

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

June - July 2017

The Cherry Farmer's Year

Pruning takes place early in the year when the sap is rising, which helps to prevent infections becoming established. This is usually March but varies each year – it is ten days earlier this year. The principal disease is bacterial canker which destroys the buds and then travels down the rest of the tree causing its eventual demise. The rain covers are then skinned (the plastic is put on the frame). These are essential to prevent damage from inclement weather and birds, thereby ensuring that high quality cherries are produced. Twenty-five acres have to be covered.

Several weather-forecasting sites are consulted in order to be alerted to the possibility of strong winds which can tear the plastic cover and bend the frame. Another hazard is frost. When this is predicted small fires are made around the edge of the orchard to create heat convection and prevent the frost settling.



Testing of the soil takes place in winter and spring. The soil samples are sent to Land Crop Laboratory and they recommend the correct foliar feeds. These are natural nutrients and are sprayed directly onto the leaves so they are absorbed quicker. A leaf test is also carried out every ten days. In June some cherries tend to drop but this is a natural mechanism of the trees to prevent overloading.

Pests are detected using traps with vinegar as bait. There are beneficial insects that can be purchased to deal with infestations which prevents the use of insecticides. Red Spider Mite is a particular problem and it can be eliminated in this way. Unchecked, it turns the leaves a bronze colour and they then fall off. The cherries wrinkle and also fall.



Bumble Bees are imported in cardboard 'hives' from Holland – making an interesting delivery for the postman. They are left to calm down after their journey before the door in the box is cautiously opened. They

work well in the rain covers. Honey bees also arrive in hives from a bee-keeper in Eardisley.

Biodiversity is achieved by using six varieties of cherry: Karina, Kordia, Regina, Lapin, Sweetheart and Skeena. Karina is an early variety; Kordia and Regina have large, dark and sweet cherries and are later varieties. This diversity spreads the workload. A mix of vetch and clovers has been planted near the orchard to encourage helpful insects.

Harvesting takes place when the Brix Test (sweetness scale) reads 16+. A refractometer is used to measure this. If they have not reached the right point on this scale then they are left on the tree for two to three more days. The cherries are hand picked individually and the stalk must remain on the cherry. They are loaded, one layer deep, onto pallets which are brought from the orchards at regular intervals to be placed in a cold store to remove the field heat. They are stacked in cubes of 100 trays (250 kilogrammes) and then loaded on a refrigerated



lorry. This requires a large workforce and people usually come from Eastern Europe for a three month stay.

The pack house, sited in Ullingswick, has an optical grader. This £1,000,000 piece of equipment has 100 cameras and can grade the cherries into six categories of size and colour. The stalk colour must be very green as an indicator of freshness and the machine rejects any that are not as well as defective cherries.

Supermarkets demand various categories. For example M&S want a large cherry of 32 mm and a Brix measurement of 24/25 for their King Cherry range. Asda require cherries of 22 mm and a Brix measurement of 16+. A company named Berry Gardens negotiates with the supermarkets and the pack houses on behalf of the farmer. Even when a contract is agreed the supermarket may decline to take an order of fruit if it is not selling well – people only want to eat cherries when it is sunny.

Pruning takes place again after the harvest. This removes the heavier branches to allow more light into the tree, as the next year's fruit bud is formed when the cherries are harvested. Then the covers are de-skinned (a six week job). Hopefully they are undamaged and can be re-used.

Marketing is done by Berry Gardens and the farm has a website with information and recipes: www.moorcourtcherries.co.uk

Many thanks to Chris Price for taking the time to tell me all about the process and to show me the orchards. And if you think he and his family take a well-earned holiday after all that you would be wrong. The wheat harvest starts and is followed by the cider apple harvest. They may have a few days rest at Christmas!

Diary

14 June - WI – Gardens of Hereford Cathedral *

11 June - Open Farm Sunday . The Leen 2-5 pm
Tours 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm & 3.30pm FREE
www.farmsunday.org

17 June - PGNS Coffee Morning - All welcome
Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall

29 June - Cantabile Concert *
Thurs 7.30pm Pembridge Church

9 July - Westonbury Water Gardens Opening 11 - 5
All entrance fees to go to Pembridge church funds *

12 July - WI - Members evening
Wed, 7pm Village Hall

15 July - PGNS Coffee Morning - All Welcome
Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall

29 July - Pembridge Show and Trotting Races
Sat, 9.30 - 5

* See *The Arrowvale Messenger* for details

WI Meets every month on the 2nd Wednesday.
Contact Marguerite Fothergill 01544 388279

Pembridge Allotment Association

There are still a couple of plots to let at very reasonable prices. - Full, half or a quarter plots with water on site. Lovely peaceful setting. Telephone 01544 387627 for details.

Pride in Pembridge

Extending the boardwalk on the conservation area. Lottery-funded work being carried out by Goodman's Restoration of Sarnsfield



Replacing the discoloured Perspex

Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Sheena Palmer 01544 388952 for any enquiries

Pembridge Show and Trotting Races

After a very successful show we are working hard to provide a full afternoon's entertainment for all ages: Gymkhana and clear-round jumping (9.30 onwards); trotting races in the afternoon; Caribbean Steel Band; chainsaw carving - with carvings for sale.

We welcome our new dog event secretary Gemma Bradley who has introduced some novelty classes and there are new classes in the exhibit marquee - including a 'Show-stopper Cake'.

There is a good selection of stalls in the food and craft marquee and there are static displays of owls, hawks and chickens.

If anyone could spare a couple of hours to help with car parking, selling raffle tickets, helping in the refreshment tent donating bottles etc please contact Julie 01544 388414.

Schedules are available from Mrs J Price, Llandilo House.

Memories of Pembridge

Linda Mary Hill (nee Stokes) was buried on April 12th. Here are some of her memories of growing up in Pembridge.

She was born in Staunton-on-wye on June 13th 1947 and the family moved to a mile outside Pembridge in 1952. She cycled or walked to school each day. She enjoyed playing hopscotch, tag and Cowboys and Indians (although with no TV in the home this was a mystery to her.) The family did not acquire one until she was ten years of age. She also enjoyed playing 'school'.

The May Fair was held each year by the river and she saved up all year to pay for the rides and candy floss. When not at school she would roam the fields and play by the river with friends and siblings. They were out all day when the weather was fine.

It was not surprising that she became a teacher and after various teaching roles she came back to Pembridge school where she remained a much loved and respected teacher for twenty-two years. She was also involved with the organisation of the Pembridge Show and researched and stitched many of the Pembridge tapestries. The map of Pembridge, on which she had done much of the stitching, will be dedicated to her memory.

A photograph of the late Linda Hill with the tapestry she was working on.

If any other villagers have any recollections of life in Pembridge years ago it would be interesting to hear of them.

Please contact the editor - details on the back page.



Pembridge Parish Council

From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips

City of Culture Hereford bid

Hereford is one of eleven cities long listed for the City of Culture 2021 bid which is awarded every four years. Hull is the current City with Liverpool and Londonderry being past holders. Other current long listed cities include Stoke on Trent, Coventry, Sunderland, Swansea, Wells and St. Davids.

The Bid is built around the whole of the County not just the city and is estimated to bring an extra £55 million to the local economy with a sustained benefit to our tourism business for years after.

We have already received a large lottery grant as one of 16 great places to visit and the Council has supported the bid with 25K. Ladbrookes have Hereford as 16-1 to win which is the same odds as Hull last time.

The campaign has a theme of "Wellie for it" and details can be found on their website www.herefordcityofculture.org.

The four short-listed cities will be announced at the end of June and the winner will be announced on the BBC One Show in December.

Hereford University

The prospect of the establishment of a new University in Hereford is coming to crunch decision with Government announcing significant funding for the project. It would be based on [technology and engineering](#) and is aimed to be established by September 2018 with 60 students rising to 300 in Sept 19, 650 in 2020 and 1,000 in Sept 2021. A significant part of the funding is in place and the aim is that the University will be self-financing within 5 years. There will be accommodation, teaching and research blocks across the city. The Council's role is as a facilitator - ie supporting planning process, transport, property, economy, city planning, ensuring the city is as fit as possible to support a University. It has been made clear that the Council is unable to provide cash apart from supporting some cash flow issues. The group leading the project has appointed a Canadian Janus Kozinki to lead the project as he has experience of running a similar project in Canada.

If you want to discuss a planning matter please contact mttansley@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you have a planning enforcement concern Debbie.Crowley@herefordshire.gov.uk

Parish Council News June/July 2017

Turnpike Travellers site, Bridge Street.

Over recent months there have been problems with the collection of rubbish at the Turnpike travellers site. The Parish Council has been pressing to get the site cleared and can confirm a regular bin collection is now in place, which will hopefully resolve this problem.

Herefordshire Council has a requirement to provide sites for travellers in the County. Turnpike is owned and managed by Herefordshire Council and the site was included for expansion in the recent public consultation. The Parish Council responded accordingly but has no control over development of the site. At present, no planning application has been submitted for expansion of the site.

Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan – Get Involved!

The Parish Council adopted the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan at their meeting in April. This has been forwarded to Herefordshire Council who will prepare relevant reports to support the document in the next 6 weeks. The steering group will be meeting to arrange dates for the 6-week Regulation 14 consultation, with statutory consultees and parishioners.

The document covers future development to 2031 in the parish of Pembridge. You will be able to look at the completed documents at a public consultation in the Parish Hall, on the website and hard copies will be available to loan from the Clerk and in the village stores. All comments received will be reviewed and the plan will be revised as necessary. It is important that parishioners take this opportunity to read and comment upon the plan before it passes through the latter stages, of the process, prior to the final referendum vote which will make it planning policy.

Please look out for the public consultation notices on the parish website and notice boards within the next two months.

Parish Council Accounts 2016-17

The accounts for 2016-17 have been scrutinised by an internal parish councillor and our official internal auditor, who is an independent local parishioner with experience in accounting, ready for submission to the external auditor Grant Thornton in June.

News

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, Garfield Evans was elected as chairman and Andrew Pace as vice chairman for the coming year. The Parish council confirmed its eligibility for the general power of competence having more than two thirds elected councillors and a qualified clerk. The Parish Council now has the power to act just as an individual might within the legal framework.

Footpaths

Landowners it is your responsibility to restore footpaths after sowing or ploughing. The path must be apparent within 24 hours of sowing/ploughing and 14 days if a new crop. Fields growing grass for pasture, silage or haymaking are exempt. The Parish footpaths officer's duty is by law to report any instances to the highways authority who will then make a case against the landowner. Members of the public are entitled (by law) to walk across any crop if they are following the line of the path.

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday June 21st - Parish Hall 7.00pm

Wednesday July 19th - Parish Hall 7.00pm

No planned meeting for August

Leen Times June/July 2017

It's the middle of May and Swallows and Martins are here but I haven't seen a Swift yet. Skylarks nesting everywhere but only a couple of cuckoos heard. Two Pied Flycatcher nests in the bird boxes and a brood of Barn owls being regularly fed in their box. The Ash trees are way behind the Oaks and Ash Dieback is now showing up everywhere. Fish are beginning to rise to the intermittent hatches of various flies. The Early purple Orchids were a picture in amongst the Bluebells. Finally it is raining and everything is just 'taking off' (including my lawn!)

I have not written about the farm this time as it will be part of 'Open farm Sunday' and you would be very welcome to come and see what we do on June 11th.



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

Bridge Street Cafe

Every day: 9.00am - 5.00pm

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
Thursday: 3.30 - 4.30pm Friday: 1.30 - 3.00pm
Saturday: 9.00 - 10.00am (No Service on Wednesday)

33 Years at the New Inn

Thirty-three years and counting! Time just flies and we cannot believe that it has been so long but then - how lucky we are - lovely pub and a super village and community to live and work in.

Thank you to everyone for their support and kindness over the years.

Jane and Rosie

Eardisley Tennis and Croquet Club members invite everyone to a Great British Tennis Weekend from 10 - 5 pm the week-end of 22 - 23rd July. They can provide rackets, ball, mallets etc. The courts are open for anyone to use then and there is an organised tennis coaching session at 1pm on Saturday. The croquet lawns are also available for everyone with plenty of teachers to hand. Discounted membership is offered if you join on the day. Refreshments are available.

Tennis Club sessions are held Wednesday evenings from 5.30 pm, Saturday mornings from 10 am. Croquet sessions for beginners are held every Thursday from 2 - 5 pm. There is a Croquet Open Day on **Sunday, June 4th** 10 am - 5 pm.

Alternatively contact our membership secretary, Richard Hibbs, who can answer any questions you have on 01544 327060 info@eardisleytennis.co.uk or visit our website www.eardisleytennis.co.uk

Your Parish Councillors and contact details

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

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