

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE  
at 7.00 pm on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**Present:** Cllr A Avery      Cllr T Clark      Cllr S Collin      Cllr J Crane      Cllr D Jackson  
Cllr P James-Moore   Cllr R Layton   Cllr T Mitcheson   Cllr D Tilford   Cllr K Tremain

District Councillor Bruce Baker was also in attendance.

10 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** No apologies for absence were received.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016.** The Minutes of the previous Meeting were accepted as a correct record (Proposer: Cllr Tilford: Seconder Cllr Jackson).
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
4. **The Chairman's Report.** Cllr James-Moore read the Chairman's Report, which is attached as Annex A.
5. **Reports from Local Organisations.**
  - 5.1 Reports were received from the following local organisations and are attached as Anexes B - I:
    - Bodenham Leisure Club
    - Bodenham Christian Fellowship
    - Bodenham Community Charity
    - Bodenham Flood Protection Group
    - Bodenham Women's Group
    - St Michael and All Angels' Church
    - Bodenham Ramblers
    - Bodenham Bowling Club
6. **Comments from Members of the Public.** No comments were received from members of the public.
7. There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 7.15pm.

## CHAIRMAN'S 2017 REPORT

The Parish Council has completed another interesting and sometimes frustrating year.

We have also experienced sadness; in November Roger Austin resigned from the Council due to ill health and we were sorry to learn of his death in February. The Parish Council sent their condolences to his daughters.

We also saw the end of an era when Stan Davis resigned in January; we thank Stan for his many years of service to the Parish (30 plus, I believe). I know that he is still interested in the work of the Parish Council.

We welcomed two new Councillors; in March Kathy Tremain was co-opted onto the Council, and in April we were joined by Sharon Collin. I am sure that their contributions will be many and varied.

Looking over the Minutes we still seem to be - for want of a better word - nagging about certain items, *i.e.* the hedge on the C1125: pot holes: dog fouling: speeding: community speed watch scheme: H.G.V. lorries in narrow lanes: the Woodhouse Lane/ A417 junction. I have unearthed an interesting article dated 1986 which stated that money had been allocated for this project. So watch this space!!

These items and others are probably small fry to the County Council but they affect the lives of the people of Bodenham. I know that Cllr Bruce Baker works hard on our behalf, but the slow or lack of response and the constant change in staff is very frustrating.

Having said that, some positive things have happened in the Parish:-

A new members' club was formed to support the 427 bus service to Leominster on Fridays following requests from parishioners and the Parish Council. The scheme was welcomed and seems to be running smoothly.

The 4th defibrillator in the Parish was installed at the Parish Hall.

The BM 13 footpath has now been completed after approximately 20 years of wrangling.

A Public Open Spaces scheme grant was successfully applied for and an open village group was formed to plant and improve the garden area around the War Memorial and around the bullocks on the village green.

We should be receiving the Section 106 monies relating to the England's Field development, some of which will be used to update and improve the nearly 20 year old play area.

We are pleased that after many months of negotiation the Bodenham Sailing Club has been re-instated at the Lake.

The Bodenham Flood Protection Group continue to keep our village safe from floods; we thank them for their work in clearing and maintaining culverts, etc.

We are fortunate to have our Footpath Officer, Mike Darley. I think that you will agree that the footpaths in Bodenham are well used and maintained. Likewise we also thank our Lengthsman, David Campbell, for his work in the Parish.

Our Locality Steward seems to change from day to day and we hope to meet our latest one - Ms Linzy Outtrim - very soon.

Planning of course is always with us and during the year we dealt with approximately 24 applications covering property extensions/ phone masts/ tree felling/ renovations/ and new build homes. We must thank David Tilford for all his expertise and for producing statements on the applications for the Council to discuss.

New residents are now moving into England's Field; we welcome them to our busy and flourishing village.

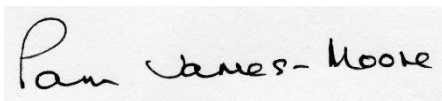
This is my opportunity to thank the people who help to make the Parish Council run smoothly, firstly Cllr Tony Mitcheson as Vice-Chairman who together with Cllr David Tilford has devoted many hours to the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Thankyou to our County Councillor, Bruce Baker, for his attendance at our meetings and his help in trying to get projects off the ground.

Thankyou to all Councillors for their support and also to the members of the public who attend the meetings and for their interest in the work of the Council.

Last, but by no means least, we must thank our Parish Clerk, Chris Smith, for the sometimes thankless task of dealing with various departments and organisations and keeping us up to date. It is a good job that he is a very patient man. Thanks, Chris.

All Council news is of course available on the Parish web site and in the monthly *Newsletter* which is competently edited by Sue Haworth; we are very grateful for the service she gives to the Parish.



Pam James-Moore

## BODENHAM LEISURE CLUB

### REPORT FROM AGM APRIL 2016 – AGM APRIL 2017

The Leisure Club has 31 members with approximately 20/25 members each meeting.

The meetings are held in the Parish Hall on the second and fourth Monday in the Month.

We have an interesting and varied programme including keep fit demonstration, line dancing with the opportunity to join in, many lovely lunches in the Parish Hall, trips to Weston-super-Mare, Beckford Silks, Tewkesbury and Ebbw Vale Festival Park, we decorated boxes for the 'Christmas Child', Christmas Bingo was hilarious and had a most enjoyable Christmas Lunch at the Royal Oak, Broadwas. In January the club was 45 years old and we celebrated with a Birthday Party and comedy sketch. We also have a raffle and sales table and enjoy light refreshments after the meeting.

We feel it is so important to keep the club going and new members are always welcome.

Thank you

Maureen Bick (Chairman)

## BODENHAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### Annual Report April 2016 - March 2017

The Fellowship is independent of any denomination and is a member of 'Churches Together in Hereford' and the national organisation 'The Evangelical Alliance'. The Fellowship is run on a week by week basis by its officers and members, with a body of Trustees (including four Fellowship members) overseeing the building. We became a registered charity on 4th August 2015. We welcome visitors to any of our services and meetings. In the year to 31st March 2017, donations of £3,128 were made to Christian missions, aid organisations and local charities. This included £578 raised from café@chapel in 2016-17 and £530 raised from Travels with a Camera.

#### Sunday Worship

During the year we have continued to worship at the Chapel each Sunday from 10.30am - 11.45. The regular attendance at Sunday morning worship varies from 12 to 30. It is a joy to welcome several friends from Moor Court in Bodenham on a regular basis. The services regularly include a monthly Fellowship Service at which members take part, with speakers from the Fellowship and other churches, chapels & mission organisations on the remaining Sundays. Services are informal and are followed by refreshments.

During the year we welcomed the following speakers for their first speaking engagement at the Chapel: Rosa Blandford (from Dorset), Bob Lilliman (from Tenbury), Faye Roberts (from Hereford) & Pastor Kevin Warrington (from Erdington, Birmingham).

Our music is regularly provided by an Electronic Hymnal which we have become accustomed to in the year since our musician moved away.

**Bible Study & Prayer Meetings**

A weekly Bible Study & Prayer meeting has been held on Thursday evenings at the Chapel or homes of members. Studies in the year have included 'How to give scripturally based advice', 'Paul's letters from prison', and '2 Chronicles Chapters 10 to 36'.

**Ladies' Bible Study**

A Ladies Bible Study is held twice a month at the Chapel on Tuesday mornings. This is led by Margaret Seccombe. Studies have included 'Studies in the life of Elijah; a man just like us', 'God's Love Song' based on the book of Hosea and 'Christ's passion - the centre of human history'.

**Café@Chapel**

Café@Chapel is a joint venture with St. Michael's Church. This continued on Thursday mornings from 10.30am - 12noon throughout the year and is an opportunity for anyone to call in for coffee and a chat. Our thanks go to all those who have hosted café during the year. Attendances are now regularly in double figures. Donations from the 2016-17 proceeds of £578 were made to the following charities: Midlands Air Ambulance £100; Muheza Hospice Care (Dr. Karilyn Collins) £100; Anita Goulden Trust (in memory of Pat Barbrook) £100; Hereford Night Shelter £100; Hope Carriers Trust £89; Ear Aid Nepal £89;

**Newsletter**

A monthly newsletter is produced which is available from the Chapel and Post Office or can be delivered on request.

**Foreign Mission**

The new ear hospital in Pokhara, Nepal is now commissioned and Mike & Fiona Smith continue to make support visits to the hospital on a regular basis.

Arthur & (the late Yvonne) Etheridge continued leading the Hereford based Hope Carriers Trust, which sends aid to Romania. Several truckloads of aid were sent in the year, and the Trust is also involved with the provision of facilities for young adults. We were sad to record the recent calling home of Yvonne on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Chapel**

During the year new heating and lighting were installed in the main Chapel building.

**Seasonal Workers**

After 11 years of successfully hosting meals for seasonal workers from S&A Davies, there was no take up by workers at S&A in 2016, so regrettably these have now been discontinued.

**Evening Presentations**

The Chapel was used on autumn and winter evenings for 'Travels with a Camera' with presentations including: Classic Transport, Oman, Walking the Mary Jones walk, Romania, Italy, Israel, D-Day (then & now), Georgia (Europe not USA), Baltic cities & St. Petersburg, Bhutan, California, River Rhine & the Hereford & Gloucester canal.

Presenters were John Brooks, John Rice (with Harry Jenman), Mike Steadman; Lawrence Godden, Robert Williams, Dick Morgan, Audrey Nunn; Brian Skinner, Dick Skeet & David Hill.

After expenses, £196 was raised for Hope Carriers Trust and £196 for Ear Aid Nepal during these evenings and a further £138 for charities chosen by speakers.

**Other events**

An evening was held in June to hear about the work of S.A.S.R.A. (The Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association), when A.S.R. Tiaan de Klerk from R.A.F. Lyneham told us about his work.

**Hire of Chapel**

During the year the Chapel has been hired each week by a local Art Class and occasionally by the Bodenham Women's Group & Bodenham Book Club. The Chapel continues to be available for regular or occasional use by other village organisations or individuals, with hire charges currently being £7 per hour, £15 per session or £25 per day.

Bodenham Christian Fellowship can be visited on the internet at:

[www.findachurch.co.uk/churches/so/so55/bodenhamcf/index.html](http://www.findachurch.co.uk/churches/so/so55/bodenhamcf/index.html)

Entries and events are also included in the Bodenham newsletter and on the Bodenham Village website

[www.bodenhamparish.org.uk](http://www.bodenhamparish.org.uk)

Bodenham Christian Fellowship: Charity Number: 1162981

**Contacts:**

Mrs. Pat Horrigan	Secretary	Tel: 01568 797044
Mrs. Marion Pearson	Treasurer	Tel: 01432 830028
David Hill (email <a href="mailto:d.hill952@btinternet.com">d.hill952@btinternet.com</a> )	Newsletter Editor	Tel: 01568 797531

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**Annex D**

**Report of the Bodenham Community Charity 2016/17**

The Bodenham Community Charity is a registered charity Number 218404

The Trustees are:

Dr Carolyn Knight Resigned April 2017

Miss Susan Newbould Secretary

Mr Stan Davis

Mr Rowland Hunt

Mrs Louise Layton

There is currently a vacancy and the Trustees anticipate making a recommendation for a new appointee in the near future

Mr R Hunt is a nominative trustee and was appointed by nomination of the Parish Council for a term of 4 years. His appointment was confirmed by the Parish Council in November 2015. The remaining three Trustees are co-optative trustees.

The Trustees normally meet twice a year in April/May and November when any applications are considered. The Trustees will, if required, arrange additional special meetings to consider urgent applications.

The objects of the charity are to help "either generally or individuals resident in the Parish who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons"

There is further detailed guidance in the charity scheme concerning the making of grants but the objects enable the trustees to make a wide range of grants. For example, the charity has in the past assisted with medical equipment and expenses not otherwise available on the NHS, travelling expenses, fuel costs, equipment and books for students and the cost of extra-curricular school ex-

penses such as school trips and music tuition. It has also in the past made grants to Parish organisations including a past Bodenham Youth Club and Bodenham Local History Group as well as assisting the Flood Protection Group and contributing to the cost of installation of defibrillators. It is an express criterion for the making of any grant that all other sources of finance (particularly public funds) have been considered or otherwise exhausted. There is no means testing but the trustees consider carefully what applicants tell them about their personal circumstances or the funding of any group or organisation.

All applications and grants are treated in the strictest confidence and the identities of individuals receiving grants are not generally disclosed. During 2016/17 a grant was made to St Michael's School, Bodenham. A further grant was made to 1 individual in the Parish.

S Newbould Secretary April 2017

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**Annex E**

**BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**



**REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**(8 MAY 2017)**

**FLOOD RISK**

Despite Storms Angus, Doris and Ewan we have, once again, been very fortunate in having had relatively little rainfall over the past year; so little, indeed, that there have been only four occasions on which the early warning telemetry system has signalled a rise of the water level in the Millcoft Brook above 0.5m. There have therefore been no major concerns about flooding in the Parish over the last twelve months.

**GROUP ORGANISATION**

At the AGM on 30 August 2016 the members of the Committee and all the Area Representatives generously agreed to remain in post, thus ensuring continued stability for another year. The list of committee members and area representatives is attached at Annex A.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Throughout the year the Group's Meetings on the last Tuesday of each month have been very well supported, with an average attendance of 24 members.

## **FLOOD PRECAUTIONS**

**Working Parties.** As always, we have not relied on there being good weather and have taken active measures to ensure that the key drains and watercourses in Bodenham Moor and elsewhere have been properly maintained. For the ninth year in succession a full ‘season’ of working parties was conducted in 2016, with an average of 15 members attending a total of 12 evening sessions from April to October to clear away silt and cut back vegetation. Indeed, working parties have already started for the 2017 season.

**River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB).** Once more, the Group has been greatly helped by outside agencies, especially the IDB. The Board has again generously provided the BFPG with some of the herbicide needed to suppress growth alongside watercourses and thus greatly reduce the time and physical effort which members have to spend on maintenance work. The Board has also carried out its usual mowing and spraying of those sections of local watercourses which its contractors can reach. The Group is extremely grateful to the IDB for this continued support, the true value of which was clearly demonstrated in the autumn when the Group came to tackle the section of the Millcroft Brook between the Ketch Lane culverts and the River Lugg. Owing to circumstances beyond their control the IDB had been unable to spray this stretch and as a result the vegetation there had become a veritable jungle. This meant that, instead of being a fairly minor task, the clearance of this last 150m of the Brook before the River proved to be a real challenge and one which we must hope to avoid having to face in future.

### **Sandbags.**

- a. As usual, with one exception, the stocks of sandbags, both those held in cages and those on private premises, were checked and repaired or replaced as necessary. The exception was the cage on the school carpark which members were unable to inspect because the Group had run out of empty replacement bags.
- b. Herefordshire Council had announced a change in its policy for providing sandbags to take effect from 1 April 2017. Thereafter, as a cost cutting measure, the Council will no longer be providing either filled or empty sandbags and parishes were allowed one last free issue of 150 empty bags before that date. These had been ordered, but unfortunately had not yet been delivered when the working party season ended. Two-thirds of the allocation have now been received and the check of the school carpark cage was completed on 27 April.
- c. The change in Herefordshire Council’s policy has meant that, with parishes having to purchase their own sandbags and perhaps choosing to pass the cost on to their residents, sandbags are likely to become attractive items - even now, when they are still nominally ‘free’, they have been known to ‘disappear’ from the BFPG’s reserve stock of sandbags at the Parish Hall. The Parish Council therefore agreed at its 7 November 2016 Meeting to procure a second hand 8 x 10ft metal container in which the stock at the Parish Hall could be secured. The container was installed at the Hall on 6 December and 216 sandbags were moved into it on 20 December. It now remains for the container to be painted to protect it from rust and to allow it to blend better into its surroundings, a task which members will carry out when the weather improves.

**The Early Warning Telemetry System.** On 9 May 2012 Hydro-Logic Ltd (now Hydro International) installed the early warning telemetry system next to the Brockington Road bridge to monitor water levels in the Millcroft Brook and to alert members of the Group to any potential emergencies



caused by flash flooding. The system was generously donated to the Parish by the firm's Managing Director, Mr Rod Hawnt, together with free maintenance of it for five years. That period has just come to an end, and throughout it the system has proved invaluable in ensuring that those members most at risk have had adequate warning to prepare for any possible flooding incident. Happily, thanks in large part to the watercourse clearance work which the Group has carried out each year, no such incident has occurred, but the risk remains. For that reason the Parish Council agreed at its 5 December 2016 Meeting to fund an annual contract with Isodaq Technology, part of Hydro International, to cover the maintenance of the system from May 2017 onwards.

### **HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.**

The Group's last two annual reports have highlighted the proposals for major housing developments in Bodenham Moor which might have the effect of increasing the already substantial flood risk to parts of the Village. One of these developments – that by Bell Homes on the field opposite England's Gate Inn – is now rapidly approaching completion, with some of the 40 houses already occupied. This field was the Parish's preferred site for new housing, as expressed in the emerging Bodenham Neighbourhood Development Plan, a preference partly based on an assessment that its development was not likely to increase the flood risk to other nearby properties. As noted in the last annual Report there were concerns about the SuDS planned for the control of surface water run-off from the site into the Millcroft Brook, as well as about the arrangements for sewage disposal into the already overloaded local sewerage system. It therefore remains to be seen whether or not that assessment was well founded.

As again reported previously, the other major proposed development was that by Bovis Homes for 49 houses on Shuker's Field. This caused – and continues to cause - real concern that such a development would increase the already significant flood risk to neighbouring properties in Chapel Lane and Orchard Close, worsen the risk to Brook House, Eastfields/ Gravel Farm and the C1125, and make it even more likely that the adjacent pumping station would again be flooded and that raw sewage would once more be released into the surrounding area and, *via* the Moor Brook, into the River Lugg. Although Herefordshire Council's Planning Committee refused consent to Bovis Homes' application on 28 October 2015, Bovis Homes have made it clear that they continue to be interested in developing the site.

### **FLOOD RISK INSURANCE**

The Flood Re Scheme, which was introduced last year, allows insurance companies to insure themselves against having to pay out large sums of money in the event of widespread flooding incidents, such as we have seen in Somerset, the Thames Valley, the North of England and in Scotland in recent years. By being able to underwrite their risk against an insurance industry central fund, insurance companies should be able to offer lower flood risk premiums and excesses to householders in high flood risk areas.

On 11 August the Secretary received a telephone call and also an e-mail from Mr Cameron Penny, Head of Financial Services at Hanover Communications International Ltd, who was looking for case studies of people who have benefitted from Flood Re backed insurance. The Secretary spoke of her own dealings with property insurance companies and also circulated his details to members so that they could respond directly to him, if they wished.

Unfortunately, not all insurance companies are participating in the Scheme, not all house owners are eligible for it, and, because insurance companies take many different factors apart from flooding into

account when assessing premiums, it is still important for householders to shop around for the cover best suited to their needs. In short, although the Scheme has not been operating long enough for much experience of it to be gained, it does not appear to be the once hoped for panacea for flood insurance.

### **OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

#### **The Ketch Lane Culverts and the Orchard Close Drainage System.**

- a. On Friday, 5 August 2016 Mr Bill Wiggin, the MP for North Herefordshire, visited the BFPG's working party session that evening. There were also two visitors from the Environment Agency, Mr Jason Walker from the Flood Resilience Team at Tewkesbury, and Mr Mark Bowers, the Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for the West Midlands Area based in Shrewsbury. The opportunity was taken to show all of them the Ketch Lane culverts and to brief them on the continuing problems which these cause the Group. The Chairman also briefed them and Cllr Baker, who was also present during the visit, on the long-standing issue of the Orchard Close culvert. It was agreed that these were multi-agency issues which Herefordshire Council did not have the resources to tackle alone and the Chairman was asked to provide a full brief on each issue as the first step in an initiative to resolve them. This he did.
- b. The next step was to hold a meeting with Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) which Cllr Baker kindly arranged. This took place at the Council's offices in Plough Lane on Wednesday, 24 August and resulted in a very positive outcome in that Herefordshire Council agreed to commission BBLP to investigate possible options and costs for making improvements both at Ketch Lane and Orchard Close. Herefordshire Council undertook to call a second meeting when the outcome of BBLP's investigation was known.
- c. Although it was originally hoped that the study reports would be completed by Christmas, they have still not been issued. However, some progress has been made in that Mr Joel Hockenhull, BBLP's Senior Drainage Engineer, called an on-site meeting on Wednesday, 8 February to discuss the Orchard Close culvert. Drawings of a possible replacement culvert were discussed, but no decisions were made. Our present understanding is that the scheme has been agreed in principle, but that the landowners, Mr and Mrs Pugh, have requested another on site meeting to agree the details. The question of cost has not yet been raised, but no doubt the Parish Council will be asked for a contribution in due course.
- d. We are still awaiting news of the study into the possible replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts.

### **EXTERNAL CONTACTS**

#### **Herefordshire Council.**

- a. In December 2016 Herefordshire Council began a six week Consultation on its draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, ending on 30 January. The draft Strategy, which provides an overview of flood risk in the County, sets out five key objectives for managing local flood risk:

- Understand flood risks throughout Herefordshire
- Manage the likelihood and impacts of flooding
- Help the community to help themselves

- Manage flood warnings, response and recovery
  - Promote sustainable and appropriate development
- b. On 26 January the BFPG and the Parish Council separately submitted extensive comments on the draft.

**The Patron's Lunch.** At very short notice the Lord Lieutenant received an invitation to nominate up to eight people from the membership of groups in Herefordshire which had received HM The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) to receive complimentary tickets to attend The Patron's Lunch. This was a street party to celebrate Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday being held in the Mall on Sunday, 12 June for 10,000 members of the over 600 charities and organisations of which she is patron. It was the culmination of a weekend of celebrations starting with a Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday, 10 June and followed by The Trooping of the Colour on Horseguards on Saturday, 11 June. BFPG members were asked whether any of them wished to apply for the event, but disappointingly there were no volunteers. The Chairman and Secretary therefore represented the Group at it.

**Environment Agency.** As already mentioned, Mr Jason Walker from the Environment Agency's Flood Resilience Team at Tewkesbury, and Mr Mark Bowers, the Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for the West Midlands Area, visited the Group's working party session on Friday, 5 August. After the working party had finished, Mr Jason Walker presented the BFPG with nine high visibility vests kindly donated by the Agency.

**New Year Honours.** The Group's achievements were recognised in the New Year Honours List by the award to the Secretary of the British Empire Medal on behalf of the Group for their community work in flood protection. The Medal will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant at a BFPG garden party at Millcroft Farm on Sunday, 23 July, followed by the BFPG's Annual Barbecue.

## **RESEARCH**

**Household Flood Protection Survey.** On 10 May 2016 the Secretary received an e-mail from Ms Carly Rose, a PhD Researcher at the University of the West of England in Bristol, regarding an on-line survey looking at how people deal with the risk of flooding. The Survey comprised a series of questions about the respondent's experience of flooding and the measures taken to protect against a recurrence. These were then followed by questions which appeared to be designed to assess the respondent's psychological profile and approach to risks in general. The e-mail was circulated to those BFPG members with internet access to give anyone who wished to respond the opportunity to do so.

**The Role of Gender during Natural Disasters in the UK.** On 9 August the Secretary received an e-mail from Ms Naomi Harper, a MA student at University College London, who was researching the role of gender during natural disasters in the UK to see whether there are underlying disparities in how women are affected by floods. She had found that in developing countries women are often worse off after a disaster than men and she was wondering whether the same happened in the UK. She therefore wanted to chat to women affected by flooding to identify ways in which they feel more or less affected than men. A telephone interview duly took place on 13 August between her and the Secretary.

### **Software Application for Flood Data Integration.**

- a. On 5 December the Secretary received an e-mail from Stonehaven Technology Limited, a company based at the University of Essex's Colchester Campus. They asked us to try

out a software application which they had developed and which they believe would be “effective in giving the right information to the right people in a dynamic flood situation” by integrating together all the up to date flood-related data applicable to the user’s location. These data are available from many different sources, such as local river gauges, flood risk maps, Environment Agency flood alerts, local weather forecasts, etc. and we already use them all the time. The potential advantage of the application is that they can all be accessed from one place and related to each other. For example, river flood risk maps and surface water flood risk maps can be combined and/or rain gauge locations can be superimposed on them, and so on.

b. Given that the request was received just before Christmas, it was not possible to give the application an extensive trial, but the Chairman tried it out and responded to the Company with his comments. There has been no acknowledgement of this response or indication of the Company’s plans for the future of the application.

### **EXTERNAL PUBLICITY**

**The Hereford Times.** As already mentioned, on 5 August 2016 Mr Jason Walker presented the BFPG with nine high visibility vests kindly donated by the Environment Agency. Mr Wiggin MP was also present and a photograph of him with members of the Group, together with a short description of the event, appeared in *The Hereford Times* on Thursday, 25 August 2016.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Annual Barbecue.** The Annual Barbecue was held on Saturday, 30 July at Rowberry Lane by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Stephens. A most successful evening was enjoyed by about 40 members and guests.

**Annual Bonfire Party.** The Group’s annual Bonfire Party took place at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 8 October in pleasant weather with only one very light shower to add an appropriate flavour to the event. Some 30 members and guests enjoyed the traditional mulled wine and sausage rolls, supplemented by a large variety of other food and drink generously contributed for the occasion by those attending.

**Annual Quiz Night.** The Group’s final social occasion in 2016 was the Annual Quiz Night in the Parish Hall on Friday, 25 November. At 36 attendance was slightly down, as was the income to BFPG funds of £277 after the deduction of expenses. Nevertheless, it was, as always, a most enjoyable and successful evening and particular thanks must go to Mrs Anita Griffiths and her team for making all the arrangements and to Mrs Tricia Coney, her daughter Felicity Sanford and husband Steve Coney for once again providing and administering the quiz itself.

**Annual Coffee Morning.** The BFPG’s annual Coffee Morning was held at the Siward James Centre on Saturday, 4 February. It was very well attended and the Group are very grateful for all the support it received. The event raised a total of £370 and special thanks must go to Mrs Liz Davies and her team of helpers for once again organising such an enjoyable and successful occasion.

### **SUMMARY**

In last year's Report I commented that a busy and successful twelve months had been crowned by the achievement of receiving the HM The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. As I have indicated above, the Group has not rested on its laurels, but has continued to do everything it can to protect the local community from flooding. As always, we have not done this alone and our thanks must once again go to the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board, to Mr Rod Hawnt and the Hydro-Logic Group, and to Balfour Beatty for all their help and support. Special thanks also go to our District Councillor, Cllr Bruce Baker, for his interest in our activities and for the very practical advice and assistance he has given us during the year, most particularly by arranging our meeting with Herefordshire Council to discuss our concerns over the Ketch Lane and Orchard Close culverts. However, I can do no better than to repeat what I said last year, that the key to the continuing success of the Group has been the enthusiasm and hard work of its members. Accordingly, the greatest thanks go to all those who have continued to support the Group, whether by taking an active part in working party sessions, by attending and contributing to meetings, by helping to organise social events, or by lending their support in any other way.

K.A.M.

## Annex A

### BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP 2016/17 Committee and Area Representatives' List

Chairman/ Operations Manager:	Cllr Tony Mitcheson
Treasurer/ Secretary:	Mrs Babs Mitcheson

#### The Moor:

The Moor Road:	Mr Andrew Maxwell
Orchard Close/ Chapel Lane:	Mr Robert Pritchard
Brockington Road:	Mr Simon Dowler
(2 -31& 35)	
Brockington Road:	Mrs Rebecca Burnill
(1, 32-34, 36 – 42A)	
Brockington Road (43- 54):	Mrs Gwen Bowden
Siward James:	Mrs Victoria Paterson
Ash Grove Close:	Mrs Jean Fryer
Ash Grove View:	Mr David Harris
Ash Grove View:	Cllr Alec Avery
Millcroft Road:	Miss Barbara Gibson

#### Bodenham Village:

Bridge to War Memorial:	Mr Mike Mullenger
Church and Bodenham Village:	Mr David Ayshford Sanford

Maund Bryan:

Mr Philip Broomhead

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**Annex F**

## **Bodenham Women's Group**

Bodenham Women's Group was formed in 2011 and currently has approximately 40 members. Over the past twelve months, members have arranged a wide variety of events, amongst which have been visits to the theatre, open gardens and various cultural exhibitions, as well as coach excursions. We have also enjoyed a number of social events, including coffee mornings, and a New Year's supper. In addition we have had some very entertaining speakers and the opportunity to test our sporting skills. All in all, there has been something for everyone to enjoy this year.

At the recent AGM, members again came up with a lot of interesting ideas for future events. In due course, when these have been finalised, details will be circulated to members via e-mail, and they are also advertised in the Bodenham Newsletter and the Hereford Times. The village website is also updated with the latest news.

Thanks go to all those who have organised and/or supported events over the last year. We look forward to another active year and welcome all women from Bodenham and surrounding areas who would like to join us. Membership costs only £0.50 per annum!

Kathy Tremain  
April 2017

## **St Michael and All Angels' Church**

The Maund Group of Parishes of which Bodenham Church is one, are about to go into an interregnum as the Vicar retires this month (May).

The last service to be taken in the Group by Rev. Heather Short will be at Marden Parish Church on Sunday 21st May @ 10.30 am.

Responsibility for Bodenham Parish Church will now rest with our Church Wardens, Mr Tom. James- Moore and Mrs. Vivien Moffitt. Times of Services will still be found in the Church Porch, Newsletter and Website when possible. The pattern of services should continue much the same as usual.

The Church continues its links with St. Michaels School and the 'Prayers to Share' book travels between the venues alternate weeks.

We support our friends with the 'Cafe in the Chapel ' on Thursdays and continue our contributions to various charities: -Food Bank, Christian Aid, Children's Society, British Legion and our Christmas Appeal as decided by the PCC.

The Parish Council support the upkeep of the Cemetery.

The Fund Raising Committee continue with events; this year there is the Open Gardens and Village Event on 15/16th July. The BBQ & JAZZ in Aug and of course the Christmas Bazaar.

On 10th June at 7 pm we have a Musical Evening in the Church with the Ludlow Concert Band and Guest Musician, Henry Kennedy (Clarinet, Royal Academy). This is in aid of the Church Organ Fund and there will be a draw for Church Funds.

New Residents to the Village will receive a Welcome Card from St. Michael and All Angels at Christmastime.

Liz Davies



**BODENHAM RAMBLERS**  
Bodenham, Herefordshire

**Bodenham Ramblers Report for Parish Council AGM 8th May 2017**

The Club continues to attract new members with a total of 10 new people joining during 2016/early 2017 including two stalwarts of the village Gwen & Bob Bowden who joined as social members. Our AGM in March finished with a video of some of the walks over the year put together by Joannah Weightman and Bob's assistance with this and the sound system was very much appreciated.

30+ members have just returned from the 2017 holiday which was this year at Lulworth Cove, Dorset., a very picturesque and interesting location. The weather could have been a little kinder but despite some heavy showers on one day in particular this did not deter or dampen the enthusiasm of our hardy walkers!! Safe to say one thinks that a good time was had by all.

Our summer walks programme this year ranges from local areas including Canon Pyon, Queenswood, Sutton St Nicholas etc and further afield Skenfrith, Hay on Wye, Kilpeck and Monmouth to name just a few. In general walks are well attended and 2016/2017 has certainly seen an increase in numbers on summer walks. This is particularly encouraging given how busy everyone's lives are today.

Following the sad loss of our fellow walker Ron Munden in September 2015 his partner, Jean Bliss, who was also a Club member very much wanted a permanent memorial for him and his connection with Bodenham Ramblers.

After much discussion and consultation with Jean it was agreed that a bench would be made with a suitable inscription to be sited at Queenswood. The bench has actually been made using Queenswood Oak and should be in-situ at a mutually agreed location later this month.

It is the intention of the Club to organise an annual summer walk in Ron's memory with time for members to sit and reflect on the many happy times enjoyed by all.

As always the Club welcome anyone who is thinking of joining a walking group.



BODENHAM BOWLING CLUB

2017 sees the village bowling club arrive at it's 35th year.

We are very fortunate in having a committed GREEN KEEPER who has a team of members who assist him when requested. The green was playing well in the 2016 season and I feel sure that after the work put in over the down season it will be playing well again this season.

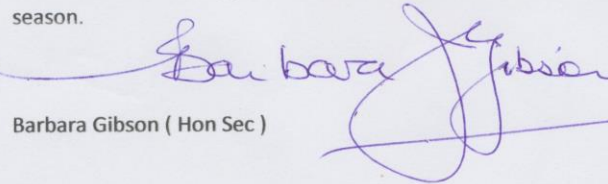
We have sadly lost a number of members over the past year and our CAPTAIN sometimes struggles to make up a full team for friendly matches so we will always welcome new members and having club woods enables us to loan woods for new players until they secure a set that suits them. Second hand woods are often advertised for sale at very reasonable cost in the indoor bowling facility at Leominster.

Our club evening runs from late April until mid September on a Monday on the green within the Siward James and Arkwright Trust complex here in the village. We ask members to come promptly to enable an 18.15 start and we usually play until the light beats us.

Friendly games are held both home and away and these are on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. The Men's League meet and play on a Wednesday whilst the Ladies County competitions are pre determined by Bowls Herefordshire.

The club holds an Annual Social event for members, their friends and their families. As this has grown in popularity we have been able to make financial donation to various charities and members propose which to support on a yearly basis. To date we have given 20% of ticket sales to Cancer Research, 10% of ticket sales to Birmingham Childrens Hospital to purchase DVD players for the Childrens Cancer Unit, 10% of ticket sales to Hereford's County Hospital Childrens Ward and last year 10% to Dr's R and K Collins for the Meuheza Hospice in Tanzania. In addition to the charitable donations made we have of course ensured that the club has maintained it's equipment and renewed the same as necessary as this is the only way we can ensure our facility is safe for both our members and visitors.

We hope that BBC will be a village amenity for years to come BUT this will only be possible with the continued support of our members and hopefully some new ones over the coming season.



Barbara Gibson ( Hon Sec )