



# PEMBURY MATTERS

*The Pembury Society Newsletter*

*Autumn 2012*



## Your Chairman Reports

Dear Members,

Well what a summer to remember! Firstly the Queen's Jubilee, where we all showed the true British spirit and celebrated in style despite the weather!

Then along came the Olympics and the Paralympics, where we truly showed to the world how proud we are to be British and what we can achieve.

Talking of success, our "Question Time for Pembury" last year was such a resounding one; we will be running it again at our Autumn AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Our panellists will cover political, social, educational and health issues that we face as a village. The panel are: Councillor Mrs June Crowhurst (Chairman of the Parish Council), Councillor Mr Mike Tompsett (Councillor for Pembury), Councillor Mr James Tansley (County Councillor for Tunbridge Wells East - Pembury, Sherwood, St James'), Mr Matt Topliss (Vice Principal of Skinners Kent Academy), Chief Inspector Nicola Faulconbridge (Kent Police) and Ms Flo Panel-Coates (Director of Nursing at Pembury Hospital). I hope you will give them a warm welcome at the meeting and please do send in any questions you would like to put the panel to [membspemburysoc@aol.com](mailto:membspemburysoc@aol.com).

At our last Spring meeting we welcomed Ian Read, Editor of the Kent and Sussex Courier. His insights into the inside scoop of the paper were very enlightening and much enjoyed by everyone that attended. It was at this meeting that we agreed as a Society to honour the contribution that the late Ken Watts gave to our village by a bench on the village green next to the Pembury Village sign. This has been agreed by the Parish Council and we are progressing with the purchase and a commemorative plaque. Thank you to all those who most generously donated towards this bench. We raised over £280.00.

How many of you have yet to see the new Pembury Footpath map? It is excellent and we would like to thank the hard work of our Treasurer, Hugh Boorman, for driving this through all the administrative hoops to get it in print. The cost of each map is £1.00 available from The Parish office and the Library. If you don't yet have a copy, we will be giving one footpath map to each household in our next year's subscription rounds. Our subscription costs have not increased for 5 years. With all the activities that we have been doing and plan to do, we need to increase it to £3 per person or £5 per household. We will be proposing this at our AGM and I trust we will gain your support for this.

And lastly, there are many things that the committee has on our wish list, but we simply don't have the manpower to do them. We desperately need more volunteers to support the committee's work. We still have a committee vacancy of a Vice Chairman, but would also welcome anyone who could spare some time to help out on specific projects only. If you feel you could help out in any little way, please would you send an e-mail to [membspemburysoc@aol.com](mailto:membspemburysoc@aol.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

*Lea Owen*

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**Comments from our Communications and Membership Officer**

We are now offering our newsletter by email and if you wish to receive it by this method please contact me [membspemburysoc@aol.com](mailto:membspemburysoc@aol.com)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the delivers / collectors of our newsletter. Not only do they do a first class job, the society at this current time could not exist without them. We are always in need of new people to help us in this role. If you can help it will be much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Our current membership is 442, a slight decrease from last year. If you know of anyone that wishes to join they should contact me or look us up on our web site [www.pembury.org/society](http://www.pembury.org/society) for details of how to join.

*Dave Osborn*

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**Planning News**

**The Co-Op** application for a change of use from vehicle repair workshop to convenience retail at 3 High Street Pembury is to be heard at a Public Meeting at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall on 29th October or 19th November, date to be decided. It is reported that prior to this the applicants would be happy to meet local members and representatives of the Parish Council as they are keen to demonstrate the Co-Op's commitment to community matters and that they are sympathetic to public concerns.

The Planning Committee was originally 'minded' to refuse the application on grounds of serious concerns relating to residential amenities and highways issues. For example the proposed parking and servicing facilities are inadequate. The proposed car park arrangements shows that 6 car parking spaces and eight cycle spaces would be provided to the front of the site and four further car parking spaces would be provided to the side of the building, including one disabled space. The delivery area would be located to the side of the building. Access to the parking and delivery area would be from Camden Avenue. Servicing vehicles will reverse along a stretch of pavement and across the four parking spaces at the side. Also, the plans do not take into account the level differences across the site, which makes the reversing manoeuvre, servicing arrangements and access to some of the parking spaces impractical.

However, the planning Committee is now recommending acceptance of the application with certain conditions, one being the removal of the four parking spaces at the side as it is thought that a significant proportion of shopping trips could be made on foot in view of the shop's position within the village centre. This proposal would have benefits in terms of meeting wider sustainability objectives by offering residents the opportunity to avoid driving for convenience/top up shopping visits.

The Pembury Society hopes to be represented at the meetings.

**Penns Yard** The Town and Country Housing Group have submitted a pre-application enquiry to talk to planning officers. They are planning to build 27 affordable units on land South of Penns Yard which is in the Green Belt.

**13 High Street** – Application for change of use from A1 (Retail) to A2 (Financial and Professional Services) and rear single storey extension and replacement front extension and external alterations.

The Pembury Society will be following developments on these applications.

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**Comments from our Promotions Officer**

The Pembury Society Website – [www.pembury.org/society](http://www.pembury.org/society) is now up to date and is kindly maintained by Steve Morton. Although he has now moved to France, he is happy to update this information on our behalf. Please e-mail any information you would like to be included on the web site to me at [richardssnow@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:richardssnow@tiscali.co.uk)

*Richard Snow*

### Richard Snow's new book "Ten Brave Men and True"

Our Promotions Officer, Richard Snow has just published a book on the lives of the ten Victoria Cross Holders of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells. The book is called "Ten Brave Men and True" and it is 343 pages of A4 in Paperback format with over 200 photographs. It is published by Tommies Guides of Eastbourne.

The ten Victoria Cross Holders are all remembered in the Victoria Cross Grove, Dunorlan Park, (Bayhall Road entrance), Tunbridge Wells, where there is a write-up and photo of each one.

The book has been kindly sponsored by Denise Barnes, Knight Frank Estate Agents, Cripps Harries Hall and Kent County Council. This has enabled Richard to donate all the profits from the sale of the book to "Help for Heroes." The book has taken 5 years to research and each story has a Foreword by a member of the respective VC's family. The book itself also has a Foreword by TV Historian Dan Snow.

The book follows on Richard's previous book about Captain John Brunt VC, MC who has a pub named after him in Paddock Wood. "All for Valour" raised funds for Compaid and all 500 copies sold quickly.

The stories range from the very first Victoria Cross winner (Charles Lucas) in the Crimea to John Brunt of World War Two. They also include Pembury's own V.C. Matthew Charles Dixon, who lived at Woodsgate, and has a brass tablet in St. Peter's Church.

The book is available at a special price of £15.99 (RRP £19.99) from Richard at 1 Cornford Park (Tel: 825428). Richard will also have copies available at the Pembury Society AGM and "Question Time" on 18th October in the Village Hall.

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#### Committee

<b>Chairman:</b>	Lea Owen	52 Hastings Road	822929
	<a href="mailto:l.owen@proteus-sports.com">l.owen@proteus-sports.com</a>		
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>			
<b>Secretary:</b>	Marie Williams	56 Romford Road	822737
	<a href="mailto:meandft@williams1407.fsnet.co.uk">meandft@williams1407.fsnet.co.uk</a>		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Hugh Boorman	52 Henwood Green Rd	823068
	<a href="mailto:hboorman@sandhurst.co.uk">hboorman@sandhurst.co.uk</a>		
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Dave Osborn	34 Canterbury Road	822726
	<a href="mailto:membspemburysoc@aol.com">membspemburysoc@aol.com</a>		
<b>Preservation Officer:</b>	Kathryn Franklin	11 The Meadow	823212
	<a href="mailto:franklin_nandk@tesco.net">franklin_nandk@tesco.net</a>		
<b>Promotions Officer:</b>	Richard Snow	1 Cornford Park	825428
	<a href="mailto:richardssnow@tiscali.co.uk">richardssnow@tiscali.co.uk</a>		

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#### Nominations for Committee Members to The Pembury Society

Nominations should be submitted in writing to Marie Williams, 56 Romford Road, Pembury, TN2 4JE, before the AGM on 20th October 2011. The agreement of the person nominated should first be obtained together with the names of the **Proposer** and **Seconder**.

**We nominate** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seconder** \_\_\_\_\_

# **The Pembury Society AGM**

followed by

## **Question Time for Pembury**

**Thursday 18th October 2012 at 7.30pm**  
Pembury Village Hall

Members and non-members welcome!

### **Panellists are:**

**Cllr James Tansley** »»» Kent County Council

**Cllr June Crowhurst** »»» Borough & Parish Council

**Cllr Mike Tompsett** »»» Borough Council

**Matt Topliss** »»» Vice Principal, Skinners Kent Academy

**Chief Inspector Nicola Faulconbridge** »»» Kent Police

**Flo Panel-Coates** »»» Director of Nursing, Pembury Hospital

Come along and join in the debate!

Email questions to: [membspemburysoc@aol.com](mailto:membspemburysoc@aol.com)

Or telephone 822737

Closing date for submission of questions: 12th October