

THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE



CANDLES FOR UKRAINE
See p7 for the full story

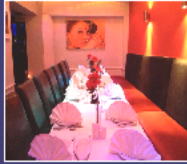
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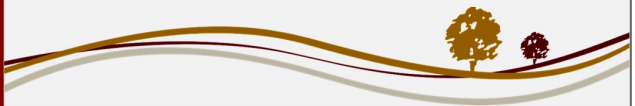
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Nursing and Specialist Dementia Care

We have created a safe specialised environment for those living with dementia and nursing needs. Our staff are trained to a high standard using the latest evidence based person centred models for dementia specialist nursing. Activities, events and day to day living all contribute to a wonderful way of life within this fantastic setting.



DIARY APRIL 2024

School Dates 2024:

Summer Term	Tues. April 16th — Fri. 19th July
Half-Term	Mon. 27th May — Fri. 31st May

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Notable Renhold dates & events:

Wed.27th March	Tibbs Easter Lunch	Maypole Farm	12noon	p13
Mon.8th April	Creative Club	Leaf Printing	Chapter House	7.30pm
Tues.9th April	Parish Council meeting	RVH	7.00pm	p25
Sat.20th April	Churchyard	Clear Up	9.30pm	
Sat.4th May	Renhold Community	Litter Pick		p25
Sat 18th May	Concert for organ and flute		7.00pm	p15

Church cleaning rota:

Mon. 18th March	Pauline Capell and Judy Wootton
Mon.1st April	Jill Barrell and Ingrid Lennox
Mon. 15th April	Sally Pool, Peter Pool and Tessa Wood
Mon.23rd April	Jill Burrows and Christine Smith

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

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Frontispiece: Photos by Rev. Ian

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

EDITORIAL By Anne Grant

Halleluia, they are widening and levelling the pavement along Ravensden Road. It has been difficult for even single individuals to walk comfortably along this path and nigh on impossible if in a wheelchair or unsteady on your feet. The resurfacing of Pinchgut hill is now delightful to drive up and the sight of mini waterfalls rushing down the road every time it rains, now largely a thing of the past .We are all crossing our fingers that the potholes in Ravensden road will soon be a distant memory and the road will be resurfaced as well. Unfortunately at the time of writing the path is finished, all the equipment is packed up and removed and the potholes are still there!! Watch this space!



At the meeting held by our Mayor, Tom Wootton, on 14th March regarding East West Rail, it became apparent that the main time to focus all our efforts on fighting against the northern route, will be in June, when the first part of the statutory consultation will be held. The precise route will be clearly set out (at last) and that is when we have to put together all the evidence possible to support a route other than the northern route. Also we should fight for the 4 track not the 6 track railway, which will avoid the demolition of the homes in Poets. It was suggested that it would cost £1 billion pounds more to construct the northern rather than a southern route, surely that has to carry some weight!

The front cover photos indicate the generosity shown by the Renhold residents in donating candles for Ukraine. With frequent power cuts the candles can be a source of light, heat and a means of cooking, for those whose lives have been devastated by the war in Ukraine.

The memorial gathering held for Rod in the Village Hall was a lovely occasion and the photos on display, together with the speeches, helped to remind us of how many facets there were to his character and how much he will be missed in the village. Pauline has since written an article on the joys of being on hold on the phone, which I am sure we can all identify with (p12). Teresa Moon is back with a different hat, now working with Tibbs Dementia and keen to inform and support as many as possible. (p13)

We have received a delicious looking recipe from Elaine Gaskell on p10 . Elaine is one of the best cooks I know, so it is well worth giving it a try. We also are pleased to include this month a wonderful poem composed by each year group at Renhold Primary as a result of World Book Day, and we also have some lovely photos of their costumes .(p16 &17).

The magazine goes to the printer tomorrow and I have just heard the extremely sad news that Albert Gurney has died suddenly. Our thoughts are with his family. He was such a lovely man. He had a heart of gold and his knowledge of the village and its history was invaluable. He will be sorely missed by all his many friends,



Martyn Smith

Arboriculturist

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All Saints Church Services for March and April 2024

All services taken by Rev'd Ian Smith except where stated.

Sunday 31 March	6.15am	Dawn Service
Easter Day	11.00am	Easter Eucharist & renew Baptism Vows
Monday 1 April	2.00pm	Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans <i>Details from Revd Ian Smith</i>
Wednesday 3 April	11.30am	Prayers for the Community

Sunday 7 April	11.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 10 April	7.30pm	Night Prayer (CW)

Sunday 14 April	11.00am	Café Church
	12 noon	APCM
	6.00pm	Evensong BCP with hymns Richard Deadman/ <i>Revd Ian Smith</i>
Wednesday 17 April	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>Revd David Powell</i>

Sunday 21 April	11.00am	Parish Eucharist
Wednesday 24 April	7.30pm	Compline

Sunday 28 April	11.00am	Sung Morning Prayer
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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 (except Easter Monday)
EACH THURSDAY	4.00pm	Evening Prayer

FROM THE REGISTER

Funeral and Burial	27th February	Sarah Hardy
Burial	28th February	Revd FR Clifford Bradley

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

As you read this article Easter will be upon us. To me it is the most special time of the year and a season which is more significant in my faith than Christmas. I am sure we all know the “story” from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday, through the Jewish feast of Passover and Maundy Thursday, then Jesus’ death on the cross on Good Friday and then His resurrection on that first Easter morning. To the secular world in which we live, the glitter and tinsel of Christmas outshines the highs and lows of the spiritual roller coaster of Holy week and Easter, but to me, it is so much richer and more meaningful, in fact I know that by Easter Monday I will be full of the joys of the Resurrection but emotionally exhausted. On Easter Sunday we are holding our dawn service (at 6:15am) which has become a regular feature, but also later that morning is a family orientated Easter Communion service where we will be blessing our Easter/Paschal candle for 2024, renewing our Baptism vows and if all goes to plan, the talk during the service will feature up to 30 bars of chocolate – Yes 30 bars of chocolate in a church service - hopefully calories do not count on Easter Sunday!!

One of the things I have noticed about Renhold as a Parish and community over my 4 years with you, is your amazing generosity and your willingness to share your plenty with those who do not have enough. As you are probably aware, All Saints is a collection point for the Bedford foodbank donations and also for Baby foodbank donations where formulas, nappies, wipes etc can be left to be taken to those in need on a weekly basis. Your generosity is humbling and amazing. In addition to this, during January one of my friends from a previous parish contacted me and told me about a District Rotary campaign to collect old, unwanted, part used candles and melt them down to send to Ukraine where they would be used for heating, lighting and even reheating foods and liquids as their electricity supply is so affected by the war. I told the congregation about this one Sunday morning and put a small box out in the porch for people to drop off any candles they did not want – Renhold, I should have known, one box was nowhere near enough and I eventually made two trips, both with a full boot and heaped back seat, to the collection point where our donations were collated with others. One school locally heard about this project and every child in the school gave at least one candle which was accompanied by a note, a picture or a message for the people in Ukraine, unbelievable and so touching. I have received an email from my friend who tells me that the organisers had to make two van collections from his garage as response had been so amazing – with Renhold leading the way – He has sent me 3 photographs which I hope can be inserted in this article - All I can say is thank you. (see the front cover)

In my last article I told you about our “Friends” and their fundraising to help us fund restoration works – On Friday June 21st the friends are hosting a concert by the Alma Singers in church, which promises to be a great evening of music and entertainment. Please look out for posters around the parish giving more details, and I can confirm that Pam Rhodes (from Songs of Praise) will visit us and host an evening exploring our favourite hymns on Friday 1st November, which is All Saints Day, and will start our Patronal festival weekend.– More details will follow in the next few editions of Renhold news, so watch this space (and our social media pages)!

Details of all services are listed within this magazine, and these will be live streamed where possible using the All Saints Renhold Facebook page with service sheets being available on our website www.all-saints-church-renhold.org. Take care, stay safe and God Bless... Rev. Ian

Letter to the Editor

Liz Taylor wrote to me asking if I could publicise the plight of a Ukrainian mother and her son. Please read below.

This is Valeria she is 26 and she is in Ukraine with her 4-year-old son Sviatoslav . They are in the Cherkasy region. Valeria has taken the dreadfully difficult decision to ask for help to come to the UK under the government scheme “Homes for Ukraine.” She has friends here in Bedford and Ampthill who would support her if she can find a sponsor.

The constant stress of the air raids and drone attacks is frightening little Sviatoslav . He can't attend nursery or have any kind of normal childhood. Valeria is a trained pharmacist but now is working from home as a web designer. She speaks some English.

I am writing to you all because I am an avid reader of your magazine. I was born in Renhold along with my two brothers John and Philip Wainwright. I now work in Wiltshire supporting Ukrainian sponsors and refugees . I came across Valeria and her desire to be in the Bedford area and thought I would ask if anyone is able help her. The government pay £350 per month tax free to any sponsor . You have to agree to have them for a minimum of 6 months . You provide a bedroom that she and Sviatoslav can share, and the ability to use a kitchen and bathroom.

Space in the magazine is tight so I can't give any more details. However if you are interested in finding out more please contact me for an informal chat. It's a rewarding, life-changing opportunity.

Thank you.

Liz Taylor mob 07875951852

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Recipe from Elaine Gaskell

Pork Fillet, Pancetta - Mustard Sauce

Serving Size : 4 Preparation Time :0:00

Categories : Pork & Ham

Amount Measure	Ingredient
2	Pork Fillets
1 pack	pancetta
	black pepper
	mixed herbs
1	large onions -- sliced
1 clove	garlic -- crushed
1 tablespoons	wholegrain mustard
1/4 pint	double cream
Small glass	Noilly Prat or very dry sherry
	Olive oil

Preparation Method

Sprinkle fillets with black pepper and cover with herbs. Wrap pancetta round the fillets. Place in roasting pan. Heat oven to about 200c and cook for approx. ¾ hour.

Sauce: Fry onions and garlic in olive oil until transparent. Add the Noilly Prat or sherry and the wholegrain mustard. Just before serving bring sauce up to heat and add the cream bring to the boil to thicken.

Spoon onions and sauce onto the centre of the plate and slice the fillet - put about 3 or 4 slices onto the onions.

News from Bedford Borough

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Do any of these sound familiar to you ? 'Thank you for holding.' 'We appreciate your patience.' 'An operator will be with you shortly.' 'Your hold time is approximately 25 minutes.' Or, on hearing the message 'Your call is important to us ' have you, like me, shouted 'Oh no it's not or you'd **** answer it!'

I have recently had cause to phone a whole load of companies and public services after the death of my husband, and my different experiences tempted me to do a bit of research. The whole concept of hold music broken up by messages and sales pitches, was created quite accidentally by a man called Alfred Levy in 1962, an entrepreneur, inventor and factory owner. Up until then when calls were put on hold there was just silence, but Alfred found that an exposed loose wire touching a metal girder within his telephone system, was picking up a radio broadcast that was taking place from a radio station next door. This gave him the idea of filling the previous on-hold silence with music. **Four years later the concept of hold music was patented.**

The Business Telephone Centre in the USA conducted a survey. 10,000 callers were subjected to one minute of total silence when put on hold, the result being that 50% hung up and, interestingly, 45% of those who remained on the line over estimated their one minute of wait time, believing it to be between 3-5 minutes. Another 10,000 callers experienced music during their one minute of wait time and only 30% hung up, whereas just 31% remaining on line thought that they had been waiting for more than one minute.

This finding begs the question of what purpose "hold music" serves and the psychology behind the type of music chosen. It will come as no surprise that a complaints service favours something classical, maybe with sounds from nature in the background, that is purported to be calming and soothing. A sales line on the other hand could favour something more upbeat and energetic from pop culture. One of the main purposes in providing music is to reduce call desertion rate, as another statistic suggests that 30% of those who give up on calls will never return. It has also been suggested by other surveys that frustration for a caller begins to set in after just one and a half minutes. A good choice of music is said to demonstrate professionalism, showing that a business values its customer's time, and has put some thought into their experience while on hold. Businesses will also use this platform to convey information to their captive audiences such as promotions, business hours or self-service options.

To change or not to change the hold music regularly is yet another question to be addressed, a change being something which frequent callers may appreciate. All of this has become even more important and apposite with more and more people working from home and conducting business over the phone. Personally, from my own experience, my pet hate is my doctor's surgery who has chosen, in line with many other surgeries so I am told, to opt for something so ceaselessly, teeth clenchingly repetitive, you find yourself actually humming it for the rest of the day!!

In 2012, Australia's Sydney Morning Herald ran an article about a man who was on hold to Qantas Airline for 15 hours, accompanied by a frequent message telling him that a customer service agent would be with him soon !! He decided to test this out by keeping the line open whilst going about his other daily business. The article concluded by saying that the on-hold experience is the true purgatory of modern existence, a place of temporary damnation where the gentle wash of music is punctuated by occasional glimpses of the promised land ie: that 'your call is important to us and someone will be with you shortly.'

Is Dementia an Issue for You? Teresa Moon

Bedford Tibbs Dementia Foundation is here to support you. We have been helping people with dementia and their family carers in Bedfordshire for over 10 years, and would love to meet you.

Our wide range of regular activities for people with all stages of dementia include Music for Memory, a walking group, Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, walking football, indoor and outdoor bowls, exercise classes and an allotment.

Our programme for carers includes information sessions and support groups for those currently in a caring role, and also a bereavement group. There is also a special group for carers whose loved one is in a care home.

Take a look at our full programme on our website - <https://tibbsdementia.co.uk/>

What is the Tibbs Approach?

Our Bedford-based charity offers a wide range of activities which provide cognitive and physical stimulation in a safe and supportive space. Our groups are for people at all stages of dementia, diagnosed or not, and those who support them.

Our charity takes its name from Margaret-Anne Tibbs, an expert in the field of dementia, who is one of our founders and who still guides us on a day-to-day basis. Five years after our founding in 2013 we were honoured to receive the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

We challenge the stereotypes of dementia and focus on the person, working with their skills and experience, and enabling them to contribute at whatever level they are capable of. Our aim is to help people with dementia live their best life possible, through our person-centred approach.

How Should I Take the First Step?

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, which is packed with activities and information. Just email contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk

Join us for an informal afternoon for people with dementia and their carers, every Tuesday from 2-4pm at Kempston East Methodist Church. We start with a few table games, moving on to a variety of stimulating activities, and ending with a few songs around the piano – with plenty of tea and cake of course! Carers are welcome to take part, or chat to each other, or speak to our helpers if they prefer. Join our gentle Exercise Class from 2-3pm on Thursdays at the University of Bedfordshire in Polhill Avenue. Call [01234 210993](tel:01234210993) or

email dianne.richards@tibbsdementia.co.uk for more details.

Join us for an easy walk around Mowsbury Park on Friday afternoons. We meet at the café and set off at 2pm, ending up back at the café for a hot drink and a natter.



Tibbs Dementia Foundation



Renhold Village Clubs 2024

Group	Contact	Tel.	Day	Time	Place
Bridge Club- No Fear	TBA		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	772689	2nd Tues.	10-12noon	Chapel
Creative Club	Teresa Trangmar	07788402 441	2nd Mon.	7.30- 9.00pm	Chapter House
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 Thomp- son	771724		Term time	
Stitchers	Jackie Croot	870271	3rd Thurs.	10.30- 12.30pm	Chapter House
Table tennis	TBA		Every Mon. Every Wed. Every Fri.	1.30pm 10.30am 10.30am	Church Lane Com- munity 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

RV Hall = Renhold Village Hall; the Chapter House is at the back of All Saints Church.

Mobile Library Times April and May 2024

<u>Location of Mobile Library</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
Renhold - Green End	10:00 - 10:15	2,16,30	14,28
Lay by - Salph End	10.20 -10.35	2,16,30	14,28
Renhold - Home Close	10:40 - 10:55	2,16,30	14,28
Renhold - Ravensden Road	11:00 - 11:15	2,16,30	14,28

Times will vary slightly due to traffic conditions, etc.

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

All Saints Church, Renhold

A Concert for Organ and Flute **Saturday 18th May at 7.00pm**



Caroline Muzolf (Flute)
Adrian Quarry (Organ)



Raffle and refreshments

Donations welcome for Church Funds

Letters

Good morning Albert,

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed reading your family history tale in the March Magazine. It's great to see this stuff down on paper as it should not be forgotten. Any more stories- keep them coming.

Regards.

Keith Herkes

Having just heard of Albert's sudden and unexpected death makes the knowledge that he received this e mail from Keith all the more special. AG

April Walks for the North Beds Ramblers

April Walks

6th pm Little Staughton, 6 miles

13th am Pegsdon 13 miles, or pm Sherington 6.5 miles,

20th pm Clapham Park 7 miles

27th am Unlocks Church London 7.5 miles or pm Bromham 6 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

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

RENHOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL (see opposite)

Our school is like an enchanting book setting out on an amazing journey,
Meeting and getting close to people who are honest, kind and caring,
Who help us to persevere when things get tough:
Always exploring new knowledge and aiming for a better education and success.
(year 6)

At our school you will hear,
The ding of Dojos and the drop of golden tokens.
The click of a peg on the bright, colourful rainbow making us feel proud.
The sound of laughter and happiness fills the school. (year R)

At our school, we smile as we slurp ice-cream,
Whoop for super sports,
Tap out dazzling dancing,
Create crazy costumes,
And take tremendous trips.
We crash through the door ready for fancy, fantastic fun!
Our school is as fun as a playground, a funfair, a party! (year 3)

At our school, we learn the way we learn best.
Through listening and persevering,
Through following our golden rules and working hard together and having fun.
By knowing it is ok to make mistakes.
Through excitement and enjoyment, in our journey to become life-long learners!
(year 1)

Our school is a place to learn and make friends,
Established in the church in 1866, we worship and thrive together in God's love.
The fun never ends in our school. (year 4)

Children from Renhold have knowledge like a skyscraper.
In the future, we might help children learn, support charities, become engineers,
help the elderly AND even become astronauts!
Could we be in the Olympics?
Could we be palaeontologists?
Could we be footballers?
Could we be doctors?
Renhold School inspires us to be whatever we want to be! (year 2)

We stand up for what we believe in.
We stand against bullying.
We stand up for children's rights.
We stand against racist slights.
We stand up for people who don't have a voice,
We stand against poverty and hunger (some children don't have a choice).
We stand up for people destroyed by war.
AT RENHOLD WE LOVE EACH OTHER TO THE CORE. (year 5)

WORLD BOOK DAY AT RENHOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Poetry was the theme for World Book Day this year and as part of these activities we held a 'Poetry Relay' in school. This is where a poem was started in year 6 and worked its way to every class, where the next verse of the poem was written.



The theme of the poem was

RENHOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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(see opposite page)
Andrea Ward



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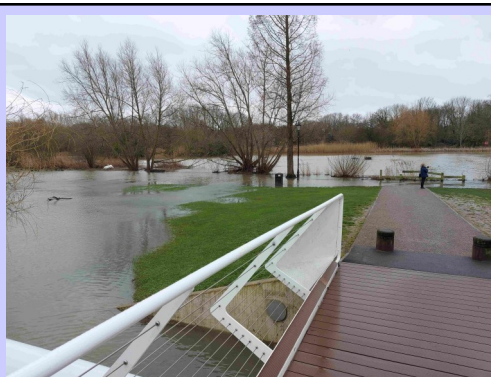
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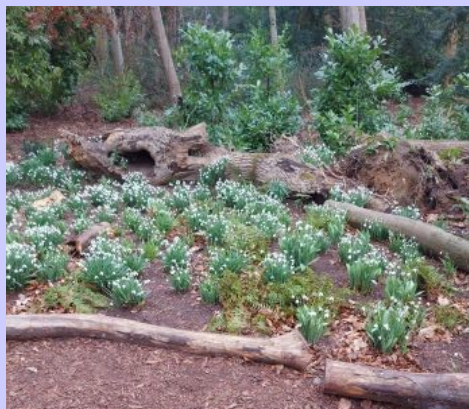


Recent flooding of the embankment seen from the Butterfly bridge.



A recent trip round Anglesey Abbey. We were lucky to catch a dry day.

Photos by Anne Grant



WILD ABOUT RENHOLD (see opposite)



Sunset
in
Renhold
1st Feb
4.41pm

Photos
from
Rev. Ian

WILD ABOUT RENHOLD by Tony Ploszajski

Coltsfoot

Coltsfoot has been used medicinally for many hundreds of years to treat coughs, colds and sore throats, hence another of its popular common names, 'coughwort'. A common and creeping perennial plant of bare, damp or disturbed ground, Coltsfoot is found on waste ground, field edges and roadside verges. Its daisy-like, composite flower heads (made up to lots of tiny flowers) appear as early as February, well before the hoof-shaped leaves (hence its common name). Coltsfoot continues to flower until April. The fact that the flowers appear before the leaves has led to one of its other colloquial names, 'Son-before-father'.

Dog Violets

Dog Violets have been much in evidence around Renhold this spring, especially along grassy verges and footpaths. As their name suggests, their flowers are typically violet in colour, but there are some clumps of white violets, although they are generally not in quite such close proximity as the flowers in the photo. The plant gets its 'Dog' prefix from the fact that its flowers are scentless so it was considered inferior to other violets. It is often an indicator of ancient woodland, so its presence alongside paths and hedgerows in Renhold is a good sign that our current landscape has been around for quite a while.

Bullfinch

Marie Baird, spotted this lovely male Bullfinch in her back garden, one of a pair. Bullfinches have become increasingly scarce in the past few years. Although one of the most colourful native British species, the Bullfinch can easily pass unnoticed in the garden as it prefers thick foliage and is shy in its behaviour. When their winter seed supply runs out they will turn to eating tree buds, which is the reason the species has historically been so unpopular with fruit growers, as the birds will often strip a fruit tree, such as apple, of its fruit buds. The Bullfinch's song is a quiet warbling and its call a distinctive 'creaky' whistle, which can be heard even when the birds are hidden. A fairly large finch compared with other species, the male has a deep pink chest and underparts, black cap and a white rump which is often the main feature seen as it flies off. The female is a greyer version but with a similar plumage pattern.

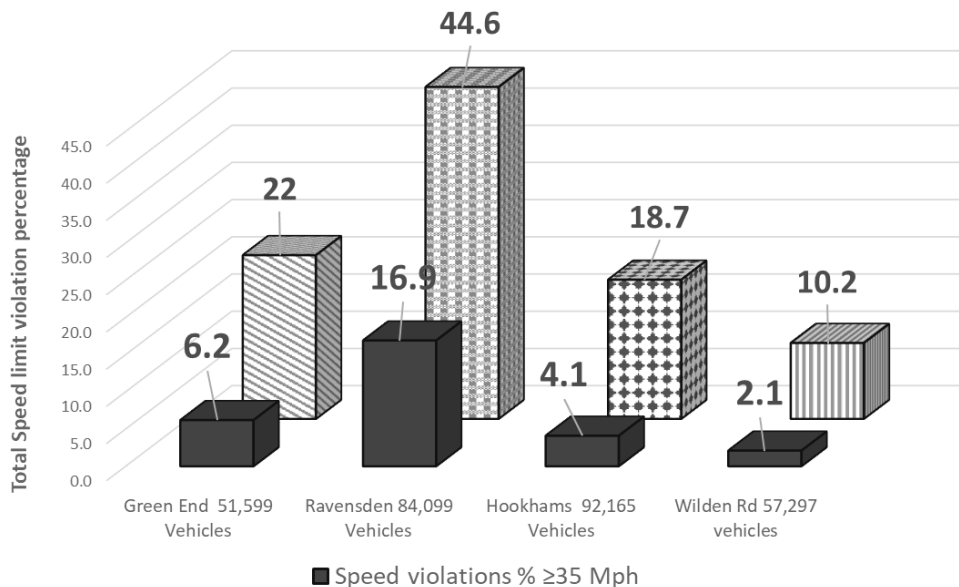
Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (RNPWG)-update

Following the appointment of AECOM, a government approved body, to provide professional services in preparing the Renhold Plan, two representatives recently visited Renhold and were conducted on a tour of all areas of the Parish. This was to allow them to gain a first-hand knowledge of the Parish, and its environs, with particular references to: its rural setting, landscape character, build character, relationship of the newer parts to both urban Bedford and rural Renhold, the characterful Ends and Green Gaps together with the natural habitats and biodiversity.

Using this information and the results of preceding resident consultations and surveys, a Renhold Design Code will be drawn up, aimed at safeguarding Renhold Parish for the foreseeable future, but subject to a review in 2030. It is anticipated that the report will be available for discussion in May 2024.

This will take us closer to presenting the 'Plan' to Renhold residents by way of public consultation in the not too distant future. **Keith Herkes**

Speed Indicator Device data February 2024



Some jokes sent in by Doug Marr

1. "Nothing looks good on me anymore" wailed a customer modelling an outfit in front of the department store's mirror. "Nonsense ma'am" soothed the sales clerk. "That dress says it all" "That's the problem" the woman replied. " I need a dress that keeps its mouth shut."
2. Phoning a patient, the doctor says, "I have some bad news and some worse news. The bad news is that you have only 24 hours to live." "That is bad news" the patient replied, "What could be worse?" The doctor answers "I have been trying to reach you since yesterday."
3. On a Miami to Chicago flight was a lively youngster who nearly drove everyone crazy. He was running up and down the aisle when the flight attendant started serving coffee. He ran smack into her , knocking a cup of coffee out of her hand and all over the floor. As he stood by watching her clean up the mess , she glanced up at the boy and said "Look why don't you go and play outside?"
4. "Your mother has been with us now for 20 years" said John. "Isn't it time she got a place of her own?" "My mother " replied Helen "I thought she was your mother".
5. Two Hollywood stars ran into each other at the door of their psychiatrist's office. "Hello there" said one. "Are you coming or going?" "If I knew that " said the other "I wouldn't be here".
6. Mrs Smythe was making final arrangements for an elaborate reception. "Nora" she said to her veteran servant "For the first half hour I want you to stand at the drawing room door and call the guests names as they arrive." Nora's face lit up "Thank you ma'am, "she replied" I've been wanting to do that for the last 20 years".

Borough Councillor Report **February Update**

Another busy month in Renhold and the surrounding area with different challenges presenting when we are not expecting them. Obviously the weather has continued to dominate some people's lives with the threat of flooding very present and a record-breaking rainfall total in February. I will be arranging a visit from the Inland Drainage Board following concerns around the brook, field ditches and pumping station

Luckily the new defences on The Aspires Estate appear to have worked and the grass will be re-seeded when the ground conditions dry out enough to allow it.

There have been very worrying reports of an increase in suspected drug dealing on The Spires Estate. The Police and Community Safety team are aware and I am working with them to ensure this problem is given the resources it needs to put a stop to it. Please can I ask residents if they see anything suspicious to report via the on-line reporting tool and Bedfordshire police. Alternatively, let me know and I can report it for you.

East West Rail continues to dominate and I would very much encourage residents to take part in the statutory consultation when the opportunity arises in the summer. We will be offering support and guidance if required as the documents can be difficult to navigate.

Dog poo on the grassed areas is causing distress and children are stepping in it while playing or on their way to school so please, please pick up after your dog and place the bag in the bins provided - not hang them on trees or leave on the side of the path!

Finally, myself, the Parish Council and Renhold School PTA are organising a village litter pick on Saturday, May 4th, all equipment to be provided. Please let me know if you want to have a fun time in the fresh air while clearing up our village at the same time. Details to follow but hold the date.

Many thanks for your continuing support, I really appreciate it,

Best wishes,

Nicky.

CLlr Nicola Gribble

Ward Councillor for Renhold & Ravensden

Email Nicola.gribble@bedford.gov.uk

Tel: 07955530234



Renhold Parish Council March Update

GENERAL HIGHWAYS SAFETY LATEST

The Parish Council were pleased to see the completion of the Wilden Road/Pinchcut Hill highways surfacing work as well as the footway works in Salph End at Ravensden Road. The actions from the highways walkround with Borough Council Officers and Borough Councillor Jim Weir Deputy Mayor & Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways & Transport continue to be followed up.

The Parish Council have sent a request to the local authority to ask the Borough Council for an extension to the 30mph speed limit in Ravensden Road, with substantial evidence provided to show the highways safety benefits that it would bring. The vehicle activated speed data continues to be downloaded monthly, and shared with the highways authority Bedford Borough Council and as well as the local Police team.

WHAT HAS THE PARISH COUNCIL BEEN UP TO?

It has continued to be a busy time with a number of items being worked on including:

Securing part funding (£2,250) for three new defibrillator devices, one to be located at sites in: the Spires, Aspire and Cranbourne Gardens with the Parish Council funding the remaining amount (£2,250)

Arrangement of a community training event on defibrillator use open to residents to attend being planned for early summer

Noticeboard improvements work being undertaken across the parish

Cllrs. Brunsdon, Roberts and Gribble attended the Campaign to Protect Rural England Planning Workshop recently, as well as Cllrs. Warwicker and Gribble attending Chairmanship training

Grass cutting contractor appointment alongside other village maintenance

EAST WEST RAIL CONSULTATION UPDATE

The Parish Council understand that the next round of public consultation will be starting in early June, it is expected this will run for approximately six weeks. If the government announce a general election prior to the start of the public consultation period it is believed that the public consultation will not commence and will be put on hold. If a general election announcement is made during the public consultation period, the consultation will continue as planned.

REPORTING LOCAL ISSUES – WHERE TO RAISE THEM

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

If you come across a highways issue on a road, footway, or a public right of way such as a footpath or bridleway then please report it to the local authority via the **highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk** or via the Borough Council website, where you will receive automatic updates.

If there is an environmental issue, such as litter, fly tipping, noise, bins, graffiti, abandoned vehicles then please make contact with Bedford Borough Council via environmental.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk or again via the Borough Council website: Bedford.gov.uk

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR PARISH?

Have you thought about becoming a Parish Councillor.....The Parish Council currently has Councillor vacancies and would be very interested to hear from residents who want to get involved and have their say on village matters, you might:

Like to see improvements to your local area

Or have an interest in improving certain local provisions or services

Have ideas on enhancing the village environment

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

Be really concerned about traffic and highways safety in the village

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

HEALTHWATCH BEDFORD – WHAT IS IT?

Healthwatch are an organisation commissioned by Bedford Borough Council to be the local consumer champion for publicly funded health and social care. It delivers services which can be summarised as:

Influencing – helping shape the planning of health and social care services

Signposting – helping people access and make choices about care

Support is available to give people a powerful voice locally, working to help people get the best out of their local health and social care services. Whether it is improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow. This could be GP practice feedback, coping with caring for someone or tips on supporting those with exam stress. Please do get in touch via enquiries@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk or 01234 638678, plus there is lots of helpful information on www.healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please note that contact details have been updated for a number of Parish Councillors as well as the Parish Clerk as the Council move over to more official email addresses. A full list is available as usual in the Magazine directory, so do make a note of the best way now to contact Lizzie, Parish Clerk is on:

***parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk** . For Parish Councillors the pattern is place their forename followed by @renhold-pc.gov.uk*

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The next meeting will be on 9th April, this will be followed by the annual Parish Council meeting on 15th May, plus do add 18th June to the diary as this meeting is expected to focus on the East West Rail consultation. All meetings commence at 7pm and take place at Renhold Village Hall on Wilden Road.

Lizzie Barnicoat

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 4th May, Renhold Community litter-pick, please contact Nicky Gribble for more details. **Nicola.gribble@bedford.gov.uk** all equipment provided, support your village!

RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL 2024

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Lizzie Barnicoat

PO Box 1548, Bedford MK44 5AX

Tel: (01234) 771702 email: parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Councillor	Phone	e-mail
Susan Brunsdon	266281	susan@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Fiona Cardinale	07762 881009	fiona@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Margaret Dean	771520	margaret@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Nicky Gribble	771994	nicky@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Julie Roberts	07766 478974	julie@renhold-pc.gov.uk
Martin Warwicker	07983 156845	martin@renhold-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meeting dates & venues for 2024

Parish Council meetings now start at 7pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be from 7pm — 8.30pm on Tues. 9th April and the next ones on Wed.15th May, Tues.18th June and Tues.30th July.

As always, if you wish to raise any ideas or make comments to the Parish Council, then please contact one of the Parish Councillors (see above or the new Parish Council website (renhold-pc.co.uk) for contact details) or contact Lizzie, Parish Clerk on 771702 or email parishclerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk

From Our Village Agent

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC)

Our Village Agent, **Lydia Wright**, is here to help you to access the services and support you might need. She can help you fill in forms, or check whether you are receiving the right benefits. Her services are free and she can visit you at home.

Just call Freephone **0800 039 1234**.

RENHOLD CHAPEL

Sunday Services

7th April	10.30am	Mr D. Gibson	
14th April	10.30am	Mr R. Crane	Communion
21st April	10.30am	Mr P. Bridle	
28th April	10.30am	Mr R. Andrews	

CHAPEL NOTES

Unveiling the Road to Emmaus: A Biblical Encounter with Meaning for All.

In the annals of biblical narratives, one story stands out for its profound symbolism and timeless relevance – the Road to Emmaus. While rooted in Christian scripture, its message transcends religious boundaries, offering wisdom and inspiration to believers and non-believers alike.

The tale unfolds with two disciples journeying from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. Their hearts weighed down by confusion and sorrow, they encounter a stranger on the road. Unbeknownst to them, this seemingly ordinary encounter would become a pivotal moment in their lives.

In their conversation with the stranger, the disciples pour out their anguish over the recent crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had hoped would be the Messiah. Little did they realize that the stranger walking beside them was none other than Jesus himself, resurrected from the dead.

As they walk, the stranger patiently unfolds the scriptures, revealing how the events they mourned were foretold long ago. He explains how Jesus' death was not the end, but the fulfilment of divine prophecy, ushering in a new era of redemption and salvation.

What makes the Road to Emmaus story compelling is its universality. At its core, it speaks to the human experience of grappling with doubt, grief, and the search for meaning. It invites us to consider the possibility of encountering the divine amid our ordinary lives – in the conversations we have, the strangers we meet, and the moments of revelation that shape our understanding of the world.

Ultimately, the Road to Emmaus is a story of hope and renewal – a reminder that even in our darkest moments, Jesus walks with us, offering light in the midst of darkness, joy in the midst of sorrow, and hope in the midst of despair. It challenges us to keep our eyes open to the presence of the divine in the ordinary moments of our lives, to be receptive to moments of encounter and revelation, and to journey with faith and courage towards the abundant life that God offers us.



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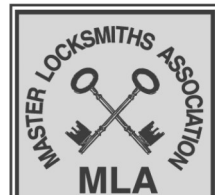
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Rev. Ian Smith

e: renhold.rev@gmail.com

772794

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Keith Timms

772605

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Alan Bloomfield

351162

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Ann Timms

772605

Jill Burrows

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Borough Councillors

Nicola Gribble

07955 530234

Renhold Village Agent

Lydia Wright

0800 039 1234

Parish Councillors

See page 26

Neighbourhood Plan

Amanda Quince

870704

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