

Elkstone Newsletter

28th Year: No. 12 (312)

September 2013

Editor's Bit

August has been quiet but the harvest is now underway. There is still some summer left but the signs in local shops are gearing up for the 'back to school' season.

Sadly, Barbara has decided she is no longer able to produce the Nature Notes, so please can I thank her very much for her contributions, and ask for a volunteer to take on writing these notes?

Reg – 22nd August

Features	
Services at Elkstone Church	Green Dragon Quartet
ERG Walk for September	Gifford's Circus Report
Ride and Stride	Harvest Supper
World's Biggest Coffee Morning	Somewhere to visit
Neighbourhood Watch	Speed Watch Ideas Meeting
Parish Council News	Adopt-a-cat-not
Dates for your Diary	
ERG Walk – Saturday 14 th September – Carpenter's Arms, Miserden – 09.45am start	
Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 25 th September – Village Hall – 8.00pm	
World's Biggest Coffee Morning – Friday 27 th September - Village Hall – 10.00am to 12.00am	
Alternatives to Speed Watch Open Meeting – Thursday 3 rd October – Village Hall – 7.00pm	
Harvest Supper – Saturday 19 th October – Village Hall – 7.00pm	
Elkstone Cinema – Thursday 24 th October – Village Hall - 7.00pm for 8.00pm	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins and boxes – Fridays 30 th Aug and 13 th and 27 th Sept
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 September 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	

Church Services in Elkstone for September

September 1 st	9.30am	Holy Communion
September 8 th	10.00am	No Service
September 15 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
September 22 nd	10 00am	Songs of Praise
September 29 th	10.00am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion service at Colesbourne at 10.00am – no service at Elkstone

David Pierce

ERG Walk Saturday 14th September – National Historic Churches Day

The ERG walk on Saturday 14th September will be part of the larger Ride and Stride Day that raises funds for local churches. The walk will start promptly at **09.45am** from the Carpenters Arms, Miserden; parking in the Carpenters Arms car park. At just over 5 miles, the route is slightly longer than usual to allow us to visit the churches of Miserden, Winstone and Duntisbourne Abbots. Apart from the inevitable hill climbs around Miserden the walk is mainly easy, through fields and woodland with wonderful views. There are five stone step stiles. Dogs will be able to be off lead for a large part of the walk. After the walk, lunch will be available in the Carpenters Arms. We are most grateful to Carole and Ronnie who have offered to lead this walk on our behalf.

Anne and Jeremy Davies

Ride and Stride on September 14th 2013

This charity is run by Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and supported by the National Churches Trust. It is a great way to support and make a difference to our Church and other churches across the county. It is an annual sponsored walk, bike ride or horse ride, which always happens on the second Saturday of September.

Walkers and riders turn out to follow their chosen route between churches which open for the day. It is a lovely chance to see inside some historic gems that are not always open for visits. Here in Elkstone, the church is always open, day and night.

On the 14th September, refreshments will be left out for visitors in the Church.

Whether you go on your own or with friends and family, you'll be joining hundreds of people across the county raising money for an important cause. Further information and a sponsorship form is available from Carole on 870493 and then you'll be ready and set to ask your friends and family to sponsor you. 50% of the money you raise goes to the Church of your choice. www.ghct.org.uk

Carole Bury - www.carolebury.com

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday 27th September, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, Elkstone Village Hall

Once again I will be organising Elkstone's part in this Macmillan worldwide event. So far the World's Biggest Coffee Mornings have raised over £60m for people living with cancer.

Please come along and be part of The World's Biggest Coffee Morning and help me raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Since I started this in 2007, Elkstone has raised £2,502.74 and whatever we raise this year will help improve the lives of those affected by cancer.

Macmillan Cancer Support provides practical, medical, emotional and financial support and campaign for better cancer care.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is one of the biggest fundraising events in the UK, with an estimated 2 million people raising their mugs for Macmillan on **Friday 27th September**. With the proceeds of all the Coffee Mornings, together we aim to raise over £8 million for people affected by cancer.

So please, let's get together and share a cuppa (tea, coffee and soft drinks) with a lovely slice of homemade cake, have a good chat and in the process raise much needed funds for Macmillan. There will be a few local craftspeople selling lovely cards and handmade gifts. No need to book - just pop in and please feel free to bring lots of friends! Children are also very welcome.

Julia Davey - Old School House - 870038

Neighbourhood Watch News

August has been fairly quiet with regards to crime and apparently this is often so, despite people being away on holiday. When I asked PCSO Andrea Shutt why that was, she said it was because generally there are more people around with the children off school and that is a deterrent in itself.

We have had a warning about the theft of catalytic converters in the area. Most vehicles made since 1992 are fitted with catalytic converters, which often contain small amounts of precious metals, making them a target for metal thieves. They are also valuable to scrap metal dealers who can easily sell them. Thieves will often target vans and 4x4s that have a higher ground clearance, making the converters more easily accessible.

The chances of getting your converter stolen can be reduced if you follow one or more of these crime prevention tips:

- Keep your vehicle in a garage when possible.
- Look out for people working under cars who are acting suspiciously.
- Park in a well lit, busy area.

- Security mark and register the metal shell of the converter so if it is stolen and recovered, it will be easier to trace it back to your vehicle.
- Weld the converter fixing brackets or bolts in place making removal more difficult.

Please remember that, even though it's warmer, we should shut windows when we are out and ensure doors are always locked.

Please report any suspicious behaviour or vehicles on 101. The Police will decide what to do with the information, so please don't think you can't bother them or it's too trivial.

Julia Davey - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - jrdavey@btconnect.com

News from the Parish Council

A reminder about hedges and trees – if you own a hedge or tree which overhangs any 'highway' – that's any public route: footpaths, bridleways, byways, lanes and roads, and includes verges - you are responsible for keeping the growth cut back so that it does not impede the passage of highway users.

If you don't do this, you are in contravention of Highway law.

The Parish Council has received complaints about several lengths of overgrowth, so now that hedge-cutting season (September to end February) is upon us, this is the time to remind Parishioners to make arrangements for hedging/pruning/lopping.

Please remember to cut back overgrowth to an appropriate height for users – think of van and high-sided vehicles, tractor mirrors, horse riders, cyclists.... all taller than cars.

Lois - 870375

From Green Dragon Quartet

We would like to say a big thank you for the wonderful hospitality we received when we came to play in Elkstone. We all felt that the concert was a great success and a lot of that comes down to how happy we feel in our "home". Please pass on our thanks to David and Sylvie for their very warm welcome and opening up their lovely house after the concert. The feedback from so many people was so lovely and it was clear to us that people had really enjoyed the concert. Thank you to everyone who came to our concert, and to all of you who went to extra efforts to support the occasion, not forgetting the support from neighbouring villages.

We hope to return soon!

N.B. For those of you who missed the concert the Green Dragons are at Winchester Cathedral on 6th August when they perform for the lunchtime concert.

Richard Barlow

Gifford's Circus – Village Outing

Early August saw 15 villagers enjoy a pub meal and an evening at Gifford's Circus.

If you weren't there, you missed a thoroughly entertaining 'old school' evening.

It might be considered wrong to label Gifford's as a Circus: sure there is Tweedy (is he a clown or a talented tail-coated entertainer and continuity man?), there are acrobats, fire conjurers, mystical gypsies, a slack-wire walker, a classical band/orchestra, possibly the largest horse I have seen, and the crowd goes crazy every year for Brian the goose; but this misses the point. Gifford's is like going back to the 1930's; vintage show wagons, simple all-around entertainment. There cannot have been a single audience member who did not enjoy themselves. From the Elkstone youngsters (mid-fifties) to the oldest, we really had fun. By the way, Nell and Toti Gifford used to over-winter at Severn Springs. My only complaint: the wagons did not have an apostrophe in "Gifford's Circus": Lynne Truss would have been horrified.

Well-done Ann W. & Jeremy for their superb organisation.

Nic Williamson

Harvest Supper

Date for your Diary - Elkstone Village Hall, Saturday 19th October at 7.00pm.

This will be our special Elkstone Harvest Supper. This year, as in previous years, there will be no charge for the tickets but there will be an opportunity to donate to the Charity 'Send a Cow'. A simple, but wholesome 'Bring and Share Supper' will give us a wonderful chance to catch up and enjoy an evening together. All the finer details will be in the October Newsletter.

However, we will take calls to book your places as soon as would like to ring us.

Sunday 20th October will be the Harvest Celebration in the Church. On this particular Sunday, the Church will be full of the bounties from our gardens and fields and an opportunity to be grateful for the Harvests this year.

Carole - 870493 or Sylvie - 870181

Somewhere to Visit

Lois and I went for an enjoyable visit to a National Trust property, which is in our area.

Newark Park

With its spectacular location, Newark Park gives far reaching views over the rolling Gloucestershire countryside. It's a perspective that has changed little over the course of the house's 450year history. Originally built as a hunting lodge by Sir Nicholas Poyntz, a prominent member of Henry VIII's court, the house has always had something of a party atmosphere, built for entertaining and socialising. It was under the ownership of the Reverend Lewis Clutterbuck during the 18th century that the Estate doubled its size, gaining a south facing Georgian Gothic façade and a long carriage driveway. Coming from the bottom of the Ozleworth valley the driveway showed visitors glimpses of the house as they approached. You can still discover these same views on the estate walks today. Despite a Victorian/Edwardian revival Newark Park was more recently rescued from ruin. Robert Parsons, a Texan architect, invested a wealth of time and passion in Newark. Having taken Newark on a repairing lease from the National Trust in 1970, Robert was later joined by his assistant Michael Claydon. Together they rediscovered Newark's charms. With unrestrained style and artistic flair, Newark's quirky interiors, expansive garden and tranquil estate reflect the tradition of receiving guests and friends. Today, the house continues its tradition of welcoming visitors and providing a home from home atmosphere. The house has its own 'pets', in the form of peacocks whose spectacular feather displays provide a colourful introduction to Newark and its grounds. A programme of indoor and outdoor events including special costume interpretation days are also run throughout the year, as Newark plays hosts to local and national artists and performers.

For more details visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/newark-park/

Editor- articles about other interesting places to visit would be gratefully received!

An Alternative to Speed Watch

I have had a chat with Garry Handley, who is a Road Safety Officer for Gloucestershire and he has very different ideas for getting motorists to slow down to the speed limits shown on roads. The idea is to use curiosity and intrigue so that the motorist feels uncertain as what is happening to his/her road. At the moment, we have abandoned the 3/190 to fast motorists. They do not need to slow down because we, the citizens of Elkstone, no longer walk, cycle or meet on this road. Garry has given me an e-publication, which I will send to you if you contact me and ask for a copy.

I have arranged a meeting at our Village Hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 3rd October for him to discuss some of these innovative ideas, which we may be able to implement.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please let me know by the end of September.

Reg Eyre – reg.eyre@tesco.net - 870375

The cat in the photo below has adopted us.

Unfortunately, one of the family is now allergic to cats so we cannot invite him, (said cat), into our house.

We have given him a dose of Spot On to prevent fleas, but do not know if his owner is worming, is already applying Spot On (Frontline), and so it all gets very complicated.

Please can the owner make contact with me.

Christine - cshine@cshine.demon.co.uk - 870525



Elkstone Cinema Nights are Coming

Please note in your diaries that we'll be starting a month early this year, on **Thursday 24th October**; it will be the same format as before, 7:00pm supper followed by the film show starting at 8:00 pm. Details will appear in October's newsletter.

Suggestions for films that will be popular are of course always welcome!

Please contact: *Jeremy or Anne* - 870516