

Pembridge Parish News

February/ March '16

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Auction of Promises

19th February 2016 6.30 to 8.30 pm at the New Inn, Pembridge

Supported by the New Inn, Pembridge and Chase Distillery with kind donations from our community

The auction is in aid of Leominster Meeting Centre for people with dementia and carers. The Centre will open on 1st February 2016 and is located at the Multi-Agency Offices in Coningsby Road, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8LL. Funds raised will go towards much needed activity equipment.

Meeting Centres have been successful in the Netherlands for over ten years. The approach is evidence-based and person-centred, focusing on helping both the individual and their family adapt to living with dementia. A permanent professional team of staff and volunteers from the Alzheimer's Society will provide a range of enjoyable social and informative activities 3 days a week.

A preliminary list of promises is at hand by request and a full 'catalogue' will be available at the beginning of February. There are still a few spaces for promises so don't be shy.

If you would like to make a promise or you require further information about the auction and/or Leominster Meeting Centre please contact Shirley Evans shirley.evans@virgin.net

We look forward to seeing you at the auction. Make sure you arrive promptly to take advantage of samples kindly provided by Chase Distillery!

Shirley Evans

Royal British Legion

The members of the branch raised £628 by a raffle of prizes drawn at the New Inn on the 7th December. Thank you to all who bought tickets and to all those who contributed prizes and asked around for them!

The branch continues to thrive with nearly 50 members, many of those who joined in the last few years were recruited by Ken Wheeler who stood down as Treasurer at the last AGM. He was given a resounding vote of thanks for this and his tireless work in many spheres of the branch. Garfield Evans has kindly agreed to take over as Treasurer.

The annual Dinner takes place at the New Inn on the 11th March and the day trip to Bletchley Park is planned for Thursday 26th May. We still have a few places on the coach so get in touch if you would like details and to reserve a place. Who knows you may want to join the RBL which is open to non-military members too.

Graham Hudson

Pride In Pembridge

At the first monthly meeting of 2016, we discussed various projects that we would undertake this year.

We will improve the family friendliness of the riverside picnic area by regular strimming around the benches and river bank. We will look at ways of improving and extending the boardwalk in the conservation area, and also look to improve the signage in the car park area on the village green.

We have already planted out approx 50 large pots of 'tete a tete' daffodils in the moat, and plan a large scale litter pick on the Thursday 28th Jan and Saturday 6th Feb. We will meet under the market

hall at 10.00am on both days, extra help would be most welcome, please come along if you can spare an hour or so.

Sorry to report that dog fouling continues to be a highly anti-social problem, and appears to be on the increase by some irresponsible dog owners. Litter continues to make an unsightly mess in some areas, please try to help everyone by taking litter home or placing in bins. There are a number of bins around the village, but if you think more are required please let the Parish clerk know, or a member of the PIP team.

Alan Stokes

The Wettest Mid-Winter

Generally, before the solstice, the days are dreer, dark and driech. Mists rise out of the ground in the morning and clouds descend to the earth all too soon in the afternoon.....there is a sense of being lost..... of no movement forward of stasis a holding. Temperatures usually cold at this time were, this year, clement and the frosts that usually make earth 'hard as iron' and water 'like a stone' were absent until well after Christmas and then only for a scant couple of days. Rain seems to have been the key point of the weather, and everyday has brought more, drenching or drizzling water from the sky. Mud gets deeper in the lanes, fields get more sodden and we get more bad-tempered. The parish is wet, wet, wet.



Surprisingly, however, the light has changed character - become clearer, more lucid. Signs of re-growth have appeared and a general sense of expectation has supplanted the anxiety born in the dark of mid-winter. Snow drops bloom, willow twigs are ruddier; Great Tits chant their anvil songs as we walk by; more bulbs seem to suddenly poke their shoots from the earth, some daffodils are already flowering; Rooks gather and swirl with greater energy around the rookeries; mixed troops of small birds patrol the hedgerows; Jackdaws roll and chatter around the chimneys of the village; ewes gather gravid in bunches in the fields hoping for a little dryness; Greylag geese fly east against iron-grey clouds; and flocks of migrating Lapwings return to feed on the flooded Long Meadow.

At the moment, dog and I seem to be always walking at sunrise or sunset and the world seems to be a constant charm of pearly pink, aquamarine and apricot before the clouds roll in. And we are anxious for a longer cold snap. Yesterday, the dawn was much redder and it seemed we may get our wish though now, as I write this, the wind is whipping yet more rain against the eaves of the cottage and water is building up in the lanes and byways again and, like the mariner noted water is everywhere.....

Ambrose P. Hogweed

Mediaeval Pembridge

To those of you unfamiliar to the website mediaeval-pembridge.com, I thought I would share a blog piece they have written about Pembridge Railway, which I hope will entice you to visit the page. There are many interesting articles posted on their website that provide a great history of the village along with some fantastic images:



“The coming of the railway meant that for the first time the people of Pembridge had the opportunity to travel further in relative comfort. Previously transport was either by walking or by horse drawn vehicles, just to local towns on market days such as Kington and Leominster, for the buying and selling of goods, or by mail coach if a journey was needed further afield.

The railways opened up the transportation of not only people but also freight. Agriculture saw the benefit, with farmers able to send goods such as sugar beet to Kidderminster to the sugar refinery, as well as transporting livestock to markets.

An Act of Parliament of the 10th July 1854, under the guidance of its leading promoter Lord Bateman, incorporated the Leominster-Kington Railway Company. The Leominster- Pembridge section was not opened for goods until 18th October 1855. Financial difficulties meant that the line to Kington was not completed until 1857 with the need for another Act of Parliament to overcome legal problems over a level crossing at Pembridge.

The Leominster-Kington branch passenger service closed for two months during the 1951 fuel crisis and then reopened for four more years before closing to passengers on 5th February 1955. A skeleton freight service managed another nine years of service until 24th September 1964, finally succumbing to the competition from road transport, both buses and lorries.”

Clare Evans

Pembridge WI

Our meetings take place on every second Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall.

In February Michael Watkin will be talking to us about The Titanic. This meeting will be at 2.00pm In March we will be getting our hands dirty making pots. Bryony Byrne will be leading us. And at the April meeting we will be making funny music with Steve Gilling and Stuart Brain. Both these meetings will be at 7.00pm.

The Reading Group meets once a month date and location fixed at each meeting, and we will also be ten-pin bowling, walking and lunching, dates given at ordinary meetings.

New members always welcome – come along to try us first, we are a friendly lot!

Contact Marguerite Fothergill - 01544 388279. Tricia Lloyd - 01885 488319.

YOUR HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

Traffic census information

Over ten years ago I had a monitoring box installed in all my main villages to record the daily volume, type and speed of all vehicles. The box in Pembridge is situated just outside the 30 mph limit towards Kington and I annually report the October figures. I enclose a summary of the figures for October with comparison to our neighbours and last year's figures. If you want the full details and speeds please send me your email.

October 2015 2,626 vehicles per day (incl Motorcycles) on the western exit of the village.

With 2,057 cars, 403 Ridged lorries, large vans and mini buses, 129 Articulated HGVs\Buses

October 2014 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, 135 Articulated HGVs\Buses.

October 2015 Eardisley 3,932 vehicles per day; Shobdon 3,579 and Lyonshall 2,031.

Councils Budget

Following on from the Government's announcement of the four settlement for local government the Council will be confirming its financial plans till 2019/20.

The further reductions in Government support and the pressure from rising care costs mean a further 28 million pounds needs to be found from budgets over four years with 10.9 million next year. This will mean from 2010/11 to 2019/20 Herefordshire Council will have found over 87 million pounds worth of savings.

The proposal is for an increase in 1.9% council tax increase (Police and Fire also) with an addition of the Chancellor's Social care levy of 2%. This is ring fenced to meet some of the extra care costs including the new Living Wage. In Herefordshire a 1% council tax increase raises £850,000 for the Council's £140 million budget.

As the winter continues please report any problems via the links below
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-problem>

Roger Phillips

Editor Vacancy

Do you want a new challenge for 2016?

The vacancy for editor of the Pembridge Parish News is now vacant. This is a voluntary position that I have taken on for two years, however I have decided to withdraw from the duty, having recently moved to Hereford.

The job involves a variety of responsibilities including design of the magazine; gathering articles and photos; reviewing and editing articles if need be; communication with villagers etc. The magazine goes out 6 times a year, bi-monthly, and therefore allows ample time to complete each edition.

The vacancy provides a great opportunity to become more involved in the community and meet new faces. The job allows you to get creative and experiment with new designs and layouts, producing a fresh overhaul to the newsletter.

If you are interested in the role or require further information please feel free to contact myself, Rebecca Bissell or Garfield Evans – our contact details can be found on the back page.

Clare Evans

Parish Council News

Parish request for Precept

The precept has been held over many years at £18000 at a cost of £37.76/year per band D property during 2015/16.

At the December finance meeting, Parish Council agreed it would be sensible to raise the precept as it is expecting to absorb more services as Herefordshire Council reduces its budgets and support. There will also be several unknown expenses throughout the year including completion of the NDP and development of the playground where reserves may be used.

A rise £6.25/year per household in a band D property, 16% per household was agreed.

A request for £21000 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council for the Parish requirements for 2015-16.

Lengthsman work

During the winter months the lengthsman will be utilised to help maintain ditches and drainage issues throughout the parish, he will also be repairing and clearing pathways across the parish. If you find any areas where work is required please contact either lengthsman co-ordinator Alan Stokes 01544 388769 or the Clerk Rebecca Bissell 01544 340747 or email: rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood development Plan.

The Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) steering group continue to meet to progress the objectives & policies of the plan.

Grant funding will now be sought to aid the cost of the process and see the plan through to the submission stage. There is a huge amount of work to do writing the objectives, so if you are have an interest and could offer any support in their preparation please contact the clerk on

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!

If you find a pothole or footpath problem anywhere in Herefordshire you can report it on Herefordshire Council website. 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.

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 access. Thank you.

Annual Parish Open meeting.

Every year the Parish council invites members of the public to an annual meeting of the Parish. This meeting will be held in March this year on Wednesday 2nd. There will be reports from local organisations including the Parish Council, PiPs and Good Neighbourhood scheme. Information on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and ideas for the playground will be available to view. Refreshments will be served.

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Please note earlier start time for Parish Council meeting now 7.00pm.

- Wednesday February December 17th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm
- Wednesday March 2nd - Annual Parish Open meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm
- Wednesday March 17th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm

Rebecca Bissell

Dementia Support Centre

Leominster Meeting Centre for people with dementia and carers.

This project is opening its doors on February 1st and will offer support, activities and stimulation for people with dementia. It is looking for attendees, made up of people with dementia and their carers, to use the service.

The Leominster Meeting Centre is the second of its kind in the country and follows on from a successful Dutch model enabling people with dementia to remain independent for longer.

I am always eager to hear from anyone who would like to discuss the Meeting Centre. If you have a loved one with dementia then please consider this new service in Leominster.

If you would like to find out more about the Meeting Centre or are interested in attending, please call 01432 371137 or e-mail Deborah.Powney@alzheimers.org.uk.

Debbie Powney

Manager of Leominster's new Meeting Centre service for people with dementia

Christmas Trees

All the Christmas trees were put up, decorated and survived the rain and winds. We had an excellent dry evening for the lights switch on. It was a lovely evening especially so with Pembridge school walking down the road from the school to the market hall with Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds and children. Mary rode on a beautiful, quiet donkey and remained on her back for most of the evening. The carol singing was lovely and put us all in a festive mood. Thanks to Brenda, Mr Hollis, staff, parents and children.

Neighbourhood Watch

Reported crime was very low over the last 3 months. There were some power tools stolen from an unsecured building so thieves are still very much about. The police recommend Post Coding this type of equipment (please contact John Petrie on mobile 07437455357 if you want to use the special police marker pen).

At this meeting the Police issued warning following scam phone calls in Herefordshire. The caller claims to be from the MET Police with bogus ID and tells the victim that their card has been used fraudulently in London. They then ask people to assist the police by transferring money to a secure police account or will send couriers to collect bank cards.

West Mercia Police are issuing the following advice -

- Do not give personal details over the phone
- The police will never ask you to transfer money to them, ask for your PIN or card.
- If you receive a call like this, HANG UP immediately, WAIT for the dial tone or use another phone (the scammer will keep the line open and pretend to be the police) to call police on 101.

Please note - the police will give a talk on security at the Good Neighbour coffee morning on Saturday 20th February 2016.

Ian Price

Thank you for your co operation when we collected the trees and lights, they are now labelled with your name and street. I would like to thank sponsors for their generous donations in 2014 and 2015 the Parish council, Liquitec, Carol singers, Red Lion, New Inn, Brian and Sarah Parkinson and other donations at the lights switch on. All being well we will be doing this again in 10 months.

Julie & the Christmas Tree Team

Annual Quiz

Don't forget the annual quiz night on the 12th March, at Pembridge Village Hall.

Teams of 6 required.

Proceed to St Mary's Church, Pembridge.

Full details can be found in the Arrowvale Messenger magazine or on posters nearer the time.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jacqui Thomas

Spanish Classes

Are you planning a holiday in Spain this year? Have you always wanted to learn a bit of Spanish? In February we'll be starting Spanish lessons on Tuesday evenings at the village hall. The idea is to have a bit of fun and learn a new language at the same time. For more information, please call Adrienne on 0749 715 4854.

Adrienne Leeming

Invisible Dog Walkers

A message to all you devoted dog owners:

When you walk your dog at dusk or in the dark along unlit roads PLEASE wear some hi viz clothing and perhaps a hi viz collar for your pooch. You are incredibly hard to see in car headlights. Even if you carry a torch it doesn't tell a car driver there is a dog around as well.

Thank you for reading this and BE SAFE.

Angela Cooper

THE LEEN TIMES

Wet! I don't remember seeing the ground so sodden for so long. Thankfully the floods have stayed away (so far) and I haven't had those frantic calls for the sandbags that we keep stored in the garage. The mild weather and a heap of good quality silage have kept the cows milking exceptionally well- But- we are still getting less than 20 pence for a litre of milk. I see the price in the shops is around £1 for 4 pints- that is 44 pence for a litre! Times are tough in the farming world and not just for dairy farmers- Wheat and other cereals, beef, lamb- all are lower price than they were years ago.

We have had a farm walk for a class of Pembridge school children. The message was to compare farming now with farming in Victorian times. I had to think quite hard to get back to how my great-grandfather had farmed. No computers, phones, TV, electricity, cars, plastic, supermarkets, planes, barbed wire, milking machines or tractors! The farm was much more self-sufficient and had to rely on horse and water power, oil lamps, candles and coal. Many people worked around the farm with staff in the garden, the orchards and the farmhouse. There were carters, stockmen, ploughmen, hedgers, thatcher's and dairymen. They would often walk to and from work, but many lived in part of the farmhouse. It was hard, physical work. The children would walk to school and play with hoops and sticks. The only leap forward in technology was the arrival of the steam engine in the form of the railway or the traction engines for ploughing or threshing. What a different world!..... and yet--the same. The farmers then also had problems with the weather, diseases and the prices for their crops and stock!

The natural world has turned on its head. With continuing mild weather the grass has kept growing (the lawn needs mowing-again!), leaves have come out on the hawthorn and daffodils in the garden. Some of the birds thought it was spring around Christmas time with unusual birdsong and rooks, at least, building nests. I am almost surprised not to find frog spawn. Our efforts last year to mark trees planted in woodland with long canes worked well to see where they were to clear the prodigious undergrowth from round them in the summer. But I find each one has now been neatly trimmed off by the deer! So the next job is to get deer guards round them all.

If anyone has small trees, growing in pots or carefully 'weeded' out of the garden- as long as they are native trees or shrubs- I can always find spaces in the woods, around the fields or round the parish.

Sadly, I have to report the loss of one of the Pembridge stalwarts: Ken Newman will be missed by very many farmers and others after many years keeping us all going by mending, welding or indeed, making machinery and equipment on the farm. Ken would turn out in any weather, any time and any conditions to help out. He was fantastic to keep the farm going and no matter what the problem was he cheerfully managed to help out. We offer our condolences to his son Barry, daughter Sue and family. Ken will not be forgotten.

We have signed up again for the Herefordshire Walking Festival- our own walk (around the farm) will be on Saturday June 18th (please book through the organisers)

Tony Norman

(tony@theleen.co.uk)

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
Tuesday: **CLOSED**

Bridge Street Cafe
Mon to Thurs and Sat: 8.30 am - 3.00pm
Friday and Sunday: **CLOSED**

Old Chapel Gallery
Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 10.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday: 11.00am - 4.00pm
Tuesday: **CLOSED**

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 Catherine Fothergill 01544 388 279
Cllr 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

PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL EMAIL ADDRESS
mail@pembridgeparishcouncil.co.uk

WEBSITE: pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

CLERK: Mrs Rebecca Bissell
Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN
Tel 01544 340747

rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com