



May 2024
Elkstonians'
Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

All the lovely wild flowers are beginning to grow in the valley, with bright, shiny, gold coloured lesser celandine & swathes of white wood anemones currently in bloom. Wood anemones grow in ancient woodland & often in churchyards & we are lucky to have them flourishing in the ancient woodland on the hillside down the valley. The migrant birds are also coming back after wintering in warmer places (though sadly not many swallows yet) & wheatears have been seen along the drystone walls & fences along the top road, where Don Sutherland of Upper Elkstone took this fabulous photo of one...



...and whilst we've all complained about the immense amount of rain we've had recently, we're sometimes rewarded with a rainbow afterwards, like the one that seems to be wrapping itself around Hill Farm, Butterton, Doris & Andrew Wentworth's home, as seen in Paul Furness of Butterton's equally fabulous shot.

Thanks for the gorgeous photos you've sent in for recent newsletters —please do keep them coming!

Diary Dates	St John's Church	
Sunday 19th May	3pm	Holy Communion
Cleaning & flowers for May		Elizabeth Buxton

LOCAL NEWS
We've heard that The Jervis Arms in Onecote is due to reopen under new management around the end of May. Richard & Kirsten are working very hard to get it ready and it'll be good to get a much-loved 'local' up & running again.

HELP PLEASE!
The flowers mentioned above can also be seen in abundance at the moment in the churchyard, especially in the wilder, lower half & make a lovely sight. Having said that, we do need help to keep the walkways in the upper part of the churchyard clear, so that people can access the graves & we are looking for any volunteers willing to give the access routes in the top part the occasional trim. There is no set rota—any offer to do this now & then, at your own convenience, is welcome. Please let Myrtle Alcock know (01538 304225) if you can give a little of your time occasionally.



Plans are well in place for our Flower Festival, which will take place on the weekend of 14th – 16th June, 10.00am to 5.00pm daily, free entry with a (hopefully!) donation. The evening of the opening day will feature, Part Two of Alan Salt's illustrated and very entertaining talk about 'Cheese-making in the Staffordshire Moorlands', which includes cheese-tasting and a glass of wine afterwards (6.30pm, price £7.50 on the door) & the weekend will close with the Festival Service at 7.00pm on the evening of Sunday 16th, our annual Wakes Sunday, followed by The Ashbourne Town Band Concert, beef baps & refreshments, and drawing the Raffle.

Please put the dates in your diary & start saving items for the Tombola & the Raffle—give any items to Hazel Bailey or Myrtle, or leave in the front porch at Townhead Farm, Lower Elkstone. This is our little church's major fund raiser so please help out if you can—offers to do an arrangement are still welcome, and we need help with baking cakes/cupcakes & serving refreshments over the 3 days. Please let Myrtle know as soon as possible if you are able to help, and you can also spread the news by telling friends & neighbours to come along during the weekend for what is always a good display, a nice natter and a delicious piece of home-made cake & a cuppa!

Sculpture in Elkstones!

Michael Talbot, our resident Elkstones sculptor up at Treetops, has been commissioned to create a 10 foot-high bronze statue of John Rudge the football manager.

Michael will soon be starting to create the sculpture in clay before it is taken away to be cast in bronze. The initial work will be taking place on the drive at Treetops, weather permitting, and will take about 8 weeks to go from a steel skeleton to a fully resolved clay sculpture. Michael says 'If anyone would be interested to come and have a look, they will be most welcome'.

If you would like to see the work in progress, please give Michael a ring on 01538 300208 to arrange a suitable time.



Above, Michael works on his 'Reborn' sculpture, part of his Ballet collection.

Left, is an initial clay portrait sketch of John Rudge.



www.talbotsculpture.com

www.calkengallery.com/our-artists/michael-talbot