

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

December 2019 - January 2020

Snow

Quotes in blue come from Wikipedia. Many thanks to Pip and Tony for their contributions

1947: *Between January and March that year, snow fell every day somewhere in the country for 55 days straight.*

Tony: My mum apparently insisted she should leave me outside in the pram each morning until she found it frozen to the ground and covered in snow. I have been told that The Leen railway bridge jammed up with logs and ice flows in the melt and caused a flood.

Pip: In the army between '46 – '48 I was stationed on Salisbury Plain. We were accommodated in huts described as 'spiders' because of their circular shape with five or six projecting wings. About 12 – 15 men would sleep there. One weekend I went on leave. Getting back in the icy conditions was a nightmare on the back of a colleague's motor bike. Finally back safely we gratefully opened the door to our hut to be confronted with frozen split radiators and a worthless stove. Quite a weekend frozen in the memory!

Judy: My mother described being stranded on the Cotswolds. The next morning everyone waded through the snow to a small shop and bought anything and everything that was edible. The next time they passed that way the shop had been completely redecorated – she assumed on the profits of that sell-out day.

1963: *The winter of 1963 was the coldest winter for more than 200 years in the UK. The very cold, snowy weather started just before Christmas 1962 and continued until early March 1963. A persistent feed of Arctic air and snow cover meant that it got progressively colder and colder*

Tony: I was 17 and went to a family party after a Boxing day shoot with my younger brother and driven by parents. On the way home to the farm we drove through thick snow little knowing that was to be the start of a 3 month freeze up! To start it was great fun with the usual snowmen, tobogganing etc. Gradually it got tougher- my dad had to milk cows- their water was frozen (we spent hours with blowlamps and burning straw), the milking machines were frozen (we soon learnt to drain them down properly) the milk lorry struggled to collect our milk (we were constantly clearing the lane to the farm) people struggled to visit and we had difficulty getting to the shops.

It was not all bad- my brother and I were keen on shooting so we had a lot of fun shooting pigeons- until they become so thin that we felt sorry for them - indeed I remember one morning finding dozens of dead pigeons under their roost - they had literally frozen to death! They had been eating frozen Kale, so their crops were full.

We struggled to get back to school- I remember driving with my dad to take my brother back to his school in Bath (about 25 miles) We hadn't been off the farm much and the trip involved going over the Cotswolds. I believe the American Airforce had helped out and used snow blowers to help clear the roads. There were places where they had cut through drifts that were deeper than a full size furniture removals lorry! The winter went on till March but it was amazing how we all learned to cope.

Pip: Having just moved to a new home in 1963 in a hamlet in Hampshire we found ourselves snowed in. The lane from the village below was a steady rise with steep high banks on either side. We watched as a mechanical digger threw the snow onto the lower bank, only to have it blown back behind it by the strong winds. Needless to say, we had to wait for a rescue attempt another day!



Dec 2017

Judy: I remember walking to and from school for what seemed like months over the vast snowdrifts that lined the left side of the lane during the winter of 1963. The road was only passable single file but we youngsters enjoyed the scramble over a steadily hardening and slippery trail with the footpath buried several feet below.

The winter of 1978/79 was the third coldest of the 20th century.

The winter of 1981–82 (also called The Big Snow of 1982) was a severe cold wave formed in early December 1981 and lasted until mid-late January in 1982, and was one of the coldest Decembers recorded in the United Kingdom.

Tony: This particular cold spell was much shorter but very severe! The diesel froze in all the engines and was so bad that a lorry driver delivering to the farm had to stay overnight. We used to thaw the tractors by throwing a plastic sheet over the vehicles and running a space heater under it. Mixing paraffin in the fuel helped. It certainly wasn't all snowmen and tobogganing!



Dec 2017

Diary

December 2019

6th – Christmas Lights, Carols, Stalls & Father Christmas
Fri, 6.00 pm Market Hall

11th – WI - Wed, Village Hall, 7 pm *

14th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome
Sat, 10.30 – 12 Village Hall

14th – Village Quire Concert £10 *
Sat, 7.30 pm Pembridge Church

15th – Candle-lit Carol Service *
Sun 6 pm Pembridge Church

22nd - Carol Singing – see information opposite
Sun 6 pm Meet at market Square

24th – Christingle Service 4 pm *
Tues, Pembridge Church

January 2020

12th – Film Night – Dunkirk
Sun, 7.30 pm, New Inn £5

18th – PGNS Coffee Morning – All Welcome
Sat, 10.30 – 12 Village Hall

26th – Film Night – Amazing Grace
Sun, 7.30 pm, New Inn £5

February 2020

9th – Film Night - Shop Lifters
Sun, 7.30 pm New Inn £5

* See *The Arrowvale Messenger* for details

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

Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

Pembridge Film Nights

See pembridgefilmnights.org.uk or phone 01544 387572

Village Carol Singing Sunday 22nd December

Meet at Market Hall 6 pm - approx 2 hour session
All Welcome - Children to be accompanied by an adult.
Money to go to Christmas Tree fund and Pride in Pembridge.
Further information: Rob Williams 01544 388424

NEW INN CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Dec 6th – Friday – Christmas Lights Switch-On. Mulled wine. 6 pm

Dec 8th – Sunday – Christmas Quiz and jumper competition 8 pm.
(Proceeds to Pride in Pembridge)

Dec 9th - Monday – British Legion Christmas Draw.

Dec 18th – Wednesday – Gin Tasting and Canapé evening £12 pp.

Dec 19th – Thursday – James Duffield and his Ukulele Band
8.30 pm (Christmas Carols)

Dec 22nd – Sunday – Carols under the Square - 6 pm

Dec 23rd – Monday – Christmas Draw.

Dec 24th – Tuesday – Radnor and West Hounds and Meet 11 am.

Dec 26th – Thursday - Mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince
pies from 12 pm. £7.50

Dec 31st – Tuesday – **NYE** – Shirley's Disco from 8.30 pm
Dance the night away. All Welcome. No Charge.

Jan 1st 2020 – Wednesday – Bucks Fizz and Bacon Sandwiches
11.30 am £10. Vintage car lunch – and show 12 pm (Soup and
Sandwich menu -all welcome)

Protecting the Rainforests

This November, employees at Kingspan Insulation's Pembridge/Herefordshire site have been raising funds to help protect the Peruvian rainforest.

The efforts are part of a wider campaign by local group, The Size of Herefordshire, who are working with the Forest People's Programme and Cool Earth to support two brave indigenous peoples, the Wampis and the Awajun, to protect their ancestral rainforest in north-eastern Peru. The group's ultimate goal is to raise enough money over the next 12 months to protect an area of rainforest the size of our beautiful county (covering roughly 218,000 hectares). You can find out more by visiting: www.sizeofherefordshire.org/

Employees took part in a dressing down day and charity raffle with prizes including tickets to a match at Twickenham. There was also a bake sale with a selection of delicious cakes which would have been to the taste of a certain marmalade eating Peruvian bear!

As well as raising funds, we also encouraged employees to join those who already car share to try and further reduce the number of vehicles on the road. On a much larger scale, Kingspan Group has also now committed to becoming a carbon positive manufacturer worldwide by 2030 and, as ever, expect to see our Pembridge/Herefordshire site leading the way with new initiatives all designed to safeguard our planet.

Playground Questionnaire Update:

The Parish Council and Pride in Pembridge would like to thank all those people who took the time to answer the questions and provide informative comments. 456 households received a questionnaire and 234 were completed and returned – which is 51.3% – a very high figure for questionnaire returns. There was helpful feedback on the things that children find exciting, with climbing equipment a clear winner.

84% households would like to see extra items in the playground. (**37%** used the current playground and others in the area.)

85% households thought an outdoor gym would be a good thing to have in the village (**61%** households would use the equipment.)

87% households thought a Multi/Family Play area would be a good thing to have in the village. (**50%** of households would use the facility.)

We have met with a playground equipment supplier who measured the area and came up with some suggestions for 'dynamic equipment'. Zip wires are expensive and usually only involve one individual and climbing ropes take up a lot of room but it would be possible to incorporate a 'playful route' of balance equipment and play panels. There are lots of safety regulations and each piece of equipment has to have a certain soft area around it (although grass has a good 'impact attenuation surface').

The most robust gym equipment we have tried is supplied by Sunshine Gyms. The site at Muxton Park, Telford, had had the equipment for several years and it showed no signs of damage or wear. The equipment can be used by younger people of a certain height and so is not exclusively 'adult'.

The multi-play area is quite expensive but armed with such positive questionnaire results we feel that we can apply for the appropriate funding for all three stages.

We will keep everyone informed of our progress.

Pembridge Parish Council

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

Herefordshire Councillors report :

Herefordshire Council has signed off its policy on Travellers sites. This includes an expansion of the Pembridge site by four pitches. Pembridge Parish council was supportive of this but I do feel we must ensure there is no further expansion thereafter. The new site size is proportionate to the rural area and full use of the adjacent land would lead to a development out of balance and character to the area. I made representations at the council meeting about proper management of the site and ensuring the northern boundary is sealed to avoid the dangerous risk of accidents on the main highway to Kingspan and Airfield Industrial estate.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUSPENDED

All planning applications involving additional use of foul water and drainage are currently suspended following a court ruling on phosphate levels. The level of phosphate recorded in the River Lugg catchment area (which includes the Arrow as a tributary) has succeeded permitted levels and as a consequence all applications for new houses and extensions, including mobile homes, will not be granted until the authorities have worked out a solution. The two sources of phosphate are agriculture run off and human activity – certain household detergent products and waste water .

More details can be found in my monthly email updates.

Parish Council News

Grit bins and salt provision: 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.

New Parish Council Website – Pembridge Parish Council now has a new website www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk loaded with local parish information! If you would like to receive email alerts on all the latest news and event published please visit the site and re-register with your email address. If you were a frequent user of the site before you may need to clear the cache to open the new site type in the web address and press Ctrl F5.

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

Annual Budget & Precept: The Parish Council has reviewed the budget and precept requirement for 2020-21. The proposed budget will include funding for the parish lengthsman to undertake various jobs that will no longer be done by Herefordshire Council and allocation for 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. The precept has been held for several years at £24000, but this year Parish Council are mindful it may be required to undertake legal action to secure the Village Green boundary and reverse an encroachment on Parish owned land, which it must do by law, and is considering raising the precept by £10K. This would equate to a band D property increase from £52.28 to £74.06 for the year. Please note, if these funds are not spent it may be possible for a reduction of the precept in 2021/22. Your comments would be welcomed. Email the Parish Clerk or come to the Parish Council meeting on 18th December when the budget is decided. Please email clerk@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 details on the Hereford Council website or use the link below.

Budget 2020/21 and Corporate Plan consultation: 7 November to 4 December 2019.

Herefordshire Council is consulting on its budget for 2020/21. Each year the council consults with you on its budget and on the proposed Council Tax increase. Your views are being sought on its corporate priorities, which set out the ambitions for the next four years. The priorities have been developed following engagement with more than 1500 people. Your input is important to help set these priorities and will guide further investment and development over the coming years.

The closing date for the proposed budget consultation is 4 December 2019. It can be accessed on-line here <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ambition>. 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 or use the new pothole app! 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.

Land & Property Owners: You will all have some point suffered from the recent flooding in the parish, landowners please note it is your responsibility to clear roadside ditches to keep everyone moving and hopefully you will be undertaking the winter hedge cutting too!

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday December 18th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm

Wednesday January 15th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm.

The coffee morning held at the Old Chapel Gallery raised £210 for Macmillan nurses. Thank you to all those who contributed.

Leen Times



Flooding at the Leen

Well, it got very close! We are fairly geared up for it now with all stock taken off vulnerable fields and all buildings kept dry. Not as bad as 2007 or 1986! For well over 30 years I had the job of Pembridge Flood Warden and we always held a stock of sandbags here at the farm. Flood Wardens were made redundant by automatic Flood Warnings from the EA and people being asked to fill their own sandbags. However, we are always here to help if it is really needed. Here is a reduced copy of a piece written for The Herefordshire Tree Wardens:

Elm Trees and a chance to restore them to our countryside.

Many of us over the age of 60 will remember the iconic tree of the shires. Massive statuesque trees in the hedgerows and clumps in the fields. They held the noisy rookeries and were the classic backdrop to so many rural activities ably captured in those old pictures of English life. They provided the food for many fungi and insects such as the White letter Hairstreak butterfly

Sadly in the early 1970's they were nearly all dead. Struck down by a deadly fungus carried by a beetle that laid its eggs beneath the bark of the tree. The trees were cut down leaving a huge gap in any country dwellers mind.

The suckers of those trees still survive in our hedges - trying to grow into trees. They get to about 20 feet high and the trunk 6-9 inches in diameter only to be struck down again by the disease. Elms that are resistant to this disease have been developed and I have managed to obtain a supply of some of them - they cost £12-£15 each and would be suitable to be planted in hedgerows or positions where they will make a difference to the future landscape. Be warned they can grow very large and would not be suitable for garden planting.

Anyone interested in purchasing any of these trees should contact: 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

The Pembridge Cafe

Mon: 9 am - 4 pm, Tues:- Closed all day
Wed - Sat: 9 am - 4 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
Private meeting room available 01544 388922

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 Ear Lady

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.00 Sat by appointment
Venue: Tricia's Hair Salon 01544 388665
Sarah Cain is offering private hearing assessments,
private dispensing of hearing aids and ear wax removal

Remember that the **Post Office** van can offer much more than selling stamps! You can pay in cheques, use it as a cash point, order travel money - Euros and Dollars can be collected two days from ordering; other currencies four days. Parcel Force and special delivery service too.

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 Steve Jones	07989 715075
Clr David Owens	388422
Clr Wendy Powell	340341
Clr Philip Rogers	387976
Clr Phillip Thomas	388457
Clr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor	340269

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Bissell
Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN
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