

THE BRIDGE

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
June 2022, Issue Thirty



From the Editor

Publication of this 30th issue of **The Bridge** has been delayed a day or two because I wanted to include a report of the village Platinum Jubilee Picnic on June 2nd.

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I read with great interest the piece in the last issue of The Bridge by our Vicar, Rev Richard Martin. In particular his comment that the Church ‘will also need to effect some expensive urgent repairs identified in our Quinquennial architect’s report.’

There are many of us in the village who support the Church in a variety of ways. I am sure that they, like me, would welcome more information about this urgent work. Details on the nature of the work, the timescale, the costs, the funds available and what, if any, help might be required by our community.

I do hope that the PCC will be willing to share the information and keep us informed on the needs and plans for this historic building via **The Bridge**.

Sincerely,
Colin Ellis

From the Parish Council

Footpaths – John Field is continuing to catalogue the issues we have with the footpath signage and is informing GCC of his findings in terms of its visibility, condition or even existence.

Litter – The placing of temporary litter bins in the two village laybys seems to have been a success, with both areas looking tidier. Based on that, we are now going to look into what bin options we can install, the relative costs and how they would be emptied.

There has been another dumping of a large quantity of black bin bags, but this time in a rhine off Lake Street.

Defibrillator Training – A training session was held at the Village Hall on 12th March on how to give CPR and use a defibrillator.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – We intend to plant a Commemorative Tree and possibly a plaque, within the village to mark this huge achievement. The exact type of tree and location is still to be determined, so please provide any suggestions.

Village Entry Signs – We are looking into the possibility of enhancing the three Elmore road signs that mark the village boundary. This may take the form of a gateway and include addition words to remind everyone to respect the residents and other road users.

The Elmore Annual Parish Meeting was held on 24th May and attended by both our County and District Councillors.

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)

From our County Councillor, Steve Davies

This year the theme of the Gloucestershire County Council budget is 'Build Back Better'. This year's budget will be £519.6 million, an increase of £37m on last year.

This includes an extra £100m for roads, £150m injection into school buildings and further investment in our market towns and high streets. There is a focus on supporting and protecting the most vulnerable in our community, including a £14m additional investment in Children and Young people services.

There is an additional £1m fund to go towards Climate Change in addition to the existing plans for major cycle routes.

The budget also allocates £30k to each Councillor to invest in local highways schemes.

This is funded through a Council Tax increase of 1.99%, securing £10.2m and a 1% Adult Social Care levy generating an additional £3.7m to protect the most vulnerable. Based on a Band D property, this equates to an increase of £3.50 / month. Despite the increased

investment this should still have Gloucestershire as one of the lowest Council Taxes of any County Council.

Ofsted recently upgraded Children's Services from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement' recognising Children in Gloucestershire are safer now.

I have had a lot of questions about what we are doing to support Ukrainian refugees. There are 2 schemes, the first is where people with family connections are offering accommodation, this is beginning to see some refugees arriving in Gloucestershire. The second is the National Scheme where people have volunteered their homes for refugees. In Gloucestershire over 200 people have offered help, this will now be followed with a check on whether the accommodation is suitable and an accelerated DBS check. So far over 500 refugees have been housed in Gloucestershire. Additional money has been provided to fund schools and other services. I have volunteered for this scheme and my family arrived on Wednesday 11th May.

We are now in a phase of Living with Covid and it is not clear how long this will go on. It means that occasionally we see a disruption in services including schools due to staff absences, but generally in Gloucestershire we have seen a good provision of local services throughout the pandemic, although I like others are increasingly concerned about Covid being used as an excuse for delays.

More locally I have been working on the concern over Secondary School places. Although all applicants for Secondary schools from last year got their 1st or 2nd choice, there is an acknowledged concern over Secondary School provision. There is a specific issue for 2023 for which extra capacity is planned. In the longer-term, work is being done on capacity planning and we await the conclusion from this, but my personal belief is that we will need an additional Secondary School and we need to start the process to identify a site and build one. This requires Department for Education support. With Primary Schools there has been an expansion in capacity with a new school in Hunts Grove and one planned in Great Oldbury.

A 'Speedwatch' scheme has been announced which includes funding for VAS and '20 is plenty' signs. I have shared this with the Parish Council.

HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Elmore

Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, celebrating 70 years on the throne, is a unique event in British history. Even in international terms our Queen is currently 3rd (as I write this) behind Louis XIV of France (72 years 110 days from the age of 4) and Rama IX of Thailand (70 years 126 days). By the time this issue of **The Bridge** has been published our Queen will have moved into second position having overtaken Rama IX.

In my memory Royal Jubilees have, much like many Bank Holidays, been blighted by terrible weather. I remember standing watching a sodden wet military band march through the rainy streets of Stonehouse 'celebrating' HM's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Who can forget the gale of wind and rain which greeted the Thames River pageant in 2002 for the Golden Jubilee? But it seems that persistence pays (or maybe it's just the law of averages) because our Platinum Jubilee celebration was blessed much better weather, glorious, in fact, on Thursday 2nd June when Elmore elected to have its main celebration, a Grand Picnic in Leighton's Field next to Elmore Church. It was even dry and sunny the next morning for the clear up, before dull and wet weather set in for the rest of the four day Jubilee holiday.

For the occasion a marquee was erected; a flagpole with the Union Flag and, beneath it, the official Platinum Jubilee flag. As people arrived they were greeted by a life-size cardboard cut-out of a smiling E2R. People brought their own tents, gazebos and barbecues, chairs and tables, converting the field into a happy encampment and much splendid food and drink was enjoyed.

There was an inflatable slide for the children, a popular colouring in table, a giant snakes and ladders set and a 'splat the rat' game. One mum I talked to said her kids had spent 6 hours repeatedly climbing to the top of the slide and sliding or jumping down again over and over again. She was certain they would fall asleep in the car before they got home. There was also a tug 'o' war rope popular with both children and adults. Many enjoyed the splendid ice creams for sale by Wholly Gelato of Barhouse Farm.

A continuous series of images of the people and places in Elmore over the years was put together by Colin Ellis.

Music was provided by the Elmore String Quartet, the Church Choir, who also led the singing of the National Anthem. The Loyal Toast was proposed by Nick Meek, Chair of the Parish Council. The Jazz Friday Big Band then played until dusk and the lighting of the massive beacon. The sight of the soaring flames against the darkening sky and opposite them a glorious sliver of Moon was a magical end to a great Jubilee celebration.

The event was funded by Elmore Parish Council, The Elmore Land Charity and Elmore Village Hall Committee with the help of donations from Elmore Court, Mrs S Round of Elmore Back Farm, Mr and Mrs S James of Hollow Farm and Mr and Mrs M Watts of Elm Farm.

The organising committee is grateful to Mr M Watts for the use of his field as well as for providing the splendid bonfire and Mr Tom Gilding for use of his marquee.

Village Players

We are excited to announce that we are currently rehearsing for our late Spring Production. The Evening is entitled “Everything’s a Drama” and consists of three One Act Plays with a common theme. For those easily offended, a warning; the plays contain a small amount of adult language!!

The dates are 16th, 17th and 18th June. Ticket prices are £10 for Adults and £6.00 for under 16s. Tickets available from Ivor and Nick Phillips on 01452 722245.

There will be a pay bar for pre-show and interval drinks. For the comfort and well-being of our audience we are maintaining the reduced audience size, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the Pantomime and those who came to support us in difficult times. We were very keen to put on a show after the lockdown of 2020, and to have the support of our loyal audience meant a great deal to us. More news on Panto 2022 to follow later in the year.

If anyone is interested in joining us, either on or off stage, please email us on villageplayers@outlook.com

Thanks again for your support,

Jo Fisher, Village Players.

Elmore WI.

We continue to hold well attended meetings with some interesting speakers. When this edition comes out we will have held our first coffee morning and plant sale for three years. As well as being a social occasion it is also our major fundraiser.

June 14th is Members' evening where the committee get a night off!!

July 12th We are visiting Javelin Park Waste Facility for a tour.

August 9th will be a skittles evening.

September 13 Is a talk on Wild flowers of the Cotswolds: Remedies Myths and Legends.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors.

News from St John the Baptist Elmore

Sadly a resurgence of Covid led to the cancellation of the Easter lunch, and we're very sorry for disappointing those who'd booked. We are now planning for the Harvest Supper on Saturday 8 October at the Village Hall. Our Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 2 October (9.30am) – please put both dates in your diary.

We are hoping to hold a service for Plough Sunday (January 8 2023), 4pm, inviting people from all the Severnvalle Churches, as used to happen. If you have a plough we could borrow, that's easy to move, please be in touch....

The Elmore Chamber Music Festival will be held in Church Thursday 4 – Saturday 6 August, with a Choral, Festal Evensong in Church rounding it off on Sunday 7th (4pm). Details of concerts and recitals, and how to buy your tickets, are now at [Elmore Chamber Music Festival | Home](#)

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 2022 and 2023. These involve much assistance from a small team of volunteers, to whom I am much indebted

Work on consolidating the Guise mausoleum, and adjacent trees, has been completed. We need to effect some expensive, urgent repairs identified in our Quinquennial architect's report.

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. I am aware that many people in the rural community are living under intense pressure. God bless you.

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

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

Your Contributions

For some time now I have been appealing to you, the readers of **The Bridge**, to put pen to paper or fingers to keys and let me have the results of your efforts which might entertain your fellow readers. A few people have responded but I'm sure there are more of you with interesting experiences or memories to share. I have decided to contribute myself in the hope that it will encourage others, so here goes.....

The Golden Anchor

In 1955 I was 9 years old. It was a significant year for me because in February I was given a place at The King's School Gloucester and was accepted as a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral. This was great news, but it did mean my parents having to kit me out with the necessary uniform and there was only one place to do this, The Golden Anchor. The Golden Anchor was a school clothing outfitter situated on the corner of Southgate Street and Longsmith Street. The building is still there, a mock-tudor pile just along the street from the genuine 16th century Robert Raikes House. The door to the store was on the corner of the building and hanging over the door was a massive gold-painted anchor (sadly long gone).

I needed a load of stuff: grey flannel jacket and shorts; a blue blazer to replace the grey flannel jacket in summer; grey shirts, grey socks with blue and gold stripes around the top, a blue and gold tie, a school cap,

blue and gold quartered games shirt, blue shorts and games socks, football boots, white aertex shirts, white shorts and daps for PT (what PE was called then) a blue gaberdine mac and a blue duffel coat for winter. On top of this, as a chorister I had to have an Eton Suit just for Sundays. This comprised a short black 'bum freezer' jacket over a black waistcoat, needle striped long trousers, a mortar board with blue and gold tassel and gold wire badge and, worse of all a deep bomb proof collar which was worn outside the jacket. Luckily the broad black 'kipper' tie clipped on, which saved a lot of wrestling with the very stiff collar.

How my parents managed to pay for all this, I'm not sure. My father was a tool maker at Gloster Aircraft Co earning about £11 a week and my mother a school secretary earning 27/6 a week. 27/6 was 27 shillings and 6 pence (d's not p's). This translates into about £1.37p in decimal currency.

There is a wonderful bit in Dylan Thomas' 'Under Milk Wood' which goes as follows:

'I have come to take you away to my Emporium on the hill, where the change hums on wires. Throw away your little bedsocks and your Welsh wool knitted jacket, I will warm the sheets like an electric toaster, I will lie by your side like the Sunday roast.'

The best thing about The Golden Anchor and the reason I looked forward to going there despite all the hassle of trying on clothes, was that the change did 'hum on wires'. In those days most people were paid in cash. My parents each got a weekly envelope so designed that they could count the contents without opening it. If there was a mistake in their pay they could only successfully get this put right if the envelopes were unopened. Plastic credit or debit cards had yet to be invented and, though there were cheques, most people did not have bank accounts. So almost everyone paid in cash. In The Golden Anchor there was one cashier who sat in a booth just inside the door. This booth was connected to the numerous counters by a web of overhead wires (like a kind of monorail system). When it was time to pay for goods your invoice and money were put in a canister (about the size of a baked

bean can but slimmer) which was clipped onto a slider on the wires. The shop assistant pulled down on a cord (rather like an old fashioned lavatory chain) and the can with your money in whizzed off through the store, going round corners on the way, to arrive at the cashier's booth. The cashier would take your money, put your change back in the canister and send it whizzing back. All much more fun than a card reader or contactless payment. They also handed out a barley sugar for me to suck.

Trevor Jones

Elmore Guides

This term the Guides have continued to work on the 'Skills for My Future' Theme. This involved having a week where we tried out science experiments by using food colourings and mixing ingredients together to pop a sandwich bag. As part of the theme we completed our Fixing badge where we learnt how to mend a button and how to fix a lightbulb. As part of the badge we invited T H Norman Agriculture to talk about how to maintain a tractor. We celebrated Stars Wars Day and had a games evening to start the summer term off.

Before the half term break we had a big Jubilee Party at Elmore Village Hall with 1st Elmore Brownies and 1st Elmore Rangers, we decorated and ate crown shaped biscuits, played games and had a campfire with songs. Over the Jubilee bank holiday the Guides took part in our County Jubilee Camp celebrations at Deer Park, Cowley with 300 other Guides and Rangers from across Gloucestershire. We celebrated with a special beacon lighting as Girl Guiding Gloucestershire were selected as one of the few Girl Guiding official beacons and being the last one to be lit before the Queens. It was a special camp for everyone and we all enjoyed the event.

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

1st Elmore Rangers

This term the Rangers have worked on the 'Skills for My Future' Theme. This involved making armpit fudge (which is a lot nicer than it sounds), myth busting facts about credit and debit, preparing for the future, playing leadership games and having competitions about how

we prioritise all elements of our lives. This involved a juggling act which the Rangers did pretty well at!

Before the half term break we had a big Jubilee Party at Elmore Village Hall with 1st Elmore Brownies and 1st Elmore Guides, we decorated and ate crown shaped biscuits, played games and had a campfire with songs. Over the Jubilee bank holiday the Rangers took part in our County Jubilee Camp celebrations at Deer Park, Cowley with 300 other Guides and Rangers from across Gloucestershire. We sang songs, had hot chocolate and cake under the stars, made jubilee woggles for our neckers and some Rangers and guides even braved sleeping under the stars without a tent! Luckily it stayed dry!

We celebrated with a special beacon lighting as Girl Guiding Gloucestershire were selected as one of the few Girl Guiding official beacons and being the last one to be lit before the Queen's. It was a special camp for everyone and we all enjoyed the event.

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

1st Elmore Brownies

This term the Brownies have been working on their Have Adventures Theme Award and so far have completed their First Aid Skills Builder, made compasses, completed their Aviation Badge and enjoyed a joint Jubilee Celebration with the Guides and Rangers which included a campfire and songs. For the remainder of the term we are continuing on with our Theme Award and ending the term with a Brownie Holiday at our County Headquarters at Deer Park, Cowley.

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.

Village Hall Update

Hope this finds you safe and well.

I am pleased to confirm that The Hall is fully operational following refurbishment of the floor, painting of the 'stage end' and part of the

main hall. Also, re-staining of doors and skirtings. Refurbishment and upgrading of the Hall is now almost complete.

Although EVH was not used in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we were represented on the planning committee and pleased to contribute by funding the appearance of our favourite band 'Jazz Friday', as part of the entertainment. Well done and thank you to everyone in the village involved in organising this memorable event.

Best wishes,

John (Hardisty), Chair

Bookings and enquiries.....

01452 721798 or pikelett@hotmail.com

Patient Participation Group - Frampton surgery update

We continue to work with the surgery to improve the service. If you have any feedback or suggestions for improvement, please email **myppg@framptononsevern.com**.

You can also contact the Practice Manager, Claire Farragher direct via **www.framptonsurgery.co.uk** – select 'Administration Office' and then 'Feedback and Complaints'.

Appointments – we continue to offer a mixture of routine face to face and telephone appointments which are bookable in advance and same day telephone appointments for anyone who finds themselves unwell on the day and requires a same-day consultation. If you are booked in for a same day telephone call and the clinician feels you require examination, they will offer you an appointment later that day.

Our receptionists work from a list to ensure that patients are offered the correct type of appointment and have senior support where this is unclear or they feel unable to make the decision themselves. Typically, acute matters fall into the category include things like infections, severe pain, acute mental health problems, acute exacerbations of long term conditions that need quick treatment, urgent problems with frail or elderly patients and young children.

Routine appointments may be advised for management of ongoing health conditions, mild to moderate pain, medication reviews and general check-ups

A pharmacy can help with minor ailments in otherwise healthy adults, including hayfever, which can be an issue at this time of year for many people. Please use a pharmacy for minor ailments before coming to us.

I have been asked why we cannot provide a shorter window for a telephone call, for example, between 11am-12pm. The simple answer is that a clinician's day-to-day list is unpredictable. A patient booked in for a call, may then need urgent assessment. A GP may be called to assist another healthcare professional who is seeing a complex patient. There may be urgent visits or urgent requests for prescriptions to be signed. We would not only be adding additional pressure onto our clinicians if we provided a one-hour window, we would also then face disappointment from patients when we fail to meet the expectation, due to unpredictable workload. We would also see an increase in phone line traffic as patients ring in chasing their phone consultation or complaining as they think they have been missed. A 4 hour window takes the pressure off and enables the clinician to prioritise urgent matters. I appreciate a 4 hour window for a phone call may seem inconvenient for a patient and I can understand the anxiety associated with missing a call, which is easily done. Clinicians will try phoning a patient 3 times before marking the appointment as missed. Please do not accept or book a telephone consultation when you know you will not be able to take a call easily, as this wastes everyone's time, including yours. Please also ensure we have the best number to reach you on. If you don't like speaking on the phone, we can speak to someone else with your permission who is involved in your care.

Physio, podiatry, healthy lifestyles services

Not all services require our input for referral. There are several services that patients can refer themselves to

Physio – a patient can self-refer online at <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/adult-physiotherapy/musculoskeletal-physiotherapy-self-referral-form/>. You don't need to tell us you have done so as we will the information electronically once you are seen.

Podiatry – a patient can self-refer online or via phone - <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/podiatry/> 0300 421 8800. Again, you do not need to tell us as we will be notified.

Healthy Lifestyles Gloucestershire - HLS can support with weight management and a more active lifestyle. They also provide support for those wanting to stop smoking or moderate their drinking. A patient can self-refer at www.hlsglos.org/referral

There is further signposting for carers and those seeking support with their mental health on our website – www.framptonsurgery.co.uk/digitalpractice/wellbeing-centre

Flu vaccinations

It may seem like a long way away but time flies! Unlike the previous two years, healthy 50-64 year olds are not including on the list of those eligible for a flu vaccination on the NHS for the upcoming season.

Those eligible include

Patients aged 65 and over

those aged from 6 months to less than 65 years of age in a clinical risk group such as those with:

- o chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as asthma (requires continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis

- o chronic heart disease, such as heart failure

- o chronic kidney disease at stage 3, 4 or 5

- o chronic liver disease

- o chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinsons disease or motor neurone disease

- o learning disability

- o diabetes

- o splenic dysfunction or asplenia

- o a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)

- o morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)

- o pregnant

- o household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days

over the winter and, therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable

o frontline NHS staff – staff should contact their occupational health department or employer for their flu vaccination.

Please do not contact us – we will contact you! We will run and advertise flu clinics once deliveries are confirmed. There can be changes well into September with deliveries from manufacturers. The bulk of vaccinations are given in October and November but we will be in touch once we have receipt of the vaccines.

Covid Autumn Boosters

We are awaiting information on further Covid vaccinations from the government. Again, we will be in touch with you once we know more.

Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Stroud.

The Minor Injuries Unit at Stroud is currently undergoing refurbishment but remains open. Patients need to book an appointment at the moment, rather than simply attending. This can be done by contacting them on 0300 421 7777.

The Patient Participation Group is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services.

Please get in touch if you have any feedback on services and we will continue to represent you. You can email

myppg@framptononsevern.com in confidence, or call Ali on 741988, or Jane on 740964.

Rotary in the Severn Vale

I'm happy to confirm that we are maintaining our regular breakfasts 07.00/07.30 at The Whitminster Inn on first and third Tuesday of each month. Our gatherings are always enjoyable with most having an interesting and often entertaining speaker.

Recent speakers have included Stuart Watts, a local man, from Retro Track & Air Ltd. This family company is one of the county's gems. Established 35 years ago to service and overhaul classic racing cars, it went on to service and repair special aircraft. Among these are 'Warbirds' and WW2 Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Stuart talked us through the company's journey to now a specialist in re-engineering engine parts from 80 year old designs.

We also had the pleasure of hearing one of our members, Mark Johnson, talk about his life and career from inner city Manchester to leafy Gloucestershire. Having left school at age 16 he pursued a career in aero engineering starting at Hawker Siddeley moving on to British Aerospace and spending time working on nuclear submarines. Restlessness in early retirement led him to start a company designing composite components for major manufacturers before moving on to become semi-retired working as a consultant. An interesting and well received presentation.

Another of our number, David Jewell spoke openly about his life in farming. Following the war David's parents moved to Arlingham and through hard work were able to start a farm with 7 acres and just 1 cow. Over time, this grew to 240 acres and 120 cows, the farm that David retired from. David spoke emotionally about starting and growing the business including many amusing anecdotes. One of these was the story of acquiring cattle before having the land needed for them (!), and another of the tale of a young bull playing in the hay tossing it around before turning his attentions to David and promptly broke his leg. Good fortune and much help from friends and family, he and his brother Rob, the owner of St Augustines farm, developed successful farming careers in Arlingham.

Along with our breakfasts, we've been able to enjoy some good social activities. The long awaited and much enjoyed guided visit of Gloucester Cathedral and also the repeatedly COVID postponed tour of the incinerator at M5 J12. Both included too much for this newsletter. Suffice to say, I can recommend them both as worthy of a visit. The history of the Cathedral and the work of Gloucester Energy was shared by very knowledgeable hosts allowing us to appreciate the combination of history and modern environmental developments and success 'in our very own back yard'.

As to community projects, we've recently spent time at Wick Court, Farms for City Children, on a Himalayan Balsam Pull. The team there are always welcoming and grateful for any tasks undertaken and we look forward to our next visit. We've also been able to support young people at Severn Vale School by becoming mentors to them. Helping them make the connection between education and the world of work,

helping young people develop attitudes and skills they need to succeed is always rewarding.

Next with community involvement is our support on fund raising walk for Longfield Hospice. This time as marshals and we're really looking forward to helping this very worthy local cause,

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

With best wishes from members of Severn Vale Rotary for a warm and sunny Summer 2022

Stroud & Cotswold Citizens' Advice

As we all try to recover from the effects of The Pandemic here are 5 important points about your local Citizens Advice:

- We are a local Charity, totally independent of government, providing free confidential impartial advice to everyone in Stroud District areas, including Dursley, Stonehouse, Nailsworth, Wotton-Under-Edge and Berkeley. The delivery of our Service relies on the dedication of our fully trained volunteers supported by a small team of paid staff. We have been providing a Service in Stroud since 1958, when we were known as the CAB.
- Your local Citizens Advice office continued to operate a limited service during the Pandemic with volunteer members of staff working from home. Now that restrictions are being eased, we are working very hard to manage face to face interviews again, which are vital to many people. We are also making every effort to reopen our outreach and community hub services.
- Our main areas of enquiry at this time are: Employment, Energy issues, Welfare Benefits and Debt issues. Since December 2021 we have given information and support to 705 members of our local community. We are extremely grateful for our core funding from The District, Town and Parish Councils, but we

still need to raise an additional £25,000 every year to maintain the Service.

- Stroud Citizens Advice has a very active PR and Fundraising Committee who continue to organise fundraising events to help finance such essentials as training and improved technology, as well as improved premises. We are extremely grateful for all donations, especially from our donors who provide us with annual standing orders, one off donations and legacies. This source of funding is vital to the continuation of our Service.
- **WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN HELP US - EVERY PENNY COUNTS!**

Regular standing orders or one -off donations...Remembering us in your Will...Becoming a volunteer...Supporting our events.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US, OR NEED ADVICE,
PLEASE CONTACT US ON:-**

freephone: 0808 800 510 or on our website at: citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk where you can find further information on Donating and Volunteering and Advice.

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
Monday 5th December

Copy Dates for The Bridge 2022

Friday 22nd July
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.

