

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

June - July 2021

The Phone of the Wind

When 70 year old garden designer Itaru Sasaki lost his much loved cousin in 2010, he came up with a unique way to assuage his grief. He built a white British-style telephone booth in his hilltop garden and placed in it a battered old Bakelite rotary phone, unconnected to any earthly telecom network. He then "talked" to his cousin.



'Because my thoughts could not be relayed over a normal phone line,' he told the Japanese Broadcasting Network, 'I wanted them carried on the wind.'

Sasaki was just finishing his project when a force 9.1 earthquake in the ocean triggered a huge tsunami and the coastal town of Otsuchi, above which he lived, was devastated by 30-foot waves. A tenth of the 16,000 inhabitants were confirmed dead or never accounted for.

Word of the "wind phone" gradually spread and survivors from all over Japan came to use this disconnected phone. They "talked" with their loved one, spoke of how much they

missed them; of what was going on in their lives; how they were feeling. They said the words they were never able to say on that fateful day. Now people come to talk to those who they have lost through other ways, such as suicide and accidents. In three years over 10,000 people have sought solace in this way.

So, what has this got to do with Pembridge?

Mina Nakamura from Feral Productions got in touch with Pembridge Parish Council and they directed her to Adrian Lomax from PiPs. They wanted to do some filming of telephone boxes and wished to use the Pembridge box. PiPs has added cleaning and painting the box to its list of jobs over the years. Filming was to take place on May 1st and so they cleaned it in readiness. (Painting will take place when the weather gets better.)

The project is called Last Call and has been born out of a collaboration with local Shropshire poet Jean Atkin, who has been photographing red phone boxes for some time. Feral Productions is a site-responsive company and the idea was put to the Courtyard Theatre who have subsequently commissioned it. Nine phone boxes were chosen within Herefordshire: Lower Maescoed, Abbey Dore, Vowchurch, Hereford, Holme Lacy, Bodenham, Weobley, Burrington and Pembridge. Jean was commissioned to write poems for them all. From the poems and from visiting the sites, Estelle van Warmelo (Artistic Director of Feral Productions) created tiny vignettes of a narrative and took them to a composer who uses field recording in her work (Ivor Novello Award nominee Sophie Cooper). The pieces were then developed into digital theatre with the film director Lisle Turner.

As Estelle writes: "Red telephone boxes are icons of the UK landscape. They represent something that's passing either as a mode of communication, a lifeline, the village hub. Some have been re-purposed as defibrillators, libraries and some are being devoured by ivy, as they rust and fade."

The story set in Pembridge is of an elderly gentleman seen three times on his daily routine. He walks to the phone box, dials, listens, puts down the receiver and walks away. On the third occasion it is revealed that he is ringing his own home number to listen to his answer phone so that he can hear his deceased wife's voice on the phone. 'I miss you Margaret,' he says.

The short films are due to be launched in July and after a socially-distanced premiere they will be available on-line. Hopefully a collection of the poems and photos will also be published. <http://www.feralproductions.org> @feralprods

Post-script:

On a very wet May 1st, Julian Measey, from Pips, went to see what was happening by the phone box. He saw a man walking slowly towards it. Julian walked towards the Steppes, holding his umbrella aloft and inadvertently stepping in front of the cameras.

'Cut!'

Diary

Sunday July 11th

A group of about 23 cars (1929-1934 Morris Minors) should be departing from the start point at Titley Village Hall at about 9.15 am and following a route via Wapley Hill and Shobdon to join the road past Kingspan and into Pembridge. The cars will probably arrive in **Pembridge 9.30 – 9.45 am** with a possible departure time of 10 - 10.15 am with the next stop being at Weobley.

Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

Pembridge Film Nights

See pembridgefilmnights.org.uk or phone 01544 387571

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.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME COFFEE MORNINGS

It was hoped that the Pembridge Coffee mornings would start again in June but we have decided to wait until restrictions become clearer. We do hope that we will be able to commence again in July so please look out for our signs. It will be lovely to get together once again.

Pat Stokes

New Inn

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 11 am – 2.30 pm then 6 pm – 11 pm

Tues: Closed Lunchtime. Then 6 pm – 10 pm

Thurs: 11 am – 2.30 pm + Thirsty Hour: 5 pm – 11 pm

Sun: 11 am – 3.30 pm then 7 pm – 10.30 pm

Pembridge Show

Unfortunately we had to cancel this year's show due to the pandemic. The next show will be our 80th and we will try to make it special. We have over 100 classes in the exhibit marquee and would like lots of entries. We will publish the list of classes early in time for you to grow your plants, do your knitting, sewing, art, etc.

Next year's show is on Saturday July 30th 2022

This year we will be holding our **"Best Hanging Basket"** and **"Best Front of House as seen from the pavement"**. You don't have to enter, the judges will just walk through the village as any visitor would. If you haven't much space try a hanging basket or a planted container. It really cheers the village up. The results will be published later. Thank you.

Julie Mifflin

Playground / Outdoor Gym Funding Application:

We have received the following from the lottery funding

Why we can't fund your project:

Many organisations tell us about the ideas they'd like us to fund - and lots of them are really worthwhile. But we only have a certain amount of funding to give away so we have to make some tough decisions around which ones to take forward. We've decided not to take your proposal further right now because the project does not fit with our local priorities as well as others we have received.

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about your proposal

We know it takes a lot of effort to come up with a project to help your community thrive. We appreciate you taking the time to tell us about it. Funding Officer Herefordshire

The Pride in Pembridge Playground sub-group will be meeting soon to see how we can obtain funding for improving the scope of the playground, replacing worn equipment and creating an outdoor gym. Obviously we are very disappointed by this decision and will try to discover just why our project does not fit local priorities. Anyone with any fund-raising experience willing to assist please contact Councillor Philip Rogers.

Marking the Centenary of the Royal British Legion – 15th May 2021



On Sunday 15 May 1921, a wet and dreary day, a small number of ex-Servicemen walked to the Cenotaph war memorial in London's Whitehall. As Big Ben struck nine, four men representing societies that for three years had been rivals laid a wreath at the base of the memorial. On that wreath were the badges of the four organisations that would officially amalgamate to form the British Legion.

This moment was the starting gun for the Royal British Legion we know today. By Christmas of 1921 the ranks of the organisation had swelled to include 2,500 branches across the country, as well as overseas. These were the groups around which the armed forces community rallied after the First World War. They made change happen, fund-raised during the Poppy Appeal, provided welfare locally and became the foundations for what has become the UK's largest Armed Forces charity.

100 years later on another dank and dreary day at 0900 on 15th May 2021, wreaths were laid in Pembridge, Shobdon and Staunton on Arrow war memorials to commemorate the work of the Legion and to thank the past and present members, and the communities around Pembridge that so generously contribute to the continuing work of the Legion. The Branch punches well above its weight in terms of donations and characterful personalities, and membership is open to everyone, not just ex-service personnel. We welcome new members enthusiastically. If you would like to participate in any of our forthcoming events please contact Graham Hudson Vice Chairman for a chat and more information 07770 635897. Lt Col (Retd) Bridget Rose

Pembridge Parish Council

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

Covid grants to Herefordshire Herefordshire Council has received over 20 million pounds from the government to cover the additional revenue costs regarding Covid during 2020/21, for compensation towards lost income, providing PPE, outbreak control activities including enforcement, school transport, food and emergency assistance, accommodation costs for rough sleepers etc .

Over 21,200 government grants, totalling just over £100m to businesses, including some charities and holiday lets, have been distributed by the council. Nearly 2,000 businesses have had help with their business rates.

The council received grants of just over £1m to help households struggling to pay council tax, have distributed over £5m to care homes and care providers and also to nearly 300 people required to self-isolate under test and trace rules. Can I encourage individuals and businesses struggling with Council tax or businesses rates to get in touch with the council to see if they can help. When you realise this has been what has been spent in Herefordshire alone, it gives you some idea of the degree of financial cost of this pandemic to our nation and the burden around our necks for decades to come.

20 mph village speed limit There were 10 responses to the public consultation on the proposed speed limit included the Parish Council and my own support. There was one objector who considered restricting parking and banning HGVs would be a better solution. However, the proposed scheme compliments the recent carriage relining, centre line removal and parking is limited in the village due to carriage width variations. Banning HGVs might be desirable but there are no easy and practical alternatives. I will continue to push for the installation of this speed limit which is the first village in Herefordshire to be considered.

Planning applications The planning department is struggling at the moment to deal with applications despite the moratorium on new house building and extensions in the Lugg catchment area. I recommend that, unless your application is simple, you pay for pre-application advice from the planning department who will also be making the decision. It is a costly process but can save time and money in the long run. The council has brought forward a potential phosphate calculation to ease and lift the moratorium

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/2039/development-in-the-river-lugg-catchment>

Parish Council News

Parish Council Accounts 2020-21 The accounts for 2020-21-19 have been scrutinised by our official internal auditor and approved by the 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.

News At the recent Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Garfield Evans was elected as chairman and Andrew Pace as vice chairman for the coming year. The Parish council confirmed its eligibility for the general power of competence by having more than two thirds elected councillors and a qualified clerk. The Parish Council now has the power to act just as an individual might within the legal framework.

Footpaths Now the growing season is upon us it is the landowners 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.

The Knife Angel visits Hereford The Knife Angel will be situated outside the West End of Hereford Cathedral from 14 June to 12 July. The sculpture is 27ft tall, it weighs 3.5 ton and is made out of 100,000 confiscated knives received from 43 Police Forces across the UK. It originated from The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry and took sculptor Alfie Bradley over two years to construct.

Herefordshire Council Consultations Have your say on the local housing strategy for Herefordshire. Monday 4 May to Friday 11 June 2021



<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/57/draft-local-housing-strategy-consultation>.

Parish Council Meetings During the COVID pandemic the Parish Council has been allowed to meet virtually, which has been very successful. From June 2021 with the easing of restrictions, the Parish Council will meet in the Village Hall again. Obviously social distancing still applies, The Parish Council are classed as a group but it will still need to comply with the rule of 6 for members of the public.

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday June 16th - Parish Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday July 21st - Parish Hall 7.30pm

No planned meeting for August

Leen Times

Farmers are smiling (almost!) at the moment with a good market for beef, lamb, milk and cereals, but, we still have plenty to moan about with the weather (of course), the price of feed/fuel/whatever or disease. April was an extraordinary month - dry and cold and with a frost almost every night meant the grass hardly grew, so we grazed off far more fields than we wanted to. We did manage to get a cut of silage (which hardly filled the store). That just gave time to spread fertiliser (in our case Digestate) on the grass before the rain started - and now it never seems to stop! Hopefully we will get a better cut next time round.

We have faced another TB test with all our cattle having not just the normal 'skin' test but also a blood test to hopefully finally take out the last little bit of infection from our herd. It's a massive job, taking 10 people a full 12 hours work each to do those tests (as well as the milking and everything else) with the prospect of a similar day later in the week to do the 'readings'. Sadly, we have had more cases - so more animals go to slaughter and it is just 60 days until we have to go through the whole rigmarole again - it's a tough call for everyone involved.

Spring has sprung with the usual events keenly awaited - frogs spawning.. Primroses and violets...Sand martins then Swallows, Swifts and finally the Pied Flycatcher arrives. I heard the Cuckoo and all the other birdsong.. Saw Cherry and Blackthorn blossom, then the Hawthorn.. A swarm of bees!.. Buttercups out.. Incredible Apple blossom



Early Purple Orchid

... brood of Cygnets and other birds... and finally the brilliant blue crown (or carpet) of Bluebells with some 'jewels' of Campion, Yellow Archangel and very occasionally the Early Purple Orchid:

Wildlife News: I counted 60 nests in the farm Rookery - up from 54 last year. Red Kites are nesting nearby. The 'Wildflower Meadows' encouraged over the last few years seem to be heading for more 'flowers' than ever. Brook Lampreys spawning in some numbers. Brimstone

butterflies and day flying moths appear to be more numerous. Watch an Otter family taken by one of our cameras -

<https://youtu.be/0oal8pglZVI>

It looks as if 'Ash Dieback' is really starting to take hold. The Ash trees gradually become brittle and steadily lose their branches. This has become a constant hazard and a danger to so many people. I have no hesitation in pointing out (again) that these trees are the responsibility of their owners. Those trees adjacent to Highways, Footpaths, electricity/phone lines should be carefully inspected and removed, if necessary, but any Ash tree may pose a danger. Ideally, of course, it would be good to see them replaced with saplings. As your Parish Tree Warden - I would be happy to look at any tree that may give concern.

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 Steps

Mon - Sat 9.00 am - 6.00 pm 01544 388506 *Free Delivery*

The Pembridge Cafe

Mon - Sat 9 am - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm

Pizzas Fri, Sat, some Sundays 5-8 pm

Pre-order preferred 01544 388029 / 07900102154

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 Saturdays. 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 - Sat Evenings 7 pm and Sunday lunch 12 pm

01544 388029 or 07900 102154

The Cider Barn

Tel 01544 388161 <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

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Cllr David Owens 388422

Cllr Wendy Powell 340341

Cllr Philip Rogers 387976

Cllr Phillip Thomas 388457

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Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Bissell

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