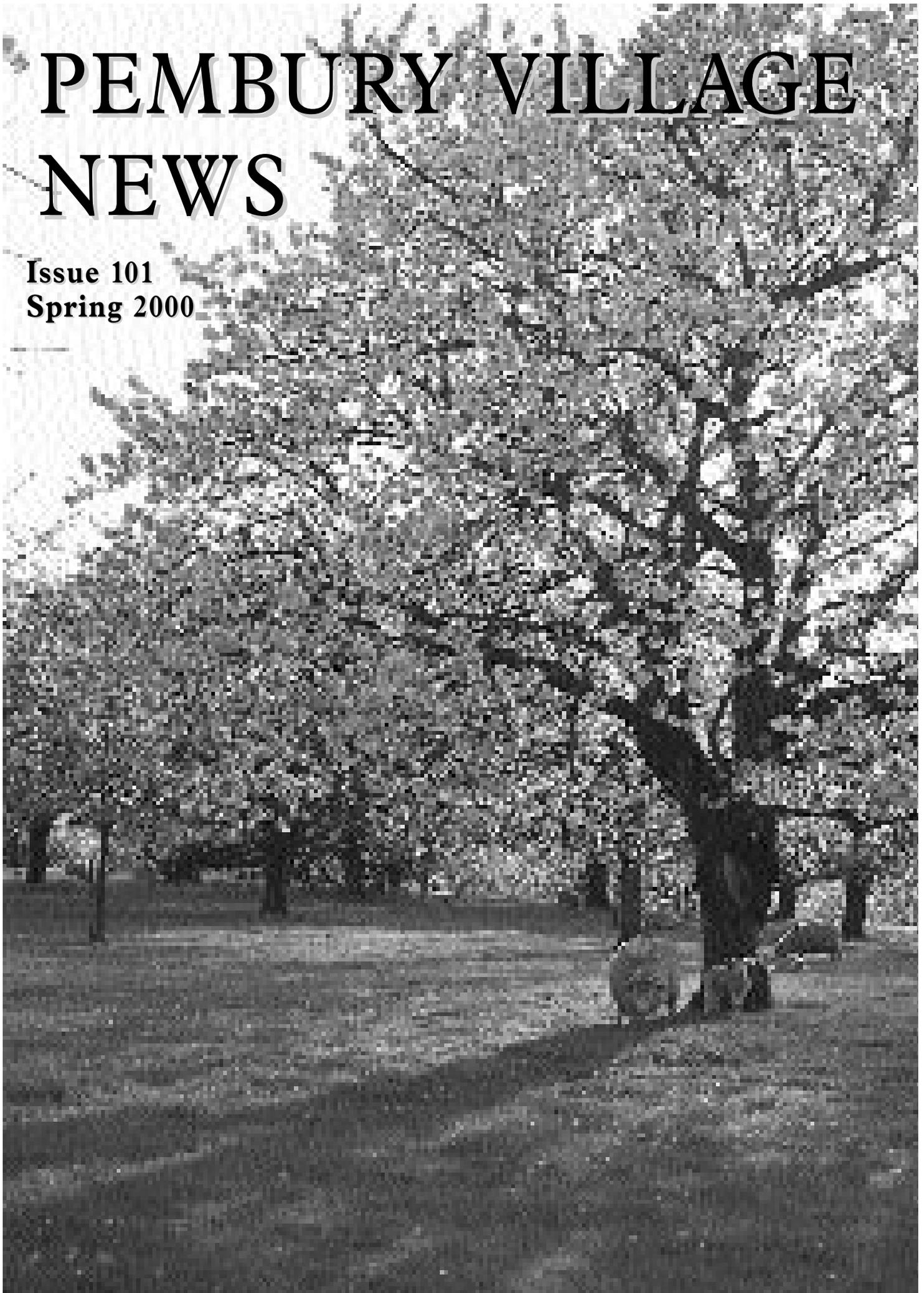


PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 101
Spring 2000



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Cover photograph by courtesy of David Sellman

Editorial Working Group:

Alison Morton (Editor), Paul Barrington-King, Brian Horgan,
Gill Matthews, Henry Plant and Betty Roberts

Souvenir Edition No. 100 Winter 1999

We must apologise! We discovered that a few of these had pages missing and/or duplicated. Please let the Editor know and we will get a replacement to you.

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

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PEMBURY 2000 MUGS GIVEN TO PUPILS AT PEMBURY SCHOOL

ON MONDAY 13 December 1999 a group of visitors were treated to some beautiful singing from the children at Pembury School. Councillor Sarah Clarke, Chairman of Pembury Parish Council, Councillor Alison Morton, Vice Chairman of the Public Relations Group and Mrs Barbara Russell, Clerk to the Parish Council, were welcomed to the school by Mrs Christina Lundberg, Deputy Headteacher and by Paul Vaughn, the Chairman of the Governors.

The special occasion was to mark the presentation to each girl and boy at the school with a Pembury 2000 mug. Representatives from each class – a girl and a boy – were greeted by Councillor Clarke and presented with a mug each. They also received a huge cardboard box containing all the mugs for the rest of their class!

Councillor Clarke explained the significance of the Millennium and asked the children to make a Millennium wish each, to write it down and send it via their class teacher and Mrs Lundberg to Councillor Morton who would then publish a selection of them in the Pembury Village News.



From left to right: Cllr Mrs Sarah Clarke (Chairman, Pembury Parish Council), Emily Jones, Mrs Mary Roe and Oliver Collard

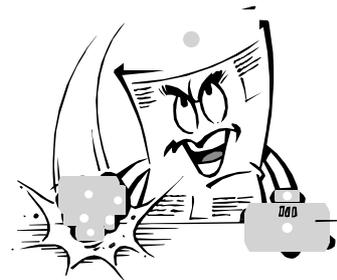


From left to right: Peter Vaughn (Chairman of Governors), Luke Donoghue, Miss Rachel Ward and Hannah Chatsfield-Timms

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

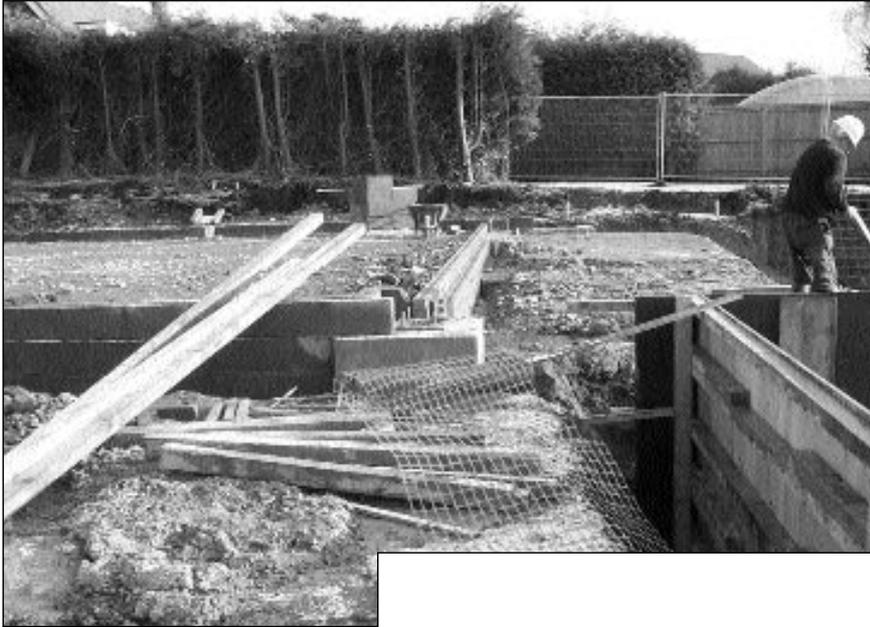
*Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this magazine must be forwarded to the new Editor before
1st May 2000.*

If you use a computer to type your article, it would be extremely helpful if you could send it in on disk. If you do not have a disk, we can supply you with one.



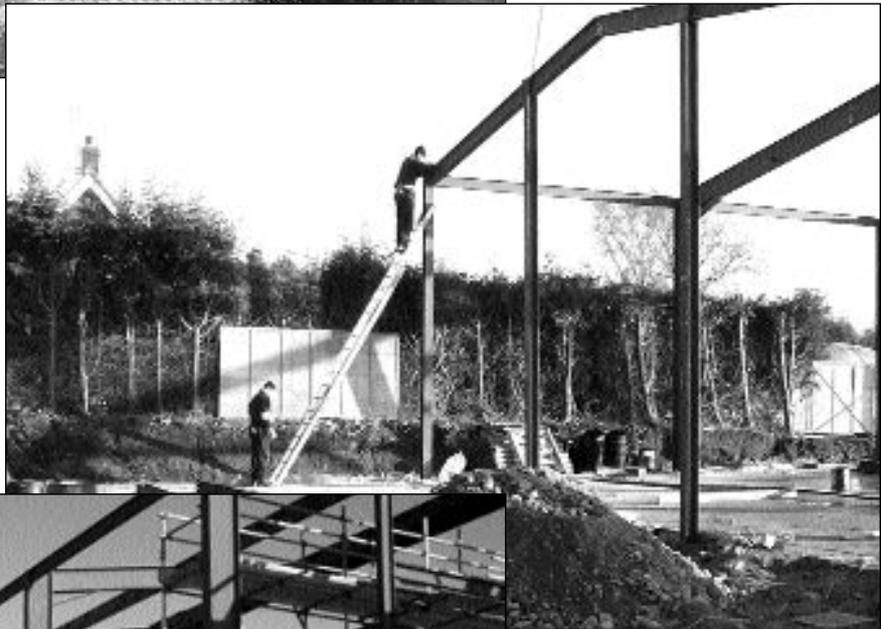
VILLAGE HALL PROJECT 1999-2000

What comes down, must go back up!



December 1999

January 2000



February 2000

WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

The New Village Hall – A Chartered Builder’s View

Our Managing Director, noticing an article within the local press indicating the initial intention of the Pembury Parish Council to replace the existing timber framed building with a prestigious new Village Hall, wrote indicating our willingness to be involved with the project and offering any assistance that we may be able to give at that time.

Some initial help was given in the approximate setting out of the proposed building and as things progressed, in budgeting, to enable funding bids to be made.

Upon confirmation of funding we were pleased to be invited to submit, in competition, a tender for the works.

We had no hesitation in accepting this invitation; after all, we had a sound client, a respected local architect and quantity surveyor and a reasonably straightforward, good quality, traditionally constructed building around a portal frame, of which we have had experience in the past, situated close to our Tunbridge Wells base. Good access was available, although the site would be rather cramped for storage of materials and access during the phases constructing the building envelope, which when fully completed would create an important building within Pembury Village.

A decision to tender was made – Yes – Grade A status – Pull all the stops out to be as competitive as we prudently can – we want this job.

Pre-tender Programme, Method Statements assisted our Estimators to build up, along with the cost of materials, labour etc., our tender figure for submission and consideration with others. Our bid is made, let’s trust we will be selected.

The Client’s decision is made, we are the successful contractor, the Client confirms his funding, we are appointed as the Principal Contractor for the works, which started upon the 22nd November 1999.

In our opinion the works have gone reasonably well to date, with the groundwork largely complete, the portal frame up and the superstructure brickwork in hand.

We look forward to successfully completing these works within the Village of Pembury for the use and enjoyment of the people of Pembury.

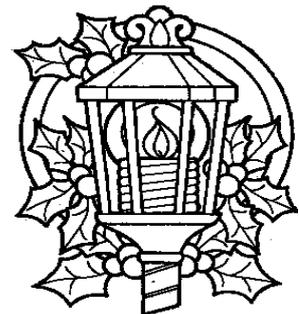
We are motivated by the fact we are a long established local construction company, working as a team with a local Architect and Quantity Surveyor for a local community. We all expect to be here for years to come. We look forward to a satisfactory outcome for the project of which we can all be justly proud.

John Jarvis Ltd.

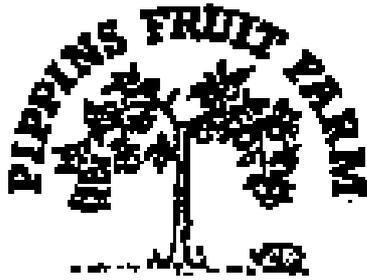
CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

MANY THANKS to all those who worked to make the Christmas lights so effective. Our special thanks go to Peter Byers and Graham Smith who gave up a lot of time and whose professionalism contributed so much to the success of the scheme.

Hugh Boorman



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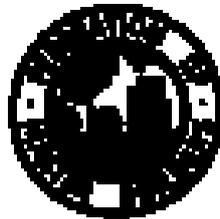
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PEMBURY QUIZ NIGHT

THE SCOUTS AND GUIDES ran an excellent quiz night on 21 January at their headquarters; it was well-organised, entertaining and, above all, great fun. Thirty-two teams from many different village groups and organisations took part and the rivalry was strong, but very friendly.

Chris Woodward, quizmaster, kept everybody in order(!), putting the questions clearly while keeping up a friendly patter in between. There were individual rounds on 'Pot Luck', 'Guess the Singer', 'Romance', 'Food & Drink' and 'Odds & Ends' with a 'Guess Who' photo sheet and an international registration marks quiz sheet on top. Two spot prizes were won by the Nomads and Pembury Short Mat Bowls teams.

With proceeds from the quiz itself and the raffle, nearly £300 was raised during the evening which was donated to the Village Hall Building Fund. The winners' cup went to the team from Pembury Parish Council, who were very surprised and delighted that they had won! They received a cash prize of £200 which they donated to the Village Hall Building Fund.

All praise must go to the Scouts and Guides, who not only planned the event but kept the whole evening running smoothly, ran the raffle and, most importantly, the bar.



Some of the hard-working organisers – From left to right: Richard Nesbitt (partially hidden), Jackie Fichtmüller, Di Woodward, Janet Ditchett, Judith Coggles, quizmaster Chris Woodward.



The winning team from Pembury Parish Council – From left to right: Paul Barrington-King, Les Roberts, Alison Morton and Hugh Boorman.

MILLENNIUM PHOTO PROJECT

DURING 2000 the Parish Council Public Relations Group is running a project whose objective is to produce a book of photographs recording Pembury at the beginning of the second millennium. St Peter's Photographic Club will be covering the vast majority of events in the Millennium calendar, but the Public Relations Group is most anxious to include every photographic talent in Pembury, be it amateur, professional or just keen!

We would like to encourage everybody to take

lots of pictures throughout the year and then send them in to us at the beginning of 2001 so that we can then start selecting for publication. More details will be given in a later edition of the Pembury Village News.

The main theme is village events and the people taking part, although some general views of Pembury will be included in the book. So get your cameras out, polish up the lenses and get snapping!

Contact: Paul Barrington-King, Chair of Public Relations Group, 825144.



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DATABOX 2000 – A Millennium Archive for Kent

THE PARISH COUNCIL was recently contacted to take part in Databox 2000, a project which aims to record a snapshot of life in communities in Kent between 17th and 24th April 2000. The material collected will then be placed in the County Archives.

Although many schemes have been put forward at both national and local level to mark the start of the third millennium there has been no co-ordinated attempt to record for posterity what life is like across the whole of Kent. A group of Kent based interests, Shepherd Neame, Invicta Radio, Kent Messenger Group and Kent County Council, has come together to encourage the making of this record.

In order to achieve this one 'scribe' and one photographer in each community was needed; I volunteered to be the 'scribe' and my husband, as a keen member of St Peter's Photographic Club in Pembury, got volunteered as the photographer!

We shall be provided with a reel of 35mm black and white film, 20 sheets of acid free paper, and envelopes, sleeves for photographic prints and a

folder for collected items. The material will be stored very carefully and will last – it is hoped – for many hundreds of years. So no videos, tapes, disks or other machine-readable records as the machinery to read them may well have become obsolete by the time the future archaeologists dig up our efforts!

We shall, of course, put in a copy of this edition of the Village News (mirrors within mirrors!) but we need your help to make this project work. Basically, we need records of ordinary things that happen during 17-24 April: a day's diary; key facts about your business, church, school, pub, club; till receipts, sample menus, property prices, bus tickets; details of your club or society's event if it takes place in that week; notes about people in Pembury, e.g. doctors, long standing residents, shop-keepers and assistants, publicans, policemen, ministers, Parish Councillors, librarians, etc.

So please send me anything you think suitable for this archive and let me have your material as soon as possible after 24th April.

Alison Morton, Editor

CODA COMES TO PEMBURY

LOCAL CHARITY Concerts Originaux des Amis (CODA) allows the senior girls of Kent College to use its new Yamaha grand piano in exchange for occasional concerts and recitals in the school's Organ Room. Founded in 1983, CODA presents very talented young musicians, its object being the encouragement of these artists and an opportunity for local inhabitants to hear them at fairly ridiculous prices. The standard is equal to that of London concert halls at a fraction of the cost and CODA would like readers of Pembury Village News to be able to take advantage of the facility offered. With pianist Philip Fowke and clarinettist Emma Johnson as President and Vice-President respectively, CODA hopes you may be able to enjoy this local facility.

CODA concerts offer excellent value (both financially and in musical content) to its members, who pay £6 or less (which includes a cheese and wine buffet after every concert) per recital and £3.50 or less for annual membership. Pembury Village News readers are invited to come along to CODA's next recital, on Saturday 1st April, commencing at 7.45pm, when the young viola player Juliet Jopling (pictured right) will be partnered by pianist Tim Horton in a programme of music by Brahms, Bach, Hindemith and Schumann. Full details can be obtained by telephoning CODA's Honorary Secretary, Arthur Boyd, on 01892 527710. For the 1st April recital CODA will be pleased to offer Village News readers new to it a special ticket price (including cheese and wine, you remember) of only £4, but do please phone in advance so that sufficient catering can be laid on.

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NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR – Paul Barrington-King

PAUL BARRINGTON-KING is Chairman of the Public Relations Working Group and member of the Pembury Village News Editorial Group. He is also a Pembury School Governor and sits on the Millennium Committee.

Although he has only recently moved to Pembury Paul has quickly become an active member of the community. He has been struck by the warmth of the welcome that he and his family have received and believes that Pembury has many things to be proud of as the new millennium starts. Married to Dee, with two sons, Freddie and Rory, he currently works as a lecturer at West Kent College and is studying for an MA in Education and Training.

A keen runner, both cross-country and mountain racing, he has also won national and local awards for cycling. Paul has played in blues bands since the age of 14 and currently performs as part of the harmony duo The Prodigals.



A SISTER'S PLEA

AS AN ex-Pembury villager who still regards herself as a village person I thought maybe I would be allowed to write an article for the Pembury Village News, which I always read with great interest.

I was born in Pembury in 1932 in a house in Downingbury Place (now re-named Church Road) and lived in that same house until my marriage in 1957. For years we were a family of Mum, Dad and three girls until disaster struck during the Battle of Britain when a lovely baby boy joined the family. This baby was not given two Christian names like us but one 'never-to-be shortened' name. At first this was great, a real-life doll! Well, it made a change from dressing up the cat to put in our dollies' pram.

Then this beautiful baby boy started to grow into an alien – not the nice kind sort like ET but a real monster. He became our cross to bear – it was “Mum, she (the writer) is dipping rich tea fingers in the condensed milk again.” “Mum, they are going off without me.” – just because we were anxious to get to St Peter's in the Wood to annoy one of the village lads whose job it was to pump the church organ from a little room at the back of the church. “Mum, my sisters are trying to get into the orchard to borrow(!) the pears.” As you can imagine there were a great many of these “Mum” incidents, too many to record here.

The War continued and the boy blossomed into a very intelligent school-boy, good at sports, rugby, squash, badminton and especially cricket. He was, and still is, a firm supporter of the Pembury Village cricket team. With the passage of time this nasty boy has now grown into a well-liked and well-respected member of the Pembury Village community but I wish, just for once, I could open the Pembury Village News and see an article signed by his 'never-to-be-shortened' name because to me he will always be my beloved brother RICHARD.

Thelma Balcombe (nee Crouch)

(Your wish is granted, Thelma! Have a look at the article about the history of cricket in Pembury)

PEMBURY SOCIETY

THE SPRING MEETING of The Pembury Society will take place on Tuesday 9th May 2000 at St. Peter's Upper Church, 7.45pm for 8.00pm. It is being held at the Church because of the rebuilding of the Village Hall and we can expect a large

audience for our speaker, Dr. Peter Pattisson, the other to be confirmed.

So, do mark up your calendars and diaries now – the 9th of May should be a red letter event.

Derek Johnson

PEMBURY INTERNET PAGE – www.pbss.demon.co.uk/pvn

FIRSTLY, the Pembury Village News website has been accepted on to the community section of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's official website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk). At the time of writing only four villages in the area have featured there so Pembury is again at the cutting edge!

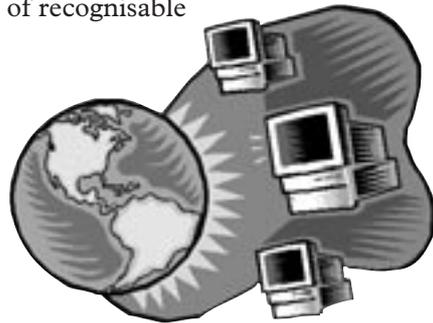
We've had a variety of visitors to the web site since I last reported, mostly notably from the Cramp family in South Africa. They lived in Pembury for well over 30 years and their fascinating reminiscences can be read opposite. We also heard from Leigh Aspin in Montreal, Canada, who was born at Pembury Hospital and was trying to trace birth certificate information.

Phillip Pipe, who now lives north of Birmingham and teaches maths in a local school, describes himself as a 'born and bred Pembury lad'. He tells us that his parents still live here. He comments, "It's lovely to just click a few times and find news of my birthplace so easily and so well laid out. I know I'm not all that far away but it's still nice to see pictures of recognisable places which bring back happy memories."

307 people have visited the web site: half of whom come from Britain and nearly a quarter from the USA. Australia and Canada are the next largest categories at 4% and 3% respectively. Others include South Africa, France, Japan, Brazil, Ireland and Saudi Arabia!

Recent additions to the website include pictures of the village hall project; the presentation of Pembury 2000 mugs to the children at Pembury School; and the village quiz.

Steve Morton



PROGRESS?

FOUR YEARS AGO I wrote about the impending arrival of the Internet into our homes. Sooner than anyone might have imagined the Internet is coming of age, with the possibility of access through our TV sets and mobile phones. Pembury Village News now has its own Web-site, as do numerous individuals and local organisations – including Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Did you know that information on roadworks can be found on the KCC site at www.kent.gov.uk and an A to Z of council services on the TWBC site at www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk?

The Internet has a huge range of uses. As with all technologies it has advantages and disadvantages. Many personal journeys can be eliminated by banking and shopping on-line. This will put further pressure on Pembury's remaining village shops, the post offices, and the bank. The frequency and number of delivery vehicles and couriers will rise, increasing the risk of road accidents and causing further air and noise pollution on our very doorsteps.

In common with the rest of the civilised world we seem to be led by technology. We rush to use the latest devices and scarcely devote a thought to the direction and ultimate purpose of our own and all human lives. What, then, are the moral and ethical implications of the Information Age? Personal choices appear to be immeasurably enhanced but, at the same time, our activities are increasingly influenced by multinational companies and global trading systems.

Materially we are better off than ever but how good is our spiritual state of health? Will our institutions and administrators lose their authority in favour of instantaneous 'E-power' decisions exercised by ordinary people? Would this be more democratic?

Information Technology provides possibilities undreamed of even a few years ago. Of greater importance, perhaps, are discoveries in bio-technology and advances in genetic engineering that threaten not only to change the world around us but, quite literally, to change our beings. Human cloning; the growth of spare body parts; changes to genetic make-up to overcome disease; and a vastly extended life span could all become reality in the next few years.

Is Pembury ready to face the challenge of this brave new world?

Terry Cload

HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

The following article came from South Africa via the Internet in response to Betty Roberts' article in the last edition of Pembury Village News.

Last September Doris and John Cramp sold their house in Woodhill Park after 37 years of happy residence in Pembury. Then it was a brand new estate, all bricks and piles of sand, and we moved into our new detached £4,250.00 Gough Cooper house in June 1962. It was a lovely sunny week and after a day or two we needed a rest from house moving so we went to the Epsom Derby by Maidstone & District bus. Very few cars for anybody in those days! Most of us in Woodhill Park, Greenleas and The Paddock were an early wave of commuters to London and I think a monthly season ticket was about £12.00 then.

The first winter of 1963 was a hard one and the men of the estate had to take their shovels and we dug ourselves out of the snow to reach the High Street. At that point, and at that time, there were only houses on the right hand side of the road as the left was the car park for the Woodsgate Swimming Pool and the pool itself, all that remained of the Woodsgate Hotel, where the garage is now. We were all newly weds who started our families in Pembury and we, and the whole village, had quite a community spirit. The Baby Sitting Group, on a points earning roster, was a model of efficiency, with the husbands vying for the only house which had a colour television. A lady had only to wheel a pram through the village and she was in!

As the children came and grew they firstly went, if they were lucky, to Mrs Surridge's pre-school at the Institute. A great, kindly lady well into her eighties. They said you could always pick out her children later in the Primary School as they sat still and listened. Of course, few or no family second cars so the mums walked the children to the school and back again in the afternoon, having a good chat outside the gate in doing so. The school headmaster was Ivor Benyon, who know every child's name and circumstances and truly steered many a child in the right direction. The vicar initially was the Rev. Wiswell who was one of the old school. A well educated man, we think he was a Rhodes Scholar, whose wife regularly helped in the babies' clinic in the Church Institute. She was well into her eighties and had the ability to just look at a crying baby to stop it immediately!

The Institute, or the Hop House as it is now, was not only the centre of village activities but also the home of the Church Verger, Percy Figgitt, and his wife. A good singer in Church, a great character – a real Man of Kent – and a friend to all. Doris was a long time member of St. Peter's Women's Fellowship, since 1962 when Frances Catford was the leader, and John was on the School PTA, mainly concerned with the yearly School Fete. The village was filled with characters and to just mention a few, there was – Mr Rideout who had a general store cum greengrocery, going around in his van; Stan Moxon in the High Street hardware shop; Mr Bruce the Butcher whose slogan was "Always pleased to Meat you!"; the tall, upright Post Lady, Mrs Boakes, who knocked on the door when it was a child's birthday and gave them their cards, personally. And, more recently, the well-loved figure of Kit Kelly and his flowing cloak and helmet. There have been many more.

Although our home had been in Pembury since 1962 we have been away on many assignments in such places as Denmark, darkest Manchester, Saudi Arabia and three times in South Africa but we always looked upon Pembury as our rock. Now we have sold as it's time for something different. Whether that difference will be near the Zulu Battlefields, my South African passion, the Natal or Cape Coast or back in England has still to be decided upon. Your 100th issue of the Pembury Village News shows that vigour and vitality still abounds in your community and we wish you well. Best wishes for the new century to you all, particularly those who remember us.

Doris, John Cramp and Jonathan Cramp in Sandton, South Africa, and Howard Cramp in Watford, Herts.

*From left to right:
Doris Cramp, Joan Finch (John's sister),
Jonathan Cramp, John Cramp*



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SNIPPETS . . .

OUR 100TH EDITION COVER LADY . . .

Our 100th edition with full colour cover and photographs received a great deal of praise and many people have remarked on what a good souvenir it was of Pembury crossing from the 1900s to the 2000s. We had a lovely letter from our cover lady's daughter, Mrs Freda Kirby:

"Thank you so much for forwarding Pembury Village News to me. We so much enjoyed the feature celebrating my Mother's 100th birthday and Henry Plant's little story about some of the events in her long life. Yes, a lovely lady, fortunate to have lived in Pembury for so many years."

THE INSTITUTE IN PEMBURY . . .

Mrs Edna Morris, from the Pembury Sequence Dance Club, tells us that the club started at the Institute, 50 years ago this year. *(Please write us an article – Editor!)*

PEMBURY PAGEANT . . .

A note for your diary! Hospice in the Weald, Pembury Free Church, St Anselm's Catholic Church, St Peter's Church, Kent College and Pembury School are uniting to present a pageant about Pembury. So make a note of 10 June at 2.30 pm on the Village Green.

SCHOOL REUNION DAY . . .

Did you attend Pembury School in the last century?

On Saturday, 6 May 2000, after the Maypole dancing on the Village Green, the school will be inviting all former pupils of Pembury School to come to the Main School Hall to sign a special Reunion Book, as part of their Millennium celebrations.

We hope that former pupils of all ages will join us to help us to achieve a record number of signatures. If you are in touch with any former pupils who no longer live in the area, please let them know.

The book will be open from 11 am to 4 pm so do make a note in your diary and come along. We will be very pleased to see you!

LOWER GREEN AS IT WAS . . .

The staff at Pembury Library are planning an exhibition in July about the history of some of the buildings around the Hop House.

Do you have any photographs, newspaper items, etc. which they can borrow? They will be happy to photocopy the items if you don't want to part with them. If you can help, please call in to the library or call 822278.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

QUITE RECENTLY several people have enquired as to what is going on in the fields just past Pembury Hospital and on the right after the Longfield Road roundabout. Rumours of fly-tipping, dumping, robbing of top soil have been rife.

Relax. Both fields are managed by the Hadlow Estate, formerly Somerhill, and are part of a long project supervised by Martin Allison of the RSPB. Approximately five to six years ago a decision was made to try to recreate the type of surface vegetation, i.e. lowland heath that may have been there at the turn of the century. It was soon established that both fields, approximately 50 acres in all, were not suitable for recreating the required heathland due to the large amount of lime added to the sandy soils for agricultural purposes.

Planning permission was given to remove the turf and thin top layer of soil in various island shapes. The soil and turf are so piled to create better grades of topsoil. Some of this has already been used as a top cover for the old sandstone quarry at the rear of Pembury Hospital which has been infilled with inert waste over the last eight years. That area will be replanted with a mixture of hardwood trees early this spring or next autumn. This project will come under the watchful eye of Keith Delves, the Hadlow Estates manager.

Back to the fields. The areas that have had the top soil removed are each year receiving a mulch of heather, harvested from surrounding woodland and Ashdown Forest, to encourage the natural growth of bell heather and bilberry, which is already beginning to happen.

It is anticipated that the project will take at least another twelve years before the lime content is reduced enough and the acid conditions favourable to the natural growth of heather and other heathland grasses.

There has already been a second sighting of a woodlark and other sightings of night jar and Dartford warbler. Heathland insects such as the sand warp are also increasing in number. This is a very important project for the area and many thanks to the parties involved: the RSPB, Kent High Weald Project, the Countryside Commission, Hadlow Estate, South East Water and TWBC for the initiative they have shown.

Hugh Boorman

SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB

Pembury play cricket in two divisions of the Kent Village League on Saturdays, play 'friendlies' on Sundays and, if sufficient other teams enter, play in a small local league on Tuesday evenings. For those of you who have recently moved into the village or who are not aware of the ground, it is located in Chalket Lane which is between the Camden Hotel and Camden Court. The Club owns the ground and has a good pavilion housing changing rooms, showers and a bar. Currently, the Club needs an influx of both new playing members and experienced ex-players who are prepared to stand as umpires, particularly on Saturdays. Age is no real barrier; current ages range from 16 to 60. The Club is run by its members and an enthusiastic band of supporters, looking after the ground and the buildings, the bar arranging barbecues, a Men's Night and a Ladies' Night Dinner and Dance, together with various other social events.

Should you be interested you will find the Secretary's address and telephone number on the back inside page of this magazine. This year's AGM is due to take place on 9th March; the season starts around the last Saturday in April and runs until the end of September.

Richard Crouch

PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB

Last year saw the Pembury Bowls Club celebrate its 70th anniversary and it hopes to repeat its success in winning the Weald League trophy for a second year running when the sun again shines this summer. The Club intends to hold an open day on 1st May starting at 11am for anyone to try their hand at this fine game. Light refreshments will be provided and bowls supplied, if necessary. Shoes must be without heels to save damage to the green – some

bowls shoes may be available but light trainers may be acceptable on this occasion depending upon the weather and the state of the green.

The invitation is open to all ages so if you have seen the game on television and liked what you saw then come along. This means all those aging football and cricket stars who reluctantly feel it is time to change their boots. The Club is a mixed one so if you are a lady who until now has played tennis or just fancies trying a sport you will be equally welcome.



This game is just as competitive but without the bruises and there are ways of playing the game throughout the year and not just in the summer or winter. The social atmosphere is good and we can play seven days a week if weather and family conditions permit.

There are changes taking place in the Club this year as we shall have a new Captain and Ladies' Captain and Len Birnie will be taking over as Honorary Secretary. He can be contacted on 01892 681222 and will be pleased to hear from you to give you further information on events taking place or to send you an application form for membership.

S G Roberts – Retiring Hon Secretary

PEMBURY TENNIS CLUB

Do you play tennis?

We are a small, friendly club and are always looking for new members. We play on the grass courts in the Recreation Ground from the beginning of May until the end of September.

Do come and join us!

For more information, telephone 822156 or 822405

Barbara Ballantine

PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

While the New Village Hall is being built Pembury Short Mat Bowls Club are playing at two venues.

Every Thursday afternoon and alternate Tuesday afternoons they use the badminton hall at Pembury hospital, and the East Peckham Sports Hall for their evening sessions and League matches.

A social playing afternoon is arranged once a month at the Pembury hospital venue, when all members can get together. Although the club competitions have been cancelled for this season several friendly matches have been arranged, which is an important and enjoyable part of the club.

For more information about the club please ring **Tony James**, Club Secretary, on 822838.

PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

The season is nicely hotting up and we hope that come the end of it we shall win a trophy or two. Enough said about that – let us wait and see! To win anything is always a great achievement. Because of our successes in the last couple of seasons it will be even more difficult for any team to achieve this year. However, you may rest assured that it will not be through want of trying by all concerned with the club.

In a previous edition I introduced you to our “Off Pitch” Team. This time I would like to introduce you to our other very important “Off Pitch” Team – The Sponsors. As anybody who has been involved in any kind of voluntary club, group, or organisation, etc. knows they do not run on fresh air! How fortunate we are to have tremendous financial help from our various sponsors.

As a token of our appreciation for their generosity each season’s sponsors are guests of the club at The Spa Hotel, where our annual Presentation Dinner and Dance is held. We invite our sponsors to our cup finals which, we hope, will prove to be an annual occurrence.

I note here our various sponsors. They are in

no particular order of importance as they are all important to us.

Gary and Michele Coldwell at The Black Horse, not only for their support with kit etc., but also the tasty refreshments supplied on Saturday afternoons.

Ted Boyle who I understand is at this moment applying for the vacancy created at Celtic by John Barnes’ departure!!

Ray Peers. I have noticed that he is smiling a touch more nowadays, now that Liverpool is winning again.

Mike Marshall of Marshall Gummery Associates was our first corporate sponsor and a great help with the new pavilion.

Pete Stocker whose logo GTP appears on a set of training tops.

Jimmy Hendley whose daughter has taken up soccer and was one of the youngsters who helped open the new pavilion.

Courage Brewery/Fosters Lager who supplied some kit for us.

L J Marsh, local contractor for roads and drives who sponsored the A Team.

Vic Rice, our well-known village greengrocer. He supplies oranges for the teams for the half time breaks when they are required.

John Mears local building contractor.

Barry Harding, Tottenham who?

And last but by no means least is *Stan Moxon* whose all round sponsorship of particularly the Sunday side is legendary.

On behalf of the club may I publicly thank you all for not only financial but also verbal support. Thank you!

We are in the process of developing our own Web site and, if we decide to continue with it, we shall be able to offer our corporate sponsors a free ad on our pages as a further token of our thanks. Our address is www.pemburyfc.co.uk. Please remember that it currently is only in its infancy.

Jim Smith, Chairman

PEMBURY IN THE PAST

PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB

(As promised in the last issue, the conclusion to the history of cricket in Pembury)

The club played friendly cricket, if there is such a thing, until 1974 when it became a founder member of the Mid Kent League, one of the earliest leagues in the area. A second division of this league was introduced in 1976. Again, the Club was able to take an effective part in the leagues by the continued expansion of the village. From the early 60s those of us that had lived here all our lives saw the village expand beyond recognition with the developments at Woodsgate, Woodhill Park, The Ridgeway, The Glebe, Herons Way and Beagles Wood, coupled with smaller developments off Heskett Park and Amberleaze Drive. Pembury had become the place to live, with a good school and easy access to three main line stations at Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Paddock Wood. The Club gratefully accepted new players; whether it benefited in numbers consistent with the increase in population is debatable but should never be contentious.

The Club won the 1st Division title of the Mid Kent League in 1985 (tied with Borstal) and the 2nd Division in 1976 and again in 1993. By 1995 the Mid Kent League was fragmenting. The introduction of a small pyramid structure in the Kent League was allowing the stronger villages or travelling players, professing to be villagers, to move on to a promotion/relegation situation. The distances that the players may have to travel was a problem as far as Pembury was concerned. The members did not feel the need to travel to, say, East Kent or South London for what was, after all, a Saturday afternoon's enjoyment.

The Club therefore decided to join the Kent Village League in 1996. This League operates from Sissinghurst to Limpsfield Chart, so the distances travelled are kept to a minimum. The Club has not won the League as yet. The 1st team were runners up in 1997, the 2nd team in 1997 and again in 1998. As well as the two Saturday League sides the Club runs a Sunday XI and takes part in a small evening league with matches played on a Tuesday. These games being played with limited overs are very popular with both the players and the spectators alike. Most games are only decided in the last over and, with spectators urging the teams on, a summer's evening can be quite lively!

Over the years Pembury has also taken part in the Courier Cup matches. These 16 eight ball overs

knock-out games were also exciting matches to play and to watch. Pembury won in 1974 and 1982 and were losing finalists in 1995. They reached the final again in 1996 but, by allowing the rules to be breached, the Courier was unable to produce any opposition. As a result, this competition has ceased to exist.

The Club's first pavilion was erected in 1912. It has no electricity, no gas, no running water and hence no toilets. Until 1946 jugs of water were carried from the Camden Hotel to be heated over a calor gas ring so that tea could be provided during the interval. The vicar, the Reverend H. O. Edwards, being a keen cricket follower, agreed that the Club could lay a water main across the field (no Camden Court as yet) from the standpipe in the cemetery to the Club's boundary. Since then the main has been extended into the pavilion and electricity has been laid on, so we now have a kitchen, flushing toilets, showers and, since 1982, a bar. These facilities are among the best, if not the best, of all the Clubs we play against and fortunately run by enthusiastic members and supporters at no cost to the Club. The members maintain the square, the hedges and the buildings; the outfield is cut by Pembury Parish Council.

The Club managed to purchase the freehold of the ground from the Camden estate in 1982. Included in the purchase was the old sand pit in Chalket Lane on which the Scout hut was sited. When the Scouts moved into their new building the Cricket Club was able to infill the land and build its new pavilion. Loans and grants were obtained from various sources but a large part of the monies required had been raised over the years by, among other things, a sponsored walk from Hastings to Pembury and by several annual jumble sales, which were brilliantly supported by the villagers with the variety of items they donated and the amount of money they spent on the afternoon of the sale. Nonetheless, it was a desperate feeling demolishing the old building during the first week of October 1991, knowing that the new one had to be ready for use at the end of April 1992, the beginning of the new season. The shell of the building was erected by a local contractor and by January all of the finishes were carried out by members and friends. Thankfully it was all ready by 25th April 1992.

What of the future? The Club is fortunate in that it has the nucleus of a good young side capable of carrying the Club well into the new millennium. The older generation is slowly stepping down to

enable the decisions to be taken by the players which is how it should be. However, cricket is no longer the popular sport it was a generation ago. In the 1950s a young man had no real choice if he wanted to play sport. All that was available was cricket in summer and football in winter. With modern day transport and the variety of sports and pastimes available, the choice is endless. Cricket is possibly too time-consuming for the modern world. It is no longer taught at all schools, people's jobs are much more at risk, so slipping away to play or coach is no longer an option and in general young people have more money available to spend on just enjoying themselves without feeling the need to contribute to the voluntary running of a Club and ground. There is also the possibility that following the Government's requirement for additional new houses in Kent the village may be under pressure to provide land for development

despite the Green Belt and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designations. If houses were to be built on the land adjoining the cricket ground the Club would find itself under the threat of becoming a nuisance if balls were regularly struck into people's gardens, as it has been declared to be in the past after the construction of Camden Court on its boundary. Not recently, I hasten to add.

With the population we have in the village coupled with the facilities it can offer, Pembury Cricket Club is well placed to be able to survive well into the new millennium. For how long will depend on the attitude and ability of the current generation to match, if not surpass, the effort that those previous generations have made to ensure that the Club is kept in the forefront of local cricket.

Richard Crouch, President

MRS JOAN BAKER

The search is on to trace members of the older generation who have lived in this village since the First World War, or before, and who were actually born here.

Joan, the daughter of Albert and Emily Sturgeon, was born in 1917 at No. 1 Canterbury Road. There were ten children in the family and Joan is now the only surviving member. One of her brothers was George Sturgeon whose coal and civil engineering business still operates in the village. George Sturgeon was also the first Mayor of Tunbridge Wells in 1974-75.

Joan was christened, confirmed and married at St Peter's Upper Church where the Sturgeon family along with others such as the Penns and Blackstocks had their own pews. Her father was a sidesman there for many years and always, without fail, wore his bowler hat to church, morning and evening.

Joan attended Pembury School where the headmaster then was Mr Naish. There were no school dinners in those days and although the children were allowed to take sandwiches, Joan used to walk home and back most days for her dinner.

She left school at 14 and her first job was in Watson's Chemist, Tunbridge Wells, to which she cycled every day. Her next job was in the new office that had been built at Sturgeon's. She was soon to meet her future husband, Alan, who was stationed abroad for most of the Second World War, seeing action at Dunkirk and then Egypt till the end of the war. They were married in 1942 and their daughter, Patricia, was born in 1946.

During the war Sturgeon's office was occupied at night by Joan and normally two gentlemen of the village for fire-guard duties, part of the civil defence movement. The office was equipped with beds, etc and each morning a report was made to Jack Gower of the Tonbridge Rural District Council.

Joan also recalls going to the dances with May Tapp at what was called the 'Dump', the Army depot at Kippings Cross and after the war she followed her other pastime of old tyme and formation dancing for which she received several medal standards.

Her husband, Alan, was a golfer for forty years, finally hanging up his clubs when he was seventy. Sadly, Alan passed away in 1994.

Joan is still going strong, and still manages to keep her garden in Henwood Green Road spick and span.

Hugh Boorman



LOOKING BACK

HENWOOD GREEN ROAD 1960-2000

When we moved to Pembury in 1960 the population was about 3000. There were nine grocers, three butchers, two newsagents, an ironmonger, a draper, a ladies' outfitters, a dairy, two post offices and a small electricians. Forty years later, with a population of about 7000, we are reduced to one butcher, two post offices/grocers, one separate grocer, one newsagent, one florist, one fruit and veg shop and a selection of take-away shops.

We settled in Henwood Green Road (the back road of Pembury). It was little more than a country lane, little or no footpaths, one bus ran hourly each way, and not much traffic.

At that time in Henwood Green Road there was the Institute at the bottom end that was used as the village hall. Where Waterfield House is now there was a butchers (Clarks) and an electrician (Spurrells). Opposite was originally a grocer's shop that was run by Rex Turner (the name was painted on the brickwork on the side above the shop). This shop changed hands several times then split into two, a bakers and a video shop; they both stand empty now.

At the corner of the crossroads (Henwood Green and Romford Road) was a grocer's and still is, having changed hands several times. On the opposite corner is still the old cottage, 'Myrtle Cottage', which is a listed building. Further back up Henwood Green Road is a long building which housed a butcher's, an electrician's and a village store. You could walk straight through from one shop to the others. This building now accommodates the remaining butchers and, until very recently, a florist.

In the early days the butcher's boy on a bicycle would call round for orders for next day delivery. We had a local milkman, Day Brothers from Downingbury Farm. A baker called with unsliced, unwrapped bread and a fishmonger called weekly.

We had a twin-trunked oak tree at the bottom of our drive. This tree was felled in 1970 when the road had to be widened to accommodate the footpath. When the footpaths were laid in 1970 most houses lost a piece of ground for the widening of the road.

There were three large houses: 'Old Place' which was made into flats and houses built around it; also 'Oak



Myrtle Cottage on the corner of Henwood Green Road and Romford Road

Cottage', still there but several houses have been built on part of its land and the site of a demolished little bungalow. There was also 'Ingleton', which was demolished in around 1973 and 21 houses built in its place. These houses are now known as Sweeps Hill Close. There was a road sweeper with a handcart and broom. He used to empty his cart on to a large sheet for us to put on our compost heap.

There were currant fields where Henwoods Crescent is now. The red telephone box at the bottom of the Crescent still remains to this day. There used to be a pond on the corner but it disappeared and a block of flats was built in its place. A house was also built where the pond was; the owner had to sink his foundations very deep!

There were two beekeepers in Henwood Green Road. One was Ted Williamson at the Oast House near Sturgeons and one, I believe, lived at No. 70. We used to buy our honey in 141b tins twice a year.

The Oast House, Sturgeon's coal yard and the allotments still remain and little has altered above them except the sign for Bo-Peep corner was replaced with a hand painted one by Jim Hollands, a local artist. At Bo-Peep corner there is a seat and on a Sunday evening we used to sit and watch the traffic returning from Hastings.

The by-pass built in 1988 took most of the traffic away from the High Street but the lorry drivers used Henwood Green Road as a rat-run. In 1986 Bewl Water was rebuilt and the cement lorries from the cement works at the bottom could be seen driving up and down Henwood Green Road continuously. Now buses run half-hourly and Henwood Green Road is no longer that country lane we moved to.

Mrs D. L. (Eddie) Edmondson

PEMBURY BOARD SCHOOL

Continuing this fascinating story of our local school, the Headmaster's notes gives us an insight to the years 1875 to 1878:

January 15th 1875

I spoke to the scholars respecting the letter issued by the Postmaster General on boys throwing stones at the Telegraph.

Week ending 26th February 1875

The excessive cold has greatly affected the attendance this week. Several children are ill with bad colds. The room has been too cold to allow for writing on paper; notwithstanding a large fire kept up. Captain West (School Manager) paid us a visit on Thursday morning and the Rev G. H. Rigby on Friday afternoon. Several children made a point of bringing no school fees. When questioned they state that their mother had no change. I shall bring the matter before the Board.

Week ending Friday 7th July 1878

We vary our work considerably now as we commence earlier and work later than the time table specifies, especially with the slower ones. The requirements of the New Code seem to drive one to spend all one's energies on the slower ones. We are now spending a deal of time, after and before the regular School hours, not with bad children but with those whose mental faculties are so clouded that their case is almost hopeless. But they have to be presented and so we work and hope. I intend, at the next Board Meeting, to bring before the Board a plan to secure systematic and regular visitation from the Attendance Officer. The present irregular style of visiting apathetic parents is useless. One parent, who sends four children to the School in spite of an order from the Board to pay

the School fees regularly, sends just 3d or 4d per quarter for all four. No notice is taken of accounts I send to him or his wife. He can afford to pay as well as many who never miss a payment. Another child, who pays nothing now, has a proper reason, her father is sadly afflicted and there is a large family of very young children.

Week ending Friday, 15th March 1878

Our senior and, undoubtedly, best teacher, Annie Smith, died on Sunday March 10th after being absent from school only a month. She died of Brighton's Disease. In all points she was the best teacher it has ever been my lot to work with. The teachers and scholars have joined me in raising a fund to procure two memorials to her memory, one for fixing to the School wall and the other to present to her parents, as a mark of the respect in which she was held. She was beloved by all.

Week ending Friday July 19th 1878

Haymaking has made the attendance this week very fluctuating. On Thursday Mr Letchford, the newly appointed Master, paid a visit to the School.

Gave a half holiday on Friday – could not work with my dear children the last afternoon, especially after their kindness in presenting me with such beautiful tokens of their esteem as they and the Pupil Teachers did in the morning. Cannot say more – the sight of the empty seats in front of me is too much.

Signed James T. Brown - July 19th 1878

In the next issue I will recount the views and thoughts of Thomas Letchford after he takes up his duties as the new Headmaster of Pembury School.

Henry Plant

THREE CHURCHES WALK

IN COMMON with other village organisations the Pembury Footpath Walkers were asked to contribute to the year 2000 celebrations. What we do is to walk cross-country and, as the year 2000 is a significant measurement of Christian time, we have devised a walk through our beautiful local countryside that incorporates passing St Thomas A'Becket church in Capel, with its medieval wall paintings; All Saints Church in Tudely, world-renowned for its stained glass window; and St Peter's Pembury Old Church. The walk will take us through orchards, woodland, meadow and farmland at a time when Spring is springing and, with luck, the woods should be full of bluebells and wild garlic.

We will start from Stone Court Lane bus terminus at 1pm, after lunch, so there will be no need to bring food but a drink might be welcome. The walk is not restricted to members of the Pembury Footpath Walkers but you will need to be reasonably fit to complete the eight or nine miles, about four hours at a leisurely pace. If you can manage a round of golf or a day's shopping at Bluewater, you can manage this! Appropriate footwear is a must and, as newly-born animals and their mothers can be nervous, please do not bring dogs.

Brian Toseland

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PRECIPITATION

THIS IS THE collective term given to drizzle, hail, snow and sleet that comes out of the clouds.

As we know clouds are the very basis of all precipitation. Water droplets contained within clouds are so minute that the updraughts of air hold them as suspended water vapour. As conditions change within the cloud and the water vapour turns to droplets they will begin to fall to the ground. Not all will reach the ground as some will vaporise on their descent only the larger ones reaching the ground.

The smallest droplets are contained within Drizzle which is sometimes associated with a heavy mist. The size of these droplets is 0.05 mm to 0.5 mm in diameter. Raindrops are from 0.5 mm to 2.5 mm. The larger ones leave the cloud at this size but will tend to break up under aerodynamic forces before they reach the ground.

Hail is frozen rain droplets varying in size and shape. Those below about 5 mm are termed as 'Ice Pellets'. In the UK hail does not stay on the ground very long under normal conditions because the surface temperature is above freezing, even during wintertime. Hail can occur at anytime of the year. In fact (and I refer to a book for this) the freakiest hailstorms have occurred during the summertime.

Snow, ice crystals, comes in many different forms. The common snowflake is a bonding

together of many of the different types of ice crystals that exist. The type of snowflake formed is dependent on the temperature. The bonding will take place when the cloud temperature is just below freezing; at lower temperatures the ice crystals tend to stay separate, whereas temperatures about freezing will produce 'Wet Snow'.

Sleet is a mixture of rain and snow and melting snowflakes as the temperature has risen in transit from the cloud.

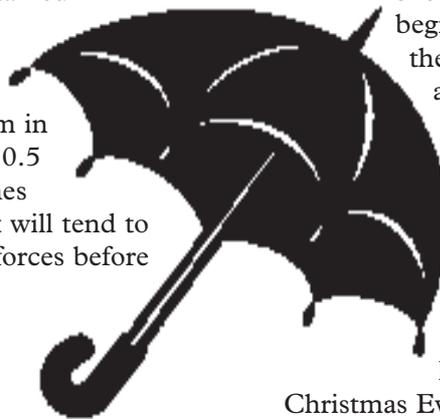
During 1999 we experienced a mild winter so snowfall was very sparse indeed. At the beginning of the year on February 8th there was a light covering during the afternoon. December saw the next fall on the evening of the 18th which gave a significant covering and lasted as laying snow for a couple of days.

In my last notations in this magazine I said that I'd give figures for 1999 on rainfall in Pembury. Well, after the storm of Christmas Eve (24 hours recorded by myself 53.1 mm, 2.09 inches) there are no prizes for guessing the wettest month: December 146 mm, driest: July 12.4 mm.

Total for the year, give or take a few millimetres, was 839.2 mm, above average for the South East of England; usually about 750 mm is expected.

Conclusion of above, maximum use of umbrella during December.

Mike Stanford

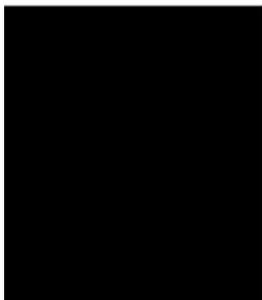


PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER IN THE WOODS

THE FRIENDS of Pembury Parish Church will be opening the Old Church for visitors each Sunday afternoon from 3pm to 5pm commencing 14th May until the 10th September 2000.

There is now a very comprehensive range of fund raising items for sale during these afternoons and these make attractive presents for friends or relatives. Each summer many people visit this lovely peaceful 12th century Church but we hope that many more will do so during this Millennium year.

As from the 14th May the new kneelers that have been designed and stitched – in the main by Pembury people – will be on view. These depict Pembury buildings and the activities and remembrances of Pembury people. It is hoped any visitor will feel they truly create a kaleidoscope of colour in the Parish Church of St Peter in the Woods – the Old Church.



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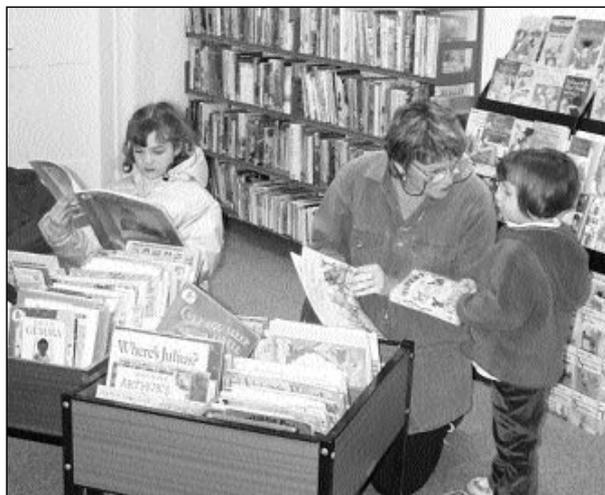
- lends videos, audio cassettes and jigsaws
- sells greetings cards
- has an index of every book available in Kent
- has a photocopier for the public's use
- keeps careers information, public records, the Parish Council minutes
- holds a paper copy of the Pembury Village News website
- has information on local events, transport, organisations
- has a dedicated children's area?

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Wednesday	10.00am to 1.00pm
Thursday	10.00am to 1.00pm 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday	10.00am to 1.00pm 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am to 1.00pm

The Hop House, Henwood Green Road,
Pembury, Kent TN2 4HS. Tel: 822278

If you are seeking information, try the library first!



Spotlight on Village Organisations – THE MOTHERS' UNION

THE MOTHERS' UNION is a world-wide organisation founded in 1876 to promote and maintain Christian family life through prayer and practical action. This takes effect in hospitals, prisons, parenting and mother-and-toddler groups, media projects, caravan holidays for families in need of a break, health issues, Third World debt and much more.

With over a million members in 60 countries MU aims and objectives are the same for all, thus:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding.
2. To encourage parents to bring up children in the faith and life of the Church.
3. To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to family life and the protection of children.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Membership is open to anyone who has been baptised into the Christian faith and who supports its aims and objectives; to men and women, married or single (for whatever reason); and with or without children.

The Pembury branch meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm in St Peter's Upper Church, Hastings Road. Speakers and subjects are listed in the Village News (see For Your Diary), in the parish magazine 'Outlook' and in the church porch.

All meetings are open to anyone interested in the particular subject and further details are available from the branch leader, **Mrs J Aust** 823963.

MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

“**T**HANK YOU” to all who filled in our form offering to write a page for the ‘Pembury People 2000’ book. We will be getting back in touch with you when the supply of special paper arrives.

The response to our invitation was very disappointing: only 52 households out of over 2000 in the village said they would like to be included. Hopefully others will come forward as the year progresses. The more contributions we have the more interesting the picture of life in Pembury in the year 2000 will be.

It is planned that the completed book will go into the County Archives with a copy in our local library. So how about it? Your family could go down in history!

Betty Roberts

MARY CLOUT

AT THE BEGINNING of the term Mary Clout retired from the staff at Pembury School. Mary first joined the team of cleaning staff in August 1971 after being appointed by headteacher Ivor Beynon in the July. Mary joined a team of cleaners, many more than the school has now. Mary’s industry and high standards were quickly recognised and when there was an opportunity to appoint an Assistant Caretaker to the staff Mary was the successful applicant, appointed this time by headteacher Richard Nisbet.

Mary worked alongside caretaker Bill Ralph for several years, sharing the many lettings duties and the responsibility for the scattered buildings that make up the school site. Mary was promoted to Caretaker in 1986 when Mr Ralph retired. Much of the school cleaning was to be taken over by contract cleaners so that the caretaker had a different monitoring role. However, the administrative block and the school hall floors remained Mary’s responsibility and the wonderful polished finish she achieved has been the envy of many a visitor to the school.

During the holidays Mary was always busy decorating and she lost count of how many times she painted out the mural in the main hall, ready for the children to start again. Mary was trained to look after the swimming pool and she had Health and Safety training to ensure a safe environment for the children and staff.

Mary was greatly respected by the many contractors and groundsmen who work on the school site from time to time, as they knew that she would keep a watchful eye on their progress.

The affection and esteem that staff have had for Mary was evident when over 70 present and former colleagues attended Mary’s retirement party, giving her a canteen of cutlery. The Chairman of the Governors, Peter Vaughan, presented her with an Edinburgh crystal vase and a bouquet of flowers. The Parents’ Association, who were grateful for Mary’s help over the years at their many functions, gave her a Swarovski clover and flowers. The Local Education Office was represented by Annabella Dowry, who presented Mrs Clout with a long service certificate from the Authority.

At a special assembly with the children on her final day Mary received a bird table, an ornamental garden windmill and a garden trolley. After she had finally surrendered her huge bunch of keys the staff surprised Mary with a guard of honour at the school gate, blowing their whistles and armed with party poppers. We will all miss her, but wish her a very happy retirement.

Christina Lundberg



GILL'S GARDEN IN SPRING

SPRING IS probably the busiest time of the year but effort now should be rewarded later. Time to finish planting bare rooted (container grown) trees, shrubs and roses. Prune roses and top dress with fertiliser. Rake out thatch from the lawns (this moss can be used to line hanging baskets when used with polythene to retain moisture) and spike so air and water can penetrate the soil. If the weather is dry the lawn may be cut with the blade setting on high. Fertilise lawn with proprietary brand containing moss killer if necessary. A new lawn can be laid using turf for this time of year or seed may be sown. Remember to keep well watered.

Sow sweet pea seeds either in the ground or in large containers to climb a wigwam shaped structure of canes. Small plants can also be grown in conjunction with the sweet peas to obtain a glorious effect later in the season. Sow hardy annual seeds in the ground and protect with a horticultural fleece. This deters birds as well as protects from frost. Plant up containers using geraniums, lobelia and fuchsias when frost is past. Pinch out tips of fuchsias to create a bushy plant (these tips can be rooted in water to produce a new plant). Plant summer bulbs and tubers e.g. gladioli

and dahlias. If the soil is heavy incorporate grit in the planting hole. Feed and mulch borders to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Edge lawn if necessary to give a pristine shape.

Prune buddleas each spring, cut back shoots to within two buds of last year's growth; cornus (stems used for winter colour) to about two inches above ground and feed well. Plant new herbaceous plants and divide older plants in the garden that have become straggly. Replant using compost and bonemeal.

Remember to stake tall plants when planting. Place small plant pots filled with newspaper on top of canes; this not only protects your eyes when bending but collects earwigs. Twigs can be used at the front of borders to stake plants. This may seem unsightly at first but they will soon be covered with plants. Finally, shear deadheads from winter flowering ericas and mulch with leaf mould.

Gill Matthews



MAKE 2000 BLOOMING GREAT IN PEMBURY

IT'S THAT time again! Time to start thinking about entering our gardens, hanging baskets, floral feats and allotments for this year's village gardening competition, Pembury in Bloom 2000.

With this magazine you should receive an entry form for the competition – if you don't and you want to enter your garden, or somebody else's, into the competition Notcutts Garden Centre has plenty of spare forms. Each year more and more people take part in the competition and it really is a fun way for us all to brighten up our village. There are four categories to enter – Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket, Best Pub/Hotel/Commercial Frontage and Best Allotment.

The prizes, sponsored by Notcutts, are: for the Best Front Garden category – £100, £50, £25 in Notcutts vouchers; for the Best Hanging Basket category – £70, £30, £15 in Notcutts vouchers; for the Allotment category – a shield (inscribed annually) and a certificate; and for the Most Attractive Hotel/Pub/Commercial Frontage category the winner receives the Notcutts Rose Bowl (inscribed annually) and certificate. Judging will take place after the 15th July but we won't tell you that we are coming! The presentation tea, held at Notcutts, will be at the end of August so start planning your competition entry now.

THE FOUR R's – Reduce, Re-use, Repair or Recycle

Do you put your paper out each fortnight or take it up to the bin in the village car-park?

Do you wash out and collect your used beer bottles, jam-jars and smash them into the recycling bins?

Do you compost your vegetable waste and save a fortune on garden compost?

Do you recycle supermarket carrier bags as bin-liners?

A few simple things to do but what a difference it could make!

Of course, the best thing is to reduce waste to start with. If everybody did the four things above their bins would have a lot less in them each week. This would lead to less being dumped in the land-fill sites and so less land-fill sites being needed.

Next, bundle up your old newspaper, office paper, all those irritating leaflets we get in our magazines and the mags themselves and put them out each fortnight for the special collection van. If you forget, there's a bin in the village car park for paper.

After the Saturday night session the best place for the bottles is the bottle bank, again in the car park. All you need to do is to separate out the colours. The cunning thing to do is to get the kids to do it while you sit and watch. The sheer joy of the destructive smash as the bottle hits the others in the bin cannot be over-estimated.

Keen gardeners don't need telling what a rich (and free!) source of compost vegetable peelings are. Add in dead leaves, well-mixed grass cuttings, chopped up prunings, etc. and after a while you have an excellent start for new plants. Nature itself is fairly cunning, recycling naturally.

Supermarket carriers can either be re-used on the next trip or used as bin-liners, bags for used hamster-litter, grotty rugby or football boots, dog-poo (see article by Dee Barrington-King in this issue) and general household use. The list is virtually endless.

Current recycling levels are approximately 11%; the Borough Council aims to raise this figure to 20% by 2005. Quite a tall order, but we can all help to bring this about with quite a small effort by each household and by each person in that household.

Householders can take the following to the civic amenity site (perhaps more generally known as the 'tip'): glass, cans, metals, white goods, engine oil, car batteries, hardcore, soil, paper, cardboard, textiles, gas bottles, garden waste. The Borough Council also offers a free service to householders for the collection of freezers, fridges, washing machines, cookers, etc.

What can be recycled in Pembury? If you go to the village car park by the Camden Arms, there are bins for glass, cans, paper and textiles. In Pembury Hospital car park bins are provided for glass, cans, paper and cardboard.

Finally, don't forget the 'bin lorries' that are in Pembury every Sunday. This is a regular service by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council whereby large items and large quantities of smaller items can be taken away by the Cleanaway lorry. The collection points and times are Henwoods Crescent 12-12.55pm, Herons Way 1-1.55pm and Woodhill Park 2-3pm.

Happy recycling!

A CHILD, A SHOE, A DOG . . .

Question: What do you get if you take one child, one shoe and one irresponsible dog-owner?

Answer: An irate mum with a scrubbing brush and a bowl of disinfectant.

Please can I ask that dog owners be more responsible for their dogs fouling on the pavements? It is so easy to clear up after them; all you need to do is every time you take them for a walk take a carrier bag with you in your pocket. When your dog does its business take out your bag, put your hand inside the bag using it like a glove, pick up the offending article, cover it with bag and place it in the bin.

Easy! No more dog mess, no more children having to go to school with mess on their shoes, which is not only very offensive but also very unhygienic. Letting your dog foul in the road is not the answer as children have to cross the road and if there is a bit of dog mess lying around, they will find it. So please, next time you go for a walk, remember your carrier bag. And also remember, letting your dog foul is an offence, a very expensive one at that!

Dee Barrington-King

MY PLOT

DURING THE WINTER work on the soil is obviously much less. It's pretty rare to see people digging in January – apart from being too cold for most sane people, it's actually bad for the soil if you trample on it when it's very wet. I have noticed different types of allotment diggers. Whether they are manual spade-users or lucky rotovator-pushers, the timing of their efforts fall into three groups.

First are the Autumn diggers. I admire these people; they seem to me to be very organised and ahead of themselves. There is a theory that you should 'open up' the soil for the winter so that the air can get in. This means that some special bacteria called Nitrogen Fixers can thrive and these little bugs actually make the soil more fertile. Another good thing is that digging lets the frost in, which helps to break up heavy clay soil.

Second are the Spring diggers. This strikes me as being easier. The weather's better; plants are sprouting; things are optimistic. Plus you are likely to be planting more-or-less straight away into your beautiful fresh earth. People also say that leaving weeds covering the soil protects it from having all its goodness washed away by heavy winter rain.

Last are the only-dig-when-necessary types. I fall into this category. Somehow there's never enough time to maintain bare earth for tidiness sake alone. I do think that a beautifully kept vegetable plot is as lovely as any formal garden but sadly my plot doesn't make the grade! Plenty of my neighbours' ones do.

Perhaps what I should really become is a 'no dig' gardener. These people say that digging damages the structure of the soil and does more harm than good. To do this you have to keep the earth covered up as much as possible so that the weeds cannot grow. The covering goes under the general name of 'mulch'. Gardens have attractive mulches like bark chippings or gravel. Allotments tend to have less pretty versions like carpet, black plastic or old curtains. Allotmenters are practical folk and much given to finding cheap, functional methods.

Another illustration of this are the various bird-scaring strategies you see there. There's a lovely scarecrow near the Henwoods Green Road – Woodside Road corner. There are also pieces of strung-up aluminium foil fluttering in the wind. I've got some plastic tape to try this year, where I've got to knit a criss-cross pattern between sticks. When the wind blows, the tape hums eerily and frightens the birds away. And I've heard it said that compact discs reflecting the sunshine are effective too, so I'm saving all the free ones that get sent through my door in the junk mail. It may take some time . . .

Caroline Mazze



PEMBURY GARDENERS

WELL, THE 20th century has now slipped away and we are proud to say our club has been in existence for over 50 of those years. We are still holding our own and looking forward to another productive and colourful year.

However, we would still like to have more members – active or not so active - taking part in the pleasure of producing good shows, contributing towards the annual plant sales on the village green and joining our reasonably priced twice yearly coach outings. More Sunday morning customers, too, buy gardening materials from our trading shed at the allotment site on Woodside Road – much of which is sold "loose" at very competitive prices.

Despite strong competition from the surrounding garden centres there is still a niche for clubs like ours which help put backbone into the meaning of the word village. Although there has been a consistent core of members entering star quality exhibits at the Shows, members like myself can exhibit anything that is listed in the comprehensive Show schedules

including fruit, flowers, flower arrangements and cookery. I'm not a dedicated gardener so my entries are made with my tongue in my cheek! The children's section is becoming increasingly popular. There are stalls selling plants and home made cakes, a raffle is held – usually with lots of prizes – and most exhibits are auctioned at the end of the Show at well below market prices.

We are hoping to attract more members for the Flower Arranging Club. The monthly meetings (which will be held at the Cricket Club) only cost £1 per evening and this meagre sum includes an excellent and imaginative demonstration, light refreshments and a raffle. Members bring their own materials and a token prize is presented to the best individual effort of the evening. A very relaxed and worthwhile time is enjoyed by all. The first meeting will be at 8 pm on Monday 13th March.

Our secretary, Mike Pavely, will be pleased to answer any queries you may have telephone 822605.

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CHURCH SERVICES AT EASTER

St. Peters Church

Palm Sunday 16th April	9.40 am	Procession from the Camden Court to the Upper Church; Parish Eucharist with dramatic reading of the Passion
	6.30 pm	Taize Service of Meditation – Upper Church
Maunday Thursday 20th April	8.00 pm	Eucharist of the “Last Supper” – Upper Church
Good Friday 21st April	10.00 am	Family Service – Upper Church
	11.00 am	Procession from the Free Church to the Village Green with United Act of Worship on the Green
	12.00 noon	“An hour on the Cross” – Old Church
	2.00 pm	“An hour on the Cross” – Upper Church
Easter Eve 22nd April	9.00 pm	Candlelight Easter Vigil service at the Old Church with The Gregorian Singers
Easter Day 23rd April	8.00 am	Holy Communion – Upper Church
	9.45 pm	Parish Eucharist – Upper Church
	11.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns – Old Church
	5.00 pm	Evensong – Old Church

St. Anselm’s Catholic Church

Good Friday 21st April	12.00 noon	Stations of the Cross
Easter Sunday 23rd April	10.30 am	Mass

Pembury Free Church

Good Friday 21st April	10.00 am	Meditation
	11.00 am	Walk of Witness to the Village Green: Interdenominational Service on the Green
Easter Sunday 23rd April	10.00 am	Celebration

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

DURING THE Christmas period Pembury Hospice Link Group gratefully received contributions from right across the village’s age range. Once again our youngest supporters, the amazingly well-disciplined two to four-year-olds from Sandra’s House Nursery School, produced a delightful Christmas performance, this year in the Upper Church, which raised £174 for the Hospice. Small children also played their part by persuading parents and grandparents to let them visit Notcutts’ Father Christmas! Link Group members helped by taking entrance money during December as well as selling raffle tickets at the garden centre’s open evenings and Notcutts gave Hospice in the Weald their profits of £1,023. At the other end of the age scale a generous donation came from the Darby and Joan Club after a tea provided by the Link Group. Unexpected and very welcome cheques also arrived from both the Catholic and Free Churches following events which each held in aid of the Hospice.

The service to dedicate the Tree of Light placed at the entrance to the Hospice building over Christmas was very well attended and it is hoped that many more people saw the large and beautiful tree if they were passing along Maidstone Road after dusk. Lights completely covered the branches, each one having been individually sponsored, often in memory of relatives or friends, and a total of £9,000 was raised.

A few more volunteers to work three hours a week, or even three hours a fortnight, are needed in the coffee bar in the Hospice reception area (which was equipped from funds raised in Pembury). Anyone interested should telephone Barbara Young on 820529 during office hours. She would also like to hear from anyone willing to help the flower team for a few hours one morning a fortnight.



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CRIME IN PEMBURY

BAD NEWS. Overall there was approximately an 11.5% increase in criminal activity in the village, although there were no offences in some categories, i.e. shoplifting and theft of cycles and these have now been re-classified under 'Miscellaneous'. Bilking – driving off without paying - has now been placed under 'Deception' along with credit card frauds.

The figures shown are for the period October, November and December and the one good point is the 62% reduction in assaults. On the other hand, there has been a 62% rise in car theft.

	July-September 99	October-December 99
Burglary (dwelling)	4	6
Burglary (other types of premises)	4	6
Theft of vehicle	3	8
Theft from vehicle	2	9
Criminal damage (including damage to vehicles)	11	11
Other theft (other than vehicle related)	10	7
Deception (including bilking & credit card fraud)	3	12
Assaults (excluding sexual assaults) – ABH, common	8	3
Vehicle interference (not previously recorded)	4	3
Miscellaneous (incl. shoplifting and theft of cycles)	8	9
	<hr/> 57	<hr/> 74

Whilst we must always give 100% support to the police, they must give us the same level of support in return. Just in case you have forgotten the number – police 01732 740055.

Hugh Boorman

Your Clerk *Reports* . . .

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 1999

It is my duty to submit the following particulars in respect of the Parish Finances for the year ending 31st March 1999:

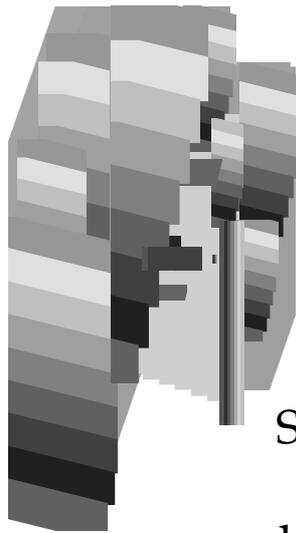
Precept demanded from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for 1998/1999	103,018.00
Income from other sources	35,097.44
Balance brought forward 1st April 1998	<hr/> 127,825.69
TOTAL	<hr/> 265,941.13
Expenditure	130,046.33
Balance carried forward on 31st March 1999	135,894.80
TOTAL	<hr/> 265,941.13
The Precept for the year 1999/2000 was	108,700.00
The Precept for the year 2000/2001 will be	115,300.00

The accounts of the Pembury Parish Council were audited by the District Auditor on 17th January 2000.

I would, with respect, request that the Chairman of the Parish Council submits this Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 1999 for adoption.

Barbara Russell

Clerk to the Council



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FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 1 Parish Council Meeting – Free Church Hall – 8pm
- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 4 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 5 St Peter's Mothers' Union: Study evening 'Caring Together' – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 6 Pembury Afternoon WI – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 10 Floral Art – Cricket Club – 8pm
- 10 St Peter's Photographic Club: Night photography – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 14 Pembury Evening WI: Dolls – Catholic Hall – 7.45pm
- 18 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 24 St Peter's Photographic Club: Lecture – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 29 PSA Roller Disco – Pembury School – 10am to 5pm

MAY

- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers: Three Churches Millennium Walk – Stonecourt Lane bus terminus – 1pm
- 2 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 3 St Peter's Mothers' Union: 'Suffragettes in Our Village' – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 4 Pembury Afternoon WI: 'Resolutions' – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 5 Pembury Evening WI: 'Resolutions' – Upper Church – 7.45pm
- 6 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Car Park – 2.15pm
- 6 Pembury School: Maypole Dancing – Village Green – 10am
- 6 RNLI May Fair – Catholic Hall – 10am-12noon
- 6 Larkfield – Fete and Open Day – 1.30pm
- 8 Parish Council Meeting – Free Church Hall – 8pm
- 8 St Peter's Photographic Club: Theme competition – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 9 Pembury Society Spring Meeting – Upper Church – 7.45pm
- 13 Service of Blessing of Millennium Kneelers – Pembury Old Church – 10am
- 13 PSA Quiz Night – Pembury School – 8pm start
- 16 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 20 Pembury Gardeners' Plant Sale – Village Green – 10am
- 20 May Fayre – St Peter's Upper Church – 2pm
- 22 St Peter's Photographic Club: Slide show, table top evening – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 30 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm

JUNE

- 1 Pembury Afternoon WI – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 2 Pembury Evening WI: – Hoping For A Few Laughs – Upper Church – 7.45pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – All Day Walk – TBA
- 7 St Peter's Mothers' Union: 'Occupational Therapy Without Bunnies or Baskets' – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 10 Pembury Pageant – 2pm-5pm
- 12 Parish Council Meeting – Free Church Hall – 8pm
- 13 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 27 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm

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YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

County Council

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way TN2 4DN. Tel: 823966

Borough Council

Mr Bruce Ballantine, 6 Maidstone Road TN2 4DD. Tel: 822156

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way TN2 4DN. Tel: 823966

Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway TN2 4ET. Tel: 825577

Parish Council

Cllr Paul Barrington-King, 22 The Coppice TN2 4EY. Tel: 825144

Cllr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Rd TN2 4LH. Tel: 823068

Cllr Mrs Sarah Clarke, Little Stanton,

Romford Road TN2 4AY. Tel: 823932

Cllr David Coleman, 22 Ridgeway TN2 4ER. Tel: 823402

Cllr Dick Crouch, 17 Highfield Close TN2 4HG. Tel: 823164

Cllr Derek Flint, 1B Beagleswood Road TN2 4HX. Tel: 824829

Cllr Mrs Janet Greenwood, 1F Beagleswood Road TN2 4HX. Tel: 824472

Cllr Brian Horgan, 4 Cornford Park TN2 4PW, Tel: 822412

Cllr Mrs Rosemary Latter, 81 Beagleswood Road
TN2 4HZ. Tel: 822059

Cllr Mrs Gillian Matthews, 2 Gimble Way TN2 4BX. Tel: 822057

Cllr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway TN2 4ET. Tel: 825577

Cllr Mrs Alison Morton, 2 The Coppice TN2 4EY. Tel: 824938

Cllr Mrs Wendy Withycombe, 23 Westway TN2 4EX. Tel: 823034

Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

Mrs Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove, Pembury, Kent TN2 4BU. Tel: 823193

Chairman – Public Relations

Chairman – Amenities and Allotments

Chairman of Parish Council

Vice Chairman of Parish Council

Chairman – Planning

Chairman – Finance

Chairman – Burials,

Environmental and Highways

*Chairman – Christmas Lights/
Pembury in Bloom*

*Chairman – Pembury Village
News Editorial Committee*

CHURCH TIMES – see page 31 for Easter Services

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

Upper Church

8.00am Holy Communion

9.45am The Parish Eucharist and Junior Church

10.00am Holy Communion (Wednesdays)

Old Church

11.30am Matins (except first Sunday, Holy Communion)

Evening services as advertised on Church noticeboards

CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF ST. ANSELM – PEMBURY

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Holy Days – Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Confessions: Sunday 10.15am

Weekday Services:

Monday – Communion Service 7.30am

Tuesday – Communion Service 7.30am

PEMBURY FREE CHURCH

We praise God and hear his word on Sunday at 10am and 6.30pm.

We have many activities during the week for mums, toddlers, young people and senior citizens. Ring the church office 825590 for details.

Our Pastoral Care Assistant is available for personal/private prayer on Monday mornings from 9.45am; if you have a need or have prayer requests please ring her on 723216.

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