



Village Newsletter

December 2019

Diary Dates

St John the Baptist, Elkstones, Church services

Sunday 1st December 11.00 am Holy Communion

Monday 23rd December 7pm Carol Service

Sunday 15th December - 12.00 for 12.30pm Christmas Lunch at Biggin Hall.

Friday 20th December 6.45pm meet at Chapel House for carol singing round the village

1st January 10.30-12.30 Coffee and mince pies at Mount Pleasant. By kind invitation of Liz and Rob

Advance Notice

St John the Baptist, Elkstones, Church services

Sunday 5th January 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th January 3.30pm Lay Led Service

Sunday 2nd February 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th February 3.30pm Lay Led Service

Wednesday 5th February 10.30am Coffee Morning New York Farm by kind invitation of Katy

Steak Night to be arranged. Contact Katy if you are interested

Neighbourly News

We're sorry to hear of the death on Monday of Sylvia Weston from Pleasant View. Sylvia has not enjoyed good health for several years and has spent a prolonged period in hospital and nursing homes. Prior to moving into her house in Elkstones, she had lived in Longnor but often came to village events. We send our sympathy and best wishes to the family.

Another familiar face to many, who has also recently died, is Edith Fearn, sister to Mary Deaville. We send our sympathies to Victor, her husband, and to Mary and all the family.

Stuart Wood is unwell and we wish him a speedy recovery.

On a happier note, congratulations to another Elkstonian, Jean Holt, who shocked us this week with the revelation that she was 90! Still line-dancing, gardening and generally busy, her energy is an inspiration to us all. We hope you had a wonderful birthday Jean.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Remembrance service at
St John's
lest we forget....

A small number of
Elkstones residents joined
Father David for the



SEWING



The last meeting of
the year was held
on Thursday.

Members enjoyed
painting salt dough
models, shopping
(thanks to Suzanne

of Royaledge and Lucy of Bewitched candles) and
a good feast! There will be no meeting in
December but next year's programme will be
available soon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Apologies from the editor who stated last month that the newsletter was free to those who receive it by email. In fact, as our trusty treasurer pointed out, the £5 is intended to cover costs such as purchase of church Christmas tree, funeral donations, servicing of strimmer and various other incidental expenses connected with running a village society. If you haven't already paid up (and that's most of us) please see Margaret Grant with £5 for anyone who receives the newsletter by hand or email, and £11.60 for those who have it posted.

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

Nature Watch

Despite the rain and the unseasonal south-westerlies you may have noticed the number of Scandinavian migrant birds to the Elkstones Valley. There are both Redwings and Fieldfares in their hundreds, often seen together feeding on the cut meadows. Also listen out for the Pink Footed Geese migrating in the night as they constantly call to each other. It's peak time for them coming down from the Arctic en-route to the fenlands of Norfolk and Holland. A couple of weeks ago there was also a more unusual bird in the big field to the west of Mount Pleasant – a Ring Ouzel! They are very rare breeders in Staffordshire and are normally only found on the gritstone edges around Ladybower and the Northern Peak District. Here he is, looking a bit forlorn in the rain.



Local businesses

A number of our neighbours have recently started up small businesses which may be of interest to anyone who hasn't yet finished their Christmas shopping - which I imagine is most of us!

Check out the website of **Suzanne Horwell** of Royleedge Farm who spins her own wool from their Jacob sheep then weaves into scarves and other amazing creations and also makes intricate wirecraft sculptures. Some of us had the chance to find out how it's done at a SEWING session earlier in the year, and trust us, it's not easy. Suzanne can be contacted on www.theroyaledge.co.uk if you want to know more.

Lucy Faulkner is making lovely perfumed candles and jewellery items which can be viewed www.bewitchedcandles.co.uk and she can be contacted at lucy@titanic.uk

Abbie From Furlong Farm is now running Bodyshop at Home and is available for parties or to make purchases on 07976292716 or abbiearnold1991@gmail.com

And don't forget our very favourite poultry provider, **Myrtle Alcock**, who is now taking orders for turkeys, geese and chickens on 01538 304225.

Who needs to struggle through the December shopping crowds when all this is at hand?

Christmas in Elkstones

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

at **Biggin Hall** on **Sunday 15th December** at **12 noon for 12.30pm** Glass of mulled wine on arrival

Secret Santa ... a small present of around £3– Gents bring a man's present and ladies bring one you would like to receive!

CAROL SINGING

Friday 20th December Carol-singing round the village. Meet at Chapel House at **6.45pm** for a quick practice and something to warm your cockles! Please come and join in.... No singing expertise required! It really is great fun and all for a good cause. This year we will be raising money for Douglas Macmillan Hospice.

CAROL SERVICE

Monday 23rd December at 7pm at St John's Santa will be making an appearance. Please let Liz M (304295) know if you will be bringing any children. There will be a Christmas Raffle and mince pies and mulled cider. Any donations of mince pies (or other goodies) or raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

Please bring to the church on Sunday 22nd or Monday 23rd. Liz will be out and about selling raffle tickets in December.

Editor's Closing Thoughts

What I like about Christmas is that you can make people forget about the past with the present.

Keep your friends close, your enemies closer and receipts for all major purchases.

A Happy Christmas to all our readers. We look forward to seeing you all at our festive village celebrations.

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