

# Pamber Heath Village News

An occasional newsletter written by Raymond West ©

January, 2004 to July, 2004

## January, 2004 Thunder and blizzard in Pamber Heath

On Wednesday the 28th of January in the evening around 5.15pm, there was a sudden increase in wind followed by lightening and thunder with a blizzard - a very rare occurrence in meteorology and has never happened in Pamber Heath before as far as I am aware. The blizzard lasted about three-quarters of an hour resulting in an inch or two of snow, much to the delight of local children.

## March, 2004 Jumble sale gridlock at Pamber Heath

There was gridlock on Saturday the 20th of March with so many cars parked at the village hall for the afternoon jumble sale. One factor was the weather, being a lot of rain at the time. However, it seems the weather did not put people off. The jumble sales are obviously as popular as ever with everyone still attracted by the prospect of a bargain or two. It's no longer mainly the poor trying to make ends meet as it was in years gone by as there were people driving up in BMWs, Volvos and Mercedes - obviously not short of cash! Cars were also parked outside on the road as there was no room on the Tarmac car park or the grass area by the tennis courts. Many people had difficulty getting in and out.

The news items on this page were published on my web site but are grouped together in this PDF document

## May, 2004 Villagers like events but don't want to organise them

The recent AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee was only attended by one villager and the present committee was re-elected, or should I say just carried on, as there were not enough candidates or villagers present to hold a proper election, showing the apathy in the village when it comes to spending any effort on organising village events and managing the hall. However, the events themselves are as popular as ever with good attendance for most functions. So what's the problem?

My personal opinion is that villagers obviously view the job of organising village events and looking after the hall as very boring, of no benefit to themselves, and being unpaid they would rather spend their time doing something more interesting. My experience of charity work had the same problem - everybody was keen on the events but nobody wanted to do the work. The same applied when asking villagers to contribute information for my Pamber Heath History book - only one person came forward but many were keen when I later went to them at their homes. So, what do you think? Are most of us just self-seeking or lazy, or are there other reasons? (I don't really expect to get any answers!).

## July, 2004 Bogus Pamber Heath web sites causing mayhem

People trying to find Pamber Heath information on a search engine are now having to trawl through a myriad of listings detailing bogus web sites. They claim to be from Pamber Heath or have information about Pamber Heath but are really no more than spam. Companies are using clever ways to attract customers and move their businesses up the search engine ratings but at the inconvenience of users. It is not known if the search engines are dealing with this but it is known that they have already changed the way they rate sites due to past attempts to defeat the system. Other villages have been affected too and we wait to see if anything is done to remedy the situation.

## July, 2004 Development in Pelican Road named as Verica Gardens

The development in the former rear gardens of 19 to 37 Pelican Road, has been given the name of Verica Gardens. The good news is that the previously unmade part of the road, giving access to the new estate, has been made up to a high standard. The task of negotiating the many pot-holes can now be just a memory and we can look forward to a better driving experience, at least along that part of the road. It is unfortunate that the whole of the road was not able to be funded but Basingstoke and Deane planners obviously could or would not insist that the developers cover the cost of it.