



April 2025 Elkstonians' Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

Just before the end of March, I was delighted to see a grey wagtail bobbing about on the stones in the stream below the bridge at the bottom of the clough, soon to be joined by a second one, so hopefully they will be nesting nearby & raising some chicks. I always welcome the end of March when I hear the first bubbling call of the curlews which come inland from the coastal mudflats to nest & breed up in our hills & moorlands. It's a glorious & haunting sound which uplifts my heart every year, as it means that winter is over; and a sight that has the same effect is that of the spring flowers coming into bloom, the daffodils lining the roads in Lower Elkstone, & a big spread of primroses flowering on the clough-side, just over the fence coming up into Upper Elkstone, though you have to be walking, not driving, in order to see them...



... and speaking of driving, it was fun to watch the Hero-Era rally come through the village on the 22nd March. The classic cars made quite a colourful (and noisy!) picture as they roared up the road & round the bends.

Diary Dates—St John's Church

Saturday 19th April (Easter Eve) Holy Communion 6.30pm

Our April Service date coincides with Easter this year. Please note that there will be no service in Elkstones on Easter Sunday, as our Easter celebration will be taking place on Easter Eve Saturday, to which all are welcome.

If you would like to attend an Easter service on Easter Sunday, there are other services in the locality as follows:

Easter Day Daybreak Holy Communion service at Newtown 5.45am (SK17 ONE)

Holy Communion at Sheen Church at 9.30am (SK17 OES)

Holy Communion at Longnor Church (SK17 ONU) and Warslow Church (SK17 OJL) at 11.00am

Easter Service at Hollinsclough Methodist Church 2.30pm (SK17 ORH)

Cleaning and Flowers for April & May – Elizabeth Buxton (NB there are no flowers during Lent)

Flower Festival

Flower Festival time is on the horizon again & there will be a planning meeting at Myrtle Alcock's house at Townhead Farm, Elkstones, at 6.30pm on Thursday 24th April. Please come along & help with the planning – there's sure to be a welcome cuppa & a piece of cake to help things along!



Elkstonian's News



A small group of Elkstonians got together on 19th March to discuss having a village picnic to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. However, many folk seem to be already committed on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, so we agreed that we will all celebrate VE Day with our own families.

We talked about other possible activities & events for the next 6 months & the following ideas were presented:

1. A dog friendly walking group... Walking dogs around so much livestock can be complicated for all concerned: farmers, owners & dogs! So we thought that it might be fun to find walks that we could do together in different local places once a month. It would be a great way to catch up with each other, see new places & exercise and socialise our dogs, though you don't have to have a dog in order to join in. There was also a suggestion of maybe dining at a local pub before the start, or at the end, of each walk, so that other people who are a little less mobile can come & enjoy the company, even if they are not able to take part in the walk.



If anyone has any walks they would like to share, please let Katy know—kparkinson@content2.co.uk.



2. A Tasting club... It's always fun to try new foods or drinks whilst socialising. We are looking for people to host sessions & introduce the group to something they really enjoy eating or drinking. It could be local beers or cheeses; wines or cocktails; different types of apples; breads; sausages; ice-creams..... or anything else! Katy is proposing to host the first tasting group in July & more information will follow. If you are interested please let us know.



3. Coffee mornings... We are hoping to hold a coffee morning in May, more to follow next month.

Village Green Hedge

Now that the warmer Spring weather has arrived, it's given us the opportunity to purchase 25 yards of hedgerow plants (175 plants in total) to fill the gap along the back of the Village Green. Thanks are due to the team which run The Community Magazine, which covers all the villages in our local area. Since they now only provide the magazine digitally, they no longer have paper & printing expenses, so had surplus funds, which they generously distributed among any of the villages who applied with a project which needed funding & this paid for our new (privet) hedging. The hedge plants are currently about 18 inches high but are fast growing, so while difficult to see in the photo, they will quickly match the present hedge in height. Thanks to Roger Miller for his hard work preparing the ground & planting the hedge, which now joins up the present hedge with the site of the former village water tap. While digging, Roger uncovered the trough which housed the tap before mains water came to the village in 1963. Maybe we should now brighten up the corner by using the trough to house some colourful plants?



Archive photo shows Frank Deaville using the tap in the early 1960s.

You can see our village archives at www.elkstones.org