



ELKSTONES Village Newsletter

April 2020

You don't need a village newsletter to tell you that we're at the beginning of a very difficult time indeed. We're sending this newsletter to everyone, regardless of whether you're on the distribution list, because we think there may be useful information which will help us all keep in touch. But before we go into that, let's remember how very lucky we are to live in such a beautiful and relatively isolated place amongst good neighbours. To remind us, here's a photograph of the glorious annual display of daffodils planted by Myrtle in Lower Elkstones.



Dates

Sadly all Elkstonian events for April have been cancelled. This includes the suspension of church services for the foreseeable future. Sadly, as of Wednesday 25th March, the Church will no longer be open but there is a notice on the door giving details of how to stay together in prayer.

if you want to join in a service you can find a live stream service or event to watch from home by going to: www.achurchnearyou.com

NOTICE ON CHURCH DOOR

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and following instructions of the Bishop and Archbishops

Public Worship has been suspended

However, the Church will remain open whenever possible for you to come in and pray (*sadly as of Wed 25th March the Church will no longer be open*)

Father John and Father David will be praying each day in one of the churches (or at home) at the following times:
9.30am (Morning Prayer), 12noon (The Litany), 5.30pm (Evening Prayer), 8.30pm (Compline – Night Prayer)

Inside Church you will find copies of a Daily Prayer Booklet which you might like to use to join in at the same times, wherever you are.

If you are feeling anxious, in need of prayer, or just a friendly word:

Father John (Vicar): 01298 83411

Father David (Curate): 0748 688 9322

KEEPING IN TOUCH

In future the newsletter will be emailed and posted on the notice board. If you would like to receive it by email please contact Kparkinson@content2.co.uk. If you can't do that please let one of us know and we will deliver. We are trying to minimise risk to all.

If you have any news or thoughts that you would like to share, please get in touch with the team whose telephone numbers are at the bottom of the newsletter. In addition we now have an email address which will be checked on a daily basis: Elkstonians@gmail.com.

We are currently pulling out all the stops to ensure that the village website goes live very soon. We hope to have more details next month. We may even have part of it up and running!

Jane has set up a private group Facebook page called Elkstones & Community Group to enable people to post photographs, information, thoughts and ideas while they're unable to get out and about. It will also be a useful site for requesting or offering help and let's not be shy about doing that. The page is open to anyone who lives in the village or has a direct connection to Elkstones.

Please join up by searching for Elkstones & Community Group on Facebook. If you do not have a Facebook account and need help in setting one up www.facebook.com takes you through the process. If you are already on Facebook you can join by searching or by being invited someone. Be assured that the administrators (Katy, Jane and Suzanne), have to approve requests. If they don't know who someone is they will be declined.

Chair *Judy Holt* Secretary *Katy Parkinson* Treasurer *Margaret Grant* Newsletter Editor *Jill Gregory*
300646 300753 300358 07800 808805

Neighbourly News

KATH WINT (1928- 2020)

A tribute from Gwynne Floyd and Margaret Grant



This photo of Kath was taken in 1991 at Guide dogs talk at Treetops.

We are sorry to hear that Kath Wint, of Manor Farm, Onecote, who was a founder member and long-standing supporter of the Elkstonians, has died, aged 91, in Abbey Court Residential home on Monday, 9th March. Gwynne Floyd, a friend of Kath for many years, has many memories of Kath, who, though born in her Grandmother's house in Leek, lived all of her life at the family farm up on Morridge. She was the middle one of three sisters, though the youngest sister died in childhood. She went to Elkstones School, and thereafter spent her life devoted to farming. She joined Leek Young Farmers when she was 17 and became a very active member for many years, being secretary at one point. She was also a keen member of Elkstones W.I. and when that closed she joined and supported the Elkstonians, always willing to attend all the activities and to help on the tea stall at Sports Day whenever needed. She was a faithful and regular attender at Elkstones Church for as long as she was able to drive. In Kath's early years, the family came into Leek via their horse and trap till the late 1940s, at which point Mr. Wint bought an ex-army jeep, which Kath and her sister Mary both learned to drive. The farm was always their greatest interest, and they farmed it organically until well after their retirement age. Unfortunately Kath's health failed in her later life and she gradually lost her independence and had to go into residential care, away from her beloved farm. Any donations in memory of Kath should be sent to the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Rest in peace, Kath.

NEW KNEELER



A beautiful new kneeler has appeared in Church. Worked by Myrtle, donated by Des, Myrtle and family, dedicated to the memory of Graham and Stuart Wood. Thank you to the Alcocks, especially Myrtle for putting in many hours to produce this fine tribute to the brothers. If anyone is interested in donating or working a kneeler please contact Myrtle on 304225.



OUTDOOR HANDYMAN SERVICE

If you're struggling with garden jobs such as overgrown trees, hedges and bushes or with strimming and mowing, blocked drains or general outdoor tidying, Roger Miller may be able to take on the task for you at a competitive rate. Most of you will know him as the village lengthsman who is doing a brilliant job in keeping Elkstones neat and tidy. Roger can be contacted on: 300715

DIGITISATION PROJECT

One good outcome of self-isolation is that we're able to crack on with the archive project. Obviously we've had to postpone the planned open day where we were hoping to demonstrate the progress we've made. If you are computer-savvy, you might want to have a look at archives.elkstones.org and have a browse to remind you of some very happy past times and some lovely characters past and present. If you're without a computer or the internet, rest assured that when we're able to mix and congregate again, we have ideas of how to let you see the archives, either by bringing it directly to you or at an event in the church. While we're stuck inside, this would be a great time to seek out any old photographs or documents to do with the village and let us know you have them. We'll find a safe way to collect them and get them back to you after they have been scanned. Please ring Jill (07800 808805) or Judy (07833 663226) to arrange this.

EDITOR'S CLOSING THOUGHTS

They said gloves and a mask would be enough to go to the shops.. They lied - everyone else was wearing clothes.

To get the isolation period over quickly, I bought a second-hand time machine. They don't make them like they're going to anymore.

Reasons to be Cheerful - Part 1: The days are getting longer, the rain is finally having a break and we look forward to seeing the lambs which have no idea what social distancing means. Not all bad.

Stay safe

Chair *Judy Holt* 300646 Secretary *Katy Parkinson* 300753 Treasurer *Margaret Grant* 300358 Newsletter Editor *Jill Gregory* 07800 808805