



March 2026

Elkstonians'

Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

My last month's meanderings, featuring the 1970s plans for a big reservoir in our area, have been answered by Myrtle Alcock, who was 13 or 14 at the time. Myrtle remembers the plans very well, and if they had gone ahead, the area of land from the bridge at Longnor right up to Hulme End would now be under water. Her father, John Critchlow, was a member of Longnor Parish Council at the time, and he, along with Jim Critchlow, Walter Cundy & other PC members, went by train to London to argue the case for the reservoir to be sited elsewhere. They won their case & so it was that the reservoir went to Carsington instead. I myself remember the reservoir being built at Carsington, and also while it was being built the collapse of the dam wall, which made the national news. It was a massive & lengthy project, so we were spared a lot of disruption and possible disaster https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carsington_Water

Village Diary Dates

Thursday 12th March, 7.30pm at Bank House

The Elkstonians are meeting up to talk about possible social events for Spring & Summer, so if you have any ideas for events, walks, outings or any other sort of happening that would bring people together, please come along, have a natter & some refreshments, and help us to sort out a programme 😊

Sunday 15th March, 3.00pm in St. John's Church, Holy Communion celebrated by Rev. Jane Held

This is Jane's final service in Elkstones as, having reached the age of 72, she is retiring on the 5th April & going to live in Scotland on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. I went to Onecote Village Hall recently to listen to Jane's talk about her very full & highly colourful life so far—she started out as an archaeologist, but soon progressed to working with knife wielding youths in children's homes in very deprived areas, and eventually became an ardent pacifist who was very actively involved in the Greenham Common women's camp in the 1960s, protesting about Nuclear Armaments. I very much doubt that she will end up with a completely peaceful retirement in Scotland!! I am sure she'll also soon be actively involved in whatever is happening up there... but nevertheless, please come along to wish her a very well-deserved happy future life.



WARSLOW AND ELKSTONES PARISH COUNCIL

Acting Chairman: Mr P Moakes

Clerk and RFO: Mrs S Hampson

Email: parishclerk.warslow@gmail.com

A meeting of Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 18th March 2026 in Warslow Village Hall

AGENDA

Non-confidential items

1. Apologies and attendance register
2. Declaration of interest of councillors related to the agenda
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Casual vacancy and possible co-option
5. Public speaking procedures document
6. Public speaking (10 minutes)
7. Update on grit bins (Warslow and Elkstones)
8. Update from the County Councillor
9. Update from the District Councillor
10. Speed devices
11. Burial ground public meeting
12. Parish council domain and email address; IT policy
13. Items for Longnor Benefice Magazine (if required)
14. Planning applications, appeals, planning decisions
15. Items of account, clerk, lengthsmen, HMRC, general income and expenditure
16. Highway issues, grit bins, street lighting
17. Correspondence and communication
18. Items for the next agenda
19. Date of the next meeting: Wednesday, 20th May 2026 (Annual meetings)

Confidential items

(Members of the public will be invited to leave at this point in proceedings)

Mrs S Hampson
Clerk
Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council

25th November 2025

Wed 18th March, 7.30pm

Warslow & Elkstones Parish Council meeting
in Warslow Village Hall

Please see the Agenda, left, which can also be viewed along with the minutes of the January meeting at www.warslowandelkstonespc.org

The minutes include some discussion about the grit provision in Warslow & Elkstones, and Councillor Jonathon Kempster's efforts to get our grit heaps in Upper Elkstone reinstated.

Unfortunately, so far he does not seem to have made any headway with Staffs County Council Highways Department on this subject.

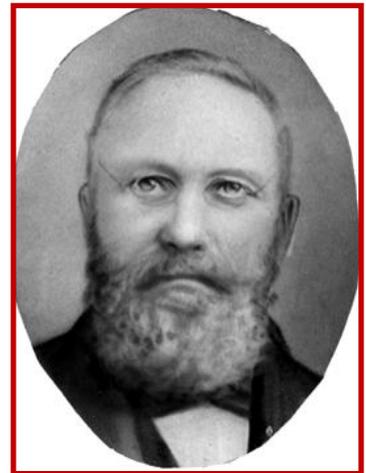
American Visitor to Elkstones, and Elkstonians who emigrated to America

In early October last year, Margaret had a call via our website from Rob Witherell, a visitor from the USA, who was combining a business trip with a visit to Warslow & Elkstones to research the Barker side of his family history.

He has tracked his great, great grandparents Hannah (nee Prince) & Job Barker back to the Moorside area around Stoneyfold Lane, and thinks that these photos are of them in about 1880. This intrepid & adventurous pair of Elkstonians from an earlier age emigrated to the States in 1889.

Rob used our book 'Elkstones at 800' to study the names of the properties going back in time, but of course in the book we used the names of the owners, who were often absent landlords. The people who farmed, or worked in the mines in our area, were most likely tenants not owners.

Rob therefore has done a great deal of research on the census records between 1841 and 1939 which show who was actually living in the properties. Most of the properties are still in use, though there are several which are now ruins or have vanished altogether. He notes that some families had a long-standing connection with Elkstones & the area, with families like the Salts, the Goulds, the Deavilles & the Alcocks especially prominent, and wonders if anyone who knows that they have a definite history here would like him to do descendant trees of their family in return for donations to the Elkstonians website fund. If you feel interested in this please contact Margaret (grants.elkstones@btinternet.com), who will forward your query to Rob.



Finally, many, many thanks to Zac Horwell, who has continued his Volunteering Project for his Duke of Edinburgh award over the last couple of weeks by doing work in the village, notably by providing very attractive planters full of colourful spring flowers to place below the Village Notice Board and at the top entry sign to the village. He has cleaned up the signs in the centre of the village and has also spent long hours shoveling away and removing the muddy mess made by the leaves which fell all through Autumn onto the road by the 'well' in the centre of Upper Elkstone, and which then got soaked all through winter by the never-ending rainfall.



I don't remember this ever happening before, or it being such a problem underfoot as it has been over this last wet, wet, wet winter, but at last they have been cleared away. Thank you Zac.



And now over to Zac for his articles ...

Birds in the local area

Whilst doing work in the village, I have been able to listen to the local wildlife and birds. I have been using an app called Merlin Bird ID, by The Cornell Lab. This application listens to birds through the microphone on my phone. While it hasn't identified a Curlew yet, so spring hasn't *officially* arrived, here are some of the birds that I heard in the village at different times:



Eurasian Blackcap ✓



European Starling



Eurasian Blue Tit ✓



Common Wood-Pigeon ✓



House Sparrow ✓



Dunnock ✓



European Stonechat



European Robin ✓



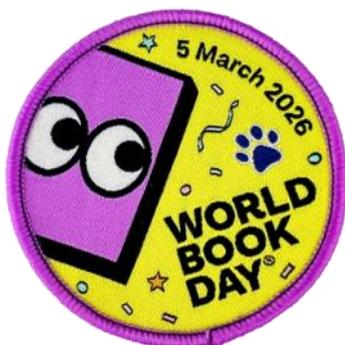
Common Chaffinch ✓

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>

The History of World Book Day

World book day started in Spain about 100 years ago to celebrate the writer of Don Quixote, Miquel de Cervantes and was on April the 23rd, the day he died. They celebrated it by giving each other books on that date.

In 1995, UNESCO turned it into a worldwide event called World Book Day and the UK moved it to March so it didn't clash with Easter. They wanted to encourage reading and support authors.



Over time it has become a massive event in schools, with book tokens and dressing up as your favourite book character.

SOME NATIONAL DAYS COMING UP IN MARCH

World Book Day (5 March)
International Women's Day (8 March)
British Science Week (6 – 15 March)
Red Nose Day / Comic Relief (20 March)
World Poetry Day (21 March)
International Day of Forests (21 March)
World Down Syndrome Day (21 March)
Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day) (15 March)
Pi Day (14 March)