

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



It's been a quiet few weeks in Elkstone. In fact, the silence has been almost oppressive. And it made me think that perhaps we could adopt a more Continental approach in future. Perhaps meeting around or in the Village Hall for regular social evenings - maybe just dropping in, relaxing and talking. Even quiz evenings (coming from me that is a major concession because I'm useless at them). Something that means we maintain contact in the cooler evenings (well, slightly cooler evenings) when we can cease to live like moles in semi-gloom with the curtains/blinds drawn, shut inside.

And not just for the hot weather? With a more welcoming Village Hall perhaps through the darker months too?

It means using the time to come together occasionally for that all important social contact. Basically..... it's about living in a village community.

Barbara and Kevin

email: baarden@hotmail.co.uk

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 September 2026

Regular Village Hall Activities		
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday, 7.15pm	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 4 September Friday 18 September
	Food Caddy only	Friday 11 September Friday 25 September

New Service Pattern at Elkstone Church 2026

There is a 9.30am Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

And a Celtic Morning Worship at 11.00am on the 3rd Sunday every month.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

13 th September	9.30am	Holy Communion
20 th September	11.00am	Harvest Celebration – Everyone is welcome

Harvest Celebration

St John the Evangelist Church, Elkstone

11.00 am Sunday 20th September 2026



Please come along to this joyful service where we can give thanks for all the harvest that has been brought safely in, especially in the difficult circumstances due to the very, very hot summer. Our collection will be divided between Scrubditch Care Farm in North Cerney and St John's Church in Elkstone. This year, as in previous years, we are collecting packets, boxes and cans to deliver to our local South Cotswolds Foodbank (Formerly Cirencester Foodbank) – there is a plastic box in the porch of the Church.

They are currently in need of the following items: -

Angel Delight	Chocolate	Deodorant
Household cleaner	Instant Coffee	Jam
Long life juice	Peanut butter	Sponge puddings
Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables	Tinned tomato

Bring and Share 'Harvest Supper' in Elkstone Village Hall

7.00pm Saturday 3rd October 2026



This has always been a happy and favourite event of our Village Year, and it returns after a two-year absence. We are now able to enjoy a refurbished village hall. As in previous years, it will be a Bring and Share Supper for all ages. All villagers and their guests are welcome. Please let Penny know if you would like to come, and if you intend to bring a cottage/shepherds pie, or a fruit crumble. Meat, vegetarian, gluten free versions all gladly accepted. Please bring your own liquid refreshments.

There is no ticket price, but a generous contribution towards the wonderful work of our local Scrubditch Care Farm is requested. The Farm is in North Cerney and provides a welcoming and inclusive environment where adults with additional needs can thrive. Weekly groups take place led by their Farm Supervisors, with incredible support from a dedicated staff team and volunteers. Unique opportunities are provided to their students to connect with nature, animals, and community while developing practical skills and confidence. With over 40 students attending throughout the week, the hands-on sessions include a variety of farm tasks such as feeding the animals, checking the sheep, mucking out, clearing the barn, planting seeds in the polytunnel, enjoying woodland walks, or taking part in cookery activities.

<https://www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk>

We will bring information on the evening and provide the opportunity to donate by cash or card.

Please reply to Penny – pennycasewell@gmail.com

Elkstone Church

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust - Saturday 12 September 2026

Every year on the second Saturday in September, the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust hold a **Ride and Stride** event across the County, encouraging groups of walkers or cyclists to visit churches and explore the countryside – or the towns. Primarily, this is to raise funds which help to provide grants used to protect the historic churches in the whole of Gloucestershire. Groups of walkers will collect funds from their friends and supporters, and the Money raised is split 50-50 between the Trust and a Church of their choosing. Elkstone Church has received grants over the years, most recently awarded towards our Ecoloo and the Bell Restoration project in 2020. 50% is returned to Elkstone Church and 50% for the GHCT.

This year, our **Elkstone Parish Church** will be open – as always – to any visiting cyclists and walkers. There are refreshments provided for them. If you meet any lost ramblers on this Saturday, please direct them to the Church and to the EcoLoo.

Should you like to donate to the Church and Trust, please contact Carole or directly to this link, <https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-john-the-evangelist-elkstone>.

Elkstone Parish Church

Village Walk - Saturday 12th September 2026

We will start the walk from Cold Aston, meeting at 9.20am. Leaving at 9.30am.

A circular walk of about 6.5 miles around the 3 lovely villages and churches of Cold Aston, Notgrove and Turkdean. Far reaching views of open countryside. No stiles, some grass footpaths, stone tracks and tarmac roads. Relatively flat with some gentle inclines, except a slightly steeper section on returning to Cold Aston. Bring a light picnic lunch to eat at Turkdean.

We will leave promptly at 9.30am from Cold Aston.

From the A436, take the right hand turn to Cold Aston, don't turn at the earlier Turkdean, Notgrove sign. As you are approaching the village and church of Cold Aston, take the right-hand turn down Bangup Lane, a lane signposted as 'Unsuitable for Motorists'. There is ample parking in the shade along the left side of this lane.

Our walk will take us into the village of Cold Aston to visit the church next to Cold Aston School. We will reach Notgrove (2.2 miles) along the Gloucestershire Way, walking through a splendid double avenue of beech trees.

**** In Notgrove we will visit the church and take a refreshment break at The Nuttery at Notgrove Hub. There is a suitable carpark to leave a vehicle at the Notgrove Village Hub, should anyone prefer to do a shorter walk. ****

We then follow the road to Turkdean Church (2.1 miles), fairly flat walk with good views. And eat our picnic lunch in the churchyard at Turkdean.

Return to Cold Aston along the Macmillan Way, (2.2 miles) a very stony track with beautiful views in all directions, with undulations in gradients.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-john-the-evangelist-elkstone>. More info carolebury@hotmail.com

The Village Hall

The renovations are almost complete and have now used up Sylvie's generous bequest. We are so grateful to her and it has enabled us to do the following:

LED lighting throughout.

New windows and doors.

Secondary glazing on a side window and on the large windows at each end of the building.

Complete refurbishment of both lavatories with new sanitary ware, mirrors, tiling and the addition of hand dryers and heaters.

Partial refurbishment of the kitchen with new equipment and a new floor.

New tables and chairs

Table trolley and chair trolley.

Painting and wall renewal throughout, including the lobby.

New curtains (fitting in September).

BUT..... that is the end of the money.

We now have to rely on Hiring fees and the money from the Open Day because:-

THE HALL COSTS OVER £3,000 A YEAR TO RUN, before we do any routine maintenance or capital expenditure. Which means we have to protect the fabric of the building and the work that has been done. So, we gently ask villagers to treat the Hall with respect and look after what has been achieved. We cannot afford to have walls re-painted or damaged, or damaged or removed equipment replaced, out of the existing funds. So, **please** help us to look after it, and treat it kindly, respectfully and cleanly. Thank you all.

The Village Hall Committee

Rendcomb Surgery Newsletter – September 2026

Flu & COVID Vaccinations

Our flu clinics begin Thursday 8th October, with further clinics planned throughout the season. Eligible patients will receive an invitation by text, email or phone call. We purchase flu vaccines in advance specifically for our patients, so we would really appreciate your support by choosing to have your vaccination here at Rendcomb Surgery. Eligible patients may also be offered their COVID-19 vaccination alongside their flu vaccination where possible. Please look out for your invitation and book promptly when you receive it.

Repeat Prescriptions – Please Plan Ahead

Please allow 5 working days for repeat prescription requests. Weekends and Bank Holidays do not count as working days, so please order your medication before you run out.

We cannot always accommodate urgent requests, as prescriptions need to be safely reviewed and authorised. Thank you for helping our dispensary team keep the service running safely and efficiently.

Make the Most of the NHS App

The NHS App is a quick and convenient way to:

Order repeat prescriptions, view your medications, check available test results, view appointments, access your health record. If you need help getting started, please ask our reception team.

Choosing the Right NHS Service

Your local pharmacy can assess and treat a number of common conditions through Pharmacy First, including sore throats, earache, sinus infections, infected insect bites, shingles and some urinary tract infections. Using the right service helps us keep GP appointments available for patients who need them most.

Home Blood Pressure Monitors

Due to increasing numbers of monitors not being returned, we will NO longer routinely loan home blood pressure monitors. If you are asked to provide home readings, we will normally ask you to use or purchase your own validated upper-arm monitor. If purchasing one would cause genuine difficulty, please speak to the practice team.

Thank you for your continued kindness and support. Our team works hard to provide safe and effective care, and we really appreciate your understanding during busy periods.

The Rendcomb Surgery Team

Cowley Adventure (Deer Park-Guide's HQ) Thursday 17th September 7:00-9:00pm

Cowley Parish Council is organising a screening of **The People's Emergency Briefing** film on the threats to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate. This is primarily for Cowley residents, but it is open to all and we are extending this personal invitation to neighbouring Parish Councils.

The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing in Westminster, which brought together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature. It presents a clear, measured overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain - and what the evidence says about risks and responses. Following the 50-minute film, we will host a 45-minute structured discussion on what this means for our community, including implications for local preparedness, resilience and long-term planning.