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Dear friends,

As I am writing this in early May, news has just come through of the slight easing of our time in 'Lockdown.' Sure enough, the news is full of pundits and experts, commentators and critics, swarming over the news releases from the government. Some are positive and affirming in tone, others more strident and critical. Like each of us, they are hoping to establish whether the path being forged is the correct one; the most sensible; the most practical etc.

Since Lent I have been making my way through Genesis as part of my bible readings, and as I write I am grappling with the dysfunctional family life of Isaac, Jacob and Esau. A common theme through the story of the patriarchs is that of the 'chosen child.' The jostling, seeking and sometimes downright deception (in Jacob's case) in order to place a certain person in the place of authority and blessing.

There is something of this, I suggest, in our own culture, if not within ourselves. How many of us have not felt at some point that 'all would be right with the world, if only everyone would listen to me!' We would all like to be sure of the future – place it within our own control – and be sure that our way of seeing things was adopted by others.

The stories from Genesis provide a needed warning today. God is constantly nudging and upsetting the plans and aspirations of the families – sometimes usurping, always surprising – and always with that element of grace and compassion. Even Jacob, who has fought and manipulated so much to get to a place of security is not left without a limp – to remind him that he is not the one with ultimate power in the world.

We have to wait until the birth of Jesus before we hear the unstinting acclamation of God – "Here is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11) Finally here is one with 'All power and authority in heaven and on earth.' (Matthew 28:18) But this calls us to a different attitude.

As Mark goes on to describe, the call is now to be a follower rather than a leader. (See Mark 1:15) This does not mean that we should not be rightly critical of policies and instructions, nor that our leaders and their policies not be held open to public scrutiny. But our questions should be less 'do I agree with this?' and more towards 'how does this help establish the Kingdom of God's love?'

Whatever the political challenges ahead, may each of us seek to follow the leading of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, to see where and how we can best serve those around us in need, and be to all the Good News of God's love. It may mean admitting that we don't have all the answers – but pointing instead to the ultimate answer – Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Every blessing,

Stuart



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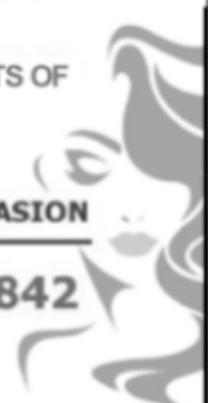
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Rector:
Revd. Nicola Lenthall
872223

Lay Minister:
Dorothy Blackburn
872670

KENSWORTH

Churchwardens	Richard Gurney	07985 150376
	Barrie Huggins	607841
PCC Secretary	Joanne Cook	0779 908 8864
Church Music	Revd. Nicola Lenthall	872223
Bell Ringers	Polly Frazer	873143
Sunday School	Katherine Huggins	607841
Flowers	Joanne Cook	0779 908 8864
Neighbours Scheme	Community Scheme	07919 081473

STUDHAM

Churchwarden	Meg Bender	872967
PCC Secretary	Gill Harris	603806
Tower Captain	Angela Blackburn	663756
Children's Church	Derek Spriggs	873468
Flowers	Margaret Maddox	873225
Emergency Transport	SiGNS	07563 135895

WHIPSNADE

Churchwardens	Isobel Randall	872552
	Martin Rees	873117
PCC Secretary	Joan Bailey	872318
Church Music	c/o Pam Ward	872406
Tower Captain	Pam Ward	872406
Sunday School	c/o Isobel Randall	872552
Flowers	Anne Weir	873425

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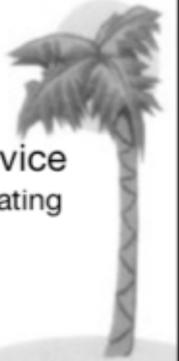
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We moved into a new warehouse outside Leighton Buzzard 12 months ago. This will cost approximately £20,000 annually. We are looking for cheaper warehouse accommodation, ideally much closer to Dunstable / Houghton Regis, from March 2022.

Any help or suggestions welcome.

For foodbank queries please contact Mike Pittam on 07874200056 or at info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk

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LOCAL SUPPORT

THANK YOU, NICOLA!

As we walk past the church buildings when we take our regular exercise, it is sad to see them all closed. But thanks to our Rector, Nicola, the church is very alive in the three villages. Since the start of the lockdown, without a day's break right up to the last week in May, she has worked incredibly hard to give practical support, inspire and comfort to us all.

Every week we have the opportunity to worship through her services on YouTube, not only on Sundays but also on special days, such as Good Friday and Ascension Day. Messy Church and First Steps are also there. She writes a weekly 'Not a pew sheet' to keep everyone in touch and providing links, for example, to meditations; simply give her your e-mail address and ask to be included on the list. Sadly, she has also been very busy comforting the sick and the bereaved, as well as conducting funerals. This has also involved going into the Covid wards in the hospital to provide a Christian farewell if family members are unable to sit with the dying.

Meantime the normal work of the parishes goes on – confirmation lessons, pastoral support, and all the telephone calls and e-mails. In addition, as Rural Dean, she is responsible for the support of all of the clergy in the Dunstable Deanery, conducting and attending on-line meetings.

Thank you Nicola – the Church is very much a presence in our communities, even when the buildings have to be closed.

SUPPORT WITH EMPLOYMENT

Have you been furloughed and want to talk to someone about your career options? Would you like to do some online learning but aren't sure which course is right for you? Are you worried about redundancy and want to upskill or prepare for your next career move?

Central Beds Council can help furloughed, unemployed and employed adults with:

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E-mail: ncs@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk; phone: 0300 300 8110 or go to their website and complete the on-line form.

WHIPSNADE NEWS

VE 75

In the midst of the 'lockdown' we remembered the 75th Anniversary of VE day. Decorations were displayed around the village and there were some small local tea parties including Oldhill Wood and Bushey Close.

VILLAGE LUNCH

There will be no lunch until the lockdown situation changes. Many people have said how they have missed the lunches and meeting with friends. The Link website will give notice of our intention to start again, but we would like people to tell us whether they want to come! When you see the notice on the website or on noticeboards, please contact Isobel Randall (872552 or isobel.randall@btinternet.com).

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Invitably these have been deferred (with a final deadline of 31st October). All church members will be informed in advance. Until then, the churchwardens and PCC members remain in place.

WHIPSNADE PRAYERS

This month we pray for the people working in the Zoo, who are still caring for the animals in spite of all the difficulties at present. We are also praying for those who live and work between the Zoo and Dell Farm. If you would like us to include anyone in our prayers, please contact Isobel Randall (872552), Martin Rees (873117) or the Rector (872223).

THE CHURCHYARD

Work has continued to keep the churchyard in good order. We have received several compliments as to how well it is kept; it is especially appreciated by families visiting graves. A special thank you to all our volunteers who help to look after it. If anyone would enjoy spending some lockdown exercise helping to maintain the churchyard, contact Pam Ward (872406).

WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL ANNUAL SERVICE

The June service is cancelled although there may be a short virtual service.

WHIPSNADE SUMMER FETE

This is cancelled for this year (very disappointing as it is the major fund raising event for the church but it also brings people together for a fun afternoon). See the Parish Link website for future events in the autumn.

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting was a virtual meeting. The committee has received a grant towards improvements and we look forward to the hall opening as soon as possible.

KENSWORTH NEWS

KENSWORTH VILLAGE

Life in lockdown continues in Kensworth. The reduction of aircraft noise is much appreciated – one of the few advantages at the moment! Birdsong can be heard so much more clearly. People have been enjoying the walks in the area and discovering the beauty of the countryside around Kensworth. Another plus has been the amount of community spirit, always a feature of the village life but so much of a comfort as neighbour helps neighbour.

Every Thursday the residents have been coming out in force to clap for all our carers, and we are very grateful to the local shops for staying open and keeping us supplied with the necessities.

VE Day was joyfully celebrated as much as was possible, with people having parties in their front gardens, playing wartime music and flying flags and bunting. The beautiful weather helped to make this an occasion to remember.

Local people also keep in touch on Facebook page Spotted:Kensworth.

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Church Prayers: in June we shall be praying especially for the people who live in Common Road from the Methodist Church to Dovehouse Lane.

The church building, of course, is still closed at the moment, although the life of the church community continues unabated. Services are streamed live by Rev'd Nicola Lenthall, as were the May Messy Church and First Steps events. The parishioners keep in touch, if they have the internet, by reading KSW Worship Link.

There is a What'sApp SWK Prayer Group, and the Kensworth Evening Prayer Group continues its Tuesday afternoon saying of the traditional Evening Prayer Service from their own homes: for details, contact Jim Putterill (872436). Contact the Vicar at revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com for details.

Church year dates: 7th June is the Day of Pentecost (or Whitsunday); 22nd June is the feast of St Alban.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings: due to the current Covid-19 Coronavirus situation, we are meeting virtually via Zoom when necessary. All Parish Council information and meeting details can be found on our new website <https://kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/>.

Allotments: we have carried out considerable clearance work at the allotments, which are now in a much more manageable condition and some workable plots have become available. We have received many enquiries for plots and would like to welcome all the new plot holders that have joined the allotment community.

Plots are available for £25 per annum. Contact Councillor Graham Starkey (Grahamjstarkey@hotmail.com) or (07890 667002) for details.

Thank you: we would like to send a huge thank you to all the key workers, volunteers and local businesses that have rallied to help local residents at this time.

STUDHAM NEWS

ST MARY'S CHURCH

We are hopeful that, in line with the Government's Covid 19 Recovery Strategy, we shall be able to open the church in some way in July and we are looking forward to the time when we can meet together again in the church building. Meanwhile, 'Home Church' continues. Our rector, Nicola Lenthall, is e-mailing a weekly WorshipLink and is streaming a live service from her office on YouTube at 10am every Sunday.

In our annual cycle of prayers we shall, in June, be praying especially for all the residents of Common Road, Clements End and Pedley Hill.



During the lockdown, several volunteers have been keeping a watchful eye on the church building to make sure nothing is amiss and regular maintenance has continued in the churchyard – many thanks to everyone. In particular, a very kind-hearted person has sanded and varnished one of the churchyard seats – see attached photograph – and it looks excellent. But the identity of this generous person remains a mystery! Perhaps you

would like to identify yourself to the rector (revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com) so she can give you a proper 'thank you'.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The Friends of Studham Church 100 club raises money so we can play a small part in preserving our local heritage by helping with the maintenance of the Village's oldest building. Players also have a chance to win with a £50 first prize and £10 runners up each month.

May proved a lucky month for people called Andrew as Andrew Wheeler scooped the jackpot, with Andrew Selous the runner-up.

To find out more about the Friends or to join the 100 club, please contact John McDougal (john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257).

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

We have now re-opened! Please do come and join us – for more information about membership or any other aspect of the tennis club, contact Andrew Jones (07833 111 682 or Andrew.Jones@expressvending.co.uk).



STUDHAM AND KENSWORTH 2

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

As the Coronavirus lockdown continues and gradually some of the restrictions are eased, it is good to see people out taking their exercise. However, please remember that some are still self-isolating and social distancing needs to be maintained.

Sadly, an increase in dog excrement around and about has been reported either on the ground or, bizarrely, having been bagged but the bag then being left or hung on trees and fences etc. Please, if you are dog walkers, take the bags with you or use one of the pooh bins around the village.

It is still nesting time for many birds, so please check and take care not to disturb them before engaging in any hedge trimming.

Please also note as summer and the warmer weather beckons, Bedfordshire Fire Service request that we avoid having bonfires and never leave them unattended.

We were pleased to receive from a couple in the parish a flag supporting the staff of the NHS and other key workers. This is now being regularly flown for the time being on the flagpole by the war memorial.

KENSWORTH FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW

It is with regret that it has been necessary to cancel this year's Show, which was due to take place on 5th September. The Committee have been unable to meet to undertake the usual planning and at the time of going to press, it is considered highly unlikely, with current social distancing in place, that it would be possible for the Village Hall to accommodate the numbers that normally attend this event. We know how much many villagers look forward to the Show, either as exhibitors or visitors, but feel sure that you will all understand the reasons for the cancellation and can but hope that we can return, in near normal conditions, in 2021.

KENSWORTH LADIES' CLUB

Club members wish to express our great sorrow at the loss of one of our foundation members, Rita Weller, who seldom missed a meeting or an outing. She will be sorely missed by us all, and we send our deepest sympathy to Stephen and Danielle, and all her family circle.

KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL and PRESCHOOL

For any information about the school, please contact Mrs O Bates (www.office@ken.dsamat.co.uk or 872336).

Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association: if you would like to offer any help/fundraising ideas please get in touch with us via e-mail (kspta@outlook.com) or contact Gina Owen (07506 722053).

COMMUNITY NEWS 1

SKAW CORONA VIRUS RESPONSE GROUP UPDATE from Liesa Coates
As the weeks tick by I sometimes wonder if there is an end in sight, and I am sure you are all wondering the same thing. It's a strange journey we are on together, different situations but same journey. As the restrictions start to ease and people start to adjust to the new normality, we will all be trying to find our way.

Some people don't agree with the suggested reopening.... that's okay.
Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may possibly save their business or their homes....that's okay.
Some people will rush out to get the hair or nails done.... that's okay.
Some people are still planning or need to stay at home.... that's okay.
Some are still scared of getting the virus and a second wave happening....that's okay.
Some are thankful they can finally have treatment and a surgery they have put off....that's okay.
Some will be able to attend interviews after weeks without a job....that's okay.
Some will wear masks and gloves for weeks....that's okay.
The point is, everyone has different viewpoints/feelings and that's okay.
We each have a different story. If you need to stay home, stay home. But be kind.
If you need to go out, just respect others when in public and be kind.
Don't judge or criticize fellow humans because you're not in their story.
We all are in different financial - and - mental states than we were months ago. So, remember, be kind.

Please note, I know the restrictions have started being lifted, but if you are in the vulnerable group, the situation is very much the same. Please STAY HOME, the virus is still out there, and you are still very much at risk.

Since this emergency has started I have been overwhelmed by the community spirit that Whipnade, Studham and Kensworth has shown: this volunteer group is so very special and it's been very humbling to be part of it. For those volunteering and those who are having to stay isolated, I know this group has become such an important part of their lives, and the service will continue for as long as those in our community need it.

Tragically, we have also lost members of our community to this ghastly virus and my thoughts are with friends and family at this time. We also have residents that are currently fighting or recovering from this terrible disease and all our thoughts and good wishes are with those.

That's it from me.....

Thanks to you all, Stay Safe and Stay Alert!

COMMUNITY NEWS 2

Some facts from Liesa about the Studham, Kensworth and Whipsnade Corona Virus Response Group:

- We have 149 Volunteers who have signed up to help;
- We have 113 people in our parishes who are at risk and who require our support;
- The army of volunteers have completed well over 800 tasks on behalf of our vulnerable, and this doesn't include the regular phone calls!
- The services that our volunteers have completed are tremendous as many of these tasks completed are above and beyond the normal weekly shop:
- We have a team of 14 volunteers delivering a daily newspaper to those who are unable to leave their home and a team of 24 volunteers ensuring that prescriptions are collected and delivered to our residents;
- There is a system in place to make sure those who are isolated, at extreme high risk and are living alone receive a hot meal at least 3 times a week.

WOW - this is incredible, heart-warming and an absolute credit to our villages.

Editor: Wow indeed! And I am sure you will all want to join me in giving Liesa and her team a huge and heart-felt thank you on behalf of us all. It is a privilege to live in such a caring and vibrant community.

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

For general issues, the website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit allows you to report problems in the villages. You can report potholes, street lights, overgrown trees etc directly on their website. This system is quicker, more accurate and will provide you with feedback and a tracking number. You can also get enhanced feedback; if you provide an e-mail address, CBC will send you updates about the problem you have reported.

If you would prefer to call them, please see their numbers below:

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e-mail: customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk (for issues relating to refuse, street sweeping, dog fouling, littering, fly tipping, etc.)

Highways: 0300 300 8049 (for 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)

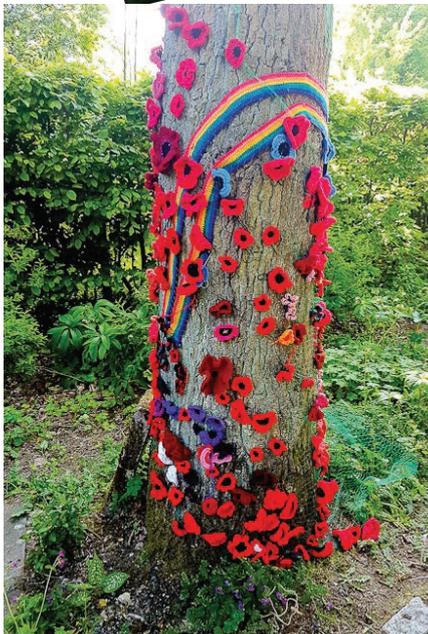
Pollution: 0300 300 8302 e-mail: pollution@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST – BIKE 'N HIKE

It is hoped that the Bike Ride will happen in 2020 on Saturday 12th September. Further details in the next Parish Link or on the website.

COLOURFUL VILLAGES

Apart from the fabulous decoration on one of Bell Cottages, Studham (front cover), we have all been busy and imaginative showing our support for the NHS and key workers, and doing our best on VE Day.



WHIPSNADE 2

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE DURING THE LOCKDOWN

Initially the village was very quiet with the Zoo, the Downs and the Tree Cathedral closed (would you recognise the photo?). Since things have become a bit easier, the Downs and the Tree Cathedral have been opened and the village has become very busy with cars, motor bikes, bicycles and walkers. So keep a look out for traffic when you walk across the road.



WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

Entering the Technology Age!: our May Annual General Meeting proceeded normally, but exceptionally this year, owing to lock-down and some of our members in the highly vulnerable category, the meeting took place 'virtually' using Zoom internet video-conferencing system. This was a first for ours and many councils up and down the country to overcome the pandemic restrictions and keeping safe. Holding the meeting online had its small challenges but we are glad to report our members rose to the occasion. Members of the public could also 'attend' by requesting the meeting code from our Clerk which was posted on the parish council noticeboards. If we must resort to using online meetings in the future, we will think of ways of getting this information broadcast more widely.

A quorum of the council agreed to follow the national council association's advice and roll forward all existing office holders for the next municipal year and so re-elected for further terms were Ken France as Chair of the Council and Craig White as Vice Chair. Similarly, membership of committees and all individual member portfolio responsibilities were left unchanged.

New Parish Council Web Site: our Clerk reported on progress in setting this up after the hosting arrangement for our existing one was terminated. We are currently transferring all of the Council's documents onto the new system and will be loading up new information about the Council's work and more about the village in general.

Look out for further information on noticeboards when the new site is live. We would also welcome ideas for additional sections that could be considered.

Next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 14th July. Subject to Government advice, this may be able to proceed as usual in Whipsnade Village Hall following social distancing guidance or, if not, as a virtual meeting using Zoom. Please watch notice boards for further information or e-mail our Clerk helenmatthews1@outlook.com nearer to the date of the meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE DUNSTABLE FOODBANK



Changes

We are operating at an increased level of activity but with marked fluctuations. In April we distributed 5060kg food compared to April 2019 when it was 4416kg. Food stocks are holding up well thanks to weekly food donations from Tesco and Morrisons and a large donation from B&M. We are very grateful to the companies, families and individuals who have given cash and food donations. These will allow us to keep operating, buy the PPE we need for our volunteers and to buy food when the weekly Tesco deliveries stop in early July.

We have decided to keep our 3 Distribution Centres open but working practices have changed dramatically to embrace social distancing. Clients are no longer offered refreshments and are dealt with across double tables.

Disposable gloves, hand sanitiser, visors and facemasks have been made available to all volunteers at the distribution centres and warehouse.

More client referrals are coming by email, particularly from the Salvation Army and Citizens Advice Bureau, but also from some Social Workers. Clients referred this way have food delivered by teams of volunteer drivers. The deliveries run five days a week with emergency deliveries at the weekend as required. This system reduces the footfall at the distribution centres and meets the needs of clients who are unable to go out. In line with standard foodbank policy, we have been careful to restrict deliveries to clients who cannot afford food.

We have increased the amount of food we distribute per voucher from the standard 3 days worth to 5 days worth and are looking at how we can meet the needs of clients with more sustained need for food support in the current crisis than is provided by our standard 3 voucher in 6 month operation model.

Challenges

I anticipate that there will be continuing high demand, possibly increasing in the summer holidays and as the recession develops.

A number of our current volunteers will be recalled to work in due course. Staffing of our distribution centres is stable but we may need additional help in the warehouse and for deliveries/collections. I am particularly keen to hear from potential volunteers who are likely to be available in the medium or longer term. I can be contacted on the above email or phone numbers.

Mike Pittam

(E-mail: info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk;

Phone: 07874 200056)

QUIZ

WHICH CITIES ARE THESE?



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SALES

FAREWELL to RITA WELLER

Rita was the last survivor of the six Tomlin siblings from Kensworth, whose father and grandfather were churchwardens in St Mary's. Rita married John Weller, who died some years ago. They were keen ballroom dancers, for which they won many prizes.

Sadly, they lost their son, Peter, when he was 21, but their other son, Stephen, and his daughter, Danielle, were living with Rita when she passed away.

Rita was a dinner lady in Kensworth School and a founder of the Sunday School, but she will be best remembered for her 25 years as Lollipop Lady. She knew every child, and is fondly remembered by everyone. She joined in village activities with enthusiasm.

Many people stood in the churchyard at the graveside funeral. Everyone was very moved by a beautiful tribute to her Nanny, read out by Danielle at the graveside



We send Rita's family circle and friends our deepest condolences.

* * * * *

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	KENSWORTH	STUDHAM	WHIPSNAD
Parish Council	Pat Mitchell 871178	Bob Wilkin 871268	Ken France 872375
Central Beds Cllrs	Kevin Collins 417933 & Eddie Perry 873909		
Police	Control Centre (01234) 841212 or Crime Stoppers (0800) 555111		
Church Friends	David Manton 01438 831184	John McDougal 873257	N Craig 07792 567537
School Head Teachers & Pre-School	Mrs O Bates 872336	Mr P Burrett 872337	
Toddlers Groups	Kate Starkey 07702 402278	Heather Wright 872118	
W.I. Secretary		Chrys Smith 872989	
Village Hall	Lynn Bradley 873981	Des Salmon 872082	Samantha Burr 07921 761730
Studham Sports and Social Club	Steward – Club House –	Steve Hawes 07768 872871 872137	
Friends of Studham Common		Geoff Shute 872732	
Methodist Church (Hall Bookings)	Norman Willis 872312 Doris Folds 968149	Inga West 872138	
Kensworth Good Neighbours Scheme	07919 081473		
Good Neighbours Scheme SiGNS		07563 135895	
Neighbourhood Watch	Caroline Streek 872410	Richard Hodge 873630	
Local History	Julia Holder 873465		
Carpet Bowls	Geoff Stafford 872554	Pat Thorne 872751	
Cricket Club	Duncan Wingfield 872743	Robert Thorne 873015	
Tennis Club		Andrew Jones 07833 111682	
Beavers	~~~~~	Caroline Constantine 873331	~~~~~
Cubs	~~~~~	Helen Thingsaker 861620	~~~~~
Scouts	~~~~~	Steve Coleman 01525 220858	~~~~~
Longrove Campsite & Group Contact		Paul Rushmer 873388	



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