



PEMBURY

YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 1977 ISSUE No.

14

THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Pembury Society will be held on Monday 24th October 1977 at 8p.m. in the Village Hall. At approximately 8.40p.m. after a coffee interval, we shall have a talk, with slides, by John Newman on Kentish Buildings in and around Pembury.

John Newman is a lecturer in architectural history at the Courtauld Institute and is the author of the two books (West Kent and The Weald; North East and East Kent) in the series edited by Nikolaus Pevsner - The Buildings of England.

Non-members welcome.

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EDITORIAL

There would seem to be a good chance that Jubilee Year in Pembury will be best remembered as the "Year of the Trough".

When the Parish Council was considering ways of marking the Jubilee Year at the tail end of 1976 it could have had little idea of the interest that was going to be created in the Village by the eventual proposal to create a sitting area on the Village Green.

As the elected body of the Village it seemed straight forward to create an amenity of this kind that could be enjoyed by all and looked back on in future years as having been created to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

However, as the year unfolded it became clear that excitement was reaching fever pitch.

Obviously the Parish Council had struck a chord in the minds of the Villagers when it was realised that the "Trough" was to be moved to form part of the proposed amenity.

A Public Meeting was democratically requested and held in the Village Hall and the proposition explained by the Council. As a result of

this meeting a petition of over 2,000 signatures was collected asking for the "Trough" to remain in its present position and the Parish Council quite rightly dropped this proposal.

It can only be hoped that as far as the future of life in our Village is concerned, some of the excitement generated by this very small proposal will carry over into the really important problems that still face us. It is not necessary to look any further than the two By-Passes, the Community Centre and the Parish Church to see in what direction our efforts should lie. It is to be hoped also that the excitement over the Trough proposal has brought the work of the Parish Council to the knowledge of a greater number of Villagers than was previously the case.

Notification of all Council Meetings are contained in issues of this Newsletter and an attempt is made each three months to report on Council affairs. Having said all that there is no substitute for personal involvement in the life of our Village and the Parish Council could well look back on the "Year of the Trough" as the year when the Village started to take an active interest in Pembury.

Do you know which is the OLDEST building in Pembury & where it is ?

The Old Parish Church down by Kent College has been a place of prayer and worship for nearly 900 years! This means that the Church has been in continuous use for over 30 generations of Pembury people.

The original Norman Church was built in about 1100 AD. The choir was enlarged and the tower and porch added in the 14th Century and the Chancel arch and splendid tie-beam and king-post oak interior roof in about 1400, almost 600 years ago!

A chantry chapel for the saying of masses for the dead was founded in 1355 and was built in the churchyard.

At the Reformation this chantry chapel of St. Mary was destroyed and it is said that the money raised from the sale of the lead roof was used to pay for the enlargement of the nave windows - a fine example of Tudor craftsmanship, but greatly weakening some of the internal supports of the tie-beam and king-post roof, and so adding to our problem today!

The Church as constructed consists of chancel, nave, with south side porch, western tower with spire with no aisles. It is built of local sandstone which has considerable iron-staining and shows evidence of several distinct styles and ages. There are a number of interesting window constructions which show changes to the structure including the south side a priest's window. The east window is restoration and previously to 1860 was square headed and of three lights.

A curious feature on the outside of the chancel is the presence of armorial bearings cut in relief on the stones of the buttresses, some placed when they were built and identified as those of William, Earl of Ulster, the Hardreshull and Colepeper, and the Woodgate and Amherst families.

The interior of the Church is plain and heavily plastered. The roof is a very good specimen of tie-beam and king-post, and the spandrels formed by the braces of the wall-posts and the tie-beams are ornamented by a pierced cinquefoils.

When the square headed windows of the north and south nave were inserted after the roof was constructed the wall posts were partly cut away and supporting stone corbels re-positioned.

This Church is now in danger.

The ravages of the years have seriously affected the supporting structure of this very fine roof, from the onset of dampness, timber collapse and consequent attack of death watch beetle.

There are other problems in the flooring of the pews where the substructure has disintegrated and the electrical wiring and central heating pipework are beyond the years of normal life and need replacing.

In the restoration of 1860 heavy galleries on the north and west were removed as was a small music gallery high up in the western gable. There are many interesting memorials both inside and in the churchyard.

This then is the historical heritage that is sought to be preserved.

It belongs to the Village - the oldest surviving structure - and on these grounds alone is worthy of the action proposed. There are, however, other reasons.

It is a living structure used by many people even if only for limited purposes and the problem merits their support also.

What then is the problem?

A Church architect's report requested as a result of observation of certain evidence of deterioration shows that the timbers of the trusses that support the roof where they rest upon the walls are now in such a state that collapse is possible at any time and that furthermore this area of the timber is actively under attack by the death watch beetle. In one case only an insecure area of wood of about 2" is supporting one end of a relatively very heavy wooden beam.

For the roof, the floor, the wiring and the piping we have a "Guesstimate" of fifteen thousand pounds. The Parochial Church Council will explore all sources of monies from

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JUBILEE DAY - The oak tree is planted on the Village Green by Council Chairman Arthur Penn helped by Nigel Everett, Nicholas Bragg and Jonathan Cramp. (Photo: Courier)



FETE DAY - The new seat given to the Village by the 1976 Fete Committee is presented by Geoffrey Theobald to Parish Council Chairman Arthur Penn.

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B. 2015 ACTION PROGRAMME

The Kent County Council have told the Parish Council that the key dates for this By-Pass are:-

B.2015 By-Pass

Consult Parish Council and Amenity Groups	NOVEMBER 1977
Make planning submission to District Council	FEBRUARY 1978
District Council consults Parish Council about planning application	MARCH 1978
Public participation i.e. exhibition and public comment	MAY 1978
Planning consent issued	JUNE 1978
County Secretary publishes Side Road Orders after Compulsory Purchase Orders	SEPTEMBER 1978
Hold Compulsory Purchase Order Public Inquiry	JANUARY 1979
Confirmation of orders by the Department of the Environment	MAY 1979
<u>Start date for main works</u>	<u>MARCH 1980</u>

This programme has been prepared on the assumption that a Planning Inquiry will not be required and that funds will be available at the start date indicated.

It is up to us all to keep the County Council to this programme.



PEMBURY

Statement issued by Mr. Patrick Mayhew, M.P. on Wednesday June 22nd 1977.

On Tuesday evening I had a special interview with Mr. John Horam, Minister at the Department of Transport, on the subject of the A21 By-Pass at Pembury.

I particularly emphasised the immensely long period in which the need for a By-Pass has been recognised and relief promised. 50 years is about 45 years beyond a joke. I made sure that the Minister realised that development in Paddock Wood had greatly worsened the problem, with traffic joining the A21 in the middle of the Village at the B2015 junction.

He told me that an announcement is imminent and that the Pembury By-Pass has been taken into the preparation pool. This will mean that detailed design work will commence at once. This is still necessary because although the Kent County Council has done a lot of work on the project and has selected a line, this does not include any detailed design. It is not intended that there shall be any duplication of work.

The next stage will be a public inquiry on the line, assuming that objections to the proposal are made. This would have to be followed by subsidiary inquiries regarding side roads and compulsory purchase respectively. Priority there has to be allocated.

I said that people found it particularly frustrating that secrecy seemed to shroud the allocation of priorities. The Minister said that a statistical cost-benefit device was applied, known as COBA. In essence this weighs the volume of traffic to be expected in 25 years against the cost of the proposed scheme. If a return on capital invested of 20% or more is likely the work can be authorised without Treasury permission.

BY 2000



I was encouraged to find that the Minister expected a high priority to be given to the A21 scheme on the following, among other, grounds:-

1. The need was very apparent. Industrial traffic using the road from Paddock Wood and Maidstone was of particular importance. He had already told me that he would certainly not oppose the K.C.C. constructing the B2015 diversion to Woods Green crossroads out of its own resources, which it is prepared to do.
2. The road was wanted. Many necessary road schemes were bitterly opposed.
3. It is likely to be relatively cheap.
4. More generally, the South East had done badly for new roads compared with other parts of the country, and the balance ought to be put right. Whereas local authorities had had their road building funds cut by half, the Department of Transport had only been cut by about a quarter. Given the work already done by the county council, the Minister was hopeful that eight years, rather than the usual ten, would be the time taken from entry into the preparation pool to completion of the By-Pass, which would mean that we could look to 1985 to see the traffic rolling.

The Minister emphasised especially the importance given to expressions of public opinion. The existence of well supported action campaign was always taken into account, as was pressure from Members of Parliament and others. It is, I think, therefore vital that both of these should be maintained.

YOUR CLERK REPORTS.....

Have you ever wondered as you have waited at the traffic lights at The Green either as a motorist or as a pedestrian, how the time is shared between pedestrians and vehicles? I had occasion recently of writing to the Kent County Council on the subject and they informed me that if a pedestrian demand is made at the Pelican whilst the junction is showing green to the A21 traffic then the Pelican will be prevented from changing. This aids the A21 traffic by ensuring that the general flow through the junction does not meet a red at the Pelican and back up. When the A21 signals change away from green there is a further 10 seconds during which the Pelican is still prevented from changing. The purpose of this is to allow the tail end of the west bound flow to pass through the Pelican thus leaving most of the reservoir space between the junction and the Pelican empty, this helps the B2015 traffic by allowing them to move up into this space. This usually means however that the first vehicle from the B2015 will often meet the Pelican on the red. To ensure that the pedestrians are not prevented from crossing for an unduly lengthy period there is a maximum limit to the time that they will have to wait of 60 seconds. If this happens then the Pelican will change irrespective of the state of the junction signals - so now you know!

Following an article in this Newsletter, great strides have been made in the formation of the Pembury Table Tennis Club. There are now some 18 people who have indicated their desire to start the Club and they are currently seeking accommodation. I am pleased to say on behalf of the Club that problems over equipment are being resolved and the amount of the yearly subscriptions are being fixed. It is hoped that the Club will start playing at the end of September, so if you wish to be contacted when the Club officially opens its doors please write to me in the first instance with a note of your age and I'll pass it on to the Secretary.

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A visit to the Houses of Parliament

Can the Pembury By-Pass Campaign Committee prevail upon your Public Spirit? Will you devote a day taking your family, friends etc., to the House of Commons to present our petition to the Secretary of State for Transport? Our M.P. Mr. Patrick Mayhew has agreed to meet us there and accompany us to the Minister. The date has not been finalised as yet but is likely to be early in November. The 5th - perhaps.

The coach has 41 seats to fill. So, names please to The Secretary 4 Heskett Park, Pembury. Tel: 2609

YOUR BIG CHANCE

Can you do a Sword Dance?

Can you play the Flute or the spoons or Triangle perhaps? In fact can you, will you, do ANYTHING on stage? If so our audition in September is for you. We need acts for our show. Details please to Tony McQueen 4 Heskett Park, Pembury. Tel: 2609

From little acorns come great Oaks...

“under the spreading chestnut tree.....”

"The Men of the Trees" have reported to the Parish Council on the condition of our fine Chestnut tree on the Village Green. The report reads:-

"I have examined the above tree and can see no reason at all why large branches need to be removed.

There are some cavities in the centre which are probably the result of lopping in the past or large branches shedding during storms. These wounds have been left untreated with the result that new growth is liable to split off from the side of which is virtually a tube. However, I see no reason why the tree should not be saved by skilled tree surgery. This should involve thinning the tree to lessen weight and wind resistance, cleaning out and draining the cavities and removing dead wood.

The Parish Council will be carrying out these recommendations.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Sir,

The First Pembury Cubs and Scouts Supporters Association wish to thank most warmly all those who supported the Jubilee Celebrations on June 7th. The afternoon was a tremendous success and we are indeed grateful.

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our by-pass Campaign

Immediately after Newsletter 13 was circulated the advertised meeting was held in the Village Hall. This was called by the Parish Council to enable the Pembury 2000 Committee and the By-Pass Campaign Committee to report on the last twelve months efforts.

Also most importantly to question our Kent County Councillor Mr. Heath and our M.P. Mr. Mayhew on what they were doing for us in support of our Campaign.

Unfortunately Mr. Mayhew was prevented from attending but he did send a statement which is reproduced in the centre pages of this issue. This statement was encouraging as far as it went. Mr. Heath was present and gave details of the programme for the B.2015 By-Pass issued the day before by the County Council.

This is set out on page 9 for the benefit of all Villagers.

There were two results from this meeting.

1. The Parish Council confirmed its support for joint action by all villages on the A.21 for an overall publicity programme to be started. Two representatives of the Pembury 2000 Action Committee will be attending a meeting at Hurst Green at the end of this month to plan the joint campaign.
2. The Parish Council confirmed support for the By-Pass Campaign Committee. This Committee will continue to concentrate its efforts on our own Village By-Passes. It has now asked the Department of Transport for a programme for the A.21 to match that for the B.2015 and the County Council for a plan on the line of the B.2015 By-Pass.

It is hoped to obtain planning permission for a poster board on the Camden Car Park to show progress on both By-Passes.

MORE NEWS ON PAGE 14.

for your diary

- OCT.
- 1 Pembury School P.T.A. - Jumble Sale 2.30p.m.
 - 2 Pembury Society - Footpaths Walk - Bo-Peep 2.15p.m.
 - 3 Parish Council - Dower House 8p.m.
 - 6 Afternoon WI - A talk by Mrs. Dunne "Look Where you're going around London" - V.Hall 2.30p.m.
 - 7 Evening WI - "Victorianna & The Victorian Lady" - Mrs. B. Anderson V.Hall 7.45p.m.
 - 11 Darby & Joan Club - Jumble Sale RC Hall 3p.m.
 - 13 Parish Church - Public Meeting - V.Hall 8p.m.
 - 17 Parish Council - Allotments, Planning, Amenities
 - 20 Evening WI - Half Yearly Council Meeting - Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
 - 21 By-Pass Autumn Review- Village Hall 8p.m.
 - 24 Pembury Society - AGM V. Hall 8p.m. - Talk by Mr. John Newman on "Local Kentish Buildings"
 - 25 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall 2 - 5p.m.
 - 31 Parish Council - Highways, Planning & Finance
- NOV.
- 4 Evening WI - Annual Meeting - Mrs. Cobbold plus entertainment by Mrs. Brierley V. Hall 7.45p.m.
 - 5 Pembury Society - Footpaths Walk - Stone Court Bus Stop 2.15p.m.
 - 8 Darby & Joan Club - Sale of Work RC Hall 3p.m.
 - 14 Parish Council - Dower House 8p.m.
 - 22 Darby & Joan Club - Display of Christmas Cards etc. for Save the Children Fund RC Hall 3p.m.
 - 28 Parish Council - Allotments, Planning, Amenities
- DEC.
- 1 Afternoon WI - Christmas Meeting - V.Hall 2.30p.m.
 - 2 Evening WI - "Corsica - The Fragrant Isle" - Miss Elizabeth Gray V.Hall 7.45p.m.
 - 4 Pembury Society - Footpaths Walk - Camden Hotel 2.15p.m.
 - 6 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall - 2 - 5p.m.
 - 10 Darby & Joan Club - RC Hall - 2 - 5p.m.
 - 10 Pembury Music Group Concert School Hall 7.30p.m.
 - 12 Parish Council - Highways, Planning & Finance

Every Friday - WI Market - V.Hall 10.30 - 11.30a.m.

Every Monday - Pembury Old Tyme Dance Club - RC Hall -

7.45p.m. - 10.15p.m. (20p Members - 25p Non-Members)

The views in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent official Council opinion or policy.

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