

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

October - November 2012

It's Gold!

After the depressing, rain dominated theme of the previous issue, this time we can report sunbathing by the Arrow and a Gold award for Pembridge in Bloom!



The Pride in Pembridge team collected a Gold at the RHS' Heart of England in Bloom awards ceremony at Kings Heath, Birmingham on 13 September. Alan Stokes and Barbara and John Petrie attended the ceremony where they also collected a winner's certificate for the village category. This is an excellent reward for all the hard work put in by the growing number of volunteers in the team. 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. Judging was in



July, when two RHS judges were given a tour of East and West Street, the conservation area, the school garden, the Market square and elsewhere.

Pembridge has also been chosen to enter the national "Britain in

Bloom" competition for 2013, the only village within the Heart of England area to be selected. The Pride in Pembridge team are delighted to receive this award.

If anyone, with a few hours to spare each month, would like to join the group please get in touch by phoning Alan Stokes on 388769 or Adrian Lomax on 388461.



Bob Anderson



Gary Seaton

Bouyed by this success the PIPs team is also planning a Pembridge Open Gardens on the weekend of 8/9 June next year. This is not part of the Britain in Bloom competition, rather an opportunity to share your garden with fellow enthusiasts. If you would like to join in, call Judy Rogers on 387976 or email judith.rogers@hotmail.co.uk.



As if this wasn't enough excitement in prospect, there will also be a Rock & Pop Concert to raise money for both PIPs and Pembridge Good Neighbours Scheme on:

Friday, 12 October at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Tickets are £6.00, to include a light supper, £3.00 for children (under 12). This is a "bring your own wine/drinks" do! Tickets available at *The Steppes* or phone 388769.

Pembridge Parish Council

Your Community - Your Say

Herefordshire Council is holding public meetings so that residents can voice their opinions about the services that are important to them. Have your say on what matters most in your community, from libraries and transport to health and social care...

- Shobdon - Shobdon Village Hall 8 October
- Kington - The Burton Hotel 10 October
- Leominster - Bridge Street Sports Centre 15 October

All events are from 7pm - 9pm

Lengthsman

The lengthsman is contracted by the Council as part of a Minor Highway Maintenance Scheme funded by Herefordshire Council. As the name suggests, this covers all roads in our parish except the A44. The main tasks are:

- Grass cutting at corners or junctions to maintain good visibility
- Cutting back overgrown trees and hedges
- Keeping clear gully grid tops, drainage grips, highway culverts and clearing blocked drains
- Ensuring the legibility and visibility of traffic signs through cleaning and cutting back vegetation

Ward Councillor's Report

Broadband

A joint contract with Gloucestershire which aims to improve broadband to the rural areas of the two shires is being signed off by the Hereford Council. The contract will ensure a minimum 2Mbps to all households and 90% of the county households will access superfast speeds all delivered by 2016. The funding will come from the government (Broadband UK) and will be matched by the local authority and the company itself. However we are still awaiting a decision from the European Commission as to whether the national funding breaks state aid rules. In the meantime the rollout programme is being developed with Businesses estates taking a clear priority.

New Surgery at Kington

I attended the opening of the new surgery at Kington and saw the superb new facilities. The practice which covers over 600 square miles will continue to operate their other surgeries at Pembridge and Eardisley and I believe we can look forward to an enhanced service. The new surgery has a small operating theatre and numerous consulting rooms which means many patients will not have to travel to Hereford in the future. There is a 60 space car park, dental surgery (not at the moment NHS) and facilities for other medical and social care partners.

Dr King and his team have worked very hard to secure the funding and deliver the project. I am sure that the improvement to the management of the National Health Service to 8,500 residents will mean a more enhanced customer focus in all three surgeries of our local practice.

Planning in the Parish

Following my continued pressure guidance is coming out which will help and cover most of the planning applications in the parish with regard to the phosphate issue. We are engaged with the Environment Agency and Natural England on the matter and I have raised the Welsh question on why this is apparently not a problem for them given it is the same EU directive. I would encourage anyone thinking of applying for planning to speak to the planning department first.

Highways

The bad summer has done considerable damage to the highways in particular the Bearwood/Luntley lane being officially closed for nearly last two months. Please report potholes or highway concerns to streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 01432 618800.

As in previous years I will be arranging a meeting with the Amey team and my parish councils to discuss highway concerns and in particular items and projects for inclusion into next financial year's capital programme. All my parish councils operate a lengthsman scheme financed by Herefordshire Council where smaller light work on drainage and maintenance is under the PC direction. If you think you know of any appropriate works let the clerk know.

Roger Phillips

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Neighbourhood Development Plan

In the last issue of the newsletter it was promised that a further article would be written for this issue to provide parish residents with more background about the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). However, before doing this it is useful to understand how the current system operates with regard to the parish and its council in order to appreciate the changes brought about under the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Under present planning policy there is a settlement boundary around the village. Outside of this is considered to be "open space" with residential planning permission rarely being granted unless it involves the conversion of an existing structure (and only then after alternative uses for that structure have been discounted by test) or for exceptional circumstances such as agricultural dwellings. Within the settlement boundary the assumption is that permission will be granted provided the application meets the necessary requirements, eg has the necessary access, is well designed and reflects current planning policies.

An applicant wishing to obtain planning permission must submit the application to Herefordshire County Council planning department. The

County Council send the details to the Parish Council to ascertain if the Parish Council has objections or has no objection to the proposal and the Parish Council responds. However, the County Council does not have to take the advice offered by the Parish Council and can grant permission when the Parish Council has objected (and vice versa). In other words, the power to grant or deny permission lies solely with the County Council (subject to appeal) and the Parish Council only has the right to be consulted and to advise.

The Localism Act sets out to change this by promoting NDPs, streamlining the process and adopting a "presumption in favour of sustainable development". Most rural villages will be expected to have a level of new housing, and new and existing businesses are to be encouraged. The idea behind the NDP is that local communities, in our case the residents of Pembridge parish, can develop their own plan which, once it has gone through all the hoops including community consultation, an independent examination and a parish referendum, would become a statutory plan and part of Herefordshire Council's Local Development Framework.

Alms Houses

There are two blocks of almshouses in Pembridge, both of which are operated by the trustees of Pembridge United Charities.

Duppa Cottages in Bridge Street (right) was built in 1661, endowed by Bryan Duppa, Bishop of Winchester, and comprises four single bedroomed dwellings. Trafford Cottages in East Street built in 1686, endowed by Dr Thomas Trafford, Rector of Pembridge, has six dwellings, three of which have a single bedroom while the other three have two.

Almshouse applicants are appointed as almspersons and allocated to a particular dwelling by the trustees provided that they can show that they meet the qualification requirements. Typically these are the time they have lived in the area, their age, financial situation, that they are of good character, etc.



Almspeople pay no rent but are required to pay a moderate weekly maintenance charge. They are also responsible for paying council tax, electricity charges and water charges. They pay a greatly reduced TV licence fee if they are 60 or over, currently this is £7.50 per annum. The cost of repairs to the dwellings are met by the charity trustees. Right now the trustees have a number of vacant dwellings and are advertising as follows:

*In the Matter of Pembridge United Charities
The trustees give notice they have vacancies in Pembridge. Applicants must be of good character, preferably of retirement age and have lived in the area for at least 2 years. Applications should be made in writing to the charity clerk:*

*Mr M Coleburn, Jubilee Cottage,
Upper Hardwick, Pembridge, HR6 9HE*

In other words, the vision is for local people to decide their own plan as opposed to the present system whereby power to do this lies with the County Council only.

In Herefordshire only parish councils are able to produce NDPs. It is not compulsory to have an NDP but if one is not produced then the County Council will fill the gap in the Local Development Framework by deciding what should happen in Pembridge which may not reflect the wishes of the parish. Your parish council felt that it would be better for the residents of Pembridge to have the opportunity to decide, as far as possible, the village's future rather than leave it to others. This is why the Parish Council made the Neighbourhood Area Application which was approved at the end of August.

It should be appreciated that there are constraints. As the County Council stated in their leaflet, which was circulated with the last issue of the newsletter, "Plans will, however, need to conform with planning policies and guidance at a local, national and European level" and it has been said that these considerations might prevent or hinder the creation of a true neighbourhood plan. However, we

will not know if this is correct until we start work on our plan and see if there is conflict with these policies.

How do we move forward?

On the 19th September the Parish Council will consider terms of reference for the steering group. The group currently comprises Andrew Pace, Tricia Lloyd, Merry Albright, Philip Rogers and David Owens. We do need more particularly anyone with relevant experience.

There will be an open meeting in the village hall to gather views and opinions and to ascertain how people feel the community can be involved and consulted. This will be held on:

Wednesday 24th October at 7.00pm

Please do come! It is essential that as many as possible are heard and that we all work together to produce the right outcome for Pembridge.

FOR THIS TO HAPPEN RESIDENTS MUST BECOME INVOLVED!

Andrew Pace

Praise from on High

You never know who's watching you! Pat Stokes, who founded our Good Neighbour Scheme, recently received a letter from the Cabinet Office. It was from Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, who wrote that his officials in the Cabinet Office Local Intelligence Team had brought to his attention the work that the scheme is doing to support our local community.

He congratulated the volunteers on delivering the project and said he would like to see many more projects like it, which demonstrate what can be achieved when people take the initiative. He will have his officials in the Local Intelligence Team monitor how the scheme develops over the coming months and wished it continued success. If there is an opportunity for him to visit us he would try and do so.

You don't get a pat on the back like that very often! If you'd like to learn more about the scheme and perhaps offer your support they are holding a COFFEE MORNING on Saturday, 20 October from 10am to noon in the village hall, where free tea, coffee and cakes will be served! If you, or someone you know, would like to go but cannot get to the hall, call 388769 to arrange free transport.

Events, past and future

We reported on the Jubilee celebrations in the last issue but only squeezed in a "thank you" to the teas and cakes brigade. Julie points out that despite rain showers there was a disco, thanks to Cliff and the Red Lion, followed by a band until late. The event wouldn't have been possible without help from James Henman (marquee) and Brinley Bowen (toilets). Most thanks go to Brinley, John, Rod and Richard for their hard work - it took three days to erect everything and dismantle it afterwards. No doubt Julie herself should be in there somewhere too.



It might seem obvious but November 5th is the date for Guy Fawkes celebrations on the Millenium Meadow - it's a Monday. Bonfire at 7pm, fireworks go up at 7.30pm, all accompanied by a bar, plus burgers and hotdogs for sale.

Julie and her team will be festooning the village with those splendid Christmas trees and lights again this year. The trees will be erected on the first weekend of December, with a grand turning-on ceremony on Friday, 7 December. The trees will be collected on the first weekend of January. If you will be hosting a tree, could you let Julie have your contact details please - phone or email - as this will be very helpful if conditions force a change of plan. Julie is on 388414 and julimiff@hotmail.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

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

WI News

Since the last newsletter we've explored the local area on our *not-quite-monthly* walks; had a stimulating afternoon being artists led by one of our talented members (which we hope to make a regular event); and are ready to challenge anyone to a game of 10-pin bowling!

The reading Group (plus chat and tea) continues to meet once a month for an interesting and social afternoon. Now Autumn is here lunch club will also meet monthly in cosy venues and a few shopping trips for "that" time of the year are planned. At our October meeting Marston Meat are going to demonstrate their butchery skills.

Something for everyone and everyone, as always, welcome at all or any of our activities - second Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Phone Marguerite Fothergill (388279) or Tricia Lloyd (340340).