

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



Remenham Artists - Jill Bland

No 254 – January-February 2017



Acorn Music Theatre Company - Remenham, December 2016



Correction

Many apologies to Mark Stevens for incorrectly attributing the photographs of the Remenham Autumn Fayre. It was Mark who took the wonderful photographs in the last issue of the newsletter.

See the website for a fuller display - www.remenhamparish.org.uk/what-s-on/

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

Charlotte Every Tel: 07973 798071
churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk
John Laing Tel: 07778 464162

Churchwarden emeritus

Mike Dowsett Tel: 01491 575711

Treasurer

Nigel Gray Tel: 01491 572024

Secretary

Ruth Palethorpe Tel: 01344 449385

Sidesmen

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

Antony Duckett	Rosemary Duckett
Anthony West	Sarah West
Peter Forrester	Charlotte Every
John Laind	Sue Laing
Glen Palethorpe	Ruth 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*

OCCASIONAL CHURCH CLEANING, CAN YOU HELP?

Occasional help with church cleaning would be very much appreciated. There is no need to be a regular church-goer but simply to appreciate our beautiful church, and it really isn't onerous, just once or twice a year. If you could spare a little time, to work in a team, please contact Rosemary Duckett on *rkduckett@gmail.com*.

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Franky Cookson, 122 Middle Culham, Remenham Hill, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3DY

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

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 COUNCILLORS FOR REMENHAM, WARGRAVE AND RUSCOMBE

Cllr John Halsall, cherwell@btinternet.com, 07939 041227. Cherwell, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 3DB

Cllr Bob Pitts, robert.pitts@btinternet.com, 07768 107 070, 27 Northbury Avenue, Ruscombe, Berkshire RG10 9LH

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2017		
Months	Deadlines for Contributors	Approx. Dates for Distributors
Jan-Feb 2017	Friday 30 December 2017	Friday 6 January 2017
Mar-Apr	Friday 24 February	Friday 3 March
May-June	Friday 28 April	Friday 5 May
July-Aug	Friday 23 June	Friday 30 June
Sept-Oct	Friday 18 August	Friday 25 August
Nov-Dec	Friday 27 October	Friday 3 November
Jan-Feb 2018	Friday 29 December 2017	Friday 7 January 2018

REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rev Canon Martyn Griffiths
Charlotte Every
John Laing
Ruth Palethorpe
Nigel Gray

Rector
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Secretary
Treasurer

Kim Blythe, Sue Laing, Glen Palethorpe, 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

Funerals

10 November	Jill Bland
20 December	Josephine Mary Loizou

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
Sue Laing
Charlotte Every

PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

January

- 9th 2.30pm W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall
10th 8.00pm Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

February

- 3rd 7.30pm Henley Cricket Club Quiz Night, Cricket Club Pavilion
13th 2.30pm W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall
14th 8.00pm Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

FROM THE EDITOR

After all the activities over Christmas and the New Year it is perhaps not surprising that there is little in the Remenham diary for the next two months. I agree with the Rector that it is something of a relief! I am sure that in true Remenham style the diary will soon be full again.

Following the success of the last Quiz night, at which the Parish competitive spirit was very much in evidence, how about a Remenham table or two at the Cricket Club Quiz night on 3 February? The indefatigable Sue Laing is again organising this, so you can be sure of some fun.

My editorial dilemma for this issue (there are always one or two) was how long it should be. When I drafted it there were 22 pages, so should I edit ruthlessly and squeeze it into 20 or should I spread it out over 24? I decided on the latter, and have therefore been able to include the whole of the wonderful tribute to Jill Bland from Jim and his family.

The recent introduction of colour into the newsletter has gone down well, but I need more photographs please, and some more advertising to pay for it! Any help much appreciated. - and from our Remenham artists too (see page 16).

Felicity (newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER

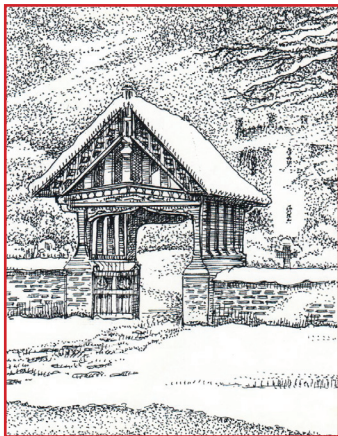
THANK YOU'S

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. Some distribute a large number, so volunteers to share the task would be much appreciated. Particular thanks to Jo Morgan for coordinating the advertising.

ADVERTISING RATES

The charges are now being reviewed, in the light of the very well-received colour option that was recently introduced. Renewal for the next 12 months, March 2017 to end of February 2018, will shortly be due and we will be contacting our current and potential new advertisers as soon as the new rates have been finalised.

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS REMENHAM



All our Christmas services at St Nicholas were well attended this year with numbers up from last year for the Carol Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



The church looked fabulous for the Carol Service and Christmas with the outside floodlit; fairy lights outlining the lych gate; and the church lit by hundreds of candles. Felicity Rutland had put together a really outstanding choir for the Carol Service who, despite minimum rehearsal, sang quite wonderfully. Afterwards, we all gathered in the Parish Hall for mulled wine and mince pies which set the mood for the

festivities of the following week.



Many thanks to Felicity and the choir, to Anthony West for providing and mulling the wine, to all those who made mince pies and to the flower arrangers for their splendid arrangements in church.

With best wishes to everyone in Remenham for a very happy 2017 and we hope to see some of you in church during the year!

The Churchwardens

A BUCKET (FUL) OF ACORN STORIES

Remenham was treated to an enchanting promenade performance by the hugely talented Henley based Acorn Music Theatre Company just before Christmas. A group of young actors and musicians (some from Remenham) performed a series of traditional stories which they had adapted and re-written themselves. They used a variety of locations, the Brown's garden at The Old School House, around the church and by the tow path (all with the requisite permissions!) and with the audience guided to each location by candlelit paths. The unusual story-lines, haunting music, costumes, lighting and sound effects were extraordinarily impressive.

Felicity Rutland

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends

First of all, may I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year! Somehow the arrival of a new diary or kitchen calendar always seems to suggest a new start and the getting rid of the old. Having just thrown out a very much over used kitchen calendar which needed something akin to the Rosetta Stone to enable the month of December to be deciphered, it was good to see a relatively neat January on the back of the kitchen door!

A new year always gives us something to look forward to....

Many of you will know that I have now formally announced that I shall be retiring from full time stipendiary ministry - in other words, as Rector of Henley with Remenham - in twelve months' time, in January 2018. My final Sunday with you will be 14th January -as I was inducted as your Rector on 15th January 2005, this means that I will complete exactly 13 years here in this Benefice. Following this, Anne and I will have to move away, though hopefully not too far, and the process of selecting your new parish priest can begin in earnest. To many people used to the modern way of doing things, the fact that there has to be a timely space between my departure and the induction of your new parish priest can seem to be both unnecessary and antiquated. However, it is important that there is a breathing space in order to allow the congregations to get used to another voice, as well as time for any necessary work to be done on the Rectory. Being a parish priest, indeed being a priest, is totally unlike any other 'job', and it is the case that any attempt to make it like any other job will inevitably fail. New relationships will have to be formed and very possibly a new direction taken by the new incumbent, and he should be given every opportunity and support as together you will seek to continue to discern God's will for these two parishes.

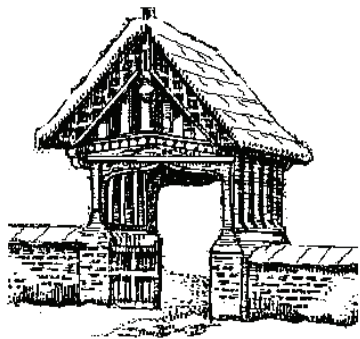
So even though it is a little way off yet, please pray for those upon whom the task of administering the interregnum and the selection will fall, especially the Churchwardens and Church Councils. There will be time for greater reflection from me nearer the time!

With my love and prayers.

Fr Martyn

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND EDITORIAL POLICY

Do please keep sending any interesting/topical items for possible inclusion 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. The opinions expressed are those of the authors of the articles and do not necessarily reflect the views of those on the editorial team.



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Happy New Year

2016 was a momentous year for the nation. Record Olympic medals! Will Satch* stroking the eight to Gold. The golden jubilee of the Queen! The EU referendum! Our MP, Theresa, becoming PM! It is hard to see that 2017 can be as crucial, but who knows with Trump and the tectonic plates shifting in the EU, the UK and globally.

Development

Within the Borough, we saw the leadership committing West Berkshire to 66,000 homes in the next twenty years, with Wokingham taking the largest share. Maybe even more, as our neighbours are more protected to development than Wokingham and Wokingham has a duty to cooperate, which in plain terms means that if they suffer a shortfall then Wokingham will be duty bound to increase its commitment. These numbers are meaningless in isolation, but the Borough population will increase some 25-40% in twenty years; a very significant change.

Whilst you may or may not be in sympathy with the increasing density of population, the increase needs to come with not only the infrastructure to accommodate the new houses but also the repair of the current infrastructure which must work harder. Sadly, the Borough currently repairs only thirty roads per year of our existing stock of 1600. There is no money promised or on the horizon for this huge investment – estimated to be more than £2 billion over the funding that developers will commit to.

The Green Belt Review underwrote the improbability of Remenham becoming a centre for development but the planners are likely to be less unsympathetic to marginal development as they grapple with the large developments elsewhere.

As development increases in the neighbourhood, traffic will increase making it more difficult to get anywhere, which has not been helped by the failure of Network Rail to commit to electrification of the branch line and the real possibility that this will now not happen at all.

** Appointed MBE in New Year Honours*

I am personally extremely uncomfortable with what we are doing. As a Borough Councillor of the Northern Parishes of Wokingham, it is impossible not to be out of step with the rest of the Borough as we are rural and likely to continue to be so, when the remainder of the Borough is urban or suburban. Due to the numbers, unless we are robust our voice is little heard.

Wokingham Borough

Worryingly, WBC is again paring its budget to avoid a referendum on council tax. At risk is adult services coupled with the risk of homelessness and without doubt bi-weekly dustbin collection is being considered.

2017/18 Parish Budget

Consequent upon restricting the Borough budget and very little priority given to Remenham issues, we have been asked to contribute financially to fund a revision of the Borough Licensing Policy to determine whether an amendment to consider cumulative impact is appropriate.

The Parish Council expects that these occasions will increase as the Parish will need to meet all or some of the cost of what is not considered by the Borough to be of immediate priority. Therefore, the Parish Council proposes to increase the precept by 4% in line with what is expected to be the Borough increase.

To make progress on some of the issues that the Parish Council believes to be of importance, we shall need to make provision for some or all the expenditure. We have budgeted for the above contribution to the development of licensing policy. We intend to make progress on some of the highways issues in 2017/18.

Website *(and also see next page)*

Please visit the website as it has been updated. My thanks to Franky and the website team.

The Parish Council

It is with great sadness that Darrel Poulos has felt it necessary to take a sabbatical for personal reasons. Darrel has made a great contribution to Parish affairs for a considerable time. We have decided that as we are midterm that we should co-opt a couple of residents to the Parish Council to strengthen it.

Planning

Approval was given to the polo pitch on the Malmesbury Estate. It was noted that WBC had refused applications 162804 (Old School House) and 162686/162676 (Units 7/8, Whitehill Farm) and approved 162001 (3 Riverside). It was also noted that appeals were to be held in January on 162367/162368 (Stonebridge, Henley Bridge) and 153483 (floating landing stages at Hobbs Boat yard).

John Halsall
Chairman Remenham Parish Council

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Independent Remuneration Panel

Last Wokingham Borough Council meeting, Cllr Keith Baker asked councillors to ignore a recommendation by the Independent Remuneration Panel to curb Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs). These are additional payments given to councillors who sit on additional committees. Currently there is a limit of one such payment to councillors who are part of the Executive, with no such limit for other councillors. The panel recommended that Wokingham Borough Council should follow the pattern of other councils by restricting payments of SRAs to just one per member.

A named vote saw Cllr Baker's recommendation passed, but more councillors abstained or voted against the motion than for. The panel have all resigned. To quote a comment...."We researched this area extensively. No other council in Berkshire allows the payment of more than one SRA to any councillor whether on the Executive or not. In the light of this we recommended that the Council follow their local market and limit any SRAs to one per member. We are all extremely disappointed that the Leader of the Council decided not to accept this independent advice. This means that members of the Executive now have no limit on the number of SRAs the Leader can choose to gift them. For the Executive to ignore our advice and to then vote for a potential increase in part of a councillor's remuneration, which they themselves have suggested, is, in our view, a dangerous precedent and not in the interests of the Council Tax payers of Wokingham Borough."

Bob and I did not vote for Cllr Baker's recommendation.

*John Halsall
Councillor Wokingham Borough Council*

See: <http://www.wokinghampaper.com/expenses-payment-vote-smacks-greed>

PARISH WEBSITE - www.remenhamparish.org.uk

A new feature:

Past issues of this newsletter are on the website, and from now on these will be available as page turning documents - have a go, it's fun as well as impressive!

and a reminder:

1. River levels - you can check these live via the webcam situated at Hobbs of Henley. Either go to <http://www.farsondigitalwatercams.com/locations/henley-on-thames> or click on the link on the website home page.
2. Traffic - you can access Live Traffic Reports for the South East, from Highways England. Either go to <http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk/live-traffic-news/> or click on 'Live Traffic News' in the menu on the website home page.

LOCAL HISTORY

Anne Damer

On recently re-reading Flora Fraser's excellent biography of Emma, Lady Hamilton: 'Beloved Emma' I came across this paragraph, which I thought might be of interest to those interested in our local history: (Charles Greville, nephew and heir of Sir William Hamilton, having tired of his mistress Emma, sent her off to Naples to stay with his uncle, until he should come to claim her – but never did!)

Enid Light

"In the second week of March 1786, a lady, the Honourable Mrs Damer came to Naples and did stay at the Palazzo Sessa. Anne Damer, daughter of General Conway, had stayed at the Palazzo Sessa in 1782 during Catherine's (the first wife of Sir William) last year of life. She naturally did so again, though Sir William had no doubt of the talk it would engender. He told Greville, in a letter written on 7 March, that the widow – Damer had shot himself in 1776 – would be with him shortly and would stay no more than a fortnight. Anne Damer was, at thirty-seven, despite a regrettable enthusiasm for rouge and for private theatricals, still modish enough to attract – perhaps a little too modish. She was one of the Whig ladies who led by the Duchess of Devonshire, shocked Society by canvassing in the streets for Fox in the 1780 election. She wrote Latin and Greek, she was a fine musician, and was fast becoming an accomplished sculptress. According to Horace Walpole, her work in marble resembled that of Bernini. This paragon was still occupying the late Lady Hamilton's apartments and going about in Sir William's carriage when Emma arrived late in April. Emma's imminent arrival had not for a moment deterred Sir William from again thinking of marriage. On 30 May, he informed his niece Mary that, if Mrs Damer had been content to live 'chiefly' in Naples, and take him as he was, he might have been married. However, the lady's reluctance to live out of England and her theatrical nature decided him in the end against going to a proposal."

Clarification:

Extract from David Whitehead's history of Henley):

"The Hon Mrs Anne Damer (1749-1828) was the daughter of General Conway of Park Place and also the cousin of Horace Walpole. Her husband, John Damer, committed suicide after accumulating large debts through gambling and horse racing, and she was left with little financial support. She then made her living from sculpture, for which she had already shown some aptitude, and became sufficiently skilful to gain commissions for a statue of George III and a bust of Nelson. In Henley she contributed to the town's heritage by carving the two heads, of Thames and Isis, on the keystones of Henley Bridge, the head of Isis, being based on a daughter of Sambrook Freeman of Fawley Court."

And also - to quote from 'A Guide to Henley upon Thames and its Vicinity', published in May 1838, a copy of which the editor was delighted to receive for Christmas:

"Remenham is a pleasant little village....." and "Remenham Church has this year been much enlarged and improved and new pewed, at an expense of upwards of £500."

FELICITY RUTLAND

APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY LIEUTENANT for the ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

The Editor is far too reticent (!) to publish the fact that, on 1 September 2016, she was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Berkshire. In making the announcement, the Lord Lieutenant said:

“I am delighted to welcome five new Deputy Lieutenants. I congratulate them on being awarded this honour and I look forward to working with them in the future.”

The role of the Deputy Lieutenants (of whom there are some 30 in Berkshire) is to support the Lord Lieutenant in his wide ranging work as Her Majesty’s personal representative in the County.

Apart from being involved in aspects of civic life in the County and supporting charitable and voluntary organisations, Deputy Lieutenants attend Citizenship Ceremonies, which are hosted by the six Unitary Authorities within the County, and assess organizations which have been put forward for The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service (an Award initiated in the Golden Jubilee Year, to reward organizations whose employees are, in the majority, volunteers; it ranks in precedence as equivalent to an MBE for an individual).

Felicity’s Mother, the late Stella Oates, also held the appointment of a DL for Berkshire.

As a former DL for Berkshire (having reached my “sell by date” in August 2016), I am delighted that Remenham has a new DL and I congratulate Felicity on her appointment.

Anthony West

Extract from an email sent by Jim Bland to Felicity Rutland:

“I guess that one of your duties will be to raise the militia in times of crisis. Who knows when the next crisis will come - I detect a whiff of Cromwellianism in the air since the referendum this summer. There aren't many of us spear carriers left at this end of the parish, although George C is said to be a dab hand with his golf clubs. You will have to recruit able bodied mercenaries from outside eg athletic members of the cricket club and tough-minded allotment holders.”

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Poppy Appeal this year. Remenham raised £1490.11 which is excellent for our small village.



Carol Wissett

JILL BLAND (19th March 1928 - 30th October 2016, our 62nd Wedding Anniversary)



Jill spent her early years in Northumberland in Newcastle, in the borderlands of the Cheviot Hills and on the coast from Lindisfarne to Alnwick. She was an only child. She learned to swim and survive in the icy North Sea and lonely moorland becks. Her parents allowed her to roam the moors on her pony Shorty. A completely free spirit, she thrived on their creative neglect. She could be sure of welcome, shelter and food in several isolated houses. Time and timetables became and remained irrelevant throughout her life. She was taught to ride by her father who had ridden his War Horse, Sandy, when he was a commander of horse-drawn artillery batteries in the first World War on the Western Front. Jill kept the yellowing telegram he received instructing him to cease fire at 11 O'clock on the 11th of November 1918 - Ninety eight years ago tomorrow.

When the second World War started, Jill's school was evacuated to Alnwick Castle, a magnificent pile built to defend England from the Scots. The school girls learned to creep on to the lead roof to have midnight feasts amongst the stone statues of archers placed amongst the battlements to discourage medieval cattle thieves. The school curriculum was patchy and Jill became permanently baffled by maths and numbers. Recently the castle was a perfect setting for Hogwarts School in the production of Harry Potter films. It was there that she was introduced to jazz music played by Lord Percy the Duke of Northumberland on the chapel organ. Much later she developed her gift for creating her most original paintings in a sort of trance while listening to recorded jazz. In the 1980's and 1990's she exhibited her paintings at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and at the Bankside gallery of Royal Watercolour Society.

Jill had another natural gift--she was a graceful ballroom dancer. This gift was a vestige of her late teenage years of hunt balls and hunting in the Cheviot borderlands.

These well-worn family stories give you a picture of Jill and how she became such an unusual woman. There is one more story of how we set out on our life together. In 1953 we met at a party in Cambridge. Jill had got there after an art course followed by physiotherapy training in Newcastle and had just joined the physical medicine department in Addenbrookes Hospital, then opposite the Fitzwilliam Museum.

I was beginning my PhD studies in X-ray Crystallography at the Cavendish Laboratory---the research required the finicky manual dexterity of a jeweller, infinite patience and the stamina to perform reams of tedious arithmetical calculations not unlike code cracking at Bletchley Park. For me, just then, the possibility of progress, let alone a breakthrough, seemed remote. However other crystallographers were 'on a roll', in particular two weirdos - incessant noisy talkers, unmanageable incompetent experimentalists who sent Professor Bragg hairless. These weirdos were Crick and Watson who proposed the molecular structure of DNA in the spring of 1953. I felt that I had been the 'fly on the wall' witnessing the discovery of the century. Jill and I couldn't have been more different, she must have thought she had got entangled with a pernickety, arithmetical, 'fly on the wall' - and, moreover 'a fly on the wall' who rarely ventured onto the dance floor. But she took the chance and agreed to come with me to Italy.

Italy was the place to go in the early 50's so long as you went to places untouched by the war which had ended less than 10 years before. The ancient cities were sophisticated and colourful in contrast to drab utility Britain where food and essentials were still rationed. Before we met, Jill had been to the Italian lakes and I had gone to stay with friends in Siena and Rome. So in 1953, ignoring the excitement of DNA, each with our travel allowance restricted to £50, we travelled across the Alps to Italy in a car driven by an Australian crystallographer who left us in Florence.

When we reached the Rosso's lodging house that I knew in Lungarno Guicciardini, Dottore Minucci del Rosso opened the door saying that we could stay but his wife and family were on holiday. I already knew that he had served with the Fascist Italian Division on the Eastern front at Stalingrad. Nevertheless he welcomed us, poured out a drink and raised his glass saying 'Churchill good man'. It was the start of a memorable evening; he drove us round the city in his Fiat Topolino stopping at a ristorante, cafes for grappa and eating water melon in the street near Michelangelo's statue of David.

Back in our lodgings, he showed us our rooms. Then, waving a package which he said contained a gun, he changed from a hospitable host into a demanding lothario. This was so unexpected we were stunned and could not believe it but somehow we got back to Jill's room, locked and barricaded the door while listening to his drunken snores in the distance. I had a sleepless night on the hard floor behind the door. At first light we crept out of the house and took the train to La Spezia and Lerici on the romantic Italian Riviera.

But there was a sequel. After returning to Cambridge to her work in Addenbrookes, Jill received a phone call from reception 'There's a Doctor Minucci del Rosso here who wants to talk to you.' She was rather vague about how she managed to see off her macho lothario.

Jill made no conscious effort to attract men. She had such a delicious smile and the rare gift of captivating them and making conquests without lifting a finger. We married within a year. It was a case of life imitating Art. As the poem says. "He married her to stop her running away". For me she was quite a catch. We were continually surprised as our remarkable family appeared and developed as if by magic.

The bond between us strengthened as we shared happy times and became even closer as we tried to cope with setbacks and insolubles especially after the disaster of the sudden death of our son, a gifted jazz pianist. In the last few days I have found post cards and papers showing that Jill must have thought about him every day for the last nine years.

During this spectacularly colourful Autumn, at sunset we had developed a pattern of walking round the garden at glacial speed watching the sun sink and light up the high clouds and condensation trails above them - she loved to see the subtle pinks and reds change minute-by-minute changes that you never notice at normal walking speeds.

Our life together unfolded over 62 years and many of the friends we made are here today. The friends from Physiotherapy and Painting from our 42 years in Henley along with Alison and the carers, formed a phalanx of helpers keeping Jill's Alzheimer's and Palsy at bay right up to her stroke and, most important, Father Martyn's pastoral visits gave Jill and me the strength to part and go our separate ways.

I thank you all.

Jim Bland (10 November 2016)

The funeral on 10th November 2016 at St Nicholas Church, Remenham was a celebration of her life with tributes from 4 generations in the family, including 'A message to GanGan' from our 5 year old great grand daughter Eva. They all expressed heartfelt appreciation of Jill's ability to create a warm loving space for them, encouraging them to develop and enjoy the natural world; the sea, the moors, the fresh air, the colours, the animals (especially horses) and the creatures in the rock pools. When the church service ended we and the congregation followed Jill's cortège for her committal in the Upper Churchyard, following a brass quartet playing New Orleans jazz - Jill's favourite music when she was absorbed in painting. The sun came out revealing the carpet of golden autumn leaves and lighting up Temple Island and the view across the Thames Valley.

CALLING ALL REMENHAM ARTISTS!

For a number of years we have enjoyed Judy Fraser's beautiful black and white drawings on the front covers of the Newsletter. Now that we are introducing some colour on one double sided page of each issue we would like to take the opportunity to show some of the work of other Remenham Artists - of which there are quite a number! I am asking Judy for some images in colour and would very much like contributions from other Remenham artists. I would particularly appreciate pictures appropriate to the dates of the newsletter. Please could all Remenham artists let me have some contributions? I would prefer digital images to framed pictures or 3D sculptures! Please email to newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk.

It seemed fitting to use one of Jill Bland's pictures for this issue, and perhaps the subject matter of the seaside in the summer is a lovely reminder of things to come once this spell of wintery weather is over.

Felicity Rutland, Editor

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

Twyford NHPT Winter Update for Remenham

Hopefully, you all enjoyed Christmas and New Year. However, while we still have dark evenings don't leave your gifts from Santa on view for an optimistic thief in your home or vehicle. Make sure the postman doesn't have to leave parcels on your doorstep - get them delivered to someone who can accept them on your behalf.

Home security

Now is the time to review your home security, please take a moment to look at our top tips to help keep your property safe:

- Keep your home secure when you go out by locking all windows and doors using good quality locks
- Fit a letterbox cage or restrictor to prevent attempts to open door latches or handles
- Make your property appear occupied when you are out by using timer switches to turn on lights or a radio
- Don't leave keys or any other valuables on view – keep them in a safe place well away from doors and windows
- Ensure that there is adequate security lighting at the front and rear of your property
- Register items at www.immobilise.com. It's free, takes just a few minutes and if your valuables are stolen, will assist us in reuniting you with your property.

If you feel that you would benefit from a Home Security Assessment, please contact us by dialling 101 and ask to speak to a member of the Twyford Neighbourhood Team.

The cold weather affects the young and old alike. Keep an eye out for your neighbours and if you have any concerns please call us for advice.

Team members:

Sgt 3786 Mark Smith, PC 6401 Simon Botham, PC 4448 Chris Harrison, PCSO C9697 Jackie Daniels and PCSO C3286 Jessica Howells

The team continue to regularly patrol the area dealing with issues identified by the community.

Parking

This was an issue throughout last summer which we have been dealing with it as robustly as necessary.

As people go searching for New Year sales bargains, the demand for parking near our railway stations will increase. Please park carefully, paying special attention to single and double yellow lines around local schools. We continue to support those households and businesses that are experiencing illegal parking issues.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour in recent months and encourage members of the public to continue to share information with us. The team have been actively patrolling those areas which the community have identified as an issue and we have had some good outcomes as a result.

Speeding and road safety

The team receives numerous calls and emails about traffic issues all year round, and we have been out and about addressing and enforcing these. A number of drivers have been issued with fixed penalty notices for speeding and we deal firmly with those using mobile phones whilst travelling through our area.

Remember - speed limits are not targets you need to reach and could be the difference between life and death. An extra 30 seconds on your journey will help you get to wherever you're going safely and may help avoid a speeding ticket.

Think - the inclement weather will start to have an effect on your ability to stop, with rain and ice causing driving conditions to deteriorate. Keep your speed down and remember to check your lights, tyres, anti-freeze and screen wash regularly.

Even though the festive period is over, we continue to patrol for drink drivers. An evening out can quickly turn sour if you drive home intoxicated, have an accident, injure yourself or someone else, or get arrested. Don't take the risk!

Sign up to Thames Valley Alert

This is a free community messaging service allowing the police to inform you by email, text or telephone of incidents in your area as and when they happen. We also pass on advice and can keep you updated regarding meetings and events. Visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk for more details and to sign up.

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101. If your call is an emergency then dial 999.

You can also contact us via email: Twyfordnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

If you have information about crime or Anti-Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Twyford Police Station is open Wednesday 2pm - 6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm and is manned by volunteers. They are there to answer any queries and pass messages to the rest of the team. To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

And now something for the older generations:

As Shaw Taylor on Police 5 used to say, "Keep 'em peeled."

Have a Happy New Year

*PC Chris Harrison
Neighbourhood Officer*

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Neighbourhood Officer: PC Chris Harrison

Call 101 for non-emergency matters,

Call 999 for an emergency

Email: *Twyfordnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk*
(not for reporting crimes or for any urgent matters)

Website: *www.thamesvalley.police.uk*

Twitter: *@tvp_wokingham*

To receive local crime and policing alerts sign up via *www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk*

To report crime or anti-social behaviour anonymously call **Crimestoppers** on 0800 555111

TWYFORD POLICE STATION

18 Station Road, Twyford RG10 9NT

Opening Times

Wednesday 2.00-6.00pm

Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm

Manned by volunteers to answer questions and pass on messages to the team

HENLEY POLICE STATION

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

Opening Times

Monday-Friday inclusive 9.00am-5.00pm

Closed for lunch 1.00-1.30pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

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pat Sly@tinyworld.co.uk or
parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

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