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VILLAGE NEWS

Spring 2024

Issue 197

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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

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

Distribution enquiries: Deputy Parish Clerk 01892 823193 Email: deputy@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk www.pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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.

The Editor and Publisher, Pembury Parish Council, are not responsible for any opinions or comments made by contributors or advertisers in the Pembury Village News.

NATURE NOTES

What a winter it has been so far; variations of very cold, wet and windy have all come and gone. The warmer winters are having a detrimental effect on our native trees as damaging fungi and bacteria are finding it easier to survive this period, and unfortunately Ash and Oak dieback are still very much with us. The fungus causing the Ash problems originated in Asia, but our variety of Ash does not have any natural immunity. The Oak disease can be chronic or acute and can be attributed to a combination of fungal, bacterial and insect infestations which thrive in warmer conditions.

On a brighter note it has been great to see the return of large flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings up to 60 or 70 at a time. These are winter visiting members of the thrush family which migrate to the warmer climes of the UK from Northern and Eastern Europe to escape the harsher temperatures. Both species love berries and can be seen on Rowan and Hawthorn trees feeding avidly, and even in gardens on pyracantha and cotoneaster.



It is well worth some walks along the footpaths around the village as there are still some stunning views to be seen, especially on the Old Coach Road on the south side of the A21. There are many old English (Pedunculate) Oaks here still in fine condition, with a variety of bird and other wildlife to be seen, plenty of Blue, Great, Coal and Long-tailed Tits can be viewed here. They all appear to have had a successful breeding season in 2023 with many younger birds to be seen. All the above species love garden feeders so do try to think about putting one out to attract them into gardens and help them through the rest of the winter.

The old orchard at Stonecourt Lane is still a great example of natural rewilding in action. There are specimens of the not so obvious birds to be seen here with winter Siskins and native Bullfinch and I recently saw a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker for the first time in this location. These sparrow sized birds are the little cousin of the Greater variety of which there appears to be a healthy population.

I have already mentioned the Great Big Green Week in June in my other article on page 11, please keep an eye out for posters, Facebook and website posts about actions that can be taken as individuals and groups to help increase habitat and biodiversity.

Jon Webster

CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the Spring edition of Pembury Village News, I hope that you are now starting to see the first flowers pop through – as I write this I've got snowdrops on display, daffodils nearly ready to bloom, and I can't remember where I've planted everything, but there should also be some tulips, alliums, hyacinths and not sure what else, so it's always fun to see what comes through!

We have our Annual Parish Meeting on the 25 April in the Village Hall from 7.15pm. Please do come along and have a chat with members of various committees to hear what we've been doing. If you have any questions you want to ask the Council, you are welcome to email the office on clerk@ pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

We are also taking part in the Great Big Green Week from the 8 - 16 June and will be



arranging a village litter pick on 15 June, as well as one on 23 March and 28 September – please come and join us! We will have Pembury in the Park in July, so if any local businesses are interested in a stall please contact nigel.stratton@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

I hope we have calmer weather over the next few months from what we've had recently, and I look forward to the flowers in gardens in the village springing to life!

Kind regards, Katy



COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the winter issue is 1 May 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.



CORRECTION!

The Winter 2023 edition incorrectly stated that the post box toppers were knitted by the WI. Kathleen Gordon contacted me to say that they were in fact knitted by members of her u3a group. They were absolutely beautiful and so much work must have gone into making them.

Apologies to all concerned.



TREE BLOWN DOWN IN THE STORM!

On Thursday 4 January 2024 our Environmental Group, John Boakes, Sarah Pomfret, Neil Franklin, David Sellman and myself had set up across the field, Footpath WT237 with the aim of crossing the bridge over the A21 to reach Footpath WT239 to start hedgecutting.

When we got to the bridge, we were absolutely amazed to find the far end of the bridge was completely blocked by a huge tree that had come down in the wind and was not only blocking the bridge but hanging over both sides.

I am just glad that no one was on the bridge when the tree came down otherwise we would have a different story to tell and I am just so glad of the hard work put in by our group to get it cleared. Please see the pictures, before and after taken by Neil Franklin.

Hugh Boorman



Huge thanks to the volunteer Environmental Group for clearing this and for all the other hard work that they carry out around the village. Ed

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NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

In 2023 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). an independent body accountable to Parliament, completed a review of electoral and boundary arrangements for Tunbridge Wells. In doing so, it aimed to make sure councillors represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements help the council to work effectively. The LGBCE's recommendations on the new electoral arrangements became law on 4 January 2024

Summary of Review:

From May 2024:

- The residents of Tunbridge Wells will be represented by 39 councillors. This is 9 fewer than currently.
- The existing wards will be abolished and replaced with 14 wards comprising of twelve three-councillor wards, one two-councillor ward and one onecouncillor ward.
- New ward boundaries will be created to reflect this change.

- The Parliamentary Order makes provision for a whole Borough Council election in Tunbridge Wells in May 2024.
- An interactive map detailing the new boundary arrangements can be found at https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/ council/voting-and-elections/newelectoral-arrangements

Changes to Pembury Ward

The existing Pembury ward will be abolished and replaced with a new one which includes Capel and a small area of Paddock Wood. The new ward will be known as 'Pembury and Capel' and will be represented by three Councillors.

The current Borough Councillors will need to step down and local elections will be held in May 2024 to elect three Councillors to represent the new ward.

Further information can be obtained from the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Pembury Parish Council websites.

Cllr David Reilly



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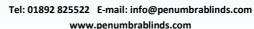
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GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 8 - 16 JUNE 2024

The Nationwide Great Big Green Week started in 2021 and is organised by the Climate Coalition. Its purpose is a celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Many hundreds of thousands of people across the UK have been involved over the past three years. For further reading and information just Google the above title and view the site.



It would be fantastic if we could organise a few events for the Great Big Green Week 2024 to demonstrate our commitment and involvement in local nature and sustainability. The Parish Council is already contacting local schools, clubs and other organisations to get ideas for any activities or projects that local people can become involved with. It would be great to hear from any individuals or other groups with any ideas. There will be a litter pick during this period on Saturday 15 June, and hopefully the arrangement of one or two wildlife walks in the local woods.

If you have any ideas or would like to be involved as a volunteer please contact me jon.webster@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

I have quite a few ideas already but please contact us to let us know what you are doing. I will be at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 25 April at the Village Hall and will be hoping to discuss any ideas then.

Please watch out on notice boards or the Parish Website and social media for any further information.

Cllr Jon Webster

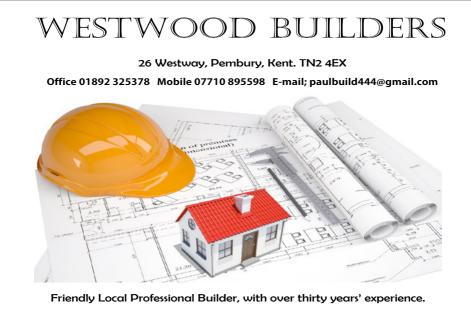
LITTER PICKS - 2024

Please come and join us at our three community litter picks throughout 2024. These are planned for Saturday 23 March; Saturday 15 June (to coincide with the Great Big Green Week) and Saturday 28 September.

We have the support of local company We Waste Limited which we are delighted about, who not only supply manpower and all equipment, but also take the rubbish away – all free of charge. So, huge thanks to them. We are also hoping that the Rapid Relief Team will be able to join us too. Their support has been amazing!

These events have proved to be very successful in the past, so 'save the dates', dig out your gloves and just turn up! See you there...

Watch out for more information around the village and on social media.



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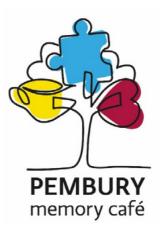
- Ben, landlord, 2024

PEMBURY MEMORY CAFÉ

Pembury Memory Café is a drop-in café for those with Alzheimers, dementia and acquired brain injury, and their carers. We provide relevant activities, craft, music and refreshments, not to mention lots of chat and laughter!

It is held every third Friday of the month at Pembury Baptist Church Hall between 2pm and 4pm. Dates for the rest of the year are:

19 April	20 September
17 May	18 October
21 June	15 November
19 July	20 December
16 August	



THE OUT AND ABOUT CLUB

The Out and About Club is organised by St Peter's Church in Pembury and there is no membership fee. Any member of the community is welcome to sign up for details and book a place on any of the outings. In the event of any trip being oversubscribed, priority is given to offering a place to those who may have no other means to go out and about, have difficulty walking or other needs. Our trips are organised on a non-profit making basis.

The outings planned for 2024 include Polhill Garden Centre, Denbies wine estate, Woodbridge and River Deben cruise, Romney Hythe & Dymchurch railway and fish and chip lunch at The Pilot Inn.

More details and programme of events from Sue Giles 01892 823318.

Out and About Club Christmas meal at the Hydro Hotel in Eastbourne in December 2023



EASTER CHURCH TIMES

Catholic Church		
Maundy Thursday 28 March 2024	8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper	
Good Friday	10.00am	Children's stations
29 March 2024	1.30pm	Stations of the Cross
	3.00pm	The Good Friday Liturgy
Holy Saturday 30 March 2024	10.00am	Children's Easter workshop
	8.00pm	The Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday 31 March 2024	8.00am	Mass of the Dawn
	10.00am	Mass of the Day

St. Peter's Upper and Old Church		
Palm Sunday 24 March 2024	9.10am	Procession from the Village Hall to the Upper Church
	9.30am	Palm Sunday Service (All Together Worship) at the Upper Church
	11.30am	Holy Communion for Palm Sunday at the Old Church
	6.00pm	Taizé Service for Holy Week at the Upper Church
Maundy Thursday 28 March 2024	8.00pm	Informal Last Supper at the Upper Church
	9.00pm	'The Watch' at the Upper Church
Good Friday	9.30am	Good Friday Service at the Upper Church
29 March 2024	11.15am	United Service on the Village Green
	2.00pm	'The Last Hour' at the Old Church
Easter Sunday 31 March 2024	9.30am	Easter Communion (modern language) at the Upper Church
	11.30am	Easter Communion (traditional language) at the Old Church

Pembury Baptist Church		
Saturday 23 March	11.00am- 1.00pm	Messy Easter (craft activities, food and fun for all the family)
Good Friday 29 March 2024	10.00am	Good Friday Reflective Communion Service
Holy Saturday 30 March 2024	11.00am- 12.30pm	Easter Story Trail - follow the Easter story around the village
Easter Sunday 31 March 2024	10.00am	All Age Easter Celebration Service

PEMBURY U3A CLIMATE CHANGE INTEREST GROUP

By the time you read this report the u3a monthly meeting will have taken place. Peter Littlewood, Director of The Young Peoples' Trust for the Environment will be the main speaker. He will be addressing the problem of "Living in a Changing Climate" in a sustainable way.

The Climate Change Interest Group has organised this session and has invited pupils from the School Council of Mascall's Academy and their Principal to join us. We hope this connection will lead to more interaction between the generations!

Each month, the Climate Change Group will publish facts and figures that affect us all and will focus on simple things we could do to improve our world.

First suggestion will be STOP buying products containing PALM OIL. REASON: vast areas of rain forests are being felled

in order to plant palm trees. Palm Oil is known as an inert filler which means it is a non- reacting filler reducing the amount of more costly active ingredients being used. Mature rain forest trees are great collectors of carbon.

Interested in u3a? Please contact either: chair@pemburyu3a.org or membership@pemburyu3a.org

Graham Hall Organiser of Climate Change Interest Group, Pembury u3a



BRIAN SANDS

It is with sadness that we report that Brian Sands passed away on 5 October 2023.

Brian lived in Pembury with his wife Janet for over 50 years and actively participated in many aspects of Pembury life. He was involved with the Parish Council and was a Committee Chair. Alongside this, he was Chair of the Pembury School Governors working closely with the then Headmaster Richard Nisbett. In later years, he was a church warden at St. Peter's Church and worked closely with Stephen Sealy who was the Vicar at the time. He took part in the selection of Stephen's successor after he left.



A Three Course Meal....just like that!

A few weeks ago two friends that I thought were coming on Saturday arrived on Friday "as planned". Not wanting to look a total plonker I welcomed them heartily, got my husband to open the wine and excused myself into the kitchen saying "dinner won't be long"! I have to admit that I surprised myself with the meal I dished up 40 minutes later and it went like this!!

Starter - Pan con Tomate

А	tin	of t	ton	natoes	
2	clo	ves	of	garlic	

4 slices of bread, toasted Salt and black pepper.

Drain the juice from the tomatoes and chop them up, warm them in a small pan or the microwave. Crush the garlic into a few

teaspoons of the tomato juice and spread in on the toast. Put the chopped tomatoes on top drizzle with oil and season well. Serve cold.

Main course - Mushroom Stroganoff

1 onion sliced 2 cloves garlic crushed Pack of mushrooms sliced 2 tablespoons white wine Vegetable stock (1pint)

Half a tub of crème fraiche Salt, pepper, lemon juice, mustard 1oz butter Rice (approx 75gr per person)



Melt the butter and fry the onion and garlic for a few minutes. Add the rice and when it's nicely coated in butter add the wine. (It smells divine!) Lower the heat and add the stock gradually - a couple of spoons at a time and stir them in to the rice. When half the stock is in, add the mushrooms, lemon juice and mustard then keep adding the stock until the rice is cooked. Lastly stir in the crème fraiche and season very well.

Pudding - Tropical Crumble

This was more luck than anything because I happened to have bought 2 mangoes that morning and I had a tin of pineapple in the cupboard! You can use any fruit, fresh or frozen that you have.



4 oz flour (any) 1 oz porridge oats 1oz bran flakes crumbled Small pinch cloves

4oz dark brown sugar. 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon.

Small pinch salt.

Drain the pineapple and chop the mangoes; place in an ovenproof dish. Rub the butter into the flour add the rest of the ingredients and cover the fruit with the mixture. Don some butter on top and cook for about 40 minutes around gas mark 4. Serve with custard or ice cream.

Working for Pembury People

Annual Report 2023-24

Pembury Parish Council operates and looks after a wide range of facilities including Lower Green Recreation Ground, Woodside allotment site, the Village Green, bus shelters, benches, some streetlights and burial grounds.

We also run our regular programme of successful events including the annual Fireworks Display, Pembury in the Park and Carols on the Green. The Parish Council is mainly funded by the Precept collected by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as part of your Council Tax. Other income is received from burials, allotments, event tickets and advertising in the PVN.

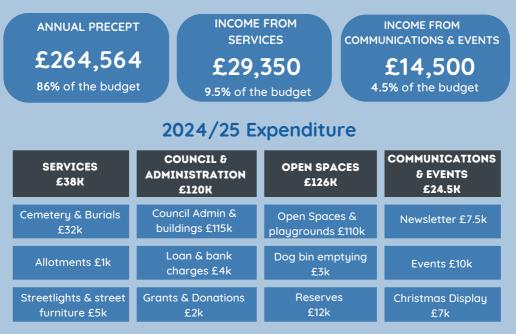
The Parish Council has set its precept of £264,564 for 2024-25. This equates to a 6.4% increase to the Parish Council element of your council tax bills which is an extra 13 pence per month per Band D property.

Some of the functions and facilities the Parish Council provides





Where does the £308,414 Parish Council budget come from?



Committee and Working Group Chairs' Reports



Parish Council

We've had another busy year at the Parish Council! Sadly, we lost Patrick from the Council, as he has lots of other demands on his time, but I'm sure he will still appear at village events, and he is always welcome to take over the microphone!!! We welcomed Martin to the Council this year, he is our resident bee expert, and has already got himself involved and immersed in council work!

We had our usual events last year, sadly Pembury in the Park was rather affected by the wind, but we still had a good turnout and it was nice to see everyone braving the elements for as long as they could! We hope for a milder day this year, so we can have more stalls around the Rec! We also had our Fireworks night, which was well attended and a magnificent display, and the catering and refreshments vans seems popular too! The Remembrance Service was moving and wonderful to see all the Baden Powell groups together with many villagers honouring the fallen. The Christmas tree lighting ceremony was just delightful, and so lovely to hear the children from the Primary School sing, it was a joyous occasion! I look forward to seeing you at all our events over the year, and pray Mother Nature is kind to us....

Planning & Highways Committee

All planning applications for Pembury are sent to our Committee for examination and comments. These are then passed on to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) Planning department who make the final decision on acceptance or refusal.

Our Borough Councillors are sometimes asked to "Call In" applications which we have recommended for refusal. This means that the TWBC Planning Committee will have to make the final decision after hearing all the reasons we have put forward rather than the decision being made by TWBC planning officers.

We continue to welcome residents to our meetings so they can express their views about planning applications. Our committee meetings are held in the Parish Office, Lower Green Recreation Ground. Look out for details on our website and noticeboard.

Recently we have been able to use our Neighbourhood Development Plan policies when making our comments about planning applications. In fact, Tunbridge Wells Planners also make reference to it as this is the only up to date development plan in current use!

Many of you have expressed concerns about planning applications that have been refused but landowners have ignored the decision. There is an enforcement process which TWBC has to follow and we are constantly enquiring as to the progress of these actions.

Finally, we are very pleased to receive comments from you about any planning and highways issues you are concerned about.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Following on from last year, the draft plan duly went for examination. The Examiner raised some initial points which were answered in correspondence. He then issued a draft which was fact checked and his final report at the beginning of April 2023, passing the plan subject to some small modifications.

As a result, the plan was slightly modified and amended for typos etc. ready for approval. It was then forwarded to TWBC in early May; considered by the Planning & Transport Cabinet Advisory Board on 10th July and at the Cabinet on 27th July.

The Plan was then put to a Referendum of residents. The Parish Council undertook a wide-spread information and publicity campaign bringing this to the attention of all residents and on Thursday 14th September the plan was passed by an overwhelming majority of those voting by 819 to 159 votes, over 83% of residents who voted, voting in favour. The Plan was then presented at the Full Council meeting of TWBC on 4th October and duly "made" and came into force from that date.

The overall cost of the work over 4 years was £25,000 of which £18,000 was grant funded. So, only £7,000 was raised from Council Tax during the period, thanks to some dedicated local residents and councillors who undertook much of the administration of the plan process, rather than employing someone to do the work, as happened in several other council areas.

The NDP is now being used regularly by the Planning & Highways Committee of the Council in its responses to planning applications.

Open Spaces Committee

The year 2023 has seen several large projects come to fruition for the Open Spaces Committee.

The tennis courts are now refurbished. It is so lovely to see so many residents using the tennis courts and it has given the recreation ground another facility which brings such health benefits.

We had our annual Litter Pick at the end of September. We are planning several more for 2024 to make sure our Village is kept as clean and tidy as possible. Our grateful thanks go to the Rapid Relief Team who turn up each year to provide refreshments free of charge for all the volunteers. Last year we were also fortunate to have help free of charge from a local business called We Waste Ltd. They generously provided high-viz jackets and litter pickers, and also brought along volunteers to help. When the work was completed, they kindly took the litter away for disposal.

Our Fruit Tree Avenue in the recreation ground is now completed. We now have 22 fruit trees in place in the Recreation Ground, offering a variety of fruit from apples, pears and quince. The Fruit Tree Avenue has been planted to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. When the trees start to produce fruit, the residents of Pembury can help themselves to the produce. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Knight of Pippins Farm who has generously given his time to give us advice on the variety of trees and how and when to plant them. Our Open Spaces Committee along with David Knight, Helen and Yvette from the office and our wonderful groundsmen Ryan and Darrell planted the trees in the autumn, a great team effort!

Finance & HR Committee

During the year we have:

- Agreed, with Council's approval and in conjunction with the Clerk, the purchase and implementation of new accounting software
- Appointed a new Internal Auditor, following the retirement of our previous one.
- Opened new notice accounts with Nationwide to increase the Council's interest income
- Regularly reviewed expenditure and income against budget.
- Regularly reviewed the Risk Register, making slight amendments as needed.
- Reviewed many of the Council's policies; Standing Orders and Terms of Reference for the Council's committees.
- Following discussion at last year's Annual Parish Meeting carried out a review of Earmarked Reserves ("EMR") and Sinking Fund (SF) strategies held by other local Parish Councils. As a result, adopted a new method of calculating EMR and SF for the future.
- Recommended to Full Council the Budget for 2024-2025 and increases needed in the future for EMR & SF.
- Reviewed the workload of the administrative staff.
- Reviewed the Report of the Internal Auditor and made recommendations to Full Council.

Climate & Environmental Action Working Group

The last year has seen the Working Group undertake a number of projects including:

- Carbon Audit of the Parish Offices and Operations.
- Proposed energy saving schemes such as Solar Panel Electricity supply are currently under consideration.
- We have started to change tools used by the Groundsmen from petrol driven to rechargeable battery power sources to reduce carbon footprint.
- Volunteers have been working on the pond at Downingbury Farm to restore it as an attractive feature and improve habitat and biodiversity.
- We have recently secured permission from Town and Country Housing to plant trees in some of the open spaces in Bulls Place and Bellfield Road. Further consultation with residents will commence shortly. Additionally we are looking to plant trees on the Parish Land in the Coppice, which should hopefully happen by November.
- We are additionally trying to co-ordinate actions within the Parish for the Great Big Green Week. 8th-16th June to highlight various activities and events to promote Environmental awareness and understanding.
- We have been working in partnership with Kent County Council to improve the footpath signage within the village to encourage people to walk more to get around. We obtained grant funding from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

Community Events Working Group

The committee oversaw the organisation of the community events in the village, including the annual fireworks, the new and improved summer event 'Pembury in the Park' and the Christmas lights switch on 'Carols on The Green'. We are starting to work on this year's programme of events and we will share details of progress via social media and our website.



Pembury Village Hall

High Street, Pembury

Thursday 25 April 2024 7:15pm to 8:30pm

Come and chat to your Parish Councillors and find out more about the work of the Parish Council at this year's Informal Drop-in meeting.

Please check our social media channels, website and notice boards for more details

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - INFORMAL DROP IN

PEMBURY SOCIETY

The Society has its Spring meeting at 7.45pm on Wednesday, 24 April, at St. Peter's Upper Church when our guest speaker is Dr Bob Bowes, from the Kingswood Surgery, and past chairman of the Local NHS Trust.

He will be bringing us perspectives of Primary Care, the changes that have been experienced by patients in these last few years and the direction



for the future. As patients of any doctors' practice we all have had to cope with considerable change – how we interact with our surgeries, what to expect, who does what, and what is coming along during the next year or two in this digital age.

Dr Bowes is known to many as a Pembury resident, and a past speaker for the Society, and we think these insights will be informative, if not possibly controversial, so do come expecting an interesting meeting.

We are gathering material for our second book, all about Pembury past, so, as residents of Pembury may I ask you to consider a few things;

- If you or your family go back a long time in the village, maybe you have a story of early childhood - what it was like living in Pembury say in war or post war times;
- Have you an old house in Pembury and have its history, or those of previous inhabitants, who they were, and what they did? Or just about the house itself;
- Does your family have a Pembury business that goes back generations and there is a story to tell of its activities and ups and downs. Who was employed, where was it etc;
- Have you a sporting interest, and belong to a Pembury club that has a historical background and again a story of the past;
- Maybe you have pictures, postcards, maps and artifacts about Pembury stored away that would be of interest to people in Pembury?

Here are but a few suggestions, and there are many more, all of which may be of interest to be included in book 2 of Bygone Pembury. We would be interested to hear from you about anything that you could contribute. Please email us at info@ pemburysociety.org

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on 24 April even if not a current member or hearing from you about your contribution for the book!

David Hanes (Chairman)

115та ANNIVERSARY MILITARY ROAD RUN SUNDAY 14TH APRIL 2024 SEVENOAKS TO HASTINGS



Veteran and Vintage Cars and Military Vehicles will depart Sevenoaks at 10 am, then via Tonbridge and Pembury to Lamberhurst with a stop there at the George and Dragon Inn from 11 am. Then via the A21 to Hastings and along the seafront from St Leonards to the Stade Open Space where they will be on display between 12.00 to 15.30.



For more information, go to:

https://www.imps.org.uk/roadrun/



AA MILITARY ROAD RUN RETURNS - SUNDAY 14 APRIL

Some 60 privately owned historic military vehicles and veteran, vintage and classic cars will be travelling down the A21 from Sevenoaks to Hastings to commemorate the 115th anniversary of the original "Guards Dash".

The vehicles will be travelling through Pembury between about 10.00am and 11.30am and will best be seen from the Village Green as they come down the High Street and Hastings Road. The event has been organised by the Invicta-Military Vehicle Preservation Society (IMPS) and the AA, in conjunction with members of the Veteran Car Club, and will be raising money for Combat Stress. There will be a collection for the Charity and this will be done by 'Pembury Scouts'.

AA MILITARY ROAD RUN RETURNS - continued

On 17 March 1909 a procession of cars, packed with Guardsmen, set off from London, travelling down the A21 to Hastings. This was the first time that motor vehicles were used to transport troops operationally. The exercise was organised by the War Office and the AA to assess the effectiveness of moving a battalion of troops by car to the coast "in the event of a threat of invasion". It was christened by the Press as the "Guards Dash to Hastings". (See Bygone Pembury Book for pics and details p.154).

If you own a military vehicle (not armoured), or pre 1965 veteran, vintage or classic car, or motorcycle, and would like to take part, full details of the run, and entry forms can be found at: The AA Military Road Run-Invicta Military-Vehicle Preservation Society (imps.org.uk), or by emailing the organiser jac.baxter46@gmail.com.



LOCAL PEMBURY FAMILY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In my role as a teacher at Pembury Primary School, I have met several hundreds of families and taught many wonderful Pembury, and local, children. We moved to Pembury (or back, in my case, having lived here until I was 18!) in April 2021 so that our son, Kit, could get a place at the school. Little did we know that, just 6 weeks later, our lives would be changed forever.

For the first 18 months of his life Kit was a happy, kind and helpful boy. He was reaching all the milestones and his latest phrase was 'there you go' for everything he got out of the dishwasher!



He began to have seizures linked to common illnesses such as tonsillitis, when out of the blue he had a devastating 2-hour seizure (with no known cause). This caused global encephalitis (swelling of the brain), and he was placed in a coma for 3 weeks to protect his brain. While he was in PICU at King's College hospital we were told he would not survive, and to ring our family. After the most painful phone calls a parent could have, we prepared ourselves to say goodbye to Kit and began the process of organ donation.

But our brave boy wasn't going to give up so easily, he came off the ventilator and could breathe on his own! We were told he would be in a vegetative state, but after we moved to the High Dependency Unit and then to the ward we started to notice small improvements. We were in hospital for 3 months before we began our new life at home. We had only bought our new house 6 weeks before the seizure, and it was a doer-upper to say the least!

We are incredibly grateful that Kit is alive and enjoying his life, however he has been left with epilepsy, motor-dysfunction, partial blindness and with life-changing brain damage. He can no longer talk, walk, hold things; none of the things he was able to do before the seizure (except smile and laugh!)

We are fundraising to build an extension for him to have a room of his own downstairs with wheelchair access, wet room/bathroom, and access to the house so he can be with us. We qualify for some government funding, £30,000 (this amount was set in 1993, and would have covered the whole cost of the build.) Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has a discretionary fund of an extra £30,000, but combined this will not cover the single-storey extension needed to future proof his room which is looking to be £80,000-£100,000. Without the extension, his safety will be compromised as he continues to grow and we will be forced to put him into care which is something we will not do. As we both have careers, my husband Nick is a nurse at Demelza (a children's hospice and respite care), and a mortgage, therefore we qualify for

LOCAL PEMBURY FAMILY NEEDS YOUR HELP! continued

almost no support despite the huge costs involved in giving Kit a 'normal' happy life, particularly therapies, vehicles and neurological support only offered privately. Kit has huge potential to improve, we've seen him progress in strength and flexibility, eyesight improvements, reaching and choosing and it's only been 2 years since the traumatic incident. He has defied everything the doctors said, but in order to continue to improve he needs the space within our family home.

Our JustGiving page, reachable through the QR code below, currently has £10,800. This has been raised through generous local donations and some from further afield. Pembury Baptist Church, and its Kingdom Cafe, raised £3,000 for us in 2023, the doctors' surgery also donated. We sold blankets and Christmas decorations, lovingly made by my aunt, Lindy Rees, which raised £400. £2,400 from my union (paid directly to the builders), £3,000 from a legacy donation and £2,000 from a family donation.

Then there are all the individual donations, which we have gratefully received. But to get us to our target, we need to keep working, creating and attending events, as well as applying for grants. We will (hopefully) be organising a local event for later in the year, and we ask for your support.



Website: https://www.treeofhope.org.uk/a-room-of-kits-own

VOICES FROM THE PAST

During the compilation of "Bygone Pembury" in 2022 I noticed a collection of audio tapes in the Mary Standen Archive housed deep in the vaults of the local library. In late 2023 I requested to borrow the tapes in order to make digital copies before the tapes degraded or disintegrated. This I did in December 2023 and the results are now on the Pembury History website for anyone to hear.

The quality of some recordings is quite poor by today's standards as Mary Standen probably had little understanding of audio recording. It is assumed she just started her domestic cassette recorder going while chatting to her friends and neighbours. From the nature of the recordings, it seems she was trying to capture the memories of her elderly neighbours, particularly some living around Sandhurst Avenue. It is thought they were recorded in the 1970s -1990s.

Anyone knowing the Taverners, Youngs, Athertons or Vidgens may wish to inform them that it may be their ancestors amongst these voices from the past. Otherwise you may just wish to listen to these faded memories of bygone Pembury.

The MP3 audio files can be found in the Articles / Audio Tapes page at www.pastpages. co.uk/pemburyhistory

Tony Nicholls

NEW YEAR, NEW WINES?

After dry January and forbidden February, make March the time to enjoy something with a touch of class. Thus, this piece is dedicated to the classiest varieties of all: the cool to moderate climate loving Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes. Be it still or sparkling, few varieties are as versatile. Both are iconic in traditional method (think Champagne) sparkling wines, but also shine as varietal still red or white wines. Fitting, therefore that we write this at the height of Burgundy 2022 En Primeur - a region that is the benchmark for quality Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines. As always, the styles highlighted are available from local retailers in a range of prices.

Even though we're well into 2024, there's always a good reason to pop some corks and sample some fizz. Rather than splashing the cash on something English or from that famous French region, look out for Cremant de Bourgogne. It is made in the same way as the expensive stuff, even aged on its lees for a minimum of 9 months to develop complexity. Serve alongside a local creamy cheese and smoked salmon bagels and you'll easily forget about champagne and their crazy prices.



We know for some that Chardonnay is the marmite of the wine world, but I urge you to give it another go. Good Chardonnay is all about the skill of the winemaker. For those still struggling with the bold, over-extracted, oaky examples from down-under, look to Macon for some unoaked pleasures. The fruit-forward wines pair beautifully alongside a mushroom risotto or chicken salad. But for those looking for a little more punch (and oak), the lesser-known regions in South America will be a concentrated fruit treat alongside a Sunday roast pork.

The words big and bold will never describe red wines made from Pinot Noir. We won't bore you with the science of why (or production rules), but we can guarantee a heady mix of perfumed red fruits and velvety tannins from most examples. Look out for riper Eastern European or Californian examples to pair alongside a lamb stew or steak and chips. Alternatively, a classic Burgundy or Oregon imitation (they're rather good actually) will marry amazingly well with duck or chicken. I'm already excited for this Sunday...

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

Cheers... Daniel & Jon

BOWLS CLUB

As I write (January) the frost is on the Green, but our club is busy with various social events starting with a fish and chip lunch with games, followed by a quiz in February. An afternoon tea at the London Beach Hotel has also been arranged for March.

April sees the start of the new bowling season, with our Open Day to be held on Saturday 20th April. This is a chance for novices to have a go under the guidance of members. This has been a very successful event over the past 2 years, a fun filled day with coffee, tea and cakes provided.

Make a note in your diary! There will be plenty of reminders around the village nearer the time.

Wendy Bidder Hon Secretary, Ladies Captain Pembury Bowls Club



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Who Let The Dads Out is a brilliant opportunity to have fun with the children! Every other month on Saturdays 9am-11am, we get together for crafts, activities and a bacon butty - what's not to like?!

If you are a Dad, Grandad or male Carer please feel free to bring yourself and your under 11s to Pembury Baptist Church Hall.

We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Youth and Children's Worker - Nichola on nichola@ pemburybaptistchurch.org or by calling 01892 825590.

2024 Dates: 27 April, 6 July, 31 August, 19 October, 14 December.

MESSY CHURCH

Pembury Messy Church is a brilliant opportunity to have fun with the family! Every other month on Saturdays 11am-1pm we get together for crafts, activities and a short message all based on a theme. This is followed by a buffet lunch – not to be missed!

2024 dates are: 30 March, 25 May, 20 July, 28 September and 7 December.

Hope to see you there!

Please email;

nichola@pemburybaptistchurch.org to book a place.

(Photo taken in Summer 23 - Nichola and the families at Messy Church built bug hotels for the Church gardens)



PEMBURY SCOUTING

All sections marched, as usual, in the Remembrance Parade and Service last November. It was great to see them all so smartly turned out. Well done to all our young people, you are a credit to our village and the Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouting. Thanks as always to our fantastic bunch of leaders, who volunteer their time each week to make these events happen for all our young people -- 'Alf' Alfieri (Group Scout Leader).

Beavers section. The Beaver Colony has been very busy throwing themselves into Christmas activities, including; international Santa, enjoying a Christmas party and learning about playing guitar with a visit from 'Musical Marcus'. We finished off the term at Temper Temper Chocolate, making incredible Christmas chocolate treats. The new year started with the traditional games night! We are working towards the Space badge & learning about



the stars, solar system & Tim Peake, who is not only an astronaut but a Scouting Ambassador too! Did you know that 11 out of the 12 Astronauts who walked on the moon were also Scouts! As I write, we are looking forward to a visit from the RSPB & celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Cubs section. The Cub Pack had a busy time towards the end of 2023 and in the lead up to Christmas. Some highlights include completing a treasure hunt around the



village, trying their hand at air rifle shooting and visiting Pembury Old Church, where they got to ring the bells! We finished the term off with a visit to Temper Temper Chocolate before Christmas. So far this term the Cubs have been doing badge work, looking at different faiths and religions around the world as well as religious festivals. We have also been playing our usual active games. Finally, we have invested new Cubs into our pack having recently moved up from Beavers and also awarded two Chief Scout Silver awards, the highest badge award available to Cubs!

Scouts section. In a bid to encourage quieter communication techniques, we made semaphore flags to send messages; no immediately obvious loss of volume! We then moved into the Christmas stretch by making paracord Christmas tree decorations, running a wide game of manhunt in the dark forest with glow sticks and some madcap games, involving woolly hats, gloves, scarves, bars of chocolate, knives and



forks and some dice. The new year started with some games, another forest wide game and a hike from Kent College to The Poacher and Partridge in Tudeley. We won't of course mention one of the leaders getting ankle deep in a ditch in the dark! Good fun had by all.

Explorers section. The Explorers recently held a 'frost camp' in the Scout hut compound, a Friday to Sunday event, including fire building and hiking. They have a number of events lined up in the coming months, some being quite demanding.

PEMBURY CRICKET

Season Fast Approaching – New Players Welcome

At the time of writing, cricket has just restarted again with our indoor winter nets for both adults and juniors, and we look forward to another enjoyable summer of cricket.

We are always looking for new members of all ages and abilities, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are interested. Plus, we are of course very keen to forge further links within the community to help us continue to evolve and indeed fulfil our ambitious plans for the Cricket Club, details of the various sponsorship packages we offer can be found via our website.

In January we held our AGM where the majority of officers remained unchanged.

Daniel Meijles will continue to lead the 1st XI in KCVL Division 3 in 2023, and Neil Mobbs will formally takeover the reins of the 2nd XI in KCVL Division 6.

Sundays will once again be under the charismatic tutelage of Grant Peters with a mix of youth and experience in the ranks with plenty of humour thrown in!

It promises to be another very busy season at Chalket Lane, as in addition to the senior teams, three junior sides will again compete in the Invicta Junior Leagues (u-11 - Steelers, u-13 - Blue Caps & u-15 - Colts) plus coaching throughout the summer. All three sides had very successful summers in 2023 with the Steelers & Blue Caps winning respective leagues, and the Colts runners-up.



"All Stars" the softball initiative for ages 5 – 9 returns again this summer from the beginning of May:

- All Stars Cricket is the best cricket experience for 5-9 year-olds.
- All kids are guaranteed to develop new skills while having fun and making friends.
- Participants receive a personalised backpack of goodies including a bat, ball and t-shirt!

Further details to follow in the coming weeks via the dedicated website and the various forms of social media.

Roll on the summer!

Richard Dawes Club Captain – Pembury CC pembury.play-cricket.com

- PemburyCricketClub
- e @pemburycc
- @pemburycricketclub

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

My name is Jane Pantony and I am leading a campaign for Hospice in the Weald to encourage people to think about things they probably don't want to think about! Having conversations about end-of-life decisions is so important, but are too often avoided for many different reasons, not least why would you want to talk about it!? But we need to.

At Hospice in the Weald, we recognise how important it is to think about the unthinkable and put things in place long before you hopefully need to. Understanding your options at the end of life and being equipped to have discussions with your loved ones and the professionals looking after you is vital.

Whether it's about how you want to be cared for if you become ill, getting your affairs in order / will writing, or communicating your wishes and planning your own funeral, we need to talk about it with our loved ones, or at least get it written down somewhere, so people know what you want. We want it to become much easier to talk about death and dying, mortality is unfortunately at 100%.

Our online campaign 'It's Never too early to...' began to open up those conversations earlier this year.

Please take a look at this link:

https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/ its-never-too-early-to/

And now we are offering free sessions to community groups and organisations, either for us to come to you or for you to come and visit us at the Hospice in Pembury or at Five Ashes. These sessions encourage conversations about memories, legacies and then lead on to bigger conversations which people continue when back at home. We will lead you on a mini journey of discovery and memories and get you thinking about what's most important to you. The events are fun and creative, and we have already had some amazing feedback on the sessions and of course tea, biscuits, support and tissues are always available.

As residents you will be aware of the issues we face with our ageing population and the increasing demands on the system with many people requiring longterm complex care. Therefore giving individuals the opportunity to make decisions early on will enhance quality of life and reduce anxiety around dying.

If any groups or local clubs are interested or would like to have more information about this campaign and about Death Literacy, please do not hesitate to contact me - details below or at my email jane. pantony@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Jane Pantony

Head of Counselling & Support Service Tel: 01892 820554 - 07708475844



OUR RAINBOWS NEED YOU!

In Pembury we have a busy Rainbow group, with a long waiting list. The current leaders no longer have the time to run the unit and would like to step back from Guiding later in 2024.

Would you be willing to volunteer – and offer exciting opportunities to the Rainbows? If we don't get new volunteers, the Rainbows will close, which would be a great pity.

If you would like to know more – please get in touch: pemburydistrict@btinternet.com or register your interest online: https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/getinvolved/become-a-volunteer/register-tovolunteer/

Moira Allan Pembury District Commissioner

KENT POLICE

At the end of last year, Kent Police met with parish and borough councillors across the whole of the Tunbridge Wells district. This was a new initiative to further engage with the councils embedded within their communities and an opportunity to help raise any concerns to our staff and officers in our Community Safety Unit.

One particular concern we saw, is a perceived lack of reporting to Kent Police regarding incidents happening in some of these areas. We have used these meetings to highlight the importance of reporting all incidents to the police, no matter how big or small and our officers pride themselves on gathering information which can really help build a picture of an issue or ongoing complaint.

There is also sometimes a perception from these meetings that `nothing will be

done', and I want to offer assurances that this is most certainly not the case. For example, over the past year, there has been an increased focus on tackling antisocial behaviour in and around Tunbridge Wells which has included enhanced patrols aimed at deterring and reducing offences and which include shop thefts, assaults, and criminal damage.

Our enforcement action has seen charge rates rise for several offences linked to anti-social behaviour. Between October 2022 and September 2023, there were 49 charges made for criminal damage, compared to 27 in the previous corresponding period - a rise of more than 80 per cent. Charges relating to offences involving the use of violence have also increased, to 230 from 204; whilst at the same time, the number of reported incidents involving the use of violence in the borough has fallen.





KENT POLICE continued

It is important to again highlight that information we receive regarding incidents within our communities, is often crucial to resolving residents' concerns, deterring and solving crime, and improving peoples' lives. Your support or information can help provide the missing puzzle piece which helps your local officers solve a crime.

CRIME REPORT

Welcome to 2024. We can only show you figures for the month of December due to a problem with the police systems but please see the graph which will show the rise and fall of the figures and thankfully they have levelled out for the last two months.

Sadly, the new system does not include as many types of crimes as the old system, in fact it makes



the level of crime committed in Pembury look insignificant with only four types of crime mentioned.

It is of great concern that there were 23 violence and sexual offences and it is of great importance that the offenders are brought to justice.

Violence and sexual offences - 23 Burglary - 6 Criminal damage and arson - 5 Shoplifting - 4

Burglary is something which is hard to prevent and one can only make the house as secure as possible and please if you get on with your neighbour let them know if you are going out or away. Shoplifting we can do nothing about other than to report it to the shop owner if you see it happen.

Take care Hugh Boorman

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 - 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 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		
PEMBURY WALKING GROUP	Martin Bolt. Tel: 07769707061		
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)		
TOWN & COUNTRY (High Weald Housing)	, , , ,		
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		

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 M Barrett Cllr M Weaver Cllr J Webster

Planning & Highways Committee

ClIr G Hall (C) ClIr D Reilly (VC) ClIr M Barrett ClIr V Gautam ClIr 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 N Stratton P Mason M Arnold L Matthews

Community Events Working Group

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

Pembury Village News Advisory Group

Cllr K Brooks (C) 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.



YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cllr Martin Barrett martin.barrett@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Astra Birch astra.birch@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr David Reilly david.reilly@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Christine Snow christine.snow@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Katy Brooks katy.brooks@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Clir Nigel Stratton MBE nigel.stratton@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Vivek Gautam vivek.gautam@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Clir Maggie Weaver maggie.weaver@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Clir Graham Hall graham.hall@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Jon Webster jon.webster@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk to Pembury Parish Council

Helen Munro c/o Parish Council Offices, Lower Green Recreation Ground Lower Green Road Pembury, TN2 4DZ Tel: 823193 Email: clerk@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Deputy Clerk to Pembury Parish Council

c/o Parish Council Offices, Lower Green Recreation Ground Lower Green Road Pembury, TN2 4DZ Tel: 823193 Email: deputy@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

BOROUGH COUNCIL



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