

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Summer is i-coming in,
Loude sing cuckow!
Anon.

Before the villagers of Elkstone berate me for my appalling spelling, I would hasten to say that this is a thirteenth-century medieval poem in Middle English. So don't blame me - please!

However, I haven't heard a cuckoo around here for years. When we first came to the village - a long time ago now - we always heard that classic call every Summer. But not now. This may be due to some disruption on its wintering grounds in Africa. Or because, here in England, especially, there has been a huge decline in the caterpillars of the larger moths which provide the food for the cuckoo chicks. Whatever the reason, or combination of reasons, to no longer enjoy the sound of that evocative call around here, is so sad. But every year, I still hope.

'Syng cuckow, now, syng cuckow'.

Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 June 2025

Regular Village Hall Activities		
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday, 7.30pm	Ronnie Bury – 870493 or Martyn Wylie – 870441
Art Club	Every Thursday, 9am - 1pm	Penny Casewell – 03330 119663
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.00 – 11.00am	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary		
Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse, food caddy and garden waste	Friday 13 June Friday 27 June
	Food Caddy only	Friday 6 June Friday 20 June

Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone Services in June

1 st June	Morning Worship	11:00am
8 th June	Pentecost Benefice Service at Rendcomb Church with Bishop Rachel	11.00am
15 th June	Holy Communion	11.00am
22 nd June	Elkstone Open Gardens	2 to 6pm

Please remember during the Open Gardens the Church will be featuring the Choir, the Bells and an opportunity to spend time in the Wildflower Meadow and have refreshments.

Cheltenham Open Studios 7th - 15th June

Organised by artist-run association, Cheltenham Open Studios, this year's art trail links together 78 venues, featuring 200 artists, all in different exhibition venues, home studios, workshops, churches and galleries. You can meet the artists, view their work, learn about their practice and even have a go yourself.

Carole Bury is exhibiting her work and is present most days at Venue 4, the Spring Gallery, in the Montpellier Quarter of Cheltenham. The Gardens Gallery in the Montpellier Gardens is home to a Taster Show that will give visitors a flavour of the range of work on show and help signpost you to the other venues. It's also a great place to pick up your free guidebook too. Interactive guidebook available at www.cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

Elkstone Open Gardens - 22nd June

Thank you very much to those of you that have already volunteered to help with either the catering or the car park. We almost have enough people! This is a final plea for help - if you can spare an hour or two between 2pm and 6pm on Sunday 22nd June, the Open Gardens Committee will be very grateful. Please contact either me or Jenny Howlett - we are both on the village WhatsApp group.

I am also making a final request for any spare cuttings/plants, that can be sold on the plant stall. If you have any donations, you can either take them straight to the plant stall on the day (which is located in the car park field) or drop them at Springfield House the night before.

Finally, thank you to everyone that has been involved in the planning and preparation so far. I have my fingers crossed for a warm, sunny and successful event.

Amy McDonald

Village Hall News

The Committee have discussed thoroughly, and with great deliberation, how to begin to use the very generous legacy from Sylvie, left to the Village Hall in her will. We are immensely grateful for this and are aware that it must be spent carefully and wisely, with an emphasis on securing the fabric of the building for the future.

The first area/areas are the lavatories, with the hope that, as far as possible, at least one section can be more accessible for those with physical difficulties.

So, new sanitary ware, electric hand dryers, decent flooring and new windows in both, and in the storeroom. And low-level heating, if it can be managed, to reduce the condensation and the cold.

While the electrics are being installed in those areas, we also want to make the lighting throughout the Hall LED-based.

When all this is done, we can then have new flooring in the kitchen and paint both the kitchen and the loos.

With careful budgeting and some input from the Committee, this should be only the first stage.

Update on our local roads

Following the small (but essential) stretch of road that was resurfaced in the 'dip' at the end of March, GCC plan to carry out improvements to the drainage in this location in September. In October they plan drainage improvements near the Green Dragon.

Looking at the Causeway one.network website (<https://one.network/public>) if you zoom in on Elkstone and pick 'next 12 months' from the drop-down menu, it shows that resurfacing will take place along the full length of the road through the village from High Cross to the A417. In addition, it shows that the 'loop' through the village from the crossroads by the bus shelter, past the village hall and all the way through to Manor Cross crossroads will be resurfaced too. This work is shown to be carried out from 1 - 10 Dec 2025, so, fingers crossed and should all go to plan, a good and long- awaited Christmas present from GCC!!

I would expect GCC to provide more information, nearer the time, of road closures, exact dates etc. Whilst there will inevitably be some short-term disruption, I'm sure it will be worthwhile to look forward to pothole-free local roads in 2026.

David K

Handmade Oxford The International Contemporary Crafts Festival Thursday 12 June to Saturday 14

June celebrating creativity, inspiration, and the finest handmade treasures from across the UK.

Located in Waterperry Gardens, this annual festival of crafts will showcase ceramics, jewellery, sculpture, fashion, furniture, homewares, art and textiles. The three-day show will also include a full roster of craft demonstrations, learning workshops and live music alongside artisan food from local producers. Handmade Oxford showcases the incredible talent of over 175 makers, each a master of their craft. From stunning jewellery and contemporary furniture to intricate ceramics, glasswork, and textiles, every piece tells a unique story of passion and craftsmanship. This is a rare opportunity to meet makers, hear their stories, and discover one-of-a-kind treasures you won't find anywhere else. Visitors can take part in interactive workshops and live demonstrations led by the artisans themselves. Whether it's weaving, block printing, or the art of French beading, guests can immerse themselves in the craft-making process and develop new skills.

We have very generously been offered 5 free tickets for the event. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be limited to one per family, so that as many people as possible benefit. Please contact Kevin on the WhatsApp Group to claim a ticket.

Evie Macfarlane's trip to Ghana

Just a reminder that Evie is still raising money for her trip.

She is collecting toiletry product packaging (not shampoo, conditioner but most other things (eg contact lens cases, baby wipes/oil/food, roll on deodorant, sun cream, medicine blister packs, makeup) For full list visit <https://boots.scan2recycle.com/recyclable-types>.

Evie is also collecting any foreign currency, small coins and old CDs in original box/case.

There is a now a white box outside the village hall and a green crate in Evie's driveway (Westwood House, Ivy Cottage Farm) and for currency please use our post box or envelope in village hall box.

Also, visit **EASY FUNDRAISING** website on a laptop, select Ghana trip 2025-Evie Macfarlane as your cause and follow instructions to enable donation reminders.

A % of your spend on this website, (eg car insurance, flights, food shops, presents, hotels) with no extra charge to you, will be donated to Evie's cause.

VE Day – A GREAT time was had by all!!



Jessie's Nature Notes from June 2011

The annual display of hawthorn in the valley below Uncombe Lane was early this year. No Elkstone inhabitant should miss it; so please remember next year to either take a walk along the lane, or just stop the car to look over the bank.

A short, pleasant walk to see the bluebells was from the Green Dragon car park, along the bridleway below the Guides archery field. The conifer woods were so quiet, and the unfurling ferns and beautiful patches of bluebells were very good and there were also yellow pimpernel and red campion flowers. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy a great variety of wildflowers in the Parish due to the different soils, ranging from Cotswold brash to boggy ground and even clay patches.

It has been a good Spring for butterflies, especially Orange Tips, and a lot of bumblebees. When we get prolonged wintery weather, we underestimate the ability to survive of such small creatures. Miss Mary Bliss told me that lots of ladybirds hibernated in Winstone Church belfry, clustered together and even in the church bells butterflies were resting, undisturbed even by the bells being rung. Another friend told me that her daughter's dolls house was once accidentally left in the garden in the snow, and much later they found ladybirds in it in a state of hibernation.

The swallows have been looking around for mud to build their nests - difficult in this spell of dry weather.