

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 97 / Spring 1999



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OF THE PEMBURY PARISH
COUNCIL ON MONDAY
15th MARCH 1999 at 8pm**

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Cover photograph courtesy David Sellman

CHURCH SERVICES AT EASTER

St. Peters Church

Palm Sunday 28th March	9.40 am	Procession from the High Street car park to the Upper Church; Parish Eucharist with dramatic reading of the Passion
Maunday Thursday 1st April	8.00 pm	Eucharist of the "Last Supper"
Good Friday 2nd April	10.00 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Procession from the Free Church to the Village Green with United Act of Witness on the Green
	12.00 noon	Good Friday Service at the Old Church
	2.00 pm	Devotional Hour
Easter Day 4th April	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am	Holy Communion at the Old Church
	5.00 pm	Evensong at the Old Church

WEB PAGE UPDATE

The launch of the Pembury Village News Web Page has been very successful. We have had quite a few e-mails of congratulations and our site has been visited by relatives of Pembury residents as far away as Australia and Canada. If you are unable to obtain access to our web site through the Internet you can still visit us as arrangements have been made for a hard copy of the site to be made available at Pembury Library and the Parish Council. Why not let us have your comments, by letter or e-mail, the choice is yours!

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 May 1999.

E-mail –
pembury.village.news@pbss.demon.co.uk
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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR
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16 The Coppice
Tel: 823459

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

A BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MRS KATHLEEN JURY

MRS JURY celebrated her 90th birthday back on 17th December 1998.

Kath was born in Chislehurst and from then travelled around various places in Kent and, at one stage, was living in France where she went to a convent school at Ypres. They moved back to Kent and lived in Tunbridge Wells, where Kath met her husband Cecil, at a dance in the Calverley grounds. They were married in 1932 at the Holy Trinity Church and later moved to Canterbury Road in Pembury in 1939. Cecil went off to War leaving Kath to look after the children, Gordon the eldest and Sylvia. Gordon and Sylvia were born in Tunbridge Wells. For a year during the War Kath's mother looked after the children while Kath herself joined the W.V.S. at Mark Cross. After the War they had another daughter called Vicky who was born at home in Pembury.

Kath still lives at the same address and it was here that she was presented with flowers on her birthday from Rev. Sealy who is a great friend of hers, whom she met through the Almshouses committee meetings. She has been involved with the Almshouses for 12 years during which she has watched them progress into more modern times. Mrs Jury's 'job' was to collect the weekly maintenance money which helps towards improvements such as the roof being redone and, recently, showers being fitted. She enjoyed helping and it is only very recently that she has stopped.

Kath has always been involved in the community, especially after her husband passed away in 1962.

Kath was a meals-on-wheels volunteer where

she was partnered with a driver and together they would deliver elderly peoples' meals in Pembury. They would pick up the boxes from Pembury Hospital and take them to the houses individually, where Kath would set out the meal on a plate to present it nicely for the person. They would then collect the money and boxes which they would then return to the hospital. Sometimes there would be as many as 36 to do. She stopped doing this roughly a year ago shortly after it all changed as it was contracted out to somewhere in Langton Green. The Pembury Walkers miss Kath as she was a founder member 12 years ago and loved to lead walks for them. She only recently gave this up and I could tell by the way she spoke she misses it dearly. Her arthritis, however, lets her down a little. When she left two years ago they presented her with a life long membership.

Kath enjoys the 'outdoors' and is a member of the Pembury Gardeners' Society. She loves gardening and currently has to do her "great gardening sitting in a chair", but this doesn't seem to deter her. She fully supports the society and "wishes others would". Her other strong support and interest is the W.I. which she attends as often as possible. The institute is now split into afternoon and evening groups and she attends the afternoon ones and enjoys the diversity of such an institute.

Mrs Jury is a great woman who firmly believes in getting involved. She is a dynamic person and I, as others no doubt do, wish her a happy late birthday.

Julia Campbell

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

MANY THANKS to the businesses in the High Street who co-operated with the Christmas Lighting. Although it is our first attempt we will be looking to do the same thing again this year. It is also hoped that we can extend the scheme without making the High Street look like a town centre.

Hugh Boorman

PEMBURY NEW VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

GRANTS FROM the National Lottery Charities Board, Pembury Parish and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils are now in place.

Our Grants Application to the Kent County Council will go before their Youth and Community Group for their decision on 25th March.

As we cannot ask for building tenders until we know the funds are available if all goes well the earliest we could start the rebuilding would be the middle of July.

This means the new hall would not be ready until early next year.

Even with all our grants we will still need a large sum raised locally, which is being dealt with by our Fund Raising Chairman, Brian Horgan.

Arthur Storey
Treasurer

AT LAST we are making some progress towards the building of your new Village Hall. Our biggest news so far is the award of a Lottery Grant of £200,000. For many of you this achievement may have seemed to have taken a long time. However, Arthur Storey put a great deal into this application and he was justly pleased with the result. Well done Arthur.

Since my last article we have received commitments from local village organisations for the following events.

Short Mat Bowlers held a function on 31st January 1999 in support of our fund raising efforts. The Garden Society will make a cash donation towards this project, to be approved at their next AGM.

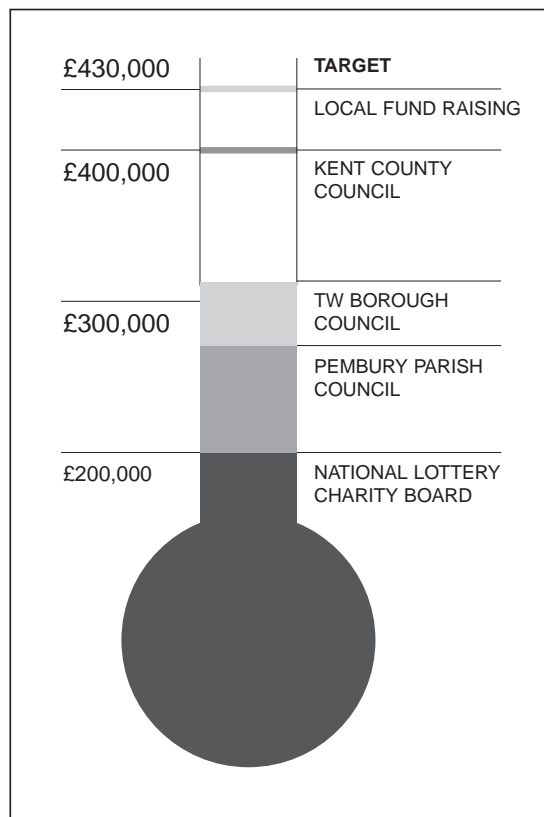
The *Bridge Club* held a match on 28th February 1999 in the Village Hall in support of the project.

You may have now seen collection jars in our hostelrys and in the Texaco garage – all odd change is welcome. Look out for the jars with the target thermometer. If anybody is prepared to take a collection jar please contact the undersigned.

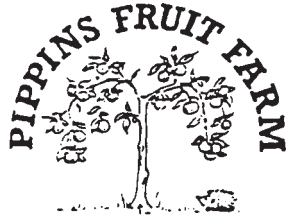
Even if we are granted the monies from Kent we will

still have to raise funds in the local community if we are to have a new hall with adequate facilities to take us into the 21st Century.

Brian Horgan
Chairman,
Village Hall Fund Raising Committee
Tel: 822412



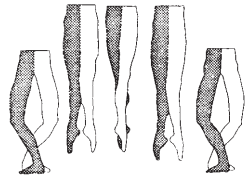
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GILL'S GARDEN

SPRING IS almost here and it is the time to start planting – providing that the ground is not frozen. If you plan to sow annuals directly into the ground, first fork over the ground removing weeds and fertilising soil well.

Plant out hardy bulbs that have bloomed indoors and feed and water well. Lift and divide Snowdrops, if they are congested. Likewise any herbaceous plants that have either outgrown their space or become weak.

Plant perennials and summer bulbs such as Gladioli, Agapanthus (African Lily) and Nerine Bowdenni (a late summer flowering bulb). Plant Dahlias and Sweet Pea plants, pinching out the tips of the Sweet Peas to encourage vigorous side shoots.

Annuals can still be grown indoors on the windowsill or in a greenhouse if you have one. Remember to harden these off before planting in the garden after all risks of frost have gone. Sow herbs and take cuttings from bedding plants such as Fuchsia, perennials and Heliotropes. Protect plants from slugs and snails. If you do not wish to use slug pellets, grit or eggshell can be placed around the plants. Alternatively, a small jar filled with beer will act as a 'slug pub'.

Prune shrubs grown for winter colour such as Dogwoods and Willows.

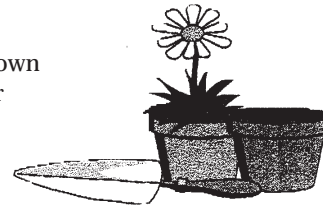
Prune Forsythia as soon as it has finished flowering. Take root cuttings of Delphiniums and Lupins to increase plants. Finish pruning Roses and dress summer shrubs as well as Roses with a high potash feed. Plant up containers and hanging baskets using moisture retentive crystals.

If compost does dry out in the hanging baskets then a few drops of mild washing up liquid added to the water will help to moisten it. Do not use the new anti-bacterial liquids as these will kill plants off.

Plant Limonanthas and Tagetes to encourage hoverflies to eat greenflies and other unwanted pests.

Scarify the lawn and aerate before mowing on a high cut avoiding bulbs if they have been planted in the lawn as the leaves should be left to die down naturally.

Gill Matthews



PEMBURY IN BLOOM

ONCE AGAIN Pembury has entered the Britain in Bloom competition.

The trees at Hastings Road end of the village along with the wild flowers are growing well. The two bus shelters, one at the village green and the other at the Camden Arms, will soon be in position together with planters.

There will, once again, be a Pembury in Bloom competition run jointly by Pembury Parish Council and Notcutts Garden Centre.

If anyone has any ideas for brightening up the village or wishes to help please let me know. Telephone 822057

Gill Matthews

ROB'S PLOT

IT'S BEEN a little while since I last reported to you about the plot. I've been rather busy even though it's apparently the quiet season but not for me – I'm an all weather gardener! Lots of things have had to be done, clearing, moving bushes, digging . . . even with all the rain.

The redcurrant and gooseberry bushes have finally gone. They weren't being appreciated except by the birds; I'm sure though that they won't be too disappointed as instead I will have blackcurrant bushes. I planted five cuttings which I had taken (borrowed) from my brother's plot. They have settled in well and are now growing strongly. I also have a loganberry cutting. This is now two years old and was big enough to move onto the wire fencing set up. Hopefully there will be a nice sized crop this summer (keep the wife busy in the kitchen, jam season!). All the strawberries have gone as they were getting old. It is recommended to replace them every three years. My good friendly gardener, i.e. my mother-in-law, said I could have some of her runners so I replanted them straight in the ground. The best time to plant these is in November/December as they are dormant.

Moving up the plot, the runner bean area has also changed as instead of having to set up each time with strings I have concreted six posts in. Wire runs through the top with bolts either end to keep it taught. Each year from now on all I will need to do is lean the poles up against the structure and tie them in.

For those of you who like to wait for a good

thing garlic is the answer! I planted 15 cloves in November and come next year they should be ready. In the cold frame I planted radishes. At least they don't take as long as the garlic but nice though.

Now is the time things get more busy, even for the fair weather ones of us! Some people prefer to spread manure during the winter although I do it in the spring as I feel that a

fair bit of the goodness is washed away in the winter months. Now its time to get it rotivated ready for all the seeds to go in at the plot. Beetroot, carrots and spring onions can now be planted straight out. Also the courgettes, marrows and cucumbers need to go into the cold frame to get them on the go. Don't forget that it is only March so they need to be kept in a warm environment. First, early potatoes that have now sprouted well in their trays need to be drilled (planted). I still don't think you can beat Pentin Javlines or Home Guard. I grew some really good, big and tall leeks last year, well tasty. They were



called Bulgarian Giants from Sutton Seeds. The tomatoes and sweetcorn are growing well in trays and need to be transplanted into small pots so in the next couple of months they will be ready to be planted out at the plot.

By the way, the allotments don't just offer plots. The Pembury Gardeners Society have their 'supplies' shed up there as well. Details of the facility were given on page 15 of the Winter issue. If you want to join the Society please contact Mike Paveley on 822605.

So until next time, happy gardening!

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CHRISTOPHER 'KIT' KELLY – 1951-1999

IT IS not every week that a newspaper carries a front page apology after a slur on a person's character. That apology, richly earned and, in a sense, long overdue, may have made us feel better, but sadly came too late for Kit.

The testimony of those dozens of letters and phone calls to the *Courier*, and of the many other people who felt the same way, showed the power of personal conviction and friendship, two qualities that Kit possessed in abundance – and the presence of so many at his funeral spoke more eloquently of his life than any words that can be printed here.

Kit Kelly was, as they say, a 'one-off', a sometimes bewildering person – the *Courier* called him a 'rum cove'! I prefer to think of him as a modern man of intellect with an 18th Century flamboyance. It was that very eccentricity, 'his way' that endeared him to so many people.

In the strange, unconventional attire, whether it be Confederate soldier marching as to war, or the Oxford Don with his Chesterton cloak flapping, or in sandals and Kaftan, striding ever purposefully, he cut an imposing figure and was never an object of ridicule.

Kit undoubtedly enjoyed 'dressing up' and never more so than in the frolics served up by Pembury Players. He was an enthusiastic founder member. Who can forget his 'ugly sister' in Cinderella, or in one of the reviews – reciting – with hilarious accompaniment "There's a little yellow idol to the north of Katmandu". Kit enjoyed himself and entertained us hugely in whatever part he was cast to play.

If grown-ups sometimes found him difficult to fathom, his pupils never did. They knew him for an inspiring teacher, with a love for his subject and a direct, yet colourful way of telling a story. Neither did they hesitate when the deciding moment came, to demonstrate their support for him.

After the grievously premature ending of his teaching career, Kit turned his energies to Parish Council work, being several times comprehensively elected. He represented the Parish Council on the Kent Association of Parish Councils, in turn representing Kent Association of Parish Councils on the Borough's

Transport Liaison Committee.

His first love however, was the environment, and probably a close second was taking pictures of it. More than any of us, he was deeply affected by the hurricane in October 1987 and went all round the village, diligently recording the devastation on video. Altogether he served 14 years on the Parish Council and took his duties very seriously, only ceasing to be a member when ill-health made it impossible for him to continue.

Each of us will have our own personal memory of Kit's constant and meticulous care for his village and many will have experienced some real and unexpected act of kindness from him and it is certain that anyone he met in the village will have been treated with unfailing courtesy and politeness, stemming from that quiet dignity which was his trademark.

Kit was born in Dumfries in Scotland, but moved, at a very tender age, to Yorkshire, where he grew up. He showed the early interest of a naturalist and had made a notable collection of stick insects by the time he was ten. He had by then already mastered meccano – and this fascination with the intricate workings of things mechanical stayed with him all his life.

His lifelong passion was musical boxes and his pride and joy was a mechanical organ – this incidentally was so large it had to be lifted into his house through the front window – the only feasible way in and typical of his stubborn determination.

Kit was a cultured man, with a special command of English. He had been President of the Union at Sussex University. Always polite, always ready with a friendly greeting – always there. He loved Pembury. He belonged to Pembury, as we are the witnesses.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his mother Irene and brother David.

John Hawker



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PEMBURY VILLAGE FAYRE – JULY 17th

HOW LONG ago was it when none of us had heard of the Millennium Bug, the Euro and Millennium Dome?

Want a chance to forget about them for the afternoon? Now's your chance, or to be more correct, your chance will come in July.

As we approach the end of the Century and Millennium we plan to turn this year's Village Fayre into a celebration of Pembury over the past 100 years – or even longer.

We shall be organising an afternoon of traditional and modern fair activities with all the usual attractions – Bands, Punch and Judy, shows for all the family etc.

To supplement the stalls and events we would ask everyone in the village to consider if they have any artefacts, collections, photographs or other memorabilia relating to the last 100 years, or before, which they would like to share for everyone to enjoy.

If your items have a specific Pembury

connection then so much the better, but all contributions from Thimbles to Vintage Cars would be much appreciated. Covered display areas will be provided as required.

As usual we will be relying upon the Scout and Guide organisations to provide marquees for the main tented areas but if anyone has family sized frame tents or other shelters which we could borrow for the day we would be pleased to hear from you.

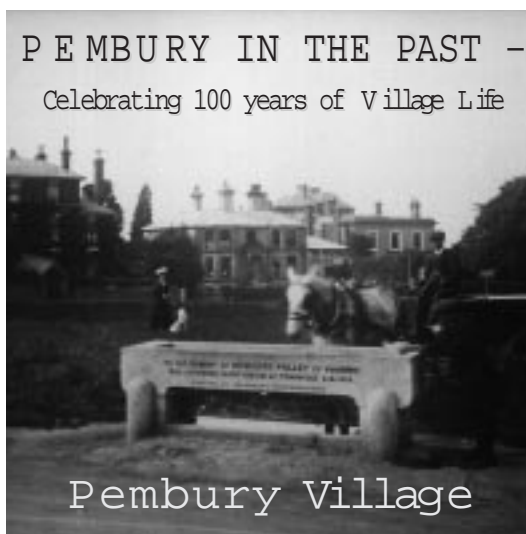
The more involvement we can get across the village, the better we can make the Fayre. If there is any way in which you feel you might

be able to contribute to *YOUR VILLAGE FAYRE* please let us know.

All profits once again go to the youth of the village – Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club and the Scouts and Guides who both provide excellent recreation and activities.

After all – it is your last chance this Century!

Laurie Frowde (822826)
on behalf of Organising Committee



MILLENIUM MUGS

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**TOP TABLE TENNIS PLAYER/COACH
AT PEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Top Table Tennis Player/Coach, John Burleton, recently moved to Pembury village and has started table tennis coaching sessions at Pembury School.

John, once ranked No. 15 in England Seniors, four times Kent/Bucks County Champion and more recently winner of the Tonbridge/ Tunbridge Wells Combined Tournament says "I've been out of coaching for a couple of years while relocating from Milton Keynes to Pembury marrying a local Pembury girl, Anne Beeching, but now I've settled my interest in coaching can resume, and I hope to exceed my previous achievements in Milton Keynes of coaching young players from beginners to England Internationals."

John is a qualified regional staff coach for the English Table Tennis Association and has been head coach at their Centre of Excellence Training Sessions, which are for England Juniors (U17) and potential England Juniors.

John has started coaching on Friday



afternoons 2.40pm to 3.10pm Golden Time and also on Fridays from 3.30pm to 4.15pm after School which is open to anyone, any age, any standard. He is hoping to start an evening club which would also be open to

anyone. John says "Starting an evening club would be very good, hopefully attracting established players, who would help in bringing on the younger players as well as benefitting themselves from my coaching."

"It's a fairly cheap and safe sport and it would give Pembury children a healthy activity rather than having nothing to do or, worse still, hanging around on

street corners, but it will be a table tennis club, not a youth club. For those who want to play and improve their table tennis and, who knows, maybe Pembury will have a County champion or, better still, an international player; time will tell."

If anyone is interested in helping (previous coaching experience not necessary) they would be welcome. The school are looking for table tennis tables so if anyone has one that they do not want, John would welcome a call from them on 823150 or call the School on 822259.

PEMBURY TENNIS CLUB

We start our new season on Wednesday 5th May at 6.30pm on the grass courts in the Recreation Ground in Lower Green Road.

Club times are 6.30-8.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 3.00- 6.00pm on Sundays.

If you play tennis you will be made very welcome.

For more information please telephone 822156 or 822405

Barbara Ballantine

JUNIOR TENNIS CLUB

Starting date Tuesday 4th May

Club nights Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.30-8.30pm

Ages 9 to 15

All you need is a tennis racket and suitable shoes. We provide the balls.

Cost £25 for the season, which is from May to September.

For more information please telephone 822156 or 822405

PEMBURY STOOLBALL CLUB

As spring approaches we begin to reflect on the successes of last year and start to prepare for the new season which will commence in early May.

Last season saw the mixed team, which plays on Thursday evenings, win the West Kent Mixed Stoolball League for the third year in succession winning eight of its ten league fixtures. Additionally, the team won the League tournament, beating Leigh after a play-off, and the side has now held this trophy for the last four years.

The ladies side achieved their highest league placing since they began five years ago finishing seventh out of the 14 teams in their league. The side continues to grow stronger and is beginning to achieve the consistency required to challenge the more established sides. The ladies play their League matches on Monday and Wednesday evenings and new players, experienced or otherwise, are most welcome. Practice sessions will begin in April and anybody interested in joining should call Sandie Rice-Tucker on 822483.

PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB

Lawn bowls has been played in Pembury for quite some time as photographs exist (such as the one reproduced here) showing games being played at the Camden Arms at the turn of the century. There was also another green at the Royal Oak on the ground more or less where Waterfield House now stands. What happened to these two clubs seems to have been lost in the mist of time but if anyone can enlighten me I shall be very grateful.

The Pembury Bowls Club, as we know it today, was formed in 1929 and to celebrate the 70th anniversary of this the Club is proud to announce that the President and Council of the Kent County Bowling Association will be bringing a team on Wednesday 30th June for a game to commence at 2.30pm. Spectators will be welcome and providing the weather is favourable a memorable day is expected.

Efforts are being made to compile a history of the Club so that a booklet can be published next year. If there is anyone in the village with old photographs or memorabilia of bowls in Pembury during the last 100 years and would allow me to have access to or copies of them then please get in touch with me on 824914.

George Roberts, Hon Secretary



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SPRINGTIME

WE ALWAYS used to look forward to the Springtime when we were lads, mainly because of the start of the bird nesting season. On a Saturday morning I would have to do my paper round first and then make two or three journeys to the timber yard, which used to be situated just behind Waterfield House, to collect logs in a handcart.

Then we would disappear for most of the day, our gang including Michael and Peter Hillier, Dennis Cole, Mick Waterman, Barry Grainger, Peter Giles, Ray Kemp and others.

Our main target used to be the ponds scattered between Pembury, Capel and Matfield on which we would look for the moorhen nests. We would eat a lot of moorhen's eggs, which always had dark rich yolks.

They would lay up to eight or nine eggs but we never took them all. If there were eight we would take four and they always laid more. Of course, if the egg was addled, that is the young bird was already developing, we would put it back in the nest. We would test the egg by putting it in the water. If it sank it was okay, if it floated it was addled.

The tricky part was getting the egg from the nest as moorhens build in very difficult places. The nest is usually of rushes and reeds and lays flat on the water amongst branch work or rushes.

Sometimes tying a spoon on a long pole would retrieve the eggs but usually it meant inching your way along a slimy submerged branch or balancing on a trunk.

It was a certainty that someone would fall in and there was nothing nicer than having your wellington boots filled with stinking water from rotting vegetation and your jeans soaked and caked in mud

It was worse still if it was the first pond of the day and you had to stay in the same clothes till we went home, normally to a good telling off.

But it was worth it for two or three eggs on toast.

Hugh Boorman

CHRISTMAS CHEER

CHRISTMAS came early for Mr Ken Marshall when he won the NatWest Bank's raffle of a Xmas Food Hamper. The picture shows him being presented with the hamper by a member of the Bank's staff.



PEMBURY IN THE PAST

The most pleasing thing that helps the Editorial Committee in their work is the increasing interest that is being shown by Parishioners in the articles and pictures that have appeared under this heading.

OLD POSTCARDS OF PEMBURY EVENTS

I have been given access to three photographs of Pembury events which I am reproducing on this and the next page. The first picture below shows rows of men in front of the Glebe House in Pembury (which has now been demolished). Can you let us know on what occasion this photograph was taken and does anyone recognise any of these people in the photograph?

I am also very pleased to be able to show you the other two photographs on the next page which are both of Pembury School Infants, but of different years.

The Pembury Infants' III (top picture), which would appear to be the older photograph because of the clothes worn by the boys and girls, does not have a date shown but the second photograph has what appears to be the year 1911 shown on the top of the small placard at the feet of the sitting children.

These photographs are reproduced below by kind permission of John Beech and both he and the Editorial Committee would very much like to find out the accurate dates of both these photographs. If you know this information or if you recognise anyone in the photographs, please let us know.



PICTORIAL PEMBURY IN THE PAST



PEMBURY IN THE PAST

PIONEERS FROM PEMBURY

DURING THE 1820s, 1830s and even into the 1840s Ann, the wife of Sampson Wanmer, gave birth to at least eight and possibly two or three more children. He was an agricultural worker and they lived at Lower Green, probably in one of the cottages still at the bottom of Henwood Green Road, or a similar one in a row that used to be behind them.

Opportunities in Pembury must have been very limited for children from such a family at that time but two of the boys had more than the usual amount of initiative and went to the newly emerging colony of Australia.

Because the family were non-conformists the children were not baptised in the Parish Church and so it is not until the 1841 census that we catch up with them. By then James (born 1823), probably the second child, had left Pembury to join the army in India. He served there for 14 years before moving on to Australia where he arrived in 1854. Solomon, the baby, was only three months old at the census but he too left home at 17 and joined his brother in Australia in 1859.

By the 1851 census Ann was widowed and only the three youngest boys were still at home. Samuel, the eldest, born 1821, was himself married and lived with his wife and three sons at Hawkwell where he too was an agricultural worker. The Hawkwell connection is important. James settled in Gladstone in what would later become the state of Queensland and bought some land. He called his estate 'Hawkwell'.

About Solomon we have more information. The journey to Australia took him six months and was an adventure on its own. He went to Tonbridge by cart and then to London by train, across London to Paddington and the evening train for Plymouth. He embarked on the 'Nimrod' a

few days later and arrived in Sydney in April. He then travelled to Brisbane by schooner and a week later left for Gladstone. Brother James furnished him with a horse and he joined five others to go prospecting for gold in the hills. This expedition proved unsuccessful and very frightening so he soon returned to Gladstone and then on to Brisbane where he got a job with a shopkeeper at £40 per annum and comfortable accommodation with the shopkeeper. After four months, however, he got itchy feet again and got a job on a sheep station at six shillings a day for a six day week. He stuck this very hard life for three months and then returned to Gladstone where he settled down and became a very well respected builder. When he died in 1920, just a week after his wife of 53 years, he left a son, Solomon junior, who was a journalist on the *Brisbane Telegraph*, and two daughters, one of whom was married to the then mayor of Gladstone. James had died some years earlier.

And how do we know all this? Believe it or not, through the Internet. You are aware that this magazine has recently acquired a web site through the auspices of the Pembury Business and Secretarial Services. Well, this site was found by a gentleman in Australia who is a descendent of Solomon Wanmer and was researching his English ancestors. He was particularly interested to find the Hawkwell connection. Mr Bennedick contacted PBSS and there have been several exchanges of information.

PBSS contacted the local history group to find out what we knew about the Wanmer family and that is how I got involved with the story. This is the first known response to Pembury's web site but it is early days yet and who knows who else will contact us from around the world with news of past residents of our village.

Kathryn Franklin

PEMBURY – 50 YEARS AGO

FOLLOWING the publication in the last issue of this magazine in the article 'Pembury – 50 years ago' one of the persons named in that newspaper article has written to the Editor with his memories of that event. His letter reads:

"My cousin, Mary Standen, who, amongst other things, is a Pembury historian, tells me that your Winter edition of the Pembury Village News carried an article about a play performed at the local primary school in 1948. One of the cast is named as Roger Young and I am the person mentioned in the review. Alas, I cannot remember the others in the cast but I do recall playing the part of the Monster Goblin. My mother made my costume from blackout curtain; the fingers were at least eight inches long and the headgear had 14 inch high horns. We did two performances, as I recall, and the whole show was well received by parents and friends.

The producer, Miss Woodward, was a wonderful teacher. She was probably in her early twenties and, to the best of my knowledge, lived in Frant, although travelling between Frant and Pembury in 1948 must have been difficult.

She taught us most subjects but the one I remember most was History. She had the ability to weave historical fact into stories about children's lives of the period, a sort of social history.

Marjory Jenner, who read a poem during the interval, is also a cousin of mine but she cannot recall the show.

I have very fond memories about living in Pembury between 1943 and 1948 even although it was partly War time and the immediate aftermath.

I hope you were able to trace other members of the cast."

Roger Young

FAMILY HISTORY

For a very long time I have wanted to see how far back and how detailed a history of Pembury could be traced. Over the years excellent books have been published, first by Jack Standen and then by his daughter, Mary.

The Archives at County Hall, Maidstone, was the place to start, I was told. And so I rang the Archives (01622 694577) to enquire what I had to do to be able to research parish history or even family history. Simple. Get two passport size photographs, two documents with your name, address and your signature, i.e. driving licence, passport or an invoice, and they will produce in about five minutes your own personal pass, called a Readers Ticket.

To save a wasted journey, at the same time as booking the appointment over the phone, book a table for whatever period of time you want, but be on time.

Unsure of what the parking facilities were like in that part of Maidstone, Moira and I caught

the train from Paddock Wood to Maidstone Barracks Station; there is then a walk of approximately ten minutes to County Hall. Moira found a lot of information regarding her family history that was previously unknown to her and it turned out to be a rewarding day.

The Archive staff are extremely helpful and your Readers Ticket, which you keep, costs you nothing, other than the cost of the passport photograph – £2.50. So, have a go, but check the return train times.

The earliest reference I could find relating to Pembury in the time I was at the Archives was from one of the volumes of *Archaeologia Cantiana* and is as follows:

'In recognizance of Mortdauncestor, William Crespin acknowledges to Simon de Wahull a mill in Elvinden (in Pembury), for which the said Simon grants the said mill to the said William, to hold of him and his heirs by the free service of nine shillings per annum.'

Hugh Boorman

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Don't fancy going out in the evening?

Why not join us, Pembury Afternoon W.I., at 2.15pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Free Church Hall, Lower Green and enjoy friendship,

discussion, varied speakers, tea and cakes and much more.

A welcome awaits you.

Marion Brearley

FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH

Concert by the Hunton Consort - Pembury Old Church - Saturday 10th April 1999 at 7.30 pm.

The Hunton Consort was founded in 1975 by John Bartles and Tom Semark to sing mainly music from the English golden age. The present Director of Music is Denis Long. The Consort aims to give three or four concerts per year. These are normally given in Churches in West and Mid Kent.

The repertoire still contains many items from the sixteenth century but over the years has broadened to encompass music of all periods from Tudor to the present day.

Admission free - collection in aid of the Old Church.

PEMBURY FREE CHURCH DAY CENTRE

EVERY MONDAY (except school term-time and bank holidays) a group of about 18 people over 60 come together in the hall of Pembury Free Church between 10.00am and 2.30pm. Some of the folk knew Pembury from before the War; others have come after they retired. Coffee and tea are served and for the small contribution of £2.30, a "home cooked" meal is provided. Some play games together e.g. Scrabble, rummy-cub, etc. while others just sit and chat.

We do have occasional speakers and have a good old singsong once in a while. In the summer we have a 'day out' together, usually to Eastbourne. Before the meal we'll have a poem, Bible reading and a short prayer. We do have some vacancies now and can provide transport if needed.

Please ring Mrs Hennie Nijman on 825523 (after 4pm) if you are interested to join us.

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

YEARS OF planning and fund-raising came to fruition on December 3rd when the Hospice opened its doors to its first in-patients. Shortly before that landmark date it had been announced that the £4.3 million target for completion of the building and its equipment had been achieved. The running costs of the in-patient home care and day care services will amount to £1.5 million each year, and that's at today's prices. So the fund-raising must continue all over the area of West Kent and East Sussex served by Hospice in the Weald.

Pembury can be proud of its contribution to date. By the end of 1998 activities co-ordinated through the Pembury Link Group since it was set up in April 1995 had produced the magnificent total of £52,650. Since then money coming in from events held over the Christmas period have set 1999 off to a good start for them. Notcutts donated £1271 from the proceeds of their Father Christmas Grotto, in return for some help with ticket sales by Group members. Once again our youngest supporters, the enthusiastic two to four year olds of Sandra's House Nursery School, gave the whole of the £212 takings from their 'Celebration of Christmas' performed in the Village Hall, while 'Dick Turpin', this January's pantomime by Pembury Players, was supported by full houses and made a profit of £1010 for the Hospice. This amount was particularly creditable since no sponsor was found this year, so the full production costs had first to be met from takings.

The tours of the new building in October were so popular that they were extended into the first week of November. Like most charities, Hospice in the Weald will be heavily dependent on volunteers and, as just one example, their influence can already be seen in the garden development that is going on around the building. Most vacancies have now been filled but there is still an urgent need for voluntary receptionists able to undertake shifts on Saturdays or Sundays (9am-1pm, 1-5pm, or 5-9pm) and for more volunteer drivers to transport day-care clients. An hour or two a week is all drivers need to offer, but on a regular basis. Anyone who might be able to help should telephone Maggie Brain on 820530.

COFFEE MORNING 'PLUS'

ON SATURDAY, June 12th, 10am to noon in the Village Hall, organised by Pembury Evening WI in aid of the New Village Hall Appeal.

There will be a bring & buy stall, raffle, cake and produce stall plus name the doll and

other activities. Something for all the family.

Please support this event.

More details nearer the time on posters around the village or ring me on 822577.

Gillian Williamson

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KENT COLLEGE

THE ANNOUNCEMENT last January of the engagement of Prince Edward to Sophie Rhys-Jones, a former pupil of Kent College has catapulted the school into the news.

There is curiosity – mainly from the media – about what kind of school of the late 1970s produced this future princess. In some reports there are assumptions that the school is the same today.

Time has moved on. Successful schools of the 1990s are preparing their citizens for life and careers in the 21st Century, a global world in an information age. Today at Kent College our students aspire to academic excellence and proceed to universities world-wide. Through a campus-wide network of computers they have independent access to Internet resources developing information skills while learning to collaborate and exchange data with students around the globe.



We also welcome students from overseas both as short-stay and long-term members and our community is enriched by their contributions. Students have opportunities to exchange places for a few weeks or a term with girls in schools in France, Germany, America and Australia. Through living and sharing with girls from different countries and backgrounds they learn about other customs and cultures and learn to respect all people.

Kent College is a Methodist foundation and an independent day and boarding school for girls aged 3-18. Today the school is an interdenominational Christian community that welcomes girls of all faiths and of none. We encourage girls to explore their beliefs within an active Christian community. Our senior girls understand their responsibility to those with fewer opportunities and many participate in regular community service. One of the most valuable of our annual service projects is the holiday for children from two schools in Tower Hamlets. Organised and led for the past five years by senior students who give a week of their summer holiday to the project, the holiday at Pembury provides a wonderful experience of fun and educational activity for visitors and hosts.

One question I have been asked repeatedly in recent weeks is what are the values Kent College will have given Miss Rhys-Jones? In her new role she will meet people from many different walks of life. I hope she will welcome these opportunities and demonstrate that she values and respects all the people she meets. She has a unique opportunity to break down barriers that divide people. In the words of a senior girl from Kent College after attending a university interview last year, "I noticed that whilst I judged no-one, others were stereotyping and categorising people just because of the type of school they had attended. This astonished me. Kent College doesn't judge people for who they are – it accepts them and encourages its pupils to do likewise."

Barbara J. Crompton
Headmistress

NAMES AND NUMBERS

I'VE GOT a bone to pick with those of you in the village who do not display house numbers. Of course, this applies to flats and maisonettes as well but we don't have too many of them in Pembury. It is house numbers, or the lack of them, which troubles me because delivering letters on a gloomy winter's night is a bad enough way of spending your leisure time but when several houses together have no visible number then this can start to be extremely annoying. Obviously, it is not the house which is to blame but the residents who, if they do not have a deep aversion to numbers or even do have a secret desire to run a safe house for Pembury Freedom Fighters, certainly display a complete indifference towards visitors or to the job of the postman. Indeed, a house without a number seems to be aware of its lost identity and just sits there in a state of blank isolation rather like a refugee without papers or a lone evacuee sitting on a suitcase on an empty railway platform.

Just as frustrating can be the residence which had its number screwed to the front gate when the place was built and then, over the years, the figures have been obliterated by several layers of paint. I suspect that this excellent camouflage indicates a deeply subconscious desire on the part of the residents to remain anonymous from the neighbours.

I can read your thoughts when it crosses your mind that many number-less houses have names but my response to that is that in a society driven in this day and age by the digital revolution, such a method of defining a building is approaching the archaic.

Whilst touching on the difficulties of delivering letters, have you ever tried posting anything through your own letterbox? Admittedly, this is not something which immediately comes to mind but to do so can be an enlightening experience and more difficult or awkward than you might imagine. For example, if you have one of those architecturally attractive letterboxes located at the very bottom of the front door then if you attempt to stuff in more than one item, you will probably end up (literally) on your hands and knees.

The strange thing is that houses that have these boxes also often invest in the services of an evil-minded Jack Russell terrier whose entire purpose in life is to devour with remarkable speed and at one snap any fingers that may encroach into its domain. The other difficulty, which you might come up against in such a trial, is the draught-proof hairy letterbox. A nomad who lived in a camel-skin tent in the Atlas Mountains and who had never seen a postman in his life must have designed this device. The point is that the hairy letterbox is a nightmare to use, it has a mass of bristles on all four sides of the aperture which have a ratchet effect upon the hand that pushes in the letters. Having withdrawn the hand, it will then be seen that the flap of the box is permanently raised because it is supported by the bristles. So much for draught proofing; perhaps it is just a means of trapping postmen who swing inside when the door is opened and can then be out to work on the garden or in decorating the hall.

I applaud the men and women who deliver our mail but personally, I wouldn't do the job of a postman if you paid me, what with uncaring householders who can't be bothered to number their houses and slavering dogs and hairy letterboxes. There are worse jobs of course, such as washing the outside of the windows of Canary Wharf, or the current pastime of trying to locate and then repair in deep mud, the water mains under the roads of Pembury.

Nomad

CRIME IN PEMBURY

THE GOOD NEWS continues with the downward trend in crime figures continuing both in West Kent and Pembury.

The total number of crimes recorded in Pembury for the period October, November and December was 61 and although higher than the previous quarter was lower than the corresponding period last year. So congratulations to the police and also the public who are becoming increasingly vigilant and prepared to report suspicious activity and have a go. Keep it up, but be careful.

Although there was a flurry of activity before Christmas, with burglaries from dwellings and bogus operators conning their way into peoples houses, this figure only rose by one, from 10 to 11, on the previous quarter. The goods news is that assaults fell from three to one.

Theft of vehicles rose from four to five and again the figure of theft from vehicles is still too high. There were seven instances of bilking (walking off without paying), one from the Jarvis Hotel, and six from the Star Service Station.

West Kent Police have informed us that the latest target are sheds, garages and vans with power tools inside. Even more serious is the latest information that Tunbridge Wells is fast becoming a major drug problem area.

We can only ask that all parents, especially of teenagers, become increasingly aware of the danger and temptation that is confronting their children. It is probably very difficult to immediately notice changes in behaviour, especially when parents see their children every day, but please be alert to this very real danger.

It should make every parent whose family is touched by this evil extremely angry that someone has brought misery into their family and gained financially by selling drugs to their offspring.

Please do not be ashamed, should it happen, the more people you can discuss it with and gain their support the better chance we all have of keeping this evil at bay.

Please support people such as Paul Betts, father of Leah Betts who died from taking ecstasy. He and his wife have spent their life savings visiting schools and clubs and youngsters who become addicted. Unfortunately, because Paul and his wife cannot get sponsorship, they will soon have to give up their cause and return to work.

Let's make the next quarter's crime figures the lowest ever and send out a clear message that Pembury will not accept would-be criminals.

Hugh Boorman

PEMBURY PLAYERS

FOLLOWING their outstanding performance of 'Dick Turpin' in January, Pembury Players will be staging a Revue at the Catholic Hall on the 17th, 18th and 19th June. Don't miss it!! Make a note of the date now.

The Players would welcome any other groups who wish to join them in the Revue - just contact J. Norman-Draper on 823975.

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MILLENNIUM KNEELER PROJECT FOR THE PARISH CHURCH – COUNTDOWN COMMENCES

WHEN THIS project first started it seemed such a long time before the kneelers needed to be safely in place in the Parish Church to celebrate the Millennium – now 2000 doesn't seem so distant! To stretch and make up one canvas covers approximately a week to ten days, so if your finished work is handed in on a regular basis during this year – with a deadline of September 1999 – it will be a really great help. Having said that, would any stitcher be prepared to make up their own, instructions and materials will be provided. If so please get in touch, I would be extremely grateful.

The photograph shows one of the completed kneelers, depicting the Almshouses, which was stitched by James Allwood.

I am certain that everyone who is madly stitching away is also very much aware of the commitment they have undertaken so if there is anything you need to assist you in your task please contact me on 824071.

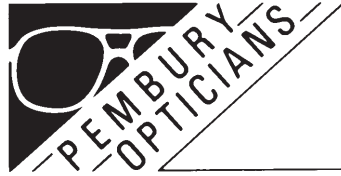
Just phone me if you need more wool or are ready to commence your design and need some different colours – I now have quite a selection for you to choose from.

Ann Toler



STORY COMPETITION

Owing to the lack of space the winning entry in the Parish Council's Story Competition for 12- to 14-year olds is held over until the next issue – Editor.



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Your Clerk *Reports* . . .

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the Pembury Parish Council will be held on Monday 15th March 1999 at 8pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Pembury. All members of the public are invited to attend although only those on the electoral roll are entitled to vote. It is hoped to have a guest speaker this year although at the time of writing no confirmation has been received – watch the Parish noticeboard for further information.

A full financial report for the year ending 31st March 1998 will be submitted at the Annual Parish Meeting but here follows a brief summary:

Precept demanded from the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for 1997/1998	104,350.00
Income from other sources	32,570.32
	<hr/>
Balance brought forward from 1st April 1997	101,342.34
TOTAL	238,262.66
	<hr/>
Expenditure	110,436.97
Balance carried forward on 31st March 1998	127,825.69
TOTAL	238,262.66
	<hr/>
Precept for the year 1998/1999	103,018.00
Precept for the year 1999/2000	108,700.00

Barbara Russell
Clerk to the Council

REFUSE COLLECTIONS IN PEMBURY

In addition to the normal weekly refuse collection, there is a collection of excess refuse on Sundays as follows:

<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
12.00 noon-12.55 pm	Henwoods Crescent
1.00 pm - 1.55 pm	Hérons Way
2.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Woodhill Park



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FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 1 Pembury Afternoon WI: Birthday Meeting – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Car Park – 2.15pm
- 6 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 9 Pembury Evening WI: Food Additives – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 12 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 12 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 18 RNLI Sponsored Walk Round Pembury – Details from Geoff Baxter on 822714
- 20 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 24 PSA Quiz Night – School Hall – Time to be advised
- 26 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 26 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm

MAY

- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 1 RNLI May Fair – Catholic Hall – 10.00am
- 4 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2.00pm
- 5 Hospice: Coffee Morning and Plant Sale – Hospice in the Weald – 11.00am-2pm
- 6 Elections – Village Hall – All day
- 6 Pembury Afternoon WI: Resolutions – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 7 Pembury Evening WI: Resolutions – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 8 May Fair – St Peter's Upper Church – 2pm
- 10 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 10 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 14 Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club: Annual Prizegiving – Village Hall – 7pm
- 17 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 18 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2.00pm
- 20 PSA: Auction of Promises – School Hall – Time to be advised
- 24 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- Larkfield Hall: Plant Sale – Date to be advised

JUNE

- 1 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2.00pm
- 3 Pembury Afternoon WI: Wooden Bygones – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 4 Pembury Evening WI: Graphology – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 5 Pembury Footpath Walkers – All day walk – Time to be advised
- 7 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 12 Pembury Evening WI: Coffee Morning 'Plus' – Village Hall – 10.00am to 12noon
- 13 Pembury Garden Tour – 1.30pm-5pm
- 17
- 18 } Pembury Players: Revue – Catholic Hall
- 19 }
- 21 Pembury Parish Council – Village Hall – 8pm
- 29 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2.00pm

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Borough Council

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, Pembury, Kent TN2 4BU. 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
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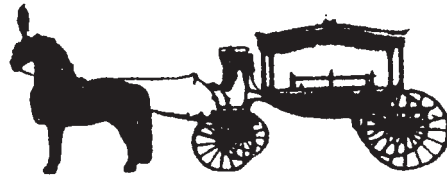
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Simon Rooksby, Pineview Day Hospital
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- ASSOCIATION OF PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUBS
Jim Smith, 18 Westway. Tel: 823714
- BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS
Mike Cartwright, 16 Cornford Park, Pembury.
Tel: 823235
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- BROWNIES GUIDER
Mrs J. Fichtmüller, 19 Belfield Road. Tel: 825072
- BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION
Secretary: Mr R. G. G. Whitlock, 6 The Forstal.
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- CAMDEN GREEN BADMINTON CLUB
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c/o Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535
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Steve Waterman, 35 Dimmock Close, Paddock
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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
- PEMBURY FREE CHURCH PLAYGROUP
Mrs Wendy Parrett. Tel: 822729
- PEMBURY FRIENDS OF SEVEN SPRINGS
Mrs Durant, 39 Lower Green Road. Tel: 822196
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