

# Greetings from REMENHAM

Sharing the latest news, events, and little moments  
that bring the Remenham community together.



# Letter from the editors



## Welcome to our bumper summer edition!

As you scan through the pages, you'll find wonderful write-ups and photos celebrating all of our fantastic spring events, including the very successful **Remenham History** exhibition that took place in April. Huge thanks must go to Madeline Duffy for all her hard work putting the event together and for the write up too. You'll also find enclosed a tribute to Remenham's oldest resident, **Jim Bland**, who sadly passed away in March. Thank you to his daughter Jane for providing this. Finally, please note the article about speeding and dangerous driving on White Hill and what we, as local residents, are hoping to change.

Looking ahead, we have an incredibly full calendar for the parish over the summer. Inside, you will find our comprehensive **Parish Diary**, featuring an extensive list of all upcoming events. Whether you are looking for fantastic local things to attend or simply trying to figure out which days you might want to avoid, we've got you covered! Crucially, this diary includes valuable information on set-up and clear-down times, as well as traffic plans, to help everyone navigate a very busy few months smoothly.

A couple of events to call out - **Clive Jones MP** is running an **advice surgery** at the Parish Hall on 21st July and would love to hear from local residents with any issues or concerns, see details on the enclosed poster. And our personal favourite summer establishment, the **Lockdown Lodge**, returns for another 3-week run on Friday 17th July at 7pm. We're already counting down the days...

Amongst that very long list of summer happenings, please don't forget to mark your calendars for one of the highlights of our community calendar: the **Remenham Fayre!** The Fayre returns to the Parish Hall on **Sunday, 6th September**. It may feel like a while away, but it's never too early to start preparing. Now is the perfect time to begin:

- Sorting through your cupboards for **Bric-a-Brac** donations.
- Putting aside **bottles** for the tombola.
- Putting your four-legged friends through their paces for the **dog show**
- Starting your training regime for the legendary **tug-of-war!** >

Full disclosure - as part of the Fayre organising committee we are also going to use this as an opportunity to encourage as many of you as possible to volunteer to help. It could be doing a shift on a stall, collecting tombola bottles or helping with set up. It's a lovely day to be involved in and many hands truly do make light work. If you're happy to get involved, please drop Claire an email on [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)

As always, a huge thank you to everyone who contributes, volunteers, and makes our village such a wonderful place to live. We hope you have a brilliant, sun-filled summer. And see you at the Fayre (if not before at the Lockdown Lodge...!).

Claire & Matt

[newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)

## Newsletter deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Circulate
September	14 Aug 2026	23 Aug 2026
December	27 Nov 2026	6 Dec 2026

## Advertising in the Remenham newsletter

The newsletter is published 4 times a year and is emailed out to a mailing list of 200+ local residents, with printed copies made available in the church. It is also available on the Remenham Parish website to download. New advertisers are always welcomed!

The rates below are for 4 issues.

Full page	£220.00
Half page	£110.00
Quarter page	£55.00
One Eighth page	£27.50

To advertise, email Claire  
[newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)

# Clive Jones MP

## *Advice Surgery*



### **When:**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026

10:00-12:00

*I am here to help the residents of **Remenham**. If you have any concerns or issues, please come and meet with me on **21 July***



*To book a 15 minute appointment, please email*  
***clive.jones.mp@parliament.uk***

*\*Appointments will be allocated on a first come first served basis*

Promoted by Clive Jones MP, Office 6, Trinity Court, Molly Millars Ln, Wokingham RG41 2PY

# Returning for Season 2026

THE LOCKDOWN LODGE

RIVERSIDE POP-UP

CAFÉ | RESTAURANT | BAR



**Friday 17 July (7pm) - Sunday 9 August**

Coffee and Pastries from 8am

Street Food Kitchen 12 noon - 9pm

Bar 11am - late

~

Supper Club\* Thursday - Saturday evenings

Sunday Brunch\* - 11am

*\* Pre booking is required*

**NESTLED BESIDE THE HAMBLEDEN LOCK,  
WE ARE ONLY A SHORT STROLL FROM  
ASTON & REMENHAM**

**WWW.THELOCKDOWNLODGE.CO.UK**

**f @THELOCKDOWNLODGE**




# Remenham Village Fayre



FREE  
ENTRY

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER  
2PM - 5PM



Traditional village fun including  
bottle tombola, pre-loved  
bric-a-brac stall, raffle &  
children's games.

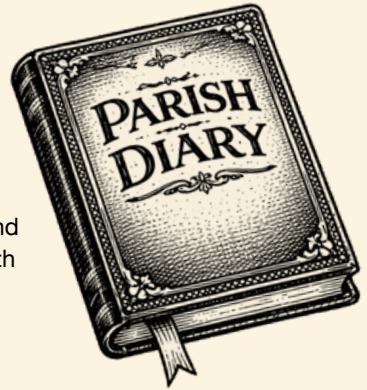
Produce Show, Tug of War  
& Best Pooch competitions.

Tea & Cakes,  
BBQ, Beer & Wine  
and much much more!

REMENHAM PARISH HALL & GARDENS

MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.REMENHAMPARISH.ORG.UK/WHAT-S-ON/](http://WWW.REMENHAMPARISH.ORG.UK/WHAT-S-ON/)

# Diary of Remenham Summer 2026



We have included key traffic information where relevant and known. The Parish website will also be kept up to date with any further information we receive. For any **urgent** issues experienced during these events, contact **Bill Ronald (07850 357653)** or **Paul Sermon (07425 131861)** who will liaise directly with the event organisers.

Event	Date	Set up starts	Break down starts	Key traffic information
Parish Council Meeting	8 <sup>th</sup> June, 6pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
Macmillan Cancer Support Thames Path Mighty Hike	13 <sup>th</sup> June	12 <sup>th</sup> June	14 <sup>th</sup> June	<p>All traffic via RCL. 8 coaches shuttling to Windsor and back. Spectator parking is not advertised.</p> <p>People will be finishing from 2pm. Shuttles from 3pm. Peak 5.30-7pm.</p> <p>No traffic marshalls.</p>
Henley Women's Regatta	19 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> June	Starts 7pm on Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June and is complete by 5pm on Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<p>Voluntary one way system. Arrivals via RCL, departures via RL.</p> <p>Boat trailers and competitors will start arriving from 2pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>Car park opens at 8am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Locked at 9pm each day.</p> <p>Traffic marshalls in place.</p>
Henley Regatta qualifying races	26 <sup>th</sup> June			
Henley Swim Classic	28 <sup>th</sup> June			

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Set up starts</b>	<b>Break down starts</b>	<b>Key traffic information</b>
Henley Royal Regatta	30 <sup>th</sup> June - 5 <sup>th</sup> July	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	9 <sup>th</sup> July	HRR one way system in place. Traffic marshalls in place.
Henley Festival	8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> July			
Henley Masters Regatta	10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> July	13 <sup>th</sup> July	Voluntary one way system. Arrivals via RCL, departures via RL.  Simultaneous arrivals and departures. Event egress c. 4pm
Parish Council Meeting	13 <sup>th</sup> July, 6pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lockdown Lodge	7pm Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July – Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> August	16 <sup>th</sup> July	12 <sup>th</sup> August	N/A - 99% on foot or by river
Clive Jones MP Advice Surgery	21 <sup>st</sup> July, 10am - 12pm, Remenham Parish Hall	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rewind Festival	21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	4 <sup>th</sup> August	30 <sup>th</sup> August	All traffic via RCL.  Campers arrive 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug am. Campers depart 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug am.  Temporary Traffic Regulation Order in place. Traffic marshalls in place.
Run Through Henley River Trail Half Marathon & 10k	5 <sup>th</sup> September	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	5 <sup>th</sup> September	Voluntary one way system. Arrivals via RCL, departures via RL.  Simultaneous arrivals and departures. Event egress 12-1pm. Traffic marshalls in place.
Remenham Fayre	6 <sup>th</sup> September, 2pm - 5pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
Henley 10K / Thames Path Challenge	13 <sup>th</sup> September			

❖ — IN LOVING MEMORY — ❖

# Jim Bland

19/08/1928 - 15/03/2026



With heavy hearts, we share the sad news that our oldest resident in Remenham, Dr. James Albert Bland, known as Jim, died on Sunday, the 15th of March, 2026.

Jim was born in 1928 in Bredon's Norton, Worcestershire, before the family moved to High Wycombe. A quiet and thoughtful child, he was always keen to help his parents and two older sisters with their small market garden. He loved learning and excelled academically, earning a scholarship to the local grammar school in High Wycombe. He was among the few thousand pupils in the country to achieve top marks and distinctions in his School Certificate examinations.

As a result of his exceptional achievements, Jim was awarded a further scholarship to Selwyn college, Cambridge, where he studied Natural Sciences and specialised in X-ray crystallography. It was through Cambridge that he met his beloved wife, Jill, with whom he built a life rich in love, friendship and exploration while raising their three children together.

Jim continued his career in scientific research as a physicist, working first for ICI and later for Metal Box.

Over the years, the family moved from Yorkshire to Chester before settling in Remenham in 1972 at the Coach House in Matson Drive. Jim and Jill loved the community and built up a strong network of lifelong friends in the area. Jim became deeply involved in the local history and village life he enjoyed mapping the local footpaths in the surrounding countryside, researching the history of Remenham and the experiences of evacuee children during the war and writing articles for the Remenham newsletter about many of the local historic houses. He was always eager to contribute to, and give back to, the community he loved so dearly.

After Jill's death, Jim moved to Thamesfield where he spent many happy years making new friends and enjoying a gentler pace of life.

Jim was a man defined not only by his remarkable intelligence, but by a quiet curiosity and gentle sense of humour that touched all who knew him. His presence brought warmth and thoughtfulness to colleagues, friends, and family alike.

Jim is survived by his sister who will be 100 this year, his daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who will forever carry his memory in their hearts. He will be deeply missed.

*Words by Jane Ford, Jim's daughter*

# Remenham Parish Hall

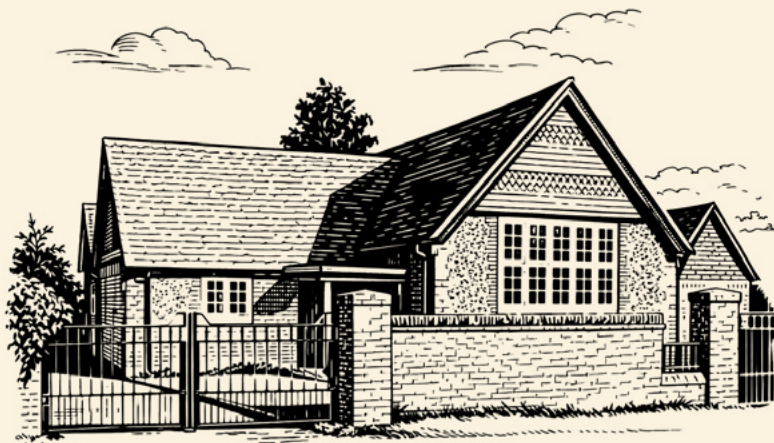
Normal hire charge: **£25.00 per hour**  
(*minimum two hour booking*).

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](mailto:remenhamhall@remenhamparish.org.uk)



## Parish Hall Committee

Revd Jeremy Taylor  
**Chairman**

Nigel Gray  
**Treasurer**

Claire Fletcher-Hobbs  
**Secretary**

Charlotte Every

Allan Henderson

Sue Laing

Pat Sly

John Laing

Jacky Ronald

Others are also co-opted from time to time.

# The Parish Church of St Nicholas Remenham

Rector of St Mary's Henley

and St Nicholas Remenham \_\_\_\_\_ **Revd Jeremy Tayler** [rector.hwr@btinternet.com](mailto:rector.hwr@btinternet.com)

Churchwarden \_\_\_\_\_ **John Laing** [churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@remenhamparish.org.uk)

Organist \_\_\_\_\_ **Sebastian Thomson** [sebthomson@gmail.com](mailto:sebthomson@gmail.com)

## All services begin at 11.15am

**First Sunday** Matins (BCP)

**Sidesmen:** *Antony & Rosemary Duckett*

**Second Sunday** Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sidesmen:** Hugh & Penny Whitfield, Tim Came

**Third Sunday** Matins (BCP)

**Sidesmen:** Charlotte Every, Anne McDermott

**Fourth Sunday** Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sidesmen:** John & Sue Laing, Frances Plowman

**Fifth Sunday** Matins (BCP)

**Sidesmen:** 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](mailto:office.hwr@btinternet.com)



# News from St Nicholas

Dear All

The main highlight since the last newsletter was the Remenham History weekend in April. Thank you Charlotte, Sue and Jacky and especially Madeline who dedicated so much time to putting on a wonderful exhibition, with lots about the church. We are also very grateful for the donations received which will be put towards the Parish Hall fund.

We had a very successful Lent and all the Easter services were well attended. Thank you especially to Penny Whitfield and all the flower team for their hard work, ensuring the church was looking beautiful for Easter.

As noted in the last newsletter we held the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to which all Parishioners were invited on Sunday 19 April. The Rector and I reviewed the year, and we completed the elections of officers. I will remain as Church warden, and Mandy Beverley has been elected as an additional member of the PCC. Mandy's father, Mike was a former Churchwarden, and both her parents were PCC members, so it is lovely to have Mandy >



continue the family tradition. We are always looking for new volunteers whether it be church cleaning, the flower rota, sidesmen, PCC members and churchwarden. If you are interested or would like to know more about any of these roles, please contact the Rector or myself.

We are now approaching the Regatta season, and we are delighted that we have Debbie Bruwer, an Olympic Rower who now manages the Henley Debt Centre, preach at St Nicholas at our 11:15am service on the Sunday of the Henley Women's Regatta on June 21st. Please note that as in previous years there will not be a service on Sunday 5th of July the Henley Regatta finals day.

Our next major event is the Remenham Fayre on 6th September. Fingers crossed for the same weather as last year and see you there, I hope.

And finally we wish Father Jeremy many best wishes for his well-earned 3 months sabbatical from mid-July to mid-October. We will miss him but all services will continue as normal with visiting Priests.

**John Laing** - Churchwarden



## Remenham Parochial Church Council

The Rector	<b>Revd Jeremy Tayler</b> - 01491 577340
Churchwarden	<b>John Laing</b> - 07778 464162
Treasurer	<b>Nigel Gray</b> - 01491 572024
Secretary	<b>Mandy Sermon</b> - 01491 412908

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

### Church cleaning

<b>June</b>	Jayne Grey
<b>July</b>	Louise Binney & Bob Nancarrow
<b>August</b>	Pat Sly & Linda Southwell

### Church flowers

<b>June</b>	Marilyn Dudley
<b>July</b>	Jayne Gray
<b>August</b>	Marilyn Dudley

# From the Rector

Dear Remenham friends,

One of the quirks of the way that my life has turned out is that I have been blessed to spend a large part of it living in places that other people visit for leisure and recreation. Most of my childhood was spent in a small town on the North Somerset coast. Our house overlooked the Severn Estuary, as well as a boating lake, public park and golf courses which, together with the large outdoor swimming pool at the end of our road, attracted large numbers of day trippers from Bristol on sunny summer weekends. A large proportion of my young adult life was spent living in the West End of London, where a small resident population existed alongside huge numbers of visitors attracted to London for a variety of reasons. Since then we have lived in the centre of Cambridge – again very heavily touristed; in St John's Wood, overwhelmed by cricket fans through much of the summer; and now here in Henley with large numbers of summer visitors peaking at the Regatta. There is something very special about living in places like these, places associated with relaxation, leisure and good times, and it seems to me that something of that spirit cannot help but rub off those of us who live here all year round.

But of course there are also disruptions and frustrations. In London we once lived very close to a Turkish restaurant that thought it was a night club, and it was not unusual to be woken in the early hours at the weekend to the sound of groups of Turkish men beating the proverbial seven bails out of each other in the street below our bedroom window. Those of you who live in Remenham do not need me to tell you about the disruptive impact of the various events that descend on you through the summer. Every summer I lose my temper at least once with a Regatta-goer who mistakes the Rectory garden for a public toilet! And yet on the whole I enjoy living in places that attract visitors.

The business of holiday and travel has more to do with religion than you might think – the original sense of the word holiday is “Holy Day”, reflecting the ancient custom of people resting from work to allow for religious observance and associated festivities on significant days in the Christian calendar. And then there is the tradition of making pilgrimage, found in the Christian tradition but also in many other religions. The Christian faith recognises rest and refreshment as basic human needs – the sabbatical principle after all is written into the very first story in the Bible, the creation narrative in Genesis – and the spiritual potential of journeys runs through the Bible from Abraham's call to leave his homeland and the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness in the Old Testament, through to Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and St Paul's missionary journey's in the New. >

So may God bless holiday-makers, travellers and pilgrims with rest and refreshment, and may God also bless the communities that host them with patience and a share of their joy.

This year is also my sabbatical year – they come around every ten years for the clergy – and I will be away for three months over the summer. Regular services will continue at St Nicholas Remenham thanks to the generosity of some of the local retired clergy. I will be back in October, in time for the Harvest Supper!

With my prayers,

Fr Jeremy



**Snowdrops in bloom at the churchyard earlier this year. Photo by 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 [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)

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

# Remenham History Event



April 2026

Our recent Remenham History Event was generally acknowledged to be a great success, with over 230 individuals over the weekend and generally staying for a considerable time. The initial launch had the feel of a sophisticated gallery opening, with plenty of fizz courtesy of Charlotte Every and delicious canapes beautifully presented by the Ronalds. Sue Laing had co-ordinated the launch, and what a great evening it was. Conversation flowed freely, and across all the displays there was something for everyone.

The Parish Hall was laid out with eight separate cube shaped stands each with ~64 articles apiece, a long table for the WI

memorabilia, a large art display stand with pictures and every other available surface smothered with local books, artefacts and more articles, historical sales catalogues and magazines.

On first entering the Hall, visitors saw the Jim Bland stand in pride of place in the centre of the display. Our much loved and missed local resident had left a treasure trove of work that we were able to display with the kind permission of his family. Jim had been a popular and regular contributor to the parish magazine over the years, so we deliberately selected some pieces that hadn't appeared there. As an aside, we have scanned all of the parish magazines from 1977 to 2014 carefully maintained by Pat Sly and will be uploading to the parish website so more of Jim's work will be readily accessible to all.

Jim had sourced wonderful material, and one topic of

**A happy crowd!**



**Charlotte Every & Bill Ronald proving that history isn't dry... unless you count the champagne.**

interest was the Remenham 1911 coronation celebrations. Some, after reading about the disagreements on who should be invited, decisions being made without consultation, threats to return invitations, boycotting of the event and demands that names be taken off the committee if compromises weren't immediately instituted commented that the back and forth seemed familiar. The full programme of events wasn't a million miles removed from our annual fete although there were far more in number - sack and egg and spoon races, sprints, tug of war and best baby competitions. We even had a list of all the winners.

On another Jim Bland panel, modern parents debated disciplinary styles throughout the decades after reviewing excerpts from the Remenham primary school book log and finding one mother lamenting that her child was not being

thrashed enough. How times have changed.

The backdrop to Jim's stand was well framed by the art display stand (courtesy of Allan Henderson) with the exhibition's larger pictures of the Squire



**Left: Jane Ford (Jim Bland's daughter) and Louise Binney**



**Bottom left: Jim Bland**

Car, examples of June Fraser's artwork and ancient maps from the 1700s of our Parish which had been sourced from the River and Rowing Museum after being researched there by David Law. The Squire Car was a magnet, accompanied by a new found pride that our Parish had produced and manufactured such a spectacular vehicle. Nick Totman of Whitehill Services (home to the Squire car garage in the 1930s and still having most of the original layout) had been pivotal in providing materials that made that section a prominent attraction.

For the rowers, pictures of the original Regatta starting gun, early 20th century rowing training schedules and Olympic programs attracted their eye. However,



we didn't fall into the trap of solely concentrating on rowing – we had coverage of our past football teams, cricket teams, river swimming and competitive walks.

On a nearby stand the various alterations of St Nicholas's church were illuminating to those of us who might have thought that there hadn't been much change over the centuries. The case summary of our parish taking the rector to the highest ecclesiastical church court when he dared to suggest moving the organ in the 1930's was a source of amusement for some. For those who didn't get the opportunity to see this story the rector lost. Accounts of when the BBC visited and broadcast a Sunday service from the Church took us back 80 years in time, and some notable weddings in the church were a surprise to many.

Moving on we had a stand dedicated to some of the local army activities. The magnifying glasses were in full use inspecting the black and white photographs of pontoon bridges, cutting the lemon, wrestling on horseback, Balaclava melee and tent pegging.

After 73 years of close association with Remenham, the WI was delighted to be involved with the History Exhibition. It was in 1953, that a group of ladies decided to form a WI group in Remenham.

This attracted several members and the group quickly grew. It was a novel idea to many and in fact, the Rector at the time wrote: "It is pleasant to welcome the birth of what we hope will be a long-lived institution in the parish. The W.I. should prove an

asset, so long as wifely duties are not neglected and meals are properly prepared (contingency hardly to be breathed and scarcely feared) it should be a grand success, and we mere men will be wanting to know why we can't have one too! But joking apart, we do wish this effort the best of success."

## It was in 1953, that a group of ladies decided to form a WI group in Remenham.

The ethos then, as it remains today, was to foster new friendships, provide opportunities to develop new skills and crafts and with visiting speakers, to promote a greater understanding of our world. The albums on display, showed the wide range of activities undertaken, places of interest visited and work carried out for the benefit of local organisations. It was with a certain sadness that the Remenham WI had to close in February 2026, due to falling numbers and rising costs; all the artifacts gathered over the years being archived with Berkshire WI.

Now, the group continues with the formation of Remenham Rebels. This will ensure that the objectives and camaraderie of the WI will continue in the years ahead, together with their close association with Remenham and hopefully new members joining.

Our residents over time also played a significant part of the exhibition. Our silver screen star Gladys Cooper was admired, and The Henley Standard popped in whilst

the Randle family were in attendance. A fabulous photo was taken which made it into the 24th April issue of the paper accompanied by an article outlining the Exhibition. The Randles lived in Aston, and their father was the last Aston ferryman. The tales Keith recounted brought to life how Remenham was in the 40s and 50s with memories of the local policeman, post office, school and river. Following the exhibition the Randles have been in contact as they have more relatives who worked on the farms in Remenham and could also expand our appreciation of what life was like.

## There was a lovely buzz about the parish hall throughout the weekend

Resurfaced minutes of our parish's concern on the state of our streets, dangerous bends and 'furious driving' could have been written yesterday instead of a hundred years ago. Looking at our residents over time, we are able to see what a rich and divergent parish we have – a number of renowned artists, potters, manufacturers, solicitors, war heroes as well as estate and domestic service workers contributing to a vibrant community. Part of this vibrancy was reflected in our five pubs and our maps of the Parish visually demonstrated the contrast between the palatial estates and the smaller workers cottages concentrated around Aston, Marsh Mills, Remenham Hill and by the Bridge (in the distant past known as 'The Marshes').

There was a lovely buzz about the parish hall throughout the weekend, with

exclamations of delight when a house, place or familiar story was spotted. Some visitors found the material useful as well as interesting with a budding author finding good context for one of their emerging ideas for a book of fiction set in the civil war. Father Jeremy had been one of our strongest sponsors and helped us spread the word about the event at every opportunity. With his own academic background in history, his interest and enthusiasm were infectious and ensured that news of our Exhibition reached beyond the Parish Boundary. Numerous new connections were made amid a happy and relaxed atmosphere.

One of these attendees and connections was with Dr Michael Redley - Chair of the Henley Archaeological

and History Group (HA&HG). We were so pleased to have an expert come to the exhibition, and as a result of this project we have started to explore ways in which our parish can become more involved with HA&HG. There is an amazing wealth of material on their website, and there are a number of articles that already directly cover Remenham. Examples are a detailed survey of Remenham Farm from 1985, the towpaths near the bridge and the development of locks at Hambleden and Marsh Mills. Monthly talks are held monthly in the chantry house by St Mary's church in Henley. We are going to be asking for HA&HG's guidance and suggestions as to how we keep our history an engaging and ongoing theme rather than a one off exercise. We would strongly recommend that any parishioner with an interest in history or just a curiosity about the overall

place we inhabit visit their website at [www.hahg.org.uk](http://www.hahg.org.uk). A single annual membership costs only £17, and for two at the same residence £28. This superb value and a fantastic group right on our doorstep.

As well as branching out to access the best advice and knowledge, we're still focussed on Remenham and what actions we can take so that our History Event doesn't become assigned to history itself. The display stands for the articles have been carefully dismantled and catalogued, and the materials will be carefully stored in the Parish Hall Charles III shed. This will make it easier to reshare content via future displays, as there was a lot to take in over the weekend. Perhaps a longer event or a series of 'pop ups' concentrating on specific topics once a month? Let us know what you would like. We're also now investigating a series of books aligned with the topics we showcased (WI, events, residents, architecture etc). These are likely

to come out over time and not all in one go. We'll also have a standing history section in the parish newsletter.

## The ongoing success of this initiative doesn't happen in a vacuum, and we are hugely grateful for all the contributions...

The ongoing success of this initiative doesn't happen in a vacuum, and we are hugely grateful for all the contributions of the members of our parish who provided such wonderful material and were happy to share fascinating snippets of their past.

We were thrilled with positive comments and a demand for more history themed events and articles. We would really appreciate your help to continue to grow our records. Throughout this initiative, we have been struck by the number of people who have said that would be worthy of sharing only to recount finding ancient coins, artefacts, going under the bridge that used to be on Aston Lane, sharing funny stories and giving life to the characters that have lived in Remenham.

We ask you all to consider whether there's anything that you may have that could be shared. For example, even if you haven't lived here or had a family presence going back through the mists of time, do you have anything on the history of your house?

Have you ever found or inherited something that could be of general interest - an old photo, coin, pottery, old bottles, tiles or correspondence? We had an ancient



iron keyhole found in a garden that we incorporated into the exhibition, paintings by Alan Pyburn (a previous rector) as well as a photo of Sir John Hunt's walking stick. Items don't need to be displayed or loaned - a photo works well to give people an insight into what physical mementos have been part of our past without anyone having to part with a treasured item. Great stories were sourced from our historical parish newsletters and magazines (going back to 1915!) so do keep those submissions to our current newsletter going!

We are also going to take a leaf out of the River and Rowing Museum's book. They did

an excellent job of recording oral histories. We would love to leverage this and create our own accounts covering our pubs, people, events, characters and anything with a Remenham angle. If you could spare some time for a relaxed coffee and chat about your Remenham experiences we'd love to hear from you.

If you have anything you'd like to share (including any photos of the History Event itself) or comments that weren't passed on in the visitors book or to a member of the Remenham History Team, please reach out to [history@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:history@remenhamparish.org.uk).

## A Sunny Success: Remenham's Spring Litter Pick

A huge thank you to all the wonderful residents who turned out on Saturday, 21st March, for our community litter pick!

We couldn't have asked for better weather. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful morning to be out and about in the countryside we are lucky enough to call home.

Thanks to everyone's hard work and keen eyes, we managed to clear a significant amount of rubbish from our verges and paths.

Community spirit like this is what makes Remenham such a special place to live. Thank you again to everyone who rolled up their sleeves, grabbed a litter picker, and made the morning such a resounding success. Thanks also to Paul Sermon for organising and to Franky Cookson for providing welcome refreshments at the end.

**Let's keep Remenham beautiful!**





## Creative Talent on the Trail

A big thank you to everyone who made it down to the Leander Club over the early May bank holiday weekend to support our local artists at the Henley Arts Trail.

The stunning venue was the perfect backdrop for the exceptional talent of our very own local artists, Jenny Law and Allan Henderson.

Thank you to everyone who dropped by to admire the work, chat with the artists, and show their support for our brilliant local talent!

# Notes from Remenham Parish Council

## May 2026

Phew!....a very hot spell draws to a close as I write and my mind returns to the biblical rain from earlier this year. We Brits seem to always love discussing the weather and generally manage to find fault with whatever we are dealt. So, no more complaining from me. I see welcome rain is imminent and I can rest from running around the garden moving my sprinkler.

The river, lanes, and paths in Remenham all look wonderful when the sun shines, and not surprisingly attract many visitors to enjoy the scenery. We should welcome them and do... as long as they leave our Parish as unspoilt as they found it. Please keep your eyes peeled for anyone who forgets their duty to take their litter away with them and politely remind them they seem to have forgotten something. Paul, our Parish clerk does a great job liaising with the collection teams to keep bins from overflowing.

Some good news from Highways at last. A team has recently cleared a section of the overgrown footpath on White Hill. We will work to persuade them to finish the rest of the job as soon as possible. Even more impressively the roads team undertook a substantial and high quality repair and refurbishment of Aston lane following continued requests to address the matter. There is still a plan to more effectively address the drainage issues at the halfway point in the lane. This will hopefully be

resolved by Autumn.

The frustration of the Ferry lane slipway project rolls on. The previously mentioned winter rains left the river too high for work to begin. Then of course preparation for HRR meant the contractor was not available and has to wait for the Regatta to be gone. With trepidation we expect the project to be concluded in the Autumn and once again be fit for purpose.

Our capable deputy Chair, who I am taking the liberty of nicknaming 'Perseverance Polly' has after about three years of effort finally achieved the successful installation of a new and larger gate on the towpath near Hambledon lock. Well done Polly we say. We will need to find some new projects to utilise her talents!

I am pleased to report that all your councillors were reappointed unopposed at the recent election in May. Collectively they work diligently on behalf of the Parish to help maintain the charm and ambience of this special place. Even great councillors eventually need a rest so we remain open to approaches from parishioners who would like to be part of the succession plans.

We are currently reaching peak event season and RPC has been keeping in close contact with The Copas Partnership to find ways to minimise impact on

residents from their events. A summary of the planned events (HRR and Festival are not Copas events) is included in this newsletter to help residents find the easiest way to avoid peak traffic flows. As an RPC initiative, with the great help of Franky Cookson and Polly, we have produced Remenham residents passes which have been delivered to residents of the affected lanes. These will enable marshals to permit access but as a reminder to residents it makes sense to move with the flow of traffic whenever possible and avoid the challenge of driving against a solid flow of cars. This may mean a small detour but will almost certainly get you home faster. A further note is that for HRR there is a formal traffic order in place which means

we all have to follow the guidance of Police and traffic marshals.

The Cumulative impact assessment (CIA) is due to be published for consultation by WBC licencing in the Autumn and hopefully we can use this to prevent 'event creep' in our already saturated Parish.

That's all for now, so get back to your mug of tea....or glass of shiraz whichever applies.

Best wishes

**Bill Ronald**  
*Chair, RPC*

## Remenham Parish Council

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**Paul Sermon** (Parish Clerk): [clerk4remnpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk4remnpc@gmail.com) - 07425 131 861

**Polly Hogan** (Vice Chair): [polly@clearlyeducation.com](mailto:polly@clearlyeducation.com) - 07805 336 090

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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, Thames Ward:**

Sam Akhtar, Wayne Smith and Leon Cook

### **MP for Wokingham:**

Clive Jones (Liberal Democrat)

# Keeping Our Roads Safe: Remenham Hill Action Group

As most will have seen, in March of this year, a drunk driver crashed into and completely destroyed the brick wall in front of Park View. Shockingly, this marks the third time this wall has been knocked down, and the second time within the last five years.



This latest accident served as a tipping point and the community has sprung into action, with a Remenham Hill Action Group set up on WhatsApp to gather data and discuss potential solutions. It is clear that more robust measures are needed to force motorists to respect the 30mph speed limit on this stretch of road.

## **Community Voices Heard at Parish Council**

A large number of the Remenham Hill Action Group attended the April Parish Council meeting to voice their growing anxieties. Borough Councillors Wayne Smith and Katrin Harding were also in attendance to listen to the community's concerns. While residents discussed a variety of potential fixes, there was agreement that we need traffic management experts to recommend truly viable, long-term solutions.

Following that meeting, Remenham Parish Council (RPC) formally submitted Expressions of Interest to the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Safer Streets Programme. While we are still waiting for an official response from the borough on that front, practical steps are moving forward on the ground.

On 15th May, residents met directly on the A4130 near Aston Lane and Park View alongside Councillor Wayne Smith, Thames Valley Police, WBC Highways, and our Parish Clerk to assess the road. The Parish is now awaiting their official report and recommendations.

## **Traffic Monitor Updates**

There is also ongoing work to update our local speed indicator devices across the area, including Remenham Lane, Remenham Church Lane, Aston Lane, the A4130, and the A321.

RPC agreed to these updates back in March, and the Clerk met with Ashley Waite from WBC Highways on March 5th to agree on the exact positions for the monitors. However, some new posts need to be physically installed, and WBC has yet to indicate who is permitted to carry out this work. In the meantime, the Clerk continues to collect speed data from the active A4130 monitors, though RPC notes that one of the units is currently non-functioning.

A big thank you to Wai Ye Harmer, Dave Milnes, the Clerk Paul Sermon and Wayne Smith for their efforts in progressing these initiatives.

## **What's Next?**

Traffic safety, the monitor data, and the next steps for White Hill will be discussed at the upcoming Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th June. Residents are encouraged to attend to stay informed as we continue to press for safer roads in Remenham.

Residents are also encouraged to report incidents of excessive speeding or road traffic collisions to the police, and to submit road safety concerns via the Wokingham website.

To stay informed and to be added to the Remenham Hill Action Group on Whatsapp, send your mobile number to Claire on [newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)

# REMEMNHAM REBELS

**Following the closure of the Remenham WI group, the newly formed Remenham Rebels have settled into a new programme with meetings to appeal to a wide range of interests.**

## **March**

The Book Club continues to meet, with the latest read being *The Surgeon's Daughter*, by Audrey Blake, which led to considered comments regarding medical advancements over the last century. The book gives insights into the challenges that women and doctors faced in the 19th century. This is the sequel to *The Girl in His Shadow*, a previous read by the group. The next book on the reading list is *The Eights* by Joanna Miller.

Several members then met to visit the Kenton Theatre, where they enjoyed an amazing production of *Pride and Prejudice*. Everyone agreed that this was a wonderfully entertaining and flawless production.

## **April**

This month began with a welcome coffee and piece of cake as members met at the Gardening Club at Hare Hatch to enjoy a natter while listening to the very entertaining ukelele group.

The Book Club met again to discuss *The Eights*. This book follows the unlikely friendship of four women in the first female class at Oxford. The bond they formed in the face of male contempt and the consequences of World War 1. The next read will be *Where the Sea Lavender Grows* by Kitty Johnson.

It was a pleasure, towards the end of the month, to take part in the amazing Remenham History weekend. The WI corner had a variety of exhibits covering their 73-year history and it was interesting to note how many faces and names from photographs connected to reports, activities and families found elsewhere in the exhibition.

## May

It was a beautiful sunny day when a large group met up for a lunch at the Shire Horse. There is always news to catch up with and dates to put in the diary for future events.

At the latter end of the month, a small party are travelling to the Anvil Theatre at Basingstoke. Here they will be listening to Friday Night is Music Night with the BBC Concert Orchestra, which is a part of the International Concert Series. This is a concert with the moonlight, clouds, celestial wonders and of course beautiful music!

If you are interested in becoming a member of this group making new friends and joining in with the varied programme, **please contact Daphne on 07919 358979**. A meeting takes place on the second Monday of each month with other meetings being added through the weeks.

Archiving the past of Remenham WI while the Remenham Rebels step into the future.



# Articles for the Newsletter and Editorial Policy

We love hearing from you! Please continue to send in any interesting or topical items regarding local events and community initiatives for possible inclusion in future editions.

**Visuals and Cover Photos:** We are always looking for high-quality photos or artwork related to the parish. If you have captured a great local moment or a scenic shot, please share it with us!

## Editorial Guidelines

**Editing:** The editorial team reserves the right to edit, amend, précis, or reject submitted articles.

**Opinions:** The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editorial team.

## We Want Your Feedback

Is the newsletter providing the content you want to see? We would love to hear your thoughts on what you enjoy, what you don't, and any new features you'd like us to include. Your input helps us keep the publication relevant to our community.

## Editor:

[newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk)



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