

# THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
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## From the Editor

I only want to say two things here. Firstly how pleased I am that **The Bridge** is back; I hope you are too. Secondly and far more importantly, I'm sure I am expressing the feelings of almost everyone when I say how we should celebrate all those who have worked so hard over many years to develop the knowledge and skills to understand viruses, to develop, test and manufacture millions and millions of vaccine doses and to get them so efficiently into our arms. Where would we be without them? Likewise where would we be without the knowledge, skills and dedication of all those who work in the NHS and Care sector? We who live so close to Berkeley, where Edward Jenner developed the vaccine which has eradicated smallpox worldwide have particular reason to be proud of his achievement and of those who have followed on and extended his work to this day.

## The War Memorial

In 2012 Elmore Parish Council successfully applied for a grant from The War Memorials Trust (WMT) to replace some of the weathered and cracked stone on our War Memorial. At the time EPC also wanted to have the wording on the memorial cast in bronze and attached over the existing and very weathered carving. This the WMT would not allow, saying that the memorial must remain as it was first designed. We could have obtained money to help with the re-carving of the lettering but this would have involved completely dismantling the memorial so that the stones could be taken to a workshop. Even with WMT help this was prohibitively expensive so EPC decided to erect the plaque you now see beside the memorial recording the names of the fallen. This seemed a neat solution; the names on the memorial could slowly weather away but would not be forgotten.

In 2017, as part of the WW1 Commemoration, all War Memorials in England were 'Listed'. Along with the listing came specific instructions on how to clean – or rather how not to clean, the stonework. Basically, it was never to be cleaned as this would remove a layer of the soft stone and thereby make the memorial unreadable sooner.

However, last year, a person or persons unknown, we are sure with the best of intentions, decided to clean the stonework. The memorial looked so bright and clean that EPC is certain a pressure washer or some similar aggressive cleaning method was used. **We would ask that this never happens again.** The process will only hasten the loss of the lettering and accelerate the weathering of the whole memorial.

## **Village Players and Village Archive**

Hello everyone and I hope that our community in Elmore can now meet up as we did before COVID 19 struck.

In the last issue of The Bridge I asked for some missing materials from the catalogue of Village Players documents and photos that I have prepared. Very many thanks to those who came forward with some of the information. I am still missing a copy of the 1981 production of Playgoers performed by Village Players. Yes forty years ago. If you have found a copy during your COVID 19 spring/summer and winter cleaning then please let me know so that I can complete Village Players catalogue. It is a very interesting record of the first forty years of Village Players.

Many of you know that I am continuing to update and add to the Elmore archive (the White Books) that was started by my late wife Pauline. The archive runs to eight volumes and provides considerable information on Elmore and our very special community. There are photographs of village activities, people and buildings. How our village is gradually changing over the decades. If anyone has any material that might go into the Elmore Archive then please let me know.

I have created digital copies of the Elmore Archive and the Village Players Catalogue as well as my survey of the graves at Elmore Church. I hope that there will be opportunity for all of these records to be available for viewing at a village gathering in the not too distant future.

If you have any written or photographic materials for the above records then please contact me on [colinellis50@hotmail.com](mailto:colinellis50@hotmail.com).

Stay safe and enjoy our community  
Colin Ellis

## **ELMORE VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

Hope this finds you still safe and well.

Our Village Hall has been regularly cleaned, maintained and improved for the comfort and safety of our users during the pandemic. Ready to go!

The first post-Covid Committee meeting is scheduled for July, when the Committee look forward to meeting again, hopefully free of Covid restrictions.

I will keep you fully informed on any developments and look forward to welcoming you to the Hall when appropriate.

Best wishes. Take care. John Hardisty (chairman)

**NEW** as a voracious reader I am always looking for recommendations of good books and have for some time been keen to get book reviews into **The Bridge** from The Island Reading Group. Well I'm delighted to say they have come up trumps so here goes. Ed.

## **The Island Reading Group**

The IRG has met via Zoom during the COVID lockdown and, in spite of not meeting monthly as we have done over the last eleven years, we have considered it very important for to keep in touch and not to lose the regularity and fun of reading.

Since January 2021, we have read three books and below you will find a Review of each book, written by the person who proposed the book to the Group. We have kept the reviews anonymous, principally because we are a 'reading' group and not a 'writing' group! We hope you will enjoy our selection if you choose to read one of more of them and we would welcome your feedback via The Bridge on either the books or the reviews.

We are hoping to meet up again in a live setting soon and also to publish another set of Reviews later in the year. Sadly, we cannot open

the IRG up to new members as we are already up to ten people but we have often thought it would be fun to have a second group with whom we could swap stories and share the occasional meeting/speaker/wine evening! As you may already know, we try to run charity events from time-to-time and this, too, could work well with a second group.

Hope this gives food for thought all round...

### **Bridge of Clay by Marcus Zusak**

Bridge of Clay is the story of Clay Dunbar and his four brothers as they struggle to come to terms with the disappearance, and then sudden reappearance, of their father in the years after their mother died. The story intertwines two timelines: recent events focusing on the reappearance of the boys' father; and the more distant past in which the boys' parents first meet and fall in love.

Clay's mother grows up in communist Poland, a gifted piano player. Her father, concerned about her future under the communist regime, arranges for her to travel to Vienna under the pretext of her playing in a concert; instead, she is processed in a refugee camp, sent to Australia and never sees her father again.

Clay's father grows up in rural Australia but moves to the city as a struggling artist. A chance encounter brings Clay's parents together. Their happy life with their five children is shattered by her illness and subsequent death. The disruption to the lives of the whole family is eventually bridged, with confidences being built, secrets being shared and sad memories being laid to rest.

This is the fourth book written by Marcus Zusak that I have read and I have enjoyed them all. I think this one is a work of art - the story slowly evolves as the emotions of the whole family are laid bare. I found it very moving.

### **Agent Running in the Field by John le Carré**

This spy novel follows an ageing, experienced but not particularly successful agent who is coming to the end of his career as he meets and gets to know a naive, awkward, young man with rather a disrupted background. It becomes apparent that the younger man is also a spy. Their relationship dances around the tight-knit complex world of

espionage and counter-espionage and the young man's emotionally bereft past.

The plot of this final novel before Le Carré's death in 2020, twists and turns, sometimes successfully and sometimes rather too complicatedly, but with the ease of an experienced writer Le Carré holds his readers both through the brilliance of language and by maintaining the enigma right to the end, where the dénouement is unravelled unexpectedly and somewhat quietly. As ever, there are accurately observed character studies and minutely detailed descriptions of situations and scenes.

This cleverly crafted book will leave the reader in no doubt as to the hero of the story. Whilst a very current setting, the style is redolent of 1960s – 1970s espionage thrillers, with a masculine theme throughout. Le Carré demonstrates a powerful intellect writing as someone who knows his field and his capabilities as a writer. There is an assumption that the audience is already familiar with this genre and the intricacies and language of the spying world because the plot becomes unnecessarily complex at times. However, those who appreciate this type of book will not be disappointed.

### **Younghusband - The last Great Imperial Adventurer by Patrick French**

Lieutenant Sir Francis Edward Younghusband was born in 1863 into a British military family. He came to England with his mother and siblings as a baby. At 4½ his parents returned to India and he then lived with his two evangelical Christian maiden aunts, near Bath. There Francis endured “3 years of severity and austerity”. He went to a school in Bath and later to Clifton College where he was more noted for his athleticism than his academic prowess. After Sandhurst Younghusband was commissioned in the King's Dragoon Guards and joined his regiment in India. There, his real adventures began. At the age of 23, on leave, he sailed to China, supposedly on a geographical survey but he was also spying on Russian threats to the Raj.

He was “an intrepid explorer, a mapper and a risk taker “. His scientific findings prompted the Royal Geographical Society to honour him with a gold medal; he later became their President. He led the military invasion of Tibet, in 1904, which turned into a horrific massacre of Tibetan monks but later turned to spiritualism. He started

numerous societies, including “The Fight for Right Campaign” which rallied recruits for WWI and commissioned “Jerusalem” (the Women’s Institute’s theme song).

He had a complicated and intense personal life including an all but incestuous relationship with his sister Emmie. Eventually he married the prudish Helen Augusta Magniac in 1897 who went on to have two children. He met and had an affair with the love of his life, Madeline Lees.

He was a prolific writer both of daily correspondence and 30 books. He was granted the Order of the Star of India and the OBE. He went to great lengths to defend Imperial Interests on the frontier but later campaigned for Indian independence. He died in 1942 aged 79, in Lytchett, Dorset and was buried in the village churchyard.

This is a beautifully written, sometimes amusing, and particularly informative book. I would highly recommend it to a specific audience.

It is probably not such a suitable book for a book club but I loved it for its history, geography and people of that era.

## **Renewal of IDB Pumps**

The Internal Drainage Board pumps at Elmore Back are going to replaced this Spring and Summer to comply with the 2009 eel regulations. This applies to all six pumping stations across the IDB area. The pump in Saul was renewed last year and it is planned to complete the renewal of all the IDB Pumps by 2028.

The problem with the Pumps is that they are not eel friendly and if eels get into them they get minced up, but in today's world this is not acceptable.

The cost of renewing the Pumps at Elmore Back is estimated to be £700,000, with the cost being picked up by the ratepayers across the whole of the IDB District.

I have been asked many times, what would happen if we did not comply; in short the IDB would have to switch the pumps off. This would be catastrophic for the residents and farmers in Elmore Back.

Graham Littleton. Local IDB Member.

## **The Future at Elmore Court**

Over 3 days from 10<sup>th</sup> May, I held a consultation event at Elmore Court and then also gave a presentation at the Parish Council meeting held on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> May so that I could discuss some proposals for a possible way forward for the Estate which could be aligned with the needs and desires of our community. What it confirmed is that we all care about the same things; the peace and quiet, the natural countryside and, for most, our sense of community. There's a worry about the future with the encroachment of soulless development and a lack of options for the next generation to keep their homes here. For many the village hall and church are important hubs for meeting friends and family though there's a strong wish for a space that might sell a drink or even some food. For many (mostly those of a more mature persuasion!) change is not so popular though across the board there is an acceptance that it is inevitable. Elmore is now not the place it was just a few years ago. The world is changing and places like Elmore are gentrifying as house prices go up and new people move in. Farmers are needing to think differently and are diversifying and so the feel of things moves on. I am in a fortunate position where I could, alongside my own plans, provide help and solutions to these likes and dislikes and am keen to do so.

For my part, as Sarah and I grow older and our children get closer to being little adults (!) I feel a growing responsibility to strengthen what we have as part of Elmore Court (the house and estate) so that it is economically and environmentally sustainable for the next generation and perhaps beyond.

I have been looking for a way to strengthen our offering for a while now as the wedding market is becoming so much more competitive. Alongside that I have started a wonderful process of 'rewilding' a quarter of the estate and to tie the two together we are close to submitting a planning application for 6 treehouses in the woodlands directly behind the Court. They would primarily provide additional accommodation for the weddings whilst at the same time giving folks the ability to connect with nature.

There are lots of ideas around the rewilding and I haven't got the space to write them all here, but it is all part of my passion for Elmore Court to be an excellent example of how a country estate can have a positive impact on the environment whilst at the same time being profitable and serve the community around it.

The problem I have, and that has been compounded by a staggering amount of debt built up over the pandemic, is that at some point I need to unlock some capital from the estate. My golden rule is to never sell land and so keep the estate intact (that's the mission from my ancestors!) and so have been

wondering if there might be a way to achieve my aims and at the same time provide something that works for everyone in the village.

To do that I feel that we could work together and perhaps develop a place where there are some new homes (self-build perhaps), low impact workshops and offices, a farm shop and café, perhaps something like a microbrewery or distillery, an ice cream unit maybe (!) and a place for visitors to park cars that is at the edge of the village. All done in an agreed, sustainable and beautifully designed way which has real soul and a sense of belonging.

There is a site that I think this could find its home. It has many problems as an idea and might not be possible, but I do think together we could map our own future and be masters of that trajectory of change.

I published a 'Vision Document' with all these ideas back in December that can be found at [www.elmorecourt.com/environment](http://www.elmorecourt.com/environment). I would welcome a conversation with anyone who would like to get involved in all of this and who wants to know more. More than that I am interested to know what you love about this place and what's important to you.

I can be contacted on 01452 720293 or via [future@elmorecourt.com](mailto:future@elmorecourt.com).

Thanks for your time!

Anselm Guise



## **Do you have Bats in your Belfry?**

There are 18 different types of bat found in the UK some are very rare and others are only found in certain areas. All are nocturnal. The best time to observe them is just as it is getting dark when the bats emerge from their daytime roosts. All bat species, their breeding sites and resting places are fully protected by law in the UK – they are also European protected species.

Most of our bats hibernate. In summer they feed on midges, moths and other flying insects that they find in the dark by using echo-location. As a general rule, bats only have one pup that is born from late June to July and become independent after six weeks. Mating happens during the autumn, but bats can delay their pregnancies until they gather in maternity roosts in the spring. As they only have one pup their numbers can diminish rapidly if their habitat or food supply is disrupted.



What about in Elmore? Do we have bats and what sort are they? During a recent bat survey as part of a planning application six types of bat were identified as being residents of Elmore and these are highlighted below:

**Common Pipistrelle**, (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*): The common pipistrelle is our smallest and most common bat with a wingspan of 22cm and body length of 3.5cm. They roost in tree holes, bat boxes and quite often, in the roof spaces of houses, sometimes in small colonies. Look out for common pipistrelles darting about as they hunt for insects in gardens just after sunset.

**Soprano Pipistrelle** (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*): These bats are the same size as the Common Pipistrelle and enjoy a diet of small flies, moths, midges and mosquitoes. They often hunt along wooded rivers and over water, catching prey in mid-flight and eating on the wing. They form roosts in tree holes, building crevices and bat boxes. Soprano Pipistrelle bats can be found in woodland and gardens. Keep an eye out for this species near lakes, rivers, streams and ditches, as this is where they are most likely to be seen feeding. Amazingly, a single soprano pipistrelle can eat up to 3,000 insects in one night.

**Brown Long-eared Bat** (*Plecotus auritus*): This bat is slightly bigger than the Pipistrelles, has a wingspan of 25cm and body length of 4.5cm. It also known as the ‘Whispering Bat’. As the name suggests, a brown long-eared bat has big ears that are almost as long as its body. When resting, it rolls its ears back or hides them underneath its wings. It is a medium-sized bat, growing to around 8 cm in length, including ear! It has light grey-brown fur and a pale underside. They glide slowly when they hunt, diving low to forage for insects. They eat small prey mid-flight, but take bigger prey to a perch where they eat upside-down.. Maternity roosts can have groups of up to 30 pregnant bats. Unlike other bat species, male long-eared bats join the maternity roosts.

**Noctule Bats** (*Nyctalus noctula*): The Noctule is the UK’s largest bat with a wingspan of 36cm (14 inches) and body length of 7.5cm. Noctules roost in holes in trees and bat boxes, but rarely in buildings – but that doesn’t seem to be the case in Elmore – maybe they forgot to read the brochure! Noctules can be seen feeding on insects above the

tree canopy; they particularly enjoy eating flying beetles, such as the large cockchafer.

**Whiskered Bats** (*Myotis mystacinus*): The whiskered bat is small with a wingspan of 24cm and body length of 4cm, they frequently forage along a familiar route like a hedgerow or woodland edge. They roost in all kinds of houses and may use bat boxes.

**Lesser Horseshoe Bat** (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*): Formerly a cave-dweller, the lesser horseshoe bat now tends to roost in old houses, churches, stables and barns. It is the same size as a Whiskered Bat with a wingspan of 25cm and body length of 4cm. They feed among vegetation rarely flying more than five metres above the ground. They may take large prey back to a roost or perch to eat.

**Human activities that can harm bats:** Potential threats to bats include the loss of old buildings for roosting and a shortage of insect prey due to changes in agricultural practices such as the use of pesticides and weed killers as well as the removal of hedgerows and old trees. Security lighting can also disrupt bat activities if installed incorrectly.

## **Frampton Surgery Update**

**We know that there have been a large number of concerns during the last few months over the service being delivered by Frampton surgery. We are working with the surgery to improve the service and wanted to take this opportunity to update you on plans and progress.**

**Reception team:** The surgery is focussing on the training and development of the reception team, as they want all patients to be dealt with in an efficient, polite and caring way. The surgery is aware of patient concerns and is working hard to address problem areas. They really do welcome your feedback on how the reception team deal with your call and if you have any concerns, you can email [frampton.surgery@nhs.net](mailto:frampton.surgery@nhs.net), or if you'd prefer you can email the PPG in confidence at [myppg@framptononsevern.com](mailto:myppg@framptononsevern.com).

**Referrals:** If you are referred to a consultant or specialist, these referrals will be made within the following timescales:  
Urgent – within two working days.

Routine – within five working days.

Emergency (for example, to rule out cancer) – within 24 hours.

These targets simply mean when the referral is sent on to the specialist/hospital. The GP will try to give you an idea of how long you're going to wait for your appointment to come through at the time of referral. *If they do not, please ask.*

Unfortunately, most referral appointments are currently delayed due to the pandemic; many hospital departments are still working at reduced capacity due to staff shortages and redeployment. Unfortunately, the surgery has no control over this. However, if your symptoms change or worsen, please let the surgery know. If appropriate, your GP can raise the priority of your referral to try and secure an earlier appointment. If you decide to opt for private care, please let the surgery know and they will deal with this referral for you. It is helpful if you know which specialist you would like to see. We do appreciate this is not an option for everyone.

**GP appointments:** If you are calling to make an appointment for an ongoing or routine issue you will be offered the next available appointment. At present this will be a telephone consultation, unless it is felt you need to be seen face-to-face. *Please be reassured that if there is a need to be seen face-to-face, you will be.*

At the moment, the wait for a routine appointment can be up to 4-6 weeks. We appreciate that this is a long time to wait and the surgery is looking at how this can be improved. If your symptoms change or worsen, please call the surgery and the receptionist will request a doctor to reassess your needs.

If you're unsure if you can wait, the reception team can record your concerns and talk to a doctor, who can then advise. If it is felt that it is urgent, the doctor will call you back on the same day. Likewise, if you are calling with a new and acute health issue, you will get called back by a doctor on the same day.

The surgery is currently developing a plan to increase face-to-face appointments as we start to move out of lockdown – this will take a lot of careful planning to ensure the continued safety of staff and patients and to prevent the spread of the virus. We will update you in the next newsletter. *We do understand that many patients would prefer to be*

*seen face-to-face and the surgery is working to enable this around the constraints of COVID-19.*

**Confidentiality** - When a receptionist answers your call, they will ask you what your health problem is. They need this information to give to the doctor so they can evaluate when to call you. If one of the reception team calls you back to get more information on your symptoms, it's because the doctor has asked them to do so. Any details you give to the reception team will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. You can expect to be asked questions such as; what is the nature of the problem, how long has it been ongoing, what symptoms are you experiencing and have you taken any over-the-counter medications. All surgery staff are bound by the same data protection and information governance rules, guidance and laws. The reception staff dealing with calls are also now located away from the reception area to further aid confidentiality.

**Prescriptions** The surgery advises three working days for a prescription to be processed and this is standard across all pharmacies and dispensing practices. NHS England has now asked that all doctors supply only *one* month's medication at a time. The surgery understand that this is a change for patients, some of whom have previously been prescribed 3 to 6 months' supply of medication at any one time. The surgery is being measured and monitored on this reduction and must comply.

This has an impact on the surgery as well, with many more prescriptions going through the dispensary. On top of this, there has also been a general increase in prescriptions given. The surgery has increased staffing in the dispensary so that it can meet the higher demand.

Some patients have had issues with 'owed' prescription items. This happens when the surgery's suppliers do not have a medication in stock. In this event, one of the dispensary team will contact you. The surgery can either continue to search for the missing item, or you can take the prescription to a local pharmacy. Community pharmacies tend to hold a much larger amount and variety of stock, as they have more space than dispensing practices. Frampton surgery is planning to increase the space

for their dispensary, so they can hold more stock and reduce the risk of this happening.

### **COVID-19 vaccination programme**

All of the vulnerable patients and those aged 44 and above have now been invited to have at least their first vaccination. NHS England has recently started sending text messages inviting 42 and 43-year-olds to the national vaccine centres. Once the surgery has received confirmation of vaccine delivery, they will be inviting these patients to go to local clinics at Beaches Green.

There are a lot of amazing volunteers supporting the program - and it wouldn't be possible without their help - but it also takes considerable resources away from the surgery. It's supported by GPs, nurses, pharmacists and administration staff.

**Complaint's procedure** If you want to make a complaint, you can either call the surgery and ask to speak to the Practice Manager, write to the surgery at Frampton Surgery, Whitminster Lane, Frampton on Severn, GL2 HU or email [frampton.surgery@nhs.net](mailto:frampton.surgery@nhs.net). This mailbox is monitored all day, so please use this email address. The surgery's full complaints procedure is available on their website - [www.framptonsurgery.co.uk](http://www.framptonsurgery.co.uk).

**The Patient Participation Group (PPG)** is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services. Please get in touch if you have any feedback on services and we will continue to represent you. You can email [mypppg@framptononsevern.com](mailto:mypppg@framptononsevern.com) in confidence, or call Ali on 741988, or Jane on 740964.

## **From The Parish Council**

### **Changes to the Parish Council:**

There have been two changes to Councillors this year; Trevor Jones and Paula Turner have retired; the newly elected Councillors are Vince Meredith and Mike Hodge.

The current Chair, John Field, has given notice that he too will be retiring during this year after 14 years as Chair and 17 years on the Parish Council.

## **Vote of Thanks**

A personal 'thank you' goes out to both Trevor Jones and Paula Turner who have served the community in a voluntary capacity on the Parish Council for many years and who have made a great contribution to Parish life. In particular, Trevor, who not only masterminded the installation and maintenance of the Defibrillators in the village but who also established our Parish magazine, **The Bridge**, and who has been the Editor since it started. Although Trevor has retired from Parish Council duties he will continue as Editor of The Bridge for a while longer but would very much like to hand over the reins to a younger person in the not too distant future.

## **Chair's Annual Statement**

At the beginning of the first lockdown, when all those considered to be vulnerable, including anyone over 70 who were advised to stay at home, the Parish Council conducted an exercise to identify all those in Elmore in this vulnerable category. This exercise was based on the work we had already carried out for our Emergency Plan where we had had kept an up to date list of all those over 75.

The Parish Council's main concern during the early days of the pandemic was to ensure that nobody, who was either in the 'vulnerable category' or isolating at home for medical reasons, was forgotten or left without anyone keeping an eye on them. We therefore contacted everyone on the 'vulnerable list' to ensure that they were not left isolated. What was very encouraging, and humbling, was the fact that many residents came forward and offered to help their neighbours and anyone else who may not have had family close by. Therefore, a special vote of thanks goes out to all those in the village who rallied round to help their neighbours during these rather difficult and strange times we have lived through.

The Parish finances are in good health, as we have not had any major expenditure throughout this period. Our bank balance stands at £7,390 and our regular expenditure on insurance, memberships, Defibrillator maintenance, printing of The Bridge and the Clerk's salary, have continued throughout the year.

Your Parish Council decided that the Parish Precept should remain unchanged again for both the last and this financial year and is currently £2,470. Our internal audit was conducted successfully and we continue to follow the financial transparency guidelines by publishing any expenditure over £100 on our Parish website. We review the financial situation at every Parish Council meeting by producing the financial statement for scrutiny by Councillors.

Planning applications have still had to be reviewed and there have been quite a few of those over the last 14 months. A major potential development on the

horizon revolves around the plans by Elmore Court to enhance various aspects of the Estate and we wait to see the detail when the formal planning applications are made.

## **Public Footpaths**

At a recent Parish Council meeting the condition of our public footpaths was discussed. Much of the signage has been damaged or has 'disappeared' and there was a suggestions that the Parish Council should look into keeping these paths, some very ancient, in better repair and to organise the replacement the signage where necessary. It's very much a case of 'use them or lose them'. So **VOLUNTEERS** are needed to walk these paths, to note their condition and report back any deficiencies of condition or signage to the Parish Council. This is a case of 'the more the merrier'; it would be quite a task for one person to walk all the paths so we are looking for several volunteers who could each be allocated a footpath to explore. The Clerk to the Council, Dorie Jones, has maps to help with this work. If you are interested to volunteer, please contact her via email: [elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Potholes and Fly Tipping**

**Anyone can report these problems and set the wheels in motion to get them fixed.**

Potholes should be reported to

**[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit/potholes](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit/potholes)**

Fly tipping should be reported to

**[www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/environment/fly.tipping.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/environment/fly.tipping.asp)**

Direct links to both of these are on the parish website under 'useful links'.

The website address is [www.elmoreparish.co.uk](http://www.elmoreparish.co.uk)

# **PERRYWOOD HOUSE**

## **Open Garden Scheme**

Perrywood House Longney, GL2 3SN (the home of Mike and Gill Farmer) will be open for charity under the National Open Garden Scheme.

**Sat & Sun June 26 & 27**

**11am - 5pm**

**Adults £4, children under 16 free**

**\*plants for sale\***

**\*Home made teas\***

**More info at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)**

## **News from St John the Baptist, Elmore, a Church Near You**

Do you like quizzes? There are lots to choose from!

My favourite is “Only Connect” but sometimes I watch “University Challenge” in the (usually vain) hope that I might know the answer to just one of the questions (the mathematical and scientific ones of which I can’t even understand)!

It’s astounding to see the breadth and depth of knowledge of these young people and the speed and accuracy with which they can recall it.

I watched the final, and Simon Armitage, the Poet Laureate, came to present the trophy. He made a short speech. And I wondered, if I’d been him, what I would have said.

I think I’d have tried to make two points.....

*Knowing things is impressive, but in these days of Alexa and Google, not essential. To fulfil the purpose of their lives humans are called beyond knowledge to wisdom. You may know how to build an atom bomb but only wisdom will tell you when (if ever) to use it.*

*So you clever young people, brainier than most of the country, congratulations on your knowledge. But don’t spend your lives focussing on gathering facts. Instead, seek wisdom, and learn to love.”*

And when you and I watch quizzes, perhaps that’s something for us to ponder too, especially as we re-build our normality and examine our priorities after our Covid hibernation.



The Church is now 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 join us. Also we are booking baptisms and weddings.

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

Rev Richard Martin 01452 723479, [vicar@hardwicke-elmores-longney.church](mailto:vicar@hardwicke-elmores-longney.church)

## **Elmore Chamber Music Festival 2021**

**takes place in the Church from 5-7 August.**

The opening night concert will feature the award-winning Freeman String Quartet from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester alongside the U.K.'s leading double bass soloist Toby Hughes (recently featured on Radio 3) and Cellist Leo Melvin.

The festival will also include a recital by international organ scholar Jed Hughes and we are very excited to have cellist Petr Prauce joining us to perform alongside the Freeman String Quartet in our closing concert.

For details and times of these and other events, and to buy tickets, please go to [Elmore Chamber Music Festival | Home](#)

## **Private George Ernest Gabb**

George Ernest Gabb was born in Westbury on Severn on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1891 and was the son of Alfred Charles Gabb (1867-1944) and Alice Carter (1869-1939). He was one of 10 children, (2 boys and 8 girls) and he was the oldest son. At the time he was born his father's occupation was listed as '*Waggoner on farm and agricultural labourer*'. George's mother, Alice Carter, was born in Longney as was her eldest daughter Susannah.

The 1901 Census shows that the family had moved to the Thornbury area from Westbury but the 1911 Census shows they were then living in Elmore Back. At that time George, his father Alfred and his brother Charles were all workers on a farm. Also, the Census form showed that two of the children had died.

George Ernest Gabb married Florence Hannah Dawe (1887-1969) in the summer of 1911 when he was aged 20 and she was 24. Florence had

been born in Tibberton, Gloucestershire but by 1901 her family had moved to Elmore and the Census stated they '*lived near The Court*'. George and Florence had 3 children, all girls; Daisy Ida Muriel (1910-1956), Alice Annie Elizabeth (1913-1990) and Violet Alexandra Rose (1914-1960).

George joined the Army at the start of WW1 in 1914 and was allocated the Army number 241557 and assigned to 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorial), The Gloucestershire Regiment, which was part of 145<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division.

This was the same unit that 2Lt Henry Guise, Private William Merrett and Private James Gardner all men from Elmore who had also joined and were all killed during WW1. George's battalion embarked for France on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915, landing at Boulogne in France whereupon the unit then marched over 100 miles to the 48<sup>th</sup> Divisional concentration area just SW of Ypres.

The battalion was billeted at Steenvorde and then Meteren in France on the Belgian border before taking over trenches in the front line in the Ploegsteert Wood Sector in Belgium on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1915.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May, after a spell in the trenches Henry's unit was based at Le Romarin as Divisional Reserve west of Ploegsteert, just inside the Belgian border, NE of Lille.

In 1916, George's battalion was in action during the Battle of the Somme, suffering heavy casualties on the 1<sup>st</sup> July during the assault on the Quadrilateral (Heidenkopf).

They were also in action at The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (4<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July), the capturing of Ovillers and The Battle of Pozières Ridge (23<sup>rd</sup> July - 3<sup>rd</sup> September). This latter battle was a very costly one and in the period up to 28<sup>th</sup> July, the British 48<sup>th</sup> Division suffered 2,700 casualties and from 13<sup>th</sup> August they lost a further 2,500 men. It was during this latter period, on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1916, that Private George Ernest Gabb was killed in action (KIA). This was exactly the same day, and during the same battle, that Private James Gardner (*also from Elmore*) was KIA.

George's name is inscribed on the Thiepval Monument – which means he was one of the 72,000 soldiers who were killed on The Somme during WW1 but their bodies were either never found or could not be identified so did not have an individual grave.

Sadly, George's name does not appear on the War Memorial in Elmore village, probably because after he married Florence Dawe he moved to a house in Tredworth, Gloucester.

George's widow, Florence Hannah Dawe, remarried on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1919 to John Charles Hyett (1887-1941) and they had 3 children; Elizabeth (1919 -2008), Alfred Victor (1926-1992) and Rose Gwendoline (1930-2009). John Hyett had also served in the army during WW1 and was a Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) in the South Wales Borderers and had joined the Army in December of 1908.

## **Private Alfred (Fred) Victor Dawe**

In Elmore, like many of the rural villages around the time of WW1, the families were all interwoven and not only were Private George Gabb's uncles living in Elmore so were his in-laws. So it is no coincidence that his brother in law i.e. his wife, Florence's younger brother, Alfred Victor Dawe (1893 - 1925) also joined the Army during WW1 and was a Private in the Army Service Corps (ASC).

Alfred Victor Dawe was born in Elmore in 1893. The census Forms of 1901 and 1911 stated that he was living with his family 'near the Court' and in 1911 his occupation was shown as 'cattleman on farm'. His parents were Henry Dawe (1864-1935) and Lucy Ann Tea (1858-1951). There were two 'Dawe' families living in Elmore around the time Alfred lived here. His uncle, William Dawe (1856-1944) and family lived in the only house on Chapel Lane.

Alfred's Army number was DM2/171214; the 'DM2' standing for the fact he served as a learner driver with the Mechanical Transport branch of the ASC. At some stage during 1916 he served in the Darfur Campaign in Africa and was awarded the Sultan's Sudan Medal with the Clasp 'Darfur 16'.

Historical Note: *The Darfur Campaign is a little known event during WW1. The aim was to carry out a pre-emptive strike on Sudan in conjunction with Egyptian forces. A small contingent of British troops (2,000) carried out the military campaign between March and November 1916. The operation started by capturing the then independent country of Darfur – which was the size of France - to establish a route into Sudan. This was not a difficult task militarily as*

*the Darfur forces were mainly armed with muzzle-loaded rifles and spears. However, the Darfur military had a large contingent of mounted troops that harassed the Anglo-Egyptian force. The main problems for the British contingent were concerned with logistics as they had a long line of communication from Egypt and as they relied heavily on the supply of water, their route through Darfur went from well to well across the arid land. At the end of this campaign, Darfur became part of Sudan. The story of the status of Darfur doesn't end at this point as, since 2003, there has been a resurgence of a military struggle in the region with the Darfur Liberation Front seeking independence from Sudan. This conflict, combined with drought and famine has developed into one of the major human rights disasters of modern times with some 480,000 deaths, around 2.5 million people displaced and the territorial dispute is still not resolved.*

After WW1 Alfred Dawe returned to Elmore and continued to live with his parents. However, in 1923 the family moved to a house at 36 Bristol Road, Quedgeley. The records do not indicate that Alfred married after the War but do show that he died in 1925 aged only 32.

## **Private Henry Dawe**

Henry Dawe (1879 - 1944) was Private Alfred Dawe's cousin. He was born in Highleadon (near Newent) on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1879 and was the son of William Dawe (1856-1944) and Ann Blewitt (1857-1922). There were originally 10 children in the family but by 1911 two of them had died. At that time the family, comprising 8 members, were all living in the cottage in Chapel Lane, Elmore. It must have been a bit of a squash as most of the family were adults: as well as the parents, Henry was 31, his brothers Charles was 33 and Jesse was 28, his sisters Ethel 20 and Norah 18 (all still single) as well as the youngest sibling, Victor aged 12.

Henry joined the Army in March 1916 aged 37. His medical records on enlistment show that he was 5ft 2 inches tall and he weighed 123 lbs (*less than 9 stone*) and that he had had a previous injury to his right arm which meant that he was, at that time, identified for 'home service' only. He was allocated the Army number 4355 and assigned to The Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. However, he was transferred to

the Labour Corps in December 1916 and his number was therefore changed to 34026. He served firstly with 111 Company and then with 144 Company when his Army number was changed again to 66194. Despite his earlier medical category of 'home service only' he was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

It was not unusual for soldiers of a particular infantry unit, who were subsequently wounded or not fit for active duty, and therefore not 100% fit, to be transferred to the Labour Company that supported their own unit. The men of the Labour Corps were not normally used for fighting duties but had the unenviable tasks of grave digging, latrine digging, trench digging, putting up barbed wire etc. Henry's unit was in direct support of The Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment.

It would appear that his company supported the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Queens who were in action on Vimy Ridge on 9<sup>th</sup> April of 1917 where the unit had 9 officers and 111 men killed. They were back in action on 3<sup>rd</sup> May during the attack on Scarpe then sat in their trenches from May until October around Monchy (near Arras). They were moved to Le Couray in October and then to Péronne in November.

During 1918, Alfred's unit was billeted in the area around Amiens and spent the first few months either in reserve or taking spells in the front line trenches. It wasn't until early July that the unit actually went into action again in the area of Harponville, east of Amiens. However, up to that time, they had sustained a steady toll of casualties from enemy shelling and sniper fire. The unit made steady progress eastwards towards the Belgian border with various short attacks and then time behind the front line. This activity continued until the end of the War.

After WW1, Henry returned to Elmore and in 1922 married Clara Taylor (1900 - 1975). By 1939 he was living in a house near Stonebench and at the age of 60 was listed as 'incapacitated'.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Elmore Guides**

1<sup>st</sup> Elmore Guides have continued to meet virtually on Zoom over the last few months. We have worked on the Express Myself Theme from the Girl Guiding programme, with many Guides completing their Theme Award. As part of the Express Myself Theme we had a Guest

Speaker from BexMedia, a local company specializing in visual media, to talk about how to use a camera and to take the best photographs, which helped us work on our Photography badge. The Guides took part in the annual RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch event; we made bird puddings and tallied how many birds we saw. In February we celebrated World Thinking Day virtually with over 6000 members across the UK. We got to visit the Guiding World Centres and made Swiss Butterzopf and Mexican Gods Eyes. We finished last term with Easter baking and presented our first group of Guides with their Bronze Award. This term we have continued to meet virtually and working on the Have Adventures Theme by planting beans and making flapjacks. We have recently celebrated Eid as a unit and tried scarf tying. We are hopefully looking forward to trying to meet outdoors in June with games at the Village Hall, a hike around Longney and campfire cooking.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Elmore Rangers**

Over the last few months 1<sup>st</sup> Elmore Rangers have been meeting virtually on Zoom. We have been working on the Take Action Theme by creating our own mini manifestos and collecting items for Gloucester Food Bank. To celebrate World Thinking Day we were lucky to connect with a unit from Peru and got to talk to them about what Guiding is like in their country. We also worked on activities towards the Bee Challenge badge by making bee houses; the Rangers have hung these in their gardens or their local community to help attract bees. This term we have completed our Voting badge by inviting Roger Godwin, a local Parish Councilor to our meeting, we were able to ask him questions to find out more about the Parish Council. Over the last couple of meetings we celebrated Eid by making spiced biscuits, which tasted very nice. After half term, we are hoping to meet outdoors with games at the Village Hall, fishing in Saul and bush craft skills at Deer Park, Cowley.

*If your daughter is interested in joining 1<sup>st</sup> Elmore Guides or 1<sup>st</sup> Elmore Rangers, please call Catherine on (01452) 678181*

# **The Village Players**

This year the Village Players celebrates their 40th anniversary!

We are hoping to be able to perform a pantomime later on in the year.  
Please keep an eye on noticeboards and social media for further details.

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

## **Dates for your diary.**

### **2021 Elmore Parish Council Meetings**

September 2021	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept '21 Committee Room
December 2021	Monday 6th Dec '21 Committee Room

### **2021 Next Copy Dates for **The Bridge****

**July 23rd** and **October 15th** 2021

Editor: Trevor Jones

Email: [rosecottage1818@gmail.com](mailto:rosecottage1818@gmail.com)

Tel: 01452 722034

## **The Parish Council May 2021**

**Parish Council Website is [www.elmoreparish.co.uk](http://www.elmoreparish.co.uk) or  
just put Elmore Parish Council into your Search**

<b>Chairman: John Field</b>		<b>mobile 07519651547</b>	
<b>Vice. Chairman: Nick Meek</b>		<b>mobile 07739654921</b>	
<b>Jane Hill</b>		<b>mobile 07747767986</b>	
<b>Mike Hodge</b>		<b>mobile 07446842931</b>	
<b>Vince Meredith</b>		<b>mobile 07951199313</b>	

Mrs D Jones, Clerk to Elmore Parish Council  
Rose Cottage  
Elmore  
Gloucester  
GL2 3NS  
United Kingdom  
E-mail:[elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk)  
Telephone:(+44) 01452 722034