

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



Remenham artist
Allan Henderson

No 274 – May-June 2020

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 and verger

Mike Dowsett Tel: 01491 575711

Treasurer

Nigel Gray Tel: 01491 572024

Secretary

Mandy Sermon Tel: 01491 412908

Sidesmen: Antony Duckett, Rosemary Duckett, Anthony West, Sarah West, Charlotte Every, John Laing, Sue Laing, Glen Palethorpe, Ruth Palethorpe.

VIRTUAL SERVICES

During the lockdown there will be virtual services at 10.30am on Sundays
<http://www.stmaryshenley.org.uk/remote-church>

To telephone the rector during the lockdown - 07906 172730

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

PARISH DIARY - *inevitably there is very little to include*

May

2nd/3rd Henley Lockdown Festival - see page 9

11th 5.30pm Parish Council Meeting (virtual, via *Tools* - see page 12)

June

11th Parish Council Meeting (virtual, details to be announced)

Further ahead if possible:

6th September Remenham Fayre, Parish Hall and Garden

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

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

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

John Halsall (Chairman): johnashalsall@gmail.com, 07939 041 227

John Merkel (Deputy Chairman, Chairman Planning): johnmerkel53@aol.com, 07803 790 553

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

In normal times 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. During the Covid-19 lockdown virtual meetings will be held. See pages xxxxx

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

REMENHAM, WARGRAVE AND RUSCOMBE

John Halsall: johnashalsall@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
Charlotte Every	07973 798071, churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk
Jayne Gray	01491 572024, Grayjaynee@aol.com
Allan Henderson	07812044113, allanhenderson@me.com
Sue Laing	07885851362, sue@isobel.com
Helen Rosier	01491 573572, baz.r@live.com
Pat Sly	01491 577925, patsly@tinyworld.co.uk
Lene de Wesselow	dewesselow@btopenworld.com
Janette Brown	janette1brown@yahoo.co.uk
Jacky Ronald	jackyronald@aol.com

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND EDITORIAL POLICY

During the lockdown the newsletter will be produced digitally, circulated by email and on the website. Do please keep sending any interesting/topical items for possible inclusion to the Editor, Felicity Rutland, at 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.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first digital version of the Remenham Newsletter, which at first I thought would be easier than the printed version, but I was wrong!

As you will see, this issue is in fact something of a hybrid as some of the articles are reports from things that happened before the lockdown, and I have also had some contributions in the usual format. In particular there is an important report from the Parish Council/Wokingham Borough, who are clearly working harder than ever to keep everything going and make sure that those who need it are getting support. What is being done is impressive.

I have however added a lot of 'lockdown material', principally of the humorous kind to keep up morale and share some of the extremely entertaining cartoons, videos, quizzes and photographs that I've received from a variety of sources. It has been amusing to receive a number of these several times over from completely different sources, as they do the rounds of the internet and social media.

As well as reading the articles, please do have a look at some of the video clips listed on pages 16 and 17. One of the things I've learnt to do in producing this digital version of the newsletter is how to include links to websites and email addresses that are 'live'. So, if you'd like to look at a particular video you simply need to click on the link. All the lockdown inspired videos are worth looking at but I also recommend those on page 17, clips from years ago that are particularly apt and amusing. There are some links in other parts of the newsletter which I have also made 'live', including the link to the virtual church from which the rector is conducting a virtual service each Sunday morning, the link to Janette and Neil Brown's Just Giving page in aid of Remenham PCC (see page 6) and the link to the answers to the puzzle on page 10. I hope you also enjoy the lockdown lingo and lockdown poem on pages 22 and 23. I will get better at producing digital newsletters if the lockdown continues.

I do hope everyone is well. One of the great things about the lockdown is the extraordinary way the Remenham community has responded, to make us even stronger than we were before. However, won't it be wonderful when we can actually meet!

Whether the next issue is only digital or whether it will be possible to have a printed one, we must wait and see, but we shall certainly have one or the other, so please keep sending me your contributions.

Felicity

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES *(yes, these still apply)*

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
July-Aug	Friday 19 June	Friday 26 June
Sept-Oct	Friday 21 August	Friday 28 August
Nov-Dec	Friday 23 October	Friday 30 October

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

Like many people during this time of lockdown, my family has found that keeping some sort of shape to the day is vital in order to preserve our sanity and get anything done. As a priest, my day continues to be shaped by the daily round of Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, and as a family we have made a daily walk for exercise a part of our rhythm and routine. The daily walk has been a great source of pleasure and comfort. Depending on the available time, we either walk up into the woods on the Remenham side of the river, or simply walk up and down the river itself. We have bumped into some of you (whilst of course maintaining social distancing)! Having spent most of my adult life in central London, it has been a great delight to see the incremental changes in nature in springtime, especially in the woods; to notice the scent of the bluebells, or the changes in light as the leaf cover gradually increases, and the arrival of ducklings along the riverbank has brought great joy to us all, especially to the girls.

This season is a season of joy, the church's great season of Easter in which we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death, in which all creation rejoices in redemption and renewal and new life. Yet for many of us joy is hard to find. For many of us it is a time of fear and loneliness, and time when we are denied the things that matter most to us, the company of our loved ones and the worship and the sacraments of the church. The news is grim; 27,500 deaths and counting, each one of them a real person with a unique set of gifts and experiences and memories, with friends and families who miss them deeply.

We recently celebrated the feast of S. George the Martyr, patron saint of England (and quite a few other places), and I was particularly struck by the readings set for Morning Prayer, one from the Old Testament Book of Joshua, the other from the Letter of S. Paul to the Ephesians. Both strongly featured exhortations to courage. We might think of courage as an individual virtue; the bravery that comes from confidence in one's own ability and strength. But this is not the courage that the Bible speaks of. The courage that the Bible speaks of is rooted in something which is beyond the strength and abilities of the individual; the courage that the Bible speaks of is rooted in that which is beyond us. I suspect that many of us in our different ways draw courage from things which are bigger than us, even beyond us. Our communities, our nation, our National Health Service, our networks of families and friends, and of course the natural environment around us – all of these things point us to a life and strength and love which transcends our own individual strengths and weaknesses; all of these things point to forces and values which transcend our isolation and give us courage.

From a Christian point-of-view all of these sources of comfort and courage, these manifestations of beauty and goodness and love, these things point us to the God in whom all things live and move and have their being, the God who is above and beyond all things. So I encourage you all, in the words of the Letter to the Ephesians, to “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power”.

With my prayers,

Fr Jeremy

REMENHAM SPONSORED ROW



With the Sponsored walk scheduled for 4 April cancelled, Janette and Neil Brown bravely took part in the nationwide 2.6 challenge on 26 April to raise money for charities whose normal fundraising opportunities have been cancelled. They decided to each row 2.6km (on an ergo of course), and chose Remenham PCC in the hope of replacing the funds lost through the cancellation of the sponsored walk and weekly events. They set a target of £260 which has been exceeded by a wide margin through a wonderful 52 donations, reaching £1523+gift aid so far. The justgiving page is still open so perhaps it will increase still further - see <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/janette-s-2-6-challenge2020>

Many congratulations to Janette and Neil for their inspired and inspirational efforts, and thank you to all their supporters.

WHATSAPP SUPPORT GROUPS

There are two local WhatsApp Support groups - for Remenham and for Aston. To add your names to the Remenham one please contact Janette Brown on 07768 166764 or janette1brown@yahoo.co.uk and for the Aston one please email Charlotte Every on churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk.

Members of the groups give each other support and local information, and reinforce our community spirit in the most wonderful way. The younger members will run errands, collect shopping etc whilst adhering to all social distancing measures. In the case of the Remenham group in particular it is also a source of uplifting jokes, cartoons, videos and photos!

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



It was with enormous regret that, on the instructions of the Archbishop of Canterbury, we closed St Nicholas on 2 April having hoped to be able to keep it open for visitors even if services were suspended. This must be the first time for over 900 years (the first Rector was recorded in 1076) that the church has been closed and there have been no Easter celebrations and this is a great sadness. However, although the building is closed the church is alive and active in other ways, and Father Jeremy is holding a virtual service every Sunday which you can find at <http://www.stmaryshenley.org.uk/remote-church>. If you need to contact Father Jeremy you can email rector.hwr@btinternet.com or telephone 07906 172730.

Despite the church being closed the Easter altar cloth is on and the flag flying and before the shutdown we did get the organ mended. We also managed to find some palm crosses in the vestry, and these were left in the porch for people to collect and take home on Palm Sunday.

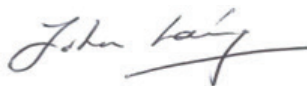


We would like to offer many, many thanks to Neil and Janette Brown from the Old School House who took part in the 2.6k challenge on Sunday 26 April which was set up to raise funds for charities whose normal fundraising opportunities had been cancelled. They each rowed 2.6k on an ergo and raised the splendid sum of £1523, plus gift aid. We are enormously grateful to Neil and Janette for doing this as although we are closed, we still have to pay our parish share and various other expenses. If you would like to make a donation to help us through this difficult time, please see our Just Giving page.

With good wishes and hopefully by the next newsletter, we will be up and running again.



Charlotte Every



John Laing

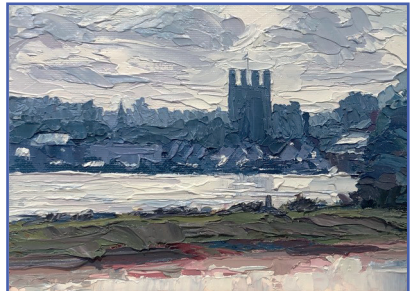
Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham

REMENHAM'S VERY OWN ARTS TRAIL!!



With galleries closed and The Henley Arts Trail that was due to take place this weekend cancelled, Remenham artist Allan Henderson has had to put on hold the private views to introduce his new small paintings website.

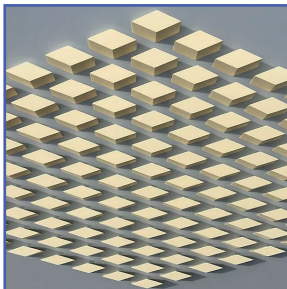
www.allanhendersonsmallpaintings.art.



The above website is separate to Allan's main site:

<https://www.allanhenderson.art/>

Two examples from the main website



Geometric sculpture

The Catch
Sculpture of the rower, Mark Hunter



1 of 1

HENLEY LOCKDOWN FEST

2-3 MAY
2020



Bring Happiness Home

www.henleylockdownfest.com

#HenleyLockdownFest

SATURDAY 2ND MAY

HENLEY LOCKDOWN FEST INTRO & HOST GRAHAM BELL	09.00-09.30	ROSS BRAWN IN CONVERSATION WITH GRAHAM BELL	17.00-17.30
SLOW FLOW YOGA WITH GREEN LEAVES YOGA	09.30-10.15	WINE TASTING WITH MASTER OF WINE ALISTAIR COOPER	17.45-18.20
GET FIT WITH FITNESS SPACE	10.30-11.30		
CROCKERS HENLEY GO SATURDAY KITCHEN LIVE	12.00-12.30	HENLEY LOCKDOWN CONCERTS	
ACOUSTIC LOCKDOWN SESSIONS		- OKIEM	20.00-20.45
- KATIE MOBERLEY	14.00-14.45	- NATASHA HAMILTON	21.15-21.45
- MEGAN HENWOOD	15.00-15.30	HOUSE PARTY FEATURING DJ JAMIE TAYLOR	22.00-24.00
PAUL CLEREUGH FROM CROOKED BILLET	16.00-16.30		

SUNDAY 3RD MAY

HENLEY LOCKDOWN FEST INTRO & HOST GRAHAM BELL	09.00-09.30	AN INSIGHT INTO HANDCRAFTED SILVER - BISHOPS LAND	16.00-16.30
FAMILY FITNESS WITH CHANTAL WATTS	09.30-10.30	RUGBY CENTURIONS INTERVIEW	17.00-17.30
BERTIE SLIPPERS	11.00-11.30	BOBBY DAVINO'S FAMILY FORTUNES	19.00-20.00
SHAUN DICKENS COOKING MASTERCLASS	12.00-12.30	HENLEY LOCKDOWN CONCERTS	
ACOUSTIC LOCKDOWN SESSIONS		- ADAM ISAAC	20.30-21.30
- BEN LEE	14.00-14.45	- JG COLLECTIVE	21.45-22.15
- ETHAM	15.00-15.45	BEN OFOEDU (PHATS & SMALL)	22.30-23.00



IN SUPPORT OF THE
NHS AND RIVERSIDE
COUNSELLING SERVICE



100%
of proceeds
will be donated

PARTNERS



TWO LOCKDOWN VIRUS-FREE CHALLENGES



ABOVE

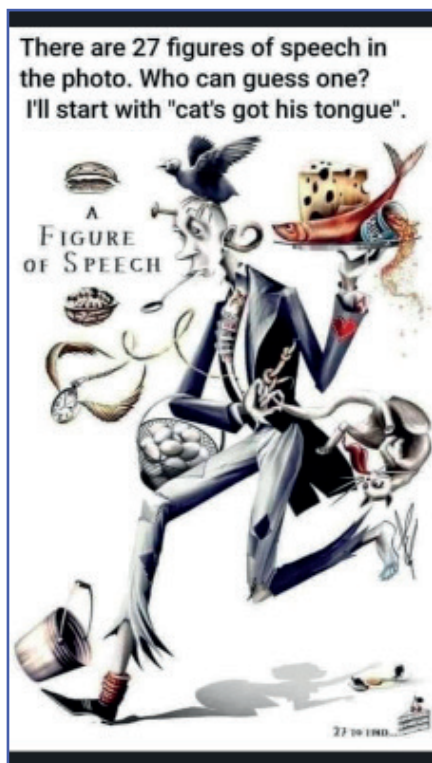
Enda Cahill challenged those in the Remenham WhatsApp group to 'Spot the ball' in this photograph of Home Farm in Remenham Lane (next to the cricket pitch).

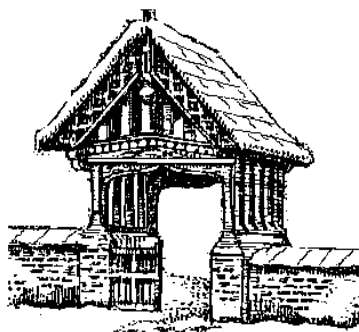
RIGHT

Some of you may have seen the 'puzzle' on the right already - it has been circulated widely during the lockdown, along with numerous other quizzes and puzzles. If you haven't seen it before do have a go - it's a challenge to get them all!

ANSWERS

See page 21





REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL AND WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

If you have been left out in any way and/or need help, please contact me or Paul or any other Parish councillor - we shall be able to help.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

Tale of Two Cities

First Call

We were driving to Switzerland on 29th February when the call came to tell me that Corona Virus had struck in Wokingham Borough. The world suddenly changed.

Video conferencing, (Zoom, teams, skype, google hangouts or meet) is now the norm. Who had heard of Zoom two months ago? Now its on everyone's lips! There is a new dictionary which has replaced "backstop" and "level playing field" with "R", "PPE", "Lockdown", "Social distancing", "New Normal" and more. My life has become dawn to dusk meetings at home. Initially from the emergency planning team quickly extending to every aspect of life for which we as a Council have responsibility.

The deaths and suffering have been tragic. My deepest sympathies go out to family and friends. Only time will tell whether they could reasonably have been avoided.

It's been a very revealing two months. The Council and its staff have been brilliant. We have managed to marshal a willing voluntary sector to assigned tasks creating a food distribution hub, a telephone monitoring service and a pharmacy distribution. We have worked with the domestic violence agencies to attempt to identify and intervene where we believe there is a risk.

These actions coupled with the amazing neighbourhood networks which have sprung up – two in Remenham with grateful thanks to Andrea and Janette – but indeed everywhere have given the Borough huge resilience to weather the storm.

We have had numerous lists of the vulnerable and the shielded. Our own. The Government's. The NHS and the GPs. We have established contact with each and every one of those. The neighbourhood networks have had their own. My constant fear is that we have missed someone. So if you find it strange that Borough staff are knocking on doors, it is double checking that we have not missed anyone.

We have engaged with the supermarkets with varying degrees of success but have really left Henley to Henley. I am told, however, by my good lady that Tesco's is well organised. The problem, it seems, is that Central Government heralded the passing of shielding lists to them, but they really did not know what to do with them as their priority customers are determined by loyalties. I believe that they now have welded the two together, but it is still imperfect. I am given lists every week to ring up ; the excitement from those I ring is that they have a Tesco (or whoever) slot.

We have adopted, slightly contrary to our neighbours, a regime of keeping stuff open and being permissive relying upon the intelligence of our residents and by and large have proved to be correct. We have had to close our leisure centres, libraries and tips but the staff involved have been redeployed to other activities allowing for example increased doorstep collections.

Our communications team has been second to none constantly updating the Borough with whatever is new including guidance from central government – there have been more than 1000 and not surprisingly not all consistent.

So where to now

What's certain is that we shall not revert to where we were. At the time of writing my prognosis is that lockdown is likely to be lifted from Mid-May onwards, but social distancing, deep cleaning and shielding will go on for much longer and probably until a universally available vaccine exists.

If my prognosis is correct, then pretty much every organisation will have to encompass deep cleaning and social distancing as part of their normal work practices. Interestingly, the motor manufacturers intend to start work and have incorporated deep cleaning and social distancing as part of their normal work practises; supermarkets have already done so. The Council is doing the same.

The Household Waste Recycling centres are likely to be reopened with a booking system, social distancing and deep cleaning every day. Leisure Companies believe that they can reopen and maintain these regulations.

The Parish and Parish Council

Well we managed to hold our first Parish council meeting virtually and it was not too shabby (Teams not Zoom) We will have another Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11th May at 17.30.

Please contact me or Paul for an invitation which comes by email and gives you a link into the meeting.

So, its business as usual for dog bins, roads etc

We will not hold an Annual Parish Meeting this May as its very purpose is to get residents together, something that regrettably we cannot do. Maybe when the social distancing regime has ended, we should have an Annual Parish Meeting as a celebration.

I have plentiful stocks of blue and green bags for anyone, who has spring cleaned enthusiastically. I can replenish those stocks.

But it's not all bad

Every evening, I marvel at the stars. It's been a long time since we've been able to clearly see the sky at night. The pollution levels have dropped noticeably.
The silence is wonderful. No rat run.

The emergency has demonstrated that we can make great strides in Climate Change ; it would be shameful if we were to revert to that which was before. Hopefully, we shall learn the lesson and continue to work virtually, perfecting those modes, so that they are doing everything which we had before but better. This could reduce carbon emissions permanently. Being locked down with my two favourite beings (my wife and my dog) has been delightful, something which I could look forward to again but hopefully in less tragic circumstances.

On another matter

My internet connection stinks. The only real solution is fibre. We have fought hard to be on the programme. Hurley and Remenham has been allocated to Gigaclear as part of Superfast Berkshire and surprise surprise we now are getting to the top of the list. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE register your interest. <https://www.gigaclear.com/buy/address>

Lastly

I would like to end by thanking everybody again – particularly the neighbourhood groups led by Janette and Andrea. We have in many ways been an exemplar.

I would like a moment to commemorate all those who have tragically died. All our thoughts are with them.

If anyone needs help of any sort, please contact me directly.

I would like to thank on behalf of all the Council and residents, all those who are keeping us safe particularly the NHS and care sector.

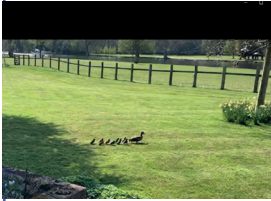
Please be in touch if we can be of help on any other matter

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

REMENHAM WILDLIFE

Much has been said in the media about the reduction in pollution and the return of wildlife to the countryside during the lockdown. These are some Remenham examples:

Ducks and Deer



Mother duck leaving for the river with day old chicks hatched on Nigel and Jayne Gray's pump house. For a delightful video of this please email the Editor - newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

Deer in a garden on
Remenham Hill



Ducks in the
Laws' garden

Clearer skies

A clear night sky in which Jupiter could clearly be seen



Photo - Enda Cahill

A real rainbow over Darrel's NHS rainbow on the door of his boat



Photo - Darrel Poulos

Not extinct

Some rarely seen wildlife, one Thursday evening in April around 8.00pm

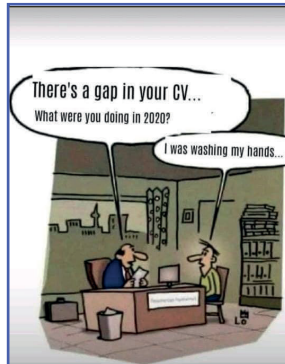
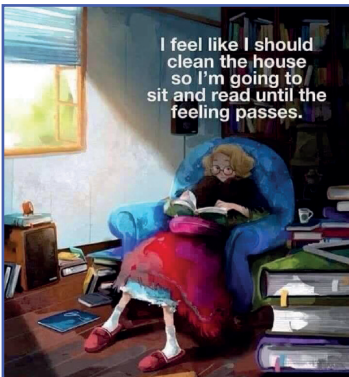


TO AMUSE

A selection of the best lockdown cartoons and images



I'm giving up drinking for a month.
Sorry, bad punctuation.
I'm giving up. Drinking for a month.



Re "A cartoonist's look at life during coronavirus - with an evil cat" (April 11/12). This morning, I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought the cat understood her. I came home, told my dog, we laughed a lot.
La Pomme via FT.com

TO AMUSE - continued

*and a selection of the best lockdown inspired videos
(the links should be live, so just click on them - Editor)*

For all of us (!) who dress up for virtual meetings

"Working from Home" - The Zoom Suit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63TfQcGjfzU>



Family conflicts during lockdown



Option A or B

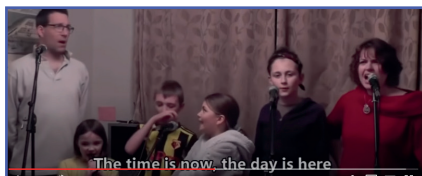
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBrxBzafPJk>

Man camouflaged on sofa

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRa_ZnANGUs



and family talents



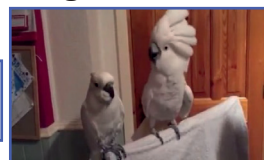
One Day More

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZafX_U5aqs

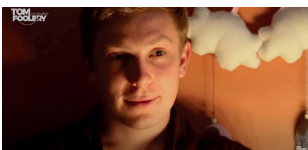
Charming and amazing

Dancing Cockatoos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEQuDyuQFKE>



Uplifting and hopeful



The Great Realisation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5KQMXDiM4>

Roby Facchinetti - Rinascero, Rinasceria

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5DhJS5hGWc>



There are many others that could have been included - eg parodies based on Mary Poppins, Sound of Music, Gilbert and Sullivan (2), and some spoof ones (principally at Donald Trump's expense!). If the next issue is another digital one I will include some more. *Editor*

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Wonderful clips that are strangely appropriate in the current circumstances:



Yes Minister

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6BW-mvkRjE>



Tom Lehrer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WHSVOVLmNY>

A wonderfully nostalgic film of Henley 1940

Pathé News - How time flies (1940)



Summary: Henley Regatta pre wartime. Several shots of people relaxing in rowing boats; boat race in progress; swans swimming on the river; boat tied up; old house in the town including picturesque half timbered buildings; the church of St Mary from the river; the pretty countryside around Henley including numerous willow trees; Hambledon Wear and Mill; two young women sitting on a lock gate; passenger steam boat moored on the side of the river

<https://www.britishpathe.com/video/henley-issue-title-how-time-flies/query/how+time+flies>

and for the Remenham Archives



The Flower Pot 1902



Lord and Lady Hunt (centre) with cake makers Mrs. Jenny Law (left) and Mrs. Pat Sly (right) and departing Remenham residents Mrs. Joan Kolpers and husband John.

Remenham Fayre 1993

From the Henley Standard
Look who hasn't changed a bit!

REMENHAM W.I.

March

As our President Daphne Austen was away, our vice Judy Palmer took the Chair. Diane Sutherland also gave her apologies. We heard that Joy O'Brian has now gone into a 'home' at Ascot; she is settling in happily and can have her beloved dog with her. She would welcome visits.

The report on our A.G.M. was very positive. The Committee had provided a light lunch, and all is settled for the forthcoming year. Carol Wissett has retired from the Committee after many years organising the teas - she thanked the members for a lovely orchid. It was put forward and agreed that in future the teas should be shared between the Committee and the members, £3 to be given for each cake or loaf of sandwiches made. Wendy Robinson, the Denman rep, was a guest and had much enjoyed the afternoon.



As the April meeting falls on Easter Monday, we will meet on Monday 20th April at 10.30am at the Toad Hall Garden Centre. (*Superseded by the lockdown.*)

The five resolutions which had been discussed and voted for at our previous meeting have now been collated with all the Berkshire entries, and the results are as follows:- No. 1 "for a stem cell register"; No. 2 "End modern slavery"; No. 3 "Saving Helium"; No. 4 "Discussing with relations re death and dying" and lastly No.5 " research on crash test dummies". All these will now be collated Countrywide and debated and voted for at the National W.I. meeting in June.

It was also proposed members should bring 2 quality items of clothing for a "dignity room" set up at R.B.H. for those kept in after accidents and are bereft of clothing. Another request from the hospital is for members to knit little cuffs for premature babies who have drips inserted in their arms, which are likely to be scratched out.

Judy then introduced our speaker Alison Edwards, her subject being "the Sue Ryder hospices". She had got involved after a friend had died in one and she was so impressed by the fantastic care not only for the patient but for all the relations and friends. Sue Ryder had become interested aged 6, and in her teens persuaded her mother to turn the family home into a hospice. In 1959 she married Leonard Cheshire and between them they started many care homes. There are 3 "Duchess of Kent Hospices" locally, Newbury and Wokingham and Reading. The Reading one is opposite Prospect Park, there are 15 rooms all en suite and a family room and garden. Newbury and Wokingham are day hospices and can accommodate 10 to 12 people, 3 times a week, so much is provided from just a cup of coffee and a chat to acupuncture, massage and crafts etc. All services are free. They are partially funded but the rest has to be raised. It costs about £13,000 a day to run each hospice. As we know there are retail shops, but Alison herself fundraises and is getting more corporate donations. To quote Sue Ryder "We only get one chance of death, so we must get it right". Of course there were

many questions, particularly about the sale of the Sue Ryder hospice at Nettlebed. She explained it only has 5 beds of which only 3 are usually occupied - it is an enormous house to manage and it just isn't viable to run.

Alison was warmly thanked by Judy and after a superb tea provided by members of the Committee the meeting closed, and we are looking forward to our next meeting at Toad Hall.

I

Supplementary Note resulting from the lockdown:

In view of the current situation of not being able to hold W.I. meetings, our President Daphne Austen has arranged with the committee that each committee member will have two or three members to ring each week to keep in touch and check on their well being.

Sheila Constantinidi

THE DOLMEN AT TEMPLECOMBE

I was recently asked who had bought Templecombe and could not give an answer. But I do know that a couple of years ago, when it was up for sale, it was reported in the Henley Standard that there was interest in buying it from someone in Jersey. IN the grounds of the house stands what is known as 'The Druids' Temple'; actually it is a Dolmen and that is why there was interest from Jersey.

A dolmen is a stone female monument (in several forms) dating back three to five thousand years to the neolithic age. There are many of these monuments scattered over the Channel Islands and particularly in Jersey.

In 1788 an entire dolmen was demolished and gifted to General Conway of Park Place. He had been Governor General of the Channel Islands at a very difficult time and when he returned home he was gifted this monument in appreciation of his governorship. He organised and paid for the shipment back to England and had it re-erected in his grounds. However, there were some stones left over and these he had placed at either side of the bridge he built, which bears his name. These strangely shaped stones are still there (take a look as you drive over the bridge on the Wargrave Road, between the two sets of traffic lights).

It would seem that Jersey wanted to buy Templecombe in order to restore the monument back to its home, but it was not allowed to do so.

Incidentally I keep a watchful eye over the stones on the bridge, should WBC be minded to remove them.

Enid Light

JILL BLAND, A REMENHAM PAINTER 19/03/192 - 30/10/2016

I feel that the radio, TV and the advice on 'social distancing' are making things worse by 24/7 Coronavirus Pandemic propaganda.

However to reduce pointless anxiety it is also suggested that we should slow down, clear our minds, look carefully at what we see in front of us, analyse and remember.

Well, this is exactly what painters like Jill actually do. Throughput most of her active life she looked carefully at what she could see in front of her. Then she quickly made a pencil sketch plus notes on colours in a sketch book that she always carried. She would then go on to her studio to work it up by creating a 'finished' painting. Sometimes, the work was a true recognisable image of what she saw at the beginning; sometimes it was an expression of her mood; sometimes it was a record of the atmosphere of that place and that particular time; sometimes the painting 'spoke' to her and it would turn into an abstract; sometimes only one area of the painting worked and that would become a new starting point. So she recorded and used part of the record for creation. Thus painting as an activity became satisfying and completely absorbing, taking her mind off worries. Also she discovered that she had a talent for remembering colours and reproducing them.

Of course there were many occasions when it did not work.

Many paintings were sold. About 50% of the rest were acquired by friends. I am surrounded by some of her remaining larger works bringing back memories of our life together, for example:-

- The raging, threatening sea at Trevoze Head, North Cornwall.
- The abstract of Turkish women calmly chatting on the Island of Ikinlik in the Sea of Marmara during Ramadan (exhibited at the Royal Academy).
- The imaginary Italian hill town reminiscent of our first magical adventure together.
- Yachts at Aldeburgh (Chosen as a special Exhibit at the South Bank Gallery near Tate Modern - with memories of the many happy visits to galleries in London, Lisbon and Madrid when it was a joy to accompany her and listen to her comments on the displayed paintings).
- Boats at Bembridge IOW, staying at Ventnor, visiting my sister Joyce at Cowes.
- Beach Boys at Malindi, Kenya.



There are two sketches which were done with coloured inks on spot:- [1] Crowded Beach (swimmers on boulders waiting for the tide to retreat) Welcome, North Devon Cornwall border. [2] Windy Day at Aldeburgh (memories of Aldeburgh Snape Festival and Britten's Sea Interludes).

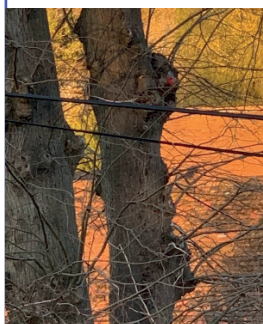


In Windy day at Aldeburgh she actually painted the wind by showing its effect on the waves, the clouds and two ruffled sea birds.

In the Crowded Beach at Welcome she captured what it felt like to experience the power of the high tide to submerge boulders and to force swimmers to gather their belongings and retreat higher onto safe dry land.

Debussy imitated this 'dialogue between the wind and the sea' in his famous 1903 musical composition *La mer*. Jill captured the dialogue in 'Windy Day at Aldeburgh'.

Jim Bland March 2020
Thamesfield, Wargrave Road, Henley RG9 2LX



THE ANSWERS

(For the questions see page 10)

The Cricket Ball

The ball is on the right of the right hand tree. As Enda said, 'That was the easy bit. Now for the hard bit ... how the hell did it get there and stay there?'

Figures of Speech

For the answers go to:

<http://vaalexpressmedia.co.za/2019/03/22/answers-27-figures-of-speech-in-one-image/>

Lockdown lingo - are you fully conversant with the new terminology?

Coronacoaster

The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is "an emotional coronacoaster".

Quarantinis

Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone? These are sipped at "locktail hour", ie. wine o'clock during lockdown, which seems to be creeping earlier with each passing week.

Le Creuset wrist

It's the new "avocado hand" - an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers.' It might be heavy but you're keen to impress the neighbours with your high-quality kitchenware.

Coronials

As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived during coronavirus quarantine. They might also become known as "Generation C" or, more spookily, "Children of the Quarn".

Furlough Merlot

Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as "bored-eaux" or "cabernet tedium".

Coronadose

An overdose of bad news from consuming too much media during a time of crisis. Can result in a panicdemic.

The elephant in the Zoom

The glaring issue during a videoconferencing call that nobody feels able to mention. E.g. one participant has dramatically put on weight, suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.

Quentin Quarantino

An attention-seeker using their time in lockdown to make amateur films which they're convinced are funnier and cleverer than they actually are.

Goutbreak

The sudden fear that you've consumed so much wine, cheese, home-made cake and Easter chocolate in lockdown that your ankles are swelling up like a medieval king's.

Antisocial distancing

Using health precautions as an excuse for snubbing neighbours and generally ignoring people you find irritating.

Coughin' dodger

Someone so alarmed by an innocuous splutter or throat-clear that they back away in terror.

Mask-ara

Extra make-up applied to "make one's eyes pop" before venturing out in public wearing a face mask.

Covid-10

The 10 kgs in weight that we're all gaining from comfort-eating and comfort-drinking. Also known as "fattening the curve".

.....and finally, finally: One sentence to sum up 2020, so far: At one point this week, 1 loo roll was worth more than a barrel of crude oil!

LET'S ALL DRINK TO LOCKDOWN

by Jan Beaumont

(previously attributed to Pam Ayres, who is keen to give Jan all the credit and put the record straight)

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no bloody flour!

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this flaming virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like red rag to a bull!

*Jan Beaumont
3 April 2020*

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I have been informed that the information published in this newsletter recently is now out of date and no longer applicable. I am endeavouring to obtain the current contact information and advice. In the meantime, I believe the following still applies:

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To contact your local policing team:

Police station: Loddon Valley Police Station

Rushey Way, Lower Earley, Berks RG6 4PS

Website: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

Email: TwyfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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