

# Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

December - January 2018 - 2019

## Christmas Trees

Once again the evening journey through the village is made magical by all the Christmas trees which adorn the roadside and twinkle with mostly blue lights. Martin and Naomi Jones from Brick House, Bearwood, grow these trees. When I visited in November, 57 trees were marked to be cut for the village, including a large one for the Market Hall which Martin donates.

The small farm has 20 acres and three acres are used to grow Christmas trees. Martin grows the traditional Norway Spruce and also the Nordmann Fir. The latter is becoming more popular due to its blue-green colour and the fact that it does not drop its needles. It has a long tap root so it has to be cut, whereas the Norway Spruce can be dug up. The stumps take about 3-4 years to rot down. The Nordmann Fir takes ten years to reach five feet against the Norway Spruce which takes 7-8 years to reach that height. This disparity is reflected in the price.

The trees are bought in as seedlings about 9-10 inches tall and planted using a spade to dig the hole and a foot to firm the ground around it. They generally need a 3-4 foot gap between each tree. The planting is done in February when the ground is moist enough so that the seedlings do not need any extra care. Weeds can choke the young plants so the ground is sprayed in May to keep the undergrowth in check. Pruning to shape the larger trees takes place after Christmas. Care is taken to avoid too much trunk between the branches and the top point is trimmed to a suitable bud.

The trees do not have any specific soil requirements but do appreciate good drainage. They are not susceptible to strong winds and the only problem is the rabbits who are partial to nibbling out the top shoot of the young trees and so stunting the growth. The environment is a haven for wildlife with robins nesting in the Christmas trees and foxes are often seen. There is plenty of cover for all kinds of wildlife. This year's hot summer caused most of the Nordmann Fir seedlings to fail, despite being watered, but the Norways fared much better.

Once again people are buying a real tree rather than dusting off the plastic one in the loft. The delicious smell of the tree is again part of the Christmas tradition. The old customs are sometimes the best.

People are welcome to visit Brick House Farm from December to experience the excitement of choosing their own tree and there will always be someone there to help anytime throughout December. (Tel: 07817 643 123)



Photo kindly supplied by Bob Anderson

Additional copies of the magazine will no longer be available at Ye Olde Steppes but can be found at The Cafe on Bridge St, Townsend's Farm Shop, the church and now also at the New Inn.

## Christmas Tree Lights

The lights will be switched on at 6pm on 7 December, when Father Christmas will also be there. The school children have been invited to sing carols; there will be a variety of stalls under the market square; free tea, coffee and mince pies are provided and Jane and Rosie serve mulled wine. It's a great start to the festive season.

**Community Cinema** These are self-supporting community events and we'd love everyone to get a chance to come along to our "community cinema". Please call 01544 387571 to book - we only have 30 seats in the New Inn and often sell out! There is no showing in December, but to make up for it there's an extra film in January.

Feb 24th "Hope and Glory" (15): Classic comedy-drama of domestic life during World War II - Golden Globe Best Picture. Later in the season, we'll have a very early release of "Stan and Ollie" (only just in cinemas now), the thriller "Memento", which many see as one of the best films of the new century, and "Hugo", Scorsese's wonderful fable and tribute to the history of film.

# Diary

## DECEMBER

- 7th – Christmas lights switched on  
*Fri, 6 pm Market Square – see front page*
- 12th - WI – Christmas Decorations and Quiz\*  
*Wed, 2 pm Village Hall*
- 15th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome  
*Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall*
- 15th – Village Quire Concert – St Mary's Church \*  
*Sat, 7.30 Tickets £10 at Ye Olde Steppes or  
01544 388279 or 01544 340381*
- 18th – WI - Tea at Burford House, Tenbury Wells \*

## JANUARY

- 9th – WI – Lunch at Corner's Inn, Kingsland - Tues \*
- 13th – Film Night – 'Beauty and the Beast'  
*Sun, 7.30 – New Inn \*\**
- 19th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome  
*Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall*
- 27th - Film Night – 'The Greatest Showman'  
*Sun, 7.30 New Inn \*\**
- 29th - WI – Tea and chat in Ye Olde Steppes \*  
*Tues, 3 pm*
- \* *Details in Arrowvale Messenger*  
\*\* *Booking – Richard Goddard 01544 387571*

## Presentation of the QAVS to the Pride in Pembridge Team

On November 17th 2018 Lady Darnley, the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire and her team came to the village hall to present this award. After the National Anthem Paul Deneen, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, spoke and described the rigorous process involved in deciding those applicants worthy of the award. He then praised PiP in glowing terms:



*PIP is an outstanding, indeed inspirational example of volunteering. Its volunteers are committed, motivated and work as an enthusiastic team. Between them, they provide tens of thousands of pounds' worth of village maintenance and improvement free of charge, and the community, in the village and more widely, is extremely proud of what they do.*

Lady Darnley emphasized that the award was the equivalent of the MBE for groups and that everyone should be very proud of the achievement. Philip Rogers, PiP Chairman, spoke a little about the work of PiP and the awards previously granted and remembered the late Alan Stokes, whose vision the group was.

Everyone was then free to partake of the excellent buffet provided by the WI and enjoy the usual chat of a Pembridge Good Neighbour Coffee Morning.

## Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

## New Inn Christmas Events:

Available from Dec 1st throughout December – a 'Mini taste of Christmas' – mulled wine and seasonal fare.

- Fri 7th 6 pm Dec Christmas Tree Lights + Father Christmas  
Mon 10th – British Legion Draw  
Sun 16th – Christmas Quiz  
(proceeds to PIP in memory of Alan Stokes)  
Wed 19th or Fri 21st **TBC** – Ukulele and Carol evening with James Duffield and friends  
Sun 23rd – Christmas Draw  
Mon 24th – Radnor Hunt Hounds meet from 10.30 am  
Wed 26th – Brunch from 10.30 am (Smoked salmon bagels/bacon sandwich £7.50)  
Thur 27th – Port and Cheese Evening (3 glasses port and selection of cheeses) £10 pp  
Mon 31st – Shirley's Disco 8 pm – late!  
Tues 1st January - Prosecco Brunch from 10.30 am. (Smoked salmon bagels/bacon sandwich £7.50)  
Vintage cars meet at 12 noon.

## Pembridge Primary School – A Local Good Cause

Friends of Pembridge School (PTFA) have just been announced as a Coop Local Good Cause for 2018/19.

The School receives 1% of everything spent by local Coop Members on Coop branded goods until November 2019. The money raised will enhance the outdoor areas at School creating spaces where the children can learn, play and interact in a safe and more stimulating environment.

If you are a Coop member you need to login and select us as your cause and shop as normal. If you are not a member please join ([www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership)), it only costs £1 and you earn 5% on your Coop products – a win win situation!

**WI** Meets every month on the 2nd Wednesday.  
Contact Marguerite Fothergill 01544 388279  
[margueritefothergill@gmail.com](mailto:margueritefothergill@gmail.com)

**Pembridge Bonfire Group** has been operating for about ten years and our main aims are:-

- To always host the Bonfire on November 5th
- No entrance fee to be charged but donations to be encouraged.

We are currently ten members who also look after the Millennium Meadow and surrounding hedges. We attend a firework safety training course, held every year in Derby, and get updates on any new procedures when they come out.

The funds raised from the Bonfire and Firework display donations have been used to buy a mower and the grass is given an extra mow when it is growing fast and before events. This takes about three hours. The overgrown hedges were first trimmed by hand but now we organise for a tractor with a hedge trimmer to do it at the correct time of year. The group also assists in looking after the playground and has recently carried out repairs following a H&S survey and has purchased replacement chains and seats for the swings as highlighted in the survey.

Our intention is to use the available funds from the donations received to buy and install new apparatus. We have already agreed to replace the goal posts and we think that further amenities for the playground area, including a pavilion, and also outdoor gym equipment, would be welcomed by parishioners and visitors.

We would like to thank all the volunteers and companies that contribute and assist our event.

**Andrew Searles**

# Pembridge Parish Council

## From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips

[rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

I am pleased to report that the recent Budget announcement included £5,108,000 for Herefordshire highway maintenance, including pothole repairs. We have over 2,000 miles of highways in the County, and last year over 23,000 individual jobs were raised for Balfour Beatty to deal with, so there will be some competition for the funds. With the onset of winter months our roads will come under pressure and can I urge you to report any defects to [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/pothole](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/pothole) to help keep our roads safe.

Or alternately use the new council App to report a pothole – simply take a picture on your smart device (when it is safe to do so) and upload it directly to the app, the app can automatically pinpoint your location if you are reporting from the problem area. Your picture and report will be sent directly to the highways management team and the local parish council of the area where the pothole is located. You will then be kept informed of the progress of the reported issue. The app is available directly from the council website, there is no need to visit a third party app store, and it always links to the most up to date version so no need to update it or have it taking up valuable space on your device, just open the link and add it to your device's home screen

Progress continues on the Hereford Bypass with the south section from A49 to the A465 ( Abergavenny ) being the subject of a public inquiry to secure the compulsory purchase of the remaining section of highways. If the Inquiry agrees then work on this section should begin in March. The preferred route of the section across the river past the new livestock market to the A49 has ecological and survey reports being worked on for submission to planning and the government.

## Pembridge Parish News

### Advertising in Pembridge Parish magazine

The Parish Council have extended the advertising spaces on offer in the magazine and we still have a few spaces left! If you are interested in advertising your business or service in the magazine, please contact the parish clerk [clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk).

### Fuel Poverty in Herefordshire

Fuel Poverty; This issue has been flagged as a priority measure by the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Board. The Leader of the Council, Cllr. Jonathon Lester has therefore suggested to raise awareness among the parishes of Herefordshire:

### Keep Herefordshire Warm offers

FREE home energy advice and support

Would your home benefit from increased insulation and/or improved heating?

Are you worried about how you are going to pay your gas and electricity bills this winter?

Do you feel uncomfortable or ill because of cold or damp in your home?

If you think you or someone you know would benefit from this service or intervention please contact Keep Herefordshire Warm on 0800 677 1432 or text 07583 940914 or email [khw@mea.org.uk](mailto:khw@mea.org.uk)

### Grit bins and salt provision winter 2018

Balfour Beatty provide grit bins and salt throughout the parish in preparation for winter conditions. Grit bins may be provided in locations that are not included within the Council's gritting routes please contact the clerk if you require a need assessment for grit bins. Please note: Salt from council grit bins can be used on public roads, pavements, and footways. Salt from council grit bins can not be used for treating private property such as driveways. Use of public grit salt on private property is a misuse of resource and can result in a shortage elsewhere which may result in causing a danger to pedestrians and road users. An informative poster is available on the parish website.

### Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) has now completed the statutory regulation 16 consultation. The steering group along with consultants from Data Orchard have reviewed the comments received and prepared a schedule and proposed amendments. The Parish Council have appointed an independent examiner to review the plan to ensure it complies with the Herefordshire Core Strategy and national law. It is hoped the examination of the plan will be completed by January. The examiner's report will be reviewed and amendments considered before the plan can progress to the final stages. Any questions please contact the clerk on [clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk) for more details.

### Mowing - Millennium meadow and village green

The Parish Council will be looking to renew the mowing contract for the village green and millennium meadow in January. If you have appropriate machinery and insurance cover and wish to tender, please contact the clerk for details. [clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Don't forget to report any highway or footpath issues straight onto the Herefordshire Council interactive map!

### Land & Property Owners

Please remember: - It is your responsibility to ensure hedge cutting and ditch maintenance along highways and footpaths.

### Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wed December 19th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm      Wed January 16th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm.

### Responsible Dog Owners - Polite Notice

Please keep your dogs on a lead when walking in fields of sheep. We have had several attacks to local farmer's sheep in Pembridge.

Under the Animal Rights Act of 1971 your dog could be shot if found amongst sheep.

## Leen Times

The farm has now settled into the winter routine with the cows milking really well on some good quality silage. There are concerns about the quantity we have, but we shall feed some that would otherwise have gone into the Anaerobic Digester if the winter lasts too long. We can then make up that shortfall by taking in waste products from food factories.

It has been a beautiful autumn with the best show of colour that we have seen for years. The only problem has been that the grass needs mowing all the time, but at least the stock that are still outside are enjoying it.

Those that know this column will know that 3 years ago we collected acorns from the 'Verdun Oak' at the end of the village. These have been grown on and we now have a small tree to plant for each name on the war memorial (plus 6 more that are not on it) from WW1. We have been given permission to plant these trees in an avenue each side of the 'Straight Mile'. The trees are unmarked and the avenue will become a memorial to those men. Last year we put out a request for any relatives to come forward and help us plant a tree in memory. We have 7 of the names represented and the main ceremony for their trees will take place on December 1st at 2pm.



This tree planted by relatives Keith Watson, his cousin Josie and husband Tony and second cousin Des from Yorkshire.

However 2 trees have already been planted –The first by the children from Pembridge School and the second by relatives of *William Thomas who was born at Lyonshall on 15th August 1887 and later worked at Brook Farm Lyonshall, then The Lowe Farm near Marston. He enlisted into the Army at Leominster in early January 1917, landed in France on 16th January 1917. He was subsequently posted to 1st Battalion Kings Own Shropshire Light Infantry on 7th February 1917. He was shot in the head at close range whilst on sentry duty on 4th May 1917 and buried the next day at Philosohe Cemetery.*

**Wildlife News:** the trout have started to spawn but there has been such low water in the river that few salmon have made it into the upper Arrow yet. The population of eels has dropped by 95% over the last 30 years. So some 'grown on' eelers have been stocked into our local rivers and pools to try to help the situation. New dipper boxes have been installed on the Village Green. Please don't be too tidy in the garden, leave some of those piles of rubbish around the place for the Hedgehogs.

Have a Happy Xmas and a really good New Year  
Tony Norman - [tony@theleen.co.uk](mailto: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

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: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm 01544 388506

### Bridge Street Cafe

Every day Except Tuesday 10 am - 4pm 01544 388922  
**Winter Opening Hours** Private meeting room available

### Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

Mon, & Tues 9 am - 10 am  
Wed - Sat 9 am - 4 pm Sunday: 9 am - 12.30 pm

### Old Chapel Gallery

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Sunday: 11.00 am - 4.00 pm 01544 388842

### Mobile Post Office

Mon 14:00 - 15:00 Thursday 15:30 - 16:30  
Friday 13:30 - 15:00

### Tricia's Hair Salon

Tues, Wed, Fri 9.00 - 5.00 pm Thurs 9.00 - 6.00 pm  
Appointments only on Saturday - 01544 388665

**The Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme** is offering to pay the Annual Subscription Fee, currently £15.00, to Community Wheels for the parishioners of Pembridge who use its service. When the Scheme started, it was decided that a transport service could not be provided by the Scheme and that Community Wheels were in fact providing a very good service covering Pembridge. However, it has been decided that we can fund the annual fee out of the donations received from the monthly coffee mornings and other generous donations. Those wanting to use the service of Community Wheels should contact them directly as usual (01568 615785) - there will be no need to contact the Good Neighbour Scheme. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can help you with, and we would love to see you at our Coffee morning. We will come and collect you if you have any difficulty in getting to the Village Hall.

**Pat Stokes**

### Your Parish Councillors and contact details

Cllr Garfield Evans - Chair	<a href="mailto:mangarfield.evans@gmail.com">mangarfield.evans@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman	340696
Cllr Tom Bennetto	388972
Cllr Kevin Duggan	388833
Cllr Ms Catherine Fothergill	388279
Cllr Michael Hancock	387941
Cllr Mrs Julie Mifflin	388414
Cllr Steve Jones	07989 715075
Cllr David Owens	388422
Cllr John Purslow	388060
Cllr Philip Rogers	387976
Cllr Phillip Thomas	388457
Cllr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor	340269

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Bissell

Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN  
[clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk)