

# THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
February 2022, Issue Twenty-nine



## From the Editor

As I write this we are not only experiencing the hardest frosts of the winter so far but also a huge surge in the covid 19 omicron cases. Compared to last January the vast majority of us have been vaccinated and boosted and are not locked down as we were at year ago. Nevertheless many of us are avoiding contact with others in theatres, cinemas and pubs so life is still far from being back to normal. I have been told how welcome Mick Taylor's vegetable stall has been to those wanting fresh produce but who are reluctant to spend long in shops and supermarkets. Our thanks to Mick Taylor.

I received the following advice sheet which I think is worth reprinting here.

## Stay Safe and help prevent the spread of Covid-19

If you haven't already done so, get your booster vaccination, it will help protect you and others from Covid-19 - delta, as well as the new highly transmissible omicron variant.

Follow the latest government guidelines at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

### Take simple actions ...

Wash your hands for 20 seconds *frequently*,

Cover your face in enclosed spaces,

Make space – where possible, stay two metres apart.

Ventilate - let fresh air in if you meet indoors.

Work from home if you can.

### Get a PCR test if you have symptoms ...

Omicron is more likely to start with a headache, runny nose and sore throat.

Delta with a high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Self-test at home – if you don't have symptoms (1 in 3 people with Covid have no symptoms, but can still spread the virus). Lateral flow testing kits are free and easy to use. You can order at [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests). Take a test *shortly* before you meet with others.

Self-isolate at home for 5 days if you test positive (recently reduced from 7).

Get vaccinated – two doses, plus the booster. It's safe and effective.

Get latest advice and keep up to date using trusted sources of information ... *avoid mis-information by visiting* [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)  
[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## **STAY SAFE AND HELP TO PROTECT OTHERS**

### **News from St John the Baptist Elmore**

Thankfully we were able to hold a full set of Christmas services which were excellently arranged and wonderfully enhanced by our superb organists and choir. Attendances were encouragingly good. Next year we hope to add a children's service to our Christmas repertoire. Sadly a resurgence of Covid led to the cancellation of the Christmas lunch. We hope to make up for this with a Spring lunch in the Village Hall on Sunday 24 April.

The Church remains open for public worship, 9.30am Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month, 4pm Evensong 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays (no service on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday). Do come and worship Almighty God with us. At present face coverings have to be worn unless you are exempt – but we are allowed to sing!

We are booking baptisms, and many weddings are already arranged for 2022 and 2023. These involve much assistance from a small team of volunteers, to whom I am much indebted

Work on consolidating the Guise mausoleum, and adjacent trees, will be carried out this Spring. We will also need to effect some expensive, urgent repairs identified in our Quinquennial architect's report. A big thank you to all who help look after the Church building, provide flowers, and mow the Churchyard.

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

Rev Richard Martin 01452 720015, [vicar@hardwicke-elmor-longney.church](mailto:vicar@hardwicke-elmor-longney.church)

For the latest news please visit our website

[Elmore: St John the Baptist - A Church Near You](#)

## **From the Parish Council**

**Footpaths** – The project to improve the signage on the village footpaths is continuing. If you do have any views on specific places where improvements are required, please let Dorie Jones ([elmor.parish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elmor.parish@hotmail.co.uk)) know.

**Grit Bins** – I hope you have spotted the 5 new yellow grit bins around the village? Please feel free to spread some grit, using the enclosed shovel, onto the road when you think it needs some. As the bins are located at potentially hazardous locations (on inclines or at bends in the road) please ensure you stay safe and consider other road users when doing so. Think about your footing/location and where it is safe to park your car if you arrived in one. Also please let us know if the stocks of grit within the bins are getting low.

**Litter** – You may remember we planned to carry out a litter bin trial at the layby at the Stonebench end of the village, to see if people would use one if provided. This trial was unfortunately cut very short. I installed the black plastic bin in the layby on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December and someone had pinched it by midday Tuesday. It's amazing what some people will take home with them. They did leave the bin bag and the bricks I weighted it down with though. I will have another attempt, but this time try to fix the bin down more securely.

There have been two occurrences over the last few months, where a large quantity of black bin bags, containing soil/vegetation, have been randomly dumped at night along the road/verges within the village. We suspect the same person is responsible for dumping the bags, probably

out the back of a moving vehicle. The authorities have been made aware of this, but please keep your eyes peeled for suspicious behaviour.

**Defibrillator Box** – The old telephone box outside the Village Hall, where the Elmore defibrillator is stored, is currently being painted.

If you think the Parish Council can assist you in any village related issue, then get in touch via the details on the back page, or come along to one of the meetings - dates published on the Elmore Parish Council website and posted on the village noticeboards.

Nick Meek (Chair)

## **Free Defibrillator First Aid Training**

At the moment we have seven spare places for the defibrillator training session in March and these are available to any interested parties and can be booked by sending me a text / email to 07446842931 or [hodgemike7@gmail.com](mailto:hodgemike7@gmail.com) - Mike Hodge, Vice Chair, Elmore Parish Council.

The training will take place on March 12th in the Village Hall 10am - 2pm

## **HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

No other British monarch has reigned for as long as our Queen and so no other monarch has celebrated a Platinum Jubilee. This unique event is to be celebrated nationally with a special extended bank holiday period from Thursday June 2nd - Sunday 5th June 2022.

Elmore is not going to miss this special celebration; an organising committee has been formed and will meet in early February. Once details of our Elmore celebrations have been finalised a poster will be circulated to every household in the village inviting you to take part.

## **ELMORE WI**

Over the last few months we have been very pleased to welcome several new members from Hardwicke.

Sadly, we had to cancel the December meeting due to the ongoing Covid situation.

We hope that in the new year we will be able to resume our monthly meetings safely.

The new programme is as follows:

February 8<sup>th</sup>: How private is your personal information and avoiding internet fraud

March 8<sup>th</sup>: Siege of Gloucester 1643.

Visitors are always welcome. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in Elmore Village Hall at 7.30pm

## **The Village Players**

This year I was disappointed not to be able to get to the annual pantomime especially as there was no production last year due to covid restrictions. I am grateful to Sam Turner who stepped into the breach and kindly volunteered to write a review of in my stead. Ed.

### **Sing a Song of Sixpence**

This year, the Village Players' Christmas Panto was based on the rhyme 'Sing a Song of Sixpence'. Once again, it took the basics of the rhyme, and then went in its own direction. This, however, wasn't a bad thing. The panto started off with us meeting the main 'goodies' and a rousing song in the Village Square of Cornucopia, the name of the town where the action is set. We then meet the baddie, Witch Watt, well-played by Shauna Williams. She plans to take the magic crown from the King of Cornucopia, King Ferdinand (played by Paul Gennard). The main narrator was the hilarious Simple Simon, brilliantly played by Sean Jarrett. Eventually, of course, Princess Rosemary and Prince Valentine vanquish the baddies and get married.

It was nice to see the younger members of the village taking part, It was also nice to see some of the Players who come back year after year again, such as Colin Ellis. Witch Watt's helpers were played very well by Theodore von Burg, Zoe Cowan, Emily Freeman and Freddie Taylor. Well done all. Flip and Flop were also very entertaining and well played by Paul Tucker and Sarah Younger.

The music was also very well done by Pete Kirby and Rik Loveridge. It portrayed the feeling on stage and helped tell the audience when the baddies were about to walk on. As always, the costume design was outstanding, particularly for Fairy Gossamer and Queen Dilly; a big 'well done' to the costume dept. for that. The set design was also

impressive, and the change-around between scenes was amazingly done and very quick.

This was a brilliant panto, as per usual, and a massive thank you to everyone involved.

This year, the 'Oscars' are awarded to Dan Lovell for his exceptional performance as Dame Durdon, who was possibly one of the funniest characters on stage, and also to Graham Watts for excellent sound work

Sam Turner

## **1st Elmore Guides**

Last term 1st Elmore Guides held a campfire cook evening where we made campfires and cooked bread twists. We also had a sewing evening where we made bag charms. The Guides also tried Zumba where we supported Children in Need as part of the Girl Guiding challenge; well done to all the Guides who took part! At the end of term we had our Christmas party at The Warehouse in Gloucester; the Guides tried climbing and caving. For our last meeting we made yule logs and celebrated our achievements during the term with a badge presentation. Guides return in the new year when we are going to work on the Skills for Life theme, taking on tasks such as making our own butter and knowing how to fix a light bulb.

If your daughter is interested in joining Guides please contact Catherine and Louise at [1stelmore@gmail.com](mailto:1stelmore@gmail.com)

## **1st Elmore Brownies,**

This term we are continuing with our face to face meetings with a Beetle Drive and game of Bingo on our first night back on 19th January. Following on we made silhouette puppets for a shadow theatre, celebrated the year of the dragon and Chinese New Year and Thinking Day activities. After half-term we will be baking pancakes, refreshing our First Aid, making a gift for Mothers' Day and an Easter craft activity. We will continue with our Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities working towards our Theme Awards.

Should your daughter wish to join 1st Elmore Brownies please either contact Jenny Hartell on [1stelmorebrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stelmorebrownies@gmail.com) or register on the Girlguiding website at [www.go.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.go.girlguiding.org.uk)

## **The Island Reading Group**

I hope some of you have enjoyed the reviews which we are now printing in **The Bridge**. They are all of books read by the reading group. I am always looking for a good book to read and have enjoyed some of those featured in these pages, so would like to thank The Island Reading Group for its contributions. Here is the latest. Ed

### **The Temptation of Gracie by Santa Montefiore**

We had read *The Secret Gardener* by Santa Montefiore some time ago which we had all enjoyed and so when I came across *The Temptation of Gracie* I thought it would be a good read and it did not disappoint.

This romantic novel is set mainly in Tuscany in the 1950s and the present day. It is a story of enduring love which spans the years and which moves effortlessly for the reader over the years. The reader is transported to the beautiful Tuscan countryside, the local people, Gracie's love affair and the world of art forgery.

Gracie returns to Tuscany with her daughter and granddaughter who learn, piece by piece, about the life she had led before they were born. Santa Montefiore's descriptive writings vividly bring alive all the characters and the countryside, even the naughty bits! This is a great book that will keep you turning the pages to see how it all ends - I feel sure you will not be disappointed either!

## **Village Hall Update**

Hope this finds you safe and well.

I am pleased to confirm that The Hall is fully operational although still subject to some Covid rules.

EVH Management Committee met in October, when we deferred discussion of plans for 2022 until January meeting. Details will be in the next issue of *The Bridge*.

Demand for space in our Hall for 2022 is steadily increasing, consequently, early bookings (or enquiries) are advisable. I look forward to hearing from you (01452 721798 or [pikelett@hotmail.com](mailto:pikelett@hotmail.com)). Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

Best wishes,

John (Hardisty), Chair

## **Frampton Surgery Update**

**The Patients' Participation Group continues to work with the surgery to improve the service and our latest update is below. If you have any feedback or suggestions for improvement, please email [myppg@framptononsevern.com](mailto:myppg@framptononsevern.com).**

### **Advanced Nurse Practitioners**

We are pleased to say that we have a couple of Advanced Nurse Practitioners working with us this year. These healthcare professionals are extremely qualified and experienced and work in other GP practices in the county to help with urgent, on the day demand. If you ring this year requiring an urgent, same day consultation, you may well speak to an Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

### **Appointment lengths for routine appointments**

A gentle reminder that routine GP appointments are 10 minutes long. A lot of consultations take longer than this and our GPs do their best to accommodate this within their working day. You might wonder why we don't just make the appointment time longer? It is something we are exploring but we have to balance the duration of an appointment with the necessary reduction in appointments we will be able to offer, thus increasing waiting times for routine appointments. What can patients do to help? If you know you wish to discuss a couple of matters at your routine GP appointment, please ask reception to book you a double appointment. This will give you and the GP longer to go through them. However, 5 or 6 matters or concerns will, most likely, require several appointments.

### **17th – 22nd January- Cervical Cancer Awareness Week**

It is important to attend for your smear when you are called. Smears are recommended every 3 years for women aged 25- 49 and every 5 years for women aged 50-64. Cervical smears are no longer required for those



who have had a total hysterectomy to remove your womb and cervix and you should stop receiving invitations in this instance.

The NHS website says to see your GP if you are worried about symptoms of cervical cancer such as unusual bleeding and discharge. Do not wait for your next cervical screening appointment. Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/what-happens-at-your-appointment>, for more information.

**It is also Dry January and Veganuary this month.**

I read an article this week about how these health campaigns couldn't be more incorrectly timed in the year, given the cold days and dark evenings. However, it is worth starting the New Year thinking about your health and making any lifestyle changes to improve it. Healthy Lifestyles Gloucestershire is available on the NHS to support those trying to make lifestyle changes for their health and wellbeing. Patients can self-refer online at <https://www.hlsglos.org/referral> or by phoning 0800 122 3788.

Claire Farragher, Strategy Manager, Frampton & Stonehouse Practice Group.

## **ROTARY in the SEVERN VALE**

As with a number of groups and organisations, in keeping with Government guidelines and social distancing, Severn Vale Rotary have been able to continue meeting for our fortnightly breakfasts at The Whitminster Inn. We've had great pleasure in welcoming a new member, Helen Wuscher and the privilege of hosting two particularly interesting speakers.

Vicki Young gave an informative talk on the work of the local hospice, Longfield, their Hospice at Home service and the support for families as well as the patients themselves. She took the opportunity to say how much they valued £15,000 we've raised for them via Frampton Open Gardens in recent years. We also had the pleasure of hearing from Julie who spoke on the work of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Julie was accompanied by her husband Stuart and her five year old Labrador/Retriever and gave a personal account of starting to lose her sight when only seven years old. This led to the loss of all friends in her formative years and she was lucky to be referred for a guide dog,

since when her life changed for good. She went on to describe the working life of a dog and the trials and tribulations of their training.

At our own celebratory Christmas Breakfast we exchanged humorous token gifts and enjoyed three light hearted festive readings. We also agreed a donation to Hamper Scampers, a Cheltenham based charity supporting individuals and families on the brink of homelessness and struggling to afford food and heating alongside the expectations of the festive season.

Before leaving the subject of Christmas, we would like to thank you for your support of this year's Carol Float. Whilst COVID meant changes on how it was operated, you were very understanding, greeted us warmly and supported generously in our raising funds for local initiatives. Thank you. We all hope you had a good Christmas with family and friends.

Local 'hands on' projects include involvement with the Longfield Christmas Tree collection/ recycling; we are pleased to have played our part through the collection of 2,700 trees for the Hospice. Meetings have been arranged with The Spring Centre, Wm Morris and Wick Court to consider how we might help them with practical projects. In fact, the newly appointed manager at Wick Court, Stevie Edge-McKie, will be speaking at a breakfast meeting shortly to update on us on the work of Farms for City Children and their hopes for the future.

For information on events and breakfast meetings, please visit [www.severnvalerotary.org.uk](http://www.severnvalerotary.org.uk) or contact [keith.rog@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.rog@hotmail.com)

*With very best wishes from all members of Severnvalle Rotary for a happy and peaceful 2022*

## **Citizens' Advice - Stroud & Cotswold District**

**Don't forget to claim your State Pension!**

In years past you would have received your State Retirement Pension automatically. You may not be aware but this is no longer the case, so

you will have to claim it to receive it! At Citizens Advice we have been contacted by an increasing number of people who did not realise this. You should get a letter from the Pension Service no later than 2 months before your 66<sup>th</sup> birthday (which is the current State Pension Age) telling you what to do to claim your pension. If you do not receive this letter you can still make a claim in the 4 months up to reaching your state pension age.

It is important to claim your State Pension as soon as you can as there may be delays in payment if you leave claiming it too close to your 66th birthday, which could lead to financial difficulties for some people.

How to claim - The quickest way to get your State Pension is to apply online at [www.gov.uk/get-state-pension](http://www.gov.uk/get-state-pension) but if you don't have access to the internet you can request a form by calling the Pension Service on 0800 731 7898.

You can check your State Pension age online at [www.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age)

Get a forecast of how much money you might get at [www.gov.uk/check-state-pension](http://www.gov.uk/check-state-pension)

Further information on the State Pension is at [www.gov.uk/new-state-pension](http://www.gov.uk/new-state-pension) or see our website – [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

Some of our clients have experienced delays after claiming which has caused them financial hardship. If you need any help to claim your State Pension or experience problems with claiming, contact one of our friendly advisers at Stroud and Cotswold Citizens Advice.

Please call 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm (calls are free from landlines and most mobiles). or use our online email page at [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php)

If you know anyone who might need help on this or any other issue, particularly those who do not have access to the internet, please pass on our contact details above.

We recognise there is a need for face to face advice, for people whose problem cannot be dealt with on the phone or by email. We intend to resume this part of our service which we have not been able to offer due to Covid, in the coming months. We also plan to gradually re-open our outreach sessions this year.

## 2022 Elmore Parish Council Meetings

March 2022	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 7pm	
May 2022	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm	2 x Annual Meetings
September 2022	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September 7 pm	
December 2022	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 7 pm	

## Elmore Parish Council Contacts

Chair	Nick Meek	07739654921	nickcmeek@googlemail.com
Vice Chair	Mike Hodge	07446842931	hodgemike7@gmail.com
	Jane Hill	07747767986	enajekim@live.co.uk
	Vince Meredith	07951199313	Meredith2fn@btinternet.com
	Matt Brandon	07894070511	matt_brandon@hotmail.com
Clerk	Dorie Jones	01452 722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com

## Copy Dates for The Bridge 2022

Friday 27th May

Friday 22nd July

Friday 14th October

Please send any copy to the editor on or before the above dates.

Handwritten copy should be sent to Rose Cottage, Elmore, GL2 3NS  
and electronic copy to [rosecottage1818@gmail.com](mailto:rosecottage1818@gmail.com).

**Finally, a Plea.** You will have noticed that **The Bridge** is containing more and more 'business' and less and less 'entertainment' (for want of a better word). Please, if you feel 'the muse' is beckoning, put 'pen to paper' or 'fingers to keyboard' and send the result to me for publication; short stories, memories of times past, memorable holidays or events - anything. It can be anonymous if you like.  
Cheers and thanks, Trevor.