

# Pembridge Parish News

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

August - September 2020

## A Pub is Only as Good as it's Customers –

So say Jane and Rosie Melvin of the **New Inn**. They entertained me with tales from their thirty-six year tenure one June morning, keeping a strict social distance whilst sitting in my garden.

But first, some history! The New Inn was originally a farmhouse and built circa 1311, which makes it the oldest 'new' inn in England. In 1239 Pembridge was given a Royal Charter to hold a market and two hiring fairs (the Cowslip and Woodcock) so the farmer's wife developed a nice sideline in making and serving beer. This led to the building evolving as a coaching inn which also doubled as a courthouse and prison. (The prison is now the cellar, and the bars can still be seen from inside and the private first-floor lounge was once the courtroom.) Tradition has it that the 1461 treaty which gave Edward IV the throne after the Wars of the Roses, was ratified in the courtroom.

With such a long history there are bound to be ghosts! Rosie has been aware of a swish of a long skirt and the sense of a woman coming down the stairs. The story is that the Inn is haunted by a young woman awaiting the return of a lover. The other reputed ghost is of a drummer boy, dressed in a scarlet tunic. Once they were having a door repaired upstairs and the carpenter enquired if there were any guests upstairs. There were not. The poor man went white and refused to go back upstairs on his own. He had seen a little boy in a red coat. On another occasion when having some work done in the cellar, the workman swore that his heavy tool box had been moved from one side of the room to the other. Sometimes the gas was turned off. In the past guests have also reported hearing a baby cry.



One of Jane's many paintings of The New Inn

In 1956 the brewery gave the market hall to the village. However, the Amenity Trust allowed it to be used by the pub and for village events. In the original agreement the tolls were to go to the New Inn. The area between it and the pub is part of The New Inn's land. Jane arrived from running a small hotel in Scotland on March 23rd, 1984 and Rose joined her. Initially she was a tenant of Whitbread's Brewery but bought the pub at auction in 1992. Some structural beams need to be replaced and what is now the dining room downstairs had been a stable. The pub did B&B for the first sixteen years and the cottage was renovated as a let.

The sisters discovered to their wry amusement that their bread delivery, which they thought was being delivered from Kington, was in fact being picked up from the shop opposite the market square. The driver collected the bread, drove once around the market hall, delivered it to the New Inn and extorted a delivery charge for two years before they found out!

Pembridge in the 1980s had three good pubs – The New Inn, The Red Lion and The Greyhound (now the King's House restaurant). Locals had 'their' pub and often expected to sit in 'their' chair. The British Legion meetings were big social occasions, especially characters like Col Whitbread and Frank Smith, who chaired the meetings. Frank kept the ladies of the committee happy by buying them several rounds of martinis. It was invariably a late evening!

The Pembridge Show and Trotting Races also resulted in lively evenings afterwards. In their first year it seemed that horses were being bought and sold by customers and there were children running on the roof. So much beer and cider was consumed that the wonderful Tom Harper was called to restore order (with Bob Davies as back-up). There were also lengthy discussions regarding the horticultural entries and who won what - now inevitably Robbie Williams.

Today there are new people and new stories. Jane and Rosie love the building, the village and the business as much as they did 36 years ago. Many thanks to Jane and Rosie Melvin for giving up their time to talk to me and for writing down some of their stories. Further information can be found on [www.haunted-britain.com/new-inn-pembridge.htm](http://www.haunted-britain.com/new-inn-pembridge.htm) and [www.historicalengland.org.uk](http://www.historicalengland.org.uk)

**LOCKDOWN:** We just wanted to take the opportunity to say 'thank you' to so many people for all their kind messages, cards, letters and calls during this awful time. We have been touched by the support. Thank you to Elliot, Guy, Steve, Richard, Don, Ken, Cliff and Harry, Martin, Farmer John, Sarah Cain; everyone at Townsend Farm (Geoff, Sue, Callum and Elliot) for their encouragement and wonderful work with the tables; and to Robbie, Bill and all our neighbours in the square who have cheered us along.  
**Jane and Rosie.**

## Pembridge Film Nights

Pembridge Film Nights hope to be back with monthly showings at the end of September, but the coronavirus situation may delay this. Keep an eye on their website ([pembridgefilmnights.org.uk](http://pembridgefilmnights.org.uk)) for the latest updates. The first showing of the season will be **JUDY** which was postponed from March.

## The Pembridge Cafe

We would like to give a huge thank you for all the kind words and encouraging comments we received, after what we felt was a very abrupt closing. It has been a very productive 103 days though!

However now is the time to welcome back all customers, old and new. So ride your bike over, call in as you pass or park up for a coffee, tea or something cold, a home-made cake or lunch either takeaway or to consume in or outside. We are covered by the 'Good To Go' Mark and the 'Covid- 19 Secure' Certificate, having all measures in place. The weekend papers will be available soon, so pop in for a coffee and order yours. **Jenny**

## The Cider Barn

We are hoping to resume all our activities, restaurant, catering private parties etc. We are adapting all our services and making sure it is all done in the safest way possible for our customers. **Pauline Hill Events**

## Old Chapel Gallery

To be suddenly told to close our doors on March 23rd 2020, after 31 years, was shattering and scary. However, a new exhibition platform was integrated into the website, taking all exhibitions online and virtual and this, plus our social media pages, attracted much attention throughout lockdown.

Packing and sending out orders was challenging, as I am shielding, so I am eternally grateful to Jenny, Sarah and Anna who posted parcels for me over the 3 months, gathered up boxes and bubble wrap, and kept me sane and cheerful!

We have the 'Good to Go' Certificate on our front door. There are masks, gloves and hand sanitiser at the door, we have a sneeze-screen, and also a one-in-one-out policy with a clean-down between customers! **Yasmin** [www.oldchapelgallery.co.uk](http://www.oldchapelgallery.co.uk)

## The Red Lion

The photo is taken from the new terrace. Inside the pub is freshly painted, there is a one way system and hand sanitizer is at the door. It's good to have the pub back.



**Arrowvale Group Pilgrimage:** 26th September – Pembridge to Shobdon. 27th September – Lyonshall to Staunton, including Byton. Services and refreshments. See Arrowvale Messenger for details.

## PiPs

Activities were resumed in June as it was agreed that social distancing could be maintained and the work was all outdoors. We welcome four new members – Julian and Anita and Peter and Andrea.

Jobs done so far are: washing signs, brushing the boardwalk, cleaning benches and tidying car park and playground area. The photo is of washing the boardwalk July 16th using a hired pump. August jobs will include the school garden and edging church paths.



## Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

## Ye Olde Steppes

Sam and Adrian would like to thank all those who have supported us over the years and we also would like to thank our fantastic staff for their great work.

Therefore, it is with deep regret that we announce that the steppes will be closing the tearooms with immediate affect.

The shop will remain open 7 days a week 9 - 6 and will be doing tea, coffee and cakes as takeaway only. **Sam and Adrian**

## The Kings House Restaurant

We will be re-opening on Saturday 11th July at 7.00pm when we will be operating under a reduced capacity to guarantee the safety of both our guests and staff.

Initially we will limit reservations to tables of no more than two people who will be looked after on tables meant for four. This will aid in the social distancing that we feel is so important if we are to beat this awful virus. Our service hours are unchanged at Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and, of course, Sunday Lunch.

Jan and I are so looking forward to serving all our friends again, after all, there is only so much that you can paint or refresh isn't there!!

**Stuart and Jan**

## Townsend Farm Shop

Will continue with both the click & collect and delivery only system for a while. Orders can also be placed every day directly through reception Delivery's are Thursday & Friday and Collections Thursday, Friday & Saturday each week. 01544 388527 or via email [shop@townsendfarm.co.uk](mailto:shop@townsendfarm.co.uk) The online shop <http://www.thewhatmeatcompany.co.uk>

## Tricia's Hair Salon

No dry trims allowed and masks must be worn (these can be provided).

## The Ear Lady

Masks to be worn. These can be provided.

# Pembridge Parish Council

From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips [rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Covid-19

Under the leadership of the Chief Executive, Herefordshire Council has been the lead on tackling the pandemic locally. Responsible for delivering the Shield and Protect Strategy of the most vulnerable; co-ordinating PPE and food deliveries, including over 1.2 million surgical face masks; establishing a local outbreak plan – tested in the recent Farm outbreak at Mathon, collecting data for government and monitoring the whole local impact.

Over 20,700 people in the County have been furloughed under the government's Corona virus Job Retention Scheme and over 8,500 claims had been made under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. The majority of local businesses have received rate relief grants funded by one of the many government financial support schemes.

I have communicated weekly with all my Parish councillors and lead community coordinators throughout the pandemic and regularly updated all residents I have email contact with. If you wish to be included in my monthly updates, which cover a variety of local matters, please email and I will forward you the information.

You can keep up to date with all of the latest information and guidance on website: [www.Herefordshire.gov.uk/corona virus](http://www.Herefordshire.gov.uk/corona_virus)

## 20 mph advisory speed limit through village

I have been working with the County and Parish council on the possibility of Pembridge being used a trial for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits. After the resurfacing in 2018 we removed the white centre line and introduced the new road marking system; which generally have proved popular with residents and have indicated a reduction in overall speed levels. However given the number of residences within one to two metres of the main road and pedestrian movements along and across the A44, it seems sensible to attempt to introduce any measure that can have a positive effect on reducing traffic speeds, without causing vehicles to halt and restart. I have arranged a site visit of the County Cabinet member for highways and should be able to feed back on timescales after summer.

## Continued restrictions on building in the parish

Natural England advice continues to force Herefordshire Council to restrict any planning applications in the River Lugg catchment area. However, if the Council invests over 2 million in 8 wetland projects connected to local sewage plants, and Welsh Water sign off and begin to implement their 5 year capital programme, it may be possible to see some planning and house building in the parish as early as the end of the year. In future applications will need to do phosphate calculations with trading platforms to off-set impact by various schemes, including rewilding of land somewhere in the catchment area. More information in my next monthly email update.

## Parish Council News

**Update** Pembridge Parish are currently meeting virtually to address parish business. Legislation is now in place to allow virtual meetings providing a safe environment for Councillors and members of the public to meet.

**Public Toilets** The Public Toilets in the East Street Car Park are now OPEN. The toilets are cleaned once daily and members of the public are reminded it is used at your own risk. Signs advise information on maintaining social distancing and hygiene.

**Playground** The playground will be reopening soon. The Parish Council has to undertake a full risk assessment and address any other risks, hygiene and management concerns. It will be important for members of the public to follow all signage for the safety of users to mitigate any spread of infection.

**COVID 19 Update** Herefordshire Council has provided a Covid support team to all parishes and volunteers throughout the lockdown period, as measures are eased this support network is now reducing. Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme has offered volunteer support to all parishioners and has provided essential service to those shielding. To the 14th July they have responded to 230 individual jobs. Thank you to all volunteers who have helped during these difficult times.

**Clock Tower** Over recent months, the Parish Council has been investigating improvements on how to update the clock tower. As some of you know the clock is wound regularly, by hand, by local volunteers to whom we are most grateful. It is hoped project work will start on replacing the manual clock winding system for an electrified automated winding system in the next few months, so there may be temporary loss of the chimes whilst the work is completed.

**Footpaths & Hedges** **Polite Notice – When out and about walking - Please remember to follow the public footpath route, do not roam off the path, close gates and take your litter home with you!**

Thank you to all those landowners who have cleared the paths through their crops. Please can you all keep a check on them for any more overgrowth over the coming months! A reminder to land/home owners that it is your responsibility to ensure hedge cutting along pavements and footpaths is done. If you are asked to clear them and do not, the Parish Council can request for Balfour Beatty do the work, they in turn will charge the owner. If you are out and about on the parish footpaths and find a problem please report it to the Footpaths Officer, Michael J Hancock or the Clerk.

**Ditches and ownership** The Environment Agency and Herefordshire Council would like to remind landowners of their responsibilities following seriously heavy rain in Herefordshire earlier in the year. Many areas and properties were flooded. Please find the time to clear out overgrown and silt filled ditches in preparation for the winter months in the hope to resolve any further flooding.

**Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:** There is no planned meeting for August.

Wednesday, September 16th Virtual meeting at 8.00pm

## Leen Times

Everything has changed, but, nothing changes - life has carried on on the farm much as it always has done with our markets for milk and chicken holding up well through these strange times - in fact a bonus has appeared in that the price of diesel has fallen by a third!

As always the weather has the biggest influence on what we do – we went from severe flooding in early spring almost straight into severe drought of May this was just beginning to cause us real problems when the rains came and we have had one of the best grass growing summers I can remember! Three cuts of grass silage, two cuts of whole-crop silage in the pit and hay fields being safely wrapped up for the winter. The milking cows are now 'drying off' ready to calve again in September - this gives everyone on the farm a bit of a rest before the 'avalanche' of work arrives then.

One of the jobs we did in the spring was to pollard our willows (that is to cut off all the branches 8 feet above the ground) We do this about every 10 years and years ago the poles were used for fencing stakes. Now we just do it to preserve the trees (to stop them splitting in half) and maintain them for wildlife.

When we are on mowing grass it is amazing to see so many Buzzards and Red Kites there are wheeling round above - they are making a meal of the mice, voles and sadly chicks and eggs that are exposed by the mower. It makes me think how much things have changed in 50 years of farming. All those years ago Buzzards were a very rare sight and Red Kites just a pair or two in the remotest parts of Wales. Thinking about it we have seen many other arrivals: Collared Dove, White Egrets, Mandarin Ducks, Parakeets, Canada Geese, Red leg Partridge, Mink, Muntjac Deer, Wild Boar and in the water: Signal Crayfish, Barbel and Himalayan Balsam.

The wildflower Meadows have been a joy to see this year with a profusion of different flowers and with them a



profusion of insects including this Southern Hawker Dragon fly which conveniently settled for me. It actually only uses the flowers as cover to attack the other insects!

This Lockdown has produced some crystal clean air, with no human sounds - just the insects, bird song, the river and the wind in the trees - it hasn't needed anything else. Tony@theleen.co.uk

**Pembridge Allotment Association** This has been our busiest year. As we all know, lockdown has led to lots more people wanting to bake their own bread and grow their own food. We've gained six new plot-holders, so with the eight existing members it means almost all our space is taken up - we have just half a plot left! Two of the benefits of lots of members are the social (if socially-distanced) pleasure of chats, and the seed and plant swaps. Now we're hoping that we'll be able to have our summer barbecue! If anyone is interested in taking on the final half-plot, get in touch. Richard Goddard (Chair) Tel 07774 237718 rpgoddard@gmail.com

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

Everyday: 9.00 am - 6.00 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

Click and collect / delivery system at present  
See details on page 2

### Old Chapel Gallery

Wed-Sat: 12.00 am - 4.00 pm  
<http://www.oldchapelgallery.co.uk> 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  
Some Saturdays. All Appointments only - 01544 388665

### The Ear Lady

Mon - Fri 9.00 -5.00 Some Sats. All 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 services

### The Kings House Restaurant

Evenings: Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat and Sunday Lunch  
01544 388029 or 07900 102154

### The Cider Barn

Tel: 01544 388 161 <http://www.the-cider-barn.co.uk>

### 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  
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