

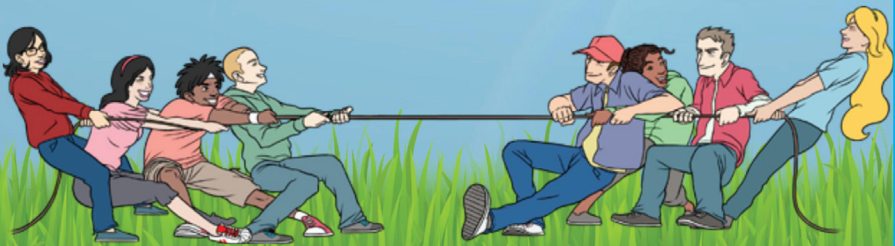
# REMENHAM NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY**  
**3rd September**

**2pm - 5pm**

## **Remenham Fayre**

**Dog show at 2.15pm**



**Tea & Cake - BBQ & Bar**

**Tombola & Raffle - Fun & Games**

**Adults £1    Children Free**



***Refreshments in Old Blades' garden during Rewind Festival - see page 15***



***Culham Court Chapel - see article on page 7***

# 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: [clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto: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, [johnhalsall@gmail.com](mailto:johnhalsall@gmail.com), 07939 041227. Cherwell, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 3DB

Cllr Bob Pitts, [robert.pitts@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.pitts@btinternet.com), 07768 107 070, 27 Northbury Avenue, Ruscombe, Berkshire RG10 9LH

**Please note new email addresses for John Halsall and Parish Clerk above**

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Felicity Rutland, Riverway, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2LR,  
email: [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto: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
<b>Nov-Dec</b>	<b>Friday 27 October</b>	<b>Friday 3 November</b>
Jan-Feb 2018	Friday 29 December 2017	Friday 5 January 2018



# REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rev Canon Martyn Griffiths	Rector
Charlotte Every	Churchwarden
John Laing	Churchwarden
Mandy Sermon	Secretary
Nigel Gray	Treasurer
Kim Blythe, Sue Laing, Paul Sermon, Anthony West, Sarah West, Hugh Whitfield	

## CHURCH CLEANING

September	Charlotte Every	
October	Sarah West	Judy Bate

## ALTAR FLOWERS

September	Sarah West	Sally Daniels
October	Jenny Law	Gini Forrester

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funeral and Burial

8 August	Annie Mull
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### Marriages

22 July	Stephanie Turner and Simon Clemons
5 August	Helen Taylor and Taylor Cherett

### Baptisms

20 August	Riley Male, Harry Male
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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
- Sue Laing
- Charlotte Every

# PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

## September

- 2nd Regatta for the Disabled, Phyllis Court  
3rd 2.00-5.00pm Remenham Fayre, Parish Hall and Garden  
11th 2.30pm W.I. meeting, Parish Hall, talk on 'The History of the Windsor Chair'  
12th 8.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall  
19th 10.30/12.30 Introduction to "Qi" energy/Chinese Medicine/T'ai Chi Chuan, Parish Hall  
30th 7.00pm Cricket Club Sports Dinner, Phyllis Court, guest speaker Michael Vaughan

## October

- 13th October Harvest Supper, the Parish Hall  
26/28th October Remenham Thespians productions, the Parish Hall

## Further ahead

- 3rd December Leaving lunch for Father Martyn, the Parish Hall  
17th December Remenham Carol Service, St Nicholas, 4.00pm

## LOCAL INFORMATION - PARISH WEBSITE - [www.remenhamparish.org.uk](http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk)

*A reminder about the local information available via the website:*

**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. Live Traffic News and Notices of Road Works:** The website is publishing a live feed from Highways England of traffic incidents and issues in the South East for those of you who travel our busy roads. This can be accessed by clicking on the "Live Traffic News" tab on the top left hand side of the front page just below the Thames Valley Police Alerts, or via <http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk/live-traffic-news/>. We are also listing any local road works affecting this area by way of publishing any notices.

**3. Planning Applications:** Any planning applications in Remenham can be found on the Wokingham Website either by clicking on "Wokingham Planning" on the website under "Planning Applications" or via <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/search-planning-applications/>. All Remenham Planning applications are included on the agenda and discussed at the monthly Parish Council Meetings held in Remenham Parish Hall.

4. Map of Remenham Footpaths: See home page

and for website statistics see home page

To contact the website please email [hello@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:hello@remenhamparish.org.uk) and to contact the newsletter please email [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)

## FROM THE EDITOR

*This has been a particularly enjoyable issue to put together. We do a lot in Remenham!*

*First there is the annual Remenham Fayre on Sunday 3 September, where attendance is almost compulsory - there really is something for everyone. There is also the Harvest supper on Friday 13 October and - most exciting of all (or am I biased?) - the Remenham Thespians productions in October! Put the dates in your diary and buy your tickets now!*

*I am asked by the Parish Council Chairman to draw your attention to his plea for help with protecting the Green Belt from future development (page 12).*

*A recent event which is more than worthy of note is Pat Sly's wonderful initiative to provide refreshments from Old Blades during The Rewind Festival. As you will see this was great fun and extremely profitable, so many thanks to Pat and all her helpers.*

*Some of you may also be interested in the introduction to Tai Chi on 19 September or the Cricket Club Sports Dinner on 30 September with guest speaker Michael Vaughan. Tai Chi classes would be a welcome addition to the Parish Hall calendar of lettings so let's hope there's a good attendance to find out what it's all about. (See page 23 and the website.)*

*Looking further ahead, you'll see my somewhat desperate plea for people to sing in the annual candlelit carol service on Sunday 17 December (page 23), and please also put 3 December in your diaries for the Parish farewell lunch for Father Martyn.*

*There is just room to thank Jim Bland yet again for delving into the archives and producing such a fascinating article on Remenham's response to world events in the 1930's/1940's.*

*Felicity*

*newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk*

## CULHAM COURT CHAPEL

Barrie Shelton has very kindly lent me a copy of the February edition of '**Architecture Today**' in which there is an extensive and fascinating article - under the apt heading 'Art and Soul' - about the Chapel of Christ the Redeemer at Culham Court, with some absolutely stunning photographs of both the interior and exterior. I feel sure Remenham residents would be interested in this and I will try to get permission to reproduce some of it in a future issue, or put it on the website. It can also be seen on the magazine's website - see [www.architecturetoday.co.uk/art-and-soul](http://www.architecturetoday.co.uk/art-and-soul).

The article begins with the words 'The chapel was conceived as a classical temple set within the eighteenth-century parkland of Culham Court. It sits on rising ground overlooking the Thames', and it ends with 'It is a beautiful building'. See photo on inside front cover.

*Felicity Rutland*

# REMENHAM W.I.

## July

Remenham doesn't generally have a meeting in July, so this was extra-special.

As our President Daphne Austen was away, our Vice Judy Palmer took the meeting. All the final arrangements for our July outing, and for our tea party in August at Enid Light's were gone through.

Sadly our secretary, Enid Light is retiring after doing the job for the past 17 years. Members were asked to search their hearts for a replacement.

Judy Palmer then welcomed Simon Williams, a retired Policeman, who was to give his talk entitled "Police Witness". He started with a so called section "Powerful Testimony", and he gave us two examples, the well known book and film "To Kill a Mocking Bird", and a story about an American woman whose armed racist abuser went to prison, as it turned out wrongly convicted. Some time later DNA was invented and it was proved he was innocent. The happy outcome was that the two met up and decided they had both suffered and became good friends. This shows that even though the witness is convinced they are correct all can make mistakes. To illustrate that we all have two parts to our brains, short term and long term memory, he gave us a test, and I'm afraid we didn't come off too well. Simon then went on to Interviewing; he said make sure the witness tells all. He gave us many instances of how to deal with this, and many other ways of how to deal with interviewing. Everyone was absolutely rapt, and there were many questions. He was profusely thanked by Judy Palmer for a superb and very informative talk.

The raffle was won by Eirene Parker and a birthday posy was given to Rosemary Pratt, after which a marvellous tea was much enjoyed.

## Summer Outing

Remenham's Summer outing was on a perfect summer's day. The morning was spent at the Sandham chapel at Burclere. This was built by Mary and Louis Behrend, in memory of her brother who died at the end of the First World War. They commissioned Stanley Spencer to paint the Chapel. He depicted scenes of the war, and it took him some 6 years. We had a wonderful talk given by one of the volunteer guides. Even those members who had been before discovered pieces they had not previously noticed.

In the afternoon we visited the textile museum situated in the American Chapel built by the Americans at Greenham Common. The great work at the moment is restoring a huge wall hanging entitled "The Country Wife" made some 60 years ago by many W.I. Members for the Festival of Britain. It was not made to last, so is need of very much restorative work.

It was, thanks to Anne Francis who organised it, a wonderful day.

## August

Enid Light hosted a delightful tea party at her lovely cottage. 16 members had a happy afternoon, and Peter Francis gave them trips in his boat.

*continued*

So now we look forward to our September meeting when we will have a talk on “The History of the Windsor Chair”. We will also have a “best bloom from our gardens” competition. All are welcome. If interested please ring 01491 578566 for details.

*Sheila Constantinidi*

## **UPDATE FROM THE RAG TEAM**

For those of you that read the Remenham Newsletter or go to the council meetings, you will be aware of the presentations and subsequent funding following approvals by the Parish Council for the RAG team to plant bulbs along all the verges on Remenham Hill.

A few people have asked why there is a gap in the planting, particularly outside Remenham House. Unfortunately when the final bulbs had been purchased Gareth Wiseman of the WBC Highways Dept wrote saying that he had not given authority for the plantings and no further work was to be undertaken because the RAG team did not have £5m Public Liability Insurance, risk assessments etc etc. No negotiated compromise was acceptable. We are responsible adults who were born before Health and Safety became fashionable! We have brains and used our initiative in getting this work done in a safe and enjoyable way to save money.

The RAG team was born in response to an appeal from WBC in their Housing Matters publication for people to undertake community projects. Saving of funding was the essence of their appeal. It is very disappointing that in Wokingham the Parish Council says one thing and the Borough Council says another. Within WBC one department is asking for help and another is doing everything possible to stop the excellent work and budget saving by volunteers.

It is interesting that in last month's Wargrave News in a letter to the Editor, someone else was saying exactly the same thing about the handling of the situation at Sheeplands Farm. To quote

‘Instead of encouraging this local business Wokingham Borough Council has done everything in its power to disrupt and ruin this business’.

I have worked for 4 years in the Henley in Bloom Gardening Buddies team that has won gold for the last two years. We are currently waiting for this year's result. You are aware that this team comes under the jurisdiction of South Oxfordshire District Council.

How can two councils living side by side seemingly have such different views on community work and saving money for their residents, especially when WBC have asked for volunteering to aid funding?

*Linda Ashwell  
The RAG Team*



## **REMENHAM FAYRE**

**Sunday, 3rd September from 2.00 – 5.00 pm**

### **REMENHAM PARISH HALL AND GARDEN**

We very much look forward to welcoming you on Sunday, 3rd September to Remenham Fayre as there will be a very good variety of games for children and adults, flower and produce competitions, bottle tombola, bric-a-brac, cake stall, teas and cakes, an excellent raffle, a bar and BBQ and the dog show which starts at 2.15pm!! As you can see we have events for all your family, friends and your family dog!!

We would really welcome any bric-a-brac you have available, excess fruit and vegetables you can donate, apart from those you enter in the produce competition, bottles for the tombola and any home-made jams and cakes you would be kind enough to prepare for our cake stall. Any of these items can be brought to the Hall from 10.00 am on Sunday morning please.

All the proceeds of the Fayre will be donated to Remenham Parish Hall to help us maintain, repair and restore for the future – our sincere thanks for any help you can give no matter how small.

So please put the Sunday, 3rd September in your diary now – we really look forward to seeing you there!!

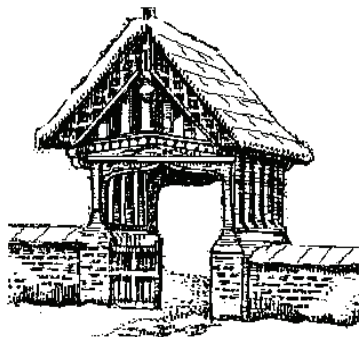
*Liz Cope*

*on behalf of the Parish Hall committee*



### **HARVEST SUPPER, PARISH HALL FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER**

**Tickets from Charlotte Every 07973 798071**  
*churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk*



## REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Where has the year gone? Summer over already!

### TRAFFIC AND SUMMER EVENTS

As always at this time of the year, please let me know what issues you have had. It is always helpful as there are sporadic but numerous wash up meetings and opportunities to attempt to improve the situation for residents. The feedback I have had so far was that crime was down for HRR, but if I am not mistaken attendance as well. I have had little feedback from residents, which suggests that things have not gone too badly; please correct me if I am wrong.

One issue which was raised is that the very worst traffic jam usually occurs on the Friday evening of the Henley Women's Regatta, when a perfect storm of rat runners, trailers and regatta leavers occurs. This year was less bad than most years but still bad. There are things that can be done to improve the situation but it is hard to see how it can be eliminated unless we can persuade Oxfordshire County Council to manage the traffic lights on the bridge. Nevertheless, I shall try to do so. The parking bays at the end of Remenham Lane are closed for the duration, but sadly the bollards and notices were disregarded and removed; next year the Council will be able to employ traffic wardens (which it is not empowered to do).

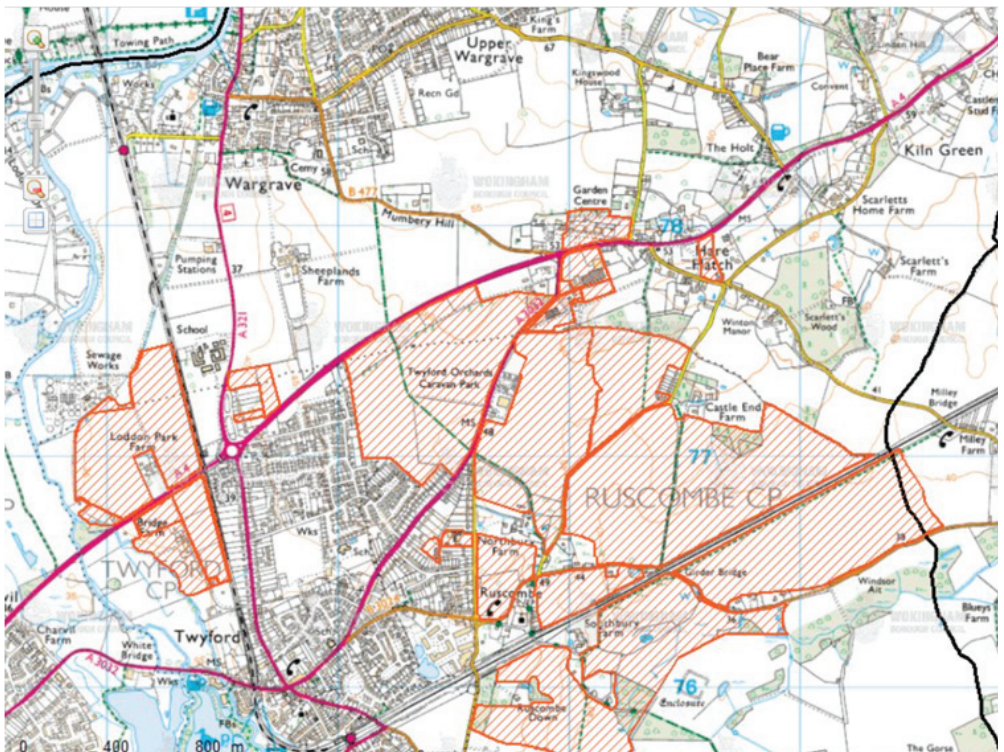
### PROTECTION OF GREEN BELT – HELP REQUIRED

Below is the annotated map extracted from the Wokingham Borough Council website. The hatched orange area indicates the sites that have been put forward by landowners or developers to the Borough Council for the Local Plan Update, which is the Borough Plan for development for 2016 – 2036. The fact that they have put them forward does not mean that they will be built on; in fact, historically we have been able to rely upon the protection of the Green Belt.

Sadly, I have been unable to receive an assurance that the Green Belt will not be changed as part of the plan process, despite the reassurance of the Green Belt Review, which stated that the Green Belt should not be altered. Indeed, if the Borough accepts the proposition, some five to six thousand houses will be built in Wargrave, Ruscombe, Twyford and Charvil, with the majority being built in Ruscombe. This is extremely popular with some Wokingham Councillors, who vainly believe that it will save their Wards from development. This will detrimentally affect the lives of everyone who lives in the Northern Parishes.

You may think that this has nothing to do with Remenham. The Green Belt has always been sacrosanct. Once the principle of changing the Green Belt for the Local Plan Update is accepted; the next, less than five years hence, will make Remenham fair game.

Public pressure kept the fire station open; we must do the same in a coordinated way with this. In order to achieve this, I need your support, so please let me know I can count on you. I have set up a Facebook Group under my name (John Halsall (Northern Parishes)). This is a closed Group called "Protect the Countryside and Green Belt" username @protectthecountrysideandgreenbelt. If you are not comfortable with Facebook, email or text me John Halsall 07939 041 227 [johnhalsall@gmail.com](mailto:johnhalsall@gmail.com) or Bob Pitts 07768 107 070 [robert.pitts@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.pitts@btinternet.com).



## **PLANNING**

We have had a few controversial planning applications in the last few weeks. Thames Bridge House has come up with an application to put a further floor on the application which has been approved by Wokingham, in order to include another flat. To accommodate the increased requirement for parking a turntable and stacking car park is being proposed. With both propositions your parish council has had issues. Stonebridge House, the unauthorised new dwelling which has emerged from the boathouse of Bird Place Cottage, has retrospective applications to avoid enforcement proceedings. A horse walker at Park Place stables has left me perplexed and us concerned. (I have never previously heard of a horse walker but I am told they are common in stables of a particular standing.) These will all be considered at the Parish Council Meeting on September 12th at 8.00pm at the Village Hall – please come along and make your views known.

## **SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

We have been successful in Wargrave in bringing superfast to much of the village. I would like to attempt the same strategy in Remenham. BT is always the main contractor but Gigaclear and Virgin Media are keen to implement facilities as long as they have a guaranteed level of support. I do not know what the general reception is but at my house I get better reception from Vodafone than BT. Please let me know what your experience is and whether in principle you would support some initiative to interest another contractor.

## **TRAFFIC**

I am pleased to report that the Transport Strategy Group of Henley Town Council has met under the new Henley Residents Group and seems to be as motivated as it was previously. Hopefully, we shall progress to making some initiatives which will make a difference. We have offered to support two environmental monitoring stations, one on our side of the bridge and one on the other side.

## **REMENHAM AMATEUR GARDENING (“RAG”)**

Linda was kind enough to copy me with her piece in this newsletter, and this is my response:

“Dear Linda

The daffodils were very beautiful. I (and I am sure I speak on behalf of the whole Parish and Parish Council) am very appreciative of the work that you and the RAG team have undertaken on Remenham Hill. As you know the Parish Council has been very supportive and has underwritten the cost of the planting. The parish council also provided the team with the necessary insurance. I hope we can work together to find a way for you to continue your good work.”

*(See photo on following page.)*

## **PARISH COUNCIL AND BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Just to remind you that in May we have Parish council elections. If interested, please come to meetings and see what is involved. Also, as Bob Pitts has moved out of the Borough, his seat will be vacated. The Conservative Party believe it has a very good potential candidate in Graham Howe, who lives in Wargrave, has been Chairman of governors at Robert Piggott (infants and juniors) and has been the Chairman of the Wargrave Festival, but if you feel you would like to be considered please contact me.



## TRAINS

Just to be warned there will be no Henley Branch Line services after 14.00 Saturday September 16 and none on Sunday September 17. There will be a replacement bus service, which GWR's poster/leaflets insist will pick up and drop off at all branch line stations. There are no timings for any of the bus services. Paddington services will begin and end at Maidenhead throughout the weekend. The GWR.com/Reading 2017 website says there will be Maidenhead-Twyford replacement buses. GWR say there will be reduced parking at Twyford and Maidenhead stations. Best to avoid the trains that weekend!

## DOG BIN

As I reported last month a dog bin has been installed near the Village Hall on a trial basis, with mixed views being fed back.

Please get in touch if we can be of help.

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



***Remenham Hill planted by the RAG team Autumn 2016***



# REWIND FESTIVAL REFRESHMENTS

## In Old Blades' Garden in aid of St Nicholas Church - Saturday 19th August

In previous years, tea and cakes have been sold from the Parish Hall on each Sunday in August to raise funds for St Nicholas Church. When the Rewind Festival started nine years ago, we found that there was very little footfall past the hall on that day so we only opened up on the other August Sundays.

This year we decided to make a big effort on one day selling burgers, sausages, cakes and drinks from Old Blades' garden by the towpath to take advantage of the many people coming and going from the Festival site by Temple Island, and sent out emails to all and sundry to rustle up a team. We did think about doing the Sunday as well but we didn't have sufficient people available and were unsure how it would pan out on this first attempt. (We may consider two days next year if enough people are willing to help.)

Thanks to the many people who responded we were able to open our stall from 8.00am until 5.00pm. We had teams of seven people doing 3-hour shifts throughout the day cooking, serving and topping up, and a cashier. Everyone was fantastic and worked hard but it was also great fun. *(See photos on inside front cover.)*

As well as thanking all the helpers on the day, thanks also go to all those who provided the cakes, went and bought more milk etc when we ran out and also those who put up and also took down the gazebos, and transported the tables and chairs we used from the Parish Hall.

This wonderful effort resulted in raising £1066. Thanks to everyone.

*Pat Sly*

**Note from the Editor:** *Pat refers to three hour shifts but I must draw attention to the fact that Pat herself was there throughout the whole nine hours - longer including the setting up and clearing up - and she undoubtedly bore most of the burden of organisation. A very big thank you to her, for the initiative and for her very hard work.*



# HOW TO AVOID AN APOCALYPSE

## *From the Minutes of Remenham Parish Council 1937-1947*

The coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth as King and Queen of the UK, Dominions and colonies of the British Commonwealth and Emperor and Empress of India, took place in Westminster Abbey, London on 12 May 1937. (This date had previously been chosen for the coronation of the discredited King Edward VIII who had been forced to abdicate. The country and Remenham Parish Council breathed a collective sigh of relief as one king seamlessly replaced another king and a constitutional crisis was avoided.) It was a sacred anointing and crowning followed by a spectacular display of the British Empire; the procession was six miles long and included Indian princes, native African royalty and prime ministers of the Dominions. Representatives from the separate nations of Europe and other continents attended.

Not to be outdone Remenham Parish Council made its own ambitious plans on the 26th January 1937 and 13 April 1937, to mark the Coronation:-

*“Captain Noble of Park Place suggested that the children of Remenham Parish be taken by motor coach on the 20th of May to tour the Coronation route in the morning and later have a meal in the Zoological Gardens. All the children in the parish should have Coronation mugs and the old folks have ornamental tins of tea or tobacco. It was agreed that to pay for these celebrations there should be a charge of one penny on the parish rate.”*

Four other matters were briefly discussed at the 26th January meeting; repair of the damaged footpath from Leander Club to Remenham Lane, clearance of footpath from Lady Dawson's gate to Aston Lane, clearance of footpath adjoining Park Hotel. The fourth matter was raised by Major Rhodes who said that Berkshire County Council would issue Air Raid Precaution (ARP) instructions later.

No one then predicted that within two years ARP would be shorthand for the Luftwaffe squadrons of Heinkels, Dorniers and Messerschmidts flying over the country to bomb and set alight many major cities, and murder the UK civilian population. Very few would have predicted that the nation states of Europe would be tearing each other apart and in ruins by 1945 or that by 1947 the British Empire would be disintegrating and the UK pleading for financial loans from the USA. If that wasn't enough the Cold War had started and the Iron Curtain had been installed (for 50 years!) In the UK most able bodied 18 year old 'men' (now in their late 80s) were conscripted to do National Service which meant presiding over the dismemberment of the British Empire or preparing for the onslaught of the tank divisions and battleships of the Russian Communists. The effects of this catastrophe are still with us today, 70 years later, as the prophets and soothsayers forecast the future of the UK and Europe.

In April and October 1938, the Parish Council considered 'several items concerned with ARP (suggesting three possible sites for Air Raid Warden posts) then 'left over' further action until more information had been received. It seems to have been a case of 'Keep calm and carry on' with the usual business of clearing paths over Horse Shoe Common, objecting to the closure threat to Aston Ferry, and asking Lord Hambleden's agent to clear the gypsies from the pit at the bottom of Church Lane.

By early 1940, the phoney war was over and hostilities had begun but Remenham still appeared to be unaffected. However Captain Noble took command and appointed parish representatives to deal with the Ministry of Supply to collect 'salvage' and iron railings; he also offered one of his underground tunnels at Park Place to serve as a wartime mortuary to be managed by the parish clerk. A parish National Savings Group was formed and the Remenham Sports and Flower Show prize cups would be held by the named winners for the duration of the war. In November 1941 various historic documents relating to the Enclosure Acts 1799, 1800 and Tithe Maps plus agreements with the Post Master General for telegraph poles 1886 and Deeds 1904, were deposited with Barclays Bank. All this demonstrates that the prospect of defeat following a Nazi Blitzkrieg and invasion never entered the heads of the Remenham Parish Council and if they did gain a foothold, the Gestapo would not be allowed to loot Barclays Bank.

Some history books reckon the catastrophe of WW2 was started by Hitler, a charismatic lunatic who gained power democratically following the financial crash of 1929-30 which crippled Germany and turned a recession into a depression causing mass unemployment. Those of us who were around in the 1920's and 1930's experienced the malign effects of mass unemployment in the UK. At first sight there is no evidence of unemployment in Remenham Parish Minutes. However every month throughout the 1920's and 1930's, attached to the Minutes there is a typewritten report by the Reverends Rees-Jones and Selwyn who chaired the sub-committee for the disbursement of Remenham Non-Ecclesiastical Charities to help the sick and feed the poor and provide educational grants for parishioners totalling on average £30 to £40, which is well over one thousand pounds in today's money.

*Jim Bland*

*Matson Drive, August 2017*

**Note from the Editor:** *Jim says that he has 'pretty well drained dry the Remenham P C Minute Book, so he may be stuck for topics in the future'. Let's hope he finds another source of fascinating archive material!*



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**Tickets from Pat Sly on (01491) 575321 or [patsly@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:patsly@tinyworld.co.uk)**

## **REMENHAM CAROL SERVICE 2017 - HELP!!**

The annual candlelit Carol Service at St Nicholas, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall (on Sunday 17 December at 4.00pm this year) is one of the biggest and best events in the Remenham calendar. This is my annual plea for people to join the ranks of the choir, and this time it's not just men and altos we need but also sopranos, as two of our best voices can't be there. (Help!!) Anyone interested please contact me a.s.a.p. There will be just two or three rehearsals in the few weeks beforehand - nothing onerous, just fun and much appreciated by the congregation!

*Felicity Rutland*

*[felicitymrutland@gmail.com](mailto:felicitymrutland@gmail.com) or [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)*

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Closed Saturday and Sunday

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