

PEMBURY

Your VILLAGE newsletter / 38

DECEMBER 1983 NO.

YOUNG
PEOPLE



Does Pembury have a youth problem? If so, what is the reason? Read Pages 2 to 5 and let us have your views.

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VIEWPOINT

YOUTH at the CROSSROADS

The behaviour of a small section of the young people of Pembury has been under the spotlight in recent weeks.

In November the Courier published a front page lead story about an incident in Henwood Green Road which, to say the least, was disturbing in a normally peaceful village. Residents have become almost blasé about instances of petty vandalism which it takes public money to repair. There have been calls for the police to take action; for the Parish Council to "do something".

The police are already doing a great deal and will certainly not walk away from the problem. The Parish Council, on the other hand, is not a law enforcement body. It deplores, like everyone else, incidents of mindless hooliganism, but it has no powers to make anyone, young or old, into law-abiding citizens.

The most it can do is to appeal to everyone who is the victim or the witness of unlawful behaviour to take the appropriate action which is to notify the police. At once, not three days later.

The long saga of the building of the Pembury Woodside Youth Club is coming to an end. It is hoped that by the time you read this the clubhouse on Woodside playing field will be open, and on several evenings a week.

This club, it is hoped, will provide a focus of interest to many youngsters in Pembury. This is not to suggest that its opening will cause an immediate end to youthful anti-social behaviour. But there is plenty of evidence to show that much of the trouble that causes adults to "tut tut" stems from sheer boredom. In other words the old saying about Satan and idle hands is as relevant today as it has ever been.

The problem will not go away and it is better aired. With that in view we publish two hard-hitting articles by local residents with several years' experience of working with young people. Mrs. Pauline Hawker is a trained youth worker and secretary of the Woodside Youth Club. Mr. Leigh Belcham has been connected with youth movements in a practical way for some years. Neither is an armchair critic; they have been and are, so to speak, in the field. Their views are set out on successive pages.



WHOSE FAULT ?



Under the headline "Reign of Terror", the Courier recently reported the behaviour of a small section of Pembury's teenage population. The story highlighted an attack on an elderly handicapped person, and included comments of local residents and a shop owner. Complaints concerned noise, verbal abuse, drunkenness, drugs and reckless driving, centred on the junction of Romford Road and Henwood Green Road.

It was a pity the reporter didn't interview some of the youngsters associated with these anti-social activities. Instead of presenting a picture of Pembury's adult residents wringing their hands in bewildered helplessness as their young folk run riot, he could have been a real help in investigating the cause of the problem.

Since late August we have lived at the junction in question. We have heard the screeching tyres, blaring car stereos and shouted obscenities, often at well past midnight. We have protested as late-night revellers urinate against our hedge or as others break down our fence. Our elderly neighbour has phoned us in despair as, night after night, she has been unable to sleep because of the uproar outside her window.

We have spent long hours listening to some of the 13 to 16-year-olds responsible.

"What would your mother say if you behaved like this outside your own home?" I asked one young lady.

"I know just what she'd do," she replied. "She'd tell me to – off!"

And I believed her.

When I asked two others about their homes, one replied that "Mum doesn't live with us any more", and the other was living away from his parents. I have a feeling that similar replies might have been given by others, especially as I am writing this the day after reading that our divorce rate is now the highest in Europe. And yet we expect our youngsters to be trustworthy and to think of other people!

These young folk's main complaint is that "there's nothing to do". Believing the old saying that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness, we arranged a day visit to a nature reserve near Tonbridge and an evening barbecue in the middle of a wood in the same area. Fifteen young people were involved. None of their parents knew anything about us – yet only one bothered to ask for details before allowing their son to take part.

According to today's paper, over half these teenagers have seen at least one video glorifying sadistic sex or gratuitous violence. We all know they are daily bombarded by advertisements and TV implying that it is grown-up to smoke, be promiscuous, drive recklessly and use foul language. This impression is reinforced by newspapers, magazines and pop music. And then we are surprised when the inevitable happens. Frankly, I am surprised it hasn't happened earlier!

There is no way we can make excuses for these people. As a Christian I take note of what the Bible says about each one of us, one day, having to give account of himself before God. There is no excuse; we each have to answer for our own actions – and that includes each young person.

But there are reasons, plenty of them, why we face this problem of what the Courier calls “yobbery”. The schools are not to blame, nor are the police, any more than hospitals are to blame for people contracting lung cancer.

All parents have a God-given responsibility for bringing up their children. No one has to have children, but if they do, certain responsibilities are included in the package. If my two teenage boys indulge in yobbery I can blame no one but myself.

Additionally, as any schoolteacher will tell us, children learn far more from what they see than from what they hear. We may say to young people that what they do is wrong – but they are not listening. They are actually looking very attentively at what they see in us.

We cannot hide from them what we put first in our lives, how we react when we can't get our own way, and whether we are prepared to moderate our behaviour for the sake of others.

To misquote another popular phrase: “Actions speak louder than words”.

Leigh Belcham



WHOSE FAULT ? - 2

Do you know where your child goes to in the evening? Do you know exactly where he or she is and who they are with?

There has been a lot of public outcry recently about gangs of young people wandering the streets of Pembury, and a lot of blame attached to them for their anti-social behaviour. One cannot condone some of their activities but

perhaps it is about time that someone said what most of us think – that if there is any blame to be apportioned, then the parents of these youngsters ought to accept the greater share.

These young people have few, if any, hobbies or interests. Why not? They seem to have very little sense of their own worthwhileness. Why not? They are unable to decide on their own actions and cannot accept responsibility for themselves or others. Why not?

It is because all of these things are normally learned in a caring and secure home! It seems that by the time these problem youngsters have reached the streets of Pembury the years of parental neglect have produced an almost insoluble social problem.

It is too late now to educate the parents on good parenthood. But do not let us forget that the youngsters on the streets today are the parents of tomorrow and that these young people are as much a part of our community as the old folk or the pre-school children.

It is not for the police to solve the problem, or solely the local youth club. It is for YOU and US to solve it. You might ask how you can help. There is an opportunity now for everyone who has any *real* interest in our young people and that does not mean shouting only when things go wrong.

Pembury is very fortunate in having its own youth club building almost ready for occupation. Maybe you care enough to want to come and help. If not, perhaps you have some hobby or interest which absorbs you. Maybe it is fishing. Why not, through the youth club leader, invite one or two youngsters to come along with you next time. Members of the many various organisations in Pembury – why don't you invite some members of the youth club to help with refreshments at your next "do"? Or if you have anything special, why not invite one or two youngsters to come along and share it with your organisation?

Make them welcome: involve them. Maybe they will run their own stall at your next fund-raising event or help you collect jumble or deliver literature – all jobs for which there are seldom enough volunteers.

They need new experiences and you are the ones to give them the opportunity. If you do not involve yourself, then you, too, will have failed.

Who knows; when they have their own son or daughter they might remember the time when someone took them fishing.

Pauline Hawker

A slight case of RE-ORGANIZATION

The new organisation of the Parish Council's meetings, which took effect from November, will strike the average person as a distinction without much difference.

For several years the Council conducted its business through six committees – Finance, Planning, Highways, Amenities, Burials and Allotments and Public Relations. The whole Council was considered to have membership of each committee at its fortnightly meetings. At one meeting it would conduct the business of three committees and the following fortnight the business of the other three. The meeting after that was a full Parish Council meeting at which the minutes of the previous committee meetings were considered and approved. In addition each of the six committee subjects had a sub-committee of five members each. Their job was to consider in detail any problems or proposals connected with Amenities, Finance or whatever and to present their report to the full Council.

But in November the National Association of Local Councils (the parish councils' governing body, if you like) pointed out that it was illegal for all the members of a parish council to sit as members of one committee. The solution to this difficulty is for the Parish Council to sit each fortnight as a full council considering two out of the six committee subjects and, of course, any other matters which require consideration at that time.

This new system has the effect of making each of the approximately 20 meetings a year into full Council meetings, with a public question time at 8.30 p.m. on each occasion. The sub-committee system continues as before.

Fortunately, the ruling as to the quite inadvertent illegality of the Parish Council's previous procedure did not go so far as to say that decisions reached under that procedure were invalid.

In real terms, as the economists are so fond of saying, the main effect of the new system will be slightly to shorten the length of meetings.



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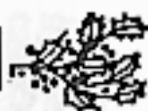
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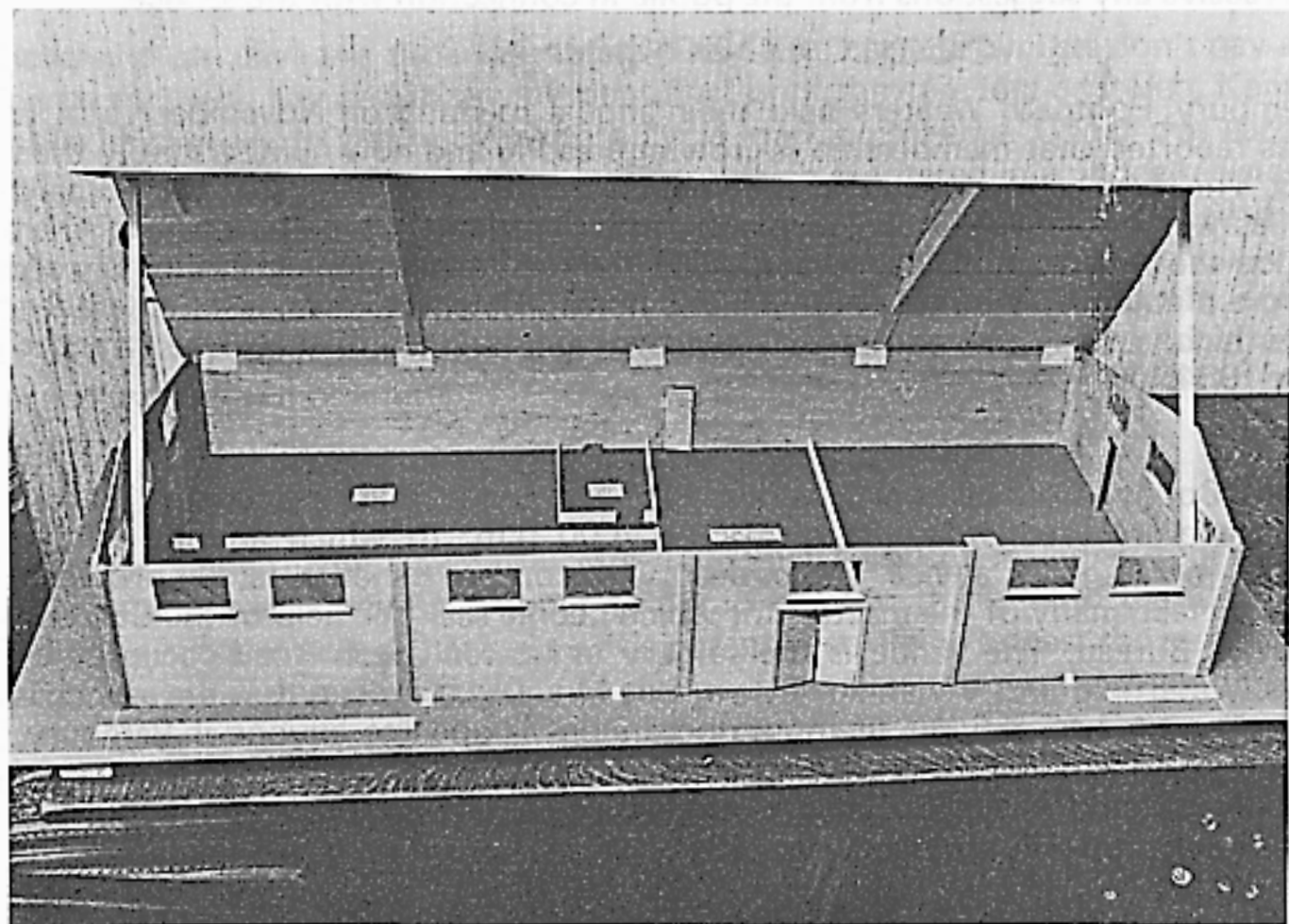


The uncertainty about a site for the proposed Scout and Guide headquarters in Pembury has now been resolved. When the money to pay for the building is available it will be erected on the site adjoining the Lower Green Road recreation ground, formerly reserved for the community centre.

The Parish Council has received a letter from the Borough Council, which at present owns the land, that it is willing to sell it to the parish as a site for the headquarters. The plan is that the Parish Council will then lease the site to the Scouts and Guides on a long lease at a nominal rent.

The Building Fund held its first annual general meeting on November 29th when the Chairman, Mr. Andy Cooper, reported on progress so far and added: "I would like to express my thanks to the committee, parents and friends, the Parish Council, the traders of Pembury and all who have helped to get the Fund off to such a good start in its first year".

On show at the meeting was a model of the proposed headquarters (pictured here) which it is hoped to display again in the village at a later date.



IN BRIEF



Pembury branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution made a net profit of £250 from its coffee morning at the Village Hall on October 29th. The organisers wish to express their thanks to residents who supported the event – the second annual coffee morning. Incidentally this year's profit exactly matched the amount raised last year. At the branch's annual meeting in November Mr. Stuart Stell was succeeded as chairman by Mr. Roderick Giles.



A useful way of avoiding the clashing of societies' meeting dates is to consult the events diary kept at the Pembury branch library at Lower Green. It is understood that this facility has been available for some time but it has not been used as often as might be. The staff asks that anyone wishing to make an entry in the diary should do so in person. Pembury library comes under the control of the Tunbridge Wells group of the county library service. Recently Mr. Keith Rundell was appointed Group Librarian at Tunbridge Wells, having previously been deputy divisional librarian at Maidstone. Soon after his appointment Mr. Rundell wrote to the Parish Council expressing his willingness to receive any suggestions from the public in connection with the service.



Pembury Footpath Walkers held their annual meeting on November 15th. It was reported that membership is growing steadily and now numbers more than 40. The average attendance at the Walkers' monthly walks is 20. Mr. Richard Miles was elected chairman in place of Mr. Adrian Stuart-Robson, chairman since the organisation was formed. The Walkers' experiment in having a walk and a ploughman's lunch at Mr. Miles's home, Fletchers Farm, last September, was highly successful and it is likely that something similar will be arranged for 1984.



Kent County Council social worker Mrs. Pat Dyke holds a "surgery" in the village every Wednesday from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. to which anyone with a problem can go for advice. Topics dealt with concern benefits, family problems and, in fact, many of the matters for which people seek the help of the Citizens' Advice Bureau. The venue is the surgery in Lower Green Road occupied by Drs. Waterfield and Vivian Ab Ewart, but Mrs. Dyke stresses that the service is not restricted to patients of those doctors but is open to anyone in Pembury. There is no need to make an appointment, but if anyone wishes to do so they should telephone the Social Services office in Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, telephone Tunbridge Wells 23342.



IN BRIEF

At the time of writing plans for the proposed supermarket on the Royal Oak site have not been considered by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. They were originally submitted by the developers, Ward's (Construction) Ltd. of Chatham, in September.

These were referred to the Parish Council for its comments.

The Parish Council found itself unable to accept a number of features in the proposed plan, and sent its comments to the Borough Council's planning department. The upshot of this was that a meeting took place on November 9th at the Dower House between representatives of the Parish Council, the Borough Council's planners and the developers at which the planning application was fully discussed. As a result Ward's are expected to submit a revised application soon. It should be stressed that the point at issue is not whether a supermarket can be built on the site – that question has already been settled after an appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment – but the details of the building to be erected on the site.



Bicycles these days are expensive items. They also, because cyclists don't pay a licence fee, lack any real means of identification if they are lost or stolen. Kent Police have come to the rescue with a cycle marking scheme. Under this each individual cycle is stamped with a number, which is entered in a police register so that, if anything happens to that machine, its owner is immediately identifiable. The first cycle marking session took place at the Primary School in December; the next is at the school on January 10th between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. The service is absolutely free and it applies to all bicycles, whether owned by children or adults.



In the last issue of the Newsletter Mrs. Jane Stuart-Robson issued an appeal to those interested in playing croquet to get in touch with her with the idea of forming a croquet club if there was sufficient interest. To be honest the response was not encouraging. So, unwilling to give up at the first attempt the determined Jane hopes to stage a demonstration of croquet on the Lower Green Road recreation ground next spring. Further details in the next Newsletter. You may have been missing something you would really enjoy.

Good Neighbours



A scheme to establish a network of Pembury residents ready to lend a helping hand to others in their road has been launched under the combined leadership of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches in the village.

Named the Road Steward Scheme, its aim is to ensure that anyone in need of help through disability, temporary difficulty, bereavement or accident can rely on a neighbourly hand to see them through their troubles.

Although the churches took the initiative in starting the scheme it is in no sense an evangelising venture. Road stewards – more than one will be necessary in long roads – can be members of any of the three churches or of none. The only aim is to bring practical neighbourliness to bear in lightening the difficulties which strike most of us at some time.

It is planned to divide Pembury roughly into four areas with an organiser in each. These are Mrs. Anne Pilgrim at the Vicarage, Mrs. Jill Marshall, Woodhill Park, Mr. Bill and Mrs. Ruth Pimental, 58 Lower Green Road.

So far some 40 men and women have agreed to become road stewards. It is anticipated that somewhere about 100 will be needed to cover Pembury completely. So volunteers are needed.

Dorrit Waterfield Fund

After a year, the Dr. Dorrit Waterfield Fund has been closed. The amount donated by friends and former patients of Dr. Dorrit totals nearly £1,650.

Dr. Dorrit Waterfield died in April last year after a medical career covering more than half a century, in hospitals as well as private practice. Latterly she helped to form the Samaritans in Tunbridge Wells and devoted much of her time to the care of drop-outs and unfortunates, many of whom she rehabilitated at her home.

She endeared herself to innumerable patients in Pembury, Lamberhurst, Matfield and Brenchley because of her kindness and skill. Many former patients speak of her devotion and of thoughtful and kindly actions far beyond the call of duty.

It was because she was remembered with such affection that it was decided to open a fund to her memory. The money is to be used in two ways. Most of it will go towards buying items of equipment for Pembury Hospital out-patients' department, at present being rebuilt; the balance will provide a permanent challenge cup for Pembury Horticultural Society, because Dr. Dorrit was a keen gardener.

No date has yet been fixed for the provision of the equipment at the hospital, but it is hoped to present the cup at the Horticultural Society's annual meeting on February 23rd.

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our by-pass campaign

November saw the first anniversary of the Department of Transport inquiry into Pembury's two by-passes. And that anniversary has passed without any official word as to when we can expect to hear what the definitive routes are to be or when work on either road is due to begin.

In July Mrs. Hazel Hawes-Richards, one of Pembury's Borough Council representatives, wrote to Transport Minister Mrs. Lynda Chalker asking when a statement could be expected.

In her reply, in August, Mrs. Chalker said consideration of the inquiry inspector's reports would take several months to evaluate before the Secretary of State could make a decision.

The inquiries, she said, had been complex and, as regards the A21 there were several objections to the route, as well as proposed alternative routes to be considered.


Mrs. Hawes-Richards wrote again early in November, pointing out that it was then 50 years since Pembury had been considered for a by-pass. It was also, Mrs. Hawes-Richards reminded, a year since the inquiries had been held in the Village Hall.

At the time of writing no reply to this letter has been received beyond an acknowledgement of its receipt.

The Parish Council has been in touch with Sir Patrick Mayhew, our local M.P., but to date he has not been any more successful in obtaining a hard and fast answer.

What is obvious is that the previously indicated starting date for the B2015 by-pass (the 1983/84 financial year) cannot now be met. Now it is looking less and less likely that the A21 by-pass will be started in the following financial year, as originally forecast.



All this throws into some disarray Pembury 2000's exhibition connected with the definitive by-pass routes, planned for next February and the Parish Council's hopes that the engineer in charge of one or both projects would be able to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in March.



Pembury Secretaries

shorthand & audio typing
duplicating

photocopying
copy typing

Pauline Hawker  **4327**
Maureen Redmond  **2224**

PEMBURY

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

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

Design and layout by DHR Photographic Ltd, and printed by Orchard Printing Services, Paddock Wood.

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

EDITOR :

Robert Allen
37 Highfield Close



Pembury 2439



Clerk to the Council

Henry S. J. Plant
16 The Coppice



Pembury 3459



YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

County Councillor:

John Barnes,
Furnace Mill Farm,
Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst
Tel: Lamberhurst 890788

Borough Councillors:

Mr. Arthur Bromwich,
Pembury Hall Lodge,
Church Road
Tel: Pembury 2865

Mrs. Hazel Hawes-Richards,
54 Hastings Road
Tel: Pembury 2779

Mrs. Hildy Swinden,
6 Church Road
Tel: Pembury 3378

Parish Council:

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Committee Chairmen:

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Planning: Mr. B. Chantler,
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Evening: Mrs. Adams, 13 Woodsgate Way.
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FOR YOUR DIARY

- Jan** 3 Ladies' Social Group – Women and the Law, Mr. R. Gardner. 24 Westway.
 4 Parish Council (Public question time 8.30 p.m.) – Burial and Allotments, Amenities. Village Hall
 5 Afternoon W.I. – Canals and Waterways, Mr. Fletcher. Village Hall 2.30 p.m. 8.00 p.m.
 6 Evening W.I. – The Shetland Islands, Mr. Beckwith. Village Hall 7.45 p.m.
 7 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Walk starting from Stonecourt Lane 2.15 p.m.
 16 Parish Council (Public question time 8.30 p.m.) – Highways, Public Relations. Village Hall 8 p.m.
 17 Darby & Joan Club – Meeting. Village Hall 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.
 17 Ladies' Social Group – A Country Lover's Diary (illust.), Mr. M. Mercer. 19 Batchelors.
 24 Darby & Joan Club – Meeting. Village Hall 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.
 28 Scout & Guide Building Fund – 60's Disco. Village Hall 8.00 p.m.
 31 Ladies' Social Group – Coffee & Bingo. 15 Lower Green Road.
- Feb.** 2 Afternoon W.I. – Talk by a representative of Marks & Spencer. Village Hall 2.30 p.m.
 3 Evening W.I. – The origin of R. W. Weekes. Village Hall 7.45 p.m.
 4 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Walk starting from the Camden at 2.15 p.m.
 6 Parish Council (Public question time 8.30 p.m.) – Planning, Finance. Village Hall 8.00 p.m.
 7 Darby & Joan Club – Meeting and talk by Mrs. Bartlett. Village Hall 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.
 7 Ladies' Social Group – Astrology, Mrs. E. Banks. 22 The Coppice.
 8 Outgrown Children's Wear – Sale. Village Hall 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
 20 Parish Council (Public question time 8.30 p.m.) – Burials & Allotments, Amenities. Village Hall
 21 Darby & Joan Club – Meeting. Village Hall 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. 8.00 p.m.
 21 Ladies' Social Group – What Marriage Guidance is all about by a Councillor. 32 Woodhill Park.
 23 Horticultural Society – Annual General Meeting. Village Hall 7.45 p.m.
- Mar.** 1 Afternoon W.I. – Famous Gardens, Mrs. Prestage. Village Hall 2.30 p.m.
 2 Evening W.I. – Self-sufficiency, Mrs. J. Wyatt. Village Hall 7.45 p.m.
 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Walk starting from Bo-Peep at 2.15 p.m.
 5 Parish Council (Public question time 8.30 p.m.) – Highways, Public Relations. Village Hall 8.00 p.m.
 6 Darby & Joan Club – Meeting. Village Hall 2 to 4.30.
 6 Ladies' Social Group – Enamelling, Mrs. J. Wyatt. 31 The Coppice.
 12 Horticultural Society – Floral Art Group. Village Hall 8.00 p.m.
 14 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. Village Hall 8 p.m.
 17 Conservative Spring Market. Village Hall 2 p.m.
 20 Darby & Joan Club – Meeting. Village Hall 2 to 4.30.
 20 Ladies' Social Club – Easter Dinner. The Camden.
 29 Horticultural Society – Illustrated talk on Hop Gardens of Kent, Mr. White. Village Hall 8 p.m.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

Upper Church

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (First, Third and Fifth Sundays)
 9.45 a.m. Parish Communion
 11.30 a.m. Junior Church (except fourth Sunday)
 6.30 p.m. Evensong with sermon

Parish Church

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Second and Fourth Sundays)
 11.15 a.m. Matins and Sermon



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

(35p)

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

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