# Your VILLAGE newsletter SEPTEMBER

SUPERMARKET



**BY-PASS** 

When are they coming?

See inside

#### contents

## OUR BY-PASS'S TO THE SOUND TO THE SECOND TO

In our last issue we wrote that it appeared that the A21 by-pass seemed set to get under way at last, given the fact that it was believed alterations in the route in the Bo-Peep area would not give rise to prolonged negotiations.

In the event things have not turned out that way. Guarded statements from those concerned with approving and planning the by-pass indicate that legal arguments about the land required for the route are taking longer than anticipated.

So 21 months after the public inquiry was held and nearly seven months after the publication of the report of the inspector who conducted it, we are still in a state of suspense. However, for what it is worth there is an assurance – or is it merely a pious hope? – that the hold-up will not affect the time-scale for building a road which every day shows to be Pembury's crying need.

The position with the B2015 by-pass is even more frustrating. In this case it has taken 21 months for the inspector's report to be released – you can see a copy in the Public Library at Lower Green – and the Secretary of State for Transport to make his comments.

Broadly speaking the Secretary of State approves the route proposed at the inquiry. But there are one or two changes he would like to see.

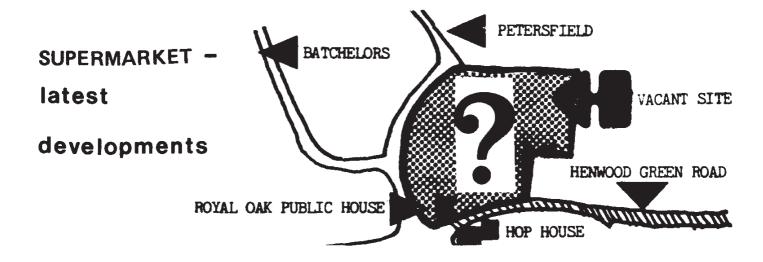
These include providing a vehicular bridge linking the two parts of Downingbury Farm, facing the waterworks, which will be divided by the by-pass route; moving the northern end of the by-pass more to the north and providing a bridge to carry not only pedestrians but horses, also, over the by-pass where it severs Church Road. The Minister also wants further negotiations between the County Council and landowners affected by the route to take place.

No indication is given as to how long these negotiations might take, nor is there any pointer as to when work on the road might begin.

So, after the better part of two years waiting for a definite answer on these two vital relief roads, we are not yet in the clear.

"They also serve who only stand and wait," said Milton. We are only standing and waiting. But the poet prefaced those lines by saying: "Thousands at His bidding speed and post o'er land and water without rest."

If only that were true of the Department of Transport.



In our last issue we reported that the developers of the "Royal Oak" site, Wards Construction (Medway) Ltd., had submitted a plan for a medium-sized supermarket linked by an arcade with four small shop units to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and that the Parish Council has given the scheme its support.

At the time the last issue was being distributed a report appeared in "Contact", the Conservative newsletter, that this plan had been withdrawn. This caused some confusion among residents, but in fact both publications were correct. At the time the Newsletter went to press that was the position. "Contact" goes to press somewhat later, and by that time the application had in fact been withdrawn, after discussion with Borough Council officials. But this withdrawal was on a technicality involving the developers providing a slightly wider access road, which involved "pushing" the development a few feet further to the east of the site.

Details of the move have now been agreed, the amended plan has been submitted to and approved by the Borough Council and way is now clear to go ahead with the scheme.

Now all that remains to be done is for Ward's to reach agreement with a tenant for the supermarket. One of the firm's directors, Mr. J. Walker, told the Newsletter in August that his firm was in negotiation with two supermarket firms which had shown keen interest in the scheme, but that no agreement had yet been signed. Taking a reasonably optimistic view of the progress of negotiations, he said it was possible building might start in January, but he stressed this was dependent on a firm agreement with a supermarket operator.

He anticipated no difficulty in letting the four small shop units. Many people, he said, had shown interest in these and all were anxious to be allied with a supermarket in the same complex.

At the same time as the complex is being built the developers will carry out part of the planning permission, which includes the provision of a community meeting hall on the site, for the use of the Parish Council (which will also be let to other organisations) and the construction of a footpath linking the two portions of Beagles Wood Road.

#### The Friends' still need your help

Since its formation in 1978 The Friends of Pembury Parish Church – the 11th century church in the woods – have spent £30,000 on repairs with the Department of the Environment contributing a further £20,000.

This money paid for major repairs to the roof supports of the nave; renewal of flooring in the nave and tower; repairs to the chancel floor joists; the installation of a modern heating system; repair and renewal of pews; repair of structural damage to tower roof timbers; rewiring, and treatment of timbers to prevent damage by furniture beetle.

Now another major project is under way – stripping and re-tiling the roof, which is estimated to cost £15,000. The Friends have agreed to contribute £6,000 towards this with another £6,000 grant from the Department of the Environment.

This expense has led to the issue of an appeal by the Friends' Chairman, Mr. R. N. Young asking for more people to become members of the organisation so that the renewal of the roof and other work, which will become necessary in time, can be undertaken and paid for.

A house-to-house collection is proposed but intending subscribers can alternatively send their donations to the Friends' Treasurer, Mr. Dennis Ould at 42 Lower Green Road.

#### Are you a lively-minded woman?

If you are, here is news of another organisation operating locally which could interest you. Its name? The National Housewives' Register.

Mrs. Sue Anstey, who lives in Pembury, writes of the Matfield and Brenchley group of the N.H.R. as follows.

"Our group, which was formed just over a year ago, has proved very popular with 'lively-minded women' of this area. Our programme includes discussions on topics of interest (e.g. Cruise missiles), guest speakers (e.g. a fashion designer from Marks and Spencers).

"Meetings are held in each others' homes, alternating the evenings to allow for other social engagements. We also have social evenings, such as barbecues, and a Christmas party. An offshoot of the group is the bridge club, which is proving very popular and is held weekly at a member's house.

"During the summer holidays we arrange outings for mothers and children, such as a picnic at Bewl Bridge reservoir and lunch at the Happy Eater.

"If you would like to know more about our association, please contact either Mary Moore, Pembury 2019 or Sue Anstey, Pembury 2482. We already have about ten members living in Pembury."

**Pembury** 

Woodside

Youth

Club



The official opening of the headquarters of the Pembury Woodside Youth Club by County Councillor John Barnes on September 7th marked the successful conclusion of a project whose sponsors faced many difficulties on the road to completion.

When the wooden club building was bought from Pembury Hospital early last year it was hoped that re-erection and fitting-out on the Woodside Recreation Ground site would take about four months. Various construction difficulties and bad weather in the winter, which damaged the roof, stretched that period to 14 months.

The final blow came in May when it was found that current building regulations demanded that the roof should be specially strengthened and a further £1,950 had to be found to bring the building up to standard.

Financing of the project has been mainly from grants from the K.C.C., but eventually the committee had to seek loans from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council of £5,000 to complete the work. Repayment of this debt, while it is spread over the next ten years, means that the youth club will have to begin fund-raising activities in earnest now that the building is opened. The first of these will be a boot sale on October 6th at a site to be decided. Anyone who can help in this project is asked to contact Mr. Arthur Bromwich on Pembury 2865.

Club activities began in June. The senior club, for those aged 13 to 21, meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9.30 pm. The junior club for the 8's to 13's operates on Fridays from 7 to 8.30 pm. Before the summer break average numbers at the senior club were 25 a session and for the juniors up to 60.

The senior club, under the leadership of Mr. Malcolm Brown, telephone number Paddock Wood 4697, has a full programme of club activities planned to the end of October, including two discos on September 26th and October 24th and a swimming evening at Larkfield Leisure Centre. It is also hoped to arrange a day trip to Belgium during this period if there is sufficient demand.

The junior club, led by Mrs. Pauline Hawker, telephone Pembury 4327, has a programme of games and other activities. Parents are asked to be responsible for the transport of their children to and from the club.

The opening of the building means that another public meeting place is available in the village. It is likely the club house will be available for bookings on Saturdays and Sundays and interested organisations are asked to get in touch with Mrs. Hawker.

#### AGE CONCERN

Since our last issue there have been no further developments about the building of a Day Care centre for the elderly in Pembury by means of an extension to the Upper Church.

But Age Concern, which is behind the scheme, is not waiting for the establishment of the centre before starting its operations in the village. As announced in June an advice centre for the elderly has been set up, a chiropody clinic is held once a month and a toenail cutting service (in people's own homes) is also in operation.

Between September 24th and 29th Age Concern, Pembury, is holding a flag day and house-to-house collection to raise funds for the support of existing services, the establishment of additional facilities and the setting up of a building fund for the Day Care Centre when details are finalised.

Age Concern is also building up a team of volunteers to visit elderly people at home on a friendly basis, to do their shopping and, in short, to ensure that elderly, lonely or housebound people's needs are not overlooked. It is hoped that these volunteers will be able, from time to time, to relieve relatives of frail elderly people who cannot safely be left alone.

Details of Age Concern services in the village are: Advice centre for the elderly at Camden Court every Monday from 2 to 3.30 pm; chiropody clinic at Camden Court on the third Thursday of each month from 1.30 to 4.30 pm, charge £2.50 (transport cannot be arranged); toenail cutting service in the home at any time, telephone Mrs. Swaffer, Pembury 3385. Anyone wishing to enrol as a volunteer visitor is asked to contact Mrs. Kathleen Meade, Age Concern's Tunbridge Wells organiser on Tunbridge Wells 22591.

Mrs. Meade is meeting with representatives of the village churches' Road Steward scheme to discuss ways in which the two organisations can cooperate in helping the elderly folk of Pembury.

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#### SCOUT B GUIDE HEADQUARTERS FUND

Pembury Scout and Guide Building Fund organised the most successful Village Fete on July 14th, since the event was restarted in 1975. It was the Fund's third successive fete, yielding gross takings of around £2,600 and an expected profit of between £1,850 and £1,900.

Proceedings began with a parade of more than 200 children from the Village Green to the Recreation Ground, led by the Crowborough Scout Marching Band. The ground housed a large number of stalls and sideshows and displays of Scottish country dancing, by the Marching Band, a shuffleboard contest between Pembury Football Club and Woodside Youth Club and the ever popular tug-of-war contest, won this year by the Camden Arms.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the Fete was the support given by the majority of village organisations.

Income from the Fete has brought the cash total of the Building Fund to a sum approaching £10,000 achieved in 20 months since the fund was officially launched on November 16th 1982.

The Fund's organisers aim to raise £18,500 as their share towards the cost of the proposed Scout and Guide headquarters in Pembury. Approaches will soon be made to various national funds which, it is hoped, will contribute towards the project. A site for the building has already been earmarked adjoining the Lower Green Road recreation ground – a site originally set aside for the abortive community centre project a few years ago. The Parish Council has the option to buy the land from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and lease it to the Scouts and Guides at a peppercorn rent.

#### IN BRIEF TO THE TOTAL TOTA

Mrs. Hildy Swinden announced her resignation from Pembury Parish Council at the Council meeting on July 30th. Mrs. Swinden who is a Pembury representative on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and also the village W.R.V.S. representative, said she was resigning in order to spend more time on these two activities.

In accordance with legal requirements, notice of the vacancy was published. In the event that ten or more electors demanded an election for the vacancy, this would be filled by co-option by the Parish Council at its meeting on September 3rd.

Susanna (Suki) Brownsdon, daughter of Parish Councillor John Brownsdon and his wife Carol, of Hillcroft, Tonbridge Road, once again represented Great Britain in the Los Angeles Olympics. Suki reached the final of the 200 metres breast stroke event, in which she finished seventh. At Moscow, four years ago, when she was only 14, she was placed sixth in the 100 metres final. Suki, who left Millfield School in the summer, hopes to go to Calgary University in Canada.

The W.R.V.S. Lunch Club for the elderly is approaching its second anniversary. It meets every week in the Village Hall at 12 noon, serving lunch to a number of guests, ranging from around 26 to 35 each week. Several of those attending are unable to get to the hall without transport and a few more drivers are needed to help with this service, for which a mileage payment can be claimed. Anyone who can help in this way is asked to contact Mrs. Hildy Swinden on Pembury 3378.

Village policeman, P.C. Neil Sadler, told the Parish Council recently that there had been a number of burglaries in the village this year. Many of these, he said, took place during daylight hours when occupants were on holiday. In one case a number of articles of furniture were removed from a house which, he said, must have been seen by neighbours. He urged that anyone going on holiday should notify their immediate neighbours, preferably giving one of them a key, and indicating that during their absence no one was authorised to deliver or remove goods from their house. P.C. Sadler also said that anyone seeing anything suspicious at a house whose owner was known to be away should immediately notify the police.

Apart from serious emergencies, when the 999 call should be made, the recommended method of contacting the police from Pembury is to ring Cranbrook police station on Cranbrook 713559 (between 8 am and 10 pm) and outside those times, Tunbridge Wells police on T.W. 26242.

We have been asked to publicise the fact that the Tunbridge Wells branch of the National Council of Women has recently closed down but that Pembury members – and new members are also welcome – can carry on with the Council's activities through the Tonbridge branch, which meets every third Tuesday at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge at 10.30 am, opening on September 10th.

The NCW is a non-political, democratic body which believes that well-informed pressure can most effectively bring about reform. It welcomes women of every occupation, religion, nationality and political beliefs. It deals with such matters as the arts, consumer affairs, education, health, housing, international affairs, the media, scientific affairs, social welfare and the status and employment of women. There is also a social side. The Pembury bus gets to Tonbridge Station at 10.24 am and the return bus leaves from outside Presto's in the High Street at 12.28 pm, a few minutes before the end of the meeting. Anyone interested is asked to phone either Mary Neervoort-Moore, Tonbridge 352992, Betty Hart, Tonbridge 359144 or Olive Merriman, Tonbridge 355742.

In July members of the Parish Council had an informal meeting at the Dower House with members of the Borough Council's Lands Group and Planning Committee. The aim of the meeting — which it is proposed to follow up with further meetings — was to talk about Pembury's problems, with particular reference to pressure on Green Belt areas and the possible development of land left after the construction of our two by-passes.

The much appreciated facility to use rubbish skips at the Dower House was withdrawn on August 6th and now Pembury residents will have to cart their heavy refuse to the tip at North Farm, Tunbridge Wells. Only two skips are available in Pembury – in Elmhurst Avenue and Bulls Place – which are not sufficient to cope with garden rubbish and other bulky refuse in the village. The reason given by the Borough for withdrawing the Dower House skips was that over the Easter weekend so much rubbish was dumped in and around the skips provided that it took three days for workmen to clear the site. Also there had been thefts of batteries from council vehicles parked on the site.

#### COME OUT and PLAY

August this year saw the first play scheme in the village for children from 8 to 13, organised by Mrs. Pauline Hawker, secretary of Pembury Woodside Youth Club. Headquarters of the scheme was the Youth Club's building and the adjoining Woodside recreation ground.

Mrs. Hawker applied to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for a grant for the purchase of essential equipment and was allocated £215. At the meeting of the Borough Council's Recreation and Leisure Committee which sanctioned the grant, there was some criticism of the Parish Council for not itself funding the project. The Borough Council leader, Cllr. John Spare, said there was a need for the scheme in Pembury and he moved that on this occasion the committee should go ahead. But he added: "I would still like to see Pembury Parish Council finding money from somewhere."

When the Borough's decision was discussed at a subsequent Parish Council meeting, several members were critical of suggestions that the Parish Council should have funded the scheme. Replying to Mrs. Hildy Swinden's comment that the Parish Council should be responsible for its own children, Finance Committee chairman, Mr. Brisn Sands, said, "Responsibility is the key word. We are responsible to the ratepayers of Pembury for making our budget work."

It would be interesting to have parishioners' views as to whether they feel it should be the Parish Council's responsibility to make a grant for a similar scheme in future years.

Printed below is Mrs. Hawker's report on the scheme.

Monday, August 13th saw the first day of the Pembury Play Scheme. Introductory games, home-made popcorn and sherbet ensured that everyone got to know each other.

On Tuesday, a coach took us all, plus a few mums, to Larkfield Leisure Centre for a swim, followed by a picnic. Wednesday there was pottery, on Thursday we went on a hike and on Friday we had a day of inflatable fun.

The second week was packed with pottery, painting, a film show, an It's a Knockout competition and a family day trip to Camber Sands. The cost to each child was £3 a week inclusive.

Thirty children came each day, had fun, had new experiences, met new people and enjoyed themselves. The success of the scheme was entirely due to the caring and competent people who helped to organise it and I would, on behalf of all the children, like to thank Valerie Griffiths, Marilyn Halden, Annette Cooper, Joan Westlake and Mrs. Pennells for all their hard work.

It is now time to start organising for next year. A Play Scheme Committee is being formed, to plan next year's project. If anyone is interested, we are holding the first meeting at Pembury Woodside Youth Club on Thursday, September 20th at 8 pm. There is a lot of work to do and we need your help.







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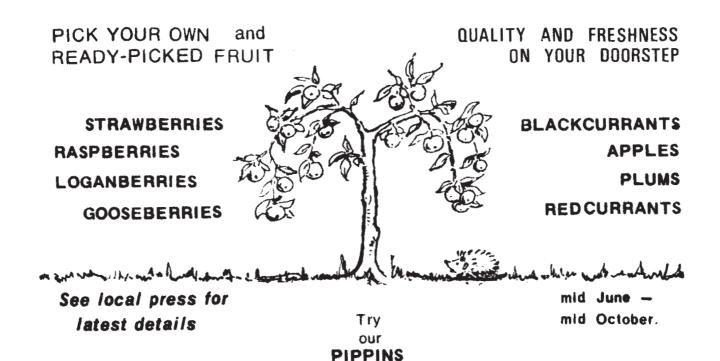
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One of Pembury's Borough Councillors has given the background for the delay in announcing the final route for this long-awaited road.

He says the Department of Transport is anxious to avoid another public inquiry and there have been legal difficulties in drafting the decisions of the Inspector who conducted the inquiry, to that end.

But so far as is known the line has been decided and the present problems are purely legal. County Councillor John Barnes continues to press for the decision to be promulgated, but it is understood there is no question of any further slippage in the time scale for the road.

(At the annual parish meeting in March assistant county surveyor John Bergg said on the assumption that no further delays were encountered in settling the route it was hoped to begin construction in November 1985 – ED.)

#### **PEMBURY**

is published four times a year by the Pembury Parish Council.

The Editor would welcome any contributions for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Design and layout by **DHR Photographic Ltd**, and printed by **Orchard Printing Services**, East Peckham.

The views expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent official Parish Council opinion or policy.

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Oct Parish Council (question time 8.30) Highways, Public Relations. Village Hall 8pm

Darby & Joan Club - Talk, "Cooking for One" by a Seeboard representative. Village Hall 2 - 4.30pm 2

Afternoon W.I. - Talk on Alaska by Mrs. Bach. Village Hall 2.30pm

Evening W.I. - Talk on Christmas decorations by Mrs. Smith. Village Hall 7.45pm

Pembury Footpath Walkers – Walk starting from Bo-Peep. 2.15pm
Horticultural Society – Floral Art Group. Village Hall 8pm
Ladies' Social Group – "Hello Dolly" (The Kentainers) Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall Darby & Joan Club – Sale of Work. Village Hall 2 – 4.30pm

22 Parish Council (question time 8.30) Planning, Finance. Village Hall 8pm

- 23 Ladies' Social Group "So you think you know your Delicatessen" (food sampling, questions answered, small prize). 15 Lower Green Road
- Horticultural Society—Illustrated talk on East Malling Research Station by Mr. Brian Self. Village Hall 8pm Darby & Joan Club Meeting and Sale for Save the Children Fund. Village Hall 2 4.30pm

30

Nov

Afternoon W.I. – Annual General Meeting. Village Hall 2.30pm Evening W.I. – Annual General Meeting. Village Hall 7.45pm

Pembury Footpath Walkers - Walk from Stonecourt Lane bus stop. 2.15pm

Parish Council (question time 8.30) Allotments, Amenities. Village Hall 8pm Ladies' Social Group – "Plant Law and Legend" by Mrs. J. Bowles. 13 Batchelors

12 Horticultural Society – Floral Art Group, Demonstration of floral art by Mrs. Weight, Admission 50p. Village Hall 8pm

Darby & Joan Club - Talk and film on Conservation, Mr. Mercer. Village Hall 2 - 4pm 13

Pembury Footpath Walkers - Annual General Meeting, Village Hall. 8pm 13

Parish Council (question time 8.30) Highways, Public Relations. Village Hall 8pm 19

20 Ladies' Social Group - China Fayre (Sale of household china and glass). 44 Herons Way

 Darby & Joan Club – Meeting. Village Hall 2 – 4.30pm
 Scout & Guide Building Fund – Annual General Meeting. Catholic Hall 8.15

29 Horticultural Society - Pan Britannica Gardeners' Quiz (prizes) Village Hall 8pm

Dec

Pembury Footpath Walkers - Walk starting from the Camden 2.15pm

Parish Council (question time 8.30) Planning, Finance. Village Hall 8pm

- 4 Ladies' Social Group Chicken in a Basket, at a country pub
- Afternoon W.I. Christmas Party. Village Hall 2.30pm
  Evening W.I. Talk "Sweets & Candies" by Mrs. Houghton.
  Village Hall 7.45pm
- 10 Horticultural Society Floral Art Group Christmas party. Village Hall 8pm
- 11 Darby & Joan - Christmas party. Village Hall 2 - 4.30pm
- 17 Parish Council (question time 8.30) Allotments, Amenities. Village Hall 8pm
- 18 Ladies Social Group "Christmas decorations" Mrs. R. Smith. 6 Westway

#### ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

**Upper Church** 

Holy Communion (First, Third and 8.00 a.m.

Fifth Sundays)

Parish Communion 9.45 a.m.

11.30 a.m. Junior Church (except fourth Sunday)

6.30 p.m. Evensong with sermon

Parish Church

Holy Communion (Second and Fourth 8.00 a.m. Sundays)

11.15 a.m. Matins and Sermon

Every Friday - W.I. Market - V.Hall 10.15 - 11.15 a.m.

(35p)

Every Monday — Pembury Old Tyme and Modern Dance Club — R.C. Hall — 7.45-10.15 p.m.

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