

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
Issue No. 3 - January 2015



From the Editor - Trevor Jones

Welcome to the 3rd edition of The Bridge. Again there are plenty of articles of local interest; how is the broadband work progressing; how does Elmore Back keep its nose above water; how would we cope with a medical emergency; what is the Church doing to celebrate its 700th anniversary; how much did the recent Christmas Lunch raise?

A good deal of the content comes from Elmore Parish Council but, as always, I am grateful to others who have contributed. I was concerned that after the bumper 2nd issue I would have difficulty finding enough to fill the 3rd. I need not have worried, as you will see.

However, I am keen not to let the anniversary of the First World War go by without appropriate content in The Bridge; in the last issue Jennifer Watts provided some interesting cuttings about training children to milk cows in 1914. It is said that WW1 touched every family in the country and many more throughout the Empire. **If you have any family stories about WW1 on the homefront or in the trenches I would be very interested to have them for future editions of The Bridge.**

Finally I want to bring the Parish Council website to your attention. It gives details of our meetings (dates, agendas, minutes) as well as the draft Elmore Emergency Plan, back copies of The Bridge and links to other sites giving, for example, much greater detail of the fallen than there is on the War Memorial. Go to www.elmoreparish.co.uk

From the Parish Council

A Defibrillator for Elmore Back

You may not know what a Defibrillator is or does so here is a quick guide.

It is a life-saving device that can save your life in the event of a heart attack. It can be located in a central place that is easily accessible to us all. It is totally safe and can be used by anyone to save someone else's life;

The Ambulance Service aims for an 8 minute response time to a 999 call. This is based on the chances of survival dropping rapidly (90% at 1 minute, 10% at 9 minutes). Under normal conditions it is doubtful if this 8 minute target could be achieved even for houses in central Elmore let alone Elmore Back. Add snow, road works, flooding of the Stonebench Road or open canal bridges and there is little hope of achieving even 15 minutes

Therefore your Parish Council is currently in the process of procuring a defibrillator because we feel that in view of our location and the distance from the hospital, the risk is higher than normal for anyone who depends on the speedy arrival of an ambulance. This risk is more acute for those living at Elmore Back than in the centre of the village so we intend to locate this first equipment at Elmore Back Farm.

Your Parish Councillors have been researching the best kind of defibrillator for Elmore. We have been talking to Community Hearbeat (CH) and also South West Ambulance (SWA). Both CH and SWA recommend a fully automatic defibrillator which anyone can use. The machine actually 'talks' to the operator and guides him or her through the various steps involved. Once the ambulance arrives the paramedics can download information about the patient's condition and send it in advance to the hospital so maximising the patient's chance of survival.

With the help of SWA and CH we will be running a familiarisation session for volunteers so that they can become confident about the equipment and how to use it. *You will see elsewhere in this issue that Frampton Surgery also plan to run similar training. THJ (editor)*

A Second Defibrillator? How to Raise the Funding?

We would very much like to buy a second defibrillator that would be located in the telephone box by the Village Hall. However, as each defibrillator, its secure cabinet and ongoing maintenance costs amount to around £2000, we can only afford one at the moment.

So to get this second defibrillator we will need to raise the money. We are already putting in applications to two local charities in the hope of getting grants. We will also be running a fund raising event which will be announced in the next issue of *The Bridge*

Finally we hear from Saul, where a defibrillator has recently been installed in their telephone box, that many residents were keen to donate money - as little as £5 or £10 all adds up. **So if you would like to help**

us pay for this second defibrillator please send your donations to Dorie Jones, the Parish Clerk, at Rose Cottage, Weir Lane. Unlike many of the National charities, all monies raised will be ring-fenced for use on the defibrillator only.

The Phone Box In order to install a defibrillator in the phone box the Parish Council will adopt it and BT will remove the telephone equipment before handing it over to us. As far as we can tell no one now uses the pay phone but if we are wrong and you use it regularly and rely upon it please let any Parish Councillor know as soon as possible.

Flood Defences for Elmore

For the last 3 years we have been in constant discussion with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the future state of the 4km of flood defences around the Parish of Elmore. The current situation is as follows:

The life of our flood defences is estimated at 40 years (this refers only to the strength of the defences but not the height, as there is no allowance for any predicted sea level rise);

The EA do not now intend to create a wildlife habitat by flooding the 720 acres of Elmore Back farmland as was the intention in their 2011 Strategy;

The EA have stated that they will 'hold the line' regarding our defences. This means that they will continue to maintain them to the current standard BUT not improve them or raise the height;

The EA will continue to carry out maintenance of the defences as long as funds exist. This means that they will continue to cut the grass, collect the flotsam after the high Severn Bores and repair any areas that have become damaged. In addition, the EA will carry out any remedial work that will prevent damage in the future;

However, if funding runs out, or there is a crisis that causes unexpectedly high expenditure on maintenance, then the EA will seek to enter into arrangements with landowners and local councils to share the burden of the maintenance costs.

Some of you may have seen the pollarding that has taken place along a stretch of the riverbank at Elmore Back. Although this looks quite severe the EA have done this to avoid the trees getting too big and

hence falling into the river and thus causing the collapse of the part of riverbank. The pollarding has been done in such a way that the root structure remains intact and this holds the soil together. Willows are resilient trees and will quickly grow back.

What can we do regarding ‘Our Flood Defences’ ?

The EA is very keen for all the communities bordering the River Severn to get engaged in their own protection against flooding. This not only creates a sense of ownership but also means that everyone works as a team. To this end the EA has suggested that the community become involved in a ‘coppicing and planting day’ in early 2015 in conjunction with an EA Maintenance Team. This would involve cutting bundles of willow withies and planting them along the edge of the riverbank to help hold the bank together.

Does this idea appeal to you?

If so, we would like to hear from you so that such an event can be organised.

I am currently trying to fix a date for this Community Day with the EA and will publicise it in the next issue of The Bridge. THJ (editor)

Broadband - Improvements

The last Newsletter highlighted the proposed improvements to the Broadband signal strengths into both Elmore and Longney under the Fastershire scheme. Although the Fastershire plan is still on-going, the initial stages are, sadly, a little behind the scheduled dates. The new fibre optic ‘distribution box’ has already been installed at the Longney junction, this side of the Pilot Inn, but the transmitter and receiver for the Back Haul equipments have not yet been erected as BT’s suppliers could not provide poles of the correct height in order to elevate the equipment high enough to achieve a line of sight between the Hardwicke Exchange and the pole adjacent to the distribution box. The expected date for these to be installed is now the end of February. The target date for completion of the whole system is still the end of 2015.

At the time of going to press the new pole on our side of the canal has been erected. THJ ed.

Personal Safety and Security

There have been a number of incidents over the last few years whereby ‘uninvited passers-by’ have taken the liberty of helping themselves to the possessions of others.

Please don’t make it easy for these despicable characters – they are opportunists and will inevitably take the easy option – recent thefts have included:

an unattended and unlocked car with a handbag on the passenger seat; unlocked outside sheds and stores containing freezers and tools; a lawnmower left unattended near the road; attractive garden furniture in sight of the road; fuel from vans parked out of sight of the house; a motorbike from an outside shed; a camper van in a barn.

What can you do to reduce the risk?

when away make sure that lights go on and off in the house by using timers;

inform your neighbours when you go away;

be vigilant and report suspicious vehicles (especially unmarked vans cruising the area) and activity to the Police;

consider installing an effective alarm system and/or CCTV;

don’t leave sheds and outbuildings unlocked if they contain valuable items;

don’t leave ladders outside unless they have been secured with a lock and chain;

install movement-activated outside lights that cover the entrances to your property;

always ask to see the ID of callers to your property who claim to be officials of a utility company or delivery drivers; they must carry an ID card and genuine callers will willingly show you their cards.

Food for Thought

We have a vibrant and friendly community that has many events and activities throughout the year but these don’t happen by magic. In every community there are various committees that carry out functions for the benefit of others and Elmore is no different. For example we have the Village Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council (PCC), Elmore Parish Council (EPC) and the WI Committee. All the personnel

on these committees are volunteers who freely give their time for your benefit.

We have a very small population, about 220 people (adults and children), and it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit new blood and therefore several people serve on more than one of these committees so, if you feel you have something to offer or have a bit of spare capacity in your busy lives why don't you consider volunteering as it would be nice if the load was shared a little more evenly.

The long term outcome may be that if there isn't enough enthusiasm by villagers to contribute to the overall pattern of village life then activities may wither and die.

What do you think? Would you be at all concerned if this happened?

Elmore Church Christmas Lunch.

A very big thank you to all who helped and attended the lunch. It was a very enjoyable occasion for all. We actually raised £1,970 for church funds.

Hopefully some of this can be used for the proposed addition of a toilet in the vestry.

Pauline Ellis

Ist Elmore Guides

Last term the Guides were inspired by the 'Great British Bake Off' and in Patrols competed in a 'Great Guide Bake Off' to see who could be the next Mary Berry. They also collected food for the Gloucester Food Bank and presented the collection to a member of the Food Bank who explained their role and how people use this facility. There was also a visit to the Body Shop for some pampering and to finish off 2014 we went swimming and had a joint event with 1st Elmore Brownies. This term we will be doing our World Guiding Badge and celebrating Australia Day!

If your daughter is interested in joining Guides or Brownies, please call Catherine Hartell on (01452) 722444.

1st Elmore Brownies

We finished a very busy term leading up to the Christmas break with a joint party at Cattle Country with 1st Elmore Guides and making Yule Logs at our last meeting at the Village Hall. At the beginning of this term we held a Joint Challenge Evening with Frampton Brownies, a very noisy evening that was enjoyed by all. Also this term we are completing our Road Safety Badge with a visit to the Skills Centre and later on this term we are, over three sessions, working towards our Healthy Heart Badge which will conclude with a visit to a local supermarket to discuss healthy eating.

Elmore WI

There has been a WI in Elmore since at least 1926 with approx 26 members. No other records have been found since 1934, so we assume it disbanded during the war years.

June 23rd 1949 saw the reformation meeting with 21 ladies enrolling, 8 of whom were voted on to the committee.

The first official meeting of the newly opened WI with Lady Guise as chairman was on Aug 3rd 1949 with 33 members attending.

January 2015 The WI is still thriving with 20 members but we are always open to new members. Why not pay a visit on the 2nd Tuesday of any month at 7.30pm to see if it's your scene. You will meet a very friendly group ladies, listen, watch or take part with an interesting speaker and... finish with delicious refreshments.

Val Overton

Basic Lifesaving Training

A FREE 2 hour Lifesaving Training Session (resuscitation and defibrillation) is to be set up by Frampton Surgery and funded by The Pinching Trust.

Groups of about 12 people are needed to volunteer for the course which will be at a venue and time to suit all.

Please give your name, phone number and email to Jill Hurran who will coordinate the numbers for Elmore and surrounds.

Jill Hurran 01452 720539 jhurran@googlemail.com

A Century of Elmore in Photos and Films

At 7.30 on 7th March 2015 there will be a film and photograph evening at Elmore Village Hall. The photographs will show Elmore and its residents going back to the early C20th. There will also be a film show of footage taken in Elmore mainly in the 1950s. It will be an interactive evening; the audience will be invited to comment on any scene when the films will be paused.

Tickets price £7 (in aid of the church toilet project) to include a ploughman's supper. Bring your own drinks.

Tickets available from Pauline Ellis 01452 728253, email: colinellis50@hotmail.com or Jill Hurran 01452 720539

Why Lake Street?

The origin of place names can be a fascinating study but we don't have to look very far to imagine where the name 'Lake Street' came from. Until the late 1950s Elmore Back was regularly cut off from the rest of the village whenever flooding turned the low land crossed by Lake Street into a lake. These water meadows are at risk not only from the River Severn but also, during and after heavy rain, from water draining off the northern side of the ridge that runs from Bridgemacote eastwards past Elmore Court, at its highest point, to Windmill Hill.

That this regular inundation has largely stopped is thanks to the work of the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board (LSIDB) whose job it is to dispose of excess water after heavy rain. Drainage of farmland has a history which goes back hundreds of years. The Romans carried out much early draining and the precursors of today's Drainage Boards go back the C13th, undertaking drainage work to improve agricultural production across the country.

Then in 1930 the Land Drainage Act was passed to enable formal Drainage Boards to be established as statutory authorities. Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) nationally cover 10% of England and Wales which amounts to about three million acres, being some of the most productive land in the country. Most of these boards are concentrated in the East of England around The Wash and The Fens.

The South Gloucestershire IDB was constituted in 1936, the first members being appointed by the Minister of Agriculture with elections being held every three years afterwards. In 2001 the South

Gloucestershire IDB was amalgamated with the West Gloucestershire IDB and in 2005 further amalgamations with the North Gloucestershire IDB and the Longdon and Eldersfield IDB created today's Lower Severn IDB. The LSIDB is responsible for 60,000 acres of low lying land (below the 10 metre contour) adjacent to the R Severn from Avonmouth and Chepstow up to Gloucester as well as land along the R Leadon from Gloucester to Ledbury. This area contains more than 300 miles of drainage ditches (known locally as 'rhines') all of which have to be regularly maintained by the LSIDB.

Soon after the IDBs were set up the Second World War intervened and so not much was achieved but in 1952 what is now the LSIDB appointed its first full time engineer and then things began to happen. One of the first areas to be improved was at Elmore Back because it is an isolated catchment where drainage works would have an immediate effect. The first pumps were installed in 1959 to remove water from the 1600 acre catchment where 800 acres were regularly flooded when periods of heavy rain made Elmore Back inaccessible except by tractor or horse and cart. The fact that the pumps were commissioned on Christmas Eve 1959 is a lasting Christmas present to the farms and houses at Elmore Back

The two pumps draining the Lake Street meadows have the capacity to remove the equivalent of 1/3rd of an inch of rain over the catchment every 24 hours. The two 1959 Gwynnes pumps are still there quietly doing their work. On-going maintenance of the 7 miles of rhines is very important especially the clearing of weed which can choke the channels and encourage them to become blocked with sediment and debris. You will often see this work going on during the summer months. Filter screens prevent weeds and other debris from choking the pumps and employees of the IDB regularly clear them out year round.

How is all this paid for? Rates are levied from all those who live and work in the drainage areas - householders, farmers and industries - with the industrial premises contributing the lion's share. Farmers pay their rates directly to the IDB. Householders and industrial premises pay theirs to the local authority through their council tax, the money then being passed on to the IDB.

The pumping scheme has been a great and largely unsung success making a huge difference to the lives of residents of Elmore Back and the quality and quantity of agricultural production.

Graham Littleton (January 2015)

A great big thanks to readers of The Bridge for supporting the Severn Vale Rotary Bike and Computer collections.

Both appeals have been supported so well and thanks for your donations of bikes and computers.

In November two van loads of old bikes were delivered to the Gloucester Bike project. This Gloucester based group is a not-for-profit social enterprise that works with vulnerable youngsters and adults, teaching bike maintenance and repair. Vulnerable teenagers get help to progress their lives. Refurbished bikes are donated to charities, schools and other organisations. Some are sold at affordable prices to fund the work of the project . More details on this socially successful project are on their web site www.gloucestershirebikeproject.co.uk.

On 10th January 2015 redundant computers were collected at the Tesco stores at Stroud and Quedgeley. Again we were overwhelmed with the support from the local community. We were able to deliver a fully loaded van of computers to the Cheltenham based 'IT Schools Africa' Rotary Charity. Computers are refurbished in prison workshops where 1700 prisoners have benefited from this programme at Winchester prison. Over 10 years 44,000 fully functional refurbished computers have been sent out to 1500 schools across 20 countries on the continent of Africa. Thousands of school children in these countries have benefited from the generosity of people who have donated their redundant computers to this very worthwhile charity.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Severn Vale may I extend a great big thanks and best wishes for 2015. We hope you will continue to support us.

Colin Ellis

Village Hall News

Two new storage heaters are now installed in the main hall and we are experimenting with various settings to monitor the heating output. A

new janitorial cupboard is now situated outside the gents toilet, also new cleaning equipment has been purchased.

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)

Social Committee.

35 walkers set off on a sunny October day down the Great wall, along the river and back up Weir Lane to the Village Hall. An extra 16 people arrived for a hearty lunch which made a pleasant social occasion. Profit was £316. Thanks to all who cooked and helped.

Our next function is the RACE NIGHT on Saturday February 7th. For more info see the back page.

Su Hardisty (Chair)

SinbadAladdin

Once again The Village Players put on a very colourful and enjoyable Christmas pantomime – this time it was Sinbad Aladdin by Richard Lloyd. What a very good idea to have two Principal Boys in the same panto – Sinbad having accidentally wandered into the wrong show – a device someone from Stratford-upon-Avon would have exploited to the full. Sadly Richard Lloyd did not, so a lot of comic possibilities were missed by the script. The addition of a band a pirates was a strange device and gave us two villains, the well known Abanazar and the not so well known and rather 'bolted on' Mrs Cheng, leader of the pirates. Quite a mish-mash

But, as you might imagine, The Village Players, made the most of a disappointing script and sent everyone home in a jolly mood. The principals did a splendid job; Dan Lovell played a camp and glamorous Widow Twankee (look out Lilly Savage) with excellent audience connection; Rachael Chamberlayne's Wishee-Washie also quickly made friends with the younger element (she was easily the favourite with the kids in my party) and brought energy and comedy to the role; Paul Tucker was a suitably menacing Abanazar, brilliantly made up and with that 'only kidding' twinkle in his eyes which showed how much fun he was having, ensuring that we did too; Colin Ellis as The Grand Vizier not only won the prize for the longest and most impressive moustache but also for the clearest diction, an example to all and

sundry; sisters Sarah Younger (Aladdin) and Joanne Fisher (Sinbad) were thigh-slappingly good with their usual confident stage presence and comic timing, though the casting of sisters in these roles served to emphasise the opportunities missed by the author.

It was encouraging to see so many roles being taken by the teenage members of the company whose good efforts in learning their lines were sometimes spoilt by those who spoke too softly, too fast and to each other rather than to the audience. Many amateur companies would kill for such a group of enthusiastic youngsters so it is a pity that no one seems to have taught basic stagecraft - I was sitting in the second row from the front and struggled to hear some of the dialogue. Nevertheless, Harry Kirby as the Slave of the Ring and Sophie Gibson as the Slave of the Lamp made splendid entrances thanks to the well timed pyrotechnics and stage lights. It was an interesting device to have teenagers playing slaves who had been locked up for centuries and to like have them like communicate as like teens. Was this the author's intention or did The Players rewrite to accommodate their young actors? Anyway, it worked well. Chloe Meek and Shauna Williams as policemen Hoo-Poo and Hee-Pong brought a welcome slice of slapstick with their rubber truncheons and, again, made something of the comic content of their roles. Chloe Philip was well cast as a beautiful and willowy Princess Jasmine who could nevertheless show her teenage venom when her mother (Gill Farmer as No-Lo-Fat) tried to clip her wings.

Husband and wife Gill and Mike Farmer played splendid 'Hyacinth and Richard Bucket' roles as Ming the Merciless and No-Lo-Fat, Sultan and Sultana of Ching Chong, Ping Pong and Ooagadoogoo where the action takes place. No-Lo-Fat was suitably imperious as she not only tried to keep up the 'head chop' count but also keep Ming the Merciless under her thumb.

I have friends in various amdram set ups in the area and often bring them to see productions in Elmore. They are always very envious of the Elmore costumes but this time the wardrobe mistress excelled even herself ; the costumes were truly stunning. How does she do it?

So this time.....'The Oscar goes to (long pause)....Marion Watts and her team' (rapturous applause)

THJ



700 years

*St John the Baptist Church, Elmore
Consecration Anniversary July 2015*

St John the Baptist Church, Elmore was consecrated in July 1315 by the Bishop of Worcester. To celebrate the 700th anniversary of the consecration, Elmore is holding a FAMILY WEEKEND at the church on Friday 10th (preview evening), Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July 2015.

Elmore hospitality at its best.

Flower festival

Displays of church archives and records

Local historical information

Latest grave yard survey and details on the famous table top monuments

Family fun events and competitions

Local produce stalls and cake shop

Garden plants

Refreshments and pay bar

Songs of Praise service on Sunday evening.

Do come and join us and bring your family and friends. All proceeds will provide funds for Elmore Church

More information will follow later in the year

Services at Elmore Parish Church

Elmore Church is your Parish Church and you are always welcome to join us for Sunday worship, our Sunday Services continue according to the usual pattern:

First and Third Sunday of the Month – Parish Eucharist 9.30

Second and Fourth Sunday – Evensong with Hymns 3.00pm

(until the clocks change at the end of March when Evensong will be at 6.30pm).

This quarter sees the church calendar move into Lent a time of reflection and a reminder of the Christian call to prayer, simple lifestyle and giving to support those who have little. Important days this quarter are:

Valentine's Sunday at Elmore - Sunday February 15th

When this year's wedding couples are invited to attend Church at 9.30am

Ash Wednesday – The first day of Lent on February 18th

The morning service with “ashing” will be at Elmore at 9.30am, there will also be an evening service with “ashing” at Hardwicke at 7.30pm

Mothering Sunday at Elmore - Sunday March 15th

A traditional “Mothers Day” service with flower gifts at 9.30am

From the Registers of Elmore Parish Church

Funerals

November 24th – Richard Prout

January 8th – Margaret Leach

Weddings

October 4th Ricky & Emma Elliot

October 11th Will & Emily Price

November 8th Gana & Vicky Kugathasan

November 29th Max & Amy Hough

December 20th Warwick & Anna Sharp



Baptisms

November 16th – Katherine Roe



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Village Players

Village Players would like to thank everyone who came and supported our latest production of Sinbadaladdin! We hope you all enjoyed the pantomime and we would like to thank you for helping us raise £250 for each of our chosen charities, The Holly Gazzard Trust and The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Our next production will be, **Panic Stations** a farce by Derek Benfield. Produced by Colin Ellis this very enjoyable situation comedy will be performed on Thursday 30 April, Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd May. Please watch the notice boards for details on tickets. This will be a great evening of fun and laughter.

Amy, Village Players Secretary

Elmore Toddler Group is a small and friendly group that meet in Elmore Village Hall on a Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 during term time. For babies to 4 year olds. Come and enjoy a cup of tea while the toddlers play. For more information contact Cath Brint on 07774521289.

Useful Contacts

Elmore Parish Council

Chair - John Field, 720237, fernhay@btinternet.com

Vice Chair - Andy Nash, 720903, andynash@talktalk.net

Jenni Hobbs, 724633, jenni@barvaleholsteins.co.uk

Trevor Jones, 722034, rose_cottage06@talktalk.net

Nick Meek, 750769, nick@archies.me.uk

Clerk, Dorie Jones, 722034, elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk

Other Useful Numbers

Police, non emergency number, 101

County Councillor, Tony Blackburn, 01453 753429,

anthony.blackburn@goucestershire.gov.uk

District Councillor, David Mossman, 01453 538686

cllr.dave.mossman@stroud.gov.uk

MP, Neil Carmichael, 01453 751572

neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk

Village Organisations

Village Hall Chair, John Hardisty, 721798, pikelett@hotmail.com

Village Hall Social Chair, Su Hardisty, as above

The Vicar, Fr Andrew James, 720015, vicarage@inbox.com

Village Players Amy Parkin, 07557 79011,

villageplayers@outlook.com

WI, Val Overton, 750591, vj.overton@tiscali.co.uk

Elmore Guides, Catherine Hartnell, 722444

Elmore Brownies, Jenny, 722444

Bridge Club, Caroline Meek, 720383

2015 Parish Council Meetings - Any parishioner welcome. All in

Village Hall at 7.45pm

Monday March 2nd

Tuesday May 19th (Annual Meetings)

Monday September 28th

Monday December 14th

RACE NIGHT at ELMORE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2015

Hot Supper

Tote

Pay Bar

Tickets £15 from Su 01452 721798

(In aid of Village Hall Funds)

**Come and join us for an evening of home cooked food,
entertainment and fun.**

We are pleased to welcome Dene Hazelwood as our M.C.

See you there