

LEEN TIMES

Not a bad day today (mid Jan.), but it was a bit tricky in December. The snow and severe frost meant that water pipes froze, diesel engines wouldn't work, the milking units wouldn't work, we couldn't wash anything and the feed and milk lorries struggled valiantly to get on and off the farm. Fortunately we had plenty of feed and thanks to the sheer hard work of staff and family we managed to keep everything going. It is a credit to them and to Amey that they did, they all deserve a very big --Thank You.

The weather brought its own events, news and tragedies in the wildlife world. It was the heaviest spawning of salmon I have ever seen on the Arrow with no fewer than 12 redds (Nests with up to 5000 eggs) on the Village Green. Sadly the otters had a feast, with carcasses strewn around the river just below the bridge. Waxwings were seen in the village before the snow arrived to add to the redwings and fieldfares stripping the berries when the snow did arrive. Barn owls were seen still hunting in the coldest weather. Those that didn't survive included kite, barn owl, buzzard, kingfisher and several finches. Many that did survive owe their lives to the feed that was put out for them. Life has quickly returned to normal with woodpeckers knocking, all sorts of birds pairing up and the first snowdrops beginning to show.

We have a small, dedicated team that care for the Village Green (there cannot be many Village Greens that regularly have salmon and otters on them!). A couple of years ago we were lucky enough to get a grant from Kingspan to create a 'wildlife area'. This is about half- wet woodland and half- meadow. Infrastructure included a path, seats and waste points. Our team undertakes to maintain the infrastructure and provide access and very little else. We just leave it to the wildlife. I walk round about once a week (picking up rubbish) and have found it fascinating--so much going on all the time.

If anyone would like to look at it with me, at any time, Please get in touch and I would be happy to take you round.

Tony Norman tony@leenfarmorganics.co.uk



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

Tony Norman - Parish Flood Warden

In the event of bad weather, if any parishioners require sandbags, please contact Tony on: tel: 388510

WINTER SONG - Wilfred Owen

The browns, the olives, and the yellows died,
And were swept up to heaven; where they glowed
Each dawn and set of sun till Christmastide.
And when the land lay pale for them, pale-snowed,
Fell back, and down the snow-drifts flamed and flowed.

From off your face, into the winds of winter,
The sun-brown and the summer-gold are blowing;
But they shall gleam again with spiritual glint,
When paler beauty on your brows falls snowing,
And through those snows my looks shall be soft-going.



YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Garfield Evans

CHAIRMAN

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Cllr. David Owens

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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

Well, what a Christmas ! Snow, burst pipes, failed heating, travel plans disrupted...and that was just us!! Still, it was beautiful and I got some wonderful pictures. And before we leave it behind, a big thank you to Julie and all her supporters for the great display of lit up Christmas trees around the village. With the snow as well it was magical. Now it's all over and the new year stretches ahead. The big news is the Royal wedding and it seems we are all suckers for a wedding and I hope you all get behind the celebrations that are planned. April could be a bit dodgy with the weather so fingers crossed.

I will be spending the rest of the winter painting in Spain as usual so I hope the winter has had its little joke and settles down. I hope I can get some walking in and get some of the winter weight off.

Those of you with jobs and mortgages will be facing the new year with some trepidation I expect so let's hope the country bounces back and the Royal wedding is the beginning of a summer that puts a smile back on our faces. Most of us would settle for just a summer !!

Do take care during the cold weather and if you have elderly neighbours please make sure they are all right and check on them regularly. See you in April ! Glyn

THE CLASS OF '66

How times have changed ! Are you here ? This is how the school was the last time England won the world cup.



Parish Royal Wedding Celebration



The celebration will be held on

Friday 29th April

(a public holiday)

*A street party/picnic around the
Market Square & Church Grounds*

Commencing at 2.00pm

A celebration for all the family



Lots of bunting and flags will be needed so please look out anything suitable. It will be on a 'bring your own' basis as far as food and drink is concerned but pooling resources will make it a bit more exciting. More details to follow in the next magazine. Help will be needed both before and on the day so please volunteer if you can and let the clerk know on;

01568 612143 or

email: harding153@hotmail.com

There will be a special parish hall meeting on;

Tuesday March 7th at 7.30pm

Please come along

Editor : Glyn Whiting tel: 01544 388497 email : glynwhiting@tiscali.co.uk Publication deadline : March 15th 2011

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. Views expressed in editorials are not necessarily those of the Parish Council

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

2011 BUDGET

We all recognise that we are living in financially harder times and as a nation the government is paying 120 million pounds a day in interest payments. The Council has received its settlement from the government which has cut grants by 13.3% for next year meaning that over 10 million pounds worth of savings has to be funded in 2011/12.

The bulk of the savings will come from the cost of delivering services rather than cutting the services particularly to the most vulnerable. The impact of this is to reduce by a quarter of all managers in the Councils and delete another 250 posts from the organisation. We will continue to link up our administration with the local health service and County Hospital to save over 33 million pounds over 10 years; and support the functional and financial viability of the Hospital. There will be an extra 4 million pounds in the Adult Social Care budget to meet the growing demand of our maturing population and the Council will continue to fund concessionary fares but there will need to be a consultation over the next 18 months on the number of bus services and their cost. The Council is taking advantage of the government's offer of a grant of 2 million pounds to freeze the Council Tax level this April.

WINTER WEATHER

Winter came not only early this year but with some of the lowest temperatures we have seen since 1982. The council's contractors Amey have done their best to keep open the priority routes and fill grit bins. For the second year running the sub contractor snow ploughs have also been used. In contrast to some other councils I also think our waste collection has been practical and reliable given the circumstances. The problem is now the potholes and I will remind of the hotline for reporting these on streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or ring 01432261800.

NEW CARE TEAMS

The Council working with GPs, the Primary Care Trust, the County and Community hospitals has developed teams which then offer a range of options to Doctors.

When a Doctor arrives to see a patient in their homes too often he was caught between two options either the County Hospital or leave them where they were alone. The new Instant Care Teams mean that there is a range of Care options. The scheme offers a care team going in within three hours offering a three day package. This could range from a single daily visit to 24 hr support in the home. The benefits are that the County Hospital has less full beds which means it concentrates on acute need which strengthens its business case. Patients remain in a setting they feel comfortable and can be supported by their family and community easier. The scheme still means that entry into County or Community hospital is still there. It is about offering a range of options that offer the appropriate package of care when needed.

The aim is to develop neighbourhood teams from across the partners to achieve a quality care for ourselves, family and friends working with GPs and other professionals around patients and services rather than bureaucrats.

Roger Phillips 015443420269 / 01432260046
Email rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Next Parish Council Meetings:

Wednesday 16th February and Wednesday
16th March 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.
All welcome

Parish Council Elections

are taking place on **5th May**: If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, or the Electoral Registration department of Herefordshire Council before the end of February. If you have any queries, please address these to the Parish Council Clerk:

Mrs. Heather Harding :

Tel: 01568 612143 or
harding153@hotmail.com

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PARISH PLAN REVIEW

Your views are needed to help plan the future of the parish.

Come to a meeting in the
Parish Hall 7.30 pm

Wednesday 9th March

All Welcome.

YOUR PARISH LENGTHSMAN

We are coming to the end of the second year of employing a lengthsman in our Parish. The principal job of the lengthsman is to provide minor maintenance and ensure proper drainage of non trunk roads and ensure road signs are clean and not obstructed.

Following a survey commissioned by the Parish Council in 2009 of road conditions the current year has seen the lengthsman employed mainly clearing ditches, culverts and the cutting or clearing of grips (channels from the road through the verge to divert water into a drainage ditch) to improve the removal of surface water. This has entailed a significant amount of work as little has been done over recent years. It has been pointed out that the maintenance of roadside drainage ditches and culverts is the responsibility of the landowner of the adjacent land.

The work of the lengthsman is financed by a grant from Herefordshire Council but after next year it will be reduced in value (if it is not discontinued) on the assumption that major rectification works will have been performed in the first three years and only minor maintenance will be required thereafter.

Any requests for work to be carried out by the lengthsman should be forwarded to our Clerk for the Parish council's consideration.



LUCTIONIANS MINI & MIDI RUGBY TEAMS LOOK LIKE PRO'S

If you've been lucky enough to catch any of this seasons matches for the Luctonians Mini and Midi Rugby Teams, you may have had to look twice, as they could be mistaken for Pro's!

Luctonians provides youngsters in the area, including a number from Pembridge, with an opportunity to participate in competitive rugby, and importantly the Club understands the importance of investing in each individual player. As a result it is constantly looking for ways to help improve rugby skills, retain existing players and encourage wider participation.

Many of the young players were growing out of their current strip fast, and as the cost of a new shirt could make all the difference to whether players returned next season or not, the Club wanted to provide replacement shirts for next season's U8 - U12 players. It also wanted to remove any obstacles it could to finding a fresh cohort of U7 players for the new season.

With over 200 shirts needed, the cost added up to nearly £8,000, which the Club simply could not afford. So in order to keep the playing costs down the Club turned to the Kingspan Insulation Community Trust with an application for funding.

Luctonians have benefited previously from the Trust, with funding being granted on a number of occasions for new equipment. When this latest application was approved the new shirts soon proved to have the desired effect, with youngsters able to take real pride in their appearance and feeling further encouraged to participate.

If you have a worthwhile project that fulfils the objectives of the Trust you can get an application form off the website at: www.KingspanInsulationCommunityTrust.org.

Sign Up for Council Updates

You can now receive details by email of forthcoming Parish Council meetings and other events. Just go to the website www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk and enter your name and email address to receive an agenda a few days prior to each Council meeting.

WEOBLEY THEATRE GOERS

We are going to see **Cowardy Custard** on Thurs 14 April, leaving Bell Square, Weobley at 12.30pm. The show stars Kit and The Widow and Dillie Keane (Fascinating Aida). "A smash hit in London and New York, this is the first major revival of the famous review of The Master's work, interspersed with his most brilliant songs: Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage Mrs Worthington, A Room with a View, Poor Little Rich Girl, Mad about the Boy, Mad Dogs and Englishmen..." All seats are in the centre of the front 3 rows of the circle. The cost of this show is £27.50 to include the coach, payable **before 12 March**.

We shall then have a trip to Birmingham Hippodrome to see **Top Hat** on Wed 7 September. This is Fred Astaire's and Ginger's greatest Hollywood dance musical, for the first time, live on stage. "Strictly Come Dancing winner, Tom Chambers, plays Jerry Travers, the famous American headliner who arrives in London to appear in his first West End show, meets the girl of his dreams and follows her across Europe in an attempt to win her heart with his wonderful song and dance routines. Irving Berlin's celebrated score features such classics as Cheek to Cheek, Let's Face the Music and Dance, Top Hat, White Tie and Tails." We shall be leaving Bell Square at 9.30am to allow a couple of hours shopping time. I have reserved best seats in the stalls (rows E and F) for those of you who may like to be closer to the action, and the rest of the seats are in the circle (rows B and C). Cost is £42.50 payable **before 8 April, and please state which seats you would prefer**. As usual, first come, first served!

For further information please ring me: Kate Best 01544 318513

W.I. NEWS

Members enjoyed a New Year's Party for our January meeting to welcome in 2011. Party games and delicious food were enjoyed by all. Our February meeting will take place at the **Village Hall on February 9th at 7-00pm** with a slide show "Completely Lost in Herefordshire" by David Hill. Visitors may be assured of a warm welcome and a delicious tea after the entertainment. For further details please contact **Catherine Fothergill on 01544 388 279**.

Pembridge W.I. meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday each month in the village hall at 7-00pm.