



## **Great Pepenbury Team Work but it was the Cyclists who did it!!!**

The real star of the show, however, was Chris Gearing and here's what he said:



“At the beginning it was very nerve-wracking. We started at Blackheath. Cycling through London was hard and after that we had to ride over the North Downs. At this point I needed encouragement. The drivers in France were different from home and generally more respectful. I was able to stop at cafés and pubs on the way and met some lovely people. I would love to do it again. It is a shame that Adam could not be with us and at first it did not feel right. I came off my bike once and a first aid person looked at my leg, which was a bit of a mess, cleaned it up, bandaged me and sent me on my way!

Paris was the best thing and it was a lovely feeling at the finish. I said ‘I have made it!’ – it was a very emotional time. I just wanted to lay down and die! We now call Guy (see below) ‘Lance’ as he is like a bullet at speed!”

Issue 66  
July & August 2009  
Website  
[www.pepenbury.info](http://www.pepenbury.info)

## **A few quotes will tell their own story**

### Chris's Mum, Valerie

“As Chris got off his bike he bear hugged me and I could plainly see that my tear-filled eyes were not alone. I cannot describe that feeling. Suffice to say I felt an exceptionally proud mother to be part of, what was for Chris, something truly amazing.”

Guy “Northern France is not flat – there were some horrendous hills to climb and some very scary downhill helter-skelters to negotiate.”

Maciej “One piece of advice to future riders – don't slap on the suntan lotion too thickly because your arms and legs will be covered with flies before the end of the day!”

Adam “I was really gutted not to be able to join the lads on the ride because of an accident the day before. Contrary to rumour, the accident was NOT my way of avoiding the ride”. **(Editor's Note: breaking a wrist and having to have a steel plate inserted would have been rather extreme we agree!)**

### Greg Clark MP

“Pepebury is always incredibly imaginative in how it helps its service users to live challenging and active lives. It is fantastic that Chris and the team made it. To ride all the way from London to Paris and raise money for the charity at the same time is a double achievement.”

Chief Executive, Roger Gibson, said,

“THANKS AGAIN TO ALL CONCERNED IN ORGANISING THE RIDE”.

## **Inspired enough to take part next year???**

ANY readers who have been inspired to even *think* about doing the ride next year please contact either Roy Brazier ([roybrazier@pepenbury.info](mailto:roybrazier@pepenbury.info)) or Nigel Hill ([nigelhill@pepenbury.info](mailto:nigelhill@pepenbury.info)) or 01892 822168 for more information.

Before you make a decision Guy has offered to make a presentation to tell everybody the unadulterated truth about what the ride entailed. If you are not put off by what he has to say, then you are probably the right person to have a go!





### High Sheriff of Kent calls in

We were pleased to welcome Jane Rogers, High Sheriff of Kent, when she visited us recently. She was only with us for an hour or two but we did have the opportunity of showing her round and introducing her to a number of residents and staff.

Ms Rogers told us that she had, until recently, known very little about us and said that the "feel" of Pepenbury was good and very welcoming. In fact she has threatened to come over one weekend with her family, take a walk in the woods, and buy a bit of lunch!

### Mansell Construction Cheque & Boots!



Thanks to Mansell Construction for donating £150 towards Chris Gearing's cycle ride to Paris. Chris was there to receive the cheque.

Mansell is also providing us with a number of pairs of reinforced boots for use on the estate.

### Chartered Institute of Builders to donate income from Black Tie Event to Pepenbury



Income from this year's prestigious Black Tie Event at Leeds Castle, run by the Chartered Institute of Builders, will be donated to Pepenbury. This is a very kind gesture on the Institute's part – so a big vote of thanks to them.

The Chartered Institute have visited us recently and were shown around by Nigel - so they know what they are donating to.

The event is also a chance for us to highlight the range of services that we offer to people with learning disabilities because Roy Brazier has been given the opportunity of talking to the diners, who come from all over Kent, about Pepenbury.

### Thanks to..

Fusion Lifestyles, Swift Refurbishments and Tesco for all their help with the Bike Ride (see front page)



### Pepenbury – a Finalist for a West Kent 'Business Excellence' Award!



We may not win the prize but Pepenbury is a finalist in the West Kent 'Growing Business of the Year' Award. It was great to have been nominated in the first place and better still to be a finalist! The judging process is not easy. We had to put forward a case in writing but the number of words allowed was very limited. Once through that stage, the judges visited and interrogated us for two hours before walking away with lots of information for further reading!

Whatever the final result the judges undoubtedly left Pepenbury impressed with the services we offer and we have a great opportunity to tell the business-people

### Another GOLD AWARD for Coffee Shop!



The man from Environmental Health recently made an unannounced call on the Coffee Shop AND David was at Tesco when he did! So it was especially good that we passed his inspection with flying colours and we had our Gold Hygiene Award renewed.

Well done all and well done Debbie for holding the fort.

**Note to Readers – it's not just the hygiene that's good – it's the food as well!**

### News from our Roving Reporter

On 19<sup>th</sup> June I went to the Lifeboat Station where I met Steve, the Manager. I went upstairs for a coffee where I saw the Engineer. I bought a pen and put something in their collection box. They kindly gave me my own box which I returned to them on 4<sup>th</sup> July with some money. When I was there I bought some orange and ginger marmalade and a small 'D' class lifeboat.



Stephen Holliday (Pepenbury's Roving Reporter)

### Sir John Stanley MP to officially "reopen" Falconers Court

Sir John Stanley will be taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Falconer's Court, the Registered Home in Edenbridge that we have recently taken over, to meet the residents and staff and perform a brief opening ceremony.

Sir John's Parliamentary Constituency includes Edenbridge so his visit on 23<sup>rd</sup> October is an ideal opportunity for him to see what we do and for us to get to know him better.



### **The Dragon Boat Festival at Bewl Water on Saturday 12 September**

Come and see your local Charity take part in the race and have a great day out! Stalls for everyone and lots of fun and games for children. Come and give us your support. If you are aged over 16 years and would like to join us in the race to help us raise money, please contact Nigel Hill on 01892 822168 or mobile 097854 754737.

For details about the event itself, please contact Fundraisers on 07092 222066.

### **Pepenbury Plants**

Come and get your plants from Pepenbury. They are all grown on site. We sell a variety of plants through the year and can supply large amounts if requested beforehand. We supply local schools and others, including Tesco.

### **Pepenbury Quality Apple Juice on Special at the moment**



With the apple season upon us and more juice on the way we are offering a very special deal on DRY Apple Juice at the moment. For as little as £1.25 you can purchase juice worth £2.00 of anybody's money AND if you are really thirsty you can have 3 bottles for £3.00.

Readers are strongly advised to take advantage of the offer while it lasts!



### **Helen Johnson - New Trustee**

Helen spent the early years of her career working in the legal department of Worthing Borough Council and then Southern Water whilst she studied part time for her solicitor's qualification. In 1997 she went to work for a large multinational food manufacturer as a commercial solicitor doing predominantly commercial mergers and acquisitions and competition work. After a spell in 2001, working in Indonesia as the Head of Legal Department, Helen returned to the UK and had a career change - moving within the company to the purchasing department as Senior Buyer. Since then she has remained within the purchasing function and now concentrates on buying chocolate for Europe and Asian markets. Helen travels a fair amount with work but sadly does not get to see much of the countries that she visits except for offices, factories and hotels!

Helen is married and lives in Haysden, Tonbridge, with her husband Tim and their cat Billy. They have been married for 5 years and both enjoy photography and combine it with their hobbies of scuba diving and watching wildlife. Helen was born in Cyprus where her father was working as a meteorologist for the RAF. Her mother is a retired teacher and lives in Plymouth and her father moved back to Cyprus when he retired. Helen has recently become an Auntie for the first time and is loving having a little nephew to make a fuss over. When not working she enjoys scuba diving in tropical waters, safaris in South Africa, reading, gardening (although she confesses she doesn't really know what she's doing!) cooking and going to the gym.

### **AXA to visit again**

AXA PPP, the large insurance company, have decided to send a volunteering party to Pepenbury again this year. For the price of a bacon sandwich and a bit of lunch the 10-12 volunteers will spend their time digging out an extension to the existing viewing area / path down by the chicken and duck enclosure. Tim and his team will finish off the concreting later. All AXA's hard work will mean that parents and grandparents will be able to give children an even better view of the animals.



The aim is that, eventually, the path will extend towards the ancient woodlands and the Woodland Walks. Thanks again AXA!

### **QUIZ TEAMS WANTED!**

Our Annual West Kent Quiz is set for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Pembury Village Hall at 7.00pm. Teams of 8 (minimum 6) are invited to join us and for £10 per head what you get is :

- Questions by Roger Gibson – CEO
- Good Company in a relaxed atmosphere
- Quality Dinner



We hope you are man (or woman) enough to take part and if you want to be sent full information please contact Roy Brazier on 01892 822168 or at [roybrazier@pepenbury.info](mailto:roybrazier@pepenbury.info).

### **Thank you!**

Thanks to Shaun Lewis for organising a 'bucket-shake' collection at Morrison's in Crowborough. This is the first time we have made our presence felt in East Sussex!

The best of luck also to Shaun in his forthcoming Skydive for Pepenbury and for an event he is organising at 'The Cross' Public House in Crowborough.

### **Volunteers - What some of our recent Volunteers are doing....**

- Bill Grigg - Organising a fundraising Dinner Dance and helping with publicity.
- Mel Karpinski - Keeping the Pepenbury Website up to date
- Chris Leaning - Working with us on planning and conservation issues
- Peter Hills - Advising on business and other planning matters
- Mark Banham - Organising the West Kent Quiz

**OUR THANKS TO ALL OF THEM**



## day services

Computer sessions in day services are soon to get a whole lot more exciting! Victoria and Kayleigh are starting off some great project work, the first being about the beach and the sea. This could even involve a field trip soon! We are also looking at publishing a monthly or bi-monthly magazine completely designed and contributed to by those who attend the computer session!

Victoria will also be starting up her various drama activities soon, including organizing and casting for the Christmas show!

Terry and Phil will be getting their heads together in the next few days to devise new timetables and sessions so watch this space!

Here are the dates for the remaining SLSL football tournaments for the rest of the year:

- 17<sup>th</sup> September - Adult Festival
- 15<sup>th</sup> October - Adult league and championship
- 12<sup>th</sup> November - Adult league and championship
- 10<sup>th</sup> December - Adult Christmas Cracker Festival



## Primrose Project Allotment

Being based at Rusthall, we have a lovely opportunity to interact with the local community, which I am pleased to say is happening very successfully.

You may ask why, with all the land available at Pepenbury, that the trouble is taken to support a social and therapeutic horticultural project out at Rusthall? I did. However, when you see the interaction between our gardeners and local people with children and pets, walking and talking happily through the beds, it is obvious why it works.



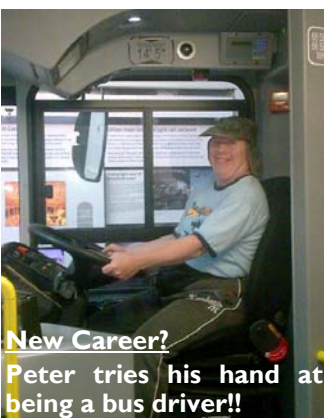
We have, however, had a few unhelpful distractions and setbacks such as a little vandalism, although this seems to have lessened as we become more a part of the Rusthall community.



A bigger problem at the moment is with the visiting badgers who, so far, have helped themselves to all our broad beans, peas and, more recently, sweetcorn. According to neighbouring allotment holders, this year has been the worst ever! A little frustrating but on a lighter side, it was quite amazing to see a huge bed of corn totally flattened and eaten in one night. We will look upon this as an extension of our wild-life garden!!!

This week we have been watching the house martins gather and prepare for their annual migration, feeding on cabbage white butterflies and flies over the beds. We have started work on the winter bedding plants and making new beds for spring sowing.

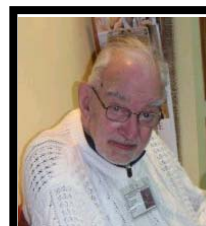
We look forward to our new polytunnel raised beds being built soon which will give us a frost free working area during the winter months. Our Autumn projects are planting the wildlife area, making a wild-life pond and the creation of our bug hotels, all of which helps immensely towards us being able to grow as organically as possible, along with companion planting and a lot of weeding. I would like to thank all my colleagues at Primrose Project for their very hard work and support which they have given me over the last six months. Sue Lewis



**New Career?**  
Peter tries his hand at being a bus driver!!



We would like to extend a warm welcome to four new residents who have come to live at Pepenbury since the last In Brief. They are Sarah Curtis, Ben Stripple, Shane Springate, Sunni Bansal and Christopher Cavie



### George Jones

It is with regret that we report the death of George Jones who died on 10 June 2009. George had been at Larkfield (Pepenbury) since 7 September 1976 and had been married to Margaret for 17 years. His funeral was held at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on 25 June and he will be sadly missed by all his friends at Pepenbury.