

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



It was quite a day! At 4.45am it was raining and, clutching at the well-worn straw 'Rain before 7, fine by 11', I remained positive. Then the water supply went off. I ceased to clutch at anything.

But then the sun came out, the water supply was restored, the visitors arrived and even in the depths of foliage and flowers I could feel the positivity. Whether that was the release from the overpowering heat or whether we, as a village, are feeling more confident in sharing, more able to relax and enjoy the day ourselves - I don't know. All I can say is, that all those I spoke with (and there were loads), were having, or had, a wonderful time.

Giving and Sharing, Talking and Listening — so, so important! Thank you all.

Barbara and Kevin

email: baarden@hotmail.co.uk

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 July 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 10 July
		Friday 24 July
	Food Caddy only	Friday 3 July
		Friday 17 July
		Friday 31 July

Elkstone Church Services

Sunday 5 July	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12 July	11.00am	Benefice Service - Cowley
Sunday 19 July	11.00am	Holy Communion

A busy and happy Churchyard Tidy Up Morning - Saturday 6 June



The Churchyard looks and feels loved after our tidy-up morning by lots of us from the Village. Rain threatened but didn't deter many of us clearing the older tombs of weeds and old chippings and removing stubborn ivy from the drystone walls.

Thank you for the tools that were willingly brought and shared, allowing us to clear areas ready for new trees to be planted in the autumn. The time and effort you all put in is gratefully appreciated and enjoyed by all of us who use the space regularly.

We discovered our bug houses are home to Roman snails, *Helix pomatia*. I don't think these have been seen in our churchyard before. If you come across them, please don't pick them up or disturb them, as they are a legally protected species in the Cotswolds. I will be contacting the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and also Caring for God's Acre about them once I have some decent photographs of them.

As always, coffee, tea and cake work wonders to give energy and fuel great conversations.

Many thanks to you willing helpers who cleared all the Grab Bags, we did fill a lot!

Let's do it again soon!!

Carole and Elkstone Church

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Amy Norman, now of Ealac House, with her three dogs and her cat. We hope that you will all be very happy here and will love being part of the community.

Village BBQ – Friday 10 July 6pm

We will be celebrating another successful OG event at the village BBQ on Friday 10th July at 6pm. A message will be on the village WhatsApp group this week to ascertain the size of our food order and to manage the variety of side dishes brought along. We will maintain the usual format of £5 per head and bring a side dish per household.

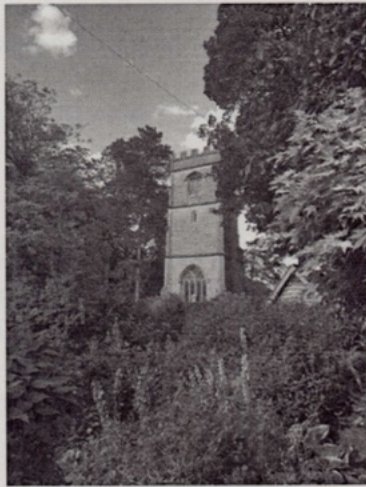
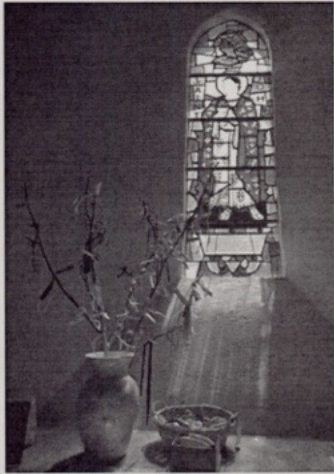
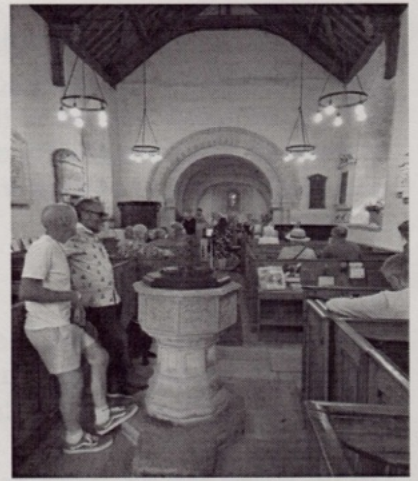
Open Gardens Day

Huge thanks to everyone who kindly shared their treasured garden, baked cakes, served tea and cakes, cleared up after tea and cakes, dealt with the water crisis, managed drivers, payments and plants, and so much more.

Elkstone Open Gardens is a truly special event which wouldn't happen without so many people putting in the huge effort you do. So, a huge THANK YOU for doing all that you do to enable us to maintain our wonderful old buildings of Elkstone. All profits are split between the church and the village hall, both of which are costly to maintain but huge assets to our community.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Nic Ricketts, who took over as Chair of the Open Garden Committee and has made a great success of the job. Our sincere thanks to you Nic.



Babysitting and Petsitting

Evie Macfarlane - Evelyn.Macfarlane@icloud.com , +44 7768 148863

I'm 16 years old and live in the village, I'm an experienced baby sitter, and pet sitter (bouncy Labrador of my own, sat for a variety of animals eg kittens, hamsters, bunnies etc). Please email or message me if you're interested and references available. Just about to finish GCSEs so will be available during weekdays as well.

A417 update

As I understand it the big change for Elkstonians is that when travelling south from Gloucester you can get off at the new Cowley junction and when travelling north towards Gloucester you will be able to join the road at the new Cowley Junction. It will make the road past Highgate Farm much busier again though!

I'm guessing the big bottleneck for this temporary arrangement will be at the Ullenwood roundabout. Probably best avoided if possible and I guess locals may choose to go through Birdlip and down Witcombe Hill.

I have posted all four plans of the changes on the Village Hall noticeboard.

David Kearney

Dear A417 Stakeholders friends,

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with you. The traffic switch we discussed recently at the Public Information events is now scheduled to take place on Monday 29th June. This means drivers approaching Crickley Hill will experience a new one up – one down formation and will join the new A436 from the Ullenwood roundabout. You'll soon be travelling along the new A417 past Shab Junction, with access to Birdlip and Brimsfield available from the newly constructed Cowley roundabout.

We recognise that this change will alter the look and feel of the route, and for some, adapting to a new layout can be confusing. With this in mind, we do expect some initial disruption as the travelling public adjusts, so we recommend allowing extra time for your journeys during this transition period.

If you have any questions or would like a more detailed walkthrough of the changes, we're happy to discuss them at the customer hub on Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm or you can give me a call. Please do let us know if you, or anyone you know, would like to come along and run through the updates.

Looking forward to seeing the improvements in action and supporting you through these changes.

Kind regards,
Carolyne



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Carolyne Ferguson

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A417 Missing Link

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Nature Notes

My wildlife pond has a reasonable amount of Toad spawn this year. The toadlets are about the size of bluebottles when they emerge and if they are not eaten (by almost anything) then they can shrivel up in the heat. They need shade and safety when facing the world. So, if you have a pond, however small, providing overhanging plants or pieces of bark for shelter will at least help them to make a start.