

LEEN TIMES

Well, its that time of year again... the cows are all looking for a mate. Having had their calves over the last 3 months, they have all had their veterinary checkups, they are all comfortable inside and they are all sporting patches on their backs near their tails. These change colour when they come on heat so that we know when to get the AI man in. He will be serving 15-25 cows a day for 40 odd days. Then we shall turn in a number of bulls to clear up any that are left. Hopefully they will all be back in calf to calve in a 12-week period late next summer.

Most of the vegetables are picked, with just a few (5 tons) Leeks to get each week until January.

Over the summer many more fish passes have been built on the weirs of the river, It was really fascinating to see 18 Salmon have a go at one of the weirs in one quarter hour watch. They really are incredible animals, having been born in the river gravels 4 years ago, spending 2 years, probably only a few miles from Pembridge. Then 2 years out at sea with all the hazards there and finally up the river again to us. This really has been a well-berried autumn. We are beginning to see Fieldfares and Redwings getting stuck into them. If you have any Holly with berries-now is the time to beat them. With the natural food dwindling, it is time to get the bird feeders going to help those birds over the next few months. Give them a good scrub to reduce any infections. They will repay you many times over.

For the last few years I have had a brilliant team of volunteers helping me with wildlife jobs around the farm (and the village). We have coppiced and pollarded trees, planted hedges, cleared rides in the woods, plotted ancient trees on maps, cleared rubbish, put up bird boxes and done numerous other small jobs. If you would like to help out for a couple of hours on some Sunday mornings--do let me know. Important date:

Sloe Gin Competition New Inn Dec.12 7.30

Peter Klein has sent me this wonderful photo of a Common Blue butterfly which were happily plentiful near the Byletts this summer- just a reminder of those warm days! Have a happy Xmas and a good New Year.

Tony - tony@leenfarmorganics.co.uk



Tony Norman - Parish Flood Warden
In the event of bad weather, if any parishioners require sandbags, please contact Tony on: tel: 388510

BRIDGE EVENINGS - NEW INN

These bridge sessions are intended for beginners and improvers and are very sociable and relaxed bridge evenings. We welcome all and are happy to help lapsed players return to the game. Please contact me if you're interested; ask any questions and, if you'd like to be included, I'll put you on the email list. I ask by email every week how many people are available for Monday evening and, provided we have at least two tables, the game goes ahead. I send an email at lunchtime on Monday to tell everyone whether the evening session will go ahead or not.

We are a bit short of numbers and I hope some ex players will be encouraged to consider starting again. Also, anyone who has completed a basic beginners course would, I'm sure, enjoy this relaxed atmosphere with help available for those who'd like some advice.

Ken Wheeler
oldcelt@gmail.com 01544 388 573

Pembridge Surgery Opening hours

Monday:	8.45am to 1.00pm	2.15pm to 6.00pm
Tuesday	8.45am to 1.00pm	closed afternoons
Wednesday	closed all day	
Thursday	8.45am to 1.00pm	2.15pm to 6.00pm
Friday	8.45am to 1.00pm	closed afternoons

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Garfield Evans
CHAIRMAN
Cllr. Kenneth Myers
VICE CHAIRMAN
Cllr. David Owens
Cllr. Alan Stokes
Cllr. Mrs. Julie Mifflin
Cllr. Phillip Thomas
Cllr. John Purslow
Cllr. Mrs. Suzanne Smith
Cllr. Mrs. Patricia Lloyd
Cllr. Kevin Duggan
Cllr. Robert Pierce
Cllr. Philip Rogers
Cllr. Roger Phillips

WARD COUNCILLOR

Clerk :

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



EDITORIAL

It gives me great sadness to drive through the village this week and see the shutters down at The Steppes. Twenty first century life is not conducive to a small village shop and each year becomes more of an uphill struggle. With Sue's tragic illness throwing Nigel's life upside down, children to worry about and a new life far from family and friends I take my hat off to him. I'm sure the village will join me in wishing Nigel & Erica all the very best in their new life in Shobdon.

Meanwhile, the Christmas celebrations are looming ahead and we will soon see the lovely trees around the village thanks to Julie and her band of elves. With all our children spread far and wide around the globe it will be a very quiet few days for us, but modern technology shrinks even the longest distances.

Among the presents and parties and repeats on TV I hope we can all find time to remember why we have this festival in the first place. So, have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year

Glyn

SNAKES ALIVE !

could this be the new slithering house at Pembridge school ?



We were visited by Nigel Hand from Herefordshire Nature Trust and treated to an exciting talk and handling session. Some of KS2 are pictured with Nigel and a corn snake. "We learned about the snakes that live in our local area such as the Adder and Grass snake. Nigel was enthusiastic and let us handle the snake and stroke a Leopard Gecko; it was great" said Will and Anna from class 4.

December 2010 & January 2011



CHRISTMAS TREES



The Christmas tree lights will be turned on officially on December 3rd. Father Christmas will be visiting to meet the children. Hopefully there will be stalls and carol singing. Coffee, tea and mince pies are available free. There will be a raffle for a Christmas cake kindly donated by Mrs Lee

BONFIRE NIGHT



Despite the rain we had a very successful bonfire with some lovely firework displays. We would like to thank everyone who helped and lent equipment. It was marvellous being able to shelter in the marquee with the hot dogs and mulled wine. I would like to thank everyone for the generous donations, which the profit, when all debts are paid will go towards next year's fireworks. Every year two members of the committee have to go on a training course for the fireworks. We are also fully insured and have to follow their rules, which unfortunately include no sparklers.

Remembrance Day - see article inside



HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

Herefordshire Recycling success

It is over a year now since Herefordshire Council started recycling with the green wheelie bins and during that time residents have recycled over 28,500 tonnes of waste. That is the equivalent to the weight of 150 jumbo jets or 14,000 elephants. All the contents of the bins are taken to a centre just outside Worcester and are sorted into various categories.

This year due to the Festive days falling on the weekend all recycling and refuse collection days will be as normal. Please do not put plastic film, carrier bags, cling film or shiny gift wrap into wheelie bins and take textiles and foil to special banks at supermarket or the household waste site at Bridge Street in Leominster. Rinsed bottles and jars can be recycled in the bins. For more information on recycling visit www.wasteless.com.

Skating Rink in Hereford

For a special family treat this year visit Hereford City centre skating rink. It opens from 27th November until 31st December (except Christmas and Boxing days). The rink is undercover opened from 10 am to 6 pm, children under eight must be accompanied by adults. For more details contact www.burgoyne-marquees.co.uk.

There will be special festive markets leading up to Christmas and the Old House will be specially dressed inside of Christmas past.

Kington Cluster of Schools

The Governing bodies of Lady Hawkins High School and the four local primary schools of Pembridge, Kington, Eardisley and Ameley have agreed to form a soft cluster federation. The schools will keep their own budgets, identity and most importantly their premises but will in future share staff and administration cost in order to meet the challenges of tighter budgets in the future and retaining high standards of education for our pupils. This is very positive news for our local schools all of whom perform well.

Preparing for Winter

After the worst winter for more than 30 years the Council has again a full stock of 6,500 tonnes of salt which is mined in Cheshire. The Councils contractors Amey use 15 gritters but as in previous years not all the 2044 miles of highways will be gritted. In our Parish the main road, Bridge street down to Milton crossroads and the Rhyse Lane as treated as priority. During winter gritting takes place between 35 to 70 times a year costing between £800,000 to over 2 million pounds.

As the weather gets worse we know the potholes will start to appear and the council has a hotline for them to be reported to on streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or ring 01432 261800.

Pembridge Surgery

Herefordshire NHS pay the Kington GPs funding to retain our village surgery and I understand that will continue but they are interested in hearing how the local pharmacies can improve and expand their services. The 26 community pharmacies and ten dispensing practices in Herefordshire issued over 2.5 million prescriptions last year. Please go on to website www.herefordshire.nhs.uk and make your comments on the present and future services of pharmacies in the county.

Roger Phillips 01544340269/ 01432260046
Email: rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

THE PARISH COUNCIL WISHES ALL RESIDENTS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR. 2011 Will be a special year with the forthcoming Royal Wedding.

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.

PARISH GRIT/SALT BINS

If there are any bins that need to be replenished for this winter, please advise the Clerk so that this can be arranged as soon as possible.

LOCAL POLICE CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

For NON EMERGENCIES you can contact the local Kington Rural Police as follows:
PC Joanne Ellis : 07977 098394 or
Community Support Officer Dick Alford : 07968 462523

PARISH COUNCIL AND COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON 5. MAY 2011

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2011/12

The Parish Council will shortly be setting its Budget/Precept for 2011/12.

If there is anything which you would like to have considered, which would be of benefit to the Parish, please advise the Clerk as soon as possible.

NEXT PARISH MEETING DATES

Wed. 1st December – Finance Group only – Precept/Budget setting for 2011-12

At 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall At which a draft copy will be prepared for later ratification by full Council.

Wed. 15th December at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall 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



FROM PONDS TO SCRUMS

What do frogs and rugby players have in common? Not a lot you might think, but in this neck of the woods they will both be seeing the benefit of the November round of grants from the Kingspan Insulation Community Trust. This strange combination came about because they both meet one of the four objectives that Trust funding supports, which (as you probably know by now) are: road safety, healthy recreation for young people, environmental conservation and encouraging biodiversity. Since it started in 2006 the healthy recreation category has seen a wide range of different kit, equipment and training being funded by Kingspan, not just for rugby but also for activities as diverse as football, basketball, cricket, hockey, athletics, tennis and bowls. Of course it doesn't stop there; with three other categories to try for, there has also been funding in the past for a whole variety of projects ranging from conservation areas, ponds and woodland, to road safety equipment for pre-school children and an environmental group website.

There have been six successful applications for grants this November. One was from Wigmore High School, who wanted to encourage their blossoming rugby players with a scrummaging machine to teach up and coming Martin (or Martina) Johnsons how to be effective and safe in that most physically demanding example of rugby teamwork – the scrum.

Another project has resulted in funding for a bug house, bird boxes, butterfly habitat and a bat box to provide safe and inviting homes for wildlife, together with observational equipment for pre-school children, showing that it is never too early to start appreciating the importance of the natural world.

The other successful projects include two primary school ponds, camping equipment for scouts, and a primary school outdoor study area that will help the pupils make the most of their existing wildlife garden. Remember, the grants run every year, so if you missed out on November, look out for the next deadline for applications towards the end of September next year.



PEMBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SHOW

At the recent AGM Pembridge show committee were very pleased with the success of 2010 show. Although entrance prices had been kept the same, as the previous year, with all children free, the show made a profit. The committee agreed to give donations to the Air ambulance, Pembridge village Christmas trees and money towards flowers and planters for Pembridge to help with next year's entry in the Heart of England competition, in which we came second this year. The committee would like to appeal to Parishioners for help with next year's show. We would love some more committee members but would be very happy if you would just like to work on show day. A lot of jobs are sitting down taking money for rides, skittles or raffle ticket selling.

We would like to thank everyone for helping at the show and supporting it by attending.

See you all July 30th 2011 Julie Miffin

PEMBRIDGE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Bugler Recognised

For 35 years Neil Roberts has sounded the Last Post and Reveille for the Pembridge Branch's annual commemoration of those who sacrificed their lives for our country. Neil was only 12 when he first played for the ceremony and since then he has returned every year without exception to ensure that the service is a fitting tribute. Neil was presented with the Branch certificate and a Legion silver spoon in recognition of his sterling efforts during the after service tipples at the New Inn.

Condolences

The Legion sadly announces the loss of three stalwart members this year - Rev Stan Perrott, Simon Boosey and most recently David Corbett. They will be very sadly missed.

Branch update

Who would want to join the British Legion in Pembridge you might well ask - well Chris Fairs, Stuart Fletcher and Nigel Gulliman thought it was worthwhile and several existing members of branches outside the county have also elected to transfer to Pembridge. The annual membership subscription (£11) is in effect a donation to the Legion (and you get a magazine) and there is no slave labour involved unless you willingly subject yourself. The Branch intends to run a couple of talks early in the New Year - Steve Holder - (ex you know who) will talk about the Falklands Campaign with pictures) and Tony Gerity (ex you know who and author of Who Dares Wins) will also come to give us an insight into the other world. You do not need to be either male nor ex services to join the Legion and as the New Inn is the venue for meetings, events and jollies it seems that there is in fact no good reason not to join!

Bridget Rose 01544 388442 rose.bridget@gmail.com