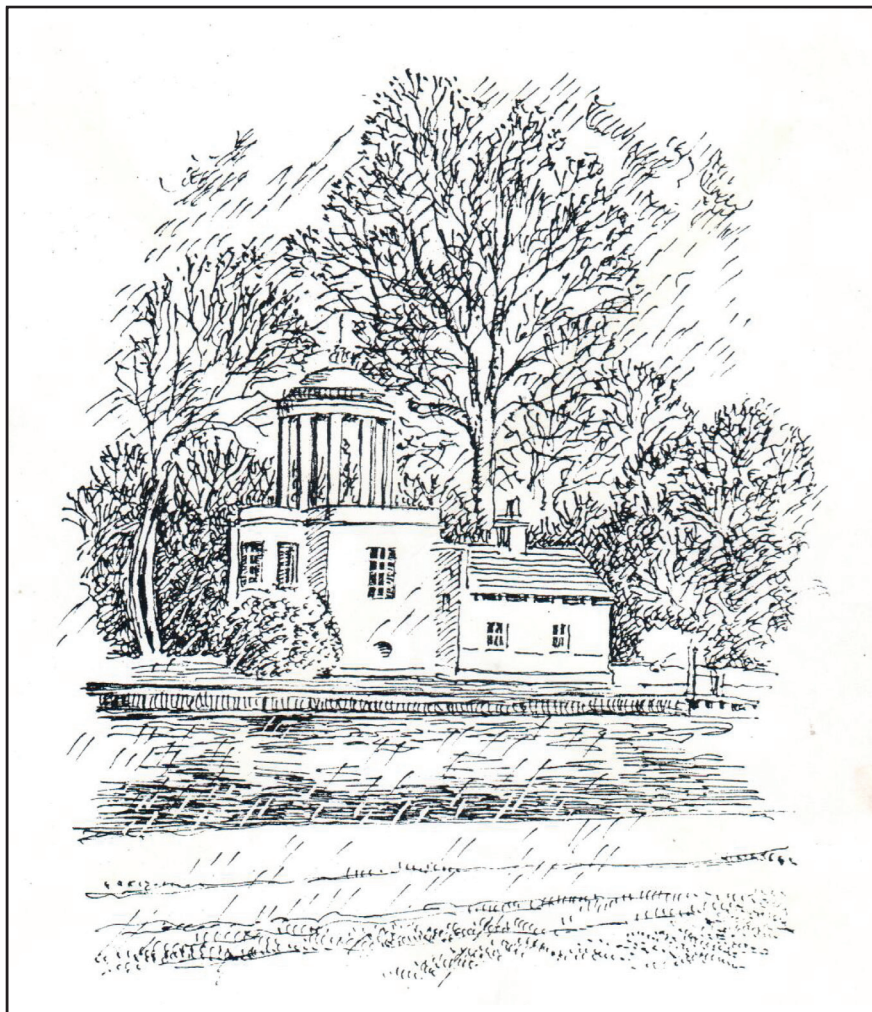


# REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



No 229 – January-February 2016

# INDEX

	Page
Key People	
Church of St Nicholas, Remenham	3
Remenham Parish Council, Borough Councillor	4
Remenham Newsletter Editor	4
Remenham Parochial Church Council	5
Remenham Parish Hall Committee	5
Parish Diary	6
Editorial	6
From the Rectory	7
Parish Council Report	8-9
Past Events and Reports	
British Legion Poppy Appeal	7
Remenham Thespians	10-11
Remenham Amateur Gardening - RAG	12-13
Remenham Women's Institute	14
Parish Website	15
Forthcoming Events	
RAG visit to Northants	13
Cricket Club Quiz Night	17
Articles and reports	
Cecil Rhodes	14
Henley Cricket Club	16-17
The Warrior and the Mathematician Part II	18-19
Village Notices	
Newsletter Deadlines	4
Newsletter Thank You's	15
Articles for the Newsletter	20
Advertising in the Remenham Newsletter	21
Remenham Parish Hall bookings	21
Community Information	
Wokingham Borough - Support for Communities	20
Police	20
Advertisements	22-24

# 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

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: Monday & Tuesday 9.30am-12.30pm, Wednesday & Friday 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  
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
<b>Mar-Apr</b>	<b>Friday 19 February</b>	<b>Friday 26 February</b>
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	Rector
Mike Dowsett	Churchwarden
Charlotte Every	Churchwarden
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

## PARISH REGISTER

### Holy Baptism

4 November	Poppy Grace O’Bryen and Lottie Isabella O’Bryen
22 November	Amelia Rose Duckett

### Funeral

9 December	Nigel Bunnett
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### Service of Thanksgiving

16 December	Judy Job
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# REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

email address: [parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto: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)

### January

11th	2.30pm	W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall; consideration of topic for National AGM
12th	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

### February

5th	7.30pm	Henley Cricket Club Quiz in the Pavilion
8th	2.30pm	W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall; talk on 'Shoes - choosing and fitting them'
9th	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

### April

16th	11.00am	RAG outing to Lord and Lady Heseltine's arboretum in Northants
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## EDITORIAL

*There are not many dates in the diary as yet but I'm sure that will all change when we've recovered from the Christmas and New Year festivities! There are just two I'd like to draw your attention to, the first being the Cricket Club Quiz on 5 February (an enormously successful and fiercely fought annual event admirably organised by Sue Laing in which many Remenham residents have taken part in the past). The second is a new venture - further ahead on 16 April - when Linda Ashwell's RAG team are organising an outing to Lord and Lady Heseltine's magnificent arboretum in Northants which is not open to the general public. Both are highly recommended.*

*Even for those who are not involved in cricket it is wonderful to have the Cricket Club in our parish - it may be a cliché but cricket on a summer's day really is a quintessential English village scene! The Club in turn values being our neighbours, and I am very pleased to include a report on the year from the Club Secretary.*

*Once again we are benefiting from one of Jim Bland's fascinating historical articles, and I am also pleased to report on the success of the Remenham Amateur Gardeners and, in the absence of a full review, some anecdotes about the antics of the Thespians.*

*We are currently reviewing our newsletter finances, including the advertising rates which haven't changed for some time, and I am hoping that we can somehow find a way to print in colour in future. Any suggestions, such as potential sponsors, would be most welcome.*

*Felicity*  
*newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk*

## FROM THE RECTORY

Happy New Year!

It's a phrase that trips off the tongue so easily—at least for the first seven to ten days; thereafter it seems a bit hackneyed, a bit overdone. And in any case by about January 10th all the New Year Resolutions have been broken, and probably something will already have happened to make one feel that it isn't going to be such a good year after all!

But enough of this rabid cynicism! We all start off with good intentions on January 1st—and that in itself is not a bad thing. Life is constantly renewing itself and we always hope for things to get better, for our problems to be ironed out and generally speaking for the sun to shine 24/7. There was an interesting theological debate at about the time that scientists told us, because our bodies are always renewing themselves and getting rid of old cells and replacing them with shiny bright new ones, that therefore we really were not the same people as we started out. Some theologians found this difficult to take in—What did it say about the soul? etc etc. All very interesting at the time, but now we wonder what on earth all the fuss was about.

The truth of course is that God's creation is constantly being renewed by God himself. We may sometimes find it difficult to find him in the raging of violent nature, but we can certainly see him at work in the creation of a new life in a tiny baby.

And the tiny baby of Bethlehem not only renewed himself as we all do, but was renewed even after death by the Father, so that we too could share that ultimate renewal of our lives, through baptism, through faith and through repentance. So don't give up on the Resolutions! Who knows where they might lead you!

With my love and prayers,

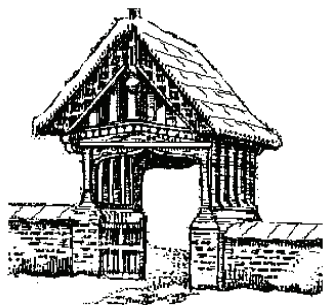
*Fr Martyn*



### BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Poppy Appeal this year. Remenham raised £970.09 which is excellent for our small village.

*Carol Wissett*



## REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

I hope you all had a marvellous Christmas and I wish you a Merry, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

### **Planting on Remenham Hill**

Congratulations to Linda and her team for completing the planting on Remenham Hill. See her article.

The Borough Council has issued instruction that the verges may not be cut until summer, please ring me immediately if you see anyone trying to do so. (This applies to Aston Crescent as well). Please also help us by discouraging the use of the verges.

### **Highways Initiative**

Thank you very much for replying to the questionnaire for those who did. I received a huge number of replies. For those who did not please email me for the questionnaire and I will be extremely grateful for its return.

As expected, there is no clear consensus on every issue, but there seems to be on:

- If there is enough commitment of residents, we should try to put pressure on Oxfordshire to alter the programming on the bridge to ease traffic congestion.
- We should attempt to lower the speed on the lanes to 20mph
- We should try to find a solution to the rat run, but those I have put forward disadvantage part of the village disproportionately

There was a question as to why I have issued the questionnaire and why it came from me. I am lobbying various bodies all the time on your behalf to do various things. Mostly the outcome which the residents would like is self-evident. In this case it is not. I am conscious



that what may be of benefit to some will be a detriment to others. I prefer to go slowly with the support of the village and seek consensus around the disagreements.

What came out clearly from the replies that I have had is that we do not have many who understand, are capable and willing on social media – please let yourself be known if you are.

### **Thamesbridge House**

A planning application has been put forward for Thamesbridge House, which I believe the planner are largely content with. Your Parish council had some reservations on its design – a little too office like, the relationship of the new building to Bird Place and just how the building will be built without causing traffic chaos or massive disruption to its neighbours.

### **The Budget and Precept**

A preliminary budget and the precept was approved for 2016/17.

### **Telephone Box and Message Boards**

The message board at the village hall is broken. The telephone box at the top of Aston Lane needs substantial work. The parish council has agreed to refurbish the box and place it next to the hall to act as a notice board. If this is successful we may do this at the bridge and elsewhere.

### **Wokingham Borough Council**

It seems that the government has changed direction from the coalition on council tax. Your borough council is permitted to raise council tax by up to 2% and by a further 2% is it is hypothecated to adult social care. It seems that this just below 4% is the expectation of the government and further years' settlements will assume that this was the case.

Local government funding is arcane in that the council collects business rates and passes them all to the government who kindly returns (in WBC's case) a small sum. This sum is to be reduced disproportionately which will create unheralded and unwelcome pressure on the borough council's finances. I would like to say that this is unreasonable but there are too many areas where I can see WBC is not optimal but vested interests prevent any change and financial pressure might.

*John Halsall*

*Chairman Remenham Parish Council*

*Councillor Wokingham Borough Council*

## REMENHAM THESPIANS - IN YOUR OWN WORDS

The cast and production crew of the Thespians' recent 'Two vignettes and a one act play' had a lot of fun, and so it would seem did the audiences. So, 'in your own words', these are some of the comments received, along with photographs taken by David Binney.

*'We always look forward to the RT productions and this year's trio of performances was hugely enjoyable and as usual great fun.'*



### **Parochial Problems or Father Martyn's Revenge**

*"We thought it was wonderful and we laughed throughout. All the cast performed their parts brilliantly but we particularly loved the facial gymnastics of Nigel and the clowning of Barry."*



### **The Essex Train**



*"I feel quite envious of your lovely group. Real Village Theatre."*

*"Oh ! What a show !!!! Delightful,  
Hilarious, Spot on for the audience who  
all loved it. Their laughter gave you all the  
approval and evidence of total satisfaction  
you could have wished for."*



*"It was all wonderful fun"*

*"Loved all of it and could not stop laughing"*

*"As usual I laughed so much that I had to wipe away the tears!"*



## **Jeeves meets Wooster**

*"More PG Wodehouse in the future ? Yes please !!!!!"*

*"Give me the Remenham Thespians  
any time!"*

*"Please carry on - Remenham would not be  
the same without the Thespians!"*

*Note from the Editor:* The newsletter with the photographs in black and white does not do them justice. See them in colour in the newsletter on the website.

## REMENHAM AMATEUR GARDENERS - RAG

### *The RAG team triumphs with an exciting invitation:*

Following on from my article in the Remenham Newsletter Nov/Dec 2015 issue, I now have great pleasure in reporting some tremendous work and a great achievement thanks to all those who volunteered their time for the benefit of the community in the parish of Remenham. *LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD* is Wokingham Borough Council's philosophy and is printed on the reflective workwear that was provided for all volunteers to wear whilst working. Nine people in all came forward and gave up a maximum 2 hours for each of the planting sessions that were organised. A massive thank you to our Chair of Councillors John Halsall, John Merkel Councillor and volunteers Juan, Kate, Alan, Mike, Roger and Selina. The picture below shows us working on our final session of this year.



A few statistics: 1450 crocus and 2720 Tête-à-Tête miniature narcissi have been planted in the roadside verges between Remenham Hill garage and Remenham Hill House. Local residents chose to plant a few bulbs that they purchased in the Remenham Terrace verge. It is scheduled to complete this planting by the RAG TEAM in 2016 along with the verges at the junction of Remenham Church Lane and Remenham Hill. The council has kindly allocated a further budget to us so if anyone has any ideas or requests for consideration then please do e-mail the RAG TEAM at [hello@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:hello@remenhamparish.org.uk).

A letter has been sent to all residents whose homes are adjacent to the planted areas asking them or their guests not to park on the verges. Temporary signage has also been put in place until more bollards are installed particularly to stop vehicles leaving the garage, running over the planted verges. The council has agreed to delay any grass cutting until late summer so that the bulbs can regenerate themselves and therefore flower again in 2017. For those residents who do sometimes cut the verges it would be very much appreciated if you could not undertake any grass cutting until at least six weeks after the flowers have died.

The work of this group has already been recognised with a very exciting invitation from Lord and Lady Heseltine who live in Northants. Their arboretum is not open to the public but is being opened to us and similar groups on SATURDAY 16th APRIL 2016 as a charity fundraiser costing £12 per person. Having had the privilege of visiting this garden in the springtime before I can say that it is absolutely stunning and so interesting. There are many features including medieval fish ponds, a lake, eighteenth-century walled garden, the grounds cover an area of 70 acres in which are planted over 3,500 different types of trees and shrubs. Additionally gifts that Lord and Lady Heseltine have been given are strategically placed in the grounds.

We have access between 2-5.30pm and everyone is given a map showing the layout. The church is open with beverages and cakes available in the Barn at extra cost. Toilets are also here. The terrain is quite rough so suitable footwear is required. Dogs and children under 10, picnicking in the grounds or churchyard is NOT allowed. The Heseltines also own several interesting buildings in the attached village and also the pub where lunchtime food is available, it is planned to leave Remenham at 11am so that this area can be explored as well. Car sharing will be organised unless there are enough residents, there families and guests to fill a coach costing approximately £10 per head. To express your interest please telephone 01491 411011 (answerphone) NOW or email [hello@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:hello@remenhamparish.org.uk). As you would expect security is tight so a list of names needs to be sent in advance of our visit along with everyone's payment of £12. Cheques are to be sent to LINDA ASHWELL c/o Remenham Parish Council, P.O. Box 4748, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 9DH and should be made payable to Thenhurst Agricultural Ltd so that all the necessary arrangements can be put in hand.

Whether you have been involved this year or not The RAG TEAM would like to extend this invitation and welcome you.



*Linda Ashwell*



## REMENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Festive Tea Party in November was well attended and was a most enjoyable occasion. However, when members entered the hall to prepare the stalls etc they were initially a little alarmed to see that the stage for the Remenham Thespians performances later in the month had already been erected. But all was well and those privileged to take their tea at the tables on the stage were able to view the rest of the proceedings in splendid isolation. Donations were subsequently made to Camp Mohawk and Dr Jim McWhirter's Kamuli Mission Hospital in Uganda.

Members and guests rounded off the year's activities at the Flower Pot in the traditional way with a glowing log fire and delicious Christmas Lunch. Thanks to all the staff for making this possible.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on Monday 11 January. Members will be able to choose which resolution should be taken to the National Federation's AGM in June - this year there is a selection of eight interesting and varied topics for consideration. On 8 February the speaker will talk about shoes - choosing and fitting them.

All meetings are held in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm on the second Monday in the month and everyone is welcome.

*Enid Light (on behalf of Judy Fraser)*

## CECIL RHODES

We are saddened to read of the disrespect currently being paid to the beautiful statue of Cecil Rhodes at Oriel College, Oxford. The answer is to bring him to Remenham, where he could enhance the atmosphere outside The Flower Pot, and be properly cared for by locals who knew and deeply admired the family.

Our dear Diana Rhodes edited this impressive magazine for many decades, and this could represent an appropriate expression of our gratitude.

*Caroline and Christopher Leeming*

*Note from the Editor:* Neither the Leemings nor the editor have been able to confirm the exact family relationship; if anyone in the village can help please let us know via [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk).

## Latest Website Statistics

We are delighted that the website is being viewed and used more and more.

December 18th was the highest ever number of visitors with 243 unique IP addresses accessing the site. The annual figs for 2015 are on the front page of the website along with the new high for the site which was December with an enormous increase just before and around the festive break.

December figures were as follows:

4,586 visitors  
6,987 pages viewed  
240 visitors via search engines  
11 from *Wokingham.gov*  
5 from *Guidesforbrides*  
4 from *achurchnearyou*

Most accessed pages were front, Remenham Church, Parish Hall, RPC, RPC contact, RPC meet the council, TVP alerts.

Please do keep sending news items/history pieces etc. The more interesting/lively the site the better!

*Sue Laing, [hello@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:hello@remenhamparish.org.uk)*

## REMENHAM NEWSLETTER

### THANK YOU'S

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

### ADVERTISING RATES

The charges have been unchanged for several years but are now being reviewed alongside a review of how the newsletter is financed. Renewal for the next 12 months, March 2016 to end of February 2017, will shortly be due and we will be contacting our current and potential new advertisers as soon as the new rates have been finalised.



# HENLEY CRICKET CLUB

Henley Cricket Club is a thriving home for cricketers of all abilities. Our sides accommodate cricketers young and old, from a lively junior section and a girls' team, through "leisure" cricketers to keen club cricketers playing league cricket at varying levels from the lower reaches of the Thames Valley League to the heights of the Home Counties Premier League Division One.

Our Henley ground plays host to our 1st and 2nd teams on alternate Saturdays. We also have a second ground in Nettlebed, shared with Nettlebed CC for the past four seasons, where our 3rd and 4th teams play. Junior and Ladies cricket, plus various friendlies, cup matches and even minor counties matches are also played, sometimes on Sundays and public holidays.

At Henley, it is still named the Brakspear Ground, reflecting the previous owners before the Club itself was able to purchase it in 2005 to provide a lasting legacy to the young and not-so-young people of Henley. This was in part enabled by a sizeable loan from Henley Town Council, the major part of which we have assiduously been paying off by dint of various fundraising enterprises, although a sizeable chunk remains outstanding and we continue to have to pay interest. We are currently engaging the Town Council to see if there is any way in which we could accelerate the clearing of our debt so as to concentrate on improving the ground and the running of the Club.

Last season proved both interesting and exciting for the Club. The 1st team just failed in its efforts to become the first Home Counties' Premier League club to win the championship three times in succession, and this has made us doubly committed to regaining the title in 2016. It is a really high standard of cricket; for half the season a young Australian by the name of Jake Doran was gracing our play and we are not alone in expecting him to represent his country beyond the U19 side which he has been captaining. Henley's own captain for ten very successful years, Bjorn Mordt, has now stood down and an exciting new era led by the younger players is beckoning.

The 2nd and 3rd teams maintained their positions in their respective Thames Valley leagues and we are hoping the 2nd's can push for promotion to the top league next season. The 4th team remains a vital component of the Club, enabling some of the mature players to help develop younger players coming through from the Junior Section, which itself has continued to develop. The U11 boys won their league, the U13 side won their Berkshire Cup competition which was a tremendous achievement, and the girls' teams also had a wonderful season, with the U13 girls winning a highly prestigious final. Junior coaching was full on, as was our development programme with local state schools, providing increased opportunities for these children to experience cricket.



Winter maintenance work is proceeding well on the grounds and will of course step up further as the new season approaches, so that we can continue to present them as a beautiful and quintessentially English sight. We had some issues with the pitch last season but our new groundsman has made an excellent start to restoring it to one of the best around; his name is Charlie and he has extensive experience including a long spell tending to the playing fields of Eton.

The spirit of the Club was epitomised by the 1st team having just won their league's fair play award, and we are looking forward hugely to the 2016 season and to maintaining our excellent relationship with our neighbours in Remenham Parish, to whom we wish a very Happy New Year.

*Tony Fettiplace  
Club Secretary*

# **HENLEY CRICKET CLUB**



**Quiz Night**

**5th February 2016**

**Teams of 6/8  
£15 per person  
at**

**The Pavilion (assuming no flooding)  
At 7:30pm**

Please contact Sue Laing (sue@isobel.com)/ (07885 851362)

## THE WARRIOR AND THE MATHEMATICIAN - Part II

### 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].

*Part I of this article - **Lt-Colonel John Sanderson: The Warrior** - was published in the last issue.*

#### **Professor Sir Alexander Oppenheim [Oppie]**

The Mathematician Oppie became Professor of Mathematics at Raffles College, Singapore after a glittering academic career at Oxford, Chicago, Princeton and Edinburgh; he was revered by mathematicians specialising in number theory, for his formulation of 'The Oppenheim Conjecture'. His was a fateful decision to quit the 'mainstream' of mathematical research and accept the Raffles professorship in 1931.

Following the Japanese invasion of SE Asia, the capture of Singapore and surrender of the Allied troops in 1942, Oppie, as a member of the Singapore Voluntary Defence force, was put in the infamous Changi [Prisoner of War] POW camp and later forced to work on the Thai-Burma railway until 1945.

The code of the victorious Japanese Imperial Army had no concept of surrender; its brutal treatment of prisoners is well documented in memoirs and films. Conditions in the camps were harsh and almost unspeakable; inmates were constantly threatened and abused by their sadistic jailers. Many prisoners died.

Oppie rarely talked about his experience of the horrors of that time. But he survived. He told me once that he made shoes out of cut-up car tyres wired to his feet and he managed to persuade his captors that mathematics was a branch of medicine so he was directed to work in the camp sick-bay instead of being condemned to hard labour. However he knew that he had to find the resilience to cope with starvation and helpless incarceration with no prospect of escape to freedom. Boredom and hopelessness were sure killers; a way had to be found to lend purpose and fend off despair. Then 'the Angels Flapped their Wings'; Oppie 'got through' to Lieutenant Okazaki, a rare human-being amongst the jailers, who agreed to collect paper and books from the Raffles College library - enabling captive scholars to create a rudimentary POW university with Oppie as Dean and Professor of Mathematics.

'Out of the blue', a sketch of Oppie as a POW in the Changi camp was exhibited during an Antiques-Roadshow in 2011; it had been drawn by a fellow POW, John Mennie who in turn had given it to another POW Eric Jennings. Amazingly when Eric Jennings died in 1996, his family found the sketch, together with about 30 other drawings, in a shoe box. Perhaps the sketch shows another aspect of Oppie's resilient spirit by revealing his ability to concentrate and withdraw from surrounding hell into another world of rational mathematics.



After the war, Oppie became the last Colonial Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaysia, followed by Mathematics at the University of Ghana and then head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Benin, Nigeria.

Towards the end when Oppie was in his 90's, his visiting New Zealand Cousin Bill and I located the hidden key and found Oppie collapsed on the floor of his house in Matson Drive. He recovered after a few days in hospital commenting that the hospital had no pencils, so he had to solve the daily crossword by remembering the answers one by one; he could also play Scrabble [English across the board and French down]. In the 1920's he was Captain of the Oxford University Chess team. He was well versed in the supernatural works of the Eighteenth Century Romantic artist Henry Fuseli.

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

*(Antiques Roadshow Information supplied by Oppie's sons David and Jonathan Oppenheim, now living in Thailand and Sweden respectively.)*

*Links <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2038221/Antiques-Roadshow>  
Independent Newspaper: Obituary (page 16) of the INDEPENDENT 15 December 1997*

*Note from the Editor:* Jim has sent me a response to Robin Sanderson's letter in the Times last August about the Retreat from Shanghai and referred to in the last issue . It was from Maurice Bell (now aged 96); he was 2nd in command of the 50th Para Battalion Signals, and shows the written signal to John Sanderson's unit to give up and retreat as they were over run. (It optimistically says 'fight your way out'!) I hope to include the letter (a moving description of the conditions they were enduring and their mixed reactions to the message to retreat, and including a photograph of the signal) in the next or a future issue. *Editor*

## 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/](http://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](mailto: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.

## 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 PoliceTeam

18 Station Road, Twyford RG10 9NT

## Call 101 for non-emergency matters

Email: [Jacqueline.Daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.Daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Thames Valley Alerts

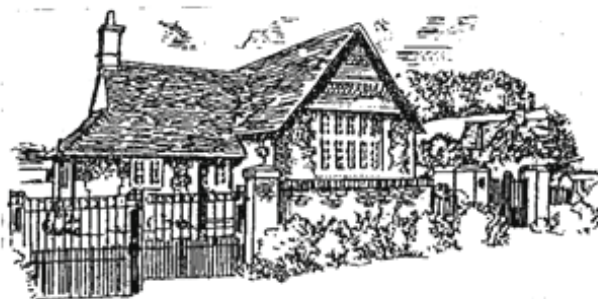
Thames Valley Alerts is the system for receiving crime and policing updates for your area. To sign up to receive alerts visit [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

## ADVERTISING IN THE REMENHAM NEWSLETTER

The rates for the 12 months from March 2016 are being reviewed, and current and potential new advertisers will be contacted once these are finalised. Most advertisers make a commitment for 6 issues over 12 months, and are for a half page, quarter or one-eighth page.

**Contact: Jo Morgan**

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