

## **Link Report for December 2010 and January 2011**

**Surgery:** The Parish Council surgery held in October focused on how we, as a community, might be more effective in supporting those people in the parish who, for a variety of reasons, could benefit from neighborly help. We are aware of some interested parties, but we would love to hear from others who have so far not put their names forward as willing to be on the Studham Good Neighbour list. The more people that are on board, the lighter the load. It may be that you would just like to be kept informed of how we are progressing. We do really need as many names as possible to make a dream become a reality. Please leave initial contact details with our parish clerk, Mrs Carol Stephenson Tel; 01582 872231 or email [clerk@studhamparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@studhamparish.co.uk).

**Next surgery:** Our next surgery will be held early in the New Year in support of the school. Details will be available when finalized.

**Website Link:** As you probably know, our Website is up and running, and has been for some time. But did you know that you can now view this report on there, as well as in the Parish Link? The website address is: [www.studhamparish.co.uk](http://www.studhamparish.co.uk)

**Broadband:** BT has promised to make faster broadband access available, but only to those areas that vote to say that they want it. The take-up figure for this area is so high that it requires all houses in the village to vote for it!! Should you wish to do so, the address is: [www.bt.com/infinity](http://www.bt.com/infinity)

**Accidents:** The Parish Council is keeping a log of all accidents in order that we may use the information as a lever to consolidate the varying speed limits in the village. Please can you report all vehicle accidents however minor, whether you are actually involved, or just an observer? Our clerk, Carol Stephenson has kindly agreed to be the contact and to keep the log up to date. She can be contacted by e-mail on [clerk@studhamparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@studhamparish.co.uk), or by telephone on 01582 872231.

**Nuisances:** One heading for two items;

**Motor Bikes:** Dunstable Police have a team to deal with this problem. Please contact PC Paul Ayling, on **01582 473211**.

**Party season:** 'Tis the season to be jolly, etc. but not everyone appreciates noisy parties. Please consider your neighbours, and keep to the noise to a minimum.

**Advertising notices:** The Parish Council is concerned about the number of advertising notices being placed around the village, and on the Council notice boards. Some of these hoardings are rather large, and can be a traffic hazard by causing a distraction or obscuring the view at crossroads etc. We do not object to you advertising your forthcoming event, but we would ask that you do not blanket the village with hoardings, and that you remove them promptly once the event is over.

**Lastly:** As this is a double issue of the Link, the Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a **Merry Christmas, and a prosperous and happy New Year.**

## **Link Report for November 2010**

**Remembrance Day:** This year's Remembrance service will take place on **Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November**. The proceedings start at 1030, with a service of remembrance in the Church, followed by a procession down Church Road, culminating in the wreath laying ceremony in the village at approximately 1200 noon. This year, the service will be conducted by Rev. Peter Syson, a Methodist minister from the Harpenden Circuit.

**Fireworks:** If you're intending to hold a fireworks party this year, please can we ask that you let your neighbours know in advance, so that they can make arrangements for their pets. Most pets don't like fireworks, as they're frightened by the bangs, whistles and flashing lights. A little courtesy in these matters can go a long way.

**Police matters; You** may not be aware, but there has been a crime-wave in the three villages over the last few months. Mostly, this involves break-ins to shed, garages, and lock-ups. If it happens to you, (or someone you know) please ring the police immediately on **01582 473462** and make sure that you ask for a **Crime number**. This number is necessary a): for tracking purposes, b): to enable the police to keep an accurate record of what is happening where, and when, and c): your insurance company will need to know it when you make your claim.

**Village centre Triangle:** We are very aware that this does not look as good as it could and should do. The bad weather last winter added to the poor soil there has caused a lot of problems. But rest assured that matters are in hand, and next spring should see a greater change for the better.

**New Parish Councillor:** The Parish Council welcomes Mark Poyner, who has been co-opted onto the Parish Council. He and his young family have lived in the village four several years, and his background will strengthen the Parish Council.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**, starting at **7.00pm**.

## Link Report for October 2010

**Hail and Farewell:** We bid a sad farewell this month to Wes Hall, who has been our local friendly policeman for some time, but has now gone on to be Schools Liaison Officer, based in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. We now say a big hello to our new local officer, Gareth Jones, who we are sure will be as big a figure in the village as his predecessor.

**Hedge and grass cutting:** We know that you approve of the work on grass cutting and hedge trimming that has been done around the village, for many of you have told us so. It is a shame that the work-person became a little too enthusiastic and damaged a chain-link fence in the process, but rest assured that matters are in hand to fix it.

**Micro pigs:** Notices have been appearing throughout the village and the surrounding area advertising these “Pocket Pets” for sale. The Parish Council does not look kindly on these notices, and would like to remind the person or persons responsible for placing them that they will be removed at every available opportunity.

**Parish Surgery:** Don't forget to ensure that your invitation to our Parish Surgery at **10.00 on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October** is noted in your diary or on your calendar. We feel that the subject of “**Good Neighbours**” is close to most people's hearts, and “**Support**” is the keyword.

The next meeting of the **Parish Council** will be held in the Hall on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October**, starting at 7.00pm. Please feel free to come along and have your say about village matters.

## **Link Report for September 2010**

**Parish Council Surgery:** After a summer break we are re-introducing the **Parish Surgery**. On **Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October** the topic is “**Good Neighbours**”, starting in the Village Hall at 10.00. We intend to explore the possible introduction of a Parish support and care scheme. Being aware that there are a number of individuals very active in various ways around the community, we are looking to see if there is a will to consolidate and structure these efforts, bringing more volunteers, and extending help offered.. We have some unique ideas; do come along and listen, and have your say as well. As usual, tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. We look forward to seeing you.

**Potholes:** You are no doubt aware that several large potholes were marked up to be done about two months ago, but that the work has yet to be started. Please be assured that we are pressing Central Bedfordshire to get these filled in, before anyone falls through to China!!

**Hedge and grass cutting:** Residents and the Parish Council have for a considerable time been dissatisfied at the hedge & verge grass cutting arrangements, and the poor service for cutting back trees obscuring the speed limit signs and vehicle activated warning units. There have been numerous meetings, and we continue to press, but in the current financial climate it may be necessary for the Parish Council to make its own arrangements if matters do not improve.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September**, starting at 7.00 pm.

## **Link Report for July/August 2010**

**Speed signs:** It would seem from all the favourable reports that we have had recently regarding our new 20mph limit, that most of you appear to approve of it. In fact, the only adverse comments have been that the length of it is too short. We would just like to reassure all of you that we are still working on the problem, and ask you to bear with us whilst we do so. These things can take quite a while to resolve.

**Website:** As you will know, our website is now up and running and many of you seem to like it. We are looking to put this report on the website as well as in the Link in future, so you'll be able to find us on [www.studhamparish.co.uk](http://www.studhamparish.co.uk)

**Parish Council (1):** We are intending to hold a Parish Surgery in October, on a date yet to be confirmed. The theme is expected to be "The Good Neighbour and Village Care Scheme". Watch this space, and our website, for further information nearer the time.

**Parish Council (2):** There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council meets monthly, and this is an opportunity to serve the community. The work does need commitment, and is enjoyable with high personal satisfaction. Please contact our Parish Clerk, Carol Stephenson, on 01582 872231, if you are interested.

**Annual Report:** By the time you receive this copy of the Link, you should also have received a copy of our Annual Report through your front door. This details all the work that we have undertaken during the period 01 May 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010. It may sometimes seem on the outside that we do very little, but we assure that much work goes on behind the scenes in order to get things started, finished, or just brought to the attention of those that need to know!. We feel quite often as if we are just banging our heads on a very hard brick wall, but we do keep trying.

## **Link Report for June 2010**

**New Year:** This is the start of the New Year for the Parish Council. I am pleased to report that our Chairperson will once again be Des Salmon, with Tony Gatehouse as Vice-chair. The other members of the council are Lola Harris, Geoff Shute, Chrys Smith, and Andrea Maxted, with Carole Stephenson as our clerk

**Emergency Transport:** You may not know that Councillor Chrys Smith runs an emergency transport service for residents of the village. This includes hospital or doctors' appointments, as well as collecting prescriptions, or any other items of an **urgent** nature. If in need, please ring **01582 872989**.

**Faulty Lights:** It has come to our notice that the telephone number given on lamp-posts for reporting faults is itself faulty. The correct number should be **0300 300 8049**. Should you notice a faulty light, please either ring the number above, quoting the number on the post or inform any councillor.

**Dog Fouling:** We have had complaints from residents in Church Close and The Meads regarding the problem of dog fouling. **Please** clean up behind your dog. Not only is the mess unsightly and smelly, it constitutes a health hazard. If we ask for a dog warden patrol to come out, and you are caught, it can mean a hefty fine. You wouldn't like it if someone's dog left his calling card on your garden, now would you?

**Wheelie Bins:** It seems that many residents are worried about missing the bin-men when they come, so are putting their bins out over the weekend, or leaving them out all the time. Not only is this unsightly, (and makes the village look untidy), but it blocks the pavement for pushchairs, and walkers in general. We would ask that bins are only put out on Sunday at the earliest, or preferably on the morning of collection day, and taken in again once they have been emptied.