

Pembridge Parish News



www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

August - September 2016

Winners at last year's 2015 Pembridge Show

Kate Morgan won the Pembridge Show Perpetual Challenge Cup for Baking in 2015. She also won the Molly Thomas Perpetual Salver for the best exhibit in class 73 (a chocolate sponge cake).



She started baking for competitions when she joined the Young Farmers aged fifteen. Her biggest disaster was an apple pie, which she dropped in a field on the way to the judging tent. As there were points for just entering her brother made her scoop it up and enter it anyway. The crumbling mess, with grass additions, made some crucial entry points and her Young Farmers team won! More recent disasters include forgetting that something is in the Aga.

Her son Noah thinks her Victoria Sponge with home-made raspberry jam is the best and her daughter Issy loves her Millionaires Shortbread. Kate swears by Mary Berry recipes which always turn out well and recommends checking the WI website for rules on such things as the use of caster sugar on Welsh Cakes before entering a competition. She has produced a school cookbook for the PTFA which contains recipes from parents, children, staff and villagers. Contact: kate.morgan79@yahoo.co.uk for a copy (£5).

Her top-tip is: have a book to write all your fool-proof / favourite recipes in to save hours hunting for them in various recipe books.

Gill Smith won the Perpetual Challenge cup (highest number of points in the flower classes 13 -20) in 2015. She also received the F.J.Newman Memorial Challenge Bowl for the highest number of points scored in the floral sections 60-67.



Her style of flower arranging is informal and she believes that flower arrangements look at their best in jugs - she has a collection of them for that purpose. She recommends starting off with lots of interesting foliage and then adding the colour in a co-ordinated way.

Gill has a lovely garden – the flower beds are a profusion of roses, delphiniums, foxgloves, aquilegias, geraniums and lilies in harmonious colours. Euphorbia and ornamental grasses provide contrasting shades of green. She admits to spending twenty-five percent of the daylight hours of spring, summer and autumn in her garden. The ground has been tilled for centuries, as the house was a gardener's cottage, and is well-worked soil on a base of fertile clay. All perfect for delphiniums and roses. Her favourite rose is Rosa Mundi. Her least favourite plant is couch grass!

Gill's top tip is to do plenty of stretching exercises before gardening and also afterwards to prevent the stiffness that usually results after a hard day's gardening.

At the 2015 show Robbie Williams won the Sun Valley Perpetual Challenge cup and three others for horticulture.



The garden is planted with sweet corn, cabbage, runner beans, lettuce, courgettes, carrots (raised to evade the carrot fly), beetroot, radish, Swiss chard. In the greenhouse are tomatoes, cucumber, peppers, chillies and Mexican gherkins (a new experiment). Every inch is used and replanted. He grows an old-fashioned potato variety (Aran Pilot) as an early eater. Nadine is his second early and this year he is trying a variety named Blue Belle as his main crop.

Robbie considers well-rotted cow and sheep manure, spread in autumn and dug in during spring, the key to his success. He is lucky that he has few pests to deal with; only uses slug pellets occasionally; and does not spray any of his crops. He spends an hour or so gardening each night in the growing season. Plants have two choices: they either thrive or they don't!

He started gardening with his father, Eric, at about eight years of age and learnt everything from him. The flower garden is full of the trees and plants that his green-fingered father grew from seeds and cuttings. Sadly, Eric Williams passed away, aged 82, on 20th June 2016. His name is on the Sun Valley Perpetual Challenge cup too.

Public Consultation Meetings

Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan - At the Parish Hall, Friday, 5 August at 5 - 7pm

Playground Consultation - At the school hall Tuesday, 14 September 3.30 - 7.30pm

Lady Hawkins 'Class of 1976' Reunion

A reunion is being arranged for everybody who left in 1976, to be held on Saturday, 8 October at The Burton Hotel, Kington. Please pass this on to anyone that you are still in contact with. Contact Sue Price (Maltby) to purchase your ticket on 01544 230512 or spprice@hotmail.co.uk

Diary

- 5 Aug** - Neighbourhood Development Plan**
Fri, 5pm – 7pm Village Hall
- 6 Aug** - Church Fete *
Sat, 2.30pm – Church and Grounds
- 10 Aug** - WI – bi-annual Competition
Wed, 7pm Village Hall
- 20 Aug** - PGNS Coffee Morning
Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall
- 27 Aug** - An English Choral Celebration
Sat, 4.30pm St Mary's Church £14 (£6 student)
Event 12 www.presteignefestival.com
- 10 Sep** - Hardy Plant Society – Bulbs
Sat, 2pm Glasebury Village Hall
- 13 Sep** - Drop-in meeting – plans for new playground**
Tues, 3.30pm – 8.00pm
- 14 Sep** - WI – Talk on Expedition
Wed, 7pm Village Hall
- 17 Sep** - PGNS Coffee Morning
Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall
- 18 Sep** - brief tour of The Leen Biodigester
Sun, 9am Titley Roundabout – part of 15 mile walk.
Kington Walking Festival www.kingtonwalks.org
- 24 Sep** - Table Top Sale for Church Funds*
Sat, 10am -4pm Kington Market

* See *The Arrowvale Messenger* for details

** See *Parish Clerk's Report* for details

Pembridge Open Traffic Meeting

On 2 June, 77 members of the parish attended an open meeting to express views and opinions regarding the current levels of traffic experienced in Pembridge. In October 2015, 2,626 vehicles were recorded passing through the western village entrance. Garfield Evans, Chairman of Pembridge Parish Council and Roger Phillips, Ward Councillor gave a report describing the steps taken to mitigate the effects, particularly of heavy transport vehicles.

Concerns were expressed about the speed of traffic, the increased size and tonnage of HGVs, HGVs travelling in convoy and the consequent intimidatory effects as well as concerns about air pollution and the effects of high volumes of traffic on the fabric of the medieval village. Lisa Powell, Transport Manager of Tarmac Kington, attended the meeting and answered questions from the floor.

There was large support for a 20mph speed limit through the village and the Parish council was asked to further investigate this and other measures.

At the following meeting of the Parish Council a Traffic Focus Group was proposed to include local interested residents. Councillor Rogers agreed to lead this group.

A transcript of comments from the Open Meeting can be viewed on the Parish Website.



Pride in Pembridge

Last month over 160 visitors enjoyed the open garden at Victoria Place and purchased tea and cake, plants and books – raising £553 for the NGS charities and £487 for Pride in Pembridge.

A very big thank you to Philip and Judith and the PIP team, who worked so hard to make it a great success. We hope that those of you who visited the garden enjoyed your visit, and thank you for supporting us.

We welcome Colin and Jose Piers who have recently moved to Pembridge, and have offered their help to the group, and we are always pleased to come new people to join us and help in any way they can.

We continue to litter pick on a regular basis, mow, strim and try to keep the village looking at its best. If you can spare a few hours, please contact Alan on 388769 or Adrian on 388461.

Kingspan Podium Performance

After four long years, it's almost time for the world's top athletes to go for gold at the Olympics. To reach this stage, these amazing competitors have had to show commitment, dedication and a constant desire to improve further. Kingspan Insulation has been applying these same principals to its own practice for many years. It was recently rewarded for this at the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber Awards, taking the awards for both Excellence in Innovation and Business of the Year.

The construction industry never stands still, and one of the challenges Kingspan Insulation's R&D department constantly face is how to make existing product ranges even better. The answer for the most recent, award winning innovation was to lower the lambda value of the products.

Without getting into all the technical details, this simply means contractors can now achieve the insulation performance they want with a slimmer product thickness. This is great news for building owners as it means walls can be kept as thin as possible, giving them as much living or working space as possible.

When awarding the Business of the Year award, the judges said it was Kingspan Insulation's commitment to innovation, sustainability, responsibility and good business practice which set it apart from the competition.

The win is a big reward for the hard work, invention and dedication of the entire team at Kingspan Insulation and the trophies are displayed for all to see in the main foyer of the site.



Kingspan Insulation was delighted to take home both the Excellence in Innovation and Business of the Year Awards at the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber Awards 2016. (Image courtesy of F8 Creates)

Pembridge Parish Council

Ward Councillor's Report

Highways

I gave a report to the recent village traffic meeting on the measures we have taken over the last 18 years and before. The biggest scheme was when the road was closed for a week and dug up and resurfaced incorporating a quiet surfacing on the top in 2000. I will work with PC and residents but finding easy solutions have challenged us for the past 40 years. The state of the surface through the village and some of the crumbling kerbs are unsatisfactory and I will continue to lobby.

Recently the County Transport Plan was passed and I referred in the debate to Pembridge with regard to the policies on managing freight movement and speed management. Following recent damage to the Bridge Street bollards we have tracked down a lorry and I am ensuring they are billed for the damage and I have forwarded details to the police.

Parish Clerk's Report

Footpaths & Hedges

Thank you to all those landowners who have cleared the paths through their crops. Please can you all keep a check on them for any more overgrowth during the summer! A reminder to land/home owners that it is your responsibility to ensure hedge cutting along pavements and footpaths is done. If you are out and about on the parish footpaths and find a problem please report it to the Footpaths Officer, Michael J Hancock or the clerk.

Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP).

The Steering Group has been working very hard with consultants Data Orchard, preparing draft objectives and policies for the PNDP. Information drawn from the questionnaires has been considered and a consultation document was presented at Pembridge Show, to be followed with a public event on Friday, 5 August in the Village

Kingsland Fire Station

Recently I arranged a visit to one of our local fire stations for members of my Parish Councils. In Herefordshire there are ten fire stations with only Hereford having full time employees. All the other stations in Herefordshire are manned by retained firemen who work locally and can respond quickly to a call. They receive a basic allowance of approximately £7k plus call out fees and there must be a minimum of four fire-fighters to go on a call. Fire-fighters must pass annual fitness tests and receive weekly training. In our area they spend more time dealing with road accidents than fighting fires and we saw the trauma pack they have to stabilise the injured. The fire engine was well equipped and holds maps of major companies, local businesses and villages. We discussed emergency planning including flooding and major fires.

The station's annual running cost of £50K is similar to Kington and Eardisley which also serve my ward.

Roger Phillips
rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Hall from 5 - 7pm. These events offer parishioners the opportunity to view and comment on the document, which is about delivering homes, supporting business and protecting and conserving Pembridge. The Group has secured grant funding to assist in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and is hoping to progress the plan ready for further consultation and completion sometime in the New Year.

Pembridge Playground Update

The working group is now finalising the details of the playground upgrade/improvements. The preferred supplier will provide a presentation, plan details, and costing ready for all parishioners to view and comment on in the School Hall on Tuesday, 13 September 3.30pm - 7.30pm.

Next planned Parish Council meeting: 21 September

Rebecca Bissell - rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com

A Day at Bletchley Park

I counted them all out and I counted them all back! Out of the coach and into Bletchley Park of course. There were 32 in the party; about two thirds were members of Pembridge Branch Royal British Legion, the rest people from the village and surrounding area, all fascinated to see Bletchley Park. One lady needed reassurance that it wasn't still a secret establishment and could she take her camera.

Those of you who have been don't need telling that the five hours we had couldn't do justice to the large number of exhibits; the original huts are left as if the code breakers and staff have just gone to tea and the entrance area to the site is in darkness lit like a station at night with blackout lights, the sound of sirens and clipped announcements over a loudspeaker system. It gets you straight into the sense of the time when we didn't know if the Germans

would invade tomorrow and everyone needed to do their bit to try to stop it happening.

So much has been written about Bletchley Park and filmed there. The props built for the production of the Imitation Game have been donated and give a good idea of how Heath Robinson was the early computer invented there to speed up the analysis of enemy communications once the codes had been broken. Strange to learn too that one code breaker had to learn Japanese quickly to deal with their wartime messages.

Catering for us on the day was excellent and the beer appropriately named "Spitfire". Fortunately we didn't need our ration books. Bletchley Park is a long way away but we had one of the few days this summer when the sun shone and Jane and Rose at the New Inn kept the kitchen open a bit later than normal so we were able to finish there with a meal and plenty of refreshments!

Graham Hudson hudsons@lineone.net 07770 635897

Pembridge Village Hall

A Booking Secretary and also a Village Hall Steward are required from December. The Booking Secretary will need to have a phone and a computer as the role involves the use of e-mail. The Steward takes responsibility for ensuring the hall is ready for hirers with the support of an employed cleaner.

If you would like to help with your community or are looking for a new challenge please contact the current Booking Secretary/Steward – Sarah Parkinson on 388360 for further information.

Pembridge WI

The group meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

The book group will be meeting and we will be ten-pin bowling.

We welcome visitors to our meetings.

Contact Marguerite Fothergill on 01544 388279 or c.fothergill@btinternet.com

Leen Times

The Milking cows are off on their holidays! Most of them calved around last September and have milked steadily every day until now (mid July) when we 'dry' them off (stop milking them) and send them to some of the distant pastures on the farm to just eat grass and rest up ready to have their next calf in September again. Before they go they have a health check and their feet trimmed. They often go to clear up the 'wildflower' meadows that we maintain around the farm doing a great job by shaving off any shrubs that are growing in the sward and treading in the seeds for next years flowers.

There is a bit of good news on the farm price front. The Brexit vote has dropped the value of the pound and that has put up farm prices a little. Also in our case, we have changed our milk buyer which will give us a penny or two more (per litre) for our milk, which will be very welcome indeed!

We seem to have had numerous walks this year round the farm - it is great to see the interest from young and old (and not so old) in all things to do with farming, the countryside and its wildlife. One of the final walks for this year is our involvement in the Kington Walking Festival (www.kingtonwalks.org/images/PDFs/kingtonwalks2016brochure.pdf) Walk Su1.

Talking of walking - I have to congratulate the present parish footpaths warden and the Council for getting the stiles etc around the parish in order. It is nearly 20 years since I was involved in helping to get all the footpaths open for the Millennium (this was part of a county wide HCC initiative).

I counted over 30 different species of wildflower on the Village Green. The grass - and flowers have all now been made into hay and the Green cleared for the summer. The 'woodland' part of the Green has its new tree section growing well with immaculate clearing by volunteers. This part will be closed shortly for work on felling adjacent poplars which have been shedding branches recently. There are other trees on the bank opposite (Rectory side) which must also be felled, as well as work to be done on the riverbank adjacent to the track.

I am looking for Black Poplars in the parish - they are very rare and so far I have only found about 20. If you know a Poplar tree that has knurled bark, is leaning, has smallish triangular leaves and no mistletoe - please let me know.



Wildlife news: our swans hatched off 5 and still have 5 young with them. A great effort from two vigilant parents. Pied Fly catchers have flown, 6 species of Dragon fly spotted on one pond and this stunning picture taken by Bob Anderson of a Bullfinch eating the seeds from a Dandelion. Motto - don't be too tidy and leave some plants to go to seed.

Tony Norman
tony@theleen.co.uk

We are a free service supporting people in the Parish of Pembridge. If you need someone to:

- Fetch a prescription
- Walk or feed your pet
- Do some shopping
- Just call in for a chat or errands

These are just a few examples of what we could help you with. Just give us a call - we look forward to hearing from you.

The Steppes

Tue - Sat: 10.00am - 5.00pm

Watch for
changes

Bridge Street Cafe

Every day: 10.00am - 5.00pm

New

Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

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

Sunday: 9.00am - 12.30pm

Old Chapel Gallery

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday: 11.00am - 4.00pm

Mobile Post Office

Monday: 2.00 - 3.00pm

Tuesday: 1.30 - 2.30pm

Wednesday: No service

Thursday: 3.30 - 4.30pm

Friday: 1.30 - 3.00pm

Saturday: 9.00 - 10.00am

The Café on Bridge Street is now under new ownership. Jenny Higginson, previously a teacher at Wigmore School, has always wanted to run a tea-shop. When Veronica announced that she was retiring, Jenny took the bold step of taking on the business.

The café is open every day and serves tea, coffee and cold drinks. Homemade cakes, breakfast dishes and light lunches are available and takeaway drinks and packed lunches are also on offer.

Your Parish Councillors and telephone numbers

Cllr Garfield Evans - Chairman	garfield.evans@gmail.com
Cllr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman	340696
Cllr Tom Bennetto	388972
Cllr Kevin Duggan	388833
Cllr Ms Catherine Fothergill	388279
Cllr Michael Hancock	387941
Cllr Mrs Julie Mifflin	388414
Cllr David Owens	388422
Cllr John Puslow	388060
Cllr Philip Rogers	387976
Cllr Alan Stokes	388769
Cllr Phillip Thomas	388457
Cllr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor	340269

Clerk:

Mrs Rebecca Bissell

Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN

rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com