

Pamber Heath Village News

An occasional newsletter written by Raymond West ©

May, 2006 to April, 2007

May, 2006

Penbere Close name suggestion for development in Pelican Road

The Pamber Parish Council have been asked to consider names for the new housing development in the former rear gardens of homes in Pelican Road almost opposite the Scout den. The developers have suggested Kingfisher Close or Road but councillor Keith Chapman has suggested the name Penbere Close - Penbere being an historical spelling for the name Pamber, one of several variations over time.

(See the item in October, right).

September, 2006

Work starts on new development at former Bailey's Cottage

Work has started at last on the housing development at what used to be Evelyn Bailey's 'Shirley Cottage' in Pamber Heath Road and the end of an era. Sadly, another of the last remaining historical buildings of Pamber Heath is to go forever. It was not long ago we saw 'The Cabin' in Burney Bit disappear for good. The cottage has not been demolished yet but the old large shed that Harry Bailey used to house his furniture van was dismantled first and then building began at the rear of the plot.

September, 2006

Pamber Heath Post Office changes hands

This month saw the Pamber Heath Post Office and Stores in Pamber Heath Road change hands after many years. The staff were not retained and many will miss the friendly personalities that made a visit there pleasurable. Dorothy and Angie were two such memorable members of staff that always had a friendly welcome for customers. Change is a part of life and I guess it will take a while for villagers to become accustomed to the new faces behind the counters. No particular changes have been noted at the shop but I understand the flat above is to be put on the market for sale.

The news items on this page were published on my web site but grouped together here in this PDF document

October, 2006

Shirley Cottage being demolished

Work began this month to demolish 'Shirley Cottage' (see left) and by the middle of the month the roof had been taken off but the electricity wires were still connected to one wall at the time and possibly the reason why demolition has halted for the time being.

October, 2006

Penbere Close chosen as name for new development

Penbere Close was chosen as the name for the housing development in the former rear gardens of homes in Pelican Road, with the access being almost opposite the Scout den (see item in May, left). Penbere is an ancient name for Pamber, one of many spellings.

April, 2007

Louisa Benham dies at the grand old age of 101 years

It is with sadness that I report the loss of another person who had historical connections with Pamber Heath. Louisa was originally married to Hector Benham, the baker and grocer who ran Benham's bakery and grocery shop in Silchester Road during the 1950s and before. In recent times she had been living near her daughter in Roman's Gate, Pamber Heath. It only seems a few years ago that I would often see her accompany 'Paddy' (Patricia) Elliott as 'Paddy' walked down with her wheelbarrow to work on her allotment just south of Burney Bit. She died peacefully at Bayford House Nursing Home, Stockcross, on April 15th. The funeral takes place at St. Peter's Church, Tadley on Tuesday April 24th at 2pm.