

# Elkstone Newsletter

32<sup>nd</sup> Year: No. 2 (337)

November 2015

## Editor's Bit

I have just returned from Catalonia and apologise to contributors for not acknowledging receiving contributions for this edition of the Newsletter. I have only been away for a week and can really see the effects of autumn.

*Reg – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015*

Features	
Elkstone Church Services Remembrance Day Service UNICEF Card and Gift Sale Village Hall AGM + wine and nibbles Elkstone Supper and Film Night Greener Gloucestershire Walk Christmas Meal	Harvest at Elkstone Report Cleaners for Elkstone Church Broadband in Elkstone Rendcomb Surgery Coffee in Winstone Cotswolds Sing for Heroes Elkstone Gardens Open Day 2016 Elkstone and the Pre-Raphaelite Painters
Diary Dates	
UNICEF Card and Gift Sale – 7 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> November – Church View, Elkstone Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November - 8.00pm, Elkstone Village Hall Village Hall AGM - Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November - 7.30pm – Elkstone Village Hall Elkstone Film Club - Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November - 7.00pm for Supper, Elkstone Village Hall Greener Gloucestershire Walk – Saturday November 21 <sup>st</sup> - 10.45am – 2.00pm Christmas Meal – Green Dragon – 11 <sup>th</sup> December	
Regular Dates	
Waste & recycling	Food + garden waste - Fridays
Waste & recycling	All bags, bins + boxes – Fridays 6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> November
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>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November</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

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – Morning Prayer (CW) – 10.00am – Rev. G Cox

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Service – 10.45am – Rev. A Champion

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Holy Communion (CW) – 11.00am -Rev. A Champion

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Songs of Praise – 10.00am - Robin Ellis

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – no service at Elkstone – Joint service at Coberley – Holy Communion 10.00am

*David Pierce*

## Remembrance Sunday – November 8<sup>th</sup>

It is now 70 years since the end of the Second World War, and nearly 100 years since the end of the First World War. There are fewer each year who fought in or have memories of the last World War, but there have been other, and there continue to be new conflicts.

Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity to remember those who have given their lives, so that we can enjoy the freedom we have today. Our service this year is on Sunday

November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.45am.

*David Pierce*

### **UNICEF Card and Gift Sale**

Last year the sale of cards and gifts prior to Christmas in the UK resulted in the United Nations Children's Fund receiving around £75 000.

Other countries and generous benefactors added to this and the money was used in many different ways:

- Installing a water pump to provide clean water in Vietnam,
- Administering polio vaccine to children in Liberia,
- Supporting families affected by the Ebola virus,
- Providing tents to families who lost their homes after the Nepal earthquake,
- Encouraging families in India to send their daughters to school, and very recently Working in The Philippines following the destruction left by typhoon Koppu.

As in previous years I am holding an Open House at Church View on Saturday 7th November

Sunday 8th November from 12.00noon to 6.00pm

Monday 9th November

Please join me for coffee/tea and biscuits/mince pies and a chat. You are very welcome to come and browse the selection of cards, wrapping paper, gifts, stationery - many of the cards for all occasions, not just Christmas.

*Jennie Howlett – 870462 - Church View*

### **Village Hall AGM and Wine and Nibbles**

7.30pm, Monday 16th November

Another year's activities to report and review, and as many people as possible are warmly invited to come along and join us as we discuss ideas for next year, be they improvements to the facilities, Open Day ideas, and of course how we could make best use of a super-fast broadband connection once Gigaclear put in all their facilities.

There is also of course the matter of electing Officers to serve on next year's Committee - so don't be shy, get in touch with Marion Cooch on 870244 to indicate your interest.

The meeting will be followed by 'Wine and Nibbles' laid on by your committee.

*Jeremy – 870516*

### **Elkstone Supper + Film Evening**

Thursday 19th November 7.00pm for Supper, for 8.00pm start of film The film will be '71 which tells the story of a single night in the life of a young British soldier (Jack O'Connell) accidentally abandoned by his unit following a riot on the streets of Belfast in 1971. Unable to tell friend from foe, and increasingly wary of his own comrades, he must survive the night alone and find his way to safety through a disorientating, alien and deadly landscape.

Getting five star reviews, and with the consensus of critics reviews being that it is 'Powerfully directed and acted, '71 stays true to its fact-based origins while remaining as gripping as any solidly crafted action thriller, this is a different and thought provoking film. It is set in Belfast in 1971, but could have been in Sarajevo in the 1990's or the Homs in the present day.

By popular request, supper will be pork goulash and rice.

Supper and film £10 per person (monies in a marked envelope to Manor Farm Cottage, Elkstone by Monday evening Nov 16<sup>th</sup> please). Film only £5 paid at the door.

*Jeremy and Anne - 870516*

**Greener Gloucestershire Walk – a pilgrimage for climate change awareness** Saturday November 21st Gloucester Cathedral to Robinswood Hill

10.45am – 2.00pm

With climate change talks in Paris due in early December, we are taking some time out to enjoy the Autumnal outdoors and celebrate all that we value and seek to protect.

We are planning an event that, while mindful of the urgency to live lightly with respect to the natural world, has a focus on hope and celebration.

- Walk from Gloucester Cathedral to Robinswood Hill, a route of just under 2 miles.
  - Family friendly event, including 'poi' making from pine cones and ribbons along the way.
  - View displays from a variety of environmental organisations in the Cathedral Cloisters before beginning the walk.
  - Gathering during the morning ready for a prompt 11.00am departure.
  - Meet others who share a love of nature.
  - Gather ideas for small actions that can make a difference
  - Take a moment on arrival to pause and reflect on our hopes for nature.
  - Optional additional walk to the top of Robinswood Hill.
  - Contact us for accessible options for participation.
  - A partnership event between Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Project Pilgrim at the Cathedral and the Gloucestershire Churches Environmental Justice network.
- Soup will be available from the café on arrival. Do bring sandwiches, especially if you are planning to stay on for the walk to the top.

*David Pierce*

### **Christmas Meal at The Green Dragon**

This year we have managed to book the function room at The Green Dragon for the evening of Friday 11th December. The menu is on their website:

[www.green-dragon-inn.co.uk](http://www.green-dragon-inn.co.uk) and the cost is £16.95 for 2 courses and £19.95 for 3 courses. There is a wide choice, which will suit everyone (hopefully).

If you would like a brochure with all the options please ring the number below and we'll post a copy through your letterbox.

The deposit has been paid so please put the date in your diary and let's enjoy an evening together - no preparation, cooking or washing up - just lovely food and interesting company in a beautiful setting. The Christmas decorations are always wonderful in The Green Dragon.

Later we'll be asking for your menu choices (and for a small contribution towards a gratuity), but for now just let us know that you wish to be there on the night.

*Brian and Jennie Howlett – 870462 - [brian.howlett@virgin.net](mailto:brian.howlett@virgin.net)*

### **Harvest at Elkstone Report**

A big thank you goes to all those who decorated the Church so wonderfully for our Harvest service. Thank you also to everyone who gave produce or monetary gifts either at the service or at the Harvest Supper. The food gifts were taken to the Family Haven in Gloucester, which helps vulnerable families to a brighter future. The food will be used to make hot lunches for the children and parents, and some will go into food parcels for the most desperate families.

The Harvest Supper was a happy time with about 40 people enjoying a variety of shepherd's pies and a selection of puddings and cheeses.

In total, the gift we will be sending to the Addington Fund, to help farmers in real need, looks as though it will be about £415, which with Gift Aid should be worth about £460 to the charity.

*David Pierce*

### **Cleaning at Elkstone Church**

One of the frequent comments by people visiting our Church, is how clean it is, and well looked after. This is largely thanks to Lindy Price and Margaret Holder who will be found there virtually every Saturday morning, making sure everything is tidy. In recent times Nancy Pynn has assisted them. However we feel the time has been reached when the cleaning should be shared between wider groups of people so that it is not a major commitment for any one person. Margaret insists that she will never give up, so we are looking for volunteers to help her. So that it is not a big commitment for one or two people, we would like to have a rota so that it is shared around. Perhaps if it were your turn to do the flowers you would be willing to spend an extra hour, to help with the cleaning? Or would you be willing to help for an hour once a month, or every two months? The cleaning does not have to be done on a Saturday, but can be fitted in with a time convenient to you.

If you are willing to help then please let me know.

*David Pierce*

### **Reports on Broadband Meeting at Elkstone**

#### **Pure fibre broadband becomes reality...**

There was a large turnout in Elkstone village hall for the Gigaclear broadband presentation on September 30. Partly thanks to some government funding, Gigaclear is able to bring fibre-based broadband to rural communities that, otherwise, would not have been financially tenable. In our part of the world, this means Colesbourne, Cowley, Coberley, Elkstone and surrounding properties will benefit from vastly improved broadband access with prices starting at £38.80 for up to 50Mbps uploads and downloads. For the undecided, the good news is that a decision whether to sign up or not does not have to be taken immediately. Cabling will be to all households up to individual 'pods' that will be sited outside each home or business. Cable laying has probably started by the time you read this and is expected to reach Elkstone around April-May. The general impression of those attending was that this development was a very good thing for rural communities and could also impact positively on the value of households. Further information is available from [www.gigaclear.com/ordernow](http://www.gigaclear.com/ordernow) or call 01865 591131

*Electro*

### **Superfast Broadband in the Cotswolds**

On September 30th, many villagers attended the presentation by Gigaclear at the Village Hall, and it is clear that having won the Fastershire Phase 2 contract, they are working apace! The key aspects to be aware of at this stage is that having already started work in the Cackleford/ Seven Springs area, they anticipate that they will have completed the work to include Elkstone by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

There will be consultations with each household as to the best location for their individual 'Pot' being the connection point on each property that is closest to the highway. A blue aerosol 'blob' showing the *suggested* location of each Pot will be painted on the ground a few days before a Gigaclear team arrive to discuss and agree what the actual placement of each household's Pot should be. Note that even if a household does not initially want to connect to this service, the Pot will be installed, and it only goes live upon an eventual decision by that household to adopt and pay for the service.

When a householder does decide to use the Superfast Broadband connection service, Gigaclear provide a simple online web page where the whole sign-up process can be done in the course of a few minutes, or they will post the paperwork for completion and return. Bear in mind that it is open for other Internet Service Providers (ISP's), having negotiated 'wholesale' terms with Gigaclear (who are owners / prime operators of the network hardware and fibre-optic cabling) to provide alternative tariffs and installation charges.

## We will start digging in your area very soon! The wait for ultrafast fibre broadband is nearly over...

Herefordshire County Council, Gloucestershire Council and Gigaclear are shortly going to transform your online experience. Work, play, communication, entertainment and study will never be the same again!

Gigaclear is delighted to announce that the construction of the network has officially started, bringing your community one step closer to having the UK's fastest\* broadband! The civil works will take approximately three months to complete and we expect the first customers to go live in Cockleford in December. Other remaining customers will go live in phases throughout January 2016.

### In the meantime, let us remind you of what you will get with Gigaclear:

- Unlimited data usage and ultrafast speeds of up to 1000Mbps
- The speed to make full use of 'Smart TV' and other online media equipment
- The ability to use multiple devices, simultaneously
- Unlimited and uninterrupted access to all online services
- Crystal clear audio and video Skype conversations, making working from home an option

### To find out more about the project rollout:

Visit: [www.fastershire.com](http://www.fastershire.com)

Email: [info@fastershire.com](mailto:info@fastershire.com)

### To find out if your property is included, to register for updates or to place an order, please visit:

[www.gigaclear.com/fastershire](http://www.gigaclear.com/fastershire)

### For updates, follow us on:

Twitter: [@Gigaclear](https://twitter.com/Gigaclear)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/gigaclear](https://www.facebook.com/gigaclear)

\*Delivering up to 40x faster broadband than the average UK broadband speed.  
(Source: Ofcom's overview of fixed broadband speeds published 26th February 2015.)

For now, Gigaclear are the only ISP available to Elkstone residents, and their current charges are as follows, though they will rise 2.8% in January:-

**Initial (one-off) charges:**

Initial connection to the Pot, including Router and 50 Metres max of Fibre-optic Cable, installed 'DIY' by householder £100.00; for a 75 metre cable, add £48.00, or for a 100 metre cable add £68.00. (Optionally) an authorised installer will install the Fibre-Optic cabling (up to 17 metres length) and Router for about £95 subject to survey; other cable lengths can be quoted as well, subject to survey.

**Repetitive (Subscription) Charges** (15 month minimum contract, with 90 days notice to terminate)

50 Mbps Upload & Download Speed *	£38.80 / month paid by Direct Debit (DD)
100 " " " " "	£44.00 / month " " " " "
200 " " " " "	£51.00 / month " " " " "
1,000 " " " " "	£72.00 / month " " " " "

Also, a one off 'speed boost' is available for the 50, 100 and 200 services - for £4.80 they can upgrade to 1,000 Mbps for 48 hours and then revert. For example, this is good for families with a large number of weekend guests, all gaming or streaming movies to their devices!

\* Note that actual user data transmission speeds are slightly, but not much lower than this - there is a small bandwidth 'overhead' needed by the equipment that is transmitting the data. Note also that Gigaclear partner with Vonage, a phone company that can provide an alternative phone service through the internet, so that existing land line connections become redundant, though there are implications of there is a power failure. More on this on the website.

The Elkstone Village Website ([www.elkstonevillage.com](http://www.elkstonevillage.com)) has a web page to provide more detail, and to provide progress updates as they become available.

*Jeremy - 870516*

The celebrated **Cotswold Male Voice Choir** regularly wows audiences at the Town Hall with their concerts of popular music but this year they'll also be helping others to **Sing for Heroes**.

Challenged to support the Help for Heroes charity, the men of **GE**

**Aviation in Bishops Cleeve** formed a choir and, with a little help from their friends in the Cotswolds, will be on stage for the first time. They'll also be joined by the **Innsworth Military Wives Choir** to make it a most memorable concert for this worthy charity.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Cheltenham Town Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 each

VIP packages – entry to VIP area (pre-order your own refreshments) 10 tickets - £150

Sponsorship packages available

Apply online email Anne Norman at [anne.norman@h4hcounty.org.uk](mailto:anne.norman@h4hcounty.org.uk)

All funds raised will go to **Help for Heroes**

**Grand Christmas Coffee Morning/Cake Sale**

Winstone Village Hall, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 from 10.00am to 12.00noon

Cake Stall – Raffle

Tea/Coffee and Mincepies

Fancy Goods and Cards

Festive Decorations

A chance to meet and chat

Support **your** local Surgery

**See you there!**

*(Donations for all stalls greatly appreciated)*

*Jennie – 870462 - Rendcomb Patients' Support Group*



This next item in the Newsletter is to get people thinking about the Gardens Open Day -

### **Elkstone Gardens Open Day 2016**

As summer 2015 turns to a golden November I wanted to turn your thoughts to spring and summer next year. As many of you know, I have undertaken to lead the committee for 2016 following Tess Dick's sterling efforts in the past few years.

I am looking for volunteers to join the committee so that we can make a head start setting the stage and fixing dates for next year's event soon after Christmas. While I have already been offered support from some of the "usual suspects" it would be ideal to have some newer members of the village on board as well to bring fresh perspectives to the table. The organisation after 20 years is pretty much a well oiled machine so the time commitment would be light and fun should always be on the agenda for our meetings. Please let me know if you would like to join the planning for this event, which traditionally brings the whole village together as well as making strong financial contributions to our key community centres, The Church and Village Hall.

An early indication from those willing to open their gardens on the day would also be most welcome.

Brian Howlett - [brian.howlett@virgin.net](mailto:brian.howlett@virgin.net)

### **Elkstone Church and the Pre-Raphaelite Painters**

What is the connection between the pre- Raphaelite painters and the family remembered on grave slabs in the aisle of the church and some wall memorials? In particular a painting many of us will know, Holman Hunt's "The Light of the world"? John Ruskin explained the painting, as "The door is that of the human soul, It has never been opened." Christ approaches it in the night, dressed in robes which represent a prophet (the white robe), priest (the breastplate) and king (the crown interwoven with thorns)." Ruskin thought it was "...one of the noblest works of sacred art ever produced.."

There are three versions of the Light of the World painting. The original hangs in a side chapel at Keble College, Oxford. Martha Combe, the widow of Thomas Combe, who had founded the Oxford University Press, gave the painting to the College. Mr and Mrs Combe befriended many of the pre-Raphaelites before they became famous, and they bought a number of their paintings, including The Light of the World. Martha left a number of the paintings they collected to the Ashmolean Museum, where they are now displayed. Somebody else who also bought some of pre- Raphaelite paintings, and had his own portrait (which is also in the Ashmolean) done by Charles Collins (the brother of the author Wilkie Collins) was William Bennett, Martha's uncle.

So what is the Elkstone connection? One of the grave slabs in the aisle floor covers the body of James Bennett a yeoman of Elkstone who lived at Elkstone Manor. The other grave slab in the aisle, and two wall memorials relate to his family. William Bennett was the son of James and lived in Elkstone, Syde and Tetbury after his father's death. Martha Combe who gave the painting to Keble College, was James's grand-daughter.



## **Mental Health Campaign**

Many of you will know that I am involved in a local campaign for positive mental health and suicide prevention. As a first step a Cirencester Mental Health Awareness group has been set up that has had two very successful stalls in the market place and will continue to work alongside CDC, the 2gether trust and other local charities. Being able to address this problem is key to reducing stigma and enabling those who suffer to feel able to talk about their problems without stigma being associated with mental illness.

A new group self-awareness group now hopes to set up in Cirencester for people suffering from depression and those who self-harm. The aims of the project will be to:

- Encourage qualities within individuals toward positive thinking.
- Ensure a sense of optimism and wellbeing.
- Support people to improve coping skills and problem solving.
- To direct clients away from self-harm and towards self help
- The advancement of public and social awareness of the causes, effects treatment and rehabilitation of individuals that self-harm

Much of the preparatory work for the group has already been done but to go forward it must be a registered charity. To be able to do that it now needs funding and trustees to sit on the board. The group will be working with a comprehensive set of moral standards that will be adhered to at all costs which, whilst essential for all charities, are particularly so when dealing with subjects of such a sensitive nature.

If you feel that could help in any way please get in touch and I will be happy to provide more comprehensive information if needed.

*Anne Davies - 870516*

## **Dear Neighbours,**

I resent you letting your dog foul the little bit of grass outside our house without removing the offending article, as it demonstrates that you have little respect for the neighbourhood, and you are breaking the law into the bargain. We have children that play in the area and their health can be at risk if they are exposed to dog droppings. It would be good if you were a considerate and respectful neighbour and mention of this type of incident would not be necessary in the Elkstone Newsletter.

*(I have withheld the name and address of the writer of this letter – Ed)*

Hello all,

I thought you would like to know that Ken Haslam sadly passed away peacefully in Cheltenham Hospital at 23.45hrs last night. Ken had been admitted to hospital with pneumonia last Sunday and sadly did not recover. The community will sadly miss him. As and when I have more information about arrangements, I will pass this on.

I know that everyone will support Joyce at this very difficult time – that's what Elkstone is good at.

Kind regards

Julia