

Elkstone Newsletter

30th Year: No. 11 (322)

August 2014

Editor's Bit

We have a new regular contributor in Francis, who will be writing Nature Notes. Thank you for taking this on, and welcome! There are also couple of villagers who have offered to let me know of new and recently-moved villagers. If you feel that you have been missed out, please contact me direct and I will put a sentence in the next available Newsletter.

Reg – 24th July

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church	Nature Notes
Final Rdeport from our Gardens Open Day	Community Speedwatch
Neighbourhood Watch	Ride & Stride
Village Agent	Local Events + Advertisements
Date for your Diary	
Ride & Stride – Saturday 13 th September	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Every Friday
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 1 st , 15 th and 29 th 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: Wednesday 20th August 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 August

The services in August are as follows:

August 3rd - Morning Prayer 10.00am - Rev Geoffrey Cox

August 10th - Family Service 10.00am - Rev Janet Williams

August 17th - Holy Communion 11.00am - Rev Cliff Pooley

August 24th - no service

August 31st - Family Service and Baptism 10.00am - Rev Cliff Pooley

David

Are you coming to Church on Sunday?

Sylvie and I returned from three weeks in the Cook Islands at the beginning of June, which was our treat to ourselves on my retirement. One of our abiding memories was the Christian faith of the Cook Islanders, where about 50% of the population attend Church on Sunday. A regular question from the locals when you were with them on trips, or in shops, or from the cleaning ladies or hotel staff was "Are you coming to Church on Sunday?" We did go and thoroughly enjoyed the joy and singing of the congregation as well as a sermon half in Cook Island Maori and half in English.

The question made us think, how often do we ask that same question? Maybe if people knew what to expect from the different services, they would be more likely to come.

So what are the different services at Elkstone Church?

- the first Sunday in the month is a Morning Prayer service. The form we use is based on the modern Common Worship form of service. There is a set form of words for the service, but it is for everyone, and easy to follow. This is a chance for us to thank God for the new day, and to commit our coming week to him. The service will be lead by either a member of the clergy, or a layperson.

- the second Sunday in the month is our Family Service. Families are always welcome at all of our services, but this one is particularly focused on families. We have a short service sheet, which allows for flexibility depending on the how the person leading the service wants to shape our worship for that day. Again the service will be lead by a member of the clergy or a layperson.

- the third Sunday in the month is our Holy Communion service. We use a modern Common Worship form. It is the service in the month which is the most prescriptive. It is also the time when we remember what Jesus did for us, by sharing bread and wine. All who accept Jesus as their Saviour are free to take communion. But if you are uncertain what you believe that is no reason not to join us.

- the fourth Sunday in the month is our Songs of Praise service. This will almost always be lead by a layperson. There is no set service sheet which we follow and if you enjoy singing then this is for you. A common theme, perhaps a psalm, or some aspect of our relationship will link about seven hymns. There is no set sermon, but the hymns and readings become the sermon.

Everybody is welcome to come to all of our services, you do not need to be an Anglican, or to have been baptised or confirmed, or on the Electoral Roll, and you do not need to come every week. Coffee, tea and biscuits are served after every service. There should be something for anybody at least once a month.

So, " Are you coming to Church on Sunday?"

David Pierce

Gardens Open Day – Financial Report

The final profit from the day was £2388.15 and this has been split 50/50 between the Church and the Village Hall. Thanks to everyone involved in making it such a success. The income was, of course, largely due to the fact that we brought just over 300 paying guests to the village and they contributed to the following "stalls".

Teas at both ends of the village earned a profit of almost £700 in total.

The Tombola brought in £152

Bric-a-brac and plants each raised around £160

Ice creams brought in a further £142.

Many of our visitors agreed that their donation on entry could be Gift Aided and this could bring in an extra £150 if our claim to HMRC is agreed.

Martyn Wylie

Neighbourhood Watch Alert

Cars still seem to be a target at the moment, with an attempted break-in to a car in Winstone village. The window of the driver's door was smashed but nothing was taken, so the person responsible might have been disturbed. Please do ensure that security lights are working, that all vehicles are locked whenever they are left, even for a few minutes, and that nothing that looks tempting to steal, is on show.

Equally, outbuildings and sheds are still being broken in to and again, please do ensure that everything is locked up with as much security as possible, in place.

We have had some very proactive Neighbourhood Watch work going on this month, with some reports to 101 from residents of suspicious vehicles, that have been followed up by the Police. This proactive approach helps us to keep Elkstone a safe community to live in, so please do phone in on 101 if you see any suspicious vehicles or people, and let the Police decide what action to take.

New Village Agent

Mike Bone, our previous Village Agent has now retired and Cynthia Laird has taken over his Elkstone patch. Village Agents are in place to help older people in Gloucestershire feel more independent, secure and cared for. If you need any assistance please contact Cynthia on 07776 245 780 or email cynthia@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

In Gloucestershire last year thousands of people over 50:

- Had a free home safety check
- Received money they did not realise they were entitled to
- Were helped to stay independent in their own home
- Made use of the small home repairs service
- Made new friends and got involved in new social activities.

They did it. Why don't you? Talk to Cynthia and see how she can help you.

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Nature Notes

“That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!”

So said Robert Browning in his poem *Home Thoughts from Abroad*. I'm reminded of this as I sit in the garden at dusk, gin and tonic in hand, watching a rather fine Song Thrush sitting at the very top of an ash tree running through its repertoire. In describing the bird thus, Browning touches on one of its most recognisable features; the Song Thrush commonly repeats phrases, distinguishing it from one of the other great songsters of late evening, the Blackbird. The song consists of very simple, energetic phrases, which are less rich and melodic than the Blackbird but equally penetrating on a still evening. The song gets richer with age, and frequently picks up the sound of other birds or noises in its environment; each bird will have unique patterns of song and these have been recorded as being passed down through generations.

Sadly this treasure of the British countryside is declining rapidly. Between 1973 and 1995 the population dropped by almost 50%. As a result the song thrush is now “red listed” as a bird of serious conservation concern. The decline is due to a combination of factors; removal of hedgerows and loss of woodland limits the availability of suitable nest sites, whilst more intensive farming practices and increased use of pesticides reduces the number of earthworms and other invertebrates that thrushes feed on. I don't see as many as I would expect in Elkstone and so suspect that we mirror this national decline.

We can help protect our song thrushes by making our gardens a safe haven for them.

Provide nest sites by having a dense covering of shrubs in quiet parts of your garden and train climbers against walls and fences. Thrushes eat earthworms, snails, insects, berries and sometimes slugs, so avoid using slug pellets and pesticides. Lawns are good, but don't manicure them to within a millimetre of their life; slightly longer grass provides shelter for insects and a place to lay eggs. So put away the lawn mower, sit back, grab yourself a gin and tonic relax and listen out for nature's great songster.

The Elkstone Nature Team

Elkstone Community Speed Watch

During the week 14th to 18th July, some of the Speed Watch Team helped in a survey of number of vehicle movements past our village. We collected data by the hour hour on Monday am and pm, Tuesday pm and Friday pm. In summary, here are the numbers recorded:

Monday 07.00 – 08.00 northbound 79; southbound 187; total 266
Monday 08.00 – 09.00 northbound 123; southbound 263; total 386
Monday 16.00 – 17.00 northbound 136; southbound 66; total 202
Monday 17.00 – 18.00 northbound 236; southbound 92; total 328
Tuesday 16.00 – 17.00 northbound 140; southbound 64; total 204

Tuesday 17.00 – 18.00 northbound 284; southbound 85; total 369

Friday 15.00 – 16.00 northbound 223; southbound 67; total 290

Friday 16.00 – 17.00 northbound 287; southbound 66; total 253

Friday 17.00 – 18.00 northbound 342; southbound 84; total 426

We need to have figures like these because when the work starts on 'the link', we can expect heavy traffic on the 3/190 and it will be interesting to compare to the Council expectations of what we will have to put up with.

Reg Eyre – ECSW coordinator

Ride and Stride – 13th September 2014

Ride and Stride, run by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, is a great way to support our Church and those across the county when they most need help.

Please put Saturday September 13th in your diary if you fancy cycling, walking or horse riding between churches.

You can plan your own route between churches, depending on how far you want to go and whether you want to be in towns or villages. Take a picnic and top up with drinks and biscuits that many of the churches provide - or incorporate a pub lunch or teashop en route.

Whether you go on your own, or with friends, you'll be joining many others, raising money for an important cause. 121 churches in Gloucestershire took part last year raising around £47,500 for building, conservation and repair works.

It's a good chance to see inside some historic gems which are not always open.

I can supply you with more details and sponsorship forms, and there will be more details pinned up in the porch of the Church.

Contact *Carole* – 870493 - carolebury@hotmail.com - www.ghct.org.uk

Advertisements

Letter to Villagers

I was wondering if I might be able to lodge in Elkstone Village?

I am a 40year old professional lady (quite outdoorsy – I have been in Mountain Rescue for the past 3.5years). I am currently looking for somewhere to 'lodge' in the Elkstone area or somewhere very near.

I live in Cumbria, however I am working in Swindon 3 days a week for the National Trust.

The complicating element is that I have two dogs!

I (and the dogs) would likely require accommodation on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings for approximately 12 months.

This might be an ideal arrangement for someone who lives alone and would like some companionship, and loves dogs but doesn't want the responsibility of walking them.

Jo jowillmott@btinternet.com

Tommy Atkins and the Canary Girl

(A Gloucestershire family's life during the First World War)

Performed by a professional Theatre Company

The Long Room, Colesbourne Park, Colesbourne, Gloucestershire

Saturday 18th October 2014 at 7.45pm (Doors open at 7.00 p.m.)

Tickets £7.00, £6.00 (*over 65's*), £4.00(*children aged 10 -16*),

(*Please note this performance is suitable for ages 10 and above*)

Includes a display about the First World War men of Colesbourne

Tickets available from

The Estate Office, Colesbourne,

Tel: 01242 870264 or Email: hwg@globalnet.co.uk