

# THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
February 2019, Issue 19



## From the Editor

As I sit writing this, a mechanical digger is cutting a trench right outside my window for fibre optic cable to be laid in Weir Lane. It looks hopeful that our internet connections will eventually exceed snails' pace if Gigaclear can get the cable under the river from Minsterworth - John Field has something to say about this in his Chairman's report. Despite the fact that the 100 year commemoration of The Great War has passed, we are continuing the accounts of men who served in the armed forces in WW1 and WW2; this issue focuses on Lionel Underwood whose story is both harrowing and inspiring. What a tough generation. With quite a bit of winter still to go and the threat of some cold weather maybe you would like to try the WI recipe for leek and potato soup. As promised in the last issue of **The Bridge**, there is also an account by her daughter of Vera Smith's long life. Finally many of you will know that our Vicar will be retiring at the end of March and this issue contains a valedictory letter from him. There's much more so read on.

## Elmore WI

The WI meet in Elmore Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Each meeting starts with a minimum amount of WI business which is followed by a guest speaker before the evening is rounded off with excellent refreshments and social time. You don't have to live in Elmore to be a member.

Upcoming speakers' topics:

February 12th	Stroud Auction Rooms
March 12th	Snow Business
April 9th	Tasting the Tudors

**MAY 25th W.I. COFFEE MORNING with cakes and STALLS,  
10.30 - Noon  
An event not to be missed.**

## **The WI Recipe**

This month we have a healthy and warming Leek and Potato Soup

9ozs leeks, trimmed and sliced leaving some green

An onion, sliced

1oz butter

1lb 2ozs potatoes cut into small cubes

Melt the butter and add the leek and onion. Saute until soft

Add the potato

Add 2 pints of chicken or vegetable stock

Add seasoning and bring to the boil

When all is cooked, remove from the heat and add 5ozs of cream and a tsp of lemon juice

Liquidise if preferred

## **From the Vicar of Elmore**

Many of you will know by now that I have tendered my resignation as Vicar of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney with effect from March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. Also, this coming March, I will celebrate my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, a real milestone in my life.

Health issues have not made the past two years easy for me or my family and I have not been able to give myself 100% to the work as your Vicar.

It was a long time ago now, in 1980, that I was ordained in Liverpool Cathedral by Bishop David Sheppard, the famous cricketer and Church of England diocesan bishop.

Over the past 38 years I have served in a variety of different places in ministry; first as Curate and then as Vicar. I have met some extremely interesting people across the years and been very privileged to serve as Vicar in three wonderful places – St John The Baptist, Hindley Green in Wigan, Holy Trinity Drybrook (affectionately known as Forest Church)

and, for the past 13 years, as your Parish Priest and Vicar at Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney.

It has always been my intention to put down roots and stay in a parish until it is obviously the right time to move. Now it has become increasingly clear to me and Julie that the time is right to say farewell, as Vicar, to dear friends and parishioners in this part of the Severn Vale. We now change gear into transition mode and the next few months will be a time to prepare for new beginnings in the life of our churches and also in my own personal life.

I am grateful to so many Longney & Elmore people for your friendship, love and support; it has been a pleasure to share the important times in life with so many of you. To be the one to celebrate christenings, weddings and also services when people have gathered. To remember a loved one who has died, has meant so much.

I take with me many memories and I wish you all well for the future.

Fr. Andrew-

Vicar and Parish Priest of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney

## **Church Services for Elmore**

*Unless otherwise publicised the regular service pattern is:*

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month – Parish Eucharist at Elmore 9.30am

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month – Evensong at Elmore 4.00pm

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month – no service at Elmore

*In February and March there are special additional services...*

Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup> – 4 before Lent

Elmore Valentine's Sunday Evening Service 4.00pm



(Valentine's Sunday Guest Service for our wedding couples)

Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> – 2 before Lent

Longney Short Eucharist and Annual Meeting 9.30am

Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday before Lent

Elmore Short Eucharist and Annual Meeting 9.30am

Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> – Lent 3

Elmore Farewell Service for the Vicar 4.00pm

Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> – Mothering Sunday

NB. No service at Elmore or Longney

Mothering Sunday Service at Hardwicke 11.00am

Bishop Rachel will lead this service – all welcome

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Baptism (Christening) or Weddings: Church Office 01452 720015

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

Please note a new church email address from March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019  
[church-office@gmx.com](mailto:church-office@gmx.com)

## **From the Parish Council**

### **Personal Security**

Over the last few months our local Police have reported a rash of thefts from cars and houses in the Quedgeley area. Elmore has had a couple of incidents, mainly concerning farm outbuildings.

Neighbourhood Watch: It is our own interests to look out for each other. If you see something taking place in a neighbour's drive or garden which might be suspicious then maybe check with them if the activity is bona fide. Men in unmarked white vans who engage in anti-social activity tend to wear hi-visibility jackets to make themselves look vaguely official – don't be taken in by this ploy. Talk to your neighbours and let them know when you are due to be away so that someone might keep an eye on your property.

Just a reminder to remain vigilant.

- Be aware of vehicles acting suspiciously; note the registration, colour and make of the vehicle.
- Do not engage with anyone purporting to be collecting scrap metal – it is illegal to do so unless they are a licenced dealer.

- Be wary of buying anything from cold-callers – this includes garden furniture, power tools and the like. It is highly likely that they've 'fallen off the back of a lorry'.
- Keep your garages, outbuildings and sheds locked.
- Consider using Smart Water to mark all your attractive tools and garden equipment.
- Consider installing movement activated outside lights.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm-
- Consider installing CCTV.

## **Broadband – Update**

After a flurry of activity by Gigaclear to dig trenches and install the new fibre optic cable, all went quiet for a while and several areas were left uncompleted, namely Elmore Back and Weir Lane. After a considerable number of e-mails, Gigaclear's utilities team has returned to complete the work. However, as yet we do not have any firm news on the proposed drilling under the River Severn from Minsterworth. Test boreholes and drilling was due to be carried out in December with the actual drilling taking place in 'early 2019'. Until such time as this drilling takes place the fibre connections cannot be made live. It would be foolhardy of me to try and make any promises as to a completion date but I will keep you updated as an when I hear progress reports.

John Field (Chair)

## **Vera Margory Smith, 1914 - 2018**

Vera was born on the 1st of January 1914 at the Freehold in Longney. She was the daughter of Fred and Elizabeth (nicknamed 'Rose') Wixey. She had an elder sister, Ida Rose, born in October 1910, and a younger brother, Manley, born on the 1st of April 1916. Their father, whose memorial is in Longney Church, was killed on the Somme just before Manley was born.

Several years after the death of her father, her mother married a widower named Walter Wellington who had five daughters, Ivy, Clara, Melinda, Helen and Olive. They crossed the river to live at The Nords, Westbury-on-Severn and their half-brother, Eric was born in June 1924. The family was now complete.

Vera went to school at Walmore Hill School and completed her education at Denmark Road High School for Girls in Gloucester.

She moved to Gloucester and lived in several houses including a dairy in Park Street, a Greengrocers on the corner of High Street and Dinevor Street and also in Kingsholm Road next door to St Marks Church where her mother ran a boarding house

She had a son, Keith John Wixey, born on 11th of August 1934

Her father did not like town life so the family moved to Elmore Back to run the Salmon Inn.

While she was living there she met her future husband, William, Thomas (Jack) Smith. Vera always called him Jack and so did most of their friends. They were married in Elmore Church on 25th March 1940.

Mr 'Joker' Bennett kindly offered them one of his workers' cottages in Elmore Back. Vera and Jack lived there very happily until Mr Bennett asked them if they would like to buy it, which they did. They had three children, Brian, born 11th June 1941, Heather, born 15th June 1948 and Bob, born 25th September 1949. Bob is still living in the cottage today. Vera and Jack loved their cottage. They worked together and modernised it to their liking and between them made a lovely garden which was often photographed by strangers, most of whom sent copies. Freda, Keith's wife, did a beautiful watercolour of the cottage and garden, which still hangs in the cottage today.

Both Jack and Vera enjoyed playing skittles and going on holiday with Olive and her husband, Arthur ('Arch').

Jack died on 17th of March 1985 at his daughter's home after returning from a rugby match at Twickenham.

Vera continued to go on holiday with Arch, Jean (her next door neighbour), Freda and Heather. She still enjoyed gardening right into her 90s but at 98 she began to get very frail so, for her own safety, Heather put her into The Knoll Care Home in Tuffley. Vera had a new lease of life in The Knoll. She quickly made friends and joined in the social life there; she did singing, bingo, flower arranging, exercise classes and many other things.

The carers made a big fuss of her including six lovely birthday parties. Vera enjoyed good health until the hot summer of 2018 and became bedridden at the beginning of September and died on the 28th of that

month aged 104. Mr Charlie Hall arranged a lovely funeral at Longney Church which was attended by nearly 100 people.

Vera loved animals and had cats and dogs all her life so Heather, Brian and Bob arranged to have a collection in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind which amassed £701. Thanks you to all who donated; you were kind to Vera right to the end.

Vera's daughter, Heather, December 2018

## **Little Jack Horner**

### **The Annual Pantomime by The Village Players**

As we approached Elmore Village Hall a young member of our party suggested there was not much in the traditional nursery rhyme on which to base a panto, but then suggested that had not stopped authors in the past, and so it proved. There were some pies but instead of 'a plum' there was a huge black pearl (eat your heart out Captain Jack Sparrow) which, of course, got stolen by one of the baddies, the aptly named Graball (ouch), menacingly and strongly played by Sam Kirby.

As I was waiting for the Panto to start a long established senior member of the Village Players told me that this year's production nearly didn't happen through a lack of available adults. He need not have told me that because the younger members of the company, who played the majority of major parts, stepped up to the crease splendidly.

Jake Gibson and Megan Voyce (in reality year 11 and 9 pupils) as Bertie and Gertie, the bad boy and bad girl of Dame Dimwit's chaotic school, were superb and made me glad I am no longer a teacher. Megan in particular was the epitome of the huffy, scruffy, truculent, trouble making teenager. Well played both.

Jack Horner was confidently and convincingly played by another youngster, Shauna Williams. It was the key part: the success of the production depended on a strong performance and Shauna delivered. She had a good connection with the audience, a strong voice and a ready smile. Olivia Robinson as Miss Patience, Dame Dimwit's luckless classroom assistant and Prince Peter's love interest, also impressed.

In the past more minor parts were sometimes played with a certain lack of confidence by the children and teenagers of the company, but this year they and the youngsters playing the major parts had been very well

coached by Jo Fisher and Sarah Younger and though I was sitting right at the back I could hear every word.

Of the adults on stage, Rachel Chamberlayne made a glamorous and saucy Dame Dimwit - we counted at least 5 costume changes, each one more extravagant than the last. Colin Ellis was superb as Vasaleno, the gypsy king, ably assisted by Di King as Meg. Even here the adults could not have it all their own way and required the services of Tom Gennard as Bopo and Sally Gennard as Rosa to complete the ensemble. The scene at Vasaleno's gypsy camp was the most lively in the whole show and set the tone after the interval for the rest of the panto. Sarah Younger as the shrewish Queen, Nick Phillips as her henpecked husband, King Marmaduke, and Amy Parkin as Prince Peter completed a strong cast.

As usual, the costumes were superb and the lighting, music and effects slick and professional.

This year Oscar is awarded jointly to Jo Fisher and Sarah Younger for their work with the coaching of the juniors. A special Oscar goes to Sam Kirby for his very strong and confident rendition of the old Elvis number 'Trouble'. Very enjoyable.

### **WW1 & WW2 Stories of Elmore residents**

Throughout the 4 year commemoration of WW1 we have published stories in The Bridge about those men of Elmore who died for their country in both WW1 & WW2. This was continued with a few stories about others who also lived in Elmore and who had served in the Armed Forces in times past. Some research has now been done about others who fought and survived both wars and these stories make interesting reading.

Therefore, we will continue to publish the stories of the brave men and women of Elmore who fought in both WW1 and WW2 and survived. If you had relatives who served in the Great War and or the Second World War and would like their story researched and recorded then please contact the Editor.

## **203559 Private Lionel Edward Underwood (1897 - 1964)**

Although Lionel Underwood was not strictly an Elmore resident, he was the father of someone who has lived in the village since 1962 and is still living here. Nevertheless, his story is certainly worth the telling.

Lionel was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1897 in Eastington and was the third son of Albert Edward Underwood (1866-1947) and Flora Annie Elliott (1867-1957); the Underwood family was quite large with 8 children (4 sons and 4 daughters). By 1911, Lionel's family was living at West End Farm in Eastington and his two elder brothers, Walter (1892 - 1986), and Percival (1894 – 1995) were both working on the farm, as was Lionel himself at the age of 14.

When the war broke out in August of 1914, Lionel was not able to join the Army as he was only 17 so it wasn't until 7<sup>th</sup> February 1916 that he signed on and then awaited the formal call-up, which took place on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1916, at which point he joined the Gloucester Yeomanry and was allocated the Army Number of 3651. However, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1916 he was re-assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment and given a new Army number of 203559.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion was formed as a Territorial Force in September of 1914 as part of 183<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 61<sup>st</sup> (South Midland) Division. On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1916 the 2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion was mobilised for war and landed in Le Havre, France, and was immediately engaged in various actions on the Western Front including the attack at Fromelles in July 1916 (*Fromelles is situated on the Belgium border just south of Calais*).

This first major action, in which the 61<sup>st</sup> British Division was engaged, turned out to be an unmitigated disaster. Such was the damage to the Division and its reputation that it was not used again in offensive action until mid 1917, other than for holding trench lines. As the British had also suffered some 1,570 casualties in the Battle of Fromelles, it took a while for the units of 61<sup>st</sup> Division to be made back up to strength and Lionel was one of those reinforcements, being shipped to France to join his unit on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1916.

The winter of 1916 and spring of 1917 on the Western Front was notable for the rain, mud and the static nature of the war, so Lionel spent much of his time in the trenches, not doing very much except being continually shelled by German artillery.

In mid-August of 1917 the 61<sup>st</sup> Division was again used in the offensive role as part of the British efforts to push the front line forward at positions around Schuler Farm and Aisne Farm near Kerselaar. This action was part of the Third Battle of Ypres, also referred to as The Battle of Passchendaele, and started with The Battle of Langemarck which took place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August 1917. During the battle, the British had advanced north of the village of Langemarck but had been defeated further south and failed to capture the *Wilhelmstellung*, the third German defensive position. On 17<sup>th</sup> August General Gough arranged for local attacks to gain jumping-off positions for another general attack on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

These engagements were fought by the Fifth Army of the British Expeditionary Force against the German 4<sup>th</sup> Army. The offensive started well with the action at Cockcroft on 19<sup>th</sup> August, where The British Corps and the 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Brigade captured five German fortified farms and strongpoints for only 28 casualties.

However, another attack on 22<sup>nd</sup> August was a much bigger effort, which enabled the British front line to move forward up to 600 yards on a 2 mile frontage but failed to reach the more distant objectives. On 24<sup>th</sup> August, a German methodical counter-attack recaptured Inverness Copse on the Gheluvelt Plateau so the more ambitious British attack, due on 25<sup>th</sup> August, was cancelled. Heavy rain began again on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and torrential rain also fell on 26<sup>th</sup> August, flooding the battlefield. General Haig transferred responsibility for the offensive to General Herbert Plumer and the Second Army, to include the southern edge of the Gheluvelt Plateau in the offensive. As reinforcements were transferred from the armies further south, the Fifth Army continued with minor operations and on 27<sup>th</sup> August, the Springfield and Vancouver blockhouses were captured by tanks and infantry from the 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division, but most of the other attacks were costly failures. The number of casualties combined with the cold, wet and muddy conditions, lowered morale among the infantry on both sides.

### Casualties

The official WW1 records of the attacks in the Ypres sector from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August, showed that the 15<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division had 2,071 casualties, the 44<sup>th</sup> Brigade had 1,052 casualties and the 45<sup>th</sup> Brigade

had 1,019; the 61<sup>st</sup> Division lost 914 men (*Lionel's Division*) the 43<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, part of 14<sup>th</sup> (Light) Division had 1,523 casualties.

Despite the failures on 22<sup>nd</sup> August as well as the beginning of the heavy rains on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and further rain on 26<sup>th</sup> August, the offensive continued. An attack by the men of the 61<sup>st</sup> Division, including Lionel Underwood's battalion, on Aisne Farm also failed.

### The Fateful Attack

At 04.45 on 27<sup>th</sup> August attacks were made by all the British Fifth Army Corps, including Lionel's unit, 2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment. The attacking battalions had moved up during the night of 26<sup>th</sup> August in the rain and the ever thickening mud, they then had to remain hidden for ten hours, soaking wet with mud up to their knees, before attacking. Unfortunately, twenty minutes before zero hour, torrential rain began again and high winds rose. The ground was covered in waterlogged shell-holes and became much muddier, causing the infantry to lag behind the creeping artillery barrage. The attack by units of 61<sup>st</sup> Division was stopped about 100 yards short of Schuler Farm. The 61<sup>st</sup> Division suffered around 900 casualties, so after losing about a third of the men and half of their officers, the survivors fell back to the start line.

During this attack Lionel received several gunshot wounds from the withering fire from the German machine guns and he was badly wounded in both legs, so could not walk. His medical records later recorded that he had received a gunshot wound to his left knee and also to his right foot as well as a gunshot wound to his shoulder. He would have been in a bad way and lost a lot of blood. He was probably unconscious, cold, wet and also covered in mud.

After the battle, the medical orderlies struggled across a body-littered battlefield with its flooded shell craters and ever-deepening mud. Lionel was discovered and was assessed as 'beyond help' and was left for dead where he lay in the mud of the battlefield and, understandably, the stretcher-bearers carried more deserving cases to safety. Such assessments were common and at this stage in the war as the medics had had plenty of experience about which of the wounded would be likely to survive. It is also hardly surprising that, with so many casualties to attend to, the medical orderlies gave priority to those who looked as though they might survive.

However, some time later, Lionel recovered consciousness and, as he couldn't walk, he crawled the considerable distance back to his own lines through the mud of 'no-mans land' and over the many dead bodies of his comrades scattered in water-filled shell holes. On arriving back at his own lines, he was immediately taken to a casualty dressing station. His medical records show that, on 28<sup>th</sup> August Lionel had his '*left leg amputated in the middle of the thigh*' and also had a '*Symes amputation of the right foot*', (this is the complete amputation of the foot above the ankle).

There were a staggering 68,010 Official British casualties for the period 31<sup>st</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1917, of whom 10,266 were killed. Lionel Underwood was just one of the 57,000 soldiers wounded, so the medical staff were rather overwhelmed.

Shortly after his first amputation, Lionel was evacuated to the Army General Hospital near Le Havre on the French coast and then shipped back to England where he was admitted to the Army General Hospital that had been established in Brighton Pavilion. Lionel spent 2 months at the hospital in Brighton before being transferred to Queen Mary's Convalescent Hospital in Roehampton on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1917. However, it would appear that complications arose with the amputated stumps and he was then transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Northern General Hospital in Newcastle on Tyne on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1918. Where, as his medical records show, on 20<sup>th</sup> January a further operation was carried out to '*re-amputate both limbs*'. This operation proved to be a success and on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1918 he was again sent to the Queen Mary's Convalescent Hospital in Roehampton for the fitting of prosthetic limbs.

Not surprisingly, Lionel was not regarded as fit for further active service and was discharged from the Army on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1918 by which time the war had ended – Lionel was aged 21 and was, like many of his wartime comrades, now severely incapacitated. His records show that he was entitled to wear the Gold Wound Stripe and Blue Chevron on his uniform.

Lionel returned home to West End Farm in Eastington where he lived with his parents and unmarried siblings. There were so many other disabled soldiers in England at the end of WW1 that it is unlikely that much, if any, follow-up care would have taken place. The NHS hadn't yet been thought about and physiotherapy was in its infancy and so

probably an unheard of luxury in darkest Gloucestershire. Therefore, Lionel would have had to get on with life as best he could.

An interesting statistic came to light in the Electoral Registers for Stroud for 1931, which showed that there were 30 people with the surname of 'Underwood' living in Eastington at that time.

In August 1931, some 13 years after the end of WW1, Lionel Underwood married Muriel Lucy Merchant (1904 – 2000) and they had two children, one daughter, Diane P Underwood in 1932 and a son, Lionel George Underwood, in 1937. The family moved to Fretherene and lived at The Anchorage. Despite his disability, Lionel continued to run a smallholding at The Anchorage until he died in 1964.

Lionel's daughter, Diane P Underwood, married Paul Walton Round (1925 - 2000) in 1962. At some stage Paul Round had taken over the running of Elmore Back Farm from his father John Walton Round (1882-1963). Diane Round still lives in Elmore Back and will be 87 this year.

Lionel Underwood's son, also called Lionel, married Betty Turner and they had 4 children and continued to live at The Anchorage in Fretherne. Lionel's eldest brother, Walter, emigrated to Canada and married a local girl, Frances Jane Blackburn and died in 1996 aged 94. Lionel's other older brother, Percival, continued to farm in Eastington and died in 1995 at the age of 101.

## **VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Not much to report except that the electrics upgrade is still in progress. Dates for our 2019 functions are now confirmed:-

Sunday 28th April - SPRING LUNCH. (Details on the back page)

Sunday 15th December - EVH CHRISTMAS LUNCH. (Details to follow)

Demand for space in our Hall is steadily increasing. 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

## **Our local Police Team NEWS**

We have been notified that our local police team are:

PCSO Kevin Lee

PCSO Rachel Addinal

PC Al Johnson

Please look up their website

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/neighbourhood-policing/gloucester/quedgeley-kingsway-hardwicke-longney-and-elmore/>

You will find a useful link for you to register for YOUR COMMUNITY ALERTS. By registering you will receive, free of charge, news and appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice - directly to you.

### **The Guise Mausoleum**

As many will be aware, in the Elmore churchyard are the ruins of the Guise family mausoleum. This collapsed during the first world war and is now in the ownership of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust (MMT). The MMT are currently trying to raise funds, through things like the national lottery fund, to restore the building as it is of surprising historical interest; it turns out it's the earliest example of Neoclassical architecture in Western Europe. In order to increase the chances of funding, local interest and support is vital and we're hoping that if the funds can be raised then the church at Elmore could and would become of even more significant interest. That would be great for the church but also for Elmore in terms of its heritage and status within Gloucestershire. So the more people that get behind it the better and if you're keen to show your support or interest it's really easy. Please contact the PCC secretary Jill Hurren on [jhurren@googlemail.com](mailto:jhurren@googlemail.com) and perhaps also the MMT project manager, Paul Butler, on [paul.butler60@outlook.com](mailto:paul.butler60@outlook.com). It could be very exciting.

Anselm Guise, January 2019

## **Community Wellbeing Service & PPG**

The Community Wellbeing Service is a free and confidential service for anyone over the age of 16. It can connect you to local services and groups that can help improve your general wellbeing and meet your wider social needs. It can guide and support on issues such as:

Mental health and wellbeing

Long term health conditions

General health and fitness

Loneliness

Housing and environment

Debt and finance

What have you got to lose? Find out more by calling 0345 8638323 or visit **[www.independencetrust.co.uk](http://www.independencetrust.co.uk)**.

### *Sometimes we all need a bit of extra help.*

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services. We want to better understand your needs, priorities and issues, so we can work together to deliver the highest quality of health care locally.

WE WELCOME YOUR VIEWS - Please give us any feedback or suggestions for improvement - email [myppg@framptononsevern.com](mailto:myppg@framptononsevern.com) or call 741988.

## **Walking for Health**

Future walks will take place on

**Wednesday** 13th March, **Thursday** 18th April, May date TBA.

For more information, please call Nick on 01452 740265 or Keith on 07811 123700 or alternatively email Nick on

[nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk) or Keith on [kparry61@icloud.com](mailto:kparry61@icloud.com).

Nick Peters & Keith Parry (walk leaders)

ps Stats for Walkers: Last year we walked together a total of **138** miles. Since we restarted Walking for Health in Severnside in April 2016 we have completed **356** miles.

## **1st Elmore Guides**

Through the winter term 1st Elmore Guides enjoyed a varied programme consisting of many activities.

The Guides have participated in activities such as attending the Body Shop in Gloucester for a pamper evening, going to Lunar City which is a massive inflatable activity course at GL1 Leisure Centre. We have also enjoyed doing a variety of winter crafts and Christmas activities. In the early weeks after Christmas Guides have introduced the new programme; we have new interest badges that we are working towards and we are looking forward to activities such as our District Thinking Day celebration and Zumba.

We also had four girls complete their BP Award before Christmas, Well Done to Megan, Natalie, Pippa and Hattie. This award is the highest badge a Guide can receive.

## **1st Elmore Senior Section**

Last term 1st Elmore Senior Section went to HobbyCraft in Gloucester for a craft evening, the girls got to decorate their own advent calendar ready for Christmas. For our Christmas party we went to Nando's and to finish the term watched Christmas movies and decorated stockings. This term we are celebrating Chinese New Year and also completing a WAGGGS badge which other Girl Guides around the world work towards.

## **1st Elmore Brownies**

This term the Brownies enjoyed a variety of activities. We celebrated bonfire night by making our very own sparkler pens. We also did some blow art pictures using paint and a straw to create a firework scene.

We also had our annual Christmas party at GL1's Lunar City where we were joined by 1st Elmore Guides. All the girls had a fantastic evening as did the leaders. On our last meeting before Christmas the Brownies enjoyed some Christmas craft - making Christmas cards.

Since returning in January we have introduced the Brownies to the new programme where as a group we chose our new theme 'know myself'. They have also chosen to work individually towards an interest badge of either collecting or local history.

We have just enjoyed a challenge evening where the girls had some fun playing a variety of games which included sucking up marshmallows

through a straw. Over the next few weeks we will be doing some baking, celebrating St David's Day and making something special for Mothers' Day.

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

## **Tenants of Barhouse Farm**

In a previous issue of **The Bridge** (number 18) we published an article researched by John Field about Henry Knight who is buried in Elmore Churchyard. Further information about Henry's daughter Isabella Annie Knight who married John Reginald Stone, at one time the tenant of Barhouse Farm, Elmore, has come to light. We are grateful for this extra information provided by Graham Littleton of Bridgemacote Farm. John and Isabella Stone family left Barhouse Farm in 1923 and went to live in Indian Bungalow, Hempstead. George and Emily Steel then took on the tenancy of Barhouse where they remained until 1955 when they retired to live in Harwicke. George and Emily had three daughters, Mary (now deceased), Dorothy (now in her 90s) and living in King's Stanley and Barbara who lives in Lydney. Graham and Anne Littleton went to Barbara's 90th birthday last September.

When the Steel's left Barhouse, the Prout family took up the tenancy and remained there until it passed to the Hobbs family in 1970.

## **Cycling for Exercise?**

I used to cycle a lot but don't any more. I would like to start cycling again for exercise and feel that I might stick at it a bit more if I could cycle with others. I'm not thinking yellow lycra, just a gentle ride around the lanes now and then. If there is anyone of the same mind who would like to be part of an informal group of Elmore cyclists (geriatric or otherwise), please get in touch. Phone 722034 or email [rosecottage1818@gmail.com](mailto:rosecottage1818@gmail.com)

Trevor Jones

<b>Elmore PC</b>			
Chair	John Field	720357	fernhay@btinternet.com
Vice Chair	Nick Meek	750769	nick@archies.me.uk
	Trevor Jones	722034	rosecottage1818@gmail.com
	Paula Turner	729903	paula@mtfx.com
	Jane Hill	728722	enajekim@live.co.uk
Clerk	Dorie Jones	722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com
Village Hall			
Chair	John Hardisty	721798	pikelett@hotmail.com
Enquiries & bookings	John Hardisty	ditto	ditto
<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	Catherine Hartell	722444	catherine.hartell@gmail.com
Brownies	Jenny Hartell	722444	jharte1276@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Caroline Meek	720383	
Toddlers	Samantha Pitt		
<b>Other Useful Contacts</b>			
Police - non emergency		101	
Member of Parliament, Dr David Drew		02072194106	david.drew.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor, Stephen Davies		07802595307	stephen.davies2@gloucestershire.gov.uk
District Councillor, Gill Oxley			cllr.gilloxley@stroud.gov.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
Neighbourhood Police Officer			
PC Kevin Lee		101	kevin.lee@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

# **Rotary Club Severn Bore Family Breakfast**

## **Saturday 23rd March 2019**

At Hill Farm, Longney, GL2 3SW (follow signs from “The Pilot” & A38)

Bacon & Sausage rolls, Tea & Coffee, etc available from 8:45am

4\*Bore at 9:32am +/- 20 mins

Free roadside parking & entry

Supporting Rotary Charities

Come and join us and see where river scenes from TV’s Wolf Hall were filmed

Registered Charity Number 1100046

For more information see our Facebook page @SevernValeRotary or Website [www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php? ClubID =1880](http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php? ClubID =1880)

## **FINALLY**

See the back page for details of the Village Hall Spring Lunch

# **SPRING LUNCH**

**(In aid of Hall funds)**

**ELMORE VILLAGE  
HALL**

**SUNDAY 28th APRIL**

**BAR      RAFFLE**

**TICKETS £20**

**(Ann Littleton 720206)**