

Elkstone Newsletter

24th Year: No. 9 (284)

June 2011

Editor's Bit

This is the month when many villagers 'work their tails off' to put on the annual 'Open Gardens Event'. This issue has been delayed by a few days to publicise last minute details of collections and requests for help. The next issue will be similarly delayed to get reports from the event into the July issue. I hope we can all do our bit to make this event a success.

Two members of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club who live in Elkstone took part in an event in May and both came away with trophies.

Jessie cannot write the Nature Notes for July. Any volunteers please?

Reg – 24th May

Features	
Church Service Times	Cobalt Unit Coffee Morning
Nature Notes	Elkstone Open Day requests
ERG Walk	Happening in Coberley
G.C.C. Bus Network Review	Advertisement
Dates for your Diary	
Saturday 11 th June – ERG Walk – 'The Royal' – 10.00am	
Sunday 26 th June – Elkstone Gardens Open Day	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 3 ^{10th} and 24 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 July Edition: Tuesday 28th June please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net	

Church service times for June are:

June 5th - 9.30am - Holy Communion

June 11th - 11.00am - Wedding

June 12th - 10.00am - Family Service

June 19th - 11.00am - Morning Prayer

June 26th - No Service - Village Open Day

Best wishes

David Pierce

Nature Notes

The annual display of hawthorn in the valley below Uncombe Lane was early this year. No Elkstone inhabitant should miss it; so please remember next year! to either take a walk along the lane, or just stop the car to look over the bank.

A short, pleasant walk to see bluebells was from the Green Dragon car park along the bridleway below the Guides' archery field. The conifer woods were so quiet and the uncurling ferns and beautiful patches of bluebells were very good; there are also yellow

pimpernel and red campion flowers. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy a great variety of wild flowers in the parish due to the different soils ranging from Cotswold brash to boggy ground and even clay patches.

It has been a good spring for butterflies, especially orange tips, and there have been lots of bumble bees. Perhaps when we get prolonged wintry weather, we underestimate the ability to survive of such small creatures. Miss Mary Bliss told me that lots of ladybirds hibernated in Winstone Church belfry, clustered together, and even in the church bells butterflies were resting, undisturbed even by the bells being rung. Another friend told me her daughter's dolls house was once accidentally left in the garden in the snow, and much later they found ladybirds in it in a state of hibernation.

The swallows have been looking round for mud to build their nests – difficult in this dry spell of weather.

Jessie

ERG Walk - Saturday 11th June 2011

Derek and I have been asked to repeat the Cheltenham Town Walk we led a few years ago. There will be some variation to the last walk and which will begin in Charlton Kings as before but avoid Battledown Hill so it will be a level walk with no hills or stiles. Dogs are welcome and will have some free running in Cheltenham parks but will need to be on leads for part of the time.

Meeting Place: The Royal, Charlton Kings Village, opposite St. Mary's Church, this has a large garden and varied menu offering everything from snacks to full meals.

Time: We will leave at 10am prompt.

Directions: From A40 Cirencester-Cheltenham Road coming from Elkstone pass Bafford Approach on your left and Little Owl on your right and then turn right on either Bradley Garden Road or Croft Road. When you reach the junction with Little Herberts Road turn left and proceed to the Royal which is opposite the church.

From Cheltenham turn left into Lyefield Road, then right into Charlton Kings Village and follow the one-way system round the church to the pub.

Parking: Those eating at the pub may leave their cars there. Those not eating at the pub should use the free public car park off Little Herberts Road or park on the street.

Monica

Bus Network Review

Do you use the bus? Do you want to go on using the bus? Might you want to use it in the future? Or do you know someone who does?

Gloucestershire County Council is carrying out its Bus Network Review and the current proposals could mean **the end of both our bus services come October!**

Information and downloads are available on the GCC website bus review pages – to summarize:

There are two proposals for the 232 Monday bus to Cheltenham – either it could be withdrawn altogether on the grounds that anyone wanting to get to Cheltenham could use the 852 to go to either Cirencester or Gloucester and change onto a bus to Cheltenham; or it could be replaced with a “flexible transport service” which might need to be booked in advance, and on which bus passes might not be accepted.

In fact, this boils down to only the second proposal, because there is just **one proposal for the daily 852 running between Gloucester and Cirencester** – it is proposed to increase the number of weekday and Saturday buses, **BUT**

journeys will operate to a standard route pattern and **as a consequence services to**

Little Witcombe, Birdlip, Brimpsfield, Elkstone and Duntisbourne Abbots could be replaced by a community transport type service connecting at Brockworth for services to both Gloucester and Cheltenham.

‘Flexible transport service and ‘community transport type service’ – means journeys would need to be booked in advance, departure times and precise pick up and drop off points would be advised when bookings are made, and bus passes might not be accepted.

The GCC review plans to use bus service ‘hubs’ so that passengers can get to a ‘hub’ either by using ‘flexible transport service’ (or public service if it exists) and then change onto a bus going to their desired destination...or in some cases, just closer to it.

The problem for Elkstone residents wanting to take the bus to Cirencester is that Cirencester has not been deemed a ‘hub’. To get there...pre-book a ‘flexible transport service’ to Brockworth (our nearest ‘hub’) from Brockworth catch a public service bus to either Cheltenham or Gloucester, and from there, catch a public service bus to Cirencester. Note that the ‘flexible transport service’ for the third and final leg of the return journey would also have to be pre-booked, and timetables for public service buses are available on the internet.

To find out more, you could attend a Roadshow in Cirencester Brewery Courtyard 10.00 am - 2.00 pm on Friday 3rd June (other dates available elsewhere in the County) or check the GCC website.

There is a response questionnaire available to download off the GCC website bus review pages, or a few copies available from me. It has very few questions – basically asks if the current service meets your essential needs (paid employment, voluntary work, health services, education, essential food shopping, provide care for someone) and whether you think the proposals would be better, the same or worse. There is a Freepost address for returned questionnaires, which is

FREEPOST RRBA-LLRZ-RGXH Gloucestershire County Council, Snap Surveys, 5 Mead Court, Cooper Road, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 3UW

Alternatively, you could write to Philip Williams, Passenger Transport and Parking Manager,

Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall, Block 5, 3rd Floor, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG, or e-mail him at Philip.Williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk, or phone 01452 425508

Closing date for receipt of responses is Monday 27th June

Lois Eyre - 870375

The Cobalt Coffee Morning raised £205.05p on 18th May, this was great considering the weather! The monies will go to the MRI scan department, at the Cobalt Unit, Cheltenham, and we thank everyone who helped to make it a success.

Thank You

Diana Pearce - The Old Rectory Restaurant



“Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone”

Sunday 26th June 2-6 pm

Below you will see requests from the coordinators of stalls and the like.

The coordinators are: (please accept my humble apologies if I have missed anyone off)

Car Park	Richard Busby
Signs around village	Richard Busby & Nic Williamson
Church Bell Ringing / Flowers / Tours	David & Sylvie Pierce
Books	Graham & Jenny Hopkins
Clothes	Anne Davies & Geraldine Busby
Village Hall Teas	Jennie Howlett
Bric-a-Brac	Steve & Julia Davey
Art Exhibition in Hall	Carole Bury
Plants	David & Sue Collins
Recipe Book & Ice Creams	Marion Cooch
Hay Rides	Nic Williamson
BBQ	Steve Davie & Ronnie Bury

Tombola Unless we have a last minute response, we will forego this stall and revenue this year.
The Huskies are confirmed.

We have a couple of gardens that need ‘garden sitters’ for the day. Please contact the committee.

We will circulate a Briefing Sheet & Programme draft to the coordinators in a week.

A couple of Flyers / Posters are attached. Please post them for maximum benefit.

An advance ‘thank you’ for all the care and effort that so many have put in.

The entire village is invited to the BBQ on the village green at about 7 pm. Please bring your own cutlery, drink and glasses.

I am sure that the editor would appreciate an Open Day article / report for the next Newsletter. I am sure that you would appreciate a different author from me!

OpenDay Committee - openday@az.azteck.com or Jeremy & Anne –870516, Brian – 870462, Ronnie – 870493, Nic - 870556

Requests

Parking

Please let me know if you can volunteer to help with the parking, which is the biggest fund-raiser on the day. As usual, we will arrange a rota system for the afternoon.

Richard Busby - 870521

Bric a Brac

Please bring any unwanted items in good condition and not broken, to The Old School House and leave in the garage at the rear on either Sunday 12 or 19 June. It helps us

enormously if items are clean, plus we get more money for them.

If you want to drop off items at other times, please give us a call to ensure we are in and items don't get wet.

Many thanks

Steve and Julia Davey - 870038

Village Hall Teas

Once again we are hoping that the cooks/chefs/waiters/waitresses/helpers are available and willing to give some time to supplying and running our cafe in The Village Hall on Sunday 26th June.

In previous years we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of villagers and we trust that you will support us yet again.

If you feel that you could offer even a couple of hours on the day in the cafe, give us ring and we will arrange a rota so you are not on duty all afternoon.

We will be in the hall from 12.30 onwards on the day to receive your donations.

This year we are offering cream teas as well as our usual collection of home made cakes, biscuits, jam

Thanks for your help over the last 19 years.

Margaret Holder - 870268

Jennie Howlett - 870462

The clothes stall is always an important money raiser on Open day. This year, our twentieth it is even more vital that we raise as much money as we can, not only to support our village hall but also to help with much needed funds to help towards the replacement of the church roof.

We know that many requests are made of you, and that recently the Salvation Army collected clothes but please can we ask you to have another look through your wardrobes for item that you no longer need. Maybe there are items that you previously hesitated over and now feel you could part with. Please ask friends and family if they have anything that they can offer. A few good quality items could produce a wonderful result.

Anne (Manor Farm Cottage) and Geraldine (Woolsack Barn) are running the stall this year and they would be happy for you to drop items off to them or, if you ring them on 870516 or 870521, to collect from you. They would be grateful to receive all contributions by Monday 20th.June. Please give your support us and help to make this a bumper year.

Flowering plants and vegetables

Please can we remind everybody that we would be grateful to receive any flowering plants or vegetables at Briar Cottage for the Open Day plant stall. The more the merrier!

Dave and Sue Collins

Books & DVDs at this year's Open Gardens Day will be sold from outside

Pendle House. As I work full time, it would help me greatly if everyone could drop off their items to our house by the side of the garage at least two weeks ahead of the event.

If for any reason this is a problem, just get in touch and I will arrange to pick up. No magazines or videos, please, as these never seem to sell.

Many thanks, everyone

Jenny - text 07711 989 562 - or leave a message on - 870000

Advertisements

Coberley C of E School Summer Fayre

Saturday 25th June

12.00 – 4.00pm

Do come and join us for an afternoon of great fun, delicious food and exciting entertainment.

*Bouncy Castle & Slides * Pick & Mix Picnic Lunches * Homemade Cakes * Pocket Money Stalls * Strawberries & Cream * Traditional Stalls & Games * Ice Cream * Plants * Books * Wishing Line * Raffle * Children's Uniform & Clothing – Recycled! * Pony & Trap Rides * Mystic Marion *

An afternoon of fantastic fun for all the family and free entry!

All proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of the school hall and development of a nature garden for the children.

Julia Davey

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