

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

This is a chronological summary of the BFPG's main activities and the principal events in which it has been involved between 20 July 2007 and 1 January 2021. Fuller details can be found in the Minutes of the Group's monthly meetings [here](#).

The summary does **not** include more routine activities, such as the Group's monthly meetings, working party sessions, and social events, such as coffee mornings, barbecues, bonfire parties and quiz nights. Details of these can also be found in the Minutes.

To make them easier to find the following types of activity have been side-lined below:

- Significant Events ■      Ketch Lane/ Orchard Close culverts ■      Advice/ support to others ■
- Research ■      Public Relations ■

Except where stated, references to the Chairman and the Secretary are to Tony Mitcheson and Babs Mitcheson respectively.

	Date	Organisation	Event	Remarks
	20 Jul 2007		St Michael's Church was flooded and some 40 dwellings in Bodenham Moor were damaged by flash flooding down the Millcroft Brook, the Moor Brook and Riffins Brooks. A large number of other properties had water in their garages, outhouses and gardens.	
	23 Aug 2007	Herefordshire Council Highway Authority/ River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB)	The Millcroft Brook was walked by representatives of Herefordshire Council Highway Authority, the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RL IDB) and Bodenham Parish Council.	
	23 Aug 07 - 9 Sep 07	River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RL IDB)	The RLIDB constructed a relief channel for the Millcroft Brook through Millcroft Farm.	

11 Jan 2008		Following heavy rain, the relief channel operated for the first time.	
22 Jan 2008	Bodenham Parish Council	A public meeting was held in the Parish Hall to hear and discuss what measures the local authorities would be taking to prevent a recurrence	The Meeting was chaired by the Ward Councillor, Cllr Keith Grumbley, and was attended by representatives of Herefordshire Council, the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB) and the Environment Agency, together with about 100 members of the public. (Herefordshire Council's Highway Authority were invited to attend, but instead submitted a statement which was read to the Meeting).
4 Feb 2008	Bodenham Parish Council	It was clear from the public meeting that the authorities could do little to mitigate the flood risk, so at its monthly Meeting local residents urged the Parish Council to take the initiative and to form a group to deal with flooding issues. Cllr Tony Clark agreed to establish a sub-committee capable of carrying out the self-help action necessary to monitor drains and watercourses, to keep them clear of debris and to take other precautions.	The other precautions, included maintaining stocks of sandbags, identifying those residents who, owing to age or infirmity, would need help in an emergency, and establishing contact with the National Flood Forum and with other local organisations.
13 Feb 2008		First informal meeting of the self-help group which was to become the Bodenham Flood Protection Group (BFPG).	Subsequent informal meetings were held in the Siward James Centre on 25 March, 22 April, 20 May, 24 June and 22 July.
18 Feb 2008		Cllr Clark organised a walk of the Millcroft Brook to identify problem areas.	A plan of action was made to clear Millcroft Brook of overgrown shrubbery and silt.
2 May 2008		First working party session held to fill sandbags at the Parish Hall.	Subsequent working party sessions to fill sandbags at the Parish Hall and distribute them round the Village were held on 9 May, 30 May, 20 June and 27 June.
9 – 12 May 2008	River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB)	The RLIDB widened the Millcroft Brook along the Millcroft Farm orchard	
6 Jun 2008		First working party session held in the Millcroft Brook to clear the Ketch Lane culverts.	In this session and on 13 June eleven builders' bags of silt, a 30mph sign, a large plastic water tank and several large boulders were removed from the culverts.

11 Jun 2008	<i>The Hereford Times</i>	Article about the formation of the BFPG and its initial working parties to fill sandbags and clear the Ketch Lane culverts.		
26 Jul 2008	Herefordshire Council's	Flood Protection Seminar at the Courtyard in Hereford.		The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a short talk describing the action which Bodenham had taken to improve the Village's flood precautions and resilience.
7 Aug 2008		First BFPG Barbecue held at Millcroft Farm.		
19 Aug 2008		Inaugural Meeting of the BFPG.		Tony Troia elected as first Chairman.
17 Oct 2008	Herefordshire Council's Highways Authority	A second public meeting, chaired by Cllr Tilford, was held in the Parish Hall and this provided some 100 local residents with an opportunity to raise their concerns directly with Mr Martin Jackson of Herefordshire Council's Highways Authority.		Following the Meeting the allocation of responsibilities for the maintenance and repair of watercourses in the Parish was agreed between Herefordshire Council, the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board and the Parish Council. [Unfortunately, this agreement was never fully implemented.]
23 Oct 2008	Government Opposition	The Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire, Mr Bill Wiggin MP, visited Millcroft Farm for a meeting with members of the BFPG's Committee and was briefed on the flooding situation.		Somewhat disappointingly he adopted the line that he could not help because flooding was a matter for Herefordshire Council.
8 Nov 2008		First BFPG Bonfire Party held at Millcroft Farm.		
Nov 2008	Bishops Frome Parish Council	The Council expressed an interest in sending a representative to one of the Group's Meetings.		An invitation was sent to the Parish, but not taken up.
27 Jan 2009	Hydro-Logic Ltd	At the request of the BFPG Mr Rod Hawnt, founder and Managing Director of Hydro-Logic Ltd, produced a hydrological report on the Ketch Lane culverts. He presented this at the monthly Meeting and it showed that the culverts were too small to match the capacity of the channel upstream even in normal circumstances. He demonstrated that, when the watercourse upstream of the culverts still has ample spare capacity because the Millcroft Farm		He added that the risk is compounded because the small diameter of these twin culverts means that they are prone to becoming blocked by large items of debris carried down the Brook, thus increasing the danger of flooding upstream. He recommended that they should be replaced by "a new culvert, or bridge, to increase the discharge capacity under Ketch Lane, up to a design standard of a 1 in 100 year flood event."

			relief channel has not even begun to operate, the culverts themselves are already surcharged.	
11 - 13 Feb 2009	River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB)		The RLIDB widened the Millcroft Brook along Powis' field upstream from the Ketch Lane culverts.	
14 Feb 2009			First BFPG Coffee Morning in the Siward James Centre.	
9 Mar 2009	Herefordshire Council		Committee Meeting with Mr Martin Jackson, Construction Projects Team Leader, Herefordshire Highway Authority. Cllr Keith Grumbley (Ward Councillor), Mr Les Harrison (Engineer, River Lugg Internal Drainage Board), Mr Rod Hawnt (Hydrologist), Mrs Patricia Sandford (Orchard Close Representative), Cllr David Tilford, (Chairman, Bodenham Parish Council) were also present.	Mr Jackson was asked for Herefordshire Council's response to the Pitt Report which had made the Council a Lead Local Flood Authority. The improvement of the inadequate drainage and sewage system in Orchard Close by Herefordshire Council and the replacement by the owner of 21, Orchard Close of the drain across the rear of his property were discussed. Mr Hawnt gave a presentation to Mr Jackson on the findings of his investigation on the capacity of the Millcroft Brook to cope with water run-off in severe weather conditions and Mr Jackson was asked what funds were available for improvements to the Brook and other flood precautions, what Herefordshire Council's medium and long term flood alleviation plans were, and on what tasks the BFPG should focus. No very satisfactory answers emerged to any of these issues.
5 Jun 2009	Government Opposition		Mr Bill Wiggin MP paid a second visit to Bodenham as part of a tour of flood-affected villages in his constituency.	
21 Nov 2009			First BFPG Quiz Night in the Parish Hall.	
Jan 2010	Herefordshire Council		The Council commissioned consultant hydrologist, Mr Brian Faulkner, to carry out studies of flood risks in some 23 locations across the County, including Bodenham, and to make recommendations on how these might be alleviated.	In response to a request from Mr Faulkner for information about the damage caused by the July 2007 flood in Bodenham, the Secretary carried out a survey in which residents stated whether or not their property had been damaged and the costs incurred. Although the survey was incomplete, because not all residents knew the cost (if it had been paid by their insurer), or were prepared (for insurance and/ or property value reasons) to admit to being flooded, the total cost recorded was well over £500,000.

Apr 2010	Herefordshire Council	Mr Faulkner submitted to Herefordshire Council his Report on the mitigation of flood risks at 23 locations in the County.	
4 May 2010	<i>The Hereford Times</i>	Breakfast at Saxty's in Hereford to meet the new Editor, Fiona Phillips.	The Chairman (Tricia Sanford) and Secretary attended.
Jan 2011	Herefordshire Council	The BFPG finally received extracts from Mr Faulkner's Report on the mitigation of flood risks.	In these he assessed that the 2007 flood was "statistically between a 3.3% to 2% Annual Equivalent Probability (AEP) event, (1 in 30 to 1 [in] 50 probability) ..." and that: "The option to Do Nothing is ... an unlikely alternative." He then set out four possible schemes or options: 1. Replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts; 2. Regular maintenance; 3 & 4 In addition to 1 & 2, the construction of an attenuation reservoir upstream of the culverts.
8 Jan 2011	Amey Herefordshire	A section of the wall along the North side of the Millcroft Brook just East of the Ketch Lane culverts collapsed into the watercourse.	CLlr Clark reported this to Amey the same day and, with CLlr Mitcheson, removed the collapsed wall from the stream bed where it was causing an obstruction. After a slow start Amey completed the repairs to the wall three months later.
22 Feb 2011	Herefordshire Council/ Amey Herefordshire	Martin Jackson, Amey's Bridges and Structures Manager, attended the monthly BFPG Meeting.	He updated members on Brian Faulkner's Report on his Flood Risk Assessment Study for Herefordshire Council.
10 Mar 2011	UK Flood Barriers Ltd, Droitwich	Visit by 11 BFPG members to see the available range of flood protection equipment for residential properties.	There was a demonstration in a flood tank of flood protection equipment and their actual effectiveness. UK Flood Barriers later supplied and fitted the majority of the flood protection equipment provided under the Environment Agency grant.
Apr 2011	Amey Herefordshire	Amey completed their replacement of the collapsed retaining wall at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction.	Very regrettably, Amey's workmen had to face some extremely unpleasant and totally unjustified abuse from a small number of members of the public who for their own selfish reasons objected to the road closure while work was in progress.
12 May 2011	Environment Agency/ Herefordshire Council/ Amey Herefordshire	The Environment Agency announced that £144,500 had been allocated to help protect some 34 properties in the Parish. Work on what became referred to locally as 'Project Bodenham' started almost immediately. It was managed by Amey Herefordshire	The Secretary did her best to relieve Amey of as much of the administrative burden as possible by providing local knowledge, communication links between Amey and individual property owners, and an interface between the equipment manufacturers and individual residents. The aim of this was, first, to keep administrative costs down and thus ensure that as much as

			while the BFPG Secretary assumed the role of project facilitator.	possible of the available funding was devoted to flood protection and, second, to make sure that the momentum of the Project was maintained.
5 Jul 2011	UK Flood Barriers Ltd, Droitwich		Visit by 15 BFPG members to see the available range of flood protection equipment for residential properties.	As above on 10 March 2011.
26 Jul 2011	Brimfield & Little Hereford Parish Council		Visit by three members to BFPG Monthly Meeting	Mr Robin Barber (Chairman), Mr David Swain (Vice-Chairman) and Ms Karen Yates (Parish Clerk) attended.
25 Aug 2011	Brimfield & Little Hereford Parish Council		BFPG visit to Brimfield to see and advise on flooding in the Village, followed by public meeting to discuss flooding issues.	The Chairman gave a presentation on the BFPG. The Secretary and Treasurer (Tony Clark) also attended. The Environment Agency (Dan Trewin) and Herefordshire Council/ Amey (Martin Jackson) also gave presentations, in which they commended the BFPG's self-help approach.
2 Sep 2011	Brimfield & Little Hereford Parish Council		Visit by Cllr John Stone (Herefordshire Council) and Cllr John Llewellyn (Brimfield Parish Council) to a BFPG working party session.	
12 Sep 2012	Mary Dhonau Associates/ Amey Herefordshire		'Project Bodenham' Open Day in the Siward James Centre organised by the BFPG with Mary Dhonau's help to allow recipients of the Personal Property Level (PPL) grant to see flood protection equipment currently available and make their choices.	
13 Sep 2012	Mary Dhonau Associates/ Amey Herefordshire		'Project Bodenham' 'Village Evening' in the Siward James Centre organised by the BFPG with Mary Dhonau's help to allow other local residents to see flood protection equipment currently available and order it, if they wished.	
12 Oct 2011	Herefordshire Council		The BFPG were declared the winners of the 'Environmental Champions' category in the annual Pride of Herefordshire Awards.	The Chairman and Secretary attended the Awards ceremony on behalf of the Group and the Secretary collected the trophy, certificate, a bottle of champagne and a cheque for £100.
7 Nov 2011	Herefordshire Council/ <i>Know Your Flood Risk</i>		Countywide 'Flood Day' and Launch of the <i>Know Your Flood Risk Campaign</i>	The event was organised by Mary Dhonau and held in Bodenham Parish Hall with administration and refreshments

	Campaign/ Environment Agency/ Mary Dhonau Associates		provided by the BFPG. An Exhibition of flood protection equipment by 12 suppliers was followed in the evening by an open forum on flood insurance hosted and broadcast by BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester. More than 100 members of the public attended. Mr Rod Hawnt, founder and MD of Hydro-Logic Ltd, announced his donation of an early warning telemetry system to the Parish.
29 Nov 2011	Brimfield & Little Hereford Flood Group	Inaugural Meeting of the Group at <i>The Roebuck</i> in Brimfield.	Attended by the Chairman of the BFPG.
10 Jan 2012	Defra	Defra Personal Level Protection (PPL) Evaluation Steering Group Meeting at Defra Headquarters in London to discuss Phase 1 and 2 grants for PPL, including the effect that this has on flood insurance for properties.	The BFPG Secretary was invited to attend as a Communities Representative. The Meeting was also attended by local authority representatives, the Environment Agency, Defra, the Association of British Insurers, and PPL equipment suppliers.
11 May 2012		The early warning telemetry system was commissioned in the Millcroft Brook at the Brockington Road bridge by the donor, Mr Rod Hawnt.	Mr Hawnt also donated free maintenance of the system for five years.
11 May 2012	ITV	Visit by Jonathan Maitland and a team from ITV preparing ' <i>Weird Weather</i> ', a programme on climate change.	They filmed the installation of flood protection measures at 40, Brockington Road by UK Flood Barriers Ltd.; met Mr Rod Hawnt and saw the flood warning telemetry system; at The Forge interviewed Mrs Dhonau on flood insurance issues; at Millcroft Farm interviewed the Secretary on the origins and work of the Group; were Introduced to the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Derek Ling, and to our District Councillor, Cllr Jeremy Millar; and filmed the working party session at the Ketch Lane culverts where Mr Maitland personally contributed.
11? May 2012	<i>The Hereford Times</i>	Article on the telemetry system given to the Parish by Mr Hawnt of Hydro-Logic.	
17 May 2012	ITV	ITV's ' <i>Tonight</i> ' programme about ' <i>Weird Weather</i> ' featured the BFPG.	

18 Jun 2012	Herefordshire Council	Mr Chris Bull, CEO of the Council, was taken round the Hampton Court Ward by Cllr Jeremy Millar. They visited Millcroft Farm, with another official, Ms Anne Brooks, and Mr Philip Brown, the Clerk of Humber, Ford and Stoke Prior Parish Council.	The Chairman and Secretary briefed the CEO on the BFPG, on the need for the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts to be replaced and for Amey Herefordshire to clear the culvert in the Orchard Close drainage system. Mr Bull agreed to investigate and to respond to us on both matters. Despite prompting, he never did so.
5 Jul 2012	<i>The Hereford Times</i>	Article about the early warning telemetry system.	Article drafted by our former Ward Councillor, Cllr Keith Grumbley.
Jul 2012	BBC Hereford & Worcester	The Chairman supplied information and photographs for an article to mark the fifth anniversary of the 2007 floods	This appeared on the BBC Hereford & Worcester Website ( <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-englandhereford-worcester-18803795">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-englandhereford-worcester-18803795</a> ).
Sep 2012	National Association of Local Councils (NALC)	Article in <i>Local Council Review</i> about the BFPG.	The article appeared in a section devoted to advice on flood protection measures by local councils.
28 Sep 2012	Environment Agency/ Herefordshire Council/ Amey Herefordshire	Final inspections of flood protection measures installed under 'Project Bodenham'. This formally marked the end of the Project.	
23 Nov 2012	BBC West Midlands	Filming by First Look TV for BBC West Midlands 'Inside Out' Programme on 'Wild Weather in 2012'	The TV crew were given a detailed briefing on the BFPG, toured the Village, interviewed the Secretary at the Ketch Lane culverts and at Millcroft Farm, visited the telemetry system, and interviewed David Harris at his house.
Nov 2012	<i>The Daily Mail</i>	The Secretary was contacted by a reporter about residents who had been flooded more than once.	She explained that Bodenham did not fall into that category. She offered our 'good news' story instead, but this was turned down.
26 Nov 2012		The Chairman and Secretary held a meeting with all the Area Representatives at Millcroft Farm to discuss their role and the operation of the 'Buddy' system.	Following the Meeting an Annex to the Constitution defining the role of Area Representatives was agreed.
29 Nov 2012	Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council	The Chairman and the Secretary attended a Parish Council meeting and gave a presentation on the BFPG, which was followed by discussion.	
30 Dec 2012	BBC West Midlands	An 'Inside Out' Programme on 'Wild Weather in 2012' was broadcast on BBC 1	The Secretary and David Harris featured at the beginning of the Programme.

29 Jan 2013	Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council	Cllr John Stone, (Herefordshire Council), Cllr Cathy Clarkson (Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council) and Mrs Pat Austin (Resident) attended the BFPG monthly Meeting.	
26 Mar 2013	Herefordshire Council	Cllr Millar arranged for the Council's new CEO, Mr Alistair Neill, to visit Millcroft Farm to discuss BFPG matters, accompanied by Mr Paul Nicholas, the Locality Manager for Leominster.	Yet again, the Chairman and Secretary raised the two issues of the replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts and the culvert in the Orchard Close drainage system. They added a third – the bad design of the culverts taking the Moor Brook across the road South of Maund Bryan. Mr Neill expressed great interest in what the Group was doing and was especially concerned to understand how Herefordshire Council could connect better with local communities. Nothing further was heard.
2 Apr 2013	Mordiford Parish	The Chairman and the Secretary gave a presentation on the BFPG to the Mordiford Annual Parish Meeting and provided a display of photographs.	
22 May 2013	<i>The Daily Telegraph</i>	Telephone interview by Jessica Winch, a personal finance reporter, with the Secretary on flood risk insurance.	See 2 Jun 2013 below.
24 May 2013	Channel 4	Visit by Tom Wilde, an Assistant Producer at Blast! Films, to film the flooding section of a documentary on weather.	He filmed interviews with Mrs Mary Dhonau about flood insurance matters and with the Chairman and the Secretary about local flood risk and the work of the BFPG. He also visited the working party, filmed members jetting drains along the Millcroft Brook and others clearing the stretch of the Brook between the C1125 and the Golf Course, and interviewed Rebecca Burnill.
2 Jun 2013	<i>The Daily Telegraph</i>	Article on flood risk insurance in the Finance Section of the <i>Sunday Telegraph</i> .	
30 Oct 13	Defra/ JBA Consulting	Survey by JBA Consulting for Defra of the performance of PLP schemes and ideas for a best practice framework for scheme delivery and aftercare.	Completed by the Secretary with input from BFPG members.

	25 Nov 2013	Environment Agency	Presentation of high visibility vests marked with "Flood Group".	The vests were presented to the BFPG by Dan Trewin on behalf of the Environment Agency at Millcroft Farm. Cllr Jeremy Millar, District Councillor for the Hampton Court Ward, and 15 BFPG members attended.
	26 Nov 2013	Environment Agency	Dr Bianca Ambrose-Oji from Forest Research, the Social and Economic Research Group, attended the monthly Meeting. She was researching working relationships between the EA and voluntary workers and groups.	She was especially keen to find out why, after some 5 years since the 2007 floods, the Group still functioned, why members had volunteered in the first place and what they each got from being a volunteer.
	16 Jan 2014	<i>The Hereford Times</i>	Article about a lady in her 70s, with her dog, who stalled her car in flood water at the Ketch Lane junction and was there for two hours before being rescued.	The water was only ankle deep, but the rescue involved fire crews from Bromyard and Leominster, with an ambulance and 'first responders' from Bromyard equipped with specialist lines and floats. The theme of the article was that the local community was callous and uncaring because only one person stopped to help her.
	14 Jan 2014	ITN News	The Secretary received a call from a researcher asking about flood insurance.	The Secretary provided information given about local residents' experiences of their dealings with flood insurance providers.
	Jan 2014	Cabinet Office	The Chairman received a call from Rebecca Bowers, the Assistant Director, Communities Prepared, in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat at the Cabinet Office for permission to use the "excellent example" of the BFPG in the flooding section of a new Cabinet Office website. This was to illustrate "how community groups coming together regularly to maintain local drainage systems and water courses can be highly effective in reducing local flooding impacts and raising awareness amongst local residents".	The Chairman and Secretary checked and agreed Ms Bowers' draft link to the Parish Website. The Cabinet Office website was prepared by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat and the Emergency Planning College and went live about a month later with the BFPG link in a 'Flooding' section 'Preparing for an Emergency'. [This was seven years ago and has been superseded.].
	Jan 2014	Defra	The Chairman was contacted by Mr Gareth Williams, a researcher working for Brook Lyndhurst, a research consultancy based in Cambridge. He was working on a Flooding Social Science Evidence Synthesis Project to collate a range of evidence on flooding and identify gaps in the evidence that could inform further research by Defra.	His focus was on flood insurance, in terms of people's attitudes and behaviours to it, and to property level protection in the light of flood insurance. He interviewed both the Chairman and Secretary by telephone and subsequently also Mary Dhonau at their suggestion. The Project Report was issued on 13 Mar 2015, including a case study of the BFPG <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigating-and-">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigating-and-</a>

			<a href="#">appraising-the-involvement-of-volunteers-in-achieving-flood-risk-management-outcomes</a> )
Feb 14	Herefordshire Council	The Chairman emailed the Council with an offer of BFPG help in informing the Council/ Balfour Beatty when local roads were flooded, or otherwise obstructed, and in putting out and taking in official 'Road Closed' signs.	Offer acknowledged, but no action taken by the Council.
14 Feb 2014	BBC Radio 4	The Chairman and the Secretary featured on the Radio 4 "You and Yours" programme.	This generated a variety of responses, including one from a member of Lewes Town Council seeking advice and a similar request from two members of a group in the New Forest.
24 Feb 2014	BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester	The Chairman was interviewed over the phone by a reporter seeking his views about the flood risk posed by the proposed Bovis Homes development of Shuker's Field.	
25 Feb 2014	BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester	The Chairman took part in a live interview on the 'Howard and Toni at Breakfast' programme	
27 Feb 2014	New Forest residents	The Chairman received a phone call asking for advice on flooding issues.	
Feb 2014	River Lugg Internal Drainage Board	Two visits by the Chairman of the IDB, Charles Pudge, and two by the Board's Engineer, Les Harrison, to check on the Village's safety during flooding.	
Feb 2014	Herefordshire Council	Report on the recent flooding requested by the Council and submitted by the Chairman.	
5 Mar 2014	Environment Agency	Flood Risk Management Workshop in Birmingham to help plan the Environment Agency's research programme for the next five years.	The Chairman and Secretary attended with some 40 delegates from universities, industry, local authorities, Defra, the Environment Agency and the National Flood Forum.
11 Mar 2014	ITV	The Chairman was interviewed by a researcher over the telephone about Mrs Mary Dhonau for a possible programme about her work.	

28 Apr 2014	Warwick University Business School	The Chairman was interviewed over the telephone by Chris Smith for the Defra-funded Convergent Volunteers Project.	The Project was looking at the involvement of volunteers in flood response.
9 May 2014	Warwick University Business School	The Chairman and the Secretary were both interviewed by telephone for the Convergent Volunteers Project.	Mr Smith was seeking their views on how best use can be made of 'convergent volunteers', <i>i.e.</i> those volunteers who turn up without prior warning to offer their help during a flooding emergency.
27 Jun 2014	Warwick University Business School	Chris Smith and Graham Hieke from the Convergent Volunteers Project took part in a working party session and talked to members over refreshments at Millcroft Farm.	They later conducted telephone interviews with some members and subsequently sent the BFPG their full draft study report for comment. This included case studies of Bodenham, Boston in Lincolnshire and Tonbridge in Kent during the floods of December 2013.
7 Aug 2014	Environment Agency	A GPS survey of the relief channel and other flood defences at Millcroft Farm was carried out.	It was hoped that this would make Environment Agency flood maps more accurate and lead to a reduction of insurance premiums in the Village.
14 Aug 14	BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester	The Secretary was interviewed by Nicola Goodwin for the early morning programme on the subject of the proposed housing developments in Bodenham Moor.	The Secretary emphasised that Bodenham is not a NIMBY village, but that there is grave concern that new developments would not adequately address local flooding and sewerage issues.
11 Sep 2014	Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP)	Mark Watkins of BBLP visited Millcroft Farm and was briefed by the Chairman and Secretary on the Ketch Lane and Orchard Close culverts, on the Faulkner and Hawnt Reports, and on the BFPG's offer to assist BBLP and Herefordshire Council with flood reporting and signage.	Mr Watkins undertook to raise these issues within BBLP.
29 Oct 2014	Defra	First Board Meeting of a Defra Project "Surveying for Flood Resilience in Individual Properties" aimed at encouraging wider use of property level flood protection (PLP) "by developing a cohort of competent surveyors".	The Secretary was invited to join the Board Meeting in London as a 'consumer' representative. The Meeting was followed up by e-mail correspondence to which she has also contributed.

15 Nov 2014	Northamptonshire County Council	Northamptonshire Flood Wardens' Training Day organised by Mary Dhonau at Northampton for 26 wardens from local parishes.	The Chairman and Secretary were invited to talk about the work of the BFPG under the heading "Real Life Flood Events and Lessons Learned".
Jan 2015	HVOSS.	Donation of daffodil bulbs to the BFPG by the Herefordshire Voluntary Organisations Support Service (HVOSS).	These were planted along the bank of the Millcroft Brook below Millcroft Farm as being the place where they can best be seen and enjoyed by local residents.
Jan 2015	Herefordshire Council	The Chairman again emailed the Council with an offer of BFPG help in informing the Council/ Balfour Beatty when local roads were flooded, or otherwise obstructed, and in putting out and taking in official 'Road Closed' signs.	Offer acknowledged, but no further response received.
29 Jan 2015	BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester	The Secretary took part in a live interview by Jonathan Ray on the Andrew Easton afternoon programme.	The discussion was about remarks made by Hilary Benn, the shadow Communities Secretary, on the subject of planning and the potential impact on flooding.
12 Feb 2015	Defra	Second Board Meeting of the Defra Project "Surveying for Flood Resilience in Individual Properties".	The Secretary was unable to attend, but took part in discussion after the Meeting by e-mail.
Feb 2015	University of Leicester	A questionnaire was received from a MSc student engaged in a 'Participatory Geographic Information Systems for Flood Risk Communication' Project.	The aim of the Project was to get citizens more involved in mitigating flood risks by applying their local knowledge, taking more responsibility for where they live and getting involved in how local flood risks are managed. The Secretary completed the on-line questionnaire on behalf of the Group.
23-27 Mar 2015	River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	The relief channel at Millcroft Farm was reprofiled to remove silt accumulated since 2007.	The IDB re-surveyed the channel to assess silting. Their contractor then spent three days (25-27 March) removing the accumulated silt and restoring the channel's profile.
2 Apr 2015	University of Groningen/ Westminster University	The Chairman was contacted by Steven Forrest, a PhD researcher on a 'Flood Resilience at a Community Level in the UK and Netherlands' Project and asked to take part in an on-line survey.	The survey was aimed at obtaining a better understanding of the status of flood groups across the UK and their roles in local flood risk management and in community resilience to flooding. The Chairman submitted a response on behalf of the Group.
14 May 2015	River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	Board members visited Millcroft Farm to see the reprofiled relief channel and to be briefed on the	Anne Wheeler, the Chairman of the English Severn and Wye Regional Flood Committee, also attended.

			work of the BFPG as part of the IDB's annual tour of inspection.	
19 May 2015	University of Groningen/ Westminster University		The Chairman and Secretary met Mr Forrest at Imperial College in London for a follow-up interview for the 'Flood Resilience at a Community Level' Project.	Mr Forrest later sent a progress report on the Project, which compared the recent increase in the number of flood action groups in the UK with the situation in the Netherlands where none at all exist.
2 Jun 2015			Announcement of the BFPG's receipt of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) in the Birthday Honours List.	The QAVS is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in their communities. The Awards were created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.
2 Jun 2015	BBC Hereford & Worcester		The Chairman was interviewed on air by Andrew Easton on the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) and the BFPG's achievements.	
4 Jun 2015	<i>The Hereford Times</i>		Mention of the BFPG's QAVS Award.	
23 Oct 2015			Presentation of the HM The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the BFPG by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, The Countess of Darnley. The Award was for "Protecting the residents of Bodenham Parish from flooding by a range of measures, and providing support to vulnerable individuals."	The Presentation was held in the Parish Hall and attended by 25 official guests representing agencies and organisations which have supported the Group, together with 58 members of the Parish Council and of the BFPG with their partners. Lady Darnley, who was accompanied by Lord Darnley, presented the Chairman, on behalf of the Group, with the Award certificate and a piece of English Crystal engraved with the QAVS logo. Speeches were made by Mr Jeremy Millar, the former Ward Councillor, by Air Vice-Marshal Michael Smart DL, who read the citation for the Award, by Lady Darnley, and by the Chairman. Following the short ceremony all those present were welcomed to a reception with the opportunity to meet the Lord-Lieutenant and other guests and to view a display of photographs illustrating the work of the BFPG since its formation.
30 Oct 2015	Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP)		Mr Mark Watkins from BBLP visited Millcroft Farm to discuss the culvert in the Orchard Close drainage system.	The Chairman and Secretary briefed him on the background to this issue and also took the opportunity to explain to him the inadequacy of the Ketch Lane culverts and the need for them to be replaced.

7 Jan 2016	<i>The Hereford Times</i>	The work of the BFPG was commended by Mr Bill Wiggins, MP in his 'View from Westminster' column.	This was in the context of severe flooding in the North of England and in Scotland. He said "Groups like the Bodenham Flood Prevention Group do sterling work in ensuring that no part [of flood defences] is neglected".
8 Jan 2016	HM Government	Proposed visit by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, to Millcroft Farm	Preparations were made, but the visit was cancelled at the last minute.
10 May 2016	University of the West of England	Carly Rose, a PhD researcher, contacted the Secretary about an on-line Household Flood Protection Survey looking at how people deal with the risk of flooding, their experience of flooding, the precautions they take and their approach to risks in general	The e-mail was circulated to those BFPG members with internet access so that they could respond, if they wished.
12 Jun 2016	HM Government	The Patron's Lunch in The Mall to celebrate HM The Queen's 90th Birthday	At very short notice the Lord-Lieutenant received an invitation to nominate members of the groups in Herefordshire which had received the QAVS this year. There being no other volunteers from the BFPG, the Chairman and Secretary represented the Group.
5 Aug 2016	Government/ Environment Agency/ Herefordshire Council	Mr Bill Wiggin, the MP for North Herefordshire, visited the BFPG's working party session and was shown the Ketch Lane culverts. Also present were Cllr Bruce Baker, the Ward Councillor, Mr Jason Walker from the EA's Flood Resilience Team at Tewkesbury, and Mr Mark Bowers, the Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for the West Midlands Area based in Shrewsbury. During refreshments after the working party Mr Walker presented the BFPG with nine high visibility vests.	The Chairman and Secretary briefed the visitors on the inadequacy of the Ketch Lane culverts and the culvert in the Orchard Close drainage system. It was agreed that these were multi-agency issues which Herefordshire Council did not have the resources to tackle alone and the Chairman was asked to provide a full written brief on each issue as the first step in an initiative to resolve them. This he did.
11 Aug 2016	Hanover Communications International Ltd	The Secretary was interviewed on the telephone by Cameron Penny, Head of the firm's Financial Services, about her experiences with property insurance companies.	Mr Penny was looking for case studies of people who have benefitted from Flood Re backed insurance. His details were circulated to members so that they could respond directly to him, if they wished.

13 Aug 2016	University College London	Naomi Harper, a MA student, interviewed the Secretary by telephone for a study of The Role of Gender during Natural Disasters in the UK	Ms Harper was researching whether in the UK women are worse off after a natural disaster than men, as is often the case in developing countries.
24 Aug 2016	Herefordshire Council/ Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP)	The Chairman and Cllr Bruce Baker met the CEO of Herefordshire Council, Mr Alistair Neill, in the Council's offices at Plough Lane in Hereford.	Mr Neill agreed to commission BBLP to investigate possible options and costs for making improvements to both the Ketch Lane and Orchard Close culverts.
25 Aug 2016	<i>The Hereford Times</i>	Article on the presentation of high visibility vests by the Environment Agency.	Including a photograph of Mr Wiggin MP with members of the Group.
5 Dec 2016	Stonehaven Technology Limited	The Chairman received a request to try out a Flood Data Integration App being developed by the firm at the University of Essex's Colchester Campus.	The program was designed to integrate together all the up-to-date flood-related data (flood alerts, weather forecasts, river levels, etc.) applicable to the user's location. The Chairman tried out the App and submitted his comments, but received no response, perhaps because they were not wholly positive.
26 Jan 2017	Herefordshire Council	Consultation on the Council's draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.	The Chairman, on behalf of the BFPG, and the Parish Council separately submitted extensive comments on the draft.
8 Feb 2017	Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP)	Mr Joel Hockenhull, BBLP's Senior Drainage Engineer, called an on-site meeting to discuss the Orchard Close culvert. This was attended by the Chairman and Secretary, together with Mr Mark Watkins from BBLP, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr James-Moore, and the landowners, Mr and Mrs Pugh.	Drawings of a possible replacement culvert were discussed, but no decisions were made.
30 Jun 2017	Herefordshire Council/ Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP)	Mr Geoff Hughes, the Council's Director for Economy, Communities and Corporate, met the Chairman and Secretary at Millcroft Farm. The Meeting was arranged by Cllr Baker and was also attended by Mr Joel Hockenhull, the Drainage Team Leader at BBLP and by Mr Steve Hodges, the Services Team Leader of Mr Hughes' Directorate. Just before the Meeting Herefordshire Council had issued the long-awaited study reports on the Ketch Lane and Orchard Close culverts and these formed the basis for discussion.	There were four options for the replacement of the Ketch Lane, with Option 2, a culvert better aligned to the flow of the Brook, much preferred. The cost was likely to be >£200K and possible sources of funding were the Environment Agency (EA), the Council, the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board and the Parish Council. It was agreed that Mr Hodges would start work on an application to the EA. Regarding the Orchard Close culvert, it was understood that Mr and Mrs Pugh had agreed to the replacement in principle, but on condition that the spoil was used to fill in the existing ditch along the East of the field, that any additional soil was removed, that the work took place at a time agreed with them, and that they should not be responsible

			for the maintenance of the replacement culvert. It was suggested that the culvert project might cost ≥£10K.
20 Jul 2017	BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester	The Secretary was interviewed live on air about the tenth anniversary of the July 2007 flood and the subsequent formation and work of the BFPG.	
23 Jul 2017		BEM Presentation, Garden Party and Annual Barbecue held at Millcroft Farm	HM Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, Lady Darnley, presented the BEM to the Secretary, Mrs Babs Mitcheson, for services to the community.
31 Jul 2017	Herefordshire Council	The Chairman and Secretary met two Council Cabinet members at Millcroft Farm on Monday, 31 July 2017 to discuss the Ketch Lane culverts. The Councillors were Cllr Philip Price (Infrastructure) and Cllr Barry Durkin (Roads) and Cllr Baker, who had arranged the Meeting, was also present.	The visitors were shown the culverts and the Chairman briefed them on why these needed to be replaced. The Meeting was a positive one and Cllr Price even suggested that Balfour Beatty's proposed 'Option 2' did not go far enough - a longer culvert fully aligned with the Brook upstream of the junction would provide a better solution and the possible extra cost could partly be balanced by eliminating the need to demolish the existing Victorian (East) culvert. It was indicated that the need for the replacement had been noted and would be taken forward, but that the scale of the project was such that progress would take time. [The change in Herefordshire Council as a result of the 2019 election means that even this small progress is likely to have been completely lost.]
4 Aug 2017	Ryedale District Council	The Chairman received an enquiry from the Council Solicitor at Ryedale District Council in Malton in North Yorkshire about the BFPG's legal status and its use of pumps.	This was because a Parish Meeting in the Ryedale area was considering applying for a grant to purchase pumps to alleviate flood during periods of high rainfall.
6-7 Oct 2017	Province of East Flanders/ University of Ghent	Visit of a Belgian delegation taking part in a European North Sea Region project called FRAMES (Flood Resilient Areas by Multi-layered Safety). They were investigating how local residents could best be encouraged to take personal measures to prepare for flooding, something which does not happen in Flanders where the population rely entirely on the government "to keep their feet dry".	The four visitors were briefed on the BFPG's policies and work, had extensive discussions with Mary Dhonau, Cllr Bruce Baker (our Ward Councillor), Cllr Philip Price (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure) and Steve Hodges (Directorate Services Team Leader at Herefordshire Council), as well as Jason Walker and Andrew Osbaldiston (Environment Agency). They also visited a working party session in the Millcroft Brook, met BFPG members socially over refreshments at Millcroft Farm and had dinner with key members at England's Gate Inn where they were staying.

Nov 2017	University of the West of England	In an article on Herefordshire rivers running dry <i>The Hereford Times</i> invited readers to report how the dry weather was affecting their local watercourses. The Chairman contacted Professor Nevil Quinn at the University explaining what had happened recently to the Millcroft Brook.	Professor Quinn replied with thanks and a more detailed article on drought and climate change. He said that, being based in the University's Centre for Floods, Communities and Resilience, he was interested in the Group's work and the Chairman responded by offering to provide any further information he required.
17 Jul 2018	Nottingham Trent University/ Cranfield University	Daniel White, a graduate working as an intern at a company called Flood Protection Solutions asked for help with a Cranfield University-led project assessing the success and limitations of flood groups.	Mr White visited Millcroft Farm and met the Chairman, the Secretary, and Cllrs Tilford and Clark, who each completed a survey form and enlarged on their answers in a general discussion with Mr White on the BFPG's history and activities.
9 Sep 2018		The BFPG's 10th Anniversary Celebration was held in the Parish Hall.	This was a most enjoyable and successful occasion with free entry for all local residents (and quite a few from elsewhere who claimed to live in Bodenham). There was a display of the BFPG's work by Andrew Maxwell, artwork by Jennifer Easson, refreshments featuring an amazing cake depicting a working party in action by Sue Maxwell, and a barbecue run by Alec and Sharon Avery. However, the stars of the occasion were a bouncy castle and rides round the Village in a fire engine, both provided by Tony Troia.
5 Oct 2018	Warwick University	Dr Joanne Garde-Hansen, the University's Director of its Centre for Cultural & Media Policy Studies, asked for comments on an app being developed that maps flood memories.	Research has showed that flood memories can be very helpful in sharing and passing on community knowledge, but that there was currently no way of sustaining flood memory knowledge. This app is designed to provide a means of doing this. The Chairman submitted his comments and circulated the request to everybody on the BFPG mailing list.
6 Oct 2018	Environment Agency	Emily Whittingham, the EA's Flood Resilience Officer for the Kent, South London and East Sussex Area requested help with a Community Resilience Workshop.	The Chairman sent her display posters and a copy of the presentation given at the Northamptonshire Flood Wardens' training day in November 2014.
27 Nov 2018	Environment Agency/ Herefordshire Council/ Wye and Usk Foundation	Beth Lewis (Herefordshire Council Project Coordinator), Andrew Osbaldiston (Environment Agency) and Tom Jolley (Wye and Usk Foundation) briefed the Group's monthly Meeting on the Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project.	The Government had allocated £15M towards initiating NFM projects across the country – that is, projects designed to use natural methods (such as better soil management, planting more trees, and building leaky dams and retention ponds) to absorb/

			slow flood water. £626K of this was allocated to Herefordshire for seven catchment areas, one of which is Bodenham.
22 Jan 2019	BBC Hereford & Worcester	The Chairman was interviewed by Claudia Berry at Millcroft Farm as part of a programme on the Natural Flood Management Project.	
23 Jan 2019	Environment Agency/ Herefordshire Council/ Wye and Usk Foundation	The Bodenham part of the NFM Project was 'launched' at the Siward James Centre and was followed by the formation of the Bodenham Brooks NFM Community Group.	The Chairman and Secretary provided administrative support and the event was attended by a number of BFPG members.
22 Feb 2019	Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP)	Mr Hockenull and Mr Mark Watkins from BBLP attended a meeting with the Chairman, the Secretary and Cllr Baker at Millcroft Farm. The visitors were shown the Ketch Lane culverts and discussed both the short and long term issues affecting them.	Mr Hockenull questioned why the Chairman and Secretary had to clear debris from the culverts - they should simply report debris the Locality Steward for BBLP to remove it. The Chairman doubted whether in bad weather BBLP would be able to give this priority. Mr Hockenull said that the designs which BBLP had produced for replacement culverts were of little value because no preliminary feasibility study had been carried out. Securing funding would be challenging because of the Environment Agency's cost/ benefit rule, <i>i.e.</i> that the benefit secured by a project should outweigh its cost. Mr Hockenull indicated that it was for the Parish Council to take forward any replacement of the Orchard Close culvert at its own expense, if it so wished.
12 Mar 2019	Environment Agency/ Herefordshire Council/ Wye and Usk Foundation	The First Meeting of the Bodenham Brooks NFM Community Group was held in the Siward James Centre and was chaired by Beth Lewis, supported by Tom Jolley.	The Chairman again provided administrative support.
31 May 2019	Aberystwyth University	Adam Wood, who was starting a Master's degree in Human Geography, asked for help with a study of how knowledge co-created by policy makers, the EA and local communities had been used to inform flood policy in Herefordshire and the Wye Valley.	Mr Wood visited the Group's July Meeting and led a discussion on the effectiveness (or otherwise) of the Group's interactions with the Parish Council, Herefordshire Council, the Environment Agency and central Government in securing support for the reduction of flood risk.
13 Nov 2019	BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester	The Secretary was interviewed on the 'Elliott and Toni at Breakfast' Show about flooding.	This was in light of the flood damage recently done in the North of England. The Secretary was able to expound the BFPG's philosophy of self-help.

28 Nov 2019	Environment Agency/ Herefordshire Council/ Wye and Usk Foundation	The Second Meeting of the Bodenham Brooks NFM Community Group was held in the Siward James Centre and attended by ten local residents.	Much of the practical work of the Project was being carried out by Mr Jolley contacting the owners of land on which NFM measures can be implemented. However, volunteers were being sought to help with evidence gathering through fixed point photography and recording the morphology and ecology of the main watercourses. Subsequent progress was stalled by the Covid-19 pandemic.
14 Feb 2020	Brimfield and Little Hereford Flood Group.	The Chairman received a request for the advice which the BFPG gives to residents on obtaining sandbags.	The Chairman explained the BFPGs sandbag system.
25 Feb 2020	Wellington Parish	Wellington residents Graham Webb and John Major attended the BFPG's monthly Meeting.	49 houses in Wellington had been flooded in Storm Dennis (16 Feb 2020).
8 Mar 2020	Eardisland Parish Council	The Parish Clerk emailed that the Council were planning to set up a flood resilience group and would like advice.	Further contact was stalled because of the first Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.
8 Mar 2020	Walford and Leintwardine	Mr Ian Urry from Walford asked for advice about setting up their joint flood action group with Leintwardine.	A meeting was arranged.
9 Mar 2020	Walford and Leintwardine	The Chairman and the Secretary had a meeting with Mr Urry at Millcroft Farm.	They explained the issues confronting Bodenham after the 2007 floods and how these were met. They also provided him with copies of BFPG documents to help him with the setting up of his Group.
7 Jul 2020	Hampton Bishop	Chris O'Gorman, a resident of Hampton Bishop, requested advice on fundraising for equipment, services and flood protection measures by a flood mitigation group being set up by Hampton Bishop.	A week later Mr Simon Labbett, another member of the Hampton Bishop Group, kindly provided an excellent report on the flooding at Hampton Bishop This confirmed that 48 dwellings had been affected, but the issues which they are facing are very different from ours. With the Wye, Lugg and Frome all converging within the Parish boundary, the volumes of water are enormous.
8 Jul 2020	Birmingham University	Beth Lewis at Herefordshire Council drew attention to a MSc dissertation research project being carried	Ms Flusk chose the Herefordshire River Wye and Lugg NFM Project as a case study and, as part of her research, created an

		out by Hannah Flusk on 'Changing flood risk, perceptions and responses with NFM Changing flood risk, perceptions and responses with NFM techniques'.	on-line questionnaire, which she wanted residents in the various NFM catchments in Herefordshire to complete. The Chairman did so on behalf of the Group.
23 Jul 2020	Llangarron Parish Council	Nigel Moore, the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council requested advice.	Two recent episodes of flooding had damaged several houses. The main challenge was to persuade individuals to carry out their riparian responsibilities along two streams through the Village.
1 Nov 2020		Closing date for the election of a new Committee to replace the existing Chairman and Secretary.	
31 Dec 2020		The existing Chairman and Secretary left office.	
1 Jan 2021		The new Committee assumed responsibility.	