

Pembridge Parish News

February/ March '15

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Christmas at the New Inn



The 30th Christmas and New Year at the New Inn, for us, has been supported as well as helped so many people.

Christmas celebrations began with the village Christmas lights switch on after the amazing walk guided by Julie, Rod, John and Barbara did, getting everyone into the Christmas spirit.

We held our annual Sloe Gin competition, judged by the famous gin drinkers, Marilyn and Martin of Stockley and Dan of Pembridge. Carol stood as chief adjudicator. Tony Norman came out top, winning both 1st and 3rd prize, with Robbie Williams a very respectable 2nd.

The Christmas quiz was our next festivity, which was won by 'Mothers of Invention' led by Kate and Emilia. The entry money raised from this event has been donated to the Pembridge Light Fund.

Next was our yearly big draw, with the star prize (a beautiful hamper full of various treats) going to Garfield Evans.

Carol singing was another successful event made up of Dilwyn Young Farmers and Pembridge Carol Singers. They were welcomed here and received a generous donation from our shoot partners, along

with other local faces.

Christmas Eve was picture postcard with the Radnor and West Hunt in the square, made up of 76 horses and a rather large gathering of well behaved hounds. Many thanks to the Masters for a wonderful morning enjoyed by many!

Christmas morning comprised of a lovely get together of friends for drinks before lunch.

New Years Eve was a success due so much to the amazing Evans family, thank you Shirley and Garfield. Pembridge certainly proved to have talent with Megan & Charlie Lomax, Sarah & James Ball and Uncle Mark bringing the house down with their fantastic voices on the Karaoke - not forgetting Dan 'Frank Sinatra' Dennis.

Festivities were wound down on New Years Day with a well attended breakfast and late lunch.

We have had a great time, thank you all that celebrated with us!

Happy 2015

Jane & Rosie

Then There Were Three

We are at that time of year when spring seems a reality yet the grip of winter keeps shaking us to remind us there is some way to go.

Just after dawn, as Sky and I worked our way gingerly across fields crisped by frost over rain-sludged earth, we eventually crested the hump of the Lynches and looked down on the course of the Curl Brook to see the overnight flooding. All the banks had broken and the area where the brook enters the Arrow river was a substantial lake eliminating the junction of the two water courses and covering gardens, paths and fields. We walked on, waded through the cut-through leading to Bridge Street and crossed over into the lane serving the Long Meadow. This latter lane was impassible. Diverted, we walked towards the village and through to the Long Meadow via Parson's Walk.

The Arrow had broken its banks and river water snaked through the various contours of the field creating new, fast-flowing rills. We made our way to where the bank of the river had been to watch the water rushing with force down the main channel. Whole trees, branches and agricultural detritus were whipped along, some getting caught in whirling eddies, some bobbing like seals trying to breath in the centre of the spate, all careening down stream.

We continued our walk beside the rushing river and slowly became aware of the activity around us: Mallards gathered in numbers throughout the fields; cormorants singly or in pairs, sat in some of the larger trees or flew along the course of the river; a pair of Goosanders flashed by arrowing upstream; a kingfisher darted down stream; the pair of Mute Swans and their cygnets processed against the flow of the brown spate, as the Cob arched his neck and plumped his wings threatening us as we passed; and then, a big surprise, three Little Egrets rose from probing the mud of the soaked river bank, to fly silently upstream. They trailed their yellow feet behind them, and shone stark white against the steel blue-grey rain clouds, before joining a party of Mallards dabbling in one of the new lakes in the centre of a field on the opposite bank. A thrilling moment.

For several seasons various people have reported a single Little Egret along the course of the Arrow as it traverses the Long Meadow. We had never come across it. Then 10 days ago we saw a pair, one slightly larger than the other, and now today three. It was exciting to see these birds we had never seen before. It made me feel as though the world was opening up again after all the dreich, closed-down days of winter.

Ambrose Hogweed, Bachelor



Joyce Williams invites you to a

"POP UP SUPPER"

at

Marston Court, Pembridge

on

Saturday 28th March at 7.00pm

Tickets £10 each to include wine

(book early as only 50 tickets available from Gill on 01544388441 or Joyce on 01544388303)

In aid of St. Mary's Church, Pembridge Flower Festival Appeal

Congratulations Sue

(Press Release)

Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) has awarded Sue Adams-Wheeler with an Honorary Life Vice-Presidency in recognition of her outstanding support of RDA - particularly her dedicated service to RDA abroad and Coaching. RDA President, Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne presented the award at the charity's AGM. Sue has been a key volunteer with RDA for many years and has been a leading proponent of developing the charity's work both in the UK and in many other countries across the world. She is an experienced equestrian coach, with a gift for engaging a wide variety of people and an energy that is the envy of all who know her.

As Chair of the RDA Coaching Committee and RDA's Chief Examiner, Sue has done a huge amount to promote the modernisation of qualifications and a high standard of equestrianism across RDA. Her enthusiasm for quality service, is met by a commitment to delivering

coaching and supporting volunteers herself. This has also applied overseas, where she has done a huge amount to support our sister organisations in a number of countries, including Hong Kong, Malaysia and Russia.



Carol Singing Success

We met on a cold (but thankfully not rainy!) Tuesday just before Christmas. We were amazed with the turnout this year as there were 25 cheerful faces (old and new!) ready to belt out the tunes. We set off around the village, gaining a few more voices on our way round. We knocked on as many doors as possible and were pleased to see so many people listen and donate. I have to say that with the strength in numbers we sounded really good - almost professional! We raised £400 in total and the money will be split between PIPs, The Christmas Trees, Pembridge School and The Church. A huge thank you to everyone who came (hope to see you all next year), and especially to Charles and Jane Akle for their hospitality again this year - the mince pies and wine halfway round is always a good motivator! Thank you as well to all who donated, this was our best total so far and we know the money will be well spent by all the charities. Hopefully, we managed to spread a little Festive Spirit along the way.

Miranda and Stephen Jones

Bee Sting

Beeware!! - there are thieves targeting the Pembridge area and stealing bee hives. 10 hives have been reported as stolen locally since Christmas amounting to more than 500,000 bees. To steal bees you have to know what you are doing and the culprits may be part of the beekeeping community which remains on high alert. Each hive is worth between £200-300 and can make 50-200 pounds of honey a year so the losses to the hardworking beekeeper are significant. It takes over 150 trips to a flower or tree to make just one teaspoon of honey. Bees are essential pollinators and have been decimated over the past few years due to the verroa virus. Bee hives are strictly monitored and inspected and require meticulous attention to keep them healthy and productive. One local beekeeper said that stealing bees is like stealing someone's dog.

If you are considering buying bees - please check the provenance very carefully and if you have any information relating to the recent thefts please contact Bob on 01544 230175.



YOUR HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

January saw the arrival of Mr Robert Hollis as the new Headmaster at Pembridge school and work beginning on BT infrastructure which during the year should see an improvement in our local Broadband capacity. During this cold weather keep an eye out for neighbours and those who are having difficulties.

Village Traffic

Some years ago I had installed grey monitoring boxes which record the number and type of vehicles travelling through the local villages I represent. I enclose a summary of the information from last October for Shobdon, Pembridge and Lyonshall. Important to remember they are the average daily figure for seven days clearly the week figures will be higher and the weekends lower.

SHOBDON has 4,027 vehicles travelling per day (including motorcycles) on east side of the village with 3,243 cars, 552 Ridged lorries, large vans and minibuses, 185 Articulated HGVs and 19 Buses.

PEMBRIDGE has 2,587 vehicles per day (including motorcycles) on the western exit of the village with 2,012 cars, 413 Ridged lorries, large vans and mini buses, 130 Articulated HGVs and 5 Buses.

LYONSHALL has 1,995 vehicles per day (including motorcycles) at the Curl Bridge with 1,585 cars, 308 Ridged lorries, large vans and mini buses, 35 Articulated HGVs and 19 Buses.

I am midway in the process of reporting this information to the Parish Councils and the local Police. Pembridge and Lyonshall are classified as A roads, Shobdon is a B road and is the principle route to Kingspan and Presteigne. The information I have on speeding is less reliable but looking after the Mortimer Parishes at the moment I discovered that a recent police speed check in Aymestrey resulted in 73 fixed penalty notices.

Bridge Street Large Vehicles

I recently met up with Inspector Barnett to discuss the issue we have of HGVs illegally travelling up or down Bridge Street in Pembridge. I was hoping that pictures taken of such HGVs with their registration number could be used for the CPS to prosecute drivers. Apparently as the restriction refers to weight only, the police have to stop the HGV and send to nearest weighbridge (Leominster) to produce a summons that will stand up in court. However the Police will be coming out to monitor the situation in January (and other traffic issues) and want people to still take photographs and

send them to me so I can forward them to the police to send warning letters to the HGV concerned. The Police, Hfds Council and Kingspan are also working on signage at the plant and the Parish Council have agreed a sign forwarding traffic up the A44 at Bridge street paid for by Kingspan.

Highways Surfacing

Hopefully you will all agree that there has been a marked improvement in the repairs and resurfacing of our highways although the recent cold weather has taken its toll. The total length of highways resurfaced in the County from last April to November was A Roads = 144,779.00 m² = 13.40 Miles B Roads = 72,555.00 m² = 7.25 Miles C Roads = 184,492.00 m² = 20.91 Miles U Roads = 325,490.00 m² = 62.59 miles Total miles on all roads April 2014 – November 2014 = 104.15 Total number of roads surfaced April 2014 – November 2014 = 324

I have consulted all the Parish Councils and worked with our Balfour Locality officer and I have signed of the following as our request to the 2015/16 capital programme (Subject to winter damage).

C1032 junction with A44 at Pembridge (Require closure of A44); A44 Kerbing in Pembridge ; Noke Lane, C1031 Rhys Lane (sections) C1032 Milton Crossroads to Airfield Trading Estate with if possible C1083 Pembridge (New Inn to School), U91417 Cabal Lane U91418 Marston.

Members of the public can report a problem online at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/roads-maintenance/how-do-i-report-a-highway-problem>

Alternatively you can contact 01432 261 800 which will take them to Herefordshire Council's Customer Service Team or the Clerk to Parish Council.

Council Budget

The next year looks again challenging for the Council. The recent Government settlement announcement was in line with expectations of reductions although the rural sparsity element of funding was improved. Over the last four years the Council has had to find 49 million pounds worth of savings and in the next two years another 18 million pounds in order to balance the books.

Roger Phillips

Parish Council News

Parish request for Precept

The Precept has been held once again this year and a request for £18000 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council for the Parish requirements for 2015-16.

Pavements in the village

There have been concerns regarding the repair of the pavements in parts of the village. After consultation with Herefordshire Council, capital works will be included in next year's budget and it is hoped work will start soon after the beginning of April.

Lengthsman

The lengthsman continues to be utilised to maintain ditches, repair and clearing of pathways.

New Dog bin at Manley Lane

If you use the Manley lane for walking you may have noticed the addition of a new dog bin. Please use the bin the deposit you doggy bags. Please note a change to the advertised venue for the Next Parish Council meeting - Wednesday February 11th which will now be held in the School Hall at 7.30pm. Meetings will return to the Parish Hall for the rest of the year from March 18th Meeting at 7.30pm. All Welcome.

Rebecca Bissell

Pembridge WI

Pembridge WI meet in the Parish Hall every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Upcoming events include:

- February 11th - A talk and demonstration about sheep and their wool by Marion Wilcox. The meeting commences at 2.00pm for the talk at 2.30pm.
- March 11th - Geof Tookey of Safe Food Solutions will be demonstrating the preparation of a three course meal. This meeting begins at 7.00pm for the demonstration at 7.30pm.
- April 14th - A talk from Peter Halliday on Victorian Leominster. This will be at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Most months we also go 10 pin bowling at The Grove. And our very lively, light hearted Book Group meets once a month in members homes. Plans are also under way for further trips out and about in between our meetings.

The Committee are keen on providing a varied programme with something for most people, so if you would like to meet us and join us you will be most welcome. As a visitor we ask for a small contribution of £3 for each meeting.

Tricia Lloyd (01885 488319)

Marguerite Fothergill (01544 388279)

Quiz Night

Pembridge Church Fundraising Committee would like to give you advance notice of a quiz night being held in the Village Hall on March 7th. Please note the date in your diaries and bring along a team – up to six in a team. Questions will be on a variety of topics. Look out for posters and more information nearer the time. Last year's quiz proved to be an entertaining evening so come along and join us for another fun evening this year. For more information contact: Meryl – porthcelyn@btinternet.com.

The Pembridge Tapestries - Past to Present

Since my last report to the Parish back in February 2013, I am delighted to say that the ladies of the Tapestry Group are now working on the last two of the twelve tapestries. The tapestries, which we have entitled "Pembridge Past to Present", have recorded some of the interesting and diverse history of our unique village from Doomsday to the present day.

Pembridge, as you know, has an active history group and some of this group agreed to use previous research to develop ideas for each piece of work. Also the village has a talented group of artists who embarked on transposing the stories into suitable artwork.

Some of the subjects covered are the Charter Fairs, education and schools, the first registered herd of Hereford cattle at The Leen, the Civil War, the funding and building of the Almshouses and the arrival of the railway. The historians unearthed many delightful stories to weave around each of the subjects, including the ghosts that haunt The New Inn and the time the village of Pembridge disappeared into the mire! The last piece being worked on includes memories of the May Fair, Pembridge Show, local jockey Richard Johnson riding at the Cheltenham Festival, The Steppes and the War Memorial.



A few of the tapestries were on display in Pembridge Church during last Summer, where the work was much praised by visitors to the area. The work produced so far is really beyond my wildest dreams – the talent among the population of Pembridge, stitchers, artists, historians should really be celebrated. Our thanks must go to Barbara Atkins, who set us on the road of becoming such excellent stitchers. She presented a series of workshops at the beginning of the project, teaching us a variety of stitches and techniques and continuing to guide us through the work, producing three of the tapestries on her own.

The group has met fortnightly for the last two years, where we have either marvelled at each other's work, obtained more supplies, discussed how to overcome problems or just enjoyed each other's company over coffee and cake. Many new friendships have been formed which have continued outside the group. During the project it has not been all work and no play! We have enjoyed inviting the community to Coffee Mornings to show our work in progress and have made several coach trips to see the work of other groups of stitchers.

We are now nearing the end of our journey and to celebrate the completion of the Pembridge Tapestries we are holding a Festival of Flowers and Music in Pembridge Church on 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th May, with the tapestries being the central theme. This will be the culmination of four years dedication and artistry of a group of talented people telling us of the life and lives of the people of Pembridge Past to Present. (Please find more info on back page).

If you would like to sponsor any of the arrangements in church – perhaps in memory of someone - or make a contribution towards the flowers or your time at the event, please let me know.

Gill Smith

THE LEEN TIMES

Times are tough again with dairy farming! Milk is being sold cheaper than water-How can that be right?

I have been asked what the ordinary shopper can do to help. The answer is to shop in Sainsbury's or Tesco – they do at least see that their farmers get at least the cost of production for their milk. Many of the others just pay as little as they can and it will not be until a few thousand farmers pack up that will have to pay more. The other thing to do is to check the cheese you buy is always British (not Irish or New Zealand or 'product of other countries' or even French for a while).

Thank goodness we have diversified into chicken production!
The finishing touches (mostly concrete) are going into the Anaerobic Digester and in a few weeks the farm will have diversified further.

Back in the natural world I see and hear the signs of spring- The Aconites, catkins, snowdrops and daffodils pushing up. The Mistle thrush, the blackbirds calling and several woodpeckers tapping. The ratcheting field fares have nearly finished the berries and will soon be on their way.

By way of an experiment we have put long canes to the trees we have planted in the wood. Either it will be useful for us to see where the trees are once the undergrowth has grown up (to clean round them). Or every deer in the wood will use them as markers to show them where there will be a tasty morsel of a new tree for them to eat.

We shall see!

A few reports of wildlife recently, Red Polls on a bird table, a Barn Owl at Twyford, a Peregrine, some Redwings, the little red flowers noticed on the Wyche elm and frogs starting to move in the water.

After a break of a few years I have been persuaded to do a walk for the Herefordshire Walking Festival again-This will mostly be round the farm- Its June 13th-Tickets from the Festival organisers.

tony@theleen.co.uk

Flower Festival News

(Put the date in your diaries NOW!)

Stalls – We will be having the following stalls – Preserves, Plants, Cakes and Crafts. We would be grateful for donations of jams, chutneys, etc, so just make some extra to put aside for the stall. If you have any spare jam jars (any size up to 1lb) please put them in the kitchen area of the church (behind the red curtain). Anyone needing jars can pick them up from there.

If you aren't a preserve maker, perhaps you have green fingers! We would be grateful for donations for the plant stall so get those cuttings ready in time for May. The same applies to cake makers and craft makers – donations will be gratefully received. Look out for more information in the next issue.

Concerts – We have three evenings of concerts booked – Talgarth Male Voice Choir, Taiko Drumming and a Concert organised by international conductor, Robert Dean. Three evenings to look forward to so keep your eyes open for details nearer the time.

Scarecrows – We hope to have scarecrows around the village over the festival weekend. The theme will be "Characters from History", so if you would like to make one get your thinking caps on. You could win a prize!

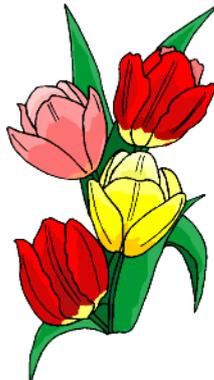
Help – Look out for notices asking for help with such things as helping in the catering tent, contributions of cakes, salads, desserts etc, stewarding in the church, manning a stall. If you can spare an hour or two of your time to help in some way please get in touch or put your name down on the list in the church. Please do not leave it until the last minute as we need to work out rotas and know how much support we have beforehand.

For general enquiries please contact:

Gill Smith 01544388441,
Jacqui Thomas 01544388471,
Meryl Griffith 01544340381,
Catherine and Marguerite Fothergill 01544388279.

Please help to make this a great weekend for the village.

Meryl Griffith



Coffee and Company

Do you enjoy a good cup of coffee, homemade cakes and good Company?

If so, come and join us at 10.30 to 12.00 every third Saturday in the month in the Village Hall, Pembridge and bring your friends and neighbours with you. It's all free!



Dates for 2015:

January 17th
February 21st
March 21st
April 18th
May 16th
June 20th
July 18th
August 15th
September 19th

Pembridge Good Neighbours

Call 07779 122499 9.30am - 5.00pm

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

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

Clerk: Rebecca Bissell 340 747

Email: rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com

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