

Elkstone Newsletter

28th Year: No. 5 (305)

February 2013

Editor's Bit

Traffic difficulties continue with snow being the culprit this time. The two main falls of snow have also disrupted services such as the local bus, waste and recycling collections and postal deliveries.

As an aside, it has also meant a much quieter 3/190.

Waste and recycling - in the calendar below are the dates current at the time of going to print.

Please can we all look out for each other in this particular situation and offer transport or help with shopping, snow clearance, etc. for those who will be struggling.

Reg - 23rd January

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church	Neighbourhood Watch
Elkstone Ramblers Group Walk	Nature Notes
News from the Parish Council	Gardens Open Day
Dates for your Diary	
ERG February Walk – 9 th February – 9.50 for 10 am - the Five Mile House	
Parish Council Meeting – 13 th February – 8.00 pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
Film Night “Amadeus” + optional supper - 21 st Feb – 6.45/7.30 pm – Village Hall	
Bike and Tack Marking – 23 rd February – 10.00am to 1.00pm – Elkstone Village Hall	
Neighbourhood Watch Coffee Morning – 25 th February - 11.00 am - Elkstone Village Hall	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fri 1 st (+ side waste amnesty) 15 th & 1 st Mar
<i>to check dates:</i>	http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=4425 or 01285 623 123
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: Wednesday 20th February 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>	

Retirement of Rev J Holder

John Holder will be retiring as Priest in Charge of the Upper Churn Benefice, which includes Elkstone, at the end of February. His last service in the Benefice will be on Sunday February 3rd at 10.00am at Elkstone. This will be a Joint Benefice service of Holy Communion. Please join us in wishing John and Shirley a happy retirement. John and Shirley were originally from Cheltenham, but will be moving to Seaton to be nearer to their children.

Church Services in Elkstone

February 3rd 9.30am Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Elkstone

February 10th 10.00am Family Service - Toy Service

February 17th 11.00am Morning Prayer

February 24th 10 00am Songs of Praise

Toy Service - Sunday February 10th -10.00am

Christmas is quickly becoming a distant memory, but we will not have forgotten, Christmas morning and the opening of presents. Remember the joy on a child's face as they opened that present with the longed for new toy, which is now their favourite. But there will be other toys which have now been put to the back of the cupboard or the bottom of the box, or which they have now outgrown. However there are children who are

not so fortunate, and would love a toy to play with and enjoy, or a teddy bear to cuddle. Our family service at Elkstone Church on February 10th will be a Toy service when we can give thanks for all the good gifts God has given us, by giving toys which will be used by others who are not so fortunate. So if you have in your house toys, including books, which your children have outgrown, or no longer want, and they are still in good condition, why not join us and bring those toys as your gift, and celebrate with us God's goodness. If you cannot join us then but you would like to give, then please leave your gift in the vestry at the Church on the Saturday.

As in previous years we will be giving the toys to a local women's refuge. All the women will have had to leave their homes with their children very quickly, and will not have had a chance to take much with them. Their children's favourite toys will probably have been left behind and so they will have nothing or very little. They have always been overjoyed with the toys we have been able to provide.

David Pierce

ERG Walk – Saturday, 9th February 2013, 10:00am start

As the Five Mile House (GL7 7JR) has just re-opened we thought we would repeat a walk that we organised many years ago.

The walk will be approximately 5 miles in length and crosses the valley to the east of the A417 to reach Woodmancote before returning on a more southerly route. Most of the walk is on farm tracks and tarmac but expect some soft / muddy areas in places.

We would be grateful if anyone likely to attend the walk (or lunch afterwards) would let us know so that we can give a reasonable estimate of numbers to the Five Mile. I recall previously we had 34 on the walk and 54 for lunch!

Bryan and Lye - 870481

Elkstone Film Show - Thursday 21st February

By special request, our film will be Amadeus. The winner of many awards, including eight Oscars, this film is described as a gripping human drama, sumptuous period epic and a glorious celebration of the life of Mozart. The story is told in flashback by his peer and secret rival, Antonio Salieri, after he had been confined to an asylum for the insane.

The film will be preceded by a supper of chicken casserole, rice salad and a roll. Cost for supper and film £10.00; and for film only £5.00. Coffee/tea 50p per cup before the film. Supper will be at 6.45pm and the film will start at 7.30pm. Please send numbers and money for this film and supper evening to Manor Farm Cottage by Monday evening 18th February.

Finally thanks to all who have supported us so far. The outlay for the licence and CD is approx. £100 each time but thanks to your support we have covered our costs each time which means that we can continue these evenings at least whilst we have dark nights.

If you know of a film that would appeal to our Village Hall audience on future film nights, do please let us know!

Jeremy and Anne – 870516

Bike and Tack Security Marking – 23rd February – 10.00 - 1.00

PCSO Andrea Shutt and PC Victoria Stinchcombe will be coming to Elkstone on Saturday morning, 23rd February 10.00am – 1.00pm to undertake bike and tack marking. The Police offer this service free of charge, and whilst you wait, we will be offering tea/coffee and homemade cake for a small charge to help pay for the use of the Village Hall.

Julia Davey, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Elkstone.

Email: jrdavey@btconnect.com - telephone - 870038

Basic Crime Prevention Survey – Contact PCSO Andrea Shutt,

Email: andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk - telephone – 101

New Date for Neighbourhood Watch Coffee Morning – 25th February

The coffee morning that had to be postponed from 21st January due to the ice and snow has been rescheduled for **February 25th from 11.00 – 12.15**. You are invited to come along to this Neighbourhood Watch Coffee Morning which will primarily be of benefit to those aged over 50, or those who have no or very limited access to email. This will be a very informal get together with Mike Bone, Village Agent, PCSO Andrea Shutt and PC Victoria Stinchcombe, Andy Fogden and myself from Neighbourhood Watch.

Julia

News from the Parish Council

January's PC Meeting was almost completely devoted to agenda item 5 – the proposed trialling of a 'no right turn' for traffic arriving from the south at the Air Balloon roundabout. The Meeting was attended by three of EPC's five invitees – Messrs. Shaun and Nicholas Parsons, our County and District Councillors, and Mr Malcolm Watt of the Cotswold Conservation Board. Also present were a number of parishioners from Elkstone and nearby parishes, who anticipate being adversely impacted upon if the trial goes ahead. The news of the proposed trial broke in the middle of December, at which time we understood that the point of the proposed change was combating the congestion because of the air pollution it causes, and that, because it was a trial, the Highways Agency did not need to put the proposals out to public consultation.

However, it is now apparent that, whilst it is in favour of the trial because of the perceived need to ameliorate the congestion, Gloucestershire County Council is insisting that the proposals must be put out to public consultation; whilst the level of air pollution is an issue for Cotswold District Council, but not for GCC.

The latest consultants' report is available via the CDC website.

The Councillors were able to hear parishioners' concerns first-hand, and these will be conveyed to the relevant bodies. Mr. Watt promised us that the CCB, whilst wanting to see an end to the congestion at The Air Balloon, does not believe that this should come at the expense of the tranquillity of nearby villages.

The CCB will be keeping a watching brief on developments.

There has been quite an outcry about the proposals already, from Parish Councils and individuals, and it was learned just two days before the meeting that GCC has now appointed a Lead Officer to deal with issues which will be thrown up if the trial still looks likely to go ahead.

On Saturday 19th January, "This is Gloucestershire" (the website of the county's press) started an on-line survey. Parishioners could use it to answer questions such as...

"Do you believe the proposed changes will lead to an increase in traffic in surrounding areas? Yes /No" and

"I believe the proposed changes are: sensible/crazy/other"

To find the survey, Google "This is Gloucestershire" and type "Air Balloon Survey" into the "I'm looking for" search box,

Watch out for links to this survey, a relevant video, and updates, on the Elkstone website.

A proposal for the development of the Elkstone Dairy Unit is to be submitted.

It is anticipated that plans will be available to view at the next Parish Council Meeting, and any interested parishioner might therefore wish to attend.

Lois 870375

Neighbourhood Watch News

It was encouraging to get an email from the Cirencester Local Policing Team that reported that a raid had taken place on the morning of 17th Jan, near to Kemble airfield by police investigating a series of burglaries across the district. Gloucestershire Police carried out a

warrant at Pat-Yat Barn off the A429 at 7am and a woman and two men were arrested from the premises for suspected offences relating to burglary and theft. Around 20 officers were called to secure the various workshops and outbuildings at the site, which includes Kemble MOT Centre, the Body Shop and Oaksey Garage Ltd. None of the businesses at the site are believed to have any involvement or been targeted in the investigation. The raid has been carried out as part of a countywide operation and is also expected to have an impact on burglary figures across the border in Wiltshire as well as Gloucestershire. I'm pleased to report that the number of warning Watch Word Alert messages has decreased since the last newsletter but we must still remain vigilant. There still seems to be a large increase in reports from the public relating to doorstep crime and rogue traders and Gloucestershire Trading Standards have been running an operation, put in place at very short notice, to tackle this issue. They have requested that if you get any Cold Callers at your door to please contact them immediately on 0845 4040506. Your assistance with this will be much appreciated and may prevent people being pestered by high pressure sales tactics or being victims of crimes in the future from bogus callers. Reports were received from the Somerford Road Area of Cirencester on Friday 11th January 2013 that 2 males were seen leafleting for a company promoting Domestic Paving and Tarmac Specialists but there is no record of the company when checks have been made. Please ensure that if you are looking for work to be done on your property always seek 3 quotes. Please call Police on the non-emergency number or 999 where necessary if you have any concerns in relation to Cold Callers / Bogus Callers.

In December there were thefts in the local area of Diesel and also a property in the Edgeworth Area was broken into overnight whilst the occupant was away from the property. Items including a flat screen TV, electric saw and watches were taken from the property. The thieves were able to locate the keys to the owner's distinctive white vehicle which was parked on the drive - this has also been stolen. It is thought that the items were passed over a wall into a vehicle parked on a lane in front on the property.

If you wish to receive information in relation to Smartwater, protective marking of your property, please contact PCSO Andrea Shutt by email

andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch isn't just about crime, though it's about us all looking after those in the community that may need some additional help, especially in cold and bad weather. Please do try to help neighbours where you are able to, who may need that extra assistance. If anyone needs extra help, please feel free to phone me.

Julia Davey, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Elkstone. Email:

jrdavey@btconnect.com - 870038

Basic Crime Prevention Survey / Smartwater kits – Contact PCSO Andrea Shutt, andrea.shutt@gloucestershire.police.uk or telephone 101

Nature Notes

As I write we are thickly blanketed with snow, and of the best kind – powdery and dry, and producing a satisfying creak when I walk through. It also shows the tracks of mammals and birds as they pass from point to point, probably looking for food.

The freezing conditions before and during the snow meant that I spent some time with containers of warm water, melting the pond and filling birdbaths. I could just cope with the pond with the colourful addition of a floating tennis ball to keep an area ice free, but the birdbaths were a lost cause. By the time I had 'done the rounds' the first had iced over. However, I was prevented from total collapse by a brilliant idea from Nick Baker (Wildlife Watch UK): three bricks, a night-light (the ones that burn for 8 or 12 hours), a ceramic or tin dish and a stone. The bricks are arranged in a triangle in a sheltered, open place. In the centre of the triangle is the night-light, which is lit. (If children want to try this, perhaps an adult could do the lighting bit.) The dish, filled with warm water, is

balanced on the bricks over the burning night-light and a stone is placed in the water in the dish (so that birds or small mammals can balance). The water keeps gently warm and all the wildlife in your garden has something to drink.

P.S. If the freezing weather is over by the time you read this – save it up for next year!

Barbara

Supplement

Wild plant charity Plantlife (www.plantlife.org.uk), are hoping to reach out to many wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers by inviting them to become wild plant 'pioneers' and subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the 'Wild About Plants' project website - www.wildaboutplants.org.uk The November e-bulletin is out now! The Wild About Plants project aims to help people reconnect with the outdoors and their local greenspaces. Working with schools, families and communities from all walks of life and with fantastic free downloadable resources, the team hope to engage people with the nature on their doorstep. In recent years subscribers have been asked to record the plant life in their local area and recount what they used to see/pick and forage for. Wild About Plants is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. It is a partnership project involving partner organisations throughout the country.

Earlier last year our Pioneer readers approached their own local parishes with a short article about Plantlife and our Wild About Plants project, we had a really positive response featuring in several local newsletters, resulting in a new wave of interest and potential awareness raising for Plantlife.

Finally, did you know that the County flower of Gloucestershire is the wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus ssp pseudonarcissus*)?

http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wild_plants/plant_species/daffodil_wild/

Katie Cameron, Communications & Outreach Support Officer

Gardens Open Day, Sunday 9th June

Would just like to say a big thank you to all the people who have come forward prepared to open their gardens on the day - it is so much appreciated. If anyone else is prepared to do so would love to hear from you. As most of you know help is always needed and we are now looking for people to help with the books stall and maybe organising a tombola stall. If you feel that you could do this it would be good to hear from you. As always plants are always needed for the plant stall so get those cuttings going! Look forward to hearing from you.

Tess - teresa.dick@btinternet.com - 0791 766 1457

Thank-you from Macmillan Cancer Support

The Editorial desk has received a letter from Macmillan Cancer Support, thanking Elkstone for donations totalling £40.00. This was the sum raised by printing Seasonal Greetings in our December issue.

The letter will be displayed on the Village Hall notice board for all to see.

Ed

Advertisement

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We are a well-established company providing a complete building service having recently finished an extension at Rose Cottage in Elkstone.

We also have a sand-blasting business covering the Cotswolds, Cheltenham, Gloucester and surrounding areas

Two reminders for those of you on e-mail

If you wish, you (or your friends) can receive your Elkstone Newsletter by e-mail. E-mail copies are sent out at the same time as hard copies are delivered.

To arrange for this, send an e-mail request to the Editor at his address on the front page.

If you are submitting a contribution by e-mail, the Editorial team would greatly appreciate it if, before sending, you could kindly set the language for your e-mail to UK English.