

# Pembridge Parish News



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

August - September 2012

## Despite the weather...

Life has carried on between downpours and, as this picture of the twins shows, the Jubilee celebrations included some enthusiastic participants. Barbara and Joyce say 'thanks' to all those who contributed cakes and helped with the teas.

Sadly, flooding caused some damage and disruption around the parish. Flash flooding often strikes in locations not normally considered a flood risk. Conversely, our own house down by the Arrow was completely unaffected by the 2" or so of rain which fell within two hours on 30<sup>th</sup> June - living on a flood plain does have advantages. John and Jean Gwatkin were not so lucky and, as I write, still have their ground floor cleared of furniture while dehumidifiers continue to dry things out. This all happened on the morning of the day that John and Jean were hosting The Loxley Trio at Bearwood Chapel. They both managed to smile throughout the evening however and the music was excellent.

John and Jean weren't alone in suffering considerable damage and disruption and our sympathy is with all those affected.

Another casualty of the weather was the Pembridge Show and Trotting Races. The ground was so soft that the various vehicles required for setting up would have caused considerable damage. With more rain forecast there was no option but to cancel. It now looks as if the weather on the intended day might be good but a decision had to be taken.



*A fragrant quartet of "girls" from the PIPs team*

The Pride in Pembridge team, the PIPs, have been very busy and undeterred by the weather. The attractive planters which have appeared around the village are the work of the PIPs, as is a considerable amount of tidying up and other planting. The effort is for parishioners' benefit rather than



*Patriotic twins, Paige and Maddison Duggan*

to win prizes but the team have entered Pembridge in the "Heart of England in Bloom" competition. On 10<sup>th</sup> July, two RHS judges were given a tour of East and West Street, the conservation area, the school garden, the Market square and elsewhere. Results will be announced in Birmingham on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Thanks go to all who helped on the day and during the lead up, and to Mark and Gary for hosting meetings before and after judging.

Another event which not only avoided the rain but found sunshine on its first two occasions was the re-instated Farmers' Market. These are organised by Rose and Jane and held in the Market Hall on the last Saturday of each month. There are stalls with a variety of local produce,



crafts, plants and collectables. The third market is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> July and right now the weather forecast is good!

# Pembridge Parish Council

The two vacancies on the council have now been filled by Mark Ratcliffe and Tom Bennetto who attended their first meeting during July. The Lengthsman Scheme continues and parishioners can request work to be done by contacting the Clerk.

Following a change in the law, Herefordshire Council is reviewing the way affordable housing is allocated to people across the county. They are asking for your views on how to do this via a questionnaire you will find at:

<http://consult.herefordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti>

## The Neighbourhood Development Plan - Your Chance to influence the Future.

In the April/May issue of the Magazine I made mention of the Localism Bill which, at that time had passed through Parliament, although few of the regulations had then been published. More detail is now available and by introducing Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) the Act has changed the planning process with the aim of giving people more say.

As a result the Parish Council has made what is known as a "Neighbourhood Area Application" as the first step to creating a NDP for Pembridge and you may have seen the notices to this effect that have been displayed throughout the Parish. In order to further assist with understanding we have arranged for a copy of a leaflet called "Introduction to Neighbourhood Development Plans" published by Herefordshire Council to be distributed with this Magazine.

Production of a NDP for Pembridge will need the entire Parish to work together to achieve a successful outcome. It is appreciated that more information must be provided so that residents are equipped to engage in the consultation process. It is therefore intended to publish a further article in the next Parish Magazine and to hold an open meeting to discuss the issues as part of the exchange of views and dialogue that should take place. The details of this meeting will also be published in the next magazine.

In the meantime the Parish Council is preparing Terms of Reference for the Steering Group that will take the NDP forward. If anyone is interested in participating, particularly if you have skills that might assist, please get in touch with me on 340696. I am also available to answer any questions people might have (if I am able!).

*Andrew Pace*

## Ward Councillor's Report

### Highways

The rainfall this summer has caused significant damage in the parish. Some households have had the misery of their homes being flooded while all of us have had to deal with potholes and road deterioration. We are lobbying nationally for more funding and have indicated we will be retendering the highways contract next summer rather than extending the contract with Amey.

Please report potholes or highway concerns to [streets@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:streets@herefordshire.gov.uk) or phone 01432 261800.

Residents have reported concerns about the state of the kerbs in the village and I have been working with the Parish Council on getting an inspection. As a result the raised section along the A44 behind the New Inn will be repaired and the PC have supported the filling in of one of the steps where the pavement is narrow. Any works on the rest of the kerbing will be dependant on funding in 2013/14 and, despite some rumours, will not see its wholesale replacement with modern kerbing.

### Phosphates Levels in the Arrow

Last month I reported a hold on planning applications due to the Environment Agency and Natural England informing the local authority that phosphate levels in the River Arrow had reached the permitted level. I have since contacted Powys Council only to discover they had no such restriction. This is all the same catchment area and neither water nor phosphates know the difference between the Welsh Assembly, Countryside Commission for Wales and the English border, Natural England and Environment Agency. It is after all the same EU directive ( Directive 92/431 EEC) and I am following that up with Bill Wiggin.

However, detailed modelling will now be required and a nutrient management plan for the catchment area agreed, with new developments having to contribute to phosphate reduction. This will include the separation of foul and surface water, more sustainable sewage systems, investment by Welsh Water on phosphate stripping at Sewage works and the EA and NE reviewing their existing licences.

If you are intending to make an application please ensure you have considered this aspect.

### Hereford Hospital

Recently the future of our County Hospital has hit the headlines. The financial and functional viability of the Hospital has and always will be a problem. It was one of the reasons the council entered into joint working with NHS Herefordshire in 2007 and formed the Hoople Company to provide the administration support to the council, NHS Herefordshire and the hospital.

Given our geography we will always need an A&E to cover the county and mid Wales but because of its size it can never justify carrying the centres of specialist care. It will always make sense, for instance, for heart specialism to be carried out at a hospital with a centre of excellence in heart related issues. What we need is a hospital that can stabilise and offer a range of more appropriate services.

Recent reviews at the hospital have reported that we now have 24/7 access to CT scanning for stroke patients and the Trauma Service has good links to Headway, the Hereford Brain injury association. A bid of £3 million to West Mercia PCT has been made to support work across the organisation including funding district nurses, psychologists, support workers etc and improve the flow from acute care to home care.

*Roger Phillips*

[rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme

The scheme has been very successful in its first year and was able to help several people in the village. However, the volunteers feel this is only the start and that there are people locally who could use their services but don't yet know about the scheme. If you know anyone in Pembridge parish who needs someone to do occasional jobs for them or who would just like someone to visit for a chat then please encourage them to phone the team on 07779 122499. This is a team of local volunteers keen to help and support their neighbours, so please help them to reach the people whose lives could be improved by a little extra help.

With that in mind they are holding a COFFEE MORNING on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 12 in the village hall. Please go along and support the scheme. If you or someone you know would like to go, but cannot get to the hall, a lift can be arranged. Call 07779 122499!

## Happy Birthday!

We couldn't resist this picture even if Gary has had more than his fair share of exposure recently. Pat Stokes, founder



of the Good Neighbour Scheme, was 21 again recently and had a small, traditional birthday party at The Steppes.

## Pembridge WI

The rain stayed away for our June meeting and all enjoyed a tea party in Tricia's garden to celebrate the Jubilee.

In July we welcomed Russell Lewis who talked to us about wedding photography. In August we will all be competing against each other with handicrafts, writing, cooking, produce, and flower arranging. Cups bequeathed by past members will be awarded. September is a geological month with a speaker from the Hereford & Worcester Earth Heritage Trust, and in October we will be into butchery with a demonstration by Roger Williams of Marston Meats. In between whiles we will be ten pin bowling, walking, reading and drawing.

Meeting every second Wednesday in Pembridge Village Hall at 7pm (in the winter it will be 2pm) all prospective

## Kingspan News

### SUPPORTING ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

One of the things which makes our natural world so fascinating and enjoyable is the sheer variety of creatures and plants all around us. Protecting this diversity is absolutely vital and over recent years Kingspan Insulation has been working hard to give a helping hand to the wildlife around its Pembridge site.

It all began six years ago when Kingspan commissioned an ecological report to help find ways of improving biodiversity across the site. This led to lots of exciting changes, eagerly assisted by local school children, including planting a Honeysuckle wall, seeding several types of wild flowers and installing bird and bee boxes. To see what effect these changes have had a new report has now been written.

To protect the newly seeded wildflowers a reciprocating mower was specially purchased, allowing the grass next to the site's drive to be cut to various different heights. This has not only helped the original species flourish but has also encouraged new species including lady's mantle, red campion and cowslip to thrive.

Over fifteen species of birds including a sedge warbler, swallows and even a sparrow hawk were spotted, with an especially large increase in the number of house martin pairs. Many birds were also found to be nesting in the bird boxes, trees and hedges. The honeysuckle wall planted in 2008 has been a particular success, housing several pairs of nesting goldfinches. Several species of bats were also found, with many assumed to be roosting in the ash trees housing the site's bat boxes.

While insects may not be everyone's cup of tea, they're essential both for soil fertility and as a source of food for the bats and birds. The report found that their numbers have also increased greatly with the bug hotel, bumblebee boxes and invertebrate refuges providing habitat for a greater variety of insects.

Kingspan Insulation is keen to continue to build on these successes and over the coming months and years it will work hard to implement some of the further enhancements suggested in the report to help achieve the full biodiversity potential of the site.



new members welcome. Contact Marguerite Fothergill 388279 or Tricia Lloyd 340340.

We are organising a trip to Westonbirt Arboretum on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October and welcome anybody from the parish who would like to join us. The cost for the trip is to be about £22 which includes the entry fee. For details please contact Marguerite or Pat Baugh (387947) before 9<sup>th</sup> September.

# Leen Times

Wet, wet, wet!! Its impact is everywhere, with Pembridge show, The Game Fair and numerous other events cancelled. How has it affected us on the farm? Fortunately, we now grow mostly grass that is either grazed by cattle or cut for fodder - unlike many of our neighbours who are struggling with waterlogged arable crops. Grazing cattle is not easy in very wet weather because when they put a hoof down (which each one does hundreds of times a day) it treads the grass into the mud and then wipes mud over the rest before it goes down again, leaving fields looking as if they have been ploughed and the cattle extremely unhappy. The silage fields remain uncut – we would just get the machinery stuck - and the quality of the forage drops by the day until it has little more feed value than straw. On top of that the dairy industry has suffered a dramatic drop in the price of milk, causing many producers to lose a lot of money. They will simply cease production.

Oh dear - I sound like (am) a moaning farmer! The sun has broken through, I can hear the chickens in the yard, a wood pigeon, the sparrows and martins round the house and see a couple of hardy butterflies tripping round the flowers in the garden - soon brings you down to earth!

The judges of the Heart of England in Bloom came round to inspect. After a very good job by volunteers on the Village Green, my job of showing them round that part of it was easy - a "very well done" to everyone who took part.

Wild life news: Sorry to see an Otter killed on the road by Burton Court. Goshawk hunting, Damsel and Dragon flies, Newts on the lawn! Planted acorns growing in the felled wood, Fallow deer regularly grazing with the cattle



(it thinks it's a heifer!), Fox hunting in the day - it must have a hungry litter - and (having been away for several weeks) I see just amazing soggy growth from every shrub, tree and plant on the farm.

Maybe we shall see some summer one day.

If you see anything interesting round the village or have any queries about wildlife or farming please get in touch

Tony Norman

tony@leenfarmorganics.co.uk

## Pembridge Good Neighbours

Call 07779 122499 9.30am to 5.00pm

## Pembridge Doctor's Surgery

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  
Tel: Pembridge - 388566 (Kington - 230302)

## The Steppes

Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 5.30pm  
Saturday: 9.00am to 5.00pm  
Sunday: 9.00am to 4.00pm

## Mobile Post Office

Monday: 2.30 to 3.30pm  
Tuesday: 1.30 to 2.30pm  
Wednesday: No service  
Thursday: 4.00 to 5.00pm  
Friday: 1.30 to 3.00pm  
Saturday: 9.00 to 10.00am

## From Our Own Correspondent



The County Times section of the Hereford Times contains contributions from many villages from around the County. You may not know it but Pembridge has its own correspondent who will submit notices and pieces of news for this section. Philip Rogers is your man! You can telephone him on 387976, email philipjohnrogers@googlemail.com or pop something through his door at Victoria Place, East Street.

## Your Parish Councillors and telephone numbers

Cllr Garfield Evans - Chairman	388638
Cllr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman	340696
Cllr Tom Bennetto	388972
Cllr Kevin Duggan	388833
Cllr Mrs Claire Evans	387987
Cllr Ms Catherine Fothergill	388279
Cllr Mrs Julie Mifflin	388414
Cllr David Owens	388422
Cllr Mark Ratcliffe	388506
Cllr Philip Rogers	387976
Cllr Alan Stokes	388769
Cllr Phillip Thomas	388457
Cllr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor	340269

Clerk:

Mrs Heather Harding

153 Bargates, Leominster HR6 8QT

Tel: 01568 612143

Email: mail@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

*"When your children are teenagers, it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you"*

*Nora Ephron, quoted in NYTimes.com*