

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
August 2021, Issue Twenty-seven



From the Editor

At the time of writing we have had one week of 'freedom' from all domestic covid restrictions. Cases nationally and locally are soaring and I imagine, like me, many of you are still being very cautious. I have cancelled all my clubbing activities for the foreseeable future.

I hope you enjoyed issue 26 of **The Bridge** which was a bumper 24 page edition - previously 16 or 20 pages were the norm. This one only has 12 pages. Why?

I happen to know that some of my regular contributors are beginning to suffer from writers' cramp and general 'burn out' (partly due to lack of feedback) so I am appealing for more of you to pick up your pens or tap on your keyboards. This is your magazine and I'm sure you want it to be more than a list of up-coming events and reports of previous events. You only have to read some of the local parish publications (I mention no names) to see how dull they are and how plagued with advertisements which often make up more of the magazine than real content.

So if you have any stories or accounts of interesting pastimes, people, or trips you have made, please let me have them. They could be published anonymously if you prefer. It's often said that everyone has one novel inside them. Well we don't have room for a novel but.....

Last but definitely not least, many of you will have heard of the sudden death of Diana Round one of the longest standing residents of Elmore and someone whom many will miss. We print here a copy of the eulogy from her funeral

Trevor Jones, July 2010

From the Parish Council

Verge Cutting

There is a good chance that by the time this edition of The Bridge is published the verges in Elmore will have been cut. Normally we would

see the first metre of the grass cut to a height of 4 inches with a wider area cut on corners to assist with traffic visibility. What you may notice with this latest cut is that some straight sections of the verges will have been left uncut. This is to allow certain species of wild flowers to flourish and seed.

The temptation is to tidy up the verges as much as we can but this might have a detrimental effect on the bees, butterflies and other insects that provide an essential role in our food chain. Without such insects some of our crops might not get the necessary level of pollen transferred, so it is our interest to give them a helping hand by not removing the wild flowers on which they feed.

Security The latest spell of very hot weather encouraged us all to open windows to permit the meagre through draughts to cool us off. If we then go out and forget to close the windows we could invite a further problem as there are always opportunistic people around who look for the chance to gain entry to your house or shed to steal items, whether they be electronic domestic items or garden machinery – both of which are easily disposed of on the black market.

Consider installing an alarm or CCTV. Put timers on a few lights around the house and fit locks to windows.

Footpaths

In the last issue of The Bridge, we stated that a survey would take place to ascertain the state of the footpaths in Elmore. We asked for volunteers to help with this little project and we are pleased to say that we had plenty of responses. Over the years, many footpath signs have disappeared. Some have become overgrown with vegetation while others have been damaged or intentionally removed. The aim of the survey is to make sure that the signs are visible and in the correct location. In this way walkers can follow the legal footpath without straying onto private property.

Responsibility for maintenance: Some people may think it is Parish Council's responsibility to look after the footpaths in our area.

Therefore, it may be interesting to note where the legal obligations actually lie. The vast majority of footpaths are maintainable at the

public expense by the local Highway Authority, in our case, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). There are a few situations where the landowner is responsible for maintenance of a public path, depending on how the path was created, but these are unusual. However, any stile, gate or other similar structure across a footpath belongs to the landowner and must be maintained by the landowner in a safe condition, and to the standard of repair required to prevent unreasonable interference with the rights of persons using the path. If the path includes a bridge passing over a natural stream or obstacle, the bridge is part of the path therefore publically maintainable by GCC.

John Field (Chair)

News from St John the Baptist, Elmore A Church Near You

The Church is open for public worship, 9.30am Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays each month, 4pm Evensong 2nd and 4th Sundays (no service on a 5th Sunday). Do come and join us. At the time of writing (12 July) we have not received detailed Covid guidance for the period after 19 July but are confident that the full choir and congregation will at last be allowed to sing!

We are booking baptisms, and many weddings are already arranged for 2022 and beyond.

You will all hopefully have seen John Field's email on 7 July about the Elmore Music festival. It may still not be too late to book tickets, but please act quickly – go to [Elmore Chamber Music Festival | Home](#). Even if you don't want to come to the Festival the website is well worth a look for the superb video thereon.

We held our Annual Meetings on 11 July. Jennifer Watts stood down as Church Warden after over 20 years' service. We welcomed Liz Bates to join Pat Buckland as warden. The other PCC members for the forthcoming year are Jill Hurran, Nick Stewart, Colin Stone, Doff Stone (our Deanery Synod representative), John Tooth, Jennifer Watts and Michael Watts.

Our thanks to those people and the many other volunteers who help maintain the church and its grounds for the village and its visitors.

We are awaiting news on the likely progress of the restoration/repair of the Guise Mausoleum.

In May, the Church had its 5-yearly Architect's inspection. We have not yet received the report but hope that the lack of urgency is good news. We have arranged two social events in the Village Hall - a Harvest Supper on Saturday 9 October and a Christmas Lunch on Sunday 12 December. Please put the dates in your diaries. Full details will be available soon.

Do be in touch if I can help you in any way. God bless you.

Rev Richard Martin 01452 723479, vicar@hardwicke-elmore-longney.church

Festal Evensong – Sunday 8 August 2021 at 4.00pm St John the Baptist, Elmore

Longney and Elmore Church Choir, under the musical direction of Jed Hughes, sing a full choral evensong. Mary Hughes will accompany the choir on the organ, along with musicians who will have performed on the previous few days at the Elmore Chamber Music Festival.

Music includes:

Introit – O Salutaris Hostia by Elgar

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A by Sumsion

Psalm 130 – Out of the Deep by Rutter

Anthem – Alleluia by Buxtehude

The choir have battled on throughout the pandemic with various periods of Zoom rehearsals. Please come and support them!

1st Elmore Guides

1st Elmore Guides have enjoyed returning face-to-face at Elmore Village Hall for the second part of the term and were very lucky with the weather. For our first meeting back at the Hall we played some

games working on an Unit Meeting Activity (UMA) challenge. We also completed a hike around Longney working on our Navigator badge, we learnt how to use a compass and Ordnance Survey map. For our last meeting of the term we held a patrol campfire cooking evening, where we enjoyed burgers and s'mores. The Guides also had a couple of meetings on Zoom where we made kindness cards and a quiz night using Kahoot.

1st Elmore Rangers

This term the Rangers have held there last few meetings face-to-face outdoors. We returned to Elmore Village Hall for a games evening to work on a Unit Meeting Activity (UMA) challenge. We also enjoyed a evening fishing at Gardener's Pool in Saul, it was a lovely evening where everyone caught a fish. For our last meeting this term we went to Deer Park, Cowley, our County Headquarters, for an bushcraft evening.

If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Elmore Guides (10-14 years) or 1st Elmore Rangers (14-18 years) please contact Catherine and Louise on 1stelmore@gmail.com

1st Elmore Brownies

This term 1st Elmore Brownies continued to meet on Zoom where we completed a variety of Unit Meeting Activities (UMA) where we made a room in a box and made positivity pebbles. We also worked on our Live Smart Skills Builder badge where we made flatbreads and learnt how to use screwdriver. The Brownies also had a guest speaker to teach them Welsh to help us towards completing our Languages badge. We enjoyed an evening of dance, learning from a dance teacher how to do different dance styles. For our last meeting of the term we all met back at Elmore Village Hall for a games evening, we also had four Brownies take their promise.

If your daughter would like to become a Brownie (7-10 years) please contact Jenny on 1stelmorebrownies@gmail.com

Diana Poppy Round 11th November 1932 - 29th June 2021

Diana was born at Fretherne. Her father, a farmer who had lost both his legs in the Great War, had wanted her initial Christian name to be Poppy, but was overruled by her mother, who was a teacher. She had one brother, Gordon, with whom she had a close relationship.

Diana went to primary school at Saul and then on to Stroud Secondary Technical School for Girls before progressing to Cheltenham College where she studied catering, going on to a career in that profession until her marriage.

In 1962, she and Paul married and settled into life at Elmore Back, a location she never wanted to leave. As we all know they had their children Anne and John there. Like many of you I was shocked on hearing of her fall and then her passing. I was talking to one of my granddaughters about it and she said “She was a beautiful lady, Grandpa”. At that time I felt that was a profound statement from a relatively young person, and it keeps coming back into my head each time I think of Diana. It was a statement not said, I suspect, in aesthetic terms, although Diana was a fine looking woman, but sums her up perfectly.

She was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother, proud of them all, in turn, particularly of how her grandchildren are starting out in their lives. She exuded, in great measure, friendship, goodwill, kindness and generosity to so many people throughout her life. She entered fully into the life of the community. A great consoler, she was always concerned about the well-being of others and how she could help in any way. Even the local dogs were aware of her generous nature, getting not one, but a handful, of tit bits. There are, I am sure, a great number here today who can recount tales of going to Diana’s kitchen and being subjected to (and I say this in the very kindest way) a surfeit of delicious food, whether whole meals or cups of tea and cakes

etc. “Have some more of this, that and the other” was her common refrain and you would come away full of goodies if you weren’t careful.

Nonetheless we and she enjoyed it. It didn’t matter who it was, all were made welcome.

Afterwards we will be able to reminisce about individual experiences with dear Diana but I finish by quoting the following, found by Anne in some periodical, it exemplifies perfectly what her mother was.

The Farmers Wife

God said “I need somebody with arms strong enough to keep up with the farmer yet gentle enough to cuddle a new-born baby, and to raise children and grandchildren. To bottle feed calves and tend to the house, pray to God about the weather. It has to be somebody who’d be able to seed, weed, feed, breed and wash and dry and cook and clean. To remember scheduled events and feed the farmer and stock the cupboards and preserve the fruit and make lots of cakes”. So God made a farmer’s wife.

David Webley

The Island Reading Group

Here are two more reviews of books read by the group.

The Fall - The Mystery of Robert Maxwell by John Preston

Read: June/July 2021

John Preston, the author of *The Fall*, was born in 1953, attended Marlborough College, is a former journalist and television critic, and is responsible for four novels - including *The Dig* which has been released this year as a film - and one non-fiction account of the Jeremy Thorpe scandal which was adapted into a television series in 2018 called *A Very English Scandal*.

This book, *The Fall*, reads like a novel but it happens to be true. It tracks the life, and death of Robert Maxwell, a media mogul with

boundless ambition and influence. Now, with social media billionaires like Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and Larry Page of Google, it is hard to imagine the power, influence and money of newspaper magnets like Robert Maxwell and his arch rival Rupert Murdoch in the 1970s and 80s. However, their rivalry drove one of them, practised in duplicity from an early age, to extraordinary and devious measures, with ramifications to the present day.

There will almost surely be a film made from this book too, but it is an easy-to-read page-turner which, if it wasn't true, would almost be unbelievable. Maxwell was an enormous man in all senses: physically, corruptly, brilliantly and deviously - ignore this book at your peril!

When I Come Home Again by Caroline Scott

Read May/June 2021

Set in 1918 and the years directly after the First World War, a man in army uniform is found in Durham Cathedral, alone and with no memory of who he is or how he got there. Taken to the Lake District, doctors try to discover the man's true identity. But does Adam, the name he has been given, really want that or is he content in his own world of nature, drawing the same woman's face over and over, not visiting the dark desperation of the last few years. Is she a key to his lost memory? Do any places or people provoke a memory or is it all a blank?

Based on true events this novel will remind you of the terrible suffering of that War, not just of the men that went to fight but those that were left behind, some never to know what became of the ones they loved so dearly. The not knowing must have been one of the hardest things to come to terms with.

This book is about loss and the aftermath of war. It is difficult to put down and I would thoroughly recommend it.

The Bridge Players

Card players from the Severn Vale have been coming to Elmore Village Hall on a Monday evening for 30 years. They enjoy a very friendly game of Contract Bridge.

The Bridge Players have not met since March 9th 2020 but are looking forward to restarting on Monday September 6th 2021

A Bridge Partner is not needed. Those who would like to learn how to play Bridge, or who have not played for a long time, can sit back and watch until they feel able to join in.

Bridge starts at 7pm and finishes at 9.45pm, with a break for light refreshments. The cost is £3 for the evening.

If you would like to come along, you would be most welcome. Contact Mrs Caroline Meek, 01452 566489. Mobile 07928 680548

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Hope this finds you safe and well.

Although effectively out of use during this difficult time, EVH has been regularly cleaned, maintained and upgraded for the comfort and safety of our users.

The Hall has been in limited use for some weeks, as a few user groups gradually return.

I am pleased to announce that The Hall will be fully operational from September, when our User Groups are already booked in for their first proper sessions. Great news!

When you read this. EVH Management Committee will have met for the first time since January 2020 and discussed our future plans. Details will be in the next issue of The Bridge.

We look forward to your continued support. See you soon.

Take care.

Best wishes,

John

01452721798/pikelett@hotmail.com

Volunteer Trustees Needed Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold District

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold District is a charity created to serve our local community in the Stroud and Cotswolds area. We provide advice on a wide range of subjects such as debt, consumer services, energy, family, work, housing, and homelessness. Our Governing Body is a Board consisting of Trustees who provide

independent judgement and advice and are responsible for providing the strategic direction of our organisation.

Trustees play an essential role in ensuring that the charity runs smoothly and to make sure that:

The advice services we offer are of a high quality

Our clients' experiences are used to campaign for changes in policies or services locally and nationally

Resources are secured to meet current and new demands and that all funds are used responsibly

Recruitment and selection processes for staff and volunteers are fair, and we are representative of the local community

Training and support are available for staff and volunteers

Local partner organisations and funders are aware of the charity and its services

About Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold District

It is an exciting time to join Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold District having recently recruited a new Chief Executive Officer and as the organisation emerges from lockdown, with all the challenges and opportunities that provides. We provide a comprehensive advice service to a large and diverse population. We provide services in a variety of locations with offices in Stroud and Cirencester and via local libraries and food banks. We provide telephone, on-line and face to face advice services for people who want advice on a wide range of issues.

Who we are looking for

Following a review of our Board, we are looking for people who are committed to developing our Advice services to the population of Stroud and Cotswolds. We are specifically looking for people with a background in marketing, communications and IT.

We want our Board to reflect the community we support. To enhance the diversity of our Board we would particularly like to hear from members of the BAME community, disabled people and those from under-represented groups. We are also keen to encourage

applications from younger members of the community and those who may not have previous Board experience, as training will be provided.

Practical Considerations

Board meetings are held 7 times a year (including the AGM) and may be during normal office hours or after working hours. One meeting each year is allotted to strategic planning and will require approximately one day of time additionally. The other meetings last approximately three hours and may be online, or in person, in either Cirencester or Stroud. The total time commitment for a Trustee is approximately 0.5 days per month; induction and training are provided, as is support from an experienced and knowledgeable Trustee and staff team. Trustees are not paid, but expenses are covered.

To register your interest or to discuss the role further please email:
Diane Elsdon, Business Manager – Diane.Elsdon@ca-scd.org.uk

For an informal discussion with a present Trustee, please email: Elaine McCarthy – Elaine.McCarthy@ca-scd.org.uk

We will also provide the Trustee Information Pack on request.

Twitter @Stroudcab and @Cotswoldcab

Our website: <https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk>

Dates for your diary.

2021 Elmore Parish Council Meetings

September 2021	Monday 20 th Sept '21 Committee Room
December 2021	Monday 6th Dec '21 Committee Room

2021 Next Copy Dates for The Bridge October 15th 2021

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The Parish Council May

**Parish Council Website is www.elmoreparish.co.uk or
just put Elmore Parish Council into your Search**

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