

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

December 2012 - January 2013

Another great display!



Bob Anderson

It was a beautiful dry evening for the most successful bonfire night yet, which attracted a large number of people. There was no charge but donations were gratefully accepted and go towards the cost of next year's display. I've cheated slightly here and combined two of Bob Anderson's shots but we're short of space!

The bonfire committee would like to thank everyone who came and also the various contributors - Andrew Searles for the display and bonfire, Mr Henman for the marquee, Cliff for the bar, Rod and team for the burgers and the rest of the committee for their work before, during and afterwards.

Andrew Searles and his team have been running the display for five years now. I visited the site during the afternoon to see the final preparations and was surprised to learn how much they'd been doing prior to the day itself. The category 3 fireworks used are not generally available to the public and, in order to get insurance cover for the event, two operators have to attend a full day of firework training each year. Liquitech, Andrew's company, releases two employees to do this and covers their travel costs too. For the week or so leading up to the night, considerable time is spent collecting wood and building the bonfire. On the day a barrier is erected behind which go all the stakes and framework to which the fireworks are fixed. On the night, although the fireworks are the stars of the show, it's easy to forget all this preparatory effort when enjoying the bar, marquee and burgers. If you don't know him, Andrew is the chap on the right!



DIY Musical Evening

In October a musical evening at the Village Hall raised £350 to support the activities of both the Good Neighbour Scheme and Pride in Pembridge. The Helen Vereker rock choir were very impressive and treated us to a programme of well known songs for us to sing along to. Unfortunately no-one had told me about this aspect of the evening and I started off very grumpily. However it looks as if I enjoyed it eventually! Thanks once more to Bob Anderson for the photos.

The choir were a great hit and will be with us again on Friday, 7 December, when they will be singing as part of the Christmas lights switch-on in the Market Square at 6.30pm.



Pembridge Parish Council

Village Hall Recycling Banks

Only glass recycling banks now remain at the Village Hall. All other waste should go via the recycling collections or to the Leominster refuse centre. Please ensure that no boxes, bags or any other materials are left loose there.

Sandbags

Residents whose homes are at risk of flooding may collect and retain sandbags which they can collect from The Leen by arrangement with Tony Norman - tel 388510.

Parking in Bearwood Lane, near to School

There have been a number of occasions when Bearwood Lane has been impassible by large vehicles (eg fire engines and ambulances), particularly when schoolchildren are being dropped off or collected. Please park considerately so that access to other vehicles is possible at all times.

The next Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday, 12th December and 16th January, both at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall - everyone welcome.

Ward Councillor's Report

Council Budget

In the past two years the Council has made £20 million worth of cuts and has to find a further £30 million in next 3 years in order to balance the books. The two significant pressures are government grant cuts and the rise in social care costs. This year 50 million pounds, one third of the budget, will be spent on 6,500 vulnerable adults who we have a legal requirement to support and this is set to rise by 5 million in 18 months.

Nationally and locally we estimate that by end of this decade the only services we will provide will be social care and waste. Despite lobbying the political parties, Westminster will not engage in this issue and I estimate that the balloon will go up in about 2017 when crisis point will be reached. Most of this funding is only for those people with less than £23,000 capital assets otherwise the individual pays.

The Council will continue to reduce its staffing levels and also re-commission many services and in some cases reduce or stop others. The other budget measure is to raise charges across the County. All local authorities in England are in a similar situation and making reductions and increasing charges whilst we await the Chancellors Autumn Statement.

One of the charges to be increased is car parking. Locally this means increases at Mill Street in Kington, and in Leominster at Central Car Park/Dishley, Broad St and Etnam St.

Massive Solar Project for Herefordshire

Residents will be offered an exciting opportunity to invest in and use renewable energy following the announcement that the council will be rolling out solar panels across public buildings.

Neighbourhood Development Planning

An Open meeting was held on the 24th October and, not withstanding some confusion as to the time of the meeting, nearly thirty people participated.

The meeting covered:-

- The present planning system and how it operates.
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan and the process required to create one.
- The role that a questionnaire, to be circulated to all on the electoral role in the first quarter of 2014, will play in helping to draw up the plan.

The council is committed to rolling out solar photovoltaic systems on many of its buildings and will be inviting residents to jointly invest in this exciting project through the development of community owned energy co-operatives. This proposal plans to replicate recent successes at both Hereford Crematorium and the Leominster Community Solar Co-operative which deliver strong financial returns, reduce carbon emissions and improve local energy security. The Leominster project offered 6% per annum plus the initial stake returned after 25 years and it is hoped to offer a similar opportunity in the future. This is a key part of the council's carbon management planned 30% reduction target by 2015 and the commitment to become a low carbon county.

Highways

The bad summer has done considerable damage to the highways, in particular the Bearwood/Luntley lane being officially closed for nearly two months recently. Please report potholes or highway concerns to streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 014322618800.

Herefordshire Council and Amey have an extensive programme of Winter Maintenance, gritting priority routes and filling salt bins across the County to help keep the county moving. However they recognise that in times of extreme winter weather some smaller communities can be adversely affected.

Last winter, a total of 25 Parishes in Herefordshire were involved in the Winter Maintenance Parish Self-help Scheme after a successful pilot in 2010/11. This year, a further 25 Parishes are joining the scheme - an excellent example of localism in action throughout the county. Shobdon and Lyonshall are now part of this scheme.

As part of the programme, Amey will provide advice, training and salt to Parishes, enabling Parish Councils to set their own priorities for treatment. The core purpose of the scheme is not for Parishes to provide 'day in day out' treatment but to support their community in times of need.

Amey supply or replace up to 250 salt bins per year. They have received many request for new bins and these are assessed under a ranking system with the top priority being supplied.

The gritting routes for this year in my ward will be the A44, A480, B4362, B4355, Rhyse Lane and Pembridge to Milton crossroads.

Local Economic Bulletin

This quarterly edition includes information on economic activity, seasonal workers on farms, sustainable food strategy and key points on unemployment, 2011 Census and the identification that despite having some of the lowest wages in the West Midlands we have some of the highest house rents.

This can all be found on www.herefordshire.gov.uk/QER

Roger Phillips

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

We are at the stage of developing this questionnaire which will have the objective of ascertaining how the people of Pembridge Parish want to see the area develop to 2031. It is important that we ask the right questions and some were put forward at the Open meeting. In order that more can contribute, copies of a specimen and very much a draft questionnaire have been distributed to various locations in the village (the shop, pubs etc). This draft shows headings under which questions will be asked and an idea of the subjects that will be focused on. Please feel free to add any headings/questions you feel should be asked of your fellow residents to help to formulate the Plan.

Andrew Pace

Christmas Trees

These are now ordered and will be put up in the village on the 1st and 2nd December. The official turn-on of the lights will be on Friday, 7 December at the Market Hall at 6.30pm - everyone welcome! There will be carol singing and Christmas stalls, free coffee, tea and mince pies. Father Christmas will be waiting in the New Inn for children to visit him. A raffle will be held for a Christmas cake, the proceeds and any donations going towards the cost of the Christmas trees and lights.

The trees will be taken down the weekend of 5 & 6 January. If you could disconnect your lights before then it would be greatly appreciated.



Pride In Pembridge

The PIPs team have added a Monday morning opportunity to join in with their regular tidy-up sessions. Anyone is welcome to turn up and help with litter-picking, dead-heading and general tidying. Now on Mondays and Thursdays, meet at the Market Square beside the New Inn at 10am for an hour of gentle labour followed by a possible chat over coffee. Gloves and litter picker-uppers provided!

Open Gardens

Another PIPs initiative, the Pembridge Open Gardens event for 8 & 9 June next year, already has five volunteers to open their gardens but more would be welcome. Don't be shy, it's not a competition - gardens big or small are interesting and the more we have the better a day/week-end it will be for our visitors. E-mail judith.rogers4@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01544 387976 if you could open your garden or help in any other way.

News flash: We have a website

The parish council has had a website for some years but it receives more visitors from Russian robots looking for email addresses to spam than from human beings in Pembridge. The content may be fairly static and not as comprehensive as it might be, but you can find parish council and useful local information there, including previous issues of this newsletter.

Council information includes the names and picture (when available) of councillors, details of how the precept was arrived at, and copies of the original and current Parish Plans. Also available are minutes of previous council meetings with the topics



Kingspan News

SHOWING THE WAY

Kingspan Insulation is proud to have been a part of its community for over a quarter of a century now. In that time, a great deal of work has been done to minimise the impact of the site's road freight on the local area.

All hauliers known to be either delivering or collecting goods to or from the Pembridge Site have been provided with a carefully planned route map for their drivers. This directs HGVs towards specific routes and away from the smaller country lanes and other specific areas of concern, such as the road junctions and bridge in Pembridge.

Unfortunately as we all know, a map is only as good as the navigator and on a few occasions, drivers making irregular or one-off visits to the site, mistakenly turned off the A44 down Marston Lane. This route is completely unsuitable for larger vehicles, cutting directly through Marston village centre and causing delays at the road's tight exit.



While Kingspan is extremely grateful for the patience and tolerance that local residents have shown, the situation clearly needed to be resolved. Kingspan therefore spoke with Herefordshire Council and, with the help of Cllr. Phillips, new signs have now been erected at the end of Marston Lane, directing HGV drivers to the correct turn off the A44. The extra directions seem to have done the trick and there have been no more reports of HGV's using Marston Lane since the signs went up.

Kingspan Insulation look forward to playing an active role in its community for many years to come and will continue to work hard to further improve how it operates, whether it be keeping goods drivers on course, supporting local projects or boosting bio-diversity at the site.

discussed and planning applications considered. Once approved at the following meeting, each set of minutes is posted on the website so they are available for all to see - including any Russian visitors!

Take a look at the site if you haven't seen it before. There's no intention to have a blog or other form of rapidly changing content, but let me know if you have any suggestions for additional items. We will be adding a section to cover the Neighbourhood Plan, including suggestions for the wording of the questionnaire.

Nerd note: I will be converting the site from Flash to HTML in the coming weeks so you'll then be able to view it on your iPad. Won't that be a relief!

Leen Times

What a struggle this year has been! Wet grass/poor silage - poor silage/poor production. No sun/poor crops; storage problems/price reductions. Poor potatoes/small apples. Wet ground/mud - mud/mess on the road. Late harvest/late or no drilling. This is already affecting next year! The farmer's lot in the parish and elsewhere in the country is so reliant on the weather. We take it as it comes, do the best we can and look forward to a better year next year.

At The Leen we have nearly finished calving for the year and the cows are milking at full bore. We have calves scattered round the fields growing their long coats ready for winter and all is settling into the winter regime.

We have just had an audit of the farm to check on our impact on the various watercourses. Currently the River Lugg (where our water eventually goes) is failing badly because of the amount of nutrients and other problems in the water. This is already putting restrictions on planning in the area. Thankfully, we don't seem to be too much of a problem, but it is something that clearly needs addressing.

Wildlife News: report in from Staunton of red kites; redwings and fieldfares have arrived in massive numbers; salmon are spawning up and down the river. This is an extract from a regular report I get from the village: "*We have a male and a female blackbird feeding young in separate nests, though we think one has now fledged. We have ten young blue tits and numerous great tits. We have a regular visitor which is either a whitethroat or a warbler (we can't identify positively) feeding on insects in the fruit trees, and a wren preening on one of our shrubs - a sight to treasure. We don't usually get such a viewing, though we knew it was round the garden.*"



Fieldfare

A delightful report from 'experts' who must spend more time watching outside their window than they do watching TV. Please keep it up and please keep telling me!

A job to find enough sloes this year, but don't forget: Sloe Gin Competition Sun, Dec 9th, at 8pm in the New Inn.

Compliments of the season

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

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 8.00am to 5.30pm
Wednesday: 8.00am to 12.00noon
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

Christmas at The Steppes

Note the new opening times above particularly, early closing on Wednesdays. For the Christmas period the shop will close at noon on Christmas Eve and open again on 27 December. It will also be closed New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Gary and Mark "... would like to thank all of our customers for a wonderful first year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you."

WI News

Pembridge WI meets in the Village Hall every second Wednesday of the month, normally at 7pm. In January this moves to 2pm to "have a go" at zumba, and in February also for a talk on bees. Everyone welcome as always.

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

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