

# The Bridge

Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
Issue Number 34, May 2023



National Garden Scheme  
Garden Open For Charity

## Perrywood House

Longney, GL2 3SN

Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup>

11am – 5pm

Adults £5, Children Free

Wheelchair Access

Plants for Sale

Homemade Teas

**More info at [ngs.org.uk](https://ngs.org.uk)**

### **From the Editor**

I am writing this in the week following the Coronation. I was 6 at the time of the last Coronation and remember watching it on a 9 inch black and white screen, so to have it in full colour on a large screen was a treat. I don't remember there being a Coronation Concert in 1953 and if there were it would have been after my bedtime. The 2023 Coronation Concert was brilliant: noisy, colourful and fun. It struck me again that

the human species can at once produce heart lifting music, dance, art and drama, presented in spectacularly joyous fashion, but also, unfortunately, lie, cheat, steal, abuse and, worst of all, make war. Putin's illegal war with Ukraine is of course a terrible human tragedy but it is also an environmental disaster. Think not only of the huge carbon footprint of the aircraft, rockets, bombs, tanks and missiles being used, but also the amount of carbon released in the making of these war materials, the building of the original infrastructure of Ukraine and eventually its repair and replacement.

TJ

## **From the Parish Council**

### **Chair's Annual Statement**

At last year's annual meeting I remember sharing some of the details of what was planned to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee within the village. On 2nd June 2022 a large number of residents and family came together on the field next to the church for the Grand Picnic. It was great to see so many people from the village all in one place, having a lovely time on a beautiful sunny day. Commemorative mugs were given to the village children, everyone ate and drank well accompanied by fine music and choirs and the day ended with a lovely big bonfire, what more could you ask for. I would again like to thank everyone who helped in organising/holding, financially supporting and attending the event. It was a great day.

We also planned to plant a commemorative tree, which is now in place and growing well, at the junction to Elmore Back at Farleys End. A plaque marks the tree and seems a fitting tribute after the sad loss of Her Majesty last year.

One other major project we delivered last year was the installation of three Gateway signs on the road entrances into Elmore. We decided that these would provide a greater visual impact that you are entering a proud residential village and hopefully people would drive/ride accordingly.

The last thing I would like to mention happened just over a week ago when the village came together to litter pick as part of the King's Big Help Out. The Parish Council was very happy to support this village event organised by Hamish Pitt. This was a great opportunity for villagers to come together, on the Coronation weekend, have a walk

and do some good for the village at the same time. Over 35 residents collected many bags of rubbish and were rewarded with a hot dog afterwards in the Village Hall. I would like to especially thank Hamish and Dorie for making this happen and all of you who joined in. I believe this type of event will be repeated going forward. With the verges now cut and the new signs installed the village is looking good.

The Parish finances are in good health, despite having a some fairly major expenditures throughout this period mainly due to the Jubilee. The cost of the Jubilee celebrations including the commemorative tree and plaque was offset by some kind donations from individuals/businesses around the village. We also managed to obtain a grant to pay for a large proportion on the new gateway signs. At the end of April our bank balance stood at £6,933.88 and our regular expenditure on insurance, memberships, defibrillator maintenance, printing of The Bridge and the Clerk's salary, have continued throughout the year.

Your Parish Council decided that the Parish Precept should remain unchanged again for this financial year and is currently £2,472. Our internal audit was conducted successfully and we continue to follow the financial transparency guidelines by publishing any expenditure over £100 on our Parish website. We review the financial situation at every Parish Council meeting by producing the financial statement for scrutiny by Councillors and the public.

Finally, I would like to ask newcomers to the village and longer standing residents who may have changed their email address, to let Matt Brandon ([matt\\_brandon@hotmail.com](mailto:matt_brandon@hotmail.com)) from the Parish Council know your details. These will be added to our data base and stored securely, only to be used by the council to contact you with regards to important village issues

Nick Meek

### **Our SDC kerb-side recycling bins & other ways to recycle – continued**

Following the piece I wrote for the Bridge in February, I wanted to write a short follow-up piece. Having used the supermarket soft plastic Take Back scheme at Tesco for a few months now, I have

stopped doing so following a report by Bloomberg saying that last year they followed 2 tracking devices they left in bags put into the scheme – one of which ended up in an incinerator in Poland and the other at an industrial estate in Turkey - so not recycled at all. You can find the article on [www.everydayplastic.org](http://www.everydayplastic.org) in Read, Blog, “don’t believe the hype”. Perhaps it is better after all to put all our soft plastic waste in our bins which will go to the incinerator for safe disposal rather than them washing up somewhere far away? On a more positive note I have met up with the lady who runs a recycling hub in Hardwicke to discuss how she does it. I hope to roll out something similar for the village in due course but am going to trial this first by starting small with just a few items and a few local friends to see how it goes.

I have also been in contact with Brown Owl about the Brownies or Guides doing something environmental to earn a badge such as starting a public drop off point for a Terracycle recycling programme.

Jane Hill

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

I start with a plea!

There’s a lot of support for the Church in this village. A big thank you to all who help look after the Church building, provide flowers, mow the Churchyard, and attend fund-raising events.

However the numbers attending our Sunday services are very low sometimes and we would like to find out what we can do to encourage and enable more people to come to Church.

We would love to serve you better!

Is there something you’d like to see us offering, which we’re not doing at present? What could we provide that would make you feel, “yes, I’ll make time to go to that”? It needn’t be on a Sunday and it needn’t be a service. Would you like a lift?

Or, are there things you’d like us to change, eg the times or styles of some of our services?

We’d be very glad to hear your view, ideas, suggestions and constructive criticism. This is the Church of the village and we would like it to be a more central and integral part of village life. We would welcome your thoughts on how we can achieve that. Thank you!

Please send any comments to Liz Bates, at  
lizpainter2004@yahoo.co.uk

**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. There is no service at Elmore on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

At our Annual Meeting on 7 April Pat Buckland stood down as Churchwarden and was replaced by Colin Stone, who will be working alongside Liz Bates.

**Dates for your diaries.** Our Harvest Supper is on Saturday 7 October, 7.30pm in the village hall. The Christmas lunch will be on Sunday 10 December.

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 see our weekly newsletter posted on our website Elmore: St John the Baptist - A Church Near You

## **Elmore Chamber Music Festival**

3-5 August 2023 St. John the Baptist church.

Beautiful music, beautiful setting, amazing international young musicians. Please see the website for further

details : [www.elmorechambermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.elmorechambermusicfestival.co.uk) or phone 01452 725605

## **Village Players**

We will be using our 2023 Spring Production to celebrate the King's coronation. Why not join us on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 for Coronation Fever? It promises to be a night of fun, facts and farce, complete with a delicious summer supper! Tickets are £17.50 per head, and are available from 01452 722245 and [.villageplayersbooking@outlook](mailto:.villageplayersbooking@outlook).

We'd like to also take this chance to thank everyone who got involved in putting on Coronation Fever. We couldn't do it without you! We will soon be thinking about our 2023 pantomime, so if you or someone you know would like to get involved please let us know. You don't have tread the boards, we're also always looking for set decorators,

costumers, prop makers too! You can keep up to date with everything we do on our facebook page too ([www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)).

## **Sevenside Singers**

Just before Easter we had an enjoyable evening at Wisma Mulia entertaining residents and staff with a Singalong concert featuring 'Songs from the Shows' interspersed with a couple of Stanley Holloway's monologues about Albert and The Lion. A very enjoyable evening was had by all with lots of audience participation.

We are now practising hard for our summer adventures.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 2.15pm we will be providing some musical entertainment at The Arkell Centre, Nailsworth for a Quilt exhibition.

On Saturday 22 July we will be holding our annual concert, with picnics, in the beautiful garden at 'Top 'o' the Green' in Frampton, courtesy of Ian and Jane Hey. Tickets will be on sale at The Green Shop, Frampton (cash only please), from Pam Greenwood and members of the choir. See the separate advert for further information.

To bring our summer activities to a close we will be singing in Gloucester Cathedral on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 11am at 'What the Lark Saw' a Community Participation event as part of the Three Choirs Festival. We even get a mention in the official programme! We will be singing our new Sevenside song to the tune of The Gloucestershire Wassail. Tickets are on sale through the Three Choirs website at <https://3choirs.org>

The choir then takes a break over the summer to catch its breath before returning in the autumn on Thursday 7 September at 7.30pm in the Chapel (as WI will be in the Village Hall), with a (brief) AGM at the start of our rehearsal the following week.

As always, anyone interested in singing is very welcome to join us in the autumn on Thursdays in Frampton Village Hall. No auditions are required so if you enjoy singing, please come along. We're a very friendly bunch.

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

## **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

I am pleased to confirm that The Hall is in the final stages of our three years of refurbishment. This includes more re-staining of doors and skirtings, repainting of external walls around entrance also some upgrades and improvements to toilets. Finally, the new curtains are in preparation and will be fitted soon.

EVH was used on day three of Coronation celebrations. Congratulations to organiser Hamish and all helpers who had a successful, (wet!) morning, litter picking through the Village, followed by refreshments afterwards.

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.

Best wishes,

John (Hardisty), Chair

Bookings and enquiries.....

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

## **Elmore Litter Picking**

Elmore litter picking was organised by Hamish and Aila Pitt. It took place on Monday 8th May 2023 to coincide with the Big Help Out, a national day of volunteering for King Charles III's Coronation. There were around 30 people who split up into smaller groups of their choosing, and were assigned different sections of the roadside through the village. Wearing hi-vis jackets and using litter picking sticks that we borrowed from Stroud District Council, we reached down ditches and scoured verges and found lots of litter which we collected up and put in bags: at the end about 20 bags were filled! We were out for two hours in between rain showers. There were some random things around as well: bits of a crashed car, a tractor bumper and a large piece of cast iron that no-one could identify! So much was out there!

We then all returned to the village hall with our bags and picking sticks. Thank you to Nick Meek and Julie for cooking us all hot dogs to end the morning and also to Dorie Jones for arranging to borrow the picking

sticks and bags. The children then played around in the hall and enjoyed themselves and then the morning was over.

We are going to litter pick at least twice a year and hope to see a lot more people there next time Thank you to everyone who took part.

Aila Pitt & Isla Watts

Here are the pickers full of hot dogs.....



.....and this is what they picked





## **Elmore WI**

By the time the Bridge is published we will have held our annual Coffee Morning and plant sale.

June 13<sup>th</sup> This will be our Member's Evening where we will be having entertainment and supper.

July 11<sup>th</sup> We are meeting at Elmore Court at 7pm for a talk and tour of the Rewilding area. We will then return to the hall for supper.

August 9<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Skittles evening at the Anchor.

September 12<sup>th</sup> We have craft lady Jackie Ginley helping us make wooden festive decorations.

We meet in the Village hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Visitors are always welcome

## **1st Elmore Guides**

Before the Easter break we finished the term celebrating our tenth anniversary of being a unit, We held a campfire where we made bread twists and enjoyed lots of cakes. To start our summer term we did activities supporting Earth Day by looking at the wildlife around Elmore and making bird feeders. We enjoyed an evening making mini pizzas and designing our own board game. The Guides celebrated the King's Coronation with 1st Elmore Brownies and 1st Elmore Rangers, we decorated (and ate) biscuits, played games and enjoyed a campfire. We are having an outdoor games night where we are going to have a go playing games from around the world. To finish this half term we are going to work on our geocaching badge.

## **1st Elmore Rangers**

1st Elmore Rangers returned back after the Easter break and we worked on the Earth Day challenge badge where we did a scavenger hunt, made art from natural materials and had a fun game of tic-tac-toe involving water. We celebrated the King's Coronation with 1st Elmore Brownies and 1st Elmore Guides where we decorated (and ate) biscuits, played games and led the campfire songs. We are looking forward to our chip pub hike at the end of the half term where we will be walking from Longney Church to The Anchor Pub for a chip basket meal.

*If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Elmore Guides (10-14 years) or 1st Elmore Rangers (14-18 years) please contact Catherine at [1stelmore@gmail.com](mailto:1stelmore@gmail.com).*

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

Before the Easter break we completed our Language Badge, in Welsh! Since the Easter break we have been working on our Unit Meeting Activities to complete the sections required for our Skills for my Future Theme Award. We also joined forces with 1st Elmore Guides and Rangers for a Coronation Party which consisted of challenges: making a crown, biscuit decorating and finished with a campfire and singing. For the remainder of this term we will be campfire cooking, having an Outdoor Games Evening and a meeting away from the Village Hall which is still to be confirmed.

## **Island Book Club - book reviews**

### **The Angel's Game by Carlos Ruiz Zafón**

David Martin is a writer of penny dreadfuls who is offered a huge sum of money to write a book for a French publisher. He cannot find any evidence that the publisher actually exists though, and violent things start happening to David's friends and colleagues. A gothic thriller set in the twisting streets of 20th century Barcelona.

### **Venice by Jan Morris**

What a fascinating book ... but not everyone in our book group quite finished it because it is so full of colour, interest and intelligence that it does demand concentration! However it was, and still is thought by many to be THE definitive guide book to Venice, written in 1960 - its origins, its people, its treasures, the best and the worst of this gloriously unique city - which, its author, Jan Morris, was at pains to point out, was not a guide book as written by a "travel writer", but one of her "many books about place, which are nothing to do with movement and journeys, but more about people and history". The forward, written by Morris, of the latest and third edition, revised in 1993, stated, "I soon came to realise that it ... could not be modernised ... with a few deft strokes ..., I changed the details of the book, but hardly touched its generalities".

Just as fascinating as the book, is Jan Morris's life. Born as a man, James Humphry Morris, in 1926, she published under her birth name until 1972, when she had a sex change. By then, she had already been an intelligence officer in the Army, after which she read English at Oxford, and became a successful journalist and writer. Her Pax Britannica trilogy (a history of the British Empire) and her 'portraits' of Oxford, Trieste, Hong Kong, New York City and our book, Venice, were particularly highly acclaimed. Venice is still prominent on the bookshelves of the High Street today. Morris was a member of the 1953 British Mount Everest expedition which made the first ever confirmed ascent of the mountain. As the only journalist to accompany the expedition, which included Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, Morris climbed most of the way with the team and sent the news of the successful ascent back to London, via a series of runners, telegrams and mixed messages, to be announced in The Times on the morning of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation on 2nd June 1953. Jan Morris survived her wife, Elizabeth, who she married in 1949 and with whom she had five children, four of whom survived them both. They had to divorce after her gender reassignment surgery, but lived together and were legally reunited in 2008. Morris, a prolific and highly regarded writer, died on 20th November 2020. Jan Morris became somewhat more of a celebrity in recent years, and albeit that she said she recognised from the age of four she had been born into the wrong body, she said "I don't think my writing changed that much, except that perhaps I became a little more relaxed about it. In the IRG, we did wonder if the writing in Venice was a little more in the hand of a man.

# **Mad Hatter's Summer Ball**

For the benefit of Longfield Community Hospice  
**Saturday 24 June, from 7.30-11.30 pm**  
**The De Vere Cotswold Water Park**  
**Hotel**

**Tickets: £45 per person.**

Come along to this black-tie event, with an extravagant Mad Hatter's theme. The ticket price includes fizz on arrival, a delicious three-course meal, live auctions on the night and a DJ. Discounted bed and breakfast room rates are available for guests at the hotel.

**For tickets visit:**

[longfield.org.uk/summer-ball](http://longfield.org.uk/summer-ball)

or email [events@longfield.org.uk](mailto:events@longfield.org.uk)

or call 01453 886868.

## **ROTARY in the SEVERN VALE**

Spring has been a busy time for your local Rotary. While maintaining our regular breakfasts, we've combined community activities and social events with important time with our friends and families.

Speakers at breakfast included Janet Whitaker, previously a producer and director for BBC who regaled us with tales of her long career in

radio drama, working with some of the acting greats. It seems that many of them were happy to earn a crust in the day whilst performing in the West End in the evening. As always, some were a delight to work with, others perhaps less so.

Rob Toseland, a Rotary member gave a very interesting presentation about The Schneider Trophy, a prize conceived in 1912 for seaplanes to encourage excellence in aeronautics and to extend the known boundaries of powered flight. Over the 18 years it was held several European countries and the USA participated. The first race in 1913 yielded a winner with a speed of 50mph. Eleven pilots lost their lives and many more were injured in their attempts to break the record. The final race in 1931 was won by the British Supermarine S6B, at over 340mph. Lessons learned designing the S6B helped in developing the Spitfire

We welcomed Jenni Hobbs from Barhouse Farm in Elmore. Her family run a dairy farm with some 180 cattle of various breeds. In 2018 they saw the need to diversify and set up 'Wholly Gelato', selling artisan ice cream from the farm using their own whole milk and other local ingredients. This has grown exponentially over the years, winning many awards locally and nationally. The majority of their sales are still via the farm shop, but they also supply a number of local restaurants, wedding venues, Coop shops and Gloucester motorway services amongst others. At the end Jenni gave out generous samples of two flavours which seemed to go down very well too !

Community activities and fundraising included a litter pick along the Perry Way and the Stroll 4 Sunflowers where over 100 people were involved in the walk and enjoyed a return trip from Saul to Gloucester courtesy of Mike Ellis and one of his vintage buses. As we go to print, we're finalising arrangements for Sunday 28 May and this year's Frampton Open Gardens.

We continued to enjoy our work with schools with Youth Speaks at Wycliffe where we listened to Year 7s presentations for the English Speaking Board and being involved in supporting Young Entrepreneur at Severn Vale.

We have also ensured 'off duty' fun with a much enjoyed Progressive Supper, a Pie Supper The Ship Inn with Steve Knibbs planned as our speaker.

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

*With best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023 from members of  
Severn Vale Rotary*

## CITIZENS' ADVICE

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people. In the last year we have faced an unprecedented demand due to the cost of living crisis. We are appealing for new volunteers from all backgrounds who are looking for a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding, and can give 8-10 hours per week. We are currently recruiting for the following roles:

**Administration/triage assistants.** You will provide a professional welcome to callers at the door of our Stroud or Cirencester offices. You will triage callers without an appointment -identifying emergencies and providing information and signposting to other agencies when needed (no advice giving involved). You will also undertake a wide range of administrative tasks, including contacting clients by telephone and text, and handling inward and outbound post.

You must be computer literate but full training in triage and our IT systems will be given.

**Volunteer Advisers.** You will give advice and information (face to face, by telephone and email) to clients on a wide range of problems. No prior advice experience is necessary as full training will be given. Information sessions for volunteer advisers will take place on 24 May 2023 (2-3.30pm) in Stroud and on 7 June 2023 (10.30-12 noon) in Cirencester.

**Elizabeth Hall**, our Chief Executive Officer said:

‘Now more than ever, you can really make a difference by volunteering with us. We’re seeing more and more people needing support as living costs spiral. As well as helping the local community, we know people who volunteer their time get a lot back. We’ll give you all the training you need and would love to hear from you’.

To find out more about these roles or register your interest for a volunteer adviser information session please contact our Learning and Development Officer at [training@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:training@ca-scd.org.uk). You can also find further information on our website [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

## **Elmore Parish Council Contacts**

Nick Meek Chair	07739654921	<a href="mailto:nickcmeek@gmail.com">nickcmeek@gmail.com</a>
Mike Hodge Vice Chair	07446842931	<a href="mailto:hodgemike7@gmail.com">hodgemike7@gmail.com</a>
Jane Hill	077477697986	<a href="mailto:enajekim@live.co.uk">enajekim@live.co.uk</a>
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Dorie Jones Clerk	01452722034	<a href="mailto:elmore.parish@hotmail.com">elmore.parish@hotmail.com</a>

## **Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023**

Elmore Village Hall

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 7pm

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7pm

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

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

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

Please send any 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. Hardcopy should be sent to Rose Cottage, Elmore, GL2 3NS and electronic copy to [rosecottage1818@gmail.com](mailto:rosecottage1818@gmail.com)

*Summer Garden Party Picnic* [SEP] *and Concert with*  
**The Severnside Singers**

in the grounds of 'Top 'o' The Green'  
by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Hey

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023**

Concert starts at 7pm - Picnics from 6pm

Entry: Adults £6 (£7 at the gate)

Children under 16 free [SEP]

Bring your own seating

Tickets available from Pam Greenfield 01452  
740126,

The Green Shop (cash only please)  
or on the gate

Parking on The Green

In the event of bad weather, the concert will  
take place in Lakefield School (Sorry, no  
picnics if we go into school)