

THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE



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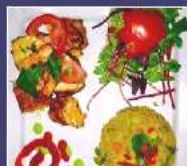
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DIARY MARCH 2024

School Dates 2024:

Spring Term	Wed. 3rd Jan.—Thurs. 28th March
Summer Term	Mon. April 15th — Fri. 19th July
Half-Term	Mon. 27th May — Fri. 31st May

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Notable Renhold dates & events:

Thurs.7th March	WI Maria Greenhill Garden Design 7.30pm	p15
Sat. 9th March	Service for the celebration of Rod Jones' Life.	p17
Mon.11th March	Creative Club Chapter House 7.30pm	
Sat.16th March	Churchyard Clear up from 9.30am	
Sat. 23rd March	Quiz Night at All Saints Church 7.00pm	

Church cleaning rota: Postponed till further notice.

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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: All Saints Church and Churchyard. Photo by Pauline Capell

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EDITORIAL By Anne Grant

It is just over a month since Rod, my co-editor suddenly died leaving a big hole in the magazine team and elsewhere in the village. The magazine team has met and discussed how we can fill the hole left by Rod. We miss him greatly. One of his particular skills was writing the profiles of many people in the village both elderly and young. We are not trying to continue that, but instead hope to feature articles on a variety of topics, so watch this space. There will be a celebration of Rod's life on March 9th at the Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm (see p17)

As always if you would like to contribute an article however short to the magazine please do. Photos too are very welcome and they can be sent to my email address at the front of the magazine. With spring round the corner if you have suggestions of interesting places to visit nearby, that would be great. I have recently been to Anglesey Abbey to see the snowdrop walk which was spectacular and only 45 minutes drive, it makes for a lovely day out.

The few days following that trip it rained incessantly and the run off, of the rain water from the fields, was evident in many places. The water gushing down Pinch Gut hill was significant and I believe many houses along Top End suffered from flooding to various degrees. I mentioned the flooding in last month's editorial never imagining that there was far worse to come! There is more on this in Nicky's Parish Council report and a couple of photos of the flooding in Priory Park. (see p15 and p19)

In this issue we have a wonderful trip down memory lane by Albert Gurney recording the life of his family in Renhold from the early 1900s which describes what daily life was like then. The lovely front cover photos were taken by Pauline Capell early one morning and we owe a big thank you to Teresa Trangmar and her churchyard team for doing such a great job keeping the churchyard in such good shape.

I had a phone call from someone in the village complaining about the scarcity of buses on the village route. I looked up the timetable on their website and rang them up to see if that was the most recent timetable as it was marked Nov. 2021 and was assured it was. If you have reason to complain you are invited to do so as seen on p26. I strongly suggest you take advantage of their offer and see if we can't improve matters. I have inserted the timetable for you to look at on p8.

Please note that the date of the **Open Day for the Village Hall** has been **postponed until next year**. They are still looking for a Treasurer and a Caretaker and are keen to find some new trustees.

East West Rail have been very quiet for a long time. We can only hope that all the background work done by the Borough Council will help to get things moving again.

Please note that roadworks are planned along Ravensden Rd between 26th February and 8th March which will be controlled by two way traffic lights and footway closures. It will be great when it is done.

Lastly and sadly, a past vicar in our church died recently. Clifford Bradley and his wife Morag were with us for 7 years at the turn of the century, but Clifford often filled in after that during the interregnum when we were without a priest. Jill Barrell has written a lovely memoir of his time with us (p10). He will be remembered very fondly.



Martyn Smith

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All Saints Church Services for March 2024

All services taken by Rev'd Ian Smith except where stated.

Sunday 3 March	11.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 6 March	7.30pm	Prayers for the Community
Sunday 10 March	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Worship
MOTHERING SUNDAY	4.00pm	Evensong BCP with hymns <i>Richard Deadman/Revd Ian Smith</i>
Wednesday 13 March	7.30pm	Night Prayer
Sunday 17 March	11.00am	Parish Communion
Passion Sunday		
Wednesday 20 March	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP <i>Revd David Powell</i>
Sunday 24 March	10.45am	Procession & Communion for Palm Sunday
Palm Sunday		
Monday 25 March	9.30am 6.00pm	Morning Prayer (BCP) Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 26 March	7.30pm	Compline (BCP) <i>Richard Deadman</i>
Wednesday 27 March	7.30pm	Compline (BCP)
Thursday 28 March	4.00pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Seder Meal, Communion,
Maundy Thursday		
Friday 29 March	10.00am 11.00am 2.00pm	Walk of Witness and refreshments Family service for Good Friday An Hour at the Cross
Good Friday		
Sunday 31 March	6.15am 11.00am	Dawn Service Easter Eucharist & Baptism
Easter Day		
Monday 1 st April	2.00pm	Easter Monday pilgrimage - St. Albans <i>Details from Revd Ian</i>
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
EACH THURSDAY	4.00pm	Evening Prayer

REGISTER

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

January has gone and, as I write; February is well underway as we rapidly approach the next "Liturgical Season" of Lent. The churches' calendar seems to spin around just as quickly as our daily calendars, as it only seems 5 minutes since we were celebrating Christmas. The good news is that spring is definitely on the way with the shoots of new life appearing all around us in churchyards, gardens and hedgerows. I look in awe at the wonder of creation so close to us here in this part of Bedfordshire. It is just over 12 months since we started the restoration works on the floor in the main body of the church; as you know work has long finished and we have now settled all accounts, so the project is pretty much complete. We cannot thank enough all those within our community who gave so generously to the appeals to fund this project, every contribution is much appreciated and each one was invaluable in enabling us to undertake this work. So many people supported and contributed in so many ways that we cannot thank each one individually but please do accept our heartfelt thanks. It is quite humbling to know that we in our time have been able to do our small part in securing this beautiful building for our successors in generations to come – Thank you again.

March is a busy time in the churches' calendar, as this year it hosts a full month of Lent which concludes on last day (as the clocks go forward), with Easter Day. Within this period, we have several special services which include Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day in the wider world) on Sunday 10th March when our family worship will include an activity to make something for our mothers as well as the traditional giving of posies of flowers at the end of the service. Holy week follows quickly afterwards where on Sunday 24th we will process from the school car park to the church, waving our Palm Crosses to mark Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. There are services throughout Holy Week which will include a "Seder meal" based on the traditional Jewish feast of Passover on Maundy Thursday evening, and on Good Friday after our walk of Witness (finishing with drinks and Hot Cross Buns) we will have our family Good Friday worship where we will use readings and activities to look further in Good Friday. On Easter Day – early in the morning (6:15am) we will hold our dawn service outside the church around a brazier to celebrate the resurrection as the sun comes up. I am delighted to be able to say that worship in Renhold these days is not one size fits all and we hope this diverse range will appeal across our community.

All Saints Church have a group of "Friends" – The Friends work hard to raise money for restoration and improvement projects to be undertaken in the church. Last year they contributed towards the floor repairs as well as funding the purchase and installation of the new noticeboard sited at the main entrance to the churchyard. They raise money by hosting social and fundraising events, their Quiz night in March has been an amazing success and has sold out very quickly. They are hosting a Beetle Drive later in the year which has been very popular and very competitive in the past. Then to finish 2024 off in style they have arranged for Pam Rhodes (from Songs of Praise) to visit us and host an evening exploring our favourite hymns. This event is scheduled for 1st November which is All Saints Day and will start our Patronal festival weekend. Pam Rhodes is delighted to be coming back to Renhold and she hopes the evening will be as popular as it was in 2021 when she was last here – More details will follow in the next few months – watch this space (and our social media pages)!. Details of all services are listed within this magazine, and 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. Take care, stay safe and God Bless... Rev. Ian

Bedford - Wilden - Bedford

Includes school journeys to Mark Rutherford School

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays only

	27 Sch	27 SH
Bedford Bus Station [Q]	-	1535
Bedford, St Peter's St	-	1536
Goldington, Green	-	1543
Norse Road, Asgard Drive	-	1547
Mark Rutherford School	1515	-
Salph End	1519	1551
Ravensden, Horse & Jockey	1523	1555
Wilden, Victoria Arms	1527	1559
Renhold, Green	1536	1608
Great Barford, Silver St	1542	1614
Great Barford, Bridge	1544	1616
Willington, Lower School	1550	1622
Cople, All Saints Church	1554	1626
Cardington, Kings Arms	1556	1628
Cardington Road, Tesco	1601	1633
Bedford Bus Station [Q]	1610	1642

Tuesdays and Thursdays only

	27 Sch	27 SH
0930	1200	- 1535
0931	1201	- 1536
0938	1208	- 1543
0942	1212	- 1547
-	-	1515 -
0946	1216	1519 1551
0950	1220	1523 1555
0954	1224	1527 1559
1003	1233	1536 1608
1009	1239	1542 1614
1011	1241	1544 1616
1017	1247	1550 1622
1021	1251	1554 1626
1023	1253	1556 1628
1028	1258	1601 1633
1037	1307	1610 1642

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays only

	27 Sch	27 SH	27 Sch	27 SH
Bedford Bus Station [Q]	-	-	1425	1425
Bedford, St Paul's Square, P2	-	-	1426	1426
Cardington Road, Tesco	-	-	1433	1433
Cardington, Kings Arms	0725	-	1437	1437
Cople, All Saints Church	0728	-	1440	1440
Willington, The Crown	0735	-	1445	1445
Great Barford, Bridge	0741	-	1451	1451
Great Barford, Silver St	0743	-	1453	1453
Renhold, Green	0754	0757	1459	1459
Wilden, Victoria Arms	0803	0806	-	1508
Ravensden, Horse & Jockey	0807	0810	-	1512
Salph End	0811	0814	-	1516
Mark Rutherford School	0818	-	-	-
Norse Road, Asgard Drive	0823	0818	-	1520
Goldington, Green	0827	0822	-	1524
Bedford Bus Station [Q]	0840	0831	-	1533

Tuesdays and Thursdays only

	27 Sch	27 SH	27 Sch	27 SH	27 Sch	27 SH	27 Sch	27 SH
-	-	-	-	-	1045	1315	1425	1425
-	-	-	-	-	1046	1316	1426	1426
-	-	-	-	-	1053	1323	1433	1433
0725	-	-	-	-	1057	1327	1437	1437
0728	-	-	-	-	1100	1330	1440	1440
0735	-	-	-	-	1105	1335	1445	1445
0741	-	-	-	-	1111	1341	1451	1451
0743	-	-	-	-	1113	1343	1453	1453
0754	0757	0849	0849	0854	1119	1349	1459	1459
0803	0806	0858	0858	0903	1128	1358	-	1508
0807	0810	0902	0907	0907	1132	1402	-	1512
0811	0814	0906	0911	0911	1136	1406	-	1516
0818	-	0910	-	-	-	-	-	-
0823	0818	0915	0915	0915	1140	1410	-	1520
0827	0822	0919	0919	0919	1144	1414	-	1524
0840	0831	0928	0928	0928	1153	1423	-	1533

Notes:

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SH School Holidays only

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**Rev. Clifford Bradley - Vicar of All Saints' Church,
Renhold. 1999 – 2006**

ENERGETIC! DEDICATED! CARING! Adjectives in the references received when Clifford applied for the position of Priest in Charge of Renhold. How true they were! His energy seemed boundless. Renhold was a thriving church in 1999. Who could possibly succeed Mac and Hanne? But the pace quickened, and we moved up a gear. Things began to happen. Ideas were put into practice. People liked to be with Clifford, and he liked to be with people.

The year 2000 brought a massive change in the Church of England liturgy. The 'modern' Common Worship was introduced, to be used alongside the traditional Book of Common Prayer. A challenge! But Clifford managed a very workable and acceptable compromise.

Families have fond memories of his thoughtfulness and attention to detail as they prepared for life events, such as weddings and baptisms, and sadly too, funerals. His care extended to the frail and elderly where he could generally raise spirits with his unique mix of humour, gentleness, and spirituality.

And he loved children, taking his parrot (puppet) to Renhold School to join in his talks. When an African Grey parrot arrived on one of the school trees, who else but Clifford to 'catch' him and care for him! Later, sadly, that parrot died. The rapid 'whip round' by the whole school community raised funds to purchase a new young parrot. Xander settled in well and continued to keep Clifford and Morag company throughout retirement.

Re- gilding the 'fish' weathervane (see right) at the top of the church spire was our Millennium project. To pay for it, Ray Aggett designed a huge cardboard golden fish with 500 scales. Members of the village paid a small contribution to sign their name in one of the vacant scales, thus raising £500 very quickly! The picture shows Clifford with Churchwarden David Gilbert just before the fish was replaced on the spire

Never were we in any doubt that the Cross was significant. Clifford's whole life, his beliefs, his ministry were rooted in the Cross, and Christ crucified. Holy Cross Day - Sept 14th - is the anniversary of his Installation. It was his last full day in Renhold in 2006. It was also his birthday. Throughout his ministry, dear Morag, so calm and full of commonsense, was truly his strength and stay.

His sudden death on January 31st was a shock to us all. Following his funeral on February 28th at St Martin's Church, Bedford, he will be buried in the Churchyard at Renhold. This was a place he loved.

Jill Barrell (Churchwarden 1998-2009)



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The Cottage, The Green by Albert Gurney

When my Grandad Ernest Gurney was first married, he lived at Salph End on the corner of Wilden Road and Hookhams Lane in a big house split into three homes. It is no longer there but is where all the bungalows are built. At this time Renhold was part of the Howbury Estate owned by the Polhill family. As well as farming, the Howbury Estate included clay pits and a brickmaking kiln near the Polhill Arms. My Grandad worked there as a brickmaker.

As his family got bigger he had the opportunity to rent The Cottage at Green End and moved in between 1903 and 1919 (not sure of the exact date). In 1919 Cecil Polhill decided to sell the village, including the cottages, as he was going to China with The Cambridge Seven as a missionary. This gave my Grandad the chance to buy The Cottage which in 1919 was very rare. After thinking it through carefully, he decided to purchase it for £119, a big sum for anyone in those days. As well as working in the brickyard and later in the building industry, he also worked evenings setting beans with a dib at two shillings and six pence per acre, together with digging the occasional grave. This was to pay back the loan needed to pay for the property.



The Cottage originally comprised of two homes with a front and back door and stairs in each with a big chimney breast separating them. The home on the right had a bread oven. My Grandad used his skills to make it into one property by removing a wall downstairs, by the chimney breast, creating a slight passage to the other side. Upstairs he knocked down walls to make a walk through, but with doors each end to create an area like a cupboard which you had to duck down to get through.

There were no main drains in Renhold at this time, so my Grandad made a drain going into the garden to a soak away. Originally when coming out of the back door of the right hand cottage was the wash house. This contained a brick copper with a fire and chimney to heat water. Having removed the copper and chimney pot (which I still have as a garden ornament in my front garden), my Grandad acquired a large bath and a big sink and connected these to his new drain, so he didn't have to empty a bucket or tin bath by hand. He also cut the legs off a table that fitted on top of the bath to create a working area when washing dishes/clothes etc.



After he retired my Grandad then went onto removing the stairs on the right as they were very unsafe with some rotten treads. The stairs on the left were unusual as near the top they split into two, going to a bedroom one side and another bedroom the other side. As small children we were not allowed to use these due to them being very steep with tiny treads but we used to sneak up them when not being watched to play hide and seek.

Coming out of The Cottage on the left hand side at the back, there was a workshop in which, with a pal, we spent hours mending bikes and making go-carts. Also at the back was a large barn which, according to Grandad, was previously the village carpenters shop, where any wood from the Howbury estate was used to repair Howbury properties. Also, this was where coffins were built for Renhold funerals. I do remember seeing flat boards stored in the loft having been left for seasoning and forgotten many years later. The right side of this building was called the shed and was just a general store for chicken feed, bikes, coal and usual household bits and pieces. The left side was the chicken house which was quite a luxury for its day, as it was so big being over two storeys, with access to a fenced walkway leading up to a big orchard at the rear.

There were two further sheds attached to this barn, one at the front was known as the sandpit as it was covered with quite deep sand which originally was used to bury and store root vegetables, for use in winter, but in my day my brothers, sister and village children played with me at sand castles. The other shed at the back was the oil store with two large tanks containing petrol and paraffin. My Grandad was very involved with the Village Flower and Vegetable show held every year and he agreed to sell petrol and paraffin for a small profit with the money going to fund this show. My mother's brothers from Wilden used to call on a Sunday morning to fill up their motorbikes with petrol and occasionally bring my mum for a ride. This is how my Mum and Dad (Grandad's youngest son), met. Also, villagers needing paraffin just left their cans at the back of the house and Grandad filled them in the evening ready for collection.

The front door of the cottage had a brass plate with 'The National Deposit Friendly Society' on it. Under this scheme, each member paid a small sum into it then if a doctor was needed the society paid their bill until the NHS was created in 1948. After 1948 the Society under the scheme paid a small amount to anyone who was ill and off work. This was managed in Renhold by my Grandad from The Cottage.

My Granddad died quite suddenly in 1960 while I was in the army and in his will left The



Cottage to me. Coming out of the army with very little savings, still two years of my apprenticeship to finish and with The Cottage in need of considerable modernising, my Auntie Margaret suggested that I sell up and have a house built on the orchard, which I did.

An entomologist called Mr Leston bought The Cottage and lived there with his family and partly modernised it. When Mr Leston moved to America he let The Cottage out to the Sweet Family and then sold it to Mr Stuart Allsop a golf professional at Mowsbury who did further work before the current owners Barry and Judy Wootton completed it's restoration to a beautiful home. (See photo above.)

Renhold Village Clubs 2024

Group	Contact	Tel.	Day	Time	Place
Bridge Club-No Fear	TBA		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	TBA		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 March and April 2024

<u>Location of Mobile Library</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Renhold - Green End	10:00 - 10:15	5,19	2,16,30
Lay by - Salph End	10.20 -10.35	5,19	2,16,30
Renhold - Home Close	10:40 - 10:55	5,19	2.16,30
Renhold - Ravensden Road	11:00 - 11:15	5,19	2,16,30

Times will vary slightly due to traffic conditions, etc.

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

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC)

Please note the contact for our new Village Agent (Teresa Moon's successor) is
Village Agent Lydia Wright - 0800 039 1234

Renhold WI

Our February speaker was Susan Copperwheat, talking about the origins of names. It was a pleasant evening with members of the audience joining in with their own anecdotes about names. Susan started by cautioning people to think carefully about naming their children. Perhaps Antony Stephen Stewart was not a good idea if you consider his initials . And should Mr and Mrs Rose have looked to the future when they called their daughter Wild? What if she marries a Mr Bull?

We talked about the meanings of our names and how in large Victorian families the children were given numbers (in Latin) for names e.g. the eighth child could be Octavius / Octavia. Susan also talked about how a lot of names come from Greek mythology. Daphne was a shy nymph whom the gods turned into a shrub to protect her from the amorous Apollo. Be ravished by a handsome young god or turned into a bush - I'd have to think about that one!!

Our speaker for March 7th is Maria Greenhill, garden designer. I have met Maria before; she really knows her stuff and is a good speaker. Her topic this time is Low Maintenance Garden Design, but I am sure she will be happy to give advice on any gardening problems.

THE FLOODING IN PRIORY PARK ON Monday 12th February (see p19)

On my walk around Priory lake today, I was stunned by the extent of the flooding. The area on the opposite side to the lake, which is normally grass and greenery, was just a huge continuous stretch of fast flowing water. It was almost like another entire lake, as far as your eye could see. I have never seen such a volume of water, covering such a vast area of what is normally where dogs run around freely. It was not possible to walk right round the lake as the path was underwater halfway round. The bench on the "beach" area was under water and the overflow pipe was disgorging water at a phenomenal rate into the drainage channel behind. I have never witnessed flooding like it .

Marie Baird

What can you remember about 2023 ?

Rod Jones

1. What is 2023 in Roman numerals?
2. Who won Strictly-come-dancing?
3. Which country finally re-opened its borders after Covid?
4. Which country joined NATO, to make 33?
5. What new epidemic was said to have come here, from Paris?
6. In which month did Putin invade Ukraine ?
7. What was the code-name for planning the coronation?
8. Who ended Djokovic's winning streak at Wimbledon?
9. Which Country won the Eurovision Song Contest?
10. Where in England was this held?
11. What was "the word of the year" in the Oxford dictionary?
12. How old is King Charles?
13. Horizon's Fujitsu. Why is this in the news today?
14. Who is the current Mayor of Bedford?
15. What do the letters ULEZ stand for?
16. What is its purpose?
17. Who is Sports Personality of the year?
18. What was the title of Prince Harry's first book ?
19. Where in the USA do Harry and Meghan live now ?
20. What to the nearest million is the current population of the UK?
21. What happened to the head of Wagner in Russia?
22. What was the new price of a first-class stamp from October ?
23. When did Anglia Water start their work in Renhold?
24. In China, 2023 was designated Year of the -----?

(Answers p27)

This quiz was written by Rod shortly before he died.

We Invite you to join our celebration of

ROD JONES

A Father, a Husband, a Friend



Saturday 9 March 2024
2-4pm , Speeches 2.30pm

RENHOLD VILLAGE HALL, WILDEN ROAD, RENHOLD, MK41 0LY

It would be helpful if you're able to give indication of attendance just to help with catering numbers.

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Amy



BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE ABTA & ATOL protected



At Renhold Primary, it has been Children's Mental Health week and so the children have been busy with some of their favourite wellbeing activities. The whole school got together to sing some of their favourite songs and finished with a Stormbreak session on self-care and self-worth. Storm-break is a wellbeing through movement programme that the

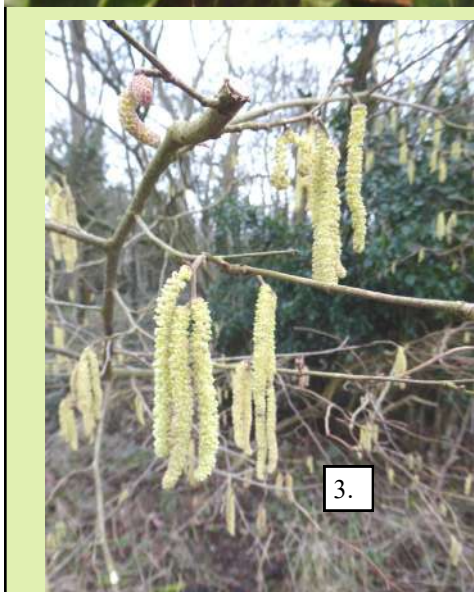


school uses. Throughout the week, the children have taken part in lots of Stormbreaks, both inside and outdoors. We finished the week with a special Shine Bright/Wear Bright day, raising funds for the amazing charity, CHUMS
Andrea Ward



Flooding at Priory Park (see p15)
Photos by Marie Baird

WILD ABOUT RENHOLD (see opposite)



Letter to the Editor

Hi there, I have just signed a petition asking the Environment Minister Steve Barclay to save bees. Bee killing pesticides are banned across the country, but the government approved an emergency license for sugar beet crops. This is about bees, but it's also about us. If we keep harming bees, we risk our food supplies. It's estimated that a third of our food is dependent on pollinators, of which bees are some of the most important. A third of bee populations are already shrinking. We can't allow pesticides to destroy our environment and kill any more bees. Please can you add your name to this petition: <https://act.gp/3GMCKim>
Thanks for your support on this. Keith Herkes



WILD ABOUT RENHOLD by Tony Ploszajski

1. Lesser Celandine

Lesser Celandines are one of the first flowers of the spring and have been flowering in shady places around the village since late-January, including the grassy verges at Church End. Despite its name, it is not actually a close relative of Greater Celandine and is a member of the buttercup family instead. As one of the first flowers to appear after winter, they provide an important nectar source for queen bumblebees and other pollinators emerging from hibernation and other early insects. The flowers often open in response to sunlight and the poet William Wordsworth wrote one of his odes to celebrate this:

**'There is a Flower, the Lesser Celandine,
That shrinks, like many more, from cold and rain;
And, the first moment that the sun may shine,
Bright as the sun himself, 'tis out again!'**

2. Primrose

Another flower of early spring, Primrose is more of a woodland plant so look out for it from the track between Great Early Grove and Little Early Grove amongst other spots. The flowers vary between pale and deep yellow with darker yellow-orange centres. The single flowers have five notched petals which form on the ends of upright furry stalks. The primrose's common name comes from the Latin 'prima rosa', meaning 'first rose' and describing its early spring flowering.

3. Hazel Catkins

Conspicuous amongst the bare branches at this time of year are Hazel catkins. They form the previous autumn, but the pollen on these male catkins doesn't appear until early in the new year. They are wind pollinated, so once detached from the catkin they fertilize the small female flowers that, later in the year, ripen into hazelnuts. Although male and female flowers are found on the same Hazel tree, they can't self-fertilize.

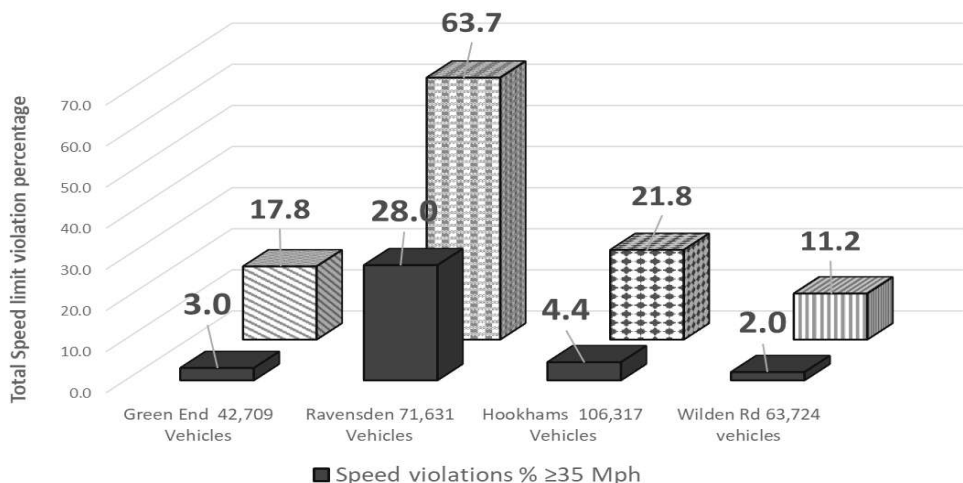
4. Willow Catkins

Another prominent catkin in the spring is the male Willow catkin. Unlike Hazel trees, male and female Willow catkins grow on separate trees. The male catkins are grey, stout and oval, becoming yellow when ripe with pollen, whilst the female catkins are longer and green. Once pollinated by wind, female catkins develop into woolly seeds. Most willows can also propagate by lowering their branches to the ground, where they then develop roots.

More actual supervisor quotes from Australian employee evaluations sent in by Ian McIver

- He sets low personal standards and he consistently fails to achieve them.
- This employee is depriving a village somewhere of its idiot (brilliant!).
- This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts, the better.
- Got a full 6-pack but lacks the plastic thing to hold it together.
- A gross ignoramus - 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
- He would argue with a signpost.
- He brings a lot of joy whenever he leaves the room.
- When his I.Q. reaches 50 he should sell.

Speed Indicator Device data January 2024



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 CARETAKER/ MANAGER

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 renholdvillagehall@yahoo.com. Thank you.

CARETAKER



Renhold Borough Council January Update



Once again, I am writing this update following inclement weather and the threat of flooding for Bedford and the Northern villages- several bridges in the North have been closed due to severe flooding. We have locally seen flood-water in Green End that has been inches deep, and I have already approached Highways Department to come and assess the state of the roadside ditches which appear to be full up with water that isn't going anywhere!

We have almost signed off the run-off defence work for the Aspire Estate. Darren Rayner and I inspected the works in the biblical deluge on Thursday and the French drain-system appears to be working as it should with concrete channels now being installed into the paths with the aim of diverting as much run-off as possible. It appears that the misery of residents who back onto the fields is coming to an end regarding flooding of their properties and gardens. Thanks to the contractors who we have been engaging with for the duration of these works and residents who have put up with the disruption. The damaged grass and bridleway will be repaired once it is dry enough to do so without causing any more damage.

There was some positive news that footway repairs along Salph End/ Ravensden Rd will commence at the end of February. I am hoping this is the start of the programme of repairs that were identified at the end of last year now that, last week, the Bedford Borough Council budget was approved after negotiation and compromise from all parties and groups.

The East-West Rail saga continues to dominate conversations with the release of several reports commissioned last year to investigate alternative route options in comparison with the chosen route E which comes north out of Bedford Borough. Interestingly, all options showed around £14m/annum gross value added to the Borough- basically money into the Borough from increased people, shopping, investment etc. There was no clear winner in any of the routes looked at, including the one chosen. Each had its opportunities and challenges BUT the Northern route WILL result in house demolitions and the destruction of the North Beds countryside in our area along with major traffic disruption to Bedford Borough over a number of years and huge implications for parking and access to Bedford Hospital during construction.

Once again, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me regarding the issues raised here or anything else that is affecting you or you would like to be brought to my attention.

Many thanks, Cllr Nicola Gribble Nicola.gribble@bedford.gov.uk

Ward Councillor for Renhold & Ravensden

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

March Walks for the North Beds Ramblers

2nd pm Sharpenhoe, 6 miles

9th am Silsoe Church 12 miles, or pm Ampthill, West Car Park 6 miles,

16th pm Willington Dovecote 6.5 miles

23rd am Old Warden Village Hall 12.5 miles or pm Olney 6 miles

30th pm Great Denham Park and Ride 6 miles

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

Renhold Parish Council February Update



ROD JONES, VILLAGE STALWART

The Parish Council were extremely saddened to hear the news of Rod passing away recently. Rod worked passionately to support many different village activities and, wishing to help others, regularly attending Parish Council meetings. Those present at the January Council meeting took a moment of reflection to remember Rod.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP – WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US?

Please come and help shape your village. Are you interested in the life of Renhold, your local environment, recreational facilities, local transport, planning and housing issues? - just a few of the areas where you can get involved to help make a difference to our community. We currently have vacancies so if you would like more details please get in touch with Lizzie (details below) or any current Parish Councillor.

KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH VILLAGE MATTERS

Do have a look at the Parish Council website which has a wealth of documents and useful local information on not only Parish Council matters but also a lot of other local items. The Parish Council regularly updates the site so it is worth visiting to check on what is happening: <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk>

If you are not already on the village circulation list then do please contact the Clerk, Lizzie, to be added so you can be kept up to date with the latest items.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS LATEST

You may have spotted a number of **traffic counters located throughout the village in Renhold** and Borough wide as well. The local authority have confirmed they have placed these traffic counters down, and in most cases they are assessing traffic numbers, classifications, and speeds in a number of areas around Bedford Borough to feed into future studies on potential pedestrian crossing locations. The data provided assists in identifying the suitability of a crossing at any given location. In a few cases, mainly in Bedford town centre, the assessments are to feed into designs for future junction improvements.

A number of items continue to be progressed following the Parish Councillors **village highways walk round** with Borough Council Officer and Borough Councillor Jim Weir (Deputy Mayor & Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways & Transport.) It has been pleasing to see the progression of the Wilden Road surfacing down to Salph End taking place and updates will continue as the Parish Council not only push for the maintenance items, but also the capital improvements needed such as the widening of the footway at Church End by the traffic lights and improved safer walking route from Spires estate to Langlands Road.

EAST WEST RAIL UPDATE

The latest stakeholder group meeting was scheduled to take place in February, however, this was cancelled as East West Rail released a communication indicating the following:

We are continuing to develop our proposals, and I am pleased to share that in the first half of this year we will be ready to launch a statutory consultation on the proposals for East West Rail (EWR).

We have decided to split our statutory consultation into two stages to maximise the opportunity for your communities to influence our proposals during the development stage of the design process. This approach will help us develop a better solution, more fully informed by the people living and working in the communities EWR will serve.

During the first phase of the statutory consultation, we will share our updated designs, as well as new information on design areas. We will also provide an overview of potential environmental impacts and mitigations. Our proposals will be presented in more detail than in previous rounds of non-statutory consultations and will again seek feedback from the public.

As always Renhold Parish Council are engaging regularly and whenever possible on this important local issue and will continue to keep residents updated as and when more information is known, the next stakeholder group meeting is planned for 19th March.

WHAT ELSE HAS THE PARISH COUNCIL BEEN UP TO?

As always there is a lot going on with the Parish Council working on a range of things recently, these include:

Cllr Roberts and Brunsden had attended an Orbit site visit to look at potential defibrillator location, with Orbit representatives as well as a representative from the Sports Pavilion.

£2,250 funding secured from the Community AED Grant Team towards three defibrillators with the Parish Council agreeing to match fund to enable defibrillators to be located along the Norse Road developments, so one at each: Spires, Aspires and Cranbourne Gardens.

Cllrs. Gribble and Warwicker attending the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils Chairmanship training course.

Cllrs Roberts, Gribble, and Brunsden attend the Campaign to Protect Rural England Planning workshop.

The Parish Council have reviewed contractor options for the 2024 season and confirmed appointments.

New noticeboards have been delivered and awaiting installation

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***

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 of the Parish Council will be from 7pm — 8.30pm on Thur. 28th February in Renhold Village Hall. Subsequent meetings will be on Tues. 9th April and Wed.15th May.

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

Bedford Borough News

Share your thoughts on bus services. A Grant

We are inviting input from public transport users, residents, businesses, and visitors within the Borough regarding local bus services and other public transport.

The feedback received will play a crucial role in shaping the council's forthcoming Public Transport Policy to provide a more sustainable and accessible public transport system.

We are arranging for paper copies of the survey to be available at local libraries, and the mobile library.



RENHOLD CHAPEL

Sunday Services

3rd March	10.30am	Mr R Smith	
10th March	10.30am	Mr R Crane	Communion
17 March	10.30am	Mr A May	
24th March	10.30am	Mr R Keech	
31st March	10.30am	Mr B Hicks	Easter Sunday

CHAPEL NOTES

The TV cookery programme was on mute as Laura reflected on the afternoon Bible Study. The leader had been talking about sin and he had given Laura three Bible verses to look up. As she searched for the first one, Laura reflected on her life. She was struggling with her faith and knew there was still a lot wrong in her life. She had so many faults and Laura wondered if all her sins were forgiven. As far as she was concerned her life was tainted and could never be clean.

Laura found the first Bible verse: If we confess our sins to God ... "He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrong doing" (1 John 1:9.) Laura gazed at the words and wondered how Jesus could remove every stain in her life? "Surely" she said to herself, "I've got to do something myself to be right with God?"

Laura looked blankly at the TV where a chef was making some drinks. Laura thought about her recent Bible discussion. Someone had said that the power to remove sin came from God. She looked up at the next verse and it said: "Even if you washed with the strongest soap, I would still see the stain of your guilt". (Jeremiah 2:22). Laura wondered if these verses were meant for her!

Again she looked at the TV screen and saw a chef pick up an old teapot that was badly stained inside. He washed it and scrubbed it, but the stain couldn't be removed. Then he added some biological washing powder and filled the teapot with boiling water. A few minutes later the stubborn tea stain had disappeared. The tea pot looked as good as new!

Laura was convinced that only God himself. could remove her sin and wondered what the final Bible verse she was looking up would say. As she read it, she would never again doubt God's power to make her clean.

When the kindness and love of God our Savior was revealed He saved us.... through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us. (Titus 3:4-5)"

Laura suddenly realized that the sin in her life was like the stain in the teapot. The chef couldn't make the tea pot clean, he had to use something more powerful.

Answers for 2023 quiz.

1. MMXXIII.
 2. Ellie Leach and Vito Coppola.
 3. China.
 4. Finland.
 5. Bedbugs!!
 6. February.
 7. Operation Golden Orb.
 8. Alcaraz.
 9. Sweden.
 10. Liverpool.
 11. Rizz.
 12. 75.
 13. It's the faulty computer system in the GPO.
 14. Tom Wootton.
 15. Ultra-low-emission-zone.
 16. To lower the traffic pollution in London.
 17. Mary Earps, the England goalie.
 18. Spare.
 19. Montecito, in California.
 20. Just over 67 million.
 21. He died in a plane crash in Russia.
 22. £1.25.
 23. March.
 24. Rabbit.
- Once again, Happy New Year.



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Albert Browning

722689

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Term time

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TBA

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Anne Grant

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Renhold Stitches

Jackie Croot

870271

Reading Group

Pauline Capell

771858

Pudding Club for Carers

Anne Grant

771811

Table Tennis

TBA

Luncheon Club

Yvonne Potter

771495

Borough Council

267422

Borough Councillors

Nicola Gribble

07955 530234

Renhold Village Agent

Lydia Wright

0800 039 1234

Parish Councillors

See page 26

Neighbourhood Plan

Amanda Quince

870704

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