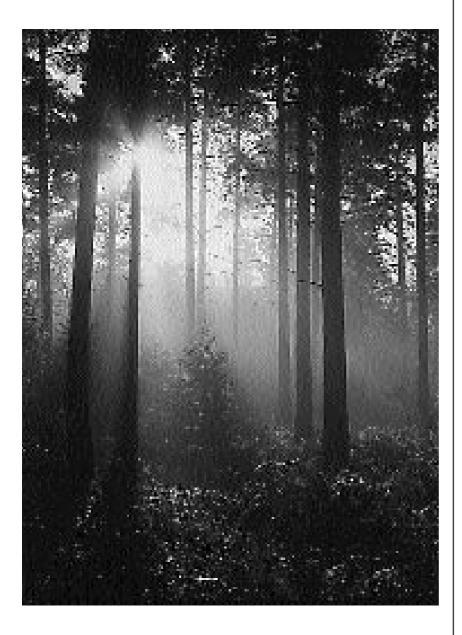
# PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 91 / Autumn 1997



# WHAT HAPPENED ON 28th SEPTEMBER 1847? The answer is on Page 3

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Cover photograph courtesy David Sellman

# Parish News & Comment

POR many of us Pembury is a very pleasant village – a village where we have our homes and where we spend our time – with families, friends, clubs, societies, schools, churches and work.

During the summer months we watch Pembury come alive. The trees and the countryside are beautiful and the oak tree on the Green seems a perfect symbol. Events like the Summer Fayre, when visitors remark that they are pleased to be here and not in the town, remind us of what we have and what we share.

Sadly we still have those few – maybe younger members – who seem to want to destroy and damage. The morning after the Fayre the Recreation Ground was a shambles: covered with litter, burnt paper where fires had been started, broken glass and cans. All the debris so carefully collected had been upended and thrown about.

Children use the Recreation Ground every day. A child could have been badly hurt. A few people volunteered and soon it was as if it had never happened. But every now and again we are reminded of those who do not care about where they live and those who live here. Perhaps it is time they thought about the effects that their perceived "entertainment" has on others – and the harm it can cause.

#### Sarah Clarke

# DO YOU HAVE CO-ORDINATION?

THE SCOUTS & Guides and Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club desperately need someone to replace Paul Russell to co-ordinate the Village Fayre in 1998. The energy generated by these groups is enormous but they need the back-up of an organised person to gather information about stalls etc. in the build up to the Fayre If anybody feels they could help please contact Barbara Russell (823193) or Laurie Frowde (822826).

#### Editorial Committee:

Henry Plant (Chairman), Julia Croft, Gill Matthews and Betty Roberts

#### **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 1st November 1997.

# PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR Henry Plant 16 The Coppice Tel: 823459 Pembury Village News is published four times a year by the Parish Council, but the views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent official council opinion or policy.

Typeset and printed by Rapido '91 Limited, Tunbridge Wells.

# ST PETER'S UPPER CHURCH 150th ANNIVERSARY

THIS Autumn we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the Upper Church of St. Peter. In fact, it was on 28th September 1847 that the then Archbishop of Canterbury, William Howley, came to dedicate the new church.

This year we shall be holding a special service of celebration and commitment on 28th September at 9.45am. On the same day, at 6.30pm, the Choristers of Canterbury Cathedral will be giving a concert in the church. There will be no tickets in advance for this – so do come in good time to be sure of a seat! There will be a retiring collection in aid of church funds.

At the end of October, we shall be staging "St. Peter's Pageant" in the church. This will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October, at 7.30pm on both days. With music and drama, members of the church will be tracing the history of our two churches in the

life of the village and celebrating our life in the community now, thinking too of the life of our patron saint, St. Peter.

We hope many people in the village will want to come and share in our pageant. Admission will be by programme (to include light refreshments) – £3 each; £1.50 for concessions. These will be available beforehand from Ditchett's Chemists; from the church on Sundays; or from the vicarage, 4 Hastings Road (tel: 824761). All will be welcome for an evening which should be of interest for the whole family.

Funds raised from the concert on 28th September and from "St. Peter's Pageant" on 25th and 26th October will be used to help our "Vision 91" project which we hope to complete this autumn – to provide extra space for our growing Sunday School and to offer better facilities in the church which can be used by the whole village community.

# ST PETER'S CHURCH SINGERS

THIS group of singers was formed in the autumn of 1996 by the Rev. Stephen Sealey from members of the Upper Church of St. Peters. This followed requests from those who naturally enjoy singing and felt that forming such a group could enhance the Sunday services and encourage other members of the congregation to sing with even great gusto.

The numbers have gradually increased and there are now 18 members, listed below, although more are always welcome; a few more male singers would be very welcome.

The standard of singing has improved considerably under Stephen's guidance with several individual pieces being sung at Sunday Service, Easter and the Mayor's Inauguration Ceremony.

The Christmas Carol Service was a huge success and we look forward to a repeat performance this Christmas.

If you would enjoy singing and would like to join Jill Marshall, Evelyn Fiddimore, Wendy Mew, Kate Lucas, Gordon Brooks, Hugh Boorman, Brian Sands, Janet Sands, Paul Crook, Linda Goodwin, Jill Marchant, Kerry Forward, Carole Brewer, Andrea Moore, Heather Hughes, Judith Coggles, Meg Thomas, Hilary Thomas please contact Stephen Sealey at the Vicarage.





# **GILL'S GARDEN**

AUTUMN is the best time to plant trees, shrubs and soft fruits while the ground is still warm; bone meal used in the bottom of the hole while planting will release food slowly during the winter. Dahlias should be dug up and stored in frost free conditions, hardy Fuschias should be covered with compost to a depth of a few inches to protect the plants from frost damage. Geraniums and Fuschias should be lifted and kept frost free and dry until January when they can be given water to start them into growth again.

There is still time to take cuttings of Surfina Pertunias, Bidens Aurea, Helicrysum and Hardy Lobelia which can be over-wintered ready for hanging baskets in the Spring. If you are growing Clematis and Pinks these will need a dressing of Nitro Chalk in Spring and Autumn to keep plants healthy. Lawns should have leaves removed and be spiked and Autumn food supplied. New lawns can be started from seed now. Bulbs can be planted

now, a few put in pots can be used as house plants in the Winter.

Patio containers and even



hanging baskets can be planted with Purple Sage, Cineraria-Maritima, Thyme, Lamium, Euonymus, Oregano and Ajuga Rainbow. These will need watering with tomato fertiliser which contains potash to improve leaf colour. Do not use a high nitrogen feed as this encourages new shoots which can be damaged by frost. Winter flowering Heathers underplanted with small bulbs, Crocus, Iris and miniature Daffodils, Anemone Blanda, Muscari and winter flowering Pansies and Polyanthus can all be put in now to bloom through winter into Spring.

Gill Matthews

# BRITAIN IN BLOOM

PEMBURY in Bloom, sponsored by Transgas, was judged by Kenwyn Pearson on July 4th as part of "South East in Bloom". The route taken was from the village green, the War Memorial, the Old Church and Kent College grounds and back to the recreation ground, taking into account the various front gardens on the way and finally ending up at Larkfield Hall. The results were published this week but sadly Pembury was not mentioned. The second competition took place on July 9th and was judged by Bob Collard together with the Bloom Committee from Tunbridge Wells.

Coronation Garden was planted with the help of the groundsmen with annuals, hydrangeas and conifers in kidney-shaped beds but unfortunately by the time that the judging took place half of these were either damaged or missing. We had taken photos as we finished the planting so were able to show these but of course they were no substitute for the real thing. Since then the sign on the village green has also been vandalised. A big "thank you" goes to Larkfield Hall for donating the plants for the War Memorial this year.

Prizes and certificates were awarded as the eagerly awaited results of Pembury's "In Bloom" competition were announced at a tea party for the finalists, held at Notcutts Garden Centre, Pembury on Wednesday, 27th August. The adjoining pictures shows, left to right, Jean Smith (Notcutts garden centre manager), Gary Lawrence (winner of the Best Hanging Basket Category), Clifford Williams (winner of the Notcutts Best Front Garden Prize) and Gill Matthews (Pembury Parish Council). The Notcutts Rose Bowl for the most attractive Commercial Frontage went to The Black Horse, High Street. This competition was jointly organised by the Pembury Parish Council and Notcutts and sponsored by its garden centre.

# PEMBURY GARDENERS – CALLING ALL VILLAGERS

THERE can't be many people in Pembury who don't have a garden – whether it's postage stamp size or an acre or two – and these people will range from novices to those with many years of experience.

The Pembury Horticultural Society, now PEMBURY GARDENERS SOCIETY, has been in existence for 52 years and the current committee have given about 100 years service between them. However, with changing times and the growth and popularity of garden centres, we are finding it increasingly difficult to generate interest in our worthwhile part of village life. Perhaps we need the advice of someone in the marketing field to inject some new ideas – any offers please?

Pembury Gardeners Society organise enjoyable coach outings – attended by all ages I might add – this year to Hillier's beautiful Gardens in Ampthill and one to Borde Hill Gardens, Haywards Heath. To join the "Club" costs the nominal sum of £1.50 per annum per family, senior citizens at half price. This also entitles you to buy gardening materials such as peat, composts, nutrients, canes etc. from our premises on the Parish Council's allotments in Woodside Road between 10am and noon on Sunday mornings. You can join there and obtain Show Schedules or call our Secetary, Mr Pavely on 822605. Our prices are still very competitive and you get a warm welcome with the chance to talk about your successes and failures and possibly some expert advice if needed. Sorry we can't offer refreshments there, although that would be pleasant.

Our Summer Show was a success despite the bad weather previously which affected the amount of flowers on show. The plants and home-made cakes sold like "hot cakes" and, of course, those exhibits which were kindly donated to help raise funds were auctioned and quickly snapped up at bargain prices with the help of Jim Lear who kept the lively bidding under control. Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits were served throughout the afternoon at old fashioned prices.

The exhibits at the Autumn Show were excellent including the children's but more children's entries and new competitors would be especially welcomed.

Come on fellow Pembury Villagers! don't let our well established Club disappear, it is part of village life now. With your help (and perhaps some new committee members!) we will still be up and running well into the next millennium. As mentioned before any bright ideas would be more than welcome!

Next event – Hallowe'en 60-70's Disco on 25th October 1997.

Beryl Webb, Committee member

# HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

PEMBURY LINK GROUP has changed its current target to the provision of a coffee room for patients at the Hospice and their visitors. The previous intention to equip a bathroom, to follow the Pembury bedroom already paid for, was abandoned when it was found that other local Groups are ready to sponsor all the bathrooms needed. The cost will be the same - £10,000 – and, if achieved, the room will be called after Pembury's mediaeval name of Pepenbury. Nearly half the sum had been raised by the end of July, with the Barn Dance at Pippins

Farm in June having been a particular success. Forthcoming events include a Bridge Evening on October 24th (bridge enthusiasts please make a note!) and the biggest of all this year's fundraising activities, the Country Fayre at Pippins on 4th October, repeated by popular request. The Fayre will be opened by His Worship the Mayor and attended by the Pearly King and Queen. Most attractions will be moved under cover if wet but let's hope last year's good weather will be repeated.

# PEMBURY SCHOOL

T the time of writing this article the school summer holidays were just beginning. The summer term is always busy with School events such as sports days and outings and events organised by parents, such as the fete.

Apart from the normal school activities the School had its first inspection commissioned by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED). The OFSTED inspection gives an independent opinion on the following:

- (a) the standards achieved by pupils,
- (b) the quality of education provided by the school,
- (c) the efficiency with which financial resources were used,
- (d) the contribution made by the school to its pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The inspection process began with the inspectors meeting separately staff, governors and parents. The inspectors took account of parents' views aired at the meeting and the questionnaire responses when they did their inspection.

In June seven inspectors arrived and spent 24 man days at the School much of the time in the classroom attending lessons and looking at pupils' work. Inspectors discussed each subject with the staff member responsible for that subject.

They also had several meetings with the Headteacher and met each subcommittee of the Governing Body. As Chairman of the Governing Body I had meetings with two inspectors on separate occasions.

The inspection report was published on 17th July and a summary issued to parents the next day.

The School received a good report with attainment in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science above average. The inspector who looked at mathematics was so impressed with the planning and delivery of the subject that she has since invited the Deputy Headteacher, Christina Lundberg, the mathematics

co-ordinator, to write a paper on the subject.

The report praised the Headteacher, Bob Edom, for his strong leadership, his clear vision and for pulling together the staff to form a cohesive team. It was also noted in the report that the School created a climate for good behaviour and hard work.

The following items were identified for action: assessment practice; cultural education; improving the quality of teaching, particularly in the optional subject of French; in Year Four, the monitoring of health and safety; and the development of an Under Five's Policy.

The issue of assessment had been identified in the School's Development Plan and some of the other issues have already been addressed.

Both the staff and the governors were very pleased with the report confirming, as it does, the high quality of education provided by the School.

The OFSTED inspection is just one of many changes to the education system in recent years. When I look back over my nine years as a governor I realise how much the responsibilities of governors and senior staff have increased as management of school's has passed from the Local Authority to the schools.

#### **Tony Matthews**

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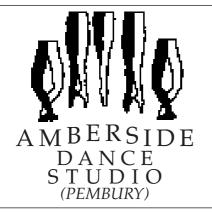
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# PEMBURY EVENING WI

AT the Pembury Village Fayre in July 1 was helping in the Refreshment Tent.

For the second year, I was most impressed with the politeness of the children and young people when they were buying crisps and drinks.

Almost without exception there was a "Please" and "Thank-you" and, when their choice was not available, they cheerfully

settled for a different one.

When so many times today we hear only detrimental things about our young people, I think that the children and young people of Pembury deserve "big pats on their backs" for their behaviour at the Fete.

A Member of the Pembury Evening WI

# FRIENDS OF PEMBURY PARISH CHURCH

On Friday 27th June it poured with rain and the road to the O1d Church was flooded, but despite all this the volunteers all turned out. By Friday evening the Church was filled with displays of flowers from many of the village organisations and schools.

By Saturday morning the skies had cleared and the Church was open all weekend The children's displays from Pembury School and from Sandra Toogood's Nursery were beautifully presented as were the displays from the Floral Arts Group and from the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. There were too many people involved to be mentioned individually but the efforts on Friday were worth it.

The weekend celebrated the Festival of St. Peter and on Saturday evening there was a well attended Evensong Service with the Choir of St. Mary's, Caterham providing anthems and leading the service. On Sunday morning the Church remained open after the morning service for the rest of the day. Tea and coffee were provided throughout the weekend.

Those who visited were impressed by the standard of the various displays and donations in excess of £600 will be used for the continuing maintenance of the Church. Thanks are due to all those who helped in any and every way.

Sarah Clarke

# **APPLES**

AUTUMN, a time associated with apple picking. Pippins is an Old English Orchard consisting almost entirely of English apples. Although planted in Spring 1984 they have varieties dating back several hundred years. A few recent introductions have been added for interest.

Grenadier, the first of the cooking apples, dates back to 1960 whilst Blenheim Orange, no longer commercially grown, was discovered in Oxfordshire in 1740.

Peasgood Nonsuch, a working apple for autumn use, was raised from a seedling in Lincolnshire in 1850 and Crawley Beauty, a late flowering variety which usually escapes the frost, as its name suggests, came from Crawley in 1900.

King of the Pippins, a late desert apple was introduced in 1899.

Sunset, a variety that is grown where Cox's is difficult, was raised in Sevenoaks in 1918. Tydemans Late Orange, a late eating apple which keeps until March, was raised in 1930 at East Malling. Laxton Fortune was raised in 1904 in Bedfordshire

The usual group of Bramley's are available but unfortunately, owing to a late frost on May 7th this year, the hardest since 1936, a lot of the blossom was destroyed. However, hopefully next year will prove a better Spring.

#### Gill Matthews

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# PARISH MAP

AS mentioned on page 15, it is the intention of the Pembury Parish Council to mark the Millennium by helping to coordiate and fund the production of a Parish Map.

What is a Parish Map?

A Parish Map is an illustration of what parishioners claim as their own locality and what they value in it. It is not intended that the project be constrained by conventional mapping scales, size and methods. Parish Maps have been sewn, woven, knitted, printed, drawn or painted. It does not have to be precise or cartographically correct but by illustrating locally distinctive features it helps to focus on the things that make our village significant to us and different from other communities.

Why "Parish"? The word "Parish" is suggested to describe an area with which people feel a sense of familiarity in their

neighbourhood, to which they feel a sense of belonging.

What would you like to be included on the Map? – let us know!

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Editorial Committee would like to invite you to offer your services in whatever form you can to help us in this project, to come together with others to chart the things that are valued locally in order to help create what can be a significant piece of Pembury's history.

Any skill – needlework, tapestry, maping, artists, historians, calligraphers, walkers, members of our numerous local organisations – the list is endless.

Everyone's values are needed – everyone's skills are important.

Will you help?

**Henry Plant** 

# PEMBURY QUIZ

You've had your holiday. The children are back at school.

Time to put on your thinking caps on again. The Annual Quiz, in aid of local charities, will be at 8pm on 16th October in the Village Hall: teams of four (over 16s only) £6 per team.

Entry forms can be obtained from Betty Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park, Pembury.

# WRVS LUNCHEON CLUB

THE Luncheon Club meets every Wednesday in term time at the Village Hall, Pembury from 11.30am to 1 o'clock. Special diets are catered for and lifts arranged for those who need them. If you would like to come along to meet people and have a good meal please get in touch with Marie Williams, phone 822737.

# PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB

THE first Annual General Meeting of Pembury Bridge Club took place at the Camden Court Community Room at 7pm on Tuesday 8th July 1997.

32 members attended and it was agreed by all present that it had been a very good first year, all sessions of duplicate bridge had been well attended and members had enjoyed good friendly competitive bridge.

The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee were all re-elected en bloc.

It was decided on a majority vote that the

club should join the English Bridge Union, which is the governing body of the game.

The individual competition, which has run throughout the year, was won by Geoff Plummer and Donald Allen was runner-up. It has been decided that other competitions should be added in this next year – pairs, teams, prize nights and random pairs

After the meeting the usual Tuesday evening session of duplicate bridge took place, at which there were nine and a half tables

**Geoff Plummer** 

# ORPHEUS MALE VOICE CHOIR

E are seeking men who first and foremost like to sing. It is not necessary that they are able to read music and they would not be required to audition. We are looking for team players, not soloists, as male voice choir music is a blend of many voices to create an overall harmonious sound.

Our rehearsal night is Thursday between 7.30-9.30pm and we meet at St. Peter's Church Hall in Bayhall Road, Tunbridge Wells. Our membership fee is £21.00 per year and new members would be required to make a small payment towards the cost of their uniform.

Our concerts are usually in the Kent/Sussex area although we do go further afield when required. Most of our concerts are put on for charitable appeals and causes, although our main Assembly Hall concert in May each year is held to raise funds for the choir.

The new season starts on Thursday 4th September so we would welcome any new faces (and voices) who care to turn up.

Further details may be obtained by telephoning 01732 355771 (home) or 01732 363897 (office telephone and fax) or 0976 407984 (mobile). A message answering service is operational on the last two numbers.

# PEMBURY RECREATION GROUND

You may have noticed that the Parish Council has erected a disused bus shelter on the Recreation Ground. This, of course, is mainly for general use but partly to give local youngsters somewhere to sit and chat in the evenings.

Unfortunately it has already been 'decorated' with the inevitable juvenile graffiti and the roofing felt has been damaged.

We realise it is not ideal but our appeal for premises for a 'drop-in' coffee bar has so far had no response.

If the shelter is wrecked, it is unlikely to be replaced so please – LOOK AFTER IT!

#### **Betty Roberts**

# SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

#### PEMBURY CRICKET CLUB – SEASON 1997

ALTHOUGH the playing season is not quite over the League programme was completed on Saturday 30th August 1997. Both of our League teams have had a successful season ending as runners-up in their respective divisions of the Kent Village League. The 1st XI were very unlucky not to be League Champions, due more to the bonus points system than to the actual results achieved on the field.

At start of play on the final day Pembury were tied on points with
Sissinghurst. Pembury had only lost one match and had one game rained off, not so at Sissinghurst. A full 14 points at St Lawrence would have secured the title but unfortunately, despite the team's best efforts, we could only manage 12. Sissinghurst managed 14 at Bidborough so Pembury lost the Championship by just two points.

The season has, nonetheless, been a good one. The side gelled into a team under the able captaincy of Jamie Lovell. The spirit was excellent and the fielding always put pressure on the opposition batsmen.

Chris Pugh, who opened the batting, scored a couple of unbeaten centuries, Richard Dawes scored another and Simon Begley chipped in with a 90. David Knight confused several sides with his bowling and Peter Davis reminded us of his previous form on more than once occasion. The most exciting finish was at home to Plaxtol. With one over to go Pembury needed 11 runs to win with their last pair at the wicket. All appeared lost until Bob Eaton cracked the last ball for six seeing Pembury home by two runs.

The 2nd XI, skippered by Denis Cole, also had a good season although they would agree that they lost to a couple of sides that they should have beaten. The batting consistency was in the hands of Colin Barden, Peter Massie, Adrian Bradford and, when available, Alan Moxon. Young Duncan

McClintock came into the side on several occasions and shows promise both behind the stumps and with the bat, top scoring with 61 against Crockham Hill. The bowling saw the old war horse Alan Hughes still able to control the game with his medium pace and Adrian Bradford and Keith Hemstalk encouraged batsmen into errors with their spin and flight.

Probably the most enjoyable cricket, to players and spectators alike, as usual occurred in the Chequers Evening League. Pembury, captained by Richard Dawes, finished in third place, with Wadhurst taking

the title. Richard Dawes was runner up for the bowling award and Mark Cross for the batting award.

The Sunday side, captained by Bob Eaton, have also enjoyed their cricket. Without the pressure of the league players were able to relax and enjoy the game and it gave the Club the opportunity of mixing in the younger players to judge their ability and suggest ways of improving their

technique and therefore their enjoyment.

As with most village clubs the players owe a debt of gratitude to a large number of helpers who turn out week in week out to ensure that this Club runs almost perfectly. Melvyn Cole who prepares the wicket helped by David Boakes; Cliff and Jean Smith who run the bar; Sue Hemstalk who organises the Tea Roster; all those lovely ladies who prepare and serve the teas; the Umpires who stand and occasionally suffer the abuse; the backroom boys and girls, rarely seen but always available and there in an instant if a problem should occur; and our band of supporters, wives, girlfriends, mums, dads and those villagers who come along to cheer, the envy of most clubs we play against. To you all the Club offers its sincere thanks.

Next season the Club will endeavour to improve in all three league competitions to achieve its aim of being one of the best local village cricket clubs both on and off the field.

Dick Crouch Hon. Secretary

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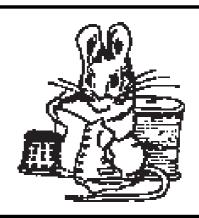
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# MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

S MENTIONED on page 9 of the Summer issue of this magazine, the recently formed Millennium Committee met last July when discussions were held on how the village should celebrate the new millennium. Bearing in mind that there are varying opinions as to when the millennium actually starts – 1st January 2000 or 1st January 2001 – the Committee decided that they should co-ordinate what are now building up to be monthly celebratory events put on by particular village organisations.

The following is a provisional list of events

that have so far been suggested:

December 31st 1999/January 1st 2000

A community event in the Village Hall – details to be considered

The year 2000

January Pembury Players Pantomime

Youth Disco February

Art and Craft Exhibition at April

Pembury School

May Open Day and Fete, Larkfield

Kent College Festival June

Church Pageant

July Carnival/Village Fete/Evening

events

September Music Festival

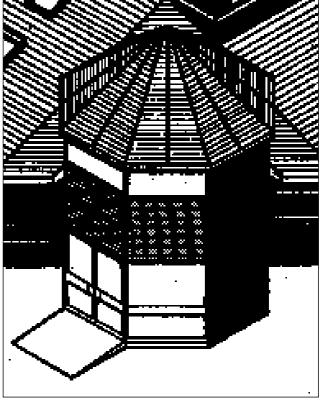
October Village Organisations Exhibition – Pembury Parish Council

December Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving

The Committee was also informed that the Pembury Parish Council are investigating whether a commemorative mug could be given to children in Pembury.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council's other contributions would be the creation of a Parish Map, details of which are included in a separate articles on page 11, and also the production of a professional video capturing not only some of the celebratory events but to place on record the life and lives of Pembury and its people at that time.

The list of events has not been closed – the Millennium Committee would like to extend a request to any other village organisations who would like to make a contribution to these events to contact the Editor in the first instance so that your suggestions can be placed before the Millennium Committee for their attention.



# PEMBURY IN THE PAST

# THE 1987 HURRICANE

MOST of us have memories of this great natural phenomenon and the widespread damage it created. The Editorial Committee are hoping to present articles on how this affected Pembury and we are asking you, our readers, to let us know of your stories and how your

were affected. To whet your appetite we are printing one picture showing the bizarre and frightening damage caused by the felling of so many trees during that terrible night.

Can I ask you to contact the Editor to recount your stories – we would be very pleased to be given the opportunity of reproducing any of your photographs that you still have so that they can be shared with our other readers.



# CAN YOU HELP?

THE articles published under "Pembury in the Past" have created a few letters to the Editor, which is very pleasing.

The fire at Pembury Hall is one instance, in fact it has brought more complete details of the events which took place on the evening of 2nd June 1947, which are reproduced on the opposite page.

This information was kindly given by a Mr Roger Lewis, who is at present researching the history of the Fire Brigade in Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas. He has asked the Editorial Committee if he could request through these columns for anyone who has knowledge, or even old photographs of the Pembury, Tunbridge Wells or Goudhurst Fire Brigades to contact him c/o the Tunbridge Wells Fire Station, Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1SD – Tel: 01892 523461.

Another letter was from Mr Raymond Burgess who was born in the village in the late twenties. He has given the Editorial Committee details of his life in the village which it is hoped can be recounted in a later issue. Also that of his grandfather William Burgess who lived in the Amhurst Almhouses in the 1930's and was well known in the village; he acted for many years as organ blower at St Peters Church. Mr Burgess is also anxious to gather any possible memories or information about his uncle – Albert William Prall – killed, aged 19, in the First World War, he would have been 100 years old this year. He would welcome any information about where he lived and worked in Pembury (1914/15) and possibly with whom he enlisted at Tonbridge.

# WHO CAN REMEMBER?

WHEN I was first old enough to enter a public house I used to go to the Royal Oak on numerous occasions. One of the characters who stood out was George Neal, who was gardener or janitor at Kent College. George used to live in the North Lodge at the far end of the College premises, beyond the Old Church.

He only had one arm and yet there were not many things he could not do. He used to roll his own cigarettes with one hand, using a small bamboo matting type thing to roll them. It also took a very clever man to beat him at bar billiards or darts and he always kept his cards close to his chest when it came to seven card brag. George used to walk all the way from the College to the Oak, no matter what the weather, and on the nights that I walked down the road with him I used to leave him at the Grove and watch him shuffle off into the darkness, back down Rowley Hill and on to the College.

Unfortunately I do not know what happened to George when he left North Lodge.

Any ideas?

**Hughie Boorman** 

# PEMBURY HALL FIRE

Under the heading 'TRAPPED WOMAN RESCUED FROM BLAZING KENT MANSION' the Kent and Sussex Courier of 6th June 1947 told the story of a large fire of 2nd June when Pembury Hall, historic Kentish mansion and seat of the Woodgate family for 300 years, was badly damaged by fire.

The fire, which started in the late afternoon in an upstairs room of one of the wings, was discovered by Celia Hendrika Duvenhage, nursery maid of Mr and Mrs T. Hewitson of South Africa House, who were staying at the Hall. Firemen from Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Matfield were quickly on the scene.

Mr Stanley Penn, Mr A. Fenner, Headmaster of Pembury School, and Mr P. Langley, were among the first on the scene. While they and a score of villagers helped with the salvage work, firemen were feverishly laying hose from the Reservoir, three quarters of a mile away. Because the National Fire Service, as it was known at that time, had to run their hoses all this way over fields to the Reservoir it took some time to get a full supply of water. Once the supply was full, the firemen had the blaze under control in an hour.

The roof, top floor and one ground floor room of the house were gutted. The rest had been damaged by heat, smoke and water. Police guarded the ruins throughout the night and firemen were still on duty at 10 o'clock the following morning.

The Hall, regarded as one of the historic mansions of Kent, has been the seat of the Woodgates for 300 years. The family has been to the fore in the county since the 12th century. In Tunbridge Wells, their name is associated with the erection of Holy Trinity Church and is represented among the trustees of King Charles Church. Many quaintly inscribed monuments in churches between Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks record their virtues and charities.

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# CYCLING AROUND PEMBURY

EVEN if you didn't manage to find your bike, hidden behind the gardening tools, this summer – it's not too late! Hopefully we have a little more reasonable weather to put our bikes to use and travel through the delightful countryside.

You may have noticed new blue cycle signs which have been erected across Pembury with the number 18 on them. This is part of a regional route set up by the National Cycle Network. Route 18 starts in the market town of Tenterden and finishes at the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells. The route totals 32 miles.

Alternatively why not try something a little less strenuous using some of the route to Marle Place. Work the route backwards from Woodside along Romford Road passing the centre strip and down the steep hill (watch the corner at the bottom). At the end follow the route but cut off a corner by staying on Crittenden Road to Matfield crossroads. Go straight over towards Brenchley following route 18 into Petteridge

Lane. Left at the Hopbine and follow the signs until you reach Marle Place.

Here, there are beautiful gardens which will be spectacular now the Autumn colours are coming out. Wildlife is encouraged and they have kingfishers, owls and kestrels as well as great crested newts. If you have the time and energy you could enjoy a walk in the woodlands. Self-service refreshments are available – why not take a picnic? Entrance price is £3 adults and £2.50 children – but you might like to check this.

On your route back, if Romford Road hill is too daunting when you return to Matfield go left. Follow the main road and turn right at Kings Toll Farm.

The trip is approximately 9 miles, but allow extra time for hills. Don't forget to take a drink with you. I wish you, happy, safe cycling.

Julia Croft

# THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

THE Pembury Society has continued to be active in the broad range of matters which effect the quality of life in our village. Keeping a weather eye on the ebb and flow of planning applications for building and development is just one of the reasons for our existence and of late the Committee of the Society has been spending a considerable amount of time discussing the proposed development project for a supermarket, park and ride and community centre at Woodsgate Corner. There can be no argument that such a development would have a great and lasting effect upon the village yet there seems to be a noticeable lack of commitment or passion to produce audible opinions either for or against it.

It is self-evident that the project would create an increase in traffic through the village and that there would be an inevitable closure of more of our local shops. The other side of the coin is that for the past few years we have not deliberately given trade to our village shops, which has resulted in the closure of many of them, and we can couple this with the previously stated desire by a majority of the people of Pembury to have a supermarket within the village. We conclude from discussions with our members that there is a fifty-fifty split

for and against the building of such a store.

When it comes to the park and ride part of the composite proposal, this is a different matter entirely because we have yet to hear a cogent argument that this will in any way present a benefit to Pembury. As a Society, we are aware that 'no village is an island' and that it is incumbent upon us, as a near neighbour, to be understanding of the potential problem of strangulation by traffic of Tunbridge Wells. However, we take the view that there are more ways than one of skinning a cat and that a proposition to dump several hundred cars on a daily basis within our Parish might not be the best or even the most logical solution to our neighbour's problem.

Then, we turn to the area of land which, at this time, has been notionally allocated for use as a community centre. Such a centre represents a prime need for our village because we are so short of the facilities that it would offer; nevertheless we should face the fact that if the land is to be purchased and the building built we must be prepared to dig deep into our pockets. This means everyone, because if the present level of complacency persists and all is left to others then the village will achieve very little.

Continued overleaf

# THE OLD COACH ROAD

Have you ever wondered how legends are made? The stories one hears about the old coach road that runs from next to the Upper Church (built 1847) to Dundale Road are fascinating but can soon be shown to be nothing but the figment of someone's vivid imagination.

First, let us look at the facts. In 1799 the much impoverished Bayhall Estate came on to the market following the death of the last resident owner in 1791. This was bought by Lord Camden who had already acquired the Bayham Estate which stretched as far as the Dundale Road to the north. Lord Camden clearly had expansionist plans. Unfortunately, because of financial problems, quite a lot of the Bayhall estate had been sold off during the previous 50 years or so and so Lord Camden had to bide his time. Patience paid off and in 1811 he was able to buy 69 acres of farmland in the middle of the area between the Hastings Road and Dundale Road.

This meant that he now had a clear run through from Dundale to Pembury High Street, except for two fields immediately to the north of his new purchase. Somehow he persuaded the owner that he needed a strip from along the boundary of these two fields for 'drainage purposes' and so the jigsaw was complete. The estate map drawn up at the time of this sale is deposited at the archives office in Maidstone. Another map in the Maidstone collection dated 1815 covers a larger area and shows the coach road cutting right across the middle. It is therefore obvious that the road was built sometime between 1811 and 1815. In 1832 the remaining two farms in the area came on the market and Lord Camden bought them both, thus completing

his plans to acquire all the land in Pembury south of the Hastings Road.

The coach road was built as just that. Despite its turnpike status, the public road from Pembury to Lamberhurst (the modern A21) was probably in very poor condition, as Lord Camden decided to build himself a private drive to allow easier access to his estates further south.

So when and where did the legends about mediaeval monks using the road on their journeys to Pembury arise? At one time the administration of the Church in Pembury was under the jurisdiction of the monks but a quick look at the map shows that their best route from Bayham would probably be along the highway as far as Kippings Cross and then somehow via Romford to the Church. The road system in that area has changed a lot in the last 600 years but one of the modern footpaths may well have had a greater status then.

The current discussions about opening the path up for public access are also not new. In 1898 there was great consternation in the village when the then Lord Camden decided to keep the gate shut. Obviously the road had always been used by those who worked on the estate and this seems to have led to the belief that it was a public right of way. A special meeting of the newly formed Parish Council was held to hear representations from villagers on the matter. Unfortunately the outcome of their discussions is not known.

Perhaps there are other legends about things that are reputed to have happened in Pembury that can be explained by a little browsing in the Archives Office at Maidstone.

#### K. Franklin

### THE PEMBURY SOCIETY - continued from page 19 -

On a less serious note, did you visit The Pembury Society tent at the Village Fayre? We had a great day and judged the event to be a big success, netting-in new members and enjoying the opportunity to join in the pleasures of this village get-together. At the end of June we entered a floral display for inclusion in the Old Church Flower Festival and the result of the efforts of so many of our community was that the Church looked really beautiful. Regarding blooms in summer, we have planted a bed of roses at the rear of St. Peter's Church in memory of Barbara May who was a stalwart of The Pembury Society for many years. It is good to remember her in this way because she worked hard for the village.

For the future, we have the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Monday 27th October 1997 at the Village Hall and details of this and our most excellent speakers will be given to members in the Society's Autumn Newsletter which will be delivered in late September.

#### **Derek Johnson**

# **GOURMET DELIGHTS**

EVER since the June issue of the Parish Magazine, you mums, grans and girlfriends have started to disclose more of your cooking secrets. This first one, sent in by Linda Goodwin, will be ideal for the last of the summer barbecues.

#### **BEAN SALAD**

- 2 tins of cut green beans (approx 400g, drained)
- 1 tin of kidney beans (approx 400g, drained)
- 3 sticks of celery, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 100ml (4 fl oz.) vinegar
- 110ml (4 fl oz.) oil
- 175g (6oz) sugar
- Salt and pepper.

METHOD – Prepare salad the day before. Mix ingredients and leave in the fridge until required. (Note – the quantities given above make enough salad for 8 to 10 people and is an excellent accompaniment to barbecued food.)

The second, sent in by Betty Roberts:

# FRESH LEMON GATEAU

(contains uncooked eggs)

4 oz unsalted butter

6oz castor sugar

- 4 medium eggs
- 2 large or 3 small lemons
- 1 packet trifle sponges

Cream butter and sugar together.

Gradually add 4 egg yolks and beat well. Add juice of lemons. Whisk egg whites, fold in grated lemon rind. Mix all well together. Split trifle sponges down middle and put layer in bottom of souffle dish. Put layer of egg mixture on top.

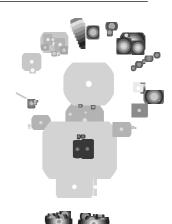
i di layer of egg mixture on top.

Add further layers finishing with layer of sponge.

Cover dish with film and leave in refrigerator overnight. Decorate with

whipped cream and crystalised lemon slices or as desired

The next recipe is ideal for Sunday tea and was sent by Mrs Ellen Earnshaw.



### AUSTRIAN CHEESE CAKES

- 4 ozs. self-raising flour
- 2 ozs. grated cheese
- 3 ozs. butter, pepper, paprika
- 1 small egg yolk

Rub butter into the flour well. Add cheese and seasoning, a little paprika and 1 egg yolk to bind to a firm paste. Roll out 1/2" thick and cut into rounds. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with cheese. Bake in moderate oven till pale golden colour.

Well done ladies and thank you. Please keep the recipes coming, bearing in mind the next issue will be in time for Christmas. We would also welcome ideas for Christmas decorations, using natural ingredients, ie fir cones, sprigs etc.

### **Hughie Boorman**



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# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROBLEMS IN PEMBURY

TWO of the largest Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the village have problems that could have repercussions for the residents!

The Ridgeway scheme ceased to exist in July with the resignation of the Co-ordinator Mrs Pauline Franks. Pauline had been involved with the scheme since its foundation in May 1986. In the recent past the level of support shown for Pauline's considerable efforts on behalf of her neighbours has diminished to the point where she could not continue to run the scheme. With my assistance she appealed to all members of the scheme for help and support but received almost no response to her letters.

In view of this she very reluctantly resigned.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Pauline. She has been a model co-ordinator, always keeping in touch with the police and passing on items of concern to them and her neighbours. She always made sure that her members were made aware of information passed to her from the police, on a regular basis. She also ensured that new arrivals to the Ridgeway scheme area were given information both in relation to NHW and other village activities and services. She performed numerous other services on behalf of her neighbours, far beyond the normal duties of a scheme co-ordinator.

The second problem area is Herons Way, including The Meadow, Middlefield and The Gill.

A resident of nearby Snipes Close, Mr Harry Don, volunteered to try to get the scheme up and running. There had been no

Neighbourhood Watch activity in the area for well over a year since the previous co-ordinator moved from the area. Harry had 170 letters, prepared by the police, delivered around the area, asking for help to run the scheme and saying that if there was an appropriate response a public meeting would be held. A meeting was in fact arranged for 12th June at the Free Church Hall and 170 invitation cards were delivered under Harry's supervision. ONLY SIX RESIDENTS ATTENDED. Needless to say both Harry and PC Chris Janes, the Police Liaison Officer, were very disappointed at the level of interest shown.

As things stand at the moment Harry is going to restrict Neighbourhood Watch activities in the area to Snipes Close and Stonecourt Lane, where he has had a positive response. It may be possible, if sometime in the future there is renewed interest in Neighbourhood Watch in the rest of that area, to try again.

One of the consequences of the demise of these schemes is that people living in these two areas no longer receive up-to-date information on local crime and other matters from the police. Enquiring insurance companies would also have to be informed that there was no longer an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme in these areas. This could, of course, affect residents entitlement to discount on household contents insurance.

Should anyone from the two areas, reading this, like to consider helping to regenerate the schemes, they might like to contact PC Chris Janes on 01892 501159. He would be pleased to offer every assistance.

# **COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP**

WELL, our thoughts of a 'drop in' for the young people in the village seem doomed to failure. Despite the publicity for the idea in the Pembury column of the Courier we've heard nothing about possible premises or helpers. Surely somebody has some ideas.

We'd also like to see more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in operation. Whilst we continue to press for a higher police presence in the village we realise that this is only a remote possibility and more and more responsibility rests on our own shoulders.

Many of you will have heard of the recent crop of burglaries in the village. Perhaps if we'd had Neighbourhood Watch Schemes covering all the areas affected at least some of the incidents might have been observed and perhaps prevented.

It doesn't take a lot of time to be a coordinator or link man (or woman). So how about it. Let's see if we can get the whole village covered.

#### **Betty Roberts**

# DO YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THESE AREAS?

- WOODHILL PARK
  - HASTINGS ROAD
    - MAIDSTONE ROAD
      - LOWER GREEN ROAD
        - ROMFORD ROAD
          - THE COPPICE
            - RIDGEWAY
              - WESTWAY
                - HERONS WAY
                  - CHURCH ROAD
                    - THE GROVE
                      - THE MEADOW
                        - GIMBLE WAY

We have recently been successful in selling properties in these areas and consequently have many disappointed keen buyers for a home like yours.

If you live in any of these localities and would like us to help match a buyer to your home, please call the Pembury Office on 825355 and speak to Carol, Rosalind or Pauline.



**General Accident Property Services** 

# YOUR CLERK REPORTS

The last few months has seen several changes in the staff employed by the Parish Council. The Senior Groundsman, Roy Andrews, retired in May after six years service to the Parish Council. He was replaced by Tony Climpson, who had served for three years as Roy's Assistant Groundsman.

Tony's replacement is a Pembury man, Jamie Littlechild, whose family has lived in Pembury for many years.

With the appointment of the Assistant Parish Clerk, Paul Russell, to Southborough Town Clerk, he was replaced by Richard Parsons at the end of May. Again, the Parish Council were pleased to be able to appoint a Pembury man. Richard has lived in Pembury for 20 years and was previously employed by the Civil Service.

The final appointment was Robin Glazier as Recreation Ground Warden, again from an "old" Pembury family.

We wish Roy Andrews and Paul Russell well in their respective retirement and new employment and welcome Jamie Littlechild, Richard Parsons and Robin Glazier to their new jobs.

Finally, a reminder that the hard tennis court is available for hire on a monthly, two monthly and annual basis at a cost of £9, £13 and £36 respectively. Allotment plots are also available for rent at a cost of £15 per annum for a full plot and £7.50 per annum for a half plot. Please contact the Clerk to the Council, Pembury 823193 for further information.

#### Barbara Russell

# VANDALISM

THIS Summer has seen the normal buffoon-like behaviour from the moronic few whose only means of getting attraction is to break or smash or violate people's property. The Recreation Ground bus shelter has again been damaged, along with a telephone kiosk and the village sign, to name but a few items.

The good news is that more people are coming forward with the names of the persons responsible and full marks to the parishioner who identified the person who damaged the sign and the phone box. At the Magistrates Court on 15th August last the offender was ordered to pay £50 to the Parish Council towards the cost of the damage.

The Parish Council also decided to re-erect one of the old disused bus shelters in the lower end of the Recreation Ground as a meeting place for the older teenagers. On Sunday 3rd August one of these youths for whom this building was intended was seen and identified by three parishioners attempting to damage it. I suppose it tells

us all something about his level of mentality but next time, without doubt, the police will be involved. Do not be intimidated by them, keep the information going to the police and together we will show them that this behaviour is not going to be accepted in Pembury.

Again, there was the incident of the rubbish bins in the Recreation Ground detailed by Sarah Clarke in her Comment on Page 2 of this Magazine.

The allotments have also been the target of further attacks. Holders' crops and flowers have been flattened or ripped up and again it needs vigilance on behalf of the neighbouring home owners and some ingenuity on behalf of the allotment holders to bring these senseless acts to an end.

I also feel certain that if we could dramatically increase the strength of the Neighbourhood Watch people would feel more confident in tackling some of these problems.

#### **Hughie Boorman**

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# FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **OCTOBER**

- 2 Pembury Afternoon WI: Christmas Crackers Village Hall 2.15pm
- Pembury Evening WI: The Thames and Medway Sailing Barges Village Hall 7.45pm
- 4 Hospice in the Weald: Country Fayre Pippins Farm 11am-5pm
- 4 Pembury Footpath Walkers: Stonecourt Lane 2.15pm
- 10 St Peter's Upper Church Harvest Supper
- 12 St Peter's Upper Church and Lower Church Harvest Thanksgiving Service
- 13 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 13 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Room 8pm
- 14 Darby and Joan Club: Sale of Work Village Hall 2pm
- 16 Parish Quiz Village Hall 8pm
- 18 BT Voices for Hospices: Handel's Messiah Tel: 01892 544877
- 18 Pembury Bowls Club: Race Night Village Hall 7pm
- 25/26 St Peter's Pageant Upper Church 7.30pm
- 27 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Room 8pm
- 27 Pembury Society: AGM Village Hall 8pm

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers Camden Car Park 2.15pm
- 1 RNLI: Autumn Fair Catholic Hall 10am
- 3 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 6 Pembury Afternoon WI: AGM Village Hall 2.15pm
- 7 Pembury Evening WI: AGM Village Hall 7.45pm
- 10 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 11 Darby and Joan Club Village Hall 2pm
- 15 Concert by the Sackville Singers St Peter's Old Church 7.30pm
- 15 St Peter's Autumn Fair Upper Church morning
- 15 PSA Adult Disco Pembury Primary School 8pm
- 17 Pembury Footpath Walkers: AGM Village Hall 8pm
- 22 Pembury Bowls Club: Christmas Fair Village Hall 10am
- 22 Pembury Bowls Club: AGM Village Hall 7.30pm
- 24 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 24 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 25 Darby and Joan Club Village Hall 2pm
- 28 PSA Christmas Fair Pembury Primary School 6.30pm
- 29 Christmas Bazaar Catholic Hall 2pm

## **DECEMBER**

- 4 Pembury Afternoon WI: Christmas Party Village Hall 2.15pm
- 5 Pembury Evening WI: St Luke's Handbell Ringers Village Hall 7.45pm
- 6 Pembury Footpath Walkers Stonecourt Lane 2.15pm
- 8 St Peter's Photographic Club Upper Church Meeting Room 8pm
- 9 Darby and Joan Club: Christmas Party Village Hall 2pm
- 15 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm

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Mrs Sylvia Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031 Mr Bruce Ballantine, 6 Maidstone Road. Tel: 822156

Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway. Tel: 825577

#### **Parish Council**

Mr Ron Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031 Mr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 823068

Mrs Sarah Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road. Tel: 823932

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966 Mr David Coleman, 22 Ridgeway. Tel: 823402

Miss Julia Croft, 156 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 822074

Mr Dick Crouch, 17 Highfield Close. Tel: 823164 Mr Derek Goodwin, 27 Greenleas. Tel: 823822

Mr Kit Kelly, 22 Hastings Road

Mrs Gillian Matthews, 2 Gimble Way. Tel: 822057 Mr Henry Plant, 16 The Coppice. Tel: 823459 Mrs Betty Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park. Tel: 824914 Mr Bob Wilkes, 6 Belfield Road. Tel: 823264 Chairman, Highways Committee Chairman, Planning Committee Chairman, Amenities Committee Chairman of Parish Council Chairman, Finance Committee Vice Chairman of Parish Council

Chairman, Public Relations Committee Chairman, Burial & Allotments Committee Chairman, Environmental Committee

### Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

Mrs Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove, Tel: 823193

# **CHURCH TIMES**

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# PEMBURY FREE CHURCH

We praise God and hear his word on Sunday at 10am and 6.30pm.

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

Our Pastoral Care Assistant is available for personal/private prayer on Monday mornings from 9.45am; if you have a need or have prayer requests please ring her on 723216.

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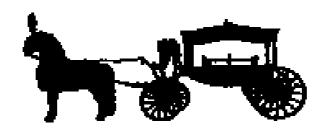
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P. Craxton, 31 Batchelors. Tel: 823928 ASSOCIATION OF PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUBS Jim Smith, 18 Westway. Tel: 823714 PEMBURY FOOTPATH WALKERS BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS N. & K. Franklin, 11 The Meadow. Tel: 823212 PEMBURY FREE CHURCH Peter Brookes, 8 Concorde Close, Paddock Wood. Pastor David Graham – Children/Youth Work – Church Office. Tel: 825590 Tel: 833662 **BOWLS CLUB** Pastoral Care Assistant – Di Priest 723216 PEMBURY FREE CHURCH PLAYGROUP Secretary: S. G. Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park. Tel: 824914 **BROWNIEŚ GUIDER** Mrs Wendy Parrett. Tel: 836945 Mrs Jones, 14 Lower Green Road. Tel: 823747 PEMBURY FRIENDS OF SEVEN SPRINGS
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