FREE

PEMBURY NEWS

Brought to you by Pembury Parish Council

Autumn 2026 Issue 207

Inside this issue:

- Local Explorer Scouts selected for Adventure of a Lifetime
- Local Government shake-up: What Pembury needs to know
- Picnic in the Park Success

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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

C/O Parish Council Office, Lower Green Recreation Ground,
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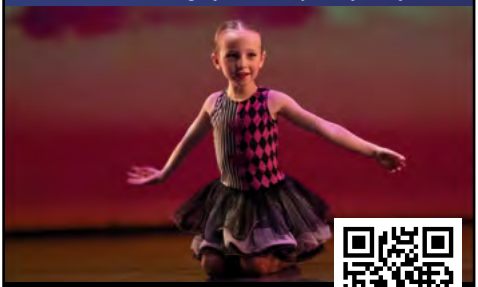

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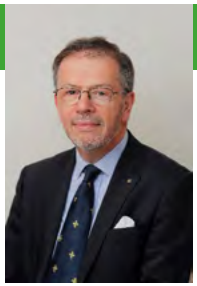

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our recent Digital Communications Survey. We were pleased to receive so many responses, giving us a valuable insight into how residents currently receive information from us and how they would like communications to develop. Your feedback will play an important role in helping the Council make informed decisions about how we communicate with residents in the future.

The survey showed just how much the Pembury News in its current form is valued, with many residents telling us they enjoy receiving the newsletter and having a printed source of local information to keep and refer back to. We also heard a range of views about digital communications, with some residents keen to receive more information online, while others were happy with how things are at the moment.

The feedback highlighted your interest in local events, community projects, planning updates, parks and green spaces, and information about local services and roadworks. Many respondents also took the time to provide additional comments and suggestions, which have given us a better understanding of what information matters most to residents.

Next Steps: Councillors will review the survey results in more detail and consider the various options available. The findings will help guide our final decision on the future of Council communications and ensure that any changes reflect the needs and preferences of our community.

For those of you who are happy to receive occasional digital communications, it is now possible to sign up for them. You can do this either by going to the website and entering your email address in the box provided in the "Sign Up To Receive Digital Communications" at the end of each page or send an email to office@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Cllr Nigel Stratton

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DISCOVER PEMBURY'S FRUIT TREE AVENUE

Located between the tennis courts and the wildflower meadow at Lower Green Recreation Ground, lies Pembury's very own Fruit Tree Avenue. It was created in 2023 to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, and what began as a community planting project has developed into a lovely local feature for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The avenue contains 24 fruit trees representing 12 varieties, and we've recently installed identification tabs so that you can recognise the different fruits. They include eating apple varieties, such as Scrumptious and Tickled Pink, pear varieties, Concorde and Onward, along with a crab apple, Malus Marble Nuvar, and a quince, Serbian Gold.

Each tree has its own character, flavour and harvest time, with fruit ranging from bright scarlet to green, gold and, in the case of the crab apple, pink and yellow marbling.

As the trees mature, we hope that Fruit Tree Avenue will become a small community orchard, providing a seasonal harvest while supporting biodiversity and adding visual interest to the Recreation Ground. Next time you visit, take a stroll along the avenue and see how many varieties you can spot!

VISIT PEMBURY LIBRARY

Have you been to Pembury Library recently? Did you know it's been recently refurbished and has a lovely children's section with cosy corners and playful décor. It's the perfect place to bring the little ones on a rainy day!

Opening hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm
Friday	10 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm
Saturday	10 am–2 pm
Sunday	Closed

PICNIC IN THE PARK BRINGS PEMBURY TOGETHER

Around 500 residents gathered at Pembury Recreation Ground for this year's Picnic in the Park, enjoying a fantastic afternoon of sunshine, entertainment and community spirit on one of the hottest days of the summer. The event was designed to provide a relaxed setting for families and friends to come together, enjoy the outdoors and make the most of our green space.

Families arrived with picnic blankets, chairs and hampers, creating a colourful scene across the recreation ground. There was plenty to keep visitors entertained throughout the day, with music from Mint DJs providing the perfect soundtrack to the afternoon. Visitors also enjoyed a range of refreshments available on site alongside their own picnics.

This year's event featured several popular additions, including an inflatable basketball game, a lively demonstration from Dance 360 and a free activity trail for children around the recreation ground. Younger visitors also enjoyed face painting and traditional fete-style games, helping to create a fun atmosphere for all ages.

The warm weather encouraged many people to stay well into the evening. Large family groups made the most of the open space, and as the event drew to a close, impromptu games of rounders and football sprang up around the recreation ground, adding to the friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Events such as Picnic in the Park play an important role in strengthening community connections, giving residents opportunities to meet new people, spend time with neighbours and develop a greater sense of belonging. The event once again demonstrated the value of bringing the community together through simple, accessible activities that can be enjoyed by all.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the day such a success. Particular thanks go to the volunteers who gave their time to assist with setting up, running activities and packing away afterwards. The success of this year's Picnic in the Park shows just how much Pembury values opportunities to come together and celebrate village life.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR AARON BRAND

I am delighted to have been co-opted as a new parish councillor and am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Pembury community.

Although I moved from Tunbridge Wells to Pembury in October 2025, my family connection with the village goes back much further. My mother lived here as a child, and my grandparents have lived in Pembury for more than 40 years. Some of my happiest memories are of walks around the village, local community events, helping on my grandfather's allotment, and lending a hand at the Bowls Club.

These experiences have given me a real affection for Pembury and a really strong appreciation of community life. As a councillor, I want to support a welcoming, active village where people of all ages enjoy living and feel able to contribute. I also hope to help protect what makes Pembury distinctive, while supporting positive ideas for its future.

Away from council life, I work in Sevenoaks and enjoy gardening, reading, history, and spending time in nature.

I look forward to meeting more residents, listening to their views, and working with fellow councillors to support Pembury's future.

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What It Means for Pembury

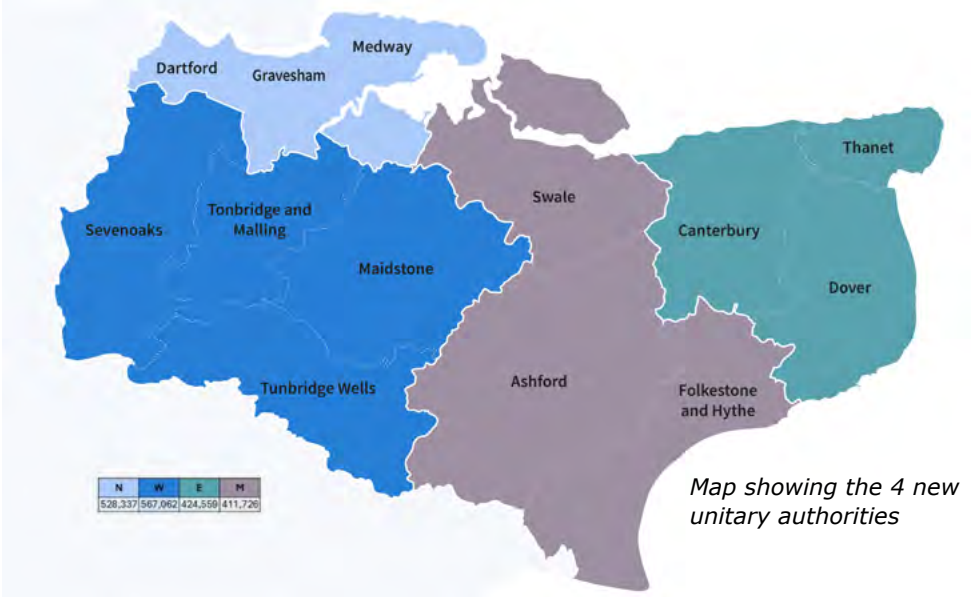
The Government has recently announced its decision on the future structure of local government in Kent and Medway. From 1 April 2028, the current two-tier system, made up of Kent County Council and district and borough councils, is going to be replaced by four new unitary authorities (shown in the image below).

Under the new arrangements, Pembury will become part of a new West Kent unitary authority, covering the current areas of Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling. This new council will be responsible for all local government services in its area, including those currently delivered by both Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The Government says the changes are intended to simplify local government by creating councils that provide all services under one organisation. At the moment, responsibilities are split between county and borough councils, but under the new system, services such as highways, education, social care, waste collection, planning and housing will all be delivered by a single authority.

Pembury residents will not see any immediate changes as existing councils will continue to operate and deliver services while detailed transition work takes place. Elections to new 'shadow authorities' are expected in May 2027, with the new unitary councils formally taking over in April 2028.

Pembury Parish Council will continue unchanged. Parish and town councils are not being abolished and will remain the most local level of government, representing residents and managing local services and community facilities. The Parish Council will work closely with the emerging West Kent authority throughout the transition period, ensuring that Pembury's interests are represented.



Map showing the 4 new unitary authorities

Being selected to attend the 2027 World Scout Jamboree in Poland is a remarkable achievement, and two local young people have earned that honour after a demanding selection process. Samantha Hodson from Pembury and Tom Clarkson from Tonbridge were chosen to represent Tunbridge Wells District at one of the world's largest youth events.

Their places were secured following a challenging assessment weekend designed to test teamwork, leadership, resilience and problem-solving skills. Candidates faced demanding outdoor tasks, including pitching tents, completing team-building exercises, managing a limited budget, shopping for provisions and cooking meals for fellow Scouts and leaders. Samantha and Tom impressed selectors and earned places in the Kent contingent travelling to Poland.

In July 2027, they will join more than 50,000 young people from over 120 countries for ten days of adventure, cultural exchange and international friendship. The World Scout Jamboree, held every four years, offers Scouts the chance to meet people from across the globe, learn about different cultures and develop skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Securing a place at the Jamboree was only the first challenge. Both Scouts are now working hard to raise the funds needed for the trip. Demonstrating impressive initiative and determination, they have already held stalls selling handmade crafts including paracord keyrings, pet rocks and bird boxes, baked and sold cakes, provided refreshments at the annual Tunbridge Wells Scout St George's Day celebration and undertaken odd jobs for friends and family.

Their fundraising efforts will continue over the coming year alongside a programme of pre-camps where they will learn practical skills such as cooking,

CHOSEN FOR WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

washing and sewing, while preparing for the international adventure ahead.

The theme of the 2027 Jamboree is 'Bravely', encouraging young people to act with courage and confidence. Samantha and Tom have already shown those qualities through both their successful selection and their commitment to raising the funds needed to take part. They are outstanding ambassadors for local Scouting and an inspiration to other young people hoping to follow in their footsteps.

If you would like to make a donation towards Samantha and Tom's huge adventure please contact margaretweaver@hotmail.co.uk.

A SHOUT OUT TO LOCAL HEROES!

Earlier this year Pembury resident Mrs Hampson tripped over and fell along Lower Green Road, on her way to the Library. It was a bad fall, resulting in a broken wrist, damage to her face and a lengthy hospital stay.

Several passers-by went to Mrs Hampson's aid immediately when she fell: they phoned for an ambulance and called her husband to let him know - even providing a chair for him when he arrived. Mrs Hampson got in touch with us at Pembury News as she wanted to publicly thank these passers-by for being so kind, considerate and helpful. 'I was so grateful they came to help me so quickly. I am so pleased we are lucky enough to live in Pembury where there are still heroes ready to help!' she says.

Thankfully, after an operation at Maidstone Hospital and taking time for rest and recuperation Mrs Hampson is now largely recovered – but she won't forget the kindness of those 5 strangers! A big 'thank you' to you, whoever you are!

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Celebrating a decade of support for autistic people and those with learning disabilities.

This autumn, Aspens is proud to celebrate a very special milestone - our 10th anniversary. Aspens has been supporting people across the South East for a decade, but our story stretches back much further. Our Pembury site has been at the heart of local care for almost 100 years, beginning in 1927 as Larkfield Hall, later becoming Pepenbury. Generations of people have lived, learned and flourished here, supported by a community committed to inclusion and independence.

Aspens was formed in 2016, when Pepenbury joined with Autism Sussex, a charity founded by determined parents who fought for better understanding and support for autistic children. Together, these histories shaped the organisation we are today: one that now supports hundreds of children, young people, adults and families across Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

As we celebrate our 10th year, we're inviting our local community to be part of the journey. Visit our beautiful Pembury site, enjoy delicious treats at the Bluebell Café, meet our friendly animals at the farm, join our events and consider buying your Christmas tree from us this year. Every visit and purchase directly supports our work.

Discover more about our history, services and celebrations at aspens.org.uk, and subscribe to our newsletter to stay connected. Here's to the next chapter!

Pembury WI have had a busy few months with varied activities. We have had a go at silk painting, listened to a talk about tax planning and had a really interesting presentation from Emma Lindsell of the Woodland Trust about the value of trees, focusing on ancient woodland. We also held our cake sale on the green on a wet, windy and cold June morning. A big thank you to those who supported us that day - our sales enable us to do things like contributing to the installation of a defibrillator outside the Village Hall.

We have some more exciting events coming up soon! As well as our fashion show on 26 September, to which you are invited, we have a visit to Bore Place for an Owl Walk at the beginning of October and our monthly activities include an interesting talk about 'Handbags in Downing Street'. Our forthcoming fashion show, held in conjunction with 'Colours' will be held on Saturday 26 September at 3pm. Tickets are available in advance or on the door and cost £7. High street brands of women's fashion will be on sale with up to 70% off!

The WI is a friendly group and welcomes new members and visitors. We meet on the first Friday each month 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. You can come along for one or two visits without joining the WI to get a feel for our meetings and to decide whether it is for you. For more information and to obtain tickets for the fashion show contact pewisecretary@gmail.com or send a message to Viv Walton on 07860 361252.

Viv Walton
Secretary

Here at Nourish Community Foodbank, Pembury has been close to our hearts since we first began supporting the village back in 2012. For over a decade, we've been working alongside local agencies to provide short-term crisis support for residents, delivering emergency food parcels directly to people's homes and helping connect them with other organisations that can offer longer-term advice and support.

Like so many charities, the last couple of years have been challenging. We've seen a steady decline in both food donations and financial support, while our message can sometimes get lost amongst everything else happening in the world. The need, however, hasn't gone away.

We've just emerged from one of our busiest times of the year – the school summer holidays. There is unfortunately a hidden holiday hunger affecting families who don't qualify for free school meals, but who still face the extra costs that come with six weeks of school holidays. Higher food bills, increased childcare costs and the challenge of keeping children fed while continuing to work can place enormous pressure on already stretched household budgets. Through referrals, we're able to provide short-term food support that helps families through difficult periods like this, but it does place additional demands on our food stocks and volunteers.

None of what we do would be possible without the incredible support of our local community. Whether you've donated a few tins, made a financial contribution, volunteered your time, organised a collection, or simply shared our story with friends and neighbours, you've helped someone in need.

I'll never stop being amazed by the kindness of strangers. Time and again, people choose to help someone they've never met, simply because they care. That generosity is what makes communities like Pembury so special.

From all of us at Nourish, thank you for continuing to look after your neighbours. Every act of kindness makes a difference: whether it's giving food, donating funds, volunteering your time or simply helping to spread the word. You are our voice within the community, and because of your kindness and compassion, we can continue to be there for local people when they need us most.

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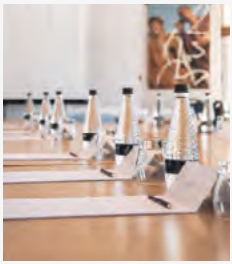

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COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP

It has been an eventful few months since my last report about the Community Coffee Shop. In the interests of complete democracy, we invited all our customers to help us choose two new poster designs from a wealth of amazing designs we had received from the local Brownies and Cubs. All the designs were on display at the coffee shop mornings for two weeks in the beginning of June after which we counted the votes and were able to announce the winners.

We were delighted to award prizes to Marley from Pembury Brownies and Grace from Pembury Cubs. Their posters will soon be printed and adopted as our new advertising posters. As a 'thank you' to everyone who submitted a poster design, the Coffee Shop will be presenting both packs with a donation at the end of the year. Keep a look out for the presentation date and you too can be a part of celebrating the creative talent we have in Pembury!

We happily accepted the invitation from the parish council to provide our cakes and drinks at the Picnic in the Park on 4 July. For once the weather was dry and not as hot as it has been during June, so it was a perfect afternoon for cream teas, cakes and hot and cold drinks. The whole event was a success and all our volunteers as well as customers had an enjoyable afternoon.

Finally, I must mention that our coffee shop has joined the 21st century and we now have a card reader so if you don't tend to carry cash, our cakes, coffee, tea and amazing cheese scones and sausage rolls can now be bought with plastic. Your purchases help us to continue to donate to local charities and community groups, like this year's chosen charity: Kent SERV Bloodrunners.

We all look forward to seeing you on Monday mornings in the Pavilion 9.30am – 12 noon (excluding bank holidays).

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR FOR PEMBURY VILLAGE HALL

We are delighted to share that Pembury Village Hall now has an external defibrillator, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for hall users and members of the public. This new defibrillator is located on the wall to the left of the hall's main entrance, clearly signposted and housed in a bright yellow cabinet.

Defibrillators are critical in cardiac arrest, where the heart stops beating effectively and are essential for immediate life-saving intervention. Signs that someone may need a defibrillator include, unresponsiveness, absence of a pulse and stopped or abnormal breathing.

Pembury has several defibrillators located throughout the village, with some available externally and others inside buildings. It's a good idea to know where your nearest defibrillator is before an emergency arises.

Using the defibrillator is simple. In an emergency, call 999, and the ambulance service will provide you with the access code and guide you through every step of using the device.

The purchase of this new defibrillator for the Village has been made possible thanks to the generous support of regular hall users, including Pembury U3A, Pembury Evening WI, Pembury Bridge Club, Keep Phytt (West Kent) CIC, and Griffin Teaching (some of whom are featured in the accompanying photograph).

The Village Hall extends its sincere thanks to all those who contributed to making this potentially life-saving facility available to the community.

To familiarise yourself with how a defibrillator works why not watch a short video produced by leading defibrillator charity London Hearts: https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5

Pembury Village Hall
Management Committee

PEMBURY GARDENERS' SHOW BEATS THE HEAT

Pembury Gardeners' Society brought colour, creativity and plenty of community spirit to the Village Hall for its Summer Show on 26 June: one of the hottest days of the year.

Despite the heatwave taking its toll on vegetable entries, visitors enjoyed an impressive range of flowers, floral art, cookery and produce. Tony Borland's 'Kitchen Garden' was a highlight in the vegetable classes, while his sweet peas also helped him win The Doug Steward Cup.

There were more successes in the flower section, with Doug Drury's 'White Frills' receiving the National Society of Sweet Peas Bronze Medal. Steve Jones took the honours in the rose classes, winning The John Baggeson Cup, and Society President Sarah Clarke was delighted to see her specimen rose named Best Exhibit in the Rose Classes. Christine Lang also impressed the judge with her board of six pansy blooms, earning a Society Rosette.

The floral art displays were another crowd-pleaser. Ann Purton received a Best in Show certificate, while Brenda Penfold won the Helen Reeve Award for most points. In the cookery section, which saw a welcome rise in entries, Society Chairman Amanda Everett won the Miss Harthan Award.

Tombola and plant stalls were well supported throughout the day, and the refreshments team kept everyone supplied with much-needed tea and cake despite the soaring temperatures.

The Society gives grateful thanks to judges Myra and Lyn for their expertise, and to everyone who entered, visited, volunteered or supported the show.

After such an encouraging Summer Show, the Committee is already looking forward to the Autumn Show, which will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 12 September 2026.

You do not need to be a member to enter - just pick up a schedule from any Committee member and have a go. The Society would be delighted to welcome new exhibitors and visitors in September.

Derek Parks
Show Administrator

After a two-year break, I'm pleased to be back with my 'Nature Notes' column: keeping you up to date with what's been happening around Pembury on the wildlife and nature front.

It's been an exciting 2026 for bird spotting. The year began with plenty of winter thrushes around the Romford Road orchards and near Kings Toll stables, where Fieldfares and Redwings were feeding on fallen apples in good numbers.

As winter drew to a close, late February brought the first of our summer warblers, with Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs and others returning to the old orchard. The star of the show, though, was a Nightingale in late April. I heard it about 15 times over four weeks and even had one fleeting glimpse of its chestnut tail. I hoped it might be breeding, but it disappeared in early June, so probably couldn't find a mate.

Another rare sighting was a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in the trees beside the footpath in Snipe Wood. I had just been watching its larger cousin and at first thought I was seeing another one, before realising this bird was almost half the size. A week or so later the landowner confirmed he had seen it too and thought there might even be a pair breeding.

July has brought some really good butterfly hatches in the woods and orchards after a disappointing 2025. Ringlets, Speckled Woods, Whites and Peacocks have all been plentiful. I was also pleased to see the Small Heath butterfly behind Woodside playing fields, near the A21. This little butterfly has declined sharply, so the open grassland there is especially valuable.

One complete but very welcome surprise was the appearance of a Bee Orchid on my sad excuse of a lawn. It has a stunning "bee" flower, which explains the name. It may be one of our commoner native orchids, but it still felt like a real treat to find one so close to home.

Finally, a note about garden bird feeders. Greenfinches and Chaffinches have suffered badly from a parasite spread partly through shared feeders. Most birds do not need extra food from us in summer, but if you keep a feeder out, please clean it weekly and change bird bath water every day or two.

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PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB

It has been a busy and enjoyable season at Pembury Bowls Club, with league matches, club competitions, friendly fixtures and plenty of opportunities for members to get together. We are pleased to be doing well in the Tunbridge Wells League, where the club now has two teams.

One of the highlights of the summer has been welcoming pupils from Skinners Kent Academy for introductory bowls sessions during school time. Groups from Years 8, 9 and 12 visited the club, learned the basics and quickly got involved in some friendly competition. The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed, and the older group returned for a second visit two weeks later.

We also hosted a special celebration for former members of Calverley Bowls Club, many of whom joined Pembury after Calverley closed. As Calverley was founded in 1926, its centenary was marked with games between Calverley and Pembury, followed by a BBQ. The Lady Mayor presented a plaque to the Calverley President, and the occasion was rounded off with a cake decorated with the Calverley club badge.

New players are always welcome at the club, whether you have played before or simply want to try something different. Our informal roll ups take place on Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. For more information, please visit our events calendar at pemburybowlsclub.com

Sue Jones
Honorary Secretary

Among the many beautiful features of St Anselm's Church, Pembury, is the reredos screen in the Sacred Heart Chapel. A reredos is an ornamental screen placed behind an altar, which provides a fitting setting for celebration of the Mass.

The St Anselm's reredos screen was originally housed in St Stephen's Church, Shottermill, Surrey, before being gifted to St Anselm's in 2016. It was originally funded by a grieving husband and father as a gift to generations of worshippers.

While many admire the craftsmanship of our reredos, few realise that it was designed by one of the leading figures of the Arts and Crafts Movement, Charles Robert Ashbee (1863–1942).

Ashbee was an architect, designer, silversmith and passionate advocate for traditional craftsmanship. At a time when industrialisation was transforming Britain, he believed beautiful objects should be made by skilled hands rather than machines.

Ashbee's work is characterised by elegant simplicity, fine materials and meticulous attention to detail. As he was more usually known for designing jewellery and furniture making, this ecclesial item a rare and most interesting piece.

The most poignant detail of the reredos is found on its folding doors, where the following inscription appears:

"To the glory of the Eternal Father and in memory of His handmaid, Agnes Wallace and her firstborn Cyril. Grant to them, O Lord, and all who sleep in Jesus, benediction, light and peace."

More than a century later, Ashbee's craftsmanship still invites us to pause and pray and lift our eyes towards heaven. It is a reminder that Christian art is never simply decorative; at its best it bears witness to the truth that love is stronger than death and that those who sleep in Christ rest in the promise of eternal life.

Father Ed Tomlinson
St. Anselm's Pembury

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PEMBURY PLAYERS PREPARE FOR PANTO

Pembury Players are getting ready to bring a much-loved tale to the village stage, with rehearsals soon to begin for their next production, Beauty and the Beast.

The show will be performed on 7, 8 and 9 January, and the group would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to be involved. Whether you fancy stepping onto the stage, helping behind the scenes, or simply finding out more, you are warmly invited to come along to Pembury Village Hall on 3 September at 8pm. It will be a friendly opportunity to meet the team and discover how you could take part.

The Players are also exploring the idea of a special evening of Pembury's Got Talent. If you can sing, dance, juggle, perform as part of a group, entertain as a ventriloquist, or perhaps even appear as a one-person band, they would love to hear from you. You may know someone else with a hidden talent too, so do encourage them to get in touch.

Who knows? Pembury could be home to the next Taylor Swift or Pavarotti. To find out more, or to register your interest, please contact Pembury Players through their website.

PEMBURY YOUTH DARTS LOOKS AHEAD

Pembury Youth Darts has been going from strength to strength, with 20 young players now attending sessions whenever they can. Formerly known by the name Pembury Junior Darts, the group has continued to grow in popularity and provides a welcoming, free activity for local young people.

This season, the club was delighted to receive new boards provided by Rusthall PDC Challenge Tour player Carl Wilson, helping to give players the best possible experience as they practise and develop their skills.

The players are also looking the part in their new club shirts, kindly sponsored by JK Crowhurst Property Maintenance & Builders.

The club has now paused for the summer holidays, but will return to the King William on 13 September for the start of its third season.

A huge thank you goes to Tony and Kate at the King William, Jamie Crowhurst and Carl Wilson for their fantastic support. Their generosity helps keep Pembury Youth Darts free for all who take part.

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PEMBURY CC: SUMMER SUCCESS

There has been plenty of activity at Chalket Lane this summer, with Pembury Cricket Club enjoying a busy and successful season both on and off the pitch.

The senior teams — including the 1st XI, 2nd XI and Sunday Friendly XI — have all been in action, despite the hot weather making ground preparation more challenging.

For many families, one of the real highlights has been the junior section, where children and young people have been learning, improving and enjoying being part of a team.

Our young U11s Steelers squad made great progress over the summer, while the U13s Blue Caps and U15s Colts both won their respective leagues. It has also been especially pleasing to see many juniors taking the next step into senior cricket.

The junior season was rounded off before the school summer holidays with an end-of-season BBQ and awards evening, bringing players, families and volunteers together to celebrate another enjoyable year.

Alongside the individual trophies, the club presented two honorary awards in memory of its dearly missed former President, Cliff Smith. The Cliff Smith Junior Player of the Year Award and the Dave Kemp Trophy, awarded for merit, both went to very worthy recipients.

The club also celebrated its eighth year of running All Stars, a national ECB programme introducing children aged 5 to 8 to cricket in a fun and welcoming way. Through simple games, children learn skills such as catching, throwing and batting, while building confidence, coordination and teamwork.

Like many local sports clubs, Pembury Cricket Club relies on the support of volunteers, families and the wider community. The club has ambitious plans and is keen to build links with local businesses as it continues to grow. Sponsorship details can be found on the club website http://pembury.play-cricket.com

For now, everyone at the club will be hoping the weather holds before preparations begin again indoors in January.

Whether you are a player, parent, volunteer, sponsor or simply curious to find out more, Pembury Cricket Club would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining, supporting or getting involved.

Richard Dawes, Club Captain

PEMBURY SCHOOL CELEBRATES UNICEF AWARD

Pembury School is celebrating after being awarded the UNICEF UK Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award, the highest level of recognition in the Rights Respecting Schools programme. Gold status means that children's rights, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, are embedded throughout school life, shaping learning, relationships, decision-making and the wider school culture.

The achievement is especially notable as Pembury is the first school in Tunbridge Wells to receive the award and one of only 13 in Kent. Across the UK, just 977 schools currently hold Gold Rights Respecting accreditation.

To mark the occasion, pupils and staff came together for a special 'Gold RRS Festival'. The whole-school celebration included a giant inflatable assault course, festival games, a Forest School treasure hunt, a disco, photo station, gold crowns and a surprise whole-school 'GOLD' photograph.

UNICEF UK's accreditation report confirmed that Pembury Primary School had met the Gold standard across all three assessment strands. The assessor highlighted pupils' strong understanding of children's rights, social justice and global issues, and praised the way rights are woven through the curriculum, displays, communications and everyday practice.

The report also recognised the school's strong culture of inclusion, mutual respect and pupil voice. Pupils help shape school life through leadership groups, consultations and democratic processes, with their ideas contributing to improvements such as play provision, the library and wider school decisions.

Pupils are also making a difference beyond the school gates. They have campaigned on climate change, food poverty and environmental concerns, written to decision-makers, met with their local MP and taken action to support children's rights locally and globally.

The celebration was made possible with support from the Pembury School Association, whose contribution helped create a memorable day for every child. The school will continue to build on its Rights Respecting journey, ensuring that every child is listened to, valued and empowered to make a difference.

Rangers is the oldest section level for young members of Girlguiding, for ages 14 to 18. It follows on from Guides. In Pembury we are lucky enough to have had a Ranger unit since 1985, run by various leaders over the years. Currently our unit is run by Beci (known as Fluffy), and we have a small unit with plenty of spaces for more girls.

Below are words from some of our current Rangers on their Girlguiding journey and what they've enjoyed most.

Bethany:
I first got into Guiding when I joined as a Brownie around the age of 7. I enjoyed making friends, learning new skills, and taking part in all the different activities, which encouraged me to continue my journey through Guiding. Over the years, each section gave me new opportunities to grow in confidence, develop leadership skills, and challenge myself in different ways. Guiding has helped me step outside my comfort zone, make lifelong friendships, and develop skills that I use in everyday life. Guiding has also given me opportunities to try new things and be part of a supportive community where everyone is encouraged to do their best.

Martha:
I joined Pembury Girlguiding aged 5, and have gone through Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, and also helped as a Young Leader at Pembury Brownies for a while. I got into Guiding because it was a new way to make friends and I stayed so long because it allowed me to be with my friends outside of school, especially once I started secondary school and some of my friends went to different schools. I have definitely gained more confidence through my time in Guiding.

Sfera:
I moved to Kent just before secondary school and joined Guides as my Grandma said it would be a great way to make friends in a new area. When I left Guides at 14, I became a Young Leader at Guides and also joined Rangers. Girlguiding allowed me to make friends, and lots of memories such as building campfires and going on holidays and camps.

If you'd like to find out more about Pembury Rangers, please email Beci: guidingwithfluffy@hotmail.com

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RUN FOR HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

Hospice in the Weald is celebrating 20 years of Hospice Run this year, and we want you to join us!

This year's event takes place at 8am on Sunday 20 September at the Lower Common Cricket Ground in Tunbridge Wells.

You can choose the challenge that's right for you: 5k, 10k, Half Marathon - whatever your ability, you can run, walk, or just come along on the day to cheer on our incredible runners.

Over the 20 years of the Hospice Run our wonderful community has come together in support of hospice care, raising vital funds for those who need us most.

Hospice in the Weald provides support for the community in West Kent and East Sussex. All entry fees and funds raised help the Hospice in the Weald in its provision of care for people facing life-limiting illness, and their loved ones.

With your support, we can ensure this can continue.

For more information and to register for the event please visit the events section of our website https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/events/hospice-run-2026/

Pembury Cubs and Scouts recently came together for their annual Summer camp held at Adamswell District Scout Campsite near Langton Green. The weather was glorious and all those that attended had a fantastic time. For many of the Cubs it was their first time camping which can be challenging and for the older Scouts it was an opportunity to learn and put into practice some of those 'skills for life'. These activities are only made possible by our great team of volunteer leaders who give up their time freely each week. If you wish to get involved as a leader with our fantastic Scout Group please contact me at sturgeoncubspembury@gmail.com

Richard 'Alf' Alfieri, Pembury Scout Group Lead Volunteer.

BEAVERS

The Beavers enjoyed a visit to Tunbridge Wells fire station.

Scouts

The Scouts enjoyed camp with climbing, cooking, and camp fires.

cubs

The Cubs had a fun weekend away on camp.

EXPLORERS

The Explorers enjoyed an evening of archery.

Pembury's Garden Finds

Every so often, an ordinary bit of gardening turns up something extraordinary. A broken pot, a rusty curve of iron or a small clay pipe can be a direct link to the people who lived and worked in Pembury long before us.

A Pottery Surprise

While digging deep holes for shrubs, I unearthed a decorated piece of post-Tudor terracotta pottery, probably from the 17th century. It may look like a simple broken pot, but it suggests that people were living, cooking and throwing away household rubbish on this land some 300 years before my 1901 house was built.

From Field to Flowerbed

The same garden later produced curved iron pieces from a horse-drawn plough. Rusty iron is easy to overlook, but this was once part of the kit that worked the land beneath today's lawns and patios - a reminder that Pembury's farming past is not nearly as distant as we might think.

The Clay Pipe

Another local garden, close to the Upper Church, revealed a beautifully ornate Victorian clay pipe bowl. Clay pipes were the cigarette ends of their day: cheap, fragile and constantly discarded. Because their shape changed over time, they can often be dated surprisingly accurately - and some even carry makers' marks that tell us where they were made.

What might be waiting in your garden? So next time you are digging in a shrub, turning the vegetable bed or putting up a fence post, pause before you throw anything unusual away. A scrap of china, a clay pipe stem, a button, bottle, coin or odd piece of metal might be a tiny fragment of Pembury's story.

If you do find something by accident in your garden, please take notice of it, keep it safely, and let The Pembury Society know. Even the smallest fragment can help build a clearer picture of the village's hidden history, garden by garden.

Contact The Pembury Society: chairman@pemburysociety.org

Brian Lawrence,
Pembury Society Committee Member

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YARD SALE SUCCESS

On Saturday 20 June, Pembury hosted its very first village-wide Yard Sale, with over 50 stalls popping up across the area. Sellers were able to register their stalls for free online, which were then plotted onto an interactive map to help buyers navigate their way around.

Not only was it the perfect excuse to declutter or pick up a bargain (or, in my case, both!), it was a wonderful way to connect with our neighbours. I know I ended up chatting with several people on my road for the very first time, and my son even made a new friend just across the street! The event also supported the Pembury Larder, with both buyers and sellers making donations on the day.

A massive thank you goes to Nicky Baldock for organising the event and injecting such vibrant community spirit into the village. Volunteers like Nicky truly are the lifeblood of Pembury!

The Yard Sale will be returning next June, so why not team up with your neighbours next year and turn it into a street get-together at the same time?

Cllr Astra Birch
Pembury Parish Council

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

360 DANCE	Sadie Van Der Spuy. Tel: 07734 053509. www.360dance.co.uk
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: 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
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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	Chairman: Andy Weaver, 51 Heskett Park Tel: 824362
PEMBURY DAY CENTRE	c/o PBC Office. Tel: 825590
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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
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Cllr Hugh Patterson
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Five Oak Green,
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Tel: 01892 837201

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