

THE BRIDGE



Produced by Elmore Parish Council
Issue No. 6, November 2015

From the Editor

When your Parish Council decided to begin its own quarterly magazine it was for a trial period of one year. Even before the first edition was published 'Elmore Quarterly' was renamed **The Bridge** and, as they say, the rest is history. Such has been the success and friendly reception of **The Bridge** that it has been decided to dedicate the funding to make the magazine permanent and to regularise publication. So future editions will appear in **February, May, August and November** each year. This pattern is really driven by the need to print the Chair's Annual Report in the May issue following the Annual Meetings. Happily a 3 month sequence then allows the November issue to publicise any Christmas events.

As editor I have an email contact list of those who regularly contribute, but several people have contacted me to ask to publish notices of events only to be told they have missed the copy dates so it makes sense to publish these in advance.

Here are the copy dates until the end of 2016

Friday 22nd January 2016

Friday 20th May 2016

Friday 29th July 2016

Friday 21st October 2016

If you want to publicise any events please let me have the details on or before these dates to be sure to get your event in the next issue. Reports after the event are also appreciated.

I am also very keen to include interesting articles in every issue - you will see that Sophie Round has contributed a lively account of life at Elmore Back Farm to this issue. In its short life The Bridge has included articles about: how our village keeps its feet above water; how the River Severn evolved; what Elmore life was like during the First World War; the effects of a flood in the 18th Century, to name a few. I would like to keep this going so if you feel you can contribute please get in touch. Maybe a short account of an adventurous holiday or day trip; maybe your family history research will throw up something interesting that you would like to share with others. Who knows?

Don't be shy. It's your magazine - your Council Tax pays for it.

I am most happy to receive contributions by email but typed or hand written scripts are also welcome.

Trevor Jones, November 2015

Village Players present 'Goody Two Shoes' a pantomime by Paul Reakes.

Septica, an evil sorceress, has left her magic shoes with the Elf Cobbler for mending and is far from pleased when she sees Goody Coddle wearing them. With the help of her servants Rolo and Polo, Septica is on quest to regain ownership of the shoes. But will Goody, alongside her mother Molly and brother Teddy, outwit the evil sorceress?

Performances run from Thursday 26th November until Sunday 29th November and then from Wednesday 2nd December until Saturday 5th December at Elmore Village Hall.

Tickets are priced at £7.00 for adults and £4.00 for children. Our Gala performance on Thursday 26th November is priced at £15.00 a ticket and includes a buffet and wine at the interval. The gala performance will also support two charities, Chernobyl Children and The Butterfly Project at Dundry Nurseries for people with learning difficulties.

To purchase tickets, please call our Box Office on 01452 722245. But be quick, as tickets are selling out quickly.

Save our River Bank

Another Community Day: Saturday November 28th

We learnt so much on the first community day that we could go on to repair other parts of the river bank where there is incipient erosion. To do this we need to collect the raw material to make willow faggots, stakes and pegs in preparation for work in the Spring. We intend to do this by cutting the willows along the Lake Street verges.

The first Community Day was such a success and there was great sense of doing something worthwhile and amazing. So why not come along on November 28th; there will be worthwhile jobs for young and old. We will need chainsaws, bill hooks, long handled loppers, secateurs and step ladders so if you have them PLEASE BRING THEM ALONG. Thermoses with hot drinks, cakes and snacks would also be a good idea.

It would also be good if some of those who took part in the first Community Day could come along as team leaders.

You never know, your Parish Council may even set up a barbecue again

MEET AT FARLEY'S END AT 0930 on 28th November - As you are aware, Lake Street is not the widest of country lanes so we need to keep the number of cars on site down to a minimum. A trailer will be available at the rendezvous to carry the tools but we will need to walk to the cutting site (or go by bike ☺.)

Book Club Coffee Morning

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning during September. Thanks to your kind support and generosity we were able to send a donation of £783 to Macmillan, which is a fantastic effort – a very big thank you from us all.

Catherine Carter for the Book Club.

Update from Elmore Church

As most Elmore residents are aware, we are busy fund raising to install toilet facilities at Elmore Parish Church. The increased number of weddings this year and the inevitable fact that none of us are getting any younger has made this a real necessity.

A little while ago someone from the village made the comment that we should be able to afford it with all the wedding fees coming our way; sadly this isn't actually true.

Amazingly only a very small amount of the fees paid to the Church for weddings stay in Elmore. The diocese of Gloucester top cuts just over £180 as a levy towards the cost of providing a Vicar to conduct the marriage. Also the fees payable for bell ringers, organist and vergers go straight to those individuals. Roughly £250 per wedding arrives in the PCC account and even that is not all profit since, like everyone else, we have fuel bills to pay as well as insurance and depreciation costs to take into account.

This is why we have approached the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust for grant aid of £10,000 and have also very gratefully received a gift from Elmore Court which amounts to roughly half of the architect's fees. The Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust will provide £4000 and our recent 700th anniversary celebrations were also a great help in this regard. Other income sources are currently being investigated.

Believe it or not, to complete this project, we have to raise about £38,000 (excluding VAT) of which about two thirds has, in principle, already been found. The final one third will be raised by further grant application and local fund raising.

The fact that our Church is a listed building means that exacting specifications push up the price and a great deal of work has been done to ensure that the most economical yet practical and appropriate design has

been chosen. We have taken in hand extension of the water main, installing a cost effective sewage disposal system and making changes to the vestry area as a result of the internal works; including improved lighting, new carpeting and incorporation of an existing wooden screen.

May I thank everyone for their support in making this project a reality especially the small band of volunteers who are directing the planning and the ongoing fund raising associated with it.

Father Andrew

Christmas at Elmore Church



CHRISTMAS

Sunday December 20th Traditional Lessons & Carols Service at Elmore Church 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass is at Longney Church this year
The service begins at 11.15pm

Christmas Day Christmas Day Eucharist at Elmore 9.30am

From Elmore Parish Council

Rubbish !

Many of you will have seen the announcement in the Stroud District Council Newsletter (SDC News) which highlighted the changes to our rubbish collection system but it is worth repeating the details here:

Bulk Rubbish. Up to now SDC have not raised any charges for the collection of bulky items like mattresses, fridges, furniture etc. However this has now been changed and with immediate effect there will be a charge of £15 for the collection of up to 3 items with a charge of £5 for each item over this quantity. More information is available on the SDC website; www.stroud.gov.uk/bulky or by calling 01453 7544244.

Food Waste: During 2016 weekly food waste collections are to be introduced. Sealed food containers and kitchen food caddies will be provided. No date has yet been set for when this will start.

Black Bags: In conjunction with the introduction of food waste collections, the collection of black rubbish bags will change from weekly to fortnightly. This is because SDC has analysed the contents of rubbish bags and found that up to 60% of it is food waste. In addition, black bags themselves will be phased out and a new black wheelie bin provided.

Garden Waste: An optional garden waste scheme will also be introduced during 2016 but householders will have to pay for this service which will cost £36 a year plus a one-off charge of £20 to purchase a special wheelie bin.

Recycling: The current system of recycling of cans, bottles and paper will continue as normal.

More information on all these schemes can be found at: www.stroud.gov.uk/newscheme

The Parish Council raised concerns with SDC about the possible increase in fly-tipping as a result of the new bulk rubbish charges but has been assured that there is no evidence to support this fear based on the experience of all the other local authorities which have introduced the charges throughout the UK.

The Javelin Park Incinerator

The debate about the Javelin Park Incinerator has been one of the hot topics in Gloucestershire for the last few years but now the scheme has been approved and the construction of the rubbish incinerator at Javelin Park is due to start in 2016 and will finish in 2019.

The cost of the project is estimated to be £500million and should divert up to 92% of the current waste from landfill sites. The site will also generate enough power for 26,000 homes

Local Elections

On 5th May 2016 local elections will be held for the district, parish and town councils. These will include Elmore Parish Council.

If you would like to serve the community as a councillor then you will need to stand for election by registering your name with Stroud District Council. The election on 5th May 2016 includes all the current Elmore Parish Council seats and all the current Parish Councillors will be required to either stand for re-election or step down.

If no more than 5 candidates are registered with SDC then all those who put their names forward would be deemed as having been elected. If there are more than 5 candidates then a formal election paper will be produced and an election carried out in the normal way.

More information can be obtained from:

www.stroud.gov.uk/becomeacouncillor

Broadband Update:

You may have noticed that a new, very tall, telegraph pole has appeared on the roadside as you approach the Pilot Pub from the village. At the top of this pole is a dish which will receive and send the super-fast broadband signal from the Hardwicke Telephone Exchange.

The introduction of super-fast broadband into rural areas has been a Government pledge for some time and the target date is the end of 2015 – a deadline that is fast approaching! Your Parish Council has been campaigning for this improvement for many years and we are about to see the fruits of our labours. We have been assured that the new system will be operational by the end of October and that householders can then place orders with their service provider – be that BT, Talk Talk, Virgin or whoever. Of course the provision of a superfast broadband connection may well cost householders more than they are currently paying but no figures have yet been published.

However, a tentative word of warning should be added here – although we will all probably see an improvement in our ordinary Broadband download

speeds without paying anything extra, the idea that we'll get superfast Broadband may some way off as the fibre-optic cables haven't yet been laid into Elmore from the junction box adjacent to the new pole. This is due to happen during the early part of 2016 and then only as far as the Village Hall (EVH). However, households which are within 1.5km west of the EVH should be able to receive a much improved broadband speed.

Fastershire, the organisation responsible for the introduction of superfast broadband to rural areas, has assured us that regular updates appear on their website and that householders can register for automatic updates as to progress. However, this has not been our experience to date. ☹

We will therefore endeavour to keep up-to-date with progress via email as and when we find out ourselves.

Automation of the Canal Bridges

The Canal and Rivers Trust (C&RT) are proposing to automate the canal bridges so that boat users can open the bridges using an app on a smartphone or tablet. The cost of the scheme is estimated to be £4.5 million and should save £500k on staff costs annually. C&RT carried out a public consultation earlier this year to gauge the reaction to their proposals and have since published their findings. It would appear that 63% of all road users and 25% of boat users oppose the new scheme but C&RT are still planning to go ahead with it in its current form.

Your Parish Council and all the other parish councils west of the canal are very concerned that the C&RT proposals do not consider the needs of the residents and favour those boat users who are using the canal for leisure purposes. We are concerned that individual boat users can cause undue delays to traffic as the scheme will be totally automated with no staff manning the bridges and only one boat permitted to pass at a time. In theory this could mean that a queue of boats will open and close the bridges continually without regard to the road users. We are especially concerned about the use of the bridges by the emergency services and any delay that might be imposed on them.

Therefore, a task group has been set up by the Severn Voice Group of parishes in order to persuade Gloucestershire County Council to impose restrictions on the number of times per hour that the bridges can be opened and to encourage C&RT to install CCTV cameras in such a way that they will monitor the traffic on the approaches to the bridges.

The Task Group has prepared a paper highlighting our concerns and submitted it to GCC, our local MP and C&RT.

Personal Security

Although the level of crime in our area has been very low recently we should beware of becoming complacent about our own security.

The darker evenings and longer nights provide an ideal cover for burglars. Therefore, we should all remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity or unmarked vehicles behaving oddly.

It is always a good idea to have timer operated lights in the house, especially when you are away and to keep your neighbours informed about your holidays.

Gloucestershire Police are now using the Elmore roads for driver training so we should see an increased number of police vehicles driving around. This can only be a good thing and provides an added deterrent for those up to no good!

Parish Website

Sadly our Parish website has been 'hacked' and consequently crashed. We are in the process of rebuilding it using a local website designer. Luckily as part of the Government's 'Transparency' initiative, grants are available for setting up websites and we have put in an application. Hopefully we should have the new website up and running before Christmas.

Farming Notes

Agriculture remains at the heart of our community and, as at this time last year, I was keen to get a farming report into **The Bridge**. This year I am grateful to Sophie Round for her contribution. THJ.

Elmore Back Farm

We own 420 acres at Elmore back, Church Farm & Patterills, Longney, and we rent approx 60 at the Weir. We also grow 50 acres of maize on Graham Littleton's land. We mainly have a grass/maize rotation, having grown 260 acres of maize this year and 25 of lucerne. There's also approx 50 acres of permanent pasture for grazing. I'm fortunate that my parents farm in Hartpury, so sometimes they grow maize for me, if

it works with their rotation. They need our muck, which I have lots of, and I need lots of their straw!

It's been a team effort this morning, getting the maize clamp sheeted up, (something no one enjoys) but a good job ensures the crop is sealed in, therefore providing quality forage for the next year. The maize harvest is a couple of weeks behind this year, due to a summer with no great lengths of prolonged sunshine. It's now a race to get the grass seed in ready for next May's silage before the winter sets in, and so the cycle goes on.

Each of the 350 cows we milk has gone through a cycle herself: she's calved, her calf has to be reared, is itself served (put in calf) and then calves down at 24 months old after a 9 month gestation. Each cow is milked for 305 days and within 80 days of calving she has to be in calf again. After these 305 days of milking the cows are dried off for 8 weeks before calving again. Well, that's in an ideal world! But, thrown in along the way can be problems, fertility issues, inconsistent forage quality and the weather to name a few, which affect milk quality & volume.

One problem we hadn't experienced before is a disease called Neospora, we had a massive breakdown two years ago which caused a number of the cows to abort which obviously had a knock-on effect nine months later to our calving pattern, of one calf per day, which enables us to supply a constant level of milk. Neospora is normally caused by dog faeces in crops which when harvested contaminate the feed, so I urge anyone with dogs to clear up after them when out walking.

We are busy now preparing sheds in order to house 650 head of cattle as soon as the weather breaks, there is still plenty of hedge cutting, muckspreading, fencing, worming and vaccinating to do and the list goes on. Even on Christmas Day there are still three milking's to be done!

We aim to have happy healthy cows which in turn hopefully produce a lot of milk, within the strict welfare & hygiene standards set out by our customer & I'm very grateful to the fantastic team who are involved here & make it happen, even when it's cold, wet, there's a power cut & the tractor won't start!!

Sophie Round October 23rd 2015

New plans for Elmore Court

At the beginning of 2017 we are going to be closing for 2 months in order to action the next stage. I've always wanted us to be able to have all of our kitchen facilities in house so that chefs and catering managers can work more closely with our already existing wedding coordinators... It would give us control over our produce and we can start to work with local suppliers and even look at using estate land to grow food, moving us further down the line to becoming self sufficient in both food and energy.

In order for this to happen we are planning a new building in the space between the rear of the main house and the Gillyflower. This would be a large 200 square metre commercial building clad in larch and topped with a living roof to tie in with the look of the Gillyflower.

The existing and nearly derelict Victorian kitchens we would also renovate and they would serve as offices for the additional staff as well as a tasting room for our clients.

Sarah and I are going to be moving out of Elmore. Very sadly we have found it rather hard to live in the middle of such an otherwise successful and busy business and so have had to accept that for now Elmore Court cannot be our home. Our kids are beginning to get to a more inquisitive age and that we can also foresee being problematic! We're not going far but doing so will also enable us to create a fair amount more accommodation that would make Elmore Court even more attractive and viable.

We are drawing up plans right now for submission for planning permission and have already had a meeting with members of Elmore Parish Council who were very supportive. It's all very exciting and we hope that with this development in place, Elmore Court will not only be an award winning wedding venue but also become known for its delicious food and a truly ecological 'field to fork' culture.

At this stage we'd welcome any thoughts or hear any concerns that the parish might have.

Thanks for your continued support. Anselm Guise

Village Hall News

The Village Hall quarterly committee meeting was held in July.

Our programme of improvements continues. A new convector heater has been purchased and installed, replacing the old storage heater in the stage end of the Hall. This, together with upgrades to heater controls in main Hall, will provide a more efficient, energy saving and cost effective system for the benefit and comfort of our hirers. An overhaul of the room-divider curtain track and cording system (replacing worn out motor) is planned, plus the installation of a new separate curtain track system by Village Players, for their own use.

The Village Hall walk planned for October, was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of support

Demand for space in our Hall is steadily increasing, so early bookings (or enquiries) are advisable. I look forward to hearing from you - 01452 721798 or pikelett@hotmail.com.

Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

John (Hardisty), Chairman

1st Elmore Guides

Last term 1st Elmore Guides had an outdoor packed summer term, which included fishing, outdoor cooking, camping and a sleepover. This term the Guides have been working towards their Communicator Badge; we made phone cases from socks and had a visit to the Three Mobile store to learn about how to use technology. We will be having a visit from a local hedgehog rescue trust and having a hedgehog themed

evening. Also we are looking forward to our visit to the Body Shop for a pamper evening and Christmas activities.

If you daughter would like to join Guides or you would like to become a volunteer please call Catherine on (01452) 722444

Elmore Brownies

The Brownies have completed their Disability Awareness badge and have spent one evening in Gloucester following the Rugby World Cup Scrumpty Trail, which they all enjoyed. We have been doing lots of challenges around our Brownie Adventures and will celebrating Diwali after half term as part of the world challenge.

If your daughter would like to join Brownies please call Jenny on 01452 722444

Elmore Toddler Group

This term has been a huge success with a boost in numbers, boasting 24 children on a couple of occasions! Lots of new faces and toddlers have slotted into the fun and are now part of the furniture.

We are lucky to now have Samantha, our very own dedicated, 'Mrs Maker' on crafts every week - the children have been making a variety of creations every week such as colourful binoculars, moving jellyfish and spotty dinosaurs.

We have also celebrated a few children's birthdays on a Tuesday with party snacks, fancy dress and yummy cakes

We have a fabulous group of the future generation of children who will be lucky enough to continue their friendships through their school years at Longney.

As always we welcome all mums, dads, grand-parents and carers, so please come along and join in the fun!!

Tuesday mornings 10am - Noon

Defibrillators: the latest

You will have seen that the second defibrillator has now been installed in the old phone box by the Village Hall. This was paid for largely by your own generous donations. Our appeal raised £1630 including £300

from the Elmore Land Charity. This is a brilliant effort and I know that John Field, Chair of the Parish Council, has written to all who gave so freely to the appeal. There were quite a few anonymous donations so this is our opportunity to thank you too

A defibrillator and its cabinet costs £1950 but the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT so the money you have contributed just about pays for the 2nd machine. There is a relatively small cost in getting the electricity connected; this keeps the cabinet warm and prevents the pads freezing in frosty weather. The costs of this has been met by Elmore Parish Council.

There are now some 35 people in the village who are trained to use the Defib although to use it successfully no formal training is needed; the machine tells you what to do.

Don't forget, whether you are trained or not, FIRST PHONE 999 and give your location. The operator will then tell you the code to get into the cabinet.

Defibrillator Training Session

More than 25 people attended the session on 27th October in the Village Hall. Visiting trainer Martin Fagan from the Community Heartbeat Trust was the speaker. The biggest message was that 'WE CAN DO NO HARM' by helping someone who has collapsed. How the heart works was explained in a fun way.

STARTING AND KEEPING UP CHEST COMPRESSIONS to get the heart pumping until Defibrillator and Ambulance help arrives was stressed. All who attended were given a leaflet with the DRSABCD ('doctors ABCD') mnemonic to remind you what to do and we include one with this issue of **The Bridge** so every household has one.

V.E.T.S. - Village Emergency Telephone System

A third of all 999 calls are from lone rescuers, so getting help to them quickly is important. VETS is a community run system, and enables up to 10 volunteer neighbours to be called to assist pending the arrival of the emergency services. Houses whose closest defibrillator is at the Elmore Village Phone Box Defibrillator and the houses closest to the

Elmore Back Defibrillator will each have one simple memorable phone number to call for help after the first 999 call. VETS will relay the message on to any of the 10 volunteer helpers. The helpers can then collect and bring the defibrillator to the patient to assist.

WANTED!

VETS Volunteer Helpers for Elmore Village and Elmore Back.

When we have enough volunteer names we will run a short training session with the visiting trainer, Martin Fagan, so that we can get the system working. We already have some names of interested volunteers but we need more. If you would like to join the Volunteer List please phone Trevor and Dorie Jones on 01452 722034 or email to elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk.

Elmore PC			
Chair	John Field	720357	fernhay@btinternet.com
Vice Chair	Andy Nash	720903	andynash@talktalk.net
	Jenni Hobbs	724633	enni@barvaleholsteins.co.uk
	Trevor Jones	722034	rosecottage1818@gmail.com
	Nick Meek	750769	nick@archies.me.uk
Clerk	Dorie Jones	722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com
Village Hall			
Chair	John Hardisty	721798	pikelet@hotmail.com
Social Chair	Su Hardisty	ditto	ditto
Other Village Organisations			
The Vicar	Fr Andrew James	720015	vicarage@inbox.com
Players	Amy Parkin	0755779011	villageplayers@outlook.com
WI	Val Overton	750591	vj.overton@tiscali.co.uk
Guides	Catherine Hartnell	722444	
Brownies	Jenny	722444	
Bridge Club	Caroline Meek	720383	
Toddlers	Sherene Watts	07800808564	sherenewatts@hotmail.com
Other Useful Contacts			
Police - non emergency		101	
Member of Parliament		01453751572	neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor		01453753429	anthony.blackburn@gloucestershire.gov.uk
District Councillor		01453538686	Cllr.dave.mossman@stroud.cov.uk
To report Fly Tipping		01453754424	publicspace@stroud.gov.uk
Report abandoned vehicles		01453754379	Abandoned.vehicle@stroud.gov.uk
Gloucs Highways (report potholes etc)			08000 514514
Village Agent			
Christine Lingard		07810630179	

2016 Elmore Parish Council meetings

Monday March 16th 2016

Tuesday May 17th 2016 (Annual Parish meeting)

Monday September 26th 2016

Monday December 12th 2016

**TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS
LUNCH**

at

ELMORE VILLAGE HALL

(In aid of Village Hall Funds)

**SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER
2015**

BAR

RAFFLE

TICKETS £20 (£10 under 12) From - **Su
Hardisty 721798**