

# Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

June -July 2022

## So, How Old is the House?

Insurers like to know this sort of thing! The estate agent had suggested it was built in the 1800s but this seemed an under-estimate. So, the new owner said he would look into it.



Gavin Plumley truly embraced the challenge. First, he consulted the building expert Duncan James, who carefully examined the interior and noted that sapwood was used in the construction, making it unlikely it had been built as a home. The fireplaces were also a later addition as they were not of stone but brick. Originally it had been a one-storey building, before the roof was raised in the 17th or 18th century. Duncan thought that it had been a store room as it was next to the church and the market hall. Possibly the first floor was used for grain, the lower level for dairy and meat and the shallow loft for over-wintering apples on a bed of straw. What is now a garden was probably part of the original churchyard.

The next investigation was dendrochronology and a team from Nottingham University duly arrived but, after twenty minutes, decided that there were no suitable timbers for dating. Research in Pevsner and other history books likewise revealed little. Gavin visited the Hereford Archives and found a Tithe Map of Pembridge with all the fields numbered and an apportionment list for who owned what. This, and various census documents showed that the house had been owned by a family named Evans, then Rowlands, then Ruddle and in 1841 William and Sarah Harris were living there with their three children, all of whom were working as farm labourers, masons or dressmakers. After all this the insurers accepted a date of 1580, which tied in with neighbouring buildings.

But Gavin was too intrigued to stop researching and decided instead to extend his investigations and discover what life was like for the residents of Pembridge in 1580. Hard, was his conclusion. Roads were poor or non-existent

and twenty miles on horseback was probably the furthest you could expect to travel in winter. There was a huge disparity between rich and poor.

From 'Burgage Lists' he learnt that Pembridge was controlled by the Coningsby family of Hampton Court and income from the outskirts was gifted to the Devereux family (Earls of Essex). Sadly, the peasants were dispossessed all over Herefordshire by various enclosures, as the lords wanted hunting lands.

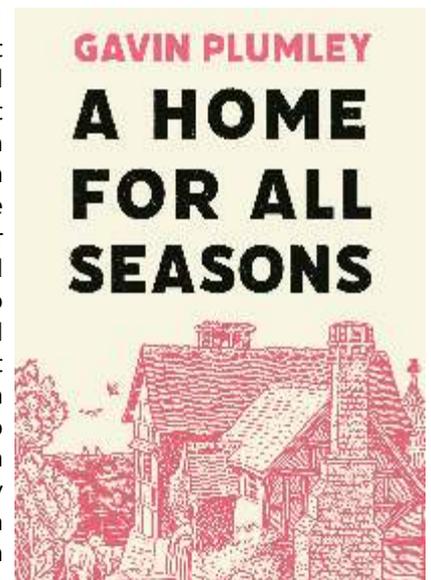
The Reformation stripped villages of further wealth. Henry VIII plundered the monasteries but his son, Edward VI, managed, in his brief reign, to divest every church of its valuables. There are lists, archived in Kew, which catalogue everything, including the weight of the bells. Pembridge was left with just one set of vestments, one chalice and one bell! The rood screen disappeared. Places of worship became drab and empty.

Then there was plague, with 1580 a particularly bad year. In the register for Births, Marriages and Deaths, Gavin found a baptism of two girls and then the burial of the same two girls the next day and, eleven days later, the funeral of one of their mothers. The population also endured the Little Ice Age, when temperatures plummeted and the summer (and harvest) never came – possibly due to volcanic activity in faraway Peru.

All this research has led to a book.

So, in Lockdown 1 came the first draft when two kind historian friends read it and gave Gavin 'warm but robust criticism'. In Lockdown 2 came the second draft. Another friend then introduced him to an agent who read it in ten days and agreed to represent him. During Lockdown 3 it was sent out to publishers with Atlantic Books quickly falling in love with Pembridge! They then started the editing

process and to Gavin's relief did not suggest any major changes. A copy-editor went through it line by line to search out any inconsistencies and grammatical errors. Next, it went to the printers and a first proof was scrutinised before a final version was sent to bookshops and festival organisers. Finally, Gavin had some input into the design of the cover with a choice of ten possibilities, and he is very happy with the result – even if it is not actually of Stepps House, the author's 'home for all seasons'!



## Diary

### **Pembridge Coffee Mornings:**

Sat June **18th** & Sat July **16th**

10.30 - 12.00 Pembridge Village Hall.

### **Hay Festival:**

John Bulmer and Billie Piper

Friday, May 27th 11.30 am

Gavin Plumley talks to Horatio Clare

Friday, June 3rd 8.30 pm

### **Pembridge Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:**

2- 5 June 2022 [www.events4pembridge.co.uk](http://www.events4pembridge.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/pembridgevillagecommunity](https://www.facebook.com/pembridgevillagecommunity)

### **Pembridge Village Hall Bookings**

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

### **Pembridge Film Nights**

See [pembridgefilmnights.org.uk](http://pembridgefilmnights.org.uk) or phone 01544 387571

[Facebook.com/pembridgevillagecommunity](https://www.facebook.com/pembridgevillagecommunity)

### **Hanging Basket Competition:**

This year, it would make the village colourful for the jubilee if everyone planted their hanging baskets and front of house in royal colours (red, white and blue or silver and purple). These will be judged in July with 1st prize £20, 2nd prize £15, 3rd prize £10 for hanging baskets and front of house.

## Falklands40

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict which many see as a turning point in our pride as a nation in our ability to defend our far flung borders with a typical military "can do" attitude. The putting together of a task force at very short notice.

The Pembridge branch of the Royal British Legion will commemorate the ending of the conflict 40 years ago on the **14th June** around the war memorial at 1400.

It has to be a small event as its a weekday and the A44 is a busy road but if you served then, know someone who served or were involved in some way, do join us. Some members of the branch will wear their berets, a sight we don't see often.

The beret is a very important thing to the military, is often hard won as many of you will have seen in the documentary on BBC i-player about the Royal Marine Commando (one of these will be worn on the 14th) hard won too are the sand coloured ones (probably kept quietly at home) and the maroon denoting the Paras. If you have a moment, Google "British Army berets" and see the 17 different colours. Incidentally the Tank regiment chose black to hide oil stains!

For more information about the 14th June - Graham Hudson 07770635897

## Jubilee Garden

You may remember how members of Pride in Pembridge met up with Pride in Brixham and were very impressed with their Brixham gardens. Well, this led to PiP looking for a suitable place to create a garden and spotting the overgrown area behind the back wall of the Red Lion. Clearly this had been a church garden judging by the daffodils, snowdrops and euphorbias but was sadly overgrown with weeds and snowberry bushes. With permission from the Church and the support of Cliff (Red Lion), many Thursday mornings were devoted to digging out the weeds and rubble, with snowdrops and daffodils preserved in pots for planting around the village. Once the ground was cleared, Catherine Janson, a professional garden designer, enthusiastically lent us her expertise and designed a planting scheme and sourced the plants at cost price. As this year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee it was decided to colour-scheme the garden in shades of purple and silver. All the plants were funded by PiP. Things are growing nicely and the ground is hoed and watered by PiP volunteers. This garden will be 'unveiled' on June 2nd by the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire.



**Catherine Janson organising the planting scheme for the Jubilee Garden.**

## Editor Vacancy - Technical Details:

As you will see from the Clerk's report, I have decided to stop editing the Pembridge Newsletter after six years. I had no desktop publishing experience when I started and was greatly helped by Bob Pearce, the previous editor – whose template I still use. He ensures that it reaches the printers in a perfect form and also deals with the advertising inserts. I would like to thank him for his patient tutoring over the last six years. I would also like to thank the many people who agreed to talk to me about their businesses, crops, books etc which occupied the front pages. It has been lovely meeting you all and I have found it very interesting. I use Serif Page Plus X8 and there is a starter edition free to download. I paid about twenty pounds for X8 as it came with an instruction manual. There appears to be an SerifPagePlusX9 version to buy (£41) but also a free download of X9. No expensive Office package is required as I also use Libresoft Office (free) for documents.

I will probably do the August-September newsletter, unless someone applies straight away, but the October-November edition will be in new hands. I am happy to talk to anyone who might be interested. It is a great way to increase your skill set, meet lots of people and find out what is going on!

# Pembridge Parish Council

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

## Pembridge 20 mph initial feedback

Before the 20 mph speed limit was introduced in Pembridge a seven day monitoring of speeds under the 30 mph was done in February. A further exercise was carried out just after the installation of the new limit and several other surveys will be done to evaluate the impact of the various measures as they are implemented.

The four locations are – in west street by the pump house not far from Suckley lane junction; East street by the Oak house; Bridge street near Bank house and Bearwood lane by Eishken. Clearly speeds on the edge of the limits will probably be higher but these sites will be consistently used by the council to understand better the impact of reducing speed limits - Figures are 85% percentile.

It is early days yet and we need to get all the figures by the end of the year but it does indicate that the new limit is having an impact although not everywhere; with some speeds not changing at all .

Feedback generally from residents is that the measure is positive and they look forward to the further installations. The Parish Council will be consulted on the new lining of Bridge street similar to the rest of the village later in the year.

Travelling Direction	Pre 20 mph	Post 20mph
Bridge Street ( North/ South)	33.3 mph/ 33.4 mph	28.5mph/ 31.4 mph
West Street ( East / West )	32.3 mph/ 31.3 mph	28.3 mph/ 31.4mph
East Street ( East / West)	33.4 mph/ 33.5mph	33.4 mph/33.5 mph
Bearwood Lane (East/West)	23.6 mph/ 23.4 mph	23.6mph/ 23.4 mph

## Turnpike Travellers site

As residents know the 6 pitch travellers site at Turnpike between Pembridge and Shobdon has been closed for some time and is in need of extensive repair and renewal. The council also has plans also to expand it to 10 pitches with a play area, and brought some plans to the parish council to consult on. Herefordshire council has changed these plans creating a new entrance on the Kingspan highway against local and my own recommendations. The planning application is out for public consultation.

## Parish Council News

**Parish Council Accounts 2021-22** The accounts for 2021-22 have been scrutinised by our official internal auditor and are due to be approved by Parish Council in readiness for submission to the external auditor PPK Littlejohn in June. The Parish Council would like to thank internal auditor Mrs Anne Pickup for her help and support checking the financial statement each year.

**Parish Magazine – Editor Vacancy** Would you have a few hours to spare to edit, produce and arrange print of the Pembridge Parish magazine? The Parish Council produces this magazine every two months, this task couldn't be done without the super work of our volunteer editor Judy Rogers. Judy has been editing the magazine for 6 years now and had decided it's time to hang up her hat to concentrate on other things. Many thanks Judy, your time and hard work is much appreciated.

If you are interested and have computer skills, time and imagination please contact the clerk: [clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Green Canopy Events** There will be a variety of events taking place in Pembridge for the Queens Jubilee 2nd – 4th June 2022. You will have all received a fantastic brochure of events. Please do pop along and join in to support some or all of the events. 70 years ago, Pembridge villagers would have been, sweeping, tidying and even scrubbing their frontages to celebrate the Coronation. Now it's our turn to get the village tip top to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 4th June.

## Report all highway or footpath issues straight onto the Herefordshire Council website

If you find a pothole or footpath problem anywhere in Herefordshire you can report it on Herefordshire Council website. 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](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk) and navigate through the transport and highways section.

## Footpaths

Now the growing season is upon us some landowners it is your responsibility to restore footpaths after sowing or ploughing. The path must be apparent within 24 hours of sowing/ploughing, 14 days if a new crop. Fields growing grass for pasture, silage or haymaking are exempt. The Parish footpaths officer's duty is by law to report any instances to the highways authority who will then make a case against the landowner. Members of the public are entitled (by law) to walk across any crop if they are following the line of the path.

## Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday June 15th - Parish Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday July 20th - Parish Hall 7.30pm

No planned meeting in August

# Leen Times

As I write (mid May), we have silage trailers bringing in the first crop of grass. We try to cut the grass when it is in full leaf and before the seed heads start to appear - that is when the protein and sugars are at their best. In about 5 weeks we shall do it all again – gradually building up a stock of food (silage) that will feed all our cattle over the winter. In the meantime these animals are gradually working their way around other fields, grazing. Some fields are managed differently - after an early grazing the grass may be left until late July for a hay cut. The grass and all those wild flowers will have had time to flower and many will have seeded before the hay is cut. The hay will be much lower feed value but will be ideal for horses or dry stock later in the year.



**Felicity Burge (a licensed bird ringer) putting a ring on one of the 3 young Dippers from one of the bird boxes erected by PIPS. Helpers: Sarah Cadwallader and Tony Norman.**

4 years ago the late John Petrie replaced the vandalised bird boxes on the bridge. Each year since, a Dipper has nested in one of them, with either a Grey Wagtail or a Blackbird often in the other. I can see a Pied Wagtail nesting from my desk and can thankfully hear the return of the House Martins and Swifts, although many fewer than previous years.

An incredible effort has gone into the various aspects of the 4 day Pembridge celebration of the Queens Jubilee Weekend. For my part I have been involved with The Queens Green Canopy parish tree planting which has seen over 2000 trees planted so far.

I am also leading one of the 'village walks' to have a look at some of our wild flower Meadows and hear about various local countryside matters.

**Friday 3rd of June 11 am** on The Village Green (about 2 miles).

I hope we have the weather to really enjoy all those other events as well - come along if you can.

Tony Norman [tony@theleen.co.uk](mailto:tony@theleen.co.uk)

## **Ye Olde Steppes Village Shop + Holiday Let**

Tues - Sun 9.00 am - 6 pm 01544 388506

*Free local 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](mailto:shop@townsendfarm.co.uk)

## **Old Chapel Gallery**

Wed - Sat: 11.00 am - 4.30 pm

Sun, Mon, Tues by appointment

[www.oldchapelgallery.co.uk](http://www.oldchapelgallery.co.uk) 01544 388842

## **Mobile Post Office**

Mon 13.00 - 14.30

## **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 329375

Sarah Cain is offering private hearing assessments, private dispensing of hearing aids and ear wax removal services

## **The Cider Barn**

Tel 01544 388161 [www.the-cider-barn.co.uk](http://www.the-cider-barn.co.uk)

## **The Red Lion**

Wed: Fish and Chips from 5 pm. Eat in or take out.

Thurs: Steak and Gammon Night from 5 pm

Booking essential - 01544 388007

## **The New Inn**

Traditional Pub hours - closed Tuesdays.

Tel: 01544 388427

**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 regarding making a donation or Rev. Anna Branston on 07777 692458 if you have a need for food from this service

## **Your Parish Councillors and contact details**

Cllr Garfield Evans - Chairman: [garfield.evans@gmail.com](mailto: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

Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN

[clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk)