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# MARCH '26

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	Half-term	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
	Summer term	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July
	Half-term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May

<b>Notable Renhold dates &amp; events</b>	RVH (Renhold Village Hall)
	CH (Chapter House at All Saints Church)
	ASR (All Saints Renhold)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Key</b>	<b>Pg</b>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Neighbourhood Plan Referendum	07:00 - 22:00	VH	1,18,19
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	WI Cyber Crime	19:00	Chapel	
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Mini Market	10:00 - 12:00	CH	8
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Crafty Club	19:30	CH	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Pop up Café	10:00 - 12:00	CH	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Donut Club (12-14 years)	6:00		
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Memory Café	11:00	Chapel	25
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Churchyard Clear-Up	09:30	ASR	

## Church cleaning rota

1 <sup>st</sup> March	Judy Wootton & Pauline Capell
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Jill Barrell & Ingrid Lennox
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Sally Pool & Tessa Wood
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Jill Burrows
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Judy Wootton & Pauline Capell

*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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# EDITORIAL – MARCH EDITION

Amanda Quince

March stands at the crossroads between winter and spring and symbolises new beginnings and fresh opportunities. If you would like to contribute to the magazine in any way, please let us know.

We did not expect our Neighbourhood Plan to be challenged before the Referendum! Now that the application for 49 houses in Top End is in, it is even more important that you cast your vote at the Village Hall on Thursday March 5th. The Village Hall will be open for voting from 7:00am to 10:00pm. EVERY VOTE COUNTS! Any questions? Please contact me.

The National Year of Reading is in the spotlight again this month with a visit from our Roving Reporter, Pauline, and myself to Renhold Primary, where we met with the delightful School Council. They fluently articulated their reasons for choosing their favourite books and were a great credit to their parents, the school and, most importantly, to themselves.

We highlight another local poet in our 'Renhold Poetry Please' section. If you have a poem to share, please let us know. If you are keen on culture and lifelong education, please read the contribution from Sarah Flynn which explains what the Friends of the Higgins Museum has to offer.

Right across the country, pubs are shutting their doors or fighting to survive. However, our local, The Polhill Arms, is bucking the trend as it is thriving. Pubs are good for the economy and good for mental health. So why not pop down and say hello? Our pub is a lively and welcoming social hub where friendships are forged and memories are made.

Lucie and Steve tell you their story.

The WI are hosting an important meeting at the Chapel at 7:00pm on Thursday March 5th. The topic is Cyber Crime, a serious global challenge of the digital age, which includes: hacking, phishing, identity theft, cyber bullying and stalking. This is a must for you if you want to learn more about how you can help to create a safer digital environment.

It is International Women's Day on March 8th; a global day which celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. To that end, and to remind you of the importance of using your vote in Renhold on Thursday March 5th, please read about the fascinating Parish Electoral Roll from 1918, uncovered for us from Bedford archives by Sue Levitt. You will see that many of the village names are still very much alive today.

If you haven't already done so, please buy a ticket for the forthcoming Fynnus Fogg Concert at the Village Hall at 7:00pm on Saturday May 16th. All proceeds will go to BOLD - a local charity that does so much to support adults with learning disabilities. Don't forget to join us at the All-Saints' Church coffee morning and mini market from 10:00-12:00 on March 7th. Plenty of bargains to be had!

It is not every day that a celebrity moves into the Parish! Pam Rhodes, of Songs of Praise fame, was in the Hot Seat this month. Read what she has to say about moving into Renhold, world travel, the famous faces she has met along the way and her lasting impressions of the generosity and courage of human existence. Enjoy your read!

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Email: [info@jcbprinting.co.uk](mailto:info@jcbprinting.co.uk) The magazine is now available on the Renhold Parish Council website.

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*The editorial team is not responsible for any opinions, errors or omissions in articles, notices or advertisements submitted to and included in this magazine. Inclusion of advertisements does not imply endorsement of any product or service offered.*

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# ALL SAINTS CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2026

Date	Time	Event	
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	11:00	Parish Communion	Rev. Jennie Cappleman
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00 16:00	Family Worship Evensong BCP	Canon Lynda Klimas James Beachamp
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	19:30	Reading of Night Prayer	Online only
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March (Mothering Sunday)	11:00	Parish Communion	Venerable Dave Middlebrook
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00 15:30	Holy Communion BCP Messy Church	Canon Lynda Klimas Caroline Coster
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March (Passion Sunday)	11:00	Parish Communion	Rev. Jennie Cappleman
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	19:30	Reading of Night Prayer	Online only
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00	Parish Communion	Rev. Ben Hammond

## Pastoral Care

Should you want to contact the Church about any matter or need a priest during the Vacancy, please contact the Church Wardens - Sarah and Alan

## Churchwardens

Alan Bloomfield - 01234 351162  
Sarah Tomlinson - 01234 347115

## Treasurer

Andrew Coutts - renholdtreasurer@gmail.com

## Lay Vice Chair

Alan Bloomfield - renhold.rev@gmail.com

## Verger

Keith Timms - 01234 772605

## Secretary to PCC

Jill Burrows - 07710228995

## Renhold Church - Easter Lilies in memory of Loved ones

We shall again be displaying Easter lilies in church at Easter (April 5<sup>th</sup>) in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to purchase a Lily at a cost of £2.50 in memory of someone, please contact Jill Barrell (01234 870461) or e-mail (jbarrell251@gmail.com). Or the Churchwardens Sarah and Alan.

We shall need your name, and the name(s) you wish to be remembered. The list of names will be displayed in church during Easter.

Notification by Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, at the latest please.

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## MARCH UPDATE – RENHOLD CHURCH WARDENS

As you read this, we will have started our journey through Lent, a period of reflection and prayer as we prepare for Easter. For many, Lent often includes “giving something up” like chocolate. One of the initiatives we are promoting this year is the “Give in Lent” campaign run by Bedford Food bank. It encourages either a daily gift for the 40 days of lent, ranging from shampoo to tinned tuna, or the giving of 40 pence for 40 days (total £16). It’s never too late to join in, pick up the lent calendar from Church or visit the food bank website. We collect food throughout the year for the food bank, so all items can be donated.

Our full list of Lent and Easter Services are listed, and we look forward to welcoming you to one of the many different services. We were reminded recently of just how many other events happen each month, that are open to everyone, regular Churchgoer or not!

Please see page 6 for further details.

Following the busy Christmas period, we returned to our main focus, the vacancy, and preparing the Parish Profile that forms the basis of the advertisement to recruit a replacement for Rev Ian. The standing committee along with Jill Barrell met three times to put the document together, most of the hard work being done by my colleague Sarah.

The profile was approved by the full

PCC at the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Subsequently the profile was issued to the Diocese and CPAS our patron. We have been advised that the post has now been advertised throughout February, and we hope to interview prospective candidates at the end of March. We pray that the right candidate will be called to us. A copy of the Parish Profile is displayed in the Church.

We are always looking for volunteers for helping to keep our church operating smoothly and helping with the various activities such as joining the cleaning rota, and helping with flower arrangements.

We are also looking for people to join our reading rota and Welcomers to meet and greet at services; if you require further information contact either Sarah or Alan. If you have any queries regarding any Church business please contact either Sarah or myself directly. We are continuing to monitor the renhold.rev@gmail.com email address, so please continue to use this to contact the church.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and blessed Lent and Easter.

Sarah & Alan Churchwardens  
Sarah (01234 347115)  
Alan (01234 351162)

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## FUN FACT ABOUT RENHOLD

The Polhill family of Howbury Hall didn’t just produce MPs and missionaries. Cecil Polhill, who lived at the Hall in the early 20th century, was one of the “Cambridge Seven” missionaries.

He inherited a fortune worth millions (in today’s money) but lived a famously simple life, spending his wealth on establishing schools and missions in China and Tibet.

Howbury Hall has been remarkably unlucky with fire. The original Tudor style mansion was largely destroyed in a fire, and its replacement was also devastated by flames in 1 849. The grand Italianate-style mansion you see today is the “third time’s a charm” version, rebuilt immediately after the 1849 disaster.

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## POETRY RENHOLD PLEASE

Racing Season - Roe Collingridge-Martin

The hair on my arms won't grow back. Not properly anyway. And as my muscles expand during racing season, so do the memories of past summers. I can't fill the valleys in my skin, nor flatten the mountains. But I can grow with them, try not to alter the landscapes of my body, try to embrace the past and not let it repeat in my future. I am not in the clear. The day of my rebirth hangs over my head and whispers to me every hour. But now I have things to look forward to. Occasions where a new me is not needed. I am loved as I am.

Roe is a 20 year old poet and artist from Bedford. He is a member of the Bedfordshire Rainbow Writing Group.



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## COFFEE MORNING AND MINI MARKET

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10:00 to 12:00, do try to find time to visit Renhold Church Coffee morning/Minimarket. In addition to bargains for sale on the stalls, and an excellent raffle, we shall be entertained by the Choir from Renhold School at 10:00. Hot and cold drinks and cake will be served in the Chapter House; an ideal time to meet up for a cuppa and a chat.

Please... Have you any items in good saleable condition you are willing to donate, that we could put on the stalls e.g. bric-a-brac (ornaments, picture frames, vases, kitchenware, tableware, toys, jigsaws, almost anything - as long

as in good condition and not too large). Unwanted gifts to upcycle. Also, this year a table just for JEWELLERY! Look out your 'no longer used' beads and bangles.

Also needed are homemade cakes, cookies, plants, and good raffle prizes. Items should be brought to church anytime from February 27<sup>th</sup>, and ideally before Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Please let us know if you intend to do this, to help with storage. Collection can be arranged if necessary. Contact Jill (01234 870461), Teresa (01234 348309), or the Churchwardens - Alan and Sarah.

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## QUICK TRIVIA

Did you know that the highest point in the parish is right by All Saints Church? It sits at an elevation of 1 69 feet – which

might not sound like much, but in the flat Ouse Valley, it made the church tower a vital landmark for travellers for centuries.



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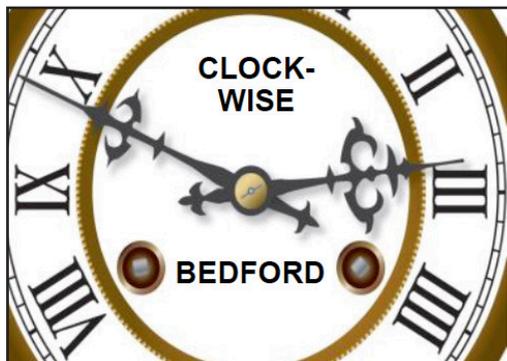


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## IN THE HOT SEAT – HELLO FROM PAM RHODES

How nice to have the chance to say hello to our new friends and neighbours!

My husband Richard and I recently moved here, not into the village itself, but just a few yards below the A421 where we still officially live in Renhold. And we have to thank the much-missed Reverend Ian Smith for our decision to move here, because on the day we arranged a first visit to this bungalow that looks down on a quiet corner of the Great Ouse, I noticed the address is “Water Lane”, and that the river is known to flood here. So, I rang Ian to ask his advice, and he said that unless water could run uphill, we’d be very happy here – and he was right!

I’d met Ian on several occasions over the years when he’d invited me to his church to lead an evening of “STORIES BEHIND OUR FAVOURITE HYMNS”, an invitation to sing-along with familiar hymns aimed to both inspire and entertain. It was only a few months before we moved here that I’d enjoyed just such an evening in All Saints Church, along with their very friendly congregation. Mind you, singing hymns in churches large and small has long been a great pleasure in my role as presenter of the BBC TV series, “SONGS OF PRAISE”. I’m astonished to realise I will have been part of the programme team for 39 years this coming Easter, and what an amazing experience that’s been. I’ve presented programmes from venues as grand as the Royal Albert Hall and the Sydney Opera House - and hosted live episodes on iconic occasions such as the death of Princess Diana. “SONGS OF PRAISE” has taken me around the world - to Hong Kong just before the handover, Australia during The Olympic Games, and Zimbabwe for the World Council of

Churches, with other memorable visits to the slums of San Paolo in Brazil; the monastic community in Taizé, France; to South Africa to interview Dr. Christiaan Barnard; Hollywood to spend time with Pat Boone; Dublin and Switzerland with James Galway; Chicago to meet Reverend Jesse Jackson; to the Vatican to see Pope John Paul II - and to London to have breakfast with Dolly Parton who looked absolutely gorgeous, even at that time in the morning! And I’ve shared hosting duties with some wonderful fellow presenters - Aled Jones, Sean Fletcher and the brilliant Reverend Kate Bottley these days, but in the past with Canon Roger Royle, Alan Titchmarsh - and my absolute favourite, Harry Secombe, who was exactly the same both on and off screen, a lovely man with a deep Christian faith.

But it’s not the famous faces I mostly remember from my years on the programme, but the hundreds of people in towns up and down the country who are unique and extraordinary, as all of us are. With great generosity and often courage, they’ve shared the struggles of their life’s journey, and the part that faith has played along the way. They speak of the human experience that we all recognise - weariness, pain, fear, hope, joy, love - and the power of prayer that brings guidance and reassurance. So often, our interviews have ended with tears and hugs, and I can’t begin to explain how much their faith has brought to my own, and to the millions of viewers who’ve connected with the programme in a deeply personal way over the years.

Will it continue in today’s multi-faith world? Yes, it will. It’s cherished in the broadcasting world and will continue to celebrate the Christian faith loud and clear – not just as a television channel, but a channel of God’s love.

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# VOTES FOR WOMEN – A VILLAGE HISTORY

Sue Levitt - Bedfordshire Archives

In 1918, Parliament passed the Qualification of Women Act which granted the vote to about 8.4 million women in the UK and allowed them to be elected into the House of Commons. Women had to be over the age of 30, householders, the wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5 or graduates of British universities. Over 80 women from Renhold village received the vote.

## Register of Electors 1918 Names of Women who are entitled to Vote both as Parliamentary Electors and as Local Government

<b>Allen</b> , Mary Ann; <b>Barker</b> , Emma; <b>Buck</b> , Ellen Edith; <b>Buck</b> , Sarah J; <b>Clarke</b> , Ethel; <b>Constant</b> , Emma; <b>Harlow</b> , Louisa; <b>Harlow</b> , Sarah; <b>Rogers</b> , Florence Carrie; <b>Shorley</b> , Clara; J;	Church End
<b>Brown</b> , Mary; <b>Buck</b> , Eliza; <b>Gurney</b> , Emily; <b>Gurney</b> , Charlotte; <b>Hardwick</b> , Annie Maria; <b>Harlow</b> , Ethel Louisa; <b>Bragger</b> , Ella Rose; <b>Henson</b> , Susan; <b>Kirby</b> , Jane; <b>Pedly</b> , Rosa Mary; <b>Rutland</b> , Ellen Hannah; <b>Sharpe</b> , Ann Gadsden; <b>Shorley</b> , Fanny; <b>Shorley</b> , Violet Rose; <b>Surtees</b> , Ann; <b>Ware</b> , Elizabeth Agnes.	Top End
<b>Ashworth</b> , Janet; <b>Barker</b> , Emma; <b>Brice</b> , Elizabeth; <b>Constant</b> , Ellen; <b>Constant</b> , Elizabeth; <b>Fryers</b> , Alice; <b>Hardwick</b> , Sarah May; <b>Harlow</b> , Susan Lydia; <b>Harper</b> , Emma; <b>Joyce</b> , Mary Emily; <b>Lovell</b> , Sarah; <b>Rabbitt</b> , Katie.	Salph End
<b>Chubb</b> , Alice Rose; <b>Clarke</b> , Catherine; Clark Daisy; <b>Constant</b> , Eliza; <b>Cox</b> , Elsie; <b>Curtis</b> , Ursula; <b>Curtis</b> , Annie; <b>Duncombe</b> , Annie Florence; <b>Fensome</b> , Hilda Priscilla; <b>Gurney</b> , Clara Lilian; <b>Harlow</b> , Ann; <b>Hight</b> , Ruth; <b>Laughton</b> , Mary; <b>Marsden</b> Eliza; <b>Marsden</b> Annie; <b>Negos</b> , Bethina; <b>Pope</b> , Mary Jane; <b>Sharpe</b> , Rosa; <b>Sharpe</b> , May; <b>Shorley</b> , Mary Ann; <b>Shorley</b> , Elizabeth Ann; <b>Smith</b> , Jane; <b>Wootton</b> , Rebecca Jane; <b>Wootton</b> , Gertrude Annie.	Workhouse End (now Woodfield Lane)
<b>Fisher</b> , Florence	Howbury
<b>Gadsden</b> , Mary Jane; <b>Kirby</b> , Harriett Louise; <b>Kirby</b> , Catherine Susan.	Water End
<b>Glassby</b> , Marion Lucy	Lady Field
<b>Barker</b> , Edith	Near Ravensden Church
<b>Biggs</b> , Phoebe Jane	Polhill Arms
<b>Brumwell</b> , Sarah	The Lodge
<b>Conquest</b> , Emily	Near Wood
<b>Harrison</b> , Lilian Frances	Hillside
<b>Harrison</b> , Naomi	Hill Farm
<b>Harrison</b> , Maria Maud	Brown's Farm
<b>Mayes</b> , Annie	Abbey Farm
<b>Mayes</b> , Lily Barrand; <b>Rogers</b> , Hilda	Near Brick Farm
<b>Northcott</b> , Elizabeth Frances	Three Horseshoes
<b>Procter</b> , Eliza Helen Dunn	The Vicarage
<b>Joyce</b> , Elizabeth	Little Church Farm
<b>Maskell</b> , Ellen	Bedford Road

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## THE POLHILL ARMS

The Polhill Arms is a small but perfectly formed family run pub nestled in the heart of Renhold Village. Since taking over 4 years ago, the pub has been brought back to life by experienced publicans Steve & Lucie Fuller, creating a thriving and vibrant social hub within the community. Full of character, you'll discover a relaxed and welcoming escape whatever the season.

During the winter months, enjoy the warmth of the cosy indoors, or wrap up and settle into our heated marquee on the patio - perfect for muddy boots and well-behaved dogs. As the days grow longer, we open our spacious beer garden and children's play area, ideal for families and unplanned gatherings. The patio is the ideal spot to soak up the evening sunshine and enjoy the buzz and chatter of pub life.

Our bar is well stocked for every occasion, whether you enjoy a refreshing G&T, real ale or cider, or for a low or no alternative, we have a good range of alcohol free, soft drinks plus teas, coffees and hot chocolate. Our kitchen is open Thursday evening through to Sunday lunchtimes. Homemade soups, paninis, pizzas and of course, traditional Ploughman's are examples of the food we offer. With a weekly Wednesday food truck and Codswallop Fish and Chips visiting on a Friday evening.

There's plenty of events going on throughout the year, giving you the perfect opportunity to fill your diary, make new friends and enjoy all the

differing experiences your local pub can offer. Food Truck Wednesday - from burgers to noodles, Greek to Ghurkha, BBQ to pizza. Each week you can feast on food from around the globe!

Thursday Quiz night - Get a team together and put your wits to the test with our lively smartphone quiz. Monthly meat raffle. A chaotic half hour of meaty mayhem! Sporting season kicks off with the Six Nations Rugby this February; In addition, we show key sporting events available on terrestrial TV. If you love cricket, why not join us for The Polden Cup August Bank holiday weekend? The Polhill Arms Golf Society is in its second year - new members always welcome.

For more info send us an email to: [polhillarmsbedford@gmail.com](mailto:polhillarmsbedford@gmail.com) Live music features throughout the year. Dog friendly, with water bowls, dog blankets & biscuits on the bar.

You can find us at 25 Wilden Road, Renhold, MK41 0JP. Tel 01234 771398. Parking available and bike racks coming this year!

From building scarecrows, running muddy obstacle courses, jumping out of aeroplanes, supporting the local WI, charity quizzes, school fun days to name but a few, we love supporting local village life so let us know if we can get involved...For regular updates check out the notice board outside the pub or follow us on socials using: [polhillarmsrenhold](#)

## Steve & Lucie Fuller

# RENHOLD VILLAGE 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
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
W.I.	Caroline McEwan	07855 222464	1st Thurs.	7:30 PM	RV Hall
Yarn Craft Group	Marion Sutton	01234217647	Alternative Fridays	10 AM - 12:30 PM	Wilden Village Hall

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## NORTH BEDS RAMBLERS MARCH WALKS

Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon at 13:30 for approximately 6 miles and twice a month on Saturday mornings at 10:00 for approximately 12 miles. Why not try our "Ramble" on first Saturday morning of each month at 10:00 - slightly shorter, slower pace.

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729  
Facebook; North Beds Ramblers. Please check website for any last-minute time changes, or alternative meeting places; [www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire)  
Please note later PM start from;  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	"Ramble"	AM Cranfield	5 miles
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	50th Birthday walk	PM Wootton	6.5 miles
March 14 <sup>th</sup>		AM Milton Keynes	10 miles
March 14 <sup>th</sup>		PM Wilden	7.5 miles
March 21 <sup>st</sup>		PM Carlton	7 miles
March 28 <sup>th</sup>		AM Old Warden	12 miles
March 28 <sup>th</sup>		PM Cranfield	6.5 miles

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## RENHOLD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

### **"A Blooming Good Time at the Renhold WI".**

Our WI meeting in February proved to be a delightful and creative evening as visitors and members gathered to learn the art of making origami flowers with Arlo Arts. Under expert guidance, we discovered how a simple sheet of paper can be turned into something truly beautiful.

The room was soon filled with concentration, colour and creativity as everyone set about crafting their own unique masterpieces. It wasn't long before the tables were covered in paper blooms, each one different and personal. As always, the meeting was about more than just the activity. There was plenty of chat and laughter throughout the evening, making it a thoroughly enjoyable and relaxed occasion.

Many members and guests alike were pleasantly surprised by what they had achieved, and left feeling inspired to try more origami at home.

A big thank you to Arlo Arts for such an engaging session, and everyone who came along and helped make the evening such a success. We're already looking forward to our next meeting where we will have a member of Bedfordshire Police visiting to discuss Cyber Crime and how we can all stay safe online.

Due to the Parish Referendum voting, we will be at the Chapel on Woodfield Lane on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Guests always welcome. For more details, please contact Caroline (07545 340209) or Jill (01234 870461)

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## VILLAGE AGENT’S REPORT WHILST OUR AGENT IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

For urgent help filling in various forms e.g. Bus Passes, Blue Badge, PIP etc.  
Or for advice if struggling to manage, please ring 0800 039 1234 and leave a message with your name, telephone number, and area (Renhold), someone will call

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## THE FRIENDS OF HIGGINS. BEDFORD

2026 Programme of Friends Lectures and Events (March-April 2026)

March 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2026 7:30 PM	St. Andrew’s Church Hall	Professor Paul Coldwell Woodcuts (his new book)
March 24 <sup>th</sup> 2026 7:30 PM	Zoom	Perry Straker Women of the Civil War
April 7 <sup>th</sup> 2026 7:30 PM	St. Andrew’s Church Hall	Sarah Flynn The Neiger Brothers & Egyptian Revival Jewellery
April 21 <sup>st</sup> 2026 7:30 PM	St. Andrew’s Church Hall	Dr Helen Langdon Salvator Rosa

### The Friends of the Higgins Bedford, Art Gallery and Museum

The Higgins Bedford, ([thehigginsbedford.org.uk](http://thehigginsbedford.org.uk)) is recognised as one of the finest provincial art galleries and museums in the country. It displays an exceptional range of works of art and artefacts and holds exhibitions of regional and national significance.

The Friends of the Higgins was founded in 1988 as a charity (Registration Number: 802508) to support, promote and raise funds for The Higgins Bedford to the ultimate benefit of the communities of Bedford and further afield.

*[friendsofthehiggins.org](http://friendsofthehiggins.org)*

Members of the Friends help support The Friends’ Charitable objectives and benefit from regular talks and lectures, visits to private museums/houses, special access and previews to exhibitions, discounts in the Higgins shop, discounts on daytime purchases at The Higgins Pantry and opportunities to socialise and join in at a variety of Friends’ events.

Annual membership donation rates for 2025/6, Adult - single £40, Adult - joint £60. Why not come and join us?

- Sarah Flynn

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email: [service@laautos.co.uk](mailto:service@laautos.co.uk)



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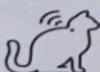
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 WEB: [fionasmobileanimalcare.com](http://fionasmobileanimalcare.com)



Nurse Home Visit



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Website

# RENHOLD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## Have Your Say in the Referendum

on

### Thursday 5th March 2026

at Renhold Village Hall MK41 0LY

7am –10pm

After 5 years of community effort and widespread consultation, which received very positive feedback at every step of the way, the Neighbourhood Plan now needs the support of a majority of residents voting in a local Referendum before it can be formally adopted by Bedford Borough Council.

In the Referendum you will be asked the following:

“Do you want Bedford Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Renhold to help it decide planning applications for the neighbourhood area?”

It is now for you to decide if it should come into force.  
Whether you are for or against -

## Please ensure you vote

## **If a majority Vote YES**

The Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the Borough's statutory development plan. Its policies would be considered alongside Bedford Borough's Local Plan in making planning decisions, and help bring about:-

- Design policies for all new developments.
- New Local Green Space allocations.
- No change to overall size or status of any of our settlements.
- Protection of views into and out of the neighbourhood.
- A larger share (25%) of any future developer contributions to Parish Infrastructure

## **If a majority Vote NO**

The Plan's policies would not apply so:-

- Planning Applications would be determined against the Local Plan and National Policy ONLY.
- We miss out on all the positives in the YES box.
- Greater chance of getting unwanted developments through planning appeals.
- Reduced opportunities to receive grant aid

**Poll cards have been delivered to everyone on the electoral roll in Renhold. Please vote in person at the Village Hall on Wilden Road**

The Referendum version of the Plan is available at Bedford Borough Council at the following web address:

[www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/renhold-neighbourhood-development-plan](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/renhold-neighbourhood-development-plan)

and select the Referendum version. A paper copy will be available in the Chapter House, All Saints' Church. To borrow a printed copy please contact Amanda Quince (07948183164). Issued for information by Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group on behalf of Renhold Parish Council.

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# QUESTION

What is the phenomenon that causes brown feathers on a kingfisher to appear blue? (Answer on page 26)



**LIVE MUSIC**  
**AN EVENING WITH THE LEGENDARY FYNNIUS FOGG**  
BEDFORD'S OLDEST BOY BAND!  
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PROCEEDS GO TO BOLD

The poster features a stylized illustration of a guitar on the left side against a blue background with white stars.

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# FYNNIUS FOGG TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Please Support BOLD this great cause Supporting Adults with Learning Disabilities Numbers are Limited Remember to get your tickets before they sell out.

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## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK?

A meeting with pupils from Renhold School Council - Pauline Capell

2026 is a National Year of Reading, aimed at reversing the decline in reading for pleasure across all age groups. With this in mind, we popped into Renhold School early one morning to meet 10 members of the School Council and find out what they are reading now, and if they have a favourite book. It was a tight squeeze to fit us all into the staffroom, and while we waited for everyone to arrive, we talked about jobs they might aspire to in the future. There was no shortage of ideas and the bar was high – a vet, an actress, a professional footballer, a doctor to name but a few.

There was a wide range of favourite books and not only were they able to tell us what the books were about, but also the harder question as to why they liked them. For example, Beatrice told us that “The Creakers” by Tom Fletcher builds suspense, whilst Elode had chosen Shakespeare’s “The Tempest”, which is ‘dark and gloomy and

draws you in.’ Quite independently, Evie and Charlotte had chosen the same book, “The House of Chicken Legs” which they described as mysterious. Oscar on the other hand had a practical reason for his choice, “A Guide to Computer Games”, namely because it helps him to beat his brother. All the classes had a class reader which opens up the opportunity for discussion, along the lines of an adult Reading Group .

We really enjoyed meeting the children and were impressed with the way they could hold a conversation and express opinions. At the end of the session there was a book for everyone, and some books tied up with coloured ribbons, donated by Renhold’s Book Fairy, were left for the children to hide around school for others, including staff members, to find. It would seem that Renhold School is well on its way to meeting the aim of this National Year of Reading by encouraging its pupils to read for pleasure.

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## SAY NO TO 49 HOUSES AT TOP END

We have a battle on our hands as an application for 49 houses on open farmland in the Important Green Gap between Top End and Green End has been made to Bedford Borough Council. A group of 58 residents, mostly from Top End and Green End, met at the Chapel on February 2nd to formulate an Action Plan. The Consultation closes on February 23rd so there is still time to lodge

an objection, should you wish to: Go to [www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-buildingcontrol/planningapplication/searchplansonline](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-buildingcontrol/planningapplication/searchplansonline) and search for application reference 25/02557/MAO. If you prefer to write a letter, please drop it in to me at 55 Top End and I will hand deliver it to Borough Hall. Any questions, please call me.- Amanda



# STAGECOACH ROUTE 28A (FROM MARCH 2025)

Monday - Saturday

Bedford (Beds), Bus Station	-	08:50	12:50	16:30	17:50
Renhold, Green End	-	09:05	13:05	16:45	18:05
Salph End (Renhold), Brookside	-	09:12	13:12	16:52	18:12
Ravensden, Horse and Jockey	-	09:16	13:16	16:56	18:16
Wilden (Bedford), Village Hall	-	09:20	13:20	17:00	18:20
Colmworth, School Farm	-	09:26	13:26	17:06	18:26
Little Staughton, Grays Grove	7:30	09:31	13:31	17:10	18:30
Pertenhall, The Old Vicarage	07:35	09:36	13:36	17:15	18:35
Keysoe, Hatch End	07:43	09:44	13:44	17:23	18:43
Bolnhurst, School Lane	07:48	09:49	13:49	17:28	18:48
Colmworth, School Farm	07:52	09:53	13:53	-	-
Wilden (Bedford), Village Hall	08:00	10:01	14:01	-	-
Ravensden, The green	08:04	10:05	14:05	-	-
Salph End (Renhold), Brookside	08:08	10:09	14:09	-	-
Renhold, The Green	08:12	10:13	14:13	-	-
Bedford (Beds), Bus Station	08:27	10:28	14:28	-	-

No Sunday or Public Holiday service

The Bedford Stagecoach Bus number 5 Serving from Bedford Bus Station to Norse Road, Elms Farm area of Renhold is too large to print here. However, it can be downloaded from: [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com). This service operates Monday - Friday, Saturday & Sunday, and Public Holidays.

## MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES 2026

Location of Mobile Library		March	April
Renhold – Green End	10.00 – 10.15	3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>
Lay-by – Salph End	10.20 – 10.35	3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>
Renhold – Home Close	10.40 – 10.55	3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>
Renhold – Ravensden Road	11.00 – 11.15	3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>

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[sales@bedfordspecialistcars.co.uk](mailto:sales@bedfordspecialistcars.co.uk)

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# RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL MARCH UPDATE

## PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING APPLICATION FOR UP TO 49 HOUSES AT LAND AT TOP END

Please kindly note at the time of writing, this information is the most up to date known at present by Renhold Parish Council. An outline planning application has been submitted to Bedford Borough Council for up to 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. Bedford Borough Council as the local planning authority who will be determining this planning application which proposes to seek permission be granted for up to 49 houses in principle on this site. The documents can all be found online and viewed by heading to: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications/search-plans/search-plans-how-find-planning-documents-and-applications> You can search by location 'land at Top End' or by parish 'Renhold' or by application number '25/02557/MAO' The Parish Council are a statutory consultee and are currently reviewing the supporting documentation. The Parish Council will consider the planning application at a Parish Council meeting which will be open to members of the public. The consultation letter states the consultation period expires on 23rd February, the Parish Council have requested and been granted an extension for their submission to be made the week commencing 2nd March. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged as always to engage in the planning process, so please do share your thoughts on this planning application with Bedford Borough Council. Comments on this application can be sent directly to Bedford Borough Council, via email to [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk)

Borough Councillor Nicky Gribble will be 'calling in' this application which means if the Planning Officer is minded to approve the application, it will not be determined by a Planning Officer as a delegated decision, it will be presented to the Borough Council Planning Committee, made up of elected Borough Council members who will review and vote on the application. It is likely this application will not be in a position to be presented to a Committee until April onwards to give an approximate guide on the timescales. More information and guidance on this part of the process will be provided by the Parish Council closer to the time. It is very important, as always, if you have any comments to make you do this in a timely manner to Bedford Borough Council via email. If you feel you are not able to respond by the deadline of 23rd February it is important individuals seek confirmation directly with the Borough Council via [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk) that this is agreeable with the Planning Officer. The Parish Council are currently seeking professional guidance on this planning application, from an experienced planning consultant. The planning consultant advice will be fed back at the next Parish Council meeting, where Renhold Parish Councillors will consider and agree a formal response to the planning application.

## LAND BETWEEN HOOKHAMS LANE AND RAVENSDEN ROAD, SALPH END, RENHOLD UPDATE

Please kindly note at the time of writing, this information is the most up to date known at present on this Manor Oak Homes development. Bedford Borough Council as the local planning authority determined the planning application 25/01308/EIASC, which was a request for Screening Opinion in respect of proposed residential development at Land Off Hookhams Lane. The Borough Officer responded to the application to determine

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# RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL MARCH UPDATE

if an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion is needed to be undertaken on the site as part of the planning process. The Borough Council deemed it not necessary for a full Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion to be carried out. It is important to note this does not impact or prejudice any future applications relating to housing development on this site. Renhold Parish Council had previously reported after reviewing the application details, having engaged in the public consultation, that some Council representatives had had an informal meeting with the planning consultant and site owner representatives in autumn 2025, to ask questions and provide clarity on items directly. The site representatives took time to reflect on the Parish Council's informal feedback, requesting a further meeting with Councillors, which was arranged and another informal meeting took place in early January 2026. During both informal meetings, site representatives had taken on board initial Parish Council feedback, such as housing density, highways safety and local buffers. It was detailed that a planning application for housing development on this site is expected to be submitted to Bedford Borough Council around March/April time. This application will follow the same planning process as any other planning application with a public consultation period, which the Parish Council will engage in, as a statutory consultee. As always the Parish Council will keep residents up to date on the latest information regarding this site over the coming months, via Parish Council meetings, the Parish Council website, and other usual platforms such as the next article.

## PLANNING INFORMATION REMINDER WHERE TO FIND IT....

If you wish to view current planning

applications, previous planning applications, see planning decision notices or submitted comments on any application then all information is retained on the Bedford Borough Council Planning Portal, which has an enormous amount of resources available to you. For more information do head here: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications>

## HOW TO RECEIVE LATEST NOTIFICATIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN RENHOLD

A reminder that you can register on the Bedford Borough Council Planning Portal to receive updates on any new applications in the parish of Renhold, so that you receive updates directly into your inbox when new planning applications are received.

Details on how to do this can be found on the Bedford Borough Council website at: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications/search-plans/search-plans-how-find-planning-documents-and-applications>

## HOW BEST TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As always, members of the Renhold community are encouraged to engage in the planning process and submit comments to applications to Bedford Borough Council, this can be done via email to [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk) The Parish Council are ALSO aware that the planning process can appear to be complicated. To try and explain more about the different planning systems depending on the planning matter being considered, the Parish Council decided to collate a guide document to try and assist residents. To access a copy of this document please head to: <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/minutes-agendas-other-documents> and you will see a document titled 'RPC Planning Guide June 2024' which gives an

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# RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL MARCH UPDATE

overview of planning. There is also a link to the Borough Council planning portal on the Renhold Parish Council website as well for ease

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

The Parish Council would like to continue to express their thanks to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group who have continued to work tirelessly to take this very important local planning policy document forward to help shape the future of Renhold. The document has been meticulously created with much valued input from the Renhold residents to shape the vision for Renhold going forwards, with the local referendum taking place on Thursday 5th March 2026 (Hours of Poll are 7am – 10pm), please do kindly have your vote on this important local planning document. To view all

supporting documents on full, please head here to view them: <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk/parish-sub-committees/np>

**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 are 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](mailto:parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk) for Parish Councillors the pattern is place their forename followed by [@renhold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:@renhold-pc.gov.uk) Parish Council meeting details, including dates, times and venue can all be found on the Parish Council website along with Parish Council meeting minutes and other useful documents, so do head to <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk> to take a look.

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# RENHOLD MEMORY CAFE

Are you worried about memory loss, or are you caring for someone with dementia? You might sometimes think there is no support available, but in Bedfordshire we are lucky to have the Tibbs Dementia Foundation, who offer an excellent programme of regular activities across the county.

Here in Renhold we have our very own monthly Memory Café, held at the Baptist Chapel in Woodfield Lane. All are welcome to join us for a chat and a cuppa, and the chance to join in some of our relaxed group activities. Carers can

enjoy each other's company at their own table, where they share advice and offer support. There is no need to book - or even to have a formal diagnosis. Just turn up at Renhold Baptist Chapel at 11am on the third Friday of the month. Our next meeting will be on Friday 20th March, and we look forward to welcoming you.

For more information contact Teresa Moon ([teresa.moon@tibbsdementia.co.uk](mailto:teresa.moon@tibbsdementia.co.uk), mobile 07930 999573).

## Elephants can recognize themselves in mirrors (one of few animals that can).

- African elephants have big ears. Asian elephants have small ears.
- African elephants have round heads. Asians have twin-domed heads.
- Both sexes of African elephants grow

- tusks. In Asians it's mostly males.
- African elephants grow up to 4m tall. Asians reach 2-3.5m
- African elephants have concave backs. Asians have straighter backs.
- Elephants can detect storms from miles away, through ground vibrations.

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# RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL 2026

## Useful contacts and directory

Clerk to the Council  
Mrs Lizzie Barnicoat Tel. 01234 771702  
PO Box 1548, Bedford MK445AX  
email: parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Susan Brunsdon - 01234 266281  
susan@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Fiona Cardinale - 07762881009  
fiona@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Margaret Dean - 01234 771520  
margaret@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Nicky Gribble - 01234 771994  
nicky@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Darren Rayner - 07825950673  
darren@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Julie Roberts - 07766478974  
julie@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Paul Sawford - 01234 870836  
paul@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Martin Warwicker - 07983156845  
martin@renhold-pc.gov.uk

## Parish Council Meeting dates and Venues for 2026

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> 19:00 (Renhold Village Hall)
- May 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Council Meeting 19.00 (Renhold Village Hall)
- June 18<sup>th</sup> 19:00 (Renhold Village Hall)
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> 19:00 (Renhold Village Hall)

For the most up to date information, including changes to dates or special meetings, please refer to the Renhold Parish Council diary page. Residents are welcome to attend all meetings. As always, if you wish to raise any ideas or make comments to the PC, then please contact one of the PC (*see above or the new PC website (renhold-PC.co.uk) for contact details*) or contact Lizzie, Parish Clerk on 771702 or email parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk



This advertising space is available to buy! Please contact Teresa Moon

## ANSWER

Structural Coloration tiny structures in the feather barbs scatter blue light, creating the vibrant blue appearance

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# RENHOLD CHAPEL

Chapel preachers for March 2026

1 <sup>st</sup> March	Rev Paul Sands	10:30am
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr George Morrow	10:30am
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr Richard Keech	10:30am
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Mr Bernard Hicks	10:30am
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr Paul Bridle	10:30am

## JESUS CHANGES LIVES!

A middle aged lady, Pat, sat opposite to me in the recording studio with her old friend, army veteran George. They had just arrived from Kent, travelling by train through London. Nothing remarkable in that you may say but let me go back to the beginning. One of the most enjoyable English language broadcasts for me was called "Recall," a late-night show where I could relax and play old time Gospel songs and chat to various guests about their lives and adventures. At various times I would play "Jingles," short interludes giving time to prepare for the next item in the programme. One of the Jingles was a music group simply singing "JESUS CHANGES LIVES". On this particular night, we were hearing about Agoraphobia, [irrational fear of the outside world] with Anne, a counsellor on the subject. Next morning a call was put through to the studio, "My name's Pat, I must come and see you." I listened to her story, one of being shut in for 18 long years by the condition. I couldn't refuse her request, but had real concerns for her travel safety. A day or two later, she arrived, accompanied

by old friend George, who reminded her that trains had changed a lot since she last travelled. She described her daily routine, poor sleep, get up, make breakfast, feed her dog, which George would take for a walk later on, and then get her shopping. That was about it. Then she said "Last Thursday night when I was listening to you and Anne, you played "JESUS CHANGES LIVES" & quote; and everything did change! I slept well, got up, took my surprised dog for a walk, went shopping and visited the local church. So here I am! What a Testimony! A little later her story was broadcast, reaching out to others in similar circumstances. Research shows that for various health reasons, around a tenth of our population are house bound, in similar circumstances. St Luke tells of Jesus, the one who can still make a difference, even after 18 years, Ch 13 v10. Second Tuesdays 10:00-12:00 Chapel Coffee Morning, 10:30 Every Sunday morning the Chapel still tells how;

JESUS REALLY DOES CHANGE LIVES!



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Email – [Frostyplumbingco@gmail.com](mailto:Frostyplumbingco@gmail.com)

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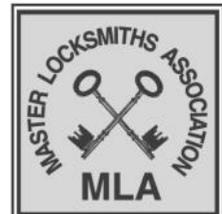
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# RENHOLD VILLAGE DIRECTORY

## **Bell Tower Co-ordinator**

Yvonne Potter 01234 771495

## **Churchyard Volunteers**

Teresa Trangmar - 07788402441

## **Football Club**

Mr K. Harlow - 01234 871178

## **Magazine Co-Editors**

Janet Goodman-  
janetgoodman58@gmail.com  
Amanda Quince  
Amy

## **Messy Church**

Caroline Coster -  
carolinejcoster@gmail.com

## **Preschool Group (Term Time)**

### **Lead**

Sarah Grummitt - 01234771724

### **Deputy**

Lorna Millard

## **Renhold Chapel**

Albert Browning - 01234 772689

## **Renhold School (Term Time)**

01234 771724

## **Renhold Village Agent**

Lydia Wright - 0800 039 1234

## **Renhold Village Hall Bookings**

07523667232

---

# RENHOLD VILLAGE DIRECTORY

## **Brick-Making Heritage**

Before it was a quiet residential village, Renhold was an industrial hub for the local area. Near Gadsey Brook, there used to be a bustling brickworks. The

## **Women's Institute**

Caroline McEwen - 07545340209  
Jill Barrell - 01234 870461

## **Borough**

### **Bedford Hospital**

01234 355122

## **NHS Direct (non-emergency medical helpline)**

111

## **Bedford MP**

Mohammed Yasin - 01234 346525

## **Borough Council**

01234 267422

## **Borough Councillor**

Nicola Gribble - 07955530234

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

Amanda Quince - 01234 870704

## **North East Bedfordshire MP**

Richard Fuller - 01767 313385

## **Police**

999, 101, 01234 841212  
PC Abi Holt, PC Vito Napoli  
PCSO Stephen Tarbella  
PCSO Kim Roberts

## **Samaritans**

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## **Tibbs Dementia/Rural Champion**

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