

Pembridge Parish News

October/ November '15

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk



(Please excuse the photo quality - Congratulations PiPs!)

Pembridge gets gold again!

The Pride in Pembridge team were delighted to achieve the gold standard for the fourth year running in the RHS Heart of England 'in Bloom' campaign for 2015.

The awards were given at a presentation in Rugby on 10th September. The picture shows Adrian and Gilly Lomax, and Pat Teale receiving the gold certificate and trophy. Not only did we achieve the gold standard, but Pembridge was awarded Best in Category. The judging criteria includes Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility and Community participation.

Our thanks go to all those individuals, businesses and the Parish Council for supporting us in trying to keep Pembridge a beautiful place to live and visit. We would welcome anyone who could give a few hours of their time to help, and have some fun. We meet most weeks of the year to tidy, litter pick, and have a chat. If you would like to help us please call Alan Stokes 388 769 or Adrian Lomax 388 461.

Alan Stokes

A Glimpse Back In Time

Pembridge, through grants awarded to The Amenity Trust, have been incredibly fortunate to secure the complete collection of exceptional photographs taken in our parish 50 years ago by the highly regarded photojournalist John Bulmer. An exhibition is planned for Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November at the Village Hall (10am til 4pm) which will be the first time many of the images have ever been seen, since being commissioned by The Sunday Times in 1965. The images illustrate the atmosphere of our rural community 5 decades ago, with many familiar faces and places - a bygone era which John has captured beautifully.

The BBC have recently noted John Bulmer as 'one of the world's finest photographers' and his work sells at high profile galleries across the world and is much admired and sought after so we are very grateful for the time, generosity and expertise he has given to this exciting and unique opportunity. Limited numbers of professional prints of the artwork (curated and signed by John) will be available to purchase during the weekend with all funds raised going to village good causes. Commemorative catalogues will also be available.

It's not every day we have the chance to experience world calibre art on our doorstep so please do come along and enjoy with friends and visitors!

Any offers of sponsorship, stewarding over the weekend or assistance with refreshments will be gratefully accepted.

Contact Merry Albright (01544 387 957 merry.albright@borderoak.com) or Garfield Evans for more information



The Wild Man of Bearwood

To those who have not met this wild wooden man, he has set up home on Barrow Lane, Bearwood (left turning at the end of the straight mile). He is a joy to the eye and will hopefully be a long term resident.

He is definitely worth a visit if you have a moment.



Newspapers

If anyone would like to have a newspaper delivered to Pembridge on a daily basis (including the Hereford Times) please place your order at The New Inn.

Eardisland Village Shop will order the newspapers in and we will collect every day. Papers will be available from 9am for the time being, only pre-ordered papers can be collected.

We hope to get orders of around 30 per day to make the trip worthwhile. If you are interested please drop in or call us on: 01544 388 427

Rosie Melvin

A Year of Bees



Last August, we acquired a five-frame nucleus of honey bees. After bringing them home, we hived them in a quiet, secluded spot at the bottom of a flower rich garden within easy foraging distance of our local water courses. August is often known as 'the dearth' for bees because nectar is often in short supply as the summer flowers die back and the traditional nectar bearing plants of autumn, such as ivy, Michaelmas daisies, certain marjorams, mints and other Labiatae, start to bloom. Here in the village, we are lucky as this bee-food scarce space is filled, to some extent, by Himalayan Balsam which grows along the Curl Brook and the Arrow River. This potentially damaging, invasive plant has become a boon for honey bees as it replaces many of the late flowering plants that now struggle to survive some current farming practices. Anyway, luck was with us and the bees thrived, returning to the hive with the trade mark swipe of buff coloured pollen, of the Balsam, along their heads and thoraxes. The colony doubled in size by the end middle of October, when we fed them sugar syrup which they put up as winter stores. We then added a mouse-guard to the entrance of the hive and left them to their own devices to come through the winter.

After a fairly mild winter, worker bees started flying towards the end of February visiting hellebores and snowdrops. Then, reacting to cold snaps the bees stopped flying, huddled in their cluster in the centre of the hive and fed off their stores. By mid-March, however, they seemed to be in full swing, romping into April and started to build queen cells as they prepared to swarm. The colony also harvested nectar from the two oil-seed rape fields within

their foraging range and made abundant honey.

The colony was so strong we separated out a portion into another hive and created an artificial swarm with the remainder. Both colonies had queen cells, brood and bees. Both colonies should have thrived. In fact, after initially producing more brood, both colonies started to fail and it became apparent that neither colony had produced a viable, laying queen. Even the introduction of a comb of brood with day-old eggs, although stimulating new queen cells, failed to produce a laying queen.

So we were left with two colonies which had repeatedly failed to re-queen successfully and we thought this was a function of our colonies alone. Then, we began to hear of reports in the local area, and also from other areas around the country, of similar situations – colonies of bees failing to re-queen even when they seemed very strong; another bee-keeper in the area lost six hives in this way, others one or two colonies. One of our colonies simply died out and the other succumbed to an attack of robber wasps that they were too weak to repel. They also died out and now the hives are empty as we go into the winter. There is currently no explanation for what happened. We are mystified and can only speculate what is happening to the bees in the face of ever increasing challenges. Next year will see the use of seed-dressings of the known bee-poisoning neo-nicotinoid pesticides again, despite government scientists advocating their use not be allowed, and abundant evidence their use is detrimental to our bees. In the face of this, and other challenges, we shall continue to establish new colonies of honey bees and hope eventually to support them winning through the seemingly insurmountable challenges they face.

I loved my bees and when I think on them am reminded of what my mentor Dr Daisaku Ikeda says:

One who loves nature can cherish other people, value peace and possess a richness of character unfettered by selfish calculations of personal gain or loss. Those who live in a calculating way will end up calculating their own worth detrimentally. Such a life is limited in the extreme. Nature, however, is infinite.

Ambrose P Hogweed



Hello from Pembridge Pre-School. We are based in the village hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am – 3pm and accept children aged between 2-4 years old. This term is a very exciting term for us with so much happening on the calendar. In Autumn, we get the chance to explore so much of our beautiful Autumnal countryside and you might see us out and about in the village hunting for leaves. Back at the village hall we will be making lots of muddy cakes and pies in our mud kitchen, and in our real kitchen we will be celebrating harvest festival by making harvest soup and bread. We would love to share our soup and bread with our neighbours, friends and family on Friday 23rd October. If you would like to come and join us, please contact us at the village hall 01544 388169 (Wed – Fri, 9am – 3pm only).

Zoe Mcdonagh

Policing Issues

Our Chief Constable, **David Shaw**, will be talking about policing issues and taking questions in an open session at :

Pembridge Village Hall at 6.30pm on Thursday 29th October

All residents are invited to come along as this is an opportunity to involve ourselves in a discussion of general issues surrounding the policing of Pembridge and the surrounding area.

Graham Hudson



YOUR HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

Village Traffic

Traffic has been a problem for our village for over a generation and apart from the building of a by pass there are no easy solutions otherwise they would have been implemented. The gateways to the village were put in well over 20 years ago and Shobdon Business Park access from Leominster was changed to go via Kingsland and Shobdon. (which the overwhelming majority follow). I thought it might be useful to share the survey commissioned by Herefordshire Council of traffic in North West Herefordshire in 2006/6 particularly affecting Pembridge, Eardisley, Lyonshall and Shobdon. The outcomes in 2006 were reported to the Parish Council and community and included the A4111 and A4112 as the designated strategic lorry route with a by pass for Eardisley which at the time identified a potential cost of £10 million.

The 2006 traffic levels taken on average over four months

- Shobdon 4,425 vehicles per day with 19% (841) non cars
- Eardisley 4,271 vehicles per day with 19% (811) Non cars
- Pembridge. 2,332 vehicles per day with 19% (443) Non cars
- Lyonshall. 2,056 vehicles per day with 17% (350) Non cars

The 2014 traffic levels over a one month period was

- Shobdon. 4,027 vehicles per day with 19% (756) non cars
- Pembridge 2,587 vehicles per day with 23% (588) non cars
- Lyonshall. 1,995 vehicles per day with 19%. (362) non cars

Parish Council News

Neighbourhood development Plan.

The steering group is planning to meet on a more regular basis, in order to prepare a cohesive vision for the Parish. Consultations will continue in the form of open meetings and hopefully visitations to regular group meetings in the community. When the vision is set and the skeleton plan is a more concentrated document specific about delivering homes, supporting business and protecting and conserving Pembridge, grant funding will be pursued. The steering group welcomes new members please contact the clerk on [rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail](mailto:rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com) for more details of the next meeting.

Don't forget to report any highway or footpath issues straight onto the

Herefordshire Council interactive map!

Herefordshire Council have a quick and easy new way to report potholes and defects on our roads. The new online interactive map is easy to use and allows you to view all defects in any area of Herefordshire. All reports are logged and updated immediately onto the council's database. If you would like to report a pothole log on to www.herefordshire.gov.uk and navigate through the transport and highways section. Or just Google Hereford pothole map!

Land & Property Owners

Please remember: - Land owners it is your responsibility to ensure hedge cutting and

ditch maintenance along highways and keep footpaths clear. Property owners should keep all overgrowth clear of pavements for clear walking access. Thank you.

Annual Canvas

You should have all received your annual canvas form from Herefordshire Council to confirm your electoral details. Please complete the form to ensure you are included on the electoral register to vote.

Annual Budget & Precept

In November & December the Parish Council will consider the budget and precept requirement for 2015-16 and would like your views. The proposed budget will include funding for the parish Lengthsman to undertake various jobs that will no longer be done by Herefordshire Council. The Parish Council will be looking at areas of the parish that need improvement including the playground and toilet facilities. The precept has remained static for many years at £18000 and your comments would be welcomed. Email the Parish Clerk or come to the Parish Council meeting on 18th November.

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday October 21st - Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Wednesday November 18th - Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Wednesday December 2nd - Finance meeting to agree Budget & Precept - Parish Hall 7.30pm

Rebecca Bissell

Pavement Update

The Parish Council receive regular comment about the poor condition of some sections of the pavements throughout village – and rightly so. There are two (arguably three) underlying issues. Firstly most of the pavements are old, with edges having been constructed of uncut stone. This is not true of all of the pavements, especially the granite sets in West Street, which were not installed until the late 1960s (if you look at the John Bulmer photograph below, there were no pavements). Secondly, the A44 passes through the village and is used frequently by heavy goods vehicles commuting between mid-Wales and the Midlands. Thirdly, Herefordshire Council does not appear to have the resources to maintain the pavements to the desired standard.

The stone pavements are either being naturally eroded or damaged by vehicles and consequently can pose risk to residents and visitors alike. The granite sets are being dislodged by vehicles and often end up in the carriageway, posing a danger to vehicles and pedestrians. The raised pavement in High Street (opposite the New Inn) is of particular concern, with heavy vehicles causing damage not only to the pavement but to adjacent properties. The raised pavement in East Street suffers from a similar type of damage.

So what are the Parish Council doing about it? In short, all that it can. This is not a new problem and over recent years, we have made a number of attempts to engage Herefordshire Council in a dialogue to improve the condition of the pavements and enhance the safety of pedestrians. Around three years ago, we had agreed a scheme to replace some of the aging kerbs with new kerbing. This may have required a Parish contribution towards the cost of providing “heritage kerbing”, in keeping with the village. However, the scheme had to be shelved because of two problems, local opposition to the scheme and a lack of funding from Herefordshire Council .

We have continued to be in contact with Herefordshire Council and with the support of Ward Councillor, Roger Phillips, have had further meetings with them in the last year. A significant problem is that work on the pavements...

Hanging Baskets and Front of House

This was the judges first visit to Pembridge to judge , they were very impressed with the quality of the displays and found it hard to judge. After much thought they decided on the following:

HANGING BASKETS

- 1st Walcot Bungalow
- 2ND 3 Curl View
- 3RD Terracotta Barn

FRONTS OF HOUSES

- 1ST Cherry Tree Cottage
- 2nd 1 Bridge Street Cottages
- 3RD Old Forge

Congratulations to everyone!

Christmas Trees

These will be put up the weekend of 28th and 29th November. They will be placed where they were last year ,if anyone doesn't want one please let me know. The lights will be turned on Friday 4th December at 6.15pm. It is hoped to have stalls in the market hall with Pembridge school children singing carols. Father Christmas will be visiting as usual. Please join everyone for a festive start to December.

Julie Mifflin tel. 388 414

Wearing My Legion Hat

The Pembridge Branch of the Royal British Legion are planning a visit to Bletchley Park in the Spring.

We're going to hire a coach and will be more than happy if non-members from Pembridge wish to join us. At this stage we need to know how much interest there is from non-members before we book the coach. Contact any member you know or email me:hudson@lineone.net

Bonfire

This will be held on Thursday November 5th. The bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm and the fireworks at 7pm. Our organisers are trained and we are insured , the insurance doesn't allow sparklers so please use those at home. There will be a bar, burgers and hot dogs. There is no charge to enter but a donation would be appreciated. Donations help to pay for next years fireworks.

...has to be included in the Council's capital budget which we are told is seriously underfunded. We had a meeting with the Herefordshire Council cabinet member for highways, who acknowledged our problem and promised that he would do all that he could to get us included in the capital budget for the current year, but nothing materialised. It is difficult to agree a scheme that is acceptable and affordable and we have been in situations where we believed that a way forward had been identified only for local opposition to halt any progress.

As your Parish Council we continue to take very seriously the concerns of residents and have recently commissioned a health and safety report on the condition of the pavements. The report underlined your concerns and a while ago, we submitted it to Herefordshire Council for comment. So far we have not had a response! We will continue to do what we can to improve the lives and safety of parishioners but are battling against severe budget constraints. We all hope that it does not need a serious accident or damage to property to achieve the improvements that we deserve.

Garfield Evans

THE LEEN TIMES

After the holidays comes the work. Our milking herd is calving at full tilt now with 20-25 calves being born every day. This makes for a very busy time with very soon-the full herd going through the milking parlour and lots of calves to train and feed. Nearly all forms of farming are suffering with low prices at the moment- all I can suggest is that shoppers support the local businesses as much as possible and buy food in the supermarket that has the Little Red Tractor on the label.

In the last article I wrote about Invasive weeds and I have since been asked about that yellow flowered menace called Ragwort. This is a native weed that is highly poisonous to animals. It is a hate of every farmer and it is notifiable as an injurious weed under the Weeds Act, but it is unfortunately not illegal to have it growing on non-agricultural land. It does provide food for insects such as the Cinnabar Moth caterpillar which ingests the poisons to become poisonous themselves so, even though they are colourful they remain safe from predators. Normally stock and especially horses will not touch the green plant, but, if it is cut and left or baled up into hay –they will eat it –with dire consequences!



There are a couple of willing volunteers who are going round the farm recording 'Veteran Trees'. These are old trees that are showing signs of age by having rotten patches, holes, hollow trunks or other plants or fungi growing in/on them. They can be some of the very rare habitats for all sorts of wildlife. The position of the tree is recorded by GPS, its species, girth at shoulder height and any other things of note- a photo is also taken. Anyway, these recorders were measuring an old pollard Ash when 3 Barn owls suddenly flew out, which was interesting enough, but a little further on they were measuring a pollard Oak that we had fixed an Owl box on in the spring—and sure enough 2 more Barn Owls (I think the parents of the first 3) flew out!!

Congratulations to all those that helped to again win the RHS Gold medal for Pembridge. The wildlife area on the village green got a little mention --so thank you to all those children (and teachers) that helped plant the trees and to all the other stalwarts who have given the wildlife a hand.

As the Pembridge Tree Warden I seem to get regularly called in to advise on trees. Often problems arise when an inappropriate tree is planted in the wrong place and it gets 'too big for its boots'. Their roots can get in the drains, push up concrete or tarmac, they can cut out light or drop their leaves in the gutters, sometimes they just become dangerous - the problems seem endless. If anyone would like to have a chat about their trees, please contact me. I now have excellent help from a new Tree Warden support group, so if I don't know the answer, I can probably find someone who does!.

Tony Norman (tony@theleen.co.uk)

Dear dog owners...

It has come to the attention that there has been a dramatic increase in dogs to the village. It is lovely to see so many new furry faces, however it is important to 'clean up' after your dogs. Due to the growing population of dogs there has also been noticeably more dog waste!

To note there are dog waste disposal bins located around the village too - these are there to be used.

Many thanks in advance.

Pembridge WI

We meet on the second Wednesday of every month, usually in the Village Hall.

For our October meeting (14th October 7.00pm) we are expecting Eleanor Mason (registrar) to speak on "The History of Marriage".

In November we are looking forward to hear from Peter Holliday on "Victorian Leominster". This will also be our annual meeting at which we decide on the committee for 2016.

In December our Christmas lunch will be at The Orchard Restaurant – Hereford College, and a trip to the pantomime at The Courtyard is also being planned.

In between meetings the reading group regularly gather for chat and tea, and some of us will be bowling at The Grove. Outings for shopping, boat trips, walks (usually gentle) and lunch are often arranged as well.

Additionally, on Friday 16th October in the Village Hall (2.30pm -4.30pm) We are holding a "Scarves and Accessories" afternoon, with tea and cake. Everybody is invited. Free entry, but tea and cake £2.00. Proceeds from this afternoon will be split between Alzheimer's Society (Hereford) and Pembridge WI. We do hope you can join us.

Marguerite Fothergill 01544 388 279/ Tricia Lloyd 011885 488319

Pembridge Good Neighbours

Call 07779 122499 9.30am - 5.00pm

The Steppes

Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00am - 5.00pm
Monday and Sunday: **CLOSED**

Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 9.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am - 12.30pm

Mobile Post Office

Monday: 2.30pm - 3.30pm
Tuesday: 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Wednesday: No service
Thursday: 4.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday: 1.30pm - 3.00pm
Saturday: 9.00am - 10.00am

Your Parish Councillors

Cllr Garfield Evans - Chairman	01544 388 638
Cllr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman	01544 340 696
Cllr Tom Bennetto	01544 388 972
Cllr Kevin Duggan	01544 388 833
Cllr David Owens	01544 388 422
Cllr Ms Catherine Fothergill	01544 388 279
Cllr Mrs Julie Mifflin	01544 388 414
Cllr Philip Rogers	01544 387 976
Cllr Alan Stokes	01544 388 769
Cllr Phillip Thomas	01544 388 457
Cllr Roger Phillips	01544 340 269
Cllr Michael Hancock	01544 387 941
Cllr John Purslow	01544 388 060

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