



The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

FURNEUX PELHAM



Location: 6 miles northwest of Bishop's Stortford. **Ordnance Survey grid square:** TL4327. **Postcode:** SG9 0LL. **Access:** well off main roads. **Bus:** Weekly shopping services only: 28 (Monday) to Buntingford and 20 (Thursday & Saturday) to Bishop's Stortford. **County:** Hertfordshire. **District:** East Herts. **Population:** 553 in 2011.

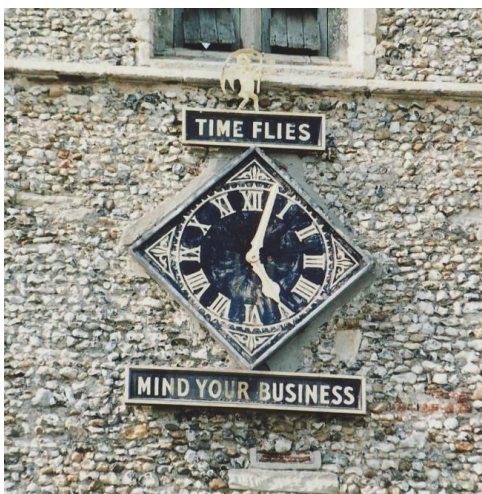
The Domesday Book of 1086 refers to just one Pelham, but by 1300 there were three adjacent places on Hertfordshire's border with Essex: Brent Pelham in the north, Furneux Pelham in the south and Stocking Pelham in between. The name Pelham may originally have meant the homestead of a man called Peola, whilst Furneux has survived from the Norman family De Furneux. Locals usually pronounce the name *furnox* or *furnix* with emphasis on the *fur*.



Rather curiously, the village sign has a different spelling, Furneaux, from that which has been in common use for at least the last 50 years.

The population of around 600 and the many listed buildings, over 50 in total, are spread around the parish. Most are in the village of Furneux Pelham itself or its extension Barleycroft End, whilst others may be found at Patient End in the southwest or East End to the east.

Each of the Pelhams has a parish church dedicated to St Mary. That in Furneux Pelham was built in the 13th century. It has an octagonal font of the same era, a ceiling supported by colourful angels, several interesting monuments, and stained glass windows that include some of exceptional quality from the Victorian era by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. The tower is topped by a "Hertfordshire spike"



It is a matter of conjecture as to whether the image of Old Father Time above the clock and the message shown here were installed to encourage parishioners to arrive promptly for services or as a general encouragement not to be idle.

For those wishing to heed the general advice, the parish has a good selection of footpaths. The description of an

interesting village walk can be downloaded (see link below). The full route is 8 miles, or it can be split into two loops, each conveniently starting and finishing at the village pub, the Brewery Tap. The route north from the pub soon passes the former brewery before following the bed of the River Ash. The video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIPTEy3YRJM> shows that this is a “seasonal” path - waterproof boots (perhaps even a small boat !) are required much of the year.

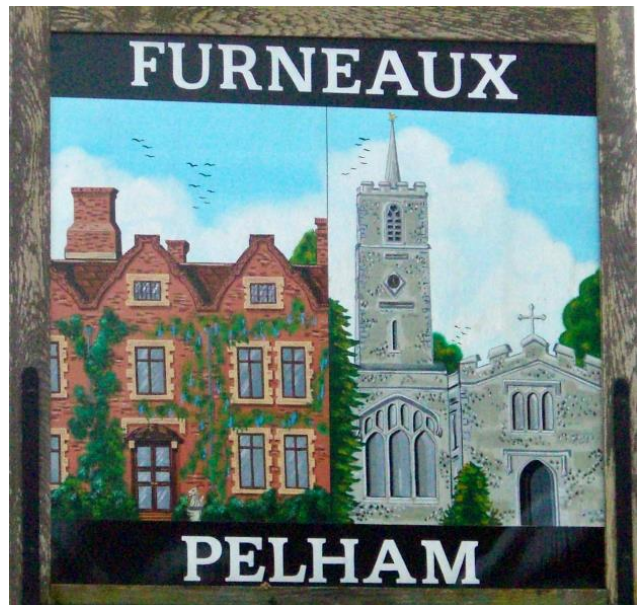
The brewery was built in 1860 by William Rayment, purchased by Greene King in 1928 and closed in 1987. Part is pictured here. It has since been converted and extended to provide a wide range of residential accommodation.



A little south of the pub is the village hall which once functioned as a cinema.



West of the pub, the road passes the church and several listed buildings, some shown here on the left, before passing the rather hidden Furneux Pelham Hall. A more accessible view is on one side of the village sign, where the 16th-century Hall has been positioned next to the church. The Hall was once the manor house and retains some good 16th and 17th interior panelling.



The parish has many more interesting buildings and some attractive countryside. It's worth a visit!

Hospitality: Brewery Tap pub – <http://brewerytapfp.co.uk> - 01279 777604

Adjacent parishes:

Albury, Braughing, Hormead, Brent Pelham, Stocking Pelham, Berden, Manuden.

Further reading: *History of Furneux Pelham*, GH Cameron, 1938.

Links:

Parish Council: <http://www.furneuxpelham.org.uk>

Village walk: <http://www.thepelhams.net/furneux-pelham/furneux-pelham-village-walk>

This page was last updated 13 February 2017.