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PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 37 years





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Be who you truly are

Among the books I was given for Christmas, was “Hidden Nature” by Alys Fowler, who will be familiar to anyone who watches “Gardener’s World”.

Alys took an inflatable canoe, only big enough for one person and small enough to be crammed in a rucksack when deflated, and a collapsible paddle, and would disappear for an hour or two (or three or four) around the Birmingham Canal Network. She found lots of litter, lots of dereliction, and some surprising wildlife in the backwaters of the city. She also found herself coming unravelled, and in the course of her journeyings, felt she had discovered something new and earth-shattering about herself – something which would change her life radically and for ever.

Alys learned as she came face to face with wild nature, that she had to be true to herself. Would she still be loved in this new existence? The answer is, yes.

For many of us, while we may not have Alys’ particular form of identity crisis, we hide things, which we feel are unlovely, which we are ashamed of. We fear what others will say, particularly in the world of social media. We fear what the truth will do for our relationships with our friends.

Yet will we still be loved, were the truth to be known? The answer again, is yes. God knows everything we do, everything we think and what we say (often not the same thing!) Yet despite all this, he still deeply loves us.

My favourite psalm is Psalm 139, which speaks of the writer not being able to travel anywhere without God being there before him. It says, “O Lord, you have searched me and known me, you know when I sit and when I stand . . . you are familiar with all my ways . . . you have laid your hand upon me.”

Do you find that off-putting? It’s actually deeply reassuring. For God knows why we react the way we do – he understands why we are as we are, and knows – and loves – the person deep inside.

I invite you to take a quiet moment, maybe in the garden or on a walk, in nature like Alys Fowler did. Or maybe light a candle or find an open church. Take time to be with the God who knows who you truly are, to be yourself.

And rest in his loving presence.

Elisabeth Bibbings

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church Prayers: in our cycle of prayers in February we shall be praying especially for everyone in Oakway. If you would like a special prayer to be said, please contact churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

Children's Church is on Sunday 16th February, within the normal Holy Communion service at 10.30am. The children and young people will be thinking about the day's Gospel reading from St Matthew in which Jesus encourages us all to live in a trusting and loving relationship with God. After the service, everyone is welcome to enjoy refreshments together and to celebrate all the February birthdays.

The annual **Wine Evening** (the 26th!) is on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm at Studham Village Hall. With all the usual fun – seven good wines and a three-course supper, a raffle and an auction – tickets are £22. Please contact John McDougal (873257 or john.mcdougal@btinternet.com) for tickets and more details.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

Many thanks to those who attended the Friends of Studham Church AGM in January. As well as re-electing John McDougal, Eric Jacoby and Peter Gee as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively, we reported on another successful year both financially and socially. Attendees were then rewarded with a glass or two of wine.

Our aim is to play a small part in preserving our village heritage by raising money for the maintenance of Studham's oldest building. One of our fundraising ventures is the 100 Club and Mike Hardy and Geoff Lee were the lucky January winners. It will soon be renewal time for the 100 Club, so existing members will be contacted shortly and new players are always welcome.

To find out more about the Friends or to join the 100 Club, please e-mail john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257.



Congratulations to
Liesa Coates and the
team for a
super Seniors
Christmas lunch.

Thank you to Bill
Bowman for the photo.

WHIPSDADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

ST MARY MAGDALENE

Village Lunch: the Village Lunch, held on the second Thursday of every month in the Village Hall, welcomes people from all communities to enjoy a happy social event. At the lunch on Thursday 13th February, choose for £6 from a menu of roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, chicken and mushroom pie, shepherds' pie or breaded sole, followed by a hot or cold pudding and tea or coffee.

Carols for the Children's Society: heartfelt thanks to the carol singers who braved the December chill to lift the spirits of the people of Whipnade while raising funds for the Children's Society. Together with the collections taken at the Christingle service and the Christmas Eve carol service, we were able to send a total of £724.61 to the charity. Well done to all who came and who gave so generously.

Annual Charity Donations: in addition to the efforts made by church members throughout the year to support various charities and emergency needs, the annual charitable giving was raised this year. Eight charities, suggested by church members, were each sent £100, covering local, national and global needs. A list is displayed on the church noticeboard, along with the letters of thanks that were sent in response to the gifts. Thank you to all church members for making this possible.

WHIPSDADE GREEN SCRUB CLEARANCE

We will continue clearing this area on 9th February and move on to other areas of re-growth nearby. Queries and offers of help to Charles Frost (871417). **Note:** the March Scrub Clearing is on Sunday 8th March (the last of the season).

WHIPSDADE SUMMER FETE

This raises funds for the church – this year on Saturday 13th June. Please note the date. We need help from new, younger people as well as the many regulars. If you would like to be involved either as a stall holder or helper (before and after the fete), please contact Isobel Randall (872552). A meeting will be arranged in early March, see next month's Parish Link.

Congratulations to Isobel Randall, Pam Ward and the team for the lovely Whipnade Village Christmas lunch.

Thank you to Les Randall for the photo.



KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS

In February our special prayers will be for those who live in The Ridgeway, Russell Close and Plewes Close. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

2nd February is Candlemas, celebrating the presentation of Christ in the Temple; 25th February is Shrove Tuesday, and Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the 26th (see p14).

Choir News: the choir practises on Fridays, 6pm – 7pm in the Church Hall in the winter months. The sung services are usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. If you would like to join, please contact Mike Palmer (524183 or medpalmer@gmail.com), or the Rector (872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com). We also welcome instrument players to help accompany on occasions.

Sunday School: for all young people, there are sessions for seniors and juniors on 9th February, when the theme will be Passing on the Light of Christ, and, on the 23rd, the younger children will learn about Jesus revealing the Glory of God. If you would like your child to join Sunday School, or if you want to be a helper, please contact Katherine Huggins (607841) for details.

Messy Church: this will be on Friday 14th February at 3.30pm in the Church Hall. Children aged 3+, accompanied by a parent or carer, are welcome to join in an afternoon of crafts, stories and songs on the theme of Loving and Giving, followed by a hot meal for everybody. No charge, but we are grateful for donations.

CHURCH SHOP

The shop, in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Vicarage), is open 2pm – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays. All kinds of treasures are available – come and have a browse! (Unfortunately, we cannot sell electrical goods, clothing or large items of furniture.)

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

For details of all services, see page 13. The February Coffee Morning is on Saturday 1st, 10.30am – 12 noon. Come and enjoy delicious tea/coffee and cakes and friendly chat.

KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB

Everyone is welcome to 'Drop In' at Kensworth Village Hall every Thursday 9am – 11am for tea/coffee and biscuits (soft drinks and crisps for children). Enjoy a chat and games and get to know the locals! We also have outings.

STUDHAM EXTRA

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

As always, the last few weeks before Christmas were full of activities including pantomimes and plays. Our Christmas service on the last day of term was particularly well-attended and it was lovely to see St Mary's packed out.

We are really proud of the children's charitable work over the last term. Most notably, our Children in Need events raised twice our previous record. Thanks to our PTFA parents who organised this. Our Choir performed brilliantly, singing carols outside the British Heart Foundation Shop in Dunstable, and raised a record amount of money for the charity. Whilst not record-breaking, we have also had very strong results in the annual Bike and Hike and Poppy Day. Thank you to everyone who makes it happen.



The coming half term is not quite as action-packed as the last, but there are a number of sporting events to come, as well as some visits to the Common. We are also delighted to welcome two new members of staff – Ms Julia Oldham is starting as School Office Manager and Mrs Hayley Harding is joining our pre-school as an Early Years Educator.

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB PEAKY BLINDERS

Studham Sports and Social club is hosting a fun "Peaky Blinders Casino Night" on Saturday 8th February from 7pm onwards. 1920's/Peaky Blinder themed dress or smart dress is accepted. Tickets from £15, includes champagne welcome and food. For more information please contact us (872137 or via Studhamssc@icloud.com).



QUIZZES

Red Lion Quiz: on Tuesday 4th February at 8pm. All proceeds go to the Village Hall. Why not put in a team? It is a great night. £3 a head entry to the quiz. There is a raffle and food is available – but remember if you want the curry, you need to order! Rounds remain the same as usual and for those who like to "swot up" – Alphabet is I, and Music O! Good luck and see you there!

Note for your diaries, there will be a **Studham Methodist Anniversary Quiz Night** in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th March. Tickets £10 include fish & chips. No raffle, but there will be a treasure hunt instead!!

KENSWORTH EXTRA

KENSWORTH LADIES' CLUB



A very enjoyable Christmas Lunch was held at Harper's on 4th December.

A planning meeting will be held, to decide future events, on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm, in the Church Hall. All welcome.

FRIENDS of KENSWORTH CHURCH

A reminder that the New Year Quiz will be held on Saturday 1st February at 7.30pm, details from David Manton (david.manton@aol.co.uk). The winners of the Monthly Draw in December were Annamaria Macchi and Michael Collins; January winners will be announced in the next issue.

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The **Christmas fund-raising events** were very well attended, and the Christmas Fair raised an amazing £759.40. Santa came along to say hello to the children, and stall holders offered a wide selection of Xmas fayre. Grateful thanks to London Luton Airport, Chick's Crop Shop, Harper's Fine Food, TC Feeds, DLT Developments, Ashton's and Joan Moran for kindly providing raffle prizes. The Christmas bingo raised a further £703.12, and our thanks to everyone who attended these two events. A review of hiring charges and terms and conditions will be necessary for the coming year as our costs are greater than our income, even with the excellent fundraising we have done. Fees will be increased mainly for ad hoc hirers from outside the village, and we will endeavour to keep increases for local organisations to a minimum.



The committee was shocked to receive **revised gas bills** from British Gas for £16,439.41 covering the period March to November 2019, even though bills to the value of £4661.68 had been paid during the year. We are awaiting the outcome of the complaint we raised with British Gas. If we have to pay this amount, the Village Hall will not be able to meet the cost, and may have to close.

The next **Village Walks** are planned for 8th February and 7th March, meeting at the Village Hall car park at 10am.

Next meeting: Wednesday 5th February at 7.30pm.

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL BUS SERVICES

There is a number of bus services serving Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade which you may not know about. Kensworth and Whipsnade both benefit from Centrebus service 40 which goes to Dunstable centre and also the supermarkets of ASDA, Tesco and the White Lion Retail Park (for Sainsbury's). There are four buses in the morning; the first at 8.23 from Whipsnade Zoo, which then travels via Kensworth.



There are two buses in the afternoon. This service runs from Monday to Saturday excluding bank holidays.

Studham is served by two routes. The first is service 43 (run by South Beds Dial-A-Ride) which connects to Dunstable centre, ASDA and Sainsbury's. There are two buses to Dunstable at 8.28 and 11.21, returning from Sainsbury's at 11.01 and 14.46. This service is Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays. The other route is run by Red Eagle Buses. Their service 29 runs Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) to Hemel Hempstead at 10.44 from the centre of Studham. The return service is at 13.30 from Hemel Hempstead, Marlowes.

All these services accept bus passes. For full details see www.parishlink.org.uk and go to 'Links' and 'Bus and train information'.

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

We were sorry to hear that Ward Councillor, Eddie Perry, is unwell and we wish him a speedy recovery. For any CBC issues that need addressing by Ward Councillors, please contact Kevin Collins (0300 300 8523) or e-mail kevin.collins@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. Kevin holds a drop-in surgery on the first Saturday of each month, 10am until midday, at Lyons Community Centre, Mallard Crescent, Caddington Woods, LU1 4FG.

Please report problems such as potholes, street lights, overgrown trees, direct to CBC website (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit), which provides feedback and a tracking number. Provide your e-mail address to receive enhanced feedback.

CBC Contact Numbers:

Customer Services/Main Switchboard: 0300 300 8000.

E-mail: customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

(issues relating to refuse, street sweeping, dog fouling, littering, fly tipping, etc.).

Highways: 0300 300 8049 (issues relating to roads, potholes, footpaths, signage/lighting, highway trees, parking on footpaths and grass verges, etc.).

Planning: 0300 300 8670 (for all planning applications and enforcement issues).

Pollution: 0300 300 8302 E-mail: pollution@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

LOCAL NEWS 2

NORTH CHILTERNNS GROUP OUTING TO COVENTRY

Once again, Jean Waldock is organising a cathedral city visit: this year it is a one-day coach trip on 6th June to Coventry to see the city and the two cathedrals. There will be more details in the next Link, but if you are interested, please speak to your North Chilterns Group representative.

NCG Reps: Dorothy Blackburn (872670) or Deirdre Brook (01525 852557) Kensworth; Derek Spriggs (873468) Studham; Isobel Randall (872552) or Bola Fola-Caleb (07733 223988) Whipsnade; or contact Revd. Nicola Lenthall (872223).

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am:

2nd February Worship led by Mr Steve Jones. All welcome - refreshments afterwards.

9th February United Service at Edlesborough. Worship led by Ms Jacqueline Stamp. (No service at Kensworth).

16th February Holy Communion led by Mr Colin Quine.

23rd February Worship led by Mrs Elisabeth Bibbings.

Growing Together: no meeting in February.

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 9th February 10am Mr Roy Swanston

Sunday 23rd February 10am Rev. Stuart Dyer

We welcome you to either of the above services.

Messy Church

Friday 21st February 3.30pm Studham Methodist Church

PARISH LINK AGM

The AGM of the Parish Link will be held in Kensworth Church Hall (behind the Vicarage) at 10am on Saturday 1st February. Come along to meet the Link team and enjoy a cuppa with us. All welcome to attend.

CORRECTION

In the last issue, it was reported that, in 1969, Dorothy Blackburn was one of the organisers of Kensworth Church Sunday School. It should have read that **Dorothy Morton** (not Blackburn) was one of the founder members, and we apologise for any distress this may have caused.

BIN COLLECTIONS

Remember your green bin collection will resume on Monday 2nd March.

MORE STUDHAM

CARPET BOWLS

The Club meets at 7pm on Thursdays (except the first Thursday in the month) and dates are in the diary section on page 15. We are a small friendly group and new members are most welcome or just come for a taster. Contact Pat Thorne (872751) or Des Salmon (872082) for more details.

BODY STRETCH & TONE

A new class in Studham Village Hall. Starting Monday 24th February then every Monday from 11am to 12 noon. All levels of fitness – beginners welcome. Contact Ros (Personal Trainer, Level 3) on 07805 419685 or rosjaffa@gmail.com.

WI



On Thursday 6th February at 7.45pm in Studham Village Hall; our talk will be about the journey of a Guide Dog for the Blind, from how puppies are chosen to how they are suited to a new owner. This is an open meeting so all are welcome to attend (non-members pay £4 entry). There will also be a raffle.

BINGO

We do not hold bingo during January or February as some of our players travel some distance to be with us and the weather is not always kind! We will start on 11th March at 7.30pm in Studham Village Hall. All welcome.

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Please contact the Playing Fields if you would like to use the space for a function or activity – Paul Hocking (pdhocking@btinternet.com or 07500 849280).

Would all those who walk their dogs through the Playing Fields please keep them on a lead whilst in the grounds and remember to clean up after them?

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

We are seeking to appoint a full-time Club Steward. An energetic and personable individual with previous bar/catering experience is required. Reporting to the Committee, they will be responsible for the day-to-day management and running of the Clubhouse, including the bar. The salary will be for discussion, depending on experience, and may include a bonus scheme.

For further details, please contact the Secretary at studhamssc@icloud.com
Closing date for applications 28th February.

SCRABBLE

Our small but enthusiastic Scrabble Group meets at 2pm every Tuesday afternoon at Studham Village Hall.

KENSWORTH MAY FESTIVAL - SUNDAY 3RD MAY

Come to see the May Queen crowned, a wonderful Dog Show, many interesting stalls, Pony Rides, BBQ and drinks plus some great raffle prizes! More information soon, but please save the date!

KENSWORTH BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays, term time, 9.30-11.30am, Kensworth Village Hall. £2 per child, £1 per sibling. Includes snack and craft, and tea/coffee/biscuits for the grown-ups! Friendly parent-run group. Find us on Facebook.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Bollywood Dance Evening: Saturday 6th June, 7pm - 9.30pm. A really fun evening, led by a Bollywood dance teacher. No experience required, just turn up and follow the leader. Light food will be served. Contact Jane Bedlington (871139).

WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

VE 75th Anniversary Celebrations: we have been considering ideas for celebrating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day) which is to be marked nationally over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend in May. Together with Whipsnade Village Hall, we will be holding a celebratory afternoon tea on Saturday 9th May with some special guests who will be recounting their own personal wartime experiences connected with the village. If you have any interesting family stories and would like to take part in the event, please contact Ken France (872375). Also, we hope to have a display of memorabilia from that era, so if you have anything that you think may be of interest, please get in touch.

Highways: probably about a quarter of our time is taken up, one way or another, dealing with highways-related matters. Generally, we aren't too badly off in our parish but there are exceptions where things are not being properly maintained by Central Bedfordshire Highways which is a constant source of frustration to us. Particular issues: surface drainage ditches and gully cleansing, road signs/illuminations and trimming back trees and hedgerows along the carriageway.

If you don't particularly mind the 'bodged' bumpy repair to the dip in the road across the Heath, the damaged or missing bollards, or the occasional flooded carriageway, all of which are on our current 'nag' list, then, fine! But, please let us know because if these aren't concerns, then we could save time and effort that could be directed elsewhere. All views welcome.

The **next meeting** of the Council will be on Tuesday 10th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall which will also be the **Annual Parish Meeting**, so why not come along and have your say.

STUDHAM PLUS

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

The next work-party for the Friends will be on Saturday 15th February. Our tasks will include a review as to whether additional hazel and other trees and plants should be procured and planted in the hedgerow at East Common. The conservation objective here was to improve the habitat for the hazel dormice.

In addition, we will attend to light trimming of brambles on the west boundary of Middle Common to conserve the hedgerow as a habitat for breeding birds, whilst preventing overgrowth into the grassland.

Everyone is welcome. Please come and help out; all tools will be provided – also a light lunch. We meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am.

Please contact Bob Wilkin for further information (871268 or Bob@afromosia.com).

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

We are delighted to announce that we are offering free annual Junior Membership (with every full adult member) and annual Family Membership from £75.

Junior and adult tennis coaching takes place every Saturday morning between 9am and 11am (juniors 9am – 10am, adults 10am – 11am). All are welcome – non-members £6 per session, members £4 per session. Our coach, Megan, is also available for private individual or group lessons. Please contact her (07826 855388) for more information. Family social play takes place on a Saturday between 2pm and 4pm.

For more information on coaching or joining the club, please contact Andrew Jones (andrew.jones@expressvending.co.uk or 07833 111 682/www.studhamtennisclub.co.uk).

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

New Trustee: we are pleased to welcome Tony Goodeve. Tony has lived in Studham for a few years and is a valued addition to the team running the Village Hall for the community.

Carols in the Hall: the hall was filled to the rafters. Our thanks to Anne and Derek Spriggs for arranging the programme and also thanks to everybody who attended and made it such a lovely afternoon. Carols by the children from Studham School stole the show, guided by Ann Copeland.

Annual Quiz Night: Saturday 6th June. Some time away, but just a note for the diary.

KENSWORTH EXTRA 2

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

CCTV: the Village Hall CCTV system has been upgraded to cover the recreation ground and play areas.

Allotments: renewals are now complete and new enquiries being processed. Please note; cockerels and breeding of poultry is strictly forbidden at the allotments – only hens are allowed.

Defibrillator: this will be installed at the Village Hall in February. We are exploring other funding options for a second defibrillator.

Grant Applications: the Parish Council will be issuing grants to groups/ organisations for projects or equipment that will benefit the local community. Application forms are available on the Parish Council website (www.kensworth.bedsparishes.gov.uk), closing date 28th February.

Villager of the Year: this award will again be given to a deserving person, or organisation, who gives their time, without payment or personal gain, to help the local community. Please let the Clerk or Councillors have your nominations by 28th February (e-mail: kensworthpc@gmail.com or 07912298141). Grants and the Villager of the Year award will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

Budget and Precept: with new play equipment purchased and improvements made to CCTV in 2019, the Council is keen to replenish reserves and make further enhancements (e.g. build up a traffic calming budget, more play and gym equipment, planting of daffodils and Christmas lights), and also progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. It was therefore agreed to increase Band D by £10 per annum, from £65.07 to £75.07, an additional 19p a week, for 2020/21.

Highways Issues: we have received complaints from residents in The Chilterns regarding vehicles driving over the grass verge and footpath by the school gates. CBC Highways are installing concrete bollards to stop this illegal access, and we have also requested additional bollards and signage to prohibit vehicles from parking on pedestrianised areas. Please report any areas in the village requiring Highways' attention direct to (0300 3008049) and via their website (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit or e-mail: customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

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SMILE LINE

I asked my nephew whether he bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day, and he said he had bought her a belt and a bag. When I commented that I am sure she would appreciate them, he agreed: "Yes, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE AND STUDHAM PC

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE

The members of the Whipsnade community would like to express their gratitude to Jenny Saunders who retired from the Whipsnade Village Hall Committee at the end of 2019. Jenny is known by so many people in the village and had been looking after the village hall for over two decades, not only with regard to bookings but making sure that it was kept clean and tidy for people to use. Thank you Jenny for all your hard work, it really has been appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at forthcoming events at the hall.

The Village Hall is over 80 years old but, despite its age, it is still hosting numerous successful events throughout each year. It is therefore with great pleasure that we can announce that some refurbishments have taken place in the hall which will bring it more up-to-date. These include new windows, kitchen sink with water heater and a ramp at the back for quick exit in case of emergencies. None of this would have been possible without a grant from Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation to whom we are extremely grateful. A big thank you to them from the members of the Whipsnade Village Hall Committee; we are sure that the work carried out will enable us to hold more events at the hall.

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Every year we hold an **Annual Parish Meeting**, when we give details of the activities of the Parish Council for the year. This will be held at 8.15pm on Monday 6th April in the Village Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served. As a result of the Bank Holiday change, our May meeting will be held on 4th May at 7pm.

Talking of changing the Bank Holiday to May 8th as **VE Day**, has anyone any plans or thoughts for village events? We have appointed Lynne Smith as our co-ordinator for this. Please let her know via the Clerk (clerk@studhamparish.co.uk).

Do have a look at our **website**: www.studhamparish.co.uk. If you would like to receive e-mails from us, please register via the Clerk or through the home page link.

There is a new way of reporting problems with lights and roads through the CBC portal on their website. We have set up a new e-mail address "**lightsandroads@outlook.com**" and ask that all faults are reported to it. You may still go through the portal, just let us know in the e-mail that you have done so. Please note that to report a streetlight fault, you will require the 'lamp number' displayed on the pole.

The **next meeting** of the Parish Council will be on Monday 3rd February at 7pm. If you have any questions for the Council, or would just like to 'sit in' and hear what we do, you are most welcome to attend in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

LUTON AIRPORT EXPANSION

Our MP, Andrew Selous, has advised that the planned expansion of Luton Airport (<https://futureluton.llal.org.uk/>), potentially increasing passengers up to 36-38 million per annum, meets the threshold for a Nationally Significant Project under the Planning Act 2008. An application would be required through Development Consent Order, examined by the Planning Inspectorate and decided upon by the Secretary of State for Transport. There is also a revised application from LBC to vary condition 10 on noise pollution. Mr Selous will be able to raise any local points of concern directly to the Secretary of State. If you have any concerns you wish him to raise regarding the application, please e-mail: andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk.

Please see page 23 for news of a local pressure group set up against the expansion of the airport.

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SOUTH BEDS ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

We meet on 3rd February at 2.15pm in The Grove Theatre in Dunstable. The talk is "Bedfordshire's Link With Henry VIII" – the speaker is local historian, Dorothy Jamieson. Guests welcome, £3.

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"Aspects of Ashridge". John Hockey talks about Bridget Talbot, who helped save Ashridge from development, Francis Egerton, Duke of Bridgewater, and the heraldry of Ashridge House. On 11th February at 7.45pm in the Methodist Church Hall opposite Wilko in Dunstable. Visitors welcome at £2.