



Village Newsletter

January/February 2021

Happy New Year to you all. That is much easier to say now that there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. At least four Elkstonians have been vaccinated at the time of writing and we hope that the roll-out will be swift so that we can mix with loved ones and each other again. Happily we are blessed with beautiful open spaces so that greetings can be called from a distance and we haven't lost all sense of community. Soon you young ones will see all us oldies conga-ing down the lane in party hats. Bring it on!

NEIGHBOURLY NEWS

Congratulations to Kay Parkinson, Katy's Mum, now living at New York Farm, who was 90 on 10th January and looking as fit and lovely as ever. Many happy returns of the day Kay.

Welcome to Alison and Mark who moved into the village before Christmas. It is lovely to see Grove House fully occupied again and thank you to you both for the delightful snowman which made us all smile.



It was sad to see Peter and Susan Svendsen go but we wish them good luck in the future and hope they will visit Elkstones again when next in the UK.



CHRISTMAS 2020

Thank you to everyone who put up lights to cheer up the village, especially Roger and Hazel whose tree outside Hillside Cottage shone like a beacon above the green. Unfortunately, thoughts of an impromptu carol-singing disappeared when we heard of the sudden upsurge in Covid cases due to the new variant. We did, however, hear the jingle of Christmas bells from some of the houses, reassuring children that Santa was able to find his way through the new restrictions and some of you may have heard the church bell, reminding us that in spite of all, it was Christmas and bringing to mind all the people who would find it a particularly difficult time. Lovely to see that some lights are still shining through the January gloom thanks to special dispensation from the Church to keep them up until Candlemas. Unfortunately some of us didn't hear the news in time so the yew tree lights were already down.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Never has technology been as welcome as now and what a success the Zoom coffee mornings have been. Two have taken place so far: the first on New Year's Day hosted by Rob and Liz (sadly without Rob's fortified coffee and Liz's mince pies!) and the second on 14th January, hosted by Judy and David. They've been really cheerful occasions, sharing news and thoughts and generally giving a feeling of togetherness. If you would like to take part in the next one on Monday 15th February at 11am contact Judy on jaholt_uk@yahoo.co.uk



FASTER BROADBAND

All of this would not be possible, of course, without internet access. If you're without it, you might like to contact Simon on 01538 300900 or at simon@titanic.co.uk to hear about his superb efforts to connect as many neighbours as possible to Superfast Broadband in the coming months.

ELKSTONIANS SECRETARY

Rob Faulkner stepped down as Newsletter Editor of the Elkstonians having served in that role for twenty plus years and as society secretary for many of them. We are extremely grateful for his hard work in gathering news from reluctant contributors, trawling through the archives for photos old and new and generally keeping us organised. Rob was presented (courtesy of Royal Mail and Zoom) with a specially engraved bottle of whisky and glass along with a cheque - maybe to buy more whisky Rob? Below is what he has written:

Dear Elkstonians,

I would like to thank you all very much indeed for your kind words and extremely generous retirement gift.

We have lived here for 47 years (so far) and have made many friends around this village and the surrounding area - both our boys went to school in Warslow (unfortunately the village school had just closed but The Cock Inn was still open!) and we got involved with the Elkstonian Society as soon as Peter and Margaret started it.

Many, many happy memories of Sports days, donkeys, evening talks, meals out, coffee mornings, Picnics, Christmas Parties and Village Lunches - and many more to come we hope.

Delighted to see that the Village and its Society are in good hands and proud to have been part of it....

Rob and Liz



CHURCH NEWS

As requested by the Bishop, consultations have taken place with PCCs of the Benefice regarding the suspension of in-person services.

Having reviewed risk assessments, it was decided that our churches cannot be sure of meeting all the recommended measures during the present lockdown, while also complying with government guidance. It was therefore decided that, sadly, no church in the benefice can be used safely for public worship and all will remain closed until further notice.

Zoom services will be held every Sunday morning at 10am and also on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10.30am. Please email longnorvicarage@gmail.com for a Zoom invite.

Keep an eye on the Longnor Benefice website, thelongnorbenefice.org for further updates.



The recent snow has seen us all taking the obligatory snow pictures. Here are a few. If you would like to see previous years' snow in Elkstones check out the Archive section on our website, Elkstones.org, and search for "snow". There are some spectacular photos on there.

Editor's Closing Thoughts:

A New Year's resolution is something that comes in one year and goes out the other.

My last New Year's resolution was to lose 10 lbs . Only 15 more to go.

My friend's resolution is to always keep his cup half full - with whisky, gin or beer

STAY SAFE - not long to go now...

Chair <i>Judy Holt</i>	Secretary <i>Katy Parkinson</i>	Treasurer <i>Margaret Grant</i>	Newsletter Editor <i>Jill Gregory</i>
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