

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE
AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 12th MAY 2014**

Attendance

Cllr Bob Clarke (Chair)
Cllr Robin Knott
Cllr Roger Austin
Cllr Alec Avery
Cllr Stan Davis
Cllr Dennis Jackson
Cllr Tony Mitcheson
Cllr Pam James-Moore
Cllr Jeff Pollard
Cllr Rhian Powell

Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor)

10 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** No apologies for absence were received.
2. **Police Matters.** No representative of the Police was present to address this item.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes were accepted as a true record. (Proposer: Cllr Powell. Seconder: Cllr James-Moore).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
5. **The Chairman's Report.** Cllr Clarke presented the Chairman's Report, which is attached as Annex A
6. **Reports from Local Organizations.** Mrs Gwen Bowden presented reports from Bodenham Chapel and Bodenham Leisure Group, which are attached as Annexes B and C. Cllr Mitcheson presented the annual report of Bodenham Flood Protection Group, which is attached as Annex D. A report was tabled from Bodenham Community Charity, which is attached as Annex E.
7. **Comments from Members of the Public.**
 - 7.1 Mr David Tilford commented that the precept for 2014-15 had risen by 44% over that of the previous year. Cllr Clarke said that the precept was still lower than that for many neighbouring parishes and that it had increased in order to meet targets set in the Parish Plan. He added that Herefordshire Council was reducing services and devolving more work and expenditure to parish councils, which places an additional financial burden on the latter. Cllr Powell asked Cllr Millar to comment on this issue. Cllr Millar said that over 6 years Herefordshire Council will lose 44% of its disposable income, so parish councils will have to pick up some of this reduction.
 - 7.2 Mrs Gwen Bowden thanked the Parish Council for all its work over the previous year.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 7.22pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013/2014

The Council's work has progressed through what has turned out to be a busy and at times controversial year. I am indebted to councillors and several members of the public, notably David Tilford and Gwen Bowden, for all the hard work put in on developing the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan is at a late stage with a consultant looking at the detail and ongoing public consultations. We are hampered by the inability of Herefordshire Council to complete their Core Strategy on which much of the neighbourhood planning ultimately depends. Approaches from developers, to gauge public opinion on extending the village with relatively large housing developments, has concentrated the mind in trying to convert our ideas into a workable and useful planning document for future years.

We have now implemented a Health and Safety document, I am grateful to Councillor Mitcheson for his hard work in this and other areas of procedure.

Road Safety continues to be uppermost in our minds and we await consultations with Herefordshire Council on traffic calming on the Moor road. Councillors Mitcheson and Pollard have maintained their sterling efforts in running the SID programme throughout the year. Flashing warning lights and extra signage have been installed on the war memorial bend to try to protect our children at school times. Herefordshire Council very kindly funded the complete scheme.

The Parish Hall and the Flood Protection Group scheme have continued to play a vital part in our village life. The Councillors involved and many members of the public give a great deal of their time to helping in these areas. Without such public spirited people our village would be a much less pleasant and safe area in which to live. The parish website goes from strength to strength thanks to Councillor Mitcheson. The newsletter, under Susan Haworth's expert guidance, is always collected with great enthusiasm each month.

The resolution of the planning problem over the redirection of footpath BM13 seems close. The work of the Council on planning has been greatly enhanced by David Tilford's help in guiding our thoughts.

We have had two very successful litter picks for which we must thank everyone who turned out and those who helped with refreshments.

The work of the various subcommittees goes on quietly behind the scenes; I am indebted particularly to those involved in planning and healthcare which have been very active.

A new notice board has been installed at Siward James, with the old one refurbished and installed on the wall of the post office for general public to use. Ours thanks to Roland Hunt and Peter Tomlinson. Also, thanks are due to Baches' Bargains for allowing customers of the hairdressers and the post office to park in their car park. We still have not found a use for the old red telephone kiosk, any suggestions?

The Lengthsman scheme continues to be a great success and I am indebted to Chris Smith for organising the jobs to be done. In fact I must record my thanks to the Parish Clerk for all his hard work behind the scenes. The remuneration by no means covers all the hours of willing help that Chris gives to the village.

My thanks to Councillor Knott for deputising for me during my occasional holidays and to all my colleagues for their continued support. The valuable contribution of District Councillor Millar, without whom our Meetings would be much less well informed, must be noted with thanks.

Just like with the Oscars, if I have forgotten to thank any individuals please forgive me. This great village is only as good as it is because of all the people who give so freely of the skills and time throughout the year.

R W Clarke

May 2014



Annual

Report April 2013 - March



2014

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 members, with a body of Trustees (including three Fellowship members) overseeing the work.

The Fellowship welcomes visitors to any of its services and meetings.

During the year to 31st March 2014, donations of £2,407 were made to Christian missionary and international aid organisations.

Sunday Worship

During the year Bodenham Christian Fellowship has continued worship at the Chapel each Sunday from 10.30am - 11.45. The regular attendance at Sunday morning worship varies from 15 to 25. It was a joy to welcome back several friends from Moor Court in Bodenham. The services included a monthly Fellowship Service when 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. On the first Sunday of each month there is also a one hour service of Praise & Worship at 9am which is followed by coffee & croissants.

The Christmas Carol service took the form of a *café* style service followed by a savoury supper.

During the year we welcomed the following speakers for their first visit to the Chapel: Rev. Val Turner (from Hereford); & Rev Philip Thompsett (now from Worcester - 1st visit for 20 years).

Bible Study & Prayer Meetings

A weekly Bible Study & Prayer meeting has been held on Thursday evenings at the homes of members. Studies in the last year have included "Book of Romans"; "Promises in the Bible" and a further study in the book of Isaiah

Newsletter

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

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 "The life of Joseph"; "Confident with Christ" (from Colossians); and "The Jewel of Christian Contentment."

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. Attendances during these mornings are now regularly in double figures and have on occasions exceeded 20. Donations of £537 from the proceeds have been given to:-

£37 to The Neuro Foundation for Pat Horrigan's grand-daughter Rachel who ran the London Marathon in April

£100 to Close House for work with young people in Hereford;

£100 to St. Michaels Hospice; £100 to Dr. Karilyn Collins for Muheza;
£100 to St. Michaels Church Bodenham; £100 to British Heart Foundation.

Foreign Mission

Mike Smith made two further two-week visits to Nepal, leading medical teams in the provision of E.N.T. clinics and surgery.

Arthur A Yvonne Etheridge continued leading the Hereford based Hope Carriers Trust, which sends aid to Romania mainly for disadvantaged children. Several truckloads of aid were sent during the year, and the Trust is also involved with the provision of facilities for young adults.

Chapel

During the year the Chapel car park was resurfaced at a cost of approx. £2,300. Other major expenditure was the provision of lino in the corridor and toilets (following the toilet conversion in 2012-13) and internal redecoration.

Seasonal Workers

For the tenth year members of the Fellowship hosted evening meals for migrant workers employed by S&A at Marden. 29 fruit-pickers (from Bulgaria, Romania & Poland) attended over 5 occasions during the spring.

Evening Presentations

The Chapel was hired out for a series of slide shows on various evenings entitled 'Travels with a Camera' with presentations including Venetian Masquerade (Diane Pritchard), Madeira, Norway, British Churches & California (Brian Skinner), Ecuador & Galapagos (Peter Wilson), Greenland (Dr. Audrey Nunn), The Olympic Torch (Rob Powell), the Derbyshire Peak District (Peter Strevens), Patchwork (Gill Hollingsworth), Elevated photography in Herefordshire (Robert Williams), Bosnia & Croatia, Old Postcards of Herefordshire & Railways in the Marches (Dave Hill).

£438 was raised for Hope Carriers Trust during these evenings and a further £151 for charities chosen by speakers.

Wedding

We celebrated the wedding of Mike Stevens to Ann Cooper on 13th July.

In memory

During the year we were sad to lose George Horrigan and former member Clara Bearman who both went to be with their Lord & Saviour, and who both had been active members of the Fellowship.

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). A Harvest supper celebration was held in September when Keith Baldwin provided musical entertainment.

Hire of Chapel

During the year the Chapel has been hired on Wednesdays for Art Classes led by Rob Pritchard and occasionally by the Bodenham Women's group and for book & plant sales. 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

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

www.bodenhamparish.org.uk

Contacts;

| | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| Mrs. Pat Horrigan | Secretary | Tel: 01568 797044 |
| Mrs. Marion Pearson | Treasurer | Tel: 01432 830028 |
| David Hill (email d.hiH952@btinternet.com) Newsletter Editor Tel: 01568 797531 | | |

BODENHAM LEISURE CLUB**REPORT FROM AGM APRIL 2013 – AGM APRIL 2014**

The Leisure Club has 45 members, with 10 of these not from Bodenham, and averages approximately 25 each meeting. The meetings are twice monthly, the second and fourth Monday, and are mostly held in the Parish Hall.

We have had a variety of interesting talks on various topics including the Herefordshire Archive, “The Necklace” a book by Kathy Priddis, Treasure Trails with Amanda Ingham from Dinmore. A very entertaining talk by Dr. Frank Ryding Cooking in Private Service, The life and times of a Town Cryer, Marathon and Cycle Rides, Chocolate production at Cadburys RVS speaker and St. Michael’s Hospice. Also Quizzes and a Beetle Drive.

We have had three trips, also three lunches which were served by the committee in the Parish Hall. A coach went to the Royal Oak at Broadwas for Christmas lunch.

The meetings in the Parish Hall always have a Raffle, Sales Table and light refreshments.

Fortunately we were able to replace the two committee members who stood down at the AGM in 2014 but at the AGM in 2015 these two committee members are standing down together with another committee member and one officer.

New members are always welcome as it is important to keep this Club going.

Thank you.

Gwenllian Bowden
Secretary/Programme Secretary

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP
REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
(12 MAY 2014)

WATER LEVELS

Throughout most of the past year water levels have remained low and have given no cause for concern. However, Bodenham did not escape the severe weather over the winter which caused widespread flooding in the Somerset Levels, the Thames Valley and elsewhere and which made 2013-14 one of the wettest years on record.

Pluvial Flood Risk.

The change came in December when the water level in the Millcroft Brook rose above 0.5m on 23 December, again on New Year's Day, and on several occasions in both January and February. The highest water level recorded by the telemetry system was 1.22m on 12 February, well below what has been achieved in the past and, while enough to bring the relief channel into operation, not sufficient to cause any real concern.

A more immediate issue in February was surface water flooding in Chapel Lane with water running off the adjacent fields and crossing the C1125 into the East end of Orchard Close. This highlighted one of the concerns about Bovis Homes' proposal to build houses on Shuker's Field and the situation on 11 and 12 February was only saved by two members of the Group spending hours wading in the water to ensure that the drains continued to operate and did not become clogged with debris.

On The Moor (C1125) there have also been times when surface water has come northwards from the fields on higher ground South of the Village and flooded across the road outside Eastfields. Here the problem has, again, been made worse by blocked drains, but in some cases the blockages have been such that there was nothing BFPG members could do and we have had to call on Balfour Beatty to jet them.

Fluvial Flood Risk.

Turning to the flood risk presented by the River Lugg, some gardens near the Bridge were partially flooded in mid-February, but, so far as is known, the only building affected was the Church where the kitchen had some water in it.

As in some previous years, the main issue was the Millcroft Lane/ Ketch Lane junction. Flood water from the River reached there over the period from Christmas Day until late on 4 January and then again over the periods 9-11 January and 6-17 February. The highest water level recorded on the road at the junction was 21 inches. As usual, 'Flood' warning signs were put out on Millcroft Road; as usual, they were largely ignored; as usual, a lot of drivers then spent a great deal of time practising their reversing; and, as usual, some who decided to chance their luck came to grief and had to be rescued.

It was pleasing to know that there were people outside Bodenham who were concerned for our safety. Cllr Jeremy Millar visited on 16 February and we had two visits from Mr Charles Pudge, the

Chairman of the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB), and two from Mr Les Harrison, the Board's Engineer; indeed, all three have kept a watchful eye on our area throughout the year and we are grateful to the Board for once again supplying us with a quantity of herbicide for our maintenance work. During the flooding period Balfour Beatty were also encouragingly proactive around the Village. They removed the debris from the Ketch Lane culverts which we had piled on the verge there. More importantly, they helped us to resolve a potentially serious issue by immediately responding to a request to remove a build-up of silt which was completely blocking one of the two culverts and had thus reduced an already inadequate system to half its capacity. They kindly diverted from another task and used a digger to clear enough of the silt bank from outside the old culvert to restore its flow.

FLOOD PRECAUTIONS

As already mentioned, there was no occasion during the past winter when there was any serious concern about flooding in the Village itself. However, some of those with equipment provided under the 2011 Environment Agency grant did put up some of their barriers as a sensible precaution. A large number of sandbags were also deployed by individual householders, again purely as a precaution.

Having checked the stocks of sandbags during the Summer and made sure that they were in good condition, the Group was also involved in their redistribution as the winter progressed and particular stockpiles became depleted. Regrettably, but perhaps unsurprisingly, some residents had not responded to advice that they should plan ahead and this resulted in some last minute requests for sandbags and the need for entirely avoidable (and expensive) action to supply them. It also meant that by mid-February the reserve of sandbags had become unnecessarily low. Balfour Beatty have now supplied empty sandbags so that the Group can replace damaged sandbags over the next few months. However, they have not yet fully replaced the reserve of filled sandbags that we require and this remains a concern.

FLOOD RISK INSURANCE

The 'Statement of Principle' was the agreement between the Government and the insurance industry under which insurers guaranteed to provide flood cover for all households in return for the Government undertaking to fund the construction of flood defences across the country. The agreement expired at the end of July and is to be replaced by a new arrangement termed 'Flood Re' in the Summer of 2015.

Meanwhile, insurers are continuing to meet their commitments to their existing customers under the 'Statement of Principle' arrangement. This means that they will continue to offer cover to existing customers where flood risk is not 'significant' according to the Environment Agency, or where the Government has announced plans to reduce flood risk below 'significant' within five years. Premiums and excesses will reflect the insurer's understanding of the flood risk.

It is to be hoped that this unsatisfactory situation will end soon, but for the time being the list of insurance agents specialising in flood risk prepared by Mrs Mary Dhonau remains extremely valuable to us.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

On 8 April 2013 the Parish Council established a Steering Group to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Bodenham. Over the next 8 months a draft Plan was prepared which, despite extensive publicity, attracted little attention from local residents. However, the situation changed in January when it became known that Bovis Homes planned to develop Shuker's Field in Bodenham Moor. This was followed by a planning application for the development of the field immediately South of this along The Moor. Given the potential of each proposal to increase the flood risk in the area, and particularly to Orchard Close, interest in the Neighbourhood Plan has significantly increased, with the possibility that future residential development may worsen the risk of flooding from surface water run-off being a major concern.

MEETINGS

The Group's regular Meetings at the Siward James Centre on the last Tuesday of each month, except December, have continued to be well attended with 29 members present on average. The AGM was held in August as usual, when the committee members and area representatives for the next 12 months were elected and the Group's Constitution was updated with an annex setting out the responsibilities of area representatives.

WORKING PARTIES

As in previous years, regular working party sessions were conducted on alternate Friday evenings throughout the 'season' from April to October in 2013 and resumed on 11 April this year. As always they were well attended, with some 12-15 members normally taking part. Through their efforts the Group again performed the important tasks of keeping the Millcroft Brook, the Ketch Lane culverts and the Orchard Close drainage system clear of vegetation, silt and debris, as well as checking, repairing and moving sandbags. In addition, the successful pump training instituted in 2013 has been repeated and courses were again held at Millcroft Farm on 12 April and 19 April to remind a total of 15 members how to operate the Group's pumps.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Inadequate Culverts. As mentioned in previous reports, the poor design and inadequate capacity of the Ketch Lane culverts and the partial blockage of the 'Pugh's Field' culvert remain the Group's main concerns. These have been raised with Herefordshire Council on a number of occasions and we continue to await a response.

Road Closures.

During most Winters flooding affects the C1121, Ketch Lane and Smeadals Lane causing the closure of these roads for short periods. They carry a lot of traffic, with the C1121, in particular, providing one of only two means of access to Bodenham Village, as well as a much used shortcut between the A49 and the A417.

Being well aware that Herefordshire Council are facing severe financial and resource pressures, the Group have offered to assist, for example, by letting the appropriate people in the Council know when a road in the Parish is flooded or otherwise obstructed – and when it is clear again. We have also suggested to the Council that the Group might be given the necessary signs and authorised to

put them out to show roads as closed, thus relieving the burden on Balfour Beatty. We await a response.

CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The Cabinet Office.

On 24 January we were contacted by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) at the Cabinet Office who were preparing a new website “designed to support Local Resilience Fora and Local Authorities across the country to further develop and inspire community resilience projects and groups in their own areas”. A substantial section was to be focused on flooding and to illustrate community-based approaches, using examples of projects and flood protection groups from across the country.

The Cabinet Office asked the Group to approve a short paragraph on their CCS website linking to the Group’s own section of the Bodenham Parish website. The CCS website went live in March and the BFPG is shown in the Flooding part of a section of the website called ‘Preparing for an Emergency’. The relevant URLs are:

- (i) Flooding and your community: www.epcollege.com/community-hub/prepare-for-an-emergency/#section1_5
- (ii) Full site through www.epcollege.com/community-hub

Defra.

Property-Level Protection (PLP) Report. On 26 September we were approached by JBA Consulting, acting on behalf of Defra, for feedback on how the property-level flood protection equipment provided under the 2011 Environment Agency grant had worked during the Winter of 2012-13. Although none of the equipment in Bodenham had actually been tested by flooding, we responded at some length with comments, first, on the improvements which we felt could be made in the running of such projects and, second, on the place we felt such projects had in flood protection overall; our view is that, while PLP equipment is very important, for Bodenham the key is getting water away from the Village and into the river as fast as possible. In this, keeping the Millcroft Brook and other watercourses clear is vital, the relief channel plays a major part, and the main weakness continues to be the wholly inadequate culverts at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction.

Defra Evidence Base on Flooding Insurance.

On 14 January we were contacted by Mr Gareth Williams, a researcher working for Brook Lyndhurst, a research consultancy based in Cambridge. He was involved in a project called Flooding Social Science Evidence Synthesis, which is bringing together a range of evidence on flooding for Defra, and trying to identify gaps in the evidence that could inform further research. Part of this work was a case study looking at flood insurance, in terms of people's attitudes and behaviours regarding it, and also people's attitudes and behaviours to property-level protection in the light of flood insurance.

Mr Williams conducted two telephone interviews, one with the Chairman and a second with the Secretary, each lasting well over half an hour. Amongst other points we explained that, since the

Environment Agency had recently issued a new flood risk map showing new computer-generated mapping of both river and surface flooding, there appeared to have been a sudden increase in property insurance premiums, regardless of the property's past history. We gave him as much information as we could and we also passed him on to Mrs Mary Dhonau, whom he has also subsequently interviewed.

The BFPG continues to encourage local residents to report any insurance issues, whether the imposition of a higher excess premium for flood risk or just a general increase of more than 10%. Obviously, the more information we are able to give to Defra and Mrs Dhonau, the more evidence they will have when negotiating with the insurance industry.

Defra Pathfinder Projects. We have heard from Mrs Dhonau that, partly as a result of what the BFPG has achieved, Defra has funded 13 pathfinder projects to encourage other communities to emulate the Group's work. Mrs Dhonau is now working on one of these projects in Northampton and, at her request, the Secretary has provided her with a list of the equipment that the Group use as an example of what may be needed.

Convergent Volunteers Project. On 28 April we were contacted by Mr Christopher Smith, a Research Assistant at Warwick University's Business School, who was engaged in a Defra-funded project looking at the involvement of volunteers in flood response. On 9 May he conducted a 1¼ hour long telephone interview with the Chairman and Secretary seeking their views on how best use can be made of 'convergent volunteers', *i.e.* those volunteers who turn up without prior warning to offer their help during a flooding emergency.

The Environment Agency.

Research into Volunteering.

In October we were asked by the Environment Agency if we would be willing to take part in a survey aimed at understanding what motivates people to volunteer and, in particular, to volunteer on water and flooding issues. After completing a lengthy on-line questionnaire, we were approached by Dr Bianca Ambrose-Oji of Forest Research, the Social and Economic Research Group tasked by the Environment Agency (EA) to look into the working relationship between the EA and voluntary workers and groups working with, or for, the Agency. She was especially keen to find out why, after some 5 years, the Group still functioned, why members had volunteered in the first place and what they each got from being a volunteer.

She visited Bodenham on 26 November and, after interviewing the Chairman and Secretary at some length, she attended the BFPG's monthly Meeting and took the opportunity to pose a series of questions about volunteering to the members present. Afterwards she was able to discuss volunteering with members individually and informally. She has subsequently completed her study and at the end of March sent us a copy of the draft 'glossy' summary. We are now awaiting the final version and a copy of her full report.

High Visibility Jackets. Shortly before Christmas the Environment Agency generously donated a number of high visibility vests to the Group and these were presented to us on 25 November by Mr Daniel Trewin, the Environment Agency's Team Leader of Flood Resilience for the West Midlands. Clearly marked "Flood Group", they will help to identify the Group's Area Representatives when they call at houses and, being highly reflective, will provide the Representatives with added protection by making them clearly visible in daylight and especially at night when emergencies often seem to occur.

Flood Risk Management Workshop Birmingham (5 March 2014). The Chairman and Secretary were invited to attend the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Workshop in Birmingham on 5 March. They joined some 40 delegates from universities, industry, local authorities, Defra, the Environment Agency and the National Flood Forum in a day spent helping to identify the main themes for the Agency's research programme into flood risk management over the next five years. We have recently received the initial report from the Workshop and have offered to help with the research projects which result from it in whatever ways we can.

Environment Agency Visit to Survey the Relief Channel.

The Environment Agency's maps do not yet show the relief channel and other works completed as long ago as 2007-09 and would therefore appear to give an inaccurate picture of the flood risk to Bodenham Moor. It is important that any defences, or action taken to lessen the likelihood of the village flooding, are recorded as these could help with the reduction of insurance premiums.

The Environment Agency have agreed to visit Millcroft Farm in May and carry out a survey of the relief channel. It is to be hoped that this will then reflect the fact that, as shown in the recent bad weather this winter, the relief channel successfully spills any excess water coming down the Brook, or backing up from the River Lugg, onto the flood plain and away from the Village, thus very greatly reducing the local flood risk.

EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

Visit of Blast! Films. On 24 May 2013 Mr Tom Wilde, an Assistant Producer of Blast! Films in London, visited Bodenham to see a working party session and to film material for a forthcoming Channel 4 documentary about the weather. He conducted a filmed interview with Mrs Dhonau about flood insurance matters, followed by ones with the Chairman and the Secretary about the flood risk in Bodenham and the work of the BFPG. He then visited the working party and filmed members jetting drains and clearing the stretch of the Millcroft Brook upstream from the C1125. This gave him the opportunity to complete a final interview, this time with Mrs Rebecca Burnill.

The Sunday Telegraph. On 28 May 2013 Ms Jessica Winch, a personal finance reporter on The Telegraph, interviewed the Secretary at some length on the telephone about the flood risk in Bodenham and what the BFPG had done since 2007 to reduce this. She conducted another lengthy telephone interview on 30 May and arranged for a photographer to visit Bodenham the following day to take pictures of four members of the Group in action clearing the Millcroft Brook. Her article duly appeared in *The Sunday Telegraph* on 2 June, with the piece about the BFPG leading into a mention of the failure by the Government and the Association of British Insurers to come to an agreement on a replacement for 'The Statement of Principle'.

ITN News. The recent flooding in the South of England made flood risk insurance a current news issue and on 14 January this year we received a call from a researcher for ITN News on the subject. We helped her as much as we could with information about the experiences local residents have had in their dealings with flood insurance providers.

The Hereford Times. On 16 January 2014 *The Hereford Times* reported that a lady in her 70s, accompanied by her dog, had stalled her car in the flood water at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction and had been there for two hours before being rescued. Fire crews from both Bromyard and Leominster, as well as an ambulance and 'first responders' from Bromyard equipped with specialist lines and floats, were deployed. The theme of the article was that the local community

was callous and uncaring because, with one exception, people drove past her without stopping to see if they could help. There were several unconvincing aspects to this story which remain unresolved. However, given how much local residents do to mitigate the effects of flooding in and around the Village, to characterise them generally as being uncaring seems to be uncalled for and unfair, especially since no evidence was provided to show that any Bodenham resident was actually involved.

BBC Radio 4 “You and Yours”. On 13 February the Chairman and Secretary were interviewed by the BBC for the Radio 4 “You and Yours” programme which went out the following day. A surprising number of people reported that they had heard the programme and we received a variety of responses. For example, a member of Lewes Town Council was interested in the work of the Group and wanted to seek our advice. There was also a request for guidance from two members of a group in the New Forest and on 27 February we discussed their problems with them over the telephone at some length.

BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester. On 24 February the Chairman received a telephone call from a reporter with BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester who was seeking views about the flood risk posed by the proposed Bovis Homes development of Shuker’s Field. He recorded an interview over the telephone and the Chairman subsequently took part in a live interview on the ‘Howard and Toni at Breakfast’ programme the following morning.

ITV Programme on Mary Dhonau. On 11 March we were contacted by a researcher from ITV and the Chairman was interviewed over the telephone about Mrs Mary Dhonau in connection with a programme which ITV were thinking of making about her and her work.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Annual Barbecue. At the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Clark we held our Annual Barbecue at ‘Rosewood’ on the evening of 27 July. Unfortunately, the weather was unkind, but a little light rain was not going to deter BFPG members and, as always, it was a most enjoyable occasion.

Annual Bonfire Party. The annual Bonfire Party was held at Millcroft Farm on 21 September and some 30 members and their partners attended the conflagration and refreshments.

Annual Quiz Night. The annual Quiz Night was held on 25 October in the Parish Hall and was a great success. Some 54 members and their friends took part and generously contributed just over £416 in total for BFPG funds after deduction of expenses. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Anita Griffiths and Mrs Maureen Bick and their team for making all the arrangements and to Mrs Tricia Sanford for again acting as Quizmaster.

Annual Coffee Morning. The Group’s annual Coffee Morning was held on 8 February 2014 in the Siward James Centre and was very well attended, raising £530 towards the Group’s work. As always, we are extremely grateful to everyone who supported us so generously and, in particular, to Mrs Liz Davies and her team for making the event such a success.

SUMMARY

Once again, this has been a very successful year for the Group and sincere thanks must go to the Environment Agency, to Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty, and to the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board for their support, as well as to Mr Hawnt and Hydro-Logic Limited for their

continued and generous maintenance of the telemetry system. However, as always, particular thanks go to all those members 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.

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP
2013/14 Area Representatives and Committee List

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

The Moor:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Moor Road: | Mr Tony Clark |
| 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 Gillian Baines |
| 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

Report of the Bodenham Community Charity 2013/14

The Bodenham Community Charity is a registered charity Number 218404

The current Trustees are

Dr Carolyn Knight Chairman
 Mrs Susan Hack Secretary
 Mr Stan Davis
 Col Hugh Diamond
 Mrs Louise Layton

Dr Knight and Col Diamond are nominative trustees and are appointed by nomination of the Parish Council for a term of 4 years. Their appointments were reconfirmed by the Parish Council in 2011. The remaining three trustees are co-optative trustees. Mrs Louise Layton was re-appointed as a co-optative trustee in 2013.

The Trustees normally meet twice a year in 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 expenses such as school trips and music tuition. It has also in the past made grants to Parish organisations including a past Bodenham Youth Club, the CAP as well as assisting the Flood Protection Group. 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 disclosed.

During 2013 a grant was made to a disabled individual within the Parish for the provision of specialist equipment.

S Hack
 Secretary April 21 2014