

**The Millennium Year
in Pembury**

A Pembury Village News special souvenir edition

Pembury did a lot in 2000!

To celebrate the events in which residents of Pembury took part, Pembury Parish Council decided to put together a few memories of the year in the form of a Millennium Book. The Public Relations Working Group and the Pembury Village News Editorial Working Group combined forces to gather together a good cross-section of events in the form of this commemorative magazine.

Many people have worked hard to get this to the parishioners in Pembury. However, this special edition would not have been possible without the stalwart support of St Peter's Photographic Club who took on the responsibility of going along to the majority of the Millennium events and recording them on film for us.

Many thanks, St.Peter's!



2000 is a big number. Whatever your spiritual inclinations, it does somehow seem appropriate to celebrate a year that measures the distance from Roman Britain and the primeval forests of the Weald of Kent to the Internet age and the 'global village'.

The Millennium Committee co-ordinated a very varied programme of events which developed during the year and in this book we hope we have been able to make a satisfactory photographic record of what was going on in 2000.

Although not 'official' Millennium events as such many regular meetings, shows, and other 'happenings' took on a distinct Millennium flavour. Who can forget Gill Paveley's 'Dome' flower arrangement in the Spring show?

In parallel to our 'picture book', the Pembury People 2000 book masterminded by Simon Galwey will be a focus of people's thoughts and ideas about themselves, their life in Pembury and their vision for the future.

We hope that these two records will give pleasure today and perhaps provide a glimpse back for future 'Pemburians' into what we were doing in the year 2000.

Alison Morton
Editor

Cover Photograph by courtesy of Fawkes Fireworks

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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, precis, alter, correct grammar and spelling) any item published.

THE MILLENNIUM YEAR IN PEMBURY

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Reflections on the Millennium

St Peters' - Church of England

For Christians, the Millennium was the occasion to give thanks for two thousand years since Christ's birth, an event that changed the world and still has an impact on everyday life. As churches we work hard to let people know that the true meaning of the Millennium was - that 'God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son'. We can rightly give thanks for the birth of Christianity which has shaped so much of our civilisation with its high moral standards and its emphasis on the worth of every human individual in God's sight.

What of the next Millennium? One can scarcely imagine what Pembury, let alone the rest of the world, will be like in the year 3000. Christians must work with others to safeguard the Earth's future but also to continue in the quest for world-wide peace and justice and to witness to a living God to whom a thousand years 'are but as yesterday'.

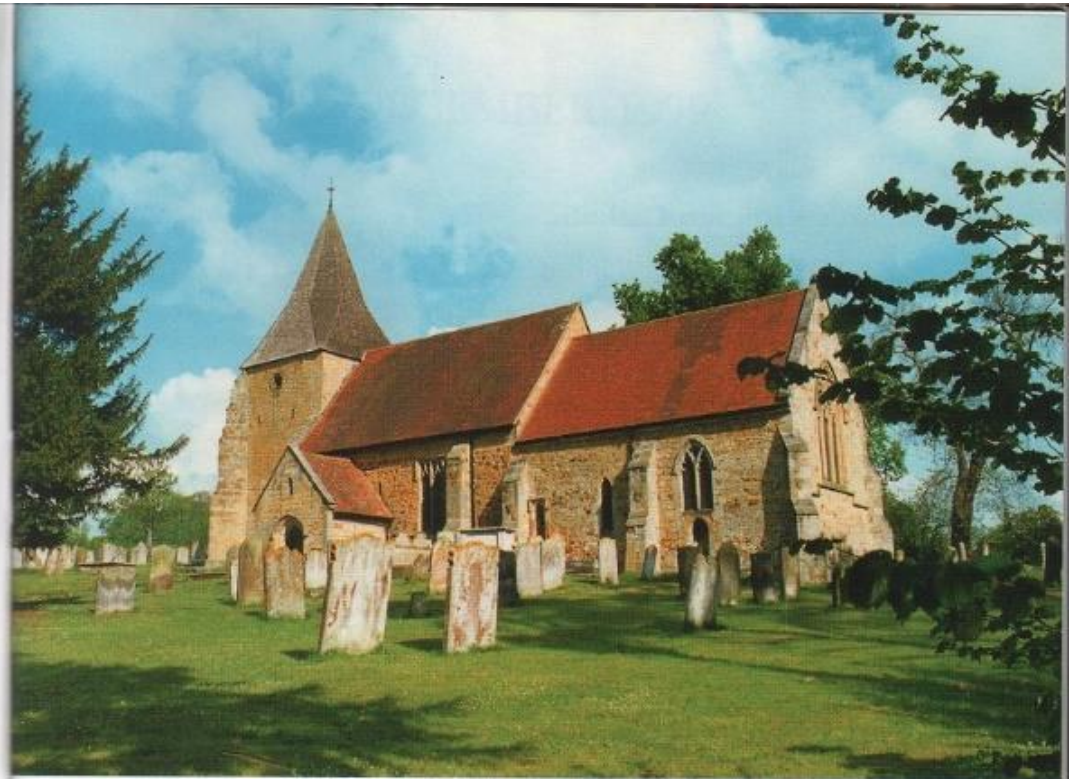
Rev. Stephen Sealy

Pembury Baptist Church

The year 2000, as with the years of our lives that have preceded it, has confirmed for many of us that the only thing that won't change in the future is that change is here to stay! The last 50 years of the second millennium has, without a shadow of a doubt, been a period of unprecedented change. Nothing, it seems, has been left untouched or unaltered and further to this, change itself is changing - it's getting quicker all the time!

Whilst we may be tempted to bemoan in a fairly all-encompassing manner that '*things just aren't the way they used to be....*', we need also to acknowledge that there are at least some changes that have been for the better. Advances in medical science, our growing 'world-awareness' and the modern ease of communication and travel [apart, obviously, from the M25!] are all examples of good, life-promoting change.

Nevertheless, it can all be a bit unsettling and may push us at times towards overload. We, as human beings, find ourselves craving a bit of constancy, permanence and stability in our lives - but where can this be found?



For the Church that I have the privilege of leading, the year 2000 was a year of rapid and fairly profound change - our buildings have been radically altered, we have changed our name and have welcomed many new friends into our community of faith. We have found on both an individual and a together level that we can at times hardly recognise ourselves! We have also rediscovered that the only truly reliable and constant reference point in this fairly choppy sea of forward momentum is God Himself....

The Bible contains a lot of wise words on this subject, take the book of James for example:

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like the shifting sands..."

So, as we reflect on what has now passed into the pages of history and as we anticipate all that is to come the only really solid and sensible thing that you and I can do is build our lives, our universe and our everything upon the changeless 'Rock of Ages'. The God of the Bible is a rock that unlike us will never, never roll!

Pastor David Graham

St Anselm's - Roman Catholic

For me the high point of the Jubilee or Holy Year came at the Easter Vigil last year. As we lit the Easter candle I said the following prayer: *"Christ, yesterday and to-day, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him and all the ages, to him be glory and power through every age for ever. Amen."* This stood in stark contrast to all the hype surrounding the so-called millennium eve (which it wasn't) in 1999. And when I visited Rome in June and passed through the Holy Door in St Peter's I knew exactly what it was all about: an obscure man in an obscure country who had a profound message and truth to preach and whose message has survived intact despite all the odds from that day to this. Whatever we managed to 'stage' in our parish, which was very little, the prayer following the lighting of the Easter Candle eclipsed everything: *May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.*

Neither can I improve on the words of St Paul:

(c.f. Phil 3:8) *I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him.*

(Fr) *Geoffrey Pointer*

Parish Priest of Pembury and Paddock Wood

Kent College - Methodist Church Managed School

The millennium year was a special and busy one for the school. We moved into our magnificent new sports hall and are thoroughly enjoying it.

It seemed particularly appropriate that one of the first major events held there was a carol service celebrating the birth of Christ, the light of the world. Choirs from both the Junior and Senior Schools led the music and were joined by fathers and friends in a resounding Hallelujah chorus. They then led the congregation of girls, parents and friends in *"Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining"*. Events like these will leave us all with precious memories of the millennium. And the daffodils we planted in October in front of the school bloomed for the first time in the spring of the year 2000.

They will reawaken the memories in years to come.

Mugs and Wishes . . .

The first Millennium note struck by Pembury Parish Council was the distribution of the special 'Pembury 2000' mugs. On Monday 13 December 1999 a group of visitors were treated to some beautiful singing from the children at Pembury School. Councillor Sarah Clarke, Chairman of Pembury Parish Council, Councillor Alison Morton, Vice Chairman of the Public Relations Group and Mrs Barbara Russell, Clerk to the Parish Council, were welcomed to the school by Mrs Christina Lundberg, Deputy Headteacher and by Peter Vaughan, the Chairman of the Governors.

The special occasion was to mark the presentation to each girl and boy at the school with a Pembury 2000 mug. Representatives from each class - a girl and a boy - were greeted by Councillor Mrs Clarke and each presented with a mug. They also received a huge cardboard box containing all the mugs for the rest of their class!



From left to right: Cllr Mrs Sarah Clarke (Chairman, Pembury Parish Council), Emily Jones, Mrs Mary Roe and Oliver Collard

Councillor Mrs Clarke explained the significance of the Millennium and asked the children to make a Millennium wish each, to write it down and send it via their class teacher and Mrs Lundberg to Councillor Mrs Morton who would then publish a selection of them in the Pembury Village News.

A huge number of children of all ages wanted world peace and no more fighting. The environment and caring for others cropped up again and again as did the question of having a lot of money! Others wanted to walk on the moon, travel in space and also go back in time. Interestingly, both boys and girls wanted a baby brother or sister and both disliked litter. Friends were very important as were family.



Pembury School

- ... that we should have Christmas every month (*Lucy 8*)
- ... for everyone that I meet would be nice and friendly and everyone was happy how they are (*Jessica 9*)
- ... that I was a football star for Man U and win the world cup (*Luke 8*)
- ... that people would not drop rubbish (*Katy 8*)
- ... to stop pollution (*Ross 8*)
- ... for people to be good not to be greedy and have peace (*Jack 8*)
- ... all the children would have a toy each (*Mark, RMG*)
- ... for Daddy to get lots of books to make him happy (*Daniel RMG*)
- ... that everybody would have enough food (*Rebecca RMG*)
- ... that trains would stop crashing (*Catherine 5*)
- ... that I could draw better (*Sasha 4*)
- ... that my mummy would have a baby (*Adam 5*)
- ... that everyone had somewhere to live (*Jessica 5*)
- ... that I pass my exams and get the job I want (*John*)
- ... that no one is homeless and everyone is healthy (*Sarah*)
- ... that Father Christmas will give me a Hot Rocker remote control and that my friends will stay friends forever (*Kenrick*)
- ... that I will become a scientist (*William*)
- ... that I was a pop star, had a stretch limo and was famous (*Ryan 7*)

- ... that I could live in a mansion and do everything I wanted (*Sam 7*)
- ... that there could be more good poems (*Tamara 7*)
- ... that I could be taller (*Michael 7*)
- ... that I could go with my family to the moon (*Christopher*)
- ... that I had flowers in my bedroom every day (*Rose*)
- ... that my mummy would never die (*Hayley*)
- ... that I could be a reindeer and lift Santa's sleigh into the night sky (*Rachel 3RW*)
- ... that I could go back hundreds of years ago and see what cavemen were like (*Joanna 3RW*)
- ... that I could help raise money for the poor (*Jamie 3RW*)
- ... I had a pet to love and care for (*Rachel 1NM*)
- ... I had a talking Christmas tree (*Bradley 1NM*)
- ... that I could have ice cream all the time (*Ryan 1NM*)
- ... that I had lots of dogs, I would rescue ones that were lost (*Georgia 1NM*)
- ... for a bright and fresh world with no litter on the ground or even cans (*Anon 3SH*)
- ... for people to share things and be kind (*Danny 3SH*)
- ... for everyone to have a happy life at all times and think about Jesus (*Jacqueline 3SH*)
- ... that the snow would fall every Christmas (*Hannah 3SH*)
- ... for a Mercedes Benz (*Simon 3SH*)
- ... to be a mountaineer (*Charlie 3SH*)
- ... for all people in the world to be healthy, have a home to go to and food, drink and proper clothes (*Jessica 6VR*)
- ... that all schools should be turned into playgrounds (*Lenny 6VR*)
- ... keep the world in the best condition by stopping vandalising it (*David 6VR*)
- ... that the world will be at peace with no fighting, no racism and no unkindness (*Toni 6VR*)
- ... that Britain was better at sport and England win a match in cricket (*Liam 6LB*)
- ... that everyone had enough good and clean water (*Mark 6LB*)
- ... that very poor countries have their debts forgotten (*Michael 6LB*)
- ... that me and my family could live in peace and harmony and we could win the lottery and go to a beautiful place (*Emelye 6LB*)

Meanwhile....

All the churches in Pembury had joined together to distribute a candle to every household for parishioners to light on New Year's Eve and give a few thoughts to the occasion.

A candlelit service was held in the evening of 31 December 1999 at the Old Church to mark the change to the year 2000.

JANUARY 2000

Millennium Parish Quiz

Although a regular annual event, the Parish Quiz featured on the Millennium calendar and celebrated the strong spirit of liveliness and sociability in Pembury.

The Scouts and Guides ran an excellent quiz night on 21 January; it was well-organised, entertaining and, above all, great fun. 32 teams from many different village groups and organisations took part and the rivalry was strong, but very friendly.



The winning team from Pembury Parish Council - From left to right: Alison Morton, Les Roberts, Paul Barrington -King and Hugh Boorman.

Chris Woodward, the question master, kept everybody in order(!), putting the questions clearly while keeping up a friendly patter in between. There were individual rounds on 'Pot Luck', 'Guess the Singer', 'Romance', 'Food & Drink' and 'Odds & Ends' with a 'Guess Who' photo sheet and an international registration marks quiz sheet on top. Two spot prizes were won by the Nomads and Pembury Short Mat Bowls teams.

With proceeds from the quiz itself and the raffle, nearly £300.00 was raised during the evening which was donated to the village hall building fund. The winners' cup went to the team from the Pembury Parish Council, who were very surprised and delighted that they had won! They received a cash prize of £200.00 to donate to a charity of their choice. They made the formal decision in consultation with their Parish Council colleagues and were very happy to give the prize money to the Village Hall building fund.

All praise must go to the Scouts & Guides, who not only planned the event but also kept the whole evening running smoothly, ran the raffle and, most importantly, the bar!



Some of the hard-working organisers - From left to right: Richard Nesbitt (partially hidden), Jackie Fichtmüller, Di Woodward, Janet Ditchett, Judith Coggles, quizmaster Chris Woodward.

Meanwhile....

On 9 January 2000 the Village Millennium Service held at Pembury School brought together Christians from all denominations to celebrate the new Millennium.

The Millennium photographic project got underway; St Peter's Photographic Club drew up their schedules and the Parish Council Public Relations Working Group extended an invitation to everybody in Pembury to send in photos of people enjoying events throughout the year.

The Parish Council decided to take part in the Kent Millennium Databox archive project which aimed to record a snapshot of life in Kentish villages between 17 and 24 April 2000. Information about everyday life and individuals was needed and would be stored for the future in a special archive in Maidstone.

MARCH/APRIL 2000

Early Spring in Pembury

April saw a Taizé service take place at St Peter's Upper Church and these services have now become a regular feature of worship at the Upper Church.

Taizé is an interdenominational Christian community established near Cluny in France in 1949 and has attracted hundreds of thousands of young people (in particular) who go to spend a week singing, praying and sharing their faith with others. Taizé services are distinctive by their use of candlelight, the repeated meditative choruses and chants and the use of silence. A beautifully decorated church adds to the atmosphere in which one can make time to be with God.



Meanwhile....

The Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting, open to all residents of Pembury on 20 March.

The Databox project, giving a snapshot of Pembury life in early 2000, was completed and the box went to the Maidstone archive.

What a load of rubbish!

Councillors took part in the National Spring Clean week and filled 6 large bags with litter from Pembury streets in just one hour on 8 April.

*From left to right:
Councillors
Sarah Clarke, Wendy
Withycombe, Rosemary
Latter, Alison Morton,
Brian Horgan and Paul
Barrington-King*



MAY 2000

Pembury Footpath Walkers stepped out...



Thirty trusting souls turned up to be led through unknown territory of the Three Churches Millennium Walk on 1 May. April had faithfully provided showers, some of them heavy, especially in the final week, and we expected to be trudging through mud come May Day. Luckily, the going turned out to be good but boggy and slippery in places and not at all difficult and we covered 9 miles in four and a half hours - a leisurely walk at about 2 miles an hour including stops. The bluebells in the woods were in full bloom and a splendid sight; the wild garlic was just starting to flower; the trees had recently come into leaf - all shades of green; and we walked through head-high rape. The visits to Capel and Tudely churches were interesting but we did not attempt to go into Pembury Old Church as we assumed the new hassocks would already be there awaiting the first public showing at the imminent Service of Dedication. The weather was kind, the views magnificent and (I think) everyone had a good day although there might have been some stiff muscles the next morning!

Brian Toseland

Millennium Maypole Dancing



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

Maypole Dancing is comprised of several ceremonial folk dances performed around a tall pole garlanded with greenery or flowers and hung with ribbons which are woven into complex patterns by the dancers. They are survivals of ancient dances typically performed on 1st May of each year. The tradition was part of rural life for many centuries but then died out during the war years.

Mrs Beynon, the wife of the head teacher at Pembury School revived the tradition in the 1950s. In the late 1970s the Parish Council organised a local May Queen competition and in 1978 the school country dancers were invited to perform. However, the May Queen event was not widely supported so the schoolchildren asked if they would choose their own Queen of the May.

In 1981 Pembury School held its first Maypole ceremony on the upper green and since those early years successive teams of dancers have been trained by their country dance teachers.

The maypole has 24 ribbons for plaiting and this demands great concentration and teamwork by children who have adapted the patterns over the years. The country dancing club is open to all children from Year 4 upwards and is held weekly throughout the year. The children themselves vote for the May Queen and her attendants.

The staff and pupils of Pembury School consider it an honour to keep this tradition alive and feel that it is a way of 'giving back' to the village that supports them so much throughout the year.

Judy Goode and Megan Jeffs

Pembury School Reunion

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

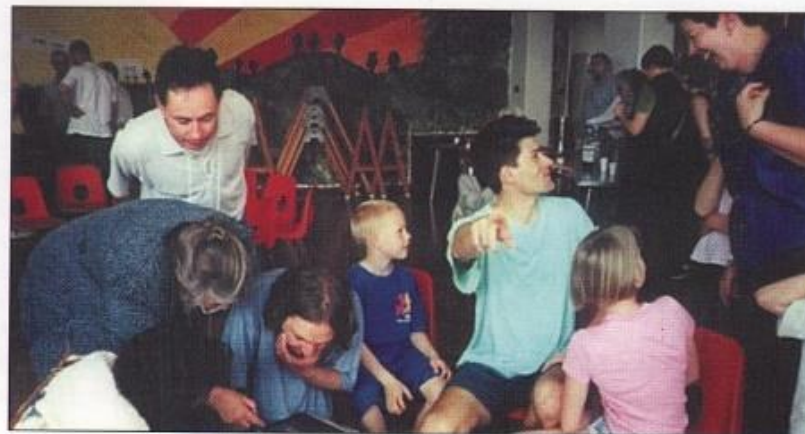
The eldest visitor was a gentleman who attended the school from 1911 to 1915. He still lives in the village and plays bowls regularly. Another former pupil, aged 83, came on the bus from Tonbridge. He had attended school in 1926 and had lived in the boys' home which was in Romford Road. This piece of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

It was delightful to see so many people who told us some wonderful stories of life in school. The information we gathered will be a rich source for the children. Many former pupils have offered to come into school to talk to the children which is something we will look forward to following up.

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

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

Linda Turner





Millennium Kneelers

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

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

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

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

All the completed kneelers are now in everyday use in the Old Church and the Friends of Pembury Parish Church open the Church for visitors every summer Sunday afternoon from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. should anyone wish to have a quiet browse.

Ann Toler

JUNE 2000

Pembury Pageant 2000

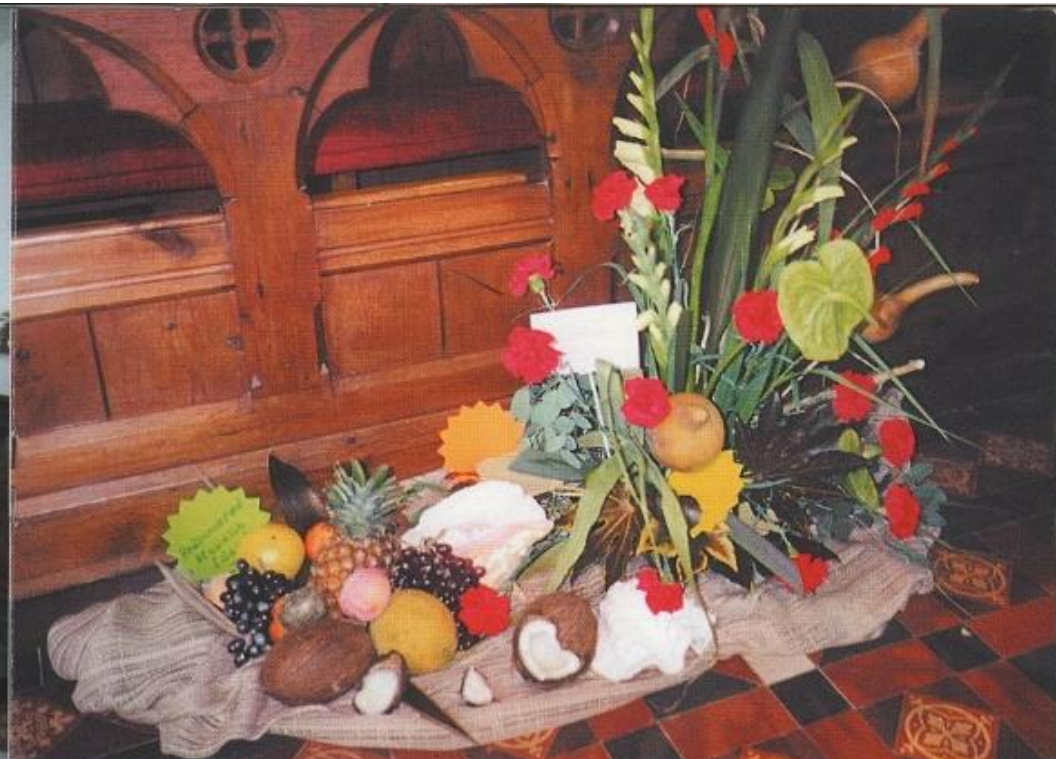


A beautiful sunny June day was the background to the Pembury Pageant played out by various groups on the Village Green. The theme was the celebration of Christianity in Pembury over many hundreds of years as well as looking forward to the future. A group of monks, representing the Bayham Abbey

and who were believed to have conducted worship in Pembury Old Church in medieval times, linked the various 'playlets'.

Kent College began with the martyrdom of Margery Polley, often fighting against the modern scourge of noisy traffic! Pembury Free Church gave a lively slanging match of 'Good News'/'Bad News', brilliantly delivered with verve and panache. Hospice in the Weald described how their project had developed and at last come to fruition and the Catholic Church gave us the story of St. Anselm, their namesake. Pembury School pupils speculated on how the second coming would be - aliens, perhaps? St Peter's juniors set the Christian story in a very modern context (complete with mobile 'phone!) and finished with a very well-executed rap version. Hymns, prayers and a blessing concluded the afternoon.





JULY 2000

Friends Of Pembury Parish Church Flower Festival & Concert

The Flower Festival was held in the Old Church over the weekend of 1st & 2nd July. The Church was open during Saturday 1st July from 10.30am until 5.30 pm and then on Sunday 2nd July after the Holy Communion Service until 5.30 pm. To celebrate the year 2000 many of the village organisations who put on displays commemorated in flowers, or otherwise, historical and village events over the past century. The end result was fascinating as well as extremely attractive! The previous festivals had been well supported and this year attracted even more visitors to the Old Church over the weekend.

As part of the celebration Steven Devine from Finchcocks gave a concert "Music for a Summer Evening" from Baroque to Jazz on Saturday 1 July starting at 7.30 pm. Entrance was free; a retiring collection in aid of the Friends of Pembury Parish Church. It was a delightful way to enhance the festival and very much enjoyed by those who attended.



Meanwhile

On Saturday 1st July the Pembury Evening Women's Institute arranged a Strawberry Tea for the residents of Camden Court High Weald Sheltered Housing Association. The strawberries were picked that morning at a local farm at Downingbury and each resident was presented with a commemorative bookmark made especially by the WI members.

Pembury Village Fayre 2000



Left to right: Vice-Chairman, Pembury Parish Council, Cllr. David Coleman, Cllr. Rosemary Latter, 'Webmaster' Steve Morton and Parish Clerk Barbara Russell.

This year's Fayre went off with a tremendous bang! Everybody involved with organising it was extremely pleased with the financial result of about £4,000 raised jointly and shared between Pembury Athletic Youth FC and the Scouts, Cubs and Guides organisations of the Village. Although the weather was on the chilly side for July and more tea and coffee than soft drinks were sold, the beer tent did a steady trade through the day and on to the evening.



The Dog Show proved a great success, no-one could have imagined that so many dogs would want to bring their owners out in such numbers, one class had 21 entries and gave the guest judges a real headache in making the awards! Unfortunately, the lucky balloon ride winners couldn't go 'up, up and away' that afternoon from the Fayre.....but that was the great British weather for you!

As always, the arena events went well and provided the various organisations with the opportunity to show what activities are on offer to the youth of the village.



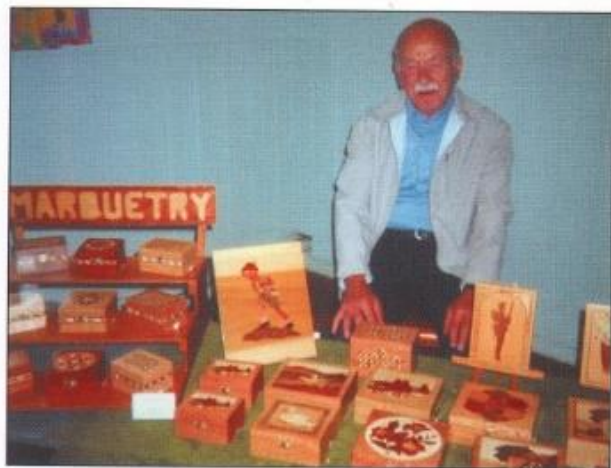
The all day event was a great success with the magnificent evening fireworks display, sponsored by the Parish Council, providing a Grand Finale that brought about a real village community feel to the event. A rough estimate put the number at over 2,000 people in the park for the evening; can you remember seeing so many people gathered there before?



Flora Hopkins and Nick Bennett of Pembury Road contributing to the Millennium Book at Fayre in July

Millennium Art And Craft Exhibition

Nobody likes to make an exhibition of themselves but more than 20 villagers of all ages happily displayed items they had made when we held an Art and Craft Exhibition in Pembury School in July. Marquetry, ceramics, painting, embroidery, quilting, silk painting, dough craft, three dimensional art, silverware, corn plaiting and wood working: what a variety of talents we have in the village!



Geoff Street of Highfield Close.

"Thank you" to all who were involved with the exhibition and to Pembury School for allowing us to use the hall to stage it.

Millennium Committee



Pembury Fiesta 2000

After a wet start the sun finally came out and the day went very well. The release of the balloons took place about 20 minutes late but was a spectacular sight when it happened. The school field location looked very colourful with lots of balloons and bunting to brighten up the day. It was lovely to see so many people from the school and village enjoying themselves at various stalls. The BBQ and Refreshments tents were well attended and the new children's refreshment area was a tremendous success. The Face Painting was moved into one of the classrooms due to the wet start, but they were kept very busy all afternoon.

There were plenty of entries for the Carnival Hat Competition, so well done to all those children who took part. Punch and Judy were there to entertain the children and the Sackville School Steel Band were adding to the carnival atmosphere with their music. All in all it was an afternoon of music and fun for everyone.

Our thanks go to all those people who helped us to make the day successful. We would especially like to thank all those who helped by contributing to the stalls or helping run a stall; placing and advertisement in the programme; or sponsoring a stall. Every little bit helps.

The total amount raised after expenses was £3,313.34. This will go towards equipment needed by the school. Once again, "Thank you" to everyone involved.

Helen Hendley
PSA Secretary

Meanwhile...

Pembury Library Open Day - Bygone Pembury

Pembury Library held an extremely successful open afternoon on Sunday 9 July thanks to librarian Jean Rejali and her team. Pembury residents took advantage of the chance to take a closer look at the local history of the village where they lived in photographs, documents and maps. Local historian, Mary Standen, displayed her fascinating collection of memorabilia. She also had copies of her updated book 'Just One Village' for sale.

Members of the local history groups and the Pembury Society were on hand to share their knowledge of Pembury past and present. Tea and biscuits were available free of charge which were especially welcome to those who had taken part in the Pembury Millennium Garden Tour earlier in the afternoon!

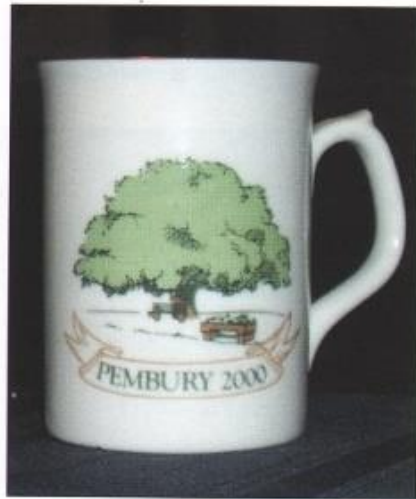
Pembury Footpath Walkers: A Mystery Trail

As a contribution to the year 2000 events the Pembury Footpath Walkers devised a 'mystery trail' with both the Village Fayre and the school summer holidays in mind. It provided a pleasant walk (approx 2 hours) and a bit of fun mixing town and country, following a simple route that was not too long and not too difficult. Question paper and route instructions were on sale PFW stand at the Village Fayre for the sum of 50 pence.

Participants could enter individually or as a family or group and could walk the route or parts of it as often as they liked so long as they completed it fully at least once. There were twelve questions in all to be answered and entries were accepted up to the beginning of September. The winner, Luke Hattle and family of Herons Way, received a basket of fruit and the first three non-PFW members received a year's free membership to the Pembury Footpath Walkers.

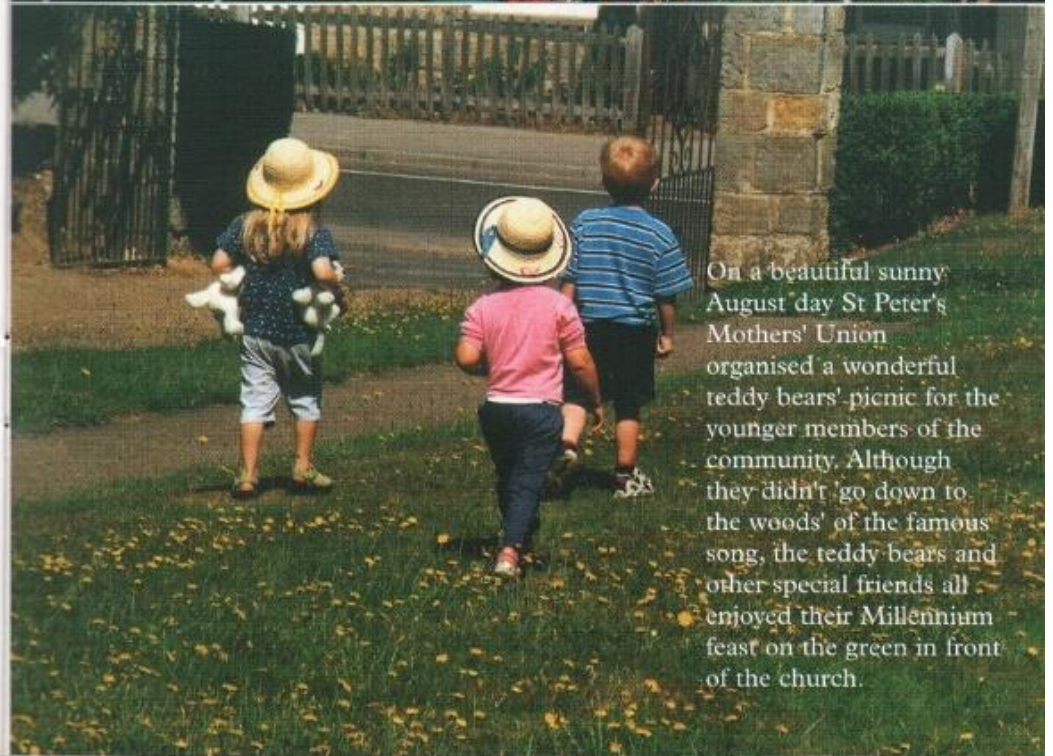
As the year 2000 was being celebrated as a measurement of Christian time this mystery trail started and finished, appropriately, at the Upper Church of St Peter's in Hastings Road.

Pembury Millennium Wine, Special 2000 Edition, produced by David Knight at Pippins Farm, went on sale, price £4.99, in various places in the village; from Unwins in the High Street and at the Pembury Village Fayre on 15 July.



The famous Pembury 2000 mug!

AUGUST 2000
Not forgetting the 'infantry'....



On a beautiful sunny August day St Peter's Mothers' Union organised a wonderful teddy bears' picnic for the younger members of the community. Although they didn't go down to the woods of the famous song, the teddy bears and other special friends all enjoyed their Millennium feast on the green in front of the church.

SEPTEMBER 2000

The Biggest Millennium Event of Them All!

On 29 September 2000 Pembury's long-awaited new Village Hall was officially opened by Alan Skinner, Royal British Legion Kent County Life Vice President. Apart from the Village Hall Management Committee, headed by Mrs Olive Dickens, representatives from village organisations, Parish Councillors, grant givers, donors, fundraisers and supporters were invited to the opening ceremony followed by a buffet lunch (with Pembury wine!) accompanied by a light jazz band.



Left to right: Alan Skinner, Royal British Legion; Olive Dickens, Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee; Councillor Sarah Clarke, Chairman, Pembury Parish Council; Don Oke, Village Hall Management Committee; Barbara Russell, Parish Clerk; and Councillor Alison Morton.

The original hall built in the late 1930s for the Royal British Legion had been given to the Parish in the 1960s by the Legion. It was therefore fitting that a senior representative be invited back to open the new hall and thus 'complete the circle'.

Pembury had received generous grants from the National Lotteries Charities' Board, the County, Borough, Parish Councils as well as from charitable foundations, private and commercial donors and from local village fundraising.



General view of celebration

The Parish Council Public Relations Working Group consisting of Paul Barrington-King, Alison Morton, Wendy Withycombe, Rosemary Latter and Gill Matthews ably assisted by Parish Clerk Barbara Russell planned and organised the day on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee. Representatives from the PR Working Group decorated the hall with gold swags and balloons, Friends Wedding Flowers pulled out all the stops to provide magnificent floral displays and table decorations. S & A Catering of Pembury provided a delicious buffet and wine, including the by now famous Pembury Millennium wine from Pippins Farm, supplied by Unwins in Pembury.

The excellent music was provided by The Syncopators and the beautiful tubs of flowers at the Hall entrance were kindly lent by Notcutts. Absolutely pivotal to the smooth running of the day were the Parish Council groundsmen Tony Climpson and Jamie Littlechild who had helped setting up the hall from first thing that morning and very ably managed visitor parking and traffic control throughout the event. Last but not least, Assistant Parish Clerk Richard Parsons must be thanked for the very efficient 'meeting & greeting' of our visitors.

Friends of Pembury Parish Church held their Millennium Coffee Morning and Sale in September and over £700 was raised making this their best coffee morning ever. As the Old Church has been the subject of a great deal of repair work this wonderful result would be put to good use.



Foreground, left to right: Oliver Dickins, Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee; Irene Plant; Henry Plant (former Pembury Village News editor); Councillor Mervyn Howell, Deputy Mayor of Tunbridge Wells; (Pam Howell, Deputy Mayoress; Dick Miles. Background (standing): Councillor Hugh Boorman; Paul Russell.

Meanwhile...

Pembury School's new headteacher, Mrs Kath Thewlis took up her post in September 2000, saying "I am confident that I can work well in the community and welcome the challenge of a larger school. Thank you to all those who have made my first half term enjoyable."



The New Pembury Village Hall

OCTOBER 2000

Finnish Children's Songs

Many sponsors and friends of the charity 'Finnish Children's Songs' thoroughly enjoyed the concert given by the Sackville Singers on 7 October in St Peter's Church in Pembury. In spite of poor weather conditions there was a full church and the singing was magnificent - greatly appreciated by the audience. The concert included works by Purcell, Rachmaninov, Bach Handel, Holst and Sullivan amongst others as well as the Songs of Adventure by Finnish composer Margareta Othman-Sundell whose creations form the core of the charity's activities. Well over £1,300 was raised to enable families needing financial help to visit their sick children in hospital, on this occasion for those in St Petersburg Children's Hospital.

Collections of songs on tape and the Children's Songbook have been sold locally as well as further afield by Pembury resident Mrs Elizabeth Coxon-Taylor who is a leading force in the charity.



Left to right: Mrs Jean Aust, President Pembury Mothers Union, Miss Minna Luukko, Film Photographer Finland Television, Mrs Rosemary Dunn, Education Director, Canterbury Music Festival, Mrs Margareta Othman Sundell, Finnish Composer, Mrs Elizabeth Coxon Taylor, Organiser Finnish Children's Song Charity, Mr Sidney Aust (deceased).
Photograph: Kent Messenger (Weald Edition).

Meanwhile...

Pembury Gardeners Society enjoyed a lively Barn Dance on 28 October

NOVEMBER 2000

New Millennium, New Parish Council Photograph!



Back row, left to right: Assistant Parish Clerk Richard Parsons, Cllr Richard Crouch, Cllr Hugh Boorman, Cllr Derek Flint, Cllr (and Borough Cllr) David Mills, Cllr Paul Barrington-King, Borough Cllr Bruce Ballantine. Front row, left to right: Cllr Gill Matthews, Parish Clerk Barbara Russell, Cllr Sarah Clarke (Chairman), Cllr David Coleman (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Rosemary Latter, Cllr Alison Morton

Not in photograph:

Cllr Janet Greenwood, Cllr Brian Horgan, Cllr Wendy Withycombe and Borough & County Cllr Terry Cload

The Parish Council may seem a remote group to most residents, but I would like to present a bouquet to them at the beginning of the new millennium. These unpaid volunteers give time, expertise and willingness to try to help things run smoothly in your village. They get plenty of brickbats, but do not seek any glory or special thanks. They attend numerous meetings, representing the village in other organisations, as well as looking after amenities including sports facilities, allotments, commenting on planning, overseeing finance matters, public relations, burials, local environment, highways, village enhancement (Christmas lights, Pembury in Bloom) and of course the Pembury Village News. Many even have time to be actively involved in many other village organisations!

So thank you, Parish Council, especially those who have put in many years' service.

Editor

Meanwhile...

The local RNLI Association held its Autumn fare on 3 November, carrying on its support of the volunteer sea rescue service.



Remembrance Sunday Service on 12 November had a special feel as it focussed on the end of a particularly war-wracked century for most European as well as many other countries in the world. We remembered not just those who had died but those who had given up their health, youth and dreams to serve their country. Let's keep that in our mind and make an effort to live up to their sacrifices.

DECEMBER 2000

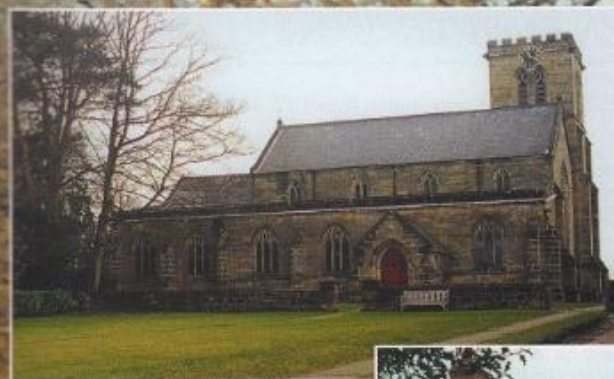
The End of the Year

December saw all the village clubs, societies and groups celebrating at their Christmas parties. Hospice in the Weald held a Tree of Light Dedication Service and the three Christian denominations held celebratory services and carols for their congregations.

Whether 31 December 1999 or 31 December 2000 was the true Millennium eve, these celebrations brought a conclusion to a very busy, but also thought-provoking year.



Sandra's House Nursery School went to the Upper Church for 'A Celebration of Christmas'. After 'A Winter Scene' opened proceedings with walking snowmen and Christmas trees, Father Christmas, Rudolf and other reindeer reminded us that 'Christmas is Coming' in scene 2. A traditional Nativity play then helped to bring out the true meaning of Christmas with carols for everyone to sing. Over 40 children took part and many parents and grandparents were well entertained. It is good that the church should be used for these community Christmas events.



YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

County Council

Mr Kevin Lynes, 5 Downs Cottages, The Down, Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8EX. Tel: 01892 890922

Borough Council

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

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

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

Parish Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cllr Mrs Rosemary Latter, 81 Beagleswood Road
TN2 4HZ. Tel: 822059

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

Cllr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway TN2 4ET. Tel: 82557

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

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

Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

Mr Richard Parsons, Assistant Clerk

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

Email: PemburyPC@hotmail.com

Chairman - Amenities and Allotments

Chairman of Parish Council
Vice Chairman of Parish Council
Chairman - Planning
Chairman - Finance

Chairman - Burials
Environmental and Highways
Chairman - Public Relations

Chairman - Christmas Lights/
Pembury in Bloom

Chairman - Pembury Village
News Editorial Committee

CHURCH TIMES

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

Upper Church

8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am The Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
10.00am Holy Communion (Wednesdays)

Old Church

11.30 am Matins (except first Sunday, Holy Communion)

Evening services as advertised on Church noticeboards

CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF ST ANSLEM - PEMBURY

Sunday Mass 10.30am
Holy Days - Vigil Mass 7.30pm
Confessions:
Sunday 10.15am

Weekday Services:
Monday - Communion Service 7.30 am
Tuesday - Communion Service 7.30am

PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

We praise God and hear his Word on Sunday at 10am and 1st and 3rd Sunday at 7pm.

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

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

AGE CONCERN

Mrs Sandra Springett. Tel: 822591

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

BOWLES CLUB

Secretary: Len Birnie. Tel: 681222

BROWNIES GUIDER

Mrs J. Fichtmüller, 19 Bellfield Road. Tel: 823002

BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Mr R. G. G. Whitlock, 6 The Forstal.

Tel: 822115

CAMDEN GREEN BADMINGTON CLUB

R. Holt, 50 Ridgeway. Tel: 823830

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Geoffrey Pointer, The Presbytery, 11 Alliance Way,

Paddock Wood. Tel: 823699

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

Mrs Doris Down. Tel: 822323

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,

67a High Street. Tel: 824441

HEADWAY

Libby Slattery. Tel: 823120

HIGH WEALD HOUSING TENANT'S

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Ray Heasman. Tel: 822675

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD - PEMBURY LINK

GROUP

Chris Cooper. Tel: 825428

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

Maidstone Road. Tel: 820500

KENT COLLEGE

Headmistress: Miss Barbara Crompton. Tel: 822006

KENTISH VALE ROUND TABLE

Mr Everden. Tel: 834685 or 832832 (business)

LABOUR PARTY

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

LARKFIELD

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

LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Mrs. S. Smith, 2 Ridgeway. Tel: 822405

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY

Bruce Ballantine. Tel: 822156

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

Alison Burgess. Tel: 515714

MUMS AND TINY TOTS CLUB

Mrs C. Price, 81 Ridgeway. Tel: 823349

NATIONAL CHIDBIRTH TRUST

Co-ordinator: Helen Dunkerley. Tel: 8223529

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 BRIDGE CLUB

Geoff Plummer. Tel: 824652

PEMBURY F.C. SATURDAY

Mick Waterman, 26 The Coppice. Tel: 824137

PEMBURY F.C. SUNDAY

P. Craston, 31 Bachelors. Tel: 823928

PEMBURY FOOTPATH WALKERS

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

PEMBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor David Graham

Church Office. Tel: 825590

Youth Specialist: Doug White Tel: 823898

PEMBURY GARDENERS

Ann Purton. Tel: 824223

PEMBURY PHOENIX TWIRLERS

Dave or Chris Brett. Tel: 824233

PEMBURY PLAYERS

Chairman: Mrs G. Norman Draper. Tel: 823975

PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Mrs J. Brough. Tel: 528208

PEMBURY SCHOOL

Headteacher - Mrs K. Thewlis. Tel: 822259

PEMBURY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Helen Hendly. Tel: 824403

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

Len Birnie. Tel: 01892 681222

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 Borcham. Tel: 824385

Eve Fiddimore. Tel: 518277

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

Branch Leader: Mrs J. Aust. Tel: 823963

ST. PETER'S PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Events Secretary, Carol Wakeford. Tel: 822030

TABLE TENNIS CLUB, John Burleton. Tel: 823250

TUNBRIDGE WELLS & DISTRICT VICTIM

SUPPORT SCHEME. Tel: 513969

VENTURE SCOUTS

Bernie Roberts, 13 Camden Avenue. Tel: 822932

VILLAGE HALL

Manager (bookings): Denis Dawes, 19 Knights Ridge.

Tel: 822411

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Afternoon: Mrs Edna Morris. Tel: 822267

Evening: Mrs Sylvia Strudwick. Tel: 822631

WRVS LUNCH CLUB. Tel: 822737

YMCA

Simon Stanley. Tel: 534444