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# VILLAGE NEWS

Winter 2025

Issue 204

FREE



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## PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

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

### COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Pembury Village News (PVN) is published four times per year by the Parish Council. Deadline for the Spring issue is 1 February 2026. Consideration will be given to all articles providing space allows. To enquire about submitting articles or the distribution of the PVN please email: [pvn@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:pvn@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the Winter edition of Pembury Village News. We are now hurtling towards the festive season having enjoyed all the wonderful colours of Autumn, and although it gets dark so early now, there's only a few weeks until the shortest day and we can look forward to a few more minutes of light per day!

We have had some wonderful celebrations recently, thank you to everyone that attended the Firework Display and for your kind comments on social media. Although we had to change the date to avoid a clash with Halloween and Trick or Treating, and we were in the middle of half term weeks, we still had a great attendance, and once again we enjoyed an amazing display timed so brilliantly to the music.

We have recently honoured the fallen of the two World Wars, which is always a moving and humbling ceremony. We must give huge thanks to the volunteers who decorate our Village Green and the area around the War Memorial so splendidly. The sheer number of tributes, and the amount of work and hours that went into creating them are very much something to be proud

of. I enjoy trying to work out the new additions each year!

As I said, it will soon be Christmas, and as you receive this, we will have just held our tree lighting ceremony. Writing this several weeks before, I can only presume that it will be a joyous evening, with wonderful performances from the Primary school, and mulled wine being enjoyed responsibly! I love to see how much effort the villagers put into decorating their homes and gardens, and look forward to seeing them.

This time each year I mention the food bank at the Baptist Church, who will have bare cupboards soon when all their hampers are made up and delivered. Please donate what you can in January and check their website or social media to see what donation they would appreciate. Thank you.

Wishing you all a Happy festive season and New Year!

*Katy Brooks,*  
Chair, Pembury Parish Council



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## Join us for a festive Fundraiser at King William IV, Pembury!

Kate and Tony Somers are hosting a Christmas DJ Fundraiser on Friday 6th December — complete with music, dancing, and a grand raffle! Every penny raised will go towards a free Community Children's Christmas Party on Friday 20th December, featuring:

- Santa's Grotto
- Gifts for every child
- Party food
- A festive disco

We'd love your support for both events! Here's how you can help:

- Donate Unwanted Children's Gifts – Drop them off at the pub and we'll wrap them for the kids.
- Contribute Raffle Prizes – Any new or thoughtful items are welcome and appreciated.

Let's come together and make this a magical Christmas for the children of our community. Community spirit first – always!





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## PEMBURY PLAYERS



Can the babes escape the clutches of the nasty Sheriff? Will the heroic Robin Hood swoop in to save the day? And where did that wicked witch come from?

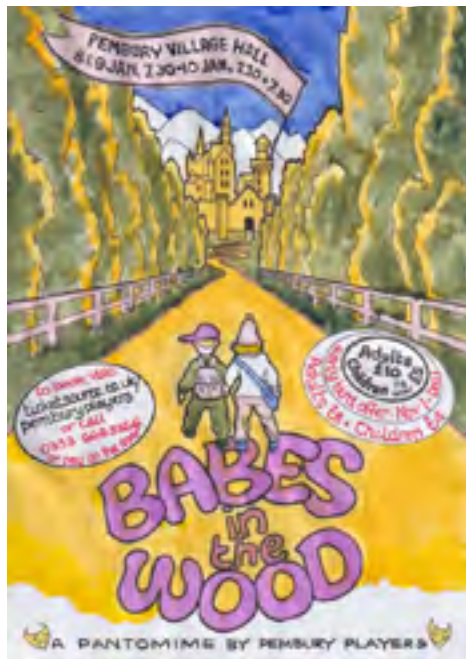
Join Pembury Players for a magical adventure full of laughter, music and mayhem in their sparkling production of *Babes in the Woods*.

Performances on:

- Thursday 8th January at 7:30pm
- Friday 9th January at 7:30pm
- Saturday matinee 10th January, 2pm
- Saturday evening 10th January, 7.30pm

Tickets are available via [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk) (03336-663366) or pay at the door.

Adult tickets £10, Children £5, reduced to £8 and £4 if booked between 1st and 30th November.



## COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support our recent community litter pick! Your enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment to keeping our local area clean made the event a fantastic success.

Together, we collected bags of rubbish from our streets and pavements – helping to create a tidier, safer, and more welcoming environment for everyone. It was wonderful to see people of all ages working side by side, proving once again that when we come together, we can make a big difference.

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to We Waste who provided equipment and took the collected rubbish

away and the Rapid Relief Team for providing refreshments to volunteers.

Community spirit is at the heart of what we do, and events like this remind us just how strong that spirit is. We hope to see you again at our next clean-up – stay tuned for details!





### Exciting new Climbing Frame now open at Lower Green Recreation Ground!

If you haven't already seen it, we are delighted to share that the brand-new climbing frame at Lower Green Recreation Ground has now been officially open since the beginning of November!

A huge thank you to Proludic for bringing this fantastic project to life. After months of anticipation, the impressive multi-play unit, is already proving to be a big hit. It's been great to see so many children enjoying the new climbing frame.

The new equipment has been specially designed to challenge and entertain older children, featuring double roll-over bars, a giant climbing wall, twisted rope climbers, high monkey bars, and a thrilling helter-skelter slide. Together, these features create the ultimate

outdoor adventure zone where young explorers can climb higher, play harder, and test their limits in a fun and safe environment.

The project was made possible through Section 106 funding, ensuring that local development directly benefits the community and its future generations.

Pembury Parish Council is delighted with the finished result and even more thrilled to see the local community embracing the new addition. The climbing frame marks a fantastic upgrade for the recreation ground, so if you haven't visited yet, head down to Lower Green Recreation Ground and see the amazing new climbing frame for yourself!



**Section 106** is a rule that requires housing developers to give something back to the community, such as funding local facilities. Our lovely new climbing frame was funded by contributions from the Sturgeons development, now called Oast Gardens on Henwood Green Road.

### Update:

Earlier this year, the Parish Council carried out an informal consultation on proposals to introduce double yellow lines at the junction of Maidstone Road and Church Road near the Primary School. The aim is to improve visibility for vehicles pulling out of Church Road and safety for pedestrians, particularly children and families during busy school times.

Following the informal consultation, the Parish Council submitted the results to Kent County Council (KCC), which is responsible for all highways matters and has overall authority for these works.

KCC then held a formal consultation, which has now closed. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their views during both stages of the process.

KCC will now review all feedback received before deciding whether to proceed with the scheme. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with KCC and will share updates as soon as a decision is made.

We know this has been a lengthy process but thank you for your patience and for taking part in helping to improve safety in the village.



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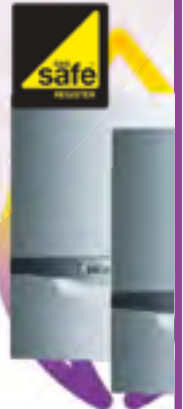
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Having met with the Parish Council, I know they share our desire to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and wider community, so together we'd like to draw attention to an important issue affecting many families and residents: parking around our local school during drop-off and pick-up times.

## Why It Matters

Congestion near the school can pose risks to children, inconvenience local residents, and create unnecessary stress for everyone involved. By working together, we can ensure that school parking is safe, respectful, and efficient.

## What We're Asking

We kindly ask parents, carers, and visitors to:

- Use designated parking areas and avoid blocking driveways, pavements, or access routes.
- Keep clear of bus stops and emergency access points.
- Be mindful of residents' access to their homes.
- Avoid engine idling, which contributes to air pollution near the school.
- Stay patient and courteous, especially during busy times.
- Where you can walk to school, please do.

## A Shared Responsibility

This isn't just a school issue – it's a community one. Whether you're a parent, a neighbour, or a passer-by, your actions help shape a safer environment for our children. We encourage everyone to be part of the solution.

## Looking Ahead

The Parish Council will continue to work with the school to explore long-term improvements and we will encourage our pupils to be part of awareness campaigns. Together, we can make our parish a safer, calmer place for children to learn and grow.

*Mrs Walters, Headteacher, Pembury Primary School*



## OLD KIT ON A NEW ADVENTURE



We all know how quickly football boots seem to shrink when young feet grow and how often team kits get updated to keep up with new sponsors, new seasons, and new players. But what happens to the old kit once it's been replaced?

This year, Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club has found a brilliant answer to that question. Instead of leaving perfectly good kit sitting in storage or heading to the recycling bin, the club decided to give it a second life - thousands of miles away in Tanzania.

Thanks to a local contact - a teacher who is currently volunteering for a year at Hotspring School in Tanzania we were able to send a big bundle of football gear to a place where it's really needed. The donation included shirts, shorts, socks, football boots, goalkeeping gloves, shin pads and even a few well-loved footballs. Everything was collected from our players' outgrown kits and team leftovers from past seasons.

Before receiving the kit, the children at Hotspring School often played football in their school polo shirts, sometimes even using balls made from rags tied together. Now, with proper kit, boots and equipment, they can really experience the joy of the game.

Even better, all the gear was transported free of charge, added to the luggage of our volunteer teacher on her journey to Tanzania. It's a great example of how kindness and community spirit can stretch far beyond our village.

Our kit is now helping another group of young footballers to enjoy the sense of excitement and belonging that we do, and that is something that everyone at the club can be proud of.

Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club would like to thank everyone who donated, helped pack, or simply spread the word. This small act of kindness shows how our village can have a big impact - even on the other side of the world.







## Farewell (but not goodbye) to our Chairman

After many years of dedicated service, David Hanes has stepped down as Chairman of the Pembury Society. This is not his first attempt - he tried to retire last year, and the year before that, but the committee simply wouldn't let him go. David has guided and steered us so ably that we felt he couldn't be released without a struggle.

Over the past ten years, David has led the Society through countless campaigns and projects - from the creation of the village map on the Green and the installation of new village signs to many other initiatives that have strengthened our community.

It was also David who first proposed producing an updated history of Pembury. That idea lingered on our committee agenda for many years before finally blossoming into our 'Bygone Pembury' project.

It would be nice to say he'll be dearly missed - but that's not quite true! David's retirement as Chairman doesn't mean he's disappearing. We fully expect (and secretly hope) he'll continue to prod, poke, and inspire projects from the sidelines for many years to come.

*The Pembury Society Committee*



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## PEMBURY GARDENERS' AUTUMN SHOW

Despite a dry summer, this year's Autumn Show was bursting with colour, with more than 200 entries on the benches. A real highlight was the rise in junior exhibits — the Little Rascals playgroup charmed everyone with their bright and cheerful creations.

Chrysanthemum champion Doug Drury impressed once again, with friendly competition from Tonbridge's Gary Knight. Dahlias and fuchsias added more colour, with visitor Sandra Barlass taking the fuchsia prize. In the creative awards, Brenda Penfold won best exhibit for Floral Art, Christine Lane received the Society award for cookery, and newcomer Hazel Daniel claimed the Geoffrey Theobald handicraft award.

Brian Fryer had an outstanding day, taking home both major RHS honours as well as the village's vegetable trophy.

Alongside the Show, the Society has enjoyed a busy year — from the plant sale on the Green to members' open gardens and a stall at Pembury in the Park.

We're always keen to welcome new members. If you'd like to help keep Pembury's three annual flower shows thriving, give Derek a call (01892 823804) and have a go next year.

Next Show: Saturday 28 March 2026, Village Hall



## Kent international Jamboree 2025 (KIJ25) at Detling Showground



Back in August Pembury Guides joined over 7000 young people enjoying the spectacle that is KIJ!

It's near on impossible to cover all of the activities available to us over the course of the week but I will try and list some: the Festival Fun Run; inflatables; driving; 4x4 off road rides; mountain biking; quad bikes; pedal carts; archery; tomahawk throwing; target shooting; zorbs; 3-D design and printing; engineering challenges; climbing; abseiling; crate stacking and a zip wire!

We were allocated a pitch on 'Tropical' sub camp, where we enjoyed early evening activities such as neon night and a Christmas outfit competition (which we won!), plus a Tropical soapbox car competition (which we also won!). Not only this but we were treated to busking bands and groups performing on the main stage arena every night.



There was an amazing Opening Ceremony that our very own Jay got to take part in, and at the close of KIJ25 we experienced the most awesome Closing Ceremony with Scouting For Girls performing live on stage followed by fireworks.



32 Nations were represented across the whole event, and we met fellow guides from quite a few! Many kilometres were walked during the week (my smart watch tells me I covered 153km!); the high fives that we shared were in the high 100s, and we swapped badged in the 100s too (leading to 100s of hours of badge sewing for some adults I fear..!) The memories we made were countless however, and we will be talking about them for a considerable time yet.

*Toto, Pembury Guides*







Setting up tents for an indoor sleepover at the Scout Hut.



Building some guys for the fire!



Visit to Pippins Farm. Thanks to David Knight for the tour and apples!



Thomas Hodson receiving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award – well done!







It is wonderful that the different churches in Pembury are so varied. Here at the Baptist Church, we represent more the 'low church' end of things. Our Sunday morning services are informal with contemporary music and spoken contributions from a variety of people. If you want to find out more, all our services are livestreamed and available to watch on YouTube, and our sermons can also be listened to on a weekly Podcast.

During the week we're very much a Community Church with activities to benefit everyone. Tuesday Club is a welcoming day centre for seniors with lunch and activities. On Wednesdays our toddler group Little Rascals is always popular. Thursdays has Bubbles, our lovely sensory group for mums and their under 3s and every Thursday and Friday we open up the church for Kingdom Café which offers lunches, cakes and more, all free of charge (though we raise money for each month's nominated charity). Friday after school is Blend, our drop-in youth group. All through the week we host Pembury Community Larder which is supported by contributions from across the village. The larder is available by appointment and in confidence for those who could use a little extra help. To find out more about any of these activities and more do visit the church website or call the office.

Recently we have been able to resurface and renovate two of our outdoor spaces – the play area which children and young people can enjoy, and our quiet garden which is often used during the warmer months by the visitors to our café.

I became the minister here in 2018, moving down from Hertfordshire with my family. We love Pembury and are grateful for the sense of community here. With two dogs, it's wonderful to have to have footpaths through woodland all around us! A highlight of my week is being a volunteer chaplain at the Hospital – the one time I put a dog collar on (the clerical kind). I find it a privilege to meet people from all walks of life, albeit at a difficult time for them.

We are a church that is very much here for you so whether you're new to the village or have been here for ages we'd love to see you.

*Rev Dan Foster, Pastor, Pembury Baptist Church*



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## New Fire Doors installed at Scout & Guide Hall

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from the Pembury Scout and Guide community.

Thanks to the incredible support from local organisations and residents, we have been able to replace all the internal doors in the Scout and Guide Hall with new, fire compliant doors.

This important upgrade was made possible through generous financial contributions from Kingdom Cafe, Community Coffee Shop, The Pembury Evening WI, Dacre House Vets, and Tesco. A successful application to the National Lottery completed the fundraising needed for the project.

The new doors were installed over the summer holidays, ensuring minimal

disruption to our activities and allowing us to welcome back young people to a safer environment this autumn.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who supported this effort. Your kindness and commitment have made a real difference to the safety and future of the hall – a space that welcomes around 200 young people every week through Guiding, Scouting, and other community activities.

Thank You – from all of us at the Pembury Scouts and Guides Hall committee!

*Shelley Harris,*  
 Chair, Pembury Scouts & Guide Hall



### Reporting potholes!

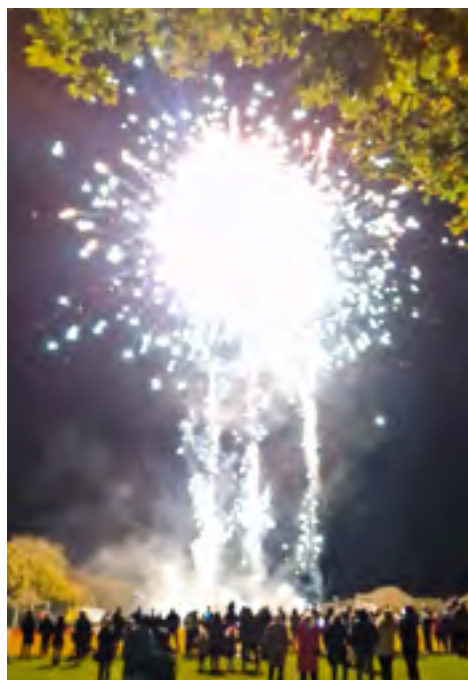
Potholes should be reported to Kent Council Council. You can either use their online form or phone them on 03000 41 81 81. Please note that KCC won't repair any pothole that is less than 5cm deep.

## FIREWORKS

We were delighted to welcome 2000 people to this year's amazing fireworks display! Here is a selection of some of your photos from the evening. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, and we'd like to say a huge thanks to the residents that helped out on the night - in particular the Pembury Scouts!







## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 9th November, the village came together in solemn reflection for the annual Remembrance Day parade and service at the war memorial. Residents, veterans, local groups, and dignitaries gathered to honour those who gave their lives in service to their country. The parade, led by uniformed organisations and accompanied by a respectful silence, culminated in a moving ceremony of wreath-laying and readings.

Adding to the atmosphere of remembrance, the village was beautifully adorned with poppy decorations and handcrafted post box toppers, lovingly created by local volunteers. We are so grateful to the team who put these together. Their thoughtful touches served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made and the enduring spirit of community.

We'd also like to say a huge "thank you" to the team at Tesco, where the poppy collection raised £9,818.56 for The Royal British Legion.





*Images courtesy of David Sellman*





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## Surgery data – 3rd Quarter 2025

- 6,444 patients registered
- 9,256 appointments offered; 5,469 face-to-face, 605 telephone, 2,953 online, 229 home visits
- 5,650 clinical letters processed
- 56,546 prescription items issued
- 12,246 telephone calls
- 164 patients did not attend their appointment.

## GP Appointment? Can't make it? Don't need it? CANCEL IT!

Check and Cancel Appointments - There is now a check and cancel appointments facility available on the phone system if no longer needed.

### Help us improve the service we provide you

Provide feedback of your recent experience  
[www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/friends-family-test](http://www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/friends-family-test)  
or scan the QR Code



## Waterfield House Patients Participation Group (PPG)

At a recent Waterfield House PPG meeting, we shared an update on the new Patient Need Groups (PNG). These groups help ensure patients with the greatest needs receive timely, targeted care across Kent and Medway. You can find out more by searching "Patient Need Groups" on our website: [www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk](http://www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk)

We also highlighted our Mental Health Navigators, who connect people to community support to improve wellbeing. To learn more, search "Adult Mental Health Navigator Service" on our website.

Finally, remember that Community Pharmacies offer far more than medicine dispensing. Services include Pharmacy First for common conditions, blood pressure checks, emergency contraception, help with medicines after hospital discharge, stop-smoking support, and flu/COVID vaccinations. Pharmacy First can save you waiting for a GP appointment. More details: [www.kmhealthandcare.uk/pharmacy](http://www.kmhealthandcare.uk/pharmacy)

The PPG has a new Chair. Nigel Stratton is taking over from Trudy Donachie, who we thank for her many years of dedication. Trudy will remain an active PPG member. New members are welcome! The next quarterly PPG meeting is on 14 January 2026 at 19:00 at Waterfield House Surgery.

### Quarterly Newsletter Available

[www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/ppg-newsletters](http://www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/ppg-newsletters),  
or scan this QR code.



## Another successful Year for our Club!

Our bowls club goes from strength to strength with an ever-younger membership.

Trophies were presented to worthy winners at the London Beach Hotel in Tenterden in October. This was a very lively event, with 74 members, family and friends attending.

Notable winners were Richard and Jenny Lloyd, who each won 3 competitions, including the Men's and Ladies' Singles. Tony Partridge also collected 3 trophies this year. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists who braved the hot weather on Finals Weekend.

Jane Jackson spoke warmly of our Chairman Malcolm Rhodes, whose unstinting work for the club over many years warranted

Life Membership which was presented to him. A well-deserved accolade!

Looking back over the year, we enjoyed a very successful barbecue with maximum capacity in August. Our Ladies Day, hosting other clubs, had a waiting list. Such is our expanding membership that we are currently looking at increasing our social area at the clubhouse.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party, followed by other social events in the New Year.

We wish all our members and our PVN readers a very Merry Christmas and a successful 2026!

*Wendy Bidder,*  
Hon Secreтар, Pembury Bowls Club



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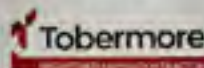
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# ENJOYABLE SUMMER AT THE CRICKET CLUB



The 2025 season drew to a close in September after another enjoyable and busy summer for PCC! The senior section saw the 1<sup>st</sup> XI finish 5th in their league and the 2nd XI in place 4th and have now subsequently achieved promotion. A particular highlight was the continued integration of younger players graduating from the junior section into both Saturday and Sunday cricket, which is very encouraging for the seasons ahead.



The Sunday XI once again had a full summer against a variety of opposition, with plenty of fun along the way, and continues to be a vital ingredient to our cricket offering. On the final Saturday of the season we held our "Senior Awards Evening" which went on long into the night.

Congratulations to the following winners:

**Cricketer of the Year:** Ben Parsons

**Sunday Player of the Year:** Dylan Manser

**Performance of the Year:** Chris Warneke

**Young Player of the Year:** Harry Dawes

**2nd XI Player of the Year:** Ian Scott

The junior season was another success, with good attendance at "All Stars": the softball introduction to cricket for ages 5-9. Once again we also ran competitive hardball teams at ages u-11, u-13 & u-15 in the Invicta Cricket Leagues and u-15 in the Smash Cup Competition.

Plans are already afoot for 2026 with indoor hardball coaching for juniors and adult nets beginning in February to lead us nicely into the season.

We are actively looking for new members of all ages and abilities, and if you would like to get involved with PCC, please feel free to get in touch through the variety of methods of communication listed below.

Roll on next summer!

*Richard Dawes*

Club Captain, Pembury CC

[pembury.play-cricket.com](https://pembury.play-cricket.com)



@PemburyCricketClub



@pemburycc



@pemburycricketclub

## REMINDER: DON'T MISS YOUR MAMMOGRAM

Did you know that once you reach 70, you'll no longer receive automatic invitations for routine breast screening? However, you are still entitled to a free mammogram every three years – you just need to request it.

Regular screening remains one of the best ways to detect breast changes early, often before any symptoms appear. Early detection can make treatment simpler and more effective, so it's well worth taking the time to book your appointment.

If it's been three years or more since your last mammogram, why not pick up the phone today? To arrange your appointment, simply contact the Peggy Wood Breast Care Unit at Maidstone Hospital on 01622 710185 or check out their website:

<https://www.mtw.nhs.uk/service/peggy-wood-breast-care-centre/>

Taking this small step could make a big difference to your health – and peace of mind.



## COMMUNITY CAFÉ



The Monday Coffee Shop recently flung open its pavilion doors to celebrate its 11th anniversary with a fundraising raffle and cheque presentation to the Kent Air Ambulance Service. Any worries about attendance quickly vanished as the Pembury community turned out in force. The morning buzzed with new and familiar faces enjoying coffee, delicious cakes, and our famous, award-worthy cheese scones. The raffle table was brimming with brilliant prizes – a huge thanks to our local businesses for their ever-generous support.

We raised just shy of £500 on the day, which we rounded up and added to designated donations, bringing our total to an amazing £1500. A big thank you to Air Ambulance volunteer David Mantz for joining us, receiving the cheque, and sharing more about the charity's incredible work.

We recently held our British Legion morning, with all proceeds going straight to the service, and on 15th December, we'll be stepping into full festive sparkle—so dust off those glad rags and kick off Christmas with a brew and a cheerful catch-up with friends.

Join us every Monday, 9.30–12.00 in the pavilion – we'd love to see you!



Tucked just off Pembury High Street on Cornford Lane, Aspens is a local charity making a big difference across the South-East. Each year, we support more than 3,000 children and adults on the autism spectrum or with learning disabilities – and their families – delivering over a million hours of care.

In Pembury, our beautiful site offers residential and supported living homes, plus Acorns Day Opportunities Centre where people enjoy art, cookery, pottery and animal care. We also have a sensory room available for local families to book.

The site is open to everyone all year round, with a peaceful woodland walk, family-friendly playground, much-loved animal farm and the cosy Bluebell Café – all set in stunning Kent countryside. Entry is free, with donations very welcome.

## How You Can Help This Winter

Our beautiful non-drop Nordmann fir Christmas trees, along with cards, wreaths and seasonal gifts, will be on sale at the Bluebell Café. Make a festive visit: collect your tree, pop to the farm, let the children explore the playground and enjoy a hot chocolate and mince pie. (TN Card holders: free hot drink with food purchases over £5!)

## Other Ways to Support

- Donate good-quality clothing, toys, books, accessories and homeware at our Pembury donations centre.
- Shop in our Paddock Wood, Crowborough and Bexhill charity shops, or browse online.
- Volunteer – from gardening to cafés and retail, there's a role for everyone.

Find out more at [aspens.org.uk](http://aspens.org.uk) – we'd love your support this winter and beyond.

## Events

### Christmas Tree & Wreath Sales

Bluebell Café, Cornford Lane, Pembury, TN2 4QU

Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10am – 4pm; Weds: 11am – 4pm

### Aspens Auction of Promises

Acorns Day Opportunities, Aspens, Cornford Lane, Pembury TN2 4QU

Friday 5 December, 6.30 – 9pm

(£5per ticket)

### Aspens Musical: Scrooge and the Tale of the Magical Christmas Hats

Acorns Day Opportunities, Aspens,

Cornford Lane, Pembury TN2 4QU

Monday 15 December, 1.30-3.30pm

(Free event)

### Join Aspens on the Ice at Skate Tunbridge Wells

Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1QY

19 December, 7pm



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### Looking back

In August, we enjoyed a relaxing yoga session with Liz Pink. Many of us stretched and breathed from our chairs or mats, and we all appreciated Liz's helpful tips. In September we enjoyed a lively talk on hardy geraniums from Jacqueline Aviolet with plenty of helpful gardening advice.

Later in the month, members joined a guided tour of Tudeley Church, where we learned about the life of the artist Marc Chagall, and how he came to design the windows there. Sadly, our Owl Walk at Bore Place was postponed to next October due to Storm Amy.

### 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'

This year's national WI resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers', focuses on increasing public confidence in CPR. Pembury Evening WI fully supports this aim, and we followed up with CPR and defibrillator training from James at Kent

Fire Brigade. Our confidence has certainly grown – though hopefully we won't need to put these skills into practice!

### Looking ahead

Our 2025 programme continues with talks about 'All Things Nutty' and 'All Things Sloe Gin and Chocolate' before we move into an exciting 2026 schedule, featuring practical sessions, informative talks and local interest presentations.

### Come and join us!

We are a friendly group and welcome new members and visitors. We meet on the first Friday of each month from 7.45pm at the Village Hall, with time for a chat over tea, coffee and cake. Do come along – or to find out more, email [pewisecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pewisecretary@gmail.com).

*Viv Walton,*  
Secretary, Pembury WI

## PEMBURY SCHOOL GARDENING CLUB

This autumn, the School Gardening Club played their part in the Harvest Festival celebrations at Old Church. The arrangements in old wellies brightening up the church.

A big well-done to all our enthusiastic gardeners!



## Christmas Tree Recycling

We offer a simple, eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree. Have your unwanted Christmas tree collected from your home and recycled, courtesy of Hospice in the Weald.

In exchange for a donation, the Hospice's elves will collect and recycle your Christmas tree between 10th and 12th January. No hassle, no waste, no needles in your car! This fantastic service is offered to residents within postcode areas TN1 to TN20 so tell your friends and help spread the word!

Please visit the events section of our website [hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk) for details.

All proceeds help to fund the free care and support Hospice in the Weald offers to adults and children in our community facing life-limiting illness.

## 2026 round up

As this year draws to a close, we at Hospice in the Weald would like to thank our incredible supporters and volunteers.

Whether you took part in one of our fundraising events – such as Moonlight Walk or Hospice Run - shopped in or donated to one of our 30 charity shops, bought a butterfly for Meadow of Memories, sponsored a friend, played our lottery, made a gift in your will or donated directly, thank you.

We are also grateful to the 1,000 volunteers who give their time, energy and skills. We couldn't do what we do without you. Your generosity makes a real difference to adults and children in our community facing life-limiting and terminal illnesses.



Thanks to you, we have supported 2,267 people and their loved ones this year. Our specialist teams cared for 388 people in our wards and provided advice and support to 1,809 people in their own homes and care homes. Hundreds more benefitted from activities, counselling and therapies to help them live well.

Every pound donated helps change lives. All our services are provided free of charge, but with only 13% of our funding coming from the government, we rely on the community to raise £25,000 every day to pay for vital care, equipment and patient support.

2026 is a big year ahead, as we refurbish our Pembury Hospice and celebrate 20 years of Hospice Run in Tunbridge Wells.

We are honoured to be part of the west Kent and East Sussex communities. Thank you for your support in 2025, and my very best wishes for the New Year.

*Katie Greywood,*  
Director of Income Generation,  
Hospice in the Weald

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH		
Saturday 6 December	11am-1pm	Messy Advent for all the family
Saturday 20 December	2.30pm	Christmas Journey around the village from PBC
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Day Celebration

ST ANSELM CATHOLIC CHURCH		
Sunday 21 December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Children's Crib Service
	5.00pm	Vigil mass
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Mass of the Dawn
	10.00am	Mass of the Day

THE PARISH OF ST. PETER		
Sunday 14 December	6.00pm	Carols and Readings for Christmas at the Upper Church
Sunday 21 December	9.30am	Christingle Service at the Upper Church
	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at the Old Church
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service at the Upper Church
	10.00pm	Christmas Communion ("Midnight in Bethlehem") at the Upper Church
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Communion (modern language) at the Upper Church
	10.00am	Christmas Communion (traditional language) at the Old Church





We love singing carols at Christmas, but many beloved tunes aren't truly about the Nativity. "Good King Wenceslaus," for instance, celebrates a 10th-century Bohemian saint and was meant for his feast day in September. Its snowy imagery and mention of Boxing Day helped it sneak into the Christmas repertoire.

"The Angel Gabriel from heaven came" focuses on the Annunciation, when Mary learns she'll bear Christ, celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> March, not Christmas. At St Anselm's, it's sung in both March and December.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" paints a frosty scene more befitting the English climate than Bethlehem's, where snow is rare. Christina Rossetti's poetic license adds charm, if not accuracy.

Even "We Three Kings" misleads: the Magi weren't kings, didn't visit a stable, and arrived twelve days after Christmas.

Scripture doesn't specify their number - only their three gifts.

Still, these carols uplift and inspire. Their melodies and messages draw us into the mystery of Christ, even if tradition sometimes blurs the lines.

*Fr. Ed Tomlinson*  
St Anselm



## CHRISTMAS JOY!



A key theme of Christmas is joy. It's sung in carols like Joy to the World and printed on countless Christmas cards. But where is joy truly found?

Curious to learn the answer, I asked Microsoft Co-Pilot. In seconds, it offered ideas: relationships, nature, hobbies, mindfulness. Helpful - but it made me wonder: what's the difference between pleasure and joy?

Pleasure often comes from outside - gifts, gadgets, glitter. Joy, I believe, comes from within. Advertisers push the idea that happiness is bought, but true joy isn't found in things.

The Christmas story offers deeper wisdom. On that first night, an angel

told shepherds, "I bring you good news of great joy." The birth of a baby brings wonder and hope - but this joy goes further. The New Testament mentions joy 53 times, often in hardship. St. Paul, even in prison, wrote, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Why? "The Lord is near."

That's the heart of it. The angel's message pointed not to a thing, but a person - Emmanuel, "God with us." Joy is the echo of God's life within us.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas!

*Rev. Richard Worssam,*  
St Peter's Pembury



# VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

360 DANCE	Sadie Van Der Spuy. Tel: 07734 053509. <a href="http://www.360dance.co.uk">www.360dance.co.uk</a>
AGE UK	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: <a href="mailto:sue_nuttall@tiscali.co.uk">sue_nuttall@tiscali.co.uk</a>
FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH	Chairman: Mrs S. Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road. Tel: 823932
GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS	Beci Hudson - <a href="mailto:guidingwithfluffy@hotmail.com">guidingwithfluffy@hotmail.com</a>
HOSPICE IN THE WEALD	Maidstone Road. Tel: 820500
INDEPENDENTS FOR TUNBRIDGE WELLS	David Hayward. Tel: 01892 808000
JUNIOR DARTS	Dan Littlechild. Tel: 07947 084266
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
PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP	<a href="http://www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/about-the-ppg">www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/about-the-ppg</a>
PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL	<a href="http://www.pemburyyouthfc.co.uk">www.pemburyyouthfc.co.uk</a>
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 <a href="mailto:mrssam.knight@btinternet.com">mrssam.knight@btinternet.com</a>
PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB	Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Weaver, 51 Heskett Park Tel: 824362
PEMBURY DAY CENTRE	c/o PBC Office. Tel: 825590
PEMBURY FITNESS	<a href="http://www.pemburyfitness.co.uk">www.pemburyfitness.co.uk</a> . 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
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PEMBURY PLAYERS	Maggie Weaver, Chair of Pembury Players. Tel: 824362
PEMBURY SCHOOL	School Office. Tel: 822259
PEMBURY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION	Chair: Caroline Hurmson. email: <a href="mailto:psa@pembury.kent.sch.uk">psa@pembury.kent.sch.uk</a>
PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY	Mrs Kelly Marsh - Manager of Pembury School House Nursery. Tel: 825580
PEMBURY SOCIETY	Information <a href="http://www.pemburysociety.org.uk">www.pemburysociety.org.uk</a>
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PEMBURY U3A	Annie Partridge. Email: <a href="mailto:membership@pemburyu3a.org">membership@pemburyu3a.org</a>
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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
WATERFIELD HOUSE SURGERY	825488 <a href="http://www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk">www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk</a>
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	Secretary: Mrs Viv Walton Tel: 07860 361252 Email: <a href="mailto:pewisecretary@gmail.com">pewisecretary@gmail.com</a> Web: <a href="http://pemburyeveningwi.wordpress.com">pemburyeveningwi.wordpress.com</a>

# PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIPS

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Cllr Nigel Stratton – Chair Cllr Katy Brooks – Vice-Chair Cllr Chris Banwell Cllr Astra Birch Cllr Paul Simmons VACANCY x1

Communications Committee
Cllr Brian Hemsley- Chair Cllr Katy Brooks – Vice-Chair Cllr Patrick Gillan Cllr Maggie Weaver VACANCY x2

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Cllr Christine Snow– Chair Cllr Patrick Gillan – Vice-Chair Cllr Lisa Maddison-Brown Cllr Paul Simmons Cllr Maggie Weaver VACANCY x1

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Planning & Highways Committee
Cllr Katy Brooks – Chair Cllr Graham Hall – Vice Chair Cllr Brian Hemsley Cllr Lisa Maddison-Brown Cllr Paul Simmons Cllr Lester Young

## Appointments to Outside Bodies from May 2025

### KALC Area Committee

Cllr Katy Brooks  
Cllr Nigel Stratton

### KALC Annual Meeting

Cllr Katy Brooks  
Cllr Nigel Stratton

### Charles Amherst Alms-houses

Cllr Nigel Stratton  
Cllr Maggie Weaver

### Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Katy Brooks  
Cllr Patrick Gillan  
Cllr Maggie Weaver

### Pavilion Management Committee

Cllr Graham Hall  
Cllr Christine Snow  
Cllr Nigel Stratton

### Save Pembury

Cllr Christine Snow  
Cllr Nigel Stratton

## YOUR COUNCILLORS



**Cllr Chris Banwell**

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**Cllr Graham Hall**

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**Cllr Maggie Weaver**

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**Cllr Brian Hemsley**

brian.hemsley@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



**Cllr Lester Young**

lester.young@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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### BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Cllr David Hayward**

3 Stanam Road,  
TN2 4LD  
Tel: 01892 808000



**Cllr Astra Birch**

34 Elmhurst Avenue  
Pembury,  
TN2 4DA



**Cllr Hugh Patterson**

60 Sychem Place  
Five Oak Green,  
TN12 6TS  
Tel: 01892 837201

### COUNTY COUNCIL



**Cllr Colin Sefton**

Colin.Sefton@  
kent.gov.uk

#### Clerk to Pembury Parish Council

Helen Munro

c/o Parish Council Offices, Lower Green

Recreation Ground, Lower Green Road

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