

# Pembridge Parish News

December '15/ January '16

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

*Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year*

## John Bulmer Exhibition

I'm sure that everyone who attended the exhibition of John Bulmer photographs will agree that it was a resounding success. My thanks go to everyone who helped in setting up and manning the exhibition of photographs taken by John Bulmer in 1966. It is largely thanks to the generosity of the Pippin Trust, that we now own fifty framed prints which we hope will be a lasting record for many years.

Thanks also to everyone who attended and made it such a successful event. It was so much more than a photographic exhibition, as old friends were re-united and exchanged memories of fifty years past. We think that over the weekend there were almost a thousand visitors, with many travelling long distances to attend and many returning for more than one visit. I know that John was both surprised and delighted with the response that his work received and so far, we have taken around thirty orders for prints. John has kindly agreed to donate a proportion of the proceeds from the sale of the prints to the Pembridge Amenity Trust, for which

we are very grateful.

The photographs are currently on loan to Wolverhampton University and on their return they will go into storage probably until the spring. However, this is far from the end of the story as we have persuaded John to sort through his collection and allow us to use a number of additional photographs to produce a book. We already have a draft layout and are currently trying to identify people in the photographs. We are also considering including a selection of memories that people have from the spring of 1966. If you have a memory that you think is interesting and may be suitable for inclusion, please send it to [jb.photobook@gmail.com](mailto:jb.photobook@gmail.com). The book is likely to be around 100 pages and contain around 80 photographs. We aim to have a draft copy of the book ready for the spring and we will be asking people to pre-order to ensure that there is sufficient demand for a print run.

*Garfield Evans*



## Remembrance

Pembridge made tribute to the soldiers that fought and died in war on Remembrance Sunday. A host of parisher's surrounded the memorial in front of the school, where family and friends of army heroes laid reefs. The laying of reefs was followed by a service in the church, which gave many a chance to remember.



Also, many thanks to the Parish for all the hard work gone into the beautiful knitted poppies, which are displayed between the two village memorials.

Villagers have worked hard on this project to remember those who have died in battle, creating another eye capturing display for the village. Thanks, in particular to Meryl Griffiths and Sharon O'Hare who were the main creators behind this.

We look forward to an even bigger display next year!

## Christmas Trees

In the past when we take the trees down the lights aren't always available to collect, it means that they are stored in a muddle. When Rod got the lights out of storage this year it took him over twelve hours to sort them. Every set of lights is for a specific tree depending on the size of the tree and the choice of colour requested. They are now numbered and put in boxes for each street.

We are taking the trees down on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, it would be a great help could you unplug your lights and put the plug and transformer in a carrier bag on your doorstep and we will take the lights off the tree. If you have any problems please ring us. tel. 388 414

*Julie*

## Happy Birthday Pembridge CE

150 years ago on 29th January 1866, a new Church School opened in Pembridge. An endowment from Mr William Carpenter of the village in 1650 established the first village school (the original building still exists today), but the National Society ordered the construction of a new purpose-built Victorian building. It was originally two separate schools – one for the girls in two rooms on the West side and the boys in two East rooms. Each school had its own school house. The two buildings united 12 years after opening.

Miss Alice Tudor and Mr David Harmer were the first head teachers of the school which consisted of 53 girls and 50 boys. They taught lessons alongside pupil teachers. The three R's with singing, religion, needlework for the girls and drawing for the boys were the main subjects taught in tiered classrooms with long backless benches and desks.

Today the extended and refurbished school is still at the heart of this thriving village and receives huge support for its contribution to education in the community. During the last school year, it has been awarded outstanding Ofsted and Church School (SIAMS) inspection grades and is a school which lives up to its original Christian heart,

seeking to provide 'inspiring learning through faith and values'.

### **Invitation to all**

On Friday 29th January 2016, we will be holding a service at St Mary's Church, Pembridge at 1.30pm with Bishop Richard where we will celebrate exactly 150 years of our wonderful school. You are welcome to attend our celebrations. The afternoon will continue with refreshments here in school. Please let Mrs Biddle know if you are able to share our 150th anniversary with us by phoning the school on (01544) 388366 so that we can cater for you.

### **Can you help?**

Do you have any photographs or documents relating to the history of the school which we might borrow for the occasion? Family memories, old school reports, work books could all help create a special record of the effect this school has had on the village. If so, please let us know and we will make a copy if possible. Do you have stories about the old school before it was extended and remodelled in the 1970s? Do you remember the old classrooms, what you were taught, what happened if you were naughty...? If so, you would be very welcome to come into our classes in January and share your memories. Thank you.

# Clement Harvest



Well here we are trotting down to the end of the year though, courtesy of a balmy dry autumn – the warmest October on record - and a clement start to winter, we have had a bumper fruit harvest . I have managed to store several different cooking apples – Howgate Wonder, Bramley Seedling, Lord Lambourne, Belle de Boskop; made and eaten many pies and crumbles made with the delicious Cat's Head codlin; eaten several different varieties of pear; put up boxes of hazelnuts and walnuts; stacked trays of Ashmead Kernels, an unidentified pippin, and Ellis' Orange eating apples; made jelly from Quince, Elderberry, Bramble and Damson; started Sloe Gin, Pear Vodka and Rosehip syrup; and acquired sacks of potatoes, carrots, oatmeal and squash. Despite all this plenty the season feels uneasy.

It is difficult to put a finger on what it is. Bird life seems over abundant - unusually large gatherings of wood pigeons are migrating through the area; huge flocks of Fieldfares, Redwings and Starlings squabble over piles of cider fruit, lying uncollected, rotting, in the orchards; enormous flocks of different types of Crows gather in the early afternoons; rare Woodcock now seem common and spring from the brakes every afternoon, flushed by dog and I, on our walks; dying rabbits with myxomatosis eyes line the edges of the orchards; nasturtium and borage are germinating, Rosemary has even started to flower and many spring bulbs are already two inches high. The seasons seem to be confused.

Radio reports suggest el Nino is to blame as it disrupts the world weather systems making 2015 the warmest year since the beginning of the industrial age. According to the World Meteorological Organisation we can expect even more seasonal disturbances to come.



To make matters worse, we are at the darkest time of the year -the season of sun return – the point at which the sun reaches its nadir in the northern hemisphere. Right now in north Herefordshire, the sun sinks below the horizon at about half-past three in the afternoon and the darkness seems completely pervasive; it can tempt us to lose ourselves – a feeling worsened by the ill news that batters us – prompting intolerance, tempting us to lose hope. The light will return, however, and when it does we will see our path more clearly. Then, renewed we can step forward into the New Year.



At this time, I wish fervently for peace and compassion to touch all our lives; and hope you may all find moments to cherish and celebrate what you share with those you know and love. With all best wishes .....

*Ambrose P. Hogweed*

## Footpath Work

**Pembridge Parish Council** are planning works to the footpaths over the coming winter months - Installing kissing gates; replacing stiles and installing finger posts. Applications are invited from local contractors to undertake the work.

You will need -

- Your own transport, tools & equipment
- Insurance policy with public liability cover of at least £5 million

If you would like to join the list please apply to the **Parish Clerk by the end of December** with

1. Your details – name, address, telephone, email
2. Your experience, skills or qualifications
3. Your hourly or daily charges

**Clerk - Rebecca Bissell, Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington, Herefordshire. HR5 3LN, Tel: 01544 340747**

**Email: [rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com)**

### Dog Fouling

The Parish Council continues to receive reports of repeated dog fouling around the village. Please can you use the dog bins provided to keep our pavements and play areas safe and tidy. Thank You.

### Don't forget to report any highway or footpath issues straight onto the

### Herefordshire Council interactive map!

If you find a pothole or footpath problem anywhere in Herefordshire you can report it on Herefordshire Council website. All reports are logged and updated immediately onto the council's database. If you would like to report a pothole log on to [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk) and navigate through the transport and highways section.

### Land & Property Owners

Please remember: - Land owners it is your responsibility to ensure hedge cutting and ditch maintenance along highways and keep footpaths clear. Property owners should keep all overgrowth clear of pavements for access. Thank you.

### Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday December 2nd - Finance meeting to agree Budget & Precept - Parish Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday December 16th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday January 20th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm]

## Parish Council News

### Neighbourhood development Plan.

The Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) steering group have recently met and agreed the final vision for the parish:

*Pembridge is a vibrant rural community which wishes to flourish, retain its distinctive character comprising historic buildings, other heritage assets and a unique environment for the benefit of current and future generations.*

Now the Vision has been finalised the group can progress to setting objectives and policies over the coming months and further consultations will continue in the variety of forms throughout the Parish. Grant funding will now be sought to aid the cost of the process and see the plan through to the submission stage. There is a huge amount of work to do writing the objectives, so if you are have an interest and could offer any support in their preparation please contact the clerk on [rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com) for more details of the next meeting.

### Toilet refurbishment

Over the last few months several Parish Councillors were given a small budget to refurbish the toilet block in the Car Park. General works and painting have been completed giving the place a cleaner, fresher look!

# KINGSPAN INSULATION

## Withstanding the Weather with Pembridge's Pupils

This time of year, the temptation to curl up on the sofa is often overwhelming. However, with the help of the Kingspan Insulation Community Trust, Pembridge's young people have been setting a positive example.

Fifteen local primary schools have become Climate Champions after undertaking a series of workshops organised by Concern Universal, with a £6000 grant from Kingspan Insulation Community Trust. From making 'flowerpot' stoves which use 40% less firewood, to producing their own news reports, the children learnt practical ways to improve our environment. Many later felt inspired to make personal environmental pledges; one child even promising to cut his daily TV-watching to 15 minutes!

As the rain-soaked playground becomes increasingly uninviting, Pembridge CE Primary School's new indoor climbing frame, purchased with a combination of a £2000 grant provided by the Trust and funds raised by the school's PTFA, is a welcome addition to the PE equipment. Thanks to its adjustable ladders and rings, the frame provides the children an endlessly exciting way to keep their fitness and fun levels up, no matter how long winter lasts!

But the weather won't stop the Pembridge Pre-schoolers from wanting to go outside for a dose of fun and fresh air! With the £1000 grant they

received from the Trust, they replaced their old outdoor play equipment with a range of scooters, trikes and tractors which, paired with the new play strimmers and lawnmowers, will release their inner gardening warrior. Coats and woolly hats ready!

Why not channel the pro-active attitude of Pembridge's youngsters and apply for a Kingspan Insulation Community Trust grant to help your own project? The deadline is 31st March 2016 and all information, including application forms, can be found at [www.KingspanInsulationCommunityTrust.org](http://www.KingspanInsulationCommunityTrust.org).



Youngsters at Pembridge Preschool have been increasing their physical activity levels following funding from the Kingspan Insulation Community Trust.

## Is Your Home Fire Safe?

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service provide advice to everyone and for the more vulnerable such as the elderly, people living alone and those with reduced mobility the Service offers a free of charge fire safety check in the home.

As its name suggests, a Home Fire Safety Check involves representatives from Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service calling by at your home to offer safety advice specific to your household and personal circumstances.

During the visit, they will check your smoke alarms and install new ones if needed. They will ensure that you are doing all that you can to avoid the risk of a fire in your home and will also help you work out an escape plan in the event of fire.

We would urge anyone who might be vulnerable themselves or knows an elderly family member, friend or neighbour who lives on their own or has reduced mobility who might benefit from a visit, to get in touch using the number below and request one on their behalf.

To see if you qualify for a **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** contact the Community Risk team on **0800 032 1155** quoting reference PN14.

*Note that those doing the Homes Fire Safety Checks will always make an appointment in advance of their visit, and will always carry identification which they will be very happy to show you.*



## West Mercia's Chief Constable Comes to Parish

Just under 50 people came to the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 29th October for an interesting, articulate and amusing talk by the Chief Constable of West Mercia, Mr David Shaw.

He apologised for his non-appearance in January due to a bout of 'flu and produced a photo of himself on his sick bed as evidence! His first day of absence due to sickness for 16 years. He spoke about West Mercia's strategic alliance with Warwickshire Police a blurring of the old boundaries to spread resources more usefully; local community initiatives such as personal property marking, moveable speed cameras and regular local meetings with Community Service Officers (CSOs). Burglaries in Pembridge were raised by a member of the audience and Mr Shaw agreed that they were intrusive and despicable and that all efforts were being made to apprehend the perpetrators.

Traffic accidents generally are decreasing but the annual fatalities of young men on the roads, particularly when driving with their friends, is on the increase. Speeding through the village was not generally by HGV's. Wildlife crime is dealt with but rural crime was not being reported as much as it should be - key targets were plant, rustling and poaching. Top of the list was the theft of Land Rovers which are being targeted by gangs. Drugs and sexual and violent crime are on the increase.

He mentioned also that one of the new challenges facing the Police was the huge increase in Cyber crime: telephone calls received from clever criminals, banking and financial crime, computer hacking and internet crime and told us a new breed of technologically knowledgeable Police was being recruited to handle these cyber crimes.

Older people targeted by telephone scams and unsolicited calls should report suspicious calls to 101.

Mr Shaw stressed the importance of local CSOs for handling minor crime. They are a visible, approachable, very valuable presence and add an extra layer for the rest of the Police force, enabling expensively trained Officers to carry out their official duties more effectively and efficiently. New CSOs are being sought locally at present and, indeed, our own was there at the start of the meeting!

Mr Shaw said his budget had been cut recently from £300 million to £200million but his approach was not to bemoan the cut but to say "what good can I still do with this money" and move forward. Go online to [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) and key in your postcode to see a record of local offences that have been logged or visit [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

Look out for the new Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme leaflet. Our free service supports anyone who is experiencing difficulties in their home and is run entirely by Pembridge Volunteers.

We can help by doing things such as fetching prescriptions, shopping and doing errands, small practical tasks e.g. changing a light bulb, walking or feeding pets or we could regularly call in for a chat.

We also have a monthly Coffee morning held on the third Saturday of month, which is proving to be very successful. The next one is on 12th December. Just give us a ring on 07779 122499 between 9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday. We look forward to hearing from you.

## THE LEEN TIMES

The cows are milking really well this year but sadly, I have to report a continuing dire price received for it. We really do struggle to produce milk at the price we get now and unfortunately it will mean the end of the line for another raft of dairy farmers. When I started in 1972 there were 170,000 of us- now there are less than 10,000- an appalling loss of so many livelihoods—still the milk is cheap in the shops and that's all right then....

It has been a strange year this year. Harvesting maize in November is very unusual-but, with some fields, we just had to leave it that long to ripen. Thankfully we have now got it all safely gathered in with just the Fodder beet to come. In my early years of farming I remember seeing the first 100 horse power tractor and thinking how massive it was, not really knowing that I would see a 1000 horse power machine on my farm within 45 years. This was the size of the engine on the Forage Harvester that seemed to complete the final 100 acres in a day with ease.



Somebody asked me about Ivy. Does it do any harm? It has the very appropriate Latin name: *Hedera helix* (twisting ivy), is something to go with the Holly for the Christmas decorations and is said to have the useful benefit of curing hangovers! However, growing on a healthy tree it does no harm at all. It is not a parasite (like Mistletoe) and provides copious amounts of pollen and nectar for the insects as well as those black berries for the Woodpigeons. It provides shelter for the birds to nest and the bats to roost as well as overwintering cover for one of my favorite butterflies –the Brimstone. It got a very bad press in WW2 when farmers were encouraged to remove it (and many farmers to this day will cut it through without hesitation). Its only real downsides are that it does compete with the 'host' for water and nutrients, will overgrow any tree that is not healthy and can occasionally cause a tree to catch the wind, but basically it does a lot more good than harm.

Wildlife news- we have found a Lime tree that has grown to nearly 20 feet in circumference (from just over 16 feet when it was last measured 50 years ago). It is spawning time for the Salmon and trout. The Field Fares have come in strength this year, as have the Wood pigeons. More Holly berries than I have seen for some time. Hedgehog seen on the lawn. First Woodcock arrived in late October.

Talking of Hedgehogs- can I make a plea for them? Please leave those piles of hedge cuttings/leaves for them. Don't make a bonfire, they need somewhere to curl up for the winter.

Volunteers still come and help me with various wildlife chores round the farm on a Sunday morning, if anyone would like to come along- just get in touch.

Sloe Gin Competition: New Inn, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December (mine is looking great this year)

Have a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Tony Norman ([tony@theleen.co.uk](mailto:tony@theleen.co.uk))

## Pembridge WI

Pembridge WI usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month in Pembridge Village Hall but in December we are going to The Cider Orchard Restaurant at Hereford College for a Christmas lunch. We are also going to The Courtyard Theatre for the pantomime. In January we will be back in the village hall for an afternoon of craft, chat and tea. In February we will be hearing about The Titanic.

If you are interested in the WI you are most welcome to join us at any of our meetings. We also have a reading group and we often go walking, ten-pin bowling and lunching.

Contacts: Marguerite Fothergill (01544 388279) Tricia Lloyd (01885 488319)

### Pembridge Good Neighbours

Call 07779 122499 9.30am - 5.00pm

### The Steppes

Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00am - 5.00pm  
 Monday and Sunday: **CLOSED**

### Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 9.00am - 4.00pm  
 Sunday: 9.00am - 12.30pm  
 Tuesday: **CLOSED**

### Bridge Street Cafe

Mon to Thurs and Sat: 8.30 am - 3.00pm  
 Friday and Sunday: **CLOSED**

### Old Chapel Gallery

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 10.00am - 5.00pm  
 Sunday: 11.00am - 4.00pm  
 Tuesday: **CLOSED**

### Mobile Post Office

Monday: 2.30pm - 3.30pm  
 Tuesday: 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
 Wednesday: No service  
 Thursday: 4.00pm - 5.00pm  
 Friday: 1.30pm - 3.00pm  
 Saturday: 9.00am - 10.00am

### Your Parish Councillors

**Cllr Garfield Evans - Chairman** 01544 388 638  
**Cllr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman** 01544 340 696  
**Cllr Tom Bennetto** 01544 388 972  
**Cllr Kevin Duggan** 01544 388 833  
**Cllr David Owens** 01544 388 422  
**Cllr Ms Catherine Fothergill** 01544 388 279  
**Cllr Mrs Julie Miffiin** 01544 388 414  
**Cllr Philip Rogers** 01544 387 976  
**Cllr Alan Stokes** 01544 388 769  
**Cllr Phillip Thomas** 01544 388 457  
**Cllr Roger Phillips** 01544 340 269  
**Cllr Michael Hancock** 01544 387 941  
**Cllr John Purslow** 01544 388 060

### PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL EMAIL ADDRESS

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