



**Margaret's Meanderings...**

We're now into the post-Christmas time when things have gone quiet & there's little news except snow news... In January most Elkstones-dwellers endured nearly a week of being snowed in, or of struggling to work in very bad road conditions. Some poor souls were snowed in for well over a week, seemingly abandoned by the Highways Department, who told them they 'weren't a priority'. It's a good job they were well stocked up with food [and had very kind neighbours—Jane]. On the plus side, the valley looked beautiful in the snow, especially as seen in this picture, with Butterton & Grindon church spires emerging out of the inverted mist that filled the bottom...

...although maybe not so great if you were living in the mist itself as in the picture below, where the trees in Lower Elkstone were white with deep frost.



I, for one, am keeping my fingers crossed that conditions in February won't be so bad, & definitely not as bad as the archive photos overleaf taken in the month of February 46 years ago.

**Diary Dates**

**St John's Church**

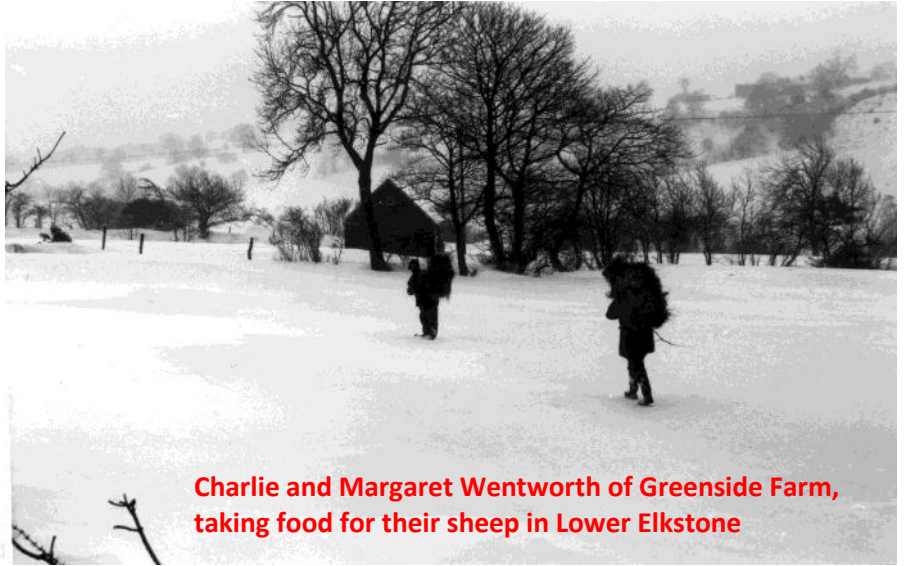
**Sun 16th February  
Service, 3.00pm**

**Cleaning & Flowers  
February, Sally Faulkner**

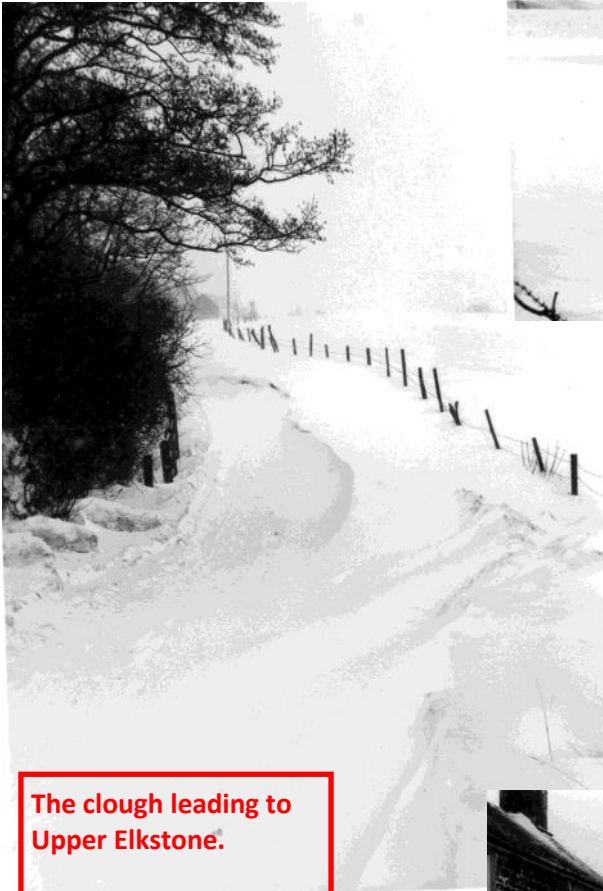
**Local supplies of Calor Gas, logs/fuel for your fire, wild bird food & eggs**

Currently, Jason Kidd of Brownsplit Farm, Longnor, is open on Saturdays only, but from the end of March the arrangements for collecting supplies from Brownsplit will change. Jason will still be supplying Calor Gas from the farm, and also the big bags of sunflower seeds weighing more than 10kg, & you can collect your goods by ringing him & arranging a mutually convenient time on **01298 83241 or 07508 461039**. You can still buy your usual smaller items such as fuel for your fire, logs, sticks, eggs & the smaller bags of wild bird food (peanuts, suet pellets etc) at Longnor shop.

Pictures from the archives of a very snowy day in Elkstones, taken on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1979 when Chris Slack ventured out from Treetops with his camera

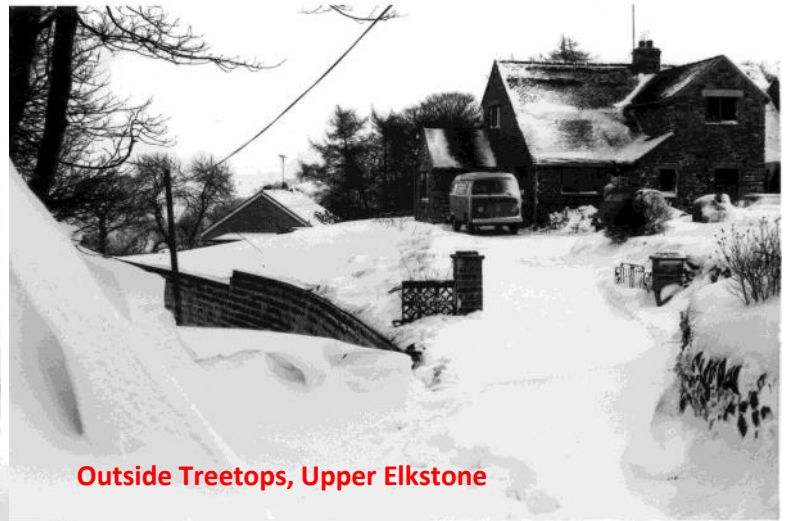


Charlie and Margaret Wentworth of Greenside Farm, taking food for their sheep in Lower Elkstone



The clough leading to Upper Elkstone.

It was 6 days before Ann Prince, the milk lady from Ecton, got through with fresh milk & bread



Outside Treetops, Upper Elkstone



Drifts in front of Grove House

Snow drifts in the centre of the village



Finally, our good wishes to Eileen Lovatt, who has been in hospital for nearly 2 months. We hope you'll soon be feeling better Eileen, and be home & well on the way to being fully mobile again by the time you receive this newsletter. Get well soon!

