

Pembridge Parish News

October/November 2014

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Goodbye, hello and thank you.

By the time that you read this, the Parish Council will be operating under the guidance of a newly appointed clerk. At the end of September, we said goodbye to Heather Harding, our previous clerk, who decided to retire after more than ten years of service to the Parish Council. Over this time, Heather has assisted and guided us through many challenges and changes. Heather has attended many village events and has almost become an "honorary member" of our community and I hope that we will continue to see her in future. Personally and on behalf of the whole of the Parish Council, I wish to thank Heather for all that she has contributed. We hope that she has a long and happy retirement and gets to spend more time with her grandchildren.

Heather's departure meant that we had to advertise for a new clerk and we received eight applications by the closing date. After careful consideration, the interview panel was unanimous in its choice and we agreed that the position should be offered to Rebecca Bissell, who to our delight accepted.

So we say hello to Becky and hope that she will find her role interesting and rewarding. Becky lives in Lyonshall and will already be familiar to some of you as her children attended Pembridge school and she has been secretary to Pembridge School PTFA. I am sure that those of you who do not know her will make her welcome.

In the short term, Becky may find that being a clerk is challenging, but I am sure that Council will support her and that she will grow into the role. To help Becky to settle in, Heather has agreed to be "a voice on the end of the phone" should she need one and I thank her for this generous gesture.

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My final thank you goes to the members on Pride in Pembridge and to everyone who takes pride in our beautiful village, helping to make it so attractive for locals and visitors alike. It was wonderful news that Pembridge had again won a gold medal and best in category at the Heart of England in Bloom Awards ceremony held recently in Shrewsbury. Pembridge is now qualified to enter the national competition in 2015 and I am very hopeful

that we will ALL take up the challenge. It is almost impossible to overstate the level of achievement in getting into the national competition for a second time in three years.



If we are to have any chance of winning a second gold at national level it will require an enormous team effort by EVERYONE. The Pride in Pembridge Group will doubtless continue to work tirelessly and I know that they would be grateful for anyone with available time to join their regular Thursday morning working parties. If you cannot spare the time on a Thursday, YOU CAN STILL HELP. You can help by looking after your own little patch of Pembridge, by weeding and keeping the pavements clear in front of your houses, by planting flowers and hanging baskets and by helping others who may not be physically able. You could help by organising fund raising events to pay for plants and planters that will enhance the overall appearance of the village.

One of the things that impressed the judges was the level of community involvement. Lets show them that, as the song goes, "you ain't seen nothing yet"! Let's show them that we are all PROUD OF PEMBRIDGE and in doing so give ourselves the best possible chance of a second gold at the national competition.

Garfield Evans

Hanging Baskets & Front of House

This year the judges commented on the quantity and quality of the baskets and the colourful fronts of houses. The judges found it very hard but eventually decided that the following were the winners:

Hanging Baskets:

- 1st. Pyon House, ("outstanding baskets and lovely garden")
- 2nd. Rosemary Cottage,
- 3rd. Kings House

Frontages:

- 1st. Old Wheelwrights (" lovely mix of colours ")
- 2nd. Old Post Office
- 3rd. Ashleigh

Old Chapel Gallery - Celebrating 25 years!

Yasmin Strube celebrates 25 years at the Old Chapel Gallery this month. Her eye for contemporary art has made her well known throughout the county even though she originally qualified as a chef catering all over Europe in hotels, on private yachts and in ski resorts. It was when she took up knitting that her true artistic streak came to the fore and enabled her to buy the Old Chapel in Pembridge to indulge her passion for art, crafts and sculptures. For many years she lived "above the shop" and built up an enviable network of British new talent - at least she can claim that none of her art has air miles attached as she believes that the work of local artists is some of the best in Europe. Have you seen the sheep sculptures in the churchyard for example? Her front garden is feast for the eyes crammed with cottage plants and wonderful sculpture, inside is an Aladdin's cave of colour and shape.

Yasmin has two sons Olly and Eliot, both of whom work locally in the renovation and conservation of properties in the area, she lives in her own cottage in the village (complete with ducks and chickens) and is a keen supporter of Pembridge community activities including Pride in Pembridge. Yasmin's outgoing personality and love of the area means she is always happy to chat about the village and the art in equal measure. Congratulations Yasmin on helping to keep the village vibrant and colourful for 25 years!!

If you would like to go on her mailing list please email her at oldchapelgallery@googlemail.com - otherwise just pop in for a browse or to pick up something unusual when that unexpected birthday looms.

Bridget Rose



Pembridge WI

On October 8th Pembridge WI welcome guest speaker Jason Dennis, a member of Midlands Air Ambulance, who will share his experiences working with the team. This is anticipated to be a widely popular event and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The meeting shall commence at 7.30pm in the village hall and there will be just a small charge of £3, which shall include refreshments.

Parish Council Report

The parish council have welcomed new councillor David Williams and new clerk Rebecca Bissell. Contacts for David and Rebecca can now be found on the back page with the list of other current councillors.

The Next meeting date will be Wednesday 15th October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. All Welcome.

YOUR HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

Pembridge Surgery

Over 60 people attended the meeting on 10th September with Sue Price and Dr Jonathan Leache from Area NHS England and David Farnsworth from Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The meeting was, in their words, an information session rather than a consultation as the practice had given notice of the closure of the surgery and the NHS were accepting that. This can be done without consultation.

It was explained that there is a national shortage of GPs in England particularly in rural practices and their estimate was that the Kington Practice was 1.2 Doctors short. They had been advertising for over two years and the fundamental problem was a lack of GPs not money.

The NHS were working with the Practice on an improvement plan which would include providing more appointments, increased home visiting and smarter use of technology. The Practice are gradually informing all 8,300 patients of the closure of Pembridge and Eardisley surgeries.

Again the point was made that it was the management, processes and communications that needed improvement as people were generally very satisfied with the high standard of medical and clinical care. It is difficult to see how the closure of the two surgeries would immediately improve the management of the practice and the issue of those who cannot travel to Kington will need to be addressed.

There was disappointment that having been given many reassurances about retaining our surgery even recently, that it should now be closed so abruptly.

It became clear that the practice will need the support of NHS England otherwise our local health provision could get significantly worse. The practice needs to know that we as a community want them to succeed and want to work with them to improve the health provision in our community.

The Parish Council and I will continue to monitor the situation, establish what is happening to the existing site and ensure that lines of communication are kept open.

Highways

There has been some visible improvement in the parish over the last months but there remains a lot to do. I held a meeting with all my Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks together with our locality manager from Balfour to look at the parish lengths man scheme, outstanding issues and I am looking to arrange a future meeting with local HGV operators and larger Farming businesses. In the meantime I recommend the following websites to keep you up to speed.

Herefordshire Council website is the one-stop-shop for up to date information

Maps and timetables for grass cutting and pot holes are now available on the Council's website.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/grass-cutting>

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

Local Affordable Housing.

A new local development in Lyonshall is completed and targeted at people with local Group connections. If you are interested in one of the four part owner homes please contact the sales agent Cobb Amos on 01568610007 or (and also for the four rentals) contact South Shropshire Housing Association on 300 303 1190 or maggie.davis@sshropsha.co.uk

Street Lighting

Over recent years around a third of our County Street lights, traffic bollards, sign lights and signal heads have been converted to low energy lighting saving money and CO2. It is proposed to spend a further 5.5 million to complete the project saving over 20 years 13.3 million pounds and 17.2 tCO2. Residents will remember that the street light were all renewed though the village a few years ago.

In addition the majority of lights will be dimmed by 20% between 10pm and midnight and 50% between midnight and 5.30am. in Shropshire they are looking at switching their street lights off from midnight to 5am, Worcestershire switching off every two out of three and similar processes in Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire and Powys.

Roger Phillips



Cup winners at Pembridge Show

Here are some of the section winners at Pembridge Show in July
Major Cooper Cup (veg.) - Robert Williams , Challenge Cup (flowers) - Mrs G Smith , Excell Bowl -Chloe Preece , Challenge Cup(cookery) Mrs E.J. Powell. Anne Evans Salver (Handicrafts) Andrew Edwards and Mrs Cartledge, Marches Wine Cup - Philip Rogers

Childrens classes Under 5 -Ethan Morris, 5-7 Chloe Mifflin, 8-11 Chloe Preece , 12-16 Alex Morris. Leen Sports Cup Freya Mifflin.

Congratulations to these and all the winners. Thank you for entering and making a good competition, hope to see you all next year.

Julie Mifflin

Pride In Pembridge

We have won the Gold Award again for The Heart of England in Bloom. We were also Category winner. We were not allowed to enter the National competition in 2014 but are again eligible to enter in 2015, should we wish to.

Some of the judges' comments were:

- Very tidy and well maintained streets with no litter or weeds to be seen.
- Colourful and diverse residential front gardens
- Well maintained businesses
- Improved wildlife area by the river

They wrote: 'you get the feeling that every villager was proud of the village and doing all they could to keep it clean and tidy.'

The sheep are now safely installed in the churchyard to give pleasure to all those who walk that way. They can even be glimpsed from the bottom of the steps by the shop.

The 'Bangers and Brains' Quiz held in the village hall on September 20th was well attended and raised a useful amount of money for the Pride in Pembridge funds. This money will help to provide winter planting for the hanging baskets and other projects. Grateful thanks to the many people who supported this event by attending, helping with refreshments, the music, publicity and for generous donations of prizes and time.

Judith Rogers



Pembridge Bonfire Night

Our annual bonfire will be held on the traditional night Wednesday November 5th. The gates will open at 6pm , Bonfire lit at 6.30 and fireworks let off at 7pm. There will be a bar with mulled wine and hot dogs and burgers on sale.

Please come along and enjoy yourselves, there is no admittance charge but donations are greatly appreciated as they pay for the fireworks.

We are very sorry but no sparklers are allowed as it is a condition of the insurance. All fireworks are let off by people who have to train each year.

Julie Mifflin

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Old Chapel Gallery shall be hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan on October 3rd. The event shall be from 11am until 1pm and is welcome to all.

Sponsorship Plea

On October 5th I shall be participating in the gruelling Tough Guy Half Marathon in aid of, local based charity, Acorns Children's Hospice.

Tough Guy, for those who do not know it, is an enormous obstacle course, tackling areas such as fire running, electrocution, underground swimming etc. And has been described as, "The original and toughest test of its kind anywhere in the World."!

More importantly though is the sponsorship side... I have chosen to do the event in aid of Acorns, based in the West Midlands, who offer a network of care for life limited and life threatened children and young adults.

So basically, anybody that could spare any pennies or pounds for this amazing charity through my sponsorship would be gratefully appreciated. Sponsorship can done online at:

- www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/clareandsam

Or by catching me in person. There is also no deadline on fund raising, so it can be given after Sunday 5th.

Many thanks!

Clare Evans

Christmas Trees

I am ordering Christmas Trees and would like to know if everyone who had one last year would like one again this year. The trees will be put up Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th of November, the lights will be put on the trees and the plugs handed to you to plug in. If you are out, the plugs will be left in a carrier bag by your door please take them in as soon as possible.

The lights will be switched on at 6.15 on Friday 5th December. There will be space in the market hall for anyone to have stall. There will be a raffle which will help pay for the trees. Father Christmas will be there from 6pm for the children to visit. He has been in touch with me and has said that unfortunately the hay that his reindeers eat has got very expensive and he may have to charge £2 a visit.

Julie Mifflin

THE LEEN TIMES

I feel I owe an apology and an explanation. The apology is for having our tractors and trailers running through the village on one night in late August. It is not something we normally do and considerable thought was given before we did it. Good farming is, like so many things in life, about good timing. A silage crop takes about 7 weeks to come to its ideal value in terms of quality and quantity. Thereafter its value deteriorates very fast. We had let our crop grow on for nearly 8 weeks (because of the weather) before seeing what appeared to be a weather 'window'. We mobilised all our forces and mowed off all our grass and after a 24 hour wilt (to dry it enough to stop effluent) we started picking it up—then the weather forecast changed and we expected heavy rain the next day! The only thing we could do was to ask our contractors to work all through the night to get it. We must remember that this is the herd food supply for many months of winter all hanging on a few hours of good weather. I am sorry for the nuisance caused. Recently we have been working out a few figures and amazingly find we are responsible for just under 50 miles of hedgerows, we counted the trees that we have in them and calculated that the shade from them covers around 5 hectares of ground. This is a large resource for wildlife—indeed much of it we manage for wildlife—Laying, cutting every other year etc etc This is without counting all the woods, the river sides, the ponds and all the other rough bits we have all over the farm.

The Environment Agency and the Wye and Usk Foundation have been doing Electro-fishing in the area- with some very promising results. For instance, the 100 metres of river below the bridge in Pembridge showed over 50 brown trout and an amazing 54 salmon parr. Higher upstream, at the Forge 30 odd trout, salmon parr, eels, lamprey and Bully-heads clearly show that the water quality of the Arrow is very good. Elsewhere, salmon parr have been found in the Curl indicating that all the efforts to reduce the impacts of farming may be beginning to pay off.



The Woodland trust have awarded a pack of 420 trees to be planted in the Nature area of the Village Green. This is great news- some of the ones we planted a few years ago are 25+feet high now and doing really well. It is hoped that volunteers from the school and elsewhere will give us a hand to plant them in November.

Tony Norman

Tony (tony@theleen.co.uk)

Keep fit!

Don't let the long winter nights stop you from exercise, join in with the weekly Circuits Training classes, held at the village hall. The class is run by Steve Harris every Tuesday evening from 6.30-7.30pm. Steve is very enthusiastic and caters for all levels of fitness, supporting each individual in their goals for a healthier lifestyle. But, not only do the classes improve your health, they also a great way to socialise. Classes are seen as fun and by all means not competitive, so please don't be afraid to come and give it a go!

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

Week days: 9.00am - 5.30pm
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

ClIr Garfield Evans - Chairman 388 638
ClIr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman 340 696
ClIr Tom Bennetto 388 972
ClIr Kevin Duggan 388 833
ClIr David Williams 387 929
ClIr Ms Catherine Fothergill 388 279
ClIr Mrs Julie Mifflin 388 414
ClIr David Owens 388 422
ClIr Mark Ratcliffe 388 506
ClIr Philip Rogers 387 976
ClIr Alan Stokes 388 769
ClIr Phillip Thomas 388 457
ClIr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor 340 269
Email: mail@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Rebecca Bissell 340 747