

# Pembridge Parish News



[www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

February - March 2018

## Mr James celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Local resident Mr Cecil James was born 19th December 1917. He has been in the army, the Ministry of Agriculture and then a farmer, before retiring in 1967 and moving to Pembridge. His fondest memories are of the years he spent farming.

He was born into a farming family and was one of six children. The agricultural depression in the 1930s and the early death of his father saw him living with an uncle in Wellington. He volunteered to serve in the Shropshire Yeomanry before war broke out. Once war was declared he joined the Shropshires as a regular. The Shropshire Yeomanry was the last regiment to use horses and when the division was shipped to Egypt for the North African campaign, he was asked if he would like to ride. Considering it far too hot to ride, he volunteered to drive military vehicles instead – despite never having driven before. However, a few instructions and he was off - sometimes driving in quite dangerous terrain. A lot of the work was reconnaissance duty as the objective was to protect the oil fields from the Germans. Whilst in the area he contacted TB and was sent to a sanatorium based in Almeley where he endured some radical therapy. Considered fit, he was again sent out to Egypt – having had all the necessary injections and so narrowly missed being selected for the SAS, whose survival rate was not good in WW 2. The selection process for the SAS then seemed to consist of finding out if you were squeamish and whether you looked tough. Sadly, the TB recurred and he spent a year recovering in the therapeutic climate of South Africa. He had the disease in a mild form and so was able to assist with general duties. Research into new drugs had not yet developed antibiotics and some patients died within a week.

Despite a full recovery he was declared unfit and discharged from the army. He then joined the Ministry of Agriculture. His duties were to advise farmers how to plough up marginal land for food production. Many ancient meadows and grouse lands were lost during this campaign. He was not popular with the farmers who resented the officious instructions which he was compelled to issue.



Escape came in the form of taking up farming himself. He joined his brother-in-law at the Court of Noke in 1947 and managed the farm for 50 years. When he started farming there, he had 300 acres and staff of 8 – 10 workers. The houses had no mains water or electricity. At Noke they used a generator and there was an old well in the garden, but water for the farm and the cottages came from the river Arrow (which was also diverted around Noke to power a water mill) and was filtered for use. The ponds around Noke had been created to form a water garden in the 17th century and the house had originally been timber-framed, with the brick facade a later addition. Here he spent his happiest years as an old-fashioned farmer who walked the land once or twice a day. The hours were long, but his daughter, who lived there, remembers rowing on the pond, fishing and a productive vegetable garden, with only one part-time gardener to help.

The principal activity was the breeding of Hereford cattle. The visitors book from the 1950s records people from Australia, Argentina, USA, South Africa, Uruguay, New Zealand and Brazil who all came to look at potential breeding stock. The selected animals were transported to Newport and winched aboard a ship to go their new country. One bull won the Royal Show in Sydney. Mr James also took his prize-winning animals to the local shows at Shrewsbury, The Three Counties and the Royal Agricultural (which used to take place at a different show ground each year).

He retired from farming after many years. He feels that not enough attention has been given to drainage, which he considers can contribute to flooding, as there is more building on reclaimed land. He is surprised by how mechanised farming has become and also the size and complexity of the machinery. He had one of the first Combine Harvesters at the Court of Noke with a five foot cut – considered amazing at the time.

One of his favourite pastimes was hunting and he was pleased to have won a few point-to-points, competing at many local courses. He managed to break his collar-bone but had no other mishaps. Not bad for a man who was invalided out of the army and who didn't get much riding practice in Egypt.

**Parish Councillor Vacancy** The Parish Council is looking to co-opt a new Councillor. If you are over 18 and live, work or own land in the parish and are interested in what happens locally or have ideas about the parish then why not consider joining us. The Parish Council meet 11 times a year, made up of parishioners giving up a little of their time to make Pembridge a better place to live, advising on all local issues and commenting on the planning consultation process. For further information check out the Herefordshire Council website following the community link or please contact the clerk. Email: [rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com)

# Diary

- 7 Feb** - Poppy Knit-in. 7.30 -pm New Inn  
**14 Feb**- WI – *Wed* Fun Afternoon 2pm Village Hall \*  
**17 Feb** - PGNS Coffee Morning - All welcome  
*Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall*  
**25 Feb** - Flicks in the Sticks, 7pm at the New Inn  
**10 Mar** - Hardy Plant Society AGM 1pm Village Hall  
*Sat* 2pm Flowers: Flamboyance to Demure.  
**14 Mar** - WI - Pilates - Talk by Dawn Arkell  
*Wed, 7pm Village Hall*  
**17 Mar** - PGNS Coffee Morning - All Welcome  
*Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall*  
**25 Mar** - Flicks in the Sticks, 7pm at the New Inn  
\* *See The Arrowvale Messenger for details*

**WI** Meets every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday.  
Contact Marguerite Fothergill 01544 388279

**The Poppies weeping window will be at Hereford Cathedral from 14<sup>th</sup> March to April 29<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Herefordshire Council.**

## Pembridge Church Clock Repair – conserving public time.

After an unexpected period of silence, the clock is now alerting residents to every hour and quarter as before. It was made by JB Joyce of Whitchurch, Shropshire some 100 years ago. The trouble arose from a broken spring connection of the pendulum and the repair needed to be carried out by the specialist company, Smith of Derby.

**A brief history:** In 1690 William Joyce began making long case clocks and the business flourished and was passed down through his sons. In 1790 the business moved to Whitchurch from the village of Cockshutt, in Shropshire. In 1834 Thomas Joyce started making clocks for local churches and public buildings and many can still be seen at railway stations. Since 1945 the company has installed over 2000 large public clocks in Britain and Ireland, the majority being the synchronous mains controlled type and a high proportion have been installed in churches. In 1964, Norman Joyce, the last member of the Joyce family, retired and sold the company to Smith of Derby. Although the new company has changed many clocks to incorporate the electric motors made by the Smith of Derby Group, they continue to maintain the original JB Joyce heritage pieces still in operation around the world.

Roy Walmsley has spent forty three years as a clock repairer with Smith of Derby. He had a five year apprenticeship and started out painting the clock dials. The firm currently trains four to six apprentices and he describes the firm as innovative and always looking for improvements such as autowind units and pendulum regulators.

[www.whitworth-heritage.co.uk/collection/joyce-clocks/](http://www.whitworth-heritage.co.uk/collection/joyce-clocks/)  
[www.gracesguide.co.uk/J.\\_B.\\_Joyce\\_and\\_co](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/J._B._Joyce_and_co)

**Winding the clock:** The clock is wound twice a week, usually on a Wednesday and again on the weekend. The duties are split between a team of three volunteers.

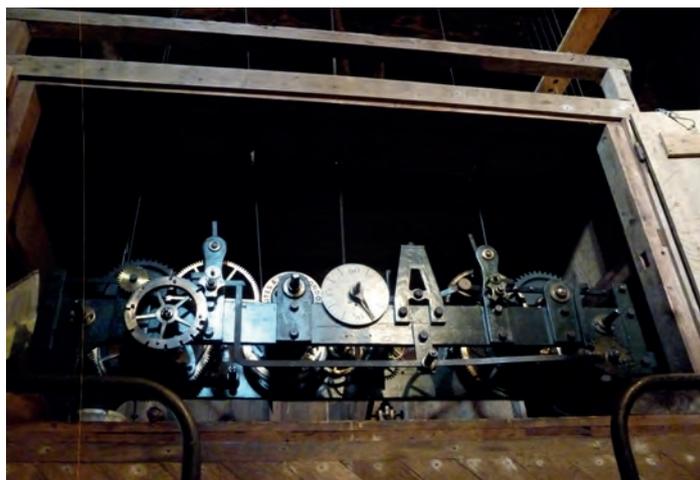
## Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Sheena Palmer 01544 388952 for any enquiries

**Calling all knitters - we need you!** The knitted poppies that have been appearing in the village during the autumn over the last few years have been knitted by a band of dedicated knitters to mark the centenary of WW1. Knitting started in 2014 and at present we have 1126 poppies (366 of these are still adorning a metal horse which first made it's appearance in 2016). This year, as it is the centenary of the end of WW1, we want to make a special effort with our display and so need lots more poppies. If you have a spare few minutes then why not help us knit some?

We will be holding some "Knit-ins" over the next few months, where we shall knit, chat and admire each other's efforts but also between us come up with a plan to make this year's display our best. Everyone is welcome to join us but if you cannot make the "knit-ins" then please just knit some at home and pass the poppies on. We have a variety of patterns, both knitting and crochet, and we can supply some wool.

**Our first "Knit-in" will take place on Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm in the New Inn.** Please come along - bring your friends, your needles and red wool, if you have any. For information please contact Sharon - 01544 388645 [folks@thesmithy2017.plus.com](mailto:folks@thesmithy2017.plus.com) or Meryl - 01544 340381 [merylgriffith@gmail.com](mailto:merylgriffith@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you.



A large windlass is used to wind up three heavy weights, which give the energy to the quarter and hour strikes, and also to the pendulum. It takes up to eighty winds of the handle on each drum to complete the task. When the time alters in spring and autumn, the clock must be stopped to change the hour. The time can be adjusted using a small dial at the front of the mechanism. After the repair on October 12th 2017 the gain was 0.11 seconds. The weather will also change the time-keeping slightly. The clock uses the church bells to create the chime so the clappers must be de-activated for the bells to be rung for weddings etc and then be re-activated.

It is not often that the mechanism is on view and it is a beautiful sight. Should money ever be found to electrify the clock, the old mechanism will be preserved and perhaps kept permanently on view.

[www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk/6\\_buildings/clock.html](http://www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk/6_buildings/clock.html) gives an interesting description of the winding process.

*Many thanks for Sally and Malcolm Lewis for the technical descriptions.*

# Pembridge Parish Council

## From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips

### Traffic figures

In 2005 we installed grey monitoring boxes which record every day the number, type and speed of traffic through our main villages. Every year I report the October figures to my Parish councils in full ( including speed and timings) and summarise the number and type of vehicles in my updates. I separate the motorcycles, cars and cars and trailers in one category and HGVs, small trucks, large vans, tractors and Buses in the another section.

I choose October as it also reflects a busy time of year agriculturally and have included 2016 and 2006 figures. Eardisland, Titley and Staunton do not have any boxes. Although not in the Arrow ward, I have included Eardisley figures which helps give an overall picture of the traffic movements of the area. Unfortunately, the Lyonshall lines\* were damaged so the Autumn figures are not reliable. Consequently, I have used the July figures. The mechanism has been repaired and is recording again. The grey box in Pembridge is sited on the west end so traffic using Bridge Street is not recorded.

#### The 2017 October traffic figures over a month period were:

Shobdon 4,602 3,658 4,425 vehicles per day with 20.5% 27% 19% ( 944) being larger vehicles

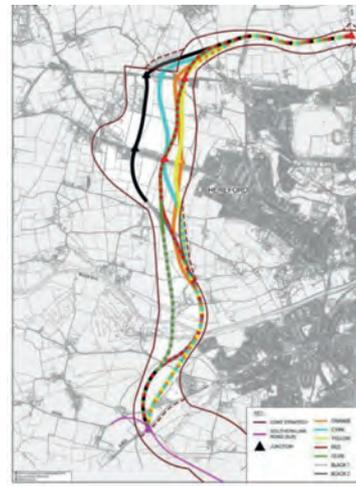
Eardisley 4,222 4,494 4,271 vehicles per day with 24% 24% 19% (1011)

Pembridge 2,851 2,699 2,332 vehicles per day with 26% 24% 19% ( 740)

\*Lyonshall 2,457 2,393 2,056 vehicles per day with 9% 20% 17% ( 223) \*

Figures in blue are from the 2015 October traffic levels over a one month period

Figures in red are an average of daily traffic taken over a four month period in 2006



**Hereford Bypass:** There has been a long debate about building a bypass around Hereford. The current situation is that Herefordshire Council are committed to building it and have just published five potential routes. The route is on the western side as crossing the Lugg meadows on the eastern side is not possible.

The routes cross the river between Clehonger and Belmont, pass Breinton through Kings Arce road, goes by the new Livestock Market before turning east to go back to A49 north of the new large housing development opposite the racecourse. There is a lot of local opposition to building this but I believe, if we are to deal with the growth of the County and provide a decent future, we must have a bypass and that the vast majority of people agree. This is our chance to get a highway most neighbouring cities and towns achieved decades ago, now is the time to speak up.

### Parish Council News

**Parish Mowing Contract Renewal** It is now time for the Parish Council to renew the annual contract for the mowing of grass throughout the village, including the millennium meadow and the village green. If you are interested in tendering for the work you must have public liability insurance for £5M and the necessary equipment to provide a regular mowing and strimming service. Please contact the Parish Clerk for further information. All tenders to be received before end February. Email [rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com)

**Parish request for Precept:** At the December finance meeting, the Parish Council agreed to hold the precept at its current level. The Parish Council are still expecting to further absorb more services as Herefordshire Council reduces its budgets and support. This year lengthsman work across the parish will be solely funded from the precept. A request for £24000 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council for the Parish requirements for 2018-19.

**Community Led Housing:** Earlier this year Herefordshire Council was awarded £509,000 for Community Led Housing schemes. If you are or involved in community land trusts, housing associations, formally constituted community and voluntary groups/organisations, groups of people with the same community focus or charity objectives you may wish to consider applying for this grant. Visit [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200139/community/393/community\\_funding\\_advice\\_and\\_business\\_grants/9](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200139/community/393/community_funding_advice_and_business_grants/9)  
[www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/)

**Village Christmas lights:** Another Christmas passes by and Pembridge is once again the talk of the County for its super lights display. This only happens because of hard work, good organisation and financial support from the Parish Council for all to enjoy. Thanks to that band of hard workers. It is lovely to receive these comments through the Parish Council website: *"Thanks to all of Pembridge for your lovely display of Christmas trees etc. It is truly magical and every year I mean to thank you all and this year I have. Please continue so I can take my grandchildren and enjoy your brilliant efforts, it is appreciated!"*

**Lengthsman work:** During the winter months, the lengthsman will work to maintain ditches and drainage issues throughout the parish, he will also be repairing and clearing pathways across the parish. If you find any areas where work is required, please contact the Clerk Rebecca Bissell. email: [rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com).

**Neighbourhood Development Plan.:** The Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) steering group have been making good progress with the revised draft plan incorporating relevant regulation 14 comments received. The steering group are hoping to complete the final version over the next few weeks to present to Parish Council to start the regulation 16 process and further parish consultation. Any questions or comments please contact the clerk on [rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabissell.pempc@gmail.com).

**Report all highway or footpath issues straight onto the Herefordshire Council website.** Winter is well and truly upon us and these wet and cold conditions will cause road surface issues. 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.

#### Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday February 28th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm

Wednesday March 21st - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm.

## Leen Times

This is always a slightly worrying time of year because we are concerned with pregnancy. To get our herd of milking cows to calve in Sept/Oct this year we need to have them all in calf by January - so we begin serving (with Artificial Insemination) from mid-November onwards and that gives us just 3 cycles (of 21 days) to get the cows in calf. If the cow is healthy and in good condition (that is the skill of managing any animal) maybe 70% will hold (be in calf) to the first service, maybe a further 10/15% to the second and the same the third service. The first 2 services are generally to a Friesian bull, but the third and any subsequent services will be to a beef (usually a Hereford) bull. Cows that do not get in calf are regarded as 'barren' and will be sold when they have finished their lactation. I say it is a slightly worrying time because we do not know a cow is in calf until she can be 'Pregnancy Diagnosed' a few weeks after service and the whole business relies on those positive results. All a bit technical - but a little bit more of what we do. On top of all this we have our TB test again this week. So... fingers crossed!

As Parish Tree Warden I make no excuse for coming back to the subject of Ash Dieback - this is a devastating disease that will probably kill most Ash Trees. I have calculated that we have roughly



7000 trees of all species in the parish and on the assumption that normally trees live for about 200 years, that means we will lose around 35 trees a year. With Ash Dieback that will increase to around 70-100 trees/year loss. They say only around 1 in 4 trees survive from planting to be fully grown, so we need to be planting say 400 trees EVERY YEAR to be maintaining our tree cover, the landscape and wildlife that we all adore. So, this is an appeal to anyone with the space to plant a tree (or knows someone who has the space) to please plant one or more trees each year for the next few years. In hedgerows, fields, orchards, around buildings, in space in woods, along the river/railway line, anywhere a tree can grow to maturity. If anyone would like advice on species/where/when/how to plant - please let me know. Part of this will be the Memorial tree planting we have organised (covered in separate insert) and a Black Poplar initiative that I shall return to another time.

Wildlife News: Large flock (maybe 70) of Lapwings seen at Milton Cross. Greater spotted wood peckers heard tapping and Mistle Thrush singing before Jan 15th this year. Roe deer track found on the Village Green. If anyone would like to look at a short (very amateur) film of a variety of wildlife we have been seeing on and around the Curl Brook, then view:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCndkJKUtQ&feature=youtu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCndkJKUtQ&feature=youtu)

Tony Norman      tony@theleen.co.uk

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)

### Tricia's Hair Salon

Tues, Wed, Fri 9.00 - 5.00 pm      Thurs 9.00 - 6.00 pm

## Pembridge Charities

has a vacancy for a clerk. A part-time paid position. For more information please contact David Owens 388422 or Garfield Evans 388638.

### Your Parish Councillors and contact details

Clr Garfield Evans - Chairman      garfield.evans@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 Phillip Thomas      388457  
Clr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor      340269

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Bissell  
Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN  
rebeccabissell.pembpc@gmail.com