

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



Remenham Photographer Enda Cahill

No 278 – January-February 2021

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

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

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

November

Mike Dowsett

December

Penny Whitfield

Jayne Gray

ALTAR FLOWERS

November

Charlotte Every

Suzanne Came

December

ADVENT

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

John Halsall (Chairman): johnhalsall@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, usually at 5.30pm on the second Monday in the month. For an invitation to join the virtual meeting please contact the Chairman or the Parish Clerk.

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REMENHAM, WARGRAVE AND RUSCOMBE

John Halsall: johnhalsall@gmail.com 07939 041 227

Graham Howe: grahamahowe@gmail.com 07540 193 239

Parish Council Meeting

**Monday 11th January 2021
at 5.30pm - to be held virtually**

Chris Morris from Gigaclear will be attending to outline their plans for the Parish

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
Allan Henderson	07812044113, allanhenderson@me.com
Sue Laing	07885851362, sue@isobel.com
Felicity Rutland, Secretary	07768 166764, felicitymrutland@gmail.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

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER - THANK YOU'S

In the past I have included a thank you in the first issue of the new year to those who deliver the Newsletter to every home in Remenham six times per year. Last year was a little different, with deliveries stopping and starting depending on the lockdowns. Nevertheless I do need to thank those involved, not least for their flexibility in these difficult times! Thank you to Gillian Murdoch and Jo Morgan, who also distribute to the other distributors, and to 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, to Alison who feels that after an amazing 30 years she has delivered her last newsletter, and to Jacky Ronald for offering to step into Alison's shoes in Aston once the lockdown is finally over, whenever that might be. The debate about digital versus printed continues!

Felicity, Editor

newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Months	Deadlines for Contributors	Approx. Dates for Distributors
Jan-Feb 2021	Friday 1 January 2021	Friday 8 January 2021
Mar-Apr 2021	Friday 26 February 2021	Friday 5 March 2021
May-June 2021	Friday 23 April 2021	Friday 30 April 2021
July-Aug 2021	Friday 18 June 2021	Friday 25 June 2021
Sept-Oct 2021	Friday 20 August 2021	Friday 27 August 2021
Nov-Dec 2021	Friday 29 October 2021	Friday 5 November 2021

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. Please also send photos or pictures of anything to do with the parish or which might be suitable for the front covers. 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.

WHATSAPP SUPPORT GROUPS

To add your names to the Remenham group contact Janette Brown on 07768 166764 or janette1brown@yahoo.co.uk and for the Aston one contact Charlotte Every on churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk.

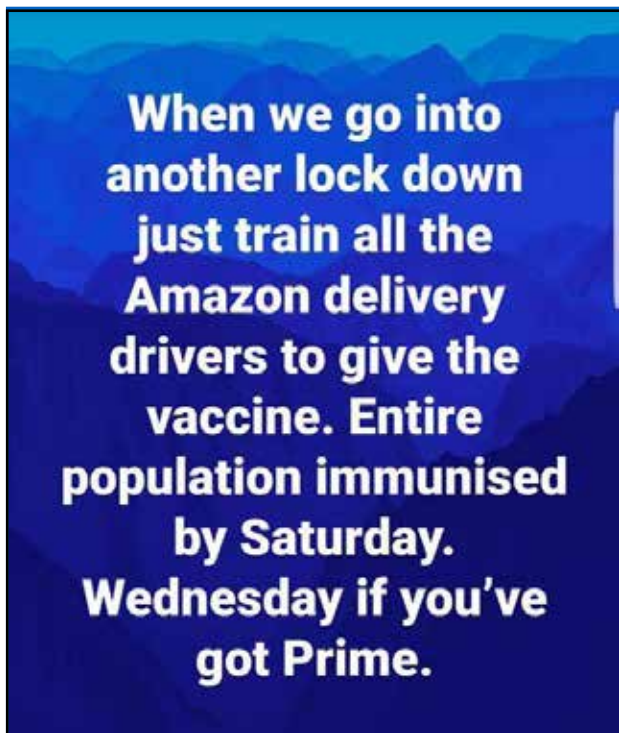
FROM THE EDITOR

When I compiled the last issue two months ago I most certainly hadn't foreseen that we would be in lockdown again or that the debate about whether the Newsletter should be printed/delivered or sent electronically would once again be overtaken by events. I am so sorry that this means that some people who depend on the printed versions will not receive this one. I will however print and post some - let me know if you have friends or neighbours in the Parish who would appreciate this.

Remenham parishioners do seem to know how to rise to the occasion! I am so impressed with the WI who carry on cheerfully, holding their meetings by Zoom - see Page 13 - and with St Nicholas church for maintaining as much normality as possible. I am also incredibly impressed with the entrepreneurs on pages 18-21, and with the WhatsApp support groups who are active and helpful as well as a great source of humour, some of it reproduced here.

There are some cartoons and videos which I've received numerous times from different sources, sometimes within seconds of each other - but when I've commented on this to my children they have laughed at me and said 'that's what 'viral' on social media is all about!'. Three of my favourites are shown below, and I have included the best of the rest elsewhere. (The links to the videos should all work if you simply click on them.) Please keep them coming, along with photographs, stories and feedback. Particular thanks to Enda Cahill for the photographs and to David Law for his article, in rapid response to my requests for more.

Felicity - newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk



From local comedian Josh Berry



<https://twitter.com/JoshBerryComedy/status/1346788740610592768/video/1>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNGYbJks1dM>

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS

Like so many other organisations it has been difficult for St Nicholas to keep up with the changes in Tiers. We had hoped to have an outdoor carol service in the churchyard on Sunday 22 December and everything was in place for what we hoped would be a really good community event. Sadly, in the preceding days we moved from Tier 2 to 4 and the plan had to be abandoned.



We did hold services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and these were fairly well attended and although we all missed singing our favourite carols, Sebastian, our organist, played some splendid music to make up for the lack of singing. The church looked lovely with superb flower arrangements and lit by candles.

Public worship remains permitted in Tier 4, and we are continuing to worship at St Nicholas with a weekly service at 11.15am and the church is open daily from 9.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer. We are very reluctant to close down public worship unless instructed to do so. Please carefully consider both your own health and that of those around you before deciding to come to church. We will do our best to minimise risks, but we cannot completely remove them. For those of you who are coming to church, please continue to follow rules on social distancing, hand-hygiene and face-covering.

- Face masks must cover both the nose and mouth; the mask will be totally ineffective if your nose is not covered
- Please do not mingle with others: for the moment we come to church simply to worship; please use the telephone if you wish to chat
- Please do not sit with those who are not in your household or bubble; a minimum of two metres must be maintained between households or bubbles

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has cleaned the church, arranged flowers and supported us during this very difficult year. Particular thanks to the Brown family and Nigel Gray who have all worked so hard in the churchyard. We are also very grateful to Rosemary Duckett, Prue Buletson and Jayne Gray who have donated trees which they have planted in the churchyard to replace several that have died over the last few years.

With best wishes for a better 2021.

Charlotte Every

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

Now more than ever I am grateful to serve in a Benefice that regularly uses the Book of Common Prayer: St Nicholas Remenham of course is a fully Prayerbook parish, and at St Mary's we use the Prayerbook for the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, and for the 8am Holy Communion on Sundays. I have always loved the Church of England's old liturgy, but now not only do I enjoy its language and cadences, I also find it, dare I say it, more "relevant".

Allow me to explain.

The modern language services of the Church of England – known as "Common Worship" – were authorised in 2000, having been drafted in the closing years of the last century. There is much that is good in these services, which draw heavily on a wide range of older material. But there is no escaping the fact that they were written during a time somewhat different from our own: this was the Clinton/Blair era, the peak of post-cold war optimism, a time when people genuinely felt that "things could only get better", a time when the internet appeared to offer unbounded positive potential for humanity, a time when climate change seemed like something a long way in the future; pre-9/11, pre-post-truth (sorry), and of course pre-Covid.

The Book of Common Prayer, by contrast, was drafted and revised through some of the most turbulent years of English history: the vicissitudes of the English reformations under Henry VIII and his successors, and the tumult of the Civil War, not to mention multiple waves of plague and famine. And it draws on still more ancient sources, the old Latin prayers whose origins are often unclear, but likely go back to the dying years of the Roman Empire or the chaotic centuries that followed. These prayers were written for tough people in tough times; their sense of the reality of evil and the ever-present dangers of human life may have felt a little melodramatic in 2000, but now in the face of multiple challenges – not only Covid-19, but also weaponised misinformation, climate change, and a crisis of confidence in our institutions – they are appropriate and comforting.

For example, from Morning Prayer:

*O Lord, our heavenly Father,
almighty and everlasting God,
who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day;
defend us in the same with thy mighty power;
and grant that this day we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger,
but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance,
to do always that is righteous in thy sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

And from Evening Prayer:

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

There is no soft-peddling here: we face sin, we face danger, we face peril. But just as the Prayerbook offers a stark view of the realities of human life, we can also see just from these two short prayers that it offers a rich vision of our hope in the love and mercy and power of God.

This is not the start to the New Year that any of us had hoped for – there is rather too much of the stark realities of danger and peril about the start of 2021. And yet there is also hope – hope of course in the new vaccines, hope in human ingenuity and resilience, and hope in the continuing faithfulness of God. And so I wish you, in hope, a Happy New Year!

With my prayers for you all,

Fr Jeremy

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2021

Sunday 3 January – The Ephiny
11.15am Said Communion (BCP)

Sunday 10 January
11.15am said Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 17 January
11.15am said Matins (BCP)

Sunday 24 January
9.00pm said Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 31 January
11.15am said Matins (BCP)

Please maintain social distancing, wear a mask and
use the hand sanitiser on entry to church

www.remenhamparish.org.uk



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL AND WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Happy New Year

The start of a new year is traditionally a time for optimism and renewal, for identifying new opportunities and resolving to seize them. For many parishioners, such optimism will be in short supply. After a year scarred by the loss of loved ones, enforced separations and the anxieties and disruption brought about by repeated lockdowns, it turned out that 2020 had saved its worst until last. With the new Covid variant raging out of control, hospitals rapidly filling up and mortality rates approaching the highest levels since the start of the pandemic, the country has woken up this morning back to a full lockdown, including the forced closure of most schools to most pupils until the last week of February. Yet even in this bleak time, there are reasons to look forward to 2021 and indeed the decade with enthusiasm and confidence.

The first is most obviously that a mass vaccination programme is under way and will accelerate in the coming weeks after the licensing of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca jab. Britain can take pride that it was the first to license the vaccines, giving it a valuable head start. The government's goal is that by the end of March all those in the vulnerable categories will have received at least one jab. It is hoped that the NHS will soon be vaccinating two million people a week. That should pave the way for a return to a degree of normal life by Easter. We can at last look forward to theatres and stadiums reopening, live entertainment resuming, and a year's worth of postponed parties, weddings and other celebrations finally taking place.

With a return to normality, we can also look forward to a robust economic recovery. The speed with which the economy rebounded in the middle of last year after the lifting of the first lockdown showed how quickly activity can pick up. What's more, many households have built up substantial savings which once unleashed can help fuel the resurgence. A further boost should be provided by the post-Brexit trade deal agreed on Christmas Eve which has come into effect. While some short-term disruption is inevitable as firms adjust to new customs and regulatory checks at the border, the deal finally lifts the fog of uncertainty that has hung over the British economy since the 2016 referendum. The hope must be that this unleashes a tide of pent-up business investment and innovation as firms can plan with confidence.

At the same time, it is possible amid the miseries of the pandemic to see where some of Britain's future opportunities might lie. Most notably, 2020 proved a remarkable year for science. The development of new Covid vaccines, along with breakthroughs in the search for vaccines for malaria and research into proteins, holds out the prospect of a new golden age of medicine in which Britain is well-placed to play a leading role. The pandemic has led organisations to embrace new technology, to adopt new ways of working and engaging with customers, some of which may prove of lasting value. Meanwhile the rapid recovery in Asian economies has highlighted the opportunities in that region that a nimbler Britain outside the European Union will be better able to grasp. Out of this may yet emerge the elusive productivity growth that is so vital to allowing living standards to rise and pandemic debts to be paid off. The Centre for Economics and Business Research has forecast Britain's GDP to be 25 per cent higher than that of France by 2035.

On the global stage, too, there are reasons to be optimistic about Britain. This year the government will host the G7 summit of leading western nations, to which it has also invited the leaders of India, South Korea and Australia. It will also host the UN climate change conference, known as COP26, in Glasgow. Both will give Boris an opportunity to project Britain's soft power and work with the Biden administration to create a more stable and sustainable world order. Of course, seizing the opportunities will require a surefootedness from the prime minister and his government that was not always in evidence in 2020. But the new year offers a chance for a new beginning and the start of what we hope will prove to be the Roaring Twenties.

Wokingham Covid

Case rates across Berkshire continue to rise to worryingly high rates. The lockdown was inevitable. We are doing all we can to try and manage this. Everyone must stick to the rules if we are to see a levelling off in rates over the coming weeks. Unfortunately, things look like they will get worse before they improve

The local health and social care systems are now under extreme pressure. An official major incident has been declared by the Local Resilience Forum in line with other areas in London and the South East, though the impact of this is far from clear.

As cases have risen more people are getting ill, which is additional to the usual winter pressures making things particularly difficult for hospitals.

The council is working seven days a week to support hospitals with increased patient flow. As rates rise in the community, we are seeing more Covid entering our care homes. This is a real concern. We are, though, better prepared this time with testing, PPE and enhanced infection control measures. Our WBC Task force is working hard with all the care companies to do the very best they can. Sadly, we will see some deaths, but they are not currently at the level of the first wave.

We have written again to five thousand vulnerable people in the borough to remind them that the Council and its amazing voluntary sector partners are able to support them with whatever they need through this period via our 'one front door'. Shielding will start again. In the two weeks up to the 29th December we have helped four hundred and forty-six individuals and families with seven hundred and twenty-nine separate issues.

The NHS led vaccination programme will help us change the landscape. The council are supporting the NHS with this in any way they wish. We have helped with arranging parking, access to volunteers, administration and with venues. A small amount of vaccine was made

available before Xmas and this was targeted at the over eighties, front-line health and social care staff.

With the Oxford vaccine now being signed off, the rollout programme via GP surgeries (covering all areas in Wokingham) and the Community hospital (covering staff) will ramp up in the New year. The initial focus will be on Care Home residents and staff, the over eighties and other frontline health and social care staff.

This is a developing programme, so things are changing all the time. Every effort is being taken to get this up and running quickly but please can I reiterate that the NHS will contact people about this. Please be patient, wait to be contacted and follow the instructions given.

Mental Health

We know that this terrible situation will affect residents' mental wellbeing and a generous donation helps Wokingham Borough Council launch pilot service to help people with mental health issues.

Wokingham Borough Council will be launching a pilot scheme to help people with mental health issues in the borough thanks to a £250,000 donation from a Remenham family. This fantastic new service is coming thanks to the generosity of Mr and Mrs Borodin; I want to thank them personally. If the pilot proves successful, we will make sure there is funding in place for it to continue – but the incredible donation has allowed us to start this now and that means we can start helping people early in the new year.

The scheme will be run on the council's behalf by mental health charity Oxfordshire MIND. Among the areas it will focus on are recognising mental health issues early and intervening to prevent conditions deteriorating, ensuring timely referrals to specialists, coordinating the support available for those with mental health issues and promoting awareness of issues in the community.

The pilot service will be inclusive, ethically, and able to meet the wellbeing and mental needs of a diverse range of residents of the borough. It will develop a way to support those with mild to moderate mental health needs, for instance including non-medical interventions such as social prescribing, self-management, peer support, signposting, and activities. It is estimated that it will support about a thousand people per year.

Gigaclear

Chris Morris of Gigaclear is coming to our January 11th Parish council meeting on Zoom. We understand that the current design for Hurley covers a total of 701 properties. It connects to Warren Row to the South (in build since January) and Bisham to the East (in design validation). There are nearly 29,736 metres of trenching to be dug and reinstated. Hurley build covers Hurley itself, Frogmill, Remenham Hill, Remenham and Aston. Work was scheduled to begin in Q3 2020 (July) but due to contractor resourcing this did not happen. As such Gigaclear are currently redesigning the whole area, to maximize potential. Remenham PC also requested that additional properties were added onto the design at the Junction of White Hill and Wargrave Road (South until Hennerton) and from the main road south (Noble Barn, Brick Barn etc.). The design is yet to be given to our contractors to validate/cost so it is uncertain at this time what, if any, of the changes will be implemented into the works.

Planning

Thank you for your support on opposing the white paper on changes to the planning system. I am delighted that the Government has dropped the proposal on housing numbers which would have taken the requirement to 1635 pa from a current requirement of 789 which we already believe are too many. The Borough is back to the original standard method for housing numbers.

Cycling Signs

The sign in the field next to Ferry Lane was moved close to Remenham Manor



Holes in the bank

These are more difficult to deal with than may have been first thought.

A4130

The plans to replace two 30mph warning signs on the A4130 with ones showing the actual speed are being pursued through the Borough Council.

Outside the village hall

The project is being worked up by the Parish council with the Borough council.

Woodlands House (The Burrows)

There is a lot of concern at the work being undertaken in Woodlands House grounds. We understand that the area inside the gate is being used for contractor vehicles who are carrying out maintenance work and for other staff at the Estate. As the site became waterlogged, they removed the top soil and added a geotextile membrane and drainage layer and laid a 'Bodpave' grass reinforcement grid and replaced the topsoil with additional grit and sharp sand and will re-seed with grass seed. This will be completed within the next 48 hours.

It is understood that a planning application is to be submitted in relation to other development at The Burrows. We have requested that the parking area be included in the planning application (retrospectively) as it comprises an engineering operation. The Agent has advised that they are happy to include this in the forthcoming application.

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

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

John Halsall

07939 041227 johnhalsall@gmail.com

Chairman Remenham Parish Council

Councillor Wokingham Borough Council

Leader of the Council

REMENHAM W.I.

The last two meetings of Remenham WI have been successfully held by Zoom.

November

In November, members of the group gave demonstrations on some easy to make Christmas crafts. Anne Francis showed everyone how to make a beautiful lined bag for all those presents, while Judy Palmer talked about a glorious cake for Christmas and gave the group the recipe. Irene Parker showed everyone how to make knitted Christmas trees and Daphne Austen demonstrated how to make some simple little decorative hats, for display or filling. The meeting then adjourned for five minutes while kettles were boiled and cake was cut before rejoining the meeting for the much-enjoyed session of "catching up" with news.

December

After the business section of the December meeting, the group was delighted to be joined by the pianist Tim Valentine, also via Zoom. Tim entertained the group with some delightful Christmas music and carols, many of which were requested by various members. Tim also punctuated his playing with a few musical stories. Again, after a tea making interval, members were able to exchange news with each other.


Christmas gift bags have been distributed to all members which in addition to a few special goodies also contained a copy of the book, recently written by several members, "Qui Victor" - a short book of mystery and suspense!

The Remenham Rag continues to be compiled and distributed, which gives WI news as well as other interesting articles. The Remenham "Round Robin" letter continues to be in circulation, helping to keep all members in touch.


If you are interested in joining our active group, please give Daphne Austen a call on 07919 358979

*Daphne Austen
President*





BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL



This year Remenham collected £543.48 which is not bad considering the situation. This year was my last as organiser so I would like to thank you for your support and donations.

Pat Sly has very kindly agreed to take over from me and I am sure we all wish her well.

With thanks
Carol Wissett

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR



10 points to ponder at the end of 2020

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
3. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their "Children" are yelling at them to stay indoors!
4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I went indoors & told my dog.... We had a good laugh.
5. Every few days try your jeans on, just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe that all is well in the kingdom.
6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
7. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot Barge pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
8. I need to practise social-distancing from the refrigerator.
9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Dustbins.....Might even Blow-dry my hair.
10. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go into a bank with a mask on and ask for money!



Santa Claus Covid Song Video Link



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sAvnhY0-5A&feature=emb_logo



Enda's and Madeline's wonderful Christmas lights

REMENHAM AT WAR - WELL, SORT OF.....



Back in the 1980's I had to entertain many overseas clients. This usually meant having dinner with them resulting in a late night for me. I soon got fed up with it as I had a very early commute in the morning. The solution for me was to take the client home for a quick drink then down to the Little Angel for supper. No doubt the Little Angel serves a good meal today but back then it was truly exceptional and meant I could wave goodbye to my client in a taxi heading for London around 9pm.

One evening I took a new American client home. I didn't know much about him other than he was originally from Belgium, had a very large, successful business in New York and was about 25 years older than me.

I live in Remenham Lane overlooking the river with a good view of Fawley Court. We had just settled on the Terrace and had one sip of our drinks when the client spluttered into his glass. "I don't believe it" he said and then explained to me that during the war, he was a member of SOE (Special Operations Executive) and had undergone his training at Fawley Court. He didn't know where it was at the time as he had arrived and left in a covered lorry after his training in how to blow up bridges and kill people. Being Belgium, he spoke perfect French and had survived being parachuted into France and carrying out several missions.

So next time you walk along the tow path, stop for a moment and look at Fawley Court and imagine all the adventures and tragedies that started there.

Not quite Remenham at war, more like Remenham View at war.

David Law
January 2021

FROM THE ARCHIVES

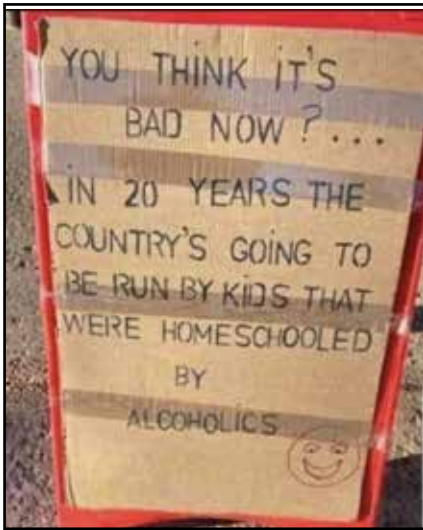
Thank you to Enda for this fascinating photograph of the predecessor to the current Toll Gate Cottage bungalow by the bridge. This is clearly prior to the building of Leander Club - any more information or clues as to the date anyone? [Editor](#)



And another one from Pru Sly - any information anyone? [Editor](#)



MORE LOCKDOWN HUMOUR



From Monday postmen will be working from home. They will read all your letters and ring you if it's anything important.



1990: Sneaking out of my parents house.
2020: Sneaking into my parents house. 🤪 🤪 🤪

ENTERPRISING ASTON AND REMENHAM!

These are three of the enterprising ventures in our Parish which deserve comment, admiration and support. [Editor](#)

Emma Savage - Private Chef, Indian and Lebanese food to take-away

As soon as Emma's flyer dropped through my letterbox I thought what a wonderful idea and I wanted to draw attention to it in the Newsletter. [Editor](#)



Emma normally operates as 'Mrs. S', providing 'Posh Nosh' and Private Dining from her home at Ferry Cottage, Aston. Since the first lockdown last March she has been producing high quality Indian and Lebanese food to take-away at weekends, alternating between 'Indian' and 'Lebanese' weekends.



Please contact Emma by email, call or text for further information on her home-cooked food, menus, prices, collection times and Covid precautions.

emms.savage1@btinternet.com; 07833 662963

Jo Southwell - our very own Film Director

Jo keeps me up to date with her activities and successes in a series of modest emails, and I thought I would take the opportunity to highlight and applaud some of these. [Editor](#)



At the end of November “*First Day on Set*” Directed by Jo Southwell and Produced by Gareth Ellis-Unwin (The Kings Speech), won The Production Guild Award for Innovation 2020 in association with Warner Brothers. This VR Immersive Film was shot at Pinewood Studios using a 360 degree camera. Jo commented - “Working with VR has grounded my ambition to develop films that incorporate new technology.”

First Day on Set will be followed by a VR film focusing on Post Production which Jo will direct in 2021.

Like so many of her creative peers, Jo has been developing new TV and Feature Film ideas during lockdown. She is delighted to say that these are now under consideration with various broadcasters. Not being able to be on set over the last six months has been really tough but it has allowed her the time to focus on her writing - for which she is very very thankful.

In her Christmas message Jo said she felt blessed to have made new collaborations with super talented people in 2020 and was looking forward to developing her work further in 2021.

2021 will start with the development of Jo’s original TV Series - OLI. She is delighted to be working with LION TV and hopes to share every step of the way the process of creating a TV drama.

To download Jo’s short films see linktr.ee/JoSouthwell - Jo would welcome feedback

To email Jo - southwelljo@gmail.com

Mariel Poulos - Lockdown Lifestyle Support – Au Pair PLUS

Do you need support during the lockdown? Are your children in need of some stimulation or educational support? Are you struggling to juggle your commitments during the lockdown? I am available to help you weather the COVID storm!

My name is Mariel Poulos. I have lived in Remenham all my life and I am now sheltering with my parents on board their house boat near Upper Thames Rowing Club.

I am 24 years old and a STEM graduate (2:1 - BSc in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Leeds). I love working with children and have a wealth of experience childminding and as a teaching assistant.

I am available to help with home schooling and tutoring across all subjects and age ranges.

I am passionate about art and would love to provide additional activities to keep your children entertained – such as nature school, art and performance. I would also be happy to help with general childminding/babysitting, cooking meals and running errands. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any other practical duties you may require for your family.

I have tested negative for COVID-19 recently and will get tested regularly and maintain COVID-safe practices during any interactions with your family.

Please give me a call on 07908 229197 or drop me an email on marieipoulos@live.com.

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