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VILLAGE NEWS

Winter 2023

Issue 196

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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

C/O Parish Council Office, Lower Green Recreation Ground,
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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 December issue of Pembury Village News. I am writing this just after the fabulous fireworks display on 3 November. It was an amazing array of lights and sounds, and I was really impressed with the way that the fireworks were in time with the music. Thank you to everyone who posted such lovely positive comments on social media, and for all the pictures you shared.

By the time this comes through your letterboxes, we will have held our Remembrance Day service to honour the fallen. The Village has been wonderfully decorated by volunteers and gets better each year. We are very lucky to have such dedicated groups who do this for us all.

We will also have just had our Christmas Tree service on the Green which is now a firm favourite in the village calendar. I love driving through the village at night and seeing the Green so sparkly! Not to mention the fantastic effort a lot of residents put into decorating their gardens and exteriors, I am really looking forward to seeing them all! Please continue to share pictures of your decorations on social media – we have plenty of FB pages to go around!

Speaking of social media, for those newish to the village, or not on social media, you may not realise that it has an impact on our projects. Both the Christmas Tree on the Green, and the benches that have been recently installed in six bus stops came from comments made on social media, which we picked up on and actioned. So, if you think there is something the village needs / could do with / would be nice then please let us know and we can discuss it.

I hope you all have a wonderful festive season, that we get the right kind of snow (the one that falls heavily overnight preferably on a weekend so as not to disrupt commuting, and then thaws ready for Monday morning...) and that you get the chance to catch up with friends and relations. Don't forget that the Food Bank at the Baptist Church is always grateful to receive donations after Christmas to restock their shelves....thank you.

Cllr Katy Brooks

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the winter issue is 1 February 2024. 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.



VILLAGE PANTO!



Ahoy, me hearties! Get ready to set sail on a swashbuckling adventure like no other, as we follow our map to X marks the spot and Treasure Island!

Don ye best pirate garb and lower ye anchors at Pembury Village Hall from 4th-6th January 2024!
Tickets £8 each.

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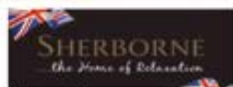


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I'm very pleased to have been nominated as the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Armed Forces Community Champion. As a brief introduction, the Armed Forces Covenant is the nation's commitment to those who proudly protect our nation, who do so with honour, courage, and commitment.

It is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly around Health, Education, Housing and Employment and it is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that they and their families should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

As part of this commitment Waterfield House Practice with their goal to deliver excellent health services has reviewed its registration process and identified that some legacy veterans and their families, who may have registered with the surgery some years ago, may not have had the opportunity to declare themselves as being part of the Armed Forces Community. The surgery has updated its online forms here <https://www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/registered-with-armedforces> to allow members of the Pembury Armed Forces Community to register with them.

If you want to find out more about the TWBC and its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant please visit: [Armed Forces Covenant \(tunbridgewells.gov.uk\)](https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk)

Paul Roberts



We are looking for volunteers to help with the Pembury Village News delivery.

Can you help?

If so, please contact

deputy@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

You would be allocated a road or two and would be asked to deliver four times a year.

Vacant allotments

Unlike many other villages/towns we do have a few vacant allotment plots.

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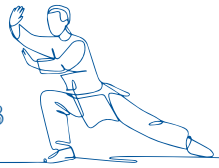
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PEMBURY U3A

Pembury u3a continues to grow and the number of Interest Groups that we have is always increasing. In September we had a very lively Sign-Up day when new members joined us and existing members signed up for new groups. The Village Hall was full of enthusiastic chatter and there were display tables full of information about the activities involved.

In recent months some sporting groups have started up in the recreation ground – Walking Netball, Walking Cricket and Walking Rounders and they have attracted some very energetic participants!

However, the u3a isn't just about different groups. We also have activities which are for the whole membership such as theatre visits – a lot of people went to see Tina Turner; holidays – a big group went to Spain and just recently we held a

Quiz Night. This was a huge success and great fun. We are now looking forward to a Christmas Lunch and a New Year's Eve party!

We certainly believe in the ethos of all u3as which is Laugh, Learn and Live!

For more information please contact either:
chair@pemburyu3a.org or
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Maggie Hall - Chair of Pembury u3a





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ASIAN HORNETS

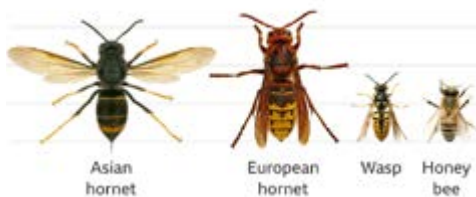
Asian Hornets - Beekeepers in the UK, and in particular, Kent have been on high alert this summer!

The Asian hornet is an invasive species that is becoming a major problem for our country. In 2016, the first Asian hornet was discovered in the UK. As of 30 October 2023, they have become more prolific resulting in 70 nests found and destroyed in 54 locations this year alone, many of them in and around Kent with at least one nest found in Tunbridge Wells.

Beekeepers are aware of the problems this insect can cause their bees but it will attack any pollinator for food. A single Asian hornet nest can get through 12.5kg of bees in a season!

After hibernation in spring, the queen will emerge and seek out a food source in order to build a small primary nest. At this time she will be laying eggs to hatch workers to then go on to build a secondary nest. This is usually close to the primary nest. During the summer, a single colony, can produce 6000 individuals with a large proportion of these being queens that will go on to make other nests. From July onwards, Asian hornets will need protein to help with reproduction and this will be obtained by predation on honeybees and other pollinators. This will continue until the end of November. They can be found "hawking" (catching insects in flight) outside beehives. This causes a change in the behaviour of the bees and can cause them to stop flying and eventually lead to them starving to death inside the hive.

During autumn, the nests will shift from foraging and expansion to producing up to 500 additional queens (Gynes) along with male hornets for mating; only a few will successfully mate and survive through winter.



What we can do to help?

We can learn to identify the Asian hornet and the difference between it and our native species.

The links below can help with this:

www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/Uploads/ID_Vespa_velutina_Asian_Hornet_5.0-1.pdf

www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/Alert_poster_Vespa_velutina_A4-1.pdf

You can also download the Asian Hornet Watch App for android or iPhone. This will guide you through how to report and identify the Asian hornet.

The first Asian hornet was found in the south of France. It had been unknowingly imported inside a consignment of pots to a garden centre in the south of France from an Asian supplier during 2004 where it hibernated until the following year. Since then it has spread through France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and the Channel Isles along with reported sightings in other Western European countries. Every single case can be genetically traced back to that single queen.

The Asian hornet is slightly smaller than our native hornet and can be identified by yellow lower legs, a single yellow band on the 4th segment of the abdomen and an orange face.

Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport



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A very variable summer is now long over as the autumnal sheeting rain lashing down outside the window illustrates. There have been some interesting developments in the woodlands around the village this year, namely the apparent explosion of grey squirrels in the trees and expansion into residential areas. We've got at least three seen daily around us. Grey squirrels were introduced to the UK in the 19th century and have pushed the native red squirrel into some tiny enclaves around the country. They are often seen as vermin but apart from burying acorns and nuts in your well-tended lawns and some bark stripping in woods, they are essentially harmless.

The big plus this summer was some of the butterfly hatches I observed in the Old Orchard, Stone Court Lane. On some days I counted up to 30 each of Speckled Woods and Ringlets, with an increase in Red Admirals, Peacocks, Commas and earlier in the year Brimstones. A real bonus was sighting large and small Skippers in the woods - a first for me.

These furry body butterflies look more like moths but are true butterflies. Additionally, a real surprise was the number of dragonflies and damselflies seen especially in May and June. These voracious insect predators spend most of their lifetime as egg and nymph underwater, but emerge as spectacularly-coloured masters of flight, and often move to woodland to feed on the myriads of flying small insects that are present. They are totally harmless to humans and do not bite or sting. There were several varieties of Hawker and Darter

dragonfly to be seen along with several species of damselfly.

On the bird front the disappointment was not hearing any Cuckoos yet again, and the very obvious reduction in Swift and Swallow numbers seen. The masses of small insects hatching in the Old Orchard would have been ideal food for these fast-flying acrobats. On a positive note, Wrens, Robins, Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps had a good breeding season with many fledglings seen calling for food, their youth still demonstrated by the yellow around their gaping beaks. The pinnacle was the hearing but unfortunately not the sighting of a Nightingale, which was around for two days but clearly moved on when no mate was to be found.

As winter approaches the regular Redwing and Fieldfares are slowly starting to arrive, and local Starlings are starting to flock up for large-scale winter roosting, there are plenty around, perhaps we may get a "murmuration" to match Brighton'.

Jon Webster



Comma butterfly

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Fundraising for the Intensive Care Society (ICS), I am seeking to support dedicated ICS staff in being able to better look after the most critically unwell in society.

As a Specialist Paramedic (Critical Care) within the pre-hospital arena, I am in close contact with patients considered to be 'time critical'. Intervening early to treat, stabilise, and safely support such patients - often as a pre-hospital medical service, I am handing over to ICS teams in hospital.

ICS provides a range of training and 'Continuing Professional Development' opportunities for all associated clinicians who work in Intensive Care allowing for improved care, well-being and up-to-date training in addition to many more opportunities. The Thriving at Work Project is set up to support all staff. You can find out more at: <https://ics.ac.uk/thrive.html>

In March/April 2024 together with a small team, I will be taking on one of the biggest and toughest 'ski mountaineering' expeditions considered to be one of the toughest courses in the world. The Patrouille des Glaciers (PdG) covers a combined total of 57.5 kms at altitudes of up to 3,650 metres in the high mountains of the Alps.

Over the course of the four day tour, the team will face the very real risk of the mountains, managing changing snow conditions, the hazards of glacier crossing and avoiding crevasses, freezing temperatures and everything associated with being at high altitude.

I am looking for individual and corporate sponsors to enable the team to raise funds (in excess of £25000 - all of which goes right to ICS's 'Thriving at Work' project).

Due to being partly self-funded with the help of an external sponsor, everything you donate goes completely to the ICS.

Intensive Care Society

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An alpine hike and ski challenge

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The challenge

The Patrouille des Glaciers (PDG) is a historic national and international ski mountaineering race organised by the Swiss army. The PDG covers a 57.5 km route at altitudes of up to 3,650 metres between Zermatt and Verbier. The course is described as one of the toughest of its kind in the world - and for good reason. Over the five days the team will face the risk of avalanches, the hazards of glacier crossing, freezing temperatures and altitude sickness.

If you are able to support the ICS, the team, myself and inevitably other healthcare professionals such as Advanced Critical Care Practitioners, Physiotherapists, Nurses, Doctors, Pharmacists, Speech, Language or Occupational Therapists across the country, then please do not hesitate to donate, <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jim-walmsley-1682074974686>

You can keep up to date with our progress on here, as well as my social media platforms X & Instagram: #PdG2024ICS

Jim Walmsley



After a brief hiatus, we are back with a piece befitting the up-and-coming winter period and all the feasting this time of the year offers. Safe to say, all the suggestions below will feature in our own glasses at some point over this winter!!

Breaking with tradition (wine suggestions at least), though, this article is solely about Reds. As always, the wine styles highlighted are available from local retailers. Similarly, suggestions below are exactly that. At a time when tradition is the name of the game, why not use a Christmas party as an opportunity to break with tradition.

November 16th, aka Thanksgiving for our distant cousins across the pond, sparked the start of a different event: the annual Beaujolais run, and a time when importers race to get their hands on the latest vintage. Now I know what you're thinking - Beaujolais, really? However, few wine styles can compliment a rich roast turkey as well as it does. Made by carbonic maceration (a type of natural fermentation that happens inside the Gamay grapes), the resultant wines have a pure fruit profile (look for strawberry, cranberry, kirsch, cinnamon), medium acidity, and no tannins - perfect accompaniments for rich gravy, roast potatoes, veg and, of course, cranberry sauce. The French love this with a meal, and I urge you to give it a try too.

For those nay-sayers though, and I know Beaujolais is marmite for some, Argentina is your friend. And it's amazing for price-to-quality ratios too. Famed for its opulent and rich reds, Malbec (look for blueberry on a backdrop of black fruits) is a go-to. But, seek out an Argentinian Cab. Franc... Unlike its Loire Valley cousins, growing in the shadow of the Andes and at altitude

creates fresh wines with finesse, delicate tannins, but riper flavours (look for red fruits, a hint of red chili, and spiced plum). Oh, and a careful use of oak adds further intrigue for what are some stunning New World wines.

Along the New World lines, have you tried a Pinotage (think smoky Pinot Noir with chocolate aromas) or Bordeaux-based blend (Cab. Sauvignon/Merlot) from South Africa before? Given the recent Rugby World Cup success for the Springboks, these styles demand a shoutout. See how the riper fruit aromas (black fruits), plush tannins and careful use of oak (giving a smoky but sweet vanilla spice) are magical when served alongside rich goose or other game birds. They're serious reds and many will last for years to come.

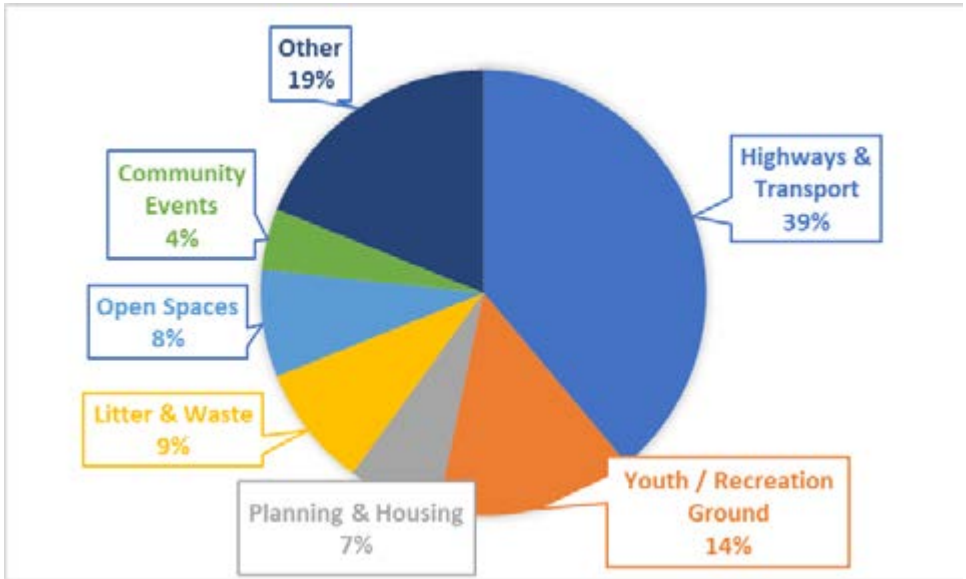
For more insightful suggestions look out for the next edition of the Pembury Village News or seek out your local wine school or society for events and tastings. Drinking wine is an experience best shared. As always, drink responsibly - particularly at Christmas!

Cheers... Daniel & Jon



Priorities Survey

Thank you to everyone that completed our survey to find out what you thought would make Pembury a better place to live. Below is a summary of the responses received:



As you can see, highways, parking and public transport were the biggest priorities by far! However, these issues are the responsibility of Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. The Parish Council plans to represent your views by lobbying the relevant authorities on the issues that concern you.

There was also strong support for developing the facilities in Lower Green Recreation Ground and offering more for older children, reducing littering around the village, protecting our green open spaces and continuing to provide community events. 19% of the comments related to “other” matters. These ranged from developing the GP surgery to improving the bin collections (which we can’t influence) to sharing relevant information with residents (which we can!).

We have already started work on how we can deliver on these priorities by developing our action plan for the next four years.



FIREWORKS

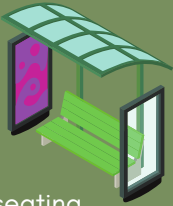
Pembury's annual firework display was once again very well attended and everyone who came had a fabulous evening. We received lots of positive comments about the event and I think it was the best yet. The firework contractor excelled themselves after a worrying week weatherwise. We certainly picked the right day as a lot of those planned for the Saturday had to be postponed or cancelled.

In addition to the Pavilion's popular hot dogs, the extra food and drink outlets in the car park went down very well and the 'flashing light' man is always a draw for the children.

Thank you to David Sellman who took these amazing photos.







Installed seating to bus shelters



Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

Agreed the Parish Council's views on 29 planning applications

Carols on the Green



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



Obtained grant funding for Twitten signage



Fireworks Display

Worked in Partnership with others on Remembrance Service



...since the last PVN was published

Investigation into Solar Panels on Council buildings & LED streetlights



Represented the Parish Council on Village Hall, Pavilion & Almshouse Committees

Fruit Tree Avenue



Christmas lights



Community litter pick



Meadow improvements

8 burials & interments





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The turnout for the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial was fantastic and weren't the uniformed organisations amazing. Rev'd Richard Worsam once again led an excellent and thought-provoking service.

The service has evolved over the past couple of years with a lot more engagement with young people. It is vital that they understand the significance of the day and carry it forward so a big well done to Erin Foster and James Marshall for reading out the Roll of Honour and to all the others for the role they played on this very important day.

Bob Groom from the Royal British Legion has excelled himself again this year with all the organisation of the lead up to Remembrance Sunday. This takes an enormous amount of planning and arranging – hopefully (when you read this) he will have had a well-earned rest. Tesco has played an enormous part by looking after all the volunteers who carried out their one-hour slots standing in the foyer and collecting donations from the public.

Thank you to the volunteers for their help too with collecting donations, handing out the Orders of Service and putting out chairs.

A special thank you to Val Coombes and her team once again for the fantastic display around the Village Green. I'm sure you'll agree they have been wonderful and very poignant. Also huge thanks to the WI for the post box toppers – they are amazing.

"The poppy is a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a positive future. It is said, that during WW1, beautiful countryside was bombed and quickly change to fields of mud – meaning nothing could grow BUT out of this ravaged land beautiful bright red poppies sprung up and thrived. Ever since, the poppy has become very significant.

Wearing a poppy is a show of support for the service of the Armed Forces Community. It is a national opportunity to remember the services and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms."

Photo kindly supplied by David Sellman





Many thanks to the following for the hard work in making the displays on the Village Green and by the War Memorial. As always, they were amazing and very poignant. Main organisers: Richard Davis (makes the figures), Angela Mason and Val Coombes
Helpers: Margaret White, Susan Sharp, Jenny and Ray Lambert, Alison and Mick Cripps



Here is a selection of the post box toppers seen around the village. They have been knitted by members of the WI. Aren't they amazing! Thanks to everyone involved with the project.



All photos kindly supplied by David Sellman



COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP

As we head into winter after a strange weather pattern this year, you may be sure of a warm welcome at the community coffee morning every Monday morning in the pavilion in the Recreation Ground. Whether you want to meet with your friends for a natter with coffee and cake or want to come and meet new friends, it's a great place to be and you will be helping, not just the larger charities but also worthy community projects. Our most recent large fundraising project was our annual Macmillan coffee morning. With 'Coffee Dolly' there to welcome everyone and a table heaving with goodies, our Pembury community came up trumps and we raised £274 pounds to which we have added £200. Total given to the Macmillan charity was £474.

We try to put a table and chairs outside every Monday morning so dog walkers may enjoy the coffee and cakes but, if weather does not permit that, there is always a table inside and water and treats for the dogs too!

The Royal British Legion (RBL) morning brought out the flags and poppies. Despite it being a bleak start to the day with wind and rain, you stalwarts of Pembury turned out and we raised £127 for the RBL.

We will hold our Christmas coffee morning celebrating with Christmas fare and a raffle on Monday 11 December. We shall also be presenting cheques to the organisations receiving money from profits made this year, so a huge thanks for all your generosity.

We all look forward to seeing you on Monday mornings so, don the glad rags or your gardening gear - we don't care! Just amble up to the pavilion any time between 9.30am and 12.00noon. The welcome is warm and the coffee is always hot.

Meg Milne



LITTER PICK THANK-YOUS

A huge thank you and shout out to 'We Waste Limited' and 'Rapid Relief Team' who helped the Parish Council out with its annual litter pick on 30 September. Both volunteered to help out and were absolutely brilliant and nothing was too much trouble. We Waste Limited supplied litter pickers, hi-viz jackets, people AND most importantly took the rubbish away afterwards. The Rapid Relief Team provided food and hot drinks to everyone at the end – a fabulous incentive to pick up the rubbish and get back to the central point on the Village Green. Of course, a huge thanks to all the volunteers on the day. You picked up an enormous amount of rubbish.

We are looking to do this twice a year – the next one is likely to be in April so if you are interested in helping out, please do get in touch. Deputy@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Following a jam-packed summer with lots of residentials and camps, we are now in one of our busiest terms of the year. Some of our leaders recently supported the Challenge Invicta, an incident hike which the whole of our county take part in – it was great fun and thankfully a sunny day for all involved! Our autumn term also sees us take part in Remembrance, a Girlguiding screening at the cinema, and various Christmas events including a fundraiser by 2nd Pembury Brownies.

Lots of the units are doing community-based activities, learning how we can support the village and beyond. Rainbows have been learning more about our Girlguiding promise and what it means to be a Rainbow in Pembury. Some of the Brownies took part in the litter pick back in September and the Guides have been immersing themselves in the world of food banks (with some particularly interesting recipe suggestions)!

Our newly re-opened Ranger unit have been getting to know each other and are planning a very exciting programme for the rest of the year. Rangers are aged 14-18yrs and are the definition of “girl led guiding”. By planning their own activities the girls drive their own destiny and have the independence to make decisions together – there’s even been talk of trips to the Isle of Wight! We have lots of spaces in our unit, so please get in touch if you would like to come for a taster session.

Rangers
Pembury

Girls have fun,
hangout, learn
more and give back
for ages 14 to 18

Girlguiding

Rangers is your space, where you get together with other girls, and just be you. It's regular meetings with your local group, trips at home and abroad, making a difference to the things you care about. It's the freedom to be more independent, and to do what makes you happy.

We recently re-opened our Pembury Ranger unit and have plenty of spaces for new girls to join.

If you're 14-18yrs old and fancy coming along, please get in touch with Bezi

Girlguiding Pembury

We help all girls know they can do anything

Volunteer with Girlguiding

It's totally flexible and there's no commitment too small. You can volunteer in a group or use your skills behind the scenes, you don't need any guiding experience and everyone is welcomed.

Find out more
girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Girlguiding contact information:
Name: Bezi Guanine
Email: guiding@thetuffy@hotmail.com

Rainbows Brownies Guides Rangers

At Girlguiding Pembury, we create magical moments for girls helping them experience new adventures, new memories, and realise a new potential within themselves. But as with lots of charity organisations, we rely on volunteers to make that happen. Across all our units, our amazing volunteers are the backbone of our units, varying from leaders to unit helpers to admin support. In Pembury we are actively looking for new volunteers of all abilities to offer a small amount of time per

week. We know time can be tight, that's why we have flexible volunteering opportunities that allow you to fit in with your schedule and lifestyle. Please use the details here to get in touch if you'd like to find out more or have a go!



Beavers section

After a well-earned summer break, the Beaver leaders were back to planning a fun packed programme for our young people. This included a games night, putting up tents, completing the experiment badge, a visit from Folly's Wildlife Rescue Centre and a Halloween-themed evening. We invested 3 new Beavers, welcomed new leaders and said a sad farewell to Clare, who has been a leader with us for the past 4 years. A huge thank you once again to all our Beaver Leaders & volunteers for all the time and effort that is put into running 1st Pembury Beavers.



Cubs section

After a long summer break, Pembury Cubs returned in September and we welcomed some new cubs into our pack, a promotion from the Beavers. We started off the term with a games night, followed by a night hike, trading post game, making naan bread and butter, a challenge night and a presentation from our Scout Leader Amy on her adventures at this year's incident-packed Scout Jamboree in South Korea. We awarded some of our leaders their 5-year service badge and wood badge. We would like to thank the Pembury Cub leadership team for giving up their time and running meetings for our young people. We couldn't do it without you.



Scouts section

The autumn term started with a games evening on the rec, while there was still light to enjoy. We played an 'interesting' new game called Ninja and even the leaders got stuck in. We followed this up with a wide game in the forest behind the hut in the dark; man hunt with glow sticks – no real imagination necessary to picture that...great fun! We had some fire evenings planned but they got cancelled due to various stormy episodes, so Alf was drafted in as rifle range master to conduct a spot of air rifle shooting. We will get outside for those fires...we've got great plans...Firework night has been and gone – where is this year going?! As with the other sections, huge thanks to our leaders, whose enthusiasm and effort remains an inspiration.



Explorers section

The Explorers have had a busy term thus far, culminating in trips to Go-Ape and Chessington World of Adventures.





RECORD-BREAKING HOSPICE RUN

Thanks to all who supported the Hospice Run in September which raised more than £100,000 – a record-breaking first for the event! All ages and abilities came together to complete the new family fun-run, half marathon and classic routes to raise funds for Hospice in the Weald.

Paralympian Will Bayley gave inspirational encouragement as he launched proceedings and 'Old School Samba' kept spirits up throughout.

Every penny helps Hospice in the Weald to make a vital difference to the lives of those facing terminal illness and their families in our community.

Carol concert

The atmospheric Chapel of St Augustine at Tonbridge School will host two carol concerts in aid of Hospice in the Weald this December.

The new family Christmas Carol Concert will be held on the afternoon of 19 December, with Christmas songs, fun and games, and a visit by Father Christmas.



Later that evening, the traditional Carols at Christmas will feature uplifting carols, performances from stunning soloists, local school choirs and readings.

Tickets sell out fast, so book yours now at hospiceintheweald.org.uk or call the Hospice's Fundraising Team on 01892 820533.



Christmas tree collections

Avoid needles in your car boot and queuing at the tip with the Hospice's Christmas tree collection service.

Collecting throughout Tunbridge Wells and many postcodes across Kent from 7 - 9 January, this is a great way to conveniently recycle your tree and raise funds for a much-loved local charity.

Sign up through the Hospice's website to secure your collection. hospiceintheweald.org.uk



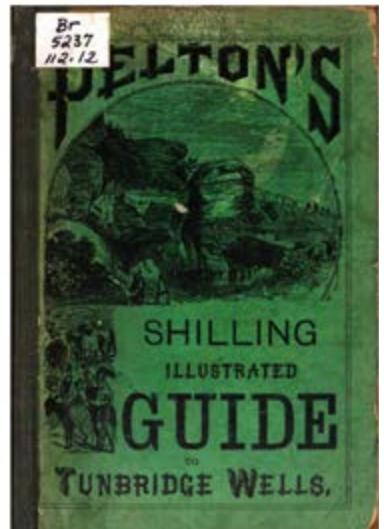
Extract from Pelton's Illustrated Guide to Tunbridge Wells (1896)
MORNING WALKS ROUND TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Pembury.

"Pembury is a large, beautiful, woodland parish, three miles from the Wells. The high road is a favourite carriage drive; there is also a pretty bye-road at the back of Pembury Road, starting from Hall's Hole. The village consists mainly of two portions; many houses and shops adjoin the Upper Green, which are supplied with gas from Tunbridge Wells, and where is the new church. Somewhat to the north is the Lower Green, near to which is the Board School, the Congregational Church and Manse, and the Sunday School, used on week-evenings as a workmen's club. The old parish church is at some distance in the woods; it was restored some years since. As this was away from the population, the church on the green was built on a suitable site, given by the late Marquis Camden. Not only are the Kentish and Sussex hills seen to great advantage from the upper part of Pembury, but on very clear days there has been seen the smoke of steam ships passing towards the Thames on the north, and down the English Channel on the south. So old inhabitants have assured us, and the assertion though remarkable and startling, is credible.

A good walker may pass through the upper and lower Green, leave the waterworks and reservoir on the right, and climb the hill to the old church; then he should ask his way to Pembury Walk, whence he will enjoy some delightful woodland scenery, and may return by the high road connecting Tonbridge and Hastings, and then by Blackhurst Lane. Though this is the most interesting excursion in this direction, many are the foot-paths and lanes in this parish which will reward the pedestrian who is inquisitive enough to discover the out-of-the-way nooks and corners. In the spring Pembury is in the perfection of its beauty; the meadows are gay with cowslips, the green banks twinkle with primroses and violets, the copses are carpeted with the blue hyacinth, and the woodland slopes are overgrown with periwinkles and anemones; whilst the larch "hangs all its leafy tassels forth."

A long walk of eight or nine miles may be made by following the Pembury Road to Woodsgate, there turning to the left, pursuing the Tonbridge Road, leaving the Union Workhouse on the right, passing Somerhill Park on the same side, and at the Vauxhall Inn turning sharp to the left. The lane leading from this point to Southborough is a capital specimen of the Kentish bye-road, with its cornfields, hop gardens, orchards, meadows and copses on either hand."





The Society welcomes all residents in Pembury to join the Society, which has as its aims:

- The preservation and protection of the beauty and character of Pembury;
- To promote and protect features of architectural and historic interest within the Pembury conservation area and throughout the village;
- Through developing a community spirit, to encourage residents to take pride in Pembury as a safe and attractive place to live;
- To ensure that an independent voice is heard in the right quarters on those issues that are close to the Pembury Society aims.

Becoming a member is just £5 per year per household, and full details of our activities and meetings, together



with sections on planning applications, Pembury's past in pictures, how to join and much more can be found on our website: <https://www.pemburysociety.org/>.

Our next meeting is in April 2024, and details of the speaker will be in the March PVN.

David Hanes (Chairman)

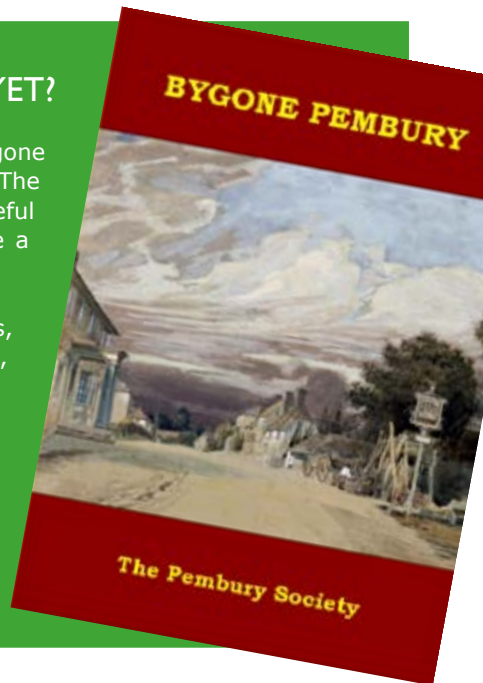
HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR COPY YET?

There are still copies of our book "Bygone Pembury" available at Barnes Kingsnorth and The Black Horse, both on the High Street. Grateful thanks for their support. Do call in and have a look at the sample copy.

Over 300 pages, full colour A4 size, of articles, postcards, photographs, maps, cuttings, advertisements and ephemera.

Written, compiled and edited by members of The Pembury Society and friends. Published and distributed by The Pembury Society.

It makes a wonderful Christmas present!





BOWLS CLUB

Another successful year for Pembury Bowls Club!

As I write the Bowls season has finished, with the internal competitions culminating in the awards ceremony at The London Beach Hotel Presentation Lunch on 8 October.

Congratulations to the winners shown below, from left to right: Bob Maddison-Brown, Margaret Fagg, Wendy Bidder, Geoff Wickenden, David Bidder, Gordon McKenzie, Sheila Smith and John Saunders. Two of the winners had only recently joined the club and had never previously played. What an achievement!

The finals were played over one of the hottest weekends of the year in early September, with pints of cold water on hand for the players.

Looking back during the summer about 50 members, families and friends enjoyed a delicious barbecue in August.

A very successful Ladies Fun Day was also held in August, where some 40 members of local clubs took part in competitions throughout the day and a buffet lunch was provided. Luckily the rain that started in the morning had subsided by the time the play started!

We are now looking forward to social events during the winter, starting with a fish and chip lunch in January, followed by a quiz in February, and an Afternoon Tea at the London Beach Hotel in March next year.

Thanks to the new members and those who joined from Calverley Bowls Club, as well as the youngsters who are integrating into friendly matches, the Club is now thriving!

Wendy Bidder
Hon Secretary, Ladies Captain





Squashy Sausages

The first time I made this it took ages but then I discovered that I could buy butternut squash and sweet potatoes already prepared so now it takes no time at all and has no quantities or weighing! Double up if feeding a crowd.

- Sausages
- Butternut squash
- Bag sweet potato
- Bag curly kale
- One carton natural yoghurt
- 1 clove garlic



Put sausage, potato and squash in a roasting tin and season with salt and pepper. Drizzle with some oil (any kind) and put in the oven Gas 5 / 170°C. Cook for 40 minutes. Put the kale in a colander and pour a kettle of boiling water over it to wilt it down. Add it to the sausages and put back in the oven for 6 minutes. Stir it all well together. Crush the garlic into the yoghurt and serve on the side. Simples!

Cheats Banana Fool

This is a pudding that used to take ages when I made custard from scratch and didn't have a microwave but now I do and I buy ready-made custard!

- 4oz any type of chocolate
- Carton vanilla custard
- Two bananas



Grate a small amount of the chocolate for decoration and melt the rest in the microwave. Slice the bananas and stir them into the chocolate with the custard. Divide the mixture between two pretty glasses, sprinkle the grated chocolate on the top and leave in the fridge to chill for at least 30 minutes before eating.

Pembury Library – what's on.

The Hi Kent clinic dates for 2024 are as follows:

19 January, 16 February, 15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July,
16 August, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November and 20 December.

Natty Knitters and chat - Tuesdays 2.30pm – 4pm

Baby Rhyme Time - Tuesdays 10.30 -11am (term time only)

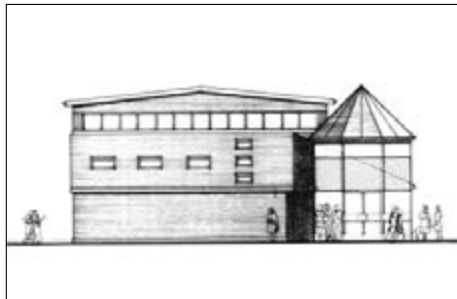
Please ask at the library about book clubs

100 NEW CHAIRS FOR THE HALL



After a thorough research of the market and a number of trials, the Village Hall Management Committee recently took delivery of 100 new padded chairs with light-weight aluminium frames.

The new chairs are for general use in the hall and have replaced the more basic plastic and steel stacking ones 70 of which have now been donated to the Scouts and Guides for use in their hut.



The chairs were supplied by a British manufacturer called Alpha Furniture and the project was mainly funded by a very generous donation from the National Lottery Community Fund.



Keith Hemstall, Chairman of the Management Committee, said:

'The National Lottery grant enabled us to replace a lot more chairs than we could have afforded otherwise. I am particularly pleased that we were able to get them from a reputable British company and we are delighted with the quality and comfort..'

The large hall and smaller meeting room are both well used but there are still a few spare slots in the diary. The facilities [including the new chairs!] are available either for private hire or for regular users at a reduced rate.

For further details contact the Hall Manager on pemburyvh@gmail.com or 07983 228181.

James Whitehorn, on behalf of PVH Management Committee



Universal Credit is a means-tested benefit and it is replacing six existing means-tested benefits (known as legacy benefits):

- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit (working-age claimants)

Managed migration is the process where the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) invites legacy benefit claimants to make a claim for Universal Credit. This is different to natural migration, which happens when a legacy benefit claimant has a change in circumstances and Universal Credit becomes the only benefit available to claim.

Managed migration has now started in this area for those on Tax Credits.

- The process will start later for those on other benefits.
- The managed migration process begins when the DWP send you a migration notice. This notice informs you that your legacy benefit entitlement will end on a specified date and invites you to make a claim for Universal Credit.
- The migration notice will be delivered by post. Your legacy benefits will finish on the date specified on the letter. If you wish to continue to receive a benefit then you need to make an application for Universal Credit as the transfer is not automatic.
- However, you will have three months from the date of your migration notice to make your claim.

- If the amount you are entitled to on your existing benefits is more than you'll get on Universal Credit, a top up is available. This is called a 'transitional protection' payment.
- Depending on your circumstances, some people will benefit from lodging their claim for Universal Credit immediately and others will benefit from applying closer to the end of the three-month period. We can help you decide what is right for you.
- Be aware that the government are sending all recipients of the relevant benefits a leaflet called "Tax Credits are ending – Get Ready for Universal Credit". This is NOT a migration notice.

What do I need to do?

- Open your post!
- Get in touch with Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre if you need advice once you receive your migration notice.

PWCAC is OPEN for face-to-face advice (appointments and drop-ins) Monday to Friday, 9:30 – 1:30. If you need advice about welfare benefits, housing and homelessness, debt, relationship breakdown or anything else, get in touch with us:

info@pwadvice.org
01892 838619
94 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood,
TN12 6DP





CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

HOPE Pembury Churches Together invite you to join them in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

ST PETERS – UPPER CHURCH (UC) and OLD CHURCH (OC)		
Sunday 10 December	6.00pm UC	Carols and Readings for Christmas
Sunday 17 December	9.30am UC	Christingle Service
	6.00pm OC	Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 24 December	4.00pm UC	Crib Service
	10.00pm UC	Christmas/communion 'Midnight in Bethlehem'
Monday 25 December	10.00am UC	Christmas Communion (Modern language)
	10.00am OC	Christmas Communion (Traditional language)

ST ANSELMS CATHOLIC CHURCH		
Sunday 17 December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 24 December	3.00pm	Children's Crib Service
	5.30pm	Vigil Mass of Christmas
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Monday 25 December	8.00am	Mass of the Dawn
	10.00am	Mass of Christmas Day

PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH		
Sunday 17 December	10.00am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Refreshments and mince pies served after the carol service.		
Sunday 24 December	3.30pm	Children's Live Action Nativity!
	11.30pm	Reflective Communion Service
Monday 25 December	10.00am	Christmas Morning Celebration

HOPE PEMBURY CHURCHES TOGETHER	
HOPE Pembury Churches Together will be singing Carols at Tesco Pembury on Saturday 9 th December from 11am-midday. Join in!	
HOPE Pembury Churches Together	01892 825590
St Peters:	01892 711126
St Anselms:	01892 825009
Pembury Baptist Church:	01892 825590

DEFIBRILLATORS IN PEMBURY



Defibrillators in Pembury are located at:

- The wall outside the chemist (public access)
- The primary school (when open)
- The doctors' surgery (when open)
- Tesco (at customer services)
- The Pavilion (Recreation Ground) (public access)
- King William IV public house (public access)
- Pembury Baptist Church (public access)

Make yourself familiar with these locations – none of us know when we might need one.



CRIME REPORT

CRIME FIGURES for Pembury July, August, September 2023

Due to changes in the method which Kent Police are now publishing their crime figures, I have had to make drastic changes to the way we publish these. Crimes in other local villages will no longer be available.

I just hope that there are some changes to this new system soon as it is lacking in information and will leave parishioners asking a lot of questions.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!
Hugh Boorman

Crime	July	August	September
Violence and Sexual Offences	19	29	16
Public Order	4	10	5
Anti-Social Behaviour	5	7	5
Criminal Damage, Arson	3	6	4
Theft & Other	-	-	-
TOTAL	31	52	30

There have been burglaries in the area so please ensure that you lock all doors and windows. Premises need to be secure. Please check your insurance policies carefully. If you have a keyless fob for your car, consider buying a protector pouch as these can be remotely activated.

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS



360 DANCE	Sadie Van Der Spuy. Tel: 07734 053509. www.360dance.co.uk
AGE CONCERN	Mrs Sandra Springett. Tel: 522591
ASPENS (FORMERLY PEPEBURY)	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 - guidingwithfluffy@hotmail.com
HOSPICE IN THE WEALD	Maidstone Road. Tel: 820500
INDEPENDENTS FOR TUNBRIDGE WELLS	David Hayward. Tel: 01892 808000
KENT COLLEGE	Head: Miss K.Handford. Tel: 822006
KENT COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY	Headteacher: Mrs S Hall. 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. Email: gillianmayrick@aol.com
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. Tel: 459894
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: sturgeonclubspembury@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)
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 Evening: Mrs Gillian Williamson. Tel: 822 577 Email: pewisecretary@gmail.com Web: pemburyeveningwi.wordpress.com
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	

PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Finance & HR Committee

Cllr N Stratton (C)
Cllr K Brooks (VC)
Cllr A Birch

Open Spaces Committee

Cllr C Snow (C)
Cllr D Reilly (VC)
Cllr M Barrett
Cllr M Weaver
Cllr J Webster

Planning & Highways Committee

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

Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group

Cllr N Stratton (C)
Cllr G Hall
Cllr D Reilly

Climate Change & Environmental Action Working Group

Cllr J Webster (C)
Cllr M Barrett
Cllr G Hall
Cllr D Reilly
Cllr N Stratton
P Mason
M Arnold
L Matthews

Community Events Working Group

Cllr A Birch (C)
Cllr N Stratton
Cllr M Weaver
C Boffey
P Gillan

Pembury Village News Advisory Group

Cllr K Brooks (C)
Cllr D Reilly
Cllr C Snow
Cllr M Weaver
Cllr J Webster

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.



Be extraordinary

become a parish councillor

Ordinary people doing an amazing job!

Would you like to:

- Make a difference to local people?
- Give something back to your community?
- Help shape change for the benefit of your local area?

Please get in touch for more details:

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