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Front Cover

Top : MeppFest, Meppershall CofE Academy's Summer event.

Middle : Launch of the new Wanderbus.

Bottom : Children saying goodbye to Mrs Nickie Moore, the outgoing head of Meppershall CofE Academy.

Editorial

By Mick Ridley

There is a famous philosophical question which goes along the lines of “If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?”. An odd opening line for a Messenger editorial you might think. But this is how it feels when a Messenger is completed and distributed. A lot of effort goes into all the contributions that are made each month but do they get read? Perhaps those pieces do but the editorial does not – it is difficult to know.



I was sat in the Sugar Loaf the other night and mentioned to the friends I was with about a letter that we printed last month, to which the response I got was “what letter? I didn’t even know the Messenger was out” - somewhat worrying but it also got me thinking that if no-one reads this piece I can print whatever I want without recourse! Now of course that is not quite what I am going to do. I do, however, want to express an opinion that I hope, if it is read, might elicit a response. We, after all, want the Messenger to be a place where the community can express its views and exchange opinions in a safe and neutral environment. However, for there to be a debate two opposing views must necessarily be able to be expressed.

In 1968 the day after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, a teacher by the name of Jane Elliot in a small school in Iowa divided her classroom down the lines of eye colour. For the purpose of her experiment she then announced that those children with brown eyes were superior to those with lighter coloured eyes. She reinforced this assertion by letting the brown-eyed pupils have longer breaks and allowing them to drink from the water fountain whilst the lighter-eyed pupils had to drink from paper cups. The result? The brown-eyed pupils grew more confident and condescending, hurling insults at the lighter eyed children. The blue-eyed pupils became more timid and the two groups ceased playing with each other, leading to fights breaking out.

What did this prove? That people are not born prejudiced, but that it is a learnt behaviour. What does this have to do with Meppershall I hear you ask (should you be reading and have got this far)?

I have lived in Meppershall for thirteen years, the first nine in Coneygate or, as it was referred to then, “the Bovis Estate”. I remember quite clearly during those first few years seeing, in this very publication, letters about how “things were different before the Bovis Estate” and how certain petty crimes would “never

have happened” before it was built. Slowly but surely this outlook seemed to pervade the village and it felt like, as a resident of “the Bovis Estate” we were somehow different, perhaps even prejudiced against. Could this not also be an example of learnt behaviour?

My understanding is that the Bovis development had been controversial at the time and, for various reasons, very divisive. This ill feeling was then superimposed on the new residents who were unaware of this and unwittingly moving to the new houses.

Roll forward the clock 13 years and we have another large development that has caused much debate, and no little ill-feeling, within the village. Regardless of which side of the fence we have sat on there will soon be a large number of new residents in our village. The question we therefore need to ask ourselves is: do we want to exhibit the learnt behaviours that Jane Elliot so clearly demonstrated, or will we welcome new people into our community with open arms?

I have been involved in various aspects of village life over the past six years and I know what a fantastic place we live in, populated by genuine and hard-working people. I for one look forward to some new blood and fresh thinking that will keep Meppershall a vibrant and wonderful place to live. What do you think? Please let us know.

Have a lovely summer and enjoy the hot weather whilst it is with us and we look forward to being back in the Autumn. Take care.

Mick.

STOP PRESS

We are very sad to announce the death of the Messenger’s first editor, Dorothy Morris, who died on July 16th at the age of 92. Dorothy was much involved with the Messenger until she moved to Wales in 1999. Our condolences to Dorothy’s family. We will print a tribute in our October edition.

Letters to the Editors

MeppFest 2018

The GNOMES congratulate Sharon Watson on discovering the location of the hamper on our stand at MeppFest 2018. Our thanks to the PTA for their fantastic organisation, to our volunteers for filling the hamper and helping on the day, but mainly to those that supported the event and made it the success that it was.

Denis Neilson

GNOMES Competition Winners

Whilst visiting the school fete we were so impressed with all the hard work that had been done to make this event successful. We were attracted to the GNOMES stall and were only too happy to support them as they do a wonderful job for the residents and the local area.

We entered in their 'sticker location for treasure' and thought nothing more about it until we received a lovely 'phone call from Caroline to advise us of our winnings. This was delivered by Caroline and her husband just after their call, and it was the most beautiful hamper I have ever received. The contents were amazing - it could have come from Fortnum & Masons!



Thank you so much to all the GNOMES organisers - you do a wonderful job!

Sharon & Alison Watson

'Brave the Shave'

My name is Sarah Saunders and I work in Ansell Village Stores. I'm doing a sponsored head shave in aid of Macmillan. I am having it shaved at the shop at 1.15pm on 31st July. There will be a collection pot in the shop until 6th August if you would like to donate.

Thank you to all those that have already supported me.

Sarah Saunders



Classic Car Show 2018

Held in front of the Interim Village Hall in aid of the restoration fund of St. Mary's Church was an interesting mix of Classic Cars, Motor Bikes and the odd Massey Ferguson Tractor, not to mention one small, but perfectly formed, child's electric motor bike. Click on the following link for a wonderful YouTube video from that day: <https://bit.ly/2L1q663>

Organised by Jean Holden who for the past 8 years has organised the Classic Car Show at the annual Summer Fair, this was an opportunity for participants to show off their pride and joy.

The winner of the most popular motor bike was Ashley Harris and the overall winner was the immaculate Austin Healey 3000, owned by Zara Fahr, pictured right, receiving the winner's trophy.

We would like to thank all who took part in this gathering; hopefully next year we will be back with the Summer Fair and Jean will again be able to revive the very popular vintage car show. We must say a big thank you for the disco music and the barbeque which helped make it a very social occasion and helped us raise £117 for the Church.



Jean Holden and Zara Fahr

Classic Car Show 2018 – a BIG THANK YOU!

As many will know, the Village Fair has been a regular feature of the Meppershall calendar for some years but its venue – the playing field behind the Village Hall – is of course in a phase of reconstruction at the moment. Undeterred and determined to continue one of the key features of the Fair, Jean Holden brought her passion and contacts to bear to stage a Classic Car Show back in June.

It was a very successful day with all manner of vintage and classic motorcycles and cars coming to enjoy the get-together in some exceptional sunny weather and to share their amazing vehicles with us all. Refreshments were on hand and the Meppershall Social Club kindly opened to make sure there was a watering hole in the arid Bedfordshire landscape!

We're sure everyone will join in saying a massive thank you to Jean who kindly donated the proceeds to the Church. Besides the fundraising outcomes, it was a really fun day that brought a lot of enjoyment to the village. We wish everyone involved many more years of great motoring in some wonderful vehicles and we very much hope to see you all again in the village soon.

Again, thank you Jean – from everyone at St Mary's and on behalf of the whole village.

Development Update

Report from the Trustees of Meppershall Village Hall July 2018



On our visit on the 10th July we found that a great deal of progress has been made on the second fix phase of this project. The external scaffolding has now been removed as the outside work is complete.

Inside the plumbers were fitting large vertical radiators on the walls of the hall. On Thursday the laying of the vinyl flooring will commence in the toilets and showers. This will be followed by the installation of the sanitary ware and cubicles.

Painting continues throughout the building and the electricians are installing the light fittings and completing IT network.

We have been advised that the completion of the new building is scheduled for the end of October. More detailed information on the official opening will be available in the October edition of the Messenger.

Photographs of the building during various stages of construction can be viewed using the menus of:- www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk or www.meppershall.org which are updated on a regular basis.

If you are interested in organising an activity to be held in the new facility from **November 2018** please contact our Booking Secretary for initial discussions. bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk. If you would like to use the sports field, please contact the Meppershall Parish Clerk to register your interest. clerk@meppershall.org

The Pre-School, Bar, Snooker, Social Cub, Bingo, Brownies, Kickboxers and Meppershall Players continue to thrive in the Interim Village Hall and are looking forward to operating in the new Hall as soon as they can. New members and participants are welcome, contact details are available at www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk follow the links in the left-hand column.



The end of the academic year is fast approaching and our school days are filled with many different events.

We held our Sports Day in blazing sunshine. The children coped well with the heat and our parents enjoyed the event immensely. Well done to all our children!

Our KS2 children performed a production called 'The Emerald Crown'. This was a thought provoking piece and was all about the Amazon Rainforest. As always, the singing was superb and the performances were very polished. Well done to all our performers and a big thank you to all the staff who helped the children achieve to such a high standard.

I would like to thank all of the staff and governors at Meppershall CE Academy who all work so hard for our children. The staff here are such a dedicated, talented team and the result of all their hard work is that the Academy is a very happy, good school.

This is my last entry into the Messenger as I am leaving at the end of the summer term. I am taking up Headship of a large primary school in Cambridgeshire.

It has been an absolute privilege to be the Headteacher here for the past four and a half years. It was my first Headship so I am very grateful for all the support and love I have been shown by so many people. I am sad to be leaving Meppershall and will be leaving a part of my heart behind. It has not always been an easy journey for the school over the past 10 years, but I hope that people will say that I left the school in better place. There is something very special about the school, which is why it is hard to be leaving!

Thank you especially to the children who have come through the school during my time here. During difficult times, conversations with children and spending time with them have kept me going and reminded me why I love my job. It is always about the children. They have always been my priority and will continue to be in my new position.

I wish the school and the community of Meppershall all the very best for the future.

Nickie Moore

Meppershall Pre-School

**Meppershall
Pre-School**
Watch Them Grow



Croudace
HOMES.CO.UK

Ponderings

Wow how time flies. What a term we have had! We ended of a high with our wonderful leavers show 'Walking Through the Jungle'. We are very proud of the achievements of all our children however small, and there were a few tears from our parents too. We will really miss our leavers but wish them all the luck in the world at big school.

We have so much to get excited about over the summer, not only have we got to start getting more prepared to move over to our new dedicated Pre-school in October, but we already have lots of new children on role ready to start in September. Everything we plan and do at Pre-school is about the children. Without them we would have no focus and drive to work as hard as we do! They are however worth every bit of effort we put in.

Our re-launch in October is not going to be a quiet affair, we want to share with you all just how keen we are to make our learning environment very inviting, even richer and more stimulating for everyone who comes to Pre-school. We have a new website coming thanks to one of our newest committee members and have had the super new logo above designed by Croudace. We are in the process of ordering uniform for the staff and children in exciting new colours! We also need to increase our fundraising to allow us to buy the best equipment we need for our new setting. Watch this space for a community event! There has never been a better time to be excited about what lays in store for everyone in Meppershall.

To everyone involved in running our amazing Pre-school, thank you for all your hard work and commitment so far. We have set the bar high, but together we can do it!

To all our wonderful families, have an amazing summer and we look forward to seeing you in September or hearing all about big school.

The highly qualified diverse team at Meppershall Pre-school is dedicated to offering the best possible care to all our children by creating a safe and stimulating environment, encompassing all individual needs.

We are currently open every weekday from 9:15am till 3:15pm (term time only) and take up to 24 children in each session from in and around the surrounding areas. Look out for our new extended opening hours in the next issue!

September is starting to fill up fast. Please ring Tamsin on 07816 357159, or email meppershallps@gmail.com, to enroll your child or join our waiting list.

Tuesday Yoga Group raise £325 for Meppershall Academy

Our Iyengar Yoga group, which holds our Tuesday Yoga class in Meppershall School Hall, had a Fun Stretch + Relax class in aid of the School funds. We were so glad to be able to hire the School Hall when our previous Henlow venue decided to run a noisy exercise class in the room below at the same time! The total we raised was £325. Many thanks to all who donated and especially the participants. We did a simple sitting on chairs routine then standing + seated postures, simplified inversions then a LONG Relaxation!



Thelma McNairn is a licenced Iyengar Yoga teacher and was one of Yoga For Health Foundation staff at Ickwell, in 1993, when she returned from Japan. She gained her Iyengar Teachers certificate in 1995 having previously started studying Yoga while at Edinburgh University in 1975. So, she has a lot of experience with all abilities and ages.



Our next 10-week term for Beginners and General students will start on Tuesday September 11th. 7.30pm till 9pm in the School Hall. Come and try your first class. We are a friendly group!

Contact Thelma on: thelmayoga@aol.com; TEL: 01462 851243 to have a chat, or text 07961906938.

WARDEN ABBEY

The community vineyard

A Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity project

2018



Vineyard Tours & Tastings

Adults £10
Children welcome free
***Advance
booking only***

**See website for details
times & booking**

MAY	Sat 26 th	
JUNE	Sat 23 rd	Tues 26 th
JULY	Tues 10 th	Sat 21 st
AUG	Tues 7 th	Sat 25 th
SEPT	Fri 21 st	Sat 29 th

Walk in Monks' Footsteps

29th June, 10th July and 7th Aug

OPEN DAY Sunday 9th Sept 11am-4pm

Wine sales, tours, local stalls, BBQ, refreshments.

www.wardenvineyard.org.uk



Bike and Hike 2018



On bikes or in walking shoes, each person raises sponsorship based on how many churches you visit during the day. Almost **every church in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire is open** 10am-6pm, to sign your form, give you a drink etc! Go at your own pace to suit your ability.

Come and lose yourself in the great outdoors and experience some rarely-seen, very special corners of our beautiful area - all for a very worthy cause.

It's in aid of Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust – a popular charity in our region that is working hard to keep some of the finest and old features of our unique English landscape standing for the next generation. Read more at: www.bedshertshct.org.uk

Walk to one or two neighbouring villages or spend the day covering the counties. On your own, in your own team, or as one of our Meppershall team (last year cycling from St Albans to Meppershall via 40 churches!!) Get active and be part of it...



**For an info pack call James on 857836
Email: meppershall.pcc@gmail.com**



Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

Who are the Strollers? Do you need an invitation to join? Are unfashionable waterproof jackets and beanies compulsory? Why the Second Sunday thing? Everything you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask, revealed here...



A few years back, the church had a spell of not holding a mid-morning service on the second Sunday of the month – owing to scheduling issues linked with our sister church in Shefford. Not wanting to waste a perfectly good Sunday morning, the Second Sunday Stroll was born – going out for a hike together instead. Today, the church most definitely has a morning service on every Sunday – but the Second Sunday Strollers continue, now meeting after lunch (usually at 2.15pm at the church gate – picture above).

We typically walk anywhere between 3 and 8 miles – sometimes in a loop, or sometimes ending up at an interesting spot out beyond Shefford to the north, Shillington to the south, Gravenhurst to the west or Stondon and Henlow east. You can leave Meppershall in any direction and have a great walk for a couple of hours or more and we are close to several established long-distance routes including the John Bunyan Trail, the Greensand Ridge Way and the Icknield Way.

We have staged some longer walks too – often during the holidays: 13 miles to Bedford Embankment, 14 miles to Ashwell and 15 miles to Woburn. Most recently (July) we hiked to Arlesey – a route of around 5 miles, taking in the footpaths between RAF Henlow and the Hicca Way which skirts Arlesey. It is a very informal group for all ages. We always have different people coming out to walk with us - but we share a common interest in getting out into the countryside around the village. Meppershall is lucky to have a very diligent farming community who do a lot to keep the public footpaths accessible and clearly marked – a resource that we want to use, enjoy and treasure.

To join a Second Sunday Stroll, find friends to walk with another time or just to link-up with other local walkers for advice and chat, visit us on Facebook (or just Google us) **@MeppershallStrollers**. Or find us at the church gate, 2.15pm, second Sundays!

Church News and Events
Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin
(Church of England)

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk †

facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall



Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

01462 339962 – ronigoodman@gmail.com – usual day off Monday

Churchwardens:

Dawn Abbatt 01462 816962 Chris Valentine 01462 815971

Email: Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: annie10639@gmail.com

Things to look out for in August and September...

If the summer weather continues this way, even if you don't come to a church event or service, just come and sit for a while. You don't need an excuse, just come and enjoy the churchyard and its birdsong and tranquillity – or the coolness of the church inside, with its history and presence. Recharge your soul. If you're feeling energetic, please come and help at the churchyard volunteering day on 4th August. Bring your own tools, ready for whatever time you can spare to do a bit of pruning or raking or sweeping – anytime between 9 and 4. It is a lot of fun, a beautiful place to spend some time and always a great community event with friends and neighbours. And free refreshments throughout the day. On 12th August you could help us set up for SPARKS (shifting and putting out the covers and decorations and materials ready for the onslaught of very happy children throughout the following week at our legendary holiday club!) And at 2.15pm a group of walkers will set out on their usual Second Sunday Stroll – just a short walk somewhere nearby this time, chosen on the day... by YOU! Just come and meet at the church gate.

Or why not treat yourself to the Safari Supper on Saturday 15th September – a nice social occasion for getting to know new people or connecting with

friends? Then on 8th September, join the annual Bike and Hike as it graces the streets and footpaths across the length and breadth of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. More info below! All in support of www.bedshertshct.org.uk.

Message from St Mary's...

I have just returned from a long weekend in Normandy. My Godson, his father and I had a lads' weekend, camping and visiting the Normandy D-Day sites. In glorious weather we visited most of the sites connected with the July 1944 landings.

We stood at Pegasus Bridge and looked in awe at the small landing site on which 3 British gliders managed to land so close to the now famous bridge. We visited the 5 main beachheads where British, Canadian, American and Free French forces fought to return freedom and democracy to an occupied and subjected Europe. The sense of sacrifice was palpable. The beaches each told a story of gallantry but it was so hard to imagine the sights and sounds of the terrible events of that day, 74 years ago.

As we stood, taking in the scene on that sunny, hot weekend, the beaches themselves were full of relaxation, fun and laughter. Families were building sandcastles, teenagers playing volleyball and sun worshippers were basking in the summer heat. It felt a million miles away from the horrors of 1944. And yet, there was something so right and perfect about the beaches resounding to the joy and laughter of families in contrast to the resounding sound of gun fire and slaughter. It reminded me that life was for living and that those men from the D Day landings had given their lives so that families in 2018 could enjoy life and the freedom which their sacrifice had bought.

The bible teaches us that Jesus, also came to fight for our freedom. His fight for us also came at a cost to him – his death on the cross. But in John's Gospel Jesus tells his followers "I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness." (GNB). Jesus wants us to experience the freedom and joy which exists in knowing Him. Just as the sacrifice of those young men in 1944 bought for us the ability to live life to the full; so too Jesus offers to us a life "in all its fullness" and freedom in Him.

As I write this it is currently the hottest, sunniest summer since the heatwave of 1976. I do hope that you have a summer which is blessed with "life in all its fullness." And let us remember the sacrifice which has been made for all of us as we savour the freedom which is ours and was won for us at such a cost.

Keith

Reader, St Mary the Virgin, Meppershall

Services and Events – August 2018 at St Mary's unless stated below

Date	Time	Service / Event
Weds 1 st Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 4 th August	9am – 4pm	Churchyard volunteering day – wherever you are in the village, churchy or not churchy, please come and help keep the churchyard tidy and trim. Whatever time, long or short, you can give us would be much appreciated. Refreshments provided. More info tel. 857836
Sunday 5 th Aug 10th aft. Trinity	11.00am	Holy Communion - Junior Church in the vestry
Weds 8 th Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 10 th August	9pm	Silent Together - Enjoy the presence of God in the tranquillity of the church - 30 mins.
Sun 12 th August 11 th after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am 12.00pm 2.15pm (from church)	Holy Communion Morning worship – all welcome! SPARKS – setting up for the coming week! All and any help very much appreciated!! Second Sunday Stroll – You choose! Meet as normal at the church gate to decide on a simple local stroll on the day. For more info: Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com / tel. 857836.
Monday-Thursday 13-16 th August	10am – 2pm	SPARKS! <i>Calling all inventors, creators and robots!</i> The return of the wild and energetic Christian holiday club, for 5 to 16-year olds. For more info call Dawn on 816962.
Tues 14 th Aug	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 15 th Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 19 th August 12 th aft. Trinity	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Special SPARKS Service! Come and see what they've all been up to! All welcome.
Weds 22 nd Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 25 th August	9.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer (breakfast from 8ish)
Sun 26 th August 13 th aft. Trinity	11.00am	Holy Communion - Junior Church in the vestry
Tues 28 th Aug	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 29 th Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion

Junior Church

NEW THIS SEPTEMBER: JC's EXCITING**WHAT?**

Exciting treasure hunt around our church
Depending on the weather: outdoors or
Indoors *

WHO?

Everybody is invited to join who is age 3
years** and over including parents/ carers/
family

WHEN?

Sunday 2nd September 2018 at 10am

WHERE?

At St. Mary's church, Meppershall

WHAT ELSE?

Every JC participant will
Receive a **REAL TREASURE!**



* Please wear clothes that may get dirty: Suitable shoes or
and bring a



and an



** Children younger than age 3 are welcome warmly, but **MUST** be
accompanied by an adult (parent/ carer) at all times

In case of any questions, please contact:
Gillian on 850 946, Morag on 643 387 or Alex on 851 473

**Meppershall Social Club
Present**

CLUB SOUND

KARAOKE

WITH

STU EDWARDS

SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST & SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

8PM TILL LATE

*1000'S OF TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM ALL
YOUR KARAOKE FAVOURITES*



NON MEMBERS WELCOME, UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

QUIZ NIGHT

ON SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

STARTS 7.30PM

***WITH QUIZMASTER
PAUL CARNE***

***TEAMS AS BIG OR
SMALL AS YOU LIKE***

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY £1 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON



At Meppershall Interim Village Hall

Meppershall Social Club

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

BINGO! Every Friday - doors open 6.45 eyes down 7.15pm.

Non-members welcome £1 entry fee.

Karaoke with Stu Edward's Club Sound Karaoke - Saturday

4th August 8pm-Late & Saturday 1st September 8pm-Late.

1,000's of tracks to choose from, pure karaoke, fun night out for family & friends.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 11th August in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. Teams of six people £3 per person, cash prize to winning team. Doors open 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm.

CAR TREASURE HUNT Sunday 19th August- £10 per car starts at 3pm.

BBQ - Burgers £2.50. Hot Dogs £1.50.

£20 to winning team and free Burger and Hot Dog. All profit to charity.

A & B VINYL ROADSHOW Saturday 25th August 8pm-Late. A wide choice of tracks to listen or dance to & Saturday 22nd September 8pm-Late.

And it's Back – Yes! **The Sunday Quiz** resumes on 9th September, starts 7.30pm, with Quiz Master Mr Paul Carne, teams as big or small as you like, £1 entry fee per person, half money to Social Club charities for 2018, half to winning team.



THE MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS



The Players would like to say a big THANK YOU to our audiences for not only supporting the Players by buying tickets to the show, but for also making our Not The End Of Pier show extravaganza (29th & 30th June) such fun. Your attentiveness, laughter (in all the right places) and applause for all the acts was very much appreciated by the cast and crew of the production; we hope to see you all at Panto time.

Our AGM moved to Wednesday 18th July 7.30pm at Meppershall Interim Hall due to the England football team making it through to the semi-finals, and as we had to submit copy for the Messenger before that date, the AGM Report will now appear in the Messenger's October issue. There is also a knock-on effect for the read-through and auditions for the Pantomime so the read-through became Wed 25th July and auditions Wed 1st August followed by casting on Wed 8th August.

Tickets will be on sale for 'Snow White & the Magnificent Seven' from the 5th September on Wednesday evenings at Meppershall Interim Hall 7.30pm till 9pm, and by calling Karen 01462 816336 Mon, Tues & Thurs Evenings 6.30pm-9pm from October. We hope to also sell tickets on-line (fingers crossed)

Prices: Matinees all tickets £5; Evenings £8; Concessions £7; Last Night all tickets £10. Fingers crossed for it being in the new Hall for this production!

Players' dates for your diary-

Wed 1st August Panto read-through

Wed 8th August Casting for Panto

Wed 15th & 22nd August NO PLAYERS (Players' Summer Break)

Fri 23rd & Sat 24th Nov Snow White Pantomime 2018

Fri 30th Nov & Sat 1st Dec Snow White Pantomime 2018

We would still like someone who loves to play piano for an 'Old Time Music Hall Variety Show' for 2019 and our V.E and V.J Shows for 2020, could this be you? If yes, we'd love to meet you drop in on any Wednesday or contact Karen (Players' Secretary) on the number below. Find the Meppershall Players on Facebook (Meppershall Players Community) Insta-gram, Twitter, and Meppershall Village Hall Website. The Players meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Interim Village Hall. Membership is currently free we welcome people from the age of 9 to 90+, to indulge in all areas of theatrical performances, set-building, costumes, directing, acting, make-up, song & dance, etc. Interested? We look forward to meeting you.

Karen Mitchell (Players' Secretary) 01462 816336

Shefford Leisure Group

By Enid Pamment

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018



Welcome to the double issue of the 'Messenger'. So much has happened during this year; we have many families moving in to our village and hope they will all be very happy here. On behalf of our 'Leisure Group' may we welcome you - we are always pleased to meet new friends. We try to organise various outings and places of interest that you probably would never arrange to take yourselves. Even if people are on their own, there is always someone to talk to. Also, you may tire of driving on busy roads trying to get from A to B, finding somewhere to park (and paying the fee!) Just hop on the coach, enjoy the countryside and be dropped off nearby to our destination.

Let us hope we experience more of these wonderful days before the darker evenings come along. How time flies! Try not to overdo the gardening! Just enjoy the time of year and listen to the birds.

Enid

FORTHCOMING EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2018

KEECH HOSPICE CARE FOR CHILDREN – Wednesday 8th August 2018

LICHFIELD & THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM – Monday 3rd September 2018

THEATRE ROYAL BACKSTAGE TOUR with a carvery lunch at The Strand Palace Hotel – Tuesday 4th September – Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Coach leaving Shefford at 9am. *

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL (London Palladium Show) – Friday 5th October with afternoon cream tea. Coach leaving Shefford at 9am. *

WARNERS – BEMBRIDGE I.O.W – 5th – 8th OCTOBER (Friday till Monday) 2018

RPO SYPHONIC POP – Friday 12th October. Greatest pop hits performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – Held at the Royal Albert Hall – Arena and Circle Seats. Coach leaving Shefford at 4pm. *

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR – Sunday 11th November 2018. (*reserve list*).

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR – Sunday 25th November (Matinee). Leaving Shefford at 12.30pm. This includes the famous 1812 Overture, Music, Lasers, Lights, including fireworks at the Royal Albert Hall. The seats are Row 9 Choir. We anticipate arriving back to Shefford by 7pm approx.

JOHN RUTTER'S CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT (MATINEE) - ROYAL ALBERT HALL – Tuesday 4th December – Arena, Circle & Choir seats available. *

CRUISING INTO CHRISTMAS – Sunday 9th December 2018 Leaving Shefford at 11am to Greenwich and meet at the Pier for our cruise to London and meet the Guide and coach for a tour finishing at Covent Garden.

2019

NEW: coming to Milton Keynes Theatre: LES MISERABLES – Thursday 30th May (Matinee). We will leave Shefford at 1pm and make our way to Milton Keynes Theatre. Anticipate arriving back to Shefford by 6pm approx.

LONDON SHOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE – ALL MATINEE PERFORMANCES (organised in conjunction with Stevenage Group Travel).

TOMMY STEEL'S GLEN MILLER SHOW (Matinee) – Wednesday 15th August – A new musical celebration at London Coliseum – Stall Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.30am.

MATILDA THE MUSICAL (Matinee) Wednesday 5th September Cambridge Theatre – Stall Seats. – Leaving Shefford at 10.30am.

CHICAGO - Wednesday 5th September – Matinee – Pheonix Theatre – Stall & Dress Circle Seats – Coach leaving Shefford at 10.30am.

LION KING – Wednesday 12th September – Matinee Performance showing at the Lyceum Theatre – with carvery meal - Leaving Shefford at 9.15am.

42nd STREET – Wednesday 12th September – Matinee – showing at The Theatre Royal. Also includes a Carvery Meal at The Strand Palace Hotel – Stall Seats – Coach leaving Shefford at 9.15am.

RPO Music of Bond – Wednesday 19th September – Royal Albert Hall – Arena and Circle Seats available. Coach booked to leave Shefford at 4pm.

THE KING AND I – Thursday 27th September – Don't miss this ever-popular show. Coach leaving Shefford at 10.15am.

RPO Symphonic Pop – Friday 12th October (Evening) – Royal Albert Hall – Greatest Pop hits and anthems. Arena and Circle Seats available – Coach leaving Shefford at 4pm.

TINA TURNER – Monday 10th December (evening). – Stall Seats – Leaving Shefford at 4.15pm. (*Reserve list only*)

Please telephone for prices and availability of any holidays, outings or shows listed above.

Kindly Note: Trips marked with a * have been arranged by Stevenage Group Travel.

If there are only a few people booking their trips, so save time their 'regular' pick-ups are Baldock, Letchworth, Hitchin and Stevenage as sometimes it is not viable for a coach to come to Shefford first and makes it difficult for driver's hours etc. We do hope you understand.

For all holidays, including transport from Shefford and hotel accommodation, Shefford Leisure Group acts as an agent for the Tour Operator; their terms and conditions apply.

Shefford Leisure Group is open to everyone in the local community, who feel they would like to join us on our ventures and see places they would not see under their own steam. We are always happy to meet new friends.

Raffles are held and all the proceeds are for Keech Hospice Care for Children. For further information regarding dates, prices and availability or to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact Enid on 01462 851397 or e-mail enid.pamment@gmail.com.

Enid Pamment – Shefford Leisure Group

Birthday Greetings

Joyce Harris celebrated her 90th birthday in June. We at the Meppershall Messenger were delighted to be able to present her with the traditional cake and card, along with our hearty congratulations!



Financial Matters

By Paul Savuto

WHY YOU SHOULD AVOID PROTECTION PROCRASTINATION

People put off buying life insurance for a variety of reasons, and they shouldn't. Not only does life insurance give valuable peace of mind to families up and down the country, each year insurers pay out millions of pounds to families to help ease the financial strain caused by life's unexpected events. Here are a few reasons people often give for not taking this vital step.

IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE Many people are surprised to learn that cover is far less expensive than they'd first thought. Plus, it's a small price to pay when you consider that having no insurance would cost your family considerably more and could result in them struggling for money.

I'M FIT AND WELL No one is immortal and buying protection policies when you're in good health means you'll find it easier to get a cost-efficient policy that meets your needs. If you leave it until you're older and have health problems, your premiums will be higher.

I DON'T HAVE KIDS If you don't have kids but do have loved ones that depend on you financially – your spouse, partner, parent or sibling – then a pay-out from a policy would help to alleviate their financial burden at a difficult time.

I'M NOT WORKING, I DON'T NEED COVER If you're a stay-at-home parent, just think of all the tasks you do on behalf of your family. Everything from cleaning, cooking and childcare might have to be paid for if you weren't there to provide it.

I GET COVER THROUGH MY JOB While you may get insurance as part of your employment package, it may not be enough for your needs, and the policy won't move with you if you change jobs.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIND THE RIGHT PLAN It can be hard to assess how much life insurance you need on your own, but that's where we can help you. Don't let procrastination hold you back, get in touch.

ONE IN TEN BRITONS ADMIT THEY ARE BAD WITH MONEY – HOW TO BUCK THE TREND

Everyone should think about putting some money aside for emergencies, and for the bigger things in life like the deposit on a home, a child's education or a wedding. So, for most of us having some cash that we can access quickly to pay for unexpected things like an unforeseen bill, and some that steadily builds up over the years, makes good financial sense.

An ISA is a simple, tax-free way to save or invest for the future. The advantage of these types of account is that you don't pay tax on the interest or dividends you earn, or the increase in the value of your investments. There are now several different types of ISA available, designed by the government to encourage everyone to save or invest for their future.

The basic types are:

- Cash ISAs and stocks and shares ISAs for savers and investors
- Junior ISAs for children
- Help to Buy ISAs for those saving for their first home
- Lifetime ISAs for those saving to buy their first home or who wish to save until age 60.

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEPS IN INVESTMENT

Investment means introducing your money to risk, but also offers the prospect of getting better returns than are available on savings accounts.

Fledgling investors often begin by drip-feeding smaller amounts of money into ISAs, collective investments such as unit trusts, managed funds or bonds, rather than risking a lump sum at what could turn out to be a bad time.

If you put your money into stock market investments you should be prepared to do so for at least five years and preferably longer. You'll also need to think about your attitude to risk, as this will have a bearing on the type of investments that will be right for you. If you invest in the stock market, your capital will rise and fall according to how the economy and markets here and globally are performing, meaning that you need to be able to cope with peaks and troughs.

Whether you're saving or investing to help your children, want to retire early, or simply build your lifetime wealth, good advice can ensure that you make the most of your money and avoid the pitfalls.

EARLY RETIREMENT COULD DISAPPEAR BY 2035, SO IT'S TIME TO PLAN

As the state pension age rises, life expectancy increases, and final salary pension schemes become a thing of the past, it looks likely that more workers will remain in employment for longer in order to be able to build up sufficient funds for their retirement years.

According to analysis, the number of people retiring before they reach age 65 is decreasing rapidly. The insurer calculates that if the present rate of change continues, by 2035 almost no one will be able to retire early. Figures from the Office for National Statistics show a record 10.1 million over-50s remain in work, with 1.2m of these workers aged over 65. Ten years ago, less than 700,000 over-65s were in work. In 1998 the figure was 434,000.

HOW TO PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

Increased life expectancy means that people retiring at 65 today can reasonably expect to live on into their 80s if not longer, and some can expect to live to 100. However, when it comes to planning for retirement, people can underestimate the odds of reaching a great age and may not be adequately prepared financially for the years ahead.

That's why it makes good sense at all stages of your working life to keep an eye on your pension arrangements, especially if you intend to retire earlier rather than later. You need to think about the following key questions:

- When do I want to retire?
- How much will I need in income and savings to fund my lifestyle in retirement?
- Are my plans on track? Am I currently saving enough?

Although it has recently been increased, the state pension is still only a basic safety net for most people, and not enough on its own to guarantee a comfortable retirement.

Personal pensions offer generous tax breaks to encourage us all to provide adequately for retirement. If you are a basic-rate taxpayer making a pension contribution, every £100 you pay in will in effect only cost you £80 once income tax relief has been applied. If you are a higher-rate taxpayer, every £100 contributed within the HMRC annual allowance would cost just £60.

As part of the government's drive to ensure we all make adequate provision for retirement, employers are now legally obliged, subject to age and earnings thresholds, to automatically enrol their employees into a qualifying pension scheme, where employees and employers make monthly contributions.

TAKING ADVICE CAN HELP YOU MEET YOUR GOALS The need for professional advice tailored to your individual circumstances has never been more important. If you're concerned about your pension arrangements, we're happy to review your plans and help you keep on track for a financially-comfortable retirement.

As part of the service at DGS, we take the time to understand our client's unique planning needs and circumstances, so that we can provide you with the most suitable solutions in the most cost-effective way. For a free review of your current plans and financial situation, please contact Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499595 or email ps@dgsifa.com. I'm based in Meppershall and I'll be happy to talk to you.

Notices

'TRUGS & TROWELS' **Campton Gardening Club**

Our next meetings will be on

Monday, 6th August - Mick Camp, Chair of Horticultural Society
and 3rd September - Joanna, owner of Baldock Flower Farm
at Campton Village Hall, 7.30-9.00pm

Everyone Welcome - Admission £3

For more information, please contact... Maryika 01462 851729

Shefford Craft & Produce Show

Saturday 1st September - Methodist Church Schoolrooms

This year will be our 38th Show and we would love to see you there. If you are taking part, entry forms need to be with the Entries Secretary by Saturday 25th August - full details are available in our free schedules, which are available in the library and other outlets in Shefford. On the day, entrants need to bring their items to the hall between 9am and 10.30am, ready for when the hall is cleared for judging at 10.45am.

The Show (which is held in Ampthill Road, almost opposite the fish and chip shop) will be open to visitors at 2pm. Everybody is welcome to come and have a look at all the exhibits and refreshments will be available during the afternoon. All sorts of items will be on display; from children's and adults' handicrafts, cookery and photography to garden produce, flowers and floral arts in the section for adults.

If you need any information, contact details are in the schedule or you can email sheffordcps@gmail.com

FUTURE EVENTS		LIVE MUSIC
Saturday 18 th September – Live music with Deaf Shepherd August live music to be confirmed – all events posted on our website and Facebook		
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;"> 300 HITCHIN ROAD, HENLOW, BEDS SG16 6DP www.theoldtransporter.co.uk - 01462817410 </div>		

The Summerfield Railway **Bedford Model Engineering Society** **Summerfield Miniature Railway** **Off the A600 just past Haynes Turn**

Public Running Days in 2018 from 10.30AM to 4 PM

AUG	Wednesday 1 st *		DEC	Sat & Sun 8 th /9 th Santa
	Wednesday 8 th *			Specials – pre-booking
	Wednesday 15 th *			essential
	Sunday 26 th			For further information,
	Monday 27 th (BH)			see our website:
SEPT	Sunday 2 nd			www.bedfordmes.co.uk
	Sunday 16 th			
OCT	Sunday 7 th			
	Sunday 21 st			*On our Wednesday openings, only limited
	Wed 24 th (Half Term) *			catering will be available.

Brownies



This term we have been lucky to have glorious weather which has meant we have been out and about.

We had fun in the in Old Road Meadow off Hoo Road playing water games and races. As it was still nearly 30 degrees in the evening, the girls enjoyed getting very, very, wet. Parents probably not so much as they then took their soggy children home in their cars.

We also had a World Cup themed evening. We did this at the beginning of the World Cup as we weren't sure how long enthusiasm for the event and the England team would last. Little did we know then that England would do so well, and we could have planned it much later in the term!

We had our own Brownies Got talent evening, where the brownies performed lots of different acts; we had lots of gymnastics, playing the keyboard, singing, poetry recitals, and magic. Phoebe also introduced brownies (as in the cakes) into her act, which proved very popular. Maybe this is something the contestants on Britain's Got Talent should consider.

We finished the term with a visit to Summerfield Miniature Railway near Haynes. Due to Tawny Owl knowing one of the volunteers there quite well (it's her dad), we had the whole place to ourselves and the volunteers who run the Railway gave us lots and lots of train rides and Tawny Owl cooked a delicious BBQ. We also enrolled two of our new Brownies, Felicity and Zara and said a fond farewell to Jhnelle who is leaving and will be continuing her guiding adventure at Guides. All the girls had an amazing time.



A big thank you to Tawny Owl and all the volunteers who operate the Railway for such a lovely time.

If you are interested in your daughter joining Brownies or volunteering yourself, then please contact Snowy Owl (Suzanne) on 07817 392325 or you can register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk.

The Team

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editor welcomes contributions to the Messenger, whether as letters, articles or notices. Contributions should preferably be as attachments to e-mail (address below) but handwritten contributions may be sent by post, or left in the folder kept at the Village Stores. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should be received by the Editor not later than the 12th of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

DISCLAIMER

The Editor reserves the right to omit or alter any advertisement or article and to change the content, format or issue date of the magazine without prior notice. The Editor cannot be held responsible for the factual correctness of, or for any libellous comment or statement made in any advertisement, article or other contribution published in this magazine. Every effort will be made to avoid any deliberate attempt to mislead or otherwise cause harm or damage to any person or persons by any advertisement, article or any other contribution published in this magazine.

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<u>Collating Dates for your Diaries – 2018/2019</u>					
			Nov	26th	Double
Oct	1st		Jan 2019	28th	
Oct	29th		Feb 2019	25th	

Please note that dates in the above table indicate the month in which the collating will take place, at 2.30 pm in the Sugar Loaf. The issue being collated will relate to the following month.





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