



December 2025 Elkstonians' Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

Looking back to this time last year, we were already well under a load of November snow, with homes along Breech Road up at the top being cut off for several days & we were complaining about the lack of grit heaps up the steep & winding parts of the road where they are needed. In May, our local Councillor, Jonathon Kempster came to have a look at the situation & promised to take our request for re-instatement of our grit heaps back to the County. He's so far not made any progress... We have had a fantastic summer, so let's just hope that we won't be in for another mountain of snow this winter to make up for it!

As it will soon be Christmas I had another look back in the archives, this time 30 years back, to 1995, and I came across the lovely photo below of that year's Christmas Carol Service in Elkstones Church. To me it seems like just yesterday, but those children are now middle aged, and most with children of their own.



The children in the picture are, back row, left to right, James Floyd, Tom Meakin, Joanne Slack, Simon Meakin, Lee Cooper, & Julie Alcock. At the front are Annie Gregory & Bobby Meakin, with Diana Alcock on the keyboard.

And what a fantastic donkey!

Diary Dates—St John's Church Sunday 21st December 3.00pm Carol Service

Everyone is very welcome to our Carol Service, which will be led by the Rev. Jane, so please come along & celebrate the Christmas story by joining together with friends & neighbours at this festive time.

We will enjoy a good sing, followed by mince pies & mulled wine afterwards (or a tea, coffee or orange juice if you prefer).

There will be a Christmas Raffle to be drawn after the service.

Offers of mince pies will be welcomed by Myrtle, so please ring her on 01538 304225 if you can provide some. Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received, and these can be left in the front porch at Townhead House during the fortnight before the Carol Service.



Cleaning & Flowers for December – Liz Meakin





The Elkstonians' Christmas Lunch at the Jervis Arms, Onecote

12.30 for 1.00pm on Sunday 14th December.

Sixteen people have booked at the time of writing. Don't forget to bring a present costing no more than £5, wrapped and labelled 'lady' or 'gent', depending on which you are, for Santa to give out at the end of the lunch. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carol Singing Round the valley Friday 19th December



If you would like the Carol Singers to call & get your Christmas started on a happy note, please ring Margaret on 01538 300358. There's no need to invite us in – we're happy just to sing on your doorstep & hopefully collect a donation for the Chair's chosen charity this year, which is the Barn Owl Trust. (But if you do invite us in we will gratefully accept!)

If you'd like to join the Carol Singers, please meet up at Bank House at 6.30pm & have a glass of mulled cider & some nibbles (and a practice!) before we set off. We're hoping for a good turn-out this year so we can really belt out some carols 😊



The **Barn Owl Trust** is a small UK charity working very hard to conserve one of the most beautiful birds on Earth. Barn Owls have faced the worst breeding season in decades in 2025—in our area & more widely around the country—due to a lack of voles & mice. Three quarters of the usual nest sites in our locality failed to produce any chicks this year. I have really missed seeing them hunting in the Hamps Valley. Explore **educational** resources, **conservation** initiatives & **research** work at www.barnowltrust.org.uk.

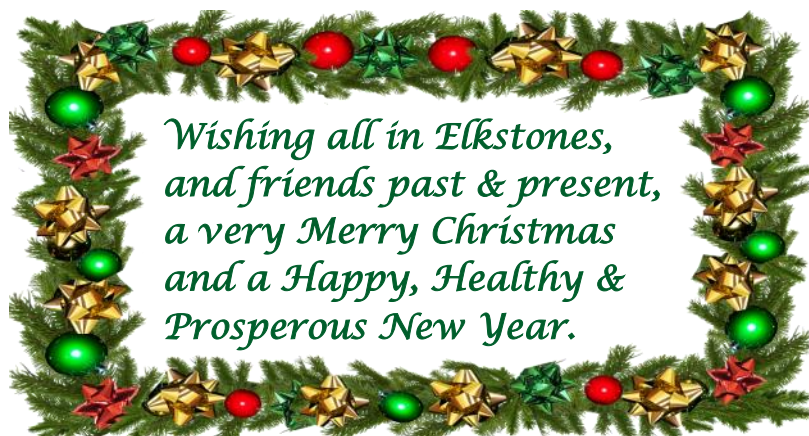
Thanks in advance for supporting my chosen charity! Jane



Have you ordered your Christmas Turkey or Chicken yet?

If not, get on the phone to Myrtle before they are all sold out! The geese are already spoken for Telephone 01538 304225

Finally, if you like to enjoy some lovely Christmas music, why not come to the Phoenix Singers' Christmas concert at 5.00pm on Saturday 13th December, in All Saints Church, Southbank Street, Leek. Please let Margaret know as soon as possible if you would like a ticket (Adults £10, under 18s £2).



*Wishing all in Elkstones,
and friends past & present,
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy, Healthy &
Prosperous New Year.*

The PHOENIX SINGERS
Director Ashley Thompson *Leek*

Sing the Christmas Story

Music & readings for the festive season
featuring
Young Phoenix

Saturday 13th December
5.00pm
All Saints Church
Leek
ST13 5PT

Tickets: £10 (£2 u18s)
available from:
www.phoenixsingersleek.co.uk
Leek Post Office & Picture Book
& Choir Members
Tel: 01538 308900

The Elkstonians: Chair **Jane Prince** Vice Chair **Don Sutherland** Secretary **Katy Parkinson** Treasurer **Margaret Grant**
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