

LEEN TIMES

The cows went out by day on Feb 10th facing the 'more normal' type of winter weather we have been seeing this year. They are utilising the miles of cow track that we have laid down, to get to a different patch of about 6 acres each day. It will be about 60 days before they come back to the same patch, by which time we should be well into growing time.

Rabbits are becoming a problem. Despite the presence of Myxomatosis almost all the time, the rabbits (by spreading themselves around) have found a way of coping with it. By using guns, ferrets and lurchers we have killed several hundred since Christmas. My father used to tell me that 6 rabbits eat or spoil as much grass as a sheep and 4 sheep as much as a cow. So it's easy to see how much damage these animals are doing, apart from the damage to young trees and various vegetable plants!

Wildlife news: The long cold snap threw up several unusual sightings: with the arrival (for one day only!) of about 700 Lapwings onto the fields around Milton Cross, these were just 2 days in front of the freezing weather. The snow showed, amongst other things, how many Otters are about and how lazy they are, taking short cuts all the time across the fields. A pair of Redpoll was seen several times on Niger seeds. These are discrete finch like birds, usually high up in Birch trees and one of several races of the bird, these almost certainly being the Lesser Redpoll. A Female Hen Harrier has been seen quartering some marshland, probably after all those Field Voles that have been so busy under the snow.

We still have our Barn Owl on the farm. I have had no reports of any others recently. Are there any more? Please let me know.

A few events to support the work being done on the rivers Lugg and Arrow.

1. Saturday 1st May - Dawn Chorus and Walk: **5am at Leenfields** (£10 including farmhouse breakfast)

2. Saturday 1st May - Film - 6.30pm at The New Inn, A viewing of 'The Lost World of Mr Hardy' With talk by film producer & writer Andy Heathcote £10

3. Sunday 2nd May - a pond-dipping morning -11am for young and old, on the village green, identifying bugs from the river, casting lessons and tasting trout cooked over a fire lit by flint stone (£5 including light refreshments)

To reserve your spot contact
luggandarow@bigfoot.com or call 01544 388 510...

Tony

Tony Norman. (tony@leenfarmorganics.co.uk)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

If you are aware of anything in the parish that you feel needs to be attended to by the Lengthsman please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk, and the Parish Council will consider these suggestions.

PEMBRIDGE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

The parish's Affordable Housing project is going ahead, although rather slowly, owing to hold ups with the land purchase by the Developer. Information will be advertised as soon as it becomes available.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE AT WESTERN END OF THE VILLAGE

The Speed Indicator Device will again be positioned in the village during April and August, in a bid to continue to reduce the speed of traffic through the village.

ENERGY CHALLENGE – ONLINE ENTRIES REQUIRED BY PARISHIONERS PLEASE

Herefordshire Council is running an Energy Challenge for Parish Councils. There are 4 categories according to population size. One Parish Council from each of the 4 categories will receive a £5,000 prize to be used towards improving the energy efficiency of the village hall.

The more people within the parish who complete their carbon footprint, the better chance of success.

The aim of the competition is to increase awareness of the impact we have and the positive contribution we can all make towards tackling climate change. Please have a go at the online carbon footprint exercise and help Pembridge to win a £5,000 prize. Just go the following website www.myherefordshire.com

The challenge will be open for 3 months between 15th March (not before) and 15th June 2010

NSPCC HELPLINE CAMPAIGN

The NSPCC is currently running a campaign to raise awareness of abused or neglected children, and where you can turn to if you are worried about a child.

The free and anonymous telephone number is 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

DOG FOULING ALONG THE HIGH STREET

It has been noted that someone is taking their dog for a walk along the High Street in the early mornings and is allowing their dog to foul the pavement, and is not clearing up their dog's mess afterwards. This is causing a nuisance to people trying to walk along the pavement there, especially mothers with pushchairs and small children on their way to school.

It would be appreciated if this lack of action by an irresponsible dog owner would cease, and that they would clear up after their pet/s

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Wednesday 17th March & Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 7.30pm All Welcome.

Please address any inquiries to the Clerk:

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

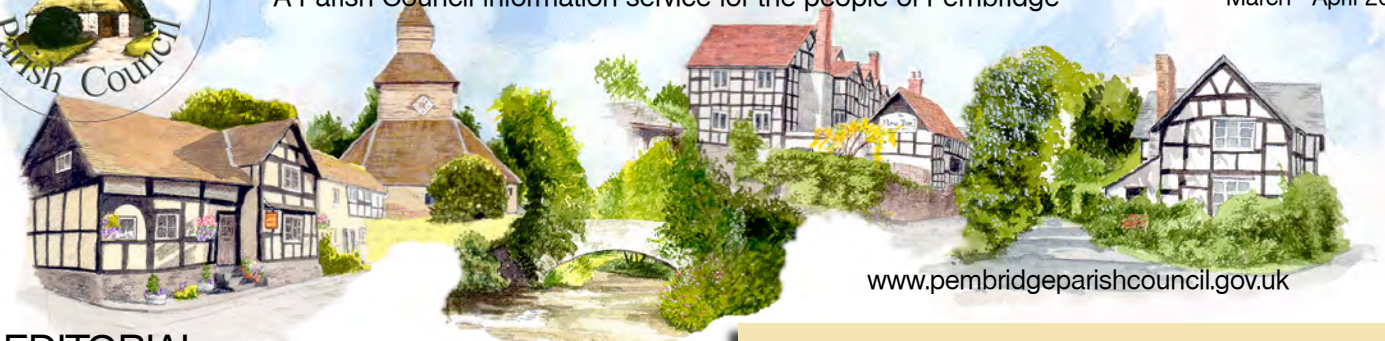
E-Mail: harding153@hotmail.com



Pembridge Parish News

A Parish Council information service for the people of Pembridge

March - April 2010



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

EDITORIAL

What a long slog this winter has been. It seems like the cold weather has been here for ever. As I write Britain is locked in arctic air with no sign of a reprieve. Even here in Spain it's been unseasonably cold and an icy north wind. But, now we are into March the light at the end of the tunnel just may be a rising sun !! Just think, light nights, swallows next month, those lovely vibrant greens as the new shoots appear in the hedges and on the trees. The hawthorn hedges always seem to be first. So what will this year have in store for us in Pembridge ? Well, much of the same I expect. The village show will be looming again at the end of July and will need plenty of support if it is to continue it's good showing of last year. Hopefully, rock on the pluck will return and I hope Julie will continue with cream tea concerts in the Church. If you have any ideas for activities please drop me an email.

Meanwhile, hang in there. Spring is on it's way and please, can we have a decent summer this year !! Look forward to seeing you all in April.

Glyn

PEMBRIDGE ART MARKET IN MAY

Pembridge Art Market will be held on Saturday 22nd May this year.

With four local art markets taking place in the locality prior to the usual September date it was becoming increasingly difficult to find artists with work left to exhibit. So last June we sent a questionnaire to over 100 exhibitors and asked them what time of year they thought would be better and how we might improve our event.

The outcome was that a spring/early summer date was preferred and that the inclusion of some arts and crafts would add variety. Otherwise there was general approval of the market's organisation.

If new artists wish to exhibit their work or there are any local people who would like to be considered for selling their craftwork then contact Lindsay Simpson on 01544 387960

After a year's absence we look forward to a successful event that will provide an attraction for parishioners and visitors alike.

POPPY APPEAL AWARD FOR PEMBRIDGE



Sharon O'Hare with the shield

Pembridge Branch of the Royal British Legion has been awarded a the Poppy Appeal Challenge Shield for its sustained contribution to the annual Poppy Appeal. The annual collection is spear-headed by Sharon O'Hare who has been organising the event for nearly 30 years. Her efforts combined with the generous support of the church, the hunt and local businesses raised over £4000 this year. The award was presented to Pembridge at the County Annual General Meeting in February. The new Branch Chairman Bridget Rose said that this award was a measure of the generosity of the local community and she would like to encourage anyone who has an interest in supporting ex service personnel to join the Pembridge Branch and has a target of 30 new members this year. Already recruited are the proprietors of the Bateman Arms, both of whom are ex Army. There is no requirement for a service background and the subscription is only £11 per year which includes the British Legion Magazine. The Branch meets at the New Inn and will hold its Annual Dinner there on 19 March where the guest speaker will be David Thomas the County Manager. If you would like to join the Legion please contact rose.bridget@gmail.com.

Editor : Glyn Whiting tel: 01544 388497 email : glynwhiting@tiscali.co.uk Publication deadline : April 15th 2010

www.pembridgeamenitytrust.co.uk www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk www.pembridgechurch.org.uk

NB : the views expressed by contributors are those of the authors and not those of the editor. View expressed in editorials are not necessarily those of the Parish Council

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

Planning for the Future

Following the public meeting on the 4th the Parish Council and residents have until the 12th March to respond to their thoughts on the Councils proposals for future housing developments in the village. Included in the consultation are proposals for Hereford City and also relief roads for both Hereford City and Leominster. We are already experiencing traffic queues and poor air quality down Bargates to the traffic lights and that is before the development of 350 houses at Barons cross which have been granted but not built. Please either visit Council website and return online or return form in the next edition of Herefordshire Matters.

Archive Service 50th Birthday

I attended the 50th anniversary of Herefordshire Council's Archive Services. The service is based in Hereford and contains all the historic documents and records of the County including many private papers given over the years. In the past Pembridge residents have played an important part in supporting the service via the friends of the Archives. If you have an interest in local history and want to help out please visit the Archives on Harold Street in Hereford.

Winter 2010

This Winter has been the worse locally since 1998/1/82 with figures as low as minus 12 degrees in Shobdon. The County's fleet of 18 gritters salted the agreed 963 Km of priority roads and 684 Km of secondary routes. By mid January over 10,000 tonnes of grit (5,000 in a normal season) had been used with winter maintenance costs reaching nearly 2 million pounds.

It is clear that considerable damage has been done to the road system in this Country. Locally we estimate over 5 million pounds worth in Herefordshire. We have instructed our contractor to repair them now but recognise that in most cases this is not the best long term solution.

A programme of patching and resurfacing will be rolled out afterwards in the new financial year. The Budget for next year has over 18 million pounds to spend on Highways an increase of 10%.

Please report any potholes to the council's street care line on 01432 261800 or at streets@herefordshire.gov.uk

Cllr Roger Phillips

01432260046/ 01544340269

Email: rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk



THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING

Just as this Parish magazine reports to you about what has been going on in your neighbourhood, and tells you about upcoming events, companies have a responsibility to report on their activities; not just from a financial point of view, but also from an environmental and a societal one. Kingspan Insulation has just published its 2009 Sustainability and Responsibility Report, and is proud to be able to demonstrate the progress that it has made in many areas, in spite of the recession. This year the report is even more comprehensive, and has been produced to meet the internationally recognised Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard.

Some of the information in it you will already know about, other things you may be surprised to learn, such as the local purchasing policy, so that wherever possible Kingspan use local suppliers, or the fact that every year an apprentice is taken on from the local technical college. Did you know, for example, that the Pembridge site has a highly efficient reed bed for the disposal of waste water, or that it is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including bats? Perhaps one of the best things about reporting on these things is that it gives the opportunity to not only review what has been achieved, but also to look forward to what more can be done. The process is about always moving on, so the report also covers actions for the next year; plans such as making better use of local footpaths and organising lunchtime walks, or introducing a formal system to respond to community complaints, of which, thankfully, there are few.

One of the most important actions in 2010 will be a repeat of the local community 'sustainability' consultation, in which Kingspan try to find out what you think of the company, what you think it does well and what you think could be done better. Your input is really important, so please make the most of this opportunity to make your views known.

If you are interested in reading the full report, you can download it from the internet by visiting <http://www.insulation.kingspan.com/sustainabilityandresponsibility/>. But make sure you watch out as well for the next "Open Book", which will have a much more local focus.

WELCOME TO PEMBRIDGE



We are pleased to welcome Mrs. William to our teaching team this month. Mrs. Williams and Class One have made a busy start to the new year in their beautifully refurbished classroom.

Knitting and Crochet Workshops

The next workshop will be on Tuesday 2 March from 10.00 - 12.00 noon. These workshops, run in Weobley, are for anyone interested in taking up knitting or crochet or to try new techniques such as cable or using colours. The meetings are very informal and we'll have a cup of coffee and a biscuit mid-session! Please bring a pair of slippers with you and **ring me the day before the workshop** to let me know you are coming. A small charge of £2 is taken to cover costs and to put towards sending jumpers and blankets to the orphanages. If you would like to make a garment or squares for a blanket, give me a ring. For further information please ring



This little fellow is a hummingbird hawk moth. They are only about an inch long and look just like a tiny hummingbird. Quite common here in Spain and like to flit between bougainvillea flowers. Very rare in the UK but can be seen sometimes.

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY GROUPS HELP AVAILABLE

REACH

Free help and advice is now available to voluntary and community groups in **North West Herefordshire**, the Golden Valley and North East Herefordshire through an exciting new project called REACH.

If you are involved in a new or existing voluntary or community group and would like support or advice to help with things such as **finding funding & volunteers, training courses, community consultation, buildings & facilities, social enterprise start-ups, youth projects and much more**, then REACH may be able to assist you.

If you would like to find out more about how REACH may be able to help your group then please contact **Hannah** on 07827 775701 or email her at hannah@herefordshireva.org.

Hannah will be based in **Kington** at **Marches Access Point**.

If you are interested in volunteering or are an organisation looking for volunteers REACH will also be providing a new volunteer support service that will be available in **Kington** every **Wednesday** at **Marches Access Point**. Please contact Vicky Hamilton on 07827 775700 or email her at vhamilton@herefordshireva.org to find out more.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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