Elkstone Church February ERG Walk Elkstone Rural Cinema	Nature Notes Open Day 2010 Green Dragon Polar Bears in Elkstone
Dates for your Diary	
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February – ERG Walk – Andoversford– 10.15 for 10.30am start	
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February – Toy Service – St John's Church – 10.00am	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Rural Cinema – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.15pm for 7.30pm start	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> March – Quiz – Elkstone Village Hall	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2010 – Elkstone Open Day	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste –Mondays 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – possibly Mondays 8 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>
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 March Edition: <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b> please	
<b><i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></i></b>	

## Winter Grief

Blow, blow thou Winter wind  
Thou art not so unkind  
As Haiti's brutal quake.  
With shock and aftershock  
The crazy buildings rock  
So many lives to take.

*Con*

Freeze, freeze then bitter sky  
But let the nations try  
To forget their trivial strife.  
We see each country send  
A helping hand to lend  
To save a precious life.

### **ERG Walk - Saturday 13th February**

Carole and Ronnie are leading the February ERG Walk.

We will take a walk of 3.5 miles beginning in the Village of Andoversford. The walk takes in a mixture of roads, tracks, public footpaths and bridleways and at this time of year will have some muddy patches. Parking is likely to be in Station Road, but we will confirm nearer the date. We will meet at 10.15 am.

OS Landranger 163. Starting Point grid reference approx. 012 199

*Carole and Ronnie – 870493*

### **Elkstone Church - Toy Service**

**February 14th - 10.00am**

Thank you to all who braved the weather and came to the Christingle service in January, a great turnout despite the weather.

Our family service in February will be a "Toy Service"; so if there are any toys which have been grown out of, or are no longer needed and are in good condition, please bring them to the service, and come and join us. It is good to remember those who have less than we do, and to share with them. All gifts will be given to the local women's refuge, which helps those women, and their children, who for various reasons have had to leave their homes with virtually nothing. If you are not able to join us for the Service, but would still like to make a gift then either deliver them to us before the service, or leave them in the vestry at the Church.

*David and Sylvie Pierce*

### **Elkstone Village Cinema**

The feature for Friday February 19th is "Creation".

This is a powerful and true-life tale of Charles Darwin and the most explosive idea in history.

The Village Hall doors will open at 7.15pm for 7.30 start.

Entrance is £3.50 for adults and £2.50 for under 16s.

Everybody welcome!

*Sue Collins*

### **Nature Notes**

Those who had kept topped-up bird feeders during this snowy January have enjoyed seeing the hungry birds feeding. It has been mentioned to me how many different species have been observed – spotted woodpecker, bullfinch, chaffinch, sparrow, dunnock, robin, tits – great, blue, coal and long-tailed; thrush, blackbird and even pigeon which are rather heavy and make the bird table sway about!

One mystery is solved – I wondered where all the mice and field voles had gone from my woodpile; then I saw a small, brown, quick-moving culprit – a weasel moving so quickly by the woodpile – not a welcome neighbour for the other occupants!

Years ago, a family of weasels had a home in a straw stack near the wall in Uncombe, and I often saw them playing in the road and near the stack. They were so pretty and so quick; and they seemed to have a sort of dancing routine.

Fox and rabbit tracks have been plentiful in the snow, showing how hungry they were looking for food; badger tracks have been spotted too.

I hope you enjoyed seeing the polar bears at High Cross before they melted.

*Jessie*

## **Open Day 2010 – Help Please!**

Date for your Diary: June 27<sup>th</sup> 2010

Not only socially important in its own right, but vital for the Church, Village Hall and a healthy village!

Between the publication of this newsletter and the next we will be holding the first committee meeting. Attendees will be the core committee from last year, but please come forward to join and help. ... believe me it is not exclusive in any way - no age limit, no IQ test, open to any ideas, looking for new ideas. ... it is not my event, it is yours and ours.

*Open Day Committee - openday@az.azteck.com - Nic – 870556*

## **History of our Houses - The Green Dragon**

Previously known as the Cockleford Inn, The Green Dragon dates back to 1675; it is one of several inns situated next to a crossing of the River Churn. There was a blacksmith's next door to the inn, possibly in what is now the Function Room, which was previously a skittle alley. It would have been possible to hire extra horses here to help pull wagons and carts up the hill towards Elkstone, and on towards Ermin Street or the Bath Lane. In the last 20 years or so, the inn has been considerably extended and refurbished. Its oak bars and furnishings were commissioned from Robert Thompson, the 'Mouse Man' of Kilburn near York.

*HistoryHound*

*(Here's the first item in the promised new series – please make this series work by e-mailing me a few lines about the history of your house for future editions – Ed)*

## **Snow Bears at High Cross**

Many thanks go to the Hobbs girls who amused us by modeling polar bears and their cubs either side of the field gate at High Cross crossroads.



The thnow has stopped  
The wind has dropped  
The thaw has started  
In my thaw throat!

*Willie Eckerslike*