

PEMBURY

your village newsletter
december 1977 issue no.

15

TRY A WALK AT CHRISTMAS

As a result of many months of activity, a footpaths map of the Village has now been produced by the Parish Council. This has been put on sale at 35p per copy and is obtainable from the Clerk to the Council at 16 The Coppice.

It covers the whole of the Parish and in some cases selected paths beyond our boundaries and it would make an ideal Christmas present for anyone keen on keeping our historic footpaths clear for everyone's enjoyment.

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published by Pembury Parish Council

EDITORIAL

By the time you read this Newsletter a second meeting will have been held in the Village on the question of the repair of our old Parish Church. Issue No. 14 had in it a detailed description of the problems with the Church and finished up with a request for attendance on the 13th October.

There was a quite clearly expressed feeling at this meeting that our Parish Church must be saved. As a result a second meeting was organised to officially form a Preservation Society to look after the building.

The Pembury 2000 Action Committee was rather surprisingly asked to convene this second meeting.

Surprisingly because this Committee has been working almost wholly behind the scenes in their endeavours to achieve the aims and objects of the Village study "Pembury 2000".

The study with its 14 recommendations covering every aspect of life in the Village is unique in the affairs of the Parish Councils and copies of the booklet have been requested from as far away as Rotterdam.

The 2000 Committee is formed from elected Parish Councillors and interested villagers. The Committee has tried to arrange its programme of action so that each Member is responsible for one of the Village Study recommendations.

Due to inevitable resignations there are now gaps and any parishioners who feel that they would like to become involved in any of the Study's recommendations would be very welcome to join the Committee. It is not a working Committee of the Parish Council.

It concentrates exclusively on looking forward to life in the year 2000 when Pembury will have two By-Passes, no traffic problems, a Community Centre, and all the other amenities so desperately needed to recreate a proper community atmosphere.

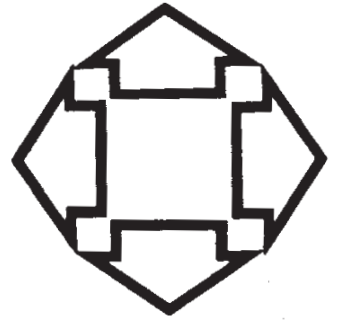
EDITOR :

D. Hawes Richards
54 Hastings Road. (2779)

editorial secretary :

Mrs. M. Board
30 Henwoods Cres. (3169)

NEW FACES



No, this is not about your favourite Saturday evening television programme. These new faces are the two Parish Councillors who have taken their seats for the first time since the last Newsletter.

Mrs. Ann Toler moved to the Village with her parents nearly 20 years ago and has regarded Pembury with great affection ever since. As a mother of three young children she is very concerned about the facilities in the recreation ground and agrees wholeheartedly on the desperate need for the long promised By-passes. As a housewife having to manage on a fixed budget, she is also very concerned about how the monies are allocated throughout the Parish.

She is a member of the Tennis Club and newly joined member of the Pembury Society whose aims and ideals she completely endorses. She says that she put her name forward in the first instance for one of the vacancies to enable her to take a far greater interest in the affairs of her own Village.

Our second Councillor is Mr. Brian Sands whose particular interests are the Camden Green Badminton Club and the Cubs and Scouts Supporters Association. Outside the Village he is Vice-Chairman of the Rusthall Cricket Club.

His particular interests are young people and the uniting of Pembury. His wife is leader of the third Pembury Brownie Pack and of his two children, his son has just left Pembury school having won a scholarship to Judd School, Tonbridge and his daughter has another two years education to complete at our Village School.

why no election??

There was no election to fill these two vacancies for the simple reason that there were only two applicants. It should be borne in mind though by the Village that the holding of Parish Council By-Elections is an extremely expensive operation which falls on the rates and in addition produces a very low turnout of voters on Polling Day.

NEW FACES (Continued)

Two recent By-Elections in Parishes just over the border in Sussex have recently cost between £200 and £300. In addition the turnout at one was 17% and at the other 8%.

Even more alarming for the future of 'democracy' is that in one half of one of these parishes not a single elector bothered to visit the polling station.

In Pembury this would have meant that the election would have been decided purely by votes cast at the Village School or the Village Hall with no votes at the other polling station. It would seem very doubtful in these circumstances whether all the time, effort and money is worthwhile.

There is something to be said for existing Parish Councillors, who have their ear to the ground in the Village, and experience of the complexity of Council affairs, being able to invite specific parishioners to fill vacancies.

misprint of the month

"CHURCH OF ST. PETER, PEMBURY"

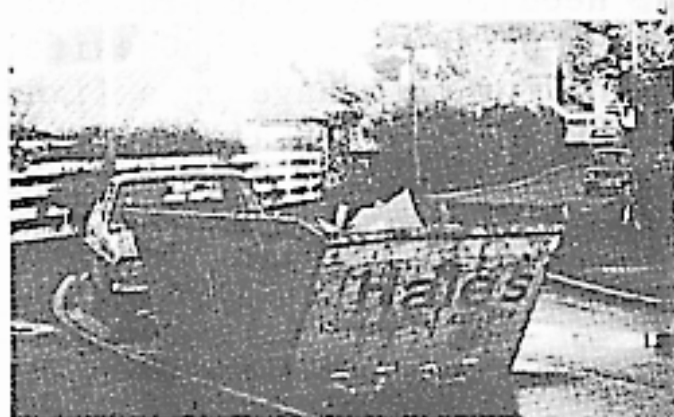
"You will find with your copy of Outlook this month, several handbills advertising our meeting about the state of the Parish Council."



"One of these days we'll have to start thinking about the Golden Jubilee."

Courtesy "Local Council Review"

SKIPS – where are they



Beagles Wood Road, Bulls Place, Elmhurst Avenue, Hastings Road (near junction with Canterbury Road) Henwoods Crescent and Henwoods Mount.

These are the SITES only and DATES must be obtained from the Parish Council Clerk.

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and

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& GREENGROCCERS

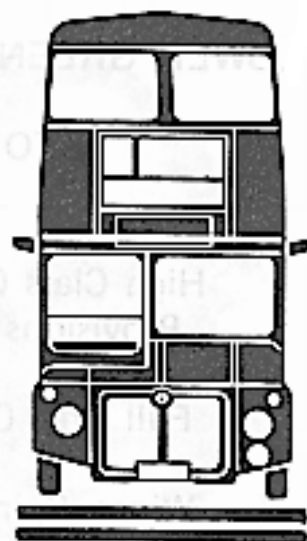
Interflora

124/ 126 Henwood Green Road
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(Ring Day or Night)

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY SERVICES 1977/78

The Maidstone and District Motor Services Ltd. have informed the Parish Council Clerk of their Christmas and New Year Holiday Services for 1977/78. These are as follows:

23rd December 1977	- normal Friday service
24th December 1977	- normal Saturday service
25, 26, 27th December 1977	no service
28th December 1977	- normal Wednesday service
29th December 1977	- normal Thursday service
30th December 1977	- normal Friday service
31st December 1977	- normal Saturday service
1st January 1978	- normal Sunday service
2nd January 1978	- Sunday service
3rd January 1978	- normal Tuesday service



community

The new committee is now reaching the end of considering all possible alternative sites available in the foreseeable future. A meeting will be held in December and early next year a report will be made to a public meeting.

Centre

***a pleasant footpath,
a nice seat with a
woodland view, and
a new tree, but.....***



The path at the side of the Village School, down to the Lower Green Burial Ground, is the cause of many complaints of fouling by dogs. Owners, please think of the mothers and children who wait here.

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PROFILE

(1)

by *Edward Marchant*



JACK STANDEN

"THE MAN WHO MADE PEMBURY TICK"

Pembury has its Margery Polley, the martyr. It also has the undying memory of Jack Standen, the man who made Pembury tick.

Except for his first year (he was born at High Brooms) he spent all his life in the Village and never ventured far from it. He lived for it; it lived for him. He was the Old Reliable, the man who would always say 'Yes' when asked for help.

And before he died on September 29, 1974 he left a faithful record of the people who lived in it for 50 years; how they lived, fed, wed and died, how they worked and played and how the two world wars affected them. It was in his book "Just one Village - 1910 - 1960" written in his inimitable, chatty style that made the reader feel he was re-enacting those halcyon days.

As a man of many parts he made history, he wrote history and he went down into history himself.

THE MAN WHO MADE PEMBURY TICK Continued

A resourceful and cheeky lad, his own story began in the infants' class of the Village School and there he met his two true loves.

First was singing which came to him through the music lessons he adored - so much that years later, in his book, he was to recall: "When I hear the hymn 'Hark, Hark, My Soul' my memory conjures up souvenirs of the coke fire (in winter) with the bass voice of the master on the other side".

The second was a new girl called Winifred who sat in front of him in class. She had curly hair just made for him to pass his pencil or pen through her ringlets, and he thought she was sloppy, but when he found that she liked singing too - well, that was different.

Their courtship was to last nearly 20 years till they married on December 3, 1927.

Their daughter Mary, now a teacher, is a singer too. She and her father joined the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society and he sang three times (and Mary twice) the St. Matthew Passion with it at Glyndebourne in the fifties under the baton of Dr. Reginald Jacques.

When he left school Jack was apprenticed to Mr. Penn the builder, (and undertaker) whose name is synonymous with Pembury. And when he bought an early car young Jack was detailed to clean it ... a job he did so well that he mastered the mysteries under the bonnet as well and many years later he was "offered" a job at Brighton Aquarium to explain vintage cars and motor cycles from the Beaulieu Museum on exhibition there.

In fact he did his homework so thoroughly that when Mr. Penn bought his first lorry it was Jack of all trades who drove it!

He served his apprenticeship in good company. The boss's son Arthur was joining the firm and he too had to be apprenticed. Together they pushed the hand cart for miles far and wide delivering coffins.

In his spare time Jack, like nearly all the other men, spent hours keeping the social life of the Village swinging, for in those days entertainment rarely came to it; the inhabitants had to make their own fun. They had bands, choirs, and concert parties as well as farm contests and the like.

Before the second war they also had a minstrel group and for many years Jack was in his element playing many parts. In the scratch orchestra of banjos, mandolines and anything anyone else owned, he performed on the violin which he had taught himself to play. "He wasn't good but he could get a tune out of it", said his daughter Mary.

And he had another string. He could play the fool.

He and his friend Percy Figgett, who is still alive, made an ideal comedy duo. They wrote their own sketches ... and were voted a crashing success. In one they "were" two sailors who got shipwrecked by mistake. Percy was in a cart on wheels masquerading as a boat, when Jack pushed so hard that the boat ran off the deck and Percy broke a rib.

Another time they made a "loving pair" walking about a country fair to encourage faint hearts to enter a Dunmow Fitch contest for any married couple who could swear that they had not quarrelled or repented of their marriage within a year and a day of its celebration.

Although Mr. Standen wore a clown's carnival head to suit the occasion, he also had a serious side.

The church was the mainstay of his happy family life though he did not always agree with the Vicar and would tell him bluntly that he objected to "bowing and scraping". But his objections did not keep him away ... he went on praying and singing in the way he had always known - without "bowing and scraping".

He was vergier and secretary of the Church Council for 15 years, on the Parish Council for 12 and it was through keeping records that he became Mr. Pembury - the Village's self appointed historian.

He collected two columns of old photographs that would have been scrapped and in his book he noted for posterity the foibles of long forgotten residents and anecdotes that kept the Village chuckling through the decades.

THE MAN WHO MADE PEMBURY TICK Continued

In fact he became such an authority that visitors from overseas who called on the Vicar when trying to trace their ancestors were sent over to Penn's yard to see Jack.

He had yet another facet to his extraordinary character: he was resourceful and inventive from his boyhood days when he and his school pals had to make their own gadgets and fun.

He devised a labour-saving trolley for his wife to wheel the washing down the garden of their home in Sandhurst Avenue. But one invention that took the biscuit was bikeophone - a musical instrument he made out of the frame of an old bicycle.

His sharp wit also earned him the title of Pembury's Mr. Fixit. Whenever there was a difficult or tricky job - like getting a coffin down a narrow winding cottage staircase - the cry was: "Send Jack - he'll fix it".

During the second World War he was in the Village's Civil Defence Demolition Unit and then again it was "Jack will do it" when all but he had shrunk from grisly tasks like recovering the mangled bodies of German fliers whose planes had crashed in tangled woods around.

Mr. Pembury, Mr. Fixit, comedian, musician, historian, proud happy family man ... Eric John Standen (to give him his full name) was all of these. Only about 5ft 6in. tall he was larger than life and had a heart richer than gold.

And before the undertaker called for him, his last thoughts were for his beloved Upper Church where he had worshipped (though he had sung in the old one as well) and, which had been his guideline and rock through a long and full life.

He had depassed his allotted span by one year, and had been a widower for two years.

He thought flowers had no place at funerals - and in fact he hated them there - so as a fitting epitaph for a Kentish all-rounder it was decided to donate any money given as testimonials towards the cost of an electric motor to wind the clock on the steeple of the Upper Church.

For over 30 years he had wound it by hand - and no one would take over the heavy task of making the Village tick.

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YOUR CLERK REPORTS.....

My Council has for some long time been trying to improve its contacts with the Sports Clubs in the Village. One of the recently co-opted Councillors, Mr. Brian Sands, has been appointed by the Council to take on particular responsibilities for Sports in the Village. If you have a problem, please talk to him - 2 Middlefield. Tel. No. 3738.

Pembury Table Tennis Club has arrived! The Club has now arranged for its permanent accommodation in the Hall in the Pembury County Primary School, Lower Green Road and the Club night is a Thursday from 7 - 10p.m. - why don't you come along next Thursday and see us and perhaps enrol as a member. As the Club are restricting its membership to 20 I would suggest that you contact me on Pembury 3459 as soon as you can if you are interested in playing.

One of the items which receives a lot of Parish Council's attention is the subject of Hedges and during the summer my Council hears of many near accidents to Parishioners caused by overgrown hedges which forces mothers with prams to step into a busy road and of low hanging branches of trees and bushes which can cause so much inconvenience during wet weather and can cause accidents to the eyes. The main trouble area this year has been the Lower Green Road and most of the people that have been written to have been kind enough to take the necessary action and attended their hedges. May I please use this page to request those other people in the Village whose hedges abut a main road, go out and have a look to see whether your hedge could be a nuisance or a potential danger to passers by and if so arrange for them to be constantly trimmed - particularly where the pavements themselves are narrow.

The Spring of 1978 should see a new look to the Pembury Parish Council play equipment in the Lower Green Recreation Ground. Money has been allocated to replace the worn out and what could be potentially dangerous equipment - one new idea that my Council are implementing will be some equipment specially suited for the use of the under-fives - a facility that has previously been lacking.

H.S.J. Plant,
16 The Coppice.

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44 YEARS

gone past
and still
we all wait

23rd November 1933 Ministry announce approval of By-Pass for PEMBURY, which will be built very soon around the back of the Village.

23rd November 1977 Petition from Village asking for action is received by Patrick Mayhew, Q.C. M.P. at House of Commons and presented to Minister.

By-Pass Campaign - "Autumn Review" - £76 was raised



VILLAGE ORGANIZATIONS

- PEMBURY LAWN TENNIS CLUB -
Mrs. Balderstone-25 Lower
Green Road - 3035
- PEMBURY BOWLS CLUB -
A.R.Ward - 20 Romford Rd. 2948
- PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB -
Mrs. M.I. Coppard-25 Sandhurst
Avenue - 2648
- PEMBURY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB -
J. Goulder-17 Maidstone Rd. - 3187
- KING WILLIAM FOOTBALL CLUB -
J. Goulder-17 Maidstone Rd.- 3187
- PEMBURY LADIES NETBALL - 3439
Mrs. M. Walker-65 Belfield Rd.
- PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB -
Mr. Chandler- 149 Sherwood Rd.
Tunbridge Wells. T.W. 33886
- PEMBURY TABLE TENNIS CLUB -
H.S.J. Plant-16 The Coppice-3459
- CONSERVATIVE PARTY -
R.J. Knapp-38 Heskett Park-3106
- LABOUR PARTY - S.Fowler -
71A St.Johns Rd.T.Wells- 20250
- LIBERAL PARTY - A.B. Ballantine -
6 Maidstone Rd. - 2156
- PEMBURY SCOUTS - R.J. Kidd -
38 Woodhill Park. - 3828
- PEMBURY CUBS - C. Jenner -
4 Henwoods Cresc. - 2886
- BROWNIE GUIDER - Mrs. Millinger -
9 Petersfield - 2830
- BROWNIE GUIDER - Mrs. J. Sands -
2 Middlefield - 3738
- GIRL COVENANTORS- Mrs. Davies-
9 The Coppice - 2026
- BOY COVENANTORS - K. Chapman -
40 Ridgeway - 3443
- WIVES FELLOWSHIP - M. Williams-
56 Romford Road - 2503
- PEMBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE -
Afternoon - Mrs. Salter -
28 Greenleas - 2502
- PEMBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE -
Evening - Mrs. D. Cramp -
39 Woodhill Park - 2481
- PEMBURY COUNCIL HOUSE TENANTS
ASSOC.- Mr. J. Goodsell -
63 Belfield Road.
- PEMBURY FETE COMMITTEE -
R. & D. Trinder-The Forstal-3095
- PEMBURY DARBY & JOAN CLUB -
Mr. J.H.Johnson-25 Heskett Pk.
2108
- PEMBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY -
Mr .M.Mepham-16 The Paddock-2703
- PEMBURY MUSIC GROUP -
Mrs. D. Whitehead-
The Forresters - 2058
- PEMBURY BRITISH LEGION -
J. Young - 13 Bulls Place
- W.R.V.S. - Mrs. Rutland -
Redfern, Lower Green Rd. - 2140
- W.R.V.S. - Mrs. K.E. Jury -
3 Canterbury Rd. - 2678
- PEMBURY SOCIETY - R. Saunders -
Mays Farm House, Romford Rd.-3254
- PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION -
Mrs. F. Cordell,6Woodhill Pk-3156

If your Organisation is not on this list, please ring -
Pembury 2779 or 3169

for your diary

- JAN 3 Parish Council - Dower House 8p.m.
3 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall 2 - 5 p.m.
5 Afternoon W.I. - Slides on "World Cruise" - Mr. Turner
V.Hall 2.30p.m.
6 Even.W.I. - "All About Fish" - Peter Mears-V.Hall 7.45p.m.
7 Pem. Soc. - Footpaths Walk - Bo-Peep 2.15p.m.
16 Parish Council - Allotments, Planning and Amenities
17 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall 2 - 5 p.m.
26 Hort. Soc.- Talk by L. Manser "Selection of Vegetables
for shows and staging" - V.Hall 8p.m.
30 Parish Council - Highways, Planning & Finance
31 Darby & Joan Club - V.Hall 2 - 5 p.m.
- FEB 2 Afternoon W.I. - "Volcanos & Icebergs" by Brian Hawks
V.Hall 2.30p.m.
3 Even.W.I. - "The Work of East Malling Research Station"
(soft fruits & farming) V.Hall 7.45pm.
5 Pem.Soc. - Footpaths Walk - Stone Court Bus Stop 2.15p.m.
13 Pembury Council - Dower House 8p.m.
14 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall 2 - 5 p.m.
23 Hort. Soc. - A.G.M. V.Hall 8p.m.
27 Pembury Council - Allotments, Planning & Amenities
28 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall 2 - 5 p.m.
- MAR 2 Afternoon W.I. - "South Africa" by Mr. Clarke V.Hall 2.30pm
3 Evening W.I. - "English Folk Dancing" - Miss I. Wheatley
V.Hall 7.45p.m.
4 Pem.Soc. - Footpaths Walk - Camden Car Park 2.15p.m.
8 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall 2 - 5 p.m.
13 Parish Council - Highways, Planning & Finance
13 Hort.Soc. Floral Art Group - V.Hall 8p.m.
18 Pembury Music Group - School Hall 7.30p.m. "Trial By Jury"
and other orchestral items
22 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall 2 - 5 p.m.
28 Parish Council - Dower House 8p.m.
30 Hort.Soc. - Talk by J. Jarvis "Roses in General" -
Selection for shows and staging V.Hall 8p.m.

The views in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent
official Council opinion or policy

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