



October 2023

Dear Members,

I am pleased to be able to let you know of our coming meeting on **Wednesday 11th October at 7.45pm at St Peters Upper Church** when our theme is “Welcome to Aspens” when we have as our guest speaker Susan Sawyer coming to share with us the work of Aspens and all the activities and interests that we might like to join or visit.

There’s more going on than we are probably aware of, as my first look at their web site showed, and Susan will be introducing these to us, and the varied needs of their residents. We will be having our usual Q and A time at the end.

The October meeting is always our AGM too, and this is the opportunity to re-elect the members of the committee, who are all willing to stand for a further year. We shall be asking you to confirm the election of the current members, but we would welcome new committee members – do ask what this involves – and hopefully join us!

The accounts for last year are also attached for information. The main feature in the accounts last year was the cost of publishing “Bygone Pembury” and subsequent sales. After gifting a copy to each member who continued with us through the pandemic, we have been selling copies and indeed we are now into a second print run. Copies are still available for those Christmas presents!

You will see from the attached accounts that the two loans made to finance the initial print run were repaid, with sales amounting to just over £5,000, and the project fund has been replenished with a balance at the year end of £1,089.

We continue to be thinking about a Volume 2, and again I would ask you to look in your attics or basements, and see what items of interest you may have lurking there about past Pembury – pictures, topical writings, whatever – do let us know.

We are continuing to monitor all planning applications and commenting as necessary on those we feel might have a public interest for residents of Pembury, and our Planning Officer’s report follows.

Did you vote at the referendum for (or against) the Neighbourhood Development Plan? The turnout was 980 voters, something over 20% of those eligible to vote, with 819 voting for adoption of the Plan, and 159 voting against, with 2 votes which were not eligible. As you may be aware, while the committee supported adopting the Plan, yet we did feel there could have been much more in the way of thinking about what sort of village we wanted to look forward to, in planning terms, in 2038, which was the point of the exercise,

specifically disallowing Tunbridge Wells Planning Office to determine our future against our wishes. Anyway, there was a great deal of work done in producing the Plan, and we would thank our Parish Council for seeing this through, with much voluntary support.

Our Membership had a small decline in the year from members moving away or deaths, and I would like to feel you would recommend joining the Society to your friends and neighbours. We have a leaflet that explains what we do, and the benefits we feel we give to the village. Please do ask for one to give away.

Do you have any suggestions for speakers at our two meetings a year? We would value your thoughts.

Our Planning Officer, Kathryn Franklin has written:

#### **Planning matters - Planning Report - Autumn 2023**

So, the people of Pembury have accepted the NDP. It is not perfect but it does mean that TWBC planning department will have to take it into account when considering any application in the parish. Hopefully it will give us some say in the details of any future development although it cannot override the Local Plan.

Since our last newsletter, your committee feel that the TWBC Planning Department have made some strange decisions. Obviously there will be applications that we feel are not in the best interest of the village which are granted permission, that is how things are. However, to us as laymen, these seem to defy commonsense although that is not actually a planning issue:

1. Allowing a 2 bed bungalow to the rear of 25-31 High Street when the only possible access is barely 1 metre wide.
2. Allowing, ostensibly as permitted development, a large 2-bed structure that is classed as a caravan in the rear garden of a listed building in the conservation area.

Most other applications have been for domestic extensions but there have also been a large number related to the conversion of redundant farm buildings into dwellings. Some of these farm buildings are no more than derelict shells and all are in the Green Belt. We have also noted the number of applications for tree work. Maintenance is one thing but removal, particularly in the Conservation Area, is to be discouraged.

Our most pressing worries at the moment relate to land that used to be part of Downingbury Farm. It is bounded by Old Church Rd, Redwings Lane and the A228 and is Green Belt and AONB and there are spectacular views from footpath WT218 that goes through it. Recently there have been a string of applications for barns and stable blocks that have all been refused or withdrawn but there are currently two applications for stable blocks, one for a barn and two retrospective applications for gypsy traveller sites. Any development on this site would be detrimental to its rural aspect. We know the Parish Council, as well as other groups within the village, have serious concerns about these applications.

Kathryn Franklin

Planning Officer

We look forward to seeing you at the 11th October meeting.

Every good wish     David Hanes

**Current Committee**

|                            |  |              |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Chairman:</b>           | David Hanes The Lodge, 7 Lower Green Road, TN2 4DZ | 823174       |
|                            | david@hanesfamily.co.uk                            | 07702340821  |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Helen Castle                                       | 825185       |
|                            | helencafc@gmail.com                                |              |
| <b>Planning Officer:</b>   | Kathryn Franklin                                   | 823212       |
|                            | kathryn.franklin@outlook.com                       |              |
| <b>Promotions Officer:</b> | Richard Snow                                       | 825428       |
|                            | richardssnow@tiscali.co.uk                         |              |
| <b>Committee Member:</b>   | Tony Nicholls                                      |              |
|                            | tony.pastpages@gmail.com                           |              |
| <b>Committee Member:</b>   | Peter Bruce  | 07980 011706 |
|                            | pbruce@mac.com                                     |              |
| <b>Committee Member:</b>   | Brian Lawrence                                     | 07785 535331 |
|                            | brianlawrence_ltd@msn.com                          |              |

# **AUTUMN MEETING**

**Wednesday 11th October 2023**

**at 7.45pm**

**St Peter's Upper Church**

**Guest Speaker**

**Susan Sawyer**

**“ WELCOME TO  
ASPENS ”**

**Members free, Non-Members £3 on the Door**

## THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

| GENERAL FUND   | Year ended<br>31 July 2023 | Year ended<br>31 July 2022 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>  |                            |                            |
| Subscriptions  | 733.00                     | 795.00                     |
| Interest income  | 4.89                       | 1.02                       |
| Other income   | -                          | -                          |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <u>737.89</u>              | <u>796.02</u>              |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>   |                            |                            |
| Meetings and activities  | 80.00                      | 30.00                      |
| Newsletters and posters  | -                          | -                          |
| Website and IT expenses  | -                          | 112.38                     |
| Insurance  | 223.22                     | 203.50                     |
| Subscriptions to other Societies                                 | 25.00                      | 25.00                      |
| Sundries   | 45.58                      | 25.09                      |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>   | <u>373.80</u>              | <u>395.77</u>              |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year                   | 363.69                     | 400.25                     |
| Less: Transfer to Project Fund                                   | - 300.00                   | - 1,500.00                 |
| General Fund balance for the year after transfer to Project Fund | 63.69                      | - 1,099.75                 |
| General Fund balance brought forward                             | 1,555.72                   | 2,655.47                   |
| General Fund balance carried forward                             | <u>1,619.41</u>            | <u>1,555.72</u>            |
| <b>PROJECT FUND</b>  |                            |                            |
| Transfer from General Fund                                       | 300.00                     | 1,500.00                   |
| Donations for "Bygone Pembury"                                   | -                          | 250.00                     |
| Sales of books   | 5,041.50                   | -                          |
|  | <u>5,341.50</u>            | <u>1,750.00</u>            |
| Book project expenses  | - 2,965.85                 | - 3,970.00                 |
|  | <u>2,375.65</u>            | <u>2,220.00</u>            |
| Project Fund balance brought forward                             | - 1,286.20                 | 933.80                     |
| Project Fund balance carried forward                             | <u>1,089.45</u>            | <u>- 1,286.20</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS at 31 JULY 2023</b>                               | <u>£ 2,708.86</u>          | <u>£ 269.52</u>            |
| <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>   |                            |                            |
| Bank Current account   | 2,191.97                   | 1,233.64                   |
| Bank Deposit account   | 503.09                     | 1,003.58                   |
| Cash in hand   | 13.00                      | 32.30                      |
|  | <u>2,708.86</u>            | <u>2,269.52</u>            |
| Less: Loans for Project Fund - Bygone Pembury                    |                            | - 2,000.00                 |
|  | <u>£ 2,708.86</u>          | <u>£ 269.52</u>            |

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 July 2023 has been approved by the Committee and signed on their behalf by

David Hines (Chairman)

Date 22nd August 2023

I confirm that Financial Statement for the year ended 31 July 2023 has been prepared in accordance with the books, records and information supplied to me.

John Franks ACIB  
44 Ridgeway, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Date 5th October 2023