

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

October - November 2013



A harvest-time version of the black and white trail at Middlebrook Farm recently.

Heart of England Gold Again!

All the hard work of the Pride in Pembridge team has paid off again with a Gold award from the RHS Heart of England in Bloom committee. The results were announced at the Drayton Manor Hotel in Tamworth on 12 September, where the presentation was made to Barbara Petrie by Les Goodman, the committee's president .

Following last year's success, Pembridge is also this year's Midlands area representative in the National Village in Bloom competition. Results will be announced on 12 October, in Cleethorpes.



The Charity Shop in Kington

The following report is from Gill Smith, but I can confirm the enthusiasm with which Jen Myers approached the task. Before the shop had even opened she had sold me 100 golf balls and the same plus a golf bag to Philip Rogers.

Our charity shop week at Kington, at the end of August, was a great success with the sum of £2,200 being raised for church funds. This excellent achievement was the result of very hard work on the part of many people in Pembridge and their endeavour and expertise in raising quality goods to sell and making our shop look so inviting to the many buyers. Our thanks go especially to Jen Myers who spent many hours coordinating the week with the Fund Raising Committee: her enthusiasm for the task was amazing!

Thanks also to Diane Williams and Pat Stokes who also amazed us by turning a small shop into the best Department Store in Kington! The shop was manned all week by a very enthusiastic band of shopkeepers – so our grateful thanks to them. Many thanks also to everyone in and around Pembridge who donated items for the shop and helped in other ways to make our week such a success.

Pembridge Parish Council

The Parish Council would welcome any ideas from parishioners for a parish event in 2014 to mark the Centenary of World War One. Please advise the Clerk, Heather Harding, or any of the Parish Councillors by the end of November this year.

Ward Councillor's Report

Dealing with the Councils Budget

The inescapable facts about the current financial position facing all Councils are stark. In Herefordshire we have to find savings of approx. £57m between 2010 and 2015 (this amounts to over 1/3 of our budget) and have been put on notice by the Government that a further 15% is likely to be cut from central funding after 2015. The fact that we are a small local authority delivering services over a large geographical area and haven't the level of reserves of the longer established councils impacts on us greater still.

Herefordshire Council Social care Costs

The Council commissions 14,000 hours of home care per week for over 1,000 people. Nearly three quarters of all these people are older people, 14% people with physical & sensory disabilities, 11% people with learning disabilities and 3% people with mental health disabilities.

The Council pays a basic rate of £14.90 per hour for both week and weekend working with a premium rate of £17.13 payable in certain rural areas.

There are currently 51 registered domiciliary care providers. Current contracts are being extended to March next year pending a review of costs. The service needs to be redesigned with the aim of delivering financial savings and ensuring that best value for money is achieved for the council and service users while not destabilising the local market.

The County has over 40 registered residential care homes with approx. 400 people equivalent to just over a quarter of all the beds paid for by Herefordshire Council. Locally this includes The Garth, Lynhales, Kington Court, Waverley and Leominster Res & Nursing Home. The Council is seeking to contain the costs of this provision and has been working with the homes to establish a fair rate. Existing rates vary depending on degree of care but have a baseline in excess of £400 per week and can be over £570 in complex cases.

Adoption service

During the last 5 years our service saw 58 children adopted most of these children, all under 16 years old, having been previously looked after by our fostering families. We are currently looking at joining up the service across the West Mercia region and having one adoption service for Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Telford and the Wrekin.

Library Services

Future options for this service were taken to Cabinet meeting on 19th September. As I indicated before the May Council meeting the proposal to close the service down to one library in Hereford with no core service was one that I would not support and that we should retain our market town libraries/info but consult on a reduction of opening hours. In most sites our library service is now joined up with other services and this needs to be reflected in our thinking. The option allows individual considerations to reflect the individual offers of each site.

We are in discussions with the communities of Colwall, Weobley and Leintwardine to transfer their status to community libraries.

The importance of retaining a core service should not be forgotten. This provides the support to our existing community libraries, a service to over 40 nursing homes, 260 housebound people, internet service etc. We should seek to join the housebound delivery service with the daily care service patrons receive.

Museum services

The options for future delivery of this service have been explored with representatives of local organisations and political groups. The emerging preferred option is for a reduction in services to be placed in an existing trust. The formation of a new trust just for our museum service is considered not practicable as our offer is too small. Also, there is the cost of setting it up and the time that takes. A trust will need an element of core funding for specialist personal and service support. The trust needs to provide efficient and sound professional support to the back office as well a competent and professional front line service.

It is not possible to achieve the savings identified by the Chief Executive last April as we wish to retain our collections and Friar Street where they are properly housed. I have inquired and I can confirm we have no items worth £100k or more.

New Highway Contractors Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty took over the Highway contract from Amey on 1st September. They are a national company who also do the highways for Warwickshire, Coventry, Solihull and Wiltshire. It is a 10 year contract worth £200 million with £20 million front loaded for C and unclassified roads. I am working with the Parish Council to identify potential resurfacing projects to place in the programme. As before if you need to report a pothole or concern please contact 01432 261800 or email streets@herefordshire.gov.uk

Roger Phillips

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

New editor(s) required!

In January I shall start receiving my state pension - Carrie beat me to it by a couple of years as she just sneaked into the last group unaffected by the increase in pension age for women. I'm not going to retire from what little work I still do but I would like to spend a little more time with my golf clubs. We're both planning to reduce our commitments during next year so we'll be stepping down as editors of the newsletter after producing the April/May issue.

The newsletter is primarily a means for the Parish Council to communicate with parishioners but has evolved beyond this over the years. The format is not fixed and a simpler approach could be discussed.

It, together with the advertising flyer, is produced every two months to coincide with the The Arrowvale Messenger, as the church volunteers deliver both publications.

If you'd like a spell as editor call the Parish Clerk, Heather Harding, or give me a call to talk about what's involved.

Pride in Pembridge

Gold again for Heart of England in Bloom and we now await the results of the National Competition. We will be holding a celebratory party in the village hall on 23 November for all the village residents. Watch for details in the shop/pubs/paper.

The team has been taking a well-earned rest over the summer but litter-picking, dead-heading and gentle maintenance has been ongoing. Work has recommenced on the moat and it is now clear of brambles and small trees, revealing its original shape.

Future projects include: getting various tubs and hanging baskets replanted with winter-tolerant plants; improving The Almshouses' soil and replacing the annuals there with spring flowers. The garden at the school entrance will also get some spring bulbs continuing the blue and white theme.

We're discussing an up-to-date and accurate welcoming sign at both ends of the village and a small team are looking at potential designs. We should also consider some sort of sign to celebrate that we are gold winners of Village in Bloom in 2012 and 2013 perhaps with an award for the National Competition in 2013.

The approach to the village from Shobdon has also been high-lighted as an area for visual improvement, particularly the car-parking area. There will shortly be two new benches for visitors to sit whilst enjoying the village 'beach'. We will consider other planting to 'enhance nature' but we do not wish to take away from the area's natural beauty.

If you'd like to join in with our efforts, come along on Monday or Thursday mornings at 10am at the Market Cross by the New Inn, weather permitting, and work for a couple of hours. We try to have a laugh and a joke and sometimes stop for tea and a chat. Equipment will be provided but wear old clothes and sensible shoes!

WI Meeting - Men Welcome!



The October meeting of The Pembridge Women's Institute is open to everyone, non-members included, and even men. The occasion is a talk on antiques by Geoffrey Crofts of Brightwells Antiques and Fine Art team. He will also be able to do some valuations if you'd like to bring along some treasured possessions, but not of jewellery. The meeting is on Wednesday, 9 October and the entry fee of £3 will include refreshments. If you'd like to attend contact either Marguerite Fothergill (388279) or Tricia Lloyd (340340).

The WI meet every second Wednesday in the parish hall. They regularly tell me that it's not all about cakes and jam, and I know that Marguerite and Catherine get more practice at ten-pin bowling than I do. Other activities include walking, lunching out and a monthly reading group. Just turn up at a meeting to discover what a friendly lot they are!

Extra Clinics at Kington Surgery

A brief update - extra clinics have been added with one each week at 7.30 - 8.30 am, and a further three each week at 6.00 - 7.00 pm. Ask reception when making your appointment.

Christmas Lights

Julie Mifflin is obtaining quotes for this year's Christmas trees based upon the same number as last year. If you don't want one this year please let Julie know (388414) so she can adjust the order. The trees will be put up on Saturday, 30 November and Sunday, 1 December. The lights will be switched on at the Market Hall at 6.15pm on Friday, 6 December. Please go along to the Market Hall for carol singing, free coffee, tea and mince pies. Father Christmas will be ready for visits at 6.15pm. There will be a Christmas raffle and stalls, the money raised from the raffle is used to pay for trees and replacement lights.



Please support the Christmas lights if you enjoy them. Last year many lights had to be replaced due to rough, windy weather the previous year. The raffle profit and other donations didn't cover the cost so Julie was out of pocket. This year Cliff, from the Red Lion, has made a generous donation and the Pride in Pembridge team have also donated a significant sum from the proceeds of the Open Gardens weekend in the summer. So hopefully things will be back in the black and Julie won't need to bale things out.

Trailer Permits for the 'tip'

Not a gripping piece of news this, but one which could catch you out. The permits scheme allowing householders to use a trailer to take rubbish to a Recycling Centre is being revised and permits issued prior to 1 October '13, will not be valid in 2014. Under the new scheme permits are again available free of charge to residents to deposit domestic waste. Each household can apply for up to 12 permits per year and use one each month. You can apply on-line at www.letswasteless.com or call 0845 607 2007.

Householders can make as many visits as they like without a permit in a private vehicle or with a trailer, so long as it is no more than 1.3 meters in length.

Snow Queen in The Church



On the evening of Saturday, 30 November, the Rain and Shine company will be presenting The Snow Queen. Tickets cost £10 for adults, £5 for children (5-15yrs) or £25 for a family (2+2). There will be a seasonal bar and mince pies plus a raffle. Details from Meryl Griffith on 340381.

Leen Times

Over the last few weeks the calves have been coming thick and fast, the milk tank has been filling up and the fields round the house have groups of calves dancing about like spring lambs. These days they are all fed with a mobile 'milk bar' that can suckle up to 50 at a time - they are much fitter and healthier than I have seen baby calves for years. It is slightly odd to see all the multitude of different colours. Years ago they were all black and white 'Friesians' - now, because of problems with restocking after TB and a deliberate policy of cross breeding, we have introduced Jersey, Guernsey, Shorthorn, Ayrshire and foreign breeds such as Montbelliarde or Brown Swiss. This has enabled us to produce as much milk as possible from that most natural of feeds, grass.

After a gap of perhaps 15 years we are keeping a few pigs for our own use. Killing a pig used to be such a common thing to do on farm, with the meat shared round, converted into pies or salted down. Now it is somewhat easier with the deep freeze, but there is still a day of intense work to convert the pig into usable packages for modern families. There is also that great feeling of being self-sufficient that has been all but lost: many days, everything we have on the plate is produced off the farm.

Talking of that, this autumn has been one of the most abundant I can remember for blackberries and mushrooms, we seem to have been eating them for months. Hopefully there will be a few sloes about after the first frost for the usual winter tippie.



Small Copper Butterfly

The butterflies appeared in abundance on the buddleia with many more different varieties added to the list. I hadn't realised before how many moths use the plant both in the day and at night. It was interesting to watch the daily visit of a single hornet that would patrol like a Spitfire around the bushes knocking off the butterflies as he went, before expertly catching a fly and proceeding to eat it a few inches from my face! I have been sent some stunning pictures of butterflies from round the parish.

It looks as if it could be a good acorn year. If anyone would like to grow a few on in pots or if a healthy wild tree or shrub is found in the wrong place in the garden, pop it into a pot - I can usually find somewhere to plant them.

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



Where is this? Judy Rogers suggested a picture quiz featuring images from around the parish. This is from Pembridge itself and (clue!) it rarely gets direct sunlight hence the poor clarity. I've enhanced it as much as I can! Answer next time.

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