

Pembridge Parish News



April/May 2014

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

PEMBRIDGE PARISH CLOCK

It is true of any locality that one thing that many inhabitants will take for granted is the local soundscape – those unique sounds that tell you immediately where you are, and could be heard nowhere else. If ever there was a distinctive sound in Pembridge, it is the chime of the parish clock, which has been dependably ticking away in the bell tower for the last 123 years, striking that characteristic chime on our five bells. Take that away, and Pembridge would never feel quite the same again.

There has probably been a turret clock in the church tower for at least three centuries. We know little about the old mechanism, although it did have a face made from a solid copper sheet, it only had an hour hand, and it struck the hours on the tenor bell by means of an ingenious extending “lazy tongs” arrangement. By 1889 it seems clear that the old clock was worn out, and when the Reverend James Crouch died in 1888, after being rector here for nearly forty years, his family offered to replace it in his memory with a fine new mechanism, resulting in the clock we have today.

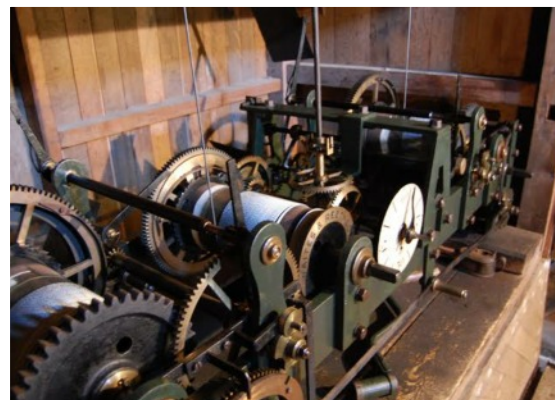
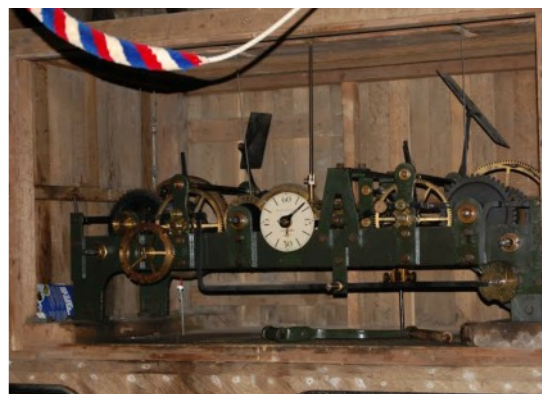
This present clock is without doubt a Rolls Royce - the best that money could then buy. It was built by Thwaites and Reed of Clerkenwell, then clockmakers to the Bank of England, the Corporation of London, the Hon. East India Company, and many London churches. Pembridge's clock was installed in the summer of 1891 at the cost of £140 – the equivalent of around £13,000 today – and it was clearly built to last.

The main frame is made from mild steel almost one inch (2.3 cm.) thick, it is over six feet (2 metres) long, and the robust mechanism is principally of brass. Its massive pendulum ensures it loses or gains only a few seconds a week, depending on the temperature and humidity - gaining in winter, and losing in summer. There are three drive trains, each driven by a cast iron

weight, in all totalling about a ton. These have to be wound by hand to the top of the bell tower at least once in every six days.

Peter Klein has been winding the clock now since 2005 but, no longer being the spring chicken he once was, after nine years he is now looking for a deputy and eventual successor, who preferably lives within earshot. While the installation of automatic winding is being contemplated, this may be a year or two in arriving, so a suitable candidate is being looked for. On a cold winter's day, as the wind howls through the bottom of the tower, it can be a strenuous job. Applicants will require a certain dedication, health, strength and stamina, a good sense of balance, and a sympathy if not affection for old mechanical contrivances. If you think you fit the bill, we would very much like to hear from you!

Heather Harding
01568 612143



Parish Open Meeting/Neighbourhood Development Plan Briefing 7th May 2014.

In the last article about the Neighbourhood Development Plan, published in the December/January issue, it was advised that a grant was being sought to enable matters to move forward. Pembridge has now been awarded the grant which is £7,000 with 90% payable up front and 10% payable upon completion of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

There is now a need to hold a public meeting so that residents have the opportunity to again ask questions about the Neighbourhood Development plan and to be briefed as to what is entailed as well as being able to provide input. There is a Parish Open Meeting arranged for 7th May in the Village Hall and rather than ask people to attend two meetings it is felt that it would be better to combine the meetings. We would ask, therefore, that readers note that the meeting on 7th May will cover both the NDP and other Parish matters normally addressed. Please do make every effort to attend.

Two other items regarding the NDP. The questionnaire is almost ready and it is hoped to distribute it shortly after the meeting referred to above. Also we would ask that any Landowners in the Parish who have land that might be suitable and available for development please notify Heather Harding of the details.



Come and join us at the Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th April 10.30 am - 12.00 at the Village Hall. There will be delicious cakes, hot cross buns and great company.

Don't forget if you need a lift just give us a call on 07779 122499.

EVERYONE WELCOME

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

All Meeting Dates at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall:

Wednesday 16th April - at which Allan Lloyd from Healthwatch Hereford will be the guest speaker, and he will listen to any concerns that you may have about the Pembridge Surgery appointment waiting times etc. and try and answer your questions. Do try and come along and find out what you want to know.

Wednesday 7th May - This will be a special Public Meeting to give a progress report on the developing Neighbourhood Plan, combined with the Annual Parish Open Meeting at which residents may ask about any relevant parish matters, and listen to various parish reports. Once again, please come and find out about

interesting matters relating to this parish over the next few years. We look forward to seeing you.

Wednesday 21st May - Is the Parish Council's Annual Meeting, at which officers are elected. All welcome.

Glass Recycling Bins at the Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who is helping to maintain the site in a clean state. The situation is much improved, thanks to your assistance. Please continue to take all empty boxes and bags etc. home with you to dispose of, as there are no facilities for general waste at the site. Thank you.

YOUR HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

PEMBRIDGE SURGERY

Following community concerns that I have followed up we have invited the local Healthwatch representative Mr Allan Lloyd from Kington to attend the Parish Council meeting on WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL at the VILLAGE HALL for 7.30PM

Healthwatch is the organisation charged by Government to monitor and hold to account all the local NHS and social services including GP practices. He is coming to hear your concerns about local delivery and experiences in Herefordshire and the Kington practice and Pembridge surgery. It will be a public session so please come along.

Highways

The very wet weather certainly took its toll on our highways although if we had frost and ice I dread to think what they would be like. Those of you who know me well will have seen my far too large collection of photos on my mobile phone of potholes that I send to Balfour Beatty. I have had to keep up the pressure to get potholes done and I am grateful to those of you who also report them to Streets@herefordshire.gov.uk or the telephone number 01432 261800.

The Government has recently announced funding to support pothole mending and Herefordshire has received 3.5 million pounds of the national pot. The Council will be borrowing an additional 15 million pounds for extra resurfacing next year.

We need to make sure we get good value for money in these repairs and those who saw potholes filled by the hotbox method last summer on straight mile at Bearwood will have noticed that none of these erupted again in winter.

School Information

Good news for our schools last month the Government announced a new formula for funding schools which should mean on average an extra £124 per pupil. This were the third lowest funded County in England and told to merge our schools to reduce surplus places. The recent ill thought out proposals on school transport have been withdrawn till September 2015. This should give time for a sensible debate about rural transport. The latest figures on primary school numbers in Herefordshire indicate a rise in 2013/14 by 302 children with secondary school numbers falling by 162. Since the establishment of Herefordshire Council in 1998 primary school numbers have fallen by 1,799 from a high of 14,230 in 1998, (a reduction of 12.6%). From a high point in January 2005, secondary numbers have fallen from

10,511 to 9,405 a reduction of 1,106 (-10.5%) and are expected to continue to fall till 2017. School funding is based on numbers in individual schools in October and the dedicated Schools Grant which goes direct to Schools is confirmed each December by Department of Education.

Parish Council Requirements form future Developments I have requested the Parish Councils adopt a principle of contributions from future residential developments in the Village. I suspect there are a number of potential developers wishing to put in applications prior to approval of our Neighbourhood plan, the county Councils Core Strategy and take advantage of the lack of firmly allocated 5 year housing supply land in the County. In our villages even smaller developments should contribute to the strain on local services.

Once this County Core Strategy has been approved by an Inspector then all new housing developments will pay a community Infrastructure Levy which will be several thousands of pounds. So it will pay some developers to jump the gun and communities will miss out.

Already developments over 10 houses in Herefordshire have to contribute per dwelling 2K to 4K for highway improvements and safety; local schools receiving 2K to 5K (2 bedroom to 4+ bedroom) per dwelling; as well as funding towards amenity and community projects of 1.5K to 3K.

PEMBRIDGE MOBILE POST OFFICE

As you know since we lost our post office we have received a mobile afternoon hourly service in the village car park. I have received several concerns about the absence of the mobile van on many occasions and have taken this up with The Royal Mail and our MP. Royal Mail assure me they have no intentions to withdraw any of their mobile vehicles and indeed by September 2014 they will have renewed all 34 vans across the country. The mobile service is part of the contract with the sub postmaster at Kington and he should be our first line of communication. We have discussed it at the Parish Council and would want some emergency system to warn people if there is a severe delay or a no show. To have sometimes senior citizens standing in winter waiting for the Post Van which may not be coming is not right. In addition we need to formally record any severely late or total absences.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want information or advice. If you want regular monthly updates please send me your email address.

Roger Phillips
rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

LOCAL ENERGY FOR KINGSPAN

We all love to buy locally, not only is it a great way to support the community, it also helps reduce the amount of time we spend in the car, bringing down our emissions. Now with the help of Herefordshire Biogas and Milton Farm, Kingspan Insulation plans to obtain some of the power and all of the heat it needs from local biomass and chicken manure.

Two new anaerobic digestion (AD) plants are to be installed to the north and west of Kingspan's site as part of its long-term commitment to achieve "zero net energy use". Anaerobic digestion comprises a series of natural processes where microorganisms break down biodegradable material to produce biogas. This biogas can then be used to produce both electricity and heat via a combined heat and power (CHP) plant.

The first AD plant, operated by Herefordshire Biogas, is due to be up and running by the Winter. It will use maize silage and fodder beet, grown as part of the normal crop rotation on local land owned by its partners, along with chicken manure from local farms. It is expected to produce 500kW of electricity and 370kW of heat for Kingspan.

One of the great advantages of the AD process is that the nutrients in the poultry manure pass through the digester and are available in the digestate. This natural by-product can be used as a sterile and odour free fertiliser.

Kingspan Insulation is also using new technology to help reduce energy demand. A heat exchange system will soon be installed, using the heat

from outgoing stale air to warm incoming air. This expected to help reduce space heating demand by as much as 50% and electricity demand is also being cut by around 10% with the introduction of cutting edge lighting technology.

All of this brings the Kingspan Insulation even closer to its ultimate goal of "zero net energy use", where the energy produced locally around the site matches its requirements. With 1600kW of heat from wood-chip fuelled biomass boilers, that are also expected to be installed in the next couple years, and the site's existing 600kW PV array, its full steam ahead!

WW1 COMMEMORATION EVENTS

Pembridge village needs you. The WW1 Group are planning some events in the village to commemorate the centenary of the 1WW. There will be special church services and a poppy theme. We are asking parishioners to plant poppies and to knit or crochet poppies to be exhibited around the village. Please see the programme for further details. More information available from British Legion Committee. Please contact Bridget Rose rose.bridget@gmail.com

Mar/Apr	Plant poppies around Pembridge. Parishioners are asked to plant a trough or pot of poppies outside their houses. PIP will plant swathes of poppies. Poppy seeds from B&Q. Is there anyone who will make or donate any troughs for the village?? Please contact David Milne. paterson1milne@gmail.com
Apr onwards	Poppy knitting groups. There are posters around the village calling for keen and novice knitters. No experience required. Donations of red, green and black wool very welcome. Please contact Meryl Griffiths. porthcelyn@btinternet.com
Jul onwards	Exhibition in Pembridge Church - history, poppy art. Does anyone have any information on relatives who served in the WW1?. Please contact Bob Anderson. ra@ra-ms.co.uk
02/08/2014	WW1 stand at Church fete
03/08/2014	WW1 Commemoration Family Service
04/08/2014	RBL commemoration War Memorial
From 4 Aug	Tolling of the Church bell on dates when those on war memorial fell with a historic profile in the church.
Dec	Film Noel. The Christmas Day truce and football match

PEMBRIDGE WI

Pembridge WI celebrates two important events this year. The first was in March when it was the 95th birthday of Margaret White and there was a surprise tea party and birthday cake. Then in May members celebrate 95 years of unbroken continuity of the WI in Pembridge.

The next meeting will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. It will take place April 9th when Dick Allford, Pembridge local Police Community Support Officer, will be guest speaker. The meeting starts at 7.00pm, speaker at 8.00pm - £3 to include refreshments.



Moyra Sutherill
moyrasutherill@btinternet.com

THE LEEN TIMES

The cows are out grazing and lying around quietly 'cudding' in the sun. A very welcome sight, to any farmer, after such a miserable, wet winter. Not only that, but the birds are singing, the flowers are out and the trees are bursting to be out. Spring is a very intense and busy time on any farm with all the muck spreading then planting to do, lambing on many farms, tidying up after winter storms and floods. We have all the disruption of building new sheds going on as well, with quiet admiration for those builders who have been at it for weeks in every type of weather that could have been thrown at them!

The Herefords are calving at a tremendous rate (someone pointed out that this will be the 234th year for this herd)- not without its problems-we have had 2 'backward' calves (that is presented the wrong way round) that thankfully, with a bit of help, were born OK.

The frogs are spawning- although much has been left high and dry by the receding flood water. The rooks are nesting-high this year- the sand martins, followed by the house martins, the swallows and finally the swifts will soon be with us.

I must get on and mow the lawn!



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

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

One Final Word..

I would lastly like to introduce myself as the new editor of the newsletter, Clare Evans. From this issue onwards I shall be taking over Bob Pierce's role, who definitely deserves a mention for the hard work he has put into it over the years- thank you!

I shall be in charge of incoming articles and piecing together the newsletter. And for those of you who don't already know me by face, I'm sure you will or have seen me running and cycling around the area... usually

the best way to catch me!

I would also like to encourage you all to send any photos, story ideas and news items to myself, as there is a small space in the letter which I would like to dedicate to residents of the Parish. Please do not be put off if you are news writing novice, it would be a delight to hear from you!