

Elkstone Newsletter

28th Year: No. 10 (310)

July 2013

Editor's Bit

Gardens Open Day seems to have gone well! I missed all but the last hour due to riding in Northampton, but people I met at the Village Hall were very happy with what they had seen, and the helpers I met were tired but happy too.

The sun has retired for a while and the April showers have returned. Radio 4 is conducting an inquiry to see who is responsible.

Sadly, a speeding motorist killed one of the woodpeckers that Jessie and I shared. Perhaps I could get a warning triangle put up that suggests that excess speed kills all life on the 3/190!

Reg – 22nd June

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church	ERG Walk for July
Reflections and thanks on Gardens Open Day	Neighbourhood Watch notes
News from the Parish Council	Nature Notes
BHS Gloucestershire TREC	The Elkstone Website
Green Dragon Quartet Concert	Other Events
Dates for your Diary	
BHS Gloucestershire TREC – 13 th and 14 th July	
Green Dragon Quartet Concert at Elkstone Church - 13th July - 7.30pm	
ERG Walk – 20 th July – 10.00am start from behind Tewkesbury Abbey	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 5 th and 19 th July, and 2 nd August
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: Saturday 20th July 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>	

Church Services in Elkstone for July

July 7th 9.30am Holy Communion

July 14th 10.00am Family Service

July 21st 11.00am Morning Prayer

July 28th 10 00am Songs of Praise

A reminder about the concert: please buy tickets in advance for £10 each from either Ronnie and Carole Bury, or David and Sylvie Pierce (please see below).

David Pierce

Gardens Open Day – Sunday 9th June

We hope that someone is writing a longer piece but wanted to send our personal thanks to all those who worked on Open Day; especially Tess, who undertook the co-ordinator role. To us this is a truly vital (every sense of the word) ingredient to our village life: it reminds us what fabulous neighbours we have and what good fun it is to work together for our common good. So many lasting friendships have been born and are reinforced again and again by Open Day. We hope that we are now back into a healthy rhythm.

Ann & Nic Williamson

Gardens Open Day

On behalf of the Village Hall – thank you to everyone who contributed to the Open Day. Frankly, without this level of support the Village Hall (essential if we are to be a ‘community’) would flounder.

Nic Williamson, Village Hall Committee

Village Hall Café at Gardens Open Day

Once again, many, many thanks to all the cooks, waitresses, flower arrangers and those who washed dishes and/or operated the dishwasher. How could we have achieved the afternoon's magnificent sum of £386 without you? We hope you enjoyed your time in the Village Hall as much as we did. The comments from our guests confirmed that we met our usual high standards of wonderful cakes alongside a very warm welcome to all visitors.

You were brilliant!

Margaret and Jennie

Gardens Open Day

Well, weren't we lucky with the weather? The weather played such an important part on the day and to have had sunshine all week and warm and sunny on the day was an added bonus. There are so many of you that helped that I do not want to mention names for fear of missing someone out but thank you to everyone who gave their support on the day, the lead up to it, I could not have organized without you. A special thanks must go to everyone who opened their gardens, there would be no gardens open day without you.

The advertising was successful, and we had more people through the gates than usual. It was lovely to see the village come alive and see so many of you at the barbecue in the evening. Well done everyone. Martyn will follow this up with news of the proceeds.

Tess

Gardens Open Day a financial success

With just a few adjustments to come it is clear that the Gardens Day was a huge success. We raised a total of just over £2000, which will be split 50/50 between the Church and the Village Hall. Thanks to Tess for taking on the burden of coercing the village into action and thanks too to all the villagers who opened their gardens or helped in a myriad of ways with the day. We were blessed with great weather and a great result.

Martyn Wylie, Treasurer

News from the Parish Council

At its Annual Meeting the Parish Council re-elected Mr. Hobbs as Chairman, and Mr. Luck as Vice Chairman.

The Government is expanding the 15 funded hours of early education entitlement for 2 yr olds to include children from families of low income.

Families should contact the Family Information Service to find out whether they are eligible – phone: 01452 427362 or Freephone: 0800 542 02 02 or e-mail:

familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk or check the website:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/earlyyears

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is carrying out an electoral review of Cotswold District Council

The first part of the review will consider the number of District Councillors who should represent the area.

To find out more about the review, check: www.lgbce.org.uk

Offer your opinion at: consultation@lgbce.org.uk

The closing date for submission of views is 16th July.

Cirencester District Council is currently consulting about the emerging Local Plan's proposed district-wide housing requirement, preferred development strategy and plans for a strategic development site south of Chesterton. The public has until 5pm on Friday 19th July to submit comments and, to help clarify the issues under review, the Council will be holding 'drop-in' events for residents, the most local one being on Tuesday 2nd July – Cotswold District Council Chamber, Trinity Road, Cirencester, 2 – 7 pm
Lois – 870375

BHS Gloucestershire TREC - 13th and 14th July

Providing we are not forced to cancel by adverse weather conditions or some other catastrophe, the TREC will see 60 + horse-riders out and about around this and neighbouring parishes over this weekend.

Through Saturday morning and very early afternoon, riders will be undertaking their long map-reading ride. They will set out in pairs or as individuals, at approximately 5 minute intervals. They will be passing from BEL 29 (The Half Mile /Three Gate Lane) across the 3/190, into the south end of the village and down the track beside The Pound; and also along Cockleford Lane towards The Green Dragon, across the 3/190 and into Cowley Wood. Uncombe Lane will be busy with horse-riders on both days.

The Police, Gloucestershire Highways, the GCC Public Rights of Way Department and affected landowners are all aware of this event.

We trust this competition will not disturb parishioners, particularly those whose houses will be passed.

Please contact me if you are, for example, a dog-walker anxious to avoid any of the public rights of way the riders will be using.

Lois – 870375

Green Dragon Quartet Concert at Elkstone Church - 13th July at 7.30pm

Many will remember the very enjoyable concert given by the Green Dragon Quartet a couple of years ago. They have also on a number of occasions played in the Church during the Gardens Open Day. They have very kindly offered to do another concert for us in the Church to help raise funds for the Fabric Fund. This will be on the evening of Saturday 13th July at 7.30pm. Tickets will be £10 each, which will include drinks and nibbles after the concert at Manor Cross.

For those of you who are unaware of the Green Dragon Quartet, they are four experienced musicians who normally play in orchestras, but came together a few years ago for the Elkstone Gardens Open Day, to play in the Church. On that day they asked for suggestions for a name for the group, and liked the proposal of the "Green Dragon Quartet". One quartet member is Caroline, the daughter of Jeremy and Anne Davies.

As seating is limited, admission will only be by ticket bought in advance. Please contact David or Sylvie Pierce (01242 870181), or Ronnie and Carole Bury (01242 870493) for tickets.

David Pierce

ERG Walk - Saturday 20th July

Start at 10.00am from the "Vineyards" long-stay car park immediately behind Tewkesbury Abbey.

The walk is of about 2 hours duration and will encompass much of the site of the Battle of Tewkesbury, and also some very pleasant river views. There are few stiles and the terrain is mostly reasonably level. Most parts are reasonably surfaced but there may be areas with long grass or slippery sections especially after rain. Indeed, this being Tewkesbury in an English summer, there may be really excessive rain for a period of weeks prior to the walk.

If so, the car park will flood and your car might float away.

In this instance it is quite likely we will cancel the walk!

Tewkesbury has many places to eat after walking, but we will probably go to "The Royal Hop Pole" (Wetherspoons), which is nearby and big enough to negate any need to book. **NB** the cost of 4 hours parking is £2 so please bring some change for this. However, for those walkers who do not know the town, it is a pleasant place to wander afterwards so you may wish to linger longer.

Novice walkers will also be very welcome.

Any questions please call *Sue or David - 870373*

Neighbourhood Watch News

It's been a busy couple of months with quite a number of thefts, especially of bikes, from sheds and garages that are not securely locked up. The Police urge us all to lock up our sheds, garages and outbuildings securely to deter theft. There was also an incident when a bike was stolen from a shed/outbuilding left unsecured whilst the owner's back was turned mowing the lawn – it really does make you think.

There was very good news when a Landrover that was stolen with keys, containing 2 Border Collie puppies, was found. Initially the Landrover and one dog were found, and later on the other dog was found too. Great to hear some good news!

PCSO Andrea Shutt circulated the following information recently:

“There have been 4,000 fewer victims of crime in 2012/13 and one of the reasons for the drop in crime is the increased membership of Neighbourhood watch and Rural watch throughout the county and the vital information that you provide for the police.

Historically, the summer can show an increase in crime, in particular theft of plant machinery and equipment; there can be an increase in poaching and hare-coursing. In addition, the badger cull in parts of the county may bring increased numbers of visitors, whether they be in favour of the cull or opposed to it.

Good intelligence is fundamental in tackling crime, and that intelligence will come from the information that you provide. It is important that you contact police with any information or concerns that you have, however small or insignificant you may feel that that information is.

You can contact the police by dialling 101 in non-urgent cases (for instance to pass information on an incident that has already happened) or by dialling 999 if you believe that a crime is taking place.”

If you are not already on my email list which circulates WatchWord messages on criminal / suspicious activity in the locality, given by the Police, please do email me at jrdavey@btconnect.com, if you like to be added.

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - The Old School House

Nature Notes

The blackbirds are raising their third brood of the season and the baby birds, with fluffy feathers, stubby tails and still with the yellow gape at the corners of their beaks, are a delightful sight. Even the starling parents are devoted, if somewhat harassed, as they run across the lawn, pursued by two or three vociferous youngsters demanding a constant supply of nourishment. As they grow, all the young are desperate for high energy food and they are demolishing a large tub cake of fat a day, and a bowl of mealworms will vanish in minutes. Life is precarious for these young and some will only manage a few days, so helping the survivors is very satisfying indeed.

Last year, two young blackbirds came to feed. One was taken by a sparrowhawk but the other, a female, still arrives every morning for food and will wait within inches to grab any grubs when I'm gardening. And that feels really special.

Barbara

Elkstone's Website www.elkstonevillage.com

Jeremy does a fantastic job of maintaining the website, and we have a particularly useful resource in the "Recommended Local Traders" section. You can fill in details on the site (once you have permission to do so from the Trader), submit them and Jeremy will upload them. Both as a villager and from a Neighbourhood Watch point of view, I find these recommendations are a really valuable source of information for us all and it would be great add more traders we know and trust. I am happy for anyone who does not have internet access to ask me to look on the site for them if they are looking for a Trader.

Julia Davey - 870038

Dishwasher – Village Hall

The dishwasher was reported to be leaking water badly – thank you for the report. The engineer observed that it had far too much foam and that it is likely that 'Fairy' liquid had been used. This would cause the 'water' level to rise and overflow. No fault was found and the machine was purged of foam. The engineer (in common with villagers) observed that the water had not been drained and it stank. This was an expensive call-out (hey! don't shoot the messenger).

From this unfortunate incident, we have learnt:

1. this is a commercial dishwasher (different to domestic)
2. It is vital to READ the INSTRUCTIONS (posted on notices around the machine)
3. Detergent and rinse aid are dispensed automatically
4. BUT, one must DRAIN it manually – see instructions.

There is no reason to think of it as complex or difficult, but there is every reason to follow the help notices posted.

Nic Williamson, Village Hall Committee

Coberley School is collecting Sainsbury's 'Active Kids Vouchers'

Coberley School is trying to collect as many Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers as possible, as they can be used to buy new sports equipment for the school. If you have any vouchers that you would like the school to have, please pop them through the letterbox at the Old School House, next to the Village Hall, and I'll ensure they get to the school. I'm not sure if Tesco have also restarted their voucher scheme, but as soon as they do, the school will also be collecting those. Thank you so much to those people who are already dropping off vouchers through our letterbox at the Old School House. These are really welcomed by Coberley C of E School and buy much needed sports equipment. Please keep them coming!

Many thanks for your help and support for this local school.

Julia Davey

Cirencester and District Soroptimist Club "Gift Box"

Soroptimists plan to host a "Gift Box" in Cirencester Market Place, 15th to 29th July.

The 'gift box' is a walk-in piece of public art, colourful and intriguing, but the box hides thought-provoking material about human trafficking. ***Further information may be found from "Stop The Traffik" on www.stophetraffik.org/campaign/giftbox or from the club president, Marietta Crockford, ashleymdc@gmail.com - 01793 751986 or 07909510826***

Date for your Dairy:

Friday 27th September, 10.00am – 12.00noon, Elkstone Village Hall

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Once again I will be organising Elkstone's part in this Macmillan worldwide event. So far the World's Biggest Coffee Mornings have raise over £60m for people living with cancer. I hope you'll come to get together with friends, family and neighbours on Friday 27 September and make time for tea, coffee, cake and what really matters.

Julia Davey – 870038

