

# Elkstone Newsletter

33<sup>rd</sup> Year: No. 1 (348)

October 2016

## Editor's Bit

Is this the last of the summer – whine? Most of the wild and cultivated fruit seems to be losing its flavour, so pick it soon.

It is tough to get up early in the morning and I am beginning to notice the evenings closing in about 7.00pm. Autumn is here and winter is on the way even if the leaves have not changed colour too much.

*Reg – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016*

Features	
Elkstone Church Services	Gigaclear, Vonage, VOIP
Film Night & Supper	Bug Hotels
Harvest Supper	Village Agent's News
	News from the Parish Council
Diary Dates	
Film Evening with optional supper – Village Hall – Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October - 7.00/8.00pm	
Harvest Supper – Village Hall – Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October – 7.00pm	
Regular Dates	
Waste and recycling	Food + garden waste – Every Friday
Waste and recycling	All bags, bins + boxes — Fridays 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> October
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>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October</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>	

## Elkstone Church Services

October 2nd - Harvest Thanksgiving - 10.00am - Rev J Williams

October 9th - Family Service - 10.00am - Frank Booth

October 16th- Holy Communion - 11.00am - Rev C. Pooley

October 23rd - Songs of Praise - 10.00am - Rev G Cox

October -30th - no service at Elkstone - Joint Benefice service at Coberley at 9.30am

*David Pierce*

## Autumn's First Supper and Film Evening: Thursday 13th October

The film to start the 2017 Season at Elkstone Village Hall will be **Eye in the Sky**: a very topical tale of conflicting moral values - a London-based military intelligence officer Colonel Katherine Powell (Helen Mirren) is remotely commanding a top secret drone operation to capture a group of dangerous terrorists from their safe-house in Nairobi, Kenya. The mission suddenly escalates from a capture to a kill operation as Powell realizes that the terrorists are about to embark on a deadly suicide mission.

From his base in Nevada, American drone pilot Steve Watts (Aaron Paul) is poised to destroy the safe house when a nine-year-old girl enters the kill zone just outside the walls of the house. With unforeseen collateral damage now entering the equation, the impossible decision of when to strike gets passed up the “kill chain” of politicians and lawyers as the seconds tick down.

**There will be a Fish based supper starting 7.00pm with the film at 8.00pm.**

Film and Supper £10.00 each in a marked envelope through our letterbox at Manor Farm

Cottage Elkstone by 6.00pm Monday 10th October please, Film only £5.00 paid at the door.

*Jeremy and Anne – 870516*

## Harvest Supper – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

To complete our harvest celebrations we will be holding our normal Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.00pm. This will be a 'bring and share' meal with a selection of shepherds' pies, puddings and cheeses. If you would like to come please let Carole Bury know at [carolebury@hotmail.com](mailto:carolebury@hotmail.com) or 01242 870493.

During the evening we will hear more about the work of the Nchima Trust in Malawi and the project we are looking to support this year with our monetary harvest gifts and there will be a chance to give to the project. The Supper is open to everybody.

## GigaClear - Vonage – VOIP telephone connection

Villagers who have connected to the superfast Gigaclear broadband service may find the following of interest if they are wondering whether to retain or cancel their BT or other landline connection. These "conventional" lines cost quite a lot, and their other facilities have not developed in years.

A major provider of VOIP services is Vonage with whom I have signed up, though there are many providers, all you need to do is search online entering "UK VOIP call providers" and you will find a at least half a dozen to choose from. As so often, it's "horses for courses", and what's good for me isn't necessarily the same for anyone else!

The following notes are based on my experience of installing the Vonage VOIP service, and of course details will vary according to whichever provider you might consider using. For simplicity I've used a question / answer format, so if you're interested, read on...

- 1) **Why use VOIP?** Predominantly, because it's cheaper! **£8.00 per month** for unlimited UK Calls vs **£27.49 / month** from BT for the equivalent is £240 saved per annum! All your phone calls are made though your internet connection (no interruption to other devices that are WiFi connected), and with perfect clarity and volume level - no more hissing and crackling lines!
- 2) **What happens when I first sign up?** Most importantly, *don't do anything to cancel your BT Contract!* In a few days you'll receive in the post a VOIP 'box' with a user guide, and in particular, a network cable to be plugged in to your router - just follow the instructions
- 3) **Can I keep my BT Number?** - Your chosen VOIP provider should say "yes" - or if they say you can't with them, move on to another provider. The key thing to do first is enlist with your selected VOIP provider and get the service running (another phone number is allocated to you) and make sure it is working by making one or two calls out, and getting friends / family to call you back. Then contact your VOIP provider to request them to transfer of your BT number over to their service. They will need your formal authorisation to do this, but it is a very simple procedure, and in a couple of days the change goes through. BT will notify you that your service has ended, and send you a final account. Note also that any broadband service you have had on the BT line will be terminated as well.
- 4) **What if there is a power cut?** This can be quite an important consideration, as of course in a power cut, your router and VOIP box will be off. VOIP providers (usually..) anticipate this by allowing you to nominate a secondary number (usually your mobile) to which an inbound caller can be routed. More on power cut measures on the Elkstone Village Website - see details below.
- 5) **What other benefits are there with VOIP?** There are various other useful aspects and some of them are listed below (in no particular order), and *it's essential you check each of these with the provider you are talking to before you decide:*
  - Business users might well appreciate the ability of many VOIP boxes to have two phones connected and have so (for example) there can be a domestic phone number which is different to the business number (check with each provider)
  - If you are out of the house, you can set your VOIP connection (Via your mobile phone - an App has to be installed) to route inbound calls to you mobile until you turn the setting off again.
  - If when you away from home and need to make a mobile phone call but have no phone signal, but you do have WiFi access, the same phone App can allow you to make your call anyway. If (as is typical) you are calling a UK land line you will be able to make your call under your no-limit allowance

- Caller ID is usually displayed if you have a suitable phone - BT charge for this
  - Nuisance calls and calls with no ID showing can be blocked
  - Dialing Local (01242) numbers continues to be by using "just the number" ie dial 870xxx, and the call will go through
  - Last caller information still can be obtained by dialing 1471
  - Your own caller ID shows, but you can suppress it
  - There is a voice mail service that (if you activate it) will also send a text alert to your mobile
- 6) **Any other questions?** The Elkstone Village Hall Website [www.elkstonevillage.com](http://www.elkstonevillage.com) has a "Superfast Broadband" page - reached by clicking the tab at the top of the home page - when the broadband page opens you will find a form at the bottom where you can ask away - I make no promise to have answers to all questions, but I will give them "best endeavours" and I'll post the question and answer on that same page.

*Jeremy*

### **Bug Hotels**

It was on Monday 15th August that multiple other children and I turned up to create the bug hotels. It was a fun and exciting activity as there were lots of materials to use, such as bamboo pipes, pinecones, moss and large chunks of wood. Mr. Gait-Carr was running the proceedings and David and Sylvie provided tea, cake and juice for everyone there.

Mr. Gait-Carr, who is a carpenter, had brought along some tools to help us, one of which was an electric drill, which he allowed me to use. The bug homes were all built inside a wooden frame and the general idea was to make each layer significant to a certain bug or small creature.

All in all, it was a great activity and I thoroughly enjoyed it and I'm sure everyone else who took part will think the same.

*Alistair Macfarlane [age 10 Coberley Primary]*

### **Village Agent News**

**Journey Assistance Cards for Stagecoach Bus Services**

Journey Assistance Cards are small laminated cards issued to members of the public who have difficulties when accessing public transport, they indicate the user's specific difficulty and can be shown to the bus driver:

Please be patient, I am deaf / Please be patient, I am visually impaired

Please be patient, I have difficulty speaking / Please be patient, I am hard of hearing

Please speak slowly and face me to help me hear better

Please scan my pass for me / Please count my change for me

Please help me find a seat / Please give me time to sit in case I fall down

Driver, please let me know when we get to ..... and tell me when we reach my stop.

Journey Assistance Cards are available for you to use if you need a bit more help when using the bus. You can use your cards any time of the day, seven days a week, on any of our bus services.

You can apply for Journey Assistance Cards if you have: limited vision or hearing, difficulty in communicating, special educational needs, if English is not your first language, or if you need extra time to find a seat.

The Cards have been developed with the Confederation of Passenger Transport.

I hope to have a limited number of Cards available for distribution to those who meet the categories described above; Please contact me if you require one.

*Cynthia*

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

From 1st October, Mrs Jane Thorn will be the Clerk to the Parish Council.

She can be contacted via e-mail: [elkstonepc@gmail.com](mailto:elkstonepc@gmail.com) or by phone: 01285 821157

*Lois*