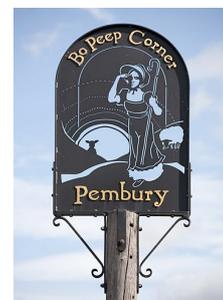


PEMBURY MATTERS

The Pembury Society Newsletter

Spring 2012



Your Chairman Reports

Dear Members,

Well it feels like Spring is truly in the air and nature is awakening from its sleep. However activities in The Pembury Society have been far from sleepy!

As our society aims state that we are here to “preserve and protect the beauty and character of Pembury” and “ensure that an independent voice is heard”, we continue to submit our thoughts on important initiatives that are happening within Pembury which you will read more of in your Preservation Officer’s report, but one issue that these developments have highlighted is the urgent need for more direct and immediate contact with our members. With our members talking to each other via email, we can become a more cohesive group of eyes, ears and opinions of Pembury. Our committee can inform you immediately of initiatives, developments and events that could affect you and our village. I urge you to send your email addresses to your Membership Secretary as soon as possible.

In line with our two other aims “to promote and protect features of interest in our village” and “developing a community pride in Pembury”, we are very excited to announce, that in collaboration with Pembury Parish Council, we are launching a new footpath map for Pembury village. Read about this more in our Preservation Officer’s report.

I also have some exciting news with regards to a voucher scheme. To give support to our local businesses, you will find vouchers at the back of this newsletter for Pembury Society members. Please take advantage of them. They all offer great value for money! You will need to show the voucher to the business so keep them safe! I would like to thank those businesses for joining the scheme and urge any other businesses to join the scheme for the Autumn distribution.

Our membership numbers are growing again, and our aim is to represent a larger proportion of our village. Can I encourage you to support the society by recruiting new members? New members can send in their details using the form attached. The Society would not operate without the voluntary efforts of our committee. We are always looking for new committee members. If you feel you could give some of your free time to support our Society, you would be welcome with open arms!

And finally we have our **Spring meeting on 26th April**. We are very honoured to have **Ian Read, Editor of the Kent & Sussex Courier** as our speaker. Read more about this meeting in our promotions Officer report.

It just leaves me to say thank you for continued support and I wish you a happy Easter.

Warmest regards

Lea Owen

Comments from our Promotions Officer

Spring Meeting 26 April 2012 "The Courier in the 21st Century."

The Speaker at our Spring meeting will be Ian Read. He is the Editor of the The Kent and Sussex Courier which has been in existence for 140 years. Ian, the youngest editor in its history, has been at the helm since 2009 and led the Courier to be recently named the best paid-for weekly in the south of England. Ian, a Pembury resident, is in charge at a time when local newspapers face unprecedented challenges - from the internet, changing reading and shopping habits and, most recently, ethical questions arising out of the hacking scandal. Ian will talk about the rôle of modern local newspapers and the future of the Courier.

Check out our website

The Society's website has been fully revised and updated by Steve Morton, our webmaster. It is worth checking out regularly at www.pembury.org/society

The new site includes articles on "Make Kent Quicker" – a faster broadband for Kent campaign and the Latest News Section includes Society letters about the current Planning Applications for 3 High Street (the old garage) and the Penns Yard Development. It also has all previous Newsletters back to Autumn 2008 and Links to other relevant websites of interest. There are also articles on the two Village Signs, which were instigated by your Society – The Ornamental Sign on the Green and the Bo-Peep Sign. In addition you can elect to subscribe to News from the Society by entering your email address.

We are very grateful indeed to Steve Morton for his maintenance of the website on our behalf. Have a look at it now and please let me have any comments or thoughts you wish to make.

Richard Snow

Comments from our Preservation Officer

Many of you will know that the Parish Footpath Map that was available from the parish council is out of print. Getting it re-printed has not been easy but a new, improved version, is now well in hand and should be available shortly. This is a joint project by Pembury Society, Pembury Parish Council and KCC and is being co-ordinated by Hugh Boorman.

As to planning matters, three controversial items have arisen since our last newsletter:

- 1) Garden grabbing in Henwood Green Road
- 2) The Co-op plans for the old garage at the Green
- 3) Development of Green Belt Land behind Penns Yard

1) We are very pleased that the residents affected by this proposal, together with the parish council, have been successful in getting this unsuitable development refused. Hopefully this will set a precedent on any other such proposals in the village.

2) The residents of Camden Avenue are, justly, very concerned about this proposal. The original proposal was withdrawn because KCC Highways had grave reservations but, after changes to the delivery plans it has been re-submitted. These revised plans are still unsatisfactory (they are probably unworkable in practice) and I have written on behalf of Pembury Society to the TWBC planning department to that effect. Hopefully the force of public opinion, and that of the parish council, will persuade the planning authorities that a significant number of residents of Pembury do not want this convenience store and will refuse this application.

However, if the application is refused it should not be the end of it as we all acknowledge that that site needs developing if it is not to become a real 'grotspot'. To that end I would invite all members to think about what, disregarding any planning constraints at this stage, they would like to see on that site bearing in mind it is in the conservation area but also has to be economically viable. Please send your thoughts to me so we can build up a picture of possibilities, rather than just saying 'no' to the current proposal.

3) No development in the Green Belt is supposed to be sacrosanct. I wrote to our MP, Greg Clark, who was in charge of the new localism Bill, when it was up for public discussion last year and I had an encouraging reply (see our web site).

The Penns Yard proposal is probably something the whole village will be against as it could be the thin edge of the wedge. The Pembury Society, however, is awaiting the formal application before making any public comments. In the meantime the petition that is circulating in the village (available to sign in the chemist, post office, doctor's surgery, Downingbury Farm and the Pembury Pavilion) has reached 800 signatures. If it gets to 1000 the TWBC is obliged to set up a special meeting to discuss the matter. If you wish to add your name to the petition and have not yet done so, may we urge you to do so as soon as possible.

If you have any comments either for, against, or just general observations, on the Penns Yard proposals please send them to me, preferably by e-mail, at kathryn.franklin@tesco.net as soon as possible after the application is made public.

I would point out to members that the window for public comment on planning applications is only three weeks from the date of publication so if you have strong feelings it is essential to act very quickly. This is why we would like any comments you may have by e-mail so the committee can then build up a picture of the general consensus of the members before making any comments on your behalf to TWBC planning department.

Kathryn Franklin

Comments from our Communications and Membership Officer

Current paid members	449 (19 new members)	Honorary members	23
Other local Societies	5	Total	477

We are now offering our newsletter by email to those members who wish to receive it by this method. Please email me on membspemburysoc@aol.com to request an email newsletter. We would also like to keep you informed by e-mail of any immediate planning applications or other items so that your opinion can make a difference!

We have also set up a payment system where members can pay by standing order if they so wish. I would like to thank the distributors/ collectors who do a brilliant job! We have a need for some new collectors on some rounds, so if you can help the society, please email or ring me, phone 822726.

Dave Osborn

The Pembury Society Committee

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

Honorary President: Ken Watts 822770

The Pembury Society

SPRING MEETING

Thursday 26th April 2012

At 7.45 p.m.

In Pembury Village Hall

Our Speaker will be:

IAN READ

Editor, The Kent and Sussex Courier

“The Courier in the 21st Century”

All Welcome

Free Admission.

Refreshments.

Invite a friend or neighbour to join The Pembury Society

&

Application for Membership to The Pembury Society

Name

Address

Phone number

e-mail