

THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE



JUNE 2023



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DIARY JUNE 2023

School dates 2023:

Summer Term	Mon.17th April - Fri.21st July
Half-Term	Fri.26th May - Mon.5th June
Autumn Term	Mon.4th Sept. - Tues.19th Dec.
Half -Term	Mon.23rd Oct. - Fri.27th.Oct.

Notable Renhold dates & events:

Thurs.1st June	WI Renhold Tudor talk: 7pm Renhold Village Hall	p15
Sat.3rd June	Organ concert Ravensden Church	p25
Wed. 14th June	Parish Council meeting 7pm Renhold Village Hall	p23
Sat.17th June	Churchyard clear up 9.30am	
Mon.19th June	Creative Club 9.30am Chapter House	
Fri.30th June	The Alma singers 7.00pm All Saints Church	p21
Sat.1st July	Kidchella 11.30am-3.30pm	p19
Sat. 15th July	Party in the Park, Howbury Hall	p8

Church cleaning rota: Postponed till further notice.

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: Monday, May 8, 2023, King Charles III after the Coronation

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EDITORIAL by Anne Grant

What an amazing service the Coronation was. I was stuck at home with a horrific cold and couldn't join with family, but it meant I could absorb the whole service, which I found incredibly moving at times. The King looked as though he was well aware of the weight on his shoulders and, whether you support the monarchy or not, the thought that had gone into every detail of the service, the music, the historical and religious associations and the embracing of all cultures and all faiths had to be admired. The crowds who waited in drizzly rain throughout were enthusiastic and created a wonderful atmosphere, which both the King and Queen found quite moving when seen later on the balcony. The following day's concert took place at Windsor in much better weather and the "Help Out Scheme," designed to encourage people to volunteer, finished off the bank holiday weekend on the Monday.

In between there have been the local elections. Many congratulations to Tom Wootton who is Bedford's new Mayor. I'm sure, with decisions on East West Rail approaching fast, he will have his hands full and needs all our support. Congratulations too to Nicky Gribble who will be the new Borough Councillor for Renhold and Ravensden (p27). Nicky is the current chair of Renhold Parish Council and has been much in evidence in the fight against EWR. The Parish Council have been returned unopposed and are looking for some new recruits to help in all the work they do on our behalf, for which they all deserve our thanks.

Bedford Borough Council is starting works on the development of a new fitness area at Mill Meadows, as part of the £1.5m **Riverside for All** project. The fitness area is being built near to the White Water Arena, and will be equipped with state-of-the-art fitness equipment to help park users to keep healthy. The equipment will include fitness steps and a cross-training unit that features suspension training, magnetic bells and parallel bars. The equipment will also have a rubber bonded mulch surface, which will allow for good accessibility and reduce the risk of injuries. The works are scheduled to be completed by early to mid-May 2023. So, if you try them out, perhaps you can send some photos in for us all to see.

Please note the Alma Singers concert has been moved to 30th June (p21). On the 1st July is Renhold School's Kidchella and on the 15th July we have the Party in the Park at Howbury Hall (p8). There is an organ and harpsichord Concert at Ravensden Church on Saturday 3rd June (p25) so there is much to look forward to. If you have been inspired by the Help out scheme on Bank holiday Monday and feel like giving volunteering a go, the Parish Council are looking for new members and the Village Hall is hoping to find some new trustees, so you need look no further than your own village.

There is quite a variety in this month's magazine. Jane Ferguson's account of her view of the Coronation is on p19. If you like rambling, the North Beds Ramblers have put an article in this month with a list of dates for walks in June (p10). It is a chance to walk with others and make new friends and discover places further afield than our own village. As always there are lovely photos and interesting descriptions on Tony's Wild about Renhold page. Do send in any of your photos that may be of interest. What's more there will be a pets service at church on 11th June (see the vicar's letter for details). Meanwhile if you want to read how this elderly Granny survived a weekend glamping read pp12-13. As always do send in anything you think may be of interest to create the variety we enjoy. Enjoy your read.



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All Saints Church Services for June 2023

All services taken by Revd Ian Smith except where stated

Sunday 4 June	11.00am	Communion for Trinity Sunday
TRINITY SUNDAY		
Wednesday 7 June	11.30am	Prayers for the Community

Sunday 11 June	11.00am	Café church (Lay Led)
	6.00pm	Evensong BCP <i>Richard Deadman</i>

Wednesday 14 June	7.30pm	Night Prayer
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Sunday 18 June	11.00am	Parish Eucharist
	3.00pm	Pet service
Wednesday 21 June	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP <i>Revd David Powell</i>

Sunday 25 June	11.00am	Parish Eucharist
Wednesday 28 June	7.30pm	Bedford Deanery Synod meeting
	9.00pm	Compline

DAILY OFFICES – Revd Ian says the Daily Office in church at the following times. You are warmly invited to join him at this short service.

EACH MONDAY –	9.30am	Morning Prayer
EACH THURSDAY -	4.00pm	Evening Prayer

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

I for one am enjoying the longer hours of daylight, the warmer temperatures and dare I say sunshine, and from talking with people as I walk around the parish, I do not think I am alone. This time of year always puts a spring in my step as I feel the darkness of winter is behind us and the days of sunshine are near. It is much the same within church life at the moment too. The days of being in exile for services in the Chapter House whilst the floor repairs in church have been in progress are coming to an end. The craftsmen are back on site and preparing the subfloor to receive the York stone slabs that are currently being cut by stone masons before coming to site here in Renhold. It has been a long run with many challenges, and we are so grateful to the Parish and its community for their patience and support. (continued opposite)

LETTER FROM THE VICAR Continued

We hope that by the middle of June, we may be able to start migrating back into church for services, concerts and “those spaces for prayer and reflection” in what is the most spiritual of places.

Our winter in the Chapter House has not been all doom and gloom though. We have enjoyed some amazing acts of worship in a warm, cosy, friendly environment, just as the winter season has its highlights that warm our hearts too; but it is nice to at last think about “going home” into church.

As we plan the move back into church, we are also looking to extend the range of services that we offer. On Sunday 11th June from around 11:00am we will be holding a Café Church where teas, coffee, cakes, biscuits etc. will be served with a light helping of song, reading, possibly an activity, and a short time of prayer – we hope this will appeal to families where children will be more than welcome, and all can share in this informal act of worship. The following Sunday 18th we will be holding our first Pet Service. Even if the church floor is finished by then, the service will be outside (subject to weather) as I may get a little nervous about pets and their calling cards being left on the new floor!! This type of service has proved very popular in my previous parishes so I hope that young and old will bring their best friends with them, be they dogs, cats, hamsters, snakes, stick insects (yes really!!) etc. and we can thank God for them all.

There are exciting times ahead as we continue our fundraising to help complete our payment of the floor restoration. As advised in last month’s edition of the Renhold Magazine – There is a fundraising event being planned for Saturday 15th July at Howbury Hall – which promises to be full of fun and entertainment whilst raising funds. Tickets are available from Amanda Quince at pace.quince@gmail.com

On Friday 30th June our rearranged concert by the Alma Singers is taking place – again this will be an amazing evening of music and song, served with refreshments of course. Tickets for this one are available from Keith Timms 01234 772605 or Alan Bloomfield on 01234 351162.

Further down the line we have our second Christmas Tree Festival in December and next year we are planning for an evening of Steel Band music by one of the countries top steel bands which will be incredible – there will be more information available on these as we get closer to the dates.

Finally, and probably most importantly, we are planning a confirmation service with the Bishop of Bedford in All Saints in the late summer/early autumn this year. This is where those who have been baptised either as babies or adults, can affirm their faith before the bishop and congregation. This is a major step on their journey of faith through this earthly life for most people. If you would like more details, please contact me on Renhold.rev@gmail.com or ring 01234 772794.

The church year continues through a period of “Ordinary time” after the festivities of Easter and Pentecost and our schedule of services is listed within this edition. As usual we continue to use the All Saints Renhold Facebook page to Live-stream services where possible, with service sheets being available on our website www.all-saints-church-renhold.org for those who are unable to attend church in person.

Please continue to take care and stay safe - God Bless... Rev. Ian

RENHOLD PARTY IN THE PARK AT HOWBURY HALL

SATURDAY JULY 15TH 3.00PM –10.00PM

Only 499 tickets available

➔ **Ring 07948 183164 for tickets** ➔

£10 adult, £25 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children over 11yrs)

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***Be sure to reserve your tickets before they go on sale
outside the village on 1st June***

Renhold Village Hall

Looking for New Trustees Sue Levitt

- Renhold Village Hall is a registered charity (charity number 300059) which is run by a management committee of volunteers.
- You don't have to have any special qualifications, and it doesn't matter what age you are, as long as you are 18 or over, and you either live in Renhold itself or within a reasonable travelling distance.
- Becoming a trustee is a fantastic way to give something back to our village community. You'll be playing an integral part in the way the Village Hall is run, ensuring we remain sustainable and financially viable.
- Getting involved as a charity trustee is a great way to put your skills to use, but it is also an opportunity to learn new things, as well as meeting new people and making new friends.

TIME COMMITMENT

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- Voluntary Sub Committees
- Occasional availability to open and close the hall for events/groups
- **Please email renholdvillagehall@yahoo.com**

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As the weather starts to improve, how about getting outside and going for a walk? North Beds Ramblers are a local rambling group that have been walking in this area for 40 plus years. We are a friendly group who walk every Saturday afternoon, usually covering about 6 – 7 miles. We have recently expanded our program and now also walk twice a month on a Saturday morning for those who want a longer walk of about 10 – 12 miles.

We walk mainly in the Bedfordshire Wolds but occasionally drift across county borders with walks in Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire plus further south within Bedfordshire. Most walks are rural and we have the joys of finding lovely lanes, villages, historic churches and encountering wildlife. We also venture to London with organised walks in various locations of our capital city, discovering some hidden gems and well-kept secrets!

In 2023 we are starting to walk the Bunyan Trail and will be covering a section of about 12 miles every quarter. The route was originally devised by a member of Bedfordshire Ramblers and the 86-mile trail takes in many historic sites and places of interest. We are happy to welcome new members to our fold especially single walkers. The walks are fully guided by our volunteer walk leaders. Unfortunately, we do not accept dogs on our walks unless they are an assistance dog.

If you plan to join us, please also bring a drink and a snack/lunch as we always have a break. If you want to find out more about us why not check us out:

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

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northbedsramblers> , twitter @NB_Ramblers or

alternatively call our walk secretary Margaret Sawyer on 07780 933729



North Beds Ramblers walk every Saturday June Walks

June 3rd Walk from Colmworth Golf Club 1:30pm
6 miles

June 10th Walk from Hexton 10:00am 12 miles

Or Walk from Olney 13:30pm 6.5 miles

June 17th Walk from Liddlington Railway Station
1:30pm 6 miles

June 24th Meet at Westoning 9:30 am 12 miles –
Phase 3 Bunyan Trail

Or Walk from Biggleswade 1:30pm 6.75 miles

Tel Margaret Sawyer 07780 933729, FB North
Beds Ramblers, www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire

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To glamp or not to glamp - that is the question.

Anne Grant

"Mum, we thought it would be fun for the whole family to go glamping for a long weekend in Gloucestershire and would like you to come!!" This interesting and unexpected invitation from my son gave me about 3 weeks to prepare!! There would be no electricity in the tents! Just think for a minute; **no phones, no Wi-Fi, no electric light, no TV, no hair drier, no cooker or fridge.** I could say **No** thanks but that would be daft. I love new adventures and of course I had camped with Forbes and 2 carers for over 25 years, after his stroke, in our motorhome,but this was different.



My main concern was how far I might have to go in the middle of the night in freezing temperatures to use the toilet.

Relief, there is a flush toilet inside the tent and moreover there is a hot shower in a cabin next to the tent (see left). I can feel the panic subsiding and gathered they have a wood burning stove in the tent which gave out a lot of heat providing you kept it stoked up with an unlimited supply of wood **and**

you could cook on it. Looking online revealed chandeliers with candles and oil lamps which gave the basic light needed, after that it was sensible to bring some torches as....yup there were 3 bedrooms! A double room, one with bunk beds and a cupboard! (see right) The latter was literally a cupboard, filled with a mattress that was longer on one side than the other and could accommodate an adult and a



small child or two children. Needless to say the kids were all desperate to sleep in the cupboard! Relief!! As there were 9 of us, 5 adults, 4 grandchildren, (all girls from 8 to 13 years) and two Labradors, this meant two tents, and it doesn't take a mathematician to deduce that this Granny was pleased to get the bottom bunk in one of the tents.

As that week, temperatures at night were settling around freezing, I went on an urgent clothing mission to Go Outdoors and came away with some thermal undies to wear under my pyjamas. We had already worked out there was no such thing as a quick cuppa' as the fire had to be lit, and hot enough to boil a kettle of water first! The golden rule was, once the large kettle had boiled, some of our thermos flasks were filled for drinks later on. So how did we manage?

It was amazing! There was no time pressure to do anything, the cousins all got on well and there was much on the farm to occupy them. Behind the tent was woodland with copious den building material and a couple of handily placed rope swings. The field next to us was full of lovely looking cows and many new-born calves, there were two docile ponies which loved to be walked (see below). There were many goats and some adorable new-born kids which loved being cuddled once the mothers had established you were friendly! There were endless walks in lovely green countryside and a swimming pool in a barn which was heated and could be hired for an hour at a time and then covered over to keep the heat in.



The farm had a pizza oven and on the Saturday evening all the “glampers” could compile their own pizzas which tasted great. There was an honesty farm shop where you took what was needed, and wrote on a whiteboard what you had taken and the cost, and settled up at the end of the stay.



They kept lots of rubber hot bottles filled with water in a freezer and you took two or three and put them in a large wooden chest in the corner of the tent which then acted as your fridge. As for cooking, the top of the stove was big enough to take 3 pans so no one starved. At night we were snug as a bug and didn't even need the

thermal undies, though wool socks and a hot bottle helped. On the way home I asked what was the best bit of the weekend. The youngest said immediately “Everything.”



Renhold WI – May meeting. East Anglian Air Ambulance

With call signs Anglia 1 and Anglia 2, the two yellow EAAA Airbus helicopters (H145) take off from Norwich airport and Cambridge respectively when called to a medical emergency. At the May WI meeting we were given a fascinating and informative talk about this 24/7 service that we in East Anglia have come to rely on. Using state of the art medical equipment fitted into the helicopters, the crews are skilled in logistics and communication, as they work outside often in very challenging circumstances. EAAA is not Government funded, but a charity. This year it needs £17.3 million in donations and via fund-raising.

Many already donate generously to EAAA, but there are two extra easy ways to help. There are EAAA clothes recycling banks nearby (at Thurleigh, Broom, Biggleswade). And at NatWest Bank in Bedford there is a box for coins and notes – old and new, British, or foreign. All are sorted, and then sold to raise funds for EAAA. More details on the EAAA website. **Jill Barrell**

Renhold Village Clubs 2023

Group	Contact	Tel.	Day	Time	Place
Bridge	Rod Jones	771858	Every Mon. Every Fri.	9.45-1pm	St. Marks Church Brickhill
Brownies	Kim Dellar	267150	Every Thurs.	6.15-7.45pm	RV Hall
Carpet Bowls	Chick	838651	Every Mon. Every Wed.	2-4.30pm 7-9.30pm	RV Hall
Chapel Coffee morning	Albert Brown-ing	722689	2nd Tues.	10-12noon	Chapel
Gardening club	TBA				
Luncheon Club	Yvonne Potter	771495	2nd Wed.	12.30 for 1pm	
Pudding Club for carers	Anne Grant	771811	1st Tues.	2-3.30pm	4, Brookside
Reading Group	Pauline Capell	771858	1st Fri.	4pm	1, Church Close
Renhold pre-school group	Vicky Thompson	771724		Term time	
Stitchers	Jackie Croot	870271	3rd Thurs.	10.30-12.30pm	Chapter House
Table tennis	Rod Jones	771858	Every Mon. Every Wed. Every Fri.	1.30pm 10.30am 10.30am	Church Lane Community Centre
WI.	Jan Tozer	297456	1st Thurs.	7.30pm	RV Hall
Yarn Craft Group	Marion Sutton	217647	Alternate Fridays	10am-12.30pm	Wilden Village Hall

In view of our uncertain times please ring to confirm each club is running.
RV Hall = Renhold Village Hall; the Chapter House is at the back of All Saints Church.

Mobile Library Times June and July 2023

<u>Location of Mobile Library</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Renhold - Green End	10:00 - 10:15	13,27	11,25
Renhold - Home Close	10:40 - 10:55	13,27	11,25
Renhold - Ravensden Road	11:00 - 11:15	13,27	11,25

Times will vary slightly due to traffic conditions, etc. For further information about the mobile library service please contact Kempston Library tel. 01234 276453



RENHOLD WI

Food and Drink in Tudor Times

An entertaining and informative talk by Martin Sirot- Smith, Director Emeritus of Sulgrave Manor

7.30pm Thursday 1st June at Renhold Village Hall
Visitors welcome £5

We have heard rumours that menus included much protein - in the form of venison, pork and lamb but also gulls and blackbirds!. Conger eels and porpoises were part of the fish courses. Did the Tudors eat swan as rumour has it? Sugar was expensive - what were the desserts? All will be revealed in this entertaining talk to which visitors are invited too. Jill Barrell

Wilden Cricket Club are now an affiliated All Stars Cricket centre and are running the 8 week programme this summer for boys and girls 5-8 years of age.

- Each child registered on the programme will receive a free All Stars Cricket participation pack which includes a Backpack, Cricket Bat, Cricket Ball, and a Personalised t-shirt with their name on.
- Dates: Saturdays 20th May – Saturday 15th July, Time: 10:00 – 11:00am
Cost: £40 per child for the 8-week programme
- Location: Shrubbery Lane, Wilden, Bedfordshire, MK44 2PH

For details on how to register your child, please contact the Wilden Cricket Club All Stars Cricket activator Pharm Bhangal on parmb@hotmail.co.uk

The Vicar's Kitchen is still providing jars of magnificent home made jams and pickles and can be found in the Chapter House at the back of the church.

Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c? Because you can't "c" in the dark.
Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell. G. Greenwood

In the spotlight Marie Baird

by Pauline Capell

Meet Marie, the CAN DO lady. 1. Build your own computer. 2. Plumb in a washing machine. 3. Build a wooden 4 level garden planter. 4. Drive a huge truck across Australia and Europe. 5. Breed a cat champion 6. Knit Aran sweaters to your own design. I could go on but you get the idea.

Marie was born in New Zealand, moving to Australia (Gold Coast) when she was 10. Known for its beautiful beaches and micro climate, their house actually backed onto the beach. No wonder then that she could row, water ski and camp out under the stars. She was also a squash player representing Queensland at state level tournaments. Her father owned a motorbike business and her mother was a tailoress, and could outfit a whole wedding party. So, from an early age, Marie not only knew how to knit and sew, she was at home with engines, could change a tyre and operate a lathe. The family would go to Formula 1 meetings where she developed a 'need for speed'. After damaging his back, her father gave up the bikes and trained to be a chiropractor. Marie decided to follow in his footsteps and graduated from University, but she was swept off her feet and got married instead.

Her husband was a truck driver, so Marie joined him, driving vast distances such as 3,500 kms between Melbourne and Perth with any freight they could get hold of. On one such solo trip her husband sent her a red point Siamese kitten by air freight as a surprise, and that gave Marie another string to her bow – that of a cat lady. She proceeded to breed them, winning lots of awards, and she could have over 20 kittens running around who had to be identified with coloured ribbons to tell the litters apart. One of her proudest moments came when one of her 'girls' won Australia's Cat of the Year award where all the champions from around the country compete for champion of champions. Marie said wryly that at that level, there was more back biting going on outside the cages than inside!

In 1972 they moved back to the UK, first to Falkirk and then to Bedford where, in the 1980s, there was lots of work in the haulage industry. By now they owned their own business and Marie completed lots of training to gain the many certificates and operator licence so that she could run the office. She was also still driving within the UK and Europe, and had some stories to tell me, of which this is one. Once when she and her husband were in Rhineland they needed to eat, and stopped at a cafe that had no menus on the tables or walls and appeared to be deserted. After a tentative 'Hello', a very, very large Fraulein appeared and Marie mimed eating. Marie's German was minimal as was the Fraulein's English, so Marie tried out a few food words that she knew. 'Suppe' she asked. 'Ja' came the answer. 'Brötchen' she asked. 'Ja' came the answer. 'Und fritten?' asked the Fraulein. 'Ja' said Marie's husband. Before long the suppe arrived in huge bowls accompanied by the brötchen, that turned out to be a whole, enormous, chunky loaf. They set about it watched by the Fraulein, arms folded. After a while, along came a mountain of fritten and the Fraulein again folded her arms. Marie by this time had eaten her fill and put down her spoon, miming that she was full. But the Fraulein was having none of it. 'Essen' she commanded. Marie dutifully took up her spoon and made another attempt. Saved by the bell another customer came in and attention turned to him. Marie's husband did not want to waste the chips so Marie scooped them into her handbag, they put money on the table and beat a hasty retreat.

Fortunes then changed after Marie's husband had an accident, falling backwards off a loading dock and hitting his head on a concrete post. The end result of this, sometime later, was a massive stroke and for the next 16 years, Marie became Bob's carer. He died 3 years ago. They had lost everything but Marie just says 'That's life. Life happens'. Now, on her own, Marie tends her garden and helps others wherever she can – re-tuning her neighbour's TV, showing a lady who no longer goes out how to do her shopping on-line, and chauffeuring a lady who is a caterer, but no longer drives, to venues both local and further afield. She helps out with the magazine assembly line too. Last year Marie was able to visit her family in Australia for 3 months. She has asked me to end with these words

"I would just like to say how very blessed I have been throughout my life. Our dear heavenly father has seen fit to make me into such a capable person, who has experienced such amazing things and had so much joy. I am truly grateful."



RING FOR THE KING

On Saturday the 6th May All Saint's Bell-Ringers were proud and privileged to have rung for the Coronation of King Charles III. It was great that Ian, our Vicar, was able to join us so we had a full team of six ringers.



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The Coronation Jane Ferguson

My sister Julie and I at 6.30am were standing on a hillock on our small stools half way down the Mall. After 3 hours or so people were cheering anything that moved-

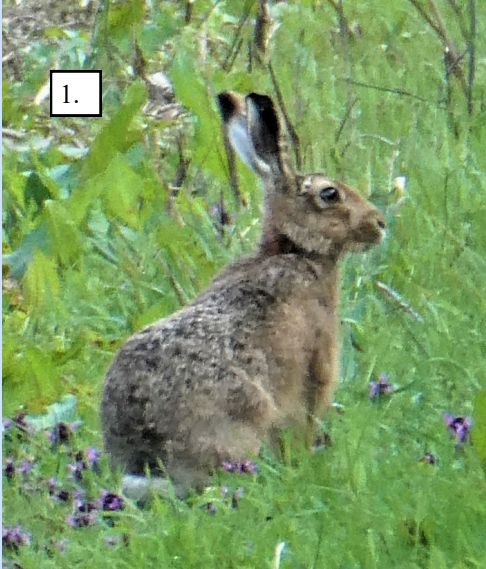


mysterious cars with blacked out windows, a red coated soldier riding by, all greeted excitedly. At last, the procession appeared on its way to Westminster. On tiptoe, necks craned, we were able to view the coach, vague figures through the windows – what excitement! We decided to stay on our hillock and await their return, only now the rain was pouring down. Luckily, we were able to borrow a small beach tent that had been kicked into the grass, and crouched inside with our lunch in the drenching rain, listening to the service on the loudspeakers. After 2 hours, anticipation rose again – this time the marvellous spectacle of troops and the wonderful gold

coach followed by the rest of the royal family waving and smiling – I swear they looked right at us! Then we swarmed onto the Mall and marched down towards the palace. We had a bird's-eye view of the balcony. The first time I have ever seen so many of the royal family. An experience to treasure.

WILD ABOUT RENHOLD (see opposite)

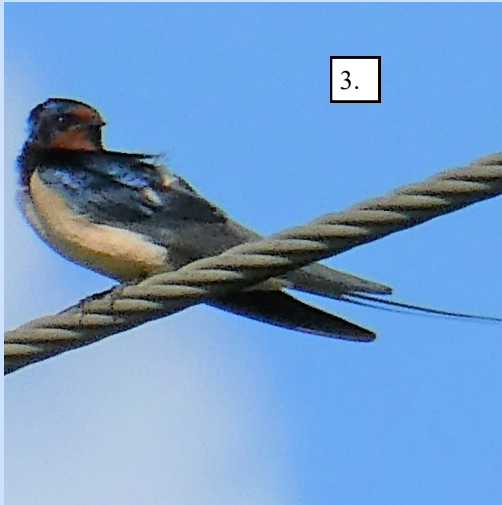
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WILD ABOUT RENHOLD by Tony Ploszajski

1. Brown Hare

Hares seem to have been much scarcer in the fields around Renhold lately, so I was pleased to spot this one up towards Wilden recently. Thought to have been introduced into the UK in Roman times (or even earlier), Hares are now considered naturalised. They are most common on open farmland, in grassland habitats and at woodland edges, favouring a mosaic of arable fields, grasses and hedgerows. They feed on vegetation and the bark of young trees and bushes. Hares don't dig burrows, but shelter in 'forms', which are shallow depressions in the ground or grass. When disturbed, they bound across the fields, using their powerful hind legs to propel them forwards at speeds of up to 45mph, often in a zigzag pattern.

2. Corn Bunting

Visually one of the most non-descript of birds, Corn Buntings have suffered an alarming decline in the UK, with numbers falling by 83% since 1967. They are now extinct in former parts of their range, including places as close as Northamptonshire, so it was a real treat to find at least two singing males just north of the village this spring. They have a discordant, rattling song that has been compared with a jangling of keys and are the largest of the bunting species. The Gaelic name for Corn Bunting translates as 'fat bird of the barley', which perfectly describes both its appearance and favoured diet of seeds!

3. Barn Swallow

The first Swallows arrived back with us in late April and there are now several pairs around Renhold, often frequenting stables and horse paddocks where they can find plenty of insects to feed on. Like the bird in the photo, Swallows often perch on wires to rest and give an attractive chattering call. They migrate as far as southern Africa each winter, yet often return to the precise nest site in the UK that they used the previous year - an amazing feat of navigation and of endurance given the hazards en route.

4. Bluebell

Bluebells growing in various wooded spots in the parish have looked particularly fine this spring. They are members of the hyacinth family and are also known by traditional names such as 'fairy flowers', 'witches thimbles' and 'cuckoo's boots'. They are particularly associated with ancient woodland, such as Great Early Grove, but also grow commonly along hedgerows in other parts of Renhold. Bluebells have been used for a variety of different things throughout history, not just for ornamental purposes. Their sticky sap was once used to bind the pages of books and glue the feathers onto arrows, and during the Elizabethan period, their bulbs were crushed to make starch for the ruffs of collars and sleeves.

THE ALMA SINGERS

Due to delays in the Church repairs, the Midsummer Concert
has been moved to

Friday 30th June at 7.00pm

All Saints Church Renhold

Tickets £12 (including wine, soft drinks and nibbles)

Tickets from Alan Bloomfield (351162) or Keith Timms (772605) or at the door



Renhold Parish Council May Update

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN INSPECTION HEARINGS – TO INCLUDE PROPOSED RENHOLD BUSINESS PARK - UPDATE

Preparing for this inspection has been the main focus in recent weeks to ensure that thorough and robust presentations were submitted prior to 11th May. The Programme Officer has also invited the Parish Council to Matter 1 which covers Procedural and legal matters relating to the Local Plan document in light of the issues identified by the Parish Council relating to the naming and mapping inaccuracies within the consultation document. The Parish Council will confirm the appointed representative to attend the hearings in due course, so that this is submitted to the Programme Officer by early June ahead of the first hearing session which the Parish Council will be involved in, which will now be Monday 12th June.

EAST WEST RAIL LINE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Parish Council have been alerted by a communication from the organisers of the Local East West Rail Representatives Group, in which the Parish Council is an active stakeholder, that the route alignment is expected very shortly in May. Again, this item, like the Local Plan hearings, are incredibly important to the Renhold community so it is expected this will become an enormous focus for the Parish Council as soon as information is shared on the route and subsequent consultation.

It will be again another important time for residents to ensure they are aware of the final route selection and engage in the consultation. There will be local engagement in person events being run by East West Rail during the consultation and as usual the Parish Council will be looking at ensuring information is accessible as widely as possible.

COULD YOU HELP PLEASE?

It is going to be an extremely busy few months with the Local Plan hearings and the East West Rail consultation taking place – both these items will impact significantly on Renhold forever.

Could you spare some time to help.....whether that is with delivering leaflets, assisting with reading some consultation documents, or anything else you might be able to do, whatever your skill. A general willingness to help would be hugely appreciated.

Please also remember there are **currently three Parish Council vacancies** so this is a great time to join the Parish Council being active in making a difference with a number of village matters.

It would be great to hear from you, so please do get in touch with the Clerk Lizzie or any member of the Parish Council as we would love to hear from you.

BUS SERVICE ISSUES GREEN END

Renhold Parish Council was recently alerted by a Green End resident raising concern that the Grant Palmer bus service had stopped coming into Green End. The Parish Council followed this up with Grant Palmer, Anglian Water and Bedford Borough Council as it appears that with the road closure in situ, the bus is unable to turn round, therefore the service has been temporarily suspended while the road closure is in place.

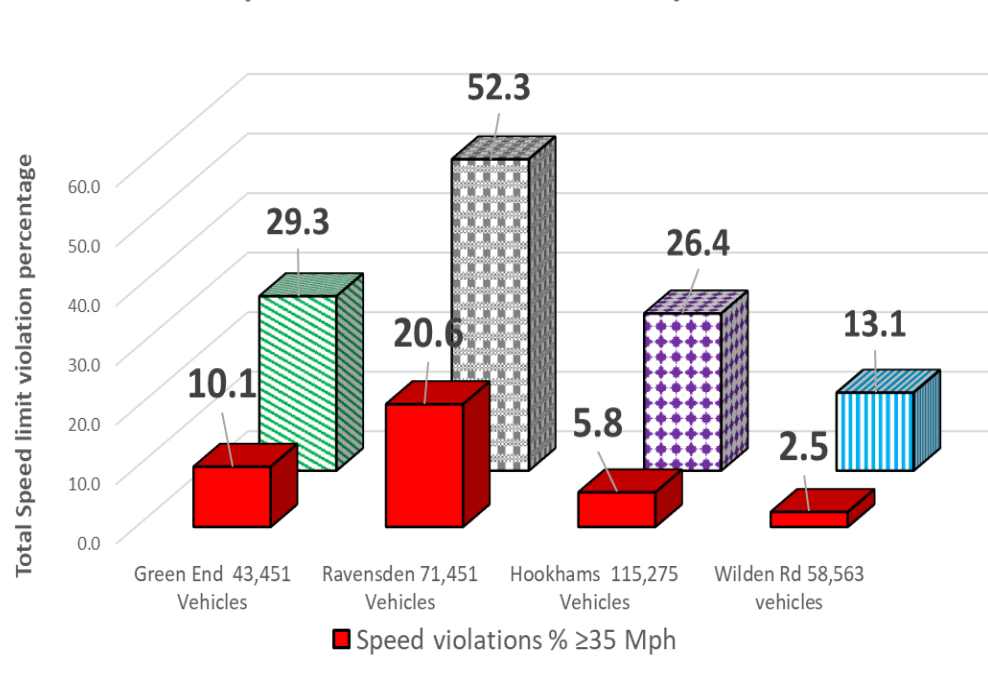
The bus is instead now collecting and dropping residents by the Polhill Arms which is a considerable distance from Green End. There are a lot of communications ongoing at the time of writing to resolve this issue to make sure a bus service returns as soon as possible to Green End.

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

Remember you can make contact with Lizzie, the Clerk, or any Councillor on any village matter. Please contact Lizzie, the Clerk, directly on 771702 or at liz-zie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7pm to be held at Renhold Village Hall on Wilden Road, and as always everyone is most welcome.

Speed Indicator Device data April 2023



As the road has been closed at Top End since 11th April, this suggests that the responsibility for the majority of the violations in Green End lays with the *residents* of Green End and Top End driving in excess of the speed limit. Martin Warwicker

My parents spanked me as a child. As a result I now suffer from a psychological condition known as “respect for others”

I just paid for a 12 month gym membership. My bank called to see if my credit card was stolen. Sent in by A. Bray

Average Speed Cameras - Ravensden Road, Renhold.

When out with my team of Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers, I am often asked why there are no Average Speed Cameras (ASCs) on Ravensden Road. The background to this is;

A proposal for ASCs was originally put forward to Bedford Borough Council (BBC) during 2015 at the same time that ASCs for Church End to Water End were being discussed. The latter were made the priority and Ravensden Road was to follow at a later date. Unfortunately, because of budgetary constraints, BBC ceased any further installations in 2016. This was disappointing as this stretch of road met all the criteria of evidence backed data to make it a priority location. At that time the Parish Council were in a position to part fund the project, but to no avail. I understand that the current cost of a set of ASCs is £85000.00 plus annual support fees.

When Borough funding was re-introduced in 2018, Renhold hoped that negotiations would pick up where they left off in 2016. It was hugely disappointing to discover that there was now a waiting list of 80 prospective sites across Bedford Borough and Renhold was no longer viewed as a priority. In fact, I believe we presently sit at about 50th on the list.

So, this is why there are currently no ASCs on Ravensden Road.

Until such time as this changes, the CSW team will do what it can to educate motorists to drive responsibly and the Police will continue to carry out speeding enforcement as and when their manpower permits. This activity is supported by the BBC Speed Camera Van. Perhaps if more residents shared their concerns with BBC and our new Mayor, it might help the case.

Keith Herkes (Community Speed Watch Coordinator, Renhold.)

THE MONTH OF JUNE

In the month of June, it lifts the heart to
wake

To the wonderful song of the birds.

To see the bees flitting from flower to
flower,

I then find myself so lost for words.

In the month of June, the fields are rich
with grass.

Cold winds will sometimes gently blow.
Buttercups and daisies blooming every-
where,

And dandelions on the roadside verges
grow.

In the month of June, cornflowers grow
in meadows,

And fields of forget-me-nots abound.
Poppies in the cornfields are now plenti-
ful,

And water lilies on ponds are found.

In the month of June are many well-
known days.

On the sixth, of course, we have D-Day.
June is rose month, there are many dif-
ferent types.

Then on the eighteenth it's Father's Day.

In the month of June, we should praise
the Lord God

For all the blessings He gives to us.

Austin Field.

A COUPLE OF THOUGHTS

When the power of love overcomes the
love of power.

The world will become a far better place.

Some of the most generous people have
very little money.

Austin Field.

RENHOLD CHAPEL June 2023

Sunday Services for June

Mr. R. Crane	28th May	10.30am
Mr. S. Gest	Evening	6.00 pm
Mr. A. Burton	4th June	10.30am
TBA	Evening	6.00pm
Mr. I. Densham	11th June	10.30am
TBA	Evening	6.00pm
Mr. M. Baker	18th June	10.30am
Mr. R. Knight	Afternoon teas	4.00pm
Mr. C. Knight	25th June	10.30am

Renhold Chapel Notes

We are now nearly halfway through the year-how time flies! The seasons change rapidly too. We have seen such beauty around us this year. For example, the vast array of tulips down the embankment, all the different colours and scents of the flowers in our gardens, the birdsong, the greenery and blossoms all around us -yes the natural world is very beautiful and when God created it he made it for our good and for us to look after. Sadly we have not always done a very good job of this. This world around can be an ugly place, but the natural world that God made is lovely and God pronounced it very good in the beginning. He is a loving God and although he knew we would not look after the world well, and do many things wrong, still sent His Son into the world to pay the price for all the wrong we have done- the Bible calls this sin. The good news is that if we truly repent of our sins and trust Christ, he will freely forgive us and one day we will be in a beautiful world without any problems that will last forever.

All things bright and beautiful
all creatures great and small
all things wise and wonderful
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens
each little bird that sings
He made their glowing colours
He made their tiny wings



Concert at Ravensden Church Organ and harpsichord concert by Gary Sieling

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RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL 2023

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Lizzie Barnicoat

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Tel: (01234) 771702 email: lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

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Margaret Dean	771520	h.dean520@btinternet.com
Nicky Gribble	771994	nicky.gribble@icloud.com
Guido Liguori	01234 815150	parishmatters@blanchenef.com
Julian Polhill	07808 773577	julian.polhill@pageestate.com
Julie Roberts	07766 478974	joooles14b@btinternet.com
Martin Warwicker	07983 156845	m.warwicker@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meeting dates & venues for 2023

Parish Council meetings now start at 7pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th June at Renhold Village Hall.

The subsequent meeting will be 26th July.

Parish Council

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 lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

Jokes sent in by Colin Albion

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance."

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Have you ever noticed? The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

Welcome to our newly-elected Independent Borough Councillor.

Nicky Gribble by Rod Jones.

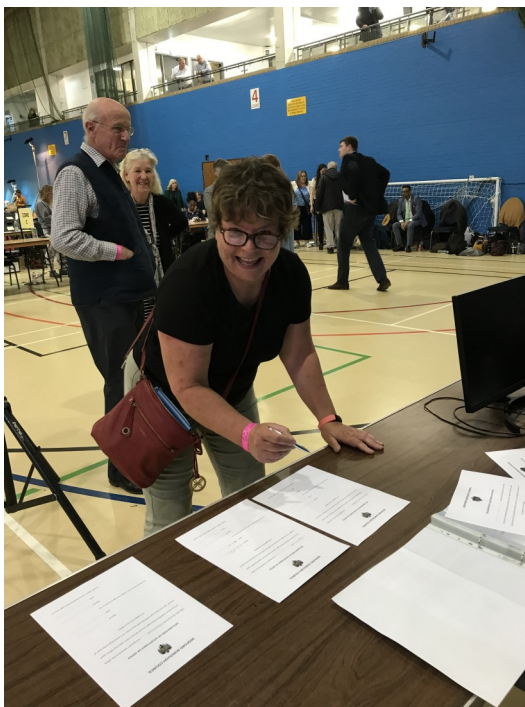
After the sudden and tragic death of Stephen Moon, our last borough councillor, several urgent decisions had to be made with polling day just a few weeks away. Nicky had no political experience, no funding and no-one to give her advice. However, her local knowledge was impressive, and as Chair of our own Parish Council she had many contacts and she felt she had a lot more to offer to the community. She had recently retired, had time to spare and with the ongoing concerns caused by East West Rail and the proposed route E affecting Renhold and Ravensden proving to be such a huge issue, she threw her hat in the ring, ignoring the warnings that her chances of election success were North of 50-1. She had a month to prepare...

Several people in the village had asked her to stand. Nomination papers were sent to her by e-mail. A proposer and a seconder were quickly found. Then, with a wonderful team of six helpers, the hard work started. Ours is now a new ward comprising of Renhold and Ravensden. The Team first targeted the 500 postal voters, then faced the "small problem" of canvassing every house in the two villages. Four weeks of frantic canvassing and an average of 25,000 steps per day, helped by an amazing team and other well-wishers, everyone contributing in their own way. In her own words, "we were all amateurs, totally inexperienced, but we believed and we did it. And we won!" And all the while, people were thinking her chances were zero against a fully funded political machine.

Polling day arrived. Counting was done at The John Bunyan Centre. Each candidate's votes were on a pile. It suddenly dawned on Nicky that her pile was rapidly getting higher than all the others. As if in a dream, she heard her name called to go to the Communications Desk, and the nigh-on – impossible had become reality. This was a real David and Goliath moment, and congratulations were pouring in. Her training has started at County Hall, run by the Borough- an induction day, followed by numerous courses for three months.

It has been an exhausting ordeal, but she says it has been a real eye-opener, and she has enjoyed every minute of it. She will stay on in the Parish Council, but is eagerly looking forward to her new duties, as well. Her thanks go to the wonderful team of supporters, without whom it would not have been possible. The future of our two villages suddenly looks a lot brighter.

Well done, Nicky, a fantastic achievement.





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772794

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351162
Keith Timms
772605

Lay Vice Chair

Alan Bloomfield
351162

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Mrs Phillippa Martin-
Moran-Bryant
07934 853 907

Christine McHugh
07968 027560

Nicola Gribble
07955 530234

Renhold Village Agent

Teresa Moon
0800 0391234

Parish Councillors

See page 26

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