

# Pembridge Parish News

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

June - July 2019

## You Can't Beat a Good Home-Grown Sweet Pea

So Jo of **Issy&Bella** floral design assures me. This bespoke business operates from the old farm shop at Marston Court and is a family business – mum grows the flowers and auntie dyes the silks.

Her mother was an experienced florist and so she encouraged Jo to enter the Young Farmer's flower arranging competitions. It was clear that this talent was in her genes when she won the floristry junior day. She won the regional floristry competition at the Three Counties Show, then represented Herefordshire and won the National Young Farmer's competition.

After studying business at Cardiff University she took a small job at Starbucks Coffee Company to help pay back her student debt and ended up there for seventeen years as a Regional manager. However, she wished to be creative again, so, while still working full time, she took a holiday and went to London to learn the new wedding trends at the Covent Garden Academy of Flowers.

Back in Herefordshire, she worked part-time at Ludlow Food Centre to fund her start-up and did unpaid work experience for a local florist. She used Vistaprint to make flyers and to set up her web-site. Isabel is Jo's middle name and also her mother's first name (although she is known as Joyce) so Issy&Bella seemed a the right name for the new company. The business built up slowly from local weddings and bride testimonials. She also braved Wedding Fayres despite not knowing the names of all the flowers – she does now!

In early 2017 Jo decided to learn some new skills and went for an intensive course with Jay Archer and learnt how to do much bigger installations such as archways, hanging planks and large floral no-foam installations - Oasis is very bad for the environment as it doesn't decompose. Now she can create her designs mostly with moss and chicken wire, although it does take longer.



Each wedding starts with the flower order on the Monday. The flowers are then delivered direct from Holland to Marston on the Wednesday. Our 'departure' from Europe at the end of April caused considerable problems - it is not just food and medicine imports that are affected by this constant uncertainty. Thursday and

Fridays are spent making bouquets, buttonholes, table arrangements and arch ways. Saturday mornings the van is loaded at 6 am with the flowers grouped into the various weddings and secured with cable ties and bungee ropes galore. It generally takes two hours to set up at each venue and more time dismantling the next day. This is not a career for anyone who likes holidays or having week-ends free!

Jo's mum grows Foxgloves, Sweet Peas, Dahlias, Scabious, and many different grasses to give bouquets an individual look. Pampas Grass is proving popular as are dried flowers and seed heads. Jo loves to work with Cosmos and their stems are rarely straight making arrangements slightly quirky. Ammi (a kind of cow parsley) and of course, Sweet Peas are other favourites.



An interesting development has been dying the silk ribbons with natural dyes. Blackberries make a deep purple pink, Rose Hips a paler pink, Avocado stones and skins create the ever-popular blush. They are currently growing Woad to obtain blue. The use of mordents such as iron filings or choice of saucepan (stainless steel verses aluminium) can also affect the colour. The silk is washed in soya milk before starting and must be washed in PH - neutral soap after dying. Jo's Auntie Gill is kept busy with this activity.

In late 2017 an anonymous bride nominated her company to be entered into the 2018 Wedding Industry Awards. She won the regional heat and became the West Midland Florist of the Year. For the final she had to prepare a bridal bouquet, a button hole and a table display from information provided about the bride's dress, colour scheme and budget. Jo won and was named The Wedding Florist of the Year 2018. For a new business based in a little hamlet in Pembridge beating the biggest florists in the country was a career dream. She is now the recommended florist for several local and Cotswold wedding venues and manages three weddings each Saturday in the peak season.

Courses are run on making seasonal decorations and a silk dying workshop is planned for the future. Jo also has to spend a lot of time keeping her social media accounts fresh with new images as well as managing 70 weddings this year.

Floristry is a fast-paced and competitive industry and you are only as good as your last wedding! [www.issyandbella.co.uk](http://www.issyandbella.co.uk). Instagram: issy&bella

## Diary

### JUNE

- 9th - Open Farm Sunday The Leen 2-5 pm  
12th - WI – Visit to Coughton Court (NT) \*  
*Wed, Depart 10 am & return 5 pm*  
15th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome  
*Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall*  
23rd – Strawberry Tea 3 pm The Curl, Marston\*

### JULY

- 10th – WI – 'Hereford Old and New' \*  
*Wed, Village Hall 7 pm*  
20th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome  
*Sat, 10.30 – 12.00 Village Hall*  
29th – Pembridge Village Show  
*Sat, 1 pm (Exhibits 8.30 -11 am) Millennium Meadow.*

**AUG** - 4th Church Fete \*

\* Details in Arrowvale Messenger

**WI** Meets every month on the 2nd Wednesday

Also Tea and chat, ten-pin bowling and walking. New members welcome. Contact Marguerite Fothergill 01544 388279

### Food Bank.

Please don't forget the food bank collection bank located at the back of the church. The organisers have requested tinned meats, tinned pies and sugar in particular at this time to fill a gap in their stock.

### Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

## OPEN FARM SUNDAY

At The Leen, Pembridge (HR6 9HN) on Sunday 9th June from 2-5pm (Farm Tours at 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm. 3.30pm-arrive 10 minutes before the tour you wish to join) You will get the chance to see our cows being milked, chickens produced, river-dipping, meadow walks, how an Anaerobic Digester works and meet the oldest Hereford herd in the world! For more information contact [sarah@theleen.co.uk](mailto:sarah@theleen.co.uk)

Everyone is welcome!

### FUNDRAISING FOR PEMBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pembridge CE Primary School have signed up to a recycling programme to raise funds for the school.

The items we are collecting are:

All bread bags, crisps packets, biscuit/cereal bars/cakes/cracker/chocolate bar/sweet wrappers including all outer packets, baby food pouches and baby food snack packets, disposable gloves, Aqua Optima water filters, Finish dishwasher tablet packets, toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes and associated packaging, Beauty items such as plastic pots and plastic tubes, caps, pumps and trigger sprays, roll on deodorants, hair dye kits and wipes packets from face wipes or moist toilet wipes and ink cartridges and ink toners.

We hope you can help us out. Please deliver to Kristina Owen at 6 Curl View Close, Pembridge. HR6 9HQ

## PEMBRIDGE SHOW

### 27th July 2019

The Pembridge Show is traditionally held on the last Saturday in July. The show had its origins during the 'dig for victory' campaign WWII and has been held every year since without a break. During its life it has seen many venue changes in that time. Originally the show was set up in the old village hall, then moved to Court House Meadow, a short sojourn at The Mill was followed by a stay of 35 years down on the Long Meadow. This year will see the show returning to the heart of the village and will set up on the Millennium Meadow.

There will be the usual exhibit and craft competitions in the central marquee. Anybody can enter these classes and schedules can be found at the Steppes... though even late 'on the day' entries can generally be accommodated with the necessary entry fees and apologies for tardiness! There will be a variety of children's entertainments throughout the day and of course the ever popular dog show will take place with a wide variety of classes. The latter will be supplemented with a 'have a go' dog agility competition. You can come along and 'ask an expert' which is enigmatic enough to be intriguing and entertainment will be provided by the Dolloway dancers and the Pearl River Ukulele Group (PLUG). The Tea tent will be up and running serving many different cakes and other tea time treats including strawberries and cream, dairy ice cream from Kelsmor Dairy and sandwiches nutritious enough to sustain everybody as they tour the site and participate in the various raffle, tombola and skittle activities. At the time of press there are other activities still being planned. The produce marquee opens at 8:30 for people to bring their entries, closes at 11:00 and the show gets going at 13:00. This year the show is free with an option to make a donation at the gate.

If you can come along on the day we shall be delighted to see you, or better still, if you have the time and the inclination to get involved, contact the show secretary, Councillor Julie Mifflin, on 01544 388414 or another member of the show committee through the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pembridgevillageshow>

See you there.

Pembridge Show Committee

## From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips

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

Can I firstly thank those people who took the time to support me at the recent local government elections. It is a great pleasure and privilege to be your representative.

I send out brief monthly reports of local and council activities with useful contacts if you would like to receive them please forward me your email address.

The new council administration will continue to deal with the financial challenges of local government, protection of the vulnerable and maintenance of highways. It looks as though the Hereford bypass may well be reopened but I think too much investment has been done on the southern section from A49 to A465 to stop that part.

This time of year sees the growth of our verges and the first cut of the vegetation. Many people are concerned about this and want to see natural verge allowed to flourish. Junctions and corners must always be cut for safety reasons. However I am interested to hear from any individuals or groups who would like to 'adopt' a section of verge to oversee a pilot scheme and see the bonuses and pitfalls of delaying first cut till mid July.

Roger

## Parish Council News

### New Parish Council

On May 7th the new 4 year term started for the Parish Council. 12 Councillors were elected uncontested, leaving one vacant position for co-option as soon as practicable. There will be no vacancy notice published by Herefordshire Council as this follows the election on May 2nd.

### Parish Council Vacancy

There is currently one vacancy available on Pembridge Parish Council for co-option after the result of the uncontested election on 2nd May. The council holds 11 statutory meetings a year and is made up of local residents prepared to give up a little time to benefit their local parish.

Are you a local resident interested in what happens in Pembridge parish? Do you have ideas about what needs doing locally? Would you like to be part of the planning consultation process?

If you are interested contact the clerk, Rebecca Bissell 01544340747, email [clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk) for further information by 14th June for informal interview on 19th June 2019.

### Parish Council Accounts 2018-19

The accounts for 2018-19 have been scrutinised by an internal parish councillor and our official internal auditor in readiness for submission to the external auditor PPK Littlejohn in June. The Parish Council would like to thank internal auditor Mrs Anne Pickup.

### New Website

As you know, the Parish Council has been working to produce a new website which it was hoped to launch sometime in April. It's pretty well finished and waiting to transfer hosting suppliers and set up new servers for the encryption, which should happen by July. This new site offers an emailing facility for news and events, so if you would like to be kept up to date with what's going on you will need to register online at [pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### News

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, Garfield Evans was elected as chairman and Andrew Pace as vice chairman for the coming year. The Parish council confirmed its eligibility for the general power of competence having more than two thirds elected councillors and a qualified clerk. The Parish Council now has the power to act just as an individual might within the legal framework.

### Footpaths

Now the growing season is upon us, landowners, it is your responsibility to restore footpaths after sowing or ploughing. The path must be apparent within 24 hours of sowing/ploughing, 14 days if a new crop. Fields growing grass for pasture, silage or haymaking are exempt. The Parish footpaths officer's duty is by law to report any instances to the highways authority who will then make a case against the landowner. Members of the public are entitled (by law) to walk across any crop if they are following the line of the path.

### Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday June 19th - Parish Hall 7.00pm

Wednesday July 17th - Parish Hall 7.00pm

No planned meeting for August

## Leen Times

We cut the grass early (May 5th) this year to make better quality feed for the winter (the quality of the grass drops away dramatically once it starts going to seed). It is always a problem for a farmer to decide whether to go for quantity (and have enough feed for the winter with one cut) or quality (and have to cut the grass two or more times but have to buy in less 'concentrate' food for the winter). Anyway, this summer we shall cut the grass several times (a bit like mowing the lawn) to get the highest quality feed we can.

Once more we are tidying up the farm again for an Open Day- this time part of the **Open Farm Sunday** (run by LEAF- Linking Farm And Environment) on **June 9th**. COME AND SEE US -The farm will be open for guided walks between 2pm and 5pm to see The Dairy Herd, where the Chicken is produced, The Anaerobic Digester, the historic Hereford Herd, as well as river dipping and a walk in our Wild Flower Meadows.

<https://farmsunday.org/visit-a-farm/shareEvent/6200>

Recently there have been courses put on by the Wildlife Trust in the village hall focusing on the 'Ice Age ponds' in the area. It is fascinating to learn about the geology and wildlife of the hundreds of 'kettle holes' that we have locally. This project will run for some time and anyone interested in being involved should contact the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.



Comma

Wildlife news: It's been quite a year for Butterflies with Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Orange tip, large and small White, Brimstone, Holly Blue, and this Comma and Buff Tailed Ermine Moth being seen already:



Buff-Tailed Ermine Moth

This is closely related to the Spindle Ermine Moth whose caterpillars weave those fine silken webs over the Spindle bushes in the hedges so that they have protection from the birds while they eat everything underneath!

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

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 9 am - 5 pm 01544 388922  
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



Our COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

### Your Parish Councillors and contact details

Cllr Garfield Evans - Chairman: garfield.evans@gmail.com  
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 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