

Elkstone Newsletter

23rd Year: No. 12 (275)

September 2010

Editor's Bit

The recent rain is a reminder of how lucky we have been with the care the pipeline project team has shown after all the contractor vehicles trundling along our lanes. Fortunately, they have provided a fleet of road sweepers which struggle to keep the light brown mud from changing the colour of the lane surface.

If you can make it, please support the Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 24th.

In answer to Jessie's question, I got up at 3.00am and saw the meteor shower, and found it difficult to turn away, always wanting to see another spectacular display.

Reg (22-08-10)

Features	
Family Day and Picnic September Services at Elkstone Church ERG Walk World's Biggest Coffee Morning Parish Council News Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting	Nature Notes The Time Comes When ... Citizen's Advice Bureau It's in the Pipe Line Colesbourne Inn Advert Big Bang near Elkstone
Dates for your Diary	
Sunday 5 th September – Family Games and Picnic – Springfield House garden – 3.00 pm	
Thursday 9 th September – Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting at Rendcomb College 7.30pm	
Saturday 11 th September – ERG Historic Churches Walk – Adlestrop Village Hall – 10.00 am	
Wednesday 15 th September - Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8.00 pm	
Friday 24 th September – World's Biggest Coffee Morning – Village Hall – 10.00 to 12.00am	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 3 rd and 17 th
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 October Edition: Monday 20th September please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

Family Summer Picnic

Sunday 5th September, 3pm to 6pm

Trevor and 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

Elkstone Church Services in September

September is here once again and summer is drawing to a close. What appeared in June as a long hot dry summer has turned into a cloudy and wet end of July and August, but the harvesting has still continued and is now nearly all gathered. We will be having our usual Harvest service on September 19th at 11.00am, when everybody will be welcome as usual. Please bring your harvest gifts to the service, or if you cannot join us then leave them at the Church on the Saturday, although please be aware there is a wedding at 1.00pm. The produce will be given to a nearby women's refuge, and the monetary gifts will go to help the flood victims in Pakistan.

Services in September are:

September 5th – 9.30 am – Holy Communion

September 12th – 10.00am – Family Service

September 19th – 11.00am – Harvest Thanksgiving

September 26th – 10.00am – Songs of Praise

Elkstone Ramblers Group Walk

11th September 2010

This walk takes place on Historic Churches Day and incorporates idyllic villages and their churches in Adlestrop, Daylesford and Lower Oddington.

The walk: an easy 5 miles, max 70m gradient, and only 1 stile(!) through woodland, parkland, fields and paved paths.

Dog friendliness: some livestock but some open areas and quiet lanes.

The lunch: lunch will be at the excellent Fox Inn in Lower Oddington, which has a wide menu of very good food and a large garden. The Fox is deservedly popular so, if we wish to sit together, we will need to book.

There is also a tea-shop at the Post Office in Adlestrop for those not staying to lunch.

The Churches: Daylesford (Victorian in early French Gothic Style) Warren Hastings of India buried in the churchyard; Lower Oddington contains a large Doom wall-painting; Adlestrop - Jane Austen's uncle was vicar here.

An envelope for voluntary donations to the Historic Churches Fund will be passed round at the end of the walk.

Meeting and Parking

Leave 10.00am from the Village Hall at Adlestrop - plenty of parking, voluntary donation. If early please read Edward Thomas' famous poem ("Yes, I remember Adlestrop...." on the bench in the bus shelter.

Directions: From Stow-on-the-Wold take the A436 towards Chipping Norton. Pass the Upper Oddington, Oddington and Lower Oddington turns and go over a railway bridge. Adlestrop is signed on the left a short distance on. The Village Hall is on the left just before the bus shelter.

Please let me know if you want me to book lunch for you.

Monica – 517977 - email - monica.hall@virgin.net

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday September 24th, 10am – 12 noon, Elkstone Village Hall

What's it all for?

Every day 822 people in the UK are told they have cancer. This is news that not only turns their world upside down but also affects their family and friends. I'm sure, like me, many of you have also had your lives touched by

cancer, either directly or indirectly.

Macmillan's ambition is to help every one of these people by providing them with the medical, emotional, practical and financial support they need,

So, please help me to raise much-needed funds, by coming to the

“World’s Biggest Coffee Morning in Elkstone Village Hall.”

From 10am to 12 noon, come and enjoy a cup of organic tea or coffee and delicious homemade cake with family, neighbours and friends.

Cakes, scones, cookies etc, will also be available to buy to take home.

This year I’ll be selling some gorgeous soaps, bath bombs, melts, and soufflés for the bath – all natural ingredients with no nasties, and Phoenix Trading will be selling their excellent cards and gift wrap at amazingly low prices. Try your luck on the Wishing Line and please feel free to bring lots of your friends!

I hope to see you.

Julia Davey

“In memory of my mum”

News from the Parish Council

Do you own a hedge? In your garden? on your land? on your boundary?

If so, did you know that it’s the owners of the hedge or boundary who are responsible for properly maintaining (viz. keeping cut back) hedges and shrubs which are next to public rights of way and next to roads? – this is so even if the hedge or shrub appears to be along a roadside verge outside the boundary fence.

The Highways Act 1980 S 154 refers to “... requiring the cutting or felling of a hedge, tree or shrub which endangers, obstructs or interferes with the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, including the view of drivers or the light from a street lamp.” - and in the context of this Act, ‘highway’ includes **all** public rights of way.

In Elkstone parish, obstructing the light from a street lamp isn’t a problem!

But there are a number of hedges and shrubs which are now overgrowing our roads, lanes, and rights of way. Hedges and shrubs overhanging roads and lanes endanger the already-vulnerable non-motorised users – parishioners walking to the Church, the Hall or the post-box, visiting walkers, passing cyclists, etc. Pedestrians are particularly vulnerable where hedges have grown out so far that the verge – which should offer the opportunity of a safe haven from passing traffic – is completely obstructed.

On public rights of way, walkers and riders should to be able to negotiate stiles and gates, and pass along the way, without being scratched by blackthorn, hawthorn, holly, briars and brambles...

The Parish Council has been receiving complaints about overgrown hedges and shrubs. The six months from September is the hedge-cutting season, and so the Parish Council wishes to remind hedge and shrub owners to take all necessary action soon.

Lois 870375

Nature Notes

While the weather has been hot and dry, I have found birds drowned in water containers. I do not know if they have tried to drink and fallen in, or if they have seen their reflection and thought it was another bird. So far, the casualties have numbered three carrion crows, three blackbirds and a kestrel. Now the weather has turned showery the problem will end, I hope. The long spell of dry weather has left some plants flourishing, whilst others seem to have disappeared. It is amazing that some flowers not seen for years just come again. The seed must lie in the ground for years waiting for the right conditions.

Did anyone see the meteor showers or was the sky too cloudy?
Jessie

The time comes when

As we know all things only last for so long, and then some repair or replacement is necessary. So I suppose since the lead roof atop the tower was last replaced in 1882, and the guttering and down-pipes all around the Church, which date from the 1840s, were last overhauled and repainted in 1980, it was not surprising when in the Quinquennial inspection last year, the architect said that some urgent work was required if we were to avoid major problems. The PCC have recently agreed to apply for a Faculty (effectively permission) from Gloucester Diocese to:

- Replace the lead on the tower roof;
- Relocate the access hatch to the roof;
- Replace the down-pipes on the tower walls with lead chutes, (this will mean we will not have to worry how to access the down-pipes on the top two thirds of the tower for maintenance in the future);
- Overhaul and redecorate the guttering and down-pipes; and
- Remove moss from the stone slate roof and repair where necessary.

Once we have that permission then the real hard work starts, as the estimated cost of all this work is about £75,000, which we don't have in our funds! Neither does the Diocese of Gloucester have the funds to simply pay for this work. There are some grant making bodies which will help, but the PCC has to put together a strong case, as they obviously have many other equally worthy schemes to support. As a Church we also have to do our part in trying to raise funds and feel we should commit to raise £10,000 and obtain grants for the remainder of the cost.

The work cannot start until we know we have the funds, but the cost is going to depend on when the work is done. Firstly, if the work is not completed by the end of December, which is unlikely, then VAT will be charged at 20% rather than 17.5%. Secondly, until 31 March 2011, under a Government scheme, VAT on repair work to listed Church buildings is effectively recoverable. So if we can raise the funds and have the work completed by that date we can save £12,500, which will reduce the cost to £62,500. A simple way in which everybody can help is to sign the petition requesting the Government to extend this VAT scheme beyond March next year. You can follow the link to the petition from www.savetherefund.info. With the Government looking at all aspects of funding it is important we try and maintain this support. They have said there are plans to make additional funds available to the Lottery Heritage Fund, but then we are in the mix with everybody else applying for funds.

If you would like to help, by donating, or if you have links to any grant bodies that might help, or you could help by arranging any events then please let me know.

David Pierce

Friends Of Cheltenham Citizens' Advice Bureau

The Citizens' Advice Bureaux (CAB) were established over 70 years ago and the Cheltenham bureau was one of the first. In part, because CAB have been in existence for so long, many people do not realize that each bureau is an independently registered charity which relies on Local Authority grants and voluntary donations from people like you. We receive no funding whatsoever from central government. In Cheltenham we rely on the generous support of 43 trained volunteers who deliver free and impartial information and advice through face-to-face sessions at our office, and through our telephone and e-mail services. The CAB deals with a huge range of problems including debt, unemployment, relationships, the law, family matters and consumer issues, etc.

However, with the downturn in the economy, demand for our services has never been higher at a time when public spending cuts mean that our sources of funding are under severe pressure. The CAB is trying to do more and more with fewer and fewer resources, to the extent that the continued existence of our local CAB is under serious threat. We need your support to meet our goals of being there for people who need us. In order to meet the challenges we face we are launching the 'Friends of Cheltenham CAB'. The aim is to promote the profile of the Bureau and to raise much-needed funds to enable us to continue our work. The promise of ongoing support is particularly valuable to us. Please consider becoming a Friend of Cheltenham CAB by making commitment of a minimum of £25 a year for an individual or £30 for a couple. In return you will receive regular updates on our work and invitations to our programme of events.

Friends of Cheltenham CAB will be launched at drinks party to be held on Thursday 9th September 2010 from 6pm - 8pm at The Oak Room, Maxima-Forum Business Centre, Lansdowne Road, Cheltenham GL50 2JA,

As trustees on the board of Cheltenham CAB we have distributed personal invitations to many houses in the village. We hope that you will be able to accept the invitation and join us at the launch. If you have not yet received an invitation, and would like to attend, please contact one of us, or the bureau direct on 01242 531301.

If you do not wish to become a Friend at this time and just prefer to make a donation you can send a cheque payable to CCTCAB, addressed to Jenny Heather, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, c/o our office in Cheltenham, or alternatively you might like to consider setting up a standing order: any contribution would be warmly welcomed! We would also welcome help with our fund raising activities and would love to hear from you if you feel you would like to help in this way.

Richard Busby - Woolsack Barn - 879521 or Anne Davies - Manor Farm Cottage – 870516

An image of the pipe-line taken by Ted Cripps



Advertisement: Winstone Short Mat Bowls Club will be holding an Open Day on 11th September from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at Winstone Village Hall.
For more information please contact Club Secretary - Ted Emery – 01285 821421

The Colesbourne Inn
01242 870 376

www.thecolesbourneinn@wadworth.co.uk

**Trevor, Liz and all the Staff would like to offer customers old and new
a very warm welcome**

As well as serving Food we also offer nine, en-suite bedrooms with flat screen television and free wi-fi is available throughout the building. All the bedrooms have recently undergone a complete refurbishment, which echo the stunning views of the Cotswolds.

We offer a daily menu served 12 until 2.30 and from 6pm until 9.30 Monday to Sunday, as well as our Light Lunch Menu, two courses for £8.95 and three courses for £10.95

Monday Night is Steak Night & Wine Night for £10.95

The last Sunday of the Month is Smooth Jazz with Frankie Abrams

Our Quiz Night runs every other Wednesday and begins at 8pm

The Colesbourne also offers a beautiful Patio Area, which is situated to the rear of the building, overlooking stunning countryside, ideal for alfresco dining, or just to unwind.

We are open **ALL DAY** every day

Boom! - WW2 bomb found in River Churn

Friday 6th August 2010 7.00 am

An unexploded Second World War bomb was discovered in a village near Cheltenham. The Green Dragon Inn in Cockleford was evacuated yesterday morning while a controlled explosion was carried out.

Police and the army were called at 11.15am after the bomb was found in the Churn by Gloucestershire Highways, who were carrying out work on a bridge near the pub.

Liz Kirkham, bridge engineer, said they were busy repairing and levelling out the river bed, which had been washed away over the past couple of winters.

She said: "Engineers were using pick axes to create a level surface when they came across a bomb so it's lucky they didn't strike it when they were working. They were obviously quite shocked, it's not every day you find a bomb when you're working."

A police spokesman said the pub was evacuated as a precaution while bomb disposal experts carried out a safe, controlled explosion of the mortar, which was one foot long and 18 inches deep.

After the explosion, Gloucestershire Highways revisited the site to make sure the bridge was safe.

Liz said: "We had to make sure it's safe to re-open to the public. We'll also have to put the work we were doing on hold for now."