

Elkstone Newsletter

24th Year: No. 12 (287)

September 2011

Editor's Bit

Jessie and I would like to suggest 'Nature Share' – a scheme devised by Jessie and myself where bird table visitors are able to share human-provided food and give pleasure to both families. We are sharing woodpeckers at the moment but I am having trouble getting the kestrel to visit Jessie. A committee will be formed soon for regularising the sharing of avian entertainment.

Reg – 22nd August

Features	
Church Service Times ERG Walk for September News from the Parish Council	Macmillan Coffee Morning Nature Notes Speeding News Elkstone History
Dates for your Diary	
'Ride & Stride' – Saturday 10 th September – Tetbury-10.15am - ERG/Historic Churches Walk	
Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 21 st September – 8.00pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
World's Biggest Coffee Morning – Friday 30 th September – 10am – noon - Village Hall	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 2 nd 16 th and 30 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 next month's edition: Tuesday 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>	

Services at Elkstone Church in September are as follows:

September 4th - 09.30am Holy Communion

September 11th - 10.00am Family Service

September 18th - 11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving

September 25th - 10.00am Songs of Praise

The Archdeacon of Cheltenham Robert Springett is leading our Family Service on September 11th. This is the first time the Archdeacon will have been to a service in our Church since he was appointed, so it is an opportunity for him to learn about our village at worship. The Family Service is as the name says a service for families, so why not come and join us?

Over the last few weeks we have seen the harvest being gathered in, with many farm vehicles going through the village. It is always amazing to see the changing seasons. The weather this year has seemed different from many years with a very warm April and cold June, but the harvest still happens, and the food we need is gathered. The Harvest service is a chance for us to thank God for his provision. As in previous years

the produce given at Harvest, and the collection from the service will be given to those who have less than us. If you cannot join us on September 18th please bring any gifts of produce to the Church on the Saturday, otherwise please join us and bring your gifts to the Thanksgiving Service.

David Pierce

ERG Walk - Saturday September 10th - Historic Churches Day

Start at the Old Rail Yard Car Park, Tetbury, meeting at 10.15am for a 10.30 am start
Subject Location Easting 389350 Northing 193350

Grid reference: OSGB36: [ST 893 933](#)

WGS84: 51:38.3040N 2:9.3607W **or GL8 8EP**

Approaching from Cirencester along the A433 turn left before the town, at a sign for Tetbury industrial estate and take the road downhill for about a mile. The Old Railway Yard car park (free) is on the left at the bottom of the hill.

If instead you approach from the town centre, take Chipping Street (from opposite the Market House) downhill for about 600 yards and turn right into the car park.

Our walk, part of Ride and Stride for Gloucester historic churches, is based on the town and countryside around Tetbury. We shall visit the lovely Georgian Gothic church of St Mary the Virgin which has roots to at least the 7th century and what is possibly the oldest site of [Christian] worship in Gloucestershire, In contrast we shall also visit St Saviour's Church, a magnificent Victorian church was built in a fabulously ornate Medieval style and was intended for the poor of the parish, who could not afford to pay for seats in St Mary's.

The walk is of approximately 5miles long on easy terrain with some stiles. When we walked it the ground was dry and easily passable but in places somewhat overgrown so trousers, not shorts, might be the order of the day. There were some stiles but none of great difficulty.

For those who want to stay for lunch and possibly for some shopping in the town afterwards, we will arrange a table at The Ormond, where the choice includes a £10 two course lunch.

Jeremy & Anne - 870516

Sponsorship forms are available from *Carole – 870493*

News from the Parish Council

Bus Services:

Our bus services have been reprieved! Timetable changes are expected later this year for the 582 Cirencester-Gloucester services, with the possibility that fewer buses will run through the parish. The Monday bus to Cheltenham (which used to be the Tuesday bus for market day) will become the Thursday bus, as it is planned to combine this service with another once-weekly service to Cheltenham.

Registering your Septic Tanks:

This requirement has been put on hold as the Environment Agency and Defra have discovered a need to discuss further before proceeding.

Volunteers:

To date, three parishioners have volunteered for the Community Speedwatch Initiative (see Speeding News on the next page) but no-one has expressed interest in forming a telephone kiosk preservation group.

Lois - 870375

**Friday 30th September
10.00 - 12.00
Elkstone Village Hall**

BE PART OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



© Macmillan Cancer Support 2007. Registered charity no.

Please come along and be part of The World's Biggest Coffee Morning and help me raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Last year we raised £577.31 and whatever we raise this year will help improve the lives of those affected by cancer. Macmillan Cancer Support provides practical, medical, emotional and financial support and campaign for better cancer care. The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is one of the biggest fundraising events in the UK, with an estimated 2 million people raising their mugs for Macmillan on **Friday 30th September**. With the proceeds of all the Coffee Mornings, together we aim to raise over £8 million for people affected by cancer. So please, let's get together and share a cuppa (tea, coffee and soft drinks) with a lovely slice of cake and have a good chat and in the process raise much-needed funds for Macmillan. No need to book - just pop in and please feel free to bring lots of friends! Children are also very welcome.

Julia Davey - Old School House - 870038

Nature Notes

It has been remarked that fencing has been constructed on the banks of the River Churn in some places. The reason is to encourage the water voles to spread undisturbed. They have been seen on that stretch of the river and used to be common before the mink invaded and presumably killed them.

Has anyone any information about the unusual snakes seen in the village? One was seen while topping the grass behind the School House, and another was dead in the road. They were a pretty gold or yellow colour and one had spots on it. We think they are straw snakes, which are kept as pets by some people and are apparently harmless. There have also been slow worms seen which are also harmless and not very big.

Is it a good year for reptiles?

Jessie

Speeding News

A meeting was held in Elkstone Village Hall to discuss speeding at various locations in our area. Another meeting will be advertised soon with an agenda to progress action soon.

In an effort to tackle the common complaint of speeding traffic, teams of volunteers, who have their parish council support, will be trained to use speed-monitoring equipment. One of the volunteers acts as the local co-ordinator and is the point-of-contact for the team, as well as being responsible for the correct operation of the equipment.



communityspeedwatch

The teams will have access to radar speed detection equipment, Community Speed Watch signs and reflective jackets. The volunteers then carry out speed checks in 30 mph and 40 mph limits, working to Gloucestershire Constabulary guidelines.
PCSO Andrea

Another Piece of Elkstone History

An unusual request was received via the Elkstone website from a potential author – could anyone provide him with the location of the Prisoner of War camp which was believed to have been sited in/near Elkstone?

The two “History of our Houses” articles, which mentioned fencing by PoWs were forwarded, and Sylvie kindly undertook to ask Margaret, who attended Elkstone School during the war. This is what she told us:

Leaving Elkstone by the lane past Highgate, you reach a T-junction, with Brimpsfield to the left (under the bridge) and Cowley to the right.

Across this Brimpsfield-Cowley lane at the T-junction is a sheep field and on your right is a wheat-field.

These two fields comprised the camp, made up of about thirty Nissen huts.

The Grinnell family of Highgate keep their farm immaculately and there is absolutely no trace of concrete bases in the fields, at least not from the ground!

Margaret remembers the camp's occupants as Italians, not Germans, and that they worked on the farms, fencing and so on. One severe winter, some of the Italians wrote their names in the deep snow and the village children did likewise, but the children couldn't understand the Italian names.

She also remembers that after the war, the huts were occupied by families, perhaps some who had lost their homes, or evacuees. The children from these families came to Elkstone School. Margaret visited a Nissen hut which had a large stove in the centre, and a chimney poking out through the roof!

Paul Grinnell added a detail about the wall along the north side of the Brimpsfield/Cowley lane, which used to be the Highgate boundary, but is now the Stockwell boundary since the lane was re-aligned c.1995. The wall was built by Grandfather Grinnell using much of the broken-up concrete from the hut floors, and some of the recycled pieces of concrete are still visible.

Elkstone objects from another angle

Can you place them?

