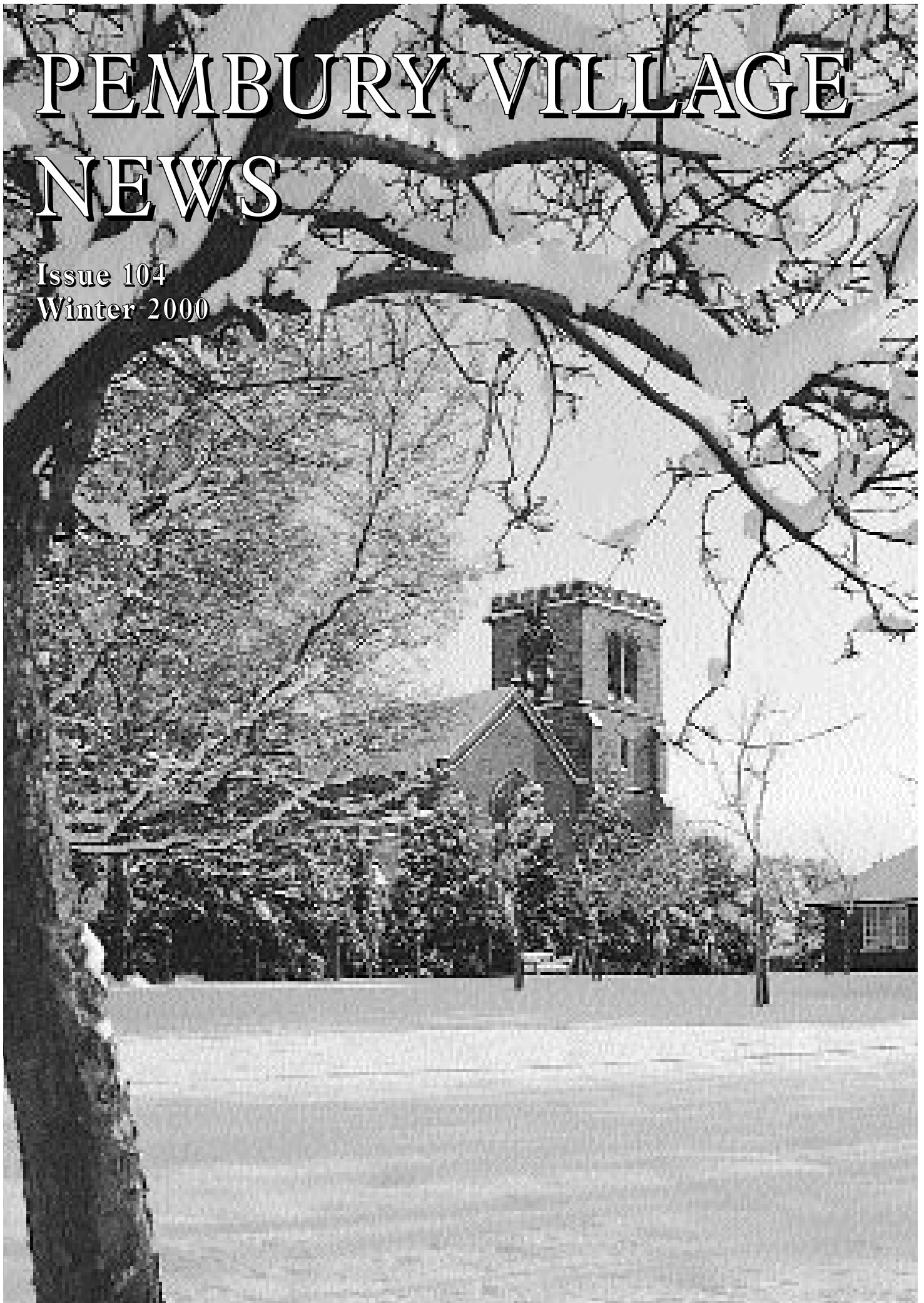


PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 104
Winter 2000



CONTENTS

<p>A Bus User Speaks 16</p> <p>Church Services at Christmas 31</p> <p>Church Times 37</p> <p>Crime in Pembury 33</p> <p>Dominique and Muriel Chabernaud 17</p> <p>Equal Access For All 29</p> <p>For Your Diary 35</p> <p>George and Betty Roberts 11</p> <p>Gill's Garden 25</p> <p>Happy Christmas – For Whom? 28</p> <p>Hospice in the Weald 28</p> <p>It's Easy To Forget 23</p> <p>Know Your Parish Councillor Rosemary Latter 12</p> <p>Pembury In Bloom 15</p>	<p>Pembury in the Past</p> <p> Pembury War Memorial 19</p> <p> Victorian School 1873 20</p> <p>Pembury School's New Headteacher 15</p> <p>RNLI – Pembury Branch 12</p> <p>St. Peter's Photographic Club 27</p> <p>Snippets . . . 21/23</p> <p>Tesco in Pembury 18</p> <p>The Lantern 27</p> <p>Tree Warden – Vacancy 25</p> <p>Village Hall Official Opening 3-9</p> <p>Village Organisations 39</p> <p>Your Clerk Reports 26</p> <p>Your Representatives 37</p>
---	--

Cover photograph by courtesy of David Sellman

Editorial Working Group:

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

Please note: The Editor's decision is final on whether or not to publish any item submitted. The Editor reserves the right to edit (that is to cut, précis, alter, correct grammar and spelling) any item published.

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Editor: Mrs Alison Morton
2 The Coppice, Pembury TN2 4EY
Tel: 824938 Fax: 825134
Distribution enquiries: Parish Clerk 823193
Email: pvn@pembury.org.uk
Website: www.pembury.org.uk

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.

NEWS

VILLAGE HALL OFFICIAL OPENING 29 SEPTEMBER 2000

ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2000 Pembury's long-awaited new Village Hall was officially opened by Alan Skinner, Royal British Legion Kent County Life Vice President. Apart from the Village Hall Management Committee, headed by Mrs Olive Dickins, representatives from village organisations, Parish Councillors, grant givers, donors, fundraisers and supporters were invited to the opening ceremony followed by a buffet lunch (with Pembury wine!) accompanied by a light jazz band.

The original hall built in the late 1930s for the Royal British Legion had been given to the Parish in the 1960s by the Legion. It was thus fitting that a senior representative be

continued on page 4



Left to right: Alan Skinner, Royal British Legion; Olive Dickins, Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee; Councillor Sarah Clarke, Chairman, Pembury Parish Council; Don Oke, Village Hall Management Committee; Barbara Russell, Parish Clerk; and Councillor Alison Morton.

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

*Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this magazine must be forwarded to the Editor before
1st February 2001.*

If you use a computer to type your article, it would be extremely helpful if you could send it in on disk. If you do not have a disk, we can supply you with one.



invited back to open the new hall and so 'complete the circle'.

The Parish Council Public Relations Working Group consisting of Paul Barrington-King, Alison Morton, Wendy Withycombe, Rosemary Latter and Gill Matthews, ably assisted by Parish Clerk Barbara Russell, planned and organised the day on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Representatives from the PR Working Group decorated the hall with gold swags and balloons, Friends Wedding Flowers pulled out all the stops to



Alan Skinner, Kent County Life Vice President, Royal British Legion and Olive Dickens, Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee



Listening to the formal speeches

provide magnificent floral displays and table decorations. S & A Catering of Pembury provided a delicious buffet and wine, including the by now famous Pembury Millennium wine from Pippins Farm, supplied by Unwins in Pembury.

The excellent music was provided by The Syncopators and the beautiful tubs of flowers at the Hall entrance were kindly lent by Notcutts. Absolutely pivotal to the smooth running of the day were the Parish Council groundsmen Tony Climpson and Jamie Littlechild who had helped with setting up the hall from first thing that morning and very ably managed visitor parking and traffic control throughout the event. Last, but not least, Assistant Parish Clerk Richard Parsons must be thanked for the very efficient 'meeting and greeting' of our visitors.

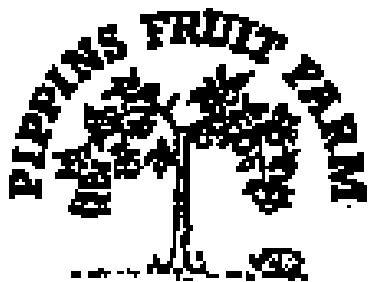


*Left to right:
Evelyn Fiddimore;
Councillor Melvyn
Howell, Deputy Mayor
of Tunbridge Wells;
Sue Boreham*

General view



**PICK
•
YOUR
•
OWN
&
READY
PICKED
FRUIT**



Maidstone Rd, Pembury
Pembury 824569

STRAWBERRIES & RASPBERRIES
LOGANBERRIES & TAYBERRIES
GOOSEBERRIES & REDCURRANTS
BLACKCURRANTS & BLACKBERRIES
PLUMS & CHERRIES
APPLES & PEARS

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

JULIE T. ROBINSON

IHBC, BABTAC



Professional Beauty Therapist

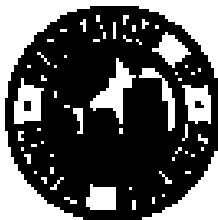
FULL RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL BEAUTY TREATMENTS AVAILABLE
WITHIN COMFORTABLE AND PRIVATE SURROUNDINGS



**SPECIALISED DERMALOGICA FACIALS * ELECTROLYSIS * MANICURES/PEDICURES
WAXING * BRIDAL/SPECIAL OCCASION MAKE-UP * TOP-TO-TOE TREATMENTS**

Products do not contain artificial fragrance and are cruelty free.

Please telephone for a list of treatment details. **PEMBURY (01892) 824059**



Home Improvements – Extensions – Free Estimates

ALAN CLARKE

BUILDERS & DECORATORS

Tel: Pembury 823932



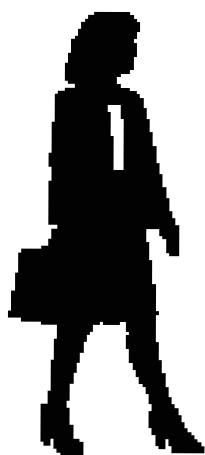
General view



*Elsie Storey, Village Hall
Management Committee*



*David Kelly and Mrs Kelly brother and mother
of the late Councillor Kit Kelly who was also a
keen 'Pembury Player'*



PBSS

European translations

**All business and
administrative services**

Pembury Business & Secretarial Services

Tel: 01892 824833 Fax: 01892 825134

Email: partners@pbss-uk.com

Website: www.pbss-uk.com

Official hosts of the Pembury Village News web site: www.pembury.org.uk

WALROND & CO

C H A R T E R E D S U R V E Y O R S

01892 709600

**STRUCTURAL SURVEYS :: VALUATIONS
AND ALL PROPERTY ADVICE**

CHIROPODY SERVICE

HOME VISITS ONLY

Mrs C. M. Bathurst MBChA MSSCh

Tel: Pembury 822398



Picture above – Foreground, left to right: Olive Dickens, Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee; Irene Plant; Henry Plant (former Pembury Village News editor); Councillor Melvyn Howell, Deputy Mayor of Tunbridge Wells; Pam Howell, Deputy Mayoress; Dick Miles. Background (standing): Councillor Hugh Boorman; Paul Russell.



General view of celebration

P.J. & J.M. Ditchett

CHEMIST

Medicines

Cosmetics

Baby Products

Fancy Goods

Kodak Films

Gift Sets

Developing & Printing

Toiletries

5 HIGH STREET, Pembury ☎ 822896

E.G. Green & Son



Vehicle Accident Repair Specialist

We have moved to:
SILVERHURST GARAGE
129 SILVERDALE ROAD
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
KENT TN4 9HX

Tel: 01892 544141

Fax: 01892 671912

Where we will be able to offer the best in accident repairs and body-work refurbishment as we have done for the past 40 years, undertaking all insurance, private and trade work.

We can now offer servicing and MOT of your vehicle, which will be done in conjunction with *Antony Miles* of *A. J. Miles Associates Ltd.* All at the same premises.

We will be pleased to discuss your vehicles needs, and offer free estimates, collection and delivery on all work.

Please contact: David Green for further information.

AU REVOIR GEORGE AND BETTY ROBERTS

IN EACH of the thousands of communities up and down the country there exists a relatively small group of people who are happy to take on responsibilities by volunteering to work for the good of the society in which they live. Two such stalwarts are George and Betty Roberts and as they have just moved away from Pembury to live in Melksham, Wilts, this is an appropriate opportunity to thank them for all that they have done for the village.

George and Betty and their daughters Lorna and Philippa moved to Pembury in July 1976.



They soon became involved in village matters including the Gardeners' Society, the Pembury Chest and the Short Mat Bowls Club of which they were founder members. Together they joined The Pembury Society and were Friends of The Old Church where George was Treasurer from 1989 to 1996. He also joined Pembury Bowls Club in 1989 and held the post of Secretary from 1990 until 1999. Betty was a member of the Pembury Evening W.I. for many years during which time she served on the Committee and was President for three years. She served as a Parish Councillor for nine years; within this period she was Chairman of the Burials and Allotments Committee, sat on the Planning Committee and the Editorial Committee of the Village News. Additionally, Betty was a School Governor, a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Chairman of the Pembury Millennium Committee. She will also be remembered for her sterling work in running the Village Quiz for several years, setting the questions and organising this popular annual event on the social calendar of Pembury. In her less public life she worked for some years as Personal Assistant to the founder of Hospice at Home.

When each was asked to recall their most memorable and satisfying experience, taken from the long lists of village interests, George replied that for him it was probably the work he did with the Committee and Betty in organising the 70th anniversary celebration of the Bowls Club in 1999. Betty said that she had many happy memories of her time with the Evening W.I. and of her association with the Village Quiz.

Many in the village will regret their leaving Pembury to live near to their daughter Philippa in Melksham, and they will be especially remembered by their close friends and colleagues. It was George himself who summed up the situation in his usual succinct way when he said "You do things for the community because you enjoy it; the ultimate recompense has been the surprising number of those who have said 'We will miss you'."

Derek Johnson

Henry Plant adds:

"AS A FORMER EDITOR of this Magazine, I would like to add my appreciation for the sterling work that Betty undertook over the many, many years she was associated in the production of this magazine. Her expertise was reflected not only as a contributor and researcher but as a proof-reader par excellence. Betty's varied contributions to the production of each edition of this magazine has without doubt played its part in obtaining the high regard that this magazine has attained over the years. The fact that she managed to fit in all her other voluntary work for the Parish on top of this editorial work reflects not only her devotion for the well-being of the parish but speaks volumes for the commitment of such a lovely lady.

Thank you, Betty; you have all the best wishes of the Editorial Committee for the future!"

RNLI – PEMBURY BRANCH

PEMBURY BRANCH RNLI is now in its fourth decade of activity. From humble beginnings the Branch has now flourished to become one of the main fundraising organisations in the village.

Their eleven-strong Committee of dedicated volunteers is assisted by many other local residents, who are willing to 'pitch in' to help at special events such as the regular May and Autumn Fayres and house-to-house collections. The Fayres are often supported by a Mayoral presence and always include entertainment for children.

In recent years, the Committee has been invited to visit Lifeboat stations, to witness training exercises and the naming ceremonies of newly commissioned lifeboats.

Many people do not realise that the Lifeboat Service receives no Government grant, but relies entirely upon voluntary donations, local fundraising efforts and legacies to keep its financing on an even keel.

Pembury Branch RNLI is always on the lookout for new helpers and ideas. A recent sponsored walk along the footpaths surrounding the Village raised around £800.



Pembury RNLI supporters don lifejackets during a recent visit to the Newhaven Lifeboat Station

Another initiative is the Pembury Branch RNLI 100 Venture. For the equivalent of £1 per month a maximum of 100 members enjoy the chance to win a top prize of £100 every 6 months (along with 11 other smaller prizes). Half of all monies collected goes in prize money; the remainder to the RNLI. A few remaining 'shares' are currently available, for those who wish to snap them up!

Further details of Branch activities may be obtained from the Branch Honorary Chairman, Peter Chartres (Tel. 823759).

KNOW YOUR PARISH COUNCILLOR – Rosemary Latter

ALTHOUGH born in South London I spent a lot of my childhood in New Zealand where I enjoyed playing in the freedom and space of my surroundings.

I came to Tunbridge Wells in 1973, eventually settling in Pembury nine years ago. I have two grown-up children, Louise and Robert, and a very dear father, Jack, who lives at Camden Court. I work part-time in the Works Department at Pembury Hospital as a secretary and in my spare time give Reflexology treatments. I am on the committee of the Pembury Evening W.I. I also have a Jack Russell Terrier, so do a lot of walking around the village and enjoy meeting a lot of people that way.

I am involved in four working groups of the Parish Council; Public Relations; Christmas Lights/Pembury in Bloom; Amenities, Allotments and Burials; Environmental & Highways all of which I find most interesting as well as rewarding.



THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Pembury Society was held in the village hall in late October. It was an excellent opportunity for a good number of members to experience the much improved facilities offered by the new building and to combine this with the pleasure to be obtained from a quality speaker.

The first part of the evening was devoted to business, with the outcome that the retiring Chairman, Officers and Committee Members were re-elected unanimously. After the break, Christina Lundberg, the recently retired Head Teacher of Pembury School, gave a talk which reminisced on her experiences during her teaching career. This was a very good talk and one which was much appreciated by the audience who, at the end of her presentation, bombarded her with questions. For some years now we have been looking inwards to our village to find speakers who have an interesting tale to tell and Christina was a good example. If you or someone you know falls into this category, then do let us know.

You may or may not have been one of those who visited the **'Bygone Pembury'** exhibition at Pembury Library in July but the surprise for all of us who assisted with

this Millennium event was the number of villagers who attended.

So it occurred to us in The Pembury Society that this interest in the history of our village could be fostered and focussed

by creating an autonomous section

within the Society which would bring together those who are

attracted to the subject. Such a group could also have a wider remit to include the broader interests of methodology and sources of information

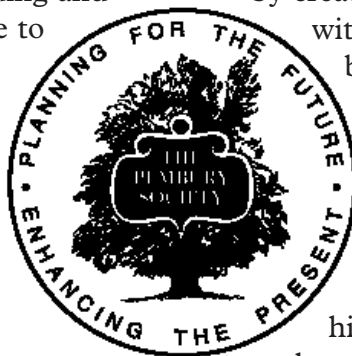
available for research into family history and genealogy. Whilst

there is in existence in the village a

small ad hoc group who are interested in Pembury's past the benefit of utilising the size and the established organisation of The Pembury Society would mean that such a new section would have available to them the resources to enable them to readily spread their wings.

Whilst all the members of The Society will be offered details of this proposal in its Autumn Newsletter, if you have an interest in this idea and wish to pursue it, or make your views known then please telephone Katherine Franklin on 823212; Monica Marshall on 822659; or Derek Johnson on 823150. In this way we can assess the interest in this proposal.

Derek Johnson



STOP PRESS!

The Pembury Society now has its own website!

The address is **www.pembury.org.uk/society** and is an offshoot from the main Pembury Village News website. Apart from the history and aims of the Society, you can find out about how to join and so receive the newsletter, Pembury Matters, and also link up to other websites of interest. If you want to get in touch with the Society you can also send an email to them at society@pembury.org.uk.

Well worth a visit!

J. C. WOOD

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Est. 1984

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING • PAPER HANGING
ALL HOUSE MAINTENANCE
NO JOB TOO SMALL

Telephone: Pembury 824877

Brian V Toogood

**DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CARPETS &
VINYLs SUPPLIED & FITTED**



Stain protection treatment for carpets and upholstery

FOR PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TEL: PEMBURY 824252



*OVER 28 YEARS' experience.
EST 1977*

*Any make of carpet available.
Pattern books brought to your home.
Carpet and upholstery cleaning, also rugs and
orientals.
Carpets adapted and repaired.*

JILL NOAKES

DRESSMAKER

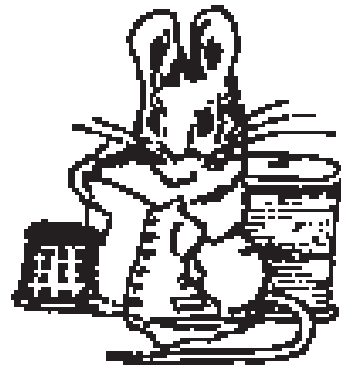
Pippins Farm, Pembury

*We offer a comprehensive and professional service in all
forms of curtain making, tie backs and valances.*

*Dressmaking is carried out to a high standard and we
specialise in wedding gowns made to your designs.*

Full alteration service.

Pembury 823299 or 824260



REFLEXOLOGY & CRANIO-SACRAL THERAPY

**NATURAL, GENTLE APPROACHES TO HEALTH WHICH CAN HELP
PERSISTENT CONDITIONS AS WELL AS IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS**

suitable for all ages including babies and older people

ALICIA ARTHUR MAR, RCST

Registered Qualified Member of the Association of Reflexologists & Association of Cranial-Sacral Therapy

Telephone PEMBURY (01892) 824387 for further information without obligation

★ introductory treatments & gift vouchers available ★

PEMBURY SCHOOL'S NEW HEADTEACHER

IN SEPTEMBER 2000 I was privileged to take up the headship of Pembury School. I have been teaching for twenty-five years in various counties including Sussex, Lancashire and Kent. I held the headship of Bidborough for seven years and prior to that I was the Deputy Head and later Acting Head of Broadwater Down Primary school in Kent. I am married to Graham who works for a leading petrochemical company in London. We have two daughters; our elder daughter is married and our younger daughter is at Moorlands Bible College in Christchurch.

My husband and I enjoy walking and we both gain a lot of pleasure from watching cricket. In recent years our time has been spent in redesigning our garden and other small projects.



I am confident that I can work well in the community and welcome the challenge of a larger school. Thank you to all those who have made my first half term enjoyable.

Kath Thewlis

PEMBURY IN BLOOM

FINALISTS of this year's competition met at Notcutts Garden Centre, Pembury, on Tuesday 5th September for afternoon teas and to hear who had won – a much guarded secret until the presentation!

The competition is jointly organised by Pembury Parish Council and Notcutts with Notcutts providing prizes. Notcutts Centre manager, Jean Smith, and Parish Councillor Gill Matthews had judged the entries a few weeks earlier and awarded the certificates and prizes on the day. The **Notcutts Best Garden** went to Jan and Bob Davies of Henwood Green Road with Gary Lawrence of Middlefield second and Cecil Curd of Stonecourt Lane third. Certificates of Merit went to Valentine Smith, Paul Petney, Cynthia Johnson, John Beech, Mr and Mrs R. Heasman, Alison Morton, Gavin Groom, Hazel Wood and Sunhill Court.

Dennis Langridge of Middlefield won the **Best Hanging Basket** category with near neighbour Gary Lawrence second and Gavin Groom from The Meadow third. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Hazel Wood, Alison Morton, Velma Budd, John Beech, Cynthia Johnson, Valentine Smith, Frederick Harria, Gail Beeching, Melanie Hambleton and Shirley Steel.

Best Allotment belonged to Norman Brown of Beech House, Hastings Road with Paula Davis, Frederick Barden and Barry Harden collecting Certificates of Merit. The Leungs of Pembury Chinese Cuisine in Hastings Road won the **Best Commercial Frontage**.

Prizewinners of Pembury in Bloom with the organisers – From left to right: Parish Councillor Gill Matthews; Centre Manager Jean Smith; Dennis Langridge; Mrs Leung and daughter; Jan Davies; Bob Davies; and Norman Brown.



A BUS USER SPEAKS . . .

"They work in mysterious ways, their wonders to perform . . ."

. . . The bus companies in our part of Kent, that is. When we first considered moving from South East London to Pembury six years ago, my sister (older and wiser than me) asked me if I had checked out the local bus services, since I was to commute to work in North London every day. I hadn't – so confident was I that some sort of integrated service would be in place and never imagining that to unravel the mysteries of Pembury's buses one needed not necessarily a university degree but, rather an enormous amount of intuition, faith, hope, patience and, best of all, a sturdy pair of legs to whisk one from one bus stop to another when finding oneself standing in the wrong place.

Let me assure you, dear readers, that this isn't an 'anti-Pembury buses' polemic. On the contrary, whenever I've been able to find my bus I've always enjoyed the ride. Whatever the problems, buses in this area are far more pleasant than those in London. The drivers are usually extremely friendly and will listen sympathetically if you tell them a little bit about yourself and what your plans for the day are – not surprising, given that theirs must be a lonely existence, judging from the number of times I've travelled in an otherwise empty bus. The passengers, too (even the school children) are far more courteous and less aggressive than in London.

One of the biggest headaches for a newcomer to Pembury is Finding Your Bus. If you live near the Camden Arms you're more-or-less okay because most of the buses stop just outside or opposite, although some swerve off down Lower Green Road when you're

expecting them to run along the Hastings Road. If you live near the top of Henwood Green Road prepare to spend a few years unscrambling the complexities of the bus routes. Six years on, I still haven't managed it!

And then there are the bus stops themselves. At the top of Henwood Green Road, on the left, there's a stop in a perilously dangerous position, with no shelter, no seat and scarcely any pavement on which to teeter. The buses heading for Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells turn right into Hastings Road immediately after that stop and pass another one with a nice (apart from the graffiti) little shelter. I say 'pass'

because, as a driver informed me the other day, those buses aren't supposed to stop there unless it's tipping it down. This particular driver had picked me up out of the kindness of his heart but not before pointing out that I shouldn't have been there on a sunny morning. Given that these two bus stops are within 20 seconds walk of each other, why not get rid of the treacherous one in Henwood Green Road? It's not needed because there's another stop just past Sandhurst Avenue for those travelling towards Kippings Cross.

"Why doesn't the silly woman read the bus timetables?", I hear you ask. Ah, well, I've tried that! First of all, you need to know which company the buses serving each route belong to. But even when you know your bus company, it's pretty difficult to find up-to-date timetables for each particular route and, in my experience, totally impossible these days to find a timetable which includes all the routes passing through Pembury, with clear details as to where the buses stop. I have tried in vain recently to find a timetable for Pembury to Tonbridge. Tunbridge Wells



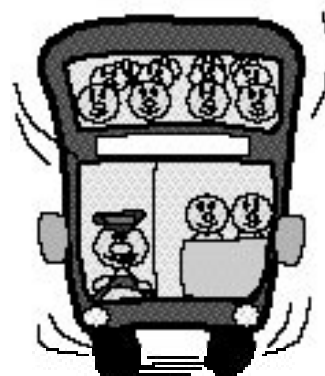
Library don't even have one at the Enquiry Desk, and claim they haven't seen such a thing for months. I normally have to resort to ringing Travel Line South East but their service isn't all that comprehensive (or polite!) either.

If your bus doesn't belong to Arriva, it is virtually impossible to discover in advance how much your fare will be. When I asked Travel Line South East for the return fare from Pembury to Tonbridge, I was told that they don't hold such information and that I should ring Arriva. I called Arriva who told me that buses running from Pembury to Tonbridge belong to KCC, so I tried ringing them. Their recorded message advised me to ring Travel Line South East. But Travel Line South East don't hold such information . . . !

People complain that there's nothing for young people to do in Pembury so presumably they are expected to amuse themselves in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells or, more recently, in Knights Park. But with no buses from Tonbridge after 5.59pm, none from Tunbridge Wells between 8pm and 11pm, and none from Knights Park after 6.29 pm (5.54 pm on a Saturday!), how on earth are they supposed to get themselves home?

I'm convinced that the fortunes of our bus companies could be transformed if they started doing some serious research about what type of services people really need. Individual bus companies should talk to each other and work out sensible ways in which they could all benefit from the research. They could introduce new bus routes (maybe for an experimental period) and produce a single, integrated, easy-to-follow timetable giving expiry dates and details of when and where new, up-to-date ones can be obtained. With the (hopefully) resulting increase in passengers, they could reduce the fares to make the buses more competitive. Only then can we begin to satisfy the Government's demands to abandon our cars.

Gabrielle Molloy



DOMINIQUE AND MURIEL CHABERNAUD

MANY PARISHIONERS will by now have noticed that the Lower Green Post Office and Stores is under new ownership. Dominique and Muriel Chabernaude moved from France to Pembury last December and have had a busy year establishing their business and making friends with their many new customers. Whilst her husband spends busy days in the post office, Muriel pursues a career in London working for a French food company. As a vigneron, Dominique has a tremendous knowledge of the grape having been involved with famous wine estates such as Vouvray and Touraine. He imports his own wines and is able to offer outstanding advice and guidance on choosing the correct tipple for any occasion. The improvements to the store have recently included a new shop front which has been carefully designed using historical photos to replicate the original facade from the turn of the last century.

The Chabernaude family have five children and view the educational facilities in our area as 'outstanding'. The family has a long association with England and in the past have had residences in places as diverse as Darleydale in Derbyshire and, nearer to home, Redhill and Sevenoaks. Having recently searched all over the country for a suitable place to settle they have found Pembury perfect for all of the family. They are eager to become involved locally, as they were in France, where the family were actively involved with municipal duties and 'twinning' initiatives. Dominique, Muriel and their children have been very touched by the warm welcome offered by the people in the village and are looking forward to many more happy years in Pembury.

TESCO IN PEMBURY

THE NEW TESCO store in Pembury was officially opened on Monday 30th October by three pupils from Pembury School – the winners of the art competition organised by the store. Despite the dreadful weather, there was a small queue at 8am and business started briskly after the ribbon was cut. Michael Starr, the Pembury store manager, advised us on the following Friday that they had been ‘incredibly busy’ all week.



*Jessica Woodgate,
Georgia Lewis-Smith
and Bradley Large with
Michael Starr,
store manager*

*Margaret and David Choy
of Pembury, first customers
at the new Tesco store*

PEMBURY IN THE PAST

PEMBURY WAR MEMORIAL

ABUTCHER, a baker and a candlestick maker or so the saying goes. I would like to say I know the professions of the families of those that gave their lives during The Great War and are commemorated on our memorial. I can however inform you that Pembury War Memorial has 49 names from the First World War and 18 from the Second World War. Their graves and memorials read like a history index of the two world wars – Ypres, Somme, Gallipoli, Alamein, Singapore and Italy. Their ranks include Private, Gunner, Corporal, Captain, Stocker, Able Seaman and Pilot Officer. Their regiments cover the country from locally like the Queens Own (Royal West Kent), The Buffs (East Kent); London Regiment, to Leicestershire Regiment, South Wales Borderers; Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. Recognition of their duties include the Military Medal, the Distinguished Service Order and yet these were ordinary locals living in places we know: Henwood Green Road, Romford Road, High Street, Pippins Farm and Lower Green.

My research started on the Internet with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGW). This I thought would provide all the answers and would be easy. The first name E. Arnold produced a choice of 44 names and things did not get easier with H. Clarke or S. Stevens. Some were mentioned as being buried in Pembury and on finding the gravestones I added more to the research by finding three other gravestones (two CWGW) with the names of those who died in the First World War but not mentioned on the memorial. Our family holiday this summer took us through the battlefields of France and I have started to keep a photographic record by visiting some of the known graves or memorials. These range from the great Memorial to the Missing of the Somme at Thiepval (73,412 names), the Menin Gate at Ypres (54,896 names) to Montigny Communal Cemetery on the Somme with less than 20 buried.

The National Inventory of War Memorials mentions 17 names from the Second World War; there are now 18 with addition of Thomas George Cook. The memorial was unveiled on 25th September 1921 by the Reverend H. Sinclair Brooke (vicar from 1898-1918) at a cost of £365 19s 4d. It is described as Cenotaph-type of white stone and the architect was Ashley S. Kilby.

Perhaps the names you most notice are those of William Alexander Parkes and William Arthur Parkes. Lance Corporal William Alexander Parkes died 13th October 1918 aged 27 and was the son of William Dunster and Mary Ann of Mount Pleasant, Brenchley, and the husband of Kathleen Ellen of Hawkwell Cottages, Pembury. Leading Aircraftman William Arthur Parkes died 11th October 1944 aged 28 and was the son of William Alexander and Kathleen Ellen. His name is together with over 24,000 soldiers and airmen who have no known grave on the memorial at Singapore. William Alexander is buried at All Saints, Brenchley and beside is his brother Private Thomas Dunster who died 10th March 1919 aged 25. John Constance writes a most informative article in the Pembury Village News (Spring 1998) about his Grandfather Private Charles Fry and Private Frederick Piper died 27th May 1918, the same day as my Great Grandfather and they are both listed on the Soissons Memorial to the missing on which I have done much research. There are others buried in Pembury but not mentioned on the memorial, the Woodgate memorial in Pembury Old Church mentions Lieutenant L. S. Woodgate died 8th September 1914 so there are many more gaps to be filled and in time I hope to complete. The next time you drive or walk past the memorial, perhaps to or from the Post Office, then perhaps you could spare a thought and remember those words said each Remembrance Day “We will remember them”

Nick Staines



PEMBURY IN THE PAST

ONE OF THE projects that Mary Adams, a former school teacher at Pembury School, set her classes many years ago was to compare working in the present day school with conditions in the Victorian School, which we know today as *The Old School*. She used to take the children on a tour of the old school looking for clues and below I set out her notes in an article she sent to me sometime ago, on the things that they discovered:

Victorian School 1873

Outside

The front of the building shows the use of old bricks, which had weathered well, buttresses and vent grids. The roof is steeply pitched and the classroom on the south side still retains the original decorative ridge tiles. The rear of the building has some Kent tile hanging on the walls. They also noticed the chimneys and the lead sheeting, some of which, Mary recounted, was once stolen whilst she was working in the south classroom!

The children noticed the Church-like windows with their pointed shapes and some stained glass. These were found in Church Schools and also Board Schools.

The Headmaster's house was attached to the school and had a recessed porch way and an outside toilet and coalhouse at the back. A low old wall retained the school garden in the front and the schoolhouse had a garden to the rear. The children of those days were summoned to school by a bell on the roof that has since disappeared. This bell is quite clearly shown in old photographs of the school. At the back of the school was a large sloping playground surrounded by railings where the boys were separated from the girls. A stout post against the school wall shows the demarcation line. There were two separate porched entrances with steps leading in from the separate playgrounds and these can still be used.

Inside

The School Hall has a very high ceiling with rafters and a trap door into the roof space. The high ceiling made the room difficult to heat in winter but a cool place to work in summer.

There are fireplaces in each of the four classrooms and one in the Hall, which show that the rooms were heated by either coal or wood. There are vents in the outer walls of each room which could be opened or shut by hand to let out the smoke from the open fires.

The Headmaster's room had a trap door and ladder to a loft above with a wooden door overlooking the hall. In some old schools this wooden door would have a pane of glass in so that the Headmaster could watch the teachers and children working below. Certainly the classrooms had a panel of glass above the door. The cloakrooms and small kitchen were situated between the headmaster's house (now a Nursery School) and the hall. School dinners were served throughout World War II from this small kitchen (which is now part of a classroom).

When it was fitted out as an old kitchen with its butler sink, draining boards and huge wooden plate racks, Mary told me that she used to use it for pottery and painting. It is also believed that the original hall floor has been replaced because the wooden blocks were very uneven. The children originally used wooden box-lid desks with inkwells and dip-pens. When she first went to the School in 1967, Mary recounted that the trays of inkwells were kept in the stock-cupboard, as were some of the old slates the children wrote on. The desks may have been set on galleries because the classrooms windows are set high up. However this may not be the correct assumption, as the more likely reason for the high windows was, perhaps, to prevent the children's attention straying from their lessons if they looked out of the window.

In her research regarding the old school, Mary drew up a picture of life at the time. Many of the pupils were from the homes of poor tenant farmers and were often absent from school to help on the farms, hop picking and fruit picking. The summer term, she remembered, finished at the end of August when the hop picking began. In winter many children's books were in poor condition and had to be placed around the open fire in wet weather to dry.

(With kind acknowledgement to Mary Adams)

Henry Plant

SNIPPETS . . .

Friends of Pembury Parish Church

The Chairman and Committee would like to say an enormous 'Thank You' to everyone who made their Millennium Coffee Morning and Sale such a resounding success.

Over £700 was raised making this their best coffee morning ever and as the Old Church has been the subject of a great deal of repair work this wonderful result will be put to good use.

Finnish Children's Songs

The Committee would like to thank the many sponsors and friends who supported the concert given by the Sackville Singers on 7th October in St Peter's Church in Pembury. In spite of poor weather conditions there was a full church and the singing was magnificent – greatly appreciated by the audience. Well over £1,300 was raised to enable families – world-wide – needing financial help to visit their sick children in hospital. It is possible that a Russian children's hospital will benefit from this charity event.

Elizabeth Coxon Taylor

Little Rascals (*aren't they all?*)

Formerly 'Meet-a-Mum' meets Wednesday mornings 10am to 12 noon and caters mainly for the under threes. Mostly free play with a 'messy' activity each week, then a sit down for a drink and biscuit while parents enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Sessions are rounded off by a 'singalong' with nursery rhymes and other songs. New faces are always welcome. For more information contact Alison Burgess on 515714.

Pembury Village Quiz

Always a popular event, the next quiz will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 23rd February 2001 at 7.30pm with prompt start of questions at 8.00pm. Entry forms will be sent to 'all the usual suspects', i.e. village organisations listed at the back of the News, or can be obtained from Ditchett's Chemists

in the High Street or downloaded from the Pembury Village News website (www.pembury.org.uk). Entry forms must be in by 14th February 2001 at the latest.

Entrants must be over 16 and should be in teams of four. Entrance fee is £6.00 per team. There will be a bar (with soft drinks as well) plus the usual raffle.

Millennium Book

The Millennium Committee has recently been distributing special acid-free paper around the village to those households who earlier this year completed a form saying they would be interested in 'leaving a message for posterity'. If you would like to take part in this important project and have not yet received your paper, do contact Simon Galwey on 822866.

South East in Bloom

Judging took place by the South East in Bloom Committee on 18th July. Although Pembury did not go forward to the next round certificates of merit were awarded to Mr and Mrs Moxon of Hastings Road, the Black Horse Public House and Pembury Chinese Cuisine. Congratulations to these three winners!

Paddock Wood & District Swimming Pool

A big thank-you to the people of Pembury who support our plans for a pool in Paddock Wood and who help to raise funds. There were major steps forward during last year: Putlands Management Committee included the pool in their 5-year plan; PW Town Council started a Sports Development Fund with £5,000 specifically earmarked for the pool; and PW Sports Association took the Swimming Pool Fund under its charity fund-raising umbrella. More details from Vera Rees 01622 871125 or Mavis Grundy 01892 832643.



**SOUTH EASTERN
ORTHODONTICS**

Malcolm C. Pratt

SOUTH EASTERN ORTHODONTICS

29 High Street, Pembury

Tel. 01892 822296 (Daytime)

01892 822964 (evenings and weekends)

QUICK AND EFFICIENT DENTURE REPAIR SERVICE

David Salter

Gas & Plumbing Services

Central Heating Installations & Upgrades

Boiler & Cylinder Changes

Breakdowns, Connections & Servicing of all gas appliances

15 Years experience with British Gas



EMERGENCY CALL OUTS – MOBILE 07733 107333 – HOME 01892 824481

STURGEON'S

ROAD, DRIVE & CIVIL ENGINEERS

COAL MERCHANTS

PEMBURY 822221/2/3

A. BURSLEM & SON

LTD. EST 1880

MONUMENTAL & BUILDING MASONS

Handcrafted Memorials, Hand Cut Inscriptions and Engraving

BRANCH OFFICE

STATION HILL, EAST FARLEIGH
MAIDSTONE, KENT ME18 0VO
TEL/FAX: 01622 721077

HEAD OFFICE

BENHALL MILL ROAD
TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT TN2 8JH
TEL: 01892 528733 FAX: 01892 515401

BRANCH OFFICE

232 THE RIDGE, HASTINGS
EAST SUSSEX TN34 2AE
TEL: 01424 421080 FAX: 01424 722237

SNIPPETS . . . *continued*

Larkfield Hall will be having a Craft Display and Sale at 4.30pm followed by carols and entertainment at 6 pm on Wednesday 20th December. All are welcome.

Seeking old friends . . .

Trev Simmons (email address lone.wolf@btinternet.com) recently contacted the Pembury Village News website (www.pembury.org.uk). He attended Pembury School between 1974 and 1982 and would

like to get back in contact with old school friends especially Isobel Lane, Chris Gilbert and Tracey Woods.

Did you know? Pembury Parish Council meetings are open to the public and they all have an Open Session which any member of the public can speak on a topic that concerns them. Dates for the meetings are in the diary section of this magazine.

IT'S EASY TO FORGET

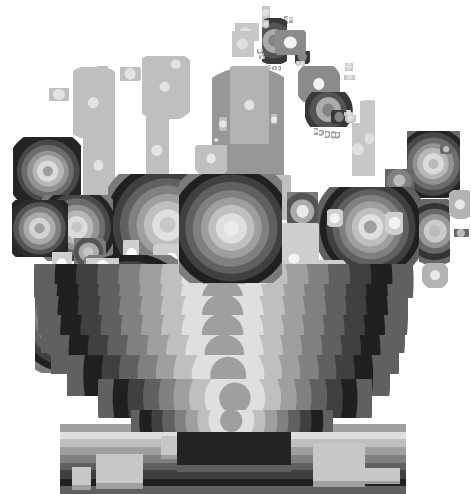
I AM WRITING this in late October, only two weeks after the big flood that bestowed itself on East Sussex and many parts of Kent. As was seen nationally the effects were devastating, primarily for those people living close to rivers. With a few exceptions the unfortunate locations that were flooded were not new to this situation. As I can remember when I was a boy, and referring to the record books before my time, I can see this was the situation during the earlier part of the 20th century also in towns such as Lewes and Uckfield.

Of course, the condition was made worse by the fact that the heavy and continuous rain that fell coincided with the monthly tidal cycle of 'Spring' and 'Neap' tides. Being close to the full moon meant a 'Springtide' coming up the rivers meeting the outgoing flood waters, with the resulting effects of flood.

To refer to tidal conditions throughout the year, one looks at – within any one month – two periods of 'Spring' and two periods of 'Neap' tides, with two main Flood tides, one in late May and the other in late September. For the uninitiated Spring tides relate to a large rise and a correspondingly large fall in the sea level; Neap tides relate to a correspondingly small rise and fall. Some times referred to as 'Long' and 'Short' tides the distance between the land surrounding the sea largely determines the height; i.e. the closer the land is together the higher the tide.

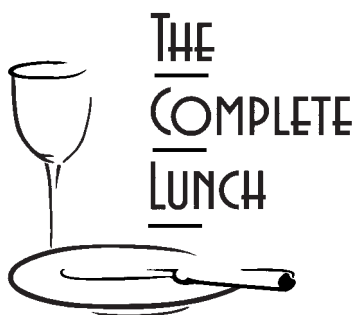
But now back to things closer to home. Although experiencing some minor flooding in my garage at home I was kept dry. Of course, turbulent weather is expected during the month of October, with Atlantic low pressure areas queuing up to pound the UK. This particular low pressure I logged as 969.2 MB at 0803hrs. Remember October 16/17th 1987 (How can you forget!). So this weather fell not so many days from the above dates – October 11/12th with a significant fall on the 9th also. For the record, the 9th saw 29.5 mm, the 11th 29.5mm and the 12th 68.9mm, a total of 127.9mm – in imperial terms about 5 inches over the three days. Bear in mind the *annual* rainfall for this part of the country is about 750mm!

Mike Stanford



WEDDINGS PARTIES DANCES DISCOS BIRTHDAYS

CONFERENCES ANNIVERSARIES



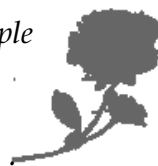
FUND RAISING EVENTS CHRISTENINGS FUNERALS

Outside Caterers
Quality Food – Good Value
Family run business that caters in
homemade and healthy food
– 30 years experience –
Choose from Fingers or Dressed
Buffets to Hot Three Course Dinners

Visit our website @
www.thecompletelunch.co.uk
or Phone/Fax us on 824937

Shelie's Flowers

Special flowers for special people



*Flowers for all occasions:
Weddings, Functions, Special Events,
Anniversaries
Bouquets, Baskets, Gift Wraps, etc.
Funerals and Sympathy Flowers
Fresh or Dried/Silk flowers*

*A personal service tailored to suit your
personal needs.
Home visits and local delivery are free.*

*For those special flowers contact
Mrs Shelie Green, 'Shelie's Flowers',
7 High Street Pembury, Kent TN2 4PH.
Shop Tel. 822475*

Photo Shop 2000

- Family • Individual
- Babies • Children
- Mobile Studio in your home
- Group Party bookings taken
from a minimum of five people
- Reg 10" x 8" for the
best low prices
- Portrait Packs offered

Call Catherine Green
01892 825806
07710 333951



JW Services (Pembury)

**MOBILE CAR REPAIRS AT HOME
OR WORK**

• BREAKDOWN FACILITIES •

**ALL makes of cars including Citroen
& Diesels repaired and serviced.**

Full Service:

4 CYLINDERS: £65+VAT

6 CYLINDERS: £75+VAT

SECONDHAND CARS BOUGHT AND SOLD
(WITH OR WITHOUT MOT)
MOBILE CAR PHONES SUPPLIED AND FITTED

PHONE JIMMY WEBB
825212 (Home)
0860 270293 (Mobile)

GILL'S GARDEN

FINISH PLANTING TUBS, window boxes and hanging baskets for winter display. A variety of evergreens as well as euonymous, skimmias, ericas, polyanthus and pansies underplanted with small bulbs looks very effective. Keep an eye out for bargains in bulbs towards the end of the season, plant in pots and either place in the garden in spring or bring indoors to lift the spirits on a dull day.

Take stock of the garden, redesign borders if needed. Order plants and seeds for spring planting. Seeds of fibrous begonias can be planted in late December in heat in the greenhouse, or on window sills, and pricked out when ready. Sow seeds of annuals in heat in February.

Protect plants in the garden that could be spoilt by severe weather. Bubble wrap is useful not only to protect plants but also to stop containers cracking. Loosely tie the leaves of cordylines and yuccas to stop water freezing in the centre of the plants.

Remove fallen leaves from ponds, unplug pumps and clean before storing for winter. A tennis ball placed in the pond stops the water from freezing completely. Remove leaves from lawns as soon as possible but do avoid walking on grass if it's waterlogged or frozen. Remove leaves from borders to stop slugs overwintering and mulch shrubs and perennials with compost.

Plant trees and roses; prune large roses by half and check they do not rock out of the ground in the wind. Towards the end of winter prune shrubs that flowered in late summer e.g. buddleia, hypericum and spirea. Remove snow promptly from conifers and other trees to stop any damage.

Service the mower ready for spring. Clean tools by dipping them into a bucket containing oil and sand and wiping well with an old rag.

Remember to feed birds if you can and, hopefully, they will repay you by eating all the unwanted insects and slugs later in the year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Gardening Year to everybody!

Gill Matthews



DO YOU ENJOY HUGGING TREES?

WELL, THE CHANCE may be yours, officially!

A vacancy is coming up for the job of Parish Tree Warden. This volunteer post consists mainly of checking the condition of trees in the Parish, putting forward proposals for maintenance, replacement and new planting. As environmental issues become more and more important, care of trees is vital in order to protect the surroundings we all enjoy in Pembury. Full training will be given by Bob Wilkes, the current Tree Warden, who would be very happy to discuss the role with anyone interested. Why not give him a call on 823264?

Your Clerk *Reports* . . .

THE PARISH COUNCIL has been very active over the last few months; some matters which will have obvious direct benefits to the village and others which are also very important but less obvious. The Parish Council has studied and responded to many consultation documents recently including Access to Hastings, The Future of the Audit Commission, Code of Conduct for elected members, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Housing Strategy, Opportunities for Kent – The Vision and the Periodic Electoral Review.

In response to the latter document the Parish Council strongly represented the village against the recommendation by the Borough Council that part of Pembury should unite with part of Matfield to form a new Borough Ward. The Borough Council listened to Pembury and recommended to the Government Commission that Pembury should remain as it was. However, the Commission disagreed and has now released a draft paper recommending that Brenchley Parish Council should be warded to form two wards: Brenchley Rural and Brenchley and Matfield. The proposed Brenchley Rural Parish Ward would form part of an enlarged Pembury Borough Ward. The proposed Brenchley and Matfield Parish Ward would form part of the proposed Brenchley and Horsmonden Borough Ward. The recommendations seek to ensure that the number of electors represented by each district councillor is as nearly as possible the same, having regard to local circumstances. In all of the proposed 20 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average, both initially and in 2005.

If anyone would like to comment to the

Commission on these proposals please contact me and I will be happy to give you the relevant details. Closing date for comments 22nd January 2001.

As part of a five year plan for the Lower Green Recreation Ground a grant has been obtained from the Borough Council to help convert the existing two lawn tennis courts to hard surface. This would considerably reduce maintenance costs and enable play all the year round. In addition, when finances allow, the existing hard court would be converted to an informal multi-sports area for such games as five-a-side football, basketball, netball, etc.

After the success of the Parish Council Christmas lights scheme last year, it has been expanded this year (as I'm sure you will have noticed) and many thanks go to those who have planned and fitted the lights and to businesses that have made donations and have allowed the lights to shine from their premises.

Have you all bought your Millennium Parish mugs? There are still a few available from the office at 6 The Grove (telephone 823193 between 9am and 1pm). In years to come they may be collectors' items!

Finally, the usual reminder that allotments are available for rent at £15 full plot, £7.50 half plot per annum. Tennis permits are available from the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9am-1pm). Also, did you know that you can reserve a plot for burial or cremated remains in the Upper Church St Peter Burial Ground? Please contact me for details.

Barbara Russell



THE LANTERN

CHRISTMAS was nearing and the first flurry of snow had already settled. The cold wintry air-stream bore testimony for heavier falls of snow yet to come. Save for the fairy-lights twinkling in the windows of the small cottage council estate, everything held an atmosphere of bleakness. As Paul gazed from the panoramic window of his classroom, he was still undecided on what his school project for the festivity should be. The headmistress's shrill voice still echoed in his ears when at assembly.

"Now boys and girls, remember. It is in the spirit of goodwill towards all mankind: try and capture that theme, if you can, for your project." Thus Miss Stacey's words gave Paul an idea. First, he managed to acquire some strong cardboard and several pieces of cellulose of different colours. Then, with a sharp pair of scissors and his geometry-set, he set upon the task of making a lantern. The required dimensions presented no problem. Eight windows equally spaced, each window having alternate colourings – yellow, brown, dark-tan, white, and so on, until all had been completed. Paul kept his measurements to the millimetre. The outside of his lantern was all in gold paper pasted on.

"Busy?" commented one of his classmates, in a jokey sort of way.

"You'll see!" said Paul, putting the finishing

touches to his project.

At last, success! Arriving home from school, Paul asked his mother if he could hang the lantern in the hallway. She agreed.

"Now isn't that just like a rainbow, son?" she said "But where does Christmas spirit come in?"

"Well, ma, you see, it's like this – all my school chums are different, well, you know how it is, you know . . ."

"You mean coloured skin, boy, say it boy!" she said emphatically with a lovely broad smile on her beautiful face.

"My theme is in the lantern," said Paul, as he flicked the electric light bulb on and off, "a variety of all colours, all sharing the same source of power, the sun."

Before she could answer, the door-bell rang. It was a telegram from her sister in Jamaica wishing all the family and friends a Merry Christmas.

It wasn't long before the door-bell rang again, and one by one, all Paul's friends trooped in for the pre-arranged party. In between the fun and games,

Paul began to explain to his friends the meaning of his project.

Explain? With all his friends? Didn't his lantern reflect it all?

Terence St John



ST. PETER'S PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB, which started about five years ago, meets twice a month on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are normally held in the meeting room at the Upper Church at 8.00pm. A full programme of events is available and dates appear in the Pembury Village News.

The current membership is made up of people of mixed experience and ability. Everyone is welcome to join whatever their level of knowledge and skill – all they need is enthusiasm for photography. We also have members with digital photography experience.

Our meetings are a good mixture of activities, some serious, but mainly light-hearted. We also venture out locally to take photographs together. It's quite interesting to see the results from different viewpoints on the same topics! We all get inspiration from each other's pictures, and everyone seems to benefit.

So if you enjoy taking photographs why not come and join us. Contact Carol Wakeford on Pembury 822030 for full details.

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

IN ADVANCE of its opening Pembury's new Tesco store presented a cheque for £1,000 to Hospice in the Weald, which was very gratefully received. This donation is being put directly towards the cost of making two further bedrooms available for occupancy. Despite a disappointing failure to achieve a National Lottery grant this year, it has been decided that these two rooms can be opened by the end of December, provided recruitment of the additional highly skilled staff needed can be completed by then. That will leave six bedrooms still unable to be used – sad, but before full capacity can be achieved there has to be certainty that funding is sufficient not just in the short-term, but also to meet all the additional costs involved on a permanent basis, with adequate provision for inflation. So with the NHS meeting only 16%

of annual running costs and the rest having to come from fundraising, it is likely to be a long haul unless new sources of income can be found.

Meanwhile, more than 200 people from West Kent and East Sussex have been cared for in the eight rooms in use during the last 12 months, while the Clinical Nurse specialist team of seven people, which supports terminally ill people in their own homes, carries out around 230 visits and 800 telephone calls every month. The need is there . . .

The Hospice Management has asked Village News to say that they would like to thank Pembury residents for their continued support and to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS – FOR WHOM?

AS THE MOOD and excitement for Christmas gathers momentum perhaps now is the time we should just stop and ask ourselves what we really mean by blandly wishing everybody 'A Happy Christmas'. Do we really mean it or is it just meant for those of us who can take it for granted that we will have a whacking great big breakfast, dinner and tea every day over the Christmas period? Then follow it up with the traditional scrapping of the food we could not eat because we had too much in the first place or allowed to go by its sell by date because we did not need it anyway.

Each and every year organisations such as the Salvation Army, Help The Aged and those for the homeless and lonely give up the festive period to provide shelter, food, warmth and company for those in need. Some of the homeless, for whatever reason, have chosen this way of life but the majority I suspect are victims of our so-called success.

Perhaps we would all have a warmer feeling about saying 'Happy Christmas' if each of us, me included, made a donation to the value of what we know we are going to waste anyway, to any of these organisations. Just think, what difference we could make but why limit it to Christmas; it is a long time to the next one.

Go on, have a really 'Happy Christmas'

Hugh Boorman

EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL

FOR FAR TOO LONG, disabled people have not had the same opportunities and choices as others. To have an impairment of any kind is self-evidently a disadvantage, but those with disabilities are doubly disadvantaged if they cannot access goods and services.

The 1995 Disability Discrimination Act was designed to help disabled people overcome some of the problems which they have had to face in the past. Part A of the Act which came into force on 1st October 1999 requires providers of goods and services in both the public and private sectors to take all reasonable steps to ensure that by the end of 2004 disabled customers can access facilities offered.

Is this all a fuss about nothing or is there a real problem? If so, how big is it? You may be surprised to learn that some 8.5 million people are classified as disabled, according to the definition in the Act. Hence, in any given town or village, at least 1 in 10 are disabled. There are more disabled people about than you may think. It is not too difficult to recognise those in wheelchairs, or carrying a white stick, but it is not so easy to identify those who are, for example, hard of hearing, or severely arthritic.

The fact is that entry to many buildings which are open to the public remains difficult. For some disabled people even once inside, circulation remains a problem. It is not just a question of access to buildings, however. The journey from the individual's home to destination has also to be considered.

Unnecessary and badly positioned street furniture turn into obstacles, the absence of dropped kerbs and scarcity of safe crossings on busy roads are all impediments to the disabled traveller. Much of the public transport networks, buses, trains, taxis etc, still fail to meet the needs of disabled passengers. Last, but not least, information is often unavailable in a suitable form for those with a sight or auditory impairment. In short, there is much to be done before we can all be satisfied that both the spirit and the intention of the DDA have been met.

So, who should be doing what in Pembury? For a start, all shopkeepers, restaurateurs, publicans, doctors and others providing services to the public should be considering how their premises could be made more accessible, if they have not already done so, and what other measures might help their disabled customers. Similarly, the Parish Council itself has a responsibility to ensure that all its services meet the requirements of the Act, and it is most pleasing to note the excellent facilities now provided at the new village hall. The Borough Council too will need to play its part to enable everyone, whatever their disability, to travel our roads and pavements safely without unnecessary hazards. Finally, we can all as individuals play our own part to help. Householders can ensure that trees and shrubs do not overhang public footpaths. Drivers can avoid parking on pavements, or if there is no alternative, leave sufficient space for wheelchair users (and those with pushchairs), and never to block dropped kerbs.

If you are disabled and know of a problem that needs to be tackled, or a service provider in need of advice, please contact the Tunbridge Wells Access Group on 528564 or 537895. They will be pleased to hear from you.

Dennis Haskett

Tunbridge Wells Access Group

Barbara Russell, Clerk to Pembury Parish Council comments:

“Pembury Parish Council are certainly very aware that there should be access for people with disabilities where it is needed, justified and funds available for its provision. The Parish Council does take account of the opinions and feelings of Pembury residents. Measures are taken when appropriate.”

“Many of the areas are the responsibility of authorities other than the Parish Council (e.g. the Borough Council or Kent County Council) and the Parish Council does put forward issues and take up problems with those authorities on behalf of all its parishioners including those with disabilities.”

G. F. GROVES

Your friendly local builder

CARPENTERS
JOINERS

BUILDING
CONTRACTORS

EXTENSIONS/CONVERSIONS/NEW-BUILD

*PLANNING SERVICE AVAILABLE
PURPOSE-MADE JOINERY*

FREE ESTIMATES • FAST SERVICE

Telephone (01892) 838619

Burtons Pembury's Solicitors

- ★ Full Range of Legal Services
- ★ Prompt Efficient Friendly Service

The Tyled House
23a High Street
Pembury, Kent TN2 4PH

Tel (01892) 824577



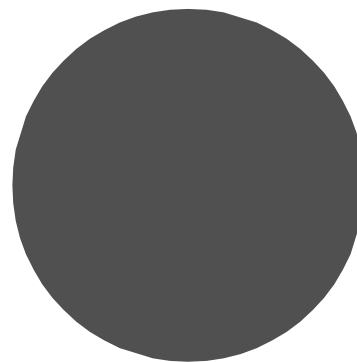
CHURCH SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

St. Peter's Church

17th December	6.30 pm	Parish Carol Service – Upper Church
24th December	8.00 am	Holy Communion – Upper Church (no 9.45 am service)
	11.30 am	Morning Service – Old Church
	4.00 pm	Children's 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
31st December	8.00 am	Holy Communion – Upper Church
	9.45 am	Parish Eucharist – Upper Church
	11.30 am	Carol Service – Old Church

St. Anselm

16th December	7.30 pm	Carols
24th December	10.30 am	Mass
	7.30 pm	Carols
	8.00 pm	Vigil Mass
25th December	10.30 am	Mass



Pembury Free Church – all at Pembury School

17th December	6.00 pm	Children's & Young People's Christmas Service
24th December	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
25th December	10.00 am	Christmas Day service



Pembury Opticians

**has now closed. All records have been transferred to
Arthur Hayes Optometrists
2 Goods Station Road
Tunbridge Wells
Tel: 01892 542188
where you will be assured of a friendly welcome
and high standard of care.**

Kempsters

The Funeral Directors

Partners: BRIAN KEMPSTER Dip.F.D., M.B.I.E. & JESSICA KEMPSTER

A family business that has served the community since 1882

A COMPLETE 24 HOUR FUNERAL SERVICE

2-4 ALBION ROAD • TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Telephone: 01892 523131



Be thoughtful, take out a
GOLDEN CHARTER
PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLAN



CRIME IN PEMBURY

JULY – August – September did not give us quite the result we wanted; 66 reported crimes versus 62 for the previous quarter. On the other hand it is not so bad either bearing in mind the different method now used to record the various crimes. Theft, damage and deception are still three of the most frequent crimes, although in the previous quarter there were 11 assaults recorded.

For whatever reason the Beagleswood Road murder in the summer did not qualify as an assault because there was only one and has been recorded in the 'Other Crimes' column. Strange.

Please remember that as we approach Christmas the crime rate tends to rise. Darker evenings and people being careless with their own hard earned goods certainly help this increase. Do stop being so charitable to these wrong-doers who creep about at night or who prey on empty houses and cars. If you are going away let someone know, don't leave tempting presents in full view in cars or houses.

Lock cars up whenever you leave them, even outside your house. Make sure they are off road where possible and use chains on your front doors. It is an endless battle but one we must win.

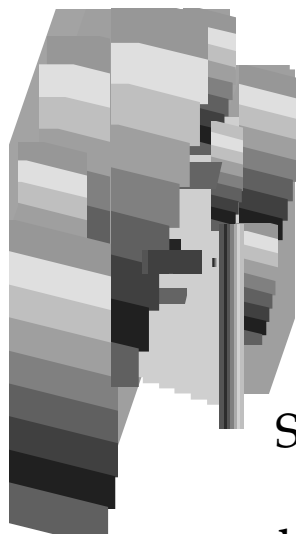
We recently had an incident in the High Street where one of the young footballer's girlfriend suffered obscene and threatening abuse from a pack of local youths which resulted in her having to be escorted back to her car by a member of the public. Our message to them is quite simple. Do you want a replay when the sides are more evenly matched?

However, all is not doom and gloom! The police advise us that Pembury is still one of the areas with a much lower than average reported crime rate, which is good news all round!

Have a super Christmas, but please don't contribute to the celebrations of the criminal element.

Hugh Boorman

	Assault	Burglary other type	Burglary	Damage	Deception	Other	Shoplifting	Theft from motor vehicles	Theft	Theft from motor vehicles	TOTAL
July - September 2000											
TOTAL				2					1		2
Batchelors				2							2
Beagles Wood Road									1		1
Bellfield Road			1			1					2
Canterbury Road				1				1			2
Church Road		1		2						1	4
Cornford Park						1					1
Forest Way			1								1
Hastings Road		1		1		2	1	1	2	1	9
Henwood Green Road			1			1		1			3
Henwoods Mount				1							1
Heskett Park				1							1
High Street					7	1	1		1	1	11
Lower Green Road	1			2		1				1	5
Maidstone Road				1							1
Pembury Close								1			1
Pembury Road									1		1
Petersfield									3		3
Ridgeway								1			1
Romford Road		1							1		2
Tonbridge Road		2			1	2		1	5		11
Westway										1	1
Woodhill Park						1					1
Woodside Road				1							1
TOTAL	1	5	3	12	8	10	2	6	11	5	66



HEAD MASTERS

(FORMERLY PEMBURY HAIR STUDIO)

01892 822879

SALLY, GEMMA, KATHERINE
and our new stylist KIRSTY
welcome all new and existing clients.

Specialist in Easi-Meshe Highlights in one or more colours.

Opening times: Tues – 9.00-5.30. Wed – 9.00-5.00
Thurs – 9.00-5.30. Fri – 9.00-7.00. Sat – 8.00-2.00

The Priory

Retirement Home



RESIDENTIAL CARE

- ◆ Quality 24-hour care from our experienced, trained staff
- ◆ Traditional home-cooked meals
- ◆ Peaceful surroundings in elegant Victorian house with mature gardens
- ◆ Day care ◆ Dementia Care specialist home

Telephone (01892) 823018 for further details

The Priory, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4AY

FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 2001

- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 10.00 am
- 3 St Peter's Mothers' Union: Members' Own – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8 pm
- 4 Pembury Afternoon WI: Cornish Cream – Village Hall – 2.15 pm
- 5 Pembury Evening WI: History of Needles & Pins – Village Hall – 7.45 pm
- 6 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15 pm
- 8 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8 pm
- 12 & 13 Pembury Players: Revue – Instrumental, dance and sketches – 8 pm
- 15 St Peter's Photographic Club: Theme Competition –
Upper Church Meeting Room – 8 pm
- 23 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2 pm
- 29 St Peter's Photographic Club: Exhibition Preparation –
Upper Church Meeting Room – 8 pm
Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2 pm

FEBRUARY

- 1 Pembury Afternoon WI: Hoping for a few laughs – Village Hall – 2.15 pm
- 2 Pembury Evening WI: Stencilling – Village Hall – 7.45 pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Car Park – 2.15 p.m.
- 6 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2 pm
- 7 St Peter's Mothers' Union: "What, Me Lord?" – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8 pm
- 10 WI Jumble sale – Village Hall
- 12 St Peter's Photographic Club: Dark Room Evening – Upper Church Meeting
Room – 8 pm
- 16 Pembury Gardeners' Society: AGM – Village Hall – 8 pm
- 20 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2 pm
- 23 Pembury Village Quiz – Village Hall – 7.30 for 8 pm
- 26 St Peter's Photographic Club: Holiday photos (prints) –
Upper Church Meeting Room – 8 pm

MARCH

- 1 Pembury Afternoon WI: Kenkenof and other gardens – Village Hall – 2.15 pm
- 2 Pembury Evening WI: Making wine – Village Hall – 7.45 pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15 pm
- 6 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2 pm
- 7 St Peter's Mothers' Union: AGM – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8 pm
- 12 St Peter's Photographic Club: Night photography, Maidstone
- 19 Annual Parish Meeting – Village Hall – 8 pm
- 20 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2 pm
- 24 Pembury Gardeners' Society: Spring Show – Village Hall – 2.30 pm
- 26 St Peter's Photographic Club: Table top photography –
Upper Church Meeting Room – 8 pm

Remember last year when your self-assessment form arrived
and you left it in the drawer until the last minute?

Remember promising you wouldn't do that again this year?

It won't go away but we can help.

Call Mike Withycombe on 01892 825454 to find out how little
it can cost to make you feel smug for the rest of the year.

JERROM AND COMPANY

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

13 HIGH STREET, PEMBURY,

Telephone: 01892 825454 Fax: 01892 822482

E Mail: Jerromco@cullen-and.co.uk



For a Friendly Local Service

J. MEARS

SCAFFOLDING & SUPPLIES LTD

MOBILE 07768 606557

ROADS & DRIVEWAYS LTD

MOBILE 07788 668431

PLANT HIRE LIMITED

TEL 01825 825950 • FAX 01892 825991

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

County Council

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way TN2 4DN. Tel: 823966

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 *Chairman – Public Relations*

Cllr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Rd TN2 4LH. Tel: 823068 *Chairman – Amenities and Allotments*

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

Chairman of Parish Council
Vice Chairman of Parish Council
Chairman – Planning
Chairman – Finance

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

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

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

*Chairman – Pembury Village
News Editorial Committee*

Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

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

Email: PemburyPC@hotmail.com

CHURCH TIMES

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

Upper Church

8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am The Parish Eucharist
and Junior Church
10.00am 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 1st and 3rd Sunday at
7pm.

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

THE ROYAL OAK

216 Henwood Green Road, Pembury. Tel: 822958

The friendliest Pub in Pembury.

Open from 10am 7 days a week for breakfast.

Breakfast Special only £3.95

2 Eggs, 2 Bacon, 2 Sausages, Steak or Black Pudding,
Sauté potatoes, beans & tomatoes. Or create your own from the menu.

Lunches served 7 days a week from 12 noon to 3pm.

Sunday Lunch a speciality for only £5.95.

● Beer Garden ● Children welcome ● Open Log fire ● Big Screen TV All major events shown ● Weekly Sunday Meat raffle 3pm ● Fun Quiz Sunday evenings at 8.30pm ● Friendly Bingo on Wednesday evenings ● Regular Theme & Music Evenings. Details displayed in the bar ● Weekly 1/2 price drinks competition.

Functions and Outside Bars catered for.

We look forward to seeing you.

If you have any specific requirements, please telephone us
on **822958** and ask for **Jerry**.

Member of the National Association of Estate Agents



The *Effective* Estate Agents

Pembury's leading *Independent* Estate Agent

**Discuss your property requirements with our qualified friendly staff in
comfortable relaxed surroundings**

★ ★ OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK ★ ★

Giving a personal service to suit your needs

16 High Street, Pembury TN2 4NY.

Tel: 822880/823099. Fax: 825250. Website <http://www.denisebarnes.co.uk>

Also at:

Tunbridge Wells: 01892 527733

Horsmonden: 01892 724000

Prestige & Country Homes: 01892 618181

Brenchley: 01892 723922

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

AGE CONCERN

Mrs Sandra Springett. Tel.: 522591

ALZHEIMERS DISEASE SOCIETY

Simon Rooksby, Pineview Day Hospital

Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535, Ext 3515

ASSOCIATION OF PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUBS

Jim Smith, 18 Westway. Tel: 823714

BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

Mike Cartwright, 16 Cornford Park, Pembury.

Tel: 823235

BOWLS CLUB

Secretary: Len Birnie. Tel: 681222

BROWNIES GUIDER

Mrs J. Fichtmüller, 19 Belfield Road. Tel: 825072

BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Mr R. G. G. Whitlock, 6 The Forstal.

Tel: 822115

CAMDEN GREEN BADMINTON CLUB

R. Holt, 50 Ridgeway. Tel: 823830

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Geoffrey Pointer, The Presbytery, 11 Alliance Way,

Paddock Wood. Tel: 833699

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Mr Ron Abbott. Tel: 824031

COMPAID TRUST

Computer Aid for Disabled People. Tel: 824060

Transport for Special Needs. Tel: 823488

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

CRICKET CLUB

Hon. Secretary: Andy Weaver. Tel: 824362

DARBY & JOAN CLUB

Mr W. H. Brown, 32 High Street, Tel: 824943

FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL

c/o Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535

FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH

Chairman: Mrs S. Clarke, Little Stanton,

Romford Road. Tel: 823932

GIRL GUIDERS

1st Pembury Company: Mrs A. Baker,

67A High Street. Tel: 824441

HEADWAY

Penny Button. Tel: 823120

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD – PEMBURY LINK GROUP

Chris Cooper. Tel: 825428

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

Maidstone Road. Tel: 820500

KENT COLLEGE

Headmistress: Miss Barbara Crompton. Tel: 822006

KENTISH VALE ROUND TABLE

Mr Everden. Tel: 834685 or 832823 (business)

LABOUR PARTY

Dave & Sally Osborn, 34 Canterbury Rd. Tel: 822726

LARKFIELD

Principal: Mr Roger Gibson, Cornford Lane. Tel: 822168

LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Mrs S. Smith, 2 Ridgeway. Tel: 822405

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Sylvia Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031

LITTLE RASCALS (formerly 'Meet-a-Mum')

Alison Burgess. Tel: 515714

MUMS AND TINY TOTS CLUB

Mrs C. Price, 81 Ridgeway. Tel: 823349

NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Co-ordinator: Moira Allan, 9 Henwood Green Road.

Tel: 822373

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, UK

Michael Coggles. Tel: 822705

OUTGROWN CHILDREN'S WEAR

Mrs S. Rice-Tucker. Tel: 822483

PEMBURY ATHLETIC (Youth) FOOTBALL CLUB

Ben Coombes, 96 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 822105

PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB

Geoff Plummer. Tel: 824652

PEMBURY F.C. SATURDAY

Mick Waterman, 26 The Coppice. Tel: 824137

PEMBURY F.C. SUNDAY

P. Craxton, 31 Batchelors. Tel: 823928

PEMBURY FOOTPATH WALKERS

N. & K. Franklin, 11 The Meadow. Tel: 823212

PEMBURY FREE CHURCH

Pastor David Graham

Church Office. Tel: 825590

Youth Specialist: Doug White 823898

PEMBURY GARDENERS

Mike Pavely, 52 Maidstone Road. Tel: 822605

PEMBURY MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

Simon Galway. Tel: 822866

PEMBURY PLAYERS

Chairman: Mrs G. Norman Draper. Tel: 823975

PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Mrs J. Brough. Tel: 528208

PEMBURY SCHOOL

Headteacher – Mrs K. Thewlis. Tel: 822259

PEMBURY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Helen Hendley. Tel: 824403

PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY

Teacher in charge: Rosemary Rich. Tel: 825580

PEMBURY SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

Secretary: Mrs Marion Warren. Tel: 547617

PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

K. Hardcastle. Tel: 823110

PEMBURY SOCIETY

Derek Johnson. Tel: 823150

PEMBURY STOOLBALL CLUB

Mrs Sandy Rice-Tucker. Tel: 822483

PEMBURY UPPER AND OLD CHURCH

Rev. Stephen Sealy. Tel: 824761

PEMBURY VILLAGE MARKET

Sue Boreham Tel: 824385

Eve Fiddimore Tel: 518277

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

Peter Chartres, 54 Woodhill Park. Tel: 823759

SANDRA'S HOUSE

Pre-School Nursery, Mrs S. Toogood, Queens Folly,

64 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824252

SCOUT & GUIDE HQ MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mike Cartwright, 16 Cornford Park, Pembury.

Tel: 823235. And Jacke Fichtmüller, 19 Bellfield Road,

Pembury. Tel 825072

ST. PETER'S MOTHERS' UNION

Secretary: Mrs J. Tompkins. Tel: 823123

Branch Leader: Mrs J. Aust. Tel: 823963

ST. PETER'S PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Events Secretary, Carol Wakeford. Tel: 822030

TABLE TENNIS CLUB. John Burleton. Tel: 823250

TUNBRIDGE WELLS & DISTRICT VICTIM SUPPORT

SCHEME. Tel: 513969

VENTURE SCOUTS

Bernie Roberts, 13 Camden Avenue. Tel: 822932

VILLAGE HALL

Manager (bookings): Denis Dawes, 19 Knights Ridge.

Tel: 822411

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Afternoon: Mrs Edna Morris. Tel: 822267

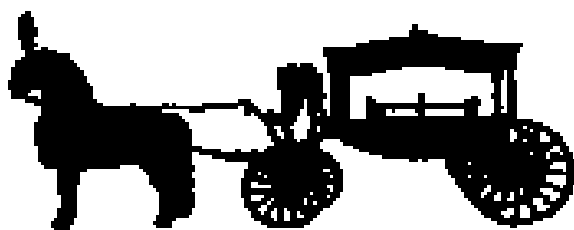
Evening: Mrs Sylvia Strudwick. Tel: 822631

WRVS LUNCH CLUB

Tel: 822737

YMCA

Simon Stanley. Tel: 534444



T. W. BOORMAN FUNERAL SERVICES

(An Independent Caring Family Funeral Directors)

31 Mount Ephraim

Tunbridge Wells

Kent

TN4 8AA

01892 541070

(Opposite the Kent & Sussex Hospital)

6 Shipbourne Road

Tonbridge

Kent

TN10 3DJ

01732 773202

(Opposite Tonbridge School)

AT A TIME OF BEREAVEMENT, YOU WILL
NEED THE CARE, SENSITIVITY AND
PROFESSIONALISM FOR WHICH WE ARE
RENOWNED.

24 Hour Service

Own Floristry Department

Service Sheets Available

No Charges for Last Respects

Monuments and Headstones

Discretion assured at all times