

# The Bridge

Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
Issue Number 42 May 2025



## From the Editor

I hope you will enjoy this 42<sup>nd</sup> edition of **The Bridge** which contains a lot of interesting stuff. However I realize that what interests me may not interest you, so if you have any suggestions about how the magazine could be improved I would be pleased to hear from you.

The Spring edition always contains the Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council. It is a legal requirement that this is made public.

## Letters to the Editor

Sir,

I am responding to an article in the February 2025 issue of The Bridge. Tony Leach's article 'The Village Paper Boy in the early 1970's' gave a very refreshing reminder of the various residents living along the route of his paper round.

Tony asked if I had any early photos of The Coach House. I have done a detailed check through my collection. I am sorry to say that I have nothing on file. If anyone has any pictures of the Coach House then please pass them to me so that they can go into the archive books.

Subject to the protections provided by the Data Protection legislation, it would be very interesting to read who the residents are today and what new and updated properties are here some 50 years on from Tony's paper delivery days. Pauline and I have collected various archive materials for Elmore and these are kept in 'The White Books' which come out for viewing at the occasional village gathering. You will have opportunity to look at The White Books at the upcoming open church coffee morning in July.

If residents have some updated information and photos and are willing for them to go into The White Books, then please bring the information to the church or drop them off at my house.

Here's to keeping our village archives and records up to date as dynamic records for use by our residents.

Colin Ellis.

My contact details are available from The Parish Council Clerk

## **Elmore Parish Council – Annual Update from the Chairman**

It's been a year of change at Elmore Parish Council, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us navigate it. We've welcomed four new councillors over the past year, all of whom have stepped forward with enthusiasm and dedication to keep the council running smoothly. Their contribution has been vital and much appreciated.

The Parish Council remains in a strong financial position. We've continued to support key areas in the village, including regular contributions to the Village Hall, verge cutting, and the maintenance of our defibrillators. Speaking of which, we're pleased to be offering defibrillator training in the coming weeks. If you're not on the village WhatsApp group and would like to attend, please contact Zahra—her details can be found on the back of The Bridge.

You may have noticed some changes around the village too. Following the successful trial of the “leaning bin of Elmore” at one of our main laybys, we will soon be installing a new bin at Kenton Green. Small steps like this can make a real difference to the look and feel of our parish.

As always, we're keen to hear from residents. If you have a suggestion for something the council could act on to improve or benefit Elmore, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us. And if you're interested in getting more involved in local matters, we'd love to hear from you—there's always room for more hands and fresh ideas. Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes,

Matt Brandon

Chairman, Elmore Parish Council

## **The Elmore Back Meadows and Potential Wildlife Habitats?**

Those of you who were living in Elmore around the period 2010 - 2015 may recall the efforts made by the Environment Agency (EA) to flood 725 acres of the Elmore Back Meadows. This wasn't an isolated event confined to Elmore; the EA also wanted to flood 750+ acres in Longney, 250+ acres in Arlingham and several hundred acres on the Awre

Peninsula. These EA projects were to be funded by EU Funds aimed at providing compensating wetland habitats, which had been, or might be, lost by rising sea levels further downstream. At the time we were continually quoted the success of the Steart Marshes project in Somerset, a 617 acres (250 hectares) site, which was an ongoing project then and was completed in 2014 at a cost of between £17 – £20 million and is currently managed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT).

The attitude adopted by the EA in proposing the projects in Elmore, Longney and Arlingham was regarded as very high-handed by all the Severn Voice Parish Councillors as the EA stated, at a public meeting, that:

*‘People would have to learn to live differently by living upstairs in their houses as the downstairs might get flooded’!*

They also stated that;

*‘Farmers would have to diversify and make money from bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts rather than farming the land.’*

There was never any talk of compensation.

The Severn Voice Group of Parishes made many representations to the Government at the time and as a result the EA was ordered, by the then Secretary of State for the Environment, to re-think the project and consult the local population properly – something they hadn’t done initially.

Of course BREXIT put paid to the vast amount of EU funds earmarked for this project (£50million for Elmore Back alone!) and the projects were eventually shelved, or so we thought!

However, here we are some 15 years on from the initial proposal by the EA and the Awre Peninsula is about to be flooded to create a saltwater wetlands habitat. This time it is the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and not the EA who have just purchased 365 acres (148 hectares) of farmland on the Peninsula, with a grant of £21 million from the insurance company Aviva. In addition to managing the Steart peninsula, the WWT currently manages the Slimbridge Bird Sanctuary and may well have their eyes set on other potential projects further upstream of Awre.

Those of you who know the local geography will appreciate that the Awre Peninsula is only just across the River Severn from Arlingham and Frampton; so not that far away. The EA seems to have taken a back seat for now in making or reclaiming wetlands but the WWT seems to have taken up the cause with the large grant they received from Aviva, no

doubt tax deductible for the insurance company. The EA had already stopped reinforcing the flood banks around the Awre Peninsula and there have been several floods there in recent years as a direct result of lack of action by the EA; this factor may well be why the farmland was eventually sold to the WWT.

A major factor to bear in mind is that the WWT are keen to create 'saltmarsh' wetland habitats and to do that they need the area to be flooded with saline water. The 'marker' in nature that tells us whether the water is saline is the fact that willow trees do not grow along the riverbank when the water reaches a certain level of salinity. However, the full length of the 4 km of riverbank through Elmore has willows growing along its banks but how long this will last is unknown. This factor was not considered important or even relevant when the EA proposed flooding the Elmore Back Meadows in 2010.

It wasn't just the EA and WWT who seemed keen on the creation of saltmarsh schemes along the River Severn. The French electricity company EDF, who are the main contractors for the new power station at Hinkley Point C, had proposed to create 340 hectares (850 acres) of new salt marsh habitat along the River Severn at Kingston Seymour, Arlingham, Littleton and Rodley. The plan was to stop maintaining the current flood defences and build new ones further inland to protect the local inhabitants. Kingston Seymour is just above the Severn Bridge on our side of the river but Arlingham is just down the road and Rodley is on the other side, opposite Epney and literally just around the corner. EDF stated that the new saltmarsh area would compensate for the 44 tonnes of fish that are expected to be sucked into the Power Station's cooling system each year. Apparently, this quantity of fish killed by the Power Station's cooling system is considered to be 'low'! However, there was considerable opposition from North Somerset Council as well as local residents and this plan has now been shelved in favour of an underwater acoustic solution to scare the fish away. The acoustic solution was approved when planning permission was granted in 2013 but putting some 280 loudspeakers in fast flowing water would pose a risk to divers so was then scrapped in favour of the saltmarsh option. However, new technology now appears to exist which would alleviate the risks so the loudspeaker option is now back on the table. The cancellation of the

saltmarsh scheme was announced on 28th February 2025 but this option may not have gone away depending on the success of the acoustic option. So where do the EA stand now? There is no doubt that the EA will be looking to make major savings in their budget with the current pressures on Government finances. The climate change predictions about rising sea levels and the frequency of flooding further upstream in Shropshire and Worcestershire are increasingly absorbing the EA's current funding. Therefore, we should not be surprised if the EA make savings by neglecting, or not improving, the flood defences along the River Severn further downstream – and that includes the 4 km of flood defences bordering Elmore.

The bottom line from the EA's perspective is really a matter of priorities: they will focus on those areas that have the greatest population (i.e. major towns bordering the River Severn – e.g. Bridgnorth, Stourport on Severn, Worcester, Upton on Severn, Tewkesbury and Gloucester) and neglect those areas where fewer people will be affected by flooding. To do this, the EA have a complicated formula, which works out a ratio of the per capita cost combined with the risk to the number of properties involved. Farmland doesn't appear to feature in this formula. Elmore Back and Elmore are currently listed as 'hamlets' in the EA's plans so will feature pretty low down the list when it comes to priorities. The EA's current Strategic Plan for protection of settlements along the River Severn doesn't appear to cover anything specific for Elmore but instead the area is swept up in the general plan for the Severn Vale – a large area encompassing Worcester, Tewkesbury, Ledbury, Cinderford, Lydney, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham. It doesn't take much nous to work out where Elmore would feature against these larger urban areas.

Is the flooding of the Elmore Back Meadows inevitable? Probably, if the predictions about climate change and rising sea levels are to be believed and come to fruition. However the timescale is unknown and predictions vary widely – some as much as 100 years. The regular maintenance of the drains and ditches by the Lower Severn Drainage Board in the meadows will alleviate some of the dangers in the short term – provided that they too have the necessary funds from the various land owners. However, if the main flood defences are not maintained by the EA, or are

not raised to keep pace with the rising sea levels, then the danger to the Elmore Back and Weir Green properties will increase.

For now there is the benefit of knowing that the flood banks on the opposite side of the River to Weir Green, around Minsterworth Ham, have intentionally been constructed lower than those on Weir Green side so that land is sacrificial. This was clearly evident during the floods in July 2007. Although there have been occasions when the water levels in the River bordering Elmore Back have been perilously high during large Severn Bores accompanied by a tidal surge, up to now the escape route for the water into Minsterworth Ham alleviated the danger. Long may it last.

JF

## **The Elmore Survivors of Wars**

*As promised in the last edition of **The Bridge** here is John Field's account of those men from Elmore who fought for their country and survived. Ed*

Many men who had lived in Elmore fought in the Peninsula Wars, The Boer War, WW1 or WW2 survived, some sustaining life changing injuries. All of those mentioned in this article have now died.

**Private Thomas Charles Clarke (1868 - 1926);** The Somerset Light Infantry and Royal Defence Corps. Thomas joined the Army aged 50 in 1918 after his son, Edward Martin Clarke, was killed in action in France in October 1917. Because of his age, Thomas was only employed on home duties. Thomas' employment was listed in the 1911 Census as 'Salmon fisherman' and he lived in the Victoria Cottages, which are now part of Quedgeley and died in 1926 aged 58.

**Major Laurence Robert Duirs MC (1912-1989);** East African Armoured Car Regiment. Laurie was born in Juja, Kenya, moved to Elmore in 1965 and lived, firstly in Dower House and then at Fernhay. During WW2 he served in Ethiopia where he was wounded and was awarded the Military Cross (MC) and also took part in the Burma Campaign. He and his wife Diana were founding members of the Village Players.

**Private John Edward Charles Guilding, (1894-1981);** John joined the Army in December 1914 and was allocated to the Army Service Corps. However, he was discharged from the Army in February 1915. He was brought up in The Plough hotel which is now called 'Friar Tucks' on the

Bristol Road in Quedgeley, where his mother Annie, was the Inn Keeper; her husband, William Guilding senior had died in 1910 aged 53. He married Marguerite Edith Holmes in 1916 and was living at Pleasure Farm, Farleys End, Elmore in 1917. By 1939 he was a Master Builder and living in Gloucester.

**Private William Joseph Guilding (1895-1976);** Machine Gun Corps. William joined the Army Service Corps in 1915 at the age of 20 but by 1917 he had transferred to The Machine Gun Corps. William, like his elder brother John, was also brought up in The Plough Hotel in Quedgeley. At the end of the War William returned to Gloucestershire and was living in Pleasure Farm at Farley's End, Elmore in 1920 and moved to Lake Street Farm in Elmore Back by 1922. He married Elsie Lewis in Peru in 1926 before returning to Lake Street Farm.

**Colonel Sir William Francis Guise (1851-1920);** William was the father of Lt Henry Guise who was killed during WW1. He was a member of The 3rd Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, which was a Militia Unit; he was promoted to Captain in 1874 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1890 and was then given the honorary rank of Colonel.

**General Sir John Wright Guise KCB (1777-1865);** John joined The 70th Surrey Regiment in 1794 and transferred to the 3rd Foot Guards in 1795. (Army Commissions were purchased in those days and only when a vacancy occurred) He served in the British Expedition to Spain during the Anglo-Spanish war (1796- 1808) and took part in the attack on Ferrol (Battle of Brión), Vigo and Cadiz in 1800; the Battle of Alexandria in Egypt in 1801 between the British and French, the Battle of Hanover in Germany in 1805–06, and under Arthur Wellesley (Later Duke of Wellington) allied to the Portuguese in 1809 against the French and Spanish. (Busaco, Fuentes & Onoro) and Salamanca.

**Hon Colonel Christopher Dering Guise (1855-1926);** Son of Sir John Wright Guise. He joined The 3rd Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment around 1873; this unit was a local militia but was used to reinforce the British forces during the Boer War in South Africa (1898-1902). Christopher served with his unit in South Africa from 1900 as part of the Rhodesian Field Force. On retirement he was given the honorary rank of Colonel.

**Brigadier William George Hewitt MC\* OBE (1894 – 1973);** The Welch Regiment; William was aged 20 when WW1 started and was

awarded the Military Cross twice during the War and was also awarded the French Croix de Guerre. He subsequently served in WW2 and was awarded the OBE. He lived at Farley Corner in Elmore. He died in Elmore in 1968 aged 79.

**Sergeant Charles Henry Lovell (1892 - 1977):** Gloucestershire Yeomanry – later Gloucester Hussars. Charles joined the Army in 1911 as member of the Gloucester Yeomanry. At the outbreak of the War his unit was mobilized as the Gloucester Hussars, a cavalry regiment and sent to Egypt. When more infantry were required in Gallipoli his unit was sent there minus their horses. He was wounded in September of 1915. He returned to Elmore and died in 1977 aged 84.

**Bombardier Edward Gordon Lovell (1896 – 1983);** The Royal Field Artillery. Edward was born in Quedgeley but his family moved to Severn Bank Farm in Elmore Back prior to 1911. He was part of the British Expeditionary Force to France during WW1. He was wounded on 16th September 1916 (a gunshot wound to his right arm) during the Battle of Flers Courcellette, which was part of the Battle of The Somme. After the War he returned to Elmore and married Harold Meek's sister, Gertrude and continued to live at Severn Bank Farm. He died in Elmore in 1983 aged 87.

**Private Harold Thomas Meek (1900 – 1990)** 14th (Service) Battalion, The Warwickshire Regiment. Harold Thomas Meek was born in Elmore Back and his family then moved to 'The Shop', where Graham Taylor now lives. Harold Meek Joined the Army on 18th March 1918 at the age of 18 years and 2 months and on completion of his training in early April he was posted to 14th (Service) Battalion (1st Birmingham), The Warwickshire Regiment. He joined his regiment in France and was involved in many actions along the Western Front including The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bapaume, The Battle of Drocourt-Queant , The Battle of the Epehy , The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The pursuit to the Selle, The Battle of the Selle. After the war Harold returned to Elmore Back and married Florence Watts.

**Private William Reynolds (1898 – 1968);** The Gloucestershire Regiment. William had lost a leg during WW1 and firstly as a tenant in one of the terraced cottages opposite the War Memorial (now The Gables). One day his pig escaped and raided the walled garden at Elmore Court, as a result he was evicted by Sir Anselm Guise and moved to



Kenton Green with his wife. He died in 1968 aged 70 and was survived by his wife. His daughter, Jean, married Gordon Meek.

**Private William Taylor (1895 – 1962);** 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment William Taylor joined the Army in 1914 at the age of 19.. William was one of the many British soldiers wounded during the Battle of Aubers Ridge in May 1915; there were 11,161 British troops killed or wounded during this battle. His medical records show that he had gunshot wounds to his right knee and left thigh. As a result of his injuries, Private William Taylor was discharged from the Army on 16th December 1916, aged 21 – minus his right leg! He had served 1 year and 7 months in the Army and was awarded a princely war pension of 28 shillings a week for life! He died in 1962 aged 67. William was Graham Taylor's grandfather.

**Private Frederick Elias Watts (1896-1950).** 10th (Service) Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. Fred Watts was aged 18 at the outbreak of WW1. Fred was wounded in the leg on 3rd October 1916 probably by shrapnel from an artillery bombardment. After convalescence he was posted to 1st /4th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment and his unit was heavily involved in the 3rd Battle of Ypres. The unit was then transferred to Italy for a few months before returning to France. At the end of the War Fred returned to Elmore and continued to live at The Weir. Just after he married in 1929 he moved to Elm Farm. Fred, was Mike Watts' father.

**Private Horace James Watts (1898 – 1960);** 8th Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment. Horace joined the Army as an adult in 1916 although family folklore has it that he ran off to join up under age along with the other 250,000 youngsters at the time. He took part in The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bazentine Ridge and the attacks on High Wood, The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, as well as Operations on the Ancre. Horace Watts was one of the many casualties of 8<sup>th</sup> Devonshires on 10th October 1917. He was evacuated on an Ambulance Train and after some rehabilitation was deemed unfit for front line service. Horace was Mike Watts' uncle, he lived in Weir House and emigrated to Australia in 1922 where he married, had 6 children and died in Nulliwil, Victoria in May 1960 aged 62.

**Private William Ray Watts (1892-1959);** The 1st /5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. William had already joined the Army Reserve

prior to WW1 and was serving with 2nd /1st Royal Gloucester Hussars (Yeomanry) and at the outbreak of WW1 he was aged 22 and transferred to 1st /5th Gloucestershire Regiment. He had obviously learnt the trade of farrier while serving with the Hussars as he was a 'shoeing-smith' in his unit while in France. At the end of the war he returned to Elmore and was married in 1924, then moved to Thornbury. William was Mike Watts' uncle. He died in 1959 aged 66.

## **Village Players**

A big thank you to everyone who came along to watch Sinister Synaster recently. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Thank you to everyone who made it possible too.

Our next show is our annual pantomime. Why not get the date in your diary now?! 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December. Further information to follow.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved on or offstage please get in touch [villageplayers@outlook.com](mailto:villageplayers@outlook.com). We welcome anyone of any age! You can keep up to date with us on facebook too – @VillagePlayersElmore

## **Elmore WI**

In April we had a very interesting talk with photos on Gloucester's maritime history prior to the first world war. It was interesting that many of the ship and business owners lived locally and in Gloucester with several well-known names possibly descendants.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> May we had a talk and demonstration from the well known florist Katherine Kear.

Also May 24th was our annual coffee morning and plant sale.

June 10th is our Members night when the committee have a night off and members arrange the food and entertainment.

July 8th will see the return of Kate Peak and Angela Randal with an Insight into Fashion in the time of Jane Austin. Hopefully with costumes.

In August we hold a skittle match with supper at the Anchor.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

## **Elmore Church News**

As many of you are now aware, our Vicar, Rev. Richard Martin, retired in March. We are now in a period of 'interregnum'. We are waiting to hear when we will be able to advertise for a replacement for the Benefice. Meanwhile Church is operating as usual with Eucharists on the first and third Sundays of the Month at 9.30am at Elmore Church and Evensong on the second and fourth Sundays at 4.00pm. All parishioners are very welcome to join us.

There are several Weddings booked for this year and the Elmore Music Festival will be held in August. If you have never been please give it a try, as it is a good opportunity to hear first class professional musicians performing.

### **Dates for the Future**

Coffee Morning in the Church on 12th July 10.30am Historical Records and memorabilia will be available to view.

Elmore Music Festival 6th - 9th August. Please view [www.elmorefestival.com](http://www.elmorefestival.com) for more information.

Festival Evensong to be held in the Church at 6.00pm on 10th August.

On 20th September there will be concert held at the Church by the Churchdown Male Voice Choir at 7.00 in aid of the Organ.

Harvest Supper will be held in the Village Hall on 11th October at 7.30pm  
Christmas Village Lunch will be held in the Village Hall on Sunday 14th December. Please apply for tickets early to avoid disappointment as this always a sellout

## **Elmore Chamber Music Festival**

Wednesday 6th- Saturday 9th August St. John the Baptist church, Elmore. Tickets are now available for ECMF 2025 at [www.elmorefestival.com](http://www.elmorefestival.com)

Enjoy Mozart's sublime Clarinet Quintet with James Gilbert and the Elmore Quartet. Be amazed by the nimble fingered magical playing of Toby Hughes on double bass with the dexterous Ben Powell on piano. Due to popular demand, we welcome back Scottie Thompson and friends for another evening of Jazz. Finally not to be missed and recently announced as one of Radio 3's New Generation Artists, you will be able to get tickets to hear the NOVO Quartet.

For tickets: visit [www.elmorefestival.com](http://www.elmorefestival.com) or phone (01452) 725605

## **1st Elmore Brownies**

The Brownies have been working on the First Aid Stage 3 Skills Builder badge learning about first response and wellbeing. For our World Thinking Day Celebration in February we made friendship bracelets and cards which we gave to 1st Kingsway Brownies. We also had a guest speaker from the Wild Hogs hedgehog rescue, which the girls really enjoyed and we all learnt something about how to care for hedgehogs. We have had a board games evening where the Brownies brought in their own games to share and play. The Brownies had a craft evening where they made bookmarks and coasters. At the end of last term we made Easter chocolate nest cakes and did some Easter craft. We also had one Brownie presented with her Gold Award.

## **1st Elmore Guides**

Last term the Guides continued to work on the Express Myself and Skills for My Future Theme; we have done activities which involve us making bionic hands, learning magic tricks and telling jokes. We have also worked on our Fixing badge; thank you to TH Norman Agriculture for teaching us some tractor maintenance. We also practiced sewing on a button and changing a lightbulb. The Guides enjoyed a campfire evening where we toasted s'mores. After half term we had a visit from Gill from Mouse About Town to help us complete our Photography badge; the Guides learnt lots of camera tricks and have been putting what they have learnt to the test with a photographic challenge. We also celebrated Eid with a fashion catwalk and did some spring craft and baking at our last meeting of the term.

*If your daughter is interested in joining Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14 years) or if you would like to volunteer as a Young Leader/ DofE Helper (14-18 years) or Adult Leader (18+) please contact [1stelmore@gmail.com](mailto:1stelmore@gmail.com).*

## **Village Hall News**

Hall activities continue and all user groups are up and running until Summer break in Mid July. A fund raiser is planned in the autumn, details will be confirmed in the next issue of the Bridge.

Andy Nash has retired from EVH Management Committee after more than 20 years. A valued and active member, he will be missed. Thank you Andy.

Demand for space in our Hall is steadily increasing, early bookings (or enquiries) are advisable. I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

John (Hardisty)

Chair

Elmore Village Hall Committee

01452 721798 or [pikelett@hotmail.com](mailto:pikelett@hotmail.com)

## **Severnside Singers**

After what seemed a very long Easter break our community choir are back having regular rehearsals in Frampton Village Hall, Thursday evenings 7.30pm in term time.

We have been reviving old and learning some new songs for our Summer concert.

Due to our inclement weather we have abandoned our garden concerts.

**Following the success last year in Framilode Church, Severnside Singers will be there again this year on Saturday 12th July.**

**Enjoy a sociable musical evening with bar, finger food and raffle.**

**For ticket and choir information e-mail Su on  
[pikelett@hotmail.com](mailto:pikelett@hotmail.com).**

## **Sinister Synaster**

This was a very good choice of play by **Village Players** for their spring production. It kept us guessing almost until the last page of the script. Written by Jilly McNeil and produced by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts it was ably directed by Paul Tucker. Set in a crumbling and remote country house, we gathered that three younger siblings Alaina

Synaster (Ruby Evans), Alicia Synaster (Shauna Neumann) and Alphonso Synaster (Sean Jarrett) had been trying unsuccessfully for some time to bump off their elder brother Aloysius Synaster. We also learnt that in the long distant past there had been a nasty boating accident and that their sister, Allegra Synaster (Tash Smith) was drowned. Allegra was a glamorous ghost who floated around in a diaphanous blue dress – it was a nice touch to have her sitting on stage reading a book before the start of the play – we all began to wonder who she was and why she was there.

The murderous trio's latest plot involved poisoned lemonade which, of course, was drunk by the wrong person - one a pair of stranded motorists, Susan (Emma Jarrett) and Grace (Joanne Fisher) who had merely called in to use the phone (the action was set long before mobile phones). Throughout I was wondering why Jameson (Ashley Rowles) the old family Butler - 'been around for ever' - looked about 15 – an obvious miscast, I thought- but all this was explained after the interval as the cast was joined by Charles Mowbray (Freddie Taylor) a ghost hunter. We eventually find out that all 4 of the Synaster siblings were ghosts (killed in the boating accident) and so was their Butler (no miscasting then), now joined by the recently murdered motorist, Susan. Finally the other motorist, Grace, and the eldest Synaster, Aloysius, also drink the lemonade and become ghosts so only Charles Mowbray, the ghost hunter, is left alive. All this was great fun made even funnier as some of the ghosts could see and hear each other while others couldn't, which added to the confusion.

It was a strong cast throughout, though the stand out actors were Shauna Neumann and Freddie Taylor. If there was any weakness it was that on occasion the actors talked to each other rather than to the audience so some of the script was slightly less audible but overall this was a fun evening's entertainment. Thank you Village Players THJ

## **Important Notices**

### **Flooding Group**

If you have read the article on Elmore Back Meadows, above, you will know that it is an important issue. The Severn Voice Group of Parishes (of which Elmore is a member) is setting up a working group on this

matter and if you would like to be part of this group please let The Parish Clerk know

### **Fridge Magnets**

Some time ago the Parish Council issued each household a fridge magnet with the code for the defibrillator cabinet doors. The Council is getting some more for newcomers to the village or to replace those that have been lost or mislaid. If you would like one please let The Parish Clerk know.

### **Defibrillator Training.**

The Parish Council is funding a FREE training session given by St John Ambulance on 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in The Village Hall lasting about 60 to 90 minutes. If you would like a place on this course please let Zahra Sadry know.

Don't worry if you can't make this date; there will be another course later in the year.

## **The Island Book Club Review**

**Chocolat by Joanne Harris** is a novel set in a small, rural French village. The story follows Vianne Rocher, a free-spirited single mother who opens a chocolate shop at the beginning of Lent in the middle of the village square opposite the church. Vianne's arrival with her daughter and her unconventional ways stirs up tension in the village, especially with the priest, who in his mind lays all the wrongs of the village and its inhabitants at her door. He becomes obsessed with the comings and goings at her shop as he sees her as a threat to the Church, himself and the village way of life. The book also looks at some of the other villagers and their relationships with each other and Vianne. The book reflects on human nature, the good and bad, and the complexities of village life. The village and the occupants are brought to life by the excellent writing and descriptions, a very good read.

## **Elmore Parish Council Contacts**

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## **Parish Council Meeting Dates 2025**

September 2025	Monday 15th	
December 2025	Monday 8th	

All the above in the Village Hall at 7pm

## **Copy Dates for The Bridge 2025**

Friday August 1st 2025

Friday October 10th 2025

Please send copy to the Editor on or before the above dates. Regular contributors will be warned of each of these dates 2 to 3 weeks in advance. Handwritten copy should be sent to Rose Cottage, Elmore, GL2 3NS and electronic copy to [rosecottage1818@gmail.com](mailto:rosecottage1818@gmail.com)