

THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE



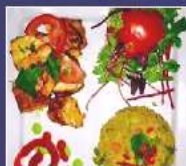
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DIARY APRIL 2025

School Dates 2025:

Spring Term	Tues.7th Jan. — Fri.4th April
Summer Term	Wed.23rd April —Tues.22nd July
Half - Term	Mon.26th May —Fri.30th May

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Notable Renhold dates & events: (RVH = Renhold Village Hall)
(CH= Chapter House at All Saints Church)
(ASR= All Saints Renhold)

Thurs.3rd April	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	RVH	p24
Thurs. 3rd April	AGM + A year in my garden Jan Tozer	7.30pm	RVH	p10
Sat.12th April	Pop Up Café	10am	CH	
Mon.14th April	Creative Club-Door Decorations for VE Day 80 years	7pm		CH
Fri. 18th April	Memory Café Chapel	11.00 am		p15
Sat. 19th April	Churchyard Clear up Group	from 9.30am		
Tues.22nd April	Police and Crime Commissioner	6.00pm		p25
Sun. 4th May	Fineas Fogg	7pm-9pm	RVH	p8
Thurs.8th May	VE Day 80			p8
Wed.14th May	Golden Age of Dutch Art	10.30am-3.15pm		p10
Sat. 17th May	Community Litter Pick details to follow			

Church cleaning rota:

14 April	Judy Wootton and Pauline Capell
28 Apr	Jill Barrell and Ingrid Lennox
12 May	Sally Pool, Peter Pool and Tessa Wood
26 May	Christine Smith and Jill Burrow

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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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THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE is published in accordance with its Privacy Policy, a copy of which may be obtained by application to the Editor (see 'Contact Details' above). It can also be seen on the Parish Council website.

Frontispiece: photo of Harrold Country Park by Pauline Capell

This magazine is printed by JCB Printers, Gt Barford.

Tel: 01234 871861. e-mail: Info@jcbprinting.co.uk

The magazine is now available online on the Parish Council website.

EDITORIAL BY Anne Grant

HELP NEEDED WITH PUBLISHING THE MAGAZINE

When the magazine is put together, I use the desktop publishing software 'Microsoft Publisher' which has served me well for many years. Unfortunately Microsoft are withdrawing it in the near future and we are looking for an alternative product. There is a product called Canva which looks as though it might well fit the bill. I am reaching out to the good people of Renhold Parish to see if someone has experience of using Canva and can show us how to use it and to help make the transition for publishing the magazine from Publisher to Canva. Or, can someone recommend a different alternative that they have some experience with and would be willing to help? If there is anyone who would be interested, please email me or give me a call, my contact details are on p3.

I am also looking to **handover the Editor Role of the magazine**. I have been doing it for 17 years and celebrated my 80th birthday last year. I feel the time is right to hand the role over to an individual, or a team of two perhaps. If someone is interested in this very rewarding and interesting challenge then please contact me. I would be happy to work alongside someone until they felt comfortable with the role. There is a wonderful team of volunteers on the Committee, who are highly supportive of the magazine and would be very welcoming to the new editor(s).

You may have seen in the February magazine an article on **Property Scam**, please do read the follow up by one of our readers and the response from her MP on pp12-13. It is a scary situation.

The Pop up café was humming again on Saturday with standing room only and a constant stream of sausage baps and the buzz of lively conversation. It is obviously becoming well known.

If you want to see wildlife look no further than Renhold. Several people recently have commented on seeing foxes, badgers and deer and you only have to look at Tony's fantastic wildlife page where his trail camera has picked up some amazing pictures. To think we have otters in Renhold!

The Renhold school has contributed a lovely article on World Book Day with accompanying photos and Pauline has given us two articles, one on the bell ringers group, they are inviting new members to join, and also a fascinating article on letter boxes.

I was walking down by the Embankment recently on a lovely sunny day and saw a small boy out with his Granny. He pointed to the massive collection of ducks and geese near to where he was standing and proudly pointing at them said "I have just fed **all** those ducks " followed by "I have done my bit of kindness for today". Granny smiled in approval and I thought what a lovely message to give her grandson.

There is a lot going on to celebrate VE Day on Thursday 8th May. Starting with flag raising, then wreath laying at the War Memorial, bell ringing and candles of peace at All Saints Church (see p8).

Having spent several editorials bemoaning the winter weather I am delighted to put this glorious photo of the lake at Harrold Country park on the front cover sent in by Pauline Capell. It just lifts your spirits looking at it. Seeing the sun and the blue sky has certainly lifted my mood, long may it continue.(see front cover)



Martyn Smith

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All Saints Church Services for April 2025

Services led by Rev. Ian Smith unless otherwise stated

Wednesday 2 nd April	11:30am	Prayers for the Community
Sunday 6 th April	11:00am	Parish Communion –
Passion Sunday		
Wednesday 9 th April	1:00pm-4:00pm	Easter Holiday Club (for 5-11yrs)
Sunday 13 th April	10:45am	Family Worship for Palm Sunday
Palm Sunday	6:00pm	Evensong with Music
Monday 14 th April	7:30pm	Reflection & Night Prayer
Tuesday 15 th April	7:30pm	Compline (BCP)
Wednesday 16 th April	10:00am	BCP Communion <i>Rev. David Powell</i>
	7:30pm	Reflection & Night Prayer
Thursday 17 th April	7:00pm	Seder Meal with Watch & Compline
Maundy Thursday		
Friday 18 th April	11:00am	Stations of the Cross
Good Friday	2:00pm	Hour before the Cross
Sunday 20 th April	5:45am	Dawn Service with Communion
Easter Day	11:00am	Easter Celebration & Easter Egg hunt
Sunday 27 th April	11:00am	Parish Communion
Easter 2	12:15pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting

DAILY OFFICES –

Morning Prayer – Mondays at 10:00am
 Night Prayer/Compline - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 7:30pm
 Evening Prayer - Thursdays at 4:30pm

From the registers

27th March Angela Bennison Burial of Ashes

Monday Mornings 8.15am-9.45am (Term Time only)

School-run “ Pit stop” -Tea, toast and fellowship for those doing “the School Run” - Younger children welcome!

24th April (4th Thursday)-Coffee & Cake Afternoon for those who would like a change of scenery or just fancy a piece of cake! - 2.00 to 4.00pm in the Chapter House. **Everyone is welcome!**

Further details and Orders of service can be found on
www.achurchnearyou.com/church

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

As you read this article we will be entering the final few weeks of Lent, that time of penance when many of us try to give up certain luxuries we love to remember the fasting of Jesus in the wilderness, I wonder how my restraint from chocolate and chips will be going?

To me the period of Passiontide, the 2 weeks before Easter, is a roller coaster ride as we walk with Jesus along the path that led to Jerusalem and his Crucifixion on Good Friday. I was in school this week talking with the children in year 6 and was able to hear some of their thoughts on the events of Holy week, from the joyful, triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the cross on Good Friday – It was a journey from the Palm to the Cross or, as I asked them, how could Jesus go from “Hero” to “Zero” in just 5 days? It is good to hear our young people express their thoughts and ideas on biblical issues, something I am sure we can all learn from if we get the chance to listen to them.

I was reading an article this week debating which was God’s greatest gift to us. To me there is no question as to who the greatest gift was, but the question of what may not be so clear. The author argued the Christ Child at Christmas was God’s greatest gift, but I would argue the events of Holy Week which fashioned the Christian faith and gained for us “salvation” must be the greatest. When thinking of Maundy Thursday with the Last Supper and Jesus’ institution of “Bread & Wine” as elements we use today in our communion services; together with the arrest and Crucifixion on Good Friday and the Resurrection on the Sunday morning, this week is huge. – My comments may be a bit controversial I know, and probably not something the world around us today could buy into, (especially after watching the Apprentice last week!), but an interesting thought and maybe something to ask year 6 when I am with them after Easter.

Whatever your thoughts may be; Holy Week is a busy time within our church as you will see from the schedule of services. The highlights for me will include Palm Sunday when we will again be reading the Palm Gospel at the school and processing to church for a short non-communion service. Then on Maundy Thursday we celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover (which Jesus would have been celebrating with his Disciples at the Last Supper). This takes the form of a Seder Meal which leads into a short communion service, before we observe a short period of silence and prayer known as the watch, before leaving church in silence. – This is a really atmospheric evening and one I commend to you, if you have not experienced it yet. On Good Friday at 11:00am we will be holding a simple stations of the Cross service, and then “an hour before the Cross” at 2:00pm reflecting on the events of Good Friday through music and readings which will be very special.

On Easter Sunday we are holding our dawn service (at 5:45am) which has become a regular feature, and later that morning is a family orientated Easter Communion service, where we will be blessing our Easter/Paschal candle for 2025, renewing our Baptism vows and, if all goes to plan, ending with an Easter egg hunt in the church grounds – as I said a very busy week!

On a different subject - The Friends of All Saints who work so hard to raise funds for the restoration and improvements to our church building and its grounds, are hosting a concert by the Alma Singers in church on Friday 16th May which promises to be a great evening of music and entertainment. Please look out for posters around the parish and our social media pages for more details.

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.achurchnearyou.com/church/7680/ for those unable to attend in person.

Take care, stay safe and I wish you all a peaceful and blessed Easter -
God bless - Rev. Ian

From Your Local Village Agent

Greetings from your Village Agent, Lydia Wright. I am here to help vulnerable people in Bedford Borough villages to access the services and support they might need. These services are free, funded by Bedford Borough Council and I can visit you at home. Call me free on the number below. There are some Radar keys available.

Contact your Village Agent on Freephone 0800 039 1234



(This is an answerphone service, so please be ready to leave your name, address & telephone number, & we will aim to call you back within 48 hours.)



Renhold Remembers VE Day 80 Thursday May 8th 2025

On Thursday 8th May 2025, our nation will unite to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

We encourage everyone in the Parish of Renhold to take part by joining us at one, some or all of these events:

9:00 am 'Together We Stand Flag Raising and VE Day Proclamation' in the grounds of All Saints Church

11:00 am War Memorial wreath laying on behalf of several groups within the Parish with World War II vehicles provided by the Markham family.

6:30 pm Renhold bell ringers will join the 'Together We Chime Let the Nations Bells Ring Loud'

9:30 pm Meet at All Saints Church to light Candles of Peace and to sing Land of Hope and Glory to symbolise the enduring strength of our communities and to honour the sacrifices that secured our freedom.

Let this be a day of joy, reflection, and celebration in Renhold. As part of the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion people, we reaffirm our commitment to peace, ensuring future generations understand and cherish its value. Amanda Quince

An Evening with the legendary Fynnius Fogg

Sunday May 4th 2025

7.00pm –9.00pm

Renhold Village Hall

Tickets strictly limited to 140 adults bought in advance from Amanda Quince 07948183164

£20 includes Glass of wine or beer and nibbles.

Proceeds go to Neuroblastoma UK Fighting childhood cancer

'Star Raffle Prize Helicopter Ride over Renhold'



All Saints Church, Renhold

18th April 2025

**Good Friday
2:00pm**

**An Hour by
the Cross**

A meditative service of sacred music, hymns and readings
Sung by Members of Cantamus



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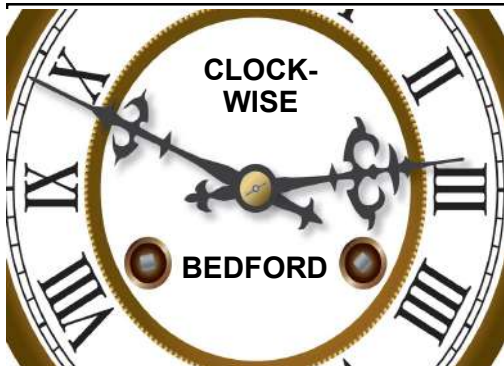
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Special Interest Day The Golden Age of Dutch Art 3 Lectures presented by Jane Choy-Thurlow



Wednesday, 14 May 2025, 10.30am to 3.15pm
St Andrew's Church Hall, Bedford

Jane will talk about the history and culture that brought this dynamic art to fruition. The Golden Age was a period in Dutch history, roughly spanning the 17th century, in which the Dutch were a major world power, leaders in trade and science and also in art. The paintings produced by Dutch artists are considered some of the greatest works of art in the world.

The 3 lectures will cover:-

Intimacies and Intrigues and Who's Who: History paintings and Portraits

Reality Show or Illusion? Genre painting

Mirrors of Reality! Landscape and Still Life paintings

Jane Choy-Thurlow gives lectures/tours at the Mauritshuis and has been involved with its exhibitions.

Coffee from 10.15am. **Cost: £45** including 2 course hot lunch and tea/coffee

To register for this event, email northbedsdfas@gmail.com

For more information visit <https://northbedsartssociety.org.uk/programme/events>

RENHOLD WI

Our March meeting was very interesting in lots of ways! Firstly we arrived to find the Newbury Room was locked and nobody who had a key could come out. The key that should have been in the key box was missing and the only thing to do was send for the caretaker who lives in Kempston!

To make the most of our time we decided to do the business part of the meeting in the lobby, with all our guests and members standing around us. We talked about our next meeting, the AGM and were very pleased to be able to introduce Caroline McKewen who, along with some friends, is going to join the committee and keep the group going!

The AGM is for members only and starts at 7.30pm. Guests are invited to come at 8.00pm when there will be a light-hearted illustrated talk by Jan Tozer called A Year in My Garden. We meet in the Village Hall, Renhold on Thursday, April 3rd. Guest admission £5. All welcome. Raffle and book sale will be available. After the key fiasco, we had a thoroughly enjoyable evening being entertained by Lisa Garrity with lots of music and anecdotes, and lots of singing, even a bit of dancing from the ever young Mavis! We also had a delicious birthday cake! **Jan Tozer**

Sent in by Ian McIver

1. The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes." 2. Even duct tape can't fix stupid... but it can muffle the sound! 3. Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway? 4 Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

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PROPERTY SCAM CONTINUED

Some of you may remember that in the February issue of the magazine, an article was included entitled Property Scam sent in by Keith Herkes. It would have been easy to dismiss it as a likely scam and ignore it, but it was legitimate. Somehow it is possible for someone to get hold of the details of your property if you own it outright, and sell it legally without you knowing anything about it. Claire Boardman was so incensed on our behalf, she took up the cudgels and wrote to her MP Mohammed Yasin. He too is following it up having written to the Chief Land Registrar. Our thanks to Keith and to Claire for raising awareness of this dire situation and for also raising it with Richard Fuller, the MP for the other half of Renhold. Read Claire's letter below. Anne Grant.

I was so infuriated after reading Keith's article on property fraud, that I contacted my MP, Mohammed Yasin, to look into it. Mr. Yasin has been extremely helpful and sent me the letter opposite, with some additional information. He has also written to Simon Hayes, Chief Executive of the Land Registry and Chief Land Registrar (who has sent a detailed response), the Housing Minister, Matthew Pennycook at my request (awaiting a response) and he has also asked The House of Commons library to prepare a briefing/access research on title fraud.

I have now registered my own property with the Land Registry alert, which is very easy to do. I have it on good authority from a solicitor, that this is happening frequently in London with some unscrupulous solicitors enabling the process. London is not the only place though and I would like to thank Keith for bringing this to our attention.

Having read the email response from Simon Hayes, I am extremely glad there is some protection in the form of an indemnity fund from HMLR and I am somewhat reassured.

"We take the issue of fraud extremely seriously and combatting it is a key priority for us. HMLR has a strong incentive to minimise the risk of fraud as registered titles have the protection of being guaranteed by the state. This means that HMLR's indemnity fund provides financial compensation for innocent victims of registration fraud."

The Land Registration Act 2002 (LRA 2002) places a legal liability on HMLR to indemnify for losses resulting from errors or omissions on the register of title. This includes errors resulting from frauds carried out by third parties. We pay indemnity if we register a fraudulent application. For example, if registered title fraud is proven after we have registered a purchase, and if the purchaser loses money, they would be entitled to claim it back from us."

However, there are two losers in these fraudulent transactions, the owners of that property and the new owners who have paid for a new home in what they understand is a perfectly legal and legitimate transaction. The winners are the criminals. What also concerns me from Mr. Hayes response, is that if your house is empty for a period or it is rented out, HMRL may allow the new purchasers to stay in that house and decide to compensate the original owners. It also occurred to me that a house may be empty because a single occupant is in hospital.

I am also troubled that it might be a lengthy legal process, probably at the cost of the original homeowner, before any fraudulent transaction can be proved and the original owner compensated. There is currently a huge backlog in the legal system. Will that homeowner even have a home to live in whilst this takes place?

Please note this can only happen on mortgage-free properties. **Claire Boardman**
(You can now access the Renhold magazine on the Parish Council's website)

Mohammad Yasin MP
Member of Parliament for Bedford and Kempston



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: MY49887

Please quote this reference in any future correspondence

4 February 2025

Dear Claire,

Re: Property fraud

Thank you for your recent email. You raise an interesting topic, but it is one that I must admit I am not an expert in. Nevertheless – I have done some research around the matters you raise.

Without seeing the article myself (I have checked, but the February issue of The Renhold Magazine is not online yet), I am not able to speak to the contents directly – so please forgive me if my response omits something covered therein, but I believe you are referring to home hijacking or title fraud, so am basing my response on that assumption.

I appreciate the idea of someone being able to acquire your home by fraud is hugely concerning, especially as the process appears to be such a simple one. I am including a couple of links to more information about how homeowners can protect themselves against such fraud – forgive me if I am replicating information you have already seen:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65391cc780884d0013f71acb/Help_protect_yourself_from_property_fraud_English_October_2023.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGwVz-69DS4&embeds_referring_curi=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2F&embeds_referring_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk

If you have not already done so, it is recommended that homeowners sign up to the HMRC's free property alert service (more details can be found here):

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/property-alert#property-fraud>.

You may also wish to place a restriction on your title via the land registry – this means a sale or mortgage cannot be registered against your title, unless a conveyancer or solicitor confirms you made the application.

Specialised advice is available from the Land Registry and Citizen's Advice Bureau for homeowners who become victims of registration fraud.

I am contacting Land Registry and the House of Commons Library to seek further information on this matter and will update you accordingly.

Thank you once again for reaching out and raising such an important subject.

Yours sincerely,

**Mohammad Yasin MP
Bedford & Kempston**

The office of Mohammad Yasin MP will only collect and use personal information for the specific purpose for which it has been obtained. For more details please visit <https://mohammadyasin.org/privacy-policy/>. A printed copy of our privacy policy can be obtained by writing Clifton House, 4a Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3NF.

Renhold Village Clubs 2025

<u>Group</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Tel.</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Bridge Club -No Fear	David Israel	07816 668578	Every Mon. Every Fri.	9.45-1pm	St. Marks Church Brickhill
Carpet Bowls	Chick	838651	Every Mon. Every Wed.	2-4.00pm 7-9.00pm	RV Hall
Chapel Cof- fee morning	Albert Browning	772689	2nd Tues.	10-12 noon	Renhold Chapel
Creative Club	Teresa Trangmar	07788 402441	2nd Monday	7.30-9.00pm	Chapter House
Dance classes	Sarah Higgins	Sarah Higgins18@ yahoo.co.uk	Saturday	9.00 – 10.30am	RV Hall
KT Yoga		07977 467967	Every Thursday	7-8.00pm	RV Hall
Luncheon Club	Yvonne Potter	771495	2nd Wednesday	12.30 for 1pm	
Mini Athletics		07985 520232	Every Sunday	9-11.30am	RV Hall
Pudding Club for carers	Anne Grant	771811	1st Tuesday	2-3.30pm	4, Brookside
Reading Group	Pauline Cap- pell	771858	1st Friday	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	Ian Smith	07989 470093	Every Mon. Every Wed. Every Fri.	1.30pm 10.30am 10.30am	Church Ln. Community. Centre
Tang Soo Do	TBA	07591 266614	Every Monday	6.30-8pm	RV Hall
Total Warrior Kickboxing	TBA	07450 235946	Every Tuesday	5.45-8.15pm	RV Hall
W.I.	Jan Tozer	297456	1st Thurs.	7.30pm	RV Hall
Yarn Craft Group	Marion Sutton	217647	Alternate Fridays	10am- 12.30pm	Wilden Village Hall

Mobile Library Times April and May

<u>Location of Mobile Library</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
Renhold - Green End	10:00 - 10:15	1,15,29	13,27
Lay-by - Salph End	10.20 - 10.35	1,15,29	13,27
Renhold - Home Close	10:40 - 10:55	1,15,29	13,27
Renhold - Ravensden Road	11:00 - 11:15	1,15,29	13,27

Times will vary slightly due to traffic conditions, etc.

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

North Beds Ramblers walk every Saturday

North Beds Ramblers Walk every Saturday:

Please note change of start time for afternoon walks – Summer start 13:30

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

Or try our “Ramble” on first Saturday morning each month – slightly shorter, slower pace

April Walks

5th am Flitwick “**Ramble**”, 5.5 miles, pm Ampthill 6.5 miles

12th am London – Unlock Church walk, 7.5 miles or pm Wilstead 6 miles

19th pm Willen, Milton Keynes, 7.5 miles

26th am Thrapston, 12 miles or pm Stoke Hammond, 6.8 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

Sandra Kelsey North Beds. Treasurer 07889691025

Renhold Memory Café Teresa Moon

If you are affected by memory loss or dementia, do join us at Renhold Chapel on **Friday 18th April from 11am to 12.30pm** for our Memory Cafe. We guarantee you a warm welcome and a relaxed place to chat and share experiences. Enjoy homemade cake and a cuppa, and take part in some fun activities, including quizzes, games and music, in a safe and supportive environment. We are run by Tibbs Dementia Foundation, a Bedford-based charity dedicated to helping people with cognitive issues to live enriching lives.

No booking required - just come along on the third Friday of the month to Renhold Baptist Chapel in Woodfield Lane. All are welcome - people with memory issues, carers and former carers, and also anyone who would like to volunteer their help. For more information, email teresa.moon@tibbsdementia.co.uk

World Book Day Celebration at Renhold V.C. Primary School

Lisa Larham

*We began our World Book Day celebrations by bringing the whole school community together to celebrate the joy of reading, books, and the power of words! This year children and staff were asked to come dressed as their favourite word. This was inspired by the book *The Word Collector* by Peter H. Reynolds. It's a delightful and inspiring book that encourages children (and adults!) to appreciate the power and beauty of words. The story follows a boy named Jerome, who collects words that he finds interesting, beautiful, or meaningful.*

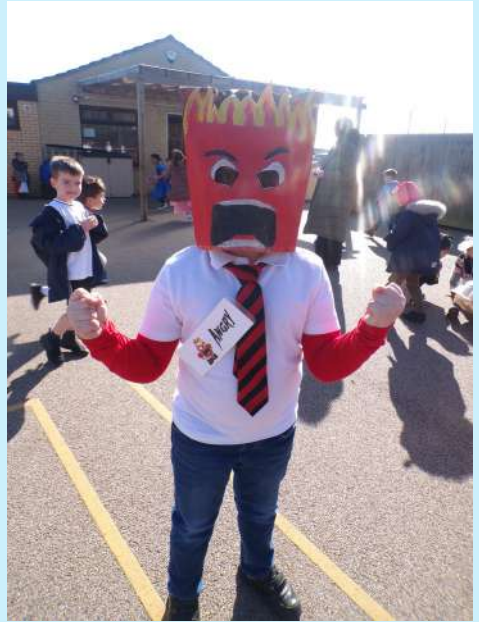
*Inspired by *The Word Collector* story, children created their favourite word on pebbles to add to a whole school display and took part in a word complimenting activity to their peers. In the lead up to World Book Day we welcomed parents into class to read stories to their children's class and this was very popular with the children.*

Throughout the day, the classrooms buzzed with energy as children participated in various fun activities that celebrated reading and creativity. The highlight of the day was a vocabulary parade, where the children (and staff) proudly showcased their costumes depicting their favourite words and explained why they chose them. The assembly was filled with laughter and inspiration, as words like "sparkle," "fragile," and "kindness" filled the air.

Overall, the World Book Day celebrations at Renhold V.C. Primary School were a huge success, filled with laughter, learning, and a renewed appreciation for the wonderful world of words. It was a day that reminded everyone just how powerful and beautiful words can be!



School photos of World Book Day



Can you guess which photo belongs to which word? Fragile, Sparkly Sleepy, Angry and Trendy.



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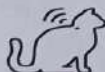
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Microchipping



Pet Taxi



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Website



HAPPY 102nd BIRTHDAY RENHOLD WI March 1923 – March 2025



The Renhold Clangers

Are there any would-be handbell ringers out there ? We are looking to recruit more people into our group so that we can use all the bells at our disposal, and

nobody has to manage more than 2 bells at a time.

It's all about making music with other people, learning a new skill with the sense of achievement that brings and, above all, having fun. If you fancy giving it a go, come along to the Chapter House at All Saints Church on a Thursday evening from 7.00 - 8.00pm

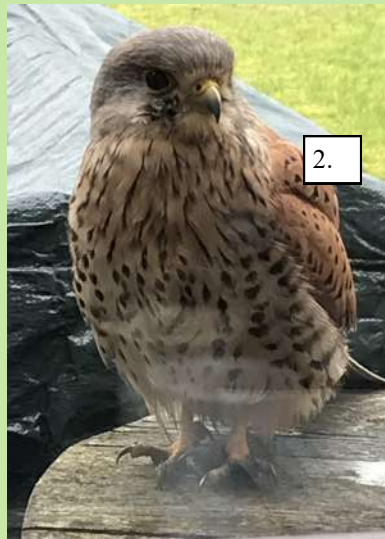
and see what we do. You don't have to be able to read music. The group, under the leadership of Caroline Coster, has been going for a little over a year so we are still relative novices and would love some new members so we can make an even better sound

A warm welcome awaits you.

Pauline Capell



WILD ABOUT RENHOLD (see opposite)



The Churchyard (See opposite)



WILD ABOUT RENHOLD by Tony Ploszajski

1. Otter

This month's 'Wild About Renhold' is a celebration of garden sightings and it was an extraordinary privilege to spot this Otter in our garden at dusk, one evening in February. The Renhold Brook runs along the end of our garden, so we're used to seeing water-based wildlife like Herons and Kingfishers. We know that Otters are about because our camera trap photographed one at night on our lawn a couple of years ago, and we're resigned to the regular disappearance of the fish from our garden pond, accompanied by the broken lily stems caused by the pursuit by a large aquatic mammal. However, I'd never actually seen one in the flesh in Renhold before, so I was amazed to see one rolling about in the grass on our lawn. The quality of the photo is not great, because the light was fading, but after a couple of minutes the Otter trotted off back to the brook and disappeared. Otter numbers are expanding rapidly in lowland Britain and are now regular at various spots on the River Ouse. The one in our garden had probably swum up the brook from the main river, so it's worth keeping an eye out along those parts of Renhold Brook that are viewable from public rights of way.

2. Kestrel

Keith Herkes took this lovely photo of an inquisitive Kestrel in his back garden, looking at him through the window. The grey head identifies it as a male bird and it may have originally been sizing up potential perches to watch for prey, before being distracted by Keith. Several hunting techniques are used by Kestrels, but the most well-known is the hover. A Kestrel will fly into the wind and use its tail and wings to hold its position in the air. Keeping its eyes fixed on the ground, it will swiftly drop to pounce on any prey sighted. With extremely sharp eyesight, kestrels can spot a beetle from 50 metres away. They can even see ultraviolet light, which is invisible to the human eye. This means they can detect the urine trails left by rodents on the ground, helping the birds locate their prey.

3. Fox

Puzzled by the source of regular nocturnal damage to our lawn, I set up our camera trap to try to identify the culprit. By far the most frequent images caught were of a Fox (although Badger and Muntjac also featured on occasions). All the images were taken at night, apart from this one, which was timed at 1:06 in the afternoon. The digging in the lawn is caused by Foxes scuffing up the grass to try to find protein-rich earthworms or grubs. This is one mammal that I would be happy not to see in our garden, but I must admit it does look rather magnificent stalking around like it owns the place!

A message from Teresa Trangmur about the churchyard

The Churchyard volunteers meet on the third Saturday morning of the month to work in the Churchyard and help to keep it tidy and beautiful. We enjoy the tranquility and peace of this treasured place, as well as the companionship over tea, coffee and biscuits part way through the morning. Everyone does as much or as little as they are able, and new volunteers will always be welcome. Several volunteers spend additional time working in the Churchyard as well and this support is hugely welcomed. Teresa Trangmur
I would like to thank Teresa and her team on behalf of all of us, for the huge effort they expend to keep the churchyard looking so loved and cared for. AG.

Letterboxes/mail slots (US) /letterplates

As part of the team of the Renhold Magazine deliverers, I am fascinated by the huge variety of letterboxes in doors. Not only are they made from a wide range of materials, but some you lift to open, others you push, some have internal brushes that act as draught excluders, some have a gentle closing action, whilst others encourage you to remove your fingers as quickly as you can before the spring closes with a vicious snap. Then there are the low, almost ground level flaps which require you to bend right down, or even kneel down - all very well for the young and nimble, but something of a challenge for those of us in the older age bracket, where you sneak a quick peek over your shoulder to make sure nobody has witnessed your ungainly attempt to return your body to a standing position. This is after you have disengaged yourself from the dog on the other side of the door who is, after all, just carrying out his duty as guardian of the house. In 2020, Boris Johnson thanked his Conservative party activists for 'prodding leaflets through the letterbox and into the jaws of dogs.'

On Wednesday 16th January 2019, Vicky Ford, presented a private members' bill before the full House of Commons, seeking prohibition of low level letterboxes. It was supported by all parties, and unanimously accepted in the interests of the health and safety of mail deliverers, something that had been campaigned for in all new houses for many years by the Communication Workers' Union. The government made an undertaking to refer the matter to the Buildings' Regulations Advisory Committee, and a research project was also suggested. However, such research had already been done in the EU, which developed a European Standard. This states that for ergonomic and safety reasons, height, position and design of the humble letterbox must be adhered to, to ensure safe delivery of mail without risk of injury. Interestingly it has been law in the Republic of Ireland since January 1st 2001.

Letterboxes only became popular in the mid to late C19th, as it was only royalty and the upper classes who had need of them before that. An address was not necessary as the mail courier would know who lived where. Waiting for recipients to answer the door and take their mail could add at least an hour or more to the job. In the 1700s, whilst letters were still being personally handed over, random and sporadic house numbers were appearing for identification purposes, so that by the mid 1800s, all property owners were asked to have a letter box on or near their door.

The letter box at 10 Downing Street has the words 1st Lord of the Treasury inscribed on it, being the title of the first ever Prime Minister, Robert Walpole, and every PM since. However, it doesn't actually open for security reasons. Just an aside that might be of interest is the fact that the zero on the number 10 is at a slight angle as a nod to the original door, where the zero was actually a letter O, because the Ministry of Works had clean run out of zeros that day and the substituted letter O didn't quite fit.

So what comes through your letterbox these days? I would hazard a guess that it is mostly bills, officialdom and junk mail. Relegated to the past is the hand-written letter that I certainly got excited about in my younger days, being the main form of communication before the text and e-mail. But maybe all is not lost. There are companies out there who are doing a good trade in composing and sending handwritten cards, postcards and letters on behalf of businesses, as it has been proved that this seemingly outdated, old fashioned approach conveys to customers that it has been written personally for them, and can yield outstanding results. Don't be fooled however - as they are written by robots.

Pauline Capell



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE REGARDING WEST RAIL

Renhold Parish Council have received an invite from Clapham Parish Council to attend a meeting looking to improve dialogue between Parish Councils in the face of the impending infrastructure project. The purpose of the meeting is to look at the next steps required before the EWR Statutory Consultation at the end of this year and to see how respective knowledge and understanding can be brought together.

The Parish Council continues to have representatives engaging with the ongoing work being done by BFARe as well.

In addition, the Parish Council recently received an East West Rail communication regarding community engagement. The Local Representatives Groups have been restructuring they have said, to better reflect the section areas presented at the most recent consultation. As such, there are now Enhanced LRGs and LRG Communities.

The Enhanced LRGs are made up of those wards and parishes which have land that would need to be permanently acquired, and land that would be used temporarily for construction. The LRG Communities are those that were a part of the previous LRG structure but now fall outside of having land directly impacted but allows members to remain informed on the project and part of the conversation. Renhold has been advised they are now part of the LRG Communities Group. The first of two expected webinars this year for this group is scheduled to take place on 26th March.

PLANNING INFORMATION WHERE TO FIND IT....

If you wish to view current planning applications, previous planning applications, see planning decision notices or submitted comments on any application then all information is retained on the Bedford Borough Council Planning Portal, which has an enormous amount of resources available to you.

For more information do head here:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications>

The Parish Council are aware that the planning process can appear to be complicated. In order to try and explain more about the different planning systems depending on the planning matter being considered, the Parish Council decided to collate a guide document to try and assist residents.

To access a copy of this document please head to: <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/minutes-agendas-other-documents> and you will see a document titled 'RPC Planning Guide June 2024' which gives an overview of planning.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE PARISH COUNCIL.....?

The Parish Council currently has Councillor vacancies and would be very interested to hear from residents who want to get involved and have their say on village matters. You might:

Like to see improvements to your local area

Or have an interest in improving certain local provisions or services

Have ideas on enhancing the village environment

Want to be involved, when Bedford Borough Council allocate new housing through the Local Plan process

Maybe are really concerned about traffic and highways safety in the village

To learn more and wish to become involved in the local East West Rail project stakeholder group

The Council really would like to have greater representation to make sure your voice is heard. There is also lots of support available for new Councillors as well.

If you are interested in taking a more active role in the village, supporting with parish improvements and have ideas on how to help move Renhold forwards, then the Parish Council would really like to hear from you. Do *please make yourself known to the Clerk, Lizzie, parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk or any current Parish Councillor whose contact details are in the Magazine.*

PARISH COUNCIL WORK UPDATES

- Arranging the next regular walkaround of the Orbit development for Parish Councillors to look at the current issues with the Property Manager.

- Walkround of Cranbourne Gardens being actioned to help take forward some identified items that require follow up.

- Village grass and hedge maintenance work continues to be carried out.

- Renhold Village Magazine grant application for donation reviewed and awarded to support the publication of the magazine.

- Continued engagement with parish planning applications received (all Parish Council comments are available on the Borough Council website planning portal section).

- Church End highways safety support and improvements relating to parking being followed up with the local authority and Renhold Primary School.

- Regular updates published on local matters through the Renhold Parish Council website, do visit <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk> to see the latest news and helpful information.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Whilst the Parish Council keep their website update to date, you can find the latest Parish Council minutes here: <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk>

It is always more interesting to attend a Parish Council meeting in person to see what goes on and the range of items covered in trying to move improvements for the Renhold community going forwards. Forthcoming dates are: 3rd April, 15th May, 19th June and 24th July.

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please remember everyone is welcome to contact the Clerk or any Councillors about local matters. A full list of contact details is available as usual in the Magazine directory, so do make a note. 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

Ward Councillor Report, March 2025

Hello again, I cannot believe that I am now writing for the end of March magazine, where on earth does time go?

I am delighted to finally say that I managed to receive funding, after many years of lobbying by the Parish Council, for the construction of a **multi-use path** from the Spires Estate linking with the Langlands bridleway. This will help all users, especially children and parents walking to school. Work has started and is due to be completed by the end of March and will link local paths.

I would like to thank those in our community who volunteer and give their time freely for the benefit of others, it is much appreciated. I am once again organising a **Community Litter Pick** for **Saturday 17th May**. Last year it was really well supported and tremendous fun with a huge amount of rubbish being picked up. Please contact me for more details.

Another date for the diary is **Tuesday 22nd April**. I have managed to arrange a meeting with the **Police and Crime Commissioner**, John Tizard. The meeting is from 6-8pm in Ravensden Village Hall. Please do come and meet him, voice any concerns about local policing both in our village, surrounding areas and town.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and thank you for your continuing support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any queries or help,

With best wishes,

Nicola Gribble Nicola.gribble@bedford.co.uk 07955530234

The Housing Needs Survey

Please, please return your housing needs survey. A paper copy of it, together with a free return envelope, was delivered to your door and there is a link on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Parish Council website if you would like to return it online. Every adult member of your household can reply as an individual. We only have 134 responses to date, which is just 10 percent. We could really do with doubling that number. Any questions? Please ask.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Amanda Quince

Sayings sent in by Julie Roberts

1. True freedom is understanding that we have a choice in who and what we allow to have power over us.
2. You're only as old as you feel.
3. A rolling stone gathers no moss.
4. Happiness is not by chance but by choice.
5. If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one.
6. Don't judge a book by its cover.
7. You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL 2025

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
Darren Rayner	07825 950673	darren@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 2025

Parish Council meetings now start at 7pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be from 7pm — 8.30pm on Thursday 3rd April, after that 15th May, 19th June and 24th July

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

Anagrams sent in by Geoff Greenwood See what you get when you rearrange the letters

PRESBYTERIAN-

Best in Prayer

ASTRONOMER

Moon Starer

DESPERATION

A rope ends it.

THE EYES

They see

GEORGE BUSH

He bugs Gore

THE MORSE CODE

Here come dots.

DORMITORY

Dirty Room

SLOT MACHINES

Cash lost in me

ANIMOSITY

Is no amity

RENHOLD CHAPEL
Sunday Services

CHAPEL PREACHERS

6th April	10.30am	Mr A Dinnie	
13th April	10.30am	Mr D Button	
18th April	7.30am	Mr A Little	<u>Good Friday</u>
20th April	10.30am	Mr P Bridle	<u>Easter Sunday</u>
27th April	10.30am	Mr R Smith	

RENHOLD CHAPEL NOTES

The True Meaning of Easter: Love and Redemption

Easter is more than eggs and bunny rabbits — it's a celebration of the greatest act of love. For Christians, it marks Jesus Christ's resurrection, but to understand why this matters, we need to ask: why did Jesus die?

According to the Bible, humanity was created for a relationship with God, but sin — our moral failings — created a barrier. God is perfectly just, and sin couldn't be ignored. Yet, God's love is so immense that He provided a way to restore that relationship.

Jesus, God's Son, lived a sinless life and willingly died on the cross, taking the punishment for our sins. His sacrifice paid the price we couldn't, making forgiveness and reconciliation with God possible.

But the story doesn't end there — three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, proving His victory over sin and death. Because of this, anyone who trusts in Him can experience new life and eternal hope.

Easter is a reminder that God's love is relentless, and through Jesus, we're invited into a restored relationship with Him — a reason to truly celebrate.

However you spend the Easter break this year we hope you have an enjoyable time.

Our Easter services are on Good Friday at 7pm or Easter Sunday at 10:30am, please feel free to come along to either service.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Daily thoughts sent in by G. Greenwood

1. My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously, there's a new strain out there. 2. It's not my age that bothers me - it's the side effects. 3. I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the gutter on rubbish collection day. 4. As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: ... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation. 5. As I've got older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy-efficient. 6. I haven't got anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

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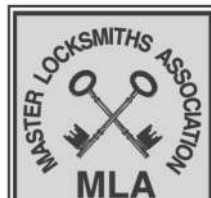
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Parish Priest

Rev.Ian Smith

e: renhold.rev@gmail.com
772794

Churchwardens

Alan Bloomfield

351162

Keith Timms

772605

Lay Vice Chair

Alan Bloomfield

351162

Secretary to PCC

Jill Burrows

07710228995

Verger

Treasurer

Christine Smith

772794

Bell Tower Coordinator

Yvonne Potter

771495

Churchyard Volunteers

Teresa Trangmar

07788 402441

Messy Church

Caroline Coster

caroline.coster@ntlworld.com

Renhold Chapel

Mr Albert Browning

772689

Brownie Pack

Amanda

1strenholdbrownies

@gmail.com

Chapel Coffee Morning

Albert Browning

772689

Preschool Group

Term time

Vicky Thompson

771724

Renhold Bridge Club

TBA

Magazine

Anne Grant

771811

Carpet Bowls Club

Chick

838651

Football Club

Mr K. Harlow

871178

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Women's Institute

President

Secretary

Jill Barrell

870461

Treasurer

Jan Tozer

297456

Renhold Stitchers

Jackie Croot

870271

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Pauline Capell

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Anne Grant

771811

Renhold School

771724

Table Tennis

Ian Smith

07989 470093

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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Bedford Hospital

355122

Police: 999, 101 or
841212

Sgt Chloe Lloyd-Jones

PC Vito Napoli

PCSO Stephen Tarabella

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Richard Fuller

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