

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

April - May 2013

Spring at last!



On their way to the shop, this is Claire Goode with Jamie and Lara in tow. My entry for heart warming photo of the year!

Village Show Needs Help!

The Pembridge Show Committee are desperately appealing for new members. Anyone with a little time to spare please consider joining us. For anyone new to the village, our show began in 1940 as part of the "Dig for Victory" campaign and has continued, growing each year, until the present day.

Without new members we are at serious risk of the show closing which would be such a shame after 73 years.

We are looking for someone to organise the gymkhana and jumping. This could be a group of people rather than one person. We also need people to help throughout the show. Please don't just read this and forget us, ring me or email for more information or to discuss how you might help.

Julie Mifflin - tel: 388414, email: juliemiff@hotmail.co.uk



Pembridge Parish Council

Ward Councillor's Report

Herefordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 - Future house building in Pembridge

The Draft Local Plan, which is the proposed legal document for determining future planning applications in Herefordshire, is currently out for Public Consultation until 22nd April. This Plan will determine where and how many houses will be built in the county over the next 20 years.

The proposal is for 5,300 houses to be built in rural areas in the county for 20 years from 2011 to 2031. This includes 723 houses already granted but not yet built. If you assume approx. 1,000 windfall sites (farm/business dwellings and barn conversions etc) that would leave approx. 3,500 housing sites to be identified and built during the remaining period. *This is the lowest level of build in the Herefordshire countryside in our lifetimes.* Outside of the identified sites house building will be severely restricted, as now, in accordance with National Planning Policy.

Pembridge is identified as a settlement for a focus of proportionate housing development in the future. Sites are to be identified by either local Neighbourhood Plan, Parish Council or, in the last resort, the County Council. The likely outcome is that while there will be houses built in the future in the village it will not be of the scale we have witnessed. I do not think there is anything here to panic anyone and I will work with Parish Council and Community to agree our plan. It can be viewed on Herefordshire council website.

The Government has introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy which imposes a charge on square footage of non affordable new homes that are built. Each local authority sets its own charge level and these figures are also being consulted on. In our parish it would mean a levy of £140 per sq metre, which is a considerable sum. After the consultation and amendments the draft Plan will go to the full meeting in July, and then go to a planning inspector in the Autumn with an expectation of approval in Spring 2014. In the meantime our own Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be worked on to be also submitted to the inspector and hopefully approved soon after and becomes a legal consideration for the determination of planning applications along with the local Plan and National Planning Frameworks.

Budget 2013/14

As no doubt you will have read and heard the local Government grants have been reduced significantly and setting this years budget is made more difficult by the continuing pressure of social care. In the last two years the best part of £20 million worth of savings have been made with another £9 million in 13/14 and similar amounts in 14/15. Unlike in previous recessions when these reductions lasted two/ three years this time it is a fundamental shift of public funding being removed, services commissioned in different ways, charges increased and sweating public funding across the piece.

There was a unanimous support by all 58 councillors to raise the Council Tax by 1.9% to ensure future stability in our budgets. This is the first increase in three years. Herefordshire is not very well funded compared to many other authorities and has to deliver the services over a larger geographical area.

Highways

Last winter has taken a toll on our highways. I do not recall so much damage to the main roads let alone the minor ones. Pembridge operates a Lengthsman Scheme. This is where Herefordshire Council gives a sum of money to the Parish Council (based on the mileage of non-main roads in each parish) to pay a local contractor to keep open slips, ditching and small works to help with the drainage of water off the highways. I will encourage landowners to clean any blockages in their ditches and everyone using a minor road to where ever possible reverse your vehicle rather than drive on soft verges and fill the ditches in.

In the longer term the problem of maintenance of our roads is not going to go away. The current contract with Amey is due to come to an end in September and a process of procurement began last Autumn for a new supplier. In the previous contract the repair and maintenance of the main roads was a priority and until recently certainly our main roads have been in good repair. In the new contract the minor roads must have a higher profile. I shall be working with the Parish Council and lengthsman to ensure we get Amey to get on top of the repairs required as soon as possible in the new financial year. Please continue to report any potholes or highways concerns to streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 01432 261880.

Poppy Appeal Feedback

Sharon O'Hare has provided this breakdown of the impressive amount raised by last year's Poppy Appeal.

Shobdon House to House & Static Points	546.01
Pembridge & Staunton House to House and Static Points	1,760.77
Pembridge British Legion Donation	357.50
British Legion Wreaths	37.00
Pembridge Church Collection	576.81
Staunton Church Collection	126.90
Radnor & West Hereford Hunt Cap	620.00
Total	£4,024.99

This was Sharon's 25th year as organiser: "I very much appreciate the support of all concerned. I thought I might share with you that in 1988, my first year, we collected £858.82. Even allowing for inflation, we are doing very well!"

Coffee & Company

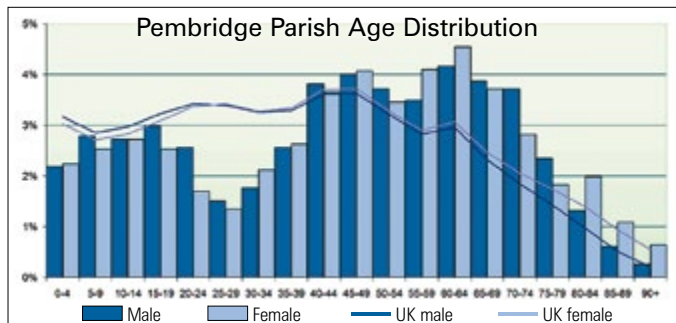
Wouldn't it be a great idea to get together every now and then for a coffee and a chat. Well, you can! Every third Saturday in the month come and enjoy free coffee and cakes in the Village Hall between 10.30 am - 12.00 noon. Everyone is welcome, just drop in. If getting to the hall is a problem then phone 07779 122499 and we'll arrange a lift there and back. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 20th April, and then on the 18th May.

Pembridge Open Gardens

There are already 14 gardens confirmed for this event on the week-end of 8th and 9th of June. Put the date in your diary and tell your friends! There will be a produce market on the Saturday in The Market Square and the church will be organising teas and a history display on both days. It should be a good day out.

Local Census Results

The Office for National Statistics has recently released figures from the March, 2011 census which give some detail down to individual parish level. The population, or "usual residents", at that point was 1,059 but the figures additionally show how this is distributed across the age groups and between genders. In the graph below I've also added the equivalents for the UK population as a whole.



It's no surprise that Pembridge has a larger share of older residents and this obviously has to be balanced by a smaller share of younger people. Even so I found the concentrated shortfall in the 20 - 40 years range quite a shock. Presumably they've all left to make their fortune. Do they then return later in life or is it mostly outsiders like me?

Here are a selection of other figures for Pembridge, the figures in brackets are those for England as a whole:

Dwellings:	503
Households:	459
Households without use of car or van:	8.5% (25.8%)
Households without central heating:	5.7% (2.7%)
Houses owned, outright or mortgaged:	72.3% (63.3%)
Christian:	68.9% (59.4%)
No religion:	21.1% (24.7%)

No real surprises in the Pembridge figures compared to England considering the rural location and type of housing. The higher than average Christian percentage is largely the result of almost zero entries for other religions - the next most followed in Pembridge is Buddhism.

All figures from Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright

Pride in Pembridge

The PIPs group has been extremely busy since the last issue, despite the weather. They have given me a detailed report from which I have had to select some highlights! The activity aims to keep the village looking its best all the year round but on Thursday, 4th July judging will take place for the Heart of England in Bloom competition.

The moat has been cleared of the scrub threatening to overwhelm it and some twig shelters have been constructed to provide shelter for small mammals, beetles and other invertebrates and to encourage hedgehogs.

There has been a fantastic response to the snowdrop appeal. These are being planted on the verges down Bridge Street. (It had been planned to put some on the bank where all the sewage works have been taking place but there will not be much bank left!)

While Bridge Street was closed to most traffic, a group of us took advantage of the temporary pedestrianisation to

Kingspan News

SPREADING THE JOY

After a long hard winter, spring is definitely in the air and the Kingspan Insulation Community Trust has been busy spreading the good cheer with the announcement of over £25,000 in grants for a number of deserving projects.

Since it was founded way back in 2006, the Trust has been able to support a whole range of initiatives meeting at least one of its four main objectives: encouraging conservation, biodiversity, health and fitness of young people and road safety.

This latest round of grants was no exception with a number of fantastic community projects receiving funding including everything from litter picking equipment and tennis court hire to plants and new ponds!

Pupils at Pembridge Primary School will be swinging around like monkeys after the school received £2000 for a new indoor climbing frame, keeping the children active whatever the weather.

In addition to awarding the grants, the Community Trust has also been pleased to welcome two new Trustees, Naomi Andersson and Caroline Palethorpe. The pair have been actively involved in the Herefordshire community for many years and bring a great deal of enthusiasm, knowledge and experience to the board.

Their appointments follow the Trust's expansion last year to allow applications from anyone within the catchment areas of Earl Mortimer College, Tenbury High School, Wigmore High School and Lady Hawkins' School.

The deadline for this year's entries is the 30th September so if you have a project or cause which meets one of the Trust's criteria then now is the time to get planning. All the information you need including application forms and details of other local projects that have already been helped by the Trust be found on the website:

www.KingspanInsulationCommunityTrust.org

clear the sides of the roads of the build up of soil which was so attractive to weeds. The sewage workers have been extremely helpful and cleared the road where they were working as well. They have also loaned the village the use of their automated road sweeper when they have finished with it. This has meant that the paths could be cleared of the build up of moss and decomposed leaves and the debris swept into the road for the road-sweeper to Hoover up.

Observant parishioners may have noticed that The Alms House gardens have been cleared of couch grass (we're sure it will fight back) and have been planted up with polyanthus, hellebores, cyclamen, daises, euphorbias, flowering strawberry, aquilegias, herbs, and many others donated from local gardens. The roses have been pruned and fed and the soil has been fertilised so the hollyhocks and roses should give a splendid display. Hopefully there will now be some colour there for much of the flowering period.

Thursday mornings and Mondays are the days people go out and do these smaller jobs. Anyone is more than welcome to come and lend a hand.

Leen Times

By the time you read this the sun will probably be out and the lawn needing mowing, again! But at the moment I must open this piece with the word "snow". At the moment there are piles of it around and we all shelter from a bitter East wind.

This is bringing all sorts of problems on the farm. The cattle are still in and eating quickly through the last few tons of silage - we are moving silage to feed hungry cattle on another farm. The straw for bedding is also running out and the room for storing muck is fast diminishing - all in all making life very difficult and somewhat hair raising! Life may be awkward for us but think of the sheep farmers that are well into their lambing. Healthy ewes and lambs are normally turned out of the lambing sheds onto nice spring grass. (They must go out to make room for more families and to get away from potential infections.) But this year they have to face this weather! It must be heartbreaking.

Similar, but different, problems are facing the arable farmers. Winter cereals were either not planted or 'muddled' into sodden ground - thus leaving large areas devoid of crops. With every day that passes, the drilling of spring crops is delayed and huge losses in potential production are being faced. Much of the sodden ground will not be planted this year. This will mean inevitable shortages of grain and straw, and the consequent price rises in store for next winter as well.

Sadly, I am finding a few dead birds. Robins, Blackbirds and finches seem to be the most common. It is the toughest time for all wildlife so keep feeding those birds, bolster their feed with some bread or kitchen scraps - they really do need it.

This delightful report from the village shows what is happening in one household:

We have a busy bird table this week: four male bramblings and a couple of females; lots of chaffinches, some greenfinches and a dunnock singing us a sweet song. The woodpecker is still visiting, several blackbirds and oddly, four robins, who appear



Brambling

not to be competitive yet. This morning brought us a pied wagtail. The blue tits and great tits have been in and out of bird boxes and we have had to cover the side mirrors on the car because again this year, the bluetits are trying to see off what they think is an intruder.

Please keep reports coming.

Tony Norman

tony@theleen.co.uk

Pembridge Good Neighbours

Call 07779 122499 9.30am to 5.00pm

Pembridge Doctor's Surgery

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
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

Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

(Winter opening)

Thu, Fri, Sat: 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

In Brief

Dog owners - please clean up after your dog. Leaving piles for others to tread on is antisocial and particularly unpleasant for other more public spirited individuals who are weeding or picking up litter. Black plastic bags hanging from trees should not salve your conscience either, they can go in any of the litter bins.

Special Constables - or more accurately those who might wish to become one. As a Special Constable you would work within your Parish, and West Mercia Police will cover the cost of ongoing training, supervision, uniform etc. More information at - www.westmercia.police.uk/specials/

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