



Elkstonians Village Newsletter

April 2019



Litter collected by Margaret along Elkstones Lane

Rob's Ramble

As Spring spreads around us and I see the beautiful ranks of daffodils which people have taken the trouble to plant along our verges, I also see the scatter of discarded beer cans and fish and chip wrappers which somebody has thrown out of their car window.... It is even possible that last Summer's disastrous fire near the Mermaid was caused by a smouldering cigarette end thrown from a vehicle. What sort of people are these and why do they visit our gorgeous countryside if that is all they think about it? Are they townies who have nipped out to Longnor to buy F&C? Or are they our own youngsters who have popped into Leek for a six pack of lager?

Although the tip (Recycling Plant – I beg it's pardon!) is open every day except public holidays it is 6 miles away and the staff are unfriendly and unhelpful, and will charge you for anything which they think is "commercial waste". So in many ways it is no wonder that people prefer to tip their rubbish out on the Moors. I wish I knew what the answer is....

Diary Dates

- Church Services – **Sunday, 7th April**, Evensong at 3.30 pm Lay Led
- **Easter Saturday, 20th April** - "Easter Eve" Service at 6.30 pm
- **Sunday, 5th May**, Evensong at 3.30 pm Lay Led

S.E.W.I.N.G. - next Meeting late April on "Decluttering" – details to follow....

Flower Festival – Friday, **14th June**, to Sunday, **16th June**

Elkstones Wakes – Sunday evening, **16th June**

Hunger Lunch

over 70 people joined us to raise £279 for the Church. Thank you very much to Des and Myrtle for their hospitality, and to all the people who helped, washed up, and donated soup, rolls, and cheese.

S.E.W.I.N.G.

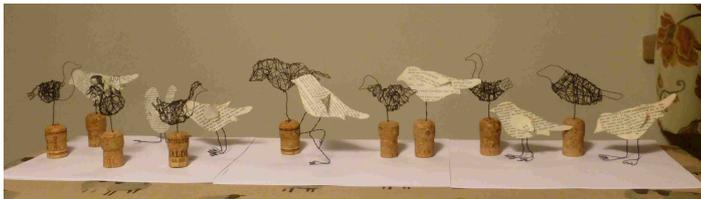
from Margaret - On a very snowy night on the 31st of January, SEWING gave over their monthly slot to the Elkstonians, so that we could have an 'old style' Elkstonians' meeting at Bank House, by welcoming Hazel Collett from Uganda, to talk about her work there.

Since retiring from her previous post as Head Teacher at the Manifold School in Warslow, Hazel



has worked in Uganda, first for Voluntary Services Overseas, and then at the request of the people of the Ugandan village where she lives, as an advisor, mentor, trainer and fund raiser for villagers who wanted to set up their own Primary School. The Primary School was a great success, but eventually when the first group of children reached Secondary age, a new project to build a Secondary School had to be set up. The same children eventually needed a College of Further Education which is now several years into training youngsters for careers in both academic and vocational skills based work.

The evening was a lovely get together and our collection raised £60 for Hand in Hand, the fund raising charity which supports Hazel's projects.



Wirecraft at Royledge in January (thank you Suzanne). (Very realistic looking biscuits !!)



and Sheep Lambing in March with thanks to Liz M.



Unfortunately the sheep did not co-operate but the lambs were very happy to be bottle fed.

Rare Visitor

This Reed Bunting (photo in Margaret's garden) has been visiting around the Village – have you noticed it ? Similar to a sparrow but less of



them. Resident on farmland all the year round

Thoughts for This Month

Singing in the shower is all fun and games until you get shampoo in your mouth. Then it becomes a soap opera
Doing nothing is hard, you never know when you're done

Contact Us

If you have any stories (rumours and gossip welcome !) or pictures you would like to share, please email Rob@titanic.co.uk