

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
August 2022, Issue Thirty-One



From the Editor

This year has given us a lot to think about so far. We are all appalled and sickened by the war in Ukraine and the fact that in the 21st century in a supposedly advanced part of the world such an atrocious violation of human rights, life and property is happening. I have always been amazed that there can be people like Hitler, Putin and their followers as members of the same species as those who contribute so much to the good and glory of the human race; artists, musicians, actors, scientists, doctors, nurses, carers as well as all ordinary decent people.

I have enjoyed watching a recent TV programme about the making and deployment of the James Webb Space Telescope, an amazingly complex and risky operation and testimony to the skill and ingenuity of men and women. Like me you have probably seen the first images it has sent back; pictures of the deepest and most distant parts of the universe we have ever been able to see. I was fascinated that these galaxies are so far away and moving away from us so fast that the wave length of their light has been stretched beyond the zone of visible light into the infra red part of the spectrum, so James Webb has to 'see' in dark.

Despite the vastness of the universe and the huge number galaxies each containing many hundreds of millions of stars we have yet to find evidence of any life elsewhere, let alone intelligent life. This makes our Earth even more precious. We have to look after it. The recent extreme examples of the effects of global warming show that we are not looking after our only possible home. The effects this might have on our food and water supplies are frightening even without Putin and his bandits currently making it difficult for Ukraine's grain to leave the country and feed other parts of the world. The seemingly vain efforts of the West to do without Russian oil and gas highlight the need to switch to renewable sources of energy as soon as we can.

Letters to the Editor

Sir

I am grateful to Colin Ellis for his letter in the last issue of **The Bridge** enquiring about the repairs that are needed at Elmore church. The PCC has asked me to reply.

For background, the Church of England requires the PCC to arrange and pay for an architect's survey and inspection every 5 years. The survey details the condition of the building internally and externally, the electrical and heating systems, monuments and graves. It identifies the repairs, replacements or improvements necessary to keep the building sound. Our most recent report was completed in 2021, and suggests 14 areas of work that will need attention, 8 of these within 24 months.

If funding was not an issue it would be simple to arrange for all the work to be done immediately but that is not possible. The PCC has decided to address the maintenance that could affect the integrity of the building, namely repairs to the roof, gutters and downpipes. At this point we hope to be able to fund these from our reserves. However, only closer inspection will reveal the extent of work needed and if this is more extensive we may need to fund-raise.

At the same time we are planning to deal with the other significant repairs which we want to address within the next 4 years, for example repairs to the north and south porches, lead work, making good areas of failed render on the outside walls and repairing stonework on the roof.

If you would like to know more about what is needed and our plans for the work Nick Stewart and Michael Watts would be pleased to chat further. We will keep you posted on progress.

Finally, the PCC is especially grateful for the continuing support of the village for the church and at our fund raising events such as the Harvest Supper and Christmas Lunch as we manage this Grade 1 listed building for everyone locally - and the country.

Yours sincerely

Rev Richard Martin

From the Parish Council

Firstly, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the Village Grand Picnic in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was great to see so many people from the village all in one place, having a lovely

time on a beautiful sunny day. Thank you, all the people that helped in organising/holding the event, financially supporting the event and attending it.

We are making progress with the investigation/planning aspects of three specific projects which I have mentioned previously. These are the:

Planting of a tree for the Queens Jubilee

Installation of a Council approved litter bin in each of the two main laybys

Installation of new Village Entry/Gateway Signs at the three road entries to the village

If you think the Parish Council can assist you in any village related issue, then get in touch via the details on the back page, or come along to one of the meetings, dates published on the Elmore Parish Council website and posted on the village noticeboards.

Nick Meek (chair)

Elmore WI

Our first Coffee Morning in 3 years was held at the end of May. Over £600 was raised for our funds. Thanks to everyone who supported us.

Our June meeting was a very enjoyable old fashioned games evening followed by a large selection of delicious desserts.

In July 14 of us went to Javelin Park waste incinerator. Our tour began in the visitor's centre on the top floor of the building with a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside all the way to the Malvern hills.

Over tea and biscuits, our guide showed a short film showing the history of the site when it was Moreton Valence airfield from which the Gloucester made Javelin and Meteor aircraft were flown. We saw plans and photographs from the inception to the completion of the building.

After donning the pre-requisite hard hat, hi-vis vest, glasses and gloves we were then taken on an all-areas tour of the facility. On our return to the visitor centre, we were given pens and pencils and a shopping bag made of recycled cotton. Yes, it's an eyesore in our beautiful countryside but it is well worth a visit.

Our August meeting will be a skittle match with supper at the Anchor.

September 13th our talk will be Wildflowers of the Cotswolds: Remedies, Myths and Legends

October 11th Gloucestershire Action for refugees and asylum seekers

Everything's a Drama

It was great to see the Village Players back in summer action with their series of 3 one act plays in June.

The Return Lady Bracknell by Graham Jones, directed by Sean Jarret, was set in a village hall where an Amdram company were rehearsing for a production of *The Importance of Being Ernest*. A strong cast gave the evening an enjoyable start, especially Rachael Chamberlain playing Rebecca Trent playing Lady Bracknell.

The second play was ***Anger Management*** by Robert Scott, directed by Joanne Fisher and set in a group therapy session. This was perhaps the most humorous of the 3 plays with ironically plenty of shouting and anger on display.

Finally was ***Bloody Actors!*** by Archie Wilson, directed by Paul Tucker and set in a retirement home for former actors. Evidently the stereotypical ego trips of actors do not diminish when they retire.

All in all this was an enjoyable evening for the full house seated in the new and very comfortable chairs on the shiny new floor in Elmore Village Hall.

THJ

The Village Players

Thank you for supporting our Spring Production, “Everything’s a Drama”. It was great to be back on stage and we hope you enjoyed it. As a group, we certainly enjoyed doing something a little different.

It is now that time of year when we start to talk Pantomime!

We will have our first meeting at the Village Hall on July 28th to discuss how we can work together as a group to take the production of our pantomimes forward, sharing the work amongst us. We will then meet most Thursdays from 4th August to read scripts and decide what our production will be this year. Rehearsals will start in early September. If you would like to be part of our merry band we welcome any offers of support, time or skills, no matter how big or small from anyone of any age. We are a small group and new members and/or offers of help are very welcome.

Our objectives are to build the confidence of our younger members, broaden our skills and most of all, to have fun.

Do you have an artistic flair for set design and painting, good woodworking skills or handy with power tools, enjoy costume design and sewing, want to sing, dance and act on stage? Come along on the 28 July or the 4th Aug, 7.30pm at Elmore Village Hall or contact us at villageplayers@outlook.com

Rachael Chamberlayne, Chair, Village Players

1st Elmore Guides:

For the second part of the term 1st Elmore Guides started to work on the Be Well Theme where we tried Tai Chi and creating puzzling tangrams. We also went on a chip shop hike along the Gloucester and Sharpness canal, starting at The Pilot and finishing at Simpsons Fish and Chips for a well earned portion of chips. The Guides played tennis during the Wimbledon fortnight and we enjoyed traditional strawberries after our game. To finish our term we went fishing with 1st Elmore Rangers at Gardner's Pool, Saul for a competition in our Patrols, this year the Penguin Patrol won with a weight of 11lb 15oz of fish.

We enjoyed going on our unit camp in July to our county headquarters at Deer Park, Cowley. We had a Pirate theme camp where we had a go at pistol shooting and grass sledging, over the camp we joined with a Rainbow and Brownies unit also staying there to have a joint campfire where we sang songs. We all completed our Camp Skills Builder badge and had a great weekend camping!

If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Elmore Guides or 1st Elmore Rangers please contact Catherine and Louise at 1stelmore@gmail.com

1st Elmore Rangers

For the second part of the term 1st Elmore Rangers started to work on the Skills for my future Theme where we tried outdoor cooking where we made damper snakes, both savoury and sweet. The Rangers have done various skills building such as becoming leaders, myth busting credit and debit information, and prioritisation of tasks. To finish our term we went fishing with 1st Elmore Guides at Gardner's Pool, Saul for a competition. It was a lovely summer's evening where the Rangers

caught an impressive amount of fish. We got to hook and unhook the fish along with putting the live maggots on the line. We have a lot of exciting things coming up in the next term!

1st Elmore Brownies

1st Elmore Brownies have had a great summer term working on their Have Adventures Theme Award. We have also been on Brownie Residential Holiday to our County Headquarters, Deer Park Cowley on the weekend on 8th - 10th July. We had a Brownie Bake Off Theme and the Brownies made a selection of cakes and biscuits and we had many 'star bakers'. We also took advantage of two activities they had on offer at Deer Park, Bushcraft where we were shown which nettle leaves to pick to make nettle tea, how to start a fire without a match and baked flatbread on sticks over an open fire. We did have the chance to taste the nettle tea, which had a very mixed reception! We are looking forward to the Autumn Term and already have some Community Fundraising Activities planned.

Should your daughter wish to join 1st Elmore Brownies please either contact Jenny Hartell on 1stelmorebrownies@gmail.com or register on the Girlguiding website at www.go.girlguiding.org.uk.

News from St John the Baptist Elmore

Our Harvest Festival service will be at 9.30am on Sunday 2 October. The Harvest Supper is the following Saturday, 8 October, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

The Church remains open for public worship, 9.30am Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays each month (with choir), 4pm Evensong 2nd and 4th Sundays (no service on a 5th Sunday). Do come and worship Almighty God with us. Covid restrictions are no longer in place but we are trying to take care of each other.

We are booking baptisms, and many weddings are already arranged for the rest of 2022, 2023 and now into 2024. These involve much assistance from a small team of volunteers, to whom I am much indebted

A big thank you to all who help look after the Church building, provide flowers, and mow the Churchyard.

Do be in touch if I can help you in any way. God bless you.

Rev Richard Martin 01452 720015, vicar@hardwicke-elmor-longney.church

For the latest news please visit our website [Elmore: St John the Baptist - A Church Near You](#)

Book recommendation: “Tsotsi” by Athol Fugard.

Fugard is a leading South African playwright and he began writing his only novel, ‘Tsotsi’, in 1960 on board a ship from Southampton, bound for Johannesburg. He did not like the result and the manuscript lay hidden until rediscovered in the late 1970s. When Fugard re-read it he decided it should be published after all, and it was, to acclaim, in 1980.

It is the story of a hardened, unfeeling youth living a life of lawlessness and violence in a township, but whose empathy, memory and sense of responsibility are gradually awakened after he is handed a tiny baby in a shoe box. The child awakens his need to care for another, and enables his suppressed memories to surface and be voiced. He finds friendship, faith and meaning, leading to a dramatic, unexpected end.

The message is one of hope – how the meanest person can change, and how vulnerability in another can invoke feelings of compassion instead of contempt. From a Christian point of view it is a parable of the effect of the Christmas story, but even without that layer of interpretation it’s

a short book (200 pages) packed with wisdom and optimism. I

borrowed my copy from Quedgeley library, but if you want to buy it the ISBN is 978-1-78689-615-5. Highly recommended! Richard

Keeping Chickens

Recently, I’ve found it incredibly rewarding to raise and keep chickens. I received them a few years ago from a friend as chicks, and it’s been a pleasure to have seen them grow and start producing eggs. With food prices rising, they may prove to be useful in providing food for you too. Depending on the breed, chickens can produce up to one egg a day. I have three bantams, which are an old-fashioned breed, so produce smaller eggs, and are slightly less regular in production.

Chickens mainly need just two things: food and water. As I write this, the weather is gloriously warm, and their water needs to be topped up daily. I have found that the best food to use is Fancy Feed's Layers' Pellets. Corn can be used to improve the happiness of the chickens, and thereby the quality of the eggs produced. I have found that Copdock Mill Corn is very effective. Feeding them a few handfuls in the afternoon is greatly useful. Chickens can also be fed kitchen scraps, such as outer leaves of lettuce, or windfall apples. Ensure, however, that you do not feed them citrus or potato, as these are poisonous to chickens.

Eggs should be collected every morning, to save chickens becoming broody and sitting on the eggs. Chicken eggs can be used in a variety of recipes. I particularly like creating sponge cakes and Spanish omelettes. A good recipe for the omelette is attached below!

I hope that this piece has taught you something about poultry keeping!

For the Spanish Omelette you will need:

New potatoes, onions, olive oil, eggs, parsley, salt and pepper

STEP 1

Scrape the new potatoes or leave the skins on, if you prefer. Cut them into thick slices. Chop the onion.

STEP 2

Heat the extra-virgin olive oil in a large frying pan, add the potatoes and onion and stew gently, partially covered, for 30 mins, stirring occasionally until the potatoes are softened. Strain the potatoes and onion through a colander into a large bowl (set the strained oil aside).

STEP 3

Beat the eggs separately, then stir into the potatoes with the parsley and plenty of salt and pepper. Heat a little of the strained oil in a smaller pan.

STEP 4

Tip everything into the smaller pan and cook on a moderate heat, using a spatula to shape the omelette into a cushion.

STEP 5

When almost set, invert on a plate and slide back into the pan and cook a few more minutes.

STEP 6

Invert twice more, cooking the omelette briefly each time and pressing the edges to keep the cushion shape. Slide on to a plate and cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Samuel Turner

Why Do We Say That ?

“Sleep tight and mind the bugs don’t bite”

In medieval Times beds did not have springs or even a firm base. Instead there was a latticework of rope which supported the straw filled mattress (or palliasse). Each rope went through a hole in the bed frame and was windlassed tight on the outside of the frame to make the base firm - hence ‘sleep tight’.

The beds in rich houses tended to be four-poster beds and over the top there would have been a cloth canopy which prevented the bugs from dropping out of the straw thatch roof onto the bed and sleeping occupants - hence ‘mind the bugs don’t bite’.

“To Take Pot luck”

Over the open fire in the main room of medieval houses there was always a large cooking pot suspended from a chain about the fire. Into this pot went the food of the day - potatoes, vegetables and maybe a chicken chopped into pieces. When it came to serve the meal a ladle scooped out each serving. Sometimes you may have been lucky and got a piece of chicken from the bottom of the pot or just a potato, hence the origin of the saying to take pot luck’.

“To give someone the cold shoulder”

Again, this stems from medieval times when cured pork (i.e. shoulder of ham) was hung from the ceiling beams on hooks to prevent the rats eating it. If an important guest arrived at the door and was offered a meal, they would probably be given a hot meal from the pot hanging on the stove. Less important guests were given a piece of bread and a slice of cold ham or ‘cold shoulder’. Nowadays this expression means being intentionally ignored.

John Field

Red Sky at Night

Most people have heard the old saying:

Red sky at night, shepherds' delight. Red sky in the morning shepherds' warning.

I have often wondered where this saying came from and how old it is. I was recently reading through Shakespeare's King Richard III prior to seeing a production on stage and came across these lines spoken by the Earl of Richmond, later King Henry VII, on the eve of the Battle of Bosworth in Act V scene 3

*The weary sun hath made a golden set
And by the bright tract of his fiery car
Gives token to a goodly day tomorrow.*

So Shakespeare was obviously familiar with the idea that a *golden set* was likely to lead to a *goodly day*.

Some time ago I heard a meteorologist talking on the radio about this old saying. Apparently it makes some meteorological sense. Most of our bad weather comes from the Atlantic Ocean out to the West, so if we see a beautiful sunset the clouds are clearing away and good weather is headed our way. A red sky in the morning shows that it's clear to the East and this being Britain some clouds and rain would normally soon be rolling in from the West. During this hot dry summer some *red skies in the morning* would make lots of gardeners, farmers and fire fighters very happy.

Trevor Jones

Village Hall Update

Not much to report. EVH is currently in 'Summer recess' for most user groups, so we are looking forward to new season at the beginning of September. Future projects and functions for 2023 will be discussed at the next Quarterly Meeting in October. More details in next Bridge.

Val Overton, who has been an active member of EVH Committee for over 30 years has decided to retire. Many thanks and best wishes to Val, from all the Committee, for her consistent hard work in ensuring EVH is still active and moving forward in the 21st Century!

John (Hardisty), Chair

Bookings and enquiries.....

01452 721798 or pikelett@hotmail.com

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

The PPG is a group of people who are patients of the Frampton-on-Severn Surgery and who continue to support our surgery and ensure that the voices of both patients and carers are heard. We meet with the surgery once every 3 months and this provides a valuable interchange of thoughts and ideas.

Please contact us if you have any suggestions as to how your experience with the surgery might be improved. We are always looking for volunteers to join us.:

Alison Roberts is the Chair.of PPG

Tel. 01452 741988 or natjas@hotmail.co.uk

The Elmore representative is Jill Hurran,

Tel 01452 720539 or jhurran@googlemail.com

Please do not hesitate to contact Alison or Jill if you have anything that you would like us to bring forward at our PPG meetings.

Elmore Parish Council Contacts			
Chair	Nick Meek	07739654921	nickcmeek@googlemail.com
Vice Chair	Mike Hodge	07446842931	hodgemike7@gmail.com
	Jane Hill	07747767986	enajekim@live.co.uk
	Vince Meredith	07951199313	Meredith2fn@btinternet.com
	Matt Brandon	07894070511	matt_brandon@hotmail.com
Clerk	Dorie Jones	01452 722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com

**Dates of Parish Council Meetings 2022 All in the Village Hall
starting 7pm**

Tuesday 20th September 2022

Monday 5th December 2022

Copy Dates for The Bridge 2022

Friday 14th October

Please send any copy to the editor on or before the above dates.

Handwritten copy should be sent to Rose Cottage, Elmore, GL2 3NS
and electronic copy to rosecottage1818@gmail.com.