

# REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



Sir William Hamilton (1730-1803) - born at Park Place, Remenham.  
Cartoon by James Gillray. See page 16.



Members of the Remenham W.I. taking part in the knitting challenge for the Centenary of the Berkshire Federation of W.I.s.  
See page 14.



## REMENHAM COUNTRY FAYRE ENTRIES 2018



## HENLEY CRICKET CLUB



# HCC's Quiz Night

on

**8th February 2019**

**Teams of 6/8**

**£17.50 per person**

at

**Henley Cricket Club's Pavilion**

**7:30pm, starting 8pm sharp**

**All Food Included!**

**Paying Bar**

**Raffle**

**Contact**

Sue Laing (07885 851362 or [sue@isobel.com](mailto:sue@isobel.com))

Phil Chappell (07764 604089 or [p.chappell@btinternet.com](mailto:p.chappell@btinternet.com))

**For ticket purchases and offers of sponsorship/raffle prize**

# 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): [johnnashalsall@gmail.com](mailto:johnnashalsall@gmail.com) 07939 041 227

John Merkel (Deputy Chairman and Chairman Planning): [johnmerkel53@aol.com](mailto:johnmerkel53@aol.com) 07803 790 553

Franky Cookson (Website Editor): [franky.cookson@btinternet.com](mailto:franky.cookson@btinternet.com) 07712 834 151

Christopher Leeming (Planning): [christopherleeming@btinternet.com](mailto:christopherleeming@btinternet.com) 01491 575 237

Darrel Poulos (Henley, Traffic and Footpaths): [darrel@poulosandpartners.com](mailto:darrel@poulosandpartners.com) 07793 389 231

Bill Ronald: [Billronald@aol.com](mailto:Billronald@aol.com) 07850 357 653

Paul Sermon (Parish Clerk): [clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk) 07425 131 861

All mail to Remenham Parish Council, PO Box 4748, Henley on Thames RG9 9DH

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 normally no meeting in August.

## WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

### REMENHAM, WARGRAVE AND RUSCOMBE

John Halsall: [johnnashalsall@gmail.com](mailto:johnnashalsall@gmail.com) 07939 041 227

Graham Howe: [grahamahowe@gmail.com](mailto:grahamahowe@gmail.com) 07540 193 239

## REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

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

Revd Jeremy Tayler, Chairman	01491 577340, <a href="mailto:rector.hwr@btinternet.com">rector.hwr@btinternet.com</a>
Nigel Gray, Treasurer	01491 572024, <a href="mailto:pnigelgray@aol.com">pnigelgray@aol.com</a>
Helen Rosier	01491 573572, <a href="mailto:baz.r@live.com">baz.r@live.com</a>
Liz Cope	01491 576115, <a href="mailto:Famcope@aol.com">Famcope@aol.com</a>
Pat Sly	01491 577925, <a href="mailto:patsly@tinyworld.co.uk">patsly@tinyworld.co.uk</a>
Jayne Gray	01491 572024, <a href="mailto:Grayjaynee@aol.com">Grayjaynee@aol.com</a>
Allan Henderson	07812044113, <a href="mailto:allanhenderson@me.com">allanhenderson@me.com</a>
Sue Laing	07885851362, <a href="mailto:sue@isobel.com">sue@isobel.com</a>
Charlotte Every	07973 798071, <a href="mailto:churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk">churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk</a>

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Felicity Rutland, Riverway, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2LR,

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

## REMENHAM NEWSLETTER - THANK YOU'S

We are most grateful to those who deliver the Newsletter to every home in Remenham six times per year. We thank those involved: Gillian Murdoch and Jo Morgan, who also distribute to the other distributors, and Alison Barraclough, Ann Burley, Mandy Cook, Franky Cookson, Liz Friend, Jenny Law, Caroline Leeming, Enid Light and newcomers Fiona and Tobin Keen. Particular thanks to Jo Morgan for coordinating the advertising.

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

# REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rector	Revd Jeremy Tayler
Charlotte Every	Churchwarden
John Laing	Churchwarden
Mandy Sermon	Secretary
Nigel Gray	Treasurer
Sue Laing, Paul Sermon, Anthony West, Sarah West, Hugh Whitfield	

## CHURCH CLEANING

January	Rosemary Duckett	Minnie Wilson	Sally-Anne Plunket
February	Sarah West	Judy Bate	

## ALTAR FLOWERS

January	Sarah West	Sally-Anne Plunket
February	Penny Whitfield	Charlotte Every

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptism

24 nov	Alba Maria Rivillas Sly
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### Funerals

26 November	Joan Kuipers
21 December	Andrew Dickson

### Wedding

8 December	Matthew Byrne and Hannah Baker
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## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Months	Deadlines for Contributors	Approx. Dates for Distributors
Jan-Feb	Friday 28 December 2018	Friday 4 January 2019
<b>Mar-Apr</b>	<b>Friday 22 February 2019</b>	<b>Friday 1 March 2019</b>
May-June	Friday 26 April	Friday 3 May
July-Aug	Friday 30 June	Friday 5 July
Sept-Oct	Friday 16 August	Friday 23 August
Nov-Dec	Friday 25 October	Friday 1 November
<b>Jan-Feb 2020</b>	<b>Friday 27 December 2018</b>	<b>Friday 3 January 2019</b>

## CALLING ALL REMENHAM ARTISTS!

Thank you to the *Remenham Artists* who have contributed some absolutely wonderful pictures and photographs for use in the newsletter, principally for the front cover. My stocks are getting low so please keep them coming!

*Felicity, Editor*

*[newsletter@remenham-parish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenham-parish.org.uk)*

## **PARISH DIARY** *(See articles for more information)*

### **January**

8th 8.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall  
12th 7.00pm 'Letters' - an entertaining literary evening, Parish Hall  
14th 2.30pm W.I. meeting, Parish Hall

### **February**

8th 7.30pm Cricket Club Quiz Night, The Pavilion  
11th 2.30pm W.I. A.G.M., {Parish Hall  
12th 8.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall

### **Further ahead**

16 March am Churchyard clean-up/maintenance  
9th May Cricket Club Golf Day, Henley Golf Club

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

### **A Very Happy New Year to everyone in Remenham.**

*A week ago in the relative calm and quiet of post-Christmas I wondered how on earth I was going to produce an issue of the Remenham Newsletter! I didn't seem to have much to include at all, and I even felt a little guilty about reminding the regular contributors. However, this all changed with a vengeance and suddenly I was faced with the opposite problem of how to fit everything in! I am most grateful to those who responded so brilliantly.*

*The Parish Council report contains some important information that affects the whole of Remenham, especially about the threat to the Green Belt, and I am sure I am not alone in applauding the Parish Council's decisions to expand the litter collection scheme and the number of dog poo bins, as well as the installation of Wi-Fi at the Hall.*

*Jim Bland has concluded his series on the mansions of Remenham. The latter included the somewhat wicked cartoon on the front of this issue, and I am pleased to be able to use this - as you will see elsewhere I need some more contributions for the front cover from the artists of Remenham. (What next, Jim?)*

*It looks like being a quiet start to 2019 in Remenham, but that will no doubt change as the year progresses. The Parish Hall Committee is looking for new members and ideas - the events held at the Hall and the funds these raise are essential to the maintenance of the church and the Hall itself and the committee does a fantastic job so let's hope there's a good response.*

*Allan Henderson's 'Letters' initiative is sold out and I look forward to a write up about this in the next issue.*

*continued*



# FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Remenham friends

During Advent the church finds itself rather out-of-step with the wider world, trying as we do to keep Advent as an restrained season of preparation and expectation amidst the premature Christmas parties which increasingly fill December and even November. And in January the church and the wider world are again out-of-step, but the tables are turned: whereas January in secular culture is a rather grim month of health kicks, penny-pinching and belt-tightening – “dry January” – the church continues to feast through the joyful season of Epiphany. We dine on rich theological fare, from the feast of the Epiphany itself on 6th January, marking the visit of the Magi and the revelation of Jesus to the gentiles, through a series of further epiphanies, or revelations of the nature of Jesus: the Baptism of Christ, the turning of water into wine at the Wedding of Cana, and the beginning of Jesus’ preaching ministry.

The Epiphany season reaches its end with the great feast of Candlemas, celebrated this year on Sunday 3rd February. The infant Christ is brought to the Temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph, and the aged Simeon takes Jesus in his arms and says: “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word”. At Candlemas our extended period of relentless rejoicing finally draws to a close, and Lent can be faintly discerned on the horizon.

May the light of Christ be with you all this Epiphanytide.

*Fr Jeremy*

FROM THE EDITOR *continued*

*I am often asked to include some information about local charities or services and I do so so when I have a spare page. I am glad to have been able to squeeze in an article about fostering this time. Just as I am about to go to print I have been asked to include some information from Wokingham about a community charity but that will have to wait!*

*Please put the morning of Saturday 16 March in your diaries for the churchyard clean-up and maintenance - and bring your gardening tools. This is a wonderful community event, good fun and immensely satisfying. See you there!*

*Finally, we are very keen to make this newsletter more ‘self-funding’, so any ideas - and additional advertisers - would be warmly welcomed. We do know how much the fact that it is delivered free to every household in Remenham is valued, and we need to ensure that this continues!*

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

# NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



Since the last newsletter we have been having a busy time at St Nicholas. The Beetle Drive in November was well attended and a great success with the competitive spirit of Remenham much in evidence. We raised £800 for church/hall funds.

Our patronal festival on 9 December was well attended and we enjoyed drinks in church after the service. Our candlelit carol service on 16 December was a great success with a record attendance of over 200 with even the standing room full! Many thanks to Sebastian Thomson our organist, to the choir and to Felicity Rutland who put the choir together.

The church was flood lit over Christmas and fairy lights adorned the lychgate and wall so all looked very festive. Our Christmas services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were all well attended and Father Jeremy coped admirably with his first Christmas as Rector. Many thanks too, to the flower arrangers.

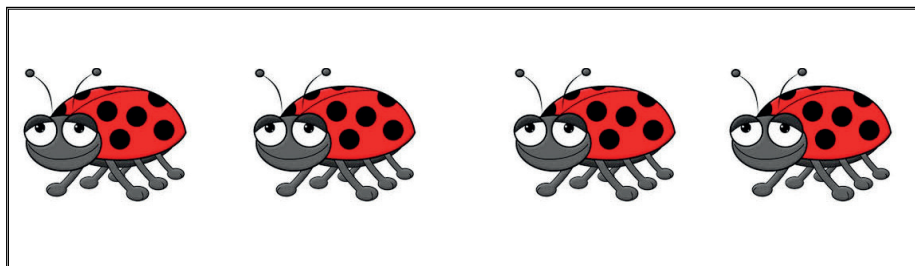
We will be having a churchyard clean up/maintenance morning on Saturday 16 March so do put the date in your diary and come along with your gardening tools and give us a hand.

A very happy new year to you all.

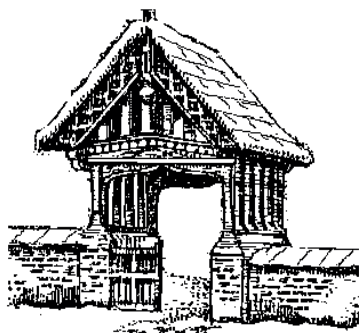
Charlotte Every

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham







## REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

After a confidence vote, WBC has a new leader, Julian McGhee-Sumner, who resigned in September as the deputy leader saying he disagreed with the “direction of travel”. Asked how he would lead the Council, Julian McGhee-Sumner said: “I want to take us back to the basics of looking after and listening to our residents.....I look forward to working with colleagues not just in Wokingham, but in Earley, Woodley, Remenham and elsewhere, to find out what they would like to see for their areas in the next few years.” Julian has served on the council since 2007 as a representative of Wescott ward, which covers the area to the south east of the town centre, where he was born and grew up.

I have been appointed Executive Member for the Environment, Leisure and Libraries which I can only describe as being the dream portfolio, which includes Environmental Services, including Licensing and Trading Standards, Trees, Rights of Way, libraries, development, flooding, community engagement, waste, sport, cultural activities and many other issues. Graham Howe is my deputy and is also the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

### PARK PLACE POLO

Thank you for all the support we received.

Both the planning applications for Park Place Polo (182524 & 182327) were rejected on the grounds that the proposals would result in harm to the openness of the designated Green Belt. It has not been demonstrated that the proposals would constitute an appropriate facility for the existing use and no very special circumstances have been demonstrated to outweigh such harm. The proposal would also not meet any of the exemption criteria as set out within the NPPF. As such, the proposal would constitute an inappropriate form of development within the Green Belt, contrary to the NPPF, Policy CP12 of the Core Strategy and policy TB01 of the Managing Development Delivery document. 2. The proposed development by virtue of its scale and massing and potential intensification of use, would result in harm to the significance of a Grade II\* Listed Park and Gardens. No public benefits have been presented to outweigh such harm. As such, the proposal would be contrary to the NPPF and Policy TB24 of the Managing Development Delivery document. 3. The proposal would be located within the designated countryside and would result in harm to its rural character. The proposal would not fall within the exemption criteria as set out in Policy CP11. As such, the proposal would be contrary to Policy CP11 of the Core Strategy. 1.

## **AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH**

The Parish Council decided to commission an aerial photograph in depth of the Parish to resist applications for certificates of lawful use and as a record for other planning applications.

## **POO BINS AND LITTER COLLECTION**

The Parish Council will in 2019 introduce further poo bins and extend the litter collection from the main thoroughfares to the footpaths.

## **WIFI & BROADBAND PARISH HALL**

After some difficulty this has been installed.

## **REWIND**

Global have indicated that they wish to extend the Rewind Festival, but no formal application has been received.

## **CPRE**

I have been elected to the Board of CPRE Berkshire

## **WBC LOCAL PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC CONSULTATION:**

### **Survey Response for Opposing Development in the Green Belt**

The long-awaited next step in the Wokingham Local Plan has started – and many of us will have seen press or received materials announcing the public consultation process which will run until February 22nd, 2019.

It is vital to respond to this if you wish to have a say on future development in the area, and it will carry more weight if the section on the Green Belt is met with a consistent public response. In response to requests for advice, our planning experts have prepared a suggested template for those who want to complete the survey and oppose development in the Green Belt at Ruscombe, which is clearly still being given serious thought by the Council.

Many Remenham residents feel that this has little to do with them. However, if the principle of Green Belt Development gains currency it will legitimise whole scale development in Remenham as well.

The survey is available on line at [www.wokingham.gov.uk/localplanupdate](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/localplanupdate) or on paper from the Council Offices at Shute End.

Every household in the Borough should have received the WBC-produced booklet “Homes for the future”. If you have not you should contact me or download it from the site above.

- The deadline for returning the completed survey is 4pm February 22nd, 2019
- You don't need to answer all the survey questions
- You do need to provide your first and last names and your post code for your response to be counted.
- You do not need to be a WBC resident - residents of neighbouring boroughs can also respond.
- You can respond via the interactive online form, on a paper form from the council offices, or on plain paper so long as you include your first and last names, and postcode.

Of course, you are entirely free to enter your own response and comments. We felt that the focus should be on resisting the principle of Green Belt release at Ruscombe, so we have not included comment guidance on other sites. We recognise that views may differ on the appropriateness or otherwise of smaller sites in the area, so you may wish to comment further in response to questions 29 and 30.

Our response relates to the general question of siting new developments (Q2) and the section focusing on the Northern Area (Q28, Q30) which WBC has identified as the villages of Twyford, Hurst, Charvil, Sonning, Wargrave and Remenham, and the surrounding countryside. The Northern Area includes all of the Green Belt in Wokingham Borough.

Our suggested responses are also on our website at [www.cprwok.co.uk](http://www.cprwok.co.uk) if you wish to copy the text.

*Question 2:* Firstly, it should not be assumed that new communities should accommodate all the Borough's housing requirements. Sites will exist, within or adjacent to settlements, that whilst not forming part of a new community may still be appropriate for development.

With regards the location for potential new communities, careful consideration needs to be given to national policy set out in the NPPF (the national Planning Policy Framework), which includes guidance upon Green Belts, a notable constraint upon development in the northern most part of Wokingham Borough.

The NPPF makes it clear that amendments to the Green Belt should only be undertaken in exceptional circumstances. Given that Wokingham Borough consists of a small proportion of Green Belt land (16%), it is apparent that exceptional circumstances will not be present to introduce a new community in to the Green Belt in this instance, because 84% of the Borough is not subject to such constraint and will therefore be better placed to accommodate such a scale of development.

The Council have been presented with a number of options for generating new communities across the Borough, the majority of which do not lie within the Green Belt. It therefore

## YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!



Could you spare some time to help Remenham by joining the Parish Hall Committee?

We are a group of 'doers and givers' who love our community.

You can have your say on future social and fundraising events and have lots of fun at the same time.

We need new members with fresh ideas who are able to commit to a maximum of six meetings a year.

Please contact Pat Sly on [patsly@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:patsly@tinyworld.co.uk) if you think you can help, or to find out more information.

follows, in specific response to the question, that the best opportunities to establish new communities will be on non-Green Belt land in the Borough.

*Question 28:* The villages in the northern area are characterised by two storey development and typically don't contain high density development at present. Densities beyond those which currently exist may therefore damage the established character that is present.

The villages in the northern area are characterised by two storey development and typically don't contain high density development at present. Densities beyond those which currently exist may therefore damage the established character that is present.

*Question 30:* I object strongly to any potential development of these sites: 5RU001 • 5RU002 • 5RU003 • 5RU004 • 5RU005 5RU006 • 5WA007.

It is clear from the Masterplanning document that if development is to be supported by the Council it would consist of several, if not all, of the above promoted sites. It is identified in the Wokingham Strategic Growth Locations Report (June 2018) as a potential strategic development opportunity for anything between 500 and 3,500 homes. Development of such scale would have a substantial detrimental impact upon the local environment, in terms of appearance, character, heritage and general amenity, all of which contribute to why we have chosen to live in the area.

The Report suggests that traffic levels at Twyford's village centre crossroads could be reduced through major new road infrastructure, building a new by-pass including an additional rail crossing. While the Twyford crossroads may suffer from congestion at peak times, this does not warrant the introduction of strategic scale development. The introduction of thousands of houses, and the traffic generated by them, will add congestion to a much wider area, and whilst potentially enhancing one specific junction would result in considerable detriment to many others. As a result, an improved cross roads junction definitely does not justify strategic scale development as proposed through the above sites.

The Report identifies a number of other enhancements that could take place as part of strategic development proposals, such as improved parking at the rail station, and the provision of community facilities. Whilst such improvements might be welcome, it is strongly considered that they can occur without strategic scale development and are therefore most definitely not a reason to justify it.

All of the above sites lie within land designated as Green Belt. The National Planning Policy Framework confirms that any changes to Green Belt boundaries (as would be needed to enable strategic scale development) can only take place in exceptional circumstances. It also requires the Council to fully examine all other reasonable options for development, before amending Green Belt boundaries. Given that 84% of Wokingham Borough is not subject to Green Belt designation, it is strongly considered that there will be other reasonable options



## **BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL**



I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal this year. Remenham raised £1381.74 which is excellent for our small village. Well done to all of you.

*Carol Wissett*

to accommodate the Borough's development needs without needing to amend Green Belt boundaries, and therefore exceptional circumstances are not present. Development of the above sites would therefore be in direct conflict with National Planning Policy.

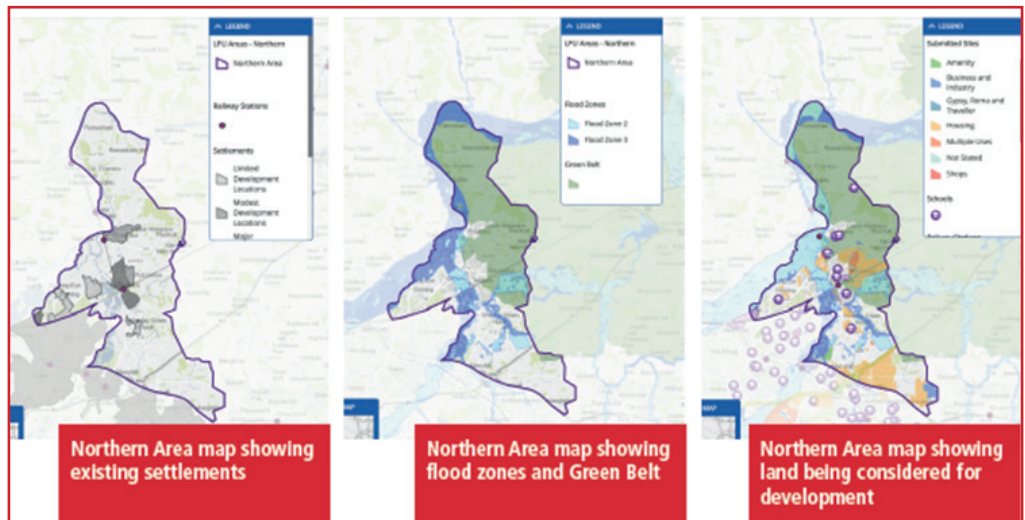
In further defence of the retention of the established Green Belt at Ruscombe, the Council's recent Green Belt Review concluded that no areas merited removal from the Green Belt. This was because all parcels were shown to contribute, or significantly contribute, to the purposes of the Green Belt, underlining why development upon them is not justified.

For these reasons I strongly object to the potential development of the above sites.

### **The WBC Northern Area**

For the purposes of the Local Plan Update Consultation, WBC has identified the Northern Area to include the villages of Twyford, Hurst, Charvil, Sonning, Wargrave and Remenham, and the surrounding countryside – an interactive map (screengrabs below) can be found on the council website at <https://arcg.is/OTmSXu> which includes information about the proposed sites.

**COMPLETED SURVEY DEADLINE FEBRUARY 22nd, 2019:** Completed surveys can be scanned and emailed to [LPU@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:LPU@wokingham.gov.uk) or sent to Growth & Delivery Team, Wokingham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Shute End Wokingham RG40 1WR.



**THE PARISH COUNCIL WISHES YOU A MERRY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

*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 [clerk4rempec@gmail.com](mailto:clerk4rempec@gmail.com) for Paul.

Tel 07939 041227 for me, 07425 131861 for Paul.

## REMENHAM W.I.

### November

Members of Remenham WI launched into their Christmas festivities in November with a Christmas Miscellany. As well as their own members, the audience also included WI visitors from other local branches as well as friends and family. Mike Brook entertained everyone with an eclectic selection of Christmas poems and readings from Shakespeare to Christopher Robin and from many years ago to the present day. Several members of the audience also took part in impromptu pantomime scenes, which was great fun! During the interval, visitors were treated to a delicious Christmas themed tea.



The first part of the challenge for the Centenary of the Berkshire Federation of WIs has been completed and members have been busy with clicking knitting needles. Well over 100 hats have been completed for the premature babies in the Royal Berkshire Hospital Maternity Unit. A group of Remenham members will shortly be delivering all these to the hospital.

Their next outing was a most enjoyable trip to Waddesdon Manor. The trip began under blue skies although by the time the party arrived at Waddesdon, the day had turned misty and very cold, but the lights in the trees and from the Christmas market cabins all added to the ethereal Christmas atmosphere. Free samples of gin, cheese and fudge all went down well as the contents of the cabins were explored and Christmas presents bought. The tour of the house was of course a highlight, with all the beautiful decorations in every room not to mention the amazing Christmas trees as well. The visit ended with the illuminations of the outside of the house, accompanied by glorious music. An excellent day!

If you are interested in joining, please contact Daphne Austen on 07919358979.

*Daphne Austen*

### December

34 members and friends met in the Bull pub in Henley for a very jolly Christmas lunch, much enjoyed by all.

January is our members' meeting, and we will be filling the Packs we have collected for people who are taken into A and E with no toiletries, so they will have something to tide them over for a night or two. February is our A.G.M.

Happy New Year to all in Remenham, and anyone is welcome to our meetings, held on the second Monday in the month at 2.30pm in Remenham Parish Hall.

*Sheila Constantinidi*



# PARK PLACE IN THE 18TH CENTURY - Two Lady Hamiltons, the Prince of Wales and an Admiral

## The Hamiltons of Park Place



### Lord Archibald and Lady Jane Hamilton

The first mansion at Park Place was acquired by Lord Archibald Hamilton (1673-1754) who moved there with his third wife Jane who became Lady Jane Hamilton (1704-1753) when they were married in 1719 — he was 46 and she was 15 years old; his two previous wives had died. He had been a Captain in the Royal Navy commanding HMS Eagle at the Battle of Malaga (1704) during the war of the Spanish/Austrian Succession. After his naval career he was appointed Governor of Jamaica in 1711, he then entered politics becoming MP in Scotland and Dartmouth; he also joined the Board of the Admiralty in 1729. Meanwhile he fathered six children at Park Place including William (see below).



Then Frederic Prince of Wales (1707-1751) came on the scene. He was the son of George II and the father of mad George III. By 1736 Lady Jane Hamilton had become the prince's mistress, as well as First Lady of the bedchamber, mistress of Robes and the Privy Purse to Prince Frederick's wife Augusta of Saxe-Gotha. Lord Archibald then tidied up these complex arrangements by selling Park Place to Prince Frederick in 1738. Following the Prince's death in 1751 the 900 acre estate was sold to General Conway (1721-1795).

**Frederick Prince of Wales (1707-1751)**

Sir William Hamilton was born at Park Place as one of the six children of Lord Archibald and Lady Jane Hamilton. He was a knowledgeable antiquarian, archaeologist, vulcanologist and diplomat serving as British envoy to the Kingdom of Naples from 1764 to 1800. It was a dream job, an extended Grand Tour, allowing him to see, study and collect precious cultural artifacts from classical civilizations. James Gillray's cartoon 'Cognocenti' (*see front cover*) captures the public image of British aristocratic collectors free to gather, accumulate and display such objects. He also acquired Emma Hart, a notorious beauty, muse to the painter Romney and previously a mistress both of Sir Harry Fetherstonhaugh of Uppark Country Estate and Charles Francis Greville (1749-1809), Sir William's nephew. In order to be free to marry an 18 year old heiress, Greville dumped Emma on Sir William who subsequently found that she had the talents to serve as an elegant hostess for his diplomatic gatherings in Naples. Although she had no formal education, she was witty, intelligent, had acquired singing and acting skills, modeling for 'tableaux vivants' and soon picked up some French and Italian. She had already become a celebrated beauty in England thanks to exhibitions of George Romney's besotted portraits of her. Sir William came under her spell and they married in 1791 when he was 60 and she was in her mid-20's. Emma Hart had become Lady Emma Hamilton. She was the Eliza Doolittle and he was the Professor Henry Higgins of this 18th century version of Pygmalion.

### **Lady Emma Hamilton and Admiral Lord Nelson (1758-1805)**

Lady Emma Hamilton befriended Queen Maria Carolina wife of King Ferdinand of the Neapolitan court who came under the protection of the English Royal Navy as the French Republicans advanced towards the south of the Italian Peninsula. The French and the English fought sea campaigns capturing and losing control of Corsica and blockading Toulon. At one stage the Royal Neapolitans and Hamiltons were forced to flee to Sicily. At the same time Horatio Nelson was acquiring seniority and control of squadrons of the Royal Navy tasked with reducing French influence in the Mediterranean. There were sea battles at Caligari (1793), Cape St Vincent, Cadiz (1797), and Tenerife. Nelson's major achievement was at Aboukir, the decisive Battle of the Nile (1798) which thwarted Napoleon's ambition to dominate the Middle East, leaving the French Army stranded in Egypt.



**Emma Hamilton, subsequently  
Lady Emma Hamilton (1765-1815).  
Portrait by George Romney**

Nelson was feted and showered with honours, especially by the Neapolitans, who made him the Duke of Bronte, and by the grand functions organized by the Hamiltons as representative of the British King and government. In 1800 Nelson and the Hamiltons travelled by stage coach to England via Trieste, Vienna, Prague, Dresden and Hamburg to Yarmouth and London. It was a hero's return—massed crowds and freedom of the City. These celebrations were spiced by public gossip of Nelson's infatuation with Lady Emma and his cruel, frosty rejection of his wife Frances Fanny Nisbet when they met again. Emma was swept up in an uncontrollable entanglement with this man—he bore the pain of battle injuries, losing his writing arm and all his teeth, blinded in one eye, experiencing bouts of malaria, suffered sea sickness and was only 5 feet 4 inches tall—hardly a role model.

But the last letter he wrote to Emma shows his heart-rending intensity of feeling for her.. Nelson had a presentiment that he would die at the moment of victory in the great Battle of Trafalgar [1805], when the remains of the French and Spanish fleets surrendered.

*"Victory", October 19, 1805, Noon  
Cadiz, E.S.E. 16 Leagues*

*My dearest beloved Emma, the dear friend of my bosom,*

*The signal has been made that the enemy's combined fleet are coming out of Port. We have very little wind, so that I have no hopes of seeing them before tomorrow. May the God of Battles crown my endeavours with success; at all events, I will take care that my name shall ever be most dear to you and Horatia, both of whom I love as much as my own life. And as my last writing before the Battle will be to you, so I hope in God that I shall live to finish my letter after the Battle.*

*May heaven bless you prayers, your*

#### NELSON AND BRONTE

*October 20th - In the morning we were close to the mouth of the Straits, but the wind had not come far enough to the westward to allow the Combined Fleets to weather the Shoals off Trafalgar; but they were counted as far as forty Sail of Ships of War, which I suppose to be thirty-four of the Line, and six Frigates. A group of them was seen off the Lighthouse of Cadiz this morning, but it blows so very fresh and thick weather, that I rather believe they will go into the Harbour before night. May God Almighty give us success over these fellows, and enable us to get a Peace ...."*

*Jim Bland  
Matson Drive, Remenham, October 2018*

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PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

## Could you adopt with PACT?

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) is appealing for a forever family for a busy and bubbly two-and-a-half year-old girl called Jasmine.

Described as a happy and sociable little girl, Jasmine has some developmental delay and suspected Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. PACT is looking for an adoptive family who would be comfortable with Jasmine's health needs and able to offer her a nurturing and loving environment.

PACT is looking for a home for Jasmine through its Finding Families Together service, which it provides to local authorities for children who have been waiting a long time to be adopted.

Jasmine, who has been in foster care for 18 months, is one of more than 2,000 children in England waiting to be adopted. In the South East children waiting to be adopted outnumber adopters by three to one.

PACT, which offers outstanding Ofsted-rated adoption services to families across the South East, is one of the leading independent adoption charities in the country. Last year the charity helped transform the lives of 82 children by finding them their forever families.

PACT adopters can be couples or single people, of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds.

PACT Chief Executive Jan Fishwick OBE said: "I would urge anyone who thinks they can provide a loving, secure home to Jasmine, or a child or children like her who need it, to please get in touch with us to find out more."

One PACT adopter said: "We couldn't imagine our lives without children now and it all started with an initial enquiry with PACT. This has been an amazing journey for us and if it is something that you are considering, when the time is right for you, PACT will be there to hold your hand throughout every stage."

For more information about Jasmine, including a film about her, see [www.pactcharity.org/jasmine](http://www.pactcharity.org/jasmine)

To find out more about adopting with PACT see [www.pactcharity.org/adoption](http://www.pactcharity.org/adoption) where you can download a brief guide to adoption, see the answers to some frequently asked questions about adoption, read the stories of people who have adopted with PACT and find out about PACT's adoption information events coming up.

For more information please call 0300 456 4800 or email [enquiries@pactcharity.org](mailto:enquiries@pactcharity.org)

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4 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1LR

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Closed Saturday and Sunday





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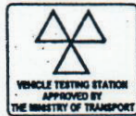


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