

Elkstone Newsletter

23rd Year: No. 8 (272)

May 2010

Editor's Bit

The weather has remained dry and sunny with some cold winds, but hasn't the absence of vapour trails across the skies been good, allowing us to see clear blue sky. The only exception was the flight of two helicopters, very low, directly over our house causing the tiles to rattle. Chinooks should be banned from low flying over domestic dwellings!

Reg (22-04-10)

Features	
Help for Heroes May ERG Walk Bobby's Big Day Out Nature Notes	Rural Cinema History of our Houses Open Gardens Day 2010
Dates for your Diary	
Wednesday 5 th May – Help for Heroes Coffee Morning – The Old Rectory, Colesbourne	
Saturday 8 th May – Carvery and Skittles Night – Little Owl – 7.00pm	
Saturday 15 th May – May ERG Walk – Seven Tuns, Chedworth – 09.45am meet	
Wednesday 19 th May – Parish Council A.G.M. – Village Hall – 8.30 pm	
Sunday 27 th June 2010 – Elkstone Open Day	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste – every Monday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Mondays 3 rd , 17 ^h and 31st May
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: Thursday 20th May please	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

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

Carvery and Skittles Night – Saturday 8th May – 7.00pm

Booking deadline is Saturday 1st May

Book now for an evening of fun and laughter at the Little Owl in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.

Food will be served at 7.00pm, at a cost of 5.00 per head for the carvery, with desserts and drinks extra. This will be followed by an evening of playing skittles in the private skittle alley – no charge for playing skittles.

Please contact Sue Collins by 1st May to book your place(s)

Events Committee – Julia Davey – 870038 or Sue Collins - 870373

ERG Walk: Saturday 15th May

Meet: Seven Tuns, Chedworth – 9.45 am for 10.00 start

Distance about 5 miles, 2.5 hours duration.

Chedworth and Upper Coln Valley Surrounds

A five mile walk, part hilly, part level, starting and finishing at the Seven Tuns Inn, Chedworth. Some stiles, but nothing excessive; was a bit muddy in parts when we checked it 3 weeks ago, so walking boots might be advisable!

We pass through a highly scenic part of the Cotswolds, including the Chedworth Roman Villa, the meandering Coln river bank, and parts of Chedworth itself, which is a classic Cotswold village from the glory days of the wool trade. For railway buffs, the route passes beneath the amazing Victorian brickwork of a bridge supporting the long-defunct Midlands & South Western Railway, which once routed key traffic from the Midlands through to the south coast ports.

Directions: the simplest way is via North Cerney, though to Calmsden; follow the road north (signposted for Chedworth) for about a mile, cross Fields Road, turn left in about 500 yards into Cheap Street, and first right into Queen Street, and the Seven Tuns is on the right; go into their car park which is adjacent. Those who wish to can lunch in the Seven Tuns afterwards.

OS Grid Reference is SP 052 120

Walk Leaders - Jeremy & Anne – 870516

Bobby's Big Day Out



Easter was approaching once again, and the big hunt was on for a donkey to lead the Benefice procession from the Village Hall in Elkstone on Palm Sunday. Unfortunately after a search in a twenty-five mile radius, all donkeys were booked. What must it be like to be in such demand! In the end Tricia Ward from Cowley offered her small horse (“Bobby”) as an alternative and this is their story of the day.

“I had been told that I was to lead a procession in Elkstone, my what fun and fame at last! It was to remind people of Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem. I had heard the story, and I wondered if there were to be similar crowds of people throwing palm leaves in my path. As the day approached it seemed rain was expected, so I thought nobody would turn up after all, and it would be lonely walk. But on the day it was dry, and twenty or so people with children gathered at the village hall. They all had willow branches and palm crosses to wave as they walked. The procession set off to walk the back lane through the village to the Church. There weren’t the crowds, which cheered Jesus, but the procession was a happy group with much chatter and laughter.

We reached the Church and there were people waiting outside to greet me, with others inside. My hooves had got a bit dirty coming up the grassy bank from the lane, but they said this didn’t matter and would I like to join them for the first hymn of the service. This was the first time I had encountered a step, but it wasn’t difficult. I stood very still in the middle of the aisle whilst all the people joyfully sang their first hymn. By this time all those who had not been in the procession from the hall also had willow branches and palm crosses and were waving them as they sang. Whilst I wasn’t a donkey, I began to understand what it had been like for the donkey, which had carried Jesus.

It was then time for me to go, and back to my field. What a tale I had to tell my friends, they were amazed and asked me to keep repeating the story of my big day out. I understand I look very dapper in the photographs that were taken. I am happy to sign autographs. ” *Bobby’s tale as translated by David Pierce*

Nature Notes

The Spring flowers have lasted a long time this year, due to recent fine sunny days and cold nights. The first swallow was reportedly spotted on 6th April – and I kept thinking of the old saying – “One swallow doth not a summer make” for 12 days passed before any more arrived!

On a sadder note, we have had a lamb killed by a dog, which is very worrying.

One year in Blackbush, a fox was circling circling round a ewe trying to get to one of her newly-born twin lambs, and the ewe was turning round and round trying to chase it off. It was only when I got close and chased it off that it gave up – if they are hungry, and have cubs to feed, they can get very cunning.

I have heard reports of a red kite seen flying in the area.

Jessie

The Rural Cinema Scheme

It is with regret that we must inform you that we are withdrawing from the rural cinema scheme. Since we first joined the scheme, the costs have increased season by season, whilst the selection of films on offer seems to have declined in 'appeal'. This has been reflected in the decreasing size of audience. Having failed to cover the costs of running the films in the 2009/2010 season, we have therefore decided that it is not financially viable to continue with the scheme.

The Events Committee – Sue Collins

History of our Houses – Sparrowthorn

We don't know much about the early history of Sparrowthorn and its interesting name (I guess "sparrow" meant "sparrowhawk") -- Ben Howard the "Cotswold Rooster" knew more. He was living in the cottage next to the barn (originally a semi-) when we first knew it in the late 1960s, producing his magazine of village life. The cottage has a date-stone 1832, and must have owed its position to the spring in the field.

We have had visits from people whose relations lived here – the Evans and the Ody families. Margaret Holder and Jessie Hindson remember that Mr Ody broke his leg when he fell in the snow fetching water from the spring, and that Mr Bliss the baker used to drive his pony and cart on his delivery round, from Sparrowthorn down to Cockleford. Five roads met on the ridge at this point, to Elkstone, High Cross, Cockleford, Colesbourne, and Woodmancote. When we bought the barn in 1973 the 13-acre field was divided, fencing the right-of-way track to Combend. The landscape has greatly changed as can be seen in the film about Ben Howard that has been shown locally a few times -- there were almost no trees except in the valleys. (In our time our neighbours have been sheep, cattle, crops and now pheasants.)

By the 1970s the cottage at Sparrowthorn had been wrecked in a fire and the big barn was heavily cracked, with a corrugated-iron roof, needing much rebuilding. (I think it was one of the earliest barn conversions and regulations were strict.) We tried to keep it looking like a barn, at least from the road, and hoped to compensate for the loss of the second barn attached to it, with trees and a high wall. There was no indication of date on the barn itself (unlike Slutswell down the road, a smaller and much better-built barn, dated 1765). There are marked stones by the doors, a V benchmark and the W (the Italian double-V for VIVA), which must have been made by the prisoners of war who worked hereabouts during WW1 (they fenced the field known as The Boggs).

Kate Kavanagh, with Jessie Hindson and Margaret Holder





“Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone”
(Open Day) June 27th

Open Day is about 8 weeks away. Plans are moving along nicely with people getting involved. The main features are in place – Thank you to all. Please prepare to be badgered to help.

Help Needed:

Gardens of course! we really need one more at Manor Farm

Please set aside Books / Clothes / Bric-a-brac etc.

BBQ: help needed.

Looking after the signs - someone – please ! this is really easy and only takes a couple of hours. But, it is near impossible for the committee to take this on as well.

Open Day Miniature Garden Competition

We were delighted to be asked if the competition was still open for entries. Of course, it is open to anyone,

The idea is to present a miniature garden on a base not to exceed 24"x18". Any materials (including plants) may be used.

Entry will be £2 and gardens should be ready by early morning on June 27th so they can be displayed in the Church. Identify them underneath with your name and on top with your age.

They will be judged by public vote. It would be helpful to know how many gardens we might expect so please give your name to:

Anne & Jeremy - 870516 or Nic - 870556 or Ron - 870943

Please help with supplies for Open Day.

We are very grateful, and delighted, that two newcomers to the village have offered to help with the books and clothes stalls and we thank them sincerely for their public spirited gesture. Please support them by collecting any surplus books, DVD's etc and clothes, linens etc. so that they will have well stocked stalls. We will have collection information in the next newsletter.

Last year Michaela made such wonderful strawberry jam for cream teas last year that we got lots of enquiries from people wishing to buy some. She kindly offered to make more this year so that we can sell it so please save jam jars –the more jars we have the more we can sell!

Anne Davies

Art Exhibition

This year I plan an Exhibition of Art Work and Photographs from anyone in the Village. I'll hang some in the Village Hall and some in my Studio.

If you need inspiration, then look at our gardens springing to life, our beautiful countryside or even a vase of flowers. Everything is welcome - I am not a judge - let's just fill up the walls with lovely colourful pictures that bring a smile to each other.

I don't mind about the size, or how many, but they must be 'ready to hang'. That means you need to do the framing bit and also attach a cord or hook.

I look forward to being pushed for space! *Carole – 870493*