

LEEN TIMES

After what was nearly a 'proper' winter, things seem to be back to more 'normal' timing. We are seeing snowdrops at their best at the end of February, there are no sign of frogs spawning yet and the Dog's Mercury is only just starting to push up into the hedges. But I hear the woodpeckers knocking, the mistle-thrush's calling and see the rooks building, so I know it's all going to happen soon.

The spring calving milkers have just about finished calving now but the Hereford cows are all poised to start! The silage has lasted well this year, but the cows do look forward to being let out to grass. Even the old ladies (cows!) enjoy a bit of a prance around the first time out. Fortunately the price of our milk is holding up well and the demand for our vegetables also seems to be OK. So it will not be long before we start the marathon of veg. planting with thousands of leek, broccoli and other plants going in week-by-week with acres of Carrot and other seeds. Closely followed by hours and hours of weeding, again, week by week, all in the hope that they will grow all right and (most importantly!) the demand will there when we harvest.

Wildlife News: Barn Owls all over the place.

Muntjac deer in the parish, green sandpipers, no fewer than 20 cormorants on the river!! A merlin. Finally, a late report of quail at Milton Cross last summer (these migrate from Spain each summer to nest here)

Dawn Chorus, woodland/river walk and Leen Breakfast. 4.30 am! May 9th Book please: 01544 388305 (£8 adults)

Leominster Festival walk: June 10th Book 01568 613334

Tony Norman

tony@leenfarmorganics.co.uk

PARISH PRECEPT 2009/10

By a majority vote your Parish Council set a precept of £18000 for the coming year £1000 less than the current year. The budget for next year is £20535 and the difference will be made up from reserves that have accumulated over past years.

Your Council believed that such a reduction and use of reserves was in keeping with the economic climate.

Full details of the budget for next year are available from our Clerk and are posted on the Council notice board and the website but if you have any questions these will be most welcomed at any Council meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

HANGING BASKET AND BEST GARDEN FRONT

The Parish Council is holding two flower competitions this year, for which the prizes will be 2 x £15 First Prizes & 2 x £10 Second Prizes.

- 1) The best Hanging Basket
- 2) The best Garden Frontage as seen from the pavement

Do take part in making the village a riot of floral colour - Judging will take place in July.

NEW STREET LIGHTS

The village will be having all the street lights along the A44 replaced by this summer, in line with Herefordshire Council's replacement programme. The old concrete posts will be replaced with black metal ones, and more modern lamps with soft lighting. There may be some minor alteration to existing positions of posts where necessary, and it is anticipated that there will no longer be any lamps attached to properties. There will inevitably be some road closures whilst the work takes place.

WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial is to undergo a well deserved clean-up shortly. This will also entail repairing the surrounding fence, gate and railings and smartening them up.

The Parish Council will in future be laying a wreath at the Memorial on every Remembrance Sunday.

ANNUAL ROSPA PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTION

This will take place during w/c 14th April.

NEW HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY & AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

The results of the Survey have finally been published. If any parishioner would like to see a copy, please contact the Clerk. Alternatively, the Housing Survey and the Affordable Housing Project will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on **Wed. 18th March**, 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall, at which all residents are welcome.

Please address any enquiries to the Clerk:

Mrs. Heather Harding, 153 Bargates, Leominster. HR6 8QT
Tel: 01568 612143 E-Mail: harding153@hotmail.com

W.I. NEWS

Come and have some fun.. We have recently been 10 pin bowling and we are about to have a

pancake race - Shrove Tuesday!!

Fashion Day in April, trips here, there and everywhere.

Please contact Dianne Davis 388399 or Tricia 340340 for further details. We meet 2nd Wednesday every month @ 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. The Reading Group meet next at The Granary on

Tuesday 10th March @ 3.00 p.m.



Pembroke Parish News

March - April 2009



A Parish Council information service for the people of Pembroke

www.pembrokeparishcouncil.gov.uk

FLOWER FESTIVAL 23rd - 25th MAY 2009



Anyone who would like to be involved with the flowers in anyway at all please come to a meeting in the Church

on

Thursday March 12th at 11.00am.

You do not need to be an expert. If you are new to the parish and do not know anyone we will make you very welcome. If you are at work or just cannot make it but would like to know more please contact

Tricia Lloyd on Tel : 340340.

EDITORIAL

What a start to the year. With all the stress of the credit crunch we could have done without a prolonged cold spell depleting our precious resources on large heating bills. I've come to the conclusion that, after carefully studying all the facts, nobody has the slightest idea what to do and today's good advice is tomorrow's huge mistake. It's all guess work and we might as well put our money in a cardboard box under the bed.

But with Spring on the way can we look at the coming year with a bit of optimism? Of course, we can, by focusing on what we can enjoy instead of worrying about what we can't.

There are lots of low cost options around from village shows, flower festivals, organised walks, a day at the seaside, all things that give a boost to the morale without breaking the bank. I have also decided to try and do all our shopping within ten mile of home. If I am going to spend then I'm damn sure I want to know where the moneys going.

We live in a glorious part of the world. We are lucky. We don't have to catch tube trains to work or fight vast lines of commuter traffic. A lot of city dwellers think us stupid to live here. Good, lets keep it that way. That first swallow is just around the corner!

Glyn

FESTIVAL UPDATE

I hope that you already have these dates written in your diaries. We are anticipating that the church is going to look stunning and that there will be plenty going on outside the church.

We will be opening the festival on Friday evening with a service followed by a concert with OK Chorale and Children from Pembroke School. The church will be open for the three days for visitors to view the flower displays. Outside the church there will be stalls - cakes, preserves, plants and crafts, refreshments and entertainment.

We are hoping to book local ceilidh band, Bandemania to entertain the crowds on Saturday afternoon and Knighton Silver Band will be there on Sunday afternoon.

Hereford Police Choir will be in concert on Saturday evening and a concert is being arranged for Sunday evening. Unfortunately Robert Dean has had to withdraw due to other commitments so we are in the process of booking another act.

There will be a BBQ at lunchtime on the Monday, with Glyn Whiting providing the live music, and the festival will closed later on that afternoon.

There will be parking at the village hall, where there will be trade and craft stalls.

Don't forget, we will be grateful for donations for the stalls and contributions for the refreshments and that we will be having scarecrows around the village - the theme will be Nursery Rhymes if you want to make one.

We will also be needing help "on the day" - in the catering tent, car parking and stewarding in the church. If you are willing to help please fill in the form that appeared in last month's church magazine. There will also be extra forms available from the Steppes and the church.

Finally, do please come along to support the event - hopefully it will be a great weekend for the whole village. See you there!

**Westonbury Mill Water Gardens
Charity Opening
(for Pembridge Church)
Saturday May 9th 11am – 5pm.**

The garden is just one and a half miles from Pembridge on the Kington road. It is getting quite a reputation – with feature articles last year in Country Life, Country Living, the English Garden and the Telegraph Magazine. Come and see it!

Entry: Adults £3.50, Children £1
Coffee, light lunches and teas:
in the café provided by Sally's Pantry who will be contributing a percentage of the the May 9th takings to the church.
General opening:
Daily, 1st April – 30th September, 11am – 5pm

PEMBRIDGE ART MARKET 2008

With two local art markets in the four weeks prior to our art market and competition from H-Art things did not look too encouraging for the Pembridge Art Market team. But a last minute burst of activity led by Lindsay Simpson saw entries double to a respectable number. The economic squeeze was starting to take effect in September, no doubt contributing to a reduction in picture sales of fifty percent compared with previous years. Nevertheless hard work by our raffle ticket sellers and the catering team contributed to a sound financial result. This has enabled the committee to continue assisting village organisations by making a donation of £300 to the church window fund. I would like to thank all helpers, artists and visitors who helped to make this a successful event.

Ken Myers (Chairman)

NEW INN SLOE GIN COMPETITION

Yet again another fantastic night for this annual event!!!! 22 entries in all. The judges said that the standard was improving every year. The winner was Mrs Angela Thomas, 2nd Mr Ian Turner and 3rd Rosie Melvin. We would like to thank everybody for their entries and look forward to seeing you all again later this year.

Jane Melvin

BOOKING THE VILLAGE HALL ?

Mrs Carol Jackson has taken over the booking of the village hall as of the 1st January. You can contact her on 01544 388956 / 07866885819.



How to get from A to B usually involves some kind of choice and, although it may be convenient, going by car may not be the best option either from a health, a financial or an environmental point of view. It might be useful therefore to take a long hard look at regular journeys, such as how to get to work and back, to see if there are any better alternatives. This is exactly what Kingspan Insulation will be encouraging its employees to do with the introduction of a Green Travel Plan. Kingspan's first step is going to be to get employees to think about the benefits or otherwise of different modes of transport, so ideas and information are going to be made available through posters or in wage packets. Next, it is no good preaching green travel to employees if the company does not back this up with practical help, so steps are being looked at to encourage cycling by providing grant assisted facilities such as secure covered cycle storage outside of the company's main offices. Cycling is one method of transport that really does tick all the boxes (once you have the kit it is free, it doesn't do any damage to the environment and it is a great way to keep fit), and so a Bicycle User Group (BUG) may be set up to encourage cyclists, potentially with incentives such as the provision of reflective and wet weather cycling accessories, for which grants are also available. Of course, not everyone can cycle and, even for those who can, with the unpredictable weather other alternatives may find greater appeal, so efforts are going to be made to encourage and arrange car sharing wherever possible. The feasibility of providing a pay as you go minibus service for factory workers living in Leominster or other conurbations will also be researched. To allay worries that a shared lift or missed minibus could leave people stranded if they have to work late, the company will also look at implementing a "Guaranteed Lift Home" scheme with a local taxi firm.

People are becoming more and more aware of their 'carbon footprint' and car use is one of the worst culprits in how big this is. Thinking twice about using the car can make a dramatic difference to health, wealth and will reduce damage to the environment. When the car can't be avoided, sharing lifts will help. Green travel might seem like a bit of an effort sometimes, but there are clear benefits all round to make it worthwhile.

WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH !!



This sorry picture is something I would rather not have to publish. Yes, I know the bins are sometimes full and it's annoying when there's no room, but just leaving piles of rubbish stacked against the bins is just not acceptable. Strong winds see it strewn across the car park and beyond. It also attracts vermin and, at the end of the day, someone has to collect it up and recycle it into the correct bins. The Parish Council do their best to provide a recycling solution for the village. It's not perfect but it's the best we can get at the moment. Please, if it's full when you come, please try again later. Don't just dump it for someone else to sort out.

The Parish Freighter will again be visiting the Parish Hall Car Park on Saturday **14th March from 2-4 pm** - for general household rubbish and small unwanted articles of furniture etc. No hazardous materials please

IT'S BEEN A BIT PARKY



The winter weather has played havoc with travel plans and farmers alike. This picturesque view is the lane at Tibhall Farm near Luntley.

WEOBLEY CINEMA

There are moves afoot to have a regular monthly cinema in Weobley. I don't have the details to hand at this time but will try and get the full details in time for the next issue. For those of us who enjoy a good film it would be a joy to have a regular screening on our doorstep. I'll keep you posted.

**WEST MERCIA POLICE
NEW NON EMERGENCY NUMBER
0300 333 3000**

The above telephone number should now be used for all non urgent calls to West Mercia Police.

**HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS
REPORT**

Economic Downturn

The downturn has had an impact on our County with over 50% rise in unemployment in the last 9 months. Although the figure at just over 2,500 is small in regional and national terms that percentage rise is one of the highest in the West Midlands. Herefordshire Council has seen its income fall by 2 million pounds with £500,000 less income from fees (e.g Planning fees and Car Parking charges) and £1,500,000 from our investments. Last year the Council was earning £10,000 a day from investments this year it is struggling to earn £2,000 a day.

The rise in pressures from Homelessness, Benefits and more residential home bills are also being monitored. In the proposed Budget for 2009/10 while there are 3% efficiency savings funding in Schools, Social care and Highway maintenance have all been retained.

Hereford Outer Distributor Road

The issue of traffic in Hereford is always one of the major concerns of County residents. In the advice to the Government on Transport expenditure till 2018 the Council, in partnership with all the other local authorities in the West Midlands, have agreed to recommend £60 million pounds towards the building of a road around the City. The remaining 70 million pounds would come from Developer contributions. Hereford is due to build over 8,000 house before 2025 and we have made it clear that can only be done with a new road.

The CPRE and others are vowed to fight the Council and have written to Government urging them to reject the proposal.

Snow

This winter saw more frost and snow than we have seen for some time. Unlike some authorities we have had plenty of salt. Each gritting run costs £9,000 with up to 4 runs being done on some days. The concern now is the frost damage and resulting potholes in our roads and extra funding is being supplied for this. If there is a serious pothole please report it to the Council.

Roger Phillips

01432260046/01544340269

Email; rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Pembridge Coffee Mornings.

The Pembridge Coffee mornings are held on the third Thursday of the month, in the Village Hall, between 10:30am and 12 noon. Coffee is free with any donations going to charity. Everyone welcome so hope to see you there.