

# REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



**SUNDAY**  
**2nd September**

**2pm - 5pm**

**Remenham Fayre**

**Dog show at 2.15pm**

**Tea & Cake - BBQ & Bar**

**Tombola & Raffle - Fun & Games**

**Adults £1    Children Free**

## PRESS RELEASE – APPOINTMENT OF RECTOR

The churchwardens of the United Benefice of Henley and Remenham are pleased to announce that, following an interview panel, last week the Revd Jeremy Tayler has been appointed as the new Rector.

Fr Jeremy was born in Lincolnshire and brought up in and around Bristol, but has lived most of his adult life in London. He studied International Relations and History at LSE before building a career in research administration. He has also worked briefly as both a religious studies teacher and nursery nurse in Finland, and spent two years as a full-time parent, picking up an MA in History and Politics from Birkbeck along the way. He then trained for the priesthood at Westcott House, Cambridge, before serving for three years as Assistant Curate at St John's Wood Church in the Diocese of London.

Fr Jeremy is a keen cyclist, and in his spare time he enjoys gardening, walks in the countryside and outdoor swimming. He will be joined by his wife, Maura, who is from Helsinki, Finland, and their daughters Blanche (9) and Ginevra (8). Maura, who loves classical music, works for the Diocese of London as PA to the Archdeacon of Hampstead. The whole family have a great love of cooking, hospitality and entertaining, and are all very much looking forward to life in Henley-on-Thames and Remenham. But most of all Fr Jeremy looks forward to learning more about where God is at work among the people of Henley-on-Thames and Remenham, and to playing his part in making the love of God real to people in these places.

Fr Jeremy's institution will take place on Monday 24 September at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Henley and his first services in the Benefice will take place on Sunday 30 September. We very much look forward to welcoming Jeremy and his family in September.

*10 July 2018*



# THE CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

Rector	Revd Jeremy Tayler (from 24 September)
St Mary's, Henley	The Rectory, Hart Street
St Nicholas, Remenham }	Henley-on-Thames, Oxon

Churchwardens	Charlotte Every	Tel: 07973 798071
	<i>churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk</i>	
	John Laing	Tel: 07778 464162

Churchwarden emeritus	Mike Dowsett	Tel: 01491 575711
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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

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, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3HB

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

Darrel Poulos, 5 Horseshoes Fields, Remenham Piece, Remenham Hill, RG9 3EP

## *Co-opted*

Bill Ronald, Highway Cottage, Aston Lane, Aston

(There is currently one vacancy.)

**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, [johnashalsall@gmail.com](mailto:johnashalsall@gmail.com), 07939 041227. Cherwell, Remenham Lane,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 3DB  
Cllr Graham Howe

## **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
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
<b>Nov-Dec</b>	<b>Friday 26 October</b>	<b>Friday 2 November</b>
Jan-Feb 2019	Friday 28 December 2018	Friday 4 January 2019

## REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rector	Revd Jeremy Tayler
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	

### PARISH REGISTER

#### Baptism

22 July 2018      Zoe Ella Binney

#### Wedding

28 July 2018      Richard Menzies-Wilson and Zoe Rutter-Locher

## REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

email address: [parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk)

Nigel Gray, Chairman and Treasurer  
Ann Burley, Secretary.  
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	2/5.00	Remenham Village Fayre, the Parish Hall and Gardens
10th	2.30pm	W.I. meeting, Parish Hall - members will entertain each other
11th	8.00pm	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall
24th	7.30pm	Institution of Revd Jeremy Tayler as Rector of the joint Benefice of Henley and Remenham, St Mary's Henley
30th		Revd Jeremy Tayler's first church services at St Mary's and St Nicholas

### **October**

8th	2.30pm	W.I. meeting, Parish Hall
9th	8.00pm	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall
19th	7.30pm	Harvest Supper, Parish Hall

### **Further ahead**

10th November	Beetle Drive, Parish Hall
16th December	Candlelit Carol Service at 4.00pm, St Nicholas

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

After the frenetic activities of the last two months, Remenham seems to have returned to calmer village life. Most importantly, we now have a new Rector and we are looking forward to welcoming him to our community at the end of September. See page for the invitation to his Institution on 24 September.

First - and very soon - we have the annual Village Fayre on Sunday 2 September, so get your produce show entries ready and practice for the coconut shy and other regular games and competitions. This will be followed by the Harvest Supper on Friday 19 October, and I am delighted to see that after that we have the Beetle Drive to look forward to in November - a highly competitive and frenzied evening, great fun!

Once again I draw your attention to an article by Jim Bland (page 17) - as always this is informative and beautifully written. How lucky we are to have someone in our midst who is so knowledgeable about Remenham and its history.

Further ahead there is another essential village event - the candlelit Carol Service on 16 December. As always I would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in singing in the choir. We have a high standard to maintain!!

See you at the Fayre!

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

## FROM THE RECTORY

As I prepare this, my final offering to the Remenham Newsletter, I am sitting in a non-air-conditioned study, with the computer telling me that the Central Processing unit is running a high temperature and warning me of high CPU usage, I wonder if I should be writing this at all.

It has been said that the British are obsessed with the weather, it is always too hot, too cold, too wet or too something else.

This led me to think about Jonah.

Jonah, angry with God, angry with himself, sitting with the sun hot on his head. God supplies him with the shade of a bush, giving Jonah some comfort. The following morning the bush dies and Jonah gets angry again, with God, and with himself.

All because Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh, did not want to carry God's message to the city.

Do we get annoyed or angry because we are asked? No, we are called or commissioned, to carry a message of good news to the people around us, The message of the Kingdom of God. That message is one of love. God's love for us, and it needs to be shown, not just said, because "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners".

May God help us all to love our neighbours as ourselves.

***Fr John***



**HARVEST SUPPER,  
PARISH HALL  
FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER  
7.30pm for 8.00pm  
tickets £13.00 from**

**[Churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:Churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk)**

**07973 798071**

## NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



At last the long and rather stressful process of appointing a new Rector is over. Following the selection board on 10 July we are pleased to confirm the appointment of the Rev Jeremy Tayler as the new Rector of Henley and Remenham. Father Jeremy's installation will take place at St Mary's at 7.30pm on Monday 24 September to which you are all invited and his first service at St Nicholas will be Matins on Sunday 30 September at 11.15am. Do please try and come along to give him a good Remenham welcome!

Work has at last begun on the building work at church and should be finished by the end of the month.

Don't forget the Remenham Fayre on Sunday 2 September in aid of the church and parish hall.

Some dates for your diaries: the Harvest Supper will take place on Friday 19 October; the Beetle Drive will be on Saturday 10 November and the Candlelit Carol Service will be at 4.00pm on Sunday 16 December.

Charlotte Every

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham

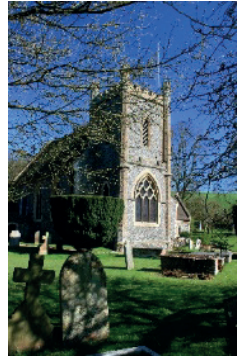
### **BLUE BAGS!!**

As I had two extra rolls of Blue Bags delivered to me this year in error, I would be very happy to give them to anyone who needs more. I don't wish to put myself into competition with the Chairman of the Parish Council! - see page 12 - but it seems a great shame not to offer them to someone else. Please contact me if you're interested.

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



*The United Benefice of St Mary the Virgin, Henley-on-Thames  
And St Nicholas, Remenham*



*invite you to the  
Institution by The Right Reverend Colin Fletcher OBE,  
Bishop of Dorchester and  
the Induction and Installation  
by The Venerable Judy French,  
Archdeacon of Dorchester of  
**the Reverend Jeremy Tayler**  
as Rector of Henley and Remenham  
on Monday 24 September 2018 at 7.30pm  
at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Henley-on-Thames*

RSVP

*The Churchwardens,  
Henley Parish Office,  
Hart Street,  
Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AU*

*or by e-mail to [sueh1963@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sueh1963@hotmail.co.uk)*

**Note for visiting clergy**

*The Liturgical colour being used for this service is green, and the wearing of choir robes is required.*

*Parking for the Bishop, the Patron and the Archdeacon is provided on the church forecourt. All other visitors are requested to park in local parking facilities at Waitrose car park, Greys Road car park (these are both free of charge after 6pm) or the station car park.*

# **REMENHAM FAYRE**

## **Sunday, 2nd September 2018 from 2.00 – 5.00 pm**

### **Remenham Parish Hall and Garden**

We very much look forward to welcoming you on Sunday, 2nd September to Remenham Fayre as there will be a very good variety of games for children and adults, flower and produce competitions, bric-a-brac, produce and cake stall, bottle tombola, 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!! The timetable (which we shall endeavour to keep to!) is as follows:

- 2.00 Start of Fayre
- 2.15 Dog competition
- 3.00 Childrens games
- 4.15 Produce competition prize giving
- 4.30 Raffle drawn
- 5.00 Finish Fayre

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, 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 - 2.00 pm latest on Sunday 2nd September please.

All the proceeds of the Fayre will all 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.

We also look forward to your entries to the Produce Competition. The classes were listed in the last issue of the newsletter and also on the entry form enclosed with this one, which should be completed and enclosed with all entries (to be submitted by 2.30pm).

We would still be grateful for volunteers to help man stalls, set up in the morning, provide cakes for the cake stall, Bric-a-brac, bottles for tombola etc . Anyone interested should contact Liz Cope.

*The Parish Hall Committee*  
*Liz Cope - famcope@aol.com*



**Remenham  
Village Fayre  
2017**



**BEETLE DRIVE**  
**PARISH HALL**  
**SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2018**  
7.30pm for 8.00pm

Tickets £15.00  
to include fish & chip supper  
Paying bar

Tickets from Sue Laing ([sue@isobel.com](mailto:sue@isobel.com)/01491 573047)



## **HELP!!**

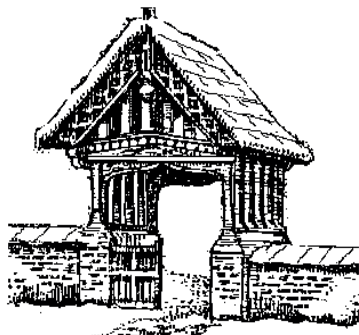
### **SMALL BUT VITALLY IMPORTANT AMOUNT OF HELP NEEDED WITH DELIVERY OF THE REMENHAM NEWSLETTER**

As you will know, a copy of this newsletter is received by every household in Remenham. The success of this depends on the wonderful army of people who deliver them. With the Forresters sadly moving away we need someone to replace Gini in the team. The task is not onerous and involves putting a newsletter through 20 letter-boxes at the top of Remenham Hill once every two months. They will be delivered to you by Jo Morgan as soon as they are printed - usually the last Friday/ Saturday of every other month.

Gini is very kindly delivering this issue, despite the fact that she will be moving a couple of days later! A big public thank you to Gini for all she has done for the newsletter - and indeed the village - for many years.

If any public-spirited person could take this on we would be extremely grateful - please contact me to discuss or offer!

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



## REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

I am really delighted to announce that Bill Ronald has been agreed to join us and was unanimously coopted by the Parish Council. Bill lives in Highway Cottage Aston.

### RECTOR

The Parish Council takes pleasure in welcoming the Revd Jeremy Taylor and his family to our wonderful parish. I hope they are as happy here as we have been.

### EVENTS

The summer brings a number of events to our village. This creates disruption and issues for some of you. Please feed them all to me. We may not be able to solve all the problems but may be able to solve some of them. Thank you to all those who have done so already.

### PARKING BAYS

You may have seen that the parking bays at the end of Remenham Lane have been suspended for most of the summer. It is my intention that this should be a permanent order with suspension from the Monday before the Henley Womens Regatta to the Friday the week after the Henley Festival and from the Monday before Rewind to the Friday after Rewind. We are also moving the bay where the double curb is to further up the lane, and whilst WBC is reluctant to reduce parking I have told them we would not complain at some reduction. Furthermore the signs will be changed to parking only for a limited period in the bays and permanent no parking where the yellow lines are.

### BLUE BAGS

You may not be aware that I keep a stock of blue bags if you run out and am authorised to sell them at £4 per roll of ten.

### CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY

The parish council took the decision to consult with leading counsel on the question as to whether the Borough Council should include a cumulative impact policy in its Licensing Policy. The Remenham Farm Residents Association and Parish Council led on this. It is pleasing that the Borough Council now agrees that the Licensing Committee can consider cumulative impact when considering a license application.

## **POO BINS**

The introduction of the Poo Bin at the Parish Hall has been considered to be a success. Your Parish Council is considering where it can extend this scheme.

## **SONNING GOLF CLUB**

WBC has been left enraged and exasperated by a planning inspector's decision to allow 13 new houses to be built at Sonning Golf Club. The borough council refused permission for the development because it would result in loss of countryside, is outside of current settlement and is not in line with national or local policies. An inspector has overruled this locally-made decision and foisted more unplanned housing on the area on the basis that houses are not being built quickly enough here even though the borough council has already allocated plenty of land to meet need and granted planning permissions provide for more houses than its requirement. This is an important decision.

## **STAR WORKS**

There is a proposal to create a facility ten times the size of that currently existing at Star Works in Knowl Hill for waste processing with consequent increases in traffic on the A4, through Wargrave, through Henley/Remenham and the environs. The consultation is on [www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult](http://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult). A campaign opposing is on <https://www.muckmentum.co.uk/>. Star is an old brickwork, which is used for processing medical waste from hospitals by Grundons. The landfill operation which is due to end in 2020/21 is substantially complete and the land is being laid to rest.

## **THE WASTE AND MINERALS PLAN**

In my opinion the proposal for the new facility should be opposed, and if you agree then please help me by filling out the consultation. It takes ten minutes on line! Do it now! You only need to fill in the bits below, and I include my suggested responses.

Policy M1 – object – not meeting soundness test – it fails to meet the positively prepared test and the justification test. Are you seeking a change to the policy ? yes

Policy W1, W2, W3 – object – not meeting the test of soundness – failing the positively prepared test and the justification test.

Policy W4 – object to Star Works and object to all site proposals following and again – not meeting the test of soundness – failing the positively prepared test and the justification test. Are you seeking a change to the policy? yes Reason for change landscape, habitats and species, transport, greenbelt and amenity impacts.

Policy W5 – support Policy DM1 – object – not meeting the test of soundness – failing the positively prepared test and the justification test. It fails to meet the test of soundness as there should be a presumption away from development in the Central and Eastern Berkshire. Policy DM3, DM4, DM5, DM6 DM7, DM8, DM9, DM11, DM12- support.

Thank you.

*John Halsall*

*Chairman Remenham Parish Council*

Please use [clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk) for both Paul Sermon and me, or [johnhalsall@gmail.com](mailto:johnhalsall@gmail.com) for me or [psermon@btinternet.com](mailto:psermon@btinternet.com) for Paul.

## REWIND FESTIVAL FOOD STALL IN OLD BLADES' GARDEN, SATURDAY, 18 AUGUST, 2018

Work started around 7.30am when a team arrived to set up the gazebos, put out tables and chairs. move the barbecue down the garden and bring down cool boxes containing food. Also the urn, cups, cakes, serviettes, water, sauces for the barbecue food, bread rolls etc etc. By 9.15-9.30 we were ready to go. The weather was cloudy and soon a steady trickle of people started to build up eager for bacon butties, sausages, teas and coffees.

Every so often (presumably with the arrival of the Henley train) a great wave of people filled the towpath as they made their way along towards the Rewind site by Temple Island loaded with their back packs, etc. Many wore wonderful, bright clothes with coloured wigs and everyone seemed ready for a happy, musical, enjoyable weekend ahead.

As the day progressed, 11 o'clock brought more customers ready for coffee and cake which they were able to enjoy seated at tables under our gazebo whilst watching the world go by. At lunchtime the barbecue was working to provide burgers, etc and mid afternoon brought tea and cake enthusiasts, some returning for a second time.

We had decided to continue until 5.00pm and, amazingly, by 5.45 the garden looked as though nothing had taken place.

Thank you to all the wonderful team of people who gave up their time to cook, sell, top up, set up, clear up, etc to make all this possible. They were Anthony and Sarah West, Barry and Helen Rosier (together with Barry's brother over from Denmark), Charlotte Every, Huw Morgan, Jenny and David Law, Linda Ashwell, Liz and Roger Cope, Louise Binney, Nigel and Jayne Gray, Gini and Peter Forrester, Richard Fletcher, Rosemary and Anthony Duckett, Rachel Hayes, Caitlin and Jeanette Brown, and Pat Sly together with her friend from Yorkshire, Ann Skeet.

Very grateful thanks also for the incredible number of cakes which were donated by so many people – we had 40 cakes and traybakes of all descriptions! And practically all went. The gross takings amounted to £1165.50 which, after deduction of expenses, left a grand total for St Nicholas Church and the Parish Hall of £947.43.

*Parish Hall Committee*

### **FOUND IN OLD BLADES GARDEN AFTER REWIND FOOD STALL**

Two green/brown ?men's casual jackets, one "Sprayway XL" and one "Regatta M". The Sprayway one contained in the pocket a Tesco Henley receipt dated 16/8/18 and included in the items purchased 2 pkts King Prawns, 2 pkts other fish and 3 jars of Jam Sugar! ***Found a little way up the garden and we think belong to helpers.***



***Refreshments in Old Blades' garden during Rewind Festival last year***

## **HENLEY CRICKET CLUB BALL – 21 JULY 2018**

The biggest thank you to everyone who supported the Ball.

The evening was perfect in every sense: on the banks of the Thames, (thank you Henley Royal Regatta), opposite the traditional Boat Rally.

The weather was ideal...allowing the record attendance of 280 people to enjoy the champagne, the canapes, the dinner (Emily Rait Catering did an amazing job) the dancing, the auction, the silent auction and the biggest raffle ever. We raised nearly £21,000 - £6000 over target.



We couldn't have done it without the amazing support of the Remenham community - so many of you were there, and even those that couldn't be were so generous in buying raffle tickets and making donations. I don't want to miss anybody out but in addition to the HCC Ball Committee, a special thank you to some special 'Remenhamites': the Laing family ( yes, I promise I won't rope you in any more!), Felicity Rutland (and family) , Charlotte Every and Madeline Cahill who all did so much.

We are all so proud that the aims of the Ball have been achieved - great fun for all; a celebration of our fantastic club (how lucky we are to have one of the most successful clubs in our parish) but more importantly we raised enough to pay off the final tranche of the loan outstanding to Henley Town Council. The Ground has been saved and is now owned outright by the Club and preserved for Remenham. A project that took over ten years but so worth it for all of us.

*Sue Laing*



## REMENHAM W.I.

**July:** In July our Treasurer, Ann Francis organised a splendid outing to Hughenden Manor in the morning, and after lunch a visit to “Hearing dogs for the deaf” The training is fascinating and the dogs bring so much to the sufferers.

**August:** August arrived and our members and visitors from the other W.I.s In our Thames group were treated to an excellent tea party our President Daphne Austen’s home . After a heavy shower at Lunchtime the afternoon was perfect. We were entertained by a singer Mandy Shorer with songs from the musicals and many requests, we were also encouraged to sing along. After a wonderful W.I. tea, provided by Committee members, birthday posies were presented to Belinda Fitzwilliams, Rosemary Pratt and Sheila Constantinidi. Members enjoyed the bottle stall and and a very good raffle. Daphne and Nick then treated us to a delicious non-alcoholic cocktail, so we all went home on a high.! Special thanks to Nick for organising the car parking and loading the dishwasher all from his wheelchair as he had recently broken his heel. In fact thanks were profusely given all round. We are all invited again to Daphne’s to a craft and natter day in their gazebo whilst it is still up.

The next village event is the Remenham Village Fayre on Sunday September 2nd at 2pm at the Remenham parish Hall - our W.I. will be doing the teas. This will be followed by our next meeting, which is a Members’ meeting when the members entertain each other, all are welcome to the Remenham parish Hall at 2.30 pm. on Monday September 10th. There will be a bring and buy table and a best bloom competition.

*Sheila Constantinidi*

### 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](mailto:patsly@tinyworld.co.uk) or  
[remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk)



## REMENHAM - A TREASURE TROVE OF INFORMATION

As explained in Remenham Newsletter No 262 , the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute (W.I.) is being marked by the publication of a book of profiles of villages and places with a W.I. Research for this book has revealed a treasure trove of information about Remenham. Part I - by Jim Bland with Barrie Shelton - **'THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE - Rowing, the River Thames, Buildings, People'** - was published in the May-June issue. This is the promised sequel, under a new title. It describes the lives of three remarkable Remenham celebrities associated with two grand buildings in the parish.

### REMENHAM CELEBRITIES - A Baron, a Baronet and a Dame

#### **Baron (Miles) Thomas of Remenham (1897-1980) - lived in Remenham Lodge, Remenham Lane**

Between the ages of 17 to 21, in WW1, Miles Thomas joined the Armoured (Rolls Royce) Car Squadron fighting in German East Africa followed by active service with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) in Mesopotamia (Iraq), Persia (Iran) and Southern Russia (Baku). He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for aerial combat and ground strafing. The RFC squadron of 24 BE2C aircraft gained air superiority and supplied reconnaissance intelligence on the disposition of Ottoman Turkish divisions massing to repel the invading British-Indian army advancing along the River Tigris; the RFC also air-dropped small amounts of food and ammunition to the 8000 British-Indian garrison trapped in the 1915/16 the siege of Kurt-al-Amara. The battle for Kut, noted for its brutality and horror, ended in April 1916 with the abject surrender of General Townsend and the garrison many of whom collapsed with disease and heat stroke in the subsequent death marches to captivity. Thirty thousand Anglo-Indian troops had been slaughtered in the Mesopotamian campaign.



*General Townsend captured by Khalil Pasha, Commander of the Ottoman Turkish Army after the Fall of Kut-al-Amara.*

(My father Albert Bland, a 19 year old sharp-shooter from the 7th Hampshire regiment, was selected to join the detachment protecting disgraced senior commanders fleeing on a boat down river to Basra to face court martial in India. As the boat passed through hostile tribal territory they were pursued by mounted tribesmen firing from the banks of the Tigris. He had survived the battle and defeat at Kut-al-Amara because he was a good shot being a farmer's son trained to shoot rabbits for dinner—and consequently I exist to tell the tale. However, following his experience of the ghastly campaign he was afflicted by post traumatic stress disorder and guilt until he died in 1983).

In 1924 Miles Thomas joined the sales team of Morris Motors founded in 1919 by William Morris (who became Lord Nuffield and then Baron Nuffield in 1934). At the same time in 1924, Miles Thomas married Lord Nuffield's secretary and rose to become Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Morris Motors from 1940 to 1947 responsible for mass production of the Cruiser tank and other heavy equipment for the British army in WW2.

In 1948 he was appointed Chairman of British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) where in 1952 he introduced a fleet of de Havilland Comets, the first elegant supersonic jet airliners. Disaster followed within a year. Three Comets disintegrated soon after take-off with the loss of crews and passengers. Alternating pressurisation of the cabin had caused metal fatigue and cracks in the walls near portholes and doors leading to catastrophic collapse of the fuselage. The Comets were redesigned and reincarnated as the Nimrod aircraft for surveillance and intelligence gathering and anti-submarine warfare.

Miles Thomas left BOAC and was appointed Chairman of Monsanto in 1956. Before retiring, he became President of the National Farmers Union in 1960. He was rewarded with a peerage and became Baron Thomas of Remenham in 1971

### **Sir William Henry Barber 1st Baronet and Dame Constance Hattie Barber - lived in Culham Court, Aston, Remenham from 1893 to the late 1920s**

Constance Hattie (born 1869) was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and had parents whose business cornered the industrial bellows manufacturing market when Birmingham was the workshop of the world. Consequently she was an heiress in her own right when in 1893 she met and married Henry Barber (born 1860). She was 24, he was 33. He was a solicitor and property developer who had already made his fortune creating housing for the expanding Birmingham (population growth from 300,000 in 1851 to 745,000 in 1901). This wealthy couple immediately retired from 'trade' and set out to be landed gentry at Culham Court. They succeeded magnificently. He became Sir Henry Barber, Master of the South Oxfordshire Hunt and in 1924, 1st Baronet of Culham Court in the County of Berkshire. She was no shrinking violet; reputed to be forceful and straight forward, she had 25 'swagger' portraits painted of herself. Continuing to keep close ties with Birmingham, they made substantial donations to create the university there and fund professorial chairs in Law and Jurisprudence. He died in 1927 aged 67. In his memory she then decided to bequeath all her assets to founding and developing The Barber Institute of Fine Arts and concert hall in

Birmingham University; it now rivals the Ashmolean museum in Oxford and the Dulwich gallery in London. She died in 1933 aged 64. They are buried in Remenham in the St Nicholas lower churchyard beneath a large white cross near the lych gate.

Like our St Nicholas 1700 years ago, they enjoyed donating most of their wealth to deserving causes. I like to think that they were not serious high minded Victorians in the 1890s when they were a young couple but were more like Judy Garland and Fred Astaire in Irving Berlin's song in the film Easter Parade:-

*We're a couple of swells/We stay at the best hotels/ But we prefer the country far away from the city smells// Wall Street bankers are we/ With plenty of currency// The Vanderbilts have asked us to tea/ We don't know how to get there, no siree //So we'll walk up the avenue, / Yes we'll walk up the avenue/ Yes a walk up the avenue's what we'll take.*

*Jim Bland, Matson Drive, Remenham. June 2018*

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