

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

October - November 2019

From Leningrad to Herefordshire – a Remarkable Story

The siege of Leningrad was from 8/9/41 to 27/1/44 – 872 days and claimed 2 million lives through starvation, exposure, disease and shelling. Due to a pact between Hitler and the Romanian Prime Minister all males aged 18 and above living in Romania were obliged to join the German army.

And so the young Fred Klein found himself leaving his exempted position on the family farm and departing for training before being sent to join the soldiers holding the siege of Leningrad in 1943. He had already lost two older brothers in the battles of Stalingrad. Here he endured temperatures of minus 50°, and 'Stalin's Organ' (Katyusha Multiple Rocket Launcher) which made a hideous noise and attacks would last for twenty-four hours. Fred said, " You really can get used to any bloody thing."

Eventually the Germans retreated and Fred managed to get on the last German ship leaving Riga and was five miles from Berlin when he learnt that it had fallen to the allies. Determined not to be captured by the Russians he made it to the American lines. The Americans handed him to the British. He spent some months in a camp in Belgium before being sent to England. He had been able to learn some English and set himself the goal of learning ten words of English a day. Eventually in the Spring of 1947 he was sent to work on a farm in Herefordshire where his willingness to work hard and his skill as a stockman caught the attention of Captain de Quincey, the owner of The Vern where he was working. He was offered a job and a new life in England.

His story came to the attention of a retired farmer living in Pembridge who thought that his extraordinary life-history should be written down. Over the course of fifteen months of interviews Fred determined that his narrative should be made into a book.

I asked the author a few questions about the process of writing a book:

He explained that he allowed Fred to speak as his memories came to him and sorted out the chronological order later, with the help of Fred's son. Once Fred approved the final manuscript it was sent to an editor. This process was relatively painless as the editor was happy with the story as told and did not make any radical suggestions. There was a discussion over a chapter title but in the end it was not changed. Once the editor was satisfied he submitted it to 'Memoir Publications' and a run of 200 copies was produced to be sold in local shops and Tourist Information Offices. The whole process cost £1000. A sale of 100 copies allowed them to break even but they have sold all 200 and an additional run of 100 has been printed.

The author tells me that he developed a tremendous respect for Fred for his resilience, sense of humour and his ability to not allow the awful things he went through and witnessed to damage him. He never bore a grudge. The author is also rather proud of the opportunities that our country gave him and the recognition of his talent as a stockman.

He came to this country with nothing but through his own hard work, positive attitude and business acumen, now has his own home and land and is known and respected far and wide.



Prize winning herd of Hereford cattle by the river Lugg at The Vern.

*A man, that Fortune's buffets and rewards
Hast ta'en with equal thanks:and blessed are those,
Whose blood and judgement are so co-mingled
That they are not a pipe for Fortune's finger
To sound what stop she please.*

From Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. Act III Scene I

The book 'Fortune's Buffets and Rewards' by Norris Hill is available from local bookshops (including The Old Chapel Gallery) for £9.99.

Diary

October

9th – WI -An evening of Paper craft *

Wed, Village Hall, 7 pm

19th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome

Sat, 10.30 – 12 Village Hall

19th – Pembridge Harvest Supper - £10 (inc 2-course meal) *

Sat, 7.30 pm Village Hall

November

13th – WI – AGM and planning for 2020

Wed, Village Hall, 7 pm *

16th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome

Sat, 10.30 – 12 Village Hall

23rd – Woodcock Fayre – see poster

* See The Arrowvale Messenger for details

WI Meets every month on the 2nd Wednesday.
Contact Marguerite Fothergill 01544 388279



Fayre

Saturday, 23rd November

10.00am to 4.00pm

Pembridge Church

Shop early for your Christmas gifts

Art, Photography, Pottery, Scarves/Gloves, Jewellery,
Badges, Homemade gifts, Slate Garden Products,
Homemade Cards and Christmas Decorations,
Floral Gifts/Decorations and more!

Cakes and Preserves, Quality Bric a Brac,

Bottle Tombola, Christmas/Crafts and Raffle.

Tea/Coffee with Cake/Biscuits

Lunches of Homemade Soup and Bread

Proceeds to Pembridge Church



Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

PEMBRIDGE FILM NIGHTS

The new Pembridge Film Nights season begins on Sunday 29th September and this time round we have twice as many films - two film nights each month! So we really need you to support this non-profit community cinema. Entrance is still just £5 per person, and the films are shown downstairs in the New Inn.

To make it easier to find out what's on and to reserve seats we now have our own website. We've already got a fair number of seat reservations for the first two so don't leave it too late! Leave a message on 01544 387571 or just pop along online to pembridgefilmnights.org.uk

The autumn season is as follows:

Sun 29 Sep 7.30pm: Fisherman's Friends (12A)

Sun 13 Oct 7.30pm: White Crow (12A)

Sun 27 Oct 7.30pm: The Favourite (15)

Sun 10 Nov 7.30pm: Apollo 11 (U)

Sun 24 Nov 7.30pm: Bohemian Rhapsody (12A)

Sun 15 Dec 6.30pm: The Grinch (U)

Richard Goddard and Geoff Hardy

PEMBRIDGE FARMERS BUYING GROUP ROYAL VISIT

The Pembridge Buyers Group, which celebrates its 20th year, has David Curtis as one of its members. He has been land agent for the Duchy estate in Herefordshire for the past 25 years. David retires this year and arranged a special visit to Highgrove home farm and the gardens. The Prince of Wales has been a passionate advocate for organic farming for many decades and Home farm is testament to his commitment and practical application of the practice.

The farm is over 1800 acres with six employees and carries a Ayrshire dairy herd, with some Gloucester and Angus beef suckler cows, a flock of Leyn breed of sheep with many other breeds including Cotswold and Shropshire. He has a rotation of clover pastures, wheat, oats and rye selling to organic mills.

The farm pays rent of £120 per acre to the Duchy landowners and is not subsidised in any way.

Afterwards they went to the gardens at Highgrove for lunch and a two hour walk around the Prince's seventeen acres of gardens, which were most impressive.

THE PEMBRIDGE PENGUINS

At the Pembridge Fete last month there was a table full of penguins.

Twenty years ago there was a small company in the village called the Handling Partnership who did administration of national promotion campaigns and draws. One such project included the supply of penguins which was discontinued and they were left with thousands of the soft toys. Given the slight connection of the black and white village of Pembridge and penguins, they donated them to the community for fundraising.

Consequently they have appeared regularly for several years and seemed to disappear until another box was discovered –only 600 left! **(See photo on back page)**

Have you made your will yet?

You might have put it off as something that you can do tomorrow but never got round to. Here is your chance to put that right.

Every other year The Royal National College for the Blind holds a will-writing fortnight. This year it will take place with the generous support of both Harrison Clark Rickerby Solicitors and Mortimers Solicitors. You can make a single will or, for a couple, mirror wills.

The solicitors are kindly contributing their time by waiving their will-writing fee, giving you the opportunity to donate to the College. The suggested donation is £100 for a single will and £175 for straightforward mirror wills. If your will is more complicated, additional charges may apply. The dates are from the 7th October to the 18th October. Please contact the solicitors directly to register your interest and arrange an appointment.

Harrison Clark Rickerby – Lucy Willmetts 01432 349 670 lwillmetts@hrcrlaw.com
Mortimers Solicitors – Leanne Spencer 01432 355 572

Pembridge Parish Council

From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Council Ten year CO2 reductions ahead of target

I am delighted to report that the latest Greenhouse Gas Report (2018/19) shows that Herefordshire Council in the last 10 years has delivered a 43% reduction in CO2 emissions. Based on a target reduction of 40% by the year 2020, the council has exceeded this aspiration two years early and illustrated its continued commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency. This reduction of over of 11,875 tonnes of CO2 has been achieved through a number of 'invest to save' projects including: LED lighting, solar PV renewable energy generation and use, greener vehicles and wider energy efficiency projects. This policy was begun under my leadership of the local authority and I took the lead in two projects. The Heritage Archive Resource Centre to house all the county records and archives in the most sustainable "passive" design. Secondly the new Livestock market which recycles all the dirty wash via a series of reed beds, filtering the water for reuse.

Hereford Bypass

The new administration has announced it is pausing the Hereford Bypass scheme both the southern link road and the western route. I have been one of many councillors who have called in the decision. By pausing they know the project will sink down the priority lists and will achieve their object of stopping it by stealth. They should allow the work to continue and get the application to the planning committee next year. I consider the bypass is a critical part of the delivery of a transport package which will allow the promotion of a variety of active travel arrangements in a much safer and healthier environment in the city which is critical for the future economic and social wellbeing of Herefordshire.

Better news on the Lawton crossroad roundabout at Shirlheath/ Eardisland where I am working with local landowners and the council to get this project underway next year.

Parish Council News

Pembridge Village Green and Picnic area

Over the summer the village green and picnic area has seen many visitors. It is a special place and enjoyed by all especially, during the summer months. It is unfortunate that this year some visitors have abused these facilities and caused damage or been a nuisance.

The Parish Council will be repairing the tables and seating where BBQs have burnt the wood and installing new signs to encourage visitors to use the public toilets.

Advertising Inserts in Pembridge Parish magazine

The Parish Council have recognised that more local business would like to advertise in the magazine. The new round of adverts will be organised in October. There are 24 advertising spaces available on a normal yearly agreement. If you are interested in advertising your business or service in the magazine next year, please contact the parish clerk clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Annual Budget & Precept

In November & December the Parish Council considers the budget and precept requirement for 2020-21 and would like your views. The proposed budget will include funding for the parish lengthsman to undertake various jobs that will no longer be done by Herefordshire Council and continuing the mowing contract. The Parish Council will continue to look at areas of the parish that need improvement - including the playground, bell tower and toilet block and may need to cover higher legal fees, data protection, election and audit costs as well as development of a new website. The precept was held last year at £24000 and your comments would be welcomed. Email the Parish Clerk or come to the Parish Council meeting on 20th November. Please email clerek@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Herefordshire Council consultations

Herefordshire Council has several consultations running and asks residents to participate and have their say. You can find all the detail on the Hereford Council website or use the link below. Armed Forces Veterans Survey:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/10123/armed_forces_veterans_survey

Don't forget to report any highway, pothole or footpath issues straight onto the Herefordshire Council interactive map! If you see a pothole, the online Herefordshire Council interactive map is easy to use and allows you to view and report all defects in any area of Herefordshire. 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 and navigate through the transport and highways section. Or just Google Hereford pothole map. Alternatively you can now download the app!

Land & Property Owners

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

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday October 16th - Parish Hall 7.00pm

Wednesday November 20th - Parish Hall 7.00pm

- Consider Budget & Precept

Food And garden Waste Collection There was a posting on Facebook recently suggesting that if enough Pembridge residents wanted it (and signed up for it) there could be a garden waste (brown bin) collection service. Leominster is covered already so it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to come here too if there was enough support. Details here: www.greenwasteclub.co.uk/ - where there is an online form to register interest. Alternatively, email: gwc.hcc@biffa.co.uk Phone: 0800 0858 286
Nicola Chase

Himalayan Balsam

(Also known as Policeman's Helmet, Jumping Jack, Bobby Tops and Gnomes Hatstand).

It is an amazing plant, growing to over eight feet tall and with an elegant seed dispersal mechanism that hurls up to 800 seeds as far as 7 metres away. These seeds are viable for up to two years. The plant is tolerant of lower light levels and the flowers produce a sweet and sticky nectar which attracts pollinating insects to the detriment of other plant species.

It was brought to the country in 1839 from Kashmir. At that time it was promoted as having a 'splendid invasiveness' and so made it an affordable plant for ordinary people. The various shades of pink flowers are certainly attractive. Within ten years it had escaped!

It causes huge damage to our rivers as it out-competes other plants (and thus reduces biodiversity) but dies back in winter, leaving bare earth susceptible to erosion. It also constricts the water flow. Because of the decrease in other plants it is considered that there has been a 75% decrease in spider species, 64% decrease in beetles and 50% of other insect species.

The 'Go Wild in the Curl Project' <http://wyecatchment.org/go-wild-in-the-curl> has as one of its objectives an eradication program. A team of local farmers and volunteers have pulled it up, strimmed, cut and sprayed it, focussing on the upstream areas. This has taken up to 300 hours a year for three years. In Pembridge, by the conservation area, the PiPs team have been pulling out the plants before they seed and have seen a marked decrease in the number of plants and the recovery of the native species that would normally flourish there. It will take at least another two years of constant vigilance to get near final control.

The Elephant Hawk moth feeds on the nectar of night-scented flowers such as honeysuckle and lays eggs on Rosebay-willow herb and bedstraws. Hopefully we shall see more of them.



Elephant Hawk Moth

Tony is on holiday but kindly supplied some information – the editor has also used the internet.

www.insideecology.com and www.plantlife.org.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



**Some of the 600
Penguins still
available for
purchase.**

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 Wendy Powell	340341
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