

The Bridge



Produced by Elmore Parish Council
Issue Number 40, October 2024

From the Editor

Firstly I would like to give a 'plug' to **Your Community Alerts**. If you register as a member you will receive regular email posts from Gloucestershire Police and other approved organisations containing warnings of crimes and scams (both actual and potential) which will help you to remain safe and secure. The address is **www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk**. Once on their home page click on 'register', fill in a short form and you will then receive the messages to your email address. Well worth it and there is no charge.

This is the 40th edition of **The Bridge**, somewhat later than would have been the case but for the pandemic. It is funded by the Parish Council and therefore through your council tax. I have tried to make it interesting as well as informative. If it's not what you want; if you would like to see changes, please let me know. However, I can only print the stuff that I receive from you, the parishioners. So, if you feel the urge to write something for **The Bridge** do let me have it. The copy dates are published on the back page.

THJ

Treasure Island, the Panto

Oh yes it is!

Village Players are deep into rehearsals for our 2024 pantomime of Treasure Island, with the show being just around the corner!

Will Jim Hawkins find his way to Treasure Island for the gold, silver and jewels? Or will Long John Silver and his pirate crew scupper everything? You'll have to come along to find out. Treasure Island runs at Elmore Village Hall from 28th Nov to 1st Dec then 5th to 7th Dec with matinees on the Saturdays and Sunday. Fun for all the family and great value!

Tickets from 01452 722245 or villageplayersbooking@outlook.com
You can also keep up to date with everything we're doing on our Facebook page - @VillagePlayersElmore

Elmore WI

Our annual skittles evening at the Anchor in August was attended by many members and a basket supper was enjoyed. In September we held a craft workshop where we made pictures from old jewellery. We also enjoyed a talk from one of our members who shared her experience working in an elephant sanctuary in Thailand.

Our November 12th meeting is a talk on cooking in the Tudor and Stuart times. This is also our AGM where a new committee is voted in.

We have not yet finalised our December meeting but it is sure to contain lots of tasty food! We also bring donations for the Gloucester Foodbank.

January 14th will be 'Views of Gloucestershire and beyond,' a film show by Kate Peake.

Visitors are always welcome at the village hall on 2nd Tuesday of the month at cost of £3 which includes supper.

1st Elmore Brownies

This half term we started with our annual fundraisers at Frampton Country Fair and the Sheep Racing. At our first meeting this half term we looked at how well we brush our teeth. We also learnt how to use a hammer and screwdriver as part of our unit meeting activity points, which goes towards our badges. Later this half term we are looking to complete our Aviation Badge by making paper planes and having a competition to see whose can fly the furthest, we are making our own rockets out of small drinks bottles and Bicarbonate of Soda and identifying 40 things that fly. After half term we will be celebrating bonfire night by having hot dogs and sparklers. We will be making yule logs to enjoy at Christmas and making Christmas wreaths. We will be joining together with 1st Elmore Guides to take part in the remembrance service in November. At the end of the term

we are excited to be having a roller skating party and also a Christmas celebration led by Rev. Richard Martin.

1st Elmore Guides

We started back with a litter pick at Frampton to help clean up the car parks after the Frampton Country Fair. At the beginning of September we have been busy fundraising for the unit at two local events; the Frampton Country Fair and the Frampton Sheep Racing. We are starting the 'Express Myself' theme where we are understanding how we communicate with others. Over this half term we are also celebrating Diwali and having a games night. At the end of the half term we are looking forward to a visit to The Body Shop in Gloucester for a pamper evening. After half term, we will be taking part in the remembrance service at Longney Church. We start working on our Innovate Skills Builder badge where we will be baking and creating our own game of 'Operation'. We will be joining with 1st Elmore Brownies for our Christmas activities which include a roller skating party and a Christmas celebration at the church.

If your daughter is interested in joining Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14 years) or if you would like to volunteer as a Young Leader/ DofE Helper (14-18 years) or Adult Leader (18+) please contact 1stelmore@gmail.com.

News from St John the Baptist Elmore

We have many weddings here and it sometimes must feel that the Church is a place for visitors. I want to state clearly again that above all this is a place of worship for the village, where our times of joy, sadness, and mundane days too, are held together by prayer within the love of God.

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.

Sunday 27 October – 4pm, Memorial service, especially for anyone who has been bereaved, however long ago. If you can't make this one it will be repeated at Hardwicke on Sunday 3 November, 4pm.

Sunday 10 November – Remembrance Sunday. We will gather at the War Memorial at 3pm for our usual short ceremony.

Saturday 30 November 1000-1200: Advent Fair at Longney. Come along and see the reordering that has been achieved.

Christmas services:-

The 9 Lessons and Carols will be at Longney on Sunday 15 December, 6.30pm (not 7.30pm as I mistakenly said last time).

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass is at Elmore, 11.15 pm.

Christmas Day, 0930 informal Holy Communion at Longney

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

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

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

ROTARY in the SEVERN VALE

We have maintained our regular breakfasts, ongoing community activities and social events.

At each breakfast we have one or more speakers on wide variety of interesting topics. Here are accounts of our recent speakers.

Barbara Pond is Head of Operations at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, which works under ACRE – Action with Communities in Rural England to influence positive change in the countryside, giving advice and encouragement to community groups looking to retain or improve services in their villages. including community shops, pubs, post offices, pharmacies, bus services, social/affordable housing and supporting vulnerable people. An interesting and well received presentation.

James Marshal and Daniel Chapman from CCP – Caring for Communities and People explained what they do and who they help. Post Covid volunteer figures have reduced by 50% nationally. He mentioned National Volunteers Week and talked about an area that

might be of interest to us, becoming an 'Appropriate Adult'. They have 25 to 30 volunteers already who operate on a rota to be present at the Custody Suite at Waterwells Police Station when under 18s or vulnerable adults have been arrested and need support through the process of interview etc. if a parent or close relative is not available. There was a good degree of willingness to find out more among Rotary members.

Barbara Williams is from "Read for Good", a national charity based in Nailsworth. 'Bringing the Magic of Reading and Stories to Children across Gloucestershire', they work with 30 major hospitals, focusing mainly on primary school age children to inspire the adoption of a habit which could last a lifetime. It was sad to hear that one in five 5 to 8 year olds have no reading books in their homes. A well received presentation prompting much conversation.

Mark Newcombe and Brian Heatley of Gloucester Men's Shed, which is based on the Waterwells Estate in Quedgeley. The organisation started in the UK about 12 years ago and there are now 1100 in the UK with 900 in England alone, benefitting about 33,000 men of all ages. Although primarily for those who have retired - often from industry - it also welcomes the unemployed, the bereaved and younger men still seeking their way in life. Quedgeley offers 3 sessions per week to their 30+ members, where they work on their own or collaborative projects making mostly wooden objects - benches, plaques, bird feeders etc to donate to deserving local causes. They offer fellowship and a place to talk things over in a non judgemental atmosphere whilst doing something worthwhile with their hands. The group has benefitted in the past from Lottery funding, but that has now finished. The portakabins in which they operate have no mains electricity supply and the cost of supplying this to their present site would be prohibitive, so they use generators. There is a proposal to provide power to one shed by solar panels and this is one of our Club President's chosen charities of the year.

Annie Lapington, a volunteer from Gloucestershire Young Carers. This year they are celebrating

their 30th Anniversary. It has grown from the germ of an idea of one social worker into an organisation working throughout the county supporting in excess of 1000 children. Children who through no fault of their own have taken on adult responsibilities on a daily basis: cooking, cleaning, laundry, shopping, looking after siblings, collecting medication etc. A short video of a 9 year old carer from Cinderford demonstrated the commitment some youngsters had to have at such a young age. GYC supports them to be able to enjoy childhood and make a positive transition into adulthood. They recognise that there are far more carers in the county that they are yet to reach - estimated to be 7,500. At present running costs are c£1m pa just to stand still. Small grants are available from local authorities, with intermittent funds from National Lottery and Children in Need and fundraising making up the rest. An enlightening and well received presentation after which whilst packing up, Annie said 'Yours is one of the nicest Rotary clubs I have ever been to'

The final meeting of the Summer saw speaker and President of Cotswold Tyndale Rotary Club **Gillian Hayward**, and guests Sir John Southby and Mark Smyth-Roberts. Gillian gave a presentation on the soon to be launched 'Big Space Appeal'. This is a countywide initiative aiming to gain support from as many Rotary Clubs as possible which is essential to qualify for substantial National and International grants. This long term project is to improve the patient facilities for the Oncology Centre at Cheltenham Hospital building out into the car park creating a larger reception, waiting areas and consulting rooms. Presently they treat 5,000 new patients every year, and they are bursting at the seams. The hope is to raise sufficient funds to be specifically used to provide an enlarged Focus Centre.

Our Community Service and Fundraising has continued together with some social skittle and boules events. The major fundraising event for the year has been the very successful 'Route Seventy Seven Charity Car Run'. This involved over 50 interesting vehicles enjoying 77 miles of Gloucestershire & Worcestershire countryside incorporating breakfast, coffee and lunch. We started at the Jet Age Museum and armed with the route, cars left the museum at short

intervals after breakfast and a viewing of the aircraft. Having enjoyed a coffee break half way, they drove to the Sailing Club at Frampton on Severn for lunch. The increased number of entrants this year led to £1500 being raised for Gloucester's Men in Sheds.

Forthcoming activities include providing a day out for Gloucester Young Carers, supporting Sheep Racing and Frampton Country Fare and an Autumn Quiz 'n' Curry Night in support of the Spring Centre – **Friday 8th November at Frampton on Severn village hall**. Make a note of it organise a team and come along and join us for what is always a fun evening.

If you'd like to come along to one of our breakfast meetings on first and third Tuesday of the month at The Thatch, Quedgeley 07.15, are interested in attending one of our events or would like to volunteer with us for one of our chosen charities, please visit www.severnvalerotary.org.uk or [mailto: keith.rog@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.rog@hotmail.com)

With best wishes from members of Severn Vale Rotary

Island Reading Group Book Reviews

'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stuart

I was recommended this book by various people who had been members of reading groups and so suggested that we should read it without further research. How could we go wrong? After all it had won the Booker prize in 2020 and could be found on all the bookshelves and best seller reading lists. What a resounding thumbs down it got from the Island Reading Group. We think of ourselves as an eclectic, broadminded gang, always prepared to give each other's book choices a fair chance but on this, though, we were unanimous in our dislike

It tells the story of the depraved upbringing of a Glaswegian boy in the 1980s, who suffered from his mother's alcoholism. The language and the plot are raw and repetitively unpleasant, to such an extent that most of the IRG didn't finish it and some barely started it! The intended reaction to provoke clearly fell flat, with me being the first victim! If you feel like having a look at a book that we didn't rate but which the professional critics raved about then have a go at it and let

The Bridge know how you found it.

When God was a Rabbit by Sarah Winman

Sarah Winman is an author and actress, born in 1964. “When God was a Rabbit” was her debut novel, first published in 2011. It follows the life of a young girl, Eleanor Maud, Elly. The book is named after God, a pet rabbit, given to Elly by her brother, a constant companion during her childhood.

It is a story of a flawed family, spanning 4 decades from 1968, with ordinary and extraordinary incidents that shaped their everyday lives. It is about childhood and growing up, loss of innocence, eccentricity, family ties, friendships and love.

Personally, I enjoy the way Sarah Winman writes and draws the reader into her stories, in this case, the story of family and friends and in particular the unbreakable bond between brother and sister. It is witty and enchanting. It makes you laugh and it makes you cry.

Wanted!

Your Parish Needs You

Since 2014 Chris Camm has delivered all 39 issues of **The Bridge** prior to this one. **Thank you very much for this Chris.** But he now feels he needs to hand over to someone else. Emergency measures have been put in place to deliver this one, but I am looking for someone to take over Chris’s patch. He has been delivering to about 20 houses starting at Hollow Farm on both sides of the road to Leightons and Elmore Farm. He has also delivered in Weir Lane. **So if you can take over his route please let me know.** This would best suit a resident living within his delivery area and Chris says a bicycle (though not essential) helps a lot and would enable the deliveries to be made in less than 30 minutes

THJ

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Hall activities resumed in September and all user groups are up and running for the new season. Panto rehearsals are in progress ahead of the performances starting in late November.

Tickets for '**Treasure Island**' are available. Details in this copy of **The Bridge**.

Our **Christmas Lunch** (in aid of Hall funds) will be held on Sunday 15th December. Tickets are selling fast! Contact Ann Littleton: annlittleton@googlemail.com.

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

Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

John (Hardisty) Chair

Elmore Village Hall Committee

01452 721798 or pikelett@hotmail.com

From the Parish Council

Hello readers of The Bridge,

Thank you for the local community spirit that has ensured our Parish Council will continue to run. Two people stepped forward for the parish councillor role and we will be co-opting a councillor at the December meeting.

A special thanks to Mike Hodge who stepped down from the Parish Council after serving as Vice-Chairman for the last few years. Mike has been crucial to the maintenance of the Defibrillators and ensured they were operational in people's times of need. He will be missed on the council.

The next EPC meeting is 9th December and I look forward to seeing you in person there.

Best Wishes, Matthew Brandon, Chairperson Elmore Parish Council

Yet Another Local Limerick

(or the bride's lament)

At a big wedding at Elmore Court
For courage the groom drank near a quart
Of finest Scotch whisky
Which at first made him frisky
But later on nothing of the sort

Anselm Guise & 'Team E'

invite you to a

Christmas Party

11th December

7pm

Drinks, nibbles & Jiggle.

Dress code: smart, snazz or a little
wild.

RSVP

life@elmorecourt.com

www.elmorecourt.com/christmas

or phone 01452 720293



We are busy practising carols for the Christmas season, broadening our range of parts in traditional carols, many familiar and some new to us. Hear us at Fretherne, Arlingham and Frampton Carol Services in December.

Join us at Highfield Garden Centre Christmas Festival on Wednesday 27th November 3-8pm, where we will be singing our Christmas repertoire at about 6pm.

After 7 years on the committee Judy is standing down and Dave is taking over from Keith as treasurer. The Singers would like to thank Judy and Keith for the sterling work they have done for the Choir over the years and welcome Dave as our new treasurer.]

New singers are always welcome to join our community choir. No audition required, we sing for fun and meet on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm in Frampton Village Hall. Turn up or ring Pam Greenfield on 01452 740 126 for further information.

Elmore Parish Council Contacts

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Dorie Jones Clerk	01452722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com

The Parish Website address: www.elmoreparish.co.uk

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2024/25

Monday 9th December 2024

Monday 17th March 2025

Monday 19th May 2025

Monday 15th September 2025

Monday 8th December 2025

All the above are held in the Village Hall, 7pm

Public welcome

Copy Dates for The Bridge, 2025

Friday January 10th

Friday May 9th

Friday 1st August

Friday October 10th

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.co.uk