

# Elkstone Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> Year: No. 8 (331)

May 2015

## Editor's Bit

Does your outlook on life change when the sun shines for several days in a row? This Newsletter will probably arrive just as the weather changes to something the farmers require...

*Reg - 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015*

Features	
Village Hall Cleaning Found cat News from the Parish Council	Nature Notes Gardens Open Day Village Agent's Notes
Dates for your Diary	
7 <sup>th</sup> May – Elections for MP, County & District Councils - Village Hall – 7.00am – 10.00 pm	
15 <sup>th</sup> May – Elkstone Parish Council AGM – Village Hall – 8.00 pm	
Gardens Open Day – Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
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>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</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><i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – <a href="mailto:reg.eyre@tesco.net">reg.eyre@tesco.net</a></i></b>	

## May Services

May 3rd - Morning Prayer - 10am - Rev Arthur Champion

May 10th - Family Service - 10am - Rev Janet Williams

May 17th - Holy Communion - 11am - Rev Arthur Champion

May 24th - Songs of Praise - 10am - Will Halse

May 31st - United Holy Communion - Rev Geoffrey Cox

*David Pierce*

## Village Hall Cleaning

As you will know the Village Hall is regularly let to both villagers and non-villagers. The income from these lettings is the largest source of funds for the upkeep of the Hall. It is important that people using the Hall find it clean and welcoming and, for many years, we have been able to rely on Carole Bury and latterly Kate Marriott to clean the Hall weekly. Kate is now studying hard for her exams and can't therefore continue her good work so we need a volunteer. The work is not onerous, taking one hour per week at a time to suit the volunteer. What's more, we will pay £7.50 for each hour worked. If you can help or know someone who can help, please ring me.

*Martyn Wylie - Treasurer Village Hall – 870441*

## Found cat

In February, a grey cat was seen at High Cross Farm, and after taking a little time to check out the other inhabitants, it has moved in. It's very friendly, but we're concerned that someone may be missing a much-loved pet. Please drop by if you think it may be yours.

*The Hobbs Family*

## **News from the Parish Council**

Smaller parish councils now have a new set of regulations with which to comply – the Transparency Code. This requires, amongst other things, the posting of agenda, draft minutes and approved minutes on a website. Webmaster Jeremy has very kindly beefed up the Parish Council's page on the Elkstone Village website to accommodate these postings, but parishioners without internet access will continue to be able to find the documents displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard.

*Lois - 870375*

## **Nature Notes**

Spring has officially arrived and the Mayflowers of the Hawthorn are coming into full bloom helped on by the good weather we have been having in recent weeks. I always like the drive down the hill to Colesbourne at this time of year, as the Hawthorn is particularly good along that stretch.

The Hawthorn is a common shrub often used in the past for farm hedging as its thorny stems help make it stock-proof; it also provides good dense cover and protection for small mammals and nesting birds. However the Hawthorn's talents don't stop there as it has also been put to culinary use with the berries and flowers being made into tea and jelly. With all the Mayflower around keep a look out for Bullfinches that particularly like to feed on this shrub.

Historically hawthorn has a strong presence in folklore and superstition. It was believed to be a protective charm against evil in the form of vampires, witches and lightning, and therefore houses and water wells would be advised to have a hawthorn growing nearby to protect their purity. However it was not allowed in the house as then it was thought to invite death. The Holy Thorn of Glastonbury is a form of common hawthorn.

The other shrub of the month has to be elderflower and I for one look forward to making some elderflower cordial. In fact our area is a little too well known for its elderflower and unfortunately commercial picking gangs have started to operate. The gangs are paid by the quantity of flowers they collect and can do significant damage by stripping all the flowers from the shrubs they come across; something that you must not do if you want the elderflower to grow in future years. I'm not sure about the legality of some of this commercial picking so if you witness a picking gang somewhere you think they shouldn't be then a call to our local police officers may be in order.

So plant your protective hawthorn, watch bullfinches, sip your elderflower cordial and enjoy the glory of May.

*Francis*

P.S. Friends of the Earth are running a Great British Bee Count in May to help take a stock check of the British Bee population. More details on this can be found at

[www.foe.co.uk/page/join-great-british-bee-count](http://www.foe.co.uk/page/join-great-british-bee-count)

*Francis*

## **Gardens Open Day - Sunday 7th June**

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to open their garden this year it is so much appreciated. I would also like to thank everyone who has helped and who is helping behind the scenes, we could not do it without all your support.

As I said in the previous newsletter, Alison and Gabe will be doing the bric a brac so please have a good rummage and see if there is anything you would like to donate - all can be stored in our garage at The Hawthorns from 7th May onwards.

Plant stall and produce will be at our house, The Hawthorns, so please feel free to drop off plants etc. when you are passing.

The tombola will be run by Sue and Dave Collins, so please drop off any donations at their house, all bottles will be welcome.

Jennie Howlett will be doing tea & cakes in the village hall - even if you are not involved in the day why not pop up and have a cup of tea and some delicious cake, which is all homemade. Ann & Jeremy will be doing cream teas in their garden.

There will be a barbecue in the evening, to which all are invited, it is always a fun evening and a chance to catch up with everyone.

If you could spare a few hours on the day we still need volunteers for the car park.

Now all we need is some lovely weather for the day.

Please let all your friends and family know of the event.

Regards

Tess - [teresa.dick@btinternet.com](mailto:teresa.dick@btinternet.com) - 870480

[marion.cooch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marion.cooch@hotmail.co.uk).

### **Message from Cynthia Laird, Elkstone Village Agent**

This month I want to give you just some of the important information about “The Care Act 2014”

It is divided into three main parts this means that some changes will have been introduced in 2014 and others in April 2016.

In April 2015 the following was introduced:

- \*a new national level of care and support needs, making care and support more consistent across the country,

- \*new support for carers,

- \*deferred payment agreements for care costs.

As part of the 2016 changes, there will be more financial help for those who need it and people with modest means will benefit too. There will also be a new form of protection from unlimited care costs.

The Act will put a limit on the amount those receiving care will have to pay towards the costs of their care, with a cap on care costs beginning in April 2016. No-one will have to pay more than £72,000 towards the care element of the costs of meeting their eligible needs in their lifetime and many people will pay much less. This applies to people funding their own care and support, as well as those helped by the council.

This is just a small extract from this Act, for more details call Health watch

Gloucestershire on 01452 504989 or look at their website

[www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk/The\\_Care\\_Act](http://www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk/The_Care_Act)

Best Wishes

Cynthia - 07776 245 780

### **Mental Health Campaign**

I am happy to report that the mental health campaign initiated by Cirencester Soroptimist's is now up and running.

It is important to remember that mental health is as much part of our being as physical help and both may go from a continuum of being fighting fit to feeling poorly. Our aim is throughout the year is not only to do what we can to help improve services for those who may have mental health issues but also to help everyone to take actions that may help or improve their own mental health. We also hope to remove the stigma that surrounds talking about mental health issues. We are grateful for all the charities and organisations, both local and national, that has offered us support and we look forward to working with them throughout the year.

As a first step a group has been formed in Cirencester to arrange a series of events to take place throughout **National Mental Health Awareness Week** May 11<sup>th</sup> –May 17<sup>th</sup>. These events will include such things as mindfulness taster courses, opportunities to talk, involvement with young people etc. Details will be found on the CDC and the 2gether NHS mental health trust websites. If you are interested in becoming involved please contact me.

Anne Davies - 870516

## **Advertisements**

### **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*

### **First Local Fete Of The Year**

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Cowley Village Fete** 2.00pm to 5.00pm

All of our usual traditional village fete activities, stalls and games including Fun Dog Show, Terrier Racing, ALPACA corner, and fleece spinning, Tug-of-War, Tombola, Coconut Shy, Raffle, Face-Painting, Splat-the-Rat, and other entertainment for children.

**Stalls:** Cakes, Ice-Cream, Plants, Genuine Home Produce, Books, DVDs, Computer Games, Pre-loved clothes and Bric-a-Brac.

**Refreshment:** BBQ, Licensed Bar and Cream Teas.

**Live Music** – UKESANON Ukelele Band

**Entrance:** Adults £1.00, Children under 14 free

**Venue:** Village Centre

All proceeds for the maintenance of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Cowley

### **Rendcomb Surgery Patients' Support Group**

#### **Open Garden**

Daglingworth House,

Daglingworth,

GL7 7AG.

Tuesday, 2nd June 2015

5.00pm – 7.30pm

Entrance £2.00, (includes tea/coffee and cake)

*Ample parking in village and Church car park*

**Everyone welcome**

#### **Dear Editor,**

We are looking to advertise our charity annual Solstice Walk, which takes place this year on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Looking forward to hearing from anyone who would like to participate.

*Jan Ryder Community & Events Manager*

Cotswold Care Hospice, Burleigh Lane, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire GL5 2PQ

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