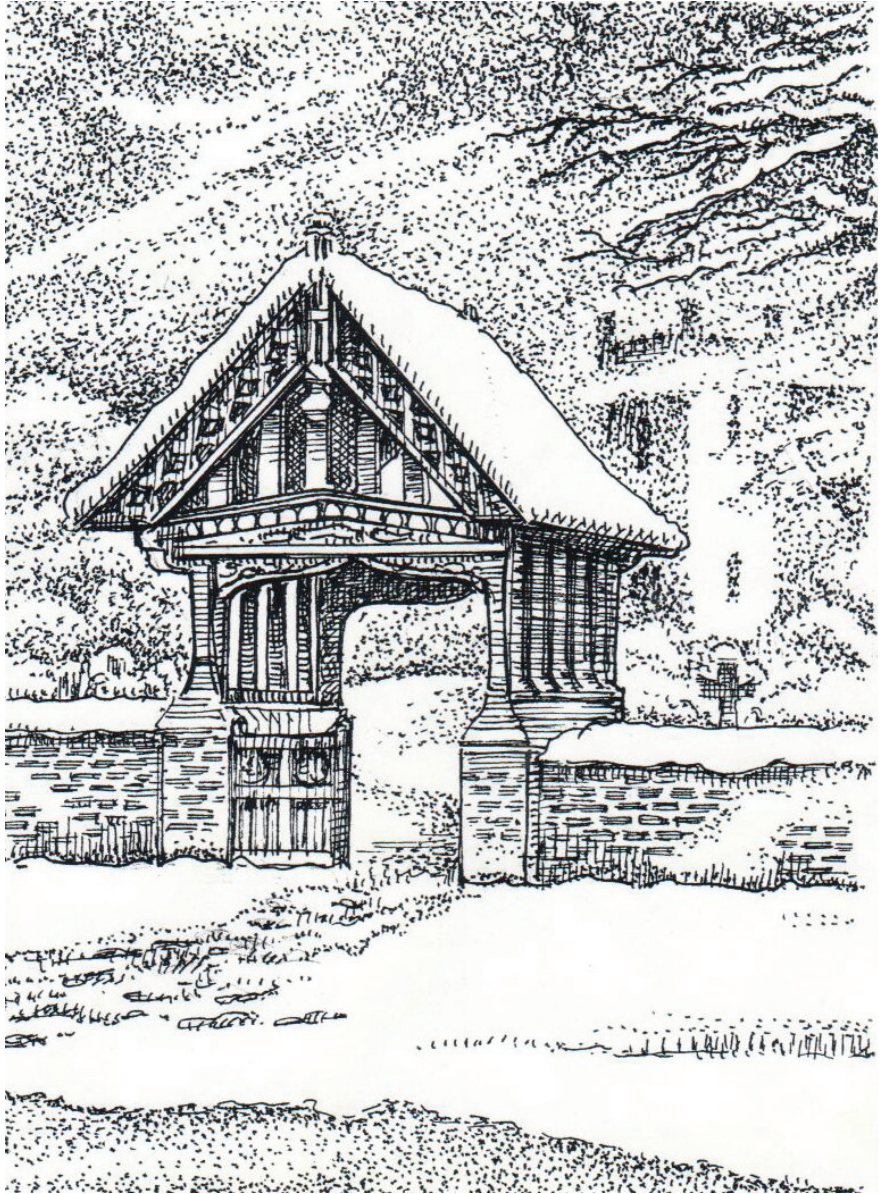


REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



No 228 – November-December 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

Treasurer

N Gray

Tel: 01491 572024

Secretary

Mrs R Palethorpe

Tel: 01344 449385

Sidesmen

1st Sunday

A G Duckett

Mrs R Duckett

2nd Sunday

J A H West

Mrs S West

3rd Sunday

P Forrester

C Every

4th Sunday

M J Dowsett

Mrs E Dowsett

5th Sunday

G Palethorpe

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

SPECIAL SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS'

For details of Special Services during November and December please see Parish Diary on page 6 and further details on page 10.

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*

CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

If anyone is interested in joining the choir for the annual candlelit carol service at St Nicholas' church please let me know. Over recent years we have set a very high standard but we could do with a few more experienced Alto and male voices.

Felicity Rutland, felicity.rutland@dsl.pipex.com

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
Tel: 01491 412908, 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, except on the evening of the Annual Parish Meeting (usually in May) when it is beforehand. There is no meeting in August.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR FOR REMENHAM and WARGRAVE

Cllr John Halsall, *cherwell@btinternet.com*, 01491 576190. Cherwell, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 3DB

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2016

Months	Deadlines for Contributors	Approx. Dates for Distributors
Jan-Feb	Friday 1 January 2016	Friday 8 January 2016
Mar-Apr	Friday 19 February	Friday 26 February
May-June	Friday 22 April	Friday 29 April
July-Aug	Friday 24 June	Friday 1 July
Sept-Oct	Friday 12 August	Friday 19 August
Nov-Dec	Friday 28 October	Friday 4 November
Jan-Feb 2017	Friday 30 December 2017	Friday 6 January 2017

REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Canon Martyn Griffiths
Mike Dowsett
Charlotte Every
Ruth Palethorpe
Nigel Gray

Rector
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Secretary
Treasurer

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

CHURCH CLEANING

November	Eileen Dowsett	Mike Dowsett
December	Penny Whitfield	Jayne Gray

ALTAR FLOWERS

November	Charlotte Every	Suzanne Came
December	ADVENT	

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Matrimony

5 September	Louise Fox and Ryan Potter
12 September	Catherine Rockell and Thomas Sturgess
26 September	Charlotte Turner and Jonathan Parratt

Holy Baptism

6 September	Finn Fox-Potter
13 September	Claudia Partner, Harvey Partner and Jack Elliott
18 October	Orion Dean Thatcher

REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

email address: parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

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

PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

November

- 8th 10.55am Act of Remembrance, St Nicholas' Church. **Please note earlier time**
9th 3.00pm W.I. Festive Tea Party with stalls, in the Parish Hall
10th 8.00pm Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall
19th/20th/21st Remenham Thespians in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm
20th 9.30/3.00 Watlington Hospital Christmas Fair, Benson Parish Hall

December

- 5th 10.30am Parish Hall Defibrillator training
5th 12.00/2.30 Crazies Hill CE Primary School Christmas Fayre
6th 11.00am Patronal Festival, St Nicholas' Church followed by drinks in church. **Please note earlier time.**
8th 8.00pm Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall
20th 4.00pm Candlelit Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Hall
24th 9.00pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion
25th 11.15am Christmas Day Family Service (45 minutes)

EDITORIAL

There have been so many articles for the newsletter this time that I haven't been able to include everything! Just as I was wrestling with this problem Tina Jacobs from Matson Drive volunteered to help with the editorial side of things, and I am extremely grateful as her extensive marketing experience and pragmatic approach have been invaluable.

Some of the information is being put on the parish website, and other things have been deferred. Tina is also going to help me to review content, order, advertising policy and rates and postal charges for the non-Remenham residents for future issues. The newsletter is subsidised by St Nicholas' Church and we are being encouraged to become more 'self-sufficient'.

We know that many if not most of you appreciate receiving a printed copy of the newsletter, even if you also look at the website regularly. The historical articles appear to be particularly popular - we are hoping Jim Bland will produce a 'History page' for each issue (do read part I of his wonderful article on 'The Warrior and the Mathematician', two eminent past residents of Matson Drive). Enid Light's articles are also always fun and interesting, and I am delighted to include letters such as 'Who made the carrot cake?'. Please let me know what you would like more of (or less of).

Felicity

newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

FROM THE RECTORY

The next eight or nine weeks from the start of November will of course see a great deal of activity in and around St Mary's and St Nicholas'. There will be carol services and Advent courses— and more carol services! All will culminate in the great festival of our Lord's birth, and the enlarged waistlines we shall all suffer afterwards. In December I shall also be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, and remembering that Friday night in the parish church where I was serving in the Diocese of Birmingham, All Saints', Kings Heath. I was lucky to be ordained in familiar surroundings. My ordination as a deacon 12 months before had been marred by the IRA's attempt to blow up the centre of Birmingham; my ordination was moved from the Cathedral to St Martin's in the Bull Ring, as a result. I was made deacon with the new curate of that city centre parish, and so the Bishop thought it only fair that, as he had been on 'home' territory on that occasion, I would be similarly 'at home' for our priesting the year afterwards.

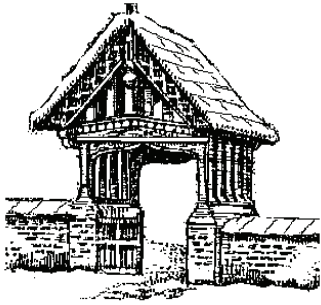
Like most of the important events in life, very little of that evening remains in my memory - except for the moment when I knelt before the Bishop and was suddenly surrounded by my priest-friends who shared in the laying on of hands. I can still feel the weight of their hands on my head, a precursor perhaps of the weight of responsibility given at ordination. That evening was a bright star in the otherwise somewhat dull purple sky of Advent, and was only to be followed by my first celebration of the eucharist on the Sunday morning. In those days it was St Thomas' Day on the 21st December, and the saint was duly acknowledged. Doubting Thomas became my patron, followed shortly afterwards by St Thomas of Canterbury, whose tomb I visited in Canterbury Cathedral.

So two Thomas' entered my life, two saints who had overcome their initial fear of faith and who, like so many others, had finally suffered the ultimate test in martyrdom.

November begins with All Saints' Day, quickly followed by All Souls' Day; this reminds us of that great crowd of witnesses who have kept the faith before us. The rest of the Year, with its celebrations of Christ the King, and the beginning of the new, starting on Advent Sunday, remind us that we too are part of that great crowd, especially for those who are coming after us. As I have been privileged to share in the vocation of a priest in the Church of God for the last 40 years, so all of us have and are privileged to share in the vocation of the people of God, past, present and future. We are not only surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses—we are those witnesses to the people of our own day, serving as a royal priesthood the one who is the Word made Flesh.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Martyn



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

It has been an eventful couple of months since the last time I penned for the newsletter.

Planting on Remenham Hill

Linda Ashwell has set up the Remenham Amateur Gardening Team or RAG Team, a valuable initiative. She has worked for approximately three years for the Gardening Buddies team of volunteers in Henley. The team is organised by the very capable Liz Hodgkin who in national competitions has taken the town to gold awards. Liz would say guerrilla gardeners. (See page 18 for full details.)

Highways Initiative

The reason why traffic builds up on Remenham Hill is because the intelligent traffic management system (ITMS) is designed to do that. The reason why the system was designed that way, is to reduce pollution (particularly in Duke Street and the Reading Road). At certain times of the day (around 6:30pm) there is no congestion on Duke Street or the Reading Road, yet traffic still builds up on Remenham Hill. Why, therefore, is the ITMS not letting more traffic flow in the evening, thereby reducing pollution on Remenham Hill?

The vast majority of commuters coming into Henley via Remenham Hill (and Wargrave Road) are not going to go into Duke Street at all, and anyone subsequently driving onto the Reading Road is leaving the town centre, not coming into it. So, the contribution to pollution on Duke Street and Reading Road must be negligible at those times of the day. The Air Quality Report from South Oxfordshire District Council states that despite the introduction of the ITMS, pollution continues to rise on Duke Street and Reading Road.

The supposed fact that traffic used to build up before the introduction of the ITMS is doubtful and not a reason for not optimising the ITMS to reduce congestion and pollution rather than maintain or increase it. We are all for a cleaner environment, but let's address the actual root causes and if interventions don't provide the required result, try something else!

The consequences are that Remenham has angry commuters rat running, huge queues, and an increasing number of near fatal accidents on White Hill as cars perform illegal U turns obstructing motorbikes.

I am the deputy executive member of WBC for Highways and Planning with the principle responsibility for Highways. As such it is an ideal opportunity to address our highways issue, particularly as David Nimmo-Smith is the county councillor and district councillor for Henley as well as being the leader of the Conservative Group in Henley Town.

The initiative is multi-faceted and seeks to review the traffic orders for events, lower the speed on the lanes, address the traffic flow before and after events and to try to address the lights on the bridge. We have had a meeting between WBC and OCC, which is being followed up as it was exploratory. We need as much help as we can get to persuade those queuing on Remenham Hill that it is OCC who is to blame. To help would be to participate in the campaign writing to various newspapers, blogs, MPs, County Councillors as well as leafleting those waiting. If you are prepared to help please let me know – **we need everybody in the village ideally! Please touch base with me and indicate your willingness to be of help.**

Charlotte Geeves and Sir Steve Redgrave

We were delighted to welcome Charlotte Geeves of the Henley Festival and Sir Steve Redgrave of Henley Royal Regatta to address the village on September 8th. Charlotte spoke of her plans for the Festival and her ambition that the residents should be at the centre of her endeavours. Sir Steve also emphasised his wishes for Remenham to be at the core of the Regatta. He expressed the management committee's frustration that the Parish Council felt unable to support HRR's plans for Barn Cottage and expressed a hope that we would all find an acceptable solution. He also said that he was open to other discussions with the Parish Council. We would like to move forward Barn Cottage, the disputed footpath and the highways initiative.

Arcadian Waters

The planning application was heard by the Planning Committee of Wokingham Borough Council and was refused as being contrary to the Borough's Green Belt policies. The Poulos' intend to appeal.

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The draft Neighbourhood Plan can be seen under the Remenham Parish Council tab on the website - <http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk/remenham-parish-council/neighbourhood-plan>. Comments are encouraged and a number have already been received. All further comments welcome to clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk. The process of consultation will take place over the next year, including a questionnaire to all parishioners.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH

HARVEST SUPPER



The Harvest Supper took place in the Parish Hall on the evening of Friday 9 October and was well attended with 40 people enjoying a delicious supper of home-made cottage pie and apple crumble. The Hall looked splendid with arrangements of autumn flower, a good time was had by all and £540 was raised for church funds. I am sure everyone present missed Peter Sly and the tremendous entertainment he always provided at the end of the evening with his amusing monologues.

Thank you to everyone for coming; for those who provided the food and flowers; and to everyone who helped clear up.

Editor's note: We had hoped to include Peter Sly's wonderful 'Noah' monologue from last year's Harvest Supper in this issue, but we ran out of space - we plan to include it in the next.

SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS', REMENHAM

Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 8 November at 10.55am Act of Remembrance followed by Matins
Patronal Festival	Sunday 6 December at 11.00am Matins followed by drinks in church
CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2015	
Candlelit Carol Service	Sunday 20 December at 4.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Hall
Christmas Eve Holy Communion	Thursday 24 December at 9.00pm Candlelit Holy Communion with carols (BCP)
Christmas Day	Friday 25 December at 11.15am Children's service with Holy Communion and carols ((45 minutes)

PARISH HALL TEAS

As in previous years, teas with delicious homemade cakes were sold in aid of the Church every Sunday in August bar the Rewind weekend. Over £500 was raised. Many thanks to Rosemary Duckett for organising the teams to work in the Hall, to everyone who helped and who baked cakes.

Charlotte Every, Churchwarden

REMENHAM COUNTRY FAYRE

The annual Remenham Fayre took place at the Parish Hall on Saturday 5th September. Despite unseasonal temperatures a sunny afternoon was enjoyed and a record number of dogs were entered for the fun dog show. Classes included the 'Best village pooch' won by nine year old Golden Retriever Riley and Maddie, the Irish terrier, proved to be the 'Best sausage catcher'. The competition was kindly judged by Melanie Healy who runs dog classes at the hall.



The Produce Show also attracted a large number of entries, all of a very high standard. The cup for the vegetable and fruit classes, which included a class for the most misshapen vegetable, was won by Nigel Gray. Helen Rosier arranged a lovely red, white and blue floral table arrangement to win the flower cup whilst Liz Nash baked bread, scones and fairy cakes for a beautifully designed 1940's tea tray to win the baking competition.

The annual ladies versus men tug of war was won by the women's team with some extra support from some "honorary ladies".

As usual, the boys



versus girls tug of war was hotly contested as were the children's race events, especially the new events, which included sack races, three legged races and an exciting piggy back race won by Zak Wilks and Alexander Poyser.

The fun was extended to the side shows which included a coconut shy, Aunt Sally crockery smashing, bottle tombola and a raffle with a top prize of a dog basket full of dog gifts. Other prizes include a boat trip donated by Hobbs of Henley and a Christmas turkey donated by the Copas Partnership who also provided parking for the event. The WI teas served delicious cakes and teas and there was a popular barbecue and bar.



The Fayre raised over £1,000, which will go towards the upkeep of the Parish Hall and nearby St Nicholas' Church.

continued on next page

(Amended from the article printed in The Henley Standard)

Photographs courtesy of Ian Shaw - very grateful thanks.

The results were as follows:

Cups:

Classes 1 to 7 (fruit and vegetables):	Jayne Gray
Classes 8 to 10 (flowers and hedgerows):	Helen Rosier
Class 11 (cookery):	Liz Nash

Guess the name of teddy:

Nigel Gray

Card game:

Gareth Eynon

Raffle winners:

Nicola Binney (dog basket of dog-related goodies)
Charles Plunket (Copas turkey voucher)
Jayne Gray (gardening equipment)
Mandy Wetherell (Whitehill Garage MOT voucher)
Lucy Rutland (Hobbs boat hire)
Sally-Anne Plunket (basket of fruit)



Dog show:

Best village pooch:	Riley with Neil and Jennifer Sturman
Best trick:	Maggie (Young family)
Best sausage catcher:	Maddie (Clarke family)

WHO MADE THE CARROT CAKE?

The following letter was received after the Remenham Fayre:

Dear Felicity

My family and sisters come every year to the Fete and we all love it and support it. My daughter was christened at the Church.

It is a great family occasion. It is a lovely hall and beautiful walled garden - a rare gem! The cakes are incredible and I wondered if you would not mind finding out who made the carrot cake on the stall that had a white topping - it is the best cake I have ever had!

Yours sincerely

Carina Simonds

*Carina is the daughter of Ausonia Simonds who lives in Henley and helped Sally-Anne with the bottle store for 10 years. Carina and her sisters helped collect the bottles! We use the tombola (which is in memory of Carina's father) every year at the fete. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHO MADE THE CAKE AND LET ME HAVE THE RECIPE!** I will then send it to Carina at her home in Winchester, with a copy of this newsletter. Editor (newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)*

REMENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Autumn programme started quietly in September with the speaker giving a talk entitled 'Walking along the Kennet and Avon'. Following the widely acclaimed BBC4 silent 2 hour programme in the Summer 'cruising along the canal from Reading to the aqueduct on a long boat', Nick Channer gave a beautifully illustrated talk about his walks along the same stretch of water.

By contrast October's speaker was an ex-nun and her talk was called 'Dropping the habit - a nun's story'. Miss Marion Dante spoke for fifty minutes without it seemed, drawing breath and was so amusing that she had her audience in stitches. Born in Limerick in 1944 into a very strict catholic family, she always wanted to be a nun and at the age of 14 became an aspirant. Despite the very limited and narrow life she had to endure, she was quite happy and coincidentally trained at Friar Park and became a teacher - incidentally she did meet George Harrison when he was about to buy the convent (though she had no idea who he was!!) When in the 70s Pope John eased the lot of nuns and priests, she could not reconcile life with the formal one she was used to, had a nervous breakdown, then doubts set in and 33 years on the then pope allowed her 'to drop the habit'. She now does charitable work connected with cancer and Frimley Park Hospital. In thanking her for such an incredible talk, Judy Palmer (President) said: 'Follow that!!!'

Enid Light (on behalf of Judy Fraser)



LOST PROPERTY

FOUND AT THE PARISH HALL ON FAYRE DAY - 5 SEPTEMBER

A lady's bright red hat and pair of gloves
Please contact Pat Sly - (01491) 577925 or patsly@tinyworld.co.uk

VE STYLE SUPPER DANCE

On a chilly evening in September, 60 of us braved a marquee at the parish hall for a VE inspired evening, and what a great evening it turned out to be. The marquee had been decorated with lights and red, white and blue bunting and the candlelit tables created a lovely atmosphere.

The food had a wartime theme - sausages and mash, followed by fruit crumble and custard - but it certainly wasn't rationed, with many people going back for seconds (and possibly thirds on some tables!).

The highlight of the evening was the entertainment from the 3 girl harmony group The Dolly Mixtures; singing mainly songs from the 40s, reminiscent of the Andrews Sisters, they were excellent and even managed to tempt a few people up onto the dance floor.

The evening raised approx £375 for the church and hall funds. Many thanks to the organisers - Pat Sly, Nigel and Jayne Gray, Liz Cope and Ann Burley - and all the other people who helped set up and run such an enjoyable evening.

REMENHAM DEFIBRILLATOR

Our village defibrillator is now in place outside the Parish Hall and is up and running.

The defibrillator was bought with surplus money generated from the activities arranged for the Queen's Jubilee in 2012. If you remember, we asked villagers for ideas on how we might spend the money and a village defibrillator was chosen from all the suggestions we received.

The equipment has been bought and installed in conjunction with the charity Millie's Dream, so thank you to Sarah Roberts and her team for their help and advice. Thanks also go to the local ambulance service who also advised us on the best machine to buy and are now offering us training on how to use the machine to help save lives.



Free training on the defibrillator will be in the Parish Hall on Saturday 5 December 2015 at 10.30. The session is open to any interested residents and should last approx one hour.

Places will be limited, so please contact Pat Sly to reserve your place on (01491) 577925 or email to patsly@tinyworld.co.uk.

ANTHONY WEST - APPOINTMENT AS VICE LORD-LIEUTENANT

We are sure everyone in Remenham would like to know about this recent very prestigious appointment, and send their warm congratulations.

When the Lord Lieutenant made the announcement he said:

‘The Queen has approved the appointment of Anthony West as Vice Lord-Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire.

This is excellent news. Anthony is a former High Sheriff of the County (2004/05) and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 2007. During this time he has been a very active and supportive member of the Lieutenancy and was instrumental in the arrangements for HM The Queen’s 3 Counties Diamond Jubilee Garden Party in Henley on Thames in June 2012.

Anthony is a retired solicitor and has many charitable interests across the county. He is very active in his local church and community.’

Editor’s Note: Anthony is indeed wonderfully active in our church and community, and the Remenham Thespians are particularly impressed and grateful to him for still finding time to take part in our next production.

REMENHAM THESPIANS

**Performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
19/20/21 November at 7.30pm**

Bar opens 7.00pm and during interval



See your local friends and neighbours in their latest extravaganza
of two humorous vignettes and a one act play

Thursday 19 November £7.00, Friday 20 November £8.00

Saturday 21 November £10.00 (including refreshments with the cast afterwards)

Tickets from Pat Sly on (01491) 575321 or patsly@tinyworld.co.uk

Such is the reputation of the Remenham Thespians (or possibly in spite of it), many tickets for the Saturday night have already been reserved, even before we made any public announcement. If you would like to attend on that night then you’d better be quick!

THE WARRIOR AND THE MATHEMATICIAN

VJ day Memories: Lt- Colonel John Sanderson and Sir Alex Oppenheim

August 15th 2015, the 70th anniversary of VJ day, was the day to remember two remarkable men who lived 150 yards from each other in Matson Drive, Remenham until the late 1990's. Lt-Colonel John Sanderson [died in 2001] and Professor Sir Alex Oppenheim [died 1997] both experienced the horror and barbarity of the Japanese military occupation of SE Asia [1941-1945].

Lt-Colonel John Sanderson: The Warrior

In a letter published in The Times on 17th August 2015 Robin Sanderson described how his father John Sanderson retreated through the Burmese jungle for three weeks after his battalion was overrun in the Battle of Sangshak; injured, diseased and emaciated, he and two other survivors were fleeing from the onslaught by the Japanese army intent on invading India. The three men carried primed grenades preferring self-inflicted death to capture by the Japanese. Their battalion had slowed the Japanese advance on Imphal. Over a year later, following the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima in 1945, the Japanese High Command surrendered and John [Captain Sanderson and his team from the 152nd Battalion of the 50th Indian Para Brigade] parachuted in to release allied prisoners of war from their captivity in Thailand--before their guards could murder them. Later John's resilience, courage and military skills were recognised by the British Army during the Cold War; promoted to Lt-Colonel he became Military Attache behind the Iron Curtain in Communist Sofia followed by staff appointments to train new military leaders at Sandhurst.



In Remenham he shared with us many memories of his turbulent life. He used to say to me "One day, Old Boy, we'll travel to Burma and dig up a cache of bottles of whisky from the officers' mess in Sangshak--we didn't want the Japanese to drink the stuff; we protected it with explosive booby traps hidden in elephant droppings!" In 2001, as he lay dying in hospital afflicted by cancer, resilient as ever, he said to Jill and me 'You've seen me now, you've done your bit' as if he were a Roman Centurion. He then commanded us with the words 'You can go now'. Apparently after we left, he pulled out all the tubes and got a lift to Thamesfield where he died two days later in the most luxurious room overlooking the Thames. [Among his last words to me were--"If you write anything about me in the Remenham Newsletter--I'll come back and haunt you". We will have to wait and see!] His memorial is a bench, sadly in need of paint, on the towpath 300 yards upstream from Temple Island; it records the dates when he carried out his Civic Duties, facing yet more demanding challenges, as Chairman of Remenham Parish Council.

Jim Bland [with help from Jill Bland], Matson Drive

The equally enthralling story of '**Professor Sir Alexander Oppenheim: The Mathematician**' will be published in the next issue of the Remenham Newsletter, and on the parish website.

NATURE NEWS FROM MARSH MILLS

WHERE HAVE THE CARP GONE?

For many years, we have watched fishermen pull our lovely enormous carp out of the river, be photographed holding them and then gently return them to the water. I always sympathised with the poor fish, but they seemed to survive.

They were all colours, from grey to red and golden and on hot Summer days would come to the surface to sunbathe, their backs even slightly out of the water. But alas, no more!

A few years ago when the fishing season started again in June, boats suddenly appeared with one man standing and looking hard as they circled the mill pool. On one occasion I asked what they were looking for and the answer came 'carp'. Gradually all the carp disappeared - last year there were still a couple, but this year none!

Recently one Sunday morning as I went to collect the newspaper at the front door, I saw a white van suddenly draw up and park (as if he had done it before). Out stepped a man wearing breeches and a flat cap and took out of the rear a fishing rod, already baited and a large net. He promptly went to the end of one of our moorings and cast his line very professionally. This he did, all round the pool for twenty minutes - but no bites (fortunately) and then duly drove off.

I understand from recent reports in the national press that carp command an extremely high price!

Enid Light, Marsh Mills

REMENHAM PARISH WEBSITE - www.remenhamparish.org.uk -

CALL FOR INPUT TO THE HISTORY SECTION

We are delighted that the website is going from strength to strength. We have now started the History project with gusto. As part of the Community section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Connor Brown, who lives at The Old School House in Remenham is tasked with 'filling in' the history section. He is going to do some interviews with local people, to find out about their history as well as the history of their houses. We are also hoping to compile a really comprehensive archive of pictures, documents and anecdotes from the village over the years. We have 4 History sections (so far):

Tales from around the Parish
Archive: People-events-architecture

Documents
Picture Gallery

We are very keen so please do contact us and send us whatever you can, to Connor directly on history@remenhamparish.org.uk or to me at hello@remenhamparish.org.uk . The more we get the better! Many thanks.

Sue Laing

INTERESTED IN OUR ENVIRONMENT? JOIN THE RAG TEAM

You can be forgiven for not knowing what the RAG Team is. It is the idea of Linda Ashwell who lives on Remenham Hill whose aim it is improve the look of the bare verges and the rural environment in this split community. There are those on Remenham Hill and those that live in and around the area of The Flower Pot pub.

RAG. It stands for ***R***emenham ***A***mateur ***G***ardening and it is hoped to form a team of people who are interested in our environment and are prepared to volunteer their time for the benefit of its cause. The current objective is to plant Tete narcissi and crocus in some of the grass verges on Remenham Hill. None of this will be possible though without the co-operation of the council and a very small strictly adhered to budget. Support for both was given at the council meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2015 and a local resident, Tony Stubbs, the Proprietor of the Toad Hall Garden Centre in Henley will be the suppliers.

Health and Safety standards will be strictly adhered to, insurance will be provided whilst work is undertaken and equipment where possible will be borrowed or bought.

Once these initial objectives of planting have been completed it is hoped to obtain RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) membership so that Remenham residents can enjoy an annual outing to one of the major garden venues in the country. Approximate coach costs of £10 each will be covered by those wanting to participate.

A local resident, Chris Leeming, who like the author of this article has been attending the monthly council meetings, has suggested that to encourage endangered insects we use a wild flower mix for summer flowering. An excellent idea which mostly takes effort, not direct resources and that can make a massive difference.

WE NEED YOU NOW because the bulbs have arrived. All I am asking is for 2 HOURS only of your time. ***EVERYONE*** can spare that to chatter, have fun and plant the bulbs so we can then all sit back and enjoy its wonderful display during the springtime months year after year.

Your offer of help should be sent to ***Linda Ashwell on 01491 411011 or email *lindaashwell@gmail.com****. Ideally please say your best availability so that working parties can be organised accordingly.

Look forward to ***YOU*** joining us.

Linda Ashwell



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Watlington Hospital's annual Christmas Fair will be held on
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For further details see www.watlingtonchristmasfair.org.uk
and www.remenhamparish.org.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH - SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

'*involve Wokingham Borough*' is a new service providing free support and advice to the voluntary and community sector across Wokingham Borough.

If anyone involved with a community group or charity working in the Wokingham Borough would like some advice or support, the contact details are all on the website - www.involve.community/. This is a joint website with Bracknell Forest, with a link to Wokingham on the Home page. See also the Remenham website for further information.

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. 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.

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