REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



Remenham Artists - Steven Allender

REMENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Hall
Thursday 10 May 2018
8.00pm

(following an RPC meeting at 6pm)

Please come to speak on any matter, enjoy a glass or two of wine and Indian finger food.

Apologies for absence

Notes of the last APM

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Matters raised from the floor

John Halsall Chairman 07939 041 227 johnashalsall@gmail.com

THE CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

Rector Interregnum

St Mary's, Henley
St Nicholas, Remenham

The Rectory, Hart Street
Henley-on-Thames, Oxon

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 SundayAnthony WestSarah West3rd SundayPeter ForresterCharlotte Every4th SundayJohn LaingSue 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

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

Christopher Leeming, The Hermitage, Matson Drive, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames RG9 3HB

John Merkel, The Green Cottage, Wargrave Road, Remenham, RG9 3HX

Darrel Poulos,

(There are currently two vacancies.)

Parish Clerk: Paul Sermon, Remenham Parish Council, PO Box 4748,

Henley on Thames RG9 9DH

Tel: 01491 412908, email: 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, johnashalsall@gmail.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 2018			
Months	Deadlines for Contributors	Approx. Dates for Distributors	
Jan-Feb	Friday 29 December 2017	Friday 5 January 2018	
Mar-Apr	Friday 23 February 2018	Friday 2 March 2018	
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 Rector Interregnum
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

May Rosemary Duckett Minnie Wilson Sally-Anne Plunket

June Mike Dowsett

ALTAR FLOWERS

May Mandy Cook Maureen Holborn

June Marilyn Dudley Judy Bate

REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

email address: parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

Nigel Gray, Chairman and Treasurer

Ann Burley, Secretary.

Peter Grace

Alison Barraclough

Helen Rosier

Liz Cope

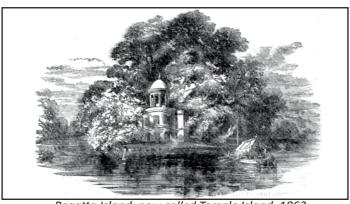
Pat Sly

Javne Grav

Allan Henderson

Sue Laing

Charlotte Every



Regatta Island, now called Temple Island, 1863

an illustration for 'The Phantom of Regatta Island'- see page 8

PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

May

3rd Borough Elections, Parish Hall

5th-7th Henley Arts Trail, 32 various venues including Remenham 8th Last day of Henley Arts and Crafts Guild Spring Exhibition

10th Henley Cricket Club Golf Day, Henley Golf Club

10th 6.00pm Parish Council neeting, Parish Hall 10th 8.00pm Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall

12th W.I. meeting at Woodley, talk on 'Mrs Beeton my sister'

14th 2.30pm W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall

21st W.I. Ladies lunch

June

11th 2.30pm W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall12th 8.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall

22nd-24th Henley Women's Regatta

29th evening Henley Royal Regatta Qualifying Races

Further Ahead

1 July 4.30am Henley Classic Swim, HRR Course, start Temple Island

4th-8th July Henley Royal Regatta 11th-15th July Henley Festival

12th July W.I. summer outing to Hughenden Manor and Hearing dogs for the deaf

13/14th July Henley Masters' Regatta, Temple Island Meadows

14th 11.30am Henley Symphony Orchestra on Henley Festival (no charge for Remenham)

15th July 9.30am Henley Mile Swim, start Temple Island Meadows

21st July Cricket Club Ball, Regatta Meadows

11th August tbc Broadwick Live 'picnic-style', orchestral, classical music event

17th-19th August Rewind Festival

10th November Beetle Drive, Parish Hall

FROM THE EDITOR

This is a hastily put together issue, as I have been somewhat incapacitated. I apologise for any errors, omissions, failure to spot typos etc.

I will simply urge you to see how much is going on in our parish and to read in particular the extract from the Charles Dickens story that took place on the Remenham stretch of the river (how had that passed me by until now?) - and then read the whole story via the website link given - and Jim Bland's article about the book on the W.I. to which he and Barrie Shelton are contributing the Remenham section. In addition see details of the Henley Symphony Orchestra concert which is taking place as part of the Henley Festival and to which residents of Remenham are invited, and details of the CRicket Club summer ball that is being held for the final time on the Regatta Meadows.

Felicity, newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

FROM THE RECTORY

"Ne'er cast a clout till May be out" - Granny, full of folklore, used to quote it, if ever as a child, one discarded a jumper. A clout is an old word for a piece of clothing.

Some people think 'May' refers to the month but others take it to mean the May flower or hawthorn. A tree that flowers in late April or early May.

This year, we had that hot spell in April, but now the cold spell seems to have returned. Perhaps the saying should be 'Keep yer clout about, 'til it's much warmer!'

In the church calendar, May is a busy month, It begins with the feast day of ss. Philip and James, on the 1st. With all the James' the one referred to here is James, the son of Alphaeus also known as James the Less.

The month ends on 31st with the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also the solemnity of Corpus Christi when we remember the presence in the Eucharist of the Body and Blood of Christ, so freely given for each one of us.

We also have Ascension Day on Thursday 10th (celebrated by us on the following Sunday), The Sunday of Pentecost follows as does, this year, Trinity Sunday.

It is also a time when advertisements for a new Rector are appearing and, we pray that the Holy Spirit may guide the selection process so that the right person, one able to carry forward the work that Fr. Martyn started, will be found.

Fr John

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS

Easter was celebrated at St Nicholas with a service of Holy Communion and Blessing of the Font conducted by the Rev John Croton. The service was well attended with a congregation of over 60 and the church looked really lovely with glorious flower arrangements. Many thanks to all the flower arrangers and especially to Sally-Anne Plunket who is in charge of the flower rota.

The process of appointing a new rector continues, albeit it slowly. We have now had our Section 11 and 12 meetings (the former held by candlelight in the Laing's dining room as there was a power cut in Henley!) and finalised our parish and person profiles. The post will be advertised in the Church Times on 27 April and again on 4 May. The applications will be shortlisted in June and the appointment board will be held on 10 July. We are much indebted to the Rev John Croton and Michael Forsdike who are taking our services regularly during the interregnum.

In May we are planning to start some remedial work inside church to deal with the damp and on the exterior to replace defective guttering and attend to the flint work on the tower. You will notice scaffolding going up.

Due to the terrible weather, the Henley Boat Races on 18 March were cancelled and we were therefore unable to sell teas from Old Blades garden and serve lunches in the Parish Hall. Many thanks to all those who volunteered to help and make cakes etc.

Best wishes

Charlotte Every John Laing

Churchwardens - churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk

THE PHANTOM OF REGATTA ISLAND

I am indebted to Alison Barraclough for sending me details of this wonderful short story by Charles Dickens. It was published in his monthly journal, issue 21, "All the year round" on 8th May 1869. *Editor*

To whet your appetite, these are extracts from the first and last paragraphs!

""EASY all! ship!" cried the coxswain, and as we laid in our oars, well pleased at the prospect of a rest, our boat ran alongside the landing-place on the island at the end of Henley Reach."

" I suffered greatly for some time afterwards. I have never yet completely got over the remembrance of that awful face; at first it was terrible, I had not been to Henley since then until to-day, and if I had known when we first started that you would have stopped at the Island, I should have made some excuse to come on by road. As it was, it was not until we had actually started that I remembered it was the twenty-first of June. The old fear came over me as we neared the place, and, against my will, I felt compelled to watch for the figure I saw that night. Now I have seen the place again without it, I hope the impression will fade from my mind. "

For the whole story and some wonderful illustrations see http://thames.me.uk/phantom.pdf

CRICKET CLUB - THE FINAL SUMMER BALL!

The Henley Cricket Club Summer Ball is being held for the final time in a marquee on Regatta Meadows on Saturday 21 July, by kind permission of Henley Royal Regatta.



In 2005 the club managed, against the odds, to raise the money needed to buy the freehold of the ground from Brakspears', thus preventing the sale for development and preserving for us this green corner of the parish – quite apart from enabling the club's cricket to go from strength to strength. The club is extremely grateful to a number of Remenham residents who contributed to the fundraising project to achieve this, both originally and over the years by supporting its events.

A significant part of the purchase price was provided by a Ground Purchase loan from Henley Town Council, and this summer's ball is the final push to pay off the balance of this. The ball has been held every year since the purchase of the ground and is always a spectacular event. Organised by Sue Laing and a Ball Committee of players, supporters and local residents, it will be even more spectacular this year.

Please put the date in your diaries now – further information including how to buy tickets will be available soon.

The Ball Committee





REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Parish Council election is on May 3rd. Nominations closed with insufficient candidates for contested elections. All those who stood have been duly elected. They are Franky Cookson, Chris Leeming, John Merkel, Darrel Poulos and me (John Halsall). The annual parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 10th May at 18.00 prior to the Annual Parish Meeting. At the annual parish council meeting, officers will be elected for the coming year.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 10th MAY 2018 20.00

REMENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Come, have a glass of wine or two, some Indian finger food, voice your opinion on all village matters and meet your new Parish council

RICHARD FLETCHER

I am extremely sorry that Richard Fletcher has decided that it was time for him to retire. Richard has been a superb deputy chairman, filling in for me when absent and letting me know, privately and firmly, when in his view I am wrong. His advice and legal background has been invaluable. Richard has offered to continue helping the Parish council in private capacity for which I am very grateful.

ALISON BARRACLOUGH AND PETER GRACE

Alison and Peter after many years of service decided not to put themselves forward for another term. I would like to thank them for the valuable contribution that they made over many years.

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL WOKINGHAM

The petition received some 2,500 signatures, mostly from Wokingham Borough. These have been validated and a debate must now be held. It awaits the appointment of the new mayor in the new municipal year to say where and when. We are asking for it to be in Loddon Hall.

The main issue of the campaign is the protection of the green belt; it remains disappointing that in Remenham the support is very low. Please sign up to cprwok.co.uk.

TOUGH MUDDER

Tough MUDder takes place next weekend; you can expect major delays.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Amongst the many highways issues that we are pursuing are:

- Extending 30mph zone to Culham Cottages.
- 30 mph on Wargrave Road from the A4130 London Road junction down to Conways
- Remenham Lane/Aston Lane/Remenham Church Lane.
- Flooding on Kentons Lane and on Aston Lane
- NOX levels

REWIND

Despite, Rewind's new owners saying they wish to have a strong relationship with the local community and residents and your Parish council wishing to meet with them in order to discuss concerns and countermeasures, we have heard nothing from them.

In addition to Rewind Festival 2018, Broadwick Live (the new owners) have applied for a license to produce a single day, 'picnic-style', orchestral, classical music event on Saturday 11th August. This license is being objected to by the Remenham Farm Residents Association supported by your parish council mainly on the grounds of cumulative effect.

Please feel free to contact them on localresidents@rewindfestival.com and they say they would be more than happy to arrange a follow up phone call.

NEW EVENTS



Nobody can throw any light on this.

LICENSING

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

PLANNING AGENT

There have been many concerns about the Polo pitch. We have engaged a planning agent Pegasus to advise us whether we have any legitimate concerns in planning terms. Please give us your concerns so that we can approach the landowner.

HENLEY FESTIVAL (further details below)

The Henley Festival is having a concert for the Henley Symphony Orchestra on Saturday morning and is welcoming Remenham Residents to it to thank you for being such good neighbours. I will be meeting with Charlotte Geeves to see how exactly this will work.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Last month, I reported that having been left out of the "01189" broadband rollout and not being included in the South Oxfordshire "01491", we have now established Remenham as part of the Hurley community build area, which is currently forecast to start in Q2 2019 – please note that this date may be subject to change. It would be very helpful if everyone registered their interest on the Gigaclear website as this will improve delivery. https://www.gigaclear.com/communities/a030J00000UqXj0QAF/0010J00001nKPoaQAG Sadly, Wargrave – Crazies Hill and Cockpole Green who are also being allocated to Gigaclear had Gigaclear there, who started work and deposited materials. However, they disappeared some months ago and despite efforts to contact them, there is no explanation for their disappearance.

John Halsall Chairman Remenham Parish Council Councillor Wokingham Borough Council

Please use clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk which goes to Paul Sermon and me, or please use johnashalsall@gmail.com if you want me or psermon@btinternet.com if you want Paul.

The Henley Festival/Henley Symphony Orchestra Concert



The concert is a daytime event, on Saturday 14th July, 2018 from 11.30 am – 1.30 with a half hour interval. The orchestra will be playing on the floating stage, and seating will be on the lawn area in front, although if the weather should turn wet, seating will be moved to the Grandstand - under cover! The festival site will be open from 11.00am – 2.00pm, with the art galleries, food and drink facilities available. The car park is free and will be open for post-concert lunchtime picnics until 4 pm, when people should start to leave as the car park opens for the evening audience at 4. The dress code is informal – no need for black ties!

REMENHAM W.I.

March

As our President was on holiday our vice, Judy Palmer, was in the chair. There were 14 present and 6 apologies. After the usual business the raffle was won by Joyce Tivey, and there was only one birthday posy, for a past member Judy Fraser, a past President and wonderful member for many years, who has resigned because of ill health.

We were told of a new Berkshire Book being prepared about the W.I. June and Barry Shelton and Jim Bland are collecting items re Remenham, and Judy Fraser is looking out her sketches of the Parish. Five members will attend the Berkshire Spring meeting at the University in April. Our Summer outing is to be at Hughenden Manor, and "Hearing dogs for the deaf" in July. There will be a talk entitled "Tea with Mrs Beeton's Sister" on May 11th at Woodley Church Hall. The Denman Cup competition is to be a short article on "The day that changed my Life". The Resolution chosen by Berkshire members that will go forward to the National A.G.M. in June is "Mental Health matters".

Our Chairman then introduced Vanessa Davies whose talk on "All for you", exercises to help with our general health and well being. Vanessa gave us an entertaining talk on all that we should and could be doing to give us a better life style. We should be doing a minimum of 30 minutes exercise per day, simple things such as up and down the stairs, sit ups and crunches etc. Control our eating, no snacking and limited drinking of alcohol. The best diet of all is the 5/2. She recommended various gyms and swimming pools etc. which members could join. And she could help with personal programs for individuals. Vanessa was heartily thanked for her riveting talk. After which all enjoyed a hearty tea of delicious sandwiches and cake, prepared by Carol Wissett and Jen Terry.

Our next meeting is on May 14th, as usual at the Remenham Village Hall at 2.30pm. Carol Wheeler will tell us all about 'Handbells'. All are very welcome.

April

The meeting opened with our President Daphne Austen welcoming all present. There were 5 apologies, and 5 members received birthday posies - Daphne Austen, Caroline Leeming Enid Light and Sue Sharp. There were many notices, The Berkshire Book is nearly ready, it includes a photo of Culham Court and several local sketches by Judy Fraser. There is a date for a tea party with Mrs Beeton's Sister, several members are going. On July12th Remenham are having their Summer Outing to Hughenden Manor, and a visit to Hearing dogs for the deaf. Members were asked for fund raising ideas and ways of attracting new members.

A report from the Berkshire Spring Conference: Dame Rabbi Neuberger asked members to remember the lonely and to try and visit, but after arranging with a phone call - a chat means so much. A.C.W.W. are raising money to send sewing machines to the women of Pakistan. And Michael Longsmith reported success with the Homeless in Reading, by giving them shelter in Double Decker Buses.

Our President then introduced Carol Wheeler, she is a handbell ringer, and surprisingly performs solo. Her bells come from America and have plastic handles. They are expensive - a set of 4 bells cost £4,500. She played along with many well known pieces, for instance, "How great thou art", "Candle in the wind", songs from the Beatles, "Summertime", "As time goes by", and finishing with "Jerusalem". We were all invited to have a go - some were better than others!! Jen Terry gave an appreciative vote of thanks for giving us such a fun afternoon. Tea was much enjoyed, given by Jen and Sheila, and a lot of help by Carol.

Annabel Hill will talk on "Amazing times at Camp Mowhawk" on Monday May 14th. As usual at Remenham Village Hall at 2.30pm. All are very welcome.

Sheila Constantinidi

FLOATING PENNYWORT

At the recent Royal Thames Society AGM at Leander, 'floating pennywort' was the main topic discussed.

The Environment Agency is now very much aware of the problem and is asking anyone who sees any sign of it to report to them: enquiries:_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk It is noticeable for being very bright green, succulent and juicy and the small leaves the shape of a penny, hence the name. The roots are just below the surface of the water and do not take root in the river bed, but float! In the recent floods many tiny offshoots could have floated downstream and wedged themselves at the side of inlets. Small growths can easily be pulled out and when on dry land die.

Please be on the lookout, when you walk by the river.

Enid Light

(Incidentally this is not a problem confined to the Thames, but is widespread in the country.)



THE 13th HENLEY ARTS TRAIL

First May Bank Holiday SATURDAY 5 MAY - MONDAY 7 MAY 2018

FREE ENTRY to all Artists Studios and Venues around Henley and Twyford. For Map: www.henleyartstrail.com/venues-and-map.html

32 Venues to visit including a number in Remenham.

VENUE 1 is at the THE FIRE STATION GALLERY, HENLEY

Also the SPRING EXHIBITION of the HENLEY ARTS & CRAFT GUILD (The Fire Station Gallery) starts on FRIDAY 27 APRIL – 8 MAY inclusive.

So there is lots to see and something for everyone.

PLEASE CHECK Venues for times of opening and closing. Refreshments available in some Venues.



REMENHAM: THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE

Rowing, the River Thames, Buildings, People

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute (W.I.), the Berkshire organisation is publishing a book of profiles of Berkshire villages and places with a W.I. The following gives a flavour of the treasure trove of Remenham information unearthed so far.

Rowing and The River Thames

Most of the things which make Henley famous actually happen in Remenham and involve rowing, including the Annual Henley Royal Regatta, Henley Boat Races, Henley Women's Regatta, the Henley Festival. It is all because there has been competitive rowing here on the River Thames for at least two centuries. This is puzzling because rowing, at first sight, appears to be a boring and ridiculous activity. Can you think of any other sport where the participants face backwards and have no idea whether they are winning or losing the race? Why do they do it?

The reason is that top class rowing is done by crews each consisting of individual athletes morphing into one organism. After gruelling training a crew thinks and moves as one. The trained crew experiences a sort of transcendence and wins races. It is a joy to watch its grace and power.

Remenham should be grateful for this cult of rowing which has protected the riverscape and water meadows from intrusive ugly development and so preserved the beauty of a unique 18th century landscape.

The underlying topography is thought to have been first sculpted from the chalk hills by the River Thames at the end of the last Ice Age about 10,000 years ago, when the huge lake of melt waters broke through the Goring Gap. The river became a turbulent torrent of water and ice flows carving out the horseshoe-shaped gorge which now defines the parish boundary from Shiplake, through Henley and Hambleden lock. This erosion of a sub-arctic landscape may then have continued for hundreds of years fed by the melting ice sheets retreating to and beyond northern Britain.

Buildings in Remenham

Within the 1500 acres of the parish of Remenham there are more than ten buildings of note, most with unusual histories. The following selection illustrates the wide range of buildings:-

Leander Club

Celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2018 in the House of Commons, the Guildhall, St Paul's Cathedral, London; Dublin, Sydney and New York, Leander is one of the oldest and certainly the premier rowing club in the world. It has won over 124 (yes 124) Olympic medals. Steve Redgrave and Mathew Pinsent have won three Olympic Gold medals rowing together and have been knighted. The club is housed in an updated Edwardian building, generously furnished with training equipment and a team of professional coaches plus purpose built boat storage. It doubles as an elegant social club for members and associate members.

Park Place, Remenham Hill

Lord Archibald Hamilton built a Palladian Mansion at Park Place in 1719 and sold it to Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of King George 3rd in 1738. When he died General Conway bought the property and surrounded the mansion with a splendid 900 acre . 18th century gentleman's parkland. The Mansion was converted to a French-style Chateau in 1871. After modernisation in 2011 it was acquired for £140M by Andrey Fridrikhovich Borodin.

Culham Court, on the bank of the River Thames, Aston

In medieval times the estate was held by he Bishops of Winchester. The original house, owned by the lawyer husband of a wealthy Antiguan sugar heiress, was rebuilt in 1771 in the Georgian style after a fire. Then it was inherited by the Hon Frederick West, the Groom of the Royal Bedchamber, and the son of Earl de La Warr. It was visited by King George 3rd and Queen Charlotte in 1804.

Sir Martyn Arbib bought the estate for 12 million pounds in 1997 followed by Urs Schwarzenbach who paid 35 million pounds in 2007. He has recently created a maze of 20,000 yew bushes and built a chapel in the grounds in white Portland stone, designed by Craig Hamilton in the Classical Greek style. The area of the estate totals several hundred acres straddling the Remenham-Wargrave parish boundary.

Remenham Place - a Victorian mansion at Remenham Hill

Brigadier-General Sir Douglas and Lady Dawson bought Remenham Place in 1920. He died in 1933, she died in 1946 and the house was sold in 1947. He was Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's office from 1907 to 1920 when he was appointed State Chamberlain until 1924. By holding this office he became a member of the Royal Household concerned with the protocol of state visits, royal weddings and the state opening of Parliament. Princess Beatrice daughter of Queen Victoria and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands frequently visited Remenham Place. The Dawson's were enthusiastic tree planters; in 1923 they persuaded the Royal family to come to Remenham Place and participate in their tree planting bonanza:- King George an oak tree, Queen Mary a cedar, the Duke of Windsor an ash. Other trees had been planted by the Princess Royal,Lord Harewood, Princess Victoria and the Marquise d'Hautpoul on behalf of the Duke of Kent. (Our present Queen Elizabeth and Prince Harry are keeping up the family tradition of tree planting on a colossal scale.)

Before 1968 the Lord Chamberlain's office had the additional responsibility to ban plays and books thought to be obscene and "likely to deprave or corrupt". Playwrights George Bernard Shaw and J M Barrie campaigned against such censorship during Dawson's term in office. Collaborating with the courts, the Lord Chamberlain tried to impose the law to "protect the vulnerability of working class readers and the intellectually and morally fragile female readers"!

Fifty years ago in 1968 this censorship edifice collapsed dramatically in derision and laughter when Penguin Books was charged with publishing Lady Chatterley's Lover, deemed to be obscene. The prosecuting counsel Mervyn Griffiths-Jones had asked the jury "Is this a book you would wish your wife or servants to read?"

How times have changed!

Jim Bland, Matson Drive, Remenham with input from Barrie Shelton

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REMENHAM PARISH HALL



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

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, patsly@tinyworld.co.uk or remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

ADVERTISING IN THE REMENHAM NEWSLETTER

(6 issues over 12 months)

	Mono	Colour
Half Page:	£90.00	£110.00
Quarter Page:	£45.00	£55.00
One Eighth Page:	£22.50	£27.50

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