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Front Cover: Photograph taken by Editor

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

C/O Parish Council Office, Lower Green Recreation Ground, Lower Green Road, Pembury, TN2 4DZ.

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Thank you everyone who came to the AGM especially to wish Barbara good luck in her retirement and I hope we all managed to surprise her on the night. We all genuinely wish her all the very best for the next stage in her life which I know she will thoroughly enjoy - just being herself not the Clerk and all the responsibilities that went with it. Our local MP, the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark spoke on a variety of subjects including the A21 widening and parking before partaking of the buffet which had generously and secretly been donated by Councillors to celebrate Barbara's retirement!

Our new Clerk begins her role with us in early June. After extensive interviews we feel very confident that our new Clerk, Mrs Helen Munro is highly qualified with all the relevant skills needed. Helen has been the Clerk at Kings Hill Parish Council which is very different from ours due to the newness of its growth. After she has settled in, we will make sure she is introduced to the various organisations in the village. Please make her feel welcome.

Picnic on the Green is on the 1st July between from 4 to 8 pm. This year our lovely local group have changed their name to 'Beer for Breakfast' and I'm sure will play fantastically as usual. The Camden Arms are kindly sponsoring the headline act once again. It should be a really great afternoon and evening, so please bring your

picnics and most importantly -- the SUN.

Pride in Pembury as you know is a passion with me as every year all you fantastic gardeners



put me to shame with your wonderful displays and pure hard work to produce beauty. This year do you think you could nominate gardens, hanging baskets or containers that you think are stunning? Just let me or the Office know as sometimes people are shy of entering. Your nomination will go on the judging list. Judging to take place at the end of July.

The downside of the village is still the increasing amount of dog mess and litter; it's very easy to put your litter and your lovely dogs' offerings in a bag and just bin it !! It would make such a huge difference. Let's try please to keep our village clean especially as we have new families moving in; we don't want them thinking we're a scruffy village do we?

> Best Wishes June

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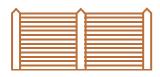
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TUNBRDIGE WELLS NEW LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

As this PVN goes to print Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has produced its new five year local plan setting out background issues and five policy options for public consultation.

As this could have severe implications for Pembury and its green belt and the consultation period is very short (it ends on 12 June !) residents are urged to look at the proposals and particularly the implications of option four, which could see Pembury's Green Belt under threat and the village become a suburb of Tunbridge Wells town.

These are available on www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/local plan and on http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk. Details of TWBC public exhibitions can be seen in the local media and on Parish Council notice boards.

Although the formal consultation ends on 12 June, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have advised they will still be taking account of public views after that date.

Please let the Borough Council know your views.

David Coleman



GET BEHIND OUR GIRLS Do you want to make a difference?

There are many ways you can become involved in GirlGuiding in Pembury, from record keeping to record making, from programme planning to party planning, showing the way and being part of the girls' future.

We are especially interested in recruiting leaders to work within our existing Brownie Units.

Whether you can give a few hours regularly or only provide occasional support, we would really like to hear from you.

You can speak to any of our Unit Leaders or contact our District Commissioner, Caroline Cooper pemburydistrict@btinternet.com



THERE IS A PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR ON THE WALL AT THE CHEMIST SHOP IN THE HIGH STREET



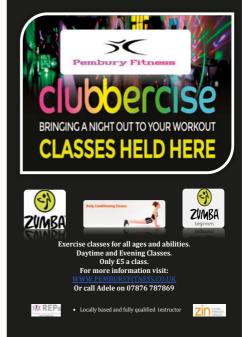




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WOODSIDE ALLOTMENTS HAVE A SPRING CLEAN!

"Many hands made light work" over two days to clear up overgrown vacant plots, paths and rubbish. In this short time major parts of the allotments field have been transformed, and a certain level of pride is now appearing to sprout all over.

The Parish Council with a number of willing helpers have agreed to work together to look at better ways of running the allotments, to develop a better community spirit, and generally make the allotments a place of welcome for new tenants.

A working committee of a small group of allotment holders has been formed to spearhead this, to have a fresh look at how things work for the whole allotment community, to encourage newcomers, to take a pride in our plots, to share ideas, resources and support for each other, and to manage vacant plots.

Cllr Mrs June Crowhurst (Chair of the Council), Mike Hocking (Councillor and also a plot holder) and I would like to acknowledge the hard work and thank all those who have taken part in the clear-up. They were memorable days, with a great community spirit.

We now need to take this forward to ensure sustainability, and develop many of the ideas that have surfaced in the past few weeks. The Parish Office would like to hear from anyone who would like to enquire about taking on an allotment, or half a plot, and the Committee would welcome newcomers and encourage all allotment holders to be part of this fresh approach.

David Hanes

THE GREAT ALLOTMENT TIDY UP

Well, what a difference two days can make! On Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd April, the allotment holders together with some members of the Parish Council worked collaboratively to give the allotments a really thorough and much-needed clear up. A plan of action was drawn up and under the direction of Mike Hocking and David Hanes overhanging branches were chopped down, brambles cleared, paths and grass areas were mown and a dilapidated shed demolished. Assisted by the dry weather we have had recently, a couple of bonfires blazed and crackled away and made very short work of all the debris.

The transformation is astonishing and shows just what can be achieved with team work. The allotment holders are to be commended for their hard work and enthusiasm and should feel justifiably proud of their achievements.

The allotments are a huge asset to a Pembury and it is hoped that more people will be encouraged to take on the tenancy of a vacant allotment and have a go at growing their own fruit and vegetables in the knowledge that they will have the support of existing tenants and the Parish Council.

For more information about hiring a plot, please contact the Deputy Clerk deputy@pemburypc. kentparishes.gov.uk or 01892 823193

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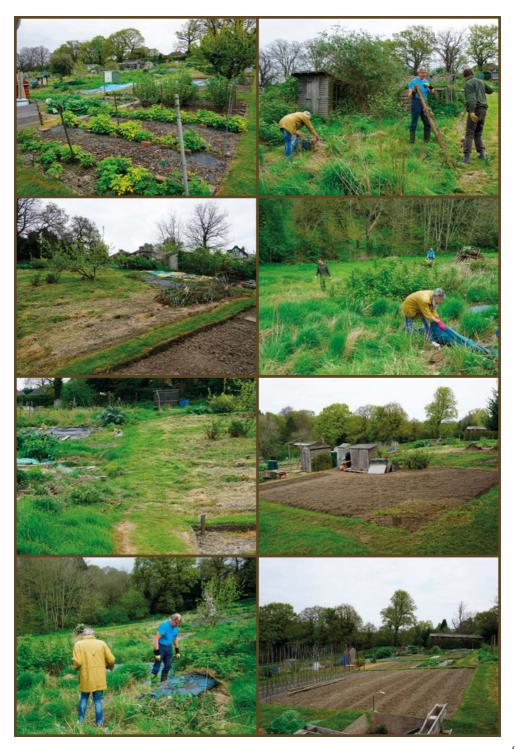
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS OVER FIFTIES FORUM PROVIDING A VOICE FOR THE OLDER PEOPLE OF THE BOROUGH

How fortunate today's older people are: they have been given 10 extra years of life above any past generation. Lucky indeed if they have enough income to live healthily; a home that is safe and warm and are fit enough to stay independent. Not so lucky if living longer is a continual struggle against poverty and loneliness, especially for those alone and childless. Someone needs to look out for them.

Older people are often demonised and accused of being a drain on society – the cause of everything from hospital bed-blocking, to causing a housing shortage by not moving to a one-bedroom home. The truth is that this new longer-living generation is invaluable; what about the significant contributions made by them? Their economic activity by way of taxes, spending, investment, employment and entrepreneurship amounts to £billions each year. Where would the country be without the dedication and resilience of the later-life volunteer? Older people provide an average of 326 hours each per year in free care for grandchildren and other family members, an estimated value of over £15 billion. It's to everyone's benefit to keep this valuable group socially included, independent and appreciated, then they can continue to contribute to the economy and society. We should all try to safeguard this.

The Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum (TWOFF) is an organisation that provides a voice to the ageing people of the Borough, making sure that decision-makers always keep the needs of the elderly

in their sights. TWOFF is non-party-political; it has a seat on TWBC Town Forum; the Transport Forum; the Access Group for the Disabled and a link to the Alzheimer's Society and Citizens Advice Bureau, ensuring that members' concerns are heard. TWOFF is not a club but it does hold 4 public meetings a year, each with relevant speakers and ending in refreshments. In addition to that, quarterly newsletters are sent to each member, giving important updates and useful information.

Membership is free of charge and everyone is welcome; the more voices TWOFF has, the louder they can shout!

For a registration form or more information please call chairman Denise Watts on 01892 518 951 or email wattsdenise@googlemail.com.

Maybe you have skills that could help TWOFF's organisers? If so, they'd love to hear from you.





Tesco in Pembury are looking for more community groups to sign up for Bags of Help.

What is Bags of Help?

Bags of Help is an exciting local community grant scheme where the money raised from the 5p bag charge is being used to fund thousands of local projects in communities right across the UK.

The funding is available to projects that bring benefit to the local community, such as improving community buildings and outdoor spaces, buying new equipment and kit, training coaches or volunteers and hosting community events.

Don't forget your blue token as each time you shop you can vote for your favourite local project.

How can you help?

If you know of a local club, community group, school or organisation that has a project that could benefit from some funding, why not nominate them by visiting tesco.com/bagsofhelp



2ND PEMBURY RAINBOWS

Spring is in the air as I write this....... and with that comes new life, new growth and for 2nd Pembury Rainbows, new adventures too. We recently embraced the great outdoors on a new level - pond dipping, nest building and completing a spring scavenge hunt. One of the wonderful things about Rainbows is, that they have yet to develop any real fears, and so get completely excited about wading into a pond and scooping up all manner of things from within its murky depths. Not satisfied with just this, they then

blow me away with a total focus on the discovery of a tadpole or water beetle, mesmerised by the minutest creature, happy to just sit and watch.

In keeping with our continual interest in conservation, we have got the girls involved with Grow Wild, a project supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Grow Wild is the UK's biggest-ever wild flower campaign, bringing groups together to transform local spaces with native, pollinator-friendly wild flowers and plants. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of some of our local residents, the girls have sown an enormous amount of seed in a space they have helped to prepare and will continue to monitor and maintain over the future months. We hope to be able to harvest seeds from our flowers and plants, sharing them then with others to do



the same, as well as encourage the natural habitat of our woodlands and meadows.

As I've mentioned in an earlier edition of the PVN, Rainbow Guides are celebrating their 30th Anniversary this year. As well as ongoing celebrations within our Units, both 1st and 2nd Pembury Rainbows will be taking part in a Grand Circus Activity Day, to be held at Adamswell camp site in July. It promises to be a fantastic and funfilled day for girls and leaders alike, with circus crafts and skills to be learned.

If you have a daughter who you would like to join one of our Rainbow Units, meeting on Monday and Thursday, please register her on www. girlguiding.org.uk Rainbows are aged 5 - 7, but register your daughter as soon as you can.

Amanda Baker

COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP AT THE RECREATION GROUND PAVILION

On Monday 10 April 2017 we held an Easter raffle morning and raised £220 for the Marie Curie daffodil appeal. We had a fantastic turnout on a lovely sunny day. Thanks to all our customers for their wonderful support.

Don't forget to put Monday mornings in your diary when the kettle is on from 9.30am until mid-day with lovely homemade cakes to eat in or take away.

Come and join us for a relaxing chat and lovely atmosphere.

For any enquiries please telephone Chris Snow on 01892 825428 or Heather Purdy on 01892 824940.



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PEMBURY ATHLETIC YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB (PAYFC)

Pembury Athletic Youth Football Club has over 230 members, we offer football coaching from Under 5's (Reception school year) to Under 16s, with teams in the Crowborough and District League. For more information and contact details please go our website http://www.pemburyyouthfc.co.uk. You can follow us on twitter @pemburyyouthfc and our Facebook page Pembury Athletic Youth Football Club.

<u>Are you looking for a Football Club for Your</u> <u>Son or Daughter?</u>

Under 11s and Under 14s (season 2017/2018) are currently recruiting for new squad members. We are always pleased to hear from prospective new members. If you need more information or interested in other age groups please visit the Contact Us page of our website and call or email the age group manager to find out more.



Free Taster Sessions for Under 5s

Under 5s (Reception School Year) Training will start at 9.15am – 10.15am from Saturday 9th September at Pembury Recreation Ground. Why not come and give it a go, we welcome boys and girls of all abilities.

One of this season's achievements was the <u>Under</u> <u>13s Crowborough League Cup Final – Pembury</u> <u>vs Ashurst Wood.</u>

Sunday 9th April, 7:30am and the U13's squad of Pembury were on the road to a cup final at Hailsham Town FC. The pitch was huge compared to what they were used to. Before the game the players were in high spirits, a bell rang in the changing rooms and it was time to go, the teams followed the referees out on to the pitch to the sound of a cheering crowd.

Once the first half got under way both teams were



trying to find their rhythm and overcome those early morning nerves. First half chances were few, Ethan's header was blocked by the goalkeeper and his volley rattling the bar. Benjamin made a dazzling run and his shot was only just pushed away by the fingertips of the goalkeeper. Half time came, 0 - 0.

In the second half Pembury seemed to step up their game and chances became a little more frequent. Just after 10 minutes Pembury took the lead with a header from Benjamin and Pembury started to take control of the game. With the clock ticking towards the end of the game Ashurst broke away from a corner and their forward went down on the edge of the box. Penalty! Pembury felt it was harsh, but the referee was having none of it. At the end of full time the score was even at 1 - 1.

Extra time was needed. Pembury were given a free kick a couple of minutes into extra time, about 30 yards from the Ashurst goal. Finley took control, firing the ball over the goalkeeper into the back of the net. A fantastic goal and Pembury had the lead once again. Pembury had a couple more chances in extra time from corners and with Ashurst continuing to push for an equaliser Pembury's defence stood firm. At the final whistle there was both joy and relief.

A great morning, a great game, sporting opposition and memories that everyone will remember for many years to come.





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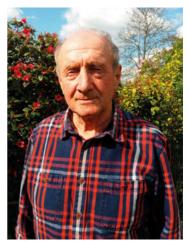
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PEMBURY PEOPLE - HUGH BOORMAN

This month features a well-known local stalwart who always has many wonderful stories to tell. Over to Hugh.....

I was born in 1943 in the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells and spent the first three years of my life in Lansdowne Road. My brother, Roger was four years older than me. Sadly he contracted polio just after his eighth birthday. We moved into The Grove, Pembury in 1947 and lived next door to Mr and Mrs Giles, the parents of our recent Parish Clerk, Barbara Russell. My brother Roger was then taken into several different hospitals, spending a lot of time in an iron lung. When he came out of hospital he was confined to a wheelchair having suffered years of severe damage to leg and spine. He always had the nickname "Buster".

My sister Susan is two years younger than me and now lives at Mark Cross with her husband Ron. I also have a younger brother Philip who was born in 1949. Unbeknown to us my mother was suffering from cancer and sadly died before Philip was two years



old. My father was then left to bring up four children, one of whom was confined to a wheelchair. My grandmother lived in a big house in Speldhurst. Her daughter Cynthia, who was only twenty-one came to live with us for the next three years to guide us through that very difficult time and we will always be indebted to her. Cynthia basically became Philip's mother. Sadly she passed away in early April 2017. In 1954 my father married again and my younger brother Mark was born. He still lives in Pembury with his family as does my mother.

Sadly I never went to Pembury School with all the friends that I grew up with. Because of my father's involvement with St. Barnabas Church in Tunbridge Wells I had to make the bus journey to St. James Church and walk down St. James Road to the school and repeat the journey in the afternoon. My sister joined me when she was old enough. I then moved to Victoria School when I was eleven before going to Tunbridge Wells Technical High School.

In our youth a lot of time was committed to early morning paper rounds. We would then go up the road to Mr Clarks the Butchers, adjacent to the Royal Oak Pub before returning with a wooden cart to fetch a load of logs from the yard of Pembury Fencing. This was situated up the track by the pub and behind what is now the Doctor's Surgery. Then it would be over to the woods on our cycle track bikes or camp building, fishing etc.

I had always wanted to be a vet but failed miserably. After leaving school I became an apprentice with Stormonts, Tunbridge Wells, on the commercial vehicle side, eventually moving with the Company to Hildenborough. I moved up the ranks eventually becoming Service Manager in 1980. Ford Motor Company used to run annual Service Managers' competitions. I won several awards, which were always trips abroad. I was fortunate enough to travel to America several times, Aruba, Switzerland and the Bahamas. On two trips Moira came with me to China and the Great Wall and to the Philippines and Langkawi.

I have known Moira, my dear wife all her life and we started courting when I was twenty-two. We were married at the Old Church in 1968 when I was twenty-five, Moira's cousin Dennis Cole being the Best Man.

I always enjoyed sport and spent many years playing football and cricket for Pembury, although I was

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PEMBURY PEOPLE - Continued

normally last man in when I played. Many of the people I played with still live in the village. Before I started courting Moira and was a member of the Cricket Club, we spent many late evenings either at the Black Horse or at the Elephants Head, Hook Green where we used to sing round the piano.

Our first daughter Tracey was born in 1970 and our second Emma in 1974. We now have two beautiful granddaughters and two very active grandsons. Sadly we had a son who was stillborn in 1973.

I also managed to complete two London Marathons in my fifties. In 1987 I became a member of the Parish Council for eighteen years. In 2008 I was asked by the Parish Council whether anything could be done about the state of footpaths around the village, especially the Coach Road. A group of volunteers was formed and we still meet weekly to look after and maintain the 21 miles of public rights of way around Pembury. I am deeply indebted for their efforts, come rain and shine. Moira and I walk the footpaths on a regular basis. Three years ago I joined the Hospice Choir which meets every other Tuesday.

One of the events that used to take place in the village was the Camden Cup, a major motorcycle trials event, which I think took place on Boxing Day. It used to run through what was Lamonts Farm down Stonecourt Lane, through Hayes Wood and lasted most of the day. Our local hero was Johnny Giles, who rode for England and then the Triumph Motor Cycle Company, who still lives in Pembury. There were also regular Motor Cycle Scrambles up on what was known as the Brooms, the field bordering the Coach Road and the objective then was to get in without paying!

I have had what I consider to have been a wonderful life in Pembury and would never consider living elsewhere. I have been asked many times why I haven't written about my life in Pembury.

Hopefully Hugh, this has whetted your appetite to start the book! Many thanks Hugh and Moira for all you do in the village.

Richard Snow

BROWNIE ADVENTURES

1st Pembury Brownies had a wonderful time on their Brownie Adventure Holiday at PGL at the end of March. 19 Brownies and 3 leaders spent 3 days trying a range of activities – from archery and fencing to zip-wire. A head for heights was needed on the Jacobs Ladder, and there was lots of laughter playing aeroball on the trampolines. The best activity? A toss-up between aeroball and the zip wire.

> Moira Allan 1st Pembury Brownies



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Best front garden/ best hanging basket/container/ best allotment /best visual effect.

"New for 2017 - Pre-school/School/Beavers, Rainbows/Brownies/Cubs" ~ Seed Trays, Containers, Nature Corner or an A4 Nature Poster Send in the form below to the Parish Office, Lower Green Recreation Ground, Lower Green Road, Pembury, TN2 4DZ Judging will take place early August Closing date for entries - Friday 29 July

Prizes and certificates to be awarded at the Winners' Tea

Category of Entry (please tick)

- Best front garden
- Best Hanging Basket/Container
- Best Allotment
- Best Visual Effect

Please complete using Block Capitals

Name of Person nominating entry (if different)......

Full Address of Entrant.....

......

The Small Print: The competition is not open to Parish Councillors or Parish Council employees or their close families. Garden entries must be within the boundaries of the Civil parish. Judges will not be permitted to discuss entries and the date of judging will not be published in advance. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The names of the winners will be published in Pembury Village News and the winner of each category must be willing to participate in a publicity photograph. Entry to the competition is deemed acceptance of these rules.



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PEMBURY U3A CELEBRATES ITS 10TH YEAR!

Painting Exhibition at Pembury Baptist Church

Friday 28th and Saturday 29th April saw Pembury U3A celebrate its tenth Birthday with an exhibition by its 7 painting groups at Pembury Baptist Church.

Nearly 40 painters contributed their paintings, a group of about 12 of us spent an exhausting but happy and sometimes hilarious time on the Thursday evening trying to hang as many paintings as we could. This was not easy because we had over 200 altogether! We were strengthened by some very tasty pizzas from Mangal and Meze!



Painting was one of the first Interest groups to be

started when Pembury U3A started with just 40 members in 2007. Jean Pearce gathered a small group of painters who met to "Paint and natter" at St Peter's Church twice a month.



After a while the demand grew for a beginners group and Janet Richardson was persuaded to lead it, teaching the basics of watercolour painting. The following year another group began so then there were three groups altogether.

This continued until there were six groups and painting was becoming a very strong interest area. We held exhibitions both in the village and in Crowborough which were considered to be very successful.

Then the demand grew for yet another beginners group. Luckily Wendy Parrett, slightly nervously, agreed to take on the new group which started last September.

We now explore other media such as pastels, acrylics and inks and are constantly experimenting with new techniques.

We have been overwhelmed by the support we received from members of our Pembury community including a borough councillor, the churches, members of the public, local U3As as well as our own U3A members. Our stewards were busy talking to visitors about both the paintings and the U3A as well as providing free refreshments!



The Visitors book has the constant comment of how much talent there is in the village and what a high standard all our painters are achieving. We had excellent sales of both paintings and cards which is always very encouraging.

We must especially thank Pembury Baptist Church for the use of its lovely, light building but most of all for the warmth and generosity of their help and support.

So roll on the next 10 years!

Janet Richardson



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THE PEMBURY <u>SOCIETY</u>



Guest speaker George Pargeter, Project Director of the A21 dualing from Pembury to Tonbridge, from Balfour Beatty, had a captive audience at the Pembury Society Spring meeting, as he spoke to an overflowing audience in St. Peter's Upper Church.

We began to understand the issues surrounding the project difficulties giving rise to the adjusted timetable that the contractors had to face, and the care that has been taken to deal with the flora and fauna in the process. Newts, bats, dormice, even moving whole sections of earth intact from ancient woodlands to care for the insects, the fungi, and seeds; even moving trees, to create as near as possible the former ancient woodland, where it was impossible to avoid cutting a road through sections of ancient woodland, and dismantling a barn carefully to have it erected at a museum in Chichester.

Staging appropriate actions in the right seasons, or having to wait because of dreadful weather in high summer 2015 - all were issues George had to face.

And it was good too that George is a local person, with a heart for local issues, looking after the local environment, living with his family in Pembury.

By the time this PVN is printed, the Tonbridge Road (from Pembury via the hospital to Longfield Road) will have been opened, and the project well on the way towards completion. Alongside this will be a footpath/bridle way/cycle route from Pembury to Tonbridge through the woodlands in places, which will be a delight for many.

It was good to welcome so many new members. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th October 7.45pm, again at St. Peter's Upper Church, which will be more of a film night, when we will have films and pictures of Pembury, and we hope to have some of the artifacts that have been unearthed during the course of the A21 road building. I hope to see you then.

David Hanes

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PEMBURY GARDENERS' SOCIETY SPRING SHOW 2017



Visitors to the Pembury Gardeners' Society Show held on Saturday 25 March at the Village Hall were greeted by a plethora of spring flowers, with hyacinths, tulips, daffodils and narcissus leading the way with their heavily scented blooms.

The cooler earlier weather appeared to suit daffodils and narcissus which were more forward this year enabling exhibitors to stage a record number of over one hundred vases, many tiered, which enabled the blooms to be viewed at their very best.

Floral art entries were breathtaking so much so that the judge took an unusual step in issuing an 'open' letter to all exhibitors congratulating them on the high standard of their exhibits.

Cooking and handicraft entries were down this year and there were no entries in the children's classes – not for the first time. Our efforts to galvanise parents to persuade their youngsters to enter our shows do not bear fruit.



Perhaps there will be a better response at our summer show which takes place on Saturday 24 June in the Village Hall at 2pm.

Selected Results:

Daffodils and Narcissus

| - Daffodil Society Medal f | Fred White | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| - Daffodil Society Certifica | ate for Best Bloom in show | |
| | - variety 'Jump Start' | Fred White |
| - Daffodil Society Diplom | Fred White | |
| - Daffodil Society Diplom | Derek Parks | |
| Floral Art | | |
| - Doris Down Award | Rosette and Best in Show | Brenda Penfold |

- Kent Federation Certificate and Rosette

Cookery

| - Rosette and Best Exhibit Certificate | |
|--|--|
|--|--|

- Kent Federation Certificate

Handicraft

- Michael Pavely Memorial Award

Tina Fryer Sarah Clarke

Margaret Pettitt

Vera Rees

Derek Parks Show Co-ordinator



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HAPPY, HUMBLE BUNGALOW BEGINNINGS

Regular contributor to Pembury Village News, Hugh Boorman, when writing about his Gouches Lake rafting escapade ('Childhood Antics' PVN #169), probably had no idea of the ripple effect he would create 10,000 miles south-east of Pembury in an expatriate's mind in Australia, evoking a whole heap of happy memories. The floorboards purloined from "an old bungalow up by the old brick yard which used to be up the lane behind what was the Royal Oak pub" I'm pretty sure was my home for the first fourteen years of my life, as an only, but not lonely, child, having been born, two years before World War Two came to an end, in Pembury Hospital, where my mother once worked as a nurse and Uncle Bert a wardsman.

The wooden Potteries Bungalow was rented from Fred Wheeler, local haulage contractor, by my parents, John and Doris Anne (Dot) Morphett and stood beside the grit and gravel roadway with a number of light industry factories and workshops nearby. I used to enjoy watching and having a chat with the various workers. The other side looked out on to farmland and coppice woodland, through which I had countless walks and adventures, more often with just my border collie, Toby, and other times with different schoolmates. The site of the former Keyes Mill was familiar to me, but I was unaware of its late 18th century connection with the famous artist, William Turner. In this environment I inevitably soon developed a love of nature, particularly birdlife (which has become my worldwide passion). Reminiscent of Frederic Delius's music, each spring I'd anticipate the arrival of the first cuckoo from the south across the orchards. I recall the tractor replacing Kit the carthorse on Mr Lamont's farm; it used to graze in the Hollow Field, once escaping and feeding on Dad's cabbages in our garden. William Tugby from the Midlands took over Stone Court Farm, where I worked during school holidays fruitpicking, as I also did at Pippins and Downingbury Farms and hop-picking at Murdoch's Hawkwell Farm, meeting up with several Londoners on their working holiday and staying in on-site huts. I was also employed by Tunbridge Wells Waterworks Corporation, for whom Dad worked much of his life, in the fir plantations, through which spring water was channelled. In return for helping in his nearby allotment garden, Dad let me have my own vegie patch, where I dug up several small fragments

of glazed tiles, some of which I treasured for a time. From recent research I believe they were remnants from either Philip Peters (a former Royal Oak publican) brick and pottery manufacturing or else Stone Court Brick and Tile Company. Separate from the bungalow stood another wooden building with large windows on one side, which I seldom went into; it being Dad's domain, where he kept garden tools and other equipment and stored seed potatoes. I assume it was once the pottery business office. Without a lawnmower, Dad would cut the lawns and grassed paths with a bagging hook and a wooden stick of ash or hazel with a shortened branch to form a hook, designed to gather clumps of grass to make cutting easier. Within walking distance of the bungalow, I discovered several vestiges of pits, where industrial clay was excavated, some of which became permanent ponds. I have wondered if Lamont's Pond (behind part of the latter housing development of Herons Way) was one such, where I and other youths fished for smooth and crested newts, the latter appearing like mini-dragons. I remember walking across it on thick ice one severe winter until hearing ominous creaking sounds. Perhaps a Supreme Being took care of me on that occasion, for in those times, straight after a hearty Sunday roast, I was a regular attender of Sunday School at the Pembury Free Church, dressed in my Sunday best with my Ingersoll footballer pocket watch on display; that was until my adolescent rebellion kicked in, possibly to the disappointment of Uncle Tom and Aunt Anne, rather than my parents, as they were among the key representatives of the Church.

The bungalow was on two levels connected by just a few stairs, up which I once fell, spilling the contents of milk bottles I brought in delivered at the front door, the foil tops of which were covered by small tins in winter months to prevent blue tits from pecking them open to feed on the cream. The lower level contained three rooms, including the bathroom and toilet; the other two were just for storage, including a wartime gas mask behind one door, and smelled musty with dampness. Upstairs to the right were two large bedrooms and on the left living room and kitchen, both of which contained a fireplace, which meant periodic visits from the chimney sweep. Dad used the soot to spread around the garden. In those pre-television days, the wireless was our main source of entertainment, but

HAPPY, HUMBLE BUNGALOW BEGINNINGS CONT ...



In new Pembury School uniform outside my bedroom window, out of which I fell unharmed on to the ground when much younger and well before the sweet-smelling honeysuckle became overgrown.

because of its wonky valve, the set often required a few sharp knocks on the side to restore proper reception. Whilst we all liked listening to classical music, Dad's favourite program was The Archers, Mum's Mrs Dale's Diary, and mine The Goon Show or Radio Luxembourg for pop music. When relatives or friends visited, card games often featured, such as solo whist, cribbage, or Newmarket for very modest financial stakes. Downstairs from the kitchen was the coalhouse, where coal was stored, delivered by Sturgeons via the backdoor, plus firewood and various domestic items. Our tabby cat and then black and white one used to help get rid of some of the opportunistic rodents. In-between her various jobs, Mum used to keep the interior spotlessly clean, but it was the building's exterior that dilapidated badly. My parents' healthsuffered badly too, mainly through arthritis. Our family doctor, Arthur Loden strongly recommended they abandon the premises, saying that the big openwindow view of the countryside was not the be-all and end-all. The bungalow was duly condemned and later demolished, and we were speedily given Council accommodation in Elmhurst Avenue. On removal day Toby's wooden kennel was perched on the tailgate of the lorry. Mum had Toby on his leash while I carried Whisky, the cat in a cardboard box as we walked the 1500 yards or so via Lower Green Road. Despite his paws being buttered, Whisky soon abandoned our new home. I recovered him back at the bungalow and carried him in the same box, but via the orchards and Stone Court Lane instead. Whisky absconded again. The following afternoon as I was returning home from school via The Twitten, I heard miaowing from across Maidstone Road; it was Whisky, who must have recognized my gait. With satchel over left shoulder, I carried him home under the other arm. No more taking-off. It took my parents and me a while too to adapt to the concentrated housing neighbourhood after all those years of a great sense of space around the bungalow.

Prior to that move I experienced another major change. A late developer, dipping out on the Eleven Plus, I was granted a surprise place at Skinners' School from Pembury School a year and a term later. Even though my headmaster and his wife, Ivor and Winifred Beynon gave up much of their free time to teach me the basics of Latin, French and algebra, and my forthcoming 1 Red form master, 'Dogend' Chamberlain visited my home at the bungalow (He fell over the trench Dad had had to dig to drain away run-off from the road after torrential rain had flooded the lower rooms), the transition wasn't easy: from a big fish in a little pond to the reverse. But I made out all right, passing several GCEs, but didn't go to university, as was the general expectation. Instead, a move to a Highbury hostel, within easy reach of Arsenal's old football ground, to work in the Civil Service, followed by some different occupations in London and Tunbridge Wells.

Like Mum's two Shropshire brothers, I felt the urge to spread my wings and travel abroad; I went to sea, working in various positions within the purser's department for P&O Lines during the latter half of

HAPPY, HUMBLE BUNGALOW BEGINNINGS CONT...



With Toby and Whisky on the back lawn. Caring for these pets grew into a love of animals in general and my initial aspiration to become a vet.

the 1960s, culminating in a shipboard romance. My fiancée, Carol sponsored me under the ten pounds migration scheme, and I relocated to Sydney in July 1969, marrying her six weeks later. I subsequently qualified as a New South Wales probation officer and served in the Wollongong region south of Sydney. After our overland journey from Sydney to Pembury via South-East Asia, the Middle East and Europe, beginning in March 1974 and taking over four months, Carol and I eventually secured a charming old rented cottage in the mid-Kent hamlet of Pizien Well. I became employed by the Kent Probation & After-Care Service, based in Tonbridge, operating in the outer Sevenoaks area, but my Australian qualification wasn't deemed sufficient to warrant full pay; that was until I happened to resign two years later. Again it was very hard to farewell my aging parents, but Carol and I strongly felt greater opportunities lay back in Australia for us and our future family; and so it proved with no regrets on that score. By then my parents had moved into sheltered accommodation in Camden Court. With the help of my cousin, Pat Saunders, they subsequently and finally went into residential care in Speldhurst. Again so hard

to say goodbye to my father after Mum's death in April 1982, with the strong feeling we'd never see each other again; he died the following January. Continually sacrificing much to provide for me with a secure upbringing, my parents were well respected and hardworking, coping as best they could within their physical limitations, and they inculcated in me fine principles and values, which I endeavoured to pass on, with Carol's assistance, to our two daughters, who in turn do their best for their children. We all reside in the Wollongong suburbs, where I can take in views of the Tasman Sea to the east and the Illawarra Escarpment westwards; it's a good region for birding. My parents and those childhood experiences in and around the Potteries Bungalow were my bedrock, for which I am indeed grateful. Thank you, Hugh for inadvertently triggering these recollections and more.

> Mike (then known as Mick) Morphett, Thirroul, NSW mcmorphett@gmail.com

CHILDHOD ANTICS

When we were growing up we tended to split up at times into two or three separate groups, depending on where you lived. Sometimes there was the Grove, Church Road and Elmhurst Avenue, or the middle part of the village from the Royal Oak to Canterbury Road and sometimes a third group up to the top of the village. Sometimes we were all part of one group. One of our favourite occupations was camp building which I must say we were extremely good at. We used to put in a lot of time building them all round the village.

One, a tree camp was in a field immediately below the Recreation Ground where the Ridgeway and Westway now are. I think the tree was a lime tree with a massive in-growing formation of twigs which went up to a considerable height. Originally it was very difficult to reach the first of the branches but someone, and I never knew who it was managed to reach the first branch and secure a rope to it which was then our only means of access.

Once in there we had to cut out a lot of the ingrowing branch work and we managed to make a camp on three different levels and many happy hours were spent up in there even when it was dark. Thankfully no one fell out

However, the best camp we ever built was down in Hayeswood. I probably have not included all those who were involved but I can definitely remember my old friend Mick Waterman, Ray Kemp and Len Clark who's father used to own the Butchers shop which was next to what was the Royal Oak pub. It was always our ambition to build an underground camp, which we did and believe it or not part of the camp is still there.

We dug deep and hard and eventually dug a hole about eight feet long, four feet wide and five feet deep on one side and four feet on the other side because the ground was on a slope. We covered it in the first place with long bits of Chestnut and Fir tree logs and then a mass of smaller branches with a

final covering of top soil to make it look natural. We even included a chimney in order that we could have a fry up but the first time we



used it, we had to beat a hasty retreat because the smoke did not go up the chimney as planned and completely filled the camp!!

We did away with the chimney and resorted to cooking outside in the fresh air. Our utensils consisted of a selection of old knives and forks and a dirty old frying pan. We never took these items home with us, we used to store them in disused rabbit holes and covered them with leaves when we went home. Occasionally we would wash them in the stream but we never left them in the camp where anybody could find them.

The first thing we did when we got to the camp was to collect fire wood and get the fire going. Then get the frying pan out of the rabbit hole and put in a large lump of lard which would have come from Mr Clark's Butchers shop. We would then add the sausages and bacon which Len Clark would have removed from his dad's shop without him knowing.

Depending on the time of year we would cook moorhen's eggs which, if you have never eaten them have the darkest yokes on the planet. Because I was the



smallest of the group I was always picked on to run all the way back through the woods to collect more lard if we ran out, and that was before the Beagles Wood Estate was built. Moorhens are quite capable of laying a lot of eggs but we only used to take one or two from each nest, if there were six we used to take two and so on, they would lay some more. We then had to make sure that they were not addled, i.e full of growing chicks. If they were safe to eat they would sink, if they were addled they would float.

One day, which I am sure the boys will all remember, we were all sitting round the fire cooking the food when there was a massive bang, the frying pan went flying through the air, bacon, eggs and hot lard over everybody. Len Clark had put the Baked Beans tin in the fire without piercing any holes in it and it just exploded. We learnt a lesson from that.

More adventures next time.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS/EMAIL ADDRESSES

| Cllr Mrs J Crowhurst | 01892 824873 |
|----------------------------|---|
| Mrs Helen Munro | 01892 823193 |
| info@tunbridgewells.gov.uk | 01892 526121 |
| county.hall@kent.gov.uk | 03000 414141 |
| info@tchg.org.uk | 01892 501480 |
| | 01892 825488 |
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| Rev'd. Douglas Robertson | 01892 824761 |
| Father Ed Tomlinson | 01892 825009 |
| Church Administrator | 01892 825590 |
| | Mrs Helen Munro info@tunbridgewells.gov.uk county.hall@kent.gov.uk info@tchg.org.uk pemburylibrary@kent.gov.uk Rev'd. Douglas Robertson Father Ed Tomlinson |

PADDOCK WOOD COMMUNITY ADVICE CENTRE

Being in debt can be stressful and it can be difficult to know what to do first - especially if you're constantly getting letters and calls from the companies you owe money to.

You might be thinking about taking out a loan to pay back money you owe, but this can make the problem worse when there might be a better solution for you.

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Becoming debt-free, however long it takes, can improve your credit rating and mean you can think about longer term plans.

There are various options that exist to help you deal with your debt problems. These include bankruptcy, debt relief orders, debt management plans, administration orders, debt consolidation and Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs). PWCAC will explain how they work and which one would be the right option for you. PWCAC offers free, confidential advice.

PWCAC will sit down with you and draw up a financial statement using income and expenditure figures supplied by you. We will advise you on how to budget. We can also advise you on whether you can access benefits to increase you household income or whether you might be able to take advantage of certain benefits, grants and help offered by the Government and energy suppliers.

If you would like PWCAC to help look at your options then please contact us at: 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, e-mail info@pwadvice.org telephone 01892 838619

RECIPES

CHEESE AND SPRING ONION TART

200g (70z) Crème Fraiche 1 tbsp Olive Oil 1 tspn Dijon Mustard 3 Eggs (beaten) 150ml (¼ pint) Milk 80z Shortcrust Pastry 1½ bunches Spring Onions trimmed and sliced into 3cm lengths 125g (40z) Strong Cheddar (grated)

- 1. Roll out pastry and line an 8" round tin
- 2. For the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan and stir fry the spring onions for 3-4 minutes
- 3. Blend the mustard and crème fraiche together and gradually mix in the eggs. Stir in the milk and season
- 4. Tip all but a handful of cheese into the pastry case and all of the onions
- 5. Pour in the egg mix and scatter with the remaining cheese
- 6. Bake tart for 25-30 minutes until softly set. Remove from oven and let it rest for about 10 minutes

Serve with salad and jacket or new potatoes

ORANGE FLAPJACK CHEESECAKE

300g (110z) Ready-made Flapjacks (crumbled)
3 (250g) Pots Mascarpone Cheese Grated zest of 1 Orange
1 (568ml) Double Cream
Raspberries and Chocolate curls to decorate

- 1. Remove base from an 8" spring release cake tin (you will not need it)
- 2. Clip sides back into shape and place on serving plate oil lightly and line with a strip of baking paper
- 3. Spread crumbled flapjacks over the base of plate and press down firmly
- 4. Place the marscarpone cheese, caster sugar and orange zest in a large bowl and half the cream. Mix well then beat with an electric mixer until thick and firm
- 5. Spoon mixture into the flan ring and smooth surface
- 6. Unclip the sides of the cake tin and remove carefully and peel of the lining paper
- 7. Whisk remaining cream until soft peaks form and spoon around edge of cheesecake. Decorate with raspberries and chocolate curls.







FOR YOUR DIARY

Village Market – Village Hall, Tuesday 9am – 11.30am

Town/Country Housing Group Clinic – last Tuesday in the month - Housing Manager Stephen Aspinall CAB – Pembury Library – alternate Tuesdays 9.30am – 11.30am

Community Coffee Shop – Pembury Pavilion, Recreation Ground – Mondays 9.30-12noon 'The Shed' Youth Café - at Pembury Baptist Church – Fridays 6 – 8pm (school yrs 7-13) term time only

| June | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| 5th | Parish Council Meeting | 8pm | Parish Council Office |
| 5th | Gardeners' Society – Flower Workshop | 8pm | Pembury Baptist Church |
| 6th | U3A | 2pm | Village Hall – Guest Speaker |
| 8th | Ladies Thursday Club | 2pm | Village Hall Meeting Room |
| 9th | Village Quiz | 8pm | Village Hall |
| 24th | Pembury Gardeners' Summer Show | 2pm | Village Hall |
| July | | | |
| 1st | Musical Picnic | 4-8pm | Village Green |
| 3rd | Parish Council Meeting | 8pm | Parish Council Offices |
| 3rd | Pembury Gardeners' Flower Workshop | 8pm | Pembury Baptist Church |
| 4th | U3A | 2pm | Village Hall |
| 7th | Evening WI | 7.45pm | Village Hall – 'The Road to Chelsea' |
| 13th | Ladies Thursday Club | 2pm | Village Hall Meeting Room |
| Aug | | | |
| 1st | U3A | 2pm | Village Hall |
| 4th | Evening WI | 7.45pm | Village Hall – First Aid Update – Sue Woods |
| 7th | Pembury Gardeners' Flower Workshop | 8pm | Pembury Baptist Church |
| 10th | Ladies Thursday Club | 2pm | Village Hall Meeting Room |
| Sept | | | |
| 1st | Evening WI | 7.45pm | Village Hall – 'A Kick up the Sixties' – Alan Haines |
| 4th | Pembury Parish Council Meeting | 8pm | Parish Council Offices |
| 4th | Pembury Gardeners' Flower Workshop | 8pm | Pembury Baptist Church |
| 5th | U3A | 2pm | Village Hall |
| 7th | Out & About Club | | Lunch at Pevensey – Contact Sue Giles 823318 |
| 9th | Pembury Gardeners' Autumn Show | 2pm | Village Hall |

Richard Snow has taken over responsibility for updating the Village Diary, which can be viewed at www.pembury.org. The diary serves two purposes. Firstly to enable event organisers to check the diary before arranging an event to avoid clashes. Secondly to enable everyone to know what is happening in the village. It is important that information is sent to Richard at events@pembury.org with date, times, title of event, venue and contact details.

Please note that to view the calendar you must be using a recent version of Firefox, Google Chrome or Internet Explorer (IE11 or later). Computers running Windows XP will only be able to view the calendar using Firefox or Google Chrome. Organisations – please contact me with your dates for inclusion in the next edition of the magazine: deputy@pemburypc. kentparishes.gov.uk

CRIME FIGURES

Recorded crime in Pembury

If a road name does not appear in the table below, it is because no crimes have been reported to Kent Police in that road during the specified period.

| Crime type by reported month | Violent Crime | Burglary Dwelling | Burglary Other | Theft From Motor Vehicle | Theft of Motor Vehicle | Criminal Damage Offences | Theft Offences (exc vehicle offences) | Drug Offences | Other Offences | Total recorded crime |
|--|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------|----------------|---|
| Jan-17 | 10 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 20 |
| Feb-17 | 8 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 7 | | 2 | 21 |
| Mar-17 | 8 | | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| January - March 2017 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 55 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Violent Crime | Burglary Dwelling | Burglary Other | Theft From Motor Vehicle | Theft of Motor Vehicle | Criminal Damage Offences | Theft Offences (exc vehicle offences) | Drug Offences | Other Offences | Total recorded crime (Exc BURGLARY DWELLING & OTHER) |
| A21 A | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| BEAGLES WOOD ROAD | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| BELLFIELD ROAD | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| CORNFORD LANE | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| ELMHURST AVENUE | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| HASTINGS ROAD | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | 3 |
| HENWOOD GREEN ROAD | 4 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 6 |
| HENWOODS CRESCENT | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| HIGHFIELD CLOSE | 1 | | | | | | 4 | | | 1 |
| HIGH STREET | 2 | | | | | 1 | 4 | | | 5 4 |
| LOWER GREEN ROAD MAIDSTONE ROAD | 2 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 4 |
| OLD CHURCH ROAD | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| PEMBURY ROAD | 1 | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | 5 |
| RIDGEWAY | 2 | | | | | | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| ROMFORD ROAD | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | - | 2 |
| STONECOURT LANE | - | | | | | | - | | 1 | 1 |
| THE FORSTAL | 2 | | | - | | | | | | 2 |
| THE GROVE | 1 | | | | | İ | | | | 1 |
| TONBRIDGE ROAD | 3 | | | | | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 8 |
| WOODSIDE ROAD | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| TOTAL RECORDED CRIME (EXC BURGLARY DWELLING & OTHER) | 26 | | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 52 |

The data above was extracted from Kent Police's LIVE crime recording system GENESIS on the 5th April 2017 at 14:47 hrs, and is therefore subject to change.

CRIME REPORT

As I write this, summer is approaching fast. The three months between each report seems to go faster and faster. Fortunately, it is relatively good news with the reported crime figures for the quarter of Jan, Feb and March coming in at 55 compared to the figure of 74 (Seventy Four) for Oct, Nov and December 2016. Unfortunately, and sadly 26 of the crimes fall in the violent crimes section, of which 11 fall in the Domestic Crime Section. There was one related to dangerous dogs, two sexual offences and three Public Order Offences. Included in these figures are two of Malicious Communications. Theft Offences, not including those of or from Motor Vehicles fell from 20 down to 13 and Criminal Damage fell from 10 down to 6. The figures are quite encouraging bearing in mind that two of the months, January and February are winter months.

If we take note of the national Crime Figures, crime is still on the rise, much of which is due to the reduction in the total numbers of police officers and they really do need our support. We must not get complacent and if anything we must step up our alertness to those issues relative to crime. Be aware of someone behaving suspiciously, somebody around your next door neighbours or trying car doors etc. By all means get involved by asking them a simple question but even if it turns out to be a false alarm let the Police know. Let us keep Pembury a safe place to live and get the reported Crime Figures down even lower.

There are two other issues which I feel should be on our fix it list, the first one being the speed of traffic in the village, especially either side of Pembury School. Personally I think that the speed limit from the Recreation Ground down to Downingbury Farm should be reduced to twenty miles per hour and that mothers taking children to and from school on foot should use the crossing rather than zig zagging with their children through traffic which has stopped.

The other issue is that of dogs mess; it does not seem to matter to some dog owners regardless of what notices are put up or what statements they make some people totally ignore it. Please show that you are aware as a responsible dog owner of your duty to other walkers and don't leave your dogs' mess for someone else to pick up.

Be careful out there.

Hugh Boorman

| Pembury | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| 12.00 - 15.00 | | | | |
| Garden Waste (Compostable) | Domestic Waste | | | |
| 28.5.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 11.6.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 25.6.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 9.7.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 23.7.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 6.8.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 20.8.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 3.9.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 17.9.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 1.10.17 | Pembury | | | |
| 12.00 - 12.45 | Henwood Crescent | | | |
| 8.00 - 13.55 Heron's Way | | | | |
| 14.00 - 15.00 Woodhill Park | | | | |

CIVIC AMENITY LORRY

Vehicle will be stationed in a different position in each road each week.

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Deputy Clerk to Pembury Parish Council

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