

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



I suppose the most obvious poem that springs to mind for September is Keats 'Ode to Autumn'. Unfortunately, Autumn started in August when the 'maturing sun' was blazing and burning everything to a crisp and the 'later flowers for the bees' were rapidly browning and under extreme stress. Blackberries have been picked early and the constant thud of falling cider apples has made a trip to the garage a hazardous journey. Lying concussed on the gravel may give the impression that I've been drinking them rather than unsuccessfully avoiding them.

Meanwhile although the birds are silent, other species become more obvious. Garden orb-web spiders weave their complex webs and crane flies lay their eggs in grassland. Male house spiders decide to shelter indoors and look for a mate. There is no reassurance to know that there are eight species in the British Isles, difficult to identify unless you are prepared to give a microscopic inspection. I can assure you that I have no intention of indulging in that pastime. Prevention of entry takes up all of my time!!

Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstonevillage.com

Deadline for the next newsletter – 20th September 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		
Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse, food caddy and garden waste	Friday 5 September Friday 19 September
	Food Caddy only	Friday 12 September Friday 26 September

Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone		
September Services		
Sunday 7 th	11am	Elkstone. Morning Worship with Baptism
Sunday 14 th	11am	Benefice Service at Stratton
Sunday 21 st	11am	Elstone. Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	9.30am for 10am	Harvest Festival, Rendcomb Church
		Pastries and drinks followed by a short family Service at 10.00am

Geoff Gait Carr

It is with great sadness that we announce that Geoff Gait-Carr died at home on the 31st July 2025 after a very short illness. He was very active in Elkstone Church as the Churchwarden for eight years and the organist for considerably longer.

Anne and Geoff loved coming to Elkstone Church, they lived in Cheltenham and then moved to Hucclecote about six years ago. They attended many of our village events, and fully supported our Open Gardens Day.

He was a brilliant musician and enjoyed nothing more than playing the organ for us at weddings, funerals, regular services and of course those special occasions like Christmas and Easter, with joy and accuracy.

Geoff had an ability to solve problems clearly and effectively, while most of us would be scratching our heads; enjoyed working with wood and sharing those skills and products with so many people. He wrote poems and read voraciously.

But, clearly, it was his family who inspired him. We learnt this during his funeral in Elkstone Church on Tuesday 19th August 2025. And our thoughts and prayers are extended to Anne and his family.

Bell Ringing – Advance Notice

There will be a team of Bell Ringers from Cheltenham ringing on **Friday 12th September from 7.30 to 9pm**

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Saturday 13th September 2025

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 to raise funds which help to provide grants used to protect the historic churches in the whole of Gloucestershire.

This year, our Village Parish Church will be open – as always – to any visiting cyclists and walkers. There are refreshments provided for them.

So please direct anyone to the church and to the EcoLoo if you see any lost ramblers on this Saturday. 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 the Bell Restoration project in 2020.

Should you like to donate to the Church and Trust, please contact Carole.

Harvest Service and Harvest Supper

Sunday 5th October 2025

The celebration of the harvest will be in Elkstone Church on Sunday 5th October at 11am.

This year will be a little different as the Village Hall won't be available to use as there are some impressive refurbishing plans in place.

This means that there won't be a Harvest Supper as usual.

On the 5th October there will be savoury treats, cakes, refreshments and drinks in the Church after the Service, please put the date in your diary and join us for some much loved hymns, witness the beautiful flowers and harvest decorations, and enjoy celebrating the rural life and our Village and being together.

This year we have chosen the '*Our Hospice at Home team at Sue Ryder, Leckhampton Court Hospice*' as our charity. The collection from the Harvest Service and any Donations will be sent to them.

All villagers and guests are welcome.

Elkstone Parish Church

Please Keep This Article for Future Waste Collection Issues!!

Missed Garden Waste Collections

Ubico have advised this 'was due to a miscommunication between crews. Due to annual leave over the summer holidays one of the crews were not the normal crew and thought that the area had already been collected by the other crew'.

My comment...This does not explain why collections were missed twice in a row, or why reported issues for the first missed collection were ignored by Ubico. What exactly are the technical staff doing??

CDC have asked that to create a clear picture of missed collections please report these online through the website, or by calling **Customer Services on 01285 623000**.

However, Cllr Julia Judd emailed with the following:

"I have been on a mission to sort these missed collections for over a year now! But I am only effective if people keep me informed about missed collection. It is so wrong that people can't report missed collections just because Ubico know that they are going to miss them! And then they claim on their end of year data that they have picked up 99% - which, in my book, is not the truth.

My beef is that if Ubico know that they will miss out on their rounds because a lorry has broken down or the operatives are ill, or on holiday etc. then TELL ME and tell me when they will be collected! Then I can pass that on, and you can put it on the village WhatsApp group so that people know. It is being denied the right to report, together with being uninformed and kept in the dark, which makes us all feel as though we don't matter. As we pay the bills, I think we do! We really do."

julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk

Please everyone, do take on board what Cllr Judd is asking. We cannot expect this problem to be sorted if we don't report immediately a missed collection and if we ALL take the trouble to report.

Please save this article for future reference!!

Road News

From the 8th September for approximately 5 days the A417 Slip Road from Elkstone to Cirencester will be closed from 8.00 am to 16.30pm. This closure will be lifted daily. This is to enable de-silting work.

Green Dragon to High Cross Farm. Bubbs Hill potential closure from 22nd September to 3rd October. If this goes ahead pedestrian access to premises on or next to the road or emergency access will not be maintained due to the works taking place in a narrow lane.

Cirencester Museum

From Home Guard to Flying Nightingales. A Free Exhibition from 11th September to 12th October. Details online and it does look very interesting.

She's Electric, the inspiring national e-bike campaign from Loud Mobility, which we featured in the August Newsletter, is delighted to announce two more events in Gloucestershire. Designed to empower and enable more women to use e-bikes and e-cargo bikes for everyday journeys, the campaign will be coming to Gloucester Quays on Saturday, 13 September and Montpelier Gardens, Cheltenham on Saturday, 27 September. Both events are free.

I'm starting to book tickets for Christmas events, but I've seen lots of stories in the news about people being left out of pocket if these are cancelled at the last minute, which is making me nervous. How can I get a refund if this happens to me?

Keep an eye on the organiser's website and social media profiles for all the latest updates. You won't be entitled to a refund if you change your mind about going or realise you can't go anymore - but if an event is cancelled, your refund rights will depend on how you bought the ticket.

If you bought your ticket from an official seller and the organiser cancels, moves, or reschedules the event, you should get a refund. The official seller is the best point of contact to ask about how to get your money back.

If you're having no luck getting a refund, check to see if the seller is a member of the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR) at www.star.org.uk/all-members. If they are, you can use STAR's complaints procedure. STAR members should receive a refund at face value if the event is cancelled and the organiser has agreed to refunds. You'll probably only get the face value of the ticket back - the amount printed on it. Some sellers might refund postage if, for example, the event is cancelled before the tickets are sent. If you had to pay any booking or card fees, you might not get those back.

If the official seller isn't a member of STAR, you can check on the Citizens Advice website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) how you can solve an ongoing consumer problem with a business seller. You may also be able to get your money back another way, such as through your credit card company. If you bought your ticket from a ticket-reselling website, refunds will depend on the site's terms and conditions.

If you bought from a private seller and the event is cancelled or rescheduled then it is unlikely you will be able to recover your money. We still recommend you contact the seller.

Be aware of scams. Unfortunately, we've found that in these situations, scammers can prey on those who are affected. If your event is cancelled and people or companies get in touch to offer their services to try to recover money on your behalf, be alert and make sure that you're looking out for the signs of a potential scam.

You can find these signs on the Citizens Advice website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam.

You can also call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 for help.

Nature Notes



Glancing out of the window this week, I caught sight of a bird that looked very strange! It looked like a blackbird, but the white head?!

It turns out to be a Leucistic Blackbird. The term comes from the Greek word leucos meaning white. In leucistic birds, affected plumage appears white as individual feathers lack melanin because the cells responsible for melanin production are absent. Leucism is an inherited trait, but the distribution of white feathers usually varies between adults and their offspring. Melanin strengthens feathers so leucistic feathers wear more readily.