

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



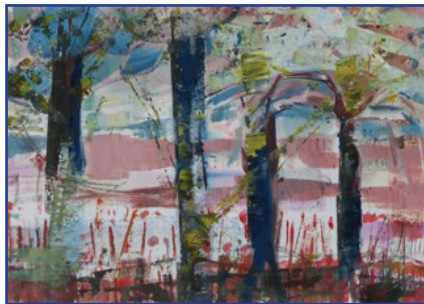
Regatta Blues

Remenham Artists - *Jennifer Law*

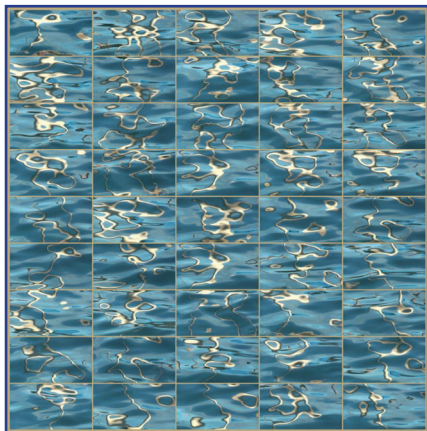
The Henley Arts Trail April/May 2017 - Remenham Artists



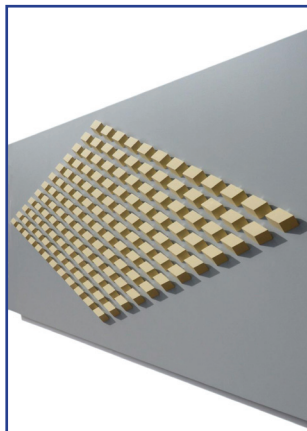
Jenny Law



Jenny Law



Allan Henderson



Allan Henderson

The Remenham Beetle Drive - April 2017 - Winners and Losers



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

Mandy Sermon Tel: 01491 412908

Sidesmen

1st Sunday

Antony Duckett

Rosemary Duckett

2nd Sunday

Anthony West

Sarah West

3rd Sunday

Peter Forrester

Charlotte Every

4th Sunday

John Laing

Sue Laing

5th Sunday

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*

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 not necessarily those of the editorial team.

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

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 16 June	Friday 23 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 5 January 2018

REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rev Canon Martyn Griffiths

Charlotte Every

John Laing

Mandy Sermon

Nigel Gray

Kim Blythe, Sue Laing, Paul Sermon, Anthony West, Sarah West, Hugh Whitfield

Rector

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

Secretary

Treasurer

CHURCH CLEANING

May Rosemary Duckett Minnie Wilson Sally-Anne Plunket

June Mike Dowsett

ALTAR FLOWERS

May Mandy Cook Maureen Holborn

June Marilyn Dudley Judy Bate

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

2 March Gerald E Morris

28 April Victor William Miller

Marriages

29 April Noel Bransdon and Beth Page

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

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.

PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

May

8th	2.30pm	W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall
9th	??	Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall
9th	8.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting in the Parish Hall
11th	8.45am	Cricket Club Golf Day, Henley Golf Club

June

12th	2.30pm	W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall
13th	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Hall
16/18th		Henley Women's Regatta
23rd	evening	Henley Royal Regatta Qualifying Races
25th	4.30am	Henley Classic Swim, HRR Course, start Temple Island
29th/31st		Henley Royal Regatta

July

1st/2nd		Henley Royal Regatta continues
6/9th		Henley Festival
7/8th		Henley Masters' Regatta, Temple Island Meadows
9th	9.00am	Henley Mile Swim, start Temple Island (to be confirmed)
15th	7.30pm	Cricket Club Summer Ball, Regatta Meadows

Further ahead

18/20th August	Rewind Festival, Temple Island Meadows
3rd September	Remenham Country Fayre, the Parish Hall
26/28th October	Remenham Thespians, the Parish Hall

FROM THE EDITOR

As I said in the last issue, there is a lot happening in Remenham. A lot has already happened this year and there is a lot more to come. Since the last issue we have gone from the sublime to the ridiculous - from Easter to the Beetle Drive - plus of course the Henley Boat Races and the Henley Arts Trail, all of which are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

For those who missed the Beetle Drive, get your tickets early next year as this now has to be fully embedded in our annual calendar. It is difficult to believe how much fun it is and how so many dignified members of our community become vocal and ferociously competitive!

The season of Regattas and Festivals is now about to begin and there is frenetic activity in the Regatta meadows as well as in many people's gardens. First though we have our Annual Parish Meeting - at 8.00pm on Tuesday 9 May in the Parish Hall - and of course the General Election will be upon us in no time.

An advantage of having introduced some colour into the newsletter is that we can include photographs of events, and reproduce some of the wonderful paintings by our Remenham Artists, but we still need to attract more colour advertising to cover the costs (or even non-

colour) so do have a look through the current advertisements and see if you can make some recommendations to others who might like to support us and whose businesses would benefit. Please let me have more photographs, more paintings by local artists and more advertisements from local people and businesses.

I am most grateful to Jim Bland for yet another delightful contribution, this time about the 'Minty' memorial on footpath 8. 'The Minty Field' has always been part of my family's lives but I had never heard the anecdote about the plaque before (see pages 16-17) - a delightful story made all the more amusing by Jim's suggestion that perhaps there should be a category in our Autumn Fayre Dog Show for the dog with the biggest head!

In the last issue we included a flyer about a £250,000 fundraising campaign - ReubensFight - to help a very ill little boy in Pinkneys Green, which Caroline from Leander is helping organise. I am pleased to say that the appeal is going well and over £111,000 has been raised by an incredible 2548 people in 3 months. Leander is planning a cake sale to help further, and details will go on the website.

Last, but I sincerely hope not least, rehearsals for the next Remenham Thespians extravaganza are under way!

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

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS REMENHAM

Our Easter Day service of Holy Communion and Blessing of the Font was well attended with a congregation of 60. The church was beautifully decorated: many thanks to all the flower arrangers and particularly to Sally-Anne Plunket for all her hard work in organising the flower arranging rota and watering the flowers.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on Sunday 30 April. John Laing and Charlotte Every were re-elected as churchwardens, Sarah West and Paul Sermon were elected to the PCC and Mandy Sermon has kindly agreed to take on the role of PCC Secretary. Many thanks to Ruth and Glen Palethorpe who have resigned from the PCC and Ruth from the role of PCC Secretary. They have served the church so well for so many years; we are immensely grateful for their contribution and very pleased that they will continue as sidesmen and Glen as server.

For those of you interested in Remenham history there is an interesting article about the Rev Charles Skottowe, Rector of Remenham in the late 19th century who sadly committed suicide. The article was provided by Norman Topsam and is on the history pages of our website: www.remenhamparish.org.uk.

*Charlotte Every
Churchwarden*

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

I wish to begin by thanking all those who have been serving, and all those who are currently serving, on our Church Councils in the benefice over the last year (and some for much longer!) and to commend them, and especially the Churchwardens of both parishes in the benefice, to your prayers. The Church Council is often seen as a rubber stamp for whatever the Rector wants to do, but I am delighted to say that that is far from the truth. Many who serve on the council bring with them not only experience from the outside world, but also a much greater knowledge of 'what's going on' in the parish and beyond than any priest can ever do. There is a place for 'worldly wisdom' in the Council and these two parishes can be proud of the unstinting service and effort made by those who represent them.

As I write the temperature is beginning to rise on all political fronts - at a local level, civil Councillors are vying for votes to get them back into the Council Chamber, former and prospective MP's are being seen in places in their constituencies that rarely get a visit other than at General Election time, and on the European front the negotiations leading to the UK's leaving the EU are, even at this early stage, producing rumour and counter-rumour. On the world stage one could be forgiven for thinking that temperatures are running dangerously high in the confrontation between the USA and North Korea; whilst in the Middle East the troubles continue.

One could be easily forgiven for joining that delightful lady from Bath (I think) who, when told that a General Election had been called, held up her hands in horror and simply exclaimed 'Oh no, Not another one!' I think my own exclamation might be 'Stop the world! I want to get off!'

We are certainly living in troubled, troublesome and uncertain times. But we Christians have to remember that, whatever things might look like, ultimately God is in charge. We must never think of that as being a sort of magic spell which makes sure that all will be well - that would be to deny us, the human race, the benefits of our free will, and would turn us into puppets of what could only be seen as a rather malevolent God. Our Christian belief must be that the God who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to return creation back to its Creator has our best interests, our 'good' at heart. He may not be able or willing to stop mankind's foolishness, but he can still overcome that foolishness by love. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life', the life of the risen Christ, shared with God, in love.

May that peace and love be with you and your families

Fr Martyn



HENLEY BOAT RACE TEAS AND LUNCHES

We were blessed with fabulous weather for the Henley Boat Races on Sunday 26 March with blue skies and bright sunshine and a definite feeling that spring had arrived. As in previous years, we set up a stall selling tea and homemade cakes at the bottom of Old Blades garden. Many thanks to all those who made cakes: they were delicious; to the setting up party of Huw Morgan and John Laing; and to the helpers on the day: Sue Laing, Suzanne Came, Alison Barraclough, Mandy Sermon, Ann Burley and Peter Forrester (who took the money). We made £442.70 for church funds so it was well worth doing.

Rosemary Duckett again provided lunch in the Parish Hall for the Cambridge supporters and that together with car parking in the Hall garden raised a further £680.

Charlotte Every

HENLEY ARTS TRAIL 2017



Well, another busy May Bank Holiday weekend in the Life of Henley with Tough Mudder, the May Fair and all the other wonderful things that happen in Henley. A bit of sun, rain, hail and wind - what more could you ask for? The Trail was busy and at The Old Smythy, Culham we had a steady stream of regular and new visitors to see what we have been up to since last year.

Sales were good and with a selection of original paintings, textiles, ceramics, sculptures, unframed works and cards there is always something for everyone's purse.

Allan Henderson (top of Remenham Hill) also had his very professional work on view and the bonus of scones and a coffee to enjoy.

(Comment from Allan: "The weekend went very well indeed and lots of Remenham Faces came along to support.")

It's hard work putting all this together but great to see our work hanging at the Old Smythy, so thank you all those who ventured out against the traffic! Look forward to seeing you again next year.

Jenny Law

From the Editor: See inside front cover for more of Jenny's and Allan's images.



ASTON PRODUCTIONS

Our very own award winning Film Director/Writer, Jo Southwell, goes from strength to strength. Her feature film 'Deirdre of the Sorrows' was selected for the Newport Beach Film Festival, USA in April, and has also been selected for a screening at The Cannes Film Festival 2017.

For some of Jo's latest work see her website www.josouthwell.com.



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PO Box 4748, Henley on Thames RG9 3ET

☎ 01491 412908

✉ remenhampc@btinternet.com



REMENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Parish Hall
Tuesday 9 May 2017
8.00pm**

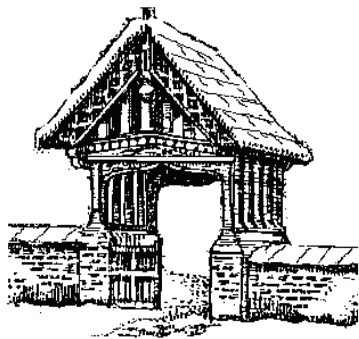
All residents are welcome to attend, to speak on any matter and join us in a glass of wine.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Neighbourhood Plan
6. Financial Report – presentation of unaudited accounts
7. Matters raised from the floor

Signed: _____
Cllr John Halsall
Chairman

Date: 12th April 2017



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

WARGRAVE FIRE STATION

Thank you for your support. We achieved the unachievable. A decision which was widely believed to have already been taken to close the fire station was amended to being deferred for one-year with two conditions – the availability of the crew increasing to 60 per cent and the savings being found elsewhere.

This obviously does not guarantee the future of the fire station but recognises the huge amount of achievement recently and gives a hope for future retention.

LITTER

We have agreed to employ Steve Allender to walk the footpaths and lanes and regularly pick up litter. I would be grateful if you could agree to him putting the litter collected with your own. He has special Adopt-a-street bags entitled to be collected with normal litter so it does not affect your allocation but they are picked up by the litter lorries as with normal garbage collections.

DOG BIN

As I informed you, the Parish Council on an experimental basis has agreed to put a dog bin near the Parish Notice Board and we will be emptying it during the experiment. If the experiment proves successful, the Parish Council will consider contracting and expanding the service. We have received the bin now.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Thank you all for turning up and giving a little of your time. With Bob Nancarrow, Franky Cookson, Alison Barraclough, John Merkel, Anthony West and me (I hope I have not missed anyone) we achieved a remarkable amount. If we can expand that next year.....!



ADOPT A STREET

As mentioned, to attempt to keep the village clean, we would like to approach you to take responsibility for a small portion of the village near your property. The Council provides special bags so that any litter you pick up does not come from your quota for blue bags.

POLO PITCH

The polo pitch work has started and there has been a great deal of correspondence with all parties. The main contractor is Villecrest Construction Ltd 01252 939460. Please do not hesitate to call David Spragg on 07831 758231 or email on david@dsequine.com – and please copy me.

LICENSING AND EVENTS

The Public Protection service is becoming more remote. Without my knowledge, the subsidy to provide public toilets was unilaterally cancelled for HRR by WBC. It has been restored and a promise of a review of licensing and events policy to be included. I hope to be able to retain this valuable service and I thank HRR and the Copas Partnership for providing it.

DEVELOPMENT

The Local Plan Update has slowed down in the wake of the General and local elections; the threat remains on the Ward.

COOPTIONS

The Parish council would be interested in hearing of any prospective councillors who would be happy to be co-opted. Elections for the Parish Council are May 2018.

Please be in touch if we can be of help.

John Halsall

Chairman Remenham Parish Council

Councillor Wokingham Borough Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY

Although the Neighbourhood Plan itself has been overtaken by events and is no longer a necessity, the results of the Survey conducted during 2016 have now been professionally and independently analysed. An executive summary of the findings is shown on the opposite page, and the full analysis - which makes impressive reading - is on the website Home page.

WEBSITE STATISTICS

April 2017	Total for 2016
930 unique visitors	10,546 unique visitors
3,194 pages viewed	30,430 pages viewed

REMENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - 2016 SURVEY ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

- There was a relatively low response rate of 18% from the 260 households and 40 businesses in the village; but with 55 respondents it was felt the data collected was still statistically representative.
- As a whole, the residents of Remenham are very satisfied with the current characteristics of the village
- The rural nature of the parish is valued extremely highly; with limited support for future development and growth, particularly commercial projects. There was some support to new buildings for family homes and/or first time buyers.
- The main area of concern centres on the amount of traffic in and travelling through the village. Litter was also an area where improvements could be made.
- On the whole the respondents agree that the events that dominate the Parish, attracting many visitors, are an important part of parish life; but increasing the number of events further could meet with resistance.
- Monitoring the impact of the Rewind Festival as a whole, would be advised.
- Monitoring the impact of ancillary commercial activities all these events bring would also be advised; the resultant traffic being the most highly cited problem.
- The biggest change the Parish Council could make is addressing the traffic congestion, particularly the use of the roads by commuters. A one-way system would need careful thought given some additional comments made. Speeding in Remenham Lane, and to some extent on White Hill, is also a significant concern.
- There is a mixed response regarding whether there is a need for additional public transport; further investigation is advised as to which constituents may benefit from such services.
- Protecting established footpaths and preserving rights of way should be a fundamental priority for the Parish Council. Monitoring the access to areas of private land previously open to the public, and impact of any restrictions, would be advised.
- The satisfaction of provision of utilities in the village is mixed. It would be worth looking further into whether a significant dissatisfaction with mains sewerage is due to poor provision or, perhaps more likely, lack of availability to certain areas. Highway maintenance and recycling, relevant to the whole village, also received the highest levels of dissatisfaction.
- There is a good level of amenities on offer in Remenham, with St Nicholas Church a significant focal point of the village.
- Police coverage is considered adequate throughout the year, reducing only slightly during events.
- The availability of leisure and sports clubs in the village is considered an outstanding feature of the parish.
- The availability of arts and culture in the village produced a more neutral response, but a low level of disagreement indicates that demand is insufficient in any case.
- Communication and availability of information about the parish is considered good.
- Overall, the survey results produce a very positive picture and reflect what would be considered as a very high quality of life for the residents of Remenham.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PARISH HALL - MARCH 2017

The Committee met on 23 March and is delighted to report that we are getting more and more bookings for the Hall but we still need more. We love our hall but it is expensive to maintain inside and out. We have also recently advertised in the Henley Standard selling ourselves as a wedding venue. Do pass on the information to all. The contact is Pat Sly on remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk. All details are also on the Parish Hall pages of the website: <http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk/parish-hall>.

For a report on our most recent village event - the Beetle Drive - see below. Our next event is the Village Fayre on Sunday 3 September; please save the date!

We are also now thinking about future events for 2018; all ideas are welcome and please send to Ann Burley on annburley@talktalk.net. As Midsomer Murders are filming in Remenham again one suggestion is a Murder Mystery Evening. Another is to have a talk on St Petersburg...watch this space!

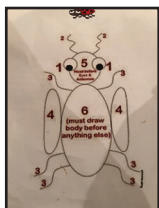
We continue to gather quotes for the refurbishment for urgent repairs to the listed brick and flint wall round the garden. We fear it will be a huge and expensive task so we need to make sure we plan appropriately. There is also work required on the church itself and any thoughts/suggestions would be gratefully received - please contact Sue Laing. We are currently gathering quotes for both the Parish Hall and church so if you know of any builders/experts please could you send their details to Sue Laing on sue@isobel.com.

The Hall garden is looking fabulous after some sterling work and we are now looking for shrubs (in pots) to add some colour and interest. If you have any spare or would like to donate something, please contact Pat Sly

The Parish Hall Committee

Fr Martyn Griffiths (Chair), Ann Burley, Nigel Gray, Alison Barraclough, Helen Rosier, Liz Cope, Pat Sly, Jayne Gray, Allan Henderson, Sue Laing, Charlotte Every

REMENHAM'S SECOND BEETLE DRIVE - 22nd APRIL 2017



Thank you to the 57 people who crammed into the Parish Hall for a fantastic evening. Frenetic at times but highly competitive; Remenham at its best. What noise and laughter was generated by the simple throwing of a dice and the drawing of beetles. We raised £1157 for the Parish Hall...amazing. The Bar (!) and Raffle did especially well. Thank you to those who contributed to make the evening so successful, especially those who helped with the clearing up!

Sue Laing and Charlotte Every



REMENHAM W.I.

March, including A.G.M.

Our President Judy Palmer stepped down after her 3 years, and Daphne Austen has taken over. We have a new member of the committee Irene Parker, in place of Judy Fraser who had to retire, as she may move away. We discussed the W.I. Resolutions to be voted on at the national A.G.M. in June. Just two have been selected, "Alleviating Loneliness" and "Plastic Soup". These will be voted on at our May meeting. Our guest was Wendy Robinson who took us through the business part of the meeting. We started the afternoon with an excellent lunch of homemade soup, and savoury food and fruit; this was well attended and a very happy start to our A.G.M. After a healthy treasurer's report, Ann Francis told us of future plans which include an outing to The Sandham Chapel, painted by Stanley Spencer. This would be followed by a visit to the Needlework archive museum in Newbury. Details of the future programme for the year look excellent. And we are so fortunate to be able to hold our meetings in Remenham Parish Hall. In April we are holding a recruitment drive in Falaise Square, so we are full of hope women will come and see what we are about.

April

Mrs Daphne Austen, our new President opened the meeting, which sadly was rather bereft of members as Henley was almost closed because Hart Street was being dug up to repair the Sewer. After the usual business she reminded the members of future events, the Summer outing in July, the recruitment drive in Falaise Square on the morning of April 26th, and also the Thames Group meeting at Knowl Hill on the 11th May. After that she introduced Mr Steve Moll who gave us a year's tour of "The incredible world of the Honey Bee". He started by saying he was not a bee keeper until his neighbour asked him to help her catch a swarm in a box, which he introduced into a hive he happened to have. This was the start, and after 10 years he now has about 70 hives around the neighbourhood of Britwell-cum-Sotwell. He looks after the bees and his wife deals with the Honey and the candles. The hives have wire netting around them as they are at risk from Woodpeckers. Before Christmas the hives hum, and when opened the bees are all clustered together flapping their wings to keep the nursery area at 35 degrees. During the winter they will eat about 20 Kgs of sugar. In Spring the wooden frames in the hives are full of wax cells, all the same size and hexagon in shape. The wax is produced by the rear end of the bees, passed to their mouths and shaped. The Queen lays an egg in each, a spot of pollen is put in by the workers and sealed up and after 21 days they hatch out. In July the frames are removed, the bees shaken off, the frames put in an extractor to remove the honey. The honey has an acidity to prevent bacterial growth, so is used medicinally and is used on wounds. In Summer on a good day the Queen flies out and mates with a drone on the wing, and a new swarm is formed with about 3,000 workers. So the cycle starts again. Sadly we have all heard about hives of bees dying: this is from a virus, but this can be held at bay with treatment twice a year. Irene Parker thanked Mr Moll for his fascinating talk and excellent slides and said no wonder the expression "Busy as a bee" is so relevant. After a quiz while the excellent tea was prepared by Carol Wissett and her helpers, the meeting closed.

May

The next meeting is on 8 May, with a talk on 'Swan Upping'.

Sheila Constantinidi

REMENHAM THEN AND NOW

THE MINTY MEMORIAL ON FOOTPATH 8

The River Thames defines much of the Remenham Parish boundary flowing for about 5 miles in a horseshoe-shaped gorge cut into the chalk hills from Conways Bridge heading N under Henley bridge then NNE along the regatta reach past Temple Island, swinging E and SE through Hambleden Lock and then past Culham Court. In an arctic landscape this gorge is thought to have been carved out by torrential meltwaters 10 to 20 thousand years ago when the last Ice Age was losing its grip. The meltwaters had been forced to make this diversion when blocked by the 50 million year old Tertiary clay hills E of Twyford.

The result is the spectacular landscape of Remenham Parish we can now see when walking footpaths 8, 9 and 6 from Remenham Lane near the Little Angel pub to the Flower Pot pub in Aston. Apart from the absence of hedges which were torn out about 25 years ago, the views must be almost the same as in the 18th century; as you walk you can catch glimpses of the aristocratic buildings Remenham Lodge, Fawley Court, Temple Island and Greenlands and the ancient tower of St Nicholas Church. Alas, the majestic elm trees, infected by Dutch Elm disease, died over 30 years ago. (The remains of a colossal trunk may still be there on footpath 5 above Culham Court).

Evidence of the thousands of people who have passed this way is sparse. At Aston Rise, near the Flower Pot, a 6th century Anglo-Saxon skeleton surrounded by weapons and brooches was found; a few hundred yards away fragments of pottery (showing the thumb prints of the potter) were left in a Neolithic pit several thousand years ago; a 2nd century AD subject of the Roman Empire lost a silver coin (Emperor Trajan) in the Culham estate almost 1800 years ago: it was found again in the 20th century.

Still to be seen is the heartfelt Minty memorial, a stainless steel plaque set in a concrete base on footpath 8 just below Wilminster House, a few hundred yards from Remenham Lane.

**To all who may pass the way
Please let this tribute stand to the memory of
MINTY,
A little dog with a big HEART.
He roamed these fields and woods in happy
freedom,
waiting always at this place for his mistress.
He gave with all the love and affection he had
to offer
8 years of absolute happiness to two elderly
humans.
Thank you Minty wherever you are.**



These sentimental words capture the spirit of a delightful animal and its two owners proud of his loyalty and probably of his misdemeanours. It seems that his enthusiastic company could turn a trudge into a blissful walk towards the open landscape.

I first came across this memorial 15 or more years ago when it was embossed on stiff plastic sheet that had become cracked and worn. Later, while walking my dog Bessie, I came across a kneeling middle aged man replacing the plastic with the stainless steel plaque that you see now (see photo). He said "This is the second damn time I've done this. My first stainless steel plaque contained an embarrassing mistake caused by a misunderstand between my wife and the engraver". It read

**To all who may pass this way
Please let this tribute stand to the memory of
MINTY
A little dog with a big HEAD .
He roamed these fields and woods in happy freedom etc**

Jim Bland, Matson Drive

LOCAL INFORMATION - PARISH WEBSITE - www.remenhamparish.org.uk

The website includes information on the following:

1. River levels
2. Live Traffic News and Notices of Road Works
3. Planning Applications
4. Thames Valley Police Alerts
5. Remenham Footpath Maps
6. Remenham Community Emergency Plan

but there is also a shortage of information, please help!

We are having a campaign to 'populate' the calendar on the website. Collectively we have not been very good at putting into the calendar all the wonderful things that are happening in the Parish. Please help by supplying dates and details of events to hello@remenhamparish.org.uk or newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

REMENHAM ARTISTS!!

Contributions are still needed from local artists to use on the front covers of the newsletter, especially those that are appropriate to the dates of publication. Please could Remenham artists send contributions to the Editor, preferably high resolution digital images rather than framed pictures or 3D sculptures!

Please email to newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

Twyford Neighbourhood Policing Team Spring into Summer Update from PCSO Jackie Daniels

At last the lighter evenings and warmer weather are finally with us. As lovely as it is for spring/summer to be here it can bring with it an unwanted problem that affects the whole community - anti-social behaviour (ASB). Last summer we received a high number of ASB reports, particularly around the youth shelter in King Georges Field. We are aware of these issues and have been dealing with those involved however if you do see anything of this nature please report it to us on 101.

Theft from Motor Vehicles

We have seen a rise in thefts from motor vehicles in recent weeks and we would urge residents to report any suspicious activity to the neighbourhood team. If you believe there is a crime in progress, please call 999, otherwise please report it via the non-emergency number 101 to help with ongoing enquiries.



Please help to keep your vehicles safe by following the advice below:

- Always make sure you lock your car and close your windows - even if you're away from your vehicle for just a few minutes
- Never leave your keys in the ignition while your vehicle is unattended - opportunistic thieves will often steal cars that have been left with the engine running to defrost the windows
- Do not leave anything on display in your vehicle – take all your valuables with you
- Never think leaving items in the boot is safe – someone could have seen you put them in there

Parking

The team cover a very large area which includes 10 schools and we endeavor to patrol as many of these to make sure everyone is safe and parking legally. We have had numerous complaints regarding commuter parking in many residential roads in the vicinity of Twyford Train Station. As some of you may have seen, we have been issuing Fixed Penalty Notices in and around Station Road and Station Terrace. In just one day PCSO Jessica Howells issued 16 Fixed Penalty Notices. Wokingham Borough Council are now in the process of taking responsibility back for parking issues and this will be completed by the end of the year.

What the neighbourhood team have been doing

PC Chris Harrison has been the driving force behind three very successful speed/mobile phone/seatbelt enforcement days where the team have been joined by our colleagues from Wokingham & Crowthorne Neighbourhood Teams as well as Roads Policing Officers. In addition to numerous tickets issued for these offences, two vehicles were also seized for having no insurance and no tax.

On 1 March 2017 new legislation came into effect for those found using a handheld mobile phone while driving. Previously, this offence had attracted three penalty points and £100 fine. This has now increased to six points and £200 and newly qualified drivers will lose their licence if they are caught using a mobile phone behind the wheel.

Holiday season

It's the time of year when people are planning their holidays and with all the excitement that comes with this, home security might not be top of your list of priorities.

Please can we ask you to have a good look around your home and garden to see if your security is up to date and to give yourself time to make any adjustments before you go away. Contact us

To contact the neighbourhood team, please call us on the non-emergency number 101 or via email at Twyfordnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters. In an emergency, please call 999.

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.

PCSO Jackie Daniels

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](https://twitter.com/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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Commercial hiring charges by negotiation

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

For further information and bookings please contact Mrs Pat Sly, 01491 577925,
pat Sly@tinyworld.co.uk or
parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

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Contact Sue Laing for reservations ([sue@isobel.com](mailto:sue@isobel.com), 07885 851362)

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