

Elkstone Newsletter

29th Year: No. 4 (316)

January 2014

Editor's Bit

We have had a couple of mornings with ice on the roads but I am still surprised at the mildness of the winter so far. Early morning fog or mist does not seem to deter some motorists from driving unnecessarily fast along the 3/190 or the A417. Hint: check your rear lights and fog lamps.

Reg – 22nd December

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church Christingle service UNICEF report Carol singing report Elkstone Film Night	Gardens Open Day Neighbourhood Watch News Rendcomb Surgery Support Group A Thank you National Star Event
Dates for your Diary	
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 15 th January – Village Hall - 8.00pm	
Elkstone Film Night – Thursday 28 th January – 7.00pm for supper – 8.00pm for film	
National Star Cycle Challenge - Sunday 27th April 2014 - Start: 8am to 10am	
Elkstone Gardens Open Day – Sunday 8 th June 2014	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Mon 30th Dec, Sat 11th and Friday 24 th Jan
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Monday 6th and Fridays 17 th and 31 st Jan
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: Monday 20th January 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 January

January 5th - Christingle Service at 10am

January 12th - Family Service at 10am

January 12th - Service of Celebration at North Cerney Church at 3pm - Service of Celebration for creation of new Benefice.

January 19th - Holy Communion at 11am

January 26th - Songs of Praise at 10am

The Christingle service will be an opportunity for those who have Collection Boxes for the Children's Society to bring them to Church. The collection from the service will also be given to the Children's Society.

The Service of Celebration at North Cerney will be the occasion when the Bishop of Tewkesbury will formally confirm the creation of the new Churn Valley Benefice which will comprise Elkstone, Cowley, Coberley, Colesbourne, Rendcomb, North Cerney, Bagendon, Baunton and Stratton.

David

Come and celebrate Christingle with us on Sunday 5th January at 10am. Our candlelit service helps bring light and hope to children living in poverty in this country. Andrew Holt returns as speaker. Last year his talk was so interesting and memorable, giving us an insight into young lives with little or no adult support.

Join us on the morning if you can, it's a very uplifting service, but if you would prefer me to collect your Children's Society box, I would be happy to do so.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

UNICEF

This year we collected £197 for this children's charity. Hopefully it will join other donations to help children in distress. At this time it is Syrian children who seem to require the most help, trying to survive in flimsy makeshift shelters in the snow. Thanks to those who supported the card and gift sale. We may have made a difference to the lives of a few in need.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

The Wettest Carol Singing Ever!

Even though we faced gales and downpours we managed to sing a few carols on our way to the village hall. The mulled wine and warm mince pies were never more welcome. The "entertainment" was of mixed quality, but very much enjoyed by all!

Thanks to those who performed with excellence and those who just made fools of themselves! All in all it was a good night.

As usual thanks go to those who joined in and helped either at Church View or in the hall.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

News from the Parish Council

Waste & recycling collections in adverse weather –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 and 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 normal 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 22nd November.

Waste & recycling collection during the Festive Season – apologies for getting the type of collection reversed last month – the effort of working out the alternative dates to our normal Fridays was clearly just too confusing! Please note that during the period 24th December to 13th January 2014, normal collections will be delayed to allow Ubico contractors their bank holidays. Unless there are adverse weather conditions, expect collections as follows:

Food & garden waste on Monday 30th December instead of Friday 27th

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

Food & garden waste on Saturday 11th January instead of Friday 10th.

Lois – 8770375

Elkstone Film Night

We plan to show *Tea with Mussolini* on **Thursday January 23rd**

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 maintained a huge determination not to lose faith that their former lives will be restored - in the country they still called home.

Directed by Franco Zeffereilli, 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 – Zeffereilli, through his lenses, honours some doughty characters he actually knew in his childhood.

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

ERG Programme for 2014

The 2014 programme is now available, please contact me if you haven't already received your copy. The next ERG walk is scheduled for March.

Lois 870375

Gardens Open Day – Sunday 8th June 2014

As you can see from the above, the Gardens Open Day will be Sunday, 8th June so I would appreciate it if you could please put this date in your diary now. As you all may know, the proceeds go to the village hall and church. Last year we had quite a few gardens open, let's hope we can do the same this year. If you would like to open your garden or help on the day I would love to hear from you.

Tess – 870479 - teresa.dick@btinternet.com

Neighbourhood Watch News

The main theme since the dark nights has been the continuation of break ins and burglaries in the local area. Over recent weeks there has been a rise in the number of thefts from sheds and garages in the area. These offences can happen at any time but the Police have noticed many are happening in the early evenings, after dark but before people get home from work, or at weekends. Items such as garden equipment including hedge trimmers, chain saws etc., are often stolen, as are bikes.

Can you please take care to secure your property. Where possible mark all your property with post codes, or Smartwater is available at £15 a pack. Locking bikes up inside garages and sheds can help, and consider putting an alarm on sheds and garages. Simple alarms can cost as little as £5. The local Police are able to offer some help in this area so please feel free to contact your local beat manager or PCSO for advice.

The Police increased patrols but it would be of great help if you could remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. This is a busy time of year for the Police but together we can keep the Cotswolds a safe place.

Many thanks

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Julia.davey@outlook.com - 870038

Rendcomb Patients' Support Group Christmas Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

A very big Thank you to all those who, in any way, supported this annual event last Saturday.

It was a particularly friendly and happy occasion which also raised the fantastic sum of: **£302.60** towards future purchases for the benefit of all Rendcomb Surgery patients.

If you were unable to support us this year, make a note on your calendar to be there next year. Date to be confirmed, but usually the first Saturday in December.

Pauline Farman

Doctor Drysdale's Retirement Party

Well over 100 patients and staff turned up on Thursday 19th December (the day after the deluge!) in Rendcomb Village Hall to mark Dr Stuart Drysdale's retirement. He has been a Rendcomb GP for 30 years. He spoke of his early years with Dr Coffey in the original surgery - the house in front of the existing building - the many changes he has seen in the NHS and his plans for the future. There were many references to his patients' fortitude and dignity, qualities which he hoped he could emulate when moving to that side of the desk in the consulting room.

Dr Whittles presented Dr Drysdale with a painting showing the view from his window at

Rendcomb and painted by a local artist, a sound system with music vouchers and the money for a future air balloon flight - hopefully setting off from the field by the surgery. There were further gifts which arrived that afternoon to accompany the money outstanding from these purchases. Over £700 had been collected before the actual day.

Pauline Farman (retired dispenser) composed and read an excellent poem revealing a few unknown facts about Dr Drysdale's career and Dr Whittles gave us a chronological report of his time at Rendcomb.

Dr Clare Henderson, who also lives in Cowley, joins the practice in January. She is interested in all aspects of general practice, particularly dermatology and women's and children's health. We wish Dr Drysdale a long and healthy retirement and welcome Dr Henderson to Rendcomb Surgery.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

A Personal 'Thank You' & Xmas Social

Oh my goodness, was it wet! it was silly – but that is the point – it was fabulous fun.

25 or so sang carols around the village after enjoying Jennie's generous hospitality.

I was shocked to be given a 'more than reasonably generous' gift by the Hall Committee.

Allow me to be clear, this was not necessary; so many give generously of their time to great effect. The Committee had found out that I collect unusual Monopoly sets, in this case the 'Alan Turing' edition.

Thank you to all, but; the greatest reward for all those who have persevered so hard over the last 5 years, is that the village has got its MoJo back.

To me (to so many of us) a village without atmosphere is hollow, sterile, it is not a village.

It is dangerous to pick out individuals (of the now 50 or so) for their contribution to the evening, but let's say that the performers' ages ranged by 70 years (youngest to oldest), there were: thoughtful recitals, music, musical(?) singing, and there was silliness (mulled wine & mince pies). Perfect, perfect, perfect at last!

Have a great Festive Season.

Nic Williamson

Advertisement

Please support National Star, a local charity based 3 miles down the road in Ullenwood; you will be helping people with complex disabilities to develop the skills they need to live life more independently. If you have a New Year's resolution to get fit and fancy something to aim for, please consider the following challenge:

Harvey 100 Star Cycle Challenge - Sunday 27th April 2014 Start: 8am-10am

Join us, and Dr Dawn Harper from Channel 4's Embarrassing Bodies, on Sunday 27th April 2014 for a cycle ride through the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside.

The ride will start and finish at National Star College, Ullenwood and will pass through Cowley, Brimpsfield, Bisley, Kemble, South Cerney Lakes, Quenington and Withington.

This is a challenging event for experienced road riders and you can enter as an individual or as a team of family, friends or colleagues.

£20 secures your place and the suggested minimum sponsorship is £80 per person.

To register, visit <http://www.natstar.ac.uk/harvey100star>

For further information, please call **01242 524478** or email fundraising@natstar.ac.uk

(National Star is a working name of National Star Foundation which is registered in England and Wales, company number 522846, charity number 220239. Registered office Ullenwood Manor, Ullenwood, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 9QU.)

Many thanks *Julia Davey* - Julia.davey@outlook.com