

# REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



Remenham Artists - *Anthea Prescott*

No 260 – January-February 2018



**Campaign to protect  
Wokingham's Green Belt,  
prime agricultural land  
& green spaces between  
settlements, and to provide  
the right homes in  
the right places.**

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Dear Neighbour

You may have heard about this important local campaign, or attended one of our public meetings, and we wanted to update you and invite you to join us.

Wokingham Borough Council has started the process to allocate the next phase of housing, and the Green Belt of Ruscombe is amongst sites under consideration for major development. As residents, we have the opportunity to not only object to this use of precious Green Belt land, but to influence the council to build the right homes in the right places which will benefit local people, many of whom can no longer afford property prices here.

**Please sign up to our emailing list** and we'll keep you up to date with developments, news, petitions and how you can get involved. Since the public meetings we have been working on the legal side and getting campaign structures in place, but public campaigning will launch in earnest in the New Year building towards the public consultation (and elections) in the early summer.

**Even if you signed up before we'd be very grateful if you would add your name, unless you've had an acknowledgement from me in the last couple of weeks** – for best practice we are creating a new database which ensures that people have opted in. The sign-up form can be found at [www.cprwok.co.uk](http://www.cprwok.co.uk), which will also become our new website to be launched very soon.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us at [campaign@cprwok.co.uk](mailto:campaign@cprwok.co.uk).

Many thanks for your support

**John Halsall**

on behalf of the campaign

# 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  
2nd Sunday  
3rd Sunday  
4th Sunday  
5th Sunday

Antony Duckett  
Anthony West  
Peter Forrester  
John Laing  
Glen Palethorpe

Rosemary Duckett  
Sarah West  
Charlotte Every  
Sue Laing  
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

## **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 2018**

<b>Months</b>	<b>Deadlines for Contributors</b>	<b>Approx. Dates for Distributors</b>
Jan-Feb	Friday 29 December 2017	Friday 5 January 2018
<b>Mar-Apr</b>	<b>Friday 23 February 2018</b>	<b>Friday 2 March 2018</b>
May-June	Friday 27 April	Friday 4 May
July-Aug	Friday 22 June	Friday 29 June
Sept-Oct	Friday 17 August	Friday 24 August
Nov-Dec	Friday 26 October	Friday 2 November
Jan-Feb 2019	Friday 28 December 2018	Friday 4 January 2019

# 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

**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

## 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

## 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.

Thank you also to the *Remenham Artists* who have contributed some absolutely wonderful pictures and photographs for use in the newsletter, principally for the front cover. Please keep them coming! Despite the quantity already received it is not always easy to choose just the right thing for a particular issue.

## PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

### January

7th	11.15am	Rector's final service at St Nicholas
8th	2.30pm	W.I. meeting, Parish Hall - talk on 'Murders in Henley' by Elizabeth Hezeldine
9th	8.00pm	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall
14th	11.00am	Rector's farewell service in the Benefice, at St Mary's followed by refreshments, no service at St Nicholas

### February

9th	7.30pm	Cricket Club Quiz Night, Cricket Club Pavilion
12th	2.30pm	W.I. meeting, Parish Hall
13th	8.00pm	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall

## FROM THE EDITOR

*There is a lot of **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** in this issue!*

*First of all, in case any of you could possibly be unaware, our Rector leaves us shortly, and his last services in the Benefice are imminent. It has been a long goodbye, and a sad one. Please read his message to us on the following page. See also the write-up of his farewell lunch, and the photographs on the back cover.*

*As I have mentioned before, most issues of this newsletter present an editorial dilemma, more often than not over whether it can be squeezed onto 20 pages or should be spread over 24. This time I have opted for the former, which means leaving out the Police information (see previous issues if needed) and also making one or two other things, including the Parish Council report, a little squashed: I apologise for this and hope it isn't difficult to read, because it contains some extremely important information, some of which requires ACTION by us all.*

*As you will see, the Wokingham Borough Green Belt is under threat and we are asked to help prevent development in nearby Ruscombe which would threaten Remenham if it were approved.*

*We are all asked to let the Parish Council have our views on the traffic measures we would like to see implemented in the village. A number of possibilities are listed and we are asked both to comment and to suggest additions to the list.*

*There is also, inter alia (amongst some other significant local information) a reminder that there are Parish Council elections in May.*

*You simply must read Jim Bland's 'second rave review' (his words) of the Thespians' recent production (see page 12). Even if you didn't see the play Jim's unique sense of humour and inimitable style make extremely entertaining reading!*

*Finally, pending the return of the Remenham Quiz Night (hint - this is SURELY overdue?), how about Remenham supporting our Cricket Club Quiz Night on 9 February. It is being organised by our very own Sue Laing so it is bound to be a huge success!*

Felicity  
newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

## FROM THE RECTORY

### *First, the New Year message from the Rector, from the Henley Standard of 29 December:*

One of the privileges of being a priest in an “ancient” Parish is that very often there are very old records of the lives and deaths of parishioners easily at hand.

This is the case for both the parishes of St Mary’s, Henley, and Remenham.

It is fascinating to trace families and the major events of the centuries which have affected the population.

Both churches’ records show the terrible effect of, for example, the Plague and the Black Death on the parishioners – in the case of Remenham almost wiping out the entire population of the old village.

It is also fascinating to see one other strange fact about New Year - it has not always been the case that New Year’s Day was celebrated on January 1.

Until a couple of hundred years ago, the new year began on March 25, which is also the date on which the Church keeps the Feast of the Annunciation, the occasion when the angel, appearing to the Virgin Mary, announces that she is to be the mother of the Son of God.

This in itself was, of course, a new beginning, not just for Mary but for the whole of mankind – God becoming one of us that we might become one with Him.

This “multiplicity” of New Year’s Days should remind us that every day is special to all of us, as a time when we can reflect the love of God as shown us in Jesus Christ.

So perhaps that’s a good New Year’s resolution – to live each day as the start of a new year for ourselves and for those around us; a resolution that stands a chance of lasting longer than January 2! Happy New Year!

### *Second, a personal message to the Parish of Remenham:*

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone in Remenham for their friendship and for the times we have shared over the past 13 years. It is the nature of a parish priest’s ‘job’ to share in all the joys and the sorrows of the lives of his parishioners. This you have done willingly and I am immensely grateful and humbled for that.

Remenham has been for both Anne and myself a special place, a place which might be seen to be old-fashioned in so many ways - but that doesn’t mean that the old ways are the bad ways. It has been a joy and privilege to serve in a place where church and village communities meld together as, we are told, they used to in ‘the old days’.

Perhaps it’s the Edwardian influence of the Regatta, or simply the apparent permanence of the Thames and the village existing side by side for centuries past, but there is a timelessness about the village which is rarely found these days. I smile sometimes to think that even the Black Death couldn’t quite destroy Remenham, so it is with confidence that I wish you all God-speed, and God bless - and keep the faith!

With my love, affection and prayers for you all,

*Fr Martyn*

# NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS

## Christmas services

The carol service was held on Sunday 17 December with a record attendance of 172 – quite something for a church which is meant to have a maximum capacity of 150! The church, lit by candlelight, looked magnificent and Judy Bate, Sarah West and Sally-Anne Plunket had all provided beautiful flower arrangements. Felicity Rutland had put together a choir of 16 who sang wonderfully, doing one solo arrangement of In the Bleak Midwinter, with the congregation joining in most enthusiastically with the other 9 carols. The readings were the traditional nine lessons; thanks to all who read including Russell Brand. Afterwards we enjoyed mulled wine and mincepies in the Hall - many thanks to Anthony West for the mulling and to all who supplied mincepies.



Our service of candlelit Holy Communion on Christmas Eve was well attended and we had a congregation of 85 on Christmas Day including at least 20 small children – it was all pretty good chaos but greatly enjoyable.

As I write, our next service will be at 11.15 on Sunday 7 January and will be the sad occasion of Father Martyn's last service at St Nicholas. His last service in the Benefice will be at 11.00am on Sunday 14 January at St Mary's and will, inevitably, be followed by drinks and nibbles. Please do try and come to at least one of these.

We are immensely sorry to bid farewell to Martyn and Anne: we shall miss them most dreadfully.

*Charlotte Every*  
Churchwarden

## REMENHAM W.I.

Remenham finished off 2017 with an excellent lunch at the Flower Pot at Aston. About 30 or so attended which included a few husbands and friends. It was all very jolly and much enjoyed by all.

We start January on the 8th 2018 with a talk by Elizabeth Hazeldine on "Murders in Henley" - *Hear all about it!* We meet as always in the village hall at Remenham, 2.30 pm, and all are welcome.

*Sheila Constantinidi*

## BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Poppy Appeal this year. Remenham raised £1079.63 which is excellent for our small village. Many thanks to you all.

*Carol Wissett*





## GOODBYE TO FATHER MARTYN

A retirement lunch was held for Father Martyn on Sunday 3 December in the Parish Hall. The date was chosen as it was the Sunday closest to St Nicholas day, and our patronal festival seemed the perfect choice of timing for the Remenham community to bid farewell and thank you to Martyn and Anne for all their hard work and commitment to the parish.

The Hall looked really splendid having been decorated by Sue Laing and Charlotte Every with twinkling silver trees on the tables and a mass of nightlights. The 60 guests were given a complimentary glass of sparkling wine kindly provided by Bill Ronald of Aston on arrival and then sat down to a delicious three course lunch. Anthony West made a delightful speech



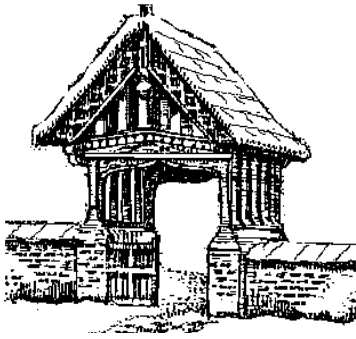
and presented Father Martyn with a cheque for £3,900 from donations made by Remenham residents, and a good time was had by all.

Father Martyn's final service at St Nicholas will be on 7 January (Matins at 11.15am) and will be followed by drinks and nibbles in church. His final service in the benefice will be at 11.00am on Sunday 14 January at St Mary's also followed by drinks and nibbles in church.

We will all be most sorry to see him go. He has been a dedicated parish priest, a leading light in the Remenham Thespians and a committed supporter of many Remenham events.

*Charlotte Every*  
*Churchwarden*

*(Please see back cover for additional photographs of the Farewell lunch.)*



## REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**THE GREEN BELT:** REMENHAM'S GREEN BELT IS UNDER THREAT. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is actively promoting development in the Green Belt in Wargrave and Ruscombe. You may think that this has nothing to do with Remenham. However, once the principle of changing the Green Belt for the Local Plan Update is accepted; the next, only four years hence, will make Remenham fair game.

The Campaign to Protect Rural Wokingham (CPRW) was started in early September with the objective of protecting the Green belt, the prime agricultural land and the green space between settlements and give a positive strategy as to where the new homes should go in the Borough and what the tenure should be. A top firm of planning agents Pegasus and Chris Katkowski QC of Landmark Chambers have been instructed to advise and represent CPRW.

To succeed we need your support. Please sign up to the campaign on <http://cprwok.co.uk> , where you will find more information. We will email you as to the progress of the campaign. We will ask for your help from time to time. We will guide you as to how that help may best be organised and be most productive. ***(Please see further details on inside front cover.)***

**HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC:** WBC Highways has been materially affected by the changes over the last few years. Most employees are now agency staff, who control the budget, which is exclusively subcontracted. Work is undertaken based on a finite budget, which, when exhausted, all work is postponed, apart from the highest priorities. Remenham and Wargrave are in my experience never considered a priority, unless the issue affects HRR.

It is against this background that we must get our priorities accepted by the Highways authority. The most effective way to do this is for residents, parish councillors and borough councillors to work together. If the Highways Authority senses any disharmony it descends to its default position, which is to do nothing. Please, if you wish to achieve anything, work with the Parish council and me. If you do not feel your concern is getting sufficient attention, come to the Parish Council meetings and make your views known and agreed, and then badger me. I am happy to be nagged.

**HIGHWAYS PROJECTS:** We are currently compiling a list of issues (*see following page*) which could be included on a single traffic order (which reduces the cost) but will consult with the Parish before submitting it to WBC. I would welcome hearing your views on them:

- Extending 30mph zone to Culham Cottages
- impose a 30 mph restriction on Wargrave Road from the A4130 London Road junction down to our Parish boundary, Conways Bridge, instead of the present 40 mph
- Flooding on Kentons lane
- Flooding on Aston Lane
- Moving parking bays on Remenham Lane
- Cancelling some or all the parking bays in Remenham Lane
- Enforcing the suspension of the parking bays
- 20mph on Remenham Lane, Remenham Church Lane and Aston lane
- Traffic calming on the lanes
- Signage
- Measure the NOX levels and install sensors
- Revising the traffic orders for Henley Royal Regatta, Rewind or Henley Festival

We will formally consult you on these but please could you email me with your views and any other improvements which we should be considering.

**LICENSING:** There is to be a five year review of licensing policy in 2018. This review will include “cumulative impact”. Your Parish Council is considering taking independent advice on how we can propose improvements for the quality of life of the residents of Remenham.

**HENLEY FESTIVAL:** The Henley Festival is having a concert by the Henley Symphony Orchestra on the Festival Saturday morning and is welcoming Remenham Residents to it to thank you for being such good neighbours. I need to work out with Charlotte Geeves how exactly this will work.

**BROADBAND:** I am still working on improving broad band reception for Remenham. During November and December I took the advice of a BT engineer and just kept logging engineer calls. Every engineer has improved the speed until I went from intermittent nothing to a stable 15mbs. If I could persuade everyone in the village, or at least on the lanes, to do so the same, the noise will generate replacement of the line. So please do so and let me know how you are doing, or, if you are unsure how to, please get in contact.

**TRAINS:** The new three-coach 30 minute all day shuttle (stopping at all stations) is operating on our Branch Line from the New Year with a new timetable and the new Electric service to Paddington or Reading. Please text or email me with your experience of the new timetable and your journey. The big test is going to come later in the week or even next week when everyone will be back at work or college.

**WARGRAVE SCHOOL LANE CAR PARK:** As with all the WBC carparks, there is now a night time charge and a weekend charge. I have been campaigning against this, initially alone, and am happy to say that I believe that charging will revert to weekdays only.

**THE RECTOR:** After thirteen years Father Martyn will be retiring as Rector of Henley and Remenham; his last service in the Benefice will be on Sunday 14 January. He will be sorely missed. I wish him and Anne a happy retirement. The process of the interregnum will begin during the management of church affairs which will be in the hands of the Church Wardens who will also be seeking a new rector; please support them.

**ELECTIONS:** Just a reminder that Parish Council elections will take place in May, when all the seats will be contested. If you are unfamiliar with the process of standing, please be in touch.

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

Please use [clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk) which goes to Paul Sermon and me, or please use [johnhalsall@gmail.com](mailto:johnhalsall@gmail.com) if you want me or [psermon@btinternet.com](mailto:psermon@btinternet.com) if you want Paul.

# MURDER AFOOT (aka A FOX AND THREE BULLOCKS)

The Remenham Thespians' 2017 acclaimed production of 'Murder Afoot' will go down in history. Bridget Fraser, making the deadline of the previous issue of the Newsletter (No 259 ), produced the first rave review, giving credit where credit is due and professional insight into the Byzantine tangle of the plot. This is the second rave review.

The Thursday was a fulsome enchanted evening seeing old friends and strangers across the crowded bar (it was the only way in to the hall). The performance was memorable and as the capacity audience drifted away those that were still vertical could be seen walking with a spring in their step. Now we could pull rank over those swank pots who claim to have seen The Lions of Longleat. We on the other hand had seen the real McCoy.

However there had been worrying moments. When the Black Fox dispatched our previous High Sheriff with a single gunshot, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, doubling as the Director, averted her gaze, lifted her nonchalant chin and didn't raise a finger. Now we know who rules the roost.

Again, as the plot thickened and darkened, the Thespian 99% efficient lighting team accidentally pressed the wrong switch and flooded the stage with incandescent light to reveal a snatch squad from the Beetle Drives frogmarching Inspector Bullock [1] towards the bar. Clearly the Beetles fear competition from the game changing agenda and potential of the Thespians to ooze languid charm.

Meanwhile the Director cleverly varied suspense and relief and got us sitting on the edges of our seats by introducing an atmosphere of sultry slow burning drama projected by at least two 'femmes fatales', dressed up to their 'Neufs', swaggering on their cat walks {'parades des chats'}, and flaunting their 'double entrendres'. The costume team only slipped up once when the spook had to make do with a wrap-around bed sheet.

Later we spotted the wily Black Fox aka Inspector Bullock [2] bound hand and foot with a stout rope. His accomplice must have been removed from the script in accordance with Thespian pc rules because there were allegations, yes allegations, swirling around that the accomplice had been overheard phoning "He is tied up today but would like you to come tomorrow when he's got nothing on". We do not have the wolf whistle blower's number.

As the play struggled towards 'le denouement', the real Inspector Bullock[3] was revealed as a tall figure of rectitude representing the long arm of the law reaching even the darkest unlit



corners of the parish. This was heartening stuff because previously we had thought that our annual free issue of 52 blue recycling sacks was the only thing we get in exchange for forking out a colossal Council Tax payment.

The final scene was absolutely gobsmacking and awesome with a cutting edge twist as the real Inspector Bullock[3] retrieved and unwrapped the deadly Etruscan dagger. We were flabbergasted and stunned to see that the The Black Fox had the last laugh ('le dernier hoot') after all. 'Monsieur Renard Noir, Mechant et Un Conspirateur' had swapped the dagger with a bent banana which he, Inspector Bullock(3), held aloft. It was a crude subliminal critique of the Drakonian Directive of the European Council demanding GM-free straight bananas.

Reflecting on deeper themes in the play, we are now more convinced that "All is not what it seems", which is what the spook kept banging on about. For instance, even those who were nodding off, at the back of the hall, had twigged that the Black Fox was basically a Red Herring.

It is more difficult to get one's head around that other precept of stagecraft namely "What is not said is more important than what is said". Perhaps those who went to the Friday or Saturday performances could provide some transparency on this issue and let us know what was not said. You see, we need to show that "lessons have been learned" to satisfy the Official Watchdog, who may otherwise be barking up the wrong tree.

*Jim Bland, Matson Drive 27/11/2017*

## **RAG - REMENHAM AMATEUR GARDENERS**

A final article from The RAG Team which has been written accurately and factually by the leader of this team because completion of the bulb planting program on Remenham Hill could not be completed. Linda Ashwell is available to discuss or disclose any e-mails with anyone.

My previous printed articles have highlighted the sequence of events for this project from the written permission by John Halsall the Chairman of the Remenham Parish Council to the work by The RAG Team up until December 2016 when the weather made the ground too hard to complete the anticipated plantings.

As outlined before in a previous article in the Sept/Oct 2017 page 9 article written by myself, Gareth Wiseman, Senior Highway Inspector at Wokingham Borough Council wrote on September 21st 2017 at 1.09pm that:- *'Anyone working on the highway, in view of bulb planting must have a Section 50 licence and obtain a separate Licence to Plant and hold the correct liability insurance.'*

For obvious reasons I am not prepared to break the law but as John Halsall has said he will complete the plantings himself, the equipment purchased for this purpose along with the WBC reflective jackets has been delivered to Pat Sly who has agreed to deliver it to the parish council.

No further articles therefore will appear from myself on this subject.

*Linda Ashwell, 12 Remenham Hill*

## NATURE NEWS FROM THE MILL - A CAUTIONARY TALE

In the Autumn I went away for a while and when I returned I could not believe the state of the river outside my dining room window. The river was very low and there had been a lot of weed on the surface at the end of the Summer - now it was covered in bright green juicy leaves, double-tiered in places, between a couple of moorings and the little causeway dividing our backwater from the main river.

On reading back numbers of the Henley Standard I realised that we have been invaded by the dreaded floating pennywort.

I immediately contacted the Environment Agency, who noted it and said they would get back to me. I also contacted the Henley Standard and they sent their reporter, who took a photo and promised also to get hold of the EA. For the next two weeks nothing happened, even though I tried on several occasions to get through to the relevant department at the EA. The HS too did not publish it immediately, but when it did, it must have been brought to the notice of Henley's MP, because three days later John Howell was seen on the local Southern TV news, actually standing up in the chamber and reporting the problem to Parliament.

A couple of days after that I received a long email from the Environment Agency and after that they were constantly on the phone to me or sending emails!

In the meantime a couple of stalwarts from the flats, with the aid of their canoe, cleared up all the weed and piled it up to die in a corner of the garden. Initially the EA were not pleased about this, as they had not been trained (!) for health and safety purposes. But when a representative came round, she was most impressed by what they had done.

So for the moment we are free of the weed (though I have just seen as the floods rise a couple of tiny bright green shoots). Who knows - watch this space.

*Enid Light  
Marsh Mills*

**aston**  
PRODUCTIONS

To kick start 2018, Aston Productions will be producing a short film called ENTRANCE NO EXIT written by author Sophie Dix; this is a comedy, shooting in Spring 2018. Jo Southwell is delighted to be directing a short film 'THE TEST' for Irish writer Roisin Monaghan, shooting in early summer 2018. Over the next year a new TV series is being developed; the story is based on a book adaptation by author EMILY BARR.

See some of Aston Productions' latest work on [www.josouthwell.com](http://www.josouthwell.com)

## HENLEY CRICKET CLUB



Yes, it's back...

# HCC's Quiz Night

on  
9th February 2018

Teams of 6/8

£15 per person

at  
Henley Cricket Club's Pavilion

7:30pm, starting 8pm sharp

**All Food Included!**

**Paying Bar**

**Raffle**

**Contact**

Sue Laing (07885 851362 or [sue@jsobel.com](mailto:sue@jsobel.com))  
Phil Chappell (07764 604089 or [p.chappell@btinternet.com](mailto:p.chappell@btinternet.com))

For ticket purchases and offers of raffle prizes

Do you need help with small DIY projects or repairs in your home or business?



Have you been promising yourself to get something fixed? Darrel Poulos provides a trusted local service to manage small (or larger) jobs that need doing at a reasonable hourly price. Whatever

you need; from a leaky tap to laying a floor, from easing a door to putting together your flatpack item or something in the garden; Darrel can do it for you. Just contact Darrel to find out if he can help you with your problem. Phone him on **07793 389231** or reach him by email at: .

## REMENHAM PARISH HALL



Normal hire charge: £16.00 per hour  
(minimum two hour booking).

Commercial hiring charges by negotiation

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# ***THE RECTOR'S FAREWELL LUNCH***

*Photographs taken by Tony Duckett*

