

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



With apologies to H.W. Longfellow 'The Song of Hiawatha'.

All along the Elkstone roadway
 All along the lanes and byways
 Came the striking yellow signing
 Don't go this way, find a new way
 Threw the village in a turmoil
 Which way, what way, will we manage?

Then arrived the heavy monsters
 Noise and steam and workers shouting
 Grinding, spewing dust and hard core
 Comes the pouring of the black stuff
 Spreading, setting, levelling potholes.

So, the increase in the traffic
 Faster, smoother, more aggressive
 And a thoughtful, sad reflection

Just be careful what we wish for.

Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 November 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		
Village Hall AGM	Monday 24 th November 7.30 pm	Elkstone Village Hall
Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse, food caddy and garden waste	Friday 14 November
		Friday 28 November
	Food Caddy only	Friday 7 November Friday 21 November

November Services at St John's, Elkstone

Sunday 2nd November	11.00am	Morning Worship
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE		
Sunday 9th November	10.45am	Remembrance Services
Sunday 16th November	11.00am	Holy Communion
ADVENT BENEFICE SERVICE		
Sunday 30th November	11.00am	Colesbourne Church



Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Service will begin in the Church at 10.45am on Sunday 9th November.

The collection will be sent to the British Legion.

When we were clearing the churchyard, my attention was caught by a particular grave. Perhaps because the person was so young and perhaps because he had no-one left to care for its upkeep. However, quite by chance Matt (Hobbs), who has a great fund of knowledge concerning this village and area, came across the young man's burial entry. Matt thought it was of significant interest to mark **Remembrance Day, Tuesday November 11th**. And, indeed, it is. Thank you, Matt.

Douglas Ernest Webb, buried on 26th October 1940. Aged 22.

He was wounded whilst working at Brockworth Aerodrome, by a bomb dropped by a German aircraft, on the morning of October 21st and died at 10am on 23rd October. The first life claimed by this war from the Parish of Elkstone.

Recorded by Frank Withers. Rector.

Elkstone Village Hall AGM Monday 24th November

This will be held at the Hall starting at 7.00pm after which drinks and nibbles will be provided by the Committee. Please do come along to hear about activities this year and plans for next year.

2nd December. Evening Christmas Concert with the Churn Valley Singers

We are delighted to welcome back the Churn Valley Singers to Elkstone Church for a Christmas Concert on the evening of Tuesday 2 December. They have entertained our Visitors so joyfully for the last three Garden Open Days.

The time and details are yet to be announced, but as soon as we hear from the Choir we will share this on the Village WhatsApp.

Harvest Service, Elkstone Church

Our sunny Church on Sunday 5th October was filled with flowers and foliage glowing with the autumn colours and offered a beautiful backdrop to orange pumpkins and apples of every shade of red and green. And a harvest loaf on the Altar reminded us of the bounty of the Lord's land.

Thank you for all the bags of food brought along to the service, which we later delivered to Cirencester Food Bank. They are always very grateful for the donations and expressed their thanks.

The Cash Donations were delivered to 'Sue Ryder Hospice at Home' in Leckhampton, the Charity we chose this Harvest, honouring the great care and kindness offered to Geoff and his family in the last few weeks of his life. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously, we raised £253.85 – and there will be gift aid added to this figure.

Carol Singing

We will be Carol Singing around the Village on Thursday 18th December. All welcome to join in or listen. Please put this date in your diary. Further details in the next Newsletter.

If you are going to celebrate **Guy Fawkes Night** with even a small display of pyromania, please do check for a hedgehog which may have taken refuge in a pile of dry material. These little creatures are in serious decline and are now on the endangered list of mammals. We now injure them with garden machinery and tidy up mercilessly so they can't nest or breed. Please do make sure they aren't burnt as well. Thank you.

Treacle Toffee. (a shivery bite for Guy Fawkes Night).

450g granulated sugar

225g black treacle

75g butter

1 tsp white vinegar

150ml water

Put everything in a heavy pan. Stir constantly over a gentle heat until the sugar has dissolved and then bring to the boil. Boil (stirring occasionally) for about 10 minutes or until a little of the mixture forms threads that bend. If using a sugar thermometer it should register 138 C.

Pour into a well buttered 20-23cm square tin and leave to cool. Cut into pieces when half-set, remove when cold.

From 'Scots Cooking'. Sue Lawrence.

(If you have a toffee hammer - great. If not - you're on your own).

Cotswold District Council Roundup

Cotswold District Council has renewed its call for the government to reconsider housing targets for the district - and invited the new Secretary of State to visit the Cotswolds to see the challenges first-hand. As the scale of potential development is laid bare ahead of a consultation next month, council leader Mike Evely has written to Steve Reed MP, the new Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

It follows an earlier appeal made in July to Angela Rayner, his predecessor, in which Cllr Evely highlighted the exceptional constraints facing the district and called for a rethink on targets. It comes after the council set out development options to meet the government's housing targets, which have more than doubled in the Cotswold district, to 1,036 new homes per year. Residents will be asked to share their views on the options during a consultation starting on November 5.

The Corinium Museum in Cirencester has reached the final in the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category in the Bristol, Bath, Somerset and Gloucestershire Tourism Awards 2025. The awards shine a spotlight on the very best in the region and celebrate excellence in accommodation, attractions, experiences, events, food and drink, visitor information, age-friendly businesses, sustainability, accessibility, customer service, dog-friendliness and more. The museum is managed by not-for-profit leisure trust Freedom Leisure in partnership with Cotswold District Council.

Emma Stuart, Director of the Corinium Museum said: "I couldn't be happier! The Corinium Museum is such a wonderful museum celebrating the beautiful archaeology of the Cotswolds and it is heart-warming to see how much joy it brings to people who visit or interact with the collections.

"The team have worked so hard this year, involving the community, engaging schools and working in partnership with local cultural organisations on various projects that we are just thrilled to be named a finalist in the awards."

Gloucestershire councils to consider proposals for Local Government Reorganisation

Councillors across the county will now discuss these options during November:

- One council for the whole of Gloucestershire (Single Unitary Authority)
- Two councils: one for the West (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, Stroud) and one for the East (Cheltenham, Cotswold, Tewkesbury) (Two Unitary Authorities)

Gloucester City Council has also been developing a separate proposal for a Greater Gloucester unitary council, the details of which will be released in due course.

All proposals must be submitted to The Government by 28 November 2025.

The Government is then expected to consult Gloucestershire residents and other key stakeholders early next year before they decide in the summer which proposal they want to see implemented in the county.

About the options

The councils have a strong track record of working together and have been developing these ideas since early 2025, led by council leaders and chief executives.

Single Unitary Authority (1UA)

- Would mean one council for the whole county.
- Would maintain the current county-wide approach to delivering fire and rescue services, adult social care, children's social care and education services.
- Aims to make decisions quicker, cut out repeated work, and provide better, more consistent services.
- Expected to save more than £21 million per year, with £164 million in net savings over the next 10 years.
- Local communities would have more say through new Neighbourhood Partnerships and links with town and parish councils.
- Would invest in digital technology to make services easier to use.
- Meets Government requirements and puts Gloucestershire in a strong position for future changes.

Two Unitary Authorities (2UA)

- Would mean two councils: one for the East and one for the West.
- Keeps a strong local identity for different parts of the county.
- Expected to save nearly £11 million a year, with more than £55 million saved in ten years.
- Local people would have more say through Neighbourhood Partnerships and links with town and parish councils.
- Both councils would invest in digital technology for better services.
- Meets Government requirements and supports Gloucestershire's ambitions.

Based on the Government's current timetable, elections to the new council/s would be in May 2027 with the new council/s taking over from the current seven councils from April 2028.

The full proposals, along with a timetable of the council meetings where they will be debated can be found on [Future Gloucestershire : Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire](#)

Autumn Nature Notes

Pheasants, who may well meet an untimely end in my garden, provide a source of food for the magpie family and a carrion crow, who visit regularly. One morning, however, the carcasses proved an attraction for the kites. Observing these stunning raptors at my eyelevel was breathtaking. With a wingspan of 1.65 metres or (more comfortably for me) 5 ½ feet, and superb white and black markings clearly displayed when the wings are open, it was a wonderful experience and one that I'm quite prepared to repeat. Beware trespassing pheasants!