

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
Issue No. 1. June 2014



Message from the Chair

We hope you will like this new publication, THE BRIDGE. The plan is to publish it four times a year: in March, June, September and December – this might change in the future depending on how well it is received. Up to now your Parish Council has produced an Annual Newsletter – you received the latest copy in February 2014 – but this has mainly covered Council business with no room for NEWS, VIEWS, INTERVIEWS etc.

You will see that this, the first issue of THE BRIDGE contains news of events and happenings in the village during this year and some notice of forthcoming events. Even though Elmore is a small village there is a lot going on and we trust that THE BRIDGE will keep you up to date with what the Parish Council is doing on your behalf, as well as social events in the Village Hall, the Church and elsewhere. So THE BRIDGE is there to ‘bridge the gap’ between you, the residents of the Parish, and Elmore Parish Council as well as to become a general ‘communication highway’ within the village. The inspiration for this name is the very old and beautiful pack horse bridge in Penny Lane. At the moment Penny lane is rather overgrown but the Parish Council plan to clear it in the next few weeks so that anyone can walk down it to see this wonderful old bridge.

There has been some suggestion that this magazine will replace the long running and well established ‘Elmore and Longney Community Newsletter’ which is produced bi-monthly with mainly Church news, but that is not the intention of the Parish Council. We are aware that there is a strong desire in the Parish that the ‘Elmore and Longney Community Newsletter’ should continue to be distributed in the village. Although THE BRIDGE will contain some church news, it is first and foremost a secular magazine.

So, even before the first copy has been produced it appears this publication has already caused some debate and controversy which has reached the ears of the editorial team. If you have printable views and opinions on this and any other matters concerning the village do not hesitate to send them to the Editor (see below).

Letters to the Editor

Your views matter, so we would welcome letters from anyone in the parish on issues and events that may affect the village and especially any matters arising from articles or letters in THE BRIDGE. Please deliver hard copy to any of the parish councillors or email them to elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk

ELMORE VILLAGE HALL

Over many years Elmore Village Hall Management Committee has been committed to maintaining, refurbishing and improving the Hall for the benefit and comfort of our growing and diverse number of users. To this end, projects in place for this year include, upgrading the heating in the main hall, completion of redecoration and re-hanging most of the curtains.

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

John (Hardisty)
Chairman EVHMC

EVH SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

The Social Committee has 2 functions planned for 2014, an Ascot lunch on Thursday 19th June and a Village walk in October. The Ascot Lunch is cold, 4 course and for Ladies only. Hats are expected to be worn and Susan Marshfield will give a talk entitled "Barefoot to Buckingham Palace". Due to hard work by committee members tickets are sold out. This event brings in guests from outside therefore we are not reliant on the loyal attendance of the Village. We are a small committee all of whom work very hard on the day. My thanks to them in advance. A

contribution will go to Air Ambulance and the rest of the profit will go to maintaining the hall.

Su Hardisty

Social Chair EVHMC

Bookings and information - 721798 or pikelett@hotmail.com

Editorial Note Most people would surely agree that the Village Hall is a superb facility and the social centre of a very social village. What would we do without it?

Thank you to John and Su and the members of the EVH Committees for all your hard work.

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS

Village Players would like to thank everyone who came and supported our latest production of **"Let's Remember – An Evening of Words and Music with hot supper"**. We all hope everyone enjoyed the production, and would like to remind you to keep an eye out for our next production which will be our annual pantomime. This year's pantomime will be **Sinbadaladdin** by [Richard Lloyd](#) and will run from November 27th – December 6th.

We are always looking for new members and if people would like to get involved with the group either onstage or offstage then please contact our secretary Amy Parkin either by phone 07557 793011 or by email villageplayers@outlook.com

1st Elmore Guides

This term 1st Elmore Guides have been trying new outdoor activities. We continued with our annual fishing competition and we have been learning how to light fires in our patrols, we all enjoyed this! The Guides have also completed their *Traditions of Guiding* badge, to achieve this we had to tie different knots, lay a table correctly, light a candle, use a compass and know what countries make up the Union

Flag. We will also be taking part in the last ever Malvern Challenge - we are all excited as we will be camping and taking part in lots of fun activities. At the end of term we will be having our summer BBQ and wide games at Robinswood Hill.

1st Elmore Guides meet once a week at Elmore Village Hall from 7.30pm – 9.00pm (term time only). If you are interested in putting your daughters name down for Guides please call Catherine on (01452) 722444.

Elmore Brownies

This year Brownies are celebrating 100 years. As part of this celebration we took 18 girls to celebrate at PGL Liddington, Swindon for a weekend along with Brownies from across Gloucestershire. This term we are continuing to work on our Big Brownie Birthday Challenge, and we have also completed our World Guiding and Disability Awareness Badges. The rest of this term we are preparing for the Commonwealth Games as we are now working towards our *Ready, Steady, Glasgow!* challenge.

1st Elmore Brownies meet once a week at Elmore Village Hall from 6.00pm - 7.30pm (term time only). If you are interested in putting your daughter's name down for Brownies please call Jenny on (01452) 722444.

Elmore Toddler Group

Elmore Toddler Group meets during term time on Tuesday mornings from 10 o'clock until 12 at the village hall.

We are a small friendly group with around 17 toddlers from local and surrounding areas.

We provide a broad selection of toys such as our dolls house, construction toys, home corner, dressing up and our ever popular climbing frame. We aim to vary the activities from week to week. The children can also have a go at a messy activity such as painting, sand, planting or biscuit decorating. 11

o' clock is snack time (and the grown-ups also enjoy a well-earned cuppa and a biscuit). Our mornings always finish with some singing or music time.

In the Easter holidays we had a fantastic fundraiser which was very well supported and raised a much needed £130 for Toddler funds.

We are currently planning our summer outing which will be a chance to say farewell to Charlie Spencer and Eddie and Charlie Round who will all be starting school in September.

Quiz & Curry Night

The Island Reading Group held a quiz night on the 8th February at Elmore Village Hall to raise funds for Listening Books and Maggie's Cancer Care.

A packed hall of 90 quizzers plus the club helpers provided a great atmosphere along with a hugely entertaining quiz provided by Dene Hazelwood and Rachel Chamberlayne. The winners for the evening were Rob Warren, Dave & Claire Foster and friends.

Each charity received a cheque for £427.

The book club would like to thank everyone who supported this event, and special mentions go to Linda Chamberlayne, Maritha Wright, Sue Warren, Mary Chapman, Rosie Jones, Claire Stewart, Linda Lovell, Renes Watts, Carol Guilding, Naomi Teague and Catherine Carter.

At the moment there are 12 members of the group which is reckoned enough to meet in members' homes and discuss the books that have been read. If you would like to be part of a second group please contact

Jenni Hobbs

Jenni Hobbs



Elmore W.I.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month, apart from August, at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Most of our meetings consist of a speaker followed by delicious refreshments. At one of our talks this year we were shown the technique of quilling and this led to a day class when several of us produced a variety of beautiful cards using this craft. Another speaker transported us back in time with a magic lantern show. The intriguing title of our talk in May was “Boil a Mouse”! On May 24th we held our annual coffee morning and plant sale and raised more than £600 for our funds.

There are also lots of county events such as clay pigeon shooting, golf days and craft courses.

Talks at future meetings will be as follows:

July 8th – Foster to doctor
September 9th – Syria

We are a friendly bunch and welcome visitors. If you are interested please just come along or ring Gill on 01452 720544

The Annual Parish Meeting

The Elmore Annual Parish meeting took place on Thursday 5th June in the Village Hall. It was attended by 13 parishioners, 5 councillors and our special guest speaker was Neil Carmichael MP.

Neil Carmichael gave a short address covering the main topics of Flooding and Rural Broadband. In this statement he emphasised the Government’s commitment to protect homes and invest more money in flood defences country-wide as well as the promise of producing 90% coverage for faster rural broadband and 100% coverage with a minimum of 2MB download speeds by the end of 2015. After his statement he answered questions from the floor on a wide range of

topics but mostly centred on the problems of flooding that affected Elmore and the problems of house insurance as well as the idea of subdividing the Environment Agency so that it could perform its function more efficiently. He also promised to send us a copy of the latest Government Water Bill which laid out the figures for investment in flood defences for the future. Neil Carmichael was warmly thanked by the Chair for attending and addressing our concerns.

A précis of the Chairman's Annual Statement is shown below:

Finance

"For the 4th year in a row the Parish Council decided not to increase the Parish Precept. Despite this decision we have managed to maintain a healthy financial situation as well as investing in some improvements within the Village.

We still believe that during the 'recession' it would not right to either increase the precept or embark on expensive projects.

At the end of the 2013/2014 Financial Year our bank balance stood at £4,950 of which we have ring-fenced the sum of £1,300 as a Contingency Fund and £600 for maintenance of the Millennium Ponds thus leaving a figure of £3,000 available for future projects such as the purchase of a defibrillator for the Village."

Local Elections

"This year saw the retirement from Stroud District Council of Graham Littleton after some 14 years as a Councillor – thanks to Graham for all his sterling work on our behalf. Many people won't realise what goes on behind the scenes but I can assure you all that Graham has worked tirelessly on our behalf.

All the seats on the Parish Council were due for election this year.

However, as there were not enough nominations to warrant an election, all those who put in their papers were deemed elected.

One of our councillors, Clare Stewart, has stepped down after 14 years as a Parish Councillor. I will be sorry to see her leave as I valued her support and advice while we've worked together and thank her most sincerely for her time, dedication and voluntary service on behalf of the village.

After an unsuccessful advertising campaign we now have a new Parish Clerk – Dorie Jones - who agreed to take on the post last December having carried out the duties on a voluntary basis for the previous 6 months."

Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management

"The EA's 'consultation' on their Flood Risk Strategy took place in July 2013 following extensive discussions by the Severn Voice Task Group. Although it was termed a 'Strategy', there were no actual proposals in this document but only a selection of possible options. So we are none the wiser as to what will happen to our flood defences in the future.

In February this year your Parish Council wrote to the PM to state our concerns about the future and the regulations which govern the way in which the EA allocate funding to projects. Sadly the reply came from an official in Defra and did not answer our concerns.

You have heard from our MP, Neil Carmichael, that there is to be some extra funding committed to flood defences in our area. This is welcome news but we believe that the problem lies in Government Policy formulated by this and previous governments which dictate the rules by which the EA operate. At the end of the day the problem centres on money and the way in which the EA are prepared to look at the cost effectiveness of the situation. No account is taken of the true value of the farmland, the food production potential, local businesses or employment so the whole of Elmore Back could go under water as a result. BUT the rules permit the EA to squander upwards of £20 million on creating a wildlife habitat!

On this issue, The Severn Voice Task Group is continuing to engage with the EA, the Minister responsible, our MP our MEP and other stakeholders such as the Lower Severn Drainage Board and the NFU as well as GCC and SDC.”

CONTACTS

What?	Who	Tel.	Email
Parish Council	Ch: John Field	720357	fernhay@btinternet.com
Parish Council	V. Ch: Andy Nash	720903	andynash@talktalk.net
Parish Council	Jenni Hobbs	724633	jenni@barvaleholsteins.co.uk
Parish Council	Trevor Jones	722034	rose_cottage06@talktalk.net
Parish Council	Nick Meek		nick@archies.me.uk
Parish Council	Clerk: Dorie Jones	722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk
The Vicar	Fr Andrew James	720015	vicarage@inbox.com
Village Hall	John & Su Hardisty	721798	pikelett@hotmail.com
Village Players	Amy Parkin	07557 793011	villageplayers@outlook.com
WI	Gill Farmer	720544	
Elmore Guides	Catherine Hartell	722444	
Brownies	Jenny	722444	
Toddler Group	Cath Brint		Cathbrint2014@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Caroline Meek	720383	
Polce	Non emergency no.	101	
County Cllr	Tony Blackburn	01453 753429	
District Cllr	David Mossman	538686	
MP	Neil Carmichael	01453 751572	

WEBSITE

Elmore Parish Council:

www.elmoreparish.co.uk

Services at Elmore Parish Church

Elmore Church is your Parish Church and you are always welcome to join us for Sunday worship, this quarter our Sunday Services continue according to the usual pattern:



First Sunday of the Month – Parish Eucharist 9.30am

Second Sunday – Evensong with Hymns 6.30pm

Third Sunday of the Month – Parish Eucharist 9.30am

Fourth Sunday – Evensong with Hymns 6.30pm

June 29th is a fifth Sunday and we meet at Longney Church at 9.30am

Aug 31st is also a fifth Sunday when we meet at Hardwicke Church at 11.00am



This quarter the first important celebration is **Pentecost Sunday** on June 8th, the commemoration of the day when the Holy Spirit arrived in power on the first disciples after the Ascension of Jesus. This is often called "The Birthday of the Church" and the custom is to wear something red to Church that day.

June 15th is **Trinity Sunday**, another momentous day when Christians across the world focus their minds on the nature and being of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we meet at Elmore Church at 9.30am that Sunday.

Another significant day for our Church is Saturday June 7th when Susan Cooke, who was a member of our Choir and Church, will be ordained priest at Gloucester Cathedral. She now serves as Curate at St Lawrence Church in Barnwood.

Fr. Andrew-

Vicar and Parish Priest of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney

Baptism (Christening) or Weddings - phone Fr. Andrew 01452 720015

Email : vicarage@inbox.com Our Website : www.elmorechurch.info

Funerals March 17th Paddy Greenway 82 years

Weddings April 26th Wedding Blessing Chris and Becky Boon

June 7th Toby & Hattie Ellis

June 28th William and Leanne Woodman

Baptisms May 18th Charlie James

OPEN GARDENS IN LONGNEY

SUNDAY 22nd JUNE

11am – 5pm

5 Gardens to visit

Plants for Sale

Teas & Home Made Cakes

ADMISSION £3.00, under 16s free

ALL PROCEEDS TO DIABETES UK

***(and other Rotary Charities)* Sat Nav: GL2 3SN**

***Parking opposite the Chapel (ie not
Church)***

Sorry, No Dogs

