

# Elkstone Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> Year: No. 6 (329)

March 2015

## Editor's Bit

While taking our dog Rosie for a walk along the lane towards Slutswell, I noted all the new spring growth, including the little yellow flowers that Jessie told me she had planted. Lois reminded me that they are aconites. It was good to have this reminder of a villager who is no longer with us.

*Reg – 21<sup>st</sup> February*

Features	
Welcome to Elkstone Supper and Film Night Wine tasting event Reports of the Toy Service, Children's Society Collection Boxes	News from the Parish Council Neighbourhood Watch News Nature Notes Elkstone Community Speed Watch Computer Services Gardens Open Day
Dates for your Diary	
Elkstone Supper & Film night – Elkstone Village Hall – 7.00/8.00pm – Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	
Parish Council Meeting - Elkstone Village Hall - 8.00pm – Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	
Wine Tasting – Village Hall – 6.30pm – Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	
Gardens Open Day – Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 13 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>
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>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</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>	

## Welcome to Elkstone

We would like to welcome Emma and Michael Vincent who recently moved into the Dolls House, and we hope that they will be very happy living in Elkstone.

*(If you know of other people who have joined us in Elkstone, please let the Editor know)*

## March Services

March 1st - Morning Prayer 10.00am - Rev Janet Williams

March 8th - Family Service 10.00am - Rev Paul Youde

March 15th - Mothering Day Family Service - 9.45am - Rev Arthur Champion

March 22nd - Songs of Praise - 10.00am - Rev Geoffrey Cox

March 29th - no service at Elkstone - joint Palm Sunday service at Cowley at 11.00am

April 3rd - Good Friday Service - joint Holy Communion service at Cowley at 10.00am

April 5th - Easter Day Family Service at 10.00am - Rev Arthur Champion

Come and join us to celebrate Easter Day. There will be the usual Easter egg hunt for the young at heart after the service.

## Mothering Sunday - March 15th

Our Mothering Sunday service will be at 9.45am and will be an opportunity for us to thank God for our mothers and all they have done and do for us, and also to thank them.

This will be a family service and there will be an opportunity for children to collect posies to give to their mothers.

**Please note the new time for the Mothering Day service.**

*David Pierce*

**Film and Supper Evening: Thursday March 19th, 7.00 pm**

**The Imitation Game** is a nail-biting race against time following Alan Turing (pioneer of modern-day computing and credited with cracking the German Enigma code) and his brilliant team at Britain's top-secret code-breaking centre, Bletchley Park, during the darkest days of World War II. Turing, whose contributions and genius significantly shortened the war, saving thousands of lives, was the eventual victim of an unenlightened British establishment, but his work and legacy live on. The star cast is headed by Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing pay great tribute to the story of how the forerunner of GCHQ came to play such crucial role, from those days to current times.

A fish supper will start at 7.00 pm 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 March to help with catering.

Please note also that next month (April 16th) we will be showing **Mr Turner**, with Timothy Spall in the title role, and starting again in the Autumn (October 22nd) with "**The Theory of Everything**" – so notes in your diaries please!

*Jeremy and Anne – Manor Farm Cottage – 870516*

**PIGS Wine Tasting Event,**

**Elkstone Village Hall, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 6.30pm for 7.00pm**

The European economy is not doing so well, and it's no laughing matter – especially for Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain (collectively aka in economics as the PIGS) as they struggle to cope with debt and rest their hopes on bailouts, or even exit from the Euro.

Every cloud has a silver lining however, and some of these economies are just beginning to bounce back. In the meantime, spring is around the corner in the UK; so join us and taste some of the excellent wines from unfamiliar and often ancient vines that these economies produce.

If you like them and buy them you will be doing your small bit to help their recovery as well. We have already done ours by buying, trying and enjoying them.

Tickets for the event are on sale now at £10 per person. This includes the opportunity to taste 6 wines and a buffet supper to follow. Book your place by contacting David [drpierce@msn.com](mailto:drpierce@msn.com) or Brian [brian.howlett@virgin.net](mailto:brian.howlett@virgin.net).

As usual all offers of help would be greatly appreciated, especially for serving the wine, setting up, clearing up etc. Donations of food for the supper are most welcome. Salads, cold dishes and cheese boards representing the wine tasting theme would be ideal.

"Forget the black tie; it's no formal affair.

Just come as you are in casual flair."

Please book early as places will be limited!

*Brian Howlett and David Pierce*

**Children's Society Collection Boxes**

Thanks to all who have collected spare change (and larger denominations) over the last twelve months. Along with collection money from the Christmas Eve service in church we have raise almost £600 for this children's charity. The Children's Society aims to support vulnerable children and young people. More information on their work can be found on [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

*Jennie Howlett*



### **Toy Service - February 1st**

Thank you to all who gave such a great selection of toys at the Toy Service. When we collected them all together we had about 15 carrier bags full. These will be given to children who have little or nothing to play with, and will become treasured by them. Geoff Gait-Carr led our service, and with the help of three children built a house. (See photo) It was fascinating seeing how a house would be built of timber, and how the joints were held together with pegs, before there were nails. But we were reminded of Ps.127 v1, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain."

### **News from the Parish Council**

#### **Parish Council Elections – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The five seats on Elkstone Parish Council are due for election on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Nomination papers can be downloaded from the Cotswold District Council website, or are available from the EPC Clerk.

Completed nomination papers together with consent to nomination must be hand-delivered to the Cotswold District Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Two Local Road Closures to enable re-surfacing work**

Two notifications of temporary road closures have been received. The first of these is the 2+ km length of the 40892, past Cot Abbey (Cot Lane?) between its junction with the 3/156 near Rapsgate Farm, and the old length of A417, now access road to the Centurian Garage.

The period of closure is given as 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March.

The second notification is for the 3+ km length of the 50864, Combend Lane from its junction with the 3/190 by Combend Farm to its junction with the 40863, Uncombe Lane, above Colesbourne Hill. The period of closure is given as 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

For both these periods, the 3/190 will be part of the diversion route.

Unfortunately, this is also the period of the Cheltenham Festival (10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March), hence the 3/190 could be particularly busy at this time.

#### **Riparian Owners**

The Parish Council has been asked by the County Council to distribute a revised information leaflet, "Waterside Living", to the riparian owners in the Parish.

A riparian owner is someone who has a ditch or other watercourse running through his/her property, and/or immediately adjacent to it. Riparian owners have certain rights in relation to ditch or watercourse, but are likely to be responsible for the maintenance of it, and of its banks.

*Lois – 870375*

## Neighbourhood Watch News

As part of my remit as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, I have become aware of a scheme that provides emergency call pendants/bracelets and linked smoke detectors/alarms free of charge to people who are assessed as being able to benefit from them, perhaps because they are elderly, living on their own and deemed to be at a higher risk. Whilst none of us would like to think we would need such a service, there have been instances in the village where such a facility would have been very useful. If you are interested in having an assessment please let me know and I can make a referral. There is no obligation and it will be down to the assessment they do as to whether the council will agree to provide the service.

There have been various break-ins of outbuildings again with trailers and tools being taken. Please do ensure that adequate security measures are in place with such outbuildings.

There is a renewed drive to complete Domestic Crime Reduction Surveys in the local area over the next few months. I would urge you to have one of these surveys done as it is quite eye opening! Often the suggestions about how we can improve the security of our property are quite inexpensive but things you may not have considered. We had a survey done last year and it was very useful. The Surveys are free and the Police look at your property from the outside only, from the view of the burglar – an interesting perspective. If you are interested in having a survey done, please contact PCSO Andrea Shutt

[andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk)

*Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - [julia.davey@outlook.com](mailto:julia.davey@outlook.com) - 870038*

## Nature Notes

March heralds the start of spring with new growth emerging in an ever-accelerating succession. Given Elkstone's height and exposure it is at this time of year that I notice how our spring lags behind those areas at the bottom of the escarpment, normally a good two weeks if the weather remains cold.

As the snowdrops and crocuses of February fade the daffodil emerges as the flower of March across the country. In Wales St. David's Day is a special day of ceremony and national identity celebrated by the wearing of a daffodil and more humble leek. Here in Gloucestershire we have some of the best wild daffodil sites in the country, which tend to be clustered around Dymock Woods near Newent. Wild daffodils are dainty, delicate in structure and subtler in colour than their cultivated relatives; they are worth going to see. Besides daffodils other woodland flowers are also starting to come alive this month particularly celandines, primroses and wood anemone, though it is still too early for bluebells.

March is a good month to listen to the songs of common countryside birds as most are now singing their mating calls, and the lack of foliage makes them relatively easy to see. Perhaps the most evocative of all birdsong in March is that of the humble blackbird, particularly towards dusk. Blackbirds should be laying their eggs by early March, and are followed later in the month by robins, dunnocks and song thrushes.

I've already heard the drumming of the greater spotted woodpecker nearby but have yet to see a green woodpecker or hear its characteristic "Yaffle". I have seen one before in Elkstone and I am always baffled why such a vividly coloured bird is so hard to see. Towards the end of the month we can expect to see the new lambs in the fields and of course it is always great to see "Mad" March Hares flying across open fields, chasing each other and boxing.

So lots to do and see in nature this month; get out and make the most of it.

*Francis*

Places to see Wild Daffodils:

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/reserves-wildlife/great-places-see/wild-daffodils>

### **Elkstone Community Speed Watch**

You may have noticed us dressed in Hi-Viz jackets and observing traffic at the (telephone) cross roads at various times. The aim of our group is to make the 3/190 safer to turn onto when leaving the village, and for villagers who wish to walk along the lanes around the village.

We are only allowed to use this one location and can only report to the police the registration marks of vehicles, which are recorded as exceeding the 40mph limit between the two Elkstone crossroads. The police then decide what action to take, including writing to drivers and reminding them to watch their speed in the 40mph zone. Our presence alone causes most drivers to slow down.

There is always a need for more volunteers to come forward for training so that the numbers of volunteers are not overworked at each booked session. There is also a need for another coordinator. I can be contacted at the Editor's office during the day if you would like to become one of the group or the next coordinator.

*Reg Eyre*

*Temporary Coordinator*

### **Computer Services**

If you work from home, you might like to know of the computer services provided by Ben Cottle. Ben has helped me out of a jam on several occasions, often at short notice, when the PC or laptop has packed up or the keyboard failed, etc. Ben offers software and hardware support, upgrades, data recovery and remote assistance plus PCs built to your needs, web design, tuition, set-up and installation. Ben is now running his own business – IT Improver – and can be contacted on 07727 037 267 or [itimprover@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:itimprover@hotmail.co.uk). Do give him a call if you've a problem that needs sorting. He looks after Apple computers too.

*Tony Haynes - Wool Barn, Elkstone*

Please note that the email address for Churn Valley Services has changed. Please amend your records accordingly.

[info@churnvalleyservices.co.uk](mailto:info@churnvalleyservices.co.uk)

Churn Valley Services Ltd  
Colesbourne Filling Station  
Cheltenham

Glos. GL53 9NP

T: 01242 870357

E: [info@churnvalleyservices.co.uk](mailto:info@churnvalleyservices.co.uk)

### **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**

Please can you help us again to collect Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers (available until 5<sup>th</sup> May) for Coberley School? Last time you helped us reach our target and we love playing with our new netballs and new netball baskets. This time we are hoping to collect 6974 vouchers so that we can get den kits, outdoor tables & chairs and a play tent. Please put any vouchers you get through our door at the Old School House and I will take them to school. Thank you!

*Hannah Davey*

### **Gardens Open Day - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

As you aware, Gardens Open Day will be Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:teresa.dick@btinternet.com) - [marion.cooch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marion.cooch@hotmail.co.uk)