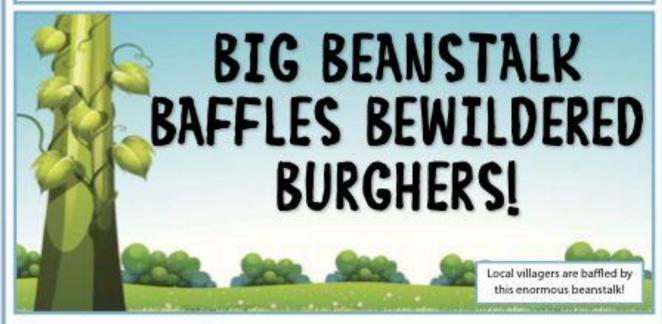
THE NEWS TODAY



UNBELIEVABLE STORY By Sam Golden

People living in the village of Storyville couldn't believe their eyes this morning. They awoke to see a gigantic beanstalk in the back garden of the Widow Spriggins and her son, Jack.

The beanstalk sprang up overnight. Local landowner Squire Storyville estimates that it is at least 500 metres tall. "It has completely ruined my view!" he complained. "As my tenant, the Widow should have sought my permission for this!"

Yesterday, Jack was seen leaving for market with the family cow, Daisy: He is reported to have left very early and returned without the cow.



3rd May 5 Magic Beans Nobody remembers seeing Jack at the market. "I didn't see Jack at the market"insisted Mr Bun the baker. of Bun's Brilliant Bakery. "I don't think anybody did".

"No, I didn't see Jack either", agreed Farmer Field, "but I did see a stranger at the crossroads yesterday. He was an old man, wearing a ragged old cloak and a pointy hat. Never seen him before."

Locals report that the widow and Jack had an argument when he got home. It is believed that Jack was sent to bed without his supper.

"There was an almighty row in there yesterday," explained Mrs. N. Parker, the next door neighbour. "The widow was furious. I'm not sure what it was about but I definitely heard something about magic beans."

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Mr Parker added, "I was out weeding my garden when the kitchen window opened and some stuff came flying out. Looked like little stones, or seeds perhaps. They landed just over there, where that plant is now."

The Widow Spriggins has spent the day at the bottom of the plant, gazing up. Reporters tried to speak to her but she just shook her head and muttered "Magic beans! Well I never." Jack is nowhere to be seen. Some people think that he may have tried to climb the giant plant.

A neighbour, who did not wish to be named, remarked "They have had terrible money worries ever since Jack's father died. That cow was all they had left."

