



April 2026

Elkstonians'

Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

When I took this photo of the glorious daffodils in Lower Elkstone, it felt as if the year had truly turned a corner & Spring was here at last and we had really left behind Winter's grey, wet, foggy gloom, but two days later snow & hail struck us again! A brief wintry interlude, hopefully....

On 12th March half a dozen stalwarts met up to plan some future events, the first of which is...

Steak Night, Thursday 16th April, 6.30pm, The Reform Inn, Thorncliffe

If you want to have an evening out, forgetting all the bad news from Trump Towers, fuel prices & the cost of living, come & enjoy an evening in great company, plus a good plate of steak and chips, or whatever else you fancy from the varied menu at The Reform. There are plenty of other options, including vegetarian, but Thursdays are when they reduce the prices of rump, sirloin & fillet steaks and gammon.



Please book with Katy before Thursday 9th April

on 01538 300753 or email her at: kparkinson@content2.co.uk

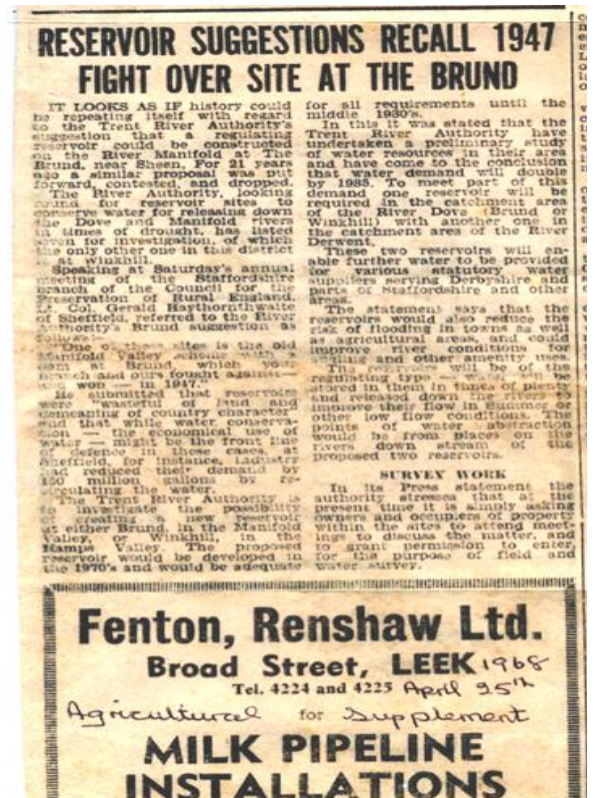
www.thereforminn.co.uk/steak-night-thursdays

Reservoir Recollections

The story about the past reservoir proposal stirred memories in a few other people, including Anthony Gilman, who was about 15 at the time. He recalls the big effort made to raise funds for the protesters' fares to London, as he attended a Fete in Leek organized by John Mellor, one of the 15 plus farmers whose livelihood would have been sunk under the waves if the scheme had gone ahead.

Teresa Riley, our former Councillor, dug out two newspaper cuttings that she has saved from those days, which detail how the water would be used to replenish the Dove & Manifold rivers in times of drought, with water being extracted from them at points further down when needed.

There isn't room to reproduce the bigger of the two cuttings here, which tells how the water would have reached to within 250 yards of Longnor Market Square, but Margaret has a copy if anyone would like to read it. It's a very interesting piece of local history.



St. John's Church: Sunday 19th April, 3.00pm, Holy Communion celebrated by Rev. Patrick
Cleaning & flowers for April, Elizabeth Buxton

Our lovely Mothering Sunday Service, taken by Rev. Jane Held, was enjoyed by all who attended. It was also a farewell & a thank you to Rev. Jane for her ministry to our little church & all connected with it over the past months, since our former vicar, Rev. Prebendary John Baines died so suddenly. It was Jane's last service for St. John's, so it was a sad but happy occasion, if you can have such a thing, as she retires on April 5th & moves on to a new life in Scotland, but she assures us that she has loved getting to know everyone here, and that she will remember us with fondness.



Holy Week & Easter dates at other churches:

- 1st April Wednesday 7.00pm Reflections Service at Ipstones
- 2nd April Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Agape Supper at Ipstones
- 3rd April Good Friday 10.30am Walk of Witness from the High Street, Ipstones with hot soup & bacon rolls in the Church afterwards
- 3rd April Good Friday 7.00pm An Hour before the Cross at Onecote Church
- 3rd April Good Friday 9.00pm Night Vigil at Ipstones
- 4th April Easter Saturday 10.30am–12.00 noon Easter Holiday Club & Easter Egg Hunt at Ipstones
- 4th April Easter Saturday 4.00pm Easter Eve Holy Communion at Onecote
- 4th April Easter Saturday 9.00pm Easter Fire Service at Butterton
- 5th April Easter Sunday 6.15am Sunrise Service by Rev. Jane Held at Newtown
- 5th April Easter Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion by Rev. Jane Held at Longnor
- 5th April Easter Sunday 3.00pm Benefice Holy Communion Service & Farewell to Rev. Jane Held at Ipstones with Refreshments afterwards



Flower Festival Planning Meeting:

Thursday April 23rd 6.30pm at Townhead Farm, Lower Elkstone

Please come along to the Flower Festival Meeting at Myrtle's & help plan our next Festival. The more people who come to support the planning & the input with ideas and offers of help, the easier & more enjoyable the Festival is for everybody. The meeting will be helped along with tea & cake, so please put this date in your diary! The actual Festival weekend starts on Friday 19th June & the Festival Service will be on Sunday 21st June at 7.00pm. Hazel Bailey is already collecting things for the Tombola, and as she is currently very short of items, please start looking out your unwanted Christmas presents, or have a Spring Cleaning Declutter, and let Hazel know (01538 304303) if you can supply anything to get this year's collection started and growing..... Thank you ☺



And now over
to Zac ☺



Signs of Spring in Elkstones

Spring doesn't arrive all at once, it slowly enters. Snowdrops and daffodils are usually the first to appear, and the birds start getting louder.

You might also notice more insects buzzing around, and the days finally getting longer. Even the fields and hedges look different as new leaves start to appear.

If you're out walking, try spotting robins collecting nesting materials, or the first bumblebees of the year.

Some of the things you'll be able to see and hear are:

- ◇ Curlews calling
- ◇ Skylarks
- ◇ Lapwings
- ◇ Daffodils & snowdrops
- ◇ Bumblebees
- ◇ Frogspawn
- ◇ Lambs
- ◇ Evenings staying lighter and the clocks go forward (29th March)
- ◇ Buds
- ◇ Garden birds nesting



Keeping Our Moorlands Safe This Spring

The Peak District National Park has started recruiting seasonal rangers, and one of their biggest responsibilities is spotting early signs of fire on the moors. It might sound like a quiet job, but during dry spells even a tiny spark can turn into a serious fire.

Most moorland fires start by accident things like disposable barbecues, dropped cigarettes, or glass left in the sun. Seasonal rangers help keep an eye out for these risks, but they can't be everywhere. Protecting the moors is something the whole community plays a part in.

By sticking to simple rules—no open flames, no barbecues, and taking litter home we help protect wildlife and the landscape we all enjoy. With rangers on patrol and everyone doing their bit, we can keep the moorlands safe throughout spring and summer.



*Right—moorland
fire on The Roaches
March 2025*

