

Elkstone Newsletter

31st Year: No. 5 (328)

February 2015

Editor's Bit

I was putting this issue of the Newsletter together and idly looking out of my north-facing window, when I noticed a large bird flying towards me from Matt's farm. As it closed in, it swept round to its right and I was awarded a fabulous view of a barn owl. I must ask Francis about this bird.

Reg – 21st January

Features	
Report on Christingle Service Schola Cantorum report Apology Supper and Film Night News from the Parish Council	Improve your home's energy efficiency? Neighbourhood Watch News Nature Notes Wine Tasting? Gardens Open Day Mental Health Issues
Dates for your Diary	
Elkstone Supper & Film night – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.00/8.00pm – Thursday 19 th February	
Wine Tasting – Village Hall – 6.30pm – Saturday 25 th April	
Gardens Open Day – Sunday 7 th June	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 13 th & 27 th
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: Friday 20th February 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	

February Services

February 1st 10.00am - Toy Service led by Geoff Gait-Carr
February 8th 10.00am - Family Service led by Rev Arthur Champion
February 15th 11.00am - Holy Communion led by Rev Warwick Heathcote
February 22nd 10.00am - Songs of Praise led by Chloe Darling

February Service details:

The family service on February 8th will be the first service in the village taken by our new vicar, Rev Arthur Champion.

Toy Service - Sunday February 1st at 10am will be our Toy Service. The toys donated will be given to a woman's refuge in Stroud. The refuge takes in women, often with their children, who because of problems, have had to leave their homes quickly and often do not have the time to take anything with them. The toys give the children something to play with, when all their favourites have been left behind. Some are saved for birthdays, or Christmas, when otherwise the children would have nothing. At this time of the year when perhaps our own children have had new toys at Christmas, it is a chance to give away good quality used toys which they have grown out of, and know they will become the loved possession of another child. If you are not able to come to the service, but would still like to make a gift, either leave them in the vestry at Church a couple of days before the service, or bring them to our home at Manor Cross.

David Pierce

Christingle Service Report - Andrew Holt from the Children's Society talked to us about the work of the Society at our Christingle Service on January 4th, and the real change they are making in young people's lives. He told us of one boy who had run away from home at age 14, because of increasing violence. The Society rescued him from the streets where he had been living, and stealing to provide food for himself. After letting his family know where he was, the Society placed him with a foster family. He is now back at school and enjoying it. He has learned to trust people again and laughs.

During the service the collection boxes, which many people keep at home and put some spare cash into during the year, were brought as part of the offering.

Everybody took home a Christingle, an orange (representing the world), with a red ribbon (representing Christ's blood shed for us), a candle (as a reminder that Christ is the light of the world) and sweets and peanuts on four sticks (to remind us of all God's gifts and the seasons).

Schola Cantorum report

Thank you so very much to everyone who supported the Schola Cantorum concert on January 11th. It was a wonderful occasion and it was so good to have so many lovely people back at our house afterwards! The concert and donations raised £705 for the Schola Tour to the Netherlands. This is a fantastic sum of money and we are all extremely grateful to you for your generosity and kindness. Thank you and Simon Bell and the entire choir have asked me to thank you too!!

With very best wishes,

Rachael Richardson

Thank You and Apologies (in case we need to apologise)

After close to two decades of planning and saving we have just started reshaping our house.

My goodness this is very exciting, but there does seem to be a planning flaw in that on January 6th we took out our boiler (until autumn).

Thank you to all our tolerant neighbours. The practicality is that digging is an energetic process, and will always get worse before it gets better.

As an aside, the fly tipping on the track beside the Mill House is just that – it was not us.

Nic & Ann Williamson

February Film Night - Magic in the Moonlight – 7.00pm Thursday February 19th

Our next film is a comedy thriller, starting at 8:00 pm, preceded by our light supper which is at 7:00 pm; *please note also that before long we will be showing "The Imitation Game" and "The Theory of Everything" once the DVDs are released, so don't go driving miles to see them, they will be on your doorstep with supper as well - not bad for a tenner!*

Back to **Magic in the Moonlight** - set in the 1920s on the opulent Riviera in the south of France, Woody Allen's MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT is about a master magician (Colin Firth) trying to expose a psychic medium (Emma Stone) as a fake.

Chinese conjuror Wei Ling Soo is the most celebrated magician of his age, but few know that he is the stage persona of Stanley Crawford (Colin Firth), a grouchy and arrogant Englishman with a sky-high opinion of himself and an aversion to phony spiritualists' claims that they can perform real magic. Persuaded by his life-long friend, Howard Burkan (Simon McBurney), Stanley goes on a mission to the Côte d'Azur mansion of the Catledge family: mother Grace (Jacki Weaver), son Brice (Hamish Linklater), and daughter Caroline (Erica Leerhsen). He presents himself as a businessman named Stanley Taplinger in order to debunk the alluring young clairvoyant Sophie Baker (Emma Stone) who is staying there with her mother (Marcia Gay Harden). Sophie arrived at the Catledge villa at the invitation of Grace, who is convinced that Sophie can help her contact her late

husband, and once there, attracted the attention of Brice, who has fallen for her head over heels.

From his very first meeting with Sophie, Stanley dismisses her as an insignificant pip-squeak who he can unmask in no time, scoffing at the family's gullibility. To his great surprise and discomfort, however, Sophie accomplishes numerous feats of mind-reading and other supernatural deeds that defy all rational explanation, leaving him dumbfounded. Before long, Stanley confesses to his beloved Aunt Vanessa (Eileen Atkins) that he has begun to wonder whether Sophie's powers could actually be real. If they were to be true, Stanley realizes that anything might be possible, even good, and his entire belief system would come crashing down.

What follows is a series of events that are magical in every sense of the word and send the characters reeling. In the end, the biggest trick MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT plays is the one that fools us all.

Supper will be based on a goulash 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 6:00 pm Monday 16th Feb to help with catering.

Jeremy and Anne - Manor Farm Cottage - 870516

News from the Parish Council - The Local Plan

Cotswold District Council is preparing a new Local Plan, and the period for 'The Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation: Development Strategy and Site Allocations' is now open, running until 5.00pm on Friday 27th February.

Residents of the CDC area are invited consider the documents, and make comments on their contents.

The documents can be viewed by going to the CDC website:

www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/forwardplanning and following the link to 'The Emerging Local Plan'

You will need to register and/or log in.

Alternatively, copies of the documents can be viewed in all the District's libraries, and in the CDC offices in Trinity Road, Cirencester; and I have one paper copy, which can be borrowed short-term by any parishioner not having Internet access.

Lois - 870375

Could you improve the energy efficiency of your home?

Help may be available to improve the energy efficiency of homes within the parish.

Cotswold District Council is working in partnership with Green Homes Together Community Interest Company to help households improve the warmth and comfort of their homes. They are currently offering up to 100% funding for loft and cavity wall insulation.

<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/news/november-2014/are-you-eligible-for-free-loft-and-cavity-insulation/>

Funding comes from the Energy Company Obligation ('ECO'), where large energy suppliers are required to help people make their homes more energy efficient.

Green Homes Together can be contacted on 0300 111 3330 or

info@greenhomestogether.org.uk.

Becky James, Partnerships Manager

Green Homes Together, 3 Welch Way, Witney OX28 6JH

Office: 01993 226920 | direct: 01993 226925 | mob: 07891 841159 | fax: 01993 708104

Neighbourhood Watch News

Prevention & Protection Fire & Rescue Service

As Neighbourhood Watch Co-coordinator, I have been asked by the Fire & Rescue Service to circulate the following information from them, which I think may be of interest to households in Elkstone:

“Over the past two years we have seen significant number of fire-related incidents in households where hoarding or poor housekeeping has been a contributory factor. Sadly, over the Christmas period we experienced the latest incident that resulted in a fatality in the home. We are working with several partner agencies to try and identify those people at risk in our communities but one area that has been highlighted as a problem is not having a significant number of “eyes and ears” on the ground in the community. This is where we are seeking your help.

If you are aware of households where housekeeping may be a problem we are asking you to engage with them and where possible to discuss a visit from one of our safety advisors to discuss fire safety and to fit free smoke alarms if appropriate. Where you feel someone is vulnerable and would benefit from our help there are several ways you can let us know:

- The favoured option is to ask them to self-refer using our website - http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/your_safety.html*
- They can also make contact on 0800 180 41 40 if they do not have internet access*
- If this is not possible, you can refer them using the same methods. To do this you must ensure that you have their explicit permission to do so and that they understand we will contact them. When referring, please be sure to explain your role and that you are referring on behalf of someone else.*

It is important that we respect everyone’s right to privacy, so we must deal with people sensitively and emphasise that this is not a judgemental approach. Our aspiration is to make everyone safer and to reduce risk and harm, whilst respecting people’s right to live how they wish.” - John Beard

Head of Community Safety (Prevention and Protection)

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service

If you have any queries or concerns with regards to the above or you would prefer that I work with the household in question, then please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Missing Dog Found

I was really amazed back in November when Charlie, a missing dog, was reported missing to me and I sent out the alert to the Neighbourhood Watch email list. I was totally amazed at the number of people who asked, the same day, about whether Charlie had been found yet, and the number of dog walkers who mentioned they had been looking for her whilst out walking their own dogs. Sometimes, I do wonder if alerts are read, and it was really encouraging to know that our community comes together in a crisis and works together in this way. It made my day even more when her owner found Charlie and it was great to be able to pass on the good news. Thank you to everyone who helped to look for Charlie.

Keeping Children Safe Online

I thought that you might like to know about the campaign launched recently by the NSPCC to help keep children safe online. Below is the information that was sent to Coberley School and given out to parents:

“The campaign is aimed at parents and carers of children aged 8-12 – the age at which they start doing more online, become more independent and use a greater range of devices. The campaign aims to encourage parents and carers to understand online safety and to have conversations with their children about keeping safe. Having conversations from a young age can help build trust and openness and get preventative messages across. The Share Aware campaign aims to give parents the tools to feel confident to have these conversations. The campaign directs parents to a range of new resources, including Net Aware, a simple NSPCC guide to the social networks, sites and apps children use – as rated by parents and young people themselves. There is also a downloadable guide and a hard copy booklet for parents, containing top tips for keeping children safe online, as well

as conversation starters to help parents have conversations with their children. All these resources are available on the Share Aware page."

If you would like to be added to the email Neighbourhood Watch alert email list, to receive information from the Police and alerts on criminal, suspicious activity and community information by "blind" copy, please email me julia.davey@outlook.com
Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - 870038

Nature Notes

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day be cloud and rain,
Then winter will not come again.

This little rhyme hints at the unpredictability of the expected weather in February, which can simply feel like a continuation of January or lean more towards the coming of Spring. Candlemas Day is the 2nd February if you would like to put this rhyme to the test. Either way the first new flower of the year, the Snowdrop, has already started to make a shy appearance and new embryonic buds can be seen on many trees and shrubs.

The current cold snap often results in cold, clear and relatively windless nights, which are perfect for a bit of star and moon gazing. Whilst the village does suffer some light pollution from the main road and the streetlights of Cirencester in the far distance, we have enough dark skies to see a great many things. In January the southern sky is dominated by the Orion constellation typified by its highly distinctive shape of torso, three star belt and three star sword. In the northern sky January and February are probably the best time for seeing the sections of the Milky Way in the northwest.

Dark, windless nights are also good for a bit of owl listening; areas of copse are usually the sources of the sounds. I have seen several beautiful Barn Owls over the past few months and heard their accompanying shrieks; I regularly hear Tawny Owls with their unmistakable Hoo-oo-oo and the less expected "Kee-wick" reply but have only seen one fleetingly. A less common sound, and one I had to look-up as I haven't actually seen the bird, is that of the Little Owl which gives out a low plaintive "Kiew-Kiew".

I know its cold, but make the most of our dark clear nights...Spring is on its way...slowly.
Francis

Wine Tasting at the Village Hall - 25th April 2015 at 18.30

David Pierce and I are resurrecting the Wine Tasting which has been a great success on previous occasions.

We have drafted the following:

Save the date and think ahead to spring and summer holidays, al fresco dining and barbecues. Come and try some excellent wines from unusual regions and unfamiliar grapes. David Pierce and I will introduce and test your taste buds with our choices from affordable vintages whether it's for everyday drinking or special occasions. As usual there will be points for your skill and knowledge; and points mean... lots of fun and prizes to be enjoyed with a buffet supper.

If you would like to help, please contact:

drpierce@msn.com or brian.howlett@virgin.net

Gardens Open Day - Sunday 7th June

As you can see from the above Gardens Open Day will be Sunday, 7th June so do let family and friends know the date. We are still looking for people to open their gardens on the day and maybe help with stalls if you are interested please do get in touch we would love to hear from you. New ideas for the day welcome.

Tess - teresa.dick@btinternet.com - marion.cooch@hotmail.co.uk

Mental Health Issues - the elephant in the room!

As a Soroptimist in the Cirencester club I am leading a campaign for positive mental health and suicide prevention during 2015.

Nobody likes to talk about mental health issues because there is a stigma attached to them. Why should this be because these are serious illnesses that can afflict anyone? They are not a figment of the sufferer's imagination; they are treatable and they will not just disappear if they are ignored. In some cases they can be fatal.

1 in 4 of us will be affected at some time by mental health issues with mixed anxiety and depression the most common but the effects extend beyond the person who is affected; there are over 5000 suicides a year and 140,000 attempts; suicide is the greatest cause of deaths in males between the ages of 17-30; 1:10 children i.e. 1:3 in each class will suffer some form of mental health issues; 1:12 self-harm and of these 1:15 are children. The UK at 400 per 100000 of the population is one of the highest rates in Europe. This should not be.

It is highly unlikely that any villager is unaware of someone who is coping with, or has coped with mental health issues and perhaps felt unsure as to how to respond. More seriously some people may not be recognised as having mental health problems, or may be suffering but because of the stigma attached to this may feel unable to talk about it. Throughout the year we shall be working with mental health charities to spread information about these matters, to educate and to try to remove the stigma. As a club we are hoping to reach out to schools, colleges, youth groups, workplaces, and organisations. If this is something that matters to you, and you feel that you would like to help in any way I would be delighted to hear from you.

Anne Davies - Manor Farm Cottage - 870516