



Village Newsletter

July / August 2021

Dates

Sunday 1st August	St John's Church, Elkstones 9.30am	Morning Prayer. No need to book
Friday 6th August	St John's Church, Elkstones 1.pm	Mary Deaville's funeral

Neighbourly News



Mary Deaville 1925-2021

Our main news this time is the very sad loss to Elkstones of our oldest resident, Mary Deaville, on 16th July. Having been born in Low Hill Farm in Leek, then moving to Thorncliffe at the age of five with her six siblings, Mary made her home in Elkstones in 1947 when she married Frank and

went to live at Chapel House. Terence was born there in 1949. They moved to Overdale, the bungalow in Well Lane that Frank built with the help of friends and neighbours, in 1968. Frank passed away in 2004 and Mary continued to live at Overdale with the support of family, neighbours and carers until the final few weeks of her life. Sadly ill health obliged her to move to Ladydale care home in Leek. Mary's generous, patient and sociable manner made her a great favourite with everyone in the village. She was a founder member of the Elkstonians; she and Frank contributed to many events but were probably best known for the effort they put in to the white elephant stall at Sports' Day, collecting, sorting and pricing up goods for



Mary running her White Elephant Stall in 1993

weeks in advance. Always pleased to see visitors, Mary annually welcomed a rather late and usually tipsy carol-singing troop to round off the evening with sherry and mince pies. Remaining cheerful, uncomplaining and sharp in mind until the end of her 96 years, one of the greatest losses to Elkstones is Mary's phenomenal memory and knowledge of the village.

We will miss her greatly and extend our heartfelt sympathy to Terence, Janet, her grand and great grandchildren, sisters, nieces and other family members.



Mary with husband Frank and the late Helen Barnsley in 1991 at a Guide Dogs talk at Tree Tops run by The Elkstonians

Mary's funeral will take place in Elkstones' Church on Friday 6th August at 1pm and afterwards at Butterton Village Hall.

Weather

Who would have expected such a scorching heatwave after the cold wet miserable spring? What a joy to see the many hours of sunshine and hay-making uninterrupted by rain, though the extreme heat has certainly been a challenge when we're not used to it!

Elkstone Open Gardens

Jill writes:



The beautiful Norman church of St John the Evangelist in Elkstone, Gloucestershire

On 9th June, en route to Devon, Steve and I called in at Elkstone, Gloucestershire, for their Open Garden event. What a lovely occasion! For those of you who don't know the other Elkstone, it is an extremely pretty Cotswold village with beautiful gardens of all types, many of which are embracing the "rewilding" trend alongside cultivated and carefully planted areas. The unusual church is particularly worth a visit, not least for the luxurious composting loo - a fine example of how a grade 1 listed building can still have its convenience!

It was lovely to catch up with now retired vicar, Arthur Champion and his wife, Margaret along with Sylvie and Ronnie, who came to our 2019 Flower Festival - difficult to believe that was two years ago! Margaret and Arthur have recently moved to Hulland Ward near Ashbourne to be nearer to family so you may well bump into them again locally.



Jill emerging from their composting loo. An idea for our Elkstones perhaps?

Digi Project

This project to create a website primarily to house the [village archives](#); a collection of photographs, documents and artefacts which has been assembled over decades and stored in various homes and buildings but, until now, unable to be accessed by the general public has now come to an end. It has been a labour of love for several villagers and a legacy we are proud to have. We are extremely grateful for the grant we received from South West Peak and the National Lottery Foundation and the generosity of friends and neighbours for funding this project. We have to submit a final grant monitoring form to SW Peak and they have asked for feedback on the website. We would love (in fact we need to as part of our final monitoring form!) to record your comments so please email elkstonians@gmail.com and let us know what you think.



SOUTH WEST PEAK
LANDSCAPE AT A CROSSROADS



Church News



Myrtle and Judy now have keys to the church. It will be opened on a Monday and Thursday from 10am until 4pm for private prayer for the next couple of months. If you go into the church during this time please sign the sheet that is in there so we can monitor how many visitors we have.

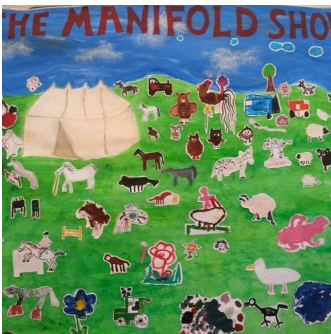
Church services will be advertised on the village Facebook page and website.

Some folk have expressed concern as to the future of St. John's now Reg and Liz are no longer involved. A message from Father John....

I would like to reassure the villagers of Elkstones that I am committed to keeping the doors of all my seven churches open as long as possible - and, indeed of the nineteen in my rural-deanery. However, one of the best ways you can ensure the continued viability of the church is to come along to Sunday services - not just at Christmas and Easter. This is because one of the benchmarks against which the viability of the church is scored is USAA - the Usual Sunday Average Attendance. The 'usual' part of it discounts services at 'high points' of the year, and adds them instead into a different set of figures - which do get added into the formula, but don't carry as much weight.

God Bless,
Fr John

Manifold Show



The Manifold Valley Agricultural Show is back! And taking place on Saturday 14th August from 9.30am at its usual home – The Arbour, Ilam, DE26 2AD. A great day out for all the family, with a full day of classes for horses and ponies, cattle, sheep, and poultry, a fun dog show or the opportunity to show off your skills in the Handicrafts, Arts & Home Produce tent. There will be Main Ring Events including Chase me Charlie, terrier racing and slow tractor racing. Trade stands and refreshments will also be available. Entry is £5.00 per person on the gate with free car parking. What more could you ask for?

For more details see the website: www.manifoldshow.co.uk and follow us on Facebook: Manifold Valley Agricultural Show

Newsletter Team

We're looking for a willing (or otherwise) volunteer or volunteers to take over writing (from Jill) and formatting (from Judy) the newsletter from the beginning of September. This could be done by one or two people. If you're interested (no experience necessary, just an ability to painfully extract information from neighbours or failing that, make it up) please contact one of us. Katy will continue to organise distribution and nag you helpfully when it's time for the next edition.

Editor's Closing Thoughts:

At last the heat and what a treat!
Warms the bones and browns the wheat.
Tans our hides and sweats our feet,
Wrings us out and leaves us beat!

Signing off after a three year stint. Please step up someone. Your village needs you!

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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