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### Editorial Working Group:

Henry Plant (Editor), Alison Morton, Paul Barrington-King, Brian Horgan, Gill Matthews and Betty Roberts

#### **COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE**

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Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this Magazine must be forwarded to the new Editor before 1st February 2000.

E-mail -

pembury.village.news@pbss.demon.co.uk Internet site: www.pbss.demon.co.uk/pvn

# PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Zerene's Kitchen 47

NEW EDITOR Alison Morton 2 The Coppice Tel: 824938 Pembury Village News is published four times a year by the Parish Council, but the views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent official council opinion or policy.

Typeset and printed by The Meeting House, Tunbridge Wells.

### WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

TWENTY-FIVE years ago I awoke to find myself the commander-in-chief of a new weapon – a Pembury Newsletter – one of the many brain-childs of the then recently-elected Parish Council. The only snag seemed to be that I had no troops apart from my twelve fellow councillors.

Weapon, you may feel, is rather a strong word but back in 1974 Pembury was still reeling from the flood of new homes and the Parish Council courageously started a single-sheet newsletter. From the outset, a campaign of communication was mounted to ensure that every single home in the village had a copy and hand delivery was the order of the day. As is so often the case with new ventures, the editor found himself not only writing most of the newsletter but also designing the layout, printing it and organising the delivery!! I did draw the line at delivering over 2,000 copies every three months and at this point, I have to record a very deep sense of gratitude to my foot soldiers, the twelve good men and true (and women too) of the Parish Council. It did not matter how much I wrote – it would have been totally wasted if the newssheets were not pushed through every letterbox in the village.

It was the overriding concern of joining everyone together that ensured the long term success of Pembury Village News, with its Autumn 1999 issue of a staggering 36 pages.

Very slowly, over the past 25 years the size and quality has grown. What a difference pictures have made and today's printing standards make this one-time editor cringe at the one finger typing of the first issue of 'Pembury' (as it was then called). But your newsletter is the envy of villages and communities all over England and every compliment it has received has been richly deserved.

I am sure that none of us in 1974 ever dreamt of reaching Issue No. 100 – although, due to impeccable forward planning, it will be the last one of the 20th Century. And if you believe that, you will believe anything.

CONGRATULATIONS,

**Derek Hawes Richards** 

**AS PRESENT AND PAST** Chairman and Councillor I have been involved with the Newsletter off and on since 1978. I would wish to add my congratulations and appreciation to all those, past and present, who have contributed to this excellent publication and to wish for its continuing success into the next Millennium.

#### Sarah Clarke

Chairman of the Parish Council

# CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING YOUR 100TH BIRTHDAY



AM SURE that everyone in the village will join with us in wishing Mrs Winifred Davis the heartiest of congratulations on reaching her 100th Birthday!

Mrs Davis, who is shown on the cover of this magazine, attended a 'family and friends get-together' on Saturday 20th November at the Catholic Hall to celebrate not only her birthday but also the celebration of her long life, a life that was re-counted to us recently when she lived it again through the memories of her earlier life.

Mrs Davis originally came from Gravesend when, as a 19-year-old, she became a companion to Mrs Hugh Christie, a farmer's wife at Castle Hill Farm on the Tonbridge Road. She left that job for the best of reasons – to get married, living for a time in Pembury Road, Tonbridge, before moving with her husband and two children, Elsie and Freda, to Fairthorne Cottage (the house was just behind the existing garage) where they lived for the next 16 years. Whilst she was at Fairthorne she had two more children, Henry and Ashley, who, together with Elsie and Freda, spent most of their childhood there.

Mrs Davis recounted some of her memories of the time they spent in that house. She and her children walked every school day through Pembury Walks, up Church Road to Pembury School and every Sunday walked to the Old Church. The Davis family, it seems, were very much Pembury School orientated – Mr Davis was caretaker there and Mrs Davis herself was a school dinner lady.

Speaking to us, Mrs Davis re-lived again some of her memories of the last war – of being in church on the Sunday when War was declared and hearing that dreaded siren sounding at 11am; of being dive-bombed whilst walking to school with her children and, much more frightening, the time when a bomb dropped on Fairthorne. She also remembers vividly how, following the shock waves of

the bomb which blew out all the windows, the chimney pots, fireplace and stairs were all blown away as well. She also recounted, with some humour, that the tea cups hanging on the dresser in the kitchen were blown to smithereens but amazingly the handles still remained on their hooks! As the house had become uninhabitable by the bombing the family moved to other accommodation in the Parish before eventually moving to her present home in Pembury where she has lived for the last 43 years.

All our very best wishes to a lovely lady.

### **Henry Plant**



### HANDING OVER THE BATON

THIS ISSUE of the Pembury Village News is the last to be published under my Editorship.

I became Editor in 1994 when my predecessor, Elizabeth Repath, stood down from her duties. As I was then Chairman of the Parish Council's Public Relations Committee it was decided that the Editorial mantle be handed down to me and that the rest of the Public Relations Committee should be its first Editorial Committee.

Our aim has always been to raise the profile of news reporting in the Parish and at the same time to create a publication that would not only be informative but would be a good read. I hope my efforts, and that of my Committee, have achieved some degree of success in that direction.

With the advent of the Parish Council Elections last May, after 25 years of association with the Parish Council, both as Clerk to the Council and a parish councillor, I decided not to seek re-election as a parish councillor. From that decision I feel it is a natural step that I hand over the reins of Editorship to my successor, the Chairman of the Editorial Committee – Mrs Alison Morton and her new team to whom I wish every success in the future.

Although my term as Editor was only a short time, those years represented a time which was both enjoyable and instructive and which I will remember with affection.

I am very glad that I was able to be the Editor of this magazine's 100th Edition as I was in fact in at its birth some 25 years ago when, as Clerk to the Parish Council, I typed up the fledgling magazine which started life as a simple foolscap page, the midwife being a Committee of the Parish Council of the 1970's called the Pembury Liaison Committee.

Derek Hawes Richards, a past Pembury parish councillor, was its first Editor who, with the assistance of the late Bob Allen and John Hawker (past Chairmen of the Parish Council's Public Relations Committee), worked under difficult production procedures to produce a quarterly magazine using what we can only look back on as an old fashioned method of litho printing, light years away from the computer wizardry that I can now employ with the help of our publishers, The Meeting House of Tunbridge Wells.

I cannot end this article without thanking all our readers, our contributors and our advertisers together with a special acknowledgment to Laurie Frowde, a partner of our publishing firm, for all the help and assistance he has given to me over the years, and to my wife, Irene for all those years of copy typing! Thanks also to my excellent Editorial Committee: the steadfast Julia Campbell, Gill Matthews and especially Betty Roberts whose excellent proof-reading has ensured that the publication reaches you without too many errors.

To you all, many thanks and best wishes.

Henry Plant, Editor.

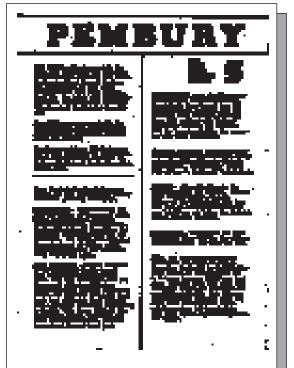
# A POTTED HISTORY OF PEMBURY OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS

THIS MAGAZINE, first published in 1974 under the editorship of Derek Hawes Richards, has become a microcosm of the history of Pembury over its 100 issues spanning 25 years. The presentation of past front pages shows how its face to the village has changed during those years. Let us look back at some of the events and happenings as they were recorded in the pages of this magazine.

Early in 1974 came the news of the formation

of the Community Centre Association. September 1974. One of the first items reported was the planning decision on which the Parish Council has based its arguments





against intensive development ever since. An appeal against the refusal to build 160 houses on land bounded by Romford Road and Woodside Road was dismissed. The Appeal Inspector stated "Pembury has reached the limit of its natural growth to absorb any more large-scale residential development".

In 1976 Pembury was one of the first rural communities to produce a Village Appraisal called 'Pembury 2000'. In March 1977 the Community Centre

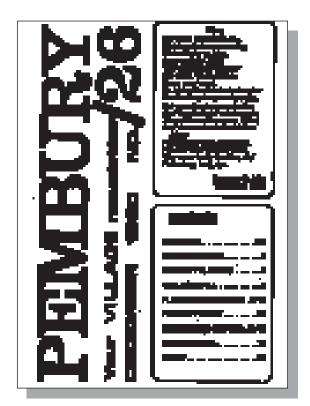
Association, formed to raise funds for a village community centre, was dissolved. This magazine appeared for the first time in its present A5 format. (Issue 9). A Parish Council proposal to move the Horse Trough from its position on the Village Green was dropped following a petition of over 2000 signatures requesting that the trough remain in its present position.

1978 – 28th April Arthur Penn, Chairman of the Pembury Parish Council, celebrated 50 years continuous service on the Council.

1980 saw a large-scale refurbishment of the Village Hall, its reopening was marked by a Village Exhibition and this magazine revised its front page (Issue 26).

In the **1981** census Pembury was reported as having 5,967 inhabitants of which 3,494 were of working age and 930 were pensioners. This was an increase of 1,146 stated in the earlier census of 1971.

In the spring a plan to a build a supermarket on the vacant land adjoining the Royal Oak



public house was announced. This year also saw the departure of the Rev. Christopher Hodgson, the Vicar of Pembury for 18 years, and the induction of the Rev. Colin Pilgrim.

By June **1985** the supermarket developers announced that their project was dead. In October of the same year a Village

Exhibition was held with some 32 organisations taking part. February **1986** saw the start of the first of Pembury's two bypasses replacing the old B2015 which was opened on 22nd July 1987. Work on the A21 by-pass started on April 21st.

December 1987 saw the birth of 'Pembury 2000 Plus', an update of 'Pembury 2000', which was by then very much out of date.

The Spring edition of this magazine in **1988** (Issue 53) was the first

PRAIRIRY
VILLAGE
NEWS

Opened. On 11th was installed as the second secon

issue edited by Elizabeth Repath. On 8th January 1988 the death of the Rev D. M. Wisewell, aged 94 years, the Vicar of Pembury from 1946 to 1964, was announced. The Rev Colin Pilgrim died suddenly on 2nd February 1988 aged 61 years.

Friday, 6th May 1988 saw the opening of the A21 by-pass. The first Village Quiz took place in the Autumn of the same year. In February 1989 Pembury's new vicar, the Rev Jim Brasier, was inducted at St, Peters Upper Church. In the same year, in May, the construction of the doctors group practice on the vacant land adjacent to the Royal Oak public house was started.

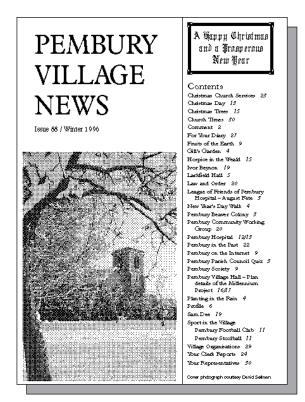
31st March 1990 – Henry and Irene Plant, Clerk and Assistant Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council, retired after 18 years and 15 years respective service to the community. Mrs Barbara Russell was appointed as the new Parish Clerk. After 30 years service to the community Dr Peter Waterfield retired.

1991 saw the opening of the Pembury Resort Hotel on the site of the former Dower House. In April of the same year the Scouts and Guides headquarters was officially opened. On 11th July Rev David Graham was installed as the new Pastor of Pembury

Free Church. At the end of **1991** the Parish Council decided to form a friendship association with Ville de Ronchin near Lille in France.

Autumn 1993 – Issue 75 of this magazine was given a new style pictorial front page depicting oast-houses.

1994 - Camden Court, Pembury's oldest sheltered accommodation, underwent a £270,000 modernisation scheme. In the summer Richard Nesbit, Headteacher at Pembury School, retired. Mary Adams celebrated 25 years of teaching at



Pembury School. The Bishop of Rochester led a service of blessing and thanksgiving at the Upper Church of St. Peter to celebrate the completion of the re-ordering of the Church and of the 'Vision '91' project. 6th July – the famous Tour de France, in England for the very first time, swept through Pembury along the A228 by-pass to the cheers of hundreds of parishioners.

1995 – nearly 1000 people visited the Village Exhibition organised by the Parish Council to celebrate its 100 years of service to the community. After six and a half years as Vicar, the Rev. Jim Brasier retired. The cedar tree, for so long a focal point at Pembury Hospital, planted, it was thought, in the early 19th century, was felled after it was considered dangerous. The Summer edition of Issue 82 of the magazine was the first issue edited by Henry Plant.

May 1996 – The Rev Stephen Sealy took up his duties as Vicar of Pembury. In November 1996 the death of Ivor Beynon, Headmaster of Pembury Junior School from 1951 to 1961 and Headmaster of the amalgamated Pembury Infants and Junior School 1961 to 1976, was announced. The front page of the winter edition of this

magazine carried a photograph for the first time (Issue 88).

In May 1997 Pembury's Borough Councillor David Mills was elected Mayor of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells. On 28th September the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the Upper Church of St. Peter was celebrated. In the same year, this magazine won second place in a National 'Best Publication Award' competition.

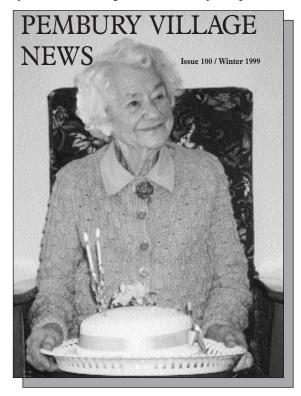
6th March 1998 - The new Hospice in the Weald in Maidstone Road was topped out.

1999 – the Pembury Village Hall Management Committee was awarded a Lottery Grant of £200,000 towards the construction costs of a new Village Hall. The Hospice in the Weald opened its doors to its first in-patients. The 100th edition of this magazine used colour printing for the very first time.

We can only wonder what the next 100 issues will contain . . .

### **Henry Plant**

One of the disappointing moments in producing this article was the realisation that we had not retained copies of Issues Nos. 1 to 4, 6, 19 & 20. Have you by chance kept these issues? If so we shall be pleased to hear from you.



### THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of The Pembury Society was a well attended and pleasing opportunity for the members to meet the committee and each other and to experience together a convivial evening of business and interest.

The Chairman gave a resumé of the successes and achievements of the Society during the past year and he was followed by the Treasurer, Norman Whitton, who reported on the healthy condition of the finances. The Membership Secretary, Ken Watts, then told the meeting that, despite a few members having moved away from the village, new members had joined so that our numbers had continued to rise.

Don Oke, the Vice-Chairman and Planning Officer for our Society, reported that the number of Planning Applications for building work in Pembury had been increasing of late and described how these are all investigated by himself and then referred to the committee. It has to be borne in mind that one of the main objectives of our Society is to monitor very closely any attempt by prospective builders to over-develop within our village and, when a hint of this appears, to use all the strength of our resources and influence to combat at source what could be a cause of even greater stress upon the infrastructure of Pembury.

These reports were followed by the Secretary, Monica Marshall, who called the election of Officers and Committee for the coming year. All the present incumbents offered themselves for re-election; all had been proposed and seconded and all were re-elected by a unanimous vote from the members present.

An event then occurred which mixed

pleasure with overtones of sadness. Robert Saunders and his wife Heather have been members of the Society since its foundation some 26 years ago. During this time Robert was appointed to the committee and was elected Chairman in 1976 and in this office

he served the Society, and thus the village, for several years. A few months ago he decided to

retire from the committee and so the Chairman, on behalf of the members, thanked Robert and Heather for all their work and presented them with an illuminated citation appointing them Life

Members of the Society as a mark of appreciation for all that

they had done. Heather was also presented with a bouquet of flowers.

It was then the turn of Cynthia Oke to be thanked by the Society for the many hours of hard effort she had spent in creating a most excellent tapestry for the Society's kneeler for the Old Church millennium kneeler project. The completed kneeler was on display at the meeting and Cynthia was presented with a bouquet for her personal and long-lasting contribution to the work of the Society.

The Speaker for the evening was Mr Paxton of HM Land Registry who gave an excellent description of the work of this most important body and the impact which the new computer-based information system has made. We learned how a great depth of detail concerning registered land and buildings is now readily available at the touch of a keyboard button and the audience really appreciated the interesting and understandable manner in which our Speaker presented and described this impressive step forward.

#### **Derek Johnson**

### PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY

A new series looking at organisations and businesses in Pembury

PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY is situated in Lower Green Road at the old Headmaster's House, a few doors away from Pembury Primary School.

Our nursery is open five mornings a week and three afternoons. We have 20 children in the morning whose ages range from three and a half years to five years of age and in our afternoon session 12 children of ages ranging from two and a half to three and a half years of age. At all times, there are three members of staff working and caring for the children. We are all fully qualified in Early Years education and always updating our experience by attending courses.

Our aim at the Nursery is to make it a happy, fun-loving, caring atmosphere where the children feel safe and confident, ready to start out on the first big step of their young lives. Our sessions include art and craft, pencil and writing skills, cookery, singing, early French and, above all, playing together and learning one of the main social skills, sharing.

We are an extremely happy Nursery and by the time the children leave us, we know they are feeling happy and confident, ready to start school.

#### **Ann Mitchell**

### PICTORIAL PEMBURY IN THE PAST

There was a great response to the photograph of the 3rd Pembury Brownies, Guide Helpers and Brown and Tawny Owl; many of you ringing in giving me the names of many of the girls. For those who have not seen it or to help others who may



have been undecided to telphone me, I am arranging for a larger print of the above photograph to be on view at the local library to see whether any person can recall the names of those who have not yet been recognised.

# LUCY AND KEVIN – a short story

It MUST have been several days since I last saw Lucy and Kevin out together. After such a lapse of time I was left wondering and a little apprehensive. Usually they were always to be seen about the charming olde worlde village of Copplesby. Often I would notice them crossing the meadow beyond the copse, leading down to the picnic area. They were indeed a devoted couple. Occasionally I would bump into them going along the footpath and engage in light conversation.

"There is no real secret in painting," he once said to me.

"You mean, it's a gift, then?" I replied.

"Well, yes, in a way, I suppose." he answered, with a glint of achievement in his deep blue eyes. Then I would remember how he would explain the finer aspects of art, like that 'inner eye' as he so often put it.

"Then how would love figure in your paintings?" I once queried him, half expecting a reply filled with mere abstractions.

"Very much so." I remember him saying, glancing at Lucy. She never did say anything but I did sense a sadness in her attitude just before their absence.

Whenever Kevin chose to display his portraits of Lucy in the public art gallery they always attracted a large audience.

Indeed, she always stole the scene. But, although Kevin was no male chauvinist, he

sometimes resented Lucy's flirting as I feel sure he noticed her giving me the eye on more than one occasion. At times Kevin appeared to get so close to her in an overprotective way . . . I sometimes wondered if he ever got the wrong impression.

There was that one occasion, however, when I did snuggle up close to Lucy in the Black Horse whilst Kevin was getting the drinks in. But surely, edging up to Lucy would be permissible, especially in a crowded bar – besides, Kevin seemed at that time to be enjoying himself chatting-up the blonde barmaid, despite the local gossip. But the darker side of my imaginings were soon to be dispelled when one evening, much to my joy and relief, Lucy and Kevin appeared just along the footpath behind the cricket ground.

"Hello there," I called out, "Long time, no see!"

It was then he explained his absence, how Lucy, in the past week or so, had been taken poorly and, had it not been for the good offices of medical science, she may not, sadly to say, have survived,

"But just look at her now," he cried out, "Doesn't she look grand?"

Crossing the fields that same evening in the glowing sunset I did mention to Kevin, as Lucy retrieved a stick, "Aren't our veterinarians wonderful?"

End

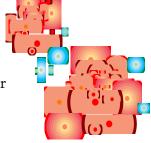
Terence St. John

### **BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

'SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM' was judged on July 1st by the 'Tidy' group committee.

Commendation certificates were awarded to Mr Ernest Mackelden for his hanging baskets and the Camden Arms for their floral display.

Congratulations to all participants.



PICK

YOUR

OWN

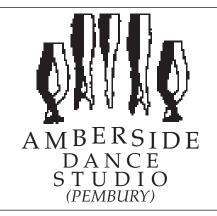
&
READY
PICKED
FRUIT



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STRAWBERRIES & RASPBERRIES
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Also PIPPINS VINTAGE KENT CIDER June-October : See local press for details



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### PEMBURY DISTRICT GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS

THE GUIDES meet on Tuesday evenings in the Guide & Scout HQ from 7-9pm. They have taken part in camping, cycle riding and walking activities and in October they won the Division Guide Swimming Gala. After a lot of hard work Amanda Prince gained her B.T. Trefoil badge, which is the highest award that can be gained by a Guide. Well done!

The 1st and 3rd Brownies meet on Friday evenings between 6 and 7.30pm in the Guide & Scout HQ. This year, they went on a pack holiday and also won the Division Brownie Swimming Gala in October.

The 2nd Pembury Brownies (Kent College) have a new Guider, who started in September.

The pack is a closed unit for the girls at Kent College.

Pembury Rainbows meet on Friday evenings also, between 4.30 and 5.45 pm in the Guide & Scout HQ. There is a long waiting list of girls wanting to become Rainbows and the unit is in desperate need of a Guider. Sadly, if a Guider is not found soon the unit may have to close and all the girls will be very disappointed. If you would like to help or you know somebody who might help, please ring me on 823002

#### **Jackie Fitchmuller**

Pembury District Commissioner

### PEMBURY PEOPLE 2000

WHAT A disappointment! I can't believe that only 40 households out of nearly 2,500 want to have an entry in the book about life in Pembury in the year 2000. We'd hoped it would tell future generations about who lived here and what life was like at the beginning of a new millennium.

Surely more of you would like to be included. You need only write a short piece about you and your family: where you live and how you spend your time. That wouldn't be hard, would it? We will provide the paper and collect it.

Perhaps you might have lost the form delivered with the Pembury Village News or it slipped your mind until you thought it was too late. Well, it isn't. The collection boxes for the forms will be in the two village Post Offices and the Hospice Shop until 14 January 2000. So how about it? This is your chance to be part of the Village's history.

Betty Roberts, Chairman Millennium Committee

<u>k</u>	
PEMBURY PEOPLE 2000	
I would like to write a page in the book	
I would like to help with the delivery of the paper	
I would like to help with the collation of the pages	
Name	
Address	
Telephone	

# SERIOUSLY SEEKING FLOWER ARRANGERS FOR THE OLD CHURCH

AS FROM March 2000 Biddy Wilson (822029) and Ann Toler (824071) will be 'in charge' of the flower rota for the Parish Church.

Unfortunately, for one reason or another, several of our regular arrangers feel that they are no longer able to continue.

This really is a most pleasant duty – you do not need to be an expert. It is more important to have a love of flowers and a feeling for the atmosphere of the Old Church.

If you feel you could be interested do please telephone one of us as soon as possible and we will put you completely in the picture about what is involved. Both ladies and gentlemen welcome.



# WANTED – BAUBLES, BANGLES – BRIGHT SHINY BEADS

IF YOU don't know me you will probably have seen the costume jewellery stall I organise for St Peter's May and November Fayres and the Friends of Pembury Parish Church coffee morning each September.

All proceeds go to St. Peters and luckily the stall has been particularly successful this year, so I desperately need to replenish my stock for sale.

Do you have any costume jewellery you no longer wear that I could have? If you phone me I will gladly (and gratefully) collect it. The next sale will be in May 2000 at the Upper Church, so if you could contact me before then it would be great!

Thank you

Ann Toler (824071)



ENT COLLEGE, Pembury, regularly hosts the sessions of the Paddock Wood Swimming Club on Mondays 12-1pm and Fridays 6.45pm-8.15pm at their swimming pool. It is a non-competitive club, drawing many members from Pembury, for all ages and abilities.

If you would like to join please contact Ron or Sylvia Abbott on 824031 for more details.

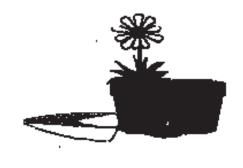
## **GILL'S GARDEN**

WORKING outdoors in Winter can still be a pleasure and tackling jobs now can relieve pressure in Spring. Check bulbs, corms and tubers in store to make sure they are not rotting. Plant bare root, balled trees and shrubs, e.g. plants not in containers including roses if the ground is not frozen.

Plant containers and tubs if you have not already done so. Shaped shrubs, e.g. box, planted with ivies and ericas and underplanted with small bulbs give a splash of colour. Protect containers from frost with bubble wrap or move to a sheltered place. Remember to water and feed hanging baskets. Plant hedges and prune overhanging trees and shrubs. Remove leaves from plants to stop crowns rotting and from harbouring slugs. Protect vulnerable plants from prevailing winds and check stakes and ties, shorten stems of large shrubs, e.g. lavatera, to stop plants rocking out of the ground.

Plant Summer flowering bulbs, e.g. lilies, when the ground has warmed up. Plan and alter the shape of the garden, if necessary, keeping off the lawn if frosty. Perhaps a new island bed could be incorporated; plants such as corylus avellana contorta (contorted willow with yellow catkins) underplanted with buxus sempervirens elegantissima, which looks good

all year round.
Bergenias and
winter ericas
coupled with
sinensis
zebrinas, a
grass, together
with lilies for



summer complete the picture.

Plants at their best at this time include winter encas, prunus subhirtella autumnnalis (a tree flowering from November to April), jasminum nudiflorum (a wall shrub) and Christmas roses. Shrubs include daphne mezereum, hamamelis mollis (witchhazel), mahonia charity, ilex (hollies), pyracantha (a berried shrub) and viburnum bodnantense.

Order bulbs and seeds for the coming season and sow sweet peas. If you have a pond keep a small area ice-free to protect fish and plants and if you are feeding the birds, please feed regularly as they will reward you later by eating unwanted insects in the spring. Service the lawnmower, repair fences and treat wooden garden furniture with preservative.

Finally, Happy Christmas and happy gardening in the Millennium.

Gill Matthews

### MY PLOT

IT IS WELL and truly Autumn as I write this and, although many crops have finished, I find that the runner beans kept going well into October. I never pull mine up until they have died right back, although lots of people seem to get rid of theirs weeks before me.

Recently, I was told that runner beans are actually perennial. This means that they will come up again every year. I never knew that before! Maybe next year I will experiment to find out whether it is worth while.

Speaking of experiments, I have joined in tests on behalf of the Henry Doubleday Research Association two or three times. HDRA tries to find ways of growing successfully without using too many chemicals. This year I have grown cabbages for them to see if a disease called club root can be prevented. What I had to do was to grow some cabbages inside a protective 'cup' made from a rhubarb leaf. Another row was grown without the rhubarb leaves. The idea was obviously that the poisonous rhubarb would keep the infection out but I have to say that it has made no difference to mine. People all over the country will have tried it out and then let HDRA know how we got on. They then collate all the results and print them in their magazine

Last year I did an experiment where I grew potatoes underneath my runner bean wigwam. It saved a lot of space but didn't produce as many beans or potatoes as when I grew them in separate rows next door.

Now, I did say last issue that I'd let you know how my sweetcorn got on. A mixed result, but encouraging, is how I'd describe it. I had masses of them - about sixty, I should think. It sounds a lot but my young family is very keen on them and can get rid of eight in one meal easily! The trouble was that a lot of them were not sweet like they should have been. They were more like cattle fodder (not that I actually know what cattle fodder tastes like!). This was due to dodgy seed and I will definitely not use the same make again.

The secret to getting a good sweet corn crop is to grow quite a large number all together. The books all tell you to grow them in a block rather than in rows but they don't tell you how much better a big block is rather than a small block. Believe me, it makes an enormous difference. It is because the plants are not pollinated by insects. Instead the cobs are set by wind pollination. If the plot is larger then the pollen stands more of a chance of making a 'hit' than if the block is quite small.

Lastly, thank you to the people who have told me that you *can* get new gooseberry bushes that don't have prickles. However, nobody knows of a special tool for picking them off my old lethal-spined bushes!

By the way, HDRA are renaming themselves the Organic Horticultural Association – a shorter and more descriptive title.

**Caroline Mazzey** 

### PEMBURY GARDENERS' SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY, which has been in existence since 1944, has, like many other village organisations, until recently held its events in the old Village Hall. Now, with the demolition of the hall and until the replacement is built, we are holding our meetings and flower/vegetable shows at the Free Church Hall, Romford Road, by kind permission of the Pastor.

However, this move did not affect the enthusiasm of all concerned because on one of the hottest days this year, on Saturday 11th September, our Autumn Show was held and what a success this turned out to be! A full report and details of prize-winners appeared in the *Courier* and it was very gratifying to see such excellent entries from the juniors with their imaginative subjects.

We organise three major shows a year and in 2000 our dates are March 25th for the Spring Show and July 10th for the Summer Show (whether this will be held in the Free Church Hall or the new Village Hall remains to be seen). Hopefully, the Autumn show will be held about the middle of September in the new hall.

One of the most popular activities by members of the Society is 'Flower Arranging', with entries encouraged for our three major shows. At the moment meetings are held at Pembury Cricket Club pavilion, by kind permission of the Committee, on the first Monday of each month starting at 8pm. New members are always welcome and details of membership can be obtained from Mrs Anne Purton on 824223.

The Society's AGM will be held on Thursday 24th February in the Free Church Hall and further details will be announced to members in due course. Here is your chance to come along, even if you and your family are not members, as we can soon put that right.

In the meantime members only are reminded that the stock shed on the Woodside Road allotments is open for business on Sunday mornings, but at this time of the year from 10-11am only.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THIS IS A plea to all Club Secretaries in Pembury.

If you have any forthcoming events planned please use our columns to advertise the fact. Due to production deadlines, please let us have at least one month's notice and bear in mind that this magazine is published during the first week of every March, June, September and December.

This magazine is intended to record the life and events of the Parish; it needs your help to help bring this about. We would also welcome reports of your group's activities, especially if you have any photographs of the event. All material will be gladly received by the Editor.

By the way, is your organisation listed under 'Village Organisations' at the back of this magazine? If so, have we got the details and your telephone number correct? If not, please let the new Editor know and she will make sure that they are included in the next issue.

# THE NATIONAL NUMERACY STRATEGY AT PEMBURY SCHOOL

"2, 4, 6, 8 . . ." is one of the many chants which may be heard ringing out across Pembury School this term as children enjoy participating in a 'daily dedicated mathematics lesson', one of the requirements of the National Numeracy Strategy (DFEE). As with the 'Literacy Hour', which was successfully introduced last year, the staff have implemented the new teaching 'Framework' with enthusiasm and commitment. Of course, much of the Framework is not new to us; the content is very close to what we have already been teaching at Pembury School. The Yearly Programme is based around five strands of mathematical knowledge – 'Numbers and the Number System', 'Calculations', 'Solving Problems', 'Measures, Shape and Space' and 'Handling Data'. Each strand is in turn divided into Key Objectives as developmental stages, from Reception all the way to Year 6, which help us to plan, teach and assess the National Curriculum for mathematics in a way that develops the children's numeracy skills to the full.

The lessons themselves (45 minutes to one hour) are lively, interactive and stimulating and are made up of three distinct parts – the mental and oral warm up, the main teaching activity and the plenary as a conclusion. Children are involved in counting aloud, developing mental strategies and practising rapid recall of facts at the beginning of a lesson. They then go on to learning a new topic, extending previous work or applying strategies to problem solving and investigative tasks for the main part, using a range of new and exciting resources,

As one of the team of Kent's 'Leading Mathematics Teachers' I have been able to attend a number of training courses and share ideas with staff from other schools who have come to observe my lessons. Similarly, as the new Mathematics Consultant at Pembury School (having taken over from Christina Lundberg's excellent leadership in that role for many years) I have been lucky enough to hear all the positive feedback about the successful mathematics lessons that my colleagues have delivered this term – it is going to be an exciting year for mathematics!!

### Megan Geiger

# PEMBURY CHURCHES AND THE MILLENNIUM

AS MENTIONED in the summer issue of Pembury Village News, the churches in the village are joining together in several ways to celebrate the Millennium and to show that



the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ is not just the remembering of a past event but an opportunity to show that the Christian faith is as relevant to daily living today as it was when Jesus lived on earth.

Before the end of 1999 all homes in the village will be receiving a Millennium Candle, together with a message from the local churches which includes the words of a Millennium resolution and a special prayer. We hope you will take time to read the resolution, and may want to use the prayer as you light the candle on the evening of 31st December. Volunteers from the churches will be delivering the candles and will be happy to talk with you about the real significance of the Millennium and to offer further material about the Christian faith, if you would find this helpful.

On Sunday 9th January, the churches in Pembury will be joining together at Pembury School for a United Millennium Service at 11.30am. This will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. We hope many villagers will want to come and join us for this celebration, whether currently church members or not. If you would like to come, but would rather not come on your own, please telephone any of the churches listed at the back of the Village News and we will endeavour to link you up with somebody to accompany you or to give you a lift. It would be good to make this a really special occasion at the start of the third millennium.

Plans are well afoot for the Pembury Pageant, scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday 10th June 2000. The pageant will move through the village, featuring scenes at different locations recalling the Christian history of the village and celebrating the faith we profess now. Kent College, Hospice in the Weald, Pembury School, Cornford House and the Friends of Pembury Hospital will all be joining the churches for what we hope will be a great village celebration.

The Reverend Stephen Sealy

### NEW PEMBURY BUSINESS OWNER

YOU MAY have noticed that Pembury Hair Studio has recently changed hands. Sally Wickens, who is the new owner, had previously worked in a salon in Tunbridge Wells for ten years and, more recently, as a freelance hairdresser.

When Linda Miller, the previous owner, decided that it was time for her to move, Sally knew that the modern village salon was just the thing that she was looking for. Since taking over last September she has enjoyed every moment of the new challenge and looks forward continuing to provide the service for villagers.

### CRIME IN PEMBURY

GOOD NEWS! The reported crime figures for July, August and September are exactly the same as for the previous quarter. Whilst it is disappointing that we have not been able to reduce the figure to 50, the total again being 58, it is reassuring to know that we are not the subject of a crime wave.

	April-June	July-September
Burglary (dwelling)	3	4
Burglary (other types of premises)	5	4
Theft of vehicle	1	3
Theft from vehicle	5	2
Criminal damage (including damage to vehicles	s) 10	11
Shoplifting	0	0
Other theft (other than vehicle related)	6	10
Bilking (making off without paying)	12	3
Theft of cycle	1	1
Assaults (excluding sexual assaults) - ABH	9	8
common	1	0
Vehicle interference (not previously recorded)	0	4
Miscellaneous	5	8
	58	58

Without vehicle interference we would have been closer to our target. We already know the figures for October and, sadly, the number of crimes related to bilking is eight, which is twice as much as the July-September figures. Sadly, it would appear that someone has made a commercial decision to gamble with these losses against the cost of preventative measures.

Burglary has also shown an increase for October, so be on your guard. Simple basic rules: lock garages and sheds; secure doors and windows; do not leave equipment in the garden; remove valuables from cars.

If you are going out, invest in a timer to activate lights and radios; this would make the burglar think twice. Do not be afraid to ring the police  $-01732\ 740055$  – regarding anything suspicious. If the response is not positive, let me know. They have a duty to us as much as we do to them.

Last thing, if you are going on holiday, let trusted neighbours know.

**Hugh Boorman** – tel: 823068



### A CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED

In celebrating our 100th edition of this magazine, we are allowed to look back at the articles making up of some of those publications. One article, which was published some 10 years ago, deserves its second airing bearing in mind its seasonal flavour and its nostalgic theme.

BEFORE THE First World War family entertainment was simpler; people made their own music, they gathered round an upright piano and sang, they read aloud or played charades. But even in those days there were exciting hints of things to come, as is recalled in this nostalgic story of a childhood treat at Christmas. It is one of many personal recollections of Pembury's past given by E. J. Standen in his book 'Just One Village'.

'The first Christmas that I still remember my grandparents, aunts and uncles, as many as could be packed in, came to tea. My mother had had a job to persuade my sisters and me to try and sleep in the afternoon because there was to be a special treat after tea. Our house had been selected for this party because we had a larger room than any of the others. To make more room even the table was moved out after the meal and, shortly afterwards, the clip-clop of a pony's trot was heard on the stable yard. Some went outside and others crowded to the window. My father was the first one back, carrying a small cast iron case with a wooden cover like a sewing machine. This he placed on the floor in the middle of the room. The next one brought a brass horn, almost as tall as himself; the third, a fairly high metal stand with a spring and chain hanging from the top, followed by a large wooden case, which was being handled with great care. My uncle's friend had arrived with his phonograph. One or two present had seen one before but most of them had not.

The iron box housed the clockwork motor which in turn, by means of a belt, turned a covered roller on to which the records were slid, these being cylindrical in shape. That is why such a big box was wanted to keep them in. This particular machine had an extra big horn and that is why it had to stand on the floor, so that it hung freely on the spring and chain, for it was fixed direct on to the sound box which had to move as the ruby (needle) followed along the groove on the record. But what a wonderful thing, bands and singing and then, wonder of wonders, the sound box was taken off and an attachment was put on with a blank record. Two uncles with violins and an aunt with a mandolin tuned up for the owner of the machine to sing 'The Mistletoe Bough'. They got as close as they could to the end of the horn to make the recording which was afterwards played back to us. I expect the whole programme which we heard that night could be heard on one 'long player' and we should think it an awful reproduction, but how wonderful we thought it then.'

This is one of many personal recollections of Mr E. J. Standen in his book 'Just One Village' If you enjoyed reading these personal memories of bygone years there are many more contained in this wonderful book which has been recently re-printed by his daughter, Mary Standen. The book has now been illustrated and contains some photographs of Pembury that have not been published before. Contact Mary Standen for details and sample a nostalgic journey into Pembury's past.

### **Henry Plant**

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### NEWS FROM 1ST PEMBURY SCOUT GROUP

THE AIM OF Scouting is to help young people make the most of their free time in a wide range of activities which we hope will be of use to them in their adult lives. Apart from the weekly meetings in the Scout HQ activities are arranged at weekends and during school holidays.

Cub Scouts (ages 8-11) meet Mondays and Thursdays, Scouts (ages 11-16) meet Wednesdays and Venture Scouts (age 16-20) meet Thursday evenings. All units meet in the Scout and Guide HQ, off Woodhill Park, just behind the Recreation Ground. Sadly, the Beaver Colony, for 6-8 year olds, closed a while ago due to a shortage of adult leaders.

**Cubs –** In May the two Cub packs completed a week's camp at Downe, near Biggin Hill. Despite some horrendous thunderstorms they managed to keep dry and had a great week. They have also taken part in the district cross-country run and in sailing at Haysden Lake. Other activities included swimming at Kent College and a visit to Duxford Airfield to see the museum and enjoy the flying display.

**Scouts –** The Scouts' summer camp in late August was held in the Peak District National Park, not far from Buxton, in Derbyshire. Plenty of good camping and fell-walking was experienced. A day's outing to Alton Towers was also organized. During May the Scouts attended a combined Scout and Guide camp at our District camp site at Adamswell, near Langton Green. Also, some of the older Scouts took part in the Medway Expedition, which involved taking sailing boats and inflatable craft down the River Medway from Tonbridge to Whitstable, stopping overnight at Allington, near Maidstone.

**Venture Scouts –** The Venture Scouts joined other Ventures for a Jamboree camp on the Isle of Wight. Because this age group often have weekend or even full-time occupations, weekend activities are difficult to arrange. Where they can they assist the other units as additional leaders. The Group took an active part in this year's Village Fayre, helping to provide tents and marquees and erect and dismantle them on the day.

Michael P Cartwright, Scout Leader

### WEST KENT YMCA RE-OPENS AT PEMBURY

WEST KENT YMCA has started their youth work programme in their centre at Pembury following a successful Summer Playscheme. The building has been refurbished

and equipped with a new pool table and also has a new staff team who are Paul Bain, Lynsey Barwick, Tony Murphy, Seymour Orton, Simon Stanley and Paula Pentney.

The clubs are as follows: **Junior Youth Club** (8-11yr olds): Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm. This has been going for a few weeks now and has been well attended. There is a tuck shop available and craft activities have been provided on the night. We are looking to hold a disco for the club before Christmas

and we will be putting a more comprehensive programme together for the New Year.

Youth Club (12-l6yr olds): Mondays 7.30pm-

9pm. A group of nine young people on average has been meeting at the Centre for a number of weeks. West Kent YMCA youth workers are aiming to provide a safe environment in which young people can meet and develop a programme of activities.

**Future Needs**. West Kent YMCA are currently in need of the following: a *Minibus* – to widen the programmes they offer your young people; *Volunteers* – to help run the various youth provisions, help with fundraising, etc.; *Funds* – donations, fundraising ideas and administrative support.



## THANK YOU, HENRY AND IRENE PLANT

EARLY IN the New Year Henry and Irene will be moving from Pembury to Paddock Wood after nearly 29 years in the village. Many of you will be unaware of the very valuable contribution to and involvement in Pembury that Henry and Irene have had and hopefully the following article, although brief, will do them justice.

They came to Pembury in June 1971 with their two young daughters; one is now a software engineer in America and the other is now a qualified accountant.

Henry became Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council in March 1972 after the position was declared vacant at that year's Annual Parish Meeting and during his term as Clerk he served under five different Chairmen – George Sturgeon, Arthur Penn, Derek Betts, Dick Miles and Sarah Clarke.

Irene became Assistant Clerk in 1975 and they held those positions until retiring on 31st March 1990. During that time both became involved with other organisations within the village. For eight years Henry was a governor at Pembury School, as well as serving on the Village Hall, Pembury 2000 and the Millennium Committees. Henry was responsible for convening the inaugural meetings which led to the foundation of the Pembury Short Mat Bowling Club and the Pembury Table Tennis Club (now defunct), and became their first honorary secretaries.

Soon after retirement Henry became a parish councillor in 1991 and was elected Vice Chairman of the Parish Council as well as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee at its first meeting. It was as Chairman of last Committee that in 1995 Henry became Editor of the Pembury Village News and this edition will be his last in that position although he will remain a member of the Editorial Committee.

One of the future projects in the village is to be the upgrading of the facilities within the Lower Green Recreation Ground and Henry has volunteered to remain in his present position as its Project Co-ordinator.

Whilst all this was happening Irene was busy keeping the Parish Council's office running smoothly following the many changes that happened in the Parish during her 15 years in the job. Irene did, however, find time to pursue her



historical interests with the Pembury History Society during which time she played a part in the publication of a booklet covering research into life in the 19th Century.

Irene and Henry have been married for over 43 years and, before retirement from his full time employment in 1989, Henry was a qualified legal executive. Before 1975 Irene's previous employment was chief audit clerk with a firm of accountants. Now you know why the Parish books were always correct!!

Approaching retirement Irene and Henry decided to take up the sport of lawn bowls and they joined the Pembury Bowls Club in 1987. Henry became its Chairman the next year, a position he held for ten years. Irene also served as the Club's Ladies Captain and has been its Ladies Champion on two occasions. They both like to play indoor bowls during the winter season. In fact, Henry is a Director and the Treasurer of the local indoor bowling club at Hawkenbury. Irene has achieved the honour of being selected to play three times for Kent this year.

Whilst it is sad to see them moving out of Pembury it is also good news to know that they will not be cutting themselves off entirely from Pembury as they still intend to be members of the Pembury Bowls Club and to retain the very many friendships they have forged over all these years.

Their contribution is an example of commitment and on behalf of every one in the village, Henry and Irene, thank you both very much.

**Hugh Boorman** 

### MEET YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

the first in a regular series

#### **ALISON MORTON**

Alison is Chairman of the Pembury Village News Working Group and Vice-Chairman of the Public Relations Working Group.

Born and bred in Tunbridge Wells, where she attended the Girls' Grammar School, Alison has lived in Pembury since 1986. Married to Steve, with one son Philip, she is very much involved in Pembury professionally as owner of Pembury Business & Secretarial Services which is also host sponsor for Pembury's own Village News web site on the Internet.

Previously Alison has worked in the voluntary sector for the Kent Information Federation, providing information for disabled people and carers and has also done her stint as a Beaver Scout Assistant Leader in Pembury.



### THE PEMBURY COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

N APRIL 1996 a meeting was convened at Southborough Police Station by Inspector Peach. It was originally called a Police Working Group, later to be renamed the 'Pembury Community Working Group'

Inspector Peach explained the reasons for forming a Working Group as well as the broad aims of the Group. The role of the Police is one of enforcement, but the role of the Group would be to ascertain the root causes of problems, why they are occurring and to research possible solutions, consulting with other groups and agencies when necessary. For positive action, the Police need the support of the Community.

Members of the Group should be drawn from a broad spectrum of the Community. Besides the six parish councillors the Inspector suggested that a local licensee and representatives from the YMCA and High Weald Housing be invited to join the Group.

At present, the PCWG consists of Cllr H. Boorman, PC Bryant, Mrs J. Ditchett (Pharmacist), Miss S. Dobson (YMCA), Mr M. Dow. (High Weald Housing), Mrs H. Hughes (Deacon), Cllr Mrs G. Matthews, the Rev. S. Sealey, Mr R. Parsons (Secretary) and Mr R. Abbott (Chairman).

If any other Village organisation would like to be represented on the Working Group please contact our Secretary, Mr R. Parsons, at the Parish Council Office, 6 The Grove, Pembury.

### PEMBURY PLAYERS

Unable to stage their annual pantomime this year, but they are still meeting and hope to present an entertainment at an alternative venue in the New Year. Look out for their posters. But don't worry, they are already planning their pantomime for next year which will, of course, be staged in the new village hall.

# SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

#### PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

IT IS GETTING to that time of the year when people start to reflect on the past year and all the things that they have and have not done. Resolutions are then made for the next year. This year, the emotions are even stronger because 31st December heralds the finish and start not only of a year but also a decade, a century and a Millennium.

In the Football Club we go through a similar period of reflection and examination each Saturday and Sunday after our matches. However, the period of time spent depends very much on our results. Obviously, if a team has achieved a great result then the navel searching is non-existent, although the verbal action replays of the goals, incidents, etc can go on for some time! There is a cardinal rule on Sundays that any postmatch blues are allowed up to 1.00pm for home games - 1.30pm for away matches then only positive thought and chat is allowed otherwise the taste of the beer is spoilt!

Fortunately, over the last two or three years we have enjoyed many an enjoyable Saturday afternoon/evening and Sunday lunchtime/afternoon in the Black Horse with lots of 'action replays', etc. It is amazing how much more brilliant the save or the tackle or the goal was after a pint or two of your chosen lubricant! Whilst we look back to learn from our mistakes, we are always looking forward to the next league match, cup tie or season with eager anticipation. Such is the stuff that dreams are made of.

We fully appreciate that we have a very rich and full heritage going back to the turn of the century – possibly 1908 – for Saturday

football, whereas Sunday football is a relatively modern phenomenon and goes back about 30 years. Whilst we have lots of photos and anecdotes etc. of the recent times, we sadly do not have much history kept of bygone days. We should like to remedy this in the New Year.

Does anybody have any anecdotes or tales that would help us to achieve this? Is there any item of memorabilia, etc. that is gathering dust that we could have? Items such as newspaper cuttings any

programmes, team photos, fixture lists, league tables, old minute books, team sheets, old shirts/shorts/socks, medals etc. Were there any sponsors of teams or players? (We currently enjoy the patronage of several and I shall write more about them in a future issue.)

If you don't wish to part with the items permanently, may we borrow them for a short while so that we may, if possible, photocopy them or record them?

Is there anybody who was an officer of the club in the past who may be able to help us? There must be lots of tales and items about. It is a matter of getting them. Please give me a ring (823714) if you can help.

As the festive season will soon be upon us may I, on behalf of the club officials, managers and players, wish you all the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of prosperous New Years!

Jim Smith, Chairman

# PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL CLUB

"GENTLEMEN, I have a problem!" These were the words from our Club Coach, David Gow, at our recent

management committee meeting. What on earth could he be going to say. "I have recently been to a couple of training sessions – and the players were not wearing bibs!" Horrors of horrors.

This goes to illustrate how far this Club has come since its inauguration in 1983. All club members now have the benefit of facilities and training of the highest quality and the standard set was not being met.

The Club started in September 1983 on Saturday mornings offering facilities for all players 11 or under. We obtained sponsorship from Whiteleggs Garden Centre (now Notcutts) and entered the Tunbridge Wells (now defunct) youth league on Saturdays – we lost our first game 17-1!

Chris Vanns, whose son Stewart appears in the cycling article elsewhere, Brian Kirkham and Robin Turner were the first of many to lend their vast footballing experience to the Club in its infancy.

The Club continued to grow and in 1992 Keith Mearing took over as Secretary and took us onto a higher plane. His energy and enthusiasm, especially amongst the younger age groups, created a strength of depth the benefit of which we are reaping today.

In 1993 Mini Soccer started in the

Crowborough League and the Club were amongst the first clubs to implement the concept. The initiative started at the FA to make younger groups non-competitive, six or seven-a-side (to improve skill on the ball) and an attempt to expand sportsmanship and fair play amongst all club members. It has certainly worked.

The structure of this Club is something to be admired. We have spent over £15,000 in the last three years alone on equipment and changing facilities. We now have changing facilities at Woodside and the Recreation Ground to be proud of and we get some nice comments from visiting teams. I would like to thank all past and present members of Pembury Parish Council for their support in enabling us to expand the club with a free hand – and I hope you trust us to do the right things in the future.

Please come and see what we do on Saturday mornings, in our younger group training sessions, or Sundays playing Crowborough League matches.

We have an excellent group of skilled, qualified, trained and, above all, motivated, managers and coaches to take us forward to the next Century.

Seasons Greetings to All.

Laurie Frowde, Chairman

### A TABLE TENNIS CLUB IN PEMBURY?

WOULD YOU like to play Table Tennis? Would you like to play Table Tennis in Pembury?

If you are interested John Burleton, a past county champion who is already coaching youngsters on Monday evenings, 6-10pm at Pembury School, would welcome any existing players and those wanting to learn, of any age and of any standard, to join him.

John hopes that in time, with the necessary support, he could enter a team or teams from Pembury to play in the local leagues.

Don't be put off if you haven't got a bat of your own as bats are available for use free of charge.

COME ON! Take the first step and contact John on 823250 to get started.

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### HOSPICE IN THE WEALD



As FAR AS patients, their families and local people are concerned Hospice in the Weald has been open and functioning for a year now though, because of lack of funds, not yet at full capacity. However, its formal 'opening' took place on 19th October at a ceremony performed by the Duchess of Norfolk, who is a very active supporter of the national Hospice movement. The Duchess praised the efforts of all who had contributed to the creation of Hospice in the Weald and afterwards spent a long time talking with patients.

The next day saw the 'Firewalk', held at the Land Registry. Although Richard Snow, the Hospice fundraising director, was the only actual resident of Pembury who took part, a Hospice nurse, a voluntary worker and one of the accounts staff were also among 39 men and women, both young and not so young, who accepted the challenge. Following a 2-hour training and motivation session, nobody lost their nerve on the night and all successfully completed the 20ft walk over burning embers. Over £9000 was raised from sponsorship and audience contributions. Ouestioned two days after the event Richard Snow confirmed that he had no blisters or other effects and said, "I was amazed at the lack of sensation - it was like walking on leaves!"

Pembury people may not be keen firewalkers but they did turn out in good numbers for the Country Fair at Pippins Farm, braving the mud caused by an early morning deluge which fortunately stopped just before the Fair opened. Over £4,000 was raised for the Hospice, for which we are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Knight for hosting this event every year. The Barn Dance

run by Pembury Link Group was also well attended on a very wet night. Participants enjoyed a first-class band, a bar, and an excellent supper prepared by Olive Dickins, all of which helped to make a profit of £360. The Hospice is now part of Pembury so the opportunity was taken during the evening to run a raffle in aid of the Village Hall Fund, which raised an additional £110.

Many Pembury residents are now doing voluntary work at the Hospice and Maggie Brain, the Voluntary Services Manager, has asked for space in this article to thank all those who have shown such keen interest, especially those who have been so patient in waiting to join when there were no immediate vacancies. The most difficult voluntary posts to fill are weekend receptionists and the Volunteer Office (tel: 820529) would love to hear from anyone able to spare a few hours on either Saturdays or Sundays. Shifts are from 9.30-1pm, 1-4.30pm or 4.30-7.30pm. Receptionist is an important role, being the first contact point for most callers, so is a 'people orientated' job. The Hospice is also seeking additional Home Care Volunteers to help patients and carers in the community by sitting with patients at home, taking them on shopping or other trips, etc. This entails six hours a week, plus two on-call duties a month. Again, call 820529 for more information.

Finally, if your Christmas shopping is still unfinished, the shop in the reception area at the Maidstone Road building has cards, wrapping paper and gifts – plus a coffee shop open from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm! And Larkfield Hall in Cornford Lane is kindly selling 100 donated Christmas trees (4ft to 8ft approx) on Hospice's behalf.

### CHARITY CYCLE RIDE

(through America and Canada to aid a Pembury girl)

THE HEADING to this article seems bland enough but the story it generates gives hope not only to Emily Francis, a lovely three-year old girl who is at present in Pembury Hospital suffering from leukaemia, but to all the kind people who not only contributed towards the sponsored cycle ride but also to the many people who were so generous in their help to Stuart Vanns of Pembury during his epic cycle ride in America and Canada. Stuart adores cycling and during this year he was able to realise one of his ambitions of being able to cycle through the American South and the wilderness of Canada. He felt that the pleasure he was going to experience should be shared and he hit

upon the idea of making his dream ride generate sponsored money to help research into leukaemia in general (through the Great Ormond Hospital for Children) and also through our local hospital to benefit Emily and others like her. When I spoke to him about this article I felt his enthusiasm for biking was only equalled by his desire to complete his sponsored trip so that he might help others not so fortunate as he. Please read Stuart's account of his charity ride below.

'Earlier this year I was lucky enough to be able to cycle 3,000 miles in America and Canada and to raise over £2,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. I say I was lucky because the year before, on a trans-Canadian jaunt, I had a slight altercation with the road. This resulted in an in-depth study of the Canadian National Health Service and a shattered hip.

The opportunity came about via three friends from a bike shop in Ontario, Canada. These people had taken care of me after my accident, even though we had only just met. We all decided that I should plan to join them on their ride across the Southern States from December to March. I would join them in El Paso in the middle of

January; this would allow for three and a half months' recovery from the accident.

January 15th I arrived in El Paso and met Rick, Katy and Tony along with their trusty *sag (equipment)* wagon, a '74 Chevy Van we called 'Lorrenzo'. From El Paso we cycled east through Texas Big Bend National Park, the laid back City of Austin, then on into Louisiana and its (alli) 'gator infested bayous (ditches) and swamps, then the lively city of New Orleans, with its never ending nightlife

and on to the Tallahassee in Florida.

We delivered two cars to Toronto, which paid the petrol for Lorrenzo. I knew it would be a while before the passes through the Rockies would unfreeze so I found myself a kitchen job and stayed at the bike shop for six weeks. Then, as it started to warm up, I managed to find a car that needed delivering to Edmonton, Alberta. The drive there was mind blowing, it took me six days!

From Edmonton I cycled to Jasper in the heart of the Rockies and probably the most beautiful setting I have ever seen. Then along the icefields Parkway (when on the 1st June it snowed!) to Lake Louise, through to Golden, British Colombia and Kamloops. The final part of my journey took me to Vancouver, then on to Victoria on Vancouver Island. The journey took seven months and I covered 3,000 miles. I met some of the kindest people and cycled through the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen.

Everybody's contributions, both large and small, have added up to a grand total of £2,600, £2,000 of which has been donated to Great Ormond Street, the rest of the money will go to Pembury Hospital to help decorate some of the children's rooms and pay for the replacement of some televisions and videos.

During all his journeys Stuart was able to keep in touch with the progress of Emily and to let her know of his progress by the wonder of e-mails through the Internet. If you would like to

read a selection of those e-mails, because of the lack of space in this magazine I have arranged for them to be shown on our web page in full. They make fascinating reading and I commend you to read them if you have the use of a computer and a modem. If not, why not read the hard copy of our web page, which we deliver quarterly to the Public Library? If, after reading this article, you feel that you would like to contribute to Stuart's Sponsored Charity, please do so by writing direct to the Hospital – an acknowledgement will be sent to Stuart so he will know that the fund that he started for such a worthwhile charity, which is helping the Emilys of this world, is still continuing.

### **Henry Plant**

Photo - The picture ( shown here with the kind permission of the Kent and Sussex Courier) shows left to right Dr. Peter Pattisson, Stuart Vanns, Emily and her mother Bridget Francis.



# VILLAGE HALL PROJECT 1999-2000

OUR OLD VILLAGE HALL



GOING!

GOING!

GONE!!

#### **FUNDRAISING NEWS NOVEMBER 1999**

MANY OF YOU must have wondered what is happening since the demolition of our old hall in July. Building work started in November and the village will have a new hall in July 2000. Please accept our apologies for the delay but these projects are more complex than at first they may appear. Rest assured, *YOUR VILLAGE* will have a new hall for the whole community to use next year.

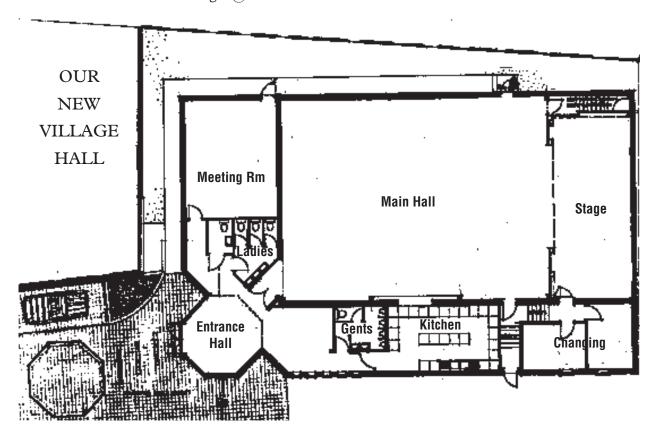
Within the articles that I have written I try to give credit to all benefactors towards this project. Many of you, in small and larger ways, are helping us to achieve our funding goal. May I now thank Pembury Gardeners' Society for their generous donation of £741, raised by undertaking various events on behalf of this project.

Other recent donors include Hospice In The Weald, who recently held a Barn Dance and raised £110 from the raffle, Pembury Sequence Dance Club - £150, Pembury Outdoor Bowls Club - £160.00, Bill Brown - £803, Arthur Storey - £68 and the Friday Market who gave £250 - 50% of their profits.

It's intended to use the Village News Internet site to advertise this project further, so that Pembury villagers who are now spread world-wide are aware of our efforts to provide this village with a facility that will take it into the 21st century.

Please remember that this is a very large project that local villagers are working very hard to achieve. We need a new hall, so let's get behind it. If you have an idea for fundraising or know of a company wishing to develop its community sponsorship programme, let me know straight away! Many of you will use this facility for family and social occasions in the future, so please help us to get this completed now.

**Brian Horgan**, Chairman, Village Hall Fundraising Project 1999-2000. Tel: 822412. e-mail: brian.horgan@talk21.com.



### COPING WITH THE COLD

FOLLOWING my two previous articles in Spring and Summer about the weather, I have now moved to a new location in Pembury and one of my first jobs to perform was to establish my weather station. Fortunately no rain fell within the first week of my move, so I was able to maintain accurate rainfall records and temporarily locate the temperature probe; the anemometer took just a little longer. Having moved 'down the hill' I do not expect to be recording such high wind speeds as those at my previous location.

As I write this article on a late October evening with an outside temperature of 14.5°C, coping with the cold does not seem a relevant thought but, as human beings, we do not cope very well, as opposed to the animal kingdom, generating our own microclimates within our homes and motor cars or, indeed, whenever we are in a man-made structure. (i.e. a building). Although the temperature around us is largely governed by the air temperature, the factor that really makes us feel cold is the 'wind chill factor'. Even on a Summer's day, when the wind blows it is still called the same, but of course then it is often a welcome feature.

As a rule of thumb the wind chill factor calculation does not start until a wind speed of 4 mph is reached. From then on the perceived temperature decreases by about 1°C degree per 2 mph of wind speed increase. This does not follow exactly but, to give an example, say, a wind speed of 15 mph with an air temperature of 5°C degrees would give a perceived temperature of minus 7°C. By the time the next magazine is published I will be able to give some statistics for this year's weather records.

#### Mike Stanford

### LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES?

"The younger members of our society are not different from what they have always been . . . At the time of the world when there were only two young people, Cain and Abel, one of them was a delinquent." – Lord Aberdare

My professional background, teaching young adults at a further education college, has offered me a useful insight into today's youth culture. We read much about the sociological problems and demographics that affect young people which might appear to differ from our own childhood. Tabloids express grave sentiments pertaining to the breakdown of the nuclear family, pernicious drug culture and increased crime. If I had less contact with teenagers of today I would be ready to join ranks with those who despair. My students often come from the most disadvantaged position but, paradoxically, often prove to be the exception to the rule. These 'diamonds in the mire' are often hardworking and ambitious. This often reflects the biographies of captains of industry who regularly surface from such detritus.

Many observers, perhaps, may have witnessed groups of youngsters in Pembury, sometimes crowding together in shop doorways or gathering at the recreation ground. It is easy to appraise them with the nominal interest normally given to a trip to the zoo! These are not the cohorts of safe oases such as the Scouts, Guides and other recognised youth associations but they are still the existing and possibly future residents of Pembury.

Recently, during a visit to our wonderful youth football scheme at the Recreation Ground, I was kindly given a tour of the refurbished changing facilities. This building had recently suffered from damage by vandals but, with many of the squads and helpers offering assistance, a metamorphosis was achieved. One of the adult organisers succinctly alluded to the fact that if we involve the youngsters with this type of activity we might achieve *stakeholding* thus giving pride in creation, ownership and, hopefully, resistance to future vandalism

These reflections might seem Utopian in nature but we have to start somewhere. If we marginalise any parish group we will surely diminish our aspirations to be a true community. Talk to the youth of Pembury; you might discover amongst the 'bad uns' some of your own 'diamonds in the mire'.

#### Paul Barrington-King

# THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL

AUTUMN is upon us and as the nights draw in those long, warm days of this last Summer seem a distant memory, as does the Annual Hospital Fete which took place on 28th August this year and was a very successful event from the point of view of fundraising. To date, the amount raised is some £18,600, which exceeds the target of £16,000 for the fete project items of two 'birthday' beds and two foetal heart monitors for the maternity unit. Well done, everybody who came along with the sunshine, spending money to support us at this event. It is a wonderful example of local people supporting their local hospital with great success. Thank you all.

In November the League of Friends celebrated an anniversary that was a significant milestone in our history – the opening some 25 years ago of our hospital site shop started up by Nancy Hill. Amazingly, some of the other people who started it up are still with us and working in the shop. Grateful thanks go to these and to all the other members who have selflessly given up their time to keep this valuable service to the patients and visitors functioning. A small party took place in early November within the hospital to recognise this important event. The accompanying photograph shows Mavis Somerset, Madge Smart, Frank Eling, Anne Johnson, Margaret Harris and Marion Wormsley.

If you would care to join us as a member of the League of the Friends of Pembury Hospital, we would dearly like to hear from you, especially if you are interested in helping on the various committees and sub-committees or in any other capacity you will all be very welcome. For more information, please contact Mrs J. Johnston on 01892 863779 (Membership Secretary) or Mrs E. A. Leather on 01892 723971 (Publicity).



# KNEELERS FOR THE PARISH CHURCH TO CELEBRATE THE MILLENNIUM

ONCE AGAIN, thank you and congratulations to everyone involved – as at the end of September 1999 there are 65 completed hassocks. The two special wedding canvases are stitched and being made up. That leaves 35 to come in to be stretched and completed.

If anyone is having difficulties or maybe finds that they are unable to continue with their kneeler, please get in touch now while there is still time to find someone else to take over. Please do not hesitate – phone Ann Toler on 824071.

Now that there is not so much hot sun around the canvases take that much longer to be damped, stretched and dried – after that they still have to be made up into the completed hassock. So please keep them coming in on a regular basis, otherwise yours may not be among those getting to the Church on time!!

THAT TIME IS . . . Saturday 13th May 2000 at 10.30am when the Revd. Stephen Sealy will hold a service to dedicate the new hassocks. Do please come to celebrate with us.

# THE NEW MILLENNIUM – WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

SUPPOSE that depends on what you want out of life, not only for yourself but for others.

The main reason for celebration in the Christian world is the celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. That in itself is some achievement when you consider the persecution of the Christians through the ages and the continual challenge of the material things in life in our present age. Christians will gain some hope and newfound energy to tackle the challenge of the next millennium.

In Pembury people will have many different views on what they would see as the items on the menu to improve the way of life for parishioners but some of these can only come about by individual effort and contribution. Unfortunately, there are still too many 'takers', people who like to enjoy or moan about facilities but never contribute physically, financially or morally. The new Millennium could be something to celebrate if we could change some of the attitudes.

Hopefully, in the first half of the year the new village hall will be completed. Remember, it belongs to the people of Pembury, so let's all support it and make it happen. Let us press for improved bus services for the elderly, especially at weekends, and a better understanding of the needs of the elderly and also of people with physical and mental disabilities. They are often treated as second-class citizens and are deprived of some of the pleasures we take for granted. None of us knows what awaits us.

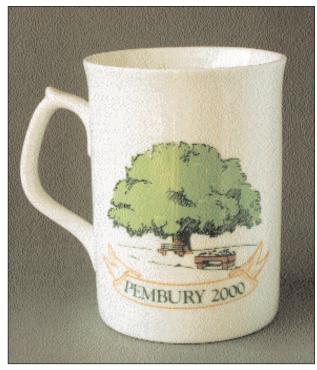
It would also be an achievement if we could create a youth facility in the village where youngsters could drop in for a chat, listen to music have a coffee or soft drink. Again, these things do not happen on their own, we have to make them happen.

We could and should identify and expose those who distribute drugs to some of the youngsters in the village and drive them out once and for all.

The Millennium will be worth celebrating if we are determined to put right some of these wrongs.

Have a super Christmas and New Year and please do not forget to pop in and see those you know are ill or alone, for a chat and a cuppa, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

### **Hugh Boorman**



Bone china, decorated in green and gold – only £2.75 each

You may remember that earlier this year Pembury Parish Council advertised that mugs would be available for the Millennium. Well now . . .

# The mugs are here!

Children up to and including Year 6	FREE MUG FOR EACH CHILD!	
If your child is a pupil at Pembury School in Reception up to and including Year 6 –	Mugs are due for distribution at School in early December.	
If your child attends one of the nursery schools or playgroups in the Village, he or she is entitled to a free mug –	Please contact Mrs Russell, the Parish Clerk, with details of your child's name, date of birth, address and group attended.d	
If your child lives in Pembury and is between 0 years old and Year 6 age and does not fall into any of the above groups, he or she is still eligible for a free mug –	Please contact Mrs Russell, the Parish Clerk, with details of your child's name, date of birth, address and school attended (if relevant).	

Adults and children Year 7 upwards	What you should do
If you filled in an Order Form earlier this year and did not collect and pay for your mug at any of the Village events in November –	Please contact Mrs Russell, the Parish Clerk and be sure to mention that you are on the reserve list.
If you want extra mugs or did not fill in an Order Form –	Please contact Mrs Russell, the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove, Pembury TN2 4BU. Tel: 823193.

Mugs are going fast . . . so get yours soon – in time for the Millennium!

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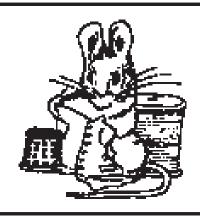
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### PEMBURY MILLENNIUM EVENTS

THE FOLLOWING LIST, generated by the Millennium Committee, notes the events in Pembury to be run by various local organisations for the Millennium year. Where we are aware of "routine" events, these have been included to help avoid clash of events. Please let us know of your events, so that there are no unfortunate clashes and so that we can let other people know about them.

Year 1999	Event	Venue/Organisers	
December	Candle distribution	Churches Together In Pembury	
31 December 7pm	Candelit Service	Pembury Old Church	
Year 2000		•	
January	Bound Book	Millennium Committee/Pembury	
T 0.1	N	Society	
January 3rd	New Year's Walk	Pembury Footpath Walkers	
January 9th 11.30am	Village Millennium Service	Pembury School	
Early January	Radio Show	Pembury Players	
January 21st	Millennium Parish Quiz Night	Scout and Guide Headquarters	
February 11th	Disco	Upper Church	
May 1st	Three Church Walk	Pembury Footpath Walkers	
May 6th	Maypole Dancing	Village Green	
May 6th	Grand Reunion	Pembury School	
May 13th 10.30am	Millennium Kneelers Service		
	of Dedication	Pembury Old Church	
May 20th 2pm	May Fayre	St Peter's Upper Church	
May	Open Day and Fete	Larkfield Hall	
May	Millennium Ball	TBA	
May/September	Cricket Weekend	Pembury Cricket Club	
June 10th 2pm-5pm	Pageant	Pembury Village	
July 1st & 2nd	Flower Festival	Old Church	
July 8th Fete/Fayre		Pembury School Association	
July 15th 2pm	Village Fayre with	Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football	
and evening	Opening Parade	Club and Scouts & Guides	
July	Arts and Crafts Exhibition	Pembury School	
July 21st/23rd	Millennium Day Exhibition		
Camp		Guides - Recreation Ground	
August 17th	A picnic lunch for parents and toddlers – Village Green	Parish Church Mothers Union.	
September 9 Coffee Morning – Village Green		Friends of Pembury Old Church.	
Early September	Tea Dance/Barn Dance	New Village Hall	
October	Musical Event	Kent College	
October 7 Concert. An evening of			
	Finnish songs	St Peter's Upper Church	
November 18th am St Peter's Autumn Fayre		Upper Church	
November	Parish Exhibition		
1 di loit L'Athoritott		2 2222 042 7 2022 02	

### PEMBURY ON THE INTERNET

### Have you visited our website yet?

IWROTE the first 'Pembury on the Internet' page in 1996 as a page on my own PBSS website. From a chance conversation in Hastings Road Post Office a couple of years later with the Pembury Village News Editor, Henry Plant, the idea of a full-blown Pembury website was born. Time has moved on and PBSS is now the official website's host sponsor and I have become the Chair of the Pembury Village News Working Group.

The site now contains the four last editions of the Pembury Village News plus information about the village, the Parish Council and services available to parishioners. A folder with the pages printed out can be consulted in the village library. The website continues to evolve and now has an interactive map and is part of the British and Irish Villages Internet Ring.

We have had messages from 'Pembury people' in Australia, South Africa, Canada and

Alaska, all of whom have been thrilled to find a little bit of 'home' on the Internet. The following email came from Verena Gill, now living in Alaska.

"It's wonderful to finally be able to get to a PVN web site and see what is happening in my home village. I grew up in Pembury, attended Pembury Primary School and Mascalls. Now I am working as a wildlife biologist, studying seabirds for the American government in Alaska (been here 10 years). I get homesick sometimes (especially in the middle of winter up here) and being able to feel a little closer to home via the web page is wonderful – now I can show all my friends up here where I grew up. Hope to be back sometime next year for a visit." – Verena A. Gill (parents are Robin and Yvonne Gill who still live in Pembury)

We'll be keeping you up-to-date on any contacts we've had and on any new developments – so watch this space!

**Alison Morton** 

In September Kent College students planted 2000 daffodil bulbs to mark the Millennium. The picture below shows (left to right) Helen Jenkins (12) Katherine Ball (14) and Danielle Crees (12) three of Kent College students.



### PEMBURY IN THE PAST

### LOOKING BACK

WHO REMEMBERS the 'Institute' before it was renamed the 'Hop House'? It used to be the centre of activity for Lower Green. It was within walking distance of most of the villagers. People did walk then and could do so in safety. There was little traffic and only one bus passed hourly through Lower Green.

Back to the Institute. Mrs Surridge had a small nursery school in the morning. The baby clinic used it weekly. It was the pick-up point for 'Meals on Wheels'; the dinners were left there and kept hot in containers by charcoal burners. The dinners were on plates and stackers, which were returned afterwards to the Institute and washed up. No disposable foil packs in those days!

There was a men's club, Brownies, badminton,

jumble sales organised by Rex Turner (anyone remember him?). He used to tell his helpers, "Get as much as you can for everything!" There were also harvest festivals, church fetes and the village library.

The rest of the Village had a mobile library but Lower Green had its own library, run by a team of volunteers on a rota system every Friday evening. This library moved to a schoolroom at the Primary School but returned to Hop House as a full-time library in 1978. Would you believe that after 21 years there are still six of those ladies who helped with the library still living in Pembury?

What else went on in the Institute? Can anyone else remember?

### D. L. (Eddie) Edmondson

### TO TICKLE YOUR MEMORY BUDS

I AM REPRODUCING a photograph of members of the 1980 Parish Council. I know all the names but I wonder if you would like to test your memory before turning to the foot of page 55 for the answer. Can you also name the thirteenth Councillor who does not appear in the photograph?

### **Henry Plant**



### PEMBURY IN THE PAST

### PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB

A S WE APPROACH the end of this Millennium the Cricket Club can look back on at least the last 125 years with a great deal of satisfaction. The Club holds minute and score books going back to 1882 but it is clear that it was in existence prior to that year.

The first ground was on the Tunbridge Wells road opposite St. George's School. The present ground in Chalket Lane was opened in 1908 and, until 1930, was used for Village fetes and other celebrations in addition to cricket. After the Second World War the ground was also used for the school sports and the Toc H held a sports day for the local youth in the early 1950s.

During the period 1900-1914 matches were played on Tuesdays and Thursdays against local teams from Tunbridge Wells, Southborough and Tonbridge and occasionally, amateur touring sides from Australia, New Zealand and India. Dress was strictly formal; blazers, cravats, shirts and trousers had to be worn and purchased only from Alfred Taylor of Tunbridge Wells. At this time the Club was only available to the local gentry, although one local man was employed from Sherwood as a professional to bowl to members in the nets and to prepare the ground. His payment was 2 shillings and 6 pence (12.5 new pence) a week and he was only allowed to play if the team was short for any particular game. Travel to away games was by pony and trap.

Several famous players have turned out for the club including the Seymour brothers – Jim, who went on to play for Kent, and Owen for Sussex. Jim Seymour is still ranked as No. 4 in the list of highest scorers for the County, having scored a total of 26,818 runs in 536 matches. C. B. Clarke, the West Indian test player and later BBC commentator, played for two seasons when he was based at Pembury Hospital.

During the 1920s the Club changed

gradually as more local players were admitted and matches began to be played on Saturdays. However, the local gentry still ran the Club. By today's standards the state of the wicket must have left a lot to be desired as sides scoring a total of 60 were usually comfortable winners. Scores of 100+ were hardly ever reached.

A significant change took place in 1930 when George Drury became Secretary. The Village was growing, with more houses being built in Church Road, Elmshurst Avenue, The Grove, Henwood Mount and Sandhurst Avenue. A bus service had been introduced, at least to Tunbridge Wells and, with employment available at the Hospital, the brickyard and the waterworks, Pembury was moving away from being a traditional farming community. George's efforts, coupled with an influx of good players moving into the new houses, ensured that the Club became extremely successful. In 1938 and 1939 a total of only two games were lost. In 1938, Blue House Warden were dismissed for 11 runs, four of these being byes.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 the ground was taken over by the Army and used for anti-aircraft guns, sited as it was on high ground between the coast and London. No cricket was played during the war years.

The ground was handed back in 1945 and cricket was restarted in the summer of 1946. Probably the most significant point in the Club's history was reached in 1953 when Peter Chandler was elected as Secretary, a position he held for all but three years until his death in January 1997. He was also President from 1986. Under his guidance the Club went from strength to strength and nobody associated with the Club would begrudge him special mention in any article written about the Club. In fact, without him some of the information contained here would not have been available as he had outlined a history just before his passing.

Two Saturday sides were fielded until 1952,

but, because of the ground's proximity to the church, Sunday cricket was not allowed. Occasional away fixtures were played on a Sunday under the guise of Arthur Coles' XI but it was not until 1953 that matches could be played at home and even then if the Evensong service was in the Upper Church, stumps had to be drawn at 6.15pm. As transport was limited only one person in the Club owned a car, players had to be prepared to cycle to away games or fixtures were arranged around the local bus timetables, distances travelled were therefore restricted to a 10 mile radius. The Club was

growing in stature during these years. Further houses had been built in Bulls Place, Belfield Road and Stone Court Lane, some of the pre-war players were still available and by the mid- to late-1950s the younger generation that had been born and attended the school in the Village were coming together to such an extent that in the early 1960s, the Club could field a more than useful Under 25 side, capable of beating the majority of the top villages in the area.

More reminiscences in the next issue

Dick Crouch, President

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

DURING MY VISIT to the archives at Maidstone I thought it would be interesting to investigate the origin of some of the well-known place names in Pembury. So it was very interesting to find out that Donningbury was one of the earliest places mentioned. In 1191 it was known as Dudingburie but by 1227 it had changed to Doudingebury. It changed again to Dondingbury by 1279 and again to Dudingbery by 1291. In 1327 it changed to Dowdeswood although there is no date set against the last name change. The suggestion in the translation is that the base part of the name may be that of a person, a family or a topographical word such as the name for a hillock.

The word 'bury' is also part of the name of Pembury and that itself has been subject to many changes over the years. In 1100 it was Peppingeberia and in 1218 Pepinggebi. By 1248 this had changed to Pepingebur. By 1250 there were two different versions, Peppingebyr and Pepengbyr, 1253 Peckingebyr, 1254 Peapyng(e)bury and 1292 Pepyngb'y. By 1588 this had changed to Peckenbury.

Crudely translated, Pembury is 'high up' and means 'look out place or the like'. The suggestion is that the 'peke' or 'pepe' translates to 'peep' and that the word 'burgh' or 'byre' is on or near the 'peeping place'. That may be the tie-up with Downingbury as that also sits on a high ridge overlooking a valley. The other suggestion is that 'burgh' or byre' belongs to the 'Pepingas', the look-out men or the like.

Pastheap Farm has another interesting history and the first mention I could find was in 1270, when it was known as Le Parstepe; in 1278 Le Perstap(e), Le P'stepe and Le P'stede. By 1292, it had changed to Le Persteape and in 1313 to Le Parstede. By 1334 to Le P'steape and in 1347 to Pastep(e) which is similar to today.

The translation suggests 'steap' is a steep place on a 'downfall'. There is a very steep slope to the south west of Pastheap and perhaps the words 'past' or 'pars mean an enclosure, which on a steep slope would give you the translation of Pastheap Farm, as suggested, by 1460.

We will continue searching for more well-known local names and their history. More on the Culpepper family to come!

### **Hugh Boorman**

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### PEMBURY IN THE PAST

### PEMBURY BOARD SCHOOL

YOU WILL remember in the last issue I finished the extracts from the School Logbooks with the pupils and teaching staff looking forward to starting in their new school buildings. I take up the Headmaster's notes:

Monday October 13th 1873 – We commenced work in our New Schools. We have this week insufficient seating accommodation. In the classroom we have extemporised a seat from a plank and nine bricks. In the large room we are using some forms from the National School.

Friday November 7th 1873 – This afternoon we received a visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rev. Canon Smith, Rev. J. Saint and the Rev. G. H. Rigby, Vicar of Pembury, together with Mr Ashby and Mr McGregor.

Monday, November 17th 1873 – A surprise visit from the Rev. H. G. Alington, HM Inspector for this District.

**13th February 1874** – We have had to suspend our paper work on some occasions this week because the cold has been so intense.

Week ending May 22nd 1874 – Still a great many children absent, engaged in hop tying. Measles still somewhat prevalent. We have had our usual singing this week. I have had to discontinue it for the past 3 weeks on account of a sore throat. We have, as yet, no musical instrument in the school. We had one in the old School room and very greatly need one here.

Wednesday June 19th 1874 – Brought before the Board an account of the arrears of fees by five parents and of the irregularity of attendance of their children. One of the boys had to work minding bullocks. Julia was absent through lack of shoes. She resides in Brenchley parish.

1874 – Some of the songs sung during the past year – The Cuckoo, The Kine (Round), Summer Song, God Save the Queen, Home Sweet Home and the Last Rose of Summer.

### Week ending Friday July 31st 1874 -

Yesterday, we had a holiday. There was a cottagers show at Bayham Abbey and some of the girls exhibited specimens of plain needlework. Six of them obtained prizes: Ellen Tomlin, Julia Wallis, Emily Rogers, Emma Groves, Elizabeth Dyer, Ellen Chapman (Monitor).

1874 – School Report, Her Majesty's Inspector, Rev. H. G. Alington. More than twice as many children are in average attendance and more than three times as many have been offered for examination as lest year.

**Annual Government Examination July** 

attendance and more than three times as many have been offered for examination as last year. I consider this result to be remarkably satisfactory and congratulate the School Board on so favourable a commencement. Another year I hope to find the average attendance and the number qualified still nearer to the total on the Registers of the School. Of the monitors' work I have to speak very well. The lower part of the First Standard is weak at all points but elsewhere, considering the rapid increase of the School, I have been satisfied with the elementary work. Handwriting is good. The Order is pleasing. Needlework is well taught. Signed H. G. Alington, HM Inspector.

Monday November 23rd 1874 – I attended the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells as a witness in the case of Pembury School Board v. the parents of a Scholar. His attendance has been extremely irregular and in consequence there was a considerable sum owing for non-payment of fees. Owing to the School Board's cases being arranged last on the magistrates' list I was detained until mid-afternoon. About 20 children have brought notes from their parents requesting they should be permitted to leave at 3.45pm during the dark months. Those children concerned have at least two miles to go.

In the next issue, I will show you highlights of the Board School Log Books during 1875 and 1876. Just stop and think – these remembrances are of things that happened at our school 125 years ago! Times may change but our concerns seem the same today as they did then, don't you agree?

### **Henry Plant**

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### ZERENE'S KITCHEN

### Lambs' Liver Paté

350g/6oz butter

500g/1lb lambs liver (or pigs liver), chopped

350g/12oz streaky bacon, rind removed and chopped

2 medium onions, finely chopped

2-3 cloves garlic, crushed

2 bay leaves

4-6 tablespoons brandy or sherry

Pinch of salt

Freshly ground black pepper

To garnish: parsley sprigs and radish

Melt 150g/5oz of the butter in a frying pan, add the liver, bacon, onion, garlic and bay leaves, cover and fry gently for 15 minutes. Remove the bay leaves and put the mixture twice through a fine mincer or through a food processor. Add the brandy or sherry, salt and black pepper to taste and beat well. Turn into a serving dish. Melt the remaining butter and pour over the top to seal the surface. Chill well. (This can be made several days before required, cover

with cling film and store in fridge.)

Garnish with radish and parsley.

Serve with warm bread, toast or Italian crustini as a starter.

### **Mushroom Paté** (for vegetarians)

350g/12oz mushrooms 1 onion 125g/4oz butter

4 tablespoons sherry

Salt and pepper

Parsley sprig to garnish

Using a metal chopping blade, chop the mushrooms and onion. Melt half the butter in a small pan, add the vegetables and fry gently for a few minutes to soften. Stir in the sherry and cook, stirring, until all the liquid has evaporated. Season with salt and pepper to taste and leave until cold. Place in the food processor bowl with the remaining butter and process until smooth. Spoon into a dish and garnish with parsley. Serve with toast. Serves about four.

### ARE **YOU** A LITTER LOUT?

T A RECENT meeting of the Pembury Community Working Group concern was Aexpressed at the amount of litter left lying around the Village. In the main the litter consists of empty lager cans, cigarette packets and take-away boxes. These have been discarded in the High Street, around the Village Green and in the Recreation Ground, although we have litter bins in all these places.

Occasionally, when walking around the outskirts of the Village, one comes across old items of furniture and even mattresses which have been discarded. These could just as easily have been taken to the Transfer Station at Longfield Road rather than left in the woods to rot. Recently an old freezer was dumped in Pembury Walks.

It is not the responsibility of the Parish Councillors to clear up this mess although, in the past, they have done Litter Picks throughout the village. There is a regular service by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on Sundays whereby large items which residents wish to dispose of can be taken away by the Cleanaway lorry. The collection points and times are:

Henwoods Crescent 12-1pm – Herons Way 1-2pm – Woodhill Park 2-3 p.m.

### PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY!

Ron Abbott, Chairman Community Working Group

# GOOD NEWS FROM THE ROYAL OAK

### 216 Henwood Green Road, Pembury Village Tel: 822958

- \* We have built a brand new kitchen and bagged an experienced Chef
  - \* We are now open for Breakfast and Lunch 7 days a week
  - \* BREAKFAST MENU will include 'THE ROYAL OAK SPECIAL'
    - \* A Minute Steak (or Black Pudding) \* 2 Eggs \* 2 Sausages
  - \* Fried Potatoes \* Grilled Tomatoes \* Baked Beans \* Toast \* Tea or Coffee
    - OR: Just come in to read your newspaper and enjoy a cup of Coffee
  - **\* LUNCH MENU** will change daily and will include such temptations as:
    - \* Home made Soups \* Corned Beef Hash \* Liver and Bacon
    - \* Chicken Satay \* Wing of Skate in Black Butter \* Mussels (in Season)
      - \* Venison and a Sunday Roast
      - \* With Dessert to follow you can enjoy anything from a Snack to a 3 Course Lunch
        - \* Once a month we will have a theme night with dishes from 'Around the World'
          - \* Italian \* Spanish \* Thai \* Indian \* French \* Cajun
            - \* Let us cater for all your Social Occasions
              - \* Weddings \* Anniversaries \* Birthdays
  - \* Outside Catering: Bars and Food also available by arrangement

### PEMBURY FREE CHURCH

PEMBURY Free Church has been an active part of Pembury village life for the best part of 150 years and over these years there have been many changes both in the village and in the Church. As the decades have unfolded, however, the Free Church has attempted to remain constant in it's foundational objective: to be a church that is welcoming, open and freely accessible to people from all sections of the community.

Currently there are a whole host of regular events and activities (some of which we have highlighted below) which may be of interest. Our programme is designed to have the widest possible appeal and we would warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us.

- Our Sunday activities begin at 10am and include worship and reflection for adults and a thriving Sunday School for children.
- Over-60's Lunch Club. This meets on a Monday, for more details ring Hennie Nijman on 825523).
- Meet-a-Mum, a drop-in group providing coffee and friendship for those in charge of young children. This meets on Wednesday mornings, for more details ring Alison Burgess on 515714.
- Youth and children's groups and activities.
   Please ring our fully trained youth specialist
   Dougie White on 823898 for more information.
- On a more specifically spiritual level, we are a Church that believes profoundly in the power of prayer and on a Monday morning there is a group which meets to pray for our Village. It may be that your personal or family

circumstances are such that you would value having this group pray for you or those you care for . . . Simply write down what you would like us to pray for (it can be anonymous if you wish) and post it through the Church office door on Romford Road. Such requests will be treated with care and confidentiality.

Finally, as you may be aware, Christmas is coming! We would like to give the Village an indication of the kind of events that we, as a Church, will be hosting over the Christmas and New Year period:

'A Lad in a Manger' – A pantomime for all the family (Dec 16th, 17th & 18th at 7.45pm). Tickets available from the Church office (see number below).

Carols by Candlelight (Dec 19th, 7.30pm) Christmas Eve Communion (Dec 24th, 11.15pm)

Christmas Day Service (Dec 25th, 10.00am)
Fresh Start Sunday (Jan 2nd, 10.00am). A
service designed for those who would like to
begin the new Millennium by attending church
perhaps for the first time, perhaps for the first
time in a long time.

The 'Y' course – An 'open ended' course for those who would like to explore the basics of the Christian faith. Begins on Tuesday 18th January, 8.00pm and continues every Tuesday night for eight weeks.

For further information on PFC, please ring the Church Office on 825590 or, if you are computer connected, visit our Web Site at: www.geocities.com46257/pfcweb, or simply drop in – we'd love to see you!

### A CHRISTMAS POEM

Tiny hands are nimbly making Paper chains and hats so gay, Little ones are looking forward To Santa Claus and Christmas Day.

Fairy lights from windows glisten, The Christmas tree is lit again, Soon the steeple hells will tinkle Joyous news for all today. The yule-log kindles many greetings, Both young and old, and refugee, Cruel the wind for it is beating Against the roofs, the walls and eaves.

Open hearts to carols singing, O joyous nations, hear their praise! For unto man that winter's night. In Bethlehem was born a Babe.

Terence St John

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### FOR YOUR DIARY

### **JANUARY**

- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers Camden Car Park 2.15pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers: New Year's Walk Stonecourt Lane 10am
- 5 St Peter's Mothers' Union: "Books We Have Enjoyed" Upper Church Room 8pm
- 6 Pembury Afternoon WI: The Goats Scheme Free Church Hall 2.15pm
- 9 United Millennium Service Pembury School 11.30am
- 10 Parish Council Meeting Free Church Hall 8pm
- 10 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 11 Darby and Joan Club Catholic Hall 2pm
- 14 Pembury Evening WI: "After You, Madam Mayor" Catholic Hall 7.45pm
- 21 Quiz Evening Scout Hut time to be advised
- 24 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 25 Darby and Joan Club Catholic Hall 2pm

### **FEBRUARY**

- 1 Under 12s Disco Upper Church time to be advised
- 2 St Peter's Mothers' Union: Winter Flower Arrangement Upper Church Room 8pm
- 3 Pembury Afternoon WI: Tiller Girls Free Church Hall 2.15pm
- 7 Parish Council Meeting Free Church Hall 8pm
- 8 Darby and Joan Club Catholic Hall 2pm
- 11 Pembury Evening WI: A-Z of Enbroidery Catholic Hall 7.45pm
- 12 Pembury Evening WI: Jumble Sale Catholic Hall 10am
- 14 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 22 Darby and Joan Club Catholic Hall 2pm
- 24 Pembury Gardeners AGM Free Church Hall 8pm
- 28 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm

### **MARCH**

- 1 St Peter's Mothers' Union: AGM Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 2 Pembury Afternoon WI: How We Got Our Surnames Free Church Hall 2.15pm
- 6 Parish Council Meeting Free Church Hall 8pm
- 7 Darby and Joan Club Catholic Hall 2pm
- 10 Pembury Evening WI: History in the Kitchen Catholic Hall 8pm
- 13 Floral Art Cricket Club 8pm
- 13 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 20 Parish Council: Annual Parish Meeting Free Church Hall 8pm
- 21 Darby and Joan Club Catholic Hall 2pm
- 25 Pembury Gardeners Spring Show Free Church Hall time to be advised
- 27 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm



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### **Borough Council**

Mr Bruce Ballantine, 6 Maidstone Road TN2 4DD. Tel: 822156

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way TN2 4DN. Tel: 823966 Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway TN2 4ET. Tel: 825577

### Parish Council

Cllr Paul Barrington-King, 22 The Coppice TN2 4EY. Tel: 825144 Cllr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Rd TN2 4LH. Tel: 823068

Cllr Mrs Sarah Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road TN2 4AY. Tel: 823932 Cllr David Coleman, 22 Ridgeway TN2 4ER. Tel: 823402

Cllr Dick Crouch, 17 Highfield Close TN2 4HG. Tel: 823164

Cllr Derek Flint, 1B Beagleswood Road TN2 4HX. Tel: 824829

Cllr Mrs Janet Greenwood, 1F Beagleswood Road TN2 4HX. Tel: 824472 Cllr Brian Horgan, 4 Cornford Park TN2 4PW, Tel: 822412

Cllr Mrs Rosemary Latter, 81 Beagleswood Road TN2 4HZ. Tel: 822059

Cllr Mrs Gillian Matthews, 2 Gimble Way TN2 4BX. Tel: 822057

Cllr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway TN2 4ET. Tel: 825577

Cllr Mrs Alison Morton, 2 The Coppice TN2 4EY. Tel: 824938

Cllr Mrs Wendy Withycombe, 23 Westway TN2 4EX. Tel: 823034

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### Chairman of Parish Council Vice Chairman of Parish Council

Chairman – Planning Chairman – Finance

Chairman – Burials, Environmental and Highways Chairman – Christmas Lights/ Pembury in Bloom

Chairman – Pembury Village News Editorial Committee

### Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

Mrs Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove, Pembury, Kent TN2 4BU. Tel: 823193

### CHURCH TIMES - see page 57 for Christmas Services

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

### **Upper Church**

8.00am Holy Communion9.45am The Parish Eucharist and Junior Church10.00am Holy Communion (Wednesdays)

### **Old Church**

11.30am Matins (except first Sunday, Holy Communion)

Evening services as advertised on Church noticeboards

### CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF ST. ANSELM -PEMBURY

Sunday Mass 10.30am Holy Days – Vigil Mass 7.30pm Confessions:

Sunday 10.15am

Weekday Services: Monday – Communion Service 7.30am Tuesday – Communion Service 7.30am

### PEMBURY FREE CHURCH

We praise God and hear his word on Sunday at 10am and 6.30pm.

We have many activities during the week for mums, toddlers, young people and senior citizens. Ring the church office 825590 for details

Our Pastoral Care Assistant is available for personal/private prayer on Monday mornings from 9.45am; if you have a need or have prayer requests please ring her on 723216.



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# Your Clerk Reports ...

As I WRITE my last Clerk's Report of the Millennium, I find myself reflecting over the last ten years as Clerk. Much has changed within the Council; the office is computerised and about to go 'on-line' and this magazine has its own website.

Replacement play equipment with safety surfaces has been installed in the Recreation Ground; a skate ramp was erected after an impressive petition was received from the village's youth; the pavilion has been renovated, in conjunction with the Junior Athletic Football Club; plans are now being made to replace it with a new, larger building to be shared by the Football, Bowls, Lawn Tennis and Stoolball Clubs; and the Pembury Bowls Club have taken over the lease of the bowling area and are responsible for its upkeep and maintenance.

The Association of Pembury Football Clubs successfully obtained lottery funding for enlargement and improvements to their changing rooms at Woodside and both the junior and senior clubs grow from strength to strength.

Do you remember the shock of seeing the horse chestnut tree on the Village Green being pollarded one foggy November day? We all had doubts if it would recover but thankfully were proved wrong and, indeed, our tree planting and maintenance was so good that we were prize winners in the Kent Men of the Trees competition.

A new sign of Bo Peep and her sheep was painted by the late Mr Hollands and erected on the green at Bo Peep corner.

Our Parish Council newsletter, Pembury Village News, received recognition in a national newsletter competition and continues to be a good read each quarter.

Many hours were spent representing Pembury at the Local Plan enquiry with the result that Pembury now has a tight Green Belt line around the village which will, hopefully, protect us from any more large developments.

Recently, perhaps the biggest event for many years has happened; the demolition of the Village Hall which had served the village proud since the 1930s. It was originally built for the British Legion but was handed over to the Parish Council in the 1960s. We shall all look forward to the opening of the new hall next year.

Now, with our council of eight new members and five experienced members, we look forward to the new Millennium with great enthusiasm and willingness to serve the people of Pembury.

### Barbara Russell

Clerk to the Council

### ANSWERS TO MEMORY BUDS POSER – FROM PAGE 40

Left to Right (Standing) – Irene Plant (Assistant Parish Clerk), Brian Walsh, Brian Sands, Ron Diplock, Roy Biggs, Bob Allen, John Brownsdon, Dick Miles (Vice Chairman), Alf Buck (Sitting), Adrian Stuart-Robson, Derek Hawes Richards, Sarah Clarke (Chairman), Arthur Bromwich and Henry Plant (Parish Clerk).

The name of the missing Councillor – Geoff Theobold.

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# CHURCH SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS AND THE MILLENNIUM

### St. Peters Church

11th December	7.30 pm	Carols with the King Charles Singers - Old Church
19th December	6.30 pm	Parish Carol Service - Upper Church
22nd December	7.00 pm	Carol singing on the Village Green with 'Churches Together in Pembury'
24th December	4.00 pm	Crib Service – Upper Church
	11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist – Upper Church
25th December	8.00 am	Holy Communion – Upper Church
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist with carols – Upper Church
	11.30 am	Holy Communion with Carols - Old Church
26th December	9.45 am	Parish Eucharist – Upper Church (no service at the Old Church)
31st December	7.00 pm	Candelit 'Service of Preparation' – Old Church (with the Gregorian Singers)
1st January 2000	12 noon	Short 'Service of Celebration' – Upper Church
2nd January		Services at the usual times – both churches
9th January	11.30 am	United Village Millennium Service at Pembury School with 'Churches Together in Pembury'

### St. Anselm

Christmas Eve 7.30 pm Carols

8.00 am First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day 10.30 am Mass 26th December 10.30 am Mass

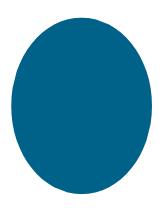
### **Pembury Free Church**

19th December 7.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

24th December 11.15 pm Christmas Eve Communion

25th December 10.00 am Christmas Day service

2nd January 2000 10.00 am Fresh Start Service



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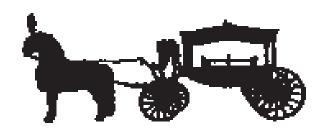
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