

Elkstone Newsletter

29th Year: No. 2 (314)

November 2013

Editor's Bit

In previous years, some of us have used the Newsletter to send seasonal greetings to our friends and neighbours, in return for a small contribution to the MacMillan Fund, the charity we support through the 'World's Largest Coffee Morning'. This year, it's been suggested that some people might like to support 'Send a Cow'. Please let me have your greetings message, via post, letterbox at High Beech, email, or telephone. Please put your contribution, with your name, and marked either 'Send a Cow' or 'MacMillan', through the High Beech letterbox; and your greetings will be included in the December issue of the Newsletter.

The Speed Watch Team is going to experiment with the Smiley/Sad Sid sign, when available, that lets motorists see what we think if they speed, or comply with the 40mph signs.

Reg – 22nd October

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church	Energy Switching
Reports on Harvest Supper and Service	Somewhere to visit
Report on MacMillan Coffee Morning	UNICEF sale, November
ERG Walk for November	Rendcomb Surgery Support Group
Neighbourhood Watch Report	Coberley School Christmas Fayre
'Punch and Munch' Village Hall AGM	Rendcomb cakes and tea party
Elkstone Film Evening	
Dates for your Diary	
Village Hall AGM – Thursday 14 th November – Village Hall – 8.00pm	
ERG Walk – Saturday 16 th November – Green Dragon car park – meet in time for 10.00am start	
Elkstone Film Evening - Thursday 21st November Village Hall - 7.00pm	
Elkstone Parish Council – Elkstone Village Hall - Wednesday 27 th November – 8.00pm	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 8 th and 22 nd November
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: Wednesday 20th November please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net	

Church Services in Elkstone for November

November 3 rd	10.00am	Morning Prayer
November 10 th	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday
November 17 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
November 24 th	10 00am	Songs of Praise

In November we will see a change in our pattern of services. The first Sunday, instead of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.30am will be Morning Prayer. It will also start at 10am, so giving everyone an extra half hour in bed! The third Sunday instead of Morning Prayer, will be Holy Communion. The second and fourth Sundays will continue to be Family Worship and Songs of Praise respectively.

Our Remembrance Day Service is on November 10th and starts at 10.45am. This year, our service is being led by the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, Robert Springett. Please join us as we remember those who have given their lives for the freedom we enjoy.

Shopping online for Christmas?

Support Elkstone Church

I don't enjoy shops putting up their advertisements about Christmas too early, so if you are the same, my apologies for this early reminder, but I know many do start their shopping in November. If you buy items online many retailers will effectively make donations to your chosen charity. How does this work? If you register with The Giving Machine website, you can select from a list of charities to support. St John the Evangelist Church, Elkstone, is one of these charities. If the shop you want to buy from is one of the participating retailers, and you go through The Giving Machine website to the shop's website to make your purchase, the charity will receive a share of the payment which The Giving Machine receives from the retailer. So it costs you nothing extra. Many of the well-known retailers are registered, such as Amazon, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, PC World. So when shopping online, why not support a charity, or selection of charities of your choice?

Thank you to those who have selected Elkstone Church as their charity. In the last year we have received donations of about £75 from The Giving Machine.

David Pierce

Harvest Supper and Harvest Service - Report

On the evening of 19th October about 40 of us gathered at the Village Hall for our Harvest Supper, and the following day 40 of us were in the Church to thank God for his provision once again through the Harvest. Many thanks to those who provided Cottage Pies (what a selection, traditional with mince and potato toppings: to Haggis: to mince with no onion, to mince with pasta toppings, and vegetarian!) and Apple and blackberry crumbles with cream and custard; finished off with cheese and biscuits. Between courses we heard from Mary Stafford about the work of Send a Cow in Africa, and how rather than just providing "handouts" they provide resources such as cows, goats, and chickens, they also educate people in the use of the resources to work towards a sustainable future, and then from what they produce to help others by passing on some of the offspring. After all, what is the point of giving a goat and killing it for meat when it can produce baby goats, milk and manure and then meat, as well as providing goats to others who can do the same? Send a Cow was once again the Church's Harvest project.

From the Harvest Supper and the offering at the Church service we are able to send a gift to Send a Cow of at least £360, which with the benefit of Gift Aid will increase to about £450. That will provide 3 local cows and 1 sheep. If you think that a pint a day provides a child with their daily requirement, imagine how much good this will achieve. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

My thanks go to all those who helped in the decoration of the Church. It looked truly wonderful, and I hope all had a chance to see it before the gifts of produce were removed. If you would like to make donations to Send a Cow in lieu of Christmas presents, then there is a wide selection of choices from £7 for a chicken, to £12 for rabbits, to £14 for a piglet, or £20 for a turkey. We have spare copies of the Christmas catalogue, so if you would like more information please let me know."

Christmas Greetings

If instead of sending cards to friends in the village, you would prefer to send greetings via the December newsletter then please let Reg have your message for inclusion by November 20th. If you want to send your greetings in this way then please consider making a donation to Send-a-Cow. If you can do to this under Gift Aid even better. Envelopes for this purpose can be obtained from David and Sylvie at Manor Cross.

David

MacMillan Cancer Support – World’s Biggest Coffee Morning - Report

Many thanks go to everyone who came along to Elkstone’s Coffee Morning on 27th September and to those people who so kindly dropped in donations for Macmillan. It always amazes me how generous and supportive people are, both of this event and of this charity. I can only assume that like us, cancer has touched many other people directly or indirectly. When I decided to do this event the first time 7 years ago, I decided I would be happy if I could raise £70, however we have gone way beyond that figure every year. This year we raised a total of **£392.50** and over the last 7 years Elkstone Village has raised an impressive **£2895.24**, which I think is fantastic for such a small community. We have done our bit this year to contribute to the awesome figure of £12,227,170.00 that the World’s Biggest Coffee Morning alone has raised, to provide vital cancer care and support by Macmillan.

Thank you all!

Julia

ERG Walk, Saturday 16th November

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

Neighbourhood Watch News

How secure is your home?

With a very recent break-in where furniture was stolen, in the Cowley/Cockleford area and more thefts from outbuildings, especially those not secured, our Local Policing Team are urging all villagers to remember to lock doors and windows to prevent uninvited guests. The darker mornings and evenings may mean that opportune burglars operate – let’s not make it easy for them. Crime prevention surveys are offered free of charge and can be arranged by contacting PCSO Andrea Shutt, or PC Victoria Stinchcombe

Vicky.stinchcombe@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

For those new to Elkstone, we have a very useful WatchWord message system whereby the Police email me criminal or suspicious activity in our locality. I then forward on these messages to keep local people informed, and if you would like to be added to my Neighbourhood Watch list, then please email me at jrdavey@btconnect.com. All emails are sent out blind copy to protect your email privacy and only used for the purpose of Neighbourhood Watch.

On a positive note, thanks go to the Neighbourhood Watch member in Elkstone who was vigilant and reported on 101, information on the Audi TT wanted with regards to poaching (Watchword message 1/10/13). It really does prove that the system works to make our community safer.

Part of our remit as Neighbourhood Watch members (by the way, I include the whole village as members rather than just the WatchWord email list), is to look out for the vulnerable members of our village. Please can I urge people to help, include and socialise with those who may live alone or need that bit of extra help, especially over winter.

Many thanks

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - 870038

Village Hall 'Punch and Munch' AGM

Thursday November 14th 2013 at 8.00pm

The Village Hall is a central focus for village activities.

Come and join us for a brief meeting, where we will discuss a successful year. Our hope is that the many new families to the village will join us as we plan and strengthen this most important community asset. Don't be afraid of being co-opted as we have a strong committee going forward, **but** you are most certainly welcome to assist 'those that do' with the 'doing'.

After a triumphant return to the rhythm of Open Days we will have plenty to talk about. The future of Village Social Events will no doubt feature in discussion and our concerns. Afterwards, there will be an informal time with each other, with 'Punch and Munch' provided by your Committee.

Village Hall Committee

Elkstone Film Evening 7.00pm Thursday 21st November

Our November film night will visit the Roaring Twenties - the recently released **The Great Gatsby** (Leonardo DiCaprio as Gatsby, Carey Mulligan as Daisy) features all the exuberant excesses of the New York aristocratic set at play. The classic love story of an ultra-rich playboy yearning for a girl who is married and unavailable unfolds against the lavish backdrop of Long Island mansions and their millionaire owners.

The evening will start at 7:00pm. We thought that it might be nice to have a Gatsby themed evening so the supper is planned to be a little more elaborate than usual. It will feature a fizzy drink to welcome you, a supper of Oers D'ovres, Spiced Ham and Salads of the time, with Desserts to follow. Hopefully we will have jazz to listen to as we eat, and should you be wearing "Black Tie and Flapper" attire and want to dance, we will leave a bit of room!

Curtain up for the film will be at 8:00pm.

Tickets: Film with Supper: £10.00 each, please make payment in a marked envelope through the letter-box of Manor Farm Cottage by mid-day **Monday 18th November**. For the film only, entry is £5.00 each, paid on the night.

Jeremy and Anne - 870516

Have you Switched?

You will all be aware that energy prices are rising and we expect them to continue to do so. What you may not be aware of is that by switching your current tariff or supplier you can potentially save tens of pounds from your bill. The site

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub> has an excellent tool that will not only advise of the cheapest tariff but also let you know when it is time to change again.

While you may feel this all a bit like hard work it isn't really and the savings can be significant. This week I helped one of our community reduce their annual bill by £180 and ensure there would be no price rises before the end of next year. I would urge you all to take the time to look at this – without our action the energy companies will feel able to continue to raise their prices year on year. Do feel free to call if you need any help. Also there are big savings you can make on mobiles, broadband, insurance etc that are also on this site. Happy switching!

Steve Davey - 870038

This follows on from the Gloucestershire County Council Big Switch article, mentioned last month, who have now added, "we have decided to postpone the auction due to be held in October until Tuesday 19th November. You do not have to do anything. Your registration is not affected by this delay and your personal offer will follow approximately a week after the new auction date. If you know someone who wants to register, but hasn't, they will now be able to register up until midnight on Monday 18th November.

If you have any questions please get in touch by calling 0800 - 0488285 on Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m." *Reg*

Somewhere to Visit

Chedworth Roman Villa

Narrow roads and isolation? Why was Chedworth Roman Villa built there? Those second century Romans or British Romano forefathers found an ideally situated site with its own water supply, the slope of a hillside and protection from the prevailing wind. By the fourth century, the extended Villa was productive in agriculture and in the ownership of somebody of influence and wealth. He acquired wonderful mosaics, entertained regally and had luxurious bathing arrangements. Visitors of that day would have benefited from the first century road building. In the fifth century and afterwards, the Villa fell into disuse and ultimately became engulfed by earth. It was revealed again in the 1860's. Work by the National Trust in 2011-12 has provided today's visitors with easy access to the mosaics and bathhouse.

Chedworth Roman Villa with its exciting story, where new information arises frequently, can be visited near the Withington to Yanworth Road postcode GL54 3LJ every day until 1 December 2013: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (earlier closure at 4.00 p.m. from 28 October), last admissions at 4.30 p.m. (3.30 p.m. after clock change). It will re-open in February 2014 for the season.

Mike Spittle – NT Guide

Advertisements

UNICEF Card and Gift Sale

A warm welcome awaits

As in previous years I will be holding Open House at Church View on:

Friday 15th November

Saturday 16th November

and Sunday 17th November

From noon to 6pm

There will be a variety of cards, stationery and gifts for sale, all in aid of UNICEF. Please join me and support this worthy children's charity.

Jennie Howlett – Church View - 870462

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. 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.

Please join us on the morning. If you would like to make a donation of cakes, raffle prizes..... I am happy 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 Rendcomb Surgery. 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. Any donations or suggestions for a suitable retirement gift are welcome!

Jennie Howlett – Church View - 870462

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*

Rendcomb Surgery Support Group

Saturday 7th December

Our annual Christmas Coffee Morning and Cake Sale will be held as usual in Winstone Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Any donations of cakes, biscuits, jams, raffle prizes.... can be taken to the hall on the morning or I'll collect if needed. Last year was an excellent event, we raised £478 in one morning. This money will go towards the proposed purchase of specialist surgical equipment.

Thursday 19th December

Many of you will now be aware that, after 30 years at Rendcomb, Dr. Drysdale is retiring from the practice. To mark this event there will be an open afternoon at Rendcomb Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Patients and ex-patients are invited to come along to this informal occasion. Join us for tea and cakes and say goodbye to Dr. Drysdale.

Further details of both events will be in next month's newsletter.

Jennie Howlett - 01242-870462

P.S. Did you know both cats, (one from Ivy Cottage Farm and the one lodging at The Manor), are now back at their rightful addresses? Thought these success stories should be our "good news" entries!

Jennie