

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

December 2013 - January 2014



Even More Gold!

You can't have missed that, after Heart of England in Bloom success, Pembridge went on to win Gold and Best in Category in the RHS National Village in Bloom Competition. At the awards ceremony in Cleethorpes, Pembridge was described as a "quintessential English village that, despite being on a busy main road, had achieved a high level of maintenance and cleanliness".

Later, the judges gave some of the reasons for their decision: the tour was well balanced; Townsend's caravan site was very impressive; the successful partnerships between the various village groups and, specifically, the work on the tapestry; the village planting scheme was considered to be very appropriate, in particular the healthy hollyhocks in the pavement and the selective weeding that allowed poppies to flourish were commended.

As if that wasn't enough, the following week, having been nominated by Cllr Roger Philips, Pembridge was also awarded The Pride in Herefordshire award for Conservation and came best in *all* categories.

On November 23rd there was a celebratory party in the parish hall for the village - or at least, as many as safety would allow. Those who were able to attend enjoyed more than enough to eat and were entertained by the Helen Vereker Singers, who performed many well known songs and



succeeded in encouraging us to join in. The evening ended with a disco, courtesy of Shirley and Garfield Evans, which saw me performing embarrassing moves well past midnight. Some remarkably generous raffle prizes donated by businesses and individuals within the village, together with some high pressure sales tactics, encouraged the purchase of raffle tickets which supported the cost of the evening.

The PIPs team really has achieved a remarkable amount this year. Not only by transforming the public areas of the village with their weeding, clearing and planting, but by inspiring an enhanced sense of pride in our village which led many others to improve their gardens and frontages to the benefit of all. To top it all, these same hard working volunteers then organised a party to which they invited everyone else for free. I'm tempted to get all Churchillian: "Never in the field of village conservation...".

Pembridge Parish Council

- Next PACT meeting is at the Olde Steppes on 2 January, 11am to 12.30pm.
- Vehicle speed monitoring continues in the village so residents beware!

Ward Councillor's Report

2014/15 Budget Consultation

Local Government funding from Government is being reduced considerably from 2011 to 2016 by over 45%. Herefordshire is under particular pressure from the rising cost of social care. For example there are 4,500 children who, according to the government definition, live in poverty, with 2,500 claiming free school meals. Approximately 2,500 children are registered as having Special Educational Needs, 2,000 identified as requiring safeguarding support, and 450 of them needing the highest level of protection from harm. The Council has issued a consultation with the public and you can participate via www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budget2014. Please make your views known and, in particular, emphasize the need to support highway maintenance and the provision of public toilets.

There has been a consultation on limiting free school transport to just the local school. This was a particular concern in the Pembridge catchment area where we calculated many of our children lived nearer to other local schools including over the border. However, some weeks later it was confirmed it only applied to Herefordshire Schools. I believe that if they wish to, individual schools or clusters should be allowed to receive the transport funding and organise it themselves, but this was opposed by the council. However I sent a question via our MP in the House of Commons and David Laws, the Minister, confirmed in reply that it was possible.

Highway Issues

I continue to be concerned about the poor response of our new contractor to residents and my own reporting of highway defects. I have had a meeting in my ward concerning a very bad road surface with the Herefordshire cabinet member and Bill Wiggin which was attended by 24 local residents and I followed this up with a meeting with Andy Williams from Balfour Beatty who is head of their services in Herefordshire. The state of our highways remains one of my biggest concerns as evidenced by my large collection of pothole photographs. Please report any problems, copying me in, to Streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or the telephone number 01432 261800. On a positive note work seems in hand for the winter season with salt stocks at full capacity (6500 tonnes), salt bins filled and 200 bins renewed.

I am getting several complaints about HGVs going down Bridge Street and damage to infrastructure. In the past there has been concern about putting up more signage in our village but I think we need to address this matter and I would be grateful to hear residents views.

Pembridge Surgery

I have had several residents express concerns about the opening hours of our local surgery. With one resident stating that getting "an appointment with a doctor in Pembridge is more difficult than obtaining an audience with the Queen!". I am told that improvements are being made to improve the access to the Pembridge surgery but I have referred the concerns to the local health watch body. Similar views have been expressed about the availability of the Post Office van in the Car Park.

The annual report of Herefordshire Public Health makes interesting reading and can be found at <http://factsandfigures.herefordshire.gov.uk/2286.aspx>.

Old Market Site Hereford

As you all should know work on the £90 million re-development of the Old Market site began 12 months ago by Stanhope, British Land and Sir Robert Mc Alpine. Last month I attended the topping out ceremony which marks the approximate ending of the major outdoor construction and the beginning of the internal fitting out. Debenhams have taken over their building to begin their refit and, with a decent winter, the aim is still to open the Old Market on Maundy Thursday next April.

In the new year work on the pedestrian crossing between the site and Widemarsh street will be done, but despite what you may have read in some local newspapers there are no plans to reduce the dual carriageway in Newmarket Street. You can get more information by going to www.oldmarkethereford.co.uk. In the New Year a shop is opening in Widemarsh Street for local people interested in having a retail job to register so that new firms can have a local talent pool to appoint from.

Meanwhile the New Cattle Market goes from strength to strength with numbers peaking in mid October at over 12,000 sheep one Wednesday ensuring that Hereford is one of the largest livestock markets in the UK.

Winter is here so please keep a look out on any vulnerable neighbours particular if the weather turns bad. As ever If you need any help or contact numbers please do not hesitate to contact me. Very best wishes for Christmas and a happy new year.

Roger Phillips

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Improved sports facilities

Lady Hawkins School hopes to resurface their tennis courts with a "sand-dressed, needlepunch" surface that will allow other sports such as football and hockey to be played. They also plan to add a multi-use games area and floodlighting to maximise the use of the facilities.

The school has put up funds for the project but they are applying for a Sport England grant which would allow it to go ahead. These facilities are open to Pembridge residents so you are asked to support the Sport England grant application by going to: www.kingtonsport.blogspot.com.

WI news

Pembridge WI held its Annual Meeting on 13th November, when a new committee was elected. Tricia Lloyd stood down as President and was thanked for all the work she has done over the past three years. Pat Baugh will be taking over as President for this coming year.

You will be welcome at the December meeting on Wednesday, 11th at 7pm in the Village Hall, when Linda Lynne will be showing us how she decorates Christmas cakes. Contacts: Pat Baugh 387947 and Marguerite Fothergill 388279.

Neighbourhood Development Plan update

The following statement was recently sent to Hereford Council Planning Department

PLANNING STATEMENT BY PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2013

As part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan process it is intended to seek the views of Pembridge Residents as to whether development should be in small areas of small scale development, in one large site or something between the two. Residents will also be asked to confirm that Landowners and developers explicitly demonstrate that local character, materials, sustainability and good design will be applied to any scheme and that developments should seek to protect existing facilities and amenities (including, but not limited to, pre-school, Village shops, school and village hall). As a consequence, any developer would be expected, in the case of larger developments, to deliver a suitable mix of houses to enable this protection and the planning authority would be expected to ensure that smaller projects supported these goals.

Until completion of the NDP process meaningful consultation with Pembridge Parish Council and the NDP steering group is encouraged.

Andrew Pace, Parish Plan Steering Group, writes:

"At the Open Parish meeting this year I concluded my remarks by saying that 'progress is likely to be slow' and so it has proved. We are now on the third draft of a questionnaire which hopefully will be the final version. We will be shortly seeking quotes to professionally format this prior to distribution and collection. We will also seek quotes from research organisations that can analyse the feedback. Originally Hereford Council was going to provide these services but the research department that was to do this no longer exists.

"Before we can do this we need to obtain a grant to cover the costs and we expect that by the time you read this we will have applied for this and be a substantial part of the way to receiving it.

"Part of the reason for the slow progress has been the understanding that, until Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy/Local Plan has passed examination (and there is a possibility that this might be legally challenged), Examiners of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) would decline to approve NDPs as there would be no finalised Core Strategy into which the NDPs would fit (as happened to the first NDP to go forward in Devon). Also we cannot be 100% certain that Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy will not be altered prior to final agreement and the goalposts moved.

"However, the NDP for an area in Cheshire was recently passed by the Examiner and subsequently approved in a Neighbourhood referendum without the core strategy being finally in place. Although it is understood that this outcome is the subject of legal challenge by developers, whose plans for housing developments have been frustrated, this case would appear to indicate that it might be possible to proceed without the need for an agreed Core Strategy to be in place. We are looking into this further to see what implications there might be.

"On the 19th November our designated support officer departed Herefordshire Council and a meeting was held on the 21st with her successor who is also supporting Lyonshall and Shobdon. One issue he has promised to look into is the level of the Community Infrastructure Levy. This has been set for Pembridge at £140 per square metre compared to £50 for Lyonshall and £0 for Leominster. At this level it is hard to see how anyone would want, or be able to afford, to build in Pembridge and we hope to see this changed."

Local policing

The local policing team for Pembridge is termed a Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and is based in Kington. Their newsletter describes the team as working "with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live".

"Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods.

"Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us - in person (on the street, at community bases and at PACT meetings), on the phone or online."

Our SNT comprises PC Jo Ellis (07977 098394) and PCSOs Dick Allford (07968 462523) and David Boden (07970 176814). It seems odd to be giving mobile numbers but they're on the team's newsletter. However, for most purposes call 101 to reach the team and only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Glass Recycling Bins

The Parish Council has arranged for the glass recycling bins at the Parish Hall to be retained, and a third bin added. Despite this the bins continue to be overfilled. The bins should not be filled to the point that the lids cannot be fully closed. If you find the bins are full when you arrive, please try again at a later date - the bins are emptied fortnightly. If they are overfilled then the contractor will just not empty them!

No other rubbish should be left at the site - it would be appreciated if empty bags and boxes etc. are taken home for disposal. Note that this glass recycling facility is for Pembridge householder's use only, and is NOT for trade. If the bins continue to be misused, then there is a real possibility that the service will be withdrawn altogether. Your co-operation would be appreciated in order that this facility is not lost.

Macmillan fund raising

Yasmin Stroube reports that a coffee morning at the Old Chapel Gallery in September raised £215 for Macmillan Cancer Support, in just a couple of hours. Thanks go to those who contributed cake, time and money. Gill Smith was the winner of a lovely hamper.

Health and fitness

Kington Medical Practice encourages you to go for a flu vaccination if you are over 65 or in an at-risk category. They are also now holding a 'well woman' clinic after normal surgery hours which may be easier for many to attend.

Approaching 65 myself, I was struck by a BBC item (www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25087047) which reported that a "study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine followed 3,500 healthy people at or around retirement age. Those who took up exercise were three times more likely to remain healthy over the next eight years than their sedentary peers. Exercise cut the risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and depression."

I've been following a High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) regime for some years - similar to the one publicised by Dr Michael Mosley in a recent Horizon programme. A more conventional and probably comprehensive approach is on offer at the Parish Hall. Steve Harris runs a one hour circuits class every Tuesday at 6pm. This is a fun-friendly class designed to improve your fitness, balance and core stability, tone your muscles and burn some calories. Steve is on 07885 580690 and the cost is £4.50.

Tony Norman was away for this issue.

Fire Service consultation

Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority is running an extensive 12-week consultation on its cost saving plans. The plan proposes significant changes to fire engines and fire stations in order to address a predicted annual shortfall which rises to £4.7 million within three years. These include closing the Kingsland fire station and reducing from two to one the on-call fire engines at Leominster.

You are invited to read the Community Risk Management Plan and respond to the questionnaire, available on the Service website at www.hwfire.org.uk/consultation.



The subject of this issue's "Where in the parish is this?" picture is not at all obscure but surprised me when I encountered it. Last issue's quiz featured text carved on the front of Victoria Place, opposite the King's House. It reads STGEORGUS ME RESTITUTIT AD MCMLXXV1, which had me thoroughly impressed, but is apparently the sign-off line of a chap called StGeorge who restored the frontage in 1977.

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

Bonfire Night

The bonfire committee would like to thank everyone who supported the bonfire night event which found a rare dry day. To ensure we have insurance, one or two members of the committee must do a full day's training each year. This year Cliff took charge as Andrew was away. The bonfire lit up the surrounding area and the fireworks were spectacular. The hot-dogs, burgers and mulled wine were very popular and the takings, together with some generous donations, will buy next year's fireworks.

The committee would like to thank Mr & Mrs Henman, Peter Connop and John Jay for their help.

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:

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