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PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 85 / Spring 1996



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL IS ON MONDAY 25TH MARCH 1996 AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL - DON'T MISS IT!

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Comment

BY the time you read this it is likely that the Borough Council will finally have formally adopted the Tunbridge Wells Local Plan.

Generally, Pembury has done extremely well out of the Local Plan proposals and the village now has a tight Metropolitan Green Belt line drawn right around it. This will ensure the protection of the surrounding countryside for many years to come and that the green border between the village and the by-passes remains. It will also stop Pembury becoming a suburb of Tunbridge Wells.

The one area of continuing concern, however, is Woodsgate Corner.

In the Local Plan, the Green Belt line in this one area has been moved down to the by-pass by the Borough Council even though there have been strong objections from the Parish Council and other local bodies. The worry is that the Borough Council's proposals for this site – a substantial 'Park and Ride Scheme' – seems unlikely to be carried out in the near future; at the very least because there is no money available for it. It therefore seems highly questionable for the Borough

Council to remove it from the protection of the Green Belt for if 'Park and Ride' does not proceed (or is introduced and then fails) the site will be wide open for unsuitable future development.

On a more positive note, the portion of the site next to the High Street has been earmarked for a modest supermarket (about the size of Somerfield in Paddock Wood) with designated car parking, good landscaping and the very real possibility of a new Community Hall for Pembury.

Although the Parish Council has been consulting with local organisations about a new Community Hall, there has been little feedback from them.

Do you think we need a new Community Hall?

Do you think it is a good idea to try to get one on the Woodsgate site if a supermarket goes ahead?

Please write to the Parish Council to let us know your views.

David Coleman
Chairman
Pembury Parish Council.

Editorial Committee:

Henry Plant (Chairman), Patrick Gillan, Kit Kelly, Gill Matthews and Betty Roberts

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Any news items or articles for possible inclusion in the next issue of this Magazine must be forwarded to the Editor before 20th April 1996.

PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR
Henry Plant
16 The Coppice
Tel: 823459

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James Holland O.B.E.

WE regret to have to record the death, on the 7th January 1996, after a short illness, of Mr. James (Jim) Holland. A Service of thanksgiving was held at St. Peter's Parish (Old) Church on Wednesday 24th January where a large congregation heard readings by members of his family and an address by the Reverend Francis Stephens ARCA, an old friend and colleague. The church had been beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion.

Jim was one of Pembury's more distinguished figures and well known to many of us. He was born in Gillingham, in Kent, and early showed the artistic talent which was to lead through the Royal College of Art to his life's work and pleasure. The more outstanding of his achievements, at least as far as the County was concerned, were during the last war in his work for the Ministry of Information, including the creation of posters in support of the war effort and then, in 1951, after the war, for the Festival of Britain when he was, inter alia, responsible for the setting up of the Festival Exhibition ship which visited ports around Britain. For this he was appointed O.B.E.

At this time he worked with, or maybe against, many notable politicians, distinguished artists, and men of letters. Obituary notices have appeared in *the Independent*, *the Guardian* and *The Times* newspapers giving more details of his life and work.



He had lived in Pembury for some 30 years or so and this connection has been of great benefit to the village. His wife, Jackie, was the first chairman of the Pembury Society as well as a Parish Councillor. Jim also was Vice Chairman of the Society for some years. He never really retired but continued with his painting and sketching right up to the end and he had made for nearly all this time a small weekly painting class where his (perhaps somewhat profound) philosophy was that it is better for a pupil to learn than to be taught. His and some of his pupils' paintings have been shown at Exhibitions he organised in the locality.

It is difficult to think of anyone who has made a more varied contribution to the community life of Pembury than Jim Holland. Some of his more visible works still to be seen are the Bo-peep sign, the pert young lady depicted therein being used also for the label for the Parish Council's Centenary Wine bottles; the six paintings in the doctors' surgery at Waterfield House; the large contour map of Pembury which used to hang in the Council Chamber in the Dower House and is now with the School; and the windows at the waterworks where he persuaded the builders to adopt his modified design to give them more character.

All this accompanied by a most cheerful, unassuming, courteous and dignified manner.

Robert Saunders

THE REVEREND STEPHEN SEALY – OUR NEW INCUMBENT

STEPHEN SEALY was born in Hampshire in 1952. After secondary education at Churcher's College, Petersfield he joined a British Rail training scheme for school leavers and worked in a variety of administrative and clerical positions on the Southern Region for eight years. During this time he joined the choir of Portsmouth Cathedral and, as a way of exploring the possibility of ministry in the Church, took up the post of Cathedral Verger in 1979, leaving behind his railway career. In 1983, Stephen went to King's College, London to read Theology and after graduation moved to Lincoln Theological College for two years to prepare for ordination. He was ordained in the Portsmouth diocese and served as curate in the Parish of Botley from 1988 to 1991. He was then appointed Precentor of Canterbury Cathedral, a post which involves the organisation and administration of Cathedral services and much else besides.



Stephen is unmarried. He counts among his particular interests singing (a counter-tenor voice), railways old and new, a love of cricket (though no skill as a player!) and the poetry of John Betjeman. His parents live in retirement in Dorset and he has two married brothers in the south-west.

Stephen intends to take up his duties in May.

GILL'S GARDEN

Tasks for Spring

Any digging should be done by the end of this month if the weather is suitable; delay this if the ground is wet. Any bare rooted trees and shrubs should be planted as well as roses by April. Prune deciduous trees that flower in the late summer, except those that 'bleed' heavily. Feed and mulch established shrubs in early spring. Top-dress any shrubs in containers. Prune shrubs that flower on new wood and all hydrangeas and roses by April. Coppice plants grown for summer foliage and winter stems.

Climbing plants can be planted in prepared ground or containers. Clematis can look effective when grown around stakes positioned 'wig-wam' style, remembering to keep the roots in the shade. A few runner beans can be grown in a similar way in a flower border. Clear any debris from borders to discourage slugs. Large clumps

of perennials should be dug up and divided, new plants being replanted in groups of three.

Used plastic drink bottles with the bottom removed, when placed over plants such as delphiniums can protect plants from both slug and wind damage.

Summer flowering bulbs such as gladioli can be planted. Hanging baskets can be planted remembering to use water retention crystals. Many herbs can be grown effectively in either pots or hanging baskets. Strawberries and tomato plants - variety Pixie and Tumbler - can be grown in this way. Seeds sown indoors for bedding can be planted outside when there is no danger of frost. Stocks of fuchsia and regal pelargonium (geraniums) can be increased by taking cuttings. The ground should be mulched and general fertiliser added. If bulbs are grown in a lawn their leaves should be tied back and left to die down naturally before the grass is cut.

Gill Matthews

PEMBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARE YOU planning a holiday, taking up a new hobby, trying a new recipe or do you just want to curl up and wile away an hour or two with a good adventure yarn? Look no further than your local library.

Pembury Library, in Henwood Green Road, has a wide range of books, tapes and videos covering these and many other subjects. The Library can help with School projects, supply information on local clubs and societies and provide such things as bus timetables and adult education prospectuses.

Enjoy reading but have difficulty getting to the

Library? Do you know there is a free housebound service? Volunteers will bring a selection of books to your home on a regular basis. If needed, large print books are available. The Library has story-time for 3-5 year olds every Thursday from 2.30-3.00 pm - all are welcome but parents are reminded they must remain in the library during storytime.

On Friday 29th March there will be a sale of withdrawn books. A range of adult and junior titles, fiction and non-fiction will be available from 20p upwards.

For further information, please contact the Library on 822278.

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PEMBURY SCHOOL



Helping your child with reading

My eldest daughter, who is 19, has just left home and gone to university. At such times one looks back, and one of the really lovely memories is of cuddling up together when she was very young sharing a picture book or a favourite storybook. I hope that those early experiences help her view reading as something that is very enjoyable. It is vital that early experiences of books are pleasant ones for young children.

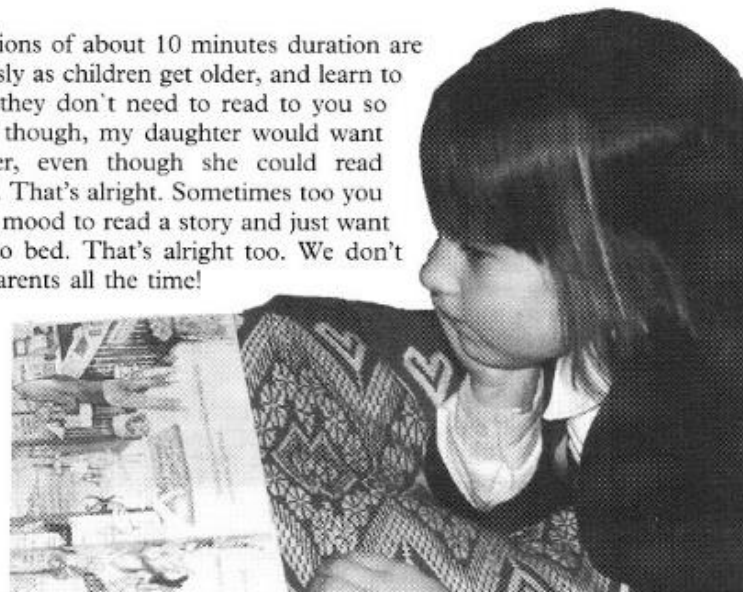
It is important when reading to a child to sit them in such a position that they are able to see the print. They then learn that you are not looking at pictures and making up the story but that you are reading the words. Pointing to the print reinforces that message, as does reading words from the world around, such as road signs and packets on the breakfast table. Talking about the pictures though does help increase a child's vocabulary. Words that prove difficult for children are words that they are unfamiliar with, have not heard before or have not used.

When children come to school they will begin to learn ways of tackling words with which they are not familiar. Some start by recognising the shape of the whole word or begin to learn the sounds of letters and blends of letters. They can also learn to use the context of the sentence to give them a clue to unknown words. For example, if a child is stuck on the word 'traffic' in the sentence 'the car stopped at the traffic lights' and if they look at the initial letters of the word and read to the end of the sentence, they have a 75% chance of correctly 'guessing' the word. So if they are 'stuck' on a word when reading to you, it is helpful strategy to suggest that they read on a bit.

Regular reading sessions of about 10 minutes duration are a great help. Obviously as children get older, and learn to read independently, they don't need to read to you so much. Occasionally, though, my daughter would want a story read to her, even though she could read perfectly well herself. That's alright. Sometimes too you might not feel in the mood to read a story and just want to get the children to bed. That's alright too. We don't have to be perfect parents all the time!

Bob Edom
Headteacher

Erin Warnett



Profile

Dr Peter Pattison

Dr Peter Pattison first came to Pembury in 1982. Not only is he one of our local G.P.'s but he is also a reader (lay preacher) at St. Peter's Church. For the past few months, during which we have had no vicar, he has shared the work at our Church preaching and conducting services. Peter, along with his partners, believes that our needs are physical, mental and spiritual and all three complement each other. He aims to provide us with a caring and quality medical service in the village, but also longs to help people to find a way back to God. He says "Our community is vibrant and exciting but we need to return to a life that reflects our Christian roots".



Peter grew up in Essex and studied for a medical degree at Cambridge University and at St. Georges Hospital, London. He then studied for a year at a Bible College in Glasgow, where he married his wife, Audrey, who is a nurse. He worked for a year in Zimbabwe, and then Peter and Audrey devoted twenty years to missionary work, the first fifteen years in Korea where they worked for the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. Most of this time was spent in rural areas where the people were very poor. During these years they saw great changes in Korea: the country became more industrialised, there was a large drift of population to the cities and towns and a huge growth in the economy. Peter was also working for the Medical Research Council specialising in T.B. of the spine. It was while they were in Korea that their four children were born. By 1982, they felt that their role was diminishing and they decided to return to England and came to Pembury.

After a few months, they returned to the Far East and spent a further five years in Singapore and Hong Kong. It was not until

1987 that they finally settled in Pembury. Peter was offered the opportunity to join the medical practice here and accepted, feeling that it was time they established a home base. He has now been one of our G.P.'s for 8 years and is Senior Partner in the practice. Peter enjoys walking, reading and gardening, having recently moved to a house with a large garden. Despite having spent many years abroad, he and Audrey spend their holidays travelling in Britain and Europe. Two of the Pattison's children are at present doing relief work abroad committed to helping those in great need in the Third World. Three years ago at Christmas, Peter and Audrey helped to organise a lorry load of supplies for Slovenia. This was repeated two years ago when they travelled out to former Yugoslavia to help with the distribution of aid and made contact with the community there.

We are fortunate in Pembury to have such a caring and hard working doctor serving our village.

Sylvia Abbott

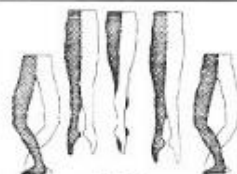
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BRIDGE . . . are there enough bridge players in the parish to start a Bridge Club?

This pastime is becoming more and more popular. Yet a glance through the list of the Village Organisations in this magazine gives no indication of the interest that there must be in and

around Pembury. If you are interested in joining with others to enlarge your circle of Bridge friends – why not contact Geoff Plummer on Pembury 824652.

Pembury Sequence Dance Club

DOES the thought of a healthy, inexpensive activity which takes you out in the evenings appeal to you?

If it does, then Sequence Dancing could be the answer. It is similar to Ballroom Dancing except that the dances are arranged into 16-bar routines and every couple dances the same routine. Sequence Dancing offers an opportunity to get out and make new friends and seems to appeal mostly to couples whose children have grown up.

We meet every Monday at the Catholic Hall in the Lower Green Road, Pembury. The main part of the evening starts at 8 pm but there is a tuition period starting at 7.30 pm at which we usually teach new dances.

The normal cost is £1.25 per person but if you are interested we offer a free introductory evening for yourself and a partner.



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

THE Pembury Players production of Jack and the Beanstalk performed on January 5th and 6th was, in the opinion of many who saw it or took part, one of the best, if not the best, production that the drama group had undertaken. This was due in no small measure to the new intake of actors from amongst Pembury residents new and old who answered the call to put Pembury Players back on the local map. The pantomime was a success in other ways. The proceeds of the show, amounting to some £1,250, were donated to the local charity – Hospice in the Weald. The enthusiasm raised by the Pantomime has invigorated the group who are now looking at their next production instead of being stalked by the fear that the lack of local actors would threaten their future.

Mark your diaries for 14/15th June next!!!

Madeleine Townsend and Co. Solicitor



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NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Patrick Gillan

Following the resignation of Tony Baker at the end of last year, the Parish Council have now elected a new Parish Councillor by co-option at their meeting on 29th January 1996. Patrick Gillan and his wife Gail first came to live in Pembury in the early eighties. At that time he was manager for a well known shoe firm. Although both Patrick and Gail were originally from the west of Scotland, Patrick says they were overwhelmed by the warmth and friendliness of the villagers. It was with great sadness that they both had to leave Pembury owing to his promotion but with delight they returned in 1991 to work at the Pembury Free Church. They have three children: Lesley, their daughter aged seven and a half years and Fraser, four and a half years, are both happy and settled in Pembury Primary School. Joanna, their new baby of twelve weeks is, as Patrick says, "oblivious to most things except food". Gail works at Cornford House while his job is working with young people.

Patrick hopes that he can serve the parish well as a Councillor and he looks forward to working with his Parish Council colleagues.



BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1996

If you are one of a number of residents who, for various reasons, did not return the Electoral Registration forms as requested last October, were resident at your current address on 10th October 1995 and are not on the current Pembury Register YOU CAN STILL REGISTER TO VOTE. If you wish to vote on 2nd May 1996 in the Borough Council Elections your application must be made before 2nd April 1996. If you wish to check whether you are on the draft registration voting lists you can contact the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells or Pembury Library. If you have any queries or need a claim form please contact the Electoral Registration Officer at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells on 526121 Extension 3106.

PEMBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Spring Show arranged by the Horticultural Society will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th April. These Shows are open for anyone to enter. Please telephone the Show Secretary, John Gorringer, on Brenchley 722725 for more information and a Show Schedule.

It is hoped that there will also be a plant and/or cake stall.

Details of other future events for the first half of this year can be found on the 'For Your Diary' page of this magazine.

PEMBURY SOCIETY

The Spring Meeting of the Pembury Society will be held at 8 pm on Monday 29th April 1996 in the Village Hall. The Society have invited a Kent History Federation Lecturer, Mr. John Morgan, to come and talk and show slides on

'Restoration, Conservation and Wildlife'. There will be a short break for refreshments followed by 'Any Questions?'

All are welcome!

Ron Abbott

Kempsters

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SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

PEMBURY ROVERS FC

Last season was the most successful in the Club's history and it would be easy to think that this season would be an anti-climax. Far from it.

Last season the first team was promoted to the top division of the West Kent Sunday Football League. This success attracted to the Club five players with experience in the top flight. Particularly pleasing is the fact that they all either live or have lived in the village. The arrival of these new players proved to be crucial for the Club as this season we have suffered more than our fair share of injuries. So much so that one weekend we had eleven players who were not fit to play but we were still able to put out two good teams to play in their respective divisions!

The first team has moved comfortably into the top division and look to finish in the top half. From the experience gained this season, they look forward to mounting a championship challenge next season.

Meanwhile, our younger players, who are currently playing for the Reserves, are finding it more difficult to break into the first team as the standards are much higher. However, last season's successes of gaining promotion to the 5th division in their first year as well as winning the League's Junior Trophy might have been considered enough. This is not the case as this year they aim to duplicate these achievements. Not only are they through to the semi-final stage of the Trophy but they are in a strong position for divisional honours.

PEMBURY STOOLBALL CLUB

Feeling energetic? Needing some exercise? How about a game of stoolball?

The Club's training sessions, which are held either at Mascalls School in Paddock Wood or on Pembury Recreation Ground, will be starting in a few weeks' time and the first matches should be played in May: 'ladies only' on Monday and Wednesday, and 'mixed' on Thursdays.

Further details about the Club can be obtained from Mrs Sandy Rice-Tucker on Pembury 822483.

Pembury's Sports Clubs' Secretaries! - Why not let the village know how your team is faring? Write to the Editor with copy for the next issue.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Did the prospect of a new year and a fresh start fill you with confidence and enthusiasm? But have all those New Year's resolutions solemnly made on the 1st January been broken by now? For those who have fallen by the wayside, do not panic. The Parish Council is here to help. Yes, that staid organisation can help you slim, keep fit, remain focused and feel more positive about a healthier way of life. Sounds wonderful doesn't it? Read on . . .

The Parish Council provides a hard tennis court for the use of its parishioners. Keys are available from the Clerk's Office. A monthly permit costs £8.50, two monthly £12.50 and a yearly permit costs only £35. Such good value and such healthy exercise!

But maybe tennis sounds a bit too strenuous. 'No worries', as they say in *Neighbours*. For £1, you can purchase a copy of a Parish footpath map. That is the total outlay - the use of the footpaths is free, as is the fresh air and also the exercise. Walking in these areas gives you an appreciation of the beautiful environment we live in.

Finally, for those budding horticulturalists, why not rent an allotment? This is an ideal time to start. A half-plot costs £6.50, a full plot £13.00. The pleasure and healthy eating derived from growing your own vegetables know no bounds.

So why not re-make those New Year resolutions and begin that healthy, active life you promised yourself at the start of the year.

Barbara Russell

THE LONDON MARATHON 1996

In 1995 I ran the London Marathon on behalf of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and received tremendous support and encouragement from parishioners and work colleagues. The total now deposited with the Imperial Cancer Fund is £1402.50.

This year I shall be running on behalf of The British Heart Foundation which receives no Government funding at all.

Many of you might have seen a strange little dumpy figure pounding the streets in the last few weeks - it is my old chum Denis Cole who is competing in the marathon on behalf of the Hospice Movement.

We hope to complete the run together and your support would be very much appreciated.

Hughie Boorman



PEMBURY IN THE PAST

THE END OF AN ERA

Who would have thought that when the butcher's shop in the High Street recently closed its doors for the last time it was the end of an era going back over 300 years.

The Pembury Local History Group were aware that Horsepitt Croft, a two acre plot with a shop and dwelling at the Upper Green, had been a butcher's premises for a very long time but just how long came as a great surprise. The builders who restored the house indicated that they thought some of it could be as much as 400 years old, which would give it a date of about 1600 and make it one of the oldest surviving buildings in the village. Horsepitt Cottages is also a very old name, probably of mediaeval origin, that might have indicated the place where horses were penned before a sale or were kept for whatever reason.

So to the records. The earliest categorical reference so far found is dated 1651 when Richard Champs owned 'a messuage and croft called Horsepitt Croft (2 acres) late Amherst'. We know that in 1635 he inherited several pieces of land in Pembury from his grandfather, William Amherst (a great uncle of Charles Amherst who endowed the Almshouses).

By 1741 the property known as Horsepitt Croft was owned by John Moncton, a bricklayer and mason, who sold it to Robert Springett, a butcher. However in the sale documents we are also told who the last few tenants were; these included William Turner and William Alcock who both died in 1719 and are both described elsewhere as butchers. Whether or not it was always a butcher's shop will probably never be known but it has certainly been one since about 1700.

Who has owned or occupied the premises since the mid-18th century is fairly well documented and the tenants always seem to have been butchers.

If anyone has any information about the shop during the 20th Century the History Group would be pleased to hear from them and can be contacted on Pembury 823212.

Kathryn Franklin

OLD VILLAGE YARNS

This story was told to me by Leo Sturgeon and is one of the supernatural.

On the site of Henwoods Crescent there used to stand an old farmhouse, Pitts Farm, dating back we believe to the 1750's. Leo's Auntie Nora lived there and one day in the early fifties she told him this story.

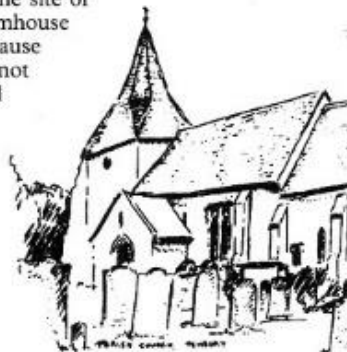
When she moved into the farmhouse she was aware of a story that the ghost-like figure of a young girl would appear whenever there was a death in the house. Because there had been no deaths shortly before Nora moved in she was not wildly worried.

However, Nora's daughter Gillian, aged 3, sadly died in 1943 and on the evening prior to the day of the funeral Nora grieved over Gillian who lay in her tiny white coffin in the farmhouse. Full of melancholy and sadness she placed a teddy bear alongside her daughter's body in the coffin. As she did so, a ghost-like form of a young woman with a bonnet on her head appeared beside the coffin. The spirit appeared to share Nora's grief, genuine tears rolling down her cheeks. The figure disappeared as silently as she came. Gillian was buried in the Lower Church Yard. Unfortunately Nora's sister Pauline, who could have supported this story, died in November 1962.

George Ballard who lived in Pitts Cottage, was the gardener at Pitts Farm, and he died the very day Pitts Farm house was demolished. It is also rumoured that the very first residents of the houses built on the site of the old Pitts Farmhouse had to move because their dog would not stop howling and whining.

Is the spirit still there?

Hughie Boorman



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1995/96

Each year, the Chairman of the Parish Council reports to the Annual Parish Meeting on what has been achieved in the previous year. This year's Annual Meeting is on Monday 25th March 1996.

Last year, for the first time, the Annual Parish Council's Report was published in advance in the Newsletter. As this seems to have been successful in ensuring that all the residents of Pembury are aware of what is happening, this will now become an annual event.

As the Parish Council delivers a surprisingly wide range of services to the residents of Pembury, it is organised into a number of committees. These have undertaken a lot of work on behalf of Pembury during the last year.

ENVIRONMENTAL - (Chairman: Bob Wilkes)

Because of the very clear concerns in Pembury for our environment much time has been spent on pressuring the Borough Council to monitor air pollution and particularly that arising from traffic. The Committee has also been monitoring the new incinerator at Great Bayhall Farm and co-operating closely on Tunbridge Well's local Agenda 21 Environmental Strategy. The Committee also monitors and cares for the village's trees. Bob Wilkes

is also Pembury's Tree Warden whilst another member of the Committee (Councillor Kit Kelly) is the village Verge Warden looking after that important part of the local environment.

BURIAL AND ALLOTMENTS - (Chairman: Betty Roberts)

There have been great efforts made in improving the Parish's three cemeteries and an important project is the re-designing of the roundel in the cemetery behind St. Peter's Upper Church. Thanks to the considerable hard work of Councillor Gill Matthews, donations from Notcutts and Larkfield Hall and a Borough Council grant, Pembury's War Memorial garden has been brightened up and improved - a particularly fitting tribute marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the second world war

On a practical note, in order to improve the allotment service, a Joint Allotment Liaison Committee has been set up with the allotment holders. This will hopefully assist in the development of the allotments and avoid misunderstandings and confusion in the future.

AMENITIES - (Chairman: Derek Goodwin)

The Parish Council's plans for

improving recreation and amenity facilities has continued including providing new seating, an extended and marked out car park and the new tennis posts and nets at the Recreation ground. Because of the sad demise of the hockey club earlier in the year, the provision of an extra playing pitch for the junior football club has become possible. The parish also provided facilities for the very successful TWBC Sports Week. The joint leasing project undertaken with the Association of Pembury Football Clubs to enable them to obtain substantial grants to refurbish the changing facilities at the Woodside ground has almost reached fruition. The Bowls Club, who lease their facilities from the Parish Council and provide a valuable local amenity, are in the process of installing a watering system.

HIGHWAYS – (Chairman: Ron Abbott)

Much of the committee's work has entailed lobbying the Highway Authorities on management and traffic matters. This resulted in the recent improvement to the Woodsgate Corner and the committee is now in contact with the Highways Agency over the section of the A21 by-pass between Pembury and Tonbridge. New bus shelters have been erected, with the last one in the current programme (at Stonecourt Lane) being installed shortly. A street map of Pembury is also in the process of being produced and

the next phase of street lighting improvements is being investigated.

PLANNING – (Chairman: Hugh Boorman)

The Planning Committee has the most constant workload and each week it comments to the Borough Council Planning Department on all applications received for Pembury. Additionally, it has been finalising many years of work in addressing the Pembury element of the Tunbridge Wells Local Plan. This has worked out very successfully for Pembury although there will still be a lot of discussion with the Borough Council over the remaining Woodsgate site issues – and particularly the future of the park and ride scheme. In dealing with the Local Plan issues there has been very close working with Pembury 2000 Plus (the group established by the Parish Council to continuously monitor and review Pembury's long term planning aspirations) and the Pembury Society.

As well as making representations on Pembury's behalf for a number of Kent-wide strategic plans – such as the KCC Structure Plan Review, the Kent Mineral Plan and the County Gipsy Policy, a number of important local issues – such as the new incinerator at Great Bayhall and the Tele-communication mast at Hubbles Farm have also been actively pursued.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – (Chairman: Henry Plant)

Although sadly the Ronchin Association has had to be disbanded through lack of local support, the Public Relations Committee has had some notable successes.

The year started with the Parish Council Centenary Service at St. Peter's Old Church followed by a reception at Kent College which was well attended by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells and other local dignitaries. The publication of the Centenary Parish Guide of Pembury was extremely well received and not only has every Pembury resident had a copy of this commemoration of the village's hundred years but copies have been requested across the United Kingdom and much further afield – with a copy even now residing with the Chinese Government.

The village newsletter has been revamped and the Public Relations Committee now acts as an Editorial Board ensuring that all village interests are represented and producing a very interesting contribution to Pembury's sense of 'community'.

Another success in encouraging a feeling of community in Pembury is the village quiz, which has now been established for seven years. The latest, which was held in October, producing entries from almost every organisation in the village as well as £350 for charity.

The Public Relations Committee is

now finalising the current archive box for the Kent County Archive and negotiating for the erection of Centenary village signs on the approaches to Pembury.

FINANCE – (Chairman: Philip Horn)

The Finance Committee, newly established last year, has systematically reviewed the Council's investments and capital debt and the Council's financial basis. The Finance Committee provides Pembury Parish Council (as a prudent authority) with a continuous financial review mechanism which ensures good budgetary control and financial systems and the judicious use of your money.

PARISH COUNCIL POLICY – Policy and Resources Committee and full Council – (Chairman: David Coleman; Vice Chairman: Sarah Clarke)

The Parish Council's main objectives are to work closely with other agencies and village organisations to ensure the smooth and efficient delivery of local services. The Parish Council works closely with the County and Borough Councils and is greatly helped by the local involvement of County Councillor Derek Hawes-Richards and Borough Councillors Sylvia Abbott, Terry Cload (who of course is also a Parish Councillor) and David Mills.

There have been a number of major policy issues pursued:

The first, and probably the most important of these has been trying to address vandalism, threatening behaviour and criminal damage. Although these are national problems which have to be seen against a background of creaking social and judicial systems, the Parish Council has incessantly lobbied the Kent Constabulary over the provision of local policing and has pressed the Home Secretary, with the backing of the Kent Association of Parish Councils, on the addressing of fundamental issues behind the problems. Pembury was one of the first four parishes in the United Kingdom to have Special Parish Constables and close co-ordination has been kept up with the Home Office Research Department and the local police on the benefits of this. These are unfortunately still limited, notwithstanding the hard work and dedication of the individual 'Special' and the new Community Policeman PC Janes.

The Parish Council has also been investigating the possibility of a new Community Hall. Consultations have been carried out with all village organisations to determine what they would like to see and discussions have taken place with the Borough Council planners on a likely site. Unfortunately the planners advise that the only practical site is at Woodgate Corner, if the supermarket proposal goes ahead. The Parish

Council will now be concentrating hard on this and will let you know the options before any decisions are made.

The existing Village Hall needs substantial work on it in any case – and the Parish Council has been working very closely with the new Village Hall Management Committee and has already promised £2,800 to help repair and redecorate the hall during the coming year.

Pembury has also been co-operating closely with the Borough Council on what is known as 'The Parish Charter'. This is a very progressive move by the Borough Council whereby *they guarantee in writing* the consultations and co-operation that Parish and Town Councils can expect.

There has also been close co-operation over the year with the High Weald Housing Association following the many problems experienced by Pembury residents earlier in 1995. The High Weald HA has been very helpful and most of the difficulties have now been resolved.

Lastly, I would like to thank **Barbara and Paul Russell**, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council, for all their hard work and dedication to Pembury over the last year.

DAVID COLEMAN
Chairman.

PEMBURY ROAD NAMES

Continuing with my article in the last issue, unfortunately I did not get any feed back from the question posed about Sweep Hill.

However to complete as far as I can the list of road names, Church Road was, of course, the road to St. Peters Parish Church until the construction of the by-pass. For the record, the then Parish Council recommended to the Borough Council that to avoid confusion the 'cut off' stretch up to the Church from the by-pass itself should be renamed 'Old Church Road'.

Beech Hurst, the small road that leads from The Ridgeway to the Knight's Place flats was named by the builders because of the beautiful Beech Trees in the vicinity.

Gimble Way and, presumably, The Grove were named after the large house nearby called Gimble Grove. Next, it doesn't stretch the imagination to suggest that Middle Field may have got its name, being adjacent as it is to The Meadow. Obviously Lower Green Road, Henwood Green Road and Romford Road, all names of long standing indicating that in the old days that they led to the different hamlets that formed the settlement of Pembury.

Nearer home, The Coppice was so named because of an area of small trees in the large garden of Knight Place of which it once formed part. I know from personal knowledge that the earlier suggested name, thankfully rejected, was Nut Close!!

The Forstal, which I understand literally means the entrance to a forest, does not seem to reflect local geography at the time it was built. Bulls Place would, I suspect, reflect the use of the farm land on which the road was built. Camden Avenue was named after the Camden family who owned large areas of land in and around Pembury. All the road names which have Cornford associations, i.e. Cornford Lane, Cornford Close and the recent Cornford Park presumably came from the nearby large Cornford House. All other Pembury road names were, no doubt, ideas of the developers and the local authority, others like Hastings Road, Tonbridge Road and Maidstone Road have obvious derivations.

The most recently named Polley Close was suggested by the present Parish Council to commemorate the local Martyr – Margery Polley

– who was burnt at the stake in 1555.

If you have any other knowledge regarding our road names the Editorial Committee will be pleased to hear from you.

As I ended the last article with a question, could I perhaps ask why, in the dim and distant past, a lane on the outskirts of the parish was called Half Moon Lane. Its name sets the imagination running, doesn't it?

Henry Plant

PEMBURY – CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE?

It's a crazy idea isn't it? Or is it? It seems that we can now contact almost anyone in the world, even those in spacecraft hurtling around it, via our personal computers and suitable telephone connections.

An enormous amount of information is becoming available when we are 'on-line'. It's already possible to read British, American and Australian newspapers at home on the computer monitor as they are published. Articles can be faxed back to the editors in seconds, to appear in the next edition. Vast archives of major libraries and museums will soon be at our disposal, by a few keyboard strokes. We will be able to shop, check the Bank account and import videos without going out.

A subscription costing less, perhaps, than satellite TV, plus a local telephone call and the world is your oyster!

Of course, all this won't get the grass on the village green cut, or the wheelie bins emptied but the scope for enhancing our lives is enormous. How much human time, energy, and precious earth resources, currently wasted in travelling, will be saved?

Unfortunately, technological revolutions bring possibilities of evil as well as good. The 'information super-highway' is interactive so that anyone, including those with malicious intent, can have an input. It's up to us to master the tremendous opportunities offered and to use them wisely. Pembury may not be the centre of the universe but we all have a greater opportunity than ever before to influence the world from our own houses.

Terry Cload

J. C. WOOD

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NATIONAL TRAIN COACH AND BUS TIME TABLE INFORMATION HOTLINE

Readers might be interested to learn about a new 'hotline' launched last year. For the first time, a single phone call can provide travellers with timetable information for the whole of the United Kingdom's train, express coach and, most significantly, rural

bus system. It is also possible to make credit card bookings at the same time, if required.

The 'hotline' number is 0891 910910 and the service is available from 6am to 9pm, seven days a week.



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THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, UK

The Kent Branch of this National Federation (NFB) has been responsible for piloting a Disability Awareness Training Course for the South Eastern Train Company and, through the NFB's wider representations, for British Rail and London Transport.

As a result it is now possible for disabled and elderly travellers to contact, in advance,

the Customer Services at Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge Stations letting them know the time that they are travelling and to be assured that they will be met by trained staff at the station, put on the train, assisted when making transfers during their journey and met at their ultimate destination, thus making rail travel less of a problem.

DIAL-A-BUS

DID YOU KNOW that there is a weekly bus service specially designed for people living in the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's area (which includes Pembury) who are frail and elderly or have a disability. How does it work?

Kent Karrier, a public service operated by Compaid Trust on behalf of the County Council, will take registered applicants from their front door to the town centre of either Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood or Cranbrook (depending on where you live) and serves a different part of the Tunbridge Wells area on each day of the week. The bus has an experienced Compaid Trust driver who will give you any help you need to get on or off the bus – it has been designed for easy access and is 'wheelchair friendly'.

To use the Kent Karrier Dial-a-Bus you simply telephone to book your journey in advance. The cost of a return journey is either £1 or £2 depending on where you live. Registration forms and details of the routes and weekly timetables can be obtained by telephoning 01622 696924.

LAW AND ORDER IN PEMBURY

SADLY, wanton damage is still very much in evidence in Pembury with the total destruction of one of the Parish Council's notice boards, the removal of the Belisha Beacons in Hastings Road and a malicious assault on the Scouts and Guides Building. It is very easy to picture these 'brave' young men creeping about under cover of darkness inflicting their damage, then disappearing.

Just before Christmas the Parish Council should have had a meeting with three members of the constabulary. For various reasons only one was able to attend and unfortunately he left us all feeling totally frustrated. We have to accept that there is no full time police

presence in Pembury. We have to do more policing ourselves. We all want more Neighbourhood Watch involvement but we cannot become the police force or do their work for them.

Of course the vast majority of village people support the police and that is the role we should play, a supporting one.

We all pay, as part of our Council tax, an amount for policing which we do not get. Why on earth do we put up with it? What do we get for the collective police charge for the village?

We are all guilty of being complacent; it is now time that we lobbied our M.P.'s and police until they take action.

PARISH WALKS

I am given to understand that since my last article in this publication on Parish Walks the demand for books on walking and Parish Footpath maps has far exceeded the supply.

Not true of course! However, it has now been decreed that two walks per month are compulsory.

Because of lost time, we will start with a longer rather than a shorter walk. The starting point is Pembury Old Church lych gate. Through the gate to the left of the Church there is Footpath WT209. We pass the Kent College playing fields and take the path through the woods - WT208. Then onto the road, turn right and continue until we reach the junction with Dislingbury Road. Turn right and follow the lane past Dislingbury Farm. After approx. 1 mile we will reach Footpath WT204 on the right. Follow this across the fields until you reach

Footpath WT193 on the left. Then carry on to Amhurst Bank Road, turn right heading back towards Pembury. Pass Thirkles Farm on the left and go down the hill towards the Old Mill. Then turn right at the bottom of the hill and into the woods. After about 60 yards, go over the stile on the left and follow the Footpath WT204A across the fields below Kent College.

We will come out where you started at the Old Church.

If we walk at a pace at which we can enjoy the scenery, apple and cherry blossom and lambs by the hundreds in the Spring, then allow one and a half to two hours.

Enjoy the walk! A competition will be arranged for the next compulsory walk.

Hughie Boorman



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POLICE UPDATE

AFTER a relatively crime free Christmas period, January started with criminals taking advantage of the very murky weather to break into a number of vehicles in the Henwood Green Road area. I would again urge all of you who are obliged to leave cars out in the open to remove anything of value and to consider fitting a car alarm. The main targets have been items of audio equipment. If you have removable radios or CD players, I do recommend you to take the items out each evening.

The theft of garden machinery from sheds and garages will, I am sure, increase as the gardening season approaches. You should look to chaining these items up and improving the general security of your shed or garage with good quality locks.

I would like to make an appeal to all of you. It is obvious to me that there are many people who live in Pembury who care very much about their local community and who have a desire to make it a pleasant place to live in. I am sure you are aware that some time ago several local people took on the new role of *Parish Special Constable*. As with many new ideas there have been teething problems and it would be very wrong to try to suggest there have not. The number of Parish Specials in Pembury has declined recently mainly because of changes in personal circumstances. As a result we are now looking for more local people to take on this rewarding and interesting role.

As a Parish Special Constable you will work in your own area, or an adjoining one if you prefer. You will provide a higher level of uniformed police presence. You will address matters of

local concern and develop contacts with all elements of the community. You will become a known local figure.

A *Parish Special Constable* will be selected and appointed in the same way as other Special Constables. You will need to demonstrate good communication skills with all groups of the local community and have an active interest in parish affairs. You will be trained to deal with routine police work as it affects your area. You will need to be tactful, discreet and diplomatic.

A *Parish Special Constable* will develop and encourage links between the police and local groups including Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch, Schools and Clubs. Where appropriate you will re-visit victims of crime and enhance police support. You will give crime prevention advice and make a priority of those crimes that are particularly irritating to the local community.

The *Parish Special Constable* is part of the police team and is in constant contact with police colleagues and fellow 'Specials'. The range and frequency of duties will depend on ability and the number of hours that can be contributed.

If the idea appeals to you or if you just want more information please contact me at Paddock Wood Police Office on 01892 502143 or at the Community Unit Office at Tunbridge Wells on 01892 502103.

Help us to help your community!

Police Constable Chris Janes
Community Officer

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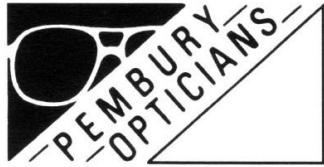
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FOR YOUR DIARY

- APRIL**
- 1 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 2 Darby and Joan Club: Sequence Dancing – Village Hall – 2pm
 - 4 Afternoon WI: Birthday Party – Village Hall – 2.15pm
 - 4 Evening WI: Circle Dancing – Village Hall – 7.45pm
 - 6 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Stonecourt Lane – 2.15pm
 - 8 St. Peter's Photographic Club: Portrait Evening – Upper Church Room – 8pm
 - 13 Pembury Horticultural Society: Spring Show – Village Hall – 2.30pm
 - 15 Pembury Horticultural Society: Floral Art Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 16 Darby and Joan Club: Coffee Morning
 - 22 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 22 St. Peter's Photographic Club: Open Evening – Upper Church Room – 8pm
 - 29 Pembury Society Spring Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 30 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- MAY**
- 2 Afternoon WI: Resolutions – Catholic Hall – 2.15pm
 - 3 Evening WI: Resolutions – Village Hall – 7.45pm
 - 4 Pembury Footpath Walkers – Camden Car Park – 2.15pm
 - 4 Pembury School Maypole Dancing – Village Green – 10am
 - 4 RNLI Fair – Catholic Hall – 10am
 - 13 Annual Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 14 Darby and Joan Club: Annual General Meeting – Village Hall – 2pm
 - 18 St. Peter's (Upper Church) Summer Fair – 2pm
 - 20 Pembury Horticultural Society: Floral Art Demonstrations – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 23 Pembury Horticultural Society: 'The Small Greenhouse' – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 28 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
- JUNE**
- 1 Pembury Footpath Walkers – To be advised
 - 3 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 6 Afternoon WI – Village Hall – 2.15pm
 - 7 Evening WI: History of Herbs and Spices – Village Hall – 7.45pm
 - 10 Pembury Horticultural Society: Floral Art Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 11 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm
 - 14/15 Pembury Players Production
 - 18 Darby and Joan Club: Half-day outing
 - 24 Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 8pm
 - 25 Darby and Joan Club – Village Hall – 2pm



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- ASSOCIATION OF PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUBS
Jim Smith, 18 Westway. Tel: 823714
- BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS
Peter Brookes, 8 Concorde Close, Paddock Wood.
Tel: 833662
- BOWLS CLUB
Secretary: S. G. Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park. Tel: 824914
- BROWNIES GUIDER
Mrs Jones, 14 Lower Green Road. Tel: 823747
- BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION
Secretary: Mr R. G. G. Whitlock, 6 The Forstal.
Tel: 822115
- CAMDEN GREEN BADMINTON CLUB
R. Holt, 50 Ridgeway. Tel: 823830
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Secretary: Richard Crouch, 17 Highfield Close,
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- DARBY & JOAN CLUB
Mr C. J. Eason, 183 Hastings Road. Tel: 824673
- FRIENDS OF PEMBURY HOSPITAL
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James Whitehorn. Tel: 824854
- HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Mrs D. Parfitt, 51 Church Road. Tel: 822909
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Mrs S. Rice-Tucker. Tel: 822483
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Keith Mearing, 114 Beagleswood Road. Tel: 823232
- PEMBURY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
T. P. Burton, 13a High Street. Tel: 824577
- PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB
Steve Waterman, 35 Dimmock Close, Paddock
Wood. Tel: 835696
- PEMBURY FOOTPATH WALKERS
N. & K. Franklin, 11 The Meadow. Tel: 823212
- PEMBURY FREE CHURCH
Pastor David Graham – Youth Pastor Patrick Gillan
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- PEMBURY UPPER AND OLD CHURCH
Rev. Stephen Sealy. Tel: 824761
- PEMBURY PLAYERS
Chairman: J. Norman Draper. Tel: 823975
- PEMBURY PLAYGROUP
Mrs J. Brough, 2 Cornford Park. Tel: 824208
- PEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Headmaster: Mr R. J. Edom. Tel: 822259
- PEMBURY ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB
P. Craxton, 31 Batchelors. Tel: 823928
- PEMBURY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERY
Teacher in charge: Mrs Hazel Thorne. Tel: 825580
- PEMBURY SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB
Secretary: Mr Bob Greatrex. Tel: 822669
- PEMBURY SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB
Mrs Celia Clifton, Secretary, 8 Woodhill Park.
Tel: 823272
- PEMBURY SOCIETY
R. Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031
- PEMBURY STOOLBALL CLUB
Mrs Sandy Rice-Tucker. Tel: 822483
- PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
A. Mason. Tel: 823052
- PEMBURY VILLAGE MARKET
Mrs Angela Parsons. Tel: 822154
- ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
J. Young, 13 Bulls Place.
- ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION
W. H. Dee, 1a Woodhill Park. Tel: 823131
- SANDRA'S HOUSE
Pre-School Nursery. Mrs S. Toogood, Queens Folly,
64 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824252
- SCOUT AND GUIDE HQ MANAGEMENT TEAM
Peter Brookes, 8 Concorde Close, Paddock Wood.
Tel: 833662
- ST. PETER'S PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB
Events Secretary, Carol Brewer. Tel: 822030
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS & DISTRICT VICTIM SUPPORT
SCHEME
Tel: 513969
- VENTURE SCOUTS
Bernie Roberts, 13 Camden Avenue. Tel: 822932
- VILLAGE HALL
Manager (bookings): Denis Dawes, 29 Greenleas.
Tel: 822411
- WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
Afternoon: Mrs Sybil Baker. Tel: 824597
Evening: Mrs Elizabeth Bellchamber. Tel: 824969
- WRVS
Mrs H. Swinden, 6 Church Road. Tel: 823378
- YMCA
Tim Cole, Pembury YMCA. Tel: 823330

Your Clerk Reports . . .

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Pembury Parish Council will be held on Monday 25th March 1996 at 8pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Pembury. To date, confirmation of attendance has not yet been received from the invited guest speaker. Watch the village noticeboards for information.

A representative from Hospice in the Weald will be present to update parishioners on the planned Hospice on the Downingbury site.

At the AGM I will be submitting a full financial report for the year ending 31st March 1995 but there follows a brief summary:

	£
Precept demanded from the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for 1994/1995	95,212.00
Income from other sources	18,617.00
Balance brought forward from 1st April 1994	65,892.81
TOTAL	179,721.81
Expenditure	107,643.38
Balance carried forward on 31st March 1995	72,078.43
TOTAL	179,721.81
Precept for the year 1995/1996	98,230.00
Precept for the year 1996/1997	105,094.00

The Groundsman has reported that horses have been ridden over the Village Green and the Recreation Ground causing appreciable damage. Horse riders please take note: these areas are not public bridleways.

Barbara Russell

CHURCH TIMES

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

Upper Church

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

Old Church

11.30am Matins (except first Sunday, Holy Communion)

Evening services as advertised on Church noticeboards

CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF ST. ANSELM - PEMBURY

Sunday Mass 10.30am
Holy Days - Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Confessions:
Sunday 10.15am

Weekday Services:

Monday - Communion Service 7.30am
Tuesday - Communion Service 7.30am
Wednesday - Mass 7.00pm

PEMBURY FREE CHURCH

We praise God and hear his word on Sunday at 10am and 6.30pm.

We have many activities during the week for mums, toddlers, young people and senior citizens.

Ring the church office 825590 for details.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

County Council

Derek Hawes Richards, Hop Press Oast, Mascalls Court Road, Paddock Wood. Tel: 834692

Borough Council

Mrs Sylvia Abbott, 18 Lower Green Road. Tel: 824031

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

Mr David Mills, 125 Ridgeway. Tel: 825577

Parish Council

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

Mr Hugh Boorman, 52 Henwood Green Road. Tel: 823068

Mrs Sarah Clarke, Little Stanton, Romford Road. Tel: 823932

Mr Terry Cload, 56 Herons Way. Tel: 823966

Mr David Coleman, 22 Ridgeway. Tel: 823402

Mr Patrick Gillan, The Red House, 3 Romford Road. Tel: 825324

Mr Derek Goodwin, 27 Greenleas. Tel: 823822

Mr Philip Horn, 6 Sandhurst Avenue. Tel: 824720

Mr Kit Kelly, 22 Hastings Road

Mrs Gillian Matthews, 2 Gimble Way. Tel: 822057

Mr Henry Plant, 16 The Coppice. Tel: 823459

Mrs Betty Roberts, 16 Woodhill Park. Tel: 824914

Mr Bob Wilkes, 6 Belfield Road. Tel: 823264

Chairman, Highways Committee

Chairman, Planning Committee

Vice Chairman of Parish Council

Chairman of Parish Council

Chairman, Amenities Committee

Chairman, Finance Committee

Chairman, Public Relations Committee

Chairman, Burial & Allotments Committee

Chairman, Environmental Committee

Clerk to the Pembury Parish Council

Mrs Barbara Russell, 6 The Grove. Tel: 823193

Brian V Toogood

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