

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

June - July 2013

Our Open Gardens

You will probably have noticed the roadside posters for the event but, just in case, there it is again below - open gardens on the second weekend in June. Whether you're a keen gardener or just nosy, this is an opportunity to walk around some of the excellent gardens in the village. There will be thirteen gardens open within the village and the ticket price of £5 (children free) also includes half-price entry (£2.25) to Westonbury Mill Water Gardens which includes the giant water-powered cuckoo clock featured on BBC Midlands Today.



Saturday coincides with the first craft and produce event of the year in the Market Hall. Over both days, there will be a village history display in the church plus teas and (probably!) cakes.

The open gardens event is being organised under the auspices of Pembridge Parish Council and proceeds are being split between the two volunteer groups: Pride in Pembridge and the Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme.



Award for The Steppes

Some months ago The Steppes won "Best Hospitality Provider" for Herefordshire, in a competition organised by Heart of England Fine Foods and, as a result, went into the area finals. The 'judging' involved mystery shoppers who ate in the tearoom and unknowingly quizzed the staff on their local produce knowledge and assessed their hospitality. On Saturday 19 May the team attended the Diamond Awards Gala evening at the Hilton Metropole in Birmingham, and were awarded the Diamond Award for Best Hospitality Provider 2013 across eight counties.

The Diamond Awards are open to food and drink producers, plus retailers and hospitality providers serving local food across Birmingham and the Black Country, Cheshire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.



Britain in Bloom

Last year's success in the Heart of England in Bloom campaign meant that Pembridge was entered into this year's RHS Britain in Bloom campaign - note 'campaign' not competition! In addition to inspecting the village itself, judges will also be looking for evidence that the environment and the community are at the heart of the volunteer activities.

In support of this a leaflet is being printed (designed by Bob Anderson) aimed at promoting the village to visitors. The content explains the various amenities and historical and environmental assets that we enjoy. You will see the leaflet in the shop, pubs and church, and also at Leominster Tourist Information.



Pembridge Parish Council

At the Parish Council Annual Meeting on 22nd May 2013, election of Officers took place for 2013-14. Cllr. Garfield Evans was re-elected as Chairman, and Cllr. Andrew Pace was re-elected as Vice Chairman.

The PC accounts for 2012/13 have been prepared and will be sent to the external auditor in mid-June for scrutiny.

The War Memorial will be having a clean-up during early June.

The Police surgeries continue on every third Thursday of the month in The Steppes Shop between 11am and 1pm.

It is intended that 2 more picnic benches will be purchased and positioned on the village green shortly.

Ward Councillor's Report

Budget Reductions

Following further work on this year's budget the target for savings has been increased to 14 million pounds following the 20 million saved over the last two years. This will result in significant changes to some services and a loss of over 300 jobs at the Council.

I am concerned about toilet closures and still believed most could be retained if handed over to the Town or the City councils. They have the power to precept and can run them. Pembridge Parish Council has looked after and run the public toilets in the village for over 10 years which belong to Herefordshire Council. If Pembridge can do it, surely Kington, Leominster, Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross town councils and Hereford City council can.

Libraries

Herefordshire 11 libraries have an average number of visits of over 13,700 per week. Ranging from 4,540 per week in Hereford to 46 per week at Leintwardine.

I am clear that while due to Westminster reductions and rising costs of social care we will have to reduce opening hours in our market town libraries I am equally clear that they cannot be closed. To close our market town libraries would in my opinion be failing in our statutory duty as laid out in the 1964 Act.

I have always supported the joining up of services to help improve their convenience, efficiency and value for money. It will be important to engage with partners, service users, staff and stakeholders on how the community/others can help sustain and enhance these valued services in the future, particularly evaluating the impact on the vulnerable.

The loaning of books is not the only use of a modern library and that range needs to be fully evaluated and potential opportunities explored (e.g. coffee shop franchise). Many recipients of the Government's new Universal Credit System need access to a computer and there is strong evidence particularly in Hereford of the Job Centre referring people to Libraries.

We also have to retain a Core Library Service which supports our Libraries. This service will also support the Community Libraries which have and are being set up across the County following the withdraw of the mobile service. (Currently nine with a couple in the offing including one awaiting an awards for all grant).

It will also need to support the home delivery service to the housebound. We currently deliver to over 260 people who can not leave their own home with the service in Hereford and Leominster being supported by volunteers. In addition we supply 13 nursing homes.

During the last year we have put in place the technology for people to home-order on a computer by scanning all our stock and placing an order for the books to be delivered to one of our libraries. This service will continue be part of the future offer.

Royal Visit to Kingspan

In May the Princess Royal visited Kingspan Insulation at Pembridge to meet the staff and view the construction of a new production line for a new insulation product. The company which was set up in Ireland in 1970 moved onto the site in 1986 which had been used by manufacturing business since the war in the old large aircraft hangers. They have invested over £50 million in the site which is their largest insulation plant in the UK and today employ over 400 employees making them one the largest employers in the county.

Their product is produced by a chemical reaction with a reflective foil skin added and is very light in weight and thinner than old-fashioned fibre insulation. It is used to insulate homes and commercial buildings and given recent and future legislation on energy efficiency the product has a very secure future.

Kingspan is a global company and has four bases in England at Basildon, Selby, Glossop and Pembridge. It also has bases across the world including Europe, USA and Australia with a total global turnover of £397m. The company set up a charitable trust, the Kingspan Insulation Community Trust, for the benefit of our local area which has supported our local schools and several community projects.

Proceeds will be used for the maintenance of the church and the land around it. The church is an important historic building at the heart of the village and the upkeep of the grounds alone costs about £2000 a year. Last year, the standard of the church and its surroundings contributed to the village being awarded best in its category in the RHS Heart of England in Bloom Campaign. This year we're entered in the national section of the same campaign. Your cast-offs will help to maintain the church and might contribute to a possible second award.

Time for a late spring clear-out

It's a little way off but the Church fête is on Saturday, 3 August and the Church charity shop will be open in Kington for one week starting Saturday 24 August. So donations please of bric-a-brac, books, toys, household goods, jewellery and clothes - all clean and in good condition. Volunteers are poised to take these off your hands and arrangements for them to be dropped off or collected can be made by ringing Gill Smith on 01544 388441.

Pride in Pembridge tackle the moat

Did you know that Pembridge had a castle at one time? It's not there now but within the grounds of Court House Farm is the remains of the moat which surrounded it. One of the recent tasks undertaken by the PIPs team was to remove the weeds and undergrowth that was obscuring it. They also planted some wild daisies and foxgloves. Richard Jenkins, who lives at Court House, was so pleased with the work that he wrote to say so.

"I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Pride in Pembridge team for the wonderful job they have done of clearing the moat surrounding Court House Farm."

Other projects included a litter-pick from Bridge Street out as far as the Kingspan turning. Two trailer loads of bin bags were collected including a soiled nappy and various car remains. The can of choice to hurl into the verges appears to be Strongbow! Plastics and cans were recycled where possible.

They also helped to weed the school garden after the poor weather conditions of last year allowed the weeds to get beyond the abilities of the school children to dig up. A bed outside the school gate was planted up with a blue and white theme decided upon by members of the school gardening club. The plants were donated by a villager who wished to remain anonymous. Another villager, anonymous in that I wasn't given a name, was so impressed by the work that he donated £10 to PIPs on the spot!

This work is done entirely by volunteers with the aim of improving the look and feel of the village for all of us. One of the consequences is that the village might get an award but that's not the motivation. I found myself feeling quite guilty the other day driving down Bridge Street while Gilly Lomax and Judy Rogers, in 'hi-vis' waistcoats, were on their knees winking out weeds from the raised pavement. As the alms house image shows, the PIPs team might look like municipal workers but they're not being paid! That railing has now been painted black and the whole job looks good.



Coffee & Company

For the month of June only, this event will be held in the School hall and not the Parish hall - Saturday, 15 June.

It's held every third Saturday in the month with free coffee and cakes 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.

Music in Chapel and Church



The Loxley Trio will be performing in Bearwood Chapel on Friday, 21 June at 7.30pm. This is described as an evening

of ancient folk and contemporary music. Having seen them perform last year I can thoroughly recommend them. Their voices are excellent and the songs include a number with unusual arrangements that are very enjoyable.

Coffee and cakes during the interval are included in the £10 admission fee which goes towards the upkeep of the Chapel. Tickets are available from Sheila Jones (388569) and Jean Gwatkin (388428).

The following day, Saturday, 22 June, The Tom Lindsay Quartet will be providing Midsummer Jazz in Pembridge Church, also at 7.30pm. "Young dynamic performers who pay service to the renowned repertoire built up by the likes of Dave Brubeck and Miles Davis since the 1950s. Long-established material by composers such as George Gershwin and Cole Porter is combined with creative innovation and inspiration for a different performance every time."

Tickets are £15 from The Steppes or call Meryl Griffith on 340381. Picnics will be available before the concert from 6pm at £5, and there will be a licensed wine bar.

Leen Times

What a stunning time of year - absolutely everything is on the move, not least of which is the grass that keeps growing on my lawn. I shouldn't complain. The grass that is growing so well all over the farm is the food that we so desperately need to feed the stock to produce the milk. The recent weather makes us all (farmers) aware of just how vulnerable we are.

The months of wet weather last year made such a mess of our fields, spoiled the silage, the harvest, delayed the drilling of new crops and took us into the winter 'on the back foot'. We got through the cold months only to have it extended by many weeks - this used up every bit of reserve of food, fat and patience. The poor crops never recovered, the lambing was desperately difficult, etc. We need that grass and the crops to grow just to recover the situation, let alone improve our lot.

This may not have affected most people's lives - we are all so divorced from the fundamentals, but life has been difficult down on the farm. It always astounds me just how resilient nature is: back in March I saw thousands of eggs in the frogspawn frozen solid and destroyed, yet there are tadpoles everywhere now. There was no cover and no food for the nesting birds and yet in early May I watched a young Thrush tugging a worm from the lawn. It seemed impossible that the newly arrived martins could find any insects to live on and yet they are twittering as usual. How did those owls ever find enough to live on through those long cold months? But they did, or at least some did.

It's been tough out there for too long.



Wildlife news: someone (thank you) has sent me a beautiful picture of leverets - these young hares are tucked away by their mother in little tussocks of grass, often in the middle of a vast field where they sit motionless, come what may! Sadly, many do get disturbed and are quickly picked up by badgers, foxes, crows or buzzards. But, thankfully enough survive to keep them going.

Young roe bucks are showing up in odd places as older, stronger bucks push them out. These deer are spreading fast and becoming much more common.

I think I have never seen such a show of bluebells - certainly never so late.

Tony Norman

tony@theleen.co.uk

Pembridge Good Neighbours

Call 07779 122499 9.30am - 5.00pm

Pembridge Doctor's Surgery

Monday: 8.45am - 1.00pm 2.15pm - 6.00pm
Tuesday: 8.45am - 1.00pm Closed afternoons
Wednesday: Closed all day
Thursday: 8.45am - 1.00pm 2.15pm - 6.00pm
Friday: 8.45am - 1.00pm Closed afternoons
Tel: Pembridge - 388566 (Kington - 230302)

The Steppes

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 9.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday: 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Saturday: 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am - 4.00pm

Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 9.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am - 12.30pm

Mobile Post Office

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

New in Pembridge

Welcome to the village Tricia! This is actually a little belated as I inadvertently omitted it from the last issue. Tricia's Unisex Hair Salon at the top of Bridge Street is where you would previously have gone for your balloons. Drop in or telephone 388665 for an appointment.



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