



Village Newsletter

June/ July 2020

We're combining two months this time as, locally, there's very little to report. That's not all bad, of course. It means that as far as we know, all Elkstonians are well and safe and we can celebrate having come this far through the current health crisis relatively unscathed. Let's hope it stays that way and people aren't in too much of a hurry to take chances then perhaps we can all meet up again for a social occasion in the not-too-distant future.

Church News



You will have heard that as part of lockdown easing, churches may now be open for private prayer. Unfortunately Elkstones' Church is unable to implement all the recommendations to enable it to open safely and therefore will remain closed for the time-being.

Two of the churches in the Benefice will be open: **St Bartholomew's at Longnor** (Monday 10am - 2noon, and Thursday 2pm - 4pm), and **St Luke's at Sheen** (Tuesday 10am - 12noon, and Friday 2pm - 4pm) so if you would like somewhere to go for private prayer please visit. All of the churches in the benefice are keeping an eye on developments, and hope to open as the lockdown continues to ease - please check the benefice website thelongnorbenefice.org for updates (especially after the first weekend in July, when we expect to know more).

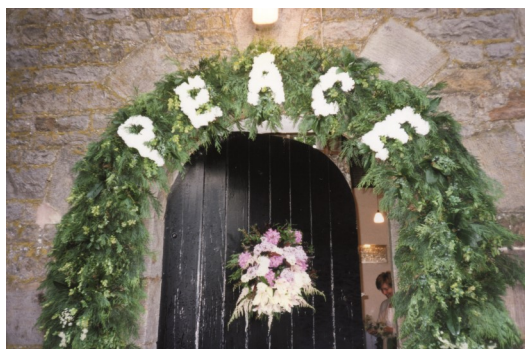
It is particularly sad that we're not able to use our lovely church as last weekend would have been Wakes and the traditional Flower Festival, both of which are major fundraisers for the upkeep of the church. If you would like to make a donation, perhaps in the memory of a loved one, please send a cheque payable to St John's Church Elkstones PCC, to our churchwarden Reg Meakin, Stoneyfold Farm, Elkstones, SK17 0LU. You might like to consider donating the money you would otherwise have spent at the Wakes and Flower Festival.

Services over ZOOM

Services on Sundays and Thursday take place online via ZOOM at 10am.

Please email Father John Longnorvicarage@gmail.com to request the meeting ID and password.

Thank you to the mystery strimmers who have stepped into the breach and mowed the churchyard. It's looking particularly lovely with the graves neat and tidy and the unused areas left wild.



The First Elkstones' Flower Festival 1996....



....and last year's



We will miss Reg's tombola!

Chair *Judy Holt*
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Secretary *Katy Parkinson*
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Treasurer *Margaret Grant*
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Neighbourly News

There is little to report from the village apart from the kindness of neighbours who have shopped for each other and generally kept an eye open. It's a delight to feel so safe and cared-for in a community.

We were, however, sad to hear that Muriel Ashcroft passed away last month at a care home in Cheadle. She was born and brought up at Heath House, Lower Elkstone working as a milk recorder and for Norman Smith, funeral director. She married Roy Ashcroft and they lived near the church in Warslow before moving to Denstone in later years after Muriel's stroke. She was often to be seen at Elkstones' church occasions and members of her family still have a close link. Always lovely to chat to with a razor-sharp memory and a kind nature, she will be sadly missed by family and friends to whom we send our best wishes.

We have also heard of the sudden death of Charlie Barker from Warslow, known and respected by a number of Elkstonians for his work on the parish council. No more details are available at time of going to press. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Nature Watch



Barn owls are now fledging in the village and can be seen in purpose built owl boxes on at least two properties. We hope they thrive.

A pair of cheeky robins found a screw box on a shelf in an extension that was being built. Four fledged and they weren't bothered by the building work which continued!



It's also lovely to see (and hear) the curlews soaring high in the hills.

Elkstones.org

Website

We are very excited to announce that at last the massive project of a village website with archive link is now LIVE! The website contains information about forthcoming village events, the church, history, the 2 Elkstones Books, newsletters, People and Properties and useful links to services and local businesses.

There is a simple link to the archive which will offer the opportunity to look at a slide show of photographs, documents, newspaper articles etc and also opportunity to search for matters of historic interest to people, events, buildings etc. By historic we mean anything that has happened in the past, even if it was just yesterday, since that, too, is history!

Hopefully you will enjoy browsing and once we are able to socialise again, we'll have a proper launch and demonstration.

Editor's Closing Thoughts

People say that nothing is impossible. But I do nothing everyday. When your dreams turn to dust, it's time to vacuum.

In a worrying reversal of my teenage years, I'm now telling off my parents for going out!

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