

# Pamber Heath Village News

An occasional newsletter written by Raymond West ©

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## New gravel track at Pamber Forest

I noticed on the 5th of August that a new gravel track was being laid at the entrance to Pamber Forest by Pamber Park. The workers were laying what was presumably a weed protection layer from a roll and laying gravel on top. The new track seems to go down on into the forest. The track was previously unmade and often muddy and full of ruts where maintenance vehicles had been down into the forest. This will no doubt be an improvement for vehicles and walkers alike.

## Torrential rain in Pamber Heath

On Thursday the 18th of August, there was a torrential rain storm in Pamber Heath, lasting all morning and only easing off in the afternoon. There was so much water that gutters on homes could not cope and take away the water quick enough and some flooding occurred at the bottom of the field where the playground is near Burney Bit. It must be years since we had so much rain in a short time.

## Hairdressing salon remains closed

The original hairdressing salon in Pamber Heath Road remains closed and I have not heard news yet of its future or reason for closure. Many will remember when it was named 'Jeanette's Hairdressers', many years ago.

## Allotments are thriving again

There had been a decline in allotment rental over the years but this year has seen a renewed interest and in May there was a waiting list for gardeners wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Some have placed sheds on their allotments and with the availability of a water tap, watering is easier - in the mid 1980s, when I had an allotment, everyone had to go down to the stream to collect water and it was tedious and hard work. Some have erected high fences - probably to keep out the deer who like to eat the plants.



## Solar panels appearing on many homes

Earlier in the year, the Sentinel Housing Association, which manages the rented housing stock in the Burney Bit area, finalised a plan to fit solar energy panels to suitable homes. In the last month or so, many have been fitted in the Burney Bit area and no doubt some privately owned homes in the village will be having solar panels fitted to save energy costs. As surplus energy is fed back to the grid, many will actually receive money for the electricity generated and this is surely prompting people to consider installing the equipment.

## Access to homes blocked by tree

The access to homes from Pamber Heath Road via the track to the south of the main Burney Bit road has been prevented by means of a large tree trunk placed there. The reason is not known as yet.

## Road resurfacing causes disruption

Silchester Road was resurfaced around the 15th of August, and caused some disruption. The Pamber Heath Stores was found to be closed when a customer went along and businesses in Silchester Road, near where the Sunday market is held, found it difficult to get people and vehicles in and out.



Sunset over Pamber Heath on the 21st of August, taken by Pamela West.