

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 95 / Autumn 1998

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1997 Best Publication Awards

NALC



PEMBURY YOUTHS ACHIEVEMENTS

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Cover photograph courtesy David Sellman

Parish News & Comment

SHOPS IN THE HIGH STREET

WELCOME to our new community retailers! Over the last few months we have seen several changes to our High Street shops and with more to follow.

Having unfortunately lost Lloyds Bank we have thankfully seen a new business take over the premises in April 1998 – “Fresh Options”. The greengrocers is owned by a local gentleman who has experience in all aspects of the trade, even from the farming level. The current manager, Mr Ian Cooper, who is related to the owner, took over in August. Ian’s mum, Sheila, is also experienced in the trade and is helping Ian to get the best ideas and supply what we locals want. Sheila is fully aware of our other greengrocers but believes that there is scope for two in Pembury, especially as they are at other ends of the village.

The shop itself I found to be very nicely presented, in particular the outside display. Both Sheila and Ian live in Pembury now having moved from High Brooms. Ian previously was a care worker at Seven Springs Cheshire Home and before that at Delarue College so really, although not “Pemburians”, they have never been far away! I expect that Ian will certainly put his interpersonal skills to use here.

For those of you who may not have recently been into the Village Newsagents it has been sold on to new proprietors. Ian and Jenny have moved up to Norfolk where they have bought a sandwich parlour. Mr and Mrs Patel, who now own the freehold, moved here in July from Shoreham-by-Sea; they had a similar business there for three and half years. The couple have two young children, a boy of four and a girl of 18 months. When they were in Shoreham they lived on a main road which was congested and noisy so after a six-week holiday (their first one in three and half years!) they moved into the Village Newsagents, a far more suitable environment for the children. Both Mr and Mrs Patel are very friendly people who are already well received by the villagers. Their plans for the shop are for the produce and stock to remain the same although in September the shop itself will undergo a refit.

We wish both businesses well and hope they will feel welcome in the village. So, if you haven’t been in either shop yet, why not pop in and say “Hello”?

Julia Campbell

Editorial Committee:

Henry Plant (Chairman), Julia Campbell, 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 November 1998.***

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR
Henry Plant
16 The Coppice
Tel: 823459

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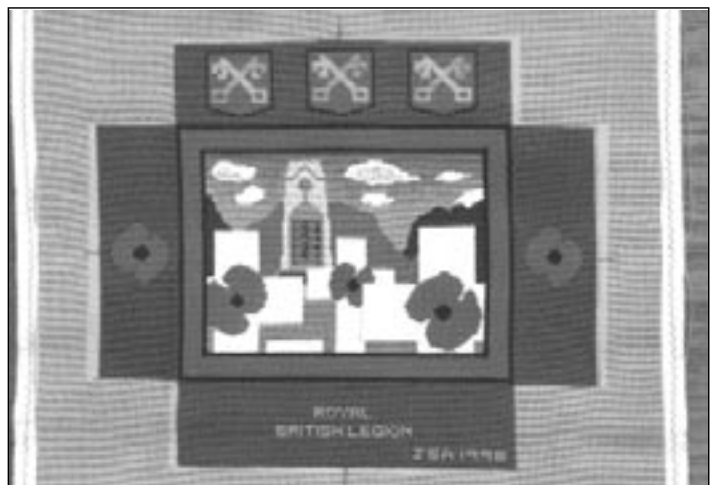
MILLENNIUM KNEELERS PROJECT FOR THE PARISH CHURCH

THANK YOU PEMBURY!

IT IS ONLY six months since this project really got under way and already we have six kneelers completed – although not yet made up – they have been having their pictures taken. Many thanks to the Pembury Photographic Society for undertaking to cover this aspect of the project – their expertise will be invaluable.

We are also delighted that 54 kneelers are in the process of being worked and a further 19 are reserved and awaiting completion – making a total of 73.

We are extremely grateful to Margaretha Taylor who has given a very generous donation. This is in memory of her parents Leslie and Gretha Taylor who lived and farmed at Springrove from 1935 to 1983 and worshipped regularly at the Old Church. This will cover not only the cost of two special wedding kneelers – picturing hops and cherries – but 12 kneelers to remember certain village people. These people will have been instrumental in keeping the Parish Church open, maintained and cared for over the years, and has kept the tradition of organ playing and choir singing alive.



Also, the Parish Council has shown great faith in our project and has asked for 10 kneelers to be worked depicting buildings in Pembury if possible. There

are also various individuals who wish to sponsor one, two or more kneelers and here we would mention a certain lady who is “always on top of the world”. This brings our total up to 106 and will complete our Millennium project although we could think of something else . . .

SO, I AM SURE YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED . . . NEEDLE WORKERS . . . PLEASE, TO BRING THIS ADVENTURE TO A CONCLUSION.

We would like to thank the Mothers Union for holding a special coffee morning which was obviously a roaring success as they have donated the sum of over £68 towards the cost of brass hooks – two to each kneler – upon which they will hang facing the congregation. Everything is so expensive these days and Margaretha Taylor has kindly offered to make up the difference when purchasing the hooks for approximately 100 kneelers and to supply a record book to house the photographs and dedications.

Finally, many, many thanks to everyone involved – we think we have almost succeeded in getting most of Pembury talking kneelers. We do really need needle workers. If you know anyone who knows anyone who may be able to help, please do not hesitate to **CONTACT ME – ANN TOLER 824071!**

THERE WILL BE NO COST TO YOU BUT YOUR TIME – WE CAN ALMOST GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL BECOME TOTALLY HOOKED and then we really will have to think of ways to extend our project!

Ann Toler

CONGRATULATIONS!

WEST KENT YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 1998

THREE Pembury young people were nominated for the 1998 West Kent Youth Achievement Awards sponsored by British Gas and the Courier. They all received certificates in recognition of their efforts at a special awards ceremony held at the YMCA Centre in Sherwood in July. The Mayor, Cllr. Alf Baker, presented the awards. There were four special category awards and two of these were won by young ladies from Pembury; they each received a prize of £200.



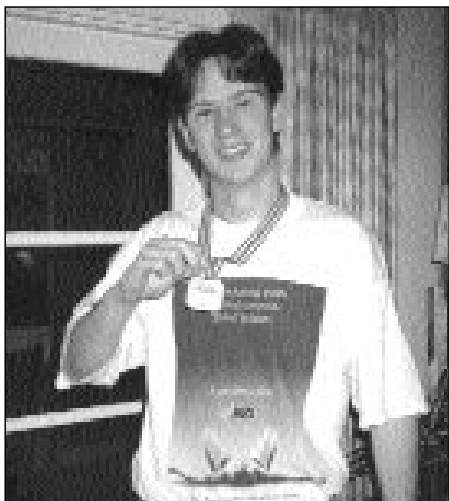
REBECCA WOOD, aged 15, of The Meadow won the special award for “improving the Environment”. She was chosen and has attended the Global 500 Awards Conference in Moscow, organised by the United Nations Environment Programme and she was the only English representative. Rebecca is a pupil at Uplands Community College, Wadhurst, where she is chairman of the Eco-School Committee formed by pupils who are concerned for the environment. Recently she won the Percy Fuggie Cup for her outstanding contribution to the environment. She has worked clearing rubbish from beaches and

rivers of the South Coast and is on the Wealden District Schools Environment Panel. After her ‘A’ levels, Rebecca intends to undertake Environmental Studies in anticipation of a career concerning the environment.

HELEN BURTON, aged 17, of Woodhill Park, a pupil at Bennett Memorial School won the special award for “Service to the Community”. She works for the Tunbridge Wells Voluntary Service Unit, Youth in Action Group. During the past three years she has organised meetings of the VSU children’s group, planning the sessions so that they are fun and enjoyable. She has escorted young children on



buses ensuring they arrive safely at school or home and helped children with mental and physical disabilities. Helen hopes to take a year off from her studies to take up voluntary work abroad helping children in need.



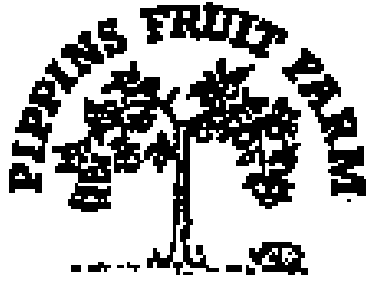
NICHOLAS MAYNARD, aged 18, of Ridgeway, was nominated for his achievement in running in the London Marathon. He raised funds for the YMCA day camps by sponsorship. Nicholas has recently left school and he hopes to go to university in the Autumn.

These three teenagers are a credit to their parents and to Pembury. They serve the community and are a shining example of how many young people care for others less fortunate than themselves.

Well done, Helen, Rebecca and Nicholas.

Sylvia Abbott

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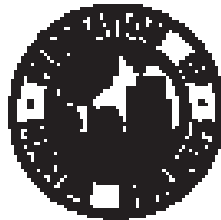
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GILL'S GARDEN

AUTUMN is the best time for planting, the ground is still warm and the Autumn rain provides the moisture needed for a strong root system. Bare rooted shrubs and trees are a cheaper option rather than containerised plants and should be planted immediately they are bought. Plenty of compost and bonemeal added when planting will ensure a good start. Trees need to be staked to withstand the Autumn gales.

Bulbs can be planted now, either in the ground or in containers, for subsequent transplanting in the Spring. To give continuous colour throughout Spring I use snowdrops, crocus, miniature daffodils, iris, chinodoxa, pansies and polyanthus.

Now is the time to shorten stems of roses to stop the wind damaging the bushes. Pelargoniums and tender fuchsias need to be lifted and stored in a frost-free place to



survive the Winter. Dahlias should also be lifted after the first frost and dried off and stored in a frost-free place. The roots of hardy fuchsias need to be covered by at least four inches of soil to protect them for the Winter ahead. Tubs and hanging baskets can be planted with pansies and polyanthus and ivies, under planted with small bulbs. Herbaceous plants should be cut back and as many leaves as possible should be removed from borders and lawns.

Gill Matthews

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

PEMBURY entered the “Best Kept Village Green” competition and gained the first place. This award is a tribute to the hard work of the groundsmen who look after our village green itself and the ladies of the Women’s Institute who look after the trough. Thanks also go to Larkfield Hall who made the commemorative sign. Barbara Russell and I spent an enjoyable afternoon at Groombridge Place where we were presented with a shield by the Deputy Mayor of Tunbridge Wells and Richard Jackson of TV’s “Grass Roots”.

In the second competition, part of “South East in Bloom”, sponsored by Transco, Pembury was not so successful. The judges comments were as follows: “Pembury has only a few commercial traders and the road layout means that it must be difficult to present to best advantage. At the centre is a well kept green with a good water trough filled with plants. The judges visited the Primary School and were well received. The staff and pupils have completely taken on board the principles of the ‘In Bloom’ competition. The church grounds were well kept, though a little recent litter was seen. The residents of Larkfield Hall give a great deal of support to the campaign.”

Perhaps we can do better next time!

Gill Matthews

ROB'S PLOT

HELLO everyone. I'm back and the plot looks completely different – thank goodness! When I was down there the other day it was time to start picking some of the crops as they were ready and plentiful.

If you remember last time I was concerned whether or not I would be able to catch up because of my slow start due to a certain rotovator. It was hard work doing lots of double digging in preparation and then lots of planning to keep up, but I did manage it and got in most of everything I wanted, thanks to my friend Bob, as he helped me by using his greenhouse for the cabbages, leeks and cauliflowers which obviously brought them on quicker. Oh and hopefully next year we will be more advanced as yes, believe it or not, the rotovator is fixed! (Thanks very much John.)

Following the rain, we seem to have got a little sunshine at last which will just finish off the crops nicely. Recently, we have picked broad beans, marrows, courgettes, new potatoes, French beans (which my fiancée insisted that I grew!) and of course my favourite, beetroot. I also have begun to harvest the pink fir apple potatoes, which again are new to me and writing this after just having eaten some for my dinner, I can safely confirm that they are to be recommended as they have a firm texture and a good flavour.

Also, on the tomato front, I tried out Sungold Red tomatoes (a baby cherry) which have been very successful in their plastic mini-greenhouse I made. Look out, they are very tall and very wild growing plants, nearly six feet tall. In fact I had to make a hole in the top of the plastic



sheeting to let them through and used shears to cut the tops of them off, they were getting like Jack's Beanstalk! I couldn't tell you how they taste as I don't like tomatoes. All I can say is that certain people can't get them from me quick enough!

The carrots that are planted in a big plastic bin are fine, much better than last year's which were eaten by carrot root fly, so it seems that being 18 inches to two feet off the ground does work.

The runner beans are doing well and it seems likely there will be a bumper crop going into the freezer to join the broad and French beans and anything else in the meantime that will get frozen down. Don't forget to put manure in the trench before planting the beans as it makes all the difference. Last year the Sundance sweetcorn was a total failure but yippee, this year absolutely brilliant! It doesn't make sense as this year's weather hasn't been particularly sunny, which is what they need, but I'm not complaining!

The drop out crop this year has been the parsnips. I tried planting on three separate occasions but they didn't germinate. As fast as I planted them they rotted. Thanks a lot rain! Still, never mind, I don't like them anyway!!

Now the first earlies are practically finished it is time to prepare the ground where they were so the sprout plants and purple sprouting can go in soon. These won't be ready until Winter time but they were sown in July. Winter cabbages, planted in early August, will follow on.

I hope all your crops are going well and being successful. Until the next time – enjoy your veg!

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THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

IT IS probably not a surprise to you that our participation at the Village Fayre was marred by high winds and torrential rain. The Pembury Society team of helpers spent much of the time sheltering against the elements in a tent, kindly loaned by Ron Abbott, which was itself torn by the wind. However, although our stalwart supporters ended the afternoon in a somewhat damp state, they were not deflated and the spirit of The Society was as elevated as ever. Time goes fast when you're having fun.

Another event in which we took part was the Flower Festival at the Old Church; the display arranged for The Pembury Society by Elizabeth Repath and Don Oke was beautiful and

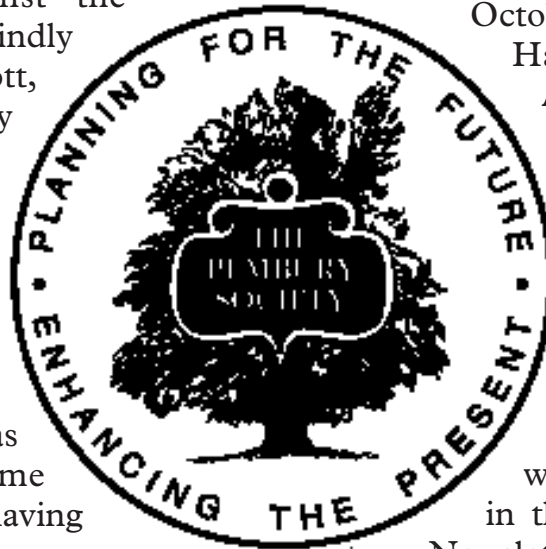
contributed well to the overall effect which was quite stunning and a great credit to all those in the village who worked so hard.

On the evening of Monday 26th October 1998 at the Village Hall, we have our Annual General Meeting and we hope to follow this with a special speaker.

If you are a member of The Society then please make a note of this date in your diary, although you will receive more details in the Members' Autumn Newsletter.

If you are not a Member, then telephone Ken Watts on 822770 who will help you overcome such a disadvantage.

Derek Johnson



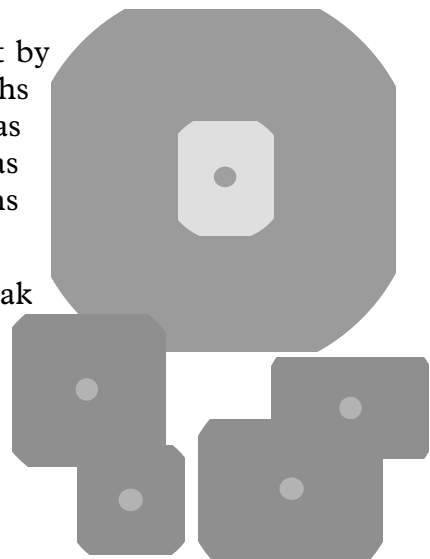
CHRISTMAS

SEEMS a bit silly writing about Christmas now but by the time you read this it will only be three months away. Last year I mentioned do-it-yourself Christmas decorations using natural ingredients but the article was too late to take action upon so here are some suggestions in plenty of time.

Cut some end sprigs of birch or hedgerow oak with oak apples on, there are plenty about at present. Hang up to dry in a shed etc. and when the leaves have dried out spray with silver and gold lacquer.

Fir cones and bull rushes are also suitable. Have a go and if you have any other ideas please let me know.

Hugh Boorman



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HEADWAY

HHEADWAY Tunbridge Wells and District is a local charity based at Pembury Hospital, that supports and assists people with head injuries, their families and carers. Our area includes the boroughs of Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling, Sevenoaks and Maidstone.

The official statistics indicate that 1,000,000 people in the U.K. go to hospital every year with a head injury of which some 150,000 suffer minor brain injury but some 11,000 are left with severe brain injury with lifelong multiple problems. There are now 150,000 severely head injured people in the country.

Survivors of serious head injury are a growing population due to recent advances in medical technology, greater surgical skills and, ironically, a law regarding seat belts - people are not killed. Many of the resultant problems are of such a degree as to preclude a return to normal life and the needs of these people are generally not met by existing community care services. Sooner or later the family has to take over the caring role, often 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The head injured themselves find there are very few opportunities for employment, socialisation, or independence.

Headway, offers the facilities of a day centre three days per week, where the members can participate in a range of activities including art, pottery, woodwork, exercise classes, computer activities, music, pool, table tennis, darts, craft, gardening, chess, and games. It encourages social integration with one another and the opportunity to talk to others who understand their difficulties.

Most importantly it provides respite for carers.

Headway Court at Rusthall, is self-contained residential accommodation for independent living for seven of our head injured members and was funded by Tonbridge and Malling, Sevenoaks, and Tunbridge Wells Councils. It is the first of its kind in the country.

Headway provides a 24-hour telephone Helpline. A Support Liaison Officer is available to give advice and support particularly to families and carers in the community.

Monthly evening meetings are held at the Day Centre, with talks on head injury or related topics, usually by eminent specialists. The Families Support Group meets once a month to share experiences and provide support for families and carers.

Summer holiday and respite care are also organised for many of

the head injured members in addition to a weekly outing to places of interest on the Headway mini-bus.

We are pleased to give talks and take our Display Stand to functions. Please feel free to contact Penny Button on the telephone number below if we can help.

Headway relies in the main on voluntary funding to provide all our services and depends on volunteers to support and supplement a very small paid staff and extremely busy voluntary Management Committee. So, please, if anyone has any spare time at all they can offer we would be extremely grateful - no special skills are required. Just pick up the phone and ring

Penny Button on 823120.



SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB

The Club has had a very good season against other local Bowling Clubs playing in both the Weald Mixed League and the Tunbridge Wells Men's League. Some 24 players participate every week, some twice a week, in these strong leagues.

Top of the pile this season were the two triple teams in the Tunbridge Wells Men's League who fought off strong opposition to finish as champions of Division 2. This was a very creditable achievement as only last year they gained promotion from the 3rd Division to this Division. They will play in Division 1 next year.

The three mixed triple teams in each of Pembury's 'A' and 'B' teams in the 1st Division of the Weald League battled throughout the season in this strong league to finish a creditable 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In the local Tunbridge Wells Ladies' Tournament Pembury bowlers – Kate Davey and Janette James – were losing finalists, respectively in the Ladies' Singles and the Ladies' Plate Competitions – again against strong opposition – whilst Mary and Ron Foord just lost a closely-fought final of the Mixed Pairs competition.

In the local club competitions the Mixed Triples competition, which is played earlier than all other Club competition finals, resulted in Pauline Kilbey (left), Bernard Davey and Jean Rhodes (pictured here) winning the Parish Council Triples Cup.



If you are interested in joining the Club, either as a beginner or as a recognised bowler, why not contact the Hon. Secretary to the Club – George Roberts – on 824914.

ASSOCIATION OF PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUBS

Many times as a child I was told "patience is a virtue". My goodness, that was good advice.

By the time you read this it will be six years to the month that we first started to look into the possibilities of having a new pavilion at Woodside Recreation Ground and now at last we have it!

To get to this position the Committee has had to overcome all manner of difficulties, problems and at times obstructions! However, they never lost sight of the prize – a new pavilion that will benefit football in the Village for the next 40-50 years, or more. Although masterminded, progressed and completed by the Association for use by the footballers, the pavilion is now part of the assets of the Parish Council who have leased it to the Association.

After all these years of hard work you can imagine the absolute frustration experienced a few weeks ago when some mindless and brainless simpletons vandalised the new building, even before it had been completed!! **The £500 reward** we offered in the Courier is still there to be

claimed for **information leading to the arrest and conviction of the culprits**. The Crimestoppers number is 0800 555111. Please either ring this number or contact any member of the football clubs or the Parish Council. We are determined in our endeavours to eradicate vandalism and shall take all steps possible to prosecute wrongdoers. We – the football clubs and the parishioners – now have a very good facility at Woodside and together we must make sure it lasts for the benefit of future generations.

If any of you would like to view the interior of the building please let me know and I shall be pleased to show you around.

Jim Smith – Chairman

PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

In my last report I told you of the remarkable feat as at the end of January that all four of our sides were top of their respective divisions. Well, they managed to hold their form and won three divisional titles. We were supreme in the Saturday Premier and 2nd Divisions and the Sunday 3rd Division, whilst the Sunday first team finished fourth in their very competitive 1st Division. Truly a fantastic achievement for all associated to be proud of.

Now a new season beckons with new fields to conqueror. The Saturday 1st team was successful this year in gaining entry into the Nuclear Electric Kent County League. To qualify for this you not only have to have won your previous league's top division but also have to have a good pitch with dressing rooms to a high standard. We now qualify on all three fronts! The Saturday Reserves move up to the 1st Division in the Tonbridge & District Junior League. The Sunday Reserves move up to Division Two of the West Kent Sunday League where the Sunday 1st team continues in the very competitive top division of this league.

This season is going to be an exciting as well as, we hope, an enjoyable one. Although honours will be harder to achieve I am sure that all teams will give of their best.

Jim Smith

PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL CLUB

The players and managers took to the pedals in July with a sponsored ride at Bedgebury which raised funds and added a successful new annual social event to the club's activities. Thanks to Chris Gent and John Upstone for their excellent organising and to all who supported the participants, some of whom are pictured here.



J. C. WOOD

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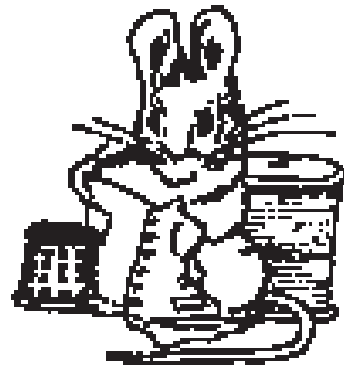
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HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

AS MANY of you will know, part of the new Hospice in the Weald in Maidstone Road is now in use. Moving day for the day hospice, homecare nursing team, bereavement and family support services was on August 24th and 25th but the ward will not be in use until December when we are due to open eight beds of the 16.

Although part of the hospice building will be open to the public in conjunction with the Victorian “Apple, Cider and Wine Country Fayre” at Pippins Farm from 11am to 5pm on Saturday 3rd October, it will not be possible to run full tours on that day.

During the rest of October, before the in-patient rooms are in use, tours of the Hospice are planned for invited guests and interested members of the public to see the building. Because of the special interest and support shown by Pembury residents, we plan to make the first tour day a “Pembury Day” when priority for booking on one of the six tours will be given to Pembury residents. This will be on **MONDAY 5th OCTOBER** and the tours will be at 10am, 11am, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Each will last approximately one hour and tea and coffee will be available afterwards. **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.** Please ring 820501 and please **REMEMBER TO MENTION THAT YOU LIVE IN PEMBURY.** The booking line is open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm. If 5th October is inconvenient for you, pre-booked tours will run throughout October.

Please share a car if possible as parking on tour days will be limited.

PEMBURY’S ANNUAL VILLAGE FAYRE

DESPITE the appalling weather the Village Fayre was a great success, raising some £2,000 – the proceeds going to the Scouts and Guides and Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club.

The weather made it extremely difficult. Great patience was shown on behalf of the visitors who turned out in admirable numbers at the start. The organisers would especially like to thank the parents of both groups who showed tremendous support on the day.

Thanks must also go to all stallholders and participating village organisations – especially those without tents – who “stuck with it” as the ground slowly turned into water.

One of the many competitions which took place was a Parish Council’s sponsored children’s competition for a “Vegetable Animal” and a “Garden in a Seed Box”. The winners were:

Vegetable Animal – 5-8 year olds: Alex Martin; 9-12 year olds: Liam Presnell

Garden in a Seed Box – 5-8 year olds: Joshua Roberts and Jared Monkman (joint winners); 9-12 year olds: Charlotte Dixon.



Two “damp” winners – Joshua Roberts (left) and Liam Presnell.

PEMBURY IN THE PAST

A brief history of Pembury

The following text 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 (the) Domesday (Book). 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 (in 1946).

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 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 (near to a road named after him – Petersfield). 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 finally 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.

As the parishioners moved with the shift of the economic and social life of the village towards the Hastings Road, the Chapel of Ease of St. Peter was built near the Upper Green in 1874 for the sum of £2,465, in modern terms (1966) less than the price of a modest bungalow. It was built of stone dug at Bayhall and stands 444 feet above sea level.

For those with a liking for legend the Free Church had an interesting origin starting, we are told, with the hop poles. The land on which the Scout Hut stood in Chalket Lane was cut out for the tarring and stacking of the poles ready for the big annual sale.

One Daniel Dickinson of Stone Court was a regular customer at the sale and after several calls at the Camden Arms could always be

prevailed upon to sing a good song. A severe illness caused him to change his way of life and when pressed to sing at the next sale to everyone's surprise he sang a hymn. This change lost him many friends but found him others who got together and built the first Union Church, a wooden structure, on the site of the present brick building which was erected 50 years later in 1885 at a cost of £1,500. In 1954 the Old Manse was demolished and the present modern house built for the resident pastor.

For 50 years Methodist services were held in a cottage in the village before the Wesleyan Church was built on the Hastings Road in 1884.

This year (1966) Roman Catholics built their own Hall, in which Church services are held, in Lower Green Road but for several years previously they held weekly services in the Church Institute.

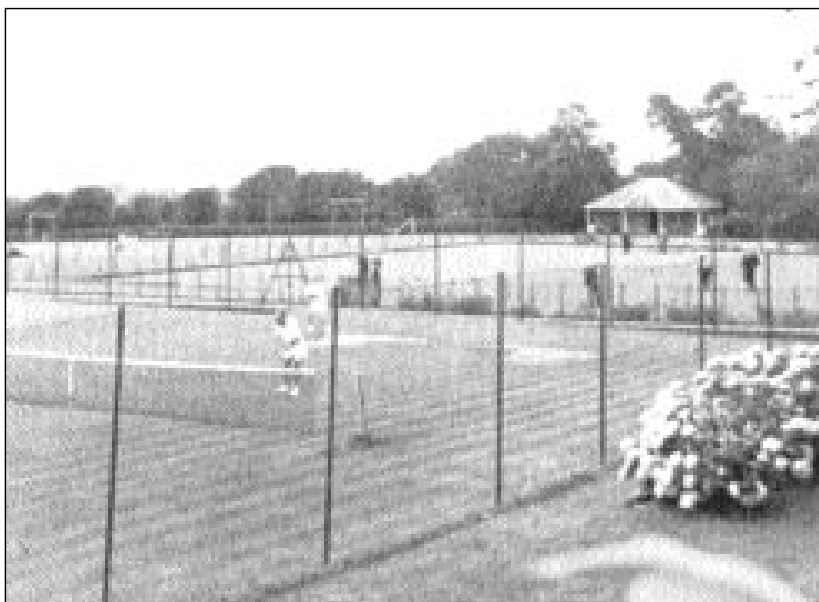
The site of the Roman Catholic Hall was previously the grounds of The Lodge, at one time years ago – “Mr Ditmer's School for the sons of Gentlemen”.

Originally, the Church Institute was built by the National Society in 1937 as a Church School and later the Free Church members used the Lecture Hall as The British School. These two bodies carried out educational work until 1872 when the Public Elementary Board School was built further down Lower Green Road. Additions from time to time brought about the present Pembury County Primary School.

The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 caused a Methodist Foundation school in Folkestone to move to Hawkwell Place in Pembury. Several new buildings were added and as Kent College for Girls it is a school of considerable importance, drawing pupils from many parts of the world as well as this

country.

Among places suitable for meetings and public gatherings the Church Institute is the oldest established. After serving as a school the size of the main hall was doubled in 1897 and five years later a kitchen, a billiard room, and committee rooms were added, housing various clubs. From 1914 to 1919 it served as a V.A.D. hospital and the wooden structure in the yard is a constant reminder of that period. At the battle of the Somme in 1916 there were 60,000 casualties in one day and so many wounded men were brought to Pembury that many had to lay outside in the



yard, covered by tarpaulins, until a wooden cover could be built over them. The present wooden porch is what remains.

On the land adjoining the Institute, before 1924 stood the Lower Green Forge, the smith's house and a wheelwright's shop.

During many of its earlier years the Free Church Lecture Hall housed the Working Men's Club and is still used for public functions. The present Pembury Village Hall in the High Street was originally in 1934 built for the British Legion as a hall and club. Dwindling membership and support brought about a decline in its fortunes and it deteriorated so much that in 1963 the Parish Council were asked to take it over.

PEMBURY IN THE PAST – continued

The drinking trough on the village green was erected to the memory of Majory Polley, the first local woman to be burnt at the stake at Tonbridge in June 1555 during the Maryan persecution. A book written by a Mrs Betts in 1888 records that smuggled goods could be bought at a cottage near the lower end of the Green. This house has recently been modernised and under its lawn, which was once the site of the old Manor Pound, were found a number of old stone gin bottles that give some evidence for the truth of the story.

The original Lower Green was the triangle of land on which stands the Institute, the verger's house and Pembury Close. Henwood

Green was the name given to a small piece of land now covered by four houses, 59 to 65 Henwood Green Road but, according to an old document held in the County Archives, it was originally called Henard's Green.

Running from South to North East across the village are two valleys each holding a stream on which 150 years ago were worked water mills. One, Keyes Mill, was located at Stone Court Farm and disappeared long ago and the other, Spring Grove, was in Redwings Lane. The mill house of this is still there.

Many years ago there must have been a separate hamlet or community at Romford, centred on a Priory of which little is known except that the Abbot lived where Stanton House now stands. The area was used as the Parish Farm to provide relief for the aged and poor of the Parish. The premises at Stanton House until about 1834 were used as a home or workhouse for aged men, and that probably gave the name Workhouse Lane to what was once shown on ordinance

maps as Romford Road, but is now Woodside Road.

History shows that the plight of the inmates of these institutions was so bad that the government closed those run by the separate parish authorities and opened the Unions which served several parishes and were run by Boards of Guardians. Locally we thus had the Tonbridge Union on the Tonbridge

Road, which changed its function in 1937 and became the Pembury County Hospital.

Paradoxical it may be but the increased population of Pembury has been accompanied by a decrease in the number of Public Houses. The Five Bells near the Old

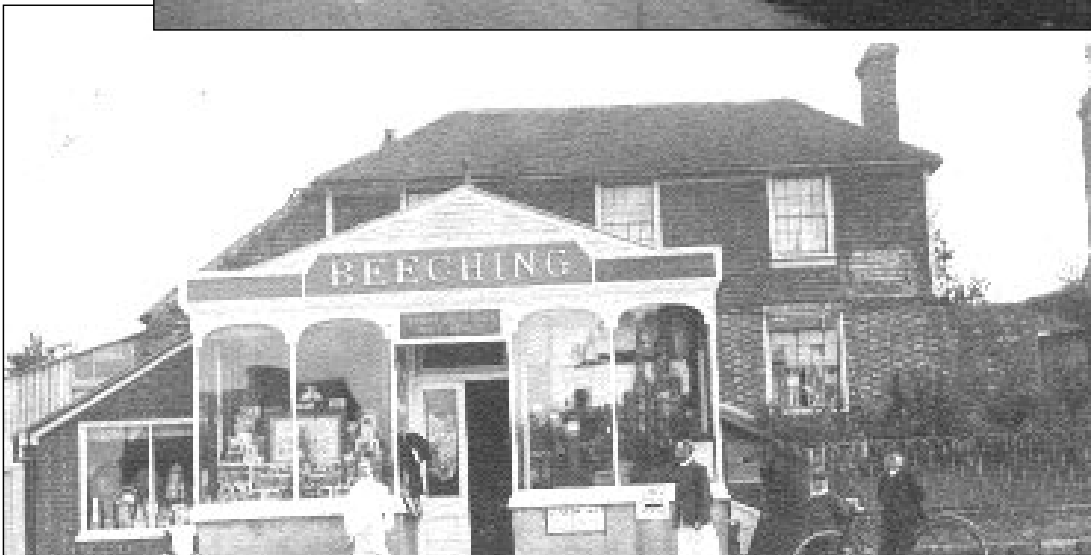
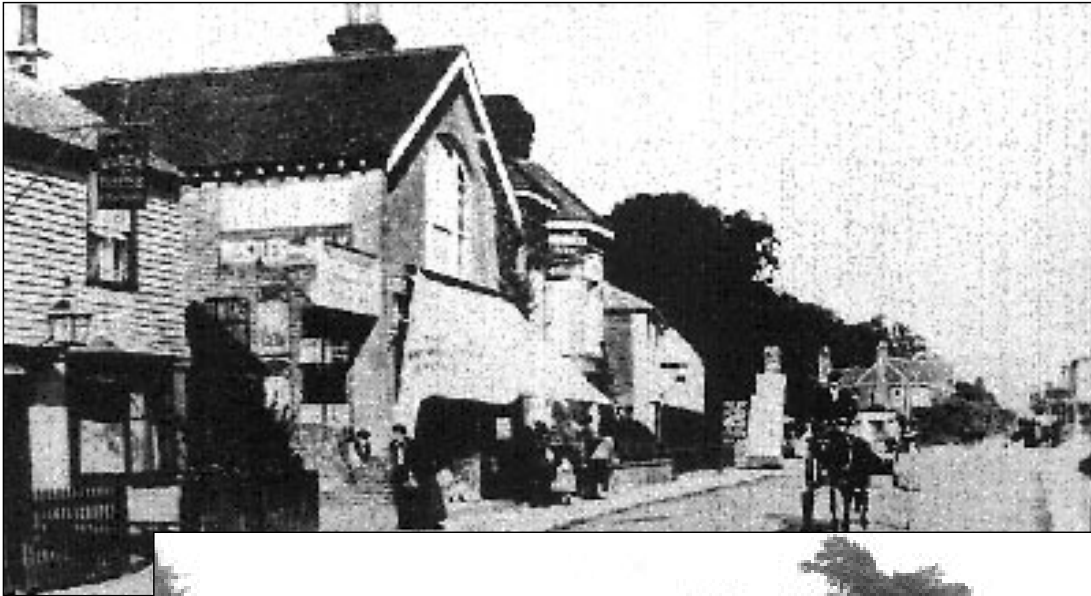
Church, where the Parish Clerk made up his accounts; The Woodsgate, where the teams of coach horses were changed; The Waterloo, in Hastings Road where Highfield now stands; The Forresters Arms in Romford where The Forresters is now a private residence; have all disappeared. We are now left with four: the Camden Hotel, The Black Horse, The King William IV and The Royal Oak.

Before 1920 almost the entire village belonged to half a dozen big land owners and was more or less made up of five hamlets – Upper Green, Lower Green, Bo-Peep, Romford and Hawkwell. Since that date there has been an almost unbroken process of breaking up of estates and their ultimate filling in by individual modern houses and properties. In these many residents now only eat, sleep and relax, travelling elsewhere for their employment. For all that, Pembury is still a place worth looking after, so please help to keep it that way.”



PICTORIAL PEMBURY IN THE PAST

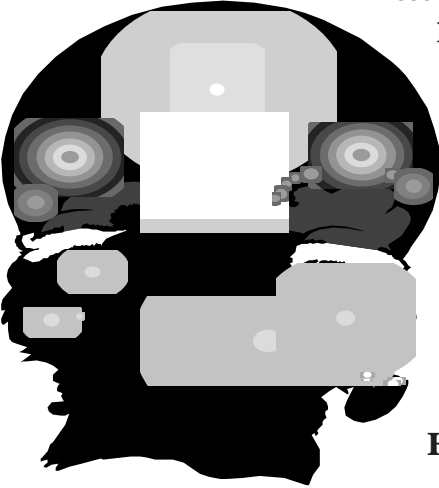
Once again, we are reproducing copies of three postcards showing areas of Pembury in the past – can you guess in what area of the Village the photographs were taken?



CHRISTMAS STORY

THE PARISH COUNCIL would like to run a competition for 8-11 year olds for the Christmas edition of this magazine with prizes for first and second places.

We would like stories (with no more than 900 words) that are based on the Christmas story theme, whether it be a make believe one about animals, people or fairyland.



The first prize will be a £15 book or music voucher and the second prize will be a £10 voucher.

We would also like to hear from any youngster who has something of interest to tell us.

Please send your entries in the first instance to me at 52 Henwood Green Road and they will be passed on to the judges.

Could we please have them no later than 1st November.

Hugh Boorman

PEMBURY MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

THE WORK of the Pembury Millennium Committee has continued and the broad outline plan for events during the millennium year is taking shape.

Our main concern at the moment is those clubs and societies who have decided on dates, or who are on the verge of deciding on dates, for their celebration events during the year 2000 and who have not as yet contacted the Secretary to the Millennium Committee. Our job is to ensure that the sequence of events runs smoothly throughout the year, bearing in mind the possible number that could be planned, so that there are no double bookings on the same day or that similar events do not occur too close to one another.

It is obviously to the advantage of all concerned that a workable overall plan is created because if we have several celebrations crowded together in one month then this will have the effect of diluting the number of those who attend, to the detriment of both the events and the organisers.

The message is, therefore, that if you are an organiser of such a celebration you should telephone Richard Parsons on 823913 as soon as you can and discuss your plans with him.

The other matter of interest is that if you are a club, society or other established body in Pembury with plans for a millennium event which you are unable to proceed with because you do not have the money to use for deposits etc., then we may be able to help you with an interest-free loan. Such a loan would have to be repaid after you stage the celebration event but we do have a limited amount available to overcome a cash flow problem.

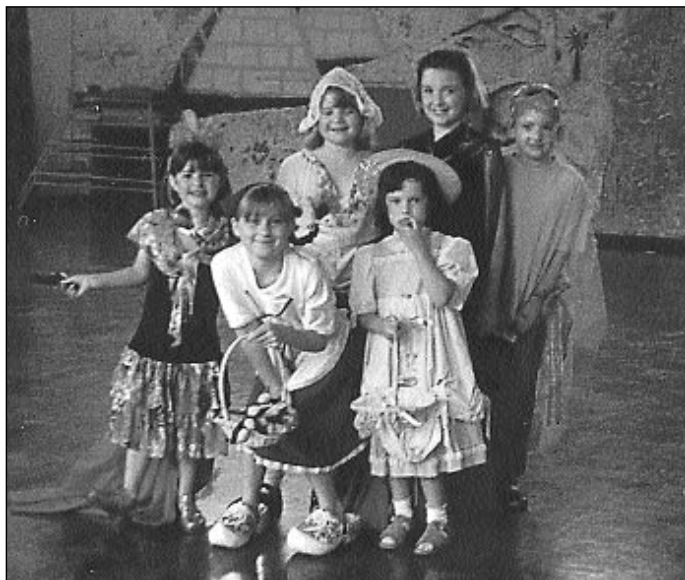
If this applies to you or yours, then please write to Richard Parsons at 6 The Grove, Pembury TN2 4BU giving him details of what you have in mind.

Remember, the year 2000 is not all that far away!

Derek Johnson

PEMBURY SCHOOL FETE

OUR EUROPEAN themed fete opened with a procession of flags made by the children. The continental flavour continued with “find the frogs legs in the jelly” and “Italian Spaghetti”; lots of gunge which the children enjoyed, followed by a fancy dress competition.



Other attractions included a country dancing display, the Phoenix Twirler Majorette Corp, white elephant, inflatable assault course, tombola – some of over 50 stalls which attracted more than a 1,000 people raising in excess of £3,000. The money raised will be spent on equipment for the School.

The PSA extend their thanks to all who supported this event, before, during and after – we look forward to seeing you all again next year!!

PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB

THE SECOND Annual General Meeting of the Pembury Bridge Club was held in Camden Court Community Room at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd June 1998. Another very successful year was reported both financially and in the enjoyment of good friendly competitive duplicate bridge.

The Club has been meeting every Tuesday evening in the Camden Court Community Room but the meeting was told that from July the Club was moving to the village school hall which is a much larger room. The Club has not been able to increase membership for the last year as the room at Camden Court was full to capacity; guests and new members will be made welcome at 7.15pm on Tuesday evenings.

Since January this year, the Bridge Club has also been meeting on Thursday afternoons to play duplicate bridge. Starting with just three tables (12 people) it now attracts a regular seven to eight tables (28-32 people). Playing at the Catholic Hall from 1.45pm there is plenty of space, and anyone wishing to attend will be made welcome.

Geoff Plummer was re-elected as Chairman and Janet Field as Treasurer. Ann Darby felt unable to continue as Secretary and Elaine Butler was appointed to this post. Mary Phillips and Bob Greatrex retired from the committee. The new committee members will be Hildy Swinden, Elspeth Fox, Anne Green and Peter Pike.

There has been competition for two events over the past year. The individual event was won by Geoff Plummer with Derek Burroughs runner up. The pairs competition was won by Donald Allan and Geoff Plummer with Moira Polkinghorne and Elaine Butler runners-up.

After the Annual General Meeting closed, a session of duplicate bridge was played. The result was North/South 1st Mrs E. Butler and P. Codd, 2nd D. Allan and G. Plummer, 3rd G. Frost and F. D. Burroughs. East West 1st Mrs H. Donald and K. Craig, 2nd Mrs J. Field and Mrs J. Jones and 3rd Mr & Mrs B. Balcombe.

Geoff Plummer

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HOME START

WHAT IS Home Start? It is a voluntary organisation in which volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to young families under stress in their own homes, helping to prevent family crisis and breakdown and emphasising the pleasures of family life. Many parents feel overwhelmed or exhausted by the stress and difficulties of every day life. Too often they have no close family or friends who can give them encouragement or breathing space when they most need them. Lack of support at a crucial stage may increase the risk of family breakdown. Help is both readily available, as well as accessible, from Home Start.



Home Start are recruiting volunteers for the Pembury and Paddock Wood area. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcomed. Following a course of preparation, volunteers are matched with families under stress where there is a child under five years old. Volunteers offer friendly support to parents for 2-3 hours a week with supervision from the organiser. If you are a parent with a few hours to spare each week and feel you would like to pass the benefits of your experience to others, our next preparation course starts on 23rd September. For further information please contact:

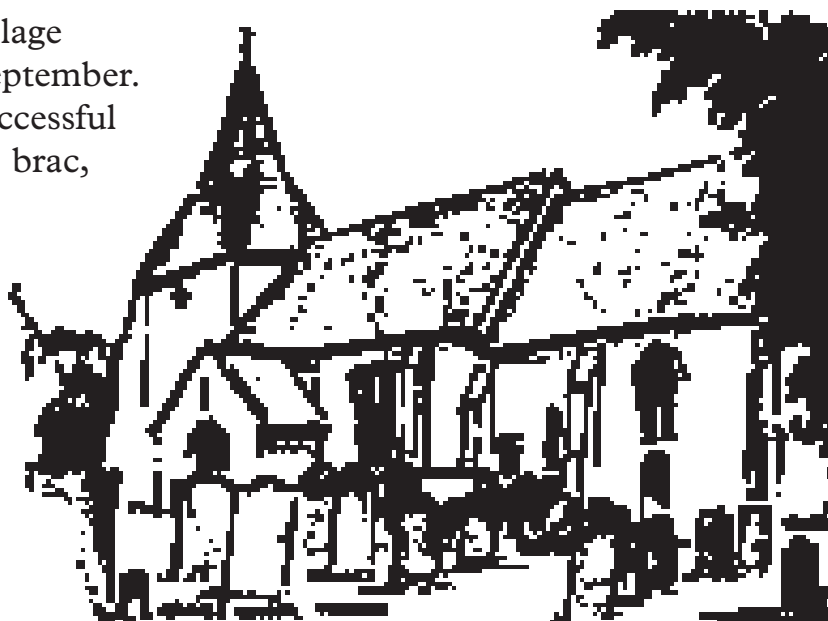
Barbara Sharp, Organiser, on 01892 524916

FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH

Annual Coffee Morning and Sale

This took place on the Village Green on Saturday 5th September.

The proceeds from the successful sale of cakes, crafts, bric a brac, plants, fruit, books and jewellery and the updated range of fund raising items together with money raised from the raffle will go towards the repair and maintenance of Pembury Parish Church.



CRIME IN PEMBURY

THE GOOD news is that there was a significant drop in recorded crime in Pembury in the first six months compared with the same period last year.

The provisional figure given was 114 which, whilst an improvement, is 114 too many.

Amazingly, contrary to belief, good lighting does not always lead to the lowest crime level, with Hastings Road and the High Street in first and second place with the highest rate. Third was Henwood Green Road, followed by Pembury Hospital and then Maidstone Road. Maybe these roads suffer because they are the main access and exit routes from the village.

Sadly, there was a surge of house break-ins during June and July and some of these occurred when the occupants were on holiday.

Please try to organise small groups, as we have said before, of six or seven dwellings and if you trust your neighbours, let them know you are going on holiday. Better still, let them have access to your house. We are all creatures of habit and unfortunately tend to do the same at the same time each week. Vary your actions where possible.

Please read the article on Neighbourhood Watch from PC Chris Janes and see if we can re-establish in strength the Neighbourhood Watch in Pembury.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH is a partnership between the public and the police aimed at:-

1. Reducing the opportunities for criminals to commit crime in your area;
2. Building up community spirit so that neighbours can work together for the benefit of all;
3. Making sure that the police and your neighbours are aware of suspicious incidents in your area.

There are at present well over 150 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Tunbridge Wells/Pembury/Paddock Wood area, with 15 active schemes in Pembury village. There were at one time 20 schemes but five have either ceased to exist or are considered "inactive" in that the Coordinator does not have the scheme registered with West Kent Police, who administer all the schemes.

Areas that have an active NHW scheme are generally less likely to suffer from crime than areas that do not. This is probably due to the fact that NHW members are usually more aware than most people about home security measures and are certainly better informed about local crime trends because the police make sure they are kept up to date on local crime activity and suspicious incidents. Knowing what is going on means they can react to trends or specific incidents.

It would be good to see more areas of Pembury benefiting from both Neighbourhood Watch and reduced crime.

If you live in an area not covered by a scheme and would like to know more about Neighbourhood Watch why not call

PC Chris Janes on 01892 502159

THE COPPICE COPPERS COP 'EM

WE ALSO have some other very good news. Some parishioners from The Coppice have acted very quickly, leading to the arrest of three youths who may have been responsible for criminal damage to a fence in the Lower Green Road late in the evening of Saturday 12th August.

Michael Waterman was in bed asleep, when his wife heard their fence being smashed.

This coincided with the arrival home of their sons David, Stephen and friend Andy. Without a second thought they sprinted up their garden towards the noise, hotly pursued in fourth position by Jim Webb, their neighbour, who had also heard the noise and whose wife Libby immediately rang the police.

It was neck and neck going over the fence but, safely on the other side, they were informed by another well meaning neighbour that he had seen three youths running up the road.

The famous four headed hot foot up the road and found the youths lurking at the entrance to the Ridgeway.

The police were very quickly on the scene and, when searched, the youths were found to be in possession of baseball bat type weapons, which they insisted were for their own protection.

However, whilst three youths were spotted only two were apprehended. They were handcuffed and taken away and we are given to understand a third arrest was made on Sunday.

Whilst all this was happening Mr Waterman, who had not joined in the race, suddenly realised, when he was on his back lawn in the presence of female company, that he was clad only in his underpants, not a pretty sight. He quickly dressed and toured the village with Mr Webb looking for the third person.

At the time of going to print we are not sure whether these youths were responsible or what charges have been brought.

It was a tremendous team effort and we should all be extremely grateful for the actions taken by the Watermans and Webbs.

Let this serve as a warning to all would-be criminals that there are plenty of people in the village prepared to take such action and, should they even contemplate such action again, the consequences could be more severe.

Hugh Boornan

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PEMBURY YOUTH

FOLLOWING the construction of the BMX ramp and its apparent success it would appear that youngsters from Tunbridge Wells and even Chatham and Hastings have made use of it.

There was a competition day held on the ramp at Cranbrook on 2nd August last and we believe that some of the Pembury lads took part. They have requested that a competition be held in Pembury, although it may be a little too late to organise it this year. If they have any ideas on the format of such an event, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council would also request that they pay greater attention to the litter around the ramp when they go home and it will go some way to appeasing other users of the recreation ground and local residents.

The other good news is that there is the slightest possibility that a building may become available for the formation of a youth club in the winter months but whilst this is being discussed the Parish Council need a clear indication of the number of parents or adults who will volunteer to help run it.

The more the merrier and less demanding on their social life.

The Council also need the youngsters to come forward with their ideas and requirements. As soon as we know that we can get it off the ground and establish some basic rules that we can all accept.

We will keep you informed.

PARISH COUNCIL QUIZ

I'M NOT in the habit of making dates with strangers but how about meeting me in the Village Hall at 8pm on 22nd October 1998. Bring along three friends (you must all be over 16 years of age) and for the ridiculously low price of £6 per team you can have an evening out – pitting your brains against 20 odd other teams to become the Brains of Pembury.

In addition there'll be a bar and a raffle and all profits will go to charities which benefit Pembury villagers.

Entrance forms can be obtained from me at 16 Woodhill Park, Pembury TN2 4NN – telephone number 824914 or from the Parish Clerk, Barbara Russell at 6 The Grove, Pembury – telephone number 823193. Places will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis. I look forward to seeing you there.

Betty Roberts



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Your Clerk *Reports* . . .

THIS MONTH should see the installation of three dog waste bins in the Lower Green Recreation Ground. As from 1st June 1998 you can be fined £1,000 if you do not clear up after your dog in designated areas under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. Designated areas are as follows: Roads; pavements and footpaths; Public Parks; Recreation Grounds; Playing Fields; Sports Fields; Children's Play Areas; Grass Verges, Village Greens and Housing Estates; Car Parks; Churchyards and Cemeteries.

Please use the bins provided at each entrance to the Recreation Ground in order to keep the Recreation Ground free from dog waste and avoid a large fine. In areas where bins are not provided it is acceptable to place your dog waste, wrapped in a plastic bag, in any litter bin.

To encourage potential allotment tenants to take the plunge, the Parish Council has decided to offer quarter size plots for rent to persons who feel unable to cultivate a full or half a plot. A quarter plot will cost £3.75 per annum. Fuller details are set out in the next article.

Hard Tennis Courts are available for hire at the following rates: 1 month £9.50; 2 months £13.50 and 1 year £37. This allows unlimited play during the hours that the Recreation Ground is open.

Footpath maps are available from the Clerk's Office or the Library at a cost of £1.

Barbara Russell

ALLOTMENTS

During a recent Parish Council Allotment Working Group Meeting the problem of vacant plots and how we could encourage parishioners to make use of them was discussed.

The Parish Council fully appreciate how daunting it must be when a would-be allotment holder is confronted with a whole plot that is possibly overgrown. The suggestion was put forward that, as an experiment, the Council should take a plot and divide it into three sections with a path separating each piece. Plots this size would then be manageable by

most people, young and old alike.

The Council envisage these plots being attractive to parishioners who are retired but do not want to break their backs with endless digging; for those who want to pass the time of day; or younger families who want to grow salad and vegetables and who have no garden.

If you are interested, please contact Barbara Russell, the Clerk to the Council – telephone 823193 and she will arrange to mark out your own plot.

Hugh Boorman

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

FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

- 1 Pembury Afternoon WI: London's Main Line Railway Stations – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 2 Pembury Evening WI: Ghosts of Kent – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Bo Peep Corner – 2.15pm
- 3 Pippins Victorian Apple, Cider and Wine Country Fair – Pippins Farm – 11am-5pm
- 5 Pembury Parish Council – Village Hall – 8pm
- 6 Darby and Joan Club: Odds and Sods Sale – Village Hall – 2pm
- 12 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 20 Darby and Joan Club: Lunch – Village Hall – Time to be advised
- 22 Parish Council Quiz – Village Hall – 8pm
- 26 Pembury Society: Annual General Meeting – Village Hall – Time to be advised
- 31 Pembury Gardeners: Halloween Evening – Village Hall – Time to be advised

NOVEMBER

- 5 Pembury Parish Council – Village Hall – 8pm
- 3 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 5 Pembury Afternoon WI: Annual General Meeting – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 6 Pembury Evening WI: Annual General Meeting – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 7 RNLI Autumn Fair – Catholic Hall – 10am
- 7 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 9 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 16 Pembury Footpath Walkers: Annual General Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 17 Darby and Joan Club: Mrs Redman, Poems – Village Hall – 2pm
- 21 St Peters Upper Church Autumn Fair – St Peters – Time to be advised
- 21 Pembury Bowls Club Christmas Fair – Pembury School Hall – 10.30am
- 30 Pembury Parish Council – Village Hall – 8pm

DECEMBER

- 2 Darby and Joan Club: Christmas Party – Village Hall – 2pm
- 3 Pembury Afternoon WI: Christmas Party – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 4 Pembury Evening WI: “The Hurricane – How it Changed my Life”, Bob Ogley – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 5 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Car Park – 2.15pm
- 12 Pembury Gardeners' Autumn Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 14 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm

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Mr Bruce Ballantine, 6 Maidstone Road. Tel: 822156

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway. Tel: 825577

Parish Council

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

Mr David Barrett, 25 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 823808

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

*Chairman, Amenities and
Allotments Committee*

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

Chairman of Parish Council

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

Chairman, Finance Committee

Mr David Coleman, 22 Ridgeway. Tel: 823402

Vice Chairman of Parish Council

Mrs Julia Campbell, 156 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 822074

Mr Dick Crouch, 17 Highfield Close. Tel: 823164

Mr Derek Goodwin, 27 Greenleas. Tel: 823822

Mrs Gillian Matthews, 2 Gimble Way. Tel: 822057

*Chairman, Burial, Environmental and
Highways Committee*

Mr Henry Plant, 16 The Coppice. Tel: 823459

Chairman, Public Relations Committee

Mrs Betty Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park. Tel: 824914

Mr Bob Wilkes, 6 Belfield Road. Tel: 823264

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

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We praise God and hear his
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Jim Smith, 18 Westway. Tel: 823714

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Secretary: Mr R. G. G. Whitlock, 6 The Forstal.
Tel: 822115

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Paddock Wood. Tel: 833699

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c/o Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535

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Wood. Tel: 835696

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Church Office. Tel: 825590

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Tel: 823235. And Jacke Fichtmüller, 19 Belfield Road,
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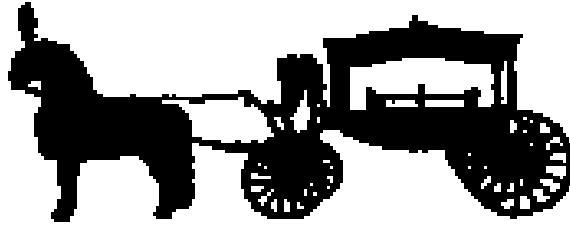
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