

# PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS



ISSUE 116  
WINTER 2003

PEMBURY VILLAGE  
EXHIBITION REPORT

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*Please note: The Editor's decision is final on whether or not to publish any item submitted. The Editor reserves the right to edit (that is to cut, précis, alter, correct grammar and spelling) any item published.*

## PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

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## PEMBURY BLOOMS AGAIN

**T**HE FINALISTS of Pembury in Bloom 2003 gathered at Notcutts Garden Centre, Pembury on 28 August for a presentation tea and to find out who had won this year's competition, a secret much-guarded by the judges until the day.

Notcutts Garden Centre manager, Jon Kemp and Gill Pavely of Pembury Parish Council awarded prizes and certificates to the following for their floral feats. The winners are:

### *Best Front Garden*

1st Gary Lawrence, Middlefield – £100 in Notcutts vouchers; 2nd Patrick Campbell, Henwood Green Road – £50 in Notcutts vouchers; 3rd John Beech, Camden Avenue – £25 in Notcutts vouchers.

### *Best Hanging Basket*

1st Sarah Burnham, Heskett Park – £70 in Notcutts vouchers; 2nd Shirley Steel, Tonbridge Road – £30 in Notcutts vouchers; 3rd Melanie Hambleton, Woodhill Park – £15 in Notcutts vouchers.

### *Best Children's Container*

1st Bethany Greagsby, Hastings Road – £20 in Notcutts vouchers; 2nd Keanu Juson, The Forstal – £10 in Notcutts vouchers; 3rd Catherine Tanner, The Gill – plant.

### *Best Allotment*

Fredrick Barden, Pembury Close.

### *Most attractive Commercial Property*

The Camden Arms, High Street.



At the presentation Gill Pavely of Pembury Parish Council congratulated everybody for all the time and effort that they had put into making Pembury bloom this year and said, "The judges enjoyed judging the competition and there were so many lovely floral shows that we had an extremely difficult task on our hands, especially as there were more entries than ever this year. I do hope you will all take part next year as the more people who enter the more Pembury will bloom!"

Left to right back row: Sarah Burnham, Fredrick Barden and Jon Kemp. Front row: Gill Pavely of Pembury Parish Council, Bethany Greagsby, Carol Cunningham and Gary Lawrence.

### **COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE**

*Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this magazine must be forwarded to the Editor before*  
**1 February 2004.**

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



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## HANDS-ON HEDGE LAYING

**C**OME AND try your hand at the traditional art of hedge laying! The Kent High Weald Project is holding an open day on Saturday 13 December 2003 at the Woodside Playing Fields, Pembury, from 10am till 3pm. Come along and find out why our hedges are so important, what we can do to look after them and have a go at hedge laying. Once you have worked up an appetite, have a sausage from our local produce BBQ.

Hedges are a much admired and very important feature of the High Weald landscape. Representing road and field boundaries they also provide vital corridors for wildlife to live and move around in. To keep hedges healthy and long-lived they need careful management, one method is layering every 10-12 years.

Do you have a hedge that needs a bit of 'TLC'\*? The Kent High Weald project can help with grants of up to £500 towards the cost of hedge restoration.

For more information contact the Kent High Weald Project on: 01580 715918 or take a look at [www.kenthighwealdproject.org](http://www.kenthighwealdproject.org)

\*TLC – tender, loving care

*As this event is very close to our publication date we cannot guarantee that you will receive your copy of the news before the day. Do contact Matthew at Kent High Weald Project for news of further events in Pembury – Editor.*

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## ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHBOROUGH & PEMBURY

**M**EMBERS OF the Rotary Club of Southborough & Pembury took with them nearly four dozen shoe boxes to their annual District Conference in Eastbourne at the beginning of November.

The shoe boxes are part of the national "Rotary Shoe Box Scheme" which was started in 1994. The boxes have been filled by members of the Ladies Circle of St. Thomas's Church, Southborough and by pupils at the Tunbridge Wells High School. This year they contain either toys or household goods.

The main distribution times are Christmas and Easter and the boxes are sent to families in the poorest parts of

Central and Eastern Europe. Countries who have benefited in the past include Romania, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Albania, Kosovo, Poland and Turkey.



Children at Pembury School are also joining the scheme again this year and hope to add over 100 more boxes to the total.

More information can be obtained from:

Nigel Stratton at

7 Batchelors,

Pembury, TN2 4ED.

Tel: 01892 526344

(office hours)

E-Mail:

[nstratton@pembury60.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:nstratton@pembury60.freeserve.co.uk)

## 100 PEMBURY PEDALLERS PUFF AND PUSH FOR NEW PAVILION

**E**ARLY DAWN on Saturday 27 September in Pembury found the normal peace of a weekend morning disturbed as over 100 brave souls loaded up their bicycles and prepared to set sail for France for one of the most exciting and unusual fundraising events ever organised in the village . . .

**Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club** provides soccer coaching and match play for over 200 of the youngsters in the village, both boys and girls, aged from 6 to 18. For over 20 years they have operated out of the old green pavilion on the village Recreation Ground. Now the old hut is in a poor state of repair and has frequently been attacked by vandals. It is to be demolished and a new sports pavilion is to be built on the site. The club has sought funding from several organisations but still have to raise many thousands of pounds to bring the plans to fruition. A group of parents calling themselves **P.A.Y.F.C** **£UPPORTERS** took up the challenge. Donald Allan, one of the founders of this fundraising group said, *“We decided to arrange three or four events in our first year that would be fun, raise serious money for this big project and help pay for the ever increasing costs of running a successful football club. We wanted to make a big splash with our first attempt. We had thought about a bike ride, but it was when someone suggested a bike ride in France that we realised that we might be on to a winner!”* . . .

. . . Setting off from Pembury as early as 5am to catch the P&O ferry to Calais over 100 cyclists, support vehicle drivers and lunch caterers had assembled in the first light of dawn by Dover harbour. The signal went round that it was “GO! GO! GO!” and a stream of bikes headed up into the gaping doors of a huge ship. Francesca Merrin, aged 10 from



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## 100 PEMBURY PEDALLERS *continued*

Lower Green Road, said, "Cycling up the ramp as a huge group ahead of all the cars was one of the most exciting parts of the day." Breakfast on board and a calm sea crossing was followed by a cry of "Geronimo!" as the Pembury tribe hurtled off the boat and straight on to a 40-mile journey around the canals and coast of the Pas de Calais.

Parent Colin Forward who completed the ride with two of his sons said, "The weather was kind to us and the French countryside inland from Calais with its sand dunes and canals was surprisingly picturesque, much like Holland." Lunch was taken after 24 miles when the seaside was reached near the town of Gravelines. A team of three parents had provided the picnic lunch on the beach.

Sonia Harris said, "I'd been up late the previous evening making 50 tuna & cucumber baguettes; I'm sure there were nearly a dozen village cats partying around my dustbin that night!"

After their well earned picnic another 16 miles of peddling awaited our intrepid heroes, past the concrete remains of Hitler's



Atlantic Wall and through sleepy French villages. Outside one or two of the local cafés a suspiciously large number of bicycles were spotted by the marshals as the afternoon wore on. All cyclists had been given maps with route instructions and signposts had been placed at key junctions, but that didn't prevent former Parish Councillor and renowned football coach Derek Flint from setting course for Brussels! He was eventually found by the support van sitting by the roadside humming Bonnie Tyler's "Lost In France".

All 100 plus cyclists and supporters made it back to Calais. The youngest was 8 years old, with a dozen pupils from Pembury School taking part. The oldest? . . . Well, let's just say bus passes were being mentioned! The bar on board the homeward bound ferry was well patronised and a few sleepy eyed youngsters could be seen dotted around the boat.

**P.A.Y.F.C** **£**UPPORTERS would like to thank all those who took part. Thank you to all who supported them by sponsoring their efforts. We hope to have collected nearly all the money in by Christmas. With a large number of riders still to collect their sponsorship money the total is already over £3,000. The architect's plans for the new pavilion have been submitted to the various planning authorities. The Football Club still needs to raise much more money to complete the project and equip the new building so more fundraising events are planned. The club's annual fundraising DISCO is on Saturday 24 January. *And . . . as for next September's big event . . . plans are TOP SECRET at the moment, but it's going to be even bigger and better . . . watch this space!*

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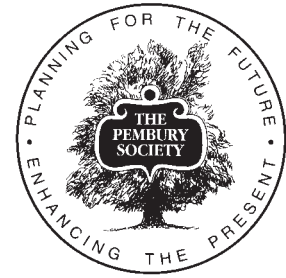
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## THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

**W**ELL, IF YOU were one of those who joined us at the Autumn Meeting and AGM you will know that our Speaker, Bob Ogley, came up trumps and gave us an excellent talk on Kent. It is this quality of speaker that makes a visit to our meetings so worthwhile and we are now trying to match our recent run of good speakers with one for the Spring Meeting. News of this, for all our members, in the New Year.



The Village Exhibition in October proved to be very good for the village because it attracted so many visitors. It was also very good for The Pembury Society because we enrolled forty new members. This is just what we need if we are to sustain our strong voice, especially in matters of Planning Applications for building within the village. The greater number of you, the villagers, who support your Society, the better chance we have in fighting those who would take every opportunity to build on, or extend over, every and any piece of land within our village boundaries. We know that it's all a matter of avarice and greed and it can be argued that these are so much around us in everyday life that we have to expect them. Indeed, some may believe that to resist on moral grounds or for the good of the community, any opportunity to make money in such a fashion is a trait of weakness. It is not, especially when it is understood that once a building is in place there is no going back – the once-open piece of land that was part of the broad canvas of our community is gone for ever.

**Derek Johnson**

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## PEMBURY VILLAGERS JOIN ENGLISH STUDENTS FOR TEA

**O**N 1 OCTOBER Mr and Mrs Woodhams from Pembury village came to join a Year 9 English lesson at Kent College. Mr Woodhams had found an old poem that his father had written in 1914 and gave it to Miss Church, Head of English, who is also a Pembury resident. The poem was about a group of friends and their holiday at Woborn Sands.

The students were given the task to write poems in the same style and then read them to Mr and Mrs Woodhams over tea and cake.

Year 9 student, Ella Writer said, *"We all had a lovely time and appreciated the opportunity to meet the visitors."*



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## PEMBURY 'VILLAGE' SCHOOL

*We received this email recently from a parishioner concerned about admission to Pembury School.*

“We would like to highlight the sad fact that there appears to be a very serious admission problem at Pembury School. This September we believe there were at least a dozen village children who didn't gain a place in the Reception Year alone due to oversubscription, our son being one.

Obviously, we are all extremely upset and in particular our son Luke who is absolutely devastated and feels that he is being singled out because all his friends who attended the village pre-school with him have gained places at the school. Our two older children both attended Pembury School, but because they are both now at secondary school we have no sibling link.

Over the past few months we have written to various people including parish, borough and county councillors who, although appearing to sympathise with our situation, can't offer any real solution. The Local Education Authority has offered places at Sherwood Park for those children who can't get into Pembury School, but we have lived in this village for many years, run a village business, and want our child to go to Pembury School! If we wanted our children to attend a school in town, we'd live in town!

The village community is gradually changing as people like ourselves, are being forced out, while newcomers are welcomed. Although we are on the school waiting list, any newcomers to the village who live closer to the school than us take priority, thus pushing us further away. What is the point of a waiting list where you clearly don't wait your turn?

We feel that nobody wants the responsibility of taking this problem seriously and it is going to worsen over the next few years as more houses are being built and more residential planning being submitted within the village. As far as I know there are currently no plans to expand the school which obviously cannot cater for the children of the village now! Sadly, we are not alone with our views.”

### **Caroline and Paul Hine**

*We asked the West Kent Area Education Office if they wished to comment but have not received anything from them before going to press. However, we repeat below Pembury School's own statement as it appears on their website and in their Newsletter (Editor)*

### **Pembury School Admissions**

There is always a lot of confusion about this subject therefore for your information:

If there are more applications than places available places will be allocated according to the published admissions criteria for Pembury School as follows:

- parents' wishes;
- current family association (where a brother or sister in the school at the time of entry, where the family continues to live at the same address as when the sibling was admitted or has moved to a new property within two miles (via the shortest available walking route) of the school);
- health reasons (relating to the child for which a medical certificate may be needed);
- nearness of children's homes and ease of access to schools.

The following examples are NOT part of the LEA's criteria:

- attendance in a nursery school or playgroup;
- length of time the child's name has been 'registered' at the school;
- grandparents, or other relative's home address (if the child does not normally live there);
- child minder's home address.

Please note there is no official catchment area for the school as places are offered according to the above criteria.



## PEMBURY PEOPLE

### IRIS BRADFORD

**M**Y CONVERSATIONS with residents in the village have reinforced my perceived value of our local businesses. We in Pembury are fortunate to have excellent Post Offices at two ends of the village that provide a raft of services and retail provision. People with or without the luxury of cars cannot only shop locally but also enjoy the additional benefit of meeting others and enjoying a good old 'natter' in a convivial atmosphere. The Lower Green Post Office recently gave an impressive goodbye to their employee, Iris Bradford, who was stepping down after thirty years service behind the counter. Following up a strong recommendation I have chosen Iris as one of my 'Pembury People'.

Iris was born in South East London in 1924 and attended school in Woolwich and Plumstead. She left school at 16 when the school was evacuated during the Second World War. At the age of 17 she joined the

Women's Land Army and was posted to Brenchley, to a dairy farm where she started work at around 5am to milk the cows, bottle the milk (no pasteurised then!), get the pony and trap and deliver the milk to Matfield and Brenchley. Whilst in the Land Army she was billeted opposite to an RAF boy on leave, Arthur, who in 1947 became her husband. They continued to live in



*Celebrating Iris's retirement were Iris herself, Margaret Reynolds, Emma Barton, Helen Pomfret, Janice Stanford, Mark Southgate*

Brenchley where her son Adrian was born, and subsequently moved to Tunbridge Wells. The Bradfords came back to live in Maidstone Road, Pembury around 1962.

Iris recounts *"Pembury was very much a country village then, Maidstone Road was quiet enough for one to walk down the road and not see a car, a bit different now! The farm opposite was a proper working farm growing fruit and vegetables, this was, of course, prior to the building of the Hospice in the Weald. The houses at Snipes Close and Meadow Road weren't there nor the Ridgeway or Woodgate. We used to enjoy swimming in an open pool then at Woodgate and we had plenty of shops in Pembury"*.

The Post Office Stores where Iris worked from 1973 was not self-service in those days. Iris records that *"Mrs Whiting still sliced bacon and cheese and the whole of the store was always busy. All pensions and child benefits were collected at the counter as nobody had bank accounts then. There were no supermarkets around, Sainsburys was on the hill in Tunbridge Wells and you had to queue for your butter to be cut and wrapped along with any dairy produce but that is as near the supermarket as we went"*. Back in Pembury, next to the Royal Oak pub and where the Doctors' surgery now stands, Iris

remembers that Mr Clarke had his butcher's shop and there were a few cottages (which have since been pulled down) called Slate Row. She recalls that there were about five shops in Henwood Green Road. Just around the corner in Romford Road Iris's brother-in-law had a battery business where he recharged accumulators for wireless sets. At the top of the village there were three shops next to the King William and in addition, where the hairdresser is, there was a draper and children's clothes shop. "On the corner where the Chinese take away now is dear Miss Walker had her shop where she sold every thing from a needle to a school uniform. Can't remember all the shops apart from the drapers but we also had a bookie and a baker and Mr Taylor was our delivery man". It is interesting, but sad, to see the amount of local commerce that has been lost in this period.

Iris's views about present day village life appear to accord with many when she states "Pembury like most villages has grown so much that I, personally, hope it has stopped growing. We have enough houses now. The School, I believe, is full and our doctors' surgery is always busy. I won't be around, but in years to come I hope the 'powers that be' will not try to make us part of Tunbridge Wells which would be disastrous. Hopefully, the hospital will be built on the Pembury site so that any new houses can go elsewhere and we can still enjoy the friendly atmosphere of Pembury. I have enjoyed thirty happy years at the Post Office and I would like to thank Mark and Emma for making this last year with them so enjoyable. In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to all of my friends I have worked with over the years, also all of the customers that I have had the pleasure of serving and knowing for so long. Apart from a few sad times it has been great – thank you all!"

It was Dr. Johnson who advised "Exert your talents and distinguish yourself and don't think of retiring from the world until the world will be sorry that you retire". On behalf of all of us in Pembury, Iris, we are certainly sorry that you are retiring, we will miss you but above all we thank you for all of your hard work over the last thirty years. Have a happy and well-deserved rest!

**Paul Barrington-King**

---

## PEMBURY IN IRAQ – A call to compassion

**I**RAQ IS NOT the place one would go to from personal choice, but Werner and Hennie Nijam from The Grove, Pembury, members of Pembury Baptist Church who believed God called them to go, went out there in October.

They are members of a Christian organisation which works among the people of Central Asia. Werner had been to Iraq last winter to allow a project manager two months home leave. Hennie joined him for a short time and now they are there for at least nine months.

Werner manages a team of Kurdish workers helping people whose lives have been drastically affected by Saddam Hussein's repressive regime. In the past, Saddam's soldiers laid millions of landmines in Kurdish areas and during the Iraqi War more were added. This has resulted in many casualties

among the civilian population, people losing lives or limbs. Werner's team will be manufacturing and fitting artificial limbs and offering physiotherapy and counselling to rehabilitate them.



Overseas life and work is not new to Werner and Hennie. They have spent several years in Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Their three adult children, Jelle, Jolien and Jorgen went overseas with their parents when they were young but they will remain in England this time. It is

hard for the family to be apart for a long period but they all believe that for the present, Werner and Hennie's time in Kurdistan is the right thing.

Those of us who know Werner and Hennie will be praying for their safety and for success in answering the call to compassion.

**Leslie Gregory**



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## PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB

**A**NOTHER SUCCESSFUL year both on and off the field . . . The Saturday 1st XI performed well and just failed to retain the Kent Village League title. However the Tuesday side again won the Evening League. The Colts have integrated well into the club and are enjoying their cricket (see photo of their victory over Rams). Such has been the progress made that more coaches are needed. Nets have been arranged from January. Contact Keith Hemstark 824492.

The social events have been well supported culminating in the end of season Dinner Dance at Lamberhurst Golf Club. Over 100 attended and awards were presented to 1st XI player Bob Eaton, 2nd XI Jon Buckle, Sunday Lee Willis, Performance Phil Browning, Young Player of the Year Chris Wells and Chairman's Award – the Buckles.

The Pembury Cricket Club Ladies Calendar continues to sell well and well over £1000 has been raised for the Cricket Club and the Hospice in the Weald. Our thanks to them and also to Melvyn Cole who worked hard to represent the Cricket Club at the Village Exhibition

**Peter Massie**



*The Colts celebrating their victory over the Rams from Crawley*



*Parish Council Chairman Sarah Clarke and Merwyn Cole admiring the Club's stand at the recent Village Exhibition*

## SNIPPETS

### **Ditchetts Chemist**

We would like to wish Janet and Peter Ditchett a long and happy retirement from the chemists' shop in Pembury which they have run for many years. They have been a pivotal point for life in the village and will be much missed.

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**The Village Fireworks** were a terrific success again this year and everybody present felt that the PA system, music and barbecue made this event even better than last year. We estimate that there were about 2,000 people watching the splendid show and a record-breaking £1,327 was raised for the St. Johns Ambulance. This included contributions from the companies selling light wands, headbands and bracelets. What a generous place Pembury is!

---

### **A date for your dancing diary!**

A 1960s Dance to the music and disco of Richard Reyn will be happening on Saturday 6 March 2004 at the Village Hall to raise money for equipment for our local surgery – Waterfield House. Tickets cost £5 and are on sale at Ditchetts Chemist. Licensed bar. Contact Barbara Russell on 823193 9am to 1pm for further details. Get your 60's gear out of the attic and let your hair down!

### **Pembury School 1962**

After seeing the photo on page 27 in the Autumn edition of the News, Mrs Leach in Beagles Wood Road contacted us to let us know that her daughter, Brenda Leach, was one of the 'unknowns'. Brenda, wearing a plaid skirt, is sitting in the next to front row between Yvonne Sanderson and Susan Blackford.

---

### **The Friends of Pembury Parish**

**Church** would like to thank everyone for making their annual Coffee Morning and Sale held on the Village Green on 6 September such a happy and successful event. For the third year in a row, over £700 was raised towards the repair and maintenance fund for the Old Church.

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### **Pembury Cricket Ladies 2004 Calendar**

To date we have sold 150 calendars at £8 each – making a profit so far of £1,125 less £281 which is the 25% being donated to the Hospice in the Weald in Pembury – the remainder of the profits will be used to purchase equipment for Pembury Cricket Club. We hope that we can sell a few more for Christmas. The contact names and phone numbers are as before (Heather Purdy 824940) or (Julie Moxon 824360) to make a purchase.

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M.O.T. TESTS

**The Burma Star Association  
Branch Secretary,  
Mr R. G. G.**

Whitlock, contacted us to ask us to delete the organisation from the list of village organisations. He is now the only active member resident in Pembury. However, the branch will endeavour to be represented at the

Remembrance Sunday service for as long as possible. Incredible, but strangely comforting, to think that the last major world conflict involving Pembury residents was over 50 years ago . . .



**Trevor Burley** from Belfield Road received an award from the Multiple Sclerosis Society at the national 50th anniversary celebration held in Birmingham recently for his outstanding contribution and work for

people with MS. As reported in the *Kent & Sussex Courier*, Mr Burley was very modest about his award. He said that he felt the award recognised the work that the whole Tunbridge Wells & District branch did; although he helps organise group outings and drives the minibus for the group, he said he just ‘helped out’.

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**Parish Council events**

You might like to make an advance note of some events being planned by the Parish Council for 2004:

Annual Parish Meeting 22 March 2004  
Musical Picnic on the  
Green 12 June 2004  
Pembury Village Fete 10 July 2004

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**Nursery open afternoon** Wednesday 24 March – 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Come and join the staff for a coffee and chat. Perhaps you’re curious about the nursery and just want to have a look or perhaps you have a child soon to reach nursery age and wish to register them? Please feel welcome to bring along a friend. For more details contact Carole Hughes on 01892 668514

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**Beauty at Headmasters**

Philippa, who was based in the beauty room at Headmasters in the High Street, has left to open up her own business. She says *“I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the last two years. It’s this support that has enabled me to open my new salon ‘Altered Images’ in Sevenoaks (01732 456151)”*

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**Constance M. White**, a prolific author of 40 novels who now lives at Cornford House in Pembury, celebrated her 100th birthday on 2 November. Mrs White particularly wrote books for children. She was a founder member of the Tunbridge Wells & District Writers Circle and also produced and sold over 200 paintings.

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**Two controversial planning applications**

in Pembury were refused and/or withdrawn recently; a plan to build a large respite centre in the grounds of Pembury School and a 14-house development in Gimble Way. Apart from being intensive development of the two sites, both would have used access via Church Road which is quite a narrow residential road with existing traffic problems. The development in Gimble Way would also have had a significant impact on an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as meaning the demolition of a fine Victorian house. Commonsense seems to have broken out all round!



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## PEMBURY EVENING WI

**W**E AT PEMBURY Evening WI have had a good year with an entertaining mix of speakers and subjects ranging from the making of ice sculptures for 'pukka' receptions and dinners at top London hotels and cruise liners, to gardening for wildlife and the rehabilitation work of the Kenward Trust.

As well as our monthly meetings we have been out and about to some really fun places. In the Spring we visited the BBC TV and Radio studios in Tunbridge Wells to see the early evening news programme "South East Today" being produced and transmitted. We enjoyed the TWODS production of Oklahoma and look forward to their autumn show *Die Fledermaus*. Our August meeting saw WI members and partners learning about wine production at Penshurst Vineyard, with the hard task of wine tasting, followed by a ploughman's supper. In August we went to Hever Lakeside Theatre to see Noel Coward's play "Fallen Angels". We also visited the 'ice production' plant at Horsmonden where we saw some of the fascinating ice sculptures being made.

Besides all these social outings we have also worked hard. For the village we ran the tea tent at the village fete. We worked with Pembury Afternoon WI to promote the many and varied aspects of the Women's Institute with displays of our crafts, programmes of speakers and outings, and together provided refreshments at the two-day Pembury Village Exhibition held at the end of September. We have a lively craft group whose meetings cover a range of disciplines and who enjoy very sociable evenings.

We have had a good year in 2003. Our membership now stands at 35 and, following the successful Village Exhibition, we very much hope that more people will join us.

We look forward to another enjoyable year in 2004.

**Chris Johnson**, Hon Secretary

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## PEMBURY WRVS LUNCHEON CLUB

**WE HAVE JUST** celebrated our 21st birthday where members past and present enjoyed a tea party. This Luncheon Club was started all that time ago by Hildy Swindon and friends. Many helpers have come and gone but the club keeps going with support from the Southborough Lions Club.

Pembury WRVS Luncheon Club meets every Wednesday at 11.45am in the Pembury Village Hall during the school term time. We serve a lunch

(main course and sweet) followed by coffee/tea for just £2.20. The lunches are cooked by Tunbridge Wells High School and brought to us by Compaid Trust. If you are lonely and would like to join our Luncheon Club, just call Amanda 823280 or Jo 822829. We would welcome new members as we hope to keep going for another 21 years.

**Amanda Everett**, Treasurer



## YOUNG PEMBURY A-DANCING

**A**MBERSIDE DANCE STUDIO reports that photographs recently displayed at the Village Exhibition covering their contribution to the Village and Pembury School Fetes as well as their bi-annual productions attracted a great deal of interest. Margaret King adds *“They will be on display again at our next production which will take place at the Judi Dench Theatre, Kent College, Pembury on Saturday 3 April 2004. Tickets will be available early in the New Year. All profits from our productions go to various charities – most of them local.”*



*The above photograph shows the more advanced ballet students during a ‘pointe work’ class in the Village Hall. These girls have between them recently passed Grade VI Ballet, Grade IV Modern Dance and Grade III Tap Dancing with exceptionally high marks.*

Jessica Maple has for the second time just taken part in the Kent Youth Ballet production at the Assembly Hall. Terri Burchett and Kate Hallam have recently taken part in the English Youth Ballet production in Hastings. This year, Terri has also taken part in the Royal Ballet Summer School at Beechwood School.

*Some of the younger pupils taking part in the Pembury School Wild West Fete earlier this year.*



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## BEING A GOOD CITIZEN

**I**N REPLY TO a recent article in the PVN regarding ‘doing your civic duty’ (*‘Are You Part of Your Community?’ Autumn 2003 issue*). I would like to relate an incident which occurred on Monday 12 August at about 10.10pm. I saw a car with two males driving very slowly from The Coppice on to the pavement where it almost came to a stop outside a house where the occupants were known to be on holiday. There was a parked car on the drive, quite new and fairly attractive.

The vehicle then continued very slowly, still driving along on the pavement, past the next house where two cars were parked on the front driveway. It then drove off out of The Ridgeway towards Lower Green Road. Shortly afterwards, the same vehicle was seen driving back into The Ridgeway in the direction of Westway. Finally, it was seen returning towards Lower Green Road, at which time I noted down the registration number.

In the next couple of days it came to light that there had been a robbery at a house within 150 yards of the sighting of the car on Monday. An almost new motorcycle had been stolen from a locked and secure garage, again where the owners were on holiday. In view of this, it seemed a strong possibility that the two incidents might be linked. A telephone call was made to the police on a Tonbridge number obtained from the telephone directory (would you know what number to ring, if it is not an emergency?).

During quite a lengthy conversation with a civilian employee the line went dead. I called the same number again, where a similar conversation took place with a different person. All the details of the earlier sighting and a full registration number were given for the second time.

The civilian employee then suggested that I go into Tunbridge Wells to the local police station and report to the front desk. Astounded at the unnecessary duplication – I had already done my bit (twice) by reporting a suspicious incident – we politely declined. The civilian employee finally agreed to pass the details to the relevant department in the hope that it might be of some use.

On the following Sunday, the owner of the stolen motorcycle, now back from his holiday, contacted me to ask for the registration number of the car observed. He had received a phone call from the police asking for the number as they didn’t appear to be able to find it. Was it all worth the trouble?

A Disillusioned Citizen.

*Editor’s note: Steve Morton, Pembury Webmaster, recently discovered an online crime reporting system, which he says might save a long boring wait on the phone. <http://www.online.police.uk/english/default.asp> He has put the link to this on the Pembury Village News website.*

A PEMBURY resident has up to 30 Christmas trees grown over the last seven years 6ft and over and they are all being cut. They are being sold at £10 each regardless of size and all proceeds go to the Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club Changing Room Fund.

They will be cut but need to be collected.

Please phone 822826 for details.





## PEMBURY MAKES AN EXHIBITION OF ITSELF

**B**ETWEEN 1,500 and 2,000 people flocked to Pembury Village Hall over the weekend of 27 and 28 September to visit Village Exhibition 2003. *“An outstanding success!”* said Pembury Parish Clerk Barbara Russell. *“It was very gratifying to see so many parishioners interested in their village and its activities”*.

Representatives from a large range of Pembury groups, societies and local charities demonstrated what went on in their organisations, using video, interactive displays on laptops, and static displays lavishly covered in photographs. Naturally, the WI showed off cakes, flowers and even ‘Jerusalem’, but there were (to date!) no ‘calendar girls’. The Guides were reckoned to have one of the most colourful displays with past uniforms including the little woolly Brownie bobble hats!

The Pembury Society, whose motto is ‘Planning for the future, enhancing the present’, enrolled over 40 new members over the weekend. Pembury Parish Council took over the whole small meeting room and showed not only Pembury past and present, but illustrated its activities over the past few years; not only the triumphs such as its Golden Jubilee events programme in 2002, but the facilities it provided in the Parish and the way it accounted to parishioners. As usual, the colourful Pembury Village News and the live demonstration of its associated website (now in its fifth year!) attracted a great deal of interest.

Parish Council Chairman Sarah Clarke thanked Cllr Leslie Gregory and his PR team for their sterling efforts in planning and running the Exhibition. *“We are lucky to have such an enthusiastic and capable working group leading public relations in Pembury”*.



*Three who did a lot of the work . . .*

*Left to right:*

*Cllr Leslie Gregory, Chairman,  
Public Relations Working Group;*

*Cllr Alison Morton,*

*Editor, Pembury Village News;*

*Barbara Russell,*

*Clerk to Pembury Parish Council*



*WI sorting  
out the  
world*

*Visitors  
studying  
Pembury  
past and  
present  
displays*





*The wonderful  
Guides & Brownies  
stand!*



*Pembury Gardeners*

*Pembury Players*



*The Pembury Society who recruited over  
40 new members!*



*More deep discussions!*





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## PEMBURY IN THE PAST

### THE BEECHINGS AND PEMBURY SCHOOL

*We received the following letter from David Beeching . . .*

“I was very pleased and interested to see the photograph sent in by Marjorie Parks in the March 2003 edition of Pembury Village News.

Like John Gorringe, I no longer live in Pembury and only see the magazine when my relatives send it on to me. However, I would have been in the picture had John Darkins and I not left to go to Skinners’ in 1941. Ken Boarer came to Skinners’ later.

This was the class I was in and went up in through the school. I could have put names to several more people, but John Gorringe’s list in Issue 114 is comprehensive.

My grandfather ran the Post Office and Stores at Lower Green for over 50 years. Following his death in 1932, William, Florrie and Arthur Beeching, three of his eight children, carried on the business for a further 20 years.

My father, Arthur, attended Pembury School from 1897 to 1908 when he went to King Charles the Martyr in Tunbridge Wells. Several of his siblings attended too. I attended from 1935 to 1941 and my four children spanned 1963 to 1975.

Two of my seven grandchildren have left recently to go to Tonbridge Girls’ Grammar and another granddaughter started earlier this year [at Pembury School].

My cousin, John Beeching attended from 1941 to 1947.

I think you could say that Pembury School has been well supported by the Beechings, but no doubt there are many other families in Pembury who have longer connections.”

**David Beeching**



*c. 1905. Shows left to right Doris, William, Henry and Leslie Beeching with Aubrey Leaton*

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### GROWING UP IN PEMBURY 1945

*Maggie Towner contacted us by email and reported that she had just visited our ‘very interesting’ web site; the article about ‘The Little Path’ in the Winter 2002 edition particularly caught her attention.*

“I remember the ‘little path’ well as my mother would not let me walk along it on the way home from school with the bigger girls! This would have been around 1945-46. Sandra Eldridge, who was the daughter of the village policeman at the time, fell off the bank smack on to the road.

A Mrs Boakes picked her up and luckily she was only winded. If I remember rightly, the Francis family and the Vousden family lived in two of the houses at the top of the bank.

We always walked to school until a bus service was started in about 1948. The fare was one old penny but sometimes I would walk home and spend my penny on sweets or lemonade powder if the funny little shop at the lower end of Henwood Green Road was open. The row of cottages where the shop was is still there, by the Royal Oak pub. I remember it was owned by a very old lady and the shop itself was in her front room!



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## PEMBURY IN THE PAST *continued*

You also have a picture of Bo-peep corner in 1927, showing the council houses which had just been built. My sisters and I were born and raised in the house at the very right of the picture and my mother continued to live there until the 1980s. She would turn in her grave if she could see the state of the front garden now! A Mrs Wallis lived in the house to the left of it and she had a beautiful big tabby cat called Bruin. Next to her, on the corner, was the police house where PC Eldridge, his wife and daughter Sandra lived.

There was an air raid shelter opposite our house, with a steep bank behind it. I remember one day during the war seeing all these soldiers hiding in the bushes on the bank. My sisters made tea for them and I helped them carry the cups across the road but I was terrified because their faces were blackened for camouflage!

My grandmother (Edith Reeves) lived in a dear little cottage just past the Bo-peep stores. She had no electricity, just a gas mantle in the living room, which also had a big black range. I used to love helping her to clean it with stuff called Black Lead. Next door to her were Mr and Mrs Stiles who kept chickens in the back garden. They often gave me a newly laid egg to take home for my tea. The lavatory was at the end of the garden and had a wooden shelf with a hole in it instead of a seat. This was bleached white from where Granny would scrub it vigorously several times a week!

One of my favourite places was what we then called Mulberry Wood but I believe its real name was Marlborough Wood. I think this has now disappeared with the building of the by-pass. I used to love going for walks there and picking primroses and bluebells in the spring. In the autumn we would gather chestnuts and sometimes take the old pram and fill it with 'chucks' for firewood. These were the chunks of wood left lying around after trees had been felled, but sometimes we were lucky and found a log or two!

Other good places for a walk were the old Coach Road, with its sandpit and rope swing and the road to Dundel where I was always led to believe there was a treacle mine, although I never saw it! Of course, there was also hop picking – but that is another story because I have just realised what the time is - I got quite carried away with my memories of a happy childhood growing up in Pembury!"

**Maggie Towner** (formerly Margaret Woods)

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## WARTIME MEMORIES OF PEMBURY

*Mrs Judy Herridge called into Ditchetts Chemist in September 2003 looking for where she had lived during the years of the Second World War. She is putting together a record for her grandchildren, beginning in 1941.*

"What is your earliest memory?" I was asked. In 1946, my father was demobbed from the army after WW2 and we went to live with his parents in Croydon. My earliest memories pre-date that momentous event.

We – being my mother, my brother Peter and I – lived in The Lodge at Pembury in Kent. I was born there prematurely on St Swithin's Day. My cot was a drawer out of the dressing table and being so small, only 5lbs, I was bathed in olive oil, not water. My father was away for most of the war years serving at Dunkirk and in India. We shared the house with a family called, I believe, Bairnberg. Over a decade later we were still friendly with them. There was a garden in which I was put to rest in my pram. This was the cause of my biggest fear, a phobia of horses and cows. This is still with me. During one of the alfresco siestas the animals from

## PEMBURY IN THE PAST *continued*

the next field invaded the garden. Is there any wonder that I used to escape from the harness holding me into the pram whenever possible, climb out and present myself at the kitchen door?

At Sunday school, we would march round the room singing 'Jesus bids us shine'. On the way home from Sunday school was a holly hedge along the front of the house where were evacuated. I can still recall the fusty smell of it when we used to hide underneath and the prickles of the holly that caught my coat as I crawled under the branches. My coat was pink with a matching peak-a-boo bonnet and leggings when the weather was chilly.



There was a tree house in the garden, which was the most marvellous place to be, once the ladder had been climbed to the dizzy height. Returning on a sightseeing trip as a teenager, I was mortified to find that the platform was not as large or as high as in my memory. Even the outside rail had gone and it looked very small and tame. The green outside the house, I thought was huge – as big as a field – it turned out to be a triangular patch of grass where two roads converged. There was a mulberry tree that caused me much trouble. I enjoyed picking up the fruits from the ground and eating them. Passers-by used to frog-march me to the door and criticise Mummy for allowing a small child to do such a terrible thing.

Father was an only child. He had been born in Cape Town, South Africa and his passport was South African until after the war even though his father had been born in Wales. Grandpa Alfred Yarde was with the Cable and Wireless Company and had travelled extensively in the then expanding world. Daddy had lived in Malta and Gibraltar as a child and spoke Maltese with the servants. As his parents were travelling the world he was sent as a boarder to a school in Hitchin and later to the Leys in Cambridge.

My Auntie Hilda used to visit us and we would go to various local farms and pick fruit for bottling and making into jam. Her visits were always special. Auntie Hilda used to help Mummy to make costumes for fancy dress parades. There is a black and white photograph of a line of children. My brother is dressed as a shepherd as in a Nativity Play with head shawl tied on with rope. I am the one scowling, rigged out as a prefab. I hated the cardboard box which constricted all movement and the tubing to represent the chimney pot made me feel claustrophobic even though the eyeholes allowed me to see out.

I have no memories of the jubilation at the end of hostilities. Whether this fancy dress competition was part of any such celebrations for VE day, I don't know, but Mummy does not say anything to that effect so it seems unlikely. What I do remember is sitting under the table while the Doodlebugs were flying overhead. The noise of the engines was such a peculiar droning until it cut out. It was always a relief to hear the all-clear siren.

**Judy Herridge**

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## ST. PETER'S PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

**W**E MEET ON the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Upper Church meeting room at 8pm. For actual dates, please check the 'For Your Diary' section (page 39) in the Village News or St Peter's Church magazines. The club covers a variety of topics during the year, not just for the advanced photographer, but the beginner as well. Events include slide/print competitions, both themed and open; table top photography; night-time shoots; guest speakers; two outings during the summer; and a Christmas social event. New members are most



*Some members at the table top evening*

welcome – don't hesitate to contact Carole Wakeford on 822030 for further information.

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## ALL CHANGE ON TUESDAYS – VILLAGE HALL

**J**UST IN CASE you have not heard, the Village Hall Coffee Shop is now open every Tuesday between 9.30am-12 noon. It has been wonderful to see some new faces as well as old friends since we re-opened in September. It is so important to have somewhere for all the villagers to meet and where newcomers and those living alone can come and mingle and make contact with others.

There has also been a very welcome response to our plea for supporters and help; the Bowls Club are hosting the first week of the month, whilst St Peter's Church have rallied lots of help and are in the driving seat on the second Tuesday (as well as having a stall on Market Day). The third week is more laid-back (any offers?) and the last week sees a full market, with all the usual friends and faces.

Every week there is a large selection of books, bric-a-brac and greetings cards. In addition to this, every second and fourth week, we have free-range eggs, home-baked cakes and the popular canned grocery stall, just to add to the great value on offer. Anyone can have a table for just £2.50 (local). Professional sellers are also welcome (rates vary – please contact us).

If you get around to having a clear out, or are into arts and crafts, we offer a warm and friendly indoor venue. You sell privately or for charity. The hall is there for you to use – just call us for details. The coffee shop is run as a fund-raising arm for the up-keep of our beautiful hall and any offers of help are always welcome.

There will be a wide range of gifts and goodies on sale throughout December – the last date is 23 December when there will be a full market and hot mince pies.

We will be re-opening on Tuesday 9 January so may we wish you all the warmest and loving Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful 2004.

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## ROSIE'S RECIPE CORNER

**A**S I WRITE autumn is definitely in the air with strong hints of the winter to come. Time to think about heart-warming soups, stews and puddings but I thought I would concentrate solely on puddings this time. The following are a selection from the more time-consuming to the 'almost made in minutes'.

### **Apple and Mincemeat Pudding**

*Ingredients for suet pastry:*

8oz self-raising flour or plain flour with heaped teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
4oz shredded suet  
cold water to mix

Sieve flour, baking powder (if used) and salt; mix in suet. Mix to a stiff dough with cold water. Use at once. For a richer, lighter crust, add an egg; adding it before the water, less water will be needed.

*Ingredients for filling:*

2–3 large cooking apples  
1 small jar of mincemeat  
2 tbsp brown sugar  
fine breadcrumbs

Line a basin with the suet crust, then put in a layer of sliced apple, sprinkle with brown sugar, fine breadcrumbs, then mincemeat. Fill the basin in this way, cover with pastry, paper and cloth or aluminium foil, and steam for 2-2½ hours. Serve with homemade custard.

### **Old-fashioned Apple Pie**

*Ingredients for the pastry:*

225g (8oz) plain flour  
pinch of salt  
1 tbsp icing sugar  
150g (5oz) butter  
1 tsp lemon juice  
1 egg yolk beaten with 1 tbsp water  
beaten egg yolk, to glaze

*Ingredients for filling:*

700g (1½lb) cooking apples  
3–4 tbsp icing sugar  
Make pastry. Mix flour, salt and icing sugar and rub in butter. Add lemon juice and egg

yolk mixture and then add another 1–2 tbsp water to make a soft dough. Shape into two flattened rounds, place in polythene bags and chill for 1hr.

Heat oven to 200°C (400°F/Gas 6). Place a baking sheet in oven. Roll out dough into two rounds and use one to line a shallow 23cm (9in) loose-bottomed tin. Peel, core and slice apples. Place in layers in tin, sprinkling each layer with 1 tsp icing sugar. Lay second piece of pastry over apples. Trim, knock up and flute edges and make a small cut in centre. Glaze pie with egg. Bake for 30–35 minutes or until golden. Turn out and cool slightly before serving. To vary, add 25g (1oz) sultanas and 1 tsp grated cinnamon to pie filling for extra flavour, or combine apples and blackberries.

Here is a clever way of turning doughnuts and a can of apricots into a dessert that normally takes ages to prepare.

### **Quick Apricot Rum Babas**

*Ingredients for 4 servings:*

425g (15oz) can sliced apricots, in syrup  
1 tbsp apricot jam  
4 large ring doughnuts  
4 tbsp rum  
120ml (4floz) double cream stiffly whipped  
toasted flaked almonds, to decorate

Drain apricots, put syrup into frying pan, add apricot jam and heat gently, stirring all the time until jam has melted. Add doughnuts to pan, boil up, turning doughnuts from time to time until all the syrup has been absorbed by the doughnuts. Transfer doughnuts to a serving dish. Pour 1tbsp rum over each one. Leave until cold. When cold, pipe or spoon a large whirl of cream into the centre of each doughnut. Arrange sliced apricots over cream. Decorate with flaked almonds.

To vary, try using other canned fruits such as mandarin segments, pineapple, fruit cocktail or peach, pear or mango slices.

Please send your recipes to:

**Rosie Latter**

81 Beagles Wood Road

Tel: 822059 Email : [rosielatter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosielatter@yahoo.co.uk)

## YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY . . .

**D**O YOU KNOW what is going on at your local library in Lower Green Road? Did you know that we are open for 25½ hours a week and that there are computers linked to the Internet, free to use for up to an hour at a time?

Pembury Library caters for all sections of the community. Apart from books, videos, tapes, and other materials, the library houses a lot of local information as well as keeping the local paper and bus timetables and information about events that take place around the area. There is a photocopier and fax machine available too.

We have a home library service and if there is someone you know in the village who is unable to get to the library we may be able to get a volunteer to take the books round to their home.

Should you wish to read a book or see a video not available in Pembury we do have a request service to get items from any of our 106 libraries within Kent County Council. Should you require anything we can't immediately supply we are able to access materials from around the country and abroad. So, for the price of a reservation – 75p – you should be able to get exactly what you require.

The Young People's library has had a lick of paint. A lot of new books have been recently added to stock to help with those difficult homework questions as well as just to browse and enjoy reading. The children of the village have proved themselves to be bookworms this year with 166 of them taking part in the reading challenge over the summer and 120 of them loving reading so much that they read six or more books during the holidays – a really excellent achievement. Each year 100 new books – mainly stories – are added to the stock to support the Challenge.

Once a month the users of the library are treated to a Baby Bounce and Rhyme session where babies from 7 months to 2 years and their carers sing nursery rhymes and songs together and use puppets and musical instruments. We have a group of about ten babies to enjoy our half an hour of fun; new faces are always welcome. We also have a regular story time for pre-school children on Thursday afternoons from 2.30-3pm.



The library changes with the times and meets new challenges and we look forward to meeting you there. Please contact Lesley Glover at Pembury Library on 822278 if you have any queries about the services we offer.

**Veronica Dorset**, Team Librarian Young People's Services  
Tunbridge Wells Library



## THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS!

ON TUESDAY 23 September, pupils from several local schools brushed up their French language skills when they watched a French theatre company called 'Tête-à-Tête' perform in the 400-seater theatre at Kent College, Pembury. The event was organised by Clare Wilson, French teacher at Kent College Junior School who had invited pupils from Pembury Primary School, Hilden Grange, Hilden Oaks and Beechwood School, to watch the show with Key Stage 2 classes from Kent College Junior School.



*Pictured in the photo: (left to right) pupils from Pembury Primary School and Kent College Junior School with performers Dan Roro and Anne*

The two company members, Dan Roro and his assistant, Anne, performed a play called 'Le Château de Dan Roro'. This was a mixture of traditional French entertainment with comedy, mime, French music and singing, ventriloquism, unicycling, juggling and balancing! Dan Roro did several magic tricks that fascinated the audience, particularly pouring wine from a bottle into a glass that was suspended in mid-air. He pretended to drop eggs on the audience, spun plates on tall poles and kept introducing simple French words for the audience to repeat.

Clare Wilson said: *"The children enjoyed a very lively afternoon's entertainment whilst improving their listening skills."*

## MY PLOT

A SUMMERY PICTURE of the prettiest potato bed you ever saw. It was the result of rotovating a piece of ground that had last year off and the year before that had wild flower mixture growing on it. As you can see, disturbing the soil activated a lot of seed and the result was this. The effect on the crop wasn't very clear since I didn't have any that weren't grown under a meadow. The crop was on the small side but almost perfect – no slug damage worth worrying about and no scab.



Maybe this was due to the hot, dry summer, I'll probably never know.

One problem was that I didn't want to spoil the carpet of flowers until they were finished. So I waited until September to lift the spuds but because the tops had died off early they stayed like new potatoes; hardly planned, but very successful and very beautiful.

More pure luck came with a row of Pink Fir Apple potatoes from last year. They refused to grow due to a mulch of bark chippings that I used which stopped the weeds – and the crops – from growing. In fact I couldn't even find where I had planted them! But this year they came up, having spent a whole year sitting in the ground and what a lovely surprise they were too.

My newly planted apple tree, that has Golden Delicious and Sunset grafted onto one trunk, bore me one apple – a Golden Delicious. It did not make it home because I ate it on the spot. Another bonus, especially since I hadn't noticed it even had any blossom from which to set fruit.

**Caroline Mazzey**



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## JAN'S GARDEN VIEWS

**W**INTER IS probably everyone's least favourite season, but it has its compensations despite the cold weather. With nature's bounty harvested and all 'safely gathered in', we can indulge ourselves over Christmas and beyond with wonderful fruit puddings, chutneys, roasted chestnuts and wines from Kentish vineyards, plus a wide range of vegetables including the vibrant coloured pumpkins, squashes and gourds, which are gaining popularity.



After such a very hot and long dry summer most of our gardens have looked dry and parched and a lot of plants have struggled to survive. We are now having to accept climate change and are told that it will continue to produce milder winters and drier summers. We can overcome the dryness either by regular mulching (once the moisture content of the soil has improved) of our existing borders, or plan ahead and consider using drought and heat tolerant plants that are more resistant. There are actually many of these, some still traditional such as cistus, lavender, penstemons, salvias, achilleas and ornamental grasses, but also a choice of exotic plants that offer us an exciting challenge to grow new varieties from all over the world. Our lawns too have suffered with much yellowing, but will improve with regular rainfall and a lawn feed in mild weather – if you haven't already done so.

Much has been written on the subject of Herbs which have always played an important part in human history. Since ancient times they have been used in cooking, medicine and cosmetics. They are mentioned many times in the Holy Bible, by ancient Egyptians and in Greek mythology. Herbs today have increased in popularity and are used widely. Late spring is a good time for making a herb garden, but they can be grown indoors in containers on a warm window-sill for winter use. Terracotta strawberry jars in various sizes are popular and easily obtainable, or small troughs. Mushroom or household compost is good for planting. Seeds usually take a few days to germinate or plants are available. Small herbs for growing indoors for culinary use include: basil, sage, chives, parsley, coriander and lemon balm.

Mature Wisterias should be pruned twice a year to produce the best displays. This is best done now in November or December and then two months after flowering. This prevents unproductive long growth. Prune lateral sideways growths to three buds from where they leave the main stem and side shoots to three buds. Check the ties and supports. Feed with a well-balanced fertiliser (not too much nitrogen) and mulch the roots.

Don't forget our feathered friends this winter. They look to us for extra supplies when natural food becomes scarce. Feeders of seeds and nuts are ideal and shallow containers of water for drinking and bathing.

Finally, finish winter pruning and use to continue the compost heap. Check dahlia tubers and gladioli corms for rot. Keep greenhouse fuchsias and geraniums sprayed with water occasionally. Fleece is ideal to protect your tender plants in very cold spells.

**Jan Davies**

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# CHURCH SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

## ST PETER'S

21 December	6.30 pm	Parish Carol Service – Upper Church
24 December	4 pm	Children's Crib Service 'Maximus Mouse's Christmas Card' – Upper Church
	11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist – Upper Church
25 December	8 am	Holy Communion – Upper Church
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist with carols – Upper Church
	11.30 am	Holy Communion with carols – Old Church
28 December	11.30 am	Carol Service – Old Church

## ST ANSELM'S PEMBURY

20 December	7.30 pm	Carol service
21 December	10.30 am	Sunday Mass
24 December	7.30 pm	Carols
	8 pm	First Mass of Christmas
25 December	10.30 am	Holy Mass
28 December	10.30 am	Sunday Mass



## PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

18 December	2 pm	'Little Rascals' Christmas presentation
21 December	10 am	Christmas Present
	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
24 December	11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Communion
25 December	10 am	Christmas Day celebration
28 December	10 am	Christmas Present: All-Age Service





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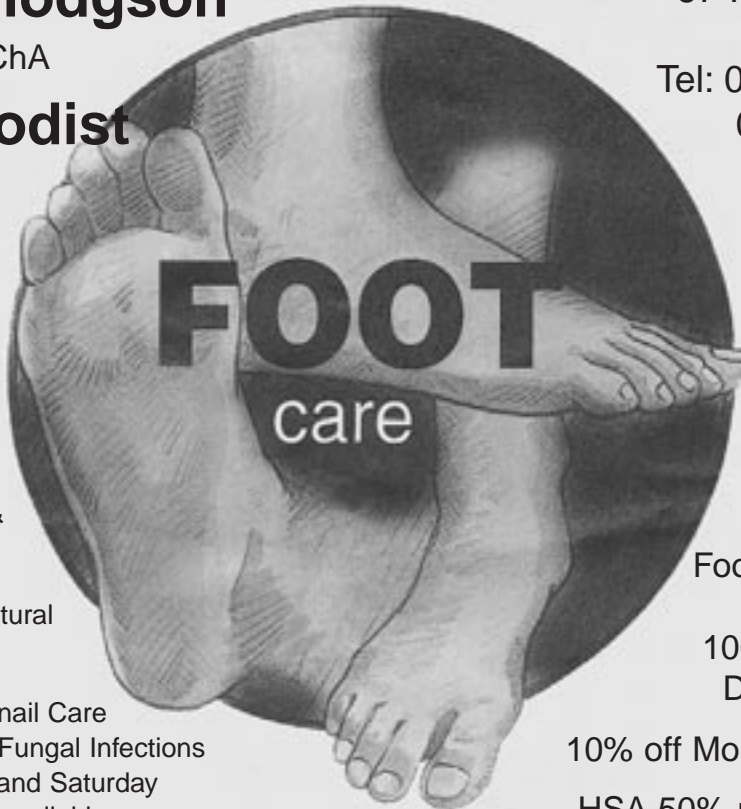
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## *FOR YOUR DIARY*

Village Coffee Morning – Village Hall Tuesdays 9.30am – 12 noon, full market last Tuesday of the month same times. WRVS Lunch Club – Every Wednesday at 11.45am in the Pembury Village Hall during the school term time.

### **JANUARY**

- 1 New Year's Footpath Walk – Stonecourt Lane – 10am (Details from 822051)
- 2 Pembury Evening WI: Hands On Reflexology – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 3 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Arms – 2.15pm
- 7 St Peter's Mothers' Union: 'Doing It Ourselves' – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 8 Pembury Afternoon WI: New Year's Party – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 8/9/10 Pembury Players' Panto – Village Hall – See times as advertised in the village
- 12 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 12 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 24 Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club: Disco – Village Hall – 8pm.  
Contact Ian White Tel. 824301
- 26 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm

### **FEBRUARY**

- 1 Christingle Service – Upper Church – 9.45am
- 4 St Peter's Mothers' Union: 'You Can Lead A Horse to Water . . .' Rev H. Hughes – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 5 Pembury Afternoon WI: 'My Life As WI Chairman' – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 6 Pembury Evening WI: The Oast with the Most – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 7 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
- 7 WI Jumble Sale – Village Hall – 2pm
- 9 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 9 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 23 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 26 Pembury Gardeners' Society: AGM – Village Hall – 8pm

### **MARCH**

- 3 St Peter's Mothers' Union: AGM – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 4 Pembury Afternoon WI: Victorian Magic Lantern Show – Village Hall – 2.15pm
- 5 Pembury Evening WI: The Darling Buds of May – Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 6 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Bo-Peep Corner – 2.15pm
- 6 1960's Dance – Village Hall – 8pm
- 8 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
- 8 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 8 Floral Art – Village Hall – 8 pm
- 22 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Village Hall – 8pm
- 22 St Peter's Photographic Club – Upper Church Meeting Room – 8pm
- 24 Pembury Pre-School Nursery: Open afternoon – Catholic Hall – 1.30-2.30pm
- 27 Pembury Gardeners' Spring Show – 2.30pm

## CRIME IN PEMBURY

**H**ERE WE are again, Christmas time already and wake-up time for many would-be criminals. Remember, this is the time of the year when most people tend to have more cash on them or in their homes, more valuables in their cars or homes. Don't give it away by making it easy for those who prey on the vulnerable or careless.

Good news for July, August and September. Crime is down on the previous quarter from 52 to 46, but it is still not good enough. The High Street appears to have attracted the highest number of offences – theft and fraud being the most repetitive.

It would be great news if the quarter leading up to Christmas shows a crime figure of 40 or under.

Please also remember to be careful when opening doors to people collecting for possibly bogus charities or posing as Council employees or gas and electricity company representatives. You might feel a bit embarrassed, but **DO** ask for some proof of identity and read it when presented. Genuine callers will be only too happy to show you; those who are reluctant or brush the question off are definitely suspect.

I did promise that we would hold a 'Fight Crime' evening in the Village Hall soon but due to a relocation of my work place, that has not been possible. However, it will take place before the spring; look out for notices about in the village.

In the meantime, I would ask all organisations and private householders to let me have details of damage or crimes they have been victims of, whether reported or not.

Remember, when contacting the police insist on being given an incident number.

I would like to thank the police and Sgt. Terry in particular for their quick response and kindness when my daughter was involved recently in an accident near Matfield Church. Fortunately nobody was hurt.

Please have a Happy Christmas and if you know any of your neighbours are on their own, do take a few minutes to drop in for a seasonal visit.

**Hugh Boorman**

MONTH	Assault	Burglary Dwelling	Burglary Other	Criminal Damage	Fraud and Deception	Drugs	Theft from Motor Vehicle	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Theft Offences	TOTAL
<b>July 2003</b>	3	2	1	3	2		1	1	3	<b>16</b>
<b>August 2003</b>	2	1	1	4	1		2		7	<b>18</b>
<b>September 2003</b>	1		1	2	1	1	2	1	3	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>ROAD</b>										
Bellfield Road	1			1			1			<b>3</b>
Church Road						1				<b>1</b>
Hastings Road		1					1		2	<b>4</b>
Henwood Green Road	2	1						1		<b>4</b>
Henwoods Mount	1	1		2						<b>4</b>
Hérons Way							1			<b>1</b>
High Street			1	2	4		1		4	<b>12</b>
Kings Toll Road								1		<b>1</b>
Lower Green Road	1			2					2	<b>5</b>
Maidstone Road									1	<b>1</b>
Romford Road			1							<b>1</b>
The Grove				1						<b>1</b>
Tonbridge Road	1			1			1		4	<b>7</b>
Woodhill Park			1							<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>46</b>

# YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

## County Council

Mr Kevin Lynes, 5 Downs Cottages, The Down, Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8EX. Tel:890922

## Borough Council

Mr Bruce Ballantine, 6 Maidstone Road TN2 4DD. Tel: 822156

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

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

## Parish Council

Cllr Mrs Margaret Armitage, 2 Cornford Park TN2 4PN. Tel: 824208

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

*Chairman, Amenities, Allotments and Environmental Improvement Working Group*

Cllr Mrs Sarah Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road TN2 4AY. Tel: 823932

**Chairman of Parish Council**

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

**Vice Chairman of Parish Council.** *Chairman of Planning Working Group*

Cllr Richard Crouch, 17 Highfields Close TN2 4HG. Tel: 823164

*Chairman, Burials, Environment & Highways Working Group*

Cllr Mrs Nicola Duffy, 68 Herons Way TN2 4DN. Tel: 823326

Cllr Keith Farley, 3 Beagles Wood Road TN2 4HX. Tel: 823440

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

Cllr Leslie Gregory, 47 High Street TN2 4PH. Tel: 822343 *Chairman, Public Relations Working Group*

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

*Chairman, Pembury Village News Editorial Working Group*

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

*Chairman, Finance Working Group*

Cllr Mrs Sally Osborn, 34 Canterbury Road TN2 4JT. Tel: 822726

Cllr Mrs Gillian Pavely, 52 Maidstone Road TN2 4DE. Tel: 822605

*Chairman, Christmas Lights & Pembury in Bloom Working Group*

## Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

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

Email: PemburyPC@hotmail.com

# 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 Service:

Wednesday – Mass 7pm

## PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

We praise God and hear his word on Sunday at 10am and 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 6.30pm.

We have many activities during the week for mums, toddlers, young people and senior citizens. Ring the church office 825590 for details.



## HOSPICE NEWS

**D**AVID EDWARDS and Jane Stevenson from the village took part in the Firewalk Challenge on 30 October together with Leslie Wilson who successfully completed the Glasswalk. This was the fifth year of the event which raises around £14,000 each year. Thank you to those who sponsored the walkers. In total 70 firewalkers and 13 glasswalkers took part in the event.

The in-patient unit at the Hospice has vacancies for permanent D and E grade staff nurses and bank nurses – all grades. For further information, contact Mel Burgess, Ward Manager on 820500.

We are also looking for volunteer help with our weekend reception, for all three shifts on Saturdays and Sundays.

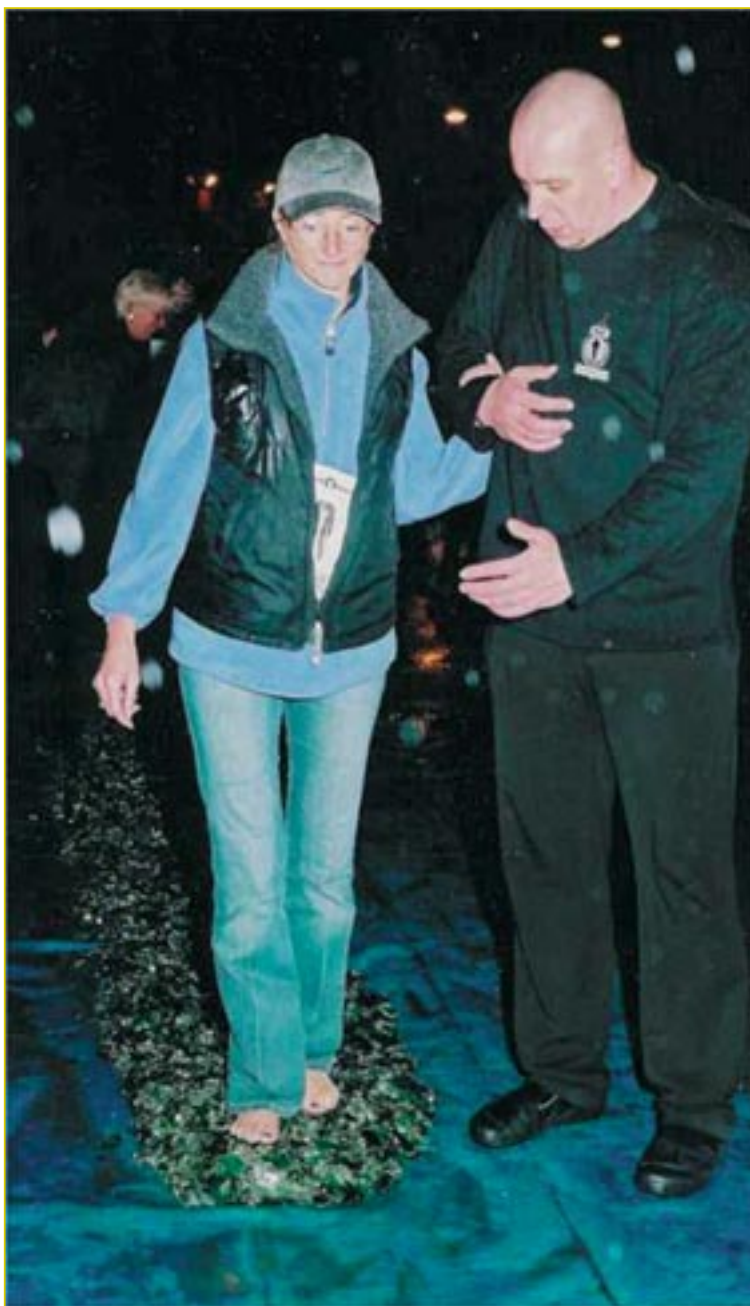
A volunteer hairdresser to help with the day therapy centre is also needed, one or two days per week. Full training and support is provided for both roles. If interested, please contact Jane Bagge on 820500.

London Marathon runners who have obtained a place and would like to run for the Hospice should now contact Richard Snow on 820534. Runners will receive sponsor forms, running vests and an invitation to the Pasta Party in April, including an opportunity to look round the Hospice.

Remember the Hospice needs to raise £2.5m each year, with only 10% of this coming from the N.H.S. All our services are provided free of charge to patients and their families in west Kent and northern East Sussex.

Finally, our thanks and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all the residents of Pembury. Your kindness and support is much appreciated.

*Yvette Allen from Pembury  
braves the elements as well  
as the broken glass*



# VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

## AGE CONCERN

Mrs Sandra Springett. Tel.: 522591

## ALZHEIMERS DISEASE SOCIETY

Simon Rooksby, Pineview Day Hospital  
Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535, Ext 3515

## BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

Mike Cartwright, 16 Cornford Park, Pembury.  
Tel: 823235

## BLACK & WHITE MARCHING MILITAIRE

Tel: Louise 823097

## BOWLS CLUB

Len Birnie. Tel: 01892 681222

## BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS

Mrs J. Fichtmüller, 19 Belfield Road. Tel: 825032

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

Deacon Bill Eason. Tel: 824133

## COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Hugh Boorman. Tel: 823068

## COMPAID TRUST

Computer Aid for Disabled People. Tel: 824060

Transport for Special Needs. Tel: 823488

## CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

## CRICKET CLUB

Hon. Secretary: Andy Weaver. Tel: 824362

## DARBY & JOAN CLUB

Jim Woodhams. Tel: 823990

## FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL

c/o Pembury Hospital. Tel: 823535

## FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH

Chairman: Mrs S. Clarke, Little Stanton,  
Romford Road. Tel: 823932

## GIRL GUIDERS

1st Pembury Company: Mrs A. Baker,  
Tel: 0771 264 3946

## HEADWAY

Libby Slattery. Tel: 823120

## HIGH WEALD HOUSING TENANT'S

## CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Ray Heasman. Tel: 822675

## HOSPICE IN THE WEALD – PEMBURY LINK

## GROUP

Chris Snow. Tel: 825428

## HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

Maidstone Road. Tel: 820500

## KENT COLLEGE

Headmistress: Anne Upton. Tel: 822006

## KENT COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL & NURSERY

Headmistress: Anne Lawson. Tel: 820204

## LABOUR PARTY

Dave & Sally Osborn, 34 Canterbury Rd. Tel: 822726

## LARKFIELD

Principal: Mr Roger Gibson, Cornford Lane. Tel: 822168

## LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Mrs S. Smith, 2 Ridgeway. Tel: 822405

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Bruce Ballantine. Tel: 822156

## LITTLE RASCALS (formerly 'Meet-a-Mum')

Alison Burgess. Tel: 515714

## NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Co-ordinator: Helen Dunkerley. Tel: 822529

## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, UK

Michael Coggles. Tel: 822705

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Gill Pavely. Tel: 822605

## PEMBURY ATHLETIC (YOUTH) FOOTBALL CLUB

David Gow. Tel: 824119

## PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor David Graham. Assoc Pastor Wayne Alexander  
Church Office. Tel: 825590

## PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB

Geoff Plummer. Tel: 824652

## PEMBURY F.C. SATURDAY

Mick Waterman, 26 The Coppice. Tel: 824137

## PEMBURY F.C. SUNDAY

Phil Craxton, 34 Woodhill Park. Tel: 823928

## PEMBURY FOOTPATH WALKERS

N. & K. Franklin, 11 The Meadow. Tel: 823212

## PEMBURY GARDENERS

Ann Purton. Tel: 824223

## PEMBURY PHOENIX TWIRLERS

Dave or Chris Brett. Tel: 824233

## PEMBURY PLAYERS

Chairman: John Hawker. Tel: 824327

## PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Mrs C. Hughes. Tel: 668514

## PEMBURY SCHOOL

Headteacher – Mrs C. Thewlis. Tel: 822259

## PEMBURY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Linda Bowen. Tel: 825536

## PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY

Teacher in charge: Rosemary Rich. Tel: 825580

## PEMBURY SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

Secretary: Mrs Marion Warren. Tel: 547617

## PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Arthur Storey. Tel: 822509

## PEMBURY SOCIETY

Derek Johnson. Tel: 823150

## PEMBURY STOOLBALL CLUB

Mrs Sandy Rice-Tucker. Tel: 822483

## PEMBURY UPPER AND OLD CHURCH

Rev. Stephen Sealy. Tel: 824761

## PEMBURY VILLAGE MARKET

Sue Boreham Tel: 824385

Eve Fiddimore Tel: 518277

## ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHBOROUGH & PEMBURY

Secretary: Mike Raper. Tel: 822095

## ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

Peter Chartres, 54 Woodhill Park. Tel: 823759

## SANDRA'S HOUSE

Pre-School Nursery, Mrs S. Toogood, Queens Folly,  
64 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824252

## SCOUT & GUIDE HQ MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mike Cartwright, 16 Cornford Park, Pembury.  
Tel: 823235 and Jackie Fichtmüller, 19 Bellfield Road,  
Pembury. Tel 823002

## ST. PETER'S MOTHERS' UNION

Secretary: Mrs J. Tompkins. Tel: 823123

## ST. PETER'S PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Events Secretary, Carol Wakeford. Tel: 822030

## TABLE TENNIS CLUB. John Burleton. Tel: 823250

## TREE WARDENS. Pat Cookson. Tel: 825739.

Caroline Mazzezy Tel: 822493

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS & DISTRICT VICTIM SUPPORT

SCHEME. Tel: 513969

## VILLAGE HALL

Manager (bookings): Rachel Windus.

Tel: 822837

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Afternoon: Mrs Edna Morris. Tel: 822267

Evening: Mrs Chris Johnson. Tel: 823150

## WRVS LUNCH CLUB

Contact: Mrs Amanda Everett. Tel: 823280

## YMCA

Simon Stanley. Tel: 534444



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