

Elkstone Newsletter

29th Year: No. 6 (318)

March 2014

Editor's Bit

I saw yellow flowers in the verge today – I thought of Jessie who planted them. Thank you Jessie.
Reg – 22nd February

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church Toy Service and Mothering Sunday Children's Society Collection Elkstone Film Night Welcome Brochure	Neighbourhood Watch Foreign Cats Invade Elkstone Help needed for Gardens Open Day National Star Events at Ullenwood Coberley School Events
Dates for your Diary	
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 12 th March – Village Hall - 8.00pm	
ERG Walk – Saturday 15 th March – details to follow by e-mail to ERGers	
Elkstone Supper and Film Night - Gravity – Thursday 20 th March – from 7.00pm	
National Star Cycle Challenge - Sunday 27 th April 2014 - Start: 8am to 10am	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Every Friday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays, 14 th & 28 th March
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: Thursday 20th March 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 March

March 2nd - Morning Prayer at 10.00am

March 9th - Family Service at 10.00am

March 16th - Baptism and Family service at 11.00am

March 23rd - Songs of Praise at 10.00am

March 30th - Mothering Sunday Family Service at 10 am

Toy Service Report and Mothering Sunday on March 30th

Many thanks to all those villagers who donated toys at the Toy Service on 2nd February. We have a wonderful selection, which will be given to a refuge in Stroud. The refuge is for women who have had to leave their homes very quickly because of problems in the home. They will rarely have had time to take any possessions with them, and so, when mother and children arrive at the refuge, all the favourite toys have been left behind. The toys are therefore important in helping the children to settle into the new surroundings. We all appreciate everything which our mothers have done for us, so why not join us to say thank you to them, and to God, for all they do. Our Mothering Sunday family service will be on March 30th at 10.00am.

David

Children's Society Collection

The final collection box was emptied this week bringing our grand total to £630.53.

Thanks to all who continue to support this charity. The number of box holders is slowly growing each year; the inspirational speaker at our Christingle service in January gave us so much to think about and be grateful for.

Jennie

Elkstone Supper and Film Night - Thursday 20th March - Elkstone Village Hall, starting at 7:00pm

By popular request the March film will be the recently-released sci-fi blockbuster **Gravity**, winner of six Baftas. This heart-pounding thriller stars Sandra Bullock as Dr. Ryan Stone, a medical engineer on her first shuttle mission, and George Clooney as Matt Kowalsky, a veteran astronaut in command of his last mission before retiring. On a seemingly routine mission, disaster strikes and with the shuttle destroyed, tethered together whilst spiralling out of control and no link to earth, they realise that the only way home may be to go further into the expanses of space.

As usual there will be a supper (Tarragon Chicken) at 7:00pm followed by the film at 8:00pm. Cost is £10:00 each, prepayment(s) please in a marked envelope through the letter-box of Manor Farm Cottage by 7:00 pm Monday 17th March.

For film-only, it's £5.00 pay on the door.

Our last film of the season (on April 10th) will be Captain Phillips – details next month
Jeremy and Anne - 870516

Welcome Brochure

Marion, Maggie, Julia and I have made changes to an existing brochure and hopefully brought it up to date. It can be found, along with a village map/plan, on the Elkstone website under the tab - Village Welcome Brochure. We intend to have paper copies available for newcomers, but for existing villagers it can be downloaded from the website. There may be some errors and/or omissions! Please let us know and we will make the appropriate changes and/or additions.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

Neighbourhood Watch

There continues to be break-ins of outbuildings and sheds in the area, some of which have been well secured and others which haven't and have therefore been targeted by opportunistic thieves. Please don't make it easy for anyone to break in or leave anything tempting on view. Thefts of catalytic converters have also started again, so please watch out for any suspicious behaviour or vehicles and report on 101.

Some people in the village have been approached by a young man selling gravel from the back of his truck - the Police would like to question this person, so if he calls on you, or you see him, please phone 101 and let them know **immediately**, so that they can come out and follow up on their enquiries. Please do **not** be tempted to buy the gravel from him.

If you haven't already signed up to receive the Police WatchWord alert messages via email and would like to do so, please email me at julia.davey@outlook.com and I will add you to the blind copy distribution list.

Many thanks

Julia Davey

Elkstone Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Thefts of catalytic converters [continue and very recently 2 vehicles in North Cerney have had catalytic converters removed](#) - please remember that most vehicles made since 1992 are fitted with catalytic converters which often contain small amounts of precious metals making them a target for metal thieves.

They are also valuable to scrap metal dealers who can easily sell them.

Thieves will often target vans and 4x4s that have a higher ground clearance, making the converters more easily accessible.

The chance of getting your converter stolen can be reduced if one or more of these crime prevention tips are followed:

- Keep your vehicle in a garage when possible
- Look out for people working under cars who are acting suspiciously
- Park in a well-lit busy area
- Fit a catalytic converter clamp or security cage
- Weld the converter fixing brackets or bolts in place making removal more difficult

Also consider using **Smartwater**

PCSO Andrea

Problems with ‘foreign’ cats

We currently have a big black cat that is breaking into our home and attacking our kittens. I'm not sure if it's the same one that was in the newsletter a while back but this one has been attacking our cats for the last couple of years but he/she has reappeared very recently and our youngest cat is now seriously ill and very traumatized because of him/her so we would like to find out if he/she has a home/is he/she ill and has he/she been vaccinated/neutered etc?

Linzi -10 Hill View

I can sympathise with Linzi's point – we too are being plagued by a tom cat visiting our cat's feeding bowl during the night. I know we cannot get a feline asbo, but do readers have advice to keep unwanted cats out of our homes? - *Ed*

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

Help Needed Please

Is there anyone who would be willing to run the bric a brac /tombola stall on the day, please? I have had a couple of people come forward to say they would like to help so all it needs now is someone to take responsibility for running the stalls. I can say it is good fun and very rewarding and you would not be on your own. If anyone would like to run a stall i.e. different to what I have suggested please get in touch any suggestions/help would be much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to open their gardens this year but ideally it would be great if we could get just a few more. As most of you know proceeds go to the church/village hall so it is to our benefit to raise as much money as we can.

I look forward to hearing from you

Tess - teresa.dick@btinternet.com

Advertisements

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. 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>

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

Supporting National Star at Ullenwood

Perhaps you could come along to an event or organise an event to fundraise for National Star, located just down the road at Ullenwood? I started work there in December last year and I'm convinced it's the best-kept secret in the area! National Star is a charity working with young people with severe disabilities and acquired brain injuries. All have complex physical and learning disabilities and face many challenges. But with support from National Star, either as a day student or a residential student, these young people access opportunities and educational courses, which enable them to achieve their own personal potential and give them the skills they need to live more independently. The work and dedication of the staff and the facilities we have are amazing but as ever, we are always looking for additional support and of course, voluntary income.

We have a couple of events coming up in the area you may be interested in:

8th March – Spring Fayre, 11am -4pm, St Andrews Church Hall, Montpellier, Cheltenham, 30 tables of lovely goods. Tables still available to hire, contact Sue Davison on 01242 524478. All proceeds to National Star

15th March Baby clothes sale – 10.30 -12.30pm being held at National Star College, admission and car parking free. Tables available at £8 each. This is a fantastic opportunity to buy baby clothes and equipment. Contact Sue Davison to book a table or for more information on 01242 524478. All proceeds to National Star.

For the fitter ones in the area we have the **Harvey 100 Cycle Star Cycle Challenge – Sunday 27th April** – 100km circular route starting at the National Star College. Visit www.natstar.ac.uk/harvey100star for more information.

If you would like to come and see the facilities that National Star has and the difference it makes, please do contact Holly Plummer on 01242 524478 and enjoy an informal tour, followed by coffee in the award winning StarBistro (currently ranked 3rd out of 315 restaurants in Cheltenham on TripAdvisor).

Many thanks

Julia Davey - The Old School House - Julia.davey@outlook.com

Saturday 29th March – Coberley School Science Fair, 11.30am – 3.00pm

Our first very exciting Science Fair will host lots of educational, hands on activities for children of all ages to experiment with and learn from. Volcanic eruptions, forces and motion, liquid or solid, magnetic fields, electrical circuits, forensic science, biology, sports science .. and much more. Ploughman's lunches, homemade soups, filled rolls and delicious cakes will keep you going over lunch time. Entry £2.50 per child and adults free and tickets can be bought from the School Office in advance or on the day.

Coberley School Summer Fayre – Saturday 14th June

Please note the change of date of the Summer Fayre, to **Saturday 14th June**, to avoid a clash with Cowley's Fete.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Please can you help my school – Coberley School, by collecting Sainsbury's vouchers for us again. We are aiming to collect 3887 vouchers so that we can have 2 new netball posts. Please pop the vouchers through the letterbox of the Old School House for Hannah.

Thank You!

Hannah Davey – The Old School House