

LEEN TIMES

Here at The Leen all is quiet as far as the farm goes. I think it is the quiet before the storm. However, it is holiday time for the staff and the family- very well deserved it is too. Towards the end of July, the storm will start to break with about 500 cows due to calve in a 10-week period! Happily, a lot of them are in calf to a Jersey bull, so many of the calves will be small and easily calved. The veg. growing has migrated to Monkland where all looks very tidy and healthy, at the moment, thanks to our enthusiastic and dedicated team. Thankfully the markets for both milk and veg. appear to be good at the moment. That's as near as I can get to being a happy farmer!

But:-

Last year I had a bit of a moan about dogs being loose when out for a walk on farmland. I gave 2 of the 4 reasons why: The first was upsetting sheep and cattle. The second was fouling food in the fields (crops or grass). The third is to prevent disease: unfortunately, dogs carry worms that can affect livestock and/or humans and they can sometimes spread an abortion bug to cattle. Farms are working places NOT parks and unless you have express permission from the farmer (or keep your dog on a lead on public footpaths) please don't treat them as such.

Various broods have been reported to me; Swans, Ravens, Buzzards, Owls, Mallard, Pheasants, Dippers, Swallows and Wrens. All seem to have got off to a good start. I even saw a pair of Kites with a youngster following the silage machinery.

On the river more mink have been seen and not a hundred yards from the house a huge dog Otter. In spite of this the fish have been better, with more being caught than ever before. The other fishermen- Kingfishers, Goosanders and Herons have enjoyed it too! Please tell me about any unusual wild life sightings
Tony Norman tony@leenfarmorganics.co.uk

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PEMBRIDGE ART MARKET

Over recent years more and more craft fairs and art markets similar to ours have started up. Indeed in the 6 weeks prior to the normal date of the Pembridge art market there are 3 others within 10 miles, not to speak of the annual HArt which also coincides with our event.

The committee has therefore decided not to hold an art market this year but to look closely at its form and content in the light of the above and seek through the canvassing of exhibitors how we might reinvigorate this valued Pembridge event.

Should anybody wish to make constructive suggestions as to how this might be achieved then please contact the Art Market secretary, Lindsay Simpson, On 01544 387960

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

NEW STREET LIGHTS BEING TRIALLED NOW

The street lights through the centre of Pembridge are to be routinely replaced as they are ageing. Two styles are currently being trialled – one at the east end and one at the west end of the village. The Parish Council Clerk would welcome any comments that you may have on them by the end of July.

POST OFFICE MOBILE VAN SERVICE

As the service has been operating for several weeks now in the car park, the Parish Council would like to hear from residents as to how well the service is being received, or any problems encountered.

INTRODUCTION OF A LENGTHSMAN

A Lengthsman has now been appointed to carry out the following tasks, and will commence work in mid July:

Grass Cutting – at road junctions and corners of high-ways where visibility may be impaired.

Hedge Management – lop overgrown trees and cut overgrown hedges as necessary.

Drainage – Clear leaves and debris from gully grid tops, drainage grips, entrance and exists of highway culverts. Rod blocked drains.

Non-illuminated Traffic Signs – Ensure legibility and visibility of traffic signs including straightening, cleaning traffic signs and removing vegetation obscuring traffic signs.

Any other reasonable task as instructed by the Administrator or Councillor.

An Administrator is still required to oversee the scheme – please apply to the Clerk if you are interested

INTRODUCTION OF ONE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE FOR VILLAGE

In an effort to reduce speeding through the village, and to improve the road safety for parents with children walking to school, the Parish Council requested that the Highways Section of Herefordshire Council take a traffic speed survey. The result of this survey showed that there were sufficient vehicles approaching from the west, travelling in an easterly direction, to permit the installation of a Traffic Speed Indicator near the western end of the village. This has now been agreed by the Parish Council. The speed indicator would only stay in place for short periods, possibly 2 or 3 times a year, as the equipment has to be loaned around the county to several different villages.

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2008/09

This document, which contains reports on several different parish aspects makes interesting reading and can be viewed on the website: pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 July at 7.30pm

Please address any inquiries to the Clerk:

Mrs. Heather Harding, 153 Bargates, Leominster. HR6 8QT Tel: 01568 612143

E-Mail: harding153@hotmail.com



Pembridge Parish News

A Parish Council information service for the people of Pembridge July-August 2009



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk



PEMBRIDGE VILLAGE SHOW 25TH JULY



EDITORIAL

Well, I'm not quite sure where to start. Wow is probably as good as any. I'm talking Flower Festival here and what a display! There is a full report inside but I have to say it was spectacular. The work, time and effort is a testament to what can be achieved when the mind is focused! It was summed up for me when I heard a lady say she had been to the one in Westminster Abbey the week before and it wasn't as good. Talk about high praise. So, if you were involved, take a bow and congratulate yourself on a top class job.

Meanwhile, summer moves on and next month sees the village show round again. It's a great day out so please get involved if you can. If not, do come along on the day and support it.

The more observant of you will have noticed the addition of two new street lights in the village. These are on a trial basis and any feedback from residents will be welcome. Lets hope they leave them up long enough for it to get dark before bedtime so we can see them in action!

Finally a note about the Lengthsman (no not that). The council are still looking for an administrator so if you can help please let the clerk know.

So, summer is well and truly here and shaping up to be a good one (so far). The fields have been awash with dandelions and buttercups this year and the hedgerows full of champions as well. The cuckoo has been busy by us with quite a few about, baby woodpeckers being fed from the nut feeder, hedgehogs, foxes... You name it, we've got it. Lovely. Lets hope the good weather continues and we finally get a good summer. I'm off to the lakes for a bit of exercise so please, no rain.

Longest day next week, then nights start to draw in.... Before you know it's harvest festival... bonfire night..... I can almost hear the carol singers clearing their throats.... Noooooo, lets enjoy the summer!!!

Have a good one,
Glyn

Just a note to say that due to the Flower Festival taking up a page I may have had to leave out an item or two. I'm sure you'll understand.

The verges are awash with life at this time of year



VILLAGE GREEN CONSERVATION AREA

The task of converting the eastern part of the village green from a wilderness to a conservation area is largely complete and an "official" opening is planned for Saturday, 11 July. The area is divided into a wet woodland, where a large number of native trees have been planted, and a hay meadow which will be encouraged to grow wild flowers during spring and early summer. A walkway runs through the area along the riverside, firstly in the form of a boardwalk and then a hardcore path. Information boards spaced along the walkway describe the objectives of the project and the flora and fauna likely to be seen there. The work was coordinated by a working group comprising two parish councillors and three parishioners and was funded entirely by the Kingspan Community Trust with a contribution to the information boards from Herefordshire Council Community Grant Fund.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

Headmaster moves on Our headteacher at Pembridge Andrew Teale has been appointed the new Head at St. Paul's Church of England Primary School in Tupsley, Hereford. He will take up the position in January 2010 and will consequently be leaving Pembridge Primary School at Christmas. The vacancy for a new head at St. Paul's presented a very rare opportunity for him to lead a large Church School at the centre of the Hereford Diocese. Andrew became head in September 2003 and has worked successfully with Staff, Governors and Parents building on the high standards he inherited. He has been very popular with his pupils and will be a sad loss to our community.

Chief Executive visit The Chiefs Executive of Herefordshire Council and the Primary Care Trust Chris Bull visited the Pembridge last month. I took him on a walk around Pembridge showing him A44, pavement and traffic issues as well as the Market Hall and Belfry. He met Julie Read and representatives of the Parish Council and the School. Several issues were discussed with him including regarding planning, highways, Kington Court and affordable housing.

Council Accounts 2008/09 The Councils has signed off the accounts for the last financial year which show a small underspend on the revenue budgets. It shows good management and discipline though the year in being able to bring the accounts in on target particularly with such volatile elements as Social Care. There is continued concern on the pressure on this year's budget and tight monitoring and preparation for next year is already underway.

Higher Education The County will be submitting a bid for more HE provision in Herefordshire under the Govt's University Challenge scheme. The aim is to increase the opportunity for students to remain in the County and also offer Businesses places for employee development. The Council has committed the Education centre at Blackfriars as their contribution to the project.

Roger Phillips 01544340269/01432260046

Email: rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk



It is such a pleasure to see the sun and enjoy the warmer weather that it is easy to forget just how cold it can get, particularly if you are living in a period property which can be both difficult and expensive to keep warm.

Installing insulation is a great way of keeping the heat in, and with worries over global warming and high levels of carbon dioxide emissions, it also helps to cut CO₂ and do our bit for the planet. However, when you are dealing with an older, solid walled property this might seem easier said than done.

So what is the solution? A good example is a project that Kingspan Insulation recently played a big part in which successfully refurbished a typical, solid walled Victorian house, keeping the look of the building inside and out whilst cutting carbon emissions by as much as 80%, achieving a big reduction in energy bills in the process.

Kingspan supplied all of the insulation materials, which were used throughout the inside of the house including walls, ceilings and floors. They were chosen because of their ability to provide very high standards of insulation without the need for bulky thicknesses, which otherwise would have meant a noticeable decrease in the size of the rooms and a change in the internal appearance.

Prior to the work, the solid brick walls were letting through a lot of heat, which in the colder months was a big factor in causing high heating bills. Insulated plasterboard from Kingspan was fitted to most of the walls, offering the benefits of high performance insulation whilst taking up the minimum necessary space.

Insulation is one of the simplest and most cost effective ways to make a difference to your energy bills and to helping the planet, even for those 'hard to heat' homes. Insulated plasterboard can help to keep older houses warm without losing period charm.



What a resounding success

The disappointment of not being able to go ahead with the Festival last year as originally planned, was more than compensated for by the wonderful event that was held Bank Holiday weekend 23rd - 25th May. The 18 months of committee meetings, planning, sponsorship seeking, fund raising, begging, coersing, grovelling really paid off.

The two weeks before were frenetic; getting all the props erected, flowers finally ordered after months of sourcing, fingers crossed that they would arrive on time and in good order. We were delighted to be able to source many from the UK. Those we were not able to come from Holland eliminating the air miles!

The day before the marquee was erected so all systems go! What would the weather do?

Many talented ladies and friends worked together, sustained by goodies, tea and coffee, to make the Church look stunning in its representation of Glorious Herefordshire. Joyce Williams' inspired theme.

A small army of helpers were just as busy preparing the marquee for the smooth running of the constant flow of delicious refreshments that carried on throughout the weekend.

The sun shone the visitors came. The evenings echoed with The Rhythm of Life Friday night with the OK Choral and the Primary School children, the harmony of the Hereford Police Choir Saturday night and the swing of The Hereford Big Band Sunday night.

The days were just as musical with the Knighton Silver Band, A Band 'n Hope and Glyn Whiting entertaining visitors as they enjoyed the amazing refreshments sitting in the sun or devoured a sizzling BBQ on Monday. So many people to thank, the list is endless: sponsors, loo providers, the handymen, builders, painters, artists, calligraphers, fund raisers, flower arrangers and advisers, refreshment organisers and helpers, washer uppers, BBQ chefs, cake, jam, pickle, salad makers, stall organisers and helpers, stewards, Amenities Trust, Archive providers. Pembridge WI, Pembridge school.

We are eagerly waiting the final total when the finances are completed! However, the biggest reward is the success of the event and the great community spirit.

Thank you

