

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



I hate to complain (well actually I don't, it's a favourite occupation with me) BUT, when is it going to rain – for weeks and weeks? Please. I am no lover of the heat. I emerge in the early hours and then retreat for the daylight hours only to re-emerge in twilight. A bit like a vampire. (Good Heavens, is that why I can't eat garlic?). However,

The heat produced stunning morning displays of butterflies, so many that my garden was alive with colour and movement. And very large moths, which I haven't spotted for some years, displayed in the evenings.

This month should be quieter with birds silent as they hide away to moult and build their energy reserves, either to migrate or to face the winter here.

And the cricket season is upon us. No - not that sort of cricket - the ones that stridulate by rubbing toothed ribs on the left forewing against the edge of the right forewing. Now I think of it, perhaps the two aren't that far apart?

A pleasant August to you all!

Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 August 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 – 07775 941876
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 8 August Friday 22 August
	Food Caddy only	Friday 1 August Friday 15 August Friday 29 August

August Church Services for St. John's, Elkstone

Sunday 3 rd August	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 th August	11.00am	Benefice Service at Cowley Church
Sunday 17 th August	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31 st August	11.00am	Benefice Service at Rendcomb Church

Sadie has passed her Presentation with 75%!! Excellent, Sadie - Many congratulations.

Update from the Open Gardens Committee

We have now completed the sums and are pleased to report that this year's Open Garden event raised £1,890.70 after costs. We will also be claiming Gift Aid which should add a further £150 to the total.

Unfortunately, during the event, the card machines stopped working which meant that we lost some income from the car park. Visitors generously gave as much cash as they had on them, but we certainly lost out because of this. Martyn and Jeremy are putting together a claim for lost revenue, with Sum Up.

The final amount will be split equally between the village hall and the church, to be spent on their maintenance. Whilst the amount isn't as plentiful as previous years, every little helps. A huge thank you once again to everyone in the village that contributed towards the event.

Amy McDonald

Village Hall

Work will begin at the end of September with the instalment of LED lighting throughout, new windows, secondary glazing on the two end windows and new doors. Then, a complete make-over of both lavatories with new sanitary ware, hot water supplies, hand driers, new floors and wall tiling. This is only the first stage of the process, but it will be a wonderful Village Hall when it's totally completed.

Have your say on the future of Gloucestershire councils

National government has announced its intention to reform the structure of local councils in Gloucestershire. Currently the county is served by one county council and six district councils.

The proposed changes aim to replace these with unitary councils, which would streamline services under fewer, larger authorities.

Three options are being developed for the new council structure:

- One council covering the whole county.
- Two councils with an East (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Cotswold) and West (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, and Stroud) split.
- Two councils, with one being an enlarged Gloucester city (referred to as 'Greater Gloucester') and the other covering the remainder of the county.

Public opinions on these specific options is not being sought at this time. Instead, all seven councils are working together focused on gathering feedback on how local services can best meet the needs of residents both now and in the future.

This information is crucial for planning, regardless of the eventual council structure.

Residents are invited to share their views until 9 August 2025.

Resident and stakeholder opinions will play a vital role in shaping the final proposals before they are submitted to the government in the autumn.

Future Gloucestershire: <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

A417 Missing Link – Important Information – Full Weekend Closures

The A417 will be closed between the Air Balloon Roundabout and the A429 Burford Road junction on the following dates:

From 11pm on Friday 1 August to 6am on Monday 4 August

From 11pm on Friday 29 August to 6am on Monday 1 September

We're aware that these dates fall within the busy holiday period, so please plan your journey in advance and check your route to avoid delays.

These closures are necessary to allow us to construct utility ducting, realign sections of the road, carry out essential surfacing works and begin construction of the new Cowley Roundabout.

We understand that some noise from these works could potentially be heard from nearby properties, and we'd like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Where to find more information: You can find more information about the scheme, along with the diversion information on our project webpage: nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link. If you have any questions, or you would like to speak to someone about this work, you can call our contact centre on **0300 123 5000**, who will pass your details to the team, or email a417missinglinkatairballoon@nationalhighways.co.uk

Our Customer Hub is open, welcoming visitors to the A417 Missing Link project. The Customer Hub is in the Kier Crusher Plant and will be open every Tuesday and Wednesday between 10am and 2pm. You can find directions to the Kier Crusher compound, GL4 8JX (past Acorn House) on our project webpage.

Cotswold District Council Roundup



Mike Evemy is the new leader of Cotswold District Council. After six years as Deputy Leader and 22 years living in this region, he's deeply passionate about our area and the people who make it special.

Mike also announced the recent appointment of a new interim CEO, Jane Portman.

Jane was most recently CEO at South Somerset District Council, where she worked with fellow council chief executives across Somerset on a

programme of local government reorganisation, which resulted in the creation of a new unitary council for Somerset.



Waterscapes Project

A pioneering project using nature-based solutions to tackle flooding, support wildlife and engage communities has delivered major results across Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Since 2023, the **Waterscapes** project has delivered over 10 bespoke nature-based solutions (NBS) to help reduce flooding across urban and peri-urban sites. Natural features – including leaky dams, newly created wetlands, and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), such as rain gardens – work to slow the flow of water and reduce flood risk in vulnerable communities. The financial benefit of these water storage solutions is valued at £2.99m over 10 years and £6.79m over 30 years.

Led by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT), *Waterscapes* was made possible thanks to the support of founding partner RSA Insurance, an Intact company. The project is part of RSA Insurance's commitment to building resilient communities and helping people, businesses and society adapt to a changing climate

Lizzie Hall, Community Project Manager at GWT, said:

“Waterscapes has proven that even small-scale, nature-based changes in urban environments can have a big impact. The results in Cheltenham and Gloucester show that we can reduce flood risk, support wildlife and create better places for people – all at once.”

Phase one success:

- 2,989,078.2 litres of water can now be stored during heavy rainfall events, reducing pressure on traditional drainage systems.
- 120.35 m² of surfaces de-paved and/or replaced with permeable surfaces, reducing surface run-off into drainage systems.
- 290 new plants added to areas where there were previously none, supporting pollinators and creating nature corridors for wildlife.
- 10+ nature-based solutions implemented including wetland creation, leaky dams, swales, rain gardens, green roofed shelters and driveway de-paves.
- 30 community events, engaging over 3,500 people, including over 1,000 school children in volunteering and educational workshops.

UEFA Women's Euro Final

The Village Hall echoed to delighted shouts and screams as the Lionesses retained their Euro title after beating Spain 3-1 on penalties after the match had ended 1-1. Congratulations!!



Jessie's Nature Notes

There has been a request to make a list of all the wild flowers currently growing on the triangular patch of grass east of Sluswell, at the junction of Huncombe Lane and Colesbourne Hill. Driving past, it does look very bright, but you cannot appreciate all the variety, so I stopped for an enjoyable half hour to make this list.

(Jessie then lists 25 species. Unfortunately, there are no longer that many there, which is disappointing. And every year, in an adjacent field there arrived crowds of lapwing. I haven't seen them for many years).

Jessie goes on to say: When I was 9 years old, our school had a keen botany student as a teacher and she started me on a lifelong hobby of noticing flowers. The value of good teachers in stimulating the interest of children is enormous. The flowers that grow on uncultivated patches are often varied because some species are killed by fertilisers and herbicides - especially orchids - which is sad.

(Very true of so many species now. We should be so careful and so aware).