

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

December 2021 - January 2022

WASSAIL

The popular carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and Shakespeare's play 'Twelfth Night' are two cultural survivors offering clues to some of the ways people celebrated Christmas in the past. Advent, a time of fasting, was observed from the 1st to the 24th of December. Christmas would then last twelve days, ending with feasting and revels on the 5th of January – the eve of Epiphany in the Christian calendar – with wassailing a key part of the celebrations.

The word Wassail has its origins in the Old English toast 'waes hael' meaning 'good health'. Wassailing is a tradition usually related to cider apple orchards in Somerset, Devon, Gloucestershire and in Herefordshire. Each area has its own tradition. In Herefordshire you may see the Burning of the Bush and Herefordshire Apostle Fires. There is generally a torchlit procession and people gather around the central apple tree, the wassail songs are sung and fires lit around the tree. A hullabaloo (much banging of pots) is made to ward off bad spirits to ensure a bountiful crop for the year ahead. There is usually a collection made for a local charity. (Editor)



Bill Bradshaw Photography

Local Wassails:

8/1/22 Silurian Morris - 6.30 pm (arrive early). Much Marcle.

6/1/22 - Leominster Morris - (Time and venue tbc)

Foxwhelp Morris - 07549 096291

Some people reading this will have been to a Wassail. Leominster Morris normally hold a wassail each year in January, and we have one ourselves to encourage fertility in our dozen or so apple trees. At our own wassail on January 9th (which sadly couldn't happen this year) we follow the tradition of choosing a Queen and King of the Wassail, by a random process involving beans in cakes, who are then led to the selected tree by the "Butler". Some words of encouragement are spoken, a shotgun is fired to frighten away the bad spirits, toast dipped in cider is placed in the branches and a traditional song is sung. We're usually lucky enough to have friends who are folk singers and musicians at the wassail, so we've used a number of variations on traditional wassail songs over the 16 years we've been holding this annual celebration. But, in late 2019, I decided to try to find a really local wassail song and it was with great delight that I discovered one from Pembridge itself, and a personal, if tenuous, link back to some of the people involved in its survival.

Ella Mary Leather, author of *Folklore of Herefordshire* (first published in 1912) lived in Weobley. She knew Cecil Sharp and Ralph Vaughan Williams, both of whom went on folk song collecting forays with her here in Herefordshire. In 1909, in the Swan Inn in Pembridge, a Mr Dukes sang a wassail song to Vaughan Williams and Ella Leather, and the original manuscript written down by Vaughan Williams in the pub is now in the collection of the English Folk Dance and Song Society in London. I've been able to see a copy of it, and now we can sing a wassail song which had also been sung in Pembridge over a hundred years ago.

In the late 1960's, I worked part-time in the library at the English Folk Dance and Song Society, where I met both Vaughan Williams' widow, Ursula Vaughan Williams (then in her late 60s) and Maud Karpeles (probably over 90 by then) who had been Sharp's companion on many of his trips searching for traditional songs. I talked to both of them about song collecting – and now I just wonder if Pembridge came up in those conversations!

(Richard Goddard)

Official Re-Opening of Pembridge Bell Tower.

After much work - electrification of the clock and a new lighting system featuring illuminated boards which contain a selection of the iconic Pembridge photographs taken by John Bulmer for the first edition of the Sunday Times Magazine. There is also information on the separate bell towers of Herefordshire, bats and bells.

John Bulmer has kindly agreed to open the tower at 11.30 am, December 13th.

ALL WELCOME.

FOOD BANK. There is a collection point for donations to the Kington Food Bank in the church and at The Steppes. Please contact Jacqui Thomas on 01544 388471 for further information [regardin making a donation](#) or Rev. Anna Branston on 07777 692458 if you have a need for food from this service.

Diary

Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme Coffee Mornings:
Sat December 18th & Sat January 15th 10.30 - 12.00
Pembridge Village Hall.
Silver Foliage - talk by Gordon Malt
January 8th Pembridge Village Hall, 2- 4 pm

Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

Pembridge Film Nights

See pembridgefilmnights.org.uk or phone 01544 387571
Facebook.com/pembridgevillagecommunity
Sun 16 Jan - NOMADLAND
Sun 30th Jan - AMMONITE

Dear all, Many thanks again for your support and great ideas at last month's **Platinum Jubilee** meeting. Over the last few weeks the working group has looked hard at what is achievable, timely and affordable. We have tried to appeal to and be inclusive of the wider village community and different age groups as well as providing free events. Also, we have joined with the Pembridge Show in July next year to include some of the ideas which we couldn't fit within the Jubilee weekend. In addition we hope to involve the farming community and participants in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Tony Norman has kindly offered to act as Chair which will help us align with other Jubilee activities, where relevant, across the County.

We hope you like the look of the Event Outline below and would be grateful for any support to help us deliver a successful programme. Kind regards, The events4pembridge team.

Event Outline for 2nd-5th June 2022.

NOTE ITEMS IN ITALICS ARE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

'Always on' experiences for people to enjoy (in their own time) throughout 2nd-5th June 2022:

Scarecrow Competition (Collect sheet from Church, VH and local businesses and score the 'Crows'. Winner announced at BBQ on 5th)
Seven Decades of HMQ (Displays at the Primary School. School is holding a Children's Tea Party on Friday 27th May)
'Portrait of Pembridge in the last 70 years' (Video/Photo/Audio Exhibition at the Village Hall)
John Bulmer Photographs in Belfry
Old Chapel Gallery Exhibition
Green Canopy Planting (Linking in Bridget Rose and British Legion initiatives)
Open Gardens
Treasure Hunt/Village Trail (Collect form from Church, VH and local businesses, submit completed entries, winners announced at BBQ on 4th)
Listening Project/aural history
Village Walks (historic, British Legion and other)
Commemorative mugs/medallion/crisps
Photo competition over the 4 days, entries submitted by end June for judging/display as part of Photographic Class at the July Pembridge Show

DAY 1: Thursday 2nd June

2pm – Opening by LL Mr Edward Harley OBE on the Church Lawn, Jubilee Tapestry unveiling, *Dedicated Peal*, Planting of Village Jubilee Tree
3-5 pm '50's Themed Tea in the Church
6pm – Cocktail Competition at The New Inn, *Special Steak Night at The Red Lion*
8pm – *Music event e.g. 'Battle of the DJ's' (Activity and venue tbc, budget may be required)*

DAY 2: Friday 3rd June

2pm – Street Party (Fancy Dress) on the Church Lawn, *Classic Car displays* and *Fly past*
8pm – Ceilidh in St. Mary's Church (budget required, free to access)

DAY 3: Saturday 4th June

11am – Book launch of 'A Home for All Seasons' (part of larger festival of authors)
2pm – *Millennium Meadow Family Sports Events: e.g. Mixed Softball Cricket, Rounders, Penalty Shoot Out, Sack Races*
4pm – Tug o' War (e.g. *New Inn vs Red Lion*)
8pm – Concert in St. Mary's Church (budget required, small admission charge)

DAY 4: Sunday 5th June

11am – Jubilee Service in St. Mary's Church (Note this falls within the Festival of Pentecost)
2pm – Village BBQ *with Brass/Jazz band?* (budget required), Announce Scarecrow and Village Treasure Hunt competition winners (Give Certificates as prizes?)



Events Around and in The New Inn

Friday Dec 3rd – Christmas light switch on 6 pm - Mulled Wine, stalls, tea, coffee, mince pies and Father Christmas.

Monday, Dec 6th 7.30 pm – British Legion Christmas Draw.

Saturday, December 12th 8 pm Christmas Quiz. Please book a table.

Wednesday, December 22nd 8 pm - Carols Night with James Duffield.

Thursday, December 23rd 9 pm – Pub Christmas Draw - Lots of prizes!

Friday, December 24th 10.30 am – Hunt Meeting.

Sunday, December 26th 11 am – Morris Dancers + Mummer's Play.

Wednesday, December 29th 7 pm – Gin Tasting Evening. Please book a table.



Pembridge Parish Council

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

Wild in the Curl – A 5 year project improving water quality & wildlife on the Curl brook.

The Curl brook runs through Lyonshall via Weston and Marston, joining the river Arrow at the village green and its 6,000 acre catchment area has been a 5 year project involving local landowners to improve the water quality and wildlife. The catchment includes 25 farms with nine million chickens, two large Dairy farms, several Anaerobic Digester plants on the periphery as well as fruit, maize, potatoes, cereals, beef and sheep .

Throughout the five years sampling of the river quality has been taken by the group and as a result of the measures undertaken the project has recorded a 20% reduction in levels of phosphate in the water. This has been done by a variety of measures including fencing off the river from grazing stock, roof spans over silage and manure stores, separating dirty water, concreting stock yards ,planting clover cover crops with maize and working with Welsh Water on the leakages from Lyonshall sewage works.

At the last annual bird count in February over 18 of the farms, 1500 birds of 51 different species were recorded with 11 red listed and 8 amber listed – remarkable to have sufficient feed and shelter to support them in winter. Wildflowers, Moths, Butterflies, and other insects have also been surveyed. Electro - fishing has identified a healthy population of trout and other fish. Hedges and hundreds of trees, particularly the rare native black poplar and disease resistant Elms, have been planted. Wildlife cameras have filmed Barn Owls and at least five different Otters using the Curl and with the support of a Kingspan grant over 500 children have been able to have a better understanding of their local water and wildlife. The project which has been funded by Natural England is important to capture the good practice for the larger Lugg and Wye basins and the improvement in water quality.

Winter pressures on the highways.

The grit bins have been filled and the grit runs at times of freezing will include the A44, Milton to Pembridge, and Rhyse lane. As the freezing actions impact on the highways please report any potholes to

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlVfEewR-39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

More details in my monthly email update please contact me if you wish to be copied in. Roger

Parish Council News

Mowing Contract 2022 - 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

Grit bins and salt provision winter 2021

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 result in causing a danger to pedestrians and road users.

Annual Budget & Precept

Parish Council have reviewed the budget and precept requirement for 2022-23. 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 and toilet block. The precept was £24000 last year and will be held again this year with any extra funding provided from reserves.

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 event published, please visit the site and register with your email address.

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 15th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Wednesday January 19th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Leen Times

What a great time of year it has been on the farm. The weather has been good, the crops are in, the silage made, calves have been dropped and tups are in the fields - all within a stunning backdrop of Autumn colours.

We look forward with some trepidation - farmers are to be weaned off producing 'cheap food' and are to face the full glare of world production with all the trade 'deals' being agreed. We do this with massive inflation of feed, fertiliser, fuel and a universal shortage of labour, parts and transport. Maybe some farmers will be paid to plant more trees, hedges, wildflower meadows and allow fields to flood. Maybe people will pay the extra for food produced from those farms I wonder!



FLY AGARIC

However, 'we are where we are' and the natural world continues (although under considerable pressure). A large flock of Lapwings went over a few days ago - predictably just before the forecast of a change in the weather. A Peregrine has been spotted and the Salmon have been busy spawning in the Arrow. It has been a good year for late autumn fungi (although few field

mushrooms) with many different (and beautiful) Waxcaps showing in the meadows. However this picture of an emerging Fly Agaric is definitely the most 'Christmassy' one I have seen.

My little bit of Leen farm history: we have excavated field systems said to date back 4000 years.

2022 is the year of The Queen's Jubilee and it is her wish that there should be a 'Green Canopy' of trees planted. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

Pembridge Parish will play its part and as Parish Tree Warden I will try to encourage as many people to plant trees as possible. We will record any trees planted in 2022 (with extensions to cover the planting seasons at either end) in the parish and add them to the National total of trees planted.

Please tell me about any trees you plant in 2022 (from Nov 21 to March 23).

Would anyone like to plant a tree? We may be able to provide some - advice can be given - but most people will have to buy their own.

Has anyone got somewhere to plant a tree? Or, indeed, a wood? This is calling all land owners, farmers or those with large gardens.

There is a National shortage of trees - so please save any tree seedlings you find in the garden- put them carefully in a pot with plenty of soil, water them and let me have them.

Have a Great Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

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 - 5.00 pm 01544 388506 *Free Delivery*

The Pembridge Cafe

Mon - Sat 9 am - 4 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm

Pizzas Friday 5pm-7 pm

Pre-orders preferred 01544 388922 / 07812127156

Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

Click and Collect / Delivery system in place.

01544 388527 shop@townsendfarm.co.uk

Old Chapel Gallery

Wed - Sat: 11.00 am - 4.30 pm

Sun, Mon, Tues by appointment

www.oldchapelgallery.co.uk 01544 388842

Mobile Post Office

Mon 13.00 - 14.30 Thursday 15:30 - 16:30

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

Closed as from 19 September

AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION

The Cider Barn

Tel 01544 388161 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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