

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

October - November 2020

The Game Shooting Season starts on October 1st and ends February 2nd. On February 3rd pheasants can be seen confidently strutting the fields, safe for another year.

Pheasants have been residents of Great Britain since Norman times. They are a species of the woodland edges and the conservation of woodland is important for other wildlife too. The sport of pheasant shooting helps the rural economy with big shoots charging £25 - £40 for each pheasant and bags of up to 200 plus.



David does not organise a commercial shoot. The syndicate started in 2011 after a discussion in the New Inn when nine friends and neighbours decided to organise shoots for each other, with each member inviting two guests. The guests did the shooting, with the members providing the soup lunch and doing the beating – enthusiastically helped by younger family

members. In turn, they are invited to other shoots. Unlike commercial shoots, those shooting and those beating talk to each other, making it an inclusive event. The long winter goes quicker and the social contact helps the problem of depression, so common in farming circles.

Planning for the year starts in February with the ordering of young pheasants and ducks. In April or May, cover of sunflowers, quinoa, fodder radish, wheat, barley and oil seed rape is planted. The native birds love this and can be seen in flocks around this area. In June people get together to check the pens and do general maintenance – also an opportunity for a social get-together. In July the young birds arrive and they are put into a 'release pen' in the woodland, which is secured by electric fencing. Each day there are daily checks for signs of illness and to protect the birds from magpies, crows and foxes. Urban foxes are a real problem. Taken from cities and released into the countryside, often full of mange, they have no idea how to hunt for themselves. By September the birds can fly over the fence so each evening they are gently pushed back to the woods, with the dogs assisting. In October there is a meeting to decide the dates and the soup rota.

The day of the shoot starts at 9.30 am with a cup of tea, a chat and perhaps a small glass of port. Everyone wears a shirt and tie as a mark of respect to the host and the game. Windproof tweed, a cap and possibly ear-defenders

complete the outfit. The guests are reminded of certain safety codes: carry guns broken or unloaded and make sure you can see sky before shooting, which ensures the gun is aimed high enough to prevent injuring someone. All bring their own licensed guns and everyone must have personal insurance. Participants are signed in and given a peg number. At 10.30 they are at the first cover and when the guns are ready the beaters are signalled to start. A whistle is blown at the end of a drive to signal the guns to stop shooting, remove ammunition and make their way to the transport. At 11 am there is cake and port. Another couple of covers, back for soup and a roll and then, if the weather is not too ghastly, they will go out again and possibly end up with a duck shoot where everyone can shoot at once.



However, ducks have a knack of flying faster than they appear to, so many escape.

David keeps a record of the number of birds shot and bags can be anything from 38 – 100 but the average is 50 birds in total. Each shooter must mark any bird they have shot to retrieve it and any injured birds are humanely dispatched. The dogs used are usually Labradors or Spaniels. David inherited a gun shy Labrador (hit with a firework as a pup) but he is slowly gaining confidence, with the other labs showing him what to do and is now retrieving game birds.

There is a tally at the end of the day and people take home their own kill. Generally only fifty percent of the number first placed are killed. Pheasant breasts are a staple of the freezer and the dogs don't go hungry. Local pubs take some and curried pheasant is a winter time treat.

The day ends with a hearty meal at the New Inn with many jokes and perhaps the result of the sweepstake. Later, volunteer wives arrive to take some merry people safely home. The Christmas shoot and evening dinner is the highlight of the calendar.

Game pie anyone?

Many thanks to David for the information and photos.

Diary

Poppy Appeal 2020 - British Legion Stall
Saturday, 24th October 10 - 4 Market Hall

Royal British Legion (Pembridge and Shobdon) Poppy Appeal 2020

You are used to one of our volunteer collectors knocking on your door in the lead in to Remembrance Sunday with a tray of poppies. Covid19 prevention measures do not allow us to do this in 2020.

However, the boxes of poppies will be in the usual places, the shops, cafes and pubs, and I hope you will continue to give us the generous support you do each year. The 2019 door to door collection raised over £1400, the boxes another £1000 and contributions from churches and the local hunt another £1000.

Additionally, we will have a stall in the Market Place at Pembridge on Saturday 24th October with poppies, the badges some of you collect and other items. There will be a box for cash donations but you will have the ability to be "contactless" using a QR reader to your phone to make a donation and there will also be a card reader direct to the RBL Poppy Appeal bank account.

I do hope you will be able to support the Royal British Legion again in this difficult year. Nationally, over 7000 branches of supermarkets are, together with 5000 other retail outlets. Local contributions remain essential too, supporting both young and not so young injured military personnel and not just remembering past conflicts.

Graham Hudson Poppy Appeal Organiser
07770 635897



Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

Pembridge Film Nights

Taking into account revised "rule of six" guidelines, and the new increase in Covid infections across the country, we had had to cancel our planned outdoor showing on 27th September.

Both we at Pembridge Film Nights, and our lovely hosts at the New Inn, are very sad about this, but the rules about organised events simply don't allow us to take any chances. We also feel that even if we pressed ahead, some people would quite reasonably feel unsure about coming.

So until we can meet again in safety, enjoy your film watching at home, and please do support the New Inn and all our local businesses who are doing their best to serve the community safely.

Do remember that if you can't find anything to watch on iPlayer, Netflix, Mubi, BFI player etc, (which seems unlikely but it happens to us sometimes) we have over 150 films on DVD and Bluray here which you are welcome to borrow, including many of the films we have shown over the last few years at the New Inn, and including many French, Spanish and Italian films - if you're interested, let me (Richard) know and I'll send you the list. You have to pick them up in a safe way (and drop them off within a couple of weeks) from our place half a mile outside Pembridge.

Best wishes, and stay safe

Richard and Geoff

phone 01544 387571 See pembridgefilmnights.org.uk

Village Christmas Trees

This year we will be putting up the Christmas trees at the end of November, hoping to brighten up the village and bring us all some Christmas cheer! We will switch the lights on at 6pm in the market hall on Friday 4th December. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, it is unlikely that the other usual events will be able to take place. I would like to thank those who kindly gave donations towards the cost of replacement lights last year as we rely on these donations to cover costs.

Attention Christmas Tree Hosts

There are over 60 sets of lights that we store throughout the year. Please can the tree hosts consider storing their own set of lights to use for the following year after the trees are taken down. Also, if anyone no longer wishes to have a tree or has any queries, please let me know. (Julie – 01544 388414)

Sidney Nolan Trust Vacancy. We are seeking a dynamic and ambitious new Director to lead our team at the Trust as we prepare for a major Capital Development Programme.. Our new Director will need to have the vision to shape this major project from fundraising to completion.

Please contact www.sidneyolantrust.org/vacancies

Verdun Oak. You might be pleased to learn that the wood was chipped and the chippings have now been spread over the paths running through the conservation area by members of **Pride in Pembridge**. The group has also replaced some decaying boards on the boardwalk.

Pembridge Parish Council

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

Herefordshire Councillors report :

Verdun Oak - My thanks to Tony Norman and the teams at Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty on their prompt action to deal with the Verdun Oak. The trunk split completely from top to bottom leaving the two sections at risk of collapse. It was a hectic night and morning moving vehicles, placing bollards, contacting various people to get it all sorted. The cost of the cutting down has been met by Herefordshire Council. The Parish Council will now determine what to do with the remaining trunk and hopefully make the best of a very sad situation.

20 MPH Speed limit - This project currently sits at number 6 of 112 lists of schemes to be delivered By Balfour Beatty. That means there is a very strong likelihood it will be delivered in next year's programme of works. I have requested that designs for roundels and edge of village marking are brought to the PC for consultation. The 20 mph limit will cover all the village highways including Bridge Street and Bearwood lane.

Gigaclear work on A44 - Residents will know that work for Gigaclear is being undertaken in the village and scheduled on the A44 section from 28th September to 6th November. I have advised the contractors that their reinstallation work in the highway will be closely monitored by residents. HGVs will be diverted via A480 through Lyonshall to Sarnesfield junction and then on the A4112 to Golden Cross junction and vice-versa. I am awaiting confirmation for the roll out across the parish.

New Junction - Work on the new junction priorities at Lawton's cross east of Eardisland will continue till 30th October.

Traveller Site - I am involving all my local Parish Councils in the proposed £900,000 refurbish and expansion of the travellers site at Pembridge. Concerns have been expressed regarding access to the recycling sites and I have requested information on usage since their opening with comparisons with recent years. A full report will appear in my monthly email update which residents can get by emailing me.

Parish Council News

Parish Council Meetings - Pembridge Parish Council are still meeting virtually to address parish business following government guidance to keep its members and the public safe.

Playground - Pembridge Playground is open again. Please remember to follow the guidance, stick to social distancing and wash your hands before and after using the equipment.

Pembridge Village Green and Picnic area - Once again, 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 considering table replacement have installed new signs to encourage visitors to use the public toilets. Please help keep our village green a safe and clean area for all to enjoy.

Advertising in Pembridge Parish magazine - A new round of advertising in the Parish Magazine is organised in October. There are 24 advertiser's 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 consider the budget and precept requirement for 2021 - 22 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 need to cover any legal, data protection, audit costs. The precept was increased last year at £34000 to cover potential legal fees of which the outcome is still ongoing. Your comments on any other improvements would be welcomed. Email the Parish Clerk or attend the Parish Council meeting on 18th November. Please email clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Clock tower - The Parish Council has appointed several contractors to start work on the electrification of the clock winding system in the clock tower. It is hoped there will be little disruption when work starts in the next few months.

Herefordshire Council interactive map - With winter no far around the corner keep on the lookout for potholes! Please log them onto the Herefordshire Council interactive map online. It's 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. 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.

Help - Parish Council has two A boards currently stored at the Steppes, looking for a new home. Can anyone help? Please contact clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday October 21st - 8.00pm – Virtual at present

Wednesday November 18th - 8.00pm - Consider Budget & Precept - Virtual at present

Leen Times

We have just completed the fourth cut of silage in very good weather with a good crop of grass, plenty of sunshine and a gentle breeze. So different from last year when the river was flooded: we couldn't cut the grass and we had to bring the cows in early to get them off the ground! The dairy cows are in the middle of calving at the moment with a new batch arriving every morning and the staff are hard pressed to manage them all. However they do - with a smile - despite the 5 am start every morning and the enormous amount of work they face every day. Harvest is nearly done with various corn crops cut and now drilled again, the potatoes are coming out really well with maize soon to come and cider fruit to follow. The tups are going in with the ewes ... and it all starts round again!

Sadly, in the village we have lost our Verdun Oak- a tree so named because it is thought that the tree grew from an acorn taken from an Oak tree growing on the battlefield of Verdun of WWI.



The tree had grown into a prominent landmark at the entrance to the village from Leominster. During the storm in August the tree split its trunk and became extremely dangerous with the possibility of either half falling at any time. Thanks to swift action from Balfour Beatty, tree surgeons were quickly on the scene and took the tree down. They left the stump with a possible idea that it could be carved into something that would last a few more years. This will all depend on the thoughts of the Parish Council and of course the cost of doing it. With the change of traffic and tarmac it is very unlikely that the tree can be replaced. However, fortuitously, over the last few years saplings have been grown from its acorns and we have a fine avenue of them forming on 'the straight mile' from the village to Broxwood.

Wildlife news: Otters are being seen everywhere! They really are doing well and seem to be tipping out the American Mink, although they are still about. Hobbies have been seen chasing the last of the dragonflies - this sharp little hawk is normally after the young Martins and Swallows but most of them have gone by now, although we still have two 'third broods' around our house. Moths have been trapped (and released) in numbers this year with the variety of sizes (one 'The Clifden Nonpareil' half as big as my hand) and colours every bit as good as the more familiar butterflies. Let's hope we see a good crop of mushrooms!

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

Every Day: 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 in place.
01544 388527 shop@townsendfarm.co.uk

Old Chapel Gallery

Wed - Sat: 12.00 am - 4.00 pm
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. Appointment only.
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

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

The Cider Barn

Tel 01544 388161 www.the-cider-barn.co.uk

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
clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk