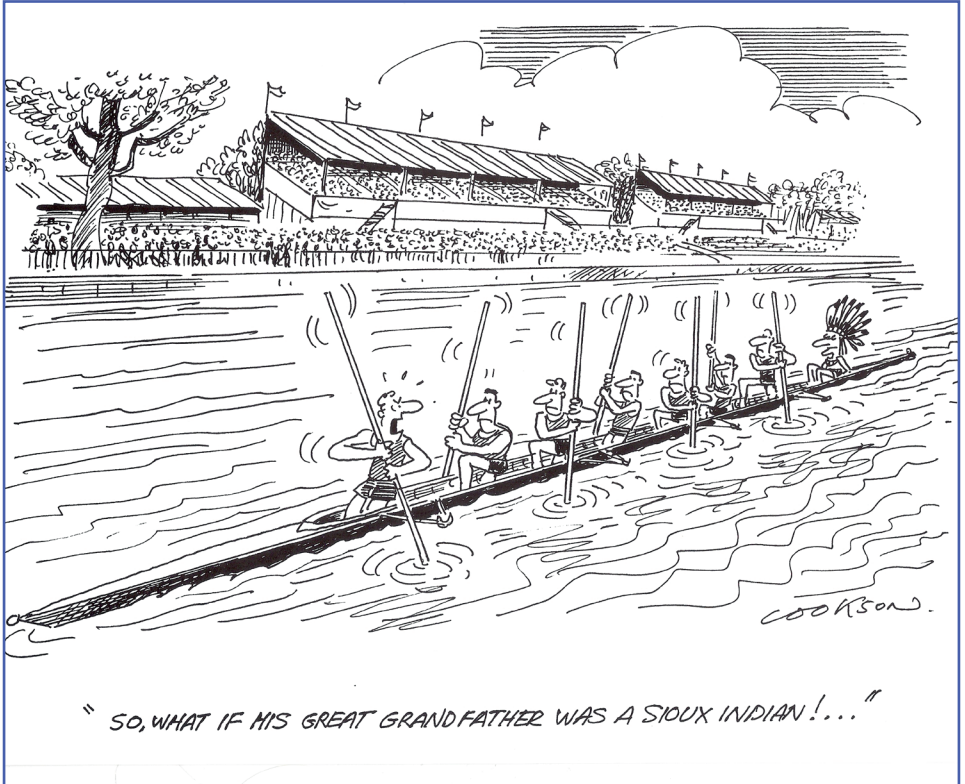


REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



**by Fleet Street cartoonist
Bernard Cookson (see page 6)**

No 269 – July-August 2019



Members of the Remenham W.I. delivering emergency welcoming bags to the Royal Berkshire Hospital (see page 20). *Photo courtesy of Daphne Austen.*



A typical example of the traffic problems encountered in Remenham Lane in the build up to the Regatta.
Photo courtesy of Anthony West - 1.15pm, Tuesday 25 June 2019.

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

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

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 Merkel (Chairman, Chairman Planning): johnmerkel53@aol.com, 07803 790 553
John Halsall (Deputy Chairman): johnnashalsall@gmail.com, 07939 041 227
Franky Cookson (Website Editor): franky.cookson@btinternet.com, 07712 834 151
Christopher Leeming (Planning): christopherleeming@btinternet.com, 01491 575 237
Darrel Poulos (Henley, Traffic and Footpaths): darrel@poulosandpartners.com, 07793 389 231
Bill Ronald: billronald@aol.com, 07850 357 653
Nigel Williams: nigel@tves.co.uk, 07951 994599

Paul Sermon (Parish Clerk): 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 **MONDAY** 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.

*****PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY - PREVIOUSLY THE SECOND TUESDAY*****

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REMENHAM, WARGRAVE AND RUSCOMBE

John Halsall: johnnashalsall@gmail.com 07939 041 227
Graham Howe: grahamahowe@gmail.com 07540 193 239

REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

email address: parishhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Revd Jeremy Tayler, Chairman | 01491 577340, rector.hwr@btinternet.com |
| Nigel Gray, Treasurer | 01491 572024, pnigelgray@aol.com |
| Vacancy (Secretary) | |
| Liz Cope | 01491 576115, Famcope@aol.com |
| Charlotte Every | 07973 798071, churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk |
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| Helen Rosier | 01491 573572, baz.r@live.com |
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| July | Anna Van Leemputten and team |
| August | Pat Sly Sarah Tait |

ALTAR FLOWERS

| | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|
| July | Jayne Gray | Helen Rosier |
| August | Marilyn Dudley | Maureen Holborn |

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

| | |
|--------|---|
| 12 May | Callister Josalyn Douglas |
| 5 May | Lily Rose Victoria Freeman and Grace Oliva Victoria Freeman (twins) |

Weddings

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7 June | Stephen Paine and Nicolle Laurie |
| 14 June | Sean Buckett and Ellie Mather |
| 29 June | Martin Greenwood and Charlotte Griffiths |

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

| Months | Deadlines for Contributors | Approx. Dates for Distributors |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jan-Feb | Friday 28 December 2018 | Friday 4 January 2019 |
| Mar-Apr | Friday 22 February 2019 | Friday 1 March 2019 |
| May-June | Friday 26 April | Friday 3 May |
| July-Aug | Friday 21 June | Friday 28 June |
| Sept-Oct | Friday 16 August | Friday 23 August |
| Nov-Dec | Friday 25 October | Friday 1 November |
| Jan-Feb 2020 | Friday 27 December 2018 | Friday 3 January 2019 |

PARISH DIARY *(See articles for more information)*

Please note - Parish Council meetings are now on the second MONDAY of the month rather than the second Tuesday.

July

3rd-7th Henley Royal Regatta
7th 9.30am Regatta Service at St Mary's, no service at St Nicholas
8th 2.30pm W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall
8th 8.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall
10th-14th Henley Festival
12/13th Henley Masters' Regatta, Temple Island Meadows
14th 9.30am Henley Mile Swim, start Temple Island Meadows
20th 6.45pm Club to Pub Henley Swim, start Henley Rowing Club

20th Trial Rubbish Collection

9.00-10.00am Near Parish Hall, 10.00-11.00am Flower Pot car park, Aston

August

4 August 7.00am Thames Marathon Swim, start Henley Bridge
12th 2.30pm W.I. Meeting in the Parish Hall
16/18th August Rewind Festival, Temple Island Meadows
17th 9am- 5pm Fundraising Refreshments, Old Blades' Garden

Further ahead

1st Sept 2-5pm Remenham Summer Fayre, Parish Hall and Gardens
18th October Harvest Supper, Parish Hall
19th October Cricket Club Sportsman's Dinner, Shiplake College
26th October Quiz Night, Parish Hall
7/8/9 November Remenham Thespians performances, Parish Hall

FRONT COVER

The delightful cartoon on the front cover, by Fleet Street cartoonist Bernard Cookson, Franky's late husband, is very appropriate for the time of year! It is one of a suite of cartoons he created for the Leander Club many years ago. We are grateful to Franky for allowing us to include it.

FROM THE EDITOR

It has been particularly difficult to meet the print deadline this time, so apologies for any failures to proof-read as thoroughly as usual, and for the less than perfect layout! (One or two items are a little squashed and others have been given more space than they really need.)

It sounds as if the concert by Queen Anne's school was outstanding, as well as financially rewarding for the church. Let's hope we can persuade other schools to follow their example.

I am always struck by how much fun the WI seem to have, and I am very grateful to Sheila Constantinidi for her very full and informative reports.

There are a number of matters to which I need to draw your attention in particular. These include

- the trial waste collection of big items (see Parish Council report and page 17)*
- the Parish Hall committee's proposal to fundraise for the church and Parish Hall during the Rewind Festival on Saturday 17 August - this was hugely successful last year, but HELP IS NEEDED so please volunteer*
- the annual Remenham Fayre on 1 September*
- Harvest supper on Friday 18 October and QUIZ NIGHT on Saturday 26 October*

Please also see Jim Bland's amazing account of the evacuation of children from Clapham to Remenham during WW2 - and the enchanting but moving photograph. Jim has surpassed himself this time, and how lucky we are to have such a scholarly historian in our community. (Jim - please don't move far!)

On a slightly less positive note, you will see from the photograph on the inside cover that the traffic problems of this time of year have already begun. Please keep the Parish Council informed.

Last but not least (but I am of course biased and many of you may well think it is 'least'!) please note the dates for the Thespians performances - see below. We need your encouragement and support!

Felicity

newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk



REMENHAM THESPIANS!!



Excitement is mounting!!

A play has been chosen, casting is taking place and rehearsals will begin in September!

Put 7/8/9 November in your diaries!

Felicity Rutland, felicitymrutland@gmail.com.

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
(Hebrews 13.2)*

People often say to me that being in Henley and Remenham must be very different to my last parish in St John's Wood, and indeed it is, but there are a few similarities. One of them is the great influx of sporting-related visitors in the summer months. At St John's Wood it was both the great crowds who came for Test matches, and also increasingly for county-level 20/20 matches which could attract considerable evening attendances. During my time there we often talked about ways in which the church might offer hospitality to people coming for the cricket, but apart from the handful of people that we welcomed at our early Sunday services on Test match Sundays each year, nothing really got off the ground, at least not during my time there. So it is encouraging to see that both St Mary's and St Nicholas have established patterns of offering welcome and hospitality during the Regatta. I am hugely grateful to all those involved in making these things happen, and I look forward to playing my part. Let's keep our summer visitors in our prayers, praying for their safety, for their enjoyment of their time in our communities, and praying too that the hospitality we offer them may be a blessing both to them and to us.

With my prayers for you all,

Fr Jeremy

REMENHAM ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ALL THINGS CREATIVE

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. I still need more, especially those which are specific to a particular time of year. Please keep them coming!

Felicity, Editor
newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



Our Annual Parochial Church meeting was held on 14 April. John Laing and Charlotte Every were re-elected as churchwardens for the coming year and we will endeavour to do our best to serve St Nicholas and all who worship there.

A lovely concert was held on Thursday 13 June with the girls from Queen Anne's School Caversham giving a very varied and delightful programme. Their sinfonia performed the 3 pieces including the world premiere of the minetto from organ concerto in B flat major by Hayes who was a contemporary of George Frederick Handel. The music has recently been discovered in an Oxford college library and given its first airing in Remenham. There followed a selection of instrumental and vocal soloists doing a mixture of classical pieces and the more modern. It was most probably the first time Abba has been heard in St Nicholas! The evening finished with a selection played by the Clarinetix Ensemble. Many thanks to the students who performed with such talent and aplomb and to the staff of Queen Anne's for setting the event up and providing a glass of wine at the end of the evening.

There has been a spate of thefts of lead from church roofs in Oxfordshire recently. Whilst we have no lead on the roof at St Nicholas, if you see anyone acting suspiciously round the church or with ladders etc, please telephone the police as we have no building work planned.

It's a long way off, but do please put in your diaries that the Harvest Supper will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday 18 October.

Don't forget that details of all our services and events can be found on our website (www.remenhamparish.org.uk). As always, there will be no service on Regatta Sunday at Remenham but there will be a service at St Mary's at 9.30am.

Charlotte Every

Charlotte Every

John Laing

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham

REMENHAM FAYRE

Sunday, 1st September 2019 from 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Remenham Parish Hall and Garden

We very much look forward to welcoming you on Sunday, 1st 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, cake stall, 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!!

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 1st 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.

So please put the Sunday, 1st September in your diary now – we really look forward to seeing you there!!

The Parish Hall Committee

Produce Competition Classes 2019

Classes 1 – 6 Fruit and Vegetables - A cup for the overall winner

Class 1: A small bunch of mixed herbs

Class 4: 5 Tomatoes

Class 2: Longest carrot

Class 5: 3 Potatoes

Class 3: 5 Runner beans

Class 6: A bucket of homemade compost

Classes 7 – 9 Floral Displays - A cup for the overall winner

Class 7: Best single cut rose

Class 8: 5 Dahlias

Class 9: Wicker basket (Maximum 10"x 10"x 10") filled with home-grown flowers

Classes 10 – 13 Adult Cookery and Craft

Class 10: Loaf of home-made bread

Class 12: 6 cheese straws

Class 11: 4 home-made flapjacks

Class 13: Limerick/poem containing the word
Remenham

Class 14 – Children's craft

Class 14: A covered and decorated shoe box

REWIND FESTIVAL 16-18 AUGUST, TEMPLE ISLAND MEADOWS.

**TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
AND THE PARISH HALL, WE PLAN TO SELL
REFRESHMENTS FROM OLD BLADES' GARDEN
ON SATURDAY, 17 AUGUST, 9.00AM-5.00PM.
WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Last year we served burgers, bacon, etc plus cakes and drinks from Old Blades' garden (right by the towpath to catch the passing crowds) and raised over £1000 in the day. We had a wonderful team of helpers who volunteered to make up teams of 3 in shifts. Some could offer one hour, some two hours, whatever time they could spare.

We intend to repeat this effort on Saturday 17 August but can only do so if people are willing to put their names forward NOW so that we know we can get together sufficient helpers to draw up a schedule for the whole day. We need people who can cook on the barbecue, sell drinks and cakes and a cashier.

In addition, we shall need donations of as many home-made cakes as possible. Last year we were grateful to receive a wide variety of really delicious cakes to offer to our customers.

Do please check your diary and see if you can help with this wonderful opportunity to raise a large amount of money in a big effort on just one day.

Contact Pat Sly: email patsly7@gmail.com to add your name to the list or phone 01491 577925.

Parish Hall Committee

REWIND FESTIVAL

See below for extracts from the letter to Local Residents from Rewind South dated 10 June 2019:

If you have not received this letter, either see it on the website, www.remenhamparish.org.uk (Home page under Remenham News, just click on the PDF icon for the Local Resident letter) or let me know and I will email you a copy. Editor - newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

“LOCAL RESIDENT SUPPORT

We are continuing to utilise a Local Resident Liaison role within the festival, to act as additional contact and support available to those who live and work closest to our event site. James Green is there for you to contact about any questions or concerns; before, during or after the event including, but not limited to;

- Ticketing
- Noise
- Waste
- Traffic
- Signage
- Public Disturbance

Should you have requests for additional signage near your home, please email James with your request so it can be arranged. The number provided below will be a 24-hour line during the live event. Overnight, it will directly call our Event Control Room, who will assist with any queries or concerns.

James Green – Local Resident Liaison

James’s role is to act as a direct point of contact for anyone who lives in or works in the area surrounding the festival, that would benefit from information and advance communication before the event – but he is also the main point of contact during the event for and queries that arise. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with him.

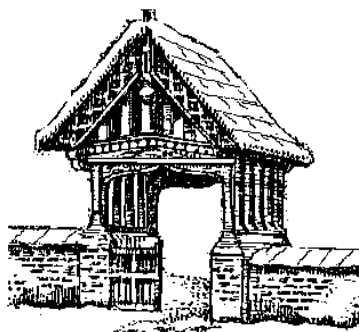
Email: localresidents@rewindfestival.com

Mobile: 07523 141 094”

REWIND LOCAL RESIDENTS’ MEETING - TUESDAY 25 JUNE

Five people from the Rewind team attended this, and eight local residents. The Rewind team courteously made a detailed presentation showing how they were dealing with those aspects of the Festival which affect local residents, and outlined the changes and improvements they were making this year. They are expecting fewer people to attend than last year, despite obtaining a new license for an increase. They listened to local residents’ concerns and comments and will endeavour to address them.

Editor



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL

In view of my being recently elected Leader of Wokingham Borough Council, John Merkel and I have swapped roles for this year. He is the Chairman and I am the Deputy Chairman.

John started as Chairman at the last RPC. There is a new email address for him chairman4rempc@gmail.com and eventually me (but not yet) johnashalsall@gmail.com. However, we will also continue using our current emails addresses.

VILLAGE SKIP

We are planning a one-off trial of a caged lorry collection of recyclable waste for local residents. It will be on Saturday 20th July. The caged lorry will appear near the Parish Hall and the Flower Pot car park in Aston Lane on that day. *(See page 17 and Parish Diary on page 6 for further details and times)*

HOUSING NUMBERS

You will or have received a request to express your opinion on housing numbers. This is a vital piece of evidence to put the local plan update to bed. Please take two minutes to fill it in.

PLANNING: FIVE HORSESHOES

The Five Horseshoes (erstwhile pub) is now offices. It is located near to the Shell on the A4130. Wokingham Planning have permitted development for it to be converted to flats, if there is no other exterior building. The change is taking place under "Prior approval under Class O for conversion of office buildings B1(a) to 8No residential units C3 use." Details of the application are available at <http://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/detail.asp?AltRef=191535&ApplicationNumber=191535&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&KeywordSearch=&Submit=Search>. There is nothing under current planning policy that can be done to resist this change, even in the Green Belt.

FOOD WASTE CADDIES

We apologise that some addresses have still been missed. Every household in Remenham should have received caddies unless you live in a flat in which case we are resolving food waste collection household by household.

IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD A FOOD WASTE CADDY DELIVERED. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF US AND WE WILL ARRANGE FOR THIS TO BE CORRECTED.

LICENSING: HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA AND REWIND APPLICATIONS

Henley Royal Regatta have applied for a License to extend the Regatta to start one day earlier, on the Tuesday as opposed to the Wednesday. The grounds that they give is to accommodate parity of women and men. Two representatives of the HRR attended the RPC meeting on 14 May to listen to local concerns. The RPC agree this is a laudable aim, but we do not agree that this should extend the Regatta. There is existing space within the current allocation. By starting rowing earlier and ending later, using the tea and lunch breaks for racing and making more use of the Sunday (which is very sparsely used), the existing schedule should be enough. The deadline for comments on the new HHR licensing application was 25 June.

On 25 June, a meeting was booked by The Rewind Festival Team at the Parish Hall to discuss local concerns and provide updates for improvements made for this year. The meeting was attended by about 10 Remenham residents. The Rewind Festival has committed to hold at least two such meetings each year. There is a Local Resident Liaison, Mr. James Green, tasked with improving communication with the local community. This meeting was not organised by RPC.

PARK PLACE

There are several residents who have been awoken by garden machinery starting early particularly on a Sunday. We are conscious of this nuisance and are looking to put a stop to it.

THE BOROUGH

I had no expectation that I would be elected Leader of the Council. Julian Sumner lost his seat at May's election and thus left a vacancy. I put my hat in the ring to avoid a coronation as the election results were bad for the Tories; I felt that there had to be a debate.

It has been, as you can imagine, very busy particularly as it is overlaid over what I already do. I have tried to lay off what I can, and John Merkel was kind enough to step up to the plate for the Parish. In my new capacity, I hope to resolve some of the long outstanding issues for the Parish and the Ward.

As far as the Borough is concerned, I have several priorities:

- Climate Change, as I wrote last month, is an issue which every governmental body needs to take seriously. The Local authority cannot resolve the issue but can do much to help. I will be proposing a climate emergency at Council next month, which is making a statement that the council takes the issue seriously and giving a commitment to a plan within six months. There is much that the Council can do, which interalia are:
 - o Air quality in Twyford and Wokingham Town
 - o Amending the Borough Design Guide so that new homes are green Ensuring that our planning policies encourage development proposals to incorporate measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions as part of sustainable design and construction
 - o Purchasing a proportion of its energy from generated renewable sources
 - o Promoting the use of ultra-low emission vehicles by supporting the electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - o Increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill
 - o Encouraging the development of smart technologies to reduce energy usage
 - o Green Energy, solar power and LEDs
 - o Green technology for council plant and machinery
 - o Enabling and encouraging more sustainable travel through enhancing pedestrian, cycle and bus routes
 - o Planting trees, living walls, urban horticulture increasing wild flowers and attempting to increase carbon substitution
- Development is the highest concern of the Borough. By reducing the housing numbers imposed on the Borough we can reduce the quantity of houses to 2036 to those already specified through the planning process and remove most of the Borough from the threat of large-scale development. The strategy to reduce housing numbers is based on first getting popular support through a Borough wide consultation. You will receive a letter next week asking you to participate. Secondly, I have met three of the four MPs (I will meet the fourth to get them onside to lobby Whitehall) and lastly through litigation with the government either through the courts or judicial review. The argument that has been developed is that the statistical requirement for homes in Wokingham is between 475 and 555 pa, but this is uplifted to produce more by 40% and the 20% so that house prices come down through over delivery. This argument fails on two accounts. Councils do not control delivery and developers will not build homes which they cannot sell. The affordability factor is based on median incomes compared to median house prices but in a dormitory borough the median incomes are debased.

- Congestion is the greatest frustration felt by residents. They assume it is consequent upon development, but the reality is that it is mainly not. By concentrating officers on easing this I believe great inroads can be made quickly through removing road blocks on major roads, smart traffic lights, making contractors work at night, strictly applying the street works scheme and information to avoid road blocks.
- Accessing primary care is becoming more of a difficulty. The Council by becoming engaged should be able to help. I chair a forum with the primary care providers and the NHS in Wokingham.
- School places and home to school transport is an issue in the Borough, exacerbated by the Borough having responsibility but little residual authority but there are things we can do

HIGHWAYS ISSUES

RPC are pursuing the extension of the 30mph limit to the end of the Remenham Hill settlement on the A4130 toward Hurley. RPC has recently purchased an independent traffic monitor. It is not used for traffic speed enforcement. At the Neighbourhood Action Group meeting for Sonning, Remenham, Hurst, Twyford, Ruscombe and Wargrave, on 17 May, John Merkel reported support for this approach. Other options are possible, such as the volunteer Community Speedwatch, which is a traffic monitoring scheme; <https://thamesvalleypolice.tal.net/vx/mobile-0/appcentre-External/brand-3/candidate/so/pm/6/pl/1/opp/1768-Volunteer-Speedwatch-Initiative-Support-Volunteer/en-GB>.

Three areas with problem flooding have been noted and repairs are to be made.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

I was extremely surprised to read in the Henley Standard that Remenham Parish Council is to contribute to the Air Quality Monitoring in Henley. I think the report is a little premature. We are part of the Henley Traffic Strategy Group and therefore we have agreed in principle that we would consider sharing costs. However, no specific proposal has been put to the Parish Council to agree. Any formal proposal on expenditure first must be on the RPC agenda and agreed before a commitment is made..

LOCAL TRAFFIC CENSUS

Remenham Parish Council (RPC) is evaluating a local traffic census unit currently at the top of White Hill (A4130). This identifies no vehicle and is only concerned with aggregate traffic numbers. All average data are to be available on its website. The unit will always be labelled. In the coming months, it will be tested in various locations along Remenham Highways.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish council has decided to restart the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. John Merkel and Chris Leeming are investigating, reassessing the Remenham questionnaire and reworking earlier drafts with the objectives of including environmental concerns and documenting parallel and conflicting authority over Green Belt, Environmental Flood Zones, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas; see <http://www>. At the Neighbourhood Action Group meeting on 17 May, progress on Neighbourhood Plans was noted in other parishes.

John Halsall

Deputy Chairman Remenham Parish Council

Councillor Wokingham Borough Council

Leader of the Council

Please use clerk@remenhamparish.org.uk or chairman4rempc@gmail.com for Paul Sermon, John Merkel and eventually me as well (but not yet), or johnhalsall@gmail.com for me or clerk4rempc@gmail.com for Paul. Tel 07939 041227 for me 07425 131861 for Paul.

TRIAL LORRY COLLECTION OF WASTE Saturday 20th July 2019

Remenham Parish Council (RPC) has organised a trial run of an occasional lorry collection of waste* from Remenham.

The trial will be on 20th July 2019 and will collect from 2 places

9.00am – 10.00am near the Parish Hall

10.00am-11.00am in Flower Pot car park, Aston

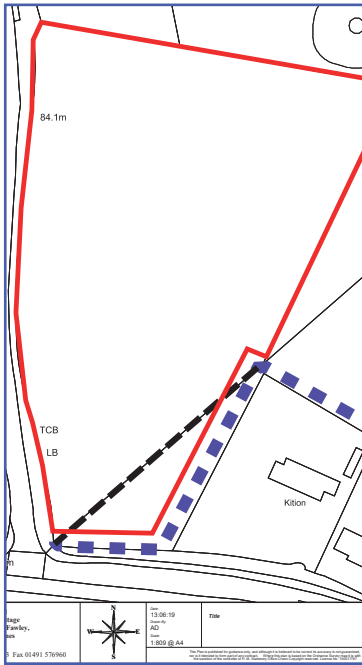
The lorry will then travel to the recycling centre.

It should only be used for items allowable at the recycling centre.

Please ensure different types of waste are separately bagged.

*operated by OCS

CHANGES TO FOOTPATH - ASTON FIELD



Change of use for the field, from arable to livestock

New fence, where previously there was just a hedge.

Strict enforcement of the footpath, where before, users were treating it as a guide, rather than a designated path.

DEFIBRILLATORS - 'AEDs'

A recent emergency on the river highlighted the need to know where defibrillators are located, and how to access them.

Leander are compiling a schedule of locations, accessibility (including any restriction on hours), codes, telephone numbers etc. It will also include full addresses, distance from river, side of river and details of location.

There are currently 10 AEDs on the Thames reach between Marsh Lock and Hambleden Lock, with another 5 locations highlighted as places where it would be desirable to have one.

When the schedule is complete it will be widely available and it will included in this newsletter and on the website.

Editor

REMENHAM W.I.

May

With our President Daphne Austen in the Chair, our May meeting got off to a good start with 17 members present. Pat Sly was welcomed back after a stay in hospital following her recent hip operation. After the usual business, and the dates of the coming events over the Summer, which included many invitations for our members from other W.I.s in the Thames Group, we heard a report of the Berks Spring Council meeting held at Reading University. This was an excellent meeting with a very interesting, good speaker who saved children from various war zones - Sarajevo and Syria to name but two, and also apart from the business a report on the current business at Denman. The Thames Group meeting held at Knowl Hill was a good get together with a talk by Paul Baxter on "The challenges of building the London Eye". This was followed by an excellent tea.



The 100 bags of toiletries we made for emergency cases who arrive in A and E at Royal Berks Hospital and are kept in will be presented at the Hospital. These have been collected and made up by our members as part of our Centenary project. A thank you poster from the Hospital was displayed on our notice board. Remenham W.I. came second in the Elizabeth Bell photographic competition. Daphne and members were congratulated for all their efforts in getting the album together. Members were then asked to vote on 2 resolutions to be put forward at the NFWI AGM in June. (a) a call against the decline in local bus services and (b) don't fear the Smear. After some hearty discussion, both resolutions were passed favourably and unanimously.

Daphne then introduced our speaker Shirley Pearce, to give her talk on understanding Dementia. She originally trained as an occupational therapist, but now explains the many problems for relations and friends trying to deal with and care for those near and dear with Dementia. She did explain that Alzheimers is a disease, whereas dementia is not, but is more feared than cancer. Those of the older generation who forget names etc, are not suffering from dementia - this is just a problem of old age! Shirley told us that in the early stages those diagnosed fear their well-being is being threatened, that they personally don't matter, and are worried about making mistakes. She gave us instances of how we might help, just be friendly, don't ask questions, cut out contradiction and don't ever argue - and please always remember to give both patients and carers HOPE. Shirley has set up a Charity called "Understanding Dementia" and has written a book. She also handed out many leaflets with ideas on how to help carers. She does training in Care Homes, etc. Most of our members had experience of relations or friends suffering with this cruel state, so there was a lot of lively discussion over tea, which was beautifully presented by Carol Wissett and her team of helpers.

Next meeting is on June 10th, in the Remenham Village Hall at 2.30 pm as usual. Come and see what we are about - you would be most welcome..

June

As usual we met in Remenham Village Hall in a monsoon, but the rain so needed for fields and gardens. Our President Daphne Austen was in the chair and 17 members were present including a new member, Dorothy Eggleton, who was warmly welcomed. Daphne said sadly the outing to the Globe Theatre had had to be cancelled for lack of support.

Members had taken our emergency welcoming bags to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, which were gratefully received. (*See photograph on inside front cover.*) They were told the Hospital is now having a 'Dignity room' which will have articles of clothing for those who arrive in A and E with nothing, so later we will have a collection of new and good second hand clothes.

After the treasurer's report, we were told of a Centenary Tea at Easthampstead Park on the 14th August. Two members from each institute are invited, chosen in a ballot.

Various members were to have had a Recruitment drive outside Tescos, but this will have to be postponed as on the 12th June Henley is closed for the cycling event. There is to be a Flower Festival in St. Mary's Church in Wargrave on 27/29th June. Daphne had attended the WI annual conference at Bournemouth; the annual campaign is to be Mental Health, and plastic soup.

The resolutions to be voted on at the National W.I. A.G.M. in June were discussed and voted on. Both the Local bus services proposal and the Smear for those over 70 were easily voted in favour.

Lord Bradley of Withington is starting a campaign to help those who are picked up on the streets for various reasons, that they should be assessed for their state of mental health.

We were then entertained by various members with the experiences in their lives. Rosemary Pratt told us that after University she worked for the Wiltshire Young Farmers, for which she received a salary of £500 p.a. This was in 1953. It covered judging animals, and how to cope with chickens, plucking, gutting etc. She was asked to put on a session to teach the young how to deal with this and the farmer killed 100 chickens in readiness. Rosemary waited, no one came. She said it was a great lesson to get numbers interested before putting anything on. She did meet her husband through her farming work.

Jen Terry was next with her experiences. As her Father was in the services the family were posted to Singapore, and as they travelled through the Suez Canal the locals were offering trinkets for sale. When they refused to buy they lifted their robes to show all! When they stopped in Bombay, now Mumbai, all the workshops had masses of vultures perched there. They drove to Kuala Lumpur, and were warned about Guerrillas, but mercifully they were not attacked and well received by the locals. All their food was filled with insects of various sorts.

Sue Sharp told us that when her husband was posted, also to Singapore, as she was very pregnant she took the top layer of the wedding cake, as one does for the Christening. When opened it had been completely eaten by ants.

Enid Light told us she wanted to learn German,. This was 1949, and they had a German girl who lived with them for 6 months. Enid was invited back to stay with the family in Aachen in the British Zone. A Belgian family lived next door and they all had a great time together, and have remained friends to this day. Dorothy Eggleton joined the WRENS and gave us very amusing accounts of her time on HMS Dauntless and later on HMS Pembroke in Kent; later she went as a secretary to Northern Ireland. Irene Parker told us of her frightening landing at San Francisco during the 1989 Earthquake, with the ceiling of the airport coming down around them. It took them 4 hours to get away and to find somewhere with power, so they could tell their teenage family at home that they were OK. Irene said the alarming part of the whole thing was the fact that the after shocks went on for so long. Daphne Austen joined the Merchant Navy after University. She was on a cruise ship in charge of sometimes as many as 100 children. They also had to organise the evenings' entertainments. She did her 'Boat ticket' which involved rowing very heavy life boats, organising rations and all survival matters.

So many members had amazing experiences, and made it such an interesting and fun afternoon.

We then had to try at a very difficult quiz. And our thought for the afternoon was "Don't watch the clock, do what it does and keep going". A lovely tea was served by Jen Terry and friends.

Next meeting - July 8th "Healthy Eating for One and two people. Microwave cooking with Jennifer Marshall-Jenkinson.

Sheila Constantinidi

HENLEY FESTIVAL - A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME



CECIL RHODES AND DIANA RHODES

Some of you will remember a request in an issue of this newsletter some 4 years ago asking if anyone knew of any family relationship between Cecil Rhodes and our much loved Diana Rhodes, who edited the newsletter for many years. This followed the suggestion from Caroline and Christopher Leeming that the statue of Cecil Rhodes in Oxford that was then under threat might be relocated to outside the Flower Pot, opposite the cottage where Diana lived.

A few weeks ago I was delighted to receive the following email from Diana's cousin, Lachlan Rhodes, who latterly looked after her and her affairs when she was at Thamesfield. His sister had recently come across the item in the parish magazine.

Felicity Rutland, Editor



"While we may be 4 years late in responding,.I'm happy to fill in the gaps! I though the piece in the magazine was delightful. Luckily "Rhodes did not fall" and so far at least there has been no need for him to relocated; however had he have needed a new home, Remenham would have been a splendid one. The only trouble is that Cecil wasn't a relation! He was born and brought up in Bishops Stortford and there may be a distant link, but our part of the Rhodes family was from Yorkshire. John William Rhodes lived near Leeds, and in the late 1840s bought Hennerton, a small estate part way between Henley and Wargrave. His son, also John William, succeeded him; he married Marie Ada Mackenzie from Fawley Court and they had 5 children, all brought up at Hennerton. One was Victor who married Maud Griffin from Court Garden in Marlow, and their children were Diana and her elder sister Emerald.

Much of Diana's childhood was spent at Common Barn, at the top of Remenham Hill, but after her parents died she acquired The Cottage in Aston, with its fine view of the Flower Pot. Whatever the link or lack of it, Diana would have been hugely amused to have that view enhanced with the splendid statue of Cecil Rhodes.

Do let me know if you would like any further information. I live in Aberdeenshire, but am a regular visitor to Henley and try to make a point of calling on the Flower Pot when there.

All the best.

Lachlan Rhodes"

WORLD WAR 2: LONDON SCHOOL EVACUEES IN REMENHAM

Including extracts from the diaries of the Headmaster (Wix's Lane) and Headmistress (Remenham).

At the beginning of September 1939, the headmaster of Wix's Lane school, Clapham Common, London was charged with evacuating 305 children and 8 teachers from his school to Remenham school via Wokingham. The last leg of the journey from Wokingham was chaotic; 35 children were taken into Remenham rectory, other groups went astray to Crazies Hill, Wargrave, Sonning and Remenham Hill. Miss Hermione Noble of Park Place voluntarily took the headmaster in her car to scour the area to locate these scattered groups and organise their transfer to Remenham. Two frightened missing children were found in a gamekeeper's cottage in Culham Wood and taken to Remenham farmhouse. Most of the parents in London had packed clothes and boots for their children. The teachers obtained spare clothing which had been deloused, washed and darned.

War with Germany was declared on the 3rd of September 1939; the Berkshire education authority at Shire Hall, Reading then ruled that Remenham C.E. scholars attend school 8.50am to 12.30 and the Wix Lane Evacuees attend school from 1.00 to 4.30pm. The Remenham infants were taught in the Remenham school house; the Wix Lane infants used the Remenham infants room. There were school dinners for local children and evacuees in the Parish Hall, price 4p, with vegetables such as parsnips from the school garden.

Henry Rosnitschek from Eisendorf, Czechoslovakia, war refugee, was admitted to Remenham school. (About 10,000 refugee children, mainly Jewish, were rescued and brought to the UK from Eastern Europe, Germany and Austria in the Kindertransport programme.)

After a few weeks many of the Londoners went home because there was little military action during the 'phoney war'. They soon came back to Remenham in the Spring of 1940 because it was then that 'all Hell' broke out in Europe as Hitler unleashed the Blitzkrieg. Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands surrendered in May, France collapsed in June. By July the mighty Nazi military machine had conquered the west of continental Europe up to the frontier with Mussolini's Facist Italy.

The Royal Navy, a newly arrived Canadian Armoured Division, about 3000 young RAF fighter pilots and Churchill's oratory were all that stood in the way of 9 battle hardened divisions of the Wehrmacht and the Luftwaffe's Stukas, Junkers and Heinkel bomber fleets poised to cross The Channel and invade Southern England—Code name Operation SeaLion.

On the 19th of July Hitler delivered his fateful threat:-

'I make my last appeal to reason. Churchill has said you will fight on. That will bring an awful vengeance on London. A great empire will be destroyed, an empire I had never intended to destroy.' (See the recent biography of Churchill - 'Churchill, Walking with Destiny' (including extracts from King George 6th's diary) by Andrew Roberts, Penguin, Random House 2018).

Reichmarshal Herman Goring ordered his squadrons of Messerschmitts to take out the RAF Spitfires and Hurricanes defending Southern Britain to enable fleets of Luftwaffe bombers to attack and disable the Royal Navy. By late August Goring had still not achieved this objective. Consequently Hitler halted Operation Sea Lion. He thereby lost the opportunity to turn Britain into a vast off-shore concentration camp of The Third Reich.

This historic encounter, the Battle of Britain, claimed the lives of over 500 young RAF pilots. It was a turning point. You could say that those RAF pilots saved western civilisation in the same way that a few hundred Greeks and Spartans saved the civilisation of Ancient Greece by repelling the mighty Persian Empire of Emperor Xerxes in the story of the Battle of Thermopylae in 480BC.

Hitler then unleashed The Blitz to neutralise Britain by aerial bombing, going first for docks, railway hubs, arms and aircraft factories, and strafing airfields. The Luftwaffe set alight almost all the major British cities; London was heavily bombed for 56 nights. The horror of terror bombing of civilians has been recorded in 'Ways of Escape' the autobiography of the writer Graham Greene (*The Bodley Head 1980, Penguin Books 1981*). Greene was a volunteer fire warden in Gower Street during the London Blitz while awaiting an MI6 posting overseas.

After dark, the red glow of London on fire could be seen from the Chiltern Hills a few miles north of Henley. The Remenham school diary reported air raid disturbances on September 27, 1940.

Those of us who are say 85 and older can remember living through that anxious time. For example, one day when I was 12, my parents took me from our village near High Wycombe for an appointment at Professor Sir Alexander Fleming's Bacteriological Department, St Mary's hospital Paddington. It must have been after a Blitz night. I vividly remember passing collapsed houses, rubble strewn streets, a roll-down door of a garage distorted and blown out like a balloon. There had been a direct hit on St Mary's a few weeks before and two nurses had been killed.

The appointment's diagnosis confirmed that I was infected with tuberculosis, a deadly disease in those days before the discovery of streptomycin, and industrial manufacture of penicillin. Consequently I was sentenced to almost a year's isolation in Peppard Common sanatorium.

Returning to The Royal Grammar School a year later I found that it had been transformed by Mr Tucker, the charismatic headmaster who had opened up the boarding house to a group of ambitious, hard working Jewish 'kindertransport' boys. (See *'Kindertransport, History, Monuments and Memorials of Tyler's Green Church, Bernd Koschland'*). They had been educated earlier in the best 'gymnasias' schools in Berlin and Vienna; I remember some of their names, Warburg, Lesser, Goldsmith. They created a competitive, expectant atmosphere providing the first step for scholarships to Oxbridge. 'Swot' was no longer a dirty word.

We were lucky; the Chiltern Hills, Henley and Remenham escaped serious bombing even though devastated London is only 30 miles distant. Apart from wartime stringencies (no travelling, food and clothing rationing, absence of military aged men and women))we teenagers could lead a reasonable life; little did we know that Churchill feared the menace of the U-boat Wolf packs of the Kriegsmarine lurking in the Atlantic Ocean. They could have starved Britain of food, cut off vital military supplies and turned the war in their favour. This Battle of the Atlantic was a close run thing. The cost was huge; 3500 merchant ships were sunk, over 100,000 sailors, including 30,000 Germans, were drowned, 783 U boats were destroyed.

After the Blitz in 1942 the headmaster and pupils of Wix's Lane school returned to Clapham Common only to be faced by some months of flying bombs V1's and rockets V2's in 1944. Throughout the war the school in Crazies Hill had been expanded to accommodate evacuees and locals. The diary of Edith M Piper, Headmistress, recorded that Remenham school was closed permanently on July 22nd 1960 and the remaining pupils transferred to Crazies Hill. Perhaps this explains why the Remenham Newsletter at least up to 2007 (issue 175) contained regular reports of 'News from Crazies Hill Primary School'.

Jim Bland
Matson Drive, Remenham. June 2019



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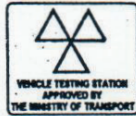


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