

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



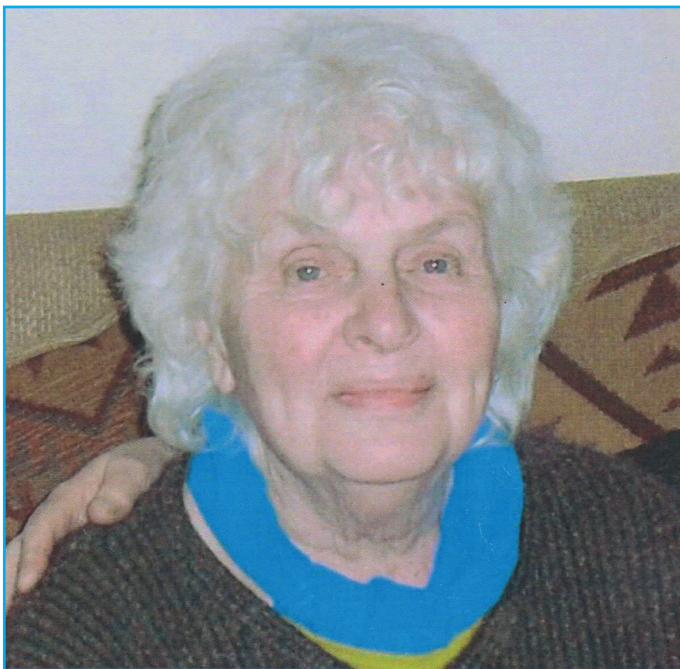
St Nicholas - ready for Christmas

Photo by Angie Emerson, December 2019



Rainbow over Remenham

Photo by Darrel Poulos, November 2019



Christine Southwell

Please see page 8 for a tribute to Christine, and page 9 for her 'Day in the Life', originally published in 1982

Christine Southwell

10th February 1937 – 17th November 2019

Remenham W.I.

The large '100' created as one of the three Remenham W.I. challenges in the W.I. centenary year. See page 21.

Left to right:
Audrey Curtis, Jen Terry and Judy Palmer.



THE CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

Rector

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

Revd Jeremy Tayler

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

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John Laing

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Churchwarden emeritus and verger

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Treasurer

Nigel Gray

Tel: 01491 572024

Secretary

Mandy Sermon

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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.

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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.

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REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rector
Charlotte Every
John Laing
Mandy Sermon
Nigel Gray

Revd Jeremy Tayler
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Secretary
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

Funeral

6 December Christine Southwell

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Months	Deadlines for Contributors	Approx. Dates for Distributors
Jan-Feb 2020	Friday 27 December 2020	Friday 3 January 2020
Mar-Apr 2020	Friday 21 February 2020	Friday 28 February 2020
May-June 2020	Friday 24 April 2020	Friday 1 May 2020
<i>Provisional:</i>		
July-Aug	Friday 19 June	Friday 26 June
Sept-Oct	Friday 21 August	Friday 28 August
Nov-Dec	Friday 23 October	Friday 30 October
<i>Please note that the dates from July onwards may change - see page 22 for possible changes to the publication of the newsletter.</i>		

PARISH DIARY *(See articles for more information)*

January

13th 2.30pm W.I. meeting, Parish Hall

13th 8.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall

February

10th 2.30pm W.I. meeting, Parish Hall

10th 8.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall

21st 7.30pm Cricket Club Quiz Night, The Pavilion

Further ahead

13th May Cricket Club Golf Day, Henley Golf Club

Oct/Nov 'Letters' evenings, Parish Hall (to be confirmed)

March 2021 Remenham Thespians, Parish Hall (to be confirmed)

FROM THE EDITOR

This has turned out to be a somewhat 'self-indulgent' issue, as it includes a number of pages about the recent Remenham Thespians production! I apologise for this but on the other hand the contents of any issue are dictated by the articles received, and I received some wonderful contributions about this.

Father Jeremy's article is - at my request - the New Year message he wrote for the Henley Standard (27 December). For those who have already seen it then it undoubtedly deserves a second reading. In these days of 'fake news' it certainly struck a chord with me.

This edition has also been influenced by the length of the very interesting and important Parish Council report, including a section about the protection of barn owls in Wokingham Borough, which again struck a chord with me. I am grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to fund the additional 4 pages needed to accommodate this (thereby giving me some extra space to fill on the colour pages, which I have used to include photographs of some of our most loved Thespians!).

As usual at this time of year there are very few specific dates to include in 'Dates for the Diary', but in true Remenham style this will undoubtedly change. Watch out in particular for more information about the proposed 'Letters' evenings that Allan Henderson is planning for the autumn, following the inaugural and highly successful 'pilot' last year.

Finally, but most importantly, I would welcome comments about the possible changes to the publication of this newsletter - principally the suggestion that it should be published quarterly rather than two-monthly (see page 22).

Felicity
newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Remenham friends,

2019 has been a difficult year for truth. The concept of truth has been in growing difficulty for many years. Theories of relativism - that there is no objective, absolute truth, only different points-of-view - have found their way out of the social science seminar room into mainstream conversation. Just like the printing press, the radio and the television in past centuries, the internet has proved an incredibly powerful tool for the spread of both information and misinformation; those earlier technologies proved deeply disruptive of politics and society, both for good and for ill, and the full potential of the internet to facilitate disruptive change is only just becoming apparent. And there is the age-old temptation to see truth as secondary to power. When Jesus is questioned by Pilate, Jesus tells him that he came "to witness to the truth". Pilate responds with the ageless voice of cynical authority "What is truth?".

For Christians God is truth; in God all things live and move and have their being, and in God we have confidence that there is such a thing as objective, absolute truth. God is not something that can be relativized or made subject to the expediency of power. God is something beyond us, something beyond our comprehension; the element of mystery in Christian faith is important. As St Paul writes in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, even as I was also fully known". Each of us sees from our own perspective, each of us has a limited grasp of truth, but that does not mean that there is no such thing as objective truth. Human knowledge is limited, partial and provisional, but because it represents a striving after objective truth, our knowledge and our endeavours to acquire knowledge are precious. In the birth of Jesus which we celebrate during this Christmas season, we see God's affirmation that the apprehension of truth is a part of God's purpose for humanity, because in Jesus the Word of God "became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth".

What does that mean for us practically? In the first place, it means that we must treat truth with the utmost reverence and respect. We should take care to be honest in our own lives, and to respect honesty in others. We should take care that we do not unwittingly spread untruth, whether online or offline, by repeating stories of dubious provenance. Secondly, we should approach truth with humility. Our knowledge and understanding is limited. Most of us could benefit from taking a little more time to question the things that we readily accept as being true, to research both sides of an argument or a question. If we approach truth with humility, we will recognise that truth is never something that we can or should manipulate to serve our own purposes.

My hope and my prayer is that in 2020 we begin to recover our sense of truth as something to respect and defend in all areas of our lives.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Fr Jeremy

CHRISTINE SOUTHWELL

I was so sorry to learn of Christine Southwell's death in November but pleased to see a packed church made up of her large family and friends at St Nicholas on 6 December.

The tribute below is based on a piece written by Christine's daughter, Alexandra, and read by her grandson, Oscar.

"Christine was born in 1937 in Surbiton, Surrey, when her father, Edwin, was 57, and her mother, Sophie 40. When World War II started, they were lucky enough to be able to move to a small village in Devon near Exeter – her father had already served in the Boer War and World War I.

After the war, they moved back to Surbiton and, as a teenager, Christine went to night school and there met Anthony Southwell. They met again when she started her career as an artist at the Kingston Art School.

Christine went on to study at The Royal College of Art and in 1962 Christine and Tony married and moved to Henley, living in St Marks Road. It was there that they had their first two children, Alex and Frankie. Tony was at The Royal Academy of Arts with their greatest friend, Tom Coates, who lived with them at that time (and acted as babysitter whilst Christine and Tony were teaching at evening classes).

Christine's first teaching job was at The Walthamstowe College of Art and it was there that she met her lifelong friend, Dorothy Pennicott.

In 1966 they moved to Aston Farm where their third child, Caleb was born.

Along with Dorothy, they set up Aston Pottery and Studios.

Christine taught pottery and sculpture for many years at the Henley Technical College and also at her studio at Aston.

Christine was a member of The Pastel Society and exhibited at the Mall Galleries in London, Waterperry, nr Oxford, and many other venues, together with Tony, throughout their lives. As a talented pastel artist and great sculptor, she used both to express her love of animals, especially sheep.

Christine loved gardening and she was a resourceful and great cook. She and Tony created a wonderful home full of love and warmth where all were welcome. She was kind, generous and loving, warm and lighthearted and loved the very bones of her best friend and lifelong partner, Tony, and those of her children, their spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren."

Rest in Peace, Christine.

Pat Sly

CHRISTINE SOUTHWELL

I am very grateful to Pat Sly for the tribute to Christine on page **, and also for finding the following extract from an issue of the Remenham Newsletter 37 years ago with Christine's delightful 'Day in the Life'. Remenham has lost one of its most loved and talented residents. I am personally so glad to own one of her wonderful jugs showing a Regatta scene.

Editor

An extract from Remenham Newsletter, No. 27, February/March 1982

"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SOUTHWELL

Looking forward to the coming day, I get out of bed and go to the window; looking out across the village to the surrounding hills, the view is beautiful and always different.

By ten a.m. all the family chores are finished. I escape to the top studio with its view of the valley, farm and garden; it was once a milking parlour for forty cows. Choosing to listen to either Radio 1 or 4, I settle down to a day's work. If I am modelling I work in porcelain, my themes of work vary at every twelve pieces. I am lucky having around me so many sources of inspiration: birds, flowers, mice and fungi all inhabiting the environs close to the studio.

Some days are spent glazing the pieces in soft green celadon. Planning what each piece requires or I can achieve, intricate pieces need special treatment.

I spend at least one day a week drawing, visiting places such as Dawe's Farm to study their sheep; they have a nice variety. Sheep are such wonderful characters, when they are translated into clay, techniques and methods of treatment are endless and exciting.

But to get away completely I take pastels and myself into Oxfordshire with its infinite variety. Particularly the peculiarly, I am drawn to a stark stone mill at Cuddesdon that stands guardian over a little race, full of fish and tenanted by swans and yellow flags. Becoming absorbed with the atmosphere I forget the time.

At five p.m. I finish work, prepare the family supper, and organize myself for the next day's teaching programme. About eleven p.m. I struggle away from the T.V. to sleep. But not without opening my window to peer into the darkness at the twinkling lights across the Thames valley and to listen to the strange night sounds.

Christine Southwell"

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



December is always a busy month for St Nicholas. We celebrated our patronal festival on the Sunday nearest to St Nicholas day, 8 December, when the Archdeacon of Dorchester, the Venerable Judy French came and celebrated Holy Communion. This was followed by very jolly drinks in church.

Our candlelit carol service was held on Sunday 15 December – the congregation was slightly down on the previous year but nevertheless the turnout was very good and the choir did a splendid job. The service was followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Hall. Many thanks to Anthony West for providing and mulling the wine and to all those who made mince pies.

We held our first service of Christmas at 9.00pm on Christmas Eve and despite Remenham Lane being under water we had a decent congregation. Our children's service with Holy Communion on Christmas morning had a congregation of 81 and was greatly enhanced by the excellent singing voices of the Rutland family.

As the year ends, we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helps keep St Nicholas up and running: the Rector, organist, PCC, sidesmen, flower arrangers and cleaners and everyone who attends our services. Without you the church would simply not continue to exist so many, many thanks.

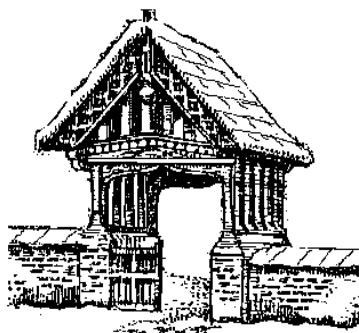
Our pattern of services will remain the same for 2020: first, third and fifth Sundays matins and second and fourth Sundays Holy Communion, but do keep an eye on the website (www.remenhamparish.org.uk) for any changes to the regular pattern.

With good wishes

Charlotte Every

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

John Merkel and I have swapped roles again with John returning to Deputy Chairman and me returning to Chairman.

THAMESBRIDGE HOUSE

I am often asked about Thamesbridge House. It is difficult to say why nothing has happened, but it has not been left derelict for long enough for the Borough Council to intervene. Planning permission has been given. Nevertheless it has been an unusually long time in the current condition. The garage owned by Bird Place fell down and was “made safe”.

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

HRR have confirmed that they intend to go to the sixth day in 2021.

COACH HOUSE

The planning application has been withdrawn.

REMENHAM THESPIANS

It was a pleasure to see and hear Bill, our parish council colleague, taking the lead role. Congratulations to the director and the cast for another memorable performance. *(See photo on page 14.)*

PARK PLACE POLO

The Parish Council has submitted a representation to the appeal, and I have submitted another. The Council’s case is being reviewed by WBC’s legal representatives’ Landmark chambers. We expect the hearing to be an informal hearing in February.

ROAD WORKS

I apologise to all who were inconvenienced late November by overnight road closures in Remenham. Resurfacing on the Wokingham side of Henley Bridge was undertaken. This is part of major investment to maintain our network to ensure a smooth ride for all who use it, especially at this key point between two counties. Thank you to all drivers and residents, on both sides of the bridge, for your patience whilst we completed the works in this very difficult area.

VILLAGE SKIP

We are attempting to restart this initiative.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Consultation will be published on 7th January 2019.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) believes the world is now in a climate emergency. More concerted and urgent action is needed at local, national and international level to protect our planet for future generations. As such, this Council commits to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030. The first programme of work will be published in January.

THIRD BRIDGE

Another meeting is due, which I will chair. My historic scepticism is evaporating with Boris' government, who seems willing to commit to large infrastructure projects.

REMENHAM HILL

Action is in hand on (i) extending the 30mph speed limit to beyond the entrance to Middle Culham Cottage and Culden Faw and (ii) making changes to the parking bays on Remenham, including their siting and time restrictions.

ASTON LANE

The recent heavy rain has set back the remedial action for large holes at the side of the road and patches of water.

CONSERVATION PROJECT HELPS BARN OWLS BOUNCE BACK

At least 11 barn owls born in the Wokingham Borough took their first flight this autumn with more of the rare birds as the parents had for a second brood.

More than 20 barn owl boxes have been installed on telegraph poles and in trees to help keep the rare species of bird thriving in the borough by providing somewhere to nest and take advantage of the good hunting ground locally. It is part of Wokingham Borough Council's barn owl conservation project, which has been running for more than fifteen years to try and help boost numbers of the species.

The project was launched in 2002 and has been a great success with more than 250 chicks being born in the area since then. The council works alongside the Barn Owl Conservation Network and the British Trust of Ornithologists to maintain the boxes and monitor the number of chicks being born in the area each year, feeding into national statistics for the bird of prey.

As well as barn owls, the boxes are occasionally used by kestrels for nesting and the project also records their numbers as an indicator of the health of the countryside. Council staff and volunteers work alongside an accredited Natural England Schedule 1 licence holder to inspect the boxes each year.



Every effort is made to minimise disturbance to the animals while the number of eggs, chicks and stockpiled prey are monitored. Where possible, chicks are also ringed to help identify them in the future and track the species over time.

The council's long-running barn owl conservation project helps ensure we are doing everything we can to keep this beautiful species thriving in the Wokingham Borough.



Our officers do excellent work alongside kind and interested volunteers across our area to keep the boxes in great condition and provide a perfect nesting site for barn owls. As a rural area with lots of countryside, we do all we can to boost biodiversity and provide areas where all types of wildlife can live happily.

The council is always looking for countryside volunteers. All tasks are ranger-led with tools and instruction provided. Everybody is welcome and no

experience is necessary. If you are interested in volunteering, email countryside@wokingham.gov.uk or me.



If you are interested in working on the barn owl box checks, please contact the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, which the council works alongside on the project. For more information contact Stuart Croft on stuart.croft@hants.gov.uk or me.

TOGETHER WE CAN TACKLE CHILD ABUSE

We all play a key role in protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect, but many people don't act because they fear they might be wrong. You don't have to be absolutely certain to make a report. We gather information from many sources, so it's better to be safe than sorry.

If you suspect a child or a young person is being abused, use the 'ABC' approach to watch for the tell-tale signs:

- Appearance: unusual injuries, or consistently poor hygiene
- Behaviour: being withdrawn, overly anxious, disruptive or self-harming
- Communication: talking aggressively, using sexualised language or becoming secretive

An important part of my Borough Council role is make children's lives safer. Health professionals, teachers and social work practitioners are skilled in identifying abuse and neglect but it's not just up to them. Please report anything you suspect being not quite right. The welfare of a child could depend upon it.

Your concerns can be reported to WBC Social Care team on (0118) 908 8002 or partner agencies the NSPCC or Thames Valley Police. If the child is in immediate risk always call 999, or you think a crime has been committed, call 101. The information you provide is invaluable and could be the missing puzzle piece.

And remember, if you think it, report it.

Please be in touch if we can be of help on any other matter

John Halsall
07939 041227 johnnashalsall@gmail.com
Chairman Remenham Parish Council
Councillor Wokingham Borough Council
Leader of the Council

Detective Inspector Twigg (*our Parish Councillor, Bill Ronald*) addressing the suspects



A DIVERSION FROM THE UK's TURBULENT TIMES

A view from the stalls

A review of THE REMENHAM MURDERS performed by the Remenham Thespians on the 7th, 8th and 9th November 2019

Following their resounding success with 'Murder Afoot' in 2017 the Remenham Thespians reappeared to tread the boards in the Parish Hall last November. This time their performance was based on the script 'Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders' to whet the grizzly appetites of Remenham fans who filled the hall.

The director in her programme notes warned us that the script had been adapted to fit the cast and cameo appearances of old stagers giving a joined-up production of mystery and apprehension. In fact there was a climatic moment when she wound up the tension so that it seemed that the villain would be dramatically unmasked. Jaws dropped, the actors froze and exchanged accusing glances. But there was no revelation. Instead the prompter scanned the script with her torch and in a penetrating hoarse [horse] whisper, unlocked the missed cue thereby slackening the tension.

New talent was unearthed in the form of Mortimer Gascoyne's actor expertly demonstrating his athletic prowess with a resounding thump when he was impaled by a flying dagger in the narrow confines of the broom cupboard. Little did we know that here was a hint that the perpetrator had detailed acquaintance with the interior of the broom cupboard.

Llewellyn Bishop (*David Morgan*), **Isabella, Alice, Eleanor and Agatha** (*Louise Binney, Pru Sly, Marilyn Dudley, Angie Emerson*), **corpse of Mortimer Gascoyne** (*John Nelson*)



Harry Knott with the delectable life model Mandy (*Geoff Goodwin and Eileen Collins*), **Olivia (or is it Oliver?) Truscott-Pratt** (*Barry Rosier*), **Maisie Grimm** (*Darrell Poulos*)



Llewellyn Bishop's actor was another discovery with acting talents honed in the Principality of Wales. We guessed that the script had been manipulated to display the smitten Eleanor Wagstaff as an Elizabeth Taylor going for a Burton. The entanglement of Llewellyn and Wagstaff turned out to be a cunning plot to mislead the convincingly incompetent Detective Inspector Twigg. But was he really smarter than that? Were Llewellyn and Wagstaff another Bonnie and Clyde?

Harry Knott was every inch a professional village hall caretaker down to accent, sweaty cloth cap, open neck shirt and brown overalls. We know our caretakers when we see one and pay them well but ask any of us 'what do caretakers actually do?' we have no answer. We each pull a quizzical face, turn our palms outwards and hunch our shoulders. What and who was Harry Knott? He had a suspicious gift of the gab as a sort of Master of Ceremonies telling us the murder tally so far and the village fake news. Agatha Crusty, an intellectual blue stocking hiding her femininity behind wide angle spectacles probably marked down Harry Knott as Suspect No 1.

More suspects were displayed as a group being harangued by Detective inspector Twigg hoping that the villain would be nervous, wilt under pressure and confess—a well known Agatha C procedure for exposing the truth. *(See photo on page 14.)*

This show-trial technique produced only a few signs of that nervousness. Olivia Truscott-Pratt nonchalantly thrust out her chin, wriggled her torso and fiddled with her falsie. Maisie Grimm, the cleaner stood up, walked to her broom cupboard and with a casual careless backward kick from the heel of her hob-nailed boot slammed the door to conceal her precious mops and bucket.

Then the lighting and sound department snuffed out the lights and flooded the hall with sinister music.



Poirot (Anthony West), Clouseau (John Nelson) and P.C. Lockett (Nigel Gray)

When we could see and hear again the stage was empty apart from a painter's easel and canvas and a slim female figure draped in a fetching hooded green silk gown. This was Mandy, a painter's model. She proudly surveyed the expectant throng before her. We were all captivated by her glittering seductive eyes that promised paradise. The programme said she was an unbelievable 95, but like Cleopatra:

*Age could not wither her,
Nor custom stale her infinite variety....
[see Shakespeare and Google for more!!].*

Perhaps this subliminal performance in front of a captive audience, was a promotional ploy by the village hall committee eager to attract more parishioners to attend next term's Life painting Classes.

Then the whodunnit sailed on towards its conclusion like Kipling's river boat chugging from Rangoon to Mandalay. Sherlock Holmes appeared only to be replaced by shrewd Europeans from the Monsieur Barnier stable, portrayed in striking cameo performances by Poirot and Clouseau. (*See photos on opposite page.*) Our stolid British Detective Inspector Twigg was soon outclassed by these wily European sleuths. Instead he stuck to the pragmatic procedure of allowing more murders thereby reducing the number of suspects who were then exhibited as a small group on the left wing of the stage.

The final twist of the thumbscrew came when P C Lockett rattled his handcuffs. It seemed that there was at least one suspect familiar with Offenbach's heartless European ditty 'We are the bold Gendarmes':

*When we meet a helpless woman
Or little boys who do no harm ,
We run them in. We run them in.
We are the bold gendarmes*

Maisie Grimm, the helpless female cleaner who knew her Offenbach, must have thought P C Lockett was a dreaded European gendarme. So she confessed. P C Lockett moved in for the kill and, after the umpteenth fruitless time with other suspects, snapped on the handcuffs. (*See photo on opposite page.*)

What was her motive? Was it envy? But envy about what? Could she have hankered after the role of model, instead of Mandy, for next term's life painting classes in the Village hall?

Words do not exist to describe the mind-blowing, toe-curling production of 'Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders' by the Remenham Thespians 2019.

Jer-No-Wot. Let it never be said that there was too much Hump and not enough Camel.

Jim Bland, Thamesfield Retirement Village, Remenham. December 2019

The photographs included in this article, and those on pages 14/15, are by David Binney



REMENHAM THESPIANS



A message from the Director

Thank you very much for your support for our recent production! Thank you also for the many kind emails afterwards which suggested that our audiences enjoyed themselves. The director, cast and back stage team certainly had a lot of fun (and some very anxious moments!). I am pleased to include below a very heart-warming message from a friend of the Grays, who has been coming to the Thespian productions for 19 years, since Nigel and Jayne first moved to Remenham.

"I honestly feel that the Remenham Thespian play is my happiest evening of the year. It reminds me so much of the village life of my childhood.

I love the fact that the players don't take it too seriously. Their sheer enjoyment and the fun they have are infectious and the whole thing just radiates everything that is missing in the world we live in today. I honestly think that it would make the most wonderful TV documentary on how we should be finding simple pleasures and community spirit.

I don't think you all realise what enjoyment you give to people.

Anna Frizzell"

I was delighted to receive Jim Bland's review (*'a view from the stalls', see pages 15-17*), with his wonderful turns of phrase and unique perspective on our thespian antics. Jim really is a wordsmith par excellence.

I am pleased to say that as a result of the three sell-out performances and the generously supported bar and raffles, we have been able to give £1,000 to Parish Hall funds, and still have some funds in reserve for future Thespian/Parish Hall projects.

Our loyal supporters may be pleased to hear that they won't have to wait a full two years for the next production! This is being planned for March 2021, with the difficult task of finding a suitable script beginning soon, and then the casting.....! The delightful cartoon I received as a Christmas card (*see opposite page*) is wonderfully appropriate!

Felicity Rutland

The frazzled but ultimately relieved and proud Director



Whilst casting the back end of the donkey had been straight-forward, Eric found other key roles problematic

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REMENHAM W.I.

November

Remenham WI met at the parish hall for a “Pot Pourri” Afternoon - a treat on a dank November day. Just over 30 of us members and friends all of us delighted to meet Marlene Voke, President of Berkshire, all seated at beautifully decorated tables.



We had time to visit the stalls, an excellent “Bring and Buy” table and another with exquisite hand made Christmas table decorations and many other exciting Christmas goodies. Our President Daphne Austen then introduced Jean Hall, who describes herself as “The poor man’s Pam Ayres”. She announced she did not do political correctness, has written 4 books, and been on Radio Berks. Her first poem to be topical was entitled Brexit, with the line “We need Guy Fawkes to blow up the lot”! Her poems went from sad to highly amusing.

There was a break for a superb tea, provided by the Committee with excellent waitress service. There was then lots of time for more shopping and lots of gossip. Jean closed with a few more very entertaining poems. Judy Palmer gave Jean a heartfelt vote of thanks, and the committee were congratulated and thanked profusely. Now we all look forward to our next meeting “Desert Island Discs”, and our Christmas lunch at The Little Angel.

Sheila Constantinidi

Report from the President of Remenham WI

Several members of Remenham WI recently had a guided tour of The Mill Theatre at Sonning. After an initial talk about the beginnings and subsequent history of the theatre, the group visited the workshop. Here they were shown how original drawings and plans were transformed into the amazing sets for all the productions. Next came a fascinating talk on the costumes, their making and adaptations - a huge undertaking, especially for one of their recent shows, My Fair Lady. Finally there was a tour under the theatre, to explore the many Aladdin caves of props from lamp standards of every style to gin bottles from the 1930s! The dressing rooms and memorabilia concluded the tour before partaking in a delicious cream tea in the restaurant. This was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all.

The November meeting was a fund raising event, a Christmas Pot Pourri with many friends and members from other WI groups attending. There were opportunities to buy Christmas gifts from the various stalls and the entertainment was provided by Jean Hill who delivered a delightful selection of her own poetry, many with a Christmas theme. Everyone then enjoyed a superb Christmas tea.

In December, two members attended the Berkshire Centenary Thanksgiving Service in Mortimer. This was a heart warming service, which included the reading of various extracts from the archives. The Remenham WI banner was also on display with many others and many food items were donated to the food bank.

The December meeting reflected the theme of Christmas, where members listened to and joined in with Christmas carols and a variety of lighter Christmas music as well as listening to a selection of Christmas poems and readings. The afternoon ended with a Christmas quiz and tea.

The last of the three challenges Remenham set themselves for the centenary year was also on display. A large 100 had been created and the numbers had been covered with coins which will be donated to the charity Associated Country Women of the World, which is supported by the WI. *(Please see photograph on inside front cover.)* The charity connects rural and non-rural women and their communities worldwide, helping to fund community development projects and training programmes, so raising the health and standard of living of women and their families.

The last gathering of 2019 was the Christmas lunch, held at the Little Angel, for members, husbands and friends. After mulled wine and a delicious lunch, many members were winners in the Christmas raffle.

If you would like to come along to a meeting, we meet on the second Monday of each month at Remenham Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. Please contact me on 01628 824376 for any further information. We would love to see you.

Daphne Austen



POPPY APPEAL



I would like to thank everyone who contributed to The Poppy Appeal this year. Remenham raised £1485.73 which was up on last year. Well done.

David and I have decided that next year, 2020, will be the last year we will organise the Poppy Appeal. If anyone would like to take over from us please contact me on 01491 572110.

With my thanks.

Carol Wissett

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 Fiona and Tobin Keen. Particular thanks to Jo Morgan for coordinating the advertising.

Felicity, Editor
newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

THE REMENHAM NEWSLETTER - SOME POSSIBLE CHANGES

Consultations are taking place about the possibility of the Newsletter becoming a quarterly publication rather than two-monthly. We are very proud of the fact that the newsletter is delivered to every household in the Parish, by our fantastic band of volunteers, and this will of course continue. We also value enormously the support of our advertisers, most of them local. Nevertheless the task of producing this much loved publication, and endeavouring to break-even, is proving increasingly difficult.

There are implications for all those who regularly contribute to the newsletter, those who advertise in it, those who contribute to it financially and those who distribute it. Publication and delivery dates would need to be revised, and advertising rates would need to be amended, so there is much to consider, as well as the break from tradition. If we are to change then it would make sense to do so for the July issue so that thereafter it is published in January, April, July and October, in line with the seasons of the year.

I would be pleased to hear the views of our readers and from anyone who would be affected by the possible changes.

Felicity, Editor
newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

REMENHAM ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS - URGENT!

Thank you to the *Remenham Artists* who have contributed some wonderful pictures and photographs for use in the newsletter, principally for the front cover. I urgently need more, especially those suitable for particular times of the year, such as Christmas, winter, Regatta, summer - so please keep them coming!

Felicity
newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

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CULHAM CHAPEL

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How to report fly tipping to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC)

There is a new way for you to report fly tipping, to give you a faster response.

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Outside these hours (emergencies) - 0800 212 111

To report fly-tipping or dumped rubbish that isn't dangerous, contact WBC website and simply follow the instructions. <https://selfservice.wokingham.gov.uk/services/flytipping/>

On this page, you'll find a facility to create an online account, which will allow you to report any problem, such as potholes, flooding or rubbish collection – and then track the WBC response to your complaint.

Even if you currently have no complaint, it's a good idea to create an account, so that you are in touch with the various facilities and helplines.

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