

# Elkstone Newsletter

24th Year: No. 10 (285)

July 2011

## Editor's Bit

Many thanks go to Kate and Con for contributing Nature Notes in Jessie's absence.  
Submission to printer is late this month so that reports of the Open Gardens Day could be included.

*Reg – 28<sup>th</sup> June*

Features	
Church Service Times ERG Walk for July The Priest's House Open Evening Report Elkstone Church Repairs Report Nature Notes + Not the Nature Notes	Help for Heroes Report PERK! 'Ride and Stride' event Elkstone Open Day reports Advertisements
Dates for your Diary	
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July – 8.00 pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
ERG Walk – Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> July – 10.00am start – Shortwood car park, near Edge	
'Ride and Stride' – Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September – Tetbury start for a led Walk	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 8 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</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 August Edition: <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – <a href="http://www.elkstonevillage.com">www.elkstonevillage.com</a>	
<b><i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></i></b>	

## Church service times for July are:

- July 3rd - Holy Communion at 9.30am
- July 10th - Family Service at 10.00am
- July 17th - Morning Prayer at 11.00am
- July 24th - Songs of Praise at 10.00am
- July 31st - Joint Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Colesbourne, 10.00am

Best wishes

*David Pierce*

## Neighbourhood Watch Message

There is a telephone scam in our area to be careful of.

Someone rings claiming to be a representative from BT and informs you that there is an outstanding bill and BT is going to cut you off unless you pay it there and then.

If challenged they offer to prove it. You are asked to put down the phone and try to ring someone. When you try, the phone is dead. He then rings you back. It's a scam.

Do not give any card details and phone the Police to report it on 0845 090 1234.

*Gloucestershire Constabulary*

### **ERG Walk to Haresfield Beacon and Cotswold Way**

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00am start. Meet at Shortwood car park near Edge. This car park is National Trust close to Haresfield Beacon on OS grid ref. 833 085. From Edge take the road that starts from behind the church in the direction of Whiteshill and Randwick for about two miles, and as the road swings sharp left, leave the road and continue on a minor road in the direction of Haresfield. The car park is about another half mile on the left.

The walk is about 4 miles and follows much of the Cotswold Way so there are many fine views over the Severn Valley. We walk through Standish and Stockend woods passing a stone which commemorates the Civil War in 1643.

Afterwards we retire to the Edgemoor Inn. Please let us know if you want us to book a table.

*Joan and Robin - 01452 412120*

### **Open House Evening at The Priest's House, 13 May 2011**

In 1572 it was noted in the Bishop's Registers that Elkstone Church "wanteth glasinge and pavinge and whiteliming" and that "the churche moundes (walls) are not in good reparacion". It is more than likely that a Church Ale, or several, would have been held at the Church House (now the Priest's House) to raise funds for these necessary repairs.

Over four and a half centuries later, funds were raised in a similar fashion and the Open House evening at the Priest's House raised the sum of £535.00 in aid of the Church Tower Roof.

A massive thank you to villagers and friends who gave so generously. It was a great pleasure to see you all, thank you.

*Julia*

### **Work to Start on Elkstone Church Repairs**

We have recently received the offer of a grant of £15,000 from the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust which means we now have all the funds we require to start work on the Church Tower roof, guttering and main Church roof. The Gloucestershire Environmental Trust is able to make this grant because of landfill tax contributions donated by Cory Environmental.

We were hoping to be able to recover all the VAT on the repairs bills, but whilst the Government decided to continue the scheme which makes this possible they have only committed a certain amount to each quarter, so if the applications in a quarter are greater than the committed funds all the claims in the quarter will be scaled back. So we are not sure whether we will be able to reclaim all the VAT we had hoped. This means we are still committing all of our reserves of £20,000 to the project. So if more money is received for this current round of repairs it will mean we can use less of our reserves and keep them for another day. Alternatively we will need to rebuild our reserves over the next few years, which will be difficult because in most years our costs are just about covered by our income.

It is currently planned for the work to start in mid August with the scaffolding being erected in the week beginning 8 August. It is expected the work will take about eight weeks to complete. Hopefully there will not be too much disturbance to those living near the Church.

Many thanks go to all those who have generously donated to this work.

*David Pierce*

## Nature Notes

There is something to be said for being ignorant, where wild flowers and plants are concerned. Every season, every new arrival, is a discovery, as the colours and shapes follow on, familiar but always surprising. Dandelions, bluebells, nettles, pink campion, cowparsley, wild roses, elder flowers, hogweed, cranesbill, willowherb (with luck these three together) – meadowsweet, elderberries, rosehips, bryony.... These are some of the easy ones, but every year our faithful wildflower book has to remind of the names of many smaller old friends (*Stitchwort, Crosswort, Ground Ivy*....)

Flowers come out later on our near-thousand-feet contour (later even than Colesborne). Willow herb only just beginning. Cowparsley over at last, a pale green wraith, and Hogweed rules the lane-sides now, sturdy and reassuring, with its crown of mini-flowers that will turn to attractive dry seedheads.

But once again the book (four pages on the Parsley family – *Umbelliferae*) gently informs us that Hogweed is actually Cow *Parsnip*, and Cow Parsley not to be mistaken for the later Hedge Parsley -- let alone the dreaded Ground Elder, or -- heaven forbid -- the "very poisonous" Hemlock. And what is this alarming single giant, ten foot high, sprung up by our wall? Definitely not in the book.

By now, at the summer solstice, woodland trees that for two months have been varied as a flowerbed are melted into one green. And while we have watched the blazing yellow fields turning to greyer green, other fields beside them have suddenly turned luminous yellow – another welcome mystery to the ignorant. In the hedges, pale pink wild roses seem to have given way to smaller white (Field?) ones, orange-centered. No cuckoo heard this year, and sadly few swallows seen. But a family of spotted woodpeckers enjoy our nuts, a red-vested parent pushing food into the large redcapped young one, who now has learnt to cling to the swinging feeder, tail forward for balance, forcing its fearsome beak through the squirrel-proof bars.

*Kate Kavanagh*

## Unnatural "Nature Notes"

When Jessie went on holiday  
The page for "Nature Notes" was blank,  
For which of us can tell a jay  
From a red-necked shank?

When should we hear the cuckoo call  
In early Spring or Summer time?  
And robin, swallow, wren...O dear  
It doesn't even rhyme!

Was that a hare that crossed the hill?  
Was it a rabbit, deer, or frog?  
Was it duck with yellow bill?  
Or some confounded dog?

So have a lovely holiday  
With sun for warmth, and fields to roam,  
But, for poor Elkstone's sanity  
Dear Jessie, please come home!

*Con Baker*

Con wrote this not knowing that Jessie had been forced to cancel her holiday because of suffering from a nasty viral infection. Thankyou again Kate and Con; Get well soon, Jessie! – *Ed*

## Date for your Diary - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August

Once again we will be holding the always-popular ERG evening walk followed by a barbeque supper at the Village Hall. Don't miss it. Put the date in your diary now. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.

*Bernard Alder*

### **PERK, anybody?**

Last year, the Parish Council declined the offer from BT to adopt the red telephone kiosk at the Westerleigh crossroads, since, although this was advertised at an adoption fee of just £1.00, there would be insurance and maintenance costs too, which would have to be passed on to all parishioners via the precept. Whilst the kiosk is a useful landmark and significant for some parishioners with a 9PA or 9PB post-code, it was considered that a majority of parishioners would not want to subsidise such costs. However, there were parishioners who expressed regret at this decision. BT is re-offering the possibility of adoption, and now the offer is open to community groups.

If there are any parishioners who would like to form a Preserve Elkstone's Red Kiosk (or similar) group, please let me know, and I will put you in touch with each other.

*Lois - 870375*

### **Horses Help Heroes - a Help for Heroes event**

A team of wounded servicemen and their support crew came through Colesbourne on a challenge to drive a horse-drawn replica of a WW1 ambulance 1,000 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats. Its aim was to travel non-stop, 24 hours a day, to raise £1 million for Help for Heroes / BLESMA / ABF The Soldiers Charity / Combat Stress in support of wounded servicemen and women.

They travelled along the A435 from Cirencester to Cheltenham on Thursday 23 June, Day 3 of the challenge. They left Cirencester late in the afternoon, after having been met by adventurer Bear Grylls and international eventer Mark Todd, who both joined the cavalcade as outriders for a few miles. They stopped at The Colesbourne Inn for refreshments before arriving in Cheltenham at about 7pm.

Put 'Horse Help Heroes' into your search engine to find out more from the website.

*Willie Eckerslike*

### **A Date for Your Diaries: Ride and Stride on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

'Ride and Stride' run by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, is a great way to support our Church and Churches across the County when they most need help. It's an annual sponsored walk, bike or horse ride which happens on the second Saturday in September. Funds can be raised by donation or through sponsorship and 50% is used by the Trust and 50% by our own Church.

Here in Elkstone, the Church will be open, as usual, for any visitors walking or cycling in this area, with refreshments provided in the porch.

For our regular ERG Walkers, and any body else who would like to join us, Anne and Jeremy are organising a walk for the 10th September around Tetbury - taking in some interesting Churches on the way. I think there will be lunch stop at some point too!

All the details of the walk will be published in the August Newsletter.

Sponsorship forms are available from *Carole - 870493*.



## **“Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone”**

### Reports

### **“Phew! What a Scorcher!”**

In the face of pessimistic forecasts, Elkstone triumphs again with fantastic weather and an excellent Cotswold Gardens Open Day. I understand that it was the hottest day so far this year.

A very special thank-you to everyone who contributed and took part in a very successful day. We raised, subject to confirmation, just over £2,000. This is up from £1,734 (2010) and will be divided 50:50 between the Church and Village Hall. Both, are the catalysts for so much that goes on in our village community and both, unsurprisingly, need financial support to continue.

The committee joins the village in extending a special thanks to Katie, Hannah and Mia who ‘off their own bat’ raffled, sold toys and baked cakes.

Personally, I cannot help but smile with John and Phillipa who discovered that they were opening their garden at 10:00 on the day. A special thank you and the committee’s sincere apologies. I see a future strategy emerging here!

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. Both these open their doors and welcome any parishioner without any thought to the individual’s circumstances or style. To lose either would be suicide for a village. One does not have to look far beyond our hilltop paradise to find evidence of this.

When we looked around the BBQ and saw 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.

As a committee we thank everyone who helped in any way; as the chairman, I particularly thank the committee: Jeremy & Anne, Brian and Ronnie. The committee put in quite a bit of effort – but as always, the best way of improving a committee is to join it.

‘til next year,

*Nic*

### **Reflections on Open Gardens**

In 2007 we visited Elkstone on what happened to be Open Gardens day we loved the village and its friendly atmosphere and, over a bottle of champagne and a cream tea, agreed to buy our house!

Given this start we have felt committed to Open Day from that point and have been on the organising committee since 2008. It is hard work, frustrating and rewarding in

approximately equal measure but at the end, seeing the profits made on the day that support the church and the village hall, and feeling the warmth and genuineness of all involved, it becomes very worthwhile. This year has been no exception.

At the start of this year however we actually wondered if we had enough support to go ahead with the day. We were grateful to all of those who volunteered help from early on as this helped so much in our planning, for instance you can't have an Open Gardens day without gardens! We are also very grateful to those who responded to our last minute appeals, which in the end helped achieve a fantastic result. The day finished with the traditional barbecue with the warmth, humour and fun that characterises the day, a special thanks to our cooks!

It is impossible to name everyone who contributed to the day but to you all who opened gardens, baked cakes, manned stalls and teas, gave items for sale, helped with car parking etc. we say a most sincere thank you. We would like to especially mention that one little girl ran a toy stall, another baked fairy cakes and sisters ran a raffle. To have such response from the younger villagers surpassed our wildest dreams and we applaud them.

We would also like to thank the Green Dragon Quartet who played for us. Not only did they travel from Wales for the day but they had spent much time practising beforehand. We thank Amanda Morris who joined us to demonstrate her jewellery making. We thank Matt Hamersley for bringing his gorgeous huskies to join us; you can read more about them on [www.mattsbigmush.com](http://www.mattsbigmush.com). We are grateful for the support of the Cotswold Conservation Board. Unfortunately the fire brigade were unable to be with us to show how to cope with chip pan fires as they were attending to real emergency!

So another year passes and after all the hard work we have a good result. Will it happen again next year? This is very much up to all of you. Do you want an Open Day, will you support us, join the committee, and commit to helping early on so we do not end up with panics. Please let us know- this is the village day to help support the two centres of this special place and again **thank you to all who supported us this year.**

*Jeremy and Anne Davies*

### **Elkstone Village Cookery Book**

A special venture this year was the compilation of the Elkstone village cookery book. Marion Cooch spearheaded this and the book, full of villagers' special recipes, and illustrated by Carole Bury is terrific. If you missed the opportunity to buy one on Open Gardens Day may we urge you now to do so and why not buy extras for friends and family? At £5 per copy it is, as the notice in the village hall proclaimed, the best ingredient that you can buy!

To obtain a copy contact *Marion Cooch - 870244 or Anne Davies - 870516*

### **Yet another successful afternoon for Elkstone's Cafe in The Village Hall!**

For the 20th year the village cooks busied themselves providing a marvellous spread of biscuits, meringues, cakes..... all of exceptional quality.

Our thanks to all the bakers, servers, waitresses, washers-up - not forgetting those who put up the flag, sold the cookery books, provided the table decorations, displayed the art work.....

We're bound to have forgotten somebody, but we're grateful for the generosity shown by all. It was a fantastic day. Thankyou

*Jennie Howlett and Margaret Holder*

## Advertisements

**Two yellow labrador puppies** for sale. Ready by the end of June. Both parents working dogs, and Mother and Grandmother live in the house as part of the family. Wonderful with children and other pets. Come and see them. Good homes only.  
*Mrs Lavinia Black - Holly Barn, Coombend Farm - 01285821995*

### **Friends of Deer Park Country Fair and Extravaganza Sunday 10th July 2011 2-4pm**

The Guide Activity Centre at Deer Park Cowley attracts guiding visitors from a very wide area. To help to raised funds for the centre a Country Fair and Extravaganza will take place at the centre on Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Come and wander around the various stalls, enjoy refreshments and try your hand at numerous games and activities including archery under the auspices of the award winning team based at the centre.

By taking part and having fun you will be supporting the work of this excellent centre that does so much for young people.

*Anne Davies - Elkstone representative on the management committee*

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