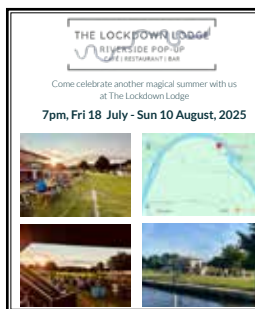


REMENHAM NEWSLETTER



SOME IMPORTANT DATES

A Midsummer Nightmare

Parish Hall Gardens

Saturday 7 June (7pm), Sunday 8 June (2pm)
(see page 2)

The Lockdown Lodge

Friday 18 July (7pm) to Sunday 10 August
Near Hambleden Lock
(see page 3)

Remenham Village Fayre

Sunday 7 September 2-5pm
Parish Hall and Gardens
(see page 4)

No 303 – June-August 2025

MIDNIGHT CIRCLE PRODUCTIONS

William Shakespeare's

A MIDSUMMER- NIGHT'S ~~MARE~~ ~~DREAM.~~

ill met by

moonlight

proud Titania

Remenham Parish Hall Garden
Henley-on-Thames
7th & 8th June 2025
midnightcircletheatre@gmail.com



@MidnightCircleProductions

scan to book



THE LOCKDOWN LODGE

RIVERSIDE POP-UP
CAFÉ | RESTAURANT | BAR

Come celebrate another magical summer with us
at The Lockdown Lodge

7pm, Fri 18 July - Sun 10 August, 2025



Coffee and Pastries from 8am

Casual **Street Food** kitchen 12 noon - 9pm

Wednesday Night Specials*, including Cheese & Wine night

The **Tasting Menu*** runs Thursday - Saturday evenings

Sunday Brunch* at 11am

* Pre booking is required

Nestled beside the Hamble Lock, we are only a short stroll from Remenham

www.thelockdownlodge.co.uk



Remenham Village Fayre

FREE
ENTRY

SUNDAY 7TH 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.

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

REMENHAM PARISH HALL & GARDENS

MORE INFORMATION: WWW.REMENHAMPARISH.ORG.UK/WHAT-S-ON/

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

*This a particularly important issue of the Newsletter as it is promoting first the amazing production of **A Midsummer Nightmare** this coming weekend (page 2), followed by the wonderful **Lockdown Lodge** (page 3) and third our annual **Village Fayre** (page 4).*

***A Midsummer Nightmare** has received some fantastic reviews, and judging by last year's performace by this talented group will be fantastic.*

*If you haven't yet been to the **Lockdown Lodge** then you must go! Delicious food in a beautiful local location.*

*The **Village Fayre** is a much loved annual event that is always tremendous fun for all ages. However it involves a huge amount of work. **Volunteers are needed please!** An email will follow, or reply to me.*

It's an exciting time of year, with the Regatta and Festival, but it brings its own problems - please see Ron Emerson's important letter on page 11.

No more Thespians productions or Letters Evenings for a year or two, but watch out for something new!!

Felicity, newsletter@remenhamparish.org.uk

PARISH DIARY (See articles for more information)

June

7/8th **Midnight Circle Productions, Parish Hall Gardens - 7pm Saturday, 2pm Sunday**

9th 2.30pm WI Meeting, Parish Hall

9th 6.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall

27th Henley Regatta Qualifying Races

July

1st/6th Henley Regatta

9/13th Henley Festival

14th 2.30pm WI Meeting, Parish Hall

14th 6.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall

18th 7.00pm, Lockdown Lodge starts

August

10th Lockdown Lodge finishes

11th 2.30pm WI Meeting, Parish Hall

15/17th Rewind Festival. Temple Island Meadows

Further ahead

7th September Village Fayre, Parish Hall and Garden, 2pm-5pm

11th October Parish Walk (5km to 10km) Start/Finish at Parish Hall

17th October Harvest Supper, Parish Hall

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

June Louise Binney Bob Nancarrow

July Liz Nash

August Pat Sly Linda Southwell

CHURCH FLOWERS

June Penny Whitfield

July Jayne Gray Judy Bate

August Marilyn Dudley

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS



Dear All,

I must start by saying how sorry we were to hear the sad news that Sarah West passed away recently. The congregation of St Nicholas will miss her tremendously. Sarah was a long-standing member of the PCC and an ardent supporter of the church's activities for many years. Her contribution cannot be overstated. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anthony and his family.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (the APCM) was held on 6 April and it was confirmed that 44 people have signed up to the new electoral roll which is an increase from the previous one which is good to see.

The APCM also elected Jacky Ronald and yours truly to the Remenham Parish Hall Committee. However, we can take no credit for the marvellous King Charles III shed! A big thank you to Oscar Sly for building the shed and Allan Henderson for overseeing the project. It looks great and has given us much needed space to declutter the current store and, no doubt, has given us more space for future 'stuff'.

I am also pleased to report that due to the many generous donations received to cover the cost of the electrics, we have some money left over to complete some other remedial works.

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

Looking ahead there is the Remenham Fayre on Sunday 7th September at 2pm, a Parish 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.

Many best wishes



John Laing - Churchwarden

SARAH WEST

In the next issue of the Newsletter, after Sarah's Memorial service, I shall endeavour to do her justice with our own Remenham Tribute. ***Felicity Rutland, Editor***

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Remenham friends,

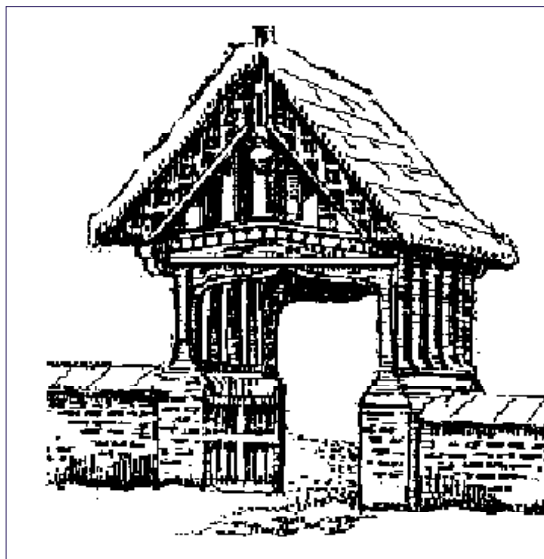
This time of year is very much wedding season for Remenham Church and for me personally. We get a relatively high volume of weddings relative to the size of the parish, a consequence no doubt of the attractiveness of the church and its setting, as well as its proximity to a number of possible reception venues. The couples can often be found in church on Sundays in the run up to their weddings; this tends to be particularly noticeable in the spring. They're usually quite easy to spot, often struggling to navigate their way through the traditional Book of Common Prayer services!

It has become a part of the vocation of our regular congregation to make our wedding couples welcome, and to help them to get used to church traditions that in many cases will be quite unfamiliar to them. It is a privilege for me to be able to prepare so many couples for married life, and to share their celebrations with them; and it is an encouragement to see the capacity for love and commitment, and often an openness to Christian faith, in a new generation. And I hope too that the wider community can feel some pride in Remenham being a place where people want to come to get married, and a place which will continue to have a significance for these couples as they make their ways through life together.

With my prayers,

Fr Jeremy

NOTES FROM REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



May 2025

Well, where did all that rain go? It seems the days of moderation are behind us. After what must be one of the driest and warmest Springs in decades we are ready to bound into June and ought to be prepared for further exceptions in the weather. The warmth has helped our local hedgerows to prosper and surely a pre-regatta trim beckons?

Your councillors were delighted to see an extended turnout at May's council meeting and further motivated by additional, very welcome, attendees joining for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The evening gave us the opportunity to pay tribute to Sarah West whose recent death had saddened all who knew her. We recognised that Sarah had previously been a very active and robust Chair of the Parish Council. She was frequently noted for her ability to connect directly and persuasively with any organisation or individual where a change of behaviour on their part was deemed likely to be beneficial to the Parish.

Not that any agenda items are mundane in RPC but we did take action on the perpetual challenge of having sufficient bins to accommodate the volumes of dog waste bags requiring disposal. Two larger bins have been procured, and we should collectively ensure all dog walkers are reminded to deposit their bags safely.



The meeting discussed a number of Highways related matters. Where credit is due we give it. It was noted that WBC Highways had responded with alacrity to a notification of tarmac 'surf' on the A4130 and said surf was removed and replaced within 4 weeks. On the debit side however there remain too many unresolved issues. Amongst these are the flooding problems on Culham and Aston Lanes, the broken barriers in Remenham Lane and the potentially dangerous footpath down White Hill. These items have been discussed and presented to Highways at multiple meetings and there was collective disappointment at the lack of progress. Having whipped ourselves into a minor frenzy it was agreed that RPC should have a further concerted push for results. Watch this space and please do encourage your councillors. I will repeat the request to all parishioners to join the pressure group and send issues to WBC on the Wokingham highways website whenever you spot an issue that needs attention.

continued

Lockdown Lodge is returning to its position next to Hambledon Lock for the summer and the meeting noted the positive ratings given by many users of the Lodge. RPC deputy Chair, Polly, has met with the founder of the lodge and passed on our support for the coming season.

At last the Environment agency are active in the approval process for the planned Ferry Lane slipway refurbishment. Our chosen contractor can then schedule the work, hopefully whilst the river is low.

The meeting also received an update presentation from Adam Toop. Adam is the founder / sponsor of the new Vintage boat museum currently being built in the old Hobbs boatyard site off the Wargrave road. The meeting agreed this was a welcome and notable addition to our Parish.



So, in summary, your Parish Council keeps itself busy on your behalf, dear Parishioners. Do keep us on our toes with timely and polite nudges if you need us to do more....particularly if these can be balanced with an occasional 'Well Done', for the benefit of morale all round!

Enjoy the Summer,

Bill Ronald
Chair, Remenham Parish Council

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Paul Sermon (Parish Clerk): clerk4remnpc@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: zitzeeb@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 COUNCILLORS - REMENHAM, WARGRAVE AND RUSCOMBE
Wayne Smith

MP for Wokingham

Clive Jones (Liberal Democrat).

LETTER FROM RON EMERSON TO THE HENLEY STANDARD

"The article by Nathaniel Lawson in the Standard regarding a license application by Remenham Club needs to be put into context with some facts that many Standard readers will not be aware of.

Over recent years there has been an almost aggressive increase in events held in Remenham, such that there are now more than 150 days of event activity in this rural parish every year. This may surprise people when looking at the event days held, but the major component here is the set up and take down time for events which causes most of the disruption, with giant articulated lorries trying to negotiate single track roads. This frequently leads to access being denied the homes of local residents and it has been pointed out many times that emergency vehicles would not be able to access properties on many occasions. It is not merely inconvenient, it is dangerous.

It also leads to environmental damage: only one example is that two trees had to be cut down in Remenham Lane to allow a huge vehicle to get through. Only two weeks ago the RunThroughHenley event, which in fact is a run through Remenham event, involved a one mile traffic jam on Remenham Lane. Last year the jam was on Church Lane such that I had to park on Remenham Hill and walk one mile to get home. This not only compromises what is everyone's legal right to 'the quite enjoyment of their homes' but also the legal right to access them!

What is notable about these events is that all of them are labelled as 'Henley' events, yet none are held in Henley. As a consequence, Henley gets all of the kudos and economic benefits, while Remenham has all of the cost and disruption. No one in Henley would put up with this. It's worth casting minds back a few years when there was a major cycling event held in Henley which involved some temporary and minor road closures in the area. There was an outcry from Henley residents and the event was cancelled - one event.

It is because of this constant progression of new and extended events that Wokingham Borough Council is looking at the possible need for a Cumulative Impact Policy and, as a precursor to this, will be conducting a Cumulative Impact Assessment this year in Remenham. Such a policy, if approved, would introduce the need to assess any new license application to be viewed in the context of whether it was additive to current activities. In that sense Mr Paul Francis, the applicant in this case, may look on his request as trivial, but this is how it has all gone so badly; it's lots of often small things that have led to a rural parish, utterly unsuited to the level of current activities, and served as it is by single track roads, to be compromised and damaged by nothing more than profit motives. It's what typically is called 'the boiling frog syndrome'. Any neutral party looking at what this accumulation of events has led to would be appalled.

And, finally, in addition to the activity listed above, we have a population the size of Coventry or Swansea, more than Newcastle, who descend on Remenham every year as a result of these events that, together, has created a gigantic carbon footprint in Remenham, all in the name of Henley. Does anyone care about this in a time of climate emergency, when there are huge efforts going on to reduce carbon emissions? Worth a thought."

Ron Emerson, Remenham Lane

Remenham Parish Council

Clean Up Day 2025

Our Parish Clerk Paul Sermon coordinated the volunteer parishioners, and Zara and Freya, the Community Engagement Officers who had asked if they could help. It was a very successful morning as shown by his Thank You below.

WBC Litter Pick 22nd March 2025

Thanks to all of you who came litter picking.

Thanks to Franky for refreshments.

Thanks to WBC for providing the gear.

Thanks to the Met Office for being kind with the weather.

Amongst the coffee cups, water bottles, beer cans, car wheel trim covers, broken wingmirrors, the following £10 was also found – and will go in a Cancer Research tin today.



Thanks again.

Paul

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.

SALLY-ANNE PLUNKET



I promised in the last newsletter to include a proper tribute to Sally-Anne. What better way to do so than to include extracts from the wonderful eulogy that her sons wrote for her funeral and which was so beautifully read by James. I am sure that we all recognised the Sally-Anne who was such a prominent member of our Remenham Community!

Felicity Rutland, Editor

18th March 2025

"First of all, on behalf of Charles, Edward and myself, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all of you for being here today, supporting us and remembering our wonderful mother, Sally-Anne. We would also like to thank, very specifically, all of the amazing medical staff and carers at the John Radcliffe Hospital, the Didcot Community Hospital, the Oxford City Community Hospital and at Chilterns Court here in Henley, for their kindness and compassion, sympathy and endless patience in the face of growing uncertainty and inevitability.

However we remember her - as sister, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, cousin or as a friend, she touched so many lives and has left her mark in so many ways. It is important not to let the turmoil of her last 8 weeks detract from the wonderful memories that we have individually or share collectively.

Entertaining: *It has been so heartening to read the many messages that frequently note common themes – very often referring to parties, dinners and general entertainment of which both she and our wonderful father, Nick, were noted as “always doing so well” with added comments such as:*

“Kind and sympathetic”, “Warmest of welcomes”, “Magnificent hospitality”, “Delicious food and a ceaseless flow of distinguished libations” (thank you Tim for that particular eloquence).

As many of you will attest, as a couple, they loved a party, particularly if dancing was involved.

Whilst many memories are triggered by different senses, as children we knew when a proper party was in the offing – particularly with mother’s preparations. The distinctive warm electrical smell of Carmen rollers heating on the dressing table; the aromatic waft of Elnett hair spray; the pull of the Mason and Pearson hairbrush completing the hair-do, and a spritz or two of Caleche perfume completed the scene.

Whether hosting an elaborate and generous picnic at Henley Regatta, an intimate dinner party around the table with cut glass and bone china, welcoming boisterous groups of young and “less young” into the marquee during our 21st birthday celebrations, throwing open the doors at Remenham Club for signature birthdays and anniversaries, or their final big bash at Phyllis Court celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in October 2022 – generosity and the sharing of good times and celebrations were important to them both.

Service to the community: *In reflecting on how she shared her time and energy, our mother lived a life full of involvement, keeping busy and generous community service.*

Having moved back from Australia to Harpsden in 1978, she immediately volunteered with the Cancer Sale at the Henley Town Hall and helped with the organisation of the annual All Ages Ball hosted at Phyllis Court and then at Fawley Court. From selling Christmas cards in Christ Church Centre to more than 25 years helping in the Oxfam bookshop in Henley, for which she received a well-deserved certificate acknowledging her long service and enduring commitment, her dedication to rolling her sleeves up, getting stuck in and helping others has been evident for so long and will be sorely missed by so many.

When they moved from Harpsden to Remenham in 1987, the church flower rota, the church hall, the annual fete and the acclaimed Remenham Thespians provided new calls for her talents and love of social activities. As much as she was a great organiser, her desire to be an active participant never left her. Whether submitting a prize-winning bloom from a favourite rose bush or taking a lead role in a theatrical production, her preparation, planning and commitment to the task at hand were clear for all to see. It is lovely to know that, despite her failing health, she was still intent on taking part in the “Letters Evening” at the end of March.

Even during her last weeks, this “thinking of others” was exemplified by her chief concerns of getting birthday cards sent to friends, planning a family lunch at Phyllis Court, getting back to the book shop and keeping an annual reunion with fellow Alumni of Oakdene School.

As a grandmother: *Becoming a grandmother in 1996 unleashed a new level of energy. Her love of roses was beautifully expressed, with a new specimen being bought from David Austin upon the arrival of each grandchild. Along with similar examples to commemorate landmark birthdays and wedding anniversaries, their gardens at Remenham and Ravenscroft Road were a testament to the importance of marking significant life events in both colour and fragrance.*

Throughout her life, mother was a keen consumer of “gentle” media. Alongside a staple diet of BBC Radio 2 and the dulcet “golden era” tones of Terry Wogan, Ken Bruce and David Jacobs, she had a compelling interest in murder mysteries – as long as the violence was unseen and the cases were investigated by Morse, Miss Marple or Hercule Poirot.

Even during our formative years living in Australia, we might have been forgiven for thinking that everyone in England lived in a world of Upstairs Downstairs, The Duchess of Duke Street or The Pallisers.

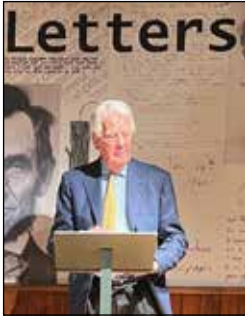
As an avid reader, volunteering in the Oxfam bookshop was akin to Charlie Bucket getting a golden ticket to Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory – surrounded as she was by titles old and new, pulp fiction to collectables and children’s classics as well as a range of specialist themes that fed her interests and discussions with us all, in particular about cookery, gardening, creative crafts and different countries that we had visited.

As a couple, moving to Ravenscroft Road in 2012 brought them close to where their life together started in Kings Close, 50 years earlier. The move also seemed to supercharge their zest for life, seeing new friendships made with so many wonder neighbours and a greater amount of socialising that kept their minds active and spirits uplifted. It was the perfect place for their latter years together.

Ending: *As we were reminded many times during her last two months, “I’m 83 and I’ve had a good life.”*

James

LETTERS EVENINGS!



INTRODUCTION BY NIGEL GRAY

(I am including this because in his welcoming and inimitable way, Nigel set the scene perfectly, as those who were unable to be there will see. *Felicity, Editor.*)

"Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen – and welcome to this, the third Letters Evening in our lovely Remenham Parish Hall.

Our first Letters Evening in 2019, modelled on the Letters Live productions at the Royal Albert Hall, was initiated and managed by Allan Henderson – and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his inspiration and encouragement.

Tonight you will hear a selection of letters, all factual and written over the last five centuries – sad, joyful, comic, romantic, and more: and one or two monologues! And they will be read by a group of individuals far wider than the Remenham Thespians, from very old (well, one of us), to wonderfully young.

Sadly, as many of you will know, Sally-Anne Plunket, a pillar of the Remenham Community for decades, who was, even 2 months ago, expecting to be reading, will sadly not be with us. But surely, she will be watching us closely to make sure that we are doing things right!

Finally, you will understand that an event like this requires huge commitment in terms of time and energy. Ann Burley has spent many hours finding possible letters and allocating them to appropriate readers – and organising us all, ably assisted by Felicity, Penny, Pat, Pru and an army of caterers and bar staff. Our thanks to all of them.

And finally, we hope, above all, that you will enjoy your evening as much as we shall enjoy sharing these letters with you!"

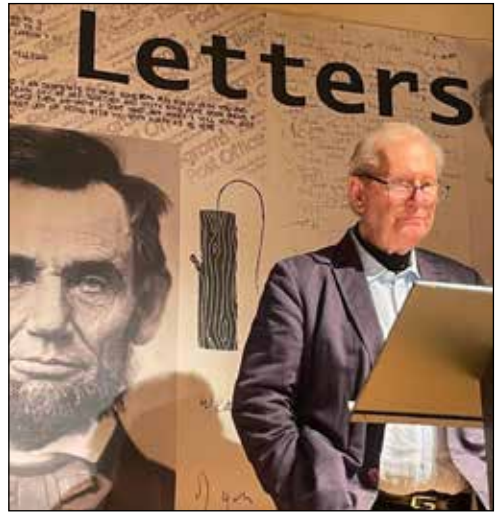
Nigel Gray



REVIEW BY GEOFF GOODWIN

I was touched when Felicity asked me to write a review of the 2025 Letters evenings (not that I'm implying that, in my dotage, my brain had given up – though the jury is still out on that score).

I've always been a bit of an imposter, and took it as a great honour when, a few years ago was I invited to become an *other-side-of-the-river* honorary member of the Thespians, whose cast had, until then, been pretty firmly rooted in the Remenham Village Community.



The Remenham Thespians has been, and continues to be, an amazing group of warm hearted, big hearted neighbours, all willing to be herded into pantomimes, adapted plays and letters evenings, more of which follows.....all in the good cause to help finance the maintenance of the village hall, and true to the Thespian Motto “never knowingly over-rehearsed”. Unique, Remenham Thespians may not be (quite), but it is truly extraordinary to recall that they have kept going for over 25 years.

I do hope that all those Remenham Residents, who wanted to see this year's Letters evening, were, in fact, able to do so.

By the way, if there are any Residents of any age who feel that they have in them a burning ambition to tread the boards whilst being prompted and heckled and with the ability to smoothly progress from script pages 10 to 13 during a performance, please take one step forward into the unknown.

But I digress – I know that I'm an inveterate rambler, with a habit of using too many words (you see what I mean?) and to the point: If you were in the audience and enjoyed the show, credit is as much due to the backstage team as to the readers, who arguably had the easier job – practice, turn up, read and then bask in the applause of the adoring public.

The vast amount of organisation and hard work that goes into all of The Thespians and Thespians related productions is phenomenal. (*Note: The Letters Evenings were not directly a Thespians production, as they were separately organised and included a number of people who have not been Thespians. **Felicity Rutland** on behalf of the Thespians.*)

Whilst special Letters Evening thanks – and the flowers - go to Ann Burley, together with Felicity Rutland and the readers' coach, Penny Collins, huge thanks also to the teams baking and providing sustenance from the kitchen and bar, the stagehands, admin, photographers, and all those I've missed.



On both nights all that backstage and front of house preparation paid off and it was no surprise that the 2025 Letters Evenings were

a howling success. Performers aged from 8 to 80 took to the stage, rendering a programme of 41 letters covering every conceivable emotion and all read with great sensitivity towards the subject.



If my own experience as a reader is anything to go by, it was an experience that, together with our wonderful audience's reception, will live on in all our memory banks, so thank you to all of the organisers, performers and audiences. We look forward to the next Remenham Village production, which a little bird tells me might be a talent show or a pantomime, so, young and young at heart, brush up your talent and prepare for the well known heckler-in-chief to pass judgement – this is going to be a hoot.

Geoff Goodwin, Heckler in chief

Watering Facilities at St Nicholas Church - Help please

The watering facilities at the church have, until now, been a plastic water butt, but a broken plastic tap necessitated replacing it and a strong brass one was fitted. Almost immediately water butt and shiny brass tap disappeared. We now intend to have a plastic tank secured in some way so that parishioners tending flowers on graves have continued access to water in the absence of any other supply.



It seems very possible that there is, in the community, a cold water storage tank of 50 gallon capacity or so that may be going spare. Many households have changed to combi boilers and may have a retrievable tank in the loft which is now of no use. If so please give Bob Nancarrow a call or text as he is happily charged with the job - 07802705328.

REMENHAM W.I.

MARCH

At the March meeting, Remenham WI was delighted to welcome Chester, a beautiful golden retriever/labrador, the constant and much-loved companion of Chris Owen – The Blind Man with a Backpack. Chris described how he had problems with his eyesight from an early age which gradually worsened until he became almost completely blind in his early forties. After some pretty rigorous testing, Chris was considered suitable for a guide dog and was put on the waiting list and finally Chester came into his life and they were able to undertake many adventures together. Chris showed the members various gadgets to help him, using sound rather than vision to alert him. Chris has had great support from Berkshire Vision, a charity



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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

based in eading and offering support to both adults and children with all aspects of their lives and Chris is now a trustee of the charity.

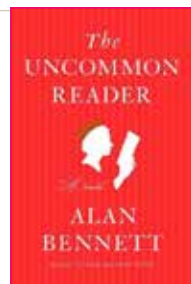
Before being introduced to Chester, members heard that voting for the Resolutions short listed for the debate at the NFWI meeting in June had been completed. The resolution which came top of the poll by some considerable margin was “*Bystanders can be Lifesavers*” and that will go forward to the Annual Meeting.

Chickens everywhere! Members have contributed chocolate eggs and ribbons to the Alexander Devine Big Chick Knit. This wonderful local hospice based in Maidenhead supports children with life limiting and life-threatening illness across Berkshire and they need vital funds to continue their work.

Members gathered at the end of the month at Toad Hall Garden Centre for coffee and cake and enthusiastic chatter.

APRIL

The Remenham WI Book Club met at the beginning of the month to discuss *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett. Although a shorter book than usual, it covered a lot of ground and was much enjoyed by our members and it led to much lively discussion. The chosen book for this month is *A Five-Year Sentence* by Bernice Rubens.



Remenham WI met in April and enjoyed a meeting with Apsarap, a representative from Holland and Barrett in Henley. Apsarap gave a brief history of the British company which was started in 1870 and has about 800 stores in the UK. She spoke with particular reference to the new Henley store and how



customers and their queries differed in all areas. Henley residents were noted for their sporting activities and keep fit mentality. Apsarap followed this with a guide to vitamins and supplements which could be of benefit to our members. Various interesting questions were asked by members throughout the talk with one member arranging to

visit the store for a further consultation. Apsarap brought various samples for members to try, which also led to interesting discussion and comment.

Frances Plowman showed everyone the delightful and colourful blankets that she is putting together for the RBH and encouraged members to keep providing her with knitted squares.

The meeting ended with a delightful tea and the raffle was won by Rosemary Pratt.

Four members have also attended the Berkshire Federation Annual Council meeting in Reading. Laura Reineke from Friends of the River Thames, spoke with passion about caring for our river and the threats that it was under from so many directions.



The historian Helen Fry then spoke with equal passion about her book *Women in Intelligence*. This was a fascinating history of some of the war work undertaken by women, as civilians and in uniform, defying the conventions of their time. It was an enthralling talk.

The month ended with another meeting of the Book Club, where *A Five Year sentence* was met with very different views and it was interesting to listen to different reactions to the story. The next read is *The Glass Maker* by Tracy Chevalier - a fascinating story with a very clever twist!



MAY

Remenham WI were delighted to welcome other WI friends from Knowl Hill and Cockpole Green to their May meeting. At this meeting, Remenham members voted for the Resolution, *"Bystanders can be Lifesavers"* which will be actioned at the forthcoming NFWI Annual Meeting.

The speaker for this month was Pascal McNamara from Wokingham Auctions. It was surprising to learn from him, how cultural changes in the country over the last forty years have changed the face of antique values. The wonderful and old grandfather clock and the beautiful china tea-set so lovingly looked after and which have such sentimental value are among the many no longer sought after items! The modern generation have very different views about collectable items and what to them is valuable. Many members are now perhaps wondering what to do with many of the treasures in their homes!

Pascal's talk was very informative and interesting with some humorous anecdotes of visits to homes and families in the area.

During tea, several members asked Pascal to look at a few items of jewellery and family heirlooms which they had brought along, with questions as to the ages and values of their pieces.

Several members met recently for lunch at The Shire Horse, to enjoy lunch and to exchange all the latest news and to enjoy a relaxing chat.

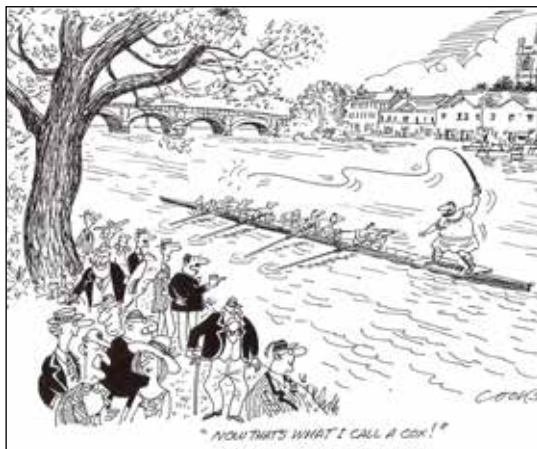
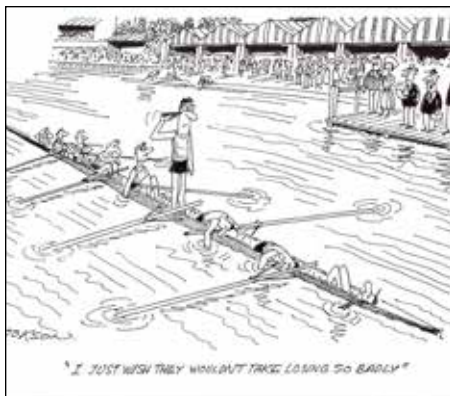
The month ended with members of the book club joining together to discuss *The Glass Maker*, which was widely appreciated.

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



Daphne Austen

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

PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

Revd Jeremy Tayler Chairman

Nigel Gray Treasurer

Claire Fletcher-Hobbs Secretary

Charlotte Every

Allan Henderson

Sue Laing

Pat Sly

Janette Brown

John Laing

Jacky Ronald

Others are also co-opted from time to time.

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
Mar-May 2025	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 28 February 2025
June-August 2025	Monday 26 May 2025	Friday 30 May 2025
Sept-Nov 202	Monday 25 August 2025	Friday 29 August 2025
Dec 2025-Feb 2026	Monday 1 December 2025	Friday 5 December 2025



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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

'Hamilton George are not 'just a safe pair of hands', they are proactive rather than reactive. They balance a professional level of care with the inherent empathy needed that has become a rare commodity. Cannot recommend highly enough.'



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