

# ***THE BRIDGE***



**Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
August 2016, Issue NINE**

## **From the Editor**

Well, it had to happen eventually. After going from 12 pages in its very first issue to 20 in the eighth, we are back to 12 pages in this issue of **The Bridge**. I guess this is to be expected in August when lots of people are away on holiday and the various groups in the village are taking a break. But you can still read some interesting stuff. How many people have attended Village Players productions since the group was founded 35 years ago? Have a guess. Were you aware how successful First Elmore Guides are? Did you know that a Senior Guides Section is being formed? **It's all in here, so 'read all about it'.**

## **From Elmore Parish Council**

### **What does the future hold for Elmore?**

In the context of considering 'the future' it is necessary to address the issue of whether or not we will have a Parish Council. At the moment we have 5 Parish Councillors who stand for election every 4 years and a Parish Clerk who acts as the 'officer' of the Council. Councillors are 'apolitical' – that is, they do not represent any particular political party and all of them are volunteers who do not claim any expenses.

We are a small village with approximately 220 adults and children living here. Within the village there are several other committees made up of volunteers, for example; the Village Hall Committee and the Parochial Church Council. It is therefore difficult for all these committees to function without willing volunteers but it is inevitable that some people retire from their posts so replacements need to be found.

This year the Parish Councillors all stood for re-election and despite several attempts at advertising we only got one willing volunteer to come forward. Let me be brutally practical .... Several members of the Parish Council have served for over 12 years and have done more than their fair share, one Councillor is now 70 years old and seeks to retire at some stage over the next 4 years and I too wish to retire at the next election.

What happens if we do not get enough willing replacements? One obvious option is to amalgamate with another village: For several years the Parish Council of our neighbouring village has suggested that we amalgamate our councils thus increasing the pool of volunteers, while also cutting down the commitment and saving a paid Clerk's post. The precedent already exists within the Severn Voice Group of Parishes with Longney & Epney Parish Council as well as Fretherne with Saul Parish Council.

At any stage outside an election year we can co-opt a councillor providing they are willing to serve so if anyone feels the urge to serve the community please contact either myself or the Parish Clerk.

John Field, Chair, Elmore PC. [fernhay@btinternet.com](mailto:fernhay@btinternet.com)

## **Broadband – An ‘downbeat’ update**

Sadly, no tangible practical progress has been made since the last issue of **The Bridge** but there is some light at the end of the tunnel!

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has promised to include Elmore in the Fastershire Programme – we do not yet know when this will take place as GCC are awaiting the costings from BT so that they can be included in the budget. BT promised to provide this information in February but as yet has failed to do so.

Our MP, Neil Carmichael, has also been chasing BT on our behalf but the reply he got from BT was far from helpful as can be seen from the letter below:

*“Dear Neil,  
Thanks for your email regarding your constituent - Mr Field.*

*Mr Field is connected to the Hardwicke exchange and served by cabinet 1. I'm pleased to say that the Hardwicke exchange is enabled for fibre based services which means that faster broadband speeds are available to many people in the area. Whilst I appreciate UK consumers are keen to benefit from fibre broadband, the upgrade process is both commercially and technically very challenging. As a result, this particular cabinet does not meet our supplier's (Openreach) criteria to be considered for inclusion in our commercial rollout plans. You may already know that, where cabinets are not commercially viable, Government funding is available through the BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) programme. In Mr Field's area this is managed by the Fastershire project [www.fastershire.com](http://www.fastershire.com) which aims to increase coverage in the region up to 95%.*

*I've checked with Matthew (Lloyd) and Paul (Coles) (as mentioned by Mr Field) and can confirm that we're still working with the Fastershire team to identify a solution. Mr Field should keep in touch with the Fastershire team directly.*

#### *Other Solutions*

*If Mr Field can't wait for a solution to be delivered through Fastershire he may wish to consider a privately funded solution with the backing of his community.*

*In some 90 locations we have worked with the communities directly and delivered fibre broadband sooner than would otherwise have been possible. Our ambition is to 'never say no' and if the local community is interested in this option then they can start the process by visiting <http://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/OurNetwork/CommunityFibrePartnerships.aspx>.*

*We'll be happy to engage with them and advise of the sum they will need to contribute.*

Many of my observations on this letter from BT have been censored by The Editor but I will share with you one or two:

The cost of a privately funded solution for the installation of fibre into Elmore is in the region of £35,000 so is well beyond our meagre income. However, if BT is prepared to consider a privately funded

solution then they cannot on the other hand tell us that it is ‘technically very challenging’. What they really mean to say is that we are too small to be considered as a viable commercial investment.

The Openreach Cabinet 1 is situated adjacent to the T junction this side of The Pilot near the new microwave dish on the pole and currently serves Longney for their faster Broadband!

The microwave pole carrying the broadband receiver is actually situated inside Elmore Parish boundary and until 8<sup>th</sup> January this year we were to be included in the ‘cutting edge’ technology of firing the broadband signal via microwave.

I will continue to liaise with GCC/Fastershire Team and our MP as well as hassling BT to keep the project alive.

John Field, Chair, Elmore Parish Council

## **An Update from Elmore Church**

I am writing to thank everyone who played a part in planning, fund raising and project management of the new facilities in Elmore Church. The work is now complete and what a difference it all makes; the small utility area is so useful, the vestry area is lighter and the toilet facilities are a very practical addition to our Church.

**We will be holding a Church Open Day on Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup>; coffee, tea and light refreshments will be available from 10am to 12 noon. You are very welcome to pop in to Church that morning, there will be an opportunity to take a look at the new facilities.**

Major grants were received from the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust whose expert advice and support was much appreciated by the building works committee. Every year GHCT hold a major fund raising event called “Ride and Stride” which is a means of raising funds through sponsorship of what might be called a “Church Crawl”. For many years Elmore and Longney Churches have supported this annual event, in recent years Sally Lady Guise and Pat Buckland have

raised a good amount towards their appeal. This year John Tooth will be taking up the cycling challenge in September.

Fr. Andrew

## **The Summer at Elmore Church**

In August our Church services continue as usual...

**Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 9.30am**

**Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm**

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

Email: [vicarage@inbox.com](mailto:vicarage@inbox.com)

Our Website: [www.elmorechurch.info](http://www.elmorechurch.info)

## **800th anniversary of the Coronation of Henry III**

Henry III (1 October 1207 – 16 November 1272), also known as Henry of Winchester, was King of England, Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine from 1216 until his death. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Henry III was the only English monarch since 1066 crowned outside Westminster Abbey - it took place in Gloucester Cathedral 800 years ago.

A variety of events have been planned in the Cathedral for September and October this year, in and around the cathedral, and you can now book for these. For more information ring 08456 521823 or take a look at [www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/henry-iii-events](http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/henry-iii-events)

## **Harvest Supper**

Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October in Elmore Village Hall in aid of Church funds. The cost of tickets will be £10.00. A delicious supper with puddings will be provided (bring your own drinks) and we look forward to welcoming anyone who wishes to join us. Tickets available from Jill Hurran 720539 or Jenny Watts 720233.

## Elmore WI

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm in Elmore Village Hall.

After a short Business Agenda there is a Talk, Film or Demonstration by various visiting speakers.

Finally there is a delicious supper.

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

The program for the remainder of the year is as follows.

September: Making a Garden for Chelsea

October: Looking after Uncle John

November: Making Christmas Wreaths.

Many thanks to all who supported our Coffee and Plant Morning

We raised well over £500, which helps to keep our group running for another year with many interesting speakers already booked.

Watch this space for future events, times and place.

Val Overton

## The Village Players

This year Village Players celebrate 35 years; our group was formed in 1981 by Laurie and Diana Duirs. Laurie and Diana had a simple ethos for the group and that was, *'if anyone wishes to take part then they are included regardless of their ability'*. They also encouraged younger members of the community to join us and today we still maintain both these policies.

Our first performance was on Friday 13th March 1981 with an Edwardian themed show which compromised the play "Playgoers" followed by a selection of popular Music Hall songs. Since then our group has gone from strength to strength.

During the last 35 years there have been over 70 productions which amounts to more than 400 separate performances to a combined

audience of over 25,000 people and almost all performed in Elmore Village Hall. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and helped us over the past 35 years.

We are always looking for new members so if anyone 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](mailto:villageplayers@outlook.com).

**Our next production will be our popular pantomime so please keep an eye out on local notice boards for more information.**

## **Walking For Health**

The next walk in the area will take place on Thursday 18th. August from the Red Lion at Arlingham at 9.45am for a 10 o'clock walk start. Includes stiles and field paths. Approx. 2 miles (Max 1.5 hours). Car park straight on past the pub on the right. For more info ring 01452 740265 or email [nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk).

## **VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Two new cookers are now installed, replacing the range. Also the electric supply to kitchen upgraded. A decision on car park improvement is still pending. The Social committee restructuring has been deferred until October meeting.

Catherine Hartell has formed a new Senior Guides group based in the Hall, best wishes for the future, from us all.

Welcome to Amanda Mercury (Toddlers group), who has joined our Committee (now back to full strength).

Demand for space in our Hall 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.

John (Hardisty), Chairman

## 1st Elmore Guides

This term 1st Elmore Guides have been doing lots of activities outdoors.

We have done a hike around Longney and also did some campfire cooking which included hot dogs and smores. We also celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with a joint tea party with 1st Elmore Brownies; we came dressed in red, white and blue and played lots of traditional party games.

We all enjoyed going to Wembley for the Girl Guiding Big Gig concert; we saw Jess Glynne, Fleur East, Callum Scott and lots more acts! This was a great day out where we met thousands of other Guides from all over the UK.

We finished off this term at Robinswood Hill where we played wide games and enrolled two new Guides, Lucy and Libby. At the same time we enrolled Steph Butcher, who has been helping out with Elmore Guides for some time, as one of our Adult Leaders.

**The Baden-Powell Award** is the highest award a Guide can receive so we were very pleased to have our first group of girls achieving this. Congratulations to Daisy, Rachel, Sophie and Neve

If your daughter is interested in joining Guides, please call Catherine on 01452 722444.

Catherine Hartell (Guide Leader)

## 1st Elmore Brownies

This term has been very busy for 1st Elmore Brownies, starting with a Traditional Tea Party to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday with the Guides. We also started our Wildlife Explorer Badge with a visit to Saul Memorial Hall to make solitary bee houses and are looking forward to finishing this off in September with pond dipping. At one of the meetings the Brownies enjoyed a game of tennis along with strawberries and cream; it was just like being at Wimbledon. For our last meeting this term we joined with Severnside Cubs and 1st Haresfield Brownies for an outdoor sausage sizzle where they build their own campfires and cooked their own sausages. Also this term five



Brownies achieved their Brownie Go-for-It badge, well done to these girls!.

If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Elmore Brownies, please contact Jenny on 01452 722444.

## **Girls' Night Out, 10k sponsored night walk in aid of Longfield**

### **A Great Night Out for a Great Local Cause**

Calling all girls! It's the biggest Girls' Night Out in Gloucestershire and you're invited.

This year's theme is 'Bling it on', so we're expecting sequins and sparkle, from your tiara to your t-shirt and your tutu to your toes.

Everybody will start the 10km walk together (9.00pm from Deer Park School in Cirencester, on Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>), after a pre-walk party and some top quality chat.

You'll be raising money for Longfield (formerly Cotswold care Hospice) to help people with life-limiting illness to live well and, if you raise more than £150, your entry fee will be refunded. Normal entry is £18 per person (including your t-shirt) but get a group of girls together and the sixth place is free. Bring your children aged 10 and over too, (but make sure 10-16 year-olds walk with an adult please).

So register now at [www.longfield.org.uk/Event/girls-night-out](http://www.longfield.org.uk/Event/girls-night-out) . You know you want to!

## **Notice of Road Closure**

### **Castle Lane, Moreton Valence**

This road will be closed at the canal bridge from 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016. This is to allow for maintenance works to the bridge deck plates and therefore there will be no access for vehicles or pedestrians whilst works are taking place.

If you require any further information regarding this closure please contact the office on 08000 514514.

## The Senior Section

*1st Elmore Senior Section*



# 1st Elmore Senior Section

We meet at Elmore Village Hall on

Thursday 6.00pm - 7.15pm (Fortnightly)

**Call Catherine 01452 722444 to join**

**The Senior Section is about friends and fun,  
where you'll be challenged to try  
new things and develop new skills. There is a  
huge variety of opportunities on offer.**



# Contacts

<b>Elmore PC</b>			
Chair	John Field	720357	fernhay@btinternet.com
Vice Chair	Nick Meek	750769	nick@archies.me.uk
	Jenni Hobbs	724633	enni@barvaleholsteins.co.uk
	Trevor Jones	722034	rosecottage1818@gmail.com
	Paula Turner	729903	paula@mtfx.com
Clerk	Dorie Jones	722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com
<b>Village Hall</b>			
Chair	John Hardisty	721798	pikelet@hotmail.com
<b>Other Village Organisations</b>			
The Vicar	Fr Andrew James	720015	vicarage@inbox.com
Players	Amy Parkin	0755779011	villageplayers@outlook.com
WI	Val Overton	750591	vj.overton@tiscali.co.uk
Guides & Snr Guide Group	Catherine Hartnell	722444	catherine.hartell@gmail.com
Brownies	Jenny	722444	jharte1276@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Caroline Meek	720383	
Toddlers	Sherene Watts	07800808564	sherenewatts@hotmail.com
<b>Other Useful Contacts</b>			
Police - non emergency		101	
Member of Parliament		01453751572	neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor		01453753429	anthony.blackburn@gloucestershire.gov.uk
District Councillor		01453538686	Cllr.dave.mossman@stroud.cov.uk
To report Fly Tipping		01453754424	publicspace@stroud.gov.uk
Report abandoned vehicles		01453754379	Abandoned.vehicle@stroud.gov.uk
Gloucs Highways (report potholes etc)			08000 514514
<b>Village Agent</b>			
Christine Lingard		07810630179	
<b>Neighbourhood Warden</b>			
Carol Novoth		07970250343	carol.novoth@stroud.gov.uk

**The next Parish Council meeting: Monday Sept 26th, 7.45pm, Elmore Village Hall**

**Copy date for the next edition The Bridge: Friday October 21st.** Send e-copy to rosecottage1818@gmail.com or deliver hard copy to Rose Cottage, Weir Lane, Elmore, GL23NS

