



# PEMBURY

**your village newsletter**

**october 1979 issue no.**

# 21

**come and meet your  
local councillors**



At the Catholic Hall, Lower Green Road on Saturday morning, 20th October. See inside for more details.

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**THE TENNIS COURT –  
an apology – please turn to  
PAGE 18**

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**published by Pembury Parish Council**

# VIEWPOINT

**they only lasted 3 MONTHS**

It is often said that our village is about the most highly rated in the Tunbridge Wells Council area and there is a great deal of truth in this statement. Readers will be aware that the principal reason for this situation is that we live in a community composed almost entirely of homes and these do not show the return to the Parish Council in rates that would be gained from having a lot of industry and commerce in the village.

Paddock Wood, for instance, is able to ask for much less money to run its affairs as a Parish Council because of the existence of commerce and industry. However, presumably people come to live in Pembury because of the absence of this type of building and therefore it can be said with some justification that they cannot have it both ways. Nevertheless even with our high rates there is one aspect of our village life about which we can all do our own part and which, if we are effective, would help to reduce these rates.

This action is quite simply in combating vandalism. You will have noted in an earlier Newsletter a reference to the fact that this is costing the Parish Council some £500 a year. Not much you will say, but recently this has sharply increased and it is now well into four figures.

Not only is there a direct cost to the village in this senseless destruction of community property but there is hidden cost in Councillors' time spent discussing and taking decisions on how to combat the acts of vandalism and in the Council's employees in repairing, wherever they can, the damage to property. Whilst they are carrying out this repair work they are not getting on with the job for which you are paying them – the upkeep of the village amenities.

The extent of the vandalism is now so serious that not only is there a special article on this subject elsewhere in this Issue from the Chairman of the Parish Council's Amenity Committee but the Editor feels also that some very strong words are called for.

The latest act of senseless destruction is the breaking up of the seats and tables to our picnic area on the old Coach Road – officially opened only three months ago.



Immediately prior to this act there has been extensive damage by young children to the Arthur Penn Pavilion at the Woodside Playing Fields. Going back still further, attempts have been made to set fire to the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground in Lower Green Road and the Burial Ground has been subjected to broken

vases and broken seats and general disturbance of a despicable nature.

It is no good the reader looking to the Parish Council to take action on these matters, it is for you the reader to take action yourself. It is your rates that have to be put to repairing all these wanton acts of destruction and it is local children in a lot of cases that are responsible, not withstanding the fact that it may be done without your knowledge.

It is no good turning the other way and saying it is someone else's responsibility, whilst at the same time violently objecting to the level of the Parish Rate in Pembury. If you really care about your own property in our village then please ring the Police immediately. The Parish Council has resolved to make an example of anyone found damaging community property and we can assure you that this action will be taken given sufficient evidence.

## **JOHN GOULDER**

I would like to record my personal appreciation of John Goulder whose photographic work has rarely been absent from any recent issue of the Newsletter. I have reproduced on page 14 his photo of the Pembury Footpath map as a tribute and a reminder of his skills.

When the decision was taken to introduce pictures it was to John that I turned for anything out of the ordinary and his work will be sorely missed. No photograph was too much trouble and it was produced with great speed at no charge. The Newsletter will be the poorer for his passing.

**Derek Hawes Richards**  
Editor

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# THE SUMMER FÊTES '79

*by Robert Allen*

The three fetes held in Pembury this summer were all favoured with fine weather, and between them raised a sum in excess of £2,000.

The first to be held was the Village Fete, organised by Pembury Chest on the Recreation Ground on June 2. It was opened by Mr George Sturgeon, assisted by Miss Pembury, 16-year-old Anne Shepherd whose home is in the High Street. By general consent the fete was a success, attended by over 2,000 people, with a variety of stalls and sideshows. This year the contest between the village's pubs was revived with a tug of war competition, won by the King William IV team ably coached and exhorted by Mr Keith Hopkins.

The final profits from the fete were made known at the Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall on September 24 – too late for inclusion in this issue of the Newsletter. But it is anticipated that at least £150 will be available for distribution to village organisations.

Pembury Chest, as a forerunner to the fete, held a contest to choose Miss Pembury. This took place on the first Saturday in May on the village green and it is expected this will become an annual part of village life.

Three weeks later, on June 23, Pembury School's Parent Teacher Association held its fete at the school. This proved to be about the most successful event organised by this body and yielded a profit of around £1,200. Much of this will be devoted to the association's project to establish a library at this school, a project which has already begun and which will add still further to the school's amenities.

The heating and part of the upkeep of the school's swimming pool is also a charge upon the fete. As one of the organisers put it: "This was a most successful fete both socially and financially. Everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves."

Last of the trio of fetes was that held by the Parish Church in the grounds of Downingbury Farm at the end of August, by permission of Mr and Mrs Roberts. It was opened by the Rev. Brian Pearson, curate of the Church and comprised a large number of stalls and sideshows, including guessing the weight of a goat. The profit from this event was £475, which will be devoted to expenses at the Upper Church.

The Friends of Pembury Parish Church are holding a jumble sale in the Village Hall on November 11 for the Parish Church Restoration Fund, for which any jumble will be gratefully received.



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## **From the Chairman**

As you may have read, either in the last issue of the Newsletter or in the local paper, at the first Parish Council meeting held after the elections I was elected Chairman of the Parish Council.

The new Parish Council has been working now for about 4 months. We inherited a lot of work and projects from the previous Council including the construction of the new entrance to the Recreation Ground (completed), the construction of the new Arthur Penn Pavilion at Woodside (nearing completion) and the proposed improvements to the Village Hall.

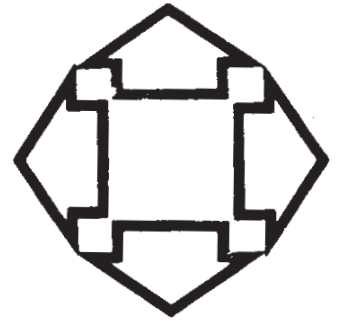
As Chairman I feel that the Parish Council should be aware of what Pembury as a village wishes for its future. It is not possible to propose improvements or new amenities or for the Council to consider future planning policy without some assistance from the Parish as a whole. I have already suggested that 'surgeries' or meetings take place at which the Parish Council members will be present to discuss with individual Parishioners any problems or queries they may have or to receive any proposals for the future development (or non-development as the case may be) of the Village. Parish Council meetings held once a fortnight on Monday evenings at the Dower House are open to members of the public, but only as observers. I have therefore arranged for a Parish Council Open/Coffee morning to be held at the Catholic Hall, Lower Green Road on Saturday, October 20th, between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

I appreciate that Pembury has a steady turnover in population. There should however be matters which are of interest to Parishioners, whether related to facilities for the children in the Village or to amenities for the more senior members of the community. For the Parish Council to be able to represent the Village effectively there is a need for the Parishioners to make their own views and feelings known.

If you are interested why not call in at the Catholic Hall on Saturday, October 20 during the morning and have a cup of coffee and meet the Parish Council members?

**Sarah E. Clarke**  
Pembury Parish Council

# NEW FACES



- (1)** Robert Allen has been a resident of Pembury since 1972, retiring earlier this year after a working life spent largely in journalism.

He was educated at Skinners School and has lived in the Tunbridge Wells area for just over 40 years. He is married with two sons and was for nine years Chairman of the house committee of Tonbridge Adult Centre. He resigned last May. In addition he served as treasurer of the Tonbridge branch of the Workers Educational Association for 10 years. In 1978 he was Chairman of the PEMBURY CHEST which organized the Village Fete and was a member of the Fete committee again this year.

Since retirement he has become a volunteer helper with Tonbridge Citizens Advice Bureau.

- (2)** Arthur Bromwich moved to Pembury in 1962 with his wife and two sons both of whom attended Pembury Primary School. He works for a large Clearing Bank in Pall Mall whilst his wife is employed in Tonbridge Library. His main interest lies in gardening and he is a member of the committee of the Pembury Horticultural Society.

He is particularly concerned with preserving the unspoilt rural areas around Pembury and creating good amenities both for young and family groups as well as the older residents.

- (3)** John Brownsdon is 43 and was born in Birmingham and after hotel school training and National Service, joined the wine trade in 1959. He and his wife Carol moved to Pembury in 1968 and have three children. He is heavily involved in his business and family and has limited spare time available. He joined the Parish Council as a result of the May Elections and is an organiser of the local shoots. His wife Carol, devotes her spare time to organising the WRVS shop at the Hospital, and has been Secretary for the Pembury branch of the Conservative Association.

**[4]** Ron Diplock, born in 1934 in Croydon, was one of a family of four children. He came to live in Pembury in 1962 and took up the position of Sub-postmaster at the Hastings Road Post Office in the same year. The twelve year period that he spent there brought many friends and also during this period he joined the Tonbridge Rugby Football Club, playing for them ever since. However he plans to retire this year. As a Parish Councillor he hopes to be able to contribute in making Pembury a village that people like to live in.

**[5]** R. G. Miles was born and bred in the village. He first saw the light of day in 1925 and after education at Skinners School did a short time of wartime service with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He went on to study at the Royal Veterinary College, London and also continued his passion for rugger and tennis.

This was followed by work on local farms leading to marriage with an ex-land girl in 1949 and a start on his own account in 1955 on a KCC dairy smallholding at Tonbridge. He returned to the area to farm at Fletchers Farm in 1959. He has twin daughters both now married and has been a long time member of the Pembury Badminton Club which played at the Church Institute and also past Secretary and Chairman of Pembury Tennis Club. He has already been a Councillor for Pembury from 1960-1968 and confesses his interests as "other peoples farming" and the countryside.

**[6]** Geoffrey Theobald, hardly a "new face", has lived in Pembury for 41 years and has been a Parish Councillor for 10 of these years until he resigned in 1976. He was elected in this year to the Tunbridge Wells Council to represent Pembury and returned to the Parish Council in May of this year.

His wife Mildred taught at the village school for more than 20 years and Geoffrey was a Manager at that school for some time. His only daughter lives abroad.

Geoffrey's interests lie in and around Pembury. He has been Chairman of the Bowls Club, also of the Hospital Fete and the Village Fete and is a member of the League of Friends and the Camden Court Committee.

He worked for 43 years with the Pearl Assurance Company obtaining the rank of Inspector before retiring six years ago.



# AMENITIES



# VANDALISM



Two words that really should not be connected, yet in our village it appears that we cannot have the former without the latter. Whatever your Council endeavours to provide and improve in the village it seems that a certain element are bent on damaging or destroying.

Some of you may be surprised at the age of our vandals, but it is a fact that most of the damage caused to the "Arthur Penn pavilion" in the Woodside Recreation Ground has been done by children of NINE YEARS AND UNDER.

Examples are:

- TILES BROKEN
- BREEZE BLOCKS REMOVED
- TIMBER WINDOW FRAMES CARVED UP
- TOILET PIPES BROKEN
- DRAINS BLOCKED

These are just some of the damaged items your Council has had to replace and repair and on top of that over a longer period the *septic tank* has been damaged by children throwing bricks and rubbish into it and it cannot be repaired. Supplying and fitting this one item alone is anticipated to cost somewhere in the region of £550.00 and the total vandalism cost to the building is likely to exceed £1,000.

Not only are the very young causing problems — recently the door of the Lower Green Road Recreation Ground was kicked in and an attempt was made to set fire to the Pavilion — fortunately unsuccessful. Other examples are:

- YOUNG TREES BROKEN DOWN
- BICYCLES RIDDEN ACROSS THE GREENS
- THEFT FROM THE ALLOTMENTS
- FENCES BROKEN
- DAMAGED TOILETS
- REMOVAL OF TENNIS NETS AND POSTS

and last but not least:

- DESECRATION OF OUR NEWLY OPENED PICNIC SITE

All this damage is to be paid for by *you the Ratepayer* and your Council is expecting you to be concerned and anxious to help in giving assistance in stamping out this senseless activity in the village. If *you* see a young child or group of young children causing damage *stop them*. It is more difficult of course to stop the older element but the fact that a person is watching very often will stop the offence. If necessary report immediately to the Police – it is no use waiting half an hour before doing this because it will then be too late.

Your Council is so concerned at this problem that as a start it hoped to eliminate the trouble in the Lower Green Recreation Ground by securing it at night and then bringing in a Bye-Law to enforce any legal action it may subsequently wish to take by way of prosecuting offenders.

Your Council hopes that you can and will play your part remembering that it is your money, £1,000 of it so far this year, that is having to be spent.

**B. D. Sands**  
Chairman – Amenities Committee  
Pembury Parish Council



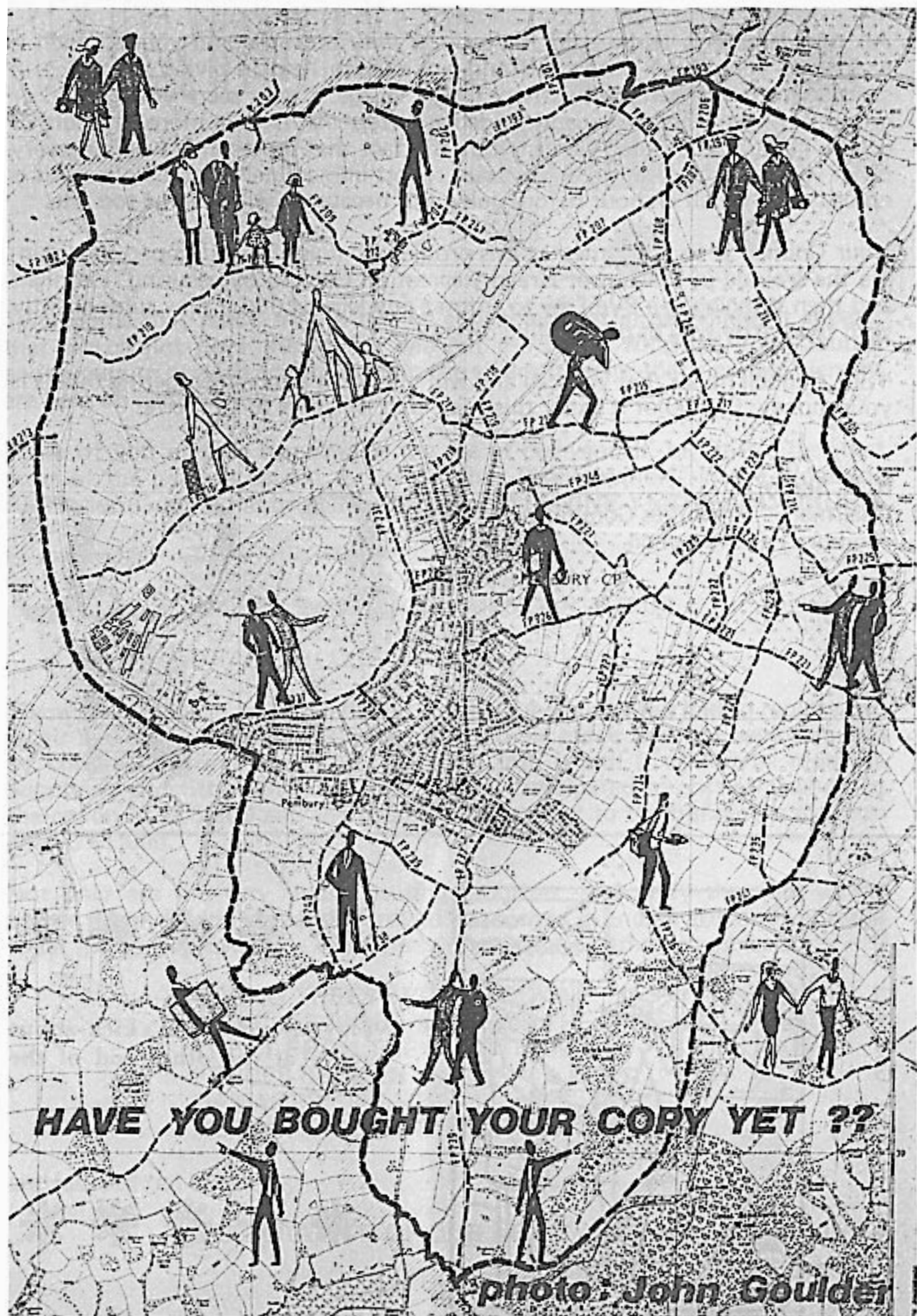
Courtesy "Local Council Review"



'I favour a children's kick-about area – at the other end of the village.'

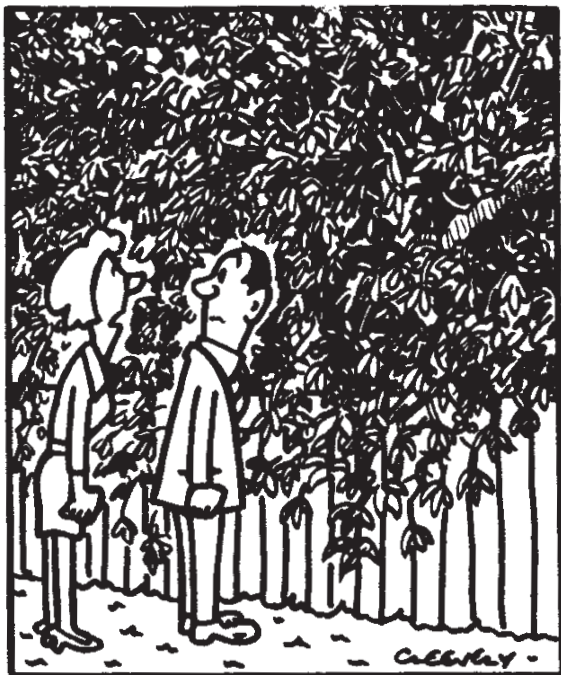




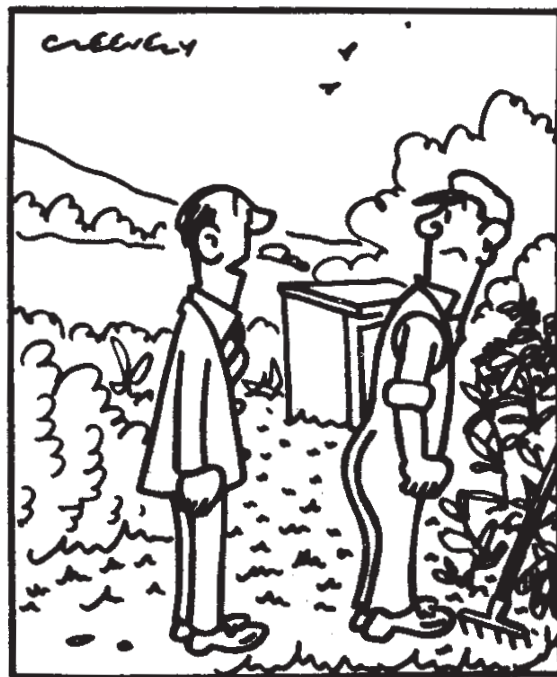


**HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR COPY YET ??**

photo: John Goulder



'If he's in his garden tell him his overhanging branches have become a nuisance.'



'I see your vegetables aren't as far behind as your allotment rent.'

Courtesy "Local Council Review"

## CORRECTIONS



Would you please note that the following Parish Councillors have **NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS**:—

- A. E. BUCK — Pembury 3273
- R. L. P. DIPLOCK — Pembury 3386

Mike Nash is Secretary to **PEMBURY TABLE TENNIS CLUB** not Lawn Tennis Club.

## EDITOR :

D. Hawes Richards  
54 Hastings Road. (2779)

## editorial secretary :

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

## Clerk to the Council

H.S.J. Plant  
16 The Coppice (3459)

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# AN APOLOGY



**Hard Tennis Court,  
Pembury Recreation Ground,  
Lower Green Road,  
Pembury, Kent.**

Owing to circumstances beyond the control of my Council, we have had to withdraw the use of this Court since last May.

In seeking to improve the surface of the Hard Court, which had become dangerous to use, my Council have had to have it resurfaced and as a condition of the Contractors Guarantee, they have requested that play should not be allowed on the Court until the surface has weathered in. For the Parish Council to allow use of the

Court before this period has elapsed, would not only be going against the Contractors' advice but may also result in damage which could be costly to re-instate.

My Council are acutely aware that this decision has deprived the many users of this Court during the summer period and would like to take the opportunity through the medium of this Newsletter to publicly apologize for such inconvenience.

For those Parishioners who have purchased period tickets for the use of the Court, let me assure you that the tickets will be extended to cover the period lost or alternatively my Clerk will make a refund of your money – if this is required, perhaps you will kindly write to him.

My Council have now made arrangements for the Contractors to inspect the Court again to obtain their advice as to when the Court can be re-opened for public use.

To remind you, my Council issue period tickets for the use of this Court and details of the current fees can be obtained from the Clerk's Office between 9 am and 1 pm weekdays or by telephoning Pembury 3459.

**Sarah E. Clarke**  
Chairman of the Pembury Parish Council



# FOR YOUR DIARY

- OCT**
- 13 - ) Hospital Radio Week
  - 20 )
  - 15 Parish Council Amenities Planning and Finance
  - 22 Pembury Society – A.G.M., V. Hall 8 p.m.
  - 23 Darby & Joan Club – R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m.
  - 23 Ladies Social Group – R.C. Hall 8 p.m.
  - 25 Hort. Soc. – Members Own Quiz, V. Hall 8 p.m.
  - 29 Parish Council – Highways, Planning, 2000 Liaison
- NOV**
- 1 Afternoon W.I. – Annual Meeting, V. Hall 2.30 p.m.
  - 2 Evening W.I. – A.G.M. & Beetle Drive, V. Hall 7.45 p.m.
  - 3 Conservative Jumble Sale – V. Hall 2.30 p.m.
  - 3 P.T.A. Firework Party – School Grounds approx. 7 p.m.
  - 5 Conservative Whist Drive – V. Hall 7.30 p.m.
  - 6 Darby & Joan Club – R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m.
  - 10 Friends of Pembury Parish Church – Jumble Sale, V. Hall 2.30 p.m.
  - 12 Hort. Soc. – Floral Art Group, V. Hall 8 p.m.
  - 12 Parish Council Meeting – Dower House 8 p.m.
  - 20 Darby & Joan Club – R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m.
  - 26 Parish Council – Amenities Planning and Finance
  - 27 Ladies Social Group – R.C. Hall 8 p.m.
  - 29 W.I. Half Yearly Council Meeting – Assembly Hall T/Wells
  - 29 Hort. Soc. – Illustrated Talk by G. S. Joy on “Annuals and Biannuals”,  
V. Hall 8 p.m.
- DEC**
- 3 Conservative Whist Drive – V. Hall 7.30 p.m.
  - 4 Darby & Joan Club – Entertainment by Pembury School Children, R.C. Hall  
2-5 p.m.
  - 6 Afternoon W.I. – Christmas Party, V. Hall 2.30 p.m.
  - 7 Evening W.I. – Social Evening for Members and Husbands. Entertainment by  
West Peckham Hand Bell Ringers – V. Hall 7.45 p.m.
  - 10 Parish Council – Highways Planning
  - 10 Hort. Soc. – Floral Art Group, V. Hall 8 p.m.
  - 18 Darby & Joan Club – Christmas Party, R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m.
- Every Friday – W.I. Market – V. Hall 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.
- Every Monday – Pembury Old Tyme Dancing Club – R.C. Hall 7.45 - 10.15 p.m.  
(20p Members, 25p Non-Members)
- Every Thursday – Mums & Tiny Tots Club – R.C. Hall 1.30 - 3.30 p.m. (Tel: 2386)

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