

THE BRIDGE



Produced by Elmore Parish Council
November 2016, Issue TEN

From the Editor

Welcome to this the 10th edition of **The Bridge**. After a rather thin 9th edition, we are back up to normal size again. You will find much of interest and importance in this issue. Probably most pressing is **Important Information in an Emergency** and notice of a presentation on **SDC Careline** in Elmore Village Hall on December 8th. Parish Council Chairman, John Field gives some advice about **Home Security**.

We are now well into autumn and in past years we have had articles written by various members of our farming community. This year we have deviated slightly as you will find an article about the **honey harvest in 2016**. It's also good to hear that Elmore Senior Section, Guides and Brownies continue to prosper and that Humpty Dumpty is about to appear in the Village Hall.

From Elmore Parish Council

Home Security

You may already be aware that there have been four recorded burglaries within the village over the past few months. Burglaries are very unpleasant for the victims in the knowledge that someone has violated their personal space and possibly stolen items of sentimental value. After such events we all wonder what we can do to prevent the same fate befalling us as well.

What is the threat: It is of note that all the recent instances of burglaries have occurred during daylight and would appear to have been opportunity thefts. Traditionally I have warned you about the presence

of unmarked white vans cruising around the area and the occupants acting suspiciously. I am now firmly adding a different threat: that of cyclists – who do not look like the Tour de France image – normally a pair of men cycling slowly through the village and taking an undue interest in properties, thereby trying to identify the unoccupied ones. They could also be wearing a small rucksack in which to carry items removed from properties.

Protecting your home: The most effective method of protecting your home – but not fool proof – is to install a burglar alarm. The choices available are wide ranging and the costs vary accordingly. One often wonders how effective an alarm would be when we tend to live in isolated areas but the perpetrators of burglaries have no idea whether the alarms are linked to the Police or a rapid response unit. Of course you can consider installing CCTV as well to cover vulnerable areas and although costs have come down dramatically over the last few years such systems can cost in the region of £1,000.

What are they looking for? One could assume that the fact they carry a rucksack that they would be looking for items small enough to fit into one. Not only that, they will be looking for items that are easily disposable: items such as laptops, iPads, games consoles, cameras, mobile phones – especially smart phones, cash including foreign currency, passports, jewellery and power tools.

Physical Protective Measures:

Install a burglar alarm and have it serviced annually,
Install CCTV cameras,
Consider putting bars on windows at the rear of properties

Possible Defensive Measures:

don't leave attractive items on show in view of windows,
consider installing a safe in which to secure jewellery,
make sure you lock outbuildings and bikes,
lock up ladders if they have to be left outside,
close and lock windows when you leave the house,
consider installing a key safe for spare car keys etc,

let your neighbours know when you are going away,
put some lights on automatic timers and leave them set even if you are
at home,
if going away on holiday and your drive will be empty – ask a
neighbour to park a car there,

Don't make it easy for the opportunist thief!

Other local colour!!

Sadly there has been a recent upsurge in the incidents of hare-coursing
so if you see strange men with dogs on farmland locally there is a good
chance that they are up to no good. If you see suspicious activity please
report it to the police having first taken a description of the people, their
vehicles and noted the time.

Fly-tipping: Luckily we haven't seen a surge of fly-tipping in the area
since Stroud District Council introduced charges to remove bulk
rubbish. Let's not get complacent. As the dark evenings draw in this
provides ideal cover for those people too idle to take their rubbish to the
Hempstead Tip.

Broadband into Elmore

The fight goes on! Your Parish Council hasn't given up the fight to get
faster broadband into Elmore and has been in regular contact with GCC,
Fastershire and our local MP. Our efforts seem to be bearing fruit but it is
a little too early to order the champagne! We will keep you informed of
progress.

Severn Bores

The last of this seasons large Severn Bores are due to pass Stonebench
as follows:

3-Star Bores:

14th November @ 19.59

15th November @ 08.21

16th November @ 21.28
17th November @ 09.46
14th December @ 20.29
15th December @ 08.48
15th December @ 21.14
16th December @ 09.32

4-Star Bores:

15th November @ 20.44
16th November @ 09.04

Elmore Rubbish Collections – Reminder

The new rubbish collection schedule starts on 1st November and all households should have received a notice to this effect from Stroud District Council.

A small reminder that **rubbish will only be collected every 2 weeks** and must be in the black wheeled bin provided. No ‘top-hatting’ will be permitted i.e. the grey bags are not to be placed on top or the side of black bins.

If you don't have a wheeled bin (for example in Weir Lane) you may put out a maximum 3 of the new beige bags that SDC has provided.

**Food waste will be collected every week in the new bins provided.
You can line them with plastic bags if you wish.**

Canal Bridges – Parking Restrictions

You may recall from previous editions that there is a plan afoot to automate all the canal bridges. The Severn Voice Group of Parishes has been campaigning for a more regulated parking system on the bridge approaches in order to alleviate congestion and make it safer for road users.

It now appears that a double yellow line scheme will be introduced on the bridge approaches for all the bridges. You should expect to see these appearing during the early part of 2017.

Union Flag

The Parish Council are now in possession of large new Union Flag which will be flown from the flagpole at the Village Hall on 'highdays and holidays'.

Important Information in a Medical Emergency

Now that we have two defibrillators in the village we can all feel a bit safer in the event of a medical emergency.

However there are still some things we all need to think about.

If you live alone and are involved in a medical emergency and cannot reach your phone, who would phone the emergency services and who would fetch the defibrillator?

Even in the case of couples, one person might need to stay with the patient, maybe giving reassurance or artificial respiration, so the same questions arise.

Everyone, including larger family groups would be well advised to have thought about who to contact to help in an emergency and have a list of phone numbers ready.

What would happen in an emergency has been brought into sharp focus by a recent announcement from SW Ambulance; **if you live outside a 200 metre radius of the defibrillators the ambulance service will not divulge the code needed to open the defibrillator cabinet.** Your Parish Council was shocked by this revelation, which puts most people in the village beyond the help of a defibrillator, and therefore have

decided to let everyone in the village know the code to the defibrillator cabinets. It is:

C123 X

Your Parish Council has purchased a fridge magnet for every household with this number printed on it so that you will always have it to hand. **Just peel it off and put it on your fridge.**

Stroud District Council Careline

SDC run their own 'Careline' system. If you subscribe to SDC Careline you will have a personal radio transmitter button on a pendant around your neck, wrist strap or clipped to clothing. In an emergency when you cannot get to the phone you would merely have to push the button and SDC will phone you. If they get no reply they would phone the people on the list of contacts you have provided (who should have a spare key to your house) who would come and help (phone the ambulance, fetch a defibrillator etc).

If you have access to the internet you can read more about the system on the Stroud district council website www.stroud.gov.uk/health-wellbeing.

Also there will also be a presentation by Mike Godwin, who is in charge of the Careline system at SDC, at

ELMORE VILLAGE HALL on Thurs Dec 8th at 2.30pm

If you would like to attend this presentation and find out more about SDC Careline please contact the Parish Council Clerk, Dorie Jones, on 01452 722034 or email elmore.parish@hotmail.com

If you have elderly or vulnerable friends or relatives living alone or as a couple, please try to encourage them to attend this meeting.

Walking for Health - Frampton Surgery PPG

The next walk in the area will take place on Thursday 17th November from the Red Lion Pub in Arlingham. Meet at 9.45 am for a 10.00 am start. As usual the walk could include stiles and field paths. The walk is of approximately 2 miles (Max 1.5 hours). The car park is straight on past the pub on the right. If you cannot find space there, park with care in the street. For more information ring 01452 740265 or email nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk. Have you completed our walk survey? Nick Peters, Walk Leader.

Elmore W.I.

2016 comes to a close with the annual Carol Concert at Cheltenham Town Hall, an event not to be missed, and Christmas celebrations at local level in the Village Hall.

After a year of enjoyment and diversity a new committee will be formed and the programme for 2017 is already fully booked. Please join us. Visitors are always welcome at a small cost of £3 which also includes a supper.

The first meeting on Jan 10th 2017 at 7:30pm includes a talk by Iain Greene, a Wildlife Photographer whose excellent work with local schools has recently been on display at the Museum in the Park in Stroud.

Press sec
Val Overton

Elmore PCC – Harvest Supper

Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped with the Harvest Supper. It was very well supported and £900.00 was raised for Church funds. Grateful thanks to everyone who provided food or donated Raffle prizes.

Christmas Lunch

A traditional Christmas Lunch is being held at Elmore Village Hall on Sunday 11th December 12.30 for 1.00 pm in aid of Church funds. Tickets will cost £22.50 and are available from Jennifer Watts 720233 or Jill Hurran 720539. Please bring the drinks of your choice, glasses will be provided.

The Village Players

Village Players present Humpty Dumpty, a pantomime by Norman Robbins.

Mother Goose has ensured the smooth running of Nursery Rhyme Land for years. King Florimund is on his throne and everyone is happy, until there is a great fall and mayhem is unleashed. Join Humpty, Dame Dobb, Tommy and Jack as they battle to save Mary, Polly and all of Nursery Rhyme Land from Monstro, a wicked sorcerer, and his evil henchman Grimm.

Performances run from Thursday 24th November until Sunday 27th November and then from Wednesday 30th November until Saturday 3rd December at Elmore Village Hall, all at 7.30pm. There are matinees on November 26th, November 27th and December 3rd all at 2.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £7.00 for adults and £4.00 for children.

Our Gala performance on Thursday 24th November is priced at £15.00 a ticket and includes a buffet and wine at the interval. The gala performance will be in association with the Rotary Club of Severn Vale

and support 2 charities, Cancer Research & the Gloucester Royal Hospital, Critical Care Unit.

A Beekeeper's Year

2016 has been a very good year despite early setbacks and the well publicised arrival of killer Asian Hornets in Gloucestershire. Asian Hornets are carnivorous and prey on honey bees and other insects. They can devastate a bee colony but luckily have not appeared in Elmore. Yet.

My apiary started the year with 3 hives but was soon down to only one. In early spring I found one of the hives completely empty; the bees had just left. There was no sign of any bees, dead or alive, a distressing but not uncommon and often unexplained situation. Of the remaining two hives, one looked very healthy and very vigorous, the other a bit lacking in both bees and activity. An inspection of the less successful hive failed to reveal a queen but a large number of drones. It was clear that the colony was either queenless or had an infertile 'drone laying queen'. If there is no queen, worker bees also can begin to lay eggs which invariably hatch into drones. On the advice of other beekeepers I had to destroy this colony.

Thankfully my one remaining colony was starting to expand rapidly and store plenty of honey, my first harvest coming in May. It was clear by midsummer that the colony would soon run out of space and be liable to swarm, so I decided to pre-empt nature and split the colony. I was trying to find a few brood frames, one with a queen cell, to place in the new hive but the bees were so upset at being disturbed that to minimise disruption and stings, I took out the first 3 frames with eggs and larvae that I could find. These I placed in a hive which I moved to Bridgmacote Farm with the kind permission of Graham Littleton. It is necessary to move the bees about 3 miles away otherwise they will just go back to their original hive. Once in their new home the worker bees will take one of the eggs and move it to a special queen cell, feed it on 'royal jelly' and so produce their own new virgin queen. A month or so later an inspection showed this new queen was laying well so she must

have successfully taken her mating flight before returning to the hive. In August I was able to bring the hive back home to the apiary and hopefully will get a good honey harvest from it in 2017.

Meanwhile my original colony was continuing to prosper and produced a personal record amount of honey, the total being 78 pounds (35kgs), much more than all my 2015 hives put together

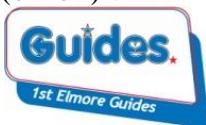
It's the quiet season now. My two hives have been treated to reduce the varroa mite (a pest which afflicts bees), the colonies are being fed with syrup (made from sugar and water) and are ready to survive the winter (fingers crossed). If it gets really cold I will stop the syrup and instead feed the bees with fondant which I make myself from sugar; cold weather reduces evaporation and so the bees need a drier food. TJ

Elmore Brownies, Guides and Senior Section



This term the Brownies have started their Friends to Animals badge by doing lots of games and activities; we have had a visit from a local reptile centre and got to hold lots of creepy crawlies and lizards! We have also been fundraising for RNIB, who support people with sight loss; we wore spotty clothes and learnt how to read braille. We have also had Brown Owl's bake off where we made scones, which tasted really good! We have also been pond dipping at Saul Memorial Hall; we found lots of interesting pond creatures such as water boatmen and newts. We are looking forward to having a Brownie Take Over Night where we get to have a go leading the activities. To finish off the term we will be making mince pies.

If your daughter would like to join Brownies please call Jenny on (01452) 722444.



The Guides have been busy fundraising at the recent Frampton Country Fair for their Christmas activities; we also helped

litter pick after the Fair. The Guides have completed their Go For It! Badges; each Patrol had a theme - chocolate, football, fashion and festivals. All the girls enjoyed the activities. We also had a Guide Sewing Bee where we learnt how to sew on our badges. We also enrolled five new girls into the unit; well done to Paige, Seren, Isobel, Poppy and Megan! To finish off this half term we will be having a pamper evening. After the half term break we will be starting our Interpreter badge and look forward to our Christmas activities, including a visit to the Body Shop and Climbing at the Warehouse.

We also had the first group of girls complete their Baden-Powell Award, which is the highest award a Guide can receive. Congratulations to Daisy, Rachel, SORCHA, Sophie and Neve!

If your daughter would like to join Guides, please call Catherine on (01452) 722444.



We have started our first term with parachute games and card crafts. We also did some fundraising at Frampton Country Fair for the unit. We enjoyed making chocolate mug cakes, which were yummy! We all challenged ourselves with a throwback night where we did our Brownie Hostess badge. We baked cakes for our parents and hosted them when we took our promise. Well done to Daisy, Rachel, SORCHA, Sophie, Neve and Lucy who are the first girls to be enrolled with 1st Elmore Senior Section. We will be having a Halloween and Bonfire night this month to begin our winter themed activities. To finish off the term we will all be going out for a meal at the Quays and decorating yule logs.

If your daughter would like to be part of the Senior Section, please call Catherine on (01452) 722444

What Lies Beneath?

Gloucestershire is known far and wide as a very beautiful county with wonderfully varied scenery, from the Forest of Dean, through the

Severn Vale to the renowned Cotswold Hills. This amazing variety is brought about by the contrasting geology of the county.

The Forest of Dean is largely underlain by rocks of Carboniferous age, so called because some of them contain carbon in the form of coal, so it is no surprise that coal has been mined in the Forest for hundreds of years. Older than the coal bearing rocks is the grey Carboniferous Limestone which is so spectacularly exposed in the Wye Gorge.

Most of the rest of the county is made of Jurassic rocks. Like the Carboniferous rocks of the Forest, the Jurassic rocks, though much younger, were also formed by the accumulation of sediments in the sea. Over millions of years more and more sediments were deposited on top, their weight squeezing out the water and hardening the older sediments underneath so that, eventually, they formed solid rock.

Beneath the Severn Vale, where Elmore lies, are the oldest Jurassic rocks, whilst the steep slopes and summits of the Cotswolds are made of younger Jurassic rocks. These oldest Jurassic rocks under Elmore, the so called 'Lower Jurassic', are particularly interesting and were formed about 180 million years ago. They are also known as the 'Lower Lias' or 'Liassic'. 'Lias' is an old quarrymen's name for the hard, grey, thin layers of limey mudstone which have been used for centuries in the Severn Vale as a low quality building stone.

The best exposure of the Lower Lias round here is at Hock Cliff near Fretherne. It's worth going there just to see the many fossils, especially the famous 'Devil's Toenail', an ancient member of the oyster family, whose proper name is *Gryphaea arcuata*. But the cliffs themselves are also of interest and pose an intriguing geological conundrum. You will see that they are basically made of a soft dark blue clay but at remarkably regular intervals there is a thin, hard layer of the grey limestone, the Lias mentioned in the previous paragraph. Very similar cliffs of Liassic age, but with many more and spectacular fossils, can be seen at Lyme Regis.

Here is the conundrum. The soft blue clay comprises microscopic clay particles which would have been deposited in deep water, far from the

coastline of the time. This is backed up by the existence of fossils preserved as iron pyrite, though they will largely have gone rusty from exposure to the air by the time you find them. Iron pyrite is iron sulphide or FeS. Notice there is no oxygen in this formula indicating deep water a long way below the surface and atmospheric oxygen. But the thin layers of limestone contain masses of shallow water fossils and even fossilised wood indicating a shallow water environment close to the coast . A look at the cliff will show that this change from deep to shallow water must have happened over and over again and at regular intervals because all the pairs of clay and limestone layers are approximately the same thickness. How could this happen? We are all aware of rising sea levels at the moment and so can imagine it happening in the past but why in a rhythmic way, a rise being followed by a fall at regular intervals? Earlier rhythmic sedimentation in the Carboniferous can be explained away by changes in sea level due to the waxing and waning of ice sheets in the Southern Hemisphere but this glaciation was over long before the Jurassic started. Some have suggested that each pair in the sequence was deposited together and then 'unmixed' later like the oil and vinegar in salad dressing, but this does not allow for the shallow and deep water. Maybe this puzzle will never be solved.

A word of warning. If you go to Hock Cliff, make sure you know the tide times beforehand. It's best to go on a falling tide. The tide sweeps in there very quickly! Also wear wellies and old clothes; it's a very muddy place.

TJ

Dates for 2017

Parish Council Meetings, Elmore Village Hall, 7.45pm

Monday	6th March 2017
Tuesday	16th May 2017 (Annual Meetings)
Monday	25th September 2017
Monday	11th December 2017

Copy Dates for **The Bridge**

Friday 20th January 2017
Friday 19th May 2017
Friday 28th July 2017
Friday 20th October 2017

Please submit electronic copy to rosecottage1818@gmail.com on or before the dates above. Hard copy may be delivered to Rose Cottage, Weir Lane, Elmore, GL2 3NS

Christmas Drinks Party at Elmore Court

Elmore Court will be hosting a Christmas Drinks Party for everyone within the local parish on Wednesday, 14th December, 7pm. It will be lots of fun with music, drink, merriment, mistletoe and yummy nibbles... if you live in Elmore then you are invited!

In our increasingly digital age Elmore Court office has asked if you could email them with your details so official invitations can be sent out nearer the time! The email address to send to is xmas@elmorecourt.com. Please spread the word.

Gloucester Marathon

The Gloucester Marathon will be held on Sunday February 5th 2017. The route will take the runners across Sellars Bridge by The Pilot Inn and into Elmore, on to Longney and then continue round the loop back to Sellars Bridge. We are assured that the organisers are liaising with the Police and Gloucestershire Highways to minimise disruption to other road users.

Church Services in Elmore & Longney

Advent and Christmas 2016

Saturday November 26th - Longney Coffee Morning
In Church from 10am to 12noon including the usual stalls
and the Annual Prize Draw with huge cash prizes

Sunday November 27th – Advent Sunday



Advent

“Storyteller” Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Evensong with Hymns at Elmore Church 3.00pm

Sunday December 18th – Advent 4

Lessons & Carols Service at Longney Church 6.30pm



Thursday December 22nd

Longney & Elmore Choir Carols at Elmore Village Hall 7.30pm

Saturday December 24th - Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass at Elmore Church begins at 11.15pm



Sunday December 25th – Christmas Day “The Birth of Jesus”

Parish Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Elmore PC			
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
Village Hall			
Chair	John Hardisty	721798	pikelet@hotmail.com
Enquiries & bookings	John Hardisty	ditto	ditto
Other Village Organisations			
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	Catherine Hartell	722444	catherine.hartell@gmail.com
Brownies	Jenny Hartell	722444	jharte1276@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Caroline Meek	720383	
Toddlers	Sherene Watts	07800808564	sherenewatts@hotmail.com
Other Useful Contacts			
Police - non emergency		101	
Member of Parliament, Neil Carmichael		01453751572	neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor, Tony Blackburn		01453753429	anthony.blackburn@gloucestershire.gov.uk
District Councillor, Dave Mossman		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
Village Agent			
Christine Lingard		07810630179	
Neighbourhood Warden			
Carol Novoth		07970250343	carol.novoth@stroud.gov.uk

