

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

August - September 2013

Show Time!

Even without the horse events there was a great deal going on at the annual show. I wasn't tempted by the bucking bronco but the bouncy castle with its big slide looked great fun. The weather was good for most of the day and when it came the rain was warm! The ground was deemed unsuitable for the trotting races after it had been churned up by cattle then baked hard by our recent heatwave. The gymkhana and jumping were absent for want of an organiser this year but Julie Mifflin tells me that she has a volunteer for next year.



Open Gardens Success

What a fantastic week-end! Wonderful sunny gardens, the village looking delightful and lots of appreciative visitors. The Pembridge Open Gardens weekend was a huge success. Many thanks to the home owners who worked so hard to ensure that their gardens looked so splendid and even harder chatting to the visitors, answering their many queries. Thanks also to those who planted up window boxes and put out interesting information so that the village was looking its best.

More than 320 tickets were sold, raising over £1,600 to spend on village activities. This will primarily fund the activities of Pride in Pembridge and the Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme but a contribution to the Christmas trees and lights is also planned.

Good Neighbour Scheme

The Scheme's second AGM was held on 9 July. Another successful year has seen the volunteer force of 18 provide support to 13 different people in the parish. Over 100 hours of volunteer time has been donated, helping several people who need ongoing support.

The Scheme has been widely recognised: there have been referrals from the British Red Cross and from the Social work teams; it has been included in the Herefordshire Locality Engagement Toolkit as an example of Good Practice; a letter was received from the Cabinet Office, congratulating everyone on the delivery of the project and wishing everyone continued success.

Coffee mornings have been held since March and these have proved to be successful, and it is intended that these should continue to be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, usually in the Village Hall. Thanks to everyone for supporting the scheme and particular thanks to the volunteers who give their time and help so willingly.

Pembridge Parish Council

Ward Councillor's Report

Last month I met up with the Leader and some senior members of Powys Council and we discussed several issues which affect our two communities. We all were committed to some sensible joined up working where possible but the Welsh Assembly does not encourage this and we hope where possible common sense will prevail. It was interesting to get the background to the closure of John Beddoes High School at Presteigne and their reopening under Newton High school control but with the closure of their sixth form. It is a lesson to us all in these cash strapped days never to take the eye of the standards you are delivering for your pupils .

Although the Council owns no houses it has a statutory duty to oversee housing allocations. It has reviewed its policy and placed additional preference for people with local connections to move to or remain in their local Parish or village. Encouraging the economically active as well Armed forces and volunteers also feature.

New Highway Contractors

The council following a proper procurement procedure begun last July, agreed its new contractor to be responsible for our highways from 1st September this year will be Balfour Beatty. They will replace Amey who were in the last three companies to be considered along with Costain Ltd. The contract will include highways maintenance and improvement, street lighting, traffic signals, street cleaning, parks and public rights of way, fleet maintenance and professional consultancy services. The contract is for 10 years and worth in the region of £200 million. In accordance with public sector transfers the majority of the existing staff will be transferred to the new company.

Last two months has seen more work done on our parish roads but much still left. Amey did with some prompting get the roads swept for Britain in Bloom.

Budget Savings

In June the Chancellor announced a further 10% reduction in local government funding for 2015/16 on top of the reductions announced for the previous four years. As you know in the first two years the bulk of the savings came from internal restructuring but now the impact is on the front-line services. These need to be redesigned, passed over to other Councils or bodies or withdrawn completely.

Last month I wrote about the impact on libraries, information centres, museums and Heritage Service. Consultations on changes to opening hours for some of these will take place over the summer and we are looking to form a trust to protect them and sustain our collections and service for the future.

Following a comparison of neighbouring and other west midland councils we are reviewing the amount we pay for residential and nursing care. We will reduce the amount we pay for residential care from £468 per week to £434 and nursing care from £572 to £532 per week.

There is also a proposal to limit free school transport to the nearest school rather than catchment areas which could impact on some of our smaller schools. I would favour making the necessary savings but passing the budgets to the schools so they could sweat the public pound with bus contractors to the benefit of their school.

What last month's announcement made clear is that with continued pressure to reduce local authority funding, it is not a case of whether to review this service or not but when. As you all know, in managing your own household budgets if you have a third less income than you did three years ago you are not going to be able to have the same things this year as previously.

Grange Court

The old Market Hall originally built by John Abell was moved from the town centre in Leominster to its present site where it has had several uses over the generations, latterly as council offices. Last month saw the Lottery funded refurbishment completed and it's hand over by the council to the Leominster Area Regeneration Company (LARK). The building had been extended, it's outbuildings refurbished to offer incubator units for new businesses or organisations and a new public room created in the old chamber upstairs. The transfer of assets like this I think are a sensible way forward and a model for future council property to be managed and make a contribution to our local community and economy.

Local Plan

As you will recall the council has been consulting on its core strategy/ local plan for the next 20 years. This Plan together with National Policies and Neighbourhood Plans are legal base for making future planning decisions. The Plan was passed at the recent council meeting and will now this Autumn go to an inspector following that determination it will be adopted next Spring. There is a concern due to the fact it proposes a bypass around Hereford that it will be legally challenged which would delay it. The danger then is the delay to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and the fact that without a substantive plan our villages and communities are exposed to developers forcing their proposals on communities with little opportunity for redress. There are already some examples in north Herefordshire of this happening.

Roger Phillips

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Mums and Tots

Pembridge Busy Bees - a friendly, informal mums and tots group - is run by local mums for pre-school children and babies. Meeting every Tuesday morning (9.30 - 12 ish) at the village hall - everyone is most welcome, from Pembridge or nearby. Join us for fun, chats, tea and biscuits - toys,

crafts and snacks are provided for the children, endless coffee and cakes for parents and carers. A lovely way to meet people and for the children to get together and play. Any queries please call Merry Albright - 387957 or email, merryalbright@waitrose.com

Pride in Pembridge

In addition to the contribution from the open gardens weekend, thanks go to Garfield and Shirley Evans, who held a very enjoyable cocktail party with donations going towards PIPs and Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme.

Money has already been spent on extra plants for the tubs on the Leominster approach to the village. The reds and oranges of the existing planting is now set off by trailing plants and a froth of white flowers with cordylines as central features. The money can also be used for more perennial planting – perhaps roses and other flowering shrubs. Suggestions as to what and where will be welcome.



The village is looking lovely and visitors and residents alike sing its praises. Litter picking, sweeping, weeding and now watering is being done. The phone and post boxes have both been repainted, the latter including a smart gold crest. The judging for the Heart of England in Bloom took place on 4 July. The judges remained

tight-lipped but un-deadheaded roses seemed to be noted.

The judging for the National Village in Bloom competition will take place on 31 July, and we are the village representing the Midlands area. Please continue to support us by keeping the village tidy by keeping frontages swept and free of weeds and keep dead-heading those roses! If you have any difficulties please let one of the PIPs team know. We would be happy to help: Alan Stokes - 388769 or Judy Rogers - 387976 to name but two.



Fund raising for St Mary's

The Church will be taking the Community Shop in Kington for one week starting Saturday, 24 August, so donations of clothes, household goods, bric-a-brac, books, toys and jewellery will be most welcome. 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. Volunteers are poised to take donations

Kingspan News

A BUG HOUSE FIT FOR A QUEEN

One of the things that makes the UK such a great place to live is our beautiful countryside. Sadly many native plants and wildlife are under threat from urban development, invasion of foreign species and the effects of a changing climate, so it is up to us to protect it as much as we can. With this in mind, Kingspan Insulation started a programme of work to protect and enhance the native biodiversity on the Pembridge site back in 2006. The latest project as usual involved local schools, as HRH Princess Anne discovered during her visit to the site on the 10th May.



Children in years 4, 5 and 6 from Pembridge, Shobdon and Kingsland Primary Schools came along between 18th April and 2nd May to take part in the next exciting phase. This involved building 3 new bug hotels, creating a stumpery by main gate, planting honeysuckle, ivy and wildflowers, and helping to create a bumble bee bank near the main entrance.

The children were separated into two groups to do the tasks and afterwards they all did a spider hunt on a bark bank. Not only did the work help to improve the site, it also taught the children about the importance of protecting our wildlife, and the fun that could be had doing it.

Two pupils from each of the schools who had been involved met the Princess Royal during her visit and enthusiastically explained the work. Not only was she treated to the delights of bees and insects, Her Royal Highness also experienced the science behind Kingspan's high performing products with a demonstration during her tour of the factory. It was truly a day to remember for everybody involved, including the bugs in hotels that could now be considered to have the royal seal of approval.

Two pupils from each of the schools involved met the Princess Royal and enthusiastically explained the work they had been doing to create the new bug hotels and bumble bee bank near the main entrance.

off your hands. You can arrange for them to be collected by ringing Gill Smith on 388441 or take them along to the church.

In addition, the Church Fête is on 3 August, from 2.30pm, outside, weather permitting. This will include cake stall (there's a surprise), bottle stall, plants and produce, crafts, toys, books, bric a brac, refreshments plus a range of games and activities for both children and adults.

Leen Times

Two crops of silage safely under cover, a nice crop of hay made, spring barley ready to cut for whole-crop silage (that is grain/leaves/straw all chopped up together) this week and a bumper crop of maize on the way - what could possibly be wrong? Well, the grass has stopped growing and the cows have very little fresh to eat, so we have started feeding silage back to them! Fortunately we have dried off (stopped milking) well over half the herd so these have been turned into standing hay for their 8 weeks of 'rest'. But it is nice to enjoy a proper summer again after last year's mud and sorrow.

We have put up many birds nesting boxes over the years, but have never, until this year, recorded what has used them. This year a recorder from the Kington branch of the Herefordshire Nature Trust recorded 12 boxes - although they were purposely plugged until the middle of April, to encourage pied flycatchers, who arrive around then. The results for the 12 boxes were: 2 not used, 7 by blue tits, 2 by great tits and 1 by both at the same time!! In all, 86 eggs were laid and 70 youngsters fledged. Good luck to them.

We moved house 3 years ago and I have been fortunate to create a bit of garden for the wildlife, particularly butterflies. There are ten different varieties of buddleia and many other summer and autumn flowering shrubs and plants. So far I have only spotted a few tortoiseshell, a gatekeeper, meadow brown and cabbage white, but remain hopeful that even after such a tough summer last year many more will arrive.

Wild life news: a snake (probably an adder) seen sunning on a dry bare bank - they do this to warm up in the sun - just give them a wide berth and leave them be; seen hunting in a wood,



a large beautiful emperor dragonfly (wings outspread) ; different to the damselfly, inset, (wings together over the body), that normally live by the river.

The Parish Council has asked if anyone would have room for a small wood (packs of 30 trees worth £30, 105 trees worth £105, or 420 trees worth £420). The packs come in a choice of themes – small copse, wildlife, year-round colour, wild harvest, wetland or wood fuel – free! This is courtesy of the Woodland Trust, to be planted by volunteers adjacent to a public footpath, anywhere in the parish. Please let me know.

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

Electricity Network Improvements

Western Power Distribution (WPD) owns and operates the electricity distribution network in the Midlands. A recent newsletter reports that a key area for improvement identified by stakeholders (that's you and me!) is the service to remote customers. They therefore plan to invest over the next ten years to reduce the instances of power cuts for these customers. If you are vulnerable to power cuts for medical or other reasons, WPD work with the British Red Cross and the WVRS to provide assistance. They can also provide you with a priority telephone number to use if you have a power cut. To register call 0845 724 0240.

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