

The Bridge

Produced by Elmore Parish Council
Issue Number 35, August 2023



From the Editor

I'm sure you are only too well aware, the hot, dry June of 2023 has given way to a cool, soggy July. Let's hope August improves and gives way to a glorious Indian Summer.

I am always wanting to develop **The Bridge** beyond it's current content and format. In the past John Field has contributed his fascinating accounts honouring the service and sacrifice of the men of Elmore in the World Wars of the last century. A series of articles on field names in Elmore stimulated quite a bit of interest. At one time I was able to include The WI Recipe in every edition. Sam Turner, representing the younger element, has written some pieces and The Island Reading Group have included some book reviews. I myself have written a few pieces and Jennifer Watts has contributed excerpts from the Church Magazines of the past. The farming community have also provided a few articles. There are others to whom I am also grateful. This edition includes an article entitled, 'Being a Baby Boomer', which is deliberately short in the hope that other Baby Boomers will submit their recollections to me for publication in future editions of **The Bridge**.

From the Parish Council

Just a few issues to update you on this time:

I know it seems a while ago now, but we had quite a long hot spell back in June. During this time the tree we planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee started to show signs of a lack of water. A number of residents and councillors did regularly give it water, so hopefully now with all the recent rain, it will continue to flourish. If at anytime you think it needs any water then please go ahead.

I have had to report a few fly tipping events recently, so please keep a look out for suspicious behaviour. I have also reported a number of pot holes which are gradually getting repaired. Please log onto the Stroud District Council (SDC) website to report any issues you see; links can

also be found on the Elmore Parish Council website. It is a very simple process.

As I write this, the verges have just been cut again, which is intended to improve safety/visibility when using the roads and also helps keep the village looking tidy.

One last thing I would like to draw to your attention to is:

Be a Councillor Event – Wednesday 6 September 2023

Stroud District Council are holding a 'Be a Councillor' event on Wednesday 6 September 2023 in the Council Chamber at Ebley Mill for prospective candidates at both District and Parish/Town to learn more about what being a Councillor entails and hearing first hand from current Councillors on their experiences.

Local elections in Stroud are due to take place on Thursday 2 May 2024, therefore now is the perfect time to consider whether standing for election and becoming a Councillor is right for you. You do not have to belong or represent a political party to stand for election. We hope that the event will attract people who have different backgrounds and experiences that they can bring to the role of a Councillor to make a difference to the residents they could represent.

The 'Be a Councillor' event will begin at 6pm for anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish/Town Councillor, and 7pm for anyone who is interested in becoming a District Councillor.

The event promises to be a great opportunity for members of the public to understand and discover the role of a Councillor, what support can be provided to Councillor, and also have the opportunity to speak to current standing District and Parish/Town Councillors.

Please email [**democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk**](mailto:democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk) to register your interest for the event, or more information, please call 01453 766321.

Obviously, if you fancy being a parish councillor and either can't or don't want to attend this event, then just contact any of the Elmore Parish Councillors for more information.

I can inform you that there will be at least one vacancy in May, as I intend to stand down after 10 enjoyable years on the council.

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. The dates are published in **The Bridge**, on the Elmore Parish Council website and posted on the village noticeboards. Nick Meek (Chair)

Village Players

We would like to thank everyone who came along to our 2023 spring production of **Coronation Fever**. Everything was themed around His Majesty's coronation: a soiree with songs and facts about things with a royal connection, Coronation Chicken for dinner then a one act play following a group organising their village celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. We trust your coronation events involved less drama than those that took place in Wintercourse Frequent! We hope everyone who came along enjoyed the show!

We are now deep in the planning stages for the 2023 Pantomime. At the point of writing we are yet to choose a script, but we are always looking for new members to help out backstage, behind the scenes or on stage, so if you'd like to get involved please do email villageplayers@outlook.com

We will be performing from 23rd to 26th November and again from 30th November to 2nd December so please make a notes of these dates in your dairies. More details will follow in due course.

1st Elmore Guides

This term the Guides have been lucky and were able to get outdoors for some of our meetings. We enjoyed an evening campfire cooking where we toasted marshmallows over campfires; they were very yummy! We also did our annual fishing competition in our Patrols at Gardner's Pool in Saul hosted by the GUAA; this year the Panda Patrol won the Unit trophy and congratulations to them. All the Guides caught fish and we learnt what different types of fish were in the pool. One of the highlights this term was a visit to Elmore Court. A big thank you to Anselm and the Elmore Court staff for giving us the opportunity of looking round and hearing about the family history. At Elmore Court we were able to present four Gold Awards; this is the highest award a Guide can achieve, so well done to those Guides. We finished the term with a craft night, with the Guides creating designs using hama beads. We are looking forward to our camp in the summer break to Brownsea Island to celebrate the unit's

tenth anniversary and we have been having a series of prep meetings to get ready for this exciting adventure.

1st Elmore Rangers

At the end of the last half term we did a hike to The Anchor in Epney where we finished with an enjoyable basket of chips each and a soft drink. For this half term we worked on our Festival Goer badge where we made festival outfits. We also joined the Guides for a look round Elmore Court - we really enjoyed learning about the history of the Court. We had an enjoyable evening of fishing at Gardner's Pool in Saul and thank the GUAA for hosting us. It was a great space to relax at the end of our exams. To finish the term we did a craft night with the Guides and had a good chat while we worked at our designs. As we have taken a very difficult decision to close the Ranger unit, the craft night was our last meeting.

The Brownie and Guide units will still be open and continue as normal.

Elmore WI

Our June meeting saw us entertained by the Love2Sing community choir followed by a supper of summer puddings.

In July we were taken for a tour and explanation of the Rewilding areas of Elmore Court Estate. We were also lucky enough to be taken to see one of the new Tree houses before returning to the hall for supper.

August will see us have our annual skittles match at the Anchor with a basket supper.

September 12 is a Craft evening and with Jackie Ginley where we will be making festive decorations.

October 10th will be a talk on the History of Pilates and chair exercises with Laura Gardiner-Wedge.

November 14th is our AGM with a talk on Dressing a Georgian Lady with Kate Peake.

December 12th to be arranged (its too early to think about Christmas)!!!!

Visitors always welcome at the hall.

News from St John the Baptist Elmore

We hope you enjoyed the concerts at our annual Chamber Music festival, held August 3-6th. If you missed it this year, why not save their website to your favourites? Elmore Chamber Music Festival 2023 | Home.

We would like to invite you all to two future events in the Church:- The first is on Saturday 19 August, when we are holding a coffee morning for villagers to come and enjoy a drink and some cake and to explore the Church and grounds. There are many monuments, windows and furnishings (including 2 ancient chests) in the Church that are part of the village's heritage but perhaps not many folk know much about. We'll also get out the baptism and burial registers so you can do some family history research.

Secondly, on Sunday October 1st at 9.30am we will hold our Harvest Festival service. The choir will be singing special music and we hope for a full Church. Aware of the many blessings we have here, and of the great need in communities not so far away, we are inviting people to bring donations for Gloucester foodbank. These need to be non-perishable and of course in date. If you can't attend the service but would like to donate we'll leave a box in the porch for the following week, up to the Sunday after the Harvest supper on Saturday 7th.

Regular services at Elmore Church are, 9.30am Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays each month (with choir), 4pm Evensong 2nd and 4th Sundays. There is no service at Elmore on a 5th Sunday.

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

Please Join us for a Cake and Coffee Morning

St John the Baptist Church Elmore
Saturday 19th August 2023, 10.30 to 12.30

Please come and see your local church. Admire its monuments, furnishings and windows, discover more of its history and perhaps uncover its role in your family's history.

All are Welcome

Harvest Festival Service

St John the Baptist Church, Elmore

Sunday 1st October 2023 at 9.30 am

Again All are Welcome

This year we are collecting non perishable and in date items for the food bank There will be a box in the Church porch if you would like to make a donation.

Village Hall Update

Not much to report. EVH is currently in 'summer recess' for most user groups, so we are looking forward to new season at the beginning of September.

New curtains are now hung, external walls repainted, final improvements to internal doors and skirting (staining). Also, improvements to gents!

Future projects and functions for 2024 will be discussed at the next Quarterly Meeting in October. More details in next Bridge.

Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

John (Hardisty), Chair

Bookings and enquiries.....

01452 721798 or pikelett@hotmail.com

The Island Reading Group

Pull the Other One by Roger Evans

Roger Evans, a dairy farmer in Shropshire, has had a long career in agriculture. He has written a column in the farming section of The Western Daily Press for many years and his books are a collection of these.

He writes in a very down-to-earth way about real life in the country from the perspective of someone who has lived and worked in the

countryside all his life. He is not a college-trained, computer-savvy “expert”!

Rotary in the Severn Vale

Early Summer sees one Rotary year ending and the new one starting. So, your local club, the Rotary Club of Severn Vale, saw outgoing President Bob Roberts, heaving a sigh of relief as Nick Ellwood takes over. We have maintained our regular breakfasts and ongoing community activities and social events while planning the new Rotary year’s events.

Accordingly, our elected incoming President, Nick Ellwood, was speaker mid-May outlining his agenda for 2023/24. In essence the theme is to be ‘more in, more out’ building on the strengths and interests of individuals with a dedicated lead on community projects, social activities, youth, etc while making better use of social media to keep people advised of our activities.

The main charity, by no means not the only one, is to be **The Spring Centre**. Their main aim is to support children and young people with special needs and disabilities to improve the quality of life for the child or young person as well as their family group.

At our following breakfast we welcomed Richard Wright who spoke about a little known WW 2 tragedy concerning RMS Lancastria. This was a former cruise liner commandeered as a troop ship and engaged to evacuate our troops trapped in Northern France two weeks after Dunkirk. Anchored some five miles off shore she became severely overloaded. She was equipped to carry 2,500 troops and crew, on that day it is estimated that as many as 7,000 people were on board. On departure, she received three direct hits during a bombing raid and sank within 20 minutes. While over 2,000 were saved, it is thought that in excess of 4,000 lives were lost, making this the largest single ship loss in British Maritime history, dwarfing those who perished on the Titanic.

Our next breakfast saw the formal handover from outgoing President, Bob Roberts, to his successor Nick Ellwood. Bob summarised the club’s achievements for 2022/23 including having raised in excess of £11,000 for local community initiatives and charities. Nick then brought the meeting to a close with a brief reminder of his hopes for next year together with a vote of thanks to Bob for his leadership over the last twelve months.

The first meeting of the new Rotary year we had the pleasure of one of our members, Joe Green, as our speaker. In his working life in oil and gas Joe lived in Texas but he focussed his talk on where he lived as a teenager - Punta des Salinas, Ecuador. He was able to enlighten us to the attractions of

the country - its natural beauty, wildlife, climate, jungle and mountains. The subject then progressed to the Galapagos Islands and Charles Darwin which resulted in much discussion and questions. A most enjoyable presentation. The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the many members who'd volunteered to clean boxes of toys for the local charity **PhysioNet**.

Everyone thought to be a particularly worthy exercise as these will go to children in need in those countries currently facing difficulties. Our members have also been sorting and cleaning wheelchairs, crutches and other aids at PhysioNet's facility at Berkeley.

We are again running The Arlingham Walk, a fundraising event for Longfield from Passage Farm, on 13h August . . . it proved very popular last year. We have a Social BBQ coming up for members, families and friends. We are also looking forward to once again providing volunteers for car parking duties at Frampton Country Fair 10th September, whose earnings go to our chosen charity.

If you'd like to come along to one of our breakfast meetings on first and third Tuesday of the month at The Whitminster Inn at 07.15, are interested in attending one of our evens or would like to volunteer with us for one of our chosen charities, please contact Keith at keith.rog@hotmail.com

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

Citizens' Advice

Stroud & Cotswold Districts

Booked a package holiday? Worried about what to do if something goes wrong Hopefully you'll have a lovely time but if something does go wrong, the Citizens Advice website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) has lots of information about what to do if and what compensation you may be eligible for.

Firstly, tell the company or travel agent you booked with as soon as possible. This way you're more likely to be able to get it sorted quicker. If you don't say anything until you get home, you might get less or no compensation at all. If the holiday you went on turned out to be lower in value than the one you originally booked you can make a claim for 'loss of value'. For example you paid for a deluxe room but only got a standard one and if it wasn't sorted out at the time you can claim back the difference in value.

You can also claim compensation for any extra money you have to spend while away, for example the hotel was a bus ride away from the beach rather than across the road as advertised. This is called claiming for ‘out-of-pocket expenses’. If this does happen make sure you keep all your receipts for things like bus journeys.

If big parts of the trip you booked didn’t happen or services weren’t provided, for example a planned two-day excursion was cancelled and no alternative was organised, you can make a claim for ‘loss of enjoyment’. You can also make this claim if something happens that causes you distress or disappointment, such as the pool was closed for the whole trip.

It’s worth noting that there’s no there’s no strict guidance on how much you can claim for loss of enjoyment but any claim you make must be reasonable. You can’t get compensation if you simply didn’t enjoy the holiday or if the problem was out of the holiday company’s control - like bad weather.

Check the information you received when you made the booking to see what you’re supposed to get. If you don’t get the service you’ve been promised, you may be entitled to compensation for breach of contract. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance – check if your policy covers this.

If you’re still not sure what to do, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 0808 223 1133 or talk to an adviser online through the Citizens Advice website.

Being a Baby Boomer

After the 1st World War and again after the 2nd World War there was a large increase in the birth rate. The reasons for this are not difficult to understand. During WW2 troops had been scattered all over the world – my own father, first in N Africa and then Burma, with no home leave in between, did not see my mother, his fiancée, for 5 years. They even got engaged by proxy. My grandfather lent the money for the ring and my mother slipped it on her finger at a prearranged time. Even those men and women serving at home often put off getting married and having children because of the uncertainty of survival during the blitz or on bombing and fighter sorties and, of course the invasion of Europe.

So when hostilities ceased and the troops came home they naturally made up for lost time. Enough said.

I was born in 1946 and so am a typical Baby Boomer. What was life like in the 40s and 50s? I have chosen a couple of things to write about in the hope that other Baby Boomers in the village will follow suit and submit their memories and experiences for publication in future editions of **The Bridge**

Smoke

We all grew up with smoke. During the war most men and many women smoked. The dangers of smoking were not understood. My father who was somewhat asthmatic even smoked 'Asthma Cigarettes'. Hard to believe now. So I lived in a house full of smoke – no one thought to go out on the porch for a fag. Pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, shops and places of work were full of smoke. In the 1960s during school and, later, college vacations I worked for a construction company based in Churchdown. Indecently early (for a student) I would cycle to Worcester St where, just next to the railway bridge the householder would let you leave your bike for the day for 1d (sorry no easy equivalent of this today – there were 240 d's in a pound). A work's van would pick me up from there. The van had started in the Forest of Dean and was almost full of men by the time I got in. All had been smoking non stop throughout the journey. My goodness. By the way, I have never smoked – you can probably work out why.

Fresh Air

After all that smoke we needed fresh air. We didn't have computers, tablets, electronic social media, TV or the internet. so I think we did spend a lot more time outdoors than modern kids. There were trees and hills to climb, dens to build, sticklebacks and minnows to catch, old pram wheels to purloin to make into trolleys, cycle rides to enjoy, camp fires to light, kites to make and fly. I can't remember ever being bored. It did rain, of course, and then there were crystal sets to build, the 'Goon Show' and 'Take it From Here' to listen to, the latest Biggles to read, 'Thank You' letters to write and, if you were lucky, a train set to play with.

Was the air fresher then? That's hard to say. There were far fewer cars and lorries on the roads but there were steam trains and lot lot more homes were heated with coal (more smoke). What is certain is that we

didn't hear anything about pollution or global warming. Of course both were going on but, as with the dangers of smoking, the reality of the situation were not understood and not in the public consciousness. THJ

Leap for Longfield!

Jump right out of your comfort zone this month and parachute two miles through the air at 120 miles an hour. If you can raise £450 for Longfield and get to Salisbury on 16th September you're in! For more information, go to longfield.org.uk/event/skydive-for-longfield-saturday/

Come with us on a magnificent adventure next year

Hike miles across snow-covered Icelandic landscapes and mountain passes. Chase the elusive Aurora Borealis. Indulge in traditional Nordic cuisine. Relax in a gently bubbling geothermal pool. This is a truly unmissable charity challenge.

You'll be staying in a local hotel, and your accommodation, flights and meals are included in the £350 registration fee. We ask you to fundraise at least £3,600 for Longfield, but self-funded and flexi-options are available.

The trek is graded moderate to challenging and you'll be accompanied by local guides with expert knowledge of hiking and the culture of the region. Temperatures in November are likely to be between 0° and 5°C. For more information, contact Kirsty Murray on 01453 886868 or events@longfield.org.uk

Coming Up...

9th -17th Sept, Gloucester Cathedral – Summer Meadow floral display
1st Dec, Minchinhampton – Charity Ice Walk
10th Dec, Minchinhampton – Light Up A Life memorial celebration
Jan 2024 – Christmas tree collections

Longfield is a Community Hospice for the people of Gloucestershire. As well as providing Hospice at Home care, Longfield also offers a range of therapy and support services for patients, families and carers at the Wellbeing Centre in Minchinhampton. 85% of our funding comes from the generosity of the public. For media enquiries, please

contact Melanie Palmer, Media and Communications Officer at
melanie.palmer@longfield.org.uk or call 01453 886868

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Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023

Elmore Village Hall

Tuesday 26th September 7pm

Monday 4th December 7pm

Remaining Copy Dates for The Bridge 2023

Friday October 13th 2023

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