

# Elkstone Newsletter

24th Year: No. 11 (286)

August 2011

## Editor's Bit

Delivery of the Village Newsletter seems to be getting later each month, held up as our kind volunteer deliverers await the arrival of the benefice magazine. If you have a date for an event early in the month, please send it in for the month before.

*Reg – 24<sup>th</sup> July*

Features	
ERG Evening Walk for August Church Service Times Nature Notes	News from the Parish Council Future Date for your diary Letter to the Editor
Dates for your Diary	
ERG Walk – Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> August – Village Hall – 4.30pm – Barbeque to follow after walk	
‘Ride and Stride’ – Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September – Tetbury start for a led/ERG Walk	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 5 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</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>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August</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>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></b>	

## ERG Evening Walk And Barbecue - Saturday 13th August

An evening stroll of approximately 4 miles on local footpaths

**Meet** at Elkstone Village Hall at 4.30pm

This evening walk in August 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 will be held at the Village Hall (outside, weather permitting). Please bring your own drinks, which can be left in the Village Hall fridge before the walk.

For catering purposes we will need to know numbers so **please let Bernard know by Wednesday 10th August if you will be staying for the barbecue.** There will be a charge of £3 to cover the costs.

You can obviously choose walk and no barbecue but hopefully lots of villagers will want to enjoy the whole evening.

*Bernard Alder - 01242 870255 - [sbalder@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sbalder@tiscali.co.uk)*



## Church service times for August are:

August 7th	Holy Communion	9.30am
August 14th	Family Service	10.00am
August 21st	Morning Prayer	11.00am
August 28th	No service	

Best wishes, *David Pierce*

## Nature Notes

There has been a request to make a list of all the wild flowers currently growing on the triangular patch of grass east of Slutswell, at the junction of Huncombe Lane and Colesbourne Hill. Driving past it does look very bright, but you cannot appreciate all the variety, so I stopped for an enjoyable half an hour to make this list:

Red clover	Scabious (pale blue)	White clover
Bindweed	Ribwort plantain	Yellow bedstraw
Great plantain (Waybread)	Silverweed	Purple vetch
Birdsfoot trefoil (yellow)	Hop trefoil (yellow)	Scentless mayweed
Knapweed (purple)	Lesser mullein	Meadow cranesbill (blue)
Groundnut	Hogweed	Thistle
Yarrow	Jack go to bed at noon	Cow parsley
Salad burnet	Dock	Hawkweed
Rest harrow		

When I was 9 years old, our school had a keen botany student as a teacher, and she started me on a life-long hobby of noticing flowers. The value of good teachers in stimulating the interest of children is enormous.

The flowers that grow on uncultivated patches are often varied because some species are killed by fertilizers and herbicides – especially orchids, which is sad.

*Jessie*

## News from the Parish Council

### Community Speed Watch

There is a possibility that a Community Speed Watch initiative could be set up, to monitor the speed of motorists passing along some of the region's busier routes, including the 3/190 through Elkstone. Any repeat offenders could be followed up by police action.

Community volunteers for this initiative would need to receive some training.

If you are interested in taking part in any Elkstone speed survey, please let me know.

There will be a meeting about this initiative on the evening of Wednesday 10th August 2011, in Elkstone village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm.

### Registering your septic tank

All septic tanks and cess pits have to be registered with the Environment Agency by the end of this year! If you have a communal system – as for example for the Fosseway Living houses, your system should already have been registered, but now all single residence tanks and pits must be registered too. Below is guidance from the Environment Agency:

*By January 2012, all domestic properties must register their septic tanks / package treatment systems. This includes both existing and newly installed systems. There will be some properties that have a discharge consent under the system we operated prior to April 2010 when the regulations changed. Discharge consents from this time, will automatically transfer to becoming discharge exemptions under the new regulations. Dependent on the way the septic tank / package treatment system operates, householders have the option for registering one of the following exemptions:*

*\* 5m<sup>3</sup> per day or less to a river, stream, estuary or the sea from a sewage treatment plant, or;*

*\* 2m<sup>3</sup> per day or less to groundwater via a drainage field or infiltration system from a septic tank or sewage treatment plant.*

**Follow this link** to find out more, and to locate the **downloadable registration form**:  
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/117485.aspx>  
*Lois Eyre 870375*

### **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*

### **Letters to the Editor**

I attended the Daglingworth meeting last week and raised the issue of potholes and the poor way in which they were filled, with no sealed edges apparently being the reason that the repair work lasts for such a short time! I thought other villagers would like to see the reasons put forward by Gloucestershire Highways. I attach these without further comment!

*With reference to the pothole overhand sealing: It had never before been practical to over-band potholes, it is now being carried out as a new product has come onto the market making it viable to do.*

*Previous issues against it were:*

*Tar Boilers :*

*Very dangerous items, frequently burst into flames if tar becomes slightly overheated.*

*Large piece of equipment that would need a van and crew of its own to operate*

*A toxic material*

*Don't have the ability to produce small quantities of hot tar and potholing operations would make it extremely expensive and inefficient. (few potholes in each road travelling across the patch all day)*

*Tar Banding:*

*Difficult to band narrow enough so not to cause a hazard to cyclists, especially around a pothole. Large patches, for which the process was always intended enables the use of a "shoe" to apply a narrow band, impossible with potholes.*

*The new product is:*

*Cold laid – not danger of burns or cost of heating.*

*Sprayed from a small aerosol can – carried on the van without the need for any further equipment.*

*Is non toxic – safe for operatives.*

*Good skid resistance – is lightly dusted immediately after application.*

*Anne Davies*

### **Traffic problems through Elkstone**

I recently attended a meeting of the Cirencester Local Policing Team Rural North Neighbourhood Coordination Group Meeting at which Andy Fogden – Gloucestershire Police NHW Officer and Garry Handley – GCC Road Safety were to be present. One aim of the meeting was to find ways we, as residents, can help to improve the safety of our communities by sharing information and learning. Garry Handley outlined how we can all work together as a community and Road Safety Partnership (County Council, Police and Fire). He started by saying that all people believe car accidents will

happen to someone else, that the No 1 cause of accidents is 'Failing to look' with Speed at No 3. He then said that there are 4 ways to reduce speeding: Enforcement, Engineering, Education, and Encouragement.

Enforcement: Drivers more likely to speed if they think they won't get caught. Hence presence of Police officers and awareness that speed monitoring is likely will deter. However, with reduced policing resource there cannot always be the desired presence.

Engineering: Physical deterrents to speeding. Due to reduced budgets, Highways will look at a number of criteria including casualty figures before deciding priorities on where money is to be directed.

Education & Encouragement: Need to find who are the people who speed, whether inappropriate speeding or excessive speeding. 3 types – the 'momentary lapse'; the 'I know best'; the 'violate/disregard'.

Much of the solution he pointed out revolves around communication and reminding drivers of the need to take care. It is apparent that many offenders are 'local'; (in one area after a successful appeal to get a lower speed limit the first offender caught was the vicar! He urged that all those present to 'Get your own house in order first'. He also suggested that one way to deter speed was to build in elements of uncertainty to encourage drivers travelling through a community to slow down and, when asked, advised that the random parking of vehicles to create obstacles is not illegal. Other community led initiatives include Wheelie bin stickers and posters such as Check Speed 30' '20 is Plenty' Highways would be happy to help communities to put this in place. –

Some communities' including Coberley S.A.F.E.R and Standish S.C.A.R.S have already set up initiatives and formed action groups to focus on local issues and coordinate actions and you can learn more about these at <http://sites.google.com/site/safercampaign>;

[http://www.standishvillage.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=224](http://www.standishvillage.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=224)

He was then asked if GCC supported Community Speed Watch using trained individuals as it appears that Gloucestershire is the only area not supporting this initiative. In response he clarified that Speed Watch was started in Gloucestershire some years ago but now is subject to Health and Safety concerns linked with fallout from the 'Herald of Free Enterprise' liability issues. ACPO policy also states that they do not support Community Groups using speed detection devices.

Many of those present however made it quite clear, that we should not accept it cannot be done as other areas are successfully operating speed watch and it was agreed that we would try to set up a Rural North Community Speed Watch. Trained volunteers would conduct speed checks in 20/30/40mph locations, record their findings and pass these to the police. These would be repeated after a month and regular offending vehicles will be pinpointed for action by Police and PCSO Shutt & PC Watkins support this initiative and agreed to establish a definitive ruling from senior officers regarding permissibility of civilians conducting these activities.

I then raised the issue of HGVs travelling through the Freight Management Zone. I was told that lorry watch is part of the Big Community Offer to encourage the Community to collate information in relation to movement of HGVs Trading Standards are supposed to be the lead agency on this but due to the cut-backs are no longer supporting this. I know that if you see an HGV on our road and report the number to Andrea she will follow this up and hopefully the haulier involved, advised of his transgression will refrain from repeating it. Some lorries it is accepted may be visiting a property in the village but many more are using the road as a rat run and ignoring the weight restrictions..

Finally it has been suggested that Rural North Parishes fund a suitable vehicle for PC Watkins and PCSO Shutt because due to the limited number of police fleet vehicles available and priority requirements the Community Support Officers have been left without transport on a number of occasions. They even at times go to the station at 6.00am to get a car for their 8.00am shift! It is important that they do have marked Police cars in order to be able to operate effectively. The Chair suggested this is a matter which should be addressed directly with senior Constabulary officers in view of the tremendous importance of the Community Support Officers' work which is much appreciated.

The above matters are going to be discussed by interested attendees at a further meeting in Elkstone Village Hall on April 10 at 7.00pm. I am happy to represent Elkstone at that meeting and will then report back on progress. Your feedback on any of the above would be greatly appreciated

*Anne Davies - 870516*