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VILLAGE NEWS

Summer 2023

Issue 194

PEMBURY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY 15TH JULY 2023

4PM - 8PM @ PEMBURY RECREATION GROUND FREE ENTRY

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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

C/O Parish Council Office, Lower Green Recreation Ground, Lower Green Road, Pembury, TN2 4DZ.

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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.

Please note: the Editorial team's decision is final on whether or not to publish any item submitted. They reserve the right to edit (that is to cut, précis, alter, correct grammar and spelling) any item published. We will only put an article in if space allows.

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the Summer edition of Pembury Village News. I hope you all enjoyed May with the three Bank Holidays, and that you managed to see family, friends and neighbours over the Coronation Weekend! If you have any pictures of your Coronation celebrations, please email them to the Parish Office so we can share with the village.

A massive thank you to all the 'natty knitters' and the 'U3A knitters' who made such wonderful Post Box toppers, they put in so much time and attention, and love, into making them, and we are truly lucky to have a village that comes together and works so well as a team! Thank you also to everyone who put bunting or any other decorations out, who organised street parties or other events across the village, and a special mention to the family that trimmed their hedge into the (rough) shape of Their Majesties!! A huge mention and thanks must also go to the U3A Sewing Bee group, headed up by Annie Partridge, who made the bunting which was put up around the village green.

The next big event in your calendar is Pembury in the Park on Saturday $15^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$

C

July from 4pm to 8pm – revised and revamped for this year, it will be much bigger and much,



much better! As well as the usual live music entertainment, there will be beer and prosecco vans, (probably the only queues to rival the ice cream van....) street food, face painters, games and craft stalls as well as stalls for local groups and charities. It's not too late to sign up for a pitch if you are a maker, baker or crafter – see our website for the link to the booking form.

I hope you all have a wonderfully sunny summer and look forward to seeing you on the 15th of July!

Kind regards, Katy



The Pembury Neighbourhood Plan has successfully passed its Examination and will now proceed to a local referendum on:

Thursday 14 September 2023

This is a fantastic achievement by all those who have volunteered their time to work on the Neighbourhood Plan and to those residents who have taken the time to input into the process.

Watch out on social media and our website www.pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk for more details



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INTRODUCING NEW COUNCILLOR MARTIN BARRETT

I moved to the village in 2011. Previous to this I lived in Gravesend town centre for 23 years. Moving to Pembury was a bit of a culture shock. People walking past would say "hello" - not something I'd experienced for many years.

Prior to that I spent many years in the forces and like many ex-servicemen it was a while before I settled into civilian life.

I first moved into Sunhill Place on the High Street and was happy there but had to move out due to the building undergoing some much-needed modernisation in 2022/3.

I moved into the village Almshouses in September 2022 and the community spirit has become even stronger since doing so. My move took a bit longer than expected as people would stop and chat for a while but this just re-enforced the community spirit I'd previously encountered!

I am a volunteer with the Weald Foundation where we work on restoration of WW1 and WW2 armoured vehicles as

well as being a tree and pond warden. I'm also a beekeeper with bees at Eridge and Ightham Mote. I will also be setting up a few others locally. If you've



never tasted pure local honey, I highly recommend you try it.

I have joined the Open Spaces committee and the Planning and Highways committee and these will tie in with my tree and pond warden role.

I'm looking forward to working with fellow councillors and getting more involved with my local community. I'm sure it will be a big learning curve!

It's an honour and a privilege to be accepted onto the Parish Council and I hope I can make a positive contribution.

INTRODUCING NEW COUNCILLOR SAMMY HARRIS

I moved to Pembury with my wife and two boys after we found ourselves coming up this way more frequently for the park, the woods, Kingdom café and all the community events that were so well organised and so welcoming. So we figured, let's move to Pembury and have all of that on our doorstep.

Living in Pembury whilst we had a newborn baby was great. It's not often you can walk to a garden centre, a huge Tesco whilst also having community cafés and outstanding firework displays close by. It allowed us to get out of the house, entertain the little ones and get to know our street and village.

Our street (Ridgeway) was an incredibly welcoming area; at one point our house

sprung a leak and we had neighbours over straight away helping and the plumber on the street had it fixed in no time at all - that is real community.

I joined the Parish Council because I want to make sure that the village



continues to be looked after and kept as beautiful as it is. I want the litter to be cleaned up, I want events to continue to be as great as they have been, and I want other people who visit Pembury to have the same realisation we did and just move here!

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PARISH COUNCIL OWNED TREES

The Parish Council are responsible for a large number of trees in the parish on land that we own. These areas include the Village Green. Lower Green Rec, Pembury Burial Grounds, Lower Green Cemetery, Allotments, Woodside Playing Fields and the Old Coach Road.

Some trees are newly planted, such as the commemorative oak on the Village Green, and some are hundreds of years old, such as those in the Old Coach Road. Some of our trees have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and some are in the Pembury Conservation Area which means we have additional responsibilities.

Our priority is to maintain the health of the trees and keep the public safe! We do not do any unnecessary work.

Unfortunately, the changing climate, with hotter, drier summers and wetter winters, means that some of the trees are struggling to adapt. This has led to a significant increase in problems with the trees and remedial work required. In 2022/23 alone, we spent £14.5k on maintaining our trees and hedges!!

The following work is done annually:

- Our contractor undertakes an annual visual tree assessment (VTA) of all Parish Council owned trees. This highlights any new problems and existing problems are monitored.
- Work required is scheduled in line with the urgency of the work.
- The Groundsmen monitor our trees throughout the year as they work in each of the different sites. Smaller hanging branches or problems can be resolved by our team or in conjunction with the Pembury Volunteer Environmental Group, led by Hughie Boorman. Serious problems are raised with our contractor.

Continued on page 9

Old Coach Road. Picture courtesy of David Sellman





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PARISH COUNCIL OWNED TREES

 We also inspect all of our trees after storms or high winds to check everything is safe. In February 2022 after a particularly bad storm, we had a significant amount of damage to major trees in the Old Coach Road, blocking off the footpath! Hughie and his team did a sterling job of clearing the smaller branches, but the larger branches required our specialist contractor.



Large snapped branch Old Coach Road

WALKING NETBALL

Pembury U3A has started a Walking Netball group which meets twice a month at the baseball court in the Recreation Ground.

Remember your school days when you raced around the netball court in a short gym skirt, spinning on one leg and throwing your arms around to distract the opponent? Well, it's nothing like that!

Walking netball is literally just that - no running, no jumping and definitely no short skirts!! It can improve your agility and help with eye to ball coordination and balance, whilst having fun with a group of like-minded people.

In July, we will change over to Walking Rounders which will be played on the grass and we will also be supplying table tennis bats and balls to members who fancy a game of outdoor ping pong on the tables in the recreation ground. We are indebted to Cllr Paul Barrington King who supported us with our grant application for funds from his Members Community Grant scheme which enabled us to purchase all the equipment needed to set up these groups.

If you are retired/semi-retired and would like to join us, please contact Annie Partridge by email: membership@pemburyu3a.org or call

07703 135070.









Group Exercise Classes all held in the Village, for all abilities. Classes include:

> Pilates Yoga Legs, Bums & Tums Zumba Clubbercise Weights Workout

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AA MILITARY ROAD RUN - "PEMBURY WAS AMAZING!"

This event on Sunday 16th April was watched by a good crowd on the village green, outside houses, the village hall and the King Will. It marked the 114th Anniversary of the 1909 Guards Dash from London to Hastings which is well documented in "Bygone Pembury". I have heard from the organisers that "everyone on the Run was greatly impressed with the public turnout in Pembury. People kept coming up to me to say, wow Pembury was amazing. It will ensure a good turnout of vehicles next year, better than this year (75 entries), definitely. Everyone bar a couple of those who turned up went through the village and were glad they did. We did have a few no-shows, mainly for mechanical or medical reasons. That is inevitable, unfortunately. Old vehicles have problems as well as their old drivers!". I know of at least one jeep that went round the village twice to soak up the atmosphere!

I am delighted to say that the Pembury Explorer Scouts collected £243.07 for Combat Stress. A huge thankyou to them. Watch out for next year's event!



Photos courtesy of: Top: Tony Nicholls Middle: Melvyn Cole Bottom: David Sellman



By Richard Snow

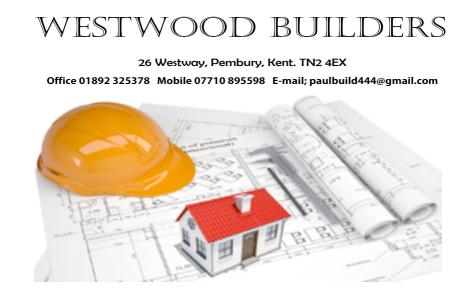
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A REGAL SALUTE TO ENGLISH WINES

In our second piece of 2023, influenced by the recent Coronation of King Charles III, we highlight English wines - providing an overview of the eminent and emerging styles, and what we are excited to pair them with this summer. As before, the highlighted varieties are available from local retailers or via 'cellar door' purchases from Kentish wineries.

Being in the heart of Kent, there is no better way to bring in the summer than by championing the vineyards and wines on our own Pembury doorsteps. Situated on the northern limits for grape growing, our 'cool' climate wine region is perfect for preserving acidity - we have the balance that Champagne is losing due to climate change. As such, Kent boasts a wealth of award-winning, world-renowned wineries all offering a plethora of options at all price points: from tantalising sparkling to guaffable or complex whites, rosés, and reds. It should be no surprise, therefore, that the Champenoise are snapping up much of the vineyard land in the southeast...

Sparkling stunners: A quick note on sparkling wine terminology: 'traditional method' is the same as Champagne. The difference? Very little except for price (and grape provenance). 'Champagne' marketing masterclass known is a the world over as the celebratory fizz. This means a traditional method Kent sparkler is but a fraction of the price compared to the French equivalent. Expect a racing acidity with deliciously pure citrus and orchard (Chardonnay) or berry (Pinot Noir/Meunier) fruits, on a back-bone of toasted brioche from its ageing requirements. A simply perfect accompaniment as a sunset aperitif or with any rich starter/main course combo - you'll be surprised of their versatility.



Alternatively, pair a pink version with summer salads involving charred peaches, toasted walnuts, and chunks of creamy burrata.

Regal rosés: Talking of pink wines, English rosés are emerging with an identity befitting quality. Unlike jammy Spanish/Navarra cousins, English pinks are all about purity of red fruits, hints of blossom, and balanced acidity. A nod to their Provençale cousins, perhaps, as Kentish rosés are pale, dry, and destined for consumption under the British summer sun. Sample one on a terrace with a salmon supper and see how the acidity cuts through the natural oils while the fruits compliment the meaty fish. All we need now is the sun...

For more insightful suggestions watch out for the next edition of Pembury Village News or visit one of the wineries on our doorsteps. Many offer tasting opportunities (with walks/tours) that are well worth the visit. Drinking wine is an experience best shared. As always, drink responsibly. Cheers!

By Dr Daniel Meijles, FWS, SWS & Cllr Jon Webster





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SUSTAINABLE LIVING AT HOME

Being more sustainable at home is something I am quite passionate about. Now as a member of the Pembury Community Climate & Environmental Action Working Group and the first winner of the Tunbridge Wells 'Love where you Live' award for Green Household 2022, I feel even more motivated to show that small sustainable steps are the way forward and how easy and achievable it is to be eco-friendly.

I hope to inspire other local families by sharing what we do as a family to be more 'Green' so you can see how easy it can be to make small changes which make a big difference.

I have always been quite eco-conscious having grown up spending my days outside but becoming a mum in 2019 and switching to cloth nappies is when my mindset really changed. My environmental awareness went into overdrive – maternity leave will do that to you! The same nappies I used 4 years ago are now being used on my second who is 2 in the summer.

Living sustainably is extremely important for the environment and future generations. Here are some of the things we do at home to reduce waste and live sustainably:

We use Reusable Cloth nappies and have done for both children saving landfill and money. Disposable nappies are a significant source of waste as they are single use plastic products and can take hundreds of years to decompose, creating more landfill. Reusable nappies are a great alternative, so easy to clean, you never run out, there are no nasty chemicals on your babies' soft skin and no more smelly bins! Visit Kent Cloth Nappy Library (Tonbridge) to get started with this.

We are also big on reducing our wet wipe usage with reusable wipes for faces and bottoms which just get chucked into the washing machine, so easy. I use reusable period products too, again plastic free and saving money, period pants, pads and cups are great. Reducing plastic can be easy too by using reusable bottles, coffee cups, shampoo/conditioner bars instead of bottles. We buy second hand clothes and shoes, donate to charity unwanted toys to save landfill. I quite often have a pile of clothes to sew and fix in an evening with two boys and on birthdays we ask for experiences instead of `stuff'.

Always taking part in 'No Mow May' by keeping the garden uncut for the pollinators to thrive, I do hope to see more front gardens uncut and taking part when I'm out on the dog walk - easy to 'not' do. I can't wait until summer (finally) arrives as we have a large lavender at the front of the house which seems to keep the bees in the whole of Pembury happy, my boys love watching the bees and counting them.

Trying to limit our food waste by getting a wormery and starting our own compost recently which has been great fun, plus, creates nutrient-rich soil for your garden. You can compost fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, coffee grounds and more. Starting your own little veg patch to grow your own is an amazing way to limit food waste and ensure you are eating vegetables which are seasonal. Pembury has allotment spaces available for us to use.

There are so many more things which can be done but I do hope that sharing more about what we can do as a family can help inspire you and your family to do the same, give it a go, try a new alternative and start making a difference.







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NATURE NOTES

Unseasonably low temperatures have delayed to some extent the full flushes of spring, but as temperatures started to rise at the start of May we started to see some more activity. It's good to have seen a few early Swallows about overhead, but no Swifts yet. The fastflying Swift is usually one of the last summer migrants to arrive and one of the first to leave; they virtually live on the wing, apart from when nesting or catching thousands of small insects every day. There has been a serious decline in Swifts over the last few years, most probably due to the lack of insect food as a result of industrial farming practices and loss of insect habitat.

As I write, Stonecourt Lane Old Orchard is really full of apple and cherry blossom, much more than last year and the hawthorns are very close to flowering. There are several summer visitors in the orchard. Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Wood Warblers are apparent and a good number of Blue and Great Tits already paired off and nesting. It's been great to see plenty of Raptors around, Buzzards, Sparrowhawks and the odd Kestrel are regularly in the area especially when sunny when the warm air thermals enable energy saving soaring flight as they look for prey. One thing still missing is the sound of the Cuckoo, which I certainly didn't hear last year for the first time in our 30 years in the village - fingers crossed for this year.

There were lots of fabulous bluebells and white flowers of the wild garlic to be seen in Snipe Wood – both of which really like the woodland habitat.

The renovation of the Downingbury Farm Pond is well underway. According to farm residents this pond has been present since at least 1770 and had become very overgrown. In order to provide diversity of habitat and improve amenity in Pembury, a plan to restore the pond



has been set up with the Parish Council, Peter Jervis the farm manager and local volunteers. As can be seen, the bank adjacent to the farm drive has been cleared of the very invasive goat willow (also known as sallow or pussy willow). This has improved the view of the pond and will reduce water loss. The water in the pond is currently very clear and about 90cm deep in places. Further work to clear the goat willow actually in the pond and other surrounding unwanted undergrowth will continue later in the vear to protect currently nesting birds. The larger trees and gorse will be left in situ. There is already evidence of insect life in the pond. Hopefully this will start to attract other predatory species such as birds, dragonflies and amphibians back to the location. Anybody interested in helping to continue the work later in the year please contact me at the Parish Council – ion.webster@ pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lastly the 'Big Butterfly Count' takes place from 14 July for three weeks. If you are interested, Google it and join in. I've already seen Brimstones, Orange Tips, Peacocks, Small Whites and Gatekeepers in the woods. It is important to help with the monitoring of and assistance to our native butterflies.

Cllr Jon Webster

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THE VILLAGE GREEN BUNTING CHALLENGE

In the depths of winter in February, I received a call for help from our friendly Parish Council to ask whether the U3A could help decorate the village for the Coronation of King Charles 111. They wanted some bunting but, in line with their green policies, they did not want to buy plastic flags and wondered if we could help them sew some fabric bunting which would be far more sustainable and which could be used for other occasions in the future.

I discussed this with my U3A Sewing Bee group and we agreed to set aside our April meeting to make as many bunting flags as physically possible in the two hour window. However, first we had to collect the fabric. This proved more difficult than I had imagined as ironically red, white and blue are not the most popular colours in our wardrobes.

However, come the day, I was amazed at the amount of fabric the team had managed to provide including sheets, duvets, old tablecloths, and I think that if some of our male members checked their wardrobes, they may find a few of their favourite old shirts have been repurposed!

The team set up a production line and several took fabric home to make even



more flags. The result was over 450 colourful flags which were then sewn onto over 110m of tape.

It's great to be able to help our Parish Council who work so hard to keep our Village looking lovely all year round.

The U3A is a nationwide non-profit making organisation which provides the opportunity for those who no longer work to come together and learn for fun, exploring new ideas, skills and interests.

The Pembury branch has over 300 members and 70 interest groups, so there is something for everyone.

For more information, contact the Membership Secretary on: membership@pemburyu3a.org or 07703 135070

Annie Partridge



Saturday 15 July 2023

Looking for a fun and free family-friendly event this summer? Look no further than Pembury in the Park, coming to the Pembury Recreation Ground on 15th July 2023. This annual event is the perfect opportunity to get outside and enjoy an afternoon of live music, tasty food and drinks, and exciting activities for the whole family.

One of the highlights of Pembury in the Park is the live music, which will feature talented local performers Move over Dali, an acoustic 'bluesabilly' pop band and the returning Jazz Funk bank, Funk Sensation. So bring a blanket or lawn chair and settle in for an afternoon of great tunes. For those looking to indulge in a little liquid refreshment, Pembury in the Park has got you covered. The event features a prosecco truck, a full bar, and a variety of food trucks offering delicious snacks and meals. So whether you're in the mood for a cool cocktail or a delicious pizza, you're sure to find something that hits the spot. But Pembury in the Park isn't just about the music and refreshments. There are also plenty of craft stalls offering unique and handmade items, as well as face painting and other activities for the kids. So why not bring the whole family and spend the afternoon exploring all that Pembury in the Park has to offer? Best of all, admission to Pembury in the Park is completely free! So mark your calendars for 15th July 2023, grab your sunscreen, put on your dancing shoes, and get ready to make some memories!





A SELECTION OF WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN DOING...

Work to the depot for rainwater harvesting project

Discussed Highways Improvement plane with KCC





Finalised & appointed contractor for tennis court refurbishment



...since the last PVN was published



residents with their enquiries





Councillors held various drop in ions in the village



Researched LED and solar streetlights



Vacant allotment maintenance

REPORT FROM COUNTY/BOROUGH CLLR PAUL BARRINGTON-KING

When I moved to Pembury with a young family nearly thirty years ago, I was keen to 'do my bit' for our community. In a very short space of time, I became a Parish Councillor, along with being a school governor, and quickly became aware of the unique nature and character of our village. I have been your Borough Councillor for over twenty-three years and your County Councillor since 2017. By combining these two important roles, and like many at County Hall, the advantages for Pembury are indisputable with a vital link between District



and County responsibilities. It is good to see many of our roads being resurfaced and I will pressure KCC Highways for more action for other neighbourhoods in the future. I have used my Member's grant for example to install and improve the village gateways; to assist the refurbishment of our war memorial; financially assist the exciting concept of a church community facility; the speed indicator device in the High Street; 20 mph warning lights at the Primary School; monies for our sports clubs and The Kingdom Café and helped to fund the new acoustic improvements for our Village Hall.

The Local Plan and the need for housing has been a real challenge for Pembury. Recently, I worked with residents and spoke during a three-week hearing to overturn an appeal to build a huge number of dwellings on Green Belt land close to Pembury Road. Whilst we are on the subject of that dreadfully congested road, I am currently involved in a KCC Highways project to introduce a bus lane, an additional cycle path to cover both sides of the road and also more crossings to improve safety for pedestrians and school children. Watch this space.

As many of you know, I am grateful for your support in representing our community and I hope this has been evident. As always 'Pembury First and Politics Second'.

Paul



COUNTING THE COST OF CARS - A PEMBURY TRAFFIC SURVEY

My brother James and I were really interested to read in the Winter edition of Pembury Village News about Pembury Parish Council's plans to fight climate change.

We wanted to see if we could do something to try and make a contribution to help the environment of Pembury, so we decided to do a survey to find out how many cars drove past the War Memorial in a year.

The way we did this was we counted the number of cars that passed the War Memorial in the first 10 minutes of each hour between 9am and 3pm on Tuesday 14th February. We then worked out from that how many cars passed in total during these six hours, and there were 1,326. From this we could estimate that in a 14 hour day there would be 3,094 cars passing.

We then wanted to find out how many cars would pass in a week. We thought Saturdays and Sunday would be a bit quieter so we estimated that the traffic would be 30% less on these two days. That meant that our survey calculated that in one week there would be 19,802 cars.

And in one year a shocking 1,029,704 vehicles would drive past the War Memorial! This figure is made even worse since, because we did the survey during a school holiday, on a normal day there would probably be even more cars on the road.

Because cars emit carbon dioxide, and carbon dioxide emissions are one of the main causes of global warming, we have some suggestions that would help to reduce the use of cars in Pembury:

- Could people take a bus whenever possible? Sixty people using one vehicle is less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than 60 people using 60 vehicles.
- Or maybe people could leave their car at home and walk?
- When the time comes to buy a new car, could they consider buying an electric vehicle?
- Could people consider car-sharing to reduce the carbon emissions?

We hope this survey and these suggestions can help reduce the number of car journeys in the village so that we can all do our bit to make Pembury a greener place.

By Richard Marshall, aged 9



HANDY HINTS AND TIPS

To remove scuff marks from a painted wall, rub gently with a clean tennis ball and not the one the dog uses!

To clean oven trays, soak in very hot water with a dishwasher tablet or in the bath if your sink isn't big enough. Leave for a while, then the grime will easily come off with a scourer. For dirty baking trays, use a stiff brush combined with some eggshells for super scouring power.

For wooden tables with surfaces in

need of some love, gently slather on mayonnaise and leave for 10 minutes, or a fine layer and leave overnight. Then wipe off and clean, side by side difference in photo! p.s. it's the bottom side that had the treatment.....!

Cllr Katy Brooks



REPORT FROM BOROUGH CLLR PAUL ROBERTS

Pembury is a fantastic place to live and I appreciate the trust folk have placed in me to be their representative at TWBC.

For me, the biggest joy is listening to residents and supporting them where I can.

I recall the water fiasco in the village and the poor response from SE Water, with a water station too far from Pembury. I contacted SEW and highlighted the village concerns, to SEW credit they responded within a couple of hours setting up a station in the Camden Arms car park. Since then, I have volunteered to attend the SEW improvement panels and will represent Pembury at their workshops.

Residents have highlighted a recurring concern around speeding! I agree and have resurrected the Pembury community speed watch team, as a coordinator with a small team of volunteers; Pembury Parish Council (PPC) kindly lent us a Speed Indicator Device and I paid for the refurbishment and recalibration of the equipment. The team have deployed on a few occasions and will continue to be out and about, so please do let me know areas you want us to focus on.

Planning can be a contentious issue. There is a need for additional housing for residents including new starter homes or families downsizing. This has to be balanced carefully with protecting precious Green space and the environment. I recently called in a planning application qo before the to planning committee on behalf of PPC residents, and Ι gathered opinion and encouraged folk to comment, positively or negatively. By this I doing was able to present local



opinion in a balanced manner. Some of the recent developments in Pembury have had quite an impact on residents. No one likes red tape; however, I really encourage everyone to consider all applications and engage proactivity.

Our global reality is that there is an existing climate emergency. As this is something I feel passionately about I have been proactive and conducted a survey of Pembury to identify the lack of 'On Street Electric Vehicle charging points,' which is significant and have identified options to improve availability for the village. I have engaged with the relevant officers and am actively encouraging them to support Pembury with this. The next phase would be for a resident with a genuine desire to own an EV but without an option to charge the vehicle at home to contact me.

Please do get in touch with any concerns.

Paul



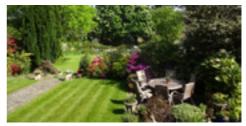
HOSPICE OPEN GARDENS

Enjoy glorious gardens and walk beneath the stars to support Hospice in the Weald

From visiting beautiful private gardens to taking on a walking challenge in the moonlight, there are many ways to get out and about and support Hospice in the Weald this summer.

See stunning unseen gardens across Kent and East Sussex as part of the Hospice's annual Open Gardens season. Until September, some of the finest gardens, many of which are privately owned and not normally open to the public, will open their gates. Take a tour of seven gardens including woodland walks and vegetable patches, in and around Tunbridge Wells on Sunday 11 June. Organised by Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom as part of the Hospice's scheme, tickets are £10 (under 14s free) and advance purchase is advised.

Pembury residents who like a stroll are being encouraged to grab their most colourful outfits to take part in Moonlight Walk. With new routes and a glass of bubbly to add extra sparkle at the finish line, this year's event promises to have something for all. Choose to walk the classic eight-miles, take on the new 13mile route or ease in with a new four-mile walk around Sevenoaks and Knole Park.



Jesse Ansbro-Brett, Hospice Relationship Fundraising Manager, said: "Whether you wish to celebrate the life of someone special or fancy the challenge of a walk under the stars, there is something for everyone this year. The wonderful Freddie Green and Family Charitable Foundation is offering to match every pound raised this year, in memory of Jo Green, who passed away at the Hospice in June 2021. That means if you raise £50, we'll receive £100 towards vital care for those in our community when they need it most."

Hospice in the Weald, based in Pembury and Five Ashes, provides care and support for adults and children in our community facing terminal illness and their families.

For full details, please visit the Events section at hospiceintheweald.org.uk or call 01892 820533.

PEMBURY MEMORY CAFÉ

Pembury Memory Café is now up and running, with activities, games and refreshments, enjoyed by volunteers, carers and those with Alzheimers, dementia or other brain injury alike! If you are a carer of someone with dementia or similar, do bring them along - we'd love to meet you all and you get the opportunity to relax with others who know exactly what you go through. Pembury Memory Café is on the third Friday of the month from 1pm-3pm. These are the dates for the rest of 2023: 16th June, 21st July, 18th August, 15th September, 21st October, 17th November and 15st December.



You don't need to book and we look forward to meeting you! If you would like any more information, please do call on 01892 825590 or email jennifer@pembuybaptistchurch.org

"I WALK THE LINE" THROUGH OUR VILLAGE



My family and I moved to Pembury from nearby Yalding in 1988 and have lived in the village ever since. We have no plans for moving. We like it here. Our fellow-villagers are friendly. Community spirit is strong.

It's also a great village to live in if you like walking, which is why I was happy to work with other villagers last year to create a new village map showing not just the extensive network of pathways and bridleways around the village, but also the snickets, twittens and cut-throughs within the village itself. Our next project is to put up signage to help with navigation of these under-used byways, but meanwhile here is a 15-20-minute walk you can try out yourself. It's a circular walk, so you can start at any point you wish, but let's suppose you set off from the Lower Green Road entrance into the recreation ground, top left on the map opposite. As you can see from the photos below, I did this walk on a snowy day in March – now a distant memory! Start off north-east, gently downhill, then take T (twitten) no.13 towards Bulls Place (see photo below), and you're off. Just follow the red arrows on the map opposite.

By Paul Mason



T13 Lower Grn Rd to Bulls Place



T23 to Henwood Grn Rd to Hastings Rd



T19 Belfield to Hastings Rd



T16 Belfield Rd to Henwoods Cresc



The allotments



T22, emerges onto Henwoods Cresc



Junction of T19 and T18 leading back to Hastings Rd



T20 Henwoods Cresc to Belfield Rd



Belfield Road

"I WALK THE LINE" THROUGH OUR VILLAGE continued

Extract from Pembury Village Map



THE DAY DAWNED SUNNY AND WARM!

What ideal weather for our Open Day on 22 April! Bowls accompanied by home-made cakes and tea! What a perfect combination!

Over 50 new people attended on the day, with adults and young families trying their hand on the green. Several youngsters signed up for the Saturday morning coaching sessions to be held for 12 weeks during the summer, under Tony Partridge's supervision.

Some adults, playing for the first time, found they had latent skills, and joined on the day, with 30 application forms being taken away with a promise to fill in later. Congratulations are due to Tony Partridge on organising the event. As I write, the bowls season is just starting with friendly matches against rival local village clubs at weekends and internal tournaments during the week. Practice rollups are held on Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons.

Newly recruited ladies from last year have been very keen to play in the Tunbridge Wells Ladies' League, and we are looking to regain the title this year. A mixed team is also entered to play on a Thursday evening in the Tunbridge Wells League.

Our internal competitions will run throughout the summer, with Finals being played on 9th and 10th September followed by a Presentation Lunch at The London Beach Hotel.

If you missed our Open Day and are interested in having a go, please contact Wendy Bidder on 01892 823144.





BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2023 7.00PM TO 10.30PM

Pippins Farm, Pembury, TN2 4AB

Dancing to: Abbey Capers Barn Dance Band



Light supper and licenced bar. Tickets £12 adult; £6 for under 12s Buy from Barnes Kingsnorth, High Street, Pembury or from Heather on 01892 822764

Proceeds to St. Peter's Church, Pembury

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Tel: 01892 824852 / 07785714266. Email: gillianmayrick@aol.com

CRICKET UNDERWAY!

As I type the season has just got underway and we look forward to another cricketing summer at Pembury CC.

Once again we have two senior sides entered into the Kent County Village League, and have a full fixture list of friendlies on a Sunday and a calendar of social events. We are always looking for new players and members of all ages and abilities so if you are interested then please get in touch.

We continue to have a thriving junior section with regular coaching and hardball teams at u11, u13 & u15 levels.

2023 also sees the return of the ECB Initiative "All Stars" to PCC. All Stars provides a fantastic experience for all children aged 5-8 years old. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, learning fundamental movement skills, including catching, throwing and batting. If you are interested, then please visit our website for further details.



We are certainly very humbled with the level of sponsorships that we have received historically from local businesses and supporters, and we are of course very keen to forge further links to help us continue to evolve and indeed fulfil our ambitious plans for the Cricket Club. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Richard Dawes (Club Captain – Pembury CC) http://pembury.play-cricket.com



facebook.com/PemburyCricketClub



twitter.com/pemburycc

instagram.com/pemburycricketclub





1ST PEMBURY SCOUT GROUP

At long last it seems as though the warm weather is here and with it lighter evenings, which means all our Scouting Sections can head outdoors for their weekly meetings. Sadly our Annual District St George's Activity Day event, where all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders from across the Tunbridge Wells District come together, was cancelled at the last minute due to extremely wet conditions at Adamswell, the District Camp site. Such a shame after all the hard work by the organisers and great disappointment for many for whom this is the highlight of the Scouting year. Despite this we are all looking forward to an exciting term of Scouting ahead.

Beaver Colony

2023 is shaping up well; we have a new uniformed leader, welcome Rusty (aka Tom)! We started the year by planting some crocus bulbs (kindly donated by Notcutts), followed by the Faith badge. Rev. Richard Worssam kindly showed the colony round Pembury Old Church and some Beavers even rang the church bells. We work on our Skills challenge award with a problem-solving evening, celebrated the year of the Rabbit for Chinese New Year and had a fun time in the kitchen making and eating delicious pancakes. We have had some brilliant visitors introducing us to Taekwondo and a fascinating talk from a representative from the Fox Project. Thanks to all the leaders and to our two Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, Elsie and Ella.

Cub Pack

We have been verv busy since the last Village News edition: Cubs have completed their Fire Safety Badge and First Aid Badge as well as completing treasure hunt а around the village.



They have also been trying out activities such as air rifle shooting and the sport of Taekwondo. We have also been doing some of the more traditional activities for this time of year such as an Easter egg hunt, pancake night and taking a look at Chinese New Year. We are all looking forward to spending some time outdoors in the months ahead, including Cub camp in July!

Scout Troop

We started the term by finishing the meteorologist badge, a skill set that might have come in handy in the run up to St George's Day this year! We followed that by cooking pancakes in frying pans over open fires; the results were...mixed. We then began the digital citizenship badge, learning about password safety and how text messages could be misinterpreted. The Taekwondo team made it to the Scouts meet too, and they loved having a go at the punch and kick bags. We then had an introduction into climbing theory by trying on harnesses, learning about ropes and knots, hopefully for practical use this coming term. We are all looking forward to the Scout camp in July.

Explorers Unit

The Explorers fielded two teams in the London Monopoly Run this year in March. They both topped their mini league games



and were 45th and 73rd overall, out of over 1,300 teams from across the UK. The two teams, who travelled independently, coincidentally got on the same bus in different places to arrive at Islington together, hence the photo. After 20km (about 30K steps), they were pleased to get back on the train home. A good day had by all. They helped out at the Military Car Run through the village by collecting for charity, which was much appreciated.

Another jam-packed term for Pembury Girlguiding!

We are currently looking for more adults to volunteer some time to support our units. We'd love to continue growing Pembury Girlguiding but can only do this if we have enough leaders! If you'd like to learn more about our opportunities or think you'd like to get involved, please get in touch with Beci Guarino (Pembury District Commissioner) using the email guidingwithfluffy@hotmail.com.

Rainbows

Thursday Rainbows have had а fantasticallv craftv creating term, rainmakers and robots, before celebrating World Book Day with bookmarks and some impressive Rapunzel towers! They also talked about being brave and learned about family trees. I'm sure there's also some mums out there who received some wonderful Mother's Day gifts from our Rainbows - lucky you! The term finished with lots of Easter activities both crafty and yummy.

This term we said goodbye to our Monday Rainbow unit – thank you to all the leaders and parents who have supported the unit.

Brownies

Monday Brownies have been working hard on a whole host of their theme awards, with ventures like sewing their own pencil case, shaving foam artwork and even redesigning the Brownie uniform! Lots of Brownies achieved their Local History badge which was lovely to see. The girls got to meet some furry (or spiky) friends with a visit from Our Amazing Animal World and finished the term getting sporty with lots of games both new and old. Wednesday Brownies kicked off by celebrating Chinese New Year with some rabbit-related activities. They worked on their Take Action theme award by creating some trash-bag fashion with recycled accessories. February saw our first Brownie holiday of the year at Blacklands Farm with archery, rock-climbing, zipwires and a campfire! Easter brought out the Brownies competitive side with prizes for most colourful egg, rolling the furthest and the best "egg-splosion"!

Guides

Tuesday Guides were challenged to think about the cost of food, creating a meal with a very tight budget (sound relatable?!) – thanks to Tesco for embracing the chaos of the girls shopping solo! They looked at what they can make out of things they might have at home – the lollipop stick creations looked particularly interesting. Mother's Day brought some jewellery making, and they finished the term with a visit from Manic Ceramix for some pottery painting.

NEWSFLASH!! In September 2023 we will be reopening our Ranger unit for girls aged 14-18yrs!



CAN YOU HELP SOLVE A MYSTERY?

This lovely pot depicting the Oast house on one side and the Almshouses on the other was passed to me when I became Secretary of the Almshouses Trust. The problem is that nobody knows anything about it! Neither of the last two secretaries can help and I wonder if anyone in the village knows anything? It's such a lovely thing that I'd like to share with everyone by displaying it somewhere but I'd like a bit of its history to exhibit alongside it.

The pot is signed on the bottom by J Ballantine. Do you know him? Are you a potter? If so, could you contact me via the Parish Council please?



Thanks, Maggie Weaver

THE STORY OF MARGERY POLLEY continued

Continued from Autumn 2022 issue

The year had flown by and it was spring again. As always since she was a child, Margery was out in the woods picking large bunches of primroses for her dear old mum soon to be followed with large armfuls of bluebells. Whilst her mum was very despondent at times, the flowers always brought a smile to her face.

When Margery walked through her front door, she was surprised to see a visitor who they had known for many years but had not been a regular visitor and his name was Amos. He always had a little story or joke to tell and he soon came up with the first one. He had asked Nan: 'Why did a ghost never go to a Barn Dance', but she obviously did not know, to which the answer was - 'because he had no body to dance with'!

Then Nan started to tell Margery of the alarming stories she had been

hearing regarding the persecution and punishment of Protestants and how the Catholics were trying to make Protestants pay for their worship within the Church.

The story had got back to England from Germany that Luther was now being persecuted for his beliefs and that his followers, known as Lutherans were growing in numbers. In England, the new Queen was acting very cruelly to Protestants with many being carried off to prison. Bishop Hugh Latimer was again imprisoned in the Tower of London. Margery then asked her mother about Bishop Nicholas Ridley but Amos had not mentioned him and concerns were raised regarding his safety and future.

The situation was looking very dangerous, but Nan and Margery were determined to stay loyal to their faith regardless.

Hugh Boorman



DEFIBRILLATORS IN PEMBURY

PUBLIC ACCESS:

CHEMIST, HIGH STREET KING WILL PUB, HASTINGS ROAD PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH PEMBURY PAVILION ONLY WHEN PREMISES ARE OPEN: DOCTOR'S SURGERY TESCO, CUSTOMER SERVICES PEMBURY PAVILION INSIDE

CRIME REPORT

Well, I know that you must get fed up with me saying this but by the time you read this we will be nearly halfway through the year. Thankfully the crime figures have shown a downward trend again and have reduced from 127 during October to December 2022 to 96. Sadly it is still not enough.

One of the encouraging figures is that of violent crime which has come down from 72 to 45. The figure for burglary, business and community has reduced from 3 to 1 but sadly burglary, residential has risen from 3 to 6. Unfortunately, it can be difficult to ward off these intruders and again I can only add, and this depends on how well you get on with your neighbours, ask each other to keep an eye out.

Theft offences, excluding vehicle offences have come down from 20 to 14; this is encouraging but still much too high. We must all take more care not to leave our possessions in vulnerable places or on display in our vehicles. Always ensure that your vehicle is properly locked.

The figure for criminal damage remains the same at 12 each quarter which means

that whether we like it or not we still have mindless vandals amongst us who will needlessly damage things for no reason.

More often or not, they don't get caught and it is highly unlikely they do the damage in broad daylight. We have no means of knowing whether they are Pembury residents or not. The one remaining figure is that of 'other offences' which has come down from 13 to 12.

Please let us all unite in trying to get these figures reduced and if you have any ideas of who is committing these crimes please call the police, at Maidstone if necessary.

Please be aware of the number of wouldbe scammers still operating.

If your car is fitted with a catalytic convertor, try to park your vehicle in a secure position and watch out for the potholes which could damage your car. These can be reported on www.kent.gov. uk, Roads and Travel, Fault Reporting.

Please be careful out there. Hugh Boorman

Crime type by reported month (PEMBURY WARD)	Violent Crimes	Burglary-Business and Community	Burglary-Residential	Theft Offences (exc Vehicle Offences)	Theft from a motor vehicle	Criminal Damage	Other Offences	Total
Jan-23	20	1	1	3	3	9	3	40
Feb-23	6	0	3	6	1	1	3	20
Mar-23	19	0	2	5	2	2	6	36
Jan to Mar 2023 total	45	1	6	14	6	12	12	96
Jan to Mar 2023 total	-	1	6	14	6	12	12	-

		Total recorded crime				
	Pembury	Capel	Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	Brenchley and Horsmonden	Sherwood	hark
Jan-23	40	15	17	14	71	73
Feb-23	20	11	12	10	64	52
Mar-23	36	11	15	12	61	69
Jan to Mar 2023 total	96	37	44	36	196	194

360 DANCE	Sadie Van Der Spuy. Tel: 07734 053509. www.360dance.co.uk		
AGE CONCERN	Mrs Sandra Springett, Tel: 522591		
ASPENS (FORMERLY PEPENBURY)	CEO – Robert Shanahan. Tel: 822168		
CATHOLIC CHURCH	Fr. Ed Tomlinson. Tel: 825009		
CONSERVATIVE PARTY	Sue Nuttall. Tel: 822776. Email: sue_nuttall@tiscali.co.uk		
FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH	Chairman: Mrs S. Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road. Tel: 823932		
GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS	Beci Hudson - quidingwithfluffy@hotmail.com		
	5 5 7-		
HOSPICE IN THE WEALD	Maidstone Road. Tel: 820500 Headmistress: Ms K.Handford. Tel: 822006		
KENT COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY	Headteacher: Mr N Pears. Tel: 820204		
LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	David Mills. Tel: 825577		
LITTLE RASCALS	c/o PBC Office. Tel: 825590		
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY	TW District. Tel: 0845 6037882		
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Janet Ditchett. Tel: 822586		
OUT AND ABOUT CLUB	Sue Giles. Tel: 823318		
PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL	www.pemburyyouthfc.co.uk		
PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH	Church Office. Tel: 825590		
PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB	Secretary: Wendy Bidder Tel: 823144		
PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB	Matthew Rosenz - 07798 657233		
PEMBURY CHILDMINDER'S CO-ORDINATOR	Sam Knight 07793066471 mrssam.knight@btinternet.com		
PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB	Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Weaver, 51 Heskett Park Tel: 824362		
PEMBURY DAY CENTRE	c/o PBC Office. Tel: 825590		
PEMBURY FITNESS	www.pemburyfitness.co.uk. Tel: 07876 787869		
PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB	Saturday Secretary: Michael Brown 327480 Sunday Secretary: Phil Craxton 823928 Chairman: Andrew Rice-Tucker 823195		
PEMBURY GARDENERS' SOCIETY	Ann Purton. Tel: 824223		
PEMBURY WALKING CLUB	Martin Bolt. Tel: 07769707061		
PEMBURY PAVILION BOOKINGS	Gillian Mayrick. Tel: 824852		
PEMBURY PLAYERS	Maggie Weaver, Chair of Pembury Players. Tel: 824362		
PEMBURY SCHOOL	School Office. Tel: 822259		
PEMBURY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION	Chair: Caroline Hurmson. email: psa@pembury.kent.sch.uk		
PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY	Mrs Kelly Marsh - Manager of Pembury School House Nursery. Tel: 825580		
PEMBURY SOCIETY	Chairman: David Hanes. Tel: 823174		
PEMBURY U3A	Annie Partridge. Email: membership@pemburyu3a.org		
PEMBURY UPPER AND OLD CHURCH	Vicar: Rev. Richard Worssam / Church Administrator – 711126		
ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHBOROUGH & PEMBURY	Secretary: Nigel Stratton. Tel: 822936		
ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION	Peter Chartres. Tel: 823759		
SCOUTS, CUBS AND BEAVERS	Richard Alfieri. Email: sturgeoncubspembury@gmail.com		
ST. ANSELM'S CATHOLIC CHURCH	825009		
ST. ANSELM HALL ENQUIRIES	Trudy Donachie. Tel: 07748771779. Email: trudy.donachie@sky.com		
ST. PETER'S MOTHERS' UNION	Secretary: Tina Walters. Tel: 822545 (after 4pm)		
THE ALLIANCE	3 Stanam Road, TN2 4LD		
TOWN & COUNTRY (High Weald Housing)	Tel: 0845 8731 321		
TREE WARDEN	Hugh Boorman Tel: 823068 and Martin Barrett Tel: 07403119207		
TUNBRIDGE WELLS ACCESS GROUP	Michael Coggles. Tel: 822705		
TUNBRIDGE WELLS & DISTRICT VICTIM SUPPORT SCHEME.	Tel: 513969		
VILLAGE HALL	Manager (bookings): Tel: 07983 228181		
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	Evening: Mrs Gillian Williamson. Tel: 822 577 Email: pewisecretary@gmail.com Web: pemburyeveningwi.wordpress.com		

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Planning & Highways Committee

Cllr G Hall (C) Cllr P Gillan (VC) Cllr M Barrett Cllr V Gautam Cllr D Reilly Cllr J Webster

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Please contact Councillors on the email address shown on the next page or the office on clerk@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01892 823193 if you have any questions.

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the autumn issue is 1 August 2023. Please send anything in by this date to deputy@ pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Consideration will be given to all articles received and published if space allows.



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Ground Lower Green Road Pembury, TN2 4DZ Tel: 823193 Email: deputy@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Cllr Paul Roberts 107 Beagles Wood Road, TN2 4JJ Tel: 01892 822602

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