

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
Issue No. 4 - April 2015



This edition of The Bridge is dedicated to Pauline Ellis whose sudden death on March 26th shocked and saddened all who knew her.

From the Editor - Trevor Jones

It never ceases to amaze me how much goes on in such a small community. The Bridge started last year with only 12 pages and we quickly had to increase to 16 pages. As I write this editorial I have not yet received all the material for this issue and, already, I'm wondering if future issues will swell to 20 pages. We shall see. All this tells me to shut up, keep the editorial short and get on with the bits you do want to read.

Defibrillators - The latest.

Elmore Parish Council has now put in an order for the first defibrillator which will be housed outside the milking parlour at Elmore Back Farm. We are very grateful to Sophie Round for agreeing to accommodate it there. We are expecting delivery within a few weeks and we are lucky to have a qualified electrician, James Tooth, associated with the village who will do the necessary electrical work.

We have only been partially successful in finding grant aid for the second defibrillator, which is to be installed in the old phone box outside the Village Hall, so will be holding a fund raising event later in the year. Watch this space for news of this.

Defibrillator Training

We are told that sudden cardiac arrest outside hospital affects over 90,000 people every year in Britain. This amounts to a jumbo jet full of people every day. It can happen to anyone of any age at any time. That

is why the installation of these defibrillators has been given top priority by Elmore Parish Council.

The equipment we have chosen can be used by anyone without training but, as part of the package, Community Heartbeat and S W Ambulance will be giving training to local people to help them feel more confident about the using defibrillators.

The first training session will be on May 12th 7pm

As the first defibrillator is to be sited at Elmore Back it is hoped particularly that people from there will volunteer to be trained but anyone from the village is welcome. **If you wish to volunteer for training please give your name to Nick Meek before May 5th.**

There will be a second training session when the second machine is installed - details in a future issue of The Bridge

EPC & EA Community Day, 29th April

Elmore Parish Council and The Environment Agency are together organising a Community Day on April 29th 2015 starting at 10am.

The purpose of the day is to increase the resilience to erosion of the river bank at Elmore Back by planting willows. As many of you will know, a short length of willow pushed into the soil will quickly sprout and within a year or two become a sapling whose roots will help to consolidate the river bank.

There will be EA experts on hand to guide and help the volunteers.

If you would like to be one of the volunteers please email or phone Dorie Jones, the Parish Council Clerk before April 25th.

Penny Lane

Penny Lane is part of a public footpath running from the corner near Partridge Houses down to the stone bridge which inspired the name and logo of this parish magazine. The footpath goes on towards Elmore Court. This was once a busy thoroughfare for pedestrians and we hear

that while the adults from Elmore Court took a carriage to church the children of the household walked via Penny Lane, as did many others. The Parish Council cleared the lane some years ago but by early 2015 it was back to being overgrown so a work party has again cleared the path. If you haven't seen the old stone bridge, it's well worth wandering down there to have a look. The footpath is signposted.

Elmore in 1915

One hundred years ago there was a monthly Church Magazine. Jennifer Watts has kindly chosen a number of interesting passages from the 1915 magazines.

March 1915 We had an epidemic of whooping cough which caused many scholars to be absent; also a prevalence of bad colds.

March/April 1915

Elmore Roll of Honour (*those who have joined the armed forces. Ed.*)

William Watts (Royal Gloucestershire Hussars)

Frank Powell (Cyclist Battalion)

May 1915 Elmore PCC

We are forming what we hope will prove an interesting collection in years to come - the portraits of former vicars of this parish.

The Revs T H Lee Warner 1865 - 1874 and EFP Johnstone 1883 - 1888.

We are promised Revs P J Donovan, ACR Clark, J P Humphris-Clark and WP Whittington.

We are placing them in the Vesty.

Overgrown Trees

The trees in the avenue leading to the church had become so overgrown that the light was almost shut out. This, under the supervision of Mr Finch (Head Gardener at Elmore Court) has been remedied; a judicious thinning has been done. We are grateful to Mr Finch and his staff for their labours.

June 1915

Our village was plunged into grief when the sad news arrived that owing to an accidental explosion of a hand grenade, Christopher Guise, 2nd Lieutenant of the 5th Gloucesters, had been killed on May 6th in Flanders. A Memorial Service was held in his memory on Sunday May 16th, his 22nd Birthday.

July 1915

June 26th 1915

Kings Lynn

Dear Sir,

I came home for hay making last week but only had five days, having to be back on Saturday night so as to get ready for moving on Monday morning. We were busy all day on Sunday packing up things and pulling down some of the tents. We had to give blankets etc in on Sunday and sleep in the open at night but not for many hours as we had to be up at three o'clock to truck our horses and start at a quarter to six. We billeted in spare rooms in the town having to lie on the floor,

Yours sincerely, W R Watts
(William Watts, Weir House)

September 1915 Gloucester Volunteer Regiment

The Roll of Elmore Volunteers for Home Defence is steadily growing but the chief difficulty at present is the shortage of labour entailing on so many such long hours; men who return to their homes after 12 - 14 hours work at this season are scarcely fit to devote much time to drilling. Moreover their work consists in gathering in the harvest of hay and fruit, which will mean provisions for the nation in the months to come. So they are already in a sense 'National Volunteers'. We may be able to do something by and by when the autumn evenings arrive. At present there are great practical difficulties in the way. The ages of the volunteers are 16 - 19 and over 40 and if we can secure a sufficient number, arrangements for drilling will be made.

Three Rivers Become One

On a global scale the River Severn is but a small stream; nevertheless it is the longest river in the United Kingdom. It rises 610m (2000 feet) up on Plynlimon in the Welsh Mountains and flows 220 miles to the Bristol Channel. Such is its influence that in Welsh the Bristol Channel is called Môr Hafren, the 'Severn Sea'. At Apperley, North of Gloucester, the average discharge of the river is 107 cumecs (cubic metres per second). In times of flood it is much more than this; on 2nd November 2000, following several days of very heavy rain, the discharge at Bewdley was measured at 496 cumecs.

Clearly the River Severn has a huge influence on many who live in Elmore and Elmore Back. Much of the work of the Parish Council over the last few years has been about your concerns with Environment Agency plans to manage (or not) the flooding of the river.

However, the Severn has not always been the force it is today. Before the Ice Age what we call the River Severn flowed from Plynlimon northeastwards to reach the sea at what is now the Dee Estuary, Cheshire. At the time a much smaller stream rose near Bridgnorth in Shropshire and flowed South to the Bristol Channel. This stream was small not only because it was without the water from Plynlimon but also because the River Avon was not then a tributary. Instead what is now the Warwickshire Avon flowed North Eastwards to the River Trent system.

Then about 50,000 years ago, when much of Northern Britain was under a vast ice cap, ice blocked the Dee Estuary ponding back the Plynlimon water to form a large lake, which geographers call Lake Lapworth, situated over what is now the Cheshire Plain. Eventually Lake Lapworth began to drain out powerfully over the lowest point in the hills to the South, in the process forming Ironbridge Gorge. At about the same time an ice cap also blocked the mouth of the Trent creating an even bigger lake, Lake Harrison, which lay over the English Midlands. This lake flowed out in two places, southwards at Fenny Compton, Warwickshire, and south westwards towards Tewkesbury.

How do we know about these ancient lakes? Well, they were there for a long time and we can still see traces of their presence. There are remnants of their beaches on the hills around the Midland and Cheshire Plains. Fossil remains in these beach deposits enable the dating of the lakes to the Ice Age. Also, distinctive sediments sank to the bottom of the lakes and we can still see these today. In the summer coarser sediments accumulated, but each winter when the lakes froze and the water under the ice was very still, the finest sediments could settle to the bottom so that each year is marked by a double sedimentary unit; fine (winter) beneath and coarse (summer) above. These so called varves can be counted up like tree rings to help with working out the chronology of the Ice Age.

After the Ice Age the Severn remained in its new course turning south through Ironbridge Gorge instead of going back to its old northward course. The Avon meanwhile abandoned its old route towards the Trent and also its temporary escape route via the Fenny Compton gap so that all its water now drains into the Severn at Tewkesbury creating the R Severn we know today with a peak discharge downstream at Haw Bridge in December 2000 of 593 cumecs - nearly 600 tonnes of water passing the bridge every second! No wonder we treat it with respect and are watchful of its moods.

THJ April 2015

More news on the 'Elmore 700' Church consecration celebration in July

The committee has had two meetings so far this year to continue with the organisation of this fantastic Flower Festival and Family Weekend. We are looking for your contributions of cakes and plants to boost the stalls. Also, if you can spare a little time, your help at the church during the weekend would be most welcome. Please give me a call or an email to let me know how you can help with cakes, plants or your time.

Please invite your family and friends to this great event at Elmore Church when Elmore hospitality and skills will be available to all.

Colin Ellis Tel: 01452 728253 email: colinellis50@hotmail.com

From Elmore Parish Council

Police Report As spring is fast approaching and the nice weather is making an appearance, people may be opening windows and doors to make the most of it, Please can we re-iterate the importance of making sure all your doors and windows are shut and locked when leaving your property for any length of time and please do not leave valuables on display.

Make sure your fencing is in good repair.

Don't leave any garden tools or furniture outside as they can be used to gain entry to your property.

Dog Theft

There have been a number of cases around the county of dogs being stolen

Owners should always be vigilant and follow basic security advice:

First of all, it is a wise move to get your pet micro-chipped. Then, if your dog runs off and it is found, you can be easily traced as its owner.

Also if your dog is stolen, when it is taken to the vets, they will discover that the dog is chipped and you will be identified as its rightful owner. Secondly, try to comply with the following advice:

Don't leave dogs unattended in the street.

Don't leave them alone in a car - particularly when the weather starts to warm up

Ensure your garden is secure and don't leave them alone for long periods of time

If you keep them outside, make sure your property and kennels are secure

Always keep them on a lead when walking near roads

Ensure your dog is fully trained to come back to you before you let it off the lead

Don't allow your dog to run free near roads or in built up areas

Don't allow it to run free near farm animals

Don't let it become a nuisance or danger to other people or animals

Stray dogs should be reported to your local council's dog warden.

If you need advice on safe-guarding your premises and your property, please contact your local police, either by calling 101 or by emailing 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

If you see any suspicious activity, vehicles or people please call the police on 101

If you see a crime in progress, always dial 999.

The Parish Precept

At the Parish council Meeting on 2nd March your Council voted to maintain the Parish Precept at its current rate and will not ask for any increase from householders. This is the 5th year in a row that we've maintained this rate and feel that our finances are in a healthy state and we cannot foresee the need to increase our income.

Litter

A few years ago Elmore Parish Council had a 'blitz' on litter around the village. Volunteers came forward who were willing to look after a certain section of our roads and lanes. They were offered high visibility jackets and picking sticks to help them with this and to keep them safer. Undoubtedly the village has looked a lot better since but it might be time to reassess the situation. How many of those original volunteers are still looking after their areas? How many of them would like to give up and hand over to someone else? Are there any others who did not volunteer first time round who would like to help now?

If you are one of those original volunteers would you contact Trevor Jones by email or phone to confirm you want to carry on. If others would like to volunteer could they also make contact.

Fly Tipping

If you see larger dumped items (tv sets, fridges, mattresses etc) Stroud District Council will collect them free of charge. Email public.space@stroud.gov.uk or phone 01453 754424. For abandoned

vehicles email abandoned.vehicle@stroud.gov.uk or phone 01453 754379

National Elections

As you know there is to be a General Election on 7th May. Voting will take place as usual in the Village Hall from approximately 07.00 to 22.00.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 17.45 (7.45pm).

Severn AC Runs

Recently there was a Severn Athletic Club run through the village which came as a surprise to Elmore Parish Council and caused some minor inconvenience on our roads. So for information we have contacted SAC and have the following dates for future runs which will be based on our Village Hall.

Tuesday June 2nd	7.30pm
Saturday July 11th	11.0am
Tuesday August 4th	7.30pm
Sunday December 27th	11.30am
Friday January 1st 2016	11.30am

News From Stroud District Council

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB): Up to 25% of CAB time is now devoted to giving financial advice to individuals with debts and a further 5% of their time is devoted to giving advice on what benefits are available to poorer families.

You may have read in the national press that CAB has recently been awarded a contract by the Government to deliver advice, country wide, on pensions. However, such advice will be very focused and specialised and as a result not all the CAB offices will be giving it. Although there will be 44 such centres throughout the country, the nearest one to us for such advice will be in either Swindon or Taunton.

SDC Local Plan is now available for comments on the changes and the Inspector's Report is expected by November for approval by the end of the year. One of the key aspects of this plan is to identify where new housing should be built.

Boundary Review: The draft plan for boundary changes is now out for comment and it contains two items of interest to us:

Firstly, the Commission has recommended that the number of Stroud District Councillors remains the same at 51 but with some adjustments as to how many Councillors will represent each Ward;

Secondly, Hardwicke Ward will have 3 rather than the present 2 Councillors.

The consequence of this change is that when the local elections are held in May 2016 the Parish Council elections will be held alongside the District Council elections and again in 2020 but after this the Parish Elections are likely to be held out of sequence with District or General Elections which could result in some quite high expenditure for parish council elections.

District Budget:

Council House rents in Stroud District have been increased by 3% (+/- £2 a week)

Plans are in train to build 150 new Council Houses at a cost of £21m.

There will be further cuts in the Local Government Subsidy provided by central Government to local Councils (both County and District) so we can expect a continuation of belt-tightening over the next few years.

Rubbish Collection

Over the next year SDC will be introducing a new style of rubbish collection:

Food waste – every week

Black bag rubbish – every 2 weeks

Recycling – every 2 weeks

Details will be published once known

New survey of the graves in Elmore churchyard

During summer 2014 I carried out a survey of the visible graves at the church. I created a plan of the churchyard showing the position of each grave. A comprehensive data base and plan will enable family graves to be easily found. In addition there is now a separate document providing details and photographs on the listed head stones and table top monuments some of which are considered the best in the country. This has been a very interesting project which has revealed much about the people buried in Elmore.

The complete graveyard survey is published in the History section on the St John the Baptist Church website. A hard copy will be retained in the church for public viewing.

If I can help you find details on your past family buried at Elmore then please contact me, Colin Ellis on 01452 728253 Colin Ellis

Rotary Club Plays at Elmore Village Hall

A sparkling wine reception and an evening of two award winning comedies on Saturday 30th May at Elmore Village Hall

The Offstage Theatre Group present 'Secretarial Services' by Peter Quilter and 'Waiting for a Friend' by Barnaby Eaton-Jones. Elmore is one of the five venues to which the plays will be taken. The reception starts at 7.00pm and the play begins at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 and includes a glass of sparkling wine on arrival. A pay bar will be available during the evening.

Tickets from Colin Ellis. Call 01452 728253 or email colinellis50@hotmail.com.

All profit to Shriver Deaf School, India and other Rotary Charities.

Do come along for this fund raising evening of comedy

Colin Ellis, Rotary Club of Severn Vale

The Village Players

The Village Players present 'Panic Stations', a farce by Derek Benfield. This very enjoyable situation comedy will be performed at Elmore Village Hall on Thursday April 30th, Friday 1st May and Saturday 2nd May 2015, with curtain up each evening at 7.30. Tickets go on sale on 30th March, price £7. To purchase tickets, once on sale, please call our

Box Office 01452 722245. We hope you will join us for a great evening of fun and laughter.

W.I. News

Elmore WI have had an action filled couple of months
Members have enjoyed golfing lessons at Brickhampton Golf Club as well as Ladies Day at Cheltenham Race Course. We held a craft day at the Village Hall where we practised skills at clay modelling; each made a Green Man and now we eagerly await the finished results to be returned from firing. We have also enjoyed a walk and lunch at Hales Fruit Farm.

Finally Elmore qualified for the next round of a WI Group Quiz.
JOIN US! We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Elmore Village Hall, 7.30.

W.I. Coffee Morning, May 23rd, Elmore Village Hall.

Various stalls, bring & buy, raffle, plants, tea & coffee etc
Free admission. Look out for posters for more details.

Cotswold Care Hospice, Severnside Support

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday May 9th

from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

at

Russell Cottage, The Green, Frampton

(by kind permission of Dot and John Newton)

Cake stall

Bring and Buy stall

Plant stall

Raffle

In aid of Cotswold Care Hospice

Please do come and support us

Information from Anne Roberts 740498

or Di Merrett 740400

Elmore Village Hall Update

Throughout the year Elmore Village Hall Management Committee have been committed to maintaining, refurbishing and improving the Hall for the benefit and comfort of our growing and diverse number of users.

The Committee will be discussing our plans for 2015/2016 at the next Quarterly Committee meeting which follows our AGM on Monday 13th April. I will be reporting on our decisions in the next issue of The Bridge.

Many thanks to all who continue to support the Hall in so many ways. Best wishes.

John (Hardisty)

Chairman EVH Management Committee

EVH Race Night

Thanks to all who came to the well supported Race Night in February. The evening started with a hot supper. Local businesses sponsored the races and prize donations making it a successful and enjoyable evening. We were a bit short of helpers on the night so they worked very hard. As usual many cooked and several tellers came forward on the night. Thanks to all. A very pleasing profit of £1984 was raised. There will be an Autumn walk in September or October and Christmas Lunch on Sunday 16th December.

Su Hardisty (Social Chair)

St John the Baptist Church, Elmore
**Consecration 700th Anniversary
Celebration July 2015**

*Invitation to
Elmore Flower Festival*



*'Crowns and Coronets'
&
Family Fun Weekend
at*

Elmore Church

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th 10am to 6pm

Family Fun, Cakes, Plants, Books, Coffee,
Lunches, Teas, Bar.

Parish & Church Records, Children's
Christening gowns, Music

**Admission £5. Children free. All
proceeds to Elmore Church**

River Severn Tidal Bores in 2015

You may already be aware that 2015 has already seen some very high Severn Bores and there will be more throughout the year..

The full details of the bores and timings can be found on the relevant website but for those that don't have access to the internet the key dates of 3-Star Bores or larger are shown below; (*timings reflect the arrival of the Bore at Stonebench, subtract approx 10 minutes for the arrival Elmore Back*):

April

Saturday 18 th		21.05 (3-Star)
Sunday 19 th	09.26 (4-Star)	21.47 (4-Star)
Monday 20 th	10.09 (4-Star)	22.27 (3-Star)
Tuesday 21 st	10.49 (3-Star)	

August

Sunday 2 nd	22.44 (3-Star)	
Sunday 30 th	21.43 (4-Star)	
Monday 31 st	10.06 (3-Star)	22.26 (4-Star)

September

Tuesday 1 st	10.48 (3-Star)	23.08 (4-Star)
Sunday 27 th		20.39 (3-Star)
Monday 28 th	09.02 (3-Star)	21.23 (4-Star)
Tuesday 29 th	09.45 (4-Star)	22.06 (5-Star)
Wednesday 30 th	10.27 (4-Star)	22.47 (4-Star)

October

Thursday 1 st	11.07 (3 Star)	
Tuesday 27 th	07.40 (3-Star)	20.02 (4-Star)
Wednesday 28 th	08.23 (4-Star)	20.46 (4-Star)
Thursday 29 th	09.05 (4-Star)	21.28 (4-Star)
Friday 30 th	09.46 (3-Star)	

November

Thursday 26 th		20.27 (3-Star)
Friday 27 th	08.46 (3-Star)	

Useful Contacts

Elmore Parish Council

Chair - John Field, 720237, fernhay@btinternet.com

Vice Chair - Andy Nash, 720903, andynash@talktalk.net

Jenni Hobbs, 724633, jenni@barvaleholsteins.co.uk

Trevor Jones, 722034, rose_cottage06@talktalk.net

Nick Meek, 750769, nick@archies.me.uk

Clerk, Dorie Jones, 722034, elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Website: www.elmoreparish.co.uk

Other Useful Numbers

Police, non emergency number, 101

County Councillor, Tony Blackburn, 01453 753429,

anthony.blackburn@goucestershire.gov.uk

District Councillor, David Mossman, 01453 538686

cllr.dave.mossman@stroud.gov.uk

MP, Neil Carmichael, 01453 751572

neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk

To report fly tipping, 01453 754424 public.space@stroud.gov.uk

Abandoned vehicles, 01453 754379 abandoned.vehicle@stroud.gov.uk

Glos Highways (potholes etc) 08000 514514

Village Organisations

Village Hall Chair, John Hardisty, 721798, pikelett@hotmail.com

Village Hall Social Chair, Su Hardisty, as above

The Vicar, Fr Andrew James, 720015, vicarage@inbox.com

Village Players, Amy Parkin, 07557 79011,

villageplayers@outlook.com

WI, Val Overton, 750591, vj.overton@tiscali.co.uk

Elmore Guides, Catherine Hartnell, 722444

Elmore Brownies, Jenny, 722444

Bridge Club, Caroline Meek, 720383

2015 Parish Council Meetings - Any parishioner welcome. All in Village Hall at 7.45pm

Tuesday May 19th (Annual Meetings)

Monday September 28th

Monday December 14th