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February 2019

PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 36 years





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Tel: 01525 872026

Methodist Minister for Kensworth

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this I may very well be in India. A group of people of different faiths, and none, are travelling to West Bengal on an aid visit to a rural hospital. This is a part of my Sabbatical plans which mean that I shall not be generally available from now on until Holy Week in the middle of April.

I am aware that whilst we are in India we shall meet some of the world's poorest people, whose individual lives are likely to put my own life and struggles into perspective. I shall have to learn to 'get over' myself. The area we shall be visiting is generally unaffected by the 'caste' system which permeates so much of Indian society.

The people of the villages the hospital serves are mainly tribal peoples, who are way more affected by grinding poverty and, for the most part, do not seek the hospital's help – because they have no money to pay hospital fees. The hospital offers its services free of charge, however, and therefore much of its work is going out into the villages, to spread the word, identify diseases and bring people in for treatment. All that we shall see is perfectly 'normal' as far as their society is concerned, it is just the way things are out there. Individual people do not generally have more than a glimpse into the world we live in, with its wonderful NHS and social and welfare payments.

This got me wondering about the contexts of some of our arguments. Yes, I am thinking of the 'B' for Brexit word and the comparative insignificance of the way in which we order our lives alongside our European and Worldwide neighbours. The people we shall meet in India have far more important things to think about and fret over. So do many individuals and families in our own country and across the world. Everything is relative.

It is not that Brexit is unimportant, far from it. Unfortunately, some people in our nation have shown their intolerance of others and their views – and I can be like that myself at times. We have become so polarised. I hope that we can learn to be better than that and can reason carefully and considerately together to forge a common future, which while not satisfying everybody is good news for all the people of these islands – especially those who have the least.

I expect to be challenged and changed by our Indian travels and encounters. I will let you know how we get on.

God bless, **Nigel**

KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS

In February our prayers will include all the people who live in the Lynch, Lynch Hill and Clayhall Road. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

2nd February is the festival of Candlemas. At the service on 3rd February, a candle will be lit to represent Jesus' command that his followers act as lights to the world. Easter is not until 21st April this year, so the Lent season does not start until next month. Everyone is very welcome to our services, which are followed by refreshments, except the 8am Holy Communion on 24th February. This will be held again in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road, this month.

Choir News: the choir will sing at Sung Eucharist (Holy Communion) on 3rd February and at Sung Matins on the 17th. The choir practises on Fridays, 6pm – 7pm in the Church Hall in the winter months.

If you would like to join, contact Mike Palmer (524183 or medpalmer@gmail.com), or the Rector (872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com). Instrument players are also welcome, to help accompany.

Sunday School: the theme for the service on the 10th will be about Jesus calling the fishermen. At the Family Service on the 24th there will be Sunday School for the younger children, when the subject will be 'Jesus is our God and Saviour'.

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 8th February at 3.30pm in the Church Hall. The theme will be 'Where I belong'. 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.

Church Shop: the shop, in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Vicarage), is open 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.)

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

For all services, see page 14. The February Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 2nd. Everyone is very welcome for delicious cakes, coffee/tea and a chat. Please come and support our special event in aid of the KSN Hospital, Sarenga, West Bengal, India.

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church Prayers: in February we shall be praying especially for all the residents of Oakway. If you would like a prayer to be said, perhaps for a special person or event, please contact Churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

Children's Church is on Sunday 17th February at 10.30am. It's the third Sunday before Lent and the children and young people will be discussing how they can choose to do what is right, and then use their skills and talents to serve God and their families and friends. Everyone is very welcome to stay for refreshment after the service and to celebrate all the February birthdays.

The **Annual Wine Tasting** takes place on Saturday 30th March at 7.30pm at Studham Village Hall. This year marks the 25th wine evening and the successful format continues - seven fine wines and a three-course supper plus the fun of a quiz, raffle and auction. Tickets, at the usual price of £22, are going quickly, so to reserve yours, please contact John McDougal (873257 or john.mcdougal@btinternet.com).



FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

We are a friendly group who aim to raise funds throughout the year to support the maintenance of the oldest building in the village, the church.

Our main annual fundraiser is the **May Fair**, which this year is on Saturday 11th May. Our May Fair committee has already been working for months on the planning but volunteers are always welcome – contact details below if you can help.

Other events planned for the year include a Race Night, an outdoor concert jointly with the School Trust and a Call My Bluff wine evening. More details to follow.

We also run a **100 Club** which costs only £12 per year with £60 in prizes each month. Diana Shute, Jane Herd, Pam Rumfitt and Julian Barnes have been the lucky December and January winners. To join the 100 Club, to volunteer, or to find out more about the Friends please e-mail john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257.

CARPET BOWLS

The Club meets 7pm on Thursdays and dates are in the diary section. We are a small friendly group and new members are most welcome or just come for a taster. Contacts are Pat Thorne (872751) or Des Salmon (872082).

CHURCH CHRISTMAS NEWS

Thank you to everyone who joined in the **carol singing** around Park Homes; the carol singing around the village was cancelled due to a shortage of singers! The Christingle Service, carol singing and the Christmas Eve Carol Service raised £620 which has been sent to the Children's Society, who will be able to increase the amount by claiming Gift Aid where appropriate.

The **Christmas services** were well attended; many thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways over the Christmas period, especially decorating the church etc.

Village Lunch: over 70 people attended the Christmas Lunch in December. The January lunch was well supported with 45 people enjoying a good meal.

The next lunch is on Thursday 14th February (celebrate Valentine's Day!) at 12.30pm in Whipnade Village Hall. The menu will be: roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, shepherd's pie, baked sole with lemon butter and new potatoes or bacon-wrapped chicken breast stuffed with cheese and mushrooms. There is also a choice of pudding and tea or coffee. All for £6, no need to book.

Offers of help or puddings are very welcome, to Pam Ward (872406) or Isobel Randall (872552). Thank you to everyone who supports and helps at our lunches throughout the year.

WHIPSNADE GREEN SCRUB CLEARANCE

At the January meeting we continued clearing scrub between the Village Hall and Dell Farm and had a big bonfire! We will continue clearing this area on 10th February and move on to other areas of re-growth nearby. Queries and offers of help to Charles Frost (871417). NOTE: the March scrub clearing is on Sunday 10th March (the last of the season).

CONCERT IN THE CHURCH

'The Rivers of Music' by young musicians, on Sunday 3rd March at 7pm featuring a string quartet, vocalists, classical guitar, bassoon, euphonium and world premier music. Tickets: adults: £10, under-16s: £5 from Isobel Randall (872552) or Pam Ward (872406). All proceeds go to Cancer Research UK and Whipnade Church.

WHIPSNADE SUMMER FETE

This is held to raise funds for the church and this year is on Saturday 15th June – please note the date. We need help from new people as well as the many regulars. If you would like to be involved either as a stall holder, helper (before and after the fete) or in any other way, please contact Isobel Randall (872552) or Pam Ward (872406). A meeting will be arranged in early March; see next month's Parish Link.

KENSWORTH SCHOOL NEWS

KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY & PRESCHOOL

The end of the Autumn term was exciting: our school performances went well. KS1 children performed "Little Blue Star" and KS2 children performed "Panto Pandemonium". Parents and grandparents all thoroughly enjoyed the shows. Thanks to pupils and staff for all their hard work.

Pals Productions came in to perform "Sleeping Beauty" to the whole school. This was thoroughly enjoyed with lots of creative work being produced around the story.

The children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner and supported the Christmas Jumper Day appeal.

Our end of term Christmas Assembly was very well supported by parents and everyone joined in with lovely carol singing. Thanks to Rev Nicola for joining us and leading the prayers.



We also sadly said goodbye to Mrs Cersell and Mrs Lloyd, who are off to new ventures. They were thanked for all their hard work and dedication to the school and given loads of good wishes for the future.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss O'Hara who has joined our school as a Teaching Assistant Apprentice.

There is a busy spring term ahead. All classes will be running their own Assemblies for parents to come and watch. Our lunchtime enrichment clubs are back in full swing with lots of pupil participation and our after-school clubs are also being well supported. Teachers are busy planning trips for the next two terms.

For further information regarding the school, please contact Mrs O Bates (873226).

Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association asks for your support:



There will be a 1940's Vintage Afternoon Tea on Saturday 16th February in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road. It is to run from 1pm til 4pm – it is a ticket-only event: please purchase in advance – tickets cost £8. Contact Vanessa Durham (0778899 0364) to buy a ticket.

Advance notice: our Summer Fête and Dog Show will be held on Saturday 29th June from 12 noon till 3pm. Watch this space for further details.

If you would like to offer any help or fundraising ideas, please get in touch with us via email (kspta@outlook.com) or contact Gina Owen (07506 722053). We always welcome new members.

MORE STUDHAM

BINGO

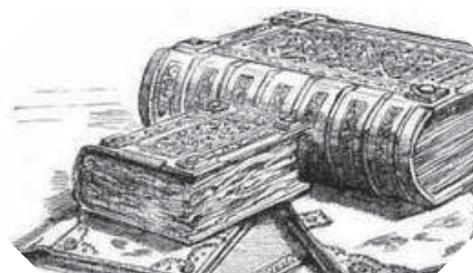
This is on Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm in Studham Village Hall. We have had our winter break and are ready to start the New Year with a fun evening – why not come and join us? £5 will pay your entrance, books and even a strip of raffle tickets! We would love to see you.

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, and remember that the football pitch is adjacent to the footpath.

WI

On Thursday 7th February at 7.45pm in the Village Hall – “History of Studham”. This is a look at Studham’s past from the Domesday Book to the present – how it has evolved to be the place we know today. This is an open meeting so all are welcome to attend. £3.50 for visitors includes refreshments.



SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Call in at the Club and see what great events we have planned for the next few months, or just have a friendly drink and chat. The pool table and dart board are always available and families are always welcome.

SCRABBLE

Our small but enthusiastic Scrabble group meets at 2pm every Tuesday afternoon at Studham Village Hall – the weather (13) may be wet (8) and chilly (14), but we can assure (6) you of a warm welcome (14).

QUIZZES

On Tuesday 5th February at 8pm in the Red Lion. Always on the first Tuesday of the month ending on 7th May. £3 a head for the quiz, raffle £1 per strip (5 chances). All proceeds will go to the Village Hall Improvement Fund. Quiz starts at 8pm, any size of team, food is available (but be warned you need to book the curry ‘cos it sells out!; ring Garry Ellis 872530).

To whet your appetite, the 6 rounds in February will be: Music – title beginning E, School days, Alphabet – all start either X, Y or Z, Entertainment, Anything Else, and Music – title beginning F. Two music rounds this month to make up for the ‘accident’ last time – you will have to come to hear why! Now you have no excuses – looking forward to seeing you.

KENSWORTH EXTRA

KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB

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

KENSWORTH LADIES' CLUB

The next meeting will be on Monday 4th February at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. There will be a talk on mindfulness – come and learn how to get peace of mind!. All ladies welcome: we do not have a fixed membership! Ring Shirley Hull (872351) for details if you would like to join us.

FRIENDS of ST. MARY'S, KENSWORTH

The Friends wish to thank everyone who took part in the New Year Quiz, both in the organisation and attending. Our next event will be the Caritas Concert on 6th July – more details to follow.

The winners of the Monthly Draw in December were Sue and Vernon Moynes and Marian Mumford. January winners will be announced in the next issue.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Update on playground project: we are delighted to announce that Kensworth Parish Council has been successful in its application for National Lottery funding and has been awarded a £10,000 grant towards new equipment for the playground area in the Recreation Ground. This brings the total funds raised to nearly £25,000, including a £9,000 contribution from the Parish Council and over £4,500 of donations from members of the community.

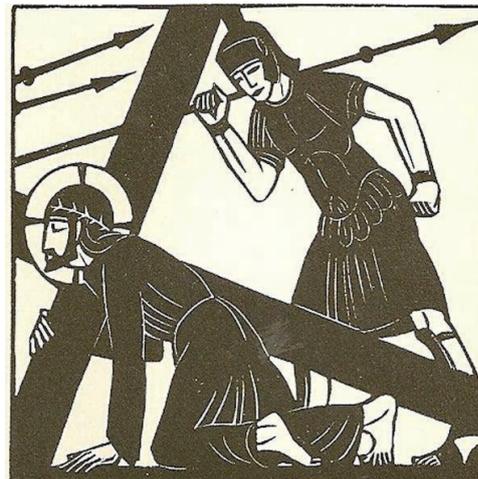
The total cost of the new equipment is £27,000 and we are confident that the remaining funds will be raised over the next three months, with a view to starting installation in the Spring. These modern facilities will provide much-needed recreational activities for children of all ages in the village, and even the adults! The equipment will include a 4.5-metre-high pyramid net, a Rota Roka, a toddler steel basket swing and a Nexus Altitude climbing frame. We have also received separate funding for gym equipment and will install an Air Walker at the same time as the play equipment.

This is a hugely exciting development for the village and will transform the range of play equipment available for our children. The Parish Council would like to thank the Playground Committee for their time, perseverance and commitment in overseeing this project over the last few years. The Playground Committee comprises a number of volunteers, including several Parish Councillors and residents of the village (Fran Stafford, Katherine Frazer, Sarah Todd and Ruth Lee).

CHURCH NEWS

ART WORKSHOP

Open to all (especially if you think you're 'not artistic!'): an Art Workshop for adults on the theme of 'The Stations of the Cross' (which will also be the theme of a service of 'Music & Word' at Kensworth Church on Palm Sunday in the afternoon).



This will be an opportunity for playfulness and prayerful meditation and for guided creativity. No skill or prior experience is required! We will be led by Katherine Killick, a Jungian psychotherapist who has written and published on art therapy. On the afternoon of Saturday 16th March, Kensworth Church Hall, Clayhall Road.

Pre-booking essential! For further details, contact Revd. Nicola Lenthall (01582 872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com).

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am

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|---------------------------|--|
| 3 rd February | Worship led by Mrs. E. Bibbings |
| 10 th February | United Service at Edlesborough (No service at Kensworth) |
| 17 th February | Worship led by Mr J. Enejo |
| 24 th February | Holy Communion led by Mr C. Quine |

Growing Together: No meeting in February.

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

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|----------------------------------|------|------------------------|
| Sunday 10 th February | 10am | Reverend Mmasape Zihle |
| Sunday 24 th February | 10am | Mr Malcolm Lindo |

Messy Church

This will be held at Studham Methodist Church on **Friday 22nd February** at 3.30pm – this is a week later than usual due to the half term holiday.

NORTH CHILTERN'S GROUP OF PARISHES

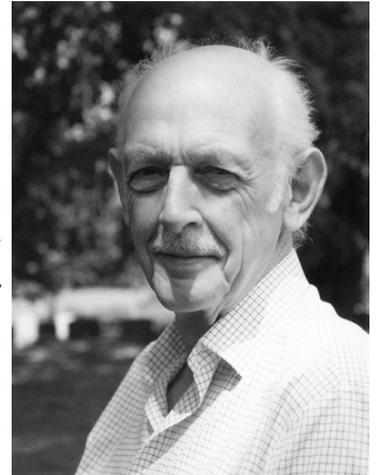
Jean Waldock (01525 210782 or jean-waldock@outlook.com) is once again organising a North Chilterns Group summer visit. This year it is a three-day trip to Norwich from 31st May to 2nd June. Hotel half-board, coach travel and guided tour of the cathedral is included in the cost of £229 per person. Contact Jean or your NCG representative for further details (Deirdre Brook (01525 872557) Derek Spriggs (873468) or Isobel Randall (872552)).

LOCAL NEWS

FAREWELL to TWO OLD FRIENDS from KENSWORTH

It is very sad to report the recent deaths of two people who both took very active parts in our community, especially in St Mary's Parochial Church Council.

Peter Culley moved to Oldhill Wood in the 1950s with his wife, Pat (who died some years ago). They had five children and the family were associated with St Mary's, Kensworth for many years. Peter was a geologist by profession. He joined the PCC soon after coming to the area and, by a sad coincidence, he took over as Secretary when David Shelley (see below) left Kensworth. He had also been a Governor of Kensworth Lower School. He took a shrewd interest in the business of the church and helped enthusiastically in the churchyard. He was a quiet man, very friendly and well-liked, and he is much mourned. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family.



David Shelley moved to Kensworth Church End with his wife, Elisabeth, in the late 1960s. He was a Senior Executive for British Aerospace at Hatfield. He was a very keen gardener – the scarecrow in his garden was, and still is, legendary! David was on the PCC of St Mary's for many years, as Secretary in recent years. He did a lot of DIY work in the church and churchyard and was instrumental in fundraising schemes. He put his expertise to good use as an active member of the Friends of St Mary's. Some five years ago the Shelleys left Kensworth to move closer to their family near Reading. They are both still missed very much, and we are enormously sad to learn of David's death. Our sincerest condolences go to Elisabeth, their two sons and all the family.



POPPY APPEAL

Last year we raised over £4,600 from the three villages which, with Gift Aid, will make a total of £5,000 – a record! Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal in many ways.

Pam Ward, Area Organiser

FOODBANK

Donations to the Foodbank are always very welcome – leave in any of the three parish churches or take to the Vicarage in Clayhall Road in Kensworth – or contact a churchwarden (see page 5).

STUDHAM EXTRA

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

Although you will be reading this in February, I am writing it in January on our second day back so please forgive me for talking about Christmas.

As ever, we had a packed programme around Christmas with three different Christmas plays (Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) as well as our annual Christmas service at the church led by Revd. Nicola.

As always, the PTFA organised our trip to the panto in Dunstable (oh yes they did!) and we had a very special visitor to our Christmas Fair who was ably supported in his grotto by two elves.

Our Choir raised nearly £100 for the British Heart Foundation singing outside their store in Dunstable and the choir went on to sing at Tudor House nursing home. Our pre-school singers also went out and sang Christmas songs to the residents of Knoll House in Studham.



Away from the Christmas Celebrations, two teams of Maple Class footballers took part in a soccer festival at Kings School in Harpenden where we were joined by St Augustines C of E Academy.

Things look like being a touch calmer in the forthcoming half term although there are a few sports events before we break up. More news on these next month.

Paul Burrett, Head Teacher

CHEERING VOLUNTEERS

This is run by Central Bedfordshire Council to say thank you to those who give their time to help others.

There will be seven awards in 2019:

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Group of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution
- Lifetime Achievement
- Sport and Wellbeing Volunteer of the Year
- Panel's Choice

Nominations opened on 14th January and close at midnight on 8th April. To nominate someone and for further information, go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/cheering-volunteers.

MORE KENSWORTH

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Committee would like to thank everyone who came to support our **events** held in December, when almost £1200 was raised. Everyone who came to the bingo enjoyed themselves; this year the date will be Friday 6th December. The Christmas Fayre was the first such event we have staged and it was a great success. All the stall holders did well and the atmosphere was very Christmassy. There will be another one on Sunday 1st December, when we hope to encourage more stall holders with different things to sell. Thank you also to Revd. Nicola for providing hymn sheets and leading the carol singing.



We also received a donation from two newcomers to the village, who thoroughly enjoyed the event.

The New Year's Eve Disco was good fun and people were enjoying themselves so much they didn't want to go home!

Unfortunately, Sally Catling has resigned as **Treasurer** so we are looking for someone to take on this role. If there is anyone interested who can work with spreadsheets, please apply to Pat Mitchell (871178) and come along to the next meeting. The job is not onerous and does not require a lot of time, just a willingness to attend monthly meetings.

Refurbishment work is being planned for the Hall, and must be completed to meet fire safety standards. We will do this work with minimum disruption but we will keep all hirers informed if it is likely to affect their hire period.

The next **Village Walk** is on Saturday 16th February, meeting at the car park at 10am, walking around local footpaths, returning for coffee at the Hall at 11.15 approx. Look out for the posters and do come and join us; friendly dogs and children are welcome to join in the walks.

The **next Committee meeting** will be on Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm.

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SMILELINES

'Are your father and your mother in?' asked the vicar when the small boy opened the door. 'They was in,' said the youngster. 'But they is out.'

'They was in. They is out. Where's your grammar, young man?'

'She's gone upstairs, for a nap.'

MORE STUDHAM

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

During the month of December, the Friends planted 6 fruit trees, two mirabelles, one damson and three cherry plums near Jubilee copse, as a tribute and memorial to Peter Enright. Peter, who died aged 92 last year, was a founder member of FoSC and also our former Chairman.

The next work party for the Friends will be on **Saturday 16th February**, when our tasks will include: checks on newly-planted trees, light trimming of brambles on the Middle Common to conserve the hedgerow on the western boundary and light trimming of old gorse on the West Common. This will encourage regeneration for insects and nesting birds later in the season.

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

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

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is an independent Registered Charity. The Hall is managed by 5 trustees on behalf of the community.

Grants and pledges have been resourced during the past year to enable the current ageing wooden floor to be replaced. If the floor is not replaced, professional advice is that the Hall would eventually have to close as the floor would not be safe.

Hopefully, fundraising should be completed during this year, but there is some way to go. Help in sourcing funds or identifying sources will be much appreciated. The contact is Des Salmon (872082 or e-mail desstudham@btconnect.com).

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IN THIS MONTH

- 200 years ago, on 14th February 1819 that Christopher Sholes, American inventor was born. He developed one of the first typewriters and invented the QWERTY keyboard.

- 90 years ago, on 11th February 1929 that Italy and the Vatican signed the Lateran Treaty, which recognised the Vatican City's independence and sovereignty.

- 70 years ago, on 14th February 1949 that Israel's parliament (the Knesset) convened for the first time.

- 60 years ago, on 3rd February 1959 was 'the day music died'. American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

WHIPSNADE & STUDHAM PARISH COUNCILS

WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

Litter is an ongoing problem in the village so a litter pick is being planned for March.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday 12th March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall – this will also be the Annual Parish Meeting, so why not come along and have your say?

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Data Protection: due to the new Data Protection laws now coming into force, the Parish Council feels that we should point out to residents that they have the right to remain anonymous should they so wish. With this in mind, we will in future **not** print in the minutes the names of parishioners who have spoken at meetings, or raised subjects via email or other written correspondence without their express permission. Please advise us at the time if you are prepared to have your name published in full: we can instead use initials or refer to you simply as “a resident” or a “parishioner”. The choice is yours.

Please be advised that our **Dial-A-Ride bus service** has now reverted to its usual times after the Christmas/New Year break. Details are as per the notices at bus stops or on the Parish Link website at www.parishlink.org.uk. For information, the bus is the normal Dial-A-Ride minibus, but with the number 43 clearly shown on the destination board on the front.

We would ask that residents please refrain from burying deceased pets on the Common. These can be dug up again by wild animals, to the distress of relatives and those who come across them, especially children. There are better, and more respectful, places.

We would ask please that you do not break the locks on our salt bins. If you need to have access to the contents, please contact our Clerk, or any Councillor, who will be happy to provide you with the necessary access. Please note that these bins are for salting the road, and not for personal use on a private driveway.

Parish elections: these will be held on May 2nd. If you would like to stand for our Parish Council, then please contact our Clerk or any Councillor who will be pleased to advise you of the procedure. It's not an onerous job, and can even be an interesting one. Do please come and join us!

Meetings: our next meeting will be on Monday 4th February at 7pm in the Village Hall, with our March meeting being on Monday 4th March, at the same time and the same venue. Monday, April 1st is the next meeting, with our **Annual Parish meeting** being held on Wednesday 3rd April, both in the Village Hall. The time for our APM has yet to be confirmed.

MISCELLANEOUS

PARISH LINK

Les Randall, the Treasurer, would be grateful for any donations which help keep the Parish Link free and delivered to every household in Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade. If you would like to make a donation, contact him on 01582 872552 or e-mail: lesrandall@btinternet.com, or send a cheque (payable to Parish Link) to 14 Holywell Road, Studham, LU6 2PA. Thank you.

Also don't forget our website at www.parishlink.org for all sorts of extra local information, news of local events and photographs. If you are holding an event in 2019, take a look at the "What's On" page to avoid clashes and also let Les know (see above) if you want your event to appear on the page.

MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - Kensworth Discoveries

Geoff Curran, of Kensworth, recently discovered a Stone Age axe in his allotment. He took it to Manshead Archaeological Society, who identified it as a hafted Neolithic flint axe, from 6000 – 12000 years old. On further investigation by the society, the Kensworth allotments yielded some scrapers and struck flakes dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age (anything from 15000 BC – 600 BC).

About 30 years ago a hearth area was discovered, showing more evidence of early human occupation, near Plewes Close. There were Bronze Age burials near St Mary's at Church End, and mediaeval graves were discovered when the extension to the church was built in 2000.

If you come across any signs of early human activity such as these in your garden or allotment, please contact the Manshead Archaeological Society: (01525 873271 or email: enquiries@manshead.org.uk). They are always interested to find out more about the activities of our ancestors.

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On 12th February, "Man on the Spot"; reflections on 50 years as a radio and TV broadcaster by former BBC journalist Bill Hamilton. Held in the Methodist Church Hall opposite Wilkinsons in Dunstable at 7.45pm. Visitors to meetings pay £2.

SOUTH BEDS ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

On Monday 4th February at 2.30pm, the talk is by J. Hockey on Heraldry. The meeting is held in the Salvation Army Centre in Bull Pond Lane in Dunstable; guests welcome at £3.

DUNSTABLE DOWNS GATEWAY CENTRE

The Planetarium is back!! A special show to look at the stars. On 12th, 13th and 14th February at various times. £4. Booking is essential. Call 03442 491895 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunstable-downs for more information.