

# THE BRIDGE



Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
Website: [www.elmoreparish.co.uk](http://www.elmoreparish.co.uk)  
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## From the Editor

As I write this, summer has suddenly arrived and Elmore looks stunning as it swelters. This is the issue in which we publish John Field's 'Chairman's Annual Report', a legal requirement for the Parish Council. His report is also published on our website ([www.elmoreparish.co.uk](http://www.elmoreparish.co.uk)) as is this and all previous issues of **The Bridge**. We remember with affection, Marion Watts and Allen Fisher both of whom passed away in 2017. There is also the second part of our 2017 'Lest We Forget' feature detailing the history two more of the eight Elmore men who gave their lives in World War One. We have news of the Brownies and Guides activities, a reminder of the dates for The Village Players summer production, another delicious WI recipe and lots more. Enjoy.

## Elmore W.I.

Elmore W.I. continues to flourish and welcomes visitors and new members to any of our meetings held in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm.

Our March meeting included and film show of Gloucester in 2007, the year of the floods. There was also a quiz.

In April we welcomed Naomi Boast from the STAR CENTRE, which does very worthwhile work and we plan to have a money making event to swell their funds.

In May we had a trip down memory lane with a speaker telling us the history of Punch and Judy. Final arrangements were made for our Coffee Morning on May 27th where as usual plants, cakes, books and

bric-a-brac were on sale. There was the usual raffle and as a new venture a 'nearly new' stall.

### **Future Meetings**

Jun: this meeting will be run by the members for the benefit of the committee

Jul: 'a woman's work is never done'

Aug: skittles evening at The Anchor

Sep: a talk on filling shoe boxes, with members bringing articles to help supply little luxuries for the poorer children of the world

Oct: an open meeting and all are invited (including husbands, sons etc ) to come and watch wildlife photography of tigers. The cost will be £3 to include supper (WI style)

Nov: a talk by Chris Witts on the Severn bore

Dec: will be a Christmas surprise.

**The W.I. Recipe** this time is dedicated to the memory of Marion Watts, a long standing Elmore WI member who was famous amongst other things for her chutneys.

### Runner Bean Chutney

2 lbs of runner beans

1 lb onions

½ pint of water

1 level tbsp salt

1 level tbsp mustard seeds

3 oz sultanas

1½ level tsp ground ginger

1 level tsp turmeric

6 dried chillies, left whole (optional)

1 pint spiced vinegar

1 lb demerara sugar

Wipe, top, tail and string the beans and cut them into small slices. Place in a preserving pan with the peeled and finely chopped onion. Add the water, salt and mustard seeds and simmer gently for 20 - 25 minutes until the beans are just tender. Then add the sultanas, ginger,

turmeric, chillies and spiced vinegar. Bring back the boil and simmer for a further 30 minutes or until the mixture is fairly thick. Stir in the sugar and allow it to dissolve. Then boil steadily for about 20 minutes until the chutney is thick.

Pour into warm, dry jars, cover with thick polythene and seal with a lid. Label and store in a cool, dry place for at least 3 months before using. The chillies can be removed before potting.

## **From Elmore Parish Council - The Chair's Annual Report**

**Finance:** The Elmore Account has remained healthy throughout this last FY and the balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March stood at £6,278.32 but when the contingency commitments are taken into account we have some £4,618 available with no major projects planned as yet for this FY. Although some ideas are under consideration.

**Verge Cutting:** This year GCC's Highways Authority has agreed that Parish Councils within Severn Voice can run their own grass cutting contracts and be paid by GCC as though they were the main contractor like Amey. Therefore, we have, along with the other Severn Voice Parishes, opted to participate in this scheme for a one year trial period and if it is successful the contract will roll over. GCC only required their contractor (Amey) to do one cut of the verges and two cuts of the splays for visibility and safety. We will now be getting two cuts of the verges and three cuts of the splays.

You may have noticed that our verges have recently been cut as part of this contract; if there are any views or complaints about the way they have been cut please pass your comments to myself or The Clerk.

**Broadband:** In August of 2014 BT promised to deliver super-fast broadband to Elmore via their cutting edge technology using a microwave signal to fire broadband across the canal. Sadly, we have waited in vain for nearly 3 years for BT to provide a viable broadband service into Elmore and they have steadfastly been dragging their heels; indeed, they have pointedly refused to connect us to the new Back Haul system they claimed would be the answer to our dreams.

Fastershire, which is a joint venture by Gloucestershire and Herefordshire County Councils, has also been frustrated by BT's unwillingness to deliver faster broadband to isolated villages and settlements, so last year they signed a contract with a different company, Gigaclear, to deliver ultra-fast broadband to many Cotswold villages. Based on the success of this project Fastershire has entered into a new contract with Gigaclear to provide ultra-fast broadband to the remaining isolated areas in Gloucestershire, including Elmore.

This new GCC contract with Gigaclear, worth over £10m, has now been signed. The full details haven't been published yet and we await the schedule of the roll-out. We are in area 3E and we are hopeful that we will be included in the early stages of scheme.

Gigaclear intend to lay a new fibre-optic cable, totally independent of BT's system, to deliver ultra-fast broadband speeds to the whole village of up to 50Mbps. Previously our telephone lines in the main part of Elmore came from the Hardwicke Exchange while the houses at Elmore Back were connected to the Minsterworth Exchange. This new Gigaclear system will be connected to what is termed the 'Dark Fibre Network' which runs throughout the UK and will include the whole village.

Regardless of take-up by residents the fibre-optic cable will be laid throughout the village but this will be invasive, as a new trench needs to be dug thus causing some measure of disruption. Terminals will be placed outside every house and only connected once the residents have signed-up with Gigaclear.

Costs: We have been told that the cost per household will be in the region of £40 per month for the basic tariff with an additional one-off connection fee of £100. There is no compulsion to sign-up to have the fibre-optic cable connected so don't feel pressurised. However, it should be noted that Gigaclear have a reputation for 'hard-selling' and are likely to send out representatives to knock on doors to gain customers. Individuals can register their interest online (without commitment) at the Gigaclear website: [www.gigaclear.com](http://www.gigaclear.com)

Current telephone contracts: Residents should be mindful of their existing contracts with whoever is their current 'In-Service Provider'

(ISP). Bearing in mind that the Gigaclear system is totally independent of the existing telephone lines operated by OpenReach and BT it may be necessary to continue to run two contracts side by side until one expires.

Sky TV etc. It is not clear yet whether the Gigaclear fibre-optic cable will carry Sky TV or similar products so relevant questions need to be asked when the Gigaclear representative knocks on your door.

Timescale: we have been informed that Gigaclear will commence the work in June/July but as the schedule hasn't yet been published we have no idea when we will see them in our area. We will keep you informed if we hear of any progress.

**New rubbish scheme:** Stroud District Council introduced a new rubbish collection scheme last year and, after a few minor teething problems, this seems to be working well and has exceeded all expectations with over 500 tons of food waste being collected each month while the amount of rubbish going to landfill has halved and is already at a level which is half of target set for 2020.

### **Parish Councillors:**

It is important for the village to maintain its own governance but this cannot be done if we do not have enough Councillors. Last year I highlighted the problem that several Councillors wished to retire and would like to hand over the reins to younger candidates.

I also put a notice in The Bridge indicating that if we don't get enough volunteers then it may well be necessary to amalgamate with our neighbouring village of Longney.

We can accept new Councillors at any stage in the year by co-opting them and do not have to wait for the next election in 2020. So, if you are interested please contact either The Clerk or myself.

## **1st Elmore Guides:**

Before Easter the Guides had a visit round Shipton Mill in Frampton to find out how flour is milled. This was a fantastic night as the girls had a

tour around the factory, learnt about gluten and made pizzas! We also had a movie night where we came in our onesies and enjoyed eating popcorn. We had a visit from Julie and Veda who are from the Guide Dogs charity, the girls found this evening very interesting as we learnt how Guide Dogs are used. We have decided to join with the Brownies and Senior Section to host a fundraising evening for the Guide Dogs on Wednesday 5th July all are welcome.

This term we will be fishing in Saul and competing to see which Patrol will lift the trophy for this year. We will have a rounders evening and board games night. The girls are looking forward to our Camp during half term at Deer Park, Cowley.

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

## **1st Elmore Senior Section**

Last term we had a Pancake evening where we got to make pancakes with our favourite toppings and learnt lots of facts associated with Shrove Tuesday. We also had an international evening where we got to try food from around the world. The term ended with a Easter egg hunt and Easter craft where we made origami rabbits. This term we will be completing the South West region Cupboard Technology badge and continue to work on our Look Wider octants.

*If your daughter is interested in joining Senior Section, please call Catherine on 01452 722444.*

## **1st Elmore Brownies**

This term we started with a craft evening making bracelets, necklaces and bookmarks before making gingerbread men which filled the hall with the lovely smell cooking. We are now preparing for our weekend Brownie Residential which will be taking place at Deer Park Cowley for two nights over the Whitsun bank holiday weekend and looking

forward to a fun weekend, including activities such as archery, a campfire and lots of activities planned around the theme for the weekend.

After half-term we are taking a canal boat trip from Saul Junction and meeting at St Michael's Tower in Gloucester for a historical tour of the City with the Gloucester Civic Trust. To finish this term we will be joining 1st Elmore Guides and Senior Section fundraising for the Guide Dogs, please do come and join us

*If your daughter would like to start Brownies please contact Jenny on 01452 722444."*

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

What a night! Swing music by **Jazz Friday** (thanks Trevor), tasty nibbles and dips (thanks Dorie) plus the usual well stocked bar (thanks Mike) all enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. Many thanks to all who supported 'Jazz at EVH' raising over £300 for Hall funds. Looking forward to the next one already!

Three hand driers are now installed and working in the three toilets, together with repairs to security lighting and other electrics for the benefit and comfort of our hirers.

The Committee has voted to improve the tarmac area at the main (side) entrance, also the edging from there to the fence will be replaced. Work will commence in mid - July.

All our cutlery has been replaced and upgraded, thanks to Ann and Jill. Brenda Lovell has retired from EVH Management Committee, a position which she has held (as a founder member) since its formation. We thank Brenda for her years of dedication to the Hall and her contributions to our ongoing success.

Finally, I am delighted welcome Clare Stewart as an elected member of the Committee.

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 Guiding Group  
are fundraising for  
Guide Dogs UK**

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**Join us for tea & cake  
at Elmore Village Hall  
on  
5th July 2017  
6.15pm - 7.30pm**





# The Great War 1914 – 1918: Lest We Forget –

## Part 2

In Part 1 of this story we looked at the lives of two of Elmore's brave men who fought and died in the Great War. In this issue we look at two more men who served their country and paid the ultimate price. The surnames of these two men will be familiar to you as members of their family still live locally. In the last issue of 'The Bridge' a letter was published from William Joseph Merrett – sent from 'somewhere in France' while he was convalescing in an Army Field Hospital; our story begins by following his part in the War.

### **28248 Private William Joseph Merrett**

Private Merrett was born in Miserden in May 1891 and was the Son of Henry Edward Merrett and Mary Ann Houdley, of Ivy House, Elmore. The family moved to Elmore sometime between 1891 and 1901. Private William Merrett's father, Henry (1856-1925), was listed in both the Elmore Church records and the Census of 1881, 1891 and 1901 as the local Blacksmith and it would appear that Henry took over the roll of blacksmith from his father, also a William Merrett (1818 -1884). The 1911 Census also listed Private William Merrett's father as the blacksmith, living in Penny Lane. William had 4 uncles on his father's side of the family, all of whom were born in Elmore but none seem to have married. His uncle, also a William (1851-1939), was an engine fitter and the 1881 Census had the note 'cripple' against his uncle John (1864-1941) at the age of 16.

William Joseph Merrett joined the Army at some stage in the early part of the war and was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment. (*Note: Although the Elmore War Memorial is inscribed with the fact that William Merrett was part of 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment, the Commonwealth War Graves records, The Soldiers of Gloucestershire regimental records and the official War Office documents all show him as a member of 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment.*)

The 1st/5th Battalion was formed in August 1914 in Gloucester and became part of South Midland Brigade, South Midland Division. The

battalion moved on mobilisation to the Isle of Wight and thence to Swindon but very quickly on to Maldon in Essex, arriving by end of August 1914.

By 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915 the unit had been mobilised and embarked for France, landing at Boulogne on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1915, whereupon the unit then marched over 100 miles to the 48<sup>th</sup> Divisional concentration area just SW of Ypres. The 1/5 Glos Regt then became part of the 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division. It is of significance that 2Lt Henry Guise (mentioned in Part 1 of this history) was in the same unit as Private Merrett.

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 the unit was based at Le Romarin as Divisional Reserve west of Ploegsteert, just inside the Belgian border, NE of Lille where they continued their training. There is little information recorded about the actions fought by 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Regiment during 1915 but this was probably because not a great deal happened in the Western Front during that time.

In 1916 William's battalion was in action in the Battle of the Somme, suffering heavy casualties on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July during the assault on the Quadrilateral (Heidenkopf). They were also in action at The Battle of Bazentin Ridge, the capturing of Ovillers, The Battle of Pozieres Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre Heights and The Battle of the Ancre.

In 1917 the 48<sup>th</sup> Division occupied Peronne during The German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line and were again in action in the Third Battles of Ypres. This 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres was a long affair lasting from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 1917.

William Merrett was badly wounded during the Battle of Ypres and evacuated to a Casualty Clearing Station near Dozinghem in Belgium. Three Casualty Clearing Stations (CSS), the 4<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup>, were set up in this location from July 1917 to care for casualties from the 1917 British summer offensive which would become the Third Battle of Ypres, leading to the Battle of Passchendaele. It was probably from this

medical facility that he wrote the letter home and was mentioned in the last issue of The Bridge.

William Merrett died of his wounds on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1917 at the age of 26. He was buried at Dozinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium. As William was the only son in the family, combined with the fact that none of his four uncles married, the male line of the Merretts in Elmore seems to have died out.

The Dozinghem cemetery was continually in use until early 1918. The number of burials for the First World War casualties totals 3,174. There are also 65 German graves. It was used again during WW2 and there are 74 Second World War burials dating from May 1940.

### **17164 Lance Corporal Arthur Moss LOVELL**

Lance Corporal Arthur Lovell was born on 10th June 1895; his parents were Henry Lovell and Rosa Jane Moss who lived, at that time, at Highliffe Farm, Quedgeley. Arthur was baptised in Quedgeley Church on 7th July 1895. The Census records of both 1901 and 1911 listed him as student still living at Highliffe Farm with his family. However, at some stage between 1911 and 1918 the family moved to Severn Farm, then to Farley's End, finally settling at Severn Bank Farm at Elmore Back.

Arthur joined the Army in 1915 at the age of 20 and was assigned to 12th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. This battalion was established on 4th September 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army. Recruits had to be unmarried and aged between nineteen and thirty-five; in less than a fortnight 500 recruits, practically half the battalion's full strength, had been enrolled and it at once became known as 'Bristol's Own'. Basic training was carried out at Ashton Gate in Bristol in late 1914 and early 1915.

In June 1915, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion came under command of 95<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 32<sup>nd</sup> Division at Wensley in Yorkshire, and then moved to Codford, adjacent to Salisbury Plain in August 1915 for further intensive training. On 21<sup>st</sup> November 1915 the Battalion was mobilised for war and the 990 officers and soldiers and of 12<sup>th</sup> Glosters embarked for France, landing on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

On arrival in France they transferred with 95<sup>th</sup> Brigade from 32<sup>nd</sup> Division to 5<sup>th</sup> Division as part of an exchange designed to stiffen the inexperienced 32<sup>nd</sup> Division with regular army troops. In March 1916, 5<sup>th</sup> Division took over a section of the front line between St Laurent Blangy and the southern edge of Vimy Ridge, near Arras. They moved south in July to reinforce The Somme and were in action at High Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Morval and The Battle of Le Transloy, all of which were part of the bloody Somme offensive – the latter being the last offensive by the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) during the Battle of the Somme. In early October 1915 they moved to Festubert and remained there until March 1917 when they moved in preparation for the major Battles of Arras.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1917 the 5<sup>th</sup> Division moved out of the line for a period of rest before being sent to Flanders where they were in action during the Third Battle of Ypres.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Division was then sent to Italy and took up positions in the line along the River Piave, in NE Italy, in late January 1918. This was a political move to help strengthen the Italian resistance to the Austrian breakthrough in that region. However, they were recalled to France to assist with the defence against the major German advance in late March of 1918 and were in action during the Battles of the Lys.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1918 the 5<sup>th</sup> Division was withdrawn for two weeks rest. However, it would appear that 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment remained in the front line and was involved in the Battle of Albert;

Battle of Albert (21<sup>st</sup> –23<sup>rd</sup> August 1918) was the third battle by that name fought during World War I, following the First Battle of Albert and the Second Battle of Albert, with each of the series of three being fought roughly two years apart, indicating how little the front line had changed over the previous 4 years! This smaller third battle was significant in that it was the opening push that would lead to the Second Battle of the Somme and involved the Australian Corps. This attack opened the advance, with the main attack being launched by the Third Army along with support from the Fourth Army. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1918, the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division took the town of Albert, with the British and Americans advancing on Arras.

It was on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1918, during the advance on Arras after the Battle of Albert, that Arthur Moss Lovell was killed in action at the age of 23 having survived most of the war on the front line and less than 3 months before the war ended.

Arthur Moss Lovell was buried at Queen's Cemetery, Bucquoy, France; this cemetery is situated 15 km SW of Arras and NE of Amiens

At some stage during WW1 Athur Lovell was promoted to Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) and although the Elmore War Memorial lists him as a Sergeant, no official record can be found which lists him as such and even the Commonwealth War Graves Records for Queen's Cemetery at Bucquoy show him as a L/Cpl.

The Lovell family contribution to The Great War didn't just include Arthur Lovell. Arthur's younger brother, Edward Gordon Lovell, joined the Royal Field Artillery on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1915 at the age of 19. His Army number was 113323 and he was posted A Battery Royal Field Artillery which was then part of 48<sup>th</sup> Division which was stationed in France at the time. He embarked on a troopship on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1915 and joined his unit in The Somme. During the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916, Edward received a gunshot wound to the upper part of his right arm and was sent to the military hospital at Le Havre. He was then shipped home on the Hospital Ship Asturius for hospitalisation and convalescence. However, once he had recovered he returned to France on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1917 and stayed there until February 1919 when he was then discharged from the Army.

Edward's father, Henry, was living at Highliffe Farm Quedegeley when Edward joined the Army in 1915 but by the time he had been discharged in 1919 the family had moved to Severn Bank Farm at Elmore Back – the Elmore Electoral Roll for 1918 clearly shows the Lovell family living there. (*However, Edward's discharge papers stated he lived at Severn Farm which is situated on the Stonebench Road and has recently been sold*).

Edward survived the War and married Gertrude Annie Meek in 1924 and the Church records state that he was resident at Farley's End and Getrude lived at Elmore Back. By 1931 they were living in Yew Tree Farm, Longney. The local connections are still very strong because Edward Lovell (1895 -1983) and Gertrude Annie Meek (1894 – 1970) were Graham Lovell's and Marvyn Lovell's grandparents. L/Cpl

Arthur Moss Lovell would have been their great uncle. Edward Lovell and Gertrude Meek were also the parents of the late Marion Watts.

## **Marion Watts 1930 - 2017**

Marion was born Marion Lovell on Sept 29th 1930 at Yew Tree Farm, Longney, moving to Severn Farm, Elmore Back, when she was six. She was the fifth of six children. As he grew up she enjoyed Elmore village life, singing in the church choir and helping with fund raising for the church and other causes.

In 1956 she married Douglas Watts and moved to Elm Farm, where three of her five children were born. She and Douglas then moved to Oakey Farm, Moreton Valance in 1967. She then supported Moreton Valance church and did much fund raising for the church and other worthy causes for the rest of her life.

She was a prolific and skilful cook, which was much appreciated by those who visited Moor Farm where she lived after moving from Oakey Farm.

Although she lived in Moreton Valance she regularly returned to Elmore for Bridge Club, WI and The Village Players. As well as appearing on stage with The Players in many productions, she was their Wardrobe Mistress and produced countless superb costumes which were much appreciated by players and audiences alike.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Michael Watts

## **Allen Fisher 1945 - 2017**

Allen came to live in Elmore in 1970 when he married Pauline, soon moving to no. 13 where they raised their daughters, Joanne and Sarah. Allen loved no. 13 and took pride in the house and garden. He was keen on DIY though not always competent earning him the nickname ‘Bodger Al’. Allen’s well known saying was ‘If it doesn’t fit hit it with the hammer’, a phrase now used by all of the Family. Together with head gardener, Pauline, they grew their own vegetables and flowers. Allen religiously mowed the Village Green and the War Memorial and in later years the grass at the Village Hall. The family often joked that if

they gave him a packet of sandwiches and a flask of tea he would mow all the way to Elmore Back.

Allen had many varied jobs but his love was of driving. At one point he was starting work daily at 3am to drive to the fruit market in Bristol before returning to make local deliveries. Fed up with early morning starts Allen trained to be a driving instructor which he spent the last 22 years doing. He was very popular and most of his work came from recommendations, sometimes teaching whole families to drive. He taught a lot of young people from Elmore and surrounding villages. He estimated that he had helped over 2000 pupils to pass their driving test.. He continued this until last year when illness forced him to retire.

Allen loved playing skittles and played for two teams right up to last Christmas. He was also a keen golfer . He loved holidays and a visit to Cornwall was made annually for over 40 years. Visits to Spain, Portugal, Greece, USA and cruises round the Mediterranean and Dubai and the Arab Emirates followed.

Allen loved Elmore life and supported many Village events. He loved the Race Nights, where he always had a theory on how to beat the odds, and always supported Village Players' productions, if only to heckle his family in the cast. Allen had a great sense of humour, and always had a story or a joke to tell.

In July 2015 Allen was diagnosed with cancer but was determined to fight the disease and endured chemotherapy and major surgery in the hope of a cure. However, while having a 2nd course of Chemo in June last year it was found the cancer had returned and was terminal. Allen still fought and went on to have painful radiotherapy to try and extend his life. He battled on until after Christmas when it became impossible and he died at home as he wished.

Over 200 people attended the Celebration of Allen's life at Elmore Church, where grandson Jake read out his own fitting tribute to his Grandfather. A total of £907 has been received in Allen's memory and has been shared between Cancer Research and Longfield Care Hospice. Pauline and family would like to thank everyone for the condolences and support they have received during this difficult time.

Pauline, Jo and Sarah

# **The Village Players**

## **“A River Runs Through It”**

An Evening of Facts, Fun and Farce!

**Village Players’ Summer Production**  
**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm**

Tickets £12 to include a 2 course Summer Supper.

A Pay Bar will be available.

Tickets from Ivor and Nick Phillips on 01452 722245.

Over the Summer, Players will be meeting to plan this year’s Panto. We would very much welcome new members of all ages and ability, onstage or offstage. If you are interested in joining our fun and relaxed group, please contact Sarah Younger on 07895 136723

## **Walking for Health**

The next walk will take place on June 15th from Whitminster Village Hall car park at 9.45 am for a 10 am start. The walk, as usual, could include stiles and field paths and is approximately 2 miles in length and will take a maximum of 1½ hours. For more information ring 01452 740265 or email [nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk). Note: only one walk leader present.

Nick Peters - a walk leader

### Future walk dates are:

Weds. 19th. July,

Thurs 17th. Aug.

Weds. 20th. Sept .



Details of start points and timings can be obtained from the contact details above.

## **St John the Baptist Church, Elmore**

Our regular pattern of services at Elmore Church continues  
June 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> also July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am  
June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> also July 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6.30pm

Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> is “St John the Baptist’s Day”  
On this day our Church will be open from 11.00am to 4.00pm  
Refreshments available – everyone welcome

Our Church Website is at [www.elmorechurch.info](http://www.elmorechurch.info)  
This is a good source of information about services  
and events at Elmore Parish Church and its history

Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday  
When we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit  
Elmore Parish Eucharist at 9.30am

Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> is Trinity Sunday  
When we focus on Christian belief about God  
Elmore Sung Evensong at 6.30pm

### **From the Elmore Church Registers**

January 17<sup>th</sup> – Funeral of Godfrey James  
January 19<sup>th</sup> – Funeral of Harold Heaysman  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Adult Baptism of Mayumi Kitamura  
February 12<sup>th</sup> – Songs of Praise for all our wedding couples  
February 21<sup>st</sup> – Funeral of Frank Fisher  
March 19<sup>th</sup> – Elmore Church Annual Meeting  
March 24<sup>th</sup> – Wedding of David and Joanna Rees  
April 9<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of Rhys Toomey  
April 30<sup>th</sup> – Godparents Sunday celebration at Hardwicke School  
May 5<sup>th</sup> – Wedding of Nicholas and Mayumi Cafearo

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

Email: vicarage@inbox.com

## **The Great Hedge**

We all know that the Emperors Hadrian and Antoninus Pius built walls in the Scottish borders and that President Trump is planning one between the USA and Mexico but did you know that in Victorian times Britain built a wall in India twice as long as that planned by the USA? It was built to stop the smuggling of opium, cannabis and especially salt as well as to restrict the movement of people.

The tax on salt was high and the folk living in the interior depended on a supply from the Bay of Bengal so the East India Company decided to build a 'beautiful' wall down the middle of India and made the Indians pay for it. Anything sound familiar? It proved very difficult because of the shortage of bricks and rocks, so they hit on the idea of a hedge. In 1869 they experimented with different shrubs and were able to build a thorny hedge 12 feet high.

The Great Hedge had customs posts every mile and you had to pay tax if you wanted to pass through it. The Viceroy of India disliked the hedge because it was an impediment to trade and the benefit to the East India Company did not compensate for the reduction in trade. Nevertheless by 1872 the Hedge had a staff of 14,000. Smuggling was reduced but not eliminated; some just drove their camels through the hedge, others threw bags of salt and other contraband over the top; everything was open to bribery and corruption and there were many clashes.

Eventually planting of the hedge was abandoned in 1879 and work stopped as tax reform made it unnecessary. When India became independent in 1947 any remnants were torn up and the surveyed straight bits of the route used for highways.

Val Overton

## **We are Survivors!**

Those born before 1940 grew up with no television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, photocopiers, contact lenses or 'the pill'. We were before radar, credit cards, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes, mobile phones, computers, laptops and tablets, and before man walked on the Moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint is that?)

We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent; a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' was something we ate for tea. We existed before 'house husbands' and 'computer dating'. 'Sheltered accommodation' was where we waited for the bus.

We were before 'daycare centres', 'group homes' and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts and word processors. Young men didn't wear earrings.

For us, 'timeshare' meant togetherness, a chip was a fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts and software didn't exist.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant it was junk and 'making out' referred to how you had done in your exams. A stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, 'going all the way' meant staying on the bus to the depot.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown and coke was kept in the coal shed. A joint was a piece of meat you ate on Sunday and 'pot' was something you cooked it in. Rock music was a fond mothers lullaby, 'Eldorado' was ice cream and a gay person was the life and soul of the party. 'Aids' meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of how the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. But by the grace of God we have survived.

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