

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 90 / Summer 1997



**COME TO THE PEMBURY
VILLAGE FAYRE!
RECREATION GROUND
SATURDAY 12th JULY
at 1pm**

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Cover photograph courtesy David Sellman

Parish News & Comment

PAUL RUSSELL

Paul Russell, the Assistant Parish Clerk, left the employment of the Pembury Parish Council on 30th May last to take up the important position of Town Clerk with the Southborough Town Council. We all wish him every success for the future.

In May 1990 Paul, the husband of our present Parish Clerk, Barbara Russell, came into the administration side of the Parish Council with limited knowledge but within a short period had formed a solid Parish Council Office working relationship which has been of great benefit to the Parish. Paul was also instrumental in upgrading display materials in the promotion of all aspects of the Parish Council's services to the community as well as assisting the Clerk to improve all aspects of Parish Council business. We must also not forget the unenviable task of Recreation Ground Warden which was carried out diligently throughout his service with the Parish Council.

Paul's administrative expertise was not only confined to Parish Council work, he was also involved with the work of the Scouts, the Church Social Committee and for the last few years he has been Organiser and co-ordinator of the very successful Village Fayre.

Whilst the Parish Council will miss his dedication and enthusiasm in his role as Assistant Parish Clerk, I am sure that his efforts in helping the community of Pembury will continue.



Henry Plant

If you picked up this magazine from the Library or one of Pembury's shops and are a Pembury resident, would you like a copy delivered to your door each quarter? If so, please contact the Editor or a member of the Editorial Committee who will be pleased to arrange it from our next issue.

Pembury's Sports Clubs' Secretaries! – Why not let the village know how your team is faring?
Write to the Editor with copy for the next issue.

Editorial Committee:

Henry Plant (Chairman), Julia Croft, Kit Kelly, Gill Matthews and Betty Roberts

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

*Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this Magazine must be forwarded to the Editor before **1st August 1997.***

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR
Henry Plant
16 The Coppice
Tel: 823459

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MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

PEMBURY'S Borough Councillor, David Mills, was elected the Mayor of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells at a special ceremony held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 20th May 1997. This is not only a honour for David and his family but also for the community of Pembury whom he has served since May 1995.

David, a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute, is married with two grown-up children. He lives in Pembury and works for an insurance company in Sevenoaks; his interests cover music, literature and current affairs.

He has had a long record of public service before moving to Kent having been a magistrate, a school governor and a District Councillor for many years in Test Valley, Hampshire. Since becoming one of Pembury's Borough Councillors in 1995 he has undertaken very successfully the duties of Chairman of the Borough Planning Boards from 1995 to 1997 as well as being a member of the Eastern and Western Planning Sub-Committees.

As Mayor, he has nominated Hospice in the Weald as his charity for his mayoral year.



Photo courtesy of Kentish Times Newspapers

The accompanying photograph shows David in the full regalia of the holder of the highest office in the Borough.

PEMBURY SCHOOL FETE – Saturday 21st June 1997

The Editorial Committee of this magazine, has stepped aside this year to let pupils of Pembury School write their own copy for the School Fete.

'COME TO OUR SCHOOL FETE – BECAUSE IT'S GREAT'

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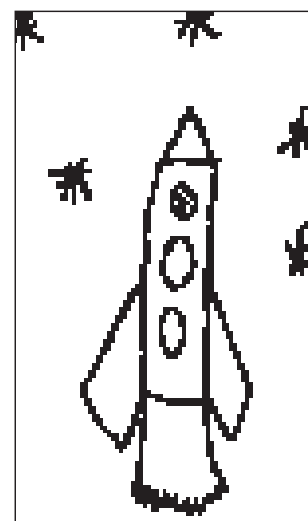
Let your kids run free and get in a mess - Don't worry parents – it is safe

Even better for the kids – they get to soak their teacher!

DON'T BE LATE – Every year Pembury School holds the greatest fete on earth. There is a fancy dress competition, hoop-la, Bouncy Castles, a lucky dip, face paints, pony rides and much much more!

Each year there is a theme – previous themes have included 'The Movies', 'The Sea' and 'Black and White'

This year the theme is SPACE – LIFT OFF is at 2.00pm!!



GILL'S GARDEN

ACID loving shrubs such as Rhododendrons and Azaleas should be fed with an acid fertiliser such as sequestrine. This promotes strong growth as well as preventing the leaves from yellowing. Remove dead seed heads. Tall plants, Gladioli, lilies and perennials should be staked. If using canes please make sure you protect the ends of canes to prevent injury to eyes.

When the danger of frost has passed bedding plants can be planted and given a liquid feed of controlled release fertiliser. Plant up hanging baskets using water retaining crystals, feed regularly with tomato feed and pinch out tips of trailing plants to encourage bushy growth. Tips removed from the tops of Fuchsia can be planted in a mixture of equal parts peat and sand, covered with polythene and should root before long. A pipe or plant pot sunk in a hanging basket will allow water to penetrate the roots of plants rather than letting water run off the top. Baskets will need watering daily in hot weather.

The same principle, using a pipe or plant pot, can be used when planting container grown shrubs. Sow seeds of Wallflowers, Foxgloves and double Daisies in open ground so they are ready for planting out in the following Spring. Trim back Aubrietia, Arabis and Perennial Candy Tuft to keep plants compact. Clematis Montana may be

trimmed if necessary to allow plants to make new flowering wood for next year.

Feed lawns with

fertiliser that is high in nitrogen, spot treat weeds and seed bare patches if needed. Protect seed from birds and harsh weather with fleece. Mow lawn regularly on a high setting. Bulbs left to naturalise in long grass may be cut now. New growth on brooms can be shortened but you must not cut into the old growth. Shrub cuttings such as Phladelphus, Ceanothus, Lavender and Hydrangea may be taken now. Spray roses with fungicide. Seedlings planted in the Spring will need thinning out.

In the vegetable garden sow Lettuces, Radish, Peas, Beetroot, Runner Beans, Kohlraby Spinach, French Beans, Chinese Cabbage, Spring Onions and Carrots.

French Marigolds should be planted in vegetable gardens to help pollinate plants whilst deterring pests, which is especially useful when growing Tomatoes.

Gill Matthews



NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Defying all the General Election trends, Pembury resident Councillor Terry Cload (pictured here) won the Tunbridge Wells Rural West division seat back from the Liberal Democrats. Polling figures were

Terry Cload (Con) 3,203

Derek Hawes Richards (Lib-Dem) 2,938

David Osbern (Lab) 1,812



BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The first judging takes place in June.

There is a second competition that takes place on July 4th, when judges from Trans Gas, who are sponsoring the competition, visit the village. The judging takes an hour and a half and all aspects of the village are taken into account. The war memorial, village green, recreation ground, Coronation Gardens and people's front gardens around the village will be recorded and points awarded accordingly. The tour will end at Larkfield Hall, who have once again very kindly donated plants to this event.

Points are awarded for many visual aspects. Lack of graffiti and general tidiness are very important factors.

Notcutts judging will take place during the last two weeks of July.



Children from Pembury Pre-School Nursery on Pembury Village Green for the launch of the '1997 Pembury in Bloom' competition which is sponsored by Notcutts Garden Centre.

THE LEAGUE OF THE FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL

WITH the advent of Summer our thoughts turn once again to the Fete. This year the big day is Saturday 23rd August. Please put the date in your diaries and come and support your 'local'!! We are very fortunate to have Cheryl Baker of Bucks Fizz to open the Fete for us and we are all keeping our fingers crossed for good weather.

Last year we raised a magnificent £15,500 and were able to purchase three electronic hoists for the Department for Care of the Elderly. This year we hope to do equally well if not better with your help.

The Renal Unit which opened last Spring is going from strength to strength and is soon to expand its services. We have recently received £23,750 specifically for the purchase of dialysis machines and two more are now on order.

On Saturday 5th July a Charity Musical Concert is being arranged at the Victoria Hall in Southborough featuring the Crawley Accordion Orchestra and the Chetwerikova School of Russian Ballet (Southborough) with proceeds being given to the League. Do please come and support us at this event and have what promises to be a splendid evening of entertainment. If you would like more details and are interested in coming, please contact David Ward (Southborough Rotary) on 535618.

If any of you would like to join the League or know more about our activities please get in touch with either Mrs Diana Barber (Chairman) on 528156 or Alan Davis (Secretary) on 01732 357409. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Mrs D. E. Barber
Chairman of Council.

Profile

Michael Pattenden

MICHAEL this year celebrates not only 40 years of employment in the parish of Pembury but has cause to celebrate another milestone of what nowadays is becoming a very rare feat – that of spending all those years with one employer!

He came to work in Pembury in March 1957 at what was then called Lakeside Nurseries, owned by a firm called Wallace and Barr, who used to specialise in bulbs of all varieties, especially lilies, as well as all trees and shrubs.

“In those days we had to go to the customer, they did not come to us. What I mean by going to the customer involved exhibiting at flower shows. Very few people came to the nursery itself”, recollected Michael. “After being with Wallace and Barr for my first few years of working, this company was sold to a Mr Whitelegg, who also had a nursery at Knockholt in Kent, and we still continued to do a lot of shows, one of the biggest being the Ideal Home Exhibition. We did get some very large orders from the shows in those days because that was the way the business worked. Once we came back to the Nursery after the show, we had to pack them up and send them all over the country.”

“Very gradually over the years, more and more customers came to the nursery and less of my time was spent showing. With more and more people coming to the nursery Whiteleggs, as we were then called, started to expand their business by selling compost, garden tools and even paving slabs.”

By the late Sixties the nursery had become a little garden centre, now known as



Whiteleggs Centre. Very gradually the business expanded and the garden centre went from strength to strength. “One of my jobs was to come in on a Sunday to water the plants and sometimes customers would come by and want to buy things so I suggested that we open on a Sunday. Daftest thing I ever did – instead of working six days a week, I worked seven!”

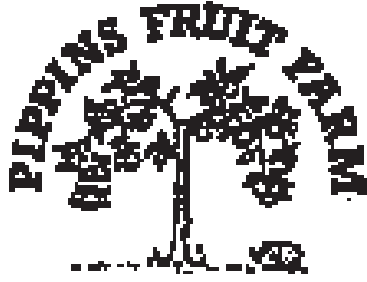
“In 1989, the Nursery was purchased by the Notcutt family, and since then I have seen the Garden Centre expand steadily to its present size”.

There can be few local gardeners who have not consulted Michael over the years – his knowledge of plants and gardening is legendary. As well as his abiding passion for plants, Michael has had a lifelong interest in meteorology.

A father of four, Michael also has three grandchildren and has for many years lived at nearby Stone Cross, Crowborough where his garden is a shining example of “practise what you preach”.

Henry Plant

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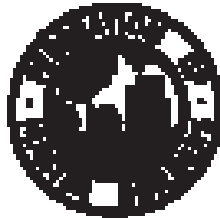
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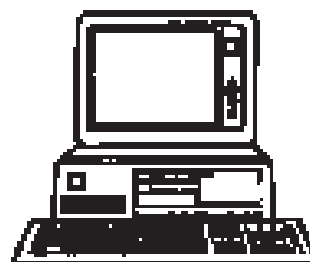
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MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

It's coming – the millennium is nearly here. How will you be celebrating it? More to the point – when will you be celebrating it – at the beginning or the end of the year 2000?

At the instigation of the Parish Council, a group of villagers has formed a Millennium Committee. They plan to arrange one or two events themselves but their primary aim is to keep a diary of events planned by other village organisations. It would be a shame if great efforts were made to organise

special celebrations only to find they have clashed with someone else's events.

The composition of the Committee will be formalized at their July meeting and contact names will appear in the Autumn edition of this Magazine.

When you plan a Millennium event, please let the Millennium Committee know – between us we can make sure the year 2000 is a very special year for the whole village.

VANDALISM

The last three months has seen a further escalation of damage to both Parish and Parishioners' property, some of which could have caused serious injury, Woodside YMCA and the Football Pavilion especially received damage, with the door being broken, lights smashed and water left on; septic tank covers were stolen: picture the scene of a toddler falling into the tank; seats severely damaged in Coronation Gardens; and steps broken from Hastings Road to Stanham Road; damage to a Parishioner's window with a ball bearing gun: unfortunately that lady has to pay £50 towards the insurance costs of repair.

We all owe the police our thanks in this instance for acting quickly and encouraging the gun to be placed in their custody. Very gradually more parishioners are coming forward with information, so keep it coming, do not be afraid and together we will win.

Let us also encourage the police, with our flow of information, to be more responsive.

Hugh Boorman

RUBBISH

It would appear that dumping rubbish in our lanes, especially Pembury Walks, is on the increase.

It may or not be people from Pembury but it does not make sense when there are weekly refuse collections and an additional one on Sundays.

Some of the rubbish that is dumped is offensive and dangerous, even babies' dirty nappies and broken bottles.

There are heavy fines for the dumping of rubbish.

So please, if you see it happening, either gently persuade the person involved to put it back in their car or report them to the police.

It is certainly not necessary and is environmentally unfriendly.

Hugh Boorman

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PEMBURY VILLAGE FAYRE

ONCE again the Scouts, Guides and Pembury Athletic Youth Football Club will be organising the Village Fayre. The event will be held on Saturday 12th July so make a date in your diary! After last year's roaring success the committee hope to be able to achieve the same success again. With this in mind there will be even more attractions this year.

The Craft Fayre will be housed in the Scout and Guide Headquarters building this year as, unfortunately, the Pembury Gardeners have decided to hold its Summer Show in the Village Hall. Although last year's show was reasonably successful from a visitor's point of view, the exhibitors expressed a preference for the Village Hall because of the amount of extra space it afforded them.

An added attraction this year will be a Craft Demonstration organised by the High Weald Project. This event will be sited in Marshleyharbour Woods, just behind the Scout and Guide Headquarters, with crafts such as the making of trugs, hurdles, besom brooms and chestnut cleft fencing being demonstrated. A similar event was organised by the High Weald Project last year at Angley Wood, Cranbrook and was very successful.

There will be a magic show for the children, a beer tent, the barbecue run by Pete Spaight, live music, new and used vehicle displays and the usual attraction of stalls including the coconut shy and the balloon race. There will be a chance to meet your Parish Councillors in the Parish Council marquee, catch up on the latest news from the Pembury Society, meet fellow parishioners and support three organisations whose sole aim is to provide

activities for the younger members of our village.

The Parish Council is also arranging for a "Village Buildings" painting competition for school children to be held in the weeks running up to the day of the Fayre. Entry forms are on page 13 of this magazine. The judging will be undertaken by Councillor Gill Matthews at the Fayre in the Parish Marquee.

In the weeks leading up to the Fayre volunteers will be selling raffle tickets and programmes throughout the village. Please support them. All profits will be split

evenly between Pembury Athletic Youth Football Club and the Scout and Guides.

The Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone in the village. The aim this year is to promote community life in Pembury. In one form or another each club or organisation in the village will be represented at the Fayre, from the WI to the Bowls Club. It's a great opportunity to see old friends, chat about village life and help towards the provision of activities for the younger generation.

Please support the Fayre and enjoy yourselves at the same time!

If you would like to have a stall at the Fayre or in the Craft Fayre please contact Paul Russell on 823193. There are still some spaces available.

Paul Russell

If any musical acts – especially groups – would like to appear on stage at the Village Fayre phone Paul.



COMMUNITY BEAT

Subject to rumours as a certain politician used to say, 'I'm still here' but there has been little new to report that hasn't been in the local press.

We have some good news and some not so good.

THE GOOD NEWS:

We have on my area two new Specials, one from Pembury and one from Five Oak Green. They are both keen and given the right support from the public and police will be an asset to us all. They will have to be, for at least 12 months, accompanied and tutored.

THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS:

There have been very few other enquiries from you to join the specials.

THE GOOD NEWS:

We have managed to set up three new Neighbourhood Watch schemes, one in Brenchley, two in Paddock Wood.

THE NOT SO GOOD:

There are still schemes which are ineffective or dormant. I would urge anyone who thinks they are on one of these schemes to contact Chris Janes at Southborough to confirm their scheme is active and therefore of benefit. Don't forget, if you get insurance relief on your

premium for being in NHW the Company may not honour your claim if your scheme is dead.

THE GOOD NEWS:

On the whole crime is down in the area.

THE NOT SO GOOD:

Motor vehicle crime in some areas is going up! We all need to be vigilant, report anything or anyone suspicious and report all, ALL, crimes however small as a pattern may emerge or information gained.

THE GOOD NEWS:

The fete and carnival season is upon us.

THE NOT SO GOOD:

Very few have been notified to us. If you expect a least a visit to your event or it requires policing then you must write and tell the police at the earliest opportunity as there are many demands on our resources and short notice calls result in disappointment.

Well in the words of another personality 'That's all folks'.

Clive Bryant
Community Officer

To all Becky's friends

Our little Becky died in May, at the age of four, of malignant cancer.

In her short time with us she shared so much love with all her family and friends.

Never be afraid to talk about her freely to us – she had a happy, though short, full life and we will always love and remember her.

Becky's Parents

PEMBURY VILLAGE MARKET

NOT A FLOWERY HAT IN SIGHT !!

ALMOST every Friday morning, bright and early, an assortment of ladies and gentlemen can be found ferrying an odd variety of goods into the Village Hall.

Over the years, the Pembury Village Market has been providing a meeting place for local crafts, fresh vegetables, fruit and homemade cakes to be sold and for friends to have a cuppa. However, times have changed and now you can find for sale, antiques, plants, bric-a-brac, clothes and an assortment of personal items and much more at various times throughout the year.

New stallholders are always welcome so if you have any buried treasure or craft ideas why not give us a call, you can come on a regular or occasional basis as suits you.

You may not know that all the proceeds from your village market go to local charities. Many organisations have benefited over the years from these funds, from the youngest to the oldest resident.

The refreshment, cake and fruit and vegetable stalls are all manned by volunteers, many of whom have served for a great length of time, regardless of age or health.

We would like to warmly invite anyone who feels they could help on a regular or relief basis to join us. It only takes two hours a week and with holidays and illness, we are always grateful for an extra pair of hands.

To all of you who have never visited us (or maybe did not even know we existed) why not come along soon, we would love to see you – a new face always makes a fun morning more worthwhile.

We promise you a warm welcome, a variety of goods to buy, great value and absolutely no flowery hats in sight (except at Easter perhaps).

Opening times – Fridays (except August) 9.30-11.30 am Village Hall.

Sue Boreham (824385) and Eve Fiddimore (518277)

‘VILLAGE BUILDINGS’ PAINTING COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

Age Group 4-7 years and 8-11 years (*Please delete as appropriate*)

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ TEL. NO. _____

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HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

At last our Hospice is becoming a reality instead of just something that might happen in the future. Building at the Downingbury Farm site in Maidstone Road started in April and the 16-bed in-patient



wing should be ready to open in the summer of 1998, provided that the fund-raising momentum is maintained. At least £1m needs to be raised each year, first to complete the whole of the project and thereafter for running costs.

A small ceremony to cut the first sod was held on 25th March attended by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells and other local community representatives, as well as Hospice staff and members of many of the local fund-raising groups. In lovely sunshine the sod-cutting was performed by Mr James Taylor who turned the earth with a JCB (obviously enjoying this opportunity to operate a bulldozer!) and Mrs Judith Gilbert who wielded the spade. Mr Taylor's late wife, Ann, was one of the first Hospice supporters before sadly dying of cancer herself, while Mrs Gilbert is a cancer sufferer from Otford with personal experience of being a Hospice patient, as a result of which she has become an active

supporter of, and speaker for, Hospice in the Weald.

Cheques were also handed over at the ceremony, including one presented by Mrs Chris Cooper, leader of the Pembury Link Group, for the £25,000 raised to build the Pembury Room. Since the beginning of the year the further £4000 needed to equip the room has also been achieved, thanks to more marvellous local support. The Link Group's next target is to build and equip a bathroom which, to match the Pembury bedroom, will be called after Pembury's mediaeval name of Pepenbury. Because of the specialised equipment needed a Hospice bathroom costs £10,000 but over a fifth of this had come in within two months of the new target being set. Robert Poyntz's splendid effort in completing the London Marathon had brought in £1300 at the time of writing, with more to come. Notcutts generously gave all of the £250 proceeds from the balloon race run in



connection with its anniversary celebrations in April. The Link Group also especially appreciated the generous donations received in memory of the late Mr Peter Chandler, at the kind request of his wife Dorothy.

PEMBURY IN THE PAST

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE 1920s

This article is reproduced from an extract taken from the Courier Newspaper dated 28th April 1978
“MAY DAY – How many Pembury people

remember the May Day celebrations held by the infants’ department of the village school in the ’20s?

The photograph on this page, sent to us by Mr Eric Rapley, who now lives at Cullinghamurst, South View Road, Crowborough, are of the May Queen and her attendants in the years 1926 and 1928. They were taken outside the then Village Institute.

Mr Rapley writes, “There had been dancing around a Maypole, with ribbons of red, white and blue and the May Queen had been crowned . . .”

“These were always very happy occasions and were attended by parents and friends. The Queen’s crown was made of the blossoms of fruit trees and, if possible, peach blossom was used, as this was of a good pink colour.”

“I can, however, remember a year when the season was so late that the crown had to be made of daffodils.”

“Prior to the crowning a song was sung which I find pleasant to sing at the present day and it

went as follows:-

‘Tell us who our queen shall be – our queen – today



– 1926 –

Gentle kind and fair to see
Our Queen of May.

With the birds and the flowers and the sun,
Come we to greet her everyone.’

After this song the Queen was crowned by a page with the words, ‘(Name) dear we have chosen you to be our queen, and so I crown you Queen of the May.’

In the 1926 picture the May Queen was Betty

Kester and the page boys Ernest Clifton and Aubrey Moore. Others in the picture include Kathleen Pilbeam, Francis Russell, Phyllis Woods and Jean Deacon.

In 1928 the May Queen was Betty Kitson and the page boys Charles Kester and Peter Nash. Among the others are Betty Kester, Vera Clements, Kathleen Pilbeam and Dorothy Hall.”

*Photos courtesy of
Courier Newspapers*



– 1928 –

WHO CAN REMEMBER?

In the Spring issue of this magazine we published a photograph of the fire on the site of Vic and Veronica's shop and Speaight, the Butchers.

Mr and Mrs Kerwin have been able to identify some of the onlookers – these are Phylis Kerwin, Violet and Elsie Clifton – do you recognise anybody else? Do you remember the year of this fire? We now believe this was in the late thirties but we would be glad to hear if you know the actual date.



Can anyone remember the fire at Pembury Hall, in Old Church Road. We think that the fire was in 1943 and that several villagers were present and assisted in removing furniture and antiques to safety. Any photographs or stories would be great for the next issue. We believe that the tenants at the time of the fire were the Honsten family.

IVOR BEYNON – 15th December 1911 – 3rd November 1996

IVOR BEYNON, born in Penarth, Carmarthen was Headmaster of Pembury Junior School from 1951 and Headmaster of the amalgamated Pembury Infant and Junior School from 1961. After completing his education at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Trinity Training College, Carmarthen, Ivor took up teaching and was posted first to East Anglia and then after war service in the Middle East and Italy, he moved to Cambridge where he gained a degree in history at the university. There followed 25 years as Headmaster of the primary school in Pembury. When Ivor arrived in Pembury the school was changing from a village school which saw its pupils through their education until they left at the age of 14 for the outside world, to a primary school growing in size and serving the village children through the first stages of their education.

Ivor, with his first wife, Winifred, who worked with him, dedicated himself to the school and to the life of the village; and he kept alive his interest in history with the close involvement with the Tunbridge Wells Historical Association. After the death of Winifred, Ivor worked on at Pembury School until his retirement in 1976, moving later to live in Bidborough with his second wife Vicki, eventually moving after Vicki's death to Surbiton, Surrey, to be near his son Richard and his family.

Aside from his work in education Ivor, from the end of the war onwards, worked unceasingly for world peace, mainly through his membership of the United Nations Association of Great Britain whose representatives, who worked closely with Ivor, paid warm tribute to the inspiration and encouragement he provided.

Ivor is survived by his third wife, Shirley, who he married some 18 months before he died, his daughter Ann and his son Richard, children of his marriage to Winifred, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren, who together with other relatives and his many friends still feel his loss deeply.

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COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

One of the problems villagers complain about is the amount of drinking and vandalism in the village, particularly in the Recreation Ground and at the Woodside Playing Fields.

We have approached managers of the retail outlets of alcohol in the village, asking them to be especially careful not to sell alcoholic drinks to under-age customers but not all the vandalism or crime is down to the very young: some older youths are causing problems too.

Whilst we appreciate that there is very little formally organised entertainment for the young of the village we are not going to find people willing to give their time or facilities merely to have them wasted.

At our last meeting we were pleased to welcome Allan Goodwin, Operations Manager of West Kent YMCA.

The churches and the YMCA are hoping to come up with some answers to the problem. One idea - to obtain the old depot at Woodside as a drop-in coffee bar - has had to be discarded: we find the premises have already been sold.

If anyone knows of any other suitable premises in the village or has any alternative suggestions, do contact us. Our contact number is listed on the Village Organisations page.

Between us surely we can take some positive steps towards solving some of the problems.

Betty Roberts

THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

What an excellent Spring Meeting we had on Monday 21st April. The village hall was packed to capacity to hear the two speakers, Hughie Boorman and Dr. Peter Pattison. Indeed, all the available chairs in the hall were taken before the meeting started but St. Peter's Church came to the rescue and with the help of some robust volunteers additional seats were ferried very quickly to the hall.

Hughie Boorman spoke first and recounted some of the pranks and adventures he and his boyhood friends got up to in days long since past. Long since past in fact, because there were then two village bobbies in situ who had the responsibility of keeping an eye on the Pembury young bloods. However, Hughie brought to life for the pleasure of an appreciative audience the carefree moments of being young in a rural Kent village.

By contrast, after the coffee break Dr. Peter Pattison spoke about his recent and extensive journeys through several Balkan countries where life after the political and economic upheavals during the past few years has altogether more serious overtones. Nevertheless, he found those that he met were happy to have achieved their new-found freedoms and he told us of their humour, the strength they displayed under a diversity of conditions and of their faith. Peter had travelled by train across six countries, stopping at many places and staying with friends and acquaintances; in doing so he had obtained a first-hand opportunity to see and learn about their family lives, their work, their interests and their leisure. One of the objects of his travels was to study the medical facilities and practices which exist in these changed countries and he recounted to his interested audience some of his findings and experiences.

At the end of the evening the two speakers were given a long and resounding ovation. It was an excellent event and it is the firm intention of The Society to continue this high standard of content. All members of The Pembury Society have been asked to make a special effort to bring in friends and neighbours as new members – two joining forms were sent out with each copy of the recent Newsletter. If you are a current member have you made the effort to recruit? Please do.

Derek Johnson, Chairman

SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB

The new outdoor bowling season has now opened. The green is looking good and playing well for this time of the year.

The outdoor game is always at the mercy of the elements but the automatic watering system proved its worth during last year's drought conditions and we are confident of being able to produce an excellent playing surface throughout the season. This will be the result of the efforts of Ron Foord and his small band of helpers who are all Club members and the financial input of the rest of the membership.

The purpose of the Club as a whole must be to enjoy the game itself and to this end anyone interested in trying their hand is asked to get in touch with the Club

Secretary, George Roberts, on 824914. He will be very pleased to hear from you and to make arrangements for you to play some trial ends whether you are a new or experienced bowler. The Club is a fully mixed one and all friendly and Weald League games are played on this basis. Club night is every Thursday from 6 pm so come along if you wish to see what the game is all about.

George Roberts

PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

All four teams have now completed their League and Cup fixtures. Although we do not have any silverware to show for our efforts we did get close in various areas. Both first teams were beaten 1-0 in the semi-finals of their Domestic Senior Cups, and, at the risk of sounding biased, both were a touch unlucky. In their respective County Cup Competitions they progressed further than they have in recent times. Saturday got as far as the quarter-final of

their cup. They had to travel to South London to play the match and sadly were beaten 3-1. Sunday, in their first ever match in the last 16 of the County Cup, were beaten at home 1-0 by a side from the Medway Towns. In their League competitions Saturday finished third whilst Sunday finished in the middle of the table.

Our reserve sides have not disgraced themselves either. Whilst Saturday's faded a little towards the end of the season, Sunday finished strongly. Both finished fourth in their respective divisions.

We now look forward to next season and who knows – with a little bit of luck etc!!

This year we have entered for the first time a team in the Veterans League where matches are played during the summer months. All

team members must be over 35 years of age with at least four of them over the age of 40. (Who said 'Old footballers never die merely get slower?')

May I at this stage thank the four winter teams for all the enjoyment they have given to me and their supporters. Thank you! Also may I wish the Vets good luck and hope that this season is the first of many.

All that remains for this season is to have our annual dinner dance followed two days later by the AGM. At this point may I, on behalf of myself and all the players, thank all the officials and managers of the club that give so much of their time to ensure the smooth running of the club and making my job easy. Thanks.

Woodside new Pavilion

At long last the lease on Woodside is available for signing and the Association of Pembury Football Clubs can proceed with an application for a Lottery money grant.

Jim Smith, Chairman



PEMBURY JUNIOR TENNIS CLUB

When? Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.30pm–8.30pm

Where? Grass Courts in the Recreation Ground

How Much? £20 for Season

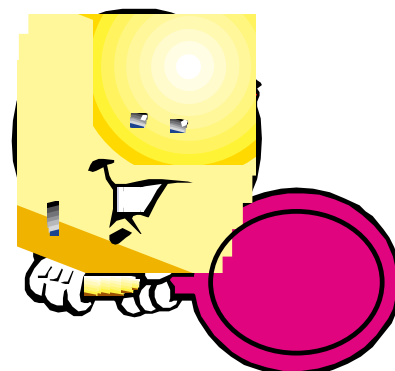
The season starts on Tuesday May 6th and ends on Tuesday 30th September

Supervision is by members of Pembury Tennis Club

For information contact:

Sheila Smith – 822405

Andrew King – 822574



PEMBURY SCHOOL – MAYPOLE DANCING

ON SATURDAY, 10th May last, against the backdrop of the Village Green and in brilliant sunshine, pupils of Pembury School gave their usual annual display of Maypole dancing in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Anna Symonson was crowned Queen of the May.

The other photograph shows the enthusiasm of the pupils as they danced around the traditional maypole.



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GOURMET DELIGHTS

Recipe kindly supplied by Michelle Caldwell, Landlady of the Black Horse and the sweet by their Mrs Pudding, Mrs le Fishender.

STRIPS OF STEAK SAUTED WITH BACON, MUSHROOMS & HORSERADISH

Serves Four

- 1 1/2lb Steak – rump, sirloin or fillet if you are feeling flush
- 8 Rashers back bacon
- 1lb Mushrooms
- 1 Small onion
- 4oz Butter
- 1 Pint single cream
- 1 Small jar creamed horseradish sauce

This dish only takes minutes to cook, so prepare all your ingredients before your guests arrive.

Finely chop the onion. Wash and slice the mushrooms. Cut the rind off the bacon then cut it into strips. Cut the steak into strips removing any fat. When you are ready take a large saucepan or wok. Melt the butter and gently fry the onions, mushrooms, add the bacon and the horseradish to taste – remember you can always add more. Add the strips of steak, keep mixing the ingredients. Then add the cream, allow to reduce but keep stirring all the time. Then serve.

As the dish is quite rich it is nice to serve with salad or plain vegetables. Plain roasted potatoes are nice but cut into small cubes so you get lots of crispy edges. Everyone will enjoy this dish including you – because you won't be stuck in the kitchen for ages.

WHITE CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE WITH TIPSY STRAWBERRIES

- 4oz Butter
- 2 Large eggs separated
- 8oz Digestive biscuits
- 2 Teaspoons of gelatine
- 2 oz Walnuts
- 7oz good quality white chocolate – melted
- 8oz Full fat cream cheese
- 1/4 pint of lightly whipped double cream
- 3oz Caster sugar
- 2 punnets of strawberries
- Cointreau or Grand Marnier

Melt the butter, crush the biscuits and walnuts. Then mix together, press into dish – 8" flan dish. Bake for 9 minutes at 150°C. Allow to cool.

Beat the cream cheese, sugar, egg yolks and melted chocolate together. Be quick! the chocolate starts to set really quickly.

Please note: It is essential to use good quality chocolate. The cheaper brands do not melt properly. Add gelatine to one tablespoon of hot water. Stir until dissolved then allow to cool. Then whisk into mixture. Whisk the egg whites, lightly whip the double cream.

Gently fold the double cream into the mixture. Then the egg whites. Place the mixture on top of your biscuit base and refrigerate.

Hull and slice strawberries into a bowl. Douse with the liqueur of your choice. Cointreau or Grand Marnier is nice – the strength will depend on you. Refrigerate.

To serve – place some of the strawberries on the top of the cheesecake to garnish, put the rest in a serving dish alongside the cheesecake because everybody will want the juice at the bottom of the bowl.

DOT'S DELIGHT COFFEE

- Instant Coffee
- Baileys
- Tia Maria
- Brandy
- Brown Sugar
- Whipping Cream
- Strong Glasses

If you have not had too much wine it is quite a nice way to finish your meal.

Whip the cream – use whipping cream, not double, it is too heavy. Add Baileys to taste – enough to make the cream softer. The soft peak stage they call it.

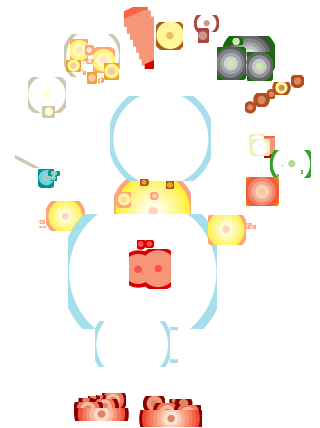
Meanwhile put a shot of Brandy and Tia Maria and a teaspoon of sugar at the bottom of each glass. Plus two heaped teaspoons of instant coffee – leave the teaspoon in the glass – add boiling water. You need to make the coffee strong so instant is much better.

Stir your coffee then gently spoon the Baileys cream on the top.

Enjoy!

The challenge has been thrown down, so come on ladies, your gourmet secrets – no matter how small, for the Autumn Issue.

Hugh Boorman



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YOUR CLERK REPORTS

Who said village life was dull? Every month seems to see an increase in the amount of activity through the Clerk's Office. Every aspect of village life from the letting of allotments to the reduced hours of the library passes through on an ever more regular basis.

This financial year has seen a great many changes to Local and National Government. It started off with the announcement of the required budget savings enforced on Kent County Council. These included a reduction in library hours and the cessation of many services I, like many, had taken for granted such as the filling of grit bins through the worst of the winter, street lighting patrols and so on. Through active lobbying and pressure the Parish Council managed to obtain one late opening of the library as the original hours made no provision for a Saturday or late night opening. As there will be no lighting patrols by KCC, if you notice a light not working properly please telephone me and I will pass on the information.

May 1st saw the General Election, culminating in a change of National Government with a Labour landslide. It also saw KCC change its political colour back to Conservative. These changes are bound to affect the Parish Council sooner or later.

On a more local level the replacement Village Hall project continues to go ahead despite losing out on the first round of grant funding from the Millennium Commission. The Woodside Corner site has a number of outstanding applications submitted regarding its future development and I have been involved in monitoring the progress of these very closely.

There have been a number of planning applications placed in front of Council for its recommendations in recent months, some quite controversial and seemingly unresolvable. The Parish Council tries to view all applications on planning grounds whilst putting its local knowledge to good use. Cllr Boorman, Planning Group Chairman, who grew up in Pembury and, as many parishioners witnessed one memorable Monday night in April, had many adventures in fields which now boast large housing developments, always has the conservation of Pembury as a community and village uppermost in his mind when advising Council on the way forward.

Barbara Russell

PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FC

THE CLUB HELD its 15th Annual Prizegiving in the Village Hall at the beginning of May and as usual it was wonderfully attended by officials, players and relatives.

As there are currently over 140 registered members the presentation of certificated awards was a lengthy procedure.

The Club carried out its promise to dedicate a trophy to the memory of Peter Chandler, pictured here. This beautiful trophy will be awarded each year for special contribution to the club – be it player or official. The recipient this year was club chairman, Laurie Frowde.



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FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

- 3 Pembury Afternoon WI: Owls – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 3 Pembury Athletic (Youth) FC: AGM and Registration Evening – Cricket Club Pavilion – 7.30pm
- 4 Pembury Evening WI: Antiques Roadshow – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 5 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Car Park – 2.15pm
- 8 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 12 Pembury Gardeners' Summer Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 12 Pembury Village Fayre – Recreation Ground – 1pm
- 14 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 21 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 22 Darby and Joan Club: Outing to Eastbourne – To be advised

AUGUST

- 1 Pembury Evening WI: Members' Meeting – To be advised
- 2 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 5 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 7 Pembury Afternoon WI: Garden Visit and Tea – To be advised
- 11 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 19 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 23 Pembury Hospital League of Friends Fete – Pembury Hospital – 1pm

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 2 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 4 Pembury Afternoon WI: Prison Visitors – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 5 Pembury Evening WI: Hedgehog Rescue Centre – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 6 Friends of Pembury Parish Church: Coffee Morning – Village Green – 10am-12am
- 6 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Bo Peep Corner – 2.15pm
- 8 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8pm
- 13 Pembury Gardeners' Autumn Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 16 Darby and Joan Club: Outing – To be advised
- 22 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 30 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm

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Mrs J. Brough, 2 Cornford Park. Tel: 824208

PEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr R. J. Edom. Tel: 822259

PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY

Teacher in charge: Mrs Hazel Thorne. Tel: 825580

PEMBURY SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

Secretary: Mr Bob Greatrex. Tel: 822669

PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Mrs Celia Clifton, Secretary, 8 Woodhill Park.

Tel: 823272

PEMBURY SOCIETY

Derek Johnson. Tel: 823150

PEMBURY STOOLBALL CLUB

Mrs Sandy Rice-Tucker. Tel: 822483

PEMBURY UPPER AND OLD CHURCH

Rev. Stephen Sealy. Tel: 824761

PEMBURY VILLAGE MARKET

Sue Boreham Tel: 824385

Eve Fiddimore Tel: 518277

PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

A. Mason. Tel: 823052

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

J. Young, 13 Bulls Place.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

Peter Chartres, 54 Woodhill Park. Tel: 823759

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

64 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824252

SCOUT AND GUIDE HQ MANAGEMENT TEAM

Peter Brookes, 8 Concorde Close, Paddock Wood.

Tel: 833662

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Events Secretary, Carol Brewer. Tel: 822030

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SCHEME. Tel: 513969

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Bernie Roberts, 13 Camden Avenue. Tel: 822932

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Manager (bookings): Denis Dawes, 29 Greenleas.

Tel: 822411

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Afternoon: Eileen Watson. Tel: 822607

Evening: Mrs Gillian Williamson. Tel: 822577

WRVS

Mrs H. Swinden, 6 Church Road. Tel: 823378

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Alan Goodwin. Tel: 542209



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