

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
February 2021, Issue Twenty-Five



From the Editor

Here we are locked down for the third time and with almost nothing going on in Elmore. I had assumed that I would struggle to get enough material together for this **25th** edition of **The Bridge** but I was wrong. Clearly things have been going on behind the scenes as you will see by reading on.

Don't count the days – Make the days count

Well, here we are having endured a number of lockdowns and assorted tiers (hopefully not 'tears') over the last 12 months. These restrictions on our lives are tiresome and have become increasingly tedious but hopefully it won't be long before we've all been vaccinated. On a brighter note, Spring is around the corner and the snowdrops and hellebores are already appearing.

Notwithstanding the lockdown, life still goes on. On the TV, endless Covid News has been interspersed with 'Trumpisms', the odd bit of Brexit, flooding in the UK and very little more. Thank goodness for the Internet, social media, Zoom, WhatsApp and the like – never thought I'd be praising them, at least they may have enabled us to stay in contact with friends and families.

I know you will all still be supporting people in the village but don't forget yourselves. Look forward and hold onto the good things, no matter how small. Keep in contact with friends and family – if you need help please ask, we have many willing people prepared to help.

John Field (Parish Council Chair)

Church News

Benefice of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney: Church of England,
Diocese of Gloucester

Clearly the current restrictions will continue indefinitely. Our Sunday services will be held as usual, with strict hygiene and distancing rules, as long as we are allowed to.

There will be many who feel they should not attend. That is fine! We will send a weekly email to all those who are able to receive it, and hand-deliver a paper copy to those without internet access. This will be delivered on a Thursday so that it can “quarantine” before you open it on Sunday. No one should feel left out of the Church community.

If you would like to receive a weekly email, or a printed copy, please let me know. (Of course, your details will be kept strictly confidential).

Baptisms, weddings and funerals can continue to be held in Church, with restricted numbers, so do please continue to enquire about those.

This is a lonely and anxious time for us all. If you would like to chat about any concerns, do please feel you can contact me at any (reasonable!) time.

Rev Richard Martin (Priest in Charge)

Contact details: 01452 720015, vicar@hardwicke-elmores-longney.church

Maintenance and Restoration at the Church

You may have noticed the weather cock is now in its rightful place on the Church tower. The weather cock was taken down 15 years ago when the tower roof was being refurbished. It was in a damaged state and so stored in the Church for safe keeping. More recently, work has been done to restore it; a new comb has been soldered on and dents removed though some bullet holes remain! To give it a good look, it has been gilded.

The weather cock goes back a long way. There was fund raising 228 years ago in 1793 to put a weather cock on the Church. Its style is naive which suits the architecture. The next time you are in the churchyard look up and note the wind direction. This is not the only maintenance carried out at the Church; the tower has been cleaned from top to bottom, a big job producing a large amount of detritus. The tower

is now ready for new bell ropes which will be fitted to replace the old frayed ones.

From Church Records

The first register of baptisms, weddings and burials at Elmore Church goes back to 1560. Here is a selection from the late C18th.

Year	Marriages	Baptisms	Burials
1781	2	9	7
1782	1	16	4
1783	-	5	8
1784	1	4	5
1785	2	10	5
1786	3	17	15
1787	2	10	5
1788	7	9	4
1789	-	16	4

Jennifer Watts (Churchwarden)

Didn't they have big families in those days. Ed

Village Players Update

This year Village Players celebrates our 40th year and we hope we will be able to celebrate with you all in style!

Please keep an eye on notice boards and social media for details of upcoming productions as and when government guidelines allow us to rehearse and perform.

We thank you all for your continued support and we hope to be back performing as soon as possible.

Village Players History; a request for copies of programmes, photos and videos.

Firstly may I extend my best wishes for 2021. This year is the 40th anniversary of the formation of Village Players when the first

production was the very popular comedy 'Playgoers' by Arthur Pinero. The pandemic prevented any shows by Village Players during 2020.

To celebrate 40 years of Village Players I am creating a comprehensive catalogue of programmes, photos and videos. I have a great deal of information but I am short of some programmes and other items. I particularly require the following show programmes:

1981 Playgoers
1990 Old Time Music Hall
2010 Dinner and Drama
2016 Humpty Dumpty
2017 A river runs through it

If you have a copy of any of the above would you please give me a call on 01452 728253 or 07746073982 or colinellis50@hotmail.com so that I can arrange to collect it to make my own copy to go into the catalogue of Village Players' History.

I do hope you can help. Thank you.
Colin Ellis'

This story was inspired by a recent chance conversation with Graham Littleton who had attended a talk by Christopher Walter Browning when he was just 14 years old. The experiences related by Christopher Browning about his time in the Royal Navy during WW1 are still vivid in Graham's memory so I thought it worth investigating.

Stoker Christopher Walter Browning, Royal Navy (1896 - 1993)

Christopher Walter Browning was born on 26th July 1896 in Longney. His parents were Alfred George Browning (1860-1939) and Caroline (Carrie) Phillips (1860-1939). Christopher's father, Alfred, was listed in the Census forms as a 'Salmon fisherman – own account'; this meant that he held a salmon fishing licence in his own name rather than working for someone else.

The family was of average size for that period with 9 children; (4 sons) Alfred George (b.1889), Reginald Daniel (b.1891), William James (b.1893) and Christopher Walter (b. 1896) as well as 4 daughters; Elizabeth Hannah (b. 1898), Eliza May (b. 1901), Eleanor Mary (b. 1905) Nellie (b. 1906), the name and gender of the ninth child is not known as it died, either in childbirth or shortly afterwards prior to 1911. Although the names of children are as per their birth registration and baptisms, some chose to use their second names throughout their lives and were consequently known as such.

Interestingly, the 1901 Census clearly shows the family was split between The Malthouse in Longney, where Reginald Daniel, William and Elizabeth Hannah were living with their mother, Caroline Browning, while their father, Alfred, plus the boys, Alfred and Christopher were living at Wicks Farm. By 1911, as recorded in the Census, the family was all living at Wicks Green Farm, Longney. There were 8 people living in the same house. Apart from Christopher's parents, the following were living there: his grandmother, Hannah Long (b.1835) (Caroline's mother), his brothers Reginald Daniel (Dan) Browning (b.1892), his sisters, Elizabeth (Bessie) Hannah Browning, Ethel May Browning (b.1902), Nellie Browning (b.1906) and of course Christopher Walter Browning (1896) himself. According to the Census there had been one other unnamed child born to Alfred and Caroline but had died before 1911. The other brother in the family; William James Browning (1892-1965) – known throughout his life as James - wasn't shown on the 1911 Census form because in January 1909 he had left home at the age of 16 to join the Navy.

Christopher's brother, Reginald (Dan), was also listed as a 'fisherman' like many others in this rural area at that time; Christopher's occupation, aged 14 was listed as a 'worker on the farm'.

Christopher followed the footsteps of his older brother William James by joined the Royal Navy (RN) on 29th July 1913, 4 days after his 16th birthday and was allocated the RN Number K.19742 and was sent to Vivid II, in Devonport, the training establishment for stokers and engine room artificers. He didn't have to lie about his age as his correct date of

birth was recorded on his enlistment forms. It was only later, during the early stages of WW1, that an age restriction of 18 was imposed.

The official records show that his height on joining the Navy was 5ft 5.5 inches with a 36 inch chest. His brother Dan, also attempted to join the Armed Forces during WW1 and the records show that he too was also of a slight build at 5ft 4inches with a chest measurement of 37.5 inches and weight of 125lbs (56kgs). However, this was probably the norm for that time - as McDonalds hadn't been invented!

After his initial training at Vivid II, in Devonport, Christopher was assigned to the Royal Naval ship 'Colossus' and he stayed aboard that ship from 25th November 1913 to 29th May 1918 as an Engine Room Artificer (Stoker). Maybe his small stature suited the cramped spaces in the boiler room of the coal-fired ships in service of that time.

During the early years of WW1 Christopher's ship seemed to spend most of its time doing gunnery drills and patrols in the North Sea without making any contact with the German fleet. However, in late May of 1916 Colossus was involved in the Battle of Jutland.

The Battle of Jutland was sparked by the bombardment of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth by German cruisers on 25th April 1916. This action was intended to lure one part of the British fleet south from The Clyde into a position where the German High Seas Fleet could attack it.

The scheme worked and resulted in The Battle of Jutland (known as the Battle of Skagerrak in Germany). It was a collision of the world's two largest naval powers, fought in Skagerrak, a strait on the North Sea off the coast of Denmark. It was the largest naval battle of the First World War, involving 250 ships and about 100,000 men. The British Royal Navy had the greater number of ships, 151 compared to Germany's 99. The types of ships involved were battleships, cruisers, battle cruisers, destroyers and seaplane carriers. Of the total number of ships involved, 25 vessels were sunk: 14 British and 11 German. The battle also resulted in a large loss of life: 6,094 on the British side and 2,551 on the

German side. Although it appeared to be very much a German victory it was in fact the German fleet that turned tail and ran for the shelter of a home port after the battle. Indeed, the outcome did little to change the balance of sea power for the remainder of the War.

Battle of Jutland

The Royal Navy's 'Room 40' (the base for the Navy's radio intercept operations during WW1) had intercepted and decrypted German radio traffic containing plans of the operation. In response, the Admiralty ordered the British Grand Fleet, totalling some 28 dreadnoughts and 9 battle cruisers, to sortie the night before to cut off and destroy the German High Seas Fleet.

On 31st May, Colossus, under the command of Captain Dudley Pound, was the lead ship of the 5th Division and was the seventeenth ship from the head of the line of battle after deployment. At 18.30, during the first stage of the general engagement, Colossus fired three salvos from her main guns at a barely visible battleship. Shortly afterwards, at 18.32, she fired four salvos at the German crippled light cruiser SMS Wiesbaden. Colossus fired another three salvos at SMS Wiesbaden at 19.00 and, five minutes later, with both her main and secondary armament switched to the German destroyer SMS G42, which was attempting to come to Wiesbaden's assistance. This latter German destroyer was not hit, but the detonations of the near misses caused her condensers to spring leaks, which gradually reduced her speed. At about 19.10 Colossus engaged several German destroyer flotillas with her forward turret and 4-inch guns without result.

About 19.15, she engaged the German battle cruiser SMS Derfflinger at a range of only 8,000–9,000 yards (7,300 – 8,200 m) with five salvos of armour-piercing, capped (APC) shells. She claimed four hits, but likely made five on the German ship. Only two of these were significant, destroying a pair of 15-centimetre (5.9 inch) guns, knocking out two others, and causing some flooding. In return Colossus was struck by two shells fired by the German battle cruiser SMS Seydlitz at 19.16, but neither caused any significant damage, splinters igniting a few 4-inch

propellant charges that were easily put out. Indeed, one of the shells passed right through the ship without detonating. Seven men, however, were wounded. A few minutes later, splinters from two near misses wrecked a searchlight and wounded two men. At 19:35, Colossus had to turn away from an approaching German torpedo. The ship did not fire her guns again and was not hit again, although her propellers were slightly damaged when she scraped over a wreck at 23.30.

During the battle she had fired a total of 93 twelve-inch shells (81 APC and 12 common pointed, capped) and 16 shells from her four-inch guns.

Subsequent Naval Activity

On 12th June 1916, the Battle Cruisers 'Gaunt' and 'Colossus' were transferred to the 4th Battle Squadron and Gaunt became the squadron's second-in-command. The British Grand Fleet sortied on 18th August to ambush the German High Seas Fleet while it advanced into the southern North Sea, but a series of miscommunications and mistakes prevented Admiral Jellicoe from intercepting the German fleet before it returned to the safety of port. Two light cruisers were sunk by German U-boats during the operation, prompting Jellicoe to decide to not risk the major units of the fleet south of 55° 30' North (parallel with Lowestoft on the Norfolk coast) due to the prevalence of German submarines and mines. The Admiralty concurred and stipulated that the Grand Fleet would not sortie out of port unless the German fleet was attempting an invasion of Britain or there was a strong possibility it could be forced into an engagement under conditions favourable to the British. Therefore the British Fleet remained at Scapa Flow and apart from one aborted sortie in an attempt to engage the German Fleet, remained there for most of the rest of the War.

In January 1919, Colossus became the flagship of the Reserve Fleet at Devonport. In March, Colossus briefly became the flagship of the 3rd Battle Squadron of the Home Fleet, before that role was transferred to the dreadnought Collingwood on 18th March.

Christopher Browning had been a stoker aboard Colossus throughout WW1 and in April 1919 he was transferred to HMS Revenge as

Colossus was, by then, listed for disposal. Revenge was a 'super-dreadnought battleship'. Christopher Walter Browning left the Navy on 5th June 1921 having served 8 years before the 'mast'. He returned home to Wicks Green Farm in Longney and 4 years later, on 25th April 1925, he married Louisa Bullock (1898-1985) in Longney Church.

After they were married they moved into Poolend Cottage in Minsterworth. At that time his uncle; Daniel Browning was resident with his family at Waterend Farm in Longney, while his own father was still farming at Wicks Green Farm, Longney.

Christopher Browning's occupation is shown on the 1939 Register as a 'ganger public works'. Also in 1939, Christopher's brothers, Reginald and William (James) were living in Elmore: Reginald in Laurel Cottage, Elmore Back and William (James) in The Bungalow, Elmore – both houses have different names today.

Christopher and Louisa had two children; Bryan M Browning (b. 23rd June 1929) and David M Browning (b. 21st May 1931). Christopher Walter Browning died on 3rd February 1993 at the ripe old age of 97; at that time he was living in Rosewood, Chapel Lane, Birdwood, Gloucester.

As mentioned earlier, two of Christopher's older brothers also joined the Armed Forces; William (James) joined the Royal Navy on 9th January 1909, aged 16. William was trained as a signaller, serving on a number of different ships, including submarines and left the Royal Navy after over 10 years service on 9th October 1919. His brother Daniel joined the Army on 12th December 1914 and was assigned to the Army Service Corps. However, he failed his initial medical because he had a heart problem and was discharged on 6th January 1915 after only 24 days.

In addition, Christopher's 1st cousin, Daniel Edgar Browning (b.1897) joined the Army on 9th August 1915 and was allocated to the Royal Army Medical Corps. However, after a spell of 'pulmonary congestion' for which he spent 2 months in Leeds Hospital, he was subsequently

transferred to the 3rd Battalion, The Dorset Regiment. He was discharged on 25th February 1919. He returned home to Waterend Farm, Longney and a year later, in 1920, he married Ethel Morey Durston and then emigrated to New Zealand. He served in the NZ Home Defence Force during WW2 in the Christchurch area. The last official record of him was in 1963 when he was living in Sydenham near Christchurch.

Christopher Walter Browning was the Great uncle of Andrew Smith. Andrew's grandfather, Alex (or Alick as some records refer to him) James Smith (1899 -1973) { who had also served in the Army during WW1 } had married Eliza May Browning (1901-1970), Christopher Browning's younger sister. Alex Smith's son was Derek Raymond Smith (1931-2002) who lived in Elmore and some of Derek's family still live in Elmore today.

John Field

*For a number of issues of **The Bridge** a WI Recipe was featured. I'm not sure if this is an official WI offering but I am grateful to Jennifer Watts for sending it to me. These look like just the thing for lockdown. Children will enjoy making and eating them too. Appropriately in this post Brexit world the quantities are in good old imperial units. Ed*

Cornflake Cookies

4oz butter
3oz caster sugar
1 egg
4oz S R flour
4 oz chopped dates
1 tbsp mixed chopped nuts
2 oz crushed cornflakes

Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then beat in the egg. Fold in the flour followed by the dates, cornflakes and nuts. Mix well. Place tablespoon pieces on a lightly greased tray and flatten slightly. Bake for 15 - 20 mins at 160°C. Makes about 15 cookies.

Developments at Elmore Court

As some of the Parish may be aware, the land at Elmore Farm as well as some of the adjacent Weir Farmland has had a process begun on it called 'Rewilding'. This means a change of focus from it being used to produce solely food to it being allowed to return to a natural and wild state in the hope that there is a major increase in biodiversity.

This is not the only bold move that we, at the Elmore Court are making and there are plans for treehouses, wild swimming and even an ecologically conscious development with new nice looking homes, places to work and perhaps even a farm shop.

The hope is to bring the estate into the 21st century in a positive and constructive way so that this special place is protected whilst at the same time allowed to flourish in a way that keeps with the times.

We have commissioned a document that spells out the vision and are in the process of consulting here and beyond so that we do this in the best way we can. The core wedding and event business has shown its vulnerability over the last year and we realise that the long-term integrity of the estate requires further creativity and diversification.

If you would like to find out more and read the document please visit www.elmorecourt.com/rewild

I and the team would love to hear any thoughts anyone has! We will at some point have some sort of 'open week' where folks can drop in to discuss all of this. Many thanks

Anselm Guise.

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, waiting for better times ahead.

Looking forward to welcoming all users and supporters, when appropriate.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe 2021

John Hardisty

Frampton Surgery Update

The surgery would like to wish a Happy New Year to all patients. 2020 was certainly a challenging year but we are hopeful that we will start to experience normality again in 2021!

Once again we would like to thank everyone for their patience and support whilst we continue to navigate through this pandemic.

We are putting regular updates onto the surgery website www.framptonsurgery.co.uk so please visit the website for up to date information. There is also a facility to provide feedback through the website if you have any comments or general enquiries.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Our local network are working together to staff “vaccination hubs” at various sites across the county, dependent on delivery of vaccine.

Gloucestershire is leading the way in vaccinating patients. At Frampton all patients aged 80 and over have been contacted to offer appointments to receive the vaccination at the local vaccination hub. The team are working through the list of patients aged 75-79 to offer appointments. We thank you for your support in working with us and waiting to be contacted and offered an appointment. For further information and the list of priority groups, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-why-you-are-being-asked-to-wait/why-you-have-to-wait-for-your-covid-19-vaccine>

We are working in partnership with our colleagues at Gloucester Health and Care to provide the vaccine for any patients that are housebound and unable to attend the vaccination hub.

We will be contacting patients to book the second vaccination appointment when clinics are set up in line with the updated national guidance.

Appointments and Attending the Surgery

As we continue through such uncertain times we would like to thank all our patients for supporting the surgery by always contacting us by phone and only attending the surgery for pre-booked appointments or to collect prescriptions.

We have ensured that any urgent medical concerns have been dealt with appropriately since the start of the pandemic and we will continue to do so with our Duty Doctor system to assess urgent calls. We have also continued to provide follow up and management of routine issues. We will continue to provide this care and we thank you for your patience and acceptance of longer wait times for routine appointments.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Sue Price to our reception team; you may speak to Sue when calling the surgery. We are in the process of recruiting to a vacancy but are hopeful to introduce our next new employee on the next update.

Dispensary and Medications

The dispensary team have been kept very busy and are continuing to experience a high number of prescription requests. We are continuing to maintain a 3 working day turnaround for the majority of requests. If you run out of medication when the surgery is closed you can call 111. An emergency request will be sent to a pharmacy of your choice to ensure you have a supply of medication to last you through to when the surgery is next open.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT ...

Please do get in touch if you have any feedback on services and we will continue to represent you. You can email myppg@framptononsevern.com or call Ali on 741988, or Jane on 740964.

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services. We need to understand your needs, priorities and issues, so we can work together to deliver the highest quality of health care.

Stroud Citizens' Advice

Employment Problems during the Pandemic

We are able to offer advice by Freephone and email, but sadly as yet, not face to face contact.

Unfortunately, the number of enquiries about Employment problems has soared over the last 10 months. Many people have needed advice on whether they are entitled to furlough pay, how this is calculated, and whether they might be able to claim Universal Credit in addition.

Redundancy is also a big issue and many have concerns about how they will get a redundancy payment if their employer is unable to pay it.

The reason so many people need further help to understand the system is shown in the following example.

Mrs D was managing by having 2 jobs, this meant that in lockdown her income came from a mixture of paid work and furlough payments. It got further confused by a change in the National Minimum Wage during this time which gave her a small increase. She was then offered redundancy from one job, and again it was important to be aware of the calculation of her redundancy pay, and any other payments which she might be due. Finally, she needed to know if she had any entitlement to Universal Credit to boost her income.

Being uncertain of how she would be able to manage and what action she should consider, understandably caused Mrs D great anxiety.

By having these payments calculated and explained to her by our adviser meant that she was able to make informed decisions and became able to cope with her situation.

We also advise on a whole range of other employment issues. The knock-on effects of job loss can cause financial as well as relationship and housing difficulties.

Are you being scammed?

Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold has the following advice

- Be suspicious if you are contacted out of the blue, even if it's from a name you recognise
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is
- Never give out your bank details unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you, although a scammer can sound trustworthy
- Don't respond to requests to make a bank transfer to a safe account
- Don't be rushed – you never need to make a decision straight away and if you feel pressured say “no”, hang up the phone, or close the door
- Your bank will never ask for your full PIN number or password over the phone
- Your bank will only use the last four digits on your card
- You may be asked to log onto your bank account via a link they will send you - do not do this
- HMRC and TV Licensing will not email or text you about refunds or rebates, nor ask you for personal details
- Never click on links included in suspicious emails

To check whether an email is genuine click on the arrow on the sender's email address, if it shows a personal email address or one which looks unusual be suspicious

If you receive an email or text which you feel is suspicious open a new tab and do a search

Look out for poor grammar or spelling

Be suspicious of organisations which do not use your name

You can register your landline with the Telephone Preference Service by calling 0345 070 0707.

Talk to your phone provider to see what privacy services and call-blocking services are available. These services aren't always free but are useful in ensuring any call coming through is from a trusted or known source.

If you want advice on any of these issues

Call us on Freephone 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm – one of our friendly advisers will be able to help you.

Dates for your diary

Clearly it's impossible to know at this stage of the pandemic when public meetings will be able to be resumed but here are some intended dates.

2021 Elmore Parish Council Meetings

March 2021	Monday 8th March '21 Committee Room
Local Elections	Thursday 6 th May '21
May 2021	Tuesday 18th May '21 Main Hall
September 2021	Monday 20 th Sept '21 Committee Room
December 2021	Monday 6th Dec '21 Committee Room

2021 Copy Dates for **The Bridge**

May 21st

July 23rd

October 15th