



THE DRAGON

February 2013



I hope that you all had a happy Christmas and have shed the extra pounds put on over the festive season. It's not easy, is it? As I write (3 Feb), there are real signs in the garden that Spring is not far away. The snowdrops are in full-bloom, a few brave crocuses open in the (slightly detectable) warmth of the mid-day sun and the daffodil buds are fattening up and showing signs of yellow. The Dormington and Mordiford Parish Council is in equally optimistic mood, as we believe that some of the plans we have worked on will finally come to fruition this year. I have recently had more discussions with Major Hereford about the green area opposite the Moon and I hope that the Parish Council will take responsibility for the area in the first half of the year. We have some money put on one side, as a result of *your* choice through Participatory Budgeting, so will aim to make the green a pleasant place to rest for a while.

The plans for the affordable houses adjacent to Sufton Rise have now been submitted to Herefordshire Council for consideration. We understand that not everyone will be in favour but, given the amount of resident consultation and involvement in the preparation of the plans over the last two years, we very much hope that the scheme will be approved to meet the proven housing need in the area.

Finally, I regret to report that Mel Preedy, our excellent Parish Clerk for the last four and a half years, is considering tendering her resignation as she has a new demanding job and feels she cannot give the time necessary to do the Clerk role as thoroughly as she has in the past. We will be very sorry to see Mel go and thank her for the enormous contribution she had made to the Parish Council. We wish her well. However, life moves on and if you or someone you know would like to take on this part-time role, please let me know. Apart from the PC meetings, the hours are flexible and the salary is paid according to the national guidelines. Ideally the candidate should be fully CiLCA qualified, so we can retain our General Power of Competence.

As always we welcome your input and involvement and are pleased to see any resident at our monthly Parish Council meetings. Enjoy the Spring!

Nick Brewin
Chairman

Notes from the Clerk to the Parish Council

Highways – the whole county has been suffering with potholes but if you spot any dangerous problems please contact Herefordshire Council (**01432 261800**) or let the clerk know on 07968 945485. The Parish Council engages a lengthsman who is funded through a grant from Herefordshire Council. The lengthsman typically carries out minor roadside work such as strimming verges, clearing drains, ditches and cutting back vegetation. If you spot any problems which would benefit from this work please let the clerk know.

Thank you to all who helped make our pavements and roads safe during our recent spell of bad weather

The Parish Council will now meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Mordiford school hall. Residents are encouraged to attend and a slot for questions/comments is always on the agenda. Meetings this year will be held on **February 19th, March 19th, April 16th** and the Annual Meeting of the parish council will be on May 21st. A meeting notice and agenda is placed on the parish noticeboards one week before each meeting.

The **Annual Parish Meetings** will be held on the **2nd April** – Mordiford residents are invited to attend the meeting in Mordiford School hall at 7.30pm and Dormington residents are encouraged to attend the meeting in St. Peter's church at 8.00pm.

Neighbourhood Planning is a new initiative introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and allows communities to have a greater say over where development should take place and what it should look like. An officer from Herefordshire Council's Neighbourhood Planning Team will be making a presentation to the Parish Council at the meeting on the **16th April**. Residents are welcome to come along and find out what it is all about.



Walkies with your best friend!

Wags and Wellies is a 5km sponsored dog walk in aid of St Michael's Hospice. Starting and finishing at Wyevale Garden Centre, Hereford, you are invited to walk around the parish of Breinton; a midpoint refreshment stop is offered at Breinton Village Hall. When you have completed the walk you will receive a doggy treat and a St Michael's Hospice dog tag.

Plenty of entertainment is planned at Wyevale making this a fun day for all the family (with two legs or four!). Entry prices do apply, please check the website for full details: www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk. Wags and Wellies takes place on Sunday 17th March with registration from 10am, the walk starts at 11am. For further information contact the Events Team on 01432 851000.

Walking 4 Health

Over the last three months, despite the weather, we have managed three walks.

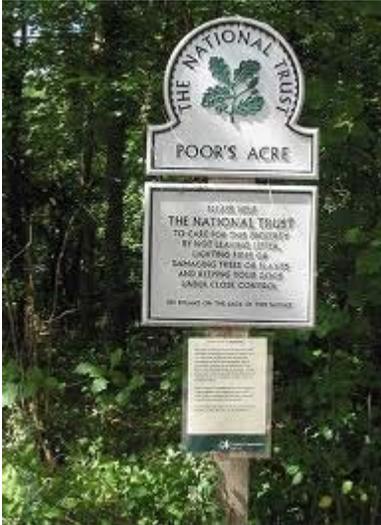
Our last walk, in January, was on my birthday so eight of us, with three dogs, made our way from Mordiford Bridge along the stank by the River Lugg, then through Hampton Bishop to the Bunch of Carrots. We made a short detour to look at Hampton Bridge and Hampton Meadow Nature Reserve where there is an information board (rather too muddy to get close to!). After a drink at the pub in front of a roaring fire some of us enjoyed a light lunch before returning the way we came. We were extremely lucky with the weather and enjoyed some winter sun. It was rather muddy underfoot as was expected but it was an enjoyable walk despite that.

Our next walk should have been in February but as four of our regulars are away, our next walk will be in March when we hope the ground will be less muddy! Look out for notices around the village.

Jan Ashton-Jones- janaj1009@gmail.com

Poors Acre

Where is it? Who owns it? Who has the right to remove timber?



Over many years, local residents have used the customary right to remove underwood from Poors Acre and but now questions have been raised over whether this will continue.

At present, the National Trust owns the land. It amounts to 17 acres and lies on either side of the Woolhope Road as it passes through Haugh Wood.

Last year, a large number of trees were marked - to be felled or left standing – it was unclear. This attracted the attention of local residents and a meeting with a representative of the National Trust was called. They learned that the National Trust had attempted to lease Poors Acre to the Forestry Commission, the previous owner, and also the manager of Haugh Wood. However, the decision to lease Poors Acre to the Forestry Commission has been reconsidered. The Forestry Commission is in a state of flux and their management programme for Haugh Wood terminates this year.

When the new structure of the Forestry Commission has been established, the National Trust intends to feed its plan for Poors Acre into the Forestry Commission's plan for the whole of Haugh Woods.

The future of Poors Acre is therefore unclear. Whether or not local residents will continue to be able to remove timber is questionable. A number of individuals have tried to establish the **rights** of local residents to remove underwood, without success.

Mr Carter of the National Trust has researched their archives, and has also spoken to solicitors for the NT. He can find **no records or proof of Commoners' rights in Poors Acre**, but agreed that that did NOT mean that there were no rights. Evidence is needed to prove the fact. He did have a copy of a letter from 1980, in which the NT had declared that they were "happy" for Parishioners from the three Parishes (Fownhope, Mordiford and Woolhope) to remove wood from Poors Acre, but only wood up to 6" diameter (at 1.3m above the ground level), and only as much as could be personally carried without use of trailers or any other means of transport out of the woods.

It was important to note that this was **NOT given as a right**, but NT were "happy" for it to take place for now. **It was also important to note that anything taken which did not meet those restrictions was strictly AGAINST THE LAW.**

Proof of legal rights for the removal of timber is still needed. In the light of the above, residents have expressed a desire to discuss with the National Trust the possibility of the NT managing Poors Acre independently of the Forestry Commission. To assist with this, a local advisory committee could be set up with representatives of the three parishes included. The continuation of the residents' customary right to remove underwood would be an essential part of any management agreement.

If you have any information regarding the customary rights enjoyed by parishioners or if you have interest in the future management of Poors Acre, please let the parish clerk know.

Bus services

Now you can now get into and back from Hereford on a **Friday and Saturday night** thanks to a new bus service which has been organised by Dormington and Mordiford Group and Fownhope Parish Councils. The last bus into Hereford leaves Mordiford at **6.50pm** and returns from the Courtyard at **10.55pm**. This service travels through to the rail station and Courtyard, so if you want to see a show or film then this door-to-door service is just what you need. Full details can be found at:

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/PublicTransport/453_454__021112.pdf
Check out www.courtyard.org.uk or www.odeon.co.uk/fanatic/film_times/s96/Hereford/ for the latests films and events.

There is now also a service which runs to **Ledbury** usually on the last Friday of the month. The bus leaves **Mordiford at 9.42am** and returns from Ledbury at 12.35pm. the next services are scheduled for **Friday 22nd Feb, 29th March and 26th April**. Please see www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk for further information.

DEAL SIGNED TO BRING FASTER BROADBAND TO RURAL AREAS

Herefordshire Council, Gloucestershire County Council and BT have signed a £56.6m deal which should enable 90 per cent of homes and businesses in the two counties to have access to fibre broadband by the end of 2016, with the ultimate aim to provide access to broadband speeds of 24 megabits per second (Mbps) or above for all who want it by 2018.

The aim of the councils' partnership is to have a majority of homes and businesses covered by this project able to enjoy speeds of 30 Mbps or more, and all areas will receive a minimum of 2Mbps.

The project is a joint initiative between national government and the two authorities to address the challenge of bringing broadband to rural areas to support local businesses and enable households to access services.

Homes and businesses that are harder to reach with a fixed fibre line will be connected using alternative new broadband technologies. Also, Herefordshire Council has allocated additional financial support for businesses and homes that can demonstrate a need for faster speeds.

There will now be a period of planning carried out by BT, with work expected to start on the ground during the second half of next year and being completed by the end of 2016.

For more information on the Borders Broadband project visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/broadband

Dormington and Mordiford Group Neighbourhood Watch

Local representatives meet quarterly to discuss problems with regard to criminal activity and crime prevention. If you are not a member of Neighbourhood Watch and would like to join, please access the Neighbourhood Watch page of the parish council website www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk for contact details. A copy of the monthly newsletter from the Safer Hereford Team is available from this page.

Local Policing Team..... www.westmercia.police.uk
Herefordruralnorth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
herefordruraleast.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Mobile	PC James	07974 818920
	PCSO Wall	07970 602443

West Mercia Police	0300 333 3000
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Victim Support	01432 347208
Childline	0800 1111
Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 7831359
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
National NHW Association	02079 630160
Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline	01432 364582
Herefordshire NHW	www.communicate.co.uk/here/hfdsneiwatch/



**HEART
START**

Stayin' Alive!
**Learn how to save a
life in just two hours**



Would you know what to

do if your loved one suffered a heart attack, if they were choking or bleeding seriously? Life threatening emergencies can happen anywhere.

It only takes **two hours** to learn the skills needed to keep someone alive, until professional help arrives, by attending a **FREE** Heartstart course.

We can come to any venue in Herefordshire.

We offer:-

- Group Courses
- Public Courses
- Volunteering Opportunities

For information on volunteering or booking a course:-

Visit:- **www.herefordshireheartstart.org**

Or email: **info@herefordshireheartstart.co.uk**

Or ring: **0845 60 60 654**

Registered Charity: Donations important

Save our bluebells

On Saturday 12th January, a group of about twenty parishioners, including children, continued with the clean up operation in Kidley's Copse. The Forestry Commission agreed for this to be done as they have not allocated funds to complete the work themselves. Debris from the recent timber extraction is being cut up and placed in piles and brambles are being removed and burnt. All this work is being undertaken to enable children enjoy their forest school and for wood anemones and bluebells to flourish. Some worthy individuals continue this work whenever they have a couple of hours free and you are welcome to join them. Two further days were arranged for group activity - one was February 2nd and the other will be **March 2nd**. Come and enjoy the lovely fresh air and good company.

Your community - your say

YCYS was commissioned by Herefordshire Council in order to start the process of engaging Herefordshire residents in meaningful conversations about the future of public services in the county. The consultation process was set within the context of significant financial cuts resulting in major changes in the way that public services are commissioned and delivered. The YCYS consultation was the community engagement element of the 'Root and Branch Review Programme', an in-depth internal review of all services provided by and on behalf of the council, to help inform strategic and service planning and set future priorities for public services.

To ensure that any decisions made as a result of this review were informed by up to date views from local residents, participants were provided with a range of opportunities to have their say. The focus of this consultation was to collect information of a high standard from residents to help the council understand and explore: -

Whether they are focusing on the right priorities.

Whether they are providing the services people believe are needed.

Which services matter most to the residents of Herefordshire and which are less important.

How services could be delivered differently.

The residents of Dormington and Mordiford were represented at The Fownhope event, which was held at Fownhope Memorial Hall on 24th October. The meeting was attended by 31 local people the majority of which were aged over 65, a third of whom were over 75. It was found that just over half had never before participated in a Herefordshire Council consultation. The attendance at this meeting was considered to be very good when judged by the attendance at other similar meetings held throughout Herefordshire.

As a group, participants were asked to allocate services according to whether they perceived them to be 'must have', 'nice to have', 'could do without' or 'could do differently'.

Those services which residents felt they must have :-

Health services, in particular the local medical centre.

The WRVS meals on wheels service.

Activities for teenagers with a youth club being requested in Fownhope.

Local policing.

Public toilets.

The library and museum in Hereford

Safe pavements.

Those services which are considered nice to have: -

Free bus passes for the elderly, although a nominal fee would be found acceptable.

Subsidised parking for the elderly.

Those services which residents could do without: -

Street lighting could be turned off between 12pm and 6am.
The services of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Those services which could be managed differently: -

All services should be managed more efficiently.
Some services such as museums could be charged for.
Black bag collection could be done fortnightly, with a weekly service during the summer months.
Planning is too bureaucratic and inhibits business growth.
Local views should be considered when making planning decisions.
Shop owners should be responsible for cleaning their own frontage.
Black bin bags should be bought in bulk by the council and sold to the public.
Street lights should be solar powered.



Mordiford CE Primary School needs a community minded individual to work with young people and play a key role in helping children to arrive and leave school safely.

This rewarding role can offer you a real sense of achievement through helping the community in a positive way.

We are looking for a **Road Traffic Person** to work every day of the school term. You must be of responsible age and available for work between 8:20am and 8:50am and again between 2:55pm and 3:25pm. Rate of pay is £7:19 per hour, full uniform and training are provided.

If you are interested in applying for the post please contact the school secretary on admin@mordiford.hereford.sch.uk, 01432 870258 or write to Mordiford CE Primary School, Mordiford, Hereford HR1 4LW

We are committed to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced criminal records check.

Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council Councillors
February 2013

Jan Ashton-Jones, Kiddleys Kopse, Mordiford, Hereford, HR1 4LR
Telephone: 01432 870827 Email: janaj1009@gmail.com

Peter Davies, 3 Sufton Lane, Mordiford, Hereford, HR1 4HE
Telephone: 07968080554

Ray Dickson, Mordifords, Priors Frome, Herefordshire, HR1 4EP
Telephone: 01432 850480

Brian Dukes, 4 Pentoloe Close, Mordiford, Hereford, HR1 4LS
Telephone: 01432 870308 Email: briandukes@talktalk.net

John Lee, Backbury House, Checkley, Hereford, HR1 4NA
Telephone: 01432 850255 Email: johnlee.backbury@hotmail.co.uk

John Litchfield, Old Rectory Barn, Mordiford, Hereford, HR1 4LW
Telephone: 01432 870802 Email: rectorybarn@yahoo.co.uk

Lorna Radnor, 1 Sufton Lane, Mordiford, Hereford, HR1 4HE
Telephone: 07779592195 Email: lornaradnor@googlemail.com

Nick Brewin, 18 The Maltings, Dormington, Hereford, HR1 4FA
Telephone: 01432 850456 Email: nick@cenick.freemove.co.uk

Cheryl Shearer, Dormington Court, Dormington, Hereford, HR1 4FA
Telephone: 01432 851590 Email: SHEAREC@uk.ibm.com

Ward Member, John Hardwick, Oldstone Farm, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PJ
Telephone: 01432 860322

Parish Clerk, Melanie Preedy, Content Cottage, Burghill, Hereford, HR4 7RH
Telephone: 079689 45485 Email: clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk

Responsibilities : -

Emergency Co-ordination:

Peter Davies: 07968080554, Jan Ashton-Jones: 01432 870827

Planning: Ray Dickson, Peter Davies, Cheryl Shearer and John Lee

Churchyard and Burial Ground: Peter Davies, Jan Ashton-Jones, Lorna Radnor

Footpaths: John Lichfield (Footpath Officer), John Lee, Jan Ashton-Jones

Finance: Nick Brewin, Cheryl Shearer, Brian Dukes, Ray Dickson

Tree Warden: John Lee

Parish Projects: Jan Ashton-Jones, Brian Dukes, Cheryl Shearer, Lorna Radnor

Localism Group: Nick Brewin, Brian Dukes, Cheryl Shearer, Ray Dickson, Jan Ashton-Jones

HALC Representative: John Lichfield

Newsletter Editor: Brian Dukes

Parish Clerk: Melanie Preedy