

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



Remenham Photographer Janette Brown

No 279 – March-April 2021



**ST NICHOLAS, REMENHAM
EASTER SERVICES 2021**

Sunday 28 March

Palm Sunday

11.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

Friday 2 April

Good Friday

12 noon said Matins (BCP)

Sunday 4 April

Easter Day

11.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

www.remenhamparish.org.uk

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

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

March

Gillian Murdoch

Sue Laing

Sarah Tait

April

Ann Shemilt

ALTAR FLOWERS

March

LENT

April

Jayne Gray

Sally-Anne Plunket

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

28 January

Linda Jeanne Skinner

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, 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: johnashalsall@gmail.com 07939 041 227

Graham Howe: grahamahowe@gmail.com 07540 193 239

Parish Council Meeting - Monday 8th March 2021 at 5.30pm - to be held virtually

You can join the meeting using this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85222614105?pwd=OHdCOFlqeFdHUktDSkJanBLEiswUT09>

Zoom meeting details: Meeting ID: 852 2261 4105 Passcode: 356904

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
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Felicity Rutland, Secretary	07768 166764, felicitymrutland@gmail.com
Helen Rosier	01491 573572, baz.r@live.com
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Janette Brown	janette1brown@yahoo.co.uk
Jacky Ronald	jackyronald@aol.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Apart from the sadness of the obituaries of two of our much loved friends and neighbours, Jeanne Skinner and Aldwyn Cooper, this has been a fun issue to put together.

It is sad to have lost both Jeanne and Aldwyn, both of them larger than life characters with many local friends (and coincidentally both former members of the Remenham Thespians). I am grateful to Pat Sly for the delightful tribute to Jeanne, and to Roz Cooper for agreeing to me re-printing Aldwyn's wonderful obituary from the Henley Standard.

There is some good news about things that are beginning to open up again (or planning to) following the publication of the Government's 'roadmap'. Please see information about the Festival and Leander on page 22. (There might even be a need for 'Dates for the Diary' in the next issue!) I continue to be impressed by the determination to keep St Nicholas open and 'operational' throughout, and by the stalwart WI which in true WI style keeps going, though virtually. The Parish Council has also been incredibly active.

The cartoons and videos that have been such a feature of the lockdown continue to pour into my Inbox and WhatsApp, and I have been encouraged to continue to include a selection of what seem to me the best. There are no videos this time because, although I've received a number which I'm sure others would appreciate, I have been unable to find them on YouTube so I cannot include the hyperlinks.


Thank you in particular to Janette Brown (see cover) and Enda Cahill (see page 7) for their absolutely stunning photographs.

Most delightful of all this time are the contributions from Jim Bland and Enid Light, two of our regular contributors who know so much about the parish. See pages 19-21 and 9-10.

With best wishes to you all, and hoping that in two months' time life will seem even more 'normal'.

Felicity - newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

MORE LOCKDOWN HUMOUR

<p>Exchange Of Text Messages:</p> <p>Husband: You are negative.</p> <p>Wife: And you are stubborn, arrogant, a low life, care about no one but yourself and your friends, all you are interested in is your own self, all your life not fulfilled even one of your promises. It is only I who is putting up with such a miser and insensitive man. You good for nothing, fat, ugly man. Even your hair transplant failed.</p> <p>Husband: I was just informing you that your Covid test is negative.</p>	
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NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



I am writing this still in the grips of a full lockdown but with a glimmer of hope that things might start to relax a bit after Easter - let's hope so. Despite Christmas in Tier 4 and lockdown since the beginning of January, St Nicholas is open every day for private prayer from 9.00am to 4.00pm and for a service every Sunday at 11.15am. Our congregation, although down, has remained faithful and constant through this difficult time. Nevertheless our finances, like so many others, have taken a severe hit as we have not been able to

hold any fund raising events, collections are down, there have been no weddings and we still have to pay our parish share of over £28,000 per annum. If you did feel able to make a one off or regular contribution to the church and parish hall, we would be very grateful. The account details are: Remenham PCC, account number 50745782, sort code 20-39-53 (Barclays Bank in Hart Street), please use the reference your surname and GA if you are eligible for Gift Aid.

Sadly, we had to cancel our outdoor carol service on 19 December, but we were able to hold services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and although these were not as well attended as usual, with social distancing in play church felt quite full. Details of our Easter services are elsewhere in this newsletter: our Easter Day service of Holy Communion will be at 11.15am on Sunday 4 April.

Nigel Gray has continued to do amazing work in the lower churchyard which now looks better than it ever has done – thank you Nigel. The upper churchyard however, is looking rather neglected and as soon as we are able, we shall be organising a working party to clear it up and in particular deal with the many dead trees that need cutting down both in the hedgerow along Church Lane and along the boundary with Remenham Lane. This is perhaps the moment to mention that the upkeep of graveyards is the responsibility of the PCC, but the maintenance of graves is the responsibility of the family of the deceased. If your family grave/memorial stone needs attention, do contact Tomalins in Henley who can help. Diocesan regulations mean that artificial flowers, toys and statues should not be left on graves and we would respectfully ask those relatives and friends who have left these in times past, please to remove them.

In January, we became a corporate member of the Prayer Book Society which will ensure that anyone looking for a church holding a service from the Book of Common Prayer in the district will be able to come to us.

We are sad to report that we lost two stalwart members of our congregation at the end of 2020: Leslie and Anthea Prescott both of whom served on the PCC and were great supporters of St Nicholas.

With our best wishes for Easter.

Charlotte Every

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas Remenham

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

It really does seem that we are at a point where we can look forward with some confidence to a gradual relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions, knowing that, thanks to the vaccination programme, most of those who are particularly vulnerable to the virus will not be left exposed to serious illness. As we are, God willing, able to put the worst of this difficult period behind us, there will I suspect be quite a lot of work to be done, individually and collectively, as we reflect on the experience, mourn the people and the things that we have lost, and celebrate the possibilities of recovering connections with the people and the things we still have. And I think that there will be things that are difficult. For myself, I've got very used to dealing with people in small numbers, and I suspect that a full church will feel rather overwhelming! A crowded train carriage or pub could be an unsettling experience. But amidst the complex process of adjusting and reflecting, one thing that I hope will not get lost is gratitude.

St Paul writes in his First Letter to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Let's give thanks in all circumstances, and especially for each and every thing that we have been denied and now look forward to enjoying again: a coffee and a chat with a dear friend, giving and receiving hospitality, a birthday celebration with friends and family, an evening at the cinema or theatre, a warm handshake or a comforting hug, perhaps a friendly shoulder to cry on, and voices raised together in church with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I once heard a story about a group of western Christians visiting a troubled country – I think it may have been South Sudan – and, when offered water at a meeting, the westerners unthinkingly took the glasses and simply drank. Their hosts were shocked that they did not first give thanks to God for the gift of water. As we finally move out of lockdown, let's give thanks to God in all circumstances, remembering each and every blessing newly rediscovered, "but above all for [his] immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory".

With my prayers,

Fr Jeremy



Remenham Photographer Enda Cahill

LINDA JEANNE SKINNER

24th June 1926 – 3rd January 2021



Those of you who remember Jeanne Skinner from the time when she lived at Ferry Cottage in Aston will be sad to hear that she died recently very peacefully in Acacia Lodge, Henley, at the great age of 94 years.

Jeanne had led a varied and interesting life which began in Romford, Essex. She excelled at school and her first position was with the Bank of England who sent her to work in Glasgow. Here she made lifelong friends, learnt to sail, was introduced to the Scottish wine and developed her love of fast cars, learning to drive on a friend's Bugatti...the car is now the main exhibit in the Ralph Lauren collection of classic cars in America! She finally returned home to Romford where she met and married her husband John Skinner in the 1950s.

They moved to London and her daughter Harriet was born in 1960. They then moved to Kingham in the Cotswolds and Jeanne joined the Ionian Bank where she first met Michael Behrens. Felicity and Michael Behrens and family lived at Culham Court in Aston. Jeanne was divorced in 1963 and she and her daughter, Harriet, came to live at Culham House in 1963 when Jeanne became one of the managers of the Culham Estate.

In 1966 Jeanne and Harriet moved into her beloved Ferry Cottage, Aston. She still loved her fast cars and drove the lanes of Remenham in her Mini Cooper S which she later changed for a 3 litre Ford Capri. She continued to work for the Behrens for the rest of her working life including running their villa in the South of France as well as the Culham Estate. She was great friends with John and Clare Cridlan who lived at Remenham Farm (together with their prize-winning Highland Cattle) and also Fred Hewitt of Flower Pot fame.

Jeanne was always a very stylish lady, she played bridge, hosted the Weybridge rowing team during Henley Royal Regatta and continued to sail all over the world. Jeanne also loved

entertaining, was a wonderful cook and was very knowledgeable about wine. Many of us attended her terrific dinner parties at Ferry Cottage, her summer's afternoon pottery parties in the garden or being invited to her Oddballs Supper club dinners, invariably joined by Nigel and Sadie providing the live music.

In 1993 she played the role of "Bludruncolda" in the Remenham Thespians production of Sinbad the Sailor.

In 1998, Jeanne moved from Ferry Cottage to Kings Close in Henley and later to Acacia Lodge where she was a most popular resident and was looked after with great love and care by the staff during her last seven years.

Contributed by Pat Sly

REMENHAM HISTORY

Enid Light from Marsh Mills has uncovered some amazing local history. Her recent letter to the Henley Standard is as follows:

'Sir

I wonder if any of your readers are aware of the caves/tunnels which border the Wargrave Road less than a mile out of Henley? They are not visible from the road and hold many secrets. In WW2 they provided space for a munitions factory - making what? Post war it was secretly converted into a safe house as a Regional Seat of Government in the event of nuclear war.

Needless to say it was owned by the MOD and in 1988 when the whole site was sold off, it was bought by a storage firm for business archived.

While the reconstruction was in progress I walked over there and was shown round by a most obliging foreman. And what an amazing sight met my eyes! At the entrance was an enormous archway some 20ft or more high and enormous lorries were driving in and out of the hillside. On each side were walkways bordered by dozens of cells.

Does anyone have any knowledge of these tunnels and the wartime factory or who may have ancestors who worked there? Please make yourself known.

Enid Light

Marsh Mills

PS I have been intending to write this letter for a while and last week was actually contacted by someone researching the factory in the war.'

The person researching this who contacted Enid, Roger Morgan, had originally contacted me as Editor of the Newsletter - and I knew Enid would know something! She and Roger have subsequently had further fascinating correspondence, but I've run out of space to include this. However, I'm delighted to say that Enid has promised more - see next page!

Roger's original request:

'Dear Felicity,

I am researching the wartime underground factory on Wargrave Road to the north of Marsh Lock. I believe it was used to manufacture machine tools for use in other factories, and employed diamond polishers from Hatton Garden - this seems rather odd. Other towns and villages have Facebook groups which discuss local history and on which one can pose questions - does Remenham?

Roger J Morgan'



When I asked Enid if I could publish her Henley Standard letter she replied to say:

'I have discovered a little more via the HS, but by putting it in the Remenham Newsletter, someone may come up with some more. I have learnt so much since I started all this, that I really think I ought to write it up myself. It had never occurred to me that Spitfire parts had been manufactured right opposite my front door and then assembled on the field at the top of White Hill and thence flown by ATA pilots to the required airfield. A friend of my husband who used to visit his uncle in the war was taken to the Bell at Hurley to meet the husband of Amy Johnston, who was also an ATA pilot.'

The very good news is that Enid has agreed to write this up, so I hope to be able to include an article in a future issue.

Felicity, [Editor](#) Remenham Newsletter



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL AND WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

What I am trying to do in Wokingham

Wokingham Borough Council is the golden thread - the indispensable and fundamental partner joining all the institutions, businesses, and residents of the Borough. It is a measure of our prowess that the Borough is one of the first choices to live, work and grow. We have no other purpose than to serve our residents. We are a key element of recovery.

Our aim is to produce the optimal services for the minimum cost and seek to obtain your acclaim and affection for so doing, whilst diversity, equality, compassion, and fairness are at the heart of everything we do. Our mission is to continuously improve the lives of our residents. We want the Council to be an employer of choice and pride.

We can only fulfil this role if our finances are strong; thanks to all our officers and councillors they are.

I have constantly preached an ethos that officers are bold, take initiatives, try novel approaches, and learn from the inevitable mistakes; it is only someone who does nothing who makes no mistakes. I am delighted to say that this creed has taken root and we have achieved remarkable things particularly during the emergency.

Whilst the responsibility for all that is done (particularly the bad stuff) is mine; what is being achieved through innovation, risk, flexibility and hard work is a credit to all the officers and councillors, all of whom I am understandably proud. As the lowest funded unitary in England, to be the best is hardly good enough.

Despite the financial impact of Covid, both this year and into the future, and despite still being the lowest funded Council in the country, we continue to significantly invest in our care services. We are proposing no cuts to services, something I am aware is being forced on Councils across the country who are having to vote on stark service reductions packages. We can protect our services and invest in them because of our strong financial management and innovative, commercial approach to how we run our services. We propose a further £6.3m in service efficiencies and income streams next year, rising to £16.2m in 2023/24.

My medium-term financial plan is ambitious, seeks to fuel recovery, maintain, and improve services. We invest significantly in services much needed by our community; we remarkably avoid making any cuts to services, which still leaves our financial standing in a strong and sound position. General Fund balances are forecast to be just under nine million pounds at March 2022.

- We will work tirelessly to help those in need across the Borough whilst continuing to deliver excellent and good value services to all our residents.
- We will protect and look after our vulnerable children and adults both through the pandemic and afterwards.
- We will keep our traffic moving and improve our highways by dealing with congestion, tackling the blight of potholes, and investing in intelligent traffic systems
- We will take bold and ambitious action to do our part to achieve a carbon neutral borough
- We will invest further in our schools and give our young people the best opportunities in life through a good education at a local school
- We will continue to fight over-development and support building homes only in the right places. We will build more affordable homes and council homes.
- We will ensure our Borough continues to be one of the best places to live. We will tackle anti-social behaviour, environmental health, air quality issues and fly tipping. We will work with our health partners to maintain resident mobility, combat isolation and mental health.
- We will strive to help our residents stay safe during the Covid pandemic and do as much as we can to help them protect their families and livelihoods

Our Capital Investment of a staggering £445m has only £11m of this falling on our council taxpayers.

We will be injecting growth and special items budgets in Adult Social Care of approximately £2.5m and Children's services of £3.2m. This will help us continue to respond to the needs of our growing elderly population and provides the resources needed to meet our objective of getting Children's Services to "Good".

We will be actively working to create new jobs with a variety of initiatives already advanced including attracting enterprises into the Borough and retraining erstwhile hospitality and retail to care sector.

We will be laying out the new local plan proposals in the midyear after having fought successfully against our own Government's white paper proposals on housing numbers.

We will be taking decisive steps to improve our environmental health, licensing, and trading standards for residents so that neighbourhoods, community safety, public protection and enforcement work together in an integrated way locally and that we are more effectively tackling the issues that are of utmost importance to residents. We will be reviewing in depth our waste collection and processing services, shared legal and other shared services.

Wokingham Covid

Case rates across Berkshire continue to rise at a worryingly high rate and since lockdown has fallen quickly to a plateau of some 50 odd. We have managed to drive out Covid from our care homes and the pressure on the NHS has eased. However, there is level of asymptomatic transmission which is endemic in the population.

The vaccination programme in Wokingham has gone as we would have wished with us being either at the forefront or in the first cohort in every measurable category. We still have a pocket of anti vaxers particularly in the BAME community.

Whilst lockdown is being eased, it is vital that everyone continues to observe the rules. It is really disappointing to see for instance social mixing in a way not permitted in the countryside and sadly rowers of my age setting a poor example by demonstrating a disregard for the spirit of the rules.

Wokingham the healthiest place to live

Wokingham in Berkshire is the healthiest place in the country, according to the first official national health index. The findings emerged from England's health index, published by the Office for National Statistics and Lane Clark & Peacock (LCP), a financial services company, and said to be the first composite health index in the world.

Ministers gave the green light to statisticians to assess the nation's health in an attempt to measure the effects of government policy on wellbeing, just as they are measured with regard to GDP. The publication of the index also signals a shift in strategy towards preventing ill health rather than prioritising treatment once people are sick. Pearson-Stuttard, head of health analytics at LCP, said the index offered a single value to represent health, which should be viewed as "an asset to the nation, rather than illness being a cost".

Health is assessed under three main categories: "healthy people", measuring health outcomes; "healthy lives", measuring health-related behaviour; and "healthy places", involving factors such as air pollution, traffic noise, access to public green space and proximity to sports and leisure facilities.

The scores for 149 local authority areas include common health outcomes such as the prevalence of cancer, heart disease and dementia, and risk factors including diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure. But the ratings are also influenced by less frequently considered health factors such as affordability of housing, local transport volumes, neighbourhood noise, children's education and young people's employment and training.

So that's really great to know and a huge compliment to our Borough Council as many of the parameters measured are influenced by its activity.

Summer Events

I am frequently asked my opinion on whether these events can and should go on. My opinion is not relevant, I say, nor is it more informed. It is a commercial matter. It is impossible to say at this stage where we will be in the Summer. The PM has issued his road map, but that road map is contingent upon four tests at every stage. Should those tests fail so will the road map.

Event holders will have to demonstrate that the event is Covid safe under the regulations as they will exist at the time of the event. It is impossible to believe that Covid will have disappeared so any event will have risk. I find it hard to imagine that either Rewind or the Henley Festival can be held in the traditional manner and respect Covid regulations, but then I may be proved wrong.

Gigaclear

After a false start (for which I apologise), Chris Morris of Gigaclear gave a well-attended presentation to the parish. It is clear that we as a parish council need to be as involved with the design as we are permitted to be to ensure that all residents who wish to be are included.

Planning

There is a lot of work taking place on the Wargrave Road in the grounds of Woodlands House (The Burrow). Wokingham Borough Council enforcement and property have been alerted.

There is a lot of concern at the work being undertaken in Woodlands House grounds. We have been led to 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.

It is understood that a planning application is to be submitted in relation to other development at The Burrow.

Tegular paving & stone bench outside the Parish Hall

The parish council has agreed in principle to pave the area in front of the village hall, and WBC has agreed in principle to repair the drains and the road. A subcommittee was established to continue this project and report back.

The three Westcotec speed indication signs on A4130

The Parish council agreed to increase the number of dynamic vehicle speed signs on White Hill and WBC has give its agreement.

Parish ecological-biodiversity survey and wild trail work

The parish council agreed to fund the Parish-wide ecological-biodiversity survey and wild trail work on the Wargrave Road and a subcommittee was established to conclude the work and report back.

Large Litter bin in Ferry Lane

The parish council agreed to fund a large litter bin in Ferry Lane in the event that WBC do not on the Wargrave Road and a subcommittee was established to conclude the work and report back.

Summer in Aston

A discussion was held on how the effects of the expected influx of summer visitors in 2021 might be managed via limitation of car parking and more frequent litter collection.. There was support for such aims and it was asked if police could investigate at weekends. Consideration was given to strategically placed logs from the Culden Faw estate on Ferry Lane's verges and single-track road signs would be helpful in Aston's Ferry lane. It was agreed visitors were to be welcomed but our capacity for cars is limited and parking facilities should reflect this. It was suggested the estate could introduce temporary fence and cattle into the field at the end of Ferry Lane to reduce public access to the whole field while not hindering those walking the

Thames Path/towpath. A subcommittee was set up to refine and agree proposals to be recommended to the parish council .

Community Assets S

A list of assets of community value (ACV) can be drawn up by a community, charity or Parish Council. This does not affect asset ownership. Such a list merely provides a maximum of a six month moratorium period in which a community may be able to enact a Community Right to Bid to determine if they can raise the finance to purchase the asset on the open market. The Community has no right of first refusal. In WBC some suggestions have been listed and others refused. It was discussed whether the Church, Village Hall, Little Angel, the Flowerpot, Cricket Pitch and any other asset should be listed. It was suggested that church assets were excluded from the legislation. The clerk was asked to report back with details in due course.

Holes in the bank

It was agreed to encourage WBC to agree a way forward with the landowner.

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 johnashalsall@gmail.com

Chairman Remenham Parish Council

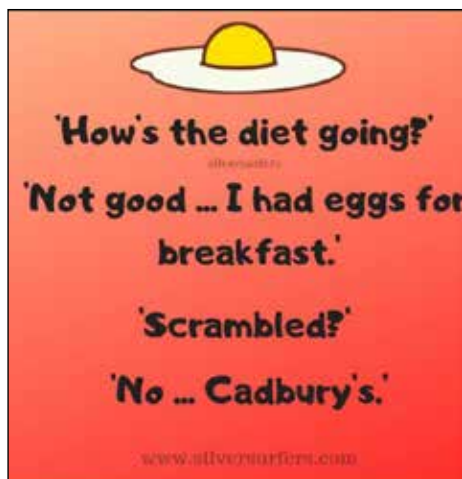
Councillor Wokingham Borough Council

Leader of the Council

LOCKDOWN HUMOUR?

Like many of you I'm sure, I have received numerous cartoons and videos during the lockdown. I have included some of the best recently received lockdown-related ones in this newsletter. These are a couple of the non-lockdown related ones which amused me. [Editor](#)

Whoever made these bar stools is a pure genius. I had to look twice 🤔👉



ALDWYN COOPER — academic, family man and bon viveur



ACADEMIC and former Remenham resident Aldwyn Cooper has died at the age of 71.

Born in Dulwich to May and Bob Cooper, both teachers, he attended Dulwich College on a scholarship. He was adventurous, taking great pleasure in climbing, abseiling and cave diving. He went on to enjoy working towards his pilot's licence.

Aldwyn was passionate about music throughout his life and began his education at a young age, spending time at folk cubs — both in the audience and on stage. He formed a friendship with folk singer Ewan MacColl and his wife Peggy Seeger and was present for the moment that Ewan wrote the beloved track First Time Ever I Saw Your Face.

He continued his education at London University, then Bristol, where he met his wife Rosalind and proposed to her that first night.

He gained a PhD in cognitive psychology before being awarded a Harkness Fellowship and spending two years at both Stanford and Berkeley Universities. While living in San Francisco, Aldwyn played squash at a competitive level and made friends for life. Stories of those days have become legend.

After returning from California he worked with the Open University before being offered a post at the Henley Management College in 1979. In 1986, while heading up the department for distance learning, he was given the title of professor at the young age of 36. The family have happy memories of being in the grounds of the college watching the Henley Hippos baseball team, of which he was a member.

Aldwyn rowed at Upper Thames Rowing Club and fondly recalled his time spent there with Peter Sutherland.

He was a proud member of the royal regatta stewards, only recently giving up his membership to allow new members to come through when he knew he could no longer attend. Regatta

days spent at Remenham Club with his great friend Lewis Balkwill cheering on Molesey Boat Club were a yearly fixture and he certainly passed on his love for the event to his children.

Aldwyn and Rosalind lived in Remenham where their first child, Theo, was born in 1980, followed by Zoë in 1982. In what would be the first of several house moves over the years, the family moved across the road to Remenham Terrace where they then welcomed the baby of the family, Claudia.

Living in Remenham provided Aldwyn with great joy and the community was filled with creative characters making for some fun social occasions. Dinner parties with an excellent soundtrack, exciting new dishes cooked by him (many talked of his fresh pasta) and a whole lot of laughter.

He was a member of the Remenham Thespians amateur dramatics group when it first began and his wonderful performance as René in 'Allo 'Allo, directed by Peter Sly, is remembered fondly and with a smile by many.

Walks in Remenham and Culham were a family fixture. Famously, one such walk to visit the Fraser family at Middle Culham Farm resulted in returning home with two orphaned lambs in need of a home. Though he blamed a couple of glasses of wine for this decision, Aldwyn was secretly pleased as those sheep, along with dogs, hamsters, guinea pigs, tortoises and a whole menagerie of animals became important family members.

After time spent at Workhouse Media and Glamorgan University, he went on to become vice-chancellor of what is now Regent's University, London. Under his leadership, the institute was taken from a college to having full degree-awarding power. It was both a career defining moment for Aldwyn and an incredible step in education.

Aldwyn was diagnosed with Pompe disease, a rare and debilitating degenerative condition, which meant that his life was to change forever. Despite this, he continued to work and enjoy time with friends and family, both here and abroad. He was an advocate for research into the condition and his family hope to continue this legacy.

Aldwyn and Rosalind, his wife of 48 years and a wine writer, bought a wonderful house surrounded by vineyards near Bordeaux. This gave him great pleasure in the last few years, especially times with the whole extended family, including his children's partners, Danielle, Andre and Rowly, and his grandson, Bon, who — like many others — called him Bear.

Remenham was a place that was so very special to him and all the family. His daughter Zoë was married at St Nicholas Church, where he proudly walked her down the aisle.

Aldwyn was a man who will be greatly missed by so many but will live on in the stories that we share and in the wonderful memories of his anecdotes never to be forgotten. He will be remembered.

published in The Henley Standard, 26 February 2021

REMENHAM W.I.

January

Remenham WI held another meeting via Zoom in January and it was interesting to note that the two newsletters were still being received, read and then forwarded with an added sheet of news and gossip! Members had received all the information for the forthcoming Resolutions and were encouraged to return their voting slips. Members are still being kept in touch with regular calls from the committee and the monthly Remenham Rag, with news and information continues to be distributed to all members.



After the business part of the meeting, members took part in two quizzes. The first was all about music, with questions ranging from the classics to the tunes from the sixties. It was certainly a trip down Memory Lane! After a break for tea and cake, plus chatter, a second quiz was presented. This time on food and drink but it was noted that the majority of questions centred on drink! As one member observed at the end, "I didn't realise how much I didn't know!"

February

The February meeting was focused on the AGM. It was a very different AGM from normal but all the matters of the day were discussed and agreed. Following the Annual Report, it was pleasing to note that so many activities had been undertaken and enjoyed in spite of the many restrictions and difficulties being experienced. All the committee members were re-elected and previous roles are to continue in the year ahead.

Members were then given some fresh ideas on how to fill some "spare" time during the day. The ideas ranged from going through an unused handbag to search for forgotten "treasures", walking out in the garden to pick a small nosegay and breathing deeply while out there, preparing and planting sweet pea seeds, ready for the new season, to going through and naming old photographs or writing down a few memories from your childhood.

A welcome cup of tea and cake provided the background for another thirty minutes of "catching up"!

If you are interested in joining Remenham WI, please give Daphne a call on 07919 358979.

Daphne Austen
President

TALES FROM THAMESFIELD

1. THE THAMESFIELD STATUE



At the southern corner of the Thamesfield Garden, a few yards from the swirling river you will see this delightful statue of a young boy holding a kite. I would guess about six years of age. My first impression was that it is a memorial of a lost child and is unutterably sad.

The poet William Wordsworth's ode "Recollections of Early Childhood" capture that despair (extract):-

*But trailing clouds of glory do we come
Heaven lies about us in our infancy,
Behold the child among his new born blisses,
A six year darling of pigmy size,
Fretted by sallies of his mother's kisses,
With light upon him from his father's eyes,
See at his feet some little plan or chart,
Shaped by himself with newly learned art,
But it will not be long,
Ere this be thrown away,
And with new joy and pride,
The little actor cons another part,
Thanks to the human heart by which we live,
Thanks to the tenderness of joys and fears,
To me the meanest flower that blows can give,
Thoughts that too often lie too deep for tears.*

That despair is intensified when you look at that young face coming alive after a shower when two large drops of water like tears appear on either side of the face. There is no engraving on

the pedestal, so we shall never know who he represents. Maybe it was cast in the likeness of the son and heir of Sir John and Lady Margaret Edwards-Moss the landed gentry owning and occupying Thamesfield House from about 1873 to 1935 when Sir John died.

Recently I showed the statue to a visiting friend and he discovered that on the back of the figure there was a signature of the sculptor Marion Smith. We 'Googled' the name and discovered that Marion Smith is the name of a sculptor of international repute and former Vice President of the Society of Portrait Sculptors. She has shown at the Royal Academy and Chelsea Flower Show and her works are marketed by "Farnon & Lake, County Sculptures". Furthermore, their website displays a statue which is an exact copy of the Thamesfield statue, but holding a stick instead of a kite. It is called 'Goat Herd'.

So it seems that my sentimental story was just a fantasy about the provenance of a garden ornament. Valerie was able to supply more information. Apparently it had belonged to Jane Murray who had been cared for in Thamesfield's Nursing Home some time ago. Her daughter Sarah gave the statue to Thamesfield when the time came to clear Jane's house and garden.

I still wonder why and how Jane Murray acquired the statue and whether it was a memorial after all.



Jim Bland, Apartment 25 Thamesfield

2. CHRISTMAS CARD FROM 5 YEAR OLD ALFIE

Last December the teacher of the infants in Valley Road School in Henley asked her class of 5 year olds to send Christmas cards to the elderly residents and patients in Thamesfield. My card was from 5 year old Alfie starting with the words 'For you' followed by good wishes for Christmas and the New Year in clear regular handwriting. I found it very touching. It made me think of what it would be like to be Alfie's age again.

Toddlers are sponges absorbing the world they have discovered. There is so much to learn at that age. Besides its religious story, Christmas is a celebration with a ritual of cards, gifts, feasts, Santa Clause and reindeers a mix of reality and fairy stories and that there is something called the New Year a week into the future. It is a miracle that 5 year olds can turn language speaking and hearing into marks on paper called handwriting. Similarly it is amazing that a 5 year old can grasp a Christmas cracker joke which is usually a pun on double meanings of words and get laughs converting writing into speaking when repeating the joke



to others. Reading is their ultimate challenge because it can lead to a vast new world. Overwhelmed by the virus pandemic we can understand why today there is so much concern about children being deprived of education not only from teachers and parents but from each other.

Although I am no poet I composed this for Alfie:

*Alfie you sent me a card today.
It cheered me up because the skies were grey.
You wished me happiness for this Christmas time
And for next year happiness be mine.
Your handwriting was clear and bold
One wouldn't think that you're only 5 years old.
I was aged 5 years once but now I'm 92,
Though I stopped growing later on it's true,
'Cos I didn't want to be as big as an elephant or a Kangaroo.
Thank you Alfie*

Valerie at Thamesfield sent the poem to Valley Road School and received a reply saying:

'Please could you pass on to Jim Bland our warmest appreciation for his wonderful poem of thanks for the Christmas Card our pupil Alfie made for him? It was so heartwarming to read in these rotten times. It moved a number of our staff to tears and we've included it in our school newsletter to help encourage our children as they battle onwards with their home-based learnig, which they're all finding so difficult.'

Jim Bland, Apartment 25 Thamesfield

LEANDER CLUB RE-OPENING

(I am aware that a number of local residents are - or might like to consider becoming? - members of Leander, so I thought I'd let you know their current plans. Editor)

Following the Government's announcement of the roadmap on 22 February, plans are currently being drawn up for re-opening the Club to Members.

Alongside some novel new dining experiences, a Summer of 'events & music' (all within the appropriate guidelines) is being planned. Please see website for further details, menus and the calendar of events that will go live on 1st May - www.leander.co.uk

Until then, please save these dates for your diary:

- From Wednesday 16th April - the Club will be open for outdoor dining & drinks
- From Wednesday 19th May - the Club will also open for accommodation & indoor dining
- From 21st June - the Club will open further (details TBC)

From 16th April the tentage will be increased to give space for circa 40 seats. Tables will be up to a maximum of 6.

Just before the lockdown the Club had completed a stunning upgrade of the bar, lounge and Regatta Room. Below is just one example of the transformation. Look out for more!



Henley Festival will be announcing their detailed plans for this year very shortly, in the light of Henley Royal Regatta's decision not to hold the regatta in July. They are working hard behind the scenes to do everything they can to bring some Henley Festival sparkle to the summer, with safety being their utmost priority. See the website: - henley-festival.co.uk.

LOCKDOWN HUMOUR

Making plans for the weekend?

Use this simple calculation to help you work out the ideal place or activity for you!

? Choose a number between 1 and 9

X Multiply it by 3

+ Add 3

X Multiply by 3 again

+ Add the two digit number you get together



The number you get is where you will be going!

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pub | 7. Out for dinner | 13. Football in the park |
| 2. Cinema | 8. Meet up with friends | 14. The Zoo |
| 3. BBQ in the park | 9. Stay at home | 15. Shopping spree |
| 4. Birthday party | 10. Round of golf | 16. Swimming |
| 5. Day at the beach | 11. Gym | 17. Road trip to Ireland |
| 6. Playground | 12. Long weekend away | 18. Theatre |

DURING THE MIDDLE AGES THEY CELEBRATED THE END OF THE PLAGUE WITH WINE AND ORGIES DOES ANYONE KNOW IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT PLANNED WHEN THIS ONE ENDS?

(ASKING FOR A FRIEND)



"Possible side effects include smugness and gloating"



I'M NOT ADDING THIS YEAR TO MY AGE, I DIDN'T USE IT.



ADVERTISING IN THE REMENHAM NEWSLETTER

Whilst the newsletter is being circulated digitally during the lockdown, our previous advertising rates do not seem appropriate. We are considering what they should be in the future, if we continue to circulate the newsletter by email rather than printing it.

In the meantime we have simply included all the advertisements that have been booked previously, free of charge. But please could those who advertised last year when printed copies were distributed but who have not yet paid, please let Jo have your payments?

Felicity Rutland (Editor) and Jo Morgan (Advertising)

newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk and jo@realorganic.co.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

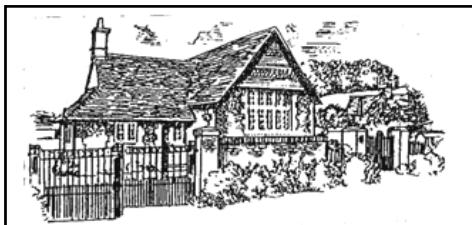
ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

REMENHAM PARISH HALL



Normal hire charge: £20.00 per hour (minimum two hour booking).
Commercial hiring charges by negotiation

The charges include the use of tables and all kitchen equipment except the crockery and cutlery which attract an additional fee depending on requirements. Local residents may hire the tables, chairs, etc for use at their own homes.

For further information and bookings please contact
Mrs Pat Sly, 01491 577925, patsly@tinyworld.co.uk or
remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

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