

Elkstone Newsletter

25th Year: No. 8 (296)

May 2012

Editor's Bit

Apology time – I appear to have left some items out of the last Newsletter. My only excuse is that I had transferred files to the newer computer and missed some files. I also forgot to mention that many ancient motorcycles would be using the Zeal track on 1st April. Can anyone provide a memory implant?

Reg – 22nd April

Features	
Church Service Times	Nature Notes
Parties at Elkstone Manor	Village Hall AV and dishwasher news
ERG Walk for May	Coberley School Fayre
News from the Parish Council	Community Speedwatch
The Future of the Village Hall	Diamond Jubilee Big Tea
Dates for your Diary	
ERG Walk – Monday 7 th May – 10.00am – Green Dragon car park	
Parish Council AGM – Wednesday 16 th May – 8.00 pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
Diamond Jubilee Big Tea — Monday 4 th June – 3.00pm to 6.00pm - Elkstone Village Hall	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food and garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 11 th and 25 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: Sunday 20th May 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 May are as follows:

May 5 th	time	tbc	Wedding
May 6 th	09.30	am	Holy Communion
May 13 th	10.00	am	Family Service
May 20 th	11.00	am	Morning Prayer.
May 25 th	12.30	pm	Wedding
May 27 th	10.00	am	Songs of Praise - Whitsun

Private parties to be held at Elkstone Manor, Saturday May 5th, Saturday June 2nd and Saturday June 30th

Wedding receptions will be held at Elkstone Manor on Saturdays 5th May, 2nd June and 30th June

Dance music will play until 11.00pm

Coaches will be used to reduce the number of cars

Christine

ERG Walk, Bank Holiday Monday 7th May

This is a local walk of between 4.5 and 5 miles, which takes us up through Cowley Woods to open fields and then along a beautiful valley. We join the Gloucestershire Way for the approach to Coberley and return to the Green Dragon along country lanes.

Although much of the walk is reasonably level with panoramic views, there are a couple of fairly steep ascents, one stile and there could be mud in places.

Meet at the far end of the Green Dragon car park (Grid reference SO 96871 14188) ready for a 10 am start.

After the walk lunch could be taken at the Green Dragon Inn.

Marion

ERG stop press – the June walk will not take place.

There will, however, be a walk in August, date to be confirmed later.

News from the Parish Council

Olympic Torch Relay

On Wednesday 23rd May, on only the fifth day of its journey, the Olympic Flame will come into our district for the first time having travelled from Swindon. It is scheduled to arrive in Cirencester at 3:45pm where it will be carried along London Road, Lewis Lane, South Way & North Way before entering the Market Place and then onto Castle Street and Sheep Street. It will continue in convoy mode along the A419 towards Stroud, and thence via Gloucester and Cheltenham, and northwards.

Car parks other than the Market Place will remain open, and Cirencester Town Council is planning a Bands in the Park event at Abbey Grounds, from 10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

On Sunday 1st July the relay will briefly re-enter the Cotswolds, passing through Chipping Campden en route between Stratford upon Avon and Broadway.

More information is available from the CDC website by entering 'Olympic Torch' in the search box.

Safeguarding the Future of our Village Hall

Over the last fifty years, funds to care for the Village Hall have been raised in many ways, and for the last twenty years the major source of income has been the Gardens Open Day in June. Whilst income from the Gardens day has always been split between the Village Hall and the Church, the Hall's share usually exceeds £1000.

Volunteers

The organisation of the Gardens Day has always relied on a few people making a monumental effort to ensure that all comes together on the day. Perhaps not unsurprisingly these great contributors find it difficult to make such a commitment year after year. It now looks likely that, after twenty successful years, we will not have the volunteers to organise a Gardens Day in 2012. If this is the case then we have to try to find alternative ways of raising the money we need to keep the hall open and available.

Alternative Funding

As the hall has the potential to benefit everyone in the village it would seem sensible to give everyone the opportunity to be involved. Your Trustees have a proposition on which we would welcome your views.

There are approximately 50 households in the village. A regular, gift aided, contribution to the Village Hall Charity from every household of, say, £3 each month, would provide a relatively secure income stream.

Questionnaire

Most village households should, by now, have received a questionnaire asking if you would be prepared to help in this way and giving options of alternatives. Please take a look at the form and, when you have completed it, return it to me at Langdale. If you have not received a form or you would like to discuss any other options please give me a call. We would really welcome your views.

Martyn Wylie. Treasurer, Elkstone Village Hall - 870441

On behalf of the Trustees of Elkstone Village Hall

Nature Notes

This April, the weather has been quite different from last year, when it was warm and sunny after a cold winter. This year we've had cold and heavy rain storms, hail, and cold nights.

At least the already nearly 3" of rain should help the dry ground.

The red kite is still in our area, and a little owl has been seen. They used to be very common, hunting for insects and beetles, and nesting in old ash trees. The spotted woodpeckers are busy on the peanut feeders. Our editor has seen a rare stranger, which we think is an oriole. It was thrush-sized, yellow with brown wings and tail.

Jessie

Village Hall AV System & Dishwasher

Villagers will recall that at the time of the gas pipeline work, the committee secured a grant of just under £5,000. An express condition by National Grid was that the monies be used for 'facility improvements' and not for repairs or just lost in the revenue stream. After consultation, the committee elected to buy an 'AV cinema system' and a commercial dishwasher.

A small number of unsung heroes have assisted us but as Chairman it is my great pleasure to mention in dispatches a few who have gone beyond all call of duty. None has asked for any recognition and one has asked not to be named (I did not give the others the chance to object); but all came forward with generous and effective help.

It is especially noteworthy that casting aside the pressures that his family has been under, Jeremy has dedicated about 6 weeks to: researching, purchasing and installing the AV system. My experience is that this process takes forever, dealing with issues such as HDMI, / lumens / contrast ratio / tanØ / digital light processing vs LCDs / copyright licensing and trying to anticipate which way future technology will go. This area is one of opportunities to waste money by either under-spending or buying wholly inappropriate equipment. To quote an observer: "Jeremy, in particular, has worked extremely hard on this".

Installation assistance was provided by: Steve, David C, Richard & Jan E. The system is well thought-out and sympathetically installed and would have cost at least an extra £4,000 if we had used contractors.

The other has, like a night phantom, and again without thought of reward, installed and modified the plumbing for the new dishwasher and its water softener. By the way, we are aiming to complete this installation for the Jubilee.



Please give these guys the pat on the back that they so richly deserve and acknowledge that they have selflessly enriched all our lives.

Of course, as we continue to develop the Hall facilities, please recommend it and use it yourselves.

Nic as Chair of Village Hall Committee

Coberley School Summer Fayre – Saturday 26th May, 12.00 – 3.00pm

Our popular Summer Fayre will be early Summer this year on Saturday 26th May, moved to avoid other local events and the Olympics. Please put the date in your diary as there will be lots of new, fun activities and games to keep all family members entertained in addition to the traditional stalls such as books, good quality 2nd hand children's clothes, jams, eggs, plants, etc. If that's not enough, enjoy local dance and musical entertainment.

We will be serving a fantastic BBQ lunch, traditional cream teas, refreshing Pimms, delicious ice creams and of course a fine selection of homemade cakes.

Please come along, everyone is welcome and entry is FREE!

Sainsbury and Tesco Vouchers

If you have the opportunity to collect Tesco or Sainsbury vouchers which are now being given away, but don't know what to do with them, please drop them through my door. Coberley School is collecting the vouchers and they are much needed and appreciated.

Many thanks,

Julia Davey - The Old School House

Did You Know

That Elkstone used to have a Toddler Group in the Village Hall that was informally organised by a few local mums. As they were a local group, getting together each week, the Village Hall Committee were able to give them preferential rates. A gate on the front forecourt was put in to ensure the safety of the children and mats and toys were bought and/or donated. The group stopped when the children started school but all of the toys and mats, beakers, plates etc are still in the hall and are crying out to be used again by a Toddler Group. If you fancy getting a group of like-minded parents together to restart the Toddler Group please contact the Village Hall Committee.

Did you Know

That Elkstone has a very good milkman? Part of Dairy Crest, our milkman Simon, comes in the very early hours of the morning to deliver milk, (organic or non organic), bread, cheese, juice, croissants, amongst many other things, on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. You are able to change your order, or add other items on a regular or one off basis very easily using the www.milkandmore.co.uk website. Items can be added or changed before 9pm the day before the delivery is due. Payment is done by direct debit via the website which is very easy to navigate. I have reduced my plastic recycling hugely by having milk in glass milk bottles rather than buying it at the supermarket in plastic bottles.

Did you Know

That I collect stamps for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Please feel free to collect them up and pop an envelope through my door from time to time. Many thanks

Julia Davey - The Old School House

Community Speedwatch / Neighbourhood Watch

There are now six trained volunteers who are looking forward to starting Community Speedwatch as soon as we get the green light to do so. The commencement has been delayed

as the Parish Council is awaiting a Risk Assessment from the Police, which has been delayed due to illness; this must then be forwarded to the Insurers before cover can be confirmed. We hope that we will be able to start before too long.

A recent email received via the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is also relevant to the safety of our village roads so I copy it below to bring it to the attention of all villagers:

A message from Police Community Support Officer Andrea Shutt says "Residents in several of the villages patrolled by myself and PC Victoria Stinchcombe have made us aware of instances of inconsiderate parking. Under Section 137 (1) of the Highways Act 1980, the wording is as follows, "If a person, without lawful authority or excuse, in any way willfully obstructs free passage along a highway he is guilty of an offence". That is the definition, which we would adhere to when issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice. □Police would hope that residents park with consideration for their neighbours, visitors and the emergency services."

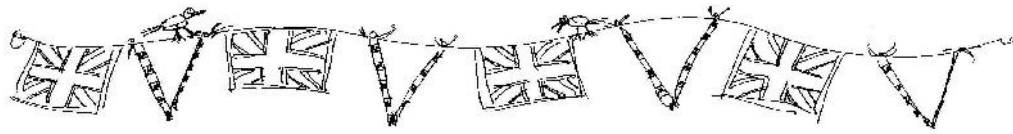
Anne

Jam jars

Please, does anyone want some jam jars? We've amassed quite a few.

Also, we'd be very pleased if anyone would like to take about 2 dozen Little's 50g coffee jars...someone must have a use for them?

Lois



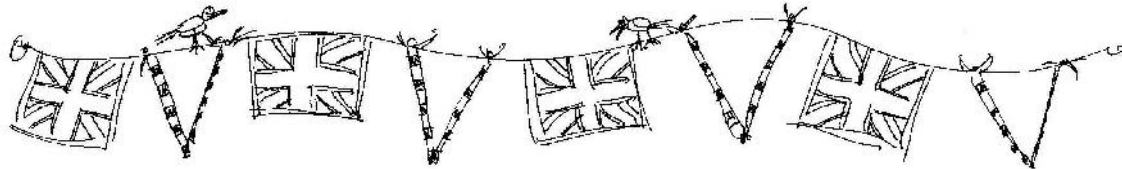
“Diamond Jubilee Big Tea”

Elkstone Village Green and Village Hall

3pm to 6pm - Monday 4th June 2012

You and your Family and any guests you would like to bring are invited to a Bring and Share Tea Celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

No cost for this special afternoon – but if you can come with a plate of cakes or sandwiches then there will be plenty for everyone. Everything else will be provided!



RSVP to Carole

Please phone me – 870493, or email me - carolebury@hotmail.com

or cut off the slip below and deliver to 2 Hill View, Elkstone

This invitation is open to everyone who lives in the Parish of Elkstone and your guests.



There is a certain amount of organisation needed before the day and I do want to make sure we don’t have all the tables full of Fairy Cakes – nice though that would be. I would be grateful for a reply ASAP

If you think you might like to come, would you kindly tick the box and indicate how many people there may be in your party. Do not worry if this number changes.

I would like to provide cakes I would like to provide Sandwiches

Your name and contact details please: Name Contact details
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Please phone me on 870493. Or, email me at carolebury@hotmail.com or deliver this slip to 2 Hill View, Elkstone