



The Dragon

For
January 2014



Dear All

I hope that you have had a very happy and peaceful Christmas with family and friends. On behalf of the Parish Council, may I wish you an enjoyable, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Much was achieved last year - the Sufton Rise affordable housing scheme received planning permission, the lease was agreed for the Parish Council to take over control of 'Mordiford Green' and several old gates and stiles have been replaced by new gates, facilitating open access for all to enjoy our wonderful network of footpaths.

In 2014, we will see the tangible benefits of these initiatives - the construction of the new houses and the provision of seats etc on the green. We will also be asking for your views about Neighbourhood Planning - the new Government initiative to ensure that we, as residents, have a say in planning decisions that affect our area. You will find enclosed with this edition of The Dragon, a leaflet that explains more about the initiative and process. I would urge you please to complete the section on the form and express your views.

As always, please contact your local Councillor or The Clerk to express any concerns, queries or comments you may have about our Group Parish. You are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings which are held monthly (other than August and December) on the third Tuesday of the month at Mordiford School at 7.30pm.

Enjoy the Spring and have a wonderful 2014.

Best wishes

Nick Brewin

Chairman - Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council

Circles of Support for Isolated People

Isolation can be a big problem, and it can be especially difficult for those who have disabilities.

Often their only independent support comes from parents and family. Parents are often concerned about what will become of their loved one once they are no longer around to speak up for them and care for them.

One solution is to dispel isolation by surrounding the individual with a circle of friends. A circle of friends can provide support and back-up and have a really positive long-term impact on an individual's life.

But how do isolated people, especially those with a disability, find a supportive circle of friends?

New organisation ACSYL has some practical ideas. Indeed ACSYL (an acronym for A Circle Supporting You for Life) has already set up a circle for one man, 'John', in Hereford, and is busy setting up support circles for three more people in the County.

'John' is already benefitting from the ideas and contacts his circle is sharing with him. So far, his social life has improved and his circle of friends has been working out ways he can reach his goal of a trip to Europe for a significant birthday coming up in the next year or so.

As his circle grows closer and gets to know him better, John will find other advantages coming his way: he'll have a group of friends willing to act as advocates on his behalf, he may learn new skills and find new ways of dealing with some of life's problems.

John's parents feel more confident about his future now. Knowing that there are other people taking an active interest in their son means the parents can relax. John's new friends will notice if his house needs repair, they'll see when he's not happy and can follow up to find the cause, and perhaps best of all, John knows that if he needs support he has a circle of friends to turn to. He's no longer on his own or totally reliant on aging parents.

The heart of John's circle is his Community Connector. The Community Connector not only builds the circle, but also ensures it continues to function in the long-term. ACSYL is looking for more Community Connectors to work part time, flexible hours. The work can be very rewarding. If you are interested in this kind of work, or if you would like to find out more about having a circle built for someone in your family, please contact ACSYL.

Email: info@acsyl.co.uk

Phone: 01989 555 006 and talk to Michelle

Website:

www.acsyl.co.uk/mnt/drive/p/ACSYL/Recruitment/131106-rg-RecruitmentArticle.odt



Open your gardens for St Michael's Hospice

If you have ever visited an open garden or held an open garden day yourself you will know that they provide a wonderful opportunity to show off your gardening skills, meet new people and raise funds for a good cause. 2014 is the 30th anniversary of St Michael's Hospice and as part of our celebrations we are looking to hold 30 open gardens.

If doesn't matter whether your garden is big or small, if you would like to get involved we'd be delighted to hear from you. Perhaps you'd like to join together with neighbours and hold a village open garden day instead?

The Fundraising team at the Hospice can offer you advice, help you advertise your event and provide practical support on the day. The money you raise will help your local hospice continue providing care and support to patients and their families in Herefordshire and the immediate surrounding counties who are living with a life-limiting illness.

For more information and to register your interest please call the Fundraising Team on 01432 851000.

Councillor Peter 'Cutter' Davies

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Councillor Peter Davies on Friday 27 December at his home, aged only 63. Peter suffered a sudden heart attack from which he did not recover.

Peter was a Mordiford man, born and bred. He was known as 'Cutter' after his father and initially worked as a herdsman at Larport Farm and then for Sydney Philips Construction for 4 or 5 Years before returning to the Sufton Estate in the early 1980s, where he remained until his death.

Peter was a very keen shot; both Game and Clay Pigeon. He organised the Clay Shooting Club in Mordiford and for the Herefordshire Country Fair. He raised money for St Michael's Hospice and Mordiford Church with Clay Shoots and was a great supporter of Mordiford School; in particular helping prepare for, and clear up after, the annual Bonfire Party. He was a true village character and was known and loved by many.

Peter served for many years on the Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council and his local knowledge and contacts were invaluable. His dry sense of humour will be sadly missed and his place will be very hard to fill.

We were all privileged to have know him and I am sure that you will wish to join me, the Clerk and all the Parish Councillors in sending our thoughts, prayers and sincere condolences to Peter's family. May he rest in peace.

Nick Brewin

The Silver Line

At last there is a UK-wide, 24 hour umbrella organisation which links older people to the support services in their local communities. Founded by Esther Rantzen CBE, and launched at Christmas, The Silver Line will connect lonely elderly people with a variety of their local services and activities. In the same way that Child-Line, founded by Esther in 1986, helped abused children, The Silver Line will support older people who are experiencing abuse or neglect, and make sure they are protected.

There are 10 million older people (over the age of 65) living in Britain today. Many of them are living alone. Sadly, isolation and loneliness take a big toll on older people: it has been shown to shorten life, creating depression, hastening the onset of dementia, and causing physical effects such as malnutrition. 40% of older people, according to a 2011 survey do not know where to turn for help.

Esther Rantzen CBE, Chair and Founder, The Silver Line says: “Millions of older people are lonely some or all of the time. At The Silver Line we believe older people have a great deal to offer, and deserve respect, and we have proved during our pilots that by offering information and friendship, we can support older people, and lift their confidence and self-esteem.” For more details, please email info@thesilverline.org.uk or go to www.thesilverline.org.uk The number to ring is: 0800 328 8888.

Applications are invited to fill TWO vacancies for Community Governors that currently exist on the Governing Body of Mordiford CE Primary School

Community Governors represent the community interests and are individuals who live or work in the community served by the school, or individuals who do not live or work close to the school but are committed to the good governance and success of the school.

Community Governors are appointed by the Governing Body.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Governor please contact the Clerk to the Governing Body, Helen Jones, in the first instance, by telephoning 07812 500336 or sending an email to helen.osas@gmail.com including your name, address and contact details and reasons for your application.

Please note, however, that the following people are **ineligible** for appointment as a Community Governor:

- Elected Members of the Local Authority
- Staff paid to work at the school who are eligible to serve as a Staff Governor

Mordiford CE Primary School has a fine reputation - awarded ‘Outstanding’ at its last Ofsted inspection (July 2010).

Your contribution as a Governor could further enhance the school’s reputation.

Broadband Update November 21, 2013

Ross-on-Wye has become the first community in Herefordshire to benefit from the multi-million pound Fastershire fibre broadband project.

Students from John Kyrle High School, who are studying for a GCSE in information and communications technology, are joining representatives from Herefordshire Council and BT to mark the important milestone.

Engineers from Openreach, BT's network business, who are building and installing the new fibre network, will be giving the teenagers an insight into how the new technology works and the process involved to get people connected to the new network.

After visiting Ross-on-Wye telephone exchange, everyone will track the route of the new fibre optic network to a nearby street-side cabinet to understand the next part of the installation process.

More than 3,000 premises in Ross can now connect to the new network. This figure will rise to just under 7,000 premises when engineers complete the upgrade work in the coming months.

Around 80 homes and businesses are already using the faster fibre broadband network, which will deliver download speeds of up to 80 megabits per second and upload speeds of 20Mbps. People can check the Fastershire website to see whether it's available for them by logging onto www.fastershire.com

Ross households and businesses are able to order fibre broadband from a wide range of internet service providers as the network is open to all providers on an open, wholesale basis, thereby ensuring competitive prices.

Councillor Graham Powell, cabinet lead for broadband for Herefordshire Council, said: "Bringing faster broadband to Herefordshire is vital to the county's economic growth and future. This is fantastic news for Ross-on-Wye and a key milestone for the project, with 3,000 homes and businesses able to take advantage of the new network right now and more to follow.

"The rollout to the rest of the county is continuing to gather pace and will see many more people benefitting from faster broadband by the end of 2016."

Nick Wood, BT's senior manager for Herefordshire, said: "The internet is playing an increasingly important part in all our lives – whether it's small businesses keeping in touch with their customers and suppliers, children doing their homework or playing interactive games online, grandparents staying in touch with their grandchildren, or people working from home. Each of these things is made easier, quicker and better by faster fibre broadband."

The £56.6 million Fastershire project between Herefordshire Council, Gloucestershire County Council and BT aims to make faster, fibre broadband available to around 90 per cent of homes and businesses by the end of 2016.

The next Herefordshire communities to benefit will be Much Marcle, Symonds Yat, Upton Bishop and St Weonards.

The Fastershire partnership builds on BT's commercial rollout which has so far brought faster fibre broadband to more than 35,000 homes and businesses across Hereford, Leominster and Ledbury as part of the company's £2.5 billion pound national investment programme.

Further Notes

Superfast Britain is a Government programme of investment in broadband and communication infrastructure across the UK. Run by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, this investment helps businesses to grow, creates jobs and will make Britain more competitive in the global race. The portfolio is comprised of three elements:

£780m to extend superfast broadband to 95% of the UK by 2017

£150m to provide high speed broadband to businesses in 22 cities

£150m to improve quality and coverage of mobile phone and basic data network services

Administered on behalf of Government by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), Superfast Britain is transforming Britain by promoting growth, enabling skills and learning, and improving quality of life

Mordiford School Pupil Reunion

Did you attend Mordiford Primary School?

Then read on: -

My name is CHARLES B DAVIES. Do you remember me? I was the cheerful one. I am working with MRS ALISON WATKINS to organise a reunion of past pupils.

We should like to hear from you, whatever your age.

We have decided to meet next year, in May. We will agree on the actual date when we have heard from you.

Please contact me at Charles.davies250@btinternet.com or if you prefer, Alison, at aawatkins@btinternet.com

We will have a great day together.

Thank you,

C B DAVIES.

Those without e-mail can contact me with snail mail at CAPLOR FARM, FOWN-HOPE, HEREFORD. HR1 4PT

Alison can be reached at OLD RECTORY COTTAGE, HAMPTON BISHOP, HEREFORD. HR1 4JX

Sufton Rise Affordable Housing

Work should have started on the site by the end of the year with Harpers being the nominated building contractors. Now is the time that you should express your interest in one of the dwellings. The current plan is for there to be 8 rented properties and 4 available for purchase, comprising a mixture of bungalows and 3 bed and 2 bed houses. There is a clause that the occupiers must have links with the local area e.g. already living in the area or have close family members who are. If you are interested, you must ensure you are registered with Home Point in Hereford (<http://www.home-point.info>). For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs C Bucknell (clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk). The properties will also be advertised locally in due course.

Talking Books

The RNIB Talking Books service is no longer a free service to all. If you have a current annual subscription, then this is still valid but will not be renewed when it runs out. However, if you have a social care and financial assessment and you are eligible, then you may be able to receive a direct payment to meet the cost. If you don't meet the criteria, you can still use the talking books service, but will need to make arrangements and payments with the RNIB direct.

For more information about purchasing this service direct, then please contact RNIB on telephone 0303 123 9999.

For more information about a social care assessment, please ring the advice and referral team on 01432 260101

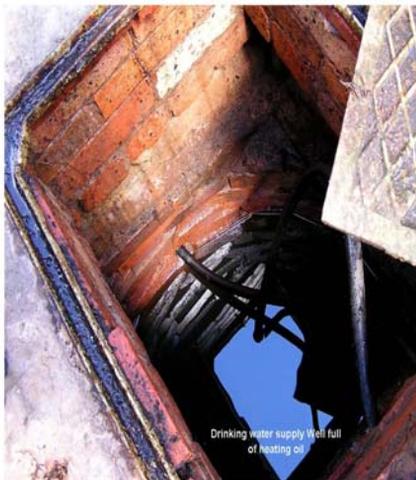
Walking 4 Health

Walking is good for your health!!
Walking with a group is sociable.
Come and join our group!!
Only once a month- usually the 1st Tuesday in the month.

More information from:
Jan Ashton-Jones or John Litchfield
Hfd870827_janaj1009@gmail.com



It's a good time to check your heating oil tank before winter sets in....



...as the consequences of leaks can be costly to you and devastating to groundwater...

For further information and advice please contact the Midlands Geoscience team at the Environment Agency on:
GWCLwest@environment-agency.gov.uk

Works to commence in New Year to transform Widemarsh Gate and Newmarket Street

In early 2014, a programme of improvement works to Widemarsh Gate and Newmarket Street will be undertaken as part of the delivery of Old Market. The works form a critical part of the consented retail and leisure development, which is now in an advanced stage of construction ahead of opening in Spring 2014, and which will bring about significant improvements to the street.

Starting in January, and lasting for approximately three months, the street works will deliver vastly improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between the historic city core and the new development. The programme will also improve road conditions; significantly upgrade the crossings, pavements and central reservation area and make Newmarket Street a more attractive part of the city centre.

The key improvements will be as follows:

- At Widemarsh Gate - the junction of Newmarket Street and Widemarsh Street - the existing staggered pedestrian crossing will be replaced. In its place will be a pavement-level, “straight over” crossing with signal controls, allowing for better linkage between the development and Widemarsh Street, High Town and the wider city centre. Another new pedestrian crossing will also be installed near the Edgar Street roundabout. This second crossing replaces the dated underpass, which was highlighted as a key area for improvement by many local people during consultation before the Old Market planning application was submitted.
- Newmarket Street will be resurfaced and the troughed central reservation will be replaced with carefully designed landscaping including trees and cycle parking, creating a boulevard-style look.
- A new right turn will be introduced at Widemarsh Gate allowing motorists approaching the junction from Blue School Street to turn directly onto Widemarsh Street. Additionally a new right turn will be introduced at the Wall Street exit from Tesco’s car park, relieving pressure on the Edgar Street roundabout.
- Speed control measures will be introduced along Newmarket Street including a new 20mph speed limit and “speed tables” to make it more pedestrian friendly and to improve traffic flows. Newmarket Street will retain two lanes of traffic on each side to allow vehicles and pedestrians to use this major route as freely as possible until wider traffic calming plans for the city centre have been completed.

The works programme has been carefully designed to minimise disruption to motorists, residents and local businesses. Much of the work will take place at night in order to keep disruption for road users to a minimum. There will, however, be some necessary lane closures during the day. These daytime works will not re-

quire closure of either carriageway or pavement in its entirety. We do anticipate that *journeys will take longer during the works period and recommend that drivers leave extra time for their journeys and consider car sharing, public transport or cycling where possible.*

Local residents and businesses are being offered leaflets and letters explaining the situation and the Emergency Services and public transport providers have been involved in discussions about this programme for some weeks.

George Ray, Project Manager for Sir Robert McAlpine “These works are a very important part of the construction programme that is on track to deliver an exciting new retail and leisure development for Hereford city centre in the Spring. We are very aware that this phase of work may cause disruption and would urge motorists to consider car sharing and other transport routes where possible, and to leave extra time for journeys in this part of the city.”

Councillor P Price, Cabinet Member Infrastructure, added: “The integration between the historic city core and the new development at Old Market is enormously important and we must bear that in mind. Although the works may cause disruption, we urge Herefordians to consider the long-term gain of these improvements and we thank them for their continued support at this exciting time for the city and the wider county.”

Further information and updates will be available from a dedicated page of Herefordshire Council’s website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/widemarshgate.

News and views on care and support in Herefordshire

Helping you keep up-to-date with changes

People have told us they want to know about things that are changing in adult social care. So we are trying something different.

Spotlight on adult social care is a new electronic magazine that sits on our website. This means we can tell you about things when they happen instead of waiting for a new magazine or leaflet to be printed.

But we know that not everyone likes computers or knows how to use the internet. So we’ve made it possible for you and people who work with you to print this off and share it. We hope you will help us reach as many people as possible using this approach.

Sign up for future editions and updates

You can sign up to receive an email alert every time we make a change to these pages. All you have to do is go to www.herefordshire.gov.uk/subscribe, then tick the box that says Spotlight on Adult Social Care.

Elements of Neighbourhood Planning

A **Neighbourhood Plan** is a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area. It may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. All Neighbourhood Plans must meet Basic Conditions, which are outlined below.

Neighbourhood plans relate to the use and development of land and associated social, economic and environmental issues. It may deal with a wide range of issues (like housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues that are of particular importance in a local area.

A Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to examination and referendum and then form part of the Local Development Plan. This statutory status gives Neighbourhood Plans far more weight than some other local planning documents, such as parish plans, community plans and village design statements.

Making the Decision to Prepare a Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Plans enable communities to take the lead in producing part of the statutory development plan for the area. Crucially, unlike a parish plan, these neighbourhood plans must be used to determine planning applications in a neighbourhood area. It can represent a serious commitment and any group of people considering preparing a neighbourhood Plan will need to carefully weigh the opportunities against the time/cost implications and come to a balanced view.

This is where the flexibility of neighbourhood planning to adapt to time/resource considerations is important. Obviously, a simpler plan with few policies will have less resource implications than a more comprehensive and complex one. Possible sources of help should be identified e.g. the local authority through its duty to support.

Considerations may include what other tools can be used to deliver the community's ambitions, the adequacy of existing local policies, skills available and alternative use of resources, such as delivering existing parish or community plans.

Producing a Neighbourhood Plan

The first formal step in neighbourhood planning is the submission of the proposed neighbourhood area to the local planning authority for designation. The following must be submitted in the area application:

- ◆ a map identifying the proposed neighbourhood area
- ◆ a statement explaining why the area is appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area
- ◆ a statement explaining that the body making the area application (the parish or town council or prospective neighbourhood forum) is capable of being a qualifying body.

For town or parish councils, there is a strong presumption that the neighbourhood area will be the same as the parish boundary. However, they may choose a smaller and more focused area, such as a town or local centre, or an area beyond the par-

ish’s boundaries if that makes a sensible area to plan for. Adjacent parish/town councils may agree to work in partnership to produce a joint Neighbourhood Plan.

Writing the Neighbourhood Plan

There is considerable flexibility over how a plan is structured and written. Careful consideration should be made of how the plan will be delivered and this will require constructive dialogue with key stakeholders, such as development managers in the local authority, public agencies, landowners and developers. To keep the Neighbourhood Plan concise, focused and clear on what are the proposed “policies”, a background document could be created, listing the sources of evidence, summarising any new evidence and describing the outcomes of the community engagement programme at different stages in the plan process.

Bringing the Plan into Force: Pre-Submission Consultation

It is a legal requirement that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is publicised and the subject of public consultation, before it is submitted to the local planning authority. This includes:

- ◆ publicising the plan in a manner which brings it to the attention of people who live, work or run businesses in the neighbourhood area. This should include details of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan, details of where and when it may be viewed (e.g. local fairs, schools,etc.), details on how to make comments on the plan and the date by which comments must be received (at least six weeks from the date on which it is first publicised)
- ◆ consulting bodies whose interests may be affected by the plan. The local council should be able to advise on this, but it is likely to include the county council, the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage
- ◆ sending a copy of the proposed plan to the local authority
- ◆ consulting any neighbouring local, town or parish councils, significant landowners,local businesses and local community organisations, such as chambers of commerce, civic societies and local trusts. It may be useful to produce a concise summary of the plan for those that don’t wish to read the full document.

A brief report must be produced, summarising comments received, issues raised by those comments and describing if and how the plan has been modified in response to the issues raised. This is known as the ‘consultation statement’ which is a legal requirement for all Neighbourhood Plans.

Meeting the Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans are specified by law:

- ◆ must be appropriate having regard to national policy
- ◆ must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- ◆ must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area
- ◆ must be compatible with human rights requirements
- ◆ must be compatible with EU obligations.

Neighbourhood Plans must not breach and must be compatible with EU and human rights obligations, including the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive.

Neighbourhood Plans should be screened at an early stage to ascertain whether they are likely to trigger significant environmental effects and thus whether an SEA needs to be carried out. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) should undertake this screening assessment, consulting relevant national bodies in coming to its screening opinion. The National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that a sustainability appraisal should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, but the particular assessment requirements need to respond to the scale, status and scope of the plan being developed.

Independent Examination

It is the responsibility of the local authority to organise and cover the costs of the independent examination and referendum. The independent examiner will be appointed by the local authority with the consent of the qualifying body.

The independent examination will consider the submitted documents and any comments made during the consultation period on the submitted plan proposal. The independent examiner will examine whether the plan meets the ‘Basic Conditions’ and other relevant legal requirements (e.g. consultation).

The independent examiner may recommend that the plan proceed to the referendum stage (i.e. it meets all the legal requirements) or may suggest that modifications are needed to the plan before it can proceed to the referendum. Or they may recommend that it does not proceed to the referendum, if it does not meet the relevant legal requirements. In addition, they may recommend that the referendum area include individuals beyond the boundary of the neighbourhood area.

Modifications

The local planning authority must make modifications to the plan if, with those modifications, the plan could comply with the Basic Conditions. The local community may withdraw the plan if it is unhappy with modifications being made.

Referendum

If the plan is found to be satisfactory (i.e. complies with the key legal requirements) with modifications if necessary, then the local authority must arrange for the referendum to take place. It must give at least 28 working days notice of the referendum before the date of the referendum. The qualifying body may campaign before the referendum, subject to rules over expenses.

If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote ‘yes’, then the council will bring the plan into legal force.

The Little Green Hut, Mordiford

The Little Green Hut lies on the banks of the Pentaloë River, not far from the Moon Pub, and opposite the burial ground on the Woolhope Road. A telephone kiosk lies near by.



The hut was constructed from timber and corrugated iron, to house a weighbridge. All sorts of things were weighed. Limestone, for building work and road making, and quicklime, for lime mortar and agricultural use, came from Scutterdine as well as other quarries in the area. Timber and charcoal were brought down from Haugh Wood. Charcoal was used as a fuel and for industrial purposes. Much of the timber was harvested for pit props needed in the coalmines of South Wales. A few were transported by road but most were put on railway trucks at Holme Lacy. Bark, as a source of tannin, was removed from oak and transported to the Midlands for use in the leather industry. The remaining timber from Haugh Wood was used for building and firewood. Cider fruit, harvested from the surrounding orchards, was weighed at the Green Hut and transported to the new Bulmers' Cider factory, in Ryelands Street. Cattle and sheep were weighed on their way to the new Hereford Cattle Market in Blueschool Street.

Herefordshire County Council operated the weighbridge. The fees charged were dependant on the weight and the product being weighed. Higher fees were charged for the more valuable products such as livestock and fruit.

The weighbridge was removed long ago. The Little Green Hut remains and has been part of our village life over the years.

After the removal of the weighbridge, the County Council used the Little Green Hut as a lengths-man's store. Lengths-men were the people responsible for maintaining rural roads. Our lengths-man left his wheelbarrow, pick and shovel in the hut overnight, and used it as a place of refuge in bad weather, and a place to sit and eat his breakfast. When needed, he borrowed a hand operated coal-fired furnace to melt tar for sealing repairs to potholes. The furnace, coal and tar he also stored in the Little Green Hut.

When the County Council employed centrally deployed gangs to carry out road repairs, the Little Green Hut was left empty. Soon the lock disappeared and it became available for other purpose. Here are some but you might remember others?

The bus service has been operating through Mordiford for a long time but until the Much Marcle service started operating though Checkley, it followed the main road. People from outlying areas walked, sometimes a number of miles, to reach the bus stop. One woman used her bike to get to the Mordiford bus stop. The bike

was safely stored in the Little Green Hut.

The school bus driver became annoyed when three boys lit up cigarettes at the back of his bus. The boys thought it too risky to continue, so they alighted from the bus at the Moon, walked round the corner and lit up in the Little Green Hut. They believed no one had seen them until the Headmaster invited them to stay behind after morning assembly for a little chat.

Two girls cycled from Hereford to Haugh Wood to enjoy glorious weather on a Sunday afternoon. While they were enjoying refreshments at the car park in Haugh Wood, they realised that the weather had changed and a thunderstorm was about to break. They set off back on their return journey but as they were passing the Little Hut the storm broke, with hailstones the size of peas. They had no option but to dive for cover. It was several hours before the rain stopped, but they were able to continue their ride back to Hereford, perfectly dry.

A number of children walked to Mordiford School, all the way from Checkley. The path through Bear's Wood and Haugh Wood was often muddy and the children left their boots in the Little Green Hut, changing into house shoes, or daps as they used to call them. They changed back into boots for their muddy trek home. For unknown reasons, they didn't like to change their boots in school.

A girl, working in the village, lived at Bagpiper's Tump. Each day she walked down through the orchards, past Mordiford Mill. The miller acquired some boisterous cattle and the girl became frightened about passing through the mob. Her father, appreciating her anxiety, cut a hazel stick to protect her from the threatening cattle. She carried this stick every day but she didn't want to be seen with it. Whilst she was at work, she stored it safely in The Little Green Hut.

One of the regulars at the Moon often stayed drinking until closing time. On one or two occasions he was unable to find his way home. He was attracted by the lights in the telephone kiosk and used the Little Green as a place to sleep for the rest of the night.

Wildlife also made use of The Little Green Hut. A mallard built a nest behind it. She laid a dozen eggs but a family of brown rats, living in the banks of the Pentaloë, made off with them before they were hatched. A robin was more successful. An old paint pot was used to raise a whole nest full of fledglings.

In more recent years the Little Green Hut has become a handy place to dump the rubbish found on the roadside. Lost hubcaps, milk bottle crates, empty bottles, plastic bags and drinks cans, all find their way into the Little Green Hut. Jam jars, collected from the graveyard opposite, were often stored in the Little Green Hut. This followed the posting of a notice in the graveyard requesting glass bottles to be removed. The jam jars had been used as vases on the graves.

From time to time a well-meaning parishioner secured the door of The Little Green Hut with nails, to prevent further rubbish being deposited. This was too much for the inquisitive. Each time it was secured, it was forced open to disclose the hidden treasure in the Little Green Hut.

For many years the shutter on the roadside window has been used as an unofficial notice board. Adverts for the hire of chimney sweeps, gardeners, baby sitters etc., have been posted together with various announcements including the list of winners in the Mordiford 200 Club and details of the route of a motor rally due to pass through the parish.

During the floods of 2011 and again in 2012, the Little Green Hut has been badly damaged. The water has forced one of the walls outwards and the door no longer swings on its hinges. The whole building is now tipping into the Pentaloe River.

What should be done? It is likely that if no rescue operation is attempted, the Little Green Hut will disappear in a matter of months. Higher floods are expected in the future, and the Little Green Hut will have little chance of survival without remedial action being taken now.

Does this matter?

Perhaps you have personal stories which will help convince others that the Little Green Hut is part of our heritage. If it is, we cannot afford to lose it. Is it worthy of being listed? What do you think? What further uses can be made of our Little Green Hut?

Make your views known. Share your stories with us. We really need to know what is the best action to take.

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 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.

Your local Policing Team consists of:-

Police Sergeant Emma Freer

Police Constable Neil James

Police Community Support Officer Dean Wall

Police Community Support Officer Elena Ekanite

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/

Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council Councillors - January 2014

Jan Ashton-Jones, Kiddleys Kopse, Mordiford, Hereford, HR1 4LR

Telephone: 01432 870827 Email: janaj1009@gmail.com

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Telephone: 01432 851590 Email: SHEAREC@uk.ibm.com

Ward Member, John Hardwick, Oldstone Farm, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PJ

Telephone: 01432 860322

Parish Clerk, Mrs Chris Bucknell, 12 Cliveden Grove, Hereford, HR4 0NE

Telephone: 07777669662 Email: clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.

Responsibilities : -

Emergency Co-ordination: Jan Ashton-Jones: 01432 870827

Planning: Ray Dickson, Cheryl Shearer, John Litchfield and John Lee

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

Footpaths: John Litchfield (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: Nick Brewin

Newsletter Editor: Brian Dukes

Parish Clerk: Chris Bucknell

Webmaster: Brian Dukes

DORMINGTON AND MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates throughout 2014:

- Tuesday 21st January
- Tuesday 18th February
- Tuesday 18th March
- **Mordiford Parish Meeting** Tuesday 1st April 7.30pm Mordiford School Hall
- **Dormington Parish Meeting** Tuesday 1st April 8.00pm, St. Peters church, Dormington
- Tuesday 15th April
- Tuesday 20th May – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
- Tuesday 17th June
- Tuesday 15th July
- Tuesday 16th September
- Tuesday 21st October
- Tuesday 18th November

All meetings take place at 7.30pm, at Mordiford School Hall, unless otherwise advertised.

Extra-ordinary meetings maybe scheduled as required. Please check notice boards and website for details.

www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk