

# Pembridge Parish News

[www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

A Parish Council information service for the people of Pembridge

April - May 2012

## Need Help Shopping?



Following the great start of the re-opening of The Olde Steppes, Gary and Mark and the Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme are launching a new initiative to help people who find it difficult to get to the shop.

Anyone who has mobility problems or is unwell just phone the shop and ask for Gary or Mark and place your order. A volunteer from the Scheme will deliver it for you. On receipt of your shopping you pay the volunteer and there will be no charge for delivery. This service covers the whole of the Pembridge Parish.

**Just call Gary or Mark on 388506.**

## Thoughts of a New Parish Councillor

The fact that I am writing this article is possibly due to my inexperience as a Parish Councillor. It was suggested at one meeting recently, that it was unreasonable to expect the Chairman of the Council to produce works of literary genius for every issue of the Parish News and should not the task be spread around the Councillors? Excellent idea cried the majority of (experienced) Councillors. How about an article from a New Councillor? I suddenly became aware of a large number of eyes fixed on me. No pressure then!!

I put myself forward as a Parish Councillor last year, partly motivated by the knowledge that Tricia Lloyd from Broxwood, after many years of selfless and noble service, had stood down at the last elections. I live just outside Broxwood and felt that the Hamlet should have representation at Parish level additional to that provided by the Ward Councillor, Roger Phillips, not only to provide the Hamlet's point of view but also to contribute to the "mother" village. I have a little experience of living in the village having rented a house on the main road for a short period in the past.

It is, potentially, an interesting time to become a Parish Councillor. Although difficult to believe, Central Government does seem serious about devolving "power" (and, it seems to me, also cost, the other side of the coin) down to grass roots level. I recently went to a conference at the Courtyard in Hereford where the "Star Turn" was Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. If what he had to say is to be taken at face value, this devolution is more than passing "power" from Whitehall to the County Council. It is intended that decision making, implementation and responsibility should be devolved to communities, meaning in our case, the Parish Council and the residents of the Parish.

As always the devil lies in the detail. At the time of writing this, although the Localism Bill has passed through Parliament, very few of the regulations that will implement

this have been published and it is not yet possible to understand the full implications of the Bill. However, from the rhetoric, it seems likely that more will be required both of the Parish Council and the residents of the Parish in the future. Consultation will be a key feature. Therefore I ask that everyone should let Councillors know what their views are on issues as they are raised. If what is proposed comes about, Councillors and residents will need to pull together to make the most of the new system.

I have one further thought, the County Council has recently grouped Parish Councils into "Localities". We are part of the Kington "Locality" which comprise Kington, Almeley, Brilley, Eardisley Group, Huntington, Lyonshall, Kington Rural and Lower Harpton Group, Titley and district Group and Pembridge. I am told that the main purpose of this grouping is to bring together more easily the services provided to us. I do not believe that the County Council has the authority to create such Groupings vis-a-vis Parish Councils. My own view is that this could be the thin edge of the wedge as the County Council seeks to find efficiency by dealing with larger units rather than having to work with individual Parish Councils. As a consequence, Parish Councils, individually, could wither on the vine. If it is necessary to have larger units and effectively abolish the Parish Councils in Herefordshire as we know them, we should have an open debate and the views of the residents of Herefordshire should be sought. The emasculation of Parish Councils should not be achieved by bureaucratic means as they are an integral part of our Constitution and History.

With best wishes to you all

*Andrew Pace*



# Herefordshire Council Report

## 2011/12 Council Budget

Local Government in England and Wales have had their grants from government cut by 28% in the years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and all local authorities are cutting back their operations including losing over 140,000 jobs (Full and Part time). This means that in Herefordshire we shall be saving 19 million in the same period while dealing also with increased costs of Adult services.

We have taken the Govt grant equivalent of 2.5% council tax to freeze council tax for the second year running. As a result the Bill you will receive at the end of the month should be the same as last year. On a Band D house the Council Tax element will be £1,205.09, West Mercia Police £178.72 and H&W Fire £73.64 plus the Parish Council precept.

The Budget approved at the Council Meeting in March is part of a three year medium financial plan with 9.304 million pounds worth of reductions. Most of this will come from further reductions in staff numbers ( Local Government Pay is being frozen for a third year with no payment of £250 to those earning under 21k as in the NHS and Civil service). Included is 2.3 million pounds to be saved from reducing residential care costs and providing more support for vulnerable in their own homes. A reduction in the number of contracts issued and increase in charges will also contribute.

£250K will be saved from reducing the demand of agency and placement of edge of care children, £100K from Youth services and handing more of that budget to voluntary sector, £145K from school transport (4.5 million total budget) and £500K from reconfiguration of Connexions service. £400,000 Will be saved in the regulatory services, Grants to HALO and the Courtyard cut by 137K and 36K. Increase in council charges including planning consultation fees.

What was considered but retained was free black bags, free parking at Queenswood and maintain the budget for the local authority's Looked After Children. Funding is also included for the preparation for the submission of the first stage planning application for the Hereford By pass between the A49 and A465. Full details can be seen on Council website.

In the future Capital programme over the next three years £6 million was identified for Rural Broadband, £6 million for new Archives centre and funding for new road in the middle of the city.

## Key Herefordshire Statistics

- Median weekly earnings for people who work full time in Herefordshire were £385 in 2011, 24% lower than earnings across England as a whole.
- In January 2012 youth unemployment (7.6%) was at its highest since the peak of the recession (Jobseekers claimants).
- The median house price for quarter 3 of 2011 (£180,000) was lower than for the same period in 2010 (£190,000), and much lower than in 2008 (£197,000).
- In 2009, Herefordshire's gross disposable household income per head was £14,894, a 4% increase on 2008.

# Parish Council Report

## Dog fouling on public open spaces

This includes village green, village hall, millennium meadow and all village pavements. Please be aware that it is an offence for dog owners not to pick up and bag their dog's faeces from any public places, particularly village pavements. Dog fouling is making it unpleasant for residents and visitors to walk, and children to play, on any place or open space where dog faeces are being left lying around.

## New grit/salt bins

The parish Council is looking at whether there is a need for further provision of salt/grit bins around the parish. If you are aware of a specific need, please contact the Parish Clerk.

## Next Police Surgeries in Pembridge

Thursday 29th March, Thursday 26th April, Thursday 24th May between 11am and 12am. At the Market Hall with PC Joanne Ellis or Community Support Officer Richard Alford.

You can report anything suspicious anonymously by ringing CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111

Or you can ring the non-emergency new number: 101

## New Parish Councillor

Adrian Mizrahi has recently left the area causing a vacancy for a parish councillor, which we are pleased to report has been filled by Claire Evans.

## Parish Council meetings - 7.30pm in the Parish Hall:

Wednesday 18th April 2012 – Parish Council meeting.

Wednesday 16th May – Parish Open Meeting – An opportunity for any parishioners to raise points of local interest or concern, for attention of the Parish Council.

Wednesday 23rd May – Parish Council's Annual Meeting and election of officers.

Please address any inquiries to the Clerk:

Mrs. Heather Harding, 153 Bargates, Leominster. HR6 8QT  
01568 612143 - mail@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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- In 2010 there were a total of 615 business births in Herefordshire and 845 deaths, more deaths and fewer births than previous years.

## West Midlands Ambulance Service

I had a meeting with the Commissioning Director of the service who was reporting on their performance levels. There are several targets but the main one I was concerned about was the response time for life threatening incidents of within 8 minutes. This is a problem in rural areas who's true response time is masked by our market towns and Hereford City. In the HR6 postcode area ambulances arrived within 8 minutes of 75% of all calls and in HR5 postcode it was 66%. To address the obvious geographical challenge it is important that Ambulances have paramedics on board that can deliver the necessary drugs e.g. deal with blood clots immediately and save someone life. The aim in Herefordshire is for 94% of all ambulance teams to include a paramedic and currently the Service claims to be meeting that target.

*Roger*

## Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Plans for 2 June are now taking shape:

**Saturday Afternoon** The following events being planned: children's fancy dress; children's sports; decorated hat competition; wheelbarrow race (adults and children); face painting; bouncy castle.

There will be afternoon teas and homemade cakes - donations of cakes would be very welcome. Contact Barbara Petrie, 388595 or Joyce Price, 388311.

**Saturday Evening** Approx. 6.30 pm there will be a disco for children. The barbecue will start serving food at the same time. The bar will open at lunchtime, so we can all sit and enjoy the children dancing while we have a drink and burger. Later in the evening the band "Business as Usual" will entertain everyone. If we have any spare money fireworks would be nice to close the evening.

**Sunday** Events move to the Market Square at lunchtime with some music under the Market Hall with tables and chairs for people to sit and enjoy it. The New Inn will have roast pork baps on sale. There will be extra tables and chairs provided. In the afternoon there is an exhibition in the church plus cream teas.

Plan to join in and make it a memorable and enjoyable time. If you have any suggestions for attractions or could help in any way please contact Julie Mifflin, 388414

## Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme

The group are holding their AGM on Tuesday, 22 May at Bearwood Chapel - everyone welcome.

Thirteen people attended an Emergency Life Support training session on the 23rd of February held in Bearwood Chapel. The training was given by Heartstart which is an initiative coordinated by the British Heart Foundation to teach people what to do in a life-threatening emergency. Volunteers from the Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme and parishioners were instructed by Allan Holloway on how to recognize and deal with: possible heart attack; serious bleeding and choking. Allan demonstrated the use of a defibrillator. Anyone who would like information on Heartstart or is interested in a course please give us a ring on 07779 122499..

## Pembridge Art Market

It is with great regret that the Pembridge Art Market Committee has finally decided to call time on the Art Market, for the most part due to the number of competing events and the parlous state of the economy. The Art Market has been a feature in the calendar of events for Pembridge for over 30 years, but in recent years has seen a decline in the number of exhibits and sales. The Art Market Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the willing volunteers for their support and for giving up their time to assist in making the Art Market the success it has been and to especially thank all the artists and craft makers who have exhibited their wonderful art work over the years.

## Kingspan News

### COUNTING DOWN TO NET ZERO

With concerns about our environment and rapid rises in gas and electricity prices, we've all been trying to reduce our energy usage. Kingspan Insulation is going one step further by introducing a range of new measures in a bid to achieve "zero net energy use", including covering the roof of its site in Pembridge with photovoltaic (PV) panels.



Over 5,500m<sup>2</sup> of PV panels have been installed on the roof of Kingspan Insulation's site in Pembridge to help power lighting and manufacturing lines as part of their challenge to achieve "zero net energy use".

"Zero net energy use" means reducing power usage, for example, by improving a building's insulation. Remaining energy demand is then matched using renewable energy generation technologies. However, the timing of renewable energy generation doesn't necessarily fit that of the demand i.e. PV generates electricity during the day, but you might want to use electricity at night. So the "net" part of "zero net energy use" allows you to export site-generated energy to the grid, and take it back out of the grid when you need it, so long as the quantity exported = that imported. It's all part of Kingspan Group's commitment to achieve this across all of its sites.

The huge new PV array is able to produce enough energy to run lights and manufacturing lines at the site during the day. Indeed the array is so powerful that at times it exceeds the site's energy needs and feeds electricity back into the grid.

Kingspan Insulation had already taken several steps to minimise energy use, including insulating site buildings to a high standard, replacing production line motors with efficient variable speed drives, and using sub-meters to monitor each system's power usage.

The challenge of achieving "zero net energy use" is ongoing at Kingspan Insulation, with exciting new measures being brought in all the time, and with these technologies becoming increasingly affordable, soon we may all be able to make big energy bills a thing of the past.

#### Pembridge Surgery - Tel: 388566

Monday:	8.85am to 1.00pm	2.15pm to 6.00pm
Tuesday:	8.85am to 1.00pm	Closed afternoons
Wednesday:	Closed all day	
Thursday:	8.85am to 1.00pm	2.15pm to 6.00pm
Friday:	8.85am to 1.00pm	Closed afternoons

# Leen Times

Spring is such a glorious time of year! Hanging over this one is the threat of a drought - something every farmer has serious concerns about. However, for the moment, we have abundant grass and the cows are milking really well. The fields with Hereford cows have dramatically increased in number with the arrival of the calves - it must be something in the air, because we also have the arrival of our 9th grandchild on the farm!

Now is the time when everything gets tidied up. Hedges and trees are put in order ready for the coming year. I was reminded when I looked at a neatly pollarded Willow (that's when the branches are cut off 8-10 feet off the ground) of watching a similar job being done in my youth.

In those days everything was done with an axe or a cross-cut saw. The old boy I worked with was an artist with an axe. He would climb into the tree and with a few strokes chop through the branches within inches of his toes. Every pole was carefully cut to length, split and sharpened (upside down to stop regrowth) to make hedging stakes. He layed the hedges, and everywhere down the hedge were neat piles of firewood, bundles of pea sticks and bean sticks. He used to tell me that years before he also made faggots of the brush to be dried and burnt in the bread ovens. He made a fire each day and put his bottle of tea in the ashes of the previous days fire to have with a huge chunk of bread and a piece of cheese. He used to sit under the hedge on an old grain sack that served as an apron the rest of the time. A slower, more self-sufficient era — long gone.

Wild life news - Otters seen playing regularly in the farm pond. Tadpoles seen March 12th. Redpolls reported on a village bird table. A Brimstone butterfly seen on a lonely journey along a hedge bank. The red Kite is back. A record 60 moles caught! The birds are singing! so....



Dawn Chorus walk, talk and breakfast. 4.30 am May 5th (£10 to charity) - Please book.

LOST - We have had the Royal British Legion alley and skittles for many, many years. Last year we let them out and unfortunately can't remember who too!!! So if anyone has them or knows where they are please let me know.

*Tony Norman*

tony@leenfarmorganics.co.uk

# Pembridge WI

## Open Meeting

Wednesday May 9th Village Hall 7:15pm

A talk on Herbaceous Borders by David Griffiths – Compton Nurseries Bodenham

Just come along or contact Marguerite – 388279

## Jubilee Celebrations

Royal Scarecrow Competition

JUNE 2nd

Individual or group entries to be displayed throughout the village during Jubilee weekend

Theme a Royal person past or present - prize for the winner

For more details contact Linda 387942 or Tricia 340340



**Pembridge WI** is NOT just about making cakes

Join us on a monthly walk



or try your skill at Ten Pin Bowling

or hop on a train for a group fun day out

or...

...just come to the monthly meetings – Second Wednesday in the month at the Village Hall at 7:00pm

Contact: Marguerite Fothergill – Secretary Tel: 388279 or

Tricia Lloyd – President Tel: 340340

## Your Parish Councillors

Clr. Garfield Evans - Chairman

Clr. Ken Myers - Vice Chairman

Clr. Kevin Duggan

Clr. Mrs. Claire Evans

Clr. Ms. Catherine Fothergill

Clr. Mrs. Julie Mifflin

Clr. David Owens

Clr. Andrew Pace

Clr. Bob Pierce

Clr. Philip Rogers

Clr. Alan Stokes

Clr. Phillip Thomas

Clr. Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor

Clerk:

Mrs. Heather Harding

153 Bargates, Leominster HR6 8QT

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