

**Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council
Councillors - January 2015**

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

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

Brian Dukes, 4 Pentaloe 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, Sufton Lodge, Mordiford, Hereford HR1 4LU.

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

David Lloyd, Bagpipers Tump Cottage, Mordiford, Hereford. HR1 4LT

Email: linda_lloyd@btinternet.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.uk

Responsibilities :-

Emergency Co-ordination: Jan Ashton-Jones: 01432 870827, Ray Dickson:
01432850480

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

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

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

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

Tree Warden: John Lee

Neighbourhood Planning: Cheryl Shearer, Lorna Radnor, John Litchfield, Ray
Dickson

Mordiford Green: Brian Dukes, Ray Dickson, Jan Ashton-Jones, John Lee,
John Litchfield

Allotments: David Lloyd, Chris Bucknell, Brian Dukes

HALC Representative: Nick Brewin

Newsletter Editor: Brian Dukes

Parish Clerk: Chris Bucknell

Webmaster: Brian Dukes



The
Dragon
For
January 2015



Dear All

I would like to start by wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year and I hope you had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas with your families.

This time of year gives us all the opportunity to look backwards and forwards. Looking back, the Parish Council can certainly take pride in what has been achieved this year – the new houses in Shepherds Orchard are taking shape, the Mordiford Green has been developed from a piece of unloved scrub land to a pleasant village amenity and Cllr Cheryl Shearer and her Working Party have made an excellent start on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Thanks to all my colleagues, including our excellent Clerk, for the key roles they have played in these achievements and everything else they do throughout the year for the community. It is also appropriate to remember our friend and Parish Councillor, Peter ‘Cutter’ Davies, the first anniversary of whose death falls at this time. We continue to miss his contribution and sense of humour, but are very glad that David Lloyd has joined us and we value his contribution and commitment.

Looking forward, there remains much to be done. With the new houses nearing completion, we will soon see the allotments and play area taking shape. If you would like to rent an allotment for only a very small annual fee, please contact the Clerk. We have recently had some very constructive discussions with numerous key stakeholders about pedestrian safety in Mordiford village and the traffic congestion caused at peak times outside the school. These include Cllr Paul Rone, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at Herefordshire Council, Ward Councillor John Hardwick, Steve Churchill, our Locality Steward and Kerri Finney, Headteacher; together with local residents. There is a real determination to do something to improve the situation and, for the first time, there is potentially funding available to turn plans into reality. Watch this space! We also look forward to developing our Neighbourhood Plan. Soon there will be open meetings for you to attend to find out more about the process and an important questionnaire for you to complete. I do urge you to take time to consider your responses and return the forms to us, as we will only develop a plan using your data and the matters you think are important for this area for the foreseeable future.

Finally, on 7 May this year there will be a General Election. On the same day, there will also be local elections for your Parish Councillors. Have you ever thought about standing? Would you like to find out more? There will be vacancies on the Dormington and Mordiford Parish Council at these elections, so this is a real opportunity. If you would like to receive further information, please contact the Clerk or any Councillor (see back page for details).

As always, thank you for your interest and input.

Best wishes

Nick Brewin - Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council Chairman

December 2014

Meeting Schedule

DORMINGTON AND MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 19th January 2015
Monday 16th February 2015
Monday 16th March 2015
Monday 20th April 2015
Monday 18th May 2015
Monday 15th June 2015
Monday 20th July 2015
Monday 21st September 2015
Monday 19th October 2015
Monday 16th November 2015

All meetings take place at 7.30pm.

To make it more convenient for parishioners to attend these meetings, some will be held at venues other than the Mordiford School Hall, for instance, St Peter's Church, Dormington, and St Nicholas's Church, Checkley. Details of the venue for each meeting will be advertised well before the meeting. Please check the parish website or parish council notice boards.

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.

Your local Policing Team consists of:-

Police Sergeant Emma Freer
Police Constable Brian Hillstead
Police Community Support Officer Dean Wall
Police Community Support Officer Elena Ekanite
Mobile PCSO Wall 07970 602443
West Mercia Police 101 In an emergency always call 999
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/

Dear Dragon,

I am writing on behalf of a small Hobbit friend of mine, who, now that work has finished on Peter Jackson's series, is considering visiting his ancestral home. However, he is utterly unsure as to where he should arrange his tour, for as he says "There are a considerable number of places in England which claim a relationship to Tolkien's Shire, on the grounds that he once lived there, worked there, slept there, or even visited there, but they are all bits, scattered across the country like the movie sets I've been working on up to now".

I have done some research on the Internet and am somewhat surprised that Mordiford is not among the places making such a claim. I have visited Herefordshire several times now since my first 'OE' in the 1970s, and can suggest several places along Marcle Ridge from which one can get views very reminiscent of some of Tolkien's illustrations in Hammond and Scull's 'The Art of the Hobbit'. Unfortunately this does not help my friend, for any traces of any ancestral village would have been obliterated by the great landslide in 1575.

It is beyond comprehension that some (at least) of the families dispossessed by the subsidence would not have moved to Mordiford. It is also, although there may be no academically satisfactory proof, beyond comprehension that Tolkien would not have become aware of the Mordiford Dragon in his research to satisfy his sons' insatiable demand for dragon stories at bedtime which led to 'The Hobbit'.

On 'driving' the lanes of Mordiford (courtesy 'Google Earth' this time) I was struck by the relationship of the Old Mill you are currently refurbishing, the bridge, and your Inn, The Moon. I know my displaced friend would, at the least, find it all very nostalgic.

I have done some research on his behalf, and am now convinced a stronger case exists than mere nostalgia. As with all genealogical research from ill-defined sources the arguments are complex, but I am sure worthy of your perusal, and accordingly am taking the liberty of forwarding you a copy of my conclusions.*

Yours faithfully, Jeff Johnson. Auckland, NZ.

*a copy of these conclusions, drawn by Jeff, can be read on the Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council website www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk

For convenience, a summary of these conclusions can be seen on page 12 of this publication,

Mordiford Mill Watercourses

As part of the restoration of the watermill in Mordiford, I wanted to research its history.

A long hunt through the county records office revealed an interesting past. In Norman times there were two mills in Mordiford which were given by the lord of the manor in Fownhope, Robert de Chandos, to Llanthoy Priory in Gloucester, with land and timber to repair the mills from his grove (de Nemore) most likely Grove Wood above Sufton Park.

The second mill called Ree Weir Mill came as a total surprise. Further investigation revealed details of three leases on these mills in the early 1500's during Henry VIII's reign. These indicated the mills shared the same watercourse. Ree Mill was the upper mill, located on or close to the current weir on the Pentaloe Brook, just above Pentaloe Close. It would have been a small wooden structure and has long since disappeared.

This was exciting as it showed that the mill leat running from the weir was much older than I originally thought. The leat is an essential part of the mill infrastructure. The weir diverts the water which is then carried by the leat all the way to the millpond.

One lease in 1503 described the miller William Lawson and his wife Alice, who leased the mill for 8 shillings a year. They were required to "scour the watercourses and otherwise maintain the property, especially the common way called Les Botte". This is where the leat crosses the Woolhope road.

The leat is next to the Mordiford Loop footpath at this point and I have repaired it with an open half round channel, fenced it with oak posts and a round rail, and exposed the old mediaeval stone work on its west side.

Many passing walkers have commented that the leat appears to slope the wrong way at this point. I began to have doubts myself while struggling to lay the channel at the correct gradient. However I quickly discovered that the leat does silt up and concluded I had repaired it correctly and that I was just another miller (in a long line of millers stretching over at least five hundred years), cursing the original builders for not selecting a route with a steeper gradient.

By Spring 2014, I had completed the leat by laying a pipe all the way up to the weir. On a sunny May morning, with brimstone butterflies doing circuits along the edge of the wood, I opened the sluice at the weir, and let the water flow all the way down to the millpond. It hadn't done this since the 1950's when it was used to power the hydraulic ram supplying water to houses in the village (before mains water arrived).

The mill stopped grinding flour in 1935 when the miller, Hubert Williams, gave up, unable to make it pay. Many other water mills suffered in the same way during the period between the two world wars.

I am now repairing the water wheel and hope to start installing new buckets soon.

The mill will be open to the public on the National Mills weekend, May 9th and May 10th 2015. Many other mills in the county will also be open on these dates.

Andy Tatchell

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Hello everyone. The Neighbourhood Plan team went into overdrive in November and December and as a result our plan has had its long overdue kick start. Some of our actions have been concerned with essential processes and the formal administration of the plan, for example the setting up of a steering committee, and defining the leaders for various sections of the plan. Special thanks are due to Simon Reeder, a member of our steering committee, for his first draft of the project plan which will help us drive and close the hundreds of actions which make up the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Other actions have progressed the content of the Plan, for example a group of councillors and volunteers completed a SWOT exercise (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) to flesh out some deeply held views on economic development, the environment, housing development, infrastructure, and other relevant topics. Additionally, as you will have all seen, every household has been invited, through a pair of questionnaires, to identify land for re-use or sale, and business aspirations, challenges and plans. The responses to our two questionnaires are being analysed right now by Data Orchard the firm of consultants helping us with this process. It's not too late to send in your response; while we made every effort to collect these before Christmas lots of people were not in when we called round, but you can drop your response off in Dormington into the Dormington Court letter box which is in the wall by the church, and for Mordiford, Checkley and Priors Frome, at Mordiford school.

What's Next

You will all be invited to join the Neighbourhood Planning team at an open session at Mordiford School on Saturday January 24th. The team will be there between 10am and 4.30pm, please just drop in, and make your views known. We have some interesting materials for you to look at - the vision statement for you to critique, the outcome of our SWOT analysis, large and detailed maps of the area and you will be able to meet your steering committee members, and maybe even to join yourself.

From the feedback you provide at the open day we will send every resident a questionnaire to gather your views on some specific issues in more detail. Remember our collected opinions in our Neighbourhood Plan will become planning law until 2031 : so be sure to have to your say at the open day and in the questionnaire that follows.

Best Wishes for 2015, Cheryl Shearer



Scutterdine Lime Kilns

Some of you may remember that I wrote in The Dragon last Spring about the architectural importance of Scutterdine Lime kilns. It is the intention of the Parish Council to make every effort to preserve and repair these kilns, and to that effect a small working group has been formed from PC members and interested local residents.

Initially we had to wait for Western Power to fell the biggest trees on the top of the kilns as the branches were tangled into the power cables. Now that this has been completed we have cleared smaller trees, drilled the stumps and inserted poison, and sprayed the ivy. All of these growths have left roots deep



into the stone work and it is clear to see that these roots are slowly prising apart the stones. While we are waiting for the poison to do its work we have set up timber supports to brace the right hand arch to make it safe and hopefully to prevent any further collapse of the fragile masonry. We have also cleared the large Crack Willows from the adjacent pond, opening up the view of the former limestone quarry face at the rear.



The quarrying of limestone from the Woolhope ridges was an important industry for agriculture and building in years gone by and there are two other lime kilns within close proximity of the Scutterdine ones, making this area a hive of industry as well as a toxic one. The kilns behind Citterdine are the next closest, and take some finding as they are almost completely buried (see photo). We are grateful to Mr Williams, farmer at Hope Springs for his support and encouragement in this venture to save an historic landmark, so follow our progress, not on Twitter, but by simply taking a walk!



John Litchfield

A new bridge in Mordiford to replace an existing bridge.

In his application to Herefordshire Council, the owner said that the new bridge, which would be situated at the site of the existing bridge, would be a 'one piece steel construction' and painted green or brown to blend into the surroundings. He claimed that the old bridge was unsafe and would not allow access to his home by such vehicles as fire engines.

I expect you saw the news in the Hereford Times back in August. Now the bridge is in place and you probably haven't noticed!

The bridge was brought to Mangerdine, in one piece, on a huge lorry with steerable rear wheels. These were undoubtedly necessary to negotiate the tight gateway leading into Mangerdine.

Before the bridge was delivered, large, vertical, concrete tubes had been inserted on each side of the river bank and filled with concrete.

On arrival at the site, the bridge was carefully lifted into place. A large crane had been drafted in for this purpose. After carefully balancing the bridge in a stirrup on the end of a steel hauser, it was lifted from the back of the lorry and gently swung into place. This was precision work.. After just a small, final adjustment, the bridge fitted perfectly on the concrete foundations. The engineer-in-charge walked across the bridge indicating that he was satisfied that the bridge was safe.

I expected a round of applause from the appreciative onlookers but non came. Still, it was a job well done!



Extract from Jeff Johnson's conclusions on linking Tolkien's Shire with Mordiford

There are a considerable number of places in England which claim a relationship to Tolkien's Shire, on the grounds that he once lived there, worked there, slept there, or even visited there, but, despite the fame of the Mordiford Dragon, Mordiford is not one of them.

However it would seem that, despite the apparent lack of documentation, there is evidence within his work for the claim that it was at least a partial inspiration.

For instance one of his poems, (which recurs in various forms throughout both *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*), contains the lines:

*"Still round the corner there may wait
A new road or a secret gate,
And though we pass them by today,
Tomorrow we may come this way
And take the hidden paths that run
Towards the Moon or to the Sun."*

The 'Moon Inn' has existed since at least the 19th century and lies beneath both Bagpiper's Tump nearby to the south, and Marian's Hill on the flank of the further, and higher, down to the north

If the poem is taken as a hidden riddle, there is a line of 'Sun' Inns running from Hereford to Rhyl, in roughly the direction 'East' would become if Pentaloe Brook were the millstream in the frontispiece to *The Hobbit*, so perhaps a choice between Inns becomes the solution.



However there is also a second, earlier poem, which begins:

*There is an inn, a merry old inn beneath an old grey hill,
And there they brew a beer so brown
That the Man in the Moon himself came down one night to drink his fill."*

In some mythologies solar eclipses are explained by a dragon attempting to eat the sun. We know (as Druidic priests did) that these actually occur when the Moon obscures the Sun, so in the intersection between the two world-views the Moon is easily equated to a dragon, whilst in turn a Green Dragon may be a harmless (but if ill-used potentially malevolent) nature-sprite, perhaps a good description for the hallucinations that follow from indulging in too much spirituous liquor.

Thus these poems together can be deconstructed to suggest 'The Moon' in Mordiford as a model for 'The Green Dragon' in Tolkien's now famous Hobbiton.

What do you think? Read the piece on the Parish website before you make up your mind. Let the editor know if you believe we should be ready to promote the link between Mordiford and Tolkiens's Shire. Many more visitors could be expected if this link was publicised. Are we ready for them?

In an Emergency.

Of course, in an emergency which threatens life or property, you should call the emergency services by dialling 999 and state the service you require: Fire, Police or Ambulance.

In the October edition of *The Dragon*, parishioners were asked to offer their expertise and resources which would be available for use in a dire emergency. It was proposed that an inventory of these resources would be prepared to enable the emergency co-ordinators of the parish council to locate them and call upon them in case of that dire emergency.

A number of parishioners did respond and the parish council is grateful to you. A small database has been sent up. However, it is doubtful that this small database will be adequate if a major emergency occurs. No one can predict what the emergency will be, so no one can know what resources will be required.

It seems sensible to create a database which is large enough to meet some of the demands of a large incident. It is hoped that many of the resources will never be used but the parish council is asking for you to identify what resources you have available which might be useful in an emergency, and allow them to be added to the list of resources on the database. If they are on the database, the emergency co-ordinators can easily locate them, without undue delay, and use them as best needed.

If you wish to assist in this matter, we do need your name, address, telephone number, email address and a list of resources available, under the headings: - accommodation, transport, tools, equipment, materials and expertise. The information you provide here will only ever be used in the case of an emergency.

Thank you very much for your contribution. It is greatly appreciated.

Charity events for Children's ward, Hereford Hospital

Alan and Karen from the Moon Inn Mordiford recently organised the following events at the pub to raise money for the Children's ward, Hereford Hospital

Live band £640.00

Auction £913.00

To date £1790.00 has been raised.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who donated and supported the events

The next Charity event will be on March 27th at the Welsh Club, Hereford

Tickets are on sale for £10.00 each to include live music and food

Please contact the Moon Inn 01432 873067 for tickets for more information

News from the Fastershire Team

Fastershire is a partnership between Herefordshire Council, Gloucestershire County Council and BT to build a future proof world class broadband network for the two counties.

We're rolling out a pioneering, multimillion pound network that will deliver faster broadband speeds to homes and businesses across Gloucestershire by the end of 2015 and across Herefordshire by the end of 2016.

At the end of the year, it's a good chance to take stock on the progress that our Busy Bees in the Fastershire team have made delivering fibre broadband across Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.



As of December 2014, we have fibre enabled more than 170 cabinets in 38 exchange areas. This means that more than 40,000 homes and businesses can now benefit from the faster speeds that the Fastershire project are rolling out.

You can find out if you can upgrade by using the line / postcode checker at www.fastershire.com. Your line won't automatically be upgraded to fibre broadband and if the line checker says that fibre is available to you, you will need to contact an Internet Service Provider of your choice to discuss taking a fibre broadband package. There is a list of internet service providers who offer packages for homes and businesses at www.fastershire.com/how-to-get-it. You may be surprised at how low the cost of upgrading to fibre will be, often little more than existing broadband services or in some cases, if you're on an old package, it could actually be cheaper.

The progress that we've made hasn't been without its challenges. The unprecedented heavy rain at the start of the year has meant that a lot of silt was carried into the underground ducts where we lay the fibre. This has caused blockages, which our engineers either have to clear out, or in more extreme cases they have to replace sections of duct. In the Winchcombe area we're working on replacing 230m of blocked and damaged duct. We have had also had to lay an additional 1,181 metres of new duct and build 17 new joint boxes so that we can lay fibre cable to Harewood End.

Our team of Busy Bees will continue to work hard over the festive period, into the New Year and beyond. We're looking forward to letting more communities know that faster broadband speeds are available to them in the New Year.

Homes and businesses in Symonds Yat are the latest in Herefordshire to have access to fibre broadband thanks to the Fastershire roll-out programme.

Engineers had to overcome a series of unexpected challenges to bring faster fibre broadband to Symonds Yat after major blockages were found while they were trying to lay fibre optic cable under the A40.

However, working with Herefordshire Council's Highways Department and the Highways Agency, engineers were able to complete the necessary work, without having to close or dig up the A40.

St David's Children Society

It has been an exciting month for St David's Children Society following the launch of our new office on 41 Bridge Street, Hereford at the start of 'National Adoption Week' in November. We are a charity which has operated in South Wales since 1942 where we have successfully supported adoptive families throughout the process of adopting children to form a forever family. We have always offered a service to families who live within the Herefordshire Borough and have been fortunate enough to open a local office to build upon this solid foundation.

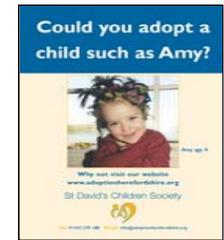
Children across England are currently waiting for adoptive families. Our agency is urgently seeking adoptive families for children of three years of age and over, sibling groups of differing ages and children from ethnic minority communities.

Could you offer a stable and loving home to a child? Adopters come in all shapes and sizes whether they be married, same sex couples or individuals, unmarried couples and single applicants. Individuals and families with or without children. People with disabilities, of all ethnic backgrounds, employed or unemployed, a homeowner or tenant and finally of all faiths or no religious faiths. Whilst there is a minimum legal requirement that an adopter be 21 years of age, there is no upper legal age to become a parent, simply an expectation that all applicants will be in a position to parent a child to the age of maturity.

Should you wish to learn more about the adoption assessment process or feel that you have something to offer then please do not hesitate to contact either Lisa or Naomi for an informal discussion on 01432 278188. Furthermore, visit our website www.adoptionherefordshire.org or even pop into our office in person.

Naomi Halling, Senior Admin Officer, St David's Children Society

Tel: 01432 278188, Fax: 029 20394344, Web: www.adoptionwales.org



St Michael's Hospice Big Tea

Help us make a big difference by hosting a small fundraising tea party this summer!

At St Michael's Hospice, The Big Tea is all about sharing time with friends over a cup of tea and a slice of cake. Holding a Big Tea party is a delicious way to raise funds for the Hospice and a perfect excuse to pop the kettle on and indulge in your favourite tea party treats.

Holding a Big Tea couldn't be easier: pick a date this summer, then think about the type of event you'd like to have, where you want to hold your party, and invite your friends, family or colleagues.

Last year, your Big Tea parties raised over £13,000, which helped St Michael's Hospice provide services free of charge to local families at a time they need it the most. It doesn't matter how big your party is, or whether you raise £20 or £200, every penny really does count and you will be making a real difference.

For your free Big Tea pack, which is full of ideas to make your Big Tea party a success, contact the Fundraising Team on 01432 851000, or visit the Big Tea page on our website at:

www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/events

Walking 4 Health

Since the last edition of the Dragon Newsletter we have done two walks. The November walk began at Swardon Quarry. From there we walked up Backbury Hill and along footpaths finishing at John Lee's. Here we were treated to some tasting of his wine which is made from his own grapes.

We met at Kiddleys Copse for our December walk. From here we walked to the edge of Haugh Woods with the intention of trying to find some lime kilns which are marked on the older maps. We were defeated in our quest by the brambles but carried on through Haugh Woods back to Kiddleys Copse where we had coffee and mince pies.

Our next walk will be on January 6th 2015. We will possibly meet at Kiddleys Copse and we have been invited to 15 Pentaloe Close for coffee at the finish.

We are always really happy to welcome new members to our group: the idea is to help people get out for walks who don't want to go on their own. We tailor the walks to the ability of the group so you need not worry that you can't manage it! For more details contact: John Litchfield, Jan Ashton-Jones. Details on the back of the Dragon newsletter

Mordiford Green

At first you may not identify this new landmark. It has been erected in a significant position: just opposite The Moon, on Mordiford Green.

The Green has recently been acquired for use as a public space and the Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council have considered how it might become an attractive resting place.

A large boulder has been mounted on a plinth in memory of the villagers who lost their lives in the massive flood of May 1811. Their names are inscribed in the brass plaque mounted on the plinth.

Also, new benches have been placed, dedicated to the memory of two long serving members of the parish council, namely, Peter Davies and Beth Dickson.

In addition, the Little Green Hut has been moved from its original position on the Woolhope Road, to the Green. It is hoped it will become a useful Information Centre. Already, interesting documents about the area have been displayed on the notice board inside the hut. Check them out.



Mordiford 200 Club

I have been asked recently "what is Mordiford 200 Club?"

It is a "Village Lottery" set up several years ago to help raise funds for Mordiford Church.

There is nothing you have to do to be in it except purchase a number for 50p a week - payable in one sum of £26.00 for the year.

There are no other commitments and no meetings to attend (unless of course you wish to come along to any of the draws and see if your number comes out!)

From 1st April the prizes every month will be:

1st Prize £100.00, 2nd Prize £60.00, 3rd Prize £30.00, 4th Prize £15.00

For 2015 the draw will be held on 1st of every month (see various posters for venues) with the exception that July's draw will be held at Sufton Fete on 4th and will include a few extra prizes.

The winners are published in the County section of the Hereford Times, The Beneficial and on various notice boards

Anyone interested in having their own number can contact Sue Day on 01432 850375 or email suesday14@btinternet.com or alternatively when subs are due for renewal in March an application will be popped through your door.

Everyone is welcome to join and to all those who already have their own number a huge THANK YOU for your continued support.

Sue Day

Treasurer Mordiford PCC

Mordiford Cemetery

Over the years, the hinges of the heavy gate have become worn making the gate difficult to open. In fact, some visitors have even walked away thinking that the gate was locked! The hinges have now been repaired and the gate opens freely. In fact it opens so freely that a chain had to be fixed to prevent it from being blown open.

The fir trees, originally planted as a hedge to screen the cemetery from the Moon campsite, cast a dark shadow over the whole of the cemetery. The landlord of the Moon removed these and they are being replaced with a mixed hawthorn hedge. The plants are little more than whips at present but they have been protected with plastic tubes to prevent damage from browsing rabbits. A timber felling application for a large holly tree growing in a grave near the boundary with the campsite has been placed with Herefordshire Council (the cemetery lying in Mordiford Conservation Area). When this has been removed, the hedge can be completed.

The old skip, also blocking the line of the new hedge, has been removed to a more appropriate location.



The End of the Christmas Tree

Last year, a working party spent time tidying up the churchyard by removing ivy from grave stones, and out-of-place elder trees. The team were troubled by the ancient Norwegian Spruce which had been planted as a Christmas Tree a 100 years or so ago. They wondered what could be done with it. Over the years it had become misshapen after having been cut back many times because it was interfering with power lines. It was also covered in a cloud of ivy.

This tree was outside the scope of the working party and it disbanded, feeling rather disgruntled.

Later it was discovered, from Edgar, that the removal of the tree was on Western Power's wish list. Before they could fell it, however, special permission had to be granted by the Diocese. Also, as the churchyard lies within the Mordiford Conservation Area, permission to remove the tree had to be sought from Herefordshire County Council.

Eventually, everything was in place and on the 30th October, half term, an arboricultural team arrived in Mordiford to carry out the procedure.

The team worked wonders. They were not able to fell the tree in one piece for fear of damaging grave stones. They attached themselves to the tree by ropes and safely removed branches piece by piece. They then concentrated on the massive trunk. This they removed log by log until they reached ground level. All that is left now, is the stump. Incidentally this shows a considerable amount of decay which indicates that the tree was in a dangerous condition and required felling. You can of course check out how old it was by counting the annular rings.

We now have a view of the church which has not been seen since the First World War.



Shepherds Orchard Allotments.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that up to thirteen allotments will be available on the new Shepherd Orchard development. A range of sizes will be offered. The largest will meet the requirements of more experienced allotment holders and the smallest will be suitable for a small family wishing to start growing their own fruit, flowers and vegetables. There will intermediate sizes and layouts to match most requirements.



An allotment 'rule book' is being prepared, to inform applicants as to what they can expect with regard to cropping programmes, the keeping of livestock and permitted development.

A single water supply will be laid on to serve all allotments, but allotment holders will be encouraged to capture rainwater from the roof of their garden shed. The maximum specifications of the garden shed will be stated in the rule book. Within the next couple of months, the parish council will be allocating the allotments to applicants. If you haven't yet applied to the Parish Clerk for an allotment, now is the time to do so. Priority will be given to residents of the Dormington and Mordiford Group of Parishes but other suitable applicants from outside the Parish will also be considered. It is very unlikely that further allotments will become available in the near future. This is your opportunity to start living The Good Life. Seize it!

Herefordshire's Talking News paper for the blind

Charity Number 502784

Do you, have difficulty in reading newspapers because of poor eyesight?
Do you have a family member, friend or neighbour who misses being able to catch up on local news from local newspapers?
Do you know that the Herefordshire Talking Newspaper for the Blind is produced fortnightly on CD , and delivered free by post?

To obtain more information, please contact the Secretary, Elizabeth Wilson, on 01432 853283, or leave a message at 36 Widemarsh Street, Hereford, HR1 1BD
Tel: 01432 352297