

PEMBURY MATTERS



The Pembury Society Newsletter

Autumn 2014

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter

I hope you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the British summer!

As usual the Pembury Society has been busy behind the scenes with regards to planning issues which I hope you will catch up on in Kathryn's Planning report. Our aim is to ensure that we always notify our members of any major planning notices so that you may comment to the Council, either as an individual, or part of The Society, if you so wish. Work in progress is the our planning strategy document that will provide a framework for discussions with the Council for any developments in our village so that we may respond in a timely and considered way. This is a two way process so any comments please direct them to Kathryn.

Preperations for WW1 Centenary event are already underway and The Society are very proud to be working with St Peter's Church In supporting these events.

Subject to the relevant permissions, our next major project is the placing of a zinc interpretation panel on the Village Green. Richard Snow and his team are working hard to see how we can make this come to life.

We are very excited about our Autumn meeting, which will be in the very popular format of A Question Time For Pembury. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated group of people who care about our village on our panel who will give a great breadth and depth of knowledge about the key issues facing our village today. The panel includes:

Kent County Councillor: Cllr Chris Hoare
Tunbridge Wells Councillor: Cllr Paul Barrington-King
Parish Councillor: Cllr David Coleman
Waterfield Surgery: Dr Andrew Cameron
Pembury Primary School Headmaster: Mr Peter Wibroe

So get your questions at the ready! These meetings in the past have been lively and extremely informative, but that is only because of our audience actively participating and challenging our panel. I hope to see you there.

It is with much regret that I am resigning from the Committee as Chairman. My role as Chairman was initially only a temporary one until I retrained as a teacher and started work. That was over 2 years ago! I continued as Chairman as I wanted to make more contributions to our village, but work and family commitments have meant that I feel I am no longer able to do the job of Chairman as I feel it should be done. David Hanes, who will be a familiar face to many of you, has graciously agreed to stand for the Chairmanship. He is an excellent asset to The Society and I hope you will show your support at our AGM in voting for him. I wish him the very best of luck.

In addition, Mick Castle has joined our committee and we have some other changes to the committee roles that I trust you will support with your vote.

And finally, I would like to extend a personal thanks to the Committee, who have given me so much support in my endeavours to carry on as Chairman when my work and personal commitments have pulled me in other directions. They are a fantastic team and one that I feel honoured to have worked with them over this last 4 years. I know they will continue the work that we have started and make a great success of it.

And thanks also to you, the membership, for making the role of Chairman so fulfilling. Your commitment to making sure our village is a great place to live is unfailing and it has been a privilege to meet you in my role as Chairman. I hope we will still keep in touch!

See you on Weds 15th October at 7.45pm at St Peter's Church.

Best wishes, **Lea Owen**

Planning Report Sept/Oct 2014

Planning applications are still at a low level and usually relate to the pruning of trees with TPOs or minor home improvements and extensions. These are not the concern of the Pembury Society. It is the larger, more controversial applications that we monitor and a worrying trend seems to be developing whereby the TWBC Planning Department are unwilling, or unable, to say 'NO' however unsuitable the site or the design of the building. If a need is perceived, then the application is approved. Surely Pembury deserves better. There must be more to planning than just fulfilling a need with the first scheme offered and The Pembury Society will continue to fight for the best in future development in the village.

This trend started in 2010 when the owners of The Priory Care Home (Now Hazeldene House) were given permission to redevelop their site. No-one disputed the need for more residential care places for the elderly, but many felt this site, in the Green Belt and with poor access, was not suitable. However, the need over-ruled and the application was approved. This, in essence, also happened at Penn's Yard, when the perceived need for social housing over-ruled the suitability of the site.

In June an application was made to open a full-time children's nursery behind the Kebab Shop on the corner of Henwood Green Rd and Romford Rd. Again no-one would deny that Pembury needs such a facility, but is this a suitable location? KCC Highways have commented on this and the application has, for whatever reason, now been withdrawn by the applicant.

The one current controversial application is for the redevelopment of 3 High Street with a four storey block of 14 flats. Most people would like to see better use made of this site than its present use as a second-hand taxi salesroom, but is this proposal the answer? The proposed building is far too big for the site and there are significant parking issues. It would appear, however, that several of the official bodies routinely consulted by the TWBC Planners are not entirely happy with various aspects of the proposal, so watch this space!

Kathryn Franklin

Preservation Officer

Forthcoming meetings:

26th September – Bob Ogley, local historian, writer, broadcaster and former editor of the Sevenoaks Chronicle will be giving a talk on "Spirit of Invicta" as part of the WW1 Centenary Commemorations.

He will talk about the characters and events of the 20th Century with an early emphasis on WW1, the ten million soldiers who went through Folkestone, the VAD Hospitals, the wounded soldiers, a few of the heroes and the poets. He will then talk about other events in that century including of course the Second World War.

This fascinating talk is free and open to everyone. It takes place on Friday 26th September at 7.45pm in St. Peter's Upper Church. The event is being jointly organised by St Peter's Church and the Pembury Society. This is a special extra meeting this year.

Don't forget to check the Society website at www.pembury.org/society

Richard Snow

Promotions Officer

Profile of David Hanes Pembury Society Chairman Candidate

David has lived in the village with his wife Rosemary for the last 45 years. His three boys have all attended Pembury Primary School and he has four grandchildren.

He has been actively involved in a number of village organisations and he is a member of Pembury Baptist Church.

In his working life he is a Chartered Accountant, working professionally in the City and also in Tunbridge Wells, while he also had a number of years in commercial life in the oil industry and as a director of an Egyptian tourist resort development company.

In his later years he was Finance Director at Burrswood in Groombridge, and since formal retirement has been working part time for a charity which provides medicines into disaster areas of the world. He enjoys playing the organ, holidays when possible, and growing vegetables on his allotment.

All other Committee Members are standing again for Oct 2014/15

There is currently a vacancy for a Secretary of the Society

Nominations for Committee members to the Pembury Society

Nominations should be submitted in writing or email to:

David Osborn,
Membership Secretary
34 Canterbury Road, Pembury TN2 4JT
or email: membspemburysoc@aol.com

Membership Report

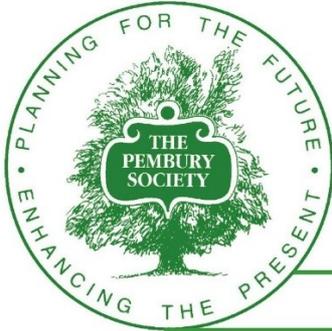
Society membership currently stands at 423.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteer collectors /deliverers, who do such an important job for the Society.

David Osborn
Membership Secretary

Committee Oct 2013 – Oct 2014

Chairman:	Lea Owen	52 Hastings Road	822929
	leaowen@me.com		
Secretary:	vacant		
Treasurer:	Sally Osborn	34 Canterbury Road	822726
	membspemburysoc@aol.com		
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		
Committee member:	Mick Castle	14 Elmhurst Ave	
Committee member:	John Evans	3 Woodhill Park	
Committee member:	David Hanes	7 Lower Green Road	
Auditor:	John Franks	44 The Ridgeway	



THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

QUESTION TIME FOR PEMBURY

WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2014 at 7.45pm

ST. PETER'S UPPER CHURCH

OUR PANEL IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE:

Cllr. CHRIS HOARE, COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. PAUL BARRINGTON-KING, BOROUGH
COUNCILLOR

Cllr. DAVID COLEMAN, PARISH COUNCILLOR
PETER WIBROE, HEADTEACHER PEMBURY SCHOOL

Dr. ANDREW CAMERON, LOCAL G.P.

Email Questions to: membspemburysociety@aol.com

ALL WELCOME

