

## Mr. Richard Edlund

Corporate designer and Sculptor of the Bee



Mr Richard Edlund, native of the South Shore, the husband of the Childrens librarian Mrs. Lucia Millet Edlund. He was a graduate of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

## Mr. David Litchfield

Artist and Sign Designer

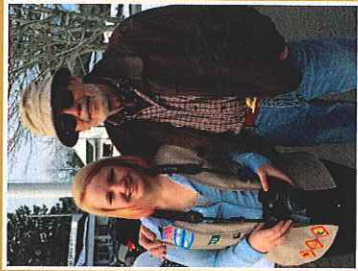


Mr David Litchfield local businessman has refurbished the Bee on two occasions and affectionately calls himself the BeeKeeper!



The Bee heading for repair under the Watchful eye of the DPW Pembroke in 2014

A Thank You to all that helped made this possible.....



**Witchfield's  
Art & Sign**  
Pembroke, MA

## With Thanks

The people who made this project possible were the Community Preservation Coalition (CPC). They provide the funds to refurbish local monuments and historical landmarks. The CPC decide if funds should be made available towards a project.



Thanks also go to the DPW who removed and replaced the Bee from its perch safely and to Selectman Michelle Burt for her tireless help and dedication to this project.



 **Silver Lake Press, Inc.**

# \*Pembroke Public Library Copy \* The Pembroke Library Bee



The Pembroke Library Bee was originally created in 1975 by Mr Richard Edlund and refurbished in 2006 and 2014 by Mr.

David Litchfield. It was erected to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the library and was designed in celebration of the town library spelling bee.

Despite the building's change of use, The Bee continues to adorn the original Library, now the Council on Aging building at the center of Pembroke even though there is a new purpose built Town Library behind it.

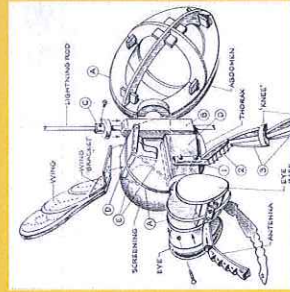
The Spelling Bee continues to be celebrated in Pembroke.

Leaflet created by Star Young Grade 7  
PCMS and GS Troop 80342 Member

The Bee (erected May 10th, 1975), referred to as a Monument in the Pembroke Town 300th year book, perches on top of a cupola on the Council on Aging building (formerly the Town Library) held in place by the buildings' existing lightening rod. It was designed and sculpted by Mr. Richard Edlund, a local corporate designer to mark the 100th anniversary of the original library building. The Bee was to commemorate the Pembroke Lady's Reading Society's Spelling Bee. The person who suggested the initial idea of a Bee as the subject for the weather vane was Mr Alan Dunphy, a former library trustee.

This Bee is now (2014) 39 years old and has had two repairs . The bee was vandalized once, and on another occasion someone took it upon themselves to paint yellow and black stripes on it. However Mr. Edlund (sculptor) prefers the original gold color from its initial design. During the creation of the Bee Mr.

Edlund made the bee using scrap metal, bronze, plywood, wiring and other recycled materials. Some of these materials have been updated to lighter, sturdier modern equivalents.



Original Design Sketch: Richard Edlund

The current "Beekeeper" is Mr. David Litchfield. He used materials such as Plexiglas for wings and ebonite to cover the outer skin and cracks.

The Bee had wooden eyes and antennae but they were heavy. Mr. Litchfield has used sign foam that has the appearance of wood like the original, yet is a lot lighter and more proficient for our New England weather. This shows how technology has improved since 2006 when the bee was last repaired. The eyes and antennae are both being covered with gold leaf. The body was resprayed with gold colored paint, in keeping with the original design.

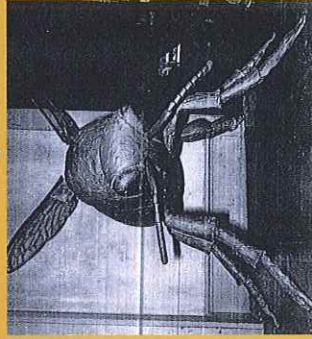


Photo: Deborah Wall

### Anecdote

In 1975 the Bee was stolen overnight. It was recovered when someone in Hanover reported seeing a "grasshopper" in their neighbor's apartment. The Hanover police called Pembroke police after they heard of the theft of the Pembroke Library Bee from its cupola. The police came and put the Bee on top their cruiser. On the journey home, the same police officer was informed of a robbery in progress. The police officer went to the robbery with the Bee on top of the cruiser. The robbers were shocked at the sight!

### Reason for Repair In 2014

The Bee was repaired in 2014 because it's wooden eyes were rotting and one of the Bee's wings had broken off. It also required some cosmetic repair after some harsh New England winters.



# SPELLING BEE

## The Womens Reading Society and Library Trustees

The Women's Reading Society were a group of women who started the Spelling Bee. The first library Spelling Bee (1875) was to earn money for the first books for the town library. The trustees wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the library (1975) they decided to hold a free Spelling Bee.

Spelling Bee means: *The gathering of people for a competition of spelling.*