

Issue Number 381

www.parishlink.org.uk

November 2020

PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 38 years





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Rest day - Saturday
Study day - Monday

Dear friends, I hope this finds you well.

It is becoming a bit of a trope to say that 'this November will be unlike any other' due to the expectation of the number of ways in which the Coronavirus epidemic will continue to affect us. And I am sure that I am not alone in anticipating the prescient sense of needing to widen the season of Remembrance to include those who have lost loved ones to the virus this year, as well as continuing to hold close in our memories and esteem, those who gave their lives during areas of conflict in the past.

In fact, I would go further and affirm that we should continue to recognise the loss and grief of those caught up in this – and other – unforeseeable circumstances, as we continue through the year, and years, ahead.

But just as every couple who attend a wedding are invited to reflect upon their own vows and commitments; just as everyone who encounters a family with new born children may reflect upon their own, perhaps now grown up, children; just as every set of hand-holding young lovers may remind us of our first encounters with love at its most intense; so each occasion of Remembrance may bring memories and recollections of our own personal losses.

I would suggest that Remembrance's great difference is in its communal aspect. We are not merely individuals marking an event and sitting in a solitary place, reliving our memories. No, instead, we are gathering with one another to share together the marking of our grief; the standing together is as much a part of the ceremony and the recollections of those we are honouring, as the dates and the specific times.

In years to come I do expect, and indeed hope to, see Churches and communities finding ways to mark and remember the specific difficulties of the Coronavirus epidemic in this country and around the world. But, for now, I hope we will be able to 'fold into' the National Act of Remembrance our concern and hopes, not only for those in wars long ceased, but also for those whose grief remains all too present, fighting as they are, against the pandemic that surrounds us.

And may we know ourselves likewise folded into the loving arms of our one true hope and sure foundation – then and now – the love of God, come to us in and through the person of Jesus Christ. Amen. Peace to you and your families and loved ones,
Stuart

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Harvest Festival**. The church looked lovely with so many displays including wonderful flowers and food, and the donations were greatly appreciated by the Food Bank and the Salvation Army. The collection was sent to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, this year supporting the development of bee keeping in Nepal as a means to improve people's livelihoods after the devastating earthquake in 2015.

Church prayers: November is a time of remembrance and we shall be praying especially for all those who have lost a loved one in the last year. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact the churchwarden, Meg Bender, on 872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com.

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November: this year, subject to all the government and diocesan permissions, it is hoped that the service will be held around the War Memorial on West Common at 10.45 am. For people who prefer to remain at home, there will be an online service which can be accessed via the Nicola Lenthall YouTube channel. There will be no service in the church building. See pp. 14 & 15.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

We have changed our website address – so if you would like to know more about us, our website is now <https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com>.

With social events curtailed at present, the 100 Club is our main fundraiser - there's a £50 first prize and £10 runners-up each month – won in October by Pamela Alderson and for the second month running, Ged Norris was the runner-up.

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

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Although the building is closed at present, members are joining in online services and bible study sessions, which are being organised by our Minister and Circuit Churches. If you would like details of these services, including a children's church at Harpenden, please contact Linda Hillier (872860).

Our work continues and we have recently sent our Harvest Collection of tins to the Foodbank and money to the Methodist Church Harvest Appeal.

If anyone has any pastoral concerns please contact our Minister, Rev. Stuart Dyer, (713773). We hope to open our building for services, starting with our Church Anniversary, on 14th March 2021.

WHIPSNADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

WHIPSNADE CHURCH

Safety: the church continues to be open during daylight hours for people to sit quietly. Many thanks to the loyal band of volunteers who take turns to sanitise the open area of the church at the end of every day.

The **Sunday 9am service** is a very welcome return. Everyone is confident that we are keeping people safe, with a non-contact sanitiser at the entrance (thanks to Bola for donating it!) and seating arranged to enforce social distancing. Communion is organised so that we do not have to go too close to other participants. Everyone is wearing a facemask, and we keep a few in reserve in case people have forgotten to bring one. Those who are unable to attend are grateful to Nicola for the service streamed for all on Sunday morning and available at any time from 9am.

Harvest Festival: the service was well attended, with a lovely arrangement of donations. These were later distributed to local people and to the Food Bank. Generous giving to the collection enabled us to send £170 to the Bishop's annual appeal, which this year went to enable earthquake victims in Nepal to earn a living through beekeeping. We are sad that we could not hold the Harvest Lunch which usually contributes to the fund.

Remembrance Sunday on 8th November: the 9am Remembrance Family Service, at the church, is the village's Act of Remembrance to commemorate those who fought in the world wars. (see pp. 14 and 15). The collection will be donated to the Royal British Legion. Everyone is welcome to join in this tribute to all who have fought or suffered in war.

WHIPSNADE GREEN SCRUB CLEARANCE

Last month's was cancelled due to heavy rain. We will continue on Sunday 8th November from 11.15am. Meet on The Green near Dell Farm. We always need more helpers and it is great fun – come along and see for yourself. Wear stout footwear and gloves. Soup provided. More information from Charles Frost (871417).

WHIPSNADE CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

On Saturday 14th November 10am – noon. All welcome to help to tidy the churchyard for winter. Details from Pam Ward (872406).

WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL ANNUAL 'LEAF SWEEP' DAY

On Sunday 29th November – meet in the car park at 11am until 3pm. We need lots of hands to help rake up leaves and tidy up for the winter. Come along with stout shoes and gloves, we'll provide the tools and soup. Ring Pam Ward (872406) for more details, everyone welcome.

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS

In November, we will pray for everyone who has lost loved ones in the past year. If you would like a prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Church services will continue under the present conditions, as worship in church is exempt from the 'Think Six' rules. There will be a service in each church in the Benefice every Sunday at the usual time – 10.30am in Kensworth, but there will also be the online services for those who are unable to get to church. See page 14.

No singing in church yet, but we are so grateful to our organists for their delightful accompaniments to the services.

Nicola continues to keep everyone in touch by publishing the weekly **KSW WorshipLink**, with its Home Church details and links to live worship.

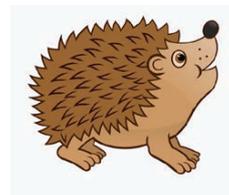
Kensworth Evening Prayer Group takes place in individual households on Tuesdays at 4pm. Contact Jim Putterill (872436) for details.

The **Harvest Festival** was held in September in spite of all the restrictions. It was a 'different' service, but the church was beautifully decorated and traditional harvest music was played by Matthew Huggins – many thanks to him for adding so inspiringly to the atmosphere. It was well attended – difficult to squeeze everybody in with social distancing, but it was lovely to see people of all ages taking part and giving so generously to the Food Bank and the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, this year going to beekeepers in Nepal. £110 was raised for this worthy cause.

Remembrance Sunday will also be different this year. We shall gather outside the War Memorial at the Methodist Church at 10am on Sunday 8th November, when the Act of Remembrance will take place, followed by wreath-laying. All Covid-related restrictions will be observed of course, and thanks to everybody for complying. See pp. 14 and 15.

Plans for Christmas are still very fluid, and will depend on circumstances at the time, but there will be a variety of activities and online services.

Church Shop, Clayhall Road: we are pleased to say that the shop is up and running again: Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm and Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon. Sorry we can't accept donations of goods at the moment, but do come and have a browse. All restrictions will be observed: please wear a mask; use the sanitiser provided; one customer (or bubble) at a time; entry in one door and out of the other.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

This was written by Marjorie Metcalfe as part of the celebrations for 800 years of Studham Church. The celebrations – and those for Kensworth Church – had to be cancelled because of Coronavirus.

During the reign of Henry III, the first vicar at Studham was Henricus. You can see from the board towards the back of the church where all the vicars are listed, his name is shown in 1220. We don't know much about him. But we do know that the church had been granted to the priory of Dunstable. Henricus would be answerable to them.

The Priory Church of St Peter at that time included a monastery with a dormitory for the monks, an infirmary, stables, workshops, bakehouse, brewhouse and buttery. There was also a hostel for pilgrims and travellers. That was quite a lucrative business!!!



But another man was becoming an influence in England at that time. We still remember him today. It was Saint Francis of Assisi. He never visited England but some close companions of his did and they were keen to share his amazing story. So although there was no TV or mobile phones with WhatsApp or internet with blogs, news soon spread.

Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 in Italy to a very rich family. His father owned lands and his cloth business meant that the family had all the luxuries of the times. Francis was spoilt - and got anything he wanted. He wanted to be a famous knight or military hero! So when a war started, he joined the cavalry, which was only possible because his family could afford to pay for his horse and the equipment needed. Following a devastating defeat, many were killed or taken prisoner. Francis was one of those taken prisoner and suffered dreadfully in a bleak prison underground. For the first time he was forced to turn aside from his own ambitions and concentrate on God's vision.

So, when he finally was able to return home, his attitude was very different. If he met someone ill or suffering, he stopped to help them. He especially wanted to do something that would be meaningful and would please God. He gave up all the pleasures and comforts of a wealthy life and set about rebuilding a wrecked building of a church all on his own.

This was the start of the Franciscan order of friars who spent their energy on sharing the good news and helping the poor. How opportune that they arrived in England about the time that our church in Studham was being established.

LOCAL EVENTS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2020

There will be no door-to-door collection and no boxes in shops etc. this year due to COVID. However, the National Trust have very kindly agreed to have a table at the door of the Gateway Centre (Dunstable Downs) which will be open from Saturday 24th October until Monday 9th November from 10am to 4pm, where you can buy your poppies.

If you prefer to send a donation direct to the Poppy Appeal you can send your donation via BACs to:-

Lloyds TSB, Cox's & King's Branch,
1st Floor, PO Box 1190,
7 Pall Mall,
London,
SW1Y 5NA

ACCOUNT: RBL POPPY APPEAL
SORT CODE: 30 11 75
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 01937121
DISTRICT REFERENCE NUMBER: EAD01

Or you could send your remittance to poppyappealpayments@britishlegion.org.uk.

There will be a Garden of Remembrance in each of the churchyards to place small crosses to remember loved ones. Last year our three villages raised over £4,000, many thanks for your support. Volunteers to help with the stall this year would be very welcome to Local Poppy Appeal Organiser, Pam Ward (872406).



WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL

PROUDLY PRESENTS A

WHIPSNADE VIRTUAL
CHRISTMAS FAIR

18th OCTOBER - 18th December 2020



WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL are pleased to announce that we will be holding a Virtual Christmas Fair on our Facebook page from 18th October until 18th December. If anyone is interested in having a stall, please check our Facebook page for further details or e-mail: carole.chant@sky.com.

KENSWORTH EXTRA

FRIENDS of KENSWORTH CHURCH

At present we are, unfortunately, unable to hold any events, but we are looking forward to next year when we have plans, so please watch this space for developments. We wish all our supporters well and hope to be able to see you all very soon.

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is to remain closed until the New Year. The new COVID restrictions mean it is not viable to open to one or two groups, who have issues with the numbers that can attend exercise sessions. Hopefully, we will be able to reopen the hall in the new year when restrictions are lifted and guidelines reviewed.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

New Clerk: we are pleased to welcome new Clerk Nicola Sewell, who started on 28th September. Please note new Clerk contact details for any Parish Council enquiries:

e-mail: clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk; tel: 07985 159015.



Please also visit our website for latest information (www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Allotments: tenants will shortly be receiving their renewals. Price for 2020-21 remains at £25 for a full plot and £12.50 for half.

The editorial team at the Link wish to thank the retiring Clerk, **Maxine Whiting**, for her efficient and prompt reports over the last few years, and we send her our best wishes for the future. We warmly welcome Nicola and hope she enjoys her time with Kensworth Parish Council.

NHS COVID-19 APP - from CBC

The NHS COVID-19 App, launched at the end of September, is used alongside existing contact tracing. It allows people to 'check-in' to venues by scanning a QR code and alerts individuals that have spent time near other app users, whom they may not know personally and who later test positive for coronavirus. Some council buildings, such as children's centres and leisure facilities, will have posters displaying a QR code. Currently, this doesn't apply to locations such as council offices.

All businesses that deal with the public face to face have to take customer contact details. Please share with us any intelligence about where measures to keep customers and staff safe are not being followed, or any other social activities or events that are of concern, by e-mailing susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

The big news since the last edition of the Link is that we have become an Academy. We have joined the Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust and are now part of their group of schools rather than belonging to the Local Authority.

Our new full name is: **Studham Village CE Academy.**

Apart from that, there will be virtually no other observable change with the same uniform, e-mail address and telephone number. We will now be benefiting from the support of the Trust as well as working closely with other neighbouring schools who are also part of the Trust. Locally, these include Kensworth, Totternhoe and Manshead. However, we will continue to feed into Priory Academy at the end of Year 4.

We have just completed our Harvest Festival which was a very different experience with Nicola having to go from class to class and do a mini service in each. We still put on a good show and were delighted to be able to mount our usual display in the church.

**STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB**

We are delighted to announce the launch of Cardio Tennis – a fun, fitness class based on the game of tennis.

Junior and adult tennis coaching takes place every Saturday afternoon between 2.30pm and 5.25pm (adults 2.30pm – 3.25pm, cardio 3.30pm to 4.25pm and juniors 4.30pm to 5.25pm). All are welcome.

Our coach, Megan, is also available for private individual or group lessons. Please contact Megan (07826 855 388) for more information.

We offer free annual Junior Membership (with every full adult member) and annual Family Membership from £75.

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

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GREEN BINS

The last collections will be on Monday 30th November – they will re-start again at the end of February 2021.

CHURCH NEWS

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Current guidance from the Church of England in line with the government, states that our Remembrance Sunday events in each village (see opposite page) are permitted with attendance limited to:

- those attending as part of their work;
- those providing voluntary services for event;
- members of the armed forces;
- veterans of the armed forces, their representatives and carers;
- spectators who participate alone, or as part of a group of no more than 6, or as part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households; spectators must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.

Please adhere to social distancing guidelines and stay two metres apart. The Acts of Remembrance will be appropriate but short.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:

Baptism	11 th October	Olivia Keqa	Studham
R.I.P.	5 th October	Ann Duncombe	Whipsnade

FIRST STEPS: 'First Steps', a short service for babies and toddlers and their carers, is on Friday 13th November at 2pm at Kensworth Church Hall; now face-to-face, observing Covid precautions.

MESSY CHURCH: Get ready for our Messy Church Christingle Christmas, which will be arriving online in December – with accompanying craft bags!

The **Church Calendar days** marked this month are:

1st, **All Saints' Day**; the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

2nd, **All Souls**; in bygone centuries, All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

22nd, **St Cecilia**, patron saint of musicians, with a celebrated stained-glass window in Kensworth Church;

30th, **St Andrew the Apostle**, patron saint of Scotland (though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews).

MORE STUDHAM

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

We hope that you are all well and becoming used to the new 'normal'. Don't forget, if you need assistance, SiGNS (Studham Good Neighbour Scheme – 07563 135895) are there to help. Alas, there will be no Senior Citizen Lunch this year due to the restrictions.

House to house collections for the Poppy Appeal were not permitted this year but please send your donations to "www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give" (see page 11). There will also be no church service or parade – see page 14 and 15 for details of what is happening.

Now is the time to ensure that your hedges, especially if they border the public highway or footpath, are trimmed. It is your responsibility to ensure that they do not cause a hazard to those using the roads or paths. The Parish Council is currently identifying offenders and letters will be sent. If the work is not carried out then, further steps will be taken at your expense.

We are reviewing our Gardening Contract. If anyone would like to be considered for the position of Parish Gardener, please contact clerk@studhamparish.co.uk who will be happy to send details.

You can report problems with streetlights or potholes through the Central Bedfordshire Portal, but let us know if you do, so we can follow it up. We have had some re-surfacing work carried out in the village, and more is scheduled for this month.



If you want to keep abreast of what is happening, and are happy to receive e-mails telling you, then join our mailing list. Just e-mail clerk@studhamparish.co.uk and ask to be added. You can, of course, peruse the website at www.studhamparish.co.uk where you will find all the latest news, links to other village groups, and also be able to join the mailing list.

Due to both the restrictions and work at the Village Hall, it has been decided to continue with Zoom meetings until at least 2021! For details of these meetings, please either contact the Clerk, see parish noticeboards or visit the website.

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Work is ongoing to build the new floor and treat the walls. Good progress is being made to re-open in January, but we are not yet in a position to state a firm date.

SMILE LINE

People at my workplace have started a funny new tradition where they give names to the food in the office fridge. Today I ate a sandwich called Mark, followed by some cake called Rosie.

KENSWORTH SCHOOL

KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL and PRESCHOOL

Kensworth children are well settled into their school routines. We had a fantastic 'Sports Morning' to replace our missed Summer Sports Day. Activities included a bouncy assault course, football, rugby, tennis, dance, scooters, golf and boccia. The children could not stop smiling, laughing and displaying fantastic sports skills and sportsmanship. Children were kept in their year group as they moved around the carousel of activities. It was a spectacular morning!



We recently had some fantastic additions installed to our KS1 playground, thanks to sports funding. Our Reception and Year 1 children were so excited to test it out and gave it a huge 'thumbs up'!

Our older children, in Hornbeam, wrote to our local MP, Andrew Selous, asking for his support to represent their voice in saving the planet. They were delighted to receive a letter back from him, explaining that he has raised their concerns about reducing the use of plastics, affordability of electric cars and preserving nature, in the Houses of Parliament.

We also held a live Harvest Service, attended by Reverend Nicola for parents to watch via Zoom, whilst their children attended in their 'pods'. It was a beautiful service to share with our school family and, as always, the children sang wonderfully!

NOVEMBER EVENTS

3 rd	Red Lion Quiz Night, 7.30pm (p.20)
5 th	Studham WI, Zoom meeting (p.20)
8 th	Remembrance Sunday (pp. 7, 8, 9, 14 & 15) Whipsnade Green Scrub Clearing from 11.15am (p.8)
10 th	Whipsnade Parish Council virtual meeting 7.30pm (p.20)
14 th	Whipsnade churchyard working party 10am – 12 noon (p.8)
20 th	FoSC AGM, 7.30pm, Zoom meeting (p.19)

LOCAL INTEREST

SPOOKY MEMORIES in KENSWORTH

These memories were prompted by a recent visit to Kensworth by the daughter of a former Vicar, Rev'd Ivan Young, who was here for over 40 years, 1937 – 1981. The family lived in the Old Vicarage in Spratts Lane. Every morning the two daughters walked along Spratts Lane to catch the bus to school, and each day they would meet a farmhand on his way to work in the fields. They would exchange greetings as they passed. One morning, however, he seemed lost in thought and walked on past them without saying anything. That evening, when they came home, they remarked on this to their parents. The Vicar shook his head. The old man had died the night before....

(And that is a true story!)

More ghostly happenings, this time along the Lynch. There was a little wood there, Dame Sayer's Wood. She was an old woman who, many years ago, lived in a little hut in the wood. She was good with herbal remedies, and was regarded as a kind of witch. After her death the locals always regarded the wood as haunted: there there were weird unexplained events, strange sounds, and the local farmers found that their tractors frequently broke down when they were in the neighbouring fields. Eventually, in the 1960s, one of the farmers had had enough and cut the trees down. But machinery continued to misbehave. They then asked the Vicar (Rev'd Young) to perform a service of exorcism, which he duly did. And since then, no problems have ever occurred in the area. Another true story!

LET NATURE into YOUR GARDEN this WINTER TIME!

Lockdown gave many of us the time and space to really appreciate the beauty of the countryside that surrounds our villages, and to get closer to nature. Now that autumn is here, we can all do our bit by making our gardens wildlife friendly, and a safe winter haven for birds, insects, hedgehogs and more.

When tidying the garden ready for winter, try not to be too scrupulous, as hedgehogs and other wildlife can use fallen leaves and twigs to build a cosy nest. Leaving some old flower stems and seed heads will provide both food and shelter. A wildlife area also creates a home for insects that hedgehogs and birds can feed on. Try not to disturb compost heaps between November and March as you may disturb hibernating guests.

Keep bird feeders clean and topped up with food as the birds will depend on them, especially as winter progresses and berries are in short supply. Fat balls are a good source of calories. Also try to provide some clean water that is free from ice (by putting a table tennis ball in the water). A nesting box will provide shelter for smaller birds in winter and they will often repay you by returning to nest in the springtime. Then sit back and enjoy watching the wildlife come in!



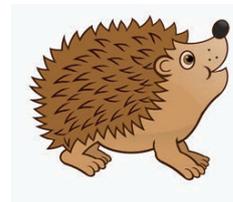
FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

Our Annual General Meeting is at 7.30pm on Friday 20th November. The meeting will be held online via Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions on group meetings. Further details are available from the Chairman, Geoff Shute (872732 or geoff.shutelu6@talktalk.net), or if you would like to join the meeting and wish to know how, contact Bob Wilkin (Bob@afromosia.com).

The next work party will be on the following day, Saturday 21st November. The day's work will include thinning trees and cutting and clearing grass and bracken from the glade by Church Road, and also on parts of the Old School House meadow on West Common. This has the conservation objective of reducing nutrients to prevent overgrowth in some areas while leaving other areas uncut to provide good ground cover for small mammals and birds. In addition, we will be lightly trimming the old gorse, to encourage its survival and regeneration, to provide a habitat for gorse-feeding insects and nesting birds.

If you wish to join the volunteer group please do come and help out; we meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am.

Please note: we need to follow anti-Covid 19 infection precautions. If in any doubt, please contact the work party co-ordinator Pam Rumfitt (872608 or pamrumfitt@btinternet.com).



CONGRATULATION TO THE FRIENDS FOR WINNING THEIR 13TH GREEN FLAG AWARD - JUST ANNOUNCED.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER the FIFTH of NOVEMBER!



The 5th of November 1605 is remembered each year in the UK, during Guy Fawkes Night. People build large bonfires, light fireworks, and burn figures of Fawkes (known as 'the guy').

Guy Fawkes (13 April 1570 – 31 January 1606) sometimes known as Guido Fawkes, was a member of a group of Roman Catholic revolutionaries from England who planned to carry out the Gunpowder Plot. Fawkes and the other plotters planned to kill the king, James I, and replace him with a Catholic monarch.

November 5 was the date when Parliament re-assembled after a long recess. The plot was uncovered quite late; Fawkes was arrested as he sat in a cellar, near the gunpowder, waiting for the right time to set it off. He was tortured to make him reveal the names of the other plotters. Later eight men, including Fawkes, were found guilty of high treason and executed by hanging in Westminster, except for Fawkes, who killed himself by jumping from the scaffold before he was to be hanged.

STUDHAM & WHIPSNAD

WI

On Thursday 5th November. This will be a Zoom Meeting.

We had a superb Zoom meeting last month and thanks to Julia for a wonderful talk about Verulamium (St Albans to those who are not fluent in Latin!) It was only part 1 – so there is more to go! All members will be notified of the login details by e-mail, but if you would like to join us, please contact Alison Hazell (873806), who will be happy to give login details or tell you how to join by phone. Keep watching us on Facebook for all the latest information, as things keep changing!!

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

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? Dog faeces can be dangerous to the health of young children as well as being 'anti-social' to those using the sporting facilities.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The club is currently open from 4pm Monday to Friday and from 12 noon at weekends. Contact the club for further details and remember the rule of 6 please.

RED LION QUIZ NIGHT

On Tuesday 3rd November at 7.30pm in The Red Lion, Studham. Because of restrictions in place at the time of printing, please note that we begin at **7.30pm** and no more than 6 per team. We also ask all teams to register in advance because of distancing rules, even if you are not eating, and it will be table-only service for drinks. 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 remember if you want the curry, you need to order it (872530)! Rounds remain the same as usual – for those who like to “swot up” - Alphabet is M and Music T! Good luck and see you there!

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WHIPSNAD PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm and will be held virtually. Residents are welcome to raise local issues. For details about joining, contact Clerk, Helen Matthews (helenmatthews1@outlook.com).

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SMILE LINE

A candidate came home in the small hours and gave his wife the wonderful news: “Darling, I’ve been elected!” She was delighted. “Honestly?” she asked. He laughed in an embarrassed sort of way. “Oh, why bring that up?”

FOR YOUNGER READERS

Hedgehog lived alone in an untidy patch of garden, behind the weeds and under the log where she could hide away during the day. 'Time I was up and about', she said to herself as the sun was setting. It had been raining. Wet weather meant lots of slugs and worms and beetles. But, as slugs and worms and beetles were what hedgehog ate, she didn't mind at all.



She had just found a juicy-looking slug when she heard a voice. 'Oh dear', said Hedgehog. Other animals made her jumpy. It was a good job she had her prickles to keep her safe. She curled up into a tight ball, just in case.

'Hello', said Song Thrush. When Hedgehog saw Song Thrush, she uncurled herself. 'You gave me quite a scare', she said. 'Sorry,' said Song Thrush. Song Thrush ate snails and Hedgehog ate slugs, so they often bumped into each other at dusk when looking for food.

Then Song Thrush said something else. He said 'Winter is coming'. Hedgehog looked around in alarm. 'Winter?' she asked in a small worried voice. She was only young and hadn't seen a winter before.

'It's when the weather gets colder and wetter. It's when food, like slugs and snails and beetles, get harder to find', warned Song Thrush. 'I won't go hungry because I can eat berries from bushes', he boasted. Winter didn't seem to bother him.

But it bothered Hedgehog. She didn't eat berries. How would she live without food? What happened to hedgehogs in winter?

She saw birds flying south to warmer places. But she couldn't fly. She saw squirrels storing up nuts. So she tried storing up slugs and worms and beetles in her little home. But when she woke up the next evening, they had all crawled away!

The weather grew colder. She began to worry so much that she couldn't sleep. She tossed and turned until her little bed was no longer cosy. So she went out and collected more leaves and made a warm pile against a log. It looked very snug. But she was too tired to worry about winter now. 'I'll sleep on it', said Hedgehog, yawning. 'Maybe I'll come up with a better idea tomorrow.'

So she burrowed into the middle and curled herself up to go to sleep. And she fell deeper and deeper into the deepest sleep you can sleep. A special sleep some animals do called hibernation.

When she woke up and opened her eyes fully, it was Spring! 'Oh!' she said when she realised she had slept all through winter. 'So that's what happens to hedgehogs!' And she smiled a sleepy smile. She knew what to do next time winter came - no worries!

How many hedgehogs did you spot in this magazine?