



February 2026

Elkstonians'

Village Newsletter



### Margaret's Meanderings...

I am feeling really pleased that January is now over, as apart from the gloomy & frankly scary world news (thank you Mr Trump), the weather added to it by being mostly foggy & gloomy too, *but* on the 28<sup>th</sup> when I was returning from a drive into Buxton the day was beautiful, with a blue sky & spirit-lifting sunshine, plus an amazing 'cloud inversion' creating a sea of mist in the valley bottoms.



This phenomenon occurs when cold, damp air at ground level is trapped by a layer of warmer air above, so the morning mist which naturally forms in the valleys each morning can't escape by rising up to join the clouds in the higher atmosphere. Driving down the road in Upper Elkstone, the valley bottoms looked like lakes & gave an idea of what the view would've been like if the authorities had succeeded in the early 1970s with their plan to flood the valley bottom to create a reservoir in this area. This was 50 years ago, just before we came to live in Elkstones, so I'm not sure which area was due to be drowned, but I think it would've included Warslow, Hulme End & maybe Lower Elkstone? Does anyone remember this plan & which areas would have gone underwater?

### Road Closures in Upper Elkstone & Leek Road, Moorlands, for telecommunications work

The roads above will be closed from 5<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February, or until whatever date the work is finished. We guess this refers to the digging of trenches alongside or under the roads for the fibre broadband installations.

### St John's Church dates

Sunday, 15th February at 3.00pm  
Holy Communion celebrated by Rev Jane Held

Cleaning & Flowers for February – Sally Faulkner  
No flowers during Lent

### Subscriptions, £5 per household, plus £10.44 postage if you have it posted

So far for the year Nov 2025 – Oct 2026, only 15 households have paid their subs. Many thanks to those who have remembered. The subs are needed to pay for the printing of the Newsletter for those who don't have computer access, and for the costs (£240 per year) involved in keeping our website going, ([www.elkstones.org](http://www.elkstones.org)) so please if you have forgotten, let Margaret have your £5 asap, or if you prefer to pay by bank transfer, the account is: The Elkstonians / 01-05-02 / 01027816. Thanks 😊

**And now, a very warm welcome to our guest contributor, Zac Horwell...**

## *The Duke of Edinburgh's Award*

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) was created in 1956 by Prince Phillip. It is run in over 140 countries worldwide. It is aimed at people in the age range of 14-24. There are four sections in both bronze and silver awards but five in the gold award. These sections are volunteering, skills, physical and expedition (plus residential in gold). This award is really good and shows that you are resilient and committed to future jobs that you might want to pursue later.



I achieved my bronze DofE award in 2025 and I am now pursuing my silver award. I am doing my skills and volunteering sections in the village by litter picking and helping the overall maintenance of the village. I am also helping out with this newsletter which will be skills section, building more creative writing skills. I hope to complete my award by July 2026. If anyone has ideas on what I can help with in the village then please let me know and I will try and help you out for my volunteering.

## *Local legends and myths*

### *"The mermaid of Mermaid Pool"*

This is one of the most famous legends in the area. It is said that a mermaid lives in mermaid pool and appears on easter Sunday, singing and combing her hair. According to the story anyone who hears her song may be drawn into the water and never return. Some locals also believe the pool could be bottomless.



### *"The Doxey Pool"*

High up on the Roaches is Doxey pool, another said to be bottomless. Legend says a witch or spirit lives in the water and drags people under. Farmers once tied ropes together to measure the depth but apparently the pool seemed endless.

## *How Elkstones village might have got its name...*



The village is actually Upper & Lower Elkstone, probably concertinaed into one word because it's easier to fit onto road signs. The name Elkstone, written on old maps as Elkston, is thought to come from two parts.

The first word—Elk or Elks—may be an Old English family name, possibly someone who lived on or owned the land in early medieval times. This was quite common then.

The second part—ton—might come from the Anglo Saxon word for 'settlement' or 'township'.