

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 89 / Spring 1997



**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF THE PEMBURY PARISH
COUNCIL ON MONDAY
17th MARCH 1997 at 8pm**

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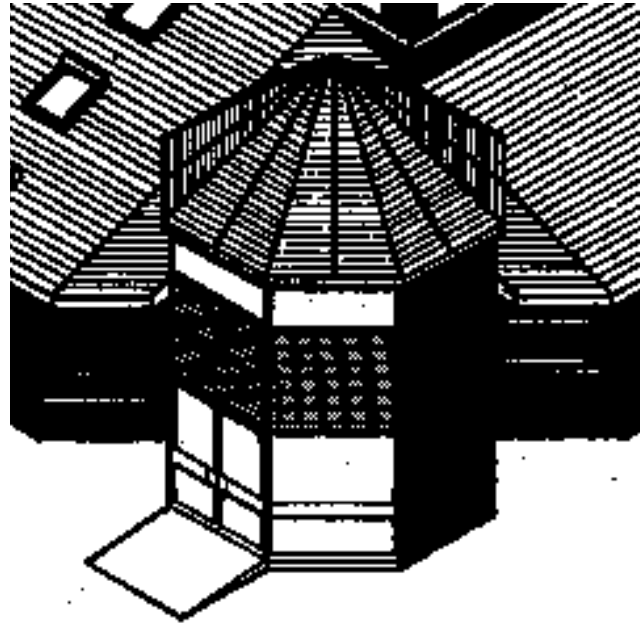
Cover photograph courtesy David Sellman

Parish News & Comment

THE PARISH COUNCIL'S Millennium Project, the new Village Hall, is progressing well.

One major step, which would have affected Millennium funding, was overcome when members of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council recently granted planning permission for the revitalised village hall subject to conditions.

The present position is that a grant of £42,500 has been allocated by the Borough Council towards the project. The allocation of the grant from the Kent County Council has been clouded at the present time by budget cuts having to be made by that Council but everyone is hopeful that a grant will be forthcoming as each grant is subject to the other being approved. A decision regarding the Millennium Commission grant is expected during March; representatives of that body visited Pembury and the village hall during February.



If you picked up this magazine from the Library or one of Pembury's shops and are a Pembury resident, would you like a copy delivered to your door each quarter? If so, please contact the Editor or a member of the Editorial Committee who will be pleased to arrange it from our next issue.

Editorial Committee:

Henry Plant (Chairman), Kit Kelly, Gill Matthews and Betty Roberts

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

*Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this Magazine must be forwarded to the Editor before **1st May 1997.***

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR
Henry Plant
16 The Coppice
Tel: 823459

Pembury Village News is published four times a year by the Parish Council, but the views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent official council opinion or policy.
Typeset and printed by Rapido '91 Limited, Tunbridge Wells.

PETER JAMES CHANDLER 31st August 1926 – 22nd January 1997



PETER passed away suddenly during the evening of 22nd January 1997. He had not been a 100% well man since his heart attack in 1984 but his passing was an obvious shock to all concerned, especially his wife Dorothy and the other members of his family.

Peter spent his school days in Lamberhurst where he attended the village school until the age of 14, then leaving age. His first job was as a gardener but he soon joined the Post Office as an Engineer erecting telegraph poles and the like. By hard work, attending evening classes and taking City and Guilds Exams he passed the Civil Service Entrance Exam and joined the Inland Revenue, eventually becoming a fully fledged Inspector, a post he held until retirement in 1984.

Peter was an all round sportsman playing table tennis, football and cricket. Cricket however was to become his life blood, his earliest ambition was to play for Pembury – the Club that both his father Les and his grandfather Henry had played for. A third generation Pembury player, he played his first game in 1939, coming into the side because they were one short and the only person left was the scorer. No cricket was

played in the village during the war years but at the cessation of hostilities he was elected to the committee in 1945 becoming Secretary in 1953, a post he still held at the time of his passing. He was a hostile fast bowler, particularly on lively wickets, and was one of the best bowlers the Club has produced. His finest performance was 5 wickets for 4 runs against Blue House Marden. He played his last game for the Club against the Mote in the Mid-Kent League on his birthday in 1978.

But it is not for the playing of cricket that Peter will be remembered. For over forty years he held the Club together and turned an ordinary village side into a well respected Club with some of the best facilities to be found anywhere in the Local Leagues. It is extremely doubtful if there is a single Pembury player, either past or present, that has not been influenced by Peter's presence within the Club: by his organising ability; by his dedication; by his advice, particularly to the younger members; even, if necessary, as a father figure with a shoulder to cry on.

The Club has lost its mentor, a man the like of which the Club has not seen before and will not see again. His passing will leave a void in the Club, in the village and within both the Mid-Kent and the Kent Village Leagues. It is the responsibility of those of us that are left to fill that void, in Peter's memory, and keep the Club going forward in the direction it would have taken with Peter at the helm. Above all to make sure the Club and Ground are in safe hands for the benefit of others yet to come.

The Cricket Club offers its condolences and deepest sympathy to Dorothy, Marilyn and Valerie and their husbands Chris and Ben and to the six grandchildren, all of whom were the apples of Peter's eye. His memory will be honoured. Peter, the man, will not be forgotten.

Dick Crouch

GILL'S GARDEN

SPRING – time to survey borders in the garden and make changes if necessary. Plant ornamental trees making sure they are well staked to protect them against the March winds. Remember to keep them well watered in the summer months; a mulch around established shrubs and trees will help to retain moisture and so keep plants in good condition. Hardy perennials can be planted or larger plants that have outgrown their space divided and smaller clumps replanted.

Shrubby perennials should be cut back to encourage new growth and dead growth on half hardy plants removed.

Prune deciduous shrubs that flower in late summer now (except those which bleed heavily) and winter flowering and spring shrubs in late spring. Annuals can be sown in March either indoors to be transplanted, or directly in the ground if the weather is favourable. If you are designing a new border, sand poured from a bottle is useful to define the positions for planting. The seeds are then sown in straight lines and after they have germinated are thinned out to leave a few strong plants. Any stray seedlings in between the lines are usually weeds.

If you are planting either annuals or vegetables a few marigolds planted as well will help to attract aphid insects such as

hover flies and also help to deter pests like white fly. A new variety called Vanilla makes a change to the usual vibrant orange.

Containers and hanging baskets can be planted up in April using smaller plants and kept in a frost free place until the end of May, thus enabling the plants to be well established before the summer. Moisture retaining crystals mixed with the soil will help to keep the baskets moist in the summer.

Lawns should be mown on a high cut to begin with and any bulbs grown in the lawn should be allowed to die back naturally first. The lawn will benefit from a spring and summer feed and provided it has no selected weedkiller in it can be used to feed the bulbs. Bulbs grown in borders need a general purpose fertiliser such as Growmore or fish, blood and bonemeal. Bulbs planted in rose beds can be fed with rose fertiliser. This should ensure good blooms next year.

Gill Matthews



DOGS

MOST of us have some kind of affection for dogs although dog owners are in the minority. Also most dog owners are very responsible as to where they walk their animals and the training they give them.

There are many open spaces around the village for exercise but unfortunately many dogs are taken for a walk just to “whoopsey”.

As the lady from Beagleswood recently pleaded in the Courier “Try not to let your dog foul Cemetery Lane where the schoolchildren gather, or the recreation grounds, public footpaths or residents’ gateways. If the dog cannot wait at least point its rear end towards the gutter”.

Remember, there is now a heavy fine that can be imposed for dog fouling.

Hughie Boorman

FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH

The Feast of St. Peter is to be celebrated in the Old Church on the weekend of 28th and 29th June 1997 by a Flower Festival once again. Most of the village organisations have been contacted to enquire whether or not they wish to participate. If you are interested in being either a helper, a flower provider or wish to do a display in the Old Church for that weekend, please would you contact Sarah Clarke on 823932.

The Flower Festival will finish with a sung Vespers Service at 6.30pm in the Old Church on Sunday 29th June 1997. All funds raised will be in aid of the continuing programme of Old Church Restoration.

PEMBURY VILLAGE FAYRE

FOR the second year running the Scouts and Guides and the Pembury Athletic Youth Football Club will be jointly organising the Village Fayre. Initial preparations have begun and we are all hoping that this year's Fayre will be bigger and better than anything previously seen in the village. The feedback from last year's Fayre was mostly complimentary.

This year's Fayre will be held on Saturday 12th July 1997 commencing at 1.00pm in the Lower Green Recreation Ground. Once

again there will be live music and this year we hope to have a more efficient PA system!

If you would like to be involved in the Fayre, have a stall, be part of the Craft Fayre, have suggestions to make this year's Fayre bigger and better, provide some entertainment or help organise the event please contact Paul Russell on Pembury 823193. All suggestions will be gratefully received. Look out for further information in the next issue of the Magazine.

KENT CLERK OF THE YEAR

1996 AWARDS

The Kent Rural Community Council and the Kent Association of Parish Councils held a competition to find the Kent Clerk of the Year. The competition was judged on three criteria – effectiveness, paperwork and the advice provided on a typical problem facing the Council. Copies of Council's agendas and minutes were submitted to assess how well the information to Council was provided and recorded.

The competition was judged by Mr Davies, Chairman of KRCC; Mrs Sorenson, Town Clerk of Sevenoaks Town Council and Chairman of the Society of Local Council Clerks in Kent and Mr Bell, President of KAPC. The standard of the entries was very high and a new category was introduced at the last minute to recognise the exceptionally high standards achieved by some entries in the competition.

Mrs Barbara Russell, Clerk to Pembury Parish Council, achieved "Highly Commended" in the 'Experienced Category' of the competition. She received her certificate at the Parish Council meeting on 6th January 1997.

Profile

Margaret Coverly

Margaret Coverly won the “Lollipop Lady of 1996” Award a few weeks ago. Parents, teachers, pupils and ex-pupils of our school know her well. Every day in term time, whatever the weather, she is on duty outside the school to ensure that all the children get to school and return home safely. After her duties at the crossing Margaret begins work as a classroom assistant, helping the five-year-olds cope with the many things they have to learn when they start school. She tries to give extra time to those with special needs. She says “It is the early years that are the most important. The young children first begin to acquire skills, learn to socialise and prepare for the years of life long education ahead”. Margaret enjoys the contact with parents and has a wonderful relationship with them; she knows most of the children and is pleased that many of them come to her with their little stories and problems.

Margaret was born and brought up in

Kent. She was the only girl in the family with six brothers and admits she was spoilt. After leaving school she trained and then worked as a secretary but she now prefers to work with children.

Margaret met her husband Chris through a church choir and they married 21 years ago. They have lived in Pembury for the last 12 years and their son, Neil, attended Pembury School. The family enjoy walking in the Kent countryside and abroad: Switzerland, Austria and the Black Forest attract them. Her other interests include cookery, singing, reading, particularly biographies, and she has a passion for cats.

Her brothers first introduced her to art by taking her on visits to many of the London art galleries. Her immediate family are all artistic and she loves making things with the children at school and experimenting with new materials. She showed me some very attractive pieces of pottery she had made.

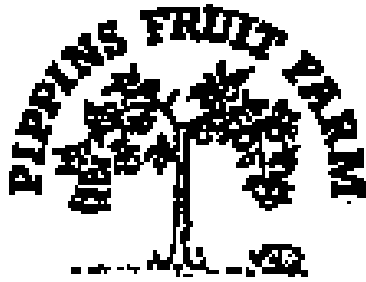


Photo courtesy Courier Newspapers

When Margaret knew she had won the award and that so many people had voted for her she said: “Oh, but I am only doing my job”. The special school assembly and presentation was an occasion she will remember all her life. She would like to say “thank you” to those who nominated her for the award and the many people who voted her “the best lollipop lady in Tunbridge Wells”.

Sylvia Abbott

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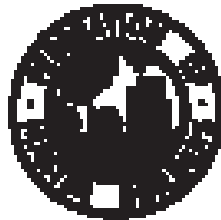
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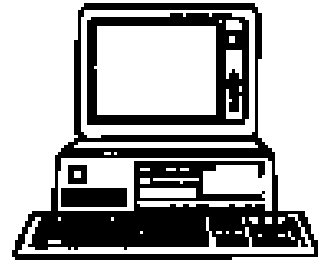
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PEMBURY WALKS

Now is the time of the year that is probably the most interesting and beautiful in which to go walking the parish footpaths.

Either side of the village there are areas of complete contrast.

Whilst the south, west and north tend to be more pasture or wooded areas, the eastern parts have a mixture of fruit, cherry, apple, pear and plum orchards. These blossoms, given the right weather, will last for several weeks in shades of pink and white.

In the wooded areas new growth, leaves, bracken will be breaking out, with furious activity of nest building birds and

breeding rabbits.

Of course, spring is not spring without lambs and if you use some of the footpaths featured in previous issues then all of the features mentioned can be enjoyed in one long, healthy walk. And remember – it is free of charge!

Please respect the countryside; shut the gates, do not leave litter and report any footpaths that are blocked.

If you require a footpath map – please ring the Clerks Office on 823193.

Hughie Boorman

THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

WE LIVE in a community which is one of the largest villages in the country. Because of the proximity of our bigger neighbour we have over the years grown closer to Tunbridge Wells in many and various ways, but this does not mean that we have, without question, to believe that we are tied to its apron-strings. Speak to any resident of Pembury and they will tell you that they are pleased to share in our level of independence and by choice are content to live here.

Of late it is apparent that more and more Pembury people are realising that there are many pleasurable and satisfying aspects in drawing together to create a closer community. A few examples of this are the increasing numbers who now join in to compete in the village Quiz evenings, the success of the Pembury Fair and the new members who have joined The Pembury Society.

However, if you look more closely at the list of those who give their time freely to lead the clubs and organise the village competitions and events and represent us on the Parish and Borough Councils, it does become apparent that the driving energy is supplied repeatedly by the same people. This need not be so; with our size the village has the potential to bring to the forefront a lot more of those who are rich in natural ability and wide in experience, who we need to provide the ideas and impetus to carry Pembury forward into the years ahead. Success in these endeavours would have wide consequences for us all and no doubt would create a lasting benefit in terms of facilities appropriate to a community of our size.

So why not do something about this and by your efforts help create the Pembury of the future? Let's face it, if the village had had the energy and determination in the past to achieve what was then the unthinkable, we could now be enjoying the benefits of our own swimming pool and a proper community centre. To paraphrase the words of one J.F.K. "It is not what I think Pembury should do for me, but what I can do for Pembury?"

The Spring Meeting of the Pembury Society takes place on 21st April 1997 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall – all are welcome!

Derek Johnson, Chairman

LOLLIPOP LADY

MARGARET

We know that you will be delighted to hear that Margaret Coverly has been voted Lollipop Lady of the Year. This competition was run by Courier Newspapers and sponsored by British Gas. Margaret beat over two dozen other nominated lollipop ladies.

At a special school assembly the Editor of the Courier presented Margaret with a cheque for £125 and a certificate. A representative from British Gas presented her with a bottle of champagne. The school was also presented with a cheque for £125.

The children are very proud of their Lollipop Lady and would like to share with you their own thoughts about her.

"She always smiles at me and I smile back"

"She is a lovely lady"

"She is always cheerful"

"She always has a smile on her face. She is the best."

Mrs Coverly is helpful, kind and generous. She is always there when you need her. Every morning when I cross the road she always says "Hello" and is always cheerful. I am glad that she won the award and got all that money. Mrs Coverly does help people to read and write. She does things all over the school. When I was in Year Two, I did not know where my Gran was, so Mrs Coverly told me to wait with her.

Georgina Oxley

OF THE YEAR COVERLY

Standing in the middle of the road,
The Lollipop Lady helps us across,
Over and over again, she stops the cars,
so people do not have accidents.

Children from all over the school cross safely,
Her lollipop stick shows above the cars,
I can walk back from school without danger.
Lollipop Lady!
Dangerous road, outside the school. A
Road which the Lollipop Lady makes safe
Even on wet days, cold days and hot days
Non-stop lifeguarding. Lollipop Lady!

Philip Eve

Our Lollipop Lady is the best.
She shows us this when she's
put to the test,
She stands through all weather,
Hail, rain, sleet or snow,
She will be there, that we know,
She wears her yellow suit,
With her boots made of leather,
And she seems to cross the
road as if light as a feather,
We like Mrs Coverly very much,
She stops all the cars with her
magic touch,
She has been a Lollipop Lady
for over four years,
And if she ever left, we would
shed many tears.

*Sam Andrews, Robbie Brough
and Oliver Kyles*

Mrs
Coverly
the
Lollipop
Lady
stops
the
cars.
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HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

A PEMBURY ROOM in the new Hospice is now assured! On 20th December the announcement that the Christmas raffle had raised an amazing £4,600 took the fund past the magic £25,000 mark, enough to cover the building of the single room for terminally ill patients. To furnish it with the necessary special equipment needs another £4,000 and that too is now near to achievement.

Soon after Christmas the fund was further boosted by Notcutts' generous donation of £725, half the proceeds of their Santa's Grotto, and other seasonal activities; also by the sterling efforts of the Pembury Players. Their pantomime "Aladdin" was another big success for the Players, despite the snow which affected attendance on the first night. The enthusiasm of the cast and the backstage workers, the settings for the large number of different scenes, which were brilliant, were rewarded by total takings for the four performances of over £2,000. Every penny of this went towards the Pembury Room, all costs having been met by six generous local firms.

Pembury Link Group members are delighted to have reached their target sooner than they ever expected, thanks to the help and generosity of so many local people and businesses. Every donation, whether small or large, has been appreciated. The Group will not, however, be giving up after the £4,000

furnishing cost has been met. More money is still needed for the overall building fund and the future running costs, so members plan to set themselves a new target for the rest of 1997. Watch out for more fund-raising events in future!

A Champion Hospice Fundraiser

It was the Pembury Hospice Link Group's lucky day when one of its members asked Dartford Securities Ltd of Tunbridge Wells to take part in its 1996 Easter Bunny Raffle. DSL's Managing Director, Malcolm Jamieson, and his staff reacted with enthusiasm. First they sold the most raffle tickets of all the firms participating; next Malcolm began running his own fund-raising events for the Pembury Room, as well as turning up in person to help at some of the Link Group's events; finally he showed a great talent for persuading the contractors he uses to join in! This year's pantomime sponsorship, the music at Pippins Country Fair, the dishwasher and all the other splendid prizes in the Christmas raffle, even the iron and ironing board now used in the Hospice shop, all came from DSL contractors. Malcolm does not even live in Pembury but without him the Pembury Room target could never have been met so soon.

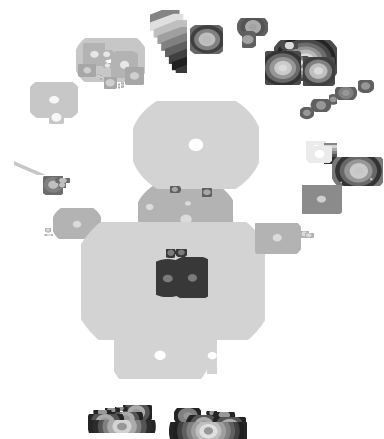
Mollie Roe

GOURMET DELIGHTS

It is time we had a greater input to the Parish Magazine from all you wives, mothers and grandmothers who keep us fed and nurtured each and every day.

If you have any little cooking secrets of your own or ones that were passed down in your family please let us have them and we will publish them.

Hughie Boorman



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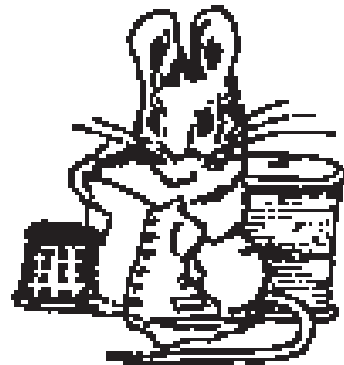
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KENT MEN OF THE TREES

PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL entered the "Trees in Your Village Competition 1996" and we thought, perhaps, that you might wish to know the judge's comments on the trees in the parish even though we were not successful last year. After thanking Parish Councillor Bob Wilkes for his very enthusiastic tour of the village, the judge Roy Hood, made the following comments as they toured different areas of the village.

Village Green

The mature horse-chestnut tree and lime have recovered well from the 1987 hurricane and the new plantings of lime, chestnut and oak are growing well and will eventually replace the mature trees when they are lost.

Church

The young tulip tree looked rather poor, possibly was too large when planted on rather an exposed site. Most of the other young trees here look well, some could have their stakes and ties removed. A really delightful mixed hedge on the graveyard extension, surprisingly it is only four years old. Remove stakes from the oaks along the far boundary. Watch for rubbing by the grow-tube on the commemorative silver birch. Although these are supposed to be biodegradable, I think this will eventually need removing.

Recreation Ground

We noted many new plantings which could develop into a pleasing feature in

the future. A large silver birch, a fine larch, bird cherry and an acacia were noted here along with a pleasant back-drop of mixed woodland.

Lower Green Cemetery

Impressive plane trees, hornbeam, bird cherry and cypress, also an attractive mixed hedge and a young tulip tree growing well.

The field maple near the telephone box in Lower Green Road is growing well and seems to have survived the salt-bin run off, where the previous plantings failed.

Some fine trees on the way to St. Peter's Church and some good specimens en route to the Kent College.

St. Peter's Church

A nice mulberry tree and some impressive mature oaks were noted. The beech hedge is coming on well but the pussy-willow must be kept in check otherwise it will overwhelm it. A nice yew hedge and a fine cluster of mature sweet chestnuts were noted.

Pembury YMCA Centre

Some good mature trees on the boundary and the row of poplar and large silver birch make a pleasant feature. One or two of the newer plantings need some of the rhododendrons and other bushes cut back from around them to allow them more room to grow. An aspen and hornbeam are looking very dry. We hope the recent rains will enable them to recover and flourish.

PEMBURY COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

IN THE PAST few months the vandalism in the village has taken a more serious turn. Complaints were received about someone using an air rifle and, more recently, damage was caused by a young lad using a ballbearing gun. Luckily no one was hurt in either of these incidents.

Not only will the parishioners of Pembury have to pay for the damage to be repaired but it would appear that potentially dangerous weapons have been put into irresponsible hands. Please, parents, think carefully before you allow your children to have such dangerous 'toys'.

The village public houses and off-licences should now be operating the identity card

scheme to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage purchasers. Hopefully the unruly behaviour in public of groups of youngsters who have been drinking and the litter of cans and bottles around the village will become things of the past.

We would ask those who congregate in the recreation ground in particular not to break bottles and leave the broken glass lying around. Think how dangerous it is. What if someone treads on it or a toddler falls on it? If you must drink in public places please have some consideration for other people.

Betty Roberts
Chairman

COMMUNITY BEAT

IT has been some time since my last article due to enforced sickness and other operational commitments. Whilst not always on my beat I have been kept updated with activities.

We have managed to set up three new Neighbourhood Watch areas and Chris Janes has tried to breathe new life into others. We have no new Parish Constables, which is proving a big disappointment. If you are medically fit and between 18 and 50 and would like more information please contact me.

There are now community action/working groups in existence in Pembury, Paddock Wood and East Peckham. These have been established by the Parish Council in conjunction with the police and hopefully all sections of the community are represented. We try to identify local ongoing problems and together try to resolve them, not necessarily by law enforcement.

Over the whole area motor vehicle crime is

still the biggest single problem. Please make sure your vehicle has adequate security measures and valuables are not left in full view. If you see or hear anyone or anything which you consider out of the ordinary, particularly near vehicles, please ring the police station on 01892 511055 or 01732 740055 and ask for the Control Room. If you are unfortunate enough to be the subject of any crime report it by asking for the Crime Desk, however small the crime.

Despite asking for people to contact me with information on known or suspected offenders in your area my phone has been singularly quiet. The number is 01892 502143 but this is NOT the number for reporting crimes or incidents where police are required, which has been happening. I have perhaps been away for 3 or 4 days and an incident needing police immediately has been left on my answer machine. Please phone the station in these cases.

PC Clive Bryant

SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

ONCE AGAIN the parish are entering the competition, under the heading “Pembury in Bloom”. The aim of the contest, which this year is sponsored by British Gas Transco, is to encourage all sectors of the community to work together to improve our village using flowers in tubs and baskets; landscaping; and lack of graffiti and litter. Contact will be made with entrants to arrange the judging by independent and appropriately qualified judges during July.

The judging guidelines are:

Private Sector: • Awareness of competition; • Appearance and upkeep of front gardens, attractiveness of floral displays as well as maintenance of hedge and grass cutting; • Involvement of local residents, including children. 25 points awarded.

Planting: • Planting of trees, shrubs and flowers in prominent places, e.g. roadside verges, playing fields, village green, open spaces and parks; • Quality of design, maintenance and upkeep; • Appropriate use of landscaping and structure planting. 25 points awarded.

Upkeep: • Orderly displays at public buildings, village hall, pubs, churches, schools and clinics.

Allotments:

- Tidiness of allotments, sheds, greenhouses, walls, fences and open spaces;
- Cleanliness of all areas and provision of litter bins. 25 points awarded.

Overall impact:

- Absence of litter, graffiti, dog fouling and unsightly

advertising; • General appearance. 25 points awarded.

Larkfield Hall will be holding their open day on May 10th when plants will be on sale. Once again Larkfield Hall have kindly offered to help with the competition.

Notcutts are holding their 2nd Pembury in Bloom competition for which entry forms are enclosed. Apart from the fun of competing it all helps towards the visual aspect of the village.

All organisations in the village including shops, traders, pubs and garages are invited to take part and if anybody would like to join a local “bloom committee” please contact me on 822057. The Parish Council will be entering the War Memorial, Coronation Garden, the village green and the recreation ground. It is hoped the school will participate in some way. All parts of the village are noted.

The National Spring Clean takes place on 18th to 25th April. As last year this will be the focal point for removing litter and graffiti.

A shield is awarded to the winner of the “Best Village Green”. Last year Five Oak Green won with their well-maintained “Island Green” whilst Larkfield Hall received a Certificate of Merit. The title “Village Green” is a little misleading as it refers to any public open space maintained for the benefit of the public.

Gill Matthews



SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB

The publication of this Newsletter comes out in time to herald the approach of spring and with it many villagers think again of the pleasure they get from playing bowls on the excellent green at the Recreation Ground. The season will start in the first week of May and if you would like to try your hand at this great game or if, as an experienced bowler, you fancy a change of venue please contact the Pembury Bowls Club's Secretary – Mr George Roberts on 824914.

It could be the best decision you have made in a long time.

George Roberts



drawn away to a Tunbridge Wells team, whilst the Sunday sides will be playing at home to teams from the Medway towns.

Meanwhile our teams are progressing well in their respective domestic Cup competitions. The Saturday Reserves are our best placed team in the League competitions. They are challenging strongly for their divisional title.

Our remaining hope for '97 is the erection of the long awaited new pavilion at Woodside. The current position is that we have agreed a lease with the Parish Council and, subject to their solicitors completing the actual document and ours passing it, we shall shortly be into the hard work of getting Lottery

funding. Much hard work has already been completed in the areas of building design, sewerage investigations, money searching, lease negotiations, etc. etc. etc. Next is getting all the monies together! Hopefully by the next edition I shall be able to give some good news!

I hope that through these regular reports the village can get a feel for the fun and enjoyment derived by the football fraternity. Maybe this year will reward all the hard work put in over many years, both on and off the pitches, by both players and officials.

Last, but by no means least, may we place on public record our last hope for '97: that Roy Andrews, the Head Groundsman has a very long and enjoyable retirement. We have very much appreciated his efforts on our behalf at Woodside. Thank you Roy, best wishes and good luck!

Jim Smith, Chairman

PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

Since the last time I updated you on the progress of our teams' Christmas has come and gone and we are now almost through the second month of the New Year. Sadly for most of us already, the majority of our New Year hopes and resolutions have disappeared with the melting snows. However, on the football front we are still very confident for the second half of the season.

It is always quite an achievement for a local club to get a team to the last 16 of a County Cup. This year Pembury can boast of THREE doing so! The Saturday 1st team and both of the Sunday teams have achieved this honour in their respective competitions and not only the club but also the village can take a great pride in this. Subsequent rounds are on a county-wide basis. Fortunately all sides have been saved long journeys for Saturday has been

PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL CLUB

PEMBURY ATHLETIC are currently in our strongest position in our 15-year history. There are currently 147 registered members in the club ranging from Under 7 to 18 year olds playing in the West Kent Sunday League – making the club probably the largest membership body in the village.

Our current Under 16 squad have just won the Crowborough & District Junior League in their age group. The club are proud of their achievements – the fourth time the club have won the Under 16 championship – continuing the traditions of this club being successful in the older groups.

The most encouraging part of the Under 16's success is that they achieved it with no cautions or problems – something Ben Coombes and his boys were congratulated for by the Crowborough & District

Football League.

It is tinged with sadness, though, at the loss of not only the Under 16's number one fan but also one of the Club's greatest allies – Peter Chandler – whose obituary appears earlier in this magazine. It is the team's wish to dedicate the championship to his memory.

It is at the younger end of the club where our membership is at its strongest. We participate in the Mini Soccer programme organised by the FA and Crowborough League. It is a totally different concept based on short sided games for boys and girls.

Any boys or girls from 7 years and up are welcome to participate and can see us in action in the Recreation Ground on most Saturday mornings.

Laurie Frowde

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PEMBURY IN THE PAST

A brief history of Pembury will be published in the next few issues. This has been copied from the Pembury Parish Guide of 1966 and was originally written by Jack Standen.

PEMBURY has been a place on the map under various names for at least 800 years. It is not mentioned in Domesday. The first known record is of the Manors of Pepenbury Magna (Hawkwell) and Pepenbury Parva (Bayhall). The Old Parish Church of St. Peter stood within the greater Manor (Hawkwell) and there is no doubt that the earliest settlement was in that district, where it remained until the beginning of the last century when the advent of the stage coach from London to Hastings opened up trade around the Upper Green. About the same time a Major Lempriere opened up a brickworks on Stonecourt Farm in Lower Green and by so doing, provided not only employment which attracted people to the village, but houses in which they could live. Some of these houses still remain in what was known as Slate Row, now a part of Henwood Green Road, but others in what was known as Red Row nearby, collapsed and were cleared away about 20 years ago.

Still recalling the economic life of the village we can record that other firms were attracted by the seam of clay worked by Major Lempriere, one being the Stonecourt Brick and Tile Co., whose lease expired in 1939, and the second World War put an end to completely. Another company was the Pottery Works set up by Philip Peters. At that time he was the landlord of the Royal Oak public house and he worked the pottery in the field behind his house. Later he opened a thriving business in Tunbridge Wells dealing in china and glassware.

The cause of the pottery industry coming to an end was most interesting. When Cobbett rode through this part of Kent on his Rural Rides he expressed the wish that the Kentish Farmer could find for supporting his hops a pole that would last as a pole as many years as it took to grow as a tree, which the ash did not. Shortly after that typical piece of Cobbett advice to farmers some Spanish Chestnuts were planted and grown to a sufficient height. When cut and treated they were found to last, as poles, the 11 to 12 years that they took to grow as a tree. Philip Peters used the twigs from the trees to burn his famous pottery wares.

When, years later, the farmers started to use string for supporting their hopvines, his source of wood fuel dried up. He tried a coal-burning kiln but it just would not give the same results with the Pembury Clay. We still have the chestnuts with us, now used mostly for fencing, but the pottery has gone.

In the early days of the Old Church it was attached to Bayham Abbey and served by the Abbey monks. The Abbey lay some four miles to the south and part of the Coach Road connecting the two places can still be walked as a pleasant footpath. Not much is known about the nave of the Old Church, but the tower and the chancel were the gifts of John Colepepper of Bayhall as a thank offering for his restoration to royal favour in 1327. The Old Church has seen many changes as shown in the registers, which are complete from 1550 until the present day, except for one book covering eleven years.

to be continued . . .

THEN AND NOW

In the 1831 census it was recorded that Pembury covered an area of 3590 acres with a total population of 1070: 510 females and 553 males. 141 were labourers in agriculture and 61 were servants. There were 199 houses and 226 families.

Now we have over 2,000 households and well over 6,000 inhabitants.

WHO CAN REMEMBER . . .



This photograph and newspaper cutting were handed to me by Mrs Helen Reeves a few months ago. We think it may originate from the early forties but we are not sure.

The scene of the fire, I am told, was where Vic's vegetable shop and Pete Speiaghts the butchers now stands. We are given to understand that there was also a forge on the site. If there are any parishioners who are in the photograph or remember the incident please contact me in order that we build up the story.

If you have any other interesting yarns relating to Pembury's past we would welcome them also.

Hughie Boorman

Dear Reader/Parent . . .

SHORTLY after Christmas the bus shelter opposite the Recreation Ground had a glass panel smashed – cost approximately £150 – and a public telephone kiosk was also the subject of an attack.

It was alleged that the offender was a nine-year-old with a ballbearing gun and that a woman was inside the telephone box when it was shot at.

Sadly, the police were powerless to take the necessary action in view of problems over prosecuting juniors.

Of course, were an offender older, it would be a different situation – police prosecution followed by charges from the Parish Council for the cost of the damage.

It could have been worse with the loss of someone's eye. Think of what the consequence

would be then. Do children not understand, even after all the publicity, how dangerous firearms can be.

What right have children to walk our streets with this type of weapon and inflict damage to the Parish property and become a threat to its people.

The vast majority of people in Pembury get on well with each other and partake in community activities. By not accepting some responsibility for any child's action you and any other parent of irresponsible youngsters are just as guilty of anti-social behaviour.

Any gesture towards the cost of repairing the damage would show some desire to be part of the community.

Hughie Boorman

Your Clerk Reports . . .

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the Pembury Parish Council will be held on Monday 17th March 1997 at 8pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Pembury. As yet there has been no confirmation of attendance received from invited guest speakers but this information will be placed on the village noticeboards. Those more observant parishioners will have noticed that two new noticeboards have been erected in the village. One has replaced the old vandalised board opposite the school and a new one has been erected on the Woodhill Park bus shelter.

Once again the Parish Council has been very busy over the past year and I will be submitting a full financial report for the year ending 31st March 1996 at the AGM but here follows a brief summary:

Don't forget that there are a number of allotments still available to rent. Rent for a full plot is £15, half a plot is £7.50. Just contact the Clerk on Pembury 823193. Look out for details of the Best Kept Allotment Competition too!

Barbara Russell

Precept demanded from the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for 1995/1996	98,230.00
Income from other sources	22,611.37
Balance brought forward from 15th April 1995	72,078.43
TOTAL	192,919.80
Expenditure	90,234.38
Balance carried forward on 31st March 1996	102,685.42
TOTAL	192,919.80
Precept for the year 1996/1997	105,094.00
Precept for the year 1997/1998	104,350

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FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 1 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 3 Pembury Afternoon WI: Birthday Party – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 4 Pembury Evening WI: Brogdale Horticultural Trust – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 5 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Bo Peep Corner – 2.15pm
- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 12 Pembury Horticultural Society: Spring Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 14 St. Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Room – 8pm
- 15 Darby and Joan Club: Coffee Morning – Village Hall
- 21 Pembury Society: Spring Meeting – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 28 St. Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Room – 8pm
- 28 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 29 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm

MAY

- 1 Pembury Afternoon WI: Resolutions – Catholic Hall – 2.15pm
- 2 Pembury Evening WI: Resolutions – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 10 RNLI: May Fair – Catholic Hall – 10am-12noon
- 10 Open Day at Larkfield Hall – Time to be announced
- 13 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 19 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 27 Darby and Joan Club – Outing
- 31 St. Peter's (Upper Church): Fair – 2pm

JUNE

- 5 Pembury Afternoon WI: A Woman's Work – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 6 Pembury Evening WI: ACWW – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 7 Pembury Footpath Walkers: All Day Walk – TBA
- 9 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 10 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 15 Pembury Garden Tour
- 24 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 28/29 Flower Festival – St Peter's Old Church

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- ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED – Tun Wells Access
Group – Local Rep: Mrs J. Peckham. Tel: 526693
- AGE CONCERN
Mrs Josephine Darville. Tel: 522591
- ALZHEIMERS DISEASE SOCIETY
Simon Rooksby, Pineview Day Hospital
Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535, Ext 3515
- ASSOCIATION OF PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUBS
Jim Smith, 18 Westway. Tel: 823714
- BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS
Peter Brookes, 8 Concorde Close, Paddock Wood.
Tel: 833662
- BOWLS CLUB
Secretary: S. G. Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park. Tel: 824914
- BROWNIES GUIDER
Mrs Jones, 14 Lower Green Road. Tel: 823747
- BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION
Secretary: Mr R. G. G. Whitlock, 6 The Forstal.
Tel: 822115
- CAMDEN GREEN BADMINTON CLUB
R. Holt, 50 Ridgeway. Tel: 823830
- CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Geoffrey Pointer, The Presbytery, 11 Alliance Way,
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- CRICKET CLUB
Contact: Dick Crouch. Tel: TW 823164
- DARBY & JOAN CLUB
Mr C. J. Eason, 183 Hastings Road. Tel: 824673
- FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL
c/o Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535
- FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH
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3rd Pembury Company: Mrs J. Lakeland,
7 Greenleas. Tel: 824916
- HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Mrs Sybil Baker, The Annexe, Pembury Hall,
Old Church Road. Tel: 824597
- HOSPICE IN THE WEALD – PEMBURY LINK GROUP
Chris Cooper. Tel: 824805
- KENT COLLEGE
Headmistress: Miss Barbara Crompton. Tel: 822006
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Kevin Barden, 24 Beagles Wood Road. Tel: 824708
- LARKFIELD HALL
Principal: Mr M. F. M. Day, Cornford Lane. Tel: 822168
- LAWN TENNIS CLUB
Mrs S. Smith, 2 Ridgeway. Tel: 822405
- LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Sylvia Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031
- MUMS AND TINY TOTS CLUB
Mrs S. Lathbury, 106 Ridgeway. Tel: 824532
- NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, UK
Michael Coggles. Tel: 822705
- OUTGROWN CHILDREN'S WEAR
Mrs S. Rice-Tucker. Tel: 822483
- PEMBURY ATHLETIC (Youth) FOOTBALL CLUB
Keith Mearing, 114 Beagleswood Road. Tel: 823232
- PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB
Geoff Plummer. Tel: 824652
- PEMBURY F.C. SATURDAY
Steve Waterman, 35 Dimmock Close, Paddock
Wood. Tel: 835696
- PEMBURY F.C. SUNDAY
P. Craxton, 31 Batchelors. Tel: 823928
- PEMBURY FOOTPATH WALKERS
N. & K. Franklin, 11 The Meadow. Tel: 823212
- PEMBURY FREE CHURCH
Pastor David Graham – Children/Youth Work –
Church Office. Tel: 825590
Pastoral Care Assistant – Di Priest 723216
- PEMBURY FREE CHURCH PLAYGROUP
Mrs Wendy Parrett. Tel: 836945
- PEMBURY FRIENDS OF SEVEN SPRINGS
Mrs Durant, 39 Lower Green Road. Tel: 822196
- PEMBURY LADIES' SOCIAL GROUP
Barbara Scholten. Tel: 823445
- PEMBURY PLAYERS
Chairman: J. Norman Draper. Tel: 823975
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Mrs J. Brough, 2 Cornford Park. Tel: 824208
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Headmaster: Mr R. J. Edom. Tel: 822259
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Teacher in charge: Mrs Hazel Thorne. Tel: 825580
- PEMBURY SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB
Secretary: Mr Bob Greatrex. Tel: 822669
- PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB
Mrs Celia Clifton, Secretary, 8 Woodhill Park.
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Evening: Mrs Gillian Williamson. Tel: 822577
- WRVS
Mrs H. Swinden, 6 Church Road. Tel: 823378
- YMCA
Tim Cole, Pembury YMCA. Tel: 823330

NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

Following the vacancies left by Pat Gillan and Philip Horn, the Parish Council co-opted Julia Croft and Dick Crouch as Parish Councillors to serve on the Council until the next Parish Council Elections in 1999.

JULIA CROFT

Julia was born very locally – in Pembury Hospital! and for the majority of her life has lived in Tunbridge Wells; she moved to Pembury during last year. Julia says “Pembury is where I travelled to in order to go horse riding when I was younger and I feel I have watched the village develop and adjust over the years”. She is a mathematics teacher at Uplands Community College, Wadhurst, having trained for her profession by obtaining a maths degree and completing a one-year teacher training course.

In addition to her job, she has become involved with extra curricula activities. Through her main interests which are mountaineering and rock climbing. Julia set up a Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Medal group last year and is qualified to take children out on low level expeditions.

Julia is looking forward to taking an active role as a Parish Councillor and to contributing constructively to the Parish Council work within the village.



DICK CROUCH

Married with a grown up daughter, Dick was born in the village and except for a short period has lived in the village all his life. He was educated at the local village school; the Skinners School, Tunbridge Wells; and at what is now called the City University where he obtained an Honours Degree in Industrial Chemistry. Dick worked for Marley Tile Company Limited until 1971 when he joined an expanding construction company as Office Manager rising in the ranks until becoming managing director in 1981. In 1991 that company ceased trading due to the economic climate. He is currently employed as an account administrator in Tunbridge Wells.

Dick has been involved with the Pembury Cricket Club since 1955: He is a life member and is currently Acting Club Secretary. He played cricket until 1987 when he retired and took up umpiring which he still does every week during the season.

Dick also played playing rugby for Tonbridge in the late 50’s and Old Skinners (now Tunbridge Wells) during the early 60’s and 70’s, captaining that club from 1963 to 1966. He has played tennis and badminton for Pembury as well as other local teams and is currently a member of Camden Green Badminton Club.

Dick sees himself as an active member of the Parish Council involved in all aspects of village matters.



Laura Russell LCH
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Borough Council

Mrs Sylvia Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031

Mr Bruce Ballantine, 6 Maidstone Road. Tel: 822156

Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway. Tel: 825577

Parish Council

Mr Ron Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031

Mr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 823068

Mrs Sarah Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road. Tel: 823932

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

Mr David Coleman, 22 Ridgeway. Tel: 823402

Miss Julia Croft, 156 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 822074

Mr Dick Crouch, 17 Highfield Close. Tel: 823164

Mr Derek Goodwin, 27 Greenleas. Tel: 823822

Mr Kit Kelly, 22 Hastings Road

Mrs Gillian Matthews, 2 Gimble Way. Tel: 822057

Mr Henry Plant, 16 The Coppice. Tel: 823459

Mrs Betty Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park. Tel: 824914

Mr Bob Wilkes, 6 Belfield Road. Tel: 823264

Chairman, Highways Committee

Chairman, Planning Committee

Chairman of Parish Council

Chairman, Finance Committee

Vice Chairman of Parish Council

Chairman, Amenities Committee

Chairman, Public Relations Committee

Chairman, Burial & Allotments Committee

Chairman, Environmental Committee

Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

Mrs Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove. Tel: 823193

CHURCH TIMES

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

Wednesday – Mass 7.00pm

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 Wednesday
mornings from 10.30am; if
you have a need or have
prayer requests please ring her
on 723216.

DO YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THESE AREAS?

- WOODHILL PARK
- HASTINGS ROAD
- MAIDSTONE ROAD
- LOWER GREEN ROAD
- ROMFORD ROAD
- THE COPPICE
- RIDGEWAY
- WESTWAY
- HERONS WAY
- CHURCH ROAD
- THE GROVE
- THE MEADOW
- GIMBLE WAY

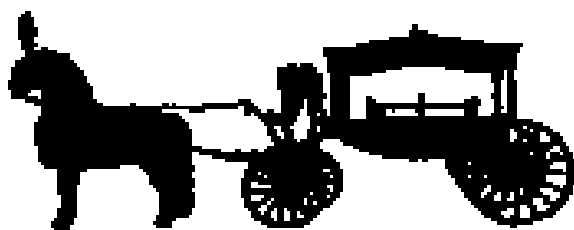


We have recently been successful in selling properties in these areas and consequently have many disappointed keen buyers for a home like yours.

If you live in any of these localities and would like us to help match a buyer to your home, please call the Pembury Office on 825355 and speak to Carol, Rosalind or Pauline.



General Accident Property Services



T. W. BOORMAN FUNERAL SERVICES

*31 Mount Ephraim, Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN4 8AA
(opposite the Kent & Sussex Hospital)*

Telephone (01892) 541070

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AND
MEMORIALS

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DEPARTMENT

No Charge For Last Respects In Our Chapels