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PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 40 years





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Dear friends and parishioners,

One of the most important parts of my ministry is the privilege of taking funeral services, in our three churches, or at a local crematorium. Though always sad, these services always include thanksgiving for a life, and for all that the loved one gave to those around them.

Sometimes people express surprise at the fact that anyone can have a funeral in their local church, even if they didn't go to church themselves – but they can. The Church of England is there for everyone in the parish. People also sometimes say they're surprised how deeply personal the services are – but, just like any humanist celebrant, I always take a great deal of care in crafting each service individually. Just as every person is different, so should every service be.

In our society today we sometimes struggle to talk or even think about dying or death, but it can be very helpful to share with our nearest and dearest our wishes for what might happen to us. In my experience it really helps families when they are having to make what seems like endless decisions and deal with a lot of paperwork, all in a position where they are themselves psychologically or emotionally challenged. If you are in a position where you can have a conversation about this with those you love, it will help them.

I believe that we are all created in God's image, and that image is one of everlasting love. I pray for all those who have lost loved ones, especially recently, that they might trust that those we love but see no longer, are held evermore in God's love, as we are, in remembering them.

With my love and prayers, this month and always

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Nicola Lenthall'.

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Our prayers for you: if you would like a particular prayer to be said, for a loved one or a special occasion, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670 or e-mail: dorothy.godbod1@outlook.com). In February our prayers will include all the people who live in the Ridgeway, Russell Close and Plewes Close.

The Christmas services: Christingle (see photo of making Christingles), the Carol Service, the Crib Service and Midnight Mass, were all well attended and our thanks go to all who supported them, and to those who organised, decorated, cleaned and generally helped to make it all so heartwarming. Special thanks, of course, to Nicola and Dave, our Ministers, for leading the services with love and inspiration.



Church Calendar: 2nd February is the festival of Candlemas celebrating infant Jesus' first visit to the temple and the command that his followers act as lights to the world.

Easter Sunday is on 9th April this year, so Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, celebrated by a Benefice service of Holy Communion in Kensworth (page 16), and the first Sunday in Lent is 26th February, when there will be a family Holy Communion.

Everyone is very welcome to all our services. (NB - 8am Holy Communion on 26th February is held in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road).

Choir News: the choir will sing at Sung Eucharist (Holy Communion) on 5th February. If you would like to join, please telephone the Vicar (872223 or e-mail: revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com). Instrument players are also welcome, to help accompany on occasions.

Sunday School: Morning Service at 10.30am on Sunday 12th February will include Sunday School, with classes for both older and younger children who will be thinking about God and the world.

If you would like your child to join Sunday School, or if you want to be a helper, please contact Katherine Huggins (607841) for details.

Messy Church: this will be on Friday 3rd February at 3.30pm in the Church Hall. The theme will be 'Everyone is welcome at God's party'. All children aged 3+ are welcome, accompanied by a parent or carer; older children are very welcome to come and help. Time for craft work, songs and story followed by a hot meal for everyone.

WHIPSNADDE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

Charities: thank you to all church members, carol singers, visitors, donors and to those who attended fundraising events over the festive season.

You enabled us to give generously as follows:

£560 to the Children's Society raised from carol singing round the Home Park, and the collections at the Christingle service and the Christmas Eve carol service.

£700, ie £100 to each of the following charities, given from church funds:

For the sick: Keech Hospice Care, Rennie Grove Hospice Care (ie hospice at home), Dementia UK; for spiritual support: the Society of Mary and Martha; international aid: Water Aid; for those in need - St Martin in the Fields and the Dunstable Salvation Army.

In addition, church members took part in the "Reverse Advent Calendar" event, placing a donated item into a box daily throughout Advent, given to the Dunstable Food Bank at the start of January. This is over and above our weekly donations.

Sunday School: we will meet on Sunday 12th February. In January we celebrated the Epiphany, choosing Christmas gifts for the Three Kings to give to baby Jesus.

Village Lunch: on Thursday 9th February at 12.30pm in the Village Hall, cost £7. Everyone is welcome. No need to book! Choose your main course from the following: roast beef with roast potatoes and Yorkshire pudding; Chicken Kiev; lamb hotpot or fisherman's pie – followed by a selection of puddings and tea or coffee. And the raffle! For photos of the Christmas lunch, go to www.parishlink.org.uk, Gallery page.

Knit and Natter: the group will meet in the church for company, refreshments and shared crafts on Tuesday 21st February between 2pm and 4pm. Patterns, materials and support for beginners are available or bring along the project you are working on. We meet every four weeks – contact Jo King (sallowsprings@hotmail.co.uk) for more details.

Whipsnade Village Get-Together: Whipsnade Village Hall on February 7th from 2pm – 4pm. Refreshments and a raffle will be available. Come along for a chat or to play cards and dominos with old and new friends.

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Story of Whipsnade Village

The talk will be by Chris and Ken France of Hill Farm, Whipsnade. An illustrated talk about the history, including details about its famous tree cathedral, its conservation areas and why there are gates across its main road. Chris was born and bred in the village and Ken is chairman of the Parish Council. On 14th February at 7.45pm in the Methodist Church Hall in Dunstable, visitors welcome at £2.

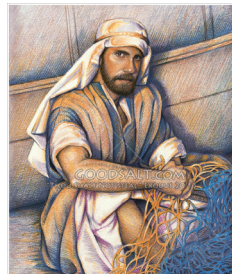
AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas services. After the long months of the pandemic, it was a pleasure to see the church busy again, with congregation numbers back to pre-Covid levels.

Church prayers: in our cycle of prayers, 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 again on Sunday 19th February during the morning service of Holy Communion at 10.30am. The children and young people will be interviewing a special guest, Simon Peter, who will be reporting on an amazing event that took place two thousand years ago! After the service everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments and, with the help of a lovely birthday cake, we will be celebrating all the February birthdays.



Kids' Club is being held on Friday 24th February in church from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. With interesting crafts, games and a hot tea, the children will be making their own journey towards the excitement of Easter.

Children and young people of all ages are very welcome and, once again, parents and carers are also welcome to stay and join in the fun. It makes planning easier if places are booked in advance; so, if possible please contact Caroline Child (cjhitchman@hotmail.com/07711 955070) to do so.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The Friends of Studham Church are a friendly group who raise money to help maintain the fabric of our church, which is now 803 years old!

One of the regular fundraisers is the 100 Club, although we paid out over £700 in winnings last year to 22 different winners. 100 Club membership renews in February so renewal notices will be out shortly.

New members are also welcome:

visit our website (<https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website>),

or contact Chairman, John McDougal, (john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or 873257).

The winner of the £50 first prize in the December draw was Dorothy Gawen, with Keith Bailey as runner up, whilst in January, Fiona McDougal and Duncan Wingfield were the lucky winners.

WARM HUBS

"Warm Hubs" are places within the local community where people can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy refreshments, social activity, information and the company of other people.

In Studham there will be a warm shelter, warm refreshments, and a warm welcome to all those who wish to join us. Bring your knitting, your book, your friendship and we will provide the rest – even a jigsaw or two!

February

6 th	Monday	10 – 12	Studham Village Hall
14 th	Tuesday	10 – 12	Studham Methodist Chapel
20 th	Monday	10 – 12	Studham Village Hall
28 th	Tuesday	10 – 12	Studham Methodist Chapel

ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

A quiz to while away those dark nights

- 1, Ritchie Valens, J. P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson and which other rock and roll musician were killed in a plane crash on 3rd Feb 1959?
- 2, Which country became the first to have a craft make a soft landing on the moon in Feb 1966?
- 3, In 1971 who replaced Milton Obote as president of Uganda?
- 4, Who was elected as the first President of the United States in 1789?
- 5, In 1945 the Yalta Conference took place between which 3 leaders?
- 6, Which country, later named Sri Lanka, became independent within the British Commonwealth in 1948?
- 7, In February of which year was the social networking site Facebook founded?
a) 2004 b) 2005 c) 2006
- 8, In 1885 the Congo was established as the personal possession of King Leopold II of which country?
- 9, James II of England became king in 1685 following whose death?
- 10, The Munich air disaster in which 8 Manchester United players were killed was in Feb of which year?

Answers on page 19.

MORE KENSWORTH

CHURCH BRING 'n BUY and RECYCLING CENTRE

In the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Vicarage). 2 – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays. All kinds of treasures are available – come and have a browse! (Unfortunately, we cannot sell electrical goods, clothing or large items of furniture – and please ensure that items for sale are clean and unbroken).

Cash only.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

For all services, see page 15. The February Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 4th. Everyone is very welcome for delicious cakes, coffee/tea and a chat.

KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB

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

KENSWORTH SPRING FESTIVAL



Please "Save the Date" for the **Spring Festival** at St Mary's Kensworth on **Sunday April 30th**. (This is what has previously been called the May Festival but is in April this year, as 30th is the closest Sunday to 1st May).

More details will follow but there will be the usual sideshows, stalls and games, a BBQ, the crowning of the May Queen and Morris dancing. The event will follow the 10.30am service in church (so festivities will start at about 11.30am).

FRIENDS of KENSWORTH CHURCH

The Christmas concert, 'Wine, Women and Song', held on 3rd December in the church by Caritas Harmony was a sell-out and a most delightful afternoon's entertainment by this talented choir. Our greatest thanks go to all who contributed to making this such a successful event, raising over £630 for church funds.

SMILE LINE

A Sunday School teacher asked her children: "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy ventured: "Sin?"

MORE STUDHAM

MAY FAIR SATURDAY 13TH MAY

The gift stall needs your items to sell. Please give generously anything you think will sell well on the day. That could be unwanted Christmas gifts, toys, household items, jewellery etc. Perhaps something you know another person would really really want. Contact May Fair stallholder, Joanna Majewska (07815 120390) or Derek Spriggs (07825 705380). Thank you.



CARPET BOWLS



2pm Thursdays in Studham 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 Thorne (872751) or please just come along.

SCRABBLE

2pm Tuesdays in Studham Village Hall

New players are welcome to a small friendly group. Contact is Mary Must (alan.must@churchclose1pluscom) or please just come along.

SENIORS TABLE TENNIS

10 - 12 Fridays in Studham Village Hall

All welcome to a friendly morning. Contact is Felicity Cornelius (872038).

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our regular users include carpet bowls, Mums and Tots, Scrabble, table tennis, Parish Council, yoga, bingo, Gong Therapy, WI, and tap dancing. We have room for other groups, for example: chess club, or book club, perhaps whist, video games, table-top games or just a family games night. If you would like to organise any of these, or any other group, hold a single meeting or become a regular user, then please contact one of the Trustees.

The Hall is ideal for parties and 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LENT?

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in Spring, when the days begin to get longer. Lent is 40 days long to reflect the 40 days Jesus Christ spent in the desert leading up to his crucifixion. It is a six-week festival, not including Sundays, in the build-up to Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead, three days after he was crucified.

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. He was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist.

Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus' fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline.

There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes or chocolate.

You could also do extra things in Lent, such as helping people.

ECO CHURCH

It seems an odd time to write about conserving water when, outside, it is pouring with rain. However, we know that in the summer, there will likely be water shortages and more frequent droughts as the climate gets warmer. We need to check our water usage all year round and try to conserve water as households. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has ten tips to reduce our water consumption.

1. Switch from baths to showers. Try keeping your shower to 4 minutes or less.
2. Keep your sprinklers off. A water butt collects water throughout the year.
3. Turn off the tap. Running taps waste as much as 6 litres of water a minute.
4. Fill up a washing up bowl. Cleaning the cleanest items first means you're unlikely to need to change the water saving a huge amount compared to washing everything under the tap.
5. Make sure your dishwasher is full! Dishwashing compared to hand washing saves 6000L a year. Not pre-rinsing saves another 1000L a year.
6. Use leftover water from cooking or from rinsing your veg to water your plants or use on the garden.
7. Fix leaky taps.
8. Fit low flow aerators on your taps and showers. These cheap adaptors aerate your water supply. You get the same water pressure but much less water.
9. Keep a jug of cold water in the fridge so that you always have a supply.
10. Only fill up the kettle with how much you need.

CHURCH NEWS

LENT COURSE

Come and join us in the North Chilterns Group on Tuesday evenings this Lent for an '**Alphabet of Christianity**'! Bring those questions you have been wanting to ask for ages, but perhaps have felt they are really something you 'should know', or have forgotten. Bring an open mind and a willingness to learn and enjoy yourself.

Bring a bible if you have one... The meetings are all at Totternhoe Church Hall, Church Road, Totternhoe, LU6 1RH. We will be starting with refreshments at 7.30pm for 7.45pm, and concluding with a short act of worship, ending by 9pm, and the dates are February 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

For more information, please contact the Revd. Canon Nicola Lenthall (01582 872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com).

HOW IS LENT CELEBRATED?

Shrove Tuesday (21st February)

In western Christian churches, the day before Lent starts is **Shrove Tuesday**, also known as **Pancake Day**. This day was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday, as they were a simple meal that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

Shrove comes from the verb 'to shrive' which means to confess sins.

Ash Wednesday (22nd February)

On Ash Wednesday many Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong-doing.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am.

Services for February:

12 th . February:	Holy Communion	Rev. Nigel Bibbings
26 th . February:	Morning Worship	Mrs. Fiona Arscott-Smith

Particulars of other services can be found on the chapel noticeboards.

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Linda Hillier is our pastoral contact. If anyone has any concerns they would like to discuss with one of our ministers, please let Linda know (872860) and she will make the necessary arrangements.

February Services:

Sunday 12 th	10am	Mr Tony Higgins
Sunday 26 th	10am	Rev. Andrew Brazier

Joint ovenant Service with St Mary's Church

WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

The dates and times for the Spring meetings of the Parish Council are:

March 14th (This will also include the Annual Parish meeting reporting on activities undertaken in the municipal year 2022-2023). This will be the last meeting of the current Council being at the end of its 4-year term of office (see below).

May 9th (Annual General Meeting). This follows the election of a new Council in the national local elections held on May 4th for Central Bedfordshire Council and Parish Councils and will mark the beginning of a new 4-year term.

Thereafter, meetings are held bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month and start at 7.30 pm in Whipsnade Village Hall. Advance notice of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council noticeboards and on the Parish Council web site: www.whipsnadeparishcouncil.org.uk.

For further information, please contact the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Helen Matthews at helenmatthews1@outlook.com.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Website: www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact: Christina: (clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel : **07387 789897**)

Councillors were pleased to see 23 residents at January's Parish Council meeting.

Elections are in May for the next 4-year term – would you like to play a role within the Parish Council? Ask us for an introduction into becoming a Councillor.

We are obtaining quotes for a Safeguarding Pathway inside the hedge running the length of the recreation ground along Common Road. This is in answer to a number of concerned residents, not least those walking children to school.

Grant applications are now open for community groups, for expenditure that will bring direct benefit to Kensworth. Ask for an application form. The awards will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Closing date: 28th February.

The 'Fix My Street' link is there for you to report issues such as potholes, faulty lights, damaged pavements, overgrown trees and hedges, obstructions in the road and more (<https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>).

If you wish to raise concerns on a Central Bedfordshire Council issue, it has been suggested that individual letters or e-mails are more powerful than a group petition.

Next Parish Council Meetings:

9th February & 9th March 7.30pm Kensworth Village Hall, The Chilterns, LU6 3RJ

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Our **next meeting** is in the Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 6th February.

Plans are being made for **defibrillator training** on Monday 27th February. Places are limited so you will need to book. If you would like to be advised of meetings and other important issues by e-mail, please go to our website to register, or e-mail news@studhamparish.co.uk asking to be added.

If you have recently moved into our parish and have not received your **Welcome Pack**, contact the Clerk (clerk@studhamparish.co.uk) who will arrange this for you.

A reminder: to record highway issues to Central Bedfordshire Council access "**FixMyStreet**" on the CBC website (or download the app). Sending a photo is always good. We ask that you let a councillor know what you have reported, with the reference number, only so that we can chase it up for you.

Parish Council Election – 4th May. It's election time and, with some existing members of the Council standing down, now is the time to consider if you would like to contribute some time to helping our community. Nominations need to be submitted to CBC between 14th March and 4th April. Meanwhile, if you are interested, either come along to one of our monthly meetings or contact our current Chairman (Bob Wilkin – 07796 446031/bob@afroformosia.com) to find out more.

Could we respectfully remind you all that the salt bins around the village are for public highway/footpath use, not for private drives etc. We do have a group of volunteers who help to spread the salt when needed, but we are always happy to have more. If you can help, contact Geoff Shute (geoff.shutel6@talktalk.net) who would be pleased to add you to the list.

KENSWORTH CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL

Due to unavoidable delay, the next school report will be held over to our March issue.

For PTA, contact kensworthacademypta@gmail.com.

QUIZ ANSWERS

Answers to quiz on page 11.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1, Buddy Holly | 6, Ceylon |
| 2, Soviet Union | 7, a) 2004 |
| 3, Idi Amin | 8, Belgium |
| 4, George Washington | 9, Charles II |
| 5, Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt | 10, 1958 |

VOLUNTEERING

WHIPSDNADE TREE CATHEDRAL – VOLUNTEERS DIARY

So Christmas has come and gone and the cutting of all the defining hedges is still our main priority at the Tree Cathedral. We need to get all of this done as soon as possible before the bird nesting season starts in March. We are also still collecting leaves along with the laurel cuttings and our leaf pile is getting huge.

February is when we tend to clear the bonfire area in preparation for the big stick pick-up, which happens before we start mowing the grass. There are plenty of branches and larger pieces of wood littered around already and there will be many more coming down in the windy weeks of February.

This year we felled three trees from the Christmas Chapel, one of which went in the church. The area will now need our attention as all the surplus branches and debris needs carting up to the bonfire area.

The dew pond area will also need some more attention. There are areas where the brambles have started to come through and areas where animals have dug. We have plenty of piles of wood chip, so we can re-cover those areas.

All this is preparation for the warmer months to come when we can watch as all the trees and shrubs start to bud up and burst into new life ready to start the new cycle. Come and say hello on Tuesday mornings 9am – 12pm.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

The next work party for the Friends will be on **Saturday 18th February**. Tasks will include trimming and re-laying the hedge on the southern boundary of East Common, and light trimming of brambles on the west boundary of Middle Common. These tasks will ensure that the hedgerows will eventually form a continuous dense habitat for nesting birds and act as a safe corridor for small mammals, while preventing it from encroaching further onto the Common grassland.

Everyone is welcome, especially new members. We meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am; all tools will be provided. For further information contact Keith Draine (k.draine@draines.co.uk / 07807 363629).

SOUTH BEDS ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS



This month's talk is on 6th February at 2pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable. It will be Dunstable Town Guide, Kay Kempster, talking about Medieval Dunstable. All are welcome - visitors pay £3.

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall held two fundraising events over the Christmas period, a Christmas Bingo and the Christmas Fayre. Both events were not quite as well supported as in previous years, but the people who did attend really enjoyed themselves. Obviously, profits were down, but at least the Committee felt that they had offered residents great events to attend.

We want to send a huge thank you to the stallholders who support the Christmas Fayre each year, offering a lovely selection of Christmas gifts etc. Also, the Village Shop and Tesco Express, Langdale, for their prize donations.

The Hall is still very busy with bookings for ad hoc events. People hiring it have said that the facilities are excellent and the right size for family events. We have some new regular bookings with the Art Club on Tuesday afternoons, a children's dance group, with an adult dance group on Monday evenings.

If anyone is interested in helping to organise a Kensworth village event to celebrate the Coronation on 6th May, please contact Pat Mitchell on pat@ysmit.co.uk.

The meeting held on 13th January was the first without our late Chairman, Mike Sawyer. We had hoped that a Committee member would volunteer to be Chair of the Committee, but unfortunately nobody felt they could take on this role. We are greatly in need of new younger Committee members, as some members are now in their 70s and 80s and more help is needed to share the management. The next meeting of the Village Hall Committee is Wednesday 1st March at 7.30pm in the Committee Room. If you would like to get involved, please come and join us.

WITH ST VALENTINES DAY IN MIND.....

A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

- “When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toe-nails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.” Rebecca – age 8
- “When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.” Billy – age 4
- “Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.” Karl – age 5
- “Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs.” Chrissy – age 6
- “If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.” Nikka – age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet).

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT AT 70

Whipsnade resident, Hilary Fox, has been a volunteer at Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled for more than 30 years and wanted to do something beneficial for the charity to mark her milestone 70th birthday.

So, in November Hilary completed a tandem skydive which has so far raised an amazing £2,800 for the Centre situated just six miles up the road from our three villages.

“At the time, jumping out of a plane was a pretty surreal experience and not one I’d repeat anytime soon but I’m so proud of how much money has been donated to RDA because of it,” said Hilary. “I’m so grateful to everyone involved.”



Gaddesden Place is a dedicated RDA centre offering anyone with additional needs and disabilities the opportunity to participate in a range of equine-based activities, including riding and equine therapy. If you would like to find out more about this, volunteer, or donate, please go to www.gaddesdenplacerda.org.uk.

STUDHAM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Please note that in the wake of the energy crisis, the decision has been taken to close the Club on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until the end of March.

So our current opening hours are: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 4.30pm, Saturdays and Sundays 12pm.

The Sports and Social Club welcomes all visitors and new members. We provide competitively-priced drinks and the facility is also available for private events such as parties, birthdays, wedding celebrations, wakes, music evenings, etc.

If you are planning an event, please contact the Club Manager (Louise 07737 839596) to see what we can offer.

All members should receive details of events etc. via e-mail. If you have not been receiving yours, please make sure that your e-mail details are up-to-date by letting the bar staff have your address. If you wish to join us, we will be delighted to see you. Membership application forms are available at the bar.

A reminder that the annual renewal date for memberships is 1st April .

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

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

Coaching takes place 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. All are welcome.

Our coach, Megan, is also available for private individual or group lessons; contact her on 07826 855 388 for more information.

For more information on coaching or joining the club please contact Andrew Jones (andrew.jones@selecta.com/07833 111682/www.studhamtennisclub.co.uk).

BINGO

We do not have bingo in February, so our next meeting will be Wednesday 1st March. We look forward to seeing you all then.

QUIZZES

Quiz Night at the Red Lion on Tuesday 7th February 8pm.

The rounds will be: 1: sport & recent news, 2: school days (all the things you learnt at school – and have forgotten!), 3: alphabet (all answers start with B), 4: entertainment (anything that entertains!), 5: anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: music (titles beginning F).



There is no fixed team size so you can go solo or bring all the family, however, please ring the Red Lion (872530) to book a table (and order food if required).

WI

Thursday 2nd February at 7.15pm **Fiona's Quiz Night!**

Our January Social Evening and Chinese raffle was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. It was lovely just to sit and 'catch-up' with everyone after all the fevered activity surrounding Christmas and New Year. The Chinese raffle, which is like a raffle crossed with musical chairs, caused a great deal of hilarity – especially over the 'unkillable' plastic plant and bottle of sparking wine!! An awful lot of banter and a great deal of laughter, even after the prizes had been won!

This month we will be treated to one of Fiona's Quiz Evenings so start swotting!

STUDHAM SCHOOL & PLAYING FIELDS

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL



The children have begun the year with great enthusiasm learning about their new topics, including Winter Wonderland, Splendid Skies and Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. Much awe and wonder are afoot in the classroom!

Outside, the bulbs planted by our pupils and their families in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support are beginning to emerge from their soil beds and plans for our allotment planting are well underway.

Big News.....we are looking forward to our new outdoor classroom arriving this term! The new addition to our Forest School area will be a fantastic space where we can learn, play and experience the nature that surrounds us.

Our local community police officers will be visiting our school this term to teach our children about road safety, and particularly about the importance of how to keep safe during the dark mornings and afternoons we experience at this time of year.

We very much hope that we will have lots of opportunities to see you during the months ahead.....please wave if you pass our gates and see us in our allotment area and don't forget, if you have been on a walk, you can drop us off a stick or two in our 'stick store' located at the front of the school. This helps us stock up in order to create some truly wonderful dens and aid other Forest School activities!

If you are interested in a place for your child (pre-school to year 4, from 2 to 9 years old), contact the school office (872337 or e-mail school@studhamschools.org.uk) for more information and to book a tour.

Sarah MacKenzie-Skea, Headteacher

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Sports activities are running at full pace at the playing fields, so if you are interested in joining any of them, please get in touch.

The playing fields are also available for other events and have previously hosted marquee parties, touch rugby tournaments, school sports and village events including the May Fair and Jubilee celebrations. If you would like any further information or are interested in using the fields to host an event, please contact the Secretary, Paul Hocking (07500 849280).

Please remember to look after your dogs if walking on the playing fields and clear up all mess to protect sports users and children using the grounds.

HELPFUL ADVICE

GARDENING TIPS for FEBRUARY

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs, climbers and evergreen hedges.

1. Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
2. Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
3. Divide bulbs such as snowdrops
4. Prune wisteria
5. Prune evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
6. Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
7. Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

While weather remains cold during February, it's important you continue any regular bird feeding and provide your local wildlife with clean, unfrozen water.

Make a wildlife pond

Building a good pond is one of the single most important steps you can take to support your local nature.

It will provide a home and feeding ground for so many different creatures, from invertebrates like pond-skaters and dragonflies to amphibians like frogs and toads. Your garden birds can also use the pond to drink and bathe.

You'll need to make sure any pond has deeper and shallower areas, and it's really important it has an easy escape route for any non-aquatic animals (like hedgehogs) that fall in. Some folk add escape 'ladders' to help with this - but the safest thing is to construct a pond with a very gentle slope out of the water on one side.

Contact **The Wildlife Trust** (www.wildlifetrusts.org) to learn how to make a pond.

A SAFETY TIP

If you are buying something using your credit/debit card, and you are not entirely sure how reliable the seller is, insert your card in the machine, and then input an incorrect PIN number. The machine should come up with a message saying "incorrect PIN, please enter again". In which case you can enter your correct PIN and complete the transaction.

If the machine accepts the incorrect pin number, and gives a receipt, it is a counterfeit machine trying to take your PIN number to access your account. Remove your card and refuse the transaction, safe in the knowledge that they have not got your correct PIN number, nor been able to take any money from your account.