

REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



SOME IMPORTANT DATES

Remenham Village Fayre

Sunday 7 September 2-5pm
Parish Hall and Gardens (see pages 2-3)

Village Walk

Saturday 11 October
Start at Parish Hall (see page 4)

Harvest Supper

Friday 17 October
Parish Hall (see page 5)

Illuminated Boat Parade

Saturday 20 September
Leander Club (see page 6)





All you need to know for the Remenham Village Fayre on Sunday 7 September, 2pm - 5pm at Remenham Parish Hall

- The **Dog Show** will start at 2.45pm so be sure to arrive in time to register your pooch with Carol and her team from 2pm
- Entries for the **Produce & Arts competition** must be submitted by 3pm, forms will be available to fill in on the day. See the next page for this year's classes.
- **Bric-a-Brac** - please drop off your donations at the Hall on Saturday 6th Sept from 4.30pm or contact Pat (patsly7@gmail.com or 01491 577925) to arrange any drop offs at Old Blades earlier or to request for Pat to pick up.
- **Tombola** - please gather any bottles and arrange to drop off with Madeline Duffy (madeline.duffy@icloud.com), or give to your local collector:

Aston
Remenham Hill
Matson Drive
Leander end of
Remenham Lane
Henley and beyond
Remenham Church/
Hall area

Polly Hogan (polly@clearlyeducation.com)
Claire Fletcher-Hobbs (claireisafletcher@gmail.com)
Tina Jacobs (tinajacobs@impactmarketing.biz)
Madeline/Enda (madeline.duffy@icloud.com)

Charlotte Every (charlotteevery@gmail.com)
Angie Emerson (angieemerson@btinternet.com)

- **Parking** will be available in Manor Field - car entrance just to the left of the parish hall gates. Anyone who needs a lift to the Fayre, please contact Claire to arrange
- New for this year to replace the fancy dress, we will have a **children's crown making stall** with a parade at 1530. We can't wait to see what you make!
- We will be meeting at the hall to **set up from 1630 on Saturday 6th September** -please join us if you are able to help.




Produce & Arts classes 2025




A Fruit and Vegetables

SCORING SYSTEM

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Class 1 | Mammoth Vegetable | Size relative to normal size |
| Class 2 |  Bouquet garni from home grown herbs | freshness, smell of the herbs, range of herbs |
| Class 3 | 3 home-grown fruits or vegetables either all the same or a mix. Please include a note with details of the gardener's experience eg novice grower or child's gardening or experienced gardener | If 3 the same. as close as possible to the same size; if different, flawless, freshness and regularity of size and shape |

B Floral Displays

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| Class 4 | An arrangement from the hedgerow | Quality, presentation, variety of colour, shape and textures |
| Class 5 | A single rose in a vase  | Quality, presentation and ideally, please provide a note of the variety |
| Class 6 | Floral display in any container of any style (unconventional welcome) | Quality, presentation, variety of colour, shape and textures |
| Class 7 | Tallest Sunflower (bring it with you or bring a photo with you beside it) | Height |

C Baking and Cooking

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Class 8 Children | 5 Jam Tarts (Children's class) | Taste and skill in decorating. All 5 must be as close as possible in size |
| Class 9 | 2 egg Victoria sponge with jam, no cream | Taste and appearance |
| Class 10 | A jar of homemade preserves eg. Pickles, Jam, Marmalade, Curd | Presentation, homemade cover top, label and container, appearance, taste and texture |

D Arts and Crafts

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Class 11 | Mr Potato Head | Creativity, range used as facial features in the creation |
| Class 12 Children | Drawing or painting of a person or animal (Children's class) | Let your imagination go wild |
| Class 13 | A Photo, painting or drawing of Remenham showing its natural beauty | How well the entry captures Remenham |

PARISH WALK, 11 OCTOBER

On Saturday 11 October, there will be parish walk in aid of Remenham Parish Hall which is supported entirely through donations and fundraising. The walk will be an excellent opportunity to enjoy the beautiful countryside of Remenham; get some healthy fresh air and exercise; and for us all to get together as a community, with our friends, families and dogs.

We hope that every participant will contribute a minimum £15.00 for an adult and £5.00 for child - dogs come free! You will be provided with a map and there will be a free soup lunch in the Hall at the end for everyone (and a cash bar!).

There will be two walks: Walk A, six miles and lasting about two and a half hours starting between 10.00am and 10.30am and Walk B, lasting 45 minutes starting at 11.30am- 12 noon. Both will start and end at the Parish Hall. Parking will be available in the Parish Hall Garden.

Donation details:

- Through our [Just Giving](#) page
- Bank transfers can be paid to Barclays Bank, sort code 20-39-53, account name: Remenham PCC (Hall A/C), account no 10752258
- Cheques can be made payable to: RPCC (Hall a/c) and sent to Sue Laing, Home Farm, Remenham Lane, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2LS

Please contact Sue Laing on 07885 851362 or Sue@homefarmemail.co.uk to register and for any further details. We look forward to seeing you, your family, friends and your dogs on 11 October.





**REMENHAM
HARVEST SUPPER
PARISH HALL
FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER
7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**Tickets £15.00 from
charlotteevery@gmail.com
07973 798071**

ILLUMINATED BOAT PARADE

Leander Club - Saturday 20 September - 7.30-11.00pm



The event is a parade of beautifully lit and themed craft – powered or unpowered (no paddle boards) which sail from Fawley Meadows up to Henley Bridge. The craft are all imaginatively and wonderfully decorated. There have been many themes over the last few years – James Bond, Mamma Mia, Only Fools and Boats, Unicorns, Popeye, Under the Sea, Pirates – even a 7' penguin!

The building and houses from the Bridge to Fawley Court are also brilliantly and colourfully lit, and approximately 3000 spectators watch the parade from both sides of the river. It is a marvellous spectacle!

Leander Club throws open its doors to the public for this one night of the year, so everyone can come in and see the prize-giving. There are bars and food trucks available for refreshments, so it truly is a full evening of entertainment for the whole family.

See www.illuminatedparade.com for more details/entry registration

PARISH DIARY *(See articles for more information)*

September

7th 2-5pm Village Fayre, Parish Hall and Garden, 2pm-5pm
20st 7.30pm Illuminated Boat Parade, Leander Club

October

9th 2.30pm WI Meeting, Parish Hall
9th 6.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall
11th 10/11am Parish Walk (5km to 10km) Start/Finish at Parish Hall
17th 7.00pm Harvest Supper, Parish Hall

November

9th 10.55am Act of Remembrance (war memorial, back of church) followed by Holy Communion
14th 2.30pm WI Meeting, Parish Hall
14th 6.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall

Further ahead

7th December 11.15 Patronal Festival, St Nicholas, followed by drinks

FROM THE EDITOR *NB All the website and email links are live - just click for access*

As I'm sure you will have realised the main message of this issue of the newsletter is THE VILLAGE FAYRE!!! The newsletter is being circulated early in order to give you time to prepare.

The Fayre is just about the most important annual event in Remenham. There is something for everyone and we hope to see you all there.

Producing this bumper issue has made me realise what an incredibly busy summer we've had, and I'm pleased to report back on some of the events. They have all been helped by the wonderful weather of course, although our gardens have not enjoyed it as much.

After the Fayre, do join in the Parish Walk and/or the Harvest Supper, and if you haven't been before (or if you have!) there's the wonderful Illuminated Boat Parade - without the traffic problems of so many other events.

It looks as if I'll need some additional articles for the next issue, and I always need photos and jokes, so please keep them coming. See you at the Fayre!

Best wishes,

Felicity, newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

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!**

Suitable jokes and cartoons are also more than welcome!

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 Contributors | Approx. Dates for Distribution |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| June-August 2025 | Monday 26 May 2025 | Friday 30 May 2025 |
| Sept-Nov 2025 | Monday 25 August 2025 | Friday 29 August 2025 |
| Dec 2025-Feb 2026 | Monday 1 December 2025 | Friday 5 December 2025 |
| Jan 2026-Mar 2026 | Monday 5 January 2026 | Friday 9 January 2026 |

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS REMENHAM

Rector of St Mary's Henley and St Nicholas Remenham

Revd Jeremy Tayler

rector.hwr@btinternet.com

Churchwarden

John Laing

churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk

Churchwarden emeritus

Mike Dowsett

Organist

Sebastian Thomson

sebthomson@gmail.com

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 11.15AM

First Sunday Matins (BCP)

Second Sunday Holy Communion (BCP)

Third Sunday Matins (BCP)

Fourth Sunday Holy Communion (BCP)

Fifth Sunday Matins (BCP)

Sidesmen First Sunday Antony & Rosemary Duckett

Second Sunday Hugh & Penny Whitfield Tim Came

Third Sunday Charlotte Every Anne McDermott

Fourth Sunday John & Sue Laing Frances Plowman

Fifth Sunday John & Sue Laing

Parish Office: Monday & Tuesday 9.30am-12.30pm, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am-4.30pm

Tel: 01491 577340, email: office.hwr@btinternet.com

REMENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Rector Revd Jeremy Tayler 01491 577340

Churchwarden John Laing 07778 464162

Treasurer Nigel Gray 01491 572024

Secretary Mandy Sermon 01491 412908

Charlotte Every, Sue Laing, Paul Sermon, Hugh Whitfield, Anne McDermott, Frances Plowman

CHURCH CLEANING

September Charlotte Every

October Jenny Law

November Kevin Pascoe

CHURCH FLOWERS

September Sally Daniels Judy Bate

October Jenny Law Jennie Morrow

November Charlotte Every

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



Dear All,

I must start by remembering Mike Dowsett, our Churchwarden Emeritus who died in July. He gave so much time to St Nicholas for which we are truly grateful. He was a friend to us all, with his sense of fun and generosity appreciated by so many members of the church family over the years. We will miss him hugely.

We have been busy on the maintenance front. As you can see from the photographs above the Upper Churchyard has a new boundary fence on the side bordering Remenham Church Lane. The previous fence had fallen into disrepair some time ago and was overgrown with ivy and fallen branches. A pathway had formed from Remenham Church Lane into the Upper Churchyard and although strictly it was on Highways land, it had become very steep and there were concerns from a safety perspective. Moreover, as the graveyard is still open, some of the people using this pathway were not respecting the new graves causing upset to visiting friends and family. In the autumn the intention is to plant some shrubs to form a country hedge so the fence will be less visible. A big thank you to Oscar Sly for doing this. A great job!

We have also been repairing the wall that surrounds the church by replacing some of the bricks and mortar. This will help to keep the church and graveyards in good repair.

This summer has seen seven weddings and we wish all the newly wed couples the best for the future and hope they enjoyed their day at St Nicholas.

We do need some more people to join our flower arranging team. Even if you do not attend church regularly, Penny Whitfield (penny@whitfield.uk.net) would be delighted to hear from you.

continued

Please do not forget the Remenham Fayre on Sunday 7th September at 2.00pm, a village walk on Saturday 11th October starting (and finishing) at the Parish Hall with a choice of walks from 5km to 10km with food and drinks afterwards and the Harvest Supper on Friday 17th October in the Parish Hall. More details on these events and how you may be able to help will be given soon. Everyone welcome.



John Laing - Churchwarden

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTMARE



Remenham was privileged to once again host the wonderful actors of Midnight Circle. Following on from the triumph of



last year's Wuthering Heights production, their latest offering was a wonderful adaptation with a slightly darker twist, full of energy.

The cast used all of the parish hall garden and were determined to carry on even when it started to rain during the first performance. While there was a good turnout, I for one would hope that we would see a larger audience as the quality of the performances really do deserve it. **Allan Henderson**

www.midnightcircle.co.uk



FROM THE RECTOR

(This is a reprint of the 'Thought for the week', published in the Henley Standard on 1 August)

"The request to write this week's "thought" found me lying in the sun at the Kumpula Lido in Helsinki. The pool was built for the 1952 Olympics, but there was nothing Olympic about my afternoon of reading in the sun, interspersed with breaks for a little gentle swimming and a session in the sauna.

The word "holiday" has Christian roots: the origin of many of our holidays can be found in Holy Days, such as Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and Pentecost, and the many saints' days of the church's calendar. People were given the day off work so they could attend church and enjoy festivities appropriate to the day. Rest, recreation and merriment, time with family and friends: such things are recognised by the Christian tradition as vital to human flourishing.

Right at the beginning of the Bible we find the extraordinary creation narrative, which describes God as working to create the world through six days, before resting on the seventh day, taking delight in the "very good" work of creation. And so we find that rhythms of activity and rest are a feature of the natural world. Day and night, the turn of the seasons, the hibernation of animals, the dormant seed in the ground: the alternation of work and rest can be discerned in both the plant and animal kingdoms.

"If all the year were playing holidays", says Prince Hal in Shakespeare's Henry IV Part 1, "to sport would be as tedious as to work". Work and holiday stand in relation to one another. Work is essential to human flourishing just as is rest and recreation. It enables us to provide for the material needs of ourselves and our families, to contribute to the relief of those in need, and to the broader common good. It gives meaning, purpose and shape to our lives. And yet just a few minutes' thought will tell us that we live in a time of multiple challenges to a healthy balance of work and rest. There are those who whether for reasons of poverty or ambition or temperament are led to overwork, making insufficient time for leisure and the enjoyment of family life and friendship. And there are those who for many and various reasons have no work. And there is the ominous challenge of artificial intelligence and robotics, which many experts argue have the potential to completely transform the nature of work.

During this holiday season perhaps I could encourage you to reflect on your lives, and on the relative priority you give to work, rest and play? Is there a sense of healthy balance appropriate to your stage of life? And perhaps I could encourage you to reflect too on the broader social dimensions of work, rest and play, and the challenges of worklessness, overwork, and radical new technologies?

But that's more than enough: after all, I am supposed to be on holiday! Before I head off to the beach for my morning swim, I wish all of you time for rest and relaxation this summer!"

Fr Jeremy

NOTES FROM REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



August 2025

Well, if you wished for a warm hot summer....it has been granted. But as the saying goes....do be careful what you wish for. Perhaps, instead, you may want to join my recently formed Remenham Rain Dance club, which has been singularly ineffective!

Good old Brits we are....complaining about the weather whatever the conditions.



Not many complaints about our weather from the organisers of Henley Royal Regatta, Henley Festival and this week's imminent Rewind festival, where human lobsters will once more be widely available. Yet again our beautiful Parish has been hosting thousands of happy attendees to these large scale events, plus numerous other people gatherings in the shape of runs, walks and Corporate Charity events.

Increasingly, with the help of local residents, we have been demanding well considered and well executed traffic management plans from all event organisers to reduce (but sadly not remove) the risk of residents becoming stranded, in or away from their homes during events.

This year it appears Regatta and Festival ran relatively smoothly and fingers crossed for a similar verdict on Rewind.



Dog bin management has been on the agenda of recent meetings and hopefully the addition of some larger bins will reduce the risk of badly behaved owners leaving dog bags randomly around our Parish. We have also had frequent rubbish problems at the end of Ferry Lane in Aston where too many visitors have been simply piling their waste beside the bins. This is too big an attraction for the local wildlife so we have asked for more frequent emptying via WBC and have increased the capacity of the bins. We are now asking visitors to take their waste home with them if the bins are full.

With excellent support from our borough councillor Wayne Smith we have engaged directly with the drain supremo at WBC and hopefully the Culham Lane floods will no longer blight that road. We also visited the flood sites at Aston Lane and the bottom of White Hill where severely blocked drains result in bad flooding if and when it rains again. Action on the latter two issues may restore our faith in the WBC highways team, although we will need a response and action on the damaged railings on Remenham Lane before we let them off the hook.

continued

I hope, like me, you can smile as you pass the railings at the bottom of White Hill which are adorned with the magnificent flower boxes. This was a successful RPC initiative carried over from last year and we should thank Henley Royal Regatta for contributing to the upkeep.



I personally visited Lockdown Lodge at Hambledon Lock twice in the past month and I know many other Parishoners have also thoroughly enjoyed the happy environment created there. I commend it strongly to all, but more as a diary note for next year as the Lodge has now closed for 2025.

Yet again we are reminded how fortunate we are to live in such a wonderful location. One of the key priorities for RPC is to strike the delicate balance of welcoming visitors whilst requiring them to respect our Parish.

Our next Parish meeting is on Monday 15th September and as always, everyone is welcome.

Please enjoy the rest of the Summer and get set for the extravaganza that is the Remenham Fayre on 7th September.

Best wishes,

Bill Ronald.
Chair, Remenham Parish Council

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Polly Hogan (Vice Chair): polly@clearlyeducation.com; 07805 336 090

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

Nigel Williams: nigelwilliamsrpc@gmail.com; 07951 994 599

Paul Binney: paulbinney8@hotmail.com; 07425 607 978

Emma Abbott: zitzeb@gmail.com; 07877191614

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 Councillor, Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe:
Wayne Smith

MP for Wokingham:
Clive Jones (Liberal Democrat)

REMENHAM W.I.

June

The June meeting commenced with Daphne Austen giving a report on the recently held virtual NFWI Annual Meeting. It had been an interesting day of talks and discussions which was attended by several members of the Remenham group.

Madeline Baynes had accepted an invitation to the Alexander Devine Hospice and she reported an enjoyable morning, which included a tour of the building and the facilities for the children.

Members were delighted to welcome Judi Rowlands, a fellow WI member from Cockpole Green to their June meeting. Judi began her talk on Corn Dollies with a short and fascinating



history of their origins. Judi then demonstrated how to make a simple dolly - and she made it look so simple! This was followed by members choosing their straws, tying twine in the right places and plaiting and flattening the straws as instructed. There was much chatter, encouragement and laughter and everyone succeeded in making their own dolly. Some members then went on to create a more intricate style.

It was declared to be an excellent afternoon.

The afternoon concluded by admiring all the craft work while enjoying a delightful tea.

The Book Club met again to discuss their latest book, *The War Artist* by Jan Casey. This followed a group of ladies, who had been selected to travel through Britain, drawing scenes from everyday life during WW2; ladies working in factories, men sifting through bombed areas, nurses looking after injured servicemen etc. All this helped to retain for posterity, the many and varied war scenes which may otherwise have been lost for ever.

The next book is *Tinker, Tailor, School Mum, Spy* by Faye Brand.

The group was very sad to have learned of the death of Sheila Constantinidi. Sheila had been a loyal and supportive member of Remenham WI for very many years. She was great company with a tremendous sense of humour and she will be greatly missed.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

***Meetings at 2.30pm on the
second Monday of each month
at the Parish Hall. All welcome,
so do come along***

July

Remenham's July meeting saw members gathered in a typically English garden, with bright sunshine welcoming everyone to the afternoon. After the business side of the meeting was over, everyone was encouraged to draw or paint some of the flowers from the vases on the tables. Very soon there were looks of concentration as the song *English Country Garden* was playing in the background. Some people chose water colours, others pastels while felt tips produced some beautifully bright coloured flowers.

A special and delicious English afternoon tea was prepared by the committee which was appreciated by everyone present. Raffle prizes were won by Anne Francis, Caroline Leeming and Pat Sly.

Several members attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Sheila Constantinidi at St. Mary's Church in Henley. Sheila had been a member of Remenham WI for a great number of years and will be much missed.



A Craft and Chatter morning was well attended and again was blessed with fine weather. There was a range of crafts being undertaken, including quilling, sketching, knitting and crotchet. Lots of chatter accompanied the "work" and all was going well until Judy "dropped a stitch", which eventually, everyone gave up looking for! The chatting continued over lunch and the thunder didn't arrive until we had all departed!



The Book Club also had another meeting to discuss *Tinker, Tailor, School Mum, Spy* by Faye Brann, which everyone enjoyed and felt that it was a good and easy summer read. It was decided to work out who might also be a spy among the people we know! The next read is *A Plague on Mr. Pepys* by Deborah Swift, where Pepys and his world spring to life!

August

It was a glorious sunny day for the meeting of Remenham WI when they were delighted to welcome Lorna Dunlop to Remenham. Lorna is the proprietor of The Henley Florist and she arrived with a large container of beautiful flowers and greenery. She introduced each stem with its growing area and tips as to how to display and prolong its life. Lorna then proceeded to form the most beautiful bouquet while at the same time explaining how she got into floristry, her move to Henley, her shop in Hart Street and her thriving Flower School.

Irene Parker was the lucky recipient of the bouquet and she also won the Flower Competition.

Madeline Baynes won the raffle.

Frances Plowman was congratulated on the knitted blankets she is continuing to make with the many knitted squares being produced.

Daphne Austen was also congratulated on winning the Berkshire WI photographic competition for a photograph for the front cover of the 2026 Berkshire WI Handbook.



Another delicious tea concluded the afternoon.

The Book Club met to discuss the latest read, *A Plague on Mr. Pepys* by Deborah Swift which proved to be an enjoyable choice, giving vivid descriptions of the period.

If you would like any information on our group, please give Daphne a call on 07919 358979.

Daphne Austen

PARISH MAILING LIST AND WHATSAPP GROUPS

If you would like to be added to the parish mailing list to receive the Parish Newsletter and other Remenham news, please email charlotteevery@gmail.com.

To add your names to the Remenham WhatsApp group contact Janette Brown on 07768 166764 or janette1brown@yahoo.co.uk and for the Aston one contact Charlotte Every on charlotteevery@gmail.com.

REWIND FESTIVAL

*I know this isn't everybody's idea of fun, but it seems to have been the best yet, for the organisers, those who went and for local residents. **Editor***

From the Organisers: "From our side it was all good. There were a couple of things as ever but I think we did a much better job." "Rewind Festival 2025 was bursting with retro magic, and everyone sang, danced, and dressed to impress in true Rewind style"



***On the towpath
outside Old
Blades***

*'I've been almost
every year, think
that's the best one
....so far!'*



***Adam Isaac/Bloc off the Wall on
the Riverside Stage, wearing the
hat someone had thrown at him!***

*'What a day, our first Rewind
and we will certainly be back.
So, so friendly and we thought
all the acts were great.'*

*'What a fantastically
friendly festival!!! So
chilled, lovely staff and
brilliant facilities.'*

*'Loved every second.
Great line-up this year,
will be back next year.'*

*'The choice of foods
much better this
year. Oh yes & the
flushing loos were a
huge bonus. Thanks
Rewind!'*

*'Toilet facilities were outstanding - real flushing loos, wow what a treat, thank you. . This
was the best and how friendly and chill - amazing line-up, glorious sunshine, fantastic staff
and facilities. Nothing beats a little bit of a Rewind Festival.'*

THE LOCKDOWN LODGE



Despite the drizzly start to The Lockdown Lodge this year, we had another successful year and are hugely grateful for the ongoing support of the local community. There was a lovely buzz (alongside the hum of some pesky wasps!) all summer and it is always so lovely to step back and enjoy the peace beside the river. It's a pleasure to watch so many people sitting outside and relaxing in the beautiful surroundings, switched off from their phones and tuned in to their friends.

We are most proud of the engagement with the pub quiz this year, which helped us to raise £786 for the Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, a cause really close to our hearts. Thank you so much to the local businesses who supported us by donating prizes, but as always the biggest thank you should go to the many local people who have supported us year after year!

Minna Hughes

www.thelockdownlodge.co.uk



Note from the Editor: I visited the Lodge for the first time this year and absolutely loved it (and so did my grandsons - fabulous food)! Whether you go by boat (as we did), or by bicycle or foot along the towpath, or even by car, this a **MUST** for next year. **Felicity**

SARAH WEST

(Extracts from a tribute by her son Robert)

The last time I saw my mother at the Regatta, she didn't say her usual 'Hello Darling', just: '*I hear you were looking simply ghastly yesterday!*' So Mum, you'll be glad to know that I am wearing a proper suit today.



Your many, wonderful letters confirm that there is a lot to say about Sarah West. I am going to try to sum her up in three areas: **people, purpose and picnics**. But first, a little history...

History: Sarah was born in Maidenhead in 1941, only daughter of Derek Mays-Smith and Ann Fraser, who died when Mum was three. She then went to live with Granny Fraser in Marlow. It was a comfortable and loving home. As an only child Mum became very close to her many cousins. In a family with no shortage of strong, independent, and occasionally terrifying, women, Mum's childhood nickname was Scare!

At 9 Sarah started at St George's Ascot. It was, according to Judy Bate, like a boy's prep school, but much nicer! She made lifelong friends and 12 of them celebrated their 70th birthdays together. Although Mum loved school, school didn't always love her. Following some '*high spirits*' at the 5th Form Dance, Mum was asked to leave. When history repeated itself Mum's first reaction was always to support the culprit and not the school.

By now Derek had married Ivona, and the family home became Sagamore, on the river in Shiplake. Sarah gained a new mother and a sort of brother in Hugo Yorke-Davies.

Next came Finishing school in Switzerland, where she achieved the remarkable double of neither learning to ski, nor speak French. Despite this she still passed her one qualification: An Advanced Certificate in Conversational French - as she never tired of reminding us.

On returning to London, she went to Constance Spry - becoming an excellent cook and flower arranger. And then onto Secretarial at McNutt, leading to her one paid job: a sales negotiator with Douglas and Gordon, albeit there was apparently a touch of the St George's about her departure! At McNutt's Mum met Joey Huw-Williams, who introduced her to Stinker.

At their own wedding Dad said marrying Mum was like marrying an iceberg. He meant that there was a huge family below the surface, others thought it a less flattering analogy! It was, however, the start to the most successful of marriages, lasting nearly 59 years.

People: Sarah was a people person. Large family, infinite friends, friends' children, children's friends, grandchildren's friends. A recurring theme of the letters, was how interested in people she was, how she was always asking questions, hungry for the latest news.

One of my earliest memories is of people saying: *three boys, poor you*. And it's true: Tim and Charlie could be quite a handful! But she loved it and was a natural. She was one of the few mothers who would shout at other people's children, but that was because she treated them as her own, and would be equally quick to defend them. Mum loved a full house, but was quick to descend in her nightie to point out when it became too loud, for too long. As Archie said, if you saw the nightie three times, you knew you should leave before breakfast.

Mum mellowed, like the whisky she enjoyed, and became a very laid-back granny. Her grandchildren loved trips to Remenham, Cornwall and Covent Garden. Her unconventional approach to parenting included testing Tim's swimming by throwing him out of a dinghy in the middle of the Thames. A week later, in an irony not lost on her sons, she joined the Henley committee of the NSPCC.

Purpose: And that brings me onto purpose. Alongside her role as a matriarch, Mum was a massive support to Dad, allowing him to have both successful legal and charity careers.

Sarah was a pillar of the community, and a great supporter of the Remenham community. She felt strongly, given her good fortune, she should give back. She was always looking out for people, particularly the lonely. She was a committed Anglican and a stalwart of the Church here for 55 years, organising the flowers and much else. She also chaired the Parish Council and was a governor of both St George's and Crazies Hill Primary.

She was extremely generous to her family, and in supporting many charities. She was also a major benefactor of Marlow Rowing club, who named a boat after her. Mum also loved her home community. Daily coffee breaks with housekeepers, Mrs Worthington, Georgina and Kelly - and for over 40 years - Jonathan, her friend and gardener.

Mum was a regular on the tennis court - allegedly, the chat lasted longer than the rallies. Given her river upbringing she was a natural on the water: a tidy sculler, competent sailor and extremely patient waterski driver. She also loved racing with Dad - horses rather more than sailing - and they had a lot of fun, and some luck, as National Hunt owners. Travel was another passion, always booking at least two holidays ahead.



There was one instance where Mum's community spirit deserted her. She was called to Jury Service over Henley week and threatened with a fine if she did not appear. '*How much?*' she replied, quick as a flash. And that brings us onto picnics.

Picnics: The regatta was a big part of Mum's life. Her father was a Steward, winning most of the main events as both oarsman and coach, and her male cousins also rowed at the top level. The Enclosure was her lawn, and was improved, for countless other people, by her generosity and talent for entertaining.

That didn't stop her also firmly policing her sons' regular excesses. And true to form, those of our friends too. Steve said that he was delighted to hear that I was marrying Ness, but rather alarmed by the prospect of two Mrs Wests at Henley! Charles was reminded every year that Henley wasn't just a five-day beer festival - advice he's been happy to ignore. But we all did learn the very fair mantra '*that Henley doesn't just happen you know*'. Sarah was a brilliant host of more than just picnics. A wedding, twenty firsts, 55 years of Regatta house parties and Henley Sunday lunches on the lawn at home, amongst the most memorable.

As I come to the end, I am aware that so much of this entertaining, boating, traveling, racing and giving was done in the brilliant partnership she had with Stinker. They really were the perfect couple.

Even though she struggled physically in later life, she never lost her mental sharpness or optimism. Sarah West enjoyed life to the full and found joy in everything, and everyone, for all her 83 years.



POPPY APPEAL **(*see next page)**

You can donate anytime - this is the QR Code for Remenham donations, and the link:

<https://paya-group-images.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/merchant-portal/payments/donation-page-qr-code/YrVxNZZaIP/14320.pngV>





It seems rather early to be talking about the 2025 British Legion Poppy Appeal but in order to let you have the details for Remenham, we need to circulate the information in this issue of the Remenham Newsletter.

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 9 November followed by Armistice Day (last day of collections) on Tuesday, 11 November. The Poppy Appeal National Launch takes place on Thursday, 23 October.

The Royal British Legion believes everyone who has served in the British Armed Forces, and their dependants, deserve support for the rest of their lives. Every year, tens of thousands of veterans, serving personnel, and their families, turn to the Royal British Legion for help. It could be with money or housing problems, physical and mental health challenges, help caring for a loved one, loneliness, or a family breakdown. Whatever the need, whenever it is needed, the Royal British Legion will be there providing practical support and expert guidance.

The Royal British Legion is completely reliant on the generous donations of the public to continue this vital work. Wearing your poppy shows you care and lets the Armed Forces community know their service is recognised and their unique contribution will never be forgotten.

The Royal British Legion has been supporting serving and ex-service personnel of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, British Army, Royal Air Force, Reservists and their families since 1921.

In Remenham, we will have static poppy boxes sited at:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Whitehill Petrol Station and Workshop | Henley Royal Regatta Headquarters |
| Leander Club | St Nicholas Church (Sundays Oct 26, Nov 2&9) |
| The Little Angel P.H. | The Flower Pot P.H. |
| Thamesfield Village | |

Alternatively, I will be happy to come to your home with a Poppy Box if you either phone me, Pat Sly, Remenham Poppy Appeal Organiser, on 01491 577925 or email patsly7@gmail.com

As well as accepting cash, both the Poppy Boxes and Money Boxes have a large QR code sign for payment via a mobile phone app. Please donate whatever you feel able for the items. *(*See previous page.)*

The boxes contain the 2025 metal poppy pins as well as the pin-on poppies. In addition there will be clip-on reflector poppies (e.g. for dog collars, bags, etc), wood poppy crosses 15cm (6"), and the large vehicle poppies.



WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE

Pat Sly, Remenham Poppy Appeal Organiser



MIKE DOWSETT

(Extracts from a tribute by his daughter, celebrating a Life of Fun, Laughter and Full Throttle)

Michael John Dowsett – known to absolutely everyone as **Mike** – was born in London in 1928, before returning with his family to Henley. He was the eldest of three boys – with younger brothers Dave and Adrian – and from the very beginning, there was a mischievous sparkle in his eye that never really faded. From an early age, Mike discovered two great loves: speed and bikes. And so began a lifelong obsession that earned him the nickname “**Mike the Bike**” – a name he wore like a badge of honour. Whether it was racing, fixing, polishing, or simply admiring, bikes were never far from his mind... or his garage. The Isle of Man TT races were his spiritual home – he’d visit regularly, walk the course, ride the course and tackle the bends with a kind of fearless excitement most of us would reserve for roller coasters.

In his late teens, Mike co-founded the **Henley Motor Cycle Club** with his good friend Tony Hodge. And to this day, the original club sign still hangs in pride of place in the garage.

Mike also threw himself into motorbike scrambling, a noisy and muddy pursuit that filled his weekends with adrenaline and laughter. He later tackled the London to Brighton Veteran Bike Rally, not for the glory, but for the sheer joy of it. His pride and joy? A gleaming **BSA Gold Star** motorbike which he knew inside out and polished like a prized jewel.



Mike’s fun-loving spirit even extended to romance. He met his beloved Eileen at a dance at Henley Town Hall and they married in St Nicholas church in 1957. When the time came to choose between his motorbike or buying a car for the new family, Mike’s solution? Keep the bike... and just add a sidecar! So off they’d go – Mike and Eileen zipping around the Henley countryside, side-by-side in every way.

Family life was never dull. There was always a bike in the driveway, and usually a project on the go. Mandy, still in nappies, was taken out on the bike before she could walk. And when Andrew was a teenager, Mike gifted a Honda 90cc moped – not realising that Mandy would jump on first, tear down the garden and crash into the apple tree. Mike found it annoyingly funny, of course.

Aside from bikes, Mike was a crack shot – quite literally. A keen marksman with the Henley Trinity and Watlington Rifle Clubs, he had a whole bureau full of medals and trophies – and more importantly, stories to go with every single one.

Mike was never still. He ran Henley Boys Football Club, coached the kids, drove them to matches and kept himself super fit doing it. If he wasn’t at the pitch, he was pottering at his bench, testing something, or diagnosing car faults by ear – and he was always right, of course.

At the age of 15, he joined Hammants – a shop that somehow combined electrical goods, shotguns and motorbikes – which was basically Mike’s version of heaven. It wasn’t just a job, it was a playground throughout his working life. The team there was tight-knit, full of knowledge and even fuller of mischief.

St Nicholas church meant a lot to Mike. He became a Church Warden in 2005 and loved every second – especially weddings and christenings, where he’d quietly bask in the joy of others. When Eileen’s health declined, Mike cared for her with unwavering love and total dedication, never once complaining, even managing to take her out and bring her to church with him.

After Eileen passed, Mike didn’t slow down. For his 90th birthday, he celebrated in Helsinki, soaking up the long daylight hours with boat trips, food and a great sense of fun. He gave up driving in his final years, but didn’t let a dodgy knee or anything else keep him in. He had wonderful carers – Wisdom, George and Fidelis – who not only helped him, but shared laughs, Jenga games, and plenty of Mike’s tales.

He was the life of the party, the prankster, the storyteller, the gentleman. He made everyone feel welcome and made everyone laugh. His legacy isn’t just the stories, the medals, or the motorcycles – it’s the warmth, the laughter, and the memories of a life fully and joyfully lived.



A recent tribute on Henley Past and Present was flooded with comments – “fun,” “kind,” “a true gentleman.” That’s Mike. And that’s how we’ll always remember him – with a smile on our face, a chuckle in our throat, and a heart full of gratitude for the time we had with him.

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR



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:
Claire Fletcher-Hobbs

remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk

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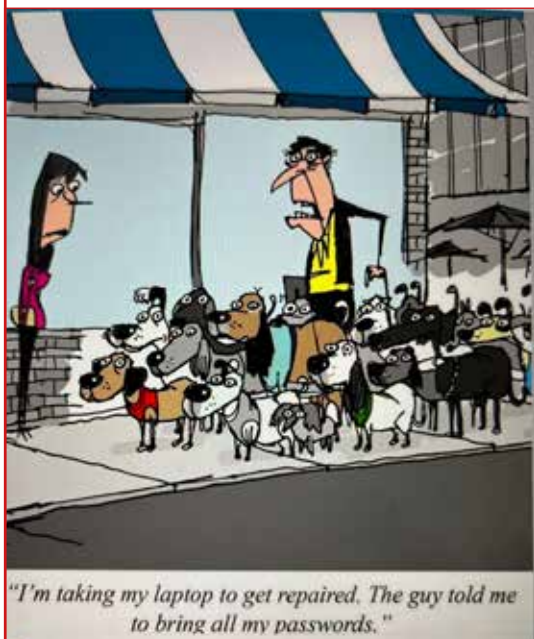
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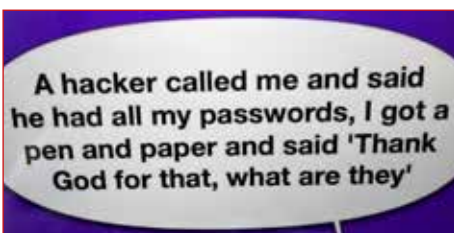
John Laing

Jacky Ronald

Others are also co-opted from time to time.



"I'm taking my laptop to get repaired. The guy told me to bring all my passwords."





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CULHAM CHAPEL - www.culhamchapel.co.uk

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