



Issue 61- September

Website
www.pepenbury.info

Paddle Power the Pepenbury Pirate Way!

Saturday 13th September dawned over Bewl Water with a thick mist over the lake – this was a good day in the making! In fact it was a glorious day and a sun hat would have been in order! There was a buzz of activity from the very start with people chatting and laughing. The level of noise grew as residents and staff from Pepenbury began to arrive!

Our friends from AXA PPP, who were sponsoring the day, came to support us with their pergola from ASDA in case it rained and there was no shortage of willing volunteers to help them erect it. Still more friends and family and Pepenbury volunteers turned up to cheer the finely honed athletes on. In fact Neil McQuillan, a past volunteer, only came to take some photographs and was pressed into rowing before he opened his camera case! Everyone stuck to the Pirate theme, a variety of good costumes adding to the fun of the day.

The excitement built steadily until the Pepenbury Pirates were called for their first race. Roy was resplendent in his striped shirt and bandana but was overshadowed by Robert McNamara – and actually many others!

The team came a glorious 3rd out of three in the first race but improved to second next time round. With a 3rd in the final paddle we didn't qualify for the knockout tournament. For a first go we acquitted ourselves well and if we can build on the enthusiasm of the paddlers this time we will do better next year. Some more positives were that some good contacts were made on the day and we expect to have raised in excess of £1,500 for the event – you know how long it takes to get sponsorship in sometimes!



Hair today
 green tomorrow!!



Thanks to everybody who supported us and, of course, to the rowers.

Thanks also to Graham and Rosie from AXA for their support and money-raising activities on the day with competitions for old and young and lots of fattening prizes.



Stuart has lived at Pepenbury for over 4 years and he wants to leave!

Stuart came to live at Larkfield Hall in 2004. He went to school at Oakley in Tunbridge Wells and came to Pepenbury to prepare himself for independent living - and he has not been wasting his time!

Stuart thrives on hard work. So in addition to his Life Skills training he started learning about gardening and doing some office cleaning. The cleaning has stood him in good stead as he now gets himself to Tunbridge Wells to do his paid part-time job for a local employer. He has been an important part of our 'Kitcheners' weekly catering contract at St. John's Church in

Southborough and has also taken part in the Chemin de Vie cross-border exchange with France.

He enjoyed his time at Pepenbury and was never short of something to do (a successful sponsored abseil was another thing), so why would he want to leave? "I want to be independent. I want to make new friends." said Stuart. Well he now has his wish - on 29th September he moved to a flat in Tunbridge Wells that he will share with two other people. He knows that he will need a bit of help to look after his money and some advice on things like nutrition and travel.

Stuart is such an important part of 'Kitcheners' that he will continue to work with his colleagues there even after he is no longer a resident. Good luck!

Congratulations

Welcome to Stanislaw Piotr Jaremkiwicz who was born on Tuesday 2nd September 2008 weighing in at 7lb 2oz. Congratulations to Piotr and Ola.



All at Pepenbury offer a warm welcome to Chris Geering who has come to live in Fern house.

Qualifications are not just for staff



We believe in offering our volunteers the chance to get themselves some qualifications if they want them. Well Sherrell has been a volunteer with Pepenbury for 2 years now and has just completed her certificate in Community Volunteering, supported by Voluntary Action West Kent. Well done Sherrell!

If any volunteers are interested in doing some training, please let

Lesley Card know and she will try to find something that is right for you.

From our Man On-the-Spot and Roving Reporter

We are Open Again!

Monday 8th September was the first day back at Pepenbury's Southborough Charity Shop.

We were shut for seven weeks because of a flood in the flat above our shop. This meant that the middle room of the shop has to be re-carpeted.

Everyone was pleased to get back to work and we have been very busy since. Also, all our customers were happy to see us back to normal.

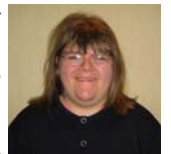


Stephen Holliday (Pepenbury's Roving Reporter)



Splish-Splash and the pool is up and running

Now that the swimming pool is up and running again, Terry is starting up his Pepenbury Swimming Team with members at the moment including Jonathan Riches, Stuart Harding, Kevin Smith, Peter Sinnett, Alan O'Brien and Simon Francombe. We hope that the team will enter local galas and possibly the mini Olympics.



And a big "Well Done" to Helen Turner who has overcome her fears and has progressed from walking in the pool to swimming with a float!

AXA PPP Supporting Pepenbury

We are AXA's charity of the year and they are further supporting us by holding a Race Night here in October for their staff. They are also financing a marquee for our Christmas Fair.

My Visit to Dunorlan Park



'Recently, Jean (Jones) took me on a visit to Dunorlan. I used to work there on Saturdays and Sundays helping to get the canoes in and out of the water and back in the shed at the end of the day.

I met up with an old friend - Norman (wearing the cap) who I used to work with and we were delighted to see each other and talk about old times. He let me use the megaphone and was pleased with my efforts.



Unfortunately Ron, who used to be there, had passed away.

I really enjoyed my visit and would very much like to do it again.'

(Robert Standen)



What's on at Pepenbury

Tai Chi every Tuesday 7.30pm

What's Coming - 2008

West Kent Charity Quiz

The Annual West Kent Charity Quiz will be held on Saturday **15th November** at 7pm at Pembury Village Hall.



Teams of 6 (minimum) or 8 (maximum) are needed and the entrance fee of £10 per person will include a buffet supper. There will be winner and runner up prizes.

Hurry and book your place for a great night! Contact Maggie Jenkins on 01892 822168 extension 337 for further information. Bookings need to be accompanied by payment.

Christmas Trees

Best quality, locally cut, Christmas Trees will be on sale at Pepenbury along with lots of Christmas Fare from **29th November**. Further information in next issue.



Pepenbury Carol Service

This will be held at St Peter's Church in Pembury at on **Wednesday 17 December** at 2pm. All welcome.

Pepenbury Christmas Entertainment

To be held on site in Stoneleigh Hall on **Friday 19 December** commencing at 1.30pm.

Core – What a lot of Apples!



Fans of our Pepenbury Apple Juice will undoubtedly join in the thanks to everybody who kindly donated apples for juicing this year.

We delivered more boxes to Ringden Farm, who bottle the apples, than in previous years so there will be more of the beautifully smooth sweet juice and of the crisp dry variety available to connoisseurs later this year.

£2.50 you gets you a big bottle just to drink yourself, enjoy with friends or give as an individual Christmas Present – perhaps in a Pepenbury Kentish Hamper



Andrew is 65!!!

Yes he really is!! Andrew reached this milestone on Thursday 29th September and celebrated with a party in Briars.



Training in Horticultural Skills

Service users at Pepenbury are benefiting from training in horticulture. The courses which started in June this year offer a structured programme of training and activities aimed to help people with learning disabilities to learn at their own pace and learn new skills like identifying types of plants, using and caring for tools, and preparing a seed bed.

Ian Fearn the Horticulture Instructor at Pepenbury, said "The course is designed to help people with learning disabilities learn the basic skills needed to work in horticulture. It gives candidates confidence and a chance to take responsibility, it also gives structure to their day and it helps build confidence step by step".

Ian went on to say "It is essential if candidates are to progress into jobs in the horticultural industry". Pepenbury plant sales have already reaped the benefits of the NPTC training skilled work force with increased productivity of quality plants



The candidates work through a series of modules and provide a portfolio of evidence containing witness statements and photographs as evidence of achievement.

Simon has started his 'Entry level 2 and is pictured preparing cuttings. He has already done a number of modules and learnt to identify plants and safe use and care of tools and is able to take cuttings.



Pepenbury also offers NPTC entry level 1 & 2 in catering. Animal husbandry training is open to residents and people visiting day services. For further details of NPTC training please contact Paul Card, Head of Day Services.

(Picture - Simon Jenner is pictured taking cuttings as part of his NPTC level 2)

..... and Catering

Julian is just one of a number of young people learning about most aspects of catering – from keeping the Coffee Shop clean and tidy to preparing and serving the food. Julian does want to get a paid job in catering one day and he is going the right way about it.



(Julian seen here with Ro one of our volunteers)

Quote of the Month

Conscience is a little thing that tells you someone is sure to find out.

I have never heard it is a crime to hope for the best.



What Roy gets up to with MOST

Roy Prince moved into our supported house in Tunbridge Wells nearly four weeks ago. He came to us from the London Borough of Islington, so he's a long way from his friends and family but we aim to make him feel at home down in Kent.

Roy has settled in well, made new friends and done many things with his support workers. Firstly, he needed to be shown where the shops were - and the pub! He has opened a bank account and sorted out his benefits and bus pass. Roy works two days a week in the Pepenbury coffee shop and is now travelling there independently after bus training. He has enrolled at the Adult Education Centre in Tunbridge Wells to do pottery on Wednesday mornings and is hoping to do a computer course there as well. He has already shown us his moves on the dance floor at JJ's!!

Pepenbury football team is next on his 'to do' list once sessions are up and running again. Fabio Capello, please take note.

Jeremy Browne has supported Roy to join the Tunbridge Wells District Partnership Group and to attend a drama class on Wednesday evenings. They have also been seen at St John's swimming pool and playing tennis. Well done Roy, you have certainly kept the MOST staff on their toes. *(And Jeremy on his knees!!)*

day services Soccer Aid Wembley Stadium **7th September**

There was much anticipation for a first trip to the new Wembley Stadium for David Martin, Stuart Harding, Stuart Knight and Kevin Smith. The group left Pepenbury at 3pm and got to Wembley with plenty of time before the 7.30pm kick off. On arrival everyone was impressed with the size and structure of the new stadium as well as the number of people in attendance.

The game itself was in aid of UNICEF - a charity for Children around the world. The match involved an England side of celebrities and former football stars taking on a 'Rest of the World' team with a similar make up. Some of the stars on display included Alan Shearer, Teddy Sheringham, David Seaman, Franco Barasi, Romario and Figo together with some other 'stars' from the world of TV and pop music.

The match was a very even contest with England coming out 4-3 winners and Alan Shearer scoring a hat trick for England (much to the delight of Phil and Kevin!!). Everyone who went had a great time and are eagerly anticipating the next Football match!!

Incidentally if anyone has any suggestions regarding who they would like to go and see play next time please go and speak to Phil Edmunds in Day Services.

Dr Who Exhibition Earls Court London

Over twenty Whovians (Dr Who fans!) joined together for a trip up to this wonderful exhibition at Earls Court. After embarking on the coach they enjoyed a good and fairly traffic free (!) journey up to West London.

The exhibition itself concentrated on the more recent series of the popular sci-fi show. There were many displays and props for all to see, and best of all - real Daleks and Cybermen! The Daleks were really quite frightening as Kellie Thompson will testify!! There was also one you could climb inside and speak through a voice changer so everyone could sound like a Dalek!

A good day was had by all!!



Moving Arts

We have been highlighting with readers for some time the possible move of part of our Arts and Crafts activities to a new location. Well, at last it is about to happen!

Beatrice, one of our instructors, is organising what is quite a big move from Stoneleigh Hall to the old woodwork shop next to the Coffee Shop. This means that if visitors want to have a look at what we do then, with the permission of people working there, they can have a look around and maybe buy something from the great stuff that we produce. At this point pottery will not be moving.



In due course we would like to think that local art or craft clubs or organisations would make use of the facilities which will be available to them evenings and weekends. If any reader knows of anybody who might

be interested please let Paul Card know on 01892 822168 or email paulcard@pepenbury.info.