

Elkstone Newsletter

30th Year: No. 10 (321)

July 2014

Editor's Bit

There are lots of thanks in this month's Newsletter. Most obviously, to everyone involved in the Gardens Open Day. It is also good to hear from people who want to say thank you to others in the community for the good things that have been done.

I just want to say thanks to the owner of a horse in the field next to the rectory. They have put a white horse out with a zebra coat on. Most motorists are wobbling when they see it!

The Editor has need of a correspondent who can alert him when new people move into the parish and others move away – could you help, please?

Reg – 24th June

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church Neighbourhood Watch	Local Events + Advertisements
Dates for your Diary	
Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 16 th July – 8.00pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
ERG Walk – Saturday 26 th July – details will be e-mailed to regular ERGers	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Every Friday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 4 th & 18 th July
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: Sunday 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

Here are the Church service times for July:

July 6th	10am Morning Prayer	Rev Geoffrey Cox
July 13th	10am Family Service	Rev Janet Williams
July 20th	11am Holy Communion	Rev Cliff Pooley
July 27th	10am Songs of Praise	Will Halse

David

Thank you!

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all who contributed to a gift for Mia while she is hospitalised, it certainly did make her day! Also a BIG thank you for continued support by all who have either helped or offered to help, however small it may seem, it is sincerely appreciated. It has been a traumatic journey for all involved and unfortunately at this stage we are not 'out of the woods' yet... After 'many admissions' since January she is still currently in Bristol Children's Hospital with no indication of how much longer that may be, progress is slow and complex. I for one, along with many other villagers look forward to having my family back where they belong... It's been a very long road.

Once again a big 'Thank you' to all involved

Jon De Niro – 15 Hill View

Welcome to Dave and Sarah Smithson who along with son Callan and daughter Cassie have moved into Newcombe's End.

Gardens Open Day

Open Day Report 1

Well the weather behaved itself and the people came, lots of them, which made the day a great success. A big thank you is well deserved to everyone who helped, there were so many of you, and it made organising the day so much easier and I could not have done it without you. We raised over £2300 without the contribution from HMRC and Martyn will confirm the final figures in the next newsletter.

I am going to take a break from running the Open Day so whoever takes up the reins for next year will not be disappointed. It is not onerous, very fulfilling, and I would be very happy to lend my support.

Thanks again,
Tess - 870480

Open Day Report 2

Reflections from a Gardener – by our gardens reporter

The days leading up to the Open Day were frantic. The grass needed to be cut, the borders hoed, the edges trimmed, and some parts still needed tidying after the winter. Would it all get done? and was the weather going to be kind so that there was a chance the work could be done? Why is it that at such times other things seem to conspire against you? The lawnmower was broken and needed a new part, but nobody had one in stock. The same lawnmower was needed to cut the grass in the Churchyard. The internet is wonderful, the part was found and could be delivered in 48 hours. That was fine, as the next day was going to be wet and it still gave time to get everything cut.

Well at least I could get the strimming done. Within five minutes of starting the strimmer cord ran out and I had no spare. The same strimmer was also needed for the Churchyard. A trip to Cirencester methinks.

Anyway by the time 2.00pm arrived on the Sunday of the Open Day everything was ready. Especial thanks extend to Robert, who spent eight hours pushing the lawnmower through the thick grass of the Churchyard. He even collected all the grass cuttings, and then came in at 8.00am on the Sunday to do a couple more hours strimming.

Sunday morning you suddenly remember all those things you meant to have done, following the experience of the previous year, such as labelling the trees and plants you cannot remember the name of. A quick flick through the plant books helped, and this time I will take the books with me into the garden.

2.00pm arrives, and I am sat in the garden with a book, as well as the plant books, and a bottle of water (yes, water!) and the sun is shining. This is the first time I have sat in the garden for twelve months. 2.30pm arrives and I have seen nobody. Did I get the day wrong? Was all the effort in vain? The Church bells are ringing, so there are people around. 2.45pm and the first visitor walks hesitatingly into the garden, a quick tour and then out. Well at least, two people have been.

From 3.00pm there is a constant stream of people. Some just wander round and look, others want to stop and talk and ask questions. What is that plant? What is that tree? How do you prune that bush? How long has it taken to get the garden like this? How long does it take you to keep it like this? Thankfully the plants and trees they ask about, I know. Everybody is very appreciative, and they are obviously all enjoying their visit to the village. Many are amazed at there being such a collection of gardens they are obviously enjoying, in one village. Some comments are "I only live in Cheltenham and I didn't realise such a wonderful place was so near.", "we must come back next year", "the ice cream / cream teas / tea and cakes were great", "I loved the flower displays in the Church", "I have always wanted to go into a bell tower".

One of the favourite comments was "I like your garden, because I can lose my children in it." Even when the rain arrived, when we all squeezed into the summerhouse, it did not spoil the event.

The hard work getting everything ready was worth it to hear the appreciation of visitors,

so thank you everybody. We could probably raise the same amount of money with less effort, by asking people to make donations, but it would not be as good for us as a community, or such fun, or so enjoyable. The money raised for the Church and the Village Hall is important and greatly helps with the running expenses. We always put the Church share of the Open Day money into the Fabric fund and so it is used for the upkeep and small repairs. These costs are normally about £3,000 for the year. So many thanks everybody.

Many thanks - *David*

Open Day Report 3 Village Hall Tea Room

Many, many thanks to all who helped on Open Day - the cooks, the waitresses, the flower arrangers, the furniture movers, the person(s) who hoisted the flag

Hope no one has been left out. You all made a welcome contribution. So many people commented on the quality and variety of the cakes and other provisions.

It was a great day.

Jennie

Neighbourhood Watch Alert

Please be aware that there have been 2 incidents of attempted break-in to vehicles last month in Hill View, which has resulted in significant damage to the rear windows of the cars. There is also evidence of someone trying to obtain access to the rear of the properties at the top of Hillview, via the field. One resident was disturbed at 3am and went outside but did not see anything suspicious. Please can I ask all residents to ensure cars and properties are locked, there is nothing on show that may give reason for someone to break-in, and ideally park the cars in front of the house, where possible. If there is any further information, please do pass it on by phoning 101 or email PCSO Andrea Shutt (andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk) or PC Victoria Stinchcombe (vicky.stinchcombe@gloucestershire.police.uk). It is only by people reporting these incidents that we get a clear picture as to the scale of the problem, may be able to obtain vital evidence / information and determine if there is similar activity in other villages or a pattern to the behaviour. It also means that some preventative policing can be done with patrols.

If you have external security lighting, please ensure it is working properly and if you see **anything** that is suspicious or out of the ordinary, please report it immediately on 101 and leave it to the Police to decide what action to take.

If you would like a free Crime Prevention survey done from the outside of your house, (a burglar's perspective,) please do contact Andrea or Victoria.

Many thanks

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Elkstone Community Speed Watch

Sadly, we had no villagers offering to observe our activities in helping motorists to observe the 40 mph limit between the Elkstone crossroads. We observed several 'near-misses' when vehicles were unable to drive out of the village safely. With more volunteers we might be able to reduce the number of incidents.

The next session of the Community Speed Watch will take place in mid September.

Please consider joining us?

Reg Eyre – ECSW coordinator

Riding past the Colesbourne Inn last week, I commented that the Inn appeared to be bereft of customers. Peter then sent me his explanation as to why this might be...*Ed*

Business as usual! World Cup Fever may have struck the Nation but at The Colesbourne we offer an air of civility. Life continues as normal, matches will be shown on a discreet television in the Bar as will Wimbledon. Food is served all day including Breakfast from 8am, Steak Night on Mondays, Fish and Chips on Wednesdays and Burgers on Thursdays. *Peter Allen - 01242 870376 - colesbourneinn@wadworth.co.uk*

Flower Festival and Songs of Praise Report

St. Peter's, Rendcomb

Despite very unsettled weather, well over 300 people from all along the Churn Valley and beyond visited the Flower Festival at St. Peter's, Rendcomb to enjoy this beautiful Church and the wonderful floral displays created by members of the Churches of the Churn Valley Benefice.

This is, hopefully, the first of many shared events in our newly-formed Benefice and the congregation of St. Peter's, with members from the other Churches, warmly welcomed visitors with tea and home-made refreshments.

The highlight of the weeklong Festival was the Songs of Praise service jointly conducted by Reverends Warwick Heathcote and Jan Moore. The congregation of well over 90 joyfully sang the favourite hymns chosen by each Church in the Benefice, and St. James' Church, Colesbourne kindly loaned their special snowdrop frontal to adorn the altar.

Pauline Farman – Badgendon Parish

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Thank you to everyone who has put their Sainsbury's vouchers through our door. I have taken them to school and we now think we have enough to buy our netball posts, which I am very pleased about.

Thank you

Hannah Davey

Advertisements

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Get it out – with Optrex!

S. Milligan

Nature Watch

Have you noticed the massive increase in members of the crow family? Is this related to the decline in the small bird population? These dark thugs of the avian type, have learned to feed on eggs from other bird's nests, enter hen runs to steal eggs and feed and have also managed to take peanuts and birdseed from feeders.

Many years ago, I studied predator prey relationships and this appears to be following the same patterns.

Reg

A kite
In flight
A wondrous sight

Ravens are loud
When in a crowd
Too loud to be proud