

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 94 / Summer 1998

Awarded 2nd Place in the
1997 Best Publication Awards

NALC



**WERE YOU THERE ON
FRIDAY 6th MAY 1988?**

*Page 18 might jog
your memory!!*

Contents

- Blue Peter – Bring & Buy Sale 22
BMX Ramp 3
Borough Council Election 1998 3
Church Times 33
Crime in Pembury 11
For Your Diary 31
Friends of Pembury Parish Church 9
Gill's Garden 4
Hospice in the Weald 27
Hot Horseradish Sauce 25
League of Friends of Pembury Hospital 6
Parish News and Comment 2
Pembury Gardeners' Society 6
Pembury Heathland Walk 28/29
Pembury in the Past 15-19
Pembury Players 6
Pembury School 23
Pembury Society 9
Rob's Plot 7
Royal British Legion 3
South East in Bloom 4
Sport in the Village
 Anyone for Tennis? 13
 Sports and Amenities in Pembury 12
 Pembury Athletic (Youth) FC 12
 Pembury Short Mat Bowls 13
The District Nurse 25
Village Organisations 35
Your Clerk Reports 21
Your Representatives 33

Cover photograph courtesy David Sellman

Parish News & Comment

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS MAKES THE NEWS

The 1997 National Association of Local Councils Best Publications Awards were made at their annual conference at Plymouth recently. An award of a framed edition of Issue No. 90 of the *Pembury Village News*, for second place, was presented.

The picture shows a rare glimpse of our Editorial Committee with the award.



Gill Matthews, Betty Roberts, Julia Croft and Henry Plant

Editorial Committee:

Henry Plant (Chairman), Julia Croft, 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 August 1998.***

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.
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The Meeting House,
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BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION 1998

Under the election by thirds system – by which a third of the Borough Council’s seats are up for election each year – the Pembury seat of Sylvia Abbot (Lib-Dem) was up for re-election last May.

Polling figures were:

Sylvia Abbott (Lib-Dem) – 714

Terry Cload (Con) – 801

With this win, Terry Cload (pictured) now holds office as Pembury’s representative at County, Borough and Parish Council level.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

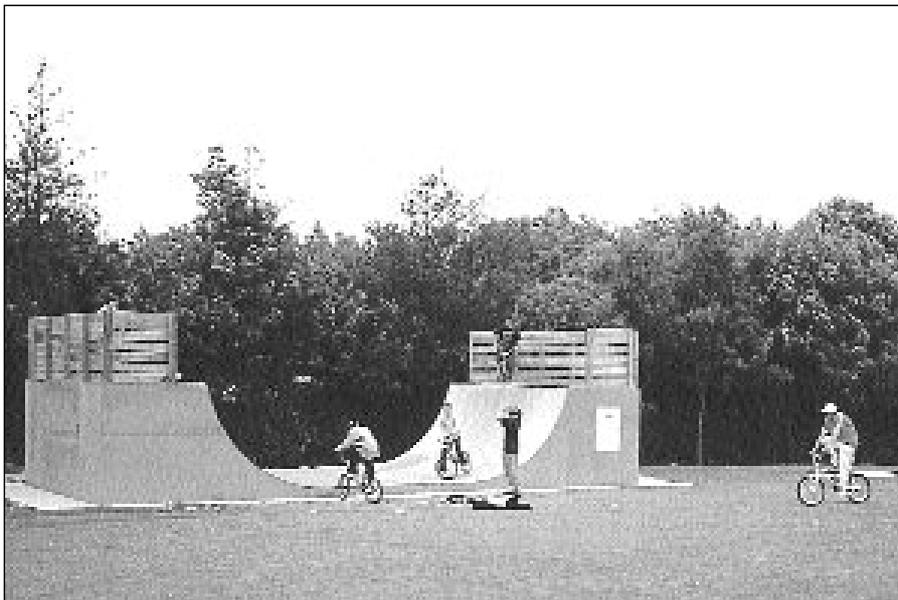
POPPY ORGANISER URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR PEMBURY

Owing to the retirement of the present Organiser, Mr. Alan Mitchell of Langton Green (who by the way volunteered as a stand-in 20 years ago) the village desperately needs a replacement Organiser. It would be a great shame to lose the collection in Pembury, which this year topped £2,000. Anyone interested would be given as much assistance as possible.

For further details please contact

Patrick Toothall – R.B.L. County Field Officer – Telephone 01622 791269

BMX RAMP



On 30th May the new BMX ramp (pictured) was completed and soon had many users. The ramp, which is situated at the bottom of the Pembury Recreation Ground, has been erected following representations from the youth of the village and has been funded by grants from the Tunbridge Wells Borough and Pembury Parish Councils.

GILL'S GARDEN

BY JUNE both the weather and ground should be warm enough to plant half hardy and tender perennial plants. When planting hanging baskets and tubs incorporate water retentive crystals in the compost, water plants daily and give a weekly feed of tomato food.

Take softwood cuttings of shrubs e.g. Potentilla and prune any brooms that have finished flowering being careful not to cut into the old wood. Cut back Aubrietia hard and water with tomato fertiliser. Mound up alpines that are going bare in the middle by dropping compost on the bare areas. Top up pond if necessary and keep bog plants well watered.

Dead head roses that have bloomed and give general fertiliser to keep plants in good condition until autumn. Prune late spring flowering shrubs such as Kerria. Lift spring bulbs such as Daffodils and

tulips which have died down, dry off and store in dry place in

readiness for replanting in Autumn. You can now buy material bags which last a number of years in which bulbs can be planted in the Autumn and then can be removed from the ground as soon as the bulbs have bloomed and left to die down in a shady place so allowing the ground to be used immediately for other plantings. If you are planning a late summer border include Helenium, Anemone Japonica, Hebe and hardy Fuchsias, especially "Mrs Popple", which complement the blue Aconitum and tone with the leaves of the Purple Sage.

Gill Matthews



SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

PEMBURY has again entered the South East in Bloom competition run by the Tidy Britain Group and sponsored by Transco. The judging will take place on Tuesday 14th July at 1 pm. The Judges are looking for overall tidiness in the village as well as colourful displays not only from commercial premises, pubs, shops, garages, hotels, etc and Parish Council grounds but from residential properties where the front gardens are visible from the road. Use of tubs, baskets and permanent plantings are encouraged.

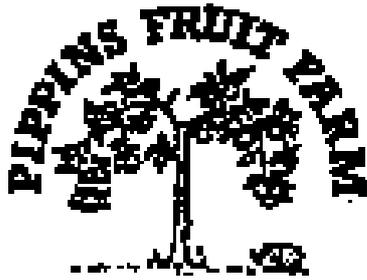
Last year commendation certificates were presented to Larkfield Hall and Kent College.

We have been asked to compile a presentation folder which will highlight special projects or displays "before and after", including photographs of Spring and Autumn colour. The School are starting a club known as the Greengang where children learn about the environment through the National Curriculum.

Notcutts are again helping the Bloom Campaign by running their own competition to be judged in July. Prizes are awarded for either the best hanging basket or front garden. Entry forms are available at Notcutts Garden Centre.

The Parish Council plan to plant trees and wild flowers at the entrance to the village from Bo-Peep corner in the Autumn as well as, hopefully, replanting the brick containers at Woodsgate Corner.

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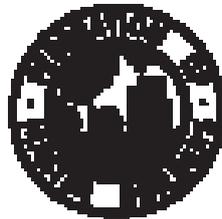
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PEMBURY GARDENERS' SOCIETY

PEMBURY Gardeners Society, previously called Pembury Horticultural Society, had an extremely well attended Spring Show, in spite of the bad weather, snow, hail etc., which fell a few days before. Once again the daffodils, vegetables and Floral Art were of an excellent standard.

The Society, through their committee, put on three shows each year but they would welcome more people to participate. Just a knowledge of gardening is all that is required unless you want to specialise in one particular class of flower or vegetable. There is also a cookery section to stimulate all the cooks in the village into action.

All details about the shows can be found in a schedule obtainable from the Secretary of the Society which is produced once a year.

Subscriptions are £2, £1 for O.A.Ps, which is amazing value considering the enjoyment to be gained from joining. Also all members can buy horticultural items from the shed located in the Allotment Gardens. The same card will get you 10% off purchases from Kings Toll Nurseries of goods which cannot be stocked in the shed.

Two outings are organised every year to well known Houses and Gardens; a call to the Secretary, Mike Pavely on 822605 will provide details of the next trip.

The Summer Show is on Saturday July 11th; why not take a step in the right direction and join the Society on that day.

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL

SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST is the date of this year's Hospital Fete – so do please put it in your diary and come and join us once again. Rod Hull and Emu are our official guests this year and they will be helping us raise money to buy an X-ray machine for Jacoby – the childrens' ward.

Fundraising has already started in earnest – with collections at Somerfield in Paddock Wood and Sainsburys in Tunbridge



Wells raising the first £1000 of our target. If any of you would be prepared to give an hour or two of your time to join teams selling raffle tickets in the town prior to the Fete we would be so grateful to have your help.

Do please give me a call on Tunbridge Wells 528156 if you would like to support your local hospital.

Diana Barber
Chairman of Council

PEMBURY PLAYERS

Pembury Players will be performing "The Darling Buds of May" (not the TV version) in the Village Hall on 18th, 19th, 20th June; performances starts at 8pm. Tickets cost £4, OAP's £3, and are available from Ditchetts, at the door before the performance, or by contacting J. Norman Draper – Tel: 823975.

ROB'S PLOT

AS I STOOD recently on the plot, looking at the manure which had been delivered, it was time to get going. Having nearly spread it all, the next job was to rotovate it in. This meant going back home to get the rotovator and then pushing all the way up the road to the plot. So of course guess my luck! It started but wouldn't dig properly! So my amazing Chrissie pressie had to be pushed all the way back home. Not everything was quite going as well as planned.

Not only was the 'mechanics' of the job holding me up but so was the rather unfortunate weather. If it rained once it seemed to rain forever. Some of you must feel the same, perhaps it has also hindered your work in the garden? And the snow, in April yuk!! I haven't seen flakes that big for years. I certainly was fully aware of them as I found myself at this time, on the plot with my rotovator and George (the rotovator man!) trying to fix it but we more successfully grew into snowmen, oh dear. Anyway, yet again I pushed it home in the hope of better weather and luck next time.

Meanwhile, from the planting side of things, I have at least managed to get the broad beans in. The tomato plants have now been transported from the kitchen (greenhouse!) to the allotment where they are safely housed underneath a rather large polythene cloche. I chose two types, Money-makers and Sungold Red, the latter



being a new cherry tomato this year by Thompson & Morgan. Also I have had the early variety rhubarb come up and the purple sprouting broccoli has finally sprouted itself out.

However, even the planting side of things hasn't been a total success. In fact you could say another disaster. Did I really say that onion seeds would be a challenge? They certainly were. They grew and died. No luck there (lack of greenhouse). So, back to good old Suttgarter Giant onion sets. These would normally be in the ground by now but they aren't. It seems due to the rotovator I am getting behind with what needs to be planted out. The seedlings are otherwise doing well at home; marrows, courgettes, sweet corn, cabbages, sprouts(!), peppers and my plum tomatoes. It looks like things will be late this year for me but I will get there in the end and hopefully with a bumper crop!



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THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

THE Spring Meeting of the Society at the Village Hall was a great success and it was a pleasure to see and meet so many of our members. The event was warm and friendly from the start and our two speakers each gave an engaging, witty and altogether excellent presentation. Whilst they were quite different one from the other, they were linked by the same shared subject which was Pembury. David Knight of Pippins Farm spoke about the markets he served and the problems and the satisfaction he experienced in producing food for today. Above all, it was his stories of the people with whom he worked and of those who purchase his products which gave us the greatest pleasure, matched by the samples of wine produced from his Pembury vineyard.

Peter Speaight (Snr.) described the changes he had seen in meat production and retailing since he entered the industry many years ago and recounted several humorous incidents which occurred during the days of food rationing. He talked about his great personal venture of opening a shop in the village and about the very early days when it seemed as if it would be touch and go if the endeavour was to be a success. We know now that it was indeed a considerable and long-lasting success but it was apparent to all who were listening to him that it must have been his innate good humour and perseverance which were his mainstays.

Such a meeting is but an opportunity for members to meet fellow-members in what we hope are congenial circumstances but the true work of The Pembury Society continues unabated. The number of

Planning Applications for new buildings is presently on the increase and we are ever conscious that the main reason for

our existence is the need for a non-political independent body to take a firm stand, when this is needed, against incursions by developers into our surrounding Green Belt or projects within the village which will affect us all, now and for the future. The Pembury Society is twenty-five years old this year; time passes quickly and to put this into context, if you had personally invested £1000 in a unit trust twenty-five years ago it might by now be worth nearly £175,000. If Pembury had progressed with vigour the community projects, the fund raising and the land purchases which were being discussed twenty-five years ago we might now, as a village, own a proper Community Centre plus many other amenities. Same time span – different results.

So, what of the future twenty-five years from now? And what are you prepared to do to make the village a better and closer-knit place in which to live? The answer is to stand up and make your views heard. As this is an option taken by the very few, the sensible alternative would be to become a member of The Pembury Society. If you are not a member then you jolly well should be. Telephone Ken Watts on 822770 and he will enrol you right away.

Derek Johnson



FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH

THE Friends of Pembury Parish Church will be opening the Old Church for visitors each Sunday afternoon from 3 pm to 5 pm from 3rd May to 6th September 1998.

Each summer many people visit this lovely peaceful 12-century Church but it would be good to see more. The Friends have also up-dated their range of fund raising items which will be available on sale from the porch.

Ann Toler

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CRIME IN PEMBURY

THERE HAVE been a number of incidents in the last three months of the normal yobbish behaviour including damage to people's fences, late night rowdyism in the recreation ground, etc.

However, there have been three incidents of a very severe nature of which most parishioners are probably unaware. These were all attacks of arson.

One involved the setting alight of a hedge close to a parishioner's house in the early morning hours. The second one involved the setting alight of a local tradesman's van parked on his drive close to the house, the van suffering extensive damage.

Unfortunately, it was one hour and twenty minutes before the police arrived.

The third attack related to an abandoned car in the Recreation Ground. This was reported, I am reliably informed, to the Borough Council on Thursday, 23rd April. The car cannot be removed for seven days after the Borough Council have served their notice on it, unless it is burnt out.

The police were also informed by the Clerks office and they have the power to remove it in one day if they so wish. This did not happen.

The danger was the attraction this would have to youngsters who play with matches during the day.

However, early in the morning of Sunday, May 3rd the car was rolled over on its roof close to the Bowls Club

building and set alight. This not only caused damage to the car park but minor damage to the Bowls Clubhouse.

This incident could have been easily avoided by the authorities acting quicker and it could have had more serious consequences.

I cannot believe that we are going to accept acts such as this in the village and I will keep on reporting them until I feel we are winning.

Sadly, we also have to report that the Upper Church of St Peter was broken into and that in itself tells us something about the people we are dealing with.

Another act of vandalism was the School where the School Caretaker had recently put a lot of time and effort into preparing the outdoor swimming pool and furniture for the children for the summer months. Unfortunately in the week ending 23rd May some idiots got into the school grounds throwing the furniture into the pool along with other debris. This is our school and your children's school and I sincerely hope that the incidents reported now start to provoke some kind of anger and a plan of action.

It would be a backward step to form vigilante groups but unless we have an increase in police presence then we may have no other option than to form our own random watch groups.

Please keep the Parish Council informed but make sure your first call is to the Police.

Hugh Boorman

SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

SPORTS AND AMENITIES IN PEMBURY

In November 1997 the Association of Pembury Sports Clubs was formed, its founder members being the Bowls Club, Short Mat Bowls, Cricket, Football – Junior and Senior, Stoolball, Tennis and Badminton.

The main functions of the Association are firstly, to make people aware of the various clubs within the village and whom to contact if they wish to join or just watch; to improve inter-club activity to the point of joint surveillance on club and Parish property; but also, more importantly to encourage more youngsters to take part.

We have also had other suggestions regarding other sports such as hockey, athletics and netball. Why not? Remember, sport is for everyone and the more interest we can promote the more we will achieve.

Unfortunately, according to National Playing Fields Association Standards, the village has only approximately 63 per cent of the recommended acreage per thousand head of population available at present for recreational purposes.

What better way of celebrating the millennium than for an area of ground to be donated by a local landowner to the village for the pursuit of recreation and exercise and for that landowner to be remembered forever by his name being associated with the new recreational area. Any offers?

The Parish Council does have a very active Amenities Committee which it is hoped can work with the Sports Club Association to promote and improve on the facilities in the village and we are already part way into a five year plan for the recreation ground.

The latest stage of this plan is the construction of the BMX bike ramp which followed a request from the youngsters in the village and is a bold initiative. We want them to form their own club, become self policing and there is no reason why they should not be part of the Sports Association. Many

thanks to the Borough Council for their support via a grant of £7500 to assist with this project.

It is also part of the plan to resurface the existing grass tennis courts in order that they can be used for twelve months of the year. We plan to work with the Tennis Club in order for there to be separate Tennis Club and public use times of the courts. The existing hard court could then be used to accommodate a multisport facility and possibly the resurrection of netball.

We also wish to express our thanks to all the mums, dads and many other helpers who week after week, give up their time to organise junior football, scouts and guides, YMCA, Sunday School, etc.

We are committed to achieving our objectives for all to enjoy and ask that all parishioners help us to protect what we have got.

Hugh Boorman

PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL CLUB

UNDER 13s

Going down with the Palace!

Following on from Club secretary Ben Coombes' report in the Spring issue of the Village News I concur that Alex Ferguson has a cushy job! I have the honour (sometimes dubious distinction?) of running PAFC's Under 13 team. Home matches do indeed require a deal of organisation and responsibility in ensuring your "guests" are entertained to the correct standards laid down in the rule book – habitable changing facilities, supplying neutral officials, deciding whether the muddy pitch is playable, etc., right down to remembering to bring the pegs to hold down the goal nets. However, this sometimes pales into insignificance when faced with the nightmare – AWAYDAY.

The opposition team in Eastbourne has moved "home" since last season and the manager has failed to send a map. Hurriedly written directions taken over the phone are shared with the loyal travelling parents at our

meet place in the Camden car park. The goalkeeper has forgotten his gloves. I've forgotten the first aid kit. The convoy starts off – late. We all get separated on the journey. The January rain is incessant. We arrive at the right windswept playing field eventually. Never mind the 1 deg. C temperature, we've made it. We lose 8-0!

It's an age old story and unfortunately this season ended recently with my lot suffering the ignominy of relegation to the C division despite their undoubted enthusiasm throughout the year. However, all bar one of them is or was a Pembury lad, together since Primary School, and the signs now are that it's starting to click. Some increasingly intelligent style of passing football recently displayed (in true Pembury fashion) bodes well for the future. Their last three games, in the Cup, were 4-0 and 10-2 victories culminating in a narrow and undeserved 2-1 defeat at the hands of the division champions.

As a Club we are very fortunate to have two good "homes" where the pitches are of excellent quality and a credit to the groundsmen and our change to Woodside as the Under 14's next season with the new facilities being built will be an exciting challenge. Going up with the Palace?

Martin Coendoz

UNDER 12S

Most of the boys who played this year for the under 12's have been with the Club since we first started our weekly kick-about in the Recreation Ground nearly four years ago. Since then we have progressed to regular training sessions and we have just finished our third season of competitive football in the Crowborough League. In this time the boys have shown a tremendous improvement in their football: they play the game with the right attitude and in a sporting manner and although they play to win they accept defeat graciously.

Their performances throughout the season have been quite good and in all we played 19 League and Cup games winning seven, drawing four and losing eight, scoring 51

goals and conceding 52. In the League we finished in 6th place in the B league, reached the quarter finals of the Knockout Cup and in the Tournament Shield the semi finals, where we met Polegate A, a good 'A' Division side, and in a tense game eventually lost 5-3 after at one stage leading 3-1.

Win lose or draw the Under 12's always give their best and never give up. We play some fast and exciting football and have given our loyal band of supporters plenty of entertainment throughout the season.

Steve Cox



PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLS

The Club finished its most successful season last April with its membership still over 40 members.

Teams Ash and Conkers finished runners-up in their respective divisions, Birch team being pipped by two shots for the runner-up position in the 1st Division.

Ash will now join Birch in the 1st Division with Conkers taking their place in the 2nd Division.

We play two afternoons and one evening a week and one Sunday afternoon a month for league or friendly matches.

In April we had a Race Night and raised over £300 towards a new Village Hall, which at present we have no start date for.

Arthur Storey – Telephone 822509

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Did you know that Pembury has a tennis club? Did you know that it has been in existence since 1936?

Whether you did or you didn't, if you play tennis, why not join us at the tennis courts in the Lower Green Recreation Ground on Wednesdays and Fridays from 6.30pm to dusk and Sundays from 3pm to 5pm.

We also supervise 'Juniors' (from age 8 to 15) on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

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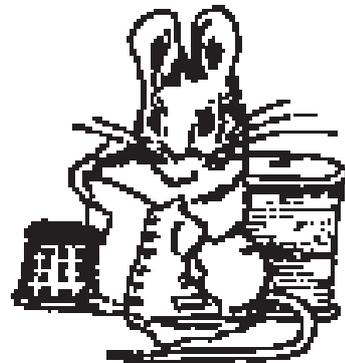
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PEMBURY IN THE PAST

THE LAST LENGTHMAN

With acknowledgment to The Kent and Sussex Courier Newspapers.

The following article appeared in the *Courier* in 1969 and gives some indication of what the life of the village was in those days.

“Mr Benjamin Kingsley of Elmhurst Avenue, Pembury (shown in the nearby photograph) is one of the few remaining lengthmen working in the Tonbridge area or, indeed, in Kent as a whole.

His job is keeping the road clean between Tonbridge and Pembury. A lengthman is so-called from the length of road given to one man to work. This varies from three to six miles.

Mr Kingsley’s length is from Blackhurst Lane to Bo-peep Corner on the Hastings Road but because of the shortage of other men he has had to take in as great a length of road as he can.

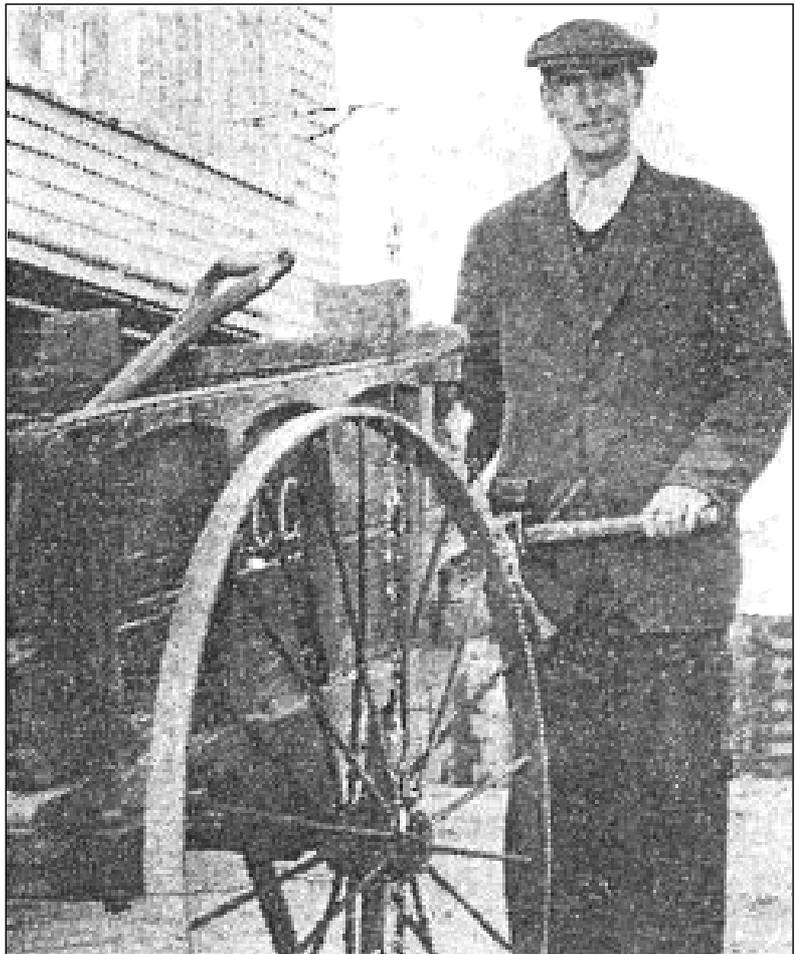
He has been doing the job since 1932 and has the deep tan of a man out in all weathers. He starts at 7.30 am and works a 40-hour, five-day week.

Over the years he has seen the number of lengthmen slowly disappear. The last one around Pembury retired two years ago.

Mr. Kingsley himself will retire at the end of this year when he is 65. It seems likely he will be the last to be seen in the Tonbridge area.

Kent County Council has for some years now been organising mobile gangs, with more in winter on gritting work.

Mr Kingsley says in all his time on the road he has never seen an accident but he has found many cats that have been run over. Once he saw a group of badgers on the road – a rare sight now anywhere in the country.”



PEMBURY IN THE PAST

PEMBURY COUNCIL SCHOOLS IN THE THIRTIES – Part Two

In the last issue I asked how many names you could remember in the school photograph that was shown. This photograph is reproduced on the next page with the names printed below – do you agree with them? and can you fill in any of the blanks or confirm the queries?

Miss Morgan, who I mentioned in the last issue, and the Misses Ratcliffe and Jarvis had spent their teaching lives at the school. Now in their ‘fifties’ they had been assistant and pupil teachers in 1896 and by the turn of the century were teaching my parents and several of my uncles and aunts. There is a staff photograph of them taken in 1912 in Mary Standen’s book “Pembury in the Past”.

As I recall attendance and discipline were not real problems in those days. School records regularly give a 95/96% attendance and the authority of the teachers was usually enough to quell most anti-social behaviour. I was quite shocked once to see one lad aged seven (who shall be nameless) shouting and throwing things at the teacher as they pursued him round the classroom. He became known to the Police later!

May 6th 1935 was a holiday to celebrate the Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. We all foregathered at the Recreation Ground on Lower Green Road and helped to plant a tree and enjoy the usual buns and bunting. Just over a year later, however, the school closed for the funeral of the King. The following year on 11th May we were again at the Rec to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, with cakes and lemonade and races – and another tree? I wonder how many still have the Jubilee and Coronation mugs given to each child?

I remember Mr Fenner taking over as Headmaster from Mr Naish in 1936; August of that year being my first experience of Prize Giving Day at the school when all, including the infants, were assembled in the main building.

I was nine when I moved up into Miss Annie Ratcliffe’s class. Here we faced more serious forays into the three R’s including the times tables, fractions, long division and basic preparation for Miss Rose Jarvis’s Class 4 for the 10-11 year olds. I did not reach her as I left the school at Easter.

The school occasionally closed to reflect the needs of the local community. Elections apart, we would have fruit picking in June, hop picking in August/September and allowance would be made for children to go on a Friendly Society outing or a British Legion event. Empire Day was always celebrated.

With one or two exceptions children were from the working class and often very poor families. School Logs for the period give ample evidence of concern for health and welfare. Nurse Green carried out regular inspections of heads for lice, impetigo and other infections were common and children would be excluded if necessary. Mr Saunders was busy as school dentist, whilst Doctors Tucker, Greenwood or Lister were frequently consulted over injuries or infectious diseases.

Of particular concern on occasions were the few boys in the care of the Poor Law Guardians from the Home at “Chalfont”. With close cropped hair and an odour of institutional care, they were conspicuous in the school and would often be sent back to their Matron for having sores or being verminous.

Daily school milk was 1/2d a bottle but even so many still qualified for free milk, paid for by the local British Legion and supplied by Mr Bennett on the Hastings Road. With no provision for school meals we would have to go home if near enough, bring sandwiches, or go without. There was no fish and chip shop or takeaways.

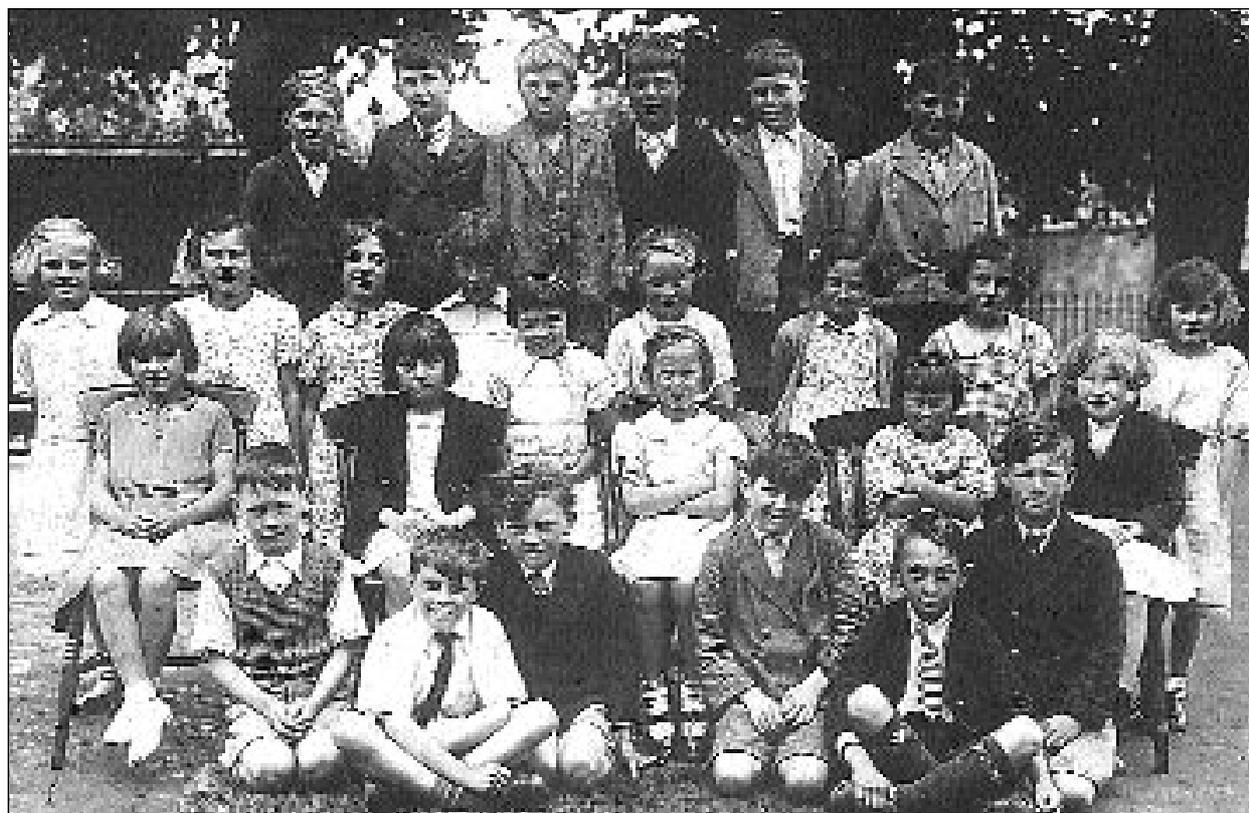
Despite this background charitable activities and fund raising were common features of the school year. We would be encouraged to collect and bring tin foil to raise funds for the hospital, or to collect toys, clothes or money for Missions. There would often be a Jumble Sale to help the school and who now, I wonder, will

remember “Pound Day” to collect eggs and groceries for the Kent and Sussex Hospital? This, of course, was before the days of the NHS when hospitals were local and semi-charitable concerns.

The nearby photograph of my Class was taken probably in July/August 1937. Many of them appear again in the photograph of August 1939 in Mary Standen’s book (page 29). They will

all now be at least 70 years old. How many names can you remember?

As I was to some extent a disabled child Pembury school was sometimes a rough and frightening experience. But my four years there stood me in great stead and laid the groundwork for achievements later. I have no regrets and look back on the old school with affection.



PEMBURY SCHOOL – Class of 1937

Back row: ?, Grahame Horne, Eric Cook, Ronald Foord, ?, Peter Churchill.

Third row: Beryl Stoner, Ivy Oadswell, Betty Meadowcroft, ?, Norah Stevens, Kathy Beech, Audrey Murphy, Irene King.

Second row: Millicent Strode, Joan Parsons, Betty Wood?, Grace Thrift, Joyce Clark, Bertha Fuller?

Front row: Grahame Ballard, Raymond Burgess, Ronald Chesney, Cyril Mackledon?, Percy Whiddett, Geoffrey Rushant.

Other children from that period included: Peter Chandler, Roy Hudd, Joy Horne, Betty Kind, Fred Archer, Gwen Shelley, Muriel Jordan, Leonard Green, Joan Parkes, Betty Rudduck, J. Tolhurst, Dorothy Heskett, Ernest Battie, Jean Brown, Pat Fry.

One or two of whom may be in the photo if I’ve got some names wrong.

Raymond Burgess

PEMBURY IN THE PAST

PEMBURY BY-PASS – 10 YEARS ON!

6th May 1988

To those who were there, hasn't the last 10 years flown by! For 30 years before Pembury villagers had been cajoling and pleading with the authorities for a bypass to end the misery of the stream of cars and lorries flowing endlessly through Pembury High Street creating fumes and danger to the villagers.

After a lot of hard work and strenuous campaigning by protest groups, our elected representatives and many others, their efforts culminated in Pembury's bypass scheme – 2.9 miles long and costing £7.5 million (at 1988 prices!) running from the North Farm Roundabout to a roundabout at Kippings Cross to the south – being approved and later on becoming a reality. The by-pass was officially opened by Mr Peter Bottomley, the then Minister for Roads and Traffic, with the help of Kevin Swain, Oliver Comyn and Charlotte McColl – pupils from Pembury School (top picture, right). The school had adopted the by-pass as a special project resulting in the pupils staging their own exhibition.

The two other photos show (right) a group of Pembury School children with Mr. Bottomley and (below) members of the then Pembury Parish Council who had attended the ceremony.

The opening of the A211 bypass sister scheme on the (then designated) B2015 had taken place earlier on the 22nd July 1987 completing what was a very rare event of a village having two bypasses opened within the space of a year.

Were the bypasses the start of a peaceful existence in the village of Pembury? Many thought so but as the years have rolled on we are seeing more and more vehicles using Hastings Road and Pembury High Street as a rat run to cheat the horrendous build up of traffic which is now a daily occurrence where the by-pass meets the North Farm Roundabout and the start of the single carriageway to Tonbridge.

Isn't it strange that 10 years on we are praying for the construction of yet another by-pass – that connecting the 10-year-old Pembury A21 bypass with the even older Tonbridge bypass – to enable the village to again be free of the fumes and inconvenience of rush hour traffic.

Henry Plant





With acknowledgement to the Kent and Sussex Courier Newspapers.



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Your Clerk *Reports* . . .

Summer is here! How can we tell? By the overgrown condition of the grass verges around the village.

Most of the verges are the responsibility of Kent County Council but unfortunately this year, because of re-organisation of the Highways Management units, contracts are very late in being awarded to cut the grass.

Our two Parish Groundsmen, Tony Clipson and Jamie Littlechild, approached Council to ask if, for the sake of the village, they could be permitted to cut the grass as and when time allowed. This is a big undertaking for them as it is their busiest time of year. However Council were very pleased at their initiative and they will be attempting to cut as many areas as possible.

Each year Pembury enters the Borough in Bloom competition and this year we are entering the Best Kept Kent Village Competition. We cannot expect to do well if our main roads into and through the village have a metre of grass and weeds growing on the verges. We also need to keep the village litter free. In April, members of the Parish Council, Pembury Gardeners, The Pembury Society and Pembury Athletic Football Club participated in a village litter pick. The amount of rubbish collected was amazing! If you see a piece of litter how about picking it up and disposing of it in a bin. Lets all help towards making the village tidier and perhaps winning an award.

Don't forget, tennis tickets are available for the hard tennis court from the Clerk's office – unlimited use of court for £9.50 one month, £13.50 two months and £37 for a year.

Allotments also available £7.50 half plot and £15 full plot. Parish Footpath maps are on sale at the Clerk's office and the library.

A double-decker bus converted into a mobile youth club with computers, music centre and a coffee bar called the "Street Cruiser" staffed by trained youth workers is designed to provide a mobile meeting point for young people between the ages of 12 and 20.

Initially the Street Cruiser will be parked in the Recreation Ground on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-9pm, starting on 2nd June.

Barbara Russell, Clerk to the Council



PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY

We are seeking a well-organised and flexible person to provide general administrative and secretarial support for five hours per week from September.

For further details, please contact Anne White, Nursery Teacher – Tel. 825580 (term time only).

The Nursery would also be grateful for any donations of office equipment such as filing cabinets, typewriters, etc.

Contact Anne White – Pembury 825580

BLUE PETER – BRING & BUY SALE

YOU ALL know the scenario – the address flashes up for the information pack on Blue Peter – with screams from the kids you grab the phone and a lime green felt tip and scribble it down. The next day there's no let up until the postcard with your name and address printed CLEARLY on the back is posted in the letter box. A week later on a Saturday morning your only lie in of the week is rudely interrupted when the Bring and Buy sale pack thuds onto the hall floor. But can you really be bothered

Well a group of Mums who all have one thing in common – daughters in the same year at Pembury School were bothered this year. We decided to take up the challenge and raise some money for this year's Blue Peter Breathe Easy Appeal for cystic fibrosis sufferers. We borrowed the church one Saturday morning, begged "goodies" from kids and parents alike and pinned our posters in the most unusual places.

The morning of 7th February arrived and so did we at the church with cars loaded and spent a frantic hour sorting the goods.

When Revered Sealy cut the ribbon at

10.30 a.m. there were many bargains to be had – cheap books and toys as well as scrumptious home-made cakes and a nice cup of tea. The children worked hard and enjoyed manning the stalls. Everyone was delighted when the takings for the day amounted to £105.53

Thanks go to all the children who were there on the day and to all the mums and dads who baked and rallied round to make everything go so smoothly. Thanks also go, of course, to all those who turned up to buy and support such a good cause. A special thank you must go to Reverend Sealy who provided the church free of charge – thus enabling us to raise even more money.

Who knows – perhaps we might even have another go next year.

Jane Boorman

P.S. The one thing we did miss was some 'bringing' by older children (10+) so if anyone out there has a child who may like to become involved next year and has lots of older friends who fancy a good turn out of their bedroom get in touch!



PEMBURY SCHOOL

CHILDREN in Year 6 Excel in English and Mathematics.

This is not just compared with schools on a national level but comparing schools of a similar intake.

I am sure that all of you are aware that there has been considerable debate in recent years about the validity of league tables indicating the Test results of primary schools. On the one hand parents (in my view quite reasonably) want to have some indication of a school's performance. On the other hand (and I fully agree with this point too) a school like Pembury compared with a deprived inner city school is likely to have better results and it is not really comparing like with like. In an attempt to address this issue the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) have tried to compare schools of a similar character and I thought it would be interesting to share with you the results of the survey of how Pembury School compares with other schools which have a similar intake.

YEAR 6 TEST RESULTS 1997

Percent pupils reaching level 4 or above

English (Teacher Assessment)	Above
English (tests)	In line
Maths (Teacher Assessment)	Above
Maths (tests)	In line
Science (Teacher Assessment)	In Line
Science (tests)	In Line



Percent pupils reaching level 5 or above

English (Teacher Assessment)	Well above
English (tests)	Well above
Maths (Teacher Assessment)	Well above
Maths (tests)	Well above
Science (Teacher Assessment)	In Line
Science (tests)	In Line

I am pleased to say that there are several indices to indicate that our school is performing well above what we would expect for a school of this nature. Needless to say that does not mean that we will be in any way complacent in the future and we will strive constantly to drive standards and levels of attainment higher and higher.

LEVELS

The national expectation is that a child in the (average) range will achieve Level 4 at 11; Level 5 is what would be expected from the average 13-year-old. We were very proud and pleased that one of our 11-year-olds achieved Level 6 in English. 16-year-old children taking GCSE would be expected to achieve Level 6 or above.

R. J. Edom, Headteacher

ANNUAL SCHOOL FETE & OPEN DAY

The Annual School Fete to be held in the School grounds on Saturday 4th July 1998, commencing at 2pm: programmes available from the School or at the gate. Attractions include stalls, games, tea tent, bouncy castle, candy floss, barbeque and many, many more. Your support is needed for our Village School.

Pembury School will be throwing open its doors for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, prospective parents and any other interested persons to see the work the children do, view displays including artistic development, pond developments, various artifacts, photographs of maypole dancing and much more.

There will also be performances by the choir and recorder and percussion groups. A warm welcome will be awaiting you at the following times:

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THE DISTRICT NURSE

IT WAS only by chance, following a recent visit to Waterfield House, that I was made aware of a group of people who work among us and yet very rarely get a mention or recognition.

These are the District Nurses headed by Sister Charlotte Tennant, Staff Nurse Jenny Dodds and Auxiliary Jenny Herd.

These ladies provide cover for 22 hours a day, seven days a week not only for both village surgeries but other parishes as well and the number of different groups they work with is quite astounding.

A lot of their work is with the elderly and those that are housebound or bedridden and who have no close relations to help them with the daily attention they require.

Much of this includes care for those who have had hospital operations and require daily visits at home and the administration of medicines. Very often the nurses consult directly with the consultants regarding the treatments required. One of their duties is to

care for the terminally ill who have chosen to spend their remaining days at home with their loved ones. This sadly includes children.

They also work closely with the Social Services and the recommendations for special case families including special equipment such as the fitting of stair lifts, bath chairs and the adapting of houses for the handicapped. Not only do they have to work closely with the chemists but with the village doctors as well.

Other groups to benefit from their care and attention are Help the Aged, W.I., Darby and Joan, Barons Mead House for the mentally handicapped, The Priory and its residents, Seven Springs, Sunhill Court and the High Weald Housing Trust to name just a few.

I know I have just scratched the surface in this brief insight into the daily duties of our District Nurses but keep up the good work, ladies we need you!

Hugh Boorman

HOT HORSERADISH SAUCE

For those who love horseradish sauce with their roast beef, have you ever tried making your own? If you want to have a go and you haven't got any root horse radish give me a ring, I have enough for approximately 10 people.

Recipe – Serves 4

3300ml/half a pint of milk

Half a small celery stalk

1 blade of mace

25g/1oz flour

2 level tablespoons grated horseradish

1 small peeled onion

2 cloves

1 spring of parsley

1 small peeled carrot

6 white peppercorns

25g/1oz butter

2 tablespoons fresh double cream

1 teaspoon vinegar

Half level teaspoon sugar

Seasoning to taste

1. Pour milk into saucepan add quartered onion, thickly sliced carrot, sliced celery, cloves, peppercorns, mace and parsley.

2. Slowly just bring up to the boil

3. Remove from heat and cover

4. Leave half an hour, strain, reserving milk liquor

5. Melt butter in pan, add flour and cook over low heat, stirring for 2 mins. Do not allow mixture (or roux) to brown.

6. Gradually blend in flavoured milk.

7. Cook, stirring until sauce comes to the boil and thickens, Simmer very gently for three minutes.

8. Stir in 2 level tablespoons of grated horseradish (do not be put off by the sight of horseradish root. Just clean it well and lightly scrape it). Half level teaspoon of sugar and teaspoon of vinegar.

9. Remove from heat and season to taste with salt and pepper. Stir in cream.

Re-heat gently before using – do not allow to boil. And don't forget this is delicious with grilled or fried trout.

Enjoy!

Hugh Boorman



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HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

THE NEW HOSPICE was ‘topped out’ on 6th March and is probably the only one in the country where the ceremony was performed twice!

We had invited our President, Lord Weatherill, to perform the topping out ceremony, which would involve the laying of the last tile, signalling the completion of the outside of the building. Proceedings were to start at 4 pm. However, as Lord Weatherill had been delayed it was decided that John Slater, the Hospice Chairman, would perform the ceremony. This task duly completed Lord Weatherill arrived. The tile was hastily removed and was again laid, this time as originally planned by Lord Weatherill.

The Home Care, Day Centre and administrative staff from Allen Gardiner House are due to move in on 21st August and it is hoped that in-patients can be accepted by the end of this year.

To complete the building and to commission in-patient care just under £700,000 is needed by December 1998. However, completion of this stage of the project does not mean the end of fundraising – far from it. To achieve all the aims behind the huge efforts made by so many people to get this far the Hospice will cost £1.4m a year to run, at today’s prices. Most of this will still have to be found within the area of West Kent and East Sussex which Hospice in the Weald will serve.

As a “thank you” to all our friends and supporters throughout the community the Chairman and Council of the Hospice in the Weald invite you to tour the Hospice in Maidstone Road, Pembury after the Day Centre, Education Unit and offices open but before the ward area is in use. In order to ensure that this invitation is open to all we shall be arranging for a special telephone line to be available from 1st September for supporters and friends to book a convenient date in October to tour the Hospice. As car parking space will be limited we would be grateful if cars could be shared.

There will be an Open Day at the Hospice on Saturday 3rd October in combination with the annual Pippins Fayre which this year will have a Victorian theme.



The photograph taken last April shows the In-Patient wing of the new Hospice with the Princess of Wales sitting room in the middle (double doors) and the Pembury Room (single bedroom) to the right

PEMBURY HEATHLAND WALK

AT THE end of June, the Pembury Heathland Walk and Marshley Harbour Wood Educational Nature Trail is to be officially opened. The waymarked trail is approximately 3 miles long and makes a good 2 hour stroll. However, the terrain is hilly and the paths are often slippery under foot during wet weather.

You can walk the trail in either direction – just follow the bird waymarks . Walkers can join the route at any point; there are several public footpaths and lanes which link with the Pembury Heathland Walk. The colourful Trail Guide, which is freely available, describes what you can expect to find:

LOWLAND HEATH

Much of Britain's lowland heath has been lost over the last century to roads, housing developments and forestry. At Pembury we are attempting to restore this fragile habitat to its former condition. This requires the removal of planted trees followed by a programme of management to prevent birch and bracken from dominating the open ground. In the past, most heathlands were common ground which were kept as open spaces by grazing livestock and by cutting trees and gorse for fuel.

Look for typical heathland plants such as heather (ling) and bilberry in the drier, sandy areas. A small amount of the two scarcer heathers occurs along the walk. These are bell heather, found on dry banks, and cross-leaved heather, a plant of damp, boggy sites.

Extensive areas of open heathland are attractive to nightjars. You may be lucky enough to hear their unusual "churring" song late on a summer's evening. Other heathland birds likely to be encountered are the attractive stonechat with its bright black, white and chestnut plumage and the drabber tree pipit which sings whilst "parachuting" from the tops of isolated trees.

CONIFER PLANTATION

Scots pine and larch have been planted on the site since at least 1920 and have previously been harvested for planking, fence posts and, more recently, for woodchip. This forestry process continues and the woodland will be gradually thinned as it reaches maturity. The softwood trees support several bird species such as coal tit and the diminutive goldcrest. Occasionally crossbills visit to feed in the conifers, their bills perfectly adapted to removing seeds from cones.

The green woodpecker is usually very conspicuous because of its loud laughing call. Its favourite food is the wood ant, whose huge nests of pine leaves may be seen along the trails. In winter the woodpeckers attempt to reach the ants by digging holes into the nests with their beaks. Because of the dense litter of needles shed from the trees and the shading by the canopy few plants can survive in these plantations.

CHESTNUT COPPICE

Sweet chestnut is presumed to have been introduced into Britain by the Romans who used the tasty nuts as nutritional food whilst the wood was suitable for building and fencing. The extensive areas of chestnut at Pembury were planted around 100 years ago. Every 10-12 years areas known as cants, or panels, are cut down to ground level and the wood converted into fencing materials. New shoots spring from the cut stumps and within another 10 years or so are large enough to be cut again. This process is called coppicing and it actually

prolongs the life of the individual plants.

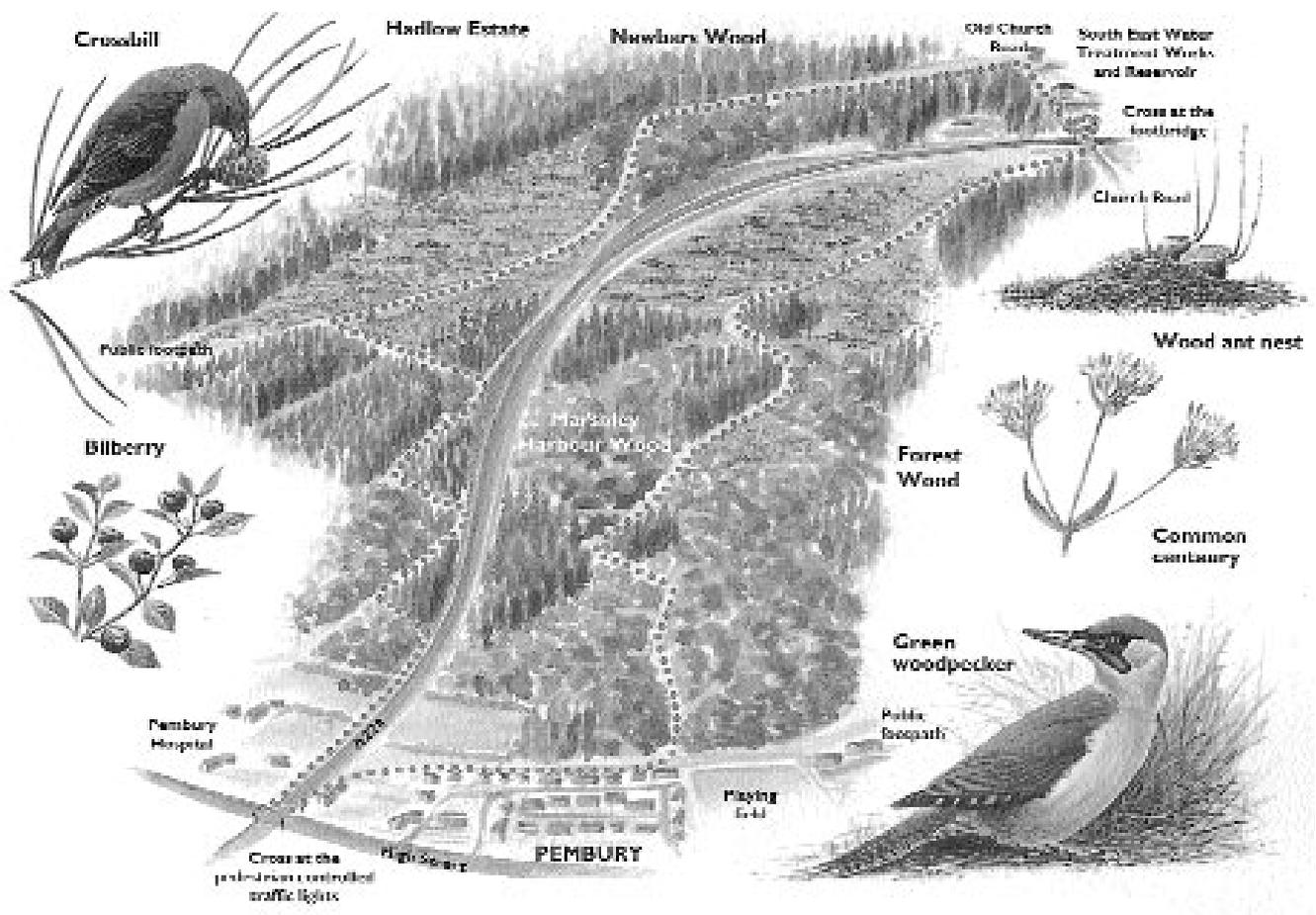
You will notice that in some areas the chestnut has been prevented from regrowth. This is where the best of the original heathland flora has been found. Flowers can flourish for a short time under recently cut chestnut but once the regrowth is four or five years old it begins once more to shade out the flowers, which must survive as seed until the next cut. Look for the delicate pink Centaury amongst the young coppice and St. John's Wort with its yellow star-shaped flowers.

Nightjars favour large areas of cut coppice as nest sites but otherwise it is rather poor habitat for birds. However, many types of butterfly visit the clearings in spring and summer.

THE STREAM

The trail passes by a stream bordered by alder and birch trees. These trees produce masses of tiny seeds which are very attractive to flocks of redpoll and siskin in the winter months. Plants such as Pendulous Sedge thrive in these damper areas. The stream is an important place for the many animals and birds living in these dry woods and heaths. It is here that they will come to drink during hot, dry weather.

Enjoy your visit to the Pembury Heathland! Further details are available from Tourist Information – Royal Tunbridge Wells – 515675 and the Kent High Weald Project, Cranbrook – 01580 715918



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JULY

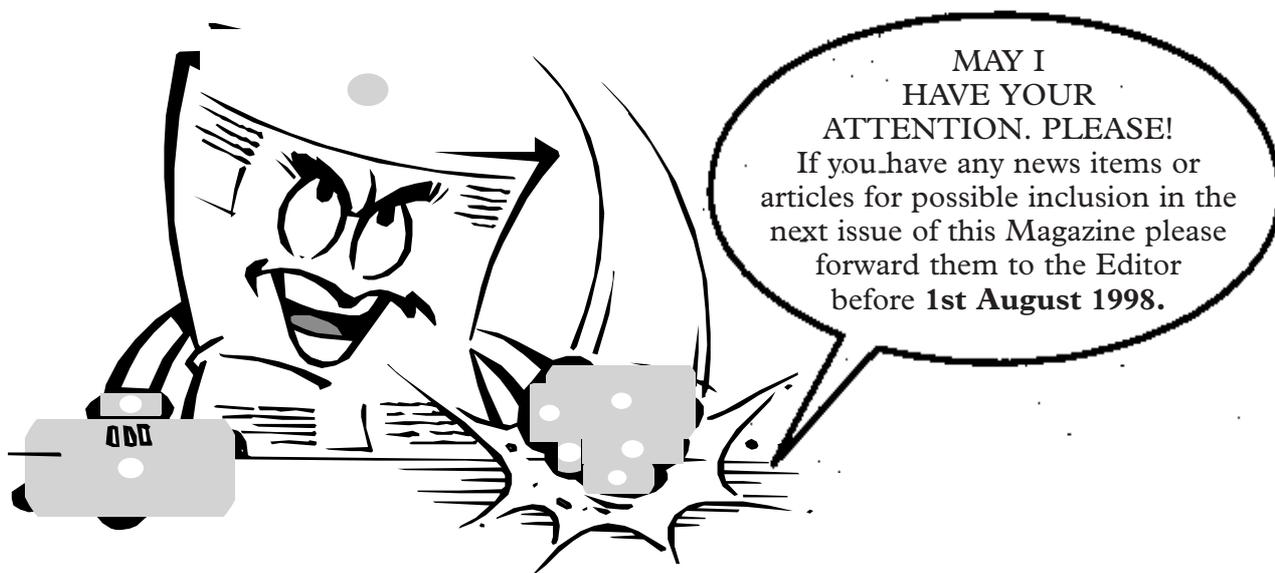
- 2 Pembury Afternoon WI: Victorian Magic Lantern Show – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 3 Pembury Evening WI: Kent Air Ambulance – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 4 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 4 Pembury School Fete – Pembury School – 2pm
- 6 Pembury Parish Council – Village Hall – 8pm
- 11 Pembury Gardeners' Summer Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 14 Darby and Joan Club: Outing to Bexhill
- 28 Darby and Joan Club: Tonbridge Choir – Village Hall – 2pm

AUGUST

- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Car Park – 2.15pm
- 6 Pembury Afternoon WI: Members' Meeting – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 7 Pembury Evening WI: Members' Meeting – To be advised
- 11 Darby and Joan Club: Kent Fire Brigade – Village Hall – 2pm
- 25 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Pembury Afternoon WI: Food. Marks & Spencer – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 4 Pembury Evening WI: Open Meeting – Notcutts – 7.30pm
- 5 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 5 Friends Coffee Morning – Village Green – 10am
- 7 Pembury Parish Council – Village Hall – 8pm
- 8 Darby and Joan Club: Outing to Hastings
- 12 Pembury Gardeners' Autumn Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 22 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm



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Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway. Tel: 825577

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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

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Chairman, Finance Committee

Vice Chairman of Parish Council

*Chairman, Burial, Environmental and
Highways Committee*

Chairman, Public Relations Committee

Chairman, Planning 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

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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- ★ LOW BAKE OVEN

- ★ QUALITY FINISH
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Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535, Ext 3515

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Jim Smith, 18 Westway. Tel: 823714

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Mike Cartwright, 16 Cornford Park, Pembury.
Tel: 823235

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BROWNIES GUIDER

Mrs Jones, 14 Lower Green Road. Tel: 823747

BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION

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Tel: 822115

CAMDEN GREEN BADMINTON CLUB

R. Holt, 50 Ridgeway. Tel: 823830

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Rev. Geoffrey Pointer, The Presbytery, 11 Alliance Way,
Paddock Wood. Tel: 833699

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

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c/o Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535

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Romford Road. Tel: 823932

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Steve Waterman, 35 Dimmock Close, Paddock
Wood. Tel: 835696

PEMBURY F.C. SUNDAY

P. Craxton, 31 Batchelors. Tel: 823928

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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

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Mrs Wendy Parrett. Tel: 836945

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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

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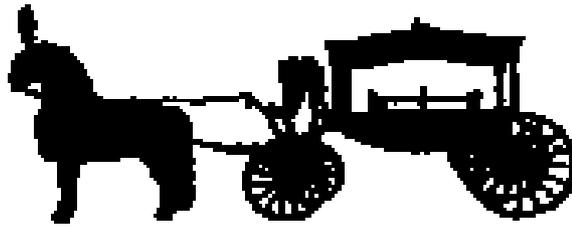
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