

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

February - March 2014

The Market Square saw quite a few gatherings over the holiday period and most avoided the worst of the weather. The lights were switched on, carols sung and the hunt on Christmas Eve set off in the dry but later found some inconvenient conditions! We had guests staying who enjoyed the spectacle and were generously welcomed as "locals" at the New Inn on Christmas Day.



PIPs Pressing On

Christmas and rain has slowed the team down but planning over coffee went ahead. Consequently there has been a lot of progress made on the design of two new village signs for each end of the village. The green and brown signs currently adorning the highway, with misinformation or unsightly obscuring of the now-redundant garage symbol, are rather unwelcoming. There is still a lot of consultation with various bodies to take place but hopefully visitors will be greeted with something more attractive at some time in the future.

Litter picking has resumed and members of the team have gathered many bags of discarded bottles, cans, packets –

all the things that people seem to think are OK to hurl from car windows and desecrate the roadside and hedgerows and possibly cause injury to livestock. Just from the approach roads, 46



sacks were collected in 2013, up from 38 in 2012. Unfortunately not everyone clears up after their dog either.

The conservation area has also been receiving attention. During floods the path beyond the boardwalk becomes very slippery so one solution may be to extend the boardwalk. A source of suitable wild flowers for part of that area is also being investigated.

Wild daffodil bulbs have been planted on the sides of the moat and foxgloves transplanted there from gardens where they are not wanted. The snowdrops by the moat are starting to come out and we'll soon see if all the donated snowdrops planted on Bridge Street are flourishing. Two new tubs have been put at the east end of the village and planted with tulips, alliums and grape hyacinths which should give some colour after the daffodils have finished.

Apart from clearing and planting, members of the team have installed bollards outside the parish hall to discourage parking on the grass, and have also carried out roof repairs to the toilet block by millennium meadow.

A lot has been achieved despite the storms and floods and the moat certainly looks like a moat!

Pembridge Parish Council

Parish Precept for 2014 –15

A request for £18,000 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council for the Parish requirement for 2014 -15.

	2014/15	2013/14
Gross (including grant)	£18,000	£18,000
Less grant	£1,207	£1,139
Net payable by council tax payers	£16,793	£16,861
Equivalent no. of Band D properties	439.92	442.18
Band D council tax	£38.17	£38.13

Repairs to Children's Playground

Repairs have been carried out to the areas of the rubberised surface, which had been vandalised.

Parish Housing Needs Survey

A questionnaire will be sent out to all households during April or May by Herefordshire Council to ask your views on housing needs. It would be appreciated if as many as possible of you could complete and return these.

Glass Recycling Bins at the Parish Hall Car Park

A gradual improvement has been noticed, with fewer boxes and bags being left around (these do need to be removed once your glass has been deposited please).

It is hoped that once the post Christmas emptying cycle gets back to normal, things should run smoothly again. Thank you for your continued support.

Ward Councillor's Report

PEMBRIDGE SURGERY

I have followed up concerns raised by parishioners about the surgery in the village and I have received a long reply from Dr King. Pembridge Surgery was leased by the practiced in 2010 on a 30 year contract. Subject to planning permission improvements are scheduled to take place resurfacing the car park, improving toilet facilities(full disabled standard) and create a new disabled pedestrian access. During this work there will be some understandable temporary closure but this work should give us the long term commitment we were seeking.

The practice currently has a long term vacancy and despite advertising has failed to fill the position on a permanent basis. The level of service at Pembridge is proportional to the registered population of the practice. The Practice is also bidding to NHS England to provide 7 day opening. If you would like a copy of the full four page correspondence please drop me an email.

Budget

Following on from the Chancellors Autumn Statement the Government has preliminary confirmed its funding for Herefordshire Council for 2014/15 and beyond. In addition to previous reductions over the last three years the Council's draft medium term plan indicates a need to make £32.3 million worth of savings in the next four years as indicated below.

2013/14	£12.9 million
2014/15	£14.7 million
2015/16	£8.2 million
2016/17	£9.4 million

These figures assume a 1.9% Council Tax increase each year, 1% pay rises and will mean the Council's total budget will fall from £150 million in 2013/14, to 140 million in 2016/17. The full figures will be in the public domain next week.

Highways

I have been informed that from September to Christmas Balfour Beatty had filled 8,000 potholes but the recent heavy rain has added to the problems. Pembridge Parish Council receives funding from Herefordshire Council to employ a lengthsman to open up the slits to get the water off the road and I am encouraging them to take better advantage of the funding.

I have been lobbying for additional funding in next year's County council budget and am pleased that the proposed budget indicates £15 million extra for road surfacing particularly non principle roads. I have been working with my Parish Councils to identify the highways that should be submitted for this work in my ward. Please continue to report any problems, copying me in, to Streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or the telephone 01432 261800.

Kingsland Fire Station

Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority have consulted on their reductions and I have lobbied them to reconsider the closure of Kingsland Station. They should make the savings in administration before cutting the frontline. The West Mercia Police and Warwickshire have merged all admin below the chief constable and I see no reason why the Fire authority should not do the same. Responding to emergencies in rural areas is problematic given the poor mobile networks, distances to travel and the isolation of locations. Retained Fire Stations are practical, economic and bring local knowledge. This is even more important when our station covers the aerodrome and associated businesses.

Roger Phillips

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

New Parish Website

For you multi-tasking road warriors I'm sure that an HTML version of our website has been high on your wish list for the new year. Well the time has come and you can now see the site on your smart phones and tablets. More importantly for the rest of us, the new site will be easier to update with notices, news and events which should make the site more useful for everyone. The key is to have the information however, so please let me know about activities in the parish either via the website or by email - bob@bobpierce.eu.

The screenshot displays the Pembridge Parish Council website interface. At the top, the council's name is prominently featured. Below the header, there are several service tiles: 'Pembridge Surgery' with contact details and opening hours; 'Mobile Post Office' with a list of days and times; 'Bus timetables' with a link to a timetable page; 'Pembridge CE Primary School'; 'Electricity Supply'; 'Send a message' form; 'Flooding' information; and 'Parish Data' including coordinates and population. A navigation bar at the bottom includes links for 'Home', 'Council', 'Local services', and 'Local groups'. The website URL, www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk, is visible at the bottom right.

Pembridge History Group

The History Group meets on the fourth Tuesday each month in the New Inn at 7.30pm, occasionally with guest speakers. The meeting in February features an illustrated talk by Roger Curtis on the assassination of President Kennedy, on 22 November 1963. The talk was originally given 50 years to the day after the tragedy and includes a discussion of forensic evidence with hands-on experiment and scale models.

As part of the World War One centenary, the group are planning an exhibition and would welcome the loan of any photographs or other material parishioners have from the period. Contact Bob Anderson - 388292 or ra@ra-ms.co.uk.

Coffee and Tapestries



On Saturday, 22 February, from 10.15am, the five completed tapestries and others nearing completion will be on display at Rose Cottage, home of Catherine and Marguerite Fothergill. The coffee morning is in aid of St Mary's Church includes a "bring-and-buy" stall and raffle. The tapestries are the culmination of a surprisingly complicated process which starts with a water colour illustration, in this case done by Kate Skelton who will be at the event. It will also be a chance to talk to historians and stitchers.

Pembridge WI

The group started the New Year with a post-Christmas lunch at the New Inn with a party of 18 members and a guest, who was a former member of Pembridge WI. The lunch was enjoyed by everyone. We had a choice of roast Herefordshire beef, salmon or vegetable lasagne, followed by a delicious assortment of puddings.

Why not join one of our meetings as a visitor to see what we do and how friendly and informal we are. In May this year we will be celebrating our 95th anniversary just 5 years short of the centenary of the National Federation of WIs. We will also be celebrating the 9th birthday of our oldest member March.

The next meeting will be on February 12th in the village hall at 2.30pm when Yvonne Mort will give a talk and demonstration on pressed flower craft and its uses in creating beautiful cards and pictures. For further information or for an informal chat please contact Pat Baugh 387947 or Moyra Sutherill 388409.

Kingspan News

KINGSPAN INSULATION IN COMMUNITY AWARD WIN

The local community has been right at the heart of every decision Kingspan Insulation has made since it made its home on the airfield estate between Pembridge and Shobdon 28 years ago, and that work has now been



recognised with the firm winning the CSR Contribution in the Community (Herefordshire) Award at the 2013 Hereford & Worcester Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.

Many will already be aware of the Kingspan Insulation Community Trust, which provided £27,000 in the last year alone to local groups and schemes that met at least one of its four main goals: encouraging health and fitness in young people, biodiversity, conservation and road safety.

However the Trust is just part of Kingspan Insulation's much wider approach to giving a helping hand to the local community. In the recent years this has included sponsoring Herefordshire's 'Diamond Day' attended by the Queen, the provision of maps and road signs to keep delivery trucks away from Pembridge village centre and match funding of up to £100 for employees fundraising on behalf of local charities.

Improving the lives and opportunities of young people in Pembridge and beyond has been a particular focus, with old IT equipment offered freely to schools, work placements for local students and enterprise experience days.

All this work is just the start and Kingspan Insulation is committed to the target of investing 0.25% of pre-tax profits into community and charitable initiatives every year. For those interested, the deadline for the next round of Kingspan Insulation Community Trust grant applications is 31st March. Anyone from within the catchment areas of Wigmore High School, Lady Hawkins' School, Earl Mortimer College and Tenbury High School can apply and everything you need is available on the website:

www.kingspaninsulationcommunitytrust.org

Poppy Appeal 2013

I've received the following report from Sharon O'Hare:

I would like to thank everyone who helped to raise a fantastic amount for the 2013 Poppy Appeal as itemised below.

Donations	26.50
Shobdon	676.35
Pembridge & Staunton	1652.23
Pembridge British Legion Donation	342.50
British Legion Wreaths	109.50
Pembridge Church Collection	425.85
Staunton Church Collection	128.75
Radnor & West Hereford Hunt Cap	630.00

Total £3,991.68

As you can see from these figures, everyone has been most generous and I am really grateful to all concerned.

Leen Times

As I write a gale is blowing outside, carrying with it near horizontal rain. A goldfinch clings hard to the nyger seed feeder even with it swinging violently about. The bird resolutely pulls the seeds out and scatters them on the grass - yesterday, 20 of them were clearing up these spilt seeds on the ground. The rain seems to have been coming down for weeks now, bringing the river up to bank level many times without (thankfully) causing too much flooding for us. The farm carries on in 'winter mode' with most cattle in and under cover.

Having come out of organic production around 2 years ago, because we found it impossible to recover the extra costs involved, we have still been farming with very little artificial fertiliser or sprays. The milk price has started to climb a little so we could almost be termed 'happy farmers'. However, we continue to face TB and to loose cattle every few weeks. We have decided to move into a totally different enterprise - that of chicken farming - to complement the cows. There does seem to be a continuing demand for chicken meat so we have managed to get planning for some broiler sheds. Building has already started and staff training has begun.

Before the high water on the rivers arrived, a group of us were able to spend some days in November walking several miles of the river. The water was clear enough to see down to the gravels where brown trout and salmon were spawning. It was particularly good to count more salmon redds (nests) than we had ever seen before over several years of watching - let us hope this continues. With less pollution and better conditions, the river will be good for all its wildlife including the plants, insects and fish and the animals and birds that feed on them.

During the autumn we felled around 3 acres of woodland. This has now been neatly fenced up using chestnut stakes from the wood and the whole area planted up with native hardwood plants. We left some mature trees standing and a lot of woody debris lying on the ground. This should provide nesting cover for some birds and the rotting wood will produce food for fungal spores and reinvigorate the wood. If we can just keep the rabbits, squirrels and deer off and prevent it all getting overgrown with brambles for a few years, then we should see a lovely new wood coming back.



Wild life news: empty hazel nuts found with distinctive teeth marks of dormouse; little jack snipe spotted in a stubble field; signs of many otters on the river during spawning time.

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?

I had this delightful recollection from Jen Lock, after last issue's quiz:

"This is the road to Cabal and Forge, known as the Broad road! The railway from Pembridge to Kington crossed the now demolished bridge. When we were kids my sisters and I cycled to the Forge on Sundays to buy our sweets from Annie Price's "shop" at the Forge. The sweets were kept on top of a cupboard in the parlour. Returning home was fun as we could free-wheel all the way down the Broad road until we met the Noke to Rhyse road. There was no need to worry about traffic; cars were a rare sight (that dates me!). I still cycle the road and often rest at the bridge and admire the large pieces of beautifully cut stone sitting on top of the walls."



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