

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



The May/June activity in the garden has started prior to the Open Garden at the end of June. At least I hope you are all enthusiastically weeding, mowing (if you have grass - not much point if you have gravel paths) and generally tidying.

Many of us have been faced with a proliferation of sycamore seedlings covering the ground with a green haze. And it doesn't seem to matter how much I hoe and then go through the borders painstakingly pulling up the little horrors, I am convinced that they conceal themselves in a tiny green crumpled shape until I pass, when they emerge behind my feet with a triumphant leer that only a sycamore leaf can achieve.

However, I do feel dismayed for the plight of the mature trees. A record number have died due to the stressful weather conditions, along with conifers and cherry trees. Our landscape is changing. And not for the good.

We are seeing a significant loss not only in plants but in animals, insects and fungi. The UK is now one of the most nature depleted countries on Earth.

So - please - Let's cherish and help all that we have. Good Gardening!

**Barbara and Kevin**

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Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 May 2026

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 1 May Friday 15 May Friday 29 May
	Food Caddy only	Friday 8 May Friday 22 May

## Elkstone Church May Services

Sunday 3 May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 May	11.00am	Benefice Service Rendcomb
Sunday 17 May	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31 May	11.00am	Benefice Service Colesbourne

## **9.30am Saturday 2 May - Elkstone Village Hall - Parish of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone**

A Public Meeting for the election of churchwardens will be held in Elkstone Village Hall at 9.30am on Saturday 2 May.

This meeting may be attended by —

1. the persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish; and
2. the persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.

This short meeting will be followed by the The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Elkstone Church. The last year has seen some challenging changes in our small Village Church and all support and interest from the Village is very welcome. Our new Vicar, Revd Julian Wilson will be joining us at the meeting, as we face the prospect of a year without a Churchwarden and a very small PCC.

Please come along to our meeting and give encouragement to the very small committee of volunteers who keep this historical building and worshipping community alive.

**Carole, Elkstone Church**

## **Churchyard Tidy Up Morning Saturday 6 June 9.30 am to 12.30pm**



The Churchyard is a special place in the village.

Did you know that it is a fantastic place for biodiversity, containing a rich collection of species of flowers and grasses? The walls and monuments create habitat for little creatures such as small mammals, reptiles and insects, as well as ferns, mosses and liverworts. And over 100 varieties of lichen can be found demonstrating the good air we have in our Village. The birds are plentiful and can be found feeding and enjoying the quality of the trees and berries. There are also bats.

Can you join us for an hour - (or more!) in the Churchyard from 9.30am on Saturday 6 June 2026 to tidy the ivy from the stone walls and gravestones, pick-up sticks, weed, cut back any untidy bushes and generally help us maintain this place? It will make the churchyard look and feel loved and beautiful in time for our Open Gardens Day on the 28 June.

Robert looks after our Churchyard, and we will follow his advice on how to care and maintain the churchyard to keep it beautiful and accessible to our whole community.

There will be cake and drinks to keep you fuelled, with laughter and chats. If you have gardening gloves, secateurs, general tools, rakes that would be most helpful, but not necessary.

Anytime between 9.30am and 12.30pm on Saturday 6 June 2026

**Carole and Elkstone Church**

## **Villager News**

We'd like to welcome Henri Schreuder, who is moving into April Cottage. We hope he'll enjoy his time in Elkstone. Please make him welcome.

## **Open Gardens - 28th June 2026**

It's not long until our Open Gardens event. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to open their gardens and to help in any capacity; it is enormously appreciated. If you've been considering it, we would welcome a couple more gardens to open if you are able. We welcome all types and styles of garden; the contrast in our offering is welcomed by visitors annually.

## **Volunteers**

We are seeking volunteers to help staff the car park and the village hall tea rooms, as well as producing some baked goods to sell at the village hall tea rooms. We also appreciate plant donations for our plant sale.

Many thanks to those who offer their time, produce and expertise year after year, it doesn't go unnoticed. This event would not be the success it is without you.

## **Guided preview walk - 27th June 4pm**

To enable all volunteers to appreciate the gardens we are opening, we are hosting a guided walk the afternoon prior to our event which will take in the gardens due to be opened the following day. If you are volunteering in any capacity, please join us at the Village Hall at 4pm when we will set off around the gardens. Garden owners, when we get to your garden - if you are able to open for 10 minutes for the volunteers - you're welcome to host that part of the walk.

## **Village BBQ - 10th July**

Instead of a Sunday evening post-event BBQ as in previous years, we are hosting a village BBQ for all on Friday 10th July at the village hall. Hopefully, we will achieve a greater attendance as people won't be so exhausted after the Open Gardens Day and families can attend, given it's not a school night. More information to follow.

For all matters Open Gardens, please contact one of the Open Gardens committee - Nic Ricketts (07908 982211), Graham Hopkins, David Kearney, David Collins, Kevin Challis, Ronnie Bury, Martyn Wylie, Brian Howlett and Anne Davies.

## **Cheltenham U3 Open Morning at St Matthew's Church, Clarence Street, Cheltenham. GL50 3PL.**

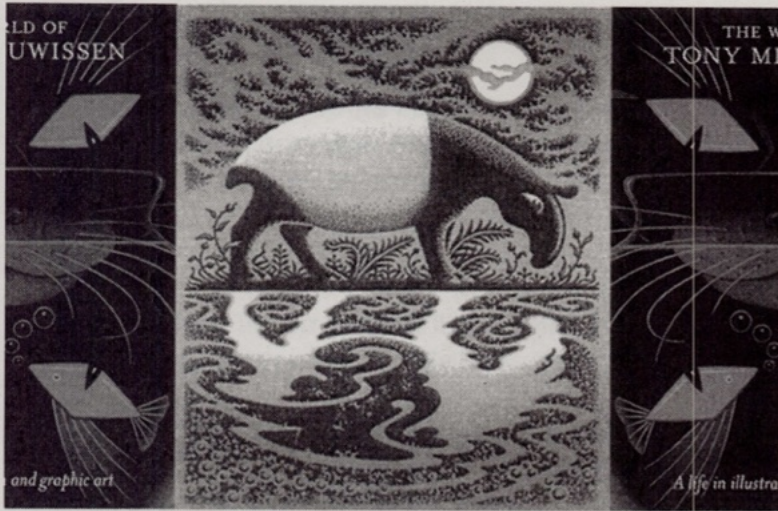
This event is being held on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 June 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30 -12.30**, and villagers are **welcome to attend**. More than 40 u3a groups will be there to share with you what they do and why they would like more people to join them.

Coffee will be served, and you will be able to amongst many of our interesting groups. Live music will be performed by three of our groups including the Choir and the Recorder Consort. There will be an Information Desk where there will be an opportunity to chat with members. You could also stroll across the road to the Central Library and admire an exhibition of the Sketch Group's paints, pencil and pastels displayed in the foyer. Cheltenham U3A also has an interesting speaker talk each month on a Tuesday morning.

## **Anne and Jeremy**

There is also a U3A Group in Cirencester. As well as a large range of activities there are interesting talks, the next being 'Climate Change' at the Ashcroft Centre from 2.00pm on May 19th.

## Tony Meeuwissen: Retrospective 2026 Sunday 26 April - Sun 24 May



Corinium Museum is delighted to welcome back the artist Tony Meeuwissen. You will know his work without knowing the artist, as he has illustrated for magazines and books. This is illustration at its most skilful and enchanting. Be ready to be pulled into his magical worlds through this retrospective exhibition.

Tony began his career in a commercial art studio but moved on to freelance design for companies such as Penguin Books, the Radio Times and the Royal Mail. He is the winner of seven national and international awards, including three books.

### First communities announced for Gloucestershire's Safer Roads and Community 20s programme

#### Safer Roads and Community 20s explained

This programme takes an evidence-led, community-focused approach to speed management. It brings together local insight with collision and public health data to target change where it will make the greatest difference.

The programme aims to:

- reduce deaths and injuries on Gloucestershire's roads
- support safer and more active travel, including walking, wheeling and cycling
- reduce noise and air pollution
- help create healthier neighbourhoods

Evidence from other parts of the UK shows that lower speeds can also benefit drivers, with smoother journeys, fewer incidents, reduced fuel use and lower insurance costs.

20s measures are designed to help protect vulnerable road users, reduce serious injuries, and make streets feel safer and more welcoming for walking, wheeling, cycling and everyday activities.

Cirencester, Preston and Siddington are the first proposed locations to move into early engagement, marking an important milestone for the programme. Over the last five years, there have been more than 127 recorded road casualties in and around Cirencester, with 30% resulting in death or serious injury. People who are not protected by a vehicle are most at risk. Across the wider Cirencester area, 35% of casualties are vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. Within the ring road, this rises to 68%, with pedestrians making up the majority of those injured.

This shows that many casualties occur on streets that people rely on for everyday journeys, such as walking to shops, schools and local services.

To create safer roads, there is a need to reduce risk where people and traffic mix. Lower vehicle speeds can reduce the severity of collisions and give drivers more time to react.

Safer Roads and Community life in Cirencester.

### Nature Notes

Feed Seasonally. Feed Safely.

The RSPB are asking, as an experiment, that those of us who feed the birds, should remove seed feeders and peanut feeders from May to the end of September. This is to try to halt the spread of Trichomonosis, a disease which is killing birds such as the Greenfinch and Chaffinch.

Please continue to feed suet and mealworms. If you offer water, change it every day (tap water is good as it contains chlorine) and keep all feeders clean and fresh. Thank you all.