



Contents

Editorial by James Read and Mick Ridley.....	2
Letters to the Editors	3
Parish Council	4
Your Village Needs You! Call for Parish Councillors	6
Tackling Nuisance Bikes	7
Megan Maxwell in The Falklands	8
Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin (Church of England).....	10
St Mary's Church, Meppershall Junior Church	11
Church Services and Events – May 2019	12
Sparks Holiday Club	13
Meppershall Academy by Caroline Sledge.....	14
Meppershall Social Club.....	15
Shefford Leisure Group by Enid Pamment.....	17
Shefford Craft & Produce Show.....	19
Outbuilding and Property Security	21
Meppershall Wanderbus.....	22
Meppershall - Wanderbus - Revised Timetable	23
Financial Matters by Paul Savuto	24
National Gardening Week.....	26
'Trugs & Trowels' Campton Gardening Club	27
Meppershall Photographic Forum.....	27
Warden Abbey Vineyard	28
Clophill Heritage Trust	29
Sit+Stretch+Relax Group	30
Book Club	30
The Hash House Harriers.....	31
Birthday Greetings.....	32
GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbour Group)	32
Summerfield Miniature Railway.....	33
Useful Contacts.....	34
The Team.....	36

Editorial by James Read and Mick Ridley

If your great grandmother was alive today, how old would she be? Our Queen will answer “200” as we recall the birth of Queen Victoria on 24th May, 1819.

Queen Victoria took the throne in 1837 and the Victorian era brought us the industrial revolution and huge advances in human life. When she was born, the steam engine was a fairly new concept. It was not until May 1857 that steam trains began puffing through the Meppershall countryside when the Hitchin-Bedford line and its stations including Shefford and Old Warden opened. That once-crucial artery is gone but for the overgrown embankments and bridges still visible here and there.



News of her birth reached Meppershall on horseback. The network of horse-drawn “mail coaches” was still a relatively new thing. Agriculture was Meppershall’s lifeblood. On the fields, mechanical threshing and reaping machines, with horses as their only source of power, had just begun to improve the harvest. Horses were still the power source when the first combine harvesters appeared sometime in the 1880s. Steam power only appeared on the fields towards the end of Queen Victoria’s reign.

She saw the advent of steel-making and the height of our industrial revolution. In 1850, she opened the Digswell Viaduct (often called the Welwyn Viaduct) – the towering railway section at Welwyn with 40 huge arches, 100 feet high, still used by every train heading from our part of the world to London and back. Victorians built the nave section of our Parish church which made it the wonderful community building it is today.

We can look back on many benefits of modern life brought to us by the Victorians. But here’s another thing that the Victorians would never have dreamed could be a problem.

It was a time when we began burning stuff. Burning stuff in massive quantities. Initially to boil water in steam engines, then in the car engines, in planes and in huge power plants to make electricity. We still do it today, more and more. Coal, oil, petrol, diesel, wood – these materials are made largely of carbon and when burned they release the carbon as carbon dioxide (CO₂ or just CO2). It’s an issue we’ve become all too aware of.

CO2 is called a “greenhouse gas” because it retains the sun’s heat. About 99% of the atmosphere is Nitrogen, Oxygen or Argon which doesn’t retain much of the sun’s heat at all. So, increasing CO2 in the atmosphere is believed to have a profound effect on its temperature – heating the air and the oceans and the planet as a whole. A hotter planet could mean extreme weather, a changing climate and a rise in sea levels.

We’ve been releasing CO2 at an industrial scale for well over 100 years, but global warming is a challenge we can hopefully overcome. How can we be “greener” in our everyday lives? We need to use less energy that is made from burning things: being energy efficient at home, buying more local food (which hasn’t been driven or flown from hundreds or thousands of miles away!), walking or cycling instead of taking the car, using public transport where we can and supporting wind, solar and tidal/wave power.

This month you’ll find The Meppershall Wanderbus timetable inserted here. As buses go, it’s a very efficient vehicle and it carries lots of people on one journey. Its not rocket science! And it might be fun - why not give it a go? We’d love your thoughts and ideas about ‘going green’ in Meppershall. And Happy 200th Birthday, Queen Victoria.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

Can I put out a strong request for dog-walkers to please pick up after your pooches? Meppershall is blessed with many lovely walks around the surrounding countryside, but sadly many are assault courses avoiding dog mess left by thoughtless owners. Just because you are on a rural path doesn't mean you can leave your dogs' deposits all over the place - it is dirty, smelly and doesn't bio-degrade quickly. Many of these deposits have been left by larger dogs (Labrador and larger) judging by the size/amount of deposit. I've observed people just walking off, having been well-aware their dog has fouled the path where others walk - please stop it, and clear up after your pet.

One final request - for those considerate owners who do pick up - please take it to one of the many bins - do not hang it in the nearest bush!

Jon Ingarfill

Editors' comment: Thanks for this letter Jon. We join you in emphasising to everyone that being 30 yards down Crackle Hill is not "out on the fields" – likewise other paths on the edges of the village. At the very least, don't leave poo for other people to come and see. It's not a Banksy. Get it out of harm's way and "Bag it & Bin it".

Dear Messenger

Just a quick 'Thank You!' to Thelma and Stephen who again arranged the open Blossom Party on the green at Archie's Seat at the end of Taylors Close. We went for the first time this year and had a lovely couple of hours in the beautiful Good Friday sun. Some



additional passers-by stopped and joined in. It was a really special afternoon – inspired by the Japanese blossom-season tradition of 'Hanami' but feeling very much like a Meppershall tradition too. Great conversation, good company, nice eats, happy times.

Miriam Read

Parish Council

Here are the main points from the Council meeting held on Monday 8th April 2019 in the Village Hall.

The Chairman started by confirming that this was the last meeting of the present Council before elections (if required) in May. He thanked the Clerk who took up the role half way through the Councils four-year term and has helped to drag them into the 21st Century. He thanked all Councillors for their efforts over the past 4 years and said goodbye to John Thompson, Sandra Reed, Paul Smith and David Foskett who will not be standing for re-election, together with Roger Smith who resigned towards the end of last year.

CBC Councillor Tony Brown reported the following:

- The Local Plan will have its first hearing on 21st May 2019 at Priory House in Chicksands.
- CBC Highways Officers have agreed that when Fildyke road is resurfaced later this year they will also resurface the footpath outside the Sugar Loaf pub

Planning and Housing

Applications waiting a decision from Central Bedfordshire Planning Officers:

- 84 Fildyke Road – demolition of cottage and erection of five dwellings;
- ACO Technologies – new access road and car parking plus 12,380 sq.m. of employment floor space;
- Tower View Nursery, 81 Fildyke Road – demolition of existing bungalow and greenhouses and erection of 10 dwellings;
- 1 Shefford Road - demolition of a garage and erection of 5 dwellings;
- Land opposite 34 to 42 Shefford Road – outline request for 9 dwellings;
- New Close Nurseries – ancillary work and change to conditions;
- Boundary Nunswood and Meppershall Nursing home – work on trees with TPO.

New Applications for Parish Council consideration:

- Land to the south of Sandy View – erection of two chalet type bungalows - Objection
- Workshop and premises Campton Road – change of use to 2 dwellings – No comment
- 6 Rectory Road – 2 story rear extension – No comment

Appeals – 4 High Street still under investigation

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Thomason reported on the team's delight at the number of Parishioners that attended the recent workshop in the Village Hall in relation to the Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP). The Steering Group and BRCC are awaiting responses to the GIP questionnaire from residents to help support the Neighbourhood Plan.

Highways and Transport

CBC have agreed to install temporary CCTV to observe the traffic passing the village shop.

CBC have informed the Council that they will not be maintaining or replacing the Vehicle Activated Road Signs (VARs) in Shefford Road and Shillington Road. The Council agreed to take over the control of the VARs as soon as agreement is reached with CBC.

Environment and Leisure

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with local parish councils in relation to how much they charge for use of their football pitches and what maintenance they carry out on the pitches during and at the end of the season. Croudace had been asked to provide details of what is included in the first year's maintenance regime. Discussions are about to take place with possible hirers of the pitch.

The Council has meetings planned with Croudace about the re-instatement of the play equipment onto Centenary Field, removed during the development phase of the Village Hall.

The Meppershall Village Spring Clean was held on 31st March with 11 people participating. The Council thanked those who helped not only with the litter pick but also with refreshments at the Village Hall. The Council has asked the Clerk to arrange for another litter picking session in late September.

As a result of the mindless damage caused by a group youths, some of whom live in the Village, to the PC Stores and fencing estimates are being prepared to protect the property damaged.

Health & Safety and Risk Management

The annual review of risk assessments is due and the Chairman and the Clerk will undertake the task prior to the next meeting of Council.

Procedures

Cllr Foskett has been the keeper of the website and other IT matters but as he standing down from his role as councillor, all details are being passed to the Clerk.

Finance

The final accounts for 2018/19 were presented to the Council and are ready for the internal audit to be held on 30th May.

Half the 2019/20 precept money has been received.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the annual meeting to be held on Monday 13th May 2019 in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Peter Chapman, Chairman

chairman@meppershall.org

Your Village Needs You! Call for Parish Councillors

The 9th May 2019 sees the start of a new 4-year term for councillors. Meppershall Parish Council (MPC) should have 10 councillors but, at the time of writing this article, only 6 people have put themselves forward to take up the role. Of those 6 brave souls, some have served more than 20 years on the Council and would gladly give up their seats for an injection of 'fresh blood', but due to the lack of willing volunteers we've convinced them to stay on. We particularly need help with reviewing and responding to planning applications.

Meppershall now needs to recruit 4 councillors. Could this be you?

What is the role of a councillor?

The main purpose of a parish councillor is to represent the views of all residents within the parish. As part of a local council you will have responsibility for running local services which include: open spaces, play areas, allotments, grass cutting and potentially much more. Councillors decide on how much to raise through the council tax in order to deliver our services. Councillors are involved in influencing and shaping the long-term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the parish. The ultimate aim is to improve the quality of life and the environment in the local area by working to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent, bringing about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies. All Meppershall councillors are volunteers and receive no payment.

How much time does it take?

We usually meet once a month for the council meeting to which members of the public are also invited. In addition to regular meetings Councillors are required to give time for 'ad hoc' meetings e.g.: to discuss planning applications that the council must give its opinions on. Correspondence is also circulated via email to councillors for review.

Are you eligible?

To be a councillor you must be a UK, Commonwealth or EU citizen, be at least 18 years old and be an elector of the parish or, in the last 12 months, have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish or worked in the parish. If you're not eligible you can still volunteer to help in one of our working groups so please contact us.

Still interested?

Contact Alessandra (Clerk) on 07930 813808 for an informal chat, or email clerk@meppershall.org.

Remember this is YOUR village! Be part of its future!

Editors' comment: Please give this serious thought! We rely on our Parish Councillors to bring a rich mix of experience, instincts, insights and approaches to this important role in village life. Male and female, young and old, whatever level of experience – could it be you?

Tackling Nuisance Bikes

Operation Meteor is the police force's response to the issue of anti-social riding, nuisance bikes and related criminality.

As the days are getting longer and warmer, we are preparing ourselves for the increase of nuisance biking offences. This operation consists of regular ride outs of trained officers and police volunteers on off-road bikes, which allows them to crack down on bikers trespassing and causing nuisance in our communities.

The team is specially trained to identify and target offenders who use their vehicles in an anti-social and dangerous manner.

The officers who are on the Operation Meteor deployment respond to the 101 and 999 calls from the public, with high-visibility patrols aiming to deter potential offenders.

Our tactics are based on information from the public. It is very important to report all sightings of nuisance bikers, as the information is crucial in building a better intelligence picture of this kind of criminality in our county.

All details like the colour of the bikes, clothing, helmets if they are wearing any, and any other special markers are all important to the officers.

Apart from disruption, the team also has a number of tactics they can use to target the offenders.

One of the techniques used by the officers is a stinger deployment. The stinger is a device which pierces the tyres of the vehicle and causes it to stop.

If the vehicle is being used in an anti-social manner, we have a right to seize it and crush it.

For all the bikes enthusiasts out there, we would like to reassure you that there are ways of riding your bike off-road fully legally.

Make sure that your vehicle has a valid MOT and you have paid your tax and insurance. You need to hold a driving licence for your bike.

You can use your vehicle on Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT) and you can find locations on your council's website:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/byways/traffic.aspx>

Some of the BOATs are only open during certain seasons or certain times, so make sure that you familiarise yourself with the restrictions before visiting the location.

You can also attend organised events, which are an amazing opportunity to find people with similar interests and enjoy your hobby in a safe environment and with health professionals available in case of an incident.

Sergeant Barry Smith

Megan Maxwell in The Falklands

Megan is currently on a 6-month tour of The Falkland Islands with 16 Regiment Royal Artillery. We have kindly been given some fantastic pictures so we can have a glimpse of the adventures she is having down there. Yes, those are penguins!



It's an intense routine – 6 days on with 1 day off – in which duties can include air defence, work alongside the Royal Air Force organising battlefield tours to commemorate the Falklands war, infantry exercises and sports and skills activities.



The youngest soldier currently there, she has also taken part in a 66-mile march across the islands which recreated the route taken by 45 Commando Royal Marines soon after their landing in May 1982 during the Falklands War.



Marching from Port San Carlos to Stanley, Megan was part of a team representing her Battery with each participant carrying 20Kg bergens - equivalent to the load carried back in 1982. This 'loaded march' (tab) raised funds for ABF The Soldiers Charity and it was completed in two-and-a-half days. This time was the best ever achieved by an Artillery Battery and Megan was the first girl soldier to complete the tab. Only four soldiers completed the full 66 miles – and Megan was one of them. This is a fantastic achievement for a local girl from a sleepy small village in mid Bedfordshire!



Later this year you may see Megan back in the village – but you'll need to be quick because she will most likely be running somewhere fairly quickly!

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

What's on at church...

Continuing the spirit of Easter, you'll find a whole series of church 'get-togethers' throughout the month. The Easter flowers, carefully prepared and displayed all across the interior of the church, will remain in place for the first few week or two of the month (sometimes longer) and it is well worth coming to see them. Huge thanks to everyone contributing with money and skills to create such a beautiful display and to celebrate our Christian spring and spring in the world around us.

The first and last Sundays of the month (5th and 26th at 11am) are a traditional Sunday service including communion – rousing hymns, prayer and reflection plus teas, coffees and chat afterwards. On the second and third Sundays (12th, 19th, also 11am) things are a bit different, no communion, a bit less formal and with (on May 12th) refreshments and chat in the middle of the service. On these 'middle' Sundays you'll find an early morning (8.30am) communion service which can be very special as the spring sun cuts low through the chancel windows around us where we sit for this spoken service.

We would love to be a place where people who don't normally come to church come to church. Just come to enjoy the space. Just come to meet a few new people or catch up with a friend. Just come because you fancy a sing-song. Just come because something made you think about it. Just come. It is a place for everyone in the community but we need to be part of it to keep it alive.

Message from St Mary's...

"Ne'er cast a clout till May be out" was a favourite saying of my old Grandma. In truth, as a child, I really didn't understand what it really meant. Apparently, it may refer either to not shedding the extra layer of winter clothing as winter chills might still yet return; it may also

refer to the blossoming of the Mayflower, or hawthorn - which scientists have recently shown to be blossoming earlier each year.

Whichever meaning is correct, it is nevertheless true that May is a 'betwixt and between' month. A month which holds promises for a future of long summer days and still summer evenings - but it can also be a month which reminds us of the past winter chills, frosts and the occasional need to scrape car windscreens!

In the church's calendar for 2019 the month of May falls in a similar way - a month betwixt and between two events. At the end of April, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. In church the flowers returned in abundant and beautiful displays after a period of absence during Lent, and children took part in the much-loved Easter egg hunt around the church and churchyard. Many of us will also have celebrated Easter with visits to or from family members, and of course the obligatory Easter egg (or three!). Like the spring season, Easter reminds us of new life which Christians believe Jesus brings for all of us through the events of Easter Sunday. But, just as May is a month betwixt and between seasons, so too the church's calendar is in a period of continuing to celebrate Easter but also waiting for Pentecost which occurs this year on Sunday 9th June – fifty days after Easter. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and the church. Again, my old Grandma used to refer to this holiday as 'Whitsun' - a phrase which is less commonly used now than in the past.

Whatever the actual weather holds for this May, St Mary's wishes everyone an enjoyable, restful Whitsun and the hope of those long summer days - not too far in the future now!

Keith Callard - Reader, St Mary's Meppershall

St Mary's Church, Meppershall Junior Church



Join us on Sunday 5 May (11am)
at St Mary's Church
(ages 3 to 12)

Church Services and Events – May 2019

Date	Time	Service / Event
Weds 1 st May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 th May 3 rd of Easter	11.00am	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church.
Weds 8 th May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 10 th May	9pm	Silent Together Enjoy the presence of God in the tranquillity of the church - 30 mins.
Sunday 12 th May 4 th of Easter	8.30am 11.00am 2.15pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship – all welcome! Second Sunday Stroll – meet at the church gate to walk to Wrest Park via Upper Gravenhurst – just under 4 miles with the promise of the tea shop at the end! Optional return walk via Whitehall Plantation or walk one-way and get a lift back. More info / lift coordination: tel. 857836.
Monday 13 th May	7.15pm for 7.30 start	Bible Society: Annual General Meeting at St Michael's, Shefford.
Tuesday 14 th May	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 15 th May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th May 5 th of Easter 8.30a	8.30am 11.00am Holy Communion Holy Communion	Holy Communion Morning Worship – All Welcome!
Weds 22 nd May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 25 th May	9.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer (breakfast from 8ish)
Sunday 26 th May	11.00am	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church.

6 th of Easter		
Tuesday 28 th May	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 29 th May	10.00am	Holy Communion



Sparks Holiday Club!

Sparks is an exciting and colourful Christian Holiday club which has been taking place at St Mary's Church, Meppershall for over 20 years.

We play games, have fun, learn about Jesus, and do all kinds of crazy things. Its loud, messy and wonderful. Check out our Facebook page for photos!

We have around 80 children from ages 5+ from 10am till 2pm, Monday to Thursday during a week in the summer holidays.

This year the proposed dates are: Mon 12th to Thurs 15th August.

BUT THIS YEAR WE NEED MORE HELP

In order for Sparks to go ahead this year we need more adults (18+) who are willing to be free all day (9:20am till 2:15pm) from Mon to Thurs plus some who are willing to help run activities (could be half a day).

All training and resources given!

More information and job descriptions available.

Please contact Dawn Abbatt (01462) 816962 dawn.abbatt@gmail.com
or Roni Goodman (01462) 339962 ronigoodman@gmail.com

Please help us so the fun can continue



by Caroline Sledge

In a world of increasing uncertainty, I have been wondering how we are equipping our children for living with uncertainty. What certainties can we offer to our children as inheritors of tomorrow that they can hold onto?

Being an educator, I am convinced that learning is the key to having life in all its fullness. Learning doesn't only happen in school and end when young people leave the education system. We are all learning every day. So, helping children to learn how to learn is vital. They need to know what learning feels like: it is most effective when it's exciting and engaging; it should be hard work and involve us among other things, grappling with challenge, persevering in finding possible answers, making mistakes and bouncing back with resilience.

Of course, learning about the world, gaining knowledge and skills and deepening understanding are all at the heart of education and make up our curriculum. Even more important is learning how to live with each other, how to get along, how to respect difference and resolve conflict when those differences seem too big.

This links with our school vision:

At Meppershall Church of England Academy, we aim for academic and personal achievement through helping each child to grow their own potential, in an environment of faith, creativity, aspiration, challenge and celebration; equipping each person to make their own unique contribution to the school, community, the wider world and the kingdom of God for the benefit of all.

In our school, as in many others, children explore and learn about a range of values to help them do just this. As a Church school we share a Christian understanding of these values too. Many may seem obvious: respect, friendship, forgiveness, truth and generosity for example. We have recently been thinking about Justice which you may think is a challenging concept for children under 9. We found this acrostic poem helpful in deepening our understanding of this value:

Justice is....

Judging what is right

Understanding what is fair

Standing up for those who need help

Trying to listen to both sides

Informed and wise decisions

Caring enough to take action

Equal opportunities for all.

If all children learn about this and other values, see them lived out in the lives of those around them and then adopt them, they will have greater certainty in their lives and discover joy of life in all its fullness, which includes living with uncertainty.

Meppershall Social Club

Our first event in support of our charities for the year – ‘Sparks’ at St Mary’s Church in Meppershall and Parkinson’s UK - takes place this month.

<p style="text-align: center;">MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB presents RACE night Saturday 18th May</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Doors open at 7:00pm, first race starts at 8:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Come and have a punt with family and friends- all ages welcome <i>Tickets: £2, Children under 14 FREE; £2.50 to be a racehorse owner/jockey for the evening & win £10 if your horse wins.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tickets & horses for sale at the bar in the village hall or phone Bev Aberdein on (01462) 850541</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Here's how it works...</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be showing eight films of actual horse races throughout the evening, each with eight numbered horses. • Place a bet at the tote table on whichever horse you think will win the race. • You can bet on as many horses as you like, as many times as you like. • You will be given a ticket for each bet. Hold on to this, you'll need it to claim your winnings. • When all bets have been placed, the race will be shown and the winner displayed. • If your horse is the winner, collect your winnings from the tote table

If you have recently moved into the village, come and check out the Social Club. Everyone is welcome. We are open: 5pm - midnight Monday to Friday; 12 noon - midnight Saturday and Sunday.

There are a number of regular events held which include Bingo on a Friday Night (eyes down at 7.30pm); Barbeques; Quiz Nights- 3rd Sunday of the Month; Karaoke- 2nd Saturday of the month; and Discos & Vinyl Nights.

We have a snooker table and a pool table in the games area right near the Social Club Bar. We also have a number of crib and domino players who play in a local league and hope to restart our darts team soon. Pool, snooker and darts are available most weekdays from 5pm, and midday on most weekends.

We always welcome new ideas for future events and people who are willing to help at our events. **If you are interested please leave us a message on our Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/meppershallsocialclub/>



Meppershall Players at S.T.M.A.



As I'm writing this, I can't quite believe that when you read this it will be May (crumbs this year is going so quickly). We are settling in quite nicely at S.T.M.A (Shefford Town Memorial Association) and have attracted some new members to our friendly group (but we still have room for lots more).

Junior members are still welcome at the Players. They usually attend from 7.30pm till 9pm as they need their sleep with school the next day. We try to involve our junior members in all our productions whether it be on or off stage (depending on the show). We pride ourselves that our productions are suitable for all ages (nothing that you wouldn't want your Granny to see).

We are currently rehearsing for our summer production "An Evening of Entertainment" to be performed at the S.T.M.A on Friday 28th & Saturday 29th June. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 6th May. Tickets £10 Concessions £8, we will be selling them online again as well as through the Players more details will be on our posters (which we're still in the process of designing and printing) which should be out by the time you read this.

On this production the audience will be seated at tables in a cabaret style evening and we encourage you to bring your own supper for your own enjoyment. The S.T.M.A Social Club provide an excellent bar, and hot beverages will be available from the Players in the interval.

Don't forget we now meet at 7.30pm on Monday evenings at the S.T.M.A and welcome any new members who want to join in the fun of any or all aspects of theatrical performances.

If you want to join our merry band of thespians whether it's on or off the stage contact Karen on the number below or pop in and see us on Monday evenings 7.30pm-10pm at The STMA (Junior members usually finish at 9pm due to School the next day).

Sat 1st June Players at the S.T.M.A summer fete 1pm-5pm

Fri 28th & Sat 29th June Summer Production at S.T.M.A

Fri 29th & Sat 30th November Cinderella Panto 2019 at S.T.M.A

Sat 11th & Sat 18th January 2020 Cinderella Panto Venues T.B.C

You can find the Meppershall Players on Face book (Meppershall Players Community) Instagram and Twitter.

The Players meet Monday evenings 7.30pm-10pm at Shefford Town Memorial Hall. Membership is currently free. We welcome people 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

On behalf of our 'Shefford Leisure Group' we would like to share a very warm welcome to all of our new neighbours who have decided to join our village. We do hope you settle quickly, make new friends and join in the various activities offered in Meppershall.



2019 really is racing along at a fair pace, the weeks just fly past, all the Spring blossom is out and now thinking and planning our Summer gardens. It is lovely having the lighter evenings and can still enjoy the sunshine until quite late.

Recently a group of us went to Milton Keynes Theatre to see Joseph & his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. It was an excellent colourful show, beautiful singing voices and even included a bit of humour! Having seen and enjoyed this show in London several years ago, I felt it was clever the way they had brought it up to date. All the cast worked very hard which was certainly appreciated by the audience.

Below are the trips listed and all are selling well. If there is something you are interested in please give me a telephone call and I will help where I can. Our 'Get Together' is the only event of the year where all our members (and non-members) meet each other. We will have a representative from Keech Hospice Care where we can present your cheque, funds of which have been collected by running raffles during the year. Also, a visit from Martin Hay a Director from Go Cruise who has kindly agreed to come and have a chat and will answer any questions you would like to ask him. We hold a bumper tombola; prizes have kindly been donated by some of the businesses in Shefford. All this of course whilst munching appetizing sandwiches and superb cream cakes! And hopefully able to gaze onto the Golf Course in Stondon whilst the sun is shining! – We hope!

With warmer weather hopefully coming our way, we do tend to venture out and meet other people. I really hope this will be the case for us all in May. In the meantime, do take care and look after each other – next stop it will be June!!

Enid x

FORTHCOMING EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2019

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM – Thurs.–16th May 2019 – Leaving Shefford at 9am. The price includes a trip on the road train with a commentary. There are restaurant facilities if you prefer take a packed lunch. We will leave at 4.30pm and anticipate arriving back to Shefford approximately 6.30pm.

CHELMER & BLACKWATER NAVIGATION CRUISES – Saturday 25th May 2019. Leaving Shefford at 9am to The Paper Mill Lock, near Danbury. – Ploughman's lunch included. (*Sorry reserve list only*)

THE COTSWOLDS JEWELS TOUR – Wednesday 29th May 2019. Visiting Stow-on-the-Wold and Broadway. Leaving Shefford at 8.15am – Anticipated back to Shefford by 7pm.

LES MISERABLES – Thursday 30th May (*Matinee*) Milton Keynes theatre. Leaving Shefford at 1pm.

CAMDEN MARKET – Sunday 2nd June – Camden Lock Market by the Canal, was the original craft market established in 1974, but now has a much wider spectrum of goods on sale. Both this and the ever-popular Camden Stables Market – centre of the alternative fashion scene. coach leaving at 8.30am.

ANNUAL 'GET-TOGETHER' – Wednesday 12th June 2019 – Time 2pm to 4pm. – Representative from Keech Hospice Care where we will present your annual cheque. Also, a visit from 'Go Cruise' Company Director Martin Hay who will be able to answer any questions on Ocean or River Cruises, there will also be a Tombola, accompanied with an enjoyable afternoon tea, set in lovely surroundings at Mount Pleasant Golf Club.

WISBECH ROSE FAIR – Thursday 4th July – Last year the visit to Wisbech Rose Fair proved very popular and everyone really enjoyed their day, so why not join us this year and see what they do to make this event so popular. The coach will leave Shefford at 9am

VINTAGE ESSEX Sunday 21st July 2019 – Leaving Shefford at 9am for Chelmsford. In partnership with Lodges Coaches of High Easter near Chelmsford, we bring Vintage Essex.

A very entertaining new day out for groups who like to see a lot without walking too far! We spend an afternoon at the Lodge HQ in the Essex Rodings. This trip includes morning refreshments and a ploughman's lunch, where you will see the collection of old coaches immaculately restored 1940's 1950's. They also have 'chitty chitty bang bang (not the flying one)! We will also visit to the chocolate box village of Finchingfield before homeward bound., there will be time for a 'cuppa' before returning home, hopefully by 6.30pm.

MANCHESTER – LIVERPOOL Monday 29th July – Friday 2nd August 2019. Staying at the Best Western Cresta Court Hotel with en-suite facilities. The hotel is adjacent to the famous Trafford Centre. The holiday includes a Blue Badge Guided coach tour and a cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal plus visit to Port Sunlight Village. Bookings now being taken. Twin rooms still available. For further details please contact Enid.

ANNUAL TRIP TO THE SEASIDE - Sunday 11th August, 2019. Leaving Shefford at 9am. We have planned our annual trip to Hunstanton – so buckets and spades at the ready! Unfortunately, last year this trip was cancelled due to a spate of very bad weather (surprise surprise! Especially after the Summer we experienced!) so hopefully we will have a lovely day out and be able to enjoy the sunshine (and the fish & chips!). We anticipate arriving back to Shefford by 6pm.

STOWE HOUSE & GARDENS – Sunday 8th September 2019. We will leave Shefford at 9am so we arrive at our destination for coffee and a tour of the house & school which can be quite amusing, afterwards we re-board our coach to take us to the gardens which is a National Trust property. There is also a cafeteria and superb grounds. *(All National Trust members, don't forget your cards).*

ELTHAM PALACE & THAMES RIVER CRUISE – Sunday 13th October 2019 – Leaving Shefford at 9am. *(this is an English Heritage Property entrance for members cheaper, so don't forget your English Heritage card).*

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR – Sunday 17th November Leaving Shefford at 9am. Will return to Shefford by 9pm. Stopping on route at Elvedon and Fish & Chip restaurant on our way home.

COCKNEY CHRISTMAS MATINEE – Tuesday 10th December 2019. Leaving Shefford at 9.30am for lunch at 12noon. Held on the Tereza-Joanne in London's Royal Docks (E16 2QY) which includes a Christmas lunch. The coach will leave for homeward bound by 4pm.

JOHN RUTTER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – **(Matinee)** Wednesday 11th December 2018. Royal Albert Hall - Leaving Shefford approx. 11am.

LONDON SHOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

(organised in conjunction with Stevenage Group Travel) – 2019

Kindly note: Shefford is not a regular pick-up point however arrangements may be made to transport you to either Baldock, Letchworth or Hitchin to collect the coach, this depends solely on how many people require Shefford as a pick up for any particular show.

TINA TURNER – THE MUSICAL – (Evening Performance) Tuesday 4th June – The Aldwych Theatre – Coach leaves Shefford at 4pm. *(Fully booked)*

THE PLANETS: Sunday 30th June – Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. An HD Odyssey. Gaze in wonder as breath taking NASA images and footage are projected onto a giant screen complementing Holst's awe-inspiring suite. The Planets inspired by the system featuring the much-loved movements *Mars and Jupiter*. Hear other well-known themes, synonymous with outer space including *Star Wars*. Nick Davies is the Conductor – Royal Albert Hall – Arena or Circle Seats. Coach will leave Shefford at 3pm.

9 – 5 THE MUSICAL (MATINEE) – Wednesday 10th July 2019. – Dolly Parton's rollicking musical. Savoy Theatre, Dress Circle seats. Coach leaving Shefford at 10.30am. *(Fully booked, reserve list only)*

9 – 5 THE MUSICAL (EVENING PERFORMANCE) – Wednesday 17th July, 2019. – Dolly Parton's rollicking musical. Savoy Theatre – Dress Circle Seats. Coach leaving Shefford at 4.15pm.

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' pickups 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.

Looking forward to meeting you, Enid Pamment – Shefford Leisure Group

Shefford Craft & Produce Show

Saturday 31st August 2019

We are looking forward to this year's Craft & Produce Show which will no doubt be with us before we know it and as usual, our 39th Show will be held in the rooms behind Shefford Methodist Church. It was lovely to see new faces amongst the adult and child entrants last year and we hope to see even more this year: you don't have to live in Shefford to enter.

There are numerous cups and shields for adults and children to win. If you enjoy being busy in the kitchen or garden, making things or arranging flowers, there is plenty of choice. Almost everyone carries a phone with a camera these days, so taking a photograph should be easy. Shefford and the surrounding villages are now bigger than ever and it would be lovely to see our entry numbers grow in a similar way. We frequently hear people who are looking at the entries say 'I could do that', so why not make this the year that you try. Depending on their age, children also have various opportunities to make things in or out of the kitchen, but they are all able to submit a photograph. If a child is a member of one of the Guiding or Scouting groups, they are also eligible to enter the appropriate Uniformed Groups class.

The person gaining the most points in the Flowers & Plants classes will now be able to win The Marriott Cup. In this section and new to the Show, we have a class for one flower in a vase, together with one vegetable. The Firework Committee Novice Tray is being used for one of the Garden Produce classes this year. We know that lots of you grow tomatoes and if you've never won first prize for them in a Show, you are eligible to enter this class. Another new cup is the Royal British Legion Cup and each year it will be given to the person who gains the most points in the photography section. In recognition of this, one of the photographs we are asking for is 'We Will Remember Them'. When at least one adult and one child from the same family enter, they are eligible for The Joyce Davies Family Cup, which is given to the family who gain the most points overall.

Our free schedules showing full details of what you can enter, are now available in the library and other outlets around Shefford or by emailing the address below. They can also be obtained at our stall at the Shefford Summer Fete on Saturday 1st June, where our fun quiz will be on sale and a free colouring competition for children can also be picked up.

If you have any questions, we are happy to help. Come and see us at the fete, email sheffordcps@gmail.com or use one of the contact numbers in the schedule.

Crime Prevention ADVICE AND INFORMATION



OUTBUILDING AND PROPERTY SECURITY

It is not always possible to store vulnerable items every evening in a secure building. However, there are ways to protect your property by building secure enclosures and covering the vulnerable items so that they are not obvious to a passer-by.

FENCES AND GATES

Legislation

Fences should conform to British Standard BS 1722 or equivalent. The addition of a hostile topping such as barbed wire or razor wire serves as an additional deterrent to climbing. Consideration should be given to the Occupier's Liability Act 1984 in relation to the height of the fence and the requirement for signage, but the rule of thumb is that on domestic premises security toppings can be used, with warning signage, at a height over 1.8 metres but not exceeding 2.0 metres. If ordinary trellising is used there is no need for warning signage. If security toppings are to be applied to a commercial property, the British Standard minimum height is 2.4 metres. If you are not sure contact your local Planning Department. More advice can be found at www.securedbydesign.com

Security toppings must be manufactured for purpose (eg, barbed wire, razor wire, roller barriers, prickler strip or anti-climb paint). If a product is not manufactured as a security topping as its primary purpose, you cannot use it as such. This includes carpet gripper, broken glass and nails.



Palisade Fencing

Palisade fencing is formed from vertical 'pales', often with pointed or splayed tops. It can be galvanised or finished with a polymer coat and is available in various thicknesses and profiles. The fixing system will affect how secure such

fencing is and the visibility (at an angle) through palisade fencing is poor. Damage can easily be repaired by replacing pales and the fence height can easily be increased by adding extension pales. Palisade is very popular but offers no greater physical security than either weldmesh or expanded metal fences of the same height.

Expanded Metal Fencing



Expanded metal fences are very rigid (if correctly installed) and can be galvanised or polyester coated for longevity. They are difficult to cut through but repairs are likely to require whole panel replacement. Consideration should be given to potential livestock movements since the mesh tends to have sharp edges that could cause injury.



Weldmesh Fencing

Welded mesh fencing can also be galvanised or coated. It offers much better visibility than either palisade or expanded metal fences and is arguably more aesthetically pleasing than both. It is difficult to cut and may be suitable for the addition of a fence alarm system.



Chainlink Fencing

Chainlink fencing offers a visible barrier but has no great resistance as it is possible to drive a vehicle through it. It is most useful for creating zones and small enclosures.

Gates are often the weak link in an otherwise secure area. Gates



should be of the same security standard as the fence that they are attached to and be fitted with anti-lift hinges.

Consideration should be given to minimising gaps between posts and in particular the clearance beneath the bottom edge of the gate(s) to prevent unauthorised access. Uneven ground beneath gates can allow a 'crawling' attack.

Gates should be secured using a quality, close-shackle padlock or fitted with a shroud to prevent leverage to a standard padlock.

For more information on security fencing visit:

www.securedbydesign.com

LOCKS

Generally, mortice or sash type locks (which are embedded within the door) offer more security than rim-type locks (that are attached to the surface of the door). Five-lever rather than two- or three-lever locks are recommended since they have over 1,000 key options, making it far less likely that a duplicate key can be used. Fitted locks used to secure doors, gates and shutters should conform to British Standard BS 3621.

Padlocks can be open shackle or close shackle. The word 'open' in relation to an open shackle padlock refers to the fact that there is a substantial gap between the centre of the shackle and the body of the padlock. It is therefore possible to attack the shackle with a crowbar or pair of bolt cutters. The space between the shackle and padlock body on a close shackle padlock is much smaller, making it difficult to attack.

When securing doors or pairs of doors (double leaf), a padlock may be used in conjunction with a locking bar or pad bar. These can be horizontal or vertical and should be securely bolted to wooden doors or alternatively welded to metal doors.

Padlocks used to secure such fittings should conform to BS EN 12320 or equivalent. Padlocks with concealed shackles or raised 'shoulders' are recommended since they offer greater resistance to attack.

For added security, padlocks can be 'shrouded' to prevent attack using leverage or cutting tools.

It is important that key control is exercised so that keys can always be accounted for and they should be stored securely when not in use. Do not be tempted to leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place – an offender can quickly find and use keys 'hidden' in this way. It is much better to leave a spare set of keys with a neighbouring farmer – you could offer to do the same for them.



Meppershall Wanderbus



Please note that as of **Monday 6th May**, a revised timetable comes into operation as per the following page.

Copies of the new timetable are available:

- On the Buses from the Drivers
- At the Village Shop
- At Rogers Bakery
- Also, you should receive a copy through your letterbox inside The Villager Magazine

There are few changes in the times but please note:

- **W10 St Neots** – will depart St Neots at 12.20 not 12.30
- **W12 Hitchin** – will be running approximately 25 minutes earlier than before (09.18/09.20) and the return leaves Hitchin at 12.10.
- **W14 Welwyn** – gives an extra 15 minutes in Welwyn and leaves at 12.15 rather than 12.00.
- **NEW ROUTE – W5 to Asda Superstore & A1 Retail Park Biggleswade**, twice per month on 2nd & 4th Friday afternoons of each month.
This route will start from outside the new Village Hall at 13.38 and return about 16.40. Why not have lunch at the Walnut Tree Café and then catch the bus for Asda Superstore or the A1 Retail Park!
- **Concessionary Travel Passes and Cash Fares are accepted on all routes.**

From April onwards we operate Excursions on the 4th Thursday of each month to various destinations – National Trust Houses, Garden Centres, Christmas Market. We can only accept cash fares on these trips, sorry travel passes are not valid. Please see details on the buses or call/e mail for details.

Please remember that our two 16-seater buses are available for **private hire** to local clubs, societies and schools.

Email: Thewanderbus@gmail.com

Meppershall - Wanderbus - Revised Timetable

As of Monday 6 th MAY 2019		“Stops at all Bus Stops on Request”	
W2 BEDFORD	- Every Wednesday	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd, all stops		09.00	RR
High St., all stops		09.01	RR
Rectory Rd		09.03	RR
Bedford - Corn Exchange (St Pauls Square)		09.45	12.00
W3 BIGGLESWADE	- Every Monday	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Road		09.27	RR
High Street, All Stops		09.28	RR
Shefford Road		09.29	RR
Biggleswade - London Rd Retail Centre		10.05	12.05
Asda Superstore		10.10	12.00
W5 A1 RETAIL PARK, BIGGLESWADE -2ND & 4TH Fridays		OUT	RETURN
Outside Entrance of New Village Hall		13.38	RR
Shefford Rd – all Stops		13.40	RR
Asda Superstore		14.11	16.05
A1 Retail Park, Biggleswade		14.16	16.00
W6 SHEFFORD	- Every Friday	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Road		09.18	RR
High Street, All stops		09.19	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		09.20	RR
Shefford - St Francis Way nr. Morrisons Supermarket		09.26	10.50
W10 ST NEOTS	- 2nd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Road, All stops		09.15	RR
High Street, All stops		09.16	RR
Rectory Road		09.17	RR
Roxton Garden Centre (On request)		10.00 OR	12.30 OR
St Neots - Market Place		10.10	12.20
W11 MILTON KEYNES	- 3rd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Road, All stops		09.08	RR
High St., All stops		09.09	RR
Rectory Road (E bound)		09.10	RR
MK - Midsummer Blvd / Debenhams & M&S		10.10	
John Lewis		10.12	13.15
W12 HITCHIN	- Every Tuesday	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd, All stops		09.18	RR
High Street, All stops		09.19	RR
Rectory Road		09.20	RR
Hitchin – All stops to Bancroft Stop D		10.05	
Hitchin – Bancroft Stop G (Outside Paperchase)			12.10
W14 WELWYN GARDEN CITY	- 1st Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Road		09.14	RR
High Street, All stops		09.15	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		09.16	RR
WGC Central Bus Station		10.00	12.15

Service open to everyone. Cash fares /concessionary travel passes accepted

EXCURSIONS – 4TH Thursday of Month – call For Details – E: Thewanderbus@gmail.com

Financial Matters by Paul Savuto

Why regular financial reviews are critical for achieving aspirations

You've set out a financial plan and followed the course of action you were advised on. Now, you can simply kick back and forget about it, right? Wrong. Effective financial planning is about much more than simply coming up with an initial strategy. Regularly going back to your plan and checking in with your financial adviser or planner is crucial for ensuring it remains suited to your needs and aspirations. It should be, at least, on an annual basis.

As with all of life's plans, things go awry, opportunities can present themselves or you may simply have a change of heart. If you fail to go back to your financial plan you may find years later that it hasn't suited your goals and priorities for some time.

It's also the perfect time to reassess your life goals. Often, the bigger picture can get lost in the day-to-day. Frequently coming back to what you want to achieve, and whether you're on track to meet aspirations should be part of your financial plan.

If you're still not convinced about the need to revisit your financial plan at regular intervals, we've got six reasons you should be doing so.

1. Your aspirations and priorities change

When you look back at what you wanted to achieve a decade ago, it's likely there's been at least some change. It's normal for your aspirations and priorities to shift over time.

You may have started with an investment portfolio that took a relatively high level of risk in a bid to deliver higher returns. However, after welcoming children, stability may now be a greater priority, for example. Likewise, as you plan for retirement you may have taken a measured approach to spending, putting money away to fund your later years. Now that you've reached the milestone, you may want to increase spending to really enjoy your life after giving up work.

Chatting with your financial adviser about what your priorities are now and how they have shifted gives you an opportunity to realign your wealth and assets with this in mind.

2. Your situation can alter

It's not just your attitude and personal goals that can change either. Perhaps you've received a pay rise at work and now have more disposable income to invest. Or maybe you've received an inheritance and your current financial plan hasn't taken this into consideration.

When your personal situation changes, it's always worth taking a step back and asking if it's something that should affect how you're handling your finances. It means you can get the most out of your money for your circumstances, helping you stay on track and maybe even exceed the targets you set previously.

3. Review performance

While constantly watching the performance of your investments isn't a good idea, as they will fluctuate, ensuring you effectively review your plan is crucial. How will you know if you're on the right path otherwise?

Setting set points when you'll review how your plan is progressing is an important element in meeting your goals. You may find that you've gone off course at some points. However, taking

action as early as possible means you can minimise the impact it has on your overall goals. It's also an opportunity to review those areas that have outperformed and could give you a nudge to restructuring assets to follow this.

4. Wider political and economic factors have an impact

Your personal situation and aspirations should be at the centre of your financial plan. But there's no denying that some factors outside of your control can have an impact too. From legislation altering the way you can access your pension at retirement and tax-efficient allowances changing, to geopolitical tension influencing investment performance. There are many factors to consider.

It's often not possible to predict all these events or the full impact they'll have. However, by regularly reviewing your financial plan, you're in a better position to prepare and respond to potential risks and opportunities.

5. Improve your confidence in your finances

If you ever feel worried about your money or unsure if you're making the right financial decision, touching base with your financial planner can help. The world of finance can seem complex and ever-changing. As a result, you may not be certain about whether a decision is the right one, even if it's something you've previously covered in a financial plan put together some years ago.

The more you assess your finances and engage with your plan, the more confidence you'll feel with making decisions. It's a process that can help give you peace of mind that you're taking steps towards the financial independence you want.

6. Effective estate planning

While passing away isn't something anyone wants to think about, Inheritance Tax and estate planning is an important part of the financial planning process. As your circumstances, views, and wealth change, it's natural that what you want to happen to your estate will change too. A review is a perfect time to think about your financial plan beyond our life, who would you want to benefit from your wealth?

We pride ourselves on regular planning meetings to make sure you are on track to achieve your goals.

DGS are Independent, whole of market and Chartered. I am also a Chartered Financial Planner with over 20 years financial services experience, so you are in safe hands. For a free review of your current plans and financial situation, please contact me, Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499595 or email ps@dgsifa.com, I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814.



NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

29 April–5 May 2019

National Gardening Week is this month; simply by spending some time in the garden can provide time for you to 'take notice' and 'get active' – two out of five ways to wellbeing! (shown below)



There is much research evidence to show that taking part in nature-based activities can help to significantly improve physical and mental health. In particular, it can contribute to a reduction in levels of anxiety, stress and depression. In one study by Mind charity, 95% of participants interviewed said their mood improved after spending time outside, changing from depressed, stressed, and anxious to calmer and more balanced.

Why not take this opportunity to start getting your garden ready for summer by giving it some much needed TLC? The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) advise that the top 10 jobs to do in the garden this month are:

1. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
7. Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
8. Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
10. Prune bush and climbing roses

For further information on National Gardening Week, getting involved, or any gardening tips you can visit the RHS website –

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/national-gardening-week>

Happy gardening! #NationalGardeningWeek

If you would like to know more about mental health you can visit the [Mind](http://www.mind.org.uk) website - <http://www.mind.org.uk>

'Trugs & Trowels' Campton Gardening Club

Our next meetings will be on: -

Monday, 13th May 2019

A talk on 'Auriculas – History & Care'

by Pops Plants 2

Monday, 10th June 2019

'Bonsai – History & Care'

Sir John Trinder (Chairman of the Bedfordshire Bonsai Society) will be giving a talk and demonstration on trimming a starter tree; this will be raffled off at the end of the evening.

Campton Village Hall, 7.30-9.00pm

Everyone Welcome - Admission £3

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



Meppershall Photographic Forum

The first meeting attracted several seasoned photographers and a very capable novice to SLR cameras.

Chatter never stopped because, to a background of their photos displayed on a 55" HD TV - a novelty for all present, cameras and equipment were brought out and disseminated. Common ground emerged as Shuttleworth waxed large in the conversation, be it the cafe, planes, shows, bikers meeting place or use of the children's' play area.

The wide-ranging subject matter of the photos/videos on display gave cause for discussion, certainly giving rise to ideas for those present as to different ways of taking photos and presenting them.

Discussion continues variously on Facebook.

Next Forum is on Monday 8th July at 6.30pm, Village Hall. All villagers with an interest in photography welcome, with or without cameras, just drop in for a while. Get some ideas for summer snapping perhaps?

Queries to: athought@f2s.com

John Chapman

WARDEN ABBEY

The community vineyard



**Did you know Bedfordshire's medieval vineyard is now
an exciting community project?**

This beautiful field near Old Warden was first planted by monks at Warden Abbey. Centuries later, the "Lyttel Vineyard" was re-planted and now produces award-winning wines.

Today, it's an army of volunteers who tend the vines all year round as well as run tours, school visits, social & therapeutic horticulture, wildlife and heritage projects.

OPEN FOR TOURS MAY TO SEPTEMBER

Coming up - English Wine Week Tours - Sat 25th May

See website for tour dates & booking, vouchers, gifts and stockists

07981 113714 wardenvineyard.org.uk



Local . Ethical . Award-winning



Spring has definitely sprung at The Eco Lodges and our team has been busy splitting out the saplings around the site and moving them to give the young trees room to grow. We only plant native species on site and are working to develop more hedgerows to provide cover and nesting sites for wildlife. The range of birds that visit our feeders at The Eco Lodges is impressive and we love being able to watch flocks of long tailed tits, coal tits, blue tits and chaffinches as well as spotting the occasional tree creeper and wood pecker. The feeders are positioned in front of The Nest windows and so can be viewed from the comfort of our sofas during our cafes!

For the second year running we are thrilled to be a part of Greensand Country Festival which takes place from the 1st to 31st May and will encompass a wide variety of events across Greensand Country (from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay). The Festival is a celebration of Greensand Country and aims to encourage those living in this distinct landscape to get out and explore the beautiful countryside on their doorstep. Events include open gardens, churchyard tours, history talk, nature walks, treasure trails, photo & poetry workshops, children's activities and more. For a full listing of our events please see www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events

Clophill Heritage Trust are actively seeking new volunteers for the 2019 year, if you would like to meet new people and have some time spare we would love to hear from you, there is no minimum time commitment so if you just have an hour a year we would still love to hear from you! Volunteer opportunities include helping at events / cafes, gardening and site upkeep, history tours, marketing and more. We are a friendly team and welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please contact one of the Wardens on 07935 911207 or email Info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk

And remember, you can book a tour of Old St Mary's Church & Tower at any time by going to www.ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk/book-a-tower-tour

Next Events:

04	Sat May	Opening of Geology Wall	More Info & Book
26	Sun May	Sunday Teas	More Info & Book
27	Mon May	Teddy Bear Hunt	More Info & Book
30	Thu May	Guided Walk - Plant Identification	More Info & Book
31	Fri May	Earth Day Open Day	More Info & Book

Sit+Stretch+Relax Group

This class is for those who have restricted mobility. We will sit and stretch slowly to improve our flexibility, breathing + posture.
Wheel chair users welcome.

All welcome to just turn up and join in

Every 2nd Tuesday 10:00 am – 10:40 am

@Walnut Tree Cafe, Meppershall Village Hall

No Fee but any Donations will be given to Meppershall Village Groups.

Starts: May 14th and then June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 10, etc.

Contact: Thelma McNairn (*Certified Iyengar Yoga Teacher*)
Tel. 01462 851243 Email : thelmayoga@aol.com



Book Club

Starting **Tuesday 21st May** in the Walnut Tree Cafe.

10am to 12noon on the 3rd Tuesday each month.

Bring along the book you are reading.

The Hash House Harriers

Cross-country Jogging, Walking and Social Clubs

Whilst walking our wonderful Chiltern countryside footpaths during the weekends and holidays, have you ever seen small blobs of a white or coloured powder (flour) dotted along the footpaths, and then seen circles, arrows, tees and other strange signs where footpaths intersect? Or, indeed, seen similar chalk marks along roadsides? You might have even come across us on Sunday mornings, or Monday evenings running in all weathers, and thought to yourself; “Who are these mixed bunch of nutters?” as we disappear into the distance with runners in the front calling; “On On!”

If you have, then we are the ones responsible! The strange marks are what we use to set our cross-country trails. So, they are not illicit marks to target property, they are bio-degradable, wash away after a few days and certainly not poisonous to pets, wildlife or livestock.

Our hobby is a healthy, outdoor pursuit, that takes the form of a paper chase, with a ‘Hare’ responsible for laying a cunning trail with the objective to test the ‘Hounds’ ability in seeking out the correct route.

We follow the Countryside Code and use the latest versions of OS Maps and local Parish footpath maps to plan our trails, including making reconnaissance visits prior to the run date. Responsibility lays with the ‘Hare’ to ensure that the trail is clearly defined, informing farmers, dog walkers and others met en-route, of what she or he is doing. In the majority of instances, trails are laid from and finish at a public house, at other times trails can be laid from car parks at local beauty spots. However, due the continuing closure of village pubs, the former is sadly becoming a necessity.

The actual marking of the trail is laid either on the Saturday afternoon before a Sunday morning run, and on the Sunday afternoon before a Monday evening run, so it is essential that the marks stay in place for a maximum of one and half days after which they naturally degrade.

So why don’t you join us on a trail? We meet weekly across the region and welcome all to join us for a one hour walk, jog or run. We have a wide range of ages joining us each week and welcome well-behaved dogs, although these need to be kept under full control and remain the responsibility of the owners.

Outside our weekly run, we also organise fun activities including trips out, meals, Summer and Christmas celebrations, bowling, Hikes, punting and away weekends. This year we will be visiting the Lincolnshire Wolds and travelling further afield to The Algarve.

Full details, including the location of our next trail, can be found on our website www.h5hashers.org.uk.

Birthday Greetings

Josie Lane will be 94

Doreen Pritchard will be 91

Ken Male will be 91

Fifi Simkins will be 85

Mary Mitchell will be 84

Queen Victoria will be 200

Congratulations to Mick Trundle who celebrated his 80th Birthday last month. Everyone at The Meppershall Messenger – and probably the whole village! – sends love and very best wishes with great pride in Mick as a grand Meppershall character.

Here he is with his Messenger cake...



GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbour Group)

The GNOMES Coffee Morning will be from 1030 to 1130 on
Thursday 9th May in the Walnut Tree Cafe.

All are welcome to come along to meet up and chat.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday May 18th at
Meppershall Village Hall commencing at 10.00am.

Agenda available by request from gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org
from 1st May 2019.

Summerfield Miniature Railway
Bedford Model Engineering Society
Off the A600 just past Haynes Turn
Public Running Days in 2019 from 10.30 AM to 4 PM

MARCH	Sunday 31 st	AUGUST	Wednesday 7 th *	
APRIL	Wednesday 10 th (half term) *		Wednesday 14 th *	
	Sunday 21 st		Sunday 25 th	
	Monday 22 nd		Monday 26 th (Bank Holiday)	
	Sunday 5 th	SEPTEMBER	Sunday 1 st	
MAY	Monday 6 th (Bank Holiday)		Sunday 22 nd	
	Sunday 26 th	OCTOBER	Sunday 13 th	
	Monday 27 th (Bank Holiday)		Wednesday 23 rd (half term) *	
	Wednesday 29 th (half term) *		Sunday 27 th	
JUNE	Sunday 9 th	DECEMBER	SANTA SPECIALS	
	Sunday 23 rd		PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL:	
JULY	Sunday 7 th		NB	Saturday & Sunday 7 th & 8 th
	Sunday 21 st	Booking for Santa Specials opens on Sept 1 st and places sell out very quickly		
	Wednesday 24 th *			For further information on any event, see our website: www.bedfordmes.co.uk
	Wednesday 31 st *			
*On our Wednesday openings, only limited catering will be available.				

Useful Contacts

DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School and Post Office/Village Stores

DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

NHS Direct

111

Dr. Cakebread & Ptrs

Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS

Appointments

01462 810034

General queries, prescriptions etc.

01462 818620

Drs. Collins, Garragher and Neal

109 Station Rd, Lower Stondon, SG16 6JJ

01462 850305

Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St, Shefford

01462 814020

Shams Moopen Dental

Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford

01462 648465

Lloyds Chemists, 7 High St, Shefford

01462 813283

Shefford Pharmacy

Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive

01462 818633

Police:

Emergency 999, non-emergency 101

Hospitals

Bedford Hospital

01234 355122

Lister Hospital, Stevenage

01438 314333

Utilities

Gas Emergency

0800 111999

Anglian Water

03457 145145

Electrical (power cuts, overhead cable down etc)

0800 838838

CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL

0300 300 8301

CBC councillors:

Tony Brown

anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Mark Liddiard

mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Parish Council Clerk: Alessandra Marabese

clerk@meppershall.org

Member of Parliament: Nadine Dorries

dorriesn@parliament.uk

St Marys Church

Rev. Veronica Goodman, The Rectory, Church Road
(see Messenger for full details)

01462 339962

Library

High St, Shefford
Tues - Fri 9 - 6, Sat 9 – 4, closed Mon & Sun

0300 300 8067

Whitbread Wanderbus service

Stephanie Kirby

thewanderbus@gmail.com

Shops

Ansells Village Stores & Post Office, High Street
Rogers Bakery, High Street

01462 811252

01462 813398

Mobile Fish & Chips, Tuesdays 3.30 -7.00, Sugar Loaf car park

Schools

Meppershall Academy, High Street
Meppershall Pre School Village Hall Tamsin Osborn
meppershallps@gmail.com

01462 813293

07816 357159

Robert Bloomfield, Shefford

01462 628800

Samuel Whitbread, Shefford

01462 629900

Henlow Academy

01462 813733

Redborne Upper, Ampthill

01525 404462

Organisations

Meppershall Players, Karen Mitchell
Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES)
Meppershall Brownies, Suzanne Brightwell
Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths
Shefford Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)
Kathy Georgiou

01462 816366

07760 793921

07817 392325

07957 462519

01462 629313

Emergency Plumber

D.R.Eaton (Campton)

07778 447873

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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Collating Dates - 2019	
June Issue	May 28 (Tues)
July Issue	July 1
Aug/Sept Issue	July 29

Please note that dates in the above table show when collating will take place, at 2.45 pm in the Sugar Loaf, for the corresponding month, displayed to the left. The issue being collated usually relates to the following month.