

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



June was not the easiest of months as the village prepared for the Open Gardens Sunday. Firstly, weeks of dry weather and hoping that all the mulching was enough to help the plants survive. Then the winds kicked in. Secateurs were essential for deadheading, as blooms were bruised and damaged by being blown around. Clutching at various points of stability, such as a passing pole or obelisk, became a new gardening activity. Keeping one's feet on the ground was not only an emotional response, but a physical requirement. Then came the draining heat and strenuous gardening was reserved for early or later hours, or both, when it was cooler.

But we got there and the day was.....

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Barbara and Kevin

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Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 July 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 11 July Friday 25 July
	Food Caddy only	Friday 4 July Friday 18 July

Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone Services in July

Sunday 6 July.	11 am.	Morning Worship, Elkstone
Sunday 13 July.	11 am.	Benefice Service at Bagendon Church
Sunday 20 July.	11 am.	Holy Communion, Elkstone
Sunday 27 July.	11 am.	Holy Communion, Rendcomb Church

Service times and events can be found on the Churn Valley Benefice website -

<https://www.churnvalley.org.uk/news-and-events/>

Open Day Gardens

It may have been difficult to envisage that anything else could have been thrown at the village for the Open Day. Splendid and thoughtful preparations, everything in place and all, (even the villagers), looking lovely. It started with a brisk Westerly wind which strengthened as the day went on. Then a road closure at the Air Balloon roundabout resulted in long traffic holdups, diversions and many visitors arriving late, or abandoning the visit. Rain in Cirencester and Cheltenham, but not in Elkstone! Finally, a breakdown in the payment system, so that people couldn't pay with a card. However, throughout it all, villagers remained friendly and helpful and those visitors who had arrived unscathed, were warm in their appreciation and had a wonderful afternoon. As did we!



A huge THANK YOU to those that opened their gardens, volunteered in the car park, served teas, made cakes, made signs, advertised, rang bells, sang, mowed the car park, provided plants.... the list goes on! A wonderful village effort. All money raised will go towards the running and maintenance of the church and village hall. We will let you know the final total as soon as we can. The EOG committee are all very grateful!

Amy

Cllr Lisa Spivey has been elected as the new Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, the first woman to ever hold the role.

Cllr Lisa Spivey, Leader of the Council, said: “I am incredibly honoured to have been elected Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, becoming the first woman to hold the office. I bring a hands-on, energetic leadership style and I am committed to making a real difference for the residents of Gloucestershire.



“Supported by my Cabinet, I’m ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work - with passion, determination, and a vision for a stronger Gloucestershire.”

As part of her acceptance speech, Cllr Spivey announced the following immediate priorities:

- Children – doubling down on support for the most vulnerable children in our county.
- Highways - dedicated team to clear up signs, barriers and cones from verges.
- Speed reduction – making towns and villages safer and more pleasant places to walk and cycle

She’s Electric rolls into Gloucestershire: free events to empower women on E-Bikes in 2025



In partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, She’s Electric Gloucestershire will host a series of family-friendly, free events across the county. These events will provide women with the chance to build confidence, receive hands-on guidance, and experience the freedom and practicality of electric cycling.

Why now?

Cycling UK data reveals that the gender gap in cycling has widened over the past seven years. Women are more likely to face barriers, with 58 per cent citing safety concerns and 36 per cent feeling that roads are unsafe. A lack of dedicated infrastructure continues to deter many.

Event dates and locations

- **Saturday 13 September** – 10am to 4pm Orchard Square, Gloucester Quays
- **Cheltenham** – Date to be confirmed

Tickets and further information: Visit [She’s Electric Gloucestershire 2025 – Eventbrite](#)

What to Expect at She’s Electric Events

- Free supported test rides on e-bikes and e-cargo bikes
- Cycle instructors available for first-time or nervous riders
- Free coffee and cake, with play areas for children
- Information on the Cycle Spine Pedal Eazy scheme, offering low-cost e-bike hire

The events are designed to give women not just access to equipment, but also the freedom, confidence, and practical support to change how they travel every day.



I got a text asking me to click on a link to reschedule a parcel delivery I'd missed. I was waiting for a parcel from Royal Mail at the time, so I clicked on the link and was asked to make a payment. Luckily, my daughter told me it was a scam and to ignore it, but I almost gave away my personal details. How can I spot the signs of this type of scam myself?

Parcel delivery scams are increasingly common. These scams can be in the form of a text, or an email or phone call. There are also reports of fake 'Something for You' cards, which Royal Mail leave when a delivery is attempted, but no-one is home.

Here are some tips on how to stay vigilant and spot scams:

- If you're waiting for a parcel and get a message that asks you to pay to get it, or reschedule the delivery, it's usually a scam.
- Don't click any links or attachments in the text or email. Delivery companies won't ask you to pay them through a link in an email or text.
- Parcel delivery scammers often pretend to be from an organisation like Royal Mail and can try to make you click on a fake version of the company's genuine website, which asks for personal information or login details - these can appear real.
- To check if a link is genuine, hover your mouse over the link without clicking on it, or press and hold on the link on a mobile device. You should be able to see the address the link goes to and check it's the same as the company's official website address.
- Make sure you check the address carefully - fake link addresses can look similar to the genuine address.
- Other signs of a message that is a scam include bad spelling and grammar, and when it starts with a general greeting instead of your name. But scam messages can sometimes be sophisticated - so don't rely on obvious mistakes only.
- If you get an email, check if the email address matches the sender's name or organisation - you might have to click on their name to see the email address.
- If there's something you're unsure about, don't feel pressured to act. You can find the official details for the company the person who has contacted you says they're from and ask the company if they've contacted you.

Wildlife Notes

July ... and we are halfway through the year, much to the relief of the starlings who have raised three broods in my garden, so far. Although a lot of the birdsong has subsided, the young starlings, with their wide-eyed look, make an unearthly racket as they fight for food from the feeders. For juveniles with such an innocent look, they are immensely argumentative when it comes to their rations.

Later on, hopefully, the Itea will attract an abundance of moths to feed on its honey scented catkins. If I stand close, I can distinctly hear the whirring of wings as they feed. Then the Pipistrelles descend, so close to my head that I can feel the movement of air as they swoop and dive. Few other flying creatures are so furious in pursuit and wonderful to watch.