

Elkstone Newsletter

23rd Year: No. 10 (273)

July 2010

Editor's Bit

Now we have been changed to Friday bin collections, it was good to see lots of bins, bags and boxes out on Friday 25th - most people had remembered! But please see, in News from the Parish Council, further important information from CDC about collection rules.

Have you noticed that we are at the welding of the pipes stage.

Reg (25-06-10)

| Features | |
|---|---|
| July ERG Walks x 2! Village Hall Maintenance Day Report News from the Parish Council History of our Houses | Nature Notes Date for Your Diary Open Gardens Day 2010 |
| Dates for your Diary | |
| Saturday 10 th July – ERG Walk –Colesbourne Inn– 9.30 am | |
| Wednesday 14 th July – Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8.00 pm | |
| Saturday 24 th July - ERG Evening Walk and Barbeque Supper – Village Hall – 5.00 pm | |
| Sunday 5 th September – Family Games and Picnic – Springfield House garden – 3.00 pm | |
| Regular Dates | |
| Waste & recycling | Food and garden waste - Fridays |
| Waste & recycling | All bags, bins and boxes –Friday 9 th and 23 rd |
| 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 August Edition: Wednesday 21st July please | |
| <i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i> | |

ERG Walk

Saturday 10th July 2010

Meet at Colesbourne Inn on A435 (map OS Landranger 163, g.r.999 132)

9.30 am for a 9.45 am start.

Parking is limited so please share cars where possible.

Landlord has requested we park in the lower car park on the grass.

An easy pleasant walk of approximately 5 to 6 miles through the Colesbourne Park estate; places visited include Mercombe Wood, Upper Coberley, crossing the main road with return to Colesbourne. There are lovely views with virtually no stiles.

Pub opens at 11 am and food is served from 12 to 2.30 pm, hence early start!

Margaret – 01242-244833

ERG Evening Walk and Barbecue

Saturday 24th July 2010

An evening stroll of approximately 4 miles on local footpaths

Meet at Elkstone Village Hall at 5pm

This evening walk in summer has proved very popular for the last three years so we hope lots of villagers will want to join us.

Supper will be a barbecue and salad, which Julia and Steve have very kindly offered to organise and hold on their deck. Please bring your own drinks, which can be left in the Village Hall fridge before the walk.

Dogs are welcome for the walk only.

For catering purposes we will need to know numbers so **please let Bernard know by Wednesday 21st July if you will be staying for the barbecue.**

There will be a charge of £3 to cover the costs.

You can obviously choose to walk and not partake of the barbecue but hopefully lots of villagers will want to enjoy the whole evening.

Bernard - 01242 870255 - sbalder@tiscali.co.uk

The Events Committee

Successful Village Hall Maintenance

We had a very successful maintenance day in mid June.

An unexpectedly large number of villagers turned out; these many hands making light work of a few essential tasks. It was a particular pleasure to see several new faces and an age range of over 75 years.

A heart-felt thank you to all; such generosity ensures that our Hall is available to old and new faces and all ages.

Village Hall Committee

News from the Parish Council

Following a fatal accident, Cotswold District Council wishes to inform everyone that safety rules regarding the emptying of wheelie bins must be complied with - significantly, when put out for emptying your wheelie bin must have a closed lid.

If it is overfull so that the lid will not close, it will not be emptied!

What to do with any surplus? – well, no ‘top hats’ and care over ‘side waste’.

A ‘top hat’ is, apparently, any bag, box or loose waste placed on top of the closed lid of a wheelie bin, and any wheelie bin having a ‘top hat’ will not be emptied.

‘Side waste’ is any bag, box or loose waste placed beside your wheelie bin or black box, and this will only be collected if it is in CDC-approved containers – e.g. beige (not black) plastic rubbish sacks, or brown paper garden waste sacks; both types can be purchased from CDC offices. More information is available on the CDC website by following the links to: services – waste management.

The road closures, announced in the last Newsletter, hadn’t occurred by the given dates – the pipeline-laying seems to be about a fortnight behind schedule.

It is also anticipated that there will be a one-day closure of the 3/190 at Cockleford Bridge, to enable some maintenance work to the bridge; the closure is scheduled for Monday 26th July, though the works are expected to last a fortnight.

Delivered with this Newsletter is information about, and a response form for, a Gloucestershire Rural Community Council survey into housing needs – particularly important for those with family members who want to live locally but would find house prices prohibitively high. However, the Parish Council hopes everyone will take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it in the Freepost envelope.

Lois

Nature Notes

Early in June, Bernard led ERGers on a beautiful walk around Clattinger and Lower Moor Farms, two of the chain of nature reserves owned by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on the edge of the Cotswold Water Park. Clattinger Farm is described as possibly the

finest example of unimproved enclosed lowland grassland in the UK, and is of international importance because of its haymeadow wild flowers.

There were orchids, though we couldn't tell if what we were seeing were any of the rare varieties that grow here. We couldn't spot the downy-fruited sedge, either, but the meadows were beautiful, gold on green - buttercup, coltsfoot, yellow rattle; and pink and purple highlights - great burnet and red clover as well as the orchids. There were small blue butterflies, yellow flags in the 'ditch field' and later, a path bordered with ragged robin, and hordes of blue damselflies.

At home, we've been watching two female woodpeckers who are regular visitors to our peanut feeders.

They appear to be nesting in our neighbour's trees, and though we haven't spotted any males, we hope that we'll soon be able to watch young being taught by their mothers how to access the peanuts.

The swallows have raised their first broods, and have started on their seconds – much twittering in the barn!

Mr.s Ed. (deputising for Jessie who is on holiday)

Family Summer Picnic

Sunday 5th September, 3pm to 6pm

Trevor & Lindy Price have once again kindly offered the use of their garden for an afternoon of summer games and relaxation. Various games will be provided e.g. boules, badminton, croquet, quoits, pick up sticks, etc., and maybe some races for children.

All parishioners are welcome - please bring your own picnic and drinks, plus a picnic rug and/or garden chairs would be a good idea. The event will be weather-dependent, so if there is any doubt please check the Village Hall notice-board at the weekend.

Sue Collins

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Open: Eve Wed-Sat from 6.30pm & 5pm on Sunday

Lunch time Thurs to Sun from 12.30



“Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone” – an Astonishing Achievement!

This year's Open Day was a poignant reminder of the many benefits of this very special event. Primarily the reason for doing it and the headline benefit is to raise money for the Village Hall and the Church. But, the football (England's loss was the English countryside's loss) and extraordinarily hot weather slashed our guest numbers and therefore our takings.

However, when we look around the BBQ and see the villagers enjoying themselves; making new friends; refreshing acquaintances, we are reminded that not only do our guests go away having had a fantastic day, but we benefit enormously.

Nothing engages the imagination of so many people, involves so much hard work by a dedicated band of villagers; nothing binds our community in such a way, nothing raises money like it does for the Church and Village Hall ... and both are central to our social lives.

We had a fantastic day with a reduced number of guests (attracting about 175 guests) topped off with the BBQ to end all BBQs.

There were innovations amongst old favourites - the Miniature Garden and Potato Growing Competitions were introduced for the children. The sight of Hannah leading the adults in exploring the mud for potatoes cannot be topped.

There are few pleasures greater than seeing Ronnie celebrating his 'win', only for Catherine's bucket to unearth a 1.230 kg crop (nearly 3x Ronnie's best) - Perfect.



The Miniature Garden Competition (which attracted 'out of town' entries) was resoundingly won by Mollie Hobbs.

Thank you to all who played a role: gardeners, stallholders, car park attendants, helpers, tea ladies etc., etc. Some who were on holiday took great care to make sure they gave all they could - Thank you. Heather, Lorraine and the Quartet deserve special gratitude as do the new and 'returning' gardens.

The proceeds were £1,650 (please submit all expenses and earnings so we can finalise this figure) and will be split 50:50 between the Church and Village Hall; an astonishing achievement. It remains salutatory to note that the Village Hall relies on this income and that this year (for reasons out of our control) the Village Hall's share will pay only about 2/3 of the electricity bill. For reference: 09 was £2,300.

As a committee we thank everyone who helped in any way; as the chairman, I particularly thank the committee: Jeremy & Anne and Ronnie. We had several very pleasant and occasionally silly evenings planning this year's event. We made some firm friends and put in quite a bit of effort – a win-win situation.

Next year will be our 20th - good enough reason for a spectacular event.

Given that this year was a modest financial success we will need to pull out all the stops in 2011.

'til next year, Nic and the committee.

Cream Teas

Once again cream teas were much appreciated by those who visited us. It would not have been possible for me to have run these without the wonderful support of very many people and I would like to acknowledge their tremendous support.

Firstly thank you to Michaela and Arnold for once again hosting the event and to Michaela for making wonderful strawberry jam - in bulk as we think that in the planning we confused pounds and kilograms! Next, thanks to the many villagers who supplied tables and chairs and to the Girl Guides Association at Deer Park for lending us huge teapots. Thanks to the Green Dragon Quartet who formed last year purely to help support Open Day and have since gone from strength to strength. They travelled from Wales for the event and played a wonderful medley of tunes that so enhanced the atmosphere.

Finally a huge thank you is due to the helpers on the day who did a superb job in organising themselves and keeping everything going without a hitch. They switched seamlessly from laying out portions to serving customers, to washing up and , ensuring constant supplies of tea and drinks with such skill that everything went very smoothly from start to finish. I would particularly like to thank the three Hobbs girls who helped all afternoon with never a single complaint! The friendship and fun of doing this was felt by all of us.

A comment heard was that 'A wonderful cream tea in such a beautiful setting with music playing was quintessentially English and could not be beaten!'

That summed everything up and made all the work worthwhile.

Next year I would like to open my garden so if anyone would consider taking on cream teas it would be appreciated. I am happy to give all the support they want in preparation.

Anne

Many thanks to all those villagers who gave so generously to the Tombola stall for Gardens Open Day. The stall was a great success with the last of the tickets being sold at the barbeque making a good contribution to the final total.

Sue and Bernard

Congratulations to all who worked so hard for Elkstone's open day.

I would like to use the newsletter to say thank you to Michaela and Arnold for their generous hospitality to all the 'Cream Teas' helpers. Michaela and her girls had worked so hard making the strawberry jam and Anne had provisioned well as always. All open gardens are admired and wandered through by village guests, but the lovely garden at 'Badgers' was 'invaded' for rather longer - an outdoor tearoom where visitors remained to listen to the music and no doubt enjoyed a chance (this year) to get out of the sun! Michaela worked with us all the afternoon - and was doubtless still cleaning up the stickiness long after *we* had all gone home. Not for the first time we'd taken over her lovely kitchen and *not* left it entirely as we'd found it. She was a great hostess. It was a pleasure to spend the afternoon in her company and that of Joyce, Anne, Pat and all the daughters. The younger generation did a fantastic job for the village, and with such good humour and skill. Give yourselves a pat on the back girls.

Gill W.

Parking

Ah, the parking - not a high visibility activity, but crucial to getting our visitors in and away safely, and of course collecting as many £4.00s per adult as possible as a sizeable contribution to the Open Day's proceeds. We are of course extremely grateful to Alex & Melinda for kindly allowing us to use their main field for parking - the fine-cropped state of which would grace most people's gardens!

Also thanks to Ken, Michael, Martyn, Richard & Trevor for putting in time as Stewards - especially to those who braved the main road entrance, still beset by those half-baked hooligans who think that 40 mph though our village really means 65-70 mph ...

Set up and tear-down take as much time as the 5 hours of manning that is involved - some more help with this next year would be much appreciated, there were definitely aspects we would have done better had we had more resource and time. Watch next year for appeals to construct much clearer signage beforehand as well!

Jeremy & Ann W (Parking organizers)

Open Day Odds & Ends

Open Day Stewards Badges

These were issued to (most) Stallholders and Garden Openers, but we still need to retrieve about 8 of them - please just push them through the letter-box of Manor Farm Cottage.

Thanks,

Jeremy

Please remember to e-mail quantities used. Good supplier's details, Lessons learnt to openday@az.azteck.com