

April 2024

Elkstonians'

Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

It's lovely to see all the daffodils in bloom at last, long after they have been flowering everywhere else! The sight of colourful flowers glowing along the banks, as seen in this cheerful & welcoming picture of Spring along Church Lane, Upper Elkstone, really is uplifting to the spirits after such a grey, cold & damp winter.

Thanks to Simon Faulkner for the photo



Diary Dates St John's Church

Sunday 21st April 3pm Holy Communion

Cleaning & flowers for April Elizabeth Buxton

The Rev Nicola Pepper

We have news that Nicola is expected to be home soon after her long spell in hospital.

We wish you all the best Nicola, are keeping you in our prayers & hope you will soon be back to full good health.

FLOWER FESTIVAL NEWS

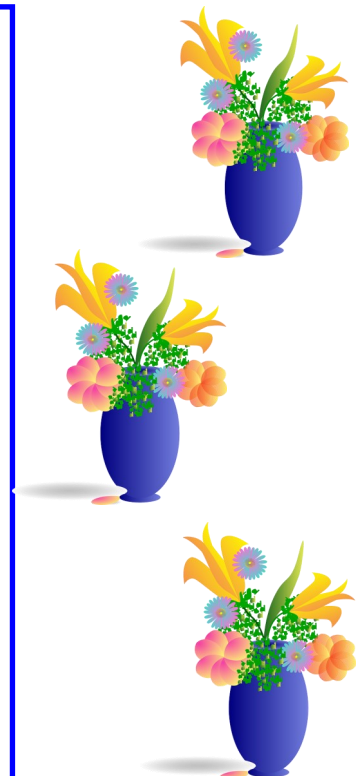
Plans are proceeding for this year's Flower Festival over the weekend of 14th—16th June, with the Festival Service on the evening of Sunday 16th—our Annual Wakes Sunday.



Alan Salt is already booked for the Friday evening, to give us Part II of his illustrated talk about Cheesemaking in the Staffordshire Moorlands, followed by a wine & cheese tasting session afterwards. It was very entertaining last year, so should make a good opening to this year's Festival.

Flower Festival Planning Meeting – 24th April 7pm at Townhead Farm

Please come along with some ideas & offers of help with creating the flower displays and/or the organization of the event over the three days—there's bound to be a piece of yummy cake & a cuppa to help get the flowery thoughts flowing 😊





A pair of siskins has been visiting the feeders at Bank House in the centre of the village during March. Siskins are very attractive small finches. The male is an olive green yellow, with a black cap & bib, white underparts heavily streaked with black, & black wings heavily streaked with yellow. Female is similar but with less yellow on the face & lacking the black bib. They normally inhabit woodland, favouring conifers, especially spruce & feeding on the seeds from the cones of spruce & alder etc. If the food supply is short, they will come into gardens & feed acrobatically from the feeders, like tits & other finches.

Photo Credit: Bird Guide Pro iPhone app

April Facts

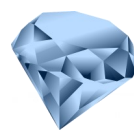
Those who are born in April have diamond as their birthstone, which represents innocence. Their birth flower is either daisy or sweet pea.

There are two zodiac signs in April—Aries which is until 19th & Taurus which is 20th onwards.

April is a great month for meteor showers, one of which is the Lyrids shower, which appears from 16th–26th each year.

Take a close look at the Union Jack. That red cross over a white background is the St George's Cross & St George has his own national day on 23rd (although we don't get a bank holiday worst luck!).

Another quite remarkable happening on St George's Day is that Jane & Paul Prince have been married for 30 years—happy Pearl Wedding Anniversary you two 😊



Finally, we have been asked by the Staffordshire Moorlands branch of Riding for the Disabled Association, if we know of anyone who would like to volunteer to help at their sessions which take place once a week on Tuesday mornings.

You do not have to have ever ridden a horse, as the sessions involve walking alongside the horse/pony & disabled rider, and just leading them. No riding for yourself is involved & you will be given all the necessary training.

If this is something that you feel you could do (apparently it is very rewarding), please contact RDA Staffordshire Moorlands Group organizer Jane on 07742 208500 or symcoxjane@yahoo.co.uk



<https://rda.org.uk>