

THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE



**The flooding
along the
Embankment
seen from
the Butterfly
Bridge 31st
January**



MARCH 2025



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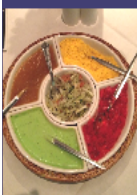
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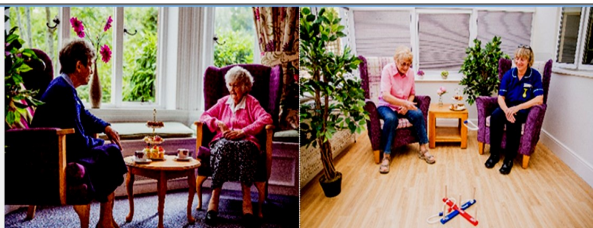


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DIARY MARCH 2025

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

Notable Renhold dates & events:

(RVH = Renhold Village Hall)
(CH= Chapter House at All Saints Church)
(ASR= All Saints Renhold)

Turs.27 Feb.	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	RVH	p24
Thurs.6 March	World Day of Prayer	2pm	St Marys Church	p8
Thurs. 6 March	Wl. Lisa Garrety talk	7.30pm	RVH	p10
Sat.8 March	Pop Up Café	10-12noon	CH	
Mon.10 March	Creative Club	7.30pm	CH	
Sat.15 March	Churchyard Clear up	from 9.30am		
Mon.17 March	Good Neighbours meeting	2.00pm	CH	p10
Tues. 18 March	Cantamus Chamber Choir	7.30pm	All Saints Ravensden	p10
Fri.21 March	Memory Café	11am to 12.30pm	Chapel	p8
Sat.22 March	Quiz Night	7.00pm	CH	P17
Thurs.8 April	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	RVH	p24
Sun. 4 May	Fineas Fogg	7pm-9pm	RVH	p17

Church cleaning rota:

03 March	Jill Barrell and Ingrid Lennox
17 March	Sally Pool, Peter Pool and Tessa Wood
31 March	Christine Smith and Jill Burrow
14 April	Judy Wootton and Pauline Capell
28 April	Jill Barrell and Ingrid Lennox

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

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Frontispiece: Flooding along the Embankment Photos by Anne Grant

This magazine is printed by JCB Printers, Gt Barford.

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

EDITORIAL BY Anne Grant

Yet again I am sitting writing the Editorial and looking out on what can only be described as a dreich day! This is a wonderfully onomatopoeic Scottish word my husband would have used to describe the weather. I had never seen it written down so had to look it up to see how it was spelt *"Dreich" is a Scottish adjective that means dull, gloomy, or depressing. It's often used to describe the weather in Scotland. 'Dreich' is named most popular Scots word by Scottish Book Trust.* I think that says it all. However I think we can lay claim to more than usual dreich days this winter in England as well.

However not everyone is deterred by the weather. I went for a walk with a friend on the morning of the pop up café (the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Chapter House) We are not daft. After the walk we headed for the pop up café, to be met by a large number of walkers on their way out having refreshed themselves for the rest of their walk. It was so busy, spare supplies had to be quickly sent for. Phew what a relief! The sausage and bacon baps are to die for!! It was lovely to see so many enjoying the results of the Chef's labours (Chef aka Rev. Ian). If you fancy a bacon or sausage bap, some cakes, coffee or tea and some lovely company you should try it. Any profit goes towards the Church expenses. Moreover the vicar's wife, Christine, has been making homemade jams and pickles for over 4 years now and has made over £3,000 profit for the church. They are always available in the church porch and really worth trying.

As I inserted the flooding photos on the front cover, I looked back through past magazines as I remember taking some pictures of the flooding along the Embankment last year and it was exactly a year ago in February 2024. It makes you wonder what the future holds if these are becoming regular events and all the information on global warming indicate that climate change is here to stay.

To bring us back to local issues Amanda Quince and her team have put in a huge amount of work collating all the information they have acquired regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. Every aspect of living in a village has been surveyed and our opinions on 9 different policies summarised (p12-13) Of those who have responded to the survey there is a huge amount of support for their efforts to preserve the distinctive character of our Parish and they deserve our thanks for the huge effort this has entailed.

Many of you may remember John Rogers who edited the Renhold magazine before I took it over some 17 years ago. Pauline has written up a wonderful trip down memory lane with John which can be read on p22.

The meeting with our MP Richard Fuller on 30th January confirmed that the evacuation of the houses on Cleat Hill was now at an end and the Council had paid over £1million pounds providing accommodation for the displaced residents. Several investigations are ongoing and Mayor Tom Wootton thanked Richard for his staunch support during the whole crisis. Despite much opposition led by our Borough councillor Nicky Gribble, East West Rail are still pursuing the hilly route past Wilden for the railway so again we patiently wait for further details. Just a reminder, the magazine can be viewed online on the Parish Council website which can be handy for those outside the village but like to keep in touch..

There is much to inform and entertain you in the magazine this month so enjoy your read.



Martyn Smith

Arboriculturist

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All Saints Church Services for March 2025

Services led by Revd Ian Smith unless otherwise stated

Sunday 2 nd March	11:00am	Parish Communion
Next before Lent		
Wed. 5 th March	7:30pm	Communion for Ash Wednesday

Sunday 9 th March	11:00am	Family Worship
Lent 1	4:00pm	Evensong with Music

Sunday 16 th March	11:00am	Parish Communion
Lent 2		
Wednesday 19 th March	10:00am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>Revd David Powell</i>
	3:30pm	Messy Church

Sunday 23 rd March	11:00am	Parish Communion
Lent 3		
Sunday 30 th March	11:00am	Parish Communion for Mothering Sunday.
Lent 4	4:00pm	Said Evening Prayer

DAILY OFFICES –

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

From the registers

8th January	-	Ann Timms –	Funeral and Burial in Churchyard
7th February –		Nicholas Flynn –	Funeral and Burial in Churchyard
15th February –		Sharon Shuker –	Burial of Ashes

Monday Mornings 8:15-9:45am (Term time only)

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

27th March (4th Thursday)– Cuppa, Cake and chat for those who would like a bit of company - 2:00-4:00pm in the chapter house
Everyone is welcome

Letter from the Vicar

Well it only seems 5 minutes since we were celebrating Christmas and as I sit here typing this article, I have a book beside me which I hope will form a Lent Course for this year. The seasons in the Christian calendar come around so quickly these days. The natural seasons also seem to come round quickly too, the good news is that the cold snap experienced in January seems to have passed and I think that spring is on the way with the shoots of new life appearing all around us in churchyards, gardens and hedge-rows.

Already the days are lengthening, and the low sun seems to have more heat to it than just a few weeks ago; but I dare not speak too soon though, as my forecasting skills are not the best and we could still have some of that cold white powder before spring really is here.

As you read this article at the beginning of March we approach the Christian season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday (5th March), but before that is another Christian Festival – believe it or not. Shrove Tuesday is a Christian festival which is celebrated in many countries across the globe. As you know it falls before the beginning of Lent, where Christians give up luxuries to remember when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days. The exact date of Shrove Tuesday varies from year to year, but it is always 47 days before Easter Sunday, and it always falls on a Tuesday. Why do we call it Shrove Tuesday? Well, the name comes from the old word ‘shriving’, which means to listen to someone’s sins and forgive them. In Anglo-Saxon England, Christians would go to church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their soul. In other words, they would be ‘shriven’. In this country it is also known as “Pancake Day” because traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, and sugar and Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them, hence the pancake.

Across history many strange traditions have sprung up around Shrove Tuesday including pancake races which are believed to have started down the road from here in Olney. In 1445 a woman was making her pancakes and lost track of time and when she heard the bell ring, she raced up the road to church with her pan in her hand. Pancake races have spread from there across the country and indeed the world, and still take place today. When I was a boy in Toddington we too had a “Pancake Day tradition” where we school children would go to a Norman mound of earth in a local field in the village (called Conger Hill), and when the church clock struck midday, we would throw ourselves on the grass and listen to the witch frying her pancakes honest — Here is a YouTube link for you from 2 years before my first Pancake Day – copy the link into your browser and enjoy!

[https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?](https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=witches+frying+pancakes&&mid=98B8C9B45FEAE08F82FF98B8C9B45FEAE08F82FF&mmscn=mtsc&aps=10&FORM=VRD GAR)

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March is a busy time in the churches calendar as this year, in addition to our regular services, we have some special services for Lent. On Wednesday 5th we will hold our evening communion service with imposition of ashes, and on Mothering Sunday (Mother’s Day in the wider world) Sunday 30th March, our morning communion service will include the traditional giving of posies of flowers to our mothers at the end of the service.

Can I remind you that on the fourth Thursday of each month we will be holding an afternoon “Coffee, Cake & Company” session between 2:00-4:00pm – This is an opportunity for anyone who is bereaved, lonely, a carer, or anyone who just fancies some time with different people to join together in a safe space with refreshments. There will be an opportunity for entertainment as the group develops, whether this be board games, music or speakers, this is new to us, and we will see where it goes. There will be no charge, but any donations will be gratefully received and invested in future events.

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 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.

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 Memory Café Teresa Moon

If you are affected by memory loss or dementia, do join us at Renhold Chapel on Friday 21st March from 11am to 12.30pm for our Memory Café. 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

Daily thoughts sent in by G.Greenwood

- 1.If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous.
- 2.Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned ?
3. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
4. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around ?
5. As I've grown older, I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake.
6. I'm responsible for what I say, not for what you understand.
- 7.Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.
8. Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.
9. It's not my age that bothers me - it's the side effects.
10. I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the gutter on rubbish collection day.
11. As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: ... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

World Day of Prayer

The service will take place on Thursday March 6th 2pm at St Marys Church Goldington. Sue Barrow (WDP rep)



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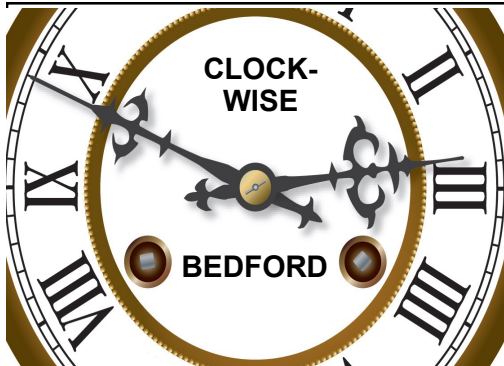
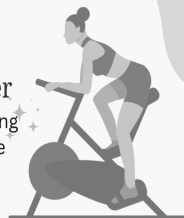
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Cantamus Chamber Choir

All Saints Church Ravensden MK442RL

Tuesday 18 March 7.30 pm

Conductor Gary Mudd, Organist Paul Edwards
Tickets £10 at the door. Wine and nibbles
Further details Tel 07808 865716



RENHOLD WI

Our last meeting was a Kurling match to raise funds for Canine Partners. It was great fun and Canine Partners were very pleased with the donation we gave them. Josh, a golden Labrador Partner in training, was very well behaved and will make a huge difference to someone's life in the next year or so.

On March 6th we will be entertained by Lisa Garrity. She is a musician who loves to travel. She has been all over the world and collected many musical instruments along the way. She will be demonstrating some of them as well as telling us about her adventures.



We meet in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. All are welcome. Guest admission is £5 including light refreshments. There will be books and plants for sale, as well as a raffle.

This year Renhold WI has been running for 102 years, but things are looking a bit uncertain for next year. The WI requires us to have three officers to run the group and at the moment we only have two. If you would like to help keep this very worthwhile group going please contact Jan (01234 297456) or Jill (01234 870461).

Good Neighbours Scheme for Renhold Parish

An exploratory meeting has been arranged with Debra Aitken from Bedford Borough's "Good Neighbours Scheme" to talk about the potential of establishing a community support group here in the parish of Renhold. Good neighbours is a group of volunteers who will try to assist those who need help in our community with simple chores, lifts or even pop round for the occasional chat, etc.

The meeting will take place in the Chapter House at All Saints on Monday 17th March at 2:00pm over refreshments, where Debra will explain more and we can establish if this will be possible for us. The Church will be supporting this initiative but we are keen to stress that this is a community project, we are keen for all interested parties to be involved and are hoping for you/your Parish Organisations involvement.

If you require further details please let me know (01234 772794) or contact Debra direct on 07951 175241 and we hope that we will see you or a representative on Monday 17th March to share ideas and find a way forward.
Thank you - Rev. Ian

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Countryside, Community, Connectivity.

A huge thank you to those of you who attended our Drop in Session at the Village Hall in December, and to those of you who completed the Feedback Form that was delivered to every household in the Parish. We have been analysing the responses from the residents and we will amend our Draft Plan in light of the feedback received. You can see the summary below and opposite:

Amanda Quince (Chair Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group)

Area	<i>No. Respondents</i>	<i>% Respondents</i>
Water End	3	1.2%
Green End	35	14.8%
Top End	43	18.2%
Church End	26	11.0%
Salph End	45	19.1%
Ravensden Road	26	11.0%
The Spires	14	5.9%
Aspire	9	3.8%
Cranbourne Gardens	35	14.8%
<i>TOTALS</i>	<i>236</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

Agreement with the Draft Neighbourhood Vision and Objectives	<i>No. Respondents</i>		<i>% Respondents</i>	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Draft Vision	229	7	97.0%	3.0%
Draft Objectives	230	6	97.5%	2.5%

Support for the Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan	No. Respondents			% Respondents		
	Support	Oppose	Unsure	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Policy 1: Small Scale Housing Development	177	27	32	75.0%	11.4%	13.6%
Policy 2: Renhold Design Code	224	4	8	94.9%	1.7%	3.3%
Policy 3: Dark Skies	226	3	7	95.8%	1.3%	3.0%
Policy 4: Green Infrastructure	230	3	3	97.5%	1.3%	1.3%
Policy 5: Local Green Spaces	230	3	3	97.5%	1.3%	1.3%
Policy 6: Important Green Gaps	227	7	2	96.2%	3.0%	0.8%
Policy 7: Heritage Assets	229	0	7	97.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Policy 8: Community Facilities	233	2	1	98.7%	0.8%	0.5%
Policy 9: Transport Issues	230	4	2	97.5%	1.7%	0.8%

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 Ca- 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 March and April 2025

<u>Location of Mobile Library</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>April</u>
Renhold - Green End	10:00 - 10:15	04.18	1.15
Lay-by - Salph End	10.20 - 10.35	04.18	1.15
Renhold - Home Close	10:40 - 10:55	04.18	1.15
Renhold - Ravensden Road	11:00 - 11:15	04.18	1.15

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

March Walks

1st am Sharnbrook “Ramble”, 5 miles or pm Sharnbrook 6 miles or both for 11 miles

8th am Clophill South, 6.5 miles or pm Clophill Haynes 6 miles or both for 12.5 miles

15th am London walk Richmond to Hampton Court 8 miles or pm Harrold, 6.5 miles

22nd am Olney 12.5 miles or pm Irthlingborough, 6 miles

29th pm Sandy, 6.5 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

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

If you have a friend who is sick or who has lost someone here are some ideas.

Sent in by Sarah Flynn

- Offer to take or collect children from school
- Bring a meal. Check tastes. Some invalids like bland food. Chemo patients like salty and spicy. Soup never goes amiss – particularly tomato
- Play Scrabble or cards or do a crossword
- Organise a treat for the children
- Find a bed jacket – softer than cardigans for keeping shoulders warm
- Bed socks ! Best way to get some sleep
- Aromatherapy bed sprays are good
- Hibiscus tea for relaxation
- Plant bulbs - something to look forward to
- Clean anything that looks dirty, including the bath
- Give a subscription to a magazine
- Sort out the fridge and freezer
- Iron sheets, pillow cases and pyjamas
- Pass on a funny joke, book, DVD or CD
- Pineapple ice cubes are good for sore throats and mouths
- Pets - offer to walk and feed – with chickens, offer to lock up at night
- Help with any IT issues
- Spare clothing and bedding to the charity shop

Eulogy for Ann Timms by Stephen Toombs

(Abridged for the magazine by Pauline Capell)

Ann was born in Elstow on 19th June, 1949 and was one of five children. At the age of 16, in her final year at Silver Jubilee Girls School, she was Head Girl. Ann was sporty and loved hockey especially. She went on to attend nurse training school at Bedford South Wing Hospital, resulting in a qualification as a State Registered Nurse and the formation of many special, life-long friendships with colleagues.

One day whilst working on Gifford Nash Ward a University student from London called Keith was admitted as a patient. As he later said – you never know what you might pick up when in hospital, as he went in for a minor op and ended up with a future wife. Romance blossomed and Ann and Keith were married in January 1971, honeymooning in London where they enjoyed the sights, musicals and theatres. They moved straight into their new house in Putnoe and spent the next two years decorating and making it into a home ready for the arrival of their two daughters, Sarah and Emma. With a new and expanded family, Ann decided to take up driving lessons. Ann had many talents but alas, driving was not one of them, so she took to her bicycle and would often be seen cycling to and from work and taking the children to school strapped into their child seats. Ann now worked part time to look after the girls taking jobs in North Wing and a number of nursing homes and schools in Bedford.


In 1982 the family moved to a newly built house off Goldington Road and Ann soon became a very active, involved member of St. Mary's Goldington and Hills Lower School – PCC, Sunday School, member of the PTA, school fetes- Ann was there. The girls grew up, Keith was often away in the USA and Ann managed the household. Ann now enrolled in De Montfort University from where she graduated with a BA Hons in History, Sociology and European Studies, also using that time to become involved in church ministry.

Eight years later they were on the move again, and while Keith was in Milwaukee Ann sent him a 20 page fax about a bungalow in Renhold she had chosen. An enduring memory of Ann is of her standing in the kitchen, apron on, making tea for the many visitors and friends they now had. At All Saints Church Ann held offices as Church Warden, PCC Secretary and Verger. In 2007, a granddaughter, Charlotte arrived, and Ann and Keith took on the role of grandparents with enthusiasm.

Ann loved current affairs, puzzles, books and sport, plus holidaying in Southwold and abroad. She had 7 pets over 40 years- 3 black labs and 4 cats.

The two main factors in her life were her loving care for people and her deep faith. Her presence brought immeasurable understanding, joy and love to so many.

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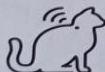
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BEDFORD HOSPITAL (sent in by K.Herkes)

Patients, staff and the local community are set to benefit from a new Same Day Emergency Care Unit (SDEC) on the Bedford Hospital South Wing site, with construction work starting in the coming weeks.

The SDEC will allow healthcare specialists, where appropriate, to assess, diagnose and treat patients on the same day of arrival, who would otherwise have been admitted to the hospital.

The NHS continues to pursue more efficient models of care that drive improvements for our community, ultimately providing the right care, in the right place, delivered by the right healthcare professional. The proposed SDEC unit will enable this to happen and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions.

The building, which will be located opposite the Emergency Department (ED), is expected to open to patients in the Autumn of 2025.



2nd February, 2025 - Sunday morning at Renhold Baptist Chapel

This morning at Renhold Chapel was a very special occasion. Christine Keightley was being baptized. She expressed her desire for baptism after coming to our dear Lord Jesus in 1967. She was ably assisted by her dear husband Eddie, and also by her dear son Joseph.

It was then that she attended a video of one of Billy Graham's Crusade Rallies in London. The Chapel had erected a large marquee in a field, which is now Becher Close. At the end of that Meeting an appeal was made for anyone to come forward if they wished to repent of their sins and become a Christian. Christine responded at once, and became a Christian in that moment. Although she had always believed in Jesus Christ because of the faith of her parents and grandparents, who attended the Chapel, and also her great grandfather, who was one of the original builders of the Chapel in 1873, their faith had now become Christine's own personal faith. Many years later she came to understand that baptism, as practised today, represents the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because of this, she wished to testify before all those attending, that she is now forgiven of all sin, past, present and future, and is assured of life with Him for ever. She also believes that this promise is available to all who will come to Him in repentance and faith.

WILD ABOUT RENHOLD



(see opposite)



WILD ABOUT RENHOLD by Tony Ploszajski

1. Cherry Plum

Cherry Plum trees are one of the earliest trees to flower in spring, often producing flowers as early as late January. It is a broadleaf deciduous tree and as its name suggests, it is a member of the prunus family. It is native to south-eastern Europe and western Asia but is naturalised in the UK. It produces small purple or yellow fruits and is believed to be the ancestor of domestic cultivated plum trees

2. Song Thrush

Song Thrushes have been singing at various points around Renhold since before Christmas and their songs will intensify as Spring approaches. Song Thrushes are essentially woodland birds that have adapted to use our parks and gardens for feeding and breeding. They are known for their habit of hitting snails against a rock to break the shell and access the soft-bodied prey within. Piles of broken snail shells are a good indicator of a bird's presence. During the 1970s and 1980s, the population underwent a steep decline and many British gardens lost their resident Song Thrush. More recently, there have been welcome signs of a slight recovery.

3. Grey Squirrel

Grey Squirrels were introduced into the UK in the 1800s and have since spread rapidly at the expense of the native Red Squirrel. They are frequent visitors to gardens, especially those with bird tables and feeders. Nuts and tree seeds are their main diet and they will cache their food in autumn if it is abundant. Unfortunately they also have a taste for small birds and their eggs and the squirrel in the photo was perched ominously on a nest box in our garden. They will use their teeth to widen the entrance hole to nest boxes to reach inside, so fixing a metal plate around the hole is a good deterrent. Grey squirrels make a rough nest, called a 'drey' out of twigs, leaves and strips of bark in the fork of a branch, high up in the tree canopy. Females may have two litters of three to four young a year.

4. Yellowhammer

Yellowhammers have been active in quite large numbers just north of the village this winter. They are primarily farmland birds that feed on seeds and invertebrates and often fly up from the ground to perch on hedges or prominent trees, giving a sharp 'plit' call. They are a member of the bunting family and when breeding typically lay three to five eggs which are patterned with a mesh of fine dark lines, giving rise to the old name for the bird of 'Scribble Lark' or 'Writing Lark'. In common with many farmland birds, their numbers have been declining since at least the 1960s, but the set -aside fields currently on much of the farmland around Renhold provides plenty of plant seeds to help our local birds to get through the winter.

John Rogers by Pauline Capell

I'm sure the name John Rogers will be familiar to many of you- not least because he ran the village magazine for a number of years. Jill Barrell and I had a very pleasant afternoon reminiscing with John. It had started out as a single sheet of paper which was run off on the banda machine at the school, and went through various permutations until John brought it into the C21st at the Millennium by computerising its production. John has recently celebrated his 94th birthday and lives independently in Putnoe, having moved out of Renhold in 2011 when his beautiful, large garden became too much to handle. He has maintained his sharp mind and wit and shared some of his memories with us.

He describes his early childhood as very rural, living in a VERY old house "which only stood up because it didn't know which way to fall." It had no electricity and an outside loo. John's schooling was in rural schools, but they offered a good education and John found himself at interview for a place at Oxford University. Asked what he would do with a degree he said he would teach – and his interviewer said 'Well I suppose someone has to.' However this was the days of National Service, so John was conscripted into the army as a surveyor in the Royal Artillery. He went before the War Office Selection Board which determined who was officer material, and John said wryly that all the public school boys in his group were deemed to be so, whilst the grammar school boys, like himself, were not! He remembers his journey to his posting in Wales and his amazement at the mountainous scenery, after the relative flatlands of the east of England from whence he came. His job was to work out the coordinates for the guns to fire on, but the 25lb guns were hopelessly inaccurate.

In 1953 John finally fulfilled his ambition to be a maths teacher, and started work in Poplar for a time where the TV programme 'Call the Midwife' was filmed. (He was at pains to say that he is not a fan !) Eventually in 1964 he and his family moved to Amptill where he took up a post as Head of Maths and Science at Redborne School, just as it was changing from a secondary modern to a comprehensive. In 1985 he joined a team of people skilled in computer programming who devised and pioneered the innovative Schools Information Management System (SIMS).

John was a family man and had 2 daughters with his wife Evelyn. Sadly Evelyn died in 1970 when the youngest child was 7, so John had his hands full bringing up the girls. He married Anne 9 years later. They ended up in Renhold where Anne studied for a PhD in psychotherapy when in her 80s, and won a special prize for her achievements. Many of you will also remember that Anne ran a successful Reading Group for people in the village. In his retirement John worked as a volunteer for Hospice at Home , a service offering sitters for terminally ill people being nursed at home, so that the partner could take a break from their caring role. Somebody once remarked to John that she wished he wouldn't sit with a certain gentleman because his wife used that time to play bowls, and she always beat everyone!

Asked about hobbies John said he took Open University courses for fun as he enjoyed writing essays, such as a comparison between USA and Britain from American Independence to WWI. Amazing . Asked about travel he reeled off Italy, Norway, San Francisco, New York and had many tales to tell. One such was a cruise down the Volga from St Petersburg to Moscow in the time of Gorbachev which was a **VERY** conducted tour, and a trip to visit Anne's son who, at the time, was a banker in Hong Kong, and one of the perks was the use of a company Chinese junk .

This is just a snap shot of the 2 highly entertaining hours we spent with John . He would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers him, and we can vouch for the fact that he is an excellent host and makes a very good cup of tea.



PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO EAST WEST RAIL PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Renhold Parish Council response to the recent public consultation is available to view on the Parish Council website here by heading to the News section of the website or directly via:

<https://renhold-pc.gov.uk/news/letter-sent-east-west-rail-consultation-team>

The Parish Council again wish to thank all those who took the time to engage and respond in the consultation to make sure the voice of Renhold residents were heard. Councillors also wish to thank Borough Councillor Nicky Gribble for speaking so eloquently at the Bedford Borough Council full Council meeting seeking a motion to hold East West Rail to account.

'PLANNING EXPLAINED' REMINDER....

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 which depend 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.

REPORTING ISSUES – WHERE TO RAISE THEM

The Parish Council are mindful that it can be difficult to know where to report an issue, so here is some useful information on where it is best to send items to.

If you come across a highways issue on a road, footway, or a public right of way such as a footpath or bridleway then please report it to the local authority via the many different reporting forms online at the Borough Council website, these can be found at:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/road-problems>

If there is an environmental issue, such as litter, fly tipping, noise, bins, graffiti, abandoned vehicles then please make contact with Bedford Borough Council again using the online reporting tool so the matter can be recorded and progress monitored. *These can be found at:*

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues>
(continued overleaf)

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 you 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 MEETING DATES

Whilst the Parish Council keep their website update to date, and 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. Meeting on a Thursday starting at 7pm, all dates have been booked in with Renhold Village Hall, if you head to the right as you come in the main door, you will find the Parish Council meeting in the Committee Room.

Forthcoming dates are: 3rd April, 15th May, 23rd June and 28th 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, February 2025

Hello again, I am amazed and how quickly the months roll by and it's time to summarise what has been going on in Councillor-World!

The Borough's response to the **East West Rail** non-statutory consultation had been submitted and unfortunately, the motion to rescind the Council's support for EWRs current proposal was defeated, so, the Council is supporting the current route, the demolition of homes, uncertainty over the hospital carparking, environmental damage and an economic downturn for Bedford.

I will be working hard to mitigate these problems and try to get the best outcome for the Borough and its residents.

We still have no idea if the **Universal Theme Park** will be given the green light; all I know is that negotiations are ongoing with a statement on the decision imminent.

I am pleased to say that the bumpy part of **Ravensden Rd** at the bottom of Hookhams Lane is due to be resurfaced this coming financial year- woohoo! I have also reported the potholes on Top End through to Green End. We are buying a new pothole-repair machine that is due to be delivered by the end of March. I have great hopes that it will revolutionize the speed and quality of small-scale road repairs.

The brook is still 'being cleared' by the Inland Drainage Board, with removal of large obstructions due to be carried out shortly.

Buses are a hot-topic, and I hope to be able to have a meaningful update next month following a review of service use last year.

I also have some exciting news which I dare not share until it has been completely agreed but it will benefit our residents greatly and has been a very long time coming!

And on that bombshell, I will sign off for this month,

Best wishes, Cllr Nicola Gribble.

Nicola.gribble@bedford.gov.uk

Mob.07955530234

Some sayings sent in by Julia Roberts

- 1 Don't buy what you can't afford.
- 2 Remember that things don't make you happy, people do.
- 3 You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.
4. Two wrongs don't make a right.
5. Teamwork makes the dream work.
6. Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself
- 7.The greatest day in your life is when you take total responsibility for your attitudes. That's the day you truly grow up.

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

Ageing gracefully: sent in by Ian McIver

1. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People move out of the way much faster now!
2. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.
3. I decided to change calling the bathroom John and renamed it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.
4. Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet...
5. I don't need anger management. I need people to stop irritating me!
6. When I was a child I thought Nap Time was a punishment... Now, as a grown up, it just feels like a small vacation....
7. My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance of idiots that needs working on.
8. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

RENHOLD CHAPEL
Sunday Services

CHAPEL PREACHERS

March 2nd	10.30am	Mr R Andrews
March 9th	10.30am	Mr B Hichs
March 16th	10.30am	Mr S Guest
March 23rd	10.30am	Mr R Keech
March 30th	10.30am	Mr D McWilliam

RENHOLD CHAPEL NOTES
MARCH MANY WEATHERS!

*Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot,
The weather's the weather, whatever the weather, whether we like it or not!*
Do you remember being taught Tongue Twisters at school in an attempt to improve our diction, or something? Please don't feel obliged to answer, it may disclose your age!!!!

With the loss of so many British, dare I say Christian Traditions over the past few years, you can still be assured that commenting on the weather is still alive and well. "Hello, nice to see you" we say as we greet someone before going into the usual grumble. "It's too cold; it's too hot; it's too wet or too dry" Well if March keeps up the "Many Weathers" tradition we'll have plenty to talk about!

But lets drop the doom and gloom. Yes, we know the World's in a mess, but all is not lost. The Good Book says, **"When you see these things [World events] come to pass Look Up, lift up your head, because your Redemption [Freedom] is near."**

Recently a gentleman of similar vintage to myself asked if I thought the "End of the World" really was near." Well" I said "It's a lot nearer than when we were kids." He agreed. Look up, If we keep looking down all we see is mud on our shoes, and miss out on seeing something good, like a friendly smile. Some time ago we were asked to give a presentation at a Church some distance away. Arriving quite early we went for a short stroll. On the way back a sticker on a car read "JESUS SAVES". Then I saw the smaller writing "not on my salary he doesn't". Not the sort of message we needed at that moment in time! Getting nearer to the Church another car sticker came into view. I looked at it cautiously. **GOD'S NOT DEAD, I TALKED TO HIM THIS MORNING.** That's more like it!

*Gospel of Luke Ch 21; Well worth a read. Jesus has a lot of advice on the subject! Chapel is open every Sunday 10-30am. Next Coffee Morning Tues 11th March 10-00am

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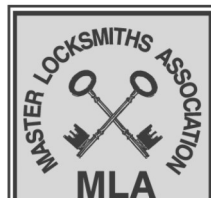
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Rev.Ian Smith

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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

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Anne Grant

771811

Renhold School

771724

Table Tennis

Ian Smith

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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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355122

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Sgt. Sarah Cluff

PC Vito Napoli

PCSO Stephen Tarabella

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