

# Elkstone Newsletter

30th Year: No. 12 (323)

September 2014

## Editor's Bit

The Elkstone Community Speed Watch team spent some time doing a traffic census in readiness for the works on the A417, (The Missing Link), so that we can say to the press and powers that be, "We told you the traffic would get heavier and here are the figures to prove it." Whether anyone will listen is a moot point.

*Reg – 20<sup>th</sup> August*

| Features   |  |
|--|--|
| Services at Elkstone Church<br>Neighbourhood Watch   | Nature Notes<br>Local Events + Advertisements                                    |
| Date for your Diary  |  |
| Ride & Stride – Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> September  |  |
| ERG Walk (historic churches) Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> September – details by e-mail to regular ERGers                                     |  |
| Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September – 8.00pm – Village Hall   |  |
| Regular Dates  |  |
| Waste & recycling  | Food + garden waste - Every Friday   |
| Waste & recycling  | All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 12 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> September |
| 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: <b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b> please  |  |
| The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – <a href="http://www.elkstonevillage.com">www.elkstonevillage.com</a> |  |
| <b>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></b>   |  |

**Services for September** are as follows:

September 7th - Morning Prayer 10.00am - Rev Geoffrey Cox

September 14th - Family Service 10.00am - Rev Janet Williams

September 21st - Holy Communion 11.00am - Rev Philip Thomas

September 28th - Songs of Praise 10.00am - Jennie Howlett

*David*

## Ride and Stride – 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:carolebury@hotmail.com) - [www.ghct.org.uk](http://www.ghct.org.uk)

## **Film and Supper Evening Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

We start the new film and supper season with the film **Philomena**, which is based on an investigative book by the BBC correspondent Martin Sixsmith (Steve Coogan). The film focuses on the efforts of Philomena Lee (Judi Dench), mother to a boy conceived out of wedlock - something at the time that her Irish-Catholic community didn't have the highest opinion of - and who was given away for adoption in the United States. In following church doctrine, she had been forced to sign a contract that wouldn't allow for any sort of inquiry into the son's whereabouts. After starting a family years later in England and, for the most part, moving on with her life, Lee meets Sixsmith with whom she decides to discover her long-lost son. We will run subtitles to the film, as this was found to be helpful last year. Finally some very good news, we have some very good new wall heaters in the hall which do not give out a bright red light!

Supper will be bacon and Cumberland sauce, potato croquettes and vegetables. This will start at 7:00 pm, with the film starting at 8:00 pm

Cost of supper £5.00 and film £5.00. If you wish to have supper please put your money into Manor Farm Cottage by Monday 22nd September. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you.

*Jeremy and Anne Davies - 870516*

## **Harvest Supper**

The Bring and Share Harvest Supper will be held on Friday 17th October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This is open to anyone from the parish and your friends. The Harvest Celebration will be held in the Church the previous Sunday.

This is usually a very jolly occasion and time to catch up with all your neighbours during a sit down meal.

There will be no ticket price, all we ask is for a donation to the charity 'Send a Cow' and a contribution of food for the Bring and Share Supper.

Carole (870493) will be taking your call for offers of food, and will be asking for either a shepherds pie or an apple/plum pudding.

The 'Send a Cow' team work hand in hand with families in Africa. Understanding that poverty is more than just the day-to-day struggle of toiling on land that fails to produce. Many people believe that poverty has become part of their personality, and hold out little hope for change. 'Send a Cow' provide livestock and training in natural organic farming practices alongside courses in gender equality, conflict resolution and more. It's a package that works. It's a package that families pass on to others. [www.sendacow.org.uk](http://www.sendacow.org.uk)

St. John the Evangelist Church

*Carole - 870493*

## **Neighbourhood Watch News**

We are still being troubled by a telephone scam in the Elkstone area with a few residents now reporting telephone calls from a person pretending to be from the bank, suggesting the resident may be due a refund, or that there is a problem with the bank account and funds have been accidentally moved to another account. In order to rectify the problem or process the refund, the caller asks to verify personal details first. The caller asks to confirm the house name and village that they give you is correct and then asks for your date of birth.

Please report such calls to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, Action Fraud can then be aware of the level of such scams.

The people operating these scams are often very believable, often women, and can sound very genuine. I must stress that your bank will **never** ask you for personal details by telephoning you. Please don't be afraid of offending someone, simply hang up.

## **Newspaper Deliveries**

We are looking to see if there is interest in having newspapers delivered to the village on a daily basis. We used to do this in the past but it stopped some years ago. The more

interest there is the better the price will be – we believe the price will be around 53p per household if delivered to the door. We may however, be able to get 2 drops done, one at each end of the village, which could reduce the cost.

Please can you telephone me 870038 or email me [julia.davey@outlook.com](mailto:julia.davey@outlook.com), if you are interested in having a newspaper delivered and whether you would prefer it through your door, or are happy to collect from a drop off point. Please let me know by 10<sup>th</sup> September.  
*Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - 870038*

### **Nature Notes**

We are lucky that the village and area around Elkstone provides a mixture of garden, copse, river valley and open farmland environments. I am often struck by how selective the birds are in sticking to their chosen patch and with this in mind it pays to take a number of walks around the village to appreciate this diversity. One such bird is the Yellowhammer, a bird of open farmland and uncultivated weedy scrub that you are unlikely to see in your garden. I've seen small flocks of these birds mostly on the farmland on the western edge of the village towards the main road. They are a lovely sight, the males with their bright yellow heads and upper bodies shine, particularly towards the end of the day when the warmer colours of the sunlight help to highlight their vivid colour against the backdrop of pale straw coloured fields and mellow stone walls. We are fortunate to have them as more intensive agriculture across the UK has meant a steep decline in numbers and consequently a place on the RSBP's Red list. I suspect that uncultivated land is the key to their survival in our locality providing both a diversity of seed for the adult birds and, importantly, insects for feeding their young, compensating in-part for the barren mono-culture of modern crop management.

We are coming to the end of high summer; the vegetation is full and mature. The butterflies are making the most of the later flowering plants particularly their favourite, Buddleia. Before the year gets too old take time to appreciate the different variety of bumblebees, bees and hover flies in your garden. In ours each species tends to have a favourite group of plants; the Garden Bumblebees go for more singular, larger flowers; the Tree Bumblebees (a smaller and relatively recent arrival in the Cotswolds) tend to work en-masse on larger multi-flowers shrubs; the Honey Bees seem to like most things white or purple; while the hover flies like the small delicate flowers of Fennel.

Elkstone's height and exposure typically means that we notice the growing chill in the late evening air and the ending of summer a good few weeks before those at the bottom of the escarpment. The change of temperature and the shortening hours of daylight is the trigger for our hedgehogs to feed themselves up and start scouting for their winter hibernation home. As with most of our native wildlife the loss of hedgerows is a problem for these lovable and useful mammals depriving them of safe habitat and the foraging routes they need. New autumn hedgehogs are particularly vulnerable, as they need to put on weight quickly and find a home to survive the winter; it is often these underweight, dehydrated and hypothermic hedgehogs that you see out in daylight later in September and into October...never a good sign. Those who show signs of illness may need rescuing else nature will take its course, however we can help now by putting out food and water (but not bread and milk), providing hibernation homes in a quiet area of the garden, and ensure that when we fence our gardens we leave a number of hedgehog access points that will allow them to move freely and establish sustainable foraging routes. Homes can be made out of firewood logs with a plastic membrane for the roof or the very good "Hogitat" homes can be bought from a number of local suppliers.

So make the most of late summer, take time to appreciate our different nature environments, and please do what you can to help our native wildlife make it through the colder months ahead.

*Francis*

Useful information for those with access to the internet:  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) = Search for Yellowhammer

[www.bigbutterflycount.org](http://www.bigbutterflycount.org) = A very good butterfly identification chart to download

[www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org) = A very good bumblebee identification chart to download of the common species in the UK

[www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk) = The British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Everything you need to know including advice about First Aid. They also provide rescue services  
Tel. 01584 890801.

[www.webbsdirect.co.uk](http://www.webbsdirect.co.uk) = Webbs of Worcestershire is offering the basic Hogit home for £17.99 and can also supply hedgehog food and feeders. There are also a number of suppliers in Gloucestershire but they seem to be more expensive. Just search for Hogit Gloucestershire

### **Road Closures**

There are notices of road closures during normal working hours on weekdays. The lane into Cowley from opposite the Green Dragon is scheduled for closure early in the month. Then for a period in the fortnight from 10th to 22nd September, the 40863 from High Cross crossroads to the start of the new (1996) line approximately 50 metres west of the drive to Highgate Farm, and the 40864 from Westerleigh crossroads to the junction with 40863, are scheduled for closure.

*Lois*

### **Advertisements**

#### **Charity Concert to Raise Funds for Cotswold Care Hospice and Sue Ryder, Leckhampton**

On Saturday 27th September, Cirencester Soroptimists of which I am a member, are hosting a concert in the Bingham Hall, King Street Cirencester, to raise funds for the above charities. The concert will feature the Dursley Male Voice Choir supported by MJ-UK music and Arts in concert. MJ-UK music and arts are a Musical Theatre production company, creating opportunities for young people, running community projects alongside professionals and they will be singing music from the shows of earlier years.

Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm. There will be a raffle, bar and refreshments available.

Ticket £10 each available from *Anne Davies - Manor Farm Cottage*

#### **Colesbourne Men**

We are seeking the descendants of the men who went to the Great War from Colesbourne. If you are one of them, or know someone who is, we would love to hear from you and add any information and photographs you might have of your ancestor.

There will be a display of photographs and stories about these men in the Long Room, Colesbourne Park, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm, followed by a one hour play about a fictional Gloucester couple living in Gloucester during the war.

#### **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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*