

**Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council Councillors
July 2012**

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Parish Clerk, Melanie Preedy, 6 Cherry Orchard, Tillington, Hereford, HR4 8LE

Telephone: 01432 769480 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



THE DRAGON

JULY 2012



Welcome to another edition of The Dragon. My first and pleasant task is to thank everyone who was involved in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations at Mordiford and especially our Editor, Brian Dukes, and Councillor Ashton Jones for all their hard work coordinating the many different events. It was great to see so many people from across the Group Parish taking part and enjoying themselves, despite the terrible weather.

After many weeks of cold and rain, at the time of writing, the sun has at last appeared and let's hope it stays that way for the school holidays at the very least. I wish everyone having a holiday a happy, relaxing and safe time whatever you are doing or wherever you are going. We are very grateful to Councillor Radnor for organising activities for the youngsters of the Parish at Mordiford School during the summer break.

We remain excited about the affordable housing/ allotments/play area scheme at Sufton Rise. The long process of preparing a planning application is finally coming to an end and the planning application is due for submission in August. All being well, the building phase will commence in April 2013 and finish in early 2014. This will be a great achievement for all concerned and a valuable asset to our Group Parish as we aim to retain local people in the area. We are also still working with Major Hereford about the green land opposite The Moon and hope to reach a conclusion by the end of the year.

We hear a great deal about 'Localism' these days and devolving decision making to the community. Your Parish Council has recently qualified for 'General Power of Competence' which gives us greater freedom in what we may do on behalf of the residents. There are significant changes also being made to the planning system and one way everyone can get involved and 'have a say' is by adopting a 'Neighbourhood Plan'. Although the Herefordshire Council Local Development Plan will determine how many houses are to be built in a particular area, for example, Parish Councils who adopt a Neighbourhood Plan will have a legal say in determining where houses may be built, of what style etc. Unsurprisingly, this involves the Parish Councils in a considerable amount of work, consultation, analysis etc. and we are looking carefully at whether this is 'right for us' or whether we should perhaps join forces with a neighbouring Parish Council, for example. We would be very interested in your views and we will keep you informed as our strategy develops.

Enjoy the summer!

Nick Brewin
Chairman

What is a Parish Council?

Parish Councils are a tier of local government which represent the views and needs of their community. Councillors are elected to office every four years or are co-opted if a vacancy occurs during this period. Parish Councils raise money through the 'precept' which is collected by Herefordshire Council as part of the Council Tax. Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council can provide whatever facilities, services or events it sees fit. Currently the Council manages the burialground and closed churchyard, contracts a lengthsmen to carry out minor highway work, maintains the parish Rights of Way, pays for a monthly bus service, reports highway problems to Amey Herefordshire for them to action and also provides comments in response to planning applications submitted in the parish.

The Parish Council meets monthly, all meetings are advertised on the noticeboards throughout the parish. There is always a slot for the public to raise any concerns, issues or make comments and we welcome more residents to attend. If you don't fancy attending a meeting, our new parish council website will have lots of up-to-date information or feel free to email the clerk about anything.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in the Parish

Mordiford School, The Parents, Teachers and Friends of Mordiford School, The Dragons, Mordiford Church, The Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council and DCAT, all came together to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Celebrations started in school on Thursday 31st May with a Street Party and the presentation of a special commemorative mug to each child. Pupils then buried a steel time capsule in which they had safely stored items to be examined in, perhaps, 100 years time. The capsule was buried at the foot of the old bell tower near the school garden, and a plaque was fixed to the wall above it, to commemorate the event.



Flicks in the Sticks Films at Lady Emily Hall

September 22nd – The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12)

British retirees travel to India to take up residence in what they believe is a newly restored hotel. Less luxurious than its advertisements, the Marigold Hotel nevertheless slowly begins to charm in unexpected ways. Starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy and Maggie Smith.

This will start at 7:30pm, with refreshments and wine available at a half-time interval.

Computer/Internet Awareness Group at Lady Emily Hall

The Hall committee would like to provide informal computer/Internet awareness sessions, perhaps on a Saturday morning. These would be aimed at assisting novices to get on-line and to provide guidance for dealing with the common problems encountered. The format/duration is as yet undefined and could be tailored to suit the participants. We have made contact with a professional trainer who may be able to help. Feedback from anybody who would be interested in taking part, either as a "learner" or as one of the "guides", would be helpful to define the activity.

John Tallis 01432 890720 or john.tallis@bopenworld.com

In Case of Emergency.

The Parish Council have two Emergency Officers, either of whom can be contacted during any state of emergency. They are, Peter Davies, telephone number 07968080554, and Jan Ashton-Jones, telephone number 01432 870827. Vital information can be provided whenever necessary. Recently the school required sandbags to prevent flooding. Staff were unaware that the Parish Council holds a stock of sandbags available to anyone needing them. Eventually the sandbags were located and collected from the store attached to No. 5, Wallflower Row. Flood damage at the school was prevented.

Dates for your diary:

A Christmas Concert in Mordiford Church

on Saturday December 15th 2012.

Hereford Police Choir with Mordiford School Choir.

Refreshments, including mulled wine and mince pies, will be served.

The proceeds will go to the refurbishment fund for the church.

Are you interested or curious to know what happens to your recycling material?

All your recycling goes into the green wheelie bin and is collected—then what?

A visit to Severn Waste Services near Worcester has been arranged for August 23rd. You will be able to see for yourself what happens.

The visit will take about an hour but children are excluded. Transport will be shared so those without a car will still be welcome.

If interested, please contact Jan Ashton-Jones on 01432870827 or by email janaj1009@gmail.com

New Walking for Health in Mordiford

Do you want to get some fresh air? Meet new people? Stay active? Lose weight?

Come and join us on a nicely paced,
FREE walk (approx. one hour) - just turn up!
Next walk 10.00am on August 14th 2012

The meeting place will be announced on Parish notice boards.
For further information contact Jan Ashton-Jones 01432870827
janaj1009@gmail.com

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates:

- September 4th
- October 2nd
- November 6th

All meetings take place at 7.30pm, at Mordiford School Hall, unless otherwise advertised. Extra-ordinary meetings may be scheduled as required. Please check notice boards and website for details. www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk

On Saturday night, 2nd June, the Police Choir, with children of Mordiford School, held a concert in The Church of The Holy Rood, Mordiford. The packed church appreciated some wonderful singing, and afterwards enjoyed refreshments in the school hall.

On Sunday 3rd June, a group of about 30 adults and children decorated ten canoes and put them on the river at Badger's Crossing in Hampton Bishop to form a flotilla. They then paddled down the Wye and up the River Lugg to Garlands Farm with many people on the banks shouting words of encouragement



A service to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was held in Mordiford Church at 9.30am

At 12.30pm, a yew tree was blessed by Dr Chris Moore. Edgar Moss, Peter Davies and John Harris were then invited to plant it. A plaque has been laid at the foot of the tree to record this event.



At 1.00pm the Rev. Jane Davies of the Lugwardine and Dormington Group of Parishes recited the Diamond Jubilee Grace and people from far and wide enjoyed the enormous range of dishes brought in for the Big Lunch. Afterwards, the Loyal Toast was proposed by Major Hereford. An afternoon of fun on the school field had been ar-

ranged, but rain intervened, and the programme was curtailed. However, in the comfort of the two marquees, the picnic continued and judging took place to find the best plate of cupcakes and most decorative crown. At 3.00pm the Grand Draw was made, and valuable prizes including a week's accommodation in a rural cottage in Spain, were won by lucky individuals.

From about 8.30pm on Monday 4th June, people gathered at Swardon Quarry. Word had spread that a barbecue had been arranged with some drinks. As time passed, more and more people gathered, and by 10pm there was little space left in the viewing area above Swardon Quarry. At 10.15, with the arrival of Major Hereford representing the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford, the Parish Beacon, one of over 4000 beacons built around the Commonwealth, was lit. At first it was reluctant to burn, but by 10.30pm it was blazing. Up to nine other beacons could be seen dotted over the beautiful landscape. Many people stayed to watch our beacon burning, long after midnight.

A few commemorative mugs are still available, at a cost of £4. A DVD of the celebrations is also available at just £3.50. Please place any orders for these items with Councillor Jan Ashton Jones on 01432870827 or by email janaj1009@gmail.com.

2011 Census:

Population & household estimates for Herefordshire

Herefordshire Council Research Team, July 2012

Population and households in 2011

The 2011 Census estimated that **183,500 people were usually resident in Herefordshire on 27th March 2011**. The definition of usual residence counts people intending to be in the UK for at least six months at the place they consider their main home, with some exceptions – particularly relevant to Herefordshire is that students are counted at their term-time address.

The census estimate is in line with indicative figures published by the Office for National Statistics in November 2011 that suggested the county's population was about 3,500 higher in 2010 than officially estimated, due to significantly more international migration than estimated.

At Mordiford turn left at the Moon Inn, signposted to Woolhope. After 1½ miles turn left into Haugh Woods car park. The reserve is ¾ mile walk from the car park along the Northern woodland ride. This is the left path when you are standing in the car park, facing away from road. Go over a 'cross-roads' in the woodland rides and follow the track downhill to a T-Junction. Turn left at the T-junction and the gate to Joan's Hill Farm is a further 200m along this track. Grid Reference: SO 591 376

New bus services – Together with Fownhope Parish Council, Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council have been successful in applying for grants to cover the expense of subsidising two new bus services. Following the success of the Ross on Wye service, a monthly bus to Ledbury has now been agreed. In addition, a late night (Friday and/or Saturday) service from Hereford to Fownhope has also been made possible. Details of the exact routes and timetables are still to be decided, but watch this space.

To remind you, **the Ross-on Wye** service operates on the second Thursday of each month leaving Mordiford at 9.30am. It returns, leaving Ross-on Wye at 12.30pm, and arriving in Mordiford soon after 1.00pm. The service is free for those with a bus pass, or otherwise, £3.70 return.

Our local Neighbourhood Police Officer, Neil James, has announced his retirement after more than 30 years service. Due to his annual leave outstanding, time off and rest days owed, he will be leaving us almost immediately.

During his time in West Mercia, he has worked in Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire, on urban and city beats, in armed response units, in traffic units, as a control room team leader and, for the past eight years, as a rural beat officer.

His replacement is yet to be named, but CSO Dean Wall will continue to cover our area. His contact details are:-

CSO Dean WALL C6579

Telephone: 0300 333 3000, Ext 4712

Mobile: 07970 602443

Joan's Hill Farm Reserve.

Once upon a time during a beautiful summer afternoon, a family discovered an ancient meadow full of beautiful wildflowers..... this isn't a fairy tale, the place is real and very close by.

Hidden within Haugh Woods is a little place called 'Joan's Hill Farm Reserve'. Do you know it? This 46-acre reserve enjoys views across hillsides at the northern edge of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The reserve is a microcosm of the characteristic old Herefordshire landscape comprising hay meadows and orchards enclosed by thick hedgerows. Some of the fields have escaped agricultural 'improvement' and are home to some of the classic flowers of old English hay meadows. These include Dyer's greenweed, knapweed, lady's bedstraw, green-winged orchid, and perforate St. John's-Wort. The reserve is owned and managed by 'Plantlife', a charitable organisation who work hard to protect wild flowers on the ground.

So why am I telling you this? Well, this storyteller has motives. Plantlife has enlisted three volunteers, including myself to help breath a little life into our local reserve. And we have a few favours to ask of the local community.

Easy Bit - We want you to explore and enjoy the reserve either for the first time or a return visit. The stunning view and abundant wildflowers will hopefully inspire you to tell others about it.

Fun Bit - We are busy planning nature events and activities for young and old(er) alike. So we ask that you keep an eye on local boards and local. Then of course you are all warmly invited to attend.

Really Fun Bit- We also want to set up a network of volunteers. Like nature, we want diversity so all will be welcomed. Can you give a little time undertaking practical conservational tasks, or would you be able to help organise/volunteer at an event on the reserve? We three volunteer Co ordinators are so excited to get started and hope that you might like to get involved too.

Please get in touch

Plantlife Volunteer Co ordinators - Jules Agate, Preeti Shrish, Yasmin Lynes

Email us: joanshillfarmvolunteers@yahoo.com

Visit the website: www.plantlife.org.uk/nature_reserves/joans_hill_farm

Call Yasmin: 07930906595

[Just in case you needed to know.....directions to the reserve](#)

The population of Herefordshire **grew by 4.9%** in the decade since the 2001 Census (8,600 more residents than the 174,900 then), compared to 7.1% in England & Wales overall (+3.7 million people).

Unlike nationally, which saw the fastest growth since the census began in 1801, the 4.9% growth in Herefordshire's population between 2001 and 2011 was **much slower than in the previous two decades** (9.1% from 1981 to 1991; 9.4% from 1991 to 2001).

Population density in Herefordshire in 2011 was 84 persons per square kilometre, the 20th lowest of all unitary and district authorities in England & Wales.

The usually resident population lived in **79,800 households** (i.e. one person living alone or a group of people sharing living accommodation), giving a slightly lower average household size (2.34 persons per household) than nationally (2.40). This was only slightly smaller than average household size in the county in 2001 (2.35).

2,900 Herefordshire residents were living (for six months or more) in **communal establishments** such as nursing or residential homes. This equated to 1.6% of the total population, slightly lower than the 1.9% of the total population of England & Wales. The number of communal establishment residents had grown by 600 since 2001, when it was 1.3% of the county's population.

Also recorded on 27th March 2011 were **1,300 short-term residents**, i.e. people staying in the county for between three and six months. Almost two-thirds (800 people) of them were male.

Age structure of the population

The population structure is ageing nationally: one in six people in England & Wales was aged 65 or over in 2011 (16.4% of the total) – the highest seen in any census. In Herefordshire **one in five people was aged 65 or over** (21.3%), although this is not as high as in some areas, particularly along the coast in the South West, South East, and East of England regions.

There were 1,800 residents of Herefordshire **aged 90 or over in 2011, almost 40% more than in 2001** (when there were 1,300). In England & Wales overall the number grew by 25%.

There were **fewer children in Herefordshire in 2011** than in 2001. There were 13% more under 5s in England & Wales in 2011 than in 2001; locally there were 100 fewer children (9,500 under 5s). The number of 5-15 year-

olds in Herefordshire fell from 23,300 in 2001 to 19,700 in 2011 (-12%).

Where to find out more

Results for Herefordshire can be found on the Facts & Figures about Herefordshire website: <http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk>, but the full set of results and supporting papers are all published at: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/population-and-household-estimates-for-england-and-wales/index.html

Borders Broadband Project

Procurement update

The Borders Broadband project is reaching the final stages of the procurement process to secure a telecommunications company to design, build and operate a wholesale broadband network in rural Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

The contract will cover the areas which do not currently receive high-speed broadband services, or where there are no private sector plans to provide such services in the next three years. Funding to deliver broadband in these areas has come from national Government sources (via BDUK) and locally from Herefordshire Council and Gloucestershire County Council.

The “Call for Final Tender” has been issued to remaining suppliers to submit their final offer to be evaluated in mid-August. This follows a process of negotiation and dialogue to ensure the best deal possible is reached for Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, considering the funding available and the timescales required. The intention is that Cabinet committees of both councils will consider the award of a contract in mid-September 2012.

The project’s priority remains the same - to make sure everyone has access to the “Universal Commitment Service“ of 2Mbps speed to wipe out the “not spots” in the county (where there is no broadband), along with the availability of Next Generation Access (NGA) of 30Mbps or above, allowing households and businesses to use the web effectively now and in the future.

As one of four national pilots, the project is testing new ground in the provision of broadband in deeply rural areas, where there is limited existing infrastructure to support improved services.

Go ON UK – helping you get online

Many people are still not using the internet – even when it is already available. UK Online Centres have highlighted that 96% of internet users say it has improved their life; that 72% of employers were unlikely to even offer an interview to people who couldn’t use a computer; 96% of employers ex-

pected people to be able to email, and 88% wanted employees to be able to search for information online.

Go ON UK is a national programme to support individuals and communities to get connected. Go ON UK will pick up the baton from Race On-Line 2012 to get the final 8.2 million people online and encourage everyone to improve their digital skills, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The national programme is supported by local activity, with Herefordshire Council and Gloucestershire County Council signed up as delivery partners, and the Borders Broadband Project is exploring opportunities for this. If you are interested in using some of the Go ON resources to help others in your community to get connected visit: www.go-on-uk.org. The Borders Broadband project is also interested in hearing about local schemes which can be promoted through the two counties. Let us know by emailing bordersbroadband@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Financial help to access the web

The Borders Broadband survey showed that one of the biggest challenges to going online was being able to afford to buy the equipment and pay monthly broadband charges. The survey showed that 77% of responders see broadband as essential to their home life, especially important for study, work and searching for goods and services. However, the top three obstacles to people not using broadband is because they do not have a computer, monthly connection charges are too expensive and equipment cost too high. GetOnline@Home is a Microsoft-backed scheme offering refurbished PCs at a lower cost for those who may not be able to purchase hardware to access the internet without financial help. Under the scheme, PCs are available for £99 if you’re on qualifying benefits (or costing £149 for anyone) as well as offers on laptops, a range of already-installed software and reduced broadband packages. For info on the scheme see www.getonlineathome.org or phone 03719 100 100.

The Fownhope Library's Wednesday sessions are attracting a steady flow of users and they hope to start a second session this autumn. They had planned a second weekday session but are very conscious that this would not reach those who are working or at school outside the village. So they would like the second session to be on **Saturday mornings** from 10 to 12. Some of the team who currently help on Wednesdays can help on Saturdays but they do need a few more volunteers before they can commit to Saturday sessions. Could you spare a couple of hours on Saturday mornings once a month? There is always scope for change if family or holiday events crop up at short notice but they do need just a few more helpers. If you can help they would be delighted to hear from you. Please ring - **Margaret and David Clark 860017, Margaret Rolls 860827, Mary Pearce 860580, Pam Pettitt 860065.**