

PEMBURY

your village newsletter

september 1980 issue no.

25

* V I L L A G E * M

In May last year the Pembury 2000 Action Committee organised a small Exhibition on behalf of the Parish Council in the Catholic Hall. It marked the first 3 years, since publication of the Village Study and showed the progress that had been made in reaching the aims and objectives set down in 1976.

As a result of the success of this Exhibition a second one is being organised for the Council by the 2000 Committee. All Village Organisations have been invited to take part and it will be held on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th at the Village Hall.

Our local MP, Patrick Mayhew, has agreed to open the Exhibition at 10 a.m. together with the completely modernised and repainted VILLAGE HALL.

The whole village will be on show on that day so why not come along?
Refreshments available from 10am to 5pm.

* M X H I B I T I O N * M

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VIEWPOINT

Robert Allen

you don't have to pay rates, do you?

"Well, of course, being a Parish Councillor, you don't have to pay rates, do you?" one of my colleagues was told in conversation with a Pembury resident recently.

That would be the day. It hasn't come yet and it never will. And we don't get expenses or attendance allowances, either. Not that I'm grumbling; I'm just setting it down for the record.

When I became one of the "new boy" Councillors in May last year I did not know all the ins and outs attached to Parish Council work. In fact even today I would not set myself up as an expert on procedure.

On the face of it the Council meets once a fortnight throughout the year except that in August we are in recess. But the work doesn't end there. Every Councillor is on one or more sub-committee and these may be called into session at any time if some special topic arises which requires detailed consideration.

There can be site meetings too, to discuss traffic difficulties with representatives from higher up Councils (the Borough or the County), or visits to residents who have a particular difficulty to discuss. Sadly, too, you sometimes have to go and visit some piece of parish property that has been vandalised.

All this makes for variety and it also gives a Councillor a wider knowledge of the village and of its inhabitants, which is a good thing.

But, of course, our powers are limited. Much as we would like to, we can't exert much influence on the Government or the County

Council over the building of our two desperately needed by-passes. (Remember the colossal traffic jams in the two days after the August Bank Holiday?). We cannot slap double yellow lines on roads which many people think should have them. We cannot authorise a pedestrian crossing and we cannot stop someone building a house on a virgin field if the planning authority thinks it is allowable.

All we can do in these circumstances is to make our views known—and a great deal of our Clerk's time is spent in writing letters to other bodies expressing the Council's viewpoint.

What, then, can we do? We are directly responsible for the upkeep of the village green and recreation grounds, for the graveyard (no, it's not the Church's responsibility), for the allotments, for street lighting (there are nearly 100 lamp standards in the village, not counting those on the A21 which are the County Council's responsibility), for the village hall and for a general oversight on footpaths, of which there is quite a network in the parish.

And, of course, we must see that the village rates are carefully spent, that we don't undertake projects we can't afford, and that we always keep in mind the fostering of a spirit of community in a parish numbering some 6,000 souls.

It sounds from the foregoing that the Parish Council consists of 13 paragons. We are not. But we try our best. Perhaps at the next election some of you might like to try your luck at joining us.

GYPSY SITES



Photo: Peter Bromwich

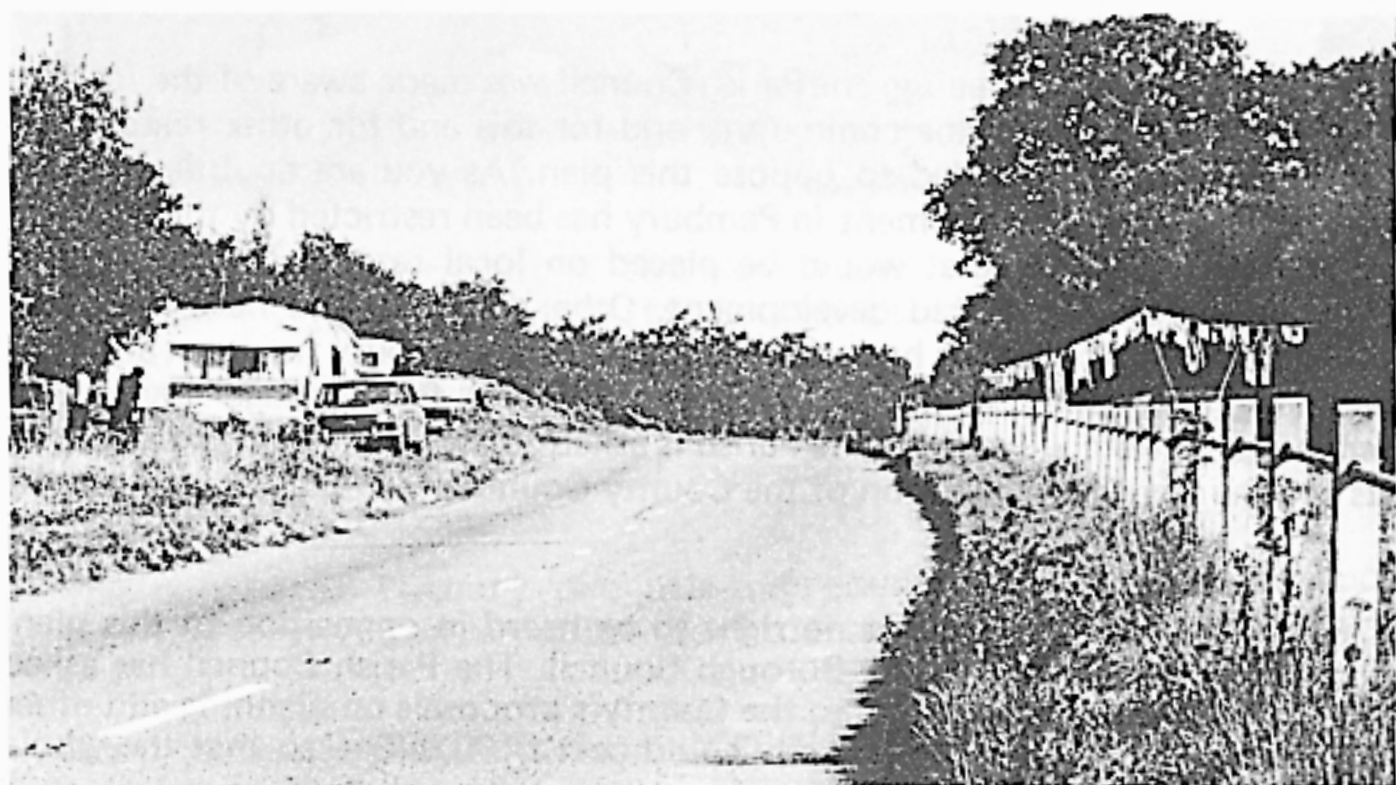
Sarah E. Clarke
Chairman, Parish Council

Most of the residents in Pembury Parish will I hope by now be aware of the proposals for the siting of a gypsy site at Hepsbrook Wood on the B.2015. As the debate on these proposals continues I think that all members of the Parish should be aware of the history of them and exactly what is involved.

For many years Kent has been a County which the travellers have made their home because of local agriculture and farming methods. However, in 1968 an Act of Parliament was passed, the Caravan Sites Act, which made the requirement of local authorities to provide permanent sites for gypsies. Few authorities complied with those requirements and the result was the continued encampment of gypsies by the roadsides and on local farms. There has however over the last few years been increasing pressure on the local authorities to provide sites with the aid of central government funding.

Photo: Peter Bromwich

POSSIBLE SITE 



The County therefore asked the Borough Council in the case of our area to examine possible sites within the Parishes and further consideration was given to plans and proposals which had been left dormant. The object of the exercise was for the County to achieve "*designation*", i.e. that sufficient sites would be provided for the permanent gypsy population so that unauthorised roadside encampments could be curbed and the gypsies moved on. At the moment a blind eye is turned where there are unauthorised sites because there is nowhere else for the gypsies to be sent.

Earlier this year a number of Parish Councils were invited to attend a meeting with the Borough Council to discuss possible sites. At that time about 6 Parishes were concerned, and it was suggested that Pembury should have a site for 3 pitches (or 6 caravans). Not all the Parishes in the Borough were to have a site and the reaction of the Parish Council was that all the Parishes should be asked to have a small site so that all should be treated equally. This was particularly important because the Borough could give no guarantee that the site would not increase in number.

ALL the Parishes were to be asked to have a site—but the reaction was negative and as the Borough could not find a solution the question of the sites was passed back to the County Council's Gypsy Sub-Committee. The answer from that Committee is now that Pembury should have a large site of at least 10 pitches (or 20 caravans) with still no guarantee that the site would not increase in size. The site proposed is that at Hepsbrook Wood. The other site in the rural area of the Borough is that at Paddock Wood. The estimated cost per pitch is £10,000.

At the Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council was made aware of the feelings of certain members of the community and for this and for other reasons the Parish Council has decided to oppose this plan. As you are doubtless aware, further large scale development in Pembury has been restricted by the planners because of the strain that would be placed on local resources — the present proposal is for a fair sized development. Other Parishes who have been outspoken in their opposition have not been ignored as Pembury has been and now Pembury is required to make the contribution for the Borough area. Local services are stretched and yet the Parish is asked to assimilate a large group into its community at the direction of the County Council.

The Parish Council at law has no right to be heard in opposition to this plan. Our spokesman has to be the Borough Council. The Parish Council has asked the Borough Council to object to the County's proposals on planning and other grounds i.e. cost — the present site could cost £100,000 — so that the whole

project can be referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment—Pembury can then have its say. If the proposals are pursued by the County Council it may be necessary for Pembury to be legally represented but before then the whole subject would be placed before the Parish at a Parish meeting for further debate.

In the meantime the Parish Council would like to hear from you on the proposal to have a site for 10 pitches at Hepsbrook Wood. If you have any comments please would you send them to the Clerk to the Parish Council at 16 The Coppice, Pembury. The Parish Council need to know what the Village wants and thinks; particularly bearing in mind that any legal representation could be expensive and would need to be borne by the local ratepayers.

THANK YOU -----



Photo: Courier

Parish Councillors met a few weeks ago to pay their own small tribute to local personality George Sturgeon.

In May he retired from the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, but he had for many years before that also been a Parish Councillor for Pembury, and a member of the old Tonbridge Rural District Council.

The people of Pembury owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for the magnificent public service he has rendered to this community.

Mrs. Sarah Clarke presented him with a set of glasses on behalf of the Parish Council watched by the newly elected Borough Councillor for Pembury Mrs. Hazel Hawes Richards.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION



The Workers' Educational Association is promoting a ten week course on **GARDEN PLANNING** which will be held in the **Public Library, Lower Green Road, Pembury** on Tuesday mornings from 10 am until noon. The tutor, Mr. B. J. Muddle, has spent a lifetime advising people on the planning and planting of their gardens and the course will take the form of discussions on all aspects of the small garden from advice on lawns, the culture of heathers, and the raising from seed of hardy annuals, biennials and perennial flowers, as well as the suitability of shrubs, climbing plants and roses. Some time will also be given to the cultivation of fruit, vegetables and herbs. The fee for the ten week course is **£9.00** (with some concessions available) and it commenced on Tuesday 23rd September.

The W.E.A., along with the local education authorities and the universities, is one of the Responsible Bodies for adult education in the country and its history dates back to 1903. There has been a Branch in Tunbridge Wells for 50 years, providing a full programme of general and liberal study courses, as well as occasional weekend Day Schools on a variety of topical subjects.

Apart from founding the Tonbridge Branch some fifteen years ago, the Tunbridge Wells Branch has been concerned to provide facilities to village communities and has run successful classes on Natural History and The History of Furniture Design in Langton Green and earlier this year, an interesting six week course on Country Houses and Palaces at the library in Pembury. This September the Branch is promoting a course of Everyman's Astronomy at Mascalls School, Paddock Wood on Tuesday evenings.

The Branch is keen to offer Pembury residents the courses they would like and the Branch Secretary would be pleased to hear from anyone with suggestions for future classes, either in the daytime or evening. Full details of the Branch's programme for the Autumn and Winter can be found in their brochure which is obtainable from the Library in Pembury, the Adult Education Centre, Tunbridge Wells or on request from the Branch Secretary, Mrs. Carole Mills, 44b Woodbury Park Road, Tunbridge Wells.



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YOUR CLERK REPORTS

You will remember in the last issue that I told you of my Council's efforts to obtain some action on what they consider to be the problem roads in Pembury at the moment and of the forthcoming meeting with the Kent County Council, the authority responsible for Highways. Following a Petition from Belfield Residents, which we presented to the County Council, the County Council representative at the meeting which took place on the 24th June 1980 promised to recommend that a proposal for waiting to be prohibited at the east side of **Belfield Road** for a length of 30 metres from the centre of the junction with the A21, Hastings Road.

Alas, my Council's hopes for some improvements to the problems at Canterbury Road and Camden Avenue did not materialise. As regards **Canterbury Road** my Council took the unusual step of canvassing the whole of the residents of the Road before the Meeting and was heartened by the response for suggestions to try and improve this Road. The most common suggestion was for a one-way system for the Road, from Hastings Road to Henwood Green Road and this was put to the Meeting but the County were firmly convinced that such a system would not improve traffic conditions in the area as such an arrangement would be likely to result in increased traffic speeds in the Road and also involve residents and their visitors in additional mileage.

As to **Camden Avenue**, this has been the subject of considerable correspondence and again my Council's suggestions regarding the restriction of parking to the northern (High Street) end of the Avenue has not met with any success.

As I have reported to you previously, the Parish Council remain acutely aware of the dangers that exist with regard to **Henwood Green Road**. These dangers should be lessened somewhat with improvements to the curbing of the northern end, near The Royal Oak, which is to take place at the end of this year beginning of next year but you can rest assured that this black spot will be kept constantly under review.

Finally, the Parish Council have been asked to assist the Borough Council regarding the positioning of Amenities Skips sites in Pembury. The question of siting is raising problems for some residents for, quite naturally, they do not like the skips in front of their properties. However, in our correspondence with the Borough Council I have been asked to point out in respect of skips that these skips are provided by the Borough Council for the disposal of domestic refuse only, and must be placed in the skip and not around it. Garden refuse must not be brought to the site. Unnecessary abuse of the service in the last item could well lead to a withdrawal of the facilities. Large items such as mattresses, cookers, freezers, etc. will be collected individually on application to the Town Hall at Tunbridge Wells.

HIGHWAYS

COMMITTEE

Henry S. J. Plant
Clerk to the Council.

The Highways Committee of the Parish Council—one of the oldest Committees of the Parish Council. From items mentioned in the Minutes of the Parish Council in the early part of this century, members of the then Parish Council were as busy dealing with complaints arising out of cars speeding through the village at 15 m.p.h. (!) as the present Councillors are trying to resolve the problems that have arisen with the growth of the motor car. Speed was not the only problem in those early days. The roads themselves were unmade and the Minutes reflect nuisances that arose with the dust from them in the summer and the mud during the winter.

As with other Committees, the whole thirteen members of the Parish Council are members of the present Highways Committee and the Committee meets every six weeks, sharing the evening with the Planning and Public Relations Committees of the Council. The items on the Agenda range from complaints of "holes in the road" to discussions regarding the two proposed By-Passes of Pembury. It is the last mentioned item that has had the close attention of the Parish Council during the last decade. All this hard work must have had some effect as recently the Department of Transport reported in their "Policy for Roads—England 1980", that the construction of the A21 Pembury By-Pass is in the main programme for 1984 onwards. This might even be brought forward to 1983 if preparation of the scheme can be completed by then and the funds available. Hopefully the construction work on Pembury's other By-Pass is likely to start in 1982. Again subject to money being available.

Whilst the construction of these By-Passes will lessen Pembury's traffic problems it seems that the problems of Pembury's existing roads are increasing. These are referred to in greater detail elsewhere in this issue.

The responsibility for the maintenance and cleansing of Pembury's roads sometimes cause confusion – understandably, when they are divided between three major authorities. **First the A21** – the ultimate responsibility rests with the Department of Transport since this road was designated a Trunk Road some years ago. However, the Department have appointed the Kent County Council as their agents for the maintenance and day to day matters of this road. To add to the confusion the County Council have delegated cleaning and sweeping to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council where the A21 passes through Pembury.

It is a little more clearer when we talk of maintenance to the other roads and footways in the Village – these are the responsibility of the Kent County Council alone. Whilst talking of these “other roads in Pembury” I would add that the **Lighting** for these roads are the responsibility of the Pembury Parish Council and with the escalating energy costs, these form a great burden on our annual budget – however the Parish Council are seeking ways and means to reduce this drain on resources.

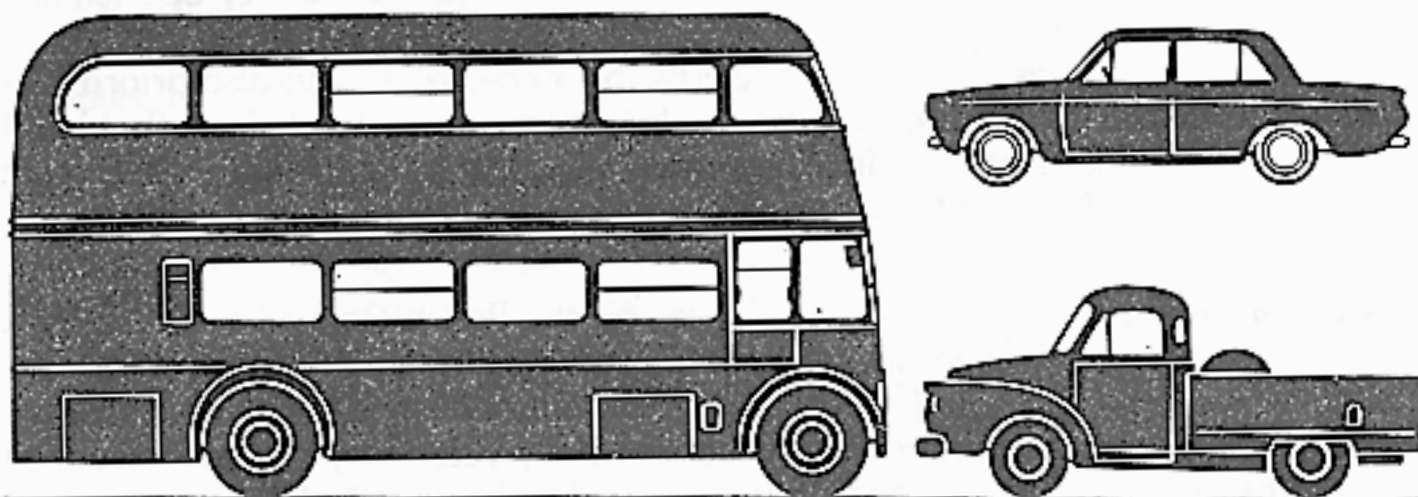
One other item, before we leave the subject of roads, and which is causing concern not only to the elderly but to all on foot is the **Pelican crossing** in the High Street with the very short time given for pedestrians to cross the road. With this in mind, the Parish Council have written to the County Council and in a recent reply, that Council has reminded users that it is not just the “green man time” that gives priority on the crossing, pedestrians have also priority, as long as they are on the crossing, when the green man/amber light is flashing. I know this sounds good in print for Pembury's pedestrians but please take care when crossing – if in doubt—don't step out.

Another area of responsibility taken over by the Parish Council over the years is in the maintenance and clearance of **Footpaths** in the Parish – again responsibility has been delegated from the Kent County Council through the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to the Parish. Many years ago, the Parish Council took the opportunity to appoint its one and only co-opted Member on any Committee – he was the Secretary of a Local Ramblers Association, a Mr. Charles Farmer – and ever since his appointment he has given sterling work to the Parish. I would like to take this opportunity of publically acknowledging his most valuable help in keeping our footpaths clear.

Another body who has also helped the Parish Council in maintaining the footpaths in Pembury is the Pembury Society. Their regularly advertised walks in Pembury not only help to give an interest to local walkers but also help to swell the local band of public-spirited persons who are willing to spend some of their leisure time in helping to keep the paths clear.

For those interested in walking who would wish to obtain a copy of Pembury's Footpaths Map can do so by applying to the Clerk to the Parish Council whose name and address you will find elsewhere in this issue. I am pleased to say that this interest in walking is increasing in Pembury. So much so that a Steering Committee has been set up to see whether there is enough support to start an organisation called Pembury Footpath Walkers — we all wish it well.

I hope this article has gone some way to explain the areas of responsibility regarding Pembury's roads and I hope that this responsibility and delegation to other authorities is not too confusing. All I will say in conclusion is that it doesn't matter whose responsibility it is, if you have any problem at all about any of "Pembury's Highways" please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk to the Parish Council or the Chairman of the Highways Committee — we'll be pleased to help!



Editors Note: This is the third in the current series of features on the work of the Parish Council's four main Committees. Earlier articles on the Amenities and Finance Committees will be followed in the next issue with a final feature on the work of the Planning Committee.

The current Chairman of the Highways Committee is A. J. Stuart Robson (left)

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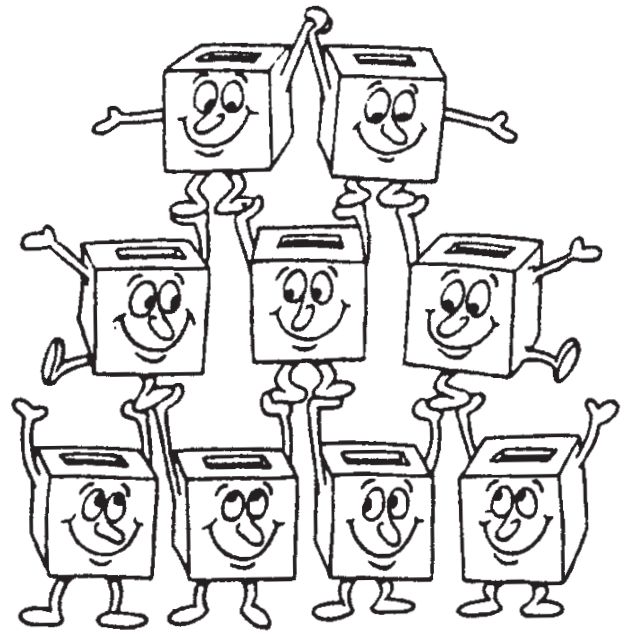
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etc. Brake Fluid etc.

News from PEMBURY Chest

Well, the Village Fete has come and gone and for the past few weeks members of the Chest Committee have enjoyed a period of almost unnatural calm.

For, make no mistake about it, organising the Fete can be a very demanding part-time occupation for a small committee—numbering only 11—of whom all but three have full-time jobs.

This year's Fete yielded a profit of about £300 on a total income of around £1,050. This is not such an impressive figure as those achieved by our friendly rivals the Parent-Teacher Association or the Friends of Pembury Hospital at their Fetes.



But a Village fete poses certain unique problems. The recreation ground lacks a permanent building which can serve as a tea room and headquarters in wet weather. Nor is there anywhere where power or heat is laid on. To overcome this difficulty a marquee had to be hired at a cost of over £300 and a public address system with its own power supply, costing over £40. In an attempt to eliminate these heavy expenses the new Committee will have to think seriously about alternatives.

There is also the problem of raising sufficient numbers of people to help with organising and to man stalls and sideshows. Much assistance was given willingly by organisations and individuals, who have our heartfelt thanks, but throughout the year more help would be welcome.

One lesson learned the hard way is that more people must be involved in planning the Fete from an early stage. Public support on the day was magnificent but greater involvement by the population of Pembury is essential if future fetes are to be held, let alone be successful.

Ideally this involvement should begin by attendance at the Annual General Meeting when the Committee for the coming year will be elected, and criticisms and suggestions made. In each of the last two years the total number attending these annual meetings has been under 30. Not sufficiently representative of the village to ensure that new ideas are forthcoming.

We would appeal for a bumper attendance at this year's A.G.M. to be held at the Village Hall on Friday, September 26th at 8 p.m.

Three years ago the Fete Committee—most of whom had served for three years—called a meeting to ask the Village if it wanted a fete or not. This year it seems likely the people of Pembury will be asked if they want the Fete in

another, possibly a simpler, form. Rising costs hit voluntary undertakings just as they do other activities, and we must plan with this in mind.

Therefore, please come along. We need your help and suggestions and we could do with some of you to swell the numbers on the Committee.

If the foregoing sounds something of a tale of woe, it should be recorded that we did raise money—nearly £300 of it—through our other activities during the year. These included a Country and Western dance, a Christmas mini-fair, a quiz evening and a jumble sale.

The A.G.M. will be asked for its views on how some of this money should be used. The £300 from the Fete is earmarked for curtains for the Village Hall when it is refurbished.

Photo: Peter Bromwich



PEMBURY PATCH — Police Constable Brown

Doggy Matters

The law relating to dogs is somewhat complex to the average person and ignorance of it can often cause problems and arguments among both those who own dogs and those who fall foul of them, so to speak.

Firstly a dog licence—cost 37½p from any Post Office—is required by law for any person “keeping” a dog. There are four basic exceptions to this requirement.

- (a) Puppies under six months old
- (b) One dog for the guidance of a blind person
- (c) Hounds not entered with a pack and under 12 months old
- (d) Any dog kept and used only for tending sheep or cattle on farm, or by a shepherd in connection with his occupation.

A problem which often causes annoyance to members of the public is what to do with a stray dog when they have found it.

There are two alternatives. First to return it to the owner, if you know it, or take it to the nearest police station (not a police office as police offices do not have the facilities to keep dogs). The police, by the way, do not collect dogs. Second, it is possible to keep the dog yourself, providing you notify the police, but it must always be remembered that the true owner is entitled to reclaim the dog at any time.

People often wonder what they should do if they have a road accident involving a dog. If the accident causes injury to a dog other than one being carried in the vehicle you are driving, you must stop. And you must give your name and address and the name and address of the owner of the vehicle, and its registration number, to any person having reasonable grounds for wanting it.

If for any reason you don't give these details in these circumstances at the time, you must report the accident at a police station or to a police officer as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within 24 hours of the accident.

Unfortunately most dogs run off or limp away after being hit and you can't find out who the owner is. In these circumstances you should report the accident to the police.

VILLAGE ORGANIZATIONS

- BOWLS CLUB** — R. N. Fry —
101 Ridgeway — 4206
- BOY COVENANTORS** — K. Chapman —
40 Ridgeway — 3443
- BRITISH LEGION** — J. Young —
13 Bulls Place
- BROWNIE GUIDER** — Mrs. Boorman —
65 Heskett Park — 2355
- CAMDEN GREEN BADMINTON CLUB** —
Mrs. A. Davenport — 10 Rymers Close,
Tunbridge Wells — 38745
- CATHOLIC CHURCH** — Father Hartley
— Presbytery, 11 Alliance Way,
Paddock Wood.
- CONSERVATIVE PARTY** —
Miss R. J. Knapp, 38 Heskett Park — 3106
- CRICKET CLUB** — Mr. Chandler —
149 Sherwood Rd, T.W. — 33886
- CUBS** — B. J. Lawrence —
21 Canterbury Road — 2956
- DARBY & JOAN CLUB** —
Mrs. B. Greatrex — 52 High Street — 2669
- FETE COMMITTEE** — R. Allen —
37 Highfield Close — 2439
- FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL**
c/o Pembury Hospital — 3535
- FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH**
Treasurer: D. J. Ould
42 Lower Green Road — 2616
- GIRL COVENANTORS** — Mrs. D. M. Beard
70 Beagles Wood Road — 4329
- GUIDE GUIDER** — Mrs. A. Baker —
67a High Street — 4441
- HOCKEY CLUB** — J. Hawker —
19 Highfield Close — 4327
- HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** —
M. Mepham — 16 The Paddock — 2703
- KENTISH VALE ROUND TABLE** —
P. Wheeler — 18 Woodlands, Paddock Wood
— 2565
- KENT COLLEGE** —
Headmistress — Miss James — Pembury 2006
- KING WILLIAM FOOTBALL CLUB**
P. Saunders — 27 Greenleas — 2587
- LABOUR PARTY** — S. Fowler —
71a St. Johns Rd, Tunbridge Wells — 20250
- LADIES NETBALL** — Mrs. M. Walker —
65 Belfield Road — 3439
- LADIES SOCIAL GROUP** — Mrs. B. Scholten
— 31 The Coppice — 3445
- LARKFIELD HALL HOME SCHOOL** —
Principal — J. H. Mason, Cornford Lane
— 2168
- LAWN TENNIS CLUB** — Mrs. J. Prosser —
13 Ridgeway — 2682
- LIBERAL PARTY** — R. A. Blundell —
15 Gimble Way — 2952
- MUMS & TINY TOTS CLUB** —
Mrs. P. Franks — 44 Ridgeway — 2386
- MUSIC GROUP** — J. Hill —
14 Fermor Way — Crowborough 63419
- NATIONAL LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATION** —
c/o A. K. S. Franks — Becketts, Matfield
— Brenchley 2175
- PEMBURY BADMINTON CLUB** —
Mrs. Michie — Bracken, Mascalls Park,
Paddock Wood — 2787
- PEMBURY COUNCIL HOUSE TENANTS
ASSOC.** — J. Goodsell — 63 Belfield Road
- PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB**
Mrs. M. I. Coppard — 25 Sandhurst Avenue
— 2648
- PEMBURY FREE CHURCH** —
Rev. Johnson — 58 Lower Green Road
- PEMBURY FRIENDS OF SEVEN SPRINGS**
J. S. Debonnaire — 51 Church Road — 2909
- PEMBURY OLD TYME AND MODERN
DANCE CLUB** — Mrs. Hasted — The Glade,
Cryals Road, Matfield — Brenchley 3531
- PEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL** —
Headmaster — R. Nisbett —
Lower Green Road — 2259
- PEMBURY SOCIETY** —
R. Saunders — Mays Farm House,
Romford Road — 3254
- PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION** — Mrs. A. Everett —
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T. J. Verrall — 265 Upper Grosvenor Road,
Tunbridge Wells — 37268
- SCOUTS** — P. Brooks —
15 Bulls Place — 2813
- ST. PETERS CHURCH** — Rev. C. Hodgson,
The Vicarage, 4 Hastings Road — 2204
- ST. PETERS WOMENS FELLOWSHIP** —
Mrs. Robins — 46 Dynevor Rd — T.W. 32269
- TABLE TENNIS CLUB** — M. Nash
— 8 The Coppice — 3225
- WOMENS INSTITUTE** —
Afternoon — Mrs. Edmonson — 56 Henwood
Green Road — 2873
Evening — Mrs. Strudwick — 10 Belfield
Road — 2631
- W.R.V.S.** — Mrs. K. E. Jury — 3 Canterbury
Road — 2678

ANY CHANGES TO THE ABOVE DETAILS
SHOULD BE NOTIFIED TO THE
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

PEMBURY

is published four times a year by the Pembury Parish Council.

The Editor would welcome any contributions for inclusion in the Newsletter.

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The views expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent official Parish Council opinion or policy.

EDITOR :

Derek Hawes Richards
54 Hastings Road



Pembury 2779



editorial secretary :

Mrs. Mavis Board
c/o 4 St. Johns Rd.,
Tunbridge Wells



T/Wells 38777



Clerk to the Council

Henry S. J. Plant
16 The Coppice



Pembury 3459



Footpath to Dundle

*Across the A21 at Pembury,
Along Old Chalket Lane,
Did H. G. Wells
Ever journey this way?
Thinking no doubt
For some practical solution
Towards humanity's uplifting
Albeit escapade.*

*And when he came
To the old stile,
Or noticed
St. Peter's spire,
Did some odd clue
Reveal some character
Anew? adding fuel
To his voluminous fire.*

Terrence St. John
17 Belfield Road
Pembury



Dear Sir,

The current issue is one of the best I have seen but I must protest at the decision to include "The Winner" on the front, surely such an emotive subject should not be covered in the Village Newsletter.

Yours faithfully,
Douglas Edwards
12 Knights Ridge,
Pembury.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- OCT. 2 Afternoon W.I. – Talk by Mr. Murray – “Napwoods—a Community of Living Things” – V. Hall 2.30 p.m.
- 3 Evening W.I. – Demonstration of Candlemaking by Mrs. L. Pearce – V. Hall 7.45
- 4 Pembury Society – Footpaths Walk – Stonecourt Bus Terminal 2.15 p.m.
- 7 Darby & Joan Club – R. C. Hall 2.00-5.00 p.m.
- 11 VILLAGE EXHIBITION – V. Hall 10.00 a.m.
- 13 Hort. Soc. Floral Art Group – V. Hall 8.00 p.m.
- 13 Parish Council Meeting – Library
- 20 Pembury Society – A.G.M. & Talk on Local Stained Glass Windows
– V. Hall 8.00 p.m.
- 21 Darby & Joan Club – Sale of Work – R. C. Hall 2.00-5.00 p.m.
- 27 Parish Council – Amenities, Planning, Finance – Village Hall
- 28 Ladies Social Group – Hallowe’en Bar-B-Q – 12 Amberlease Drive 8.00 p.m.
- 30 Hort. Soc. – Illustrated Talk by W. J. C. Murray on “In Search of Wild Flowers in the British Isles” – V. Hall 8.00 p.m.
- NOV 1 Pembury Society – Footpaths Walk – Camden Hotel 2.15 p.m.
- 1 P.T.A. Firework Display – School Grounds 7.00 p.m.
- 4 Darby & Joan Club – Film “Hong Kong Beat” plus Save the Children Fund Sale
– R.C. Hall 2.00-5.00 p.m.
- 6 Afternoon W.I. – A.G.M. – V. Hall 2.30 p.m.
- 7 Evening W.I. – A.G.M. – Members Holiday Slides – V. Hall 7.45 p.m.
- 10 Hort. Soc. Floral Art Group – V. Hall 8.00 p.m.
- 10 Parish Council – Highways, Planning, 2000 Liaison – Library
- 11 Ladies Social Group – Talk on Jewellery – 22 The Coppice 8.00 p.m.
- 15 P.T.A. – Toy Bring and Buy Sale – School Hall 2.00 p.m.
- 18 Darby & Joan Club – R.C. Hall 2.00-5.00 p.m.
- 24 Friends of Pembury Parish Church – A.G.M. – V. Hall 8.00 p.m.
- 24 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall
- 25 Ladies Social Group – Talk by Clares Florist “Flowers for Christmas” –
48 Woodhill Park, 8.00 p.m.
- 27 Hort. Soc. – Talk by J. Trussler on Herbaceous Plants – V. Hall 8.00 p.m.
- DEC. 2 Darby & Joan Club – R.C. Hall 2.00-5.00 p.m.
- 4 Afternoon W.I. – Christmas Party – Competition “Christmas Hat” – V. Hall 2.30
- 5 Evening W.I. – “Cracker Making for Christmas” – Mrs. J. Williams – V. Hall 7.45
- 5 Bypasses – Report on Progress – Primary School 8.00 p.m.
- 6 Pembury Society – Footpaths Walk – Bo-Peep 2.15 p.m.
- 8 Hort. Soc. – Floral Art Group – V. Hall 8.00 p.m.
- 8 Parish Council – Amenities, Planning & Finance – Library
- 9 Ladies Social Group – Christmas Dinner at Sceptre Hotel
- 16 Darby & Joan Club – Christmas Tea Party – R.C. Hall 2.00-5.00 p.m.
- 30 Darby & Joan Club – R.C. Hall 2.00-5.00 p.m.

Every Monday – Pembury Old Tyme and Modern Dance Club – R.C. Hall –
7.45-10.15 p.m. (35p)

Every Thursday – Mums & Tiny Tots Club – RC Hall 1.30 - 3.30 p.m. (Tel: 2386)

Every Friday – W.I. Market – V.Hall 10.15 - 11.15 a.m.

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* STOP PRESS *

Following the recent distribution in the Village of a Publication called "Focus", Pembury Residents may be excused for thinking that Pembury has to thank a political party for the proposed A21 Bypass being kept in the recently announced Road Programme and also that the slumbering Parish Council has had to be woken up by the same organisation to support it in a campaign to improve the condition of four of Pembury's roads.

Both statements could not be further from the truth.

As to the Bypass, whilst we must not diminish the effect that letters sent to the Minister of Transport have on the Minister, we must not forget that it was not solely these letters that prevented this Bypass being axed. It was surely the groundswell of public opinion that has come from the Villagers themselves - through their representatives on the Parish Council and from the very active Bypass Campaign Committee, whose Members have spent their leisure hours pressing Pembury's need.

One is hesitant to acknowledge any one persons involvement but if mention is to be made it must surely be of our present Member of Parliament, Mr. P. Mayhew, who has always given the Parish Council and the Bypass Campaign Committee his full and unstinting support as well as being able to personally press Pembury's case in his meetings with the Minister.

As to Road Hazards, Pembury's Councillors have been pleading with the Authorities responsible to carry out improvements for years and far from the Parish Council supporting a campaign started by a political party, it would seem that the same organisation has tried to increase its own popularity by trading on these local difficulties. Past and present Parish Councillors have always been aware of the existing problem roads and over the years have tried, and in some instances have been successful, in getting some improvements made.

Pembury Parish Council, by reason of its close connection with its Villagers, will always be in the forefront of any action which is required and will always continue to put pressure on the appropriate Authorities responsible for any Parish problems!