

Elkstone Newsletter

31st Year: No. 10 (333)

July 2015

Editor's Bit

I have both corroboration and interesting news, from Christine Shine, of the red kites that have adopted Elkstone.

No overall report of the Gardens Open Day has been sent to the editorial office by the copy date.

Reg – 22nd June 2015

Features	
Gardens Open Day	Community Speedwatch
Rendcomb Surgery Support	Fastershire
From our Village Agent – smoke detectors	Summer off the Streets
Nature Notes, and Additional Nature Notes	Historic Churches Ride & Stride
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 2 nd and 17 th July
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: Monday 20th July please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

Elkstone Church Services

July 5th - Morning Prayer - 10.00am - Sylvie Pierce

July 12th - Family Service - 10.00am - Rev Arthur Champion

July 19th - Holy Communion and Christening - 11.00am - Rev Arthur Champion

July 26th - Songs of Praise - 10.00am - Rev. Geoffrey Cox

David Pierce

Wedding at Elkstone Manor

A private wedding party will take place at Elkstone Manor on Saturday 4th July.

Three coaches will deposit guests at about 3.30pm, at the entrance opposite the church.

Live music starts at about 8.30pm, and finishes at 11.00pm.

Guests will then depart from our main entrance (on the Half Mile), where the three coaches will have parked earlier.

Christine Shine

Open Day Report

Thank you to all those who helped to make the Church look so wonderful for the Open Day. The flower displays were great, as always. Our regular bell ringers came and many people went up the tower to the ringing chamber, and some tried their hand at ringing.

Thank you also to everybody for all their efforts, it was a truly good day. All the visitors I spoke to said what a great afternoon they were having, and thought the gardens were lovely.

The Church's share of the money raised goes to the Fabric Fund, and so it gets used for maintenance work. This year we have had our quinquennial inspection, which identifies work, which needs doing. Thankfully there is nothing major required, but there are a number of small jobs, which will need to be undertaken. So the money from the Open Day will help to defray these costs.

David Pierce

Rendcomb Surgery Support Group

Sincere thanks to all who supported the Open Garden event at Daglingworth House on 2nd June.

Fortunately, the storms of the morning moved away and the evening was sunny and warm, if a little breezy!

Rendcomb Patients' Support Group are delighted that between 60 and 70 people came to enjoy this beautiful garden and chat over a cup of tea and cake. Thanks to those who made the delicious cakes. The evening raised £203 which will go towards the purchase of a 'hyphrecator' (a piece of equipment used in minor operations), for the benefit of all Rendcomb Surgery patients. Sincere thanks go to David and Etta Howard for their very kind hospitality.

Jennie Howlett and Pauline Farman

From our Village Agent

Most people will be aware of the recent house fire fatality.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is doing free home Fire Safety checks and fitting modern smoke detectors also free of charge.

It is important to check your smoke detectors every month just to give peace of mind.

To Contact the Fire and Rescue Service use either

www.glosfire.gov.uk or - 0800 180 41 40

Have a lovely summer

Cynthia Laird - Cynthia@villageagent.grcc.org.uk or - mobile - 07776 245 780

Nature Notes

Last month our Editor mentioned seeing a hawk around the village, one that had particularly caught his eye. This, I am delighted to say, was one of a pair of Red Kites that have started to come into our area.

This magnificently graceful bird of prey is unmistakable with its reddish-brown body, angled wings and deeply forked tail. It is graceful in flight, the arch of its wings, lazy finger feathers and its twitching tail fine-tuning its flight giving it an agility and dynamism that makes the similarly sized Buzzard seem slow and pedestrian in comparison. Like the buzzard this is a bird that soars and uses thermals to cover the ground but when it calls for it can turn on the acrobatics.

The Kite was a common sight in medieval England and indeed some believe the phrase "High as a Kite" was originally derived from it. However it suffered huge persecution in latter centuries; this is a bird that has come back from the brink of extinction. Growing up in Wales in the 60s and 70s I was aware that the only place you could see kites at the time was in the old oak woods of Mid-Wales in a location that had to be closely guarded and protected. Indeed the kite was saved by one of the world's longest running protection programmes and has now been successfully re-introduced to England and Scotland.

Locally, in England, the reintroduced birds can be found in the Buckinghamshire/Oxfordshire area and especially the Chilterns. It is from these clusters that they are spreading out and, in the case of our pair, coming southwest.

However this and other birds of prey are still under threat. Whilst the killing of birds of prey is illegal and has been for decades the unjustified persecution remains high, particularly in the more remote parts of the country where ill-informed gamekeepers continue to wage war through poisoning, trapping and shooting. Large birds such as kites and buzzards feed primarily on carrion and worms and will take small mammals occasionally; they have their place in the food chain and pose no threat.

So I really hope that kites can establish themselves in the Cotswolds and provide a new spectacle for us all.

Francis

Additional Nature Note

The hawk commented on by the Editor is the result of re-introducing Red Kites to The Chilterns. Those of us who travel by train to Paddington can spot them around Didcot. In my capacity as S.o.S. Appointee to the Cotswolds Conservation for an extended term of 11 years, I went on a field trip to North Rissington where the Kites are abundant.

Gerry and I were as thrilled to see a pair flying over us, as we were, years ago, seeing the first buzzard.

Consequently, we laid out the appropriate food (carrion) to entice this hawk in.

Meanwhile - rewind - we have been feeding 'our' ravens for some years now as they keep the pigeons at bay.

Picture the amazing scene: food out for our ravens...Kite wheeling above.

Raven takes food.....Kite lands on his back and Raven drops it, Kite wins. Poor ravens!!!!

Well, I remember a TV programme to do with hawking - the instructor said, "This is a hawk, he will never be your friend!!"

Christine Shine

Elkstone Community Speed Watch

You may have noticed that members of our village have been stationed at the cross roads with notices, speed recording equipment and hi-viz jackets. We can say that, on the days when we are there, traffic speeds are closer to the 40mph limit past our village.

The problem is that there are so few volunteers, it ends up with the same people doing all the work. If you would like to be trained in using the speed indicating equipment then we can arrange some training with PCSO Andrea Shutt in the Village Hall.

I have now completed my term as administrator for the group, so that a new co-ordinator is also required. However, I will pass on names and telephone/email contacts to set up training sessions, together with the next traffic monitoring session. Please contact me for more details. If telephoning, please call before 9.00pm.

Reg.eyre@tesco.net - 870375

Fastershire to deliver ultra fast broadband in the Cotswolds

Gloucestershire County Council has agreed the award of a contract to Gigaclear to provide ultra fast broadband to more than 6,000 homes and businesses across the Cotswolds.

Ultra fast download and upload speeds of up to 1Gbps will be delivered using Fibre to the Premises technology to 6,495 hard to reach homes and businesses in the Cotswolds under phase two of the Fastershire project.

"What was refreshing about this tender was the identification of the specific addresses of the 6,495 properties that the contract sought to serve. This clarity gave us the confidence to offer our Gigabit fibre broadband service to every single property in the tender."

Mark Aveline, Chedworth Broadband Champion said: "This is great news because for four long years rural Cotswolds communities have been waiting for fast broadband. What Gigaclear will provide is the best possible solution of fibre to the homes in the final 10 percent not served by existing rollouts.

"The new service will be the envy of all and provide a major boost for the rural community."

Ben Catley-Richardson - Fastershire Project Team

Summer off the Streets

Cotswold District Council will be running assorted activities for children during the summer holiday - some free of charge, some need to be pre-booked.

Please e-mail Editor Reg to receive a leaflet as an attachment.

Reg.eyre@tesco.net

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Ride and Stride 2015: 12th September 2015

"Join the Ride and Stride Adventure and discover Historic Churches" - Bear Grylls

Ride and Stride, run by Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, is a great way to support our Church in Elkstone and churches across the County when they most need help. So if you fancy walking, cycling or horse-riding church to church, put Saturday 12 September in your diary now. You can plan your own route between churches, depending how far you want to go and whether you want to be in towns or villages. Take a picnic and top up with refreshments at the churches - or even incorporate a pub or teashop on your route.

50% of the money you raise (before Gift Aid) goes to the church of your choice.

50% goes to the Trust to give out in grants when churches need help.

You get the chance to see inside some historic gems, which aren't always open.

If unable to ride or stride, you can be sponsored to man our Church, sing hymns or bake cakes!

Further information, together with a sponsorship form is available from your Local

Organiser - Carole Bury - 870493

Or by emailing rideandstride@ghct.org.uk , www.ghct.org.uk

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10 Hill View

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Gardens Open Day

What an extraordinary triumph! A triumph on every level:

1. visitor numbers up
2. universal acclaim and enjoyment by the visitors
3. broad grins on the faces of all those involved

and ...

4. record financial takings for our Church and Village Hall – so very important.

To my mind, the most important aspect is the sense of community and mutual bonding between villagers. ... many of whom do not have occasion to do little more than wave from a passing car. The BBQ is my favourite event of the year; I have been known to eat a burger or 2, but it is the 'no baggage' interaction between us all as a village that really excites me.

I am hugely relieved that Brian intends to lead the Open Day team next year, but he makes a single caveat; that he is joined by at least one 'newby'. Open Day needs a figure head – it would be wrong to claim that it takes no effort, but it is a contribution to the village community well beyond the effort expended. There is a fully experienced hard core who step up to the plate with well rehearsed contributions each year.

I am careful not to mention any particular names, but it is with great gratitude that I thank Tess, who for several years has lead the Open Day. The impact of her contribution to our lives has been immense – I take my hat off to her (... I witnessed her promise to help Brian).

Nic Williamson