
PEMBURY

LARKFIELD HALL

Larkfield has been part of the Pembury Parish since 1961 but for all that time it has been a community on its own and it is possible that many are unaware of Larkfield Hall's existence, let alone its purpose. It is felt that the self-imposed isolation of Larkfield Hall should end and that there should be more contact between us so that we may enjoy the experience of and benefit from helping each other.

What is Larkfield Hall? It is a residential home where at present some thirty-five mentally handicapped young men have permanent homes for life. Historically Larkfield Hall commenced life in 1927 at Larkfield, near Maidstone, hence the name, and in 1961 moved to Cornford Lane, Pembury where it occupied some 180 acres of pasture land and woodland. At that time the number of residents was less than twenty but two quite different circumstances brought about changes involving a development which is now coming to fruition. The farm was too large for the young residents at Larkfield Hall to manage and there existed (and there still exists) a tremendous demand for more places. We couldn't resist the appeals for help and so the decision was made to sell off part of the farm lands and utilise the money to build more houses so that our numbers could be increased, and at the same time rid ourselves of any vestige of institutionalisation.

We have provided craftrooms for weaving, pottery, woodwork, jewellery-making and painting. All these activities go on at Larkfield Hall, and they have therapeutic value. We hope shortly to have a few animals, these, with the vegetables supplied from our gardens, will greatly ease the daily running costs, but more important, the work involved provides

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OCTOBER 1975

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the residents with the all important sense of being useful, more particularly of being wanted. Perhaps a development such as ours never ends, we are certainly approaching the end of a phase. At present our residents are all young men; our community, like any other, will be better balanced when our places are filled by some young ladies, who will be able to help with the laundry, and cooking etc.

Cornford Farm provides Larkfield Hall with an ideal setting, there Larkfield Hall has its own boundaries and there is the peace and tranquility, which is also important. Our residents cannot cope with the hustle and bustle of everyday life; televisions and 'pop sessions' and the like are not for them, but they do enjoy other peoples company, as I have already said, they need to be wanted.

We have an **OPEN DAY** on Sunday 2nd November, to which you are most welcome. Why not come along then, or indeed at any time, to meet us, to see what we are doing and experience for yourself the pleasure which even a simple 'Hello, how are you' said to one of our young men will give to both you and him.

O.R. Fryer
(Council of Management)

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"YOU CAN TAKE A HORSE TO WATER ETC.ETC."

Postscript

We are pleased to say that as a result of our note in our newsletter No. 6 in connection with the drinking trough on the village green we understand that the book 'Foxe's Book of Martyrs' has been located in the Tunbridge Wells Public Library but has to be specifically asked for as it is not on loan.

COUNCIL CHANGES

The Council regrets that two more Councillors have had to resign due to other commitments - Mrs. Diplock has been replaced by Mr. B.D. Walsh of 43 Herons Way, Tel.No: 3840. Mr. Bruce our well known local butcher has been replaced by Mr. R.F. Oxley of 1, Westway, Tel.No: 3814. These vacancies have been filled by public advertisement followed by voting for all applicants by the present Council members. If anyone is interested at all in the work of the Council and wishes their name to be considered should any further vacancies arise before the election in May next year of a fresh Parish Council, please contact the Clerk, Mr. Henry Plant, 16 The Coppice, Tel No: 3459.

FOR YOUR DIARY

October 27th	Council Meeting
October 31st	Wine & Cheese Party
November 24th	Council Meeting
December 15th	Council Meeting
January	Council Meeting

Pembury Village Fete Committee have organised a cheese, wine & pate party. Tickets 50p from Pembury 2779. Date: Friday, October 31st, 1975
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Place: Roman Catholic Hall,
Lower Green Road.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

COMMUNITY CENTRE PROGRESS REPORT

Since the last Public Meeting at which the Community Centre Council was given authority to proceed with the eventual building of a new centre on land at the rear of the Recreation Ground there has been considerable progress towards this end.

The T.W.B.C. has been approached regarding purchase of the site, the District Valuer has made his recommendation and the purchase price has been agreed. The sum involved is within the amount budgeted by the Parish Council for the purchase of a site.

The site has been surveyed, ground levels taken, trial hole dug and inspected, availability of sewers checked and approximate costs of connection assessed.

Outline plans have been prepared for the overall and stage - by - stage development of the site using an industrialised building system.

Application has been made to the K.C.C. and D.O.E. for grant aid towards the project in the 1976/7 Financial Year.

A committee has been formed to co-ordinate and organise fund-raising activities throughout the village and it would be most helpful if anyone who wishes to hold any sort of activity no matter how large or small would contact John Goulder so as to ensure that there is no duplication of effort. (TEL:Pembury 3187). The main purpose of the village Fete next year will be to raise funds for the centre.

The Community Centre Council has been enlarged to include members representing both Woodhill Park residents and residents from West Way and Ridgeway.

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OUR PARISH OF PEMBURY

(With acknowledgements to Mr. R.L. Fagg
a past Chairman of the Parish Council)

The earliest origins of local administrative units known as Parishes can be traced back to the seventh century, but the earliest evidence we have about our own suggest that there was a village of Pepenbury (later, Poppingbury) here in the 11th Century.

The Local Government Act of 1894 transferred the Civil functions of the Church Vestries and other duties and certain appointed offices such as overseers, to the newly formed Parish Council, and the first meeting of Pembury Parish Council was held in the Pembury Board School on the 1st January 1895. At that time the 9 members of the Council laid the foundations to an effective and sound local government in the village, and when they met again 10 days later Committees were set up covering sanitation, recreation, allotments, foot-paths and rights of way, and charities and property.

Since that date the Council has consistently kept the village in the forefront of progress exercising its powers and responsibilities to the full as they have increased in number and widened in scope in the interests of the Parishioners. These functions now include, in addition to those named above the provision and maintenance of General Recreation Grounds free burial grounds, public street lighting, bus shelters, a village hall and a village green. It acts on your behalf generally in negotiation with the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the County Council and if occasion arises with Central Government Departments. It appoints members to the Board of Management of Pembury County Primary School and also to the Amhurst Trust Charity Trustees, It also has two representatives attending the Kent Association of Parish Council Meetings and the joint liaison Parish Council Committee of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The Parish Council meets at the Dower House, Pembury generally on the fourth Monday of each month. The meetings commence at 8p.m. and are open to the public. The Annual Parish Meeting or assembly is held during March each year

and is open to all local electors and residents to hear a report on the work of the Council during the year and to discuss the affairs of the Parish generally. It is only in this tier of Local Government that such facilities are made available to the electorate by statute. Pembury has elected two members to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, but from next May it will hopefully be entitled to a representation of three reflecting its greatly increased size and problems that have arisen because of this, over the last 10 years. Pembury together with the villages of Brenchley, Matfield, Capel, Tudeley, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst and Paddock Wood is represented by a single Councillor on the Kent County Council, but this is also under review at the time of this Newsletter. In Parliament Pembury forms part of the Royal Tunbridge Wells constituency and Patrick Mayhew is our local M.P.

The population of our village has exploded during the last 10 years and we expect it to increase beyond the present 6,000 in view of the Planning permissions for houses already granted and not yet started. The rapid increase in the last decade is bringing very grave problems to our village and it is for this reason that Your Council is undertaking a village appraisal to put our case as strongly as possible to the Kent County Council. You will find a separate report on 'Pembury 2000' on the back page of this newsletter.

The Parish Council has no statutory powers in development planning matters but has to be notified by law of all the planning applications made to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council within its own area. The Parish Council Planning Committee comments on all these applications and is at the present time in the middle of a series of meetings with Councillors and officials of the Tunbridge Wells Council in an effort to stop any further residential building.

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1ST QUESTIONNAIRE

130 questionnaires were returned to Mr. Betts and these have now been analysed and reported at the Parish meeting on June 30th. The overriding impression from reading these is that you do not want any further expansion of the village and that time must be given for everyone to try and settle down and work together to form a proper community.

PARISH MEETING

The Council were pleased to see that well over 100 people attended this first 'Pembury2000' open meeting and a full record was taken of it and will prove invaluable when all the final documents are prepared. As promised the Council will have a second meeting when the appraisal findings are ready but it is not possible to give you any date at the time of this newsletter.

WORKING PARTY

As a result of this Parish meeting a working party has been set up with interested villagers and this has provided four groups of people studying separate aspects of the future of the village. The subjects under study are as follows:-

a). A detailed questionnaire on a house to house basis to supplement the information given in the first questionnaire with the aim of providing as much factual information as possible to support the recommendations that the appraisal will contain.

b). A detailed record of all the buildings of architectural or historic interest already listed officially, together with those which the study group feel should be added to this listing. In addition a record of the tree preservation orders is being made and a survey of the shops in the village has been done.

c). A survey of all the transport and statutory services (gas, water, electricity, telephones) serving the village is being prepared to again form background to the appraisal's recommendations.

d). A record is being made in map form of all the planning applications which have been approved but not yet started together with the important applications which have been refused.

It is of vital importance to the future of the village that this appraisal is firstly based on as many facts as possible and secondly reflect as far as possible the wishes of everyone in our village.

Langton has already completed their appraisal as have Bidborough, but these are much smaller communities than ourselves.

HELP is urgently required to complete these study groups work and if you can help in any way please contact any of the Parish Councillors who will put you in touch with the right person.

If you want to have a say in the way that our village is going to develop NOW is the time to do it. It will be of very little use complaining in future years about lack of action if we do not take this opportunity now that has been presented to us, and use it to the full.

(Ring Pembury 3406 or 2779)

PLEASE HELP TO MAKE PEMBURY A
REAL COMMUNITY ONCE AGAIN.

