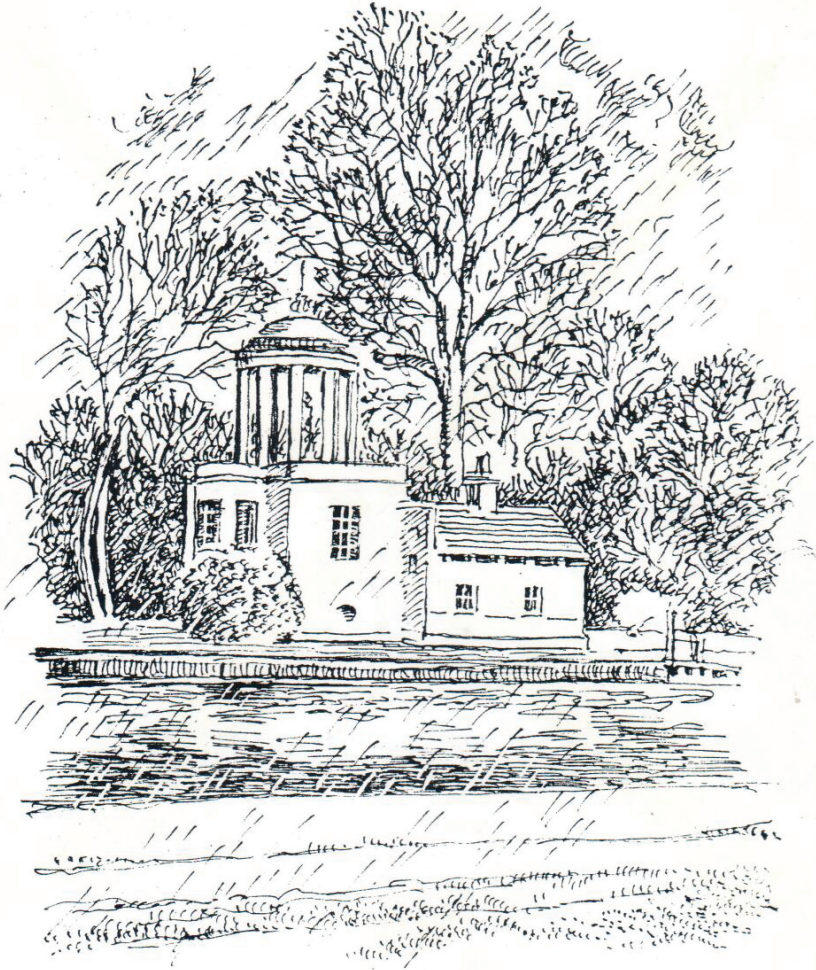


REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



No 223 – January-February 2015

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THE CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

Rector
St Mary's, Henley }
St Nicholas, Remenham }

Canon Martyn Griffiths
The Rectory, Hart Street
Henley-on-Thames, Oxon
Tel: 577340

Churchwardens

M Dowsett Tel: 575711
Charlotte Every Tel: 07973 798071
churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk

Churchwarden emeritus

P A S Sly Tel: 577925

Treasurer

N Gray Tel: 01491 572024

Secretary

Mrs R Palethorpe Tel: 01344 449385

Sidesmen

1st Sunday
2nd Sunday
3rd Sunday
4th Sunday
5th Sunday

A G Duckett
J A H West
P Forrester
M J Dowsett
G Palethorpe

Mrs R Duckett
Mrs S West
C Every
Mrs E Dowsett
Mrs R Palethorpe

NORMAL SERVICES

11.15am	Matins (BCP)	First Sunday
11.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Second Sunday
11.15am	Matins (BCP)	Third Sunday
11.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Fourth Sunday
11.15am	Matins (BCP)	Fifth Sunday

The Rector is happy to visit parishioners and members of the congregation.

Monday is normally the Rector's day off, except for emergencies.

Parish Office: Mon & Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Wed & Fri 9.30am-4.30pm

Tel: 01491 577340, email: *office.hwr@lineone.net*

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

John Halsall (Chairman), Cherwell, Remenham Lane, Berks, RG9 3DB

Richard Fletcher (Vice Chairman), Rivertrees, Wargrave Road, Remenham, RG9 3JD,

Alison Barraclough, Hedgerley, Aston Ferry Lane, Remenham, Berks, RG9 3DH.

Peter Grace, 11 Remenham Hill, Henley-on-Thames. RG9 3EE

Sue Laing, Home Farm, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2LS

John Merkel, The Green Cottage, Wargrave Road, Remenham, RG9 3HX

Darrel Poulos, 231 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1QN

Parish Clerk: Paul Sermon, Remenham Parish Council, PO Box 4748,
Henley on Thames RG9 9DH
email: remenhampc@btinternet.com or
clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk

The Parish Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the month at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR FOR REMENHAM and WARGRAVE

Cllr John Halsall, Cherwell, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 3DB

REMENHAM HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Domnall Tait (Chairman and Secretary)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Felicity Rutland, Riverway, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2LR,
email: newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2015

Months	Deadlines for Contributors	Approx. Dates for Distributors
Mar-Apr	Friday 20 Feb	Friday 27 Feb
May-June	Friday 24 April	Friday 1 May
July-Aug	Friday 19 June	Friday 26 June
Sept-Oct	Friday 14 August	Friday 21 August
Nov-Dec	Friday 23 October	Friday 30 October
Jan-Feb 2016	Friday 1 Jan 2016	Friday 8 Jan 2016

REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Canon Martyn Griffiths	Rector
Mike Dowsett	Churchwarden
Charlotte Every	Churchwarden
Peter Sly	Churchwarden emeritus
Ruth Palethorpe	Secretary
Nigel Gray	Treasurer

Eileen Dowsett, Sue Laing, Kim Murray Cox, Glen Palethorpe, Anthea Prescott, Leslie Prescott, Anthony West, Hugh Whitfield

CHURCH CLEANING

January	Rosemary Duckett	Minnie Wilson	Sally-Anne Plunket
February	Sarah West	Judy Bate	

ALTAR FLOWERS

January	Sarah West	Sally-Anne Plunket
February	Penny Whitfield	Charlotte Every

CHURCH CLEANING - CAN YOU HELP?

Occasional help with church cleaning would be very much appreciated. If you could spare a little time for this once or twice a year, to work in a team, please contact Rosemary Duckett on rkduckett@gmail.com. There is no need to be a regular church-goer.

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Matrimony

31 December Nathan Dodson and Lucy Axford

REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

Fr Martyn Griffiths, Chairman
Ann Burley, Secretary
Nigel Gray, Treasurer
Jayne Gray
Peter Grace
Alison Barraclough
Helen Rosier
Liz Cope
Pat and Peter Sly
Allan Henderson

contact email: parishhall@remmenhamparsih.org.uk

PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

January

- 12th 2.30pm W.I. meeting in the Parish Hall - Major Paul Whittle will give a talk called ‘Steam to Mandalay’
- 13th 8.00pm Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall
- 12-16th Christmas Trees for disposal to Ferry Lane, Aston

February

- 10th 2.30pm W.I. meeting in the Parish Hall
- 11th 8.00pm Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall
- 27th Evening Cricket Club Quiz Night in the Club House



DISPOSAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES

If you would like to dispose of your Christmas Tree please deposit it at the end of Ferry Lane, Aston, between Monday 12th January and Friday 16th January, for collection by Saturday 17th January.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

On 2nd December the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was presented to the attendees at the Website Launch. Please see copy of draft under the Remenham Parish Council tab on the website - <http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk/remenham-parish-council/neighbourhood-plan>. All comments welcome to clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk.

EDITORIAL

The editorial a year ago was largely about the floods - what a contrast to the mild weather we are currently enjoying.

Our parish was so busy during the Autumn that I had trouble keeping the last issue of the newsletter to its normal 24 pages. This time many of the usual contributors have gone very quiet and I have only just been able to fill 20 pages! Expect a bumper edition next time!

As you will know, we have a wonderful new parish website, www.remenhamparish.org.uk, but rest assured that the newsletter will continue in printed form in parallel with this. It is a wonderful feature of our community that a copy of the newsletter is delivered to every household in the parish, and this is achieved through a most impressive network of distributors. If you would like to join this network then please let me know as we are going to need one or two more volunteers as people move away or their circumstances change.

The community lost a great friend with the death of Fr John Ratings just before Christmas. He was a marvellous 'stand-in' for Fr Martyn on many occasions and we shall miss him. I hope to include an obituary and appreciation in the next issue.

The Parish Council report is a particularly important one this time as it mentions a number of matters that affect us all - recycling, a possible reduction in Henley train services and the draft Neighbourhood Plan to highlight just a few.

Happy New Year!

Felicity

PS Just as I am finishing this edition and about to go to print I realise, with much regret, that I have omitted the British Legion report on the collection in Remenham. This will follow in the next edition.

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER – THANK YOU

We are most grateful to the people in Remenham who deliver the Newsletter to each home in Remenham six times per year. We thank those involved: Alison Barraclough, Ann Burley, Mandy Cook, Liz Friend, Gini Forrester, Jenny Law, Caroline Leeming, Enid Light, Jo Morgan and Gillian Murdoch.

We also thank our advertisers for their support and hope they will wish to continue. Renewal for the next 12 months, ie March 2015 to end of February 2016, will shortly be due and Jo Morgan will be contacting our current advertisers before long. The charges remain the same as last year - see details on page 15.

FROM THE RECTORY

It looks as if we are going to have quite a year, one way and another. All of us are about to be bored endlessly by politicians promising the earth and lying through their teeth - and there's another four months to go! One pundit has even suggested that we might have two General Elections this year - if politicians are trying to engage those of us who have become bored with their power-grabbing, self-serving tactics (which are always under the guise of being 'for the people!') then that is not the way to do it!

And the dear old CofE is about to appoint its first woman Bishop to the Suffragan See of Stockport in the Diocese of Chester - we all have our opinions, educated or not, as to the wisdom of such a move. Our own Diocese of Oxford is again seeking a new Diocesan Bishop, and our thoughts and prayers are with Bishop Colin who yet again has to take over the reins of the entire Diocese until a new Bishop is 'enthroned' in Christ Church Cathedral, possibly some time towards the end of this year, they say.

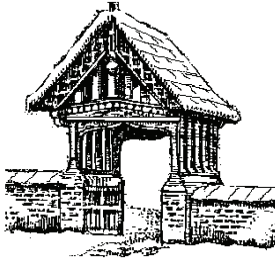
Our own parishes of Remenham and Henley commiserate with each other that they have had this 'Northerner' - actually I'm from Birmingham which is admittedly north of Watford Gap, but is nevertheless still classed as the Midlands (some of us think that Manchester is only in the North Midlands - those of us who have lived in a diocese which goes quite a long way towards the Scottish Border know exactly where the North starts!) - in the Rectory for a full ten years this month - January 15th to be precise. And that gives us all something to think about!

Both Remenham and Henley have new web sites with which to reach out to the rest of the world - Henley's should be up and running very soon, and Remenham's of course is a great triumph, so a big thank you to the ladies who finally got to grips with it all. And this April, the Parish Hall begins to run under its new (possibly first 'proper') Constitution, which clarifies rights and responsibilities for its day-to-day running and longer term planning and maintenance. A former Rector had called it all a 'can of worms', but happily the can has been emptied out and found to contain little more than human beings trying to do their best for the community in which they live (unlike the politicians mentioned above, I hear you cry).

So whereas 'excitement' at what the New Year brings might not be quite the term to use, nevertheless we have reason for hope. The Christian Community in Remenham, centred around its ancient parish church, saw how much, over the Christmas period, our presence in the village means to so many. All of us may well face trials and tribulations in the year to come, but with God's help and strength we continue to seek to serve our community and to constantly remind it of the Ultimate Authority of the Kingdom of God.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Fr Martyn



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

All of us at the Parish council wish you a Happy, Prosperous and Merry New Year

Annie Hooton

Thank you Annie for your service as clerk since May. Whilst your period in office was short, we learned a huge amount and are extremely grateful.

Paul Sermon

A great welcome to Paul, who has joined us as the new Parish clerk. Paul was born in Caversham, and has been living in the Parish since 1999, firstly at Culham Farm Cottages and now in Remenham Piece. His family has lived in the Parish from about 1840 (sometime at Remenham Farm). Paul is a Professor at Brunel University researching nanomaterials, rows at Marlow Rowing Club and Phyllis Court Club and sails at Henley Sailing Club.

Amenity Vehicles

It is with regret that the amenity vehicle provision has been cancelled. We were one of the Parishes who really benefitted from this service. Sadly a number of factors contributed to this decision. From the beginning of this year this waste has to be sorted and our contractors are not willing to do it, unless they charge an exorbitant fee. Apparently, in other parts of the Borough, there have been fights as to what can or cannot go on the vehicle and the contractor was obliged to put three drivers as protection. Many have been putting in garden waste and commercial waste. However, I suspect the underlying cause was more to find some tangible savings.

Recycling

Other than the curb side recycling on a Monday, you will now have to go to a recycling centre. The borough sites are in Bracknell, Longshot Lane and Reading, Smallmead. We have however managed to agree with SODC that Remenham residents can go to Ewelme near Wallingford, which whilst it is as far as the borough sites psychologically it does not appear so.

We, as a Parish, will work with the Borough to establish local recycling centres particularly as SODC are closing their bottle banks. The nearest at the moment is behind the Greyhound in Wargrave. We have concluded on one site and are approaching other potential locations.

The Parish Council discussed whether it would be desirable for the Parish to replicate the amenity vehicle and pay for it out of Parish funds, but the conclusion was that it would be too

expensive. I remind you of the green waste, clinical waste, cartridges and large item schemes etc which already exists <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish/>. Please look.

If all of these options are too difficult, please contact me and I will see what can be arranged.

Website

There was a well-attended and well-presented launch of the website. To make this effort worthwhile help us to make the site as meaningful as possible by sending stuff and being critical of the content. I am sure everyone would agree that what has been achieved in a very short time is exceptionally good.

Your Neighbours

Remenham is populated with older people who have never had to ask for help and would regard it as an indignity to do so, particularly of the state. Over the years we have asked parishioners to look out for their elderly neighbours and get in touch with me and my fellow parish councillors, if they are concerned. We have been able to help a very substantial number of residents discreetly and without causing offence. So please this is the most precarious period of the year, just take note if you have not seen your neighbour for a while or are afraid that they may not be coping or not well and let me know. I promise to be extremely sensitive and unobtrusive. You may save someone's life!

Meals on Wheels

There has been a lot of press talk about the discontinuance of meals on wheels. WBC is a council doing just that. The reason is that qualifying individuals now have budgets and there are a huge number of preferable, cheaper and better alternatives, which they prefer.

Neighbourhood Plan

We rolled out the neighbourhood plan as a draft. It is on the website. Please look at it <http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk/remenham-parish-council/neighbourhood-plan/>. It is as a very preliminary draft for comment and consultation. The timetable is for consultation during 2015 and if still relevant to take it to referendum May 2016.

Closure of Towpath

The Festival has applied for its annual closure of the Thames Path. Last year WBC Executive decided "to request a report be brought to a future Executive of the findings of the Member Working Group, to be chaired by the Deputy Leader, established to investigate the principle of limiting closures of public rights of way by the introduction of a byelaw and/or policy which would preclude any further applications, limiting current closures to those existing and conditioning those closures so that they have the minimum impact on the residents and public." Until this body reports, the Parish Council decided to object as in previous years.

Trains

Timetable changes, electrification and cross rail may significantly change the train service on the Henley branch line particularly for Wargrave. The Western Route Study (whose consultation period ended Friday 9th January) suggests that "The primary constraint on the

Henley-on-Thames branch is the running time need for a train to complete a round trip.” and has suggested “reductions in the number of intermediate calls” to achieve two trains per hour. The Office of Rail Regulation publishes station usage figures and, for 2013/14, were Henley 771,838, Shiplake 89,240, Wargrave 92,298 and Twyford 1,361,892 Entries and Exits plus 637,571 interchangers at Twyford. These figures suggest which stations (if any) should be selected to have stops omitted; Wargrave is being considered. As electric trains accelerate quicker this consideration could be avoided.

Electrification needs to happen concurrently with the main line; it may be delayed.

The progressive withdrawal of the through services from Henley-on-Thames to and from Paddington has been a consistent theme in the Great Western Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) issued in March 2010 and the London & South East RUS issued in July 2011. The Long Term Planning Process (LTPP), of which the Western Route Study is one component, has superseded the RUS programme. So, sadly, the proposed reduction of through services has been forecast for some years.

Blue Bags

Just to remind you I keep a stock for sale and the next nearest is Wargrave Library.

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

Currently the Council are entirely dependent upon the police to enforce parking across the Borough. It is consulting on CPE, which will give the Council complete control over parking restrictions and the enforcement of those restrictions, within the legal framework set out nationally, such as fine rates and the appeals procedure. The CPE proposal does not introduce on street parking charges, parking meters or clamping. The scheme would cost the Borough approximately £220,000 to introduce. There will be a cost associated with running this service but innovative ways of reducing this (such as involvement of town councils, and partnership working) will be investigated.

Adult Social Care

Wokingham Borough Council, has provided or bought social care services for a large number of social care customers. Some of these services were subsidised or provided free of charge. Over the last few years, the council has introduced personal budgets and this means that each social care customer receives personalised services that suit their individual needs. The changes in the way the council provides services has to go hand in hand with changes to the way it charges for them. The council needs to ensure all social care customers are treated in a fair and equal way. In addition, at a time of a reduced public purse, the borough council has to ensure that those who are able to pay for services, are asked to do so in order for it to be able to continue to provide social care services for everyone who needs them.

*John Halsall
Chairman Remenham Parish Council
Councillor Wokingham Borough Council*

REMENHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE

Remenham W.I. members, husbands and friends enjoyed a splendid traditional Christmas lunch at the Flower Pot, Aston, on December 8th. There was a merry and festive atmosphere and a fine Raffle with excellent prizes.

2015 is a very special year for the Women's Institute as it celebrates the founding of the movement in 1915.

The first meeting for Remenham is on January 12th when Major Paul Whittle will give a talk called 'Steam to Mandalay' - visitors (and railway enthusiasts) are very welcome.

Judy Fraser

With a shortage of articles for this edition of the Newsletter I'm taking the opportunity to include the information about the WI from the Remenham Parish website, as follows. Editor

Remenham Women's Institute

"What an eye opener"!

A view from a young member who recently joined her local WI - "not at all what I expected"

The WI is not just a monthly meeting with a cup of tea. It is a forward looking organisation with something for everyone. It is the opportunity to share knowledge with other women; come together socially; and learn new skills. There will always be jam making but you will also find music, creative writing, theatre, sports, photography and lots more.

The WI is also a campaigning organisation. This year our main objective has been to increase awareness of the importance of organ donation and this follows other campaigns to increase the number of midwives, human trafficking and saving our bees.

In fact the WI is what you make of it – why not give it try.

Remenham WI meets on the second Monday of each month at 2.30pm in Remenham Parish Hall. Do come along – we'd love to see you.

Contact: Judy Palmer. Tel 01628 472488. Email: judyroypalmer@gmail.com



REMENHAM QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday 15 November 2014, twelve intrepid teams of four (one of three, actually) made their way to the Parish Hall to take part in a renewal of earlier Quiz Nights, organized by Nigel Gray, as Overseer and Scorer, with Anthony West, as Quiz Master and Question Setter.

There were six rounds, separated by a splendid Supper organized by Jayne Gray and Sarah West, with unlimited wine on sale from the bar, expertly run (as always) by Nicholas Plunkett.

The Rounds were on Royal Family, Sport, Words, Food and Drink, Numbers and General Knowledge, with a Supper Quiz of matching letters to well known Sayings.

Despite the Instruction that “no dispute will be tolerated as to the accuracy of any answer, even if palpably and demonstrably wrong!”, the Question Master had to yield to public disquiet as to his idea of the identity of the Pop Group of which Sting was the lead soloist - The Monkeys - whereas some thought (possibly the overwhelming majority!) that the answer was The Police. Magnanimously, the Question Master permitted both answers to score a point!

After much hard thought and judicious playing of Jokers, the Winning team was “Les Quizerables”, led by Charlotte Every (the only three person team!).

During the course of the Evening a raffle was organized with prizes supplied by the Promoters.

With ticket sales (which reached sell out well before the Event), Bar Profits and the Raffle, a sum of over £1,200 was raised.

The Organizers are most grateful to everyone who took part.

Anthony West

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Do please keep sending any interesting/topical items for possible inclusion in the Newsletter to the Editor, Felicity Rutland, preferably by email to newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk.

Space permitting (and subject to receiving contributions) the occasional articles on ‘Remenhamisences’ and ‘Miscellaneous Village Information’ will continue, as will ‘The Remenham Interview’. It is also hoped to continue ‘News from the Archive’, which many long-standing local residents (and some of the newcomers) clearly much appreciate.

If you are interested in being part of an informal editorial team please contact the Editor. The editorial team reserves the right to edit, amend, précis or reject articles, and those included in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor.

REMENHAM NEWS FROM THE PAST

1. A chance encounter

*The following contribution from David Law (a **further** contribution that is - he is fast becoming a significant contributor to our newsletter and the history of the village) arose from a chance encounter with a visitor to Remenham last summer. Read on, it is delightful. Editor.*

In 1939 the Second World War was under way and Hitler's air force was doing its best to destroy London and other strategic centres in Great Britain. What, you may ask was the relevance of this to a small community in this corner of the Oxon, Berks and Bucks countryside? Answer; its rural location was far away from the conflagration in towns and cities and was a relatively safe haven for evacuee children.

I was one such child, not from necessity but by choice of my parents for me to be removed as far from the bombing dangers in the metropolis as possible. The solution was to billet Mother and me with my grandparents, James and Ellen Hill of Kennel Cottages (K.C.s), Park Place with the permission of Captain Noble for whom Grandfather worked as estate Carpenter.

As an unofficial evacuee, I was required to attend the Henley Junior School in Greys Road, near Neals grocers shop but for some reason permission was granted for me to have meals with the official evacuees at Remenham which were served in the Parish Hall where their school lessons were conducted. As the owner of a twenty one shilling bicycle, delivered to me by bus at the bottom of the Happy Valley on the Wargrave Road, my school day journey consisted of a ride from K.C.s., through Park Place estate passing the "big house", on to White Hill, over Henley bridge and on to school each morning. At lunchtime, back on my bike and cycle to Remenham and back for a free meal, then at close of school, home to K.C.s

You may wonder why, after all this time I should write about this. Well, at last nostalgia caught up with me and this summer, whilst caravanning in the area it got the better of me. Walking round your little-changed, delightful village, relating my memories to my wife, we met David Law who virtually implored me to write an article for your Remenham newsletter, so here it is.

What it is to reminisce. I do hope you enjoy reading my ramblings and that they will throw some light on this small aspect of the life in your delightful village during those difficult, turbulent times.

I will in closing mention that both my grandparents are buried in your Churchyard, giving one other reason for our visit in the summer.

*Ron Flexman
5 Fosseway Drive
Moreton-in-Marsh
Glos GL56 0DU*

2. More about the Diamond Factory

I was quite excited when I read David Law's account of the factory in Wargrave Road polishing diamonds in the war.

That factory is immediately opposite our block of flats (Marsh Mill Flats) hidden in the trees and slope. I knew it had been used as a factory in the war, but didn't know that it was for polishing diamonds.

The property belonged to the Ministry of Defence until about ten years ago, when the whole of the property was sold off. It was bought by MJF, a firm which stored archives and there was a lot of heavy plant activity at the time converting what was there. On one occasion a neighbour and I wandered over there to have a little snoop and we were welcomed by the foreman who showed us round. What confronted us was amazing! There was an entrance to the site facing the Wargrave Road (but of course totally obscured from it) as big as the entrance to the Simplon Tunnel - or so it seemed. Huge lorries were travelling up and down inside the tunnel and on each side were side alleys bordered by dozens of cells. The foreman informed us that after the war the whole site had been converted into a safe house for both government and royalty (it was during the cold war) and that conversion had been carried out by horse driven vehicles and not motorised ones, so that it would not be detected.

He said an academic from Oxford had already visited them and I think he had given this information.

There are also tunnels at Warren Row, also bought up by MJF and it is said that the Aldermaston marchers started off their march from there all those many years ago.

I also know someone, now in his 90s, who told me that Spitfires flew from Upper Culham Farm and called it Culham Airfield.

Enid Light

To advertise in the Remenham Newsletter

(6 issues over 12 months)

Half Page:	£65.00
Quarter Page:	£32.50
One Eighth Page:	£16.25

Contact: Jo Morgan

Tel: 01491 575186, Email: jo@realorganic.co.uk

HENLEY CRICKET CLUB



Hold the Date

Quiz Night
27th February 2015
Teams of 6/8
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at
The Pavilion (assuming no flooding)

We are looking for Round Sponsors, Food Sponsors,
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Please contact Sue Laing (sue@isobel.com)/ (07885 851362) or
Phil Chappell (p.chappell@btinternet.com)/ (07764 604089)

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HENLEY POLICE STATION

4 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1LR

Opening Times

Monday-Friday inclusive 09.00-17.00

Closed for lunch: 13.00-13.40

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Twyford Neighbourhood Police Team

18 Station Road, Twyford RG10 9NT

Call 101 for non-emergency matters

Email: Jacqueline.Daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Alerts

Thames Valley Alerts is the system for receiving crime and policing updates for your area. To sign up to receive alerts visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk



Remenham Parish Hall

Normal hire charge: £16.00 per hour (min. two hour booking).

Commercial hiring charges are by negotiation.

The charges include the use of tables and all kitchen equipment except the crockery and cutlery which attract an additional fee depending on requirements. Local residents may hire the tables, chairs, etc for use at their own homes.

For further information and bookings
please contact

Mrs Pat Sly, 01491 577925, patsly@tinyworld.co.uk or
parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

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