



Village Newsletter

March/ April 2021

The newsletter team hopes you are all well and enjoying the longer days. The vaccinations are working their way rapidly through the age groups locally, another step in seeing our way back to a more sociable time. Not long now until the clock "springs forward" by one hour at 2am on Sunday, 28th March - a necessary reminder for some of us whose diary is so empty it's hard to remember what day of the week it is, or even month or year. Not the case for farmers of course, as lambs are born blissfully unaware of restrictions and the farming calendar continues as normal - thank goodness. We are very lucky to have so much positive activity going on around us and still to be able to enjoy the peace and beauty of the countryside. As we write this the snowdrops are beginning to fade and the daffodils are about to burst into bloom at Townhead as you drive through Lower Elkstone. We heard the first skylark today... Spring is on its way!



We have experienced real extremes of weather since the last newsletter. Sub zero temperatures and biting 50mph winds in January, unseasonably warm weather at the end of February and a freak snowstorm at the beginning of March resulting in this incredible cloud formation at Royleedge. Photo taken by Jacob, age 11

Water frozen in the well on Church Lane



The fabulous snow moon setting on Morridge at 7am on 27th February taken from New York Farm and Nev Barker up to antics at Highfields

Dates

Well ... only one date for your diary but hopefully by the next newsletter there will be more.

Wednesday 7th April at 11am Zoom coffee morning. Judy will invite regulars and those who have expressed an interest. If you would like to attend please get in touch with Judy, jaholt_uk@yahoo.co.uk and she will send you a link.

2021 Census

You should, by now, have received a letter from the government asking you to complete the census form on 21st March or as soon as possible afterwards. Working on the village archive, we know how useful the census records can be in documenting how life in Elkstones has changed over the last 170 years, and are proof that we are still making history every day of our lives which is what makes it such a fascinating subject for many of us.

A little quiz for you now, based on information from the national census of 1891 where the following occupations were recorded.

Can you guess what these people did?

Slubber Doffer

Lum Swooper

Chair Bodger

Rack Maiden

Knock Knobbler answers at the end of the newsletter

Environmental Excitement

Some good news! The potholes on the top road have been repaired... less than 4 weeks after villagers reported them!



Damage on the corner of Church Lane, outside Chapel House.

18th February



Other happenings include:

A 4am trip down Church Lane by two Territorial Army trucks churning up the verges and dragging the public footpath sign out of the ground; a runaway trailer by the church clough, resulting in a near miss for a carer working in the village and damage to the railings separating the lane from a steep drop; the seasonal ploughing up of verges by wide vehicles after the rain and snow and sadly the disappointing amount of litter still to be found in the hedgerows. Happily Roger, our trusty lengthsman, the Highways department, caring volunteers and the great power of nature, are helping to sort out some of the mess.



17th March



The runaway trailer

Website

Many thanks to Rob Faulkner for compiling the Graves section of the Archives on the village website Elkstones.org. This has been a real labour of love as many graves are so badly damaged that they have been very difficult to decipher. Rob has also taken a photo to go with each inscription. Well done Rob! Please take a look and, as always, your feedback is greatly appreciated on the website, this newsletter or any other aspect of Elkstones life. Please email elkstonians@gmail.com and let us know if there is anything else you would like to see in the newsletter or on the website.

Celia Muir, the South West Peak Community Engagement and Grants Officer and our contact at The South West Peak Partnership, has sent us a link to news section of Support Staffordshire website giving Elkstones a mention.

<https://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/news/south-west-peak-spotlight-connecting-and-celebrating-south-west-peak-communities>

Church News

As yet we have no details as to when church services will resume. Zoom services are still taking place. Please visit the Longnor Benefice website, thelongnorbenefice.org for details of these, worship from home and virtual Easter worship.

You may have seen Fr David's post on the Facebook page asking for information about the church and village. We have pointed him towards the website and archives but if you have anything to add about our community such as what it's like to live here, hopes and fears for the future, you can email him on curate@thelongnorbenefice.org or ring him on 07486 889322 to contribute your thoughts.

CENSUS QUIZ ANSWERS

A Slubber Duffer removes bobbins from looms
A Lum Swooper sweeps chimneys
A Chair Bodger makes wooden chair legs
A Rack Maiden dresses the ore in tin mines
A Knock Knobbler is a Dog Warden

Editor's Closing Thoughts:

Do you feel like the trees now that spring is approaching? Released?

I'm so excited, I wet my plants!

I'm also in the mood to do some spring-cleaning. I hadn't realised how badly lockdown was affecting me!