



Issue 64 - January &
February 2009
Website
www.pepenbury.info

**Thank you from a
Member of the
Public**

“Please could you send my thanks - and most likely those of the other ten cars stuck in Cornford Lane - to the kind gentlemen who helped us get through the ice and snow on Monday. They were ever so cheerful and we would have still been there had it not been for their kindness and skill with the red tractor! Thank you again.”

Jackie Fuller

Thanks to John & Ben!

PARIS – here we come!

They won't cycle the Channel Tunnel but the rest of the journey from London to Paris will be pedalling all the way for four intrepid cyclists from Pepenbury.

One resident and three members of staff have volunteered to go through a gruelling training schedule (devised by a sadistic Terry Eaves – Fitness Manager and “guru”) to be fit by 1st July to undertake this mammoth task and survive!

They will arrive in Paris on 5th July to be greeted by fans, including resident Chris Gearing's Mum and, hopefully, a group of us from Pepenbury.

We think that the lads deserve sponsoring and if you want to help them get as much money for Pepenbury as possible please go to our website (www.pepenbury.info) and be as generous as possible.



Pepenbury Carol Service - 17th December 2008

Pepenbury held its annual Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's Church in Pembury village where they were joined by the Bishop of Tonbridge.

Residents, service users and friends of Pepenbury sang their hearts out and joined in with a variety of musical instruments, making it a very festive occasion! There was a drama sketch composed by residents and a volunteer at Pepenbury and also a harpist from Canterbury who played. Two solo singers sang beautiful renditions of “Ave Maria”, and “O Holy night” and led the congregation into “Silent night”.



A good afternoon on the Golf Course is yours....

It's that time of year when the warmth of June seems a long way off but if you don't book now for the Pepenbury Golf Day on 22nd June you may miss out on a really good day in great company!

For the last 5 years our Golf Day has become a regular event for many golfers and a chance for them to contribute to the Charity's finances. For only £50 (£200 per team of 4) you get:

- The beautiful Woodlands Manor Golf Course near Sevenoaks
- Brunch
- 18 holes
- A good evening meal as well



So we hope that it won't break the Bank!

If any reader is interested please either contact Roy Brazier on 01892 822168 or roybrazier@pepenbury.info or go direct to Ken Thornton at the Course on 01959 523806 or kengolf@btinternet.com and they will send you an application form.

Our Patron volunteers again!

Greg Clark MP has found the time again to come over and work with us for a while – this time in the new Arts area next to the Coffee Shop.

Greg rolled his sleeves up and got down to some pretty sticky work helping Paul Dover stick hair onto a puppet. You know the quality of the helper when he is not simply content to simply apply the glue and hope for the best but acts as consultant as to the right hairstyle!



It is just as well that Greg shook hands with all the artists before he started his work – he could not afford to “get stuck” at Pepenbury, as he had to move on to an important meeting at Tunbridge Wells Borough!

Readers should note that the new Arts area is available for use by outside groups evenings or weekends. Anyone interested should speak to Paul Card on 01892 822168 or e-mail to paulcard@pepenbury.info.

We are here to share with other charities

We grow good quality plants and sell many to the public and to the likes of Southborough Council.

BUT we have enough to enable any other charity, school or other organisation to sell plants at their fundraising events and share the profit with us.

All you have to do is collect or have delivered a range of identified plants (with growing instructions), sell them and bring the rest back and half of the income.

It's so easy to do, no trouble to arrange and another profitable stall for your event.

Anyone interested should contact reception at Pepenbury (01892 822168) or, better still, Mike Giles on his mobile 07973 379876.



News from our Roving Reporter

Winter is Here!

We have had a very cold winter this year and there has been ice and frost on the ground for two weeks.

It made everywhere look nice and clean, however, it means that the village market was closed because of the ice on the streets which meant I couldn't go.



I hope everyone has a Happy New Year
Stephen Holliday (Pepenbury's Roving Reporter)

Apple Juice for sale!

This year's Pepenbury Apple Juice is now on sale. At £2.50 OR £6.00 for three bottles of Sweet or Dry juice you get a delicious and refreshing drink worthy of a Dinner Party or just to drink for pure pleasure.

Visit the 'Kitcheners' Coffee Shop or our on-site shop to buy and have a bite to eat at the same time.





What's on at Pepenbury - 2009

March 21st 7.30-9.30pm - Orchestral concert at St. Phillips Church, Tunbridge Wells to raise money for Pepenbury.

Tuesday 7 April - Disco at The Retreat

2nd - 17th May - Bluebell Walk

30th May - Pepenbury May Fair

21st June - Gala Day at Meadows School, Southborough

22nd June - Golf Day (see article on page 2)

1st - 5th July - London to Paris Cycle

30th July - Family Treasure Hunt



Photograph provided by the Courier Media Group

Welcome to two new additions

Ian Nightingale became the proud father of Isobel Rose who was born on 10th December and weighed in at 7lbs 7oz.



Isobel Rose

And Julie Haslam who gave birth to a daughter, Ellen Anne Catherine Haslam, on 28th November 2008 weighing in at 9lbs 8oz.

Pepenbury are invited to meet the stars of Aladdin

On Thursday 18th December, residents, service users and staff and friends of Pepenbury, went to see Aladdin at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells. The local business AXA PPP, who chose Pepenbury as their charity of the year, supported Pepenbury by donating their ticket sales and also a collection they organised at the event.

Motivational Evening



The Motivational evening held at The Ramada Jarvis on the 29th January was a great success, and raised much money for Pepenbury, both in the event and the raffles. Everyone who came said that they enjoyed the evening, and felt inspired to live a more positive future. The comedian and the magician also had people laughing and mystified!

Roy Brazier introduced Gemma Bridge as someone who can achieve much, by doing an abseil in spite of her physical limitations. The guys doing the London to Paris Bike Ride were also introduced and everyone was encouraged to sponsor them.

Mayor's Quiz

This year's Mayor's Quiz was organised by Pepenbury and held at the Assembly Hall on 31st January. Over 400 people attended with an entry of 51 teams. The evening was deemed a great success which was helped in no small way by the superb catering from Pepenbury's own Kitchener's team.



The winning team



Winners of the coveted wooden spoon!

Ex-volunteer travels the world

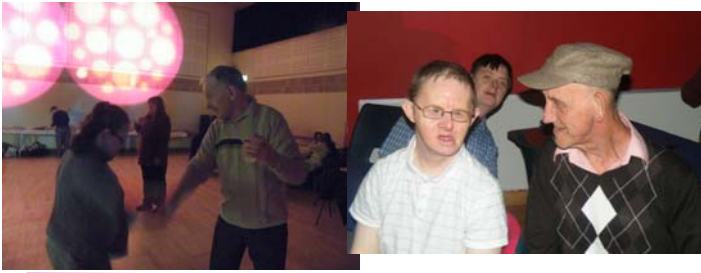
Neil McQuillan used to be a volunteer at Pepenbury. After getting a First Class Degree he came and helped us in management and designed a website for us. Neil left us for a paid job in a charity in London and has now decided to take some time out to travel the world.



The last message we received from Neil was as follows:

"So far I have spent 3 weeks in India and 5 weeks in Nepal. In India I went to places like Delhi, Jaisalmer (in the Rajasthan desert), Agra and Varanasi. For the most time in Nepal I have spent trekking the Annapurna Circuit and Annapurna Base Camp which was a total of approx 300k in distance."

Thanks for taking time out for a photograph showing that Pepenbury is still in your thoughts Neil!



Wychwood Disco

The Wychwood festive disco was held at Pembury village hall on Saturday 17th January 2009 between 4-8pm. There was a buffet and plenty to drink and the disco was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to all who attended for making the evening a great success.

day services

Tunbridge Wells Disability Football Team comes to

Pepenbury

Monday evenings now see Stoneleigh Hall being used as the winter training venue for this team, under the coaching skills of Steve Groves. The team is open to anyone with a physical or learning disability and they are keen to recruit new players. During the summer, training will be taking place at Tunbridge Wells Stadium. The team will also be playing in several tournaments throughout the year.

This is a great opportunity for Tunbridge Wells FC, Compaid, Pepenbury and Oakley School to all work together in promoting football as being accessible to all. **Volunteers are also sought to help with the running of the sessions.**

For further details please contact Paul Card or Joe Croker, secretary of TWFC on 07952 773228.



Pepenbury Hawks

The Pepenbury Hawks didn't perform quite as well in their recent tournament in the South London Special league (SLSL) - only gaining one victory and a draw. Kevin Smith scored our only goal. Our

position was undermined somewhat by West Kent College poaching Chris Gearing for their team! That said, everyone involved had another great day and we are all looking forward to the next tournament.

SLSL Tournament Dates - Thursday 26th February & Thursday 19th March. Everyone welcome!

We are also hoping to start taking a group over to the indoor bowls centre in Sevenoaks. The first session should be starting on Tuesday 24th February, leaving Pepenbury at approximately 12:30pm. If enough interest is shown this will become a weekly event.

Another new Day Service session beginning at the end of February will be a walking group. This will be weekly taking in various walks around the local area. Once a month we will be attending Bedgebury Pinetum for their guided walks. The Bedgebury walks can be accessed by wheelchairs so people of all mobility's can come along to this. We are hoping to go on our first walk (weather permitting) on Friday 27th February.

For further details or if you are interested in trying out any of the above activities please contact Phil Edmunds in Day Services.

Party Animal Alan!

Once a month on a Thursday, I go to JJ's nightclub in Maidstone with Wayne, Angela, Natalie, Shane and Roy. Phil and Laura normally help to get us there and make sure that we are OK. When I go to JJ's I like to mingle with new people and I've got to know some of the bouncers and the JJ's crew quite well.



I really enjoy myself and so do all the people who I go with. When we arrive there we always meet up with other people from MOST and Pepenbury and we like to take over the far corner of the club. It would be great to see more people from Pepenbury attend this as it is a great night out and can only continue with our support.

Compliment received following a meeting at Pepenbury with ACAS

"You may recall that we met when I came to do an Equality & Diversity Health Check on your organisation's policies and procedures. At the time I was extremely impressed by your procedure for dealing with people who were going to be away from work for any period of time - on suspension or long term sick leave etc.

You said at the time that you were quite happy for me to share your policy with other companies as an example of good practise. If this is still the case could I please ask you to E-mail it me?"

Shows we are getting it right!

Snow Heroes

Thanks to Chris Gearing who did a sterling job in clearing the White House Car Park of snow on Tuesday 3rd February. Well done Chris and I hope your back has recovered!



Also to Nick from Fern, Terry, Mike, Ian, Shane, Stuart, William, Michael, John, Alan, Abigail, Helen and the Day Service staff including Ian, Paul and Phil for all their efforts in

clearing the snow around the site. It is very much appreciated!!

Naming the Pigs Competition

And finally - we have names for our three pigs. The names of Ginger, Scary and Posh were put forward by Nigel Hill.