

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dec 2020 - Jan 2021

Shop Local This Christmas

I think that this year has taught us all how much we value local shops and suppliers. With the newspapers full of doom about the future of small businesses it is perhaps important to consider doing our Christmas shopping from local sources rather than Amazon. Remember: Art and Craft from the Old Chapel Gallery, local food and drink from The Steppes and Leominster has several brave new ventures including a bookshop, a wine shop and a ladies dress shop which all deserve support.

A Pembridge resident has used the time during the first lock-down to develop a hobby into a glass-fusing business. She has invested in two kilns and makes anything from Christmas tree ornaments to large pictures and will undertake commissions and kindly agreed to talk to me about the process (from a distance).

Jude Piper tells me that glass is such a versatile material because you can create so much through various techniques: from bowls, pictures, ornaments and jewellery. The beads can be enhanced with gold, fine silver, copper or Dichroic glass (iridescent accents) and the way the light shines through heightens the shades. Each piece is unique.

The natural tendency of glass is to spread or contract to reach 6 mm during firing. Glass is heated in different ramps, temperatures and holding times throughout a firing time programme, which takes about 15-20 hours for each stage of firing – a long process for each item. In her workroom Jude has two Skutt domestic kilns, which are smaller than a washing machine. There are three basic levels of fusing:

Full Fuse: is heating the glass to a temperature where all the pieces are fully melted together (1450 – 1480°F). The surface will be smooth and glossy and the edges will be completely rounded. For example - the kiln gradually heats up to 1480°F via a holding stage of 30 minutes at 1250°F. After two hours at the hottest temperature it comes down to 900°F for one hour then drops to 700°F and very slowly cools to 50°F. At this point the kiln can be opened without fear of thermal shock causing the glass to crack or shatter.

Tack Fuse: is heating the glass to the point where the pieces will stick together but not enough to change the original shape (1350 – 1400°F).

Sagging / Slumping: is heating the glass to change the shape into or over a mould (1225 -1250°F).

Jude showed me an outline image in grey of an avenue of trees she had painted on one 3 mm sheet. She could paint some colours to depict sky on the sheet that overlaid it and then fire them (Full Fuse). 'Frits' of various colours and sizes (sea salt granules to tiny gravel) can then



be applied to the top of the fused glass to create, for example, leaves and apples, and this will also add texture (Tack Fuse). Jude hopes to make some toadstool shapes in the spring (this will involve a Slump Fuse). She intends to have some fun fusing spots of various colours with glass circles or paint techniques. They will balance on thin copper tubes, which can be painted with diluted colour to give a softer hue. These will be for garden ornaments – fused glass is very hardy and can be used to make bird baths and other outdoor objects. She also hopes to make flowers too.

Surprisingly she has had no formal training but gradually learnt the process at a gallery in Ludlow. She has also had some jewellery-making experience as well as working in interior design. She has attended local craft fairs – including the Woodcock Fayre held in the village and the Made in HR6 at Yarpole. Her work can be seen in the plant-sales shop at Hergest Ridge Arboretum. Christmas decorations from £9.50, earrings from £10 and really large framed pictures £200. You can contact Jude at jude piper glass art @ facebook or email using jpga2020hotmail.com.

A Very English Village

A perfect local gift would be the book of iconic photographs of Pembridge produced by John Bulmer - some photographs were featured in the Sunday Times Magazine of August 1966. The book will soon be available from the Pembridge Amenity Trust (with all profits going to the Trust to be used in the community). They will be priced at £25. Contact Garfield Evans or look on the Village community Facebook page and Parish website. See also:

www.facebook.com/John-Bulmer-Pembridge-Photo-Book-101452628473639

Christmas at the New Inn (Subject to Covid 19 Rules)

Hopefully, the following will be allowed over the Christmas period and that by booking tables for lunch or supper and if busy, drinks, then the rules can be complied with together with achieving a happy atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve – Take-away Menus – book in advance.

Boxing Day and New Years Day – Late Breakfasts (if people are allowed to meet up) – Booking essential.

Jane and Rosie would like to thank everyone for their support with the Takeaway Evenings, which they have enjoyed doing as it kept them in touch with everyone.

Poppy Appeal - Most of you appreciate what the Royal British Legion does with your contribution but let me take you behind the scenes after collection time. A band of volunteers normally knock on doors with their trays and offer poppies in return for a contribution. Covid precautions stopped this so we relied on the static boxes in pubs, shops and other sites with footfall. We also had kind offers from other places to have a box.

These are collected just after Armistice Day and each collecting tin has to be opened in the presence of an independent witness and they check the total when the notes and coins are counted and bagged by denomination in preparation for paying in at a local post office. Each tin has its contents listed and the total of 14 tins this year and usually another 12 door to door tins are totalled and a form sent to the RBL for reconciliation with the Post Office receipt. Once that is done the unsold stock is stored for next year, the boxes folded away and thank you letters or emails sent to the shops, pubs and others. Like the day after Boxing Day we then relax for another year.

For your interest the Stall in the Market Square raised £322.60 (including £118 contactless) and the total thus far(19 November) from all sources is £1777.42.

Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

Pride in Pembridge in 2020

A year of floods and plague made 2020 a difficult year for PiPs. The usual February litter pick of all the approach roads to Pembridge had to be abandoned as the volunteers were likely to drown in the over-flowing ditches. However, we did manage to do the A44 in September when it was closed to lorries.



During the first lockdown nothing was formally organised but once that was lifted we did jobs that could be done at a social distance. These included a mass weeding of the wall on Bridge Street, clearing the pavement up to the village hall (three times), re-edging the paths to

the church, re-planting the various flower boxes and repairing the boardwalk in the Conservation area, along with routine litter-picking of the village.

Playground: This has been swept and weeded and the hedge cut. We also cleaned the equipment prior to re-opening post lockdown.

The proposed improvement plans had to be put on hold due to Covid but we have recently had an outdoor meeting of five (pre second lockdown) and have asked for the equipment supplier 2019 quotations to be reconfirmed and hope to apply for external funding in 2021. We have sought the advice of an expert in park/playground layout but this meeting has been cancelled several times due to Covid. Hopefully we can have a site discussion after December 2nd. What a year!

Christmas Tree Funds - Despite Covid restrictions the magical Pembridge Christmas Trees will be going up as usual. This year there will be no carol singing or Christmas Tree light-up ceremony where fundraising towards the cost of the trees usually takes place. Donations would be gratefully received. Please take any money you feel able to give to The Pembridge Cafe (on Bridge St). Many thanks.

Leominster Meeting Centre for families affected by dementia (Dementia Matters – Here (fordshire))

Leominster Meeting Centre helps people and their families adjust to living with dementia by offering exercise, educational sessions, one-to-one meetings with support workers and advisers, as well as therapeutic activities and having FUN! The Centre provides a safe place where people are supported to understand and adapt to living with memory problems. All sessions are built around the hobbies and interests



of the people who attend and everyone is fully involved in shaping what happens in and around the centre. Currently we are open five days a week with small group sessions and providing remote support with telephone calls, newsletters, garden visits and walks.

The Centre, situated behind the Old Priory, is open in usual times on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10 am to 3pm. See our website www.leominstermeetingcentre.co.uk If you would like further information please email leominstermeetingcentre@gmail.com or ring 01568 368180. There is a new support line open 9 am – 5 pm Monday – Friday – ring 01432 804480 to speak to an advisor.

Could you spare a few hours a week to support the work of Dementia Matters Here? A registered charity that supports people with dementia, their carers and families throughout Herefordshire working with Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver services. We are a looking for volunteers to support the work we do in the following areas:

Telephone Support Line, Bromyard Memory Café/Online Meeting Point ,One to One home visits (befriending), Media and Newsletter and Administration. If you are interested, please contact the Community Development Manager on 07539 378734 or Email: dementiamattershere@gmail.com for further information. Dementia Matters Here is a registered charity No. 1187352

Pembridge Parish Council

From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips Roger.Phillips@herefordshire.gov.uk Herefordshire Councillors report :

Covid updates - Nationally and locally preparations are taking place for the roll out of the vaccination programme. I send out a weekly update to all email contacts I hold with the latest local information - if you want to be included please forward me your email contact. A reminder that a mobile Covid-19 testing centre for north Herefordshire is now operating on the Broad Street Car Park in Leominster. The unit opened will offer tests from 10.30am until 3.30pm each day and will be in place for the foreseeable future. It is being provided by the regional NHS test and trace team.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 – a high temperature, persistent cough, loss or change in sense of taste or smell – should immediately book a test by ringing NHS 119 or visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. They should self-isolate (not leave their home) while waiting for their test and until they have the result. Anyone who cannot get to a test centre can order a home test kit.

Highway Matters - The new roundabout layout at Lawton's cross has been completed. It has taken far too long and I am challenging the value for money of the costs of the delivery of the project. However, as many residents know, this junction has been the scene of many accidents and hopefully the new works and change of priorities will reduce the risks.

I have meetings scheduled with Balfour Beatty and the Parish Council on installing a 20 mph zone in the village with appropriate highway markings and signs for inclusion in the 2021/22 capital programme.

All highways in the parish have been inspected but I have concerns about how many we can get into next year's surfacing budget. With winter approaching it's the time of year when the highway surfaces start to deteriorate. Please report any potholes or concerns by phone 01432261800 or email www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes

Gigaclear works - The recent fibre optic laying by Gigaclear was a huge challenge and I thank all residents and businesses for their patience. I have received many compliments about the staff and by quickly identifying a gas pipe not marked on the plans they avoided a serious incident from taking place. Work will continue in the rest of the village and parts of the parish over the next few months. Any concerns on the works please contact networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com or Tel. 0186 5591 137

Parish Council News

If you are self-isolating and need help please contact: Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme on 07779 122499 for support.

Grit bins and salt provision winter 2020 - 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 cannot 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 cause a danger to pedestrians and road users.

Mowing Contract 2021 - 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 2021-22. The proposed budget will include funding for the parish lengthsmen 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 was raised last year to cover expected legal costs. This year the Precept will be reduced to £24000 as in previous years.

Parish Council Website – Please register for news/event email updates

Pembridge Parish Council website www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk is loaded with local parish information! If you would like to receive email alerts on all the latest news and events please visit the site and register with your email address.

Gigaclear - Gigaclear has been working through Pembridge for some time now installing faster fibre broadband infrastructure which will hopefully be available to all by summer 2021. Residents can register for build updates at www.gigaclear.com.

highway or footpath issues - Don't forget to report any 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 at some point suffered from the recent flooding in the parish but **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 16th - Ordinary Meeting Virtual 7.30 pm

Wednesday January 20th - Ordinary Meeting Virtual 7.30 pm.

PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOU DOG AND TAKE YOUR POO BAGS HOME OR PUT IN THE BINS PROVIDED TO KEEP OUR FOOTPATHS CLEAN AND TIDY

Leen Times

Disease is ever present in our lives as we have all discovered over the last few months- it can come at any time and from any direction and on the farm we are coping with 3 major ones at the moment. Covid faces all of us, but just a few miles away has been a case of the highly infective 'Bird Flu' (another one said to come from China). This puts our farm, and any other chicken farm within 10 Kilometres, into another type of 'Lockdown'. On top of that our dairy herd has gone down with TB again putting us into another raft of restrictions. I enjoy reading the old farming writer AG Street - one of his favourite sayings was to: 'Keep on going on'. We do just that!

Apart from that, we all keep well, the calving has gone well and the cavalry are coming. It has been a stunning autumn with many people actually having the time to walk around the countryside to enjoy it.

Not so many field mushrooms this year but it has been a very good year for 'Waxcaps' These colourful fungi sometimes appear on the lawn but are usually found in



old traditional meadows and are indicators of a healthy soil with plenty of 'biomass' and for that read carbon. We have just done the carbon calculation for our farm as we strive to reach Net Zero. Thankfully we find that we are sequestering nearly as much carbon as we emit, but we still have work to do.

Wildlife News: a considerable number of Otters live within a mile or two of Pembridge as shown by camera traps, a Water Rail also spotted, Green Sandpipers on the Meadow and a group of about 100 Lapwings seen. The flocks of Redwings and Field Fares have arrived on time to feast on the fallen apples.

A plea: When the garden is tidied up at this time of year- don't have a fire or send it all to green waste- pile it all in a corner somewhere and give a home to a Hedgehog - they need our help.

Please have as good a Christmas as you can- Lets hope that the New Year will turn out better for us all - onwards and upwards.

Merry Xmas!

Tony 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

Mon - Sat: 9.00 am - 6.00 pm 01544 388506 *Free delivery*

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 (**CHANGE OF TIMES**)

Mon 14:00 – 15:00 Thursday 15:30 – 16:30
Friday 13:30 – 15:00 - **Not available currently**

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

ClIr Garfield Evans - Chairman:	garfield.evans@gmail.com
ClIr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman	340696
ClIr Tom Bennetto	388972
ClIr Kevin Duggan	388833
ClIr Ms Catherine Fothergill	388279
ClIr Michael Hancock	387941
ClIr Mrs Julie Mifflin	388414
ClIr Steve Jones	07989 715075
ClIr David Owens	388422
ClIr Wendy Powell	340341
ClIr Philip Rogers	387976
ClIr Phillip Thomas	388457
ClIr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor	340269
Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Bissell	
Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN	
clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk	