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PEMBURY

Your VILLAGE newsletter / 58

SUMMER 1989 NO.

PEMBURY YOUTH

What the
village is
doing for its
young folk

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VIEWPOINT

YOUNG
PEOPLE



In this issue we are turning the spotlight on youth and on the centre pages you will find news about some of the activities for young people in Pembury. And indeed there is plenty for youngsters to do here. Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies are all thriving, the Woodside Youth Club has a new warden and there are all the hockey, football, tennis and cricket clubs eager to train up young players. Why is it then, that parents still hear that interminable and unchanging teenage moan, 'Mum, I'm bored, what can I do?'

At the risk of being labelled an old fogey I can't help thinking just how much entertainment and amusement there is for young people today. At home they have televisions, videos, stereos, Walkmen, computers and innumerable other gadgets to while away the empty hours. In my day, it was just the wireless around which the whole family gathered to listen to 'Itma' or Garrison Theatre or someone playing the cinema organ! Apart from these high spots, it was a case of making one's own amusement – cards, draughts and 'pencil and paper' games were the usual, and of course we read a lot.

The teenage years have always been difficult – being alternately bored or rebellious is all part of it. People of my generation sulked, argued with their parents and slammed doors when they were 15 just as youngsters do now. It's the normal emotional behaviour that accompanies growing up. What is different now in the eighties from the way things were in the forties and fifties is the element of violence.

Widespread vandalism reaches into every community. Hooliganism is not confined to the football terraces – rowdy groups of youths are a Saturday night problem in many a quiet and prosperous provincial town. Too much money to spend, too much booze, too few policemen on the beat, these may be some of the contributing factors but it doesn't really explain the change in teenage behaviour.

Are young people reacting against our materialistic society? Are parents of my generation and younger to blame? Have we done too much for our children, giving them too many of the material things that we lacked in our youth? Are working parents compensating for the lack of time they are able to spend with their kids by lavishing too much on them? Is lack of discipline in the schools the cause? Is it the fault of the media, making headlines out of the bad lads and ignoring the caring spirit of most young people? We can go on asking questions and allocating blame but will we find an answer?

Editor

PEMBURY WELCOMES NEW VICAR

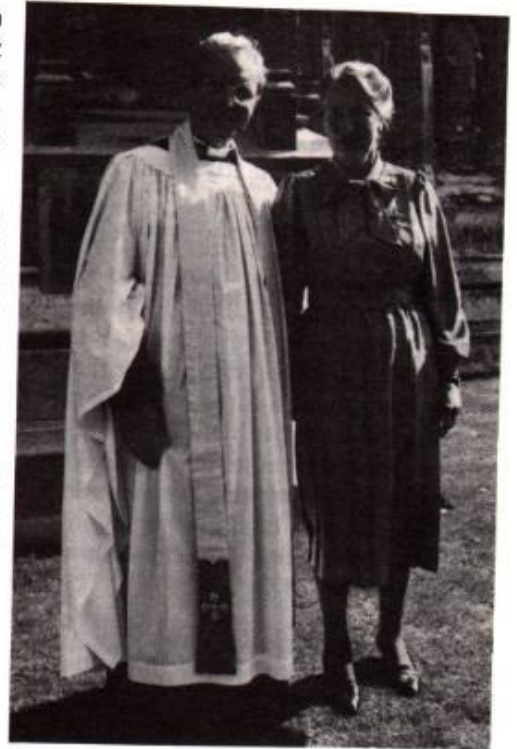
Pembury's new vicar the Rev. Jim Brasier, who was instituted at St Peter's Church in February, has been warmly welcomed by parishioners and is having his first real taste of village life.

'I can see that the Church plays an important part in the village,' he says, 'even if, for some people, it's only as a focal point. We are fortunate to have two churches here, both of them very different in character, but I am learning to love them both – I hope equally!'

For Mr Brasier, who is 58 and a late ordinand, this is his first appointment as parish priest, but he has behind him a varied and most interesting career and brings wide experience to the priesthood. At the age of 35 – in 1966 – he was appointed vesturer, or head *virger, of Canterbury Cathedral, and was the youngest in the country to hold such a post.

Between 1966 and 1985 he served three Archbishops – Michael Ramsey, Donald Coggan and Robert Runcie, and was involved in much of the planning for the enthronements of Donald Coggan in January 1975, and our present Archbishop in March 1980. He was also involved in the Papal visit to Canterbury in 1982.

Being head virger at our premier cathedral clearly called for high organisational skills and attention to detail. Mr Brasier likens the post to that of floor manager in a busy television studio. And indeed, he had considerable experience in making



The Rev. Jim Brasier and his wife Sheila at Canterbury Cathedral after his ordination.

practical arrangements within the cathedral building for the media coverage of important occasions and can speak very knowledgeably about the discreet positioning of TV cameras and press photographers and where the microphone should be. He was part of the organisation for the many official and unofficial visits paid to the cathedral by members of the Royal Family, including the Queen and Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Diana and the Queen Mother, as well as numerous heads of state and prime ministers.

The great events were highlights, but the regular daily worship at the cathedral had to be maintained. The problems caused by hundreds of tourists tramping through the building also came within his scope, and clearing up the chewing gum was one of the biggest headaches.

Born and bred in Hastings, Jim Brasier was first apprenticed to a coachbuilder in that town and he recalls repairing a 1911 Model T Ford – the oldest vehicle he ever worked on. Because he was a worker in wood he took a lot of that talent and put it to good use in the cathedral. He made two portable reading desks and various furnishings that were in regular use, and designed a seven-branch candlestick for the Papal visit.

As head virger he was also in charge of vestments and from this developed an interest in their design and embroidery. He designed a number of vestments for Canterbury Cathedral which were made by the East Kent Embroiderers' Guild, and has made some of his own. He is always on the look out for suitable materials and threads and describes how the flame coloured lining to one of his copes was discovered while on holiday in Yugoslavia.

He says that he was introduced to the Church through Sunday School and over the years his faith deepened, until his commitment led to his training for the ministry and his ordination in Canterbury in 1985. He was then appointed assistant curate at Christ Church, Ashford.

Mr Brasier married his wife, Sheila, in 1953 and they have two grown-up children – a son, Mark, and a daughter, Sally – and three grandchildren. He pays special tribute to his wife.

'Sheila has been a tremendous help to me and has backed me through all the changes in my career. She is a very important part of the ministry in making it work smoothly.'

**'Virger' is the spelling favoured by Canterbury Cathedral.*

Treena says 'Thank you'

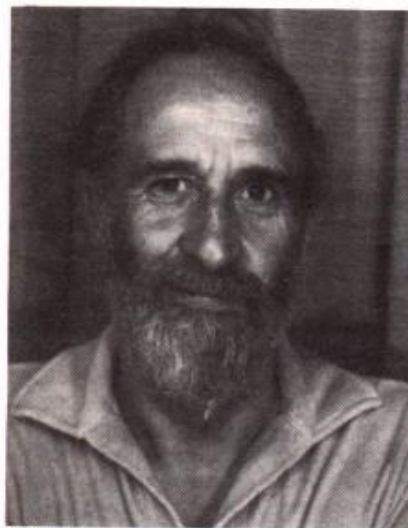
After running Pembury Florists for nearly ten years, Treena Kemp has given up the business.

'I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and for all their support over the years,' she says. 'Of course I shall miss all my customers, and the flowers too. I have really enjoyed serving all the people here.'

Treena's husband Ray ran the adjoining greengrocers until a year ago, when he sold out to set up his own carrier service.

Treena's two florists, Brenda and Ann, will continue in the shop working under the new management.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS



Brian Chantler
Chairman Highways Committee

Brian Chantler was born in Brenchley but his family moved to Pembury when he was 18 months old and he has lived here ever since. He was educated at Pembury Primary School and then won a scholarship to Skinners School.

From 1945-53 he served in submarines in the Royal Navy. He has been married 40 years and has four children.

As a parish councillor he was Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee for five years until last year, when responsibility for planning and highways was separated and he became Chairman of the Highways Committee.

Brian Chantler has strong views on the need for more attention being paid to parish councils in their advisory role.

'The parish council's views on planning should be taken into account far more than they are,' he says. 'Parish councillors are much more aware and concerned for Pembury than the borough council, as is shown by the type of developments allowed when the village has insufficient services such as water and sewers, not enough shops and an almost total lack of employment.'

As Highways Chairman he is pleased to be able to help improve street lighting as fast as the parish can afford it.

He feels the borough council could help Pembury a lot more by providing an additional hall and recreational facilities.

'Pembury has less than 50 per cent of the land it should have for recreation,' he claims. 'Land between the by-passes in the Green Belt area could be purchased and given to the parish in perpetuity for recreational use.'

Bus services in Pembury

There are now four operators providing bus services through Pembury – Maidstone and District, Fuggles of Benenden, Eagle Coaches and Boro'line Maidstone. All journeys pick up at the Camden Hotel and most also serve Pembury Hospital.

All KCC contracted services are required to accept any valid ticket irrespective of the company issuing the ticket. Between Pembury and Tunbridge Wells return and/or season tickets are accepted as follows:

Maidstone and District accept return tickets issued on Fuggles services 2 and 296 on all journeys. Contracted journeys will also accept valid tickets issued by Eagle Coaches and Boro'line.

Eagle Coaches, Fuggles and Boro'line Maidstone will accept any valid return or season tickets irrespective of the issuing operator.

Maidstone and District Freedom Tickets may be used on any bus between Tunbridge Wells and Blackhurst Lane. Kent Countywide Concessionary Fares Permits are accepted by all operators, but the use of return halves of tickets is governed by the arrangements given above.



DUALLING THE A21 TO TONBRIDGE

The Department of Transport recently announced proposals for linking the Tonbridge and Pembury By-passes and suggested three possible routes, which the public were asked to consider.

The Parish Council has opted for the **Blue Route**. From the southern end of the Tonbridge By-pass this swings the closest to Tunbridge Wells, skirting the north of the Longfield Road Industrial Estate and joining up with Pembury By-pass after passing over a flyover the Industrial Estate side of the A21 roundabout.

This route is:

- ★ the shortest in length
- ★ makes the biggest reduction in noise and pollution
- ★ has the least severance difficulties for existing properties
- ★ requires the demolition of only one property
- ★ provides a natural barrier to the growth of Tunbridge Wells and the industrial estate
- ★ takes up the smallest amount of woodland and natural countryside
- ★ has the least effect on wildlife
- ★ provides by the Department of Transport's own standards the best economic value.

The other routes are the **Red Route**, which swings north of the existing A21, runs through woodlands and countryside, cuts across Dislingbury Road and Pembury Walks including cutting through the RSPB Nature Reserve, finally joining Pembury By-pass after passing over the Longfield Road roundabout on a flyover. And the **Orange Route**, which follows the existing A21 to the top of Castle Hill with each carriageway being on different levels. It then moves north of the A21 through woodlands including the Nature Reserve, then swings round and rejoins the A21 north of Fairthorne; from here one carriageway will follow the line of the present A21 with another new carriageway being built just north.

The Parish Council have come out unanimously in favour of the Blue Route and they have been supported by the Borough Councillors representing Pembury and the local County Councillor. However, Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells BC do not support the Blue Route but would like an unspecified mixture of the red and orange routes. The Parish Council are currently considering what sort of campaign should be mounted to convince the Department of Transport (and hopefully Kent County Council and the Borough Council) to choose the Blue Route.

The Department of Transport drawing of the three routes and their description is on show at Pembury Library. The Parish Council urges local residents to go and have a look and then to let them know their views. Do you agree the Blue Route is the best? If you have any comments please write to the Parish Clerk at 16 The Coppice, Pembury.

RSPB RESERVE

The RSPB Tudeley Woods Nature Reserve is now open daily from dawn to dusk. The reserve has a good representation of woodland birds, among them three woodpecker species, nuthatches, hawfinches and a sparrow hawk. Many woodland flowers can also be seen, including eight species of orchid.

There are two visitor trails, one of 1¼ miles and the other ¾ mile. As yet there is no picnic area, but benches along the trails will be provided eventually. No dogs are allowed and this will be strictly enforced.

The reserve forms part of the Hadlow Estate and the entrance is from Dislingbury Road (the turning at the side of Fairthorne Garage). There is parking space for 30 cars. Admission is free to RSPB members, with a voluntary contribution of 50 pence asked from non members.

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IN BRIEF

Pembury's beautiful newly decorated 12th century Parish Church will be open to visitors every Sunday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm until 10 September.

Footpaths have been the subject of some lengthy debates in the Parish Council recently. There have been a number of complaints about blocked footpaths as well as a proposal for the creation of four new public footpaths in Pembury. A new footpath map for Pembury is also being prepared and will be available soon.

Mrs Betty Roberts, Pembury Parish Councillor, has been nominated as a representative from the Kent Association of Parish Councils to serve on the Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge Post and Telecoms Advisory Committee. Anyone in this area who has a complaint or problem they cannot resolve with either British Telecom or the Post Office should contact Mrs Roberts, and the committee will then make representations locally to BT or the PO, or nationally to the consumer watchdog bodies OFTEL or POUNC. Further information can be obtained from the committee's honorary secretary Miss P. S. Colebrooke, Tunbridge Wells 25792.

The Pembury Free Church Playgroup has vacancies on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9.30 to 12 noon) during term time. There are all the usual play equipment and activities. There is also a four-plus group on Friday mornings between 9.15 and 11.15. Fees are £1.30 a session. Call in and see the group in action or phone Wendy Parrett on Paddock Wood 6845.

The construction of the Doctors' Group Practice building on the Royal Oak site began in early May. The work is being undertaken by a local building firm, Messrs Playfoot, and it is hoped that if everything goes according to schedule that the building will be in use in November this year. Dr. Peter Waterfield and Dr. Vivian R. Vivian-ab-Ewart, two partners in the group practice, are both to retire in July when two new GPs will take over.

The Darby and Joan Club thank all members, traders and villagers who gave such excellent support to their coffee morning on 4 April, when £301 was raised. The money will go towards outings and theatre trips for members. The club welcomes anyone over 60 to their fortnightly meetings, for which the subscription is £1 a year. Details of meetings are given on the back page.

A range of 'designer' T-shirts has been produced to help raise funds for the new Scout and Guide Headquarters. The shirt's logo, which forms a rainbow shape, has the words 'I'm supporting Pembury Scouts and Guides'. The T-shirts cost £3.50 and come in S, M, L and XL sizes, with white available in all sizes, adult sizes in grey only. To order please contact Angela Baker on Pembury 4441.

Rosemary Luff and family wish to thank everybody who sent her cards and flowers when she was in hospital recently. Also for all their kind thoughts and prayers for her well being.

During July Pembury Free Church will be holding 'Songs of Praise' on the Village Green, starting on Sunday 16 July. The singing begins at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome to come.

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GUIDING TODAY

'The Girl Guide Association today is very different from that of our grandmothers' day. Not only do we have different uniforms but our interpretation of ideas and activities are constantly changing, although the basic principles of guiding the girls to become caring and responsible people still applies.

'Our girls' ages range from seven years old to 19 and within the village approximately 110 girls are members of the movement, including handicapped members who contribute so much.

'The Brownies, Guides and Rangers of Pembury, although belonging to a world-wide organisation, are still very conscious of their loyalty to our own village. Over the last few years we have not only helped ourselves by raising funds for our new joint headquarters but have also helped the village in a variety of ways. These include various service projects, litter clearance, conservation (pond clearance at picnic site), helping at Pembury Hospital, contributions to the special baby care unit, carol singing at various residences, participating in the Christmas Carnival, helping to run the village fete and many individual contributions.

'During the past year Great Ormond Street Hospital has also benefited from all our efforts, when some £1,500 was collected and sent to the Wishing Well Appeal and the Scout and Guide Project. As a thank you, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part, Brownies, Guides and Rangers were asked to participate in the Lord Mayor's Show.

'Our units are an integral part of the village life and for the 12 years that a girl can be in our family movement we hope those years will be remembered not only for what they may have learnt but also for the fun times that they have enjoyed.'

Angela Baker
Guider, 1st Pembury Company

LIBRARY NEWS



'Spot' the dog visits Pembury Library

The book character 'Spot', the dog, recently visited Pembury Library. Almost 50 children enjoyed stories and creative craft, before 'Spot' handed out balloons to the delighted youngsters.

In the Easter holidays children came – despite the snow – and made a collage on the theme of Spring and an 'egg' mobile.

A storytime session is held in the library every Wednesday morning at 10.30 for children under five years old.

The library tries to cater for everyone's interests, and some recently added books cover getting work done in your house, tax for the self-employed, various travel guides, walking in Kent, photography and a selection of new novels. If the book you want is not in Pembury Library, it can usually be obtained for you (on payment of a nominal sum) from another library in Kent.

Library opening hours are: Tuesday 10 – 1, 2 – 7; Wednesday 10 – 1, 2 – 5; Thursday 10 – 1, 2 – 7; Friday 10 – 1, 2 – 5; Saturday 9.30 – 1.

NEW SCOUT BUILDING

The Scout and Guide Building Committee is an organisation dedicated to raising sufficient funds to erect a purpose-built headquarters for the Scouts and Guides of Pembury.

Most of you will know that we have already erected the shell of the building on our site to the north west edge of the Lower Green Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, due to problems with the builders, we have not progressed as fast as we should have. Once they have finished we can lay the floor inside.

Getting this far has cost us £65,000 – a remarkable achievement in under seven years.

We would welcome practical help as well as money. So if any of you have bits and pieces we can use – plumbing or electrical materials, wash basins, toilets or kitchen equipment – please let us know.

Our next major fund raising activity is the Annual Village Fete on Saturday 15 July. Any people willing to help or other organisations wanting a stall should contact Lynne Berry on Pembury 2517. Don't forget our monthly cash draw, the '200 Club', contact Gill Palmer (Pembury 4406).

Tony Berry
Chairman

Members of Woodside Youth Club at a recent Jumble Sale held in the Catholic Hall which raised £150.



Good News!

Pembury Cricket Club have offered to extend the lease on the old Scout Hut to give the Building Fund Committee more time to complete the new building.

More things to do

Budding Boris Beckers or Sabatinis can take advantage of a coaching programme for young players run by Pembury Tennis Club on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the hard court on the Recreation Ground. Ring Mr A. King for further information, Pembury 2574.

Likewise, cricket coaching for youngsters is available on Monday evenings on the Rec. Please contact Pembury Cricket Club secretary Mr P. Chandler on Tunbridge Wells 33886.



The young members of Tunbridge Wells Marching Band are smartly turned out in their white Australian-style bush hats, red shirts, navy sashes, black skirts or trousers and white gloves. (Michael Wheeler photograph)

Warden for Woodside

The Woodside Youth Club has a new warden. He is David Horn, who is 42, married and lives in Tonbridge. He was appointed Warden in charge of Pembury's youth club at the beginning of the year.

After attending Hadlow College of Agriculture, where he gained a National Certificate in Agriculture, David worked as herdsman and farm manager.

Since leaving agriculture he has built up a wide experience of youth and community work as youth leader/warden with the YMCA. David welcomes the challenge and responsibility of his new appointment and looks forward to an active association with the young people and community of Pembury.

A new feature he has already introduced is a radio controlled car club on Wednesday evenings. Future plans include a weekend in France on 25-27 August for older members, and sponsored events are being organised to pay for this.

YOUTH BAND

Tunbridge Wells Marching Band is in need of young players, boys and girls from ten years up. Youngsters in Pembury should be particularly interested as the band holds a practice night at the Woodside Youth Club every Thursday between 7 and 8.45pm.

Drummers and trumpeters are especially needed but ability to play already is not required as tuition is given.

The band travels a lot and there is plenty of opportunity to meet other young people. Their summer engagements include playing at Gravesend and Rochester Carnivals. Later in the year they will take part in Bonfire Society Processions at Rotherfield, Crowborough, Edenbridge, Lewes, Newhaven and Hastings, and in the Remembrance Day Parade at Westerham.

Why not go along and listen to them practise at Woodside Club and get to know them, or ring Norman Keeble, the band's director, on Tunbridge Wells 30484.

LOOK BACK

The changing face of farming

The number of oast houses still to be seen in Pembury indicates how widespread hop-growing once was around the village – there is none today. Dick Miles, of Fletchers Farm, looks back to the farming scene of 45 years ago, when over half the local farms grew hops. Even 30 years ago there were ten hop growers, including the Blue Boys Inn at Kippings Cross which had a small hopfield, and Fletchers Farm itself, with five acres and a primitive oast. Most of the hop pickers were also local people.

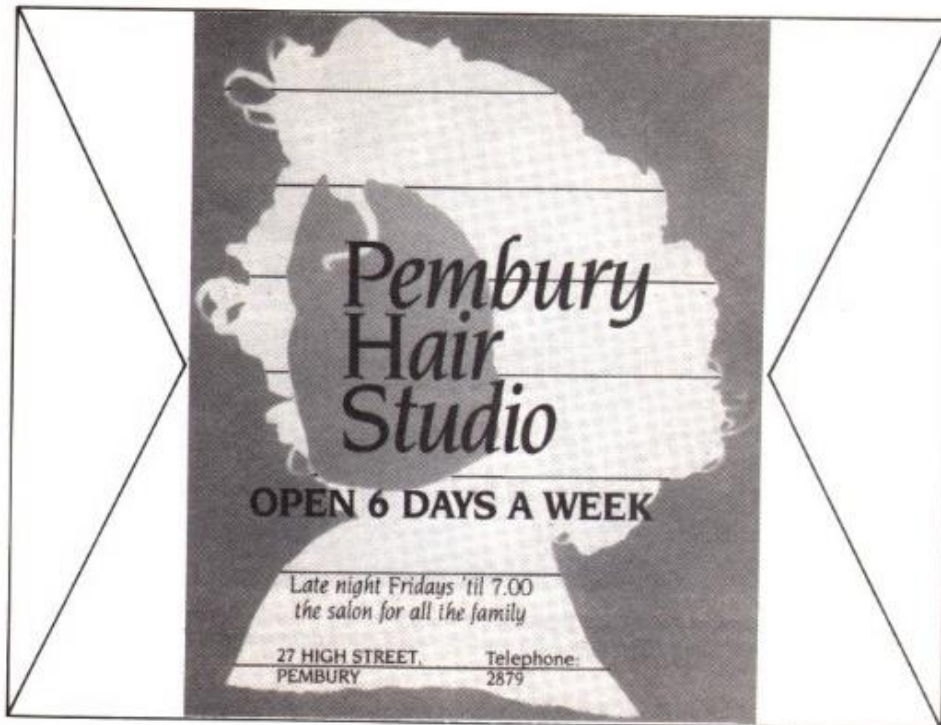
Pembury born and bred, Dick Miles remembers how hard life was for small farmers pre-1939. At Bassetts Farm in Romford Road, for instance, the farmer who had only five cows, used to walk $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the dairyman every day carrying the milk in two pails slung on a yoke across his shoulders. The farm had no gas, electricity or piped water and the nearest standpipe was 30 yards from the house.

As a young pupil farmer at Downingbury Farm, Dick also used to do the milking by the light of oil lamps – electricity was not laid on there until 1945. During the 1940s Downingbury Farm extended well up the Maidstone Road to the pastures known as the Glebeland, now built over and including The Coppice, Knights Ridge and part of Ridgeway. 'Downingbury was a mixed farm then,' he recalls, 'with cows, pigs, chickens and corn as well as all types of fruit. In those traffic-free wartime days the cows used to wander down the Maidstone Road from the upper fields for milking.'

Apart from housing development in Pembury which has eaten into agricultural land, the other main influence on farming in recent years has been the EEC quotas. Before the EEC regulations came into operation Fletchers Farm had a herd of 95 Jersey cows; now quotas have brought them down to 70, with a milk yield reduced by 16 per cent. Methods have changed too. Twenty five years ago milk was transported from the farm in churns; now it goes into bulk tanks where the temperature is lowered to 40°F, before being sent to Headcorn for bottling.

Dick Miles has also witnessed some radical changes in the pattern of labour. 'Forty years ago on a fruit or hop farm there would be one man employed for every 10 to 15 acres, plus casuals for picking,' he says. 'Now, there is one man for every 100 acres.' Increased mechanisation, new smaller varieties of fruit trees and the spread of PYO fruit have all had an effect on reducing the numbers of farm workers.

Our rural past is still very close. Even in the late 1930s the village green was put out to tender for hay and not kept mown as a recreational amenity as it is today. But it is the last four decades that have finally transformed Pembury from an agricultural village to a residential community. All that remains are the oasts.



NEWSFLASH

SNAP LE CLIC

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**THEME:
PEMBURY LIFE**



**Prizes: £5 Film Vouchers
Special Prize for Best
Under 16 Photograph**

What we need are photographs showing interesting buildings, attractive scenes or activity shots of people out and about in the village, which will be used as the basis for a new photographic library of Pembury. The judge will be Mr Peter Greenwood FRPS.

**Prize winning photographs
to be published in the Autumn
edition of this Newsletter.**

Closing Date: 31st July 1989

*(All entries should be sent to the
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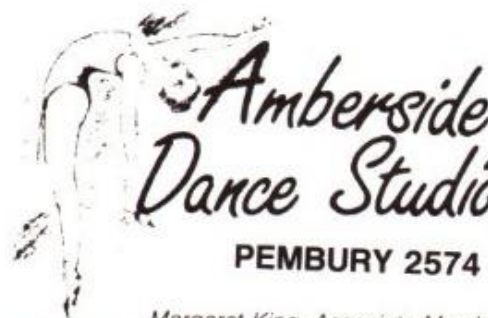
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Your Clerk Reports

HALF-TERM! No – not the School Holidays but a milestone in the life of the present Parish Council's term of office. The first week in May saw the end of the second year of the four year term of office of members of the present Parish Council. As usual, this is a time to look back on what has been achieved and to look ahead to future plans and projects.

The new Parish Council's main concern has always been for the environment of Pembury and this became evident when soon after they took office, the Parish Council created a new Environment Committee. One of its main aims was to try and repair the devastation of the village's trees lost or damaged in the October hurricane. I am pleased to say that with the enthusiasm of its Committee Chairman and his colleagues – not forgetting the financial help from the village organisations and grant aid from the County Council – this task has just been completed as far as resources have allowed. You will have seen that the old lime tree on the Village Green has been replaced with a new lime tree, the old fallen lime having been re-erected and its base landscaped so that it might serve as a monument to that terrible October night.

As to the future – well, as one of its tasks, the Parish Council is setting its sights on improving the amenities in the village and at the present time the Amenities Committee of the Parish Council is investigating the possibility of replacing the existing Pavilion in the Lower Green Recreation Ground with a better and more comprehensive building.

Other pressing matters which have been concerning the Council both in the past and which will continue in the future – following the completion of the construction of the two By-passes – is to monitor the flood of Planning Applications descending on Pembury – a duty which will continue to keep Councillors very busy in the future in trying to ensure that Pembury will still be a great place in which to live.

Henry Plant
Clerk to the Council

Come and join us say WI

The WI is the largest women's voluntary organisation in Britain. Any woman may join whatever her background, age, politics or religion.

Originally based exclusively in country areas, the WI now welcomes members wherever they live – in villages, towns and cities. Its purpose is to promote friendship, tolerance and justice and for members to work together to improve the quality of life in the community and to help women develop their own skills and talents.

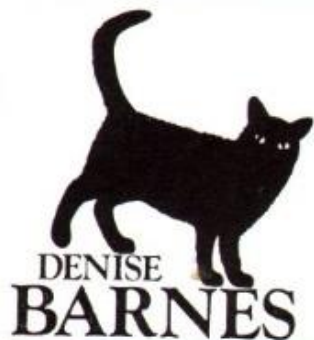
All this may sound rather idealistic, but the WIs in Pembury feel that they play an important part in our village life and would be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to come along to the monthly meetings – details of these are given on the back page of this magazine.

There are two WIs here – the Afternoon WI which meets in the Village Hall the first Thursday in the month at 2.15pm, and the Evening WI which meets at 7.45pm on the first Friday of every month. Usually there is a speaker or demonstrator at each meeting presenting a diverse range of subjects, and afterwards, a cup of tea and a chance to chat with fellow members.

So don't stay at home, lonely and bored. Come and join us. You may find it is just what you are looking for.

If you want any further information, please phone Pembury 2533.

B. M. Greenwood
Hon. Secretary
Pembury Afternoon WI



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PEMBURY

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