



## July 2025 Elkstonians' Village Newsletter



### Margaret's Meanderings...

June was a very floral month in the village, with all our lovely wild flowers, like the sweet briar rose & wild honeysuckle pictured here at the bottom of the clough, & also for our Annual Flower Festival—photos on pages 3—6...



We are very lucky also to have lots of interesting birds breeding around the valley just now. Don Sutherland of Hill House says "The curlews are very noisy at the moment, great to have them flying about on the hill above us. We are lucky to have breeding redstarts this year. And not forgetting the gorgeous hares in the buttercups."



*Many thanks  
to Don for the  
informative  
comments &  
the fabulous  
photographs  
of the birds  
and hare.*



Photos & input to the Newsletter are welcome from anyone who has anything of interest about the valley to contribute, not just about the wildlife but also any memories, old photos & stories, so please do keep them coming!

### Diary Dates—St John's Church

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July—Service at 3.00pm

Cleaning & Flowers for July—Hazel Bailey

The next meeting of Warslow & Elkstones Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Warslow Village Hall. The Agenda & the minutes of the last meeting can be read on the Council's website at [www.warslowandelkstonespc.org](http://www.warslowandelkstonespc.org).



Our little church looked wonderful over the weekend of June 13<sup>th</sup>—15<sup>th</sup> during our Flower Festival, with the theme of 'Old Sayings', having some ingenious representations in the flower arrangements. The display was augmented by the further attraction of a special project organized by Outside Arts, called 'The Women's Line'—more about this below.




Sunday night's Wakes Service, beautifully & thoughtfully delivered by Lay Reader Roger Cutts from Ipstones, brought the weekend to a close, the hymns being accompanied by Ashbourne Town Band, who went on to entertain us afterwards with a concert of very catchy music. Then there were the delicious hot beef baps & trifle, bringing the evening to a very satisfactory conclusion! Thank you to the cooks, helpers & all those who cleared up afterwards... If we've missed anybody out over the next few pages, please count yourself as being thanked—it was a great team effort by all.

*Thank you*



Thomas received his jacket & was officially welcomed by the band to their line-up ☺

**The Women's Line**—features the female ancestry of 11 local women from farming backgrounds. Each woman shows her own family tree through pictures & personal family stories. These made fascinating viewing & reading, and all added to a splendid visitor experience, along with the home-made cakes & tea.



together with **Macccreate**  
and the *Elkstonian Flower Festival*

## The Women's Line

The Women's Line is an installation of female-only family trees, each hang by pegs like precious washing.


Portraits by eleven women from farming backgrounds of how we each come to be in the Staffordshire Moorlands area in 2025

The catalyst for this installation came from research by Artist and Activist, Tyra Till. Looking into her own ancestry, it became clear that as family surnames go down the male line, women's stories and connections were much less obvious.

"Once I decided to focus on my female ancestors, I suddenly had a new perspective on my heritage..."

After seeing this project in Macclesfield in 2024, Outside Arts decided to run it with farmers from Staffordshire Moorlands as part of their rural arts revolution. Together with Myrtle Alcock, Tyra recruited and led workshops towards this installation, in the area where she lived for 20 years.

It turns out that farming heritage is creative and artistic!







For the installation, Elkstonian Myrtle Alcock traced her own women's line. Here she is with the project's creator Tyra Till & members of her family—Diana, Cora ☺ & Julie—who also appear on Myrtle's female-only tree.







**"No Rain, No Rainbow"**  
by Suzanne Horwell



**"It'll All Come Out In The Wash"** by  
Katy Parkinson



**"Carrots Help You See In The Dark"**  
& **"VE 80 Day"** by Myrtle Alcock



**"Lang May Yer Lum  
Reek (Long May Your  
Chimney Smoke)"** by  
Lyn Hill



**"An Apple A Day,  
Keeps The Doctor  
Away"** by  
Claire Pitcher



**"Pushing Up  
Daisies"** by Sally  
Faulkner—  
a beautiful  
tribute to  
people & pets,  
loved & lost ♥







**“You Can’t Make A Silk Purse Out Of A Sow’s Ear” by Karen O’Regan**  
—beautiful flowers in a simple vase & simple flowers in a beautiful vase (together with hand made sow with silk ears!)



**“At The Drop Of A Hat”**  
(the traditional start to many sporting events)

**& “Barking Up The Wrong Tree”**

**by Liz Meakin**



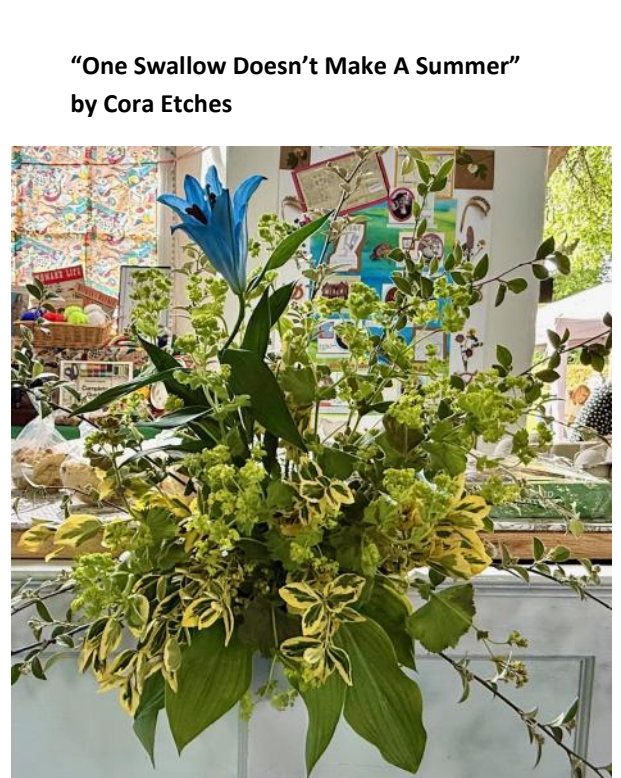
**“Don’t Cry Over Spilt Milk”** (perhaps not the first time for a milk churn in church over its long history!) & **“A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss”** by Myrtle Alcock







**"A Stitch In Time  
Saves Nine" by  
Elizabeth &  
Amy Buxton**



**"One Swallow Doesn't Make A Summer"  
by Cora Etches**



**"(You Can't) Teach An Old Dog New Tricks"  
(actually you can!)  
by Jane Prince**



**"Don't Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch" by Tanya Fox**





And finally... the wonderful balcony display by Julie Etches, with paintings by Margaret Grant "One For Sorrow, Two For Joy, Three For A Girl, Four For A Boy, Five For Silver, Six For Gold, Seven For A Secret Never To Be Told"



The whole weekend raised £2,200 to help pay the bills which keep coming in to underpin the upkeep of this great little church. Grateful thanks to everybody who had a hand in making this event such a success – all those who donated flowers and did the beautiful flower arrangements, with their clever and witty ideas; those who made cakes and worked on the tea and washing up rota; those who strimmed the churchyard and weeded the path; those who put up the tents and removed them again afterwards; those who donated money, raffle and tombola prizes, and not forgetting those who worked all weekend selling tickets and looking after the tombola.

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