



PEMBURY MATTERS

The Pembury Society Newsletter Spring 2018

Dear Members,

Our coming meeting is on Wednesday 18th April, at 7.45 pm, in St. Peter's Upper Church, when we have two of our own members speaking and in visual form informing us all about

Pembury's Natural History

We are delighted to welcome Melvyn Cole and John Vale-Taylor, local naturalists, as they share with us their knowledge of the flora and fauna of our locality, what to see, where to go, at what time of year, and how to make your own garden more nature friendly.

They are both keen at taking pictures and listening to the sounds of activity on their walks, and John tells me it will be "sights and sounds" as much as information.

We also have at this meeting a side display of the history of Kent College for Girls, given by a former pupil of the school, which should be of interest to a number of members, so come early if you would like to see these exhibits. (Doors open 7.15pm)

Annual Subscriptions

With this Newsletter comes an envelope, and you will find details of a change in how we collect our annual subscriptions. Briefly, we would like to change to annual standing orders based on a household annual fee of £5, and we hope all members will help us through this change to keep administration down to a minimum. I have included a separate letter giving full details, a standing order form, and a stamped addressed envelope to encourage you to send it back completed!

Autumn meeting

The guest speaker at our Autumn Meeting on Thursday 18th October is our own Member of Parliament, Rt Hon Greg Clark, MP and Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 18th April. Put the date in the diary!

David Hanes - Chairman

Planning Officer's report

The important matter concerning planning at the moment is the new Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan, which has been imposed by Westminster, and is currently under discussion at the Town Hall. Option 4, which is the Option most detrimental to Pembury, has come out as the highest preference in the consultation. All the land required is in the Green Belt and, if this were to be implemented in full, Pembury would no longer be a separate place but a suburb of Tunbridge Wells. Also the situation with regard to the Pembury Road would deteriorate even further as there is no indication, so far, that anything is to be done about access to the town from this direction. Could this be the death of Tunbridge Wells? Be assured, although we cannot be 'nimby' and reject everything out of hand, your committee will fight hard to get as good a deal as possible for Pembury.

Since our last Newsletter the re-development of 3 High Street (the garage site) has been approved. They now have permission to build a three storey, nine unit block of flats on the site as opposed to a four storey block with fourteen units. Your committee feel that this is probably the best we could have expected in the circumstances.

The other three major applications, Owlsnest Wood, Cornford House and the Sturgeons site are still all on-going.

There have been minor alterations to the plans for the Sturgeon's site but the lack of a pavement along that stretch of Henwood Green Road is proving problematic. The application has been 'called in' by the Parish Council, so the application will be determined by the committee and not a planning officer.

After eighteen months of silence, the applicants for the Care Home at Owlsnest Wood have submitted revised plans with a new access. They now wish to provide a vehicular access that will form a cross-roads with the hospital service road rather than using the existing access which is near the hospital main entrance. KCC Highways do not have a problem with this. A lot has happened in three years, including the application for doubling the size of Cornford House care home which must have an effect on this case, and there is still no indication as to when this application will be determined,.

The application to double the size of the facilities at Cornford House care home has been subject to minor revisions but was due to be determined by the planning committee before Christmas. This, however, was deferred and as yet a new date has not been set.

Most other applications have been for run-of-the-mill things such as extensions and tree works which may affect the immediate neighbours, but not the village as a whole.

Kathryn Franklin - Planning Officer

Metal Detection Survey of the Village Green

The survey concluded last Autumn, with the Southborough and High Brooms Amateur Archaeological Society, pictures and details of which you can see for yourself on the Pembury Society web site (just copy and paste this into your browser):
<http://pembury.org/society/2017/11/archaeology-on-the-village-green/>

This is possibly the first time that such a survey has been done since the Green was laid out as it is today, and we are looking for a suitable place for public display of the items discovered, which include a bronze Roman coin and a well preserved woodsman's froe. Also a fired .303"

cartridge case, a fragment of copper driving band, a fuse fragment and a Royal Engineers title badge indicate military activity on or above the green.

Pembury War Memorial Restoration

Richard Snow has been passionate for a number of years about replacing the very tarnished metal plaques on the War Memorial. In addition he has found that there are 7 spelling errors in the names on the Memorial. The Parish Council have kindly agreed to add one new name (Jim H.Woodhams) to the WW1 names and correct the existing errors. Burslems, who built the original War Memorial are due to replace the existing plaques with stone-carved plaques, re-point the stonework around, and clean the Memorial. The work will be paid for from generous donations from Kent County Council, individuals, relatives and organisations, including the Pembury Society who are donating £500.

The “new” Memorial is due to be unveiled on Remembrance Sunday, which falls on the 11th of the 11th this year. The date marks national celebrations to commemorate the last year of the Centenary of World War One. This year the Service will be held around the War Memorial itself and it is hoped, weather permitting, that there will be a “Poppy Drop” from a 1930’s Tiger Moth.

Please look out for further information in due course. Any enquiries can be made to Richard or Chris Snow on 01892 825428.

The Society’s Committee:

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Can you encourage friends to join the Society or advertise the meeting, using the poster? Thank you

The Pembury Society



Wed 18th April

St Peter's Church, Hastings Road at 7.45pm

PEMBURY'S **NATURAL** **HISTORY**

**PRESENTED BY PEMBURY
RESIDENTS**

**Melvyn Cole &
John Vale-Taylor**

Open to all. Members free, non-members £3 admission.