

# Elkstone Newsletter

23rd Year: No. 7 (271)

April 2010

## Editor's Bit

I apologise for worrying some people because I was riding a 1909 Triumph motorcycle around the mile block in preparation for the London to Brighton Pioneer Run last March. This machine has no clutch, gears or starter and hence at every stop, the rider has to dismount, run and bump-start to get going. The practise on relatively quiet roads meant that I could proceed quite slowly in town traffic and re-start easily. So thanks for your forbearance with these practice sessions.

*Reg (20-03-10)*

Features	
Welcome to Elkstone Thank you Elkstone Church Services for April April ERG Walk Elkstone Parish Council News Elkstone Quiz and Supper	Help for Heroes Nature Notes Open Day 2010 History of our Houses Elkstone Reserve Special Preserve Advertisement
Dates for your Diary	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April – ERG Walk – The Plough Inn, Ford – by 9.40am	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April – Annual Open Parish Meeting – Elkstone Village Hall – 8.00pm	
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> April – Quiz and Supper – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.15pm	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May – Help for Heroes Coffee Morning – The Old Rectory, Colesbourne	
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> May – Carvery Dinner and Skittles Evening – Little Owl, Cheltenham	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2010 – Elkstone Open Day	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste – every Monday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Mondays 5 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</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 May Edition: <b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> please	
<b><i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></i></b>	

## Welcome to Elkstone

We welcome Lorraine Kyte to the Dolls House and Heather Teather who has moved into Peacock Cottage.

## Thank you

We would like to thank all those who have sent messages of support following William's injuries, sustained in Afghanistan in December. Will is currently at Headley Court Rehabilitation Centre and is making great progress. We are organising a fundraising event at Rendcomb Airfield in May in aid of Help for Heroes and The Rifles Benevolent Fund.

If anyone would like further details please call us.

*Robert and Jilly Dixon – 870544*

### **Elkstone Church - April Services**

4th April - 9.30 am - Easter Day Family Communion, followed by the Easter Egg Hunt

11th April - 10 am - Family Service

18th April - 11 am - Morning Prayer

25th April - 10 am - Songs of Praise

**Bells** will be rung on Easter Monday, 5th April between 2.45 pm and 3.30 pm

**The Annual Vestry Meeting** for the election of churchwardens will take place on Saturday 17th April at 9.30 am at 2 Hillview, Elkstone, to be followed by the Parochial Church Council Meeting.

*Sylvie Pierce*

### **ERG Walk: Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**Meet by 9.40 a.m. at the Plough Inn, Ford** – please park in the rear car park behind the pub.

The Plough is on the B 4077 Teddington Hands (Tewkesbury) to Stow on the Wold road, at grid ref approx 088 294.

Our walk will start promptly at 9.45 a.m. The route is a mild to moderate circuit of about 6 miles via Pinnock and Cutsdean, with a steepish climb up out of Temple Guiting – an ascent of 50 metres in just under 0.25 of a mile; however, there will also be some level or near-level walking, and not many stiles, so we should make good time.

Expect mud in a few places, also some scenic points, historic buildings and a couple of surprises.

*Lois - 870375*

### **News from the Parish Council**

Through the winter, the Parish Council received a number of complaints about potholes in our local roads and lanes, these complaints were duly passed on to Gloucestershire Highways. Some complaints seemed to be acted on more promptly than others – of particular note was the pothole near Field Close, which we know was reported at least 5 times, starting before Christmas!

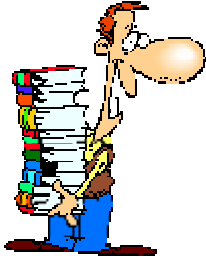
However, parishioners do not need to route pothole complaints via the Parish Council, they can be reported directly to Gloucestershire Highways using the free phone number 08000 514 514,

or by e-mailing: [highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk), or online by going to the Gloucestershire County Council website and following the ‘report a problem on the roads’ links.

It helps if you can give not only a precise location of the pothole, but also its dimensions – holes over 3000 mm by 2000 mm by 1000 mm deep get priority. If you are given a reference number for your complaint, be sure to keep it so that you can track progress, and follow up if nothing seems to happen.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April is the date for the Annual Parish Open Meeting, to which all parishioners are invited – it starts at 8.00 p.m., preceded by a short Parish Council Meeting. Coming to the Open Meeting will be our District Councillor Nic Parsons; our County Councillor Shaun Parsons will try to attend; and we are also expecting two members of the Wormington to Sapperton gas main project team (the recently-placed red markers indicate the line it will take through the west of the parish) who will answer questions about the effect (or otherwise) the installation work will have on the parish.

*Lois - 870375*



QUIZ AND SUPPER  
NEW DATE!  
SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
VILLAGE HALL  
7.15PM

*AS MANY OF OUR REGULARS FOR THIS POPULAR EVENT ARE AWAY ON THE MARCH DATE, WE HAVE CHANGED IT TO APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>.*

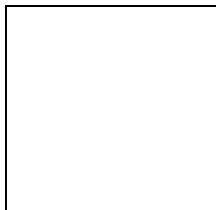
DAVID COLLINS HAS VERY KINDLY AGREED TO SET THE QUESTIONS AGAIN FOR OUR VERY POPULAR ANNUAL QUIZ. WE WILL FOLLOW THE USUAL FORMAT WITH ANSWERING ON A TEAM BASIS. NO NEED TO COME AS A TEAM AS WE WILL MAKE UP 4 TO A TABLE.

WE WILL END THE EVENING WITH A COLD BUFFET SUPPER SO PLEASE RING JULIA DAVEY ON 870038, ***BEFORE 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL***, WITH YOUR OFFER OF FOOD SO WE CAN CO-ORDINATE A GOOD SPREAD. TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED BUT PLEASE BRING ANY OTHER DRINK YOU WOULD LIKE.

HOPEFULLY WE MIGHT SEE SOME NEW FACES AT THIS EVENT – IT'S GREAT FUN!

ENTRANCE £2

EVENTS COMMITTEE



*Date For Your Diary - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May*

Carvery Dinner and Skittles Night at the Little Owl, Cheltenham.

Lifts available if you need transport. More details in the next newsletter or call Julia Davey on 870038 to register your interest.

### **Help for Heroes - 5th May 2010**

We are holding a Coffee Morning with Raffle and Stalls.

It will be from 10am to 12noon in the restaurant and hopefully in the garden if good weather permits!

We need good quality gifts and books to sell or a raffle prize if anyone has something to drop by - that would be great

Many thanks for your support

*Diana - The Old Rectory, Colesbourne*

### **Nature Notes**

Walking down the road I was surprised to see an extraordinary sight – I wondered who had dressed a big holly tree with white decorations, as though it were a Christmas tree. Curiosity getting the better of me, I scrambled down to see, and found that all the shiny dark holly leaves that faced the sun were reflecting white light, giving this peculiar impression.

The present TV series on astronomy reminded me of an incident some years ago, when two gentlemen set up telescopes in North Cerney churchyard, just outside our window. It was a bitterly cold night, so after a time, my sister and I decided they might like a hot cup of tea.

When we went out to see, they told us that they were waiting to see a particular star which was due to cross near the moon a few minutes before nine o'clock, and they'd come to North Cerney to avoid any light pollution. Unfortunately, a little cloud drifted across just at the crucial time! So the opportunity was missed. My sister and I were rewarded with views of the moon through their very powerful telescopes and it was really amazing.

*Jessie*

### **Open Day 2010 – Help Please**

Date for your Diary: June 27, 2010

Plans are moving along nicely with people getting involved.

#### **Help Needed:**

Gardens                    of course! We urgently need a couple more

Books                      Please set aside books etc.

BBQ

Looking after the signs

Car Park

Special features, such as: Vintage machinery display

### **Elkstone Special Reserve Preserve**

Last year we had many enquiries about the jam (at the Teas). Michaela is organising jam making and Elkstone Special Reserve Preserve will be on sale. Please set aside jam jars and lids (especially of interesting shapes).

*Michaela - 870387*

We have as confirmed: hay rides, bell ringing, string quartet, bric-a-brac, clothes, tombola, plants, ice cream, art show, potato growing(!), church flowers, teas: village hall / Manor Farm

*Open Day Committee - [openday@az.azteck.com](mailto:openday@az.azteck.com) - Nic – 870556*

### **History of Our Houses – High Cross Farm**

Our bungalow was completed in 1988 after two years of building by ourselves and Aunt Jessie.

We dug it into the bank, using a design and materials that we hoped would fit into the landscape. An extension was added more recently to accommodate the growing family.

The farm was rented from the War Agricultural Committee in the early 1940s.

It belonged to the Pope family, and was part of a much larger estate. It was subsequently bought by Grandfather Hindson in the 1950s when the Pope family sold up.

Some of the field names are mentioned in the local history records – Uncombe Wood is the rough steep bank that drops away north from Uncombe Lane just beyond the wicket gate onto the public footpath; it was the last recorded common hill belonging to Elkstone parish. To the east are the poplars, which were planted to provide timber for the Morlands Match Factory in Gloucester, but that business closed, and the trees are still there! At the bottom of this field just in the neighbour's bank are the remains of a medieval sheep wash. The field to the east of this is called North Slait, slait being an Anglo Saxon word for sheep grazing. South Slait is on the other side of the lane, closer to the village. Sheep have played, and continue to play, an important role in the rural economy of the Cotswolds.

Blackbush Piece is also mentioned in the records, it still has ancient blackthorns, which show a stunning display of white blossom in the Spring.

More recent history has left us with a row of bomb craters, caused by a German bomber dropping its load here rather than over Gloucester; and our bottom boundary fence still includes the remains of fencing constructed by German prisoners of war.

*Matt & Pat Hobbs*

### **Editor's Note**

Some notices for this Newsletter came with specific requests to preserve the given formatting. It is not my intention to do this in future. I have tried to maintain a standard that uses the same font and layout throughout the Newsletter. Emphasis is then given to text by the use of bold, not underlining, and text height. In this way, I have tried to maintain a consistent standard and format for the Newsletter.

Please note that all contributions should be sent in Word 97 format since the steam driven Editorial Mac is incapable of converting later versions of Word documents.

### **Stop Press**

The engineers working on the new gas main, which passes Elkstone, inform me that fences will be erected in fields before the end of March with a view to starting work just after Easter. This may mean delays on the local lanes where trenches will be cut through the surface and metal plates laid over for cars to drive over. Where the line crosses major roads, such as the 3/190 on Bubbs Hill, the engineers will tunnel under the surface.

*Editor*

# Colesbourne Filling Station Shop and Post Office

## Spring has Sprung!

Have you tried our convenient  
Laundry and Dry Cleaning Service?  
Leave it with us on Friday – Collect on Tuesday

**Walk this way!!**  
Have your Shoes and Boots Repaired here

Leave with us on Friday, collect following Friday  
(Subject to work load)

### Read all about it!

If you would be interested in Newspapers/Magazines being delivered by us, on a **daily basis**, to a central location in **Elkstone**, please ring or email us

Churn Valley Services Ltd., Colesbourne Filling Station, Cheltenham

Telephone: 01242-870357 email: Sarah@Churnvalleyservices.eclipse.co.uk

### Open Day Potato Growing Competition

The competition is hotting up and there are rumours of compost being used by some competitors.

It is clear that the potato on the right has been on the Methedrone.

Buy a ready-chitted seed potato (first early) and a bucket for £5. Plant your potato, then love and care for it until Open Day. At the BBQ your bucket will be emptied and your potatoes weighed. You keep the crop.

There will be prizes: one for adults, one for children under 15 for the largest crop and one for the largest potato grown. Please join in!

Competitive Potato Growers should contact the Committee. -

*openday@az.azteck.com - Nic – 870556 until April 1 and Anne and Jeremy Davies, Manor Farm Cottage 870516 thereafter*



### Stop Press – from honorary Printer – I trust honorary Editor will forgive me.

I feel sure that the honorary and honourable Parish Council meant that:

‘potholes over 100 mm deep get priority.’