

Elkstone Newsletter

31st Year: No. 4 (327)

January 2015

Editor's Bit

There have been several incidents of loose dogs lately. A pair of Labradors was easily dealt with as they proved to be temporary residents in Elkstone, but in other cases it has been difficult or impossible to find where they have come from. While on my journey to swimming at about 7.00am this morning, I nearly ran into two dogs at Beech Pike, about to go onto the A417! and yesterday I saw a scruffy dog near the Manor. In each case, the dogs had vanished into the darkness before I could safely stop. Someone in Cirencester has suggested that this may be a new form of perverted entertainment, where dogs are snatched, collars removed and the dogs dumped in a different area. All I can say is be extra careful when travelling in the morning gloom, and be vigilant of your own dogs.

Reg – 23rd December

Features	
Christingle Service Open Invite to Elkstonians Who is the new Vicar? Supper and Film Night	Rendcomb Surgery Support Group News Unicef card and gifts sales - thanks Nature Notes The A417 – News Gardens Open Day
Dates for your Diary	
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Elkstone Village Hall – 8.00pm - Wednesday 14 th January	
Elkstone Supper & Film night – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.00/8.00pm – Thursday 22 nd January	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Saturday 10 th January and subsequent Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Monday 5 th and Fridays 16 th & 30 th January
	N.B. the 5 th January collection will include a 'side waste' amnesty
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: Tuesday 20th January 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	

Services at Elkstone Church in January are as follows:

January 4th - Christingle Service at 10am - Jennie Howlett and a representative of the Children's Society

January 11th - Family Service at 10am - Rev Janet Williams

January 18th - Holy Communion at 11am - Rev Cliff Pooley

January 18th - Licensing of Rev Arthur Champion at 3pm at Colesbourne Church

January 25th - Songs of Praise at 10am - Will Halse

David Pierce

Christingle and Other Services

Our Christingle service, when we remember the work of the Children's Society, will be on January 4th at 10 am. We are hoping to have a representative from the Society at the service who will talk about the work they are doing with young people, and how God is changing lives. There was a memorable talk last year explaining how there are many factors and influences, some good and some bad, which affect the development of young people. If you have a Collection Box for the Children's Society please bring it to the service.

Advance Notice: Sunday February 1st at 10am will be our annual Toy Service. This is an opportunity to give toys to children who have very little.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

Open Invite to Elkstoners

Dear everyone,

As you know, for the last two years we have opened our house to everyone for tea and cakes/ cheese and wine in January. We have thoroughly enjoyed these afternoons and loved catching up with all the special people in Elkstone.

This year we are doing something a little different. Our boys sing with Schola Cantorum choir that sings weekday services in Tewkesbury Abbey. They are an excellent choir regularly making CDs, touring abroad and, earlier this year, they did a live Broadcast on Radio 3. Next summer they are going on tour to The Netherlands and need to raise £8000 to fund themselves. The choirmaster has agreed to bring the choir to Elkstone on Sunday January 11th to sing a concert for the lovely people of Elkstone. This will be followed by the usual tea and cake/wine and cheese and get together at our house.

The concert will be in Elkstone Church at 2.15pm on Sunday 11th January. Tickets for the concert are £10 each and all money will go to the Netherlands Tour fund. If you are able to support Schola Cantorum, that would be wonderful. If you would just like to come for the social gathering at our house then that would be fine and there will be plenty of opportunity there to donate to the Schola fund!!!! The social part will begin at 3.30pm.

Please let me (Rachael - 01242870581 - rachael@pobox.com.) or Sylvie Pierce (01242870181 - sylviepierce@btinternet.com) know if you would like:

- a) a ticket for the concert
- b) just come for tea
- c) both!!

Rachael - Manor Barn

Who is the new vicar?

On January 18th the Rev. Arthur Champion will be licensed as the new House for Duty Associate Priest (otherwise known as "the vicar" to most of us), with primary responsibility for the four villages at this end of the Churn valley, including Elkstone. Arthur and his wife Margaret will be living at the Rectory in Cowley.

So who is the new vicar?

Arthur has just retired from Zurich Insurance after 30 years, where he has latterly been Global Health and Safety Manager. He was for many years involved in the leadership of the Glenfall Fellowship in Charlton Kings. He then felt God was calling him into the ministry, and was ordained in 2008. In addition to his full time job at Zurich, Arthur was Assistant Curate and then Associate Priest at the Greenway Benefice (Badgeworth, Shurdington, Witcombe and Bentham) from 2008 to February 2013. He then became Associate Priest at Bourton-on-the-Water with Clapton and the Rissingtons until July 2014. On 1st January 2014 Arthur was appointed Diocesan Environmental Adviser. Arthur grew up in Yorkshire, which is where his interest in pot holing began. In 1975 he was part of an Anglo-American team which broke the then world depth record at a cave in the French Pyrenees. They ended up going vertically down 1,130 metres, and staying underground for three nights. Then in 1975 he was part of a team which took the astronaut Neil Armstrong, down into a cave in the Amazon.

From 1990 to 1996 Arthur was Cub Scout leader for the Sevenhampton Scout Group. Arthur and Margaret have two grown up children and became grandparents two years ago. We are all looking forward to Arthur's ministry in these villages. At the time of writing I am not sure which will be the first service Arthur will be leading in Elkstone, but I expect it will be the Family Service on February 8th at 10am.

David Pierce

Supper and Film Night - Thursday January 22nd 2015

We would like to start this year by thanking those of you who have supported our film and supper evenings throughout 2014. All the work is made worthwhile by knowing how much these evenings are enjoyed by attendees.

The film to start the new year will be *Anna Karenina*, a British epic romantic drama film adapted from Leo Tolstoy's 1877 novel of the same name. The film depicts the tragedy of Russian aristocrat and socialite Anna Karenina, wife of senior statesman Alexei Karenin, and her affair with the affluent officer Count Vronsky which leads to her ultimate demise. Starring Joe Wright, Keira Knightley, Jude Law and Aaron Taylor-Johnson the film has earned nominations for many awards.

Supper will be a chicken bake, and will start at 7.00pm followed by the film at 8.00pm. Supper and film £10; film only £5. It would be much appreciated if those of you wanting supper could let us know by Monday 19th to help with catering.

Jeremy and Anne Manor Farm Cottage – 870516

Rendcomb Patients' Support Group Christmas Coffee Morning - 6th December

Many thanks to all those who generously supported this annual and much-loved event, which is a festive opportunity to socialise and catch up on local news and happenings. As well as coffee and mince pies, there was the chance to win a great raffle prize and to purchase cakes, gifts and cards. The event raised £325, which will help provide extra benefits for the patients of Rendcomb Surgery. If you missed it this year, do make a note in your diary to be there next year - the first Saturday in December.

Pauline Farman

UNICEF Card and Gift Sale

Many thanks to all supporters. We raised nearly £250 for this Children's charity.

Nature Notes

So far this year the predictions of bad weather have mostly failed to materialise, in Elkstone at least; instead temperatures have stayed relatively warm and the weather benign. January however is the month when all that can change, the month where we expect the most frosts and have the greatest expectation of snow and freezing conditions.

Whilst winter is most likely to have us in its grip the shortest day has passed, so the length of daylight starts to perceptibly become longer bringing with it hints of the coming of Spring towards the end of the month.

Animals that hibernate are well into their winter slumbers by now and should stay fast asleep unless disturbed or forced to forage through hunger. Flocks of farmland birds dash nervously between the hedgerows in search of food whilst maintaining their cover as best they can, and deer can be seen majestically and silently crossing fields at each end of the day, the steam of their breath clear to see in periods of still, cold weather.

Brown Hares on the open farmland stand out against coverings of frost and snow to provide one of the most iconic and inspirational images of winter in the Cotswolds; it's hard to believe that gangs persecute these animals through the practice of hare coursing, and as previously reported in this newsletter our area is not immune from this despicable and illegal activity.

So after your Christmas indulgences, resist the urge to join a gym, instead pull on a pair of wellingtons, wrap up warmly and take a walk across our open farmland at either end of the day and see what winter images you can capture.

Francis

For more information on brown hares and the issues affecting them, including notes for farmers on how to provide the best environments, can be found at the Hare Preservation Trust website: www.hare-preservation-trust.co.uk

Francis

Air Balloon Cash at Last!

Good morning!

I have some good news as an early Christmas present for our area!

Today the Coalition Government announced that money (£250 million), will at last be given to fund changes to the Air Balloon junction (A417).

After so much campaigning, so many accidents and the blight of pollution, today's announcement is music to my ears and to the many of you who have wanted this. All the hard work has paid off.

Some of you will know that I put forward motions to both the County and District Councils calling for action over this notorious black spot and both of these were unanimously approved, sending a strong message to ministers which has clearly worked. Now it's important to make sure that ministers are held to their pledge and that work is combined with measures to reduce noise from the road for villages along the dual carriageway.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-roads-investment-in-the-south-west>

Above is the link to the actual page of all the proposed improvements in the SW, all of which except the A417 appear to be actual plans, whereas the A417 is listed as being the subject of further consideration.

Gardens Open Day - Sunday 7th June 2015

We have decided to organise the gardens open day again as no one came forward to take it on and the funds that we receive are all for our benefit i.e. the upkeep of the Church and Village Hall and Marion Cooch has kindly offered to help me this year which will be a great help. Thank you Marion. I have emailed a few people asking if they would kindly open their gardens or help on the day and have had some lovely replies but will still need more people to come forward to open their gardens or help on the day. Look forward to hearing from you in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone health and happiness in 2015.

Tess - teresa.dick@btinternet.com