



## **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT** **(DECEMBER 2020)**

### **SUMMARY OF THE PAST MONTH**

1. What a difference a month makes! In my last Report I commented on how the rainfall in November had not significantly affected local watercourses, with water levels remaining low. December has been rather different, as I outline below.

2. Unfortunately, December has taken its toll in another way with the death of Tony Clark, a founder member of the Group and always one of its most stalwart and active members – an unusual one also in that he was prepared to volunteer, even though his own house was never at serious risk of flooding. His major, long-standing contribution, not only to the BFPG's working parties, but in many other ways, such as 'Walking the Brook' for several years, acting as Treasurer for a time and running the raffle at numerous fund-raising Coffee Mornings and Quiz Nights, will be sadly missed. Our most sincere condolences go to Kay who supported him greatly in all this.

### **FLOODING**

3. The Ketch Lane junction was flooded to a greater or lesser extent from 20 – 24 December and again, following Storm Bella, from 28 – 29 December. The usual daily updates on this were published on the Parish Website and *NextDoor* at the time and the C1121 (Millcroft Road), C1113 (Ketch Lane) and C1120 (Smeadals Lane) were officially closed throughout. Sadly, also as usual, some drivers apparently thought that the 'Road Closed' and 'Flood' signs did not apply to them and two cars and a van came to grief.

4. On the Millcroft Brook the telemetry system issued its first alerts of the Winter on 23 December, with a 0.5m warning at 3.10pm and a 0.9m one at 6.45pm, by which time the relief channel at Millcroft Farm was in full operation until the Brook returned to normal at 1.15am on Christmas Eve. There was a subsequent 0.5m alert at 2.45am on 27 December, but on this occasion the water level stayed only just above 0.5m for several hours before returning to normal at 6.05am. I have received no reports of significant flooding elsewhere in the Parish and weather forecasts indicate that there are likely to be no further episodes before the beginning of the New Year.

### **TRANSFER TO THE NEW COMMITTEE**

5. As most members will have seen from notices on the Parish Website and elsewhere, the proposed new BFPG Committee was duly elected in the ballot which closed on 1 December. At the same time the Events Co-ordinator was co-opted to join them. For those who have not seen the list

of those who now take over the leadership of the Group from this Friday (1 January), it is attached at Annex A.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

6. At the end of November the balance in the Group's account was £5,087.96. There was no expenditure or income during December so the balance remains unchanged.

### **SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING EVENTS**

7. Far from the long hoped for release from Covid-19 restrictions, Herefordshire's move up from Tier 1 to Tier 2 means that these have actually tightened since my last Report. Obviously, therefore, no social or fundraising activities are possible at the moment and, unfortunately, this is unlikely to change for some time.

### **VALETE**

8. Although I hope to do what I can to continue helping the BFPG as a member for as long as I am able, this is my final Report as the Group's Chairman. It has been an 'interesting' 9½ years in that role, but I have no intention of recounting all the Group's achievements during that time. (You can find them detailed on the Parish Website, if you care to look). However, I will mention the most important one - that, thanks to all the hard work of the Group's members over those years - and before - and, despite some storms which have equalled, and in some cases exceeded, the severity of that of July 2007 which prompted the Group's formation, local residents have largely been spared the trauma of flooding. Sadly, there have, of course, been exceptions, such as the two houses in Bodenham flooded last February, and water has got into some gardens and garages from time to time. However, overall, the efforts of our volunteers have meant that we are now in our thirteenth Winter so far relatively unscathed.

9. What is most personally gratifying to me is that some members of the Group have not hesitated to step forward and take over the leadership of the BFPG and thus ensure the continuation of its work – and to do so on a more secure footing, where the leading roles are shared between a committee of seven members, rather than one, nominally four, but reduced to two. Babs, who has now stood down after 12½ years as Secretary, joins me in thanking everyone for all the support they have given us over this time and in wishing the new Committee, the Area Representatives, and indeed the Group as a whole, every success in the future. We shall watch its progress with interest and provide it with whatever support we can, albeit perhaps from afar.

10. Finally, we both wish you all a very happy New Year and a rapid return to a successful and both flood- and Covid-19-free normality in 2021!

K.A.M.

## BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

**Chair: Andrew Maxwell**  
**Treasurer: Kathy Tremain**  
**Operations Manager: Adrian House**  
**Secretary: Debby House**  
**Events Co-ordinator: Rebecca Burnill**  
**Committee Member: Dave Clemence**  
**Committee member: Sadie Chambers**

### Area Reps:

**The Moor Road: Andrew Maxwell: 797946**  
**Brockington Road North and cul de sac: Rebecca Burnill: 797823**  
**And Sue Pearman: 797688**  
**Brockington Road South: Adrian House: 797305**  
**Siward James: The Warden: Victoria Paterson : 797412**  
**Ash Grove Close: Jean Fryer: 797338**  
**Ash Grove View: David Harris: 797575**  
**Millcroft Road: Barbara Gibson: 797643**  
**Bodenham Village: David Ayshford Sanford: 797549**  
**Orchard Close: Mike Stephens 797816**  
**C1125 North Bridge: Dave Clemence 07815 029628**  
**Maund Bryan: Philip Broomhead 797167**

### Sandbag Key Holders: (As Chair, Andrew Maxwell does have keys for all cages but in the first instance for each cage:

**Parish Hall Container: Andrew Maxwell 797946 or Adrian House 797305**  
**Chapel Lane Cage Key Holders: Mike Stephens 797816**  
**Secondary: Robert Pritchard: 797428**  
**St Michael's School Cage Key Holder: Barry Wilson: 797013**  
**Siward James Cage Key Holder: The Warden: Victoria Paterson : 797412**  
**Secondary: Kathy Tremain 797751**

### Bodenham Flood Protection Group Meeting Dates 2021

Due to current restrictions, it is unlikely that we will be able to resume regular meetings in the near future. The Committee will conduct business over e-mail and meet when and where possible; confirmed dates will be published in the appropriate Parish *Newsletter* and on the Parish website. Minutes will also be published on the Parish website.

If you have points which you would like to be raised to the Committee, please contact the Secretary, Debby House, on 797305 or by email at [secretarybfpg@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybfpg@gmail.com)