## **REMENHAM NEWSLETTER**



Remenham Artist - Steve Allender

No 290 – January-February 2023

#### THE CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

Rector Revd Jeremy Tayler
St Mary's, Henley The Rectory, Hart Street
St Nicholas, Remenham Henley-on-Thames, Oxon

Churchwardens Charlotte Every Tel: 07973 798071

churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk

John Laing Tel: 07778 464162

Churchwarden emeritus Mike Dowsett Tel: 01491 575711

Treasurer Nigel Gray Tel: 01491 572024 Secretary Mandy Sermon Tel: 01491 412908

Sidesmen 1st Sunday Antony Duckett Rosemary Duckett
2nd Sunday Hugh Whitfield Penny Whitfield

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

#### FROM THE EDITOR

This has been an unusually fun edition to put together, even though the day after the copy deadline I was panicking a little as I only had one contribution (from the ever-efficient WI!). However everyone else rallied round and there are some very interesting articles to read.

Do read the Parish Council notes (pages 8-9) and see how hard they are working to get things done on our behalf, and the Rector's letter struck a chord with me and is a delightfully upbeat and pertinent start to the year.

Most important of all, however, is of course the Letters Evenings on 17 and 18 March (pages 10-11)! Get your ticket requests in quickly as numbers are limited!

Other matters to highlight are the charming little piece of history (page 13), Mike Williams' OBE, the Parish Litter-pick on 25 March and the Parish celebrations planned for the Coronation of HM King Charles III on Saturday 6 May - details by email and in next issue.

Felicity, newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

#### REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rector Revd Jeremy Tayler
Charlotte Every Churchwarden
John Laing Churchwarden
Mandy Sermon Secretary
Nigel Gray Treasurer

Sue Laing, Paul Sermon, Anthony West, Sarah West, Hugh Whitfield

**CHURCH CLEANING** 

January Rosemary Duckett Minnie Wilson

Jenny Morrow

February Polly Hogan

**CHURCH FLOWERS** 

January Penny Whitfield Sally-Anne Plunket February Penny Whitfield Charlotte Every

PARISH REGISTER

**Baptism** 

20 November Xander Skipwith

Internment of Ashes

9 November Dorothy Lumley 14 December Daphne Bennett

#### **PARISH DIARY** (See articles for more information)

January

9th 1.30pm WI meeting, Parish Hall

9th 6.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall

**February** 

13th 1.30pm WI meeting

13th 6.00pm Parish Council meeting, Parish Halll

**Further ahead** 

Wed 1 March 7.00pm Parish Hall Committee meeting, Home Farm Friday/Sat 17/18 March Letters Evenings, Parish Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Sat 25 March 9.30am Parish Litter-pick, Parish Hall

Spring 2023 Broadcast of the Remenham-based edition of *Endeavour*Saturday 6 May 2023 Parish celebration of the Coronation of HM King Charles III

Sunday 3 September Remenham Fayre, 2.00pm, Parish Hall and Garden

March 2024 Thespians (probably!)

#### **NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS**



We are now in a peaceful phase church-wise with Christmas over and Lent and Easter sometime away.

December was, as always, busy at St Nicholas. We started with our celebration of our patron saint, St Nicholas on Sunday 4 December with sung matins followed by drinks and nibbles in church.

We held our candlelit carol service on Sunday 18 December at the earlier time of 11.15am to avoid a clash with the World Cup final. Nevertheless, the service was well attended and followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Hall. A choir of 20 people came together for the service who, despite very little rehearsal, were fabulous.

Both our Christmas Eve Holy Communion and children's service on Christmas Day were well attended – back to pre-pandemic levels. The church looked splendid with lovely flowers, candles on all the windowsills and hanging from the ceiling.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to our Christmas services by singing, reading, decorating the church or attending our services.

With best wishes for 2023,

Charlotte Every

Charlotte Every

John Laing

Churchwardens, St Nicholas, Remenham

#### FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

This year was a particularly joyful Christmas: after the years of lockdowns, social distancing, anxiety, cancelled services, and depressed numbers, we were at last able to do Christmas properly once again. Numbers were pretty consistently up at Christmas services both here at St Nicholas Remenham and also at St Mary's over the river. There were times during the Covid pandemic when I wondered if this would be the thing that would kill off Christmas church attendance: it is very pleasing to see that it isn't so.

You will be appalled to hear that it is not unknown for the clergy of the Church of England, and even some of the laypeople, to grumble at Christmas time. "Where are they the rest of the year?" is occasionally harrumphed over the Christmas port. Now don't get me wrong, of course I would be delighted if you who came to church at Christmas were to decide to start coming every Sunday, to volunteer for the flower rota, to stand for the PCC, to revive the choir or start a new Sunday school. We all have our dreams! But if the choice is between having you with us at Christmas, or not having you with us at all ever, I would take the former every time. A full church is a delight whenever it happens, and I would rather have that delight once or twice in a year than not at all.

And this actually expresses something really quite essential about the Church of England, at least as it is currently constituted. The basic unit of the Church of England is the parish. Everyone in England lives in one. And the basic unit of each parish is the parishioner. Anyone who lives within the boundaries of the ecclesiastical parish is a parishioner and has rights in their parish church, whether or not they regularly attend worship. Those of you who come to church at Christmas understand this instinctively: it is your church, it is there for you. You don't have to buy a subscription or jump through hoops or hold a qualification to attend. And more than that, if you live within the parish of St Nicholas Remenham, you have certain specific legal rights in the parish church when it comes to baptism, marriage and burial. You can also participate in the Annual Meeting of Parishioners if you wish to. If, for example, Richard Dawkins or the Ayatollah lived in Remenham parish, they would still have rights in the parish church, irrespective of their religious commitment or lack thereof.

For me this is something important. When Jesus encounters people in the bible, it is only very rarely that He quizzes them about religious matters. He doesn't, for example, ask them how often they go to the synagogue or temple. Instead, He responds with simple compassion to their needs. The ethos of the Church of England parish system is, it seems to me, related to Jesus' approach. It is inclusive, in the basic sense of the word: you are assumed to be "in" by default.

So I look forward to seeing many of you again next Christmas, and of course I'd be delighted to see you in-between-times too. And don't forget that your parish church is just that: we are here for baptisms, weddings, funerals and more, and if you need something from the church please get in touch and we will do our best to help.

With my prayers for the coming year,

Fr Jeremy

#### REMENHAM W.I.

#### November

This month saw the start of slightly earlier meetings, (1.30 p.m.) which will continue over the winter months, to allow members to get home before dark.

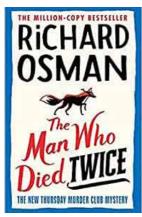
Many members attended the Fish 'n' Chips lunch. Sadly, there was no newspaper wrapping the food as there was years ago, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed the contents of their fish and chip parcels, which were



delivered to the hall. Mayonnaise, tartar sauce, vinegar and wine flowed in abundance as the merits of scampi versus cod were discussed at length!

During coffee, the members were entertained by Frances Plowman, who gave an enlightening talk on her experience of being a recent member of the BBC Question Time audience.

The afternoon continued with games of Beetle and the noise of the rolling dice was mixed with much laughter from the tables.



The Book Club met once again, to discuss "The Man Who Died Twice" by Richard Osman. It was declared to be an interesting read, with a distinctive style which was not to everyone's taste.

#### December

It was most unfortunate that due to the snow and icy conditions, the Christmas meeting in December had to be cancelled. However, members were able to meet up later in the month at their Christmas Lunch, which was held at Hennerton Golf Club. It was good to see so many members and husbands present and there was a happy chatter to be heard around the tables. The Christmas Table sale attracted a lot of attention with members buying those last-minute presents! The first

prize in the raffle was a well filled Christmas hamper, which was won by Pam Inglis.

The Book Club meets again in early January, when the book under discussion will be "The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin.

If you would like any information about this WI group, please contact Daphne on 07919 358979



Daphne Austen



## POPPY APPEAL 2022

Thank you for supporting the 2022 Appeal.

#### £1278<u>.</u>81

was raised in Remenham

to continue the British Legion's vital welfare

and benevolent work.

Pat Sly Local Honorary Organiser Berkshire

Registered Charity No. 219279



And a HUGE thank you to Pat from everyone in Remenham for taking on our local Poppy Appeal, and many congratulations to her for this wonderful result.



#### **NOTES FROM REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**



### January 2023

A very Happy New Year to all from me and my fellow Councillors. We enter 2023 probably overfed, overwatered yet raring to go on your behalf!

Life in Remenham is somewhat damp and dark as I write but the optimist in me says Spring is around the corner and we will see our lovely Parish burst back into life ready to soak up the sunshine.

We have continued to be active on your behalf in recent Council meetings pressing to have a positive impact on behalf of all.

On Licensing we now have agreed that a task force of John Halsall and Neil Brown, together with King's Counsel will develop the project to influence the Wokingham Licensing Policy. This policy is currently under review and we want to be sure in its new form that it requires considerate and professional management of events such as Rewind Festival to lessen negative impacts on Parishioners.

We received a presentation from the Wokingham Council anti social behaviour leader. This highlighted the support available to report issues such as fly tipping and to resolve neighbourhood disputes on issues such as noise nuisance and inconsiderate bonfires. The Wokingham website allows these and other issues to be reported and the team are happy to support constructive resolutions.

Believe it or not the paving area in front of the Parish Hall is now with Planning and hopefully will receive approval to permit the long awaited installation in March or April.

Good progress has been made on the Nature trail along the Wargrave road and a first clearance of a path has been started. Do take a stroll to inspect this but mudproof footwear is advised.

Yesterday evening we also welcomed the Chief Executive of Wokingham Citizens Advice service to our meeting. We learned of the many areas where Parishioners can benefit from guidance. I would recommend a visit to their website. The service is always in need of volunteers, so food for thought?

We continue to press Gigaclear for information on their installation plans and have so far been disappointed with their lack of response. We won't give up so hopefully more news soon.

We are planning a community litter pick morning on Saturday 25th March. The plan is to provide hi viz vests, sacks and litter picking tools from the Parish Hall at 9.30 am. All participants are welcome and with your equipment you can then choose an area near your home. This is a fun way for anyone who wants to contribute to keeping the Parish pristine to get involved. There will even be tea, coffee and a slice of cake at the Parish Hall for the hard workers at 11am....so not too demanding a morning.

As predicted, the weather is washing the mid section of Aston Lane away so we continue to push Highways for repairs. A number of issues have also been raised via parishioner inputs on White Hill which will be raised at our planned February Highways meeting. New speed signs will be installed shortly on White Hill.

Nobody said it was easy to get things done.....but your councillors are determined to persevere. Please keep in touch and let us know what else matters to you.

#### **Bill Ronald**

#### REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Bill Ronald (Chair): billronald@aol.com 07850 357 653

John Halsall (Vice Chair): johnashalsall@gmail.com 07939 041 227 or 01491 576190

Paul Sermon (Parish Clerk): clerk4rempc@gmail.com 07425 131 861

Franky Cookson: franky.cookson@btinternet.com 07712 834 151

Polly Hogan: polly@clearlyeducation.com

John Merkel: johnmerkel53@aol.com 07803 790 553

Darrel Poulos: darrel@poulosandpartners.com 07793 389 231

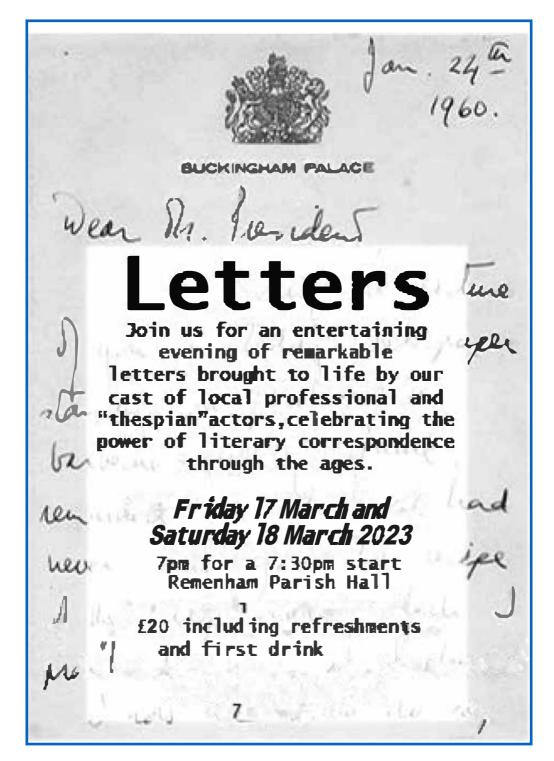
Nigel Williams: nigel@tves.co.uk 07951 994599

Meetings are currently held in the Parish Hall on the second Monday in the month at 6.00pm, except on the evening of the Annual Parish Meeting (usually in May) when it is immediately beforehand. There is normally no meeting in August.

#### WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS - REMENHAM, WARGRAVE AND RUSCOMBE

John Halsall: john.halsall@wokingham.gov.uk 07939 041 227 or 01491 576190

Graham Howe: graham.howe@wokingham.gov.uk 07540 193 239



#### LETTERS EVENINGS!!







Back by popular demand - but this time TWO Evenings of Letter Readings!

## Friday 17 March and Saturday 18 March Remenham Parish Hall - 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start £20 per head

Our first 'Letters Evening' in 2019 was hugely popular, and the above photos are a reminder of some of the highlights. How we miss the wonderful Eileen Collins - and who could forget Marge Simpson and Barbara Bush!

We are following the same format of tables for 4 people, with refreshments and of course a cash bar. £20 per head, to raise funds for our much loved Parish Hall.

Masterminded by Allan, brilliantly selected and coordinated by newcomer and now indispensable Ann, with some communication and general bossiness from Felicity, and with a cast from last time plus new volunteers with fantastic talent, this will be an event **NOT TO BE MISSED!** 

With the large cast and numbers limited by the size of the Hall we urge you to contact Allan as soon as possible with your ticket requests, and by 28 February if at all possible - <a href="mailto:allanhenderson@me.com">allanhenderson@me.com</a>.

Ann Burley, Allan Henderson, Felicity Rutland and a team of other wonderful amateurs and professionals

This was originally inspired by 'Letters Live' at the Royal Albert Hall, described as 'a celebration of the enduring power of literary correspondence - live events where remarkable letters are read by a diverse array of outstanding performers'.

This is a format now repeated all over the world by professional actors and amateurs alike - see <a href="https://letterslive.com/">https://letterslive.com/</a>

#### MICHAEL WILLIAMS OBE

(extract from the Henley Standard of 6 January 2023, with corrections!)

Mr Williams, 71, a retired banker from Remenham, was honoured with an OBE in his Majesty's New Years Honours for helping to rescue British Rowing from financial problems. He said he was "delighted" to be recognised.

Mr Williams said: "I worked for many years as an unpaid volunteer. Quite rightly so, successful athletes and Olympians are recognised for their services to sport but it's quite nice now that the army of volunteers who administer and organise the sport are being recognised as well."

Mr Williams was born in Oxford and went to Oundle School in Northamptonshire, where he first came across rowing. After being identified by a peer as the smallest new boy, he coxed the school's eight which qualified for Henley Royal Regatta in 1967. He studied maths and economics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and continued coxing, competing at Henley every year from 1971 to 1973.

Mr Williams said: "I was never going to be a fantastic rower because of my size but I do remember my first race steering an eight. I remember the sensation of speed, even though we probably weren't going very quickly, and that was fun. Once you are bitten by that bug, it never leaves you."

When he started work in the City, he joined London Rowing Club and was treasurer for about 10 years. In 1989, he was appointed to the board of the former Amateur Rowing Association, now known as British Rowing, after being invited by the late Peter Coni, a former chairman of Henley Royal Regatta. He spent the first half of his 25 years as Treasurer and the second half as Chair of the Finance Committee, fixing the association's finances before leaving in 2014.

Mr Williams said: "When I took over, we were in a weak financial position. When I left, we were not only the strongest nation in terms of performance but we were also in a strong financial position. During my time, we acquired the headquarters in Hammersmith and later doubled it in size and acquired the Caversham training centre. We now have substantial assets."

Mr Williams was appointed a Steward of Henley Regatta in 1993 and was a member of the Management Committee from 1997 to 2019. He was also an umpire, receiving his multilane licence in 1994 and his FISA licence three years later. From 1999 to 2015 he umpired at Henley. His final race was the 2015 final of the Grand Challenge Cup between the Great Britain and German eights, which the former won by almost three lengths.



Many congratulations from all your neighbours and friends in Remenham, Mike.

#### A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

I have had the privilege of seeing the correspondence summarised below, a wonderful example of the power of literary correspondence that we are shortly celebrating with our 'Letters Evenings', and, as Sue Laing says, 'We love a little bit of history in Remenham'. Editor

From an email to Henley Archaeological & Historical Group from Peter Kastor, History Professor in the US, asking for help in locating a property:

' My family periodically stayed in Henley during the 1960s and 1970s, both before I was born and when I was young. My grandmother had friends in Henley, , a town we all came to love. We usually rented a house behind the Little Angel, immediately adjacent to the cricket field.

My parents both died recently, and as the historian in the family, I have become the caretaker of their photographs. These include many from our time in England. I have been trying to reconstruct those trips, and that includes locating the house where we stayed. It was an interesting combination of two structures: a modern single-storey home that was likely built in the 1950s or 1960s, and an old barn most likely from the 17th century.



I'm attaching a few photos of the house and barn. The older man in one of the photos is my grandfather, a Princeton University professor of English literature. The little boy in the photo is me from a trip to Henley in 1969.'



#### Reply from Sue Laing, David Feary from HA&HG having located Home Farm:

'You have the right house. We bought Home Farm in 2008 and have completely rebuilt it, but keeping all the old beams etc! The old farm door is still there - it is now a dummy door but we wanted to keep it for old time's sake! The house was split into two

when we arrived but we knocked it back together again. The previous owners had the house for over 60 years.

The little bit of history that we've found is that originally all the land (the cricket pitch and what is now Butlers field, owned by the Regatta) was part of the farm which was the Home Farm for Fawley Court over the river. We believe the oldest part of the house is 1760.'



#### And the delightful response from Professor Kastor:

'I'm especially grateful to you for the recent history of Home Farm. The more I think about it, the more I realize just how much those vacations to Henley meant to my family. I travelled there with my parents, my two older sisters, and my paternal grandparents. We stayed in Henley for four summers. I only remember the 1977 trip, but I recall it as a truly magical experience. My grandfather was particularly happy to find Home Farm. An English literature scholar who studied the stagecraft of Shakespeare's England, he set up shop in the barn so he could write about the seventeenth century in a historic space. I returned to Henley with my grandparents in 1984 and again on my honeymoon in 1999.'

#### ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND EDITORIAL POLICY

Please keep sending any interesting/topical items for possible inclusion.

Please also send photos or pictures of anything to do with the parish or which might be suitable for the front covers - the stock of such things is currently very low!.

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.

Please also send feedback about the newsletter - is it what you want? I get very few comments and would really like to know what you enjoy/don't enjoy/would like to see.

Editor - newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

Months	Deadlines for	Approx. Dates
	Contributors	for Distribution
Jan-Feb 2023	Friday 6 January 2023	Friday 13 January 2023
Mar-Apr 2023	Friday 24 February 2023	Friday 3 March 2023
May-Jun 2023	Friday 21 April 2023	Friday 28 April 2023
July-Aug 2023	Friday 23 June 2023	Friday 30 June 2023
Sept-Oct 2023	Friday 18 August 2023	Friday 25 August 2023
Nov-Dec 2023	Friday 27 October 2023	Friday 3 November 2023
Jan-Feb 2024	Friday 5 January 2024	Friday 12 January 2024

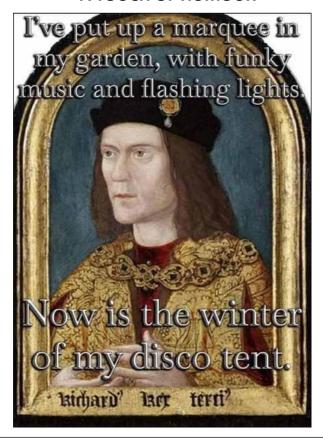
#### **PARISH MAILING LIST**

If you would like to be added to the parish mailing list to receive the Parish Newsletter and other Remenham news, please email <a href="mailto:charlotteevery@gmail.com">charlotteevery@gmail.com</a>.

#### WHATSAPP LOCAL GROUPS

To add your names to the Remenham group contact Janette Brown on 07768 166764 or <a href="mailto:janette1brown@yahoo.co.uk">janette1brown@yahoo.co.uk</a> and for the Aston one contact Charlotte Every on <a href="mailto:churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk">churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk</a>.

#### A TOUCH OF HUMOUR



With his pertinent observations on current issues, our Remenham friend and artist Steve Allender has sent us the following cartoons.





#### **CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN BERKSHIRE**





I received an email recently entitled 'Connecting Communities in Berkshire' and was amazed by its length and content. I have listed the main headings below, some with a little additional information where it seems particularly relevant. It seems that there is a lot of public information designed to help local communities and village halls in particular, with courses and a number of grants available for various purposes. If anyone would like to know more about any of this I will forward the whole email - it contains links to the different topics. There doesn't seem to be an overarching website. Editor.

#### January 2023

Grant fund opens to support vital improvement works to village halls: Our national body Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) is managing the £3 million fund being made available by government to help restore and modernise rural community buildings across England.

#### Courses:

1-2-1 social media clinics Fundraising for Village Halls & Community Buildings Dementia Friendly Village Halls & Community Buildings

Village Halls Week! Join us in the celebration of your warm, welcoming and inclusive community spaces.

Energy Advice: government help for energy bills due early 2023

#### **Warm Spaces in Berkshire**

#### **Funding Opportunities for Community Groups in Berkshire**

Civic Power Fund - Community Action Fund

BME Youth - Together Fund

**Tesco Community Grants** 

Newly Opened: Joseph Rowntree

Grassroots Movements Fund

National Lottery Community Fund

Children In Need

Sport England - Small Grants

**Alpkit Foundation** 

Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund

Resilient Theatres:

Resilient Communities Grant Programme

FCC Community Action Fund - England

View on police budgeting 2023/24 in the Thames Valley

#### **REMENHAM PARISH HALL**



Normal hire charge: £25.00 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 contact Pat Sly, 01491 577925 <u>patsly@tinyworld.co.uk</u> or <u>remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk</u>

#### REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

email address: remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

Revd Jeremy Tayler, Chairman
Nigel Gray, Treasurer
Charlotte Jefferies, Secretary
Charlotte Every
Allan Henderson
Sue Laing
Felicity Rutland
Pat Sly
Janette Brown
Jacky Ronald

Membership of the Hall Committee will be discussed at the next meeting (1 March), to bring it into line with the Parish Hall Constitution. After five wonderful people came forward after the Jubilee weekend it was realised that the Committee may be larger than it should be.

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# ADVERTISING IN THE REMENHAM NEWSLETTER

As reported previously, we have reviewed advertising rates in the light of the newsletter being circulated digitally, and as the cost of production is the same for colour and mono the rates are now the same for both.

#### Advertising rates for 6 issues over 12 months

Whole Page £220.00
Half Page: £110.00
Quarter Page: £55.00
One Eighth Page: £27.50

Contact: Jo Morgan, Tel: 01491 575186 Email: jo@realorganic.co.uk

More advertisers would be very welcome.

#### **MORE JOKES PLEASE!!**

The supply of jokes and cartoons that became a feature of the lockdown has almost dried up, but even though we are now out of lockdown it would be fun to include some occasionally.

Please keep sending them - to newsletter@remenhamparish.

org.uk

#### **CULHAM CHAPEL**

Masses at 6.30 pm on the last Sunday of every month (and 11.00 am on Holydays of Obligation) in the Chapel of Christ the Redeemer at Culham. www.culhamchapel.co.uk

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We provide expert advice from Wills, trust, charity and tax Solicitors and advisors. Whilst inheritance tax is an issue for most of our clients, we are also experts in advising on other potential threats to the family and its wealth, such as mental incapacity and divorce of children. We are exceptionally sensitive to clients' needs and take the time to understand their individual circumstances and priorities. As a result, our clients benefit from technically outstanding, bespoke advice which is explained clearly and in a straightforward manner. This allows clients to put in place the best arrangements for themselves and their families.

To help you review your current position we are happy to provide a free, no obligation one-hour consultation.





Nadine laves PARTNER nadine.iaves@theburnsidepartnership.com

Martin Pollock TRUSTS DIRECTOR martin.pollock@theburnsidepartnership.com

For further information, please contact: info@theburnsidepartnership.com









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