

Bodenham Newsletter



June 2024

The Post Office Van is in Bodenham
Enterprise Park (Baches)
Mondays 12 - 1pm



CARERS OF HEREFORDSHIRE

BODENHAM AND DISTRICT CARERS GROUP

National Carers Week 2024, from 10-16 June, is a UK wide awareness campaign seeking to increase visibility for Carers with decision makers, services, employers, business and communities. This year's theme '**Putting Carers on the Map**' hopes to highlight the increasing pressures Carers face and to campaign for much needed recognition and support. Awareness about the challenges Carers face which impact on their health and wellbeing, finances, and employment is vitally important. The support provided by unpaid Carers is said to be the equivalent of a second NHS.

If you are providing care or support to a family member, friend or neighbour, this is YOU.

We hold a monthly meeting for Carers in Bodenham and the surrounding villages; meetings which are a mixture of relaxation, information giving and general support and advice. Our usual meetings are on the **Third Monday of the month at the Chapel, Chapel Lane, Bodenham at 2pm**. You don't need to come to every meeting, come on time or stay for the whole meeting – whenever and whatever time you have, you will always be welcome.

Our next meeting will be our way of celebrating Carers and will be a **Strawberry Tea on June 17th**. Once again Jacqui and Heidi have offered us the chance to visit them - if the weather is good – at Maund Cottage, Chapel Lane. Because parking is limited **please meet at the Chapel at 2pm** and we'll run a shuttle service up and down the road. If the weather is not so good, meet at the Chapel as usual.

For more information on this and other events hosted by Carers of Herefordshire email me on majameshcl@gmail.com or ring me on 01568797096 (please leave a message if no answer) or contact Georgia at carersofherefordshire@outlook.com or 07921 803171.

THE BODENHAM
VILLAGE
SUMMER
FETE
SATURDAY 29th JUNE
12PM - 4PM AT THE PARISH HALL
FREE ADMISSION

St. Michael's Church

Dear friends,

They say, "all good things must come to an end", and so I am writing to you for the last time. You may have already heard that I am heading off to pastures new in July when I take up the post of Associate Priest of Amberley, Avening and Cherington – three villages near Stroud, in Gloucestershire. It hardly seems possible that I've been here for three years, but sadly my time as Assistant Curate in the Maund Group is almost at an end. As I write this final 'Curate's Contribution', I thought I'd share some memories from my curacy.

I have seen and learnt so much during my time here, which began with a Bodenham tradition: the Year 6 Leavers tower climb. Since then, I've grappled with getting to know people across several communities (a challenge in itself) with the added complications of COVID restrictions meaning that my first encounters were often with people half-hidden behind face masks! With church services only recently resumed, and social gatherings cautiously returning, it was a strange time to be starting out as a curate.

My first Christmas will stick in my memory for a long time, as Paul was stuck at home awaiting the results of a PCR COVID-19 test whilst I attempted to cover as many services as I could... when the negative result finally came through at 7pm on Christmas Eve I breathed a huge sigh of relief!

One of the greatest joys of my curacy has been working with Christine Cattanach, our former Intergenerational Missioner, and seeing the growing connections between the church and wider community in Sutton and across the benefice. I pray that the relationships that she encouraged will grow and flourish in the years to come.

But the thing that has kept me going, week on week, has been my work with children in our benefice. Whether it's leading Collective Worship at one of our schools, exploring creation in Wild Church, helping at Brownies, or bumping into people I've met through christenings, sharing the good news of God's love with people of all ages is the greatest privilege of my role.

Thank you for welcoming me into village life, and for bearing with me as I've learnt, made mistakes, and grown into the priest that God has called me to be. Thank you, too, for keeping me well fed with excellent cakes at the Pop-Up cafes, afternoon teas, and many other gatherings! I'll leave you with the words of my favourite blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
Natalie



Services for June 2024

2nd	6pm	Evensong
9th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Fri 14th	11am	Holy Communion at Siward James
16th	9.30am 6pm	Holy Communion* Evening Prayer (BCP)
23rd	10.30am 4pm	Group Service (location TBC) Wild Church
30th	9.30am	Holy Communion

* Incense may be used in this service

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

David Tilford

The Parish Council was saddened to hear of the death of David Tilford, who served on the Parish Council for many years, including a period a very effective and unflappable Chairman. His contribution to the work of the Parish Council was vast, particularly with planning matters.

The next litter picks

The error reported in the last Newsletter about the dates of the next litter picks was overtaken by events, namely that the parish hall is booked on Saturday 2nd November, so the next litter picks will be held on **Saturdays 9th November 2024 and 15th March 2025.**

Parking charges at Bodenham Lake

Despite the Parish Council's request for further consultation, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust have introduced parking charges and restrictions at Bodenham Lake. It is believed that the charges are lower than at Queenswood and that Bodenham residents may be able to park without charge.

Bonfires and barbecues

It's the time of year when bonfires and barbecues begin to proliferate. Please be considerate to your neighbours

Herefordshire Draft Local Plan 2021-2041

A public meeting was held in the parish hall on Saturday 11th May to inform residents about the Herefordshire Draft Local Plan 2021-2041 and solicit views about it. Over 100 residents were present and were given details of the Plan and how to comment on it. A vote was taken: the result being that 100 people were in favour of the proposals and 8 people were in favour. Four people unable to attend the meeting also said that they objected to the proposals. Although the deadline for commenting has now passed, the draft of the Plan will be amended by Herefordshire Council and there will be further opportunities for residents to make comments. The Parish Council has submitted a report objecting to the proposals in the Plan for Bodenham.

Who are your councillors?

As a way of making Bodenham Parish Councillors more visible, a profile of a councillor will appear in the Newsletter from time to time, starting with Councillor Sarah Marsh.

Dogs

Please, if you walk your dog, clear up after it. There are 1308 dog poo bins in Herefordshire, but, if you can't find one, bagged dog waste can be placed in any public waste bin, such as the bin on the village green or the bins at the bus stops.

Highlights from the May Parish Council meetings

- * the meeting held a minute's silence in memory of Councillor David Tilford;
 - * an annual report of the Parish Council's work during 2023-24 was presented and appears elsewhere in this Newsletter;
 - * a possible site for placing the Speed Indicator Device at the south end of the C1125 has been identified;
 - * the Parish Council has been given an official portrait of King Charles and has presented it to the parish hall;
 - * several planning applications had arrived recently, but there had been insufficient time to consider them before the meeting.
- Extensions to the deadlines for making comments had been requested and granted. Details will appear in the next Newsletter.

The next Parish Council meetings

..... will be on **Wednesdays 5th June and 3rd July starting at 6.30pm** at the Siward James Centre. There are still three vacancies on the Parish Council. Please consider standing for co-option.

The Parish Council website

The Bodenham Parish Council website is www.bodenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Keep up to date with local issues - sign up for the mailing list

An increasing number of residents (50 now) are joining the mailing list, through which the Parish Council sends important updates to local residents by email with information about such things as roadworks, weather warnings and local events. If you would like to join the list, email Chris Smith at bodenhampcclerk@gmail.com. You won't be deluged with email, your personal details will not be passed on to anyone else and you can unsubscribe at any time.

NOTICE

The water spout at Dinmore has consistently tested as unsafe for human consumption.

Please Do Not Drink

Bodenham Parish Council May 2023- April 24

Cllr Jan Burgess		01568 701911
Cllr Trudie Mills	trudie.a.mills@gmail.com	07968080826
Cllr Jemma Gromadzki	Jgromadzki-bodenhampc@hotmail.com	
Cllr Sarah Marsh (Vice-chairman)	sarahmarsh1956@gmail.com	07792662928
Cllr Liz Miller		07749912457
Cllr Ron Pearce	rpearce665@gmail.com	01568 797084
4 Vacancies		
Chris Smith (Parish Clerk)	bodenhampcclerk@gmail.com	01568 797132
Cllr Bruce Baker - bruce.baker2@herefordshire.gov.uk - is the Herefordshire Councillor for the Hampton ward.		

BODENHAM TENNIS CLUB

We welcome new members of all standards

- 2 tennis courts (1 floodlit coin operated)
- Mixed club sessions every Thursday evening (during summer months) & Sunday mornings
- Coaching in conjunction with Tennis Hereford
- Men's & Ladies teams in H&W league
- Social events & tournaments
- Use of courts anytime via online booking system
- Entry into the Wimbledon ticket ballot

For more information, please visit our website:

www.bodenhamtennisclub.co.uk

Our club sessions on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings are in full swing, as is our Junior coaching (5-8yo's & 8-11yo's) on Saturday mornings, and Adult coaching on Friday afternoons.

The club has also organised an internal championship tournament for Men's, Ladies, & Mixed, in Singles & Doubles – we wish everyone who is participating the very best of luck!

Bodenham Lakes Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

To all visitors,
please note that we will be commencing charged parking at Bodenham Lake car park from Monday 13th May 2024.

The revenue from parking fees will provide vital funds to continue the Trust's ongoing development and management of this flagship nature reserve. All proceeds will be re-invested into the ongoing management of the site.

To manage the scheme, we are installing an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera system which will also reduce anti-social behaviour and overnight parking, which has escalated in recent times.

To pay, you can pay by card at the machines onsite at the end of your visit before leaving, or you can pay online up to 48 hours later on the www.parkwithease.co.uk website.

Charges apply at all times.

Charges will be as follows:

15 minutes free parking

£1.50 for up to 1 hour parking

£2.50 for 1 to 2 hours parking

£4 for over 2 hours parking.

Overnight parking is not allowed.

Annual parking permits for Queenswood Country Park now will cover both Queenswood and Bodenham Lake and can be purchased on-line (<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/bodenhamlake>) or from the Visitor Centre at Queenswood.

These cost £65 for the year.

BODENHAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Services at the Chapel at 10.30am,
and by Zoom, unless otherwise stated.

Internet: <https://us04web.zoom.us/>

Code: 6602108192 Pswd 031617

Services for June 2024

2nd	Food Bank Collection 10.30am Worship Service - Mike Goodman
9th	10.30am Worship Service - Mike Wilkinson
16th	9am Prayer and Praise 10.30am Worship Service - Len Day
23rd	10.30am Chapel 150 th Anniversary Service & Communion
30th	10.30am Worship Service - Mike Goodman

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies Bible Study will be on

Tuesdays 4th & 18th at 10.00am

to continue the study

'The Church is Born'

Contact Rebecca Burnill on 01568 797823

MEETINGS FOR BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

At the Chapel each

Thursday at 2pm

Contact: Len Day on 01432 880657

SONGS OF WORSHIP

**Wednesday June 26th
at 2.15pm**

"The Songs of Worship" meeting for all who love
making a joyful noise unto the Lord!!

(regardless of whether you think you can sing or
not !!).

MUSIC AND CRAFT CLUB

The next club date is **Saturday June 8th**

from 10.00am for 1 hour.

This will be for primary school children (4-11),

**Theme: Good News! - we can be part of God's
family, the Church.**

If anyone is interested in helping with this, please
contact David Weber at
davidwebermusic@gmail.com.

Cafe @ the Chapel

Each **Thursday** from 10.30am to 12 noon

Why not just call in

for a coffee and a chat.

Everyone Welcome!



BODENHAM



BADMINTON CLUB

Whether you are starting, returning or just
curious, come along and join us for skills, fun
and fitness through badminton.

For people who would like to play games, have a
little development coaching and keep fit in a fun
and friendly club that is open to all ages (*under
16's must be accompanied by a parent guardian*).

Wednesday evenings from 19.45- 21.45

Bodenham Parish Hall, HR1 3LB

For more information or to arrange taster
session please contact Rob 01568 797 091



Would you appreciate a weekly phone call to cheer you , or
even a weekly visit, from a trained volunteer?

**The Volunteers of
Bodenham Compassionate Community
are here to help you.**

Service available for Bodenham, Sutton, Marden, Wellington, Morton
on Lugg , Hope under Dinmore, & Stoke Prior.

Just ask your GP surgery to refer you to
Bodenham Co-Co.



Original Chapel c1835

You are warmly invited to the 150th Anniversary of the building of the present Bodenham chapel for a family event on Saturday 22nd June between 11.00 to 4.30 pm. A day of games, craft, dressing up and fun for all ages. There will be an illustrated powerpoint presentation at 3.00pm delving into the chapel's history from 1830 to the present day.

Free refreshments accompanied by pasties and cake.

On Sunday 23rd at 10.30am the morning service will be led by Paul Timbrell who was the leader of the Fellowship in the 1980's. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch.

Contact Fiona Smith on 01432-880648 for details.



1874 built chapel

BODENHAM GARDENING CLUB



Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. Annual membership is £15 and for non members the fee is £3 payable on the door.

We have a Best Bloom competition each month with the overall winner for the year receiving a rose bowl to keep for the following year so bring along your flower to be in with a chance to win this prize.

The usual raffle, sales table and refreshments will be available.

The May meeting of the Bodenham Gardening Club was a visit to the home of our Chairman David Griffiths and to see where he grows the beautiful plants. We were blessed with probably the best evening of the year with not a breath of wind and warmth too. Most of us went home with a boot full of bedding plants.

On the 4th June, in a change to the advertised programme, we will have a video presentation – Secret Gardens

On the 2nd July is our annual Garden Party which is very kindly hosted by Jan Burgess and is always a very popular event.

Tickets for this are £9 each and include a glass of wine or soft drink and should be purchased in advance either at the Gardening Club meeting on the 4th June or from Katrien.

On the 6th August we will have a guided visit by the Head Gardener to Berrington Gardens.

POWIS CASTLE DAY TRIP

The Gardening Club are pleased to announce a day trip to Powis Castle on Friday 2nd August departing from the Parish Hall at 09.30. The trip includes a guided tour of the castle but please bear in mind that there is no step free access to the castle. This trip is available to everyone. You do not need to be a member to join us. Tickets cost £42.50 per person and are available from Katrien.

Please phone 01568 797551 or 07929 081261



StAr ToTs FuN gRoUp

A fun relaxed group for parents, carers / grandparents to bring children from 0-4 years.

9.30am - 11.00am every Friday morning

(term time)

at St Michaels School Bodenham.

We have weekly themes/activities with a story time, squash and snack too.

Tea/coffee for the grown-ups as well.

£1 per child under 6 months Free.

HELD IN THE SCHOOL'S MAIN HALL

To book: Message StArToTs on Facebook

Please call Marie if you have any questions
07456698502

BODENHAM BOWLING CLUB

Following the opening of the green on a rather cold Saturday at the end of April, we won our first friendly game against Wellington Bowling Club.

Unfortunately due to various problems our next game was postponed and another had to be cancelled, but we still enjoy our usual Monday evening club night.

As with other clubs, we need new members, so if you have considered taking up a new pastime why not come along on a Monday evening between 5 – 7pm and have a go! Don't worry if you've never tried bowls before, we all started somewhere! We have plenty of spare woods, all you need are flat soled shoes to avoid damage to the green.



Jean Fryer. Secretary.
01568 797338



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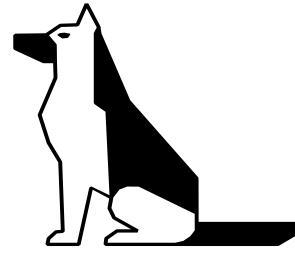


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Opening Hours



Monday - Saturday
07:00 - 18:00

Sunday
07:30 - 12:30

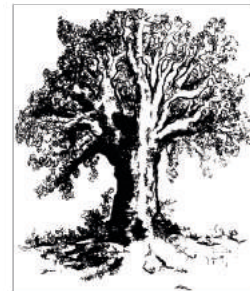


Monday - Friday
09:00 - 14:00

Saturday & Sunday
Closed

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24 Hour Contact

Tel: 01568 250030

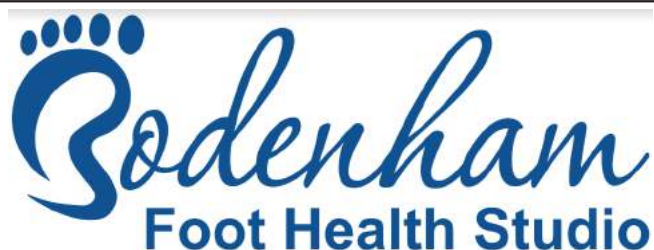
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oaktreefuneralservices1@gmail.com

www.oaktreefuneralservices.co.uk

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**Joanne Shield**

DipCFHP, MPSPract



At The Moor (next to the old Post Office) HR1 3HT

Tel : 01568 797399



**Sutton Rainbows** have been busy weeding the community garden at Sutton St Nicholas village hall, and cleaning some of the road signs.

**Marden Brownies** are finding out how they can keep their Brownie Promise and do a Good Turn every day

**Marden Guides and Rangers** will be cleaning the road signs in Marden and looking after the planters.

**Girlguiding helps all girls know they can do anything!**

If you or your daughter would like to join us you can register your interest on the Girlguiding website <https://girlguiding.org.uk> - just click on 'Volunteer' or 'Register a child' and fill in your contact details.

**Or contact our local groups directly for more information:**

For Rainbows (Age 4-7) please contact Laura at [Suttonrainbow@gmail.com](mailto:Suttonrainbow@gmail.com)

For Brownies (Age 7-10) please contact Katy at [mardenbrownies1@outlook.com](mailto:mardenbrownies1@outlook.com)

For Guides (10 – 14) and Rangers (14 – 18) please contact Alison at [mardenguides@outlook.com](mailto:mardenguides@outlook.com)

Alison Thomas – Guide Leader

## MACS

At our June meeting we shall be having fun with printing, first making the printing blocks and then using them to print a design onto a bag.

We'll be using acrylic paint which doesn't wash out so please wear suitable clothing and bring an apron as well as a newspaper to keep the tables clean.

Visitors are always very welcome, so come and join our members for an enjoyable afternoon of crafting on

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm**  
**in Bodenham Village Hall.**

**Wendy Steadman**  
**01432 880203**

## **WI MARDEN**

We shall be welcoming Professor Mark Williams to our June meeting when he will be talking about **Artificial Intelligence**. This is a subject which is very much in the news at present and he will be explaining what it involves, how it will develop in years to come as well as dispelling some of the myths which surround it.

So come and join us on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm in Bodenham Parish Hall** to find out about the current developments in AI and what the future holds.

On Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> members are invited to join in a walking trail in the black and white villages of Eardisley, Pembridge and Weobley.

This will be followed by a get together over lunch. Please make sure you have signed up for this event.

**Moir Thomas 01432 880143**

## **SUTTON**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**'Suffrage Stories: campaigning for the vote in Herefordshire' by Clare Wichbold,**

7:30pm in Sutton St Nicholas Village Hall,  
Bayley Way, HR1 3SZ.

Entrance £3.00. Refreshments. Sutton Environment & History Group with Sutton WI.

The Herefordshire story about women and the Parliamentary vote is a surprising one: early activism, lots of opposition, some vigorous campaigning, and ultimately, success. But at what price? This talk will examine how the campaign affected the individuals involved, and also look at what happened to some of them afterwards, including Constance Radcliffe Cooke: suffragette, socialist, and WI member!

Further information from Judy Stevenson  
01432 880748

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HR9 5HN**

£20 (inc glass of wine) - under 12s free

**TICKETS:** [tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/](http://tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/)



SUPPORTED BY THE CARDUCCI MUSIC TRUST & TANNERS WINES



**Don't throw your broken items away, let us see  
if we can repair them?**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month - 10.00am – 1.00pm**

**In Marden Links Parish Hub**

**(between the mini-market and Streets Hairdresser)**

We have a team of volunteer repair experts on hand who are  
keen to repair:

- household goods □ tool sharpening □ electronics □
- toys □ garden tools (excluding ones with petrol engines) □
- electrical appliances □ furniture/wooden objects □
- clothing/textile repairs □ ceramics and much more □....

Enjoy a drink, homemade cake and a chat while you wait

To book: [www.marden-links.org/repair-cafe/](http://www.marden-links.org/repair-cafe/)  
or email: [repair.cafe@marden-links.org](mailto:repair.cafe@marden-links.org)

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[www.wildepestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.wildepestcontrol.co.uk)

# BODENHAM FLOOD GROUP



## BFPG News May 2024

Not much to report except to say that you may have seen in last month's Parish Council (PC) update, that we have been working together to get drop down flood signs for either end of Millcroft Road as well as extra verge markers. We had also been hopeful of another two signs, one at the top end of Smeadals and one at the top of Ketch. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, it would seem that the four signs as opposed to two may be cost prohibitive, although we will continue to push for all four.

If we are successful, we will be looking to create a volunteer group of residents to help manage the signs both at times of flooding and to revert them back to normal. Obviously work will be required to agree protocols with Hereford County Council but if you feel able to volunteer a

small amount of time to this initiative then please do get in touch!

Less rain this month has meant a return to the regular working parties has been able to commence. By the time you read this the first two will have taken place.

So, remaining dates for your diary should you feel able to join our merry band:

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 8th June              | 10th August                |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> June | 24th August                |
| 13th July             | 7 <sup>th</sup> September  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July | 21 <sup>st</sup> September |

If you are able to spare a couple of hours on these dates, we start at 9.30am and usually work for 2 hours but definitely finish by 12. Feel free to contact any of the committee on the contact list if you would like more information.

Bodenham Flood Group Committee

**Chair (meetings): Sadie Chambers 07572 169893**

**Treasurer: Rebecca Burnill 01568 797823**

**Secretary: Debby House 01568 797305**

### Area Reps:

**The Moor Road: Andrew Maxwell: 01568 797946**

**Brockington Road North and cul de sac:**

**Rebecca Burnill: 01568 797823**

**Brockington Road South: Adrian House: 01568 797305**

**Siward James: The Warden: Victoria Paterson: 01568 797412**

**Ash Grove Close: Rodney Minchin: 07794 466968**

**Ash Grove View and Road: David Harris: 01568 797575**

**Millcroft Road: Barbara Gibson: 01568 797643**

**Bodenham Village: David Ayshford Sanford: 01568 797549**

**Orchard Close: Mike Stephens 01568 797816**

**Maund Bryan: Philip Broomhead 01568 797167**

Please note: the sandbags in the cages are for use during emergency flood incidents only. If you need sandbags for your property and can store them appropriately, please contact your Area Rep or nearest Cage Keyholder.

If you would like to raise any point or pose a question which you would like to have raised at a Committee

Meeting (held bi-monthly), please contact the Secretary, Debby House on 797305 or [secbfpg@gmail.com](mailto:secbfpg@gmail.com)

The Minutes of the AGM will be circulated to Members; the AGM minutes will also be published on the Parish Website. Details of upcoming Working Party and Social events will also be posted in the Bodenham Newsletter, on the Bodenham Watch Facebook page and Bodenham *NextDoor*.

### BFPG Sandbag Key Holders:

**Parish Hall Container: Secretary 797305**

**Siward James Cage Key Holder: The Warden: Victoria Paterson: 797412 and the Secretary 797305**

**Orchard Close/Chapel Lane Sandbags:  
Cage Key Holder: Mike Stephens 797816**

### Church Sandbag Key Holders

**St Michael's School Cage Key Holder: Barry Wilson: 797013**

**St Michael's Church: Richard Collins 797434 or Sue Newbould 797848**

**Bodenham Church – Christmas Bazaar**  
**Saturday 30 November at the Parish Hall**

In order for the  
**Annual Church Christmas Bazaar**  
**to continue in the future**  
**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**  
**with the following tasks:**

1. Co-ordinate the event, liaise with Stallholders etc
2. Advertise the event + display Posters locally
3. Organize the main Raffle + Tickets + Prizes
4. Help with Teas
5. Help setting up in the morning & clearing up later

Contact Heather on 797826 or email:

[heatherelwyn@btinternet.com](mailto:heatherelwyn@btinternet.com)

Regrettably **IF NO HELP is forthcoming BY AUGUST** the future of this long standing, cherished, event will unfortunately have to be cancelled.

**Thank you**

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the recent **Afternoon Tea event in aid of The Leominster Meeting Centre.**

As always, the generous people of Bodenham contributed all the food and raffle prizes so that our expenses were very low and we raised the wonderful total of £570 for the centre.

**Well done Bodenham!**

From the comments I have had it seemed everyone enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to all the willing helpers on the day, especially the two ladies in the kitchen who washed and dried all those dishes ! Hopefully we can do something similar next year !



**Meet Your Parish Councillors - First Up Sarah Marsh**

Hi, my name is Sarah and I have been married for 47 years to Bill and we have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. I have lived in the village for 40 years, we chose Bodenham as we were members of the Airgun Club and we knew people from our jobs who lived here.

I think life was gentler then and to get to know people I joined groups. Baby clinic was held in the village hall once a month and playgroup was held there with 'Millie' who was such a friend to mums and children for years.

We moved to Brighthouse in 1983 and came back in 1987 so I know what it's like up North with what seemed like constant snow. We settled back in Bodenham and my sons went Bodenham School, all the local children went to Bodenham, no choice then. I have been on the PTA, Sunday School, Young Wives but never felt old enough for the WI.

I worked at Sun Valley from 1989 for 7 years then another small company but decided at 42 I would go to University to study Early Childhood Studies. I went to Sweden as part of the course and yet more snow but the other students let me be a student not a substitute mum. I joined the NHS where I spent the next 20 years as a Community Nursery Nurse in Health Visiting and a few years teaching ChildCare.

I retired 2 years ago and now volunteer at Bodenham school which is such a joy and great fun and, after obviously joining the Parish Council in July 2022, I became vice chair in May 2023 until this May, I am also part of the planning working group and we visit each application so that we can provide a report for the full Parish Council.

I enjoy holidays with Bill and looking after my grandchildren. Life has come full circle, back on the school run and reminiscing with other grandparents how it was in our day. It combines my love of children and working in our community. I walk around the village to get to school and PC work so if you see me please stop and talk to me, I love talking.

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## **Bodenham Parish Hall – regular groups & events information**

The Parish Hall is a registered charity (number 520936) and all proceeds from its hire go towards upkeep and maintenance. We welcome groups or individuals who wish to hire the Hall for parties or other events, please see Parish website for venue details.

To contact any of the below groups/users or to enquire about booking the Hall; please email the booking team (June and Ann) on [j.stephens62@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stephens62@btinternet.com) or phone 01568 797 932

|           |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | Julian's Tai Chi <a href="mailto:jukemp67@gmail.com">jukemp67@gmail.com</a><br>Megan Baker House<br>Emma's Pilates Fusion                                                 | 10.00-11.30<br>08.30-16.30 term time<br>18.30-19.30                                                                                                                             |
| Tuesday   | Megan Baker House<br>Emma's Pilates<br>Bodenham Gardening club                                                                                                            | 08.30- 16.30 term time<br>18.00-19.00<br>19.30-21.30, 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday                                                                                                   |
| Wednesday | Julian's Tai Chi <a href="mailto:jukemp67@gmail.com">jukemp67@gmail.com</a><br>Marden Arts & Crafts<br>Fiona H's Yoga<br>Bodenham Badminton Club<br>Bodenham Bowling Club | 10.00-11.30<br>14.00-16.00, 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday<br>18.00-19.30, alternate weeks<br>19.45-21.45<br>14.00-16.00, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, October-March |
| Thursday  | Marden WI<br>Bodenham Leisure Club<br>Emma's pilates                                                                                                                      | 14.00-16.00, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday<br>14.30 -16.00, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday (until end of 2023)<br>18.30-19.30                                                              |
| Friday    | Sophie's yoga/fitness<br>Emma's Pilates<br>Megan Baker House<br>Hereford Amateur radio club                                                                               | 09.00-10.00, 6-week blocks<br>10.30-11.30<br>12.00-16.30 term time<br>19.00-21.30, 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday, Nov-Feb                                                              |
| Saturday  | Alanya Belly Dance                                                                                                                                                        | 13.00-15.00, twice monthly                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sunday    |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### **Events planned for 2024:**

Bodenham Fete (organised by the fete committee) Provisionally 29<sup>th</sup> June  
Church Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

The fish and chip van in the hall carpark every Thursday evening.

More events may be added and of course, other events, not organised by the Parish Hall but taking place there, will be happening. All of these events are open to all and we hope that we will see you there! Please check out our Facebook page 'Parish Hall Bodenham', lovely picture of the sun shining through the windows on our homepage.

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## Bodenham Parish Hall update:

This fantastic local amenity is run by a small group of local volunteers who make up the 'Parish Hall Management Committee'. The aim is to maintain the hall for the use of the community and enable it to continue providing a space for leisure activities as well as parties and community support.

**Great news – we have secured a lottery grant to go towards our funds for the toilet upgrading work! This will take place over the summer –date to be announced, we will aim to minimise disruption.**

**Have you any free time & like the idea of helping the community? Are you interested in the Parish Hall & would like to join our committee? We have space for new members so come along and join us to help with the running.**

**We are looking for a local handyman who would be interested in taking on the 'odd jobs' that arise around the hall – all expenses paid.**

**Many thanks to all those who supported our table top sale from Katrien and Ann in the kitchen to Lou, Glynn, Ron and Mike setting up and tidying. We raised £260 towards the toilet upgrade.**

**Thank you, Robin, Jo, Ian, June, Ann, Ron & Emma. *For further information contact our secretary, June, on [j.stephens62@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stephens62@btinternet.com)***



## Bodenham Parish Hall:

Bodenham Parish Hall in Hereford is owned by the parishioners of Bodenham. It is run by the Bodenham Parish Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council act as Trustees of the deeds. Registered charity number 520936.

**Booking team: Ann & June, 01568 797 932.**

**[J.stephens62@btinternet.com](mailto:J.stephens62@btinternet.com)**

**Find and follow us on Facebook; Parish Hall Bodenham**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 the hall hire fees are:**

Main hall **£12.50 per hour.**

Meeting room **£7.50 per hour**

Stage only **£7.50 per hour**

Party/dance (6pm-midnight) **£160.00, additional hours at £12.50 per hour.**

Wedding **£280.00 full day. Additional hours day before/after charged at hourly rate £12.50**

Children's parties (under 14years), concerts', music evenings, bingo, jumble sales etc all charged at **£12.50 per hour for main hall.**

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## District Councillors Report - May 24

Dear Residents,

During the election, it was made very clear to me that the state of our highway network was not good enough and, as a Conservative, I campaigned for more investment to help address this. We have delivered on that promise with the highest level of investment in our highways since 2019 and nearly £12 million more in the highways budget this year than in the last year of the Green-Independent Coalition. The benefits of that investment will start to be seen from May as this additional budget is deployed on a variety of programmes.

Investment alone is not enough however and simply carrying on with the status quo would not have delivered the level of change or progress we all want to see. Therefore, I welcome the news that Herefordshire Council has issued a termination notice to Balfour Beatty which will see their current contract end in May 2026.

I am sure that residents will welcome the news that we are seeking to improve the current arrangements. Please rest assured that my focus, and that of my colleagues, will be on ensuring that the new contract is designed in a way that puts Herefordshire Council back in a position of control and puts the needs of residents first.

The council's current public realm services contract with Balfour Beatty has been in place since 2013 and includes the delivery of highways, asset management, traffic management, parks, open spaces, street cleaning and street lighting. The contract was heavily outsourced with the council only retaining a small client and contract management function. This approach was initially successful for the Council however, in recent years, it has become clear that this model of operating no longer meets the needs and aspirations of Herefordshire or its residents.

This decision has been taken by the Conservative administration because the current contract does not allow us to deliver on our plans for sustained long term improvement in our public realm services or the highway network. Unfortunately, under the existing contract the earliest we can bring the current arrangement to an end is May 2026 however, that does allow us a two year period for the redesign, procurement and planned mobilisation of a new service which will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.

If you have any suggestions of improvements we could make to how public realm services are delivered going forward then please do let me know.

Best Regards

Bruce Baker, District Councillor Hampton Ward

## **Marden Branch of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust**

The next meeting for the Marden Branch is on Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Marden Community Lounge with a talk by Ben Andrews on 'Organic Farming'.

There will be a raffle and HWT sales table. (Cash only).

Recommended donation: £2.50 members and £3.50 non- members.

The May meeting started with the AGM that re-elected the same committee and demonstrated the accounts in good health. On July 6th at 12noon Marden HWT branch will be having a Tombola Stall at Marden Parish Fete. If you have any suitable items to donate for this please bring them along to the next 2 meetings. The HWT information/membership stall will also be there.

Advanced notice for 2<sup>nd</sup> July the talk will be 'Never work with Children or Animals' by Alan Peach.

For more information contact: Mary on 01432880107 or Jess

[jessicatidball60@gmail.com](mailto:jessicatidball60@gmail.com)

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust  
01432 356872

[www.herefordshirewt.org](http://www.herefordshirewt.org)

[enquiries@herefordshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@herefordshirewt.co.uk)

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Jessica Tidball Chair Marden Branch.

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We are run by volunteers with many skills, and we'd welcome you if you'd like to come and help. A brilliant resource for community groups wanting to spread word of their events and individuals that simply have an idea they want duplicated.

## **The first talk from the Leominster Area Branch of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust – 'Can our rivers survive?' held 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

As the new branch was formed to serve Leominster, Bromyard and all the surrounding villages, we were delighted that people from around North Herefordshire packed out the hall to hear Andrew McRobb of Herefordshire CPRE.

His talk on rivers centred on the tragic situation of the River Wye now described by Natural England as unfavourable – declining! It is ironic that it must be one of the most protected rivers yet still has become one of the worst polluted. The main problem we learnt is nutrient overload, principally from agriculture, leading to algae bloom which blocks sunlight reaching under the surface.

He suggested many of the problems were unintentional consequences of changes in farming: intensive chicken rearing rather than traditional pasturing and orchards, heavy machinery compacting the soil and spraying crops with "cocktails" of "forever chemicals".

On a more optimistic note, the Wye now has an River Champion – Angela McIntyre (unpaid!) who may be able to get the various authorities responsible for the River Wye system to work together for improvements in water quality. Welsh Water will continue to invest in infrastructure to reduce sewage run-off. More people are taking part in Citizen Science river sampling, which is providing data on the watercourses including the River Lugg although they cannot replace the Environmental Agency, which is hampered by lack of funding and only has six inspectors in the area.

Thanks to Andrew for talking on this subject which concerns us all and answering our many questions. He told us to pile the pressure on politicians to impose regulations which can restore our rivers, report pollution when we see it, and do our bit by reducing our use of chemicals and plastics which make their way into our river and seas. For more information and ways of helping go to <https://www.herefordshirewt.org/river-take-action>.

The Branch is very grateful to Leominster Baptist Church for their excellent hospitality.

We look forward to welcoming more members to the Wildlife Trust and are particularly keen on finding Village Liaison people who can report interesting wildlife initiatives or problems and will help us our publicise events. Contact us:

**[LeominsterAreaBranch@gmail.com](mailto:LeominsterAreaBranch@gmail.com)**

**Our next events: June 15<sup>th</sup>** afternoon, an Introduction to Nature Observation and Surveying including time for a shared dinner (numbers are limited so booking is essential). further details and booking via our email address (see above).

**A talk on Wildlife Gardening, July 11<sup>th</sup>** will be followed by visits and workshops.

Diana Emes (Communication Secretary; Leominster Area WT Branch)

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## WE ARE FARMING MINDS



**We are Farming Minds** registered charity has been set up by farmers for farmers to tackle mental health in the farming community within Herefordshire.

### How can we help?

#### 24 Hour Helpline:

We run a FREE 24 hour helpline 7 days a week for farmers and their families within Herefordshire who are feeling distressed and need someone to talk to anonymously.

#### Counselling:

We provide fully funded counselling to anyone in the Herefordshire farming community who may be in emotional distress.

#### Training:

We offer FREE mental health awareness training to anyone living or working in or with the farming community in Herefordshire.

#### Social Events:

We run a series of FREE social events throughout the year to break the isolation often felt by the farming community in Herefordshire.

Call our helpline:

**0808 802 0070**

Or text:

**07786 203130**

General enquiries: [wearefarmingminds@gmail.com](mailto:wearefarmingminds@gmail.com)

[www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk](http://www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk)



'Taking the bull by the horns' to tackle Mental Health in the farming community

Registered charity number: 1197461

[f WeAreFarmingMinds](https://www.facebook.com/wearefarmingminds)

## Bodenham Ramblers Walks & Events Programme - Summer 2024

Walks start at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated and include a coffee stop and a picnic stop, so bring your lunch, (bringing mobile also recommended).

Prior contact with walk leader is advised in case of changes or for further details.

Guest walkers welcome!

The schedule includes a Strollers programme consisting of short walks on the second Wednesday each month, commencing 10.00 am, with coffee etc at 11.00 at some specified venue.

| Date                   | Description                                                                                   | Miles & Stiles      | Start etc                                                              | OS Grid Ref & P'stcode         | Leaders                                              |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday<br>5th June  | <u>Titley</u> - eastwards towards Staunton-on-Arrow: tracks & field edges etc, no steep hills | 6 mi<br>10 sti      | <b>10.00 start:</b> Park in layby almost opposite church               | Exp. 201<br>331 601<br>HR5 3RR | Chris<br>01432 649606<br>07471 077071                |
| Wednesday<br>12th June | <u>Strollers Programme - Bodenham Lake</u>                                                    | 1 to 2 miles        | <b>10.00 start</b> - park Bod Lake car park; drinks at Marden PO       | Exp. 202<br>527 512            | Pat<br>01432 270570                                  |
| Sunday<br>16th June    | <u>Canon Pyon/Kings Pyon:</u> fairly easy                                                     | 5 mi<br>some stiles | <b>10.00 start</b> - Park in car park opposite Canon Pyon Village Hall | Exp. 202<br>461 491<br>HR4 8PE | John<br>01432 830183<br>07759 466455                 |
| Wednesday<br>26th June | <u>Elan Valley</u> - further details awaited                                                  |                     | Awaiting details                                                       |                                | Shirley Anne<br>01432 882157<br>Alan<br>07989 045423 |

This schedule can also be found on our website: <https://www.bodenhamramblers.org/home>

For any information regarding the walks programme or any proposed new walks to add to the programme please contact

Chris on 01432 649606 or 07471 077071

or contact: Mandy on 01432 769142 or Wendy on 01432 272031

or, (for strollers only), Pat on 01432 270570

or email: [bodenhamramblers@gmail.com](mailto:bodenhamramblers@gmail.com)

A Grid Reference is provided to locate the parking and start of each walk on the Ordnance Survey map, (it's the numbers at the top and bottom of the map that come first in the Grid Reference). Contact one of the above if you need assistance with this. However the postcode should suffice in most cases.



## Long term health condition?



**Do you or someone you know have a long term health condition?**

Tell us about your personal experiences of using local health & care services by completing our short survey  
We want to find out what matters to you and ensure that your views help shape the support you need

**Access the survey by scanning the QR code or online at**

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LongTermHealthConditionSurvey](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LongTermHealthConditionSurvey)



You can contact us via email or phone too:

[info@healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk)

Tel: 01432 277044

[www.healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk)

## **BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2024**

This report covers the period between 15th May 2023 and 1st May 2024. In the absence of a chairman at the end of this period, the report has been prepared by the Parish Clerk and has been circulated to the Parish Council for their scrutiny.

During the period the Parish Council has lost the services of Martin Dinning, Barrie Roberts, Tracy Morris and Michael Dunn, all of whom made a significant contributions to the work of the Parish Council during their time in office. For some time the Parish Council has not had its full complement of councillors (10). Recruitment therefore remains a serious concern, if the Parish Council is to continue to function properly. During this period been fortunate to welcome Councillors Jemma Gromadzki and Liz Miller on to the Parish Council.

Although demands on the Parish Council's budget are unpredictable and may increase, it was felt appropriate not to increase the Parish Precept this year, thereby not increasing the burden on rate-payers at the time of a cost-of-living crisis.

Various recurring issues that confront the Parish Council are familiar to parishioners, including the state of the roads in the village, speeding through the village, flooding, the pollution of the River Lugg and the maintenance of the drainage systems. Some progress has been made on some of these issues, as follows

- \* parts of the C1125 through Bodenham Moor have been resurfaced, thereby removing many potholes, though speeding has reportedly increased as a result of a smoother surface. Section 106 funding will be used to install permissive white lines, and a pin surface with 30mph roundels from the A417 to Rowberry Lane:

- \* the Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been deployed regularly throughout the village and is proven to reduce speeds. The Parish Council is negotiating with Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council for an additional base for the SID to be created at the Hereford end of the C1125:

- \* Balfour Beatty undertook repairs to the C1125 at the Hereford end of the village following the repeated flooding there during the exceptionally wet autumn and winter. Further work on the drainage system is needed, however.

- \* The Parish Council and Bodenham Flood Protection Group have been jointly awarded a grant from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner for flood warning signs in Millcroft Road and Ketch Lane.

A major function of the Parish Council is to consider planning applications. In 2022-23 21 planning applications came before the Parish Council, but in 2023-24 only 7 were received - reflecting the current ban on new housing in North Herefordshire, which has been introduced to mitigate the pollution of the Rivers Lugg and Wye.

The Parish Council works closely with, and is supportive of, Bodenham Parish Hall. It awards an annual grant to the Bodenham Parish Hall Management Committee which actively manages a whole variety of activities that take place at the parish hall. The hall was used by the Parish Council to provide refreshments for the volunteers participating in the litter picks in November 2023 and March 2024, the latter benefitting from the assistance of an enthusiastic group from Lugg Valley Young Farmers.

The Parish Council also gives an annual grant to St Michael and All Angels Church towards the cutting of the grass in the churchyard. Additional aspects of community support from the Parish Council have been:

- \* re-siting the dog waste bin at the school:
- \* giving commemorative Coronation mugs to all the children in the school:
- \* replacing the wooden posts along Church Road to prevent parking on the verge:
- \* supporting the village fete by funding the St John Ambulance provision at the fete.

The Parish Lengthsman - Mr Richard Morgan - has maintained the appearance of the village to a high standard, especially by cutting the grass on the village green and around the Surgery, which Balfour Beatty cut only intermittently during the season.

Other issues which have been addressed in 2023-24 include:

- \* the Parish Council noticeboard opposite the school has been replaced:
- \* a replacement for the Parish Council noticeboard diagonally opposite the Surgery has been ordered:
- \* the hexagonal seat around a tree on the village green has been removed - it was unsafe - and a replacement has been ordered:
- \* a memorial seat for the late Councillor Richard Layton has been ordered:
- \* the audit of the Parish Council's finances was successful.

The Parish Council is grateful to the Siward James Centre for the use of their meeting room for Parish Council meetings on the first Wednesday of each month.



Back in February Jon Lydon sent me two poems written by his late wife, Bobbi. You might remember the one published that month, a charming and thoughtful poem about a drain in Chapel Lane.

The second poem is a wistfully evocative and struck a chord with me personally because reading it took me back to the last day of May, eleven years ago, when my mum, died on just such a soft evening.

After several months of treatment for cancer, it was clear that all the amazing surgery and care by the doctors and nurses in Hereford, Worcester, Cheltenham and Leominster, had failed to defeat the disease and she was moved to St Michael's Hospice.

It was a move that we as a family were reluctant to take, having no experience of hospices, they seemed like gloomy scary places.

But the reality couldn't have been more different. As soon as you walk through their doors the overwhelming feeling is of serenity and calm.

Mum's room had french windows that opened wide on that last late spring day, looking out over the gardens and glorious open Herefordshire countryside.

Peaceful. Sad. Beautiful. When I read Bobbi's poem I was back in that evening she could have been there that evening.

So, in memory of, my mum, Shirley, the very talented poet, Bobbi, and in tribute to St Michael's Hospice and all its amazing staff, past and present here is. . . . .

## **Back in ..English Twilight**

**If life is to leave me with slow fading  
in a soft May evening,  
let there be someone who  
will lift me to an open window  
where I can feel cool air on  
my pale face.  
And see green lawns under white  
lilacs.**

**There to hear the pearly song of a  
blackbird  
spilling from the hawthorn  
and smell the creamy scent that falls  
from its frothy flowers.**

**These protracted moments  
when day meets dusk,  
will mark the line  
of living and leaving.**

**They will be  
captured  
web-wrapped  
eternally suspended .**

**And I shall know, though night will  
paint this scene with darkness,  
no fear of its coming .**

***Bobbi Lydon***

## **From the Editor**

The next newsletter is the double July/August issue and then we will be halfway through the year and four days away from the general election. Yay!

**Advance Notice** - due to a family occasion in September / October there will be another double issue for those months.

Contributors please bear in mind that the deadline for July/August is 18th June and the deadline for September/October is 18th August.

Please where possible have your notices ready for both months in each case.

We now have well over 250 subscribers to the enewsletter, and more are welcome. It's free you just need to go to [www.bodenhamnewsletter.co.uk](http://www.bodenhamnewsletter.co.uk) and fill in the form on the site and the newsletter will be delivered to your inbox promptly every month.

Bonus: It will be in full colour!

Contact [susan@bodenhamnewsletter.co.uk](mailto:susan@bodenhamnewsletter.co.uk) if you have any queries.