

# The Bridge

Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
Issue number 32, November 2022



## From the Editor

Since the last issue of **The Bridge** we have mourned the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and welcomed our new monarch, King Charles III. Even those less enthusiastic about the monarchy have to admire the long service and commitment of our late Queen who, only two days before her death at the age of 96, met both the outgoing Prime Minister, Boris Johnson and the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss. The Queen was doing her duty until the end. With others I look back with pleasure on the beautiful sunny and happy day in June when we celebrated QE2's record breaking Platinum Jubilee. I am grateful to John Field who has written a tribute to the late Queen which appears later in this issue. John also contributed a second series about the origin of everyday sayings.

As I have written on a number of occasions, I am keen to make **The Bridge** into an interesting magazine with rather more than just routine announcements and administration, so I am grateful to Rebecca Hodge for putting pen to paper in this edition. I would also like to expand the 'Letters to the Editor' feature. In the whole history of **The Bridge** I have only received a couple of letters, both from Colin Ellis (thanks) and a couple of replies to his questions. So if you have questions or views you would like to express please write to me. You will find my contact details on the back page.

Later in this edition you will find information about a tree to be planted as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen. There is an opportunity to choose which species of tree the Parish Council should plant.

Also you will find a flyer with details of the village Christmas Lunch on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December and giving information on how to book tickets. The lunch is organised by the Village Hall Committee and proceeds will go to the running costs of the Village Hall. THJ

## **Letter to the Editor**

Sir

### **Coronation of King Charles III**

I understand that King Charles III's coronation will be on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. I do hope that Elmore will celebrate this historical event as our community has done in the past. Earlier this year we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II when residents and village supporters came together on such a glorious day. I made a video record of the event which is available for showing.

If there is a wish to have a coronation celebration next year, plans need to be put in hand soon so that the practical and financial details are established. We are fortunate in Elmore that we do have considerable talent for organising events of this type. I welcome any initiative to get our community together again

Colin Ellis

## **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – A Tribute**

So much has already been written about the wonderful life of the late Queen Elizabeth that it is difficult to think of something different to say. Probably the best that can be done is to try and draw lessons from her life and see if they can be applied to our own lives and those around us.

Never once did we hear the late Queen say anything bad about anybody. She was the art of diplomacy itself. She always had a smile for her visitors and those she met on walkabouts and state visits, no matter their background, creed, or their station in life. She was much loved by the nation as well as those across the Commonwealth - the outpouring of grief and sentiment in the days following her death was testament to this affection. The remarkable scenes of thousands queuing

for hours to pay their last respects to the Queen either en route from Balmoral via Edinburgh or in London on her last journey from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, was humbling. The mixed emotions of grief combined with quiet respect were tributes in themselves.

She was gracious in adversity and although troubling times beset the Royal Family from time to time over the years, she bore these trials with resilience and fortitude. She stood by her family no matter what errors and misdemeanours – real or imagined - the media sought to heap upon them.

She enjoyed life to the full – within the constraints of her official duties, which in themselves were legion and which she performed without complaint for 70 years as our monarch. Her lifelong pleasure was to enjoy the company of her own family when she was permitted some private time to herself, which was seldom and often under the gaze of the world's press. She had a passion for the outdoor life, loved the countryside and animals, especially horses and her beloved corgis. Her love of humour surprised the nation when she took part in the opening of the London Olympics with 'James Bond' and more recently this year during the celebrations for her own Platinum Jubilee when she had tea with Paddington Bear!

When she was crowned Queen in 1953 she promised to serve the nation above all else and this she did with grace, fortitude and good humour. There is no doubt that her own ideal of 'service before self' was evident from that moment on and never wavered. Her contribution to Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as the Commonwealth has been priceless. Not only was she a wonderful Queen but she was also a shining example to us all of how to conduct oneself in public life.

A magnificent stately funeral marked the departing of The Queen. The organisation of the event, the formality of the military escorts from around the world, the solemnity of all those participating, including the thousands of spectators, bore witness to the dedication of our nation to our Queen for 70 years.

We will miss her wisdom, her wonderful smile, her resilience and her dedication to the nation.

The Queen has departed this life and we have said our farewell.

**Long Live The King.**

John Field

## **Why do we say that? English slang**

### **Sweet FA**

This expression goes back to 1867 when a young eight-year-old girl called Fanny Adams was murdered in Hampshire and her body dismembered into very small pieces, some of which were never found. The meaning of ‘*not very much*’ is still attached to this expression but many people today, not realising it’s origin, use it in place of a certain less publishable expletive.

### **He/she is Piss Poor at doing something!**

You may already be aware that human urine was widely used in the wool industry to help purify and clean the raw wool prior to weaving. A large handcart containing a barrel used to be wheeled through the streets of towns and the urine, placed outside houses in buckets was collected and delivered to the mills. However, those people who did this task would have been at the lower end of the economy – hence, someone who did this task was considered ‘piss poor’.

In the 1600’s urine was transported in large quantities in ships to the northern tweed mills from London. A ship’s captain would no doubt have been slightly embarrassed about the nature of his cargo and when asked what it was he would declare ‘*wine!*’ to which the retort was ‘*oh no, surely you are taking the piss!*’

We often hear the expression ‘spend a penny’ in place of “I need to go to the loo” – some of us of a more senior age may associate this from the fact that public toilets in the 1950’s and 60’s cost a penny to enter. However, it goes back much further in history as households received a penny a bucket or their urine – hence spend a penny to get a penny.

## **To ‘Fly off the handle’**

In the days before tools were made commercially and health and safety was an unheard of concept, tools like hammers and axes were dangerous implements as the heads sometimes ‘flew off the handle’ and were a danger to those around them. Hence today if someone is described as ‘*flying off the handle*’ they were considered angry or enraged and could also be a danger to those around them.

## **‘The let the cat out of the bag’**

The origin of this expression may lie in the livestock trade in medieval markets, where people used to sell piglets tied in bags for farmers to carry home. A shady dealer might swap the piglet in the sack with a less expensive animal, such as a cat. So when you ‘*let the cat out of the bag*’, you were exposing the secret to everyone.

This can also explain the use of the expression ‘*to buy a pig in a poke*’ – a ‘poke’ being a small sack. If you buy something that is concealed you are never sure of what you are buying. Thinking you are buying a pig you discover a cat in the bag when you get home! So check before you buy despite the advertising gimmicks used by some companies!

*An alternative explanation will be well known to devotees of Patrick O’Brian’s brilliant stories about the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars. Punishments of defaulters often involved the use of the ‘cat o’ nine tails’ if the offence was serious enough (for example, drunkenness) The ‘cat’ comprised nine knotted ropes which were whipped by the ship’s bosun across the unfortunate offender’s back. When considering a suitable punishment, the offender’s watch officer would be consulted and if he gave the man good report (‘generally, clean, sober and attentive to his duties’) the Captain would perhaps reduce the number of lashes or even commute the sentence to, say, loss of rum ration for a week. But if the officer did not support his man a flogging would follow. The ‘cat’ would be taken out of its bag and applied to the poor man’s back. Incidentally the ‘cat’ could inflict serious injuries which could then become infected so, to prevent this, the injured man’s mess mates would rub salt into his wounds, painful but necessary and the origin of yet another expression*

*The Editor*

## **‘Back to Square One’**

You may have heard this expression used, or even used it yourself, when trying to achieve something that goes wrong and you have to start again.

There are two schools of thought about the origin of this expression in everyday conversation; the first is simply related to the game of ‘snakes and ladders’ which, if you are unlucky with a roll of the dice you could end up back at the start.

However, I prefer a different origin. When football matches were first broadcast on the radio the commentators used a simple grid to refer to where the ball was being played. The football pitch was divided into eight squares – ‘square one’ being the goalmouth at one end of the pitch. So if the ball was passed back to the goalkeeper, it went ‘*back to square one*’ to start the move all over again.

John Field

## **From the Parish Council**

We held a Parish Council meeting on Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup> and covered all our normal business and made some key decisions on some of the projects we are currently progressing.

**Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – We had already agreed, prior to Queen Elizabeth’s sad passing, to plant a Commemorative Tree within the village to mark this huge achievement. This will be located at the turning off to Elmore Back, next to Church Farm. The signpost that was located on the grass triangle has already been moved to the other side of the road, so we now need to do choose the type of tree. For a number of reasons there are restrictions on the type/size that can be planted this close to the road, but please have your say in making that decision. Details can be found in this edition of the Bridge. We will let you know in due course what has been decided and when we will plant it.

**Installation of Layby Litter Bins** – We have had numerous communications with SDC on this topic and we are currently waiting on the outcome of their site visit and assessment of the need for the bins. If positive, SDC will install empty them, if not we will have to see if there are any other viable options open to us.

**Village Gateway Signs** – Designs have been drawn up and costed for Gateway Signs to be installed on the three main roads into the village. We have had a site meeting with Gloucestershire Highways to agree the exact locations and design of the signs and they have agreed to install them. We have applied for funding from the government's Build Back Better scheme and Stephen Davies, our County Councillor, has endorsed our application. We are waiting to receive confirmation if we will obtain some financial help to fund the three signs.

You may have noticed that the yellow lines have been re painted on our side of Sellars Bridge. I can also let you know that enforcement is taking place on a regular basis.

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), dates published on the Elmore Parish Council website and posted on the village noticeboards.

Nick Meek (Chair)

## **Platinum Jubilee Tree**

Elmore Parish Council would like to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee by planting a tree in the village. The choice is between

:-

1. *Sorbus aucuparia* Cardinal Royal – an upright form of our native rowan/mountain ash. This has bright red berries in the autumn
2. *Malus trilobata* – an upright crab apple tree. An interesting leaf shape and good autumn colour
- 3.

If you have a preference, would you please either call or email Mike Hodge on 07446 8429312 or [hodgemike7@gmail.com](mailto:hodgemike7@gmail.com) by Monday 7th November 2022. We will choose the most popular tree.

Although this only gives you a week or so to state your preference, it allows us to order and plant the tree this autumn.

## **News from St John the Baptist Elmore**

**On Remembrance Sunday** 13 November there will be a ceremony at the War Memorial at 3.30pm followed by Evensong in church at 4pm.

**Our Christmas services are :**

Sunday 18 December, 6.30pm, Nine Lessons and Carols at Longney,

Saturday 24 December 2pm, crib and carol service at Longney 11.15pm

Midnight Mass (first Communion of Christmas) at Elmore,

Christmas Day 9.30am Holy Communion with carols at Longney,

Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>, no service at either Elmore or Longney instead a united 11am service at St Nicholas Hardwicke.

**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

**The regular services at Elmore Church are:**

9.30am Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month (with choir),

4pm Evensong 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays (no service on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

Do come and worship Almighty God with us

Many weddings are arranged for 2022, 2023 and 2024. These involve 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-elmore-longney.church.

For the latest news please visit our website Elmore: St John the Baptist  
- A Church Near You



## **Animal Antics in Elmore Back**

We still feel like relative newcomers to the village, having just passed the 5 year mark since we moved in. We are certainly not the 'newest' but there are a great many people we haven't yet met.

Nevertheless, we have settled into village life well and absolutely love our little corner of Gloucestershire. I suspect we have already gained ourselves a bit of a reputation for eccentricity and perhaps deservedly so. I think it was only about 8 months after moving in that we asked Nick Meek if he'd mind giving his orchard over to grazing some sheep and thankfully he said yes. There started a journey of discovery! We got ourselves a small conglomerate of pet lambs in conjunction with Steve, Jenny, Megan and Molly Voyce plus Fiona Lee and Nick, and so the 'Elmore Back Animal Antics' WhatsApp group was born and our little co-operative got started with bottle feeding lambs! There have been sunny days and rainy days but, since then, a few sheep (with Spring lambs) have been a permanent fixture and we also dabbled in a bit of bacon one year and had a couple of cows for the last 2 years. The plan was always to raise our own meat in an extensive way which had a great life before meeting their end purpose. It hasn't always been easy with night lambing and one or two cows preferring the grass on the other side of the fence, but we have loved the process and, although we may be biased, the end result is something to be proud of. We also have a small flock of chickens, 3 black Labradors and 3 cats.

Many people have helped us along the way and I hope we have, in turn, helped others. That's what village life is all about to us; neighbours helping neighbours and looking out for each other. That is something that extends to the whole community and I hope that people will always consider they can ask us for help if needed. My husband, Mike, is on the Parish Council and, when not doing that, is a bit of a nerd who investigates fraudulent financial claims (the local WI had a bit of an insight into the dangers this technological era can carry). I, Rebecca, am a small animal vet at a local practice in Quedgeley; something which can be the best job in the world and also, occasionally, the worst job! I'm sure that's even more applicable to human medical professionals but the emotional highs and lows and can be quite

profound. In any event, I travel through the village most days so if you happen to see me give me a wave and I'll return it with a smile! We have no intention of moving from what we consider to be our forever home and expanding our Elmore connections is always on the list!

Rebecca Hodge

## **Island Reading Group Book Review**

### **‘One day I shall Astonish the World’ by Nina Stibbe.**

I ‘Adopted’ his book last month as none of us could remember who had recommended it .

My initial feelings about the book were not brilliant, but I have to say having stuck with it I ended up enjoying it. The introduction of the two main characters in the pin cushion started the story in the way it was to run throughout. With Norma being the Manageress when she had no experience in the shop or how to deal with customers, whilst Susan had all the knowledge and experience. Norma’s using of Susan’s knowledge and help continued, helping Norma to go on and achieve all the things that by rights should have been Susan’s.

I enjoyed the little cameos like when Susan collected Norma’s wedding dress and tried it on. It fitting her and looking amazing, which it didn’t on Norma. There were several of these small details which really made me smile.

The complex relationship between Grace, Susan and Honey was also I felt an area that was covered well and with humour.

The final few pages of the book when Susan took control of things with the support of her daughter and friend, and fell back in love with her husband, were possibly a little predictable, but left me with a good feeling.

The inclusion of Honeys friend being non binary I felt was an unnecessary thing ,and the cynic in me felt this was purely to suit current trends.

In 2014 she published her first novel ‘Man at the Helm’. She went on to write ‘Paradise Lodge’, ‘An almost perfect Christmas ‘, ‘Reasons to be

cheerful' (which won 2019 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize). And finally 'one Day I shall astonish the world.



### **Singing is Good 4U**

As we all know from watching the many series with Gareth Malone singing is beneficial in so many ways .... and fun.

Come along to Severnside Singers, Frampton Village Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm and see for yourself.

Or contact Pam Greenfield on 01452 740126 or [pam.g@btconnect.com](mailto:pam.g@btconnect.com)

## **The Pantomime**

Village Players having been working hard since September on our 2022 Pantomime. This year we are performing a version of Snow White, written by our very own Sean Jarrett and Freddie Taylor. Snow White is living happily in Pantopia until the Evil Queen Grunhilda wants to be the fairest in the land. With the help of her Magic Mirror and The Huntsman, she causes havoc for Snow White, her Nursemaid Dame Coddle and The Dwarfs. Will our heroes be able to band together to save Snow White and defeat the Queen? Come along and find out!

**The performance dates are as follows:-**

**24th – 27th November and 1st – 3rd December.**

Evening performances start at 7:30pm and there are matinee performances on 26th and 27th November and 3rd December at 2:30pm. Tickets are £10.00 for Adults and £6.00 for under 16s. The opening night is our Charity Gala Night, tickets are £15 each, which includes pre-show and interval drinks and light refreshments.

General ticket sales open on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and tickets can be booked by contacting Nick and Ivor Phillips on 01452 722245 or by email to [villageplayersbooking@outlook.com](mailto:villageplayersbooking@outlook.com)

You can also keep in touch with everything Village Players on our Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/VillagePlayersElmore](http://www.facebook.com/VillagePlayersElmore)

## **ROTARY in the SEVERN VALE**

I am pleased to confirm that we have continued our fortnightly breakfasts at The Whitminster Inn and have enjoyed some very interesting speakers.

This Summer this has particularly been the case with speakers from the War Detectives whose research allows the remains of military personnel to be named; Rory's Well, a local charity which has established 127 wells in Sierra Leone and now helping communities farm more effectively and sustainably; followed by Theresa Fisher, our local Tesco 'Community Champion' sharing the much unknown work Tesco undertake in the community in support of those in need.

Our next speaker was from a Stonehouse based charity, Sunflowers Suicide Support offering support to those who have lost a loved one to suicide. There is lack of such help and support elsewhere and they have received a hundred referrals locally in the first six months of this year alone.

Our latest speaker was David Stephens providing an update on progress of Vale of Berkeley Railway. Loss of the bridge over the River Severn 1960 closely followed by Beeching cuts saw the end of service 1964. Skill, dedication and enthusiasm by members has resulted in clearing the site, reconstructing demolished buildings and restoring steam locomotives culminating in the winning of a lease from Network Rail securing their future. They now have a goal of steam trains running on the track in three years time.

As to hands-on activities, we arranged a day out on the canal for students from Eastington's William Morris College on one of Willow Trust's boats and spent time working in the orchard at Wick Court. We've also managed Frampton Open Gardens this year which attracted record numbers of visitors raising £3500 for Longfield Hospice. Very

recently we organised our fourth annual rally of interesting cars. This attracted an ever increasing number of participants enjoying the day driving through the hills and vales of Gloucestershire raising money for Rotary and other local charities.

Forthcoming events include Sheep Racing together with engagement and support for Frampton Country Fair followed by interview practice with students at Severn Vale School.

So, you can see a full summer for Rotary in Severn Vale. However, we always find time to enjoy each other's company socially with a visits to Stroud Brewery and the Centre for Guide Dogs for the Blind. We also had a most enjoyable afternoon as guests of friends Ted and Bridget Meredith picnicing and exploring the fun and challenges of Croquet, a far more complex and skillful game than many realised !

As Summer slips into Autumn, I'm pleased to confirm that over the year 2021/22 we have donated over £11,250 to charities and worthy causes.

For information on events and breakfast meetings, please visit [www.severnvalerotary.org.uk](http://www.severnvalerotary.org.uk) or contact [keith.rog@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.rog@hotmail.com)

*With best wishes from members of Severn Vale Rotary*

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Following the 'Summer recess' for most user groups, we are now up and running again in new season from beginning of September. Some future projects and functions are now in place.

We look forward to welcoming Elmore residents to our first Christmas Lunch since before lockdown. This will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

FULL DETAILS ARE IN THE FLYER DELIVERED WITH THIS COPY OF **The Bridge**.

A lunch (Village Hall fundraiser) is planned for Summer. More details in next issue of **The Bridge**.

Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

Best wishes,

John (Hardisty), Chair

Bookings and enquiries.....

01452 721798 or [pikelett@hotmail.com](mailto:pikelett@hotmail.com)

## **1<sup>st</sup> Elmore Guides**

This term 1st Elmore Guides have been working on the Take Action theme working towards our Influence Stage 4 Skills Builder badge where we have had a go creating our own manifestos and public speaking skills. We have been fundraising at Frampton Country Fair and Frampton Sheep Racing, thank you to both organisers for allowing us to be part of two fantastic events. We helped with the litter picking after the Frampton Country Fair around the fields used for the car parks. The Guides have had a movie night where we watched the musical film Hairspray and enjoyed eating popcorn.

If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Elmore Guides (10-14 years) please get in contact with Catherine and Louise at [1stelmore@gmail.com](mailto:1stelmore@gmail.com)

## **1st Elmore Brownies.**

This term we are working on our 'Take Action Theme Award' which involves working towards the Zero Waste Badge and various other activities that involve using recycled waste to build a monster, making windmills to see how wind turbines work and a detective challenge to identify who stole the chocolate! Next term we are having a Banger and Sparkler evening, designing an outfit with waste items and sewing Christmas stockings.

Should you know anyone that would be interesting in joining 1st Elmore Brownies please contact Jenny at [1stelmorebrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stelmorebrownies@gmail.com)

## **Elmore Parish Council Contacts**

Chair	Nick Meek	0773965492 1	nickcmeek@google mail.com
Vice Chair	Mike Hodge	0744684293 1	hodgemike7@gmai l.com
Counsellor	Jane Hill	0774776798 6	enajekim@live.co.u k
Counsellor	Vince Meredith	0795119931 3	meredith2fn@btint ernet.com
Counsellor	Matt Brandon	0789407051 1	matt_brandon@hot mail.com
Clerk	Dorie Jones	01452 722034	elmoreparish@hot mail.com

## **Provisional Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023**

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

## **Copy Dates for The Bridge 2023**

Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

Friday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2023

Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rosecottage1818@gmail.com)

