



Elkstones Village Newsletter

May 2020



The lane through Upper Elkstone looking very quiet during lockdown

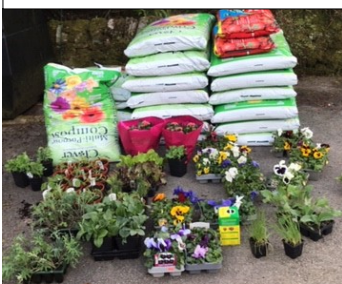
We thought this would be a slimmed-down newsletter reflecting the absence of church and social activities due to the Corona Virus. As you'll see, there's still plenty happening behind the scenes. Happily we have not yet heard of any cases in the village but obviously we are all remaining careful when shopping, receiving deliveries and contacting each other. It's heartening that so many people have listened to the messages about staying safe. There have been the added benefits for Elkstones of the extra peace and quiet from less traffic and fewer planes overhead, the time to appreciate the beautiful natural world around us and the kindness of neighbours in helping each other out during lockdown. In addition we've experienced such glorious April sunshine that many of us have taken the opportunity to be busy in our gardens. Many others, parents, farmers and local businesses must carry on regardless so thank you to all of you and we hope that the past month hasn't been too stressful.

DELIVERIES DURING LOCKDOWN

Many of you will have experienced difficulties with shopping for food and essential items over the last few weeks. Although it has been difficult to get supermarket delivery slots, we've been blessed with efficient deliveries from local businesses including Buxton Dairy, Hartington Village Stores, Hartington Cheese Shop, Moorlandsvegbox, Redferns farm shop, Nev and Kate Barker's lamb, Uttoxeter Beer Company and many more. Items from the Stanedge Grange Butchers, Leek pet shop, bread shop and health food shop have been collected and distributed around the village and there are regular collections from Hartington Surgery. We even managed to get a delivery from Bridge End Garden Centre in Leek. Many of us are trying our hand at "Growing our Own". We've heard that Hartington Creamery will also deliver directly. There is no need for anyone to go out to shops if they feel uncomfortable doing so.

If you need any essential items, or would like to know more, there are several ways of doing this:

Bridge End Garden Centre
delivery for the village at
Hill House



- visit the Facebook page Elkstones & Community Group. If you don't know how to go about this, please contact Jane Prince on 07816 865410
 - ask to be included in the "shopping channel" on WhatsApp by contacting Jill Gregory on 07800 808805
 - put a note through the door of Chapel House with your order, giving as much notice as you can.
- We really appreciate those businesses that are helping us out at this time, and know that they, in return, appreciate our custom to keep them going when so many small businesses are struggling. If you know of a local business deserving a mention, please tell us.



Hartington Village Stores delivery waiting to be collected from Chapel House



Hartington Cheese Shop dropping off at Cave Farm

It's good to see some things haven't changed....

The Bluebell Wood



Des and Myrtle's beautiful blossom trees

....and of course lambing time, keeping our farmers busy



Neighbourly News



Kath (right) with Gwynne Floyd
on the Elkstonians Manifold
ramble in 1993

Kath Wint

Sadly there were very few mourners allowed at Kath's funeral just after lockdown began. Despite this, the service held at the graveside was as dignified and moving as any held in church. The setting, with the daffodils at their best, clear blue skies and the sun shining on the hills, was fitting for one who had so loved the beauty of Elkstones. RIP Kath.

Roland Pitcher Senior

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Roland, father of Roland Pitcher of Bagshaw

Cottage, and brother-in-law to Des Alcock. Over the years, Roland, who lived in Werrington, has been a familiar face at village events but had been in poor health for several months. He was laid to rest alongside his wife, Margaret (nee Alcock), in Elkstones' churchyard in the middle of April. The graveside service was attended by close family in lovely spring sunshine. Our thoughts go out to Roland, Clare and family and to Roland's daughter Sharon and her family.



Roland (left) with Des Alcock and
Roland junior at the Elkstonians Garden
Party in 1992

WEBSITE AND DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The long-anticipated website is very near completion. On it you will find the most recent village news and other features which we hope will be of interest to you. It won't replace the newsletter but hopefully will be a more up-to-date and detailed source of information. We had hoped for a public launch to guide you through it but we're unable to hold such an event in the foreseeable future. However, we will give a detailed explanation in the next newsletter for those of you who are unable to access it at home and hope that in time we will be able to demonstrate its use either in a village event or simply by bringing the technology directly to your home. Keep a look out on the Facebook Page. We will let you know when it goes live.

A very important aspect of the website is its link to the village archive which can also be accessed directly at archives.elkstones.org. This project is well underway but is an extremely time-consuming task. Currently we have 1300 images to view and still over 2500 to process. Hopefully, when you see the sort of items we're collecting, you'll be reminded of photographs and papers that you have tucked away somewhere and would be happy to share. If so, please contact Jill or Judy.

NATURE WATCH from Dominic

Other than one of the driest Aprils on record locally, I don't have much to report wildlife wise. However, after several years absence a Grasshopper Warbler has returned to the field between Mount Pleasant and Well Lane and can be heard in the evenings - it does sound like a grasshopper or cicada and nothing like a bird. They're very hard to see though as they creep around like mice in the long grass, rarely rising to the surface except to sing. Rare in the Peak District, this species is testament to leaving some land unmanaged as they will only breed in overgrown areas of nettles, brambles and long rush grasses.



Here is a link to the Grasshopper Warbler's song <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/228180921>

EDITOR'S CLOSING THOUGHTS

If you need 144 toilet rolls for 14 days' quarantine, you should have been seeing a doctor long before Covid 19

I bought my wife a world map and told her, "Throw this dart and wherever it lands I'll take you for a holiday when the pandemic is over". Turns out we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.

A woman walks into a supermarket and comments on the empty shelves, apart from the gin and whisky on the top shelf. "Ah, I see you're keeping your spirits up"