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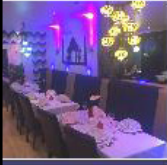


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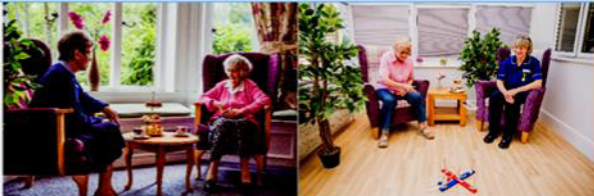
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EDITORIAL JUNE EDITION – AMANDA QUINCE

June is a remarkable month for sports lovers everywhere. Bring on the Wimbledon sunshine, strawberries and Jack Draper! June is also the season of fetes, open gardens and barbeques. Please do what you can to support our local organisations who are inviting you to join them; particularly the WI, which is under new leadership and looking for new members.

In the Hot Seat this month is Renhold's very own Dr Sue Barter. Sue is an NHS heroine. As an internationally respected Consultant Radiologist and Educational Innovator, her contributions span clinical practice, professional leadership and digital education. She has transformed traditional classroom models into flexible, technology-driven learning environments that are used worldwide. Though partly retired, she continues to teach and lecture internationally. Her legacy lies in the enduring impact of digital learning platforms that continue to support radiologists around the world, ensuring high standards of patient care through better education in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

Blending the timeless charm of 70s pop with an unwavering commitment to community service, Fynnius Fogg has carved out a unique place in the UK's musical and charitable landscape. Known for their lively performances, quick wit and nostalgic sound, they have gone far beyond entertainment, raising a million pounds for many charitable causes. And their lead singer lives in Renhold! In our Q&A this month, we capture the story behind their philanthropy, their lasting impact and we look forward to their forthcoming concert for us on July 4th at our Village Hall. Tickets are still available, so please contact me if you would like to join us.

If you were lucky enough to have visited Renhold Primary during their recent

Science Week, you would have entered a lively laboratory of curious and excited mini-professors. A shared sense of awe and wonder filled every classroom as the pupils and their parents experienced Science on an action-packed journey of adventure-loud, messy and gloriously alive. Who knows! Perhaps that very special week here in Renhold has sparked the curiosity of the next Brian Cox or Jane Goodall! Watch this space...

Father's Day is so much more important than the giving of gifts and cards. Pauline Capell, our Roving Reporter, reminds us all of the vitally important role that our fathers play in our lives. Edward (Ted) Wootton, local farmer and landowner, was born in Renhold in 1943. He speaks fondly of his early days at Brook Farm and Renhold School, his memories of All Saints Church and the challenges of post-war farming in Bedfordshire. And our newest contributor, Marian Gardner, continues our focus on the Year of Reading with her take on Conspiracy Theories!

We celebrate the success of Renhold Resistance and we urge you to continue to do what you can to preserve our farmland and local green spaces. Please contact the Planning Department planning@bedford.gov.uk to explain your views on the current proposal for 330 houses at Salph End. Reference 26/00724/MAO. All the details of the application are on the PC website and in the Clerk's monthly report. **Consultation closes on May 27th.**

Janet and I would welcome your feedback, so please let us know what you think of our efforts so far!

We bid a sad farewell to our student designers, Larissa and Ben this month. We wish them every success in their move to London and thank them for all they have done.

JUNE 2026

School dates Summer term Tuesday 14th April - Friday 17th July
Half-term Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

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

Date	Event	Time	Key
Thursday 4th June	WI Carriage Driving	<i>Please contact for details</i>	
Monday 8th June	Creative Club	19:30	CH
Saturday 13th June	Pop-up Cafe	10 – 12	CH
Monday 15th June	Donut Club (12-14)	18:00	ASR
Wednesday 17th June	Messy Church	15:30	ASR
Saturday 20th June	Churchyard Clear-Up	09:30	ASR
Saturday 27th June	Wild about Renhold	19:00	ASR
Every Thursday	Renhold Clangers	19:00	ASR
Saturday 4th July	PTFA Renhold Festival	12:00	School
Saturday 4th July	Fynnius Fogg	19:00	RVH

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 10th of the month at the latest.

Our current Design Team, Ben and Larissa, are leaving us for pastures new and we thank them for all they have done and wish them all the very best in their move to London. If there is anyone out there who might be able to help us, on a regular basis, with the design, please let us know as soon as possible.

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Email: info@jcbprinting.co.uk The magazine is now available on the Renhold Parish Council website.

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Photo on front cover courtesy of PTFA Renhold Primary School



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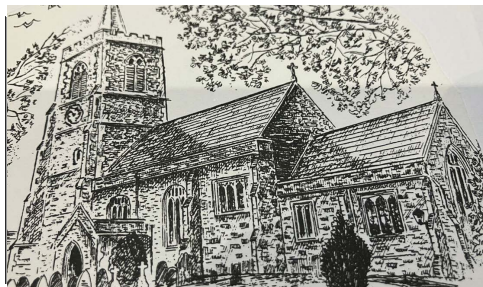
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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SERVICES JUNE 2026

Date	Time	Event	
Sunday 7th June	11:00	Parish Communion	Venerable Dave Middlebrook Archdeacon of Bedford
Wednesday 10th June	19:30	Reading of Night Prayer online only	Sarah Tomlinson
Sunday 14th June	11:00 18:00	Family Worship Evensong (BCP)	Caroline Coster James Beauchamp
Wednesday 17th June	15:30	Messy Church	Caroline Coster
Wednesday 24th June	10:00 19:30	Holy Communion (said) Reading of Night Prayer Online only	Reverend Sarah Burrows Sarah Tomlinson
Sunday 28th June	11:00	Parish Communion	Reverend Joss Sanders

CHURCH WARDENS' LETTER



As the nights get lighter and the sun is shining more, spirits seem very much lifted and there is a real buzz about the Church – sometimes in more ways than one! We have just had a very special service, where five members of our congregation were confirmed. This means that as adults they have affirmed their faith as Christians and received their first Holy Communion. The Church was packed with friends and family and, as the Bishop took the service, it was a very special day indeed.

There is also a prayerful optimism that the adverts that are currently online and in the Church Times will result in a new Vicar.

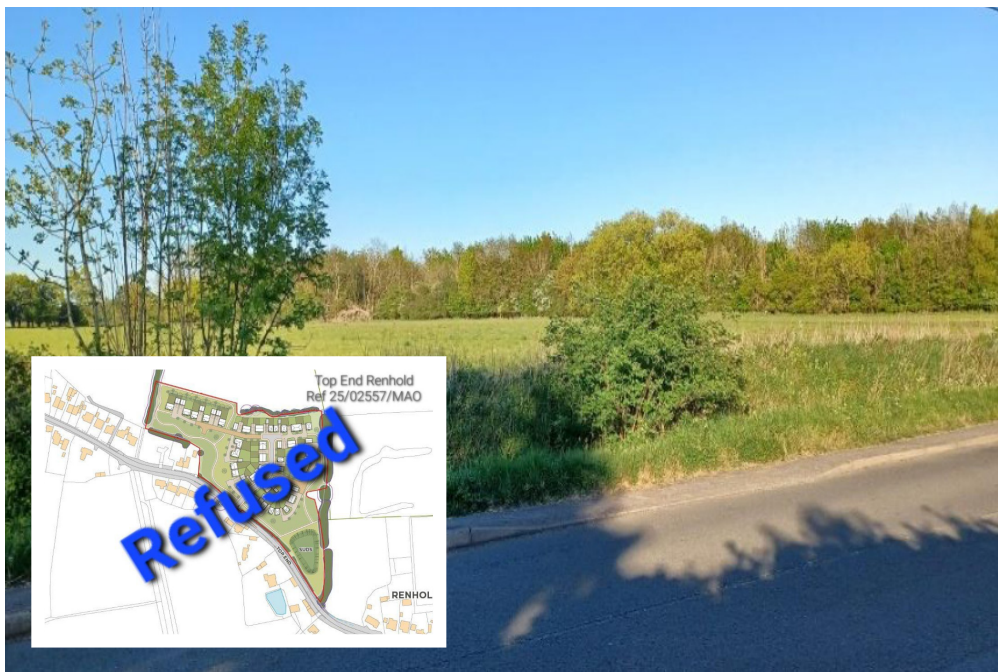
We hope to share some good news next month!

We have just hosted the Annual Friends of All Saints' Quiz, which was, as always hotly contested. It was tight right up to the end but Team Badger eventually emerged victorious. Another date for the diary on behalf of the Friends is Saturday 27 th June when they host a "Wild About Renhold Evening". Led by Tony Ploszajski, we will not only see some amazing photographs, but we will also venture outside into the Churchyard to listen to the Dusk Chorus. Do look out for more information.

We are truly grateful for to the help of the clergy, our lay-readers and our helpers which means that we are able to continue to function as normal, with a full list of services and events. We look forward to a number of Baptisms and Weddings too. If you want to get in touch on any matter, please do contact us on renhold.rev@gmail.com

Sarah and Alan

RENHOLD RESISTANCE REWARDED



Photos thanks to Sue Levitt

RENHOLD WI A Fresh Chapter - Caroline McEwen

The Renhold Women's Institute is entering an exciting new chapter. Following the AGM, I was delighted to take over from Jan Tozer, our previous President. I am supported by a fantastic new Treasurer and Secretary; Lucie and Jacqui.



Together, we are building on everything that makes our WI special - friendship, laughter and learning - while bringing in fresh ideas for the year ahead. Our evenings are friendly, relaxed and open to women of all ages and backgrounds. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Village Hall and there's always something new to discover.

So far this year, we've explored topics from the fascinating world of beekeeping to practical advice on staying safe online. We have also got creative with origami flowers and even enjoyed a gentle, but energising, chair yoga session. It's been a wonderful mix of trying something different and simply enjoying each other's company. And there's plenty more to look forward to in 2026. Upcoming events include: a unique horse and carriage driving experience, and a walk and talk around Bedford Cemetery. We'll also be hosting a comedy evening, a festive craft session and, of course, our much-loved Christmas party.

Beyond our regular meetings we are excited to be part of the wider

community too. You'll find us at the Renhold Primary School fete, and we'll be hosting a summer recruitment event at the Polhill Arms - perfect if you'd like to come along, meet us and see what we're all about in a relaxed setting. At its heart the WI is about connection - making friends, sharing experiences and having fun. It's definitely not just about singing Jerusalem and making jam! Whether you're new to the area, looking to try something different or simply want a friendly evening out once a month, you'll be made very welcome. Why not come along and see for yourself?



At our latest WI meeting, members and guests enjoyed a fascinating and entertaining talk from Jean Yates on the history of pub signs. Jean took us on a journey from Roman times through to the colourful signs we recognise today, explaining how many originated from religion, royalty, local landmarks and way markers for travellers. We also learned how pubs often supported local families and communities, including our own village pub's connection with the Polhill family.

The evening was both engaging and informative, with plenty of giggles along the way and lots of questions from members. We are now looking forward to our next meeting on 4th June, which will be hosted at member Geraldine's home, where she will be giving an insight into the world of carriage driving.



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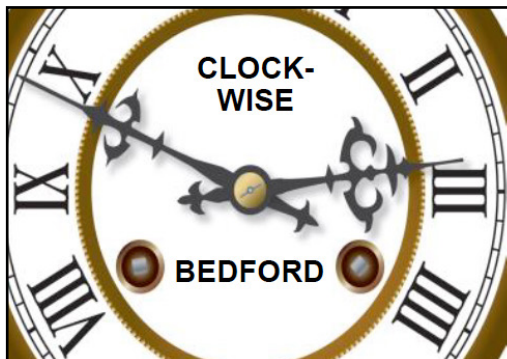
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THE YEAR OF READING ‘CONSPIRACY’ BY IAN SHIRCORE

Marian Gardner

The book I recommended to the Renhold Reading group recently was Conspiracy by Ian Shircore. We live in a world of fake news, secret plots and unexplained deaths. In this book, Ian Shircore cuts through the fog and fairy tales to deliver a balanced analysis of the stories that shape the times we live in. Ranging from Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 to JFK, the ones that chimed with me most were: Princess Diana, The Moon Landings and the Sub-Postmasters.

At the final inquest into the death of Princess Diana, a letter, written by her to Paul Burrell her butler, was produced in evidence. It claimed that Prince Charles was plotting to have her killed. The actual crash that killed her and her new lover, Dodi Al Fayed, happened on 31st August 1997. Dodi's father, former Harrods boss and Fulham Football Club owner, Mohammed Al Fayed, insisted that it was not an accident, but murder. Even after all these years, this is not an open-and-shut case, as there was a sudden change in their departure time and route and their driver had been drinking and driving too fast.

Did Neil Armstrong really walk on the Moon fifty years ago? Or was Apollo 17 a faked and scripted film made in a

hidden studio in Texas or in the wilds of Nevada? Why was the flag fluttering on the Moon when there is no air, and therefore no breeze there? The shadows aren't right; you can see no stars and where is the blast crater under the lunar landing module? And, if we got that far in 1969, how come we haven't been able to move on until just recently? Will we ever really know?

Computers say Fraud. Between 2000 and 2014, more than 700 British sub-postmasters and counter staff were convicted of theft, fraud and false accounting. More than twenty were sent to jail. Many of those who were found guilty lost their business, their health and their homes. One post office veteran stepped out in front of a bus. It took until 2019 before any court ruled that 29 separate bugs, errors and defects were found in the Fujitsu computer system. So far, not one individual at the Post Office, Fujitsu or in the government has been prosecuted, publicly rebuked or even admitted responsibility.

And yet, the harm was so great that the total compensation bill-to be paid for by the Post Office, or, in the last resort, by the UK government-has been estimated at more than £1 billion.



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THE ORIGINS OF FATHER'S DAY

Pauline Capell

First some quotes

From the famous 'The love of being a father was not something I had to work on. It was physical, it was emotional, spiritual. I thought to myself, if this is the baseline for unconditional love, I've got this.' *Barack Obama*

From a writer 'My father didn't tell me how to live – he lived and let me watch him do it.' *Clarence B Kellard*

Popular modern idiom: Dad – the original influencer

In 1907 in West Virginia, there was a mining disaster- the deadliest in US history. The explosion was so great it could be heard 8 miles away. The official death toll was 361, but more likely nearer 500, and only one miner was rescued. Many of the men were fathers and an event to honour those who had been lost took place as a one-off occasion. It is thought by some to have been a driving factor behind the desire for the establishment of an official Father's Day. However, it took an individual by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd to bring about a permanent, annual celebration of Father's Day. Her own father, William Jackson Smart, was an American civil war veteran, who had taken up farming in Arkansas. He married Elizabeth and they had 3 children. When Elizabeth died 13 years later, William married Ellen, a widow with 3 children of her own. William and Ellen then had 6 children of their own. Normally under such circumstances, the children would have been farmed out to relatives, but William did not even consider this. He was dedicated to his family, a disciplinarian but kind and loving, and he resolved to bring all his children up by himself as well as working on the farm.

In 1909, Sonora aged 27, was a wife and mother herself and she heard a sermon about Mother's Day. Afterwards,

she approached the minister to say 'I loved what you said about mothers, but what about fathers? When do they get their moment in the sun?' She was remembering her own father and his devotion and hardship in order to keep his family together, and vowed to campaign for a permanent, National Father's Day celebration. She would have liked this to take place on June 5th which was her own father's birthday, but June 19th was decided upon, and the first celebration took place in 1910. Initially, many people viewed Father's Day as a commercial gimmick, whilst others felt that a sentimental celebration of fatherhood, with the giving out of red and white roses, did not fit with the traditional view of stoic masculinity. It took Sonora a few decades of continual vigorous campaigning, before the event was signed off in law by President Richard Nixon as a permanent National Holiday. It had taken 62 years to get to this declaration and fittingly, Sonora received the telegram with this news on her 90th birthday.

Father's Day Quiz 1. In which marine creature does the male become pregnant? 2. Which American president vowed to have dinner with his family 5 days a week? 3. Which Shakespearean father destroys his family and whole kingdom by turning his daughters against him and each other? 4. Which member of the royal family was playing squash as his first son was born? 5. Who was the father of Bart, Lisa and Maggie? 6. Name the 4 children of David Beckham 7. Who were the second father and son pair to become presidents of the USA? 8. At which sporting venue can you see a Father Time weather vane? 9. What was the Madonna single that held the number 1 spot for 3 weeks in 1986? 10. Which biblical father was prepared to sacrifice his own son on an altar?

MEMORIES OF OLD RENHOLD EDWARD WOOTTON



I was born at Brook Farm in Renhold on August 5th, 1943. My dad, who had left school at the age of nine, was a tenant farmer at the Howbury Estate and at that time, the farm comprised 127 acres. There were no such things as hospital births in those days, so I was delivered at home on the mat in the front room in front of the fireplace. My older brother John was born on the very same day eight years before. I worked on the farm from a very young age, looking after the chickens, the kitchen garden and the splendid orchard. Every year, 2 crates of our finest apples were delivered to Howbury Hall. At that time, Howbury had a huge kitchen garden and the Polhills employed 30-35 gardeners. They had a vast servants' hall (a common feature of large Victorian country homes for dining) which was separate from the family dining room.

I attended Renhold School, which was then in Wood Lane, at the age of five. There were forty to fifty children there. We were all taught in the same classroom by one female teacher, Miss Heel, with the boys on one side of the room and the girls on the other. I have two distinct memories of that time. The first was when the workmen were tarring the road outside the school and two or three boys nipped out of the classroom to collect some fresh, hot tar which they daubed onto the girls' toilet seats. I will leave you to imagine what happened next!

The second memory, which was a regular occurrence, was when the boys arrived at school with catapults hidden in their trousers. They tore off strips of paper, folded them to the size of a fingernail and then sucked them to make them wet. They were dead shots with their catapults and so the teacher, who was quite strict, was regularly flipped on the ear by airborne paper pellets! I can only remember two holidays; the first was in a caravan on top of a cliff in Great Yarmouth and the second was a coach trip to the East Coast, sponsored by Bedford Castle Market, and I remember that the sea there was very, very cold.

My early memories of All Saints Church are the circular staircase near the south wall which led to a Rood Loft that is no longer in existence. In the Chancel, the Polhill family sat in the pews to the north side and the Vicar's family sat in the pew on the south side. Each farm had their own pew and ours was the third pew back from the pulpit, from which Mr. Polhill or his Agent used to address the congregation. The old, pumped organ was where the Reaper Chapel is now. There was once a rood screen which divided the gentry from the hoi polloi (the working class). This is no longer in existence, but some of its carved wood was reused to create furnishings like the vicar's stall.

Image Credit: Beds Archives - The old Village School

RENHOLD PARISH CLUBS 2026

Group	Contact	Tel.	Day	Time	Place
Bridge Club - No fear	David Israel	078166685798	Every Mon. & Fri.	9:45 AM - 1 PM	St. Marks Church Brickhill
Chapel Coffee morning	Albert Browning	01234772689	2nd Tues.	10 AM - 12 PM	Renhold Chapel
Creative Club	Teresa Trangmar	07788402441	2nd Monday	7:30 PM - 9 PM	Chapter House
Dance classes	Sarah Higgins	Sarahhiggins18 @yahoo.com	Saturday	9 AM - 10:30 AM	RV Hall
Football club	Mr K Harlow	01234 871178			
KT Yoga	Katy	0798552032	Every Thurs.	7 PM - 8 PM	RV Hall
Luncheon Club	Yvonne Potter	01234771495	2nd Wed.	12:30 PM for 1 PM	Call for information
Mini athletics	Ayrron Armstrong	07985 520232	Every Sun.	9 - 11:30 AM	RV Hall
Pudding club for carers	Anne Grant	01234771811	1st Tuesday	2 PM - 3:30 PM	4, Brookside
Reading group	Pauline Capell	01234771858	1st Friday	4 PM	1, Church Close
Renhold pre- school group	Samantha Grummit Lorna Millard	01234771724	Term time	9 AM - 3:30 PM	Renhold School
Stitchers	Jackie Croot	01234870271	3rd Thurs.	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Chapter House
Table tennis	Ian Smith	07989470093	Every Mon. Every Wed. Every Fri.	1:30 PM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM	Church Ln. Community Centre
Tang Soo Do	David Roughly	07591266614	Every Mon.	6:30 PM - 8 PM	RV Hall
Total Warrior Kickboxing	Dan Jackson	07450235946	Every Tues.	5:45 - 8:15 PM	RV Hall
Yarn Craft Group	Marion Sutton	01234217647	Alternative Fridays	10 AM - 12:30 PM	Wilden Village Hall

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

	Arrive	Depart	June	July
Renhold Green End	10:00	10:15	9th 23rd	7th 21st
Renhold Lay-by Salph End	10:20	10:35	9th 23rd	7th 21st
Renhold Home Close	10:40	10:55	9th 23rd	7th 21st
Renhold Ravensden Road	11:00	11:15	9th 23rd	7th 21st

Information correct at the time of printing as per the Bedfordshire Mobile Library website.

MEMORY CAFÉ

If you are affected by memory loss, our monthly Memory Cafe is a safe and supportive place to meet socially with others, over a cake and a cuppa, and to join in activities if you wish. We also reserve a special space for carers, within full view of the people

they support, where they can relax and exchange information with each other.

Just turn up at Renhold Baptist Chapel in Woodfield Lane MK41 0LH on the third Friday of the month at 11am. The venue is suitable for wheelchairs, and some parking is available right outside.

Our future meeting dates will be on:-

Friday 17th July
Friday 18th September
Friday 20th November

Friday 21st August
Friday 16th October
Friday 18th December

(Our June meeting will be a special event held at another venue.)

For more information please contact Teresa Moon at teresa.moon@tibbsdementia.co.uk or text 07930 999573. Teresa Moon Rural Communities Champion

Office Contact Times: Monday to Thursday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

If you think you might like to come and help with our activities or assist with teas and coffees, then we'd also love to hear from you.

Please note that the office telephone is not manned on Fridays or over the weekend. There may be a delay in response during this time. Kindly leave a message, and we will get back to you as soon as possible

ANSWERS TO FATHER'S DAY QUIZ

1. Seahorse 2. Barack Obama 3. King Lear 4. Prince Philip
5. Homer Simpson 6. Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz, Harper
7. George H W Bush, George W Bush 8. Lord's Cricket Ground
9. Papa Don't Preach 10. Abraham

A WEEK OF WONDER: SCIENCE WEEK SUCCESS!

Lisa Larham

Renhold Primary School was buzzing with excitement recently as we celebrated an action-packed British Science Week. The theme focused on inquiry, with every class asking "What's your question?" and transforming their lessons into deep-dive investigations based around their own big wonders.



From the Curiosity Cinema Club at lunchtime to the thrilling lunchtime experiments led by our pupil Science Ambassadors, the playground and classrooms were alive with discovery. We were also delighted to welcome LEAF for worm-charming workshops and a virtual farm visit, while AS Creatives inspired the whole school with high-energy workshops in the hall, linked to inspiring real-life scientists who asked their own big questions, and as a result, changed the world.

The week culminated in a fantastic Open Afternoon, where the standard of



work on display was truly exceptional. It was wonderful to see such a high turnout of families; the queue for our Gadget Shop even stretched right across the playground! Parents shared how much their children have been talking about their week at home, and our Year 5 students represented us brilliantly at the annual Mark Rutherford STEM event. Thank you to everyone who supported the week and helped foster such a brilliant sense of curiosity in our young scientists.



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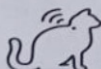
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REMEMBER TO LET BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL KNOW WHAT YOU THINK



CLOSING DATE: MAY 27TH



330 HOUSES AT SALPH END RENHOLD

A QUICK FIRE MUSICAL Q&A WITH TONY WERESZCZYNSKI, FYNNIUS FOGG



When and how did you meet your band members?

We met at St Gregory's RC Secondary School in 1969. We were always told by our very strict Catholic teachers not to bring our guitars into school as we were 'at school to learn and not to play'!

How did you come up with the name Fynnius Fogg?

We originally called ourselves Phileas Fogg, after the adventurer in 'Around the World in 80 days', but when we realised that his name was copyrighted, we went for the subtle change!

You are the first pop group to be honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the equivalent to an MBE. How much have you raised in the last 20 years?

We try to keep track, but it is tricky, as we rely on the charities writing to us to tell us how much money each concert has raised, but it is close to a million pounds now.

To what do you attribute your longevity?

We quit playing at the end of the seventies and we each went our own way carving out successful careers of our own, but we met again at our drummer, Jamie's wedding, and we played three songs. It was great fun and we realised then that we would be friends for life. Our strong bond and our shared passion for music were the glue that has held us together.

What is your favourite song and why is it so important to you?

'California Dreaming' by the Mamas and Papas, because it reminds me of the Flower Power era of bell-bottomed trousers and see-through flowery shirts!

What advice would you give to a young musician who wants to make a difference through music?

Practise! Practise! Practise! We have learned hundreds of songs and each of them has taken about 20 hours to fully master. I used to practise in the bathroom as it had the best acoustics in the house.

Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?

I would love to go back into a recording studio and record some of our songs.

What is the craziest thing you have ever done?

Three things stand out: the first was when we headlined at Baileys, a working men's club in Newcastle, and Shakin' Stevens was OUR support act; the second was when we roller-skated around Marble Arch as a PYE record promotion and the third was when we were live to air at the Wimbledon Studios and were joined by the Wombles!

You are a proud TopEnder. What do you love most about living in Renhold?

The neighbours, the camaraderie, the community spirit. Everyone is so helpful and supportive.

IN THE HOT SEAT – WITH DR SUE BARTER, CONSULTANT RADIOLOGIST

I grew up in South Croydon, the eldest of four children. None of my family had been to university. My father was Anglo-Indian, born in Calcutta, and he went straight from school into the army during the Second World War. My mother left school at the age of 15, with no qualifications, and became an office clerk. We were not well off, but the house was full of laughter and chaos. I was very fortunate to have had a great education at a Girls' Grammar School in Croydon, and I loved Science.



One of my teachers there, Mr Neil Clifton, recognized my potential and encouraged me to consider Medicine as a career. He later suggested that I apply to the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, which I did. I loved Medical School and flourished there. I recently discovered that Mr Clifton who is now 90, was still alive, and so I was able to thank him properly for his inspirational mentorship. He was thrilled to hear that I have had such a successful career.

I did unexpectedly well in my medical finals and I did my house jobs at the Royal Free. It was there that I decided to pursue Radiology as a specialty. The Professor of Medicine suggested applying to Hammersmith. Professor Steiner, the head of the department, was a wonderful man who was a great believer in equal opportunities in medicine for women. About half of the

trainees were female, so I had a lot of support and encouragement.

When I transferred to St Mary's, the culture there was very different, and there was a lot of misogyny, and a reluctance to treat me as an equal. This was hard, but not unexpected at the time, as women in Medicine were still in a minority. I found it challenging, but I kept my head down and worked hard, writing and publishing papers and earning respect from my colleagues.

I have held four consultant posts. Back in the day, it was unusual to change posts as a Consultant, which then was considered to be a job for life. I left my first Consultant Post in London when my late husband Pete, also a radiologist, was appointed to Bedford Hospital. At my interview at Luton and Dunstable, there were some questions about why I wanted to move consultant posts. It seems astonishing, in retrospect, that I was asked this as a Mum with two small children, and, of course, that sort of question in a formal interview wouldn't be allowed today.

I was once invited to give a lecture at Girton College in Cambridge on Imposter Syndrome. Explaining it would take up the whole of this piece! But briefly it is the idea that you have only succeeded due to luck, and not because of your talent or qualifications, and a belief that your achievements are undeserved. You feel that you aren't as competent or intelligent as others might think—and that soon enough you will be found out. Those with Imposter Syndrome are often highly accomplished. I am told that around 25 to 30 percent of high achievers may suffer from Imposter Syndrome. The key I found, is to continue to strive for excellence when it matters most, but

don't focus too much on routine tasks and forgive yourself when you make a mistake.

I was extremely fortunate to be involved with the beginning of the revolution in imaging. CT and MRI were installed in 1981, and they rapidly evolved. These advances were truly miraculous compared with the techniques of old, enabling us to see the body in much greater detail and avoiding more invasive and unpleasant procedures.

Juggling work and three children was always challenging. I decided, after my first child arrived, that I was always going to work 4 days a week. Having one day to catch up with home life was essential for my sanity! I've asked my children if they think my work detracted from their upbringing. They tease me by saying they thrived on benign neglect! My girls, both successful career women, one a surgeon and the other an actuary, say that I showed them you can have it all; a successful career and a happy family.

There have been amazing advances in investigation and treatment for patients, but unfortunately investment in infrastructure and staff has not kept pace with these advances. The system is sadly declining due to lack of forward planning, lack of staff and a loss of personal contact for the patient. The challenges of an ageing population, lack of social services to support elderly patients when they are discharged, and difficulties with getting access to GP services have contributed to hospitals being overwhelmed.

Over the years, I have done a lot of work for the European Society of Radiology (ESR), notably in helping to establish the European Diploma of Radiology, an exam which provides a qualification for final year trainees across Europe and beyond. Many countries have widely different

training and so the aim was to provide a recognized qualification to facilitate the ability for radiologists to work anywhere in Europe. I then moved on to establishing an e-learning platform for the ESR which has been hugely successful. This, and my expertise in Breast and Gynaecology imaging, was recognized. I was awarded the Gold Medal of the European Society of Radiology in 2023 in Vienna and this award was truly the pinnacle of my career.

However, without any doubt my greatest achievement is my three amazing, talented children, who have all turned out to be really lovely adults, despite the benign neglect! My biggest challenge, sadly, was the diagnosis of my late husband's cancer in 2020, watching him deteriorate, and dying a year later.

Knowing what I know now, the advice I would give to my 18-year-old self would be: Believe in yourself, grasp opportunities, and don't waste time on projects or work that is of no benefit.

I love living in Renhold for the community, the much-valued green spaces and, of course, my garden. I am equidistant from the offspring and have wonderful friends here. Although the house is rather too big for just me, I don't foresee moving for a few years.



JOHN ROGERS—A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

We have just heard of the death of John Rogers and have included his 'In the Spotlight Interview' with the late Rod Jones written in 2009, as a tribute to him and all that he did for our Parish. RIP dear John.

John Rogers was born in Woodbridge in 1930, at the height of the Depression. When John was six years old, in order to get a job, his father, a chauffeur, moved the family across the border into the wilds of North Essex about 10 miles from Colchester. John won a place at a small, country boys' grammar school which had just 120 pupils. It was here that he gained his love of Mathematics and his wish to become a teacher. He thoroughly enjoyed being at school.

At the age of 18, he was called up for National Service and he spent two years in Germany as a surveyor with the Royal Artillery. On demob, he trained as a teacher. He tells me that during the week his college was all male, but at the weekend, it was definitely mixed! His first job was teaching in Poplar in East London, to a whole range of pupils, from 5 years old to 14, which was then the school leaving age. This was in the early 50's when a 'bomb site' was the standard playground. Although some of the mothers came to Parents' Days in their curlers and carpet slippers, they were very keen to hear of their children's progress and showed their appreciation with some very interesting offers! He stayed in Poplar for 5 years before moving to the Boys' Grammar school E.Ham, where he was able to specialise and teach just Mathematics. In 1964, he moved to his final school, Redbourne Upper in Ampthill. This was an experiment; the first comprehensive school in the county. It was there that John became fascinated with computers. He was now doing a lot of admin work as well, such as creating the school's timetables; making use of his new skills, he persuaded the authorities to grant him a year's secondment on a computer programming course at Essex University. On his return in 1987, he took full advantage of this and joined

forces with other people who were setting up SIMS, which, as every teacher knows, is a computer-based system for school managers. For a time, he left classroom teaching to work from home, but when the company acquired its own premises, he left teaching altogether and worked for them full time. He feels very fortunate to have had two careers, both of which he had enjoyed. John was first married in 1953 when he married his childhood sweetheart. They had two children, but unfortunately in 1970 his wife died. He married Anne 7 years later and they have recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Between them they have 6 children. In 1996, they moved from Bedford to Renhold. This gave John a larger garden and Anne a separate consulting room. In a very amateurish way, John loves pottering around the garden; sings in a choir; has dabbled in amateur dramatics; he went on as many educational courses as he could find and discovered, to his surprise, that he enjoyed writing. Over the years, he has involved himself in voluntary work with the Samaritans, Marriage Counselling and Advocacy for the Elderly. Hence my epithet, Man for all Seasons.

In 2003, John took over the Parish magazine, run at that time by John and Jan Carpenter and, using his computer skills, he changed its format. He ran it entirely on his own for five years, learning all the while. His greatest error was in the first issue he produced when he printed a picture of the Parish Church, labelling it St Andrew's Church instead of All Saints! 'The silence was deafening!' He now feels he has done enough and is happy to pass it on. He is proud of his achievements and has hugely enjoyed the experience. However, he began to realise that it needs a team, rather than one individual and is therefore calling it a day. He is, of course, famous for his controversial writing up of the Parish Council meetings. When I asked him for a few words for his old adversary, he said, with a twinkle in his eye: BEWARE OF THE PIED PIPER!

By Rod Jones

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE MAY 2026

Proposed Residential Development- Application for up to 49 houses Land at Top End

The Parish Council was pleased to receive the Planning Officer's decision notice that this application proposing 49 units, including 17 affordable and 5 self-build, and custom build plots, associated landscaping, drainage and related infrastructure, with all matter reserved except for access for Land at Top End, was refused. The decision notice included a detailed list of clear reasons as to why this proposal is not in keeping with the Renhold Neighbourhood Plan, local Bedford Borough Council and National Planning Policies. These reasons will be used by the Parish Council responses to future speculative planning applications. Latest Regarding 26/00429/MAF Proposed Residential Development-Planning Application for up to 10 dwellings Land East of Hookhams Lane

The Parish Council have submitted a response objecting to this planning application and will continue to monitor this application very closely: Demolition of dwelling, formation of access, erection of 10 dwellings with associated roads, garaging and landscaping.

Proposed Residential Development

-26/00724/MAO Planning Application for up to 330 dwellings at Land off Hookhams Lane

The Parish Council have received notification: Up to 330 dwellings, open space, drainage, footpath improvements and vehicular access with all matters reserved other than access for Land Off Hookhams Lane. The application will be discussed at the May Parish Council meeting, including considering a quotation to engage the same planning consultant who collated the Parish Council response to the 49 houses that was refused. Members of the public are encouraged to engage in the public consultation, even if you have not met the consultation deadline. Due to the size of this application, it takes the Local Authority longer to fully consider all the information. All details relating to this application can be found on the Bedford Borough

Council Planning portal page. To view the documents online, head to: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-applications/search-plans/search-plans-how-find-planning-documents-and-applications> Type in the planning application number or search by parish or address. Please remember to submit any comments you have for this application 26/00724/MAO, to Bedford Borough Council who will be determining the application as the Local Planning Authority. The best way to submit comments remains emailing them to planning@bedford.gov.uk

National Planning Policy Change

There has been a national policy change from central government in how planning applications for sites proposing 150 new houses or more will be dealt with. If a Local Authority refuses any planning application for a site proposing 150 houses or more, the application is, it is understood, automatically referred to the Secretary of State for the Planning Inspectorate to review the Local Authority decision. The Parish Council expect that this new policy will be applicable for the proposed up to 330 dwellings at Hookhams Lane. As this planning policy is so new, the Parish Council are seeking to better understand how this policy will be applied, to learn if there are lessons to be learned from others' applications and experience, within Bedford Borough or locally

Parish Council Meeting Dates Reminder

The Parish Council continue to welcome everyone to attend. Meetings start at 7pm, and will be held on: 18th June and 23rd July. Communicating with the Parish council-

Contact Details Change

Everyone is welcome to contact the Clerk or any Councillors about local matters. The Parish Council have now transitioned over to a new communication system, which includes a new Parish Council website. It is already full of news items, head to: renhold-pc.gov.uk You can also subscribe to the website to receive email alerts when updates and items are published, so you can keep up to date with latest news, road closures, and other important local matters. Unfortunately,

during the transition to the new system, there was a brief disruption to the website and email systems, however, everything is now

fully operational. The Parish Council contact detail for the Parish Council Clerk, Lizzie is clerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk

WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE MAY 2026

East West Rail (EWR) Update

EWR has launched its final route-wide public consultation, running from 14th April to 9th June 2026. This is an important opportunity for communities to review the latest plans and provide feedback before final proposals are submitted to Government in 2027.

They are holding a series of public events, webinars and an online consultation portal where residents can view plans and provide feedback. A local event will take place in Bedford on 23 May at King's House, Ampthill Road. What is being proposed:

- A rebuilt Bedford station, including new platforms, improved access, a western entrance, and a public plaza.
- A new station at Bedford St Johns, relocated closer to Bedford Hospital.
- Changes to infrastructure to reduce disruption, including potential avoidance of major bridge works.
- A relocated multi-storey car park to the west of Bedford station (Ford End Road)
- Upgrades to the Marston Vale Line, including fewer, larger stations and improved services.
- A new station at Tempsford, planned earlier than previously expected.
- Up to four trains per hour, with a potential fifth service at peak times.
- Longer trains to meet future demand.
- Use of hybrid electric/battery trains to support environmental goals.

While EWR is presenting updated designs and revised construction plans, the core issues remain unchanged. Many councillors locally remain opposed to the northern route in its current form due to a lack of a credible business case and the scale of disruption over many years. Further information can be found here: eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/east-west-rail-announces-details-of-final-consultation.

Highways Funding and Performance Update

Bedford Borough Council has formally contacted the Department for Transport to request a correction to its current highways maintenance rating. The unverified data in the Department's Local Highway Maintenance self-assessment did not fully reflect the Council's level of investment. Updated and verified figures were provided promptly in early January 2026. The corrected data shows that a total of £9.528 million has been invested in highway maintenance. Based on the Department for Transport's own methodology, this level of investment would be expected to result in a significantly higher score than is currently recorded. The Council is therefore seeking an update to ensure the published rating accurately reflects the level of investment being made locally to avoid the spread of misinformation.

Highways maintenance data

Bedford Borough Council has continued to drive forward an ambitious highways programme aimed at reversing the previous decade of underinvestment. During the month, the Council delivered 31,394m² of carriageway resurfacing and patching, alongside 1,047m² of footway resurfacing – this is a significant amount of practical work to improve road and pavement conditions for residents and motorists. The Council also carried out a range of supporting works, including 65 manhole or service valve covers replaced, 87 gullies replaced, 228 gullies cleansed, and 43 gullies cleared or jetted as part of resurfacing projects. In addition, two new pedestrian crossings were delivered, helping to improve safety and accessibility for people walking around the borough. The Highways teams also remained active in responding to day-to-day maintenance issues. In April, they attended 130 streets for carriageway pothole repairs, 2 footways for footway pothole repairs, and 266 streets for other maintenance repairs. Alongside this, 518 individual highway safety

inspections were carried out to help identify and address issues across the network.

Overall, the April was a busy month of delivery across Bedford Borough's highways and engineering services, with teams carrying out both planned improvement works and responsive maintenance to help keep the Borough safe. Bedford Park Bandstand

After being out of use for more than 10 years, Bedford Park's historic bandstand has now been beautifully restored. This is a welcome investment in one of Bedford's most treasured public assets, and residents can once again enjoy the bandstand for music and community events for years to come.

Housing Update

Bedford Borough Council has secured

£5.9 million of Government funding to help provide more council-owned temporary accommodation over the next four years. This funding will support the purchase and development of homes for residents and families who need housing assistance. Demand for temporary accommodation remains high, with 912 households currently in temporary accommodation across the borough. By increasing the number of council-owned homes available, the Council can reduce reliance on more expensive nightly-paid accommodation and provide more stable, suitable housing. Overall, this is a positive step that will help improve temporary accommodation for residents while also reducing longer-term pressure on housing budgets.



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Please note change of start time for
afternoon walks – Summer afternoons start
at 13:30. Morning walks start at 10:00.

For the summer we are introducing
evening walks starting at 7:00pm.

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729
Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

For our latest walks programme, visit -
ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire

June 4 th	Evening 7:00pm	Northill	5 miles
June 6 th	Sorry No Ramble this month	-	-
June 6 th	Afternoon	Amphill West Car Park	6 miles
June 13 th	Morning	Pegsden Hills	11 miles
June 13 th	Afternoon	Wootton Village hall	6.5 miles
June 18 th	Evening	Bedford Bridges	5 miles
June 20 th	Afternoon	Great Denham Birthday Walk No 6	7 miles
June 27 th	Morning	Castle Ashby	11.5 miles
June 27 th	Afternoon	Stony Stratford	7 miles



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RENHOLD CHAPEL

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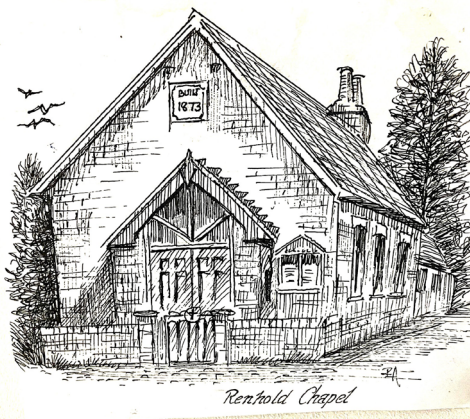
Date	Name	Time
7th June	Mr George Morrow	10:30
14th June	Mr Alan Dinnie	10:30
21st June	Mr Richard Crane	10:30
28th June	Mr Steve Guest	10:30

With the warmer weather now here, many of us will be looking forward to our holidays. We have most certainly had a very dull and dreary winter and it is lovely to have the warmer weather and brighter, longer days. It is wonderful to get away for a while. Some of us go abroad to get away from the "winter blues", but whenever we take a break, we have, hopefully, made some preparations as to where we are staying and have planned the journey carefully so that, when we arrive, we can enjoy a time of peace and rest.

We have not long had Ascension Day when we remember that Jesus went back to Heaven after dying on the cross and rising from the dead. The Bible says that Jesus came to die in our place for our sins. He died, but rose again on the third day, and now he has ascended on high to prepare a place for his followers.

In John's Gospel, Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you". He also said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except

through me.' If we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for us and that we have turned from our sins and trusted him to be our personal Saviour, then we can know that when our life's journey has ended, we have a wonderful destination to look forward to where all preparations have been made, and that this will last forever.



Pen & ink drawing by Ray Aggett (above)

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RENHOLD PARISH DIRECTORY

Organisation	Name	Contact Details
Bell Tower Co-ordinator	Yvonne Potter	01234 771495
Churchyard Volunteers	Teresa Trangmar	07788402441
Churchwarden	Alan Bloomfield	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Sarah Tomlinson	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Church Lay Vice Chair	Alan Bloomfield	renhold.rev@gmail.com
Church Secretary to PCC	Jill Burrows	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Church Treasurer	Andrew Coutts	renholdtreasurer@gmail.com
Church Verger	Keith Timms	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Messy Church	Caroline Coster	carolinejcoster@gmail.com
Preschool Group	Sarah Grummitt	01234771724
Renhold Chapel	Albert Browning	01234 772689
Renhold School	Head Lisa Larham	01234 771724
Renhold Village Agent	Amanda	0800 039 1234
Village Hall Bookings	Susan	07523667232
Women's Institute	Caroline McEwen	07545340209

Bedford Hospital	Reception	01234 355122
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Bedford MP	Mohammed Yasin	01234 346525
Borough Council	Reception	01234 267422
Borough Councillor	Nicola Gribble	07955530234
North East Bedfordshire MP	Richard Fuller	01767 313385
Police	PCSO Stephen Tarbella,	999, 101, 01234 841212
PC Abi Holt, PC Vito Napoli	Kim Roberts	
Samaritans		113123
Tibbs Dementia/Rural Champion	Teresa Moon	079309995

Susan Brunsden	susan@renhold-pc.gov.uk	01234 266281
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Nicola Gribble (Chair)	nicky@renhold-pc.gov.uk	01234 771994
Darren Rayner	darren@renhold-pc.gov.uk	07825950673
Julie Roberts	julie@renhold-pc.gov.uk	07766478974
Paul Sawford	paul@renhold-pc.gov.uk	01234 870836
Martin Warwicker (Vice Chair)	martin@renhold-pc.gov.uk	07983156845

Lizzie Barnicoat	parishclerk@renholdpc.gov.uk	01234 771702
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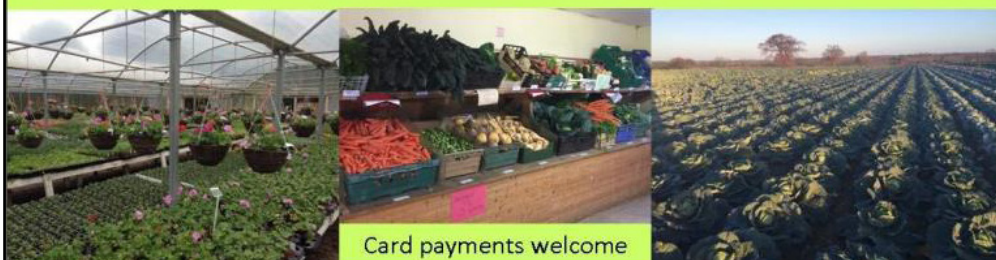
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