



Elkstonians Village Newsletter

November 2021



Rob's Reflections

Very sad news this month with two of our original Members no longer with us – Peter Grant who started the Elkstonians with his wife, Margaret, and Margaret Wentworth who first joined our Society with her parents, Jack and Marjorie.

Peter and Margaret Grant moved into Bank House, Elkstones, in 1977 and started the Elkstonian Society in 1978. Peter also started a Youth Club in the Village which was probably the beginnings of the Sports Day which we ran for some 25 years. He was fascinated by the Village history and some of the old “characters” and local legends which he researched and compiled into the first book of Elkstones published in 1995. From that sprang the idea for the second book “Elkstones at 800 Years” covering the activities of the local community and our current Digi Project archiving the wealth of photographs and other historical material which is still emerging.

Margaret Wentworth has lived in Elkstones nearly all her life and went to Elkstones Village School (she appears in the 1964 and 1965 school photos in the second Book) and Warslow Secondary School. She loved farming and her cats and dogs, cows and sheep, and enjoyed chatting to people at farm sales, cattle markets, and on the weekly bus into Leek which was the highlight of her week !. A familiar happy face leaning over the farm gate as you drove into Elkstones, with her dog leaning over the gate beside her, always ready for a friendly chat. She and Peter will be much missed – they were both part of Elkstones.

Diary Dates

Church Services – Sunday, 7th November, 3.00 pm Holy Communion

– **Sunday, 16th November**, 2.45 pm Remembrance Service

– **Sunday, 5th December**, 3.00 pm Holy Communion

Christmas Carol Service – Monday, 20th December, 7 pm followed by Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, and Raffle (I hope !)

Other Events – still thinking about them (and looking for volunteers !)

AGM and the Elkstonian Society

We held the Meeting “remotely” via Zoom but closed the proceedings after the formal business to await a further meeting to discuss the future direction of the Society. Jill and Steve, David and Judy were formally thanked for their contributions to the Society over many years, with our regrets that they were leaving the Village

Officers – Rob was elected Chairman, Don Sutherland as Vice Chair, Katy as Secretary, and Margaret as Treasurer.

Subscriptions – remain at £5 per household to cover our costs such as the Christmas Tree and decorations, donations and gifts, repairs, and miscellaneous expenses.

The Future – do we still need an Elkstonian Society and what should be it's aims ? We think that now, more than ever, we need friends and neighbours ! The Police are so short staffed that they are unable to respond to incidents and the Care Services are so stretched that they cannot provide as much support as we need especially up here in the hills. It is very comforting to know that there are always people around to help if we need them – and we think that our Society is the best way to keep in touch. Please ring us for a chat and tell us what you think.....

Digi Project

Should we continue to upload more photographs and material ? Have you looked at our Website yet ? www.elkstones.org and click on Archives. We need you to look through all the photographs collected in the Archives to add notes, memories, and comments. If you find it interesting, then send us more with notes about who, what, where, and when.

I asked last month where “Landcroft” (in the Graves Catalogue) was – and Gwynn told me it is the house in Warslow opposite the old Shop.

Memories

Photos of Peter (and plenty more in the Archives) but can't find any recent pictures of Margaret – please send me some for the Archives ?



Thoughts for This Month

- Red sky at night: shepherd's delight. Blue sky at night: day
- Thing is, we all just want to belong. But some of us are short.
- Always try to make other people happy, even if you have to leave them alone to do it."

Contact Us

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