



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.
Buses: 27 (Monday & Wednesday) to Royston and 20 (Monday to Friday) to Bishop's Stortford.
County: Hertfordshire. **District:** East Herts. **Population:** 437 in 2001, 553 in 2011, 520 in 2021.

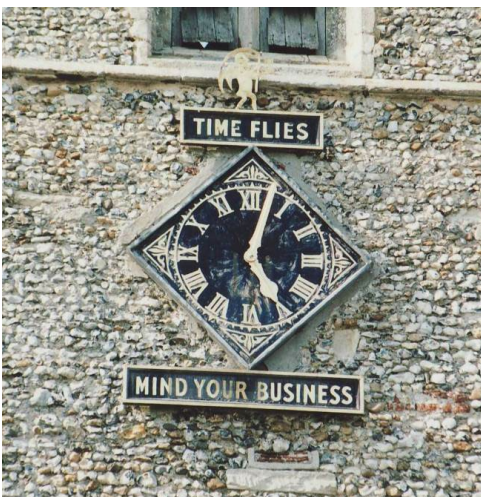
The Domesday Book of 1086 refers to just one Pelham, but by 1300 AD there were three adjacent places on Hertfordshire's border with Essex: Brent Pelham in the north, Furneux Pelham in the south and Stocking Pelham in between. The name Pelham may originally have meant the homestead of a man called Peola, 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 below, 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 route that heads north from the pub, the Brewery Tap, 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 16th-century Furneux Pelham Hall. A more accessible view is on one side of the village sign, where the Hall has been positioned next to the church. The Hall was once the manor house and retains 16th and 17th-century interior panelling.



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

Hospitality: Brewery Tap pub – <https://thebrewerytap.co.uk/> - 01279 777604

Hundred Parishes Society walks include two circular routes that include Furneux Pelham. They are free to download from the website:

Walk 108 covers 8 miles of Albury, Braughing and Furneux Pelham. The route can be joined at Patient End on page 4.

Walk 112 covers 6 miles in Albury and Furneux Pelham and could be joined on page 2.

Adjacent parishes:

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

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

Links:

Parish Council: <http://furneuxpelham-pc.gov.uk/>

This page, last updated 18 March 2025, was downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk.