



September 2019



Rob's Ramble

A great month gone by with many highs and a touch of sadness. The De Cluttering Sale was a great success and we shifted some "rubbish" as well. But one of our "Old" Elkstonians died far too young and two of our Villagers are far from well.

A final fling of Summer with extremely hot and dry weather following the opposite extremes of rain not long ago – it is difficult to know what to expect next ! (Does this mean lots of snow ? Will it snow on Christmas Day ?)

Diary Dates

Church Services – Sunday, 1st September, HC at 11 am

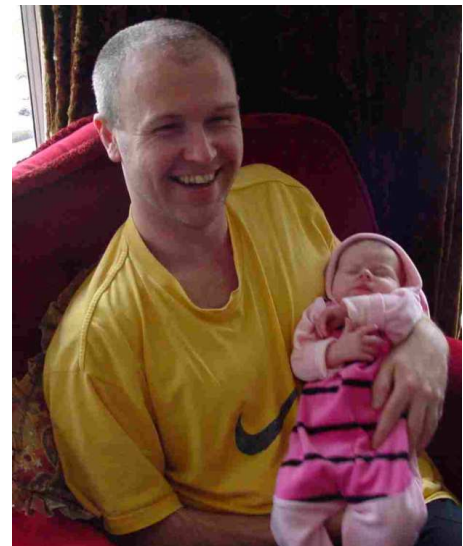
Harvest Festival – Sunday, 15th September, 7pm –
followed by Pea & Pie Supper and Raffle

Harvest Sale – Monday, 18th September, 8pm, in the
Church

Christmas Carol Service – Monday, 23rd December, 7
pm followed by Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Raffle, and Santa

Villagers

Extremely sorry to hear that **Peter Grindey** died on 9th August following a long battle with cancer. His funeral will be held at St. Edwards Church, Leek on Friday, 30th August, at 12.00 noon. Peter and Julie were long time supporters of the



Elkstonians particularly the Sports Days.

Mary Deaville is recovering slowly and we look forward to seeing her back in Elkstones very soon. And **Susan Svendsen** has also been very ill in hospital but we hope that she and Peter will be back visiting us again soon.

Harvest Festival and Sale

Lots of help and contributions requested to prepare our Church for the Service on Sunday, 15th September. Please contact Liz M on 304 295 or Myrtle on 304 225. Cakes, Jams, Groceries, Vegetables, Raffle Prizes, offers to decorate and raise funds for St. Johns.

Don't forget the Pea and Pie Supper and Raffle after the Service !

The traditional Sale will take place the following evening at 8pm – please join us to pay ridiculous prices at Swig's Auction for anything and everything.....

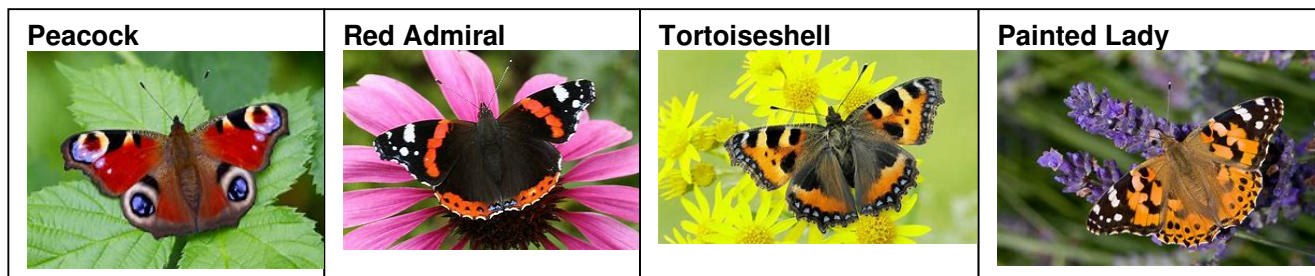
Volunteers

Brian Slack has been mowing our Churchyard voluntarily for TWENTY SEVEN years but really needs some help ! The Elkstonians have our own big strimmer which is serviced every year but it is getting too much for Brian – please talk to Brian on 300 283 or Rob on 300 509

And Rob has been Secretary and Newsletter Editor for seventeen years and feels it is time for somebody else to take over – ring for a chat on 300 509

Butterflies

They have suddenly arrived and we have had twenty or more at a time sunbathing on our Buddleia (also known as the Butterfly Bush) – but which is which ?



Response !!!

Gwynne Floyd very kindly responded to the photograph in last month's Newsletter of the pony and trap drive through Elkstones. It was the Derbyshire and Staffordshire branch of the British Driving Society who in the 1990s had a drive every Sunday, which the members took turns to organise. This one was organised by Gwynne and Arthur who had just gone out of shot when you took the photo, so the people in the leading trap are their friends John and Margaret Swain. The drive set off from Park House, Reapsmoor, which was where Gwynne and Arthur lived then. It went via Newtown up to Cave Farm, where their son Andy was living at the time, and where they stopped for a rest. Then they came back down through the village, at which point you took the photo, then up Stonyfold Lane and back to Park House for tea provided by the hosts.

We are starting to add photos to the new website and we need responses like this to add the details.... Thank you Gwynne. Hope to provide website details next month....

Thoughts for This Month

- A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it..
- I changed my password to "incorrect". So whenever I forget what it is the computer will say "Your password is incorrect".

Contact Us

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

Table-Top Sale *from Jill*

Thank you to everyone who turned out for, or helped in any way at the Table-Top sale. The whole event raised £996, which is quite amazing since most of what we sold was just our unwanted clutter !

Particular thanks go to Myrtle and Liz M, ably assisted on the day by Liz Buxton, for their delicious sandwiches and cakes which raised well over £200 alone.

Steve also did a sterling job in serving up sausages and beef burgers in the evening, not to mention beer from the barrel. Donations from that made another £200.

Leek Morris Dancers entertained us with music and dance, all for the price of a butty and a cup of tea ! What's more, the weather behaved !

Judy, Jane and Jill (the Three "J"s ?) stood in the howling wind and showers at the Winking Man carboot sale the following Wednesday and made another £100. In addition we have a number of more valuable items which we will try to sell on eBay over the coming weeks.

Digitisation Project

As you will know from previous newsletters, Elkstones has been fortunate enough to be awarded a grant by the South West Peak Landscape Project and the Heritage Lottery Fund to digitise our historical resources and make them more widely available for both residents and researchers.

"Digitisation " is a grand word, and not easy to say with a mouth full of chewing gum, but basically it's about creating a website with links to all our historical material, much of which is in neither of our books. In addition the site will publicise local events, items for sale, wildlife sightings and any other matter of interest to our village.

It's a mammoth project and work is well underway already. You may have seen a sample of the photographs on display in the church on sale day and there are many, many more to be scanned and inputted to the system. This will be an ongoing process for as long as it takes to copy everything we have but we're hoping that the website will be up and running within months.

The Partnership has promised us a sum of £9000 providing we can match fund it by raising £4,500 cash and put in £4,500 worth of volunteering time by August next year.

This is a daunting task but raising cash is going well. We made over £1000 at the sale, we've received the same in donations and have a reserve of £1000 from the sale of book 1 and 2 so we are two thirds of the way there. A loan to the project of £2000 has been made by some of our neighbours in order to get things moving as we can only claim our grant retrospectively.

So far, a number of people have volunteered their services with fundraising, scanning and sorting out the masses of material that we're working with. Any other offers of help of any kind will be warmly welcomed.

So how do we intend to spend so much money? A large proportion will be taken up by professional help in creating the website, scanning and inputting all the documents and photos, buying equipment to enable those without computers or internet access to be able to look at anything of interest to them (help with the technology will be available), publicity and admin along with storage and display of the paper documents for those of us who prefer to see the "real thing" ! Although most of the hard work will have been done within the year, we have budgeted for management and updating of the website for a minimum of ten years by which time who knows how technology will have advanced !

As always, Margaret Grant is keeping meticulous records of all incomings and outgoings of money which will be presented at the Elkstonians AGM.

Meanwhile if you find any interesting photos or documents when you're having a clearout, please let us copy them so that they'll be there for posterity. As much as some of us like to pretend that we can get by without technology, we know that it's going to be essential for the future. We want our young people and anyone with an interest in Elkstones to be able to enjoy the heritage of the village.

If you have any questions or would like to offer help or get more involved in the project, please contact Judy or David Holt. 01538 300646, jaholt_uk@yahoo.co.uk.

More Fundraising Events

We still need to raise more cash if we're to achieve all that we have planned and create the truly professional website that we're looking for.

Our next proposed event on Thursday, 24th October, is a social evening at Hill House Barn with an Italian food and drink theme. More details in the next newsletter.

Sincere thanks go to those current and past residents who have made generous donations to the project. We are over a third of the way to where we need to be by August 2020 - a brilliant start.

Elkstones Tables

The village has 14 very sturdy tables which were bought for use at the Sports Day and other Village occasions, and which have been nobly stored away over the last 20 years when not in use, by Des and Myrtle. However, their storage building is now needed for other purposes, and after the Table Top Sale, 10 of the tables are currently stored in Margaret and Peter's garage and they're desperate to rehouse them as they make access to the car very difficult. (does anyone know where the other 4 are please?)

Is anyone able to give the tables storage space? They measure 30 inches by 60 inches and stack neatly on top of one another, making a pile 40 inches high. If a home cannot be found for them, should we give consideration as to whether we they are likely to be used again, and if not, should they be sold? Offers of storage, or thoughts on future use are welcome.

They were expensive to buy and are very sturdy so let's hope we can keep them in the village.

Churchyard Catalogue

We have done quite a bit more work updating and digitising the Churchyard Catalogue which is on view in St. John's. Very rewarding because we have heard from several visitors who have family connections with Elkstones or who are researching their family tree. The original Catalogue was compiled in 1980 and updated by Maureen Biddulph in 2005. It is now being transcribed into digital format which and is being (very slowly) transcribed onto the new website. The graves have been re-mapped so that they are easier to identify and the headstones have been photographed so that we have a record before they deteriorate any further. Luckily, the original 1980 Catalogue listed the inscriptions which on several very old monuments are now illegible.



Aerial photos by Simon

