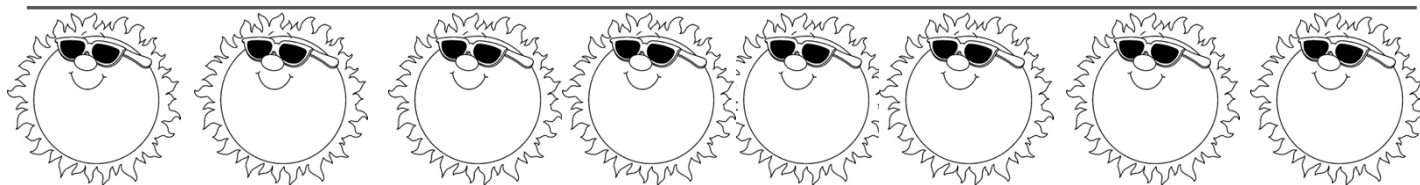


ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Hello dear friends and neighbours.

Just when you thought that all was quiet on the Western Front and the letterbox would remain silent and the floor beneath would be devoid of fluttering paper —the Newsletter arrives again! A small group felt that, after so many years, the community spirit should live on, if possible.

We will do our best to make it lively, amusing (?) and informative. And if anyone has any ideas or suggestions for articles, please feel free to let us know. In the most courteous manner, of course!
Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 August 2024

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 – 03330 119663
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.00 – 11.00am	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary		
Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse and garden waste	Friday 9 August Friday 23 August
	Food Caddy	Every Friday in August

Elkstone Parish Church Service times		
Sunday 4 August	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 11 August	11am	Benefice Service. Cowley Church
Sunday 18 August	6pm	Evensong
Sunday 25 August	11am	Rendcomb Church

Our Outgoing Editor

A big thank you to Carole for doing such a great job over the last two years editing the Newsletter. She has brought her own thoughtful style which has been much appreciated by all our readers. And to Jennie, Carole and Ronnie who continue to deliver the newsletter and to Jeremy, who takes the scribbling to the printers faithfully every month. So much goes on behind the scenes that can go unremarked. Thank you all.

Euro 2024 Final

Making good use of the Gigaclear connection to the Village Hall, around 14 villagers gathered to watch the Euro Final on the big screen last Sunday. One huge cheer and two small gasps later and it was clear that the result was not going England's way. However, we did manage to have a good time thanks to refreshments provided for us all to share. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Martyn

Business Briefing

Sarah Challis - Village Baker

Sarah is a very successful, determined young woman. Success has come through hard work. Determination has developed through unexpected obstacles.

As a fully trained Swim Instructor Sarah was enjoying her life. Then came Covid and Sarah could no longer do her job. Cut off from work and friends, baking became a way of showing those friends that she was still thinking of them even though they couldn't meet up. Friends loved her cakes and gradually Sarah considered whether a relaxing occupation, through isolating Covid, could perhaps become a business.

Which is what she did. But the step from 'hobby' to business was tough and Sarah had a sudden and difficult awakening. As she said 'I wanted to succeed and felt I should accept everything. So, when a customer wanted extra products, I said yes. If they said jump, my response was – how high? I worked such long hours. I could bake until 2.00 in the morning and then be up at 6.00 on a delivery run. I was selling at one price and finding that the cakes were sold for very much more. The Brownies were a generous size – too generous. Demand grew, which was good, but I was exhausted.'

Sarah started to pull back and refine her business approach. She developed a new self-discipline without compromising standards. She learnt more about ordering, more about invoices and handling clients and she set boundaries with products and her own time availability. Her on-line presence has grown but now she tries to keep some time for friends and family without the temptation of responding immediately to too many requests.

A difficulty remains in that the discrimination regarding her age and gender lingers. Instead of encouraging young, female entrepreneurs, she has experienced too many put-downs and not all of them subtle.

Unfortunately, this still happens far too often in a male dominated business world. One hoped that this attitude would have altered over the years, and in some instances, it has, but women are still having to fight hard to achieve, whilst holding on to their core principles and future goals.

This will be Sarah's fourth year of running her own baking business, so she is still there, still battling, but moving forwards. Setting up her own unit is just about to happen - her next progress stage - and one well deserved and earned. So, watch this space!!

In the meantime, Congratulations, Sarah, you are really doing so much. Thank you.

Latest news from Gloucestershire County Council



Having held the position for more than 14 years, Cllr Mark Hawthorne has announced that he will be standing down as Leader of the Council in September 2024. Mark will continue in the role until a new Leader is elected at the Full Council meeting in September and will carry on representing the people of Quedgeley until the elections next year.

Get active and get free rewards for the Library Challenge 2024

Families in Gloucestershire are being encouraged to sign up for this year's Library Challenge, to explore everything the library has to offer for free.

This year's theme is sport, so Gloucestershire Libraries are inviting you to get active, get reading and get free rewards.

Children can find out what their library means to them by completing a range of tasks, including reading any books they choose, connecting with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths) and getting into nature.

So far 2,827 children in the county have signed up to the challenge already since it launched on 14 July 2024.

It is free to take part in anytime during the summer with a library membership and is suitable for children aged 3+. If you are not a member it is free to sign up, just visit gloslibraries.uk.

Once you have signed up you will receive a free challenge journal, with nine exciting sports-themed tasks. Stamps can be collected for each completed task and special rewards are available at each level including stickers, certificates and much more.

Anyone who reaches gold level is entered into a special prize draw, with prizes on offer including tickets and vouchers for local activities and attractions.

More information on the challenge, which runs until Saturday 14 September, is available at: <https://gloslibraries.uk/welcome-library-challenge>

Arle Court Transport Hub Milestone

Gloucester County Council has concluded Phase 2 of the new Arle Court Transport Hub, with the construction of the multi-storey car park and bus terminal now complete.

Extra £2 million invested in Highways Projects

The 2023/24 budget had an underspend of £10million, which has meant an extra £2million funding can be allocated to highways.

The highways projects where the funds will be invested are:

- £500k to maintain 8 Find and Fix gangs throughout the year. These teams focus on finding smaller potholes and fixing them before they become a problem
- £500k for refreshing lining across the network
- £300k towards the Cheltenham Spa station cycle access ramp project
- £200k for further vegetation (grass and tree) cutting gangs to improve safety on the network
- £200k towards maintaining footways in our town centres
- £100k increase to the schools safety programme
- £100k to refresh zebra and other crossings across the network
- £100k to deliver the Merrywalks bus station resurfacing

Coberley Village Fete

Coberley's Annual Village Fete will be taking place on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August at Coberley School between 2pm to 5pm. Please come along, enjoy and support.



Ride and Stride

Saturday 14 September

The church will be open for walkers and cyclists all day, with refreshments available. The day raises funds for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. A trust which uses funds to repair and adapt and enhance the many historical churches throughout Gloucestershire. Our Parish Church gratefully received funds from the Trust, towards our Bell Restoration project in 2020.

** Note for you capable/budding cyclists **

We will be organising a Bike ride from Elkstone Church on Saturday 14th. Available to all. We'll be cycling about 16 miles taking in Elkstone, Syde, Edgeworth, Duntisbourne Abbots and Winstone Churches. Bring a picnic to enjoy en-route. More details in the September Newsletter.

Carole and Ronnie

From the Archives

In our ever revolving and evolving world, things change for good, and bad. It's heartening to see that nature has the power to inspire and connect us.

Jessie Hindson was an inspirational person, a very kind, genuine woman with a real affinity to nature. These are some of her notes, printed in the Newsletter some years ago.

'The holiday season revives memories of various kinds. Bird songs which are different, or particularly memorable, are often associated with certain places. Once when I was in Ireland, I heard snipe drumming. When further north, and especially in moorland areas, the sound of the curlew is haunting, and the lapwing makes such a lovely sound. Another call which was unforgettable was that of a partridge on a moonlit evening as dusk fell. Once when I was working in Cornwall, I went for a walk along the cliff top and a group of oyster catchers flew below me, along the edge of the sea, calling as they went. That must be fifty years ago, but it was beautiful and unforgettable. This last week I saw two gatekeeper butterflies on blackberry flowers - it's not often you see them. I hope there will be more! Happy memories and good listening!' Jessie