

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 102
Summer 2000



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Cover photograph by courtesy of David Sellman

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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

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Pembury Village News is published four times a year by the Parish Council, but the views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent official council opinion or policy.

Typeset and printed by
The Meeting House
Tunbridge Wells.

NEWS

VILLAGE HALL

We are now nearing completion of this project as the new hall should be ready in early August 2000. We are planning celebrations for the opening and the official ceremony will take place on the 8 September 2000. An Open Day for all residents of Pembury is planned for 19 August between 10am and 4pm. Please watch the noticeboards and the Pembury column in the *Kent & Sussex Courier* for more details.



PARKING IN PEMBURY

The closing of the car park and the recent parking congestion around the village green have caused severe parking problems in the centre of the village.

Whilst it is a fair question, "How have we got into this situation?", it is surely more constructive to ask now what is the long term solution.

Unfortunately the answer rests largely with those who live outside Pembury and whose interests in Pembury may not match those of the residents. We can but ask that the long term solutions to parking take account of local opinion. Business owners will wish to retain good-will in the village where they hope to find many potential customers .

In the meantime the Parish Council will be seeking ways of supporting the best interest of Pembury during what we hope is urgent resolution of the parking problems.

ELECTIONS

RESULTS of the Borough Council elections for a representative from Pembury:
Bruce Ballantine (Liberal Democrat) 884, Paul Barrington-King (Conservative) 628.
Thus Bruce Ballantine continues as one of Pembury's Borough Council representatives.

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

*Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this magazine must be forwarded to the new Editor before
1st August 2000.*

If you use a computer to type your article, it would be extremely helpful if you could send it in on disk. If you do not have a disk, we can supply you with one.



VILLAGE HALL PROJECT 1999-2000



March 2000

April 2000



May 2000

VILLAGE HALL PROGRESS

FOR THE LAST edition our builders, John Jarvis Limited, wrote an informative article on their project plan. I trust you all found the article interesting and have been watching their progress erecting the new hall.

Your new hall will be considerably larger than the old hall providing separate meeting rooms and a soundproof ventilation system that will prevent noise distracting the residents in the hall's locality.

Since my last article the following Trusts have made generous donations supporting the funding of this project:

Raymond Bland Lawson Charitable Trust
– £2,500

The Hedley Foundation – £2,000

Sarah D'Avigdor Charitable Trust – £250

Garfield Weston Foundation – £10,000

We are now planning various events in

connection with the new hall:

- The First Pembury Esporta Fun Run possibly in September 2000, off road in Pembury Woods.
- A combined Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Choir and Quintessence evening of song with audience participation, date to be advised.

I am also hoping to stage a disco for our youngsters with a well-known dance DJ, proceeds will also be going towards Hospice.

As always any comments or observations on the new hall can be made to me as can any additional ideas for fund raising towards this worthwhile community project.

Brian Horgan

Fundraising Coordinator Village Hall Management Committee.

Tel: 822412. Email: brian.horgan@talk21.com

VILLAGE MARKET

NOW THAT work on the new village hall is well under way, plans for re-starting the village market are being put together.

Pembury has had a market for many, many years run in turn by the ladies from the WI, a fund raising group for St Peter's Church and, until it closed in July 1999, a group raising funds for many charities. It became a place where people could meet other villagers for a chat over a cup of coffee and a source of reasonably priced (and delicious! – Editor) home baking, freshly grown produce and local crafts.

With the advent of a super new hall the new market needs a new image to match. Possibly a new name, new format to appeal to all age groups in the village. The market has always been a very friendly place to shop and we want to retain this atmosphere but incorporate some new ideas.

To do this we will need more volunteers to help with the organisation, man the stalls and, if you drive, to pick up and deliver back some of our older volunteers. We also need new stallholders. There must be lots of people out there looking for an outlet for their crafts. Bakers also are in short supply. If you can make cakes, pies, biscuits, etc. and want to make a bit of extra cash there is always a demand for home baking. Perhaps you grow vegetables or flowers in your garden or you have an allotment and at certain times of the year have a glut of produce? Please bring it to the market and we will sell it for you.

We hope to re-open in mid-September but will arrange a gathering over a cup of tea beforehand to discuss and listen to ideas between anyone interested in being involved. Look out for the date in the Pembury column of the Kent & Sussex Courier. We want the market to be successful and continue to be an integral part of the village but we need your help to do this. Please contact Sue Boreham (824385) or Evelyn Fiddimore (518277) for more details.

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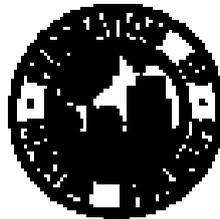
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LITTER PICK

COUNCILLORS taking part in the National Spring Clean week filled six large bags with litter from Pembury streets in just one hour on 8 April. From left to right: Councillors Sarah Clarke, Wendy Withycombe, Rosemary Latter, Alison Morton, Brian Horgan and Paul Barrington-King



FLOWER SHOW

*Pembury
Gardeners' excellent
show 25 March*

MAYPOLE DANCING

*Children from Pembury School
dancing around the maypole on
Saturday 6 May.*





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SNIPPETS . . .

Art & Craft Exhibition - 11 and 13 July 2000
– Pembury Millennium Committee would like to hold a village Arts and Craft Exhibition as part of Pembury's millennium celebrations. All Pembury residents are invited to submit any handicraft, painting, sculpture or wood/metal items of a reasonable size which they have created. Pembury Primary School has kindly offered us the use of the hall in the old school building for the event.

The Exhibition will be open to visitors from 6pm to 8.30pm on 11 and 13 July to coincide with the school's Parents Evenings. If you would like to show any items please contact Betty Roberts (824914) or Derek Johnson (823150).

Pembury Garden Tour 9 July – 1 pm to 5.30 pm Tickets and route (£3 for nine Pembury gardens) available from Ditchetts Chemist and the Village Newsagent and from 5 Lower Green Road after 1pm on the day. Contact: Carol Brewer 822030

Dr Peter Pattison – We hear that Dr Pattison will be leaving the Waterfield House practice at the end of June. We wish him every success with his future plans.

You should find an entry form for '**Pembury In Bloom**' with this edition. Each year more and more people take part in the competition (for good prizes!); it's also a fun way to brighten up the village. There are four categories to enter – Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket, Best Pub/Hotel/Commercial Frontage and Best Allotment. Judging will take place after the 15 July but they won't tell you that they're coming! The presentation tea for prizewinners will be held at Notcutts at the end of August.

Pembury 2000 mugs will be on sale again at village events throughout the year. At £2.75 each these beautiful china mugs make an excellent souvenir without breaking the bank. Forthcoming dates include: 8 July at the School Fete and 15 July at the Village Fayre.

Going to school – Now that the better weather is starting this is a good time to stretch those legs and walk the children to school instead of jumping in the car for a trip of only 500 yards . . . ?

Millennium Photo Project – Members of St Peter's Photographic Club have been spotted 'on duty' at events and are doing sterling work. However, we do need your photos of events this year as well, so get your cameras out. When you send the photos in (to the Clerk's office at 6, The Grove), please note on a piece of paper your name, address, telephone number, what the photo is about, who the people are in it, when you took it and any other relevant details. If you have any questions give Alison Morton (824938) or Paul Barrington-King (825144) a call.

Finnish Children's Songs – a local registered charity – is organising a concert by the Sackville Singers at 7.30pm on Saturday 7 October at St Peter's Upper Church. The charity gives financial help to families throughout the world to visit their sick children in hospital. Tickets (£6.00 adults, children and senior citizens £4.00 – including refreshments) are available from Ditchetts Chemist, High Street, Pembury or by phoning 822643.

Pembury Wine, Special 2000 Edition, will be on sale, price £4.99, in various places in the village; from Unwins in the High Street and at the Pembury Village Fayre on 15 July.

The League of Friends of Pembury Hospital's Fete on 26 August hopes to raise £15,000 to provide special equipment for the treatment of skin diseases in the new dermatology clinic in the Outpatients Department. The fete starts at 1pm – hope to see you there!

Blips in the system . . .

The dates for the October Parish Council meetings should be 2nd October and 30th October, not 20th and 30th as published in the Parish Report included in the last edition. Also the email address is pembury.village.news@pbss.demon.co.uk (part of it was omitted last time). We do try our best . . .

Can you help? Nick Staines, a keen student of the First World War, is researching the names on the Pembury war memorial. He emailed us asking if anybody had done similar research and also if we could suggest some useful contacts. Send us your reply and we'll forward it on to Nick.

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SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB

The Irish call it the *Craic*. I am sure we British would have a word for it too if we could find one. In the context of Pembury Cricket Club, it means enjoying a Saturday or Sunday afternoon (both if you think you're fit enough!) for the sheer enjoyment of competing in sport, with the desire to win always there but not a matter of life and death when the odd defeat occurs. Indeed, a glance at the League results over the last few seasons shows more wins than losses which, particularly in the case of the second eleven where some of us will not see 40 again (I'm being kind here!), is no mean feat. The Sunday XI ethos is geared to ensuring everyone who plays always gets a part of the action, which often makes for a grandstand finish in many games.

The club embarks on the Millennium season again keen to win both divisions of the Kent Village League. Despite recent successive runners-up spots for the second XI neither team has yet had its hands on the coveted winning trophies. Which is why we still need more players to give the club a strength in depth and the ability to challenge for the silverware for years to come. So if you would like to join a progressive club – and don't worry if you haven't played for a while – please give me a call in the first instance on 824362 and I'll make sure the team skippers know of your credentials.

The club's thriving social activities will continue to flourish this year with an assortment of Bar-B-Qs, Race Nights and Quiz Nights, not to mention the Men's Annual Dinner and Ladies' Night Dinner & Dance. Indeed, the clubhouse bar will be ever welcoming throughout the season. So if the *Craic* appeals to you and you enjoy the essence of team spirit, then we look forward to hearing from you.

Andy Weaver

PEMBURY TENNIS CLUB

Our season runs from 3 May until September. Club nights are: Wednesdays – 6.30pm to dusk; Fridays – 6.30pm to dusk; Sundays – 3pm to 6pm. New members will be made very welcome.

For more information please telephone Barbara Ballantine (822156) or Sheila Smith (822405)

PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

Well, that was another satisfying and successful season for the village club. All five teams 'did us all proud' – as the saying goes. The final set of medals was not decided until 14th May, the last day of the season for the Sunday teams. Briefly, our record is as follows:

Saturday 1st XI – Won promotion, for the third year running, when they finished very worthy runners up in Div 2 West of the British Energy Kent County League. This means that next year not only will they be playing in Div 1 but they will be recognised as a team of Intermediate status by the FA. This is quite an achievement to have risen to this level. We, and I hope the Village, are justifiably proud of this standing. They topped their season by winning the prestigious Tunbridge

Wells Charities' Senior Cup. This is

about the most difficult cup to win in local football – teams from all over West Kent enter. The trophy itself is also one of the most resplendent awarded to local clubs and can be seen in the Black Horse, our base.

Saturday Res. – After being promoted last season to Div 2 of the Tonbridge League they had a season of consolidation but still managed to finish a creditable 3rd.

Sunday 1st XI – For the second season running they finished runners up in Div 1 of the West Kent Sunday League. They were beaten 1-0 in the semi-final of the League's Senior Cup. So close, but so far. Next year!

Sunday Res. – Gained runners up spot in Div 2 of the League by winning their last game of the season. Unfortunately, they will not be promoted next year as the 1st. team is already in Div 1, the top division.

Sunday A team – To become champions of Div 5 they needed to win their last match of the season 4-0. Unfortunately they only won 2-0, which meant that they also finished runners-up in their division. The match was away from home against the team who finished as champions!



All in all I think that we have had another good season. Well done to the players, managers and officials! Less than two months to go before training starts again . . .

Just one final word – anybody that has any memorabilia or tales of bygone years about the Club please contact me as we are trying to build up a full history of the club.

Jim Smith, Chairman

PEMBURY (ATHLETIC) YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

On Friday 12th May, Pembury Athletic (Youth) F.C. held their 18th Annual Awards evening at the Catholic Hall, Pembury. With over 150 players from 7-17 involved in the club the proceedings were held in two sessions with over 250 people attending.

In the last two years the club has appointed a fully (FA) qualified Club coach and this season has seen good progress for all teams. The younger teams play small-sided soccer, implemented and supported by the English FA, and are continuing to increase their skills. The Under12 to Under17 teams play 11-a-side competitive soccer. Our Under 13 team had an excellent season, finishing 3rd in their League. The Under 14 team won their League and won through to the Tournament Shield final, and the Under 18 team maintained a strong challenge for the League title, eventually finishing 4th and also made the Knockout cup final. In addition, six players from the club have

represented the Crowborough League in inter-league competition.

Two merit awards, Clubman of the Year shield and Player of the Year cup were presented to winners in the Under 11 to Under 18 teams. Awards were also presented by David Gow, Club coach, to the three most improved players in the club, and all players received certificates for the season. Guests included members of the Parish Council, Crowborough & District Junior League, Pembury Senior Club and representatives from our sponsors, all of whom admired the excellent array of trophies on display.

The evening closed with the presentation of three special awards. Richard Dibley was presented with the Peter Chandler trophy for his energies in supporting the club in their drive to provide sport for the youth of the Village; Elaine Mearing accepted the overall Clubman of the Year award on behalf of her son Chris; and James Young received an extraordinary award for his outstanding contribution to the club and role of Player/Coach to the Under 18 team.

Thanks go to all the officers of the club for their efforts, to the parents and families for their support; to our sponsors, including Cornhill Insurance, The Independent Insurance and Pure Asphalt; and finally congratulations to all the players of the club – with best wishes for a successful 2000/2001 season.

Ben Coombes, Secretary

PEMBURY VILLAGE FAYRE – Saturday 15th July

This year's event, which is again being organised by Pembury Athletic (Youth) FC and Pembury Scouts and Guides, promises to be the best yet. The Fayre will consist of an afternoon session, to be opened at 2pm by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, with all the usual elements of stalls and attractions. For the second time there will be a Dog Show with Breed and Novelty classes. Admission to the Fayre will be by programme costing £1 which can be purchased in advance as well as on the day. Advance purchase will be give entry into a prize draw offering a ride in a Hot Air Balloon.

An evening session will commence at about 7pm with a children's Fancy Dress competition followed by a Tug of War between village organisations. At about 7.30pm, weather conditions permitting, eight lucky winners will take off in a Hot Air Balloon. Tickets at £1 each can be obtained from Ian White 824301, Mike Cartwright 823235 or Laurie Frowde 822826.

Music and entertainment will be provided throughout the Fayre. The evening session will culminate in a magnificent Firework Display, sponsored by Pembury Parish Council, at about 9.45pm. A bar will be available during the Fayre as well as Barbecued food.

If you would like a stall, or more information, please contact **Colin Forward on 825436**.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR – Wendy Withycombe

WENDY has lived in the village for 16 years, became a Parish Councillor in September 1999 and sits on the Planning, Public Relations and Finance Working Groups. Married to Michael for 28 years, her two children Stephanie (19) and Nicholas (18) both attended Pembury Primary School. She is a mature entrant to the teaching profession having gained a BEd (Hons) at Greenwich University, specialising in Mathematics and IT. She currently teaches at Sherwood Park C.P. School and although the school has a high percentage of special needs she enjoys the positive and lively atmosphere there.



Wendy has always had a keen interest in village life and regularly attended the open sessions of Parish Council when her children were younger – mainly to raise concerns about dog fouling in the area and concrete surfaces in the recreation ground. Now that her children are older she finds she can participate more actively in Parish affairs and focus on the problems of the volume of traffic that still comes through the village and the rising cost of housing in the area.

When ‘off-duty’ from her job and Parish concerns Wendy enjoys swimming and learning Spanish.

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

HOSPICE in the Weald is celebrating the charity’s 20th anniversary in June this year. It was founded as Hospice at Home in June 1980 to support terminally ill people and their families in their own homes. The name was changed to Hospice in the Weald in 1995 when the site in Pembury was acquired and the capital appeal for the new building launched. Home care is still a major and vital part of the service but the name change was intended to reflect the new, wider role of the Hospice which now also provides both inpatient and day care at the Maidstone Road building and has a widely used education centre to which large numbers of staff from elsewhere come for training. From a small beginning in 1980 the expansion has been such that in 1999 the Hospice received 545 referrals of patients from West Kent and East Sussex, itself a 25% increase over the previous year.

Meanwhile the Pembury Hospice Link Group has been running for a more modest five years but in that time is delighted to have raised around £63,000 from its own fundraising activities plus a great many donations from local organisations and individuals. (This

doesn’t include the profits from the Hospice Shop in the village, which is run separately.) Most of the original members still belong to the Group, so they must enjoy it, but inevitably one or two have moved from the area or had to give up for other reasons. Some new blood and new ideas would be welcome – members help with events when they can and nobody is expected to attend everything! If you are interested ring Mrs Chris Cooper on 825428 for more information. Alternatively some 200 volunteers work at the Hospice itself and anyone able to spare a half day once a week or even once a fortnight is asked to ring 820529 for details of current vacancies. Reception duties, coffee bar, flower arranging, gardening and driving are among jobs done by volunteers on half day rotas. People able to work on Saturdays or Sundays are especially welcome.

After 12 years as General Manager (in keeping with the times now re-titled Chief Executive) David Payne is leaving Hospice in the Weald to work for another charity. He is being succeeded in June by Mrs Cheryl Parker, who was born in the USA and is a former Executive Director of a Hospice in Florida.

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TESCO ON ITS WAY TO PEMBURY

IT'S ALL systems go for the new Tesco store at Woodsgate Corner, Pembury. Highway work is now complete and the site prepared for the construction of the store. Building contractors Kier Wallis started work on the store at the beginning of May.

The 13,775 sq ft store is expected to open at the end of October. It will create around 160 jobs for local people.

Ken Catt, Tesco Project Manager, said: "This size store is what we term as a neighbourhood store and it's ideal for Pembury. We are very much a community company and we look forward to becoming actively involved in the area."

Recruitment for the store will start at the beginning of August. A recruitment centre will be set up for job-seekers to find out more about the opportunities available and the benefits of working for Tesco. This will be advertised in the local press. Tesco provides valuable career opportunities for people of all backgrounds including school-leavers and young graduates, working parents, people with disabilities or older people who want to return to work.



PEMBURY FOOTPATH WALKERS – A mystery trail

AS A CONTRIBUTION to the year 2000 events the Pembury Footpath Walkers have devised a 'mystery trail' with both the Village Fayre and the school summer holidays in mind. It is intended to provide a pleasant walk and a bit of fun mixing town and country, following a simple route that is not too long and not too difficult. Question paper and route instructions can be obtained from the PFW stand at the Village Fayre for the sum of 50 pence.

You can walk the route, or parts of it as often as you like as long as you complete it fully at least once. You may enter individually or as a family or group. There will be twelve questions to be answered. Your completed paper should be deposited in the box provided in the Pembury Library by Wednesday 6 September. The winner(s) will receive a basket of fruit and the first three non-PFW members will receive a year's free membership to the Pembury Footpath Walkers.

As the year 2000 is being celebrated as a measurement of Christian time this mystery trail will, appropriately, start and finish at the Upper Church of St Peter's in Hastings Road. The event is open to all and should take you about two hours.

Brian Toseland

GILL'S GARDEN IN SUMMER

NOW SUMMER is almost here it is time to plant container-grown shrubs and herbaceous plants, making sure they are well watered. Stake plants as needed and protect them from slug damage either through biological or chemical methods. Hanging baskets and ornamental containers can be planted with colourful annuals and water-retaining crystals can be added to the soil to retain moisture as can pelleted fertiliser to provide continuous feeding.

Tender plants and summer bedding can be planted as can hardy annual seeds such as Pansies, Bellis and Sweet William ready for autumn planting. Annuals such as Limonanthus [poached egg plant] encourage ladybirds and hoverflies; these help to pollinate plants as well as feeding on aphids.

Plant out young Sweet Peas either in the ground or in tubs, making a wigwam of canes for them to grow up. Underplant these with bedding plants. This method can be used for growing runner beans under planted with lollo rosso lettuce where only a few leaves are

needed in a salad. For a change hanging baskets can contain herbs, strawberries and small cherry tomatoes.

Prune shrubs such as forsythia, philadelphus, spirea and broom (with broom be careful not to cut back into old wood). Cut back spring flowering plants and alpines (aubretia, cut back hard and fertilise). If you have a pond plant out aquatics and divide water lilies. Clip hedges such as holly, hombeam and yew towards the end of summer.

Lawns need to be mown regularly now feed in early summer and apply weed killer if necessary. Mulch borders if need be to conserve water as well as preventing weed seeding.

Happy gardening!

Gill Matthews



DROUGHT

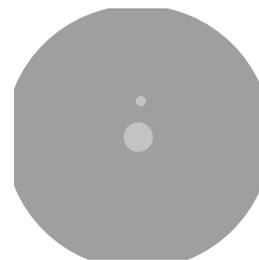
AS I WRITE this article at the back end of April, I have recorded a total monthly rainfall of 171mm but that is just for the record. Last time I dealt with rainfall so this time I go to the opposite subject and refer to Drought.

While many weather phenomena are sudden and somewhat short lived drought tends to take hold over an area gradually and tighten its grip over time. In the most severe cases it can, of course, last for many years; there is recorded one part of the coast of Chile where it has not rained for 10 years. Rain is unevenly distributed around the planet and some places will always receive less than others will.

The meteorological definition of a drought is 15 consecutive days without any measurable rainfall or snow, i.e. less than 0.2mm, as most rain gauges measure in 0.2mm increments. This applies primarily to the UK as different countries have their own definitions.

Most memorable to me were the great droughts of the summers of 1959 and 1976 but of course they can occur, but less commonly, at any time during the year. By the time this is read we may well be a state of drought . . .

Mike Stanford



MY PLOT

THE ALLOTMENTS are an amazing hive of activity now. Whenever I go there, there are people everywhere – clearing, digging, planting and sowing.

Unfortunately visits from vandals have started again too. Masquerading as granddaughters and nieces of allotmenters, they trample and waste the produce that folk have worked hard on. I was wondering whether to keep a camera with me in future. Back to more positive thinking . . .

I love the seed stage more than anything. I enjoy everything to do with seeds – choosing which ones to buy, sowing them in trays, seeing them start to grow and even pricking them out. My only problem is that I am incapable of mercilessly throwing away the weaklings. I have to give them all a chance of survival - meaning that I end up with far too many plants without a home. Daft really.

Each year I try to grow something that I've never heard of before. This year it's a vegetable called Skirret. My catalogue says that the Emperor Tiberius was a huge fan of this root crop that looks like a Dahlia tuber. "It was once esteemed as being amongst the sweetest, whitest and most pleasant of roots". I'll let you know.

Last year I grew Couve Tronchuda(!) It was a great success although I have to say that it turned out to be a very close relative of the Brassica family: so not as adventurous as I'd thought. We ate the leaves all through the Winter like cabbage and ate the flowers like broccoli all Spring.

I have already spotted next year's try-out vegetable: Jicama. I quote: "highly ornamental climber" with "purple flowers" and "roots like turnips with a thirst quenching, fresh-apple taste". How can I resist that?

Of course I do grow the ordinary things too. Potatoes (Maris Piper and Vanessa), onions (Sturon and Topper) and a wide selection of beans (Broad, French, Dwarf and Runner) to keep us going for most of the year. Then there's the fruit that my children all eat without moaning. I must make a special effort to grow even more strawberries this summer! And lastly, this year I am going to try harder than ever to grow staggered crops of lettuce and radishes, etc. so that we don't endure my 'boom-and-bust' mistakes so often!

Finally, I am trying to grow a small wild flower 'meadow'. This is not proving to be as easy as I'd hoped. It does not happen of its own accord and is taking quite a lot of interference from me. Couch Grass grows too fast and beats my butterfly, bee and bat(?) attracting mixture. Nevertheless, it is very pretty and has been much admired by some, though not so much by others!

Caroline Mazzey



KENT COLLEGE



You may remember we featured a photograph in our special 100th edition in Winter 1999 showing students from Kent College planting bulbs. Here are the results of their labours!

PEMBURY SCHOOL REUNION

THE GRAND REUNION at Pembury School on 6th May was hailed as a resounding success by all who took part. The school hall was filled with former pupils and staff of every age group. Two hundred and forty entries were made in the Millennium Book.

The eldest visitor was a gentleman who attended the school from 1911 to 1915. He still lives in the village and plays bowls regularly. Another former pupil, aged 83, came on the bus from Tonbridge. He had attended school in 1926 and had lived in the boys' home which was in Romford Road. This piece of information led to further research as everyone wanted to know where the home was actually situated. Later in the day the mystery was solved by another former pupil who had written a piece about life as a boy in Pembury eighty years ago. Chalfonts, as the home was called, was along a small track in the first part of Romford Road nearest to the village. The house is now two homes.

It was delightful to see so many people who told us some wonderful stories of life in school. The

information we gathered will be a rich source for the children. Many former pupils have offered to come into school to talk to the children which is something we will look forward to following up.

During the day people were able to wander around the school revisiting their old classrooms and reminiscing about the good old days! Many former pupils met up with old friends again and were able to exchange news and memories.



If any former pupils and teachers have any old documents or photographs that they feel would be of interest, please could they bring them to school for us to see. We may be able to make copies which we could display at our open evenings in July.

If there are any former pupils who were unable to attend on Saturday

but who would like the opportunity to sign the book, please call in to the school office as it is not too late.

Our thanks go to everyone who came and made it such a successful day.

Linda Turner

ALAN FRANCIS COLLETT *17 February 1938-1 March 2000*

POPULAR LANDLORD of the King William IV, Hastings Road, Allan Collett was born in February 1938 in Bromley, Kent. After leaving school he became an apprentice motor mechanic, met his future wife, Carol, when he was 17 years old and they started courting. He did his two years National Service when he was 18 and he and Carol became engaged when he was in the Army. They married in 1959 when he was 21. Their first child and only son, Stephen, was born in 1961, followed by three daughters; Jackie, Sandra and Joanne.

In 1964 they moved to Sevenoaks and Allan became a service engineer for Parkinson Cowan and worked for them until 1974. It was then he took his first pub, The Man of Kent in Sevenoaks.

He became actively involved with the Sevenoaks Licensed Victuallers Association and in the early 1980s became the Chairman. 1986 saw another change when the family moved to the King William IV in Pembury where Allan made many friends of his loyal customers. He was as popular a landlord in Pembury as he was in Sevenoaks. Allan saw all of his children happily married and was a devoted Grandad to all seven of his grandchildren.

Having just celebrated his ruby wedding anniversary, Allan died in tragic circumstances whilst undergoing a routine operation in hospital. His death was a terrible shock and his loss is felt greatly by his family and the friends he made during his lifetime.

THE CHARLES AMHERST ALMSHOUSES

ON WEDNESDAY 26 April 2000 the Director of the Almshouses Association, Major General Anthony de C L Leask CB CBE, came to visit the Almshouses in Pembury to meet the residents and the Trustees.

Since becoming Director of this Association, which has 1,800 members throughout the country, General Leask has visited about 600 of them in three years. He believes in getting to know the people whose lives are his concern and likes to keep up to date with all that is available to those living in the Almshouses. This can sometimes be rather limited as many of them were set up hundreds of years ago and the benefactors' wishes have to be complied with as far as possible.

The Charles Amherst Almshouses here in Pembury are 285 years old and recently the Trustees made a number of improvements in order to bring the six houses more in line with modern requirements. The latest work, funded by a Lottery Grant two years ago, was the installation of showers instead of baths, plus a second toilet,



hand rails, etc.

General Leask praised the Trustees for what they had done so far but also left them with a number of ideas as to what could still be done as and when money becomes available. In this last matter the Almshouses Association can be very helpful indeed.

At the present moment (early May) there is a vacant Almshouse. Applicants have to have resided in Pembury for at least two years. The houses are meant for older people living on a low income who are able to look after themselves. The residents do not pay a rent as they are not tenants and have no rights as such. Instead they pay a Weekly Maintenance Charge towards the upkeep of the property.

Vacancies are advertised in both Post Offices, Doctors' surgeries and the Library. Application forms and further information can be obtained from the Clerk to the Trustees: Mr G. H. Stafford TD MBCS, 1 Greenleas, Pembury, Kent TN2 4NS.

Mary Standen

MILLENNIUM KNEELERS

ON Saturday 13 May, a wonderfully warm and sunny morning, the Revd. Stephen Sealy conducted a Service of Dedication for the new hassocks for the Old Church, stitched to celebrate the Millennium.

An address was given by Canon John Armson of Rochester Cathedral, who has a special interest in church embroidery and in the use of art and craft in adding beauty to Christian worship. This lively and entertaining address was thoroughly enjoyed by the congregation.

After the Service an informal Bring & Buy Sale took place and £570 was raised for the Friends of Pembury Parish Church for repairs and maintenance. Our thanks go to everyone who made this such a wonderful result.

Many grateful thanks go to everyone who was involved with the kneeler project in any way. It has been a very rewarding venture which this Service of Dedication has brought to a successful, colourful and happy conclusion.

All the completed kneelers are now in everyday use in the Old Church and the Friends of Pembury Parish Church open the Church for visitors every summer Sunday afternoon from 3pm to 5.00pm should anyone wish to have a quiet browse.

Ann Toler

PEMBURY SCHOOL FIESTA

PEMBURY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION is holding its annual Summer Fete on Saturday 8 July 2000. This year we are having a carnival/fiesta/celebration theme and we are hoping to open the fete with a carnival parade through the village ending up at the school.

There will be the usual stalls – coconut shy, tombola, raffle, lucky ducks, win a football, white elephant, etc. together with some new ideas. We are once again having the very popular big dipper, jungle run and bouncy castle.

Refreshments will consist of a BBQ and the



tea tent, together with a few side stalls selling popcorn and pancakes. We are hoping for good weather and we want to make the day a multi-cultural celebration with lots of music and entertainment. Further details will be sent to the parents/ guardians of children in the school in the next month or so.

If anyone has any toys, books or unwanted gifts in good condition for the white elephant stall, could they please take them to the school office as soon as possible.

Helen Hendley
Secretary to the PSA

FLOWER FESTIVAL AND CONCERT

THE FLOWER FESTIVAL will be held in the Old Church over the weekend of 1st and 2nd July. The Church will be open during Saturday 1st July from 10.30am until 5.30pm and then on Sunday 2nd July after the Holy Communion Service at 12.30pm until 5.30pm. To celebrate the year 2000 many of the village organisations who are doing displays will commemorate in flowers, or otherwise, historical and village events over the past century. The end result should be interesting! The previous festivals have been well supported and we hope that you will visit the Old Church over the weekend. Refreshments will be available.

As part of the celebration Steven Devine from Finchcocks will be giving a concert “Music for a Summer Evening” from Baroque to Jazz on Saturday 1 July starting at 7.30pm. Entrance will be free; refreshments again will available and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the Friends of Pembury Parish Church.

LIBRARY OPEN DAY – 9 July 2000

AN OPEN AFTERNOON is planned at Pembury Library on Sunday 9 July between 3pm and 5pm. This is your chance to take a closer look at the local history of Pembury in photographs, documents and maps.

Local historian, Mary Standen, has kindly agreed to display her fascinating collection of memorabilia. She will also have copies of her updated book ‘Just One Village’ for sale.

Members of the local history groups and the Pembury Society will also be on hand to share their knowledge of Pembury past and present. Light refreshments (tea and biscuits) will be available free of charge. Everyone is very welcome, so please come along and find out more about where you live!

PEMBURY MILLENNIUM EVENTS 2000 – UPDATE

We are well into the Millennium Year and events so far have been very well supported. This updated calendar shows just how many things are to come!

Throughout the year	Bound Book	Millennium Committee/Pembury Society. To include contributions from a least 1 in 20 families
May/September	Cricket Weekend	Pembury Cricket Club
June 10th 2pm-5pm	Pageant	Pembury Village Green
July 1	Strawberry Tea	Camden Court. Organised by Pembury Evening WI
July 1st & 2nd	Flower Festival	Old Church
July 8th	Fiesta 2000	Pembury School Association In the ground (Mugs on sale)
July 11 & 13	Arts and Crafts Exhibition	Pembury School based 2 day event
July 15th 2pm	Village Fayre with Opening Parade	Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club and Scouts & Guides. In the Recreation Ground (Mugs on sale)
July 15th 7pm	Barbeque/dance plus fireworks show to end the evening	Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club and Scouts & Guides. In the Recreation Ground
July/August	Millennium Mystery Trail	Pembury Footpath Walkers
July 21st/23rd	Millennium Day Exhibition Camp	Guides – Recreation Ground
August 17th	‘Green’ – A picnic lunch for parents and toddlers	Parish Church Mothers Union. Village Green
September 9	Coffee Morning – Village Green	Friends of Pembury Old Church.
September 9	Dance/disco	New Village Hall. Organised by Pembury Players and Hospice Link Group
October 7	‘Concert’. An evening of Finnish songs	St Peter’s Upper Church
November 18th am	St Peter’s Autumn Fayre	Upper Church
November	Parish Exhibition	Pembury Parish Council. At Pembury School. Being planned

PAGEANT

IN THE LAST ISSUE I promised to give a little more detail of Pageant 2000 – so here goes! This event has been organised by the Churches Together, (Pembury Free Church, St. Anselm’s and St. Peter’s), the schools in Pembury (Kent College and Pembury School) and the Hospice in the Weald with some help from the Parish Council to celebrate events in their history or the millennium.

Each of the organisations is presenting a playlet, lasting between 10 and 15 minutes, on the Village Green on 10th June at 2,30pm. There is no charge so do come – you are assured of a warm welcome and refreshments are available. However, should you need a seat please bring one with you.

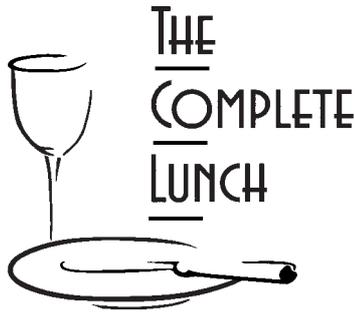
Weather permitting the Village Green should provide a great venue but, if it is wet, the event will still take place but in the Roman Catholic Hall.

So remember to put it in your diaries – 10th June – Village Green – 2.30pm. – Be there!

John Franks

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Your Clerk *Reports* . . .

THE ANNUAL Parish Meeting was held in March and although attendance was low it was a very informative, relaxed evening. The Annual Meeting gives an opportunity to Parishioners to question the Parish Council on matters which affect them and perhaps raise issues and make suggestions which could be beneficial to the village.

The Parish Council has had an electricity supply connected for use on the village green. It can be used for such things as tea urns, public address systems, etc. If your organisation wishes to make use of this facility please contact the Clerk to the Council (823193). Permission first has to be obtained from the Parish Council to use the village green for an organised event. Hopefully, this year the supply will enable us to have a Christmas tree in the centre of the village.

On 8th April Parish Councillors gave up their Saturday morning to pick up litter around the village as part of Tidy Britain Month. Perhaps if we all picked up litter as we saw it we would have a cleaner village and no need for a special event! Many thanks to all who participated.

As part of Britain in Bloom, the Parish Council has ordered 12 lamppost baskets for the High Street. This is the first time we will have had baskets on street lights but it should make a great difference to the appearance of the High Street in summer. If you would like to sponsor a basket please contact the Clerk. We would also like to encourage everyone to enter the spirit of the competition by planting their own baskets and front gardens. An entry form is enclosed with this edition of the Village News for the Pembury in Bloom competition sponsored by Notcutts. Do please enter.

The village also has some lovely specimens of trees and each year enters the Kent Men of the Trees competition. We have not won for several years but perhaps this year will be our year.

I am sure you are all aware that the Village Fayre will extend into the evening this year (15th July) as part of the Millennium celebrations, culminating in a firework display sponsored by the Parish Council. Please keep this date free as it should be a day to remember.

Finally, a reminder that allotments are available at a cost of £15 full plot, £7.50 half plot. Tennis permits cost £12 for 1 month, £15 for 2 months and £40 for a year. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

You can also contact the Clerk's office by email at pemburypc@hotmail.com.

Barbara Russell

PEMBURY SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

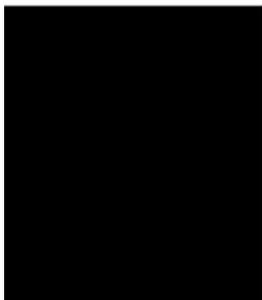
In response to the Editor's request, Mrs Edna Morris tells us about this long-established club.

Fifty years ago the Pembury Dance Club – known then as The Old Time Dance Club - was started in the Institute Hall. Mr & Mrs Accott led the dancing and Mr Pomfrett supplied the music. Members included Percy and Dorothy Figgitt who lived in the Institute Cottage and were very well known Pembury figures. Also many others including Miss Mercy Valentine from Romford Road who was involved in the Friday Market with her flowers and produce and who could be seen driving round the village with her 'Sheltie' dog by her side. Other members have included Bob and Beryl Greatrex who still do so much for the Darby & Joan Club, etc.

The Dance Club – now known as Modern Sequence and Old Time – later moved to the Catholic Hall under various leaders and still holds its meetings there on a Monday evening, headed by professional leaders Terri and Ken Rowcliffe from Paddock Wood.

The Institute consisted of a large Hall used for dances, concerts, etc. and a smaller room where Mrs Surridge – my mother – had a kindergarten school attended by many youngsters over the years.

Edna Morris



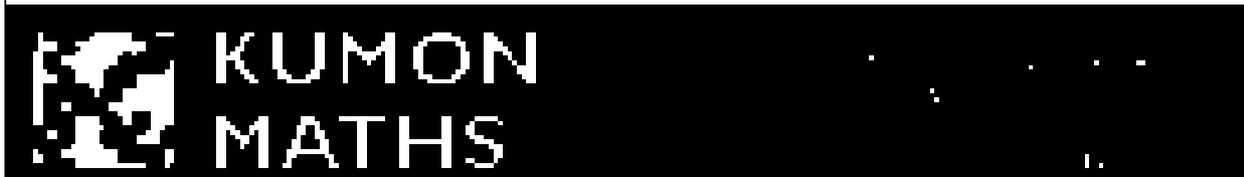
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PEMBURY IN THE PAST

The Glubbs 1919-1938

Records show that following the end of the First World War Pembury became the home for nearly 20 years of the father of Jack Glubb Pasha, otherwise Lt General Sir John Bagot Glubb KCB CMG DSO OBE MC.

Major General Sir Frederick Manley Glubb KCMG, CB, DSO, JP was Chief Engineer of the British Army of Occupation in Germany. He came with his wife, Frances Laetitia Bagot (whom he married in 1889), to live at Church House, Pembury. He became a magistrate and being an expert horseman indulged in that passion. Jack shared that passion which served him well in his career in the Middle East. Jack and his father would go riding together in France during leaves. Jack distinguished himself as a subaltern being awarded the MC (Military Cross) for his service at Arras. His face was substantially damaged by a shell causing him to be nicknamed 'Abu Hunaik' (father of little jaw) by the Arabs. Pasha was an honourable title of high rank and respect.

Jack Glubb Pasha was one of the most remarkable military and diplomatic leaders of the 20th century. He was a major force of influence in the Middle East for nearly 30 years of turmoil between the wars and immediately afterwards. A bachelor until 41 he would visit his parents in Pembury during his short periods of leave, which were few and far between, especially in the early years of his service. He first went to the Middle East for a few years in about 1920 as a volunteer officer on secondment seeking adventure. He fell in love with

the Arabs. Rather than quitting the Arabs he left the British Army and became an employee first of the Iraqi government and later of Jordan. He became Commander of the Arab Legion in 1933 remaining as such until he was summarily dismissed without fault by King Hussain in March 1956. He was essentially a soldier. He never lost a battle. He did not recognise his diplomatic role and skills. He was shy, a devout Christian, calm and patient, all characteristics which went down well with the Arabs. His generosity out of his personal pay to Arabs for medical and educational treatment was greatly appreciated and exceptional.

Major General Glubb died on 31 July 1938 and was buried at Cowfold, Sussex beside his mother. Jack came home on leave. He had been corresponding with Rosemary Forbes, an employee of his mother, Lady Glubb, and they decided to get married which they did on 20 August 1938 at the Registry Office in Tunbridge Wells. She was 15 years his junior. He immediately returned to Amman with his mother. Rosemary followed three months later with her mother and their wedding was solemnised in the Anglican Church in Beirut. They spent a two-day honeymoon in a Beirut hotel accompanied by both mothers and then went on to Amman.

Perhaps the most striking fact of all in Jack's career was his dismissal. He had less than 24 hours' notice to leave Jordan and the almost total lack of financial support or compensation after such long and distinguished service. He was left with very limited means. The British Government did not want to know, nor did the Jordanian Government.

He bought the cheapest house he could find, a large rambling house in Mayfield, Sussex, and he and his wife and four children (one natural and three adopted) moved there. He managed to support the family from lecture tours and writing. He became a church warden at St Dunstan's, Mayfield and died on 17 March 1986 due to aplastic anaemia. The eulogy at his funeral was given by King Hussein of Jordan. He was a truly outstanding Christian man of great courage, talent and generosity. He was unique.

Norman Starkey



PEMBURY IN THE PAST *continued*

COLPEPPERS CONTINUED

Since the last item I wrote on the Colpeppers a great deal of time has been spent on trying to find the source of the name. A previous account, especially of the Sussex Colpeppers, states that no satisfactory explanation had been given, but as the first mention of Thomas de Colepeper is as ‘recognitor magnaë assisae tempore regis Johannnis’, it is safe to conclude that the name bore either a local significance of occupation or calling in life. If the name is a local one two places have been suggested: Collesberghe, in Sandwich, Kent or Goldspur or Gillspore, near Hastings.

If, on the other hand, the name is connected to an occupation, Coleprophet is a false prophet and Coletracitour a false traitor, so Colepeper may mean a false pepperer or sham grocer, i.e. one who had traded outside the fraternity of Pepperers, the Guild from which sprang the Grocers’ Company, incorporated in 1345.

Another suggestion points to the possibility of Colepeper meaning black pepper, while another hints at the likelihood of there having been formerly some industry in which the culling or picking of pepper may have formed one of the chief branches.

It is amazing to think that this once great family lived right on our doorstep at Great Bayhall, less than a mile from the village, as far back as 1199. The Bayham Estate magazine in 1933 gave a description of the Great Bayhall Manor House from an 18th century publication as “The manor and mansion of Great Bayhall being a very large and commodious house of about 16 rooms of a floor, with a gallery of 90 feet in length, with stabling for 14 horses, barns, brewhouse, malthouse, granary, dog kennels, hay barns and all sorts of conveniences and all in very good repair, several of the houses being new built, with hanging gardens, wilderness and kitchen grounds.” It must have been very impressive and we will include a picture next time if possible.

Hugh Boorman

CLASS OF 34

This article was posted to us from Queensland, Australia, with the following accompanying letter:

“I enjoy reading the Pembury Village News, kindly sent to me by one of my good friends. The old village still holds an attraction for me even after my long years of absence. Childhood memories are seldom forgotten and are often the best. I did return once and saw a change. Progress? I am kept in touch with activities of the village by two or three remaining school friends. As in every town or city each year brings a change to Pembury, not always for prosperity . . . Best wishes to all concerned this great Millennium Year.

Regards, Eileen Childs (née Budd).”

I often wonder what happened to Class ‘34, fond remembered thoughts of when we were young and Mrs Naish taught standards 6 and 7. All now in our 79th/80th/81st year, some have passed on already. We would not recognise the youths and maidens of yesteryear.

There was Irene Buck, Janie Botten, Mona Baigent, Eileen Budd, George Botten, Jack Bullen, Frank Bedford, Jim Clout, Irene Clark, Joey Clifton, Ernie Clifton, Reg Banks, Joyce Deacon, Milly Deacon, Joan Ford, Fred Ford, Denis Forward, Betty Gable, Arthur Grainger, Edie Giles, Joan Gower, John Gower, Glenys Griffiths, Daisy Heskett, Arthur Hood, Irene Kemp, Betty Kester, Harry Langridge, Eric Lever, Betty Murphy, Donald Martin, Herbie Moore, Aubrey Moore, Lester Micklewright, Peter Manton, Nellie Parsons, Gladys Padgham, Joan Puttock, Kathleen Pilbeam, Donald Parks, Basil Purdy, Eric Rapley, Bernard Reeves, Frances Russell, Frank Russell, Douglas Streeter, Raymond Stoner, Leslie Stoner, Dick Snelling, Pauline Sprackland, Nellie Simmons, John Turner, Dorothy Tompkins, Maurice Thatcher, May Tapp, Phyllis Woods, Betty Woodham.

Have I forgotten anyone?

What did life hold for these pre-war students? Times were supposedly hard in the 20s & 30s but I’m sure we derived as much, if not more, fun in those days than the TV and computer pampered children of today. Life has been tolerable, if not good, for most of us I’m sure. Did we all achieve our dreams?

For the rest of our stay on Earth I wish my former classmates well. I have spent the last 50 years in Australia. Where are the other ex-34-ers?

PEMBURY IN THE PAST *continued*

PEMBURY BOARD SCHOOL

In the last issue I promised to recount the views and thoughts of Thomas Letchford as he took up the duties as the new Headmaster of Pembury School. His first entry in the School log was

Week-ending Friday July 26th 1878

I, Thomas Letchford, entered on my duties at the beginning of this week. The reading, composition and geography I find to be very good but I am much discouraged by the backward state of the entire school in arithmetic and spelling.

The Rev. R. S. Woodgate kindly called on Tuesday.

August 2nd 1878 – The boys of the Upper Class have been engaged for some hours during the week in practising and preparing papers for competition in Writing at Bayham Abbey Flower Show. I find the writing of the class so good that I shall not need to make any selection but shall allow the whole class to compete. Charles Thrift obtained the first prize for Writing Class for Boys over 12 years. The Girls, Agnes Burr and Jane Porter, also obtained prizes in the competition in Wild Flowers.

Friday August 9th 1878 – Examined all standards in the model of an Inspection to day. All children who were unable to pass in Arithmetic will be kept in during playtime next week to do extra work. In future each class will tackle tables for a quarter of an hour before every Arithmetic lesson. This will, I trust, help to overcome the backwardness of the children in this subject.

Week ending Friday August 16th 1878 – Hop picking having commenced yesterday about twenty children present during the earlier part of the week have been absent to-day and yesterday.

August 19th 1878 – School met as usual at 9am but the attendance in both departments was so small that, having with the Chairman's approval visited the members of the Board and obtained the consent of all whom I was able to see, we closed for the usual period of six weeks.

Week ending October 4th 1878 – We resumed duties on Monday last with a small attendance. The Pupil Teachers' home lessons have all been well done although I more than doubled the amount

I will end this article with a summary for the year ending April 30th 1881 as written by the Headmaster.

Attendance – The numbers on the books and the average attendance have steadily increased in



spite of outbreak of scarlatina.

Staff – No change during the year. All the subordinate teachers have worked hard and deserve that their classes should do well at the Inspection.

Visitors – All the members of the Board have visited. Others included Miss Finch, Dr Bayliss, Rev C. G. Cecil, Mrs R. S. Woodgate and Mr. and Mrs Betts representing the union (Free) Church Congregation.

General report – The girls have passed a good examination in Needlework. Grammar and Geography are fair in result but there are again many remarkable instances of ignorance. Arithmetic is weak in the Third and Sixth standards. Otherwise the general result of the Standard examination is fair, while the reading of the Sixth Standard and the Handwriting of the Boys in the First Standard are good. In the Second Standard the Reading books of one set are not sufficient in quantity and are in a very dilapidated condition. There is a very satisfactory increase in the number of children under examination.

Members of Staff – Thomas Letchford (Certificated Teacher), Emmanuel Harper (Assistant Articles 79 and 60), Sophy Parkes (Pupil Teacher 3rd Year), Jane Porter (Pupil Teacher 2nd year) and Sophia Gilbert (Pupil Teacher 1st Year)

Average for year ending April 30th 1882 upon which the Grant is paid is 169

Grant for year £149 4s 0d – (Signed) Frank W. Stone, Clerk to the Board

In the next issue, the Headmaster gives details of class sizes in the year 1882. What would be your guess? Make a mental note before the next issue is published to see whether you are right. I think you'll be surprised!

Henry Plant

PEMBURY IN THE PAST – BROWNIES

YOU MAY remember that we published a photograph of the 3rd Pembury Brownies, taken on 22 June 1979, presenting a cheque to Save the Children Fund South East Organiser, S. W. Hardcastle 27.. The photo has also been displayed in the library. After collating all the suggestions sent in, we can now publish the results. (Some are contradictory and the Editor declines any responsibility!)

1. Jane Boorman; 2. Margaret White; 3. Sue Plant; 4. Catherine White; 5. Emma Tapp;

6. Mandy ?; 7. Kirsty Miller; 8. Susan Moody; 9. Susan Burrows; 10. Michelle Pierce; 11. ?; 12. ?; 13. Sarah Brooke; 14. Suzanne Pierce; 15. Melissa Byers; 16. Mandy Young; 17. Melanie /Annabel Rice; 18. Samantha Noakes; 19. Annabel /Rebecca Rice; 20. Penny Robinson/Roberts; 21. Sarah Holder; 22. Kate/Katie Phillips; 23. Louise Boakes/Joanne Ellis/Maria Carman; 24. Nancy Smith.

Many thanks to all those who took the time and trouble to help identify the girls and the leaders.



OUR CRAZY LANGUAGE . . .

- . . . Did you know that “verb” is a noun?
- . . . How can you look up words in a dictionary if you can’t spell them?
- . . . If a word is misspelled in a dictionary, how would we ever know?
- . . . If two mouses are mice and two louses are lice, why aren’t two houses hice?
- . . . If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?
- . . . If you’ve read a book, you can reread it. But wouldn’t this also mean that you would have to “member” somebody in order to “remember” them?

PEMBURY SOCIETY

THE SPRING meeting of The Pembury Society, held at St. Peter's Upper Church on May 9th, was a great success and attended by nearly 100 members. It provided the opportunity to hear Gillian Du Charme, the Principal of Benenden School, recount many of her experiences which ranged from running a school on New York's Manhattan Island, through her many visits abroad and then the trials, tribulations and the ultimate pleasures of working with the BBC production team in the making of the programme 'Back to the Floor' of which she was the subject. It all went to make a story of warmth, interest and considerable personal achievement and there were many questions put to her at the close of her talk.



After the break it was the turn of Dr Peter Pattisson to speak about his global travels with, as he put it, a stethoscope in one hand and a Bible in the other. He spoke of his Christian commitment and the fellowship he had experienced in many countries across Europe and in America and how Christian ethics went hand and hand with his medical work. Once again, the audience reacted to his talk by asking questions on his travels and work but it was with some concern and sadness for them to learn that he has decided to retire in the near future from his Pembury medical practice. He will be greatly missed.

The number of those who now belong to The Society has been steadily increasing of late and we now have the highest membership since formation some 26 years ago. Because of the management structure of the organisation we rely to a great extent upon the work of our distributors, for they are the primary contact between the committee and the individual members. To underline this appreciation we intend later this summer to hold a 'Thank-you' event to which all distributors will be invited. In the meantime – well done, everyone!

Derek Johnson

A FAIRY TALE

My introduction to Pembury was sudden and unexpected. In 1945 I was a soldier stationed at Staplehurst but on 28 July of that year I found myself in Pembury Hospital where I remained a patient for eight months. I have happy memories of that period. One vivid memory is of nurses walking in procession through the wards on Christmas Eve, carrying lanterns and singing carols.

A more important memory is of the nurse who was specially assigned to care for me, Jean Checksfield. After I was discharged from hospital and invalided out of the army I travelled several times from my home in Essex to meet Jean, staying overnight at the Camden Arms. But in 1947 we agreed to go our separate ways. I eventually married someone else. I heard no more from Jean and did not visit Pembury again.

At the beginning of 1998 my wife died. After a few months I resolved to try to trace Jean. Having had no contact whatsoever for 51 years I realised that this was a forlorn hope. Jean might well have married, thus changing her name and making my task far harder and probably pointless. She might

have emigrated to the ends of the earth. She might even be no longer alive. Most frustrating of all my search might, after several months, come to a dead end.

But most of my misgivings were unfounded. In less than a week I made contact. To my astonishment she was living within half a mile of Pembury Hospital where she had worked for most of her career (the remainder being spent at the Kent & Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells). She had married and metamorphosed into Jean Morphett but had been a widow for many years. She had cared at home for her aged mother for nine years.

We met again in April 1998 and quickly resumed our old friendship and, after the death of Jean's mother last year at the age of 103, this culminated in our wedding on 30 October 1999 at the Jarvis International Hotel, Pembury.

I trust that I may end this story with the traditional words "... and they both lived happily ever after."

Philip Handsaker

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WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

WHAT INDEED is Neighbourhood Watch? However, before answering the question it would be better to explain what Neighbourhood Watch is not. It is not about 'Peeping Toms' or 'Nosey Parkers' etc. It is about warning and advising people about the best ways to protect their property whether it be their home, garden or motor vehicle(s).

One of the most successful means of fighting potential crime is to try as far as possible not to put temptation in the way of possible villains. You might be surprised to know of the number of cases of garages and sheds left insecure (very often when the owners are absent for one reason or another). Cars left insecure when parked (very often overnight) with handbags and other valuables visible.

Beauty spots, such as Toys Hill for example, are prime targets for villains who prey on vehicles left in an insecure fashion.

Of course the Police rely on intelligence and information received as they have always done and Neighbourhood Watch does play its part in this from time to time and has been very successful in some instances.

There is, however, an aspect of Neighbourhood Watch which is very worrying for the West Kent Police. In some areas schemes have had to be abandoned because although there might have been a scheme and, in some cases, the road signs are still in position, the original co-ordinator has perhaps left the area and /or the deputy could not carry on or nobody else has felt able to maintain the scheme. This situation is made more difficult because the road signs

do not belong to the Police but to the original residents who paid for the installation.

Another complication can be if a new resident moves into the area and thinks that cover is available and negotiates a discount on the house insurance premiums. Assuming that the scheme is still dormant, the insurance company could be difficult about meeting any burglary loss in full.

The National Neighbourhood Watch organisation is trying to work out a formula with the insurance industry about this problem but it is a very grey area.

If, after reading this, you feel able to either start a scheme in your area or perhaps could think of a way of restarting an old scheme, please contact Daphne Allen, the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer at Tonbridge Police Station, on 01892-502159 - for convenience the office kept the 01892 code when moving from Southborough to Tonbridge a few years ago.

In the next article I will describe the workings of the Ringmaster system which distributes, by computer control, information to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators all over the West Kent area.

Pembury Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Contacting the police in the West Kent area:

- Emergency only – 999
- Police required (but not an emergency) – 01732 740055
- Reporting a crime (Police not required) – 01622 650065

FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING

THE FRIENDS of Pembury Parish Church Annual Coffee Morning and Sale will be held this Millennium year on Saturday 9th September from 10.00am to 12noon on the Village Green – in the Upper Church if wet.

Stalls will include cakes, books, plants, Friends fund raising items, bric-a-brac, jewellery, crafts, fruit, a raffle and a very good cup of coffee.

If anyone has any items they could donate to any stall or would be prepared to get baking for us, please let Ann Toler (824071) or Bidy Willson (822029) know. We will very gratefully collect. Otherwise any items will be warmly welcomed on the morning before 10.00am.

The Old Church has been the subject of considerable repair work recently and we need to make this the best fund raising Coffee Morning and Sale ever. Please come along and support us.



Pembury Opticians

has now closed. All records have been transferred to
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CRIME IN PEMBURY

GOOD NEWS this time. There was an overall reduction in crime in the village of nearly 17% for the months of January, February and March, compared to October, November and December 1999. This time we are able to show the actual figures in a much more interesting manner; not only the type and number of crimes, but also by street. The previous quarter's crimes numbered 74 with this last quarter down to 62. The reporting of arson is a newcomer to our list along with drugs. It also shows that even if areas are well lit crime will still occur.

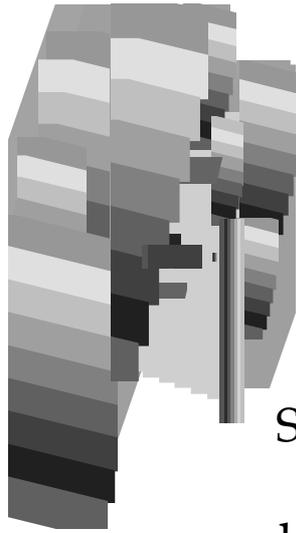
MONTH	Arson	Assault	Burglary other type	Burglary	Breakage	Deception	Drugs	Other	Theft from motor vehicles	Theft	Theft of motor vehicles	Vehicle interference	TOTAL
January			1	2	2				2	3	2	1	13
February			5	1	5		1	1	2	6	4		25
March	1	3	5		3	3			3	5	1		21
TOTAL	1	3	11	3	10	3	1	1	7	14	7	1	62
ROAD													
A21 B							1						1
Amhurst Bank Road											1		1
Bachelors									1				1
Beagles Wood Road												1	1
Bellfield Road	1										1		2
Corrford Park				1									1
Distingbury Road									1				1
Elmhurst Avenue								1					1
Hastings Road			1						1	1	1		4
Henwood Green Road					1					2	2		5
High Street					1	3			1	3			8
Highfield Close			1										1
Kings Toll Road										1			1
Lower Green Road					5				1		1		7
Midstone Road			3	2							1		6
Middle Field		1			1								2
Old Church Road			1						1				2
Romford Road			1		1				1				3
Stonecourt Lane			1										1
The Glebe					1								1
The Paddock										1			1
Tonbridge Road		2	3							5			10
Woodside Road										1			1
TOTAL	1	3	11	3	10	3	1	1	7	14	7	1	62

Let's keep the downward trend going, make life that little more difficult for the would-be predator and aim for a figure below 50 for the end of June. Motor vehicles still appear to be the prime targets.

On a more personal note, please try to make your homes safer places with locks to all ground floor windows, high quality British standard locks to exterior ground floor doors and, if necessary, security alarms and passive infra red motion detecting lights to British standards.

Remember also that by the time you have read this you will probably have arranged your holiday. Let people whom you trust be aware of your arrangements. We will win if we all make that our objective.

Hugh Boorman



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FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

- 1/2 Friends of Pembury Old Church – Flower Festival
- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 6 Pembury Afternoon WI: Decorated Plaques – Free Church Hall – 2.15pm
- 7 Pembury Evening WI: Colour all the Year in the Garden – St Peter’s Upper Church – 7.45pm
- 8 St Peter’s Mothers’ Union: Outing to Romney Marsh Churches
- 8 Pembury School Fete: Fiesta 2000 – Pembury School – 1.45pm
- 8 Pembury Gardeners Society: Summer Show – Free Church – 2.30pm
- 9 Pembury Garden Tour: Nine gardens – 1.30pm to 5.30pm
- 9 Pembury Library Open Day – Library – 3pm to 5pm
- 10 Parish Council Meeting – Free Church Hall – 8pm
- 11 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 11&13 Millennium Committee: Art & Craft Display – Pembury School – 6pm to 8.30pm
- 15 Pembury Bowls Club: Coffee Morning – Recreation Ground – 10am
- 15 Village Fayre – Recreation Ground – 2pm
BBQ/Live Music/Fireworks – Recreation Ground – 7pm
- 21/23 Guide exhibition camp – Recreation Ground
- 25 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm

AUGUST

- 2 St Peter’s Mothers’ Union: Members’ garden party – Brenchley
- 3 Pembury Afternoon WI: Members’ meeting – 2.15 – contact 822267 for details
- 4 Pembury Evening WI: Members’ meeting – 7.45 – contact 822631 for details
- 5 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Bo Peep – 2.15pm
- 8 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 14 Floral Art – Cricket Club – 8pm
- 17 St Peter’s Mothers’ Union: Picnic Lunch for Mothers & Toddlers – Village Green – TBA
- 19 Pembury Village Hall – Open Day – 10am to 4pm
- 22 Darby and Joan Club – Catholic Hall – 2pm
- 29 League of Friends of Pembury Hospital Fete – Pembury Hospital – 1pm

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Pembury Evening WI: First Aid – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 2 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 4 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 5 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 6 St Peter’s Mothers’ Union: ‘The Land Registry’ – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 7 Pembury Afternoon WI – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 8 Village Hall Official Opening – 12 noon to 3pm
- 8 Pembury Players: Jam/skiffle/session music evening – Village Hall – 8pm
- 9 Friends of Pembury Parish Church: Coffee morning & sale – Village Green (Upper Church if wet) – 10am
- 9 Hospice Link Group: Disco – Village Hall – 8pm
- 16 Pembury Gardeners Society: Autumn Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 19 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- 25 St Peter’s Photographic Club – Upper Church – 8pm

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Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way TN2 4DN. Tel: 823966

Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway TN2 4ET. Tel: 825577

Parish Council

Cllr Paul Barrington-King, 22 The Coppice TN2 4EY. Tel: 825144

Cllr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Rd TN2 4LH. Tel: 823068

Cllr Mrs Sarah Clarke, Little Stanton,

Romford Road TN2 4AY. Tel: 823932

Cllr David Coleman, 22 Ridgeway TN2 4ER. Tel: 823402

Cllr Dick Crouch, 17 Highfield Close TN2 4HG. Tel: 823164

Cllr Derek Flint, 1B Beagleswood Road TN2 4HX. Tel: 824829

Cllr Mrs Janet Greenwood, 1F Beagleswood Road TN2 4HX. Tel: 824472

Cllr Brian Horgan, 4 Cornford Park TN2 4PW, Tel: 822412

Cllr Mrs Rosemary Latter, 81 Beagleswood Road

TN2 4HZ. Tel: 822059

Cllr Mrs Gillian Matthews, 2 Gimble Way TN2 4BX. Tel: 822057

Cllr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway TN2 4ET. Tel: 825577

Cllr Mrs Alison Morton, 2 The Coppice TN2 4EY. Tel: 824938

Cllr Mrs Wendy Withycombe, 23 Westway TN2 4EX. Tel: 823034

Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

Mrs Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove, Pembury, Kent TN2 4BU. Tel: 823193

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Chairman – Amenities and Allotments

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Chairman – Planning

Chairman – Finance

Chairman – Burials,

Environmental and Highways

Chairman – Christmas Lights/

Pembury in Bloom

Chairman – Pembury Village

News Editorial Committee

CHURCH TIMES

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

Upper Church

8.00am Holy Communion

9.45am The Parish Eucharist and Junior Church

10.00am Holy Communion (Wednesdays)

Old Church

11.30am Matins (except first Sunday, Holy Communion)

Evening services as advertised on Church noticeboards

CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF ST. ANSELM – PEMBURY

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Holy Days – Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Confessions:

Sunday 10.15am

Weekday Services:

Monday – Communion Service 7.30am

Tuesday – Communion Service 7.30am

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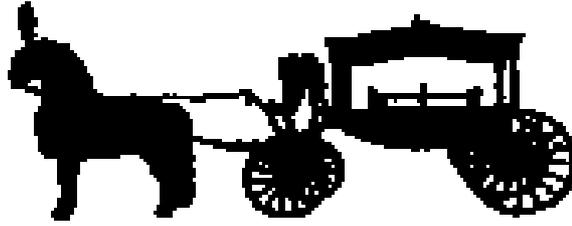
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