

Pamber Heath Village News

An occasional newsletter written by Raymond West ©

April, 2014

Refurbished Post Office is an improvement

Mar, 2014: The newly refurbished Post Office in Silchester Road at Pamber Heath is a welcome improvement for customers with more space at the front of the store and no more winding your way down to the back of the store to get to the Post Office counter. The new Post Office counter is next to the shop till at the front of the shop. The shop itself has some improvements with new shelving and cabinets as well as new flooring. A major improvement is the fact that the Post Office counter will now be open for much longer than before. The project was a joint venture between Jay Patel, the store owner and the Post Office.



Bowman's Broomyard development under way

Mar, 2014: Work is under way on the site of the former Bowman's broomyard in Sandy Lane. The old cottage has been demolished and the site cleared with groundwork being done prior to building new homes on the land. Alfred Bowman, who once lived in the old cottage on the site was a besom broom maker and operated his broomyard there in the early 1900s. In recent days the site is believed to have been used as a scrap yard. The site is pictured below - a little wet and muddy.



Death of Margaret Lane at 84

Apr, 2014: The sad news has reached me that former Pamber Heath resident Margaret Lane has died at the age of 84 (pictured here in her younger days). She was born in 1930, the daughter of Gideon and Bessie West of Pamber Heath. She was born into a family with a history of brass band success. Her father Gideon was a bandmaster of Tadley Band and Margaret was its first female member in 1942. She married carpenter Ken Lane in 1952 and the couple lived at 19 Burney Bit, Pamber Heath for many years before moving nearby into a bungalow off Pamber Heath Road. Some years ago the couple moved to live with one of their daughters up north and their last address was at Nuneaton, Warwickshire. I remember her friendly, humorous nature and she spoke with a lovely country accent. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. She leaves husband Ken and daughters Jane and Wendy as well as grandchildren.



'Bits and Bobs' shop closed

I noticed that in March, the shop in Pamber Heath Road that was being used as a second-hand store was closed and the property was empty again and not in a good state of repair. It seems the 'Bits and Bobs' business did not last long at all and may well have closed a long time ago as I had not been keeping an eye on it when passing by from time-to-time in the last couple of years.