# PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS



Issue 135 AUTUMN 2008

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#### Cover photograph by Rachael Fowlie.

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Louise Fowlie (Editor), Paul Barrington-King, Rosie Bass, Masha Bayles, Rick Bayles, David Coleman, Janet Ditchett and Kathy Wallwork.

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

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#### **EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION**

HAVING LIVED in Pembury nearly all my life, I appreciate the importance of village life and community spirit.

My name is Louise Fowlie, and I am the new editor of the Pembury Village News. A keen linguist, I studied French and Chinese at university and have now returned to Pembury.

My interest in languages has developed my curiosity of other cultures. After studying French, Spanish and Japanese at school, I went on to university keen to explore everything. With some classmates, I co-founded a Chinese Society for the university, aiming at bringing the Chinese foreign students and those studying Chinese language together to practice their language skills and develop friendships. The time I spent with foreign students helped me to gain a better grasp of other languages, and I studied Italian for a year too. I think that it is this interest in other languages which has sharpened my eye for detail.

Whilst on a year abroad in Beijing, I mainly spent my time studying Chinese at university, although I was also approached to teach English and to help the Chinese students at the university improve their spoken English. I found this to be quite challenging at times, and often found that they had a better grasp of the English language than I did!

Since returning to Pembury, I have designed and maintain a website for my parish church, learning new skills with each day. With some friends, I also organised a very successful quiz night, raising money for the Hospice in the Weald.

It's true what they say – you never truly appreciate something until you live without



it. My time at university and my year abroad in Beijing have made me realise all the joys and pleasures of living in Kent. My time away has given me a new sense of enthusiasm for life in Pembury, and I'm more eager than ever to embrace the wonderful things that happen here throughout the year.

I am ever so grateful to Alison Morton, for making the hand-over period of such a wonderful magazine as pain-free as possible. I'm really looking forward to bringing all the latest happenings to you, so that we can all make the most out of life in our village.

I am always open to comments and suggestions, so please e-mail me at pvn@pembury.org; I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

Although the days may be getting shorter, and the temperature's dropping once again, there's still plenty to look forward to in Pembury. Make sure you check out the For Your Diary section on page 35 to ensure you don't miss a thing.

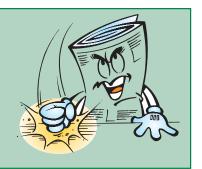
Louise Fowlie, Editor

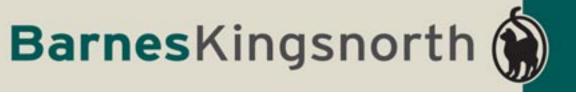
#### **COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE**

Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this magazine must be forwarded to the Parish Office, c/o 6 The Grove before

1 November 2008.

If you use a computer to type your article, it would be extremely helpful if you could send it (and photos) in by e-mail to pvn@pembury.org





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NEW PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

FOLLOWING DAVID Coleman standing down as Parish Council Chairman after a considerable time as either Chair or Vice Chair (there was a profile of David in the Winter 2007 issue), June Crowhurst and Kevin Edser have been unanimously elected to these crucial local roles.

As the new Chairman, June brings a wealth of experience and knowledge having been involved in community service, not only as both a Parish and Borough Councillor but also in many other local areas, including years of dedicated voluntary and charity work involving young people and those with disabilities. She has already started work on her vision for the Parish, keen to involve local youngsters in the development of our community and to build on the programme of improving facilities. This is particularly so in the Recreation Ground, where her 'baby' as previous Amenities Working Group Chair, the new Multi Sports Youth Area and Adventure Playground has just been completed. June is also keen to advance facilities for older people and the Parish Council has already considered embryonic ideas for a fitness area specially tailored for the over fifties.

Although Kevin Edser is quite a new Parish Councillor, he is not new to the Parish Council, having worked closely with them for some years on the new pavilion, and then acting (unpaid) as its agent during construction, liaising with the architect and the contractor and making sure we had the best deal delivered on target and in budget. Kevin knows a lot about local voluntary work, having been much involved with the very successful youth football club (PAYFC). He also brings considerable commercial experience to the Council and this with his construction industry knowledge will be major a asset as Vice-Chairman, particularly as he also chairs the Parish Council's Planning Working Group, which comments on all local planning applications.

With June and Kevin the Parish Council is now well set to advance its role even further in serving the people of Pembury.

#### **David Coleman**

TWAS A very great honour to be elected Chair of Pembury Parish Council. Over the last few years it has been such a pleasure to be a member of this very forward-thinking Council.

I have had the experience of working with some exceptional people, and thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

David Coleman has been a much valued mentor to me; his knowledge and experience have helped shaped me into the councillor that I am today. Luckily for us all, David is staying on as a councillor.

Barbara and Yvette are also a major source of professionalism and support, and I know we will all go from strength to strength. The new councillors are already settling in to the role, and I have huge confidence in them to keep the high standard that we have achieved.

I have been honoured to work with our councillors and those who are still on board are a joy to work with. We all enjoy working for our village; a village which is unique in its capacity to embrace people and change. Pembury is a special village, one I am so proud to be a part of, and to be Chair of its Parish Council.

#### **June Crowhurst**

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#### **CLERK'S REPORT**

RECREATION GROUND – At the beginning of the summer, work began on an area in the Recreation Ground for older children. The Parish Council had, the previous summer, commissioned an area for young children and after much consultation with the older children devised a scheme to encourage sport and challenging play for this older group. The facilities consist of a Multi Use Games Area which is marked out for football, cricket, netball, basketball etc.; a street scene skating area; large, challenging climbing equipment; a scoop swing; gym equipment and a meeting point.

**THE NEW PAVILION** is proving to be a great asset to the village and is being used for meetings, Pilates, children's parties etc. as well as its prime use for the junior footballers. It is available for hire, please contact me and I will pass on the details.

**IT'S A KNOCKOUT** is taking place on 20 September in the Recreation Ground. This enables the many groups of older children in the village to get together for fun and games.

**WARD WALKS** – Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and partner agencies will be carrying out Ward Walks in September. This will enable residents to discuss local issues and what needs improving. It is intended to target 30% of households but if you are not chosen, there is still an opportunity to comment online.

**NEW COUNCILLORS** – Over the last few months we have welcomed on board a number of new councillors but we still have three vacancies. Although the responsibility of being a councillor is taken very seriously, lots of fun is had and at times a great sense of achievement is gained. If you are interested, please contact me for further details.

**NEW CHAIRMAN** – Finally, a big thank you to our retiring Chairman, Councillor David Coleman, for all his hard work, support and advice over the last four years, and a big welcome to our new Chairman, Councillor June Crowhurst. June has been instrumental in obtaining all our new, exciting projects in the Recreation Ground and we look forward to working with her to further improve the facilities in the village.

Barbara Russell

## CHARLES AMHERST'S ALMSHOUSES – NOTICE OF VACANCY

IN THE MATTER of the Charity known as CHARLES AMHERST'S ALMSHOUSES, in the Ancient Parish of PEMBURY, in the County of Kent (Registered Charity No. 209602) Notice is hereby given that a vacancy exists in one of the Almshouses of this Charity.

Elderly people who have resided in the area of the Ancient Parish of Pembury for not less than two years are eligible for appointment.



Anyone wishing to apply for this vacancy should write for an application form to the Clerk to the Trustees, Mr G H Stafford, 1 Greenleas, Pembury, Kent TN2 4NS. Completed application forms must be in the hands of the Clerk by the end of September 2008.



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#### THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

AT THE SPRING Meeting of The Pembury Society in April, Ken Watts, the Chairman, had the pleasure of publicly announcing that the Parish Council had agreed to work with The Pembury Society looking at a suitable design for a new village sign.

We were very pleased that the Hope '08 Fun Day, organised by the three churches of Pembury, was such a success and that the Hospice in the Weald received such a handsome donation.



The Autumn Meeting and AGM of the Society will be held on 23 October in the Village Hall at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. The speaker for the evening will be the Pembury Community Warden, Tom Younger, and his main topic will be Home Security.

For those of you who aren't aware of The Pembury Society, or what they do, the Society had their first formal meeting in 1974. A Pembury resident named Cyril Masterman, upon moving to Pembury, found that too many developers were designing plans for housing estates and so designed a plan for the village which involved building a by-pass along Maidstone Road.

The Society has many aims including protecting the historical and architectural aspects of the village. They encourage residents to appreciate the area and take pride in the village, making it an attractive place to live and they provide the voice that matters in the right areas when it matters.

If you would like to join the Society, please fill in the membership form found on the Pembury website. The weight of the Society is directly related to the numbers of members it has: the more members there are, the more effective the voice.

#### Ken Watts

Chairman, Pembury Society

#### WELCOME BACK, DENISE!

IN 1988, I WALKED in to the new estate agent's office in the High Street, just to say hello and introduce myself to Denise Barnes. Twenty years later, I did the same this July. Same face, at the same desk with the same cheery welcome.

Denise sold her business in 2005 at the top of its game. Transforming over two years into DB Estates under new management, it went into insolvency this summer. However, the money in the village was on Denise. She bought the assets back and with new business partner,



Howard Kingsnorth, formerly head of the Tonbridge office, she started up again. Living in the village herself, Denise has helped a lot of people buy and sell houses in Pembury and has employed a lot of local people over the years.

#### **Alison Morton**

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#### PEMBURY SCHOOL JUNIOR WARDENS

THIS YEAR saw the first group of Year 6 pupils at Pembury School take part in a Junior Warden Scheme. This involved 'yours truly' visiting the school over several weeks to give talks to those children participating to help develop their 'Life Skills' and 'Citizenship'.

Thirty children from Year 6 took part and covered topics including: Crime Prevention, Personal and Community Safety and Consideration for Others. Each topic included brief talks then activities, which I hoped would help the children remember what had been talked about. From the revision sessions each week, this proved very successful.



If you get the chance, ask any one of them where the word 'Constable' comes from.

Their final session was a visit to Camden Court to serve tea and cakes to residents there. This was part of their 'Consideration for Others' topic. The afternoon was enjoyed by children and residents alike. For the children the highlight, apart from the cakes, was finding out how different school is now, compared with 40, 50, even 60 years ago and for the residents it was having the opportunity to share their memories.

I was privileged to be able to present the 30 children with their certificates at the final 'Celebration Assembly' at the school. Finally, I would like to thank those children who took part for their enthusiasm and attention during the sessions and also to wish them 'Good Luck' as they start on the adventure of Secondary School.

Parents, you should be Proud.

Tom Younger, KCC Community Warden, Pembury

#### PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB

HE CRICKET club this year has had a I mixed season on the playing front; the first team fighting against relegation and never quite playing to their potential, and the second eleven pushing for promotion. The junior section however continues to grow from strength to strength with circa 70 boys and girls attending weekly coaching sessions, based at both the cricket club and Pembury School, and the Under 11/13/15 & 17 teams all competing well in their respective leagues. What continues to be of great importance to the health of the club is the number of junior members making the step up into adult league cricket. Around Kent, it is only the clubs with this critical link that survive, and here in Pembury we have a fantastic production line thanks to the work of our team of coaches and the

parents who ensure our children are in the right place at the right time!

I am in no doubt that part of the success here is also down to the terrific family atmosphere that now pervades the club. Much of this has been generated by the wide range of social functions being run throughout the year by Sandy Crouch. A packed clubhouse with members of all ages is now a common sight at the club and we believe it will be the foundation for our future success.

That said, we are always on the look out for new members, be they young or old and we would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in becoming a member. Why not come along next season and have a look for yourself.

**Andrew Dawes** 

## WALROND FULLER

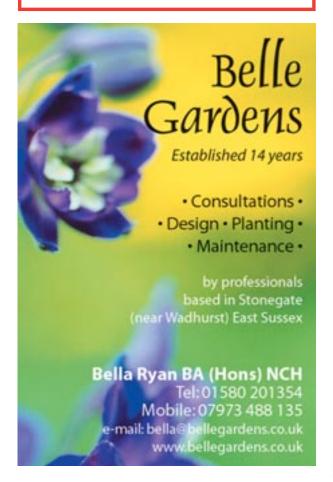
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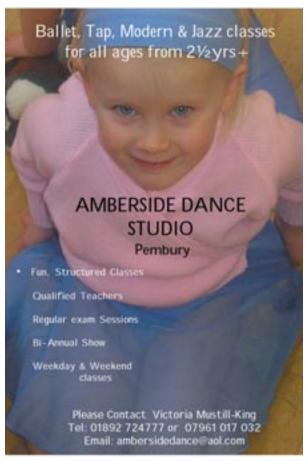
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#### **SNIPPETS**

## PEMBURY LIBRARY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

This year Pembury Library will be 30 years old! We are holding a birthday party on Saturday 27 September between 2-4pm and all are welcome.

There will be displays, competitions, craft sessions for children, a photo quiz, raffle and refreshments. We would like everyone in our local community to be involved in celebrating 30 years in the history of our library.

For further information please contact the library on 822278.

## NOTCUTTS' PEMBURY'S IMAGE COMPETITION

This year Notcutts have changed the Pembury in Bloom competition to an Image Competition. There are many categories which you can enter into, such as Best Wildlife Picture, Best Garden Picture and Best Picture Depicting Pembury Life. So take a look around Pembury and use your imagination. Take your drawing, painting or printed photograph to Notcutts by 30 November, clearly labelled with your name, phone number, address and competition category. Visit www.notcutts.co.uk for more details.

## VOLUNTEERING AT SCOTNEY CASTLE

Would you like to be part of the exciting project at Scotney Castle? More rooms have opened in the house and more volunteers are needed to interpret this special property to the public. It's not far from Pembury, so if you would like to meet some new people, please call Property Manager Caroline Binder on 01892 891793.

#### **FIREWORKS**

This year's firework display organised by Pembury Parish Council will be in Lower Green Recreation Ground on Friday 7 November at 7pm. Please bring a torch for your own safety and ensure that all children are accompanied by a responsible adult. The show is free, but donations will be accepted for local charities.

#### **CHILDREN'S LIGHT PARTY**

Pembury Baptist Church are holding a party for children aged 4-10 years, on 31 October, 5-7pm. No witches, ghosts or anything gory, please!

For more information, e-mail office@pemburybaptistchurch.org or phone 825590.

#### THE PHOENIX TWIRLERS

Pembury's own Majorettes 'The Phoenix Twirlers' will resume their practice sessions on Saturday 6 September from 10am to 12noon at the Scout and Guide Headquarters off Woodhill Park. All are welcome, especially anyone interested in joining.

#### IT'S A KNOCKOUT

It's a Knockout is back! This year it will take place on Saturday 20 September in Lower Green Recreation Ground at 1pm. Each team is made up of six youths aged between 11 and 18, competing for the Denise Barnes Cup. To take part or for more information, please contact June Crowhurst on 824873, or Jennifer Roberts on 824922 or email jennifer.ayres@btinternet.com for an application form.

#### PEMBURY MUSICAL TALENT

Just a reminder that PMT will take place on 1 November 2008 in the Village Hall. Proceeds from this year's event are going to Demelza House Children's Hospice. The number of tickets is limited, so contact Bill Slessor as soon as possible on 824528. There are three bands who have already agreed to play, so the event promises to be good!

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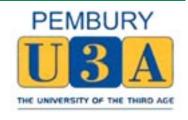
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#### PEMBURY U3A

PEMBURY U3A (University of the Third Age) continues to grow, with 150 members from Pembury and the surrounding villages. The ethos of a U3A is that we never stop learning and those of us in the 'third age' have skills, experience or interests that we can share with others. Members offer to use



their talents voluntarily in a variety of different ways, be it leading regular monthly rambles, organising theatre trips, study days, lecture lunches or inviting a small group to their home to share a common interest. We have groups meeting regularly together to learn beadwork, crochet, water colour painting, pottery, bridge for beginners, book circle, cake decoration, table tennis, Scrabble, wine appreciation, French conversation, Spanish, ten-pin bowling, digital photography, poetry, folk singing, hand chiming, mah-jong, a Sunday Group, and many more.

There is a general meeting on the second Monday of each month in the Catholic Church Hall with a speaker. Our September 8 Meeting is the first in a new U3A year and members will be able to sign up for their chosen Interest Groups. We will also hear retired Chief Detective Inspector Colin Brede talk about "Behind the Scenes of a Royal Visit".

If you are interested in learning more please ring our Membership Secretary, Andrew Richardson on 824012 for details.

Pauline Hawker, Chairman

#### PEMBURY IN THE PAST

THIS PICTURE was handed to us of some WI ladies of Pembury. Do you recognise yourself or your friends? Do you know what the occasion was for the photo, or even when it was taken?

If you have any information relating to this picture, please contact the Editor, whose details are on the inside front cover. We will publish your replies in the next edition.



#### **OUT & ABOUT CLUB**

IN JULY, the Out and About Club enjoyed a horse drawn narrow boat trip from Kintbury in Berkshire. Fifty-three Pembury residents clambered aboard and spent three hours basking in the beauty of the surrounding countryside and the rhythmic clip-clop of our horse's hooves as he pulled us slowly along the canal. There was a fully stocked bar on board and everyone made the most of it!

Our next trip is to Faversham in September and the Classical Spectacular at the Albert Hall in November.

The committee is already working on a programme of trips for 2009 and a detailed pack will be produced ready for the beginning of the year.

If you would like to receive details of any of the above outings please contact Jean Pearce on 824422.

Pauline Hawker



#### PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB

TWENTY-TWO teams from various bowls clubs, from as far as Chessington to Cranbrook, took part in our annual Open Invitation Turn-a-round Mixed Triples Tournament on 1 June 2008. The winning team came from Culverden Bowls Club, with Frant Bowls Club coming a well deserved runner-up. The weather managed to stay dry, if a little chilly, but that did nothing to diminish the enjoyment of the day; our first main event after the opening of the brand new clubhouse which was much admired by all the participants.



At the time of writing, the internal club competitions are taking place with the finals being held on the weekend of 6/7 September. The members would give a warm welcome to anyone wishing to come and watch and be shown around the clubhouse, which is bright and airy on the inside; the outside, we hope, will eventually have climbing plants to make it more attractive.

Barbara Scholten
Competitions Secretary

#### PEMBURY SCOUTS FAMILY CAMP

BEAVERS, CUBS and Scouts, with their Mums and Dads, took part in Pembury Scouts first Family Camp at the District Camp Site, Adamswell, which is the next high point on the Spa Valley Steam Railway after leaving High Rocks.



Just over 50 campers enjoyed a reasonably dry and sunny weekend, doing a range of activities. These included building a bridge over the River Groom, woggle making, camp cooking and competing on the obstacle course.

No camp would be complete without the Saturday Night Campfire and Sing-Song and the Sunday lunch BBQ which, of course, took place in the pouring rain!

During the weekend, Southborough and Pembury Rotary Club made a presentation of a

large Scout banner to Pembury Scouts, which will be displayed with great pride at all future events. Our thanks, once again, to Southborough and Pembury Rotary Club.

All in all a very successful camp, which we hope to repeat next year. This was made possible by the hard work of all the Pembury Scout Leaders. Thank you very much.





#### PEMBURY YOUTH THEATRE ACADEMY

PEMBURY YOUTH Theatre Academy has now been running for two years. In that time, we have raised £800 for charity and our numbers have gone from strength to strength. This summer we performed at the Musical Picnic on The Green, Pembury School and the Family Fun Day in the Recreation Ground. The routines were varied from diabolo throwing to break dancing, singing and flag throwing. We were also in the Tonbridge carnival where the theme was nursery rhymes. We decided after a discussion with the group that we would do 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. We decorated a lorry completely in silver and all the children wore silver ponchos; it was very hot, and we sang all the way up Tonbridge High Street, and we were very pleased to receive second prize in the floats section.

Pembury Youth Theatre Academy is for children aged 5-14 years. The concept of the academy is to build children's confidence, learn skills such as song, dance and drama and maybe make a new friend along the way. We meet every Monday evening at Pembury Baptist Church. We always have room for new members so if anyone is interested in joining us, please call Dee on 825144 for more details.

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#### LOWER GREEN YOUTH AREA

THE WORK on the Lower Green Youth Area in the Recreation Ground has now been completed. At the time of writing, the date of the official opening is to be announced.

The area now consists of a multi-use sports court, a small scale street furniture skate park, a youth shelter and some climbing apparatus. So far, the area has proved popular amongst the youth of our village, and it is expected that during the nice weather, youngsters will make the most of the area as a place to socialise.

The park is used daily by various members of the community. It is an important part of our village life as it is often at the centre

of village events such as fetes and fireworks. Particularly during summer, the Recreation Ground is constantly in use by people walking dogs, playing in the activity areas, or playing sport on the field. The park is currently open at 8.30am everyday and closes half an hour before sunset.







#### HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

THE HOSPICE in the Weald has a few upcoming events. For more details on any of them, call Ruth on 820508.

#### Open Day - Thursday 18 September

Hospice in the Weald in Pembury is having an Open Day on
Thursday 18 September from
10am-4pm where members of
the public can come and have a look around the newly extended
Day Therapy Centre and the gardens. Presentations from the Chief
Executive and Director of Nursing at 11am and 2pm. Admission is free. Refreshments available.

## Tunbridge Wells 10K and 1K Fun Run – Sunday 21 September

Runs start and end at Lower Cricket Ground. Start time 10am. The 10K is a challenging course through Broadwater

Forest. The 1K Fun Run is open to

Juniors, Mums, Dads, Grandparents, etc. and is a lot less exhausting!

#### Christmas Market -Monday 3 November

The Christmas Market, at the Hospice in the Weald, will have more stalls than ever before for all your Christmas shopping. Refreshments and light lunches will be available. Admission free.

#### GARDENERS' SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW

TN THIS AUTUMN'S village gardeners' show on Saturday 13 September, children can build a vegetable animal they like or even create an imaginary one if they can – as long as it's from vegetables. There are two age groups – under 7 years and 7 to 11 years and the animals just need to be delivered to the village hall before 11am on the morning of the

show. There is no entry fee.

If you are too old to make an animal, flower arranging may be for you. There are classes for an arrangement for an Autumn wedding, or one depicting an Autumn scene, one of foliage only and, if you are a complete novice, a triangle with Chrysanthemums as the main flower. These are open to all and cost 15p per class to enter (only 10p to members of the Pembury Gardeners' Society).



Also at this show, there is a cookery section with many different classes. You could make five profiteroles; a cheese and onion flan, 1lb loaf of brown bread, an apple pie or a chocolate sponge. Or show five pieces of flapjack or five peppermint slices; or a jar of plum jam or tomato chutney; or a bottle of wine. The list is very long so there's got to be something there that you can show off! The same entry fees apply.

There are also classes for handicraft at every show. Why not enter something you have knitted, embroidered or carved?

To enter these or any of the many other fruit, vegetable or flower categories, please telephone Ann Purton on 824223 for further information.



#### PEMBURY'S FAMILY FUN DAY

GIANT INFLATABLES, live bands, dancing displays and a children's entertainer drew the crowds to the Recreation Ground during the afternoon of Saturday 21 June. The field was barely recognisable – like a tented tournament – with gazebos providing a perfect backdrop to the splendid new pavilion and multisports outdoor court. Whilst the giant slide proved extremely popular with children, there were fun and games for everyone in near perfect weather.

Pembury churches had joined forces to organise the fun day, as part of the national Hope '08 initiative, encouraging Christian churches to work together for the community. Music was provided by the Pembury Baptist Church Jazz Band and Drenched, the PBC Youth Band. A dancing and gymnastics display was given by the Pembury Youth Theatre Academy. The event was opened by Rev. Bill Eason, recently retired Catholic Deacon.





The fun day was financially supported by a generous grant from Councillor Kevin Lynes' KCC Members' Fund. Village organisations were well represented with nearly 40 stalls, games and sideshows, including face painting, photographic competitions, basketball and football shoot-outs and many others. Whilst the afternoon was primarily intended as community fun and not as a money raising event, donations were accepted from stall holders and the sum of £520 was passed to the Hospice in the Weald.



The next Hope '08 event will be a Day of Community Action on Saturday 13
September, when teams from the three churches will meet together to provide active help to those in need – from decorating to DIY, cleaning tasks to housework or gardening. For help with such projects, please contact one of the local churches – St Anselm's, St Peter's or Pembury Baptist Church.

John Hawker



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#### **Independent Schools Inspectorate Report**

Kent College Pembury, Old Church Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN24AX
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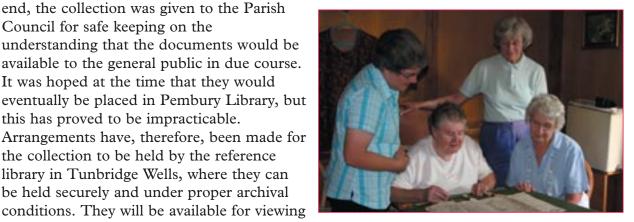
#### PEMBURY HISTORY GROUP

YE ARE PLEASED to announce that, after many months of hard work, the Pembury History Group have completed their indexing of Mary Standen's archive of Pembury.

As you may remember, it was Mary's will that this valuable collection of documents and memorabilia should be left to the people of Pembury for their use and enjoyment. To this

end, the collection was given to the Parish Council for safe keeping on the understanding that the documents would be available to the general public in due course. It was hoped at the time that they would eventually be placed in Pembury Library, but this has proved to be impracticable. Arrangements have, therefore, been made for the collection to be held by the reference library in Tunbridge Wells, where they can

be held securely and under proper archival



on request, but as they will be filed in the basement, should you wish to use them it would be advisable to phone first so that they can be retrieved.

A reference copy of the index will be held in Pembury Library for your convenience. It is hoped that, if anyone wants to view any particular items but cannot get to Tunbridge Wells, then arrangements can be made to have those items sent to Pembury on a temporary loan. They will still need to be viewed at the Library, and not taken home.

It will also be necessary to have one or two more valuable documents lodged at the County Archives in Maidstone, but in these cases photocopies or transcriptions will be held in the collection at Tunbridge Wells.

It is hoped that the collection will be deposited in Tunbridge Wells by the time you read this, but at the time of writing, the arrangements have not yet been finalised, so please bear with us if there is a slight delay.

#### Kathryn Franklin

#### PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

UR SEASON starts on Tuesday 23 September and finishes with our club competition finals night on Friday 17 April.

We play at the Village Hall on two Tuesday afternoons each month, every Thursday afternoon and one Friday evening each month, when the evening league match and club roll ups are played.

We have two afternoon league teams and one evening league, with games played home and away each month; friendly matches are played home and away against other clubs, mostly on Sunday afternoons.

This is a friendly, sociable club which would be pleased to welcome new members. Why not come along on Tuesday afternoon, September 23, and try the game of Short Mat Bowls?

For more information contact Arthur Storey, Club Captain, on 822509.



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#### MY PLOT

I'M EXTREMELY pleased with my meadow this year – a blaze of orange, red, white, yellow and blue; here even between my Runner Beans! I did weed them out after taking the picture though – not because of spoiling my bean crop, but because they got trampled on when I was picking.

You couldn't possibly see, but there are several courgette, marrow and cucumber plants in there as well. I had to weed around them just so I could see where to water! At the time of writing, I am hoping that when they 'take off', they will be able to hold their own – swamping the competition from the poppies.





It's against the rules to have poultry on the allotments, but this hen pheasant made its nest in the middle of a potato bed and laid nine eggs!

Even after most of her cover was blown when the spuds were lifted, she stayed for many more days.

Again, at the time of writing we don't know what will happen next. There is a conflict of interests, to put it mildly. Pheasants are a pest –

eating the tops off lots of crops, the eggs make good eating (though we all dread a fox finding them) yet we're all fascinated by her determination and tenacity.

I am not very good at getting parsnips to grow from seed. They are tricky – it's not just me – and sometimes they simply refuse to germinate. That is unless you let a plant flower and go to seed. Then it does it all by itself! Last spring, I let some self-sown-seedlings grow on if they were in convenient places and these are some of the results . . . Not the prettiest parsnips but large (the banana is there for scale; I didn't grow it) and tasty. In fact the straight ones were so long (30-40cm) they snapped off when I lifted them so the multi-root monsters were actually better in some ways because they were shallower. Either way, they're better than I can do deliberately.



#### **Caroline Mazzey**



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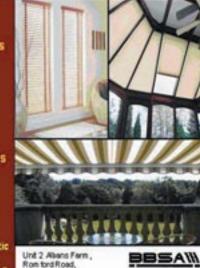
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#### GREEN ROOM MUSIC OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

WHEN I MOVED to Pembury from South-East London 13 years ago, one of my first priorities was to become involved in the local music scene by joining the Tunbridge Wells Choral Society. After a few months, a fellow singer suggested that I join the committee of Green Room Music (GRM), a society which arranges six classical chamber concerts a year in Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. Never having had anything to do with music administration before, I wondered what use I could possibly be on the committee. However, during my 'vetting' lunch at Trinity, the Chairman, Dennis Smith, quickly put me at ease and invited me onto the committee on the basis of my enthusiasm, rather than any relevant skills.

Dennis gave me a potted history of GRM. The first recital was held in the Elizabethan Barn in 1967 as part of the Green Room Club of Royal Tunbridge Wells to campaign for a theatre and arts centre in Tunbridge Wells. In 1970 the recitals were transferred to the Assembly Hall where, for many years, audience numbers climbed and famous artists such as Janet Baker, Paul Tortelier and Alfred Brendel attracted sell-out audiences of over 1,000. But by 1987 audience numbers were falling so, for financial reasons, it was decided to transfer the recitals to Trinity Theatre and we have enjoyed this lovely, intimate venue ever since.

I must have done something right on the GRM committee because after a couple of years I was appointed Series Director and found myself, virtually overnight, negotiating fees and dates with international artists, including the King's Singers, Emma Kirkby and Emma Johnson. If any of them guessed how inexperienced I was, neither they nor their agents

ever let on! And the support I received from the Green Room committee was always overwhelming. Sadly, in 2005 I had to resign from my post for personal reasons, although I remain on the committee.

The new Series Director, Amanda Smith, has taken GRM forward in leaps and bounds. The 2008/2009 season, starting on 21 September, is the most exciting and innovative yet and will include recitals by the English Chamber Orchestra Ensemble, the Gould Piano



John Williams

PHOTO: KATHY PANAMA

Trio, the Royal String Quartet, the O (percussion) Duo, the Endellion String Quartet and John Williams. As well as these fantastic concerts there will be pre-concert talks, open rehearsals providing a "fly on the wall view" of musicians in rehearsal, the O Duo will hold a workshop introducing percussion for all the family, entitled Crash, Bang, Wallop, and you can find out about the man behind the guitar in conversation with John Williams before his

continued on page 28

#### GREEN ROOM MUSIC - continued

recital on 30 April 2009. Under Amanda's wing, educational projects are increasingly becoming a regular feature of the GRM agenda, with workshops for local primary and secondary school children taking place during this season.

For full details of ticket prices for individual concerts and Green Room Music's activities, visit the website: www.greenroommusic.org where you can also request a brochure. I will provide Pembury Library with a regular supply of brochures, too.

For those considering becoming a subscriber for the first time, we are offering a half-price season ticket for a mere £35. That means that each concert, including the John Williams recital, will cost less than £6!

If you are passionate about bringing music to the local community, why not consider joining the GRM committee? Just ring the Chairman, Dennis Smith, on 01892 526566 to hear what an enjoyable experience it can be!

Supplied by Brian Toseland. Gaby Molloy

#### COMMON SENSE (AN OBITUARY)

TODAY WE mourn the passing of a beloved friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was as his birth records were lost long ago in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting (adults, not children are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further

when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Panadol, sun lotion or a sticky plaster to a student; but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar can sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust, his wife Discretion, his daughter Responsibility and his son Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers: I Know My Rights, Someone Else Is To Blame and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.

#### PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS FAMILY

N SATURDAY 16 August, the members of the Pembury Village News 'family' enjoyed an afternoon of laughter, chatter and strawberries. The afternoon was organised so that those on the Editorial Working Group of the News, the distributors and Councillors could meet up and be thanked for all the hard work they put in to bring you the News.

For many of the people there, it was a chance to laugh with friends and to meet those they didn't know. It was also very important for me to meet everyone, and to put names to faces as I take on this new role.



Kevin Edser (PPC Vice-Chairman), Matthew Rosenz and Patrick Gillan (PPC Councillor)

The group presented a "Sorry You're



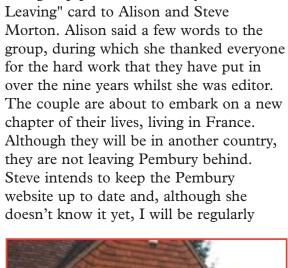
Roger Ellaway, Linda Ellaway, Rosie Bass and Bernie Bass.

calling on Alison's expertise!

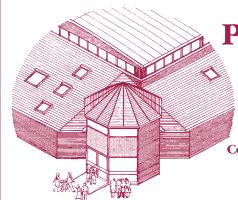
After the troubles over the distribution of the summer issue of the News, the Council have decided to return to our regular distributors. For those of you who didn't receive a copy, you can download the summer issue from the Pembury website. We are eternally grateful to these kind people who deliver the News through your door every three months; they are indeed an integral part of the PVN family!

#### **Editor**

Rev. Matthew Jackson (host and PPC Councillor) and Steve and Alison Morton







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#### NHS RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST saw 57 members and guests of the NHS Retirement Fellowship Tunbridge Wells and District branch enjoy a carvery lunch at David Salomons to celebrate 10 years since their formation.

Our Chairman David Nicholson welcomed everybody, including our Regional Representative Mr Tom Owen. Mrs Elizabeth Roberts, who helped form this branch with Mrs Pat Oliver, was

also given a warm welcome as was Mrs Vera Port, who was the Treasurer. There are currently 72 members including many original members. Pat Oliver was made President in recognition of her work to the Fellowship during her six year term as Chairman.

This year is an eventful one as it is the 60th anniversary since the inauguration of the NHS, 30th anniversary of the Retirement Fellowship nationwide and our 10th anniversary.

The lunch concluded with a raffle which raised £79. We were also invited to view the museum and gardens, which are very beautiful.

Pat Davis, Secretary



#### KENT POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR

THE SECOND of St. Peter's Upper Church Community Concerts will take place on Saturday 27 September in the Upper Church at 7.30pm, and will feature the renowned Kent Police Male Voice Choir.

Tickets are £7.50 and there will be a limited bar for beer, wine and juices.

The Choir, which is based in Maidstone, started singing in 1978, and are celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. They draw members from serving and past police officers as well as civilian staff. Though an ambassador for the Kent Police, and supported by them, they are self-financing and no cost falls on the public.

Whilst usually singing at charitable and other events in Kent, the choir has travelled frequently, not only in Wales and southern England, but also to Germany, Holland and Belgium. Memorable events in the UK have

been two appearances at the Albert Hall; with Shirley Bassey at Cardiff Arms Park; on TV with Harry Secombe; and for "Children in Need". They have also sung in Canterbury Cathedral – as in this high

vantage point photograph taken there.

The choir rarely sings over here in far west Kent, so this is a really great opportunity for us in Pembury to listen to probably around 30 of their 47 singing members, and accompanied by one of their two lady accompanists. Their programmes always feature something for everyone – from

Traditional songs to numbers by the likes of Scott Joplin, Irving Berlin and The Seekers.

So why not make sure you get your tickets in advance from Pembury Pharmacy or by ringing 824761.

**Derek Hollweg** 





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#### GREEN GARDENING

O YOU HAVE a pond in your garden? If you do, then there's a good chance you'll have some newts. They're fascinating creatures that look weird on land but stunning in water.

Even if you don't have a pond, there may be newts in your garden. They leave water in late July to be back in February for the new mating season. While on land they prefer to hide in damp places hunting for slugs, worms and other invertebrates.

We were lucky to host breeding pairs this summer. Our new pond was only excavated in May, with the help of my dad. Then it turned into a green soup for a few weeks. When it finally

cleared one day, we spotted a newt doing something weird in the vegetation. A closer look revealed that it was laying eggs! The last time I saw a newt doing this it was on one of the BBC's wildlife documentary programmes; I never thought I'd be so privileged to watch it for myself right in my own garden! I was so proud that our efforts were not in vain and we instantly started referring to the efts (baby newts) as 'our children'. All newts are protected in the UK by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (the Great Crested Newt, our largest native species, is also protected under the



Habitat Regulations Act of 1994 and it is illegal to handle them or disturb their habitat in any way). Although common, newt numbers are in decline due mainly to the loss of habitat. There are fewer and fewer large ponds. So making a pond, however small, in your garden gives these ancient creatures a chance to go on.

They have been populating this planet for millions of years. It would be a shame to lose them now; especially since children get so excited at the very sight of them. It used to be common for little boys to have them as pets, my husband certainly did; however, nowadays the conservation organisations, rightly, encourage us to leave them in their natural habitat.

You can encourage them, and other amphibians, into your garden - where they'll contribute significantly to keeping the slug population under control. Apart from having a pond, you can create a winter hideaway for them. A pile of logs or large stones with small crevices underneath. You can even line it with natural moss (all garden centres have it) or autumn litter. Hibernation is not easy on animals. They have to sustain their basic body functions throughout winter on the limited resources that they have accumulated over summer and early autumn. So be careful clearing your garden in the autumn. Disturbing a hibernating newt or hedgehog or any other creature may cause their premature death. Seek advice from the Wild Life Trust if you happen to find yourself in such a situation. I would strongly advise leaving all major clearance jobs till after frosts have passed. We haven't got that much wildlife left in the UK, so we should all do what we can to protect what we have.

Seasonal advice: leave your autumn garden litter where it falls; don't try to tidy up your

continued on page 34

#### GREEN GARDENING - continued

garden until spring time. Small animals and insects will seek winter refuge in leaf piles and other garden debris.

Letting fallen leaves decompose right where they fall is also extremely beneficial for the soil. Left to its own devices the soil can rebuild its nutrient resources for the next season, when they'll be in demand by your growing plants.

However, if you do have a pond, make sure you clear fallen leaves from the pond surface. Excessive nutrients in the water will cause algae bloom in the spring – clear fallen leaves away from the pond and leave them to decompose in other parts of the garden.

#### Masha Odintsova-Bayles

#### CRIME IN PEMBURY

**S**ORRY, BUT we are in to darker evenings again already and, sadly, the expected increase in crime figures. The police have reported on at least two occasions this year that overall crime figures for West Kent have gone down, but those in Pembury certainly have not. Summer figures are always lower than winter, but year on year, season on season, they increase.

If you look at April, May and June 2007, the figure was 36 but if you then look at the corresponding period of time for this year, the figure is 49, an increase of just over 33% and the Jan, Feb, Mar figure of 2008 at 85 was totally unacceptable. What we never hear is how many arrests or prosecutions are made in relation to crime in Pembury.

Unfortunately, criminal damage is still the biggest scourge with violent crime in second place but we never receive any information as to whether it was a domestic crime, a street attack or an innocent civilian or thug against thug.

We must not sit back and accept these figures and must do everything in our power to assist the police to get our incident level down.

We should also receive a response from police HQ as to why our figures are on the increase when they state other communities are on the decline. Be vigilant!

#### **Hugh Boorman**

монтн	Burglary Other	Criminal Damage	Drugs Offences	Fraud and Forgery	Theft from Motor Vehicle	Theft Offences	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Vehicle Interference	Violent Crime	TOTAL
April 2008	1	4		1	3	2	1		4	16
May 2008		9		3		4			2	18
June 2008	2	6	1		1		1	1	3	15
TOTAL	3	19	1	4	4	6	2	1	9	49
ROAD										
A21B		1								1
Belfield Road									1	1
Canterbury Road		1			1					2
Chalket Lane			1							1
Church Road		1								1
Elmhurst Avenue									2	2
Hastings Road		1				1	1			3
Henwood Green Road		1			1	1			2	5
Henwoods Mount	1									1
Herons Way					1			1		2
Heskett Park		1								1
High Street	1			3		1			1	6
Knights Ridge		1								1
Lower Green Road		7		1			1		3	12
Pembury Road						3				3
Petersfield	1									1
Ridgeway		1								1
Romford Road		1								1
Sandhurst Avenue					1					1
Tonbridge Road		1								1
Woodside Road	1	2								2
TOTAL	3	19	1	4	4	6	2	1	9	49

#### FOR YOUR DIARY

Village Market – Village Hall, Tuesdays 9.30am–11.30am

Pembury Community Warden Surgery - Village Hall, Tuesdays 10am-11.30am

Town & Country (High Weald Housing) – Clinic, Tuesdays 10am-11.30am

WRVS Lunch Club – Village Hall, Wednesdays 11.45am during school term time.

CAB – Pembury Library, Wednesdays 9.30am-11.30am

#### September

- 20 It's a Knockout Lower Green Recreation Ground 1pm
- 21 Hospice in the Weald Fun Run Lower Cricket Ground, Tunbridge Wells 10am
- 27 Pembury Library 30th Birthday Pembury Library 2pm

#### October

- 1 St. Peter's Mothers' Union: 'Magistrate in the Community' Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 2 Pembury Afternoon WI: 'Graphology' with Eddie Prescott Village Hall 2pm
- 3 Pembury Evening WI: 'The Wind of Change (1987 storm)' Village Hall 7.45pm
- 4 Pembury Footpath Walkers meet outside Camden Arms 2.15pm
- 5 Launch of 'Promiseland' Children's Activities Contact Pembury Baptist Church
- 6 Floral Art Village Hall 7.45pm
- 9 Pembury Book Group Pembury Library 11am
- 9 Pembury Gardeners' Society: 'Vertical Gardening' talk by Hilary Newman Catholic Hall 8pm
- 13 Pembury U3A Catholic Hall 2.30pm
- 13 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 23 Pembury Society AGM & talk: 'Beat the Bogey' by Tom Younger Village Hall 8pm
- 25 Gardeners' Society Social Evening Village Hall 8pm
- 31 Children's Light Party Pembury Baptist Church 5-7pm. Contact Pembury Baptist Church

#### November

- 1 RNLI (Lifeboats) Autumn Fayre Catholic Hall 10am to 12noon
- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers meet at Stonecourt Lane Bus Stop 2.15pm
- 1 Pembury Musical Talent Village Hall 8.30pm
- 3 Hospice in the Weald Christmas Market Maidstone Road, Pembury 11am-4pm
- 3 Floral Art Village Hall 7.45pm
- 5 St. Peter's Mothers' Union: 'A Musical Journey' Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 6 Pembury Afternoon WI: Annual General Meeting Village Hall 2pm
- 7 Pembury Village Fireworks Lower Green Recreation Ground 7pm
- 7 Pembury Evening WI: Annual General Meeting Village Hall 7.45pm
- 10 Pembury U3A Catholic Hall 2.30pm
- 10 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 13 Pembury Book Group Pembury Library 11am
- 29 St. Peter's Autumn Fayre Upper Church 10am
- 29 St. Anselm's Christmas Fayre Catholic Hall 2pm
- 30 Notcutts Image Competition deadline

#### **December**

- 1 Floral Art Village Hall 7.45pm
- 3 St. Peter's Mothers' Union Christmas Supper. Ring Mrs Adams for details on 822769
- 4 Pembury Afternoon WI Village Hall 2pm
- 5 Pembury Evening WI: Rainham Theatrical Society Village Hall 7.45pm
- 6 Pembury Footpath Walkers meet at BoPeep Corner 2.15pm
- 8 Pembury U3A Catholic Hall 2.30pm
- 8 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 11 Pembury Book Group Pembury Library 11am
- 14 Carols by Candlelight Pembury Baptist Church 5pm and 7pm

#### **ROSIE'S RECIPES**

THE AUTUMN season is upon us and I thought these recipes might appeal for this time of year. These are simple and easily prepared meals which everyone in the family will hopefully enjoy. If you are vegetarian then just substitute accordingly.

#### Sausage and Apple Panfry

#### Ingredients (for 4 servings)

450 g (1lb) pork and beef sausages (lowfat or vegetarian can be substituted) 1 tsp oil 2 onions, sliced 2 green apples, peeled, cored and sliced 1/2 tsp each dried



rosemary and thyme (fresh herbs could also be used, about a good teaspoon of each)

1 tbsp prepared mustard 200 ml (7 fl oz) apple juice (unsweetened can also be used)

#### Preparation:

In a large frying pan, fry sausages in oil until browned all over. Add onions and cook for a few minutes. Add apples, herbs, mustard and apple juice. Stir and cook for 20 minutes, until apples are tender and sausages are cooked. Place on a warmed serving plate and serve hot.

Lightly cooked vegetables or salad go well. However, the following dish would also go nicely.

#### Easy Vegetable Pasta

#### Ingredients: (for 4 servings)

2 carrots, peeled
2 courgettes,
trimmed
1 tbsp olive oil
225g (8oz) flat white
noodles, cooked and
drained (add a little
oil to the water to
prevent sticking
during cooking)



1 tbsp fresh chopped parsley

#### Preparation:

Using a vegetable peeler, cut lengthways long thin ribbons of carrot and courgette. Heat oil in a saucepan and fry vegetables for a few minutes. Add noodles and fry for a further 2 minutes. Stir in parsley and serve.

To complete the meal why not try this pudding.

#### **Apricot Upside-down Pudding**

#### Ingredients (for 6 servings)

50g (2oz) butter
50g (2oz) soft light
brown sugar
369g (14oz) tin
apricot halves, well
drained
8 glacé cherries
225 g (8oz) plain flour
large pinch salt
1 tsp ground
cinnamon
2 tsp baking powder
50g (2oz) butter



2 tsp baking powder 50g (2oz) butter 100g (4oz) soft light brown sugar 1 large egg 2-3 tbsp milk

#### **Preparation:**

Heat oven to 190°C (375°F/Gas5). Grease and line the base of a 20 cm (8 in) cake tin with greaseproof paper.

Melt butter and sugar together and spread over base of tin evenly. Arrange apricots and cherries on top. Sift flour, salt, cinnamon and baking powder together. Cream butter and sugar together until pale, beat in egg and stir in flour mixture and milk to a smooth consistency. Spoon over apricots and cherries and bake for 50-60 minutes. Test with a skewer. Turn out and leave tin over cake so that sugar topping runs down over cake. Serve with whipped cream or natural yoghurt.

If you have any Christmas recipes that you wish to share for the next issue then please let me know. My address is 81 Beagles Wood Road, Pembury, TN2 4HZ or email rosiebass46@yahoo.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

#### **Rosie Bass**

#### **BROWNIES KICKING ASTHMA**

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE saw 30 Brownies dressed in green and purple running around Pembury Recreation Ground. They were raising money for Asthma UK, a charity which helps people who suffer from asthma, and funds research into possible treatments for

asthma. Many thanks to all the parents and friends who supported the Brownies, and who also joined us for refreshments afterwards, when Community Warden Tom Younger presented certificates and medals to the girls. So far they have raised over £580 for Asthma UK. Fancy dress prizes went to Jessica Tolhurst, Carys Hatcher and Abigail Evans.

Moira Allan, 1st Pembury Brownies





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Pembury Library Wednesdays 9.30 to 11.30am

#### **CHURCH TIMES**

#### ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

#### **Upper Church**

8am Holy Communion
9.45am The Parish
Eucharist and Jun Chch
10am Holy Communion
(Wednesdays)

#### **Old Church**

11.30am Matins (except first Sunday, Holy Communion)

Evening services as advertised on Church noticeboards. Contact tel. no. 824761. www.pemburychurch.net

#### CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF ST. ANSELM -PEMBURY

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Holy Days – Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Weekday Service: Wednesday – Mass 7pm

www.stjustusandanselm.org.uk

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Our services explore relevant life issues and are on Sundays at 10am for a family service (with children's activities) and 6.30pm for a café service. We'd love to see you there!

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Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove TN2 4BU. Tel: 823193. Email: clerk@pemburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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