

# THE BRIDGE



Produced by Elmore Parish Council  
September 2017, Issue THIRTEEN

## From the Editor

The late summer edition of **The Bridge** last year was a bit thin. People are away on holiday; children are out of school and taking up their parents' time; the Guides and Brownies are not meeting. Few have time or inclination to put fingers to keyboards..... This year, there have been no such problems. We have the third part of the 'Lest we Forget' feature we have been running this year; there is also a feature about the 1947 flood. Many think that 13 is an unlucky number; personally it is my lucky number. So here goes.....

Trevor Jones, 24 Aug 2017

## A Request From The Editor

I have recently stumbled on a study of field names in part of Ireland and it made interesting reading. It occurred to me that there is probably a whole nomenclature known to farmers, landowners and gamekeepers and used by them everyday which most of us don't know about. It stands to reason that those who work the land must have names for their fields otherwise no one could easily communicate. I wonder, encouraged by a remark from Jennie Hobbs, if Elmore has interesting and historic field names which could form the basis of a future article in **The Bridge**. I am keen to write such an article but don't know any of the field names. So this is a request for the farmers and landowners in Elmore to get in touch with me with a list of these names. Maybe you have an old map or sketch with the names written on which you could show me? If you are interested in this and can help, please contact me. Thanks, Trevor Jones

## ELMORE W.I.

Meetings are held at Elmore Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm and visitors and prospective members always welcome.

The WI have held two events in the past few weeks.

Coffee Morning with plants and various stalls raised £600 for our funds to help with various expenses, rent, speakers etc,

Garden Party by kind permission of Mike and Gill Farmer

A glorious day, fabulous garden, and delicious food.

This event raised approx £800 for the STAR CENTRE.

Many thanks to all who supported these events and gave so generously.

PLEASE NOTE that the meeting on October 10th is open to the general public, with films of Wildlife Tigers. Refreshments will be provided.

The cost of this will be £3 (bargain)

Looking forward to welcoming you.

Val Overton

## **Walking for Health**

The next walk in the area in September will take place on Wednesday 20th Sept. from the church in Church Lane Moreton Valance 9.45 am for a 10 o'clock walk start.

Cars: please park with care on the well kept grass verge outside the churchyard.

The walk as usual could include stiles and field paths and is Approx. 2 miles in length (and will take a max 1.5 hours). For more info. ring 01452 740265 or email [nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nandanailsworth@yahoo.co.uk).

Note 2 walk leaders hope to be present

## **A River Runs Through It!**

On the 6th, 7th and 8th of July 2017 The Village Players presented 'An evening of Fun, Facts, Farce' at the Village Hall. Those attending were also treated to a two course summer supper.

The first half consisted of lively and interesting 'Thoughts and Facts about the River Severn Through the Seasons'; readings, songs and

recitations by The Company with Musical Director, Pete Kirby at the piano

We were then treated to a delicious salmon supper followed by dessert. Thanks to Nick Phillips and his team.

Supper was followed appropriately by 'A Fishy Business', a farce by Margaret Wood. A strong cast treated the audience to all the usual hilarious confusions and lack of trousers of a typical farce. On the first night a power cut added to the fun but the actors, especially Paul Tucker as 'George', milked the situation for all it was worth. An emergency power pack was deployed but no sooner was this linked up than the power came back on.

A fun evening

## **VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

The improvements to the tarmac area at the main (side) entrance, also the edging from there to the fence have now been completed. Also the outside drains are now fully working.

The Ascot Lunch held on 22 June was well supported and raised £1002 for Hall funds (£100 was donated to Willow Trust) Thanks to all concerned.

Future events include Christmas Lunch on 10<sup>th</sup> December, also a Race Night planned for Spring 2018.

Demand for space in our Hall is steadily increasing, consequently, early bookings (or enquiries) are advisable. I look forward to hearing from you - 01452 721798 or [pikelett@hotmail.com](mailto:pikelett@hotmail.com).

Many thanks to all users and supporters of the Hall.

John (Hardisty), Chairman

## **Lest We Forget**

### **The Great War – Elmore Casualties – Part 3**

#### **30798 Private Edward Martin CLARKE**

**Private Edward Clarke** was born in Cwmbran, Newport, Wales on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1897. He was the son of Thomas Charles Clarke (1868-

1926) and Frances Annie Taylor (1868-1946); Thomas Clarke was born in Minsterworth and Annie Taylor was born in Elmore. By 1916 Edward's parents had moved to 5 Victoria Cottages, Rea Lane, Hempstead, Quedgeley. Although now situated on the Stonebench Road and part of Quedgeley, at that time these cottages appeared to be part of Elmore. Edward's family comprised one elder brother and 5 sisters; Edward's father, Thomas, was listed in the 1901 Census as a 'cowman agricultural cattle' living in Longdon near Tewksbury but by 1911 his occupation was listed as a Salmon fisherman and he was then living in Rea Lane. At the time of their marriage, Thomas Clarke had been a resident of Elmore and married Annie Taylor in Elmore Church in mid 1892.

At the outbreak of WW1 Edward Clarke would have been 16 years old. Notwithstanding his young age, Edward initially joined the Gloucestershire Regiment and was allocated the Army number 28147. However, he subsequently joined 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers (*also known as The West Yorkshire Regiment*) and given the Regimental number 30798, probably around mid 1916. It is likely that Edward was one of the 250,000 under age boys who tried to join the Army; however, was probably discharged until he reached his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in December of 1915.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers was formed at Bury on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army and came under command of 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 11<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division. The unit was then stationed at Belton Park near Grantham. In April 1915 the unit moved to Witley Camp, near Godalming in Surrey.

Although the Battalion sailed from Liverpool on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1915, going via Mudros to Suvla Bay in Gallipoli, disembarking on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1915, it is highly likely that Edward would not have been with them at that stage as he was too young. In December of 1915 the whole battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli to Mudros having suffered severe casualties from combat during their involvement in the Battle of Scimitar Hill and the attack on Hill 60. Disease and harsh weather also increased the casualty toll on the Regiment. In January of 1916 the unit

moved to Egypt to protect the Suez Canal and thence to Marseilles in France, arriving on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. The Battalion then proceeded by train to St Pol, a small town NE of Arras; once off the train they marched to billets near Croisette. It is likely that Private Edward Clarke joined the battalion at this point as one of many reinforcements they desperately needed.

After some intensive training in gas warfare and the use of heavy mortars, the Battalion moved north to the area of The Somme, suffering their first casualties on 1<sup>st</sup> August. They were involved in the capture of the Wundt-Werk (*Wonder Work*), The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, and The Battle of Thiepval.

During 1917 the Battalion was involved in operations on the Ancre, The Battle of Messines, The Battle of Langemarck, The Battle of Polygon Wood and The Battle of Broodseinde, which was part of the Ypres campaign:

The Battle of Broodseinde (Ypres) started on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917 and was the last of three successful “bite and hold” battles launched by General Herbert Plumer, Commander of the British 2<sup>nd</sup> Army, during the middle phase of the third battle of Ypres.

The attack by II ANZAC (*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – who were then part of The British 2<sup>nd</sup> Army*) successfully achieved its objective on the first day of the battle and reached the high ground just below the summit of the Broodseinde Ridge.

The battle had opened with an ambitious attempt to push the Germans back along a wide stretch of their line. Unfortunately that effort had failed in the mud of The Somme. General Plumer’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Army had then taken over from the 5<sup>th</sup> Army. Plumer believed in making limited advances in attacks on shorter stretches of the line, stopping once a pre-determined point had been reached and digging in ready to repulse the inevitable German counterattack.

The first two attacks, at Menin Road Ridge on 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 1917 and Polygon Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September, had gone entirely to plan. A creeping barrage had protected the advancing troops while standing bombardments had isolated the German troops under attack. Both attacks had seized their objectives and then held off the subsequent German counter attacks.

Coincidentally, both the Germans and the British were planning an attack on 4<sup>th</sup> October. When the British bombardment began, it caught a number of German units out in the open preparing for their own attack (amongst them the 4<sup>th</sup> Guards and 19<sup>th</sup> Reserve Divisions). The British attack comprised divisions from Britain, New Zealand and Australia. As at Menin Road Ridge and Polygon Wood, the British attack achieved its main objectives and then halted to dig in.

Although these attacks are normally described as ‘small scale’ battles, the casualty figures demonstrated the real intensity of the fighting. The Germans suffered 10,000 casualties and lost 5,000 prisoners. On the Allied side the Australians suffered 6,432 casualties, the New Zealanders 892 and the British 300.

Sadly, Private Edward Martin Clarke was one of the 300 British casualties, killed on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917 at the age of 19. His name is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium, situated just south of Passendaele on the Ypres Salient. The fact that his name is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial rather than on a specific grave meant that he was one of the 34,887 soldiers from both UK and NZ whose bodies were never recovered, or could not be identified, from the muddy battlefields around that area.

There is an interesting twist to the Clarke family’s military history: in 1918 Edward’s father, Thomas Charles Clarke, enlisted in the 13<sup>th</sup> Somerset Light Infantry on 30<sup>th</sup> July, (probably as a result of a plea for extra men to help finish off the war or maybe as a feeling of guilt that his son had been killed while he stayed at home). As it happened, his battalion never actually deployed to France. On enlistment, 54700 Private Thomas Charles Clarke was aged 50 years and 3 months which

would have made him very old as an Army recruit and also too old for conscription; perhaps this showed how desperate Britain had become to get men into the Army in the latter stages of the Great War. By the time Thomas was discharged from the Army on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1919 with a weekly pension of 5s 6d (27½p) - his Army number had changed to 92245 and he was, by then, a member of 300<sup>th</sup> Company of the Royal Defence Corps. He had been transferred to this unit on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1918 because his fitness state was below that required for active service and he was also recorded as having a 20% disability.

Edward's mother, Frances Annie Taylor was born in Elmore on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1868 and her parents were Martin Taylor and Hannah Webb. Both the Taylors and Webbs were families who had been residing in the Elmore area for many generations – certainly since the late 1700s - and some of those with the same family name are still here.

### **241677 Private James GARDNER;**

**Private James Gardner** was born in May of 1885 in Elmore; he was the son of James Gardner and Rose Hannah Hone who lived at Brookfield House, Elmore (*Now Brookfield Kennels*). The Gardner family moved from Woolstrop in Quedgeley to Brookfield House in Elmore between 1883 and 1886 and James was the first of the children born in that house and he was christened in Elmore Church on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1888. Prior to the family's move to Elmore, the census of 1881 showed James' eldest brother Albert's occupation as 'ploughboy' at the tender age of 12!

The 1901 Census clearly shows James as a 'student' living at Brookfield House, Elmore, with his parents and seven siblings. However, the Census of 1911 indicated that James had moved to Wales and was living near Newport with his brother Arthur who had become a miner. James' occupation in 1911 was listed as working as a platelayer on the railways.

James Gardner joined the Army in 1914 at the age of 29 and was allocated to 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. This

battalion was formed in August 1914 in Gloucester and became part of 145<sup>th</sup> South Midland Brigade, 48<sup>th</sup> South Midland Division. The battalion moved, on mobilisation, to the Isle of Wight but thence to Swindon but very quickly on to Maldon in Essex, arriving by end of August 1914.

By 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915 the unit had embarked at Folkestone in Kent for France, landing at Boulogne the next day. The unit then marched over 100 miles to the 48<sup>th</sup> Divisional concentration area just SW of Ypres. The Battalion was billeted at Steenvorde and then Meteren in France on the Belgian border before taking over trenches in the front line in the Ploegsteert Wood Sector in Belgium on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1915.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May, after a spell in the trenches, James' unit was based at Le Romarin as the Divisional Reserve west of Ploegsteert, just inside the Belgian border and NE of Lille. Bearing in mind that the training the men had received in England did not prepare them for the conditions they encountered in the trenches, further training was required. This particularly involved the use of gas and how to protect against the German use of it.

During 1915 the Allied focus was in the Dardanelles (Gallipoli) and the Mediterranean and on the Western Front the Germans had established air superiority so not many major battles were fought on that front in this early part of WW1. However, fighting did continue and British troops suffered casualties from the first use of gas by the Germans on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1915 in the Ypres area. The mud and rains of the Somme winter of 1915 meant that little progress could be made by either side so a stalemate existed until the spring of 1916.

In 1916 James Gardner's battalion was in action in the Battle of the Somme, suffering heavy casualties on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July during the assault on the Quadrilateral (Heidenkopf). They were also in action at The Battle of Albert 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> July, The Battle of Bazentin Ridge 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> July and the Battle of Pozieres Ridge 23<sup>rd</sup> July -3<sup>rd</sup> Sep.



The 145th Brigade, including 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, were held in reserve around Sailly au Bois, Couin and Maillet-Mailly until 14<sup>th</sup> July when 48<sup>th</sup> Division was ordered into the attack on Ovillers. The 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were heavily involved, attacking German positions north-west of Pozieres but they failed to make any headway here. After having been withdrawn from the fighting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1916, 48<sup>th</sup> Division was back in action around Ovillers and the Nab Valley on 13<sup>th</sup> August until 28<sup>th</sup> August when it was then moved to Auchonvillers in the Ancre sector. The heaviest days of fighting in August 1916 for 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion were during the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August and the 27<sup>th</sup> August. Despite a heavy British artillery barrage lasting seven days the German defences were barely touched which meant that the attack by Commonwealth troops met heavy resistance with catastrophic results and it was during this last period that Private James Gardner was killed.

The Commonwealth War Grave Records for the Thiepval Monument state that Private James Gardner of A Company, 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn Gloucestershire Regt died on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1916 not 6<sup>th</sup> August 1917 as shown on the Elmore War Memorial – this latter date ties in with the records of the Somme battles. James Gardner is not only commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in The Somme but his name also appears on the Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial adjacent to Gloucester Park. The fact that James Gardner's name appears on the Thiepval Memorial means that he was one of the 72,244 officers and soldiers who were either never recovered from the battlefield or could not individually be identified.

*(James Gardners' name is spelt Gardiner on the Elmore War Memorial but the Church baptismal records for 27<sup>th</sup> May 1888 and the 1891 Census as well as the Commonwealth War Grave records for the Thiepval Monument, all spell his name without an 'i'. In the various official records, his mother is referred to as Rose Anna, Rose Alma, Rosanna and Rose Hannah)*

Members of the Gardner family were still living at Brookfield House in 1939.

Historical notes: Britain lost 3 men for every 12 inches of ground gained on the Somme battlefield. Nearly 60,000 casualties occurred on the first day; of these approximately 20,000 died. During the 5 months of the Battle of The Somme over 72,000 men were lost without trace, either killed, swallowed by the mud or blown to pieces by the relentless artillery bombardments. It is these 72,000 men who are commemorated on the impressive Thiepval Monument.

More than a third of the original 990 men and officers of 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> The Gloucestershire Regiment who went to France in 1915 were killed and many more were wounded and disabled.

## **The 1947 Flood**

It is 70 years since the floods of 1947 - the most catastrophic floods in Britain for at least 200 years. Most river systems in the country were in flood and Elmore, and particularly Elmore Back, was badly affected. Mrs Vera Smith, who will be 104 years old next year, was a resident of Elmore Back at the time and her recollections of the floods have been gathered in an audio history project by University of Gloucestershire. Anyone can apply to the U of G archive to listen to her memories. I recently did that and am grateful for the help of the Archivist.

## **The Causes of the flood**

The early part of 1947 saw some of the coldest weather conditions of the C20th. Heavy snow fell in mid January over much of the country and more snow fell somewhere in the country every day until mid March without a thaw. Snow accumulated to great depths throughout most counties in England. February and early March were particularly cold. With the country virtually bankrupt following WW2 and with food rationing still in place there was little help available and much hardship. However, worse was to come.

From the 9th March Atlantic weather systems swept in to replace the cold air which had lain over the country for so long, bringing much milder air and copious quantities of rain. The heavy rain and melting snow were unable to percolate into still frozen ground and so ran off

into the rivers which soon burst their banks. Thirty of the 40 counties in England were affected with around 700,000 acres of land underwater. Tens of thousands of people were temporarily displaced from their homes and thousands of acres of crops lost`

## **Vera Smith's Recollections**

During the cold weather the snow was piled up as high as the tops of doors. Despite warnings from the local people, trees had been removed from the river banks by uprooting them. This meant that when the floods came the river banks gave way and water flooded down onto the meadows. Also there were lots of rabbits about and their burrows made holes in the banks which let water through. Really the banks were old and had not been maintained properly.

People in Elmore Back responded by taking some of their furniture and possessions upstairs while others were piled on kitchen tables. Every tide brought more water over the banks and eventually people and their dogs and cats had to be evacuated - some for up to 3 weeks. It was very frightening as the water got nearer and nearer to the houses until they were deep in flood water. A fire engine was used to help the evacuation. Vera herself was rescued from an upper window by boat. Animals were also moved up to Elmore. Those animals that were not able to be moved had to be fed daily by rowing back to tend to them. People also rowed around the orchards as many rabbits were stranded in the trees where they had gone to escape the floods. With meat rationing in force the rabbits were a welcome addition to the pot and were shared with neighbours.

When the floods subsided it was found that the water had gone half way up the stairs. The downstairs had to be totally re-done. Vera's family were insured and got a pay out to help with the refurbishment. Otherwise there was little help from the state and many were not insured. There were no food parcels. But there was a strong community spirit which saw them through. Also, even during the war food had not been in short supply in country districts as people had their vegetable gardens and there was plenty of rabbit meat.

The clean-up operation was done using buckets and scrubbing brushes. The water damage was bad enough; but the mud was the worst thing. Pumps were brought in to pump the water back into the river from the meadows and rhines.

## **Vera and the Sceptical Teacher**

Vera also tells this story about her brush with the Severn Bore. The kids from Elmore Back attended the local school across the river in Minsterworth and were rowed across daily in a small rowing boat. One day Vera had to row them across as none of the men was available. It was important to avoid meeting the bore but on this particular day it came early due to a strong following wind. Vera saw it coming round the corner when they were in the middle of the river. She turned the boat to meet the bore head on and told the children to sit still and reassured them that all would be well although Vera herself obviously had her doubts. All was well but by the time they had ridden out the bore and got to the far bank, the children were late for school. There story of their brush with the bore was not believed by the teacher who told them off and they were in trouble for being late.

## **From Elmore Parish Council**

### **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

As you know we have two defibrillators in Elmore, one in the telephone box outside the Village Hall and the other at Elmore Back Farm. This is a comfort, but you still need to consider who you would contact to help you by staying with a casualty or fetching the defibrillator. In issue 10 of **THE BRIDGE** last November your Parish Council gave you the following advice which I reprint here

**If you live alone and are involved in a medical emergency and cannot reach your phone, who would phone the emergency services and who would fetch the defibrillator?**

**Even in the case of couples, one person might need to stay with the patient, maybe giving reassurance or artificial respiration, so the same questions arise.**

**Everyone, including larger family groups would be well advised to have thought about who to contact to help in an emergency and have a list of phone numbers ready.**

To facilitate such arrangements Elmore Parish Council have had a card made for each household to record its emergency contacts and this is included in this issue of **THE BRIDGE**. You can attach it to your fridge using the fridge magnet you were given with **THE BRIDGE** last year.

## **DEFIBRILLATOR FIRST AID TRAINING**

You may not have been able to get to the initial training sessions when we first had the defibrillators. Even if you did attend, you may feel you need a refresher course. Elmore Parish Council are currently considering funding one or more First Aid courses. This will be debated at the next meeting of the council on September 25th and if it is decided to go ahead, dates will be published in the next issue of **THE BRIDGE**. Watch this space.

**Meanwhile if the need should arise, do not be afraid to use a defibrillator.**

### **REMEMBER**

**Although you will feel more confident about using the machine if you have done the training:**

**THE MACHINE IS DESIGNED TO BE USED BY ANYONE,  
TRAINED OR NOT**

**THERE IS AN INSTRUCTION CARD IN THE  
DEFIBRILLATOR CABINET**

**THE MACHINE WILL TALK TO YOU AS YOU GO ALONG  
AND TELL YOU WHAT TO DO**

**THE MACHINE WILL ASSESS THE CASUALTY AND LET  
YOU KNOW IF HE OR SHE NEEDS DEFIBRILLATION OR  
NOT**

**YOU CANNOT DO ANY HARM**

## Broadband – Update

Over the last year we've given you hope that our broadband problems would soon be resolved – the last update informed you that a company called Gigaclear had been awarded a multi-million pound contract by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) (aka Fastershire) to provide super-fast broadband to those areas previously ignored by BT or inaccessible.

This contract is still ongoing and work has started – but not yet in our area. The previous estimate for the start of work in this area was June/July this year but this target date has now slipped to March 2018. We are not clear whether this is the start of the work or completion – it would be prudent to think that it is the start!

If you were to visit the Fastershire website ([www.fastershire...](http://www.fastershire...)) and enter your postcode it should give you an idea of progress – if you wonder into which area we fall, it is 'Area 3e'.

Bearing in mind BT's abject failure to achieve a fundamental step towards super-fast broadband on our side of the Canal, we have raised a query with both GCC and Gigaclear about the firm's ability to drill under the Canal in order to feed the fibre-optic cable to our side. We have been assured that Gigaclear has already carried out a survey of various crossing points and are in the process of assessing how many crossing points they need along the length of the Canal.

From our perspective the date of March 2018 is a huge disappointment as we will have to struggle on with appalling reception with which most of us have to contend.

## Security

Sadly, since the last issue of **The Bridge** we have had a series of thefts and burglaries in Elmore – indeed there have been 7 !

There seems to have been a certain 'modus operandi' surrounding these recent thefts:

- a reconnaissance is carried out by people in an innocent looking car or an individual on a bike – if challenged they tell a convincing story about supposedly looking for someone or a property or even offering to sell something.
- A van of car returns – highly likely to be an unmarked white van and could have foreign number plates.
- The driver and his mate wear high-visibility jackets to try to make them look official or pretending to be a delivery company.
- Most of the thefts have taken place during the daylight hours so they thieves have acted in a confident manner.

Our local Police have given the following advice in order to both protect yourselves and deter thieves:

- Wherever possible protect your valuables with SmartWater (*see info below*)
- Consider installing CCTV (see info below)
- Consider installing a burglar alarm (see info below)
- Take photos of valuables so that you have a record
- Record the serial numbers of electrical equipment, bikes, mowers etc,
- Lock all outside sheds and stores with a robust padlock and securing mechanism,
- Lock any ladder that is left outside and chain it to something secure,
- Set up a neighbourhood watch in your immediate area; i.e. make sure that your neighbours know when you are away and keep an eye on neighbouring properties.
- Report any activity that looks in any way suspicious –ring 111 if routine or 999 if a crime is in progress.

**SmartWater:** This is a system of marking valuables, cars and other items with a liquid that is invisible to the naked eye but only shows up under ultra-violet light. Furthermore, the liquid you buy has a unique code for your property so is easily traced. [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com)



**CCTV:** The Police say that the best deterrent is a CCTV camera because it can identify criminals more easily. Although there are DIY solutions on the market many people would probably want the comfort of knowing that it had been installed correctly. Some systems send an alert to a smartphone when an image is detected. Some stand-alone cameras operate on solar power and use a SIM card to send messages to a phone. Such systems are ideal for isolated areas - a single camera operating in this way can cost around £350. However, whole systems for buildings can cost in the region of £1,000 or more.

**Alarms:** There are several solutions for a house/building alarm.

- Audible Alarm: An alternative is a fixed alarm which makes an audible sound when an intruder breaks into a property. Of course in an isolated rural area there is unlikely to be a response as the alarm may not even be heard! However, an intruder has no way of knowing whether the alarm is linked to a Police Station.
- The Silent Alarm: The most effective alarm is what the Police call a 'silent alarm' – no sound is made when an intruder breaks into a property but a message is immediately sent to the local Police Station and they respond accordingly before the intruder realises that they have been detected.
- Dummy Box: A further and much cheaper alternative is to just have a dummy box on the outside of the property.

The following link is NOT a recommendation but does show a survey by PC Magazine and explains the different systems on the market:

<http://uk.pcmag.com/surveillance-cameras/74995/guide/the-best-smart-home-security-systems-of-2017>

The Police have offered to conduct a Q & A session in the Village Hall and we are currently looking at possible dates.

Our local Policeman (PCSO Kevin Lee) will be at the next Parish Council Meeting at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall if anyone wants to ask his advice or has specific questions regarding security or other police related matters.

The Police have also stated that they will be increasing the number of vehicle patrols in the area and if you see them please acknowledge them and even talk to them if they stop.

## **Local Tragedy**

Some of you may have heard of the sudden death of Gordon Davis who lived in a house at Kenton Green. He was killed in a plane crash near Marlborough on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Although the crash was reported both in the local press and on TV, the full details of the crash have not yet been made public as there is a ongoing CAA investigation which will be followed by a Coroner's Court hearing.

Our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time.

## **The Village Players**

Village Players would like to thank everyone who came and supported our latest production of 'A River Runs Through It'. We hope you all enjoyed the performances. Our next production will be our popular pantomime. This year's show will be Dick Whittington & His Cat. Please keep an eye out on local notice boards for more information.

We are always looking for new members so if anyone would like to get involved with the group either onstage or offstage then please contact our secretary Amy Parkin either by phone 07557 793011 or by email [villageplayers@outlook.com](mailto:villageplayers@outlook.com).

<b>Elmore PC</b>			
Chair	John Field	720357	fernhay@btinternet.com
Vice Chair	Nick Meek	750769	nick@archies.me.uk
	Jenni Hobbs	724633	enni@barvaleholsteins.co.uk
	Trevor Jones	722034	rosecottage1818@gmail.com
	Paula Turner	729903	paula@mtfx.com
Clerk	Dorie Jones	722034	elmore.parish@hotmail.com
<b>Village Hall</b>			
Chair	John Hardisty	721798	pikelett@hotmail.com
Enquiries & bookings	John Hardisty	ditto	ditto
<b>Other Village Organisations</b>			
The Vicar	Fr Andrew James	720015	vicarage@inbox.com
Players	Amy Parkin	0755779011	villageplayers@outlook.com
WI	Val Overton	750591	vj.overton@tiscali.co.uk
Guides	Catherine Hartell	722444	catherine.hartell@gmail.com
Brownies	Jenny Hartell	722444	jharte1276@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Caroline Meek	720383	
Toddlers	Sherene Watts	07800808564	sherenewatts@hotmail.com
<b>Other Useful Contacts</b>			
Police - non emergency		101	
Member of Parliament, Neil Carmichael		01453751572	neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor, Steve Davies			
District Councillor, Gill Oxley			cllr.gill.oxley@stroud.gov.uk
To report Fly Tipping		01453754424	publicspace@stroud.gov.uk
Report abandoned vehicles		01453754379	Abandoned.vehicle@stroud.gov.uk
Gloucs Highways (report potholes etc)			08000 514514
<b>Village Agent</b>			
Christine Lingard		07810630179	
<b>Neighbourhood Warden</b>			
Carol Novoth		07970250343	carol.novoth@stroud.gov.uk

**Parish Council Meeting Dates**

September 25th Village Hall 7.45pm

December 11th Village Hall 7.45pm

**The Bridge Copy Dates**

20th October 2017

**TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH**

at

**ELMORE VILLAGE HALL**

(In aid of Village Hall Funds)

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
2015**

**12.30 for 1 o'clock**

**PAY BAR**

**RAFFLE**

**TICKETS £22 contact Ann Littleton**

01452 720206 Email: [annlittleton@googlemail.com](mailto:annlittleton@googlemail.com)