

The Bridge

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From the Editor

It's perhaps not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year, though the prospects for 2023 do not look good with the ongoing war in Ukraine, trouble brewing between Serbia and Kosovo and the consequent cost of living crisis here and abroad. So let's keep our fingers crossed for 2023. That's probably all we can do.

In issue 32 Colin Ellis expressed the hope that something would be organised in Elmore to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6th 2023, At the time of writing there are signs that something is afoot but as the next issue of this magazine is due after the Coronation you will have to find out the details by some other means. Sadly we lost two prominent members of our village before the Christmas holidays: Jamie Guise and Brenda Lovell, both at the age of 92 Transcripts of the eulogies from their funerals will be found below..

This issue of **The Bridge** is the biggest ever with 24 pages, the previous biggest having 20 pages.whilst the very first edition in 2014 only had 8 We are fortunate that the Parish Council continues to fund the magazine and I would like to thank all who contribute.

From the Parish Council

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a **Happy New Year**. We had our last Council meeting of 2022 on Monday 5th December, where we covered all our normal business area agenda items. I will bring you up to date with some of the projects we are currently working on:

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – You may well have already seen that the tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee has been planted at the turning off to Elmore Back, next to Church Farm at Farleys End. The crab apple (*Malus trilobata*) tree was planted by a group of

volunteers on the morning of Saturday 10th December. This was a bitterly cold morning, so thank you all for your support in choosing and planting the tree.



Village Gateway Signs – I am pleased to be able to tell you that we received funding from the Build Back Better scheme, following support from our County Councillor, Stephen Davies. The signs were ordered before Xmas, have now been delivered and I had a site meeting with the local Highways manager on 12th Jan to agree the final locations and installation. You'll see that they will provide a more visible indication that you are entering a village, hopefully making all road users (motorists, cyclists, horse riders and walkers) think about the potential hazards they might meet in the road. This may lead to everyone slowing down a bit and having a bit more time to pass carefully, with the added benefit of fewer vehicles driving along the verges and bringing mud onto the roads.

One last thing that I would like to bring to your attention is that the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is redrawing constituency

boundaries in order to rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP. A new revised map of constituency proposals, which takes into account feedback sent in by the public on the initial proposals, has been published on the consultation website www.bcereviews.org.uk. The latest proposed 2023 changes see the whole of Hardwicke Ward, including Elmore, Longney, Saul & Epney being moved from Stroud to North Cotswold constituency. The boundary changes only relate to parliamentary constituencies. Services and council tax in our area are set by our local authority (Stroud) and this review does not change local authority boundaries.

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 (it would be good to see a few more faces), The meeting dates are also on the back page, published on the Elmore Parish Council website and posted on the village noticeboards
Cllr Nick Meek (Chair)

Sir Christopher James Guise 1930 – 2022

Extracts from his funeral address

I'm Anselm and I've known Dad all my life. He was my father. To most people he was known as Jamie. You will see that he dived with death quite a few times but his love of life, his family, his friends, and the things that he enjoyed so much, meant that he always pulled through.

He had a terrible car accident and had to be helicoptered from the scene. Later in life he had to have a triple heart bypass. During another health scare I rushed back from Cornwall thinking that I wasn't going to be able to see him again. I found him in hospital determined to smoke a cigar! Earlier this year he had a fall and after 10 awful days in hospital came home. The doctors said he really didn't have much time left. He proved everyone wrong and recovered. Until now.

The Saturday before he passed away, he had dinner at a fish restaurant where he celebrated his 53rd wedding anniversary with Mum. Something he ate didn't agree with him and the next day he said that perhaps he had had enough of not feeling well and strong and that

perhaps his time had come. What he said, to be precise, was 'I think I'm ready now. Is there any Bollinger in the fridge?!'

He peacefully drifted off from us almost exactly 3 weeks ago

Jamie was born on the 10th of July 1930 in London and was the youngest of three. Philippa and John were his older siblings. He was raised here in Elmore, brought up the Court. I have found plenty of signs of that upbringing. There is an hilarious box of belongings owned by a Frauline Weiss, their German governess, who was fired without any time to pack after she got the children to wave swastikas at a passing German plane flying over the house a few years before the war. Then there are the sweetest little buckled shoes we found in the nursery that they had to wear when they were sent for each day, either at teatime or supper to be with their father; And then there were the prunes. Dad hated prunes. Those kids were fed prunes a lot, so it was quite amusing to discover a hidden cache of dried prune stones under the carpet in the dining room when we changed it a few years ago.

During the war, Dad and his siblings were sent to Nairn in Scotland, their mother's home. He had a great time up there - lots of fishing and playing in the highlands and I know that he developed a great love of Scotland then.

In the early 50s he headed off to Southern Africa. At the start, it must've been pretty gruelling as he found himself down a copper mine in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) overseeing a massive stone crushing machine. I'm not sure how much fun it would've been. So I guess it was a relief to be promoted to Paymaster, which meant he had to drive regularly from Lusaka or Salisbury to the mine with a very large box of cash to pay all the miners. It was pretty dicey.

Whilst in Africa he had many adventures of the hunting, shooting, fishing kind including being charged by a bull buffalo and catching a very large black marlin which took three hours to land. Once he left his shooting party for a pee, got lost in the bush and had to spend an uncomfortable night sleeping rough with big cats and hoards of biting insects around, before eventually finding his way home.

Dad's professional life was colourful. He worked for a bank, called Cannon Street, that went bust in the late 70s. He set up an investment fund with an MP called Peter Emery, at some point he had some dealings with Robert Maxwell and worked with some fairly unsavoury characters from the Middle East! He worked for the Japanese airline, ANA, and became friends with President Mangopi of Bophuthatswana (now part of S Africa) and he was somehow involved in the creation of the gambling mecca of South Africa that is Sun City. He started an ice company called 'Just Ice' which was a huge success providing ice cubes for all our gin and tonics.

Outside his professional life, he loved his garden so much, and some of us will have been lucky enough eat his delicious veg. And then there was the shooting here at Elmore. He adored it, and I am sure many of you will have shot here and enjoyed the long boozy lunches, sloe gin swigging and that vodka that had a dash of beef consomme. But I think where he found his greatest solace was in fly fishing, particularly salmon fishing. Every year for 40 years or thereabouts, he went to fish the Blackwater in Ireland. Dad caught his last salmon there last year when he was 91. He also had one of his close shaves when he went a little bit too deep, his waders filled with water, he lost his balance and got washed away. It is amazing that he survived that one too, as he was no spring chicken.

So he was an adventurer and an explorer and a complete and total enjoyer of life. He had a kind and big heart and the many, many messages of love Mum and the rest of us have received show how loved he was. So many talk of his kind attentive charm and that he always had that twinkle in his eyes. He was a true gentleman. Last of all he loved his family. He was a wonderful father and adoring grandfather. He also loved Elmore and moved back here in 2007.

So, Dad, I guess this is bon voyage. You are now reunited with your brother and sister and so many of your friends. I feel that you are here and everywhere and all around us, puffing away on a large celestial Cuban cigar, twinkling away in the heavens.

Brenda Elizabeth Lovell 1930 - 2022

Brenda was Born to Wilfred and Kate Webb on the 3 April 1930. One of four girls; with her sisters Dorothy, Audrey and Melinda. She grew up in Longney and attended Longney school. She left school at age fourteen and started work as a secretary at an insurance broker before moving on to a job at the ministry of food and later a job in the welfare office at National Insurance. She relied on a bicycle as her only form of transport and would proudly recall, that for a time she cycled daily to Gloucester.

Her early social life relied heavily on her bicycle as well - she would cycle around the villages attending church and dances. It was through the church and dancing that she met her husband Henry whom she married in 1957 at Longney church, hosting their wedding breakfast at the school opposite. She took great delight in still being able to produce detailed records of the frugal affair, in her own words 'she didn't want much'.

Once married, Henry and Brenda moved temporarily to the top flat of Quedgeley House. It was during their time in Quedgeley that they had their 2 children. First Graham in 1960 followed by June in 1964. In 1974, a mere seventeen years after her '*temporary*' move to Quedgeley House she moved to Severn Bank Farm. Severn Bank farm was home, but it was also the site of the Lovell brothers contracting business. Brenda gave up her role at the National Insurance to help Henry and his brother Arthur in the family business. It was here that she learnt to drive so that she could perform a role relaying phone calls received at the farmhouse to nearby fields. Graham Littleton recalled fondly in a recent letter that it was for this that she was known as the mobile phone of her day! Severn Bank Farm was her home until the untimely death of Henry in 1995, at which point she moved a stone's throw away to Severnside Cottage.

She was always a huge part of the village community. Church was an important part of her life - as well as a being a regular church-goer she was a member of Longney church choir and bell ringing team. She often took Graham and June to church with her, though on occasion she said she had to leave June outside because she was so noisy.

She was a member of the Mothers' Union for fifty years, of those fifty she was secretary and treasurer for thirty five years. She was a member

of the WI for sixty years and on the village hall committee for thirty-nine years and on top of this, she was a member of Elmore Church PCC for many years too. It is fair to say that she was a very committed woman. Or as her son Graham eloquently put it 'Once you gave her a job she wouldn't let go of it'.

She held a lot of formal roles within the village but informally she was a great friend and company to many. She would visit locals in their hour of need and offered lifts. In this regard she was entirely dependable and took great pride in being timely. Indeed, she would often arrive early but would wait around the corner out of sight before turning up exactly at the agreed time. She would always offer help but did hate asking for help for herself. However, on occasions when she did accept a lift she would be at the door or at the end of the drive fifteen minutes in advance of the agreed time. It is easy to see why she will be remembered as such a kind and thoughtful woman by so many locally.

Perhaps it was because she had so many roles in the village that she rarely left it. One exception was her only plane journey undertaken to Guernsey in order to visit her daughter June.

[1]
[SEP] Brenda was a caring mother and she extended this care to her four grandchildren. Daniel, William, Emma and Jacob. She was a devoted grandmother loving nothing more than helping to look after them. She would often babysit Daniel and William; they both remember warmly her preparing meals for them, always fried in lashings of butter - a real favourite. She would take them both to church and to local whist drives. Despite Emma and Jacob being an hour away in Paxford she would drive there to be on hand at the drop of a hat. She loved to look after them and enjoyed taking them on days out, such as boat trips on the Severn at Tewksbury or to Cattle Country. They both remember fondly how the sweet jar would always be filled especially for them when they visited her house, she knew all of their favourites. As they grew older, she continued to take a keen interest in everything her grandchildren got up to. Very recently she became a great grandmother to baby Henry. Daniel was delighted that she met him before her passing.

Her social calendar remained busy right into her late eighties, rarely missing an engagement in the villages. A feat only possible for two reasons. Firstly, her fastidiously kept diary. If you needed the date of a wedding, funeral, christening, birthday or even the weather for a particular day in the past fifty years she could tell you. She really could tell you if it had been windy on any given Thursday going back fifty years. Secondly that she continued driving until she was 89. a fact that will not have gone unnoticed by those locally who would often have to dive for the hedges as she occupied the middle of the road. The village has lost a devoted member of its community, someone who will be dearly missed.

St John the Baptist (C of E) Church, Elmore

Happy New Year!

A big thank you to all who supported our Harvest Supper. Over £1600 was raised for the Church.

Thank you too to all who attended our Christmas services. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was as usual led gloriously by our choir. As most of you will know our Liddiatt pipe organ has been declared beyond repair. We were granted permission to temporarily use a high-quality electric one (kindly loaned to us by Jed Hughes) until the PCC can decide on a permanent solution.

This winter will be hard for many families. We can't offer to help pay the bills. However we are setting up a store of sleeping bags and duvets for people to snuggle up in on those days and evenings when they are at home without the heating on. If you have any spare ones, please contact me and I will collect. The store will be here at Church House – if you or someone you know would benefit from a sleeping bag or duvet, please phone me and you can collect or I will deliver. ***At the time of writing I have distributed my entire stock of these to needy local families, so if you do have any spare duvets or sleeping bags, please let me know.***

The church is open for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month, at 9.30am, and on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 4pm. Also we are available and always pleased to work with you to accommodate

baptisms, weddings and funerals – we have over 20 weddings booked for 2023.

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

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

PS A date for your diary: Easter Day is on Sunday 9 April and the choir will be leading our worship at our service at Longney at 9.30am. There may be Easter eggs!

Sunday 12 February, 4pm at Elmore Church. "A Celebration of Love"
- a short, accessible service with special songs, prayers and readings.
All warmly invited - refreshments served afterwards.

Frampton Surgery News

As most of you are probably aware, the Frampton Surgery has faced several challenges since lockdown. As in many parts of the country, the restrictions imposed by Covid have been compounded by staff shortages and people in Frampton have rightly been concerned over the impact on services that the Surgery is able to provide. In particular, there has been concern expressed over the lead times for calls or face-to-face appointments with clinical practitioners. We have been in contact with the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to express our concerns.

The CCG has been working to address concerns across Gloucestershire and in particular has been aware of the staffing issues affecting the Frampton Surgery. Rumours have been rife but hopefully you will now be aware – either from the Surgery or via the meeting set up by the Parish Council - that the Frampton Surgery will be taken over by the Culverhay Practice which is based in Wotton-under-Edge. The Culverhay Practice has been successful in improving the services offered by the Berkeley Surgery. We've met with the management of the Culverhay Practice and are very optimistic that the change will address the concerns we have all had.

The Surgery will be publishing details of the changes but to address two major questions:

- The change will happen formally in the new year, although Culverhay is working closely with the Frampton Surgery already; and^[SEP]
- The Frampton Surgery will **not** be closing, with changes in train to ensure that all staff serving the Frampton area are based in Frampton

Given the pressures on the NHS and particularly the shortages of both clinical resources and support staff in the UK, it is inevitable that the changes will take a while to bed in. The PPG will continue to work with the Practice to provide feedback on concerns and to keep you all as informed as we can. We can't raise individual cases, but if you have any more general observations – both positive and negative – then please contact us at myppg@framptononsevern.com.

Elmore WI

We were all very disappointed when the weather caused our Christmas meeting to be cancelled for the third year running.

We have a full programme arranged for 2023. Visitors are always welcome. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, 7.30 in the Village Hall

February 14th : Ghost Stories of Gloucester

April 11th Tricks of the Mind (Magician and storyteller)

May 9th A Trip to Svalbard.

May 20th will also see our annual coffee morning and plant sale.

Pauline Fisher

Snow White

I may be wrong, but I think this is the first Village Players panto written entirely by members of the company, Sean Jarret and Freddie Taylor, and what a great job they did in turning the familiar tale on its head whilst still retaining its essentials, The Seven Dwarfs were reduced to 3 called *Ancient*, *Brainy* and *Clueless* who, nevertheless announced themselves as 'The Seven Dwarfs'. Intrigued by this I tried to investigate with the original dwarves but could only get a telephone appointment with Doc and not for 6 weeks, so I gave up. Refreshingly,

Prince Charming, handsomely played by Sam Kirby, was not the hero, but in a 21st century context could be described as an egotistical stalker roaming the forest in search of young maidens to enchant. All that he lacked were some turkey teeth.

So the familiar old story took on some refreshing twists and the cast of Players certainly rose to the occasion. The joy of panto is the connection with the audience and both Sarah Younger as *The Evil Queen Grunhilda* and Rachael Chamberlayne as *Dame Molly Coddle* engaged with us immediately.

Rachel was very funny especially when things went a little wrong. Off stage she must have spent the whole afternoon (we went to a matinee) getting out of one fabulous outfit into another because she did this seven times (making up for there being only three dwarves?). Sarah made a splendid villain who sneered and ranted and on one occasion poked out her tongue to the barrage of boos and hisses.

The *Magic Mirror* (not on the wall) was coolly played by Jo Fisher. Splendidly costumed in silver from tiara to sparkly boots, this mirror had also moved into the 21st century and could pick up all manner of social media, the more to enrage *Queen Grunhilda*. Unlike real social media, *The Magic Mirror* had developed a conscience and helped to bring about *Grunhilda's* demise. In the end *Grunhilda* was reduced to a portrait in a picture frame bearing a striking resemblance to Craig Revel Horwood at his grumpiest but without the salary.

The hero of our story, *The Huntsman*, excellently played by Shauna Williams, also had a strong voice and an instant connection with the audience. Our 'principal boy' carried not a bow and arrows but an axe (too late we found out his name was *Ivan Axe*) and when commissioned to do away with Snow White fell instantly in love instead. '*Snow*' herself was played by Ruby Evans (a newcomer to the Players?) who certainly looked the part but sadly the story dictated that she was in a coma for a lot of the action having tasted the dodgy apple.

The 'Seven Dwarves' were played by Andy Harden (pub yearner, *Ancient*), Sophie Gibson (*Brainy*) and Freddie Taylor (*Clueless*). They made a great comedy trio who made the most of a 'behind you' scene. The *Evil Queen's* hapless henchmen *Huff and Puff* played by Paula

Kemp and Emma Jarrett also added to the comedy, though I cannot enlarge on this without the relevant form VP22.

A chorus of townsfolk, admirers, evil masterminds etc was provided by Alfie Spinner. Charlotte Hancock, Colin Ellis, Molly Voice, Paul Gennard and Sean Jarret. Two groups of children, the Bramleys or the Pippins completed the cast.

Once again the costumes were of professional standard and a fitting tribute to the late Marion Watts who was for so long i/c the wardrobe. I do think that with costumes of such quality the programme might give a little more detail in credit than 'Village Players costume dept.' The music and lighting were also slick, though there were sadly a few less songs than we are used to. The set builders had once again made the most of a very small and temporary stage.

This was a very enjoyable panto and a fitting successor to the many great Village Players productions of the past. This year the 'Oscar' goes to Sean Jarrett and Freddie Taylor for their new and enjoyable interpretation of a well loved classic. Please let's have more. THJ

Why do Say/Do That?

The V-sign

Notwithstanding Churchill's famous victory sign during WWII, the V-sign has become a common rude gesture in modern times to indicate displeasure to another person but the original meaning has been totally lost!

The strongest and most plausible theory is that the gesture began during the Hundred Years War between England and France (1337-1453) – which included the famous Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

During the war, English archers – the scourge of the French infantry as they caused so many casualties – who were captured by the French had the first two fingers of their right hands cut off to prevent them using a long bow again.

It then became the custom of the English archers, after felling a Frenchman, to raise two fingers aloft in a defiant gesture to the French to indicate that they still had their fingers and *'there's more where that came from'*.

Show a Leg

The rousing cry from the Bosun at dawn aboard HM Ships was traditionally '*Show a Leg*' – this expression originated some time ago when the British Naval fleets were discovering the globe and anchored at far away Pacific islands – in those days some ships permitted women aboard while anchored off these islands. Normally the Bosun would tip the sailors out of their hammocks if they were slow to rouse themselves. However, to respect the blushes of 'ladies' who might also be in a hammock the Bosun cried 'show a leg' – if a hairy leg appeared then the occupant was tipped out but if a nicely shaped hairless leg appeared the Bosun did not tip the hammock up!

I believe another Bosun's cry was 'I've a sharp knife and a clear conscience' meaning if you don't get up quickly I will cut the rope holding up your hammock and you will crash to the deck. (Ed)

Not Enough Room to Swing a Cat

This expression is normally used to describe to a small room or a confined space but why to we use these words? Animal lovers can get offended by it as they have an image of a pet cat being swung around the head of a ruffian - but they shouldn't be offended when the origin of the expression is examined!

On board HM Naval Ships the main form of punishment was flogging using a particular whip called the 'Cat o' Nine Tails'. The punishment had to be administered on deck because the space below decks was too confined and there '*wasn't enough room to swing a cat*'.
John Field

1st Elmore Guides

For the second half of the term we started working on our Conscious Consumer badge where we went to the Body Shop in Gloucester for a visit. We found out how the products are made and the ethics behind the company; the Guides also enjoyed trying the products before doing

some Christmas shopping. To complete the badge the Guides had a go at cooking different meals while being a conscious consumer, for example they had to try to cook with all organic food or food that had been grown locally. We had a visit from Robert Limbrick Architects to help us with one of our unit meeting activities. The Guides were challenged to design a school and then pitch their idea to the unit. For our Christmas party we visited Cattle Country with 1st Elmore Brownies and 1st Elmore Rangers.

In December the Guides had an indoor residential at Deer Park, Cowley where we had a Christmas theme. We made our own stockings, decorated baubles and make Christmas biscuits. We also had the surprise of waking up to snow on the Sunday morning, where we enjoyed making snowmen and having snow ball fights.

1st Elmore Rangers

This term 1st Elmore Rangers had a relaxing craft evening where they got to choose the craft they make. We joined with 1st Elmore Brownies and 1st Elmore Guides for our Christmas party to Cattle Country. To end our term, we celebrated Hannukah with 1st Elmore Guides where we made biscuits. We are looking forward to the start of the Winter Term where we will be have a winter campfire and continue to work on our badges.

1st Elmore Brownies

This term has been a busy one for 1st Elmore Brownies as we have been working towards our Take Action Theme Award, including items such as our Zero Waste Badge, Make Change Skills Builder, The Great Chocolate Heist, How to make a Monster and Trash Fashion. We had a campfire including sparklers and s'moors which was enjoyed by all. The Brownies also enjoyed an evening at Dixie Dot Crafts decorating a gingerbread house plate and a joint party at Cattle Country with 1st Elmore Guides and Rangers. To end our term we made Christmas stockings.

Our SDC kerb-side recycling bins & other ways to recycle

Kerb-side recycling confusion

I can't be the only one who's frequently unsure what you can and can't recycle in the kerb-side bins and having looked into it, I realise I've been doing a lot wrong!

If you aren't always sure either, you might be interested to know that Stroud District Council have a 'Waste Wizard' on their website where you can identify what to do with your waste and what can and can't be put out for kerb-side recycling. Enter your postcode and search for an item at www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/waste-wizard

A few of the items that I have been getting wrong include crisp tubes, foil lined paper food bags, old toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes which have to go in the grey bin.

Medicine blister packs also have to go in the grey bin unless you take them to one of Superdrug's pharmacy stores where they have a recycling programme as do Boots for beauty, health and wellness products which have an applicator, pump or are squeezey and therefore can't go out for recycling.

The Waste Wizard list is endless and quite useful – take a look!

If you're interested, SDC have told me that the paper and cardboard collected is sent to Palm Paper in Norfolk where the paper and card is separated and the material is processed and that tins, glass and plastics are taken to a materials sorting facility in Birmingham where they are sorted, separated, and sent on to re-processors where they are recycled. *For those without the grey bin (as in Weir Lane and elsewhere) the equivalent is the green bag. Ed*

Try 'Terracycle – www.terracycle

If you can go a step further by recycling items that SDC can't take, Terracycle have lots of free recycling programmes. There are currently 152 drop-off points in Gloucestershire where lots of different items can be recycled – some in Gloucester (Boots and Tesco) Stroud & Bisley to mention a few.

You can also individually sign up at Terracycle and become a drop-off point for free recycling programmes – everything from foil balloons to KP snack packs, rubber gloves, water filters, contact lens (foil and plastic) packaging or even old pens & pencils!

I have just found someone in Hardwicke who is a sub-hub for a recycling hub in Cheltenham which twice a year “cashes in” its waste with Terracycle for a donation to its nominated charity. It accepts recycling from Gloucester and Cheltenham so I will be looking into how either we can get involved with this or something similar over the next few weeks.

Alternatively, you can get your own “Zero Waste” box or a school/workplace could get one perhaps to recycle crisp packets?

Have a look at the Terracycle website – www.terracycle.com

Supermarket soft plastic Take Back schemes

Then there are the “take back schemes” – there’s one right here at Tesco Quedgeley which I use weekly! In the entrance porch is a metal crate where you can recycle food and pet food pouches, any plastic bags e.g. bread bags, crisp packets & any plastic wrap/film e.g. salad bags & fruit and vegetable packaging.

Now I am using this, our grey bin is now only a quarter full each fortnight compared to being full just a few months ago.

I have also seen that Morrison’s are taking soft plastic for recycling and probably other supermarkets are doing it too.

The price of not washing your recyclables

I am always a bit torn as to whether to rinse items out before recycling. It seems counterproductive to use a precious resource like clean water but if you don’t, you potentially contaminate the recycling.

The effect if you don’t wash one metal tin and put it in your recycling waste varies from case to case but could definitely cause issues for your local recycling centre. If there is a limited amount of food residue then it could be cleaned and sorted by a recycling expert, but if there’s a lot of contamination it costs more to be processed which consequently means it’s sent to landfill or to incinerators to be

disposed of so always check your recycling waste to see if it's free from any leftover food; if it isn't, then a quick rinse will do. And if you're worried about wasting extra water on washing your recycling products then simply rinse them after you've done your washing up or add them in with your existing dishwasher load so you're not using extra water in your everyday routine and your recycling waste is acceptable.

Gloucester "Energy From Waste" facility

This facility manages the residual waste after recycling and tours are available for groups of up to 10 people. If anyone is interested in visiting, let me know and I'll be happy to arrange a visit.

Cllr Jane Hill

Severn Vale Rotary

Our twice monthly breakfasts at The Whitminster Inn continue to be enjoyed and a variety of interesting speakers have been welcomed. At successive breakfasts:

Lloyd Morgans, one of our members, recounted with stunning photographs his walk along Offa's Dyke in aid of The Spring Centre. Lloyd faced monsoon like conditions and a lack of mobile signal in some areas creating navigational difficulties, resulting in an additional 25 miles on top of the planned 178 !

Speakers from Young Gloucestershire spoke passionately about their service to the youth of our county. They support employment, education & training, mentoring, community and therapeutic services in partnership with other local agencies enabling youngsters to make the most of their lives especially between school and employment or further education.

Lorna Pederson from The Canal and River Trust, described a £21m project creating new fish passes to allow upstream migration for spawning. Barriers created in Victorian times had led to an absence of Salmon, Shad, Lampreys and other eels in the upper Severn. A visit to an underwater viewing area at Diglis in Worcester is to be planned. The Cotswold Canal Trust's John Newton outlined the ultimate goal of linking the Rivers Thames and Severn. The current focus is to join

Stroud to the national waterway network at Saul. To do this a new road bridge is planned at Whitminser Lane and various services have to be rerouted. Despite such obstacles, CCT continue to steadily progress the work.

By the time you read this we will have visited The Spring Centre to discuss hands-on projects we can help with; have undertaken a fundraising Quiz & Curry evening and supported a car wash, both in aid of local charity Sunflowers. The proceeds will be added to funds raised by our very successful 'Route 77 Car Run' where occupants of nearly 40 interesting vehicles enjoyed a mystery tour of The Cotswolds and Severn Vale.

Once again we ran our Christmas Carol Float. We have also painted out buildings at Wick Court. We continue to support a number of initiatives for local schools. This year it is hoped that five schools will be engaged in the Youth Speaks competition and we'll also be helping with mock interviews at Severn Vale School. Additionally we have arranged funding for children of both Longney and Lakefield Schools to visit the Bloodhound Project at Berkeley.

Severn Vale Rotary started 2023 with two teams supporting a most worthwhile initiative - this year's Christmas tree collection in aid of Longfield Hospice. A total of over 3000 trees were collected raising funds in support of this much valued local charity - a great way to celebrate the New Year !

For information on events and breakfast meetings, please visit www.severnvalerotary.org.uk or email :keith.rog@hotmail.com

Village Players

We would like to thank our fantastic audiences for supporting the 9 performances of our Pantomime, and also thanks to all those who helped out with costumes, props, front of house and serving interval refreshments. We could not put on any production without this help, for which we are very grateful.

We have had a break to recover from the Panto and Christmas, and will be holding our AGM on Thursday 26th January at 7.30pm at Elmore Village Hall, when we will also be discussing our Spring Production. It is likely that weekly play readings will follow, so if you would like to find out further information, or are interested in joining us for our next production, either on stage or backstage, please contact us by email at villageplayers@outlook.com or you can also keep in touch with everything Village Players on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/VillagePlayersElmore

Jo Fisher

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Happy New Year!

Planned refurbishment and upgrades to the Hall are mostly complete. Currently we are choosing fabric for replacement window curtains. The original curtains have been in place for over 40 years, having been donated by Elmore WI.

Our Christmas Lunch was very well attended, raising £1890 for Hall funds. Thanks to all who generously supported us. A most enjoyable and sociable event. Special thanks to Clare Stewart and her team, also to all involved with providing food, raffle prizes, together with logistic support on the day.

The Committee have agreed to take a break from major fundraising for this year. Elmore Church will be organizing the Christmas lunch in December.

Although not yet directly involved in any preparations for the forthcoming Coronation celebrations, Elmore Village Hall will be available, if required.

Demand for space in our Hall is steadily increasing, consequently, early bookings (or enquiries) are advisable. I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

John (Hardisty), Chair

01452 721798 or pikelett@hotmail.com

Mackerel Galore

In the 1950s our family holidays were always at Pentewan Sands in Cornwall – two weeks in tents, cooking on primus stoves and sleeping on camp beds. The journey to Pentewan from Gloucester would nowadays take about 3 hours but we used to take at least 8, sometimes 10 hours. The family car was a 1933 Austin 10 with a top speed on the flat and with a following wind of no more than 45 mph. When it rained the ‘sunshine roof’ leaked, so on rainy journeys we sat in the back under an umbrella to stay reasonably dry. In those days lorries were restricted to 20mph and there were no motorways, so if you got stuck behind a lorry on twisty A roads it was often impossible to pass (a bit like getting stuck behind an onion tractor and trailer in Norfolk to this day). Exeter bypass was a nightmarish bottle neck in daytime so we began travelling at night. We would get to Bodmin Moor at dawn, passing Jamaica Inn and the wonderfully named peak, Brown Willy. Soon after we would be on St Austell moor with its huge piles of white spoil, from the china clay industry, and deep turquoise lakes. Attitudes to environmental protection were very different in those days. China clay is washed out of the rock using very high pressure hoses and in the 1950s the white waste water travelled down the White River which entered the sea at the east end of Pentewan beach turning the sea a rather strange though attractive light turquoise colour. Instead of sand on the bottom of the sea there was a whitish gloopy clay which was great for throwing at my sister and others who gave as good as they got in return. Not only this, but there was an industrial facility which made concrete blocks by digging away part of the beach, dumping it in a small train and carrying it away. The excavations often filled up with sea water at high tides and made a great ‘swimming pool’ and somewhere to sail model boats. This all sounds terrible doesn’t it, but the western end of the beach was pristine silver sand. Today all this environmental vandalism has stopped and the whole beach has recovered. I remember going across the road with an enamel jug to a farm (which smelled just like Barhouse Farm) to fetch milk, and walking over the cliffs to Mevagissey to fetch bread which was made in a traditional wood fired oven. It was a good 40 minute walk back - ample time to pull great chunks off the still warm crust – delicious.

The highlight of these holidays for me was going fishing out of Mevagissey. We soon learned that the fishermen lined up their boats and slowly progressed to the head of the queue to pick up clients (rather like taxis on a taxi rank). When we first went, the head boat was FY39, 'Ocean's Pride' and the fisherman Jim Blamey, Jim was tall and thin with a prominent adam's apple and a mass of grey hair over bright blue eyes. He wore blue working trousers and a blue canvas smock.. He had a wonderful Cornish accent and a beautiful tenor singing voice – not an operatic tenor but a soft lilting sound. FY39 was a light blue open boat (though in later years it sported a small cuddy up forward). Two lines were run out over the transom and two more from poles rigged out athwartships. The mackerel were plentiful and when caught would be thrown into a wooden box which was silver with dried scales. When a fish was caught Jim put the helm over, hopefully to circle round within the shoal – there were no electronic fish finders in those days. Once we knew Jim, we could always go to him even if he was at the back of the queue (apparently this was ok.) though we once witnessed a fight between fishermen when a boat tried to jump the queue. After several years Jim invited us to go with him for his serious fishing at night (the fishermen only supplemented their income by taking tourists out during the day). We set out in the dark – quite an adventure for me – just Jim and my father and me. We caught a lot of mackerel. As the sun came up I remember all the windows on the coast reflecting back flashes of golden light and Jim singing 'Silver and Gold have I none'.

We took the fish to the fish dock where they were weighed. We had caught 6 stone of fish for which Jim was paid 7/6 (37½p) THJ

Quiz Night

For the benefit of Longney

**School there will be a quiz
night, Saturday February
11th in Elmore Village Hall
GL2 3NT,
7.30pm - 1130pm.
Teams of 4 (max) £10 per
person. Tickets available
at www.thefols.org.uk or
contact Samantha Pitt
07415 092 033.**

Sevenside Singers

Despite bugs and viruses we fulfilled our Christmas commitments around the villages. This summer we will be involved in a community participation event at the 3 Choirs festival in Gloucester Cathedral with workshops in the Spring.

If you enjoy singing come along on at 7.30pm Thursdays in Frampton village hall. No auditions required.

If interested please contact Pam Greenfield on 01452 740126.

Village Hall Extra

On several occasions recently we have noticed that the hall has not been left secure at the end of a hire. Can we remind all users on leaving to double check that everything has been turned off (including taps!), all internal doors shut and the long curtains either end of the hall closed. Please do not attempt to use the bell porch door as the final exit. This - and the one at the stage end - do not close from the outside. They are fire exits only and any attempt to slam them shut will just damage the bolts and leave them insecure. Many thanks.

The Coronation

Currently there is no committee set up to organise a celebration of the King's Coronation on 6th May 2023, but if anyone feels passionately about marking the occasion could they make themselves known to the Parish Council to be put in touch with like minded people.

Elmore Parish Council Contacts

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Dorie Jones Clerk	01452722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023

March 2023	Tuesday 7 th 7pm	
May 2023	Tuesday 16 th 7pm	2 Annual Meetings
September 2023	Tuesday 19 th 7pm	
December 2023	Monday 4 th 7pm	

Copy Dates for The Bridge 2023

Friday May 12th 2023

Friday July 28th 2023

Friday October 13th 2023

Please send copy to the editor on or before the above dates. Regular contributors will be warned of each of the dates 2 to 3 weeks in advance. Handwritten copy should be sent to Rose Cottage, Elmore, GL2 3NS and electronic copy to rosecottage1818@gmail.com