

# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



**OCTOBER  
2004**



# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 20 Issue 6

October 2004

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer, despite the rather disappointing weather. If you were lucky with timing your activities right and catching the good days, it certainly was glorious while it lasted. I can't believe how quickly the time has flown by with autumn most definitely arriving. It is good to get back to "normal", with the children returning to school and routine restored (although the children might not agree).

Quite a few new faces have appeared over the last couple of months and I should like to welcome all newcomers to the Village. I hope you are settling in and finding life in Meppershall enjoyable. I also hope you find this magazine useful; I certainly did when I moved here over 11 years ago. It is a magazine for everyone to contribute to in the Village, and every house receives a copy, every month, free of charge.

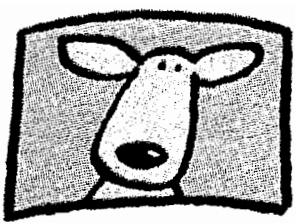
The deadline for articles for the November issue of the magazine is 12th October 2004. Please either leave them at the Post Office or drop them through my letter box at 7 Brookmead. Thank you.

*Linda Gold*  
*Editor*

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## *Notices*

If it wasn't bad enough that some irresponsible dog owners allow their dogs to continue fouling on the pavements in our Village, some are allowing their dogs to foul in the Church grounds! How disgusting and disrespectful. We are surrounded by countryside with walks to exercise both dogs and owners - the Church grounds are **not** the place.

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**Meppershall Village Bonfire** will be held on Saturday 6th November. The gates will be open for burnable material on the following weekends in October: 9th/10th, 16th/17th, 23rd/24th and 30th/31st.

Any assistance to build the bonfire on the 6th and to assist with clearing rubbish from the site on the weekend of 13th/14th November would be most appreciated. Names to Paul Carne (813305). Details of times and entrance prices to be announced in next months copy of *The Messenger*.

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### *Note from the Editor...*

I was told of an incident the other day which I thought should be brought to everyone's attention. Apparently there is a gang operating in the area who steal wheelie bins, usually the night before a collection, driving off with your bin and then proceeding to go through all the rubbish to try and find old credit card slips, statements and other financial/personal information to use for fraudulent purposes. It is advisable to shred or burn any personal documents you are disposing of and not just throw them in with your household rubbish.

It is amazing the lengths some people will go to! Credit card fraud is big business.

## **CRIME INCIDENTS IN MEPPERSHALL**

**1/7/04 - 31/7/04**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 7.7.04  | Theft from Shop (cigarettes)<br>High Street (day time) |
| 14.7.04 | Assault<br>Fildyke Road (night time) - offender known  |
| 20.7.04 | Theft x2 from caravans<br>Chapel Road                  |

## **CRIME INCIDENTS IN MEPPERSHALL**

**1/8/04 - 31/8/04**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2.8.04  | Theft of m/veh (transit van)<br>Fildyke Road (night time) - still outstanding |
| 6.8.04  | Criminal Damage m/veh (rear screen)<br>Shefford Road (night time)             |
| 12.8.04 | Criminal Damage m/veh (rear screen)<br>Shefford Road (night time)             |
- 
- 

Just to remind everyone that a Police Book is held at Meppershall Village Stores for anyone to report minor incidents, suspicious behaviour or any other comments. It is checked regularly by the police and dealt with.

PC Busby is our new officer covering Meppershall and his mobile number is 07986 308368 should anyone wish to contact him.

## **1st Stondon Cub Pack**

The term finished with a golf session at Mount Pleasant Golf Course. The Cubs were shown how to putt, chip and drive, then had the opportunity to have a go. I had not appreciated the skill involved in hitting that small white ball and making it go where you want it to go. The boys had a great time and our thanks go to Andy Baxter and Lee King for their patience and skill with the Cubs and helping to make it an enjoyable evening.

Unfortunately camp did not take place as I had a week in the Luton & Dunstable Hospital but we are planning a day camp for the beginning of October when the boys will be able to climb, abseil and participate in archery as well as put up tents etc, so the skills learned last term are not wasted.

We have said goodbye to Tom Biggs, James Hitchen and Jake Wright who have all gone on to Scouts at Shillington and have gained six new Cubs from Beavers.

Finally, as a result of my recent health scare I have decided that at Christmas I will be stepping down as Leader. This means we are looking for someone to take over the running of the Pack. It is a very rewarding job, I have been involved for over thirty years during this time we have had a lot of fun and made many friends. If you would like to help please contact me or visit on a pack evening.

16th October is our Jumble Sale at Stondon Village Hall starting at 2pm and admission is 20p. If you have any jumble for collecting give us a ring and we will arrange collection.

**Alison Hammond**  
**Akela (811548)**

The British Legion is a premier Armed Forces charity looking after the needs of the families and dependants of those killed on active service and those injured, whether physically or psychologically, as a result of combat. Remembrance of those who died or were injured in the struggle against dictatorship, tyranny and fanaticism is a major focus for the British Legion and the Red Poppy is its distinctive symbol. Poppies are sold over a two week period in October/November to raise both awareness and funds to continue the Society's work. On Remembrance Sunday the nation holds remembrance services up and down the country while the Queen leads the country in remembering those who lost their lives in the service of their country and in a bid to restore peace, at the Cenotaph in London.

This year was the 60th anniversary of D-day, when a vast allied invasion force landed on the Normandy beaches to liberate Nazi occupied Europe. Thousands of veterans returned to the beaches to remember friends and colleagues who lost their lives in this campaign. The British Legion's D-day Appeal raised £1.8 million. 70,000 thank you flags were planted on the predominantly British and Commonwealth Beach code named Sword. But the British Legion does not only look back to the 20th century wars, including two World Wars, it is as active as ever. British service men and women are serving in Iraq and many, many others are engaged in the war against terror as special operatives risk lives to bring back intelligence which will help to target extreme bombings and hostage taking and, vitally, try to prevent attacks on civilians. When the need arises the British Legion will support them too.

Joyce Harris has been organising the local collection in Meppershall for over 34 years. Her husband Eddie is a survivor of Sword Beach and Joyce sees what she does as an act of gratitude for the work of the British Legion. She cannot do it alone and needs volunteers to help her. The British Legion is at the sharp end of tragedy and its support of service families is vital. Warfare may change, but the shock, grief and emptiness when a loved one is killed is every bit the same. If you feel you can spare time to help the British Legion Poppy Appeal, please phone Joyce now on 01462 816365. Last year the Appeal total was £21,697,387. Meppershall collectors, you were part of it. Thank you for making the Meppershall Appeal a success. Let's do it again!



President, Barbara Horwood, welcomed  
19 members and 3 visitors to the September meeting.

The summer outing to Capel Manor Gardens was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Future events in the area include Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace on Friday 8th October at £18.50 each including entry. Craft Fair at Flitwick Village Hall all day on Sunday 17th October. Coach outing to London on Saturday 13th November, coach only £10 dropping off at Covent Garden. Fair Trade Stall and Speaker at Millbrook Village Hall on Tuesday 9th November 2-4pm at £2.50 including refreshments and a chance to buy Fair Trade goods at reasonable prices. Display of Eves Trophy entries at Flitwick Village Hall on Thursday 25th November from 7.30pm. Cookery demonstration during the evening. Tea and biscuits provided, cost £5. Campton WI have an outing to London on 27th November at £7.50.

Mixed fortune for our darts team, losing to Caldecote 4-1 and beating Wrestlingworth 3-2 and Harlington 3-2.

Our speaker for the evening was Jane Hulbert on the subject of Indian Head Massage dating back 1,000 years and being a major part of life in India right from babyhood. Using natural oils including coconut, almond and olive oil to help lessen muscular pain sometimes caused by sitting badly at computers, etc and to promote a feeling of calm. The technique includes massaging shoulders, neck and arms but avoiding the spine. Jane carried out a demonstration on one of our members (Maureen Inman) against a background of soothing music. Maureen was quite impressed with the experience. A very relaxing and enjoyable evening.

Our speaker at the October meeting on Wednesday 13th will be Mr. Hawkins on the subject of the History of Hawkins of Hitchin. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



# *Calendar of Forthcoming Events*

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<i>Saturday 2nd October</i>	<i>Bible Society Action Group Sponsors Walk, Fowlers Farm</i>	<i>1.30pm</i>
<i>Saturday 9th October</i>	<i>Meppershall Social Club Chubba's Disco, Village Hall</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<i>Saturday 9th October</i>	<i>Friends of St. Mary Woburn Sands Band Evening</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>
<i>Monday 11th October</i>	<i>Bible Society Action Group Baptist Church, Shefford</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>
<i>Saturday 30th October</i>	<i>Meppershall Social Club Live Music at Halloween, Village Hall</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<i>Saturday 6th November</i>	<i>Meppershall Village Bonfire Night</i>	
<i>Saturday 22nd January</i>	<i>Friends of St. Mary Quiz Night, Village Hall</i>	



**St. 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
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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: wagers.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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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
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<u>Babysitting Circle</u>	Organiser:	Mrs. Sharon Edwards	814326
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<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
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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
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<u>Lions Club of Shefford</u>	Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street	851397
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Mepp'shall Players Amateur Dramatic Society

Contact:	John Nye	814113
Secretary:	Karen Mitchell	816336
Treasurer:	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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<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mrs. A. Hamson, 22 Eisenhower Road, Shefford	816896
<u>Playgroup</u>	Monday - Friday at 9.30am - 12 noon	Village Hall
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. Julie Stock	817371
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs. Michele Brennand	816600
<u>Registrar:</u>	Mrs. Viv Thorne	850821
<u>Tennis</u>	(at Langford) - Neil Franklin	815735
<u>Womens Institute</u>	2nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm	Village Hall
<u>President:</u>	Mrs. Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road	816177
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs. Doreen Pritchard	
<u>Press Secretary:</u>	Miss Betty Mather	
<u>Youth Club</u>	Fridays 7pm	Village Hall
	Linda & Matt Ford 851567 OR Sue & Steve Covington	815736

### AMENITIES

<u>Banks</u>	Barclays Bank, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm	01438 202122
<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 Or Shefford Police Post (non-emergencies)	01234 841212 01582 471212 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

Over the period that I have been Methodist minister for this area there have been some good times at the Chapel. I particularly remember the holiday club and the 43 people who filled our celebration service on the following Sunday. Harvests and Remembrance Sundays have also been particular high-lights. It was great to share in facilitating a youth club for the mid and older teens, largely on their own initiative. There has also been a smaller following of faithful friends to whom I am particularly grateful, and who have given their support Sunday by Sunday, congregation and children of the Sunday Club. I would especially like to thank Julie Taylor for her major contribution in so many ways, and Becky Snelson for her work with the Sunday Club.

When we arrived five years ago, both Becky, my wife, and I sensed that God had a particular purpose for Meppershall Chapel, and many good things have happened as I have said. Often though, particularly in recent times, it has been difficult, a struggle and only the very few. Before the summer we came up against ill health and increasing frailty and I sensed that this summer was a time to stop – maybe just for a rest in the hope of something new developing, or maybe not. We simply don't have enough able and active people to run the service anymore, or it would seem those who wish to attend. So for the foreseeable future there will be no further Sunday services or Sunday Club at the Chapel. This is a deep sadness to me and the few who have soldiered on and done our best, but we remain hopeful.

At the same time I recognize that the Chapel is a valuable resource to the village community and intend to honour existing arrangements for use of the premises, certainly for the coming months – barring disaster – and also hope the village will continue make as much best use of the premises as we can, for as long as we can.

We value your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time, and of course new ideas and offers of support.

I continue to be your Methodist Minister,

Rev. Phil Snelson



St. Mary's Parish Church Meppershall  
In the United Benefice of Meppershall and Shefford

Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall  
01462 3813334  
Churchwardens

Brenda Wright 816446 and Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street

Services in October

Sunday 3rd	8.30am	Holy Communion	
	6pm	Evensong	
Sunday 11th	8.30am	Holy Communion	Harvest Festival
	11am	Family Service	
Sunday 18th	8.30am	Holy Communion	St. Luke
	6pm	Evensong	
Sunday 25th	8.30am	Holy Communion	
	11am	Family Communion	

There is also a service of Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) every Wednesday morning 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,

Back in August St. Mary's said thanks and farewell to former Churchwarden Ben Griffiths at a surprise lunch party. Ben contributed so much to the life of the Parish during the interregnum, and is now beginning his training for ordination at Cuddesdon Theological College near Oxford. We look forward to hearing news of his progress and welcoming him back to Meppershall from time to time.

This month St. Mary's invites you to Harvest Festival Weekend October 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th. Friday 8th October 2.30pm School Harvest Service in Church and distribution of gifts to senior citizens and Saturday 9th at 7.30pm Friends of St. Mary's present a Festival of Music featuring the Woburn Sands Brass Band, buffet supper and wine included. Tickets at £10 available from The Post Office, Bakery, The

Communion 8.30am and Family Service 11am. Gifts of produce and donations and offers of help for floral decorations will be greatly appreciated - Viv Clark/Janet Thorley. Harvest Supper takes place on Monday 11th at the Village Hall including auction of harvest produce. Tickets £5 from The Post Office, Bakery, The Rectory and PCC Members (in order to keep costs down wine will not be served with the meal, but please feel free to bring your own).

Also on Sunday 10th at 6pm there is a Deanery Festival Choral Service at St. Mary's Henlow on a Harvest theme.

As St. Mary's Meppershall is now part of the new United Benefice of Meppershall and Shefford, I would also like to invite you to some of the Christian activities in our sister parish of St. Michael's. Most of the following are part of the ecumenical Churches Together in Shefford programme. Monday 4th October 8.30pm Any Questions? at the White Hart. Opportunity to grill ministers of the local churches on matters of life and faith. Tuesday 19th 7.30pm Healing and Wholeness service at Shefford Methodist Church, with address by local GP Dr. Sarah Riches. Sunday 31st 6pm on Night of Light at Shefford Lower School for all children aged 5-11. Craft activities, games, food and reflection. The Life we Share - a weekly course exploring the common elements of the five major world faiths. Wednesdays 8pm at St. Michael's October 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th. Details Jenny 817337. There will also be an Alpha Supper to introduce a new series of the world-wide Christian nurture programme this Autumn - details coming shortly.

Finally, if anyone would like to explore the meaning of being confirmed and/or baptised, a preparation course is shortly due to begin (youngsters 10-16 and adults 17 and over). Please let me know if you would like to talk it over.

News of the programme in both parishes can be found on the weekly Link news sheet 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)

John Harper  
Rector of Meppershall and Shefford



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

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**HELP !!**

The Shefford Lions need to find a new home for Santa's sleigh. It is not very large - the size of a small trailer. The building where it has been housed is being demolished, so if someone, somewhere could find it in their hearts to help us out, we would be more than grateful. Just a small corner in a barn or outbuilding would suffice. Ideas are more than welcome.

Please contact President Lion Bob Izzard on 01462 629325 if you can help.

Many thanks.

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who married John Cranston, the local Chiropodist in Shefford. The wedding was held at the Methodist Church in Ampthill Road. We all wished them well in their future together. We attended the prize giving ceremony for The Reading Rollercoaster, organised by The National Reading Challenge in Libraries for children. Our club, as last year, sponsored this event. Ampthill and District Lions Club once again invited us to bring local residents to the Band Concert which was held in Flitwick Village Hall on Tuesday 21st September. We have been busy delivering The Shefford Newslines to all the homes in Shefford. Used spectacles are still being collected around the town. We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 8pm at the White Hart, Shefford. For further information, please contact Lion Enid Pamment on 01462 851397.

### **SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

In August we enjoyed a superb visit to the Bank of England for a tour followed by the amazing amphibious duck tour for a 75 minute adventure of the City of Westminster. The International Glenn Miller Festival held on Sunday 29th August was enjoyed by a full coach of enthusiasts. There was so much to see and do - all to the sounds of the music of Glenn Miller. The highlight of the day was the Syd Lawrence Orchestra which unfortunately was rather spoilt by a heavy downpour of rain. Even so, it certainly did not spoil the atmosphere. There are still places available for our Tinsel & Turkey taking place at the beginning of December. We will be staying at a hotel near Harrogate with visits to York en route and Lincoln en route back. Inglebert Humperdink fans, just managed to acquire tickets for the London Palladium in February 2005. Tickets are selling like hot cakes! There are places on various theatre trips in London and Milton Keynes theatre, including High Society, Peter Pan (panto) January 2005 and Miss Saigon in May. Only a few seats left for our Paddle Steamer trip from London to Southend. These are just a few of the day trips and holidays offered to the local community. Raffles are held and the proceeds are for Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. Recently a few of us took part in the Flora Women's Challenge 2004 in Hyde Park, this was a sponsored run (or walk) with 22,000 women taking part for various charities. Three double decker buses left Keech Cottage for Hyde Park dressed in lilac T-shirts and carried the same colour balloons - quite an experience. We would like to thank all the generous people who sponsored us. 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.