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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 76 / Winter 1993



MODERNISING
CAMDEN COURT
- PICTURES
AND STORY

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Viewpoint

The people of Pembury will be tucking into their Christmas dinners with lighter hearts now that they know a decision has been made about the Woodsgate Corner site. The Secretary of State's rejection of the Tesco Supermarket application may perhaps disappoint some (though not the local traders), but there is surely universal relief about the axing of the Park and Ride scheme with its threat of barren concrete expanses in a designated Green Belt area.

A superstore's own large car park can cause enough problems bringing increased car thefts or vandalism, as PC Paul Brown spelt out when he spoke to the Pembury Society recently, but the prospect of cars coming in from miles around in order to park here and then shop in Tunbridge Wells was one nobody in the village relished. So, three cheers for Mr Gummer.

Thefts of or from motor vehicles still form the largest percentage of crime in Pembury – Paul Brown gives the details in his article – but wanton damage to village property such as the pavilions, notice boards and playground equipment is also a continuing concern. Repairs or replacements are expensive, the vandals are local, so surely we can tackle this. Barbara Russell makes a plea for increased vigilance and letting the Police know immediately when any such incidents are seen: that seems a good starting point.

It's heartening to see the old chestnut tree on the Village Green gradually recovering after its major pruning – by next summer it should have regained more height and more of its proper shape. Trees are so important in the landscape - or villagescape - so it is reassuring to know that the Parish Council keeps such a watchful eye on our trees and carries out a careful planting programme. In the coming year, for instance, one oak tree, six black poplars and five silver birch are to be planted at Woodside, two birch trees on the Recreation Ground, a Scots Pine on the Lower Green Burial Ground and 25 beech hedging plants at the Old Church along the border with Kent College Drive. The High Weald Project is also to develop a community woodland at Marshleyharbour and Forest Woods in Pembury and there'll be more news of this in our next issue.

Still on the subject of our environment, members of the Evening Women's Institute and Cllr Wilkes, the village tree warden, have planted daffodil and crocus bulbs on the Village Green, so we look forward to a blaze of colour next spring.

Finally, best wishes to all readers for a very happy Christmas – but don't forget, if you're driving say no to the drinks!

Editor

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR Elizabeth Repath Pembury Village News is published four times a year by the Parish Council, but the views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent official council opinion or policy. Typeset and printed by Optyca Printing Ltd, East Peckham.



Four past chairmen of Pembury Society came to the society's 21st anniversary celebration held in Pippins Farm Shop in September. From the left are Mrs Jacqueline Holland, Mr Stan Brearley, Mr Kenneth Cowlam and, far right, Mr Robert Saunders. The present chairman, Mr Ron Abbott, is second on the right. The Pembury Society was originally founded by Cyril Masterman and now has some 450 members.

At the front entrance to Camden Court are its warden Mrs June Kench (left) with Borough Councillor Mrs Sylvia Abbott, both of whom have been closely involved with the modernisation of this sheltered housing which is now nearing completion. There is a feature article about this scheme on the centre pages and Sylvia Abbott has also written a Profile of June Kench which appears on page nine.



IN BRIEF

THE bopping, jiving, twisting community in Pembury will be pleased to learn that another 'groovy' Sixties Disco is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 29 January 1994. A nostalgic evening of music of the fifties and sixties era is provided by the popular Solid Gold Time Machine. This is the third Sixties Disco organised by St Peter's Church, each one a sell out. Don't be disappointed, get your tickets early, priced £3.00 each from Pembury 822386 or 824327.

THE fifth annual Village Quiz was the best yet, with 27 teams taking part.
Winners were the Big As with 118½ points, but hot on their heels were the Friends of

Pembury Parish Church on 118 points, while The Quickies at third place had 116% points. Some £280 was raised by the event and this will go towards the rebuilding of the Arthur Penn Pavilion at the Woodside Ground.

ACTIVITIES for children under eight will be held at Pembury Library on Wednesday 22 December from 10.30 to 11.15 a.m. Crayons or felt-tip pens will be needed for making Christmas decorations. The library also has on display a wall picture on the theme of hops created by three classes from Pembury School under the guidance of Martin Ursell, a children's book illustrator.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

In the Upp	per Church			
Friday	Christmas Eve	3.00 p.m.	Crib Building and Carols	
			A service for all the family	
		11.30 p.m.	The Midnight Mass	
Saturday	CHRISTMAS DAY	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
		9.45 a.m.	EUCHARIST and CAROLS	
Sunday	26 December	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
		9.45 a.m.	The Parish Eucharist	
In the Old	Church			
Saturday	CHRISTMAS DAY	11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion and Carols	
Sunday	26 December	NO Morning Service		
		6.30 p.m.	THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE	

Carol services

Caron	SCIVICES			
Sunday	12 December	Pembury School Choir and Orchestra		
		in the Upper Church at 6.30 p.m.		
Wednesday 15 December		Carols and Readings for the 'Retired'		
		in the Upper Church at 2.30 p.m.		
Sunday	26 December	THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE		
		in the Old Church at 6.30 p.m.		

Councillors Comment

From a cursory glance, the two communities of Pembury and Ronchin make an unlikely pairing – the one resonant with rolling countryside, the other set cheek by jowl with a vibrant European city. An erstwhile village clinging to fading traditions, and an emerging industrial town mixing modern estates with socialist principles. At home, a recreation ground and a couple of football pitches; away, an indoor swimming pool, purpose-built covered tennis courts, football/hockey/baseball complex and more. Two cultures separated by channel, tradition and language?

Yet this 'attraction of opposites' is confirmed by all those who have taken part in exchanges – from both sides of the channel. The warmth of feeling and hospitality experienced by Pembury visitors to Ronchin is well known and Ronchin visitors have commented in an exactly similar way on the welcome they have received in Pembury. (British reserve usually melts when confronted by French joie de vivre!)

There is a contagious desire, from both communities, to make contact, to understand and appreciate each other's way of life and to enjoy our contrasting surroundings. Kent is in fact now twinned with Nord Pas de Calais, the North-East corner of France in which Ronchin is situated (alongside Lille). What about the journey? Well, it takes about 4½ hours, including ferry time, and when the tunnel opens it could be even quicker by train.

Thus far, the exchanges that have taken place have involved Football Clubs, Schools and about a dozen individuals. Last year, the Pembury Rovers Football Club took 21 players and friends for an enjoyably convivial weekend, and this year played host to a return party from the Union Sportive de Ronchin. Also this year, Pembury School took 28 children to Ronchin for a very successful visit. Then they hosted an even larger return party of Ronchin children a month later. Many embryo friendships have been formed.

The questionnaire recently distributed with the help of the Parish Council – have you returned yours? – together with the snap survey carried out at the village fete found



overwhelming support for Pembury's Frenchlink. There were however, a number of requests for more information about Ronchin, and the Pembury/Ronchin Friendship Association (PRFA) will be responding to these in the months ahead,

Jim Smith, newly elected Chairman of the PRFA, has excellent first hand experience – having organised and taken part in both football exchanges. He likens the coalmining N-E of France with the N-E of England, another area renowned for its warmth of feeling and generosity. In his own words – Vive la difference, long live friendship!

John Hawker

Police Update In Pembury

Annual Crime Figures

From 1 October 1992 to 1 October 1993 there were 256 crimes reported in Pembury. Pembury Hospital has been excluded from these figures as it is, in some respects, a separate community with its own unique problems.

A crime is separately defined from, say, traffic offences and the most common crimes in our area are theft of, or from, motor vehicles, burglaries, criminal damage and assaults. Of these 256 crimes, 132 were connected with motor vehicles, either stolen, broken into or damaged. I cannot stress enough the importance of motor vehicle security and urge everybody not only to secure your car, but also to invest in some type of immobiliser or alarm. These devices cannot give total security but they can often delay or deter any offender from stealing or damaging your vehicle. They can be purchased not only from garages or car accessory shops, but from catalogues and mail order.

Car radios and stereos are another temptation to thieves. Many cars now have stereos that can be lifted out when you leave your car. These are a good idea, but no use if people leave them in the car!

Twenty eight house burglaries occurred in the village, six more than last year, and ten non-dwelling burglaries, 13 less than last year. These are one of the most distressing incidents of which to be the victim, so if any resident believes they are seeing a burglary in progress, try and dial 999 immediately. We would rather attend and there be a reasonable explanation than not attend at all. Do not be afraid to call the Police in these matters.

There were 47 other types of theft reported, ranging from bottles of milk off front doorsteps to garden equipment, an increase of five from last year. The two village filling stations suffer a large number of 'bilkings' – people running off without payment.

There has also been a marked increase in 'internal' thefts, for example from offices or shared accommodation. It's a poor reflection on society, but people are perhaps too trusting of people they do not know very well. On the positive side, the increase in crime is relatively small compared to last year and pedal cycle theft in the village has reduced dramatically.

Drink Driving

Along with turkey, mistletoe, Santa Claus and the sound of music comes the Police Christmas Drink Drive offensive. No doubt this year will be no less vigorous than last. As well as conventional road checks, remember that if you are committing a moving vehicle offence, or involved in an accident, you will be breath tested automatically. We all have a different metabolism, so there is no safe limit as regards alcohol. It's simpler not to drink and drive at all.

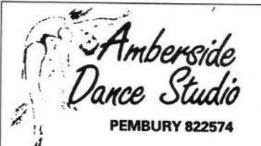
PC Paul Brown

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Profile

June Kench

June Kench has been the warden at Camden Court Sheltered Housing Scheme for six years; previously, she was the warden at a sheltered scheme in Hawkhurst. She is a qualified nurse and after training at Eastbourne General Hospital and working at Pembury and the Kent and Sussex Hospitals she decided that she would like to care for elderly people. She feels that the residents at Camden Court are her 'family' and that the residents and the warden support each other to create a good atmosphere.

During the past two years June has helped her elderly ladies and gentlemen through two very difficult periods. Last year the scheme was handed over to the High Weald Housing Association and some tenants were very concerned about this transfer – elderly people worry about changes. Some had been council tenants all their lives and feared any changes might not be good ones.

Since last July Camden Court has been gradually renovated to provide up-to-date accommodation for 14 residents. June has helped to solve their problems, keep them all content and assisted them move while the work has been going on. One lady has moved three times but is how happily living in her new bungalow. A big celebration is planned when the long overdue renovations are complete.

June has not had an easy life, bringing up her daughter Julie alone. Both she and her daughter trained as nurses together 20 years



ago and now Julie is married with a family of her own and lives not far from Pembury.

June is a vegetarian who is very fond of animals and is most concerned about cruelty to animals. Some years ago she visited Nigeria and was horrified at the terrible cruelty to animals there. Her two dogs, Muffin and Minty, were rescued from an animal sanctuary; she loves them very much and spoils them both without shame. She feeds at least three stray cats, encourages squirrels and hedgehogs to come for food every day and a fox is also a regular visitor.

June's hobbies are reading, knitting and she recently took up tapestry work and is becoming quite an expert. She loves Pembury and enjoys meeting people when she walks her dogs. Her main ambition is to see the old part of Camden Court renovated before she retires. She says: 'My elderly residents deserve modern homes.'

Everyone is so glad that her ambition will soon be realised. June hopes to continue to do something useful to serve the community after she retires, and would prefer to remain in Pembury with her friendly dogs and not too far from Camden Court.



The Camden Arms, one of a set of sketches of Pembury village scenes by James Holland, produced as postcards by the Pembury Society. Ring Don Oke on 923321 for further details.

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THE BOOKWORM'S QUIZ

Here's a literary quiz for the keen reader. All the questions are about very well known works or authors, so find a pencil and paper, settle down and make it a family contest. Winner gets another mince pie, losers get two! The answers are on page 19.

- Brush up your Shakespeare. Here are some familiar quotations, but who was the speaker and in which play?
 - a) 'A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse.';
 b) 'Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.';
 - c) 'To sleep, perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub.'; d) 'I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips, straining upon the start.';
 - e) 'When shall we three meet again.
 In thunder, lightning or in rain?';
 f) 'Goodnight, goodnight! parting is
 - such sweet sorrow That I shall say goodnight till it be morrow.'
- What plays of Shakespeare are about, or contain:
 - a) Witches; b) Fairies; c) An island;
 - d) A forest; e) Twin brothers;
 - f) Twin brother and sister.
- 3. Which authors created the following sleuths?
 - a) Miss Marple;
 b) Inspector
 Maigret;
 c) Adam Dalgleish;
 d) Philip Marlowe;
 e) Albert
 Campion;
 f) Brother Cadfael
- 4. Literary journeys: who wrote?
 - a) 'Travels with a donkey';
 - b) Journey to the Centre of the Earth';

- c) 'Three Men in a Boat';
- d) 'Travels with my Aunt';
- e) '2001: A Space Odyssey'
- 5. Literary dogs real and fictional: to whom did these dogs belong?
 - a) Toto; b) Flush; c) Nana;
 - d) Bull's-eye; d) Montmorency
- Literary families: give the family names of:
 - a) Brother and sister, both great poets; b) Husband and wife, both great poets; c) Two sisters, both novelists; d) Sister (poet) and two brothers (writers).
- Literary lovers: name the beloveds of the following:
 - a) Jane Eyre; b) John Knightley;
 - c) Scarlet O'Hara; d) Lancelot
- Literary houses: which famous writers lived in or at
 - a) Lamb House, Rye; b) Bateman's;
 - c) Sissinghurst Castle; d) Gadshill;
 - e) Chawton; f) Ayot St Lawrence
- The first Poet Laureate was appointed in 1668 – who was he?
- 10. Who is the present Poet Laureate and who did he succeed?

NEW LOOK FOR CAMDEN COURT

Camden Court, Pembury's oldest sheltered housing development, is undergoing a £270,000 modernisation scheme which is due to be completed in the New Year.

Built in the 1950s by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, it provided one room accommodation for some 27 elderly folk. When the High Weald Housing Association acquired Camden Court in 1992 and took over its management, its first priority was to raise the quality of this accommodation to meet the standards of the 1990s.

This has meant linking two bed-sitting rooms to create one spacious bungalow with a bedroom, lounge, well-fitted kitchen and bathroom. Each of the 14 new bungalows also have new double-glazed windows, individual central heating and hot water boiler, airing cupboard, electric split level oven and separate hob. Outside, new Yorkstone paved paths and patios include ramps for wheelchairs.

Mrs Peggy Harris, who is 75 years old and has lived in Camden Court for nearly nine years, was among the first to move into one of the modernised bungalows. She described it as very comfortable, airy and bright and is delighted with her new home.

The cost of this major modernisation programme has been kept low – about £20,000 for each new bungalow – because all the work has been carried out by the HWHA's own workforce.

Mrs Ethel Weller, 82, in the kitchen recess of her former bed-sitting room, where she cooked on a Baby Belling and had very little storage space. She is now housed in one of Camden Court's modernised bungalows.

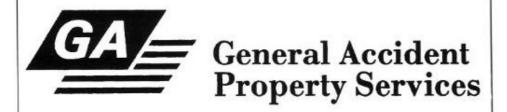




Cooking is a pleasure for Mrs Peggy Harris in her modern, well-equipped kitchen with its split level oven and plenty of work surfaces.

Mrs Peggy Harris at ease in the spacious lounge of her new home at Camden Court.





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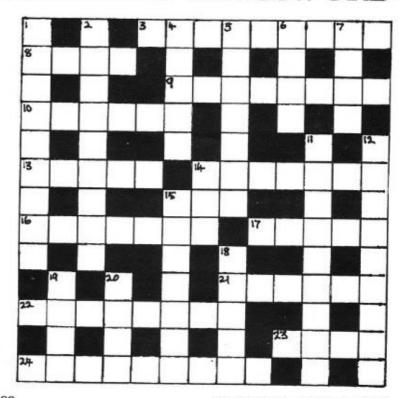
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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 3 Better place this before 'Time' (4,5)
- 8 Take notice (4)
- 9 It's nice when a country worker embraces a learner (8)
- 10 Wintry appendage? (6)
- 13 Edible rubbish (5)
- 14 Has he a veto on bringing a ship to a standstill? (5,2)
- 15 Total (3)
- 16 It's really hard for a female to take on a worker (7)
- 17 Unpleasant way to interrupt a negative statement
- 21 It can be let in or laid (6)
- 22 Rent rags (anagram) (8)
- 23 Silvery, full, new or harvest? (4)

24 Removed - all your cash? (9)

DOWN

- 1 Festive season (9)
- 2 Penultimate match (9)
- 4 Type of poplar (5)
- 5 The proposition is for them to take in mineral deposit (7)
- 6 Impetuous spots (4)
- 7 Sea eagle (4)
- 11 Personal feeling can be an outrage (9)
- 12 Counterpoint in music (9)
- 15 Secretive laugh (7)
- 18 You're mad to have this loose! (5)
- 19 Needlecase (4)
- You're in a stew when you make this (4)

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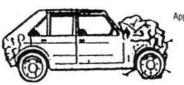
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Your Clerk Reports...

October 5th saw the start of the Public Inquiry into the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan Deposit Copy 1992. The Parish Council had agreed that I should represent them and so it was with some trepidation that I went along to the Council Chamber at the Town Hall. I gave evidence for the first time on Wednesday 6th over land that the Inspector was being asked to recommend removal from the Green Belt. It was here that I had my first taste of what toast must feel like in the morning. I was grilled.

However, I believe that it is very important for the 'little man' to have his say and it became less daunting, as time went on. I have to say that I am not a planning expert and intricate details regarding planning matters have me more than slightly confused especially when arguments rage between planning experts. It will be a good thing for the residents of the Borough when this plan is formally adopted as it will enable people to be aware of what development could take place over the next ten years and what areas will be safeguarded from encroachment.

On other matters, the green pavilion in the recreation ground and the notice board at the entrance have, once again, suffered at the hands of vandals. The cost of repairs was nearly £700. This money has to be found by the charge-payers of Pembury, you and me, money that cannot now be spent on further equipment for ALL to enjoy. And still the pavilion is being vandalised. Less than a week after the repairs were carried out another tile had

been knocked off the roof. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? Please contact the Police if you have any information. Together we will crack it.

Barbara Russell Clerk to the Council 6 The Grove Pembury 823103

BOOKWORM QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. a) Richard III b) Mark Anthony in 'Julius Caesar' c) Hamlet d) Henry V
- e) First witch in 'Macbeth' f) Juliet in 'Romeo and Juliet'
- 2. a) 'Macbeth' b) 'Midsummer Night's Dream'
- c) 'The Tempest' d) 'As you like it' e) 'Comedy of Errors' f) Twelfth Night'
- 3. a) Agatha Christie b) Georges Simenon
- c) P.D. James d) Raymond Chandler
- e) Margery Allingham f) Ellis Peters
- 4. a) R.L. Stevenson b) Jules Verne
- c) Jerome K. Jerome d) Graham Greene
- e) Arthur C. Clarke.
- 5. a) Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz'
- b) Blizabeth Barrett Browning c) The Darling Family in 'Peter Pan and Wendy' d) Bill Sykes
- in 'Oliver Twist' e) The three men in a boat
- 6. a) Rossetti b) Browning c) Bronte
- d) Sitwell
- 7. a) Mr Rochester b) Emma Woodhouse
- c) Rhett Butler d) Elizabeth Bennet
- e) Guinevere
- 8. a) Henry James b) Rudyard Kipling
- c) Vita Sackville-west d) Charles Dickens
- e) Jane Austen f) George Bernard Shaw
- 9. John Dryden
- 10. Ted Hughes, John Betjeman

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 3 Last order. 8 Heed. 9 Pleasant. 10 Icicle.
- 13 Tripe. 14 Heave to. 15 Sum.
- 16 Adamant, 17 Nasty, 21 Clutch,
- 22 Stranger. 23 Moon. 24 Withdrawn. DOWN
- 1 Christmas. 2 Semifinal. 4 Aspen.
- 5 Theorem, 6 Rash, 7 Erne, 11 Sensation,
- 12 Polyphony. 15 Snigger. 18 Screw.
- 19 Etui. 20 Hash.



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Parish Council

Mr Ron Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031

Mr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Rd. Tel: 823068 Chairman Planning Committee

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

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Mrs H. Swinden, 6 Church Road. Tel: 823378

Capt. Tony Pearson, Pembury YMCA.

Tel: 823330

FOR YOUR DIARY

JAN 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers: walk starting from Stonecourt Lane 2.15 pm.

4 Darby and Joan Club: meeting Village Hall 2-4.30pm.

6 Afternoon WI: A talk by Mrs Olive Dickens on Sugarcraft, Village Hall 2.15pm.

7 Evening WI: 'Library Service' talk by Mrs Ruth Thompson, Village Hall 7.45pm.

10 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8pm.

18 Darby and Joan Club: meeting Village Hall 2-4.30pm.

31 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8pm.

FEB 1 Darby and Joan Club: meeting Village Hall 2-4.30pm.

3 Afternoon WI: 'Passage to India', a talk by Mrs Jean Morley, Village Hall 2.15pm.

Evening WI: A talk on clay pottery by Mrs Helen Whall, Village Hall 7.45pm.

5 Pembury Footpath Walkers: walk starting from the Camden car park 2.15pm.

15 Darby and Joan Club: meeting Village Hall 2-4.30pm.

21 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8pm.

24 Horticultural Society: AGM Village Hall 8pm.

MAR 1 Darby and Joan Club: meeting Village Hall 2-4.30pm.

3 Afternoon WI: Miss Sylvia Whittle to talk about hearing dogs for the deaf, Village Hall 2.15pm.

4 Evening WI: A talk on link family scheme by Marina Newton and Anita Turner, Village Hall 7.45pm.

Pembury Footpath Walkers: walk starting from Bo-Peep Corner 2.15pm.

14 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8pm.

15 Darby and Joan Club: meeting Village Hall 2-4.30pm.

21 Horticultural Society: Floral Art demonstration by Mrs Betty Hendley, Village Hall 8pm.

24 Horticultural Society: Talk on propagation by Mr Laurence Manser, Village Hall 8pm.

29 Darby and Joan Club: meeting Village Hall 2–4.30pm.

20 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, Village Hall 8pm.

Every Friday - Pembury Village Market - Village Hall 9.45 -11.15am Every Monday - Pembury Sequence Dance Club - Catholic Hall 7.45-10.15pm

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY

Mrs H. Swinden, 6 Church Road, Tel: 823378