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PEMBURY

r VILLAGE newsletter

WINTER 1989

NO. 60

NOT TO BE
TAKEN AWAY

A Merry
Christmas
and
A Happy
New Year



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VIEWPOINT



It's been a funny old year, 1989 – a time of much uncertainty throughout the world. Abroad there have been encouraging signs that the spirit of "glasnost" is working its magic in Eastern Europe, with the flame of democracy beginning to flicker in Hungary and Poland and even in East Germany. But within Russia itself that nation's enormous economic problems and chronic shortages of food and consumer goods threaten to undermine Mr. Gorbachev's great move towards a freer society. And while Eastern Europe is grappling with these upsurges of people power, Western Europe is still trying to get its EEC act together.

For the French, of course, 1989 has seen the celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of their Revolution. In Britain, most people will remember 1989 for its long, hot summer bringing drought conditions and for the disastrous Test series against the Australian cricketers.

It has also been the year of growing financial hardship for ordinary folk. Virtually everyone has been affected by the high interest rates and a falling property market. Belts have had to be tightened to meet increased mortgage repayments and decisions about changing jobs or moving have had to be postponed because of the lack of house buyers.

Money matters seem to have occupied everyone's minds – the battle against inflation, the Government's privatisation programme, a fragile and jittery Stock Market and the debate about when Britain should enter the European Monetary System. Economically speaking, 1989 has been a year of marking time, holding our breath and keeping our fingers crossed.

But now it's Christmas, so let's forget all that economic doom and gloom. Let's just concentrate on our homes and families, because Christmas is the family occasion. Down the ages the spirit of Christmas has remained constant. Way back in Tudor times Thomas Tusser (1524-1580) said:

"At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year."

Editor

ENVIRONMENT PLEDGE

A pledge by Kent County Council to preserve the environment and heritage of the County in the face of inevitable growth is a major theme of Council Leader Tony Hart's message in the Annual Report for 1988/89.

It has been a year dominated by British Rail's proposal for a Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Acknowledging the need for such a line he writes: "... its impact poses a major threat to the communities and countryside of the Garden of England. The right balance between development and conservation needs to be struck and the County Council is determined to ensure that this is achieved."

As demands for all forms of transport increase dramatically the effect of the single European market in 1992 will only add to the pressure. "Kent is the principal gateway to Europe," Mr Hart continues, "and unless its needs are sensitively met the prospects for the rest of the UK are not good."

"Excessive landtake and interference with people and their surroundings can be avoided by a more imaginative combination of existing with future improvements."

In a clear message for the Government Mr Hart says: "We are studying the interaction of road, rail, sea and air communications as they affect Kent, but the time has come when Government should be taking more seriously the concept of a proper transport framework."

"A modern railway line needs half the land required for an average motorway. The Government and British Rail would be doing everyone a service if they would guarantee an adequate rail freight network capable of taking freight off the roads from the day the Channel Tunnel opens."

KENT REPORTS 1989

Kent County Council spent more than £880 million on providing essential services to the County in 1988/89. Weekly cost of all these services to the ratepayer with an average rateable value of £189 was £6.28. Of this figure Education accounted for £3.78, Social Services 75p, Highways 66p, Police 45p, Fire Brigade 20p, and miscellaneous other services totalled 44p.

Revenue expenditure for the year was £826.5 million. This represented the day-to-day running costs of providing services and included pay, heating and lighting, and consumable equipment such as stationery.

Education was top of this category at £463 million, followed by Police at £101.3m, Social Services £91.1m, Highways £84m, Fire Brigade £24.3m, and miscellaneous other services £62.8m.

In addition to revenue expenditure, KCC's total capital expenditure for the year was £56.2 million. This figure covers spending on items which are of use to the community for more than one year and includes construction and major maintenance of buildings and roads. The breakdown is: Highways £28.7m, Education £13.3m, Property, Supplies and Services £6.5m, Social Services £3.3m, Police £1.4m, Fire and Public Protection £1.3m, other services £1.7m.

JILL STITCHES TO SUCCESS

A recent local exhibition of beautiful wedding gowns brought the spotlight onto the skills of Pembury dressmaker Jill Noakes, who has been quietly making a success of her business here over the past ten years. This first public display of her work was to mark her move into larger premises at Pippins Farm, where she has converted a barn into a spacious workshop.

A local girl, she was born at Colts Hill where her parents still live, and learnt her craft as an apprentice at Mary Lee (now Bentalls) in Tunbridge Wells. After her marriage she started working for herself and through personal contacts began making dresses and costumes for stage and television.

As part of a team of people she has made some of the stunning creations worn by Shirley Bassey and other artistes appearing in the Royal Variety Command Performance, the Val Doonican Show and many other light entertainment shows. Her work in this field has ranged from costumes for the Royal Ballet's production of "Mayerling" to the strange outfits worn by the characters in Dr. Who. She still carries out commissions for stage and television, but now her main concern is with her local customers.

Sumptuous, richly embroidered wedding gowns requiring hundreds of hours to complete and clearly the family heirlooms of the future, are her speciality. Most of her brides are local but some have come from further away and have included cathedral weddings in Lincoln and Winchester.

With the growing interest in interior decoration Jill Noakes now also does a tremendous trade in curtain-making. She has made the new curtains for the Village Hall and has also designed a matching piano cover. She tries to cater for everyone, from a simple alteration to a grand ball gown. She enjoys the challenge of something new and is prepared to use all types of material for the right result. There are seasonal fluctuations to be met too, and at this time of year there is a demand for Father Christmas suits as well as for children's party frocks.

Jill Noakes now has the help of some eight local needlewomen as out workers, and even husband Tim sometimes lends a hand on the non-sewing jobs when needed. Her commitment and enthusiasm for her burgeoning business is very apparent, yet somehow she still finds time to run a home and bring up her two children – 7 year old Ben and 2 year old Harriet.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS



Kit Kelly
*Vice Chairman,
Environment Committee*

Probably the most recognisable of Pembury's councillors, Kit Kelly is well known for his eccentricities of dress and behaviour. The more surprising then that Kit should involve himself in traditional parish affairs? Not at all, when you seek him out, perhaps at his favourite watering hole, and engage him in conversation on his cherished ideals.

Since he first moved to Pembury in 1978 and became strongly attached to the place Kit Kelly, by turns teacher, youth worker and pianola restorer, has taken an active interest in the community. If he has a reputation for being the scourge of developers and despoilers of the environment, this arises from his desire for Pembury to be preserved as a village – not in aspic, nor as a dormitory, but as a living community.

Now in his second term on the Parish Council, Kit is a member of the Planning, Environment and Public Relations Committees and is one of the council's representatives on the Kent Association of Parish Councils. During his spare time this summer he might have been observed watering the newly planted, drought-stricken trees, or picking up litter.

In short, Kit Kelly cares about the environment and the community, and is delighted when people stop him in the street to raise local issues which he faithfully conveys in his inimitable way to Parish Council meetings.

Pembury Quiz Night

A recent quiz evening for charity, held at the Village Hall, surprised the organisers – Pembury Parish Council – with its success. Some 15 teams of four people took part, representing clubs, pubs and societies from all around Pembury.

Winners were the Little Bs (Royal Oak) and runners up Friends of Pembury Parish Church. In close (trivial) pursuit were Pembury Cricket Club, Big As (also Royal Oak) and the MUTTS (Mothers Union).

The winning team was presented with a cup, kindly resurrected by Pembury Society from the last quiz organised by Pembury Chest nearly ten years ago. Profits from the evening, which amounted to £96.25, were donated to the charity nominated by the winners – the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Thanks are due to Councillor Mrs Betty Roberts, who planned the evening and set the questions. By popular demand it is intended to hold a similar event next year.



On the beat with
PC Peter Vaughan

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

Christmas is a time of goodwill, the time for giving. In the build up of Christmas shopping last year it was estimated that one electrical store in west Kent took around £500,000 and electrical goods are certainly some of the most popular gifts. Along with all this giving there is, unfortunately, an increase in taking. Around Christmas time we see a marked increase in crime and in particular burglary, with portable electrical equipment among the most frequently stolen.

Every five to seven minutes a house is broken into somewhere in the country. However, we in Pembury are lucky. This year, up until November, there were 13 reported burglaries and the general trend for burglary is down. Nobody knows why, but I'm sure that ideas such as Neighbourhood Watch, burglar alarms, security locks, double glazing and property marking have all helped.

Most burglaries are committed by opportunists. Somebody walks down the road, knocks on a door, gets no reply, sees a window open and is then in and out again in a couple of minutes. Any valuables such as cash, cheque books, jewellery and small electrical items, especially if they are in view, are taken. With a little thought this type of burglary can be prevented.

I mentioned property marking. Most property can be permanently marked with their owner's postcode. This will not deter the thief but, along with owners keeping a note of

serial or model numbers, will help us when we find the stolen goods to return them swiftly. Keeping detailed descriptions, and even photographs, of more valuable items, can also help when the owner is making insurance claims.

If anyone wants advice about making their homes more secure, or on property marking, they should phone Cranbrook Police Station (0580 713559) and leave their name, address and telephone number and I will phone back as soon as possible.

Protect your property this Christmas.

★ ★ ★

A note for your diary: On Saturday 14 January 1990, between 10am and 12 noon, I will be cycle marking at Pembury Police Office in Amberleaze Drive.

See and be seen

With the dark winter nights now here, PC Vaughan would like to point out the dangers to young cyclists of riding their cycles without lights.

Every cycle needs a red rear light and reflector and a front whitelight. It is also advisable for cyclists to wear reflective sashes, or anything light coloured, so that other road users can see them.

See and be seen is the safety message.

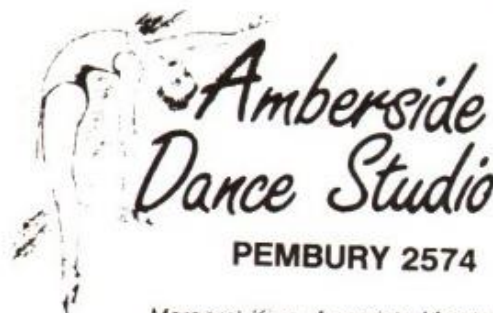
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IN BRIEF



Children's activities at Pembury Library include a visit from Mrs Tiggywinkle on Wednesday 3 January 1990 between 10.30am and 11.30am. There will also be stories, colouring and other projects.

★ ★ ★

The hot, dry summer has taken its toll of newly planted trees. Out of 35 trees planted in the village to make good those lost in the 1987 hurricane, 11 have died during the drought. The Parish Council have agreed to replace these 11 trees.

★ ★ ★

A coffee morning and sale of plants and cakes held by Friends of Pembury Parish Church in the Catholic Hall on 25 October raised £207 towards the maintenance and repair of the old church. The Friends held their Annual General Meeting on 9 November.

★ ★ ★

The Report of the Pembury 2000 Plus Committee, which was due out this autumn, has been delayed because of printing difficulties. It is now expected to be published early in the New Year and will be available from shops and offices in the village.

Pembury WRVS, which is supported by the Lions and subsidised by the County Council, holds a luncheon club in the Village Hall every Wednesday between 11am and 1.15pm. A hot meal with tea or coffee is served and transport for elderly folk can be provided. Every two or three months there is also a film show and free afternoon tea.

★ ★ ★

The Pembury Players' production this season is "Robin Hood", which they will be putting on at the Village Hall on Thursday 4, Friday 5 and Saturday 6 January at 8pm, with a 2.30 matinee performance also on Saturday. The production is written and directed by Margaret Weaver, staged by Geoff Heald, with sets designed by Gilly and John Norman Draper.

★ ★ ★

Dr Patisson, Dr Hillier and Dr Cameron have now moved their practice to the new purpose-built surgery in Henwood Green Road. The telephone number for all calls is Pembury 5488.

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Weddings our Speciality



This study by Phillip Murrell of Mr William (Bill) Jefcoate, Pembury's High Street butcher, was one of the winning entries in the Newsletter's recent photographic competition. Also in the picture is assistant Michael Crampton.

More choose beef for Christmas

Mr Bill Jefcoate has been a family butcher, grazier and licensed game dealer in Pembury for 12 years and has lived in the village for 30 years. Previously, he had four other shops around Tunbridge Wells.

All the home killed beef he sells is his own. He farms at Ashurst, near East Grinstead, where he has some 120 head of beef cattle which he rears and fattens from three week old calves until they are ready for slaughter at two years old.

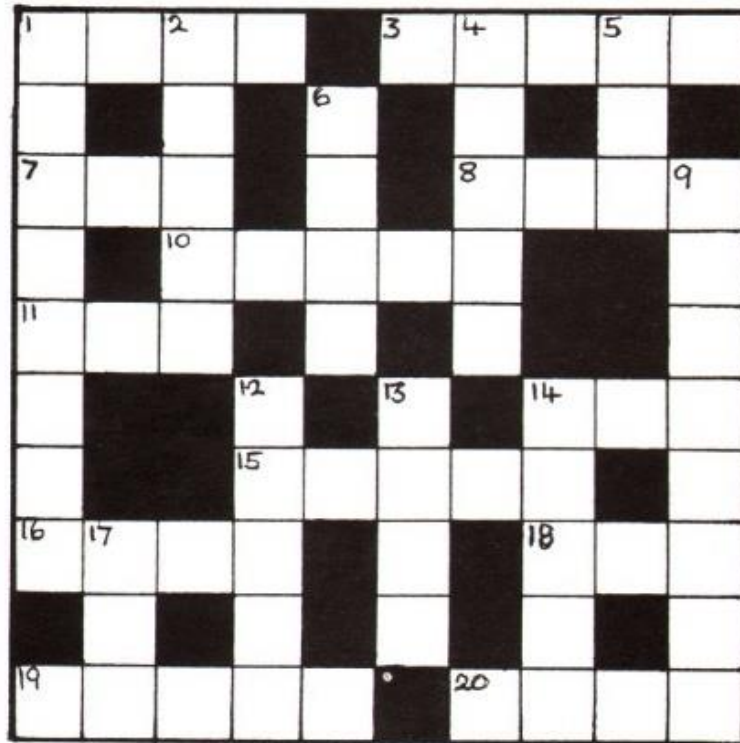
He also sells prime Scotch beef from Aberdeen, mainly for the catering trade, and his home cooked gammons are also much in demand by caterers. Meat specially cut and prepared for domestic deep freezing is another expanding part of his business.

For the Christmas trade he rears his own turkeys and sells between 1000 and 1200 every year. However, he says beef is now becoming increasingly popular at Christmas time, probably because turkeys and chickens are eaten throughout the year and are no longer regarded as a "treat". Ducks, geese, local venison, pheasant and partridge are other choices he offers.

Bill Jefcoate has been a butcher since the age of 14, when he was apprenticed to the trade in his home town of Rochdale in Lancashire. Now 68, he says he has no intention of retiring - he is fit and enjoys his work too much. Invaluable help on the clerical side is given by his wife Edith.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Here's an easy crossword with a seasonal flavour, compiled by your Editor. The solution is on page 19, but try not to cheat. No prizes, just award yourself another mince pie if you complete it in five minutes.



ACROSS

1. Seasonal boy's name. (4)
3. Christmas hymn. (5)
7. Hard stuff to add to drinks. (3)
8. Swallow hastily. (4)
10. Snore (Anag.)
11. We overdo this at Christmas! (3)
14. One of the animals at the Nativity. (3)
15. Kingdom. (5)
16. Slacken. (4)
18. Play on words. (3)
19. Decorative evergreen. (5)
20. Not so much. (4)

DOWN

1. Small pieces of meat cooked in a certain way. (8)
2. Important happening. (5)
4. Heavenly messenger. (5)
5. It makes the wheels go round. (3)
6. For playing with or sending a greeting. (4)
9. Many are given at Christmas. (8)
12. Fisherman's basket. (5)
13. The Wise Men came from this quarter. (4)
14. Abundant. (5)
17. Fuss. (3)

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

A) What was or are the numbers of:

- 1) The Muses.
- 2) The Graces.
- 3) The Deadly Sins.
- 4) The Labours of Hercules.
- 5) The days in a Leap Year.
- 6) The major planets.

B) What were these animals and for what famed:

- 1) Bucephalus.
- 2) Rosinante.
- 3) Rikki-tikki-tavy.
- 4) Black Beauty.
- 5) Bagheera.
- 6) Lassie.
- 7) Moby Dick.
- 8) Flush.

C) What delicious article of food or drink is recalled by these places:

- 1) Colchester.
- 2) York.
- 3) Bourneville
- 4) Jamaica.
- 5) Plymouth.
- 6) Smyrna.
- 7) Jaffa.
- 8) Oxford.

D) Add surnames to:

- 1) Sir Isaac.
- 2) Sir Josuha.
- 3) Sir Christopher.
- 4) Sir Humphry.
- 5) Sir Walter.
- 6) Sir Robert.
- 7) Sir Alfred.
- 8) Sir Alexander.

E) Who painted these famous pictures:

- 1) Mona Lisa.
- 2) The Laughing Cavalier.
- 3) The Blue Boy.
- 4) The betrothal of the Arnolfini.
- 5) Mount Sainte Victoire.
- 6) Walter Lilies, Giverny.
- 7) The Birth of Venus.
- 8) The Haywain.

F) What were or are these "goldens":

- 1) The Golden Gate.
- 2) The Golden Horn.
- 3) The Golden Fleece.
- 4) The Golden Hind.
- 5) The Golden Treasury.
- 6) The Golden City.

Advice to housewives

Get ivy and hull, woman, deck up thine house,
 And take this same brawn for to seethe and to souse;
 Provide us good cheer, for thou knowest the old guise,
 Old customs that good be, let no man despise.
 At Christmas be merry and thank God of all,
 And feast thy poor neighbours, the great and the small.
 Yea, all the year long have an eye to the poor,
 And God shall send luck to keep open thy door.
 Good fruit and good plenty do well in thy loft,
 Then lay for an orchard and cherish it oft.
 The profit is mickle, the pleasure is much;
 At pleasure with profit few wise men will grutch.
 For plants and for stocks lay aforehand to cast,
 But set or remove them while Twelvetide do last.

Thomas Tusser (1524-80)

Traditional Mulled Wine

1 bottle home made elderberry wine, or
 1 bottle cheap red wine
 ¼ pint water
 4 oz brown or white sugar
 Small wine glass brandy (optional)
 2 cinnamon sticks
 6 cloves
 orange slices

Put all ingredients in a saucepan and gently warm, being careful not to boil. Stir gently to ensure sugar is dissolved and flavours mixed. Ladle carefully into strong stemmed glasses.

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LOOK BACK

A 17th century tourist

Celia Fiennes was the daughter of a Cromwellian colonel and a lady of remarkable originality and independence. In the last two decades of the 17th century she undertook a complete tour of the English counties and described what she saw in her "Journeys". Her inimitable style, with its eccentric spelling, gives a delightful insight into the social and economic conditions of her day.

In 1697 she was travelling in Kent and came to Tunbridge Wells to drink the waters – Tunbridge Wells was by this time the most fashionable of the spas.

"They have made the Wells very comodious by the many good buildings all about it and 2 or 3 mile round, which are Lodgings for the Company that drinke the waters, and they have increased their buildings so much that makes them very cheap; all people buy their own provision at the Market which is just by the Wells and furnish'd with great plenty of all sorts flesh fowle and fish, and in great plenty is brought from Rhye and Deale etc., this being the road to London."

Writing about Walke, later to become the Pantiles, she notes "shoppes full of all sorts of toys, silver, china, milliners, and all sorts of curious wooden ware, which this place is noted for the delicate neate and thin ware of wood both white and Lignum vitae wood; besides which there are two large Coffee houses for Tea, Chocolate etc., and two roomes for the Lottery and Hazard board; these are all built with an arch or pent

house beyond the shops some of which are supported by pillars like a peasa (piaza), which is paved with brick and stone for the drye walking of the Company in raine . . ."

At the end of the Walke she says "there are severall buildings just about the Well where are severall apothecary's shops there is also a roome for the post house; the Post comes every day and returns every day all the while the season of drinking the waters is, from London and to it, . . . you pay a penny Extraordinary for being brought from Tunbridge town which is 4 mile distance, that being a post town, you likewise have the conveniency of Coaches every day from London for 8 shillings apiece dureing the whole season and Carriers twice a week."

On one of her sorties out of Tunbridge Wells she came through Pembury. "I went by Calvery (Calverley) Plaine and Woodsgate and so to a little market town called Branklye (Brenchley), the way is much thro' lanes being an enclosed Country for the most part." On another outing she "went from Wells to Rye 31 miles, by Ambursly (Lamberhurst) 8 mile, this was good way being a drye summer, otherwise its deep being clay for the most part; I passed much through lanes and little villages . . ."

Celia Fiennes thought very highly of the spring waters at Tunbridge "which I have dranke many years with great advantage, they are from the Steele and Iron mines, very quick springs especially one well . . ."

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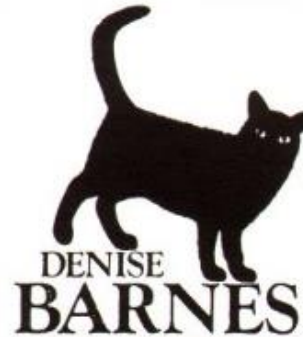
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YOUR CLERK REPORTS

As part of the Parish Council's drive to reduce costs in the administration of the Parish you will be aware that Councillors have over the last few years been updating the Parish's street lighting to Kent County standards, so that the energy and maintenance costs for the village lighting can be transferred to the County Council.

All members of the Parish Council are well aware of the very poor lighting conditions in many parts of the village and are making every effort to up-date as many roads as soon as possible.

Next year it is hoped that the Parish Council will obtain the necessary approval to raise the money to install better and brighter lights in some of the worst areas in the Parish.

The main improvements will be seen in Lower Green Road and Maidstone Road, where it is hoped to erect additional lamp standards and to raise the level of lighting. Extra standards to improve lighting in Amberleaze Drive,

Belfield Road, Bulls Place, The Meadow and Stonecourt Lane will be put in at the same time.

The only areas in the Parish that will then be left under the management of the Parish Council will be Henwood Green Road, Kings Toll Road, Romford Road and Woodside Road.

If you want to report any lighting faults in the above mentioned roads, please contact me on Pembury 3459. To report any faults in all other roads in Pembury, which are now the responsibility of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as agents for the Kent County Council, please ring the Borough Council's Street Lighting Department at the Town Hall on Tunbridge Wells (9) 26121.

As usual at this time of year, may I end my Report by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Henry Plant
Clerk to the Council

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

At St. Peter's

Sunday 17 December: 6.30pm The Parish Carol Service in the Old Church
Wednesday 20 December: 2.00pm Carol Service for Retired Folk. All welcome in the Upper Church.
Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve - All services in the Upper Church. 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.45am The Parish Communion; 3.00pm Crib building and carols, a Family Service;
11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass.
Monday 25 December: Christmas Day.
9.45am Family Service - Holy Communion in the Upper Church. 11.30am Holy Communion in the Old Church.

At the Free Church

Sunday 17 December: Carol Service at 6.30pm
Sunday 24 December: Carol Services at 10am and 6.30pm
Monday 25 December: Christmas Service at 10am
Sunday 31 December: Praise Party at 8pm through to the New Year

At the Catholic Church Hall

Sunday 24 December: 8.00pm Mass
Monday 25 December - Christmas Day: 9am Mass

CROSSWORD SOLUTION:

Across 1. Noel 3. Carol 7. Ice 8. Gulp 10. Norse 11. Eat 14. Ass 15. Realm 16. Ease 18. Pun 19. Holly 20. Less
Down 1. Noisette 2. Event 4. Angel 5. Oil 6. Card 9. Presents 12. Creel 13. East 14. Ample 17. Ado

ANSWERS TO QUIZ:

A) 1) Nine 2) Three 3) Seven 4) Twelve 5) 366 6) Eight.
B) 1) Alexander the Great's horse 2) Don Quixote's horse
3) Mongoose in The Jungle Book 4) Autobiographical horse in famous story 5) Black panther in The Jungle Book 6) Canine film star 7) Whale hunted by Captain Ahab in novel 8) Elizabeth Barrett Browning's pet dog.
C) 1) Oysters 2) Ham 3) Chocolate and cocos 4) Rum 5) Gin 6) Figs 7) Oranges 8) Marmalade.
D) 1) Newton 2) Reynolds 3) Wren 4) Davy 5) Raleigh or Scott 6) Peel 7) Munnings 8) Fleming.
E) 1) Leonardo da Vinci 2) Franz Hals 3) Gainsborough 4) Jan van Eyck 5) Cezanne 6) Monet 7) Botticelli 8) Constable.
F) 1) Harbour mouth of San Francisco 2) At Constantinople (Istanbul) 3) Taken by Jason and the Argonauts 4) Drake's ship 5) Collection of English songs and poems 6) El Dorado, fabled city of the Incas.



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PEMBURY

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