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VILLAGE NEWS

Spring 2026

Issue 205



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Picnic in the Park
4 July





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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

C/O Parish Council Office, Lower Green Recreation Ground,
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CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the first edition of the PVN for 2026.

The end of last year witnessed the changing of the guard at the Parish Council. Our Chair for the last 7 years, Katy Brooks, stood down both from the Chair and the Council, due to personal reasons. At our January meeting I was elected in her place, having been Vice-Chair for the last few years.

We wish Katy all the best for the future and thank her for all she has done in her time as a Councillor. She threatens that in the future, she might return!

Also, we have a new Chair of Planning, Lester Young who has also been elected as Vice-Chair of the Council.

At the end of the year the Local Plan was adopted and following this, the planning applications on Hastings Road (PE/2 & PE/3) are likely to come before the Planning Committee at the Borough Council sooner rather than later. Possibly as early as March. So, Lester will have

his work cut out and we wish him and the Planning Committee well in dealing with these.



I think 2026 is going to be a pivotal year planning-wise. In the autumn we may well see work beginning on the revision of the Local Plan and a 'call for sites'. Also, we are going to start a review of the Neighbourhood Plan in the light of the adoption of the local plan and the awaited revision of the National Planning Policy Framework.

What I would like to see for Pembury is what I call 'Pembury 2040' which sets out a vision for the future of the village. We have set up a Strategy Group on the Council to start talking about this. Once we have some definite ideas we will go out to local organisations and residents for their views.

To help take our minds off some of this, the Events Committee are planning the traditional village events, although there may be one or two changes to the format this year. Watch this space!

A festive banner for a picnic event. The background is light blue with colorful triangular bunting flags in red, yellow, and blue. The text is centered and reads: "PICNIC IN THE PARK RETURNS!" in bold brown letters, "SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026" in large green letters, and "SAVE THE DATE" in a red stamp-like box on the left. On the right is the Pembury Parish Council logo, which is circular and features a tree and a building, with the text "PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL" around the perimeter.



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A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR OUTGOING CHAIR



A message from Cllr Patrick Gillan to our outgoing Chair Katy Brooks:

"Katy Brooks, former Chair of the Parish Council, is a woman who seems to pack several lives into one. Always on the move, always juggling commitments, she thrives on busy-ness and wears it lightly. Bubbly and sociable, she loves a good party and rarely misses a chance to celebrate, yet beneath the sparkle is a sharp, organised mind and a deep devotion to her family. Educated, capable, and effortlessly confident in public life, Katy is the sort of person who makes leadership look natural — and exhausting — all at once.

In summary, I speak for all of us on the Parish Council when I say she will be missed, and we wish her peace and everlasting joy in all she does."



Unveiling War Memorial plaques at their new location in 2018



Katy with previous PCC Chair June Crowhurst in 2019



Planting a tree for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022



Katy & me (as Prince Charming!) at Picnic on the Green 2019

NEW PICNIC AREA AT LOWER GREEN RECREATION GROUND



In response to residents' requests for more shade in the Recreation ground we have installed a shade pergola in the junior playground, along with some brand new picnic benches.

The 5m high pergola will provide a cool spot for parents and children on sunny days and the addition of 3 picnic tables has created a welcoming space for families to relax, share lunch and enjoy the outdoors.

Pembury Rec is a fantastic place to spend a summer's day — but until now, finding shade has been a challenge. This new feature ensures that visitors can enjoy the playground comfortably, even on the hottest days.

The picnic area project has been grant funded by Tunbridge Wells Borough

Council, with Sovereign Play as the supplier and installer.

We are pleased that this is all in place and ready to go ready for when the weather turns warmer!



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



Saturday 28th March 2026
Meet on the Village Green at 10:30am

Please join us

Lunch for participants at 12pm.
Litter pickers and hi viz jackets provided.
Please bring your own gloves.



WHAT HAPPENS TO MY RECYCLING ONCE IT LEAVES MY HOME?



Join us for an eye-opening talk on recycling and discover what happens to your organic, plastic, glass and household waste.

Date: Thursday 26 March 2026 **Time:** 6.30pm-7.30pm

Venue: The Pavilion, Lower Green Rec Ground TN2 4DZ

Free Entry: All Welcome

Includes short films of local recycling plants in action and Q&A session.

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a Parish Council Working Group



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117TH ANNIVERSARY MILITARY ROAD RUN SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 2026 SEVENOAKS TO HASTINGS



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PEMBURY GREEN
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To raise funds for **COMBAT STRESS**
A cavalcade of Veteran, Vintage and Classic Cars and
Military Vehicles

will be travelling from Sevenoaks to Hastings along the A21
through **Pembury** from 10.00 am, then continuing to **Hastings**
via **Battle** and the **St Leonards** seafront to the **Stade**
Open Space where they will be on **public display**



For more information, Google:
The AA Military Road Run



Pembury Spring Craft Market

Saturday 9th May 2026 • 10am - 2pm • Free Entry

Stalls include:

- Jewellery
- Honey, Chutney & Jams
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Plus:

- Raffle & Refreshments

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Commemorative Statues purchased for Pembury War Memorial

We have recently purchased a pair of silhouette statues as a permanent addition to Pembury War memorial, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2, in 2025.

The metal statues, depicting an unknown Tommy and Women in War were made by veterans employed by the charity Royal British Veterans Enterprise (RBVE). They offer a poignant reminder of fallen soldiers and those who continue to serve, enhancing our commemorative and reflective space here in the village.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENT AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Thank you so much to everyone in the village who attended our annual Christmas lights event on 28 November. We're sure you'll agree that as usual the Village Green looked stunning, and we delighted to have found such an impressive tree as the centrepiece!

Thank you to the Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy from Pembury Primary School for doing the honours of turning the lights on, and to the wonderful School Choir for leading us in some traditional favourites. We also enjoyed poem readings,

courtesy of Pembury Guides.

The atmosphere was enhanced by the delicious mince pies which were generously supplied by Tesco Pembury, along with mulled wine we provided to warm the cockles on what was a dry but pretty chilly evening! Thank you to everyone involved in kicking off Christmas in Pembury and we hope you'll join us again for more community events throughout the year.

Message from the new Chair

I am delighted to introduce myself, Peter Bruce, as the new Chair of The Pembury Society. It is a privilege to lead a group so dedicated to the well-being and heritage of our village.

My first duty is to offer heartfelt thanks to those who have served us so well: We owe a huge debt to our outgoing Chair, David Hanes, for his sterling service. His leadership has been vital in navigating the Society through recent years, and we also say a fond farewell to Richard Snow, who is also retiring from the committee. Richard has contributed many years of outstanding service, with the refurbishment of the War Memorial standing as a lasting testament to his dedication. We wish them both the very essence of a happy retirement from their respective roles.



The Local Plan: A critical Turning Point

The Tunbridge Wells Local Plan has now been officially adopted. This means we expect major development applications to be submitted rapidly, with a high likelihood of approval. The Pembury Society's mission is to ensure that Pembury is not simply 'built upon,' but truly enhanced. We will rigorously oppose any development that does not provide direct benefits to the village or fails to include the essential infrastructure we have long awaited.

We are focusing our expertise on ensuring developers contribute to:

- **Transport:** Relief for our roads and adequate parking.
- **Utilities:** Upgraded water supply and sewerage systems.
- **Services:** Capacity in our schools and, crucially, primary healthcare.

The Society is a team of volunteers with professional expertise who care deeply about Pembury. We are the line of defence against haphazard growth and developers looking to get away with the bare minimum. We have a proven track record of successful public works, but the challenges ahead are significant. We need you. Whether you have a specific skill or simply feel strongly about our village's future, your involvement makes us stronger. To find out how you can join us visit www.pemburysociety.org

If you care about the future of Pembury, there has never been a more important time to get involved.

AA MILITARY ROAD RUN RETURNS

Road Run Returns to Pembury – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Sunday 19 April, when Pembury will once again welcome a wonderful sight: over 60 privately owned historic military vehicles, along with veteran, vintage and classic cars, travelling from Sevenoaks to Hastings via our village.

The vehicles are expected to arrive in the village between 10am and 11.30am, and the best place to enjoy the spectacle is from the Village Green. The cavalcade will come down the A21 and pass through Pembury along the High Street, the Village Green and Hastings Road.

This much-loved event commemorates the 117th anniversary of the 'Guards Dash' of 1909, when a procession of cars, packed with Guardsmen, travelled from London to Hastings. It was the first time motor vehicles were used to transport troops operationally – a fascinating moment in British history (you can read more about this in *Bygone Pembury*, Volume 1).

If you fancy making a morning of it, refreshments will be available from 9.30am at The Camden Arms and The King William IV – a perfect way to warm up before the vehicles arrive. As well as the convoy, there will be a static display of military vehicles and models in the Camden car park, giving everyone a chance to take a closer look at the history on show. Pembury Explorer Scouts will be there to collect donations for Combat Stress, the charity that supports veterans with mental health needs. Your generosity will be very welcome.

This is a lovely community occasion and a chance to show our village at its very best. Please come along, bring friends or family, and give our visitors a warm Pembury welcome – they really do appreciate it!



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COMMUNITY CAFÉ

It has been a somewhat eventful few months for our Monday coffee shop in the pavilion. Would we or wouldn't we have water?! Could we or couldn't we boil everything and keep everything safe for all our wonderful customers?! We made it and did manage to have a festive Christmas morning on 15 December during which there was singing and dancing and donations presented to the Baptist Church for Tuesday club, Folly Wildlife Rescue and Different Strokes. A cheque was also sent to the Macular Society. Each received £200. Our wonderful community in Pembury have helped us to do all this as well as our donation to the Air Ambulance and our usual donations for Marie Curie and the British Legion.

Once more the water issues were a worry and a problem as we went into the New Year but, all being well we are now up and running as well as the water!

Come what may, the Coffee Shop does its utmost to open every Monday and there is always a warm welcome for everyone as well as the best cheese scones in the world and an array of assorted cakes and sausage rolls. We have a great team of volunteers baking and preparing for every Monday so if anyone would like to join our team, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We all look forward to seeing you next Monday in the pavilion. Doors open for 9.30am, with hot and cold drinks and cake served until midday.

We shall be letting everyone know which charity we have chosen as our main charity of the year in due course.



New Players welcome!

Cricket has restarted again with our indoor winter nets for both adults and juniors, and we look forward to another enjoyable summer of cricket!

We held our AGM at the start of February and would like to congratulate our newly appointed Chairman Andy Weaver, new Secretary John Webster and new Treasurer Neil Mobbs.

Daniel Meijles will continue to lead the 1st XI in KCVL Division 3 in 2026, and new Captain of the promoted 2nd XI Jamie Rogers will lead the side in KCVL Division 5.

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. 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 Stars' the softball initiative for ages 5 - 9 will also return this Summer from the beginning of May, where children can develop new skills while having fun and making friends.

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 fulfil our ambitious plans for the Club.



Richard Dawes

Club Captain, Pembury CC

pembury.play-cricket.com



@PemburyCricketClub



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Girlguiding in the village continues to grow with over 110 members across the sections. Here some of our girls share their thoughts about their experiences and adventures:

'We really love Rainbows. Some of our best bits were decorating the hedgehog cupcakes and making a handprint Guiding family tree. We loved going to Clip N Climb, especially because you could stop when you got high. And flying the owls was super fun as we got to hold them.'

Robyn & Rose - Pembury Rainbows



'I really enjoy going to Brownies, everything we do is fun. I especially loved going to our London trip. We started off by having a sleepover at the HQ. We had cake and hot chocolate before bed. Then, in the morning, we had Jay's marvellous porridge with brown sugar and whipped cream. It was delicious! The next day, we got the bus to the station to catch the train to London. We did a tour of London to see all the landmarks. Then we went to McDonalds and caught the train home again. We had one more night at the HQ. It was so fun.'

Marley M - 2nd Pembury Brownies

'I've been part of 1st Pembury Guides for over a year and we have done lots of exciting things including ice skating, theatre/cinema trips and even rifle shooting.'

'My favourite activity that we have done so far was our trip to Aqua Chimps last summer. Aqua Chimps is like Go Ape over water, an obstacle course with a big splash! The best bit of Aqua Chimps was getting to make my Guide promise on a giant hammock in the middle of the water.'

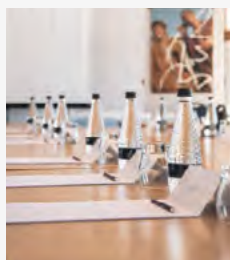
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Working for Pembury People



Annual Report 2025-26

Once again, the year has been an extremely busy one with the Council continuing to carry out its core functions. This includes the maintenance of the various cemeteries and burial grounds; the Village Green, Recreation Ground and the playing fields at Woodside.

During the year it has been great to see the new Climbing frame installed in the Recreation Ground, funded by S.106 monies. Likewise, the new pergola and benches which were grant funded. To help residents find their way round the village, additional 'twitten' signage has been put it. Also there have been new memorial benches and the erection of a handrail at the War Memorial.

The Council has continued to review and comply with existing and new legislative requirements. Budgets have been regularly monitored by the Finance Committee and once again I am pleased to say that we received a 'clear' external audit. We have also engaged with the proposals for Local Government Re-organisation and in particular the likely impact on the Parish.

Our Planning Committee have been kept very busy dealing with regular planning applications and have responded to 81 of these in 2025. They have also been involved in putting in a bid for road improvements to KCC and taken part in discussions in the village in relation to various parking problems. The Council has also put in objections to the major planning applications along Hastings Road and made clear our severe concerns about further traffic in the village, as well as the lack of adequate sewage and water supply.

We have also organised various village events, the details of which are dealt with elsewhere in this report.

I am most grateful to all our staff and my fellow councillors, both current and past, for all their hard work and commitment.



Nigel - Chair of Council

Some of the Functions and Facilities the Parish Council provides:



Events



Consultation on Planning & Highways issues



Christmas Tree
Christmas Lights



Benches, Bus Shelters & Streetlights



Burials and management
of 3 Burial Grounds



Woodside
Allotment



Children's Playground
& Recreation Ground



Sports Pitches & Tennis Courts

Where does the £360,154 Parish Council budget come from?

ANNUAL PRECEPT

£313,129

86.9% of the budget

INCOME FROM SERVICES

£29,800

8.3% of the budget

INCOME FROM COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS

£17,225

4.8% of the budget

2025/26 Expenditure

SERVICES £44.4K	COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION £133K	OPEN SPACES £153.7K	COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS £29K
Cemetery & Burials £33.3k	Council Admin & buildings £122.1k	Open Spaces & playgrounds £138.5k	Newsletter £8k
Allotments £1.3k	Loan & bank charges £4.2k	Dog bin emptying £3.2k	Events £11.5k
Streetlights & street furniture £9.8k	Grants & Donations £2.2k	Sinking funds £12k	Christmas Display £9.6k
	Planning £4.5k		



Committee and Working Group Chairs' Reports:



Events Committee

The Events Working Group had the pleasure of organising the 2025 events for the village, including the spectacular annual fireworks, our summer event 'Pembury in the Park', and 'Carols on the Green' for the Christmas lights switch-on. We are already rolling up our sleeves to plan this year's program of events and we'll be sharing regular updates on our progress via our website and social media pages.



Astra - Committee Chair

Planning & Highways Committee

The Planning and Highways Committee meets monthly in the Parish Council office to agree actions on all the planning applications in Pembury, in our capacity as a statutory consultee. This role limits us to making comments only, with the final decisions being made by the Borough Council. That said, they will consider all comments made by us, individuals and organisations.

This year we have been involved in:

- Consultation on double yellow lines - Maidstone Road / Church Road
- Meeting with the primary school to discuss parking problems
- Grant for highways priority projects – signage on rural lanes, improve signage on LG Road crossing & Woodgate way CCTV survey
- Submitted responses to 81 Planning applications in 2025
- Ongoing work on our Highways Improvement Plan

An additional agenda item for us this year is to look at Future Development, Water Resources and Infrastructure. This is very important for us in view of the recent water supply issues and multiple new developments proposed in our village.

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings, and there is dedicated slot on the agenda for you to address the Council on planning applications and highways issues.

For Planning applications, the best way to have your say is always on the planning portal <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/applications/search> as TWBC will read all comments made.

Lester - Committee Chair



Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Although the Working Party has not met during the year, the policies in the Plan have continued to be used in the assessment of planning applications.

In conjunction with our Planning Consultant, Alison Eardley, we have agreed that in the latter part of next financial year we will carry out a review of the Plan in the light of the adoption of the Local Plan and a revision of the National Planning Policy Framework. The Council has agreed to put some initial funding into the budget for the coming year, to get the ball rolling.

Nigel - Working Group Chair



Finance & HR Committee

During the year we have:

- Regularly reviewed expenditure and income against budget.
- Regularly reviewed the Risk Register, making amendments as needed, and assessments for individual events such as Fireworks & Pembury in the Park and also considering the implications of 'Martyn's Law'.
- Taken part in the recruitment process for a replacement Communications Officer.
- Taken part in the 3-yearly review of the Local Government Pension Scheme in the light of consolidation of the Town and Parish Councils' schemes into one Kent-wide scheme and considered what pension reserve we need for the future.
- Reviewed the Reports of the Internal Auditor; the Annual Governance and Accountability Return; the Annual Audit; the implications of the New Assertion 10 and any recommendations arising.
- Recommended to Full Council the Budget for 2026-2027 and the increase needed to sustain the current level of services provided to the Parish.
- Carried out a complete review and implementation of a new Grievance, Disciplinary and Capability Policy for members of staff.
- Reviewed many of the Council's policies including the Health & Safety Policy; Safeguarding Policy; Investment Strategy; Internal Audit terms of reference; Reserves Policy; and the Asset Management Policy.
- Carried out bank reconciliations on a monthly basis.
- Considered the amount and use of Reserves.
- Considered the effect of Local Government re-organisation on assets within the Parish currently held by the County & Borough councils.
- Carried out regular reviews of the Council's Strategic Plan.
- Considered the procurement process for the new climbing frame.
- Considered and made recommendations to Full Council on disbanding certain Working Groups and replacing them with committees.



Nigel - Committee Chair

Average Band D
home contributes

£131.75

per annum
£2.53 per week



Green Pembury Working Group



Green Pembury comprises a small group of individuals dedicated to investigating and implementing community projects, that aim to enhance village life for all Pembury residents.

Some of the projects we have been working on with this year include:

- Additional signage added to highlight a further 5 twittens in the village.
- Further considerations on the proposal for a 20-mph speed limit throughout the village, when the proposed housing developments go ahead.
- Further investigative work on Solar Energy electricity supply for our offices.
- Looking into registering open spaces in Pembury for 'Biodiversity Net Gain', to ensure the village directly benefits from new developments.
- Working with High Weald Swifts on the feasibility of locating Swift nesting boxes in Pembury to help restore the population these migratory birds.
- Arranging a presentation on domestic recycling.
- Work on a list of trees to be put forward for Tree Preservation orders.
- Looking at new technology to irrigate plants with minimal water consumption.
- Continuing to nurture young saplings for future planting around Pembury.



Lester - Working Group Chair



Communications Committee

The Communications Committee meets every other month. It oversees and produces the Pembury Village News, which is delivered quarterly. The Council's website <https://pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk> has an abundance of information, with latest news, recent notices, upcoming events and contact details.

The Pembury Village News is also available on the website, along with previous editions. You can also join us on Facebook and Instagram.



Brian - Committee Chair



Open Spaces Committee

We are pleased to say it has been another productive year for the Open Spaces Committee. I am sure many of you have noticed the new climbing frame in the recreation ground, we hope the children will enjoy exploring the various new challenges.

A grant from TWBC has also allowed us to install a new shade pergola and picnic benches in the children's area at the recreation ground.

A handrail has now been installed at the steps to the War Memorial, we hope this will be of assistance to those with mobility issues.

To commemorate the 80th year since the end of World War 2 we have installed 2 permanent LEST WE FORGET silhouettes at the War Memorial, which have been purchased from the Royal British Veteran's Enterprise.

We also hope you will enjoy the expansion of summer floral displays / hanging baskets throughout the summer.

Our next Annual Village Litter Pick will be on 28 March - we look forward to seeing you!

The Open Spaces Committee would like to thank our groundsmen Ryan and Darrell for their continued hard work and dedication to keeping our Village Green, recreation areas and cemeteries in such good condition.

Christine - Committee Chair



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e: clerk@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

t: 01892-823193





Holy Week and Easter

The celebration of Easter is at the heart of the Christian faith. We begin on Palm Sunday, which this year is on Sunday 29 March. We remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, riding a donkey, with the crowds cheering and waving Palm Branches. Here in Pembury we have a procession along the High Street as we wave palm branches and carry palm crosses while singing hymns for Palm Sunday. Then on Good Friday (3 April), we recall how Jesus died on the cross. We have an open-air service on the Village Green at 11.15am when all the churches gather together to remember this occasion. The cross demonstrates the depth of God's love for us all. Then on Easter Sunday (5 April), we celebrate the resurrection, with the joyful news that death is not the end, and that the hope of heaven awaits us all.

Retirement

I will be retiring at the end of April and I want to say how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to serve as Vicar of Pembury since 2019. Donna and I have been very happy living here in Pembury and I have loved ministering in the village. The congregations of the Upper and Old Churches of St. Peter have been so supportive and encouraging. Baptisms, weddings and funerals have allowed me to minister alongside families at significant stages in their lives. It has been a privilege to share in village occasions such as Remembrance Sunday. I have enjoyed all the special services in the cycle of the year such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest. I have valued the close links we have across the three churches in the village. It has been a joy to minister across the whole age-range from children to the elderly in a wide variety of contexts. Pembury is a wonderful village to live in! My retirement marks the end of 33 years of ordained ministry in the Diocese of Rochester. Next, Donna and I will have a 'gap year' in Otford where we own a house, and our long-term goal is to move to the States where both our sons and daughter-in-law live and work. We will cherish our memories of Pembury.





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This year sees UK Scouting celebrating 110 years of Cubs and 40 years of Beavers, with both sections still going strong; what a fantastic achievement! These sections will be marking these special birthdays with some memorable activities later this year. Scouting in Pembury is only made possible through the efforts of our volunteer leaders, who give up their time freely to provide 'skills for life' for our young people. If you wish to become involved in this rewarding venture with our fantastic Scout Group please contact me, Richard 'Alf' Alfieri, Pembury Scout Group Lead Volunteer (pemburyscoutgroup@gmail.com).

 **BEAVERS**

The Beavers had fun making 'Guys' for the camp fire in November.



 **Scouts**

The Scouts tried out curling at Fenton's ice rink for the first time. What great fun!



 **cubs**

The Cubs enjoyed Temper Temper Chocolate in Southborough for their Christmas activity.



 **EXPLORERS**

Pembury Explorers joined the Guides for a fun evening of ice skating.



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We have had interesting and varied meetings over the last few months. The November meeting proved to be quite nostalgic, with a presentation of events that happened during the 1960s. We remembered the social changes and the cultural influences of the decade as well as the ventures into space and seminal political moments such as the Cuba crisis, Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech and the assassination of both King and of John F Kennedy. We were reminded of action that women took at Ford, Dagenham for equal pay. The music of the decade brought back many memories, and we sang along with some!

Our December meeting was more focused on the present (in more ways than one!) with a talk from Kate Holt who runs a business called Sloe Seduction in Marden. She told us how she makes sloe gin chocolates and had plenty available for us to buy as Christmas presents.

Unfortunately, quite a few members could not make the January meeting because of the snow and ice but those who did were guided through making origami bookmarks and swans by our members with a gift for craft, Kay and Carol. We also had a quiz, so exercised our brains as well as our fingers!



In the next months

Up-coming meetings include a talk about Blood Runners, a charity that provides emergency courier services transporting blood products, for major hospitals and hospices; a talk about Influential Women just before International Women's Day on 8 March; and a chance to have a go at Silk Painting in April.

Come and join us!

We are a friendly group and welcome new members and visitors. We meet on the first Friday of each month (except April when it is the second Friday this year to avoid Good Friday) from 7.45pm at the Village Hall. As well as a talk or activity there is usually a competition and plenty of time for chatting over tea or coffee and cake. Do come and visit us to get a feel for our meetings and to decide whether it is for you, or for more information contact pewisecretary@gmail.com.

Viv Walton
Secretary



Top Tips for booking your Appointment:

The new 2025/26 GP contract aims to improve the way that appointments are booked:

- You can make a request for a GP appointment via the surgery website, by telephone or at reception.
- You will be required to provide details of your symptoms to help us prioritise your care.
- If you can, please complete your request online. This keeps phone lines free for digitally disadvantaged patients.
- All requests are filtered through a triage system and reviewed by a GP before an appointment time frame is given.

Please note that the new contract has not increased the number of appointments we can offer, and same-day capacity is limited. Once these are filled, we cannot accept further acute requests for that day.

If your request is urgent and same-day capacity has been reached, you will be advised to either:

- a) submit your request for the next day
- b) seek immediate alternative medical advice via NHS 111 (for non-life-threatening issues), 999 (for emergencies), or Urgent Treatment Centres.

For more guidance on choosing the right service for your needs, visit: www.stopthinkchoose.com

Important changes to accessing Treatment for Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs):

Pharmacists can now assess and treat uncomplicated UTIs in women aged 16-64. If you are in this patient group

please go to the local pharmacy first, providing that:

- You have had no more than 2 suspected UTIs in 6 months or 3 in 12 months
- You have no medical complications

Please note that The Surgery will not accept urine samples for this patient group. Pharmacists can assess and treat uncomplicated UTIs quickly and if needed will send a referral to your GP.

Please note that you cannot use Pharmacy First if you are:

- Pregnant or breastfeeding
- Diabetic
- Having recurrent UTIs
- Using a urinary catheter or have significant medical conditions

These patients should continue to come direct to The Surgery.

Waterfield House Patients Participation Group (PPG)

New members to the PPG would be most welcome. Our next quarterly meeting will take place at 7pm on 29 April 2026, at Waterfield House Surgery.

Please visit www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/ppg-newsletters, to see our latest newsletter



Have you set yourself some challenges for 2026? Have you ever wondered what it is like to step barefoot across red hot embers? Does putting yourself out of your comfort zone have some appeal?!

If those questions have got you thinking then consider participating in our newest challenge for 2026 – an exhilarating Firewalk!

There is also the added motivation that by accepting the challenge you will be helping to raise funds to support Hospice in the Weald in providing vital services to adults and children in the community when they need it most.

The event, hosted by UK FIREWALK, takes place at the Camden Arms in Pembury on Saturday 14 March from 6pm onwards.

You can participate as an individual, as a club, or a work-based team.

Before taking part, a qualified UK FIREWALK instructor will provide comprehensive training and guidance.

Make 14 March a different Saturday night experience – take on a challenge and achieve something new, knowing that you will be helping the Hospice provide support for people, and their families, who are experiencing life limiting illness.

For more information, and to enrol please visit the events section of our website www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk or contact our fundraising team fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk or tel. on 01892 820533

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Your Local Charity at the Heart of the Community

As spring arrives, it's the perfect time to explore Aspens on Cornford Lane, Pembury. Open to everyone, the charity's beautiful site offers a welcoming space to relax, play and connect with nature.

Aspens is a local charity providing high quality support to autistic people and those with learning disabilities, along with their families. Their integrated services empower individuals across the community.

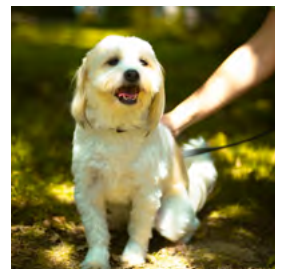
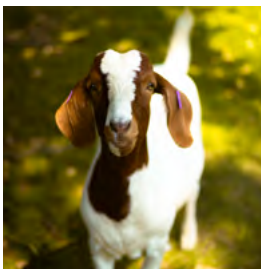
Visitors can enjoy the popular Bluebell Café, meet the farm animals, or wander through peaceful woodland. With an outdoor gym, children's playground and acres of open space, there's something for all ages – and dogs on leads are very welcome.

This spring brings a packed programme of Easter and May half term activities, including an Easter trail, themed crafts and outdoor fun. If you're decluttering this spring, there is a Donations Centre at the Pembury site, which gratefully accepts good quality, preloved items, which are sold in Aspens' charity shops in Paddock Wood, Crowborough and Bexhill to support the charity's work.

Upcoming events include an Inflatable 5K fundraiser at Brands Hatch on 16 May, and a special summer art exhibition celebrating Aspens' 10 year anniversary.

Volunteering with Aspens is hugely rewarding, whether regularly or at one off events. Contact volunteering@aspens.org.uk to get involved.

Find out more at aspens.org.uk and follow us @AspensCharities/ @Aspens_Charities





We are pleased to announce that there are now opportunities to apply to become a School Governor at Pembury Primary School.

Our school is a thriving community at the heart of the village. Following its most recent inspection Ofsted commented:

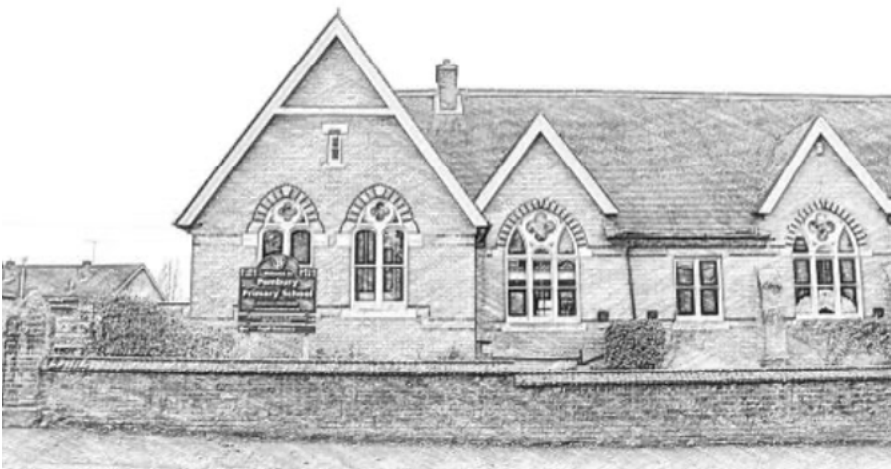
"With its high expectations, this school gets pupils happily involved and immersed in school life.... Pupils develop a keen interest, curiosity and enjoyment in their learning. Adults help them to tackle often-demanding tasks successfully. Pupils' positive achievement stretches beyond academic subjects. The school also supports pupils to become proactive citizens in the school community. It inspires them to reflect carefully about their responsibilities in the wider world."

School Governors are a group of experienced, professional and friendly volunteers who meet six times a year to offer open discussion and positive challenge to School Leaders. Their role is to ensure:

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

Governors also participate in monitoring activities which consider matters such as safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, Finance and Health and Safety, as well as progress with the School's Improvement Plan.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a Governor at Pembury Primary School, please contact the Chair of Governors via email at pdrew@pembury.kent.sch.uk or write to the school for his attention.





The new bowls season is approaching, with April being the beginning of the playing season. Registration Day is on Saturday 11 April and the green opens Monday 13 April, weather permitting. Junior sessions begin on Saturday 2 May for ages 8-17 years from 10am–11am. We would love to see more juniors, so just come along!

We will be holding our Open Day for new members on Sunday 19 April. Come and have a go or just a chat, guided by our members, with the added bonus of tea, coffee and cake. (If you do want to bowl, please ensure you wear flat shoes or trainers). There is always a friendly welcome and a chance to try out a new, or rekindle an old, skill. We are a very social club with many events throughout the year and a wide range of ages and talent!

We play many internal competitions and friendly matches against other local clubs at weekends and are also part of the Tunbridge Wells League, so there's plenty for all.

Sue Jones

Honorary Secretary

 **PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB**
OPEN DAY 2026
Sunday 19th April
2pm until 4.30pm
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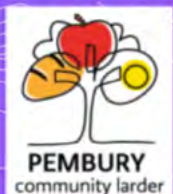
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Reporting potholes!

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.

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

360 DANCE	Sadie Van Der Spuy. Tel: 07734 053509. www.360dance.co.uk
AGE UK	Mrs Sandra Springett. Tel: 522591
ASPENS (FORMERLY PEPEBURY)	CEO – Robert Shanahan. Tel: 822168
CATHOLIC CHURCH	Fr. Ed Tomlinson. Tel: 825009
CONSERVATIVE PARTY	Sue Nuttall. Tel: 822776. Email: sue_nuttall@tiscali.co.uk
FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH	Chairman: Mrs S. Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road. Tel: 823932
GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS	Amanda Baker. pemburydistrict@gmail.com Tel: 07812 562814
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	www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk/about-the-ppg
PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL	www.pemburyyouthfc.co.uk
PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH	Church Office. Tel: 825590
PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB	Sue Jones. susanejones@ymail.com Tel: 07734 294855
PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB	Matthew Rosenz. Tel: 07798 657233
PEMBURY CHILDMINDER'S CO-ORDINATOR	Sam Knight. Tel: 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	Information www.pemburysociety.org
PEMBURY TAI CHI	Peter Histed. Tel: 07900 952103
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)	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 www.waterfieldhousepractice.nhs.uk
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	Secretary: Mrs Viv Walton Tel: 07860 361252 Email: pewisecretary@gmail.com Web: pemburyeveningwi.wordpress.com

PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIPS

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Cllr Nigel Stratton – Chair Cllr Astra Birch – Vice-Chair Cllr Chris Banwell Cllr Paul Simmons VACANCY x2

Communications Committee
Cllr Brian Hemsley - Chair Cllr Patrick Gillan Cllr Maggie Weaver VACANCY x3

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

Green Pembury Working Group
Cllr Lester Young - Chair Cllr Nigel Stratton Mark Arnold Martin Barrett Paul Mason Lawrence Matthews Tracey Perrett

Events Committee
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Strategic Working Group
Cllr Astra Birch Cllr Brian Hemsley Cllr Christine Snow Cllr Nigel Stratton Cllr Lester Young

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Cllr Nigel Stratton – Chair Cllr Graham Hall

Planning & Highways Committee
Cllr Lester Young – Chair Cllr Graham Hall – Vice Chair Cllr Brian Hemsley Cllr Lisa Maddison-Brown Cllr Paul Simmons VACANCY x1

Appointments to Outside Bodies from January 2026	
KALC Area Committee Cllr Nigel Stratton	Pavilion Management Committee Cllr Graham Hall Cllr Christine Snow Cllr Nigel Stratton
KALC Annual Meeting Cllr Nigel Stratton	Save Pembury Cllr Christine Snow Cllr Nigel Stratton
Charles Amherst Alms-houses Cllr Nigel Stratton Cllr Maggie Weaver	
Village Hall Management Committee Cllr Patrick Gillan Cllr Maggie Weaver	

YOUR COUNCILLORS



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chris.banwell@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Cllr Patrick Gillan
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Cllr Maggie Weaver
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Cllr Lester Young
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Cllr Lisa Maddison Brown
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@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Cllr Astra Birch
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Pembury,
TN2 4DA



Cllr Hugh Patterson
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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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Email: clerk@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



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