

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
August 2019, Issue Twenty-One



From The Editor

The summer edition of **The Bridge** is usually a little thinner with people away on holiday and various activities taking a summer break. This, the 21st edition is no exception but there is still much of interest. We continue with our history of people with an Elmore connection who served in the armed forces and survived; this time Graham Taylor's grandfather, William Taylor, who served in World War One.

Sadly the frustration over our sorry broadband farce continues, but we have better news of another pantomime as performed by The Village Players. Increasingly I am being asked to publish what you might call 'public service notices' and there are several in this issue.

Elmore WI

We meet in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.30

All are welcome

Members £1 non-members £4.

This includes a speaker and buffet supper.

Our meeting in JULY was 'Members Night' when the members organised the buffet for the committee. We all enjoyed a visit to Wholly Gelato to see how this extremely popular and delicious ice cream is made. We all enjoyed tasting samples and taking some home.

AUGUST saw Skittles Evening at The Anchor.

At our SEPTEMBER meeting the speaker will be Chris O'Grady, the topic, 'A Walk to Rome'

Members have enjoyed a visit to the Eagle Sanctuary..

We also took a trip on a steam train to Broadway, great for those who

remember the good old days of train travel .

Members and supporters are thanked for all their help at our annual Coffee morning held in May at which we raised the grand sum of more than £800 . This is a great help towards the hire of the Village Hall and payments to Speakers.

Remaining speakers for 2019 include:

October John Mason of Highfield Garden Centre and in November, PEARLS by Pam Slater. .

Our December meeting is always a 'Christmas Surprise'.

Please feel free to join us at any or all of these meeting

Val Overton

It's a Family Affair

The Bridge, on behalf of the community, offers congratulations to the Hobbs Family of Barhouse Farm, Elmore, on winning the **Newcomer of the Year Award** at the '**Cotswold Life**' Food and Drink Awards **2019** for their delicious and very popular **Wholly Gelato**.

Dad, Jerry, had been encouraging diversification for a long time because of the continued 20 year suppression of farmgate milk prices. Daughter Emily, when she was at college and working away decided that ice cream would be the best way for her to respond because of her passion for food and all things seasonal and local. She wanted to make gelato. Gelato is a more dense, creamy ice cream that doesn't use eggs and uses less cream so it's less fatty because the whole milk is 96% fat free already. Traditionally ice cream is made up of 50% air, Wholly Gelato uses less than half that.

So, Emily makes the gelato, her brother, Ollie and dad, Jerry farm - Ollie also takes the photos and utilises the 'free' social media for marketing - and mum, Jenni, sells it!

Patient Participation Group

If you are the sole carer for a relative, you may be eligible for benefits you are not currently claiming

Check it out at www.gov.uk/carers-allowance or download a full Age UK guide to support you at www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/information-guides/ageukig13_advice_for_carers_inf.pdf

You can also get help at Frampton Surgery – just ask at reception – or contact your Patient Participation Group at myppg@framptononsevern.com or call 741988.

A Reminder

Dr Ian Lake (of Frampton Surgery) will be giving a talk on Friday Sept 20th at 7pm in Frampton Village Hall about 'Low Carb Diets' Full details can be found in **The Bridge** issue 20. If you have thrown yours away you can find it on the Parish Council website; www.elmoreparish.co.uk

Walking for Health

Future walks will take place on, **Thursday** 8th August, **Monday** 16th September and **Tuesday** 15th October.

For more information, please call Nick on 01452 740265 or Keith on 07811 123700 alternatively email Nick on nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk or Keith on kparry61@icloud.com."

Regards,

Keith Parry & Nick Peters - Walk Leaders

PS We would still like to know which are the best day for walks you.

Private William Taylor

William Taylor was born in Haresfield, Gloucestershire, on 23rd March 1895 and was the son of Hugh William Taylor (1852-1930) and Anna Wyatt (1852 - 1927) and was the youngest of a family of 8 children. William's father, Hugh, was listed on both the 1891 and 1901 Census as a 'platelayer' on the railways. However, by 1911 he was listed as a farm labourer. The 1911 Census of the Taylor household did not list William or 6 of his siblings. By then William would have been 16, so was probably employed elsewhere.

William Taylor joined the Army in 1914 at the age of 19 and was allocated the Army number 9869 and made a Private in the 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment. This unit formed in Aldershot 1914 and William when joined it he became a member of C Coy and his battalion was part of 2nd Brigade in the British 1st Division. His unit mobilised on 11th August 1914 and immediately embarked for France, landing in Le Harve on 13th August 1914. The unit then entrained for the town of Peissant on 22nd August, just inside the Belgium border with France, between Mons and Charleroi.

At this early stage of the war the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was directed to protect the French Army's left flank while they fought at nearby Charleroi. The BEF's 2nd Corps, commanded by General Smith-Dorrien, dug in along the defensive barrier of the Mons-Conde Canal, while 1st Corps (1st and 2nd Divisions) under General Haig, took the line of the Mons to Beaumont road.

The BEF wasn't given much chance to settle in as, on 23rd August, the day after arriving in Peissant they were immediately committed to the Battle of Mons which was the British Army's first military action in Europe since Waterloo, a century previously!

The intention was to meet and stop the rapid German advance, which they managed to do for 24 hours before being forced to withdraw. The German engineers had built temporary bridges across the canal, which enabled large numbers of German troops to cross the obstacle under cover of darkness. However, the French on the British right flank were

now in full retreat and outnumbered by the advancing Germans. In order to maintain a secure defensive line the BEF were forced to withdraw to new defensive positions along the Valenciennes to Maubeuge road, inside the French border. Although this first battle ended in a retreat, it was regarded as a British tactical and moral victory although in reality it was a German strategic victory through numerical superiority.

The new front line didn't hold for very long and on 25th August the British and French units withdrew further west to the line of the River Marne where fresh defences were constructed.

Both the BEF and the French Army were exhausted after retreating for almost two weeks, not only from marching great distances but also from the construction of defensive trench lines whenever they stopped, until they reached the western side of the River Marne. During the Retreat from Mons, the British formations had reached Rozay-en-Brie, east of Paris on 5th September. At which point The French Commander-in-Chief, General Joffre, proposed a Franco-British counter attack. There was little rest for Private William Taylor and his colleagues of 1st Northants as on 6th September the French Sixth Army attacked the right flank of the German First Army, opening a 30 mile wide gap between the German First and Second Armies. Seizing the initiative the BEF joined the French Fifth Army, pouring troops through the break and attacking the right of the German Second Army.

Reinforced by 600 French reserve troops from Paris, a surprise attack by the French further widened the gap in the German lines. Fearing a major Allied breakthrough, General Moltke ordered a German retreat to a defensive point north of the River Aisne; in so doing the Germans had changed the war from one of movement to a static attritional conflict with the Allies and Central Powers entrenched for the next four years.

Although the Battle of Marne was a tactical Allied victory, both sides suffered enormous casualties with approximately 250,000 each for both the French and German forces and a further 13,000 from the much smaller British Army. As the BEF and French Army retreated closer to

Paris, the city prepared for a siege and the French Government withdrew to Bordeaux.

Any hope that that the war would be over by Christmas 1914 faded rapidly. Events moved quickly as both the French and British struggled to re-establish a secure front line while taking advantage of the German retreat. William's unit was despatched further south and on 13th September they were engaged in the Battle of Aisne. They were also involved in several smaller engagements until mid October 1914.

The British had concentrated around the strategically important city of Ypres. The Allies, and particularly the British, wanted to hold Ypres, the Germans were equally determined to capture it. William Taylor's unit was transferred from the Aisne to take up positions around Langemarck and Poelcapelle on 20th October. The resulting Battles of Ypres were a series of actions around the city.

After the Battle of Ypres there was little respite for Williams's battalion during the winter of 1914 and they were involved in a series of battles including Battle of Gheluvelt (29th October 1914), the Battle of Nonne Bosschen (11th November 1914), the Defence of Givenchy (25th January 1915) and the Battle of Cuinchy on the 29th January 1915. The heavy rains then reduced the whole front line to a mud bath and no major engagements took place until May. The troops in the front line trenches had a miserable existence, living in muddy, flooded trenches with meagre rations with the ever present threat of sniper bullets if they were careless.

Despite the torrid time suffered by troops on both sides during the early stages of WW1, it was the Christmas of 1914 that became famous for the football match in no-man's land between British and German soldiers. This 'truce' was unofficial and initiated by the Germans – afterwards stern orders were issued forbidding such fraternisation in the future. This lull in fighting also permitted both sides to collect their dead comrades from the mud and craters of no-man's land.

The new season of offensives started in 1915 with the Battle of Aubers Ridge on 09th May. It was during this battle that William's battalion, 1st

Northants, led the second advance. Sadly the whole episode was a muddle of bad command decisions, lack of artillery ammunition and a total lack of surprise, which resulted in 5000 British casualties.

The attack was preceded by the detonation of two huge mines beneath the enemy's front line and a short, intensive barrage to soften up the German trenches and cut the barbed wire obstacles, it was a complete disaster. None of the preliminary actions had the intended effect on German positions; the artillery barrage was not of sufficient weight or intensity to break the barbed wire or front trench lines, neutralise the machine gun posts or artillery lines and didn't even reach the support trenches.

As soon as artillery the barrage lifted, the still intact German machine-gun crews were able to bring their guns to bear on the British trenches so quickly that many of the assault troops were killed while still on their scaling ladders and the front line trenches were soon filled with hundreds of dead and wounded. Those who did get into No Man's Land either perished there or on the barbed wire in front of the German lines.

Worst of all, there was no element of surprise; the initial barrage alerted the Germans to an imminent attack. British support trenches were also too far behind the front line to bring reserve troops up quickly and became clogged up with immobile units.

On hearing of the attack's initial failure, Haig ordered that a further attack with fixed bayonets should be made at 8pm that evening, but the congestion and confusion behind the lines meant that it was impossible for the attacking troops to be in place in time. The second attack was postponed until the following morning but on learning that the artillery had insufficient ammunition (there were only 3,000 18-pounder shells in the whole of the Western Front); larger calibre ammunition was defective as were the fuses fitted to the heavy howitzer shells, many of which failed to detonate in the soft ground, the attack was called off.

William Taylor's Injuries

It is slightly unclear when Private William Taylor was wounded but the records show that he was admitted to a Casualty Clearing Station behind the British trenches and then on 22nd May 1915 William was transferred to No.18 General Hospital, which was situated at Étaples, on the French coast near Boulogne. His medical records show that he had gunshot wounds to his right knee and left thigh. It is therefore highly likely that he was one of the many British soldiers wounded during the Battle of Aubers Ridge. – there were 11,161 British casualties, killed or wounded during the battle! William Taylor was in No.18 General Hospital for 30 days and at some stage during this period he had his right leg amputated at the top third of the femur and on 20th June was then shipped back to England from Boulogne on a Hospital Ship. However, it wasn't until 19th September 1915 that he appeared on the official 'Casualty Lists'.

There is no doubt that such injuries would have resulted in an extended period in both a hospital and then at a recuperation centre. William would also have been fitted with a prosthetic limb during his rehabilitation. 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 the war pension of the princely sum of 28 shillings (£1.40) a week for life! No doubt it took William some time to recuperate and come to terms with his injuries and disability but on 27th November 1920 he married Ada Peyton (1890-1963) and they had 2 children, Edwin John Taylor (1923-1987) and Barbara M Taylor (b.1927). Edwin's widow, Nancy Taylor (née Reynolds, b. 1930), still lives in the village, as does his grandson, Graham.

In the 1939 Register William Taylor was listed as a '*Stable Hand – Disabled soldier*'.

William Taylor died on 12th April 1962 aged 67 and was buried in Haresfield Church cemetery.

From a Churchwarden of Elmore

I can hardly believe it has been four months since Father Andrew retired. But thanks to the joint efforts of the churchwardens in each parish in the benefice, and the gracious support of our local ministry team and numerous retired priests, we have managed to maintain 'normal service' at all three churches. One of the retired priests, Father Michael Garland, who has been particularly popular among our congregations, was recently named Interim Area Dean for the Gloucester City Deanery to which we belong.

The process to select a new vicar for the benefice continues. In the last edition of The Bridge I explained a little about the process and especially the matter of preparing a Benefice Profile. The good news is that work on the profile is now completed other than a few presentational tweaks. Thanks go to Nick Stewart, Liz Bates and Mike Watts who attended most of the working meetings and co-ordinated the Elmore input. The finished article will be reviewed at Diocesan level but little change is anticipated. In late August, the Diocese will place an advertisement in the Church Times for our vacancy, including a link to the profile. The closing date for applications will be the 16th of September and interviews (assuming we receive applications) will be held on the 10th of October. As soon as the advertisement is published in the Church Times the profile will be available to all on our church and the Diocesan websites.

A further reminder about the **Harvest Supper** at Elmore Village Hall on **Saturday, 12th October**. Tickets will be available in September but if you want to reserve a table or individual tickets in advance, please contact Jill Hurran or Jennifer Watts.

Finally, and sadly, I have to report that in the week beginning 22 July a grave headstone was damaged, and articles on that grave smashed and strewn on the grass. This was clearly a deliberate act of criminal damage and has been reported to the police. At the time of writing we are waiting to examine the CCTV footage and will pass any evidence to

the police. If anyone saw or heard anything suspicious between 22-24th July, please contact me on 01452-901207.

Patricia (Pat) Buckland - Benefice Reader and Churchwarden at Elmore Church Services for Elmore

Unless otherwise publicised the regular service pattern is:

1st and 3rd Sunday of the month – Parish Eucharist at Elmore 9.30am

2nd and 4th Sunday of the month – Evensong at Elmore 4.00pm

5th Sunday of the month – No service at Elmore

During the vacancy our Associate Priest George Parfitt, retired priests from the local area and our own Readers have ensured we have continued to hold regular Sunday services and other occasional services.

Elmore Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Baptisms (May - July)

Sunday, 30th June - Jack Ross Keepin

Father Ian Robb has officiated at eight weddings at Elmore during May to July. Add to that the eight wedding rehearsals and he has been a very busy man. Our continued thanks to him.

Weddings (May - July)

25th May - Claire & Ryan (A Blessing); 31st May - Shaley & Alex

21st June - Verity & Tom; 22nd June - Louise & Luke;

29th June - Stacey & Ben; 12th July - Sophie & Dale;

13th July - Ellen & Jacob; 14th July - Alice & Edward

Funerals or Internment of Ashes (May -July)

5th July - Internment of Ashes - Kenneth James Dawe

Baptism (Christening) or Weddings: Church Office 01452 720015

Our Website: www.elmorechurch.info **Facebook:**
@ElmoreParishChurch

Church email address: church-office@gmx.com

Editor's Note

One of the original reasons for the founding of **The Bridge** was that many in the village felt the 'Elmore and Longney Community Newsletter' (which preceded it and overlapped with it for some time) was too small to include much Elmore-specific news. I remember being asked particularly to include names of those married, christened and buried at Elmore Church. Now, with the success of Elmore Court as a wedding venue and so many couples married in the church not being from Elmore and only their first names being mentioned (data protection laws?), is there any point in recording the names in **The Bridge**? I would welcome your views.

Trevor Jones

Fibre Optic Broadband for Elmore

It would appear that the hope of getting superfast broadband in Elmore has been a figment of my imagination! I have lost count of the number of times that both Fastershire and Gigaclear have delayed the completion of the project. The sticking point appears to be drilling under the River Severn despite and having been assured in December last year that all was on track and that the necessary contracts had been signed with the various landowners, we still don't seem to any further forward. Indeed, in December we were told that a special drilling rig had been located in France and work on the drilling was to start in January 2019.

When we got an update from Gigaclear on 28th June the situation was that the contracts with the landowners on our side of the river were about to be signed and the ones for the Minsterworth side likewise.

However, some time ago we flagged up to Gigaclear that the River Severn is a tidal river and as such the person responsible for any works over or under the river was 'The Crown'. This is where we thought the sticking point appeared to lie as it is highly likely that whichever secretary of state is responsible for tidal rivers and signing the necessary contracts has been rather focused on Brexit and the election of a new PM so broadband for Elmore was pretty low down the priority list.

I highlighted in my last report that Gigaclear had grown rather too quickly and the expansion of their management teams hadn't kept pace with the work they had taken on. Coupled with this factor, a new company has taken over Gigaclear and changed a lot of key personalities. This has done little for continuity or maintaining links with local communities like ours.

Sadly, Gigaclear informed me on 26th July that the contracts with the landowners have still to be signed, so we have not moved any nearer a completion date. That being said, Gigaclear still maintain that the fibre links throughout Elmore will be operational by the end of the year.

John Field (Chair, Elmore Parish Council)

Longney Open Garden

Many thanks to all those who helped or supported us for our Open Garden on 29/30 June. We were blessed with fine weather on both days. We had over 300 visitors, sold lots of plants, teas and cakes, and made nearly £2600 for the National Garden Scheme charities.

Throughout the year 3500 gardens of all shapes and sizes in England and Wales open in support of the NGS. They donate over £3m annually to a number of worthy causes, including Macmillan, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Leonard Cheshire, MS Society, Parkinsons UK, Horatio's Gardens, Maggie's Centres etc.

Gill & Mike Farmer, Perrywood House

This Year's Pantomime

Village Players are pleased to announce that our 2019 pantomime will be **Hickory Dickory Dock** by Norman Robbins.

Tickets are on sale from mid October and usually sell very quickly, so please keep an eye on local notice boards for more information.

We hope you will join us for a terrific battle between the goodies and the baddies!

The pantomime will be performed in The Village Hall on November 28th, 29th and 30th and on December 1st, 5th, 6th and 7th. There will be matinee as well as evening performances on November 30th, December 1st and 7th.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The railings have now been sanded, repaired and repainted to a high standard. Our thanks to Elmore Parish Council for funding this project. A generous donation has also been received from the Elmore Land Charity for a specific improvement. Many thanks to them, more details in next edition.

Our next function will be our **Christmas Lunch (in support of Hall funds) on Sunday December 15th**. Details to follow.

Demand for space in our Hall is steadily increasing, consequently, 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

60 years of Citizens' Advice in Stroud.

We continue to seek new standing order donors to our charity - to celebrate our 60 years in Stroud with our '60 for 60 Campaign'.

The great news is that we now have 14 new donors! Please help us achieve our goal by the end of the year in order to maintain this free, confidential and independent advice service to our community. We ask that you consider making an annual pledge in the form of a standing order – as little as £5 a month is a valuable contribution, especially if you are able allow us to collect Gift Aid on your donation. Please phone us on Freephone 0808 800 0510 and ask us to send the necessary forms.

This month's advice: We would like to let you know about Council Tax Discount for those people living alone, or with someone else in the property, who has a severe mental impairment. If your condition is considered to cause 'severe mental impairment'- which is likely if someone has a diagnosis of Dementia - it could mean that they are disregarded for Council Tax liability.

In order to qualify for Council Tax Discount on these grounds a person must meet the following criteria:

Have a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning which appears to be permanent.

Have a certificate from a registered medical practitioner confirming the diagnosis

Is entitled to a qualifying benefit such as Attendance Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.

Please do contact us on freephone 0808 800 0510 if you would like more information on this matter.

Intimidated by Digital Technology?

...then join in our FREE* small, friendly workshops for older people and learn more **about how to use a laptop computer, smart phone or tablet** including:

- Using the device

- Online safety and security
- Using Your Circle website
- Getting online
- What's happening in your area

Wednesdays 11th and 25th September 9.30 - 11.30am at
Adult Education 4 - 6 Commercial Road Gloucester GL1 2EA
Bring your own laptop, tablet or smartphone,
or borrow one of ours on the day!

To sign up, or for further information,
please contact Amanda Cooper
tel 01452 583837

or email learn@gloucestershire.gov.uk

*There may be a cost for people in work

Hardwicke Art Club

Art Exhibition and Sale

at

Elmore Village Hall

Saturday 14th September

11:00 – 3:00 pm

Refreshments available

Elmore PC			
Chair	John Field	720357	fernhay@btinternet.com
Vice Chair	Nick Meek	750769	nick@archies.me.uk
	Trevor Jones	722034	rosecottage1818@gmail.com
	Paula Turner	729903	paula@mtfx.com
	Jane Hill	728722	enajekim@live.co.uk
Clerk	Dorie Jones	722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com
Village Hall			
Chair	John Hardisty	721798	pikelett@hotmail.com
Enquiries & bookings	John 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 Hartell	678181	1stelmore@gmail.com
Brownies	Jenny Hartell	722444	jharte1276@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Caroline Meek	720383	
Toddlers	Samantha Pitt	07415092033	hamish_samantha@hotmail.co.uk
Other Useful Contacts			
Police - non emergency	101		
Member of Parliament, Dr David Drew	02072194106		david.drew.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor, Stephen Davies	07802595307		stephen.davies2@gloucestershire.gov.uk
District Councillor, Gill Oxley			cllr.gilloxley@stroud.gov.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		
Neighbourhood Warden			
Carol Novoth	07970250343		carol.novoth@stroud.gov.uk
Neighbourhood Police Officer			
PC Kevin Lee	101		kevin.lee@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk