

Simon Barnett's letter on the Rewind Festival is a helpful commentary on the ongoing damage caused by expanding events in Remenham. However, his correction of the mathematics is flawed, though understandable since the article was not complete. Under the existing licence for Rewind they operate full live stage performances on two days with 20,000 people attending on Saturday and Sunday i.e. 40,000 (there is some minimal activity on Friday evening). The new application moves this to three full days of live stage performances with an increased capacity of 30,000 for each day i.e. 90,000. That's a 225% increase. It then has wider implications to accommodate this increase of which additional car parking space, spread through the village with the related disruptions is only one. And of course it is not simply three days: it takes more than a week to set up the event and a similar time to take it down - as with many of the events staged here; HRR and its related activities is by no means five days. The chaos often caused by large articulated lorries attempting to negotiate single track country lanes and driven by people unfamiliar with the geography has sometimes meant sitting for an hour in your car whilst this chaos is resolved.

Mr Barnett is correct when he says the Rewind expansion is driven by corporate greed. There is no other reason for this. They simply want both to recover their investment and leverage the fixed costs they incur each year in erecting the facilities.

People will have seen from the photographs in the Standard that this event is already vast. The problem for local residents is that it comes at the end of a long summer of events which deny residents their legal rights to the "peaceful enjoyment" of their homes. This may be the legal position for all home owners, but it also means simple access to our homes is often compromised through these disruptions. Some years ago Henley residents were in uproar from the staging of a major cycling event in the town that required the closure of some local roads. The event was banned. We have this effect every year, though often unplanned which makes it worse.

The fact is that from June to late August we are denied the normal use of our homes. There is the Royal Regatta, Women's Regatta, Masters Regatta, Henley Festival, Henley swim and so on. As only one example of the problem, the traffic jam on the first day of the Festival last year ran from the festival field the whole length of Remenham Lane, past the church and up Remenham Church Lane - more than a mile.

Enough is enough. It is simply unacceptable that this combination of events should continue to expand unchecked. This area, covered by National Trust covenants "to protect the rural nature of the land", which were put in place to preserve the area for the benefit of the general public to enjoy in peace and quiet, is now being further compromised for reasons of personal profit. Simply unacceptable.

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