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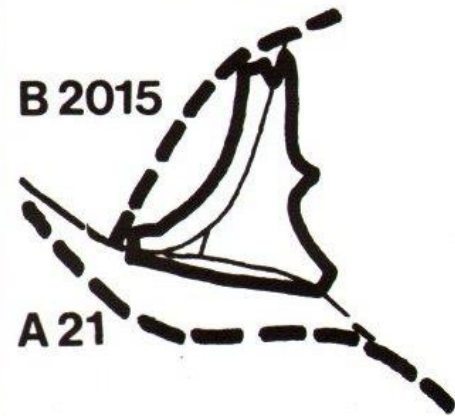
*into Payne*

# PEMBURY

Your VILLAGE newsletter / 49  
SEPTEMBER 1986 NO.

SHOULD WE  
CELEBRATE  
THE BY-PASSES?

See Page Two



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# VIEWPOINT

## Celebration ?

Towards the end of July Brenchley celebrated the centenary of the birth of one of its most famous residents – Siegfried Sassoon – with three varied days of public entertainment. Besides an exhibition of the writer's memorabilia, there was a flower show, a display of crafts, an exhibition of historical photographs and newspaper cuttings staged by the local historical society, a Victorian kitchen and nursery exhibition mounted by the Women's Institute, and a small traction engine show.

In addition there was the presentation of a specially-written play on the theme of Siegfried Sassoon's life in the village, a special lunch at which the guest speaker was Benny Green and a dance. On the last day of the celebration, Sunday, there was a special service in Matfield Church and a vintage car rally.

During the three days some gardens in the village were open – one provided a picnic site – and there were horse-drawn governess cart rides through the village.

Now I am not writing for Brenchley parish magazine. I am frankly floating the idea that Pembury might stage something similar, given the organisation and the will.

I am not aware that any son or daughter of Pembury is coming up for a centenary in the next year or so. But in 1988 we should have something to celebrate – the completion of our two by-passes and the inauguration – or so we all hope – of an era of comparative peace and tranquility leading to a return to what many of us believe village life ought to be like in the eighties.

We don't expect the return of the blacksmith's shop on the village green or the sudden sprouting of rural crafts in the village. But we do hope for the time when a walk along the High Street or Lower Green Road will be comparatively free from noise and diesel fumes, when mums can push prams along without the fear of being sucked into the draught of a passing juggernaut.

How pleasant it would be to mark the end of years of frustration for local pedestrians and motorists alike by taking time off to have a look at ourselves; by exploring our past and our present. Pembury is now largely a community of comparative newcomers. But most of the residents, if asked, say they like living here.

What is it they like about the village? What has it to offer? It would be fun to find out what Pembury has to offer in the way of local organisations, local talent, local gardens. In other words I think it would be interesting for Pembury to be "at home" to itself.

If there is anything in this idea it would take a lot of organisation to bring it to fruition. If you think there is anything in it, please write to the Clerk of the Parish Council. If there is sufficient backing for such a celebration I believe the Parish Council could act as midwife.

## SCOUT & GUIDE HEADQUARTERS NEARER

The proposed Scout and Guide headquarters building on a site bordering the Lower Green Road recreation ground has received planning approval from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The scheme for a prefabricated building on the site was approved by the council's Planning Committee in June, despite letters of objection from 22 residents in the Woodhill Park area who feared that the headquarters' road access from Woodhill Park would add to traffic problems. Some residents also objected on the grounds that noise would inevitably be caused when the building was in use. Previously the Parish Council had given its recommendation in favour of the scheme.

Chairman of the building fund, Mr. Tony Berry, told the Newsletter that he hoped work would begin next April with site clearance and work on the foundations for the building.

The building fund now stands at around £21,500, following a profit from the Village Fete in July of £1,000. This would have been £400 more but for the fact that this sum has had to be found to replace the tent burned down by vandals the night before the fete took place. Youths seen running away from the burning tent on the night have not been traced.

Mr. Berry said in October his organisation would be applying for grants from the Kent Education Committee as a contribution towards the cost of the headquarters and its equipment. The outcome of their application would not be known before next April, he said, since this would be decided in common with other applications for help in the next financial year beginning in April.

Whatever the outcome, however, Mr. Berry said, they would be in a position to prepare the ground and erect the building and make it secure so that helpers of the building fund could then get inside and start on much of the fitting out work.

The headquarters will be 80 feet long by 40 feet wide and will have a height of only about 13 feet. This low profile, added to the fact that the site sloped slightly away from the level of the recreation ground should ensure that it would be largely hidden from nearby houses, said Mr. Berry. In any event a hedge would be planted round it and landscaping, required in the grant of planning permission, would be carried out.

It is intended, too, to make a second approach by a footpath leading off Footpath 230 with access from Westway. This footpath would be lit at night.

Other fund-raising events, in addition to the Ton of Money on August Bank Holiday are a Fun Run on October 12th, a garage sale in late October and a family dance early in 1987.

# Any Volunteers?



If you fancy serving as a parish councillor, now is the time to start thinking about it.

The 13-strong council comes up for election next May – elections take place every four years – and several members of the present council have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election.

With the completion of the by-passes changes are inevitable in Pembury. Not all of these will be for the worse. Freedom from traffic will, it is hoped, bring an opportunity for a fuller village life. On the other hand it would be idle to deny that there will be pressure for development once the new roads are built. The Parish Council, although it has no statutory planning powers, can play an important part in resisting such pressure or in steering it into acceptable channels. Its opinions are sought by the Borough Council and with the completion of the Informal Plan for Pembury, now under consideration, the Parish Council will have firm ground on which to base its stance. So if you are interested in Pembury's future, here is your chance.

The council meets at three-weekly intervals, nearly always on Monday evenings at 8 p.m. Meetings last, generally, about two and a half hours. There are also five committees. With the exception of the planning committee, which meets most weeks, other committees meet no more than three or four times a year.

Although there is nothing to prevent a candidate from standing under a political banner, politics with a big P plays no part in the Parish Council's work. Needless to say either men or women are welcome as members.

Applications to be a candidate cannot be made until a few weeks before the election. At that time notices will appear in the local Press and on parish notice boards so you will have plenty of warning.

In the meantime, why not come along as a member of the public to attend one of the meetings? They begin at 8 p.m. and at 8.30 p.m. there is the opportunity of asking questions on any aspect of the council's business.

## IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE YOUNGSTERS

A new light on vandalism in and around the Recreation Ground was thrown by Mrs. Susan Fitch in a letter which she wrote to the Parish Council in May.

In her letter, Mrs. Fitch, who lives at 24 Westway, said:

"As you see, we live at the end of Westway next to the playing fields. We have lived here ten years this month, and contrary to most people's ideas, we find very little trouble from youngsters. We've been young and had our own children and I have in ten years only had to ask two children if they understood the words they were using (and got apologies), and occasionally have had to ask the children or young adults to 'tune in' or quieten their radios, which they have always done. Approach is the important factor.

"I rang the council, though, one day when somebody (age I don't know) sprayed words in paint on our side fence and my husband had to remove it as best he could. We consider this not bad in ten years. Anyway this was just the last straw to my patience.

"Please can something be done about the following:

"Point One – All Pembury seems to have dogs and to use our frontage as a car park and walk their dogs down to the woods (instead of walking from home) and let their animals use the path as a loo – or sometimes our front garden (while their owners watch). They also empty litter from their cars on to the road.

"These are people who probably moan about the young people of today! Yet they consider others' property, and common land which we all like to enjoy, as somewhere they and their animals can abuse. How would they like muck around their property?

"In the hot weather our garden starts to smell. We love the house, our little garden and the recreation ground and woods, but they are getting spoiled. Children can't go into the wood without treading in muck.

"Point Two – adults again! Using the woods to dump rubbish. Mainly this is garden rubbish, but there are plenty of tips nearby which we use. If these people are confronted, they tell us that the woods don't belong to us. Once again, would they like rubbish dumped behind their homes? Once again, the woods are spoiled.

"I have asked the woodmen if they were removing or burning the rubbish and was rudely told it wasn't their business.

"Please, please, we've been very patient, but could not something be done? Some 'no fouling' notices or 'No dumping' notices, perhaps. Could we rent the land behind us, fence it in and keep it nice? No one but Westway seems to appreciate it.

"How do adults expect children to respect things if all they do is to abuse them?"



## HOCKEY CLUB REPORT

Very shortly, it is hoped, there will be an alternative form of sport in Pembury . . . roller hockey or, as it is more commonly known, street hockey.

Pembury Hockey Club is responding to the growing interest in this fast-moving, robust sport and, with the backing of the Parish Council, will assist in getting roller hockey off the streets and on the road!

Very few (if any) of the Hockey Club committee can roller skate, or have much idea of the rules of roller hockey. So if any intrepid parents know anything about it, perhaps they would contact the undersigned. Roller hockey, if played indoors (at sports centres), can be very expensive. Therefore our first objective is to find an inexpensive outdoor practice area. Encouraging progress has been made to this end. But we are not quite there yet.

Bully-off for Pembury's seventh season of hockey is in September and it is hoped to arrange a tournament involving the club and local schools on October 5th.

All practices and home games are held on the Lower Green Road recreation ground. Junior practice sessions are from 10 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Senior matches are held on Sunday afternoons.

The club is mixed, and, apart from the Youth Club, is one of the few organisations in the village to encourage the shared participation of both boys and girls. All ages are catered for, from eight upwards, and the club coach, Andy Card, is always pleased to welcome new members to the supervised training sessions on Sunday mornings.

The club base is the recreation ground pavilion, which has occasionally been the target of vandalism and graffiti scribblers. When funds permit, it is hoped substantially to improve the interior of the building and instal a few mod cons, especially showers. If anyone knows of a tea urn going cheap, they would undoubtedly earn the gratitude of the ladies who at present struggle with primitive equipment to prepare match teas.

See you at the Rec in September.

JOHN HAWKER

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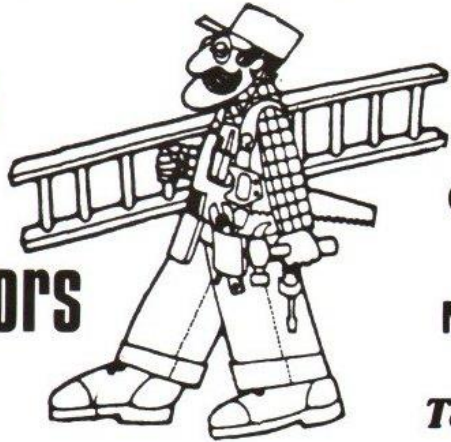
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## GIPSIES

Despite the fact that gipsies have been evicted from sites in Longfield Road, Tunbridge Wells and Kippings Cross during the summer, no decision has yet been made as to whether or not any of them are to be found a permanent home in the parish of Pembury.

The ultimate decision rests with Kent County Council, which so far has been holding its cards pretty close to its chest. Months ago Pembury Parish Council said it was willing to accommodate six caravans at the bottom end of Blackhurst Lane.

This offer was countered by the KCC which said that sites for as few as six caravans were uneconomic. It then undertook a survey of the suggested site as well as others in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. By this time the Parish Council had withdrawn its offer of co-operation on the grounds that the KCC policy seemed to be to concentrate large numbers on a few sites rather than spread the burden more or less evenly among a number of parishes.

At the time of going to press the situation remains unsolved. The Parish Council has not been told in what direction official policy is tending. But, to be on the safe side, it was decided at a Parish Council meeting in June that, if necessary, funds should be set aside to finance legal representation at any inquiry that might be held in an attempt to resolve the matter.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is believed to be opposed to the idea of large gipsy sites in its area and it is the parish's hope that if a satisfactory solution cannot be reached, the Secretary of State for the Environment will be asked to call in any proposal for gipsy sites, which would mean that a public inquiry would be held at which the borough, aided by the parish, would be legally represented.

Residents in the Sandown Park estate which is close to the site originally suggested by the Parish Council are violently opposed to having any gipsies camped close to them.

# IN BRIEF



# IN BRIEF

The Lunch Club for retired people, which meets every Wednesday at the Village Hall, is in need of more helpers. The work involved includes serving meals (and washing up afterwards), laying the tables and, in some cases, transporting elderly people to and from the hall. Two people are also required to fetch the meal from the Primary School, from which it is despatched in large containers, and to return the empty utensils afterwards. Ideally these duties should be performed by two "crews" working alternate weeks. However, over the years several helpers have dropped out and insufficient replacements have come forward. As a result the turn-and-turn about basis of operation has come to a standstill. When holiday times – or illness – comes round there are few, if any, reserves to call upon. Anyone willing to help in any or all of these ways is asked to get in touch with the organiser, Mrs. Hildy Swinden on Pembury 3378. A mileage allowance is paid for transport to and from the hall. The hours involved are approximately from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

☆ ☆ ☆

Another call for help. This time from the Derby and Joan Club. The club meets fortnightly on Tuesdays in the Village Hall. There is a general meeting or a talk or film show. But what always takes place is a tea. It is for this that the club needs help. This is in the form of preparing cakes or other tea-time delicacies for one meeting per year. The numbers catered for average around 65, so that is the size of the requirement. If you feel inclined to bake either large or small cakes, scones or something similar, please contact Mrs. Olive Clear on Pembury 2563.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Parish Council and Kent County Council were in touch earlier this year over the question of placing traffic bollards in the High Street in the stretch between Woodhill Park and Sunhill Court. The aim was to instal the bollards with the double purpose of preventing a two-abreast surge of traffic up to the narrow section of the High Street and to afford residents of Sunhill Court some protection in crossing the road to reach the bus stop on the opposite side. However, the scheme was eventually turned down by the County Council on the grounds that if it were introduced, all waiting would have to be banned along both sides of the High Street between Woodhill Park and Sunhill Court. In the absence of adequate parking facilities at the Village Hall, this would have meant that patrons of events there would be prevented from parking in the main road once the Village Hall drive was full. This was felt to be an unacceptable price to pay for such an amenity and the matter has been dropped. Let us hope that with the completion of the A21 by-pass it will be possible to cross the High Street without taking one's life in one's hands.

☆ ☆ ☆

A meeting open to members of local horticultural societies, including ours in Pembury, is being held at Coblands Nursery, Eridge Road, Tunbridge Wells on October 29th from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is by ticket, although there is no charge. During the evening there will be a Gardeners' Question Time as well as a talk on Sheffield Park gardens by the administrator there, Mr. Archie Skinner. Those in Pembury who wish to go should contact Mr. Maurice Mephram on Pembury 2703.

The Play Scheme organised by Mrs. Pauline Hawker and her band of helpers during the first two weeks of the school holidays was a great success. Nearly fifty children attended every day, the largest number being 54.

☆ ☆ ☆

Pembury Woodside Youth Club will re-open in September after the end of the school holidays.

☆ ☆ ☆

The display of spring and summer flowers in the Margery Polley horse trough on the Village Green has been the subject of much favourable comment from passers-by – strangers as well as local residents. The displays were planted and tended by members of the Afternoon Women's Institute. All the flowers were given by Whitelegg's Nurseries in Tonbridge Road.

☆ ☆ ☆

A chance to see Kentish cider being made in the traditional way is being afforded at Pippins Farm on October 4th, when the farm is holding a Cider and Apple Fayre. The Fayre, which will be open from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., will include a guided tour of the cider works in full operation and an old English apple orchard walk. There will also be tastings of cider and of apple juice from the press in the old Kent barn. Available for tasting and sale will be many varieties of traditional and new English varieties of apple. The entry fee will be £1 (children under 16 free) and the net proceeds will be donated to the Pembury Scanner Appeal.

☆ ☆ ☆

The plan to build a block of 12 flats and ten garages on the site of the present White's Bazaar warehouse in Hastings Road is at present the subject of a planning appeal. At the time of writing the outcome of this appeal is not to hand. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council turned down the application for the project on the grounds that it would constitute over-development of the area and lead to deterioration of road safety in the area. White's Bazaar, on the other hand, contended that the elimination of commercial vehicles visiting the site would improve a residential area.

☆ ☆ ☆

Consultation between the Parish Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on drawing up an Informal Local Plan for Pembury will not now take place until recommendations concerning the plan, drawn up by its planning staff, have been considered by the Borough's planning committee in September. The plan is being drawn up in an effort to reach an agreed policy for future development, if any, in Pembury following the completion of the two by-passes.

☆ ☆ ☆

A barn dance in aid of the Friends of Pembury Parish Church will be held at Pippins Farm on September 27th from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are obtainable from Mrs. Knight, Pippins Farm, Pembury 4624.

☆ ☆ ☆

Age Concern announces that those people in Pembury who use hearing aids can get replacements of batteries or cords from Mrs. Giles at Camden Court on Tuesdays between 2 and 4 p.m.

# BY-PASSES TAKING SHAPE

## B2015

Progress on earth-moving was ahead of schedule, mainly because of the excellent weather (from the contractor's viewpoint) this summer, said assistant site engineer Mr. Joe Newton when I saw him in August.

And a Land-Rover trip along the route of the by-pass confirmed that an awful lot of sand and topsoil has been shifted. Everyone must regret the disappearance of woodland – and the by-pass has cut a great swathe through the woods west of the village – but this is inevitable. The good news is that it is intended to plant a great many trees once the road is completed.

The first impression one gets travelling the route, even in its incomplete state, is that it will be a delightful road to drive along. The woodlands bordering either side of the road for most of its length provide their own natural landscaping. What was news to me is that the gradient from Church Road to Woodgate Corner will be sufficiently steep to warrant the incorporation of a "crawler" lane for heavy, slow-moving traffic.

One good point about the construction is that excess spoil is now being spread in Marshleyharbour Wood instead of being dumped in Sandhill Quarry. Both the Parish and Borough Councils favoured the Marshleyharbour solution on the grounds that the new spoil would quickly become incorporated in the surface. This has meant that thousands of tons of earth can now be disposed of just off the site. Otherwise an untold number of heavily-laden lorries would have had to travel through the village to tipping sites further away.

The closure of Church Road to through traffic has meant extra use of Pembury Walks and Redwings Lane, narrow, third-class roads never intended to take intensive traffic. Following representations from the Parish and Borough Councils the site engineer readily agreed to divert some of the by-pass funds to patching the crumbling verges of these two roads. This improvement, rapidly carried out, has considerably eased what was building up into a crisis situation.

Only two bridges will now have to be built over the by-pass. One will be for pedestrians and horse-riders, linking the two halves of Church Road. One abutment for this bridge was already complete when I visited the site. The other will link the two halves of Downingbury Farm. Originally it was planned to build a third bridging structure to carry the pumping main from Pembury Hospital to Lower Green Road over the by-pass. However, it has now been found possible to lead the main in a culvert under the road.

Mr. Newton told me that complaints from the public have been few since work began. Understandably, some were concerned with dust from earth-moving. Most of the subsoil is sandy and blows about in dry weather. This is combated by extensive use of sprinklers. More serious was the complaint by residents in houses on back land along Tonbridge Road who feared noise pollution when the by-pass was in use. To remedy this a large earth bund has been erected between the road and the houses. This embankment will eventually be grassed over.

Only one serious problem has been encountered during the preliminary work. This was the discovery, in the region of Downingbury Farm, of fissures in the sandstone blocks underlying the subsoil. To overcome this, lengths of geotextile – a kind of man-made-fibre matting – will be laid over the gaps before the foundations of the road are laid.

So far the number of visitors to view the works has been few. It would seem to be a golden opportunity for local organisations to try to incorporate such a visit in their programme in the next year – after September 1987 will be too late because the by-pass should be completed by then.

Anyway, if you are interested in what is going on, or have any complaints to make, contact the site engineer, Mr. Duncan Smith, on Pembury 4118 between 7 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

## A21

More of us can see what is being done on this by-pass as we drive in and out of the village – or, sometimes, get caught in traffic jams because "they" are up to something involving coning off part of the main road, or switching on the red lights to enable contractors' vehicles to cross. We can also walk, quite legally, along public footpaths and get near the action.

And, considering work only began on April 21st, a great deal of action has taken place. Not surprising when one learns, as I did from site engineer John Dodman, that the average working day from Monday to Friday is 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and a staggering 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. No wonder that the drone of earth-movers and their insistent reversing "peeps" have become part of the Pembury ambience this summer.

Here again the basic route has been scraped clear. But more of this remains to be done once the problem of preserving traffic flows along the A264 Pembury–Tonbridge Wells road has been solved.

By the time you read this the solution will have become evident. It will involve using some of the slip roads which will eventually enable traffic to change from the A264 to the by-pass and vice versa, as temporary routes for traffic between the village and Tonbridge Wells.

Included in this temporary plan is the use of a couple of Bailey bridges and a smaller latic-girder bridge to carry the services – at present under the existing A264 – while the ground under the main road is dug out to enable the by-pass to run in a cutting under the Pembury Road. Some idea of the amount of earth-moving still to be done was given by Mr. Dodman when he said that the line of the by-pass, already scraped to the level of the A264 on the Pembury side of the road, has got to be excavated a further seven metres for a considerable distance.

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## THE BY-PASSES

(continued from P.13)

Altogether 800,000 cubic metres of spoil have to be removed along the route of the by-pass. 200,000 cubic metres of this will go to fill in a huge depression about a mile from the start of the by-pass at the North Farm link road. This is because the road will be on an embankment at the point where it passes what is now a depression.

Motorists will remember that in August long hold-ups occurred in the High Street while works went on at Woodsgate Corner, involving coning off one lane of the main road. This was because various services, including the diversion of a water main, were being carried out. This was necessary because when the by-pass is completed the lay-out at the corner will be radically changed from its present form.

Further delays will be unavoidable during the autumn while new telephone cables are winched through freshly-laid ducts and then jointed together. This will affect traffic between Bo-Peep and Kippings Cross, and is expected to start in September.

Sandstone fissures have been found below the by-pass route behind Owls Nest Wood and for a short distance near Chalket Lane. Both will be dealt with by the use of geo-textile as on the B2015.

Among the collection of temporary buildings just off the A264, occupied by KCC and contractors' staff, is a testing laboratory. Here tests are carried out on soil and concrete. Specimens are taken from each consignment of sand, aggregate and cement, formed into concrete cubes, cured for a month and then submitted to tests in a crushing machine.

As in the case of the B2015 project the number of visitors to see what is going on has been comparatively few. A pity, since in the temporary complex is a small conference room. This, of course, is used from time to time by those engaged in construction work. But Mr. Dodman hinted that it would also be available to brief parties of interested visitors, who could also be taken along the route in a Safari Land-Rover carrying about a dozen people.

Mr. Dodman, too, is anxious that anyone with a complaint – dust, once again, has caused some concern – should contact him, when he will be able to help to solve the problem. His telephone number is Pembury 4652.

ROBERT ALLEN

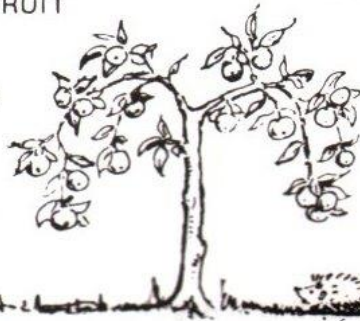


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## MISCELLANY

### INFORMATION

Pembury Woodside Youth Club will hold an open meeting in October or November on the burning topic of drug abuse. Arrangements are being made with Kent police for a talk about the problem, backed by a film or video. It is anticipated that specimen drugs will be on display. There will also be information on the effects of various drugs, and detectable symptoms of drug-taking.

The aim of the meeting is to bring the question of drugs and their abuse into the open. It is open to any young person, whether or not they are members of the youth club, as well as to parents who may be worried or wish to be forewarned about the problem.

When the meeting date has been fixed, posters will be displayed in shops and on Parish Council notice boards.

☆ ☆ ☆

### PROTECTION

Pembury now has four Neighbourhood Watch schemes in operation since the formation of the first — in the Woodhill Park area — earlier this year. Other Watch schemes cover Gimble Way, The Forstal and Ridgeway.

☆ ☆ ☆

### PLAYERS

Following our pantomime last Christmas, we staged a revue "Pandemonium" in May. This was deemed a great success and we were pleasantly surprised by the wide age range of our audience.

I would like to give my special thanks to Gillian Piper, who was our pianist for this last production and, indeed, many before. We wish her every success in the future as she is leaving the area. This leaves a vacancy within Pembury Players, so if anyone is interested in becoming our pianist please contact me on Pembury 4586 or Philip Wells on Pembury 3394.

Future plans include continuing representation at village fetes and organising social evenings. Our next production is the traditional pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk", on January 15th, 16th and 17th. This may be traditional but, knowing my colleagues, I am sure it will be full of razor-sharp Pemburian wit!

As always Pembury Players welcomes everyone. If you are interested in joining, contact me. Otherwise we look forward to meeting you in our next audience.

IAN AUBREY  
Secretary

☆ ☆ ☆

### BULKY REFUSE

The old system of providing a refuse vehicle to which residents could take their garden rubbish and similar refuse to a dustcart stationed in Beagles Wood Road every other Sunday has now been replaced. Starting on August 23rd a new weekly schedule is now in operation (on Saturdays, not Sundays). Times and places are: 12 noon-12.55, Herewoods Crescent; 1 p.m.-1.55 Herons Way; 2 p.m.-3.00 Woodhill Park. A Borough Council spokesman said the refuse vehicle would not be stationed outside the same house in these roads every week, in an effort to cut down the nuisance to any particular household.

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## PEMBURY

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