

# The Bridge!



Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
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## From The Editor

Right from the start, in 2014, I wanted **The Bridge!** to be more than an account of the doings of the Parish Council and other organisations in Elmore, although these are important and of interest to many. Over the years the magazine has more or less succeeded in this but the letter I had from the historian and researcher, Mr Chas Townley, and published in November 2025 edition (No. 44) has sparked more interest than most. I hope you enjoy the on-going story. John Garrett has recalled his youth. There is also interesting articles on rationing in WW2 and a trip to Canada. In all there are 20 pages making this the equal biggest issue.

It only leaves me to hope that 2026 will turn out to be a good year for everyone and to apologise for accidentally leaving out Jill Hurran's article with news of St John the Baptist Church, Elmore, from the previous issue of **The Bridge!**

I would also like to express the obvious fact that time is passing and I will be entering my 9<sup>th</sup> decade in 2026 so if there is anyone who would like to join me as Assistant Editor with a view to taking over eventually, I would be pleased if you would make contact.

## Letter to the Editor

Sir

I see in **The Bridge** (No 44) that Chas Townley was trying to piece together the history on the old camp. I know that Mick Taylor can tell more about the fuel dump side, something I found interesting, but it also had another function that Chas might want to research a bit deeper.

All of this is verbal information that I was told throughout the years growing up in the village so it would need to be backed up by hard facts, but as I understood it, it was a secret base that not only stored fuel but

also refurbished uniforms. Being secret, the records as to that part of its function may well be sparse or incomplete.

The section of the camp in question was the place where war damaged uniforms and webbing from battlefield casualties were sent. Here the blood would be washed out, bullet holes etc repaired, then sent back to be re-issued to the next lot of new soldiers. It was a secret because, as you can imagine, no soldier would want to set off into battle wearing a uniform that someone had previously died in. Many knew it locally as 'The Laundry', people from the immediate area worked there and knew of this, so I'm surprised it isn't a more well known story.

During the first world war this function was carried out by the Royal Army Clothing Depot in London but following on from the attention it got in a newspaper article of the time (*see article below, Ed*) I believe it was decided that that part of their operation should be carried out at remote depots away from the spotlight. Hence, when the second world war came along and the practice again adopted, one such depot was placed in the camp at Elmore.

I've attached the article and hopefully that might give Chas a lead to follow for the full history.

Kind Regards, Tony Leach

### **Tony Leach's Article**

An issue of The Bacup Times during WW1 told the story of the mother of Private 40321 Miles Wallace Tattersall 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Cheshire Regiment. Mrs Tattersall, his mother, lived with his quarryman father also called Miles. Having been notified that her son was missing she had tried without success to find some information about his whereabouts. Then whilst reading the Daily Sketch (*a now defunct national daily, Ed*) she came across the following story:-

***A Dead Soldier:** - A motherly woman, who is repairing clothes taken from dead soldiers, writes to tell me that in one uniform she found three small Catholic medals and one cloth one. One was sewn inside the left sleeve, one inside the lining over the heart and the other two in each side of the pockets. The man's number was 4032 or 40321, his regiment not known.*

*She would like to return the medals to the mother who put them there. Private Tattersall had been reported missing on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1917. After contacting the Daily Sketch and contacting the woman mender, Miles's mother received the following letter:-*

*Canonbury Road  
Highbury*

*18<sup>th</sup> September 1918*

*Dear Mrs Tattersall*

*Please excuse the pencil as I am writing in bed. I was taken bad suddenly on Thursday or I should have written before. I went to the branch of the War Office in my dinner-hour, and the secretary said I had cleared up what the Red Cross people had been trying everywhere to find out, namely tidings of your son. They thought he may be a prisoner of war, but I told them we only repaired clothes taken from the dead soldiers. I cannot tell you the particular place where his jacket came from, only that it came to us with hundreds of others off the battlefield. The secretary advised that you should write to the enclosed address in another month's time as they don't settle anything under the twelve months. I should like you to write and tell me how old your son was and if you have any others as they are all so interested in it, and I might tell you that you had the sympathy and tears of 200 women here, mothers and wives of soldiers. I am so thankful I kept the medals, but I always thought I should not hear about them. If there is anything I can do for you here I would willingly do it if you will write again, and please accept my sympathy as I know what you must be feeling.*

*Yours Respectfully  
Emily Mason.*

As promised, Emily forwarded the medals to Miles's mother, who said she had not been the one to sew the medals in place but felt that he had probably been given them whilst in training at Curragh Camp, Ireland and that he had himself stitched them into his tunic for good luck. Within days she received communication from the Military Authorities confirming his death which they said took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1917

## **More From the Editor**

Certain aspects of this story didn't ring true to me so I asked John Field to do further research for which I am very grateful. He found that Miles Tattersall was in fact a soldier in the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Cheshire Regt. He joined this unit in France in September 1917 and was killed on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1917 – he was last seen on that day, so was presumed dead, killed in action. His remains were never found – he was either blown to pieces or buried in the mud of Passchendaele. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial where only the soldiers with no known grave were named. John told me that soldiers were encouraged to put their names in their uniforms but that the dead were buried in their uniforms. Only the uniforms of those too badly injured and so discharged from the army were sent back to Britain to be refurbished and recycled. So how could the uniform of a soldier who was never found and who died in his uniform find itself in a laundry in London? Also if you had some lucky charms would you not take them with you into battle rather than leaving them behind? The personal effects of dead and missing soldiers were sent back to their parents, so if the medals were left in his billet they would have reached his parents anyway. There are many inconsistencies and unanswered questions. I would be pleased to hear what others think about this story.

## **Another letter from Chas Townley**

Chas Townley has contacted me again to say that he had recently met Hugh Conway-Jones, local historian and leading authority on the Gloucester Sharpness Canal, and he has sent him the following:

*In 1998, I noted that former G&S Canal bank foreman Bert Phelpstead of Brookthorpe told me that the underground petrol tanks near Hempsted Bridge were built during the WW2, and there is a pipeline across the fields to Elmore - you can see the pipe where it crosses Dimer's Ditch. It went to a camp of nissen huts where there is now a pig farm at Brook Street Farm. They intended to put the petrol into lightweight disposable cans there, but the cans could be easily damaged and I don't think it was ever used.*

So it sounds like it was a bit of a folly as a fuel depot and then got used for the clothing depot.

## **An Enterprising Young Man**

I was born in Charlton which is next to Blackheath in the borough of Greenwich, London. I started my paper round when I was 13 and continued till 17 when I left school. A few things stand out in my memory from the round I did. The first was getting an extra half crown for turning up on a Sunday; the papers were so much heavier, especially the Sunday Times. Two of my customers stood out. The first was Glenda Jackson who lived in Shooters Hill road and a few doors from her lived Fanny Craddock. I didn't see either very often and never got a Christmas tip. One old couple used to give me two shillings once a week! If I saw them coming out of their basement flat. I would do my utmost to time my arrival at their place as they left. It was quite a bonus. My other jobs were a window cleaner on a Monday afternoon; once a month I would skip school and do several flats in an old people's block in Greenwich. I also worked in a supermarket called 'Priceright' every Saturday in the warehouse for 9 hours at 25 shillings. I also worked in Woolwich street market when I was 14, again on a Saturday. We sold sweets. I got 10 shillings for all day from 7.30 to 5. One of my jobs was to remove the outer wrappers from bars of Cadbury's chocolate. This was in 1965 and the wrappers said 'use before 1959'. I also worked in Petticoat Lane on a Sunday but I was caught by the school board. In those days you had to be 18 to work in a street market. They wrote to my parents and told them they would be prosecuted if I was caught again. So that was the end of that. I am sure selling sweets from a barrow stood me in good stead when I started work as a salesman. One summer when 15, I was told of a job going in the Joe Lyons warehouse in Greenwich. It was opposite the gas works, which is now the Millennium dome. They asked if I could drive a forklift truck. They didn't ask how old I was. I said of course I can and was employed that day at £8 per week. When I got outside I had to ask one of the men how to drive a fork lift. The following summer I went back. A new boss asked how old I was. '16' I said. 'Sorry too young' was the reply. I told him I was employed

last year. How did we pay you he asked. ‘Petty cash’ I replied. ‘Start tomorrow and don't tell anyone. - £8 10 shillings a week      John Garratt

## **Dick Turpin**

The 2025 pantomime from the Village Players was Dick Turpin by Paul Reakes. The real Dick Turpin was hanged for his crimes on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1739 but luckily this did not happen to Elmore's Dick Turpin, well played by Sophie Gibson, who turned out to be a Robin Hood type character and in the end got to marry his sweetheart, Caroline, glamorously played by Tash Smith.

The real villain was Mr X, well played by Freddie Taylor, aka Parson Goodfellow. The programme told us that Mr X was played by ‘John Palmer’ which was a nice little joke since this was one of the aliases used by the C18th Dick Turpin. Of course in the panto this was to disguise the fact that Mr X was in fact the same person as Parson (not so) Goodfellow, until all was revealed in the final scenes.

This was an excellent panto with strong performances all round – there was only one prompt in the whole show. There were loads of songs both solo, duet and ensemble which was good.

Sarah Younger made an excellent Dame Dollop – I lost count of the number of changes of gorgeous outfits she wore. There must have been a whole industry back stage getting her changed. Meanwhile lovesick Katie Cuddlesome cheekily played by Rachael Chamberlain was stuck with the same outfit throughout. The ‘Buttons’ character, Billy Bumpkin (desperately in love with Katie) was very well played by Sean Jarrett and after many put-downs got the girl in the end thanks to his heroic efforts in helping to capture the villain.

Lord Lootalot (a victim of vicious gout) and father of Caroline, was well played by Paul Tucker. Often the minor characters don't get much of a look in but Nick and Nab played by Alfie Spinner and Andy Harden made an excellent job of playing the ‘boys in blue’. Alphie has a very clear voice which he used to good effect and Andy has a gift for humour so together they made a good team. They made a very good job of ‘A Policeman's Lot is not an'Appy One’ from The Pirates of Penzance. Mr X's hapless sidekicks, Smash and Grab were played by Molly Voice and

Ashley Rowles. Colin Ellis played a deaf, considerably squiffy and certainly biased, judge

This was a good panto and no panto can live up to that name without a cow, in this case Daisy, ably and comically played by Megan Toomey and Isla Watts. There was a chorus of villagers who sang and danced well. Managing to produce convincing choreography on such a small stage requires some wizardry as well as the choreographer's art. It was good to see Sam Kirby in the chorus. There were also some charming children. As usual lighting, music and special FX were of a high standard and Rachael Chamberlain, Pauline Fisher and their team are to be congratulated on costumes of professional standard.

It has become a bit of a tradition for an 'Oscar' to be awarded and this year it goes to Alfie Spinner. THJ

## Upcoming Road Closures

The Clerk to the Parish Council has been notified of several local road closures in 2026. Here are those most affecting Elmore residents.

**Moor St, Framilode** (by The Ship Inn) 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Kenton Green to Velthouse Lane** will be closed on March 5<sup>th</sup> 0930 until 1530

**High St, Saul** will be closed 26<sup>th</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> May 0900 until 1600

**Green Lane, Hardwick** will be closed 28<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> May 0800 until 1600

**Pound Lane, Hardwick** will be completely closed from 25<sup>th</sup> until 27<sup>th</sup> May

## 1st Elmore Brownies

Last half term we started with the Brownies each having a sparkler outside for bonfire night and returned inside to create our own firework picture. We started our Kindness Interest Badge, which is one of the new badges that Girlguiding introduced last summer. As part of the badge we painted pebbles with positive messages to put on our garden or give to either a friend or family member. The Brownies enjoyed a silent disco for their Christmas Party and we held our end of term presentation evening at Longney Church, where one Brownie was awarded her Gold Award

and will be moving up to Guides. We did return to the village hall for one further meeting to do a variety of Christmas Crafts before we finished for the Christmas break.

## **1st Elmore Guides**

After the Autumn half term break the Guides had a campfire to celebrate bonfire night, we toasted marshmallows and enjoyed s'mores. We also had a sparkler and enjoyed watching the fireworks around us as we met on the day of bonfire night. We also created kindness cards to say 'thank you' to people who help us. For the next couple of weeks the Guides worked on their Thrift Interest Badge, where we had a visit to the Sue Ryder Charity Shop in Kingsway to learn about what charity shops do. The Guides were set the challenge to choose one item from the charity shop to upcycle the following week. The Guides enjoyed turning different items of clothes into something new, we had dresses which turned into tops and shirts into vests. To end our term we had our unit Christmas party by having a silent disco and at our last meeting we went to Longney Church where we presented awards and enjoyed some festive songs. This term we are going to work on our Meditation Interest Badge by trying yoga, we are also going to do some crafts and continue to work on our Be Well theme.

The Guides will be going on their first international residential in October this year. We will be hosting fundraisers over the next few months to go towards helping the Guides attend. Our next fundraiser is a Coffee Morning at Elmore Village Hall on **Saturday 31st January from 10am -12pm, please do join us.**

*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](mailto:1stelmore@gmail.com).*

## **Village Players**

We would like to give our heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along to watch Dick Turpin. We hoped you all enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed putting it together. We managed to raise a fantastic £800 for our

two charities – SHARP Life Learning Skills and Headway. So thank you for everyone's donations. The smiles, laughter and energy we saw from the audience would certainly suggest so!

We'll soon be thinking about our 2026 spring production, so if you'd like to get involved on or off stage, please let us know ([villageplayers@outlook.com](mailto:villageplayers@outlook.com)). The show is 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April, so get those dates in your diary now if you'd like to watch! We'll shortly announce all the details on our facebook page – [facebook.com/villageplayerselmore](https://facebook.com/villageplayerselmore)

Whilst you've got your calendar out, you could add our panto dates too! Our 2026 panto runs 26<sup>th</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2026.

Sean Jarrett

## **Village Hall News**

Hall activities and all user groups are up and running following Christmas break. Fund raiser is being considered for later in the year, details in next issue of the Bridge.

Pleased to announce that Dorie Jones is now confirmed as new interim Treasurer of the Hall.

Sad to hear that long time supporter and contributor to EVH, Bill Taylor has passed away following a long illness. Thanks Bill, you will be missed. Condolences to Gen and family,

Demand for some space in our Hall is rising, 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](mailto:pikelett@hotmail.com)



# 1st Elmore Guides

## Coffee Morning

**Where:** Elmore Village Hall (GL2 3NT)

**When:** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

10am - 12pm



All welcome!

All proceeds to support our residential



## **Rationing During WW2**

Not many of you will remember the post war years when rationing was still in force after WW2; indeed, did you know that rationing continued in Great Britain until 1954. The commodities that were in short supply, and therefore rationed were; butter, margarine, cooking fat, bacon, meat, tea, coffee, tinned beef (corned beef), sugar, eggs, cheese, petrol, clothing and soap.

Why did rationing occur in England? Pre-WW2 Britain was heavily dependent on imports from the British Empire but this all changed with the German U-boat attacks on merchant shipping, compounded by the bombing of the docks in London and elsewhere, then exacerbated by the Japanese invasion of the British colonies in the Far East where many of the staples that the British had become used to were grown. UK citizens were issued with ration books of coupons, which they could use at nominated retailers to ensure that everyone had access to minimum essentials but nobody could buy in excess of the restricted amounts. There was one exception - restaurants were not subject to rationing, therefore all types of food was available to those with the money.

The height of rationing during WW2 came in the summer of 1942 when limits were imposed, per person, per week. Luxury items like tinned peaches, chocolate, tinned salmon, biscuits and breakfast cereal; which were not considered essential for the diet, could be purchased using the ration coupons at the expense of other items. After 1940 the Government banned the import of bananas and oranges and this ban was only lifted after the Allied victories in North Africa in May 1943. However, even though certain items were rationed, that did not mean that they were always available and if they were, then long queues formed at the shops selling the items. Therefore, inevitably, a black market economy flourished despite severe penalties if caught. One would have thought that we produced enough of these rationed items to sustain the country during times of crisis but sadly that wasn't the case. Prior to WW2 Great Britain imported 55 million tons of food but during the war years this reduced to less than one third of that amount.

As a result the 'Dig for Victory' campaign was introduced in 1939 and was aimed at encouraging people to grow their own vegetables to

supplement their diet as well as supplying food for our troops overseas. The number of allotments doubled in-between 1939 - 1943 and the most popular books on loan from libraries were books on gardening. The Government improved the output from agriculture with an increase in the land devoted to growing crops, even local parks converted to vegetable growing. In 1917, during WW1 the Women's Land Army but was formed and disbanded in 1919, then 23,000 women worked on the land to replace the 100,000 men who had been conscripted into the Forces. This unit was then reformed in July of 1939 as conscription for men had already been introduced in May of that year and it wasn't disbanded until November 1950. However, this scheme, combined with the number of women employed in factories to replace the men who had gone to war, meant that fewer women now had the time to prepare meals at home and this led to a greater demand for what we call nowadays 'convenience foods' such as pies, cakes and cooked meats.

Those that did have the time and effort to cook at home adopted a culture of cooking, storing and preserving the 'in-season' foods like vegetables and fruit. Jam making was tricky as there was a very limited amount of sugar available. The imagination of people for home cooking would have been a delight for vegetarians today with delicacies such as Guernsey Potato Peel Pie, carrot and potato hotpot, parsnip pudding, savoury potato biscuits and eggless fruitcake. Things we take for granted today weren't even in use in the pre-war years, such as olive oil, which was only available in chemists in small bottles and then only used as an ear ointment to release wax!

One could be forgiven for thinking that a restricted diet, enforced by rationing, would have a detrimental effect on people's health but in fact the opposite was the case. People ate less; they ate more healthy foods like vegetables and little red meat. Coffee was not the high-street drink that it is today. The delicacy, or rather alternative, during the war years, and well into the mid 1950s, was Camp Coffee. This was sold as a concentrated liquid in bottles and was probably the forerunner for instant coffee except for the fact that it was only 4% dried coffee extract, the other tasty ingredients were sugar, water and chicory extract (25%). Interestingly, Camp Coffee made a temporary comeback in late 1975 after a disastrous coffee harvest in Brazil.

John Field

*(This is part 1 of John Field's article on rationing in WW2. Part 2 will be published in the next issue of **The Bridge!** Ed)*

## **A Journey to Canada in 1965**

With many of us travelling the world on a regular basis, this might not seem unusual. Travel was expanding quickly in 1965, but nowhere near where it is at present, so a trip to Canada looked an exciting prospect.

I should explain the reason for this visit. At the time I was a member of the Young Farmers Club.

As a member I had a chance to apply for a YFC scholarship to visit another country. These visits were available mostly to commonwealth countries but many others as well. After 3 interviews, the final one in London, I was lucky to be chosen to represent England in 1965. Canadians would be coming to Britain on more or less the same basis. I would be staying with Canadian families for 5-6 days at a time over 3 ½ months. We would be going by sea from Liverpool – 1 person from England, 1 from Wales, 2 from Northern Ireland and 4 from Scotland. We were expected to wear in my case a blazer with a YFC pocket badge; the Scottish were in full Highland kit including sgian-dubh (pronounced skee-an doo, which is a traditional knife). Seven mid-twenties young farmers sailing in the Atlantic seemed an exciting prospect. When we boarded the Cunard Liner Carinthia, 26,000 tonnes, we didn't know we were heading into one of the worst Atlantic storms in living memory. Within 1 day we had 45-foot waves, a mass of smashed crockery and 15 or so people for breakfast out of 1700! We arrived at Montreal 2 days late with hundreds of passengers recovering from severe seasickness.

Due to our late arrival there was not much time to look around Montreal. We went by train to Ottawa. The winter was still lingering in April with some heaps of snow and blocks of ice on the river. Ottawa is a fine city; we were taken around the parliamentary buildings with their green copper roofs and given lunch. This was the end of group travel as we all went to stay with Canadian families – 12 families in all for me. Ontario has a county structure, the names taken from England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland – many more families have Scottish ancestry than any other. If you were wearing a kilt you could expect plenty of invitations. The

families were the friendliest, most generous people you could ever meet. I did what they did, helped when needed, met large numbers of fun-loving Junior Farmers (the equivalent to our Young Farmers, but they are not all farmers). There were many evening parties, fishing trips and BBQs by the lake where we cooked our fish. I remember the temperature at midnight being 80 degrees (27° C). I have been in other parts of the world where there are mosquitos but I think Canada has half of the world's mosquito population. I should mention that most of my hosts did not have alcohol in the house; if you needed drinks for a party you would need to visit a government owned liquor control store and show identification. You must not open the drinks before your return; if you were caught driving with unsealed drinks you could expect a heavy fine. The cars were still large, near 8 feet wide; new cars were a little smaller. Most host families were religious. I do realise this was 60 years ago however, the churches there were full for services – I don't think churches here were full at that time. They were also very patriotic to the crown; almost all my hosts had a picture of the Queen hanging in their living room. Did we here? At the time Canada's national flag had just been changed to the Maple Leaf. Most of my host families were not in favour but the vote to change was pushed by Quebec who would rather not have the Union Jack in the corner of their flag, - it was still a debating point at supper time. Sports are different; their ice-hockey being the National sport. Everyone talks of their team. Softball, much like baseball, was another sport played in schools and later in life. I played some games without the glove and the Canadians thought I was mad, I told them we don't wear a glove to field in cricket. The ball is slightly larger and a little softer than a baseball ball, but not much.

My second hosts were in Temiskaming; a plane journey, as it was much further north towards Hudson Bay. On the 23rd May it was just coming out of winter -3 springs in one season for me. Like most of Canada it had wonderful soil and crops could be grown; although late planted, due to long northern days they were able to mature in the time. This area is very much a mining area – silver cobalt and many other minerals. Some mines had closed. I was taken to a small town now abandoned, the dirt main street with derelict houses and shops on either side. In this area I saw zig-zag fencing and no posts in the ground because of its zig-zag construction

it was free-standing, otherwise posts would need to be in the ground below frost level (4 feet or so). This system was also good on rocky ground.

Now back further south to Southern Ontario after 8 days. On my return I found that the grass and crops were now knee height. I was staying with a top Canadian dairy farmers, Don and Mary McIntosh, who had very high yielding Canadian Holsteins, their yields being 1/3 higher than most good cows back home., Don's family moved from Scotland in the late C19th. Mary was born in India, daughter of a British Army Brigadier. They lived in a stone house which was very rare in Ontario.

I gave talks to Rotary Clubs and other groups, including the WI. The WI was formed in Stony Creek Ontario in 1897 when a number of ladies met and WI was born before coming to the British Isles in 1915 and many other places. I was invited to visit The House of the first meeting, now a museum.

Moving on into what is known as the Niagara Peninsula, besides maize soya beans and many other crops perhaps a crop you might not expect to find, tobacco, grown in quite large plots. It needs very sandy soil to do well. All farms had drying sheds to dry the leaves. Oil was found in this area with many nodding donkey pumps in the fields of maize. I did some ploughing – the field was long; I could not see the other end. I was now in the wine growing area, quite extensive in the Niagara area. I was not going to miss Niagara Falls, both Horseshoe Falls and the American Falls – What a sight this is!! The biggest falls by volume in the world, a ride on the “Maid of the Mist” below the Falls adds to the enjoyment - but very wet! Wildlife was very different, with many Beavers, racoons, grey squirrels together with its black cousin. The skunk was also around, domestic dogs are inclined to play with them - the result is a very foul-smelling dog. The answer is to bath the dog in tomato ketchup. In the meantime, keep the dog outside. There is an added and much more serious sting. Skunks carry rabies and can infect a dog. Infected dogs can become aggressive to other dogs and humans. Should you be bitten, you will need to get to a hospital very quickly.

Together with some hosts, the full Uk group and hundreds junior farmers attended Gulf University for their field day (in fact 2 days). This was a fitting end to a marvellous trip except it wasn't the end, I had 10 days free

time. I booked a flight to Vancouver and the Canadian Pacific train back to Montreal with 5 stops on the way but that's another story.

Michael Watts

## **Elmore WI**

We ended the year with a Christmas celebration with entertainment from Love2Sing Community Choir who sang a variety of Christmas songs and Carols. This was followed by a buffet.

We have a varied program for the coming year which started in January with a talk on Antarctic Travels by Sue Davies.

February 10th Young Carers by Toni Collier

March 10th Maintaining Brain Health by Colin Terrell

April 14th TBC

We meet on 2nd Tuesday at 7.30 at the Hall. Visitors are always welcome

## **CHURCH NEWS – Christmas Lunch**

Many thanks to everyone who either came to, or helped with cooking the food or provided Raffle prizes. The event was very enjoyable and successful and had a good atmosphere, as well as raising over £1900 towards Church Funds.

The new to Elmore Church organ is now nearly complete with just a few minor jobs to be done. The work was carried out by a very experienced Organ restorer from London and his apprentices along with several members of our church and other volunteers who are interested in pipe organs. We now have a fantastic Organ and all the PCC, Organists and congregation are delighted with the result. We will be holding an Organ recital in the Spring but in the meantime you can hear the wonderful result every week at our services on Sunday.

### **SERVICES**

Whilst we are in interregnum the Rev Duncan Hutchinson, who was lent to us from Hucclecote Church, has taken our morning services. He has now returned to Hucclecote and we are being helped by various retired Vicars in the area.

On 1st Feb Rev George Parfit will take the service and on 15<sup>th</sup>, Rev Mike Parsons. 4.00pm Services will be covered by Doff Stone, Richard

Flowers or Judy Cheshire. Please see the Church Website for further services information .

[www.hardwicke-elmores-longney.church](http://www.hardwicke-elmores-longney.church)

J. Hurran PCC Secretary

## **Parish Council Update**

We welcomed Will Lovell to the Parish Council, who has stepped into the recent vacancy and brings us back up to full membership. My thanks also go to Vince, Ed, Zahra and Dorie for their continued commitment and hard work on behalf of the parish.

We recently ran our second first aid and defibrillator training session, which was very well attended. It is encouraging to see so many residents taking part and helping to strengthen our community resilience.

The council has voted to retain the current level of the parish precept for the coming year.

As part of our forward planning, we are establishing a clearer framework for reviewing funding requests made to the council. To set expectations, as we have not increased the precept, our available funds are limited. Any grants will therefore be one-off payments only, focused on initiatives that make a positive difference to life in Elmore. Thank you, as always, for your support.

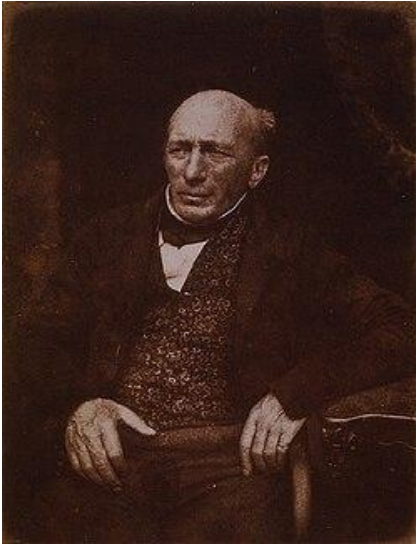
Matthew Brandon – Chairman Elmore Parish Council

## **Sevenside Singers.**

We had a busy Christmas season singing for Advent and carol services at the local churches; carols at the reopened Horseshoes at the invitation of Red Hogben, the new owner, and at a wedding in Frampton on the final Monday of the year. Due to sickness, unfortunately we were unable to give a Christmas concert at Wisma Mulia. Looking forward to singing in 2026, we are a local friendly community choir and meet Thursday evenings 7.30pm at Frampton village hall. No auditions and we sing for fun.

Turn up or ring Su on 01452 721798 for further information.

## Great Pedestrians



In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century competitive pedestrianism was a major sport attracting huge crowds and involving large wagers.

Perhaps the greatest pedestrian was the Scotsman, Captain Robert Barclay Allardice (1779 – 1854) who became known as the **‘Celebrated Pedestrian’**. In 1801 he walked 110 miles in 19 hours 27 minutes and in 1802 64 miles in 10 hours. In 1805 he walked 72 miles between breakfast and dinner. In 1806 he walked 100 miles in 19 hours and in 1807 78 miles over hilly roads in 14 hours. But his

most famous feat was to walk 1000 miles in 1000 successive hours at the rate of one mile in each and every hour for an initial wager of 1000 guineas. The walk took 42 days beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1809. The course was  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile and he walked out and back in every one of the 1000

hours, day and night, rain or shine. During the walk his time per mile increased from 14 minutes and 54 seconds to 21 minutes and 4 seconds and his weight fell from 13st 4lbs to 11st 0lbs. It is estimated that the total wagers were some £5 million.

This feat was repeated by Emma Sharpe, pictured here in the clothes she wore on the walk. She started on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1864 and finished on October 29<sup>th</sup>. She did the walk in 2 mile stints every 90 minutes.

One might imagine that sportsmanship and fairness were bywords of the



Victorian era but in fact spectators tried to trip her and stop her finishing. In the latter part of the walk she carried a pistol to protect herself. It is reported she won £500 in prize money.

Great determination was needed by both these walkers to complete the 1000 mile walk in the face of some adverse weather and severe sleep deprivation made worse by the fact that as they got more and more tired each mile would take longer, leaving less and less time to recover before starting the next mile.

## **The Severnside Singers require a new Musical Director**

This is a well-established, friendly and accomplished choir of approximately 30 singers from the Severnside villages of Gloucestershire. We have been singing together for over 15 years and have a 1½ hr rehearsal on Thursdays at Frampton on Severn.

We sing confidently in three parts, (soprano, alto and tenor/bass) and do not audition members. Our repertoire is varied: songs from shows, folk music, light classics, John Rutter and popular ballads. Members pay by a yearly subscription. We regularly perform in the local community, at Christmas church services, & local pubs. We occasionally sing at weddings which provides an extra income for the choir.

We are seeking a **Musical Director** to lead weekly rehearsals and work with us towards: improvement in singing technique; a bigger repertoire; a summer fundraising concert,

An ability to arrange music would be welcomed and conducting from the keyboard would be an advantage, though not essential.

This is a paid position, with remuneration to be negotiated.

Our ideal start date is April, though we would be willing to wait until September for the right candidate.

We are a supportive, committed choir looking for an enthusiastic and collaborative leader who enjoys working in a light hearted manner with adult community singers.

For an informal discussion or to express interest, contact: Judy Halliday - [judyhalliday48@gmail.com](mailto:judyhalliday48@gmail.com)

Tel: 01452 742195 / 07500006831

## Elmore Parish Council Contacts

Matt Brandon Chair	07894070511	matt_brandon@hotmail.com
Vince Meredith Vice Chair	07951199313	meredith2fn@btinternet.com
Ed Watts	07887548326	ed_watts@hotmail.com
Zahra Sadry	07793679033	zahra.sadry@yahoo.co.uk
Will Lovell	07588567357	will.l@hotmail.co.uk
Dorie Jones Parish Clerk	07443045705	elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Parish Council Website</b> <a href="mailto:elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk">elmore.parish@hotmail.co.uk</a>		

### Parish Council Meeting Dates 2025/6

All held in the Village Hall, 7pm. All Welcome

Monday 16 March 2026

Tuesday 18 May 2026 (Annual Meetings)

Monday 14 September 2026

Monday 7 December 2026

### Copy Dates for The Bridge 2026

, Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>

Friday July 31<sup>st</sup>,

Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>

Please send copy to the Editor on or before the above dates. Regular contributors will be warned of each of these 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)