

THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE



The flooding on the embankment 05.01.24

FEBRUARY 2024



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DIARY FEBRUARY 2024

School Dates 2024:

Spring Term
Half-Term

Wed.3rd Jan.—Thurs.28th March
Mon.19th Feb.—Fri.23rd Feb.

Notable Renhold dates & events:

Thurs.1st Feb.	WI Talk on the origin of Christian names.	p26
Mon.12th Feb.	Creative Club, Chapter House, 7.30pm	
Sat.17th Feb.	Churchyard Tidy up from 9.30am	
Sat.17th Feb.	Big Blunham Book Sale 10am-3pm	p12
Wed.28th Feb.	Parish Council meeting 7pm Renhold Village Hall	p26
Sat. 2nd March	Renhold Village Hall Open Day	p8
Sat. 23rd March	Quiz Night at All Saints Church	p12

Church cleaning rota: Postponed till further notice.

Please be aware that all items for inclusion in the magazine - articles, notices of events, reports on activities, etc, need to be with the editorial team by **the 12th of the month** at the latest.

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Frontispiece: Photos of flooding on the embankment by Marie Baird
This magazine is printed by JCB Printers. Tel 01234 871861.
email:Info@jcbprinting.co.uk

EDITORIAL By Anne Grant

I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hope that you have escaped Covid and the other multiple bugs doing the rounds. The church certainly provided a heart-warming variety of gatherings and services to celebrate Christmas. The Christmas tree festival was wonderful and the lovely atmosphere was enhanced at times by the organ accompaniment from Amy Lammin. The crib service (p19) on Christmas Eve as always, was a timely reminder of what Christmas is all about. The many functions at church brought people together and also provided much needed supplies for the food bank on a weekly basis. If anyone would like to contribute non-perishable food, there is always a large plastic box at the back of the church which is taken to the food bank weekly.

Since then the dismal weather and flooding has not been the best start to the new year. As seen on the front cover, the path beside the embankment in Bedford was flooded and an otter was spotted swimming near the Longholme bridge. In Renhold the footbridge across the brook at the bottom of Hookhams Lane was under water and there were many large puddles on the road through the village, though we were not as badly affected as many villages nearby. There are some useful contact details in the Borough Council report on p25 if you are concerned about possible future flooding issues.

We have been given advanced warning of a temporary road closure of Wilden Road, from Hookhams Lane to Church End including approximately 50m of Church End from Wilden Road. This will be from the 1st February to 23rd February 2024 from 9am to 3.30pm and is to carry out carriageway resurfacing and drainage works. That means that once again we can't easily get up the hill from Salph End to go to Pells or the school or church unless we go the long way round!!

On a brighter note on Saturday 2nd March there will be an open day at the Village Hall which sounds well worth visiting. All the details are on p8, do come along and bring your family and friends. They are also looking for a treasurer and a caretaker for the Village Hall (p15 for details). Then there is also a Quiz night coming up on 23rd March (p12) organised by the Friends of All Saints. It is always good fun so be sure to get an entry form for your team before they run out.

Pauline has written an article on Random Acts of Kindness which I thought an admirable way to start the New Year. If any of you relate to that and want to share your own examples please do send them in and we will publish them.

We welcome Teresa Trangmar to the magazine committee in the role of treasurer and give a huge thank you to Kathleen Gilbert who has looked after our finances admirably for about 16 years.

There is much useful information in both the Parish Council update and the Borough Council Report both relating to Renhold and further afield, with talk of a theme park possibly being built near Stewartby.

I was about to send this magazine to the printer when I heard the shattering news of Rod Jones' sudden death. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Pauline, his wife and we hold her in our thoughts and prayers (p16)..



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All Saints Church Services for February 2024

All services taken by Revd Ian Smith except where stated

Sunday 4 Feb	11.00am	Parish Communion <i>Archdeacon David Middlebrook</i>
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Wednesday 7 Feb	11.30pm	Prayers for the Community
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Sunday 11 Feb	11.00am	Café Church <i>Family Worship team</i>
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4.00pm	Evensong BCP <i>Richard Deadman</i>
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Wednesday 14 Feb ASH WEDNESDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion with Ashing <i>Revd David Powell</i>
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Sunday 18 Feb LENT 1	11.00am	Sung Morning Prayer BCP <i>Richard Deadman</i>
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Wednesday 21 Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP <i>Revd David Powell</i>
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Sunday 25 Feb LENT 2	11.00am	Parish Communion
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Wednesday 28 Feb.	7.30pm	Compline
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**DAILY OFFICES – The Daily Office is said in church at the following times.
You are warmly invited to join us at this short service.**

EACH MONDAY—	9.30am	Morning Prayer
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EACH THURSDAY—	4.00pm	Evening Prayer
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REGISTER

Baptisms	14th January	Orla Brennan and Zak Asplin
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Funeral	22nd January	Doreen Joyce
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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

I sit here on a cold January morning, thankful that the rain has now stopped, and the local floods have started to recede, but boy is it cold! So much has happened since my last article that I could do with two or three times the space available to me to share my joy as I reflect over the past couple of months. That is without any thoughts of the potential the year ahead of us holds! As I look back, I guess Christmas must get a mention. What an amazing month of worship, fellowship, carol services, concerts and Christmas Tree festivals to name a few. And as I sit here with the excitement of the wonderful Christmas gifts I received fading away; I am left with the warmth of the memories of our “real Christmas celebrations”. It was an amazing time, thank you all for sharing your Christmas with us.

Over the last few months of 2023 we were talking with our local councillors about the 12 metre flagpole that for many years has stood in the churchyard, and our concerns for its condition and our fears for its safety – well as you may have seen on the local social media pages, in the strong winds of one of the storms over new year – our fears were realised and it snapped in two. Luckily it fell to the side and became lodged against a tree, so no one was hurt and no property was damaged – So our early project for 2024 is to complete the replacement of the flagpole with a new one; enabling both Religious and Civic celebrations to be marked in our traditional style.

We continue to move forward as a church both inside and outside of the building. Using recognised planning models, we are working to further develop our community presence and provide appropriate and meaningful services and spiritual nourishment for our worshipping community. During the first quarter of this year, we are planning to “canvass opinion” from all members of our parish and local community, to try to understand better the needs of the people in this everchanging world. Please look out for the survey or questionnaire when it is issued and please take this opportunity to let us know your thoughts and ideas so we can serve you better. As I keep saying “it is not my church that stands proud above the Parish, it is yours!”

I know that we have just celebrated the Kings’ arrival at the manger scene so completing our “Christmas story” but now we are racing towards Lent and on to Easter. To mark the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, 14th February (Valentine’s Day), we will be holding a communion service in Church at 10:00am where in addition to receiving bread and wine, you can also be marked out with the sign of a cross in ash on your forehead. This is an ancient custom which is a sign of penance and symbolises our mortality, using the words from scripture “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. Traditionally the ashes are the burned Palm Crosses from the previous year – I love tradition!

Finally, as I write there are numerous severe weather warnings being posted by the Met Office – Hopefully we in North Bedfordshire may escape the worst of the weather but if anyone should be snowed in, or unable to go out for vital supplies at any time, please let us know and we will do all we can to help you.

As usual there is a full calendar of services in February including Ash Wednesday. Details are listed within this magazine. These will be live streamed where possible using the All Saints Renhold Facebook page with service sheets being available on our website www.all-saints-church-renhold.org.

Please take care and stay safe.

God Bless... Rev. Ian



RENHOLD VILLAGE HALL

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Celebrate Our Village! Village Hall Open Day Extravaganza!

Join us for a day of community joy and discovery at the heart of our village!  

What to Expect

- Explore the endless possibilities our Village Hall offers for your events & gatherings.
- Meet and mingle with local groups & discover exciting activities to get involved in.
- Fantastic opportunity for businesses to showcase their services to the village community.

Connect and Collaborate

- Advertisers - don't miss the chance to promote your business to a thriving local audience.
- Local groups - showcase your passion and attract new members!
- Village residents - uncover the hidden gem in your backyard and see how the village hall can enhance your celebrations.

Discover the Hall's Amazing Features

- State-of-the-art facilities for events, meetings, and celebrations.
- Learn about the variety of events hosted at the hall and how you can be a part of them.
- Find out how easy it is to book the hall for your special occasions.

Volunteer Call to Action

- Be a part of the magic! We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help care for our cherished Village Hall. Your support makes a difference!

Save the Date: **SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2024 11.00am to 2.00pm**

Let's celebrate, connect, and build a stronger community together!  

For more information, contact the chair of trustees, Pete Mitchell, on 07946 555068.

See you at the Renhold Village Hall Open Day – where community dreams come alive!   

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Random Acts of Kindness Day

Saturday February 17th

I popped into Waitrose the other day for a couple of items but spotted lots of must-have tempting offers, and filled my basket. Standing in a queue at the 'baskets only' till, I pushed my basket along the floor with my foot as it was heavy. When my turn came I bent down to lift it, and the young woman who had been ahead of me immediately said 'Let me help you with that' and lifted it up for me. It was a small act of kindness but it stayed with me all day. Random Acts of Kindness Day was created in the US in 1995. Four years later it spread to New Zealand and since then has spread around the world, but of course such deeds are not restricted to one day as my research has shown. Here are a few examples I have found to share with you.

A cyclist was hit by a number 212 double decker bus in Walthamstow, London trapping his legs. 100 people lifted the 12 tonne bus sufficiently to free him and, after multiple surgeries, he made a good recovery.

A sick 9-month-old baby was rushed to hospital where the child was admitted to a ward. The mother did not leave her child's side, but when they were finally discharged, she returned to her car to find a hefty parking fine. Attached to it was a note which said "Hi There. I saw your car had a parking ticket on it. I'm sure whatever you went through at the hospital was tough enough, so I have paid this for you. Hope things get better. Laura."

At the 2016 Rio Olympics, New Zealander Nikki Hamblin and America's Abbey D'Agostino were competing in a qualifying heat for the 5,000 metres. Just over halfway round Abbey fell over, tripping up Nikki in the process, and sustained a foot injury. Instead of running on, Nikki helped Abbey to cross the finishing line, where they gave each other a hug. Both athletes got awards for acts of selflessness and exemplary sportsmanship.

At the other end of the age scale, 99-year-old WWII veteran Harold Percival died in a nursing home. He had never married, had no children and had outlived all his relatives and friends. There was no one to attend his funeral, so staff at the Home put an appeal in the paper, and 200 people turned up to honour him.

Finally how about an IKEA store in Catania, Italy, where in winter, staff allow stray dogs to come into the warmth, and curl up on the rugs and sofas in their furniture displays.

There is medical evidence to prove that showing concern and compassion, or even witnessing it, has positive effects on your health. Kindness stimulates the body to produce oxytocin, which decreases blood pressure, it lowers the levels of cortisol, a stress hormone, and increases the levels of serotonin which helps to combat depression and anxiety. Studies have even shown that it could increase your longevity. What's more, kindness is highly contagious. Let us know of any acts of kindness you have witnessed or initiated and we will print them.

Pauline Capell

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**Saturday 23rd
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In the Church
Teams of 4

(maximum 8
teams)



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Fish and Chip Supper
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Alan Bloomfield (01234 351162)
or Keith Timms (01234 772605)



The Friends of All Saints Church Renhold. Registered Charity Number 1080010

The Big Blunham Book Sale

Will be held on Saturday 17th February 2024. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm in Blunham Parish Church, MK44 3NQ,

There will be an enormous selection of nearly new books - specialist and fiction sorted into categories.

Homemade soup, homemade cakes, hot dogs, teas and coffees served all day. All profits to Blunham Church Fabric Fund. For further details please ring Sue and Peter Holden 01767 640572

Some jokes sent in by Doug Marr

A pair of cows were talking in a field. One says "Have you heard about the mad cow disease that's going around?" "Yeah" the other cow says. "Makes me glad I'm a penguin"

At a party, a young wife admonished her husband. "That's the fourth time you've gone back for ice cream and cake. Doesn't it embarrass you?" "Why should it ?" answered her spouse. I keep telling them it's for you."

A teenager brings her new boyfriend home to meet her parents. They're appalled by his haircut, his tattoos, his piercings. Later the girl's Mum says "Dear , he doesn't seem to be a very nice boy." "Oh please Mum!" says the daughter. "If he wasn't nice, would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"



New Years Day
Mr Hugh Titley doing a wonderful job clearing the side of Ravensden Rd of litter. I was out for a walk and crossed the road to thank him for his stirring efforts and ended up having a very entertaining chat.

I would like to encourage others to follow his example and thank those who already participate in the litter picking and take a pride in our village. For more information see the Borough Council report on p 25

Anne Grant

Thank you to our Speed Watch team from Juliet Wright of the Bedfordshire Community Policing Team

You may like to know our contribution to CSW for the year:

A total of 57 voluntary hours given and a total of 222 vehicles reported.

Thank you all for your support this year. Juliet Wright.

I would like to add our thanks to all those in the Speed Watch team, who stand out there in all weathers to try and make the roads safer for all of us, so I have listed them below.

Keith Herkes, Rod Jones, Ian McIver, Julie Roberts, Margaret Dean, Albert Gurney, Ian Slater and Geoff England. They would welcome any new members who would like to join the team, please contact Keith Herkes email keith.herkes@btinternet.com

A Grant

North Beds Ramblers walk every Saturday

North Beds Ramblers:

Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in morning for approx. 12 miles

February Walks

3rd pm Sandy, 7 miles

10th am Harrold Odell Country Park 5 miles, or pm Harrold Country Park 6.25 miles,

Combine both for an All Day walk of 11.25 miles

17th pm Colmworth Golf Club 6.8 miles

24th am Part 6 John Bunyan way – Cranfield 11.3 miles or pm Clapham 7.5 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers
<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

Renhold Village Clubs 2024

Group	Contact	Tel.	Day	Time	Place
Bridge Club-No Fear	Rod Jones	771858	Every Mon. Every Fri.	9.45-1pm	St. Marks Church Brickhill
Brownies	Kim Dellar	267150	Every Thurs.	6.15-7.45pm	RV Hall
Carpet Bowls	Chick	838651	Every Mon. Every Wed.	2-4.30pm 7-9.30pm	RV Hall
Chapel Coffee morning	Albert Brown-ing	772689	2nd Tues.	10-12noon	Chapel
Creative Club	Teresa Trangmar	07788402 441	2nd Mon.	7.30-9.00pm	Chapter House
Luncheon Club	Yvonne Potter	771495	2nd Wed.	12.30 for 1pm	
Pudding Club for carers	Anne Grant	771811	1st Tues.	2-3.30pm	4, Brookside
Reading Group	Pauline Capell	771858	1st Fri.	4pm	1, Church Close
Renhold pre-school group	Vicky Thompson	771724		Term time	
Stitchers	Jackie Croot	870271	3rd Thurs.	10.30-12.30pm	Chapter House
Table tennis	Rod Jones	771858	Every Mon. Every Wed. Every Fri.	1.30pm 10.30am 10.30am	Church Lane Com-munity Centre
WI.	Jan Tozer	297456	1st Thurs.	7.30pm	RV Hall
Yarn Craft Group	Marion Sutton	217647	Alternate Fridays	10am-12.30pm	Wilden Village Hall

RV Hall = Renhold Village Hall; the Chapter House is at the back of All Saints Church.

Mobile Library Times February and March 2024

<u>Location of Mobile Library</u>	<u>Time</u>	Feb.	March
Renhold - Green End	10:00 - 10:15	6, 20	5, 19
Lay by - Salph End	10.20-10.35	6, 20	5, 19
Renhold - Home Close	10:40 - 10:55	6, 20	5,19
Renhold - Ravensden Road	11:00 - 11:15	6, 20	5,19

Times will vary slightly due to traffic conditions, etc.

For further information about the mobile library service please contact Kempston Library tel. 01234 276453

RENHOLD VILLAGE HALL IS LOOKING FOR A NEW TREASURER

Our current Treasurer is retiring, and we are looking for someone to take over. Responsibilities include updating financial statements, making online payments, maintaining the Hall's utility accounts (including meter readings), annual filings with the Charity Commission, applying for rate rebates and other grants, monthly payroll, HMRC year end procedures and end of year accounts, and attending and reporting at meetings of the Management Committee. Please contact the Chair of Trustees, Pete Mitchell, on 07946 555068 or on renholdvillagehall@yahoo.com. Thank you.



RENHOLD VILLAGE HALL IS LOOKING FOR A NEW HALL MANAGER / CARETAKER

Our current caretaker is retiring, and we are looking for an enthusiastic person to take over this part-time paid role. The Hall is used by lots of different people from exercise classes to community events and private functions. We want it to remain as a facility for everyone and need someone with energy and ideas to help make that happen. If you are interested, please contact the Chair of Trustees, Pete Mitchell, on 07946 555068 or on renhold-villagehall@yahoo.com. Thank you.

CARETAKER



Rod Jones my husband

Pauline Capell

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you of Rod's sudden and unexpected death. He has been co-editor of this magazine for more years than he would care to remember and has written many profiles of people in this village. So here are a few last words that hopefully capture his contribution to the monthly Renhold Magazine

He would eagerly await the arrival of the proof copy and wield his pen circling and underlining as he cast his eagle eye over the text. Not for nothing did he wear a tee shirt that read, 'I am silently correcting your grammar', as he liberally sprinkled commas and hyphens throughout the pages with gay abandon. He could spot a split infinitive from a mile away and no spelling error or typo was allowed to slip through the net. No visitor to his house could leave without a copy of the magazine.

Rod did not want a traditional funeral as he hated the idea of so much sadness in one place. His family plan to hold a celebration of his life to which everyone is welcome. Details will appear in the next edition of the magazine.

RIP Rod



Rod Jones my Co-editor

I am sitting here stunned, having just heard the terribly sad news that Rod has passed away this morning. It seems inconceivable. He was playing table tennis two days ago. We have been putting the magazine together for the last 16 years and he will be sorely missed by everyone on the magazine team. He and Pauline were a wonderful partnership. For some reason he christened me Auntie, I am not sure if that was to make him feel younger, but it always made me smile!

He took his involvement with the magazine very seriously and took pride in all the fascinating profiles he wrote over the years. He just enjoyed being with people and getting to know them. He always seemed busy whether with Good Neighbours, speed watch, litter picking, bridge, tennis, table tennis, or cooking wonderful meals.

He was a good person to bounce ideas off or to help resolve a tricky situation. He can be seen from the above photo doing his act of a town crier at the Party in the Park at Howbury Hall. He will certainly leave a big hole in many corners of village life and we will miss him. Anne Grant



Renhold Primary School

We have had a very busy start to the new year and our new topic is: 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy World'. Pictured are Year 3 Bikeability, Year 4 First Aid and Year 6 First Aid. Andrea Ward



The Carol Service at All Saints Church

The music at the Carol Service provided by Paul Edwards (organ) and the Renhold Quartet (Pete Gyles, Rosamund Hoskins, Anna and Jo Ploszajski), was much appreciated. Anna (on the right) as well as playing the violin also gave us a trumpet



accompaniment and Jane Sieling (above left) sang the solos. It provided a wonderful start to Christmas. The abundant supply of mince pies and mulled wine was also much enjoyed after the concert. A Grant

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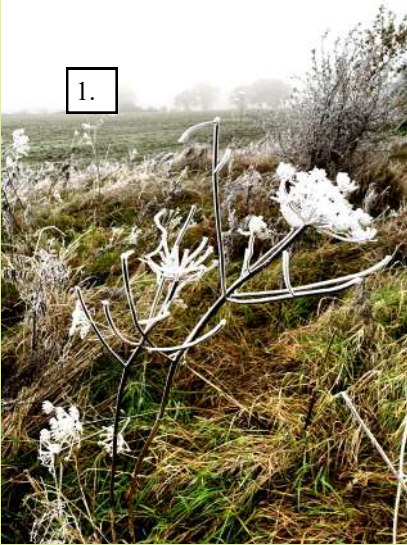
Some assorted photos of happenings at All Saints church over Christmas.

The amazing display of decorated Christmas Trees in the church by many of the groups or individual families in Renhold were fascinating in their originality. Santa Claus was waiting in the Chapter House to greet the children who came.

On Christmas Eve the Nativity service was brought to life by all the children who participated, and reminded us of the real reason we were all celebrating Christmas

The high winds unfortunately took their toll on the flagpole outside the church and a new one will be up in the near future see p7 for more details. Photos by Nick Smith and Anne Grant

WILD ABOUT RENHOLD
(see opposite)



The amazing light trail at Wrest Park over Christmas.



WILD ABOUT RENHOLD by Tony Ploszajski

1. Rime Frost on Cow Parsley

Freezing fog seems to be mercifully rare recently, but there was a short bout of it in early December and it created a spectacular effect as the fog droplets froze onto receptive surfaces such as dead plant stems forming rime. Rime is a white, opaque, granular deposit of ice crystals that collects on objects that are at a temperature below the freezing point. Rime occurs when supercooled water droplets in fog come in contact with a surface that is also at a temperature below freezing. The droplets are so small that they freeze almost immediately upon contact with the object. The small ice particles have air pockets between them, which causes the typical white appearance and granular structure. This rime formed on the already graceful structure of a dead Cow Parsley flower head and really brightened up the otherwise gloomy conditions.

2. Muntjac and Magpie

Margaret Dean and Jill Barrell spotted this fascinating interaction between a Muntjac and a Magpie in Margaret's garden. The Magpie spent several minutes perched on the Muntjac's back, pecking regularly at its fur. The Muntjac seemed quite happy with the arrangement, so what was going on? Symbiosis is an interaction between two different species, which has mutual benefits and this appears to be a good example of this arrangement. Muntjacs typically attract large numbers of insect parasites like ticks and fleas, whose bites cause skin irritation, but these insects can also comprise a protein-rich meal for a bird like a Magpie. By perching on the Muntjac's back and feeding on the bugs, the Magpie is benefitting both the deer and itself.

3. Muntjac

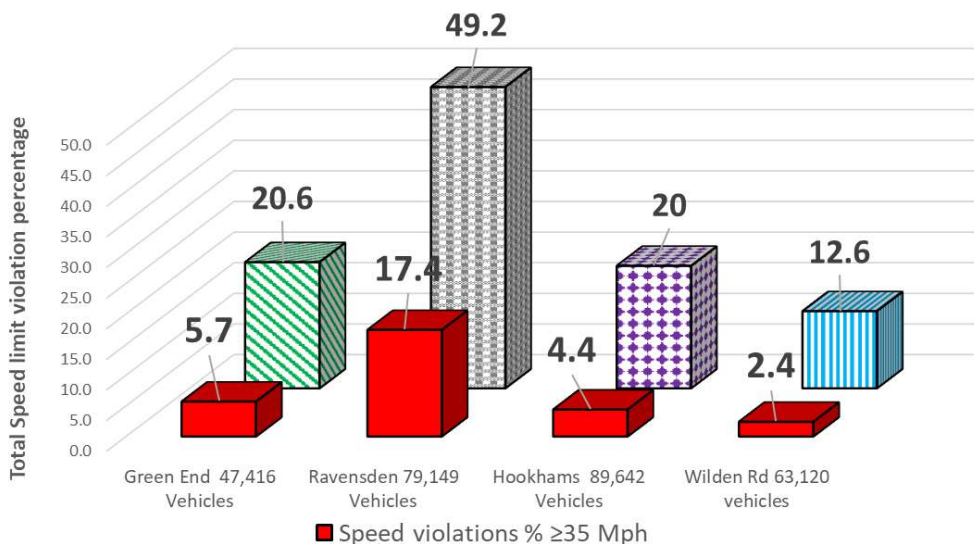
Unfortunately, humans and muntjacs enjoy a much less symbiotic relationship, with much damage to garden plants caused by this small, non-native species of deer. Margaret Dean's garden has been particularly popular with Muntjacs and in an effort to keep them out, Margaret used a chair to block one of their entry points through a hole in the hedge. As this photo proves, the blocking tactics were unsuccessful and to add insult to injury, the Muntjac seemed to have decided that it framed a nice sunbathing spot on the edge of the lawn! Muntjacs have no natural predators in this country and as a result population densities can reach extremely high levels with a potentially negative impact on the environment. Over-grazing can prevent the regeneration of woodland, thereby affecting woodland structure and tree species composition. Annoyingly, they can have the same effect on some garden plants, but as Margaret found they are a tricky species to exclude.

Actual supervisor quotes from Australian employee performance evaluations!

Sent in by Ian McIver

1. Since my last report, this employee has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
2. I would not allow this employee to breed.
3. This employee is really not so much of a has-been, more of a never will be.
4. Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat.
5. When she opens her mouth, it seems it is only to change feet.
6. He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
7. This young lady has delusions of adequacy.

Speed Indicator Device data November 2023



The Dash Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
 He referred to the dates on his casket from beginning to the end.
 He noted that first came the date of his birth, and spoke of the following date
 with tears,
 But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.
 For that dash represents all the time that he spent alive on earth,
 And now, only those who loved him know what that little line is worth.
 For it matters not, how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash,
 What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.
 So think about this long and hard; are there things you would like to
 change?
 For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.
 If we could just slow down enough to consider what is true and real
 And always try to understand the way other people feel.
 And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more
 And love the people in our lives like we have never loved before.
 If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
 Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.
 So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash,
 Would you be proud of the things they say, about how you spent your dash?

Sent in by P. Capell

Renhold Parish Council January Update

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN FOUND TO BE UNSOUND



The government Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State who heard numerous local representations on the Borough Local Plan throughout June and September 2023, including representations from Renhold Parish Council, has recently deemed the intended local planning strategy framework up to 2040 **not to be sound**. To view the Inspector's letter, with full reasoning go to: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/PlanningInspectorateLocalPlanResponse>.

With the document being declared unsound **it means the proposed employment site for a business park at Green End and Top End is currently not allocated for this use.**

The Policy Officers have around twelve months to find a way forwards taking on board the Inspector's comments about the housing trajectory numbers alongside the main concern regarding the lack of highways infrastructure and the capacity issues with the A421 bypass.

Whilst this is pleasing news, the Local Plan being unsound has significant implications as, without an overarching planning strategy document in place, there are potential serious risks on local communities in terms of planning development. At present, the extent of the issues is not clear, or fully known. It is expected that the Borough Council Planning Policy Officers will make an announcement on their proposed next steps shortly.

The Parish Council are mindful of the large employment site in Renhold still being proposed alongside the potential future speculative approaches that may come forward in addition to the large employment site, both within and nearby the parish boundary. This is a potential concern that the Parish Council are very aware of and will be very mindful of in the coming months. As always, the Parish Council will continue to keep residents up to date using the usual different platforms available to share any latest information on this important local subject.

UNIVERSAL STUDIO ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the announcement by Universal that they intend to build a new theme park in the Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick area, given the site's proximity to the A421 bypass, the Parish Council will be taking an active interest in this development.

This site during the planning application process stage is being managed by central government and not Bedford Borough Council. The required infrastructure relating to highways, rail and other transport networks to support such a development of this size will be part of this process. It is likely part of the works will bring increased capacity on the major road networks locally to manage the visitor and employee movements that will occur. This will be of particular interest to the Parish Council so they will monitor this development.

HIGHWAYS SAFETY LATEST

Parish Councillors Brunsden, Dean, Warwicker, Gribble, Roberts, along with Community Speed Watch Coordinator Keith Herkes and the Clerk met with PC Napoli at Riseley Police Station on 10th January, the main items covered included:

- *speeding data produced from the parish speed indicator devices discussed, understanding of how the police review this data through a traffic management system called Athena that then generates the speeding hot spots for the police to target with speed checks*
- *agreed approach for periodic speed checks in Renhold based on the speed indicator device data (continued next page)*

- *understanding management and flow of average camera speed data by police on to the local authority*
- *Council feedback from engagement with local MP Richard Fuller on improving highways safety talked through*
- *clarity on police involvement with speed limit extension requests*
- *understanding of resources relating to enforcement of Traffic Regulation Orders as well as commercial weight restrictions in situ*
- *unlit vehicles parked overnight on roadside clarity*
- *best ways to report incidents, information and suspicious activity to the local police team*

The Parish Council were grateful to have such a productive meeting with the local Police who continue to be supportive of improving highways safety and helping keep the local community safe as well, with a number of actions being followed up by all parties.

GRANTS FOR RURAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS

There are a number of useful funding opportunities available that would benefit many members of the village community so it is really worth taking some time and finding out more. Local grants awarded from a new initiative called the Rural England Prosperity Fund can provide capital funding to:

- support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.
- support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

The funding levels available are up to £5,000 and £25,000 depending on your project, it would be really great to see important local village matters identified, and improvements made, through the use of this fund. To find out more head to: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/business/invest-bedford/rural-england-prosperity-fund>

If you are interested in this fund, do keep the Parish Council up to date, as it would be good to understand more about the types of local projects being put forward and if the Parish Council can assist in any way to support.

There is also the A428 National Highways Legacy Fund with grants up to £15,000 available and covers the local area which might be of interest to local organisations, head here to find out more: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet/leaving-a-positive-legacy/>

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES – WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US?

Do remember the Parish Council have vacancies currently and would really love to hear from anyone interested or even wondering about becoming a Parish Councillor. The Council is inclusive and would welcome you to come join and really make a positive difference to the community. Support and training is available so if you would like more details please get in touch with Lizzie or any current Parish Councillor.

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

*Please note that contact details have been updated for a number of Parish Councillors as well as the Parish Clerk as the Council move over to more official email addresses. A full list is available as usual in the Magazine directory, so do make a note of the best way now to contact Lizzie, Parish Clerk is on: **parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk** for Parish Councillors the pattern is place their forename followed by **@renhold-pc.gov.uk** Lizzie Barnicoat*

Borough Council January Update

I am sitting in front of my fire writing this after a very busy few days following storm Henk and the extremely wet weather that we have seen this winter. Luckily, Bedford got away lightly with no flood water entering any houses although it was a very close call. The Environment Agency removed the flood warning this morning and we can now look forward to some drier but colder weather. I would like to take this opportunity to share the Borough's Flood Resilience Team's details for future reference and thank them for their hard work over this period:

www.bedford.gov.uk/flood

Bedford Borough Council emergency number: 01234 718003 / 01234 267422

I am also very pleased to say that following much email traffic and gentle 'encouragement', the flooding issues from field run-off at Markham Rise are finally going to be addressed. The residents in the immediate vicinity have endured many stressful occasions when they were up all night trying to divert flood water from their properties. Orbit, the company that manages the Aspire estate, are working with the Borough, myself and residents to start work to improve drainage. This will last for six weeks and may cause disruption to the bridleway and school route behind the affected properties. I will circulate updated information when I get it sent to me. My thanks to Darren Rayner, a resident of the estate, who has worked very hard to help get us to this position.

A couple of residents whose properties border the brook have also got in touch worried about storm water and rising water levels and I am liaising with the Inland Drainage Board to understand our options and meet with concerned householders.

Before Christmas I was delighted to have been able to allocate monies from my Ward Fund to help local projects such as new, accessible ramps for Renhold Church and a contribution for the new Church flag-pole (very timely!); a new dual-headed stapler for the Magazine Team which will make life easier as it will speed up the manual process; items for the school and pre-school; contribution for a de-fibrillator machine at Wayside Farm Park, Ravensden and wheelie bin covers for Ravensden Church.

As we move into Spring, I would very much like to organise litter-picks/village clean-ups. Please can you get in touch with me if you would like to volunteer to be part of this, all equipment will be provided.

I hope you all had a good Christmas break and we are now looking forward to lighter, brighter days as we move into the New Year.

My very best wishes,

Nicola Gribble

Ward Councillor for Renhold & Ravensden

**Cllr. Nicola Gribble, email Nicola.Gribble@bedford.gov.uk,
tel. 07955530234**

RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL 2024

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Lizzie Barnicoat

PO Box 1548, Bedford MK44 5AX

Tel: (01234) 771702 email: parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Councillor	Phone	e-mail
Susan Brunsden	266281	susan@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Fiona Cardinale	07762 881009	fiona@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Margaret Dean	771520	margaret@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Nicky Gribble	771994	nicky@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Julie Roberts	07766 478974	julie@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Martin Warwicker	07983 156845	martin@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meeting dates & venues for 2024

Parish Council meetings now start at 7pm.

The next meeting will be Wed.28th Feb. at 7pm.Renhold village Hall.

Parish Council

As always, if you wish to raise any ideas or make comments to the Parish Council, then please contact one of the Parish Councillors (see above or the new Parish Council website (renhold-pc.co.uk) for contact details) or contact Lizzie, Parish Clerk on 771702 or email parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Renhold WI

Our January meeting was our New Year party! We had festive food and a glass or two, but the best part of the evening was the entertainment. Freddie's Barnet is a folk trio who play lots of our favourite singalong classics, both sea shanties and folk. They are skilled musicians and singers, as well as lively, friendly characters. Unfortunately, we had a duo rather than a trio as one of their members couldn't get through the floods around his village, but a very entertaining evening regardless. We are hoping to have all three members of Freddie's Barnet back in October. Watch this space!

Our next meeting is Thursday 1st of February when our speaker is Susan Copperwheat. Her subject is the origins of Christian names and nicknames. There will be a raffle and books to buy at very reasonable prices. Back to tea and biscuits!

We meet at 7.30 pm, at Renhold Village Hall. Jan Tozer

RENHOLD CHAPEL

Sunday services 2024

4th February	Mr. Bernard Hicks
11th February	Mr. Alan Palmer
18th February	Mr. Geoff Hicks
25th February	Rev. Paul Sands

Renhold Chapel Notes

When Jesus fed the 5,000, He did not produce the food from thin air. Instead, He asked the disciples how many loaves of bread they had *already* (Mark 6:38). it wasn't enough. When Jesus fed the 5,000 one thought that what they had was, in the hands of God, more than sufficient. Moses had the same problem. He was told to go to Pharaoh and ask him to release the Israelites out of Egypt. He asked a very natural question, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me?" God asked him, "What is that in your hand?" It was his staff, which, to his utter amazement, became a snake in front of him. That staff in the hand of Moses became the staff of God. It parted the Red Sea, it made the waters close over again, when it was used to strike a rock out came water and when in time Aaron took it, it sprouted, budded, blossomed and produced almonds.

A desperate widow appealed to Elisha the prophet. Her two children were about to be taken as slaves to make good a debt. 'What do you have?' asked Elisha. 'Nothing, but a flask of oil,' she replied. 'Go and borrow jars and containers from all your neighbours, as many as you can,' he ordered, 'then fill them from your flask.' She went inside her house with her two sons and filled every jar. 'Then the oil stopped flowing' (2 Kings 4:6). 'Sell the oil, pay off your creditor, and live on the remainder,' said Elisha. In the hands of God, a flask of oil was more than sufficient.

What do *you have now*? A couple of spare hours a week? Some clothes that you no longer need? A willingness to visit someone who is lonely? An opportunity to help a neighbour or colleague? A talent for DIY? For sewing? For sharing your faith? What actually do you have? In the Bible, people who used what they had in the service of God found that, however seemingly insignificant, it was more than sufficient with God's blessing on it.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways. Acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.

Letter to the Editor

I received an e mail from a reader of the magazine who was trying to trace an article he had read in the Renhold magazine about a treatment for painful knees called APOS therapy. I sent him electronically a copy of the magazines he thought it might have been in, and was pleased to receive this reply.

Dear Anne,

Thank you for the copies, I found the article I wanted on page 24 of the September issue. The magazine is always an interesting and informative read, please keep up the excellent work, I really appreciate your help.

Kind regards, Nigel.



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e: renhold.rev@gmail.com
772794

Churchwardens

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351162
Keith Timms
772605

Lay Vice Chair

Alan Bloomfield
351162

Secretary to PCC

Ann Timms
772605
Jill Burrows
07710228995

Verger

Ann Timms
772605

Treasurer

Christine Smith
772794

Bell Tower Coordinator

Yvonne Potter
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Teresa Trangmar
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Renhold Chapel

Mr Albert Browning
772689

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Anne Grant
771811

Creative Club

Teresa Trangmar
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772689

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Term time
Vicky Thompson
771724

Renhold Bridge Club

Rod Jones
771858

Magazine

Anne Grant
771811

Rod Jones

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Jooles Roberts
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Secretary

Jill Barrell
870461

Treasurer

Jan Tozer
297456

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Jackie Croot
870271

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Pauline Capell
771858

Table Tennis

Rod Jones
771858

Luncheon Club

Yvonne Potter
771495

Borough Council

267422

Borough Councillors

Nicola Gribble
07955 530234

Renhold Village Agent

Teresa Moon
0800 0391234

Parish Councillors

See page 26

Neighbourhood Plan

Amanda Quince
870704

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