



Village Newsletter

August 2020

Church News



The first church service in Elkstones since March was held at St John's held last Sunday. Those who attended said they felt very safe. Thanks to Father John for returning collective worship to our village.

The next service will be on **Sunday 6th September at 11am**

HARVEST FESTIVAL WITH A DIFFERENCE

Sunday 20th September at Stoneyfold Farm, Lower Elkstones

Harvest lunch at 1pm followed by short service at 3pm. **Please phone Liz and Reg Meakin in advance on 304295 to book your lunch at £8 per person.** After the service there will be a small auction of boxes of fruit and veg. There will also be a small raffle. Donations of fruit and veg will be gratefully received at **Myrtles at Townhead Farm, Lower Elkstones (304225)** by Friday 18th September.

Advance Notice

Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 8th November 10.45 at the War Memorial in Warslow

From Wednesday 5th August and every Wednesday the church will be open from 2-4pm for private worship.

Many thanks to the families and friends of **Kath Wint, Roland Pitcher senior and Muriel (Moo) Ashcroft** for their kind donations in memory of their loved ones.

Thanks to **Roger Miller** for mowing the churchyard and thanks also to his kind sponsor.

Thanks also to those who have donated to the church during this challenging time. If this has jogged your memory and you would like to make a donation towards the upkeep of our precious church please send a cheque payable to **St John's Church Elkstones PCC**, to our churchwarden **Reg Meakin, Stoneyfold Farm, Elkstones, SK17 0LU**.

Nature Watch



A red kite was spotted over School Meadow on Monday 3rd August so keep your eye open for further sightings.

The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Barn Owl Action Group attended several local properties in July to ring chicks. Here is an Elkstones girl with her new ankle bling. If you are interested in attracting owls to your property the Barn Owl Action Group charges £70 to supply and fit a box. Contact John Chester on 01538 266046 or johnandkath250@btinternet.com.

Thanks to Jane for the photos



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Gardens are looking lovely, veg patches thriving, hedgerow fruit arriving early and beautiful harebells decorating the roadside.

Much to be thankful for in spite of gloomy news elsewhere.

Unfortunately discarded disposable gloves and masks are beginning to appear on the lanes. Let's hope that carelessness doesn't lead to children picking up contaminated items or animals choking on humans' PPE.

Thanks to Margaret for the photos



New arrivals at Brindley Croft. Miniature donkeys about 21 inches high at birth! Bramwell on the left (named after Bramwell from Jane Hissey's Old Bear books) was born at the beginning of May and Reuban arrived at the end of July. Gill says "they are very

comical, like toddlers. They zoom round and round the field and then flop! They make us laugh!"

Thanks for this Gill



Website

Have you had chance to look at www.Elkstones.org yet?

The website contains all sorts of information about Elkstones' history, latest happenings, Church news and village activities. Although it has been developed primarily to house the village archive - 6,000+ images including photographs, past and present, forty years of newsletters, historical documents, newspaper articles and scrapbook cuttings to name but a few - we do want to see it used and updated and not become a museum in itself!

In these difficult times for local businesses, we are offering free advertising until the end of 2020. We would also like to see the website used for items of news, For Sale or Wanted, offers of help and any other ideas you may come up with so please get in touch at the email address below or by pushing a note through Chapel House letter box.

Thanks to the people who have given us feedback. It would be lovely to hear from more of you.

Hopefully, when restrictions are safely eased, we will be able to have an official launch, so watch this space.

Contact us on Elkstonians@gmail.com

Diane Salt (néé Carter) has kindly sent some photographs of the Carter family and updated us with information.

These and several others will soon appear in the archives. The editing team is always pleased to hear from anyone who has information about Elkstones - old photographs, documents or memorabilia - which can be sent to the email address above or collected for scanning and returned to you quite quickly.



THE WAY WE WERE

The Final Days of Elkstone Primary School

ON OCTOBER 7 1880, the following comment was written in the log book: "Examined the school, found the children had no idea of writing or arithmetic, the children are in a very backward condition."

Elkstone school had opened just three days previously and its doors remained open until financial and educational pressures sealed its fate in the early 1970s.

It would be a mistake to con-

sider village school life as one long idyll for teachers or pupils.

The severe winters and absenteeism in summer were just two of the many problems observed by the teachers, as well as concerns over the health of pupils.

School sometimes didn't open for other reasons: April 26, 1889: 'Unable to open school on Thursday morning owing to the school chimney smoking. As the wind was East the schoolroom at nine o'clock was one dense mass of smoke. It was impossible to discern any

object in the room.'

It is unlikely that we will ever again see the one-teacher school except in remote areas. Changes in education have occurred with almost bewildering rapidity in recent times, and villagers who have seen their schools close may or may not look favourably on these developments.

Whatever points of view are held this photograph taken by John Ellis will provide a reminder of yet another facet of life in the Staffordshire Moorlands not so very long ago.



Cliff Carter seen here at The Greyhound at Diane's 18th Birthday in 1981



Tommy Cooper, Cliff Carter and Diane outside Moorside Farm



Diane Carter outside Elkstones' School with Coopers' Barn and Manor Farm in the background

Class of 1971 at Cloughside School - the last before it closed. Left side of desks: Brenda Gilman, Hazel Ward, Keith Carter, Diane Carter and Stephen Critchlow. On right from the back: Sandra Poyser, Ann Cooper, Ian Archer and Dawn Poyser

Editor's Closing Thoughts

As soon as lockdown restrictions were lifted I walked straight into a bar. Should have ducked

Told my partner that during these difficult times, he should embrace his mistakes. He gave me a huge hug

Chair *Judy Holt* Secretary *Katy Parkinson* Treasurer *Margaret Grant* Newsletter Editor *Jill Gregory*
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