



BISHOPSTONE GROUP
PARISH
Newsletter



Have you visited our very own parish website yet?

www.bishopstonegroupparish.co.uk

Issue 22

September 2009

This newsletter is produced and distributed to every house in the five parishes for the purpose of communicating the activities of the Bishopstone and District Group Parish Council and other events being held locally.

Bishopstone and District Group Parish Council

The members of the Parish Council are elected to represent all residents of the villages in the group and can influence decisions made by the various departments of the County Council and other Government organisations such as the Police and Fire Brigade.

Please contact your councillor if you have any concerns on: -

Housing and Planning, Roads, Traffic, Public Transport and Rights of Way, Refuse Disposal and Waste Recycling or any other local issues

List of Parish Councillors

Village represented	Name	Tel. number
Bishopstone	Trevor Hunt	590325
	John Macklin (Vice Chairman)	590620
	Brian Merrick	590679
	Denise Shaw	07929 793406
	John Verry	590680
Bridge Sollars	Lillian Allsop	590210
	Gary Malins	590601
Byford	Sue Hubbard	590319
	Sharon Knights	590626
	Penny Redshaw (Chairman)	590634
Kenchester	Muriel Holmes	590233
	Petra Hickey	590630
Mansell Gamage	Cathie Draper	590284
	Adrian French	590762

Clerk to the Council Barry Megson Telephone Number 590691

Parish Paths Officers

Village represented	Name	Tel. number
Bishopstone	John Macklin	590620
Byford & Mansell Gamage	Sue Hubbard	590319
Bridge Sollars	Lillian Allsop	590210
Kenchester	John Macklin	590620

Herefordshire County Councillor

Adrian Blackshaw Tel:01432 260201 (contact via Herefordshire Council offices)

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 17th September and the following one on 12th November.

These will be held at The Portway Inn Hotel, Staunton-on-Wye starting at 7.30 pm unless otherwise advised.

Parish Plan

Members of Focus groups, ensuring that the Bishopstone Group Parish Plan is implemented, are as follows:-

Traffic and Rights of Way –John Verry and Sue Hubbard

Local services – To be appointed

Housing and Planning – Petra Hickey (Kenchester), Brian Merrick (Bishopstone), Gary Malins (Bridge Sollars), Cathy Draper (Mansel Gamage) and Muriel Holmes (Byford)

Recycling – Penny Redshaw

Community Centre – John Macklin and Sue Hubbard

Web Page

Readers with access to a computer can read Council notices, past issues of this newsletter and other local information on the Parish Council **Web site**. This can be reached by logging on to www.Bishopstonegroupparish.co.uk

Notice Boards

The appointed key holders for the Notice Boards in each village are :-

Bridge Sollars	Gary Malins	Tel. 590601
Byford	Penny Redshaw	Tel. 590634
Byford Common	Sue Hubbard	Tel. 590319
Kenchester	Petra Hickey	Tel. 590630
Mansell Gamage	Adrian French	Tel. 590762

If you wish to display any article of public interest, please contact your local key holder.

Recycling Facility

There is a local recycling facility at Oakchurch Farm Shop on the main A438 near Staunton-on-Wye.

Sandbag provision.

The sandbag stores are at the bottom of Bishon Lane, Bishopstone, in Mansell Gamage and at Bridge Sollars, are now in place. In times of flooding call 01981 590 691 for assistance with sandbags.

Parish Freighter and Box Van

The next visit to Byford will be on Saturday 26th September between 11am and 1pm.

The visit to Bishopstone will be on 24th October also between 11am and 1pm.

Byford Common Notice Board



The new notice board at Byford Common is finally in place. The photo shows Parish Councillors Brian Merrick, who kindly erected it, and Sue Hubbard - the key holder.

Welcome to Your Parish Council Meeting

What Happens Next?

- 1) The Chairman (who is there to manage the meeting) will welcome all present and open the meeting. As well as Parish Councillors and other members of the public, your local County Councillor and a Police Officer may also be present.
- 2) Please look at the Agenda (which is the order of business for this meeting).
- 3) As an elected body there are a number of procedures which are legally required, such as approving the minutes and agreeing finances etc. before continuing.
- 4) If you wish to ask a question or speak about something (whether or not it is on the Agenda) you will be given an opportunity to express your views during Public Question Time. If necessary your point may then be included on the next agenda, for Parish Council discussion.
- 5) If the item which you previously spoke of is already on the Agenda, for example “The Provision of Allotments” during that Agenda item you may at the Chairman's discretion be allowed to add to your previous comments.

6) The Parish Council employ a Clerk who will usually be sitting near the Chairman; it is the role of the Clerk to take notes (minutes) of the proceedings and advise the Parish Council on legal and procedural matters as well as dealing with correspondence.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Who are my Parish Councillors?

A Parish Councillors are local people who at the time of election qualify by living or working either within 3 miles (as the crow flies) or by having business premises in the Parish.

Q How did they become Parish Councillors?

A They are elected by the Parish generally every fourth year. There can be other appointments if a vacancy occurs mid term following a retirement, for example.

For more information speak to your Parish Council Clerk

Q How much are they paid?

A Parish Councillors do not get paid.

Q How do I get the Council to discuss my point?

A By having your point on the Agenda.

Q How?

A By contacting the Parish Council Clerk at least seven working days before the next meeting. This gives the Clerk time to place your item on the agenda and also gives Councillors the opportunity to do any research required prior to the meeting.

Remember your Parish Council is the first level of elected government and is there to represent YOU.

Housing Needs Survey -Affordable Homes for Local People

At the Bishopstone and District Group Parish Council meeting held on the 7th May 2009, Councillors received a presentation on rural affordable housing from Keith Parry, the Rural Housing Enabler for Herefordshire, and the perceived difficulties that local people were having in securing homes at costs they could afford. He explained that he is employed by Community First, and funded from grants supplied by Herefordshire Council and seven Housing Associations who operate across the County. The post of Rural Housing Enabler was created in order to support Herefordshire Council in its housing role and to bring a new focus on the delivery of rural affordable housing schemes in smaller settlement areas, where a housing need is evident.

The Parish Council considered the matter and agreed that the Rural Housing Enabler could undertake a Housing Needs Survey across the Parish in order to assess if there is sufficient local housing need to justify the provision of new affordable homes.

Within the next few weeks a survey form with a covering letter will be sent to every address in the Parish, and householders will be asked to complete the form and return it in a pre-paid envelope. Names and addresses of respondents will not be required to protect confidentiality.

When the returned forms are collated and analysed the Parish Council will meet to consider the draft results, before taking any further action in the matter.

If you receive a form, please take time to complete and return it, as such information is important to establish whether or not there is a housing need in the area.

If you wish to discuss the matter with Keith Parry, or have any queries, please contact him at Community First, 41a Bridge Street, Hereford, or telephone 07970 650866.

Take a Pew

'Take a Pew' at St. Andrew's church, Bridge Sollars on Saturday September 12th combined with the annual 'Ride and Stride' sponsored fundraising day for the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust.

The church will be selling its pews to make space for the community centre and 'Take a Pew' project will be altering and refurbishing the pews. Two of these will be on display and from 10.30 to 12.30 there will be a member of the project team to discuss what size pew prospective buyers might require to meet their needs and to advise them of cost, availability and delivery dates. The workforce involved in this project includes adults from disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities who are trained and competent in the skills required to process the wooden pews. A qualified person manages and supervises the workforce.

Light refreshments will be served from 10.30 to 12.30 and we look forward to seeing lots of visitors!

New Bridge Community Centre

While we are waiting for the legal documents from the Diocesan Registrar, we have installed the water pipe from the nearest supply point (near Nelson Cottages) into the churchyard thanks to the generosity of a local contractor.

This involves the laying of 750 metres (nearly ½ mile) of 25 mm plastic pipe buried to a depth of 900 mm below ground level. Two deep ditches were crossed which required additional excavation to ensure the pipe was still 900 mm below the bottom of the ditch.



The photograph shows the pipe being laid.

You will be getting regular reports on progress through this Newsletter, but if anyone has questions or concerns in the meantime please contact John Macklin (590620) or Sue Hubbard (590319.)

Kick Start

Herefordshire Council has had a long history of providing grants to local people to improve their homes. With fewer resources however, it has become increasingly difficult to fund the amount of improvements necessary to really help people in the kind of way the Council would like. Under the circumstances, the discretionary major repair grants for owner-occupiers are no longer available. Financial assistance will only be available for small scale emergency repairs.

However, the Council has now joined the ‘West Midlands Kick Start Partnership’. The aim of the partnership is to support low income and vulnerable homeowners by offering them a range of affordable loans to help with home repairs and improvements. The loans are based on individual circumstances and are designed specifically for home owners unable to obtain affordable finance from high street banks/building societies.

Whether you have a leaking roof, need new windows or a new kitchen or bathroom, ‘You at Home’ – Herefordshire Council’s Home Improvement Agency can help you access an affordable loan and will offer guidance every step of the way.

Please refer to the enclosed leaflet for further information and if you would like to find out more please contact ‘You at Home’ on :-

Telephone: 0845 002 0097

Fax: 01432 260357

E-mail: yah@herefordshire.gov.uk

Call in to our office based at: 84 Whitecross Road, Hereford, HR4 0DH



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Local Pub shows why we must use the Sustainable Communities Act

A new Sustainable Communities Act comes into force on July 31, and local campaigner Jesse Norman has urged local people to "use it or lose it".

Jesse was speaking last week at the site of the new Kilpeck Inn, which local entrepreneur Neil Kerr is rebuilding on the site of the old Red Lion pub in Kilpeck, which closed four years ago. With them were master builder Neil Hurcombe and his team of Mark Moss, Bill Smithers and Mick Davy.

Planning permission for the new pub was granted after a very active local "Save Our Pub" campaign, in which 180 local people petitioned for the site not to be sold off for residential development.

"Like schools and post offices, local pubs are vital to our villages and community life," said Jesse. "Yet they are being wiped out by recession and misguided government policy.

"But we can use the Sustainable Communities Act to reverse this process. The Act is a superb piece of legislation, which gives local communities the chance for the first time to get their own local ideas for change put into practice.

"These ideas can include not just pubs, but promoting local food, supporting local businesses through variable rate relief, protecting green spaces and reducing pollution.

"The Council had until July 31 to assess local proposals for change and then put them forward to central government.

So I would urge all local community organisations and parish councils to think now what changes would make a real difference to our county."

More information can be obtained via Anthony Bush at Herefordshire Council or via www.localworks.org.

LEOMINSTER SHOPMOBILITY

Portable Electric Scooters

I should just like to draw your attention, and that of your readers, to our two new electric Portable Scooters.

If you, or someone you know, has a mobility problem, and you are planning a holiday. If the free use of a portable scooter would make a difference to your enjoyment and independence, then get in touch with Leominster [Shopmobility](#).

Thanks to the generosity of Help the Aged, we have just purchased two new portable electric scooters which can be taken apart and put into the boot of a car. We will lend these to anyone to take away and use on their holiday, or for any other valid purpose.

And it is all totally free of charge. We do ask for a £25 deposit which we hold at Leominster Shopmobility and return to the borrower when they return the scooter.

To enquire about availability please ring Leominster Shopmobility on 01568 616755, or call in and see the scooters between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday, or 10am to 1pm on Saturday mornings.

Credenhill (Benifice) Embroiderers

We are a group of beginners, at present meeting at Mansel Lacy, who are learning the art of Gold thread Embroidery with the intention of creating new works of art for the community and conserving old work. We received a grant from 'Awards For All' to set up the group. This covers tuition fees and rent for a space to work for 12 months plus some money for equipment (i.e extra lighting) and administration costs. Our tutor is Mrs. Jean Wells from Credenhill who has a wealth of experience and expertise. The group is open to anyone who is interested, either within or outside the benefice.

One of our members is currently working on the repair of an alter frontal for Whitney Church near Hay-on-Wye and the group have just completed new white hangings for Mansel Lacy Church - the materials of which were paid for by a generous grant from the Friends of Herefordshire Museums and Arts. Our remit is not exclusively for church work and at present we are honing our skills by working on individual pictures using gold leathers and threads.

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information about what we could do please contact;

Tutor; Mrs Jean Wells 01432761647

Chairperson. Rev'd Angela Deane 01981 590615

Treasurer; Mrs Caroline Barrett 01981 590706

Hospice shares its thanks with all

'For all that is past, thanks; all that is to come, yes.'

Dag Hammarskjöld (former Secretary-General to the United Nations)

A service of Thanksgiving will be taking place on Sunday 18th October at Hereford Cathedral at 3.30 pm, as part of St Michael's Hospice's Silver Anniversary celebrations. All are welcome to attend this delightful service and will be blessed by music from Tarrington Brass and the Hospice Choir (made up of staff and volunteers).

The Hospice wished to take the opportunity to thank all those who have supported it over the past 25 years, whether by kind and encouraging words, volunteering or fundraising. St Michael's receives outstanding support from the local community; this auspicious anniversary provides the ideal opportunity to thank everyone, be they supporters, volunteers or staff. It also provides the possibility to celebrate, to recruit new supporters and to raise much needed funds to ensure the Hospice is able to continue offering and developing its services over the next 25 years and beyond.

Lunch by the River

The 'Lunch by the River' event held on the 30th August was a great success raising £1051 for Byford Church thanks to all who helped especially Arthur and Maggi who allowed their marquee to be used.

FORGET ME NOT
GRAVE TENDING SERVICES

Are you unable to visit a loved ones grave as often as you would wish to.

We offer a reasonably priced grave tending service.

For leaflet/price list,
Tel: 01432 880615.

More than 40 Herefordshire walks to download and print FREE!

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So www.walkinginhereford.co.uk came into being.

www.walkinginhereford.co.uk gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County:

Details of more than 40 walks to download and print free, details of all the Herefordshire walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information.

So check out the website and get walking!



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

A local steering group, which includes members of the Ramblers and the Ross Walking Group, have recently achieved recognition for Ross-on-Wye as a 'walker friendly' town. To celebrate this new status the group have organised a walking festival over the weekend 3/4 October. Each day 7 or 8 local walks will be led by volunteers from one of our walking groups. For further details contact the tourist information office or check out the websites: www.ross-on-wyewalkersarewelcome.co.uk or www.rosswalkinggroup.co.uk

Wartime Harvest Memories by Sue Hubbard

The work of the wartime Land Army girls and "Lumber Jills" has been highlighted over the last couple of years, especially with the recent award of their well-deserved medals. But who now remembers the School Harvest Camps that began in 1940 and their vital contribution to the war effort?

For a small island at war, dependent on shipping for everything that it couldn't grow itself, farm production was absolutely vital. Between 1939 and 1944 farmers in Herefordshire more than doubled the amount of land under plough and the 1944 harvest was the largest ever known in the history of the county. But who was to get these harvests in? Many of the usual seasonal workers had been lured away to the city to fill shells or make aeroplane parts, and the Land Army, willing though they were, couldn't make up the difference alone.

The answer was to recruit an army of boys and girls from schools and youth groups to set up camp in the county for a few weeks and learn new skills on the farm. Many of them came from the public schools, for example Rugby boys were at Bishopstone, Repton at Brockhampton, Haileybury at Evesbatch, and there was a Varsity and Public Schools Camp at Moccas. But others were represented too, so Norton Canon played host to Sowerby Bridge School from Yorkshire, and the boys of Barford Road Secondary School from Ladywood in Birmingham camped at Byford. For some of the children it was their first visit to the country, like the hundred girls and boys from a youth centre in industrial Swansea who camped at Breinton in 1944.

The farmers were doubtful at first, fearing that their new workers might be more trouble than they were worth, and the locals got quite a bit of entertainment from watching early attempts to use a pitchfork or lead a horse.. But by the end of the first season they had been won over by the enthusiasm and hard work of their new recruits. The youngsters tackled everything that they were asked to do, from stooking, stacking, leading, loading and threshing to fruit picking, potato lifting, muck spreading and thistle cutting. Many of them enjoyed learning to drive a tractor and one lad from a Newcastle school got on so well that he was promoted to assistant cowman at the end of his first week at Instone Court near Bromyard.

Conditions were fairly Spartan as they slept in tents, washed in enamel bowls of cold water and cooked for themselves using a “blitz cooker” over a trench fire. They took it in turns to get up at half past six to light the fire for breakfast and then there were sandwiches to make and potatoes to peel for supper before they went off to work on the various farms to which they had been allotted. But the farmer’s wife often invited the hungry teenagers to sit down and share dinner with the family and gave them pies or cakes to take back to their camp. They worked a full day, from 8 to 5 on Monday to Friday and 8 to 12 on Saturday but in their free time there was countryside to explore, invitations to local fetes, agricultural shows and cricket matches, and visits to Hereford and the market towns. One of the Barford Road boys, writing in the Herefordshire Lore “In Our Age” magazine in 2006, remembered the joy of breathing clean, fresh air and being free of the danger of bombing, and how he and his friends enjoyed swimming and fishing in the river that ran past their camping field. He also remembered the interesting effect on his group of 14 year olds of the glasses of homemade cider they were offered after each load of sheaves delivered to the barn!

The School Harvest Camps scheme did all that was required of it by helping to feed the country during the dark days of the war. It also had another unforeseen effect in introducing schoolboys and girls to a county and a way of life that they would never have experienced otherwise.. One of the Repton boys summed it up as he wrote of his affection for the “smiling, friendly people living in a beautiful sunny county ---- As I left I vowed that I would return there as soon as I could and I have since decided that, should I ever have the opportunity, I would like to make Hereford my home county and live there for the rest of my life.” I wonder if he did.



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Web: www.bordersindependentliving.co.uk

Wackey Walkers

The June Walk, led by Andrew and Anne Culley, took place on Saturday 28th June starting and finishing at Balance Inn at Luston. The walk, generally on footpaths across fields, visited Eye Church and crossed the main Hereford/Shrewsbury railway line. Afterwards most people stayed for a meal at the Balance Inn.

The July walk, led by David and Hazel Macklin, was from the Bunch of Carrots Inn, Hampton Bishop, along the footpath following the bank of the River Wye to Mordiford, following the Wye Valley Walk back to Hampton Bishop and minor roads through the village returning to the Bunch of Carrots Inn for lunch. An eaglet was spotted among the many water birds on the river.

In August, the walk, led by Jim and Wyn Fisk, followed the Mordiford Loop. Leaving the Moon Inn, a long steep climb at the start was rewarded by splendid views over Herefordshire. The walk continued over meadows and woodland via Backbury Hill and Checkley, before looping back to the Moon.

The next walk will start from the Temple Bar Inn at Ewyas Harold, meeting at 10.15 am on Saturday 19th September. It will climb up to and through the Common then on to Dulas, passing through the grounds of Dulas Court before returning to the Temple Bar.

The walks normally take place on either the third or fourth Saturday in each month. They often start at a Public House where bar snacks can be enjoyed after the walk. Many walkers stay, but this is optional! The starting place and time are announced in the County Section of the Hereford Times under Bishopstone.

Forthcoming Events

Bishopstone

Make a note in your diary!!

Saturday 28th November is the date for the **Christmas Fayre** in the village. See the Notice Board for details nearer the time.

Bridge Sollars

‘Take a Pew’ Saturday 12th September – See article on page 6.

Byford

A fireworks party will be held on Saturday 7th November starting at 7pm in the field opposite the beeyard just below Byford Church. Park in the Beeyard.

Admission (to include refreshments)

£5 for Adults, £2 for 5 to 16 year olds, under 5s free

Profit will be split equally between Byford Church and The New Bridge Community Centre.

The times of services for all our churches can be found on the Parish Council **Web site**. Log on to www.Bishopstonegroupparish.co.uk

Other local activities

Tuesdays in September at the Cathedral

Lunchtime organ concerts, with including large screen projection, given each Tuesday in September (except Tuesday 9 June – see below). Free admission, retiring collection. 1.15-2 pm

Friday 18 September

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE: illustrated talk by David Bellamy, The Palace, Hereford, Friday 18th of September, 6.30-7.30 light refreshments in the Palace gardens, 7.30-8.30 illustrated talk on churchyards. £8 per person book via Caring for God's Acre 01568 611154

Monday 21 & Tuesday 22 September

Broadcast of concerts from this year's Three Choirs Festival on BBC Radio 3's *Performance on 3*. Radio listings for times.

Saturday 10 October

Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Festival service to which all are welcome. Hereford Cathedral 5.30 pm

Sunday 15 November

Roadpeace Service for those affected by road traffic accidents. Hereford Cathedral 3.30 pm

Future Editions – Send copy to David Macklin Greenwalls Bishopstone
Tel. 590627 or e-mail to davidmacklin2002@yahoo.co.uk