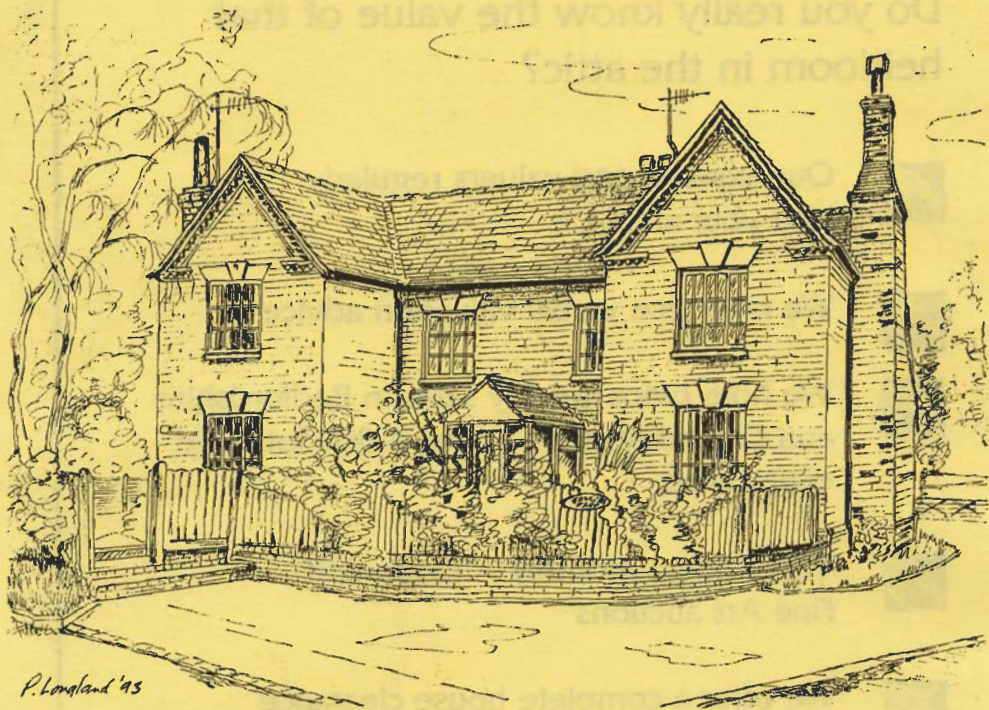


# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



**AUGUST/  
SEPTEMBER  
2004**

# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

**Volume 20 Issue 5**  
**August/September 2004**

Every year we have a family get-together. It used to be a couple of weeks before Christmas, but it is now during the summer months so we can enjoy the wonderful English weather! Of course, like any outdoor event, contingency plans have to be made "just in case the weather is bad", so this year we are all going down to my sister's house in the Cotswolds. They have a lovely big garden, but better still (Plan B) they live next door to the very quaint Village Hall - perfect!

I love these get-togethers as it is a chance for all the children to see their cousins, and for relatives to catch up and reminisce. I'm very fortunate to have a close and supportive family. Whatever your plans are for the summer holidays, I hope you all have a perfect time.

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

*Linda Gold*  
*Editor*

## CONTENTS

Village News	1 - 20
Calendar of Forthcoming Events	21
Who's Who & Village Organisations	22 - 24
Church News	25 - 29
Other	30 - 32

Editor:	<b>Linda Gold, 7 Brookmead</b>	<b>811970</b>
Advertising Manager:	<b>Steve Ansell, Post Office Stores</b>	<b>811252</b>
Distribution Manager:	<b>Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road</b>	<b>816177</b>

*Thank you . . . .*

To Steve and Carolyn for organising the Post Office Fete and for letting us use their back garden. We really appreciate all the hard work that was put into making this such a successful afternoon. I should also like to thank everyone who so kindly donated towards the Messenger Raffle. We raised £200 from raffle ticket sales and some people very kindly made monetary contributions. Thank you all very much for your generosity and support. Please check your raffle tickets to see if you are a winner; the numbers are on show in Meppershall Village Stores.

*Linda Gold*

---

I would like to say a big Thank You to all who supported myself, Jean Holden, Val Edwards and Pam Timbers in raising £97.80 for the St. John's Hospice, Mogerhanger. Also a thank you to Steve and Carolyn for the use of their garden, once again.

I have a collectors tea pot unclaimed, so if the person concerned would like to claim it, please call 01462 815161 or call at 67 High Street. Thank you.

*Jean Holden*

---

Can I say a big Thank You to all who on the past two occasions have purchased cakes and preserves from the stall outside my house in Rectory Road. A further £100 has been donated to Garden House Hospice in Letchworth and I have received a letter of thanks from the Administrator. Thank you once again.

*Maureen Cole*

## *Notices*

Thank you to all who organised the abseiling from the Church Tower on 3rd and 4th July. Other members of our bear family, who had abseiled in previous years, had told us what a marvellous experience this was. We were really looking forward to it and enjoyed every fur-raising minute!

Love and bear hugs from Pooh and Newington (who made the perilous descent on Sunday 4th July).

---

Congratulations to the Brownies on reaching their 90th birthday. Thank you to Brown Owl and the Brownies for their hospitality when we went to their party on 5th July. Good luck and best wishes as the Brownies head towards 100!

**Barrie and Marian Parsons**

---

Happy Birthday to my husband **Barrie** who will be 65 on 11th September. Made it at last! Also to our daughters, **Abigail** and **Lisa**, whose birthdays are 5th and 10th September. **Happy Birthday** to my family.

With much love from Marian/Mum

---

Belated birthday congratulations to Charlie Tink who was 90 on 14th July.

We all hope you had a wonderful Birthday, Charlie, with love and best wishes from all your friends in Meppershall.

---

**www.meppershall.org**

The village web site is now live on the world wide web. A number of people in the village have produced or are preparing information to be posted on the site. There is still plenty of room to feature your organisation or club, you do not need to be an expert at web pages, but just have an idea of what you wish to show and we will do the rest. You can contact the web team by e-mailing **webmaster@meppershall.org**

**David Foskett**

---

**Thank you** to Joyce Hefford for taking over from Brian Bellamy as joint organiser for the team of collators for the Meppershall Messenger. Again, many thanks to Brian for all his help over the years.

---

Anyone with a bike and the nerve to ask and get sponsor money? Yes, it's coming up for the annual cycle ride, walk or ride a horse/pony from church to church, all to help the every increasing cost of keeping the ever ageing and **historically** interesting buildings sound and safe enough to be used by us when we need them, even if it is only to sit in a quiet place **for** a while. The Beds/Herts Historic Churches cycle ride **is on** Saturday 11th September. The forms for entry and the maps showing the open churches will be available from The Rectory and 86 Fildyke Road. Half the money you raise will go to the church you name on your entry form and half the Historic Churches Society/Trust. Give it a whirl this year; it is a good day out. Last year our stalwart cyclists raised £637. Perhaps we can beat it this time? Thank you.

**Shireen Longland**

## Mid Beds Introduces Alternate Week Waste Collection

From 4th October 2004 Mid Beds District Council will be collecting your waste a different way. Following the successful introduction of our RECYCLE NOW! Scheme our new contractor Verdant will collect your recyclable waste one week and your non-recyclable (residual) waste and next week.

Mid Beds is not alone in making this change to alternate week collections. Over 80 other authorities are operating alternative week collections or intend to do so, including many in this region. The switch will help cut the amount of waste going into landfill and control the increasing costs of waste disposal. Everyone now has the opportunity to use a green-lidded recycling bin for their paper, plastics and steel and aluminium cans. To get one, call 08452 304040.

We know this is a big change for people and we are asking everyone to be patient with the council and our contractors while the new scheme settles down. Verdant are working closely with Mid Beds to plan for the smooth introduction of this new alternate waste collection and recycling scheme.

We are implementing this scheme to encourage everyone to start taking responsibility for reducing the amount of waste we create. Every year household waste increases by 4% and if that trend continues the amount we throw away will double by 2020. We have to meet Government set targets for recycling - 12% now and 18% by 2005/2006. Mid Beds has also set its own target for recycling of 24% by 2005/2006. By moving to an alternative week collection system we hope to encourage more householders to recycle more and throw away less. The change will also mean that Mid Beds will save around £700,000 a year which helps reduce further increases in your council tax.

## HOW IT WORKS

The alternate weekly waste collection scheme is very simple. One week you put out your green lidded wheeled bin for collection in the usual way. This bin should contain only recyclable waste - newspapers, shredded paper, aluminium and steel cans, certain plastics. You can also recycle your garden waste in a white, biodegradable plastic sack. You can put out up to five each fortnight for recycling with your green-lidded bin. You can also take glass bottles and jars to one of our 60 bottle banks and clothes and bric-a-brac can be taken to charity shops, who are always pleased to receive these in good condition.

The next week you should put out your black wheelie bins for collection in the normal way. These should only contain non-recyclable (residual) waste like food, nappies, used tissues. You can double wrap food and nappies to help reduce smells. Please remember our contractor will only collect waste from your wheeled bin - extra plastic sacks left by the bin will not be collected.

We have produced a comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions which is available on our [website](http://www.midbeds.gov.uk/recycling) [www.midbeds.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.midbeds.gov.uk/recycling) or by calling 08452 304040.

To recap - the most important points are:

- The new system starts on 4th October 2004
- Only properly separated waste - residual (black bin) or recyclable (green lidded bin) will be collected
- Help will be available to those householders that find the new system particularly difficult, e.g. the elderly or infirm, very large families and flat dwellers

- Extra residual waste in sacks or boxes will not be collected
- If you have not asked for a green lidded bin or garden waste sacks yet call 08452 304040.

Please look out for more information on the new system in future editions of Horizon, your local press, leaflets and the council's website.

Catherine Ruvolo  
 Communications Officer  
 Mid Beds District Council  
 The Limes  
 Dunstable Street  
 Ampthill, Beds. MK45 2JU

Tel: 01525 842006

Fax: 0870 2432150

[Catherine.Ruvolo@midbeds.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.Ruvolo@midbeds.gov.uk)

---

**CRIME INCIDENTS IN MEPPERSHALL**

**1/6/04 - 30/6/04**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 22.6.04 | Criminal Damage (gate), High Street (night time)    |
| 22.6.04 | Attempt Burglary Dwelling, High Street (night time) |
| 22.6.04 | Burglary Dwelling, High Street (night time)         |
| 22.6.04 | Attempt Burglary Dwelling, Hoo Road (night time)    |
| 22.6.04 | Burglary Dwelling x2, Shefford Road (night time)    |
| 22.6.04 | Attempt Burglary Dwelling, High Street (night time) |
-



## Meppershall Social Club

Would you like to play darts in the Shefford & District Darts League?



We play every Tuesday evening and are looking for players to join us in September 2004. Interested? Then call Pete Dilley on 07796950208.

### HOLIDAY COTTAGE - NORMANDY - FRANCE

Situated in the heart of beautiful rural Normandy, the cottage is ideally placed for kayaking, walking, fishing and exploring the D-Day battlefields. The Gite sleeps 6 in 3 bedrooms. Only a few minutes drive to local shops and a 2 minute walk to an 18 hole Golf course. Bayeux 40 mins. Caen 25 mins.

Available all year round.

For further details contact Angie or Julian on 01462 815124  
or email [clecy-wyvern@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clecy-wyvern@tiscali.co.uk)

## LOCAL OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

Thank you to all of those who completed the Out of School Club questionnaires. A total of 25 children from 17 families in Meppershall were identified as requiring after school care totalling 91 hours per week. The majority of children were from families with parents who are working or intending to return to work.

I have presented the demand for this service to the Childcare Development Officer, Sue Tyler. However, she has advised me that the Club would not be viable due to insufficient demand to sustain an Out of School Club! Consequently, I am unable to take this any further, but thank you for your interest. I would also like to thank the staff of Meppershall Lower School, the Village Stores and the Meppershall Messenger for their support.

Meanwhile, there is not any formal childcare available for children of school age in Meppershall. If parents would be interested to meet to discuss alternative options, I would be pleased to facilitate this.

**Carolyn Holmes**  
**01462 850619**

---

Congratulations to Sean Allen, who lives in Meppershall, for winning the BMX Competition 12-14 age group at the Festival of Youth at Biggleswade Skate Park on Sunday 27th June. Well done Sean!

---

# The Meppershall Players

## December 2004

# 'Cinderella'

2004 is our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year for pantomimes! Way back in 1984 we produced our very first Pantomime 'Puss in Boots' directed by Jacqui Wilkinson.

We are very busy preparing for our next pantomime and would love to include as many people as possible - especially if you were in that very first panto!

We still need people to join our chorus and the behind the scenes team. We have no age restriction but our youngest members may need parental supervision during rehearsals and performances. Interested? Come to our first rehearsals on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. We rehearse Wednesdays apart from the second Wednesday of the month when rehearse on a Thursday!

**All Welcome** – bring a friend and enjoy the fun both on and off the stage

Please call Frank on 01462 815387 or John on 01462 814113 for further details

## **OFF TO THE HORNETS NEST !!**

**Sabrina Collins 3rd Dan KWF (Japan) age 24 has been selected to represent England JKI GB in JAPAN in September 2004:**

**Kumite (free fighting)**

**Kata (forms)**

**Team Kumite**

**Team Kata**

**This will be a prestigious event comprising countries from all around the world. She will come face to face with world champions who will not want to give up their thrones. But as she has shown before, when the going gets tough Sabrina gets tougher!!**

**Sabrina, who lives in Meppershall, has been training for over 13 years. She teaches for Luton Council with classes of over 70 students. She has competed all over the world, the last being in Germany where she won 1st place.**

**Let's wish her luck and hope she brings back more gold to Meppershall!!**

**GOOD LUCK !!!**

## 1st Stondon Cub Pack

This half term has really taken the OUT of Scouting. We have met at Boyd Field to practice fire lighting before putting the theory into practice by cooking sausages, melting marshmallows and sandwiching them between chocolate digestive biscuits. The Cubs learnt about compass points, how to use a compass, constructed shapes using tent pegs and rope with the instructions given in degrees and followed a compass course. The following week we went to Rowney Warren to see if the Cubs could follow a course in and around the woods with a variety of challenges to complete as they went. They all did very well and have consequently nearly completed their Adventure Badge. We have had a nature trail around Barton Hills but one of the new Cubs was disappointed as we did not finish at the chip shop, which is apparently what the Beavers do when they have been to Barton Hills. Well, perhaps that is food for thought for next time!

We are off to camp at the end of August so we have had some preparation for that. We are hoping for good weather this time as last year we had a couple of wet days. The theme for camp is "Vikings" and you will get a full report next time.

We have welcomed two new Cubs this term, Jesse Gold and James Simms. After summer camp three Cubs move on to Scouts but we gain six Beavers.

Finally, we have a date for our next jumble sale - 16th October. If you have any jumble you would like collecting please telephone either myself on 811548 or Beverley Aberdein on 850541.

**Alison Hammond**  
**Akela**



1st STONDON SCOUT GROUP

are holding a

J U M B L E   S A L E

with cakes stall and raffle at

VILLAGE HALL  
LOWER STONDON

on

Saturday 16th October

Doors open 2pm  
Admission 20p

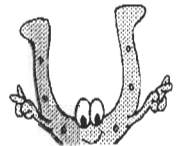
# Meppershall Pre-school



Goodbye and Good Luck to *Chloe Burr, Katie Halford, Chloe Brightwell, Hannah West, William Vosper, Keeley Coan, Alex Thorne and Callum Couzens* who are all starting school in September. Also *Olivia Driver* who is moving to New Zealand.

We all hope you will remember the special and fun times at Pre-school.....

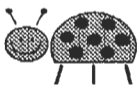
- ☺ Christmas, Easter and End of Term parties
- ☺ Christmas carols at St Mary's church
- ☺ Visits to the local park and shops and church
- ☺ Your first visit with us to your new school
- ☺ Sports day in the park
- ☺ Your parent/carer coming in to help
- ☺ Learning something new



A Big Welcome to

*Manishka Hart, James Read, Sophie Palmer, Liberty Simpkins, Archie Medlock, Devon Cooper, Hannah Le Roux, Lucy Standbridge, Georgia Thomason and Jack Gregg.*

We will enjoy introducing you to all the variety of fun and educational activities we have for you including;



painting, play dough, sticking, book corner, cooking, construction, climbing frame.....

For more information about how Meppershall Pre-school provides education through play for children in Meppershall and surrounding villages please contact Michele Brennand on 816600

## MEPPERSHALL BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

The Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group is a friendly, active group run by committed volunteers who are nominated and voted for by the parents themselves.

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons (term time only) from 2.00pm until 3.30pm.

All are welcome, from new born babies to the more active toddler. Dads are also welcome.

- We have ride on toys, pushalongs, bikes, slide, seesaws and rockers. An art and activity table.
- Separate soft baby area – from new born with all the toys they could wish for.
- Toy Library – borrow (for a nominal fee) any toy we have.
- Organised events for children including Christmas Party, Teddy Bears Picnic, Easter Events and Halloween Fancy Dress Party.
- Photographer sessions
- Book, craft and clothes sales

**All this for only £1 per family per session.**

***Come along and join us, first session is free!***





## **Babies Required**

Our baby corner is looking a little empty at present, if you have just become a new parent, please come along to our group. We understand that it can be a little daunting at first but we are an easy going friendly bunch of parents – no cliques, just like minded parents who want to talk, share stories and discover that it is not just their little angel that 'does that'. Oh and of course the children and babies absolutely love it.

## **Teddy Bears Picnic**

Our Teddy Bears Picnic was a great success and raised over £50 for the group. It was fun to see all the children sitting on their blankets, eating their picnics from their happy meal boxes alongside their favourite teddy bears.

Thank you goes to everybody who helped make this day a success and to all those who donated raffle prizes, it is very much appreciated.

## **Mums Night Out**

Some of the mums enjoyed an evening away from the children last month, with a meal at the White Swan in Shefford. Look out for details of more mum nights out next term.

## Summer Holidays

The Baby and Toddler Group will not be meeting in the village hall during the school summer holidays.

Our first meeting back after the break will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

We are planning to meet up at various locations during the holidays, if you would like further details, please contact one of the names listed at the end of this article.

## Post Office Fete

Thank you to everybody who supported us at the Meppershall Post Office Fete. We raised over £30 for toddler funds.

## LOOKING FOR

**Do you have an hour to spare on Tuesday's between 2.15pm and 3.15pm?**

The Meppershall Baby and Toddler group are looking for volunteers to help out with the preparation of teas, coffees and children's drinks.

For further details please contact either Claire Penney (Chair) 850987, Louise Hutson (Secretary) 814148 or Karen Lucas 811851.



## Shillington Youth Football Club Under 12` s

Want to play for your local team in September? (2004-2005 season)

Then give me a call **Bob Lovelock**  
**01462 851779** or **07720437748**



If you are interested in running or setting up a team below this age group then contact **Steve Gibbs** on **01462 851417**

Shillington Youth Football Club has the FA Charter Mark

MEPPERSHALL W.I. July 2004



President, Barbara Horwood, welcomed 25 members and 1 visitor to the June meeting.

The summer outing to Capel Manor on 11th August was now fully booked. The County Teas at Renhold and Billington have been cancelled due to lack of support.

Future events in the area include Autumn Federation meeting on Monday 25th October at 7.30pm at the Corn Exchange Bedford, speaker Lars Thorp of the Antique Road Show, cost £5 members and £6 non members. An outing to London on Saturday 13th November, cost £10, coach only trip dropping off near Covent Garden giving several hours to spend as you wish. A craft fair at Flitwick Village Hall on Sunday 17th October, more details next month. Shillington WI have an outing to Cambridge on 4th September, cost £6, picking up at Shillington Village Hall at 9am returning at 4.30pm.

Congratulations to our Darts Team who beat Cranfield 3-2.

Our speaker, Miss Doody, started her talk with a film of the Peak National Park (our oldest National Park) showing as much of the wild life, etc of the area. Tourism is the major industry together with sheep farming. She then described the art and history of Well Dressing which is only found in Derbyshire dating back to pre-Christianity, believed to be originally giving thanks to surviving the plague and now each year for the continual supply of water. The designs are very beautiful and intricate, all made from natural materials including flower petals, bark, wood and coal, covering many different subjects plus a section for children's designs.

Our speaker on 8th September will be Jane Hulbert on the subject of head massage, etc.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Calendar of  
Forthcoming Events*

=====

<i>11th August</i>	<i>Meppershall W.I. Summer Outing Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield</i>	
<i>14th August</i>	<i>Meppershall Social Club Chubba's Disco/Karaoke</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<i>13th September</i>	<i>Bible Society Action Group 9 Church Road, Meppershall</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>
<i>Saturday 9th October</i>	<i>Friends of St. Mary Woburn Sands Band Evening</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>

*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](mailto:pinelodgedarwinpark@hotmail.com) or phone Gill on 01462 812613 or Wendy on 01462 817080.*

---

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN MEPPERSHALLCHURCHESSt. Mary's Parish Church

Rector:	Rev. John Harper	
	The Rectory, Church Road	813334
Church Wardens:	Mr. Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street	815944
	Mrs. Brenda Wright, 75 High Street	816446

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 Ampthill Rd, Shefford	813284
Letting Secretary:	Mrs. J. Taylor, 6 Stondon Road	814387

Roman Catholic Church

Priest:	Father Bennie Noonan	813436
---------	----------------------	--------

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
--	--------

ORGANISATIONSMeppershall 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

<u>Babysitting Circle</u>	Organiser:	Mrs. Sharon Edwards	814326
---------------------------	------------	---------------------	--------

<u>Brownies</u>	Mondays at 6pm - 7.30pm	Village Hall	
Brown Owl:	Mrs. C. Elbourne		811964
Snowy Owl:	Mrs. Diane Lancaster		812108

<u>Beavers</u>	Fridays at 6pm - 7.15pm	Stondon Village Hall	
Beaver Scout Leader:	Mr. Steve Mann		816218
	Tuesdays at 6.30pm - 7.30pm	Shefford Scouts HQ	
Beaver Scout Leader:	Mrs. Hayley Henshall		817446

<u>Bingo</u>	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

<u>Evergreen</u>	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

<u>Shefford Leisure Group</u>	Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street	851397
-------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------

<u>Lions Club of Shefford</u>	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
-----------	-------------------------------	--------

<u>Meppershall Baby &amp; Toddler Group</u>	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
<u>Playgroup</u>	Monday - Friday at 9.30am - 12 noon	Village Hall	
Chairman:	Mrs. Julie Stock		817371
Secretary:	Mrs. Michele Brennand		816600
Registrar:	Mrs. Viv Thorne		850821
<u>Tennis</u>	(at Langford) - Neil Franklin		815735
<u>Womens Institute</u>	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		
<u>Youth Club</u>	Fridays 7pm	Village Hall	
	Linda & Matt Ford 851567 OR Sue & Steve Covington		815736
<u>AMENITIES</u>			
<u>Banks</u>	Barclays Bank, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford		01438 202122
	Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm		
<u>Dentist</u>	Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford		814020
<u>Electrician</u>	Mr. R.A. Price, 118 Spring Drive, Stevenage		01438 361715
			Mobile: 07710 821878
<u>Fishmonger</u>	Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) - Thurs. Approx 11.45am		
<u>Greengrocer</u>	Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) - Fridays 2pm - 6pm		711802
<u>Hedgehog Rescue</u>	Beds & Herts Hedgehog Rescue - call Jeanette		711370
<u>Mobile Library</u>	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		
<u>Library</u>	High Street, Shefford		639070
<u>Kennels/Cattery</u>	Wayside Kennels & Cattery, Chapel Road		813261
<u>Newspapers</u>	Meppershall Post Office & Stores		811252
<u>Plumber</u>	Alan R. Dellar		814584
<u>Police</u>	Emergencies/Police attendance required		01234 841212
		Or	01582 471212
	Shefford Police Post (non-emergencies)		01234 841212
<u>Livery Yard &amp; Training Centre</u>	Caroline Carter, Centre Line Dressage Fildyke Road, Meppershall		07747 686118
<u>Taxi</u>	Gilly of Biggleswade		01767 601253
<u>Whitbread Wanderbus</u>			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 August and September

August

Sunday 1st	8.30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday 8th	8.30am	Holy Communion
	11am	Family Service and Baptism of Lucy Wellard
Sunday 15th	8.30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday 22nd	8.30am	Holy Communion
	11am	Family Communion
Sunday 29th	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10am	Combined Benefice Communion at St. Michael's, Shefford (and Feast on 5 (breakfast) from 9am)

September

Sunday 5th	8.30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday 12th	8.30am	Holy Communion
	11am	Family Service (Patronal Festival)
Sunday 19th	8.30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday 26th	8.30am	Holy Communion

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 said at 9.30am on Saturdays.

Dear Friends,

St. Mary's Gift Weekend proved a happy and successful time, and I'm left with images of various cuddly creatures hurtling from the Tower in the direction of the Donkey Field! Much interest was created by the craft work achieved by children of Meppershall School and Playgroup, and by photos of the condition of the masonry - ancient stones that cry out for some tender and costly loving care.

The beautiful churches we have inherited clearly call for the stewardship of time, effort and giving by every successive generation, and here that will undoubtedly mean a concentrated effort in the near future. Parish Churches do not receive any guaranteed backing from either Church or State when restoration looms - the local community shoulders that responsibility, and I am sure that given the goodwill of the sort expressed at the weekend, and the generosity which produced £1,730, the work will be achieved before matters become too critical.

I also want to say that I hope that the need for restoration doesn't overwhelm what we do as a Church in the near future. Essentially the Church, here and wherever, is the community of those drawn by the sheer grace of the God we see reflected in the face of Jesus. By virtue of our baptism we are called to be living stones; those who combine together to represent Christ's words and works in today's world. A Church building without the people, however beautiful it may be, is simply an empty shell, whereas the life of the community of faith focused in corporate worship ensures that the building serves its purpose to the full, namely to the glory of God and the work of His Kingdom.

Within the Church there are people with different gifts and diverse ways to being living stones. Some are called to full time ordained ministry, and I am delighted to tell you that Ben Griffith until recently Churchwarden here, has been recommended for training for ordination. I ask you to support him with your prayers, and I will be pleased to keep you informed of his progress. Ben has contributed greatly to the life of St. Mary's over the past few years, and his enthusiasm will be much missed, though in due course will surely be used for others' benefit.

In September there will be an opportunity to explore the meaning of confirmation (and/or adult baptism) and what's entailed in the preparation. If you would like to find out more you will be welcome at an enquiry session (no obligation) at the Rectory on Wednesday 15th September 6.30pm - 7.30pm for 10s to 16s, and 7.45pm - 8.45pm for 17s and over. Or just give me a ring to talk it over.

We will celebrate Harvest over the weekend of 9th and 10th October beginning with Friends of St. Mary's Festival of Music featuring the Woburn Sands Brass Band on Saturday 7.30pm buffet supper and wine included. **Tickets at £10** available from The Post Office, Bakery, the Rectory and via 891429 and 813357. Harvest Family Service will be at 11am on Sunday 10th and the Harvest Supper take places on Monday 11th at Village Hall, details coming.

Finally news of St. Mary's and St. Michael's Shefford can be found on weekly Link newsheet, available from Church and Rectory and also from the Meppershall website [meppershall.org](http://meppershall.org) and via St. Michael's : [sm3a.org.uk](http://sm3a.org.uk).

With good wishes.

John Harper

**The Friends of St.Mary's, Meppershall**

Present

*The*  
**WOBURN  
 SANDS**  
*Brass Band*  
 with  
**"A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC"**

**In St. Mary's Church  
 at 7.30pm**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9**  
*Buffet refreshments,  
 Choice of red or white wine.*

**Tickets £10.00 from:**

<b>The Post Office</b>	<b>The Bakery</b>
<b>Margaret Evesham</b>	<b>01462 814291</b>
<b>Trevor Thorley</b>	<b>01462 813357</b>
<b>The Rectory</b>	<b>01462 813334</b>

**(late AUGUST) onwards**

---

**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 phone

Parish Priest:	Parish Secretary:
Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436	Rose Boulton      811547



SHEFFORD TOWN BAND

Conductor - Victor Parker



We always welcome new members age 12+, brass or woodwind instruments.

We meet on Thursdays at The Shefford Methodist Church Hall 7.45pm - 9.45pm.

We have a wide repertoire - music from films, TV, hymns, marches, classics.

Contact 01462 629026 or 01525 713202 for further details.

---

## THE LIONS CLUB OF SHEFFORD

Lion Bob Izzard is the new President of our Club and was given a warm welcome at the hand over dinner held recently at The White Hart Hotel. Lion Enid Pamment who had held the position for the past two years thanked members for their friendly support during her time in office and felt sure the same volume of support would be given to our new President. Our members supported the Meppershall Fete and would like to thank Steve and Carolyn at Meppershall Stores for allowing their very pleasant garden to be used. Details of our sponsorship can be found at Shefford Library for the Summer Reading Challenge 2004 for children. The proceeds are for Keech Cottage Children's Hospice and the prize giving will be held on Saturday 18th September. The 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. We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month. Why not come and meet us, you will be assured of a warm welcome. For further information, please contact Lion Enid Pamment on 01462 851397.

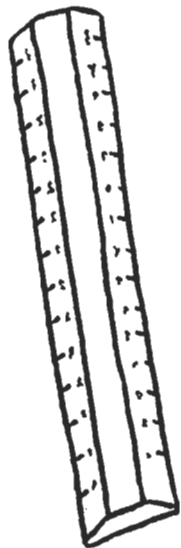
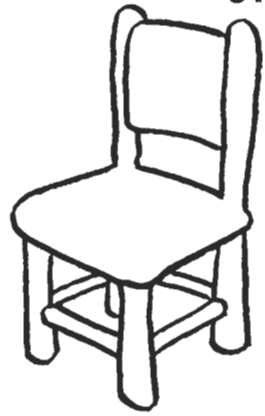
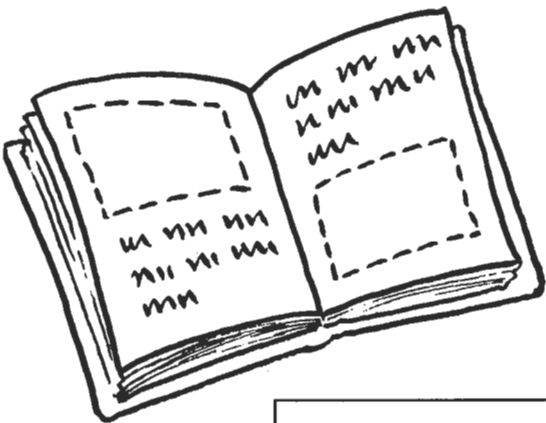
## SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

We have recently returned from a fabulous cruise to the Norwegian Fjords including a visit to the North Cape and the Midnight Sun. We were all lucky enough to experience seeing the midnight sun which certainly felt odd returning to our ship in bright sunshine, where we were welcomed with mulled wine and a hot supper, finally retiring in the early hours of the morning still in bright sunshine! An unusual day in London will be our next day trip taking place on Monday 9th August. We head for The Bank of England for a guided tour and afterwards will join London's amphibious duck tour for a 75 minute adventure tour of the City of Westminster by road and river. International Glenn Miller Festival, Sunday 29th August, Barleylands Craft Village Farm, Essex on Sunday 12th September. Wednesday 29th September to Bury St. Edmunds Henry Watson's Potteries at Wattisford, Bressingham Gardens. Don't forget our Tinsel & Turkey 3rd to 6th December in North Yorkshire, Nr. Harrogate, stopping in York en route and returning via Lincoln. These are just a few of the day trips and holidays offered to the local community. For further information please contact Enid on 01462 851397.

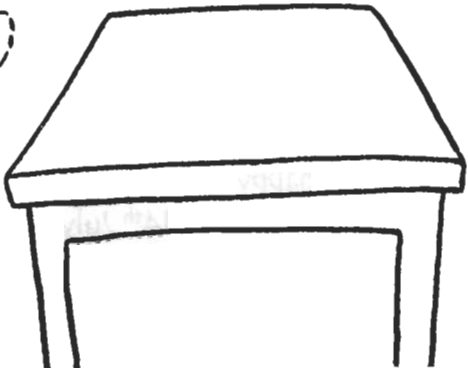
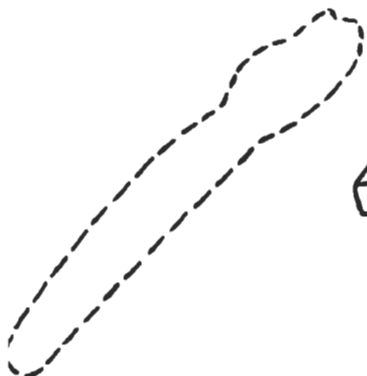
### THE LIONS CLUB OF SHEFFORD

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.



P	S	O	C	V	P	E	R	L
E	J	O	G	F	D	S	U	Q
N	F	F	V	B	E	L	L	C
C	H	A	I	R	E	D	E	F
I	T	Y	U	U	O	L	R	N
L	F	R	E	S	K	A	A	A
O	J	L	O	H	F	E	R	O
K	I	U	Y	T	R	E	A	S
K	J	B	O	O	K	O	L	K
T	A	B	L	E	R	C	V	T



## A very happy birthday to those of you celebrating birthdays in August...

Christopher Cain who will be 13 on 6<sup>th</sup> August  
 Beth Donachie who will be 7 on 7<sup>th</sup> August  
 Billy Gower who will be 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> August  
 Sarah Allen who will be 11 on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Georgia Thomason who will be 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
 Lucy Edwards who will be 4 on 24<sup>th</sup> August  
 Kate and Max Chappell who will be 4 on 25<sup>th</sup> August  
 Ethan Kovacs who will be 6 on 26<sup>th</sup> August  
 Katrina Robbens who will be 9 on 27<sup>th</sup> August  
 Lorena Jarvis who will be 12 on the 31<sup>st</sup> August

...and September

Emilie Doran who will be 14 on 4<sup>th</sup> September  
 Matthew Waring who will be 14 on 5<sup>th</sup> September  
 Zoe Waring who will be 10 on 7<sup>th</sup> September  
 Thomas Clark who will be 12 on 8<sup>th</sup> September  
 Robert Kitchener who will be 12 on 8<sup>th</sup> September  
 Chloe Burr who will be 5 on the 9<sup>th</sup> September  
 Harriet Scott who will be 12 on 13<sup>th</sup> September  
 Georgina Brinkley who will be 13 on 14<sup>th</sup> September  
 Ross Earl who will be 13 on 19<sup>th</sup> September  
 Rebecca Lancaster who will be 14 on 20<sup>th</sup> September  
 George Gavin who will be 9 on 20<sup>th</sup> September  
 Giles Norris who will be 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September  
 Katie Halford who will be 5 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
 Peter Curran who will be 12 on 24<sup>th</sup> September  
 Jonathan Bull who will be 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> September

And a belated happy birthday to Jessica West  
 who was 9 on 14<sup>th</sup> July

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