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PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 39 years





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Dear friends

I am not a great fan of social media as I find it hard to sift the good story from amongst the banal. However, I found this story recently and it made me question how attentive I was to beauty, the people I meet and the wonder of all God's creation.

In Washington DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately 2000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After about four minutes, a middle-aged man slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then he hurried on to meet his schedule. About four minutes later, the violinist received his first dollar. At ten minutes, a three-year old boy stopped, but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed him on, and the child continued to walk, turning his head all the time.

The musician played continuously. Only six people stopped and listened for a short while. About twenty gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32. When he finished playing, silence took over; no one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell had sold out a theatre in Boston where the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the D.C. Metro Station, was organised by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste, and people's priorities.

How many things are we missing as we rush through life?

I hope that you find the time this month to appreciate the beauty in the people you meet and the natural world of God's creation. God is everywhere.

With love and prayers
Penny Fray

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

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

Children's Church meets on Sunday 20th February within our Sunday service at 10.30am. The children and young people will be thinking about the theme for the day, how God helps us all to cope with the challenges and uncertainties of our lives. The service will be followed by refreshments and the celebration of all the February birthdays. Everyone is very welcome.

Kids' Club: following the first very successful club in December (see photo), plans are taking shape to hold a second club on Friday 25th March from 3.30pm until 5.30 pm. Please put the date in your calendar; more details will follow in the March Parish Link and on the website, www.pariahlink.org.uk.



FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The Friends of Studham Church are a friendly group who raise money to help maintain the fabric of our 800-year-old church.

Maintenance and repair requirements remain unchanged but with most of our fundraising events on hold, the 100 Club is particularly important. If you have recently received renewal details then please re-apply. New members are also welcome. The winner of the £50 first prize in the December draw was Val Grozier with Ian and Annie Milne as runners-up whilst in January, Duncan Wingfield and Emma Mulder were the lucky winners.

You can find out more about the Friends on our website: <https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website>.

CARPET BOWLS

2pm Thursdays in The Village Hall.

We are a friendly mixed group and new members will be made welcome. No experience is necessary and no equipment is needed. It is an opportunity to relax and, at the same time, have some very modest exercise. Contact Pat (872751) or please just come along.

WHIPSNADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

KNIT AND NATTER

'Knit and Natter' is in the church on Tuesday 8th February from 2pm – 4pm. Come along for coffee, biscuits and friendly company, while we make our own crafts or join in the production of knitted daffodils for Easter church decorations. Everyone is very welcome to join us. A voluntary contribution of £2 per session is suggested.

VILLAGE LUNCH

The lunch will be on Thursday 10th February at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. We were disappointed when we had to cancel the January lunch because of the closure of the road, so we are making a special effort to provide a great lunch this month. Choose from a menu of roast lamb with mint sauce, beef in ale with dumplings, chicken and mushroom pie or salmon risotto, followed by a selection of hot or cold desserts then tea or coffee. Offers of help to Isobel Randall (872552).

CHURCH GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

As the Garden of Remembrance in the churchyard, beautifully maintained for many years by the Kingham family, has been full for some time, the church was granted permission to create a new garden to the north west of the church. This is now almost ready, with some planting to be completed, and will be dedicated by the Archdeacon of Bedford on Sunday 20th March during the morning service. It will then be open for use. We are grateful to the Kinghams for their work, and also Ben and Jane Wright for their devoted voluntary efforts in creating the new garden. Thank you also to Richard Ward for his skillful work in the construction of the garden.

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Whipsnade village hall committee would like to thank all of the stall holders and customers who took part in the recent online Christmas Fair. We would also like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

WHIPSNADE CHURCH CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Jo King and Jane Wright would like to thank everyone who came and supported our coffee morning. Thank you to the Knit and Natter girls, especially Janet and Brenda, who knitted an amazing array of items. We raised over £500 for our beautiful church.

WHIPSNADE CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturday 19th February 9.30am – 12pm. We are preparing for the Archdeacon's visit on 20th March to bless our new Memorial garden and would like the churchyard to look its best. All welcome.

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Our prayers: in February we shall be praying especially for the people who live in The Ridgeway, Russell Close and Plewes Close. If you would like us to pray for someone special or, perhaps, a significant occasion, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

Church services: for all services, see page 14.

It's good to be back to (almost) normal, but still with masks and careful distancing. Our Christmas services were very well attended under the circumstances – it was heartening to welcome so many worshippers of all ages to the different services. Big thanks to all who gave their time to decorate and clean the church, to provide refreshments, to Matthew Huggins for playing the organ, to the choir at the Carol Service and to the helpers at Christingle and the Crib Service.

As is the case with most churches, our income since the start of the pandemic has fallen, in spite of loyal parishioners who pay by standing order, and all the truly wonderful and imaginative fundraising events that have taken place. If you can help to contribute in any way, please contact the Vicar.

Kensworth May Festival - Sunday 1st May

Please save the date for this popular event for all the family, which will take place in the churchyard of St Mary's church. The event will start with the crowning of the May Queen and attractions will include stalls, games, sideshows, BBQ, pony rides and fun dog show. More information next month.

Church Fundraising Bazaar: the Bring and Buy shop is open in the Church Hall on Wednesdays, 2pm – 4pm and Saturdays, 10am – 12 noon. Cash only. Sorry we can't accept clothing, electrical goods or large items of furniture. We are very grateful for any other contributions, but please make sure anything you wish to contribute is clean and not broken.

FRIENDS of ST MARY'S, KENSWORTH

The **Annual Quiz** will be held on Saturday 5th February in the Village Hall. With social distancing in mind, a couple of tables of maximum 8 people are still available (at the time of going to press). As usual, a buffet supper is included but please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Timing is 7.15pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. The contact for tables, individual places or other information is David Manton (01438 831184 or david.manton@aol.co.uk). Cost is £10 per person, payable on the night.

If you would like to help the Friends at no extra cost to yourself, and you use Amazon Smile, you can now designate 'The Friends of St Mary the Virgin Church Kensworth' as your charity. A percentage of every purchase will go to the Friends.

KENSWORTH EXTRA

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee were very pleased to report that the combined fundraising events of the Christmas Bingo and the Christmas Fayre raised over £1450, which was an excellent result. The Committee would like to thank all the village residents who came to support these events, as everyone said it was really good to meet up and draw the community together. The stallholders did very well and Father Christmas was a great success with the children.

Following the announcement that England would revert to Plan B with the latest Covid cases, several bookings were cancelled over the Christmas and New Year period. Other hirers were delaying their restart by a week or two, but later bookings are looking ok at the moment.

There is a **Village Walk** planned for 19th February, starting at 10am from the Village Hall car park, with coffee and biscuits afterwards in the hall. We might make this a walk up to Dunstable Downs on the lanes, as the footpaths will be very muddy.

Further maintenance work is planned for the hall, as we continue to keep the hall in good condition for hirers. The comments we are receiving are very encouraging about the size of the hall, the facilities and the cleanliness. We are continuing with the specialist Covid Cleaning for the near future.

The next Committee Meeting is on Wednesday 2nd February at 7.30pm. All welcome.

KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL and PRESCHOOL

Happy New Year from all of us at Kensworth CE Academy. The children have been thinking about their New Year's resolutions, so we will look forward to hearing how they get on with them. Our school dog, Luna, has been enjoying hearing children read or just listening when sometimes a chat or cuddle is needed.

The Spring term is always lovely and, as the days start to get longer and nature begins to show itself, the children are really busy learning. We start new themes each term and this term sees the children learning about the Romans, the Titanic and also, for the youngest children, learning about the history of our wonderful school, which dates back to 1853!

Our fabulous Preschool currently has some places available for an April or September 2022 start (or sooner). If you are interested, please phone us for a chat or arrange a visit (872336 or e-mail the school office: office@ken.dsamat.co.uk).

Enquiries to the Headteacher, Steph O'Neill (872336) or e-mail: office@ken.dsamat.co.uk

MISC

ECO LIVES: A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FOR THE PLANET

Bills: we all have them, and we all dread them. With the country in the icy grip of winter, it can feel like the only light at the end of the tunnel is spring - but it's a light that's expensive to keep running unless we change it to an energy efficient one!

Indeed, there are so many alternatives to the outdated vampire bulbs that are bleeding your wallet dry. Take LEDs, for instance. If you switch all the lights in your house to LED bulbs, you could save £30 a year on your electricity bill. Not bad!

Another good way to save money is on your heating bill. Turn your thermostat down by just one degree. For every degree you turn it down, you save one to three percent off your electricity bill. Throw on a cosy jumper and dig out that hot water bottle from the back of the bathroom cupboard to warm your bed at night. You might even consider tackling the issue at the source and switching energy companies to a greener provider - Octopus and Eon are among the few!

Finally, they say good things come in small packages. Wrong. The best things don't come in packages at all! Consider popping into your nearest "refill" shop. All you need to bring are your own containers, and you only pay for the products that go in them. No packaging, no waste, no guilt. Even retail giants like Tesco and Aldi are now providing this service in selected stores. Aldi even stocks complimentary paper bags! There are also shops opening up in towns that offer this service exclusively.

Written by Jo King

1ST FEBRUARY – CHINESE NEW YEAR



The Chinese New Year, also called the Spring Festival, celebrates the first day of the first month on the Chinese calendar and lasts until the 15th day, the Lantern Festival. The dates move, but fall between January 21st and February 20th. This year, 2022, it is 1st February, the Year of the Tiger.

This day is celebrated by Chinese people throughout the world. The first week is usually a national holiday in China. The largest celebration is on the night before with parties and fireworks. The New Year is also an important time for the Chinese to celebrate family and to honour their parents and grandparents. There are many traditions celebrated during Chinese New Year: the Dragon Dance or Lion Dance; Red Envelopes filled with money, handed out as presents to young children or newly married couples; cleaning the house, to get rid of any of last year's bad luck; firecrackers, so that the loud noise will scare off evil spirits. Red is used for clothes and decorations, symbolising joy and happiness.

MORE STUDHAM



Studham May Fair 7th May 2022

We are delighted to announce the Annual Village Fair returns to Studham Common on 7th May 2022! This year will be more poignant than past events as it's been two years since our community was able to come together. The funds raised will support not only the fabric of our historic church but many more community groups and charities will benefit.

Since the last May Fair there have been many changes in the village and now more than ever, we need your help. If you can offer any assistance, please contact us. Own a local business? Why not support or create an attraction, this could be the perfect opportunity to advertise and personally promote your services and support your local community. Full guidance, support and creative input will be offered. For further information contact Liesa Coates: Liesa.coates@in2global.com.

STUDHAM VILLAGE C of E ACADEMY

I know we are now into February, but all at Studham Village CE Academy wish you a very Healthy and Happy 2022.

EXCITING NEWS! We have opened our pre-school to 2 year olds + and have plans to remodel our outside areas to be in keeping with our beautiful surroundings whilst allowing the children to explore, play and learn.



Jack Frost has visited on many mornings already this year and has left all our children ice formations of awe and wonder! We planted our Christmas tree and hope that it will grow to become our outdoor celebration tree for years to come!

We are looking forward to sharing our learning with you throughout 2022 along with our visits to Studham Church for our RE curriculum and celebrations.

If you are interested in finding out more about our school or wish to volunteer, please contact the school office (872337 or e-mail school@studhamschools.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah MacKenzie-Skea, Headteacher, Studham Village CE Academy.

CHURCH NEWS

FIRST STEPS: 'First Steps', a short service for babies and toddlers and their carers is on Friday 11th February at 2pm in Kensworth Church Hall.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

These will be starting this year for a confirmation service in the North Chilterns Group in June. If anyone is interested in being confirmed, or finding out more about it, they should contact the Revd. Nicola Lenthall on (872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com).

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Linda Hillier is our Pastoral Contact. If anyone has concerns they would like to discuss with our Minister, Rev. Stuart Dyer, please let Linda know (872860) and she will make necessary arrangements.

February Services:

Sunday 13 th	10am	Rev. S. Dyer	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	10am	Linda Hillier	

Studham Methodist Chapel currently meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and all are welcome to join us. We are asking for face masks to be worn and that social distancing is maintained.

Although our own services are not being streamed, Zoom meetings are available from many of our Circuit Churches. If you would like details of these, or any of our other Zoom fellowship meetings, please contact Linda Hillier.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Services for February:

Sunday 13 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Nigel Bibbings
Sunday 27 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Hyacinth Taylor

Particulars of other services can be found on the chapel noticeboards. All services are subject to changes in guidance from the authorities. All are welcome. For the moment there is to be no socialising inside the premises, after the service.

CHURCH CALENDAR

2nd February: Candlemas: for Christians throughout the world, February gets underway with Candlemas, a special celebration.

Candlemas is also known as the 'Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple' and recalls the events recorded in the Gospel of Luke 2.22-40.

NB: Easter Sunday this year is on 17th April, so Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, 2nd March.

MORE STUDHAM

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Sports activities have now returned to normal at the playing fields with football and tennis continuing full pace. All of our sports sections are always happy to welcome new players/members and many have junior sections.

The playing fields are there for everyone in the village to enjoy – but please do not allow your dogs to foul the grounds, as this is very unpleasant and is a health hazard for the football/cricket players and young children. Please also keep off the cricket square.

If you have any questions or would like any more information about the facilities at the field, or would like to hold an event there, please contact Secretary, Paul Hocking (pdhocking@btinternet.com).

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 4.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm.

If you are not yet a member, then why not call in and see what we are all about? We look forward to meeting you.

If you are a member, and have not received recent e-mails from the club, please let a committee member have your current e-mail address so that we can correct this.

PETER THOMPSON

In November Mark Horton, Chairman of Studham Playing Fields Sports and Social Club, presented Peter Thompson with an Honorary Life membership award. Peter, in his younger days, was part of a team that built part of the club building as a community project. He enjoyed the ceremony with his family (photo courtesy of Bill Bowman).



WI

Thursday 3rd February at 7.15pm in Studham Village Hall. **Talk: Foodbanks**

Because of the rise in Covid cases, our January meeting was held on Zoom and a great time was had by all who attended. It was lovely to catch up with everyone and there was plenty of chat and laughter – in fact, we were so busy chatting no-one noticed the time and we almost didn't have chance to say "cheerio"!

We hope that we will be able to meet in the Hall (as planned!) in February, but things are being altered so quickly at the moment. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page (studhamwi) for up-to-date details.

WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL

A few years ago, a small group of volunteers started cutting the grass and embarking on a programme to restore Whipsnade Tree Cathedral to its former glory.

Still involved as trustees, jointly with the National Trust, are the Blyth family, the descendants of Edmund K Blyth, who from 1930 started creating what was to become The Tree Cathedral as a lasting legacy for his comrades-in-arms and friends no longer with him.

The Tree Cathedral is now under the guidance of the National Trust and we have grown to a group of seven volunteers.

As well as clearing leaves and general maintenance, recently we started our biggest project, clearing and cutting back The Dew Pond area. This was planted with various plants and shrubs many years ago, but had been taken over by brambles and all the planting had grown out of control.

We started by clearing the brambles and ivy and cut the shrubs and trees back to low level. We then laid weed control membrane and finished it off with wood chip provided by The National Trust.

We have ended this year with this mammoth task almost complete and are still clearing leaves!

If you have never visited The Tree Cathedral, please give it a try and if it's on a Tuesday morning and you should see us working away, please come and say hello. We are always happy to pause our work for a chat.



On a beautifully bright but bitterly cold afternoon at the end of November the Tree Cathedral was graced by a small group of folk who had joined together to plant two very important trees. One was for the 80th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees. Their campaign, 80 Trees for 80 Years, will see 80 native oak trees planted around Britain in honour of people and places that symbolise the enormous contribution made to every walk of British

life by refugees who escaped from Nazi Europe.

Our tree was planted by Bob Kirk BEM, who was a refugee here in Whipsnade and from whom we heard his very moving story after the ceremony over tea at the Village Hall. The other tree was planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' by the Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, adding to the thousands of trees people are planting across the country as part of the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. Our time together concluded with a short service to mark the start of Chanukah, led by David Young of the Bedfordshire Progressive Synagogue. Very many thanks to all involved.

WHIPSNADE & KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCILS

WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

One of our longest serving councillors, **Anne Salmon**, announced that she would be stepping down from the Council and the January meeting was to be her last. Councillors joined with the Chair in thanking her for the tremendous contribution she has made to the Council's work over very many years. She will be greatly missed. Stepping in from Oldhill Wood, however, we are pleased to announce the co-option of Michael Stott into the casual vacancy occasioned last year by the resignation of Cllr. Jenny Saunders. We wish Michael the very best wishes in his new role on the Council. There still remains one vacancy. If you wish to apply please contact the Clerk, Mrs Helen Matthews. E-mail: Helen.matthews1@Outlook.com.

Whipsnade Green – Winter scrub maintenance

Despite a slightly reduced workforce this year, good progress has been made in removing overgrowth from around the edges of the Green from Rosemary Cottage bend, along to Dell Farm and around to the Zoo car park entrance. The next session will be on Sunday 13th February (start 10.30 am) and we will be managing a section along the top common from the Zoo offices and around. Sessions last 2 – 3 hours, so why not come along and join in. The work is supervised and all tools are provided by the Greensand Trust. There will be one more session after this in March (date T.B.A. in the March Link).

The **next meeting** of the Whipsnade Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th March starting at 7.30 pm in Whipsnade Village Hall.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Christina Jones e-mail: clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Website: www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Clerk/RFO:

The council are happy to formalise the appointment of Christina Jones at the end of her probationary period and Christina confirmed her acceptance of the position.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – plans are taking shape:

We are planning a fundraising dinner on 23rd April 2022 St Georges Day, a celebration garden party on Sunday June 5th 2022, live music, a Jubilee Garden for all to enjoy and tree and bulb planting within Kensworth.

If you would like to help and be involved, please contact John Worboys via e-mail shortgrovemanager@gmail.com for further information.

Parish Council Meetings:

Next meetings: 10th February, March 10th.

From 7.30pm, at Kensworth Village Hall, The Chilterns, Kensworth LU6 3RJ.

STUDHAM EXTRA

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

The next work party for the Friends will be on Saturday 19th February.

The work envisaged for the day will include the trimming of any overgrowth around the hazel planting on the north side of the concrete road and amongst trees on the eastern boundary of East Common. This has the conservation objective to improve the environment and encourage the growth of previously planted new hazels. 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. We meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am. Contact Denis Davison for further information (872650 or denis@den-jen.co.uk).

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

We offer free annual Junior Membership (with every full adult member) and annual Family Membership from £75. Coaching is now back underway alongside our 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 to 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 855388) for more information.

For more information, contact Andrew Jones (andrew.jones@expressvending.co.uk or 07833 111 682/www.studhamtennisclub.co.uk).

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our regular users include Carpet Bowls (2 groups), Tap Dancing, Bingo, Playgroup, Scrabble, W.I. and Parish Council, but there is room for other groups who would like to meet in larger surroundings. Hire rates are very reasonable. Please contact Lynne Smith (bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com) who would be pleased to discuss all the information required.

We are always happy to welcome others who would like to become a Trustee, the work is not onerous and we have around 4 meetings a year. If you would like to join us, please let either Des Salmon (872082) or Chrys Smith (872989) know.

BINGO

Our next bingo will be held on Wednesday 9th March. Doors open at 7.30pm for 'eyes down' at 8pm. Whether you are new to bingo, just taking full advantage of the fact that we are no longer 'locked-in', or an old friend looking to renew your bingo skills – everyone is most welcome.

MORE STUDHAM

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Contact details: clerk@studhamparish.co.uk.

Platinum Jubilee: initial planning is starting about how we should mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the extended bank holiday from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. Village groups are expecting to meet soon to discuss potential events and activities and this is likely to result in a call for volunteers to help with the organisation. If you would like to participate in this process or have some specific suggestions, we would love to hear from you (please e-mail Sally, our Parish Clerk, and we will ensure your response is passed on).

If you are a **new resident** to Studham and have not yet received a welcome pack, please let the Clerk, or any Parish Councillor know. If a property near you is about to change hands, please let us know so that we can get this service back on track.

If you wish to report a broken streetlight or pothole, please use "FixMyStreet". Just put "**Fix my street**" into your browser and create an account, then follow the instructions to complete. All we ask is that you let us know that you have done it so that we can follow it up.

Parking in the centre of the village is an issue of which we are well aware, but please help us (and yourselves) by parking sensibly. The last thing we want to do is erect fencing or paint lines everywhere. With winter weather, the gritting lorry does need access to ensure all roads are safe for everyone.

Our **next meetings** will be on Monday 7th February and Monday 7th March at 7pm in Studham Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome.

RED LION QUIZ

Tuesday 1st February at 8pm in the Studham Red Lion.

Due to Covid we did not have a quiz in January, so rather than let all that swotting go to waste, the rounds will be: 1: Sport and Recent News, 2: School Days (all the things you learnt at school – and have forgotten!), 3: Alphabet (all answers start with P), 4: Entertainment (anything that entertains!), 5: Anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: Music, W.

Please ring the Red Lion (872530) to book a table, (and order food if required).

SCRABBLE

2pm Tuesdays in the Village Hall

New players are welcome to a small friendly group. Did you know that Scrabble was the most looked-for board game during lockdown? Why not come and try the real thing, with real opponents? Contact is Mary (alan.must@churchclose1plus.com) or just come along.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUGE THANKS TO PAM WARD

Pam has been part of the Parish Link since its beginning nearly 40 years ago. When Gill Noyelle came to live in Kensworth, she had journalistic experience and suggested the setting up of a leaflet to give news and information about the Parish Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade, which had recently been amalgamated under one Vicar. Pam was the church architect and a leading personality in Whipsnade, so together with Mike Harrison from Studham, Sheila Weatherhead from Whipsnade and Elisabeth Shelley from Kensworth and with the blessing of the then Vicar, John Shepherd, they produced a one-page, typewritten sheet of A4, which was distributed to the residents of the three villages for free.



As it developed over the years, advertising was incorporated to help with the expenses, and the format changed to the A5 printed, now with colour, magazine that we know today. Throughout all this time, Pam has been a tower of strength and information, with her contributions from Whipsnade organisations. She has combined this with her busy schedule of work in the churches and her tireless voluntary activities in Whipsnade church, the Village Hall, the very popular Village Lunches, her involvement in the care of Whipsnade Tree Cathedral and the Green, and her leading organisation in the British Legion Poppy Appeal in the area. Until two years ago, she had the faithful help of her husband, John, who sadly passed away in March 2020, and whose practical and moral support she must miss very much.

Pam continues to take an active part in all these organisations, but has decided that the time has come to hang up her pen and pass on her role in the Link. We shall miss her so much, but we understand that she deserves a rest! We send her our very best wishes for the future. (The photo shows Deirdre Brook presenting Pam with a bouquet of flowers at the last Editorial Committee meeting).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For all sales and announcements, please see page 23.

If you would like to make a donation to help keep the Parish Link free for all our villagers, please contact Treasurer, Les Randall, on 01582 872552 or e-mail: lesrandall@btinternet.com, or send a cheque (payable to Parish Link) to 14 Holywell Road, Studham, LU6 2PA.

Sales/announcements for the March issue of the Parish Link by 10th February to Advertising Manager, Mike Bailey (mjbailey1@btinternet.com or 872318 or send to 42 Woodland Rise, Studham LU6 2PF). Cost 25 pence per word.