

# The Dragon



The Autumn Edition of the newsletter from your local Group Parish Council

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the newsletter from the Parish Council. We are pleased to include articles from various parts of our community – if you would like to contribute to the next edition please get in touch with the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council discusses a range of local issues, here is a summary of just a couple – if you want to find out more please come along to the monthly meeting or take a look at our website for the agenda and minutes.

Not only famous for the legend of the dragon, Mordiford is also known for its congestion problems around the school – after many many years of discussion between the school, Herefordshire Council and Parish Council, progress is being made on proposals for traffic calming. Last month Balfour Beatty consulted the Parish Council on proposals for reducing and extending the speed limits in the village. In addition to this, the Parish Council wishes to install picket gates at the village entry points, with the aim of reducing vehicle speed. White lines were recently painted near the school to create passing points to aid traffic flow during drop off and pick up times – the school have been reminding parents of the need to park considerately. These developments, together with other planned improvements, should ensure our children remain safe, while traffic flows smoothly.

The Parish Council has also been busy developing a new website and Facebook page to improve our communication – a huge thank you to Brian Dukes, who was the webmaster for many years – without Brian we wouldn't have had a website at all. In line with GDPR changes, the new website will now be managed by Cllr Craig Preezy – please take a look and let us know what information you would find useful. [www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk](http://www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk)

## Whats on?

What	When	Where	Contact
Post Office	Tuesday 2.00-4.00pm	Moon Inn	0345 6112970
Bingo	27 <sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm	Fownhope VH	01432 860065
Big Breakfast	27 <sup>th</sup> October 10.00am	Woolhope VH	07789 598715
The Darkest Hour (film)	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 7.30pm	Fownhope VH	01432 860065
Wine tasting & quiz	10 <sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm	Bartestree VH	01432 851231
Journey's End (film)	10 <sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm	Fownhope VH	01432 860065
Stories from the Hop yards (film)	17 <sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm	Tarrington VH	01432 890720
Checkley Church Dev. Group	21 <sup>st</sup> November	St Nicholas church, Checkley	Greg Brunt
PC Meeting	21 <sup>st</sup> November 7.30pm	Priors Frome Chapel	Parish Clerk
History Group talk – Medieval Mills of Mordiford	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	St Nicholas church, Checkley	Greg Brunt
Festive Fun	30 <sup>th</sup> November	Mordiford School	01432 870258
Finding your feet (film)	16 <sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm	Tarrington VH	01432 890720
PC Meeting	16 <sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm	Priors Frome Chapel	Parish Clerk
Poppy's Vintage Tea Room	Last Friday of the month	Field Farm Care Home, Hampton Bishop	01432 850480

Contact the Parish Council Clerk on [clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk) or 07777 669 662

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email please provide your details to the Parish Clerk.

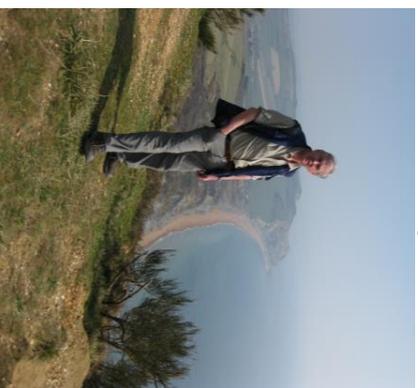
### Meet the Parish Council

The Parish Council has 7 members from Mordiford and 2 members from Dorrington. We have one vacancy currently, please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more information or come along to a meeting.

#### Parish Councillor, John Litchfield

This is my 12th year serving on the Parish Council, having been co-opted when Barry Durkin was chairman. At that time the Parish Paths initiative was being offered to enable Parish Councils to manage an annual budget specifically for the maintenance and improvement of their rights of way. This really appealed to me with my local knowledge and love of exploring the countryside, so I volunteered to take on this role and have been doing it ever since.

We have something in the region of 27km of footpaths and bridleways which have to be walked at least twice a year, and the programme of work undertakes to keep the routes clear of brambles, nettles and hedge growth etc.



We are lucky to have received sufficient budget over the years to improve access to the countryside by the removal of some forty stiles and replacing them with self closing gates, with the landowner's permission.

I am fortunate to have had the support and co-operation of our major landowners and estate managers to enable this work to progress. I also oversee the maintenance of the two picnic and viewpoint sites, Swardon Quarry and Checkley Barrn. Rights of Way can be lost under plant growth in a very short space of time, so this is on going work and hopefully many of you have benefitted from this.

### Checkley news

The Checkley Social & Amenities Committee (CSAC) working with the Woolhope PC have agreed a revised proposed plan to provide facilities at the St Nicolas Church so it can be used for more community uses.

The next stage is to seek funds to apply for planning permission which has begun. Several Fund raising events are planned and notice will be issued near the time.

The CSAC have also started a local History group and had a very interesting talk on Maps by Phillip Eles the next talk will be by Andy Tatchell on November the 23rd at 7 o'clock, "Medieval Mills of Mordiford Parish".

Greg Brunt and Bob Hall.



### Who uses the Post Office?

Did you know that each **Tuesday** between **2.00 and 4.00pm** there is a Post Office service in the Moon Inn? Not many people are using this service – so if it isn't used sadly it will be withdrawn. <sup>(R)</sup>



**Phone:**

[0345 6112970](tel:03456112970)

## Putting Mordiford on the Map

Stories of a Dragon which terrorised villagers have been part of Mordiford's folklore since at least the 19th century. A picture of a 12 foot long green dragon with red mouth and tongue was depicted on the outside of the tower of Holy Rood Church.

This autumn, the children and staff at Mordiford School are embarking on an exciting Arts Project funded primarily by MeadowArts, a Midlands based arts organisation established to promote contemporary art in the community.

## Let's put Mordiford on the Map

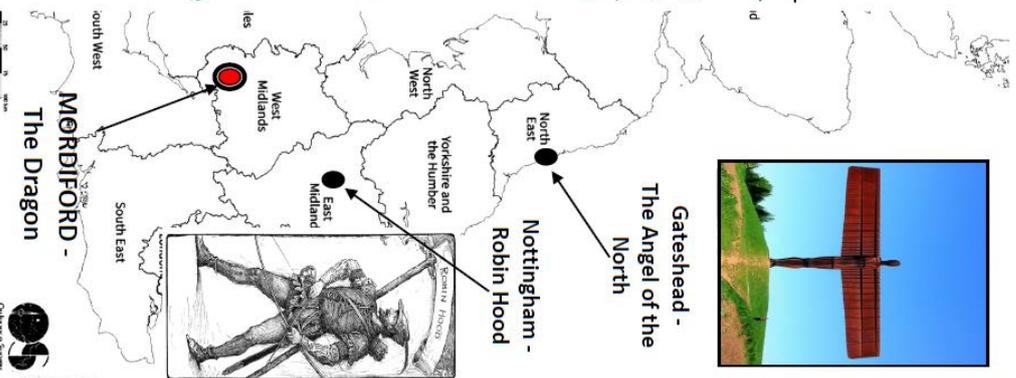
Come and hear about an exciting Mordiford School Arts Project and share ideas about how it might inspire us to give the Mordiford Dragon a more prominent place in our village. Everyone is invited to come to

### COMMUNITY MEETING

ON  
November 19th, 2018  
7.30pm in Mordiford  
School

For further information please  
contact

Marjorie Shackleton  
01432 870654  
David Lloyd  
01432 870515



## Mordiford Walking Group

Once a month, often on a Tuesday, a group meet to explore the local countryside. Anyone is invited to join – please contact John Litchfield ([rectorybarn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rectorybarn@yahoo.co.uk)) for details.

Thank you Brian for these photos, and a snippet from his observations on the July walk.

*“The river was perfectly lovely. It was flowing very gently and we had the spectacle of 37 swans all leisurely floating in quite a small length of the river. A short distance away we found a flock of Canadian Geese equally at ease with the surroundings”.*



## Parish occupations 1837

Researching Mordiford Parish at the Hereford Records Office, I came across a list of residents and their occupations for the year 1837. Here are a few of interest...

William Saunders was a cordwainer with a shop. A cordwainer makes shoes unlike a cobbler who repairs them. He was also the keeper of Mordiford Pike (toll road). Charles Kings was a Wheelwright and the oldest but logical for a farming community was William Corbet, the cow doctor. Finally, many people produced their own cider but two residents ran drinking houses. Ray Dickson.

The Moon Inn would like to display old photos of the parish – if you have any photos of village life that would like to share please get in touch with **Alan at the Moon Inn.**

### Dormington Church Improvement Project

The Churchwardens and PCC are delighted to be able to inform readers that work on building the external toilet will start mid-October and should take approximately 8 weeks to complete, so we hope that the construction phase will be over by Christmas. We will be connecting the water supply and drainage to the services in the track running between the church and Dormington Court, but the contractors (Henhope Construction) will do all they can to minimise any disruption and keep people informed. In order to minimise costs, we will be decorating and tiling the toilet ourselves, so please let Nick, Heather or Bridget know if you would be willing to assist with this.

Also, we still have a (relatively) small funding gap which may have to be filled by some short-term loans. If you would like to contribute to helping us meet the final bill, any donation, however small, would be much appreciated. Thanks for your support.

### Allotments at Shepherds Orchard

We only have 1 small plot left – it would be great if someone was interested in taking this on. We also have two rather large, sloping plots, which aren't very attractive as allotments. If anyone has experience of creating wildflower meadows or has ideas of what we could do with these two larger plots, please let us know.

### Do you have a local business?

We are thinking of offering local businesses advertising space within this newsletter – if you are interested please contact Mel Preedy ([melpreedy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:melpreedy@hotmail.co.uk))

### **We would also welcome submissions from residents for the Winter edition – your news, stories or events, by the 28<sup>th</sup> January.**

Watch out for dog fouling signs soon to be erected in particular troublesome places – the PC is supporting Herefordshire Council's Dog Poo campaign 'Bag it and Bin it' or in rural areas flick with a stick.

### News from Mordiford CE Primary School

Our new academic year has got off to a flying start; we have welcomed 17 new children into our Reception Class and have 158 children on roll. Year 6 have just returned from a week-long residential to PGL in the Brecon Beacons. They had a wonderful time bonding as a class, taking risks and learning new skills such as abseiling, kayaking and archery.



Our Year 3 children have been having regular sessions at our Forest School site in the local woodland. Here they learn to use tools safely and to work together in the outdoor environment. Later in the term the woodland will be the inspiration for a project with artist in residence Fliss O'Neill who will use the Mordiford

Dragon myth as the starting point for an art installation with the children.

We will celebrate the harvest with a traditional Harvest Festival in Holy Rood Church on 11th October, which is being led by our Key Stage Two pupils. In November we are taking 10 of our oldest children to our link school in Toledo near Madrid. The children and teachers will attend the school, which has an impressive reputation for teaching English. The children will stay with host families and get to experience the Spanish way of life.

We are holding an Open Morning at 9.30am on Thursday 8th November for families who are interested in places for our September 2019 Reception Class, please come along and join us if you will have a school age child

Kerri Finney - Head Teacher