

Elkstone Newsletter

25th Year: No. 7 (295)

April 2012

Editor's Bit

A reminder – contributors to the Newsletter must sign and put their names and contact details to items submitted for inclusion in the Newsletter – obviously, most e-mails are so named.

The Editor reserves the right to edit items, and decline to include any item, which may be considered in any way inappropriate.

The Vernal Equinox is here - Summer is definitely on the way and I apologise for riding my ancient motorcycles around the lanes. If you are worried about my approach, indicate, and I will pass slowly and safely!

Reg – 22nd March

Features	
Church Service Times Easter Day Service Election of Churchwardens ERG Walk for April	From the Parish Council – the 3/190 Nature Notes Advertisements
Dates for your Diary	
Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 18th April - 7.30 pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
Annual Parish Open Meeting - Wednesday 18th April - 8.00 pm - Elkstone Village Hall	
Vestry Meeting – Saturday 21 st April – 9.30 am - Elkstone Village Hall	
ERG Walk – Saturday 21 st April - 9.55 am - Minchinhampton Common	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 13 th and 27 th
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – <i>Trevor - 870246</i>
Deadline for next month's edition: Friday 20th April 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 during April are as follows:

April 1 st	09.30am	Palm Sunday – Joint Benefice Service at Cowley – no service at Elkstone
April 5 th	07.00pm	Maundy Thursday - Joint Benefice Service at Colesbourne
April 6 th	10.00am	Good Friday – Joint Benefice Service at Coberley
April 7 th	06.00pm	Easter Saturday – renewal of Baptismal Vows – Joint Benefice Service at Elkstone
April 8 th	10.00am	Easter Family Songs of Praise
April 14 th	14.30pm	Wedding
April 15 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
April 22 nd	10.00am	Songs of Praise
April 29 th	10.00am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Colesbourne

Easter Day Service at Elkstone

Winter is over and Spring is in the air. We see around us the signs of new birth and regeneration. New lambs, daffodils, primroses, buds on the trees and hedgerows, we marvel at the world and we rejoice. We are also reminded of Easter and Christ's gift to us of new life, one of the Church's great celebrations. Our Easter Day service this year is at 10.00am, which will be an Easter Songs of Praise. We will have a series of readings following Christ on the day of his resurrection, interspersed with hymns of worship which link with the readings, helping us to reflect on that day with a chance to celebrate what his resurrection means. Why not join us in this great celebration?

After the service there will be an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard for children. See if you can find more than the Churchwarden!

David Pierce - Churchwarden

Election of Churchwardens

Just as the Parish Council has an open meeting each year, so does the Church. Historically known as the Vestry Meeting, it is held about Easter-time, to elect the churchwardens who see to the fabric and work of the church for the coming year.

All parishioners on the local government electoral register and all those on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend and vote.

We don't meet in the Vestry, but the Village Hall, this year on Saturday 21st April at 9.30am and the election only takes a few minutes.

Do nominate beforehand, or pop in and vote, or both. Or just send a message of support. It has been your right since the 14th century!

Mostly everyone in Elkstone's 100 or so houses is proud of their special village church. Please encourage those who care for it and its ongoing work.

Sylvie Pierce

p.s.

Every parish church in the country is supposed to have two churchwardens (the vicar's choice and the people's choice) and a treasurer - many are retired folk.

David has fulfilled all three roles for quite some years (no other takers, and yes, the busman's holiday) most willingly.

I don't suppose this year's Vestry meeting will be any different from any other - no one ever turns up and David says of course he will serve.

Except this last year he raised £70,000 for vital repairs to the church, all completed, whilst undergoing vital repairs to himself.

My lovely boy has undergone two massive operations for cancer and twelve sessions of chemo, which finished last month.

He is in more than full time-work and when recovering from surgery has worked at home on a book, commissioned by a firm of legal publishers, to help family businesses.

The church is always open, with well-attended services of every kind, the best coffee morning in town every Sunday and eight weddings this summer.

Just thought a kind word from the village might encourage him.

Sylvie

ERG Walk: Saturday 21st April

Minchinhampton and Rodborough are the two largest of a chain of seven National Trust-owned commons above and to the south of Stroud. Our April walk is an easy, near-level and stile-free 4.5 mile route, along quiet lanes and across commons, giving extensive views over the Golden and Nailsworth Valleys, hopefully with early spring flowers, and little mud. Please be aware that much of this route is at high level, so will feel cold and exposed in windy conditions.

Please bring money with you for an optional ice cream or hot or cold drink at approximately half way.

After walking, lunch could be taken at the Amberley Inn (01453 872565) which is only half a mile from our rendezvous.

Meet by 09.55 a.m. in the parking bay immediately to the east of the Severn Trent Minchinhampton Reservoir, at grid ref 855 014 (OS Landranger 162, Explorer 168).

Directions – From the new roundabout at the top of Cowcombe Hill (A 419) turn onto the Aston Down/Burnt Ash/Upper Hyde/Minchinhampton to Stroud road (actually named Cirencester Road) across the commons, and turn south west towards Nailsworth and Box at the staggered junction known as Tom Long's Post (g.r. 858 014). Almost immediately, turn right (west) towards Amberley (this lane is the top/east end of Culver Hill, though it's still level here!) Pass three parking bays on your right and park in the fourth one, immediately next to the railed and covered reservoir.

Lois - 870375

From the Parish Council

The 3/190 and Manor Cross and Westerleigh crossroads

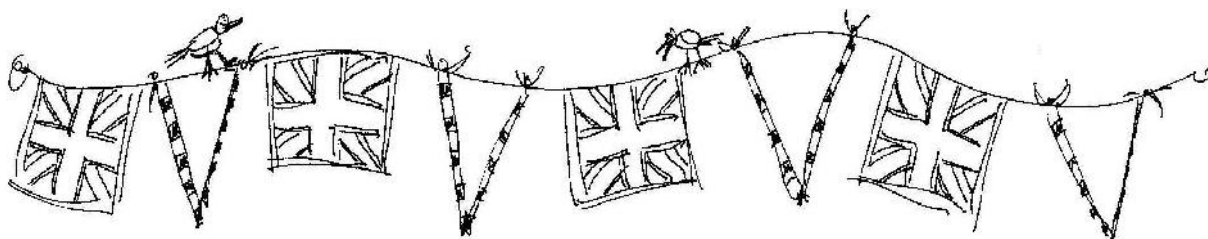
The 3/190 used to be a narrow lane, but was widened in the 1960s. Some properties were required to give up strips of laneside land to achieve this. This was the period of the Ford Anglia and the earliest Minis, when the UK had only a handful of bits of motorways, and whilst the splays at the junctions gave adequate sight-lines then, with increasing volume and speed of traffic, some of the sight-lines appear inadequate now.

It's almost 20 years since Elkstone Parish Councillors went to the Public Inquiry into the proposed dualling of the A417. Their purpose was to argue for a near-Cirencester link between the dual carriageway and the A 435, anticipating that otherwise, the 3/190 would become a rat run. The representative of GCC did not agree with their concerns, he thought that 'only locals would know this route', although there was a promise of monitoring subsequent traffic. Unfortunately, Councillors were proved right once the dual carriageway was opened. The subsequent struggle to achieve traffic calming measures was a long one - there were meetings within the Parish, and meetings with County Councillors and Gloucestershire Highways staff and consultants, with ideas ranging through gating, one-way traffic systems, sleeping policemen, pinch points and chicanes – all of which could not be installed by Highways, for a variety of reasons. Meanwhile, daily traffic flow increased from about 300 vehicles per 24 hours to over 2000 vehicles per 24 hours Monday to Friday. In 2008, the Parish Council agreed to the current length of 40 mph speed restriction, sharks' teeth, 'gates' and red tarmac, on the basis that, in a period of diminishing budgets, it seemed to be the best that would be offered. Councillors are aware that even so, some parishioners think all the signs and road markings are inappropriate in the Cotswold AONB landscape. This year, however, under the County Council's "Big Society" banner, Gloucestershire Highways is offering to consider small-scale road schemes where the parish or community is able to match-fund.

We are grateful for the public-spiritedness of the parishioners who have committed to the Community Speedwatch initiative, and it is hoped that this will have a beneficial effect on driver behaviour through these two junctions. However, it has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that some parishioners feel more should be done.

Parish Councillors would be pleased to receive parishioners' views. Please write or e-mail to a Councillor or the Clerk, to give your opinion, and/or describe the level of difficulty you experience with the road and the junctions – indicating how frequent is your use, and at what time(s) of day. Please also indicate whether you would be prepared to contribute to funding a further scheme, should Gloucestershire Highways agree that more could be done by way of traffic management. Please remember to include your name and contact details. Thankyou.

Lois Eyre



Diamond Jubilee Big Tea

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee a "Big Tea" is being arranged for the afternoon of Monday 4th June from 3 – 6pm.

A traditional English Tea with sandwiches and cakes is being offered to everyone from the Parish of Elkstone, in the Village Hall, or if fine, on the Village Green.

A group from the village have started to form a plan for a memorable afternoon. This special afternoon will **not** have an admission cost – you'll just be asked to bring a contribution of food for the Bring and Share Tea. More news will be available in the next Newsletter.

In the meantime, please pop the date on your calendar and in the Diary.

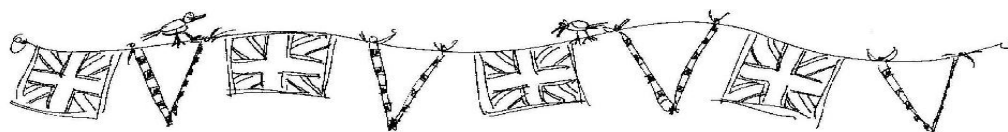
Suggestions so far for accompanying activities feature a Tug of War, entertaining quizzes, a hat competition and the chance to enter a decorated Fairy Cake for a suitable prize.

The organisers would dearly love to keep the costs to a minimum; in view of this would you kindly let us know if you can help with any of the following items:

Bunting, Red White and Blue serviettes, Balloons, Table Coverings, Contributions towards the cost of Jubilee Mugs for the Children and suitable token prizes, Champagne to toast Our Queen, A Celebration Cake, Gazebos or Marquee, and any Ideas please!!!

Our Councillors of Elkstone Parish Council have very kindly donated a sum of money that will pay for the hire of the Hall and some of our sundry items. Many thanks to them for considering our request so favourably.

Carole Bury – 870493 - www.Carolebury.com



Nature Notes

Flowers seem to be coming out in a very erratic fashion. Some daffodils are already in flower, whereas others are only just coming up.

Yesterday was Mothering Sunday, and it was so delightful to see so many violets, all suddenly come into flower in the verges along the sunny side of the hedges. Why do the white ones flower first?

There was a couple walking along the lane; I stopped to greet them, and said ‘Do look out for the violets’ but they just strode quickly on. It is nice sometimes to just potter and look. I remember there used to be an old lady who travelled by taxi – it used to stop at High Cross so that she could admire the violets.

A red kite has been spotted around over the village.

Do take time to potter and look and enjoy all the sights of Spring.

Jessie

A possible theatre outing

I recently attended a wonderful performance at the Everyman Theatre of a story based on 1960’s music. The same company is returning in July to do another show, also based on 1960’s music.

If sufficient of you would be interested I would be happy to try to negotiate a group booking to include possibly a trip around the theatre (including backstage), a pre theatre supper and seats for the show.

If you think you might like to attend please contact me on 870516 or by email at elkstonecoordinator@hotmail.co.uk so I might have some idea of possible numbers to help with negotiations.

Anne

Rumour time

It has been said by some in the village that your Editor has been seen walking out with a pretty young blonde female. My response is that ‘Rosie’ is my new fitness trainer and she insists that we play every morning and then go for a ‘cool-down’ walk afterwards.

I now own up! Rosie is a truly delightful eight and a half year old yellow Labrador who is just retired from her former employment as a working gun dog (she no longer carries a gun?)

Ed.

THE OLD RECTORY RESTAURANT

The Old Rectory, Colesbourne, Cheltenham
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Tel: 01242 870120

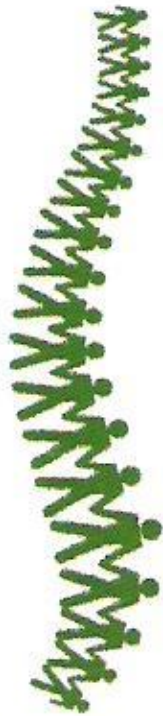
Sean & Diana offer a warm welcome to their charming Restaurant with lovely Garden

Enjoy top quality Cotswold Meat & Poultry Fresh Fish & Vegetables
Delicious home made desserts

Bookings advised - Telephone 01242 - 870120

For details of our sample menus please visit
www.theoldrectorycolesbourne.co.uk

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