

A brief history of Furneux Pelham

Welcome to this historic and ancient village. A single 'Pelehem' is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, but it was divided into the three villages of Furneux, Brent and Stocking soon afterwards. Furneux Pelham takes its name from the Anglo-Norman family who were lords of the manor in the 1100s and 1200s. For the last eight hundred years or so, people have continued to disagree, not only on how it ought to be spelt, but also on how it ought to be said. It has been recorded as Furnell, Furneux, Furneaux, Furnix, Fornix, Fornax, Forneus, Fornwos and more.

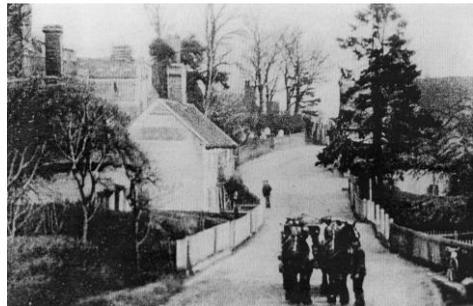
The church is the oldest building, dating from the early 1200s, but is run close by the Chantry House, which was in existence (if not entirely in its current form) in the 1300s.



Furneaux Pelham Hall (see picture) dates from the late Tudor period and was built in the late 1500s. It was partly remodelled in the fashionable Dutch style in the late 1600s. Some of the thatched cottages around the village are of a similar age.

The Rayment family began brewing at a modest scale at the Hall (where they were tenants) in the early 1800s, and in 1860 William Rayment built the brewery at Barleycroft End. It survived for over a century, finally stopping brewing in 1987, and was converted to residential use in 1999-2000.

Farming was however the main source of employment until the Second World War. It was much more diverse (and labour intensive) than today's almost entirely arable cultivation, raising pigs, sheep and cattle, and cultivating a range of vegetables, including asparagus. Turkeys and chickens were raised in great numbers at Upper East End.





The village boasted several trades, including blacksmiths, shoemakers, dressmakers and milliners. In addition there were two general stores, a butchers, a sweet and cigarette shop in the Wash, a post office (see picture), and a resident doctor up until the 1950s.

A charity school was established by the will of Mary Wheatly in 1746, 'to teach eight poor boys or girls of the parish to read and write'. This was located in a cottage more or less opposite the church. In 1851 it was replaced by a small National School, which in turn was replaced by a larger building in 1872 (see picture), now 'The Old School', a private house. This was superceded by the current school in 1974. Mary Wheatly's charity still exists and owns the field attached to the school



The 'Brewery Tap' is now the only surviving public house in the village. But it was once one of many, with the 'Star' in the Causeway, the 'White Lion' opposite the church (see picture), the 'Yew Tree' next to the Vicarage, the 'Millwrights Arms' in Barleycroft End, the 'Hoops' and the 'Black Horse' at Upper East End, and the 'Bald Faced Stag' at

Clay Chimneys.

Furneux Pelham History Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall. You would be very welcome. Please call Linda Bratt (01279 771696 for more details.