

# Elkstone Newsletter

29th Year: No. 3 (315)

December 2013

## Editor's Bit

This is our seasonal issue for 2013 with plenty to provide entertainment. Your editor welcomes all uplifting messages for the Newsletter to make it a wonderful 2014!

*Reg – 23<sup>rd</sup> November*

| Features   |   |
|--|---|
| Services at Elkstone Church  | UNICEF sale, November   |
| Christmas Celebration Meal   | Rendcomb Surgery Support Group  |
| Neighbourhood Watch Report   | Coberley School Christmas Fayre   |
| 'Punch and Munch' Village Hall AGM report  | Rendcomb cakes and tea party  |
| Elkstone Film Club   | Oxfam Concert in Cirencester  |
| Dates for your Diary   |   |
| Rendcomb Surgery Spprt Grp Coffee + Sale –Winstone Village Hall – 10.00-12.00 - Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                    |   |
| Coberley School Christmas Fete – Coberley School - 11.00 –2.00 - Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec   |   |
| Oxfam Syria Appeal Concert – Ashcroft centre, Cirencester, 7.30pm – Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec  |   |
| Christmas Celebration Meal – Green Dragon – Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December  |   |
| Carol Singing + Entertainment – Church View/ Village/ Hall - from 6.00pm - Wed 18th Dec  |   |
| Dr Drysdale's retirement party – Rendcomb Village Hall– 2.00 pm Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December   |   |
| Regular Dates  |   |
| Waste & recycling  | Food + garden waste - Fridays   |
| Waste & recycling  | All bags, bins and boxes – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> and <b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup></b> December |
| 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: <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</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>   |   |

## Church Services in Elkstone for December

The services over the Christmas period will be:

December 1st - Morning Prayer at 10am

December 8th - Family Service at 10am

December 15th - Holy Communion at 11am

December 22nd - Carol Service at 11am

December 24th - Midnight Holy Communion - 11.30pm

December 29th - Joint Benefice Holy Communion at 10am at Cowley - no service at Elkstone

Sunday December 22nd - Carol Service at 11.00am - this will be a traditional Carol and readings service, with the children helping to build the crib scene during the service.

Tuesday December 24th - Midnight Holy Communion - 11.30pm - join us to greet the happy morn of Christmas Day.

Please join us at some time over the Christmas period to celebrate the birth of Christ.

*David*

## Christmas Celebration at The Green Dragon

I have booked 18 places for dinner (7.30pm for 8pm) on Wednesday 11th December for a village celebration. It may be possible to increase the numbers as long as I have your menu choices and money before the end of November.

I have the leaflets with the choices or you can access their website ([www.green-dragon-inn.co.uk](http://www.green-dragon-inn.co.uk)) for further details.

The cost for 3 courses is £22 and for 2 courses £19

These prices include a tip

As I paid a deposit before the end of October we will be able to share 3 complimentary bottles of wine!

So if you want to enjoy a lovely meal, with no preparation or washing up, in good company please let me know - very soon!

Jennie Howlett – 870462 - [brian.howlett@virgin.net](mailto:brian.howlett@virgin.net)

### **Christmas Carol Singing**

Our annual carol singing round the village will commence as usual from Church View at around 6pm on Wednesday 18th December.

Following mulled wine/soft drinks and nibbles and an impromptu rehearsal (Gareth Malone has no need to fear us!) we will, hopefully in dry weather, wend our way to the Village Hall - stopping to sing at as many houses as we can.

Please wear warm clothing and bring a torch; we will supply the carol sheets.

We hope to arrive at the Hall by 8pm where there may be "a bit of a do".

This depends on the villagers. If anyone has any artistic/dramatic talent they would like to show off/or inflict on the audience - now is your chance!

Short poems, musical items, playlets..... are all acceptable.

Suggestions to Jennie Howlett regarding a running order (that's optimistic - I'm hoping the suggestions will be plural!)

*Jennie Howlett*

### **News from the Parish Council**

**Winter preparation** – have you bought a stock of salt / rock-salt / salt+grit to treat your drive or garden path in any forthcoming freeze? Sacks are available from B & Q (appeared to be the cheapest) Countrywide, Dobbies and Homebase (appeared to be the most expensive) – price comparisons are difficult as not all websites advertise the size of the sack. For a seriously economical purchase, get together with your neighbours to order a half-pallet (40 sacks) online – Google ‘rock salt’ or ‘salt+grit’.

**Waste & recycling collections in adverse weather** – last winter, the new contractors, Ubico, followed Health & Safety guidelines and abandoned collections during two extended periods of snow; but in doing so, attracted criticism as some waste went uncollected for a month. This year, Cotswold District Council has negotiated a new plan for dealing with the difficulties of adverse weather – basically, this is that (as before) if waste and recycling goes uncollected on the normal day, due to adverse weather, you should leave it out till the next working day; and if it's still not collected, take it back into your garden, wait for the next time a food+garden waste collection is due, and on this morning, put out your food waste and non-recyclable (i.e. black wheelie bin) waste.

Be sure to put out your wheelie bin with the lid fully closed; there will be a ‘side waste amnesty’ for non-recyclable waste in black plastic bin bags placed beside (not on top of) your wheelie bin. On the following scheduled ‘all bags, bins and boxes’ collection day, you might have a month's accumulation of recyclables, and any which won't fit into the boxes and bags can be presented for collection in any suitable box or bag placed alongside the CDC-supplied one.

For further details, see the free CDC “Cotswold News” which was delivered to all households on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Waste & recycling collection during the Festive Season** – please note that during the period 24<sup>th</sup> December to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014, normal collections will be delayed to allow Ubico contractors their banks holidays. Unless there are adverse weather conditions, expect collections as follows:

Food & garden waste on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December instead of Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

All bags, bins and boxes on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January instead of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Food & garden waste on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January instead of Friday 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Lois - 8770375*

### **Elkstone Film Nights**

We will ease the pressure on the December social calendar by **not** having a film this month.

Please note however that we plan to show **Tea with Mussolini** on **Thursday January 23rd**, so please note this in your diaries!

This is a fascinating tale of a group of resolutely expatriate and aristocratic English (and American) ladies resident in Italy in the thirties through to the wartime years when they endured incarceration as enemies of the state due to the alliance (The Axis) between Hitler and Mussolini - and yet they maintain a huge determination not to lose faith that their former lives will be restored - in the country they still call home.

Directed by Franco Zeffirelli, the cast includes Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Cher, and Maggie Tomlin.

The concluding scenes, when priceless art treasures are at huge risk due to the final confrontation between German Troops and advancing Scottish battalions will be long remembered - Zeffirelli through his lenses honours some doughty characters he actually knew in his childhood.

As before, there will be a supper in the Village Hall starting at **7:00 pm**, with the film commencing at **8:00pm**. If you wish to enjoy the supper and the film, please place £10:00 each in an envelope (marked with your details) through the letter box of Manor Farm Cottage by **6:00pm on Monday 20th January 2014**. For those wishing only to see the film, please arrive a few minutes before 8:00pm, admission at the door will be £5.00 each.

*Jeremy and Anne - 870516*

### **Elkstone Village Hall AGM**

AGM this year took place on Thursday 15th November, minutes for which will be published shortly. I'm sure that everyone will want to recognise and thank **Nic Williamson** for his huge contribution as Chairman, ensuring the smooth running of the Hall, serving for nearly 8 years. Nic had previously announced that he would be stepping down from the role at AGM.

The AGM also saw fit to elect yours truly to take up the position, and I am really very grateful to Marion Cooch, Alan Dick, Ken Haslam and Martyn Wylie for kindly undertaking to be committee members - this provides for great continuity, expertise, and 'balance' between the north and south ends of the village - we will of course welcome (and seek out!) help from the many able people who make the periodic maintenance mornings such fun and so effective. Needless to say, anyone wishing to join the committee will be warmly welcomed.

One suggestion already to hand is for the updating and re-issuing of the Elkstone Welcome Booklet - providing essential information for village newcomers (of which there are now quite a few!) as to who lives where, and of course all the local services and contact phone numbers. If anyone cares to take this on, do please contact me?

The committee plans to meet in early February to decide the 2014 'agenda' and projects to be undertaken. Do please approach any one of us if you have any ideas and suggestions that you 'd like us to take up.

*Jeremy Davies - 870516*

### **Village Hall Accounts**

As treasurer of the village hall I keep the accounts up to date and report to the AGM held each November. The Hall is set up as a small charity and the accounts are very simple but we are talking of income and expenditure of a few thousand pounds each year. We do not need a formal audit but I strongly believe that it is everyone's interest and good practice that the accounts are approved by a second person.

The work involved is very straightforward and you would not have to be a qualified accountant to do it. I estimate it would take half a day once a year in October. I will provide all the information and access to all my records. I would be grateful for a

volunteer to help with this from 2014 onwards. Please let me know if you can help.  
*Martyn Wylie - 870441*

### **Neighbourhood Watch News**

Wow, those dark nights seem to have descended very quickly and winter feels that it is taking hold already. These dark nights have meant a continuation of shed and outbuilding break-ins in the locality, so the Police urge us all to not only ensure that these buildings and garages are well and truly locked, but also lock away the items that are inside. I.e., lock ladders onto racks so they can't be easily taken down to gain access to a property, lock bikes up to something fixed in the garage, lock power tools away in secure cupboards - just make it as difficult for someone as possible so that they move on.

For new residents to Elkstone, I have a Watchword email list, and so when the Police email me a message notifying me of a crime in the local area, I forward these messages on to the email list, to keep people informed and act as additional eyes and ears if the Police are looking for something suspicious. If you would like to join this list, please drop me an email to let me know. All my Watchword messages are sent out blind copy so that your email privacy is maintained.

Please can I encourage everyone in the village to support neighbours who are perhaps a bit more vulnerable or who live on their own and need an extra hand or a bit of additional company. If anyone needs any extra support, please do get in touch with me as there are a number of great organisations out there who provide help in many different ways.

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator – 870038 - [jrdavey@btconnect.com](mailto:jrdavey@btconnect.com)

The Local Policing team asked me to circulate this information – Please keep effective control of dogs around livestock at all time. 4 ewes have been attacked in the last few days in the Woodmancote area - this is now a particularly sensitive time as it is 'tupping' time and any stress will lead to ewes aborting lambs.

The Police advise:

#### **Keep dogs under effective control**

- When you take your dog into the outdoors, always ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under **effective control**. This means that you:
  - keep your dog on a lead, or
  - keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command
  - ensure it does not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access
- Special dog rules may apply in particular situations, so always look out for local signs – for example:
  - Dogs may be banned from certain areas that people use, or there may be restrictions, byelaws or control orders limiting where they can go.
  - The access rights that normally apply to open country and registered common land (known as 'Open Access' land) require dogs to be kept on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July, to help protect ground nesting birds, and always near farm animals.
  - At the coast, there may also be some local restrictions to require dogs to be kept on a short lead during the bird breeding season, and to prevent disturbance to flocks of resting and feeding birds during other times of year.
- It's always good practice (and a legal requirement on 'Open Access' land) to keep your dog on a lead around farm animals and horses, for your own safety and for the welfare of the animals. **A farmer may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm**

### **animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner**

- However, if cattle or horses chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead – don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it. Your dog will be much safer if you let it run away from a farm animal in these circumstances and so will you.

*Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - 870038*

### **Coberley School Christmas Fayre**

Saturday 7th December 2013

11.00am - 2.00pm

Take a stroll around our traditional Christmas Market with a wonderful selection of beautiful handmade and locally produced crafts, gifts, cards, jewellery, chocolate and much more.

Light Lunches, Delicious Cakes and Refreshments in the Christmas Café,

Grand Raffle Draw & Secret Santa

Bring your family and friends and join us for all the festive fun and enjoy listening to the delightful carol singing of the school choir.

#### **Free Entry**

For more information please *contact the School Office - 01242 870366*

### **Oxfam Fundraising Concert**

Hello - My wife and I live in Broadclose Cottage. I am the manager of the Oxfam Book & Music Shop in Cirencester and am currently promoting a concert in which aims to raise funds for Oxfam's important work in Syria and the surrounding countries. The concert will feature The Blue Notes, a female vocal ensemble whose repertoire straddles the borders between musical styles with an exciting mix of genres from swinging jazz and haunting ballads to earthy folk songs and quirky, off-beat versions of traditional melodies. It takes place at 7.30pm at the Ashcroft Centre, Cirencester on Saturday 7th December.

*Lawrence Lomas - 870189*

### **Rendcomb Surgery Support Group**

We were planning to arrange an autumn meeting in order to learn more about the new changes (yet more!) to the NHS. These seem to focus on commissioning. However, the speaker from Tetbury would prefer a later date and there are 2 dates already in the diary for December. So this will have to wait until 2014.

On Saturday December 7th we will be holding our annual

**Christmas Coffee Morning and Cake Sale** in Winstone Village Hall from 10am to noon.

As in previous years we plan to have the usual stalls selling home produce, decorations and bric-a-brac as well as our excellent raffle. Last year was an excellent event, we raised £478 in one morning. All proceeds will be used to benefit patients of the surgery.

A possible future purchase is a piece of equipment to be used in dermatology, or the proposed purchase of specialist surgical equipment.

Please join us on the morning! If you would like to make a donation of cakes, biscuits, jams, preserves, raffle prizes..... please take them to Winstone or contact me and I will arrange to collect and take them to Winstone on the day.

*Jennie Howlett – Church View – 870462*

### **Doctor Drysdale's Retirement Party**

After more than 30 years Dr Stuart Drysdale is retiring from the Rendcomb Surgery practice. In order to mark this achievement the practice and the Surgery Support Group are holding a get together in Rendcomb Village Hall on Thursday December 19th from 2pm to 4pm. You are invited to join us for this very informal event – tea and cakes, and the chance to say Goodbye to Dr Drysdale. Any donations or cards can be given to the surgery reception or to me at Church View, and any suggestions for a suitable retirement gift would also be welcome!

*Jennie Howlett – Church View - 870462*

## Christmas Greetings

Merry Christmas to all our friends in Elkstone  
With very best wishes for the New Year  
*John, Phillipa, Rebecca and Christopher Byrne*  
PS we will be in our new house in January! X X X



A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friends in Elkstone. Nic and Ann

Merry Christmas  
and a Happy Health New Year  
To Everyone  
Many thanks for all your support  
look forward to seeing you in 2014  
Best Wishes  
Sean & Diana & Staff  
The Old Rectory Restaurant



Richard & Gerry would like to wish all of our very special friends and ex neighbours in Elkstone Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year.

We would like to wish all our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas with best wishes Steve, Julia and Hannah



We wish everyone Peace, Love and Goodwill for Christmas and the New Year.  
Brian and Lye Taylor

Reg and Lois wish all friends and neighbours Love, Light and Peace

Please come and join us for a post Christmas glass of wine or a cup of tea and cake on Sunday 12th January between 3 and 6pm. Everyone is welcome but please let me know if you are coming so I know how many cakes to make!! (870 581)  
*Rachael, Andy, Oscar, Tom and Jamie – 870581 - Manor Barn*



This photo shows Sylvie at the food depot in Stroud when she and Steve Davey delivered our Harvest food donations.