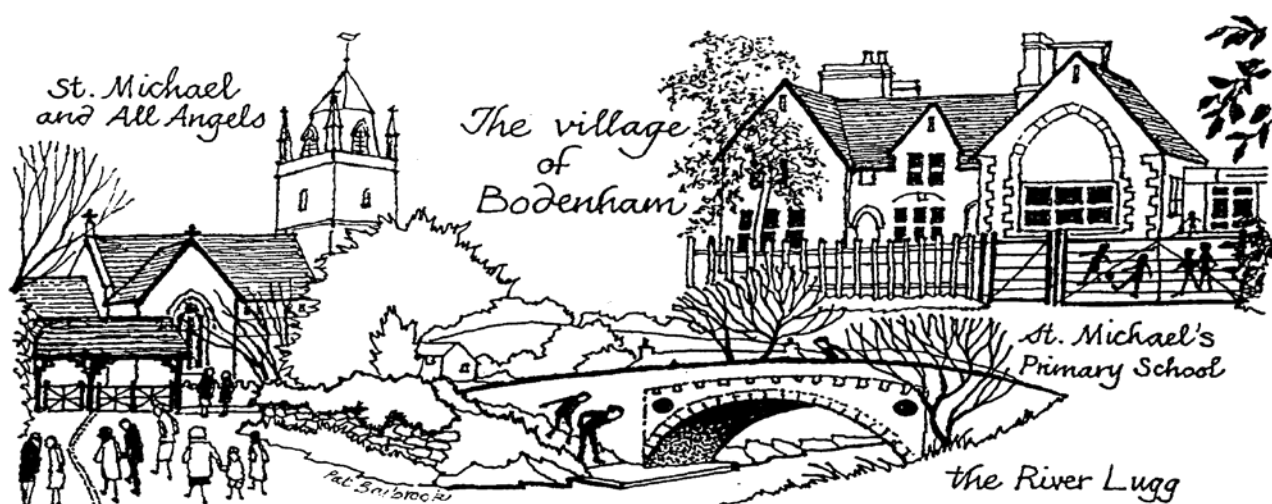


Bodenham Newsletter



February 2011

1st	Gardening Club	18th	Newsletter Deadline
3rd	Mothers' Union	19th	Coffee Morning in aid of Flood Group
7th	Parish Council Meeting	24th	Marmalade and Chutney Market Hereford
10th	Knit-In	24th	Gardening Club with Chris Beardshaw
11th	Flicks in the Sticks	25th	Flood Group Meeting
14th	Leisure Club	28th	Leisure Club
18th	Bingo Event		

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meetings will be held at 7.30pm on **Monday 7th February** at the Siward James Centre. Copies of the agenda are placed on parish notice boards in advance and everyone is most welcome to attend and raise any matters of concern during the slot reserved for this purpose during the meeting. If you prefer you can raise matters in advance by contacting Chris Smith, Parish Clerk on 01568 797 132 or by email at fork.lightning@gmail.com.

Salt bins - Bodenham requested five additional salt bins from Amey and two - at God Almighty Hill near Bodenham/Marden parish boundary and at Holly Bush Lane - have already been installed. The other three - at the Bodenham Lake entrance, at the bottom of Bowley Lane and in Bowley Lane between Wall House and Broadfield Lodge - have been given 'high priority' by Amey.

Parish Walk. In November three Coucillors Tony Clark, Tony Mitcheson and Mike Mullenger met representatives of Amey and conducted a parish walk on which 31 defects across the Parish were identified as needing attention. These concerned, for example, white lines in need of renewal, drainage problems, potholes and signage. Many of the defects have already been attended to.

Continued on Page 3.....

St Michael's Church

Dear Friends,

In 1611, one of the English language's most important books – the King James Version of the Bible, popularly known as the Authorised Version was published. The year 2011 sees the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. It wasn't the first English Bible by any means or even the most popular version at the time, but its style of language together with research of Bible manuscripts and their original languages (mainly Hebrew and Greek), discoveries of new documents and not least the combined effect of the Renaissance and Reformation – not just in England but across Europe, together with the dramatic development of printing, brought into being the well loved and renowned Bible version we have to this day. It is an enduring version, although it has had several revisions to update and correct errors of translation and print, it is still memorable and admired in its prose and layout.

The translation we use in our Sunday services today is the New Revised Standard Version and it takes its place in a long tradition of English translations that began well before the publication of the King James Bible. Between 1382 and 1395 John Wycliffe defied Church authorities to work with other scholars to produce an English Bible.

In 1525-6 William Tyndale published his New Testament and began work on the Old Testament. In 1535 the Coverdale Bible was published; in 1537 the Great Bible; then the Geneva Bible in 1560 - this is the Bible that Shakespeare would have been familiar with.

There were further revisions during Elizabeth I's reign and then in 1604 James I convened a conference to begin the process of publishing a new translation of the Bible. In 1611 the King James Bible was presented to the nation. It wasn't until the 1700's that further amendments were made and it was 1881 before the Revised Version, a new translation, was published. Since then we have had many re-workings and further translations, now there are dozens of different Bibles to choose from.

In 2011 there will be a number of events and celebrations of the King James Bible, both in our own churches and across Britain. All of this reminds us of the importance of this Holy Book, the truth contained within its pages, and the riches of its wisdom and revelation. As we read through the Bible this year, let us thank God for the inspiration and courage of those first translators. Whether we read it in the language of the early 17th century or in the language of our own time, the Word of God will never be diminished, it will always speak to our hearts.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Yours in Christ,
Heather

St Michael & All Angels' Church Bodenham

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2011

Feb 6th	8.00am	Holy Communion	(The Revd Heather Short)
	9.30am	GAME	(Children's Church, held in School)
	6.00pm	Evensong	
Feb 13th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	(The Revd Heather Short))
	6.00pm	Evensong	
Feb 20th	9.30am	Family Communion	(The Revd Heather Short)
	6.00pm	Evensong	
Feb 27th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	(The Revd Alison Leigh)
	6.00pm	Evensong	

NB: Evensong will normally be include hymns and led by one of the Churchwardens

HOLY COMMUNION AT SIWARD JAMES CENTRE

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at the Siward James Centre on February 25th at 11.00am.
All are welcome to attend.

BODENHAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Chapel Lane, Bodenham

Programme for February

6th	10.30am	Worship Service – Malcolm Healy
13th	10.30am	Fellowship Service and Communion
20th	10.30pm	Worship Service – Mike Wilkinson
27th	10.30am	Worship Service – Peter Hollingworth

Footsteps Is not running at present, but we hope to restart sometime in the future. For further information, please contact Fiona.

Tuesdays 1st February at 10.00am: **Ladies' Bible Study** led by Margaret Seccombe. We conclude our study of 1 Thessalonians, and on 1st March begin a new study of John's Gospel. All ladies are welcome.

Café @ Chapel meets **every Thursday morning**. Come along at any time between 10.30am and 12 noon, for a cup of coffee in congenial company.

Midweek Study and Discussion Group every Thursday at 7.30 for 7.45pm. 'Guidance for Living and Worship' – we're studying the second half of the book of Exodus. Peter Lefroy-Owen will be happy to give further information. All are welcome.

Contact: Fiona Smith (797122) Margaret Seccombe (797094) Peter Lefroy-Owen (760580)

Secretary: Pat Horrigan (797044)

BODENHAM W.I.

Unfortunately, at the January meeting of the Bodenham W.I. it was impossible to form a new committee. Therefore the activities of the Bodenham W.I. have now been suspended.
Margaret Hughes, Secretary.

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL continued

Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are to take place over an extended bank holiday weekend from Saturday 2nd to Tuesday 6th June 2012. Celebrations will be held across the country, including in Herefordshire. Bodenham Parish Council welcomes input, ideas and suggestions of what is truly representative of the special nature of Herefordshire. Please contact David Tilford (davidtilford@greenbee.net) or Chris Smith (fork.lightning@gmail.com).

Speed Indicating Device (SID)

The SID continues to be used at several locations around the village in an attempt to draw drivers' attention to their vehicle speed. Early indications suggest that having a visual flashing reminder of the speed limit is having a beneficial effect. National statistics show that speeding along rural lanes accounts for a disproportionately large number of accidents and the purchase of a SID was intended to ensure that Bodenham does not feature in these statistics.

Bus Shelters

Grants have been sought towards the cost of replacement bus shelters along The Moor and it is hoped that the result of the application will be known shortly. It was initially thought that all that was required was the replacement of the defective reinforced-concrete roofs by timber-framed units but the Parish Council was later advised that the existing brickwork should also be removed.

Proposed Changes to Bodenham Rights of Way (Footpaths)

Following the report in the November newsletter of the Parish Council's endorsement of proposed changes to two public footpaths in the vicinity of The Moor we were advised of objections raised by the National Ramblers Association, the Open Spaces Society and a Malvern-based group. In this situation, and in order to comply with legislation, Herefordshire Council then sought an alternative solution involving a possible diversion of part of the footpath (known as BM 13), that originally ran through the garden of 44 Brockington Road, via land in the ownership of the Siward James and Arkwright Trust. The Parish Council raised strong objection to this proposal and was unanimously supported in its view by members of H.C's Regulatory Committee when it met on 7th December 2010. The Public Rights of Way Manager has again been requested to revert to the earlier plan to formally seek approval to close a small section of the footpath (BM13) and for a diversion via Orchard Close. It is likely that the matter will now be referred to the Planning Inspectorate for resolution.

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Social Sequence Dancing

For the past two years we have held regular Social
Sequence Dance evenings at the Sutton St Nicholas
village hall.

Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome
to come along at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings.

Sequence Dancing is a very sociable activity providing
exercise for both body and brain!

Come on give it a try.

For further details please ring me on 01432 880373.

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BODENHAM MOTHERS' UNION

Thursday 3rd February at 10.30am at 14 Brockington Road. Janet Anger will talk about the Bye Buy Childhood campaign launched by the MU, showing how we can help to challenge the commercialisation of children. Visitors will be most welcome.

Wednesday, 9th February at 12 noon at Hereford Cathedral, in the Lady Chapel, MU Prayers led by Hereford Deanery branches (including Bodenham).

Thursday, 24th February
Marmalade and Chutney Market
at
All Saints' Church Hereford
from
11am – 2pm
in aid of Here4women, women's group

Branch Leader: Pat Horrigan (797044)

BODENHAM ROMANIA SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday 10th February **Knit-In** at 14 Brockington Road from 2 – 4pm.

Everyone is welcome. If you can't come, but would like to knit or crochet for us at home, we can supply you with wool. Please contact Pat if you have any unwanted rug or knitting wool.

Chairman: Pat Horrigan (797044)

BODENHAM LEISURE CLUB

On **Monday 14th February** at 2.30pm we meet in the Parish Hall for a talk entitled, "The Work of a Magistrate" given by Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson JP. This talk has been recommended to me as very interesting, informative and enjoyable. Visitors will be made most welcome, £1 entry.
We shall have a Raffle, Bring and Buy Sales Table and Light Refreshments.
At this meeting names will be taken for the lunch on the 28th.

On **Monday 28th February** we meet in the Parish Hall at the earlier time of **1pm** when we shall serve a lunch. Visitors are welcome at £1 entry plus £2 for the lunch. For catering purposes names to be given to Mrs. Pugh (01568 797268) beforehand please.
There will be a Raffle and Bring and Buy Sales Table.

Gwenllian Bowden
Secretary/Programme Secretary
Tel. No. 01568 797868

BODENHAM GARDENING CLUB

FEBRUARY 1st We shall be having a talk by PC Charles Naylor on Preventing the growth of garden crime a topical talk as this seems to be getting worse in our rural areas.

FEBRUARY 24th THIS IS OUR BIG NIGHT WHEN WE SHALL BE HAVING CHRIS BEARDSHAW TO TALK TO US. THIS IS A TICKET ONLY MEETING, TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY AFTER FEB 1st. 01568 797014

THERE IS NO MEETING IN MARCH

APRIL 5th This will be our ANNUAL DAFFODIL SHOW with a talk on 'What's Wrong With Plants'.
Jacqui Price (01568 797014)

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Bodenham Badminton Club

We are a friendly, welcoming club of mixed ability, who are recruiting new members for 2011. There is currently NO Membership FEE - just pay to play.
We play Badminton in the Parish Hall in Bodenham.
Club nights are every Wednesday from 8.00-10.00pm.
Just pop along or phone for more info.

Please note that to play, you will need to bring your own badminton racquet, a charge of £3 per adult is payable.

Please contact us if you require further details:

Contact: Rob Parker
Phone: 01568-797091

Herefordshire Councillor's Report

Budget for 2011/12. In November, when I last wrote about the spending review and its effects there was not much detail available. Remember, I was expecting a cut of about £8.5m in our budget for next year. Herefordshire has not come out the process well and the figure is actually over £10m and this is in spite of £2.3m of NHS funds being made available for social care. Savings totalling £10.3m have been split across the Council departments which will now work on the detail. This will be presented to the full council meeting on 4 February for ratification on 4 March. This budget must shrink the size of our council to that ordained by Government over the next 2 years. Although the Comprehensive Spending Review covered 4 years, the majority of cuts are in the first 2 years so we need to be in sustainable shape in 2 years time.

First pillar – Activities funded by grants which have ended will cease. Many are in the Education area including School Travel Advisers.

Second Pillar – Save on administration before services. Thus the importance of Shared Services with the NHS making £2.56m savings.

Third Pillar – Following from this, reduce the pay bill by £3.148m.

Some headlines:

- Council Tax Freeze. In return we receive £2.15m – equates to 2.5%. Assume 2.5% for 2012/13.
- Concessionary Fares & Transport. Despite representations, the transport grant has been cut by 20% - not as bad as some Counties (Shropshire, Oxfordshire) although London got increases. Our Waste Management reserve will fund £1m towards this shortfall to be repaid in 12/13. Concessionary fares are a statutory obligation and we currently put no limit on time of use. This may have to be re-considered. Concessions start at 09.30 in many authorities.
- Adult Social Care. Net increase £2.5m - £1.96m from grant + £2.368m from NHS + £0.75m. But £2.649m directorate savings sought.

Reserves will be retained at or above £4.5m. We can assume that many staff will not get a pay rise in 2011 or 2012 although those on less than £21,000 may get a flat rate rise of £250. Management posts are being thinned out – around 250 will go.

Council Spending Made Public. Since January the council has made invoices of £500 or more available to view on its website. The requirement to make this information available came from Eric Pickles, our Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The information includes Expenditure of £500 or more for the 2010/11 financial year to date and the Contracts Register.

The information is easy to find on the herefordshire.gov.uk website in the "Council, government & democracy" area under Transparency. Be warned, you will find an eye-watering plethora of line entries which tell you how much was spent by which department with which supplier but, you will need to contact the department to find out what was actually purchased. People are employed to generate this material – I would appreciate feedback on its utility.

Recycling Bins For Village Halls. Waste Management has offered, free of charge, up to 2 wheeled green recycling bins to each village hall in the county. Providing the Hall Committees agree, they should be delivered later in February and may be used by any member of the public to dispose of their recyclables, as well as the halls.

Keith Grumbley, Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan, Bodenham, HR1 3JB.

Tel/Fax 01568 797395 E mail: kgrumbley@herefordshire.gov.uk 17 Jan 11



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OLD FILMS WANTED!

Elizabeth Pimblett, Herefordshire Council's Community Heritage Officer, is asking us all to check our attics for old Herefordshire film footage.

The Media Archive for Central England (MACE) only has old TV news footage and is very keen to hear from people who might wish to offer their old footage to be copied for posterity.

Some local history groups such as Fownhope are already doing a marvellous job of finding hidden gems, but more is needed.

Elizabeth can be contacted from Wednesdays to Fridays at:

The Museum Resource & Learning Centre,
58 Friar Street, Hereford, HR4 0AS, or on 01432-383599
or via epimblett@herefordshire.gov.uk

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BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

Chairman: Mrs Patricia Sandford

Treasurer: Cllr Tony Clark

Working Party Managers: Cllr Tony Clark, Mr Mike Stephens

Secretary: Mrs Babs Mitcheson

The Moor:

The Moor Road: Cllr Tony Clark: 797943

Orchard Close: Mr Graham Price : 797621

Chapel Lane: Mr Robert Pritchard: 797428

Brockington Road (1-34):

Mr Simon Dowler: 797363

Brockington Road (35-54)/Siward James:

Mrs Gwen Bowden: 797868

Ash Grove Close: Mrs Jean Fryer: 797338

Ash Grove View: Mr David Harris: 797575

Millcroft Road: Mrs Barbara Gibson : 797643

Bodenham Village:

Bridge to War Memorial:

The Forge: Mr Simon Nickols: 797144

Church and Bodenham Village:

Devereux Court: Mr David Ayshford Sanford: 797549

Bodenham Cottages: Mr Mike Mullenger: 797199

Meetings are open to ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
All Meetings, unless otherwise notified will be held on the
last Tuesday

of the month at Siward James Centre
starting at 7.30 pm

This Month's Meeting: **January 25th**

If you are unable to attend or have points which you would
like to be raised at the meeting, please contact the Secretary
Babs Mitcheson 797170



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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION:

From the 10th to the 12th of June the Royal British Legion is celebrating its 90th birthday and is encouraging groups and individuals to hold 'Poppy Parties' across the nation. Details have been circulated to all Parish Councils, but if anyone is interested in organising an event they are invited to complete a registration form at

www.thegreatpoppypartyweekend.org.uk

Poppy Party Packs are available at £10.99 plus p&p from www.poppyshop.org.uk or 0300 123 9110 and include a table cloth, glasses, wristbands, invitation cards and other items including a T-shirt for the organiser.

If you decide to hold an event in support of our armed services, remember to liaise with your Parish Council and your local Hereford Times correspondent!

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THE BODENHAM PLAYERS PRESENT

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BY

Frank Ryding

ON

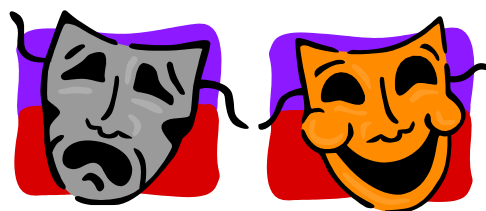
SUNDAY 6th MARCH, 2011 AT 4pm

IN

BODENHAM PARISH HALL

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For further details/information please contact:-
 Gwenllian Bowden
 Tel. No. 01568 797868



PARISH HALL NEWS

New Projection and Sound System

We're very pleased with the new equipment for showing films, slides and audio visual presentations. It cost over £9000 and was christened at the last 'Flicks'. The screen is much larger and the picture and sound clarity are so much better. A big thank you to Bob Bowden for the research, successful (full) grant application, purchase and supervision of the installation. Why not come and see it for yourself at the next **Flicks on 11th Feb** when he will be using it to show the award winning British film 'Made in Dagenham'? We have confirmed 'The King's Speech' for Fri 6th May. In due course we will be providing an information sheet on other services this equipment can provide.

What next? The committee room, the kitchen and the loos are all usable but need refurbishment. Time and money is all that's needed. We're considering a 100 club and a duck race. If you would like to get involved please give one of us a ring. We need more help. See phone numbers below.

Bookings. Remember you can book the Hall for your children's party (£25 for under 14's), family party (£120) or even a Wedding (£200). Excellent value.

What's on? It's a good time of year to take more exercise. There's Tai Chi on Mon am and Weds am (Julian Kemp 01568-614468), Pilates on Tues pm and Fri am (Jennifer Grumbley 01568-797395), Yoga on Weds pm (Fiona Hawkins 01432-860270), Badminton on Weds pm (Rob Parker 01568-797091), Keep Fit on Mon pm and Thurs pm (Emma Caldwell 01568-797210) and finally Belly Dancing on Thurs pm (Abbie Mason 07962-161081). Surely there's something there that appeals to you!! The Hall is an excellent space for these classes and is always warm in the cold weather – important to ensure a minimum of injuries. No need to drive to a gym!

Mary Nickols

Committee

Robin Knott (Chair) 01568 797835

Keith Grumbley (Treas) 01568 797395

Gwenllian Bowden (Sec'y) 01568 797868

Bob Bowden (Vice Chair) 01568 797868

Chris James (Flicks) 01568 797451

David Curd 01568 797659

Margaret Hughes 01568 797285

Derek Ling 01568 797389

Ian Linton 01568 797310

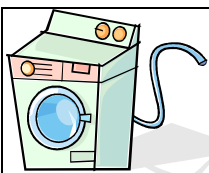
Mary Nickols 01568 797144

Rob Parker 01568 797091

Roz Reader 01568 797426

Kath Tremain 01568 797751

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Friday February 11th - 40 Years of the Severn
Valley Railway - Part 2

Wednesday February 23rd - China
Admission £2.50 in aid of Hope Carriers Trust

Wednesday March 2nd at 7.30pm
Dr. Karilyn Collins will give an illustrated talk entitled
'Beyond Muheza - the spread of Palliative Care in
Tanzania & beyond.'
Admission £2.50 in aid of Muheza Hospice

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POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

The new number for reporting incidents to West Mercia
Police is **0300 3333000**

Other useful contact numbers are: Bromyard Police Station: New
Road, Bromyard, HR7 4AJ

Sgt Andy Scott **0300 333 3000 Ext 4579**

Local Policing Officer:

PC Wayne Strangwood (Bromyard Rural) **07816548932**

wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officer:

CSO Steph Annette (Bromyard Rural) **07970602354**

stephanie.annette@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Mobile numbers are NOT to be used for reporting incidents

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St Michael's Pre-school is situated within St Michael's Primary School in with our own playground and also has access to the main playground, chipped bark climbing park and playing field. The Pre-school is run by staff with relevant qualifications and experience of working with pre-school children and is managed by the governors of St Michael's School. Nursery is normally open during school term-time (38 weeks per year)

Monday	9am - 12pm
Tuesday *	9am - 3.15pm (including lunch club)
Wednesday	9am - 12pm
Thursday	9am - 12pm
Friday *	9am - 1.15pm (including lunch club)

Charges : £3.50 per hour

For further information please 'phone on 01568 797241 or e-mail us at nursery@st-michaels.hereford.sch.uk

**RE-ARRANGEMENT OF CANCELLED EVENT FROM DECEMBER 2010
DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS:-**

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on

FRIDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 2011

at

BODENHAM PARISH HALL

7.30pm for 8.00pm start

INCLUDING RAFFLE AND REFRESHMENTS

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Bodenham Flood Protection Group

Invite you to a

COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 19 February 2011

at Siward James Centre

From 10.00am to 12 noon



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**Exhibition of photographs from the Village by the
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Free Admission

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Bodenham SUNDAY Health Walks

On first Sunday in month

Sunday 6th February 11.30am meet at The Forge 40 mins max

Sunday 6th March 11.30am meet outside the school. One hour 30 mins max

Sunday 3rd April 2.45pm meet Village Hall Car Park. Venue to be announced.

EVERYONE WELCOME incl. children/dogs

Please ring 01568 797144 Mary Nickols, if you have any queries.

(Wear stout footwear)

These walks are part of Footprints Countywide Accredited Scheme

Note this year I am hoping to have a longer walk on alternate months. See March above.

THE HEREFORD TIMES:

To avoid any confusion, Bodenham continues to have its own dedicated correspondent who sends items into the County Times week after week, come rain or shine. If you have any events that are NOT in the Newsletter, and which deserve publicity, send details to Martin Field at The Old School House, Burley Gate, HR1 3QR or to 01432-820074 or to commnews@ymail.com.



Learn Bridge

With Maggie Eaton

01568 797232

New classes starting during the year



BODENHAM RAMBLERS

Programme for February and March

Date	Description	Miles	Start	Grid Ref	Leaders
Feb Sun 6th	Wellington Lakes Easy	5 Miles	Hereford Garden Centre on A49	Exp 202 500485	Brenda & Doris 01568 797035 01432 830229
Wed 16th	Skenfrith to Garway Church Moderate	5.5 Miles	Skenfrith Castle Lunch Garway Moon	Exp 189 456203	Don & Margaret Mawson 01432 760036
Sun 27th	Mamble Easy/Moderate	4.25 Miles	Lay-by on A456 Lunch The Sun & Slipper	Exp 218 685712	Pat Davies 01432 270570
March Wed 9th	Backney to Foy Easy	4.5 Miles	Backney Picnic Area	Exp 189 583272	Anne & Jane 01432 830676 01432 761299
Sun 20th	Clyro to Painswick Not too hilly	6 Miles	Turn Rt in Clyro. CP near 2 nd Cattle Grid	Exp 188 183447	Mollie & Anne 01432 272606 01432 359033
Wed 30th	Broadheath & Teme Valley Moderate	7 Miles	Tally Ho Inn 5miles East of Tenby on B4204	Exp 203 668654	Peter Wilson 01432 880125

All walks will start at 10.00am unless otherwise stated. For details of these walks please contact the leaders.

For details of the Bodenham Ramblers please contact the Chairman, Edie Phillips 01432-266994

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Hereford Bull Gift Range also available.

BODENHAM C.A.P

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welcoming you all.

BODENHAM C.A.P. STEERING GROUP

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telephone 0845 070 0707

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SAVE OUR FORESTS

You may be aware of the government's plan to sell off all Forestry Commission forests in England to private buyers. Although the govt. minister responsible has said that public access will be guaranteed, we all know how easily political promises get the push when convenient. So if you care about free access to our forests, then please sign this petition. If you feel this is a worthy cause. Go to:

<http://www.38degrees.org.uk/save-our-forests>



Herefordshire and Marches Association

Meetings are held in the Great Hall of The Royal National College for the Blind, College Road, Hereford

The next meetings are Saturday 26th February at 2.30pm
'Change in the rural community and the consequences
for the National Trust - by Sir Ben Gill

Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm a talk by Dr John Page
'Choice gardens of the Midlands'

Admission for Association members: £1 – Visitors £2
(including tea and biscuits)

Further details from Sheila Taylor – 01432 268243

Cathedral choristers

Do you know of a boy, aged 6–8 years of age, who might be interested in joining the internationally-renowned Hereford Cathedral Choir? As well as singing in the cathedral, the choir regularly tours (South Africa last October), broadcasts on TV & radio (BBC Radio 3 in November), performs in London (Guards' Chapel in November) and takes part in the world-famous Three Choirs Festival.

It may be your son, or equally it may be a grandson, nephew or the son of friends – sometimes a gentle nudge of the parents might be needed! If a parent or guardian would like an informal discussion about the opportunities, Geraint Bowen, the director of music, would be delighted to hear from you (01432 374238, organist@herefordcathedral.org or visit www.herefordcathedral.org). All choristers receive generous scholarships to the cathedral school, in some cases, fully-funded places can be made available

SUPPORT FOR BUSES

Rail for Herefordshire is a voluntary organisation that campaigns for improvements to public transport in Herefordshire and has a web-site - (www.railforherefordshire.org.uk). Members are concerned that Herefordshire's rural bus network is likely to be seriously under threat and suggest that anyone who is alarmed at this prospect should speak up now.

Councillor Wilcox, the Cabinet Member responsible for transport, made a comment at a Herefordshire council meeting in November 2010 as follows:

'I am well aware of the importance of bus services and the vital access they provide to employment, education, health and other services often for the most vulnerable members of our community.'

However, he has also said that with at least £1 million of grant funding being cut he could offer 'no assurances' over the future for bus routes ahead of a meeting with bus operators in 2011. Clearly, budgets will be under pressure and rural buses will be an easy target. Buses may not sound exciting but they are good for the local economy. A study by the Institute of Transport and Tourism (ITT) a couple of years ago found that each passenger on a Herefordshire market day bus spent, on average, £40 on their visit to town. That adds up to millions of pounds spent on our high streets every year and for a very small support cost of less than £1 million (compare that with the spending on reports alone for the Hereford Orbital Road, a figure of £479,034!). They can be good for the environment too. When buses are moderately loaded they also reduce CO2 emissions and energy resources and many buses in Herefordshire meet that load factor.

The ITT report also revealed that local buses provided a strong social network for young people going to and from school or college and for shopping on Saturdays. They were even more important for elderly people as some market day buses were akin to mobile meeting places. Remove these services and we take away another layer of social contact, we add another barrier to independent living, and we look on as another job is lost at the local bus depot.

In 2011 Rail for Herefordshire will be devoting more attention to the provision of bus services in Herefordshire and advocating strongly that there should be no major cuts to the existing 'front line' rural network. They realise that there might be instances where sensible modifications could make sense and bring savings. At the same time, they consider that the rural network is currently at a minimal level. Further cuts would be very damaging and savings would be minimal in terms of the overall transport budget.

RfH wishes to be proactive and to encourage more passengers on board so as to reduce energy use/CO2 emissions per passenger mile. They will be running a series of events to market services in 2011 and hope they will bring benefits to the local economy in a number of parishes.

Marketing by community groups can also help to reduce the need for overall financial support from the Council. Like you, we are keen to build a sustainable transport network in Herefordshire. An integral part of this network has to be our buses and there is a need to stabilise what we already have before we can go forward. The Group is keen that you join the fight for buses as they are tantamount to front line services in other sectors. They urge you to speak up for your local bus!

If you have any queries regarding this article please contact Dr Leslie Lumsdon, the RfH Bus coordinator, at leslumsdon@hotmail.com.

From the Editor,

The next issue is March the deadline is 18th February for publication on or about 1st March.

You can get your newsletter emailed directly to your computer by signing up at - www.bodenhamnewsletter.co.uk (put that in the address bar of your browser, don't Google it) Everyone is welcome to sign up at any time and any where, it's free and environmentally friendly. If you get a new email address, please sign up again using the new email address and then at the bottom of the emails you received to your old email address click on the unsubscribe link and that keeps things tidy. If you have any problems either signing up or with the e-newsletter contact me any time at the email address below. email: orchardthings@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01568 797872 Mail: 1 Orchard Bungalow, Bodenham, HR1 3JS



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