

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



JULY 2004

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 20 Issue 4

July 2004

CONTENTS

Village News	1 - 14
Calendar of Forthcoming Events	15
Who's Who & Village Organisations	16 - 18
Church News	19 - 22
Other	23 - 24

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Distribution Manager:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road	816177

The deadline for articles for the double issue August/September of the magazine is 12th July 2004. Please either leave them at the Post Office or drop them through my letter box at 7 Brookmead. Thank you.

Linda Gold
Editor

Dear Editor . . .

PLEASE! Can something be done concerning the speed of vehicles travelling along the roads in our Village. There are 30 mph signs, but one can only assume some drivers cannot read! The junction of Rectory Road, Campton Road and High Street are particularly hazardous with some vehicles failing to stop or even look before proceeding on their way. This junction is also used as a “turn around” after dropping off children for school. The pavements are narrow and some do not even exist, can something be done please before a tragedy occurs.

A motor cyclist took the corner of Rectory Road too fast the other day and ended up in someone’s front garden, via the fence! Fortunately the small child that lives at the house was not in the front garden at the time! Need I say more??!

There is **STILL** a problem with dog fouling, particularly down Fildyke Road. It seems that certain dog owners believe it is not their duty to pick up their own dog mess. Just because you walk your dog late at night or early in the morning doesn’t mean that you can get away with it and you are not seen. **PLEASE** clear it up!

PROTEST NOW !!!

DO YOU REALISE THAT HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTIONS IN OUR AREA WILL BE EVERY TWO WEEKS FROM OCTOBER 2004? YET ANOTHER COUNCIL SERVICE GOING. THIS IS 2004 NOT 1804!

DO NOT GO HOME AND JUST CLOSE YOUR DOOR. LET'S TRY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOUR OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL, PLEASE TAKE A SHORT TIME TO FILL IN THE SLIP BELOW AND RETURN IT TO MEPPERSHALL POST OFFICE & STORES FOR ME TO COLLECT. THANK YOU.

Name:

Address:

Comments:

Signed:



MEPPERSHALL FETE

Saturday 10th July 2004

Once again, the Meppershall Fete will be happening at Meppershall Stores

Every organisation and/or charity based in or near Meppershall is invited to come along and run their own stall, at no charge.



**Please contact Steve at
Meppershall Stores
01462 811252**

This is your chance to join in with a village activity and meet all your neighbours.

CAN YOU HELP?

As you all know, the Post Office Fete is being held on Saturday 10th July. All local organisations and/or charities will be having stalls there and the Meppershall Messenger will be holding a raffle on the day.

We would very much appreciate donations for raffle prizes. Perhaps you could all contribute something to make this a successful day. The money raised from the raffle will go towards the ever increasing costs of producing the Messenger which, as you all know, is a free publication sent to every house in Meppershall. Everyone who is involved in the Messenger does so on a completely voluntary basis. This is your chance to contribute. Steve and Carolyn have very kindly agreed that any donations can be left at the shop. Many thanks.

We need a volunteer to help head the team of collators for the Meppershall Messenger. Brian Bellamy has done the job for a considerable time, but due to other commitments can no longer take it on. The job is shared, so it is only one afternoon every other month. If anyone can help, please contact me, Linda Gold, on 01462 811970 for more information. Thank you.

CRIME INCIDENTS IN MEPPERSHALL

1/5/04 - 31/5/04

- 2.5.04 - 6.5.04 Burglary Other Building (barn)
Hoo Road
- 21.5.04 Criminal Damage m/veh (bodywork)
The Acres (night time)
- 24.5.04 Domestic Assault
Shefford Road (night time)
Offender arrested and cautioned
-
-

BROWNIES 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTIES

We are getting ready to take part in a District birthday party with other Brownies from the area but we would like to hold our own party and invite everyone who has ever been a Brownie or a Brownie Guider or helped at Brownies in any way. The current Brownies want to talk to Brownies from different times about what they wore, what games they played and what they did at Brownies. Everyone is very welcome. Please drop in for tea, a chat and a piece of Birthday cake. Village Hall, Monday 5th July, 6.30 - 7.30pm

Christine Elbourne
Brown Owl

On Thursday 3rd June the Evergreens held their 42nd Birthday party. Refreshments including a lovely cake were donated by Mary and Roger at the Bakery. Many thanks to them.

New members are always welcome. We meet in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on alternate Thursdays.



MISSING

SOOTY'S GONE !! Please help.

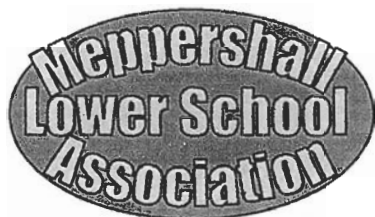
Sooty, that loveable bear, has gone missing from the Post Office Counter.

He used to sit there quite happily day after day, collecting change that people kindly donated to the RNIB. In fact, he was full up with change!

Maybe he felt lonely without his mate Sweep and went off in search of his friend, but I'm sure he would have let someone know. Perhaps, on a more sinister note, he was (dare I say it) kidnapped, but to date no ransom note has been received. It is a complete mystery.

If you should see him, or indeed receive any information concerning his whereabouts, please let one of the staff at the Post Office or Meppershall Stores know. We would all like to see him returned home safely.

Thank you.



Summer B.B.Q. and Games

Sat 17th July 2004

2pm to 5pm

No Entry Fee

Including:

Roller Racers
Inflatable Assault Course
Raffle
B.B.Q. and Bar
Other Refreshments
Beat the Goalie
Coconut Shy
And loads more...

Please come along and support our school.

After the sell-out performances of West Side Story last year and former student Ben Whishaw's acclaimed performance of Hamlet in London's Old Vic, Samuel Whitbread College's Performing Arts Department is offering something different this July.

In Shakespeare's day when everything was hand-written and photocopiers didn't exist, no actor was given a complete copy of the play they were acting in because the playwright couldn't risk it being lost. Each actor would be given just their own lines and the final three words of the lines spoken before their part to give them a cue. They could go away and learn their lines and then 24 hours before the play opened to the public, the cast would be gathered together, told the play's name and would put it together ready to perform to the public.

This July, students in the drama extension group will be going back to the Elizabethan way of producing a play and will be given 24 hours to put their play together. We hope it will be an exciting play for the students to perform in and for the audience to watch. The mystery Shakespeare play (we can't tell you what it is until you arrive for the performance!) will be performed on **Saturday 10th July at 7pm.**

In addition there will be a Drama Festival showcasing a variety of short sketches and plays performed by GCSE Drama students on **Wednesday 7th July and Thursday 8th July at 7pm.** Please look out for more information on these and the Dance Festival (date to be announced) on posters.

Tickets will be priced at £4 (concessions available) and will be on sale from the Main Office at the college from 21st June or phone 629900. All profits will support the students' performance at the Edinburgh Festival this August.

Thank you

We wish to say a big thank you to Michelle Driver for delivering our Messengers in Hoo Road during the past years. Michelle and her family are leaving our village to live in New Zealand, and we wish them every happiness in their new life out there.

We welcome Mrs. Jan Thomas to our distribution team, who will take over from Michelle.

Also, another big thank you to Mrs. Jill Tompson who has been delivering in Orchard Close for many years, and would now like to take a rest. Mrs. Diane Lancaster has kindly agreed to deliver for us and welcome her to the team too.

Congratulations

Sharon and David Watson are delighted to announce the happy arrival of baby Alison Louise on Monday 14th June. Both mother and baby are doing well.

THOUGHTS ON D DAY

Despite the fact I was born in 1947, I do appreciate what sacrifices were made. We live in a village with at least two people who saved the world. One was a pilot of, I believe, a Spitfire and the other worked in Dover on the Radar. I will not embarrass them, but they will know who they are. We should be grateful to them and all the others who gave so much.

EDWARD HARRIS'S STORY

Eddie Harris is a Meppershall man who now lives in Campton. He volunteered for Naval Service in 1942 aged 17 ½, but it was as a Naval Commando and gunner that he saw action on 6th June 1944. He landed on D Day and such was the chaos he and his comrades had to swim in, with full kit, as the Landing Craft had been targeted by enemy fire. By the time he arrived on Sword Beach he found a great deal of enemy resistance. His first task was to retrieve bodies of men who had died in the onslaught, picking up corpses turned yellow by immersion in the sea, and setting them apart from the able-bodied and leaving them to be blessed by the Padre, who was also giving solace to the dying.

Towards the evening, Eddie was entrenched on the beach firing at the German defences. Every third bullet was a tracer that gave away his position to the Germans. There was a German in the chapel above the cliffs, firing at the troops on Sword, picking off the men landing on the beach and those defending the beach, like Eddie, and successfully killing and wounding them, until the chapel was blown up by the British.

Eddie took a direct hit from one of the two German planes buzzing the beach, which shattered his kneecap and rendered the rest of his leg useless. By dragging his bad leg along the beach he managed to find shelter under the wreckage of a boat which afforded him some cover. He and his mate Ginger had become separated, but Eddie could hear Ginger calling for his mother. That was the last he heard of Ginger.

Fortunately a stretcher party found Eddie barely conscious and in horrific pain. So bad was his injury and the shock which had set in, that he cannot remember clearly quite what happened, but knows he was taken to a Hospital Ship called MAUWI from New Zealand. Later he was sent to no fewer than four hospitals in his bid to recover. At Portsmouth his knee was operated upon and he was transferred to Basingstoke. Then he was sent to Penarth in Wales, and finally to City Lodge Hospital Cardiff. His knee was never the same again and the injury has troubled him to this day.

In the meantime, Eddie's mother in Meppershall had received a telegram informing her that Eddie has died in the D Day landings, as so many did. Fortunately, this was rectified and his mother and sisters went down to Cardiff to see him, thrilled to know that he was alive.

Through long years he had told very little of his ordeal, as it is a nightmarish experience for him to recall D Day, but with extended coverage of the 60th anniversary, he has told his story again and the stories of those like Ginger, who Eddie never heard of again.

We owe Eddie a debt of gratitude that will be enshrined in history. Personally, he was not eager to have his story in print, but his wife Joyce and family feel that it is important to recognise what he did for his country and for the freedom from dictatorship we now enjoy. This is Eddie's story and we thank him and salute him for what he went through on our behalf.

MEPPERSHALL W.I. May 2004



President, Barbara Horwood, welcomed 23 members to the June meeting.

A new secretary has at last been appointed to W.I. House at Bedford and new opening times have been announced.

Future events in the area include a Silver Band concert on Friday 10th September at the Addison Centre, Kempston at 7.30pm cost £9 per head, open to non-members. A visit to Jane Austen's house and Whitchurch Silk Mill at Chawton, Hampshire on 2nd October, cost £23.50 which includes a cream tea but not lunch. There will be a craft festival at Wrest Park, Silsoe on 28th, 29th and 30th August details available. A reminder of the Flower Festival at Elstow Abbey on 18th, 19th and 20th June, entry £2 per person, refreshments available. Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace on Friday 8th October at £18.50 each including entry, more details next month.

Our darts team unfortunately lost 5-0 to Shefford in their last match.

We hope to have a produce and plant stall at the Village Fete on Saturday 10th July and to look after the refreshments, but this is to be confirmed.

Our speaker for the evening was Mrs. E. Whitehead on the subject of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. She was accompanied by Donna with a dog called Coco. Donna socialises puppies prior to their training, but Coco unfortunately has a health problem that makes her unsuitable for further training. Mrs. Whitehead explained the history of hearing dogs which was founded in America 22 years ago and built up in England from two people starting in their home. One in seven people suffer from hearing problems of varying degrees and many lives are transformed after acquiring a hearing dog, allowing them to regain their independence and confidence after leading very isolated lives. 75% of hearing dogs are rescue dogs and they have to be taught to respond to sign language and the specific sounds relating to the person and the home in which they will live.

Our speaker at the July meeting on Wednesday 14th will be Miss Doody on the subject of Well Dressing. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

MEPPERSHALL W.I.

SUMMER OUTING
to

CAPEL MANOR GARDENS, ENFIELD

on

WEDNESDAY 11TH AUGUST 2004

Leaving Meppershall Village Hall at 10.15am and departing
Gardens at 4pm

Cost: £10 per person

CAPEL MANOR has 30 acres of themed gardens:
Japanese Garden, Rock Garden with Koi Carp, Italian Maze,
Woodland Walk, Sensory and Victorian Garden and many
more, plus plant sales.

Restaurant serving hot or cold food.
There is a picnic area if you wish to take a packed lunch.

Contact Joyce on 815283
or Barbara on 816177

*Calendar of
Forthcoming Events*

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<i>Saturday 3rd July</i>	<i>St. Mary's Gift Weekend</i>	
<i>Sunday 4th July</i>		
<i>Monday 5th July</i>	<i>Brownies 90th Birthday Parties</i>	<i>6.30 - 7.30pm</i>
	<i>Village Hall</i>	
<i>Saturday 10th July</i>	<i>Meppershall Fete at Meppershall Stores</i>	
<i>Monday 12th July</i>	<i>Bible Society Action Group</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>
	<i>3 Pinemead, Shefford</i>	
<i>Saturday 17th July</i>	<i>Summer BBQ and Games</i>	<i>2pm - 5pm</i>
	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i>	
<i>11th August</i>	<i>Meppershall W.I. Summer Outing</i>	
	<i>Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield</i>	
<i>Saturday 9th October</i>	<i>Friends of St. Mary</i>	
	<i>Woburn Sands Band Evening</i>	

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*Luxury Pinelodge set in a stunning woodland park in the heart of the
beautiful Derbyshire Countryside*

The lodge sleeps 4, has 2 separate bedrooms and is furnished to a very high standard. Ideal for families and couples alike. Set in 44 acres of woodland, facilities include an indoor heated swimming pool, superb pub serving excellent food, games room, adventure playground, soft play area, mini-golf, tennis, shop and bike hire.

Situated between Matlock and Bakewell, its only a short drive to many attractions including Alton Towers, Heights of Abraham, Chatsworth House, Dovedale and Speedwell Cavern. Darwin Forest Country Park is open all year round. Very competitive rates for "off peak" bookings between 1 November and 1 April. Full weeks or short breaks available.

For more information either 3-mail to pinelodgedarwinpark@hotmail.com or phone Gill on 01462 812613 or Wendy on 01462 817080.

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WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN MEPPERSHALL

CHURCHES

St. Mary's Parish Church

Rector:	Rev. John Harper	
	The Rectory, Church Road	813334
Church Wardens:	Mr. B. Griffith, 61 Hoo Road	813354
	Mrs. M. Bass, 37 High Street	851609

Parochial Church Council

Secretary:	Mrs. Linda Chillman	
	76 Shefford Road	850543
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Bartlett, 14 Taylors Close	811191

Methodist Chapel

Minister:	Rev. P. Snelson, 79 Amphill Rd, Shefford	813284
Letting Secretary:	Mrs. J. Taylor, 6 Stondon Road	814387

Roman Catholic Church

Priest:	Father Bennie Noonan	813436
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SCHOOLS

Meppershall Lower School:	Head	Mrs. Murray	813293
Henlow Middle School:	Head	Mr. Payne	813733
Samuel Whitbread Upper School & Community College			
	Head	Mr. Owen	629900
Adult Education Tutor		Mrs. J. Robinson	629906

DOCTORS

Cakebread, Baldock, Bietzk, Griffith & Baxter	Appointments Only	819200
The Health Centre, Iveldale Drive, Shefford	All other enquiries	814899
Puritz & Collins, The Surgery, 109 Station Road, Lower Stondon		850305

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

M.P. Jonathan Sayeed (Conservative), House of Commons, London		0207 2915142
County Councillor - Mr. Alan Burnage, 23 Broad Street, Clifton		811681
District Councillor - Mr. Paul Carne, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall		857803
	Email: paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk	
	Fax: 01462 857804	
District Councillor - Mr. Tony Rogers, 3 Poppyhill, Henlow		816305
	Email: tony.rogers@midbeds.gov.uk	
	Fax: 01462 816510	
Parish Council meets first Wednesday in month, Methodist Chapel at 7.45pm		
Chairman: Mr. P. Chapman, 9 Brookside		813497
Clerk: Mr. C.J. Waghorn, 19 Icknield Green, Letchworth, Herts.		637531
	Email: waggers.uk@ntlworld.com	

SHOPS

Roger's Bakery & General Store (next to School)		813398
	Mon-Fri 8.15am - 5.30pm Sat. 8.00am - 1.30pm	
Post Office & Village Store, 6 High Street		811252
Post Office:	Mon-Fri. 9.00am - 1pm & 2pm - 5.30pm Half day Sat.	
Shop:	Mon.-Thurs 6.00am - 6pm, Friday 6.00am - 7pm	
	Saturday 6.30am - 7pm Sunday 6.30am - 1pm	

PUB

Ron and Doreen - Sugar Loaf Public House, 25 High Street	857991
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ORGANISATIONS

Meppershall Village Hall Committee

Chairman:	Mr. Paul Carne, 6 Hoo Road	813305
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch	817014
Booking Secretary:	Mrs. C. Turner, 24 Orchard Close	812791
Village Hall Phone Number:		817359

Babysitting Circle Organiser: Mrs. Sharon Edwards 814326

Brownies Mondays at 6pm - 7.30pm Village Hall

Brown Owl:	Mrs. C. Elbourne	811964
Snowy Owl:	Mrs. Diane Lancaster	812108

Beavers Fridays at 6pm - 7.15pm Stondon Village Hall

Beaver Scout Leader:	Mr. Steve Mann	816218
Beaver Scout Leader:	Mrs. Hayley Henshall	817446

Bingo Fridays at 7pm Village Hall

Conservative Association

Chairman:	Mr. I. McLuskie	813417
Secretary:	Mrs. G. Bird	811260

Cubs

Red Pack	Wednesdays	6.45pm	Mr. D. Cousins	811441
1st Stondon	Thursdays	7pm - 8.30pm	Mrs. Alison Hammond	811548

Evergreen Alternate Thursdays at 2.30pm Village Hall
(Over 60s) Miss E. Ashton (Poppy), 20 Fildyke Road 07931 636544

Friends of St. Mary's Church

Chairman:	Mr. T. Thorley, 9 Hoo Road	813357
Secretary:	Mrs. M. Evesham, 107 High Street	814291
Treasurer:	Mr. H. Davies, 15 Hoo Road	812127

Shefford Leisure Group Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street 851397

Lions Club of Shefford Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street 851397

Mepp'shall Players Amateur Dramatic Society

Contact:	Mr. Frank Keen	815387
Minutes Secretary:	Ms. Jenny Moore	01582 503381
Correspondence Secretary:	Helen Gillett	816734
Treasurer:	Mr. Frank Keen	815387

Meppershall School Association

Chairman:	Louise Palmer	850113
Secretary:	Dawn Addams	814707

Meppershall Social Club See Notice Board for opening times

Chairman:	Mr. G.R. Walker, 37 Brookmead	815183
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Meppershall Baby & Toddler Group Tuesdays at 2pm - 3.30pm Village Hall
 Chairman: Claire Penney, 3 Gregory Close 850987
 Secretary: Louise Hutson, 4 Coneygate 814148
 Treasurer: Mrs. A. Hamson, 22 Eisenhower Road, Shefford 816896

Playgroup Monday - Friday at 9.30am - 12 noon Village Hall
 Chairman: Mrs. Julie Stock 817371
 Secretary: Mrs. Michele Braumand 816600
 Registrar: Mrs. Viv Thome 850821

Tennis (at Langford) - Neil Franklin 815735

Womens Institute 2nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm Village Hall
 President: Mrs. Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road 816177

Secretary: Mrs. Doreen Pritchard
 Press Secretary: Miss Betty Mather

AMENITIES

Banks Barclays Bank, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford 01438 202122
 Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Dentist Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford 814020

Electrician Mr. R.A. Price, 118 Spring Drive, Stevenage 01438 361715
 Mobile: 07710 821878

Fishmonger Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) - Thurs. Approx 11.45am

Greengrocer Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) - Fridays 2pm - 6pm 711802

Hedgehog Rescue Beds & Herts Hedgehog Rescue - call Jeanette 711370

Mobile Library Alternate Wednesdays:
 Nursing Home 10.00 Rectory Road 10.25
 High Street/School 10.50 High Street/Taliesen 11.10
 Village Hall 11.30 Fildyke Road 12.00
 Shefford Road 12.25

Library High Street, Shefford 639070

Kennels/Cattery Wayside Kennels & Cattery, Chapel Road 813261

Newspapers Meppershall Post Office & Stores 811252

Plumber Alan R. Dellar 814584

Police Emergencies/Police attendance required Or 01234 841212
 Shefford Police Post (non-emergencies) 01582 471212
 01234 841212

Livery Yard & Training Centre Caroline Carter, Centre Line Dressage
 Fildyke Road, Meppershall 07747 686118

Taxi Gilly of Biggleswade 01767 601253

Whitbread Wanderbus 850075

St. Mary's Parish Church Meppershall

Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall

01462 3813334

Churchwardens

Brenda Wright 816446 and Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street

Services in July

Sunday 4th	8.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong and Thanksgiving for Gift Weekend
Sunday 11th	8.30am 11am	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 18th	8.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 25th	8.30am 11am	Holy Communion Family Communion and Baptism - Abby Bradshaw

There is also a service of Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) every Wednesday morning at 10.30am and the night time service of Compline is held every Friday at 7.30pm. Morning prayer is normally said each weekday at 7am and at 9.30am on Saturdays.

Also in July:

Saturday 17th	2pm	Wedding of Rachel Akenbrook and David Main
Tuesday 20th	1.45pm	Meppershall School Leavers Service with the Bishop of Bedford.

Dear Friends,

My first month as Rector has flown by and it has been so good to meet many friendly faces and to discover a little more of this delightful corner of God's creation. Sandra and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting people from Shefford and Meppershall at our Open Day, and extend an invitation to others to call in to say hello whenever they wish (if you call in the evening ours is a wonderful spot for sunset watching!).

St. Mary's Gift Weekend is on Saturday and Sunday 3rd/4th July. This year we will be launching an appeal to ensure that our beautiful and ancient parish Church will continue to serve the people of Meppershall for many years to come. In spite of good fabric work achieved over recent years, we have been advised that very major restoration work will need to be tackled over the coming five years or so, and the consequent costs will be substantial. Naturally we will be seeking grant aid from various sources, but in the process we will need to assure potential donors that the local community is doing all it can to make its own contribution. Your donations at the Gift Weekend will all be directed to this cause, and will be very gratefully received. If you are a taxpayer, please add name and address so that St. Mary's can benefit by claiming back tax paid through the Gift Aid Scheme. Displays of the work we need to tackle will be on show over the weekend, as will some of our ancient possessions and registers. Teas will be served from 2pm - 4pm each afternoon and as last year the more adventurous Teddy Bears will be abseiling from the Tower - so please invite them to come with you (50p a time). There will also be displays of art work from children at Meppershall School and the Village Playgroup. The weekend will end with a Thanksgiving Evensong at 6pm.

Out and About:

Shefford Churches invite you to a service for Healing and Wholeness at St. Francis Catholic Church on Tuesday 13th July at 7.30pm. This will include opportunity to receive prayer for individual need or on behalf of others.

SERVICES IN MEPPERSHALL METHODIST CHURCH

July 2004

4th	Worship and Sunday Club	Mr. Ragless	11am
18th	Sacrament and Sunday Club	Rev. Snelson	11am

There will be no services in Meppershall Chapel in AUGUST.

Services will recommence in the Chapel in early SEPTEMBER. Please see September's Messenger for details. Meanwhile, Shefford Methodist Church has Worship each Sunday at 9.30am and you will be made most welcome.

The holiday season is upon us and, as I write, Euro 2004 is poised to burst onto our screens as England take on France on Sunday. There is almost a carnival atmosphere around with more St. George's flags about than people, all showing support for the National Team, which is all to the good. Right now everyone is good-natured and rightly proud of their team. Hopefully, this spirit of toleration of fair play and mutual respect will prevail whatever the outcome.

Have some serious fun on your holidays, wherever you go and come home bursting with energy and optimism.

God Bless.

Julie Taylor

KATIE SNELSON

Many congratulations to Katie Snelson who is a talented young Gymnast. She and her partner, David Mason, came 7th in the UK National Finals of the mixed pairs under 13 in the Schools Sports Acrobatics, representing Robert Bloomfield Middle School in Shefford. She also won a Gold Medal in the Eastern Region finals, and took a Silver with her partner Lucy Keens, in the Womens' pairs in the Buckingham Open competition. This not only recognises her aptitude but the hard practice she must undergo before these competitions. In addition, she needs to be a team player working together with her partners to the best effect. We wish her well in the future competitions and commend her for her skills and talent.

"HEROES" Children's Holiday Club - Shefford Methodist Church

In the past we have brought you Story Keepers, The Adventures of Moses, and Seaside Rock. This summer we invite you to "Heroes".

Tuesday 24th - Friday 27th August 10am - 12 noon for ages 5 to 12

Join us on our adventures with some of the greatest heroes of all time; Samson the Strong Man, Jonah the Escape Artist, Daniel the Lion Tamer and David the Giant Killer.

A variety of stories, songs, games, challenges, craft, cooking and lots of fun. Keep an eye out for our posters and registration forms which we will distribute at the beginning of July. Details from Phil and Becky Snelson, telephone 01462 813284.

Hope to see everyone there in August.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH **HIGH STREET, SHEFFORD** Sunday Masses

First Mass of Sunday

Saturday Evening	6pm	RAF
Henlow		
Sunday	9am	Shefford
	5.15pm	Shefford

Weekday Services see Notice at Church or telephone:

Parish Priest: Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

Parish Secretary: Rose Boulton 811547

THE LIONS CLUB OF SHEFFORD

Past District Governor Parveen Verma and his wife Ranjena officiated when our club held their sixth Charter celebration. Members from other Lions Clubs in the District joined us on board the boat for an afternoon buffet cruise from Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. PDG Parveen congratulated us on our achievements during the year and wished us continued success in the future. Lion Bob Izzard will be our new President, taking over the position from Lion Enid Pamment who has held the post for two consecutive years. Our club is sponsoring Shefford Library for the Summer Reading Challenge 2004 for children. For further details contact Shefford Library where they will be pleased to help. The charity is Keech Cottage Children's Hospice and the prize giving will be held on Saturday 18th September. Our collection of used spectacles is on going and would like to thank Lloyds Chemist, the Shefford Surgery and Stephen Hing for allowing us to place our boxes in their premises. For further information, contact Lion Enid Pamment on 01462 851397.

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

Recently a full coach arrived at London Wall to meet our guide for the day. Walking at a leisurely pace through Aldersgate and Newgate, St. Bartholomew the Great, London's oldest Parish Church which was the background for the film "Four Weddings and a Funeral". Smithfield the Victorian meat market and stopping for lunch at the Barbican. We were then transported by coach to the Regents Canal where we joined a narrow boat to see London's hidden waterway, passing through Camden Lock, Regent's Park and London Zoo finishes at Little Venice. On route home, we visited Kenwood House for a welcome cuppa before returning home. We have arranged another interesting day in London and would like to encourage parents to bring their children. A tour has been booked for a visit to The Bank of England where banknotes become alive! Know your Banknotes and test your knowledge! There will be time to spend in the museum before we are taken to the River Thames where we will join London's amazing amphibious "duck" tour for a 75 minute adventure of the City of Westminster. The inclusive price for the day is adults £22, senior citizens and children (13-16) £19. Another very interesting visit is on Sunday 12th September to Barleylands Craft Village Farm in Essex. Over 25 impressive, individual specialist workshops. Light lunches and cream teas are available. Coach leaves Shefford at 9am returning at approximately 6pm. Price £11 including coach. Further information please contact Enid on 01462 851397.

THE LIONS CLUB OF SHEFFORD

Chartered 1998

Meet at The White Hart in Shefford on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8pm. Interested? Then why not come and meet us. Enjoyment can be achieved by helping other people in our community. Tel. 01462 851397.

A very happy birthday to those of you with birthdays in July

Michael Headland who will be 15 on the 1st

Steven Pepper who will be 15 on the 5th

Lily Baxter who will be 12 on the 6th

Oliver Zimmerman who will be 5 on the 6th

Chelsea Adams who will be 7 on the 6th

Rachel Payne who will be 11 on the 9th

Coral Parrish who will be 11 on the 12th

Daniel Hall who will be 13 on the 14th

Sam Yearsley who will be 7 on the 18th

Carl Robbins who will be 12 on the 19th

Neil Wilton who will be 15 on the 23rd

Rachel Hirst who will be 15 on the 24th

James Croft who will be 13 on the 26th

Heather Bull who will be 3 on the 26th

Chloe Blaxsell who will be 13 on the 29th

Kate Fleetwood who will be 12 on the 30th

If you would like your name added to the birthday page
please telephone Tracey Norris on 815 694

