

February 2024

Elkstonians

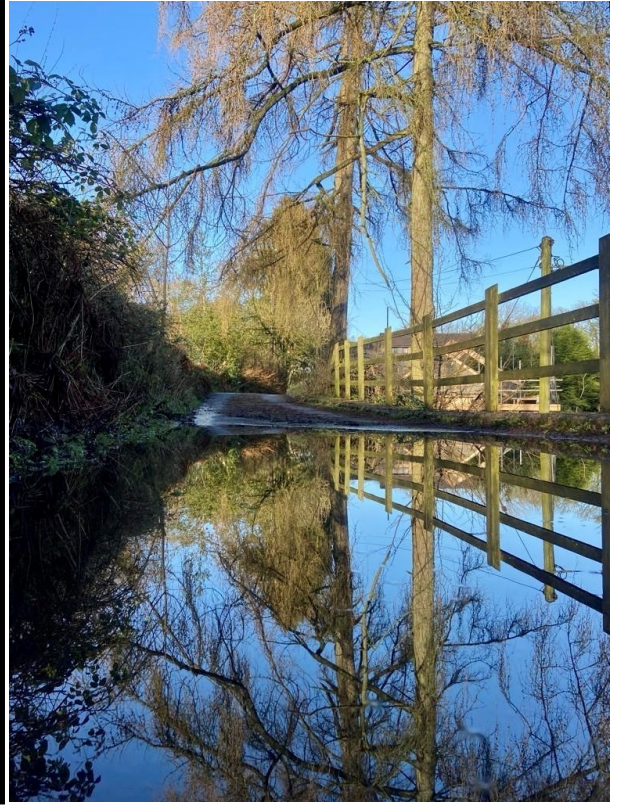
Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

Many thanks to Suzanne Horwell from Roylegde Farm for sending in this superb photo of flood water, which she took in Well Lane, Upper Elkstone in January. Floods, storms & gales still seem to be the order of the day at the moment, but at least we can console ourselves with the thought that without global warming, this flood picture would probably have been a 6-foot-deep snowdrift! We have been warned by the weather scientists that storms will be the norm in the future, which means that my upturned garden table has already been joined on my patio by the odd roof slate or two. At least, as seen in Suzanne's picture, we have had one or two days of sunshine & cheerful blue skies to perk us up a bit!

It is great to be able to include your photos, so please keep them coming! Most people now have phones with a camera function so please, when you're out & about, get that phone out of your pocket & record your surroundings in this lovely valley – including gardening or walking, the local wildlife & especially your work each month which records the activities of the farming year. Please mail your photos to Margaret at grants.elkstones@btinternet.com



Diary Dates St John's Church

The February Service is on Sunday 18th at 3pm
Cleaning & Flowers for February—Sally Faulkner



We had a lovely letter from Myeloma UK to thank us for sending them the £126 which we raised in December via our Carol Singing. Many thanks again to everybody who contributed.

Neighbourly News

Brian Bonsall of Pilsbury Grange near Hartington, died 21st January 2024 aged 91 years

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Brian Bonsall, precious companion of Eileen Lovatt. Brian spent many happy times attending Elkstonians events with Eileen & always especially enjoyed the Christmas meal outings. He was a true gentleman and a kind & generous soul who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

We extend our deepest condolences to Eileen, her family & all friends of Brian.



Brian with friends & neighbours at the Elkstonians Christmas lunch at Biggin Hall in 2018.



Winter Thrushes

You may have recently spotted large flocks of birds in fields & hedges. They are redwing & fieldfare (often joined by starlings) wintering in the UK from Iceland & Scandinavia. The redwing is the smallest of our thrush species, named for the rusty red patch under each wing. The fieldfare is larger with a slate grey head, has a more upright position on the ground & a harsh 'chack chack' flight call. They migrate here at night & on clear evenings, listen out for the redwing's 'tsee tsee' call overhead. Both species love to swarm along hawthorn hedgerows to gulp down the haws, which seem to be their preference in the berry buffet, alongside rowan, yew, dog rose & holly. As these start to dwindle, they'll probe the fields for worms, pausing often to scan for danger & when the ground is frozen, they will venture into gardens for windfall apples & berry-laden shrubs.

Picture credits: Bird Guide Pro iPhone app



Thursday 29th February LEAP YEAR STEAK NIGHT!!

Shift those winter blues on a Steak Night out with the Elkstonians at The Reform Inn, Thorncliffe ☺

If you would like to attend, please let Jane know by 23rd February janeprince@btinternet.com / 07816 865410 / 01538 300225

See full menu, including special steak night prices, at <https://www.thereforminn.co.uk/menus>

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

FUN LEAP YEAR FACTS

- ♥ According to tradition, it's OK for a woman to propose to a man on 29th February
- ♥ The twin cities of Anthony, Texas & Anthony, New Mexico are the self-proclaimed Leap Year Capital of the World. They hold a 4-day festival
- ♥ People born on a leap day are often called "leaplings" or "leapers"
- ♥ The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies is a club for people born on 29th February. They have 11,000 members worldwide



Finally, we would like to give a warm welcome to Tanya Fox who has recently come to live at Pleasant View bungalow in the centre of the village. We hope you will be very happy in Elkstones, Tanya!

The Elkstonians: Chair *Jane Prince* Vice Chair *Don Sutherland* Secretary *Katy Parkinson* Treasurer *Margaret Grant*
Newsletter: Content *Margaret* Editing/Layout *Jane* Distribution *Margaret/Katy*