

# REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



**Remenham Artists** - *photograph of the poppies at  
the Tower of London, by Jenny Law*

No 265 – November-December 2018

## **SPECIAL SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS REMENHAM**

### **Sunday 11 November**

10.55am Act of Remembrance in church  
followed by sung Matins

### **Sunday 9 December**

#### **Patronal Festival**

11.15am sung Holy Communion (BCP)  
followed by drinks in church



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES – ST NICHOLAS, REMENHAM**

### **Sunday 16 December**

11.15am said matins (BCP)  
4.00pm candlelit service of 9 lessons and carols  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Hall

### **Sunday 23 December**

11.15am said Matins (BCP)

### **Monday 24 December**

9.00pm candlelit Holy Communion (BCP) with carols

### **Monday 25 December**

11.15am children's service with Holy Communion and carols (45 minutes)



# THE CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

Rector

St Mary's, Henley }  
St Nicholas, Remenham }

Revd Jeremy Tayler

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

Churchwardens

Charlotte Every      Tel: 07973 798071  
   [churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk)  
John Laing              Tel: 07778 464162

Churchwarden emeritus

Mike Dowsett              Tel: 01491 575711

Treasurer

Nigel Gray              Tel: 01491 572024

Secretary

Mandy Sermon              Tel: 01491 412908

Sidesmen

1st Sunday	Antony Duckett	Rosemary Duckett
2nd Sunday	Anthony West	Sarah West
3rd Sunday	Peter Forrester	Charlotte Every
4th Sunday	John Laing	Sue Laing
5th Sunday	Glen Palethorpe	Ruth Palethorpe

## NORMAL SERVICES

11.15am	Matins (BCP)	First Sunday
11.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Second Sunday
11.15am	Matins (BCP)	Third Sunday
11.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Fourth Sunday
11.15am	Matins (BCP)	Fifth Sunday

*(Please see website for variations to the normal pattern in November/December.)*

Parish Office: Monday & Tuesday 9.30am-12.30pm, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am-4.30pm  
Tel: 01491 577340, email: [office.hwr@lineone.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

Bill Ronald: Highway Cottage, Aston Lane, Aston, Henley on Thames RG9 3DE

(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

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
<b>Jan-Feb 2019</b>	<b>Friday 28 December 2018</b>	<b>Friday 4 January 2019</b>
Mar-Apr 2019	Friday 22 February 2019	Friday 1 March 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

November	Mike Dowsett	
December	Penny Whitfield	Jayne Gray

### ALTAR FLOWERS

November	Charlotte Every	Suzanne Came
December	ADVENT	

### PARISH REGISTER

#### Baptism

30 September	Astrid Elizabeth Yarrow CARTER
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#### Funerals

22 September	Patricia Lerche-Thomsen
2 October	Donald Dawes

## REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

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

Revd Jeremy Tayler, Chairman:

Nigel Gray, 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)*

### November

10th	7.30pm	Beetle Drive, Parish Hall
11th	10.55am	Act of Remembrance followed by Matins, St Nicholas
12th	2.30pm	W.I. meeting, Parish Hall, for Christmas Miscellany and tea
13th	8.00pm	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall
22nd		W.I. visit to National Trust 'Christmas Wonderland' Waddesdon Manor

### December

9th	11.15am	Patronal Festival followed by drinks, St Nicholas
???		W.I. Christmas lunch
11th	8.00pm	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall
16th	4.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Hall
24th	9.00pm	Christmas Eve candlelit Holy Communion
25th	11.15am	Christmas Day Family Service (45 minutes)

### Further ahead

12th January	'Letters' - an entertaining literary evening, 7.00pm, Parish Hall
8th February	Cricket Club Quiz Night, The Pavilion

## FROM THE EDITOR

*After a busy Autumn (so far) with the fun of the Remenham Fayre and Harvest Supper, we now have another even busier two months to look forward to.*

*First the Beetle Drive on Saturday 10 November - very soon!- it is terrific fun for all ages, with lots of laughter. There are only a few tickets left, so be quick! See page 17. This will be followed by Remembrance Day the next day, and shortly after that the excitement of Christmas, with all the Christmas services, mulled wine and mince pies. The Remenham Church choir is gathering itself together for its annual appearance on 16 December!*

*Looking further ahead, please put Saturday 12 January in your diaries now - see page 16!*

*It is a bumper edition this time, with the Parish Council information about the Polo Field at the top of the hill, and I'm pleased that the extra pages means there is room for the whole of Jim Bland's wonderful historical article about the people of our village. Do read the footnotes!*

*Finally, I was determined to find a corner for a unique photograph, which Darrel Poulos took from the tow path during the recent 'blood moon/blue moon'.*



*Darrel has called this 'The Angel of Remenham' - you can see why - but he says the composition is a total accident and he claims no photographic creativity. Nevertheless he is to be thanked and congratulated on capturing a beautiful moment.*

*See you at the Beetle Drive and the Carol Service!*

*Felicity, [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk))*

# FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Remenham friends

Thank you all so much for the warm welcome you have given to me and my family. And yet whilst there has been so much warmth and conviviality here in Remenham during these past weeks, we might be forgiven for feeling more than a little gloomy as we look at the world around us. The Brexit negotiations become ever more complex and difficult, and the threat of political instability such as we have not known in this country for many years seems increasingly real. This against the backdrop of an unpredictable international scene, with the populist right on the rise in much of the West, and arrogant tyrants dominating the stage in other places; a world of torn-up treaties, cruel and complex wars, and strange and brazen assassinations, all amidst an electronic whirl of politicised misinformation. And as if that were not enough to worry about, we hear increasingly alarming warnings from scientists about the environmental dangers facing the planet, to which we seem quite unable to adequately respond.

The month of November, from All Saints' Day to Christ the King, is sometimes known as "Kingdomtide", and reflecting on this season gives us a broader perspective in which to consider the strange and unsettling times in which we live.

All Saints' Day reminds us that we are not alone, but rather we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12.1). Many of the saints lived through difficult and unsettling times, whether we are thinking of the martyrs of the early church, S. Augustine and the decline of the Roman Empire, or those who paid a heavy price for standing against the totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century. Their stories inspire us, and more than that, their prayers for us and for the whole church continue to rise like incense before God (Revelation 8.4).

On All Souls' Day we remember with gratitude and love those who have gone before us in this life, and we commend them to God's mercy, love and care.

Remembrance Sunday reminds us of the ease with which apparently educated and civilised societies can slide into violence; it reminds us of the terrible consequences of choosing worldly power over truth; and it reminds us above all that the freedom and prosperity we have become used to have been built on the back of very great sacrifice and loss.

And at the end of the month, and at the end of the Christian year, the feast of Christ the King celebrates and proclaims the rule of the one who "emptied himself... And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross" (Philippians 2.7-8). We rejoice that all human power is transitory, and that lies and bluster and violence can never have the last word.

Thank you once again for your welcome; I look forward to getting to know you all during Kingdomtide and beyond.

*Fr Jeremy*

### September

Our President Daphne Austen was in the Chair. She reported on the Summer Tea Party, a delightful afternoon in her garden. The Remenham Village Fayre had been a great success, our W.I. served tea and cake, and gave a proportion of the takings to the Fayre. We also had a happy day making cards in our president's garden. She then told us of future dates: Remenham W.I. are putting on a Christmas miscellany on the 12th November, Mike Brooker will be directing this. A visit by coach to Waddesdon Manor, to visit the National Trust "Christmas Wonderland" on 22 November is planned. The W.I. Scrap book was on show, this was started in the sixties and kept up by Judy Fraser, but as she has now retired a new collator is sought. Venues for our Christmas lunch are being investigated.



As it was our members meeting, Enid Light gave us a very interesting appraisal of Dame Millicent Fawcett's life. She was born in 1847 from a large well off family in Aldborough. They were all educated at boarding school. One of her sisters qualified as the first woman doctor. Dame Millicent married Henry Fawcett in 1867. He was 14 years older and had been blinded in a shooting accident. They had one daughter Philippa who was a brilliant mathematician. The couple started Newnham College for women. Dame Millicent became involved with the Suffragette movement in 1914 when she organised a march of some 6,000 women to Parliament. She then became a member of the NFW Suffragette movement in 1918. Mrs Pankhurst and her members were much better known to the public, as they were very violent. This was not Dame Millicent's style.

Enid told us a couple of interesting asides: one time her handbag was snatched and her husband had to go to court, as women could not own anything in their own name in those days, even though she had made the money contents with her writing and books. She was also a friend of Parry's, who wrote the hymn Jerusalem. He was going to mothball it, but she persuaded him to publish it and it was first sung at a Suffragette meeting. And we all know how well known and so often sung it is now. In 1914 she was given a special brooch as a thank you for organising the march to Parliament, a beautiful one in the Suffragette colours of green, white and violet. Recently one came up on the Antique Road Show programme - it was valued at around £57,000, but of course it is priceless. Gillian Waring was commissioned to make the statue of Dame Millicent, which is now the only one of a woman in Parliament Square, amongst the 11 men. "Courage calls to Courage everywhere". At the unveiling Teresa May said "if it hadn't been for her I would not be here as Prime Minister now". Dame Millicent was made a Dame in 1925. After her husband died she sold both their houses, one in London and one in Cambridge, and lived with her Sister Agnes at number 2 Gower Street until she died in 1929. Enid was warmly thanked for her talk.

Next Judy Palmer gave us a piece she had written for a Berkshire competition, entitled "The time of my life". In 1960 Judy and Roy married and decided to go on an Adventure and make a fortune. Long before the times of gap years and foreign holidays, they set off newly married and poor, for a job with the Colonial service. This involved three weeks on board a ship to Mombassa and then a train to Kikuyu village, which was well known for the riots and murders, but mercifully all this was over and peaceful and Kenyatta was in prison (Judy said she did see him when he was released). Judy and Roy set up home in a Colonial style bungalow with two very loyal staff, a houseboy who cooked and a gardener, a great surprise to them. It was so exciting, with animals all over the place, and they went to the Norangoro crater long before tourists in zebra striped jeeps, seeing herds of animals. They also flew to Zanzibar in a Dakota. All a wonderful experience but NO fortune! All such a contrast to Dame Millicent's life 50 years earlier.

Members gave Judy a sincere vote of thanks.

The afternoon was completed by card making, with all the ingredients supplied by Daphne. These will be for sale at £1.50 each and we hope to sell 100. All this towards 100 years of the W.I. Members have nearly knitted their hoped for total of 100 bonnets for premature babies at The Royal Berks Hospital, and also we are collecting for 100 Welcome bags for A and E patients - also a request from the Hospital. As it was a special birthday for Blanche Williams we had a special tea with a cake with candles. Belinda Fitzwilliams won the competition for the best bloom from ones garden. An excellent afternoon was enjoyed by all 14 members present,. Our next meeting is on October 8th at Remenham Parish Hall at 2.30pm and the talk is "Being a Royal Footman". All are welcome.

## **October**

As our speaker wished to get off early, our President Daphne Austen introduced him - Ian Scott-Hunter - to give us his talk "The memoirs of a Royal Footman". He commenced his talk by telling us of the accident that brought him and the family to London from North Wales. Their daughter Alexandra had a brain haemorrhage and was taken to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London for treatment. So the family moved to Highgate. Ian needed a job and he answered an advertisement for a valet to Prince Philip, but this had been filled. A Mr Tims interviewed Ian and he got a job as a footman. The family were given an apartment in the Royal Mews which went with the job, but this was not suitable with Alexandra's problems, so the family were given a ground floor apartment in Hampton Court. There was much to learn, how to valet the Queen's Guests, laying out their clothes, running their baths, laying tables, and how to get off and on moving carriages. Their uniforms were varied, black tail coats for days and red for evenings. On Britannia white jackets were worn. There are 12 footmen working in 2 sets. At Ascot times all work full time, but are recompensed later. Duties were varied between the Queen's well regulated yearly arrangements between Balmoral, The Palace, Windsor and Sandringham, Britannia, the Royal Flight (no longer used), and the Royal train. Ian had many amusing times, many varied, Once a gentleman was so nervous at being presented to the Queen, he was told to copy exactly what the person in front had done, so this chap copied, BUT the person in front was a woman, so he curtsied! The Queen never flinched and helped him to his feet. Another time at a staff party it was his turn to

dance with the Queen, he said "Ma'am, I'm afraid I am no dancer" and she said "Never mind we'll just pretend"! There was a time he had to take the Corgis out. Not a dog person, he counted them all the time, in case he lost some. This was at Sandringham and the Queen Mother was writing letters and watching out of the window. She said "The Queen controls her Corgis perfectly"! Prince Philip does not appreciate the noise of the planes over Windsor. An American visitor was once heard to say "Why did they build the Castle so near the airport". Ian now works for Princess Alexandra, and they are starting a Hospice Charity. All had enjoyed Ian's talk, and he was sincerely thanked by Rosemary Pratt on behalf of us all

Daphne then went through the business part of the meeting, our outing to Waddesdon, the Christmas Do, Tickets for our Christmas lunch in Henley. A new member Kay Stevens was welcomed. While a good tea was being prepared by Jen Terry and helpers, we all had to take part in a quiz. Jackie Stevens and her table won. A super afternoon.

Our next meeting is Christmas events with a super tea at the Parish Hall at £5 pp, at 2.30pm on Monday 12th November. All are very welcome.

*Sheila Constantinidi*



**The Remenham W.I. teas, coffees and cakes are an essential part of the  
Remenham Village Fayre in September each year**



## REMENHAM - A TREASURE TROVE OF INFORMATION

*The following is Jim Bland's penultimate article on the mansions of Remenham and their inhabitants/celebrities. After the final one in the next issue I shall be twisting Jim's arm to start another series of historical anecdotes about our fascinating village. Editor*

### THE SELWYNS OF WILMINSTER HOUSE, REMENHAM

This photograph below was probably taken in about 1878 in a Church of England Mission Station on Norfolk Island, South Pacific. The small child sitting on the top-hatted Bishop John Richardson Selwyn's knee became the Reverend Stephen John Selwyn (1875-1960) who, in 1921, moved from Repton, Derbyshire with his family into Remenham. He bought Wilminster House because he had received a substantial inheritance from the 18th century Selwyn estate - Matson Park, Gloucestershire (hence the renaming of the track from Wilminster House to the Little Angel as Matson Drive). His youngest son Teddy Selwyn (1921-2009) became a well known character locally and, as a 'named' broker of Lloyds of London, regularly took the train from Henley to London wearing a bowler hat and carrying a rolled umbrella. He 'downsized' from Wilminster House to Barn Cottage, Remenham Lane about 20 years ago after a trying year of insurance claims against Lloyd's. Apart from Remembrance services in St Nicholas Church, ceremoniously intoning, in a loud deep voice, the names of Remenham Servicemen who had fallen in two world wars, he did not follow in the preaching and muscular Christianity of his grandfather and great grandfather Bishops. Nor did he shine in swimming, ocean sailing or the Selwyn cult of rowing. (As young men, both bishops had rowed in the University Boat Races in 1829, 1864 and 1866). However, like them, he was an accomplished horse rider. He regularly read the 'Horse and Hound' journal in the Leander Club.



Both John Richardson Selwyn and his father George Augustus Selwyn were said to be “the finest colonial missionaries of the Victorian age”. They were Bishops in New Zealand and the Melanesian Islands of the S W Pacific Ocean over a period totaling at least 50 years between 1841 and 1893; they founded mission stations, schools and hostels in Waimate NZ, Auckland NZ and Norfolk Island. New Zealand became an English colony receiving about 300,000 English settlers by the end of the 19th century. George Augustus Selwyn was credited by the New Zealanders with “helping to build the nation of New Zealand”. However, “He incurred unpopularity with the British Government because he condemned the contempt with which they viewed Maori law, and their appropriation of Maori land”.

After George Augustus Selwyn died (as Bishop of Lichfield) in 1878, Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone and friends founded Selwyn College, Cambridge in 1882 in his memory, “to supply men willing to be missionaries, clerical and lay, at home and abroad”. Bishop John Richardson Selwyn became the second Master of Selwyn College in 1893. By that time he was severely disabled and unable to stand, so the Queen granted permission for the loyal toast at dinner in college to be said with everyone sitting down. He died in SW France in 1898. He had been an enthusiastic admirer of Melanesian artistic culture and presented over 250 objects to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University.



The sophisticated artistic culture of these SW Pacific Islands is displayed in the current blockbuster 'Oceania' exhibition at the Royal Academy, ending on the 10th of December 2018. Over 200 finely wrought works of art are on show accompanied by lectures and a video installation, 'In pursuit of Venus {infected}', made by a leading Maori artist Lisa Reihana, where there is a tension and backdrop of violence—a drama that ends in tragedy”.



Clearly the islanders were not a childlike acquiescent people in an exotic paradise. For example, in 1871 John Coleridge Patteson (nephew of Samuel Taylor Coleridge—poet of The Ancient Mariner) first Bishop of Melanesia, another athletic swimmer, was murdered by the natives of Nakapu in the Santa Cruz islands when he swam ashore clad in his under clothes and wearing a top hat packed with cheap baubles. The murderers were either spurning the inartistic rubbishy baubles or repelling sailors, who could be 19th century slave traders out to seize slaves for the plantations of Fiji or Eastern Australia.

In addition to their artistic creativity, the islanders were remarkable navigators, sailing in their double-hulled outrigger canoes over vast distances of the Pacific Ocean. The crocodile shaped feast trough, above, was used to celebrate raids to capture heads of their enemies.

The Polynesian culture was profoundly spiritual based on worship of forebears—antecedents who dwell in ancestral homelands. They thought that the future is behind you where you can't see it. Their concept of time was an amalgam of the now, past and present rather like T S Eliot's famous Fourth Quartet 'Burnt Norton'.

*Time present and time past,  
Are both perhaps present in time future,  
And time future contained in time past.  
If all time is eternally present  
All time is unredeemable.*

*Jim Bland  
Matson Drive, Remenham, October 2018*

## Sources

- Selwyn College, A History - by W R Brock and P H M Cooper - The Pentland Press 1994
- The Other Selwyn, John Richardson Selwyn in Melanesia and Cambridge by Sonia Adams, Lucie Carreau & Elizabeth Stratton - European Research Council [FP /2007-2013]
- Oceania- Eyes on the Horizon - Maria Jessop Nuku and others explore the art and culture of Oceania, page 52 RA Magazine Autumn 2018

## Footnotes

- By chance in 1974 I and my late wife Jill and our young family came to live in the Coach House, Matson Drive which had housed the horses and grooms of the Selwyns of nearby Wilminster House. Coincidentally, I had been a scholar and post-graduate PhD Student at Selwyn College (1948-1956). My late son Tony became a Fellow of Selwyn College in 1988 and Professor of Physics at Cambridge 2001- 2007.
- When Teddy Selwyn hit hard times and became frail in the last years of his life Pat Sly and her late husband Peter took him under their wing so that he could still make daily trips from Barn Cottage through the hole in the hedge to the Leander Club on his mobility trolley.

# REMENHAM FAYRE PRIZE WINNERS

## Produce show cups

Classes 1-6: Helen Rosier

Classes 7-9:

Cora Rosamund

Classes 10-13: Ann Burley

Class 14:

Not awarded (no entries)

**Card game** - Ausonia Symonds

**Guess no of Jelly Babies:** Answer 223, closest guess 210 - Beverley Thompson

**Win a Pig:** Adult winner - Danielle Child winner - Cody

## Raffle

Little Angel Voucher	Charlotte Every	Turkey	Helen Rosier
MOT voucher	Ann Burley	Hobbs gin	Felicity Rutland
Fruit Basket	Marilyn Dudley	Champagne	Kelly D
Pimms and lemonade	Victoria	Sherry	Sally Anne Plunket
Port	Helen R	Chocolates	Jane Franks
Child's knitting case	Ann Francis	Candles	David Mills
Coffee set	Kelly D	Tray	Nicola

## Children's races

**Running:** 1) Alicia 2) Dylan

**Sack race:** 1) Alicia 2) Dylan 3) Ada

**3 legged race:** 1) Ada and Dylan 2) Cora and Nicola

**4 legged race:** 1) Alicia, Agatha and Gareth  
2) Ada, Dylan and Mark (crossed line first/disqualified for coming untied!!)

## Tug of war

**Ladies vs girls:** Ladies won

**Girls vs boys:** Girls won - Affected by slope advantage?

**All in:** Won by whichever team pulled from the right !!!

## Dog show

### Best older dog

- 1) *Harry and Blue*
- 2) *Susannah and Bernie*
- 3) *Helen and Simba*
- 4) *Millie and Domino*

### Best trick

- 1) *Alex and Olly (speak and guess)*
- 2) *Linda and Coco (Hi Five)*
- 3) *Helen and Simba (weave)*
- 4) *Lisa and Mishka (shake paw)*

**Best Sausage Catcher:** ??

*Please let us know!!*

### Best Puppy

- 1) *Anita and Doris*
- 2) *Jo and Lola*
- 3) *Ann and Treacle*
- 4) *Panalee and Spot*

### Best Village Pooch

- 1) *Lisa and Mishka*
- 2) *Anna and Jake*
- 3) *Mike and Mike*
- 4) *Helen and Olive*
- 5) *Lisa and Archie*
- 6) *Alex and Olly*

*Ann Burley*

## REMENHAM FAYRE - SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

*This selection of Mark Stevens' wonderful photographs sums up the atmosphere of a very happy and successful afternoon - more on the website, [www.remenhamparish.org.uk](http://www.remenhamparish.org.uk)*







Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>  
1960.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Dear Mr. President

# Letters

Join us for an entertaining evening of remarkable letters brought to life by our cast of local professional and "thespian" actors, celebrating the power of literary correspondence.

**Saturday 12th January**

7pm for a 7:30pm start  
Remenham Parish Hall

£15 including canapés and a glass of fizz (or first drink)

Contact Allan Henderson for tickets  
[allanhenderson@me.com](mailto:allanhenderson@me.com)

07812044113

## GREAT NEWS FROM HENLEY CRICKET CLUB

On 29 October 2018 after over 10 years of fundraising, John Nelson, the club's President, presented a cheque for £20,000 to Henley Town Council; this paid off the outstanding balance of the £200,000 loan that the Council had made to help the Club buy the Ground from Brakspears. This is a major achievement which has protected this wonderful part of Remenham.



*Henley Cricket Club  
present Henley Town Council  
with the final payment on the ground purchase loan*

Thanks must go to the members of the club that made this happen, especially David Winter and Danny Hall, and also to the people of Remenham who have donated so generously (and attended all those Balls!) over the years.

The ground can now remain as it is in perpetuity. Hurrah!

*Sue Laing*

*Note from Editor: Many thanks to Sue herself - particularly with organising the Summer Balls.*

**ADVANCE NOTICE!!** The Cricket Club annual quiz, in which many Remenham residents usually take part, is on Friday 8 February. Tickets tend to sell out very quickly so get your teams together now. More details from Sue Laing - [sue@isobel.com](mailto:sue@isobel.com).



**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)



**ONLY A FEW TICKETS LEFT!!!**



## NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



The Revd Jeremy Tayler was installed as Rector of Henley and Remenham on Monday 24 September in a service at St Mary's conducted by the Bishop of Dorchester, the Arch Deacon and the Area Dean. The service was well attended by local dignitaries, clergy, a good congregation from both parishes in the Benefice, and Jeremy's former parish of St John's Wood. Keep an eye out for our new rector whizzing up and down Remenham Lane on his bicycle. If you wish to contact him, his email is [rector.hwr@btinternet.com](mailto:rector.hwr@btinternet.com) or ring him on 01491 577340.

Services continue as usual with Matins on the first, third and fifth Sunday of the month and Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays. Please note that on Sunday 11 November there will be the Act of Remembrance in church at 10.55am followed by Matins. We will be celebrating our patronal festival on the Sunday closest to St Nicholas day – this year on Sunday 9 December with Holy Communion at 11.15am followed by drinks in church.

There are some variations to the normal pattern of services in November/December and details can be found on the church website. Details of our Christmas services are below – do try and come to one of our services over the festive time.

We are pleased to report that the remedial work to the damp in church and to the flint work on the tower has now been done. The metal gates on Remenham Church Lane and by the Hall have been repainted and the paths re-graveled.

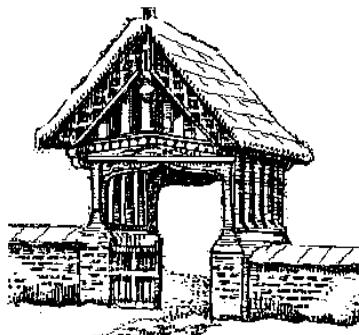
The harvest supper was held in the Parish Hall on Friday 19 October. The Hall looked very pretty with flowers on the tables and lit by tea lights. We sold 41 tickets and made £688.50. Many thanks to all those who came, who made cottage pies and apple crumbles and who gave a hand with the clearing up.

Our next event will be a beetle drive in the Parish Hall on Saturday 10 November – tickets £15.00, to include a fish and chip supper, from Sue Laing ([sue@isobel.com](mailto:sue@isobel.com)). Do try and come to this – it is always a fun and somewhat competitive evening.

Charlotte Every

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham



## REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### **SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

Superfast Berkshire is a very ambitious programme initiated in 2013 and using state aid assistance to give properties in even the most rural areas of Berkshire access to superfast broadband. To date, Berkshire's superfast broadband coverage has risen from 87% to around 97% exceeding the UK average of 95.4%.

When the Superfast Berkshire phase three contracts were signed in July 2017 with BT Group and Gigaclear we were promised that superfast broadband coverage would exceed 99% across Berkshire by September 2019. However, due to a lack of engineering capacity in the broadband industry and the rapid expansion of commitments on the relative newcomer Gigaclear both suppliers are unable to meet their original contractual delivery targets in Berkshire:

- Gigaclear's phase 3 delivery, for East Berkshire, including Wokingham Borough, scheduled for completion by September 2019 is now forecast for December 2019, three months behind schedule
- BT's phase 3 delivery, for Berkshire including Wokingham Borough, scheduled for completion by December 2018 is now forecast for December 2019, 12 months behind schedule

Obviously, we are disappointed. WBC is working closely with both suppliers to minimise these delays and to meet the broadband expectations of our communities. Any extra programme costs associated with this late delivery and other remedial works will be borne by the contractors and will not come from public funds.

We have had confirmation that Remenham is part of the delivery for the Hurley community, which is now programmed to be Dec 2019.

### **CHINA WHITE LICENSE APPLICATION**

An application was made by China White (a pop up Night Club for Henley Royal Regatta in Temple island meadows). This was objected to by the Remenham Farm Residents and the Parish Council. A hearing was arranged but prior to the hearing the parties agreed to ensure that the provisions of the new license were consistent with those of the Remenham Farm license and not in addition to it.



## **WIFI & BROADBAND PARISH HALL**

The parish council has agreed to install (due imminently) wifi and broadband in the village hall.

## **PEGASUS PLANNING**

To assist us to be more assertive in our responses to planning consultations, your parish council has engaged the services of Pegasus, a planning agent. The decision to do so reflects in our response to the Planning Applications at park Place.

“Pegasus Group is a leading national development consultancy specialising in planning, design, environment, economics and heritage. They have more than 280 skilled and experienced staff operating from twelve offices who work in collaboration with our clients to provide bespoke solutions focusing on delivering successful outcomes and maximising value. They combine local and national knowledge of the property and development industry to provide an unrivalled understanding of what is required to make schemes successful. The integrated teams combine knowledge and expertise and have worked on some of the UK’s highest profile projects, developing excellent relationships with our clients and winning awards in the process.”

Andy Meader, the regional director, is a Wargrave resident. He began his career as a Planning Officer with Hertsmere Borough Council, after which he has spent the last 20 years in private practice. Having operated his own practice, Andy established the Pegasus Group Bracknell office in 2007. He has since built up the office to serve a variety of clients, ranging from individual landowners to national housebuilders on sites across the South East.



In addition to the management of planning applications and appeals, Andy has also successfully promoted sites through the Development Plan system, including major mixed-use urban expansion schemes. Whilst typically representing private sector companies, Andy’s clients also include Local Authorities and Resident Groups, with regards both individual planning proposals and Local Plan input.

## **PARK PLACE POLO**

The proposal for the Polo Pitch in Park Place was controversial at the time, but the applicant agreed to a substantial number of conditions, the principle one of which was that it was a private facility for occasional use.

Since the application was approved, residents in Remenham Hill and Park Place have undergone two years of disruption and nuisance and the establishment is considerably larger and busier than the Parish Council or any resident anticipated. There are two new proposals which would make the site even busier. As this is an issue which has caused a huge concern for the village, I take the unusual step in printing in this newsletter the very long representations made.

The two proposals are:

- 182327 - Full planning application for the proposed erection of grooms accommodation with a players gym following the demolition of existing outbuilding.
- 182524 - Full planning permission for the erection of a stable (consisting of 24 boxes, tack room, feed room and storage) with outdoor arena

Both proposals are contrary to Green Belt policy. Green Belt policy is set out in the NPPF and applies to all designated Green Belts in the Country. Inappropriate development within the Green Belt is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances. Paragraph 145 of the NPPF sets out a number of exceptions where new buildings may be permissible. These include a) buildings for agriculture and forestry, b) for the provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, recreation, cemeteries, and allotments, c) the extension or alteration of a building, d) the replacement of a building, e) limited infilling in villages, f) limited affordable housing for local community needs or g) limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed land. Each of these exceptions have further limitations attached to them. The current application warrants consideration against three of the exceptions, these being b, d and g. Firstly, exception 'b' states that the provision of "appropriate" facilities in connection with the existing use of land for outdoor sport is deemed to be acceptable.

The question over whether there is a requirement for 10 grooms to live onsite needs to be fully considered by Wokingham Borough Council. It cannot be appropriate that all staff who assist in the running of the facility must reside on site. It is clearly not necessary for the existing use of the site, given that the facility has operated without grooms' accommodation to date.

Whilst recognising that there would be a connection between the groom and the location i.e. it's their place of work, this should not imply that there is any requirement to live on site. If such a connection was considered to justify adherence with criterion (b) as an appropriate facility for sport, then every groundsman with a pitch, park or cemetery in the Green Belt will be able to justify a new home next to it, and everyone who works on an allotment could build an adjoining house too! Quite clearly this cannot be the intention of national guidance on the matter, given the underlying intention of Green Belt policy and guidance.

If the requirement is for the welfare and security of the horses, then accommodation for one groom to stay overnight may be considered to be appropriate. However, if that really is the requirement then the accommodation should be located adjacent to where the horses are, and not over 600 metres away as currently proposed. Appropriate facilities for outdoor sport within the Green Belt should relate to facilities that are necessary to ensure the functionality of the facility in order to allow the sport to take place.

Similarly, the suggestion that a gym is an appropriate facility on site, simply because it is something that might be used by some of the Polo players, is not accepted. It is quite clearly not necessary to enable Polo to be played. Players of many sports would typically use gyms that are in a different location to where they actually play their outdoor sport. Quite often such a gym would be within an urban area.

Neither the grooms accommodation or the gym, in this instance, can be reasonably considered as appropriate facilities to satisfy criterion (b) of paragraph 145. Whilst the proposed stables might on initial consideration appear to be an appropriate facility for the outdoor sport of polo, consideration needs to be given to the fact that paragraph 145 refers to it relating to the existing use of land or a change of use. In this instance, no application has been made for a change of use, albeit for reasons explained later, such an application is considered necessary. On the basis that the current application is therefore providing stables

for the existing use, the question needs to be asked; how many stables are appropriate for the existing use? For reasons explained later in this submission, the current proposals are combining to result in a use that is different to that previously granted by the Council, which related to use by the residents and guests of Park Place only, and not to be used as a private club. It is understood the proposed additional stables would result in a total of 74 stables on site. Such a scale of provision is not considered to be appropriate for the existing/authorised use of the land and is akin to a fully commercial operation in terms of activity and impact.

Even if Officers disagree on the above and conclude that the proposed facilities are appropriate for outdoor sport, criterion (b) of paragraph 145 still requires such facilities to preserve the openness of the Green Belt and not to conflict with the purposes of including land within it. Taking the latter point first, there are five purposes of including land within the Green Belt, as set out in the NPPF; a) to check unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas, b) to prevent towns merging into one another, c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment, d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns and e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land. In this case the proposed scheme, through the introduction of substantial additional buildings, some of which could reasonably be accommodated within urban land, would be in conflict with purposes (c) and (e).

With regards potential impact upon openness, the proposed American barn stable block does not preserve the openness of the Green Belt as it is a new building on a previously undeveloped piece of land. No justification has been provided to show that the building will preserve the openness of the Green Belt and by virtue that considerable built development is proposed where none is currently present, the openness is clearly not preserved. Whether or not the stable block is screened from public views, the openness is harmed. Furthermore, re-siting the arena to the west of its current position will allow for development to encroach further on the Countryside, thereby not complying with that Green Belt purpose.

With regards criterion (b) of paragraph 145 it is therefore considered that there is no justification to consider the proposed grooms accommodation, gym and stables as an appropriate facility for outdoor sport, and that even if considered appropriate, the proposed developments will detract from the openness, and not adhere with the purposes of the Green Belt. Turning to criterion 'd' of paragraph 145, this states that replacement buildings may be acceptable, however they must be within the same use class and the replacement building cannot be materially larger than the one that it replaces. In this instance, the proposed groom's accommodation and gym has sought to be justified by demolishing an existing building on site. However, the building would not be within the same use as the one that it would be replacing which is a pre-requisite of the policy. Furthermore, according to the volumetric calculations included on the Council's website, the proposed replacement building would be 31% larger than the one that it replaces; 31% is a material size increase.

Therefore, the replacement building argument does not comply with the requirements of part d of paragraph 145 of the NPPF 2018. Turning to criterion 'g' of paragraph 145, this allows for "limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed land, whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings), which would:

- Not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than the existing development; or
- Not cause substantial harm to the openness of the Green Belt where the development would re-use previously developed land and contribute to meeting an identified affordable housing need within the area of the local planning authority.”

As the proposals do not include any affordable housing provision, it is the first part of this policy that may apply. The policy allows for limited infilling on previously developed land in continuing use provided that the development would not result in any greater impact upon the openness of the Green Belt than the existing development. It cannot be argued that the proposals would not have a greater impact upon the openness of the Green Belt where both proposals include the provision of new development. One building is proposed for demolition, however, as discussed previously, the proposed replacement is materially larger and therefore would have a greater impact upon openness. Therefore, the proposals both also fail when assessed against this criterion of paragraph 145.

Wokingham Borough Council have regularly adopted the stance of suggesting comparatively small scale residential extensions, and other minor development would detract from the openness of the Green Belt. It would be entirely inconsistent to conclude that development of the scale proposed in the current applications does not detract from the openness of this part of the Green Belt. It therefore follows that the applications cannot adhere with the requirements of any of the ‘exception’ criteria for new buildings set out in paragraph 145 of the NPPF. Subsequently in accordance with national and local planning guidance, in order to be granted planning permission, very special circumstances need to be demonstrated.

No very special circumstances have even been submitted for consideration in these applications to warrant allowing inappropriate harmful development within the Green Belt. Therefore, the proposals should be refused for being in conflict with Green Belt policy at national and local level.

In addition to the impact upon the Green Belt, and hence conflict with policy, both proposals raise further concerns as follows;

- The site is part of the grade II\* listed Park and Garden of Park Place and as such due regard should be paid to the sensitive historic nature of the site. There does not however, appear to be any supporting documentation accompanying either planning application submissions to consider the impact of the proposals on this heritage asset. Reading through the documentation and Officer’s report for the original planning application for the polo facility, it is apparent that the area where the stables are now proposed was considered to be a sensitive area of the site. As such, the stables proposed under the previous application were sunken into the landscape to ensure that they did not interrupt important view points. This is not proposed with the new stable building, and therefore there is concern that they would have a harmful impact upon the grade II\* listed Park and Garden. The fact the matter hasn’t even been addressed in the application submission indicates that no consideration has been given to it, or that harm is likely and hence the Applicants have chosen not to highlight it. Either way, more details are necessary on the matter before consideration can be given to it.

- The original application for the polo facility was approved subject to a number of conditions in 2016. One of the conditions of note is number 17 which is set out as follows: “The development hereby permitted shall be used only as a private facility by the occupiers and guests of Park Place only. There shall be no public access and it shall not be used as a private club. No public events associated with the development hereby permitted shall take place at any time.” [my emphasis] Interestingly this condition cites the relevant residence as Park Place, and not the Park Place estate or indeed the Malmesbury Estate. What is unclear in the submitted details for both applications, is where the other members of the Park Place Polo Team reside. In reference to the condition, they would have to occupy the main dwelling in order to use the polo facilities, or if they were guests then they would need to visit the site rather than stay permanently. Therefore, if they do not live there, it would be more appropriate to be proposing temporary stabling for their horses during the polo season, rather than permanent stabling creating a permanent blight on the Green Belt. If the horses are only then on site for the season, the grooms’ accommodation should too be of a temporary nature, albeit earlier comments have explained why even this would not be appropriate on the scale proposed.

The provision of the requirement for on-site grooms and stabling for the whole team rather suggests that the facility is no longer used solely for the enjoyment of the occupier of Park Place and their guests, but rather it is becoming a commercial facility with a large number of employees. A commercial facility of this scale should be assessed for impacts upon local amenity, highways and transport network amongst other things.

The proposed arena will replace the existing arena (which does not currently benefit from planning consent and should have been removed 3 years ago) and will be for show jumping horses rather than polo horses. Furthermore, a proportion of the proposed stables will also be solely for show jumping horses rather than polo horses. It is not clear who will be partaking in the show jumping, however, it is clearly a different sport to polo and does not therefore comply with the original polo consent. A separate formal change of use application should be submitted to cover the use of these proposed premises so that the full impact and appropriateness of the use can be assessed.

It is unclear why grooms accommodation is suddenly now required, when the original planning application was only submitted in 2016, particularly at a scale of 10 grooms. Very little information has been provided as to why the grooms need to be located on site. If it really is for the welfare of the horses, as the Agent suggested when presenting to the Parish Council on 9th October 2018, then what is the arrangement currently? Are 10 grooms really required 24 hours a day 7 days a week? As explained earlier, the fact the proposed grooms accommodation is located over 600 metres away from the nearest stables, would indicate that animal welfare is not the overriding requirement for such accommodation. Surely it would be more practical to locate them within the immediate vicinity of the horses in order to be ‘on call’ for any medical emergencies and for site security.

The Applicant’s Agent’s presentation and response to questions at the recent Parish Council Meeting, highlighted that the Polo Team associated with the site will be playing at the elite national level. This in itself suggests quite a different operation to that which would have been envisaged by the Council when granting consent previously.

At the above Parish Council meeting, the Agent did provide information on expected generation of vehicle movements, type of vehicles entering and leaving the site (including artic lorries to transport the horses, rather than horse boxes as might be assumed), the considerable number of spectators expected to be in attendance, and horses required (7 per player), whenever a match takes place. The Parish Council would be happy to provide such information to the Borough Council, which clearly illustrates that to all intents and purposes the site will operate as a private polo club, with the associated activity and impact on the local environment that results from such an operation.

The two applications that relate to the same general facilities on the same site have been submitted under two different applicants; neither of which are addressed as Park Place. This does not support their case that the facility is a private one for the occupiers of Park Place only and indeed suggests a more commercial nature to the venture. It further questions whether the proposed, and even current, operation of the site is in adherence with the requirements of the previous planning consent.

In summary, the current applications do not comply with Green Belt policy by virtue of being inappropriate development that would harm the openness of the Green Belt. No very special circumstances have been put forward to justify such inappropriate development in this instance, and the applications should be refused accordingly.

With regards development plan policy, the Council's Core Strategy and Managing Development Delivery Document refer to Green Belt requirements at policies CP12 and TB01 respectively. Whilst reference is made to earlier versions of national Green Belt guidance in the policies in question, the underlying requirement to preserve the openness of the Green Belt by preventing inappropriate development, and not conflicting with the purposes of the Green Belt is very clear. As a result, for reasons explained, the current applications are in conflict with relevant development plan policy on the issue, and the applications should be refused unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this instance, the primary material consideration is that of the NPPF and its commentary on Green Belt matters, which clearly further supports the refusal of the current planning applications. In addition, the facilities previously introduced, plus those now proposed on site appear to be resulting in a much larger, more commercial venture than just a private facility, as required by the existing consent. Officers should therefore give careful consideration to whether a change of use is now proposed, or has taken place already, which would require associated planning applications to consider wider planning matters, including the impact upon local amenity, highways and the local transport network.

In addition to the refusal of the current applications, it is therefore also considered that additional change of use applications are needed at the site, plus the consideration of such proposals upon the Listed Building on site. “

*John Halsall*

*Chairman Remenham Parish Council*

*Councillor Wokingham Borough 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 [clerk4remnpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk4remnpc@gmail.com) for Paul.

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