

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



**NOVEMBER
2004**

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 20 Issue 7

November 2004

Quite unbelievably we are almost at the end of another year, so far as the magazine is concerned. Next month's edition will be the last for 2004 as it is a double issue covering December and January 2005, so any articles you want to put in to cover those two months, please let me have them by the deadline of 12th November.

I have no doubt that the younger residents in our village will be "Trick or Treating" on Halloween (31st October). If you are participating in this activity, please have consideration for others and not cause a nuisance by calling too late and causing them distress. It can be quite upsetting for some people. It is supposed to be a fun evening for everyone, so let's keep it a safe and happy event for all concerned.

Just a reminder, the deadline for articles for the December 2004/January 2005 issue of the magazine is 12th November 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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Distribution Manager:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road	816177

Notices

This year's **Historic Churches Cycle Ride** raised four cyclists from this village, three cycling for St. Mary's and one riding for St. Francis in Shefford. This raised £352.95 for St. Mary's, half of which goes into the hands of our Honorary Treasurer and the rest to the Historic Churches Trust, all helping to keep our Church and it's Tower together.

Once more, Trevor Wilkinson cycled easily the longest distance and visited 43 churches between here and Bedford! And it was a very windy day indeed. Big thank you to all the Church Sitters. It does make a difference to going into a strange church and finding a welcoming smile and friendly cup of tea or coffee, so you are really appreciated. Thank you

Petition for Alternate Week Waste Collection

The following reply has been received from Mrs. B. Morris, Head of Democratic and Legal Services, Mid Beds District Council:

"I now write to advise you that the petition received from residents of Meppershall, Shillington, Stondon and Gravenhurst relating to the alternate week waste collection scheme was submitted to the meeting of the Executive on 15th September 2004.

At that meeting the Executive agreed to the alternate week waste collection as previously agreed but, subject to approval of additional funding by the Council at its meeting on 28th October 2004, will be enhancing the scheme to provide compost bins free of charge on a first come, first served basis up to a maximum expenditure of £50,000, to take effect from February 2005. If the additional funding is approved, details of how to obtain a compost bin will be published in the January 2005 edition of the Council's Horizon magazine."

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 2pm to 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 include 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!

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.

Halloween Party. This year's party will be held on Tuesday 2nd November in the Village Hall between 2pm and 3.30pm. Those children who wish can take part in our fancy dress competition and there will be a prize for the best dressed boy and girl. There will be lots of Halloween activities so come along and join in the fun.

We would like to say a big welcome to our new members. We hope you and your children enjoy the weekly meetings. We would also like to say welcome and thank you to our new tea ladies who have kindly volunteered to help us with the drinks preparation and serving. Your help is very much appreciated.

For further details, please contact either Claire Penny (Chair) 850987, Louis Hutton (Secretary) 814148 or Karen Lucas 811581.

The Meppershall Players

presents

Cinderella

By Norman Robbins
By kind permission of Samuel French

At Meppershall Village Hall

on

**3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th and 11th December
2004**

Evening performances start at 7.45pm

Matinees on:

Sunday 28th November at 3.00pm

Sunday 5th December at 2pm and 6pm

Tickets:

Matinees: £4.00

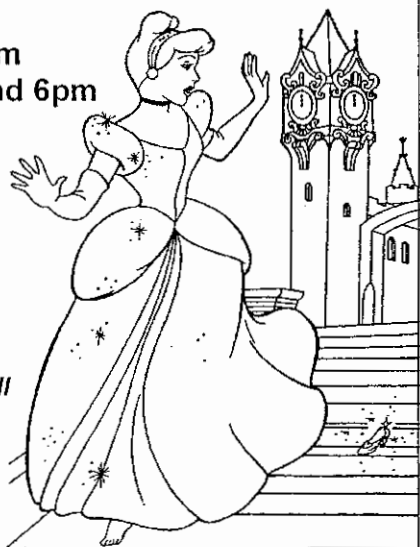
Evenings: £5.00

Last Night: £6.00

Box Office: Roger's Bakery, Meppershall

01462 813398

**Charity Night on Thursday 9th December in
aid of Bedford Hospital Scanner Appeal**



MEPPERSHALL BROWNIES

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2004

In 2003 Meppershall Brownies and Meppershall residents co-operated in SAMARITAN'S PURSE PROJECT CHRISTMAS CHILD, where shoe boxes full of gifts were sent across Central and Eastern Europe to children in hospitals, refugee camps, orphanages, homeless shelters and poverty stricken neighbourhoods to children who would otherwise have no gifts at all. These gifts were given regardless of nationality, political background or religious beliefs. Samaritan's Purse is a Christian organisation and where appropriate offer booklets explaining the true meaning of Christmas in the gift boxes.

The Brownies would like it very much if you could donate gifts with which they would fill the boxes as, without your generous donations, they would not have sufficient funds to fill the boxes themselves. This is what Brown Owl and the Brownies would like you to do:

1. After checking the list below, choose a suitable gift for boys or girls in one of these categories, 2-4yrs, 5-9 yrs, 10-14 yrs. These gifts should be new or nearly new.
2. Between 1st and 15th November, take your gift or gifts to Roger and Mary at the Bakery or Steve and Carolyn at the Village Stores. We are very grateful to the Bakery and Village Stores for their services as collection points for gifts.

Please select gifts only from the Yes List:

Cuddly toy

Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap flannel

Note pad, colouring book, picture books

Pens, pencils

Crayon or felt pen set

A hat, cap, gloves, scarf

Small ball or tennis ball

Puzzle e.g. small jigsaw

For boys, toy truck, car or aeroplane

For girls, clip earrings, makeup or hair accessories

Greetings card or photo of yourself

Sweets well within sell by date

Please do not donate gifts from No List. It will take extra time to exclude them and less time for filling boxes:

Chocolate

Other edible food

War related items e.g. guns, soldiers, knives

Clothing (except as listed above)

Glass containers, mirrors or fragile items

Liquids of any type (aerosols, shampoo, bubble bath, blow bubbles)

Marbles or sharp objects

Nothing of a political, racial or religious nature

Medicines

Books with words.

These lists may seem daunting, but careful selection means that more boxes can be filled. Please do not take boxes to the shops. The Brownies will provide boxes and will decorate them. The boxes will be filled under the guidance of Brown Owl (Mrs. Christine Elbourne) and adult helpers.

The timing is very sensitive this year as the boxes have to be sent by late November. The critical dates for taking gifts to the shops is between 1st and 15th November, or before if you are already aware of this collection.

If you have little time to spare, but want to be involved, please get in touch with Brown Owl on 811964 as for every box sent a fee of £2 is required for transport, promotion, processing and distribution and a monetary donation would be gratefully received.

To find our more about Samaritan's Purse, go to www.samaritanspurse.uk.com

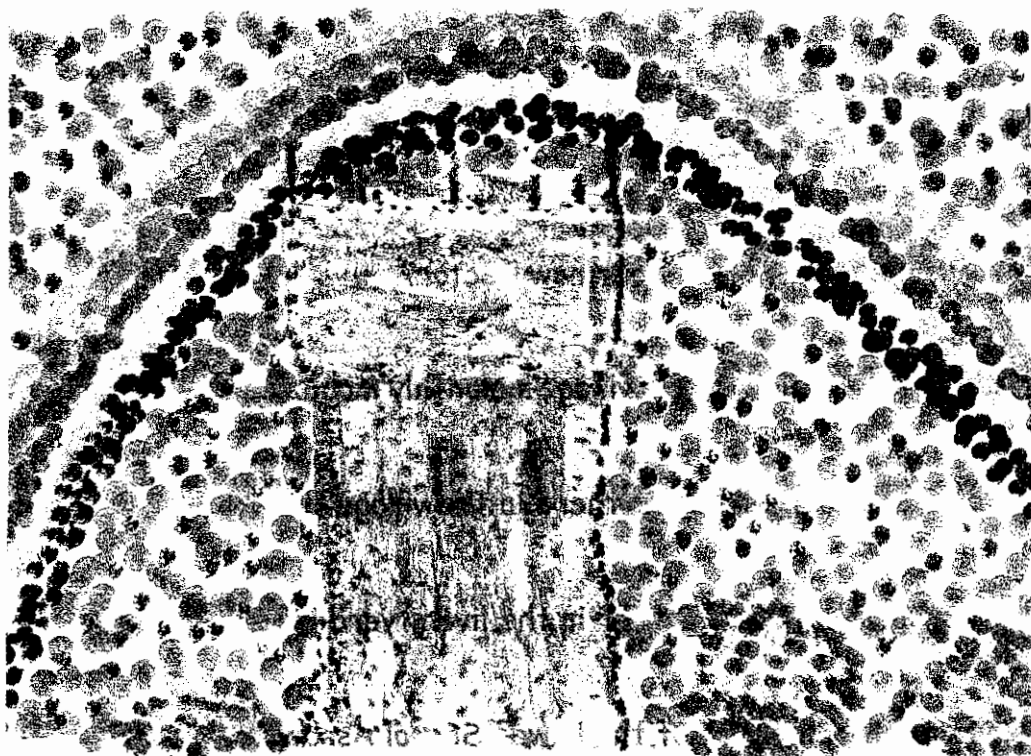
With grateful thanks from Brown Owl (811964)

1st Meppershall Brownies, Brownies, friends and local organiser for Samaritan's Purse, Mrs. Kathleen Milner

The winner of the School Association Summer Quiz was JAMES WALLACE aged 5 from Class 1.

Here is a copy of his drawing of the Water Tower which was used for the tiebreak question.

Well done James, and thanks to everyone for taking part.



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

<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

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:	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

<u>Meppershall Baby & Toddler Group</u>	Tuesdays at 2pm - 3.30pm	Village Hall	
Chairman:	Claire Penney, 3 Gregory Close		850987
Secretary:	Louise Hutson, 10 Buxton Close		814148
Treasurer:	Karen Lucas, 51A High Street		811581

<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
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<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

AMENITIES

<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
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<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	
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<u>Greengrocer</u>	Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) - Fridays 2pm - 6pm	711802
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<u>Hedgehog Rescue</u>	Beds & Herts Hedgehog Rescue - call Jeanette	711370
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<u>Mobile Library</u>	Alternate Wednesdays:	
	Nursing Home 10.00 Rectory Road 10.25	
	High Street/School 10.50 High Street/Taliesan 11.10	
	Village Hall 11.30 Fildyke Road 12.00	
	Shefford Road 12.25	

<u>Library</u>	High Street, Shefford	639070
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<u>Kennels/Cattery</u>	Wayside Kennels & Cattery, Chapel Road	813261
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<u>Newspapers</u>	Meppershall Post Office & Stores	811252
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<u>Plumber</u>	Alan R. Dellar	814584
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<u>Police</u>	Emergencies/Police attendance required	01234 841212
	Or	01582 471212
	Shefford Police Post (non-emergencies)	01234 841212

<u>Livery Yard & Training Centre</u>	Caroline Carter, Centre Line Dressage Fildyke Road, Meppershall	07747 686118
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<u>Taxi</u>	Gilly of Biggleswade	01767 601253
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<u>Whitbread Wanderbus</u>		850075
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THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Thank you to all of you who supported the Woburn Sands Brass Band concert on Saturday 9th October. I hope you enjoyed the performance as much as we did in organising the event.

There was a tremendous demand for tickets and we had sold out by the end of September. We endeavoured to meet the excess demand by using any returned tickets as they came in, and also by asking a few of you to try your luck on the door. I am aware that as late as the day of the concert we received requests for spare tickets and also Steve at the Post Office had also received enquiries on the day.

It is our aim to bring into the village top quality entertainment and with refreshments and wine included giving excellent value for money. We also raised much needed funding to protect the future of our beautiful medieval Church of St. Mary's.

There will be future concerts and these will be announced well in advance through the Meppershall Messenger and also the Biggleswade Chronicle.

For your diaries, the next event that we have planed is a Quiz Night to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 22nd January 2005. As a suggestion, how about ALL organisations I the village bring a team to take part in this quiz night in friendly competition or make up a team of family and friends. Further details later.

I leave you on that note and thank you for your continued support.

Trevor Thorley
Chairman

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

**Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall
01462 381334
Churchwardens
Brenda Wright 816446 and Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street**

Services in November

Sunday 7th	8am	Holy Communion	3rd before Advent
	6pm	All Souls Service. A special evening service giving thanks for the lives of the departed. All welcome. Opportunity to request prayer for those known to you, as you arrive.	
Sunday 14th	8.30am	Holy Communion	Remembrance
	10.50am	Service of Remembrance	
Sunday 21st	8.30am	Holy Communion	Sunday before Advent
	6pm	Evensong	
Sunday 28th	8.30am	Holy Communion	Advent Sunday
	11am	Family Communion	

Every Sunday during Advent we will focus prayers and light a candle for a particular deprived child being supported through the work of Christian Aid, concluding at Christmas with a Palestinian girl from Bethlehem who lost an eye because of the conflict there.

There is also a service of Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) every Wednesday at the new time of 10am 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,

May I convey my thanks to all who contributed to a very special Harvest weekend last month. The school children began the celebrations with their service on the Friday, singing songs some had sung two days earlier in St. Albans Cathedral. On Saturday the Friends

of St. Mary's presented a highly enjoyable concert by the Woburn Sands Brass Band, which proved to be a sell out. Sunday revealed some local dramatic talent during the Family Service and Monday rounded off the Festival with shepherds' and apple pies in abundance for the 60 diners at the Supper and auction. A lot of effort made all this happen with a minimum of fuss and a generous helping of goodwill.

A new local ALPHA Christian teaching course begins on the evening of 8th November at Shefford Methodist Church. Each session includes a supper, some lively teaching on an issue central to Christian belief and opportunity to discuss and question in informal groups. More details from Rev. Phil Snelson 01462 813284.

On Tuesday 9th November the internationally known songwriter and singer Garth Hewitt will present a concert at St. Michael's Shefford - The Fruits of Nicaragua. Songs, pictures and stories reflecting Garth's visit to Nicaragua earlier this year and its peoples struggle against poverty. Tickets £5 now available from Jenny Dann 01462 817337.

If anyone else would like to join a group considering Confirmation, with the option of being confirmed in the Spring, please let me know. Groups are now getting underway for 11-16s and 17 year olds and over.

Would you donate the cost of a bible for St. Mary's? The Church Council has agreed to purchase a set of hard bound bibles for congregational use at £8.99 each. If you would like to help us with this project, you may like to dedicate one or more to loved one, or to mark an anniversary. The Church would provide a presentation plate inside each Bible to record names etc. if wished. Please let me know. News of events in both parish Churches can be found on the weekly Link news sheet, available from Church and Rectory and also from the Meppershall website meppershall.org and via St. Michael's sm3a.org.uk.

With good wishes.

John Harper, Rector of Meppershall and Shefford 01462 813334

THE LIONS CLUB OF SHEFFORD

At our last meeting, President Lion Bob Izzard had the pleasure inducting a new member Christina Williams as a member of our club. This was celebrated at a special dinner meeting held at The White Hart Hotel, Shefford. Preparations are being made for our Christmas rota. Routes and dates will be published in the local newspapers. We are still looking for a permanent home for Santa's sleigh; we have to move it from where it has temporarily resided. The sleigh is not very big and would tuck into a corner of a garage or barn. Please, if anyone feels they can help our President Bob Izzard would be delighted to hear from you. Another consignment of used spectacles will soon be sorted and despatched to Third World countries. We meet at The White Hart on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8pm. If any reader feels they would like to be involved and help with our work we would be happy to meet you. Why not join us at one of our meetings. If you would like further information please contact Lion Bob Izzard on 01462 629325.

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

Recently two full coaches left Shefford early for a trip to Southend on the Waverley Paddle Steamer, alas through very heavy traffic we were a few minutes late arriving at Tower Pier and had to join the paddle steamer in Tilbury. Everyone was in good spirits and it was a beautiful day and we proceeded on our journey to Southend, returning on the Waverley to London later in the day. We had the pleasure of seeing Tower Bridge opening for us in twilight - a magnificent sight! Bookings are being taken for Christmas Crafts at the Safari Park in Woburn 7th November, Camden Market Sunday 14th November, Lakeside Shopping 22nd November, Friday Night is Music Night Friday 26th November and Cruising into Christmas 14th December. Lille Christmas Markets Saturday 18th and 19th December (shuttle crossing). Short breaks include a March Jolly in Folkestone and a holiday to Lake Como next April. Our "Get Together" will also take part in April. Newsletters are distributed monthly with the exception of December/January as one. A small charge is made for this service to cover postage, etc. Anyone who wishes to receive a newsletter should telephone Enid on 01462 851397 in the first instance. The pick-up point for trips organised by the Shefford Leisure Group is from Lloyds Chemist Shefford, unless otherwise stated. Raffles are held on all trips and monies are donated to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. Everyone is more than welcome!

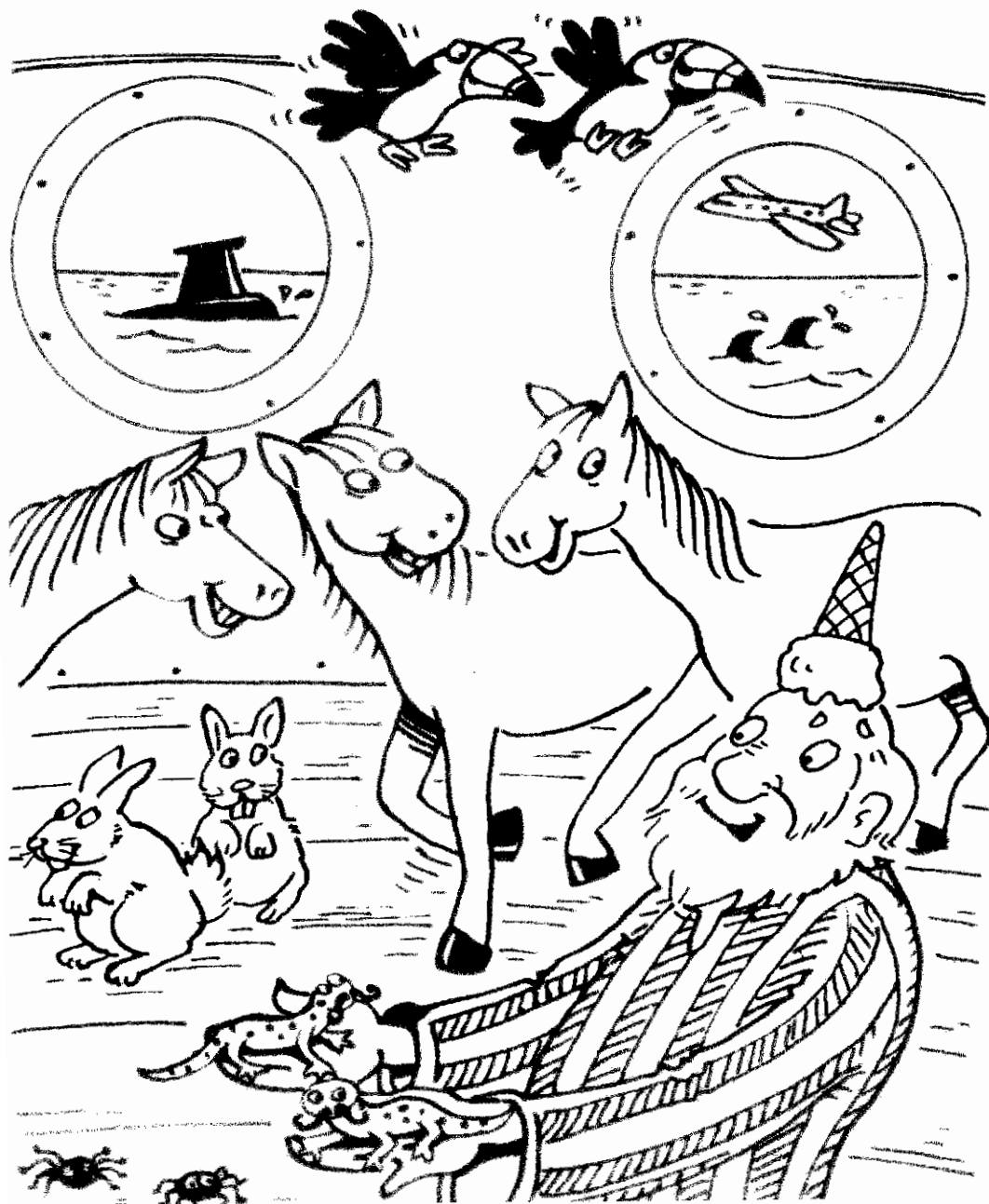
THE LIONS CLUB OF SHEFFORD

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.

Puzzle Page

Find and circle 5 mistakes on the Noah's ark picture below.



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

Graham Woods who will be 14 on the 6th
 Danielle Savory who will be 11 on the 10th
 Elliot Cooper Hughes who will be 6 on the 10th
 Mikey Long who will be 13 on the 10th
 Emily Crowson who will be 8 on the 13th
 Katie Long who will be 15 on the 16th
 Alex Thorne who will be 6 on the 28th
 Joe Thomson who will be 13 on the 29th
 Rebecca Croft who will be 11 on the 30th
 and Alice Geneux who will be 2 this month

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

PAINTING & DECORATING

By JULIA

Interior Design, Paint Effects
 and Stencils

FREE QUOTES

Tel: 01234 342367 or
 0788 0917869

imageline



Photograph by Chris Ryan - Tel: 07801 235 559 or 01 462 712 875

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