

From Ken Isaac on finding the Pembury History web site in December 2013

Hi

I have just hit your website whilst looking for old family references

I was born in (1947) and raised in Pembury. My Grandfather was William Hills who had the High Street Butchers & Graziers. We had land behind the shop to graze cattle before they were slaughtered. It included a large strawberry patch that is my very first memory, as a toddler, running naked and eating strawberries to go and see the cows. Frank Standen was my uncle(worked for Betts in Henwood Green/Romford road) and was probably related to Mary, his sister? I believe Christine Standen is still with us. Christine, Mary and Stan used to live at 58 Canterbury Road, right opposite Frank Sturgeons Coal yard

I lived in Maidstone road and I can confirm that the shop in Church road was Withers from at least 1954 to 64 Mother worked for Frank Holden?, for a while, who owned the Woodsgate swimming pool and I enjoyed many, many days there. Then in the Night Club which was still going in 1964/5 probably later, and encompassed all of the area under the sun terrace. Wasn't that terrace a fabulous venue for girl watching! But the tarred surface could get a bit hot! I seem to remember that after the Square Deal Transport Café closed, (best fry up in Kent!), that Woodsgate Pool opened their Cafeteria to attract this trade and extended their car park. Could this have been the time that they opened the Night Club as that was definitely open all year and it would have made sense to have the café open for transport all year

Ref 50 the PO and Grocers at the junction of Church Road and Maidstone Road, it was owned by the Reads from 1966 who bought it from the Beeching family. I used to earn a few pennies from them tidying the store shed to the left of the shop. Woe betide me if I burnt boxes on a Monday as Mrs Beeching had an old copper in the back garden to do the washing and nothing must smut her laundry. You could also return Tizer and corona and lemonade bottles for a penny

Circa 1954 - 58 does anyone remember the Fencing wood yard behind the Royal Oak, Lower Green Road that would sell young lads barrow loads of offcuts, on a Saturday, for 6d to 1/3d(depending on cart size). I did a great trade in Maidstone Road and Stonecourt Lane. But heaven help me if I strayed into Church Road as there were 3 or 4 other lads doing the same

R Clarke and Son were definetaly in business from before 1958 till at least 66. Ron ran off with a young lady from Elmhurst Road about 1964 but his wife Yvonne soldiered on. I was their "Butchers boy" from 1958 to 1964 and many will have fond memories of me riding round the village on a double basket bike with a small front wheel. Especially one Angela Goulden whose parents lived in Camden Court where her mother was warden, and used to enjoy riding round the top of the village with me, by sitting in the front basket! Don't worry I transferred all the meat left to the back! There were 3 butchers in Pembury then, all with boys, but now I understand that there are none.....what price progress?

I was a choirboy at The Old Church from 1954 - 1958 under choirmaster Capt. Fricker from Maidstone Road and the vicar "Wizbang" Whiswell and occasionally Rev Edwards filling in. The girls from Kent College used to almost fill the left hand

side. In the latter part of my choir career I used to ring the 4 bells... Oh such pride. Once in a while we would sing for services at "The Tin Tabernacle" opposite the Royal Oak. A horrible small green corrugated roof church. I stopped my choir career when I hit the gravel outside the waterworks at the bottom of Roly Hill whilst biking to church and needed 24 stitches and a trip to the iniquitous Pembury Hospital Huts. What on earth has happened to Roly Hill? The bottom of Church Road now just seems to end in an earth bank!

It was a small world as Capt. Fricker(was it Ronald?) was also my woodwork teacher, helped run the CCF and was organist at Judd School, Tonbridge where I ended my schooling.

Ah but Pembury School, such fond memories. Mr Ivor Beynon and his wife taught along with deputy head Mr Armstrong and Mrs Doig and Mrs Thresh or Thresher. For a short time there was a Mr Sanders or Sanderson who taught us how to make fabulous paper airplanes to a design I still use with the grandchildren today. As for Mrs Beynons cane basket weaving wow we were good!

She even allowed four of us to perform our Skiffle Group in class time. Mrs Doig was not my favourite as she once took me to those infamous cold water sinks and made me wash my mouth out with soapy water after saying a bad word! The Beynon's son Richard went to Judd with me and last contact I had he was a London solicitor.

I joined the Cubs in 1954 and then the Scouts and as Dad was Scoutmaster from 55 - 60 went on a few Scout Camps with the "big boys" including the 1956 World Jamboree in Sutton Coldfield. Both Cubs and Scouts used to meet in the Village Institute and the scouts also had a summer meet and storage in a building at Rev Whiswells vicarage off Hastings Road(right beside Postillions).

When one starts the fond memories flood back but perhaps this is enough and I hope it jogs some other memories

Regards

Ken Isaac